

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ CLASS PERIOD: _____

NOTES SHEET: *STREAM FOOD WEBS*

Important vocabulary:

- _____: dead _____ and _____ material
 - Where does most stream detritus come from?
- _____: an organism that consumes detritus
- _____: an organism that makes its own food (_____ and _____ → _____)
- _____: organism that cannot make its own food and must _____ other organisms
- _____: the position an organism occupies in a _____



“Brown” vs. “Green” food webs

- What forms the base of most food webs that *you* know of?
 - _____!
 - These _____-based food webs are sometimes called _____ **food webs**
- In some ecosystems, _____ and other decaying organic material is the base of the food web!
 - These _____-based food webs are sometimes called _____ **food webs**

Are your rivers and streams “brown” or “green”?

- Leaf litter from surrounding trees forms the base of the food web in _____ streams in Appalachia = more “brown”
- Leaf detritus input from terrestrial (_____) ecosystems around streams and rivers is **HUGELY important!**
- As stream order increases, rivers _____, _____, and more plants are able to grow = more “green”

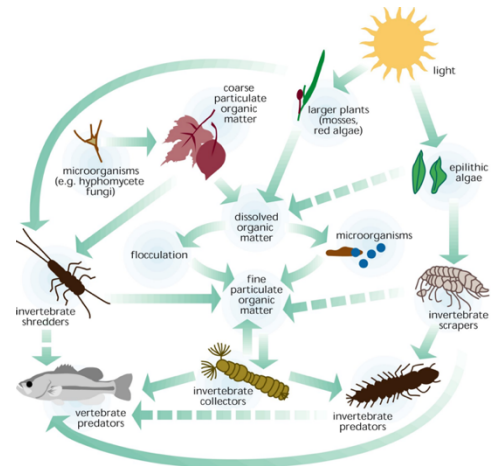


Food web stability

- A _____ food web is less likely to be affected by _____
- More complex food webs, with more _____ between organisms, are generally more stable than those with fewer links
- This is why each species in a food web is important! _____ in one can affect many others.

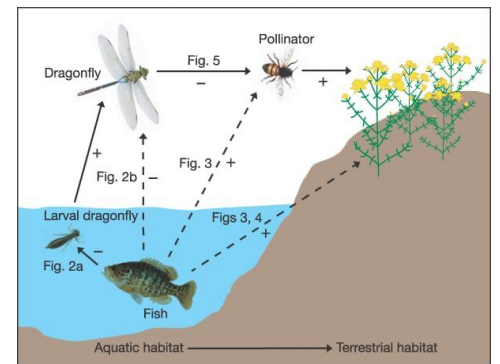
Aquatic/Terrestrial Links

- _____: when things are passed from one ecosystem to another
 - _____
 - _____
- In streams, this link is very important
 - _____ from trees is #1 source of nutrients
 - Many terrestrial _____ (dragonflies, stoneflies, and MANY others) spend the early parts of their lifecycle in streams before leaving to become adults



The importance of predators

- Predators can impact both the _____ and _____ (how many there are) of prey
- These effects can be transmitted down through the food web, affecting many other organisms, even in other ecosystems!



How does the hellbender fit in?

- Hellbenders primarily eat _____ and small bottom-dwelling _____
- Help to maintain balance in crayfish populations – _____ of their diet!
- **Myth:** "Hellbenders eat fish and the eggs of fish that I like to fish for!"
 - No _____ have ever been found in a hellbender's stomach
 - No evidence for impact on _____

