

# Phenomena-Based Questions

## Milwaukee's Waterways



Below is a list of phenomena-based questions focusing on Milwaukee's local waterways, water use, history, watersheds and stormwater. A combination of content in the Freshwater Tool Kit can be used to teach these educational topics to help meet NSSS standards and connect students to their local waterways and community.

If you'd like to schedule a classroom visit or support for your lesson plans, contact Kae @ [watersmeet.mke@gmail.com](mailto:watersmeet.mke@gmail.com)

Question	Educational Topics
Why do some beaches close for a short period of time?	Watersheds and local waterways, stormwater, water flow mechanics, leaky water treatment sewer pipes, birds on beaches
What are all the dead plant that wash up on the beach and causes it to stink?	Watersheds and local waterways, stormwater, water flow mechanics, algae growth, nutrients in stormwater
Why is the water in the lagoon on Lake Drive bright green?	Watersheds and local waterways, stormwater, water flow mechanics, algae growth, nutrients in stormwater, cyanobacteria, health hazards
Why are fish in Lake Michigan changing sex?	Sanitary sewers and water treatment, emerging pollutants, new research
Why are scientists finding tiny bits of plastic in the stomachs of fish and in the water and even beer and soda?	Watersheds and local waterways, stormwater, water flow mechanics, plastics and microplastics, other sources of plastic in our waters, new research
Why did almost ½ of the people in Milwaukee get sick in 1993?	Cryptosporidium, Milwaukee drinking water source, Milwaukee Water Works, ozone treatment, scientific research
Why is it cooler near the Lake in summer?	Great Lakes impact on the weather, and water temperature and wind direction affect
Why do so many small silver fish die in early summer each year?	Invasive species, Welland Canal, water temperature, predators
Why does Milwaukee have such different names for our rivers and streets?	Milwaukee history, Native American influence
Why did Native peoples and European immigrants move to this area?	Milwaukee history, water resources, shipping, industry, and manufacturing.