

Aquatic Biomes

4th
grade

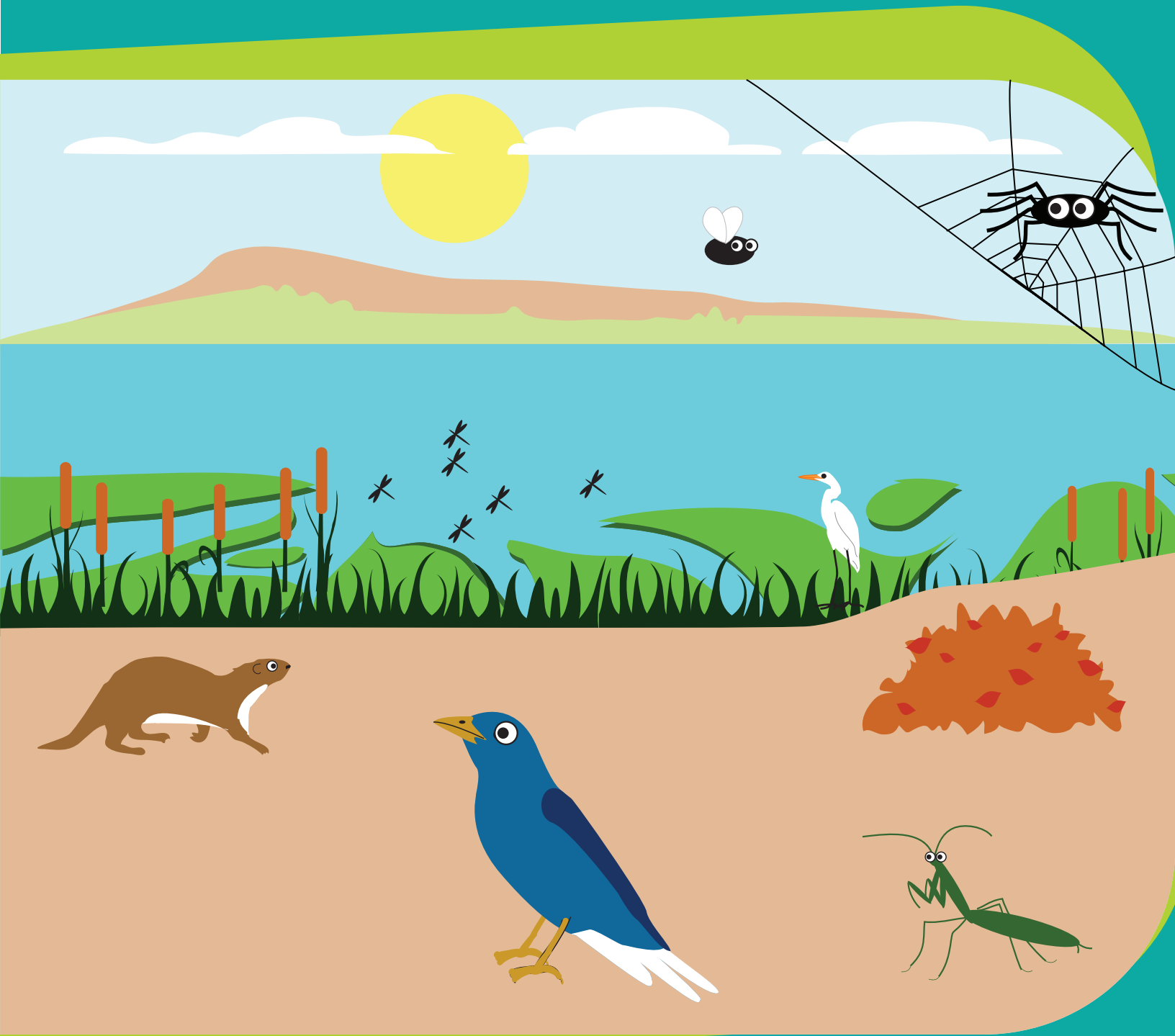


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Certificate of Completion

Answer Sheets

** Has an Answer Sheet*

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What on Earth is a Biome?

A biome is a large geographical area of the world characterized by similar climate, animals, and plants. Some biomes are terrestrial (land-based), and some are aquatic. **Aquatic** biomes can be freshwater biomes or marine biomes. "**Marine**" biomes refer to saltwater biomes. In other words, biomes can be categorized like this:

BIOMES

Terrestrial (land)

- **Tundra**
- **Forest** (includes rainforest, temperate forest, chaparral, and taiga)
- **Grassland** (includes temperate grassland and savanna)
- **Alpine**
- **Desert**

Aquatic (water)

- **Freshwater** (includes freshwater wetlands and estuaries)
- **Marine** (saltwater; includes oceans and coral reefs)

Classify the areas below as either terrestrial or aquatic:

1. The Great Barrier Reef: _____
2. Arctic Ocean: _____
3. Gobi Desert: _____
4. Lake Tahoe: _____
5. Florida Everglades: _____
6. Swiss Alps: _____
7. Amazon River: _____
8. North American Prairie: _____

Which type of biome, terrestrial or aquatic, is best suited for human survival? Explain your reasoning.

WATER

Freshwater vs. Saltwater

Biomes are regions that have similar climate, animals, and plants. Let's take a closer look at the two types of aquatic biomes: **freshwater** and **marine**.

FRESHWATER BIOMES

Freshwater is defined as having less than 1% salt in it. Freshwater biomes contain either moving water, like rivers, streams, or creeks, or standing water, like ponds, wetlands, or lakes. Less than 1% of the Earth's water is in freshwater lakes. Both the temperature and the depth of the freshwater determine what plants and animals can live there. The amount of movement in the water also affects the types of life that can survive there. Freshwater animals can be large or small—some organisms that live there are only made up of a single cell. That's pretty small! The animals that live in freshwater environments depend on the water for food and survival. Some plants also live in freshwater. You may see moss growing in or near freshwater biomes. Moss often grows in freshwater environments. Many freshwater organisms rely on moss for food.

MARINE BIOMES

Marine biomes are sometimes called saltwater biomes. Marine biomes have more than 1% salt in them. Very large bodies of water, such as oceans and seas, are marine biomes. Marine biomes cover about three-fourths of the Earth! Coral reefs and estuaries are also considered marine environments. Just like in freshwater environments, the types of plants and animals that live in marine biomes depend on the depth, temperature, and movement of the water. Marine biomes support very large as well as very small animals. Marine algae supply most of the world's oxygen and take in huge amounts of carbon dioxide. Evaporation of marine water ultimately provides rainwater for our crops, snow for our mountains, and fresh water for our lakes and streams.

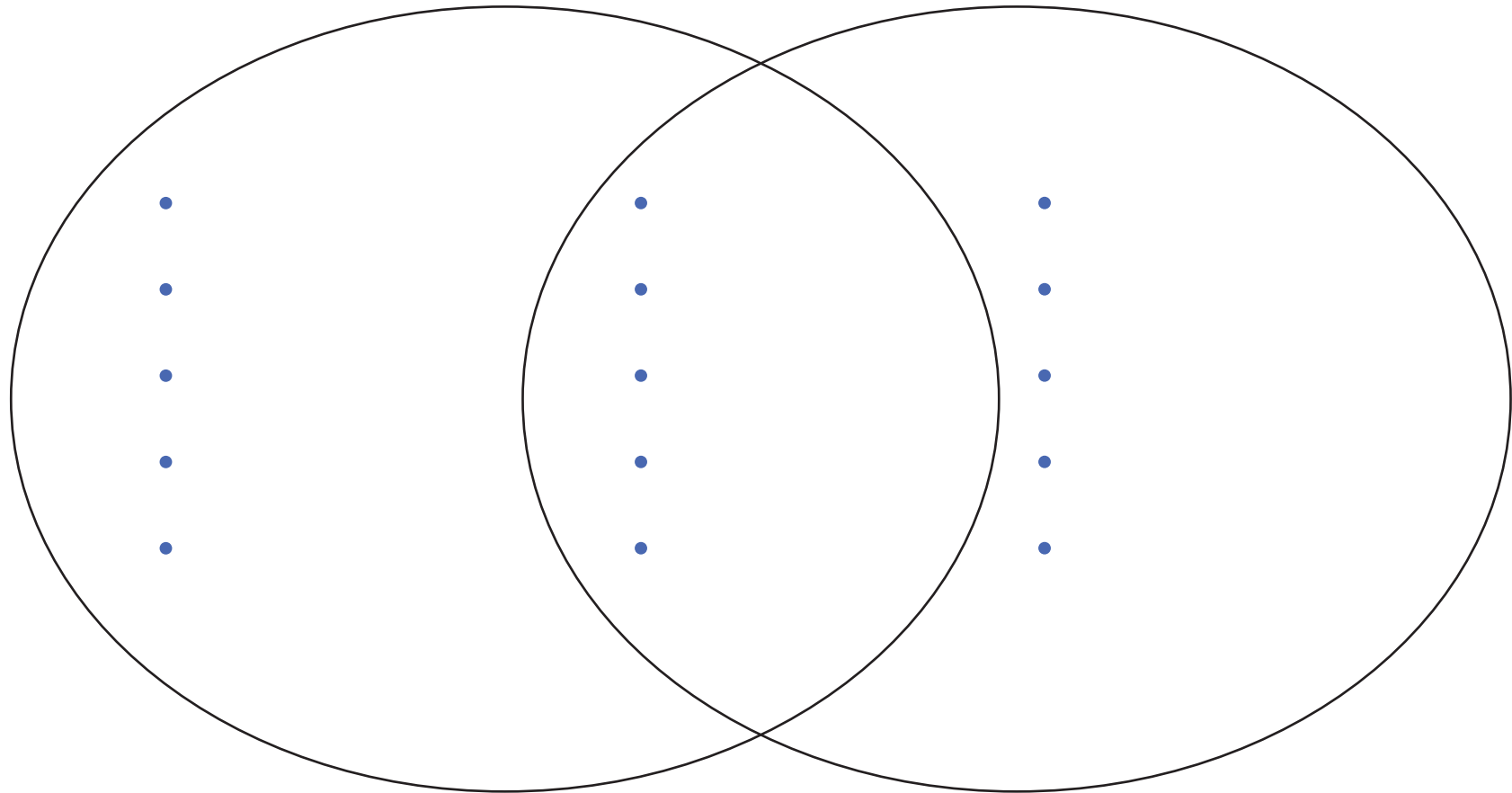
WATER

Venn Diagram

Compare and contrast freshwater and marine biomes. Record the similarities in the center, where the two circles overlap. Record the differences in the outer parts of the circles.

Freshwater

Marine (Saltwater)

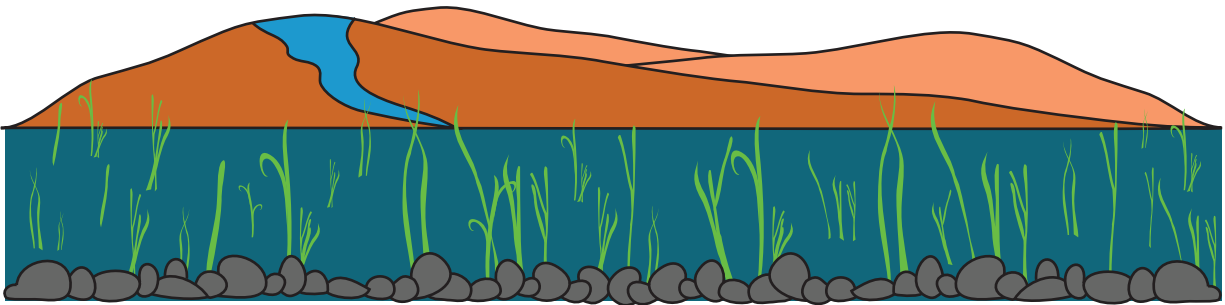


WATER

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas that are inundated with water for all or part of the year. What distinguishes wetlands from just a wet area are plants that are adapted specifically to live in the wet soil year-round. While wetlands provide important habitats for plants and animals, wetlands also serve important purposes to people.

Wetlands act like a sponge during flooding, absorbing large amount of water and slowing the advance of the floodwaters. They also filter and clean water that passes through them, removing excess nutrients and waste.



Why do you think it is important to conserve wetlands?

Do you live near any wetlands that you can visit?

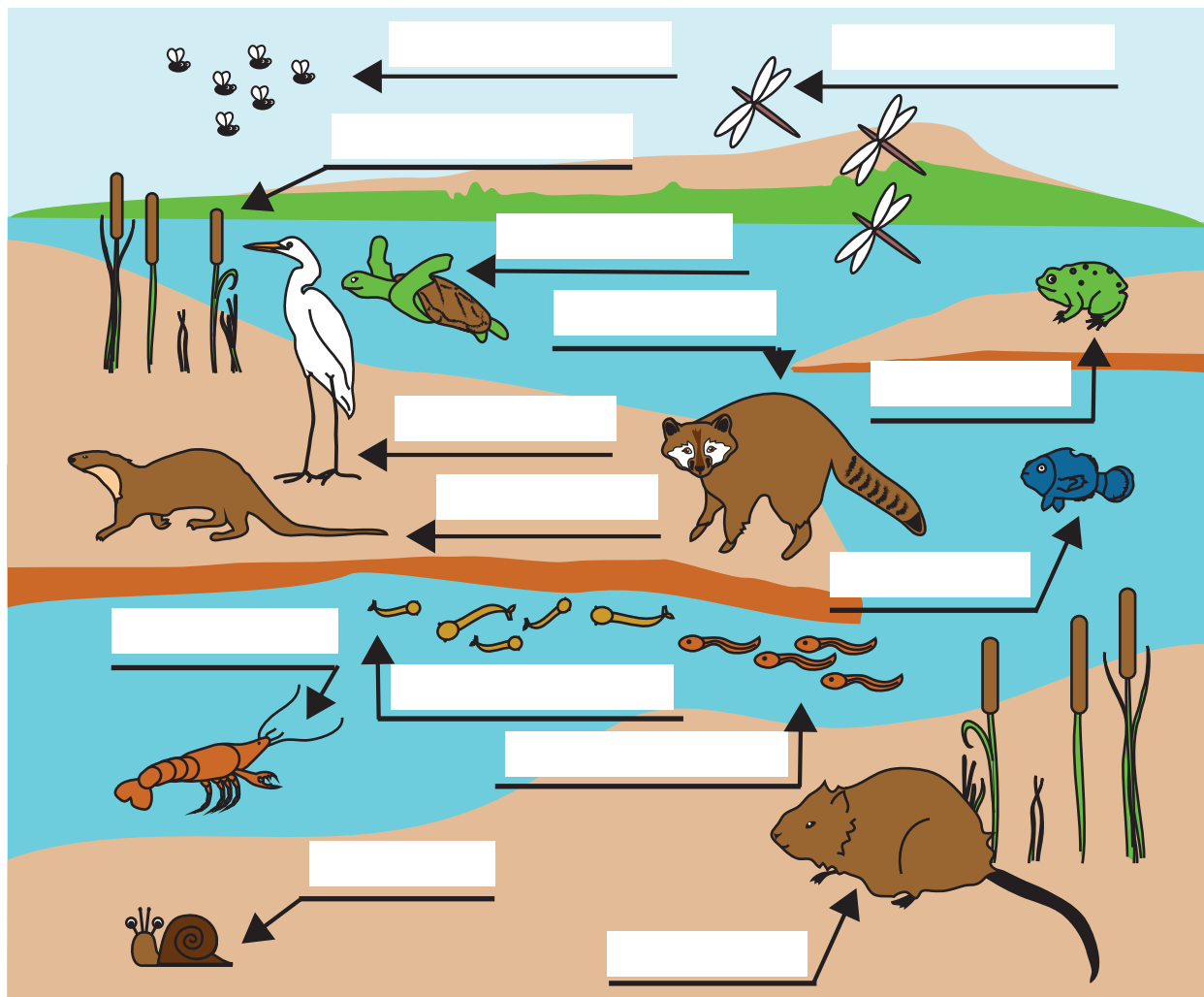
WATER

Life in the Marsh: A Freshwater Biome

A marsh is one of the three types of wetlands. The other two types are bogs and swamps.

Directions: Use the words in the word bank to label the animals in the marsh. If you aren't sure, do the ones you know first, and then look up the others in a dictionary.

muskrat	dragonflies	egret	marsh flies
turtle	frog	cattails	crayfish
snail	river otter	raccoon	fish
tadpoles	mosquito larvae		



WATER

Swamp Things!

The Swamp: A Freshwater AND a Marine Biome



Some made-up stories have made people think that monsters live in swamps! The truth is, there are no swamp monsters, and many fascinating plants and animals call the swamp their home. Swamps are a type of wetland. Swamps are areas of land that have been permanently **saturated**, or filled up, by water. Swamps are usually found in warm, wet climates, and are characterized by being heavily forested. The thick, black, nutrient-rich soil in swamps can support the growth of water-tolerant trees and shrubs. Some swamp creatures live below the surface, and some live on the soft, spongy land that surrounds the swamp. Other swamp animals, such as alligators and nutrias, spend time both in and out of the swamp, depending on the time of day and activity. Many plants, fish, birds, and invertebrates, like freshwater shrimp, clams, and crayfish, and the American Crocodile, require the swamp's particular ecosystem to remain balanced to ensure their survival. Swamps are usually freshwater environments, but some saltwater swamps can be found connected to tropical coastlines.

Directions: Put the names of these wetland plants in alphabetical order.

Cattail

Silver Maple

Winterberry Holly

Marsh marigold

Bulrush

Water lily

Duckweed

Pondweed

Red Maple

Cranberry shrub

WATER

Super Swamp

The Florida Everglades



The Florida Everglades is one of the largest swamp areas in the United States. This freshwater swamp is commonly referred to as the “River of Grass” because of how it looks from high above. These wetlands are actually made from a 60-mile wide, slow-moving river that flows for 100 miles, from the Kissimmee River to the Straits of Florida. Wildlife in the Everglades ranges from alligators to panthers, manatees to pythons, and egrets to wood storks. While swamps were once thought to be useless or dangerous wastelands, the Everglades actually have great ecological value to humans. The freshwater from the Everglades supports nearby agriculture and provides drinking water for south Florida. Wetlands also naturally improve water quality by absorbing excess nutrients and filtering out pollutants. The Everglades also replenish aquifers and reduce the chance of flooding. In addition to being a great natural resource, the Everglades are a recreation area for boating, fishing, and other outdoor activities. People travel from all over the world to experience the Everglades’ environments and wildlife firsthand.

Directions: Use the information above to answer the following questions.

1. Name at least three animals that live in the Everglades.

2. Which animal were you most surprised to learn lives in the Everglades? _____

3. Describe two ways that humans use the Everglades.

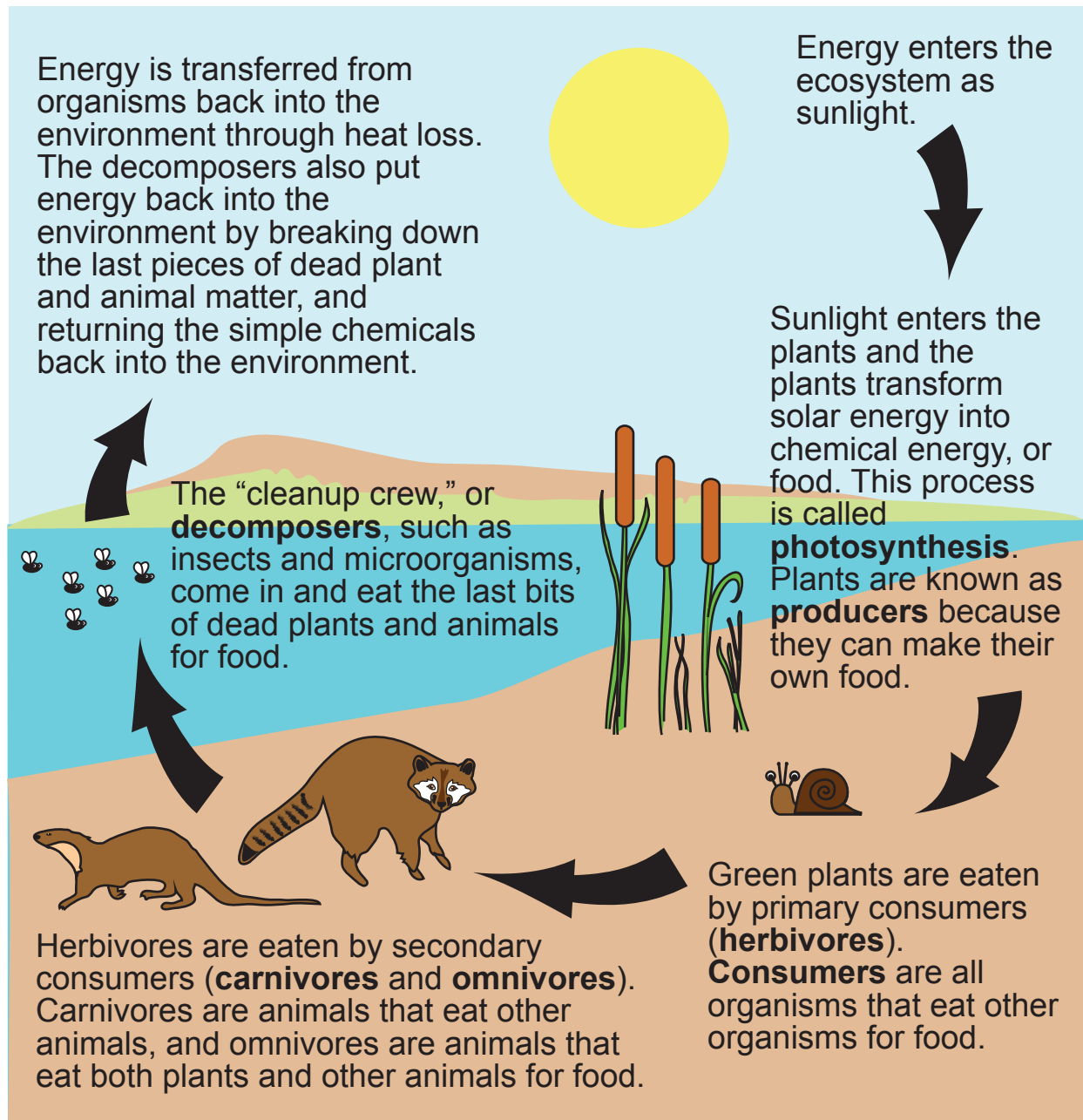
4. Why do you think it is important to protect the Everglades’ ecosystem? _____

WATER

Ecosystems

An **ecosystem** is a community of living things where organisms exchange energy and food among themselves and with the environment around them. One way of thinking about an ecosystem is who eats whom.

Here's how an ecosystem works:

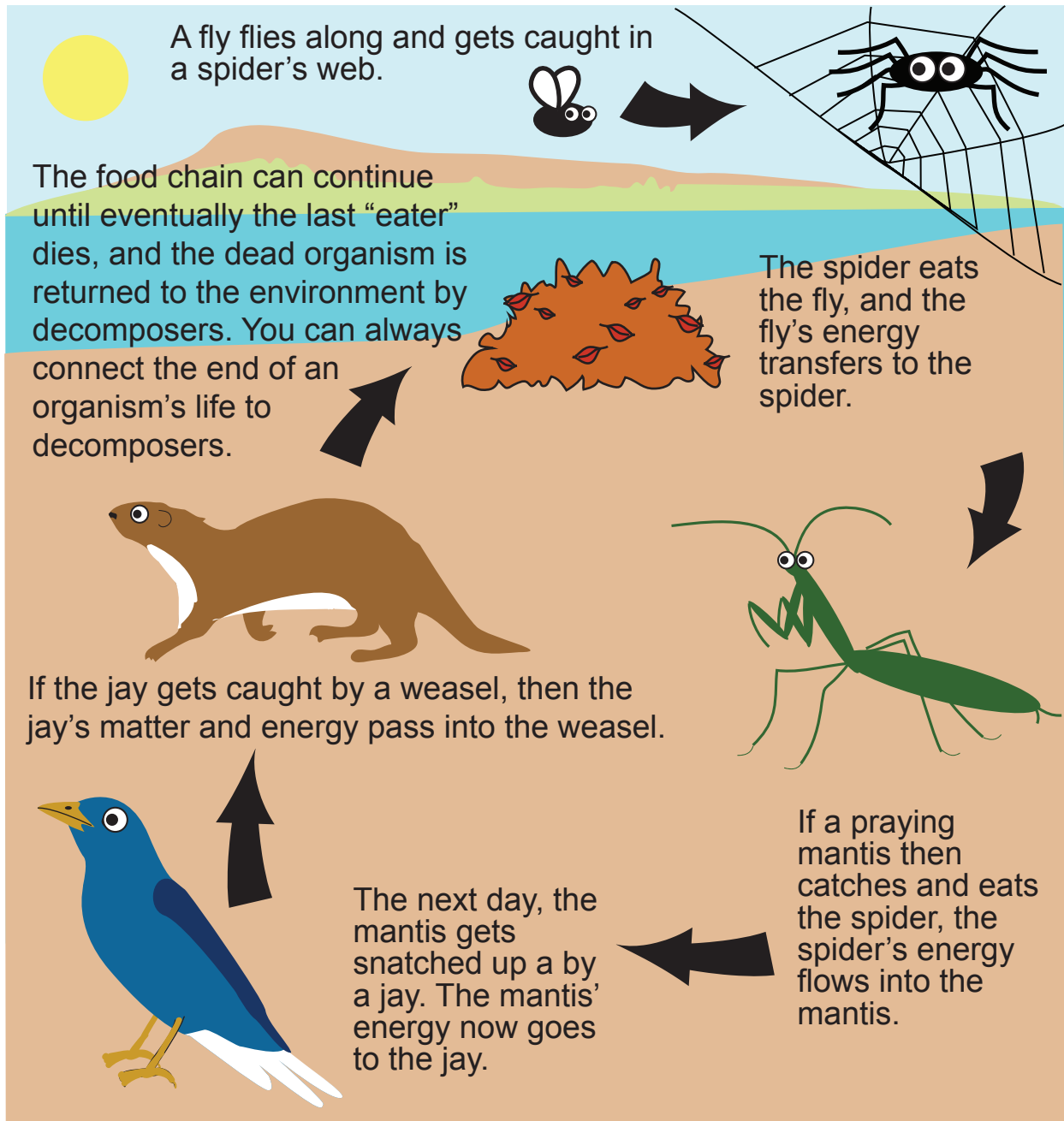


WATER

Ecosystems

There are many feeding relationships within an ecosystem. These relationships form food chains, as each organism draws energy from the one before.

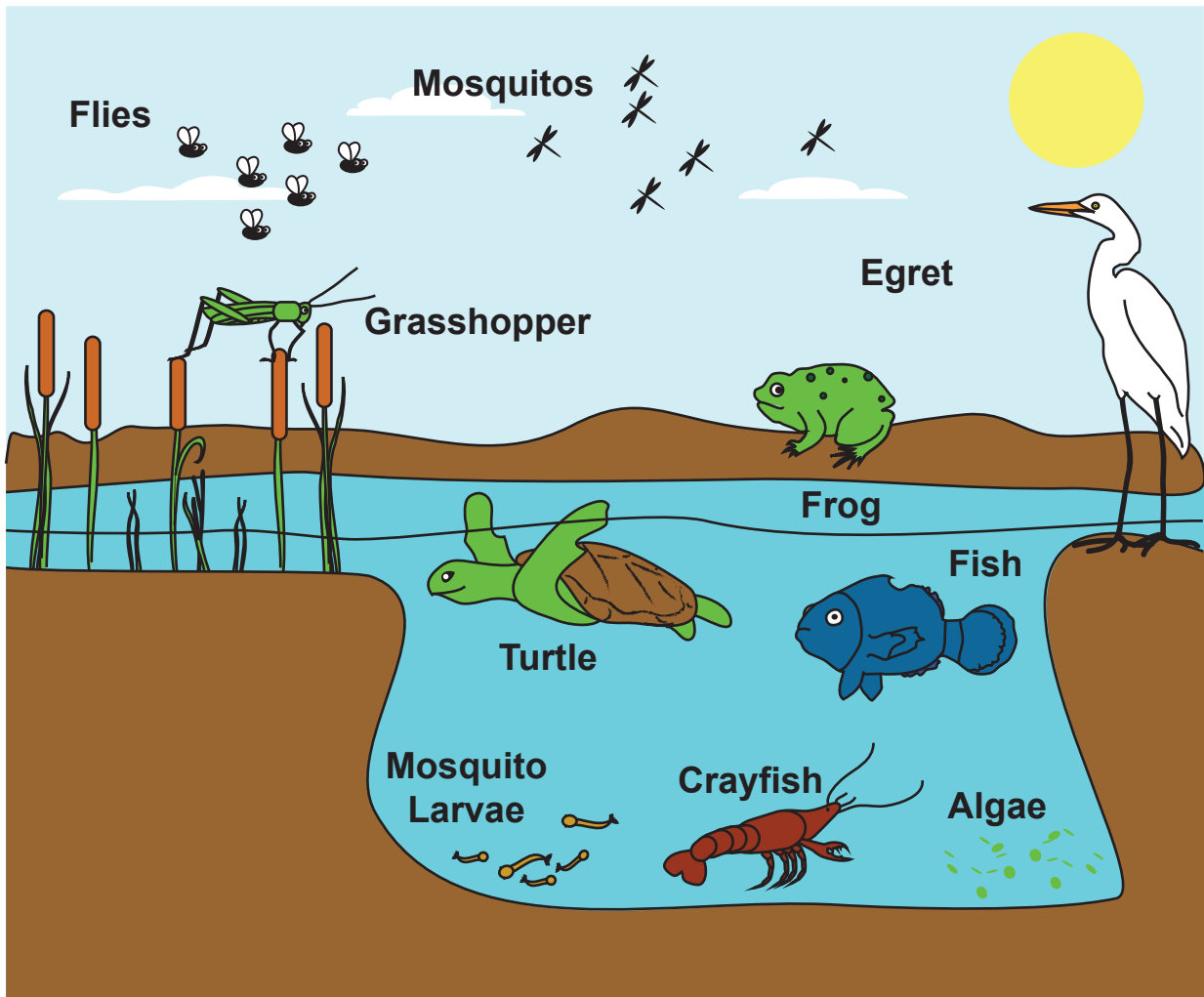
Think of a food chain like this:



WATER

Swamp Survival: The Food Chain

Directions: Use the lines to try to make at least 3 food chains by connecting the swamp organisms below with arrows. See the example for help.



Example: sunlight → algae → mosquito larvae → fish

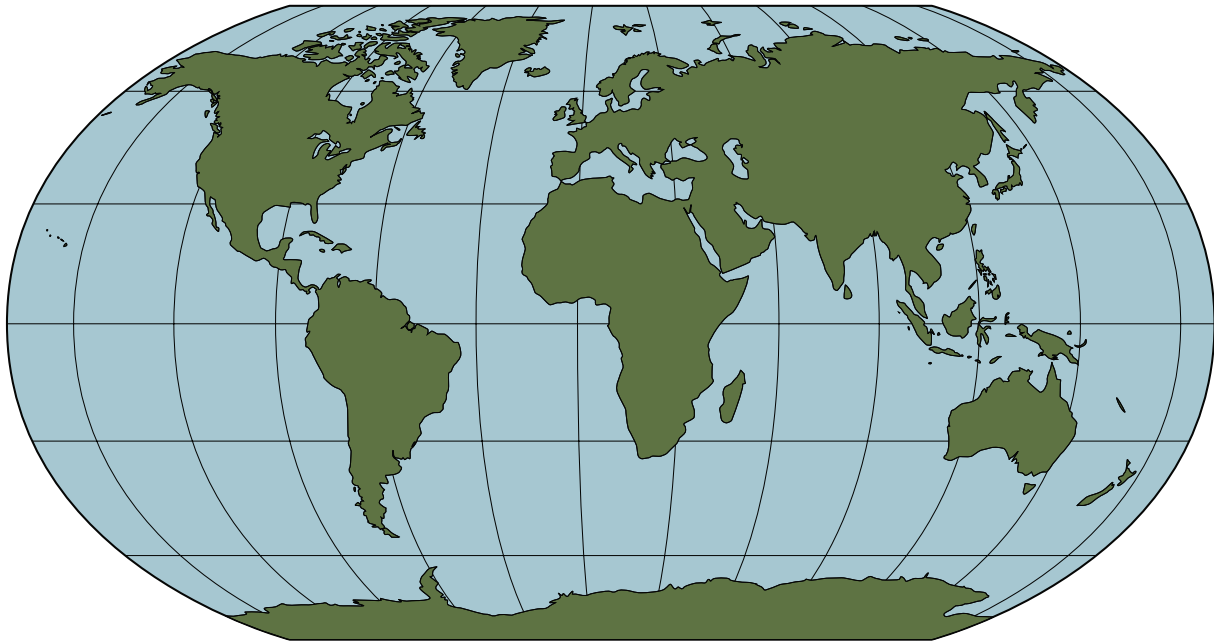
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

WATER

Oceans

An ocean is a large body of saltwater. Although each ocean has its own name, all oceans are connected to each other.

Approximately 71% of the Earth's surface is covered in ocean, and oceans account for 97% of all water on Earth! Oceans surround each continent and countless islands.



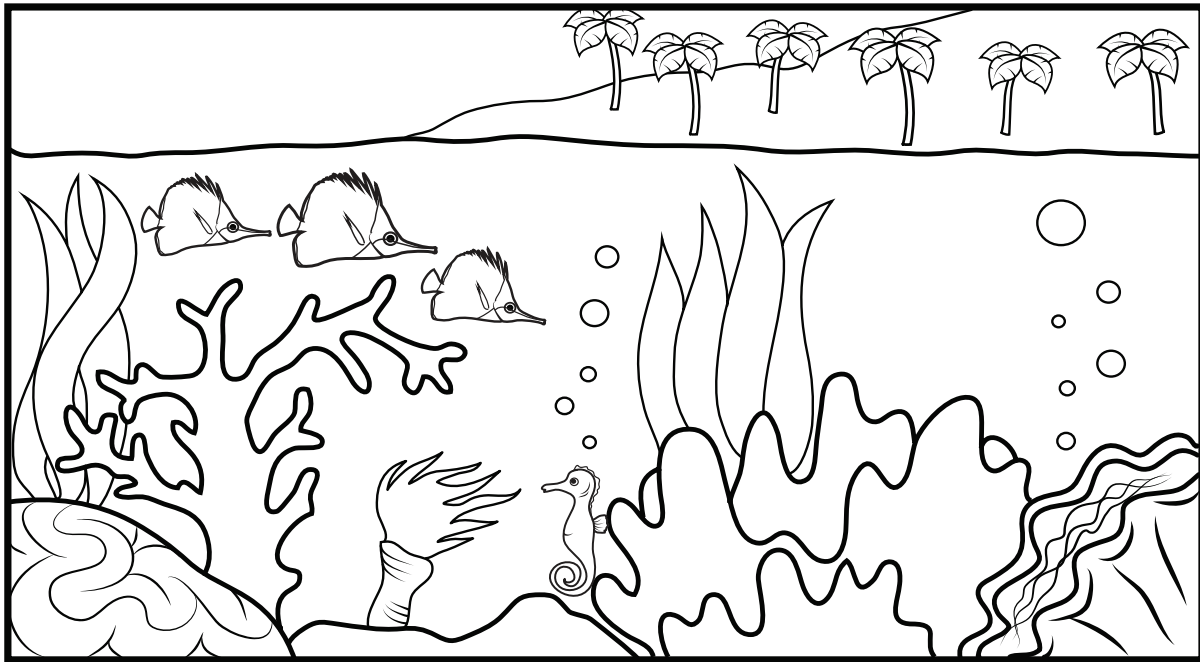
Can you name all five major oceans?

Which one is the largest?

WATER

Reefs

A reef is a deposit of limestone built up over a long period of time by corals. Some get tall enough to break the surface of the ocean and become islands!



Directions: Find each of these reef organisms in the word search below.

Reef Organisms

Clam
Fireworm
Flatworm
Frogfish
Manatee
Manta Ray
Nudibranch
Sea Lion
Sea Snake
Whale
Shrimp

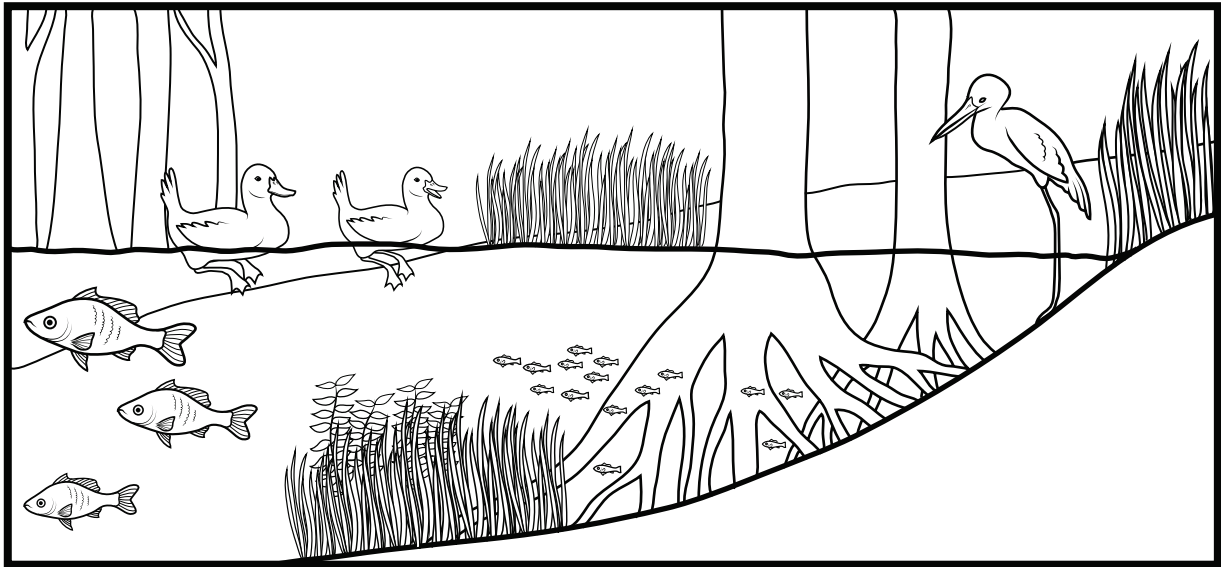
N U D I B R A N C H K L
Z Z N S E A L I O N S H
Y Y Y F T W A F Y N S E
V O A G G S O A N I K M
F L A T W O R M F A R H
E P F S H A A G N O E Q
I F N O T L O S W E E C
P Y B N C R A E T L T W
M A A I F E R A A I R W
X M B J S I N H F E I A
M Q D E F A W H O R Z P
V S L C M S H R I M P T

WATER

Estuaries

An estuary is a transitional zone where a freshwater river or stream flows into the ocean. Tides and river currents affect the salt level in estuaries, to make the water *brackish*, meaning the water is a mix of salt water and freshwater.

There are many different kinds of estuaries. Many estuaries are highly productive ecological zones that play an important role in the life cycles of wildlife. Estuaries act as nurseries for many ocean fish, birds, and are even visited by sharks and marine mammals such as dolphins, seals, and sea lions.



What types of bodies of freshwater flow into an estuary?

What is the definition of the word *brackish*?

What are three types of wildlife that can inhabit estuaries?

WATER

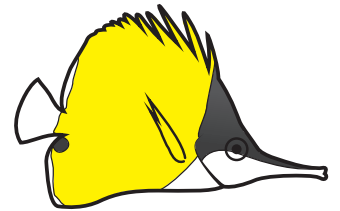
All About Our Earth's Ecosystems!

TROPICAL OCEANS

About Tropical Oceans:

Tropical oceans are known mainly for one thing: coral reefs. Coral reefs are often referred to as the rainforests of the ocean because of the high diversity of animals that make them their home. Many species of fish, such as barracuda, clownfish, angelfish, sharks, rays, triggerfish, butterflyfish, and gobies live in reefs, as well as reptiles such as sea turtles, mammals such as dolphins and whales, invertebrates such as lobsters, crabs, and shrimp, and molluscs such as clams, octopus, cuttlefish, and squid. Even coral is actually a colony of many tiny animals living together!

FIREFISH



YELLOW LONGNOSE BUTTERFLYFISH

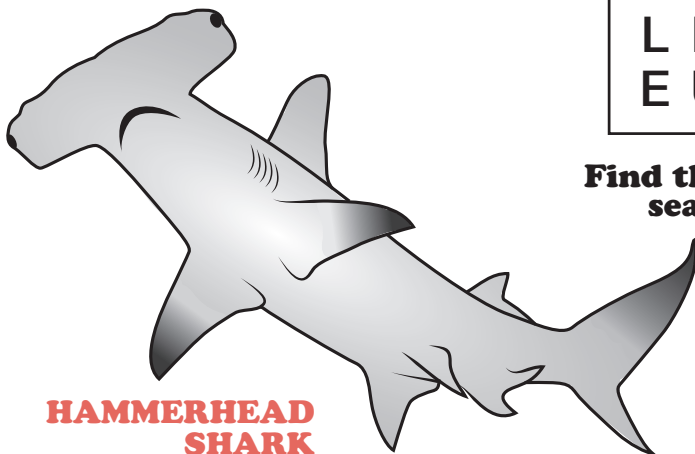
Tropical Oceans Stats:

- Tropical oceans are found between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn along the Equator.
- There are few true plants found in tropical oceans, the most common being seagrass. Everything else is either coral, which are animals, or algae such as seaweed and kelp.
- Many of the creatures that call tropical ocean their home are highly adapted to survive, especially those who live in densely populated reefs! Camouflage plays a big part of life in the reefs.
- The largest reef is the Great Barrier reef off the coast of Australia. It is the largest structure made by living organisms (corals) and can be seen from space!

Word Search

L	S	F	D	T	U	T	G	O	J	F	R	J	S	K
A	H	K	P	R	N	C	L	N	E	J	A	K	L	R
H	A	L	L	D	O	L	P	H	I	N	C	E	P	C
L	R	E	E	A	E	A	R	R	N	I	G	P	E	U
E	K	L	H	N	K	M	H	A	D	N	T	I	J	T
O	M	S	N	R	E	F	A	M	R	E	U	W	T	T
N	T	N	R	E	E	F	O	G	U	H	R	H	K	L
L	A	K	I	S	L	S	U	O	I	S	T	U	A	E
T	O	U	U	G	B	M	T	O	U	A	L	E	I	F
O	A	C	O	R	A	L	N	W	E	O	E	R	R	I
H	J	O	R	U	D	A	K	C	N	I	C	N	O	S
J	E	U	E	G	J	A	E	O	P	N	A	D	N	H
L	B	A	R	R	A	C	U	D	A	E	T	H	M	S
E	U	Q	N	I	E	D	E	A	N	J	D	E	N	L

HAWAIIAN CLEANER WRASSE



HAMMERHEAD SHARK

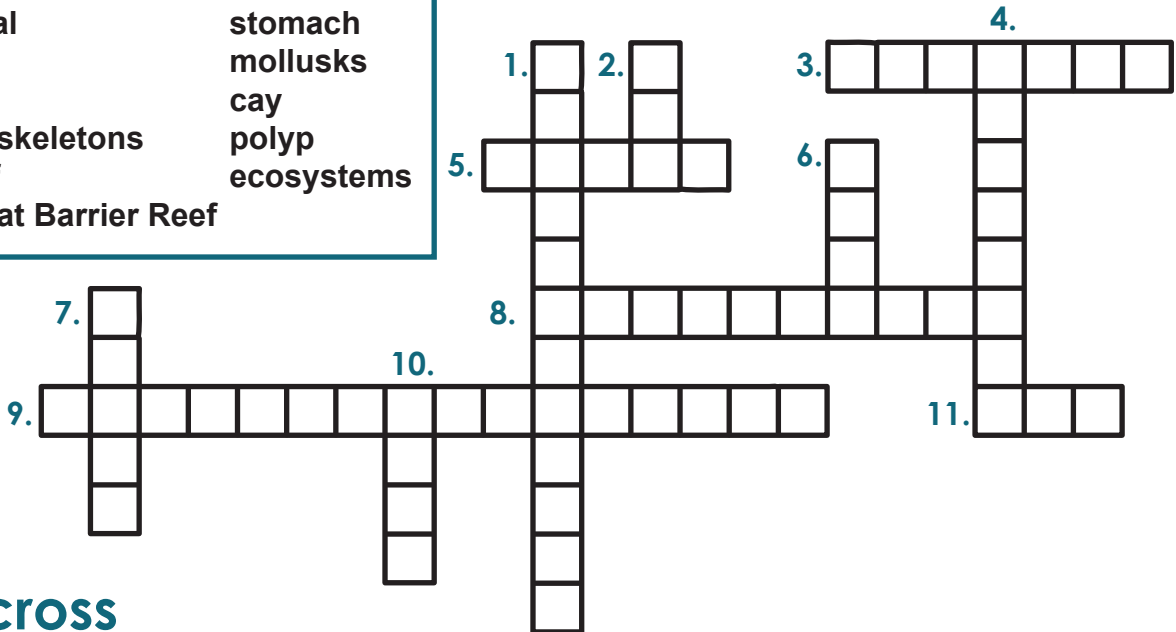
Find the tropical oceans terms below in the word search. They can be horizontal or vertical.

- 1) TURTLE
- 2) CORAL
- 3) SHARK
- 4) BARRACUDA
- 5) DOLPHIN
- 6) CUTTLEFISH
- 7) CLAM
- 8) REEF

Coral Reefs

Directions: Use the words in the box below to solve the crossword puzzle.

coral	stomach
sun	mollusks
soft	cay
exoskeletons	polyp
reef	ecosystems
Great Barrier Reef	



Across

3. Coral have some organs, including the _____, in common with many other living organisms—including us!
5. A _____ is a sedentary type of animal form with a fixed base, columnar body, and free end with mouth and tentacles.
8. The coral reef is one of the most diverse _____ on earth.
9. The _____ is the largest coral reef in the world.
11. Coral reefs get their energy from the _____.

Down

1. Hard coral polyps make _____ to support and protect their bodies.
2. A _____ is a small, sandy island that forms on the surface of a coral reef.
4. Coral reefs contain twenty-five percent of all ocean life, including organisms such as fish, worms, crustaceans, and _____.
6. There are two kinds of coral: _____ and hard.
7. _____ is a sedentary invertebrate living in warm and tropical seas.
10. A coral _____ is a ridge made of coral, existing just below the surface of the sea.

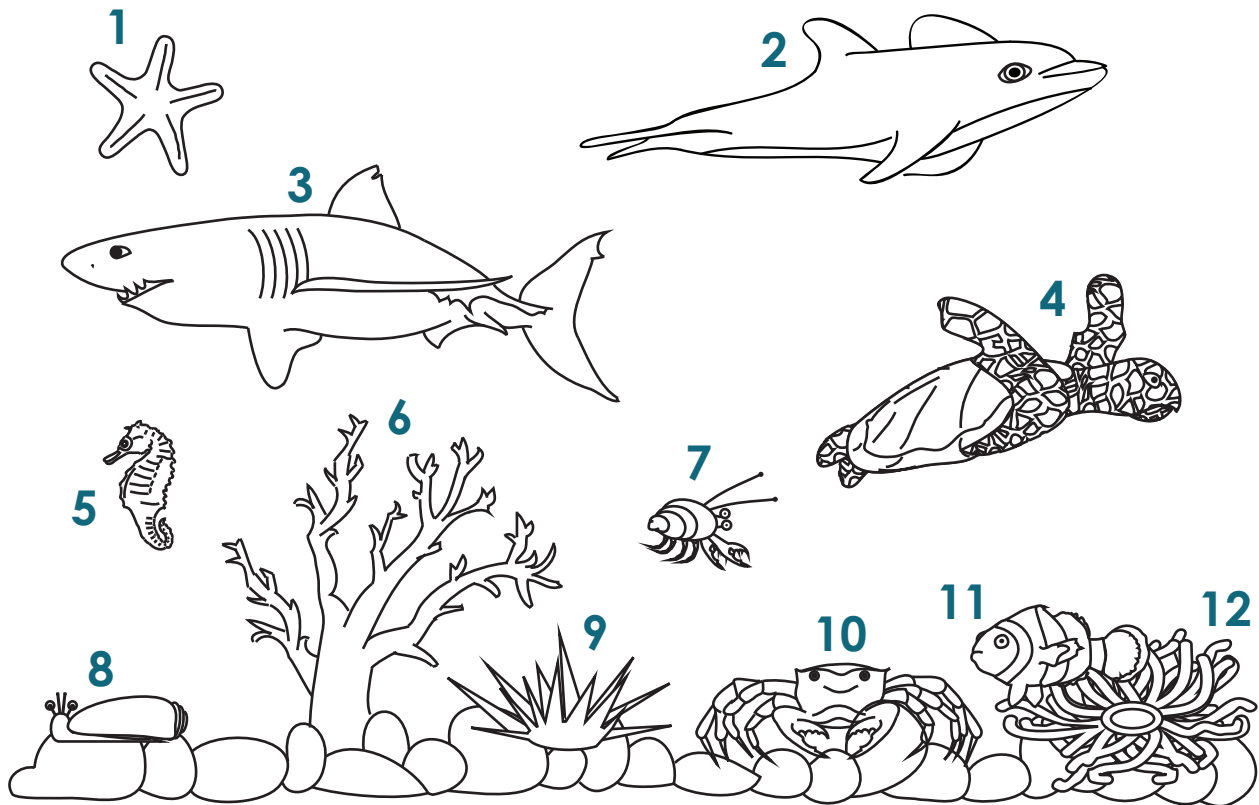
WATER

Life in the Reef

Directions: Match the numbers in the picture to the names in the word bank. Label and color each coral reef organism. Be sure to check your spelling and write neatly.

Cone snail	Spinner dolphin	Branching coral
Sea urchin	Seahorse	Starfish
Crab	Reef shark	Clownfish
Sea anemone	Hawksbill turtle	Hermit crab

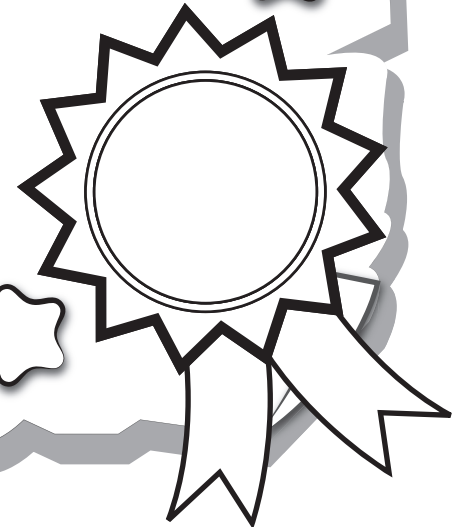
- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |



WATER

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Answer Sheets

Aquatic Biomes

What Is a Biome?

Freshwater Biomes and Saltwater Biomes

Marshes

Swamps

Super Swamp: The Florida Everglades

Swamp Food Chain

Aquatic Biomes: Oceans

Aquatic Biomes: Reefs

Aquatic Biomes: Estuaries

Tropical Ocean Ecosystem

Coral Reef Crossword

Coral Reef Animals and Plants

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Answer Sheet

What on Earth is a Biome?

Answers

A biome is a large geographical area of the world characterized by similar climate, animals, and plants. Some biomes are terrestrial (land-based), and some are aquatic. **Aquatic** biomes can be freshwater biomes or marine biomes. "**Marine**" biomes refer to saltwater biomes.

In other words, biomes can be categorized like this:

BIOMES

Terrestrial (land)

- **Tundra**
- **Forest** (includes rainforest, temperate forest, chaparral, and taiga)
- **Grassland** (includes temperate grassland and savanna)
- **Alpine**
- **Desert**

Aquatic (water)

- **Freshwater** (includes freshwater wetlands and estuaries)
- **Marine** (saltwater; includes oceans and coral reefs)

Classify the areas below as either terrestrial or aquatic:

1. The Great Barrier Reef: aquatic
2. Arctic Ocean: aquatic
3. Gobi Desert: terrestrial
4. Lake Tahoe: aquatic
5. Florida Everglades: aquatic
6. Swiss Alps: terrestrial
7. Amazon River: aquatic
8. North American Prairie: terrestrial

Which type of biome, terrestrial or aquatic, is best suited for human survival? Explain your reasoning.

(answers will vary)

WATER

Answer Sheet

Venn Diagram

Answers

Compare and contrast freshwater and marine biomes. Record the similarities in the center, where the two circles overlap. Record the differences in the outer parts of the circles.

Freshwater

Marine (Saltwater)

- Less than 1% salt
- Less than 1% of the Earth's water is in freshwater lakes
- Moss may grow in or near freshwater bodies
- Many freshwater organisms depend on moss for food

- Support large and small animals
- Types of organisms depend on temperature, depth, movement of water
- Animals depend on water for food and survival
- Plants also depend on unique conditions of biome

- More than 1% salt
- Very large bodies of water
- Algae supply most of the world's oxygen
- Evaporation of marine water provides rainwater, snow, and fresh water for lakes and streams.

WATER

Answer Sheet

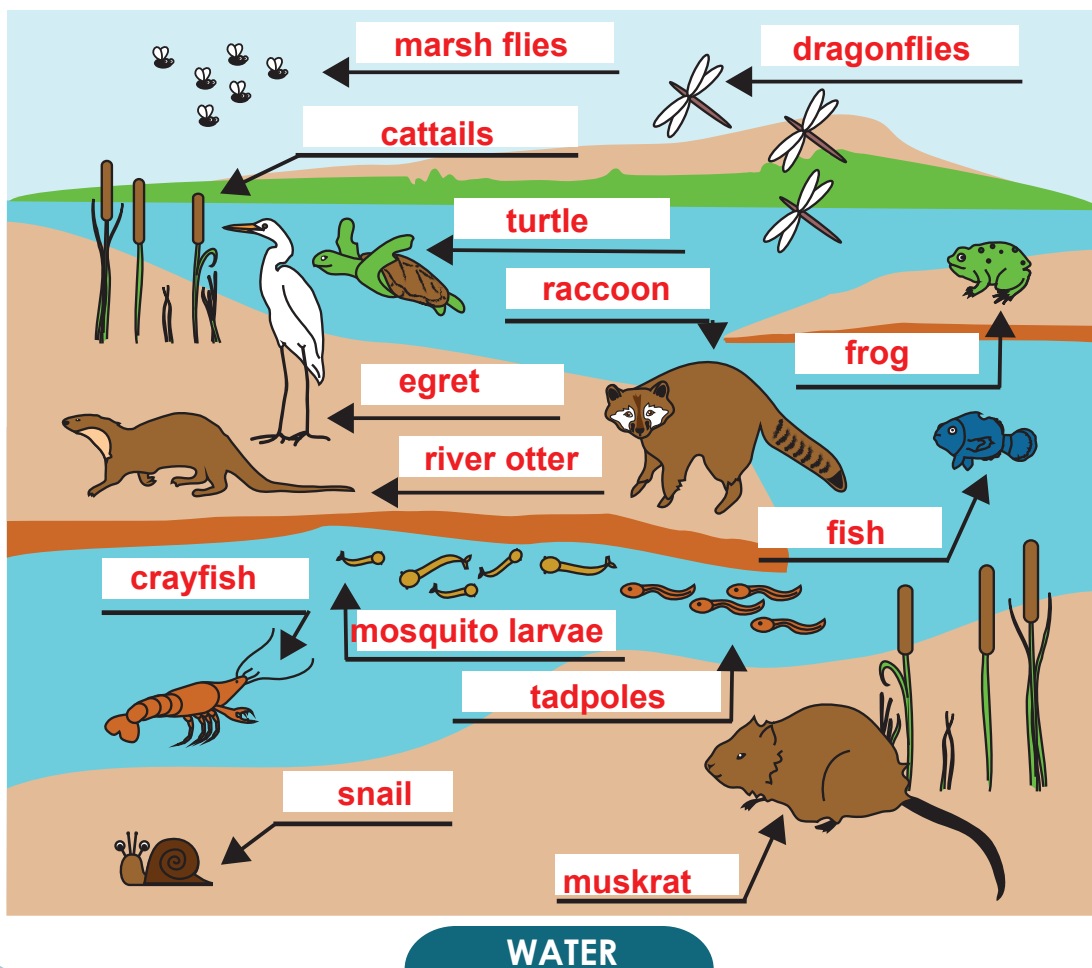
Life in the Marsh: A Freshwater Biome

Answers

A marsh is one of the three types of wetlands. The other two types are bogs and swamps.

Directions: Use the words in the word bank to label the animals in the marsh. Color each animal as you label it. If you aren't sure, do the ones you know first, and then look up the others in a dictionary

muskrat	dragonflies	egret	marsh flies
turtle	frog	cattails	crayfish
snail	river otter	raccoon	fish
tadpoles	mosquito larvae		



Answer Sheet

Swamp Things!

Answers

The Swamp: A Freshwater AND a Marine Biome



Some made-up stories have made people think that monsters live in swamps! The truth is, there are no swamp monsters, and many fascinating plants and animals call the swamp their home. Swamps are a type of wetland. Swamps are areas of land that have been permanently saturated, or filled up, by water. Swamps are usually found in warm, wet climates, and are characterized by being heavily forested. The thick, black, nutrient-rich soil in swamps can support the growth of water-tolerant trees and shrubs. Some swamp creatures live below the surface, and some live on the soft, spongy land that surrounds the swamp. Other swamp animals, such as alligators and nutrias, spend time both in and out of the swamp, depending on the time of day and activity. Many plants, fish, birds, and invertebrates, like freshwater shrimp, clams, and crayfish, and the American Crocodile, require the swamp's particular ecosystem to remain balanced to ensure their survival. Swamps are usually freshwater environments, but some saltwater swamps can be found connected to tropical coastlines.

Directions: Put the names of these wetland plants in alphabetical order.

cattail
Silver Maple
Winterberry Holly
Marsh Marigold
bulrush
Water Lily
duckweed
pondweed
Red Maple
cranberry shrub

bulrush
cattail
cranberry shrub
duckweed
Marsh Marigold
pondweed
Red Maple
Silver Maple
Water Lily
Winterberry Holly

WATER

Answer Sheet

Super Swamp

The Florida Everglades



Answers

The Florida Everglades is one of the largest swamp areas in the United States. This freshwater swamp is commonly referred to as the “River of Grass” because of how it looks from high above. These wetlands are actually made from a 60-mile wide, slow-moving river that flows for 100 miles, from the Kissimmee River to the Straits of Florida. Wildlife in the Everglades ranges from alligators to panthers, manatees to pythons, and egrets to wood storks. While swamps were once thought to be useless or dangerous wastelands, the Everglades actually have great ecological value to humans. The freshwater from the Everglades supports nearby agriculture and provides drinking water for south Florida. Wetlands also naturally improve water quality by absorbing excess nutrients and filtering out pollutants. The Everglades also replenish aquifers and reduce the chance of flooding. In addition to being a great natural resource, the Everglades are a recreation area for boating, fishing, and other outdoor activities. People travel from all over the world to experience the Everglades’ environments and wildlife firsthand.

Directions: Use the information above to answer the following questions.

1. Name at least three animals that live in the Everglades.

Any of the following are correct: alligators, panthers, manatees, pythons, egrets, wood storks

2. Which animal were you most surprised to learn lives in the Everglades? **(any answer is correct)**

3. Describe two ways that humans use the Everglades.

Any of the following are correct: agriculture, drinking water, absorb excess nutrients and filter out pollutants, replenish aquifers, reduce chance of flooding, recreation.

4. Why do you think it is important to protect the Everglades’ ecosystem? **(various possible answers)**

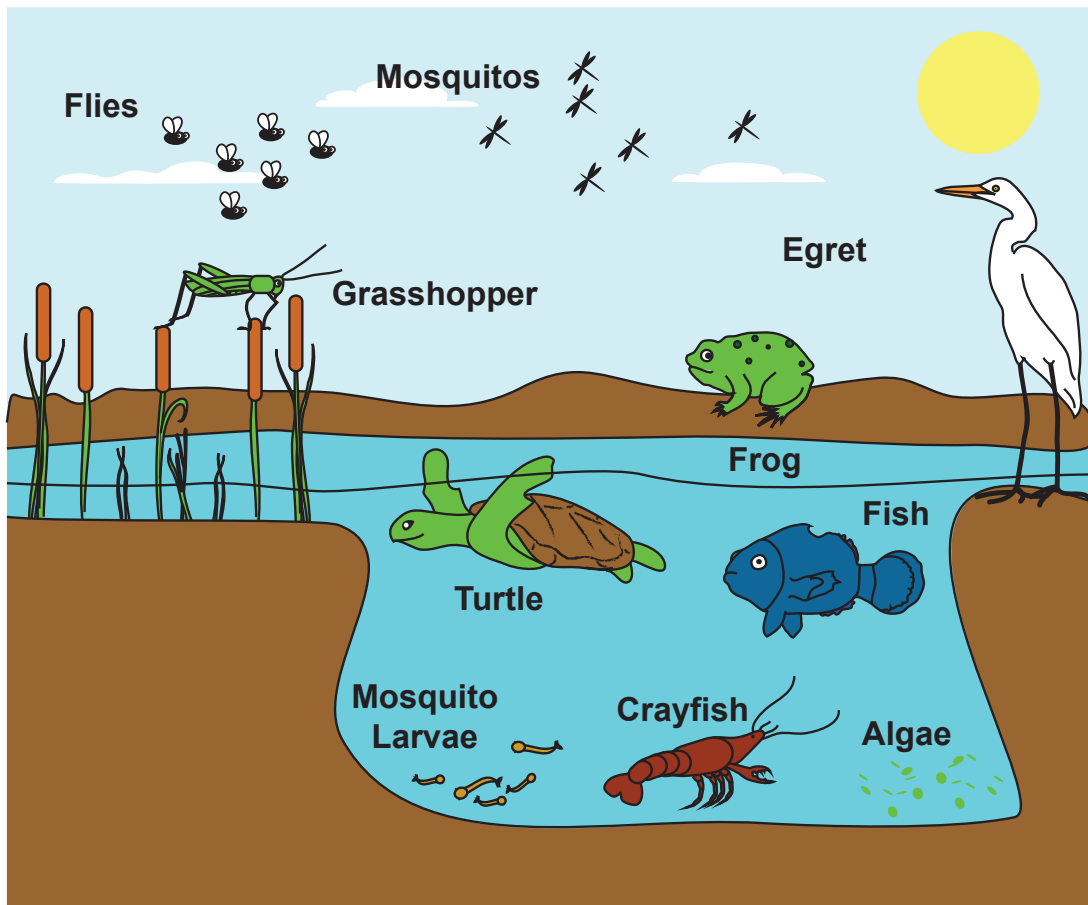
WATER

Answer Sheet

Swamp Survival: The Food Chain

Answers

Directions: Use the lines to try to make at least 3 food chains by connecting the swamp organisms below with arrows. See the example for help.



Example: sunlight → algae → mosquito larvae → fish

Some possible answers:

- sunlight → algae → mosquito larvae → fish
- sunlight → cattails → grasshopper → frog
- sunlight → algae → fish → egret
- sunlight → algae → crayfish → turtle
- flies → frog → egret
- mosquitoes → frog → egret

WATER

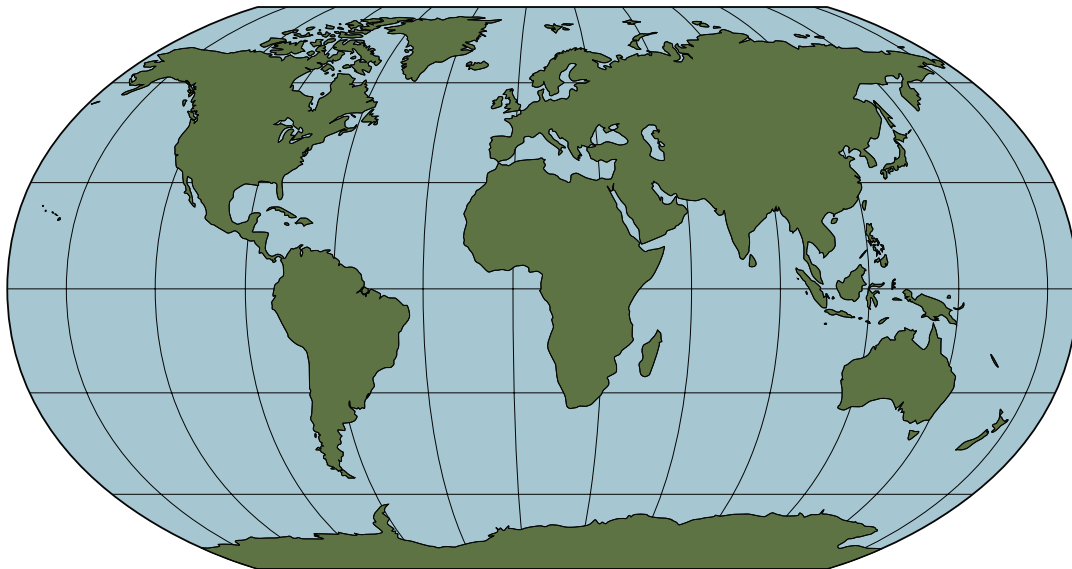
Answer Sheet

Oceans

Answers

An ocean is a large body of saltwater. Although each ocean has its own name, all oceans are connected to each other.

Approximately 71% of the Earth's surface is covered in ocean, and oceans account for 97% of all water on Earth! Oceans surround each continent, and countless islands.



Can you name all five major oceans?

Pacific

Atlantic

Indian

Southern

Arctic

Which one is the largest?

Pacific

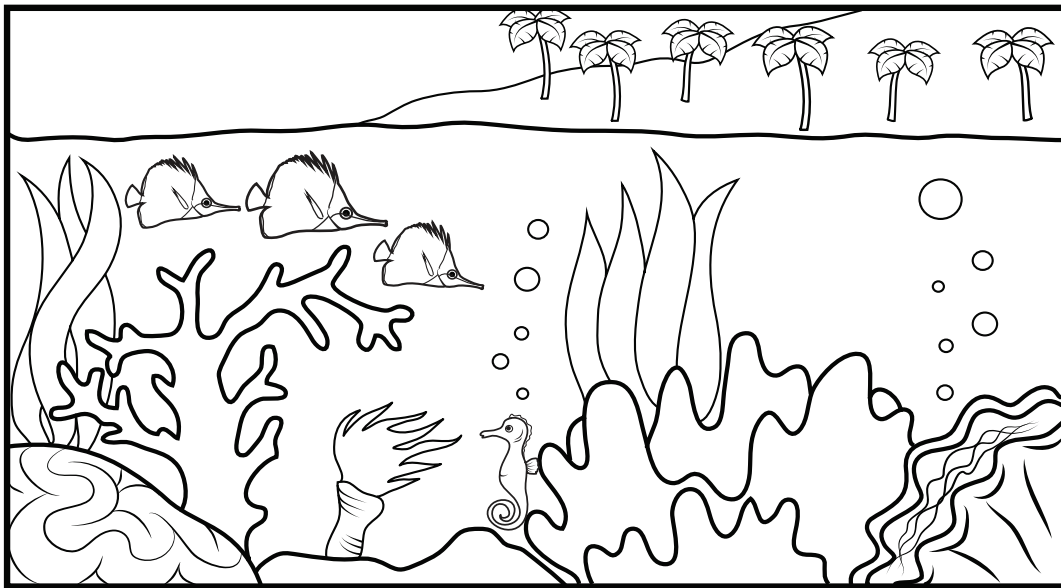
WATER

Answer Sheet

Reefs

Answers

A reef is a deposit of limestone built up over a long period of time by corals. Some get tall enough to break the surface of the ocean and become islands!



Directions: Find each of these reef organisms in the word search below.

Reef Organisms

Clam
Fireworm
Flatworm
Frogfish
Manatee
Manta Ray
Nudibranch
Sea Lion
Sea Snake
Whale

N U D I B R A N C H K L
Z Z N S E A L I O N S H
Y Y Y F T W A F Y N S E
V O A G G S O A N I K M
F L A T W O R M F A R H
E P F S H A A G N O E Q
I F N O T L O S W E E C
P Y B N C R A E T L T W
M A A I F E R A A I R W
X M B J S I N H F E I A
M Q D E F A W H O R Z P
V S L C M S H R I M P T

WATER

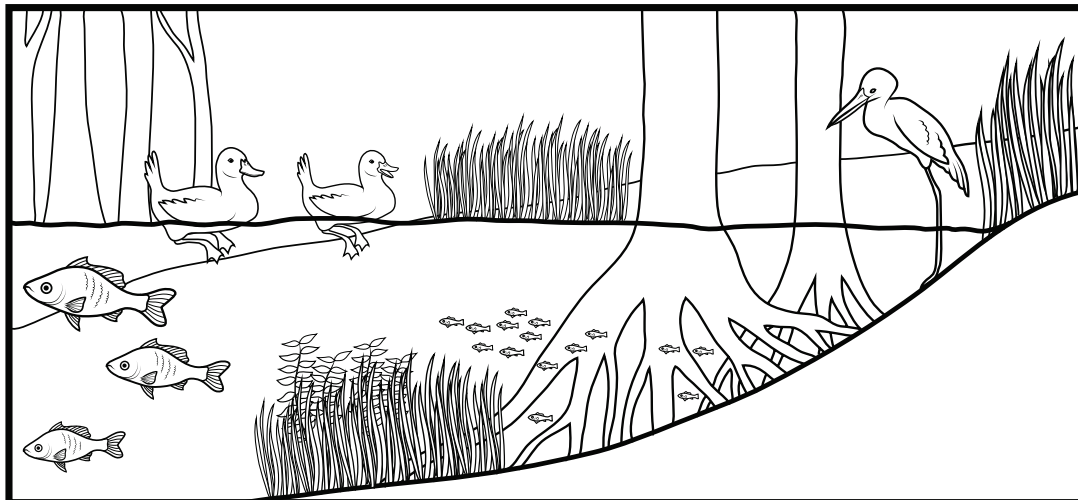
Answer Sheet

Estuaries

Answers

An estuary is a transitional zone where a freshwater river or stream flows into the ocean. Tides and river currents affect the salt level in estuaries, to make the water *brackish*, meaning the water is a mix of salt water and freshwater.

There are many different kinds of estuaries. Many estuaries are highly productive ecological zones that play an important role in the life cycles of wildlife. Estuaries act as nurseries for many ocean fish, birds, and are even visited by sharks and marine mammals such as dolphins, seals, and sea lions.



What types of bodies of freshwater flow into an estuary?

ivers, streams

What is the definition of the word *brackish*?

Brackish water is a mix of freshwater and salt water.

What are three types of wildlife that can inhabit estuaries?

Any of the following are correct: ocean fish, birds, sharks, dolphins, seals, and sea lions.

WATER

Answer Sheet

All About Our Earth's Ecosystems!

TROPICAL OCEANS

About Tropical Oceans:

Tropical oceans are known mainly for one thing: coral reefs. Coral reefs are often referred to as the rainforests of the ocean because of the high diversity of animals that make them their home. Many species of fish, such as barracuda, clownfish, angelfish, sharks, rays, triggerfish, butterflyfish, and gobies live in reefs, as well as reptiles such as sea turtles, mammals such as dolphins and whales, invertebrates such as lobsters, crabs, and shrimp, and molluscs such as clams, octopus, cuttlefish, and squid. Even coral is actually a colony of many tiny animals living together!

FIREFISH



Tropical Oceans Stats:

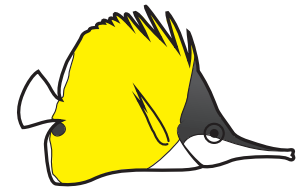
- Tropical oceans are found between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn along the Equator.

- There are few true plants found in tropical oceans, the most common being seagrass. Everything else is either coral, which are animals, or algae such as seaweed and kelp.

- Many of the creatures that call tropical ocean their home are highly adapted to survive, especially those who live in densely populated reefs! Camouflage plays a big part of life in the reefs.

- The largest reef is the Great Barrier reef off the coast of Australia. It is the largest structure made by living organisms (corals) and can be seen from space!

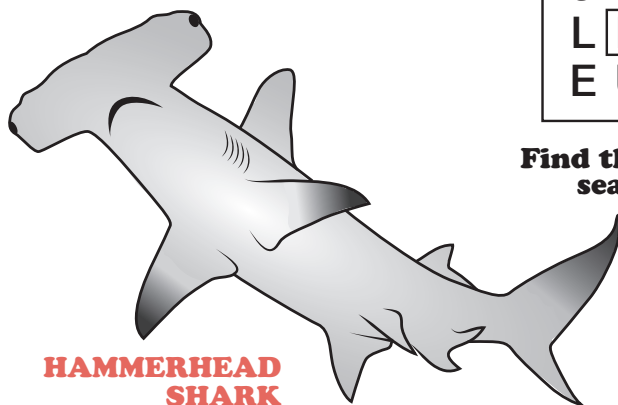
YELLOW LONGNOSE BUTTERFLYFISH



Word Search



HAWAIIAN CLEANER WRASSE



HAMMERHEAD SHARK

Find the tropical oceans terms below in the word search. They can be horizontal or vertical.

- 1) TURTLE
- 2) CORAL
- 3) SHARK
- 4) BARRACUDA
- 5) DOLPHIN
- 6) CUTTLEFISH
- 7) CLAM
- 8) REEF

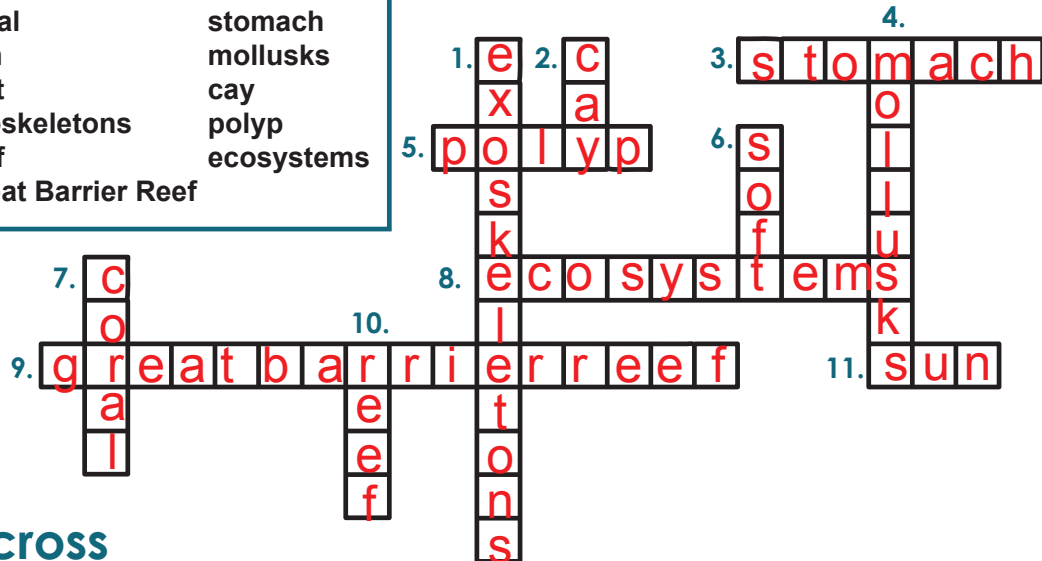
Answer Sheet

Coral Reefs

Answers

Directions: Use the words in the box below to solve the crossword puzzle.

coral	stomach
sun	mollusks
soft	cay
exoskeletons	polyp
reef	ecosystems
Great Barrier Reef	



Across

3. Coral have some organs, including the _____, in common with many other living organisms--including us!
5. A _____ is a sedentary type of animal form with a fixed base, columnar body, and free end with mouth and tentacles.
8. The coral reef is one of the most diverse _____ on earth.
9. The _____ is the largest coral reef in the world.
11. Coral reefs get their energy from the _____.

Down

1. Hard coral polyps make _____ to support and protect their bodies.
2. A _____ is a small, sandy island that forms on the surface of a coral reef.
4. Coral reefs contain twenty-five percent of all ocean life, including organisms such as fish, worms, crustaceans, and _____.
6. There are two kinds of coral: _____ and hard.
7. _____ is a sedentary invertebrate living in warm and tropical seas.
10. A coral _____ is a ridge made of coral, existing just below the surface of the sea.

WATER

Answer Sheet

Life in the Reef

Answers

Directions: Match the numbers in the picture to the names in the word bank. Label and color each coral reef organism. Be sure to check your spelling and write neatly.

Cone snail
Sea urchin
Crab
Sea anemone

Spinner dolphin
Seahorse
Reef shark
Hawksbill turtle

Branching coral
Starfish
Clownfish
Hermit crab

1. Starfish
2. Spinner Dolphin
3. Reef Shark
4. Hawksbill Turtle
5. Seahorse
6. Branching Coral
7. Hermit Crab
8. Cone Snail
9. Sea Urchin
10. Crab
11. Clownfish
12. Sea Anemone

