

Understanding LOTIC and LENTIC water environments (4.1.4)



Lotic and Lentic water environments are basically the difference between moving water and standing water. Moving water such as creeks, rivers, and streams are LOTIC water sources. Standing water such as ponds, lakes, and swamps are LENTIC water sources. Let's take a closer look at these two types of water systems.

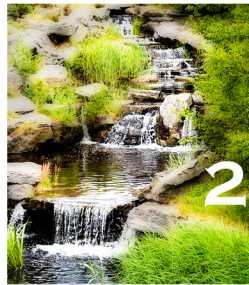
Let's start with the fast movers first. LOTIC environments like creeks, rivers, and streams have water flowing in one direction, or something we call unidirectional (one-way). The creatures that live here must adapt to their fast-paced environment. Sometimes there is a lot of water like after a heavy rain. Sometimes there is very little water like during a drought. The animals, fish and insects that live here must be able to survive their ever changing environment.

Now let's discuss the slow movers -- LENTIC environments like ponds, lakes, and swamps. Perhaps an easy way to remember lentic waters is to think about "lentil soup". Soup comes in a bowl much like the shape of a lake or pond. The creatures that live here must also adapt to their environment. Can you guess how lakes, ponds get filled with water? Right! In addition to ground water, lotic waters from rivers, streams, and creeks drain into lakes and ponds to form a lentic environment!

Look at the 10 photos below and circle the correct water environment -- either LOTIC or LENTIC



LOTIC or LENTIC



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LOTIC or LENTIC



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LOTIC or LENTIC

ANSWERS 1. LOTIC 2. LOTIC 3. LENTIC 4. LENTIC 5. LOTIC 6. LOTIC 7. LENTIC 8. LOTIC 9. LENTIC 10. LENTIC