

AIS Around the World

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Introduction to Stewardship Project

The Ecology students each chose one plant, one invertebrate and one vertebrate invasive aquatic species of New York. They were asked to describe the AIS species: where it originally came from, where it is in New York and the Great Lakes and other places in the U.S. They also were asked to describe why the species is considered to be invasive. They also had to find a color picture of each of the species they researched.

Objective

This activity was designed to make the students aware of aquatic invasive species, their origins, locations and impacts. They used research skills to find out more about these aquatic invasive species and how they are changing the Great Lakes and the other species that live in them. The follow-up goal was to take that new-found knowledge and share it with other students at the Norman Howard School.

Student Activities

In order to learn about the natural history, biology and the ecological impact of invasive species, the students utilized the Nab the Aquatic Invader website and other websites related to Great Lakes AIS. They assembled that new information along with pictures of the aquatic invasive species on a large map that was prominently displayed for other students to see and learn about AIS. The students laminated each page and put this up for our "Celebration of Success" that our school has. It is like an open house to display work that students have completed over the year. The students laminated a map from National Geographic and indicated with yarn where each species originated, giving other students and their parents information on the spread of aquatic invasive species and their impact on the Great Lakes.



Outcome/Impacts of the Project

Not only did the students learn new information about aquatic invasive species and their ecosystem impacts, but they were also able to educate other students and their parents who visited the "Celebration of Success," thus increasing community awareness of aquatic invaders and resulting ecosystem changes in the Great Lakes. It was an important lesson for all involved.