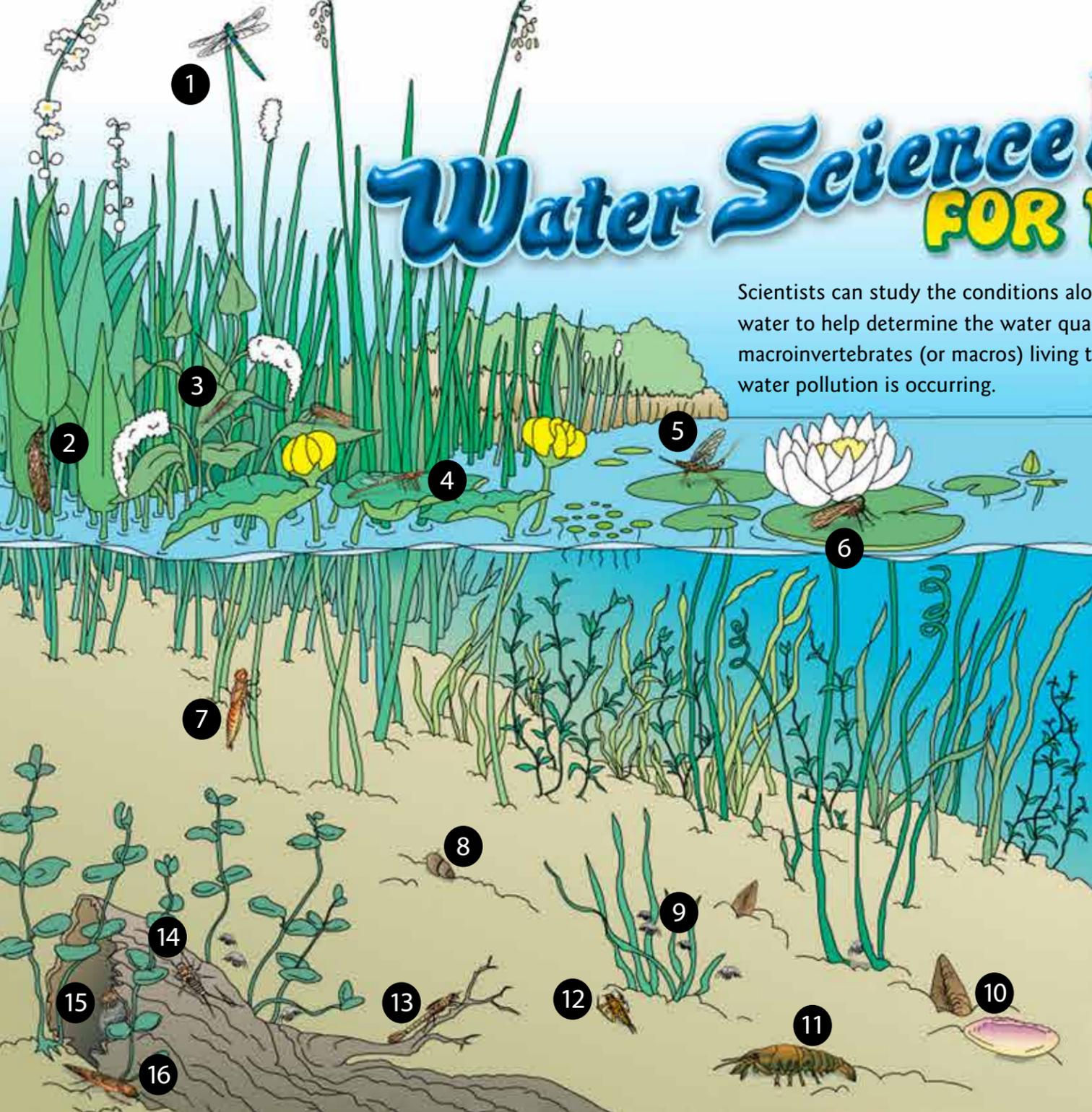


# Water Science Lab FOR KIDS

Scientists can study the conditions along a creek, pond or other body of water to help determine the water quality. When they don't find many macroinvertebrates (or macros) living there, it may be an indication that water pollution is occurring.



## What's a macroinvertebrate?

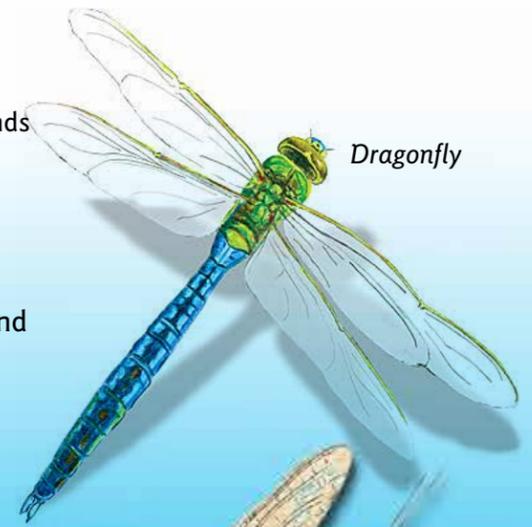
Macroinvertebrates are small organisms without a backbone. Some common macroinvertebrates found in wetlands are: dragonfly nymph, worms, snails, beetles, leeches, mayflies, caddisflies, small crustaceans and other insects.

## What can they tell us about our water quality?

Macroinvertebrates are useful indicators of the health or condition of wetlands and other water bodies. They respond to many kinds of pollution, including chemical pollution and physical disturbance to the landscape.



Mussels



Dragonfly



Mayfly

Can you find each of the macroinvertebrates listed below in the scene to the left?

Match the names to the numbers next to the correct image:



Dobsonfly Larva



Stonefly Larva

- |                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ Caddisfly                      | ___ Dragonfly Nymph (Larva) |
| ___ Caddisfly Larva                | ___ Freshwater Mussel       |
| ___ Crayfish (Crawdada)            | ___ Gill-breathing Snail    |
| ___ Damselfly                      | ___ Mayfly                  |
| ___ Damselfly Nymph (Larva)        | ___ Mayfly Nymph (Larva)    |
| ___ Dobsonfly                      | ___ Scud                    |
| ___ Dobsonfly Larva (Hellgrammite) | ___ Stonefly                |
| ___ Dragonfly                      | ___ Stonefly Larva          |



Scud

Check your answers here after you are finished!

Source: St. Johns River Water Management District  
www.sjrwmd.com/education/macroinvertebrates.html

Answers (No peeking!):  
 6 Caddisfly, 15 Caddisfly Larva,  
 11 Crayfish (Crawdada), 4 Damselfly,  
 13 Damselfly Nymph (Larva),  
 2 Dobsonfly, 16 Dobsonfly Larva  
 (Hellgrammite), 1 Dragonfly,  
 7 Dragonfly Nymph (Larva),  
 10 Freshwater Mussel,  
 8 Gill-breathing Snail, 5 Mayfly,  
 12 Mayfly Nymph (Larva), 9 Scud,  
 3 Stonefly, 14 Stonefly Larva

Score (Number of correct answers):

1-3 - Squirt

4-6 - Splasher

7-9 - Big Splasher

10-12 - Wave Maker

13-15 - Tide Bringer

All 16 - Water Wizard