



Reel in the Fun

Art – Grade 4-6

Students create new species of fish based on the concept of adaptation.

Materials:

- Paper
- Pens, pencils, markers, crayons, etc

Instructions:

1. Discuss with students how fish, like other animals, adapt when their habitat changes. These adaptations make them more likely to survive.
2. If students had an opportunity to design a fish using genetic engineering that would be able to adapt to a rapidly changing environment, what would this fish look like?
3. Have the students draw a fish that would be able to adapt to a habitat you select. Encourage their drawings to show fish with different coloration, shape, size, and mouths.
4. Students should name, describe, and share the fish they have created.
5. Have students answer the following questions:
 - a. What adaptations does your fish have?
 - b. What benefits or disadvantages does each characteristic give your fish?
 - c. Where would your fish most likely best reproduce and increase in population?
 - d. Why is it useful to interpret how a fish adapts by studying its shape?
 - e. How can knowing the characteristics of a fish help you be a better angler?

**** Lesson enhancement: Try this same exercise with birds!**