



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
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# Healthy Waters start with WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Did you know that federal and state laws require streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands to meet certain standards of cleanliness? These are called *water quality standards*. To find out more, visit: [www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards)

## CLUES

### ACROSS

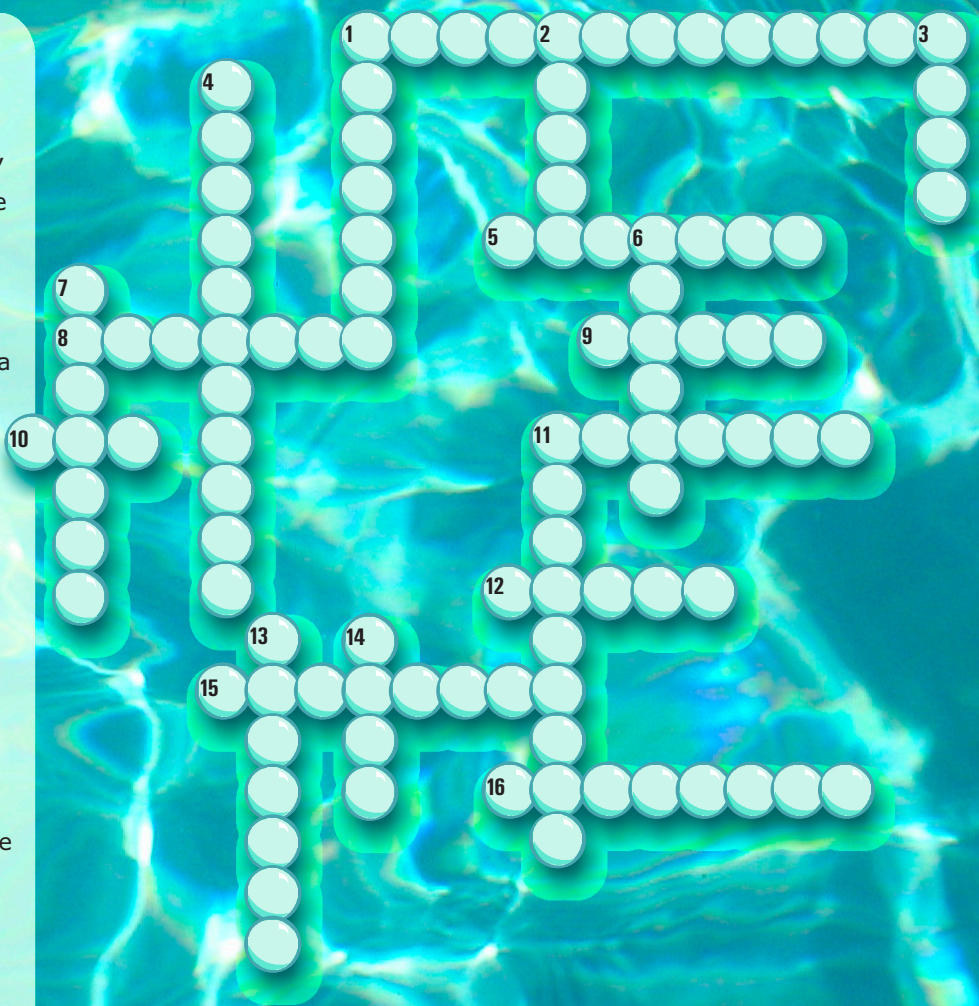
- The U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Protection Agency, also known as the US EPA, is the federal government office in charge of taking care of the environment.
- \_\_\_\_\_, the action of water washing away pieces of dirt and rock, is sped up when plants that hold soil in place are removed.
- Water \_\_\_\_\_ is a measure of how clean a stream's water is. It is poor for polluted streams and good for clean streams.
- Every living thing needs clean food, \_\_\_\_\_, and air to survive.
- The Clean Water Act is a \_\_\_\_ passed in 1972 that helps keep our waterways from being polluted.
- Like forest fires, only you can \_\_\_\_\_ water pollution.
- Looking at the number of fish and other organisms in a stream and how healthy they are helps scientists get an idea of how \_\_\_\_\_ the water is.
- Erosion causes the build up of \_\_\_\_\_, sometimes called silt, in the bottom of streams and lakes.
- The Clean Water Act, a law passed by \_\_\_\_\_, gives US EPA the power to make and enforce rules to protect water quality.

### DOWN

- \_\_\_\_\_ is a branch of science that looks at the relationships between living things and their environment.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a natural stream of water larger than a brook or creek.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is large body of water surrounded by land.
- The pesticides and \_\_\_\_\_ used on your lawn and garden can cause water pollution.
- Each of the 50 \_\_\_\_\_ has a government agency that helps keep water clean.
- \_\_\_\_\_ plants and animals live in the water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is anything added to water that harms the things that live there.
- US EPA and states set limits on the amount of pollution allowed in water. Limiting water pollution helps keep the plants, animals, and fish that use the water \_\_\_\_\_.
- Swimming in polluted water can make you \_\_\_\_\_.

## WORD LIST

Clean	Water	Healthy
Congress	States	Fertilizers
Aquatic	Quality	Sick
Environmental	Prevent	Law
Erosion	Sediment	River
Ecology	Pollution	Lake



**WATER QUALITY STANDARDS** are important because they tell us how clean we want our waters to be. Water quality standards are set by the government.

Water quality standards include:

- The uses of the water—for example, do we want to be able to swim in it or just use it to irrigate crops?
- The limits on the amount of pollution that can be in the water—for example, we do not want too much of a chemical.
- Controls to prevent the water from getting dirtier.

ACROSS: 1. Environmental 5. Erosion 8. Quality 9. Water 10. Law 11. Prevent 12. Clean 15. Sediment 16. Congress DOWN: 1. Ecology 2. River 3. Lake 4. Fertilizers 6. States 7. Aquatic 11. Pollution 13. Healthy 14. Sick