WATERBODY EXPERT

STUDENT NAME: **CLASS:** **DATE:**

It's a no brainer that fish cannot breathe out of water. So water is an absolute must when it comes to quality habitat for crappie. But unlike other members in your team, you are the only one who is concerned about the **water** conditions in your habitat: things like pH, temperature, turbidity, and more. These factors can affect the overall number of individuals that can live in the water body, which affects the **space** available in your habitat as well! So your role and expertise is vital! It could change your habitat from unsurvivable to survivable!

To test the waters, research about these water conditions:

Do crappie require fresh or salt water? _____

What waterbody do black crappies generally live in? Circle all that apply: Rivers / Lakes / Reservoirs / Streams / Wetlands / Ponds.

Sketch an aerial view of your waterbody:

Fish need a certain amount of oxygen dissolved into the water to breathe. What oxygen levels can crappie tolerate or prefer? _____

What water temperatures and depths do crappies usually hang out in? HINT: This can change with the season. _____

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Some fish require different turbid conditions for water. Turbidity means how cloudy the water is from sediments or current. Do crappies prefer clear or turbid water? And are the waters calm or have heavy currents? _____

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Does your fish require different spaces for spawning, growing, or feeding? Refer to your prey specialist and cover architect for information. Include those spaces in your waterbody sketch. _____

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Some fish can tolerate or not tolerate overcrowding. Do crappie need open water? And how much vegetation can they tolerate in their habitat? _____

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Next, combine your research findings with your team members. As a group, use all of your discoveries to design and craft your own crappie fishing habitat inside a shoebox. This is the time to let your creativity shine! You may paint, sketch, mold clay, cut construction paper, or even glue in natural resources like sticks, pebbles, sand, moss, or grasses. Remember … your habitat must suit the needs of anglers, crappies, and the ecosystem! **You will present your habitat diorama to your class with supporting research and reasons for features in your habitat.** The group who ends up with the most crappie in their habitat wins the challenge!