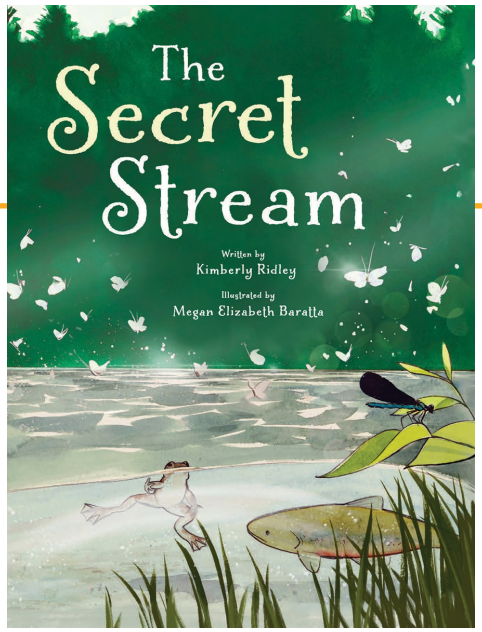
EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

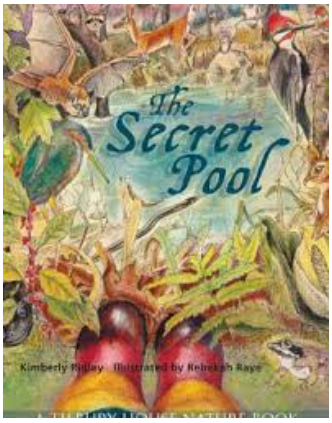
Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!

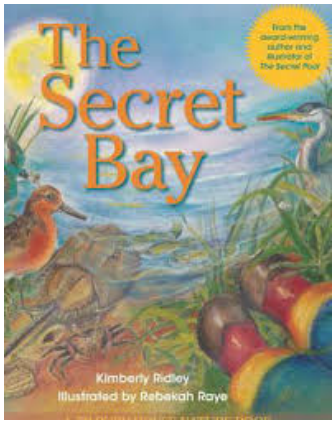


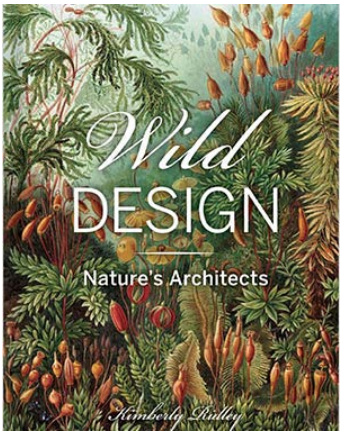
MEET KIM

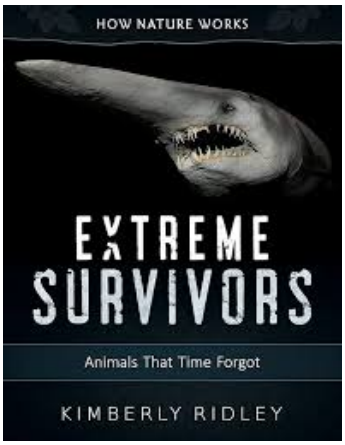
Kim Ridley is a science writer, essayist, editor, and children's book author who has been writing about nature, science, health, and the environment for more than 25 years. Kim is passionate about "inciting wonder" by sharing her love of nature and science with children and adults through award-winning books, essays, and teaching. She loves doing author visits and has taught nonfiction writing workshops in dozens of elementary schools in Maine and the northeast based on her books. Whether she is writing for children or adults, her work comes from a deep love for the natural world.

Learn more about Kim HERE.









EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Getting Started: BEFORE reading the book!

Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- *What is going on in this picture?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)*
- *What more can we find?*

Watch this VIDEO for a quick VTS demo

HAVE QUESTIONS?
Please contact Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, 207-460-6828 or ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

Check out the Author's Note in the Back Matter!

Headwater: a river or stream flowing downhill merging into a larger river or lake

LET'S TALK! Discussion Questions

1. Maine is full of rivers and streams. Can you identify any headwater streams near you?

2. How do trees help streams?

3. What/who is the engineer of a stream? Explain how and why?

4. This book is the third in a series by Kim Ridley. Find and read the other two (*The Secret Pool* and *The Secret Bay*). What do you notice that is similar?What do you notice that is different? Create a venn diagram to demonstrate your findings.

5. There is a Louisiana Waterthrush in the book. Does Maine have a Waterthrush? Research and compare!

6. The book is written in two forms: free verse poetry (the narrative), and science-based prose (nonfiction). What other specific literary effects does Kim use? Make a list and discuss.

STANDARDS Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3 Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5 Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

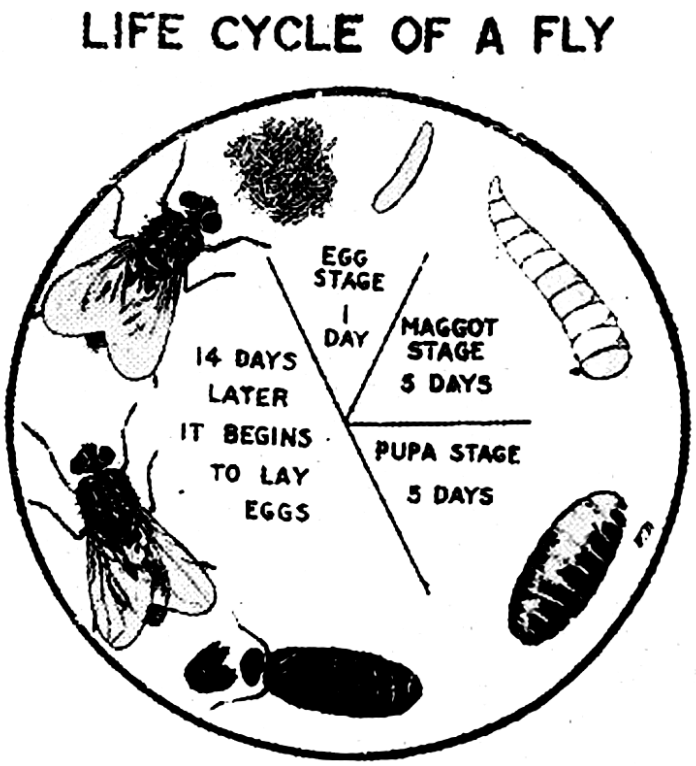
R.8 Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

R.10 Evaluate the argument and specific claims in various texts.

Life Sciences

LET'S CREATE! Book-Inspired Art



1. Make a map of a stream including all the parts: riffles, confluence, drift, cascades, turbulent, rocky waterfalls, pools, animals, birds, insects, leaves, trees and other plants. Use MAINE RIVERS' WEBSITE to explore animals living in Maine's streams.

2. Choose an insect or amphibian mentioned in the book. Research and draw the life cycle of a mayfly, blackfly, stonefly, turtle, crayfish, salamander, or other creature.

3. Reader's Theater: Use the narrative to perform a reader's theater. In the backmatter of the book, Kim calls the section about stream creatures, the "cast of characters." Use this list as inspiration for your performance.

4. Make a food chain using the creatures in the book. Who's at the top? Who's at the bottom?

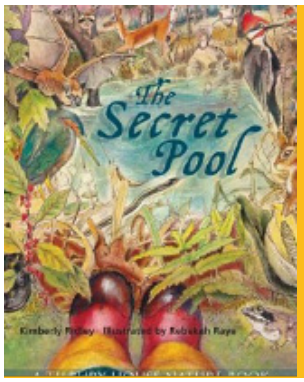
5. Using the word/definition matching game in Appendix A, match the terms and definitions from the book's glossary, then play with your classmates/friends!

6. MAKE A STREAM VIEWER!

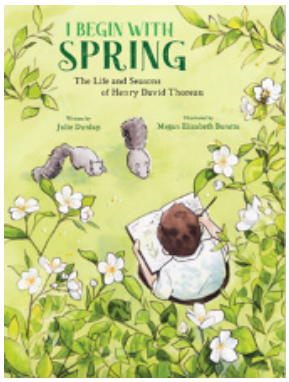
LET'S DIVE DEEPER! Explore More

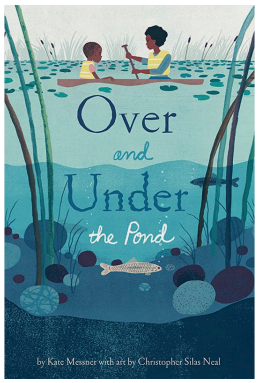
- What can beavers and their habitats teach us about climate change? (PBS VIDEO which includes lesson plans and standards) grades 5-8
- THE RIVER AND WILDER SHOW: Watch and listen to kids narrating their adventures as they search for beavers!
- LEARN MORE ABOUT MAINE'S RIVERS
- WATER CYCLE: HOW THE HYDROLOGIC CYCLE WORKS
- MAINE AUDUBON: STREAM EXPLORERS
- MAINE AUDUBON: BROOK TROUT SURVEY
- DOWNEAST SALMON FEDERATION: FIELD BASED BIOLOGY

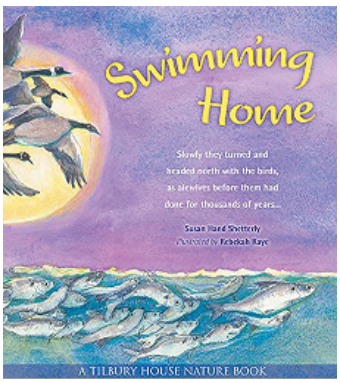
READ MORE! Text to Text Connections

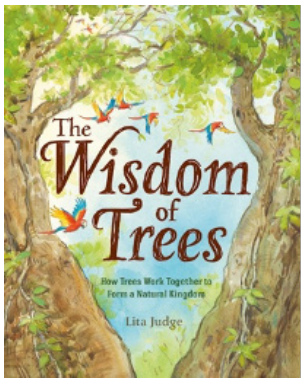


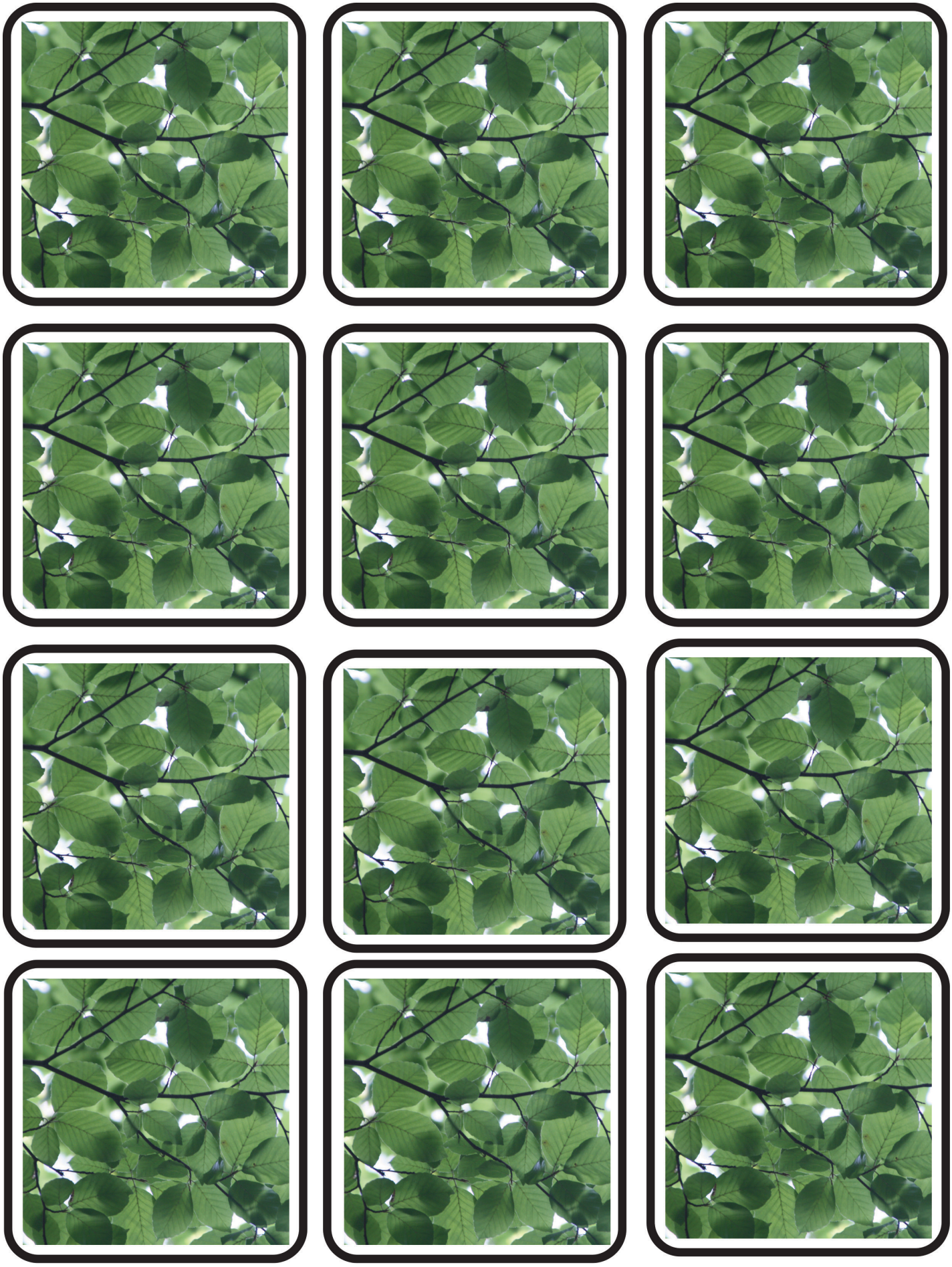
This vibrant and fascinating picture book from Maine writer Kimberly Ridley and Maine artist Rebekah Raye is Maine's pick for the 2023 Library of Congress National Book Festival!



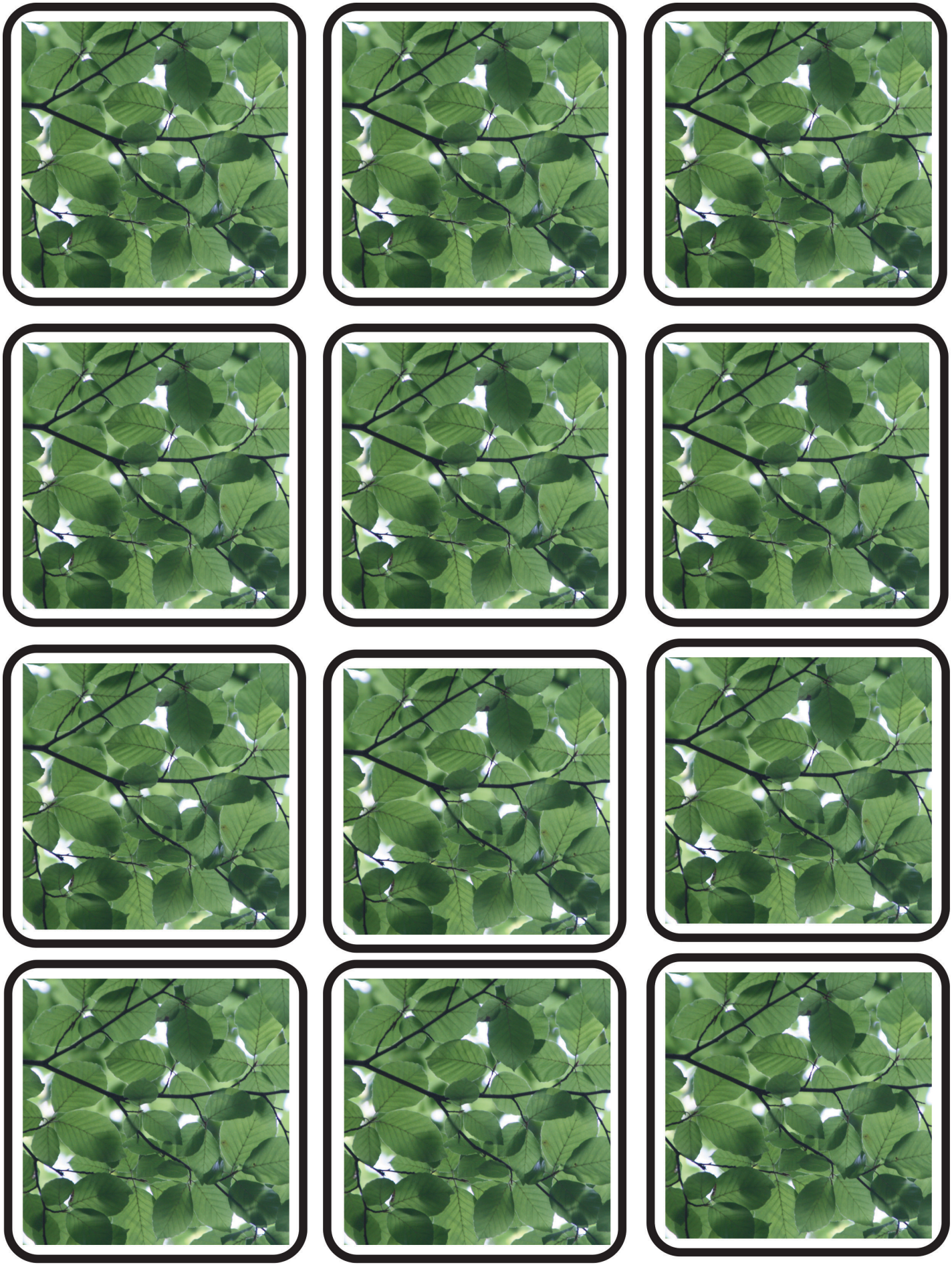




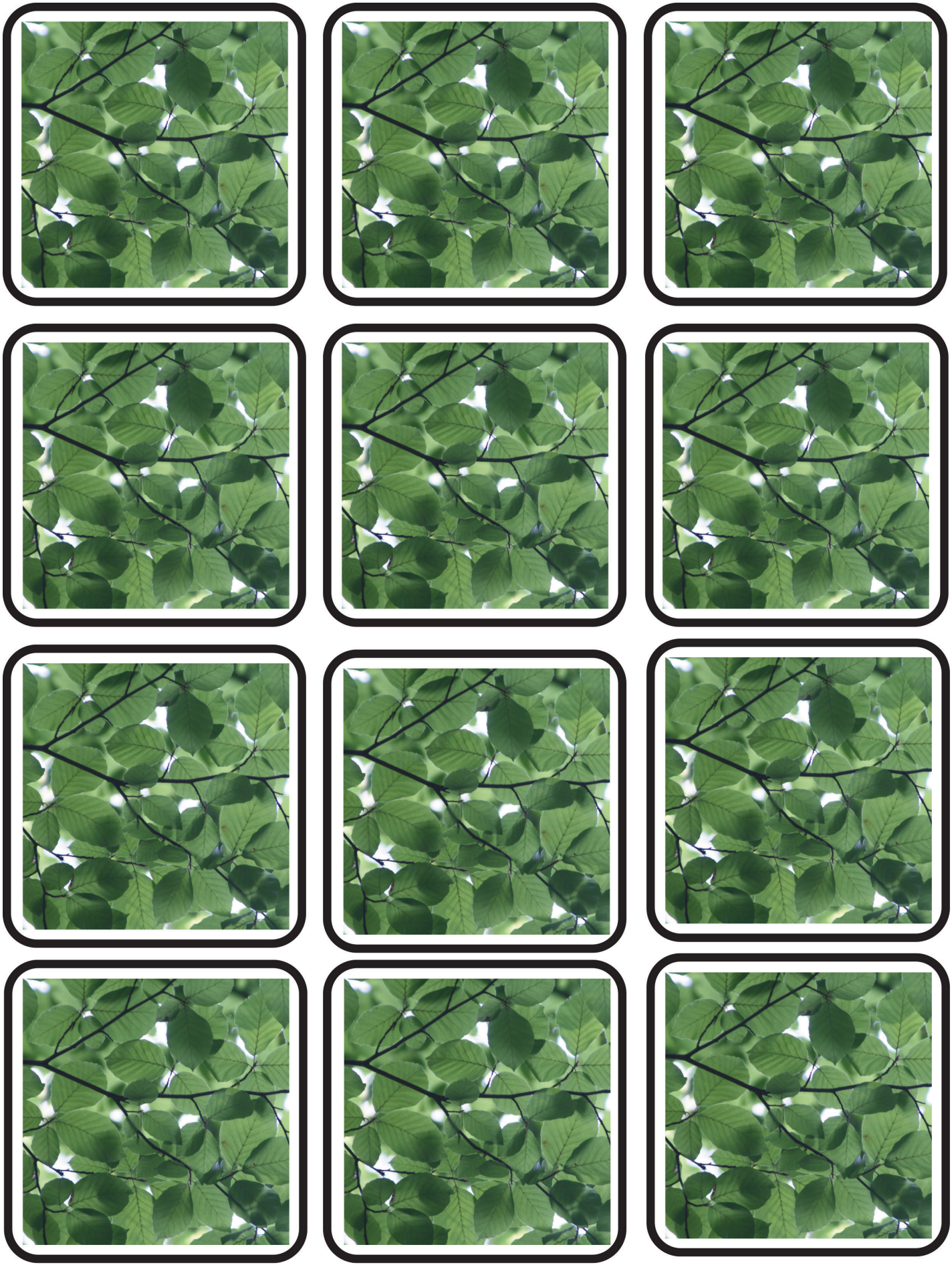




algae	aquatic	bacteria
camouflage	drift	fungi
habitat	invertebrate	juvenile
larva	metamorposis	molt



nymph	organism	pupa
riffles	riparian zone	large group of plants, many tiny, with no true leaves, stems, or roots
living in water	microscopic, single celled organisms that are able to eat and rapidly mulitple.	coloration patterns that help an animal blend into its surroundings
aquatic insects and other organisms that are swept downstream by current	mold, mushrooms, and other organisms that feed on decaying matter	the place where a plant, animal, or other organism lives



an animal without a backbone, such as an insect	a young animal	the newly hatched form of an amphibian or invertebrate, such as a tadpole
the process by which some organisms, such as insects and amphibians, grow into adults	to shed an outer covering such as skin, a shell, or feathers	a juvenile aquatic insect that grows into an adult by molting
a living being	a stage of insect growth in which a larva develops into an adult inside a cocoon or other case	places where streams rush over rocks, mixing oxygen into the water
the land along a stream or river		