Key to Macroinvertebrate Life in the River

(Sizes of illustrations are not proportional.)

Single Shell
- Leathery Wings
- swims with a jerk
- Four Pairs of Legs
- Three Pairs of Legs
- walks on bottom

Double Shell
- small, ear-like, tan or brown
- large, 2 to 8 ounces, dark colored

No Shells
- with Tentacles, Brushes or "tails"

Lims
- small, akike, tan or brown
- large, 2 to 8 ounces, dark colored

Legs
- long breathing tube
- two fringed "tails"
- small, cute, sweet
- "self" tail
- yellow-tail
- black, similar to hard surfaces

With Tentacles, Brushes or "tails"
- brown, leatherlike, usually six legs
- usually walks on bottom

Snail
- "C"-shaped spiral

Beetle
- Riffle
- Crayfish
- lobster-like

Limpet
- Freshwater

Isopod
- No Obvious "tails"

Clam
- Two Fringed "tails"

Caterpillar Water
- Pennyl
- Pyralid
- Alderfly Larva
- Water Penny
- Dragonfly Larva

Damsel Fly Larva
- Mayfly Larva
- Mayfly Larva
- Hexfly Larva
- Hexfly Larva
- Water Flea or Daphnia

Water Skimmer or "Nepa"

Water Bug

No Shells
- with Tentacles, Brushes or "tails"

Leather Wings
- small, brown
- with tentacles, brushes or "tails"

Three Pairs of Legs
- large, grey with tentacles
- white or grey with tentacles
- body segmented

Wings
- long breathing tube, hinged mouth
- large, grey with tentacles
- "spines" on side

No Wings
- long breathing tube, hinged mouth

Four Pairs of Legs
- small, brown
- with tentacles, brushes or "tails"

Three "tails"
- long "tails," gills on abdomen
- long "tails," gills on abdomen
- long "tails," fancy, gills on abdomen

One or Two "tails"
- long "tails," gills on abdomen
- long "tails," gills on abdomen
- long "tails," gills on abdomen

No Obvious "tails"
- long "tails," gills on abdomen
- long "tails," gills on abdomen
- long "tails," gills on abdomen

10+ Legs
- long "tails," gills on abdomen
- long "tails," gills on abdomen
- long "tails," gills on abdomen

Some Common Identifiers
- Snake or Amphipod
- Water Flea or Daphnia
- Acorn Snail or Looped
- Water Scavenger Beetle
- Water Strider
- Water Beetle
- Water Scorpion "Nepa"

Other Common Identifiers
- Flatworm
- Caddisfly
- Water Flea or Daphnia
- Water Skimmer or "Nepa"
- Water Bug
- Water Beetle
- Water Scorpion "Nepa"

Resources:
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