**Aquatic Ecosystem Web Quest**

**Directions:** You are to use the given resources (links) to complete the questions on this document. Your answers are to be presented on a separate piece of paper. The assignment may be written or typed. **You MUST include the questions.** Additional graphics/ illustrations are encouraged! Good luck and have fun!

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| RESOURCES |
| <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html> | <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/earthwherewater.html> |
| <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/wuww.html> | <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/wateruse.html> |
| <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/urbaneffects.html> | <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/wwvisit.html> |
| <http://www-k12.atmos.washington.edu/k12/pilot/water_cycle/index.html> | <http://www.cabq.gov/storm-drainage-design/storm-water-pollution-prevention/storm-water-pollution-prevention> |
| <http://www.thewildclassroom.com/biomes> | <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/exhibits/biomes/aquatic.php> |
| <http://www.geography4kids.com/files/water_biomeaqua.html> | <http://www.worldbiomes.com/biomes_aquatic.htm> |

1. **Streams/Rivers:**
2. Where do streams & rivers get their start?
3. How does a river or a stream change during the journey from the source to the mouth?
4. **Lakes/Ponds:**

a. Describe the diversity in Lakes & Ponds.

b. Describe the different zones found in lakes & ponds.

1. **Wetlands:**
2. What are wetlands? Give examples.
3. Name some characteristics of wetlands.
4. **Estuaries:**
5. What is an estuary?
6. What is the significance of estuaries?
7. **Intertidal:** What is the biological significance of the intertidal areas?
8. **Coastal**: Why are coastal areas important for humans?
9. **Coral reefs:** Describe two characteristics of coral reefs.
10. How much water is on earth? How much of that water is usable for drinking water?
11. Describe how water is treated for use by humans?
12. What effects does urbanization have on our water system?

11.Find out what “the dead zone” is.  Here’s a few great sites on the topic: <http://www.smm.org/deadzone/top.html> Listen to the 1-minute podcast at Scientific American:<http://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode.cfm?id=gulf-of-mexico-dead-zone-shrinks-09-07-27>

a. What is the dead zone?

b. How do you think it affects fish?

c. What causes the dead zone?