

## Aquatic Biomes Travel Agency

**WebQuest Description:**

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Curriculum:** Science

**Keywords:** aquatic biomes, oceans, rivers, lakes, coral reefs, estuaries, intertidal zones, open ocean

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### Introduction

Congratulations! You have just been hired by Aquatic Travel Agency! Your job is to work with your group to create a travel brochure for an aquatic biome. You need to convince people to book a vacation to visit a location you select near your aquatic biome.

### Tasks

Your task is to create a travel brochure for your biome. Your brochure must contain the following:

- an interesting and inviting cover page
- a section listing at least 5 accurate and interesting facts about your biome
- at least two identifying facts that are specific to your biome
- a section naming at least three plant or animal species native and common to your biome
- a section on a specific place to visit in order to experience your biome and an explanation of why it's a good travel destination
- the back cover should list your resources

your brochure should include at least 2 computer images or drawings

### Process

You will be assigned one of the following 9 aquatic biomes:

1. streams/rivers
2. lakes/ponds
3. wetlands
4. estuaries
5. intertidal
6. coastal
7. coral reefs
8. oceanic pelagic (open ocean)
9. Abyssal (deep ocean)

You and your partners must use at least one text resource and may visit the following websites (and more if needed) to collect information about your biome.

<http://www.thewildclassroom.com/biomes>  
<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/exhibits/biomes/aquatic.php>  
[http://www.worldbiomes.com/biomes\\_aquatic.htm](http://www.worldbiomes.com/biomes_aquatic.htm)  
[http://www.geography4kids.com/files/water\\_biomeaqua.html](http://www.geography4kids.com/files/water_biomeaqua.html)  
<http://www.bishops.k12.nf.ca/wells/biomes/html/aquatic.htm>

### Evaluation

| Category and Score              | unsatisfactory   | satisfactory   | very good   | excellent  | Score  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--------|
| biome study                     | students do not show an understanding of the characteristics of the biome and provide 2 or less interesting and unique facts about the biome | students show an unclear comprehension of the characteristics of the biome and provide 3 or less interesting facts | students show a clear familiarity with the characteristics of the biome and provide 4 or less interesting facts | students show a complete understanding of the characteristics of the biome and provide at least 5 interesting facts about the biome                          | 30 pts |
| native species to biome habitat | students do not provide common species to the biome  | students provide only one species that is native to the biome  | students provide two or less species that is native to the biome  | students provide at least three species that is native to the biome habitat  | 10 pts |
| suggested travel                | students do not make a travel recommendation in the brochure   | students make a vague reference as a suggested travel destination  | students make a recommendation for a travel destination   | students provide an interesting and enticing summary of why visitors should travel to their suggested location in order to gain familiarity with their biome | 10 pts |
| front and back covers           | students do not provide a cover related to their biome and students do not list their references on the back page in proper formatting       | students provide a basic cover and at least once reference on the back page  | students provide an interesting cover and at least two references on the back page                              | students provide an intriguing cover page and a full list of resources in proper format on the back page   | 10 pts |
|                                 |  |  |   | Total Score  |        |

## Conclusion

Your travel brochure should be a convincing sales attempt to try to get visitors to check out your biome! You should try to make the brochure as interesting as possible and provide a suggested travel destination so visitors can experience your biome. Aquatic biomes are an integral part of the world's ecosystems and you should now be very familiar with at least one of them!

## Teacher Page

This webquest is intended to be used during an ecology unit as a part of a life science curriculum for middle school students. Students should already have an introduction to topics such as natural selection, populations, predation, and food webs. Instead of a traditional terrestrial biomes study, this webquest brings a marine science focus to the unit.

### Standards

### Credits

### Other