

Create a Winter Stream Food Web

In Minnesota, our rivers and streams are home to many different animals, including trout, frogs, snails, and insects! The insects that are part of these ecosystems are important to keeping streams healthy and thriving, and some are even active at sub-zero temperatures. For this activity, you will help create a winter stream food web.



What is a stream food web?

A stream food web is a system of interlocking food chains that show “who eats who” in a stream community.



Instructions

1. Pick an animal card from the pile.
2. Read the clues on the back of the card to learn more about the animal.
3. Based on those clues, place the animal card into an empty square on the food web where you think it fits best!
4. Repeat steps 1-3 until every card has been placed in the food web
5. How did you do? Check your answers by flipping over the KEY to reveal the answers



Helpful Definitions

- **Insect:** Animals that have 6 segmented legs, an exoskeleton, and 3 segmented body parts (head, thorax, and abdomen).
- **Shredder:** Animals that shred up or break leaves and eat the microorganisms that live on the leaves.
- **Collector:** An animal that collects and feeds on small organic material.
- **Scraper:** An animal that eats algae in streams by scraping it off of rocks or logs.
- **Predator:** An animal that eats other animals.



About BBZ

Bugs Below Zero is an interdisciplinary team of experts from the agricultural and environmental sciences, science communication, entomology, fisheries, wildlife, and conservation biology disciplines. *Scan the QR code to learn more!*

The University of Minnesota Bugs Below Zero project funded by the Minnesota Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) aims to research and raise awareness of winter active aquatic insects.



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