

Name:

Date:

# COOL RIVER PROGRAM WRITING PROMPT

## CREATE LIKE A CADDISFLY!

The San Diego River is home to many different types of aquatic benthic macroinvertebrates, a.k.a River Bugs!

River Bugs play an important role in keeping our River healthy! They help filter water, break down dead materials like leaves or dead fish, and they are a food source for bigger animals like fish, frogs, and birds! Many River Bugs live underwater during the early stages of their lives and then fly to nearby plants when they become adults, like caddisflies.

A baby caddisfly (called a larva) lives underwater and has a special ability to build itself a case out of small pebbles knit together with sticky silk, like tape. This case helps protect them from getting hurt, and also helps them blend into their environment so they don't get eaten by predators like trout.

Watch this [video](https://bit.ly/caddisfly1) (https://bit.ly/caddisfly1) to see how it works!

Some artists have even put caddisfly nymphs into special aquariums filled with gold and jewels to see if they will make a case out of that... and they do!

Now imagine that you, like a caddisfly, could build yourself a case. Would you build a case for camouflage and protection, or for beauty?



**Photo:** Caddisfly larvae in cases made from grains of gold and precious stones provided by artist, Hubert Duprat.

### DESIGN YOUR CASE AND DESCRIBE HOW YOU CHOSE THE BUILDING MATERIALS.

\*Use the back of this sheet or another piece of paper if you need more room!



We'd love to hear what you come up with!  
Send your work to [coolriver@sandiegoriver.org](mailto:coolriver@sandiegoriver.org) to share your ideas!

[www.sandiegoriver.org](http://www.sandiegoriver.org)

