



## Challenge Yourself

VSC G8.6.B.1.a, b

- 2** The snakehead is a native fish of Asia and Africa. These fish are aggressive predators and extremely protective of their young. They can also breathe air for short periods of time, so they are capable of moving over land. Four species of snakehead have been found in the United States, including in the state of Maryland. Experts believe that the fish entered U.S. waters through releases by aquarium owners and by individuals releasing the fish purposely to establish a new food source. The snakeheads' aggressive predatory behavior makes them ferocious eaters. Their young will eat zoo-plankton, insect larvae, small crustaceans, and the young of other fish. As adults, snakeheads will feed on almost anything, including other fish, crustaceans, frogs, small reptiles, and sometimes even birds and mammals.



Describe the issues surrounding the presence of the snakehead in Maryland. In your description, be sure to include

- the activity that caused the snakehead's entry into Maryland waters
- the natural change processes that the snakehead's spread in Maryland could affect
- how those natural change processes could be affected by the snakehead's spread

