

# Aquatic Habitat

The aquatic habitat is sometimes called the aquatic biome. Scientists have various opinions about how to classify the many regions on earth. The aquatic habitat is a water habitat. There are fresh water habitats and salt water habitats. The aquatic habitat covers nearly 75% of earth. There are ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, oceans, estuaries, wetlands and coral reefs to name a few areas of the aquatic habitat.

**Location:** The aquatic habitats are found all over earth. When you look at a map or a globe, they are represented by the color blue.

**Weather:** The weather will change depending on the location. However, the deeper the ocean, the colder it will be. The shallow waters tend to be warmer.

**Seasons:** The seasons of the aquatic habitat are determined by the location in relationship to the equator.

**Animals:** Animals in the aquatic habitat are able adapt to an environment of water. Many types of birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals can live in fresh or a salt water habitat. The majority of animals live in the warmer waters or coastal waters but some can live in the very cold waters. Some aquatic animals migrate (*various types of birds, fish and whales*). Adaptations to live in an aquatic habitat include fins, webbed feet, blow-holes, blubber, gills, slimmer bodies, camouflage to name a few. Aquatic animals can be carnivore or herbivore eating algae, seaweed, aquatic plant life and smaller aquatic animals.

**Plants:** Plants that grow in aquatic environments grow beside water, in the water and some will float on the water. Aquatic plants are referred to as floating, emergent and submersed which is how they adapt to their wet environments. Aquatic plant examples are: algae (no roots or stems), water lilies, plankton, and moss. Some plants will thrive without any roots. Yet, other plants grow at the bottom of bodies of water where there is soil and they will have roots.