

Distinguish, differentiate, compare and explain what is the Difference between Lake and Pond. Comparison and Differences.

Lake or Pond: What is the Difference?

From a regulatory viewpoint, there is no distinction between a lake and a pond. Both are surface waters of the state and subject to the same water quality standards. From a naming convention, there is no precise difference between a lake and pond, although waterbodies named "lakes" are generally larger and/or deeper than waterbodies named "ponds." From an ecological or limnological perspective, there is a difference between the two. The difference between a lake and a pond can be debated, but in general a lake will be deeper and larger than a pond. Light may not reach to the bottom of the lake.

Pond and Lake Ecosystems

A pond or lake ecosystem includes biotic (living) plants, animals and micro-organisms, as well as abiotic (nonliving) physical and chemical interactions. Pond and lake ecosystems are a prime example of lentic ecosystems. Lentic refers to stationary or relatively still water, from the Latin *lentus*, which means sluggish.

What are Lakes ?

Lakes are larger bodies of water that are surrounded by land. Lakes are generally fresh water ecosystems. Algae, aquatic plants, freshwater fish, amphibians, ducks, slider turtles and beavers are some of the organisms that live in lakes.

What are Ponds ?

Ponds are smaller bodies of freshwater that are surrounded by land. Ponds are smaller and shallower than lakes, which mean that the temperature of water usually stays the same from top to bottom. Like Lakes, the organisms that can be found in ponds include algae, aquatic plants, fish, amphibians, ducks and slider turtles.

Regulatory Standards

The water quality of the surface waters of the state, including all lakes and ponds, is regulated through statutes and rules. These laws and regulations make no distinction between lakes and ponds. Both have to meet all the same water quality standards.