

# Water Ecosystems

## Rivers

- Fish found in rivers: pike, bass, bullhead, crayfish, turtles, ducks, insects, and otters.
- Some animals only live in rivers the flow slowly because they are not strong enough to survive in a faster flowing river.
- Plants and animals that live in rivers usually do not live in oceans. The water differences are too much for some organisms to survive. The salt content alone in an ocean would cause issues if the animals were not used to it.

## Wetlands

- A wetland is partially covered with water or is flooded at least part of each year.
- A swamp is another kind of wetland with many trees and bushes.
- Plants, soils, and microorganisms of wetlands often act as filters, cleaning water that flows through a wetland.
- Estuaries—are place where rivers flow into oceans.
  - o Water is salty but not nearly as salty as the ocean.
- Salt Marshes- grassy wetlands at the edges of estuaries.

## Coral Reefs

- Around a reef, divers might see sharks, clams, crabs, clownfish, eels, etc.
- Algae—grow in shallow, warm waters. If the water is too deep the sunlight will not reach them and they won't survive.
- Coral need to be in water that is about 18 degrees Celsius (64 Fahrenheit).
- Coral are important ecosystems and often protect shore lines from storms.

## Deep Sea

- You'll find strange creatures in this area. These creatures deal with cold, darkness and high water pressure.
- Sunlight cannot reach these areas in the deep sea so many plants cannot grow.
- Deep sea vents—bacteria make food from chemicals in the water.