Acknowledgements

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In conjunction with the Leap Into Lakes outreach program

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Table of Contents

3 Introduction
4 Science Activities
14 Art Activities
17 Math Activities
20 Songs
23 Glossary of Terms
26 Bibliography
Introduction

Madison Children’s Museum’s *Leap into Lakes* outreach program is designed to spark children’s curiosity and engage them in the exploration of lakes, plants, fish, birds, habitats, watersheds, ecosystems, and the water cycle, while familiarizing them with lake life in their local communities. The exhibit components provide children with focused experiences that challenge their ideas about the world and help them develop more complex theories about the natural environments that surround them. *Leap Into Lakes* supports an inquiry-based science curriculum that builds on children’s spontaneous exploration and guides them to be more attentive in their observations and investigations. *Leap into Lakes* offers children opportunities for connected learning.

Madison Children’s Museum is dedicated to hands-on exploration that stimulates inquiry and is driven by children’s interests. *Leap Into Lakes* will provide children with multiple forms of representation as they explore important concepts about lakes and watersheds. Children will learn to plan, explore, look for patterns, investigate, and draw conclusions about aquatic life, and will be encouraged to examine their own questions and ideas in an environment that supports inquiry-based learning.

This resource guide is designed to support the museum’s *Leap Into Lakes* outreach program by providing classroom activities to extend and reinforce the concepts introduced during Madison Children’s Museum’s classroom visits. This guide will enhance classroom curriculum and offer opportunities to use *Leap Into Lakes* to explore science, literature, music, art, and math. The *Leap into Lakes* exhibit and Teacher Resource Guide will stimulate brain development as children are introduced to a science curriculum that allows them to explore and investigate their questions about the world.
Children are driven by curiosity, and hands-on science activities enhance an inquiry-based preschool science curriculum. Children learn in a complex assortment of ways and will develop essential skills when they are exposed to hands-on activities. These activities challenge their curiosity and teach children how to hypothesize, investigate, observe, and draw conclusions from their discoveries. Young children use their senses to investigate and compare objects. They will be provided with tools that will help them gather information, test observations, measure, look for patterns, and observe processes and relationships. These scientific experiments are inquiry-based, and children should be given the opportunity to describe their predictions as they test their observations and compare materials. These experiments will increase children’s understanding of water and aquatic life.

**SUGGESTED MATERIALS FOR CLASSROOM SCIENCE CENTER**

- Magnifying glasses
- Eyedroppers
- Rulers
- Tape measures
- Scales
- Tubes
- Funnels
- Bug jars
- Plastic soda bottles
- Clipboards/writing utensils
- Natural objects

- Petri dishes
- Shallow pans or trays
- PVC pipe
- Plastic measuring cups
- Student field guides
- Rocks
- Shells
- Bones
- Pinecones
- Rope or string
- Magnets
Exploring Water Drops

MATERIALS
- Eye droppers
- Wax paper
- Food coloring
- Coffee filters
- Cookie sheets, meat trays, or other vessels to contain paper

ACTIVITY
1. Give children eyedroppers and a small cup of water. To practice measuring, give a concrete measurement of 4 oz. and let children measure and pour water into their individual vessels.
2. Let the children use the eyedroppers to take water out of the cup and squirt it into a piece of wax paper.
3. Have them observe whether the drops stay together or separate on the paper.
4. Let children use the eyedropper to move the drops of water around the wax paper.
5. Let children use the eyedroppers to squirt colored water onto the wax paper and then onto a coffee filter.
6. Make observations about the water on the wax paper and the coffee filter.

CONCLUSION
Children will discover that wax paper does not absorb the water and they can separate and combine water droplets. They will also discover that coffee filters absorb water. The wax paper can be compared to bird feathers that repel water and the coffee filter can be compared to animal fur. Discuss animal habitats related to specific adaptations of animals such as feathers and fur. Why does a water bird need webbed feet and feathers that repel water? Why would a raccoon live by the water but not in it?

GOAL
Children will make comparisons and apply their knowledge to a new context as they explore water on different surfaces.
Properties of water

MATERIALS
Eyedroppers
Food coloring
Water
Ice trays
Thermometer (optional)

ACTIVITY
1. Give children clear glasses of water.
2. Let them add a drop of food coloring and stir it up.
3. Use a thermometer to measure the temperature of the water.
4. Document the temperature.
5. Let children use eyedroppers to put the water in ice cube trays.
6. When the trays are full, tell the children that you will put them in the freezer overnight.
7. Have the children predict what they think will happen to the water.
8. Document their predictions.
9. Freeze the water overnight and put the ice cubes in the sensory table for the day.
10. Have children predict what will happen to the ice.
11. As it melts, take the temperature of the water.
12. Compare temperatures.

CONCLUSION
Water has a liquid and solid form. The temperature needs to be cold to create a solid form and warm for a liquid form.

GOAL
Children will have growing awareness of language and ideas related to water in its different forms and learn how temperature affects water.
Hands-On Water Exploration

**MATERIALS**  Sensory table or vessel that holds water  
Funnels  
Tubes  
Measuring cups  
Hoses  
Ice cubes (optional)

**ACTIVITY**  Supply children with water and many tools to explore and investigate water. Allow children to experiment with pouring, dumping, and measuring.

**GOAL**  Children will use their senses and a variety of tools to measure, investigate and understand the properties of water.
Rainstorm in a Jar

MATERIALS  
1 clear glass or plastic jar  
Hot water  
Tin foil  
Ice  
Flashlight

ACTIVITY  
1. Fill 1/3 of the jar with hot water.  
2. Put tin foil on the top of the jar and make a depression into the foil.  
3. Set ice cube on the foil.  
4. Shine a flashlight through the jar and observe.

CONCLUSION  
Children will observe that when hot air mixes with cold air, condensation or rain will develop. They gain a better understanding of the water cycle.

GOAL  
Children will gain observation skills and learn to ask questions through active participation.

BOOK  
Read Up, Down and All Around to supplement the experiment.
How Plants Absorb Water

**MATERIALS**
Two jars
Food coloring
3 White carnations, daffodils, or celery sticks

**ACTIVITY**
1. Put blue food coloring in one jar with a small amount of water.
2. Put red food coloring in the other jar with a small amount of water.
3. Have children hypothesize what they think will happen if you put plants in the jars with the food coloring.
4. Write down their hypotheses.
5. Put one plant in the blue jar.
6. Put one plant in the red jar.
7. Split the stem of the third plant and stick half of the stem in each jar.
8. Leave the experiment on the science table for several hours and examine it periodically.
9. Observe it at the end of the day and compare observations and predictions.

**CONCLUSION**
Children will discover that the plants absorb the colored water through the stem. They will see veins of color as the water travels up the stem to the leaves or flower.

**GOAL**
Children will increase their ability to make predictions and observe and compare objects. They will explore cause and effect relationships.
Water Filtration (How to clean water)

**MATERIALS**
- 1 clear plastic 2-liter bottle
- Cotton
- Large gravel
- Small gravel
- Large grain sand
- Small grain sand
- Coffee filter
- Clean cup
- Rubber band
- Tin foil

**ACTIVITY**
1. Cut the bottom off the bottle.
2. Place tin foil on the top where the cap would be and tighten it on with a rubber band. Make a small hole in the tin foil so that it can drain.
3. Begin making the filter by having children stuff cotton down toward the cap from the bottom of the bottle.
4. Add 1” fine grain sand
5. Add 1” large grain sand
6. Add 1” small gravel
7. Add 1” large gravel
8. Lay filter on top
9. Have children predict what will happen if we pour muddy water over the filter and through the layers of sand and gravel.
10. Write down their predictions.
11. Pour cups of muddy water through the filter.
12. Compare predictions.

**CONCLUSION**
Children will see how the ground filters water. They will gain a better understanding of natural water filtration.

**GOAL**
Children will be driven by curiosity and gain awareness of natural processes.
The Effects of Pollution on Birds

**MATERIALS**
Cooking oil
Bird feathers
Medicine dropper
Magnifying glasses

**ACTIVITY**
1. Let children examine the feathers with magnifying glasses.
2. Have children hypothesize what will happen to the feathers when they get wet.
3. Write down some of their hypotheses.
4. Let children use eyedroppers to put water on their feathers. Look at the feathers again under the magnifier.
5. Have children hypothesize what will happen to the feathers when oil gets on them.
6. Write down some of their hypotheses.
7. Let the children use eyedroppers to apply oil to the feathers. Compare hypotheses and observations.

**CONCLUSION**
Children will discover that feathers repel water. They will observe that the feather’s ability to repel water is effected by its exposure to oil.

**GOAL**
Children will explore cause and effect relationships and coordinate hand-eye movement as they use the medicine droppers to manipulate the oil and water. They will learn to hypothesize and make predictions.

Discuss how birds can be in the rain and water without getting wet. Discuss the harmful effects of pollutants on birds.
Density of Hot and Cold Water

**MATERIALS**
1 clear plastic glass of hot water
1 clear plastic glass of cold water
Eyedropper
Food coloring
Thermometer

**ACTIVITY**
1. Measure the temperature of the water. (Optional)
2. Ask children what they think will happen if they mix hot water and cold water together.
3. Write down their hypotheses.
4. Gather the materials and let children work individually or create a small group activity out of the experiment.
5. Add food coloring to the hot water.
6. Let children use an eyedropper to put colored hot water into the cup of cold water.
7. Observe what happens.
8. Measure the water’s temperature again.
9. Record observations.

**CONCLUSION**
Children will observe that the colored water stays on top of the clear water. This demonstrates that hot water is lighter and less dense than cold water.

**GOAL**
Children will develop a growing awareness of attributes related to the temperature of water.
Hot and Cold Air Density

MATERIALS
One plastic 16 oz. soda bottle
One balloon
1 tub of hot water
1 tub of cold water

ACTIVITY
1. Attach a balloon to the top of the soda bottle so that the balloon opening goes over the bottle threads.
2. Fill up one large bowl or tub with hot water.
3. Fill up one large bowl or tub with cold water.
4. Ask the children what they think will happen when you put the bottle in the hot water.
5. Put the bottle in the hot water.
6. Ask children what they think will happen when you put the bottle in the cold water.
7. Put the bottle in the cold water.
8. Observe air changes in the balloon.

CONCLUSION
Hot air is light and rises, causing the balloon to expand. Cold air is dense which causes the balloon to deflate.

GOAL
Children will learn to observe and hypothesis and have an increased awareness of the effects of temperature on air.
Art Activities

Art is a process-oriented activity that gives children the opportunity to express themselves. Children are able to take their knowledge of the world and create symbolic representations using a variety of mediums. They use their senses and learn to work independently. They gain fine muscle control and hand-eye coordination as they work with a multitude of materials. These art projects allow children to deepen their understanding of lakes and aquatic ecosystems while providing an outlet for self-expression.

Sponge Painting Lake Ecosystems

**MATERIALS**
- Kitchen sponges cut into fish and plant shapes
- Colored washable tempera
- Paper

**ACTIVITY**
Discuss lakes and underwater habitats with the children or read a book from the bibliography. Have children create their own lake worlds by painting with fish and plants.

**GOAL**
Children will progress in their ability to create paintings and build on their knowledge and ideas by adding creative detail. They will have the opportunity to explore with their senses.

Paper Maché Fish

**MATERIALS**
- Small pear-shaped balloons (inflated and knotted)
- Large bowls of flour and water mixed together
- Newspaper strips
- Paint
- Cardboard or construction paper for tail or fins

**ACTIVITY**
Have children dip their newspaper strips into paper maché mixture. Have them cover the balloon with newspaper until no balloon parts are showing. Allow to dry for two to three days. Let children paint the fish when they are
dry and decorate them with fins or tails. Hang in the classroom to create an undersea world or let the children bring their fish creations home. For a faster-drying project, use a mixture of equal parts water and white school glue in place of the flour mixture.

**GOAL**  Children will get to use their senses for creative expression while they experience using different art media.

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**Lake Life Collages**

**MATERIALS**  
- Paper
- Glue
- Cut-out pictures of birds, frogs, fish, insects and plants from magazines or clip art

**ACTIVITY**  
Children will use their knowledge of lakes and watersheds to choose animals for their collages that make habitats in an aquatic ecosystem.

**GOAL**  
Children will learn to arrange objects while coordinating hand-eye movement.

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**Paper Plate Pond Mosaics**

**MATERIALS**  
- Paper plates
- Small pieces of blue paper or tissue paper
- Shapes of aquatic animals or fish from magazines or clip art
- Green tissue paper plant shapes
- Glue
- Paintbrushes

**ACTIVITY**  
Children will glue colored paper pieces and shapes onto paper plates to create a pond.

**GOAL**  
Children will develop small muscle control in their hands and have the opportunity for creative expression that draws upon their knowledge of the aquatic world.
Plastic Bottle Lakes

**MATERIALS**
- Food coloring
- 1/4 - 1/2 cup Water
- 1/4 - 1/2 cup Oil
- Small plastic water or soda bottles
- Glitter, sand, beads, shells or other small object (optional)
- Funnels

**ACTIVITY**
Children will use the funnels to fill the bottles with a little water, a little oil and food coloring. They will observe that oil and water do not mix.

**GOAL**
Children will practice measuring and pouring. They will have increased awareness of attributes related to oil and water.
Math Activities

Math activities offer children opportunities for problem-solving. They learn important skills as they classify, sort, compare, measure, look for patterns, identify shapes, and determine quantities. Math activities enhance logical thinking. As children problem solve, they build awareness of simple math concepts and learn to recognize common geometric shapes, understand spatial relationships, and identify patterns.

Fish and Pretzel Sorting

**MATERIALS**  
Cheddar goldfish crackers  
Pretzel sticks  
Cheese spread or peanut butter

**ACTIVITY**  
Let children have a snack-size helping of goldfish and pretzels from a bowl. Give them a tablespoon of cheese spread or peanut butter on their napkins. Have children sort the fish and pretzels. See if some children can count their fish. Let children use the pretzel rods as fishing poles and have them dip them in the cheese or peanut butter to go fishing for goldfish.

**GOAL**  
Children will develop an increased awareness of determining quantities and counting. They will learn to sort and arrange objects.

Fish Classification Game

**MATERIALS**  
Wisconsin Wildcards (included in classroom kit)  
Copy machine  
Scissors  
Colored construction paper  
Laminating supplies (optional)

**ACTIVITY**  
Make enlarged photo copies of various sizes of Wisconsin Wildcards. Cut the fish out and attach them to different colors of construction paper
to make cards. Use one color of paper for each species of fish. Have the children sort and classify them according to species, size or color. Have rulers out so that children can measure their fish. Laminate if desired for durability.

**GOAL**  
Children will learn number recognition through measuring and learn to classify fish species according to size, shape, and color.

### Aquatic Ecosystems Shapes Game

**MATERIALS**  
Paper shapes  
Fish shapes  
String, pipe cleaners, or lanyard  
Scissors  
Noodles or large beads

**ACTIVITY**  
Give children an assortment of paper shapes (triangles, circles, squares, rectangles, ovals, diamonds, and hearts). Punch holes in the shapes for easy stringing and manipulation. Children will have the opportunity to string the shapes on a lanyard with noodles or large beads and wear their shape necklaces. Have children match shapes to objects found in natural environments or lake ecosystems.

**GOAL**  
Children will learn to recognize common shapes and patterns in nature. Fine motor skills will be enhanced as children string shapes on a lanyard to create a necklace. Children will be introduced to math concepts and geometry as they count and recognize shape patterns.

### Sink or Float

**MATERIALS**  
Sensory table or vessel that holds water  
Water  
Rocks, sticks, corks, shells, plastic aquatic animals, etc.
**ACTIVITY** Fill the sensory table or vessel with water. Set out the objects and ask the children if they think each object will sink or float. Sort the objects according to their attributes and make comparisons. Make a chart with number of votes for sink and float. Count how many votes each object received. Weigh the objects.

**GOAL** Children will learn to sort and classify. They will learn about the properties of objects in relation to water.
Songs

GOAL

Songs offer opportunities for children to build on their knowledge of nature and its functions while increasing their interest and enjoyment in the curriculum. Lyrics connect children to concepts related to watersheds and aquatic environments. Children will be given open-ended opportunities to express themselves through music and movement activities.

Four Big Lakes
(To Three Blind Mice)

Four big lakes, four big lakes
In Yahara watershed, in Yahara watershed
Mendota, Monona, on top they go
Waubesa, Kegonsa are down below
Yahara River makes the lakes flow
Four big lakes, four big lakes

Cuatro Grandes Lagos

Cuatro grandes lagos, cuatro grandes lagos
En la cuenca del Yahara, en la cuenca del Yahara
Mendota, Monona, arriba van dos
Waubesa, Kegonsa abajo otros dos
Y el río Yahara los une veloz
Cuatro grandes lagos, cuatro grandes lagos.

I’m a Little Fishy
(To I’m a Little Teapot)

I’m a little fishy I can swim
Here is my tail and here is my fin
When I want to have fun with my friends
I wiggle my tail and dive right in
Have You Seen a Sunfish?
(To Do You Know the Muffin Man?)

Have you seen a sunfish?                              Have you seen a carp?
A sunfish, a sunfish?                                   A carp, a carp?
Have you seen a sunfish?                               Have you seen a carp?
That lives in Lake Mendota                             That lives in Lake Waubesa

Have you seen a musky?                                Have you seen a catfish?
A musky, a musky?                                      A catfish, a catfish?
Have you seen a musky?                                Have you seen a catfish?
That lives in Lake Monona                              That lives in Lake Kegonsa

Food Web Song
(To Farmer in the Dell)

The earth circles the sun, the earth circles the sun
Hi-ho the derry-o, the earth circles the sun.

The sun feeds the plants, the sun feeds the plants
Hi-ho the derry-o, the sun feeds the plants.

Herbivores eat plants, herbivores eat plants,
Hi-ho the derry-o, herbivores eat plants.

Carnivores eat animals, carnivores eat animals,
Hi-ho the derry-o, carnivores eat animals.

Omnivores eat both, omnivores eat both,
Hi-ho the derry-o, omnivores eat both.

Water gives life to us all, water gives life to us all,
Hi-ho the derry-o, water gives life to us all.
Five Green Speckled Frogs
(counting game)

Five green speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating the most delicious bugs
Yum, yum!
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were four green speckled frogs
Repeat for four, three, two and one
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Adaptation</strong></th>
<th>The process by which an organism or species becomes suited to its environment.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adaptación</strong></td>
<td>El proceso en que un organismo se adecúa a su ambiente.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aquatic</strong></td>
<td>Growing or living in or near water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acuático</strong></td>
<td>Creciendo o viviendo en o cerca al agua.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bird</strong></td>
<td>A feathered vertebrate with a beak, two wings, and two feet, egg laying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pájaro</strong></td>
<td>Un vertebrado con pico, plumas y dos patas que se reproduce por huevos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carnivore</strong></td>
<td>Any flesh-eating mammal or plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carnívoro</strong></td>
<td>Un organismo animal o vegetal que consume carne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>A group of animals or plants living or growing together in the same area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comunidad</strong></td>
<td>Un grupo de plantas o animales que viven o crecen juntos en una misma área.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ecosystem</strong></td>
<td>A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ecosistema</strong></td>
<td>Una comunidad biológica de organismos interactuando entre sí y su medio físico circundante.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment</strong></td>
<td>External conditions affecting the growth of plants and animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medio ambiente</strong></td>
<td>Las condiciones externas que afectan la vida de plantas y animales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fish</strong></td>
<td>A vertebrate cold-blooded animal with gills, fins, living wholly in water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peces</strong></td>
<td>Un vertebrado acuático de sangre fría con branquias y aletas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Web</strong></td>
<td>A series of organisms, each dependent on the next for food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cadena alimentaria</strong></td>
<td>Una serie de organismos cada uno dependiente al próximo para su alimentación.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat</strong></td>
<td>The natural home of an organism, consisting of food, water and shelter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hábitat</strong></td>
<td>El hogar natural de un organismo compuesto por su comida, agua y amparo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Herbivore</strong></td>
<td>An animal that feeds on plants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Un animal que consume plantas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hypothesis  A supposition made as a stating point for further investigation from known facts.

Hipótesis  Una suposición que forma un punto de inicio para la recopilación de datos.

Isthmus  A narrow piece of land connecting two larger bodies of land.
     Istmo  Un terreno estrecho que se encuentra a menudo entre dos cuerpos de agua que conecta dos terrenos amplios.

Lake  A large body of water surrounded by land.
    Lago  Un cuerpo de agua dulce rodeado por tierra.

Life Cycle  A series of changes in the life of an organism including reproduction.
  Ciclo de Vida  La serie de cambios en la vida de un organismo, incluyendo su reproducción.

Marsh  A lowland flooded in wet weather and watery at all times.
   Pantano  Tierras bajas inundadas durante épocas lluviosas y siempre saturadas.

Measurement  An amount determined by measuring.
   Dimensión  La cifra obtenida por medición.

Omnivore  Feeding on flesh and plants.
   Omnívoro  Un organismo que consume carne y plantas.

Organism  An individual live plant or animal.
   Organismo  Un individuo vivo animal o vegetal.

Plant  Any living organism containing chlorophyll enabling it to live wholly on inorganic substances and lacking specialized sense organs and the power of voluntary movement.
   Planta  Un organismo vivo que contiene clorofila, lo que lo permite vivir exclusivamente de sustancias inorgánicas con carencia de órganos especializados de sensación y movimiento.

Prediction  To make a statement about the future.
   Predicción  Hacer una declaración acerca del futuro.

Pond  A fairly small body of still water formed naturally or by hollowing or embanking.
   Estanque  Un cuerpo de agua dulce pequeño formado naturalmente, o por excavación.
**Watershed**  All the land area that drains into a body of water.

**Cuenca**  Todo el área terrestre que drena hacia un cuerpo de agua.

Bibliography

GOAL

These books will increase children’s awareness and understandings of concepts related to aquatic ecosystems. Children will learn to demonstrate knowledge of the alphabet and recognize the association between spoken and written words. Literature reinforces learned material and gives children information to help them develop informed investigations and hypothesis. Children will develop environmental literacy and learn new vocabulary words related to lakes, watersheds and aquatic life.

Titles marked with an * are available through South Central Library Services. Visit www.linkcat.info to request books to be sent to your nearest public library for pickup.

Books on Wetlands and Aquatic Species

**Around The Pond: Who’s Been Here***, by Lindsay Barrett George, copyright 1996 by Lindsay Barrett George, published by Willow Books.
ISBN: 0688143768

ISBN: 0064451879 (paperback)


ISBN: 0060230444
ISBN: 0060231173 (library binding)
ISBN: 0064451232 (paperback)

**Here is the Wetland***, By Madeline Dunphey, illustrated by Wayne McLoughlin, copyright 1996 by Madeline Dunphey and illustrations copyright 1996 by Wayne McLoughlin, printed by Hyperion Book for Children.
ISBN: 0786801646 (trade)
ISBN: 0786821361 (library)


Learning About the Earth: Lakes, by Emily Green, copyright 2007 by Bellwether Media, published by Bellwether Media. ISBN: 1600140378


What’s in the Pond?*, by Anne Hunter, copyright 1999 by Anne Hunter, published by Houghton Mifflin Company. ISBN: 0395912245

Books on the Water Cycle


**Bilingual and Spanish Books**


**Teacher Reference Books**


Freshwater Habitats: Life in Freshwater Ecosystems*, by Laurie Toupin, copyright 2004 by Dembinsky Photo Assoc./NASA, published by Scholastic, Inc. ISBN: 0531123057


