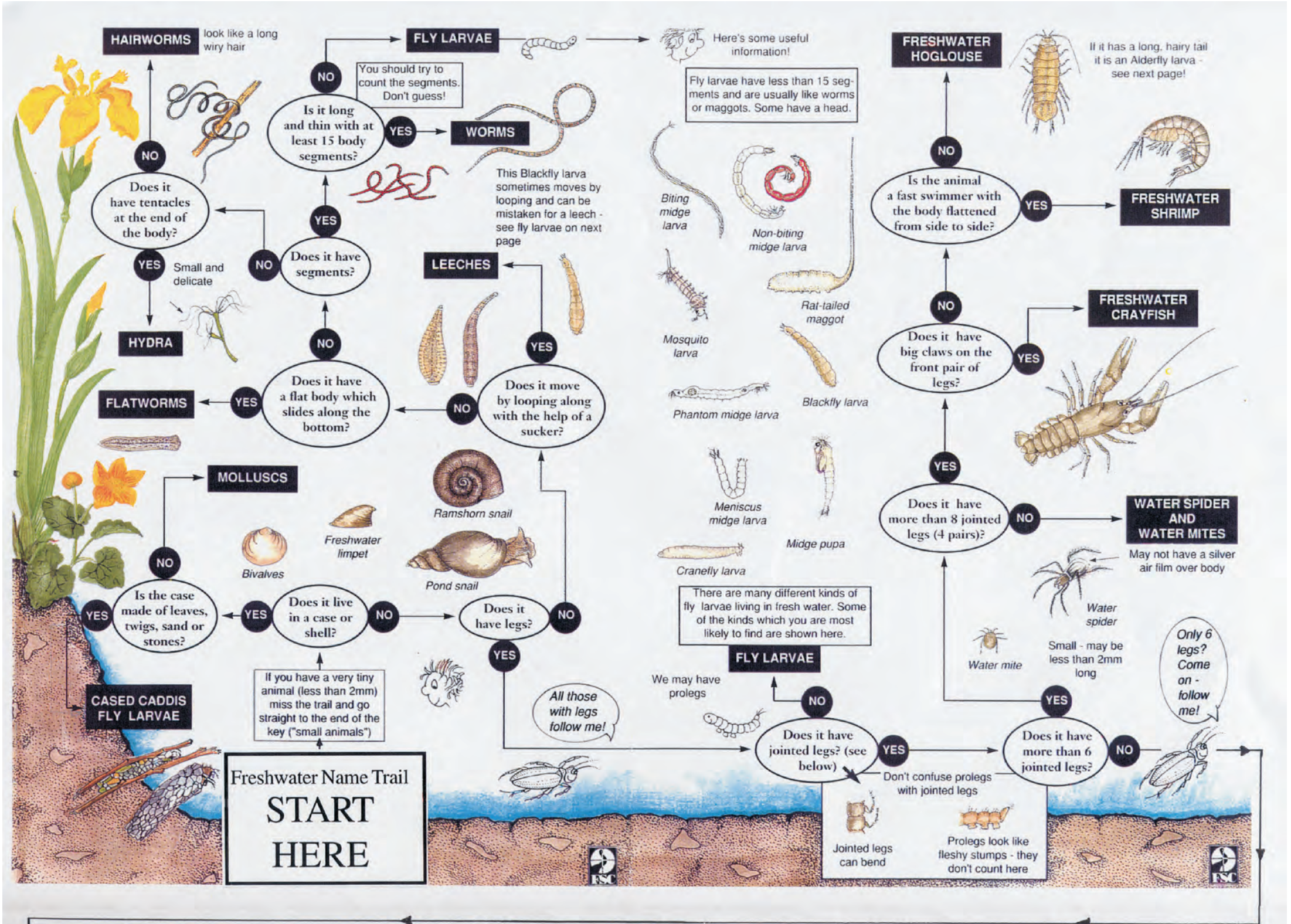

Freshwater Name Trail
START HERE
HAIRWORMS
look like a long wiry hair
NO
Does it have tentacles at the end of the body?
YES
Small and delicate
HYDRA
NO
Does it have segments?
YES
Is it long and thin with at least 15 body segments?
NO
You should try to count the segments. Don't guess!
YES
WORMS
FLY LARVAE
Here's some useful information!
Fly larvae have less than 15 segments and are usually like worms or maggots. Some have a head.
This Blackfly larva sometimes moves by looping and can be mistaken for a leech - see fly larvae on next page
LEECHES
YES
Does it move by looping along with the help of a sucker?
NO
Does it have a flat body which slides along the bottom?
YES
FLATWORMS
NO
Does it have legs?
YES
Does it live in a case or shell?
NO
Does it have a very tiny animal (less than 2mm) miss the trail and go straight to the end of the key ("small animals")
YES
Is the case made of leaves, twigs, sand or stones?
NO
MOLLUSCS
Bivalves
Freshwater limpet
Ramshorn snail
Pond snail
CASED CADDIS FLY LARVAE
All those with legs follow me!
Biting midge larva
Non-biting midge larva
Rat-tailed maggot
Mosquito larva
Blackfly larva
Phantom midge larva
Meniscus midge larva
Midge pupa
Cranefly larva
There are many different kinds of fly larvae living in fresh water. Some of the kinds which you are most likely to find are shown here.
FLY LARVAE
We may have prolegs
NO
Does it have jointed legs? (see below)
YES
Don't confuse prolegs with jointed legs
Jointed legs can bend
Prolegs look like fleshy stumps - they don't count here
Does it have more than 6 jointed legs?
NO
Only 6 legs? Come on - follow me!
YES
Does it have more than 8 jointed legs (4 pairs)?
NO
WATER SPIDER AND WATER MITES
May not have a silver air film over body
Water spider
Water mite
Small - may be less than 2mm long
YES
Does it have big claws on the front pair of legs?
NO
FRESHWATER CRAYFISH
YES
Is the animal a fast swimmer with the body flattened from side to side?
NO
FRESHWATER HOGLOUSE
If it has a long, hairy tail it is an Alderfly larva - see next page!
YES
FRESHWATER SHRIMP
FSC