



ROYAL  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS

# WETLAND ACTIVITIES



These activity sheets belong to:

# What is a Wetland?

Wetlands are areas of land that spend at least part of the year covered in water. These important habitats link land and water. They provide food, water, and shelter for plants and animals. Ontario is rich in wetland habitat. Each wetland can be identified by its plant community. Explore the differences between the types of wetlands found at RBG below.

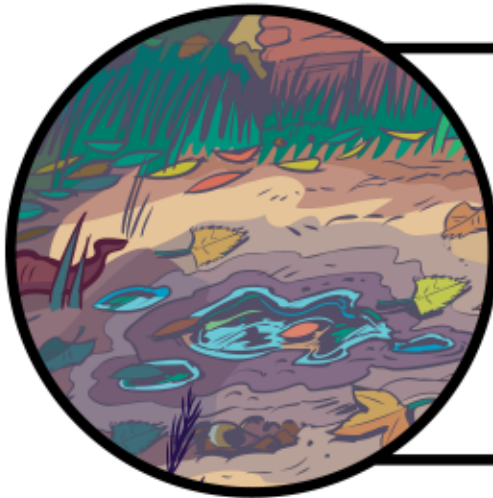
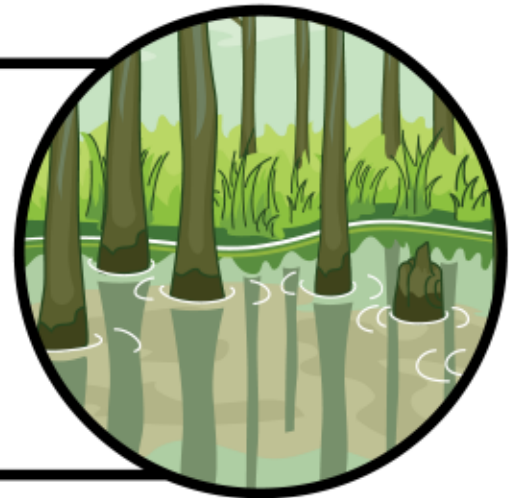


## Freshwater Marsh

- emergent vegetation dominates (tall reeds, rushes, sedges)
- almost always saturated with slow moving water
- rich in nutrients
- transition zone between open water and land

## Swamp

- woody vegetation dominates (coniferous or deciduous trees, shrubs)
- soils are continuously waterlogged by standing or gently moving water
- high in organic material (makes water very dark — even black)

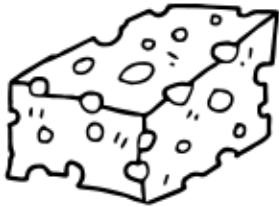


## Vernal Pool

- temporarily flooded area cause by rain or snow melting
- found in a wide variety of habitats, including forests and grasslands
- lack fish; used by amphibians and invertebrates for breeding

# Many Functions

Wetlands are the world's most productive ecosystems and perform dozens of important functions. A wetland is always striving to keep the ecosystem healthy and balanced. Match the items below to what function in a wetland they represent.



**Sponge**



**Birdhouse**



**Baby Bottle**



**Whisk**

A resting place for migratory birds

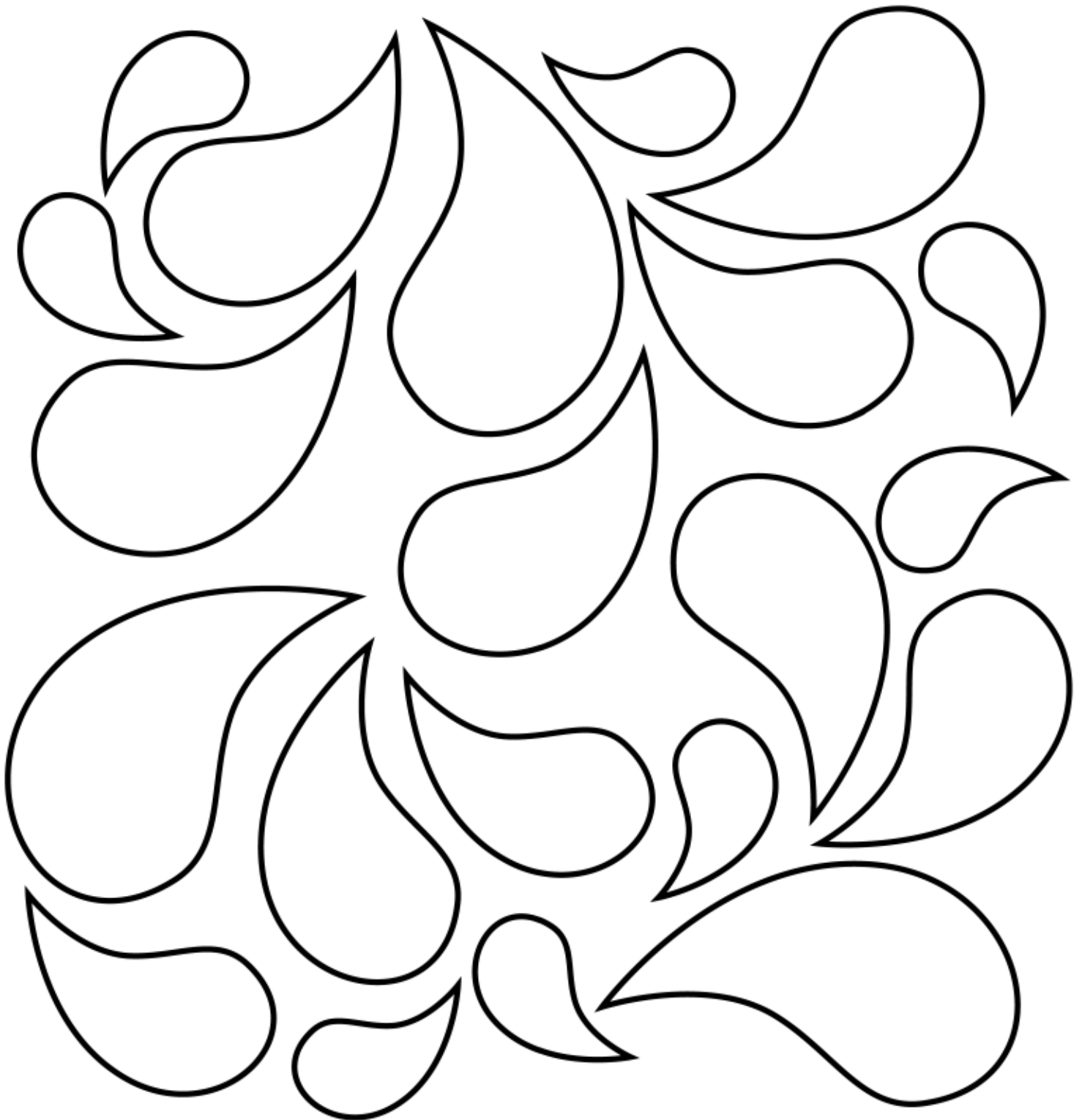
Mixes oxygen and nutrients into the water

Absorbs excess water caused by runoff

Provides a nursery where young animals can find shelter and food

# Water Everywhere

Water is the key element that makes a wetland a wetland. All living things rely on water for survival. Write or draw things that cannot survive without water in the water droplets below.



# Wet Roots

The aquatic plants that call wetlands home are what makes these wet places so desirable for the wildlife that call them home. Connect the plant below with the type of aquatic plant it is.



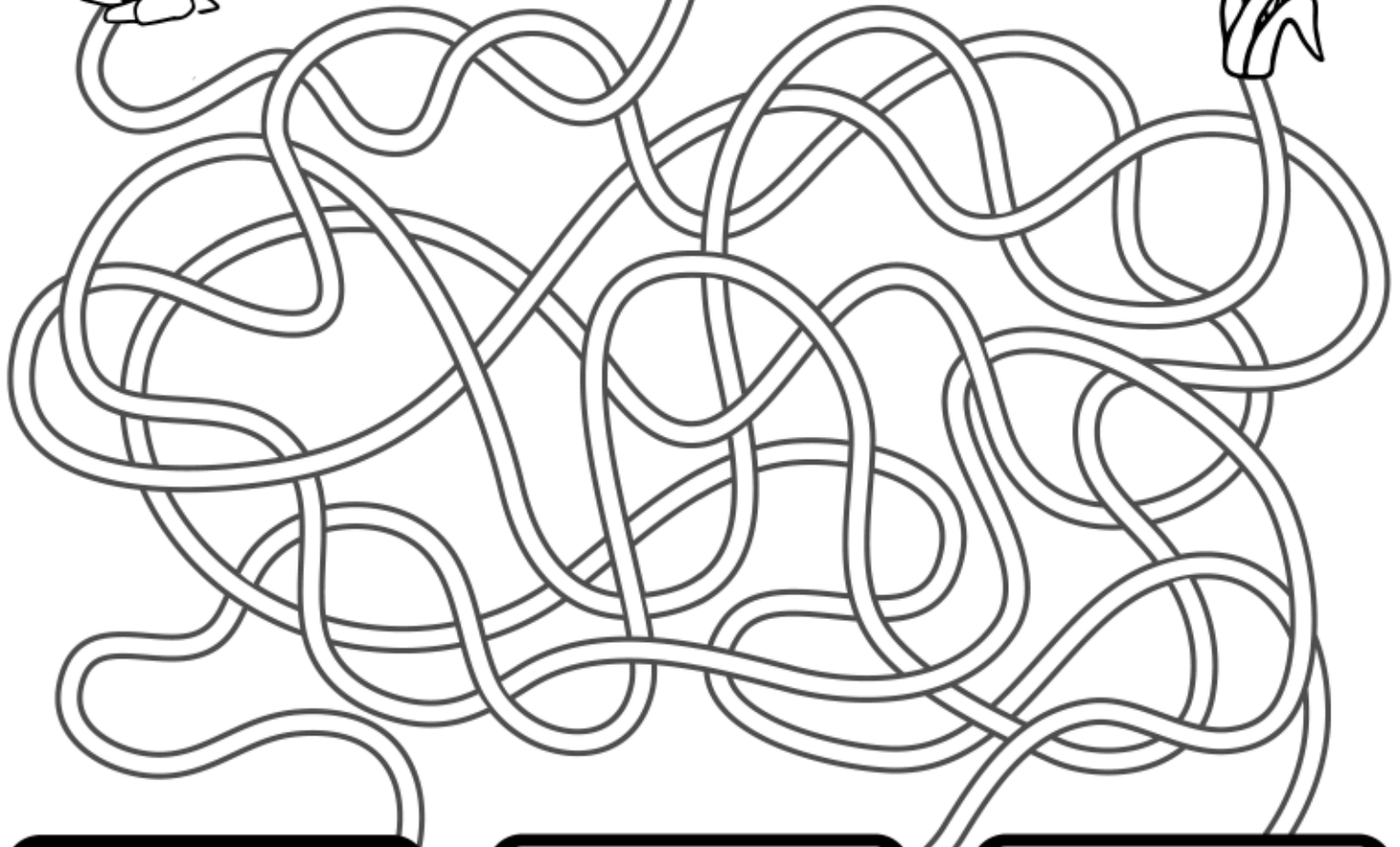
**Water Lily**



**American Eelgrass**



**Cattail**



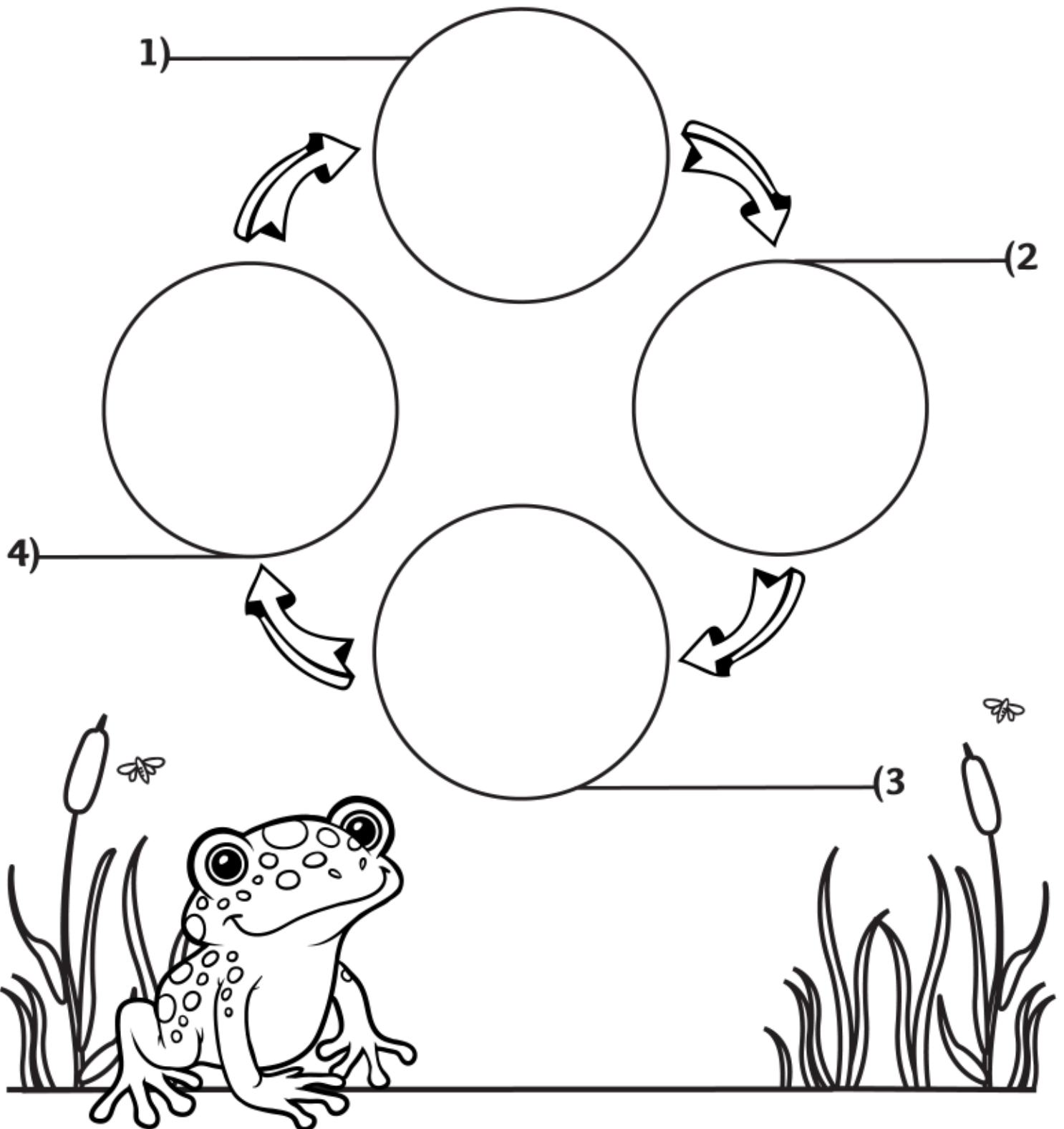
**Submerged** plants spend their lives fully underwater. They are usually rooted in the sediment, but not always.

**Emergent** plants grow tall with part of the plant poking out of the water.

**Floating-leaved** plants seem to grow right on the water surface, but they are usually anchored to the bottom, by stems.

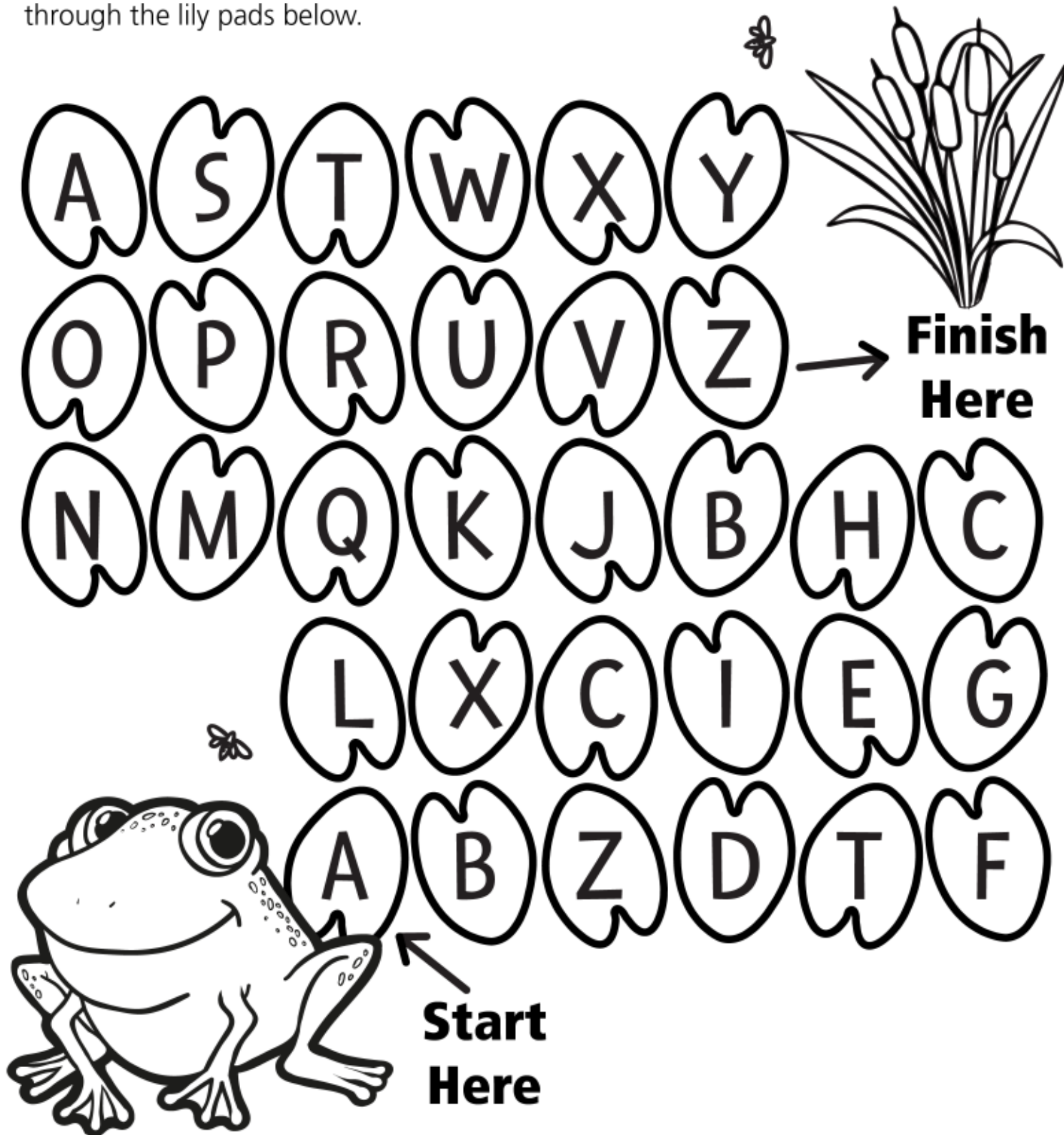
# Tadpole to Frog

Frogs go through metamorphosis where they grow from an egg, to a tadpole, to a froglet, and lastly a frog. Draw and label the four main stages of frog development.



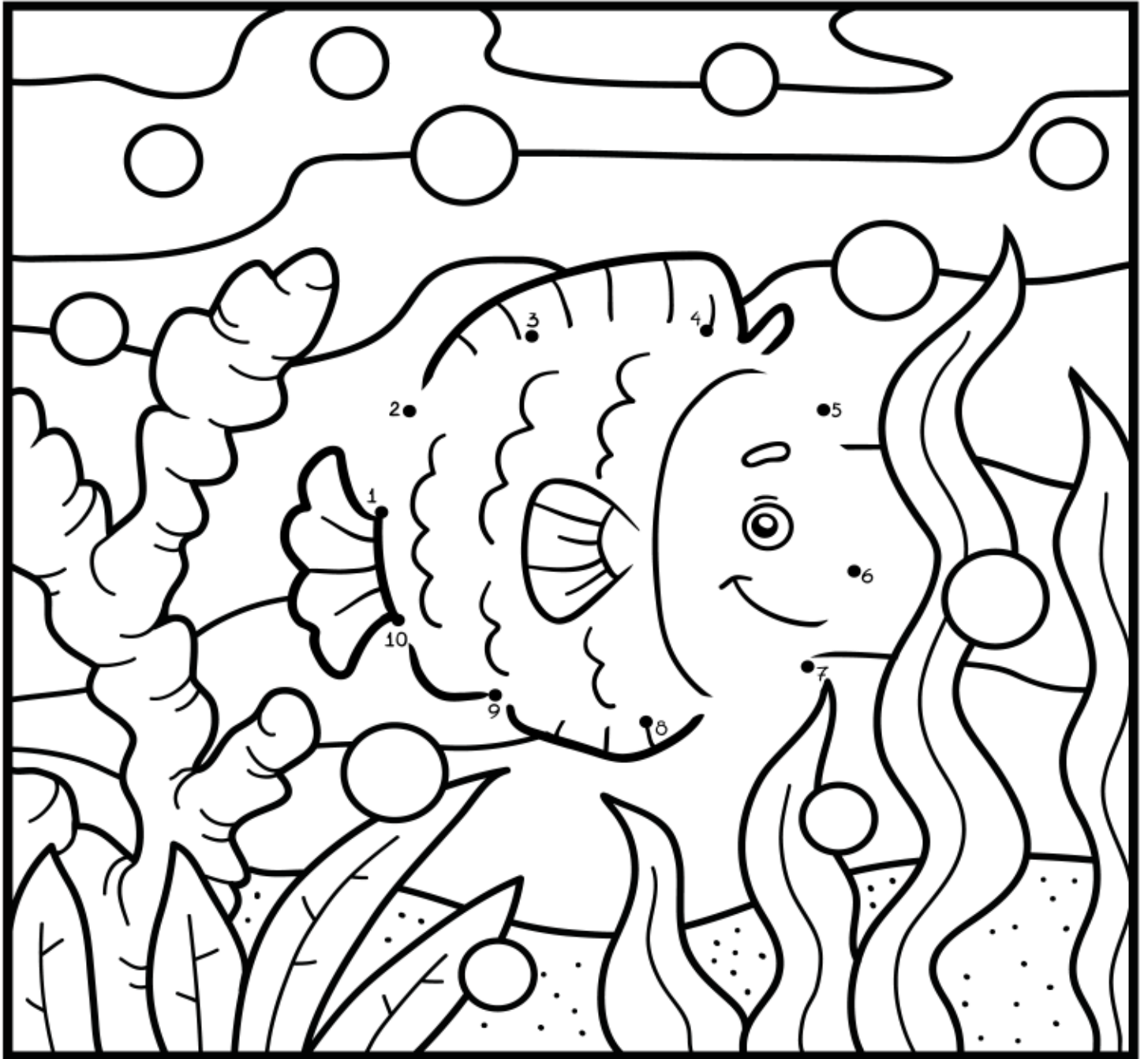
# Jumping Around

Thanks to their strong back legs, frogs are great at jumping and hopping! Help the frog find his way back to cattails by following the alphabet to make your way through the lily pads below.



# Under H<sub>2</sub>O

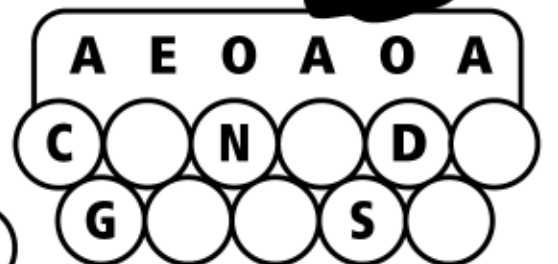
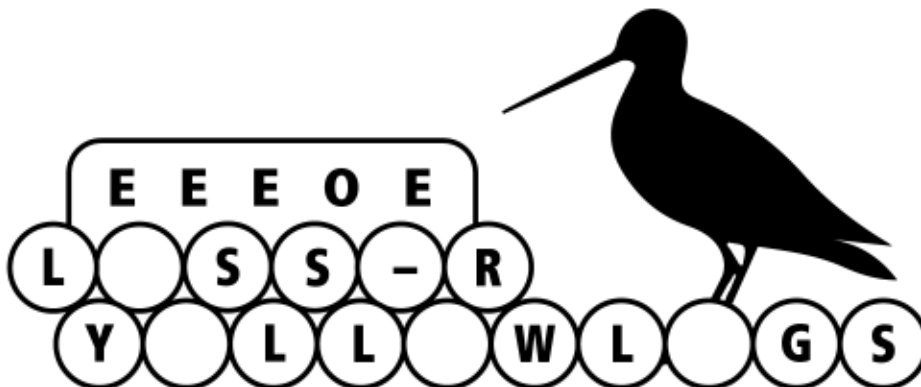
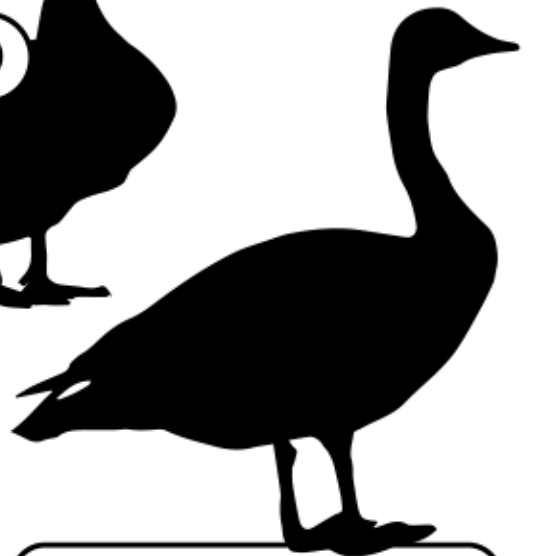
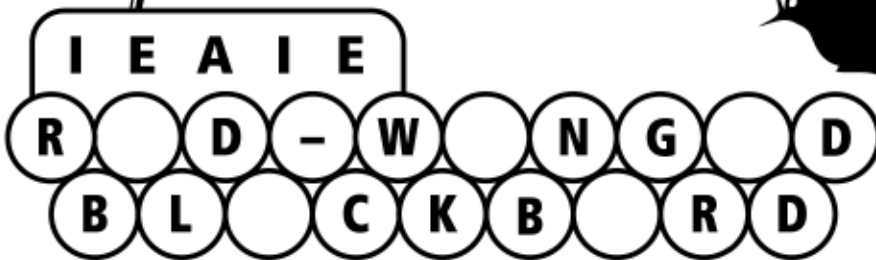
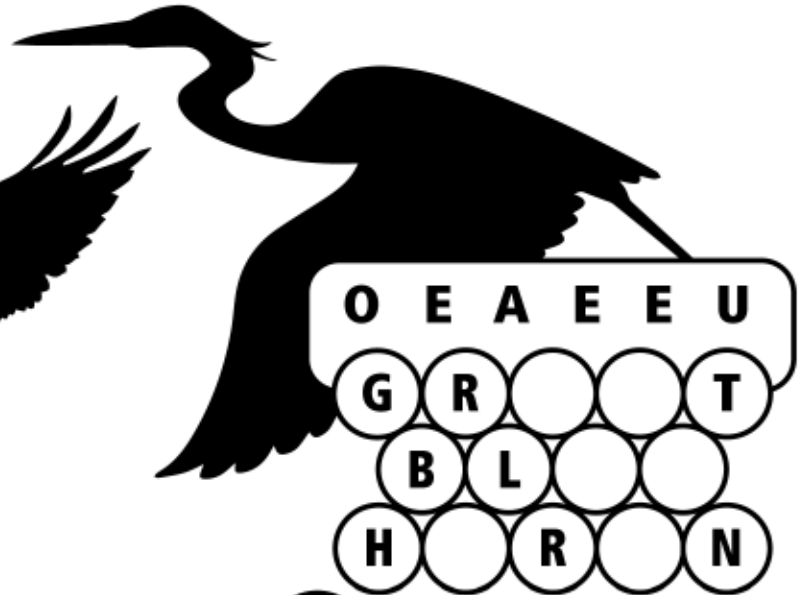
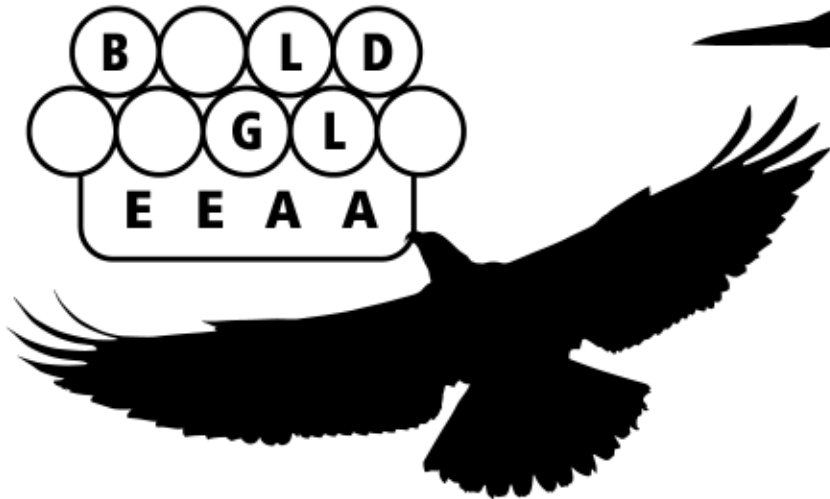
Many animals call aquatic habitats their home, whether it's an ocean, a lake, or a wetland. Connect the dots to reveal one animal that loves life underwater, and then colour in the scene.





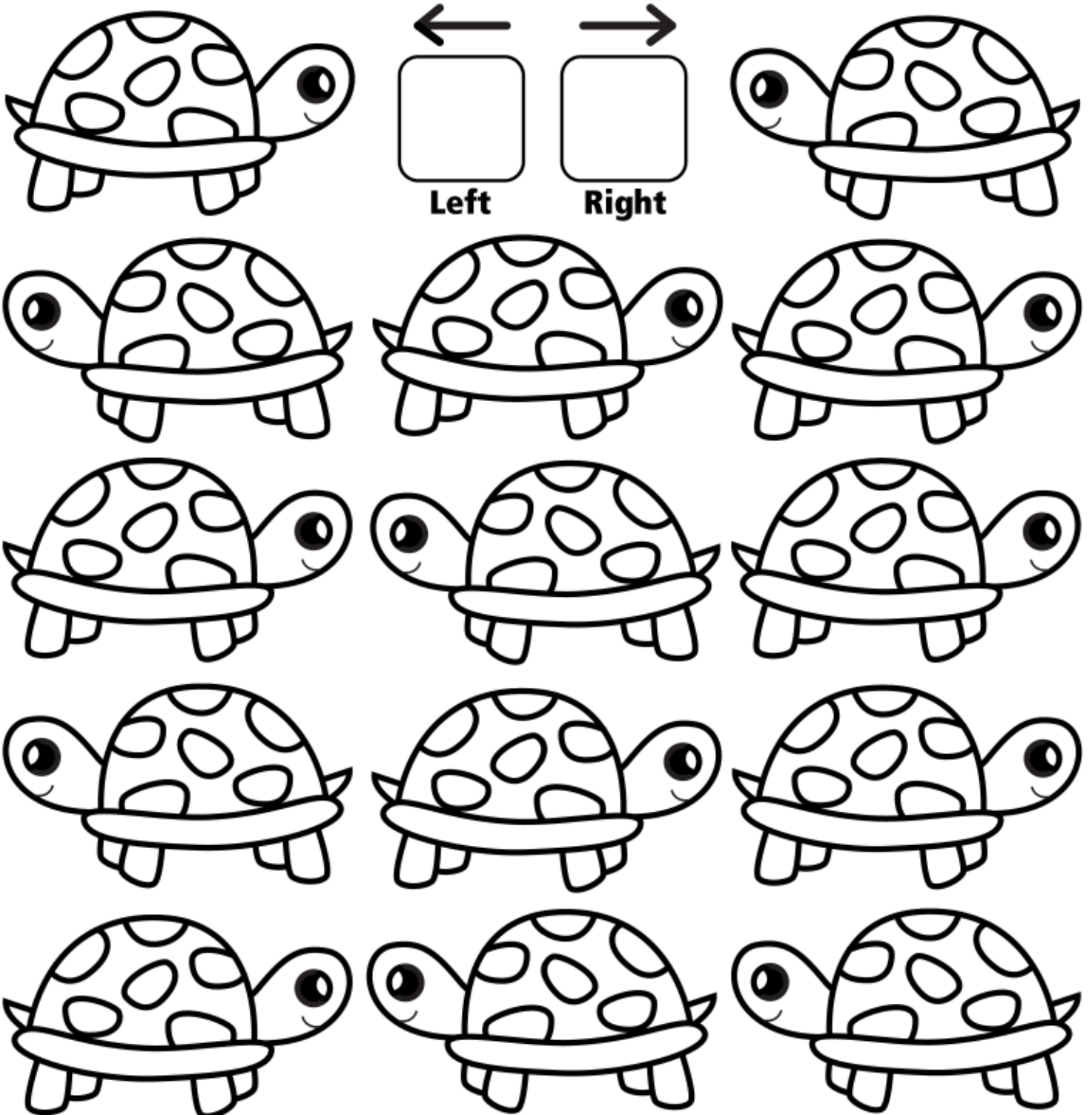
# Wonderful Waterfowl

Many birds live near water. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes.  
Use the silhouettes to help you fill in the missing vowels to identify each bird.



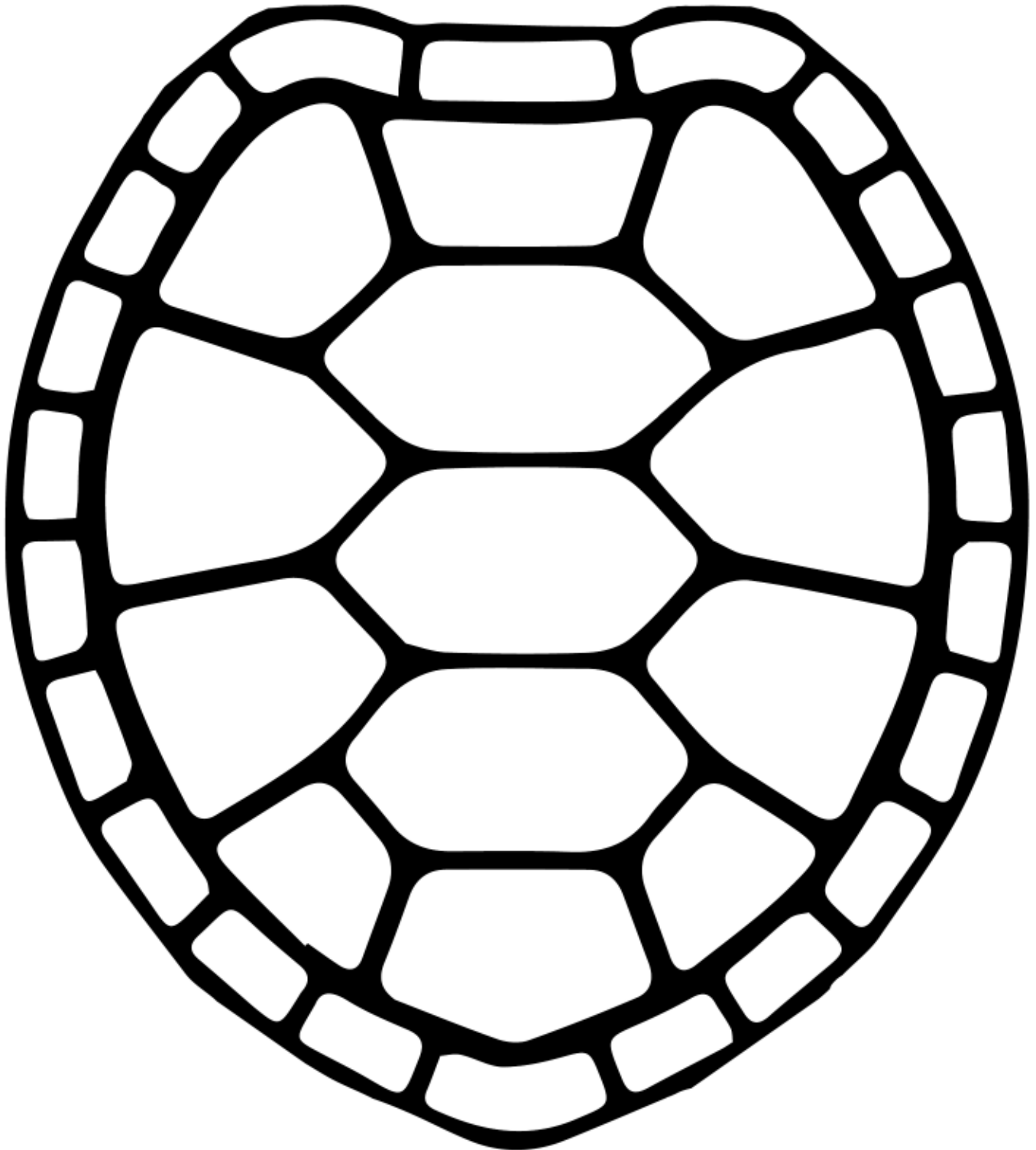
# Crossing Turtles

Each spring, female turtles are on the move looking for a good nesting spot to lay their eggs. Help these turtles find their way. How many turtles are looking left? How many are looking right?



# Super Scutes

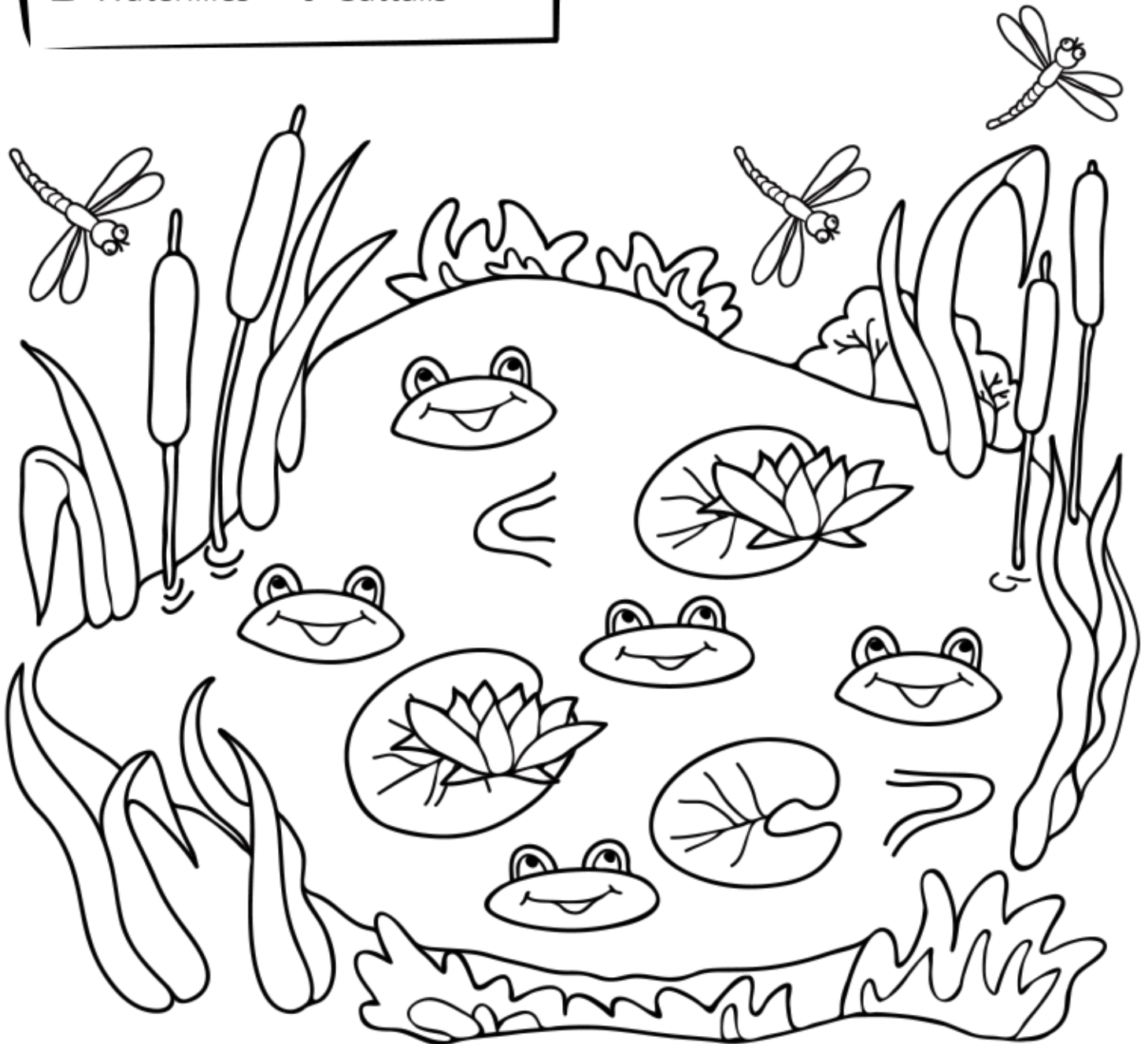
A carapace, is the top of a turtle's shell, like you see below. The sections on the carapace are called scutes. Scutes are made from keratin, the same material as your hair and nails. Colour in each scute below with different patterns or shapes.



# Hide and Seek

Wetlands are full of life! Can you find everything listed in the image below?

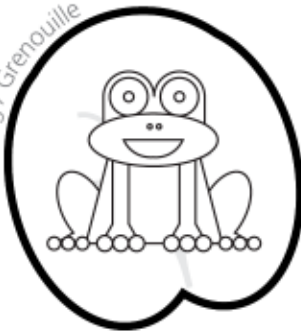
<b>5</b> Frogs	<b>3</b> Dragonflies
<b>2</b> Waterlilies	<b>4</b> Cattails



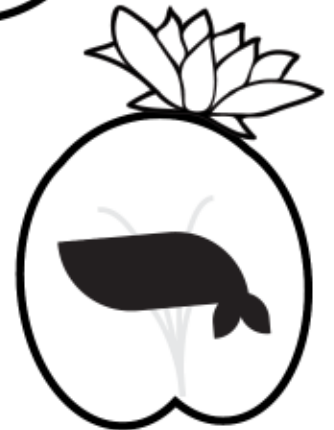
# Seeing Double

Waterlily pads are a great resting place for many critters, whether they're on top in the sunshine, or hiding beneath the floating leaf. Draw lines to connect the animals to their matching shadows.

Frog / Grenouille



Turtle / Tortue



Fish / Poisson



Duck / Canard

