

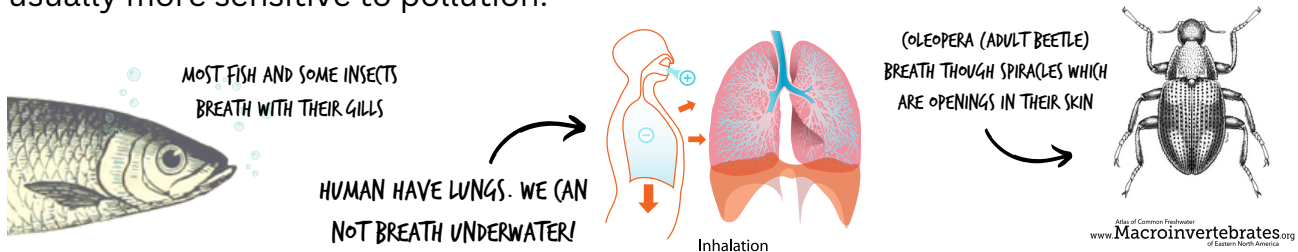
LIVING IN WATER...HOW DO YOU BREATHE!?



Animals that live in water need oxygen, just like you and me! So how do they get it? In some very interesting ways!

- Some can take the oxygen in the water - called dissolved oxygen - through their skin!
- Some use special organs called gills to filter the oxygen out of the water
- others need to get their oxygen from the air, and so they have to go to the surface once in a while to fill up their lungs.

IMPORTANT FACT: organisms that use gills to get their oxygen from the water are usually more sensitive to pollution.



NEAT EXAMPLES OF HOW SOME AQUATIC ORGANISMS GET THEIR OXYGEN



The Diving Beetle. This aquatic beetle has a very clever way of getting its oxygen: trapping air bubbles and carrying them underwater!

The stonefly. The stonefly has gills under its abdomen. Sometimes you can see them moving the water over their gills by doing little pushups!

The mosquito larva. These have a little scuba-like tube that they use to get oxygen from the air.