

Do you like scavenger hunts? How do you tell if creek water is clean and healthy? Join Lucas and his sister as they act like scientists looking for certain kinds of stream bugs (aquatic macroinvertebrates) that need clean, unpolluted water to survive. What will they find as they turn over rocks, pick up leaves and sort through the mud? Read along to find out if their creek gets a passing grade.

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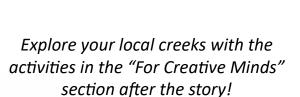
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Animalitos de arroyo

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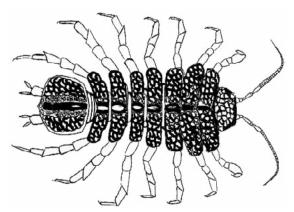
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The activities include:

- Scavenger Hunt: Identify the Bugs
- Matching Young to Adults
- Scientist's Field Notebook
- Is your Creek Healthy? Ask the Critters!



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About the Creators



Award-winning Jennifer Keats Curtis has penned numerous stories about animals, including Kali's Story: An Orphaned Polar Bear Rescue (Children's Choice Book Award Winner) and After A While Crocodile: Alexa's Diary (NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children), with co-author Dr. Brady Barr of Nat Geo Wild's Dangerous Encounter, Baby Bear's Adoption with wildlife biologists at Michigan's DNR, River Rescue with Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.; and Moonlight Crab Count with co-author Dr. Neeti Bathala. The long-time writer's other recent books include The Lizard Lady, with co-author Dr. Nicole Angeli, Maggie: Alaska's Last Elephant and the Animal Helpers Series. When

not writing, Jennifer can be found among students and teachers, talking about literacy and conservation. Visit her website at www.jenniferkeatscurtis.com.



Since childhood, Phyllis Saroff has brought together her loves of science and art. In addition to Creek Critters, Maggie: Alaska's Last Elephant, Vivian and the Legend of the Hoodoos, Tuktuk: Tundra Tale and Sounds of the Savanna for Arbordale, Phyllis has illustrated nonfiction books about the natural world such as Teeth and Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter. She also illustrates for children's magazines, wayside signs and other educational material. Phyllis works digitally and with oil paint. Phyllis lives in Maryland with her husband, two sons, and two dogs. Visit her website at saroffillustration.com.

Stroud Water Research Center is a research field station not a nature center. Visitors use the same tools as scientists to study and examine stream health. This story is based on bugs collected on the Stroud Center's property, along the East Branch of White Clay Creek, a tributary of the Delaware River. At the Stroud Water Center, environmental educators often pre-collect specimens because too many kids stomping through the creek has too much impact. The students have a chance to examine the bugs under a microscope and learn more about them. At the end of class, the educators return the bugs to the creek. The authors hope readers are inspired to go on an adventure of their own to local creeks, streams, and ponds to collect and learn more about the critters who live there.



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