

FRESHWATER BIOINDICATORS

ANSWER KEY

Many different rivers lead to Long Island Sound. Why are rivers important to animals and humans?

Rivers provide drinking water for people, a habitat for animals, breeding ground for Long Island Sound animals, and carry nutrients to different areas of the river and Long Island Sound

Insects are bioindicators, which means they can be used to determine if a river is healthy or polluted because some insects are more sensitive to pollution than others. **Using the insect guide, give THREE examples of insects you would expect to find in each of these rivers and why you picked those.**



River A

Any insects in group 1 such as: Dobsonfly larvae, Stonefly larvae, Mayfly nymph, Riffle Beetle, Right handed snail, Caddisfly larvae

WHY?

The insects in group 1 do not like to live in polluted water and this river does not have any pollution going into it.

River B

Any insects in group 4 such as: Aquatic worm, Left handed snail, Rat-tailed maggot, Blood midge larvae

WHY?

The insects in group 4 are able to live in polluted water and this river has a factory pipe dumping something (maybe chemicals) into the river.