



Native vs Invasive Freshwater Mussels: Similarities and Differences Student Activity Packet

Directions:

You and your class will play a game together simulating how different kinds of mussels reproduce and survive. Afterwards, answer the following questions using **both** what you learned in the game and things you either research on your own or learn in a group. Last, using what you learned, create a Venn Diagram or other chart to compare native and invasive mussels.

1. Describe how native mussels spread their offspring (young)?
2. Describe how invasive zebra and quagga mussels spread their offspring?

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3. Name the types of habitats native mussels cannot survive in?

4. Name the types of habitats zebra mussels can survive in?

5. How does this compare to habitats native mussels can survive in?

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6. What are some environmental factors or conditions that native mussels are sensitive to or are hurt by?
7. How sensitive or tolerant are invasive mussels to extreme changes in environmental conditions?
8. What other ways might zebra and quagga mussels out-survive, out-compete, or directly harm native mussels?
 - a. Are there other ways that native mussels are different from these invasive species?

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Comparison Chart:

Use the space below to create a chart or Venn diagram showcasing the differences between native and invasive mussels.

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