



Critter Key

Kids Can Help Save Our Streams!

Save Our Streams volunteers test water quality by identifying macroinvertebrates living in the water. Stream-bottom macroinvertebrates — including aquatic insects (such as dragonfly and damselfly larvae) and crustaceans (such as crayfish, snails, and clams) — are good indicators of water quality because they live in the same area of a stream most of their lives and differ in their sensitivity to pollution. Which macroinvertebrates you find — or don't find — in a stream indicates the pollution level of the water. Biological monitoring is a quick, inexpensive, accurate way to find out if your water quality is good or poor, and it gives volunteers a baseline for tracking changes in stream health.

CRITTER KEY

Roll the dice and place a check mark next to each type of critter you find.

| SENSITIVE | LESS SENSITIVE | TOLERANT |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caddisflies (except net spinners) <input type="checkbox"/> Mayflies <input type="checkbox"/> Stoneflies <input type="checkbox"/> Watersnipe flies <input type="checkbox"/> Riffle beetles <input type="checkbox"/> Water pennies <input type="checkbox"/> Gilled snails | <input type="checkbox"/> Dobsonflies <input type="checkbox"/> Fishflies <input type="checkbox"/> Common net spinning Caddisflies <input type="checkbox"/> Crane flies <input type="checkbox"/> Damselflies <input type="checkbox"/> Dragonflies <input type="checkbox"/> Alderflies <input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish <input type="checkbox"/> Scuds <input type="checkbox"/> Sowbugs (aquatic) <input type="checkbox"/> Clams <input type="checkbox"/> Mussels | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic worms <input type="checkbox"/> Black flies <input type="checkbox"/> Midge flies <input type="checkbox"/> Leeches <input type="checkbox"/> Lunged snails and orb snails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> # of Vs x 3 = _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> # of Vs x 2 = _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> # of Vs x 1 = _____ |

TOTAL: _____

What's the water quality in YOUR stream?

Excellent (> 22)
 Good (17-22)
 Fair (11-16)
 Poor (< 11)

Visit www.iwla.org/sos for more information on what you can do to protect streams in *your* neighborhood!