

# AMI Word Search



Search for the words in **bold** in the puzzle above. Words are arranged up, down, and backwards.

**Aquatic** macro **invertebrates** (AMI) are important to the overall health of our waters. They provide food for larger members of the food web, and are **indicators** of water quality. This means that we can tell how healthy the water is by what types of AMI's live there.

Many AMI's are **insects** that spend most of their life underwater, and part of their life above water. Some have an **incomplete** life cycle (egg – **nymph** – adult) and include mayflies and stoneflies as examples. Some have a **complete** life cycle (egg – larva- **pupa** – adult) and include caddis flies, and midges. AMI's that have a complete life cycle go through a change called **metamorphosis** that makes the adult look different from the larva.

**Mayfly** nymphs can have two or three tails. They have **gills** on their **abdomen**, and they are usually good swimmers. Mayflies live in lakes, creeks and large rivers. **Stonefly** nymphs always have two tails, gills on their **thorax**, and crawl or walk from place to place. Stoneflies are found in rocky, fast moving **rivers**. **Caddis fly larva** build cases around themselves built out of small pebbles, twigs, or dead plants. Caddis flies prefer rivers but can be found in **lakes** as well.