

## X-Stream Exploration

**Ages:** Grades 3-8

**Time:** 45 minutes - 1 hour

**No. of participants:** 10-12  
1+

**No. of additional adults:**

### **Required supplies:**

- laminated Macroinvertebrates identification sheets
- nets of assorted sizes and carrying container
- collection containers
- hand lenses
- large seine net
- *Let campers know beforehand that they will be going into the creek and should dress appropriately and wear something on their feet that can get wet. Participants could also bring a towel.*

**Objective:** To get into Drift Creek and find, collect, and identify living organisms in the creek.

### **Activity Instructions**

#### **1. Introduction:**

- a. Today we will be actually getting into Drift Creek and collecting living organisms from it!
- b. Before we go a reminder to be safe during this activity; the rocks are very slippery - no horsing around! Also, we will have more luck collecting things if we are quiet. So please, no splashing, jumping, or running through the water. Everybody understand? Good, let's go down to the stream!

#### **2. Main Activity:**

- a. Each of you will get one of these nets and one of these containers. Look for animals including worms and insects (look for all sizes - many are going to be very small) in and around the creek - remember to check under rocks! Carefully collect the organisms that you find using your net. Anything you find that you'd like to examine further should be placed in one of these collection containers depending on its size.
- b. You will have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes (20 minutes should be sufficient) to search around this area of the stream (which should be scouted out and decided on by one of the leaders beforehand).
- c. Before ending, make a couple runs with the seine net. Have adults hold either end while the students splash around upstream, pushing organisms into the net.
- d. Once the time is up, get everyone out of the creek - allow them to dry off with their towels while the collection supplies are collected and counted.
- e. Gather the campers around and go through all of the creek-life they found by showing and passing around what was collected.

#### **3. Conclusion:**

- a. Wrap up by reminding them how we have an important role in keeping this creek, and others like it, healthy.
  - i. Why should we take care of creek ecosystems?

- b. How could we take care of creeks like this one? (Possible answers - don't pollute it, be gentle with the animals we find in and around it, don't change its flow, etc.)*
- c. Say a prayer thanking God for Drift Creek and the things we learned together today.*