

Invaders of the Great Lakes

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Introduction to the Stewardship Project

The summer camp program run by the Brookfield Zoo educates hundreds of children each summer. Every day of the camp has a different theme, including marine and aquatic themes. On this day students will learn about aquatic invaders affecting Illinois and create projects to help get the word out to other campers and parents involved in camp.

Objective

Utilizing materials from the “Nab the Aquatic Invader” workshop, campers will learn about the major aquatic invaders affecting the region. Using the knowledge gained from these materials, the campers will create brochures that can be handed out to other campers and parents to help others learn about the aquatic invaders in the region.

Student Activities

Students will:

- be able to name at least three aquatic invaders in Illinois
- learn how they came to Illinois
- understand actions they can take to eliminate/reduce their populations
- create brochures for each species of invader that includes a picture, how they came to the region, how they live, and how they can be eliminated/reduced

Copies of student work will be passed out to parents at the end of each week of camp.

Students may also create a skit/play to perform at the end of the week show for other campers and parents to teach them about aquatic invaders.

Outcomes/Impacts of the Project

By the end of the camp season in August, hundreds of campers and an even larger number of parents will have been exposed to the issue of aquatic invaders, their effects on the region, and how individuals can help prevent the spread of invaders, having received handouts that contain all the necessary information.