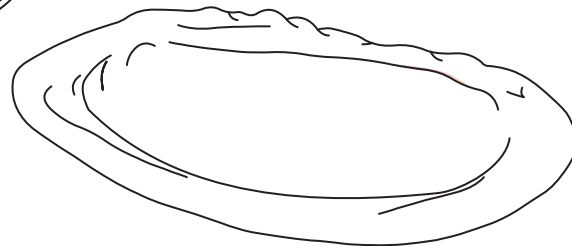
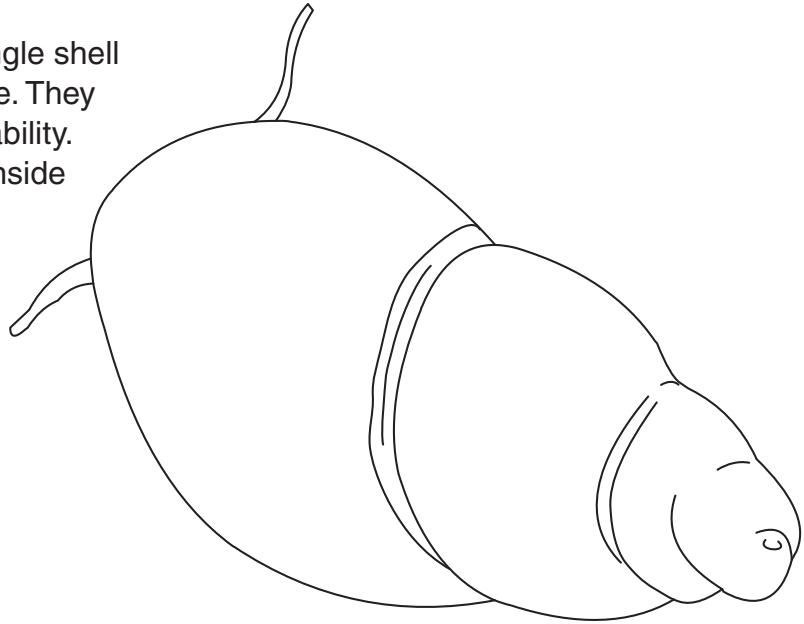




Inside the world of **macros**

Macroinvertebrates are animals without a backbone that you can see without using a microscope or magnifying glass. Macros that live on or in the ground beneath the water are called benthic macros and include snails, mussels, crayfish, worms and leeches. Scientists look for young (nymph or larva) benthic macros to measure water quality. Certain macros can tolerate polluted water, while other types cannot. Healthy waters usually have many different kinds of macros.

Gill-breathing snails, have a single shell that is usually coiled and elongate. They have a large muscular foot for stability. Their gill is located on the body inside the shell. Snails are an important part of the food chain because they consume algae off plants. Gilled snails are somewhat sensitive to water pollution/ degraded water quality.



Mussels are bivalves, meaning they have two shells that are opposite each other and are strongly connected by a hinge. The shells can vary in color from light green to blackish. Mussels are filter feeders and can contribute to purification of the water in which they live. Mussels are sensitive to pollution/degraded water quality.

Macroinvertebrate (MAC-row-in-VERT-ih-brate)

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