

## CLASSROOM LESSONS

*Bring our local waterways inside! Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper staff and volunteer ambassadors can teach a variety of lessons in the classroom to strengthen the connection and awareness of waterway resources and issues. Lessons can be adapted to meet student's grade level needs and include a hands-on activity or props. Please look over the Presentations & Assemblies list for other possible classroom opportunities.*

- **What's a Watershed?**
  - Learn what a watershed is, how water flows through it and what features form its boundaries. The concept of waterway pollution is also introduced.
  - Recommended Grades: K-12
- **Get to know local waterway creatures**
  - Plants and animals need clean water just like us! Students will learn about creatures who live in or near local lakes, rivers, and streams.
  - Recommended Grades: K-5
- **Stormwater & Sewage Pollution\***
  - Introduce students to the concept of stormwater runoff and ways to prevent water pollution in their community.
  - Recommended Grades: 5-12
- **Invaders in our water**
  - One of the most threatening forms of pollution to biodiversity is biological. Learn how aquatic invasive species made their way into the Great Lakes Basin, how they are impacting water quality and biodiversity, and management strategies.
  - Recommended Grades: 5-12
- **Eating Local Fish**
  - Legacy pollution in local waterways has caused many species of fish to come unsafe to eat. Learn about the sources of pollution, how these toxins impact human health and best practices for eating local fish.
  - Recommended Grades: 5-12
- **Plastic Pollution**
  - Our local waterways are threatened by plastic pollution and other litter. Explore sources of this plastic pollution and learn how it is impacting waterway systems and aquatic life.
  - Recommended Grades: 5-12
- **Climate Change in the Great Lakes\***
  - Climate change is impacting the planet in many ways. Explore the effects on the Great Lakes region.
  - Recommended Grades: 5-12

*\*can also be an assembly*

## PRESENTATIONS & ASSEMBLIES

*For large student groups or adult audiences.*

- **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper & How to get involved**
  - Learn about the Waterkeeper Alliance, our organization's history and current projects and programs and how you can get involved!
- **Buffalo River Restoration Success Story**
  - *The Buffalo River was declared "dead" in 1967. Area waters began recovery due to the Clean Water Act of 1972. In 1987, the International Joint Commission designated the Buffalo River as an "Area of Concern." Friends of the Buffalo River, now Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, focused on improving the environmental health of the Buffalo River and local tributaries. Travel through the rivers polluted past and its more recent triumphs.*
- **Plastic Pollution**
  - Plastic pollution is a global issue that is drastically impacting our local waterways. Learn the basics of this commonly used material, how it breaks down and impacts our water resources, and explore local actions being taken to combat the problem.
- **Water Quality Issues**
  - Explore the ongoing and emerging water pollutants in the Great Lakes region. Dive into the cause, effect, and potential solutions.
- **Natural Resources of the Niagara River Watershed**
  - The Great Lakes Basin is home to nearly 20% of the world's fresh surface water. The Great Lakes are socially, economically, and environmentally significant to the region, the nation, and the planet. Take a virtual tour of some of Western New York's prized waterway ecosystems and Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper restoration project sites and learn about the creatures that call them home.
- **Eating Local Fish**
  - Legacy pollution in local waterways has caused many species of fish to come unsafe to eat. Learn about the sources of pollution, how these toxins impact human health and best practices for eating local fish.
- **Climate Change in the Great Lakes**
  - Climate change is a global problem that is going to have local consequences. Explore the impacts climate change will have in the Great Lakes region. Discuss potential solutions that can protect our waterways, aquatic ecosystems, and communities.