



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Uniquely Lake Baikal

An activity of "Toxic waste threatens the world's largest freshwater lake"

Read "**Toxic waste threatens the world's largest freshwater lake**" (page 9, *What's Up* January 2022). Lake Baikal is the oldest lake in the world. It is very large — 40 times the size of Singapore.

Lake Baikal is home to thousands of species of flora and fauna, many of which are unique to the ecosystem at Lake Baikal. One animal not found anywhere else is the Baikal seal — the world's only freshwater seal species. Other rare animals native to the region include wild red dogs and the white-tailed eagle. Such is Lake Baikal's importance that, in 1996, it was declared a UNESCO world heritage site.

1. Work in a small group to develop a brief presentation for your class. Focus on any one animal or plant that is unique to Lake Baikal. You may select one of the examples given in the *What's Up* story or surf the internet for more information.

Use the guiding questions below to help structure your presentation. Jot down your main points here ↓.

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| a) What is the animal/plant that your group has chosen? |
| b) Aside from it being found only in Lake Baikal, what else makes this animal/plant special? - <i>Does it have any features that differentiate it from its cousins in other parts of the world?</i> |
| c) What is it about Lake Baikal that allows this animal/plant to do well? <i>e.g. It feeds on a species of plankton that only lives in Lake Baikal</i> |
| d) Why is this animal/plant important to Lake Baikal's ecosystem? <i>e.g. It is an important source of food for other larger predators in the lake.</i> |

2. Present your findings to your class using attractive PowerPoint slides.