



# Zebra and Quagga Mussels

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

- 1 How can you tell the difference between a zebra mussel and a quagga mussel?
- 2 How many different forms do quagga and zebra mussels take throughout their life cycles?
- 3 How were the zebra and quagga mussels introduced to North America?
- 4 What characteristics of zebra and quagga mussels make them so good at invading?
- 5 How do the mussels spread through water?
- 6 How do the mussels spread over land?
- 7 What main life-history characteristics of zebra and quagga mussels explain their dramatic impacts on ecosystems?
- 8 List three ways in which zebra mussels have changed the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Do you think these changes are good or bad? Why?

- 9 Explain how zebra and quagga mussels' ability to filter large amounts of phytoplankton can affect fish. Will this affect all fish the same?

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- 10 Why do zebra mussels increase the number of cyanobacteria toxic blooms?
- 11 Quagga mussels are replacing zebra mussels in Lake Michigan, and their populations are growing to levels far higher than those of zebra mussels. What are some characteristics of quagga mussels that might explain this?
- 12 How do zebra and quagga mussels affect our economy?
- 13 Explain how the invasion and impact of zebra and quagga mussels provide an example of how human health and economy depend on healthy ecosystems.
- 14 Is it possible to eliminate zebra and quagga mussels once they get established?
- 15 What is the main problem with current zebra and quagga mussel control methods?
- 16 Why has the spread of zebra mussels been primarily north–south and not east–west?
- 17 Why haven't quagga mussels invaded rivers?
- 18 How did the zebra and quagga mussel spread west of the Rockies into southwestern states and California?
- 19 Why is overland transport necessary for dispersal of zebra mussels to the West Coast?
- 20 What is the best strategy for controlling zebra mussels?
- 21 Think of some ways your classroom could help prevent the spread of zebra mussels.