

Name:

Date:

# COOL RIVER PROGRAM WRITING PROMPT

## FLATWORM PHENOMENA

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!

A flatworm is one kind of River Bug we commonly find in the San Diego River. Flatworms have the amazing ability to grow back body parts that get chopped off... even their heads! Sound scary? Sounds scary for humans, but it isn't scary at all for a flatworm.

Check out this [video](https://bit.ly/flatworm4) (<https://bit.ly/flatworm4>) to see how it works!



**Photo:** A flatworm regenerates a completely new body from cut body part.  
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**Now, imagine you're a scientist researching flatworms...**

- What could you learn from studying how flatworms can do this?
- What problems in the world could you solve, either for people or for other animals?

**WRITE AS IF YOU WERE A SCIENTIST STUDYING FLATWORMS...**

\*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)

