

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

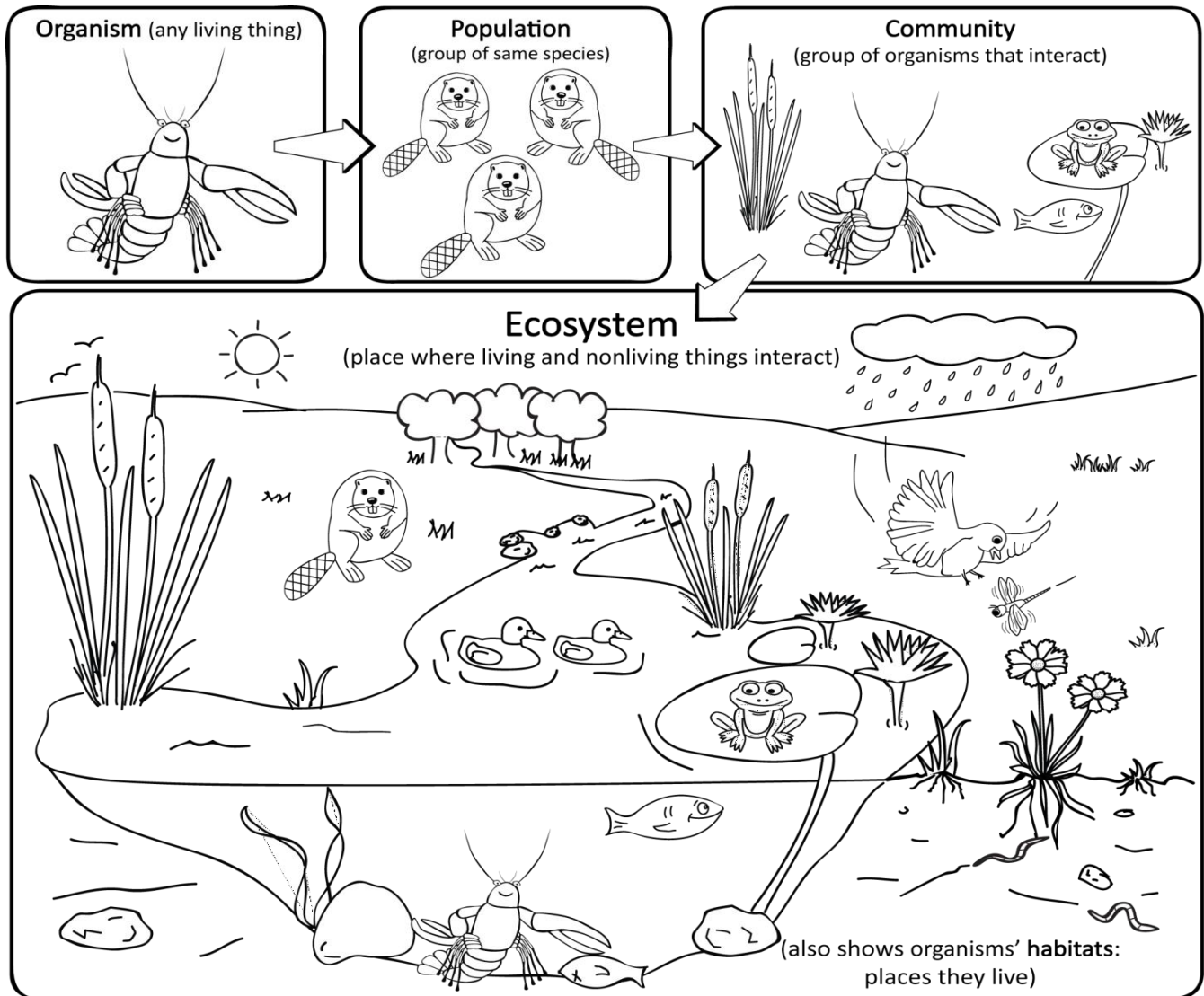
Curious Crayfish + Freshwater Ecosystems

Complete the description of crayfish and where they live with these terms: amphibians, biodiversity, birds, ecosystems, fish, freshwater, invasive, humans, lakes, native, omnivores, predators, reptiles, scavengers, species

Crayfish play an important role in **freshwater** _____, such as _____ and _____. Most often found on river and lake bottoms, crayfish are _____ that eat both animals and plants. As _____ of dead organisms, they help to clean the water. Crayfish are also an important food for many organisms including:

- _____, such as trout.
- _____, such as herons and ducks.
- _____, such as turtles and snakes.
- _____, such as raccoons and river otters.
- _____, such as frogs.
- _____, especially in places like Louisiana.

Sometimes crayfish that come from other places can harm ecosystems, too. These _____ species can be _____ of many _____ species. They can also compete with natives for the food, water, shelter, and space that every animal needs to survive. This can reduce native populations and _____.



Curious Crayfish + Freshwater Ecosystems

Crayfish play an important role in **freshwater ecosystems**, such as **lakes** and **rivers**. Most often found on river and lake bottoms, crayfish are **omnivores** that eat both animals and plants. As **scavengers** of dead organisms, they help to clean the water. Crayfish are also an important food for many organisms including:

- **Fish**, such as trout
- **Birds**, such as herons and ducks
- **Reptiles**, such as turtles and snakes
- **Mammals**, such as raccoons and river otters
- **Amphibians**, such as frogs
- **Humans**, especially in places like Louisiana

Sometimes crayfish that come from other places can harm ecosystems, too. These **invasive** species can be **predators** of many **native** species. They can also compete with natives for the food, water, shelter, and space that every animal needs to survive. This can reduce native populations and **biodiversity**.

