



*\*\*unless otherwise noted, answer your questions in complete sentences. \*\**

Before the Basin

1. Which animal can you touch in the Champlain Tide Pool? Why is not a good idea to touch the animals?

You can touch the \_\_\_\_\_.

We shouldn't touch these animals because \_\_\_\_\_.

Lake Champlain Basin Program Resource Room

2. In the resource room, ask a volunteer what new invasive species scientists are watching in the Champlain Basin.

A new invasive species scientists are watching is \_\_\_\_\_.

One action people can take to prevent further spreading of an invasive plant is \_\_\_\_\_.

3. There are four interesting posters in the Resource Room that share ways people can make a difference in the health of the lake. Find the one that is an important message to dog owners. What action can these people take?

People who own dogs should \_\_\_\_\_.

Land of Opportunity

4. The plants and trees that grow along river banks are called buffers. What are three things buffers do?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

5. The ski industry is important in Vermont and New York. What are two environmental problems that snow-making causes? Choose the best answers.

- Loss of habitat for animals - deforestation
- Lower water levels - changes to stream cycles

- Poor skiing and snowboarding
- Erosion and mudslides in the spring

6. Explore the tanks of turtles, mudpuppies, fish and other amphibians. These animals are fragile and need special care to survive. They should not be pets. Create a bumper sticker message to share this information with others.

7. Every animal and plant needs a place to live. This is its habitat. What happens to animal habitats when we build roads, houses or other buildings?

\_\_\_\_\_.

Is there something we can do to protect habitats from destruction?

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Sketch an animal here at ECHO. Include some of the features of its habitat.

### Into the Lake

8. Play the Toxic Rail game. What are two toxic items inside a computer that can harm the environment?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

What is a great way people can get rid of a computer when they want to get a new one?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Turn the clear plastic tube of zebra mussels in the pipe and count how many seconds it takes for the water to run through. Imagine how the water would flow without the zebra mussels blocking the pipe. What can people do to prevent further spread of zebra mussels in Lake Champlain?

It takes \_\_\_\_\_ seconds for the water to move through the pipe.

People can prevent the spread of zebra mussels by: \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Keeping the Lake Champlain Basin region healthy means making good choices about how we take care of the land, water and air. What is ONE change you would be willing to start making?

- Ride my bike, walk or take a bus instead of asking for ride in a car
- Reuse paper, envelopes and other scraps for notes, book covers and wrapping paper for gifts
- Buy clothes from a re-sale shop, use hand-me-downs, or swap clothes with a friend for a "new" wardrobe
- Encourage behavior changes at home – recycling, composting, turning off lights and using less water
- Help a group who volunteers on environmental service projects like restoring river banks



ECHO Opportunities Trek  
Grades 4-6  
**ANSWERS**

1. You can touch the sea star. We shouldn't touch these animals because they are wild animals and some of them are very fragile, touching them can hurt them and cause stress which interferes with their health.

2. Some new invasive species that are being watched are the round goby and the Eurasian ruffe. A new invasive plant is the hydrilla. People can stop the spread of an invasive plant by learning to identify it and reporting where they saw it. Don't transplant any plants. Clean off boats when they take them out of the water – especially before entering new waterways.

3. People who own dogs should scoop their dogs' poop using a plastic bag or glove and dispose of it in the trash.

4. Buffers do many things for rivers. They act as natural filters so pollution and fertilizers don't enter the water system. They provide habitat and food for aquatic and land animals. They also help control flooding.

5. Snow-making causes lower water levels and changes in stream cycles.

6. Create a bumper sticker!

7. When we build roads and houses animals lose their habitat and are forced to move somewhere else. We can be more conscious when deciding where to build roads and houses and build them in a less destructive manner. We need to remember to replant trees and wild areas for them to live in after construction is done.

8. Copper and silver are toxic items that are in computers. The best way to get rid of an old computer is to bring it to a place that recycles old computers.

9. Count how many seconds it takes the water to move through the pipe. People can prevent the spread of zebra mussels by washing off your boat after it has been in the water.

10. What is one change you would be willing to make? There is no wrong answer.

