

PREY SPECIALIST

STUDENT NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

All living things need a **food** source to survive ... and fish are no exception! That's why it is your job to ensure that your habitat has all the food sources available to sustain your black crappie population. But unlike others, you understand that crappies are connected to the entire web of life in your habitat and play a role in keeping the entire biological community functioning. So you also dedicate your efforts to decoding the food web of your habitat and make sure all key producers and consumers are in the habitat.



To make sure your habitat diorama can keep the entire biological community functioning, research the following:

What kind of prey do mature crappie consume? _____

What trophic level are crappie? Circle the trophic level below.

- **Primary Producer** (Get energy from the sun)
- **Primary Consumer** (Herbivore that eats producers)
- **Secondary Consumer** (Carnivore that eats primary consumer)
- **Tertiary Consumer** (Carnivore that eats all consumers)

What do crappie fries or youngling eat to survive? What trophic level are those prey? _____

What food sources or aquatic areas do prey of the crappie need? Include these in your habitat: _____

Crappie populations can overpopulate an aquatic area if left unchecked. What predators could you introduce to your aquatic area that will keep their numbers in check? _____

What habitat features or other prey do those predators need to survive? _____

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!



Black Crappie