

Lake Sturgeon Workbook



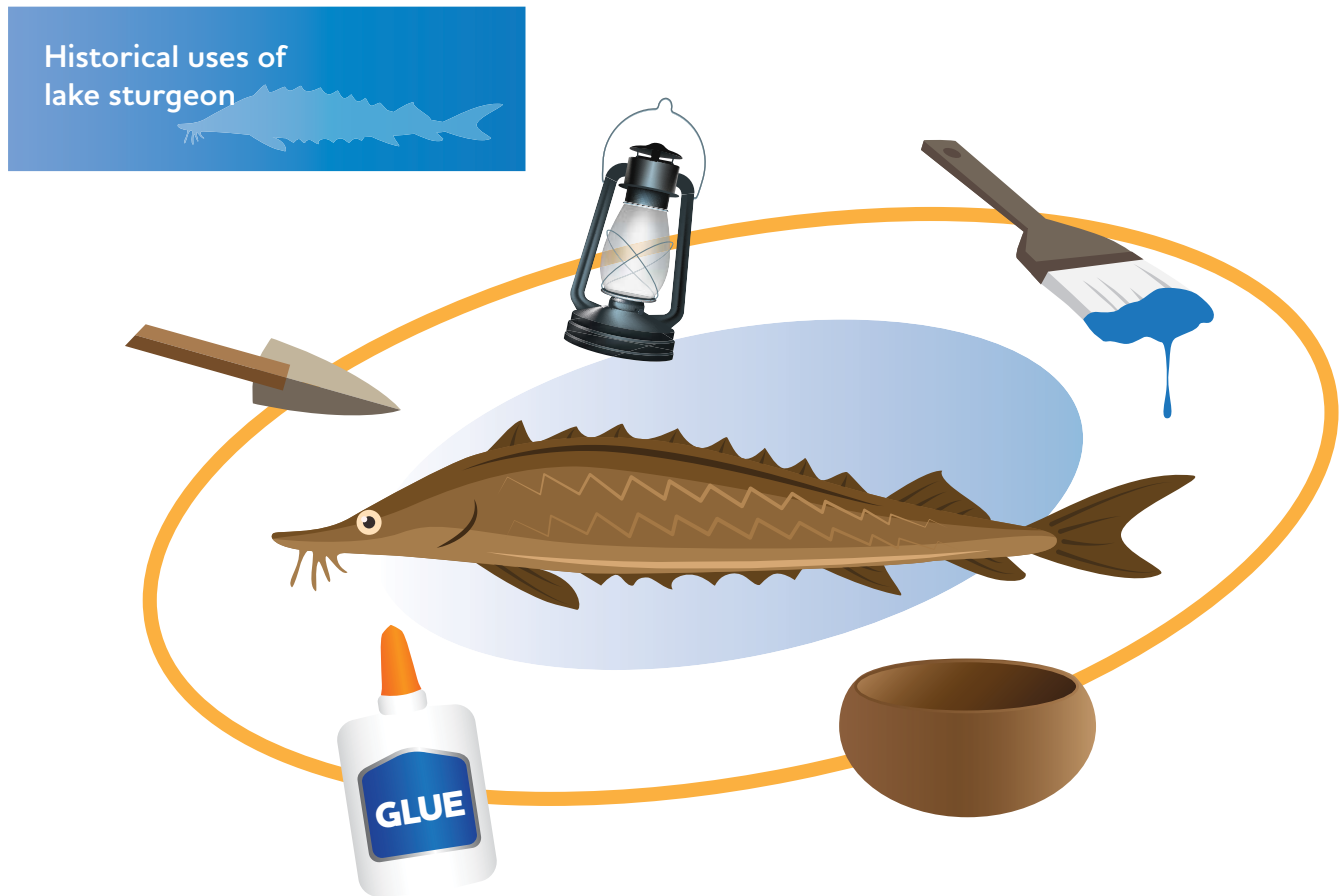
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~Working Together, Sturgeon Forever~

Historical and cultural importance

For centuries, lake sturgeon have held cultural importance to Indigenous communities. As part of many ceremonies and gatherings, Indigenous people would come together to harvest these fish from the lakes and rivers.

Lake sturgeon were an important food source for Indigenous communities. Tools, spearheads and arrowheads were made out of bones and cartilage from lake sturgeon. Other products like oil, glue, paint and containers were also made using parts of the fish body.



As more people immigrated to North America in the mid-1800s, there was a demand for a food called **caviar** (sturgeon fish eggs) and **isinglass** (a substance in a sturgeon's swim bladder used to make adhesive products). Due to commercial overfishing, the lake sturgeon populations decreased. Hydroelectric development has affected their habitat. Today, there is a small number of lake sturgeon left.

Recreational fishing is limited to catch and release to conserve what is left of the lake sturgeon populations. Sturgeon may only be harvested for food by Indigenous people.

Protecting the environment

Things like pollution, loss of habitat, loss of food and a lack of clean water supply can seriously affect the populations of both animal and plant species in the environment. If a species' habits change too drastically or if environmental conditions do not improve, the species may be at risk of becoming **endangered** over time.

This outcome can be changed. Using the information gathered through monitoring and research, we can develop ways of protecting the environment before, during and after the construction of generating stations and transmission lines.

Use these words to complete the story below:

rivers
minimize
grow
big

scientists
low
brine shrimp
habitats

at risk
fish hatchery
eggs
released

To help _____ the impact that hydroelectric projects have on fish spawning areas, the Grand Rapids _____ works to collect and fertilize _____ from lake sturgeon and walleye (otherwise known as pickerel).

When the fish hatch, _____ raise them on a diet of _____ (also called "sea monkeys") until they are too _____ for their tanks.

Then the fish are _____ back into lakes and _____ where the fish populations are _____.

That way, populations of these fish can _____ naturally in new _____ and are no longer _____.



Notes:

