

NWSRI VIDEO SERIES

VIDEO 8 - NECHAKO WHITE STURGEON IN THE WINTER

This video shows live sturgeon overwintering in the river and describes the habitat needs for these sturgeon and research needs to continue to further support recovery.

The footage of sturgeon in the river is very neat to see, and there are a lot of fun facts for primary students to understand in this video. But the language may be too advanced.

Here is a breakdown of the video contents...

Winter Habitat: 00:00 to 01:26

This section talks about the habitat for sturgeon over the winter.

- What type of areas of the river do sturgeon use over the winter? Why do you think they use these areas?
- Why is conserving energy important? What other animals do the same behaviour in the winter?

Overwintering Research: 01:26 to 02:07

This section talks briefly about why further research is needed to learn more about overwintering sturgeon and their recovery.

WORKING WITH YOUR STUDENTS:

We recommend:

- Watch the video first and note key spots in the video that may be of interest to your students.
- Use the accompanying activity sheet: [HOW TO KEEP THE RIVER CLEAN](#) to help your students understand the Big Ideas!

BIG IDEAS:

- ✓ **Life cycle**
- ✓ **Adaptations**
- ✓ **How living things interact with their environment**

DEFINITIONS

Throughout the video, the narrator uses scientific language. Here are some definitions to support your understanding.

Overwintering: The place and behaviours sturgeon have during the winter months.

Converge: Come together in large numbers.

Migrate: Moving between areas over a time period to access different resources or habitats.

More available at:

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org

[Facebook @NWSRI](#)

Sturgeon in the Winter

'Sleeping' Sturgeon (00:00 minutes)

In the winter sturgeon come together to 'sleep' for the cold winter months in either the Nechako River or one of the large lakes like Stuart Lake.

List all the animals you know that hibernate or conserve their energy over the winter.

Draw one of these animals in their overwintering habitat.

Staying in one place (01:15 minutes)

Sturgeon do not migrate, or move to different locations in the watershed during the winter.

Do sturgeon overwinter in shallow or deep parts of the river or lake?

Draw a group of sturgeon in their overwintering habitat.