

Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Functional Feeding Groups

Field Ecology

DIRECTIONS:

- Work individually to answer these questions.
- You can use the websites below as a resource, you can do a Google search, or you can use any paper resources (field guides, hand-outs, books, etc.) that you can find.
- Submit your work through Showbie when you are done.

<http://web.csd509j.net/cvhs/bregard/fieldeco/functfeedinggroups.pdf>

<http://schools.csd509j.net/cvhs/bregard/fieldeco/amireading.pdf>

1. Define and describe these functional feeding groups (what do members of these groups eat, and how do they eat it?):

SHREDDER –

SCRAPER –

COLLECTOR –

PREDATOR –

2. Which functional feeding groups do our six macroinvertebrate orders fit into? (Note that some groups belong to more than one functional feeding group.)

Ephemeroptera –

Plecoptera –

Odonata –

Trichoptera –

Diptera –

Snails (genus Juga) –

3. Why might scientists use functional feeding groups instead of trophic levels (herbivore, carnivore, etc.) to classify macroinvertebrates?

4. How might organisms from each of the functional feeding groups impact their stream ecosystem? (How do you think the ecosystem might be changed if one of the groups were removed?)