



NEW BEDFORD HARBOR: GO FISH! ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVES:

1. To facilitate discussion and understanding among children about PCB contamination in seafood in New Bedford Harbor.
2. To teach children that fish taken from NBH are not safe to eat because the harbor is contaminated, but fish outside the harbor is safe to eat.
3. To learn the names of sea animals in English.
4. To understand and learn the main geographic areas in Buzzards Bay.

MATERIALS:

- Fishing poles with magnets (*can make with string and magnets*)
- Laminated index cards with sea animal names
- Paper clips
- New Bedford Harbor Maps
- Laminated Fish Smart symbols
- Velcro to adhere to “do not eat” symbols and corresponding sections of harbor maps

PRE-ACTIVITIES:

Lecture about New Bedford Harbor and PCB contamination. How PCBs affect human health. How government protects us. How we can protect ourselves and our families. Students discuss in small groups.

ACTIVITIES:

- Children will work in groups of four.
- Children will decide, based on teacher’s discussion, where Fish Smart “do not eat” symbols should be placed on map (*alternatively: teacher could start activity with symbols already in place*).
- Each group will choose one student who will go fishing.
- The student will use the fishing pole and will catch a fish, lobster, or shellfish. The front of the index card will have the name of the animal and the back will say where it was caught. The card will have a clip at the corner.
- Once the student gets the card, the group will look at the map. They will determine if it is safe to eat the catch.
- Points will be given for the right answer.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

- The students will understand the geographic area in which they live.
- The children will learn that it is important to know where their seafood comes from.
- The students will learn what contamination and PCBs are.
- The class will understand that it is important to protect the environment.
- The bilingual students will learn the names of sea animals in English.