

Pond Guide



Clubtail Dragonfly

Order Odonata
Family Gomphidae
Wing pads on back, short spatula-shaped mandible. Crawls slowly or swims by squirting water from the abdomen



Seed Shrimp

Class Ostracoda
Small fragile oval shells usually with speckled bluish/green markings. Moves by flicking a small fringe of hairs between the shells



Minnow Mayfly

Order Ephemeroptera
Family Baetidae
3 hair-like tails, Tiny gills on abdomen. Swim in straight, fast bursts of speed



Darter Dragonfly

Order Odonata
Family Aeschnidae
Wing pads on back, long abdomen, long flat mandible. Crawls slowly or swims by squirting water from the abdomen



Creeping Waterbug

Order Hemiptera
Family Naucoridae
Round body, sharp piercing beak, front legs forward for grasping. Swims fast with other four legs like it is running in water



Predaceous Diving Beetle

Order Coleoptera
Family Dytiscidae
Smooth black or brown color often with yellow stripes or dots. Hind legs with big flat segments fringed with long hairs for swimming. Flat oval body



Copepod

Subphylum Crustacea
Class Maxillopoda
Tiny shrimp-like specks. Usually greenish blue or light-colored. Swim with quick, jerky, flicking motion



Flat-head Mayfly

Order Ephemeroptera
Family Heptageniidae
Flat head, flat body, 3 hair-like tails. Gills upright on back of abdomen. Swim in slow wave-like undulating motions



Water Scavenger Beetle

Order Coleoptera
Family Hydrophilidae
Smooth black or brown. Hind legs thin with short hairs or spines. Swims fast. Rounded body, often with a long spine on underside

Excellent Water Quality (3 pts. each) Multiply the number checked x 3= _____



Midge

Order Diptera
Family Chironomidae
Looks like a short tiny worm. Wiggles to swim. Often curved in the shape of a "C".



Whirligig Beetle

Order Coleoptera
Family Gyrrinidae
Black and shiny. Swims on surface in circular motion. Front legs for grabbing, back legs for swimming. Eyes split into two pairs (up and down)



Skimmer Dragonfly

Order Odonata
Family Libellulidae
Wing pads on back, mask-shaped mandible. Crawls slowly or swims by squirting water from the abdomen



Water Scorpion

Order Hemiptera
Family Nepidae
Long thin body, sharp beak, front legs for grasping. Two long tails that form a breathing tube.



Crayfish

Subphylum Crustacea
Order Decapoda
Resemble small lobsters. Long antenna and five pairs of legs



Backswimmer

Order Hemiptera
Family Notonectidae
Light colored body. Swims like upside-down row boat with long hind legs. Large eyes and sharp piercing beak



Spreadwing Damselfly

Order Odonata
Family Lestidae
Hammerhead eyes, long thin abdomen, 3 gills on tail. Crawls slowly or swims with a short wriggling burst



Water Boatman

Order Hemiptera
Family Corixidae
Dark colored body. Swims with long hind legs like a rowboat. Large eyes and sharp piercing beak



Narrow-winged Damselfly

Order Odonata
Family Coenagrionidae
Hammerhead eyes, 3 gills on tail. Crawls mostly but can swim slowly with wiggle motions



Crawling Water Beetle

Order Coleoptera
Family Halipidae
Small beetles, yellow and black spots. Oval abdomen with narrow head and shoulders



Water Strider

Order Hemiptera
Family Gerridae
Skate on the surface of water. Long thin body, short stubby front legs, but 4 long legs. Dark or black color



Scud

Subphylum Crustacea
Order Amphipoda
Resemble small shrimp with short antenna. Swim fast on their sides in circles and arcs. Usually hunched over in the shape of a "C"



Water Mite

Class Arachnida
SubClass Acari
Tiny, round bodies with eight short, thin legs. Glide smoothly through the water in arcs and circles. Green, blue or red

Good Water Quality (2 pts. each) Multiply the number checked x 2 = _____



Aquatic worm

Phylum Annelidae
Class Oligochaeta
Long body with ringed segments. Looks like a skinny, pink earthworm. Sometimes with thin filaments on tail end



No See-ums

Order Diptera
Family Ceratopogonidae
Tiny, thin and hair-like. Often transparent and hard to see. Swim in fast, serpentine motion.



Horsefly

Order Diptera
Family Tabanidae
Long, fat, worm-like body. Pointed on both ends. Segments of abdomen have rings and several pairs of short stumpy lobes. Crawls like a caterpillar.



Crane Fly

Order Diptera
Family Tipulidae
Long, fat, worm-like body. Translucent skin. Finger-like lobes on the end of abdomen. Crawls like a caterpillar.



Rams-horn Snail

Class Gastropoda
Family Planorbidae
Disk-like spiral like a ram's horn. Dark brown, slowly glide over surfaces leaving sticky trail



Flatworm

Phylum Platyhelminthes
Class Turbellaria
Soft, flat, arrow-shaped body. Two eyespots on head, small feeding tube on belly. Glide slowly on surfaces leaving a sticky trail.



Left-Handed Pouch Snail

Class Gastropoda
Family Physidae
Shell opening will be on left-side when spire pointed up. Dark brown with light speckles, glides over surfaces leaving sticky trail



Leech

Phylum Annelidae
Subclass Hirudinea
Flattened body, suction cups on both ends of body. Move like inchworms



Giant Water Bug

Order Hemiptera
Family Belostomatidae
Flat, oval body, sharp beak, front legs for grasping, Wings overlap. Swims slowly with long legs. Often males carry eggs on their back.



Bloodworm Midge

Order Diptera
Family Chironomidae
Bright red and wiggles to swim. Looks like a short, tiny bright red worm



Water Flea

Subphylum Crustacea
Class Cladocera
Tiny oval-shaped and transparent. Long "arms" that flick rapidly for clumsy or jerky swimming motion

Poor Water Quality (1 pt. each) Multiply the number checked x 1 = _____

Total Points:

Excellent (>40 pts.) Good (39-30 pts.) Fair (29-20 pts.) Poor (<20 pts.)