

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Crayfish Characteristics

Lesson Plan for *Crayfish*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students identify the key characteristics that help crayfish survive in their environment.

Things Needed

- Three copies of the *Crayfish* book
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Read *Crayfish* out loud to students. Divide the students into three groups. Give each group a copy of the book, a pencil, and a sheet of paper.

Activity

Explain to students that all animals have adaptations, or characteristics that help them survive in their environment. Students will explore the different adaptations of crayfish. Each group will be assigned one of the following three questions:

- How do crayfish move around in their environment?
- How do crayfish stay safe in their environment?
- How do crayfish find and eat food in their environment?

Groups will use the book to find the answer to their question. They will write down their answer on the sheet of paper. Once they have their answer, groups will come up with an action or gesture to represent the answer. After a few minutes, groups will share their answer with the class, both by answering their question verbally and by acting out their answer.

Evaluation

Could students use the text to answer questions about crayfish? Use the following answer key to evaluate specific groups.



Answer Key

How do crayfish move around in their environment?

- Crayfish have four back pairs of legs that are used for swimming (p. 9).
- Crayfish mostly move slowly, but they can use their strong tails to move quickly (p. 15).

How do crayfish stay safe in their environment?

- Crayfish hide under logs or rocks during the day (p. 12).
- Crayfish use their strong tails to move quickly away from danger (p. 15).
- Crayfish can defend themselves with their pincers (p. 15).
- Crayfish have a hard exoskeleton for protection (p. 16).

How do crayfish find and eat food in their environment?

- Crayfish have eyes on short moving stems (p. 7).
- Crayfish eat worms, plants, snails, young insects and frogs, and more (p. 12).
- Crayfish use their pincers to cut up food (p. 15).

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.1, 1.2).

