

## Lesson Plan

### Troubles in the Upper Midwest

**Book:** *The Climate Crisis in the Upper Midwest*

**Series:** The Climate Crisis in America

**Level:** Navigator

#### Objective

To help students recall details from a text about the climate crisis in the Upper Midwest.

#### Supplies

- *The Climate Crisis in the Upper Midwest* book
- Whiteboard
- Dry erase marker

#### Before the Activity

Read *The Climate Crisis in the Upper Midwest* out loud as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own.

#### Activity

*The Climate Crisis in the Upper Midwest* describes how climate change is affecting the region and possible changes for the future. Ask students to take out pencils and paper. They will make lists based on two questions about the book. Write the following questions on the whiteboard:

1. How does the climate crisis negatively affect animals and nature in the Upper Midwest?
2. How does the climate crisis negatively affect humans in the Upper Midwest?

Give students five minutes to write as many answers as they can for each question. Then, divide the students into pairs. Partners should take turns reading their answers to their partner. Students should add to their lists if their partners included answers that they did not.

Then, come together for a class discussion of the questions. Ask students to share a few of their answers, and write some on the board. Possible answers may include the following:

1. freezing tree roots, invasive insects harming trees, fish species competing for food, less protection for fish eggs, wild rice dying.
2. flooding of houses, flooding of farms, shorter farming seasons, loss of food sources like wild rice, rising temperatures in cities.

**Evaluation**

Could students recall details from the book about climate issues facing the Upper Midwest?  
Could they share those details in pairs and as a class?

**Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grades 4–7 (RI 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1).