



Mississippi Application

- 1) Take a field trip to a local riparian zone and observe the vegetation. Is the vegetation healthy? Are there mostly colonizers or stabilizers? Are they functioning how they should? [This outdoor portion can be combined with the outdoor stream monitoring portions of the curriculum to come in future modules]
- 2) Students can make their own plant guide by finding plants, taking pictures of them, and writing descriptions based on their appearance and functions they may serve for a riparian area. This could be a great “take home” piece. This can be customized to your geographic area. Plants found streamside in the temperate Northeast are not likely to be the same found alongside desert streams in the Southwest. Use local plant guides or contact a local natural resource professional for help with identification.

Extension Activity

- 1) Have students create a plant that would function well in a riparian zone. Have students invent plant adaptations that would work well to slow down water, prevent erosion, and capture sediment. Have students draw or use graphic design software to create images of their plants, and have them write descriptions of the adaptations. The plant adaptations can be fictional (i.e. monster roots that reach into the stream and grab sediment) but the overall goals of riparian plants and their importance should be conveyed.



For more information and for additional activities please visit www.creekfreaks.net/library to download the Holding onto the Green Zone Action Guide.