

Station 4: Aquatic Macroinvertebrates

OVERVIEW

Students will collect and identify insects and other macroinvertebrates from the stream and learn how these species can help indicate the health of a stream and the larger watershed.

LEARNING GOALS

- Learn how to collect macroinvertebrate samples from a stream
- Practice scientific methods, species identification, and inquiry
- Explore how the presence or absence of living things can indicate the well-being of an ecosystem



VOCABULARY

Macroinvertebrate, Aquatic, D-net, Tolerance, Sensitivity

WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR STUDENTS

- Print out these [info and coloring sheets](#) for a number of common aquatic macroinvertebrates
- Do the [Build-A-Bug activity](#): ask students to invent their own aquatic invertebrate species based on what adaptations and features they would need to survive in a stream.
- View this [slideshow and review the aquatic invertebrate facts](#)

MORE LEARNING RESOURCES

- [Macroinvertebrate page at Encyclopedia Britannica](#)
- [How macroinvertebrates are used in scientific research](#)
- [Suggestions for teaching about aquatic invertebrates](#)

