

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Exploring a population

**Instructions:** Research one population of organisms occurring in the Hudson River Ecosystem. Circle the organism that you have been assigned to research:

**EXAMPLE ORGANISMS:**

1. Sphaeriidae (native, freshwater clams)
2. Phytoplankton- (e.g. Euglena, Volvox)
3. Rotifers (microzooplankton)
4. Alosa (open water fish)
5. Cladocera (macrozooplankton)
6. Centrarchidae (shallow water fish)
7. Bacterial abundance (decomposers of detritus and organic material)
8. Copepods (macrozooplankton)
9. Copepod nauplii (larval stage of zooplankton)
10. Unionidae (freshwater pearly mussels)

Draw a sketch of your organism:

1. Basic Biology (How does it eat? How does it reproduce?):

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2. Trophic Level (producer? consumer?):

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3. Feeding Relationships (Diet? Who eats it?):

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4. Habitat Occupied:

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5. Make a claim about how zebra mussels might affect your organism's population (decrease? Increase?)

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6. Below, draw what a graph might look like if you plotted zebra mussel populations against your organism's population over time (as zebra mussels increased, what do you think would happen to your organism?).