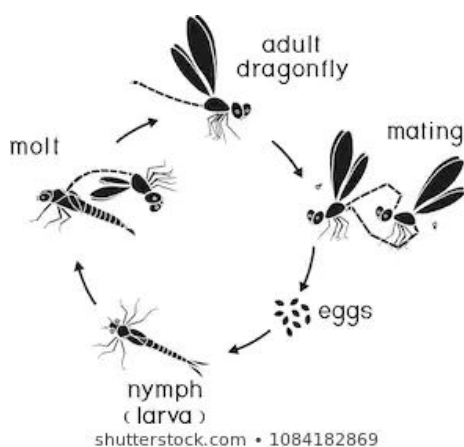


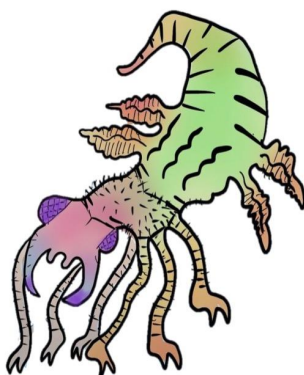
## Aquatic Macroinvertebrates (for all ages!)

Besides arthropods (bugs) on land, there are many arthropods that live in water! These are called **aquatic invertebrates**. Aquatic invertebrates have exciting life cycles and can give us information on how healthy water is. These activities will focus on aquatic invertebrates that you can see without a microscope, called **macroinvertebrates**! Have you seen an aquatic macroinvertebrate before? Crayfish are very common aquatic macroinvertebrates!

Many macroinvertebrates undergo **metamorphosis**, or physical changes as they become adults. Animals like frogs and butterflies go through metamorphosis. Take a look at this graphic to see how some macroinvertebrates undergo metamorphosis:



Before a macroinvertebrate morphs into an adult, it is called a **larva**. Sometimes, larvae and adults of the same species look very different. After taking a look at this macroinvertebrate larva below, draw what you think the adult version of it will look like!



- What does your adult eat?
- Where does it live?
- What is its name?

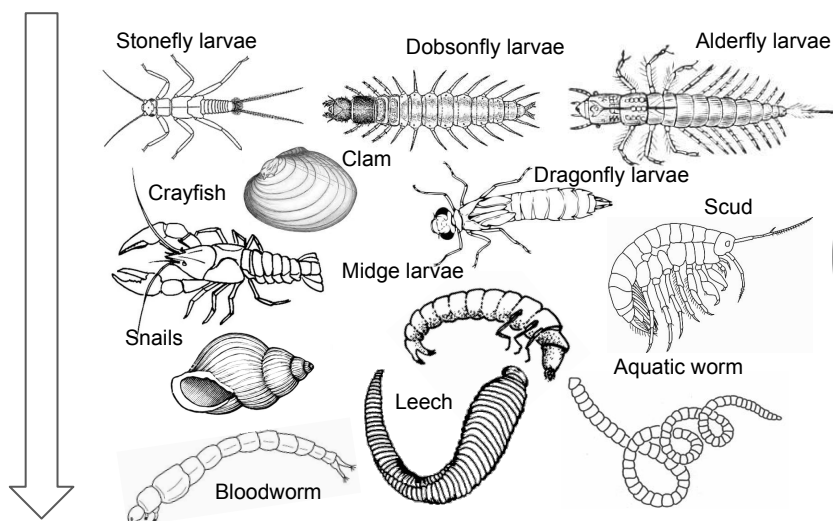
\*The adult should have special body parts and adaptations to help it eat specific things and live in specific places!

***Take it to the next level! Learn more what aquatic macroinvertebrates can tell you about water quality:***

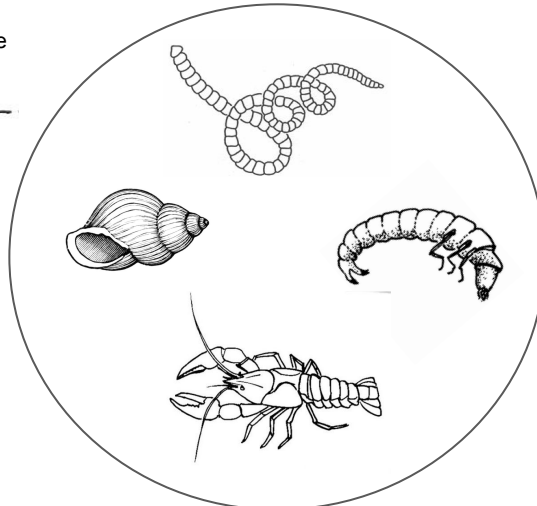
Looking at what species of macroinvertebrates are in water can tell us how healthy the water is. Some species of macroinvertebrates, called bioindicators, are able to tolerate very polluted water, while others are very sensitive and need clean water. This graphic shows a few macroinvertebrates that tolerate different levels of water quality.

**Look at the water sample below. Using the graphic on the left, circle the word that best describes your sample.**

### Pollution sensitive (good water quality)



### Your water sample



The quality of my water sample is (circle one):

**Good**

**Okay**

**Poor**

### Pollution tolerant (poor water quality)