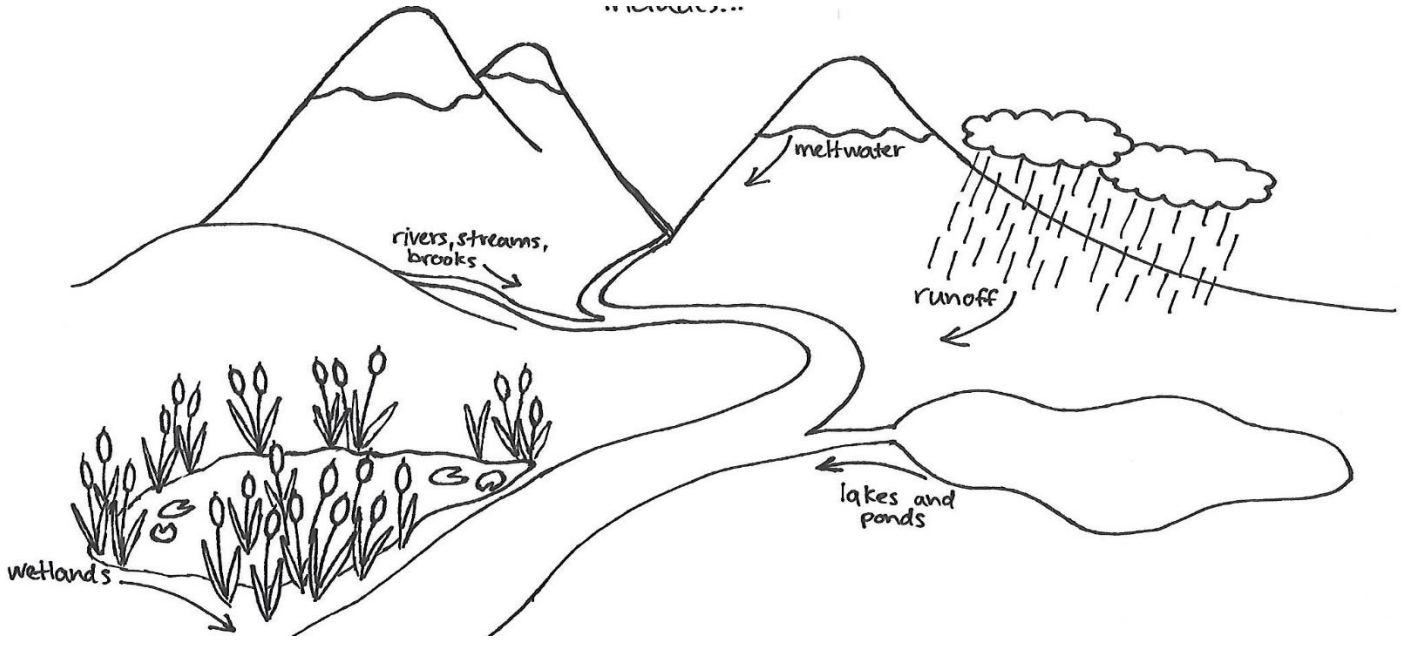




A watershed is an entire area of land that drains into one body of water, including...

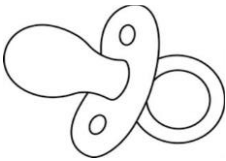


The Nashwaak Watershed Association is working on a restoration project in the Marysville Flats that includes planting silver maple trees in the floodplain. **Silver maple trees are very beneficial to the floodplain environment... see if you can figure out the reasons why!**

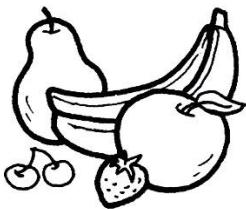
1. _____



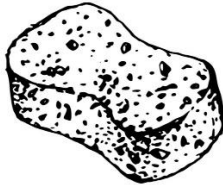
2. _____



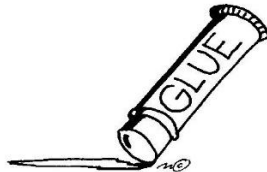
3. _____



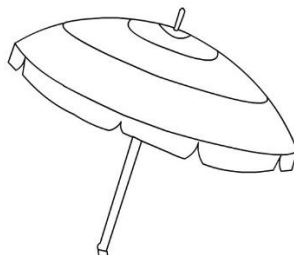
4. _____



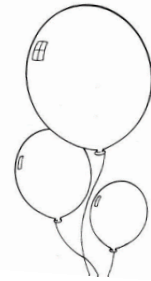
5. _____



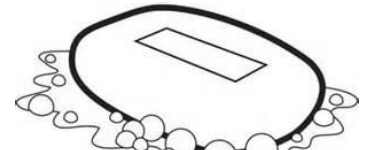
6. _____



7. _____



8. _____



Answers: 1. Homes for animals, 2. Place to raise young, 3. Food for animals, 4. Absorb water, prevent flooding, 5. Roots hold soil together, prevent erosion, 6. Shade water and reduce temperature, 7. Clean air and produce oxygen, 8. Clean runoff before it reaches the river.

On NWA field trips, students go **Critter Dipping** and learn about **benthic macroinvertebrates!** If we break down this big scientific term, it means: *benthic- living on the bottom of a body of water (the benthos); macro- big enough to see with the naked eye; invertebrate- an animal that does not have a backbone (for example, insects)*. So when we say benthic macroinvertebrates, we just mean all the aquatic insects living on the bottom of our rivers and ponds!

These insects are **bioindicators**, which means that they are living creatures that can tell us about the health of the environment! Some insects - like mayflies and caddisflies - cannot tolerate pollution, so if we find them it means our water is very clean and healthy! Other critters - like leeches - can live in very polluted water, so if we find them it means the water isn't very clean!

What critters and other watershed words can you find in this word search?

I	E	R	O	S	I	O	N	I	W	Y	B	C	E	BIOINDICATOR
W	W	A	T	E	R	B	U	G	L	I	I	R	A	BENTHIC
D	I	E	L	O	W	C	E	F	O	H	E	F	N	INVERTEBRATE
R	R	L	E	N	E	V	S	I	T	N	M	C	D	CADDISFLY
A	I	A	E	W	F	I	N	N	O	F	A	A	D	LARVA
G	V	R	C	L	D	D	E	M	B	N	M	E	A	NYMPH
O	E	V	H	D	I	B	A	R	A	S	N	A	O	DRAGONFLY
N	R	A	A	C	P	O	N	D	E	Y	D	D	N	MAYFLY
F	E	C	A	K	N	F	I	L	E	V	F	Y	H	DAMSELFY
L	B	T	Y	I	G	T	F	Y	A	L	M	L	W	WATERBUG
Y	O	E	A	W	I	L	L	O	W	P	A	R	Y	LEECH
R	L	A	K	E	Y	E	A	D	H	O	R	H	L	WILLOW
I	N	V	E	R	T	E	B	R	A	T	E	E	O	EROSION
A	L	H	A	E	O	L	A	M	R	I	A	I	A	RIVER
														LAKE
														POND



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