Rivers and Flooding Module

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Unit Overview

Subject Area: Earth Science / Environmental Science
Grade Level: 9-12
Time: 9 days

Next Generation Science Standards
HS-ESS2-5. Plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surface processes.

Connection to Civil Engineering
This module looks at the basics of water resource engineering and the decision-making process that is involved in city planning and development. Lesson 7 specifically looks at the various flood control structures that are designed by civil engineers to manage the risks associated with flooding.
Lesson 1
River Anatomy

Objective: SWBAT identify and describe the parts of a river.

Time: 50 minutes

Lesson Plan
● River Anatomy Notes
● Students will use Google Earth to find examples of vocabulary words

[Diagram showing river features: Headwaters, Mouth, Oxbow, Point bar, Cutbank, Meander]
Lesson 2
Age of Rivers

Objective: SWBAT discuss how a river changes over time.

Time: 50 minutes

Lesson Plan
- Lesson 1 Vocabulary Review
- Age of Rivers Notes
- River Drawing Activity – draw all three ages, describe features, label with lesson 1 vocabulary
Lesson 3
Determining the Thalweg

Objective: SWBAT analyze data from a river to determine where erosion, deposition, and the thalweg will occur in a river.

Time: 50 min

Lesson Plan
- Quiz – River Anatomy and Age of Rivers
- Students will use stream velocity data collected by NDSU to match cross sections to the place on the river.
- Colors represent level of difficulty
Stream Table Labs Planning

- Lessons 4 and 5 are stream table labs.
- If stream tables are not available, lessons 4 and 5 will be skipped.
- If stream tables are available, follow the schedule below to maximize student engagement with stream tables.

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<th>Groups 1 and 2</th>
<th>Groups 3 and 4</th>
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<td>Lesson 4: Young Stream and Stream Cutoff Lab</td>
<td>Lesson 6: Flooding Causes</td>
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<td>Lesson 5: The Great Flood Lab</td>
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Lesson 4
Young Streams and Stream Cutoffs

Objective: SWBAT demonstrate how erosion and deposition occur in different ages of rivers.

Time: 50 min

Lesson Plan
- Students set up a straight “young” stream and observe river flow and where erosion is happening
- Students set up a stream that will cut off at a meander and create an oxbow lake
- Students will make a video describing their rivers using river anatomy vocabulary
Lesson 5
The Great Flood

Objective: SWBAT identify components that lead to flooding and natural erosion control methods.

Time: 50 min

Lesson Plan
- Students will create a meandering stream and implement “natural” erosion control methods
- Students will make a video discussing the methods they implemented and how well they worked in flood conditions
Lesson 6
Flooding Causes

**Objective:** SWBAT interpret information from primary source documents to define the causes that lead to flooding.

**Time:** 50 min

**Lesson Plan**
- Spinner activity looking at flood causes
- Students will read about the 1997 or 2009 flood to determine flooding factors
- Students will record a short newscast of the events and reasons that led to the flood they researched
Lesson 7
Flood Risk Management

Objective: SWBAT describe flood risk management strategies and their benefits and drawbacks.

Time: 50 min

Lesson Plan
- Watch video on flood control and fill in table on the benefits and drawbacks
- Watch video on levee issues
- Discuss a hypothetical scenario on the Red River and determine the best flood risk management plan
Lesson 8
River Management Scenario

Objective: SWBAT generate a flood management plan that explains how a river interacts with the land surrounding it.

Time: 100 min

Lesson Plan
- Summative Project
- Students will be given a scenario where they will act as city engineers looking at a city issue of developing land near the Red River
- As city engineers they will have to decide if this development will occur and how to best mitigate flood risk
- Create a presentation discussing their conclusions
Questions?
Acknowledgements

The curriculum was developed under National Science Foundation RET grant #1953102. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policies of the National Science Foundation, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.