Book Title: *Crawdad Creek*
Author: Scott Russell Sanders  Illustrated by: Robert Hynes
Readability Level: 3  Interest Level: K-3

**SCIENCE PROCESS SKILLS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation: The characteristics of a creek, the plants and animals that live close to or in the creek, the seasonal changes that influence the creek</th>
<th>Classification: The organisms that rely on the creek for survival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measurement: Time</td>
<td>Prediction:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inference:</td>
<td>Communicating Data:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investigative Process:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Science Concepts: The ecology of a creek. Observations of the plant and animal life associated with the creek. The impact of the seasons on the creek.

Science Vocabulary: Creek, water, ice, rain, frogs, birds, trees, summer, gravel, gold, fossils, shells, ferns, million of years old, mussels, arrowhead, rock, salamander, crayfish, snails, dragonflies, pools, water striders, turtles, snake, minnows, catfish, kingfisher, whirligig beetles, damselflies, magnifying glass, tracks, raccoon, deer, crow, mouse, human, rabbits, muskrats, mussels, sycamore leaf, butterfly, night, moon, stars, wind, morning

Michigan Curriculum Framework Science Benchmarks Addressed:

- Constructing: SCI I.1E1, SCI I.1E3, SCI I.1E5
- Reflecting: SCI II.1E1, SCI II.1E2, *SCI II.1E4
- Using: SCI III.2E4, SCI III.4E1, SCI III.5E2, SCI V.1E1, *SCI V.1E2, SCI V.1E4

Note: *Crawdad Creek* is recognized by NSTA as an Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children: 2000. The book has also received the Young Hoosier Book Award Finalist for 2002-2003.

Genre: Narrative (Picture Book)

Story Brief: Two young naturalists discover the treasures that are a part of *Crawdad Creek*, a flowing body of water near their home. While panning for gold, they find different treasures, fossils from ages ago and an arrowhead left by people who may have once also visited this same creek. Nature abounds in this adventure at the creek, crawdads hide under rocks, insects glide on the waters surface, fish eat, deer drink, turtles sun themselves and children explore. Each season on the creek brings more to learn and experience. This brother and sister enjoy the mystery and wonder of *Crawdad Creek*.

Number of Pages: 33

Comments: *Crawdad Creek* is written and illustrated with great care for scientific accuracy. The story is one of adventure and respect for the natural world. There is potential for an integration of science with social studies in the history of and evidence that Indians once hunted this region. To further the integration, the concept of family bonds is also present in the book.

Other Related Trade Books:
- *River Discoveries* by Ginger Wadsworth

Related Websites:
[http://www.eduplace.com/tview/pages/c/Crawdad_Creek_Scott_Russell_Sanders.html](http://www.eduplace.com/tview/pages/c/Crawdad_Creek_Scott_Russell_Sanders.html)