

# 10 facts about freshwater

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### Interesting Facts About Freshwater

With only 2.5% of the Earth's water, freshwater ecosystems provide essential services like water purification and flood mitigation. They are home to endangered species and play a vital role in the water cycle, making their preservation crucial for the planet's health.

Surface water: Lakes, rivers, and streams that collect and store rainwater. Glaciers: Huge masses of ice that hold significant amounts of freshwater. Melting snow: As temperatures rise, snow melts and contributes to freshwater availability.

The freshwater biome is the community of plants and animals found in freshwater habitats throughout the world. Freshwater habitats include streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, swamps, marshes, and bogs. These habitats are essential for life on Earth, providing not just drinking water but also a home to countless animals and plants.

Most freshwater is in ice. Just 3.5 percent of Earth's water is fresh--that is, with few salts in it. You can find Earth's freshwater in our lakes, rivers, and streams, but don't forget groundwater and glaciers.

Freshwater biodiversity refers to the variety of life found in freshwater ecosystems ...

Freshwater habitats such as rivers, lakes and wetlands are extremely important for life on Earth. They provide a home for countless animal and plant species and supply us with water and food. This page contains freshwater biome facts together with information on the main freshwater habitats...

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All of the above animals are found in freshwater habitats. (Clockwise from top-left: American alligator, rainbow trout, bullfrog, river otter)

Although present on every continent apart from Antarctica, freshwater habitats make up less than 1% of the world's total surface area. Despite this, freshwater habitats are home to 10% of all known animals, including up to 40% of all known fish species.

In total, over 100,000 species of plant and animals live in freshwater habitats.

Freshwater makes up just 3% of the water on earth, of which two-thirds is frozen in glaciers or otherwise



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unavailable. In fact, just 0.014% of all Earth's water is freshwater in the form of rivers, lakes and swamps.  
(Source: USGS)

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