

Keep Minnesota Lakes Clean and Beautiful

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Last month in Kid's Corner we did an experiment to see how fertilizer makes plants grow bigger and faster. Sometimes that's a good thing, but when fertilizers get into lakes and rivers it's a bad thing. When it rains, spilled lawn fertilizer, grass clippings and fallen leaves wash from our driveways and streets into storm sewers, and the sewers flow directly into area lakes. When all that fertilizer material gets into water, it feeds the algae and duckweed so they grow like crazy. Pretty soon, they can cover the whole lake and then the plants under the water don't get any sunlight. When those plants don't get enough light, they die. Since plants create oxygen, there will be less oxygen in the water, and that means there won't be enough oxygen for the fish! Pretty soon, all the fish will start to die. The larger birds and animals that eat fish won't have enough food and they will go away to live somewhere else. Do you see how important every part of nature is? Imagine how awful it would be to go to the lake and never see a duck or fish or frog. Imagine what it would be like to swim in green, slimy water. Imagine if there were even more mosquitoes because there were no fish to eat them!

Do your part next spring to keep our lakes clean by helping your parents sweep up fertilizer spills, grass and leaves. Then you can go fishing! Until then, you can go fishing in this word search by finding the names of eight Minnesota fish in it. Look for the Secret Message in the letters that are left!

BASS	MUSKELLUNGE
BLUEGILL	NORTHERN PIKE
CATFISH	TROUT
CRAPPIE	WALLEYE

K E E P M I N N E S O T A L A
K C R A P P I E E S C L T E A
N A N D B E A U T I F R U L S
O N N P X P Z D S B O J N Z K
E G N U L L E K S U M B O O K
O A B B N V V G T M A G R V B
C V F S Y X F I J S Z H T F Q
V W B W C P R C S W S I H W U
L L I G E U L B A I Y Q E X D
Y R Z T X P V L F M C J R Z W
O D I G G W L T D B Q N N Z J
H Z K U G E A T J L V L P E M
P X S K Y C R J Q C G U I G W
I S G E R T F W V L X J K S B
S N Y M F R R D Y S E B E I P

Hidden message:

