

Program Name: Missouri River Fish and Habitat Puppets

Artist: StoneLion Puppet Theatre

## Special Requirements:

Table space for students to make their puppets and an electrical outlet.

## Special Points of Interest:

For the past eight years StoneLion has produced free local Earth Day festivals in Kansas City that focus on personal and environmental responsibility through art!

## Workshop Description

Students will learn about the native creatures found in lakes, ponds and rivers in Missouri or Kansas. They will then create a simple rod puppet and habitat for an indigenous fish or bird in our area.

StoneLion will give information on the native species found in the Kansas and Missouri area and will then give instructions on materials and construction of the puppets. Students will spend most of the workshop constructing their own puppets.

To close the workshop, participants will share the puppets they created. This workshop is a great hands-on learning experience

for students Kindergarten through Third Grade.



## Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Learn local species.
- Learn about the importance of protecting diversity with clean water.
- Know organisms go through life cycles.
- Know human activities can change the environment in ways that affect the health and survival of all living organisms.
- Know plants and animals are alive and have characteristics that make them different from non-living matter.

## Artist Bio: StoneLion Puppet Theatre

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StoneLion Puppet Theatre is a professional not-for-profit theatre company dedicated to expanding the horizons of the young and young-at-heart through the art of puppetry in an interdisciplinary community of ethnic and cultural diversity. StoneLion has accomplished this with over eighteen years of productions in theatres in Kansas City, a national touring company and our artist-in-residence and intern programs that range in levels from preschool to collage.

**Heather Nisbett-Loewenstein** is the Founder, Artistic Director, and a Company Puppeteer of StoneLion Puppet Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri. She has performed, designed, and/or directed more than 70 different productions for StoneLion. Heather has degrees in theatre from Boise State University and The University of Dublin, Trinity College, Ireland.

### List of Resources:

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**Online Resources:**  
Kansas Department of  
Agriculture  
Division of Conservation  
[www.ksda.gov/doc](http://www.ksda.gov/doc)

Missouri Department of  
Conservation  
<https://mdc.mo.gov/>

### Vocabulary

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**Compost:** Decayed organic material used as a plant fertilizer.

**Eco System:** A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

**Food Chain:** a series of organisms each dependent on the next as a source of food.

**Habitat:** The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

**Indigenous:** Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native

**Recycling:** Convert (waste) into reusable material.

**Species:** A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding.

### Post-Workshop Activities

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1. Go on a nature walk and make a chart of how many critters you can find on your walk and where they live. Talk about what affects their homes and how we can help. Ask why we should help.
2. Talk about what your puppet eats and what could eat them. Draw separate pictures of all three and link them on a paper chain.



Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
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