Key to Macroinvertebrate Life in the River

Shells
- Single Shell
  - Spiral opening on left
  - Spiral opening on right
  - Conical
  - Tiny white
- Double Shell
  - 2 to 8 inches
  - Limpet
  - Fingernail Clam
  - Freshwater Clam

No Shells

Legs
- With tentacles, brushes or tails
  - Long breathing tube
  - Two fringed tails
  - Smooth "shift"
  - Small head
  - Large gray with tentacles
  - White or gray with tentacles
  - Red or greenish wing-like abdomen
  - Black, black
  - Black, attached to rocks, etc.
- Midge Larva
- Midge Pupa
- Blackfly Larva
- Leech
- Tubifex Worms
- Planaria or Fishworm
- Worm-like
  - Suckers, expands and contracts
  - Reddish brown
  - Glides along bottom
  - Small, wriggles
  - Swims in S shape
- Threadworm
  - Apodiscus shaped
  - Round
  - Swims with antennae
- Copepod or Cyclops
- Daphnia or Water Flea

Microscopic

No Legs

Wings
- No wings
- Beetle-like, wings hard
  - Small, crawl on bottom
  - Swims moving
  - Wind legs alternating
  - Back legs move at same time
  - Swims on surface
  - "Crawls" through water spotted
- Riffle Beetle
- Water Scavenger Beetle
- Predaceous Diving Beetle
- Whirligig Beetle
- Crawling Water Beetle
- Leathery Wings
  - Lives on surface
  - Grazing on bottom
  - Up to three inches
  - Swims on back
  - Back white
  - Back black
  - Long, "stick-like"
- Water Strider
- Giant Water Bug
- Backswimmer
- Water Boatman

One or Two Tails
- Dark head, green or tan body
  - Small, spines on side
  - Large mouthparts, spines on side
  - Tail long and stiff
  - Fat gills on abdomen
- Alderfly Larva
- Dobsonfly or Fishfly Larva
- Stonefly Nymph
- Mayfly Nymph
- Long tails, gills on abdomen

Three Tails
- Large legs, teardrop gills
- Plate-like tails, no gills on abdomen
- Mayfly Nymph
- Mayfly Nymph
- Damsel Nymph
- Water Scorpion

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