



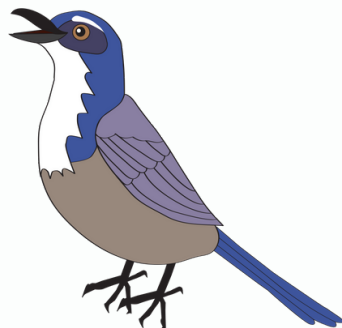
RIPARIAN










RIPARIAN BINGO

Let's play BINGO!

Riparian areas have a great diversity of invertebrates, like slugs and insects. Keep a lookout for animal prints in the mud but don't slip! Try to find three in a row - across, down, or diagonal.

DID YOU KNOW? Our riparian habitats have endangered species, like the steelhead trout. The habitat is very sensitive, so make sure you follow the Park Rules!



Fern 	FREE SQUARE 	Chewed Leaf 
Newt 	Animal Track 	Fungi 
Banana Slug 	Fish 	Water Strider 



RIPARIAN

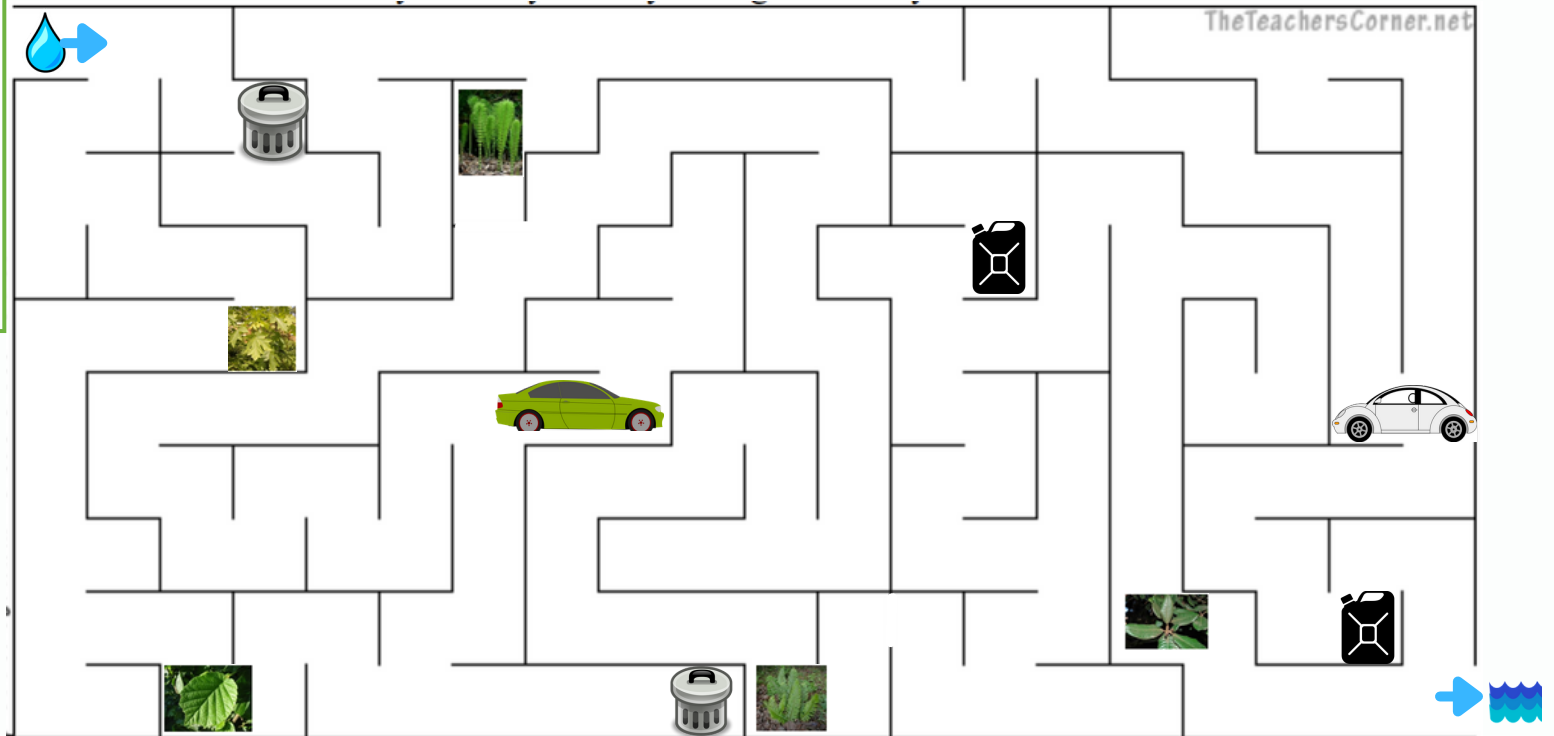
WATERSHED MAZE

The surrounding area that washes into a specific creek or river is called a watershed - for example, the area around Pescadero Creek is the Pescadero-Butano watershed. A clean watershed has a healthy forest, with a good balance of trees, shrubs, and grasses to help block and soak up any pollution.

Guide the water toward the stream. When you encounter a polluter or a plant, go right through but circle them! Pass through as many plants and avoid as much litter and as many cars and gas jugs as possible.

How many polluters did you go through? How many plants?

Would you say your watershed is healthy?



RIPARIAN

NATURE DETECTIVE

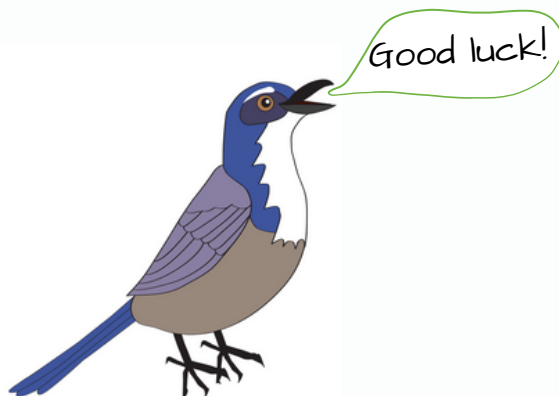
There are organisms all over this riparian area...

and we need a detective to find out which!

We are particularly interested in the FBI... fungi, bacteria, and invertebrates, the decomposers that break down dead stuff!

With such an important job, we need you to **find an FBI** and ensure it is hard at work. **Sketch the FBI** on the next page **and determine what it is decomposing**. Refer to the Case Files for more information.

We also need you to get a sense of the animals in this area. Use the Case Files to help find clues. **Circle which clues you saw** and guess what animal was there. **Write your guess** and a **sketch of your evidence** on the next page!



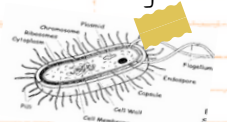
CASE FILES

Fungi, like mold and mushrooms, send out root-like branches underground to break down dead things. It takes 50 - 100 years for fungi to turn a fallen tree into dust.



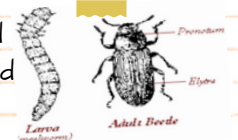
Last seen: On top and under a log

Bacteria are microscopic organisms that can live anywhere and recycle any dead thing. Together with fungi, bacteria are responsible for 80 - 90% of forest decomposition.



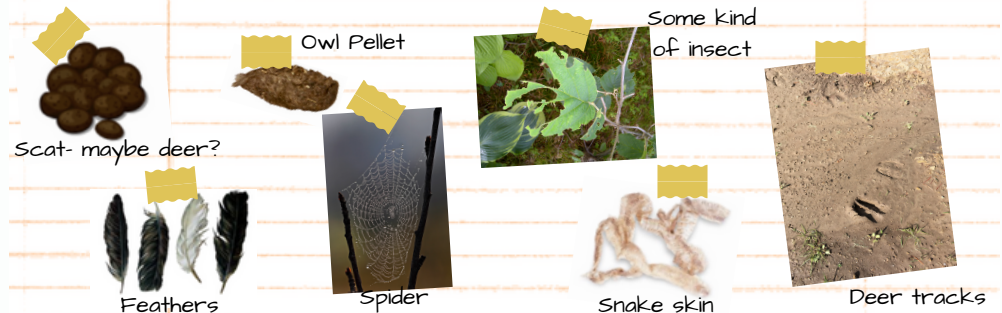
Last seen: Under a microscope

Invertebrates are animals without a backbone, like insects and worms. They break larger dead animals and plants into smaller pieces to be decomposed by fungi and bacteria.



Last seen: Under forest floor mulch

EVIDENCE OF OTHER ORGANISMS





RIPARIAN

NATURE DETECTIVE

Sketch the FBI

Sketch the animal evidence

Look back on the trail behind you. Can you find any evidence that you were there?

Look at your evidence vs. a member of your group's! Is there a difference? What is it?

TRY IT:

Make up a new track! Be sure to stay on the trail!