



## Kicknet sampling method

<b>Where you are:</b>	Freshwater ecosystems
<b>What you're looking for:</b>	Macroinvertebrates, crayfish
<b>What you need:</b>	Kicknet
	<b>Note:</b> Kicknets are simple to make yourself. Instructions are available on the <i>Vital Signs</i> website.

1. **Describe in your Field Notes** what the bottom sediment looks like (mucky, sandy, rocky, etc.) and what the water looks like (clear, cloudy, what color, etc.) **before** you get in and disturb the area
2. 3 scientists pull on waders or water shoes
3. 2 of the 3 scientists wade into the water. Each holds one handle of the kicknet.
4. 1 scientist wades in and stands in front of the kicknet. Kick, dance, pick up rocks, and disturb the sediment in the direction of the net for 1-2 minutes
  - **Write in your Field Notes** approximately how long you disturbed the area in front of the net
  - Note: Work with the current. In a stream, the kicker should stand upstream of the net holders, so the disturbed sediment flows right into the net
5. 2 scientists holding the kicknet carefully scoop up through the disturbed sediment until the net is horizontal. There should be a lot of sediment (and hopefully macroinvertebrates!) on top of the net.
6. Lay the net down on the ground to look for macroinvertebrates in your net sample.
7. Look closely. Most macroinvertebrates (by design) look a lot like their habitat, so it takes a careful eye and patience to find them.
  - Watch for movement.
  - Take bits of sediment and run it through your fingers.
  - Use your species cards to familiarize yourself with the shapes and sizes you're looking for.
  - Use a magnifier
8. Collect all of the macroinvertebrates you find in a container. Sort organisms into piles of same and different.
9. Use your Vital Signs species cards to determine whether you think you found, or think you did not find the species you are looking for. Support your claims with written and photo evidence.

