Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Research Questions
Field Ecology

These questions will form the framework for the background information you will compile for your aquatic macroinvertebrate study. Answer each question in 2-3 sentences using reliable internet sources (look for .gov, .edu, or private research institute websites – Wikipedia is also usually a reliable source). When you are done, submit your work through Google Classroom.

1. What is an aquatic macroinvertebrate? How do AMI's differ from other aquatic organisms, and how do they differ from terrestrial macroinvertebrates?

2. Name and briefly describe 2-3 different organisms that use AMI's as a food source.

3. What are the four functional feeding groups that we are using to classify AMI's? What are the food sources for each of these functional feeding groups?

4. AMI's are often used as *indicators* of water quality. What does this mean, and why are AMI's so useful for this purpose?

5. Describe briefly (in two or three sentences) the life cycle of mayflies (order Ephemeroptera). (The life cycle of mayflies is very similar to the life cycle for stoneflies, dragonflies, true flies, and caddis flies.)

6. Based on the results of your research above, what are some potential factors that you think might interact with AMI's in some way? (Think about the types of WITRB questions that you might be able to ask about some different factors.)