

# Wonderful Waterbugs

Waterbugs are small animals that live in our waterways. Waterbugs include insects, snails, worms, and crustaceans like yabbies. Waterbugs have different habitats that they live in - some hide in the plants and logs in the water, while other dive and swim in open water.

Waterbugs are a key part of a healthy waterway and they provide food for our platypus, fish, frogs and birds. They are fun to watch!

Go on a 'bug hunt' and draw any bugs you see above or in the water:



**Dragonflies** start their life in the water as larvae. They have a hinged jaw that is like a spare arm – it can shoot out from under their head and grab prey to eat. You might also see adult dragonflies flying near the waterway.



Did that stick just move? If it did, it might be a **caddisfly larvae!** These clever insects build their own homes out of small pieces of plants, sticks and sand. They live inside their cases like a hermit crab.



**Water treaders** are small insects that use their legs to move quickly on top of the water. You can find them in ponds and slow-flowing creeks. Look closely and you might be able to see them as they run across the water.



**Diving beetles** can hold a bubble of air under their bodies so they can breathe in the water – just like a scuba diver! Their back legs are very hairy, which helps them to swim very smoothly in the water.



**Freshwater shrimp** are so clear in colour, you can see the inside of their bodies! They are easy to identify and are found in slow-flowing creeks and ponds. They can be found hiding in plants, under rocks or branches in the water.