Look Closely at Water





Student Data Worksheet

1.	Collect a water sample using a bucket. Scrape	
	the net along the bottom of the water body	
	if possible (macroinvertebrates like to live on	
	the bottom of the stream and under rocks).	
2.	Draw a picture of your water sample:	

3. Using a dichotomous key, identify as many types of macroinvertebrates as possible in your water sample. Also, count the number of each type of macroinvertebrate and record that, too.

Picture	Name of Macroinvertebrate	How many of this type are in your sample?	Is this organism tolerant (red square) or intolerant (green star)?

- 4. Go back to your chart and classify the macroinvertebrates you identified as either tolerant (T), moderate (M) or intolerant (I). (Hint: Stoneflies, mayflies and caddisflies, are intolerant of any stressor; dragonflies, damselslies, scuds and craneflies are moderate; midges, leeches, pouch snails and tubifex worms are tolerant of many stressors.)
- 5. Conclusion: How healthy is the water you sampled? Write a paragraph and justify your answer.