

1.8a Mussel Activities

Engage

Show videos of mussels:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOc0AuHAtDM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1YcalN8cRs>



Wenk Associates

Explore

Have students Research:

- Mussel Industries
- Adaptations
- Life Cycle
- Conservation
- Mussels in the Grand River - Which ones are endangered?

Resources for research:

<https://molluskconservation.org/index.html>

<https://www.nps.gov/miss/learn/nature/mussels.htm>

<https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/pdfs/FreshwaterMusselsOfMichiganPoster.pdf>www.michigan.gov/

<https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-mussels>

Possible Activities/Labs

Order live mussels from Carolina Biological or a similar company to clean your fish tank. Have students monitor how well the mussels keep the tank clean. (Be aware, you may need to feed the mussels!)

Do a mussel dissection and compare the anatomy of a mussel to human anatomy. What is similar, what is different? What about the mussel anatomy makes so many of the species at risk for extinction? Have students consider movement, food source, and reproduction methods.

Notice:

Do not collect your own mussel to do fish tank cleaning experiments. In Michigan, it is illegal to harvest, or attempt to harvest, freshwater mussels (clams or bivalves) whether living or dead, including the shell or parts thereof, from any waters of the state.

- Exception 1: Zebra and quagga mussels may be taken.
- Exception 2: A special cultural or scientific investigation permit may be obtained from the DNR for the taking of freshwater mussels.