



The Colors of Rivers, Oceans, and Lakes



STEM Ambassador(s):

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Our scientists research the biological and chemical processes in rivers, oceans, and lakes to better understand how our environment works. By examining the dynamics of these processes across different regions and timescales, PNNL can develop models of Earth's systems and help understand human impact on our ecosystems and planet as a whole.



When you see the deep blue of the ocean, the bright green of a small pond, or the muddy brown of a creek, those colors can provide a lot of information about what that water contains—algae, suspended sediments, and dissolved materials.



For more information, visit:

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What causes natural bodies of water to appear different colors?

What is the significance of different water colors to our ecosystems?