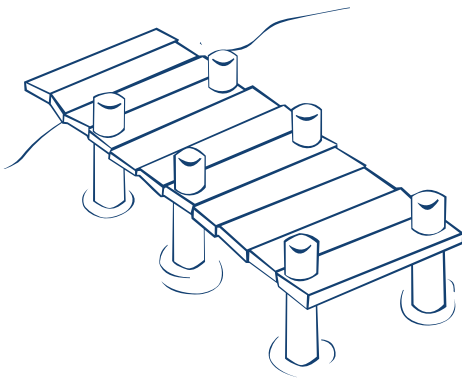


My access to water bodies

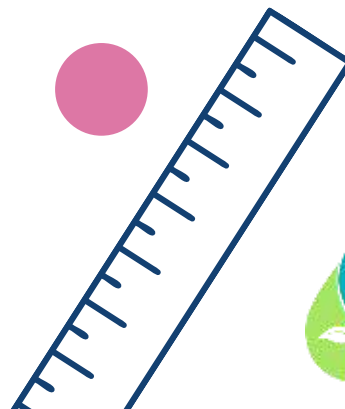


Audience :
13 years &
over

Duration :
more than
2h

Discover nearby water bodies

Do some research on a local public water access and share your findings.



Abrinord
OBV de la rivière du Nord



Objectives

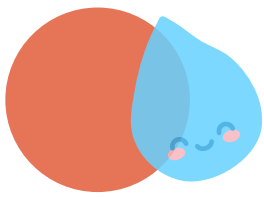
Discover the region's public water access points and permitted activities.

- *Develop a sense of belonging to the region's lakes and rivers.*
- *Understand water access issues.*

Material required :

- *Computer and internet connection for research*
- *Material to make a visual aid of your choice*
- *Stakeholder sheets*



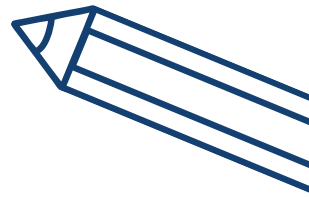




Course of the activity

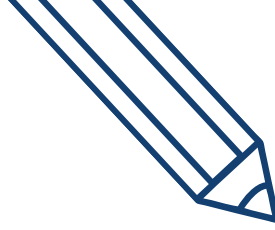
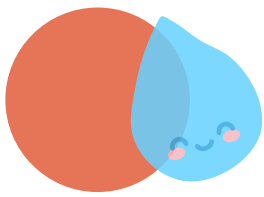
Scenario (5 min)

Accessibility to water bodies is one of the six issues of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), an approach that takes into account all users and the various social, economic and environmental considerations.

Abrinord, the North River Watershed Organization, is aware that this is an important issue in its management territory. It therefore wishes to inform citizens and water users about the various public accesses to water in its territory. In order to achieve this, Abrinord is asking for your help in presenting all relevant information on these access points.



1. 
2. 
3. 



Course of the activity

Research work

In teams of three, students will be asked to choose a water access point they like or would like to visit in the North River Watershed. Once they have made their choice, they will have to collect the information below and present it, according to the teacher's choice, in the form of an oral presentation (10-15 min) or a descriptive text.

- General information: name of the access point, name of the lake or stream, names of the municipality in which the access is located and the access point owner, presence of a lake association, etc.*
- Access features (e.g., dock, beach, boat launch, observation only). How does one access it?*
- Is the water body inhabited?*
- What are the special features of this location? (e.g., endangered species, recreational activities, unique ecosystems, unique landscapes, park, beach)*
- Regulations: what activities are allowed (boat with or without motor, fishing, pets, swimming)? What is the cost of access (for residents and non-residents)? Is there an obligation to clean the boats? Is access monitored?*
- Water quality (if available): How is the water quality? What is the eutrophication level of the water body? Are invasive alien species present? If so, are there any monitoring or follow-up procedures in place?*
- Other interesting facts (e.g. history, news, etc.)*

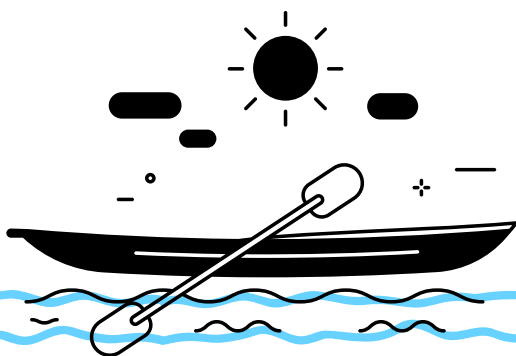


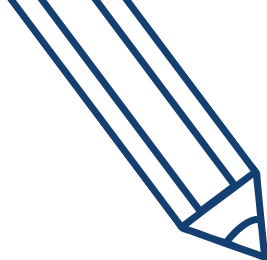
Reflection

Take your thoughts one step further (45 min)

1. Divide the class into four groups. Each group represents water stakeholders that have different interests. The groups are: fishermen, lake residents for motorboats, lake residents against motorboats and tourists or vacationers.
2. Distribute the Stakeholder sheets to each group. Students will be asked to put themselves in the shoes of someone from their group.
3. Lead a constructive discussion with the following questions:
 - What is your opinion on paying for water access? Justify.
 - Should users be charged for access to the lake and for access to the boat launch, depending on whether they are residents or not? For example, the Municipality of Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson charges a seasonal pass for residents that varies from \$200 to \$230, while for non-residents, the daily rate for a motorized boat is \$460.
 - Do you agree with the motorboat bans on certain lakes? Justify.
 - Is it possible to make a compromise between all stakeholders? If so, how would you go about it?
 - How can we increase public access?

**Feel free to send us a summary of your students' findings to jboisse@abrinord.ca. This will help us to document the issues and solutions relating to water access and usage conflicts.*





Stakeholders sheets



Fishermen / fisherwomen

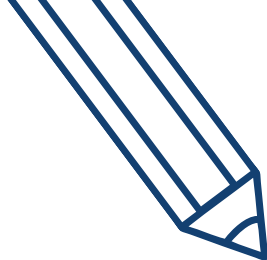
- They want to be able to put their fishing boats in the water.
- They don't want to pay a fortune for access.
- They want to maintain a healthy fish habitat.
- They don't necessarily want boats going at high speed on the lake, as this is detrimental to fishing.



Tourists / vacationers

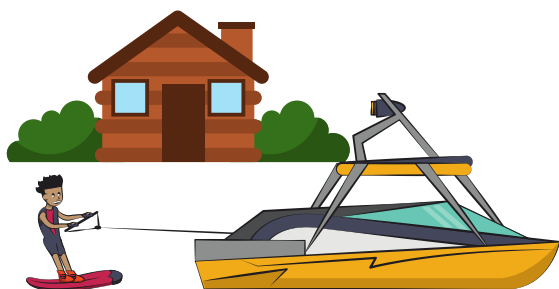
- They want access to the lake for swimming and other recreational activities.
- They want beach areas for swimming.
- They want to be able to launch their boats with or without a motors (canoe, paddleboard, kayak, motorboat, personal watercraft).
- They want a safe place to practice their activities.





Stakeholders sheets

Residents of the lake pro motorboats :



- They want to be able to put their motorboats in the water.
- They enjoy driving their boats with speed.
- They want to maintain priority access to the lake.
- They want quality water for swimming and recreational activities.

Residents of the lake against motorboats :



- They want a living environment free of noise pollution caused by engines.
- They want to maintain priority access to the lake.
- They want quality water for swimming and recreational activities.
- They are concerned about the impact of boat waves on shoreline erosion (wave action).

