

Chapter 7, Aquatic Ecosystems: Section 1, Freshwater Ecosystems

Freshwater Ecosystems

- The types of organisms in an aquatic ecosystem are mainly determined by the water's _____.
- As a result, aquatic ecosystems are divided into _____ ecosystems.
- Freshwater ecosystems include ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.
- _____ are areas of land that are periodically under water or whose soil contains a great deal of moisture.

Characteristics of Aquatic Ecosystems

- Factors such as _____ determine which organisms live in which area of the water.
- Aquatic ecosystems contains several types of organisms that are grouped by their _____ and by their _____.
- Three groups of aquatic organisms include _____.

Characteristics of Aquatic Ecosystems

- _____ are the mass of mostly microscopic organisms that float or drift freely in the water, and can be microscopic animals called zooplankton or microscopic plants called phytoplankton.
- _____ are all organisms that swim actively in open water, independent of currents.
- _____ are bottom-dwelling organisms of the sea or ocean and are often attached to hard surfaces.
- _____ are also aquatic organisms.

Lakes and Ponds

- Lakes, ponds, and wetlands can form _____ where groundwater reaches the Earth's surface.
- Humans intentionally create _____ by damming flowing rivers and streams to use them for power, irrigation, water storage, and recreation.
- The types of organisms present depend on the _____ available.

Life in a Lake

- The _____ is a shallow zone in a freshwater habitat where light reaches the bottom and nurtures plants and aquatic life is diverse and abundant.
- Some plants are _____ underwater with their upper leaves and stems above water.
- Other plants have _____.

Life in a Lake

- The _____ is the region near the bottom of a pond, lake or ocean which is inhabited by decomposers, insect larvae, and clams.

How Nutrients Affect Lakes

- _____ is an increase in the amount of nutrients, such as nitrates, in an aquatic ecosystem.
- As the amount of plants and algae grow, the number of bacteria feeding on the decaying organisms also grows.

How Nutrients Affect Lakes

- A lake that has large amounts of plant growth due to nutrients is known as a _____.
- However, eutrophication can be accelerated by _____, such as rain, that can carry sewage, fertilizers, or animal wastes from land into bodies of water.

Freshwater Wetlands

- Freshwater wetlands are areas of land that are covered with _____ for part of the year.
- The two main types of freshwater wetlands are _____.
- Marshes contain _____, while swamps are dominated by _____.
- Located in the southeastern United States, with the largest in the _____.

Freshwater Wetlands

- Wetlands perform several important environmental functions.
- Wetlands _____ that absorb and remove pollutants from the water.
- They also _____ by absorbing extra water when rivers overflow.
- These areas _____ for native and migratory wildlife in addition to feeding and spawning for many freshwater game fish.

Marshes

- There are several kinds of marshes, each of which is characterized by its _____.
- Brackish marshes have _____ while salt marshes contain _____.

Marshes

- The benthic zones of marshes are _____ and contain plants, numerous types of decomposers, and scavengers.

Swamps

- Swamps occur on _____, often near streams and are dominated by woody shrubs or water loving trees.
- Freshwater swamps are the _____ for amphibians because of the _____.

Human Impact on Wetlands

- Wetlands were previously considered to be _____ that provide breeding grounds for insects.

Rivers

- A river changes with the _____ through which it flows.

Life in a River

- In and near the headwater, mosses anchor themselves to rocks by using rootlike structures called _____.

Rivers in Danger

- Industries use river water in _____ for wastes.