

Riverine Food Web Cards



American Alligator

Alligator mississippiensis

Alligators live in and near fresh water. They are carnivores that eat many different kinds of small animals, including birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish. They swallow their food whole.



Largemouth Bass

Micropterus salmoides

Largemouth bass live in many different freshwater areas. They are carnivores that prefer fish, but will eat almost anything smaller than them.



Striped Mullet

Mugil cephalus

Striped mullet live in coastal waters around the world. They form large schools and clean the water by eating detritus (dead plants and animals). They also eat algae and zooplankton.



Anhinga

Anhinga anhinga

Anhingas live near coastal waters. They spear fish in shallow water with their sharp beaks and swallow them whole.



Eastern Oysters

Crassostrea virginica

Eastern oysters live along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. They are filter feeders that filter out zooplankton and algae. They can clean large amounts of water in a short period of time.



River Otter

Lontra canadensis

River otters hunt small animals, like fish, crabs, frogs, and turtles. They can swim as fast as 8 miles per hour!



Marsh Periwinkle

Littorina irrorata

Marsh periwinkle snails live in coastal wetlands. They feed on algae, fungi, and detritus (dead plants and animals) on the surface of marsh grasses.



Terrapin

Malaclemys terrapin

Diamondback terrapins live in brackish water along the coast. They are adapted to eating hard-shelled animals, but also eat fish and worms.



Florida Manatee

Trichechus manatus latirostris

Manatees live along the coast and in fresh water. They eat all kinds of plants.



White Ibis

Eudocimus albus

White ibises live in coastal wetlands. Their diet is mainly crustaceans, like crabs and crayfish, but they will eat many kinds of small animals.



Algae

Many kinds of algae (red, green, and brown) grow in the riverine ecosystem. Algae are not plants, but they do get their energy through photosynthesis.



Zooplankton

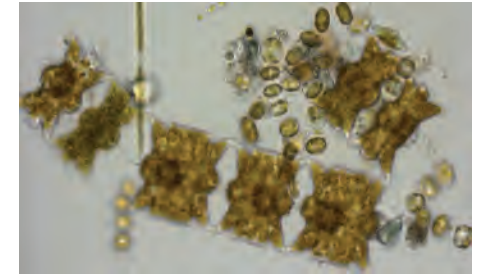
Zooplankton are small living things that drift in the water. They can't make their own energy and have a variety of diets.



Red Mangrove

Rhizophora mangle

Red mangroves are trees that grow in coastal areas. They have prop roots that extend above the water.



Phytoplankton

Phytoplankton are small living things that drift in the water and get energy through photosynthesis. They include certain algae, bacteria, and protists.



Marsh Fiddler Crab

Uca pugnax

Marsh fiddler crabs live in coastal marshes and eat algae, plankton, and detritus (dead plants and animals).



Turtlegrass

Thalassia testudinum

Turtlegrass grows in shallow Atlantic waters in meadows on the bottom.



Riffle Bug

Husseyella turmalis

These tiny bugs zip around mangroves and marshes on the surface of the water. They eat zooplankton and other small invertebrates.

Riverine Food Web Key



Arrows show direction of energy flow

