

# Owen Otter's River Activity Workbook

NIEA Biodiversity Activity Book

For Pre-School/KS1 Pupils



Name:



Teacher notes.

## Education and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency

### Life on our planet = Biodiversity!

Biodiversity simply means the total variety of life on our planet. The state of the world's Biodiversity was the central focus at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development that was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. 156 countries signed an agreement at this conference to conserve the earth's Biodiversity. Northern Ireland has a great level of Biodiversity, with many different habitats and 22000 species that we can name so far!

N.I.E.A (Northern Ireland Environment Agency) believe that it is vitally important to educate people about their planet's Biodiversity and how it is important in terms of the quality of their daily lives. Obviously the word 'Biodiversity' can appear large and is too difficult a term and concept for KS1 pupils. Despite this we feel that through this series of Biodiversity Activity booklets even very young children can begin to focus on certain creatures, plants and habitats that are important to their local Biodiversity while at the same time covering important curriculum components. This will hopefully mean that when they encounter the word 'Biodiversity' and the greater details of the concept at a later age it will not be such a problem for them, having already encountered the term and studied many basic elements of the concept when they were younger.

Books available in this series:

**Harry Hare's Field and Farm Biodiversity Activity booklet.**

**Nessa Newt's Wetland Biodiversity Activity booklet.**

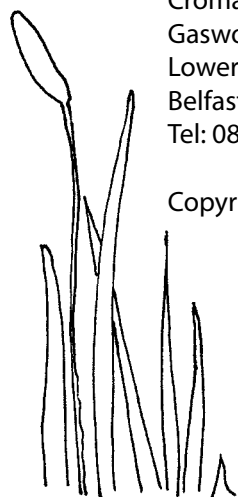
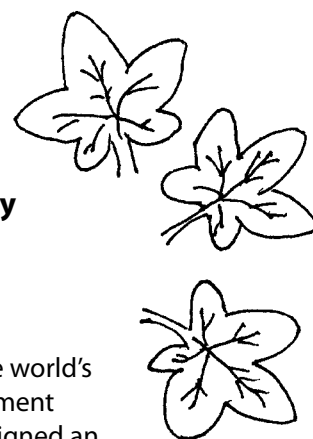
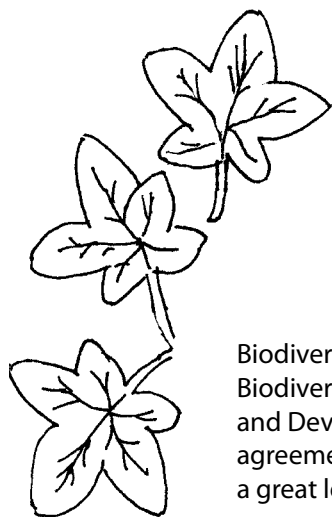
**Owen Otter's River Biodiversity Activity booklet.**

**Sarah Seal's Coastal Biodiversity Activity booklet.**

**For more information on these topics or to locate more copies of our resources contact:**

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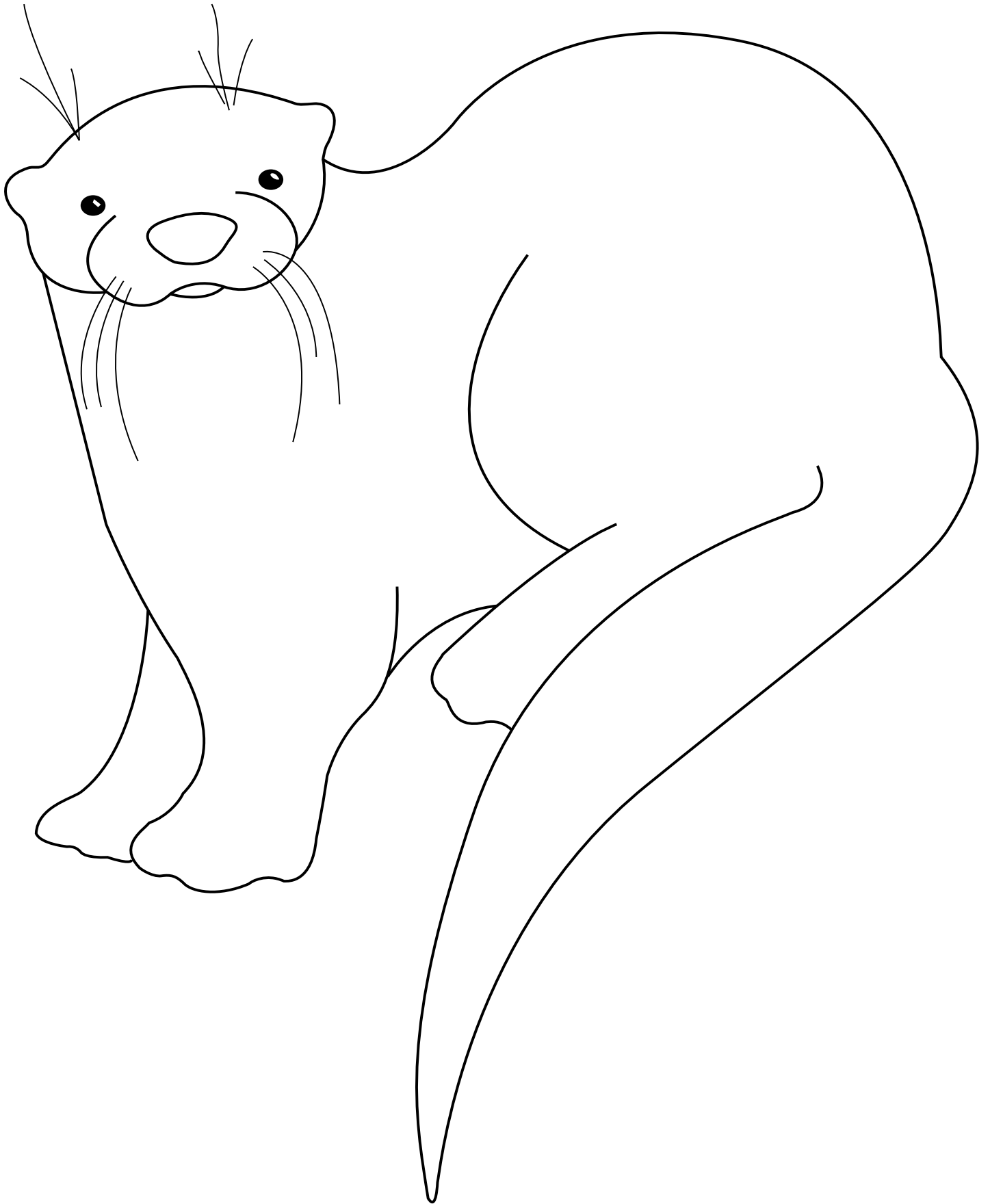


Here is your very own chart for you to record how well you have done.  
Put a tick or a stamp in the space when you finish a page.

1	I know what an otter is.	
2	I know some facts about otters.	
3	I can answer questions about otters.	
4	I know what a river is.	
5	I know the main rivers in Northern Ireland.	
6	I know where a river might start.	
7	I know where a river might end.	
8	I can tell what creatures live in the river.	
9	I guessed some river creatures from the clues.	
10	I coloured a Kingfisher.	
11	I can name the bird.	
12	I know the names of baby river creatures.	
13	I can spot the difference.	
14	I know why we should look after rivers.	
15	I've been through the mink maze.	
16	I can draw river creatures.	
17	I can tally.	
18	I've done the wordsearch.	
19	I can dot to dot.	
20	I can dot to dot.	
21	I've made an otter mask.	



Hello my name is Owen and I am an Otter. Welcome to my book on rivers. It is full of things for you to see and do. I hope you like it.





## Fun Facts About Otters ...



- Otters like to live in rivers and sometimes at the seaside.
- We love to catch and eat fish. If I am at the seaside I sometimes catch and eat crabs. Sometimes otters like to eat water birds, voles and even frogs!
- Otters love to play and we love to swim.
- Otters have webbed feet and a very strong tail to help us move really fast through the water.
- Otter fur is oily and this keeps us dry and warm when we are swimming.
- Otters like to come out at night and we usually sleep in the day in our home. It is called a Holt.
- Baby otters are called cubs.



Otters are very special creatures but some people have tried to hunt us and so there are not as many otters now as there were years ago. There are now laws to protect otters from anyone who might try to harm us. This means that hopefully soon there will be as many otters as there used to be.

Do you know that otters can close their ears and nostrils when they dive under the water! Can you close your ears and your nose?



# Questions About Otters. How Much Can You Remember?

1. Name 2 places where otters might live?

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2. Name 3 things that otters can eat?

---

3. What is 1 thing that otters love to do?

---

4. What is special about otter feet?

---

5. What do otters have to help them move really fast through the water?

---

6. What is special about otter fur?

---

7. Do otters like to come out in the daytime?

---

8. What is an otter's home called?

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9. What is the name for baby otters?

---

10. What 2 bits of their bodies can otters close when they  
dive under the water?

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How many  
did you get?





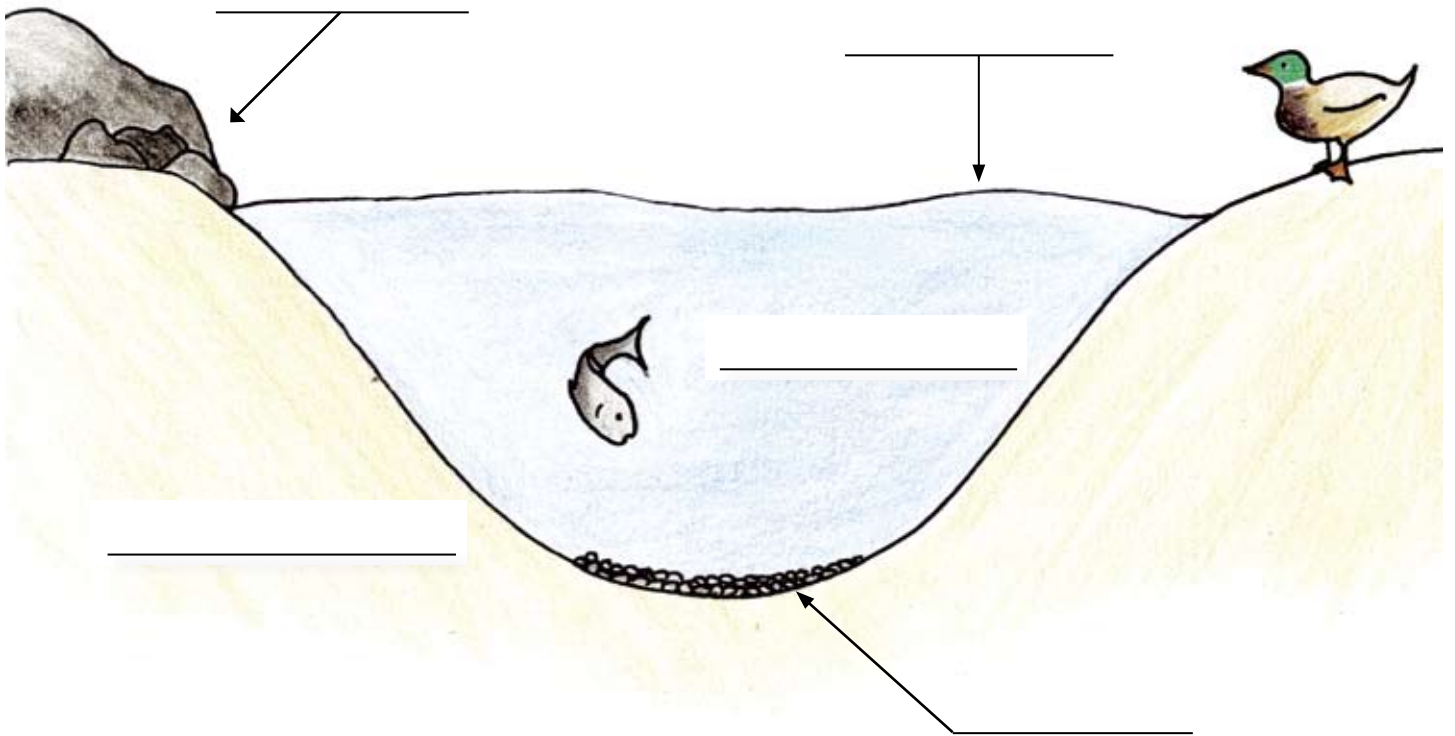
# What is a River?



Have you ever seen a river? Where did you see it?

A river is full of water. The water in a river is not the same as the water that you get in the sea. Sea water is salty but river water is fresh. It is a bit like the water that comes out of the taps in your house.

Here is a picture of a river. Can you label the different parts of the river? Use these words; water, channel, river bed, river bank, stones and pebbles.



Here are some sentences to help you:-

The water in the river flows in the channel.  
The bottom of the river is called the river bed  
The sides of a river are called the river banks

Many animals like to have their homes in the river bank. This is where otters have their homes. Can you remember what an otter's home is called?





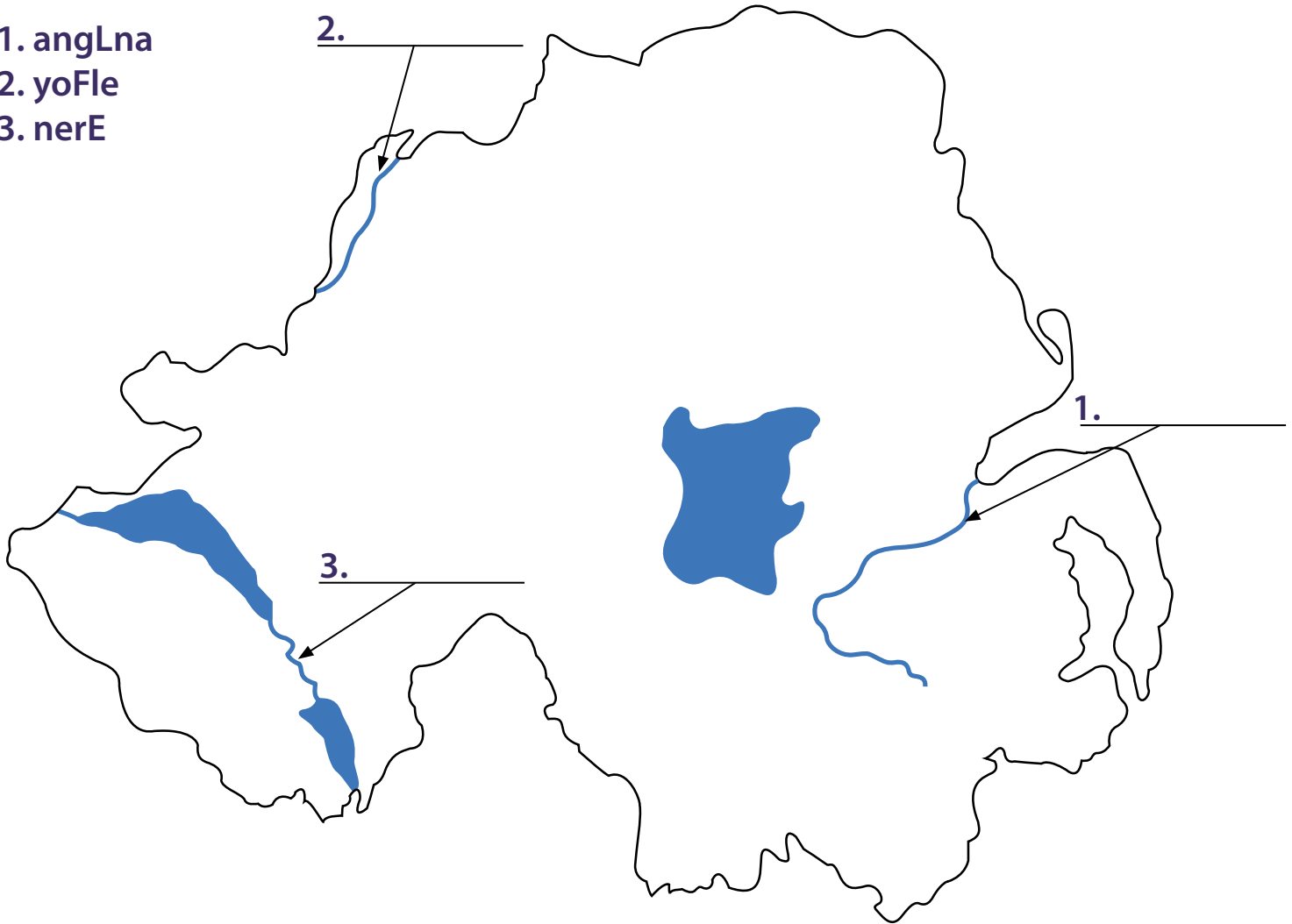
# Rivers



Here is a map showing the main rivers in Northern Ireland. Can you unscramble the letters to find out the names of these rivers?

Can you put a dot on the map where you think your school is?

- 1. angLna
- 2. yoFle
- 3. nerE



Which of these main rivers is your school closest to?

---

Can you find any smaller rivers that are nearer to your school?

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What are the names of these smaller rivers or streams that are close to your school?

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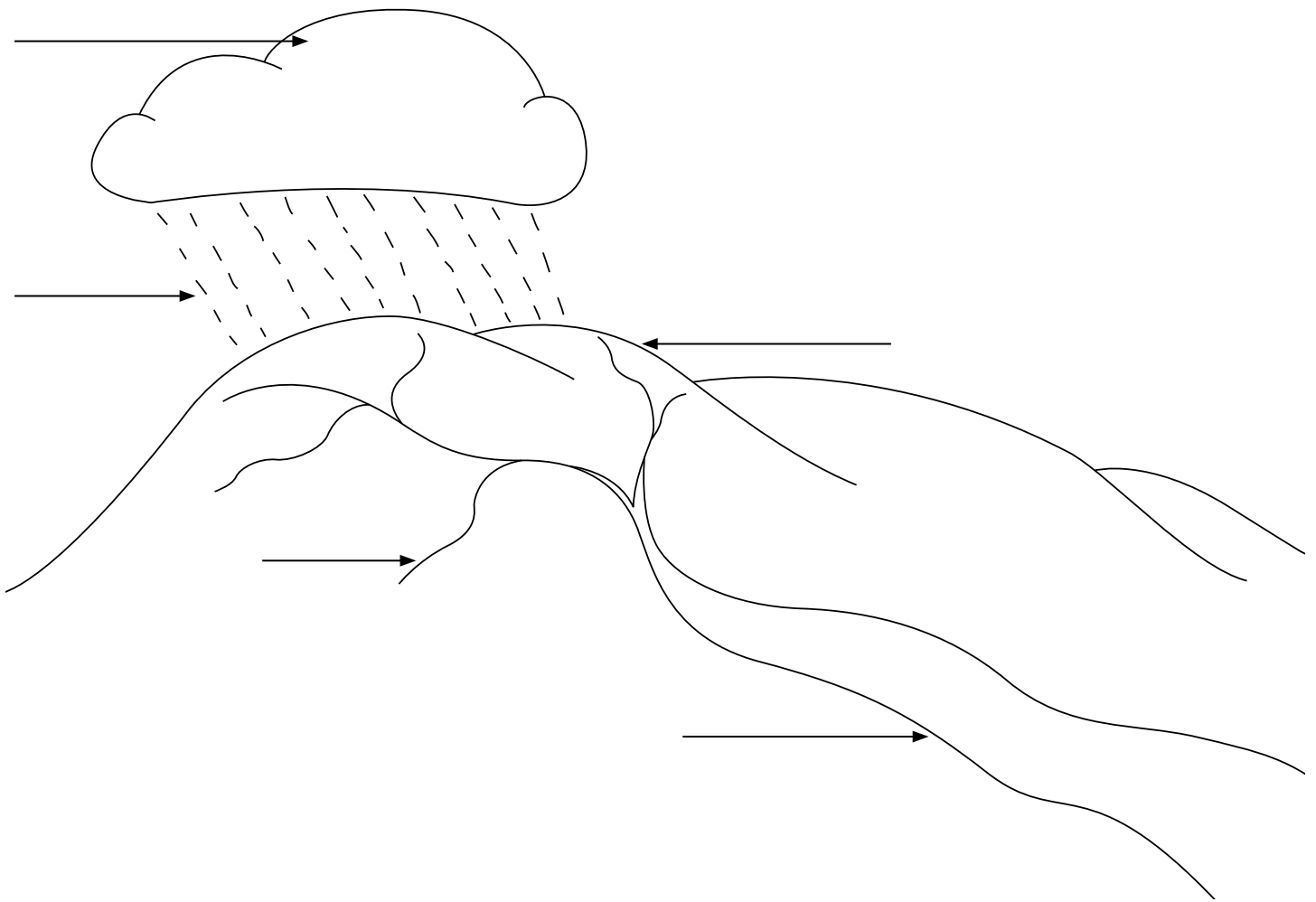


## Where Do Rivers Come From?

High up in the mountains rain falls from the clouds, the rain water runs into lots of little streams.

These streams flow down the mountains and get bigger as they get lower down the hills.

A river is formed when lots of these small streams meet each other and all the water from the streams joins together to make the river.



Can you label the picture to show how rivers form? When you have finished you could colour the picture in.

Use these words to help you label the drawing:-

cloud, rain, mountain, stream, river





## Where Does the River End?



Where do you think the river flows to? All that water has to go somewhere.

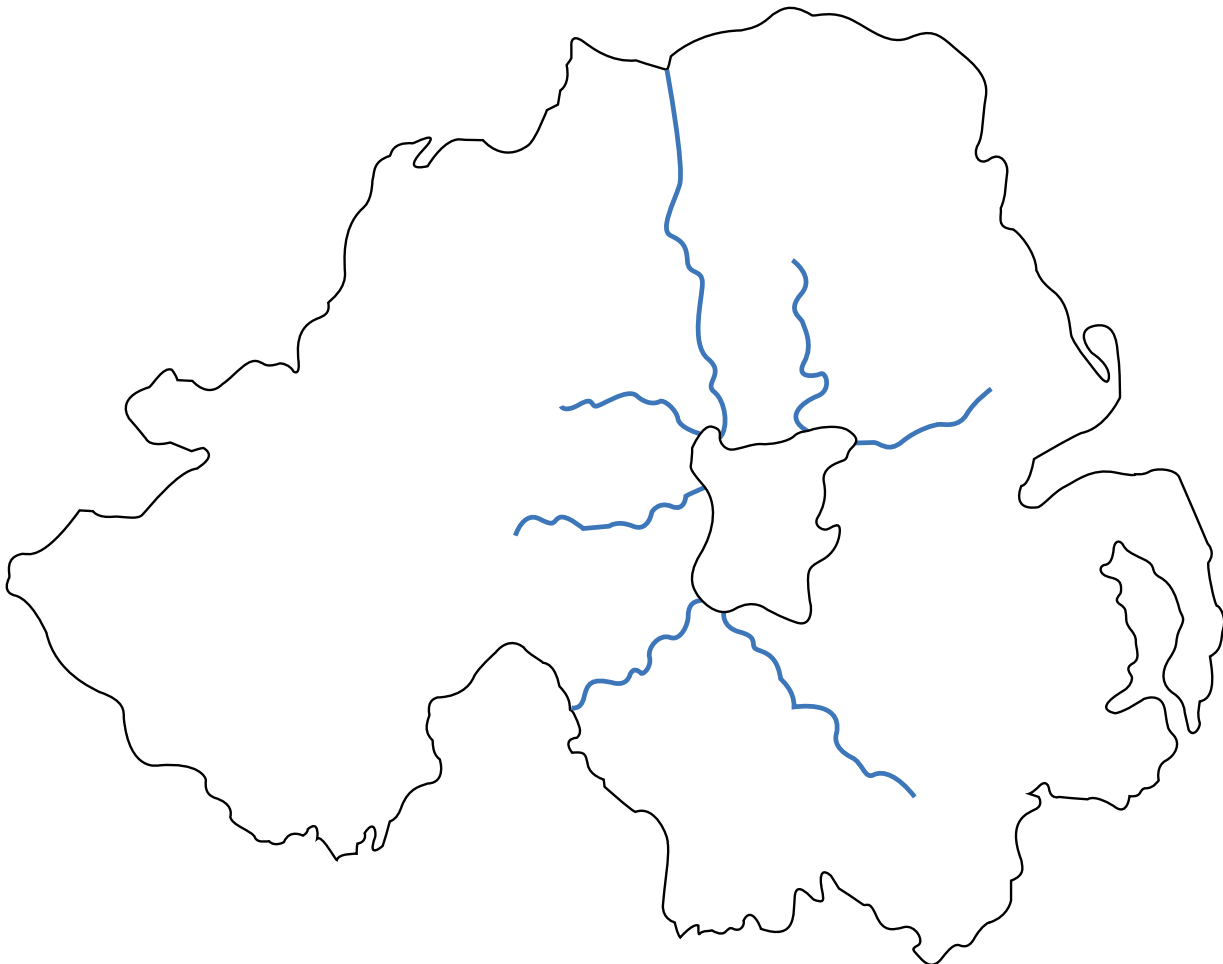
There are some different places that rivers flow to, can you think of any?

---

Some small rivers meet other small rivers and make a bigger river. Some rivers flow into a pond. Some rivers flow into a lake. Some rivers flow into the sea.

Can you find out any differences between rivers, ponds, lakes and the sea?

In Northern Ireland we have the largest, fresh water lake in Europe. It is right in the middle of our country and it is called Lough Neagh.



Can you colour Lough Neagh blue?

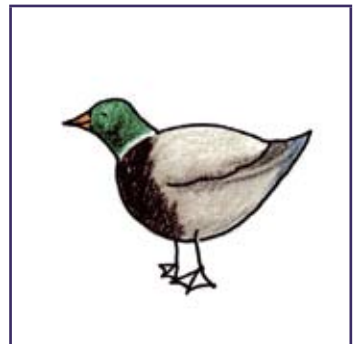
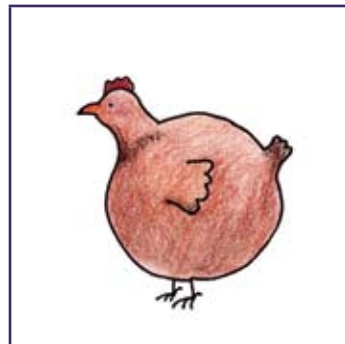
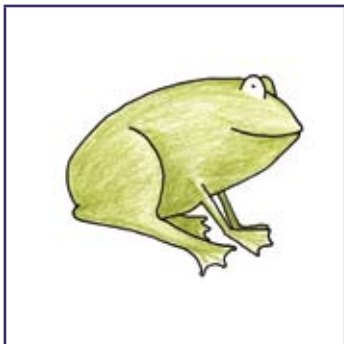
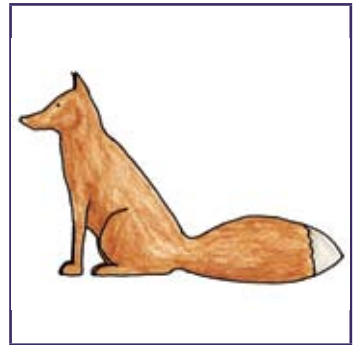
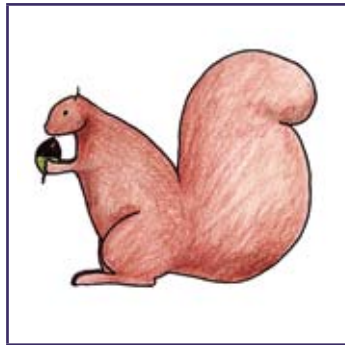
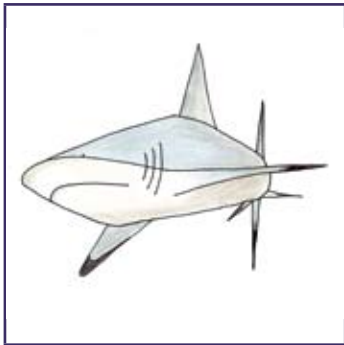
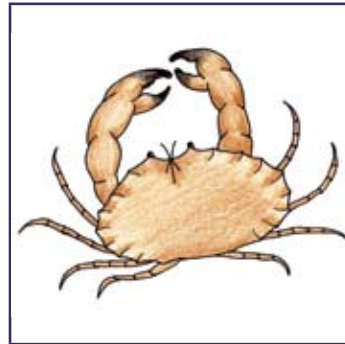
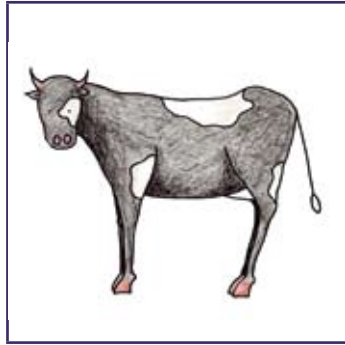
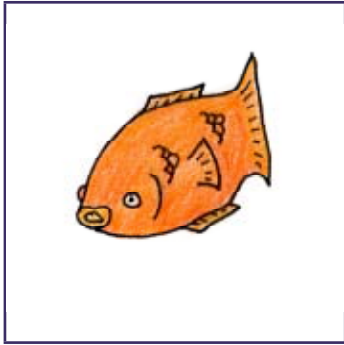
How close is Lough Neagh to where you live?

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# Would I Live in a River?

Can you put a circle round the creatures that you could find in a river?



Can you put a square round three animals that you would find in a wood?

Can you put a triangle round two creatures that you would find at the coast?



# I Live in the River

Lots of different types of creatures live in the river. Can you read these clues and see if you can guess what creatures they are describing? There are some pictures on the page to help you guess.



I am a bird. I have very brightly coloured feathers. My back is blue and my tummy is orange. I love to eat fish. I make a noise that sounds like 'chee''chee'.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_



I am a mammal. I have waterproof fur and webbed feet to help me swim. I am nocturnal. I love to play and swim in the river. I eat fish. I can close my nostrils when I dive under the water.

I am an \_\_\_\_\_



I am an amphibian. When I am fully grown I have four legs and breathe air. My life starts as a tiny black spot surrounded by jelly. When I am fully grown I am very good at swimming and jumping. I make a croaking sound.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_

I am a fish. I hatch in the river but when I am older I move to the sea. I can grow until I weigh 32kgs. I sometimes eat other fish. I can jump up to 3.7m high. Otters like to eat me.

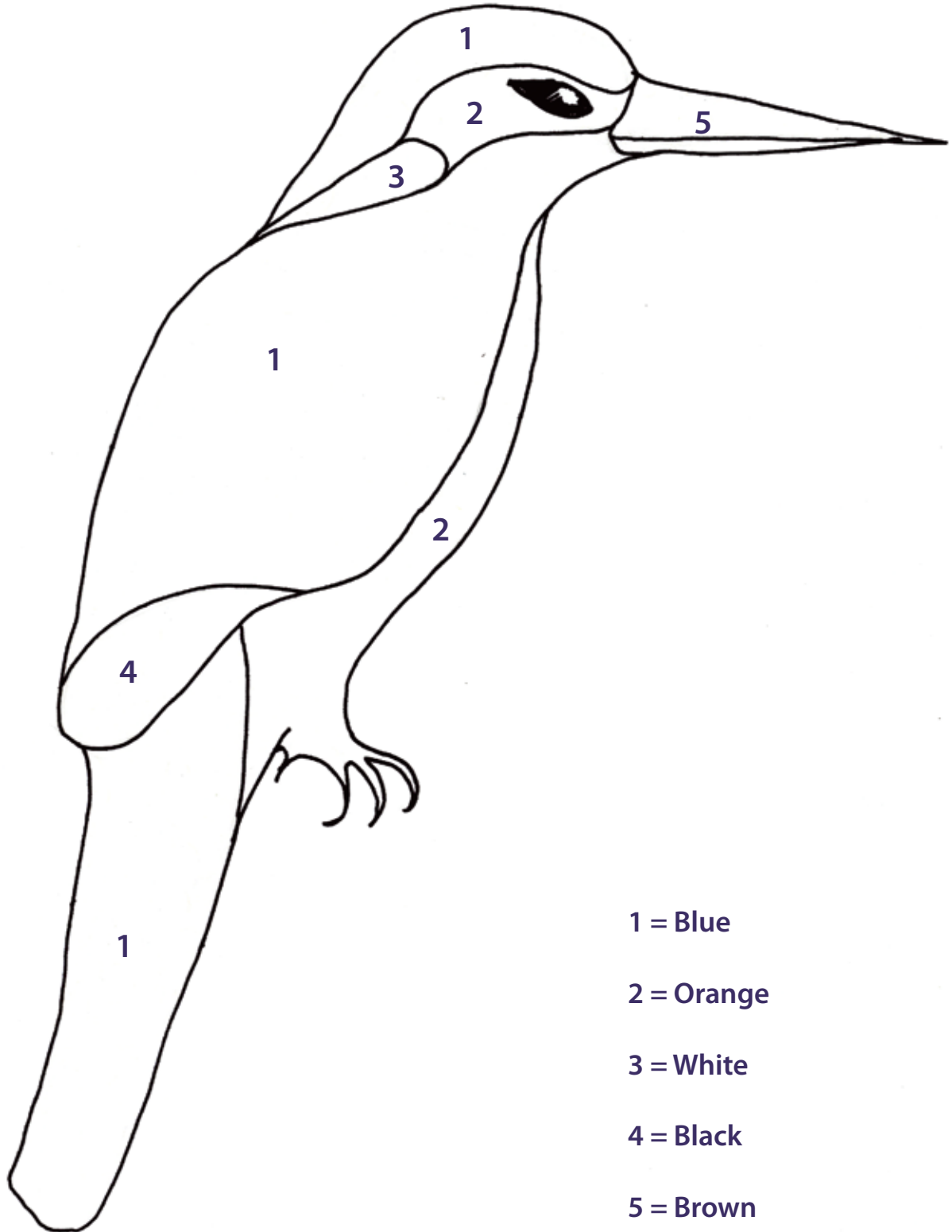
I am a \_\_\_\_\_





# Colour by Numbers

Hello my name is Keith and I am a Kingfisher. I live on the river and eat fish. I am a special bird as I am very colourful. I am bright blue and orange. Why don't you colour me in? The numbers will let you know which colours to use.



1 = Blue

2 = Orange

3 = White

4 = Black

5 = Brown



# Name that Bird!

Many different birds live on or near the river. See if you can name these ones



M \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



K \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



D \_ \_ \_ \_



H \_ \_ \_ \_



T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



S \_ \_ \_ \_

A male M\_\_\_\_\_ has a green head.

This bird has an orange breast K\_\_\_\_\_.

This little bird has a white throat and brown head D\_\_\_\_\_.

This bird has a very thin, long neck H\_\_\_\_\_.

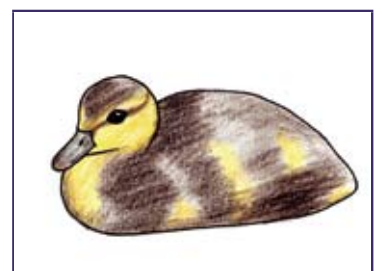
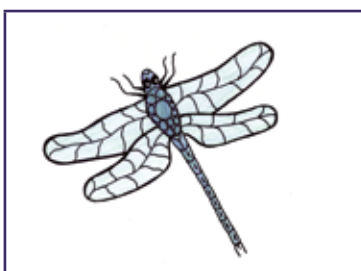
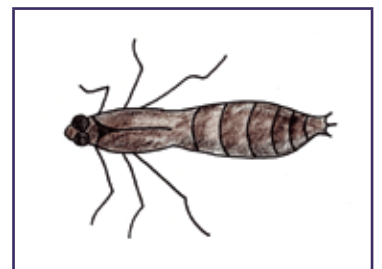
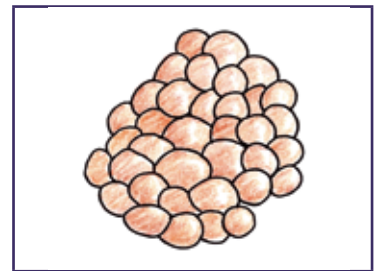
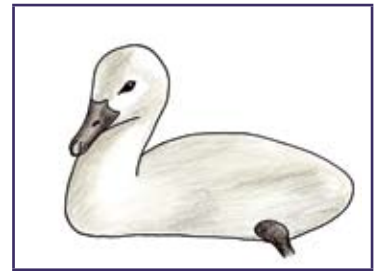
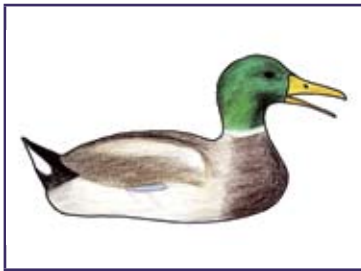
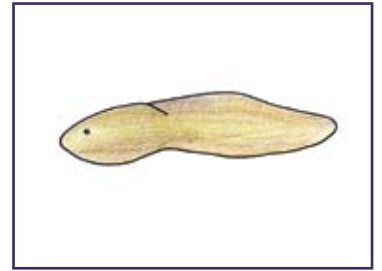
This bird has a black tuft of feathers on its head T\_\_\_\_\_.



# Animal Families



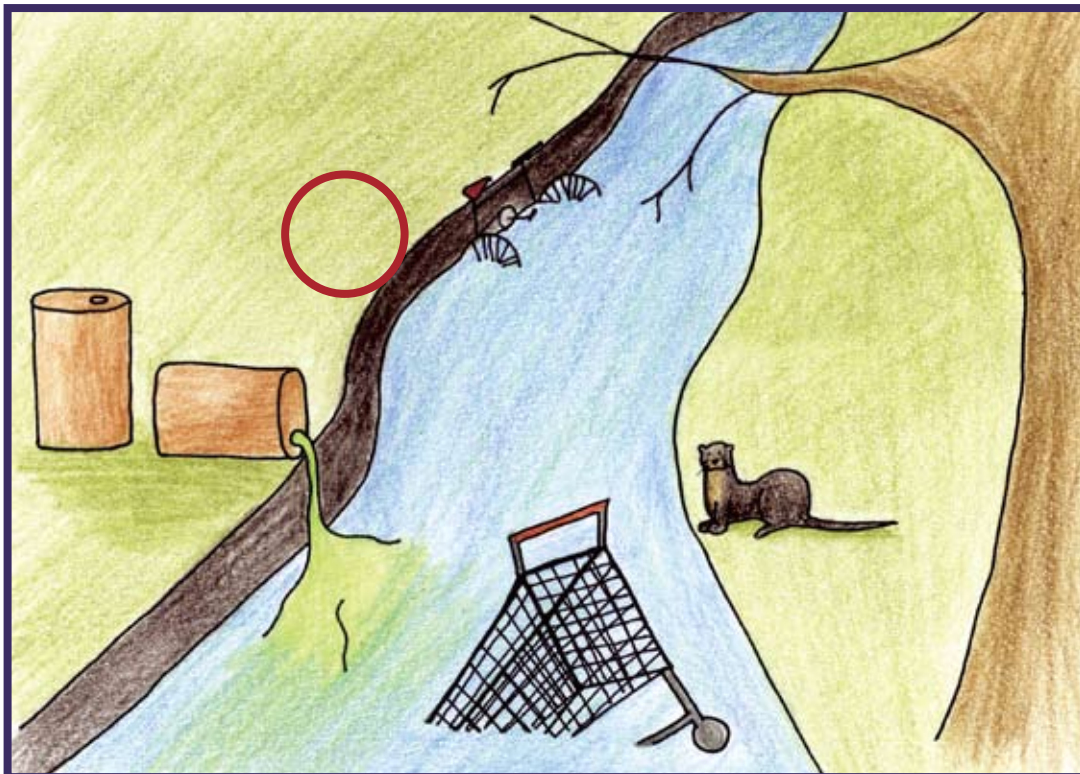
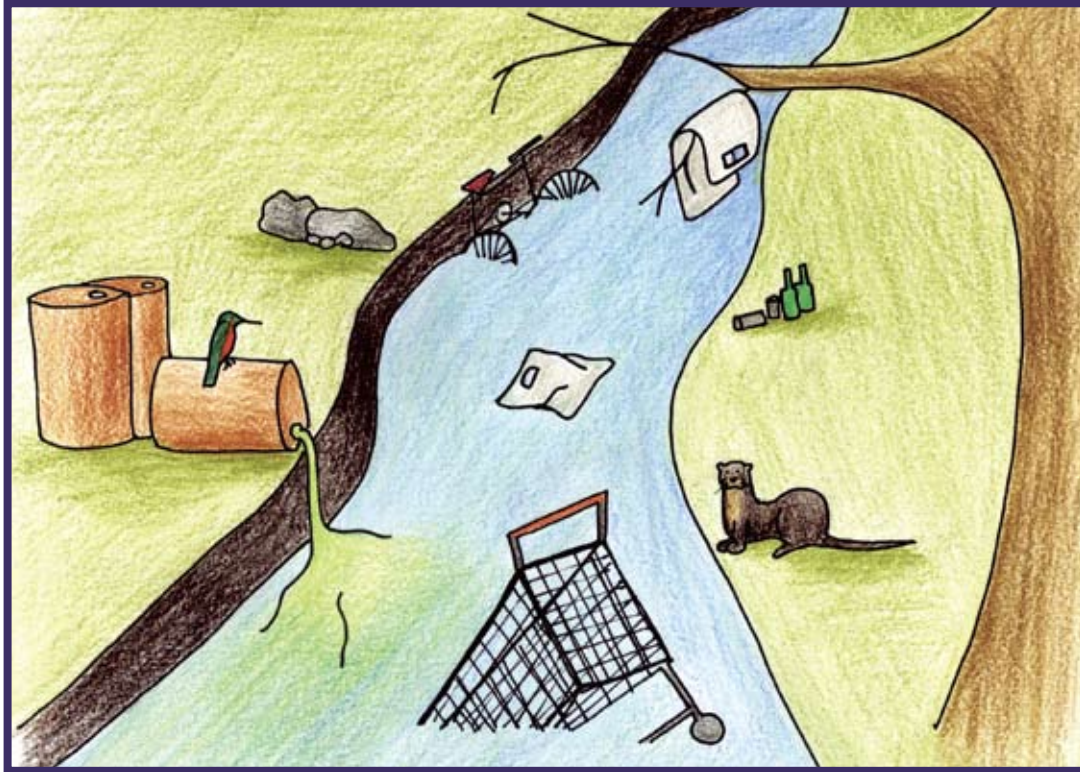
Baby animals often look very different to their parents. Can you draw a line to match up the baby river animals with their mum?





## Spot the Difference

Some very naughty people put things in our rivers that should not be there! Can you spot the six differences between the top picture and the bottom picture. One difference has already been marked to show you what to do.



A lot of these things in the river are pieces of litter. Can you name three pieces of this litter that could be recycled?



## Why Should We Look After Our Rivers?



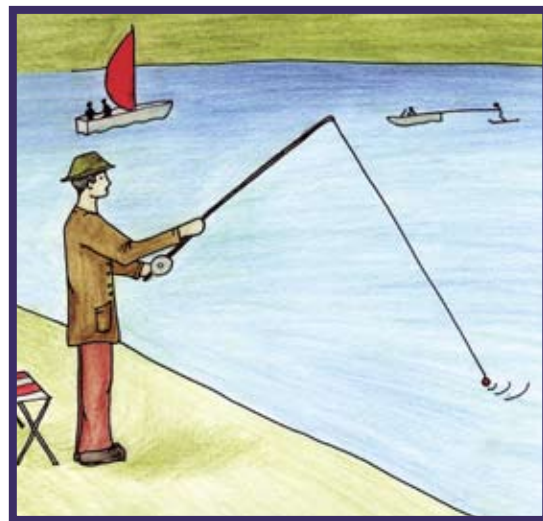
There are lots of reasons why we should look after our rivers and make sure that they are kept clean. Here are some people to tell you what they think about rivers. Can you draw a line to join the person to what you think they might have said?

If we are careful, rivers can be great places to have fun! People use rivers to go boating, waterskiing and fishing.

Rivers are full of water. We need this for drinking, washing, cooking and lots of other things.

There are lots of animals and plants that live in rivers. We do not want to destroy their homes.

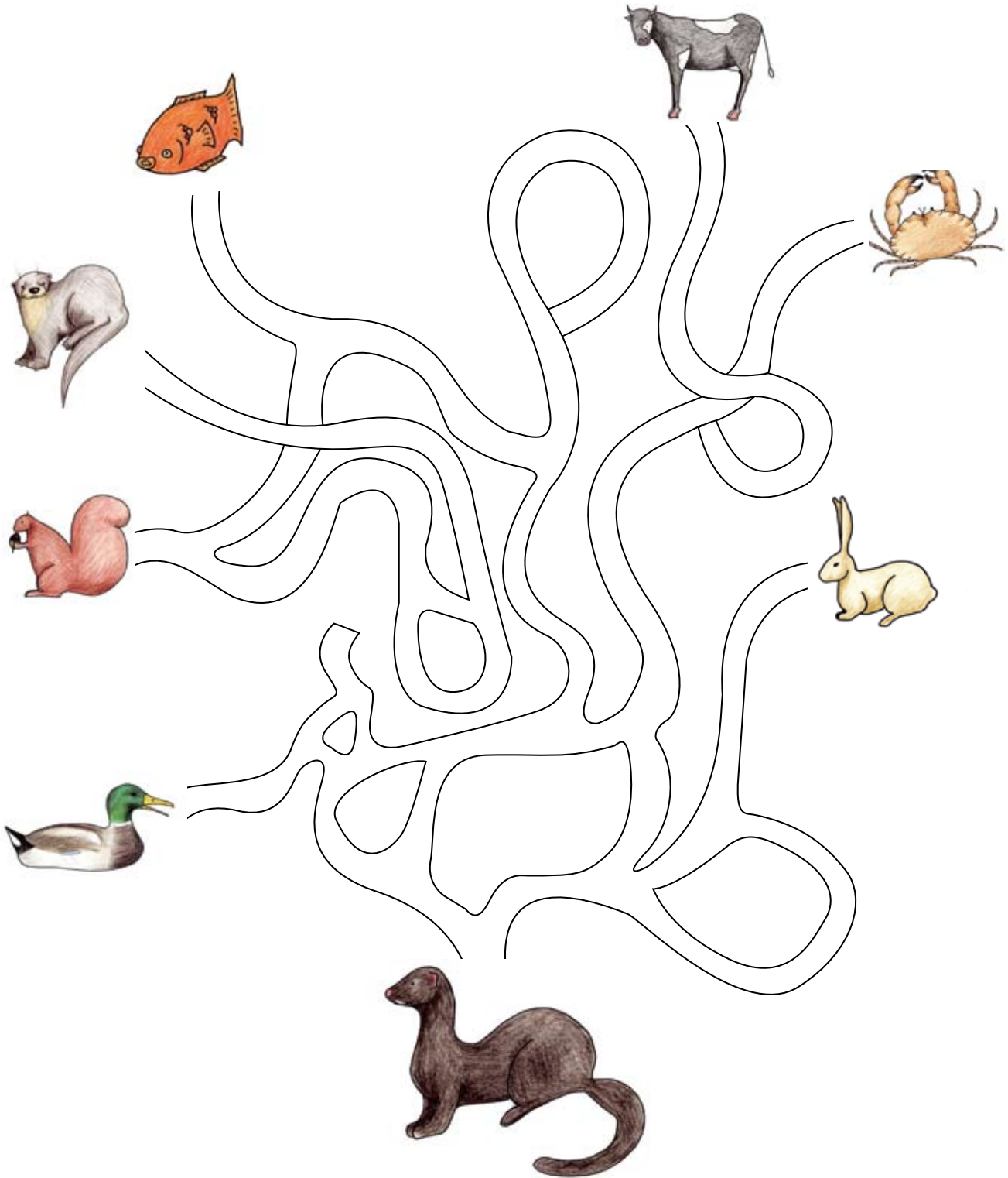
Rivers are beautiful places to visit. They can be very peaceful or after a lot of rain they can be wild and loud.





# The Mink Maze

Mink are animals that were brought from America to Northern Ireland. They used to be farmed for their fur but now they roam wild in Northern Ireland. They have a brown coat with white spots or patches under their chin. They are much smaller than otters. Mink are good swimmers and fierce hunters. Follow the maze to find out what mink like to eat for their dinner!



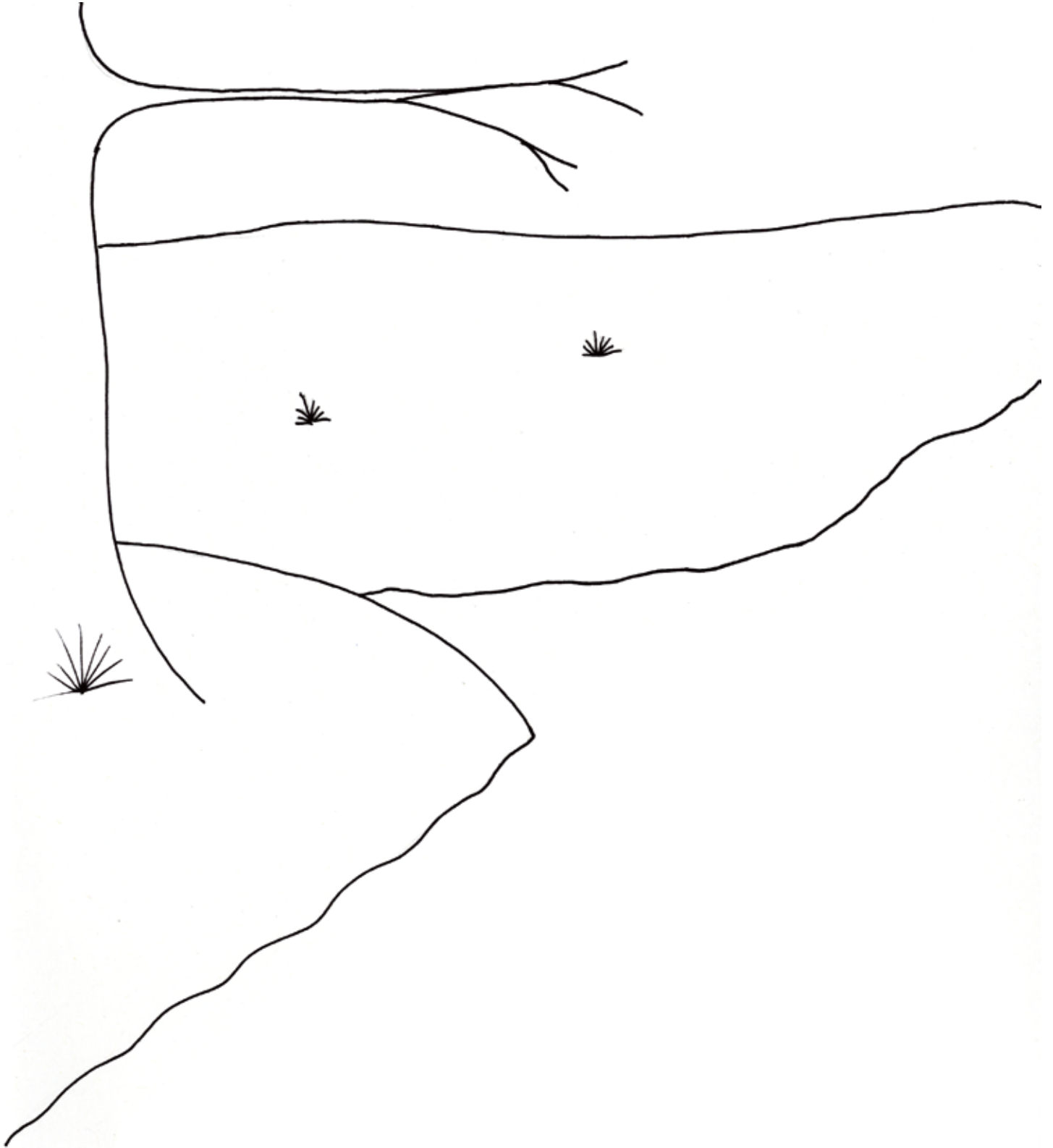
By the way make sure you check all the paths through the maze, Mink like to eat more than one type of food!



## Your Turn to Draw



Here is a river, can you draw in some of your favourite animals that you have learned about in this book?



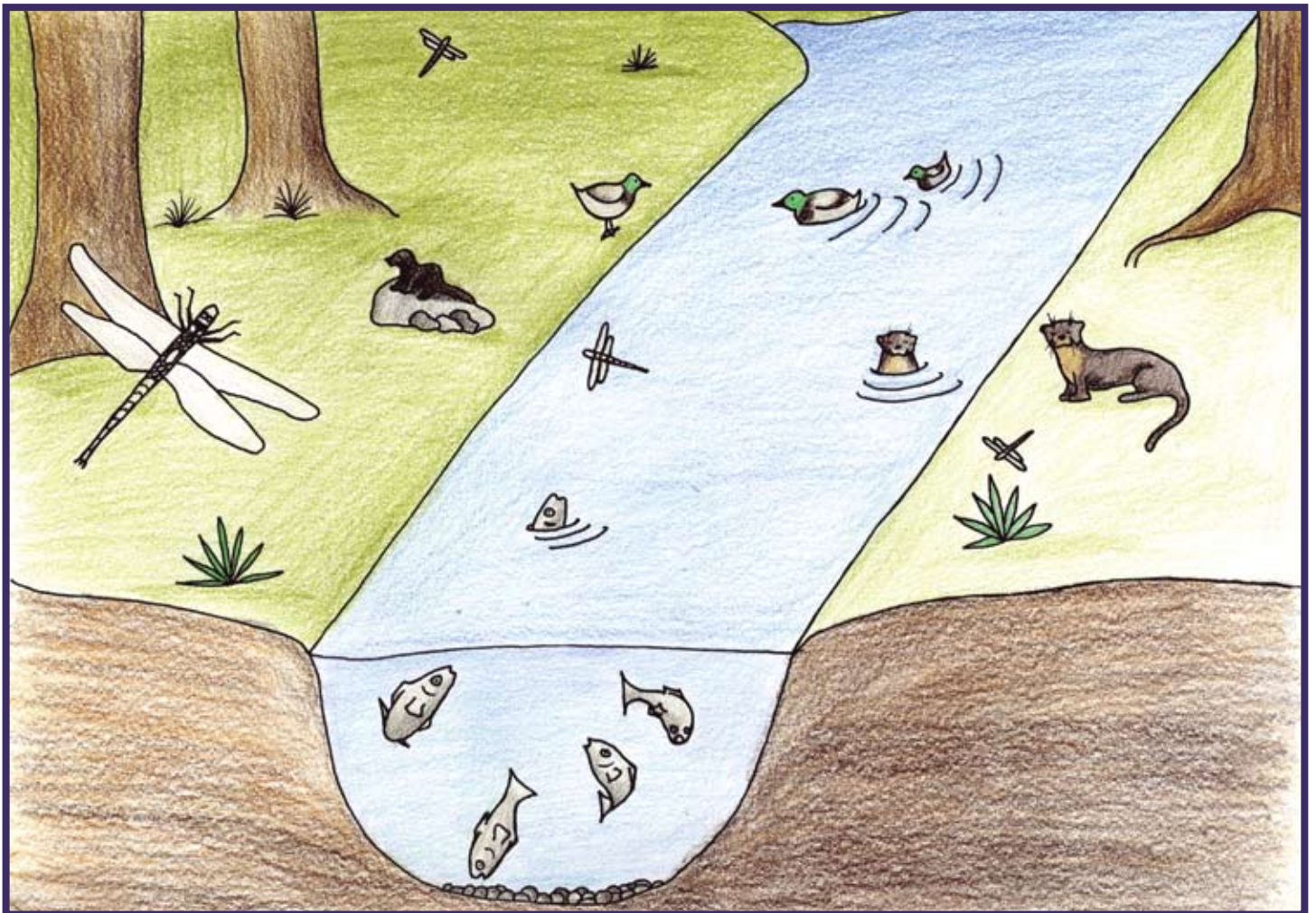


# Tally Marks

Tally marks show us how many

Number	1	2	3	4	5
Tally Marks					

Look at the river. There are lots of different creatures in it. Count how many of each creature you can see and make tally marks for them.



What is it?	How many?	Tally marks
Mink		
Otter	2	
Trout		
Dragonfly		
Duck		



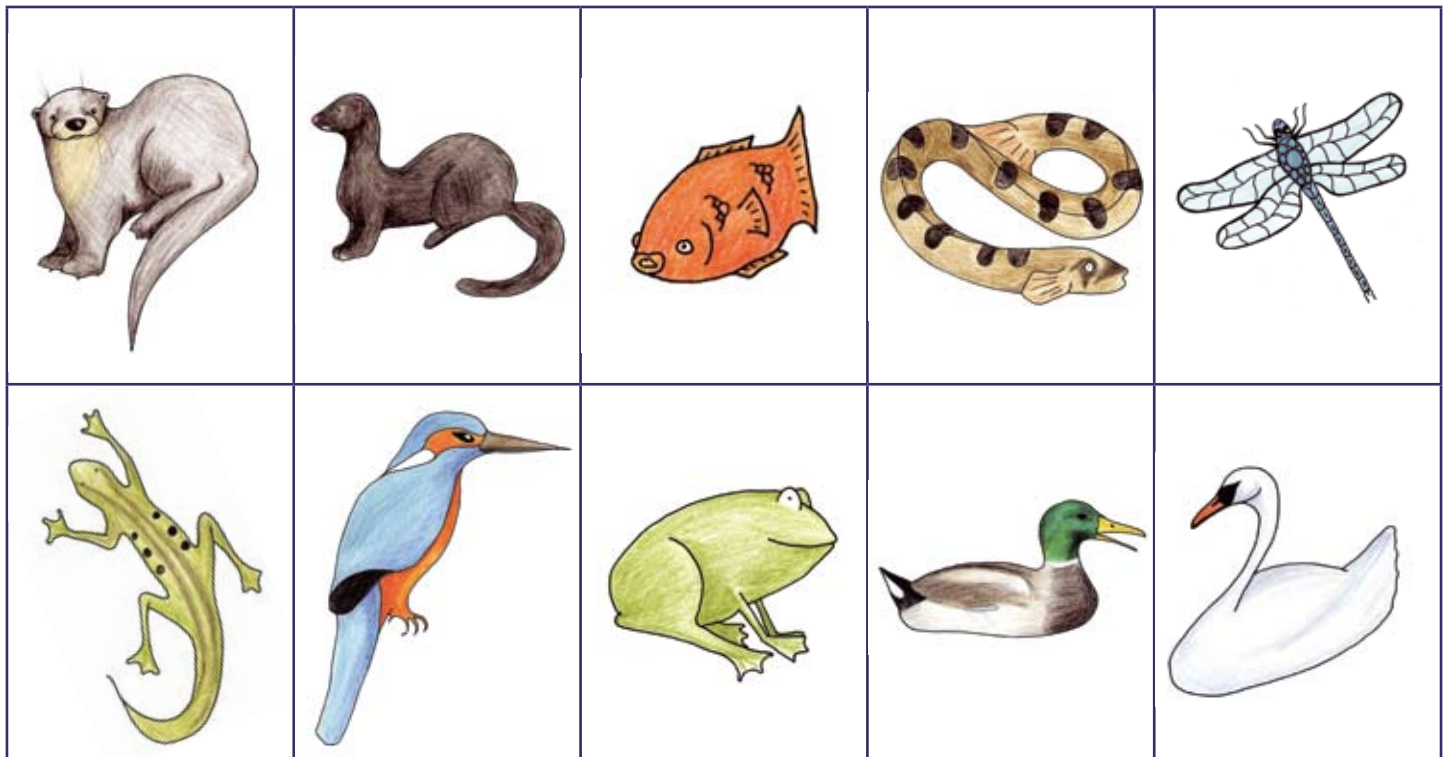
# Wordsearch

Can you find all the hidden river creatures in this wordsearch?

Otter, Mink, Fish, Eel, Dragonfly, Newt, Kingfisher, Frog, Duck, Swan.

Colour in the words when you find them

N	E	W	T	Z	P	S	W	A	N
A	E	V	R	D	U	C	K	O	D
G	L	K	D	R	R	J	I	T	P
E	R	S	P	A	S	F	I	S	H
A	F	R	O	G	F	G	Z	O	T
Y	Z	M	R	O	H	R	X	T	U
G	O	I	V	N	K	S	C	T	E
K	I	N	G	F	I	S	H	E	R
J	F	K	K	L	L	H	T	R	L
F	B	L	T	Y	N	I	I	Y	H





# Dot to Dot



Join the dots to see who is swimming in the river





# Dot to Dot

Can you join the dots to reveal what river creature this is?

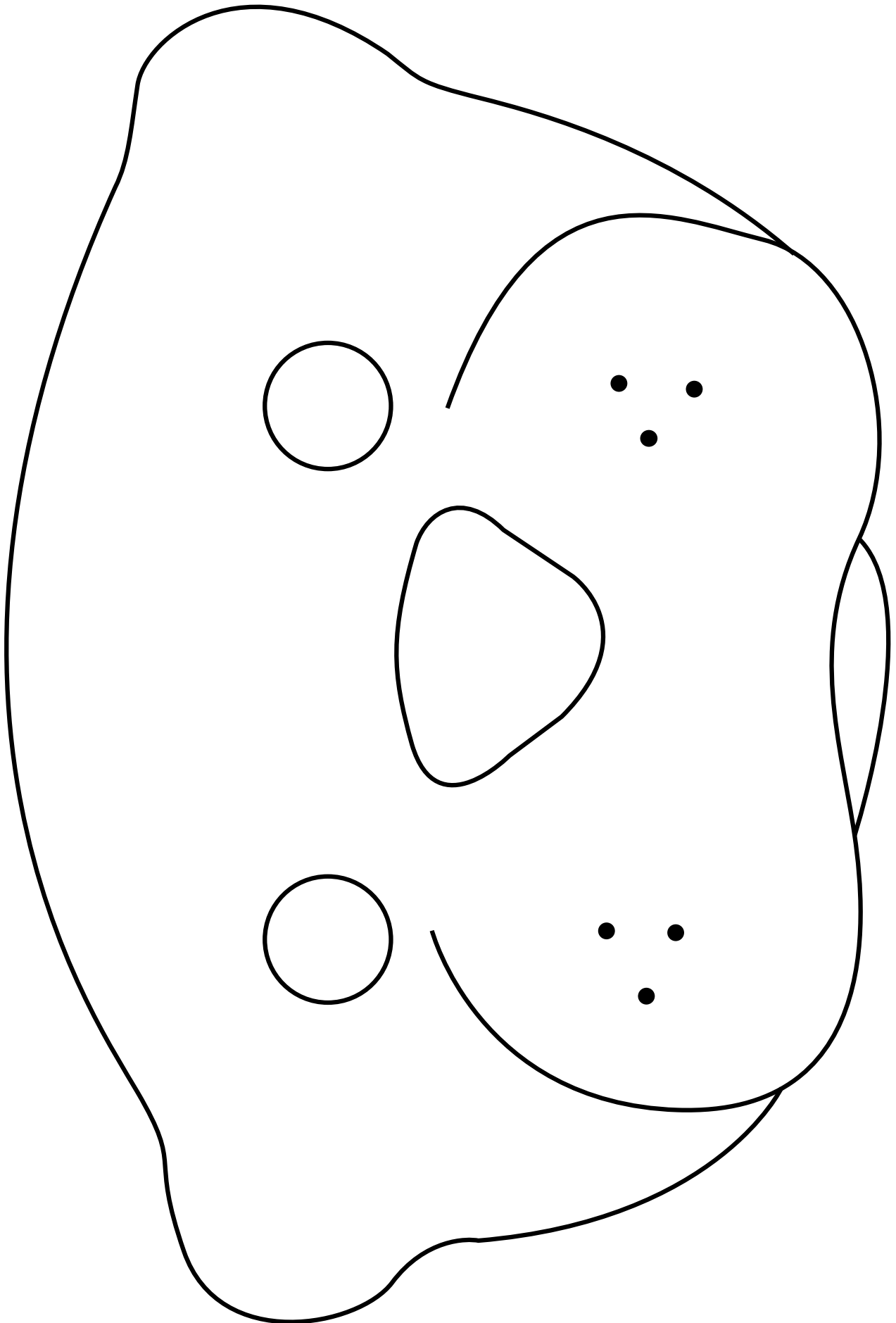
The image shows a dot-to-dot puzzle of a frog. The puzzle consists of 29 numbered dots. Dots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are arranged to form the outline of a frog. Dots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are arranged to form the outline of a frog. Dots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are arranged to form the outline of a frog. Dots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are arranged to form the outline of a frog.



# Otter Mask



Cut it out and then colour it in.

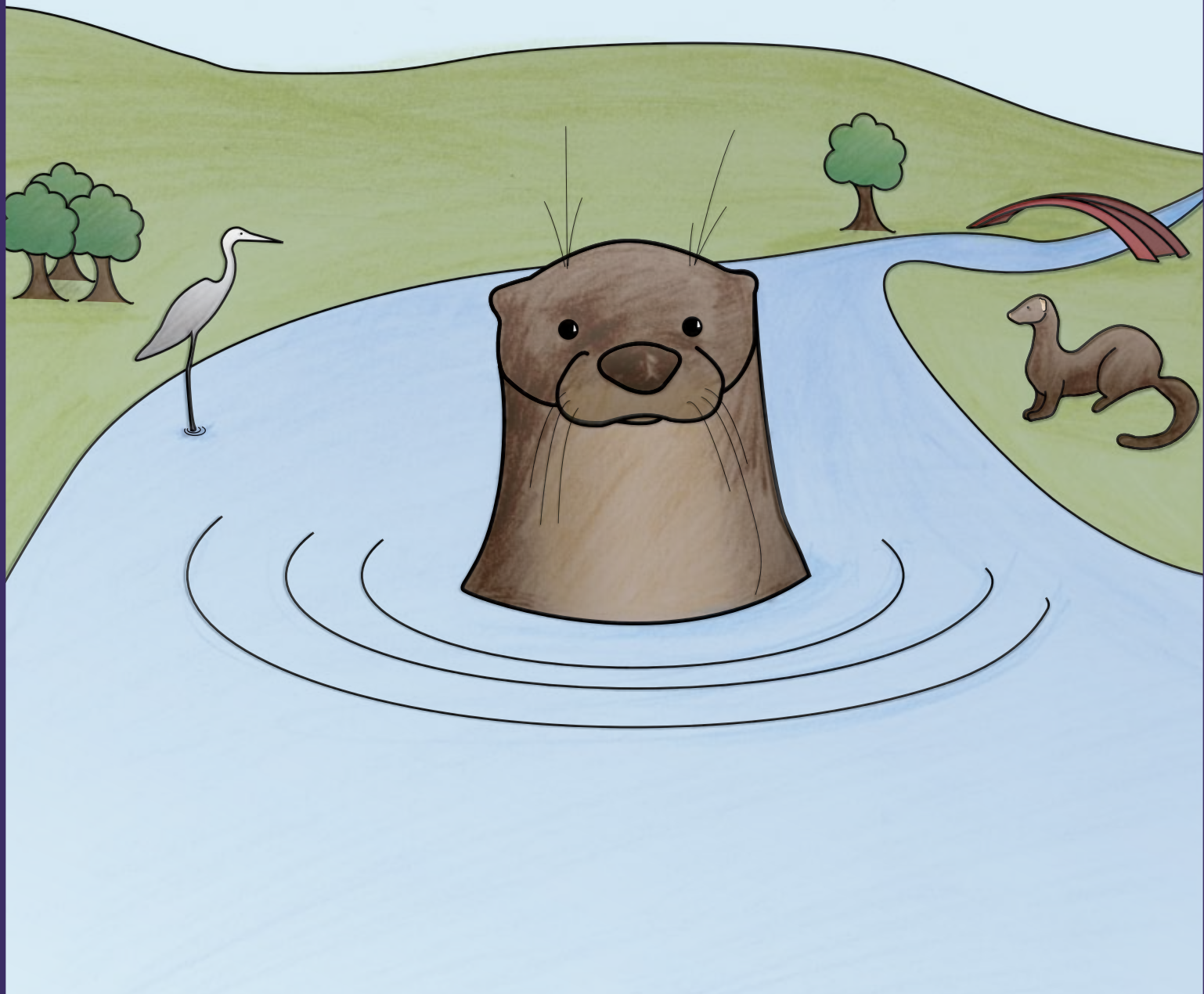




# Certificate

Congratulations \_\_\_\_\_

You have successfully completed Owen Otter's river activity booklet.



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