Macroinvertebrate Match-Up Pond Animal Fact Cards

Dragonflies

- Are called nymphs when young.
- Live underwater as nymphs.
- Propel themselves through the water by pushing water in and out of their abdomens (as nymphs).
- Hold their wings perpendicular to their tails when resting (as adults).

Damselflies

- Are called nymphs when young.
- Live underwater as nymphs.
- Wiggle their bodies from side to side to swim (as nymphs).
- Hold their wings in line with their tail when resting (as adults).

Crawfish/Crayfish

- Are related to lobsters and shrimp.
- Can swim faster backwards than forwards.
- Are more active at night.
- Have five pairs of legs, including the pincers.

Glass/Grass Shrimp

- Are clear and look similar to glass.
- Are up to 1 inch in length.
- Eat mostly plant material.
- Prefer shallow water.
- Have five pairs of legs.

Water Scorpions

- Are insects, not true scorpions.
- Come in thin and fat varieties.
- Have breathing tubes, not singers, on their abdomens.
- Use their front pincers to grab prey.

Predacious Diving Beetles

- Are called larvae when they are young.
- Are often larger as larvae than as adults.
- Have strong jaws for grabbing prey.
- Use saliva to paralyze prey.



Pond Snails

- Have shells that open on different sides, depending on how they breathe (left for lungs or right for gills).
- Have soft bodies inside their shells.
- Have two sensory tentacles on their heads.
- Shred food with their radulas (tongue-like structures).





Water Striders

- Skate on the water.
- Have tiny hairs on their feet to keep them on top of the water.
- Are sometimes mistakenly called spiders. They are really insects. (Each has 6 legs and 2 antennae.)
- Often gather in groups.



