

All About Freshwater

Lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams are freshwater habitats, as are swamps, bogs, and marshes. Together, these ecosystems contain all the water in the world that is unfrozen, salt-free, and accessible to humans.

Freshwater habitats amount to less than half a percent of the world's water supply, but they are vital to the survival of humans and a wide range of critters, from dragonflies and piranhas to beavers and bullfrogs. They contain many insects, amphibians, crustaceans (such as freshwater shrimp), and birds, offering them a place to breed, nest, and rear young.

