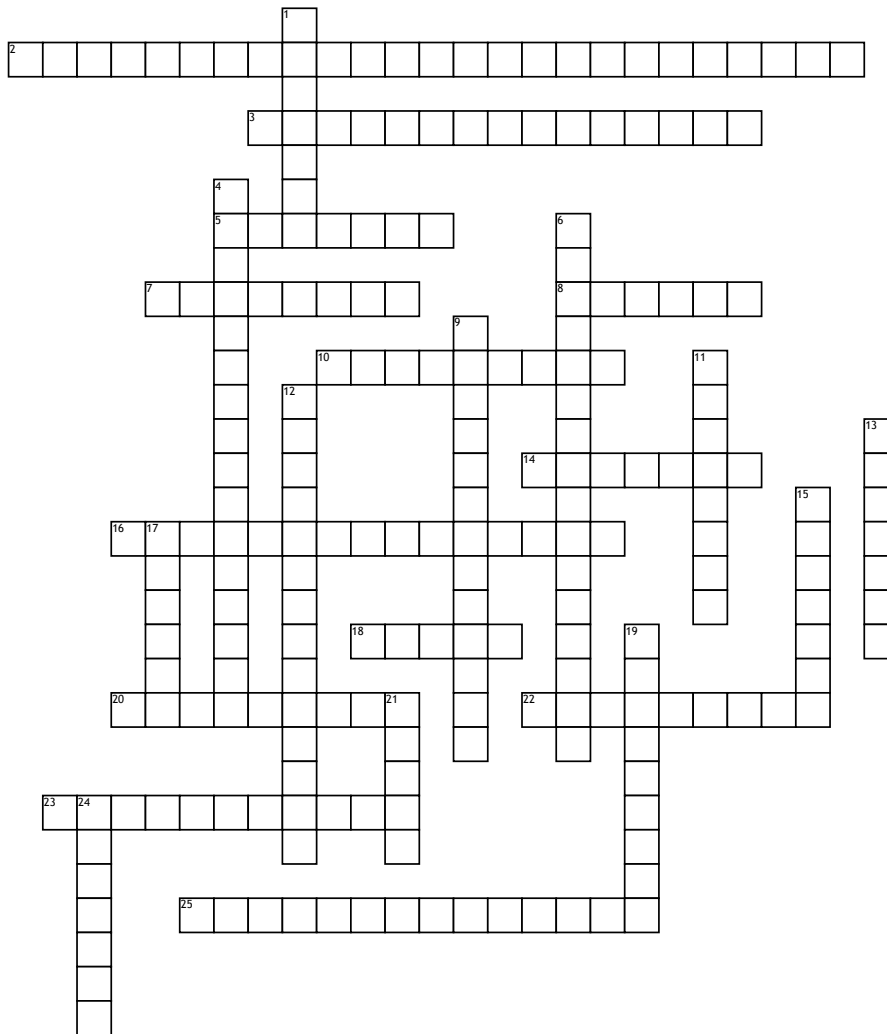


ecosystem



- Across**
- 2. biological guidelines that account for a species' crucial role in the ecosystem
 - 3. microscopic bubbles of oxygen that are mixed in the water and occur between water molecules. Dissolved oxygen is necessary for healthy lakes, rivers, and estuaries. Most aquatic plants and animals need oxygen to survive. Fish will drown in water when the dissolved oxygen levels get too low. The absence of dissolved oxygen in water is a sign of possible pollution
 - 5. semi-enclosed, tidal, coastal body of water open to the sea in which fresh and salt water mix
 - 7. decomposed or partly decomposed plant and animal matter
 - 8. free swimming aquatic organisms such as fish
 - 10. not containing oxygen or not requiring oxygen
 - 14. complex interaction of food chains in a biological community
 - 16. fish such as the American eel that migrate from their primary habitat in freshwater to the ocean to spawn
 - 18. group of primitive, non-flowering plants which include certain seaweeds and microscopic phytoplankton
 - 20. an interactive system of a biological community and its non-living environment
 - 22. rising tide
 - 23. organisms (chiefly bacteria and fungi) that break down dead organic matter
 - 25. the fertilization of surface waters by nutrients that were previously scarce. Eutrophication through nutrient and sediment inflow is a natural aging process by which warm shallow lakes evolve to dry land. Human activities are greatly accelerating the process. The most visible consequence is the proliferation of algae. The increased growth of algae and aquatic weeds can degrade water quality
- Down**
- 1. the place where a plant or animal lives
 - 4. plants and animals living in or on the bottom in aquatic habitats
 - 6. no-till agriculture practiced for multiple years
 - 9. mixture of fresh and salt water
 - 11. minute shrimp-like crustaceans; often they are the most common zooplankton in estuarine waters
 - 12. fish such as American shad that migrate from their primary habitat in the ocean to freshwater to spawn
 - 13. the wearing away of land surface by wind or water; erosion occurs naturally but it is often intensified by man's land use practices
 - 15. falling or lowering tide
 - 17. a condition where no oxygen is present. Much of the "anoxic zone" is anaerobic, with absolutely no oxygen, a condition in which toxic hydrogen sulfide gas is emitted in the decomposition process
 - 19. the sequence in which energy as food is transferred from one group of organisms to another
 - 21. low, wet grassland without trees, periodically covered by water
 - 24. the study of interrelationships of living things to one another and to their environment

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Benthic organisms | Marsh | Estuary | Brackish water |
| Food chain | Decomposers | Ebb tide | Erosion |
| Anoxic | Detritus | Anadromous fish | Continuous no-till |
| Dissolved oxygen | Ecosystem | Ecological Reference Points | Nekton |
| Habitat | Eutrophication | Anaerobic | Algae |
| Ecology | Catadromous fish | Flood tide | Food web |
| Copepods | | | |