

# DICKINSON COUNTY NATURE CENTER

## GRADE 2 — “WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE”

### Core expectations

**2-ESS2-2** Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.

**2-ESS2-3** Obtain information to identify where water is found on Earth and that it can be solid or liquid.

### Activity Time

One 45-minute session

### Contact

Environmental  
education coordinator  
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### Program Alignment with Iowa Core Curriculum

#### Disciplinary Core Ideas

- **ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems:** Wind and water can change the shape of the land.
- **ESS2.B: Plate tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions:** Maps show where things are located. One can map the shapes and kinds of land and water in any area.
- **ESS2.C:** Water is found in the ocean, rivers, lakes, and ponds. Water exists as solid ice and in liquid form

#### Investigative questions

- What kind of waterways do we have in Dickinson County?
- Do we have fresh water or salt water in Dickinson County?
- What kind of animals utilize our waterways?
- What happens to our water in the winter?

#### Investigative phenomena

Students will get to explore a map of Dickinson County and investigate where our local bodies of water are located.

#### Practices (SEPs)

- Students and a naturalist will carry out an investigation of what types of waterways are in Dickinson County.
- Students will make observations about the features of a map.
- Students will analyze and interpret a map of Dickinson County in order to get familiar with our local bodies of water.
- Students will use a model to complete a map of the Dickinson County waterways.

#### Cross Cutting Concepts students will identify

- Structure and function of our local waterways.
- Structure and function of a map.
- Systems and systems models of our local water ways.
- Structure and function of local waterways.



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## GRADE 2 — “WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE” SIDE 2

### Supplies

*All supplies brought by the nature center unless otherwise arranged.*

- Laminated pictures of what water gives us
- Laminated heading for what water gives us exercise
- Water body cutouts that represent each type of water body
- Small laminated pictures of animals that will fit on each type of water way
- 3-by-4 foot map of Dickinson County
- Water body cut-outs that match map

### Program Overview

#### Background

Dickinson County is home to the Iowa Great Lakes. There are nine lakes that make up our Great Lakes Region — Big Spirit Lake, Little Spirit Lake, West Lake Okoboji, East Lake Okoboji, Upper Gar Lake, Lake Minnewashta, Lower Gar Lake, Center Lake and Silver Lake. These lakes make 12,687 acres of the 258,560 acres in Dickinson County. Although Dickinson County is known for these amazing lakes to fish, boat and swim in, we have other important bodies of water that make up our community. Dickinson County has shallow lakes, sloughs, rivers and creeks that offer homes for waterfowl, recreation for people, and help to filter our water. Another major body of water is the Little Sioux River; it flows approximately 220 miles, emptying into the Missouri River. The headwaters of this river start in southwest Minnesota and flow through Dickinson County.

All of these waterways are very important for both the people and animals of Dickinson County. These waterways are used to help our communities to thrive and grow; they give us drinking water, water our crops and give us a place to swim, fish and boat. However, they are not just important to people but to numerous animals as well. This unique landscape offers homes to a variety of birds, fish and amphibians.

#### Procedure

- 1) The naturalist will introduce the importance of our water sources by handing out pictures to students of what water gives us. Students will be invited to put those on the board under one of these categories — fun, agriculture, healthy living.
- 2) The naturalist will then introduce the students to the different bodies of waters we have in Dickinson County — rivers, creeks, sloughs, wetlands, and lakes.
- 3) After she has introduced the bodies of waters we have in Dickinson County, she will introduce what animals live in each body of water.
- 4) The naturalist will then introduce a large map of Dickinson County with missing water bodies.
- 5) Students will be given pieces of our watershed puzzle to place on the map in the correct location.
- 6) After students have placed all the pieces, we will review what bodies of water we have in Dickinson County and discuss some of the major features of the map.
- 7) Students and the naturalist will then review the importance of our water sources and how we can help protect them.

