

Oyster Duty



Meet a Mississippi teen who's doing her part to restore the local oyster population.

LEXILE: 990L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Earth and Human Activity

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, SL.6-8.5

ENGAGE THE READER

Ask students what kind of seafood they eat. Did anyone name oysters? Invite someone to describe what an oyster looks like, inside and out. Show images, if necessary. Then ask students if they know anything else that oysters are useful for. Explain that the article that students are about to read is about a girl who's involved in oyster gardening. Have students guess why reason oysters are gardened.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- How are oysters beneficial to the environment? What's the purpose of oyster gardening?
- Describe the process of oyster gardening, based on the text and images.
- Demi was described in the article as an ambassador and a supporter. Explain why, and add other words to describe her.
- Demi has raised more than 1,500 oysters. How many gallons of water can her oysters filter in a day?

EXTEND LEARNING

Bring the class back together to discuss whether oyster gardening is something that would benefit their community. Why or why not? Have them make a list of individual or group-based environmental projects that would benefit their community. Point out that Demi took a course to help her become a master oyster gardener. Tell students they'll be working in groups to design an environmental course, which will include an environmental project.

Have students choose groups to work with, and ask each group to choose a project (i.e., starting a garden, cleaning up a park, etc.). Have each group start by breaking down the steps necessary to complete the project. Have them assess what knowledge or materials will be needed for each step. Groups can break each step down into a different lesson, as needed. Each group can create a course with videos, slide shows, quizzes etc. Have groups swap courses and see what they learn.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

1. D (RI.6) **2. C** (RI.3) **3. D** (RI.3) **4. A** (RI.4) **5. B** (RI.2)

6. A (RI.8) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.2)