

Ecosystems and Biomes ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

Aquatic Ecosystems

This section describes the two groups of aquatic, or water-based, ecosystems that are found on planet Earth. The section also tells where the ecosystems are located.

Use Target Reading Skills

As you read, make an outline about the different types of aquatic ecosystems. Use the red headings for the main ideas and the blue headings for the supporting ideas.

Aquatic Ecosystems
I. Freshwater ecosystems
A. Streams and rivers
B. _____
II. Marine ecosystems
A. _____
B. _____

Introduction

1. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about water biomes.
 - a. They cover about one quarter of Earth’s surface.
 - b. They include both freshwater and saltwater biomes.
 - c. They are affected by temperature, sunlight, oxygen, and salt content.

Their most common producers are plants.

Freshwater Ecosystems

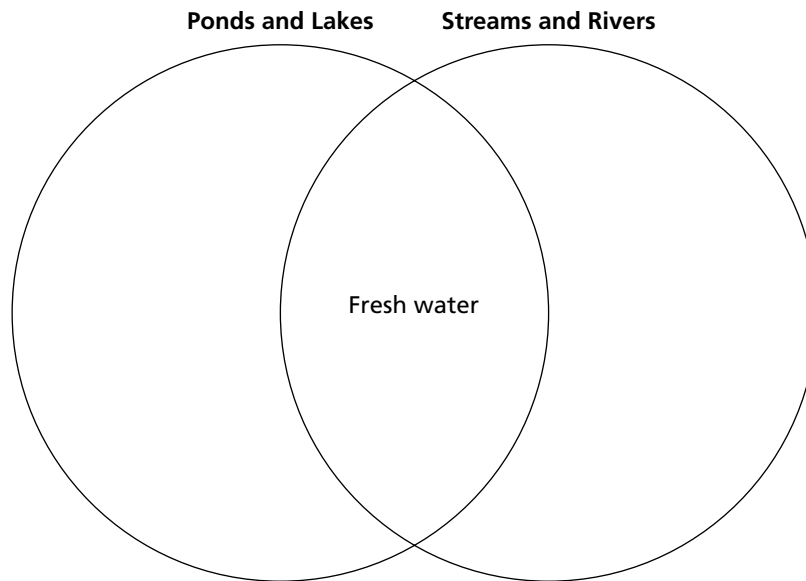
2. Is the following sentence true or false? Lakes are generally larger and deeper than ponds. _____



Ecosystems and Biomes ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

Aquatic Ecosystems *(continued)*

3. Complete the Venn diagram.



4. What are some organisms adapted to life in a stream?

Marine Ecosystems

5. Complete the compare/contrast table.

Types of Marine Ecosystems	
Type of Biome	Where It Is Located
Estuary	Where fresh river water and salty ocean water meet
	Between the highest and lowest tide
	Below the low-tide line and out over the continental shelf
	On the surface of the open ocean
	Below the surface of the open ocean

Ecosystems and Biomes ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

6. Is the following sentence true or false? An estuary is a very poor habitat for living things. _____

7. Why is the intertidal zone a difficult place to live?

8. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about the neritic zone.

- a. Its water is too deep for photosynthesis to occur.
- b. It is particularly rich in living things.
- c. Many large schools of fish feed there.
- d. Coral reefs may form there.

9. Is the following sentence true or false? Algae form the basis of almost all open-ocean food webs. _____

10. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about the deep zone.

- a. Throughout most of the deep zone, the ocean is completely dark.
- b. Most animals in the deep zone feed on algae.
- c. Some animals in the deep zone glow in the dark.
- d. Plants grow on the ocean floor in the deep zone.