

July - Week 5

Drawn to the Lake

It is summer in Minnesota and that means many people and animals can be found in and on the shores of many of our more than 10,000 lakes. Watch Common Loons swimming and diving in deep water. In the shallows, Great Blue Herons stalk, searching for fish and frogs. Belted Kingfishers perch on overhanging branches; watching intently for the movement of a minnow or frog before diving in to catch a meal. People cast a line from a boat, a dock or from shore attempting to catch their supper too.

Deer fly and Black fly populations peak in July, which leads deer and other woodland animals to wade into lakes to escape those pests. People also head to the lake to cool off and get relief from the heat and humidity.

There are many other reasons you may see people and animals flocking to the lake this summer. If you can walk, bike, or drive to a lake, spend a couple of minutes observing the lake. Take in the sights and sounds. Notice the sunlight glistening on the water's surface, skiers and swimmers gliding and diving in the water, the lapping of water against the shore. Or possibly you arrive to observe the stillness of a quiet, calm day and the water's surface appears like glass.

Journal about what you like to do when you're at the lake in July. Create a landscape picture. Did you include yourself in your drawing? Next to your picture, or possibly on a second page, document a list of sensory observations and emotions that you feel as you enjoy time at the lake in summer. Don't forget to find a place to skip a rock or two before you leave.

