



WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL

where activism gets inspired

6th-8th Grade Curriculum Overview

Discussion Questions: Discussion questions for each film are included to engage the class in conversations around the themes present in the films.

Lesson 1: A Timeline of Transformation

Accompanying Film: Mount St. Helens: A Fire Within

Standard Alignment: NGSS: MS-ESS2.2

Lesson Overview: The film Mount St. Helens: A Fire Within tells the story of Mount St. Helens: before, during, and after its 1980 eruption. We learn how the eruption changed the mountain, the landscape around it, and how that landscape is regenerating decades later. Students will work in groups to create a timeline of Mount St. Helens over the years and create an art piece to represent the juxtaposition of destruction caused by Mount St. Helens vs. the new life the eruption brought forth.

Lesson 2: Where are the Lamprey?

Accompanying Film: PLACE-People, Lamprey, and Cultural Ecology

Standard Alignment: NGSS: MS.LS2.4
CCSS: W.6.7

Lesson Overview: In the film, PLACE-People, Lamprey, and Cultural Ecology, we are introduced to Umatilla Tribal Member, Gabe Sheoships who brings us on a journey of learning about the ancient cultural practice of harvesting lamprey, the decline of lamprey in Tryon Creek due to an impassable human-made barrier blocking their passage, and the work he is doing with Friends of Tryon Creek to educate future generations. In this activity, students will work in pairs to either write a research paper or create a research presentation on why the Pacific Lamprey population is decreasing and what can be done to help restore Lamprey numbers.

Lesson 3: Ready, set, science!

Accompanying Film: Mussel Grubbing: A Community Science Treasure Hunt

Standard Alignment: NGSS: MS.LS2.1

Lesson Overview: In the film, Mussel Grubbing: A Citizen Science Treasure Hunt, we get to hear from people involved in a citizen science project to find freshwater mussels in the upper Sangamon River. The project is conceptualized as a "treasure hunt" and is being done to determine the health of the river, and, therefore, the health of the people in the area. In this activity, students will embark on a "BioBlitz," a survey of nature in a defined amount of time and space to see just how many species they can record and then later identify.