

! This symbol means these critters may bite, so please be careful when exploring.

ANSWERS
+INFO

HIDE N SEEK

BLOOD WORM



Size: Up to 20mm
Beware, this carnivorous worm has 4 sets of jaws and injects venom in to its prey before eating it.

BACKSWIMMER



Size: Up to 11mm.
Just like their name suggests, this bug swims on its' back feeding on insects, small fish and even tadpoles.

RIVER SNAIL



Size: Up to 25mm.
Freshwater snails breathe with either lungs or gills and even use a siphon like a snorkel.

STONEFLY NYMPH



Size: 7-12mm
The stonefly larva is an important food source for many fish and bugs. They attract a mate by tapping their body on rocks or logs.

WATER MITE



Size: Up to 5mm.
A very tiny water bug with 8 legs and 2 pairs of eyes that eat their prey by piercing and sucking out their innards.

MAYFLY NYMPH



Size: Up to 15mm.
The Mayfly larva will live under water for 2-3 years going through 20 transformation phases.

WATER STRIDER



Size: 8-12mm.
Looking like a flattened spider, this bug has long middle and back legs found gliding over the surface of the water.

CADDISFLY NYMPH



Size: Up to 20mm.
This larva is one very strange critter that creates a protective casing around their body out of silk, twigs or plant material.

WHIRLIGIG BEETLE



Size: 5-25mm size.
The Whirligig has specialised paddle-like legs and split eyes that let them have both under and above water vision.

NEMATODE WORM



Size: Up to 12mm.
A thin long worm with no segments and a body that is almost see through. It can be found burrowing in to the ground.

FRESHWATER SANDHOPPER



Size: 6-20mm long.
Just like their name suggests, when disturbed, this critter will hop or flip over. Their legs are used for swimming or walking.

DRAGONFLY NYMPH



Size: 12-50mm.
With large eyes and 6 legs, dragonflies spend most of their life in this larva stage sometimes up to 4 years.



ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Using the Waterbugs Hide n Seek sheet, explore a waterway such as a creek, river or pond to find the critters in the pictures.

You may wish to carefully turn over rocks, logs and search the sand to find critters. Or even use a net or viewing tray and magnify glass to view specimens.

Please respect the environment, return all critters to their home, and leave nothing but footprints.

Be aware of potentially hazardous critters listed along with ticks, leeches, mosquitoes and snakes found in this environment.



SUGGESTED LOCATIONS

Coffs By Nature's favourite places to explore the rainforest:

- Woolgoolga Waterfall & Lake
- Coffs Creek
- Red Rock
- Bonville Creek
- Bucca Bucca Creek (near picnic area at Bruxner Park)
- Orara River
- Urumbilum River



FURTHER RESOURCES

OFFLINE:

• Become an entomologist (insect scientist) and print out a waterbug species identification key to identify more aquatic critters.

• Take a sketch book and art supplies in to the field and record your waterbug specimens with artistic flare.

ONLINE: For more aquatic critter action check out The National Waterbug Blitz online platform: <https://www.waterbugblitz.org.au>

App: The Waterbug App 
Become a citizen science and complete waterway surveys to contribute data.

Social Media: @waterbugblitz  

