

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Stream Ecology:

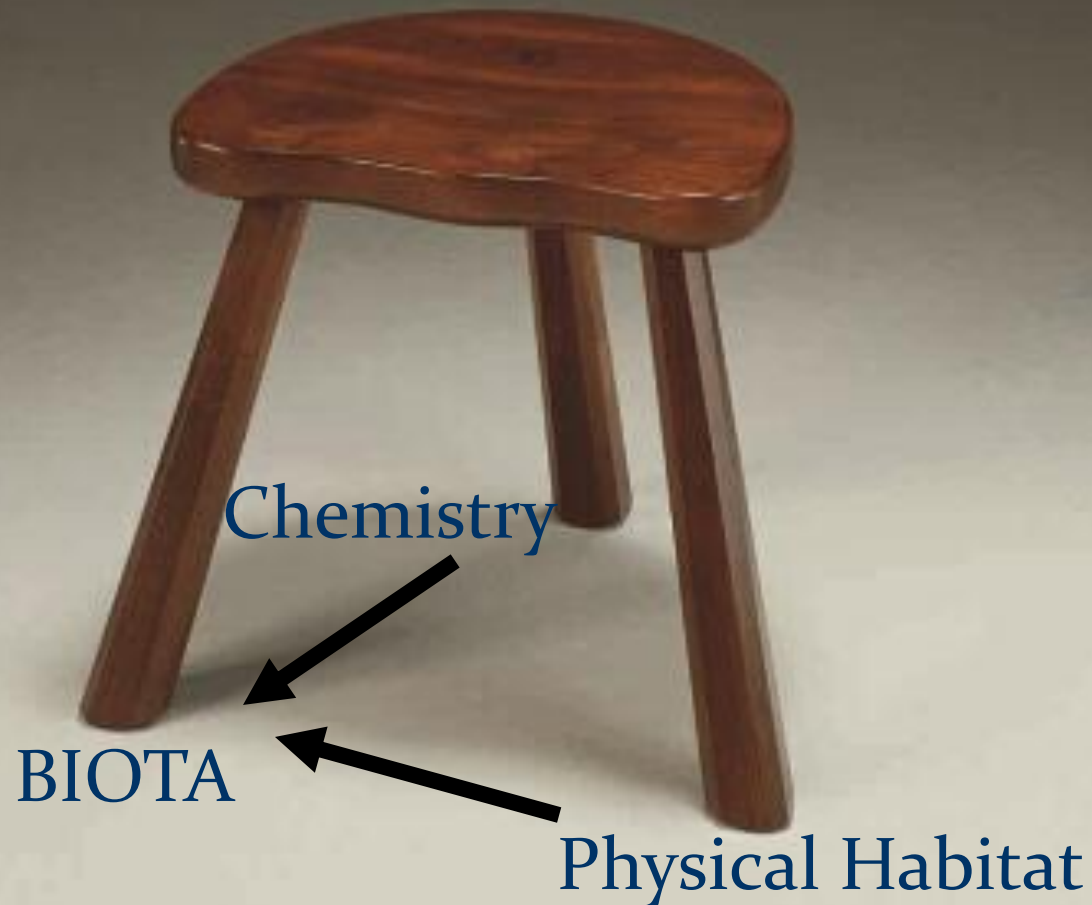


The study of the physical, chemical and biological attributes of streams and the transitional areas adjacent to them.

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



A Healthy Stream Ecosystem



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Stream Functions Pyramid

1 Biology: *Amount, diversity, and life history* of animals and plants in the stream: Insects, fish, salamanders, algae.

2 Physiochemical: What are the *chemical and physical* characteristics of the *water*?
Temperature, oxygen, conductivity, nutrients, pH.

3 Geomorphology/Habitat: The *physical environment* in and around the stream. Are diverse habitats available? How stable is the stream channel? Embeddedness, bank height, bank stability, amount of wood and rocks in the stream, riparian buffer width.

4 Hydraulics: The way the *water behaves* in the stream. Depth and speed of the water over time. How does the water interact with groundwater and the floodplain? Depth, flow, speed, volume.

5 Hydrology: *How much water* drains from the watershed into the stream. What is the land cover in the watershed? How much rain fell? Amount of pervious versus impervious surface in the watershed. Hydrograph.

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



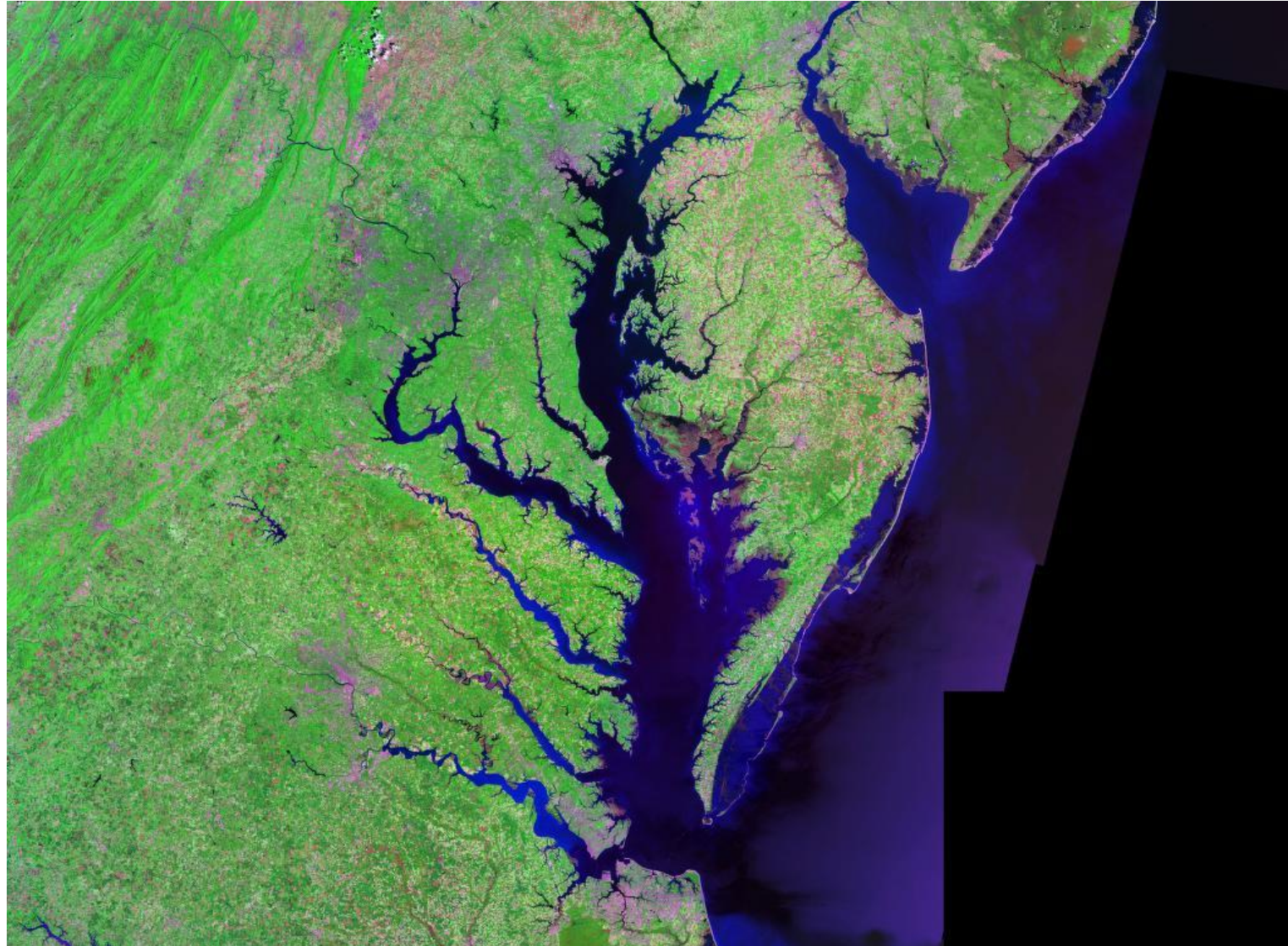
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



• Underground piping of streams

• Exotic/invasive species

• Sedimentation/siltation

• Flood control

• mining

• Watershed imperviousness

• construction

• Acid rain

• Thermal impacts

• Road maintenance

• Recreational/commercial
harvestation



• toxics

• logging

• Eutrophication/
nutrient enrichment

• Water withdrawals

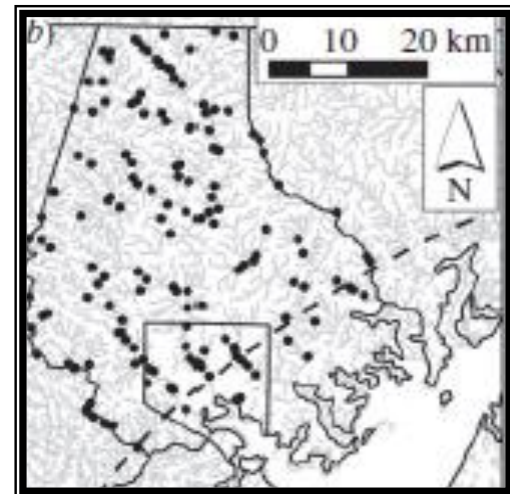
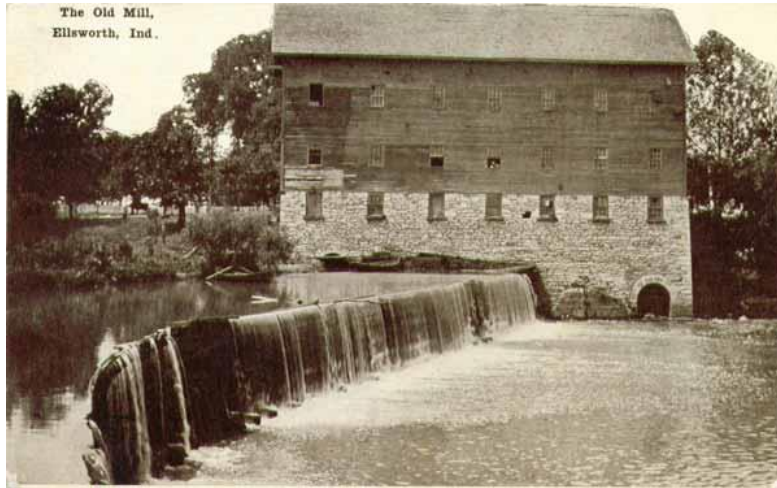
• Migration barriers

• Road salt

• Riparian zone
destruction

• Stream "improvements"

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



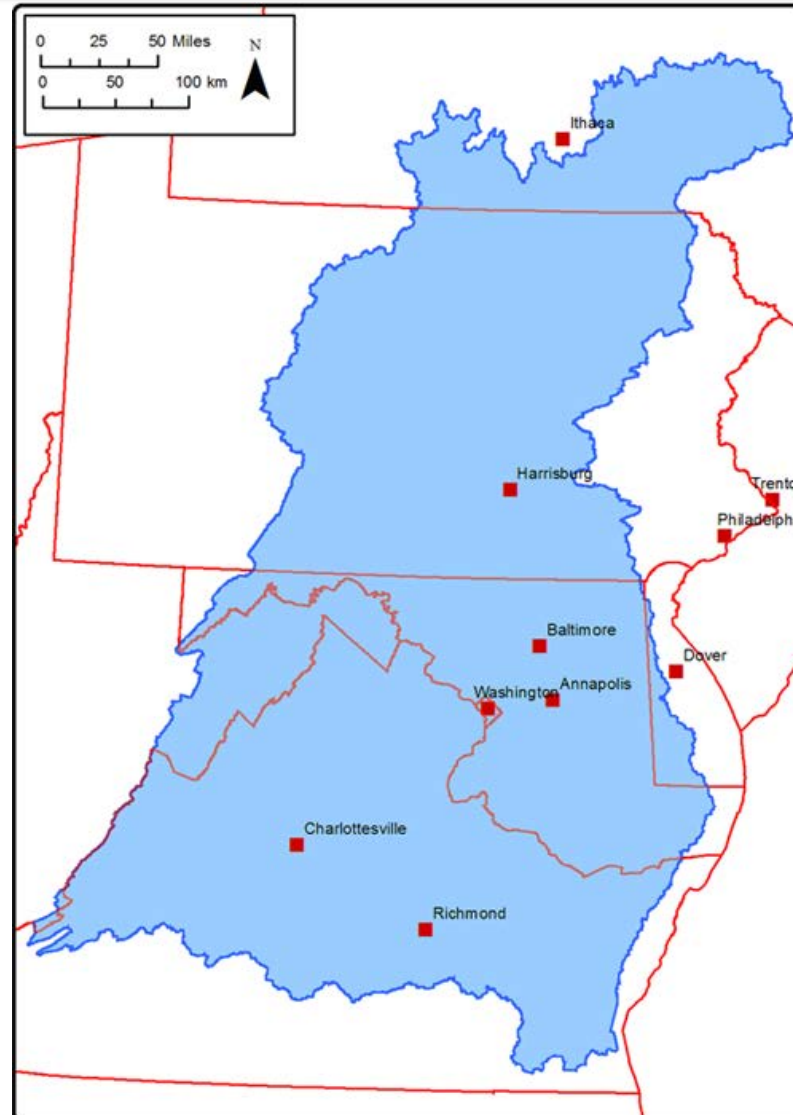
Geology and Scale

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Watershed-
the area
drained by
a river or
stream

<http://tecalive.mtu.edu/meec/module01/whatiswatershed.htm>

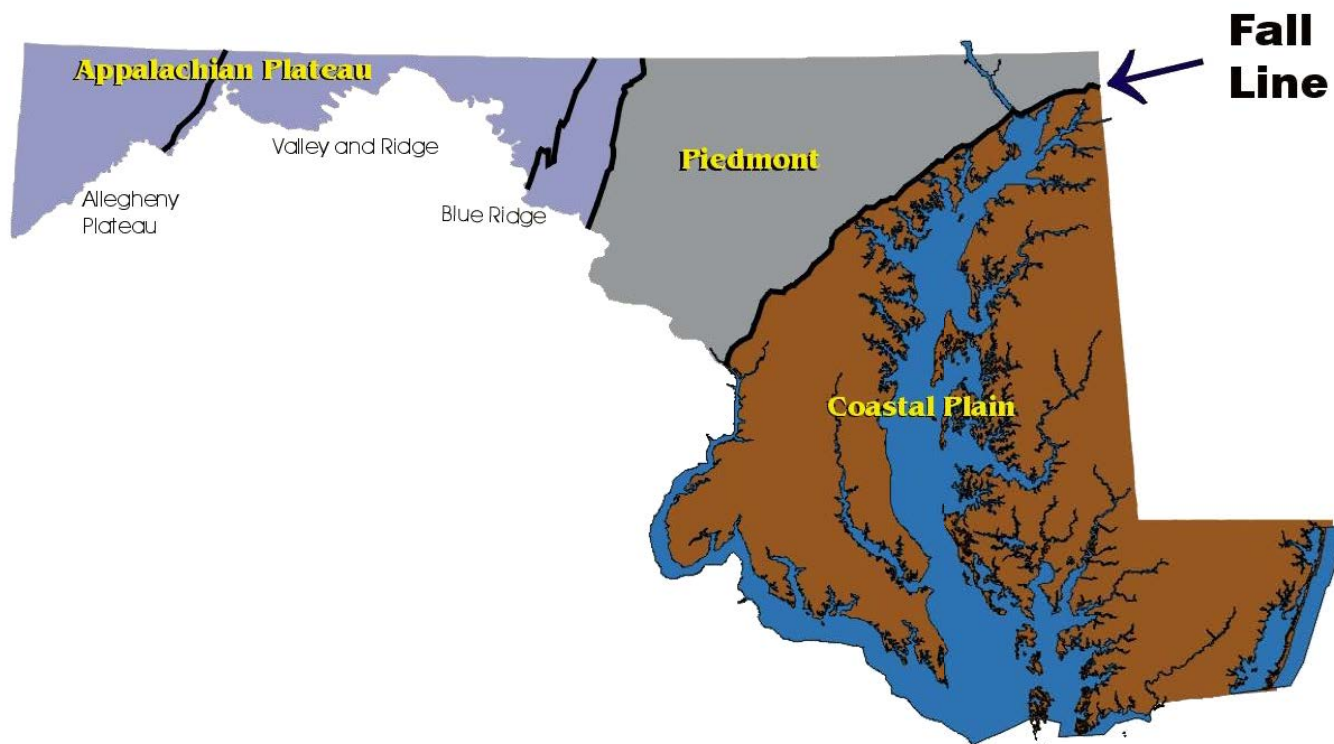


Chesapeake
Bay
Watershed

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



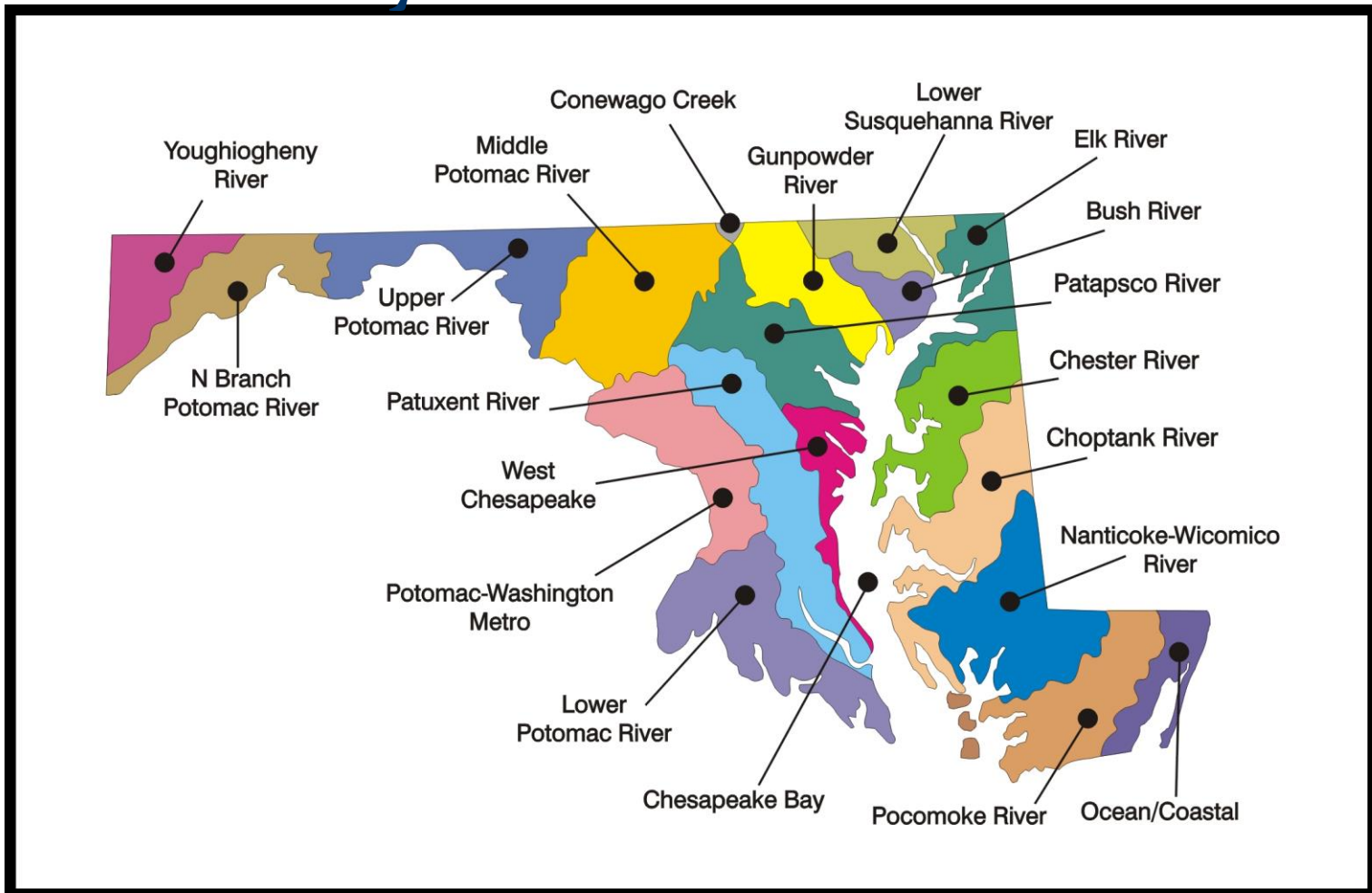
MARYLAND PHYSIOGRAPHY



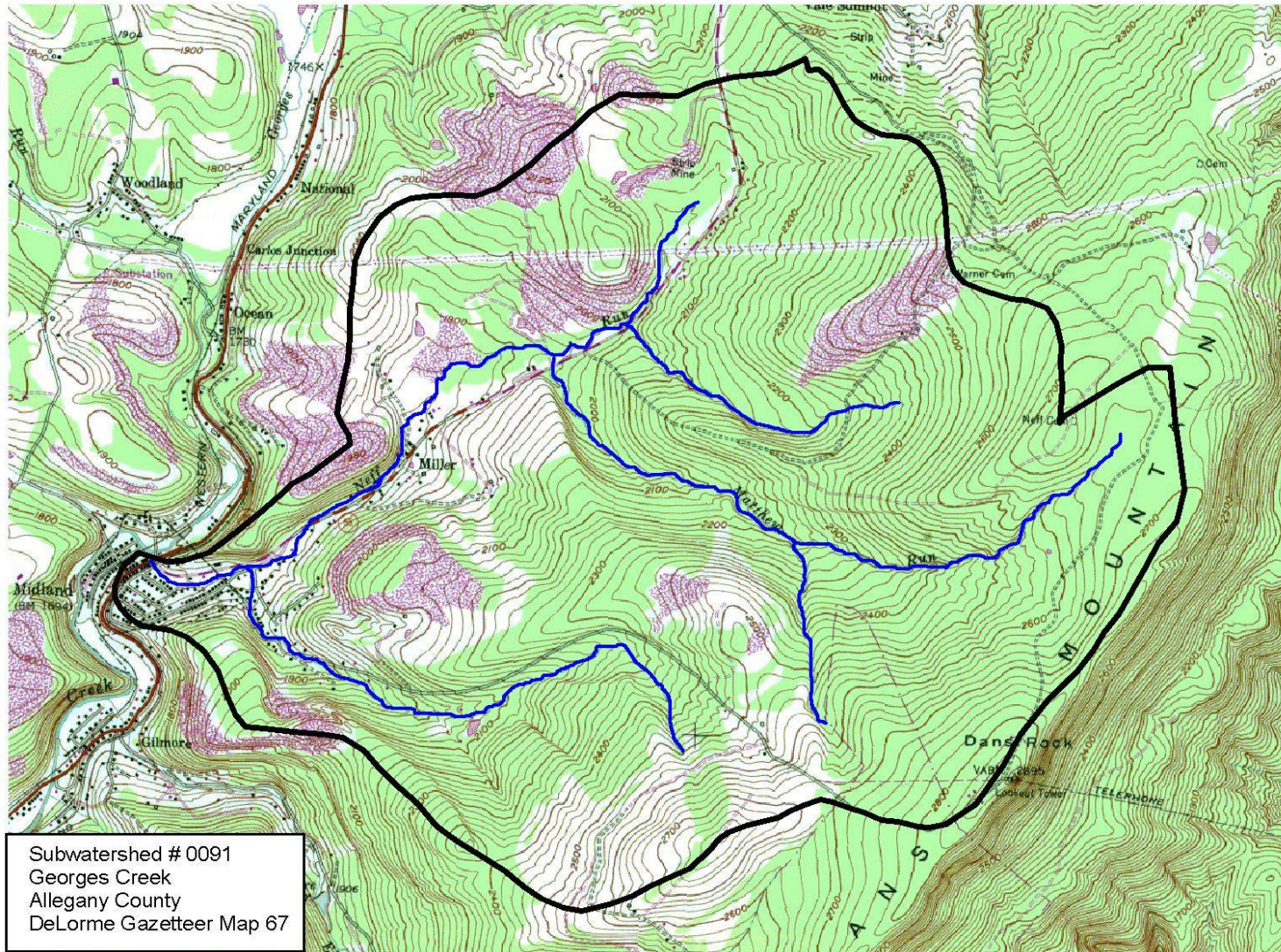
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Maryland's River Basins



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Chemistry

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Chemical Factors

- *Temperature*
- *Dissolved Oxygen (DO)*
- *pH/Buffering Capacity*
- *Conductivity*
- *Nutrients*
- *Sediment*

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



- Higher water temperature = lower dissolved oxygen
- More canopy cover = lower water temperature = higher dissolved oxygen
- More riffles = higher dissolved oxygen



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



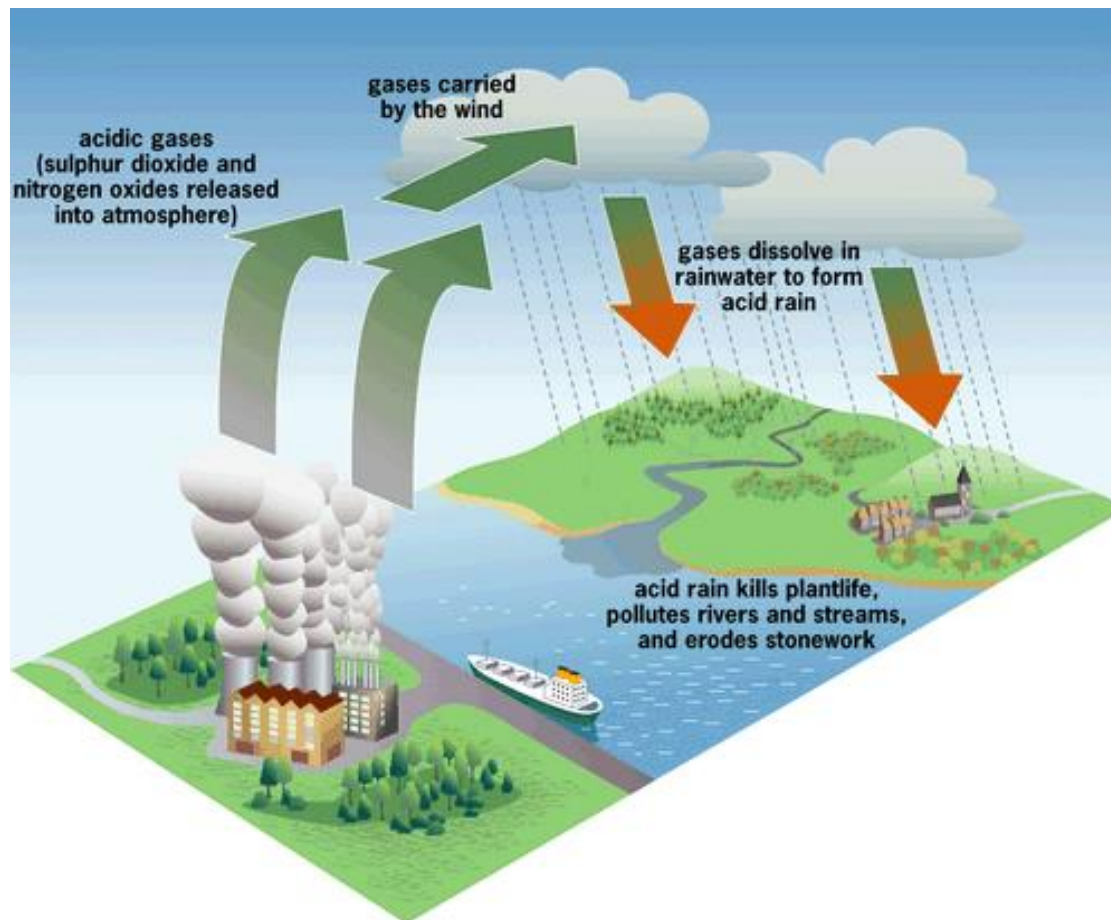
Stonefly (needs high DO)



Eastern mudminnow
(tolerant of low DO)

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

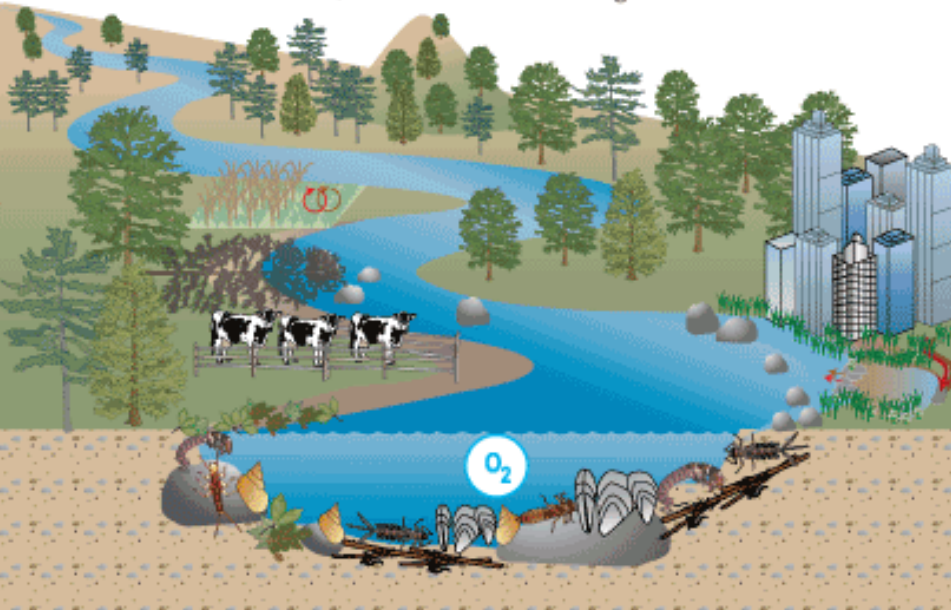
Acid Rain affects a stream's pH



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

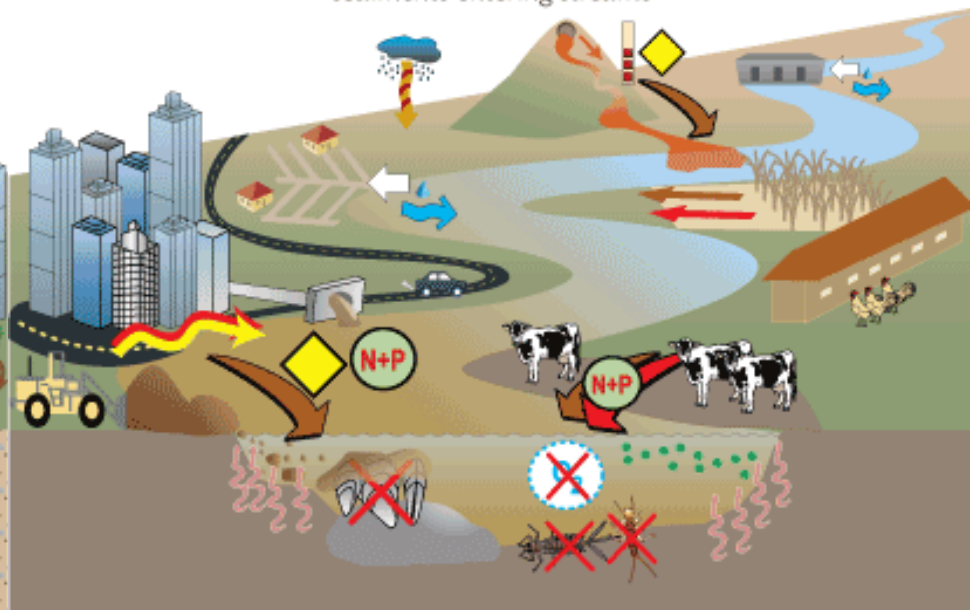
Healthy Streams:

Well-managed land-based activities will reduce the amount of nutrients, toxicants, and sediments entering streams



Unhealthy Streams:

Land-based activities can increase nutrients, toxicants, and sediments entering streams

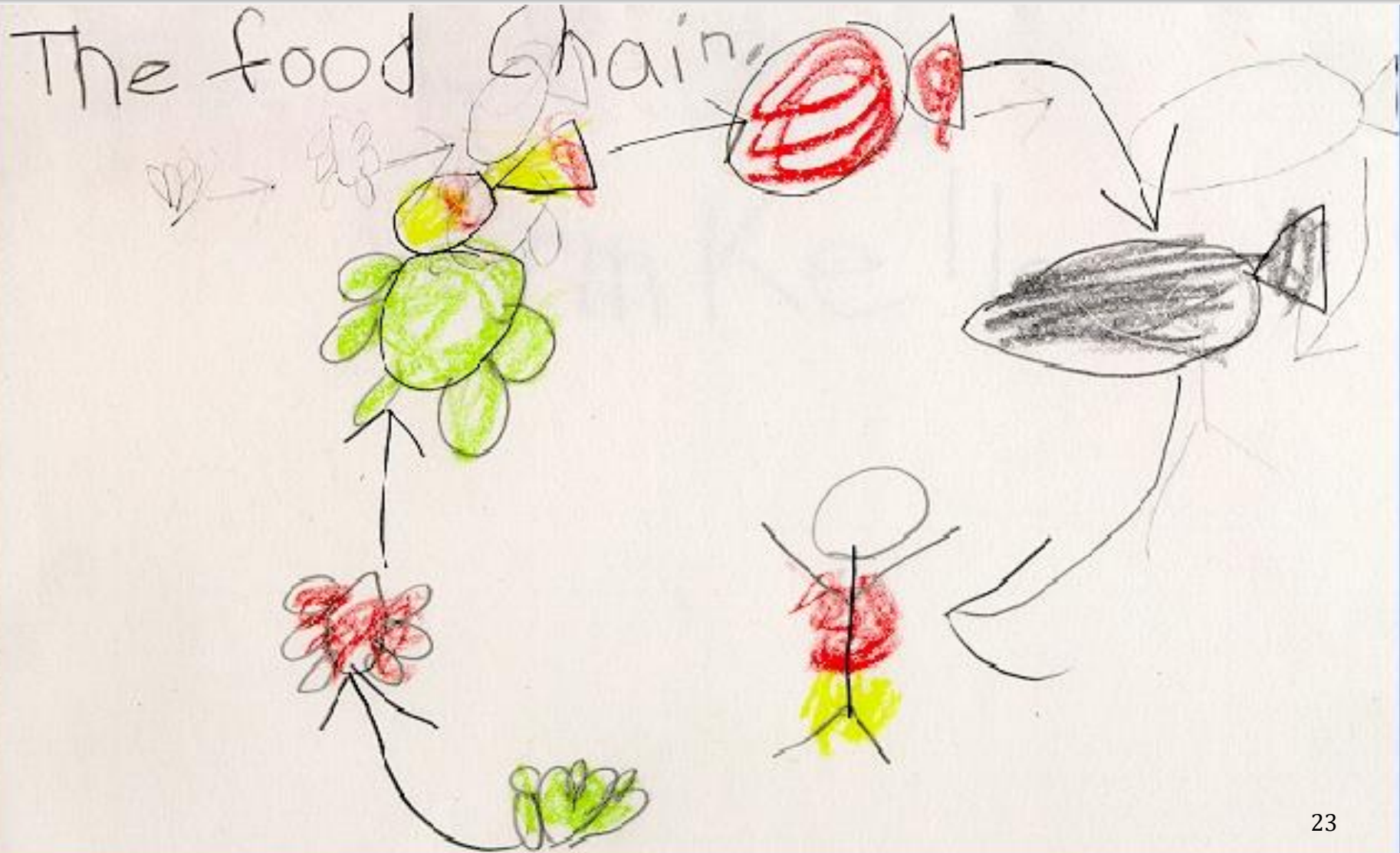


Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



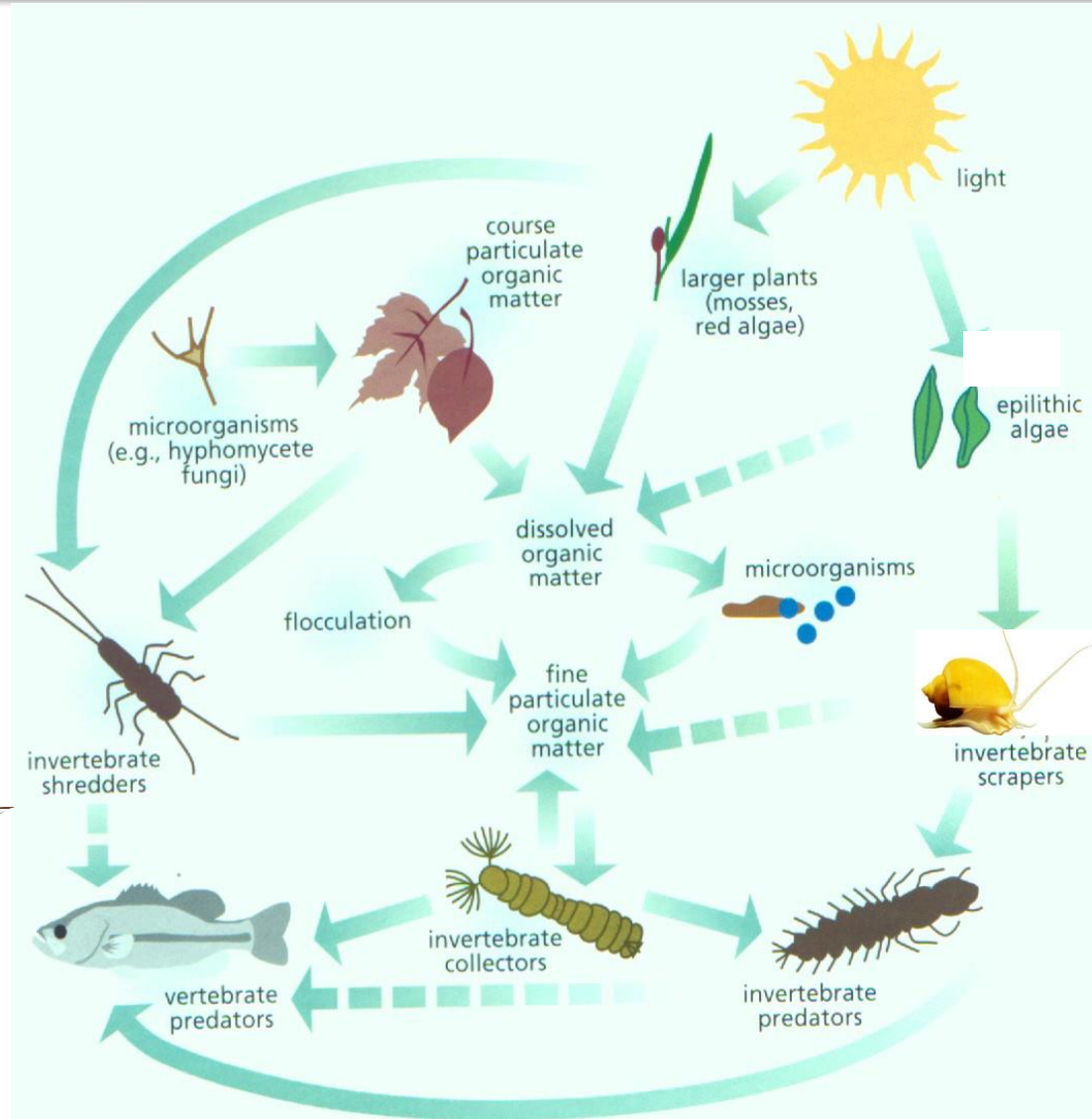
Biology

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Stream Food Web



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



**External (allochthonous)
vs Internal
(autochthonous) Energy
Sources**

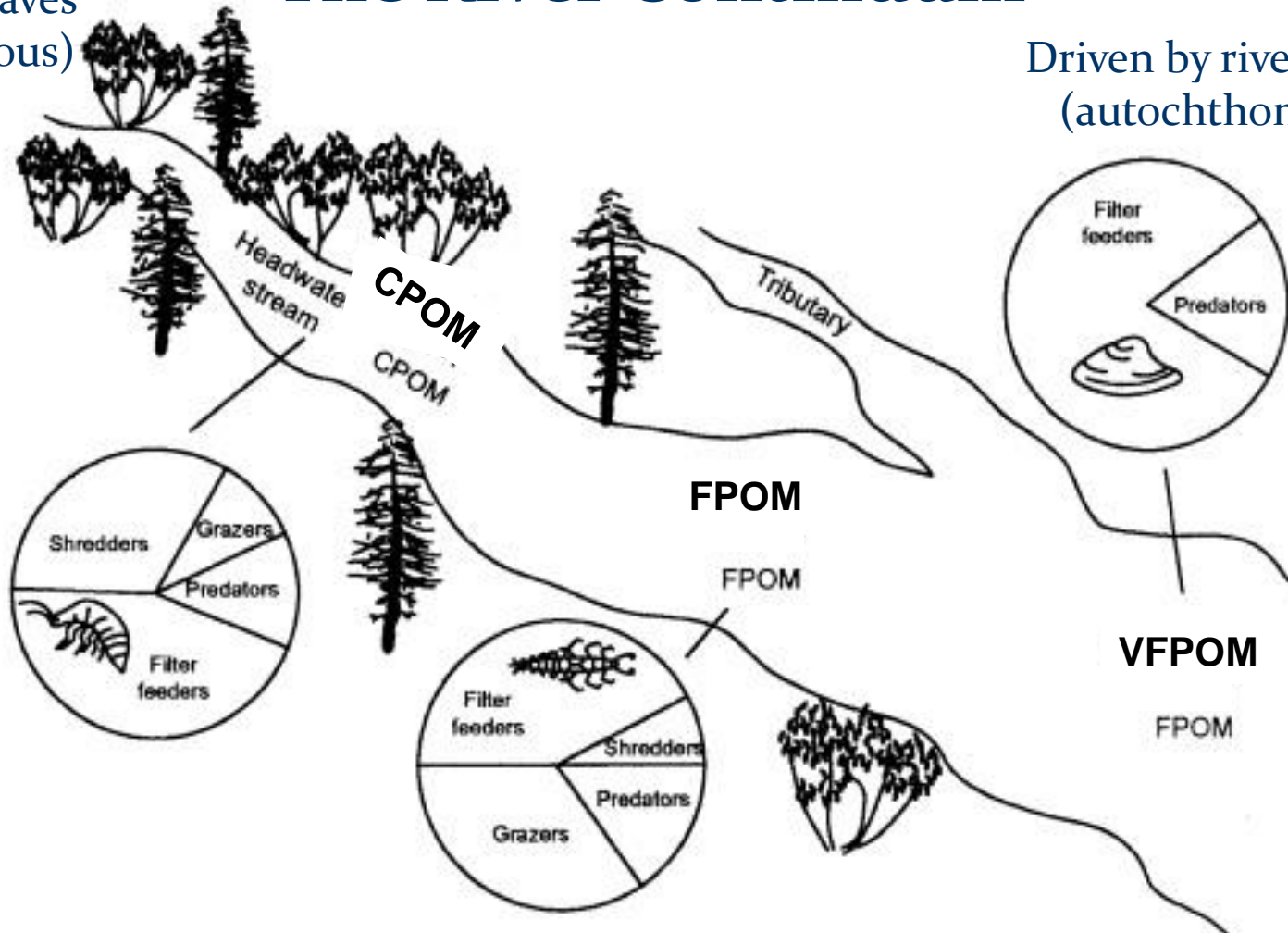


Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Driven by
terrestrial leaves
(allochthonous)

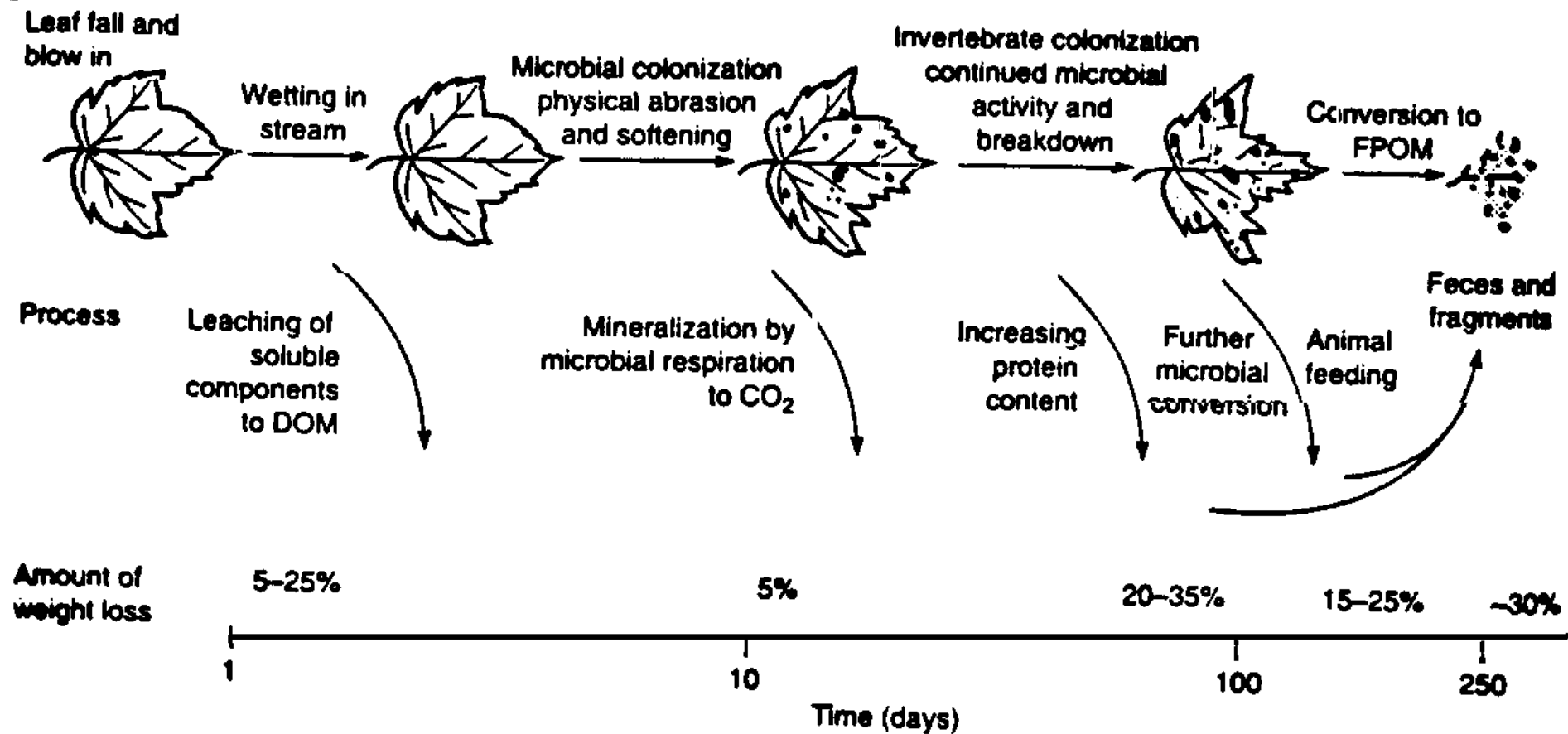
The River Continuum

Driven by river algae
(autochthonous)



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Leaf Processing Sequence



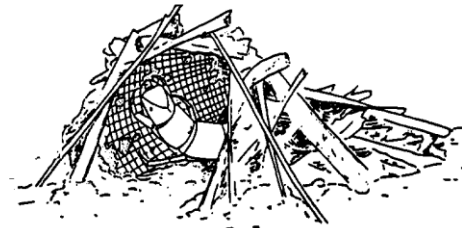
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



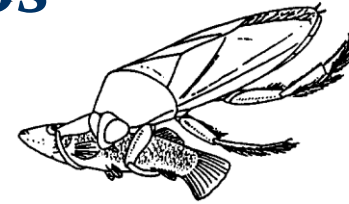
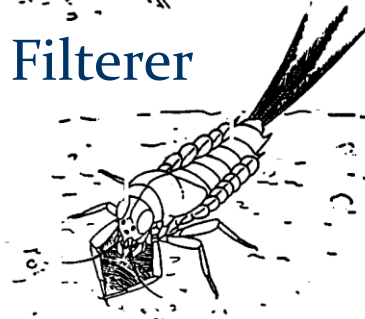
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Benthic Feeding Groups

Borer

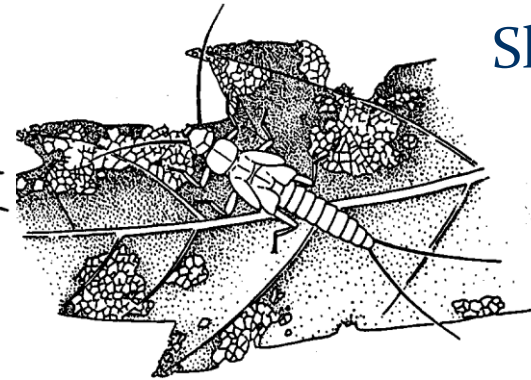


Filterer

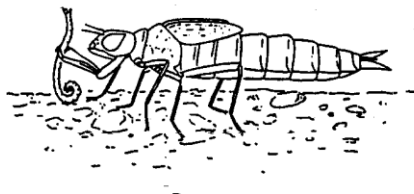


Piercer

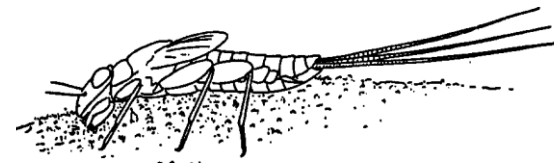
Shredder



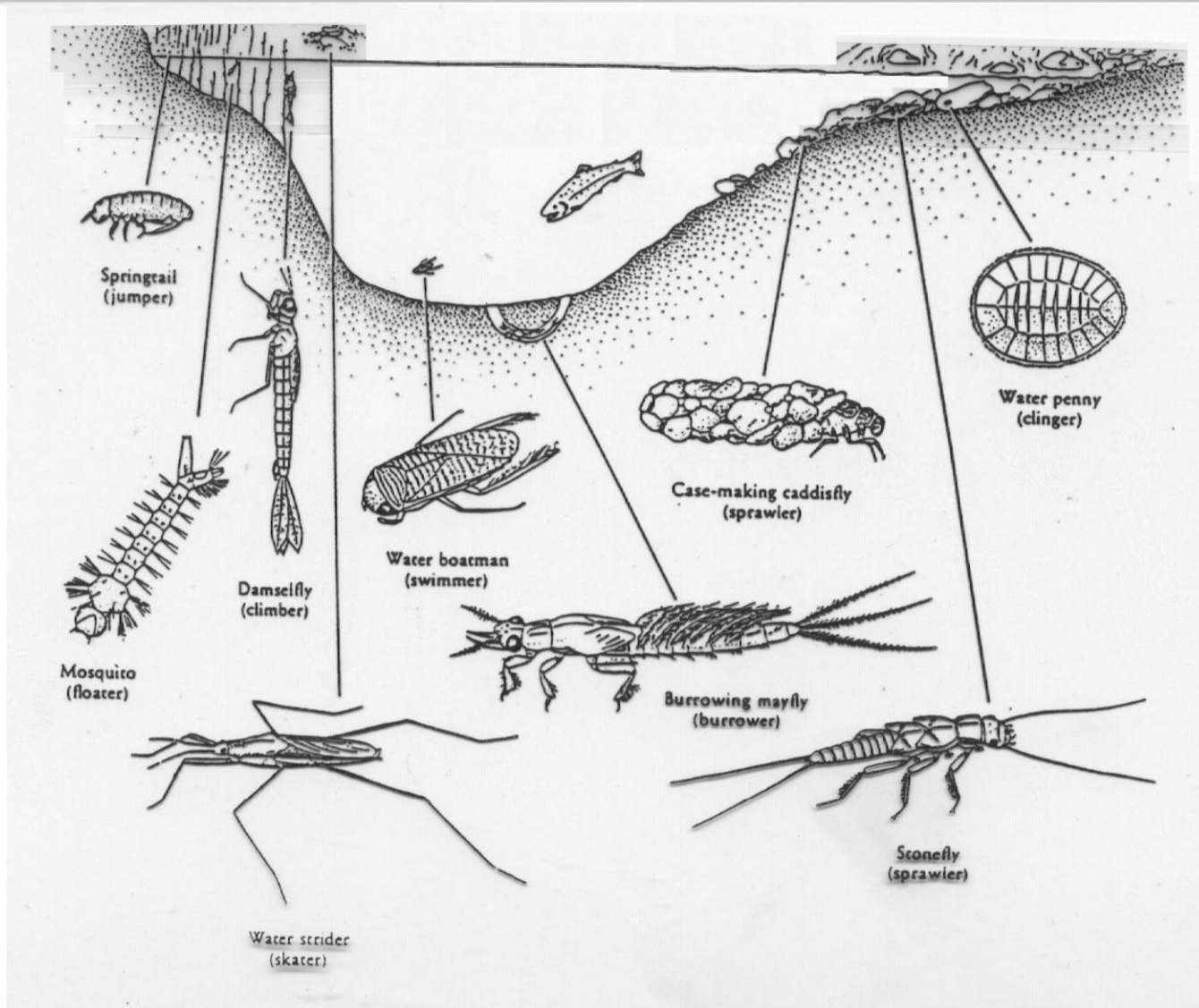
Predator



Scraper



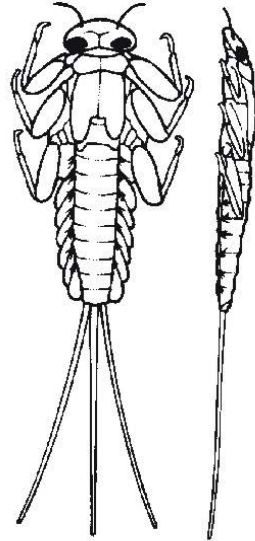
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



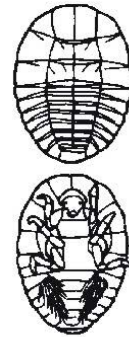
Habit

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

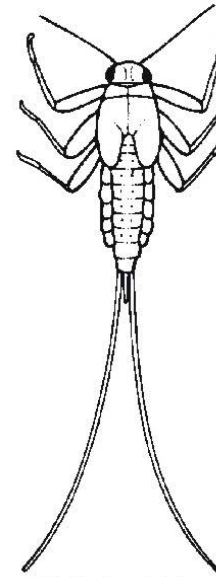
Invertebrate Adaptations to Life in Running Water



(a) *Rhithrogena*



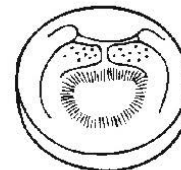
Psephenus x3



(b) *Baetis subalpinus*



(c) *Philorus*



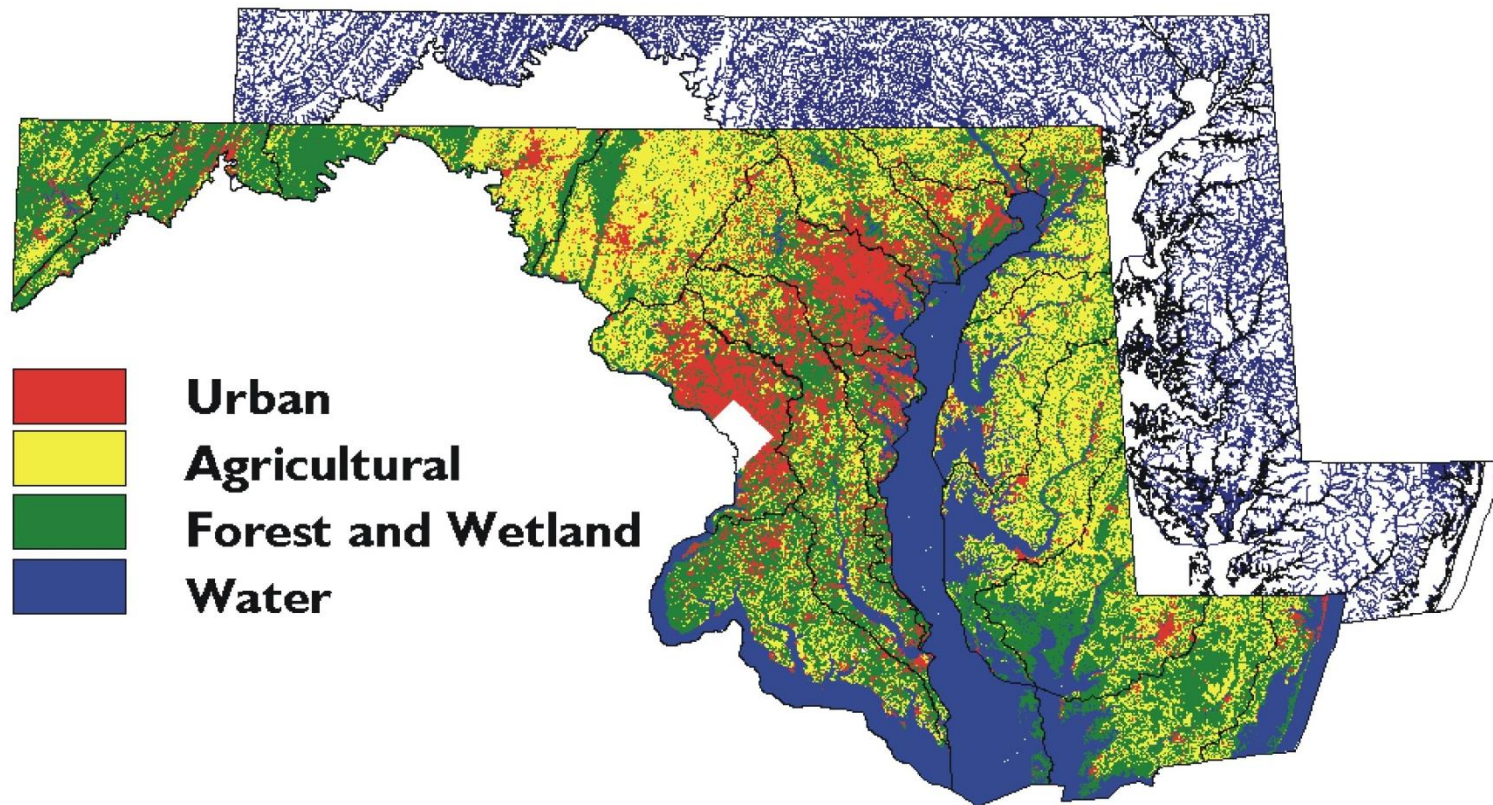
(d) *Simulium*



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Land Use in Maryland



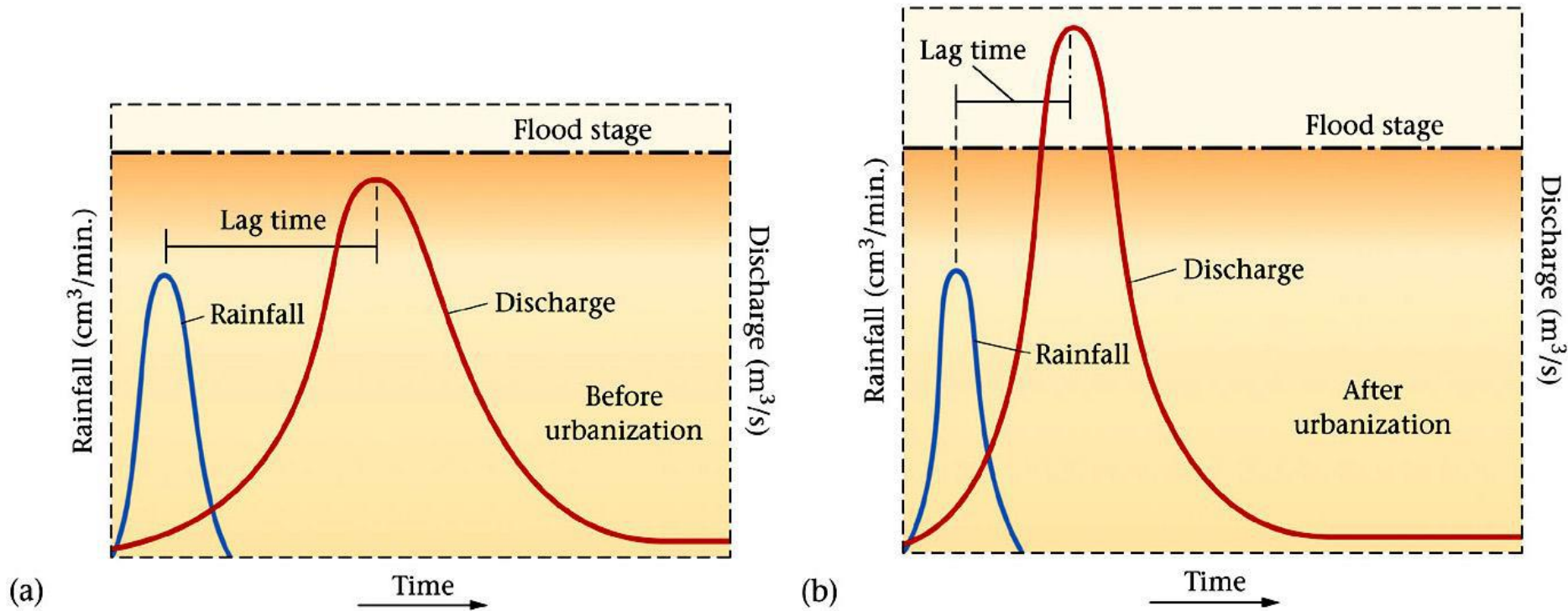
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

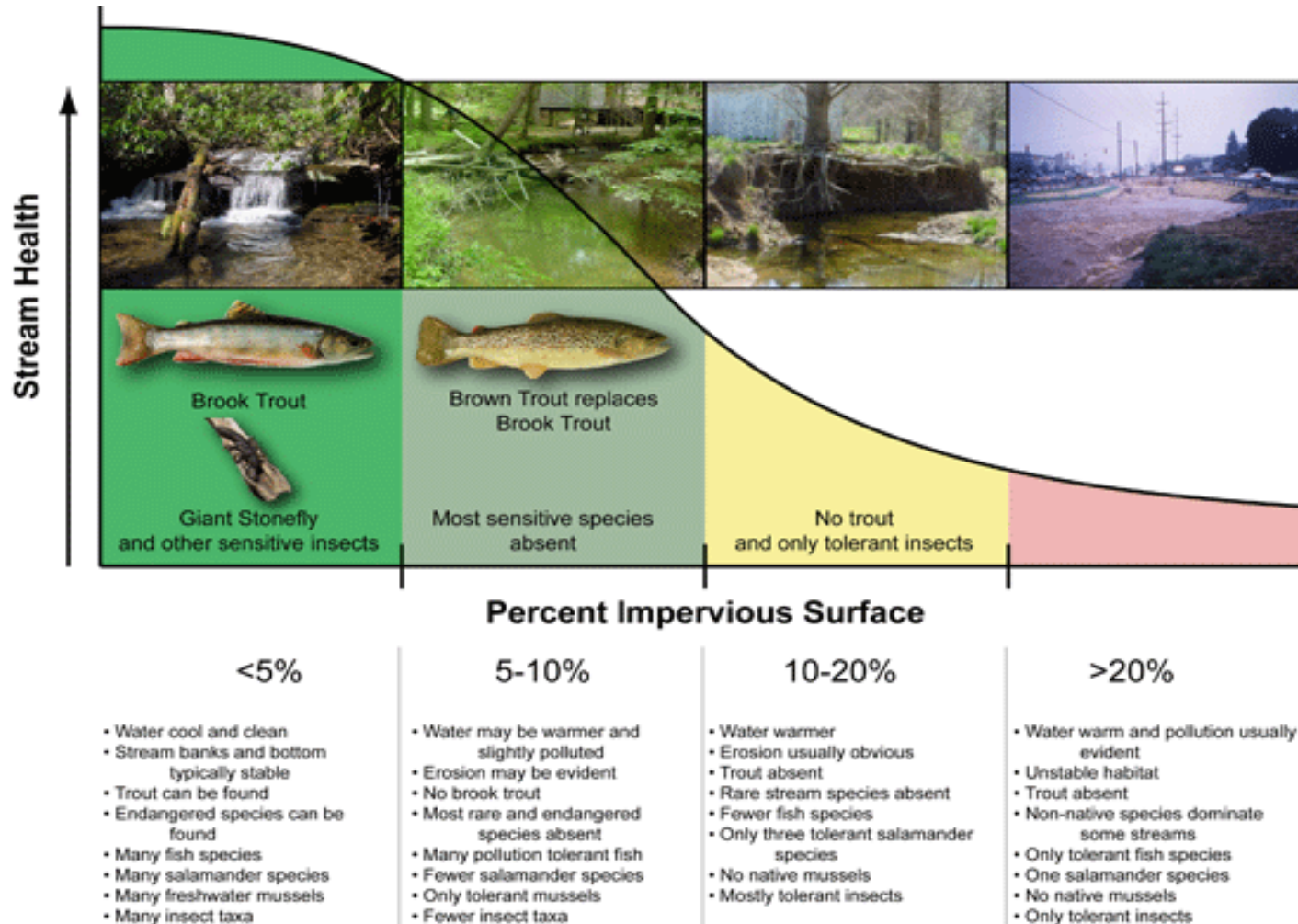


Effects of **impervious surfaces** on streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Expected relationship between impervious surface and stream health



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



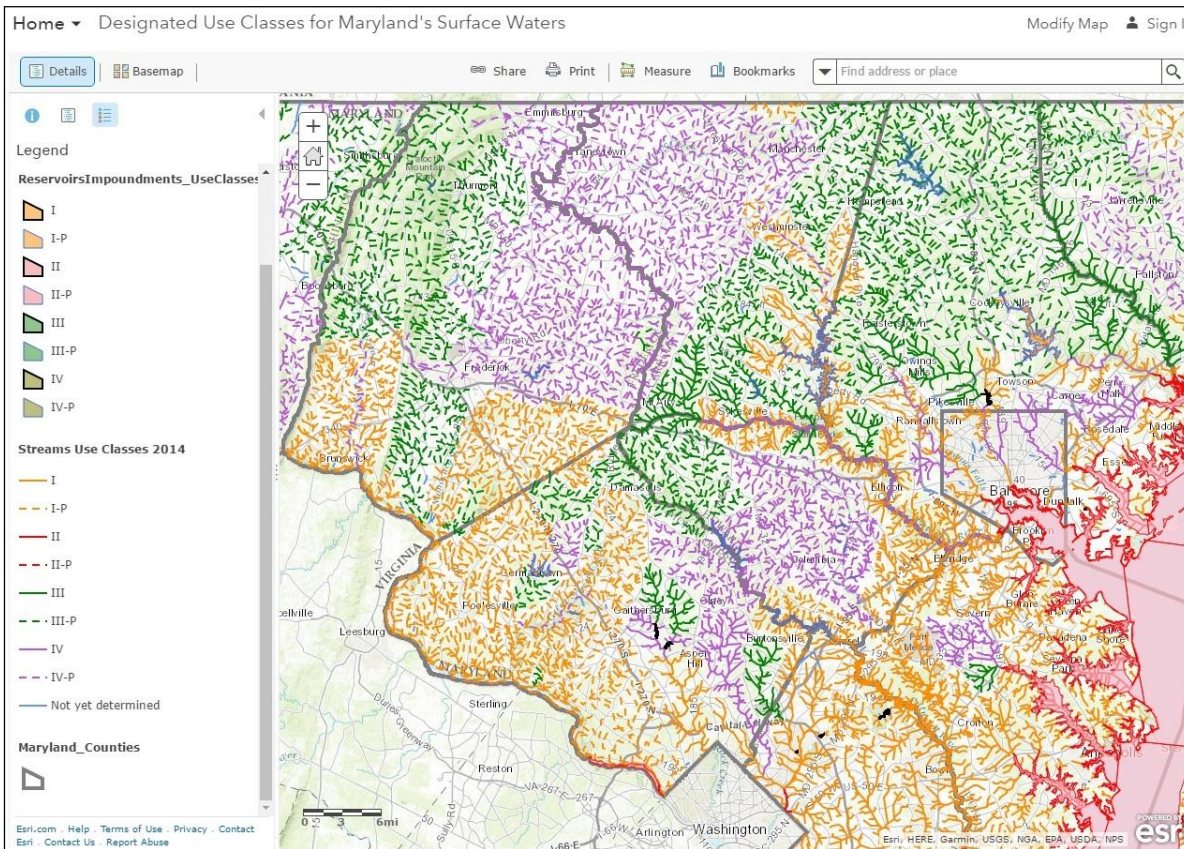
Designated Uses	Use Classes							
	I	I-P	II	II-P	III	III-P	IV	IV-P
Growth and Propagation of fish (not trout), other aquatic life and wildlife	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Contact Sports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leisure activities involving direct contact with surface water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fishing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agricultural Water Supply	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Industrial Water Supply	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Propagation and Harvesting of Shellfish			✓	✓				
Seasonal Migratory Fish Spawning and Nursery Use			✓	✓				
Seasonal Shallow-Water Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Use			✓	✓				
Open-Water Fish and Shellfish Use			✓	✓				
Seasonal Deep-Water Fish and Shellfish Use			✓	✓				
Seasonal Deep-Channel Refuge Use			✓	✓				
Growth and Propagation of Trout					✓	✓		
Capable of Supporting Adult Trout for a Put and Take Fishery							✓	✓
Public Water Supply		✓		✓		✓		✓

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/WaterQualityStandards/Pages/wqs_designated_uses.aspx

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Check your stream's Maryland Designated Use Class!!



If your stream is Use Class III (green on the map) this means it could potentially be home to a breeding population of trout, and is subject to restrictions on activities that would disrupt the stream bed, such as benthic sampling. These restrictions are in effect October 1st- April 30th, but if you are sampling in September you are not subject to these restrictions.

<https://mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/WSA/DesigUse/index.html>

Or Google "Maryland use class streams"

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Getting to know your..



BUGS!

What are Benthic Macroinvertebrates?

- Associated with "bottom"*
- Visible to the naked eye
- >500 microns
- Fish food

*
during some part of life cycle

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Systematics (taxonomy) – the branch of Biology that deals with classification and nomenclature.

Kingdom

Phylum

Class

Order

Family

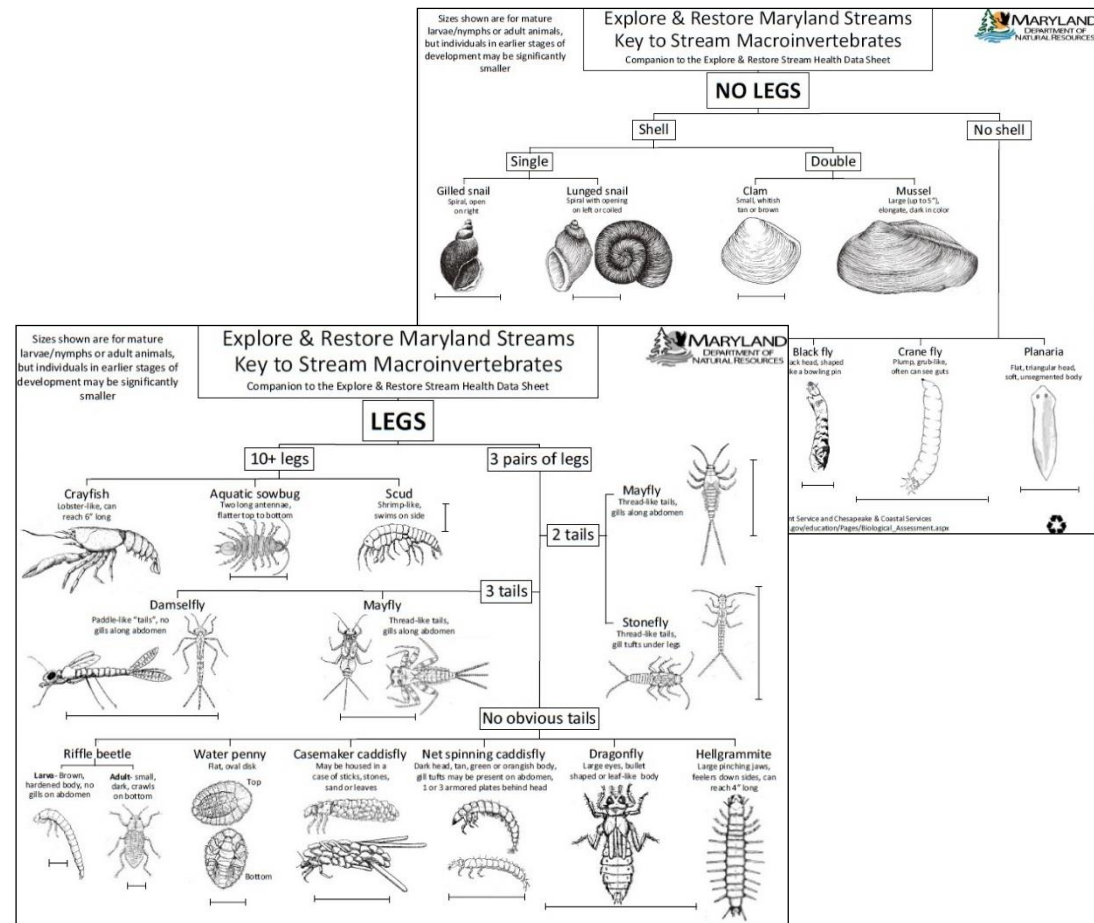
Genus

Species

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Role as Bioindicators

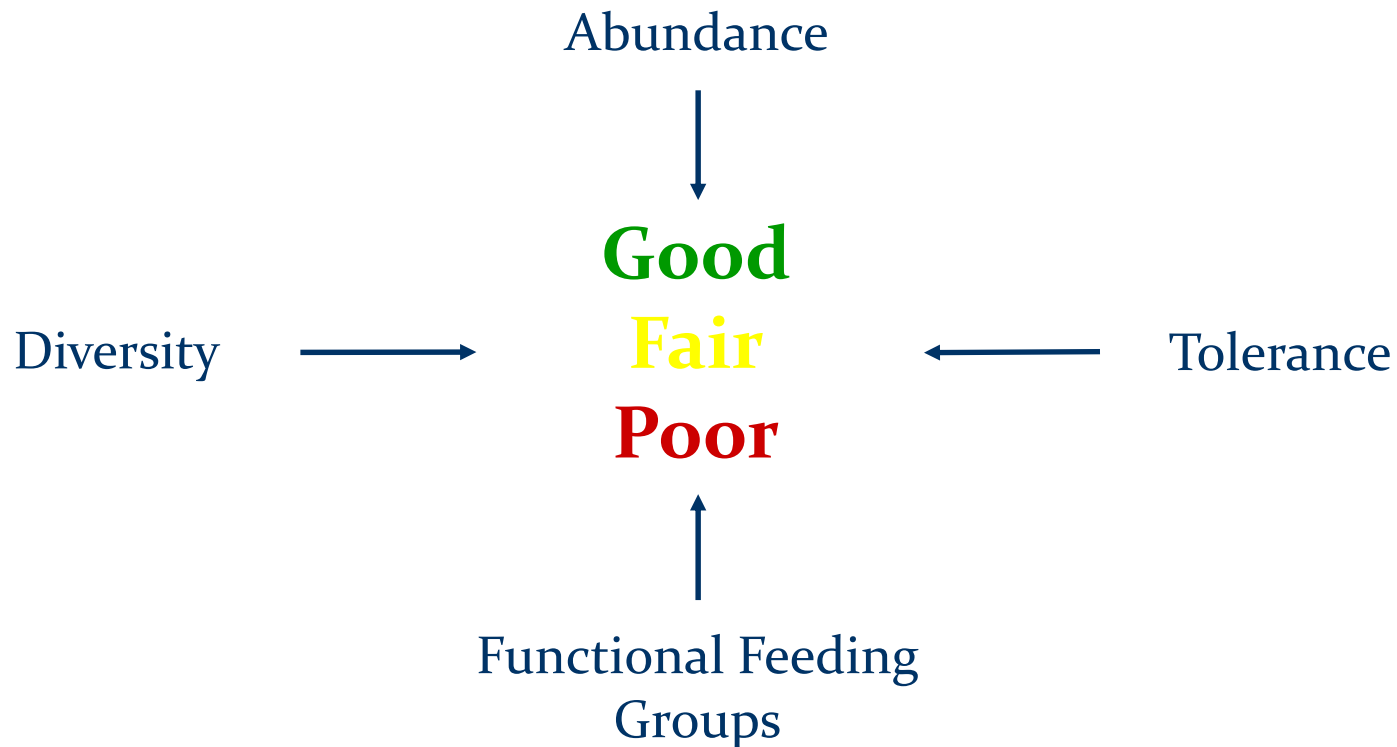
- Pollution sensitive
 - Dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, etc.
- Easy and inexpensive to collect
- Useful in long-term monitoring



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)



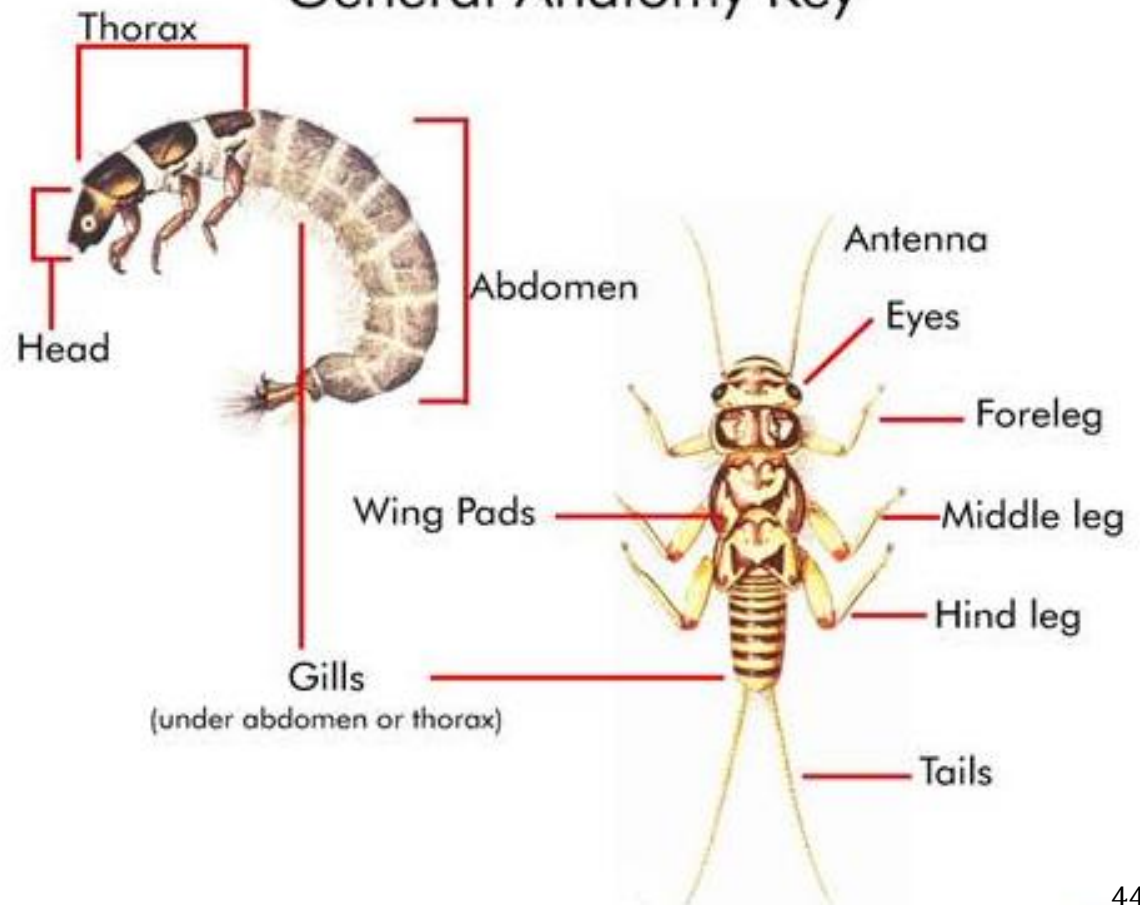
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

- 3 Major Body Parts

- Diagnostic Features:

- Mouthparts
- Legs
- Abdomen length
- Wing pads
- Tails
- Gills
- Overall Shape

Stream Macroinvertebrate General Anatomy Key

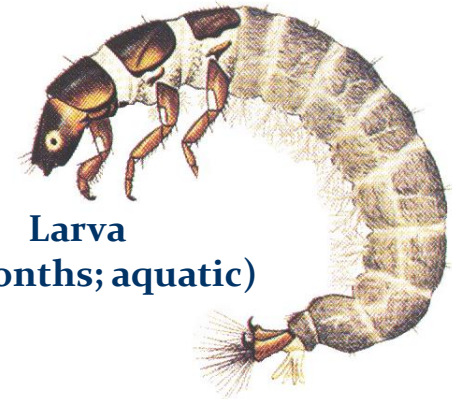


Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

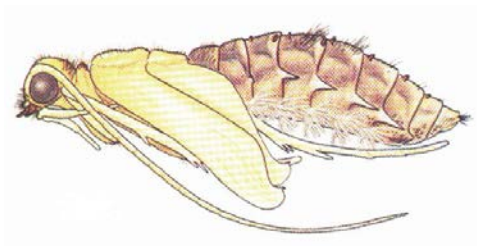
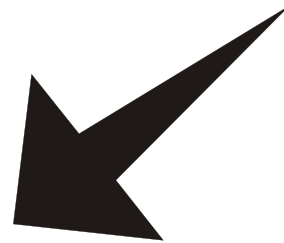
Life History of a Caddisfly (Complete Metamorphosis)



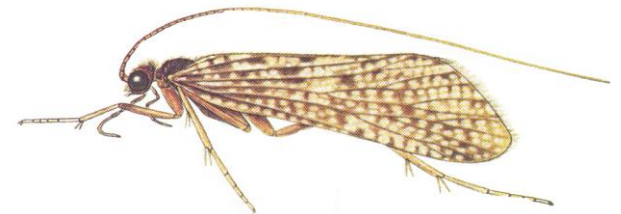
Egg
(1 week; aquatic)



Larva
(10 months; aquatic)



Pupa
(2 weeks; aquatic)



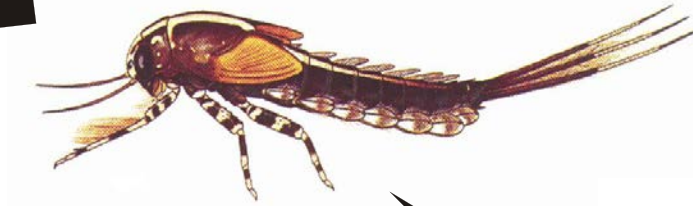
Adult
(1 month; terrestrial)

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

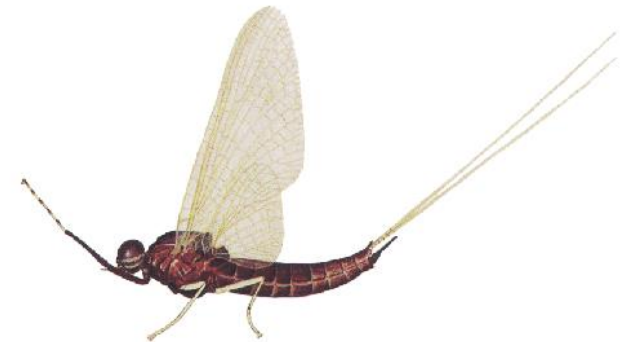


Egg
(2 weeks; aquatic)

Life History of a Mayfly (Incomplete Metamorphosis)



Nymph
(11 months; aquatic)



Adult
(2 days; terrestrial)

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Benthic Macroinvertebrate Identification



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



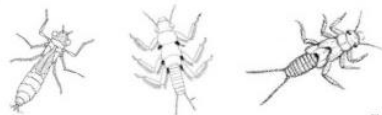
Biological Assessment: Macroinvertebrate Survey

Collection method:

Kick-Seine or **D-Net** (circle method used).

If using a kick-seine, collect samples 3 times.

If using a D-net, collect 20 scoops and record the number of scoops taken from each of the habitat areas in the table →



Benthic Habitat Sampled

Habitat	# scoops
Riffle	
Rootwads/ woody debris/ leaf pack	
Submerged Vegetation	
Undercut Banks	
Other (specify):	
TOTAL	20

Thank you to Howard County Public Schools System biology students for their contribution to the development of this tool. Howard County Conservancy

Check all of the macroinvertebrates that you find in your stream and calculate the stream's water quality rating [you may also record the number of each captured, but to calculate the rating at the bottom, only count each kind of animal once, regardless of the quantity found].

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sensitive to pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less Sensitive to pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Tolerant to pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tolerant to pollution
Casemaker caddisflies	Net spinning caddisflies	Clams	Aquatic sowbugs
Mayflies	Crane flies	Mussels	Black flies
Stoneflies	Dragonflies	Planaria	Midge flies
Water pennies	Riffle beetles	Gilled snails	Leeches
Hellgrammites		Crayfish	Lunged snails
		Scuds	Damselflies
			Aquatic worms
# of check marks	# of check marks	# of check marks	# of check marks
# above x 3 = _____	# above x 2 = _____	# above x 1 = _____	# above x 0 = _____

Biological Water Quality Rating:

Add up the numbers you calculated for all three categories, above. Write the total # here: _____

Circle the rating that corresponds to the total of your columns.

Good: > 22 **Fair:** 17 - 22 **Marginal:** 11 - 16 **Poor:** < 11

Explore and Restore Maryland Stream ratings correspond with the Maryland Biological Stream Survey and Maryland Stream Waders ratings of streams found on the Stream Health website. Stream sites rated Good are shown there in green, Fair sites are yellow, and Marginal/Poor sites are red.



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

**STONEFLY-
Nymph**
Sensitive



2 tails

Order –
Plecoptera

A

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



**STONEFLY -
Adult**
**Order -
Plecoptera**

<http://vimeo.com/90024767>

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



**MAYFLY-
Nymph**
Sensitive



3 tails (in most species, but not all)

**Order –
Ephemeroptera**

B

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



In classical mythology nymphs were nature spirits often inhabiting rivers, streams and lakes.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kB6RmFCmBoE>

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



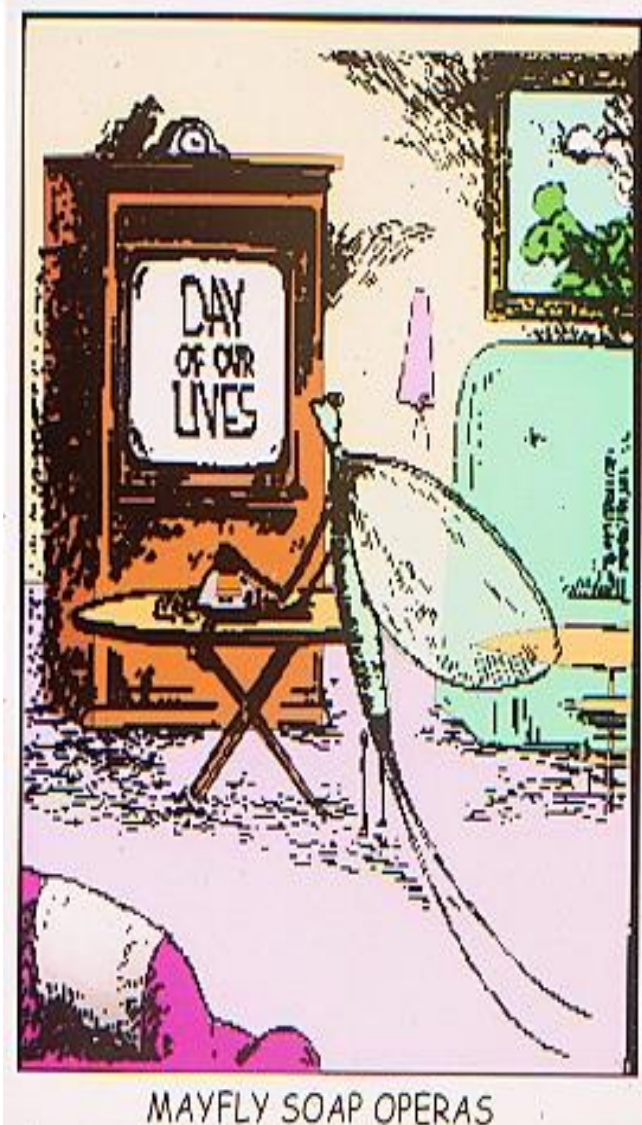
MAYFLY – Adult

**Order –
Ephemeroptera**

<http://vimeo.com/90024047>

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

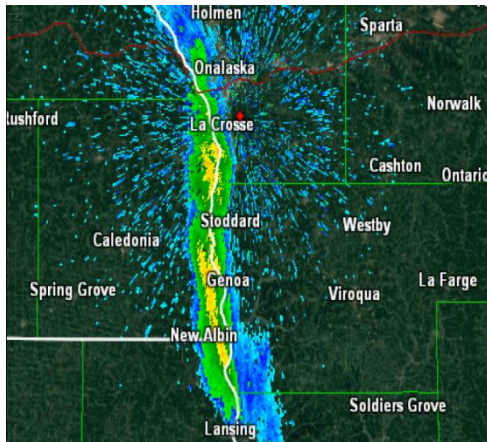
The order name Ephemeroptera translates to “short winged life”. Though they may spend over a year as a nymph, most species only live a day or two as adults, so they must find a mate quickly and reproduce before they die.



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



When insects hatch in large swarms they overwhelm their predators so that many escape to reproduce. In 2014, there was a particularly large mayfly hatch in Wisconsin.



The hatch showed up on radar... caused headaches for locals... and was even blamed for a 3-car pile up.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/23/mayfly-hatch-wisconsin-photos-radar_n_5614449.html

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Stonefly

vs.

Mayfly



A

B

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



CADDISFLY-

Case builder

Sensitive

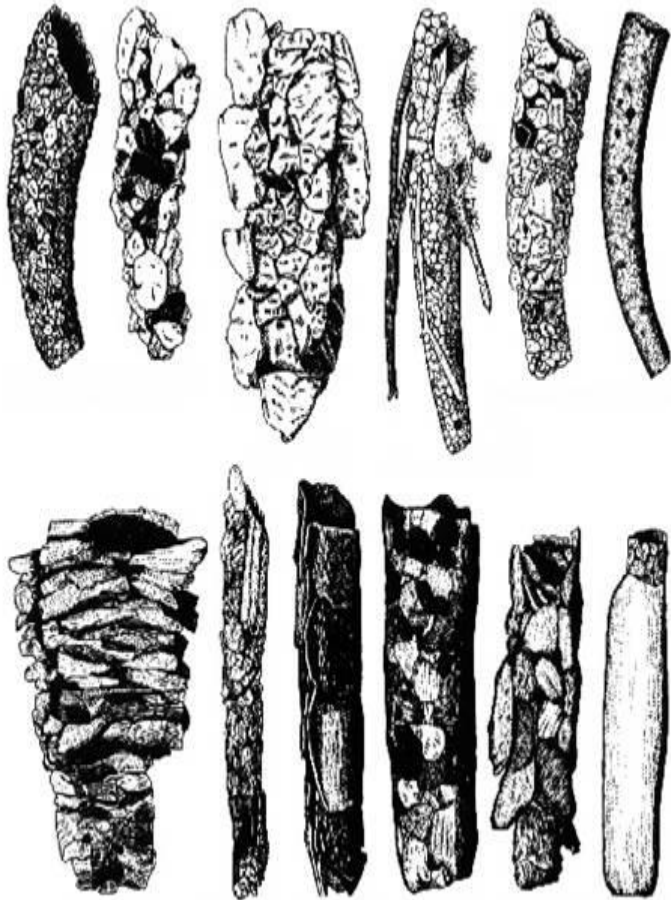
**Order –
Trichoptera**

C

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



The structure of the case and the materials used in its construction varies among species.

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



CADDISFLY-

Net spinner

Less Sensitive

Order –
Trichoptera

D

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Some species of caddisflies build nets instead of cases. They use these nets to catch food (plankton, smaller insects). One caddisfly may build several nets which it will travel between to collect and eat its catch.



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Fingernet
caddisfly



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



CADDISFLY - Adult

Order -
Trichoptera

<http://vimeo.com/90025213>

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



HELLGRAMMITE

Less Sensitive

Order- Megaloptera

AKA: toe biters

Large predators. Some species reach 5 inches long. Capable of delivering a strong pinch. Feelers on abdomen are for respiration.

E

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



DOBSONFLY (ADULT HELLGRAMMITE)



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Water Penny – Larva

Sensitive



Order – Coleoptera



Adult

F

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Water penny larvae generally like cold, fast moving water and are usually found in riffles where their flattened shape allows them to cling to the rocks without being swept away.



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



RIFFLE BEETLE

Moderately
tolerant



Order – Coleoptera

Riffle beetles are one of the few benthic insects that live in the stream in both larval and adult form. The adults are lunged and are capable of carrying bubbles of air under their elytra (wing covers) and will replenish their air supply from bubbles in riffles and on aquatic vegetation. They must leave the water when they emerge as adults in order for their exoskeleton to harden, but they may never have to return to the surface again after that.

G

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Riffle beetle larva vs. Net spinner caddisfly



G

D

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



DRAGONFLY –
Nymph

Order – Odonata

Less Sensitive

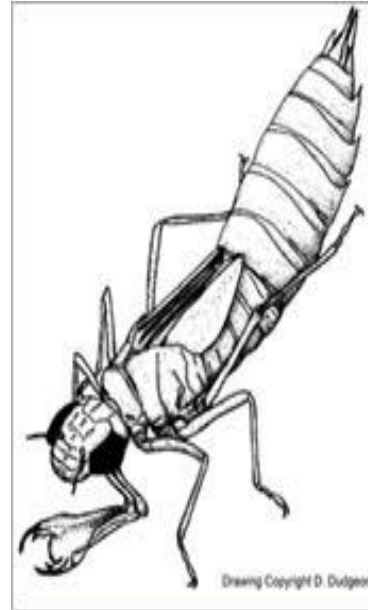
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Dragonfly and damselfly nymphs have a hinged mask over their mandibles that they can shoot out with remarkable speed to grab prey.



This is the
stuff that
nightmares
are made of



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



0:34s

H

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Adult

Nymph

Voracious
predators as
nymphs and
as adults

H

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



DAMSELFLY - Nymph

Order - Odonata

Tolerant

3 paddle-
like “tails”
are actually
the
damselfly’s
gills.

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Jason Neuswanger
www.troutnut.com

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Mayfly nymph

vs.

Damselfly nymph



B

I

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



**DAMSEFLY –
Adult**

Order – Odonata

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Order – Diptera



Cranefly- Larva

Less Sensitive

©MARLIN E. RICE



Adult



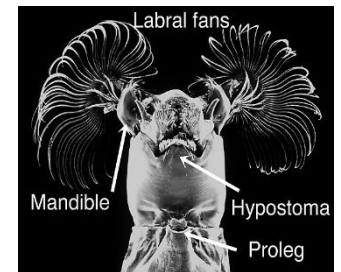
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



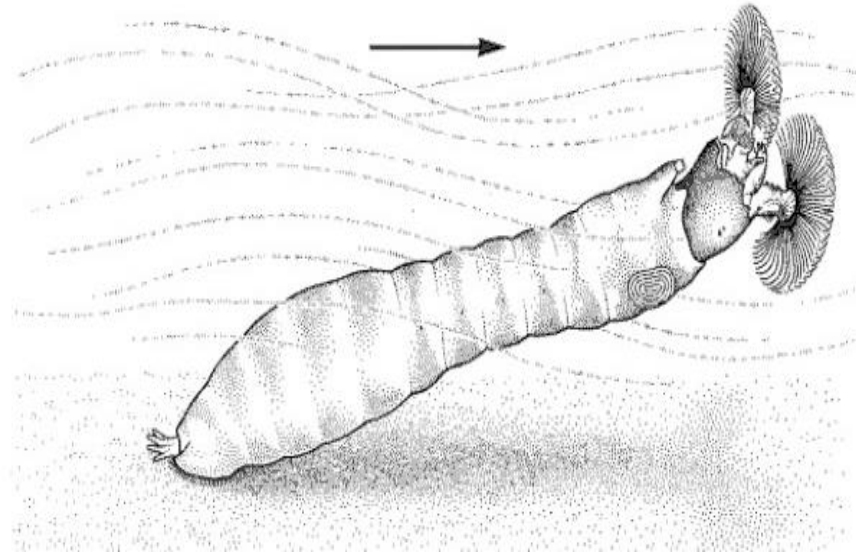
Blackfly- Larva

Tolerant

Order – Diptera



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Blackfly larvae make a sticky silk pad on their posterior to anchor themselves to the substrate. They will open their labral fans to filter their food out of the water and then sweep their fan through their mouth to eat it.

K

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



NON-BITING MIDGE - Larva

Tolerant

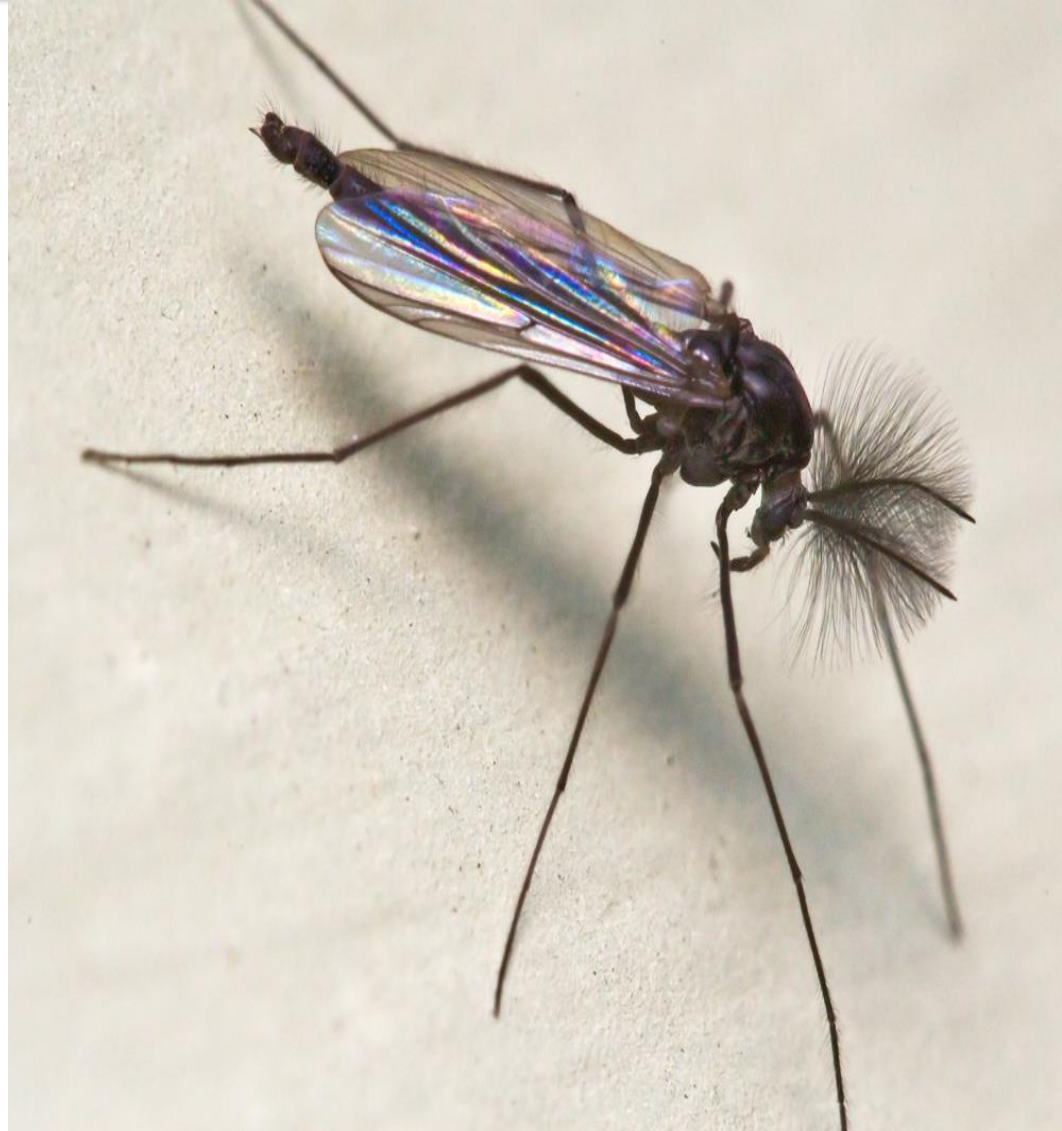
Order - Diptera



L

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Adults look like
mosquitoes,
but do not bite.



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

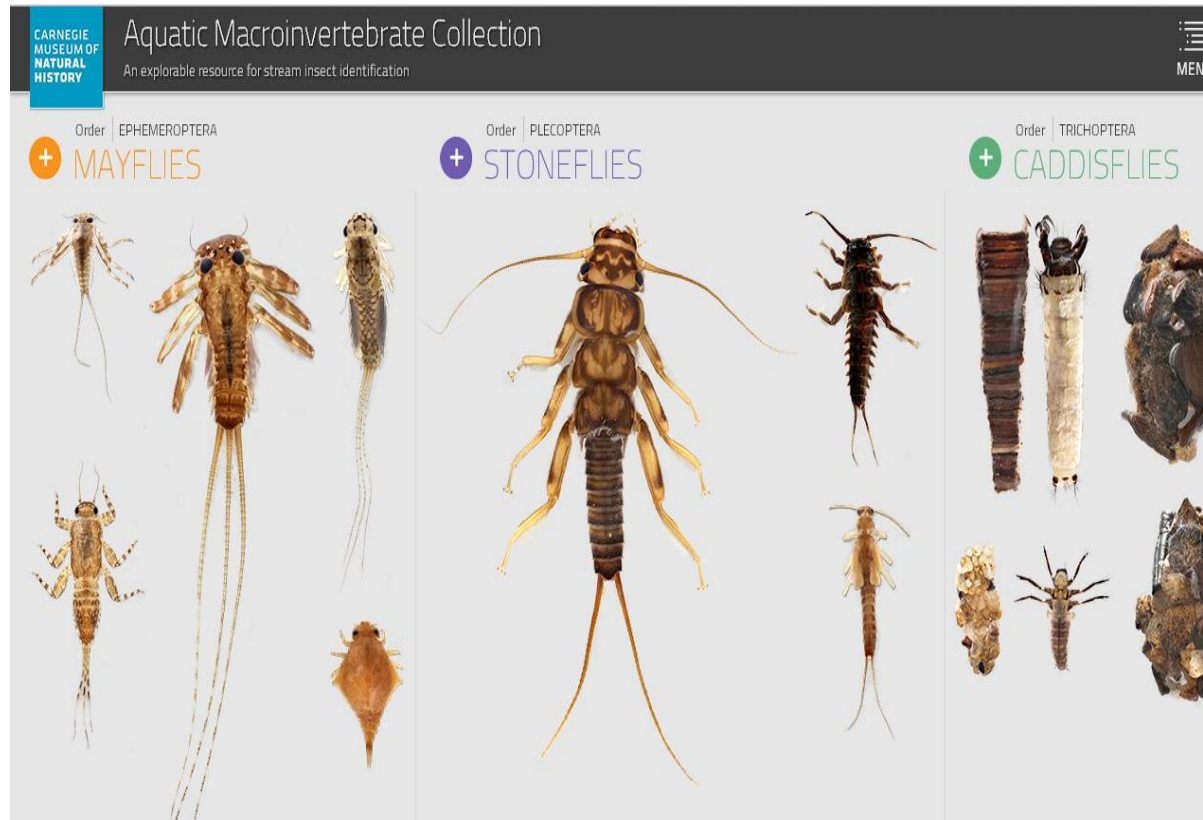


Increased pollution in Lake Victoria, Africa has led to drastic population decreases in fish species in the lake. With their predators removed, non-biting midges have been experiencing population explosions resulting in swarms of horrific proportions. The midges emerge from the lake as adults in massive smoke-like clouds that bring misery when they make landfall

...but also have a surprising upside.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcXsx8gpN9M>

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



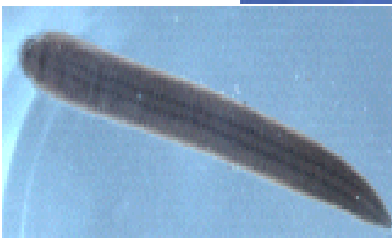
Awesome Resource!

<http://macroinvertebrates.org/>

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Other Phyla



- Subphylum **Crustacea**
 - Crayfish, Isopods, Amphipods
- Phylum **Mollusca**
 - Snails, Clams, Mussels
- Phylum **Annelida**
 - Segmented Worms (ie. leeches)

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Crustaceans

SCUDS →
(AMPHIPODS)
Somewhat Tolerant



M



← CRAYFISH
Somewhat
Tolerant

AQUATIC
SOWBUG →
Tolerant



N

O

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Mollusks



P

CLAM
Somewhat
Tolerant

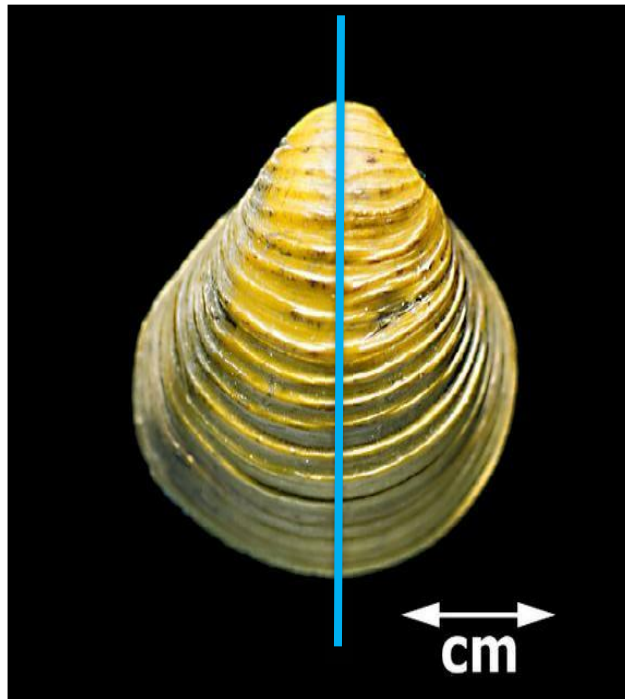
FRESHWATER MUSSEL
Somewhat
Tolerant

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

Clam

vs.

Freshwater mussel



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

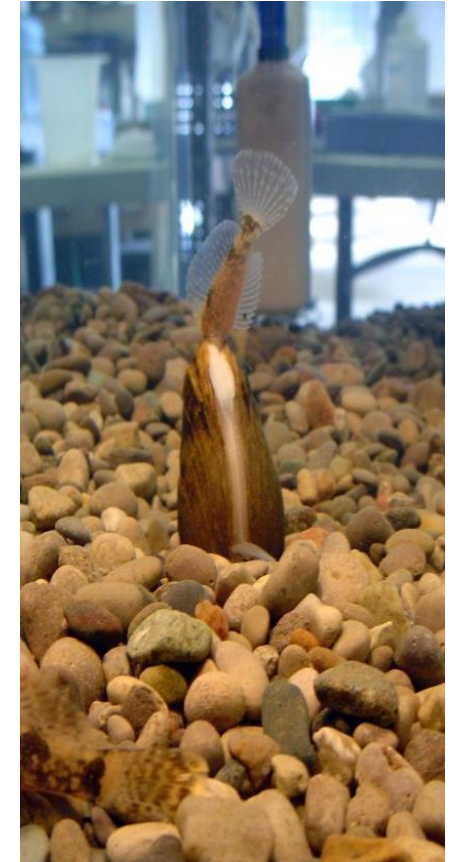


Freshwater mussels:

Deceptively fascinating

Almost all species of freshwater mussels use a fish host to spread their larvae, called glochidia (gluh-**kid**-ia). Their methods of transmission range from passive to deceptive to aggressive. By using a fish host as a vector of dispersal the mussel increases the chance that its offspring will not be too near to a parent and so will not be competition for resources.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoYTBjoWHkU>



Left: A freshwater mussel displays a lure that bears an incredible likeness to a darter, enticing predatory fish to attack the lure and rupture the sac containing the glochidia. Right: The Northern Riffleshell mussel (not native to MD) clamps onto its intended host and holds it lightly while it inoculates the fish's gills with glochidia. 93

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



0:47s

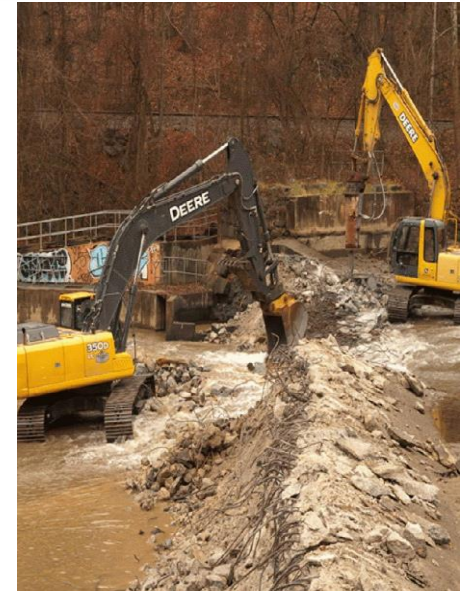
Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Interesting work going on right here at home!

Bloede Dam on the Patapsco River is being removed! Removing Bloede Dam, the lowermost dam on the river, will open up more than 44 miles of spawning habitat for blueback herring, alewife and American shad, and more than 180 miles of habitat for American eel. The American eel is the host for Eastern elliptio mussel glochidia, so removal of the dam will open up all that habitat to the mussels as well.

<https://www.americanrivers.org/patapsco/index.html>



American eel
(*Anguilla rostrata*)



Eastern elliptio
(*Elliptio complanata*)

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Identifying Right-handed vs. Left-handed snails

- Place the snail in your palm with the opening facing up and the umbo (spiral tip) pointing towards your fingers.
- If the opening is oriented to the right, it is a right-handed gilled snail and is sensitive to pollution.
- If the opening is oriented to the left, it is a left-handed lunged snail. The lunged snail has a sac-like lung, so it can escape out of the water for a short time if conditions are especially poor. This adaptation makes it pollution tolerant.



Gilled snail
(right-
handed)
Somewhat
Tolerant



Q

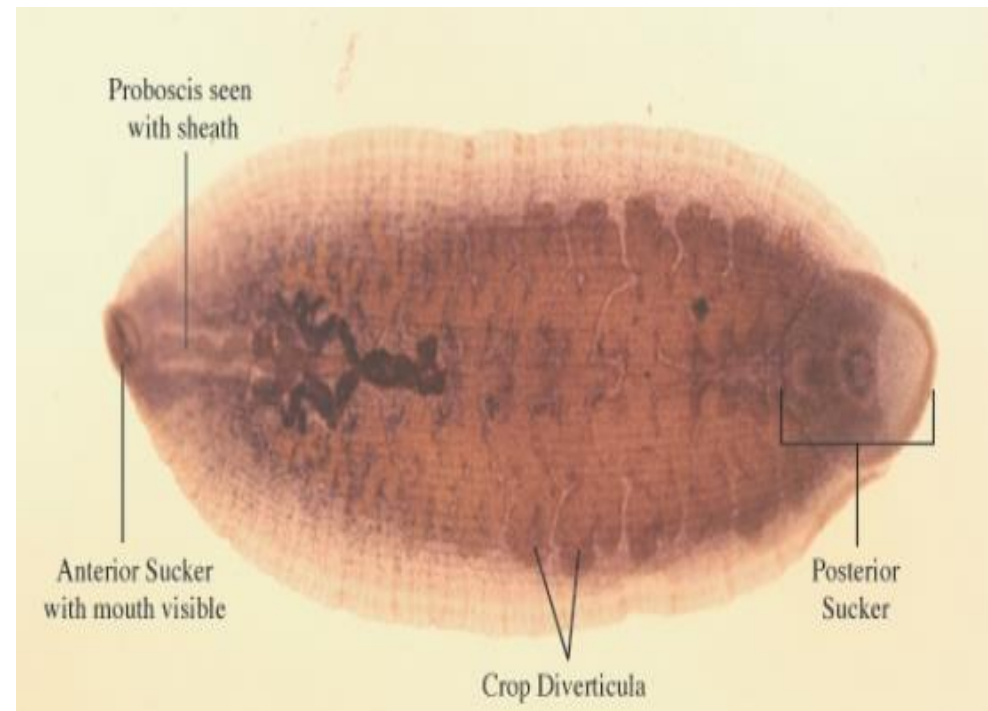
Lunged
snail
(left-
handed)
Tolerant

R

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

LEECH

Tolerant



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



AQUATIC WORM

Tolerant



aquarium-kosmos.de

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Non-biting midge vs. Aquatic worm



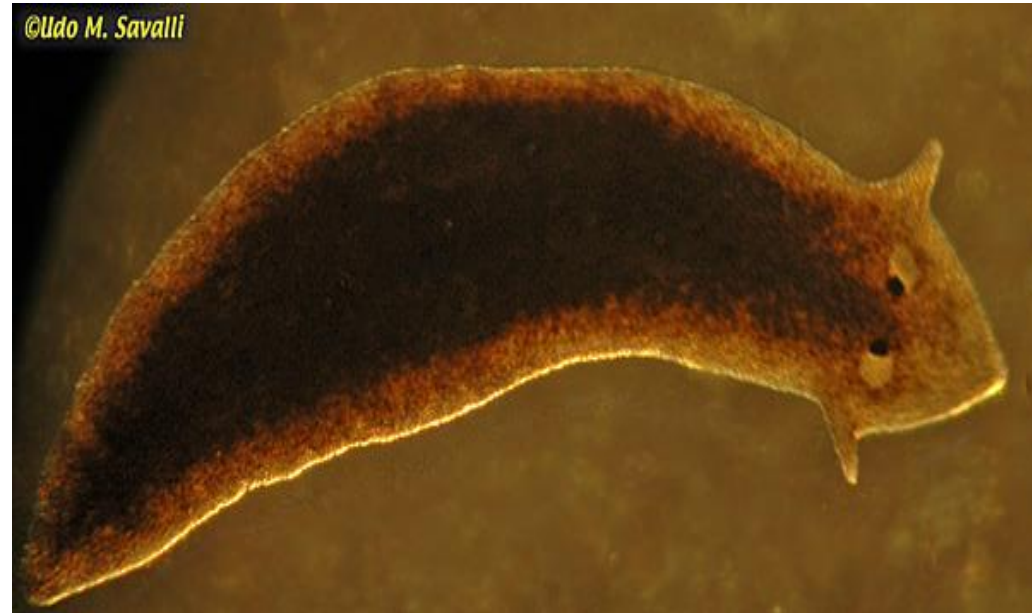
L

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



Planaria

Somewhat Tolerant



Explore and Restore Maryland Streams



For more information about the Explore and Restore Maryland Streams professional development workshops for educators contact:

Jen Wolfe

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Education Specialist, Conservation Education and Stewardship Center

Explore and Restore Maryland Streams

jennifer.wolfe1@maryland.gov

For more information about the Maryland Biological Stream Survey and content in this PowerPoint contact:

Dan Boward

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Natural Resources Biologist VI, Resource Assessment Service

dan.boward@maryland.gov

Sara Weglein

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Natural Resources Technician IV, Resource Assessment Service

sara.weglein@maryland.gov