

the **MAYFLY**

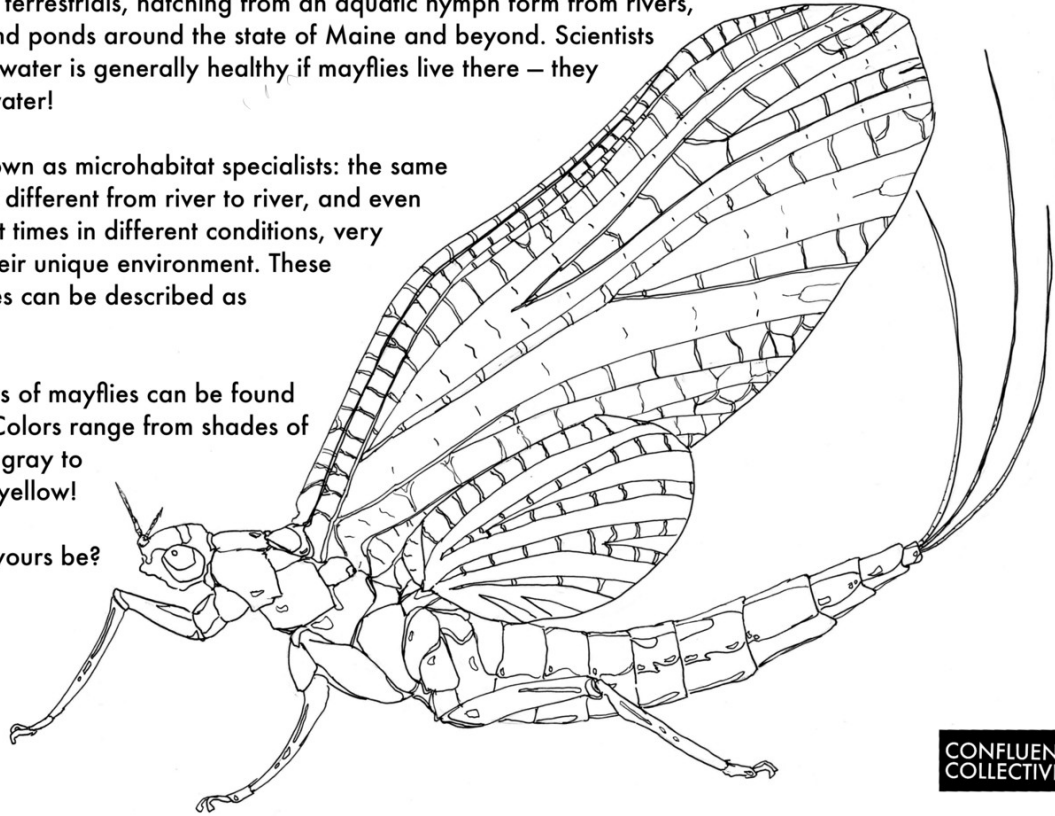
Mayflies are decedents of ancient insects originating in the Permian era (225-290 million years ago!)

Adults are flying terrestrials, hatching from an aquatic nymph form from rivers, streams, lakes and ponds around the state of Maine and beyond. Scientists know a body of water is generally healthy if mayflies live there – they only like clean water!

Mayflies are known as microhabitat specialists: the same species can look different from river to river, and even hatch at different times in different conditions, very specialized to their unique environment. These visible differences can be described as **morphology**.

Over 100 species of mayflies can be found around Maine. Colors range from shades of brown, tan, and gray to green and even yellow!

What color will yours be?



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