

Lake Champlain Basin Program Resource Room (top floor across from the Sea Tank)

1. Ask a staff person in the Resource Room to tell you about some of the invasive not yet in Lake Champlain that you can help “watch out” for. List two of these plants or animals of concern.

2. What can you do to help keep them out of Lake Champlain?

3. There are four comical posters in the Resource Room that show ways people can make a difference in the health of the lake. Find the one that has an important message to *dog owners*. What action can a dog owner take to help keep waterways clean?

Land of Opportunity (top floor)

4. Hiking can damage fragile plants that grow on mountain tops. Why is it so hard for these alpine plants to recover once they are damaged?

5. What can you do to protect alpine plants when you are hiking?

6. The ski industry is important in Vermont and New York. What are two environmental problems that snow-making causes?

1. _____

2. _____

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Into the Lake (1st floor)

8. An invasive species is a plant or animal that does not belong in the lake AND causes damage to the lake. Name one invasive species that is in Lake Champlain.

9. Why is this invasive species a problem in Lake Champlain?

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 make?

Ride my bike, walk or take a bus instead of asking for a 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 or pulling out invasive plants.





ECHO Opportunities Trek
Grades 4-6
ANSWERS

1. Possible answers include European Frogbit, Asian Clam, Asian Carp, Round Goby, Quagga Mussel, Ruffe
2. Possible answers include:
 - a. Inspect and remove aquatic plants from boats
 - b. Never dump water from one body of water into another body of water
 - c. Do not move plants or animals from one body of water to another body of water
 - d. Always dispose of unwanted bait in the trash
 - e. Learn to identify invasive plants and animals
3. People who own dogs should scoop their dogs poop using a plastic bag or glove and dispose of it in the trash.
4. It is hard for alpine plants to recover once damaged because they have access to limited nutrients (soil is thin), a short growing season, and the thin soil erodes away quickly once the plant roots are gone making it hard for new plants to find a foot hold.
5. Stay on the trail!
6. Snow-making causes lower water levels and changes in stream cycles.
7. 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 and erosion.
8. Possible answers include:
Zebra mussels – clog pipes, cut feet and hands, and out compete native mussel species
Spiny Water Flea – fouls fishing gear and threatens native plankton communities
Eurasian Water Milfoil – makes swimming unpleasant, boating difficult and threatens native plants
9. See above
10. What is one change you would be willing to make? There is no wrong answer.

