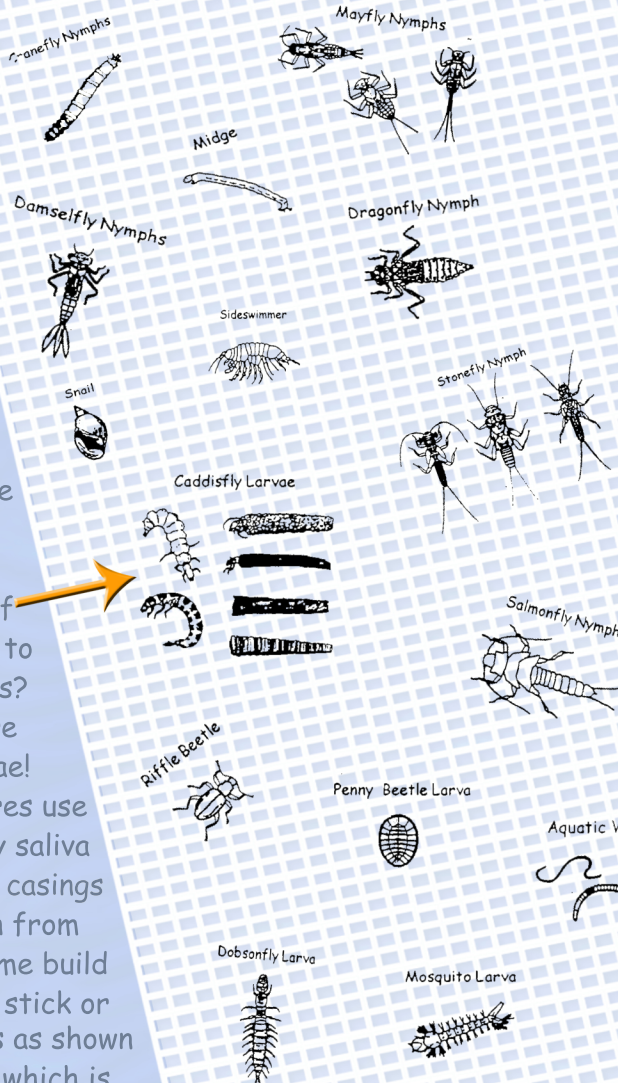


What's in your Kick-net?

This is what Class in the Creek is all about! In small teams, one or two people will hold the kick-net so that the stream of water is flowing directly into it. The rest of your group will stand directly in front and twist and kick up the rocks below with their boots so all of the bottom debris goes into the net! Now pick up your kick-net and tell us what you've found!

Zoom in to see more detail

The Insects



Leaves & Other Plant Material



The Fish



Even the leaves, algae and other plant materials are extremely important in river ecosystems! These feed the insects and other macroinvertebrates in the river. But can you guess what they eat? Light! They use sunlight for photosynthesis, meaning they use the energy from light to make sugars out of carbon dioxide!

Caddisflies are very common, and very cool! Have you ever noticed the little clumps of pebbles stuck to the river rocks? Well, those are caddisfly larvae! These creatures use their own silky saliva to build these casings for protection from predators! Some build the elongated stick or pebble casings as shown in the picture which is always a superb find!

Quite often, while exploring the fast moving portions of the river, you will find sculpin hiding in the rocks. Sculpin are adapted with a flat angled head that pushes it to the river bottom when they face directly into the stream!

Pressure

water flow

Crayfish

Crayfish tend to hang out in stagnant waters, usually on the river's edge or in small slower moving side streams. Most often, they'll be hiding under rocks, logs, or other similar shelters.

