

A Healthy Creek

Clean Water, Diverse Creatures

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHETHER A CREEK IS HEALTHY? Look at the water quality and the animal life in and around the creek. A healthy creek has clean, clear water, and it is home to many aquatic insects and other animals. Some aquatic invertebrates*, such as mayflies, are very sensitive to pollution. Biologists can learn a lot about a creek's health just by looking at the creatures that call it home.

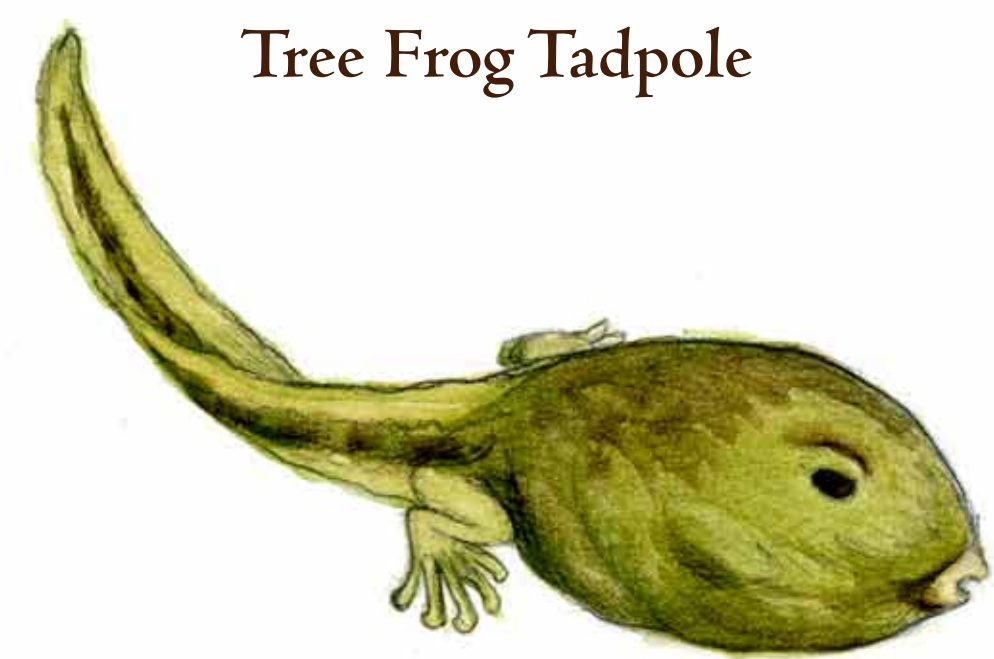
CREEKS ARE DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENTS that spread out during floods, meander through valleys, and pool and rush around rocks. This varied water flow is critical to a creek's health, and the health of its inhabitants.

WHEN YOU VISIT A CREEK, LOOK CLOSELY: can you see any of the animals shown here? The more you can find, the healthier the creek is. Please help to keep the creek healthy by not disturbing rocks and vegetation as you explore.

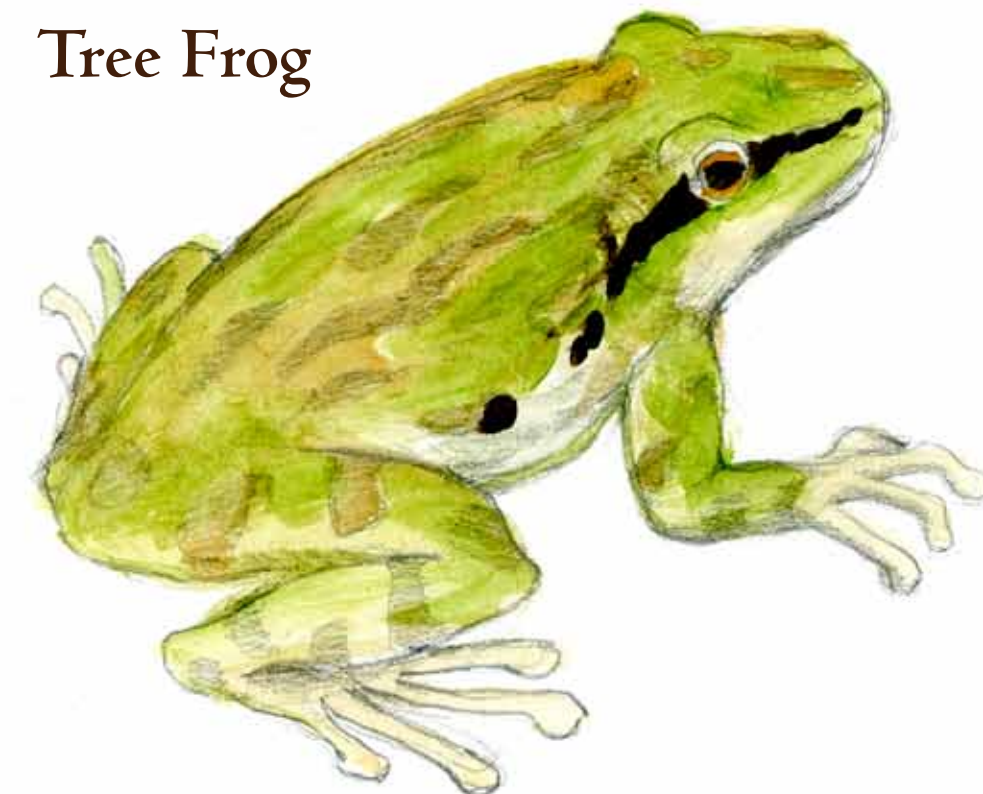
*What is an invertebrate? It is an animal that doesn't have a backbone. All insects, including the four species pictured here, are invertebrates, but not all invertebrates are insects. Can you think of other invertebrates?



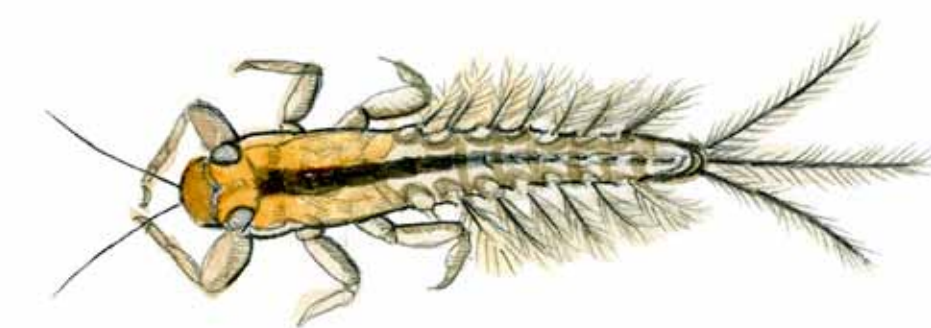
American Dipper



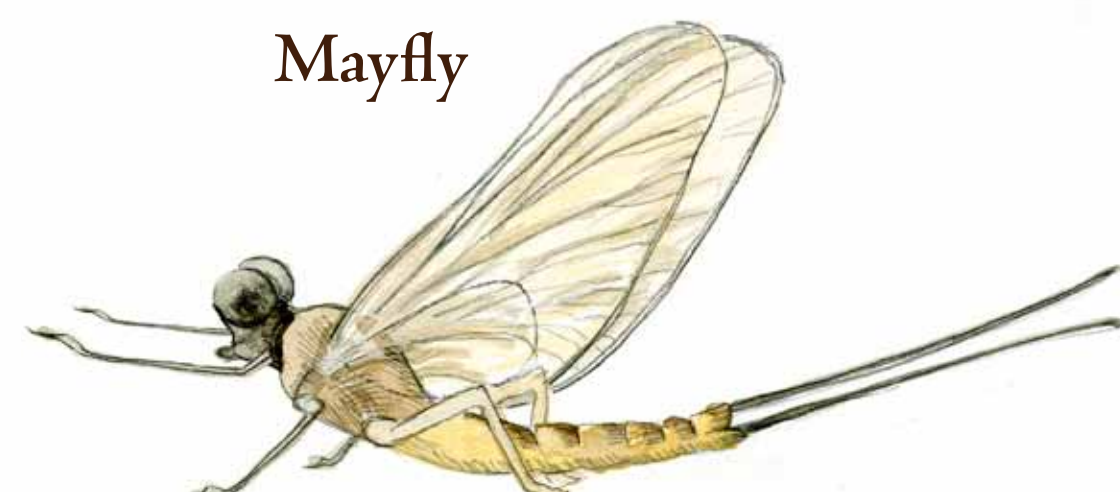
Tree Frog Tadpole



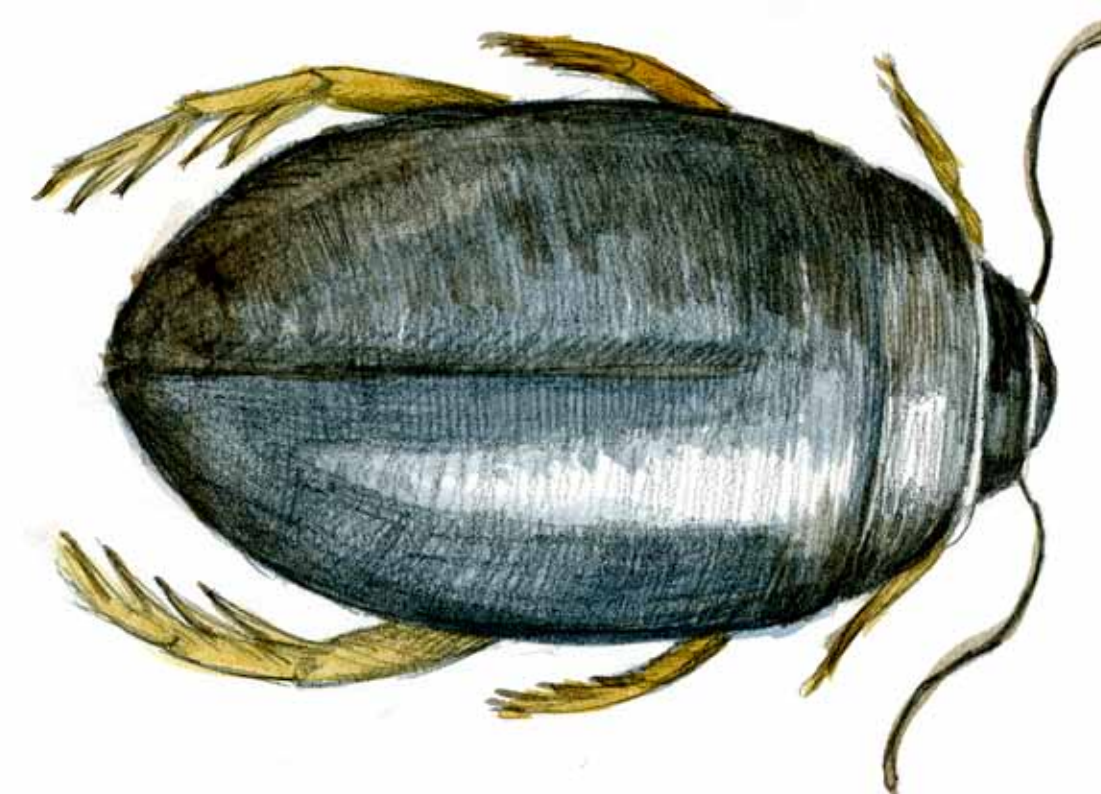
Tree Frog



Mayfly Naiad



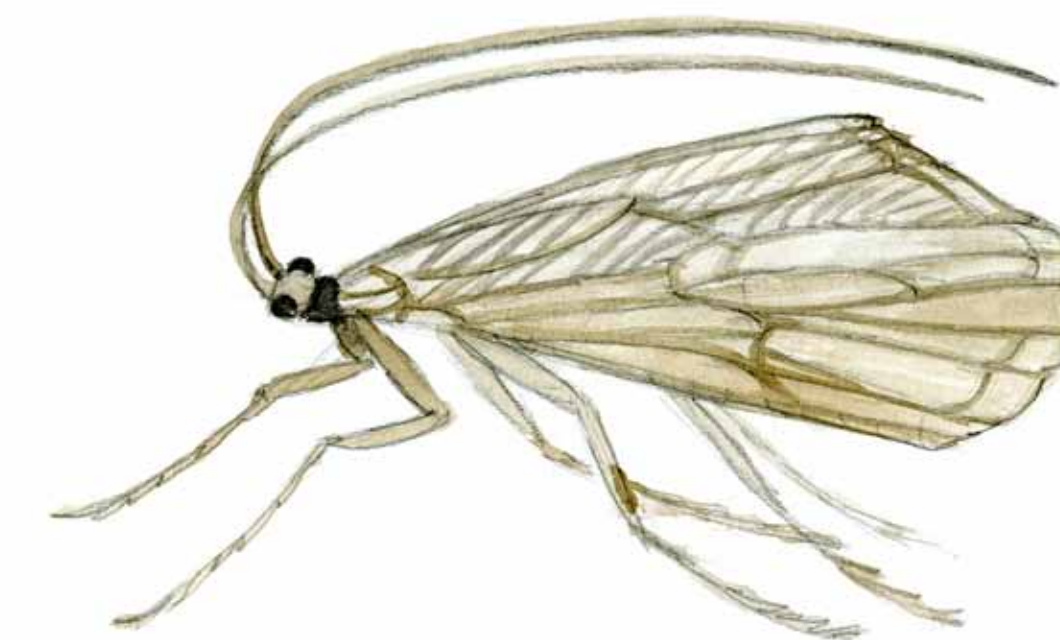
Mayfly



Predaceous Water Beetle



Predaceous Water Beetle Larva



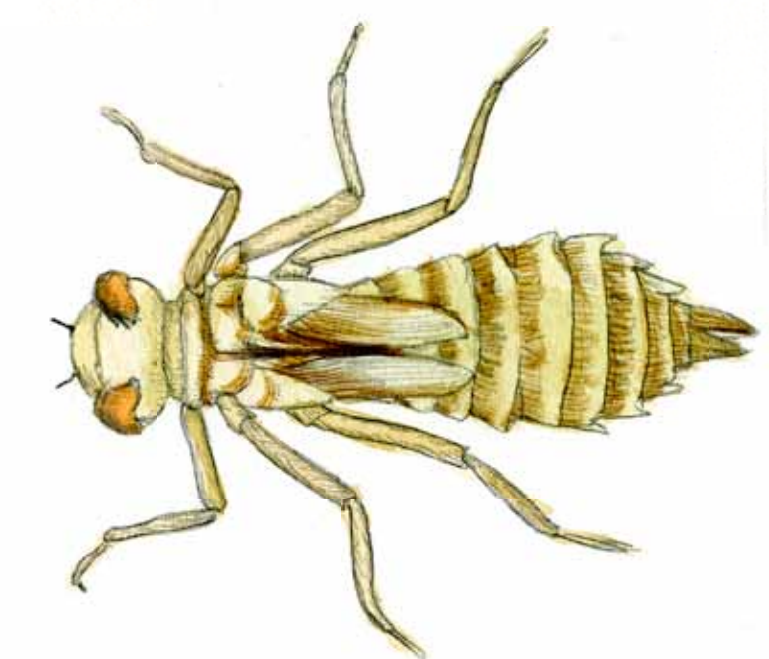
Caddisfly



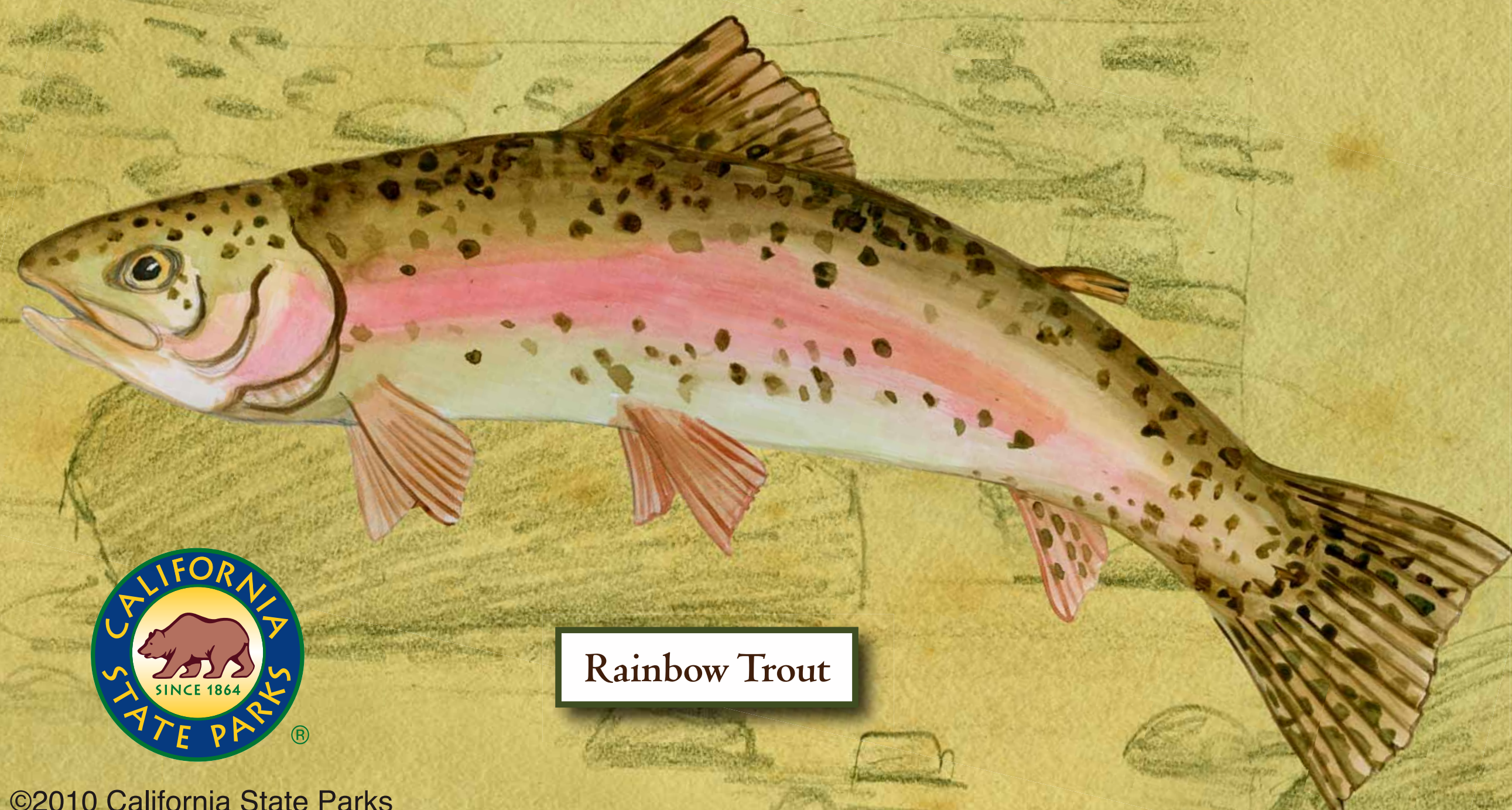
Caddisfly Larva



Dragonfly



Dragonfly Naiad



Rainbow Trout

