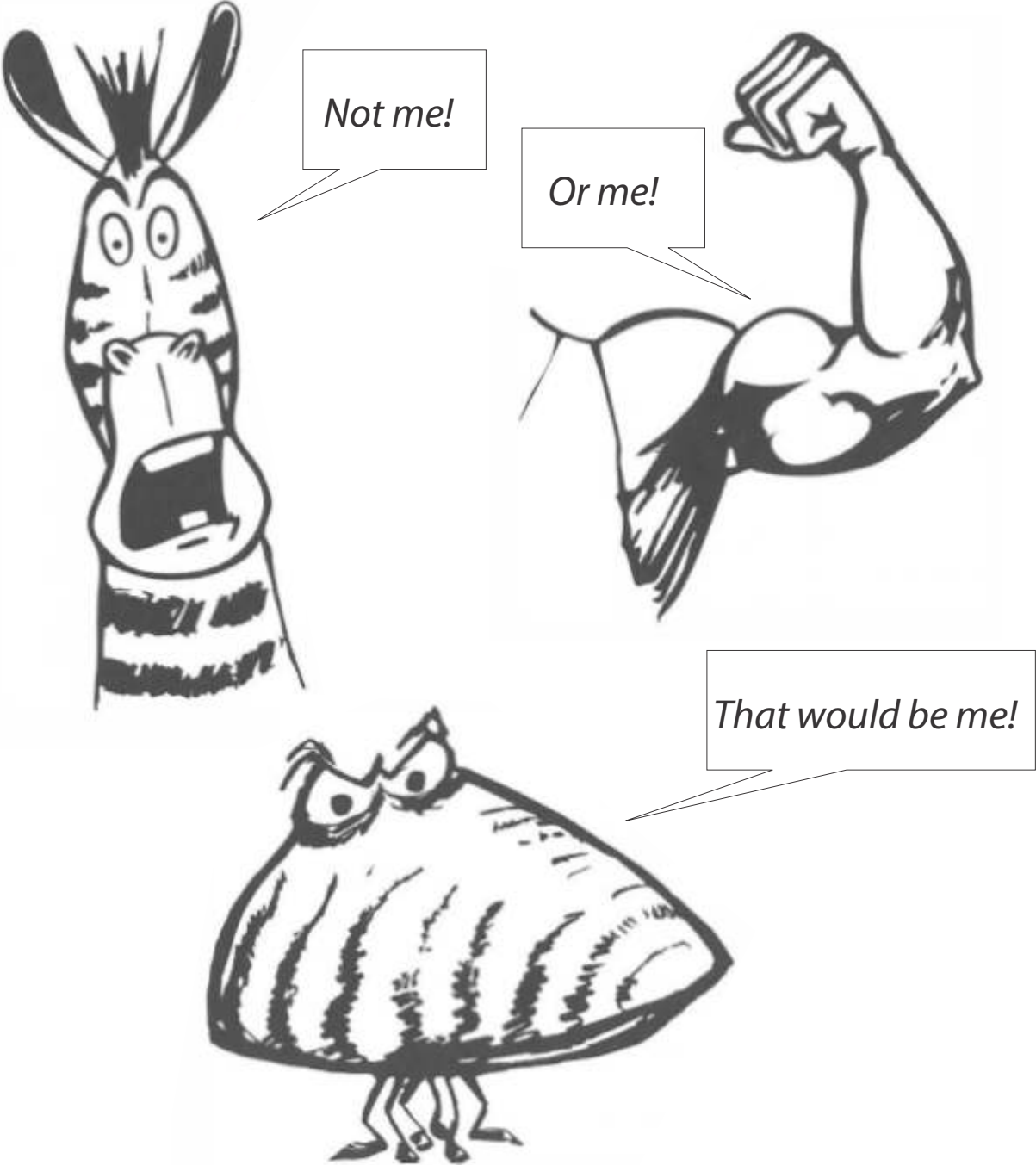


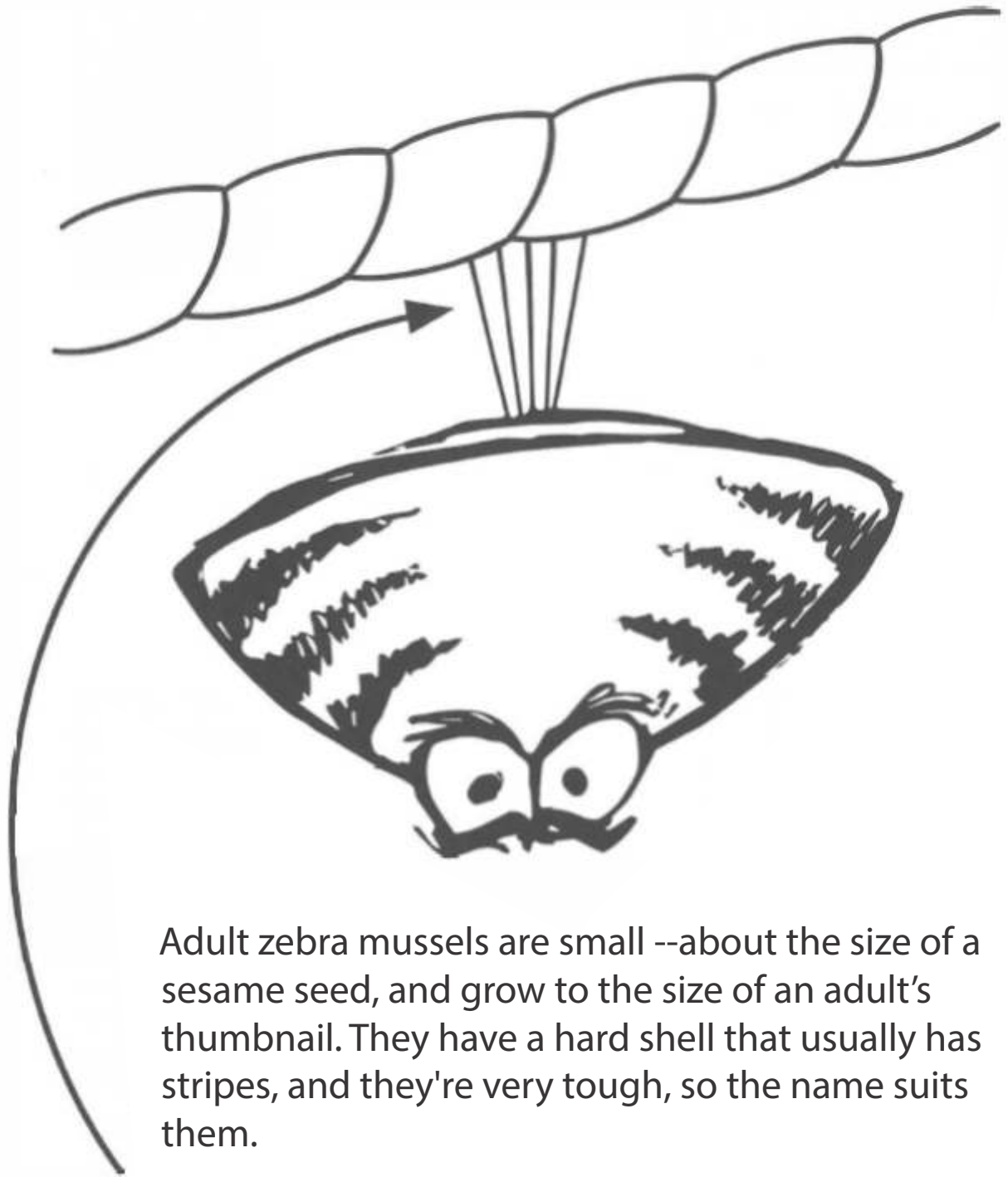
# Zebra Mussel Colouring and Activity Book



# Have you ever heard of zebra mussels?

They're not zebras and they're not "muscles", but this creature is called a zebra mussel.





Adult zebra mussels are small --about the size of a sesame seed, and grow to the size of an adult's thumbnail. They have a hard shell that usually has stripes, and they're very tough, so the name suits them.

Zebra mussels live in freshwater. Look at the drawing above. See those little threads? Those are called byssal (bis-al) threads. These threads are like really strong glue. That's how zebra mussels attach to things in the water such as rocks, boats, even your toys.

If you had byssal threads, what would you want to stick to?

Zebra mussels are not "native" to Saskatchewan's lakes and rivers. That means they're not a natural part of our environment. Zebra mussels have not invaded our waters yet, and practicing CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY is a good way to keep them out.

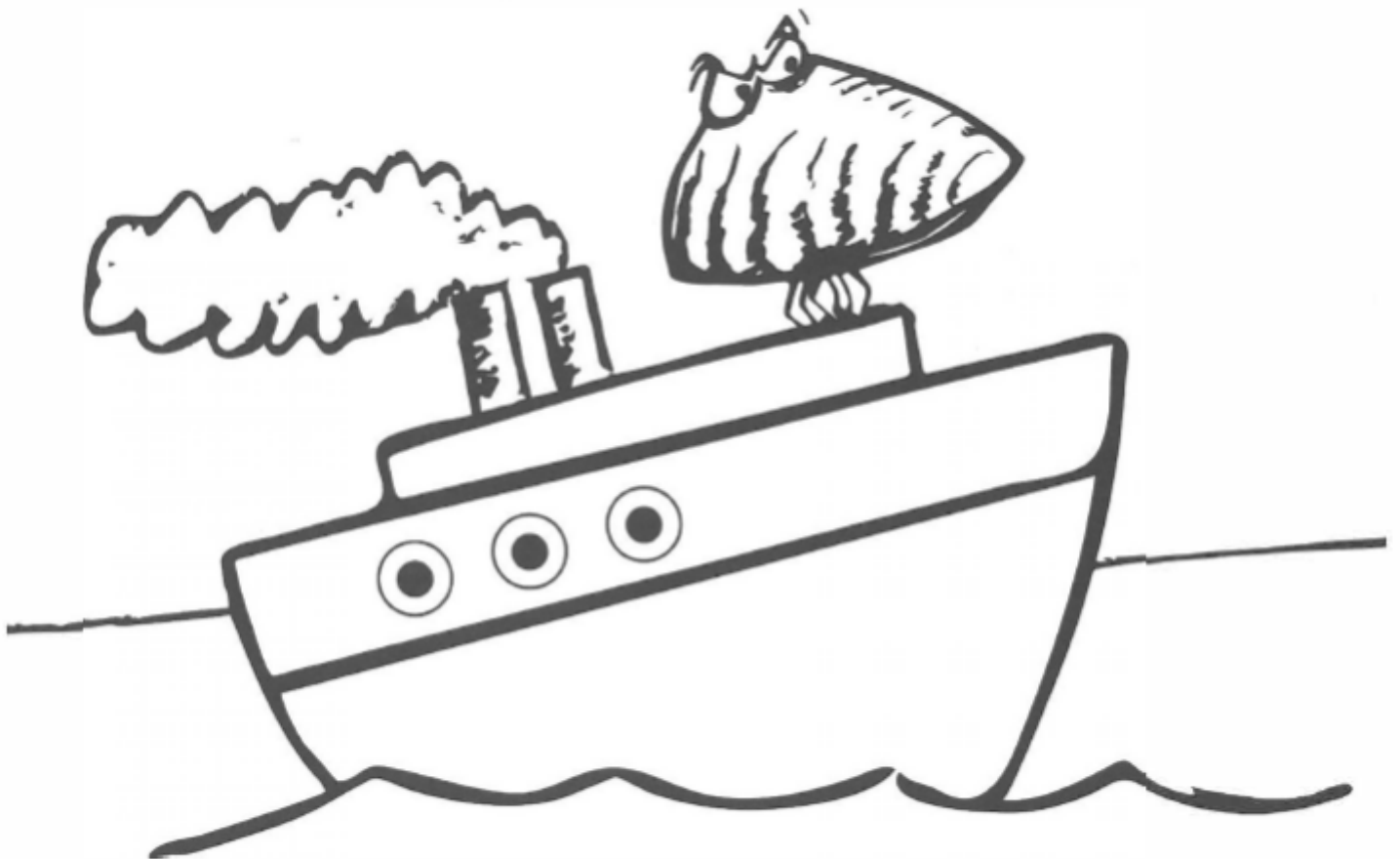
## Word Search

ZEBRA MUSSEL	STRIPES	BYSSAL	SASKATCHEWAN
NATIVE	LAKE	RIVER	FISH
ENVIRONMENT	GLUE	INVADED	



## How did they get here?

Zebra mussels love catching rides. To get to Canada, they caught rides on large ships that came from across the ocean. They began to settle in the Great Lakes. Their families started to grow quickly. An adult female zebra mussel can produce up to one million eggs each year! Can you imagine if you had that many brothers and sisters?



# Are zebra mussels bad?

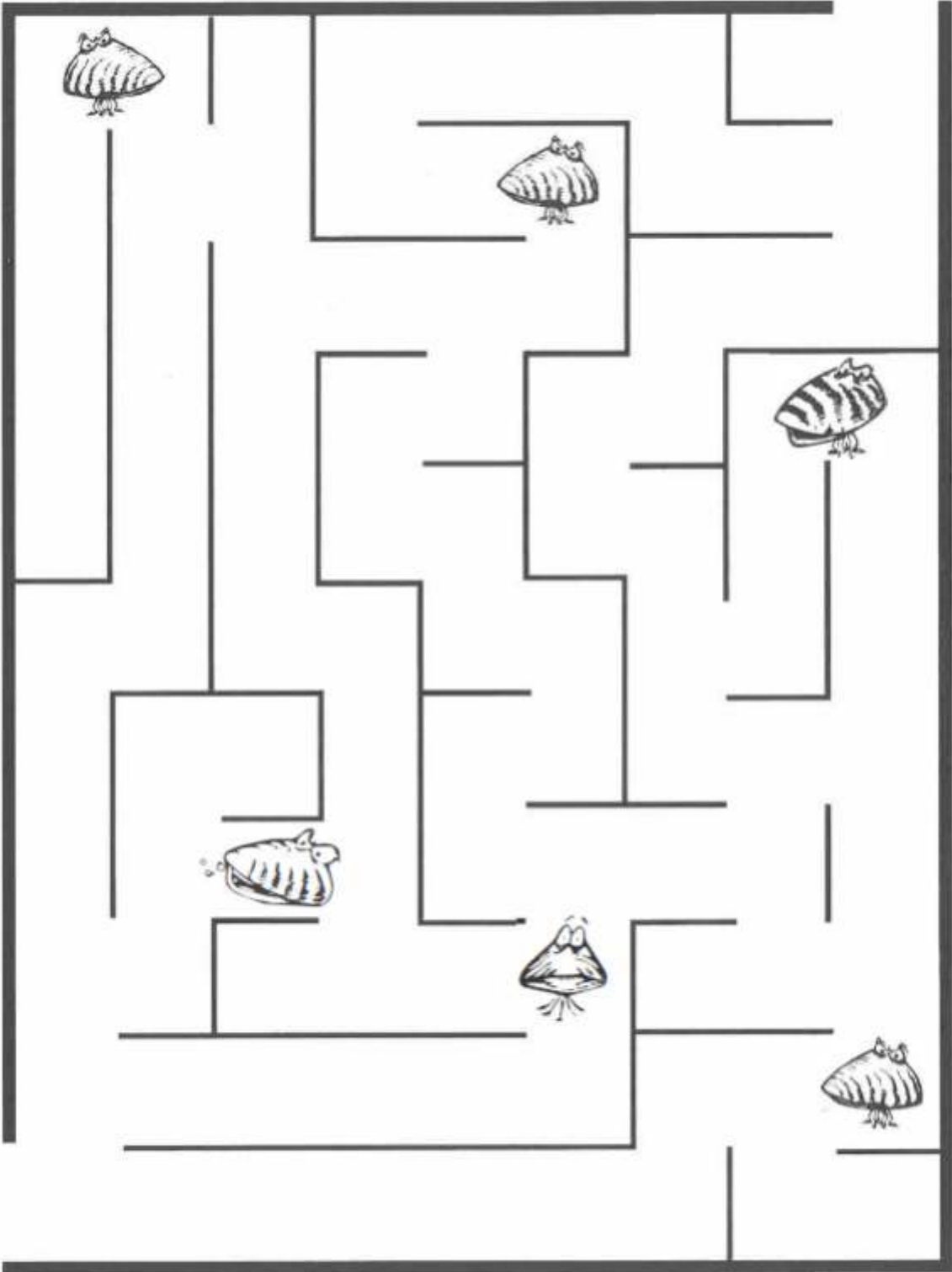
Sadly, they are. They're bad because:

1. Adult zebra mussels can survive out of water for a long time – up to 30 days! Once adult zebra mussels die, they're really smelly – worse than your brother's, sister's or best friend's smelliest pair of socks! Who wants to play on the beach if there are smelly zebra mussels everywhere?
2. Their shells have very sharp edges. If you're playing in the sand or walking bare foot in the water and there are dead zebra mussels on the shore, you might cut your feet.
3. They eat a lot of plankton in the water. Plankton are super teeny plants and animals that float in the water. Fish also eat plankton. With less plankton for the fish to eat, there will be fewer fish. This will make it harder to catch a fish when you go fishing.



# Maze Game

Get from one end to the other without stepping on a zebra mussel.





# Can we do anything to stop zebra mussels from invading all our lakes and rivers?

Yes! When zebra mussels are born, they're so small, you can't even see them. Baby zebra mussels, called "veligers" (vel-li-gerz), love floating in water. So before you leave the lake or the river, make sure you Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose.

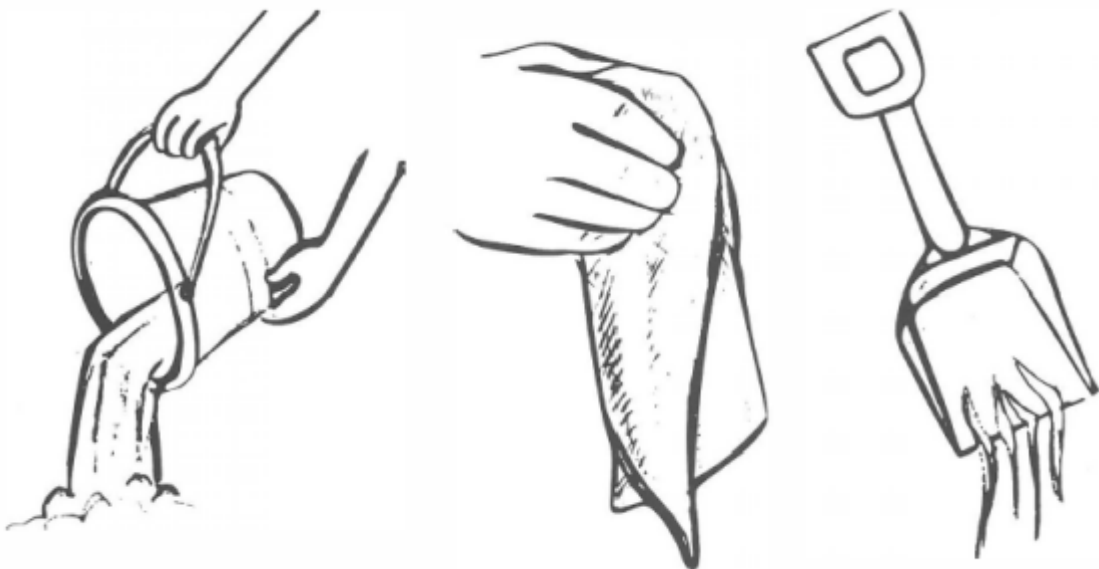
**CLEAN** – if there's any grass or seaweed stuck to your toys, remove it.

**DRAIN** – dump all the water out of your toys.

**DRY** – ask your mom or dad for an old towel or rag so you can dry off your toys.

**DISPOSE** – after cleaning, draining and drying your toys, throw the material into the garbage where it cannot get into a lake or river.

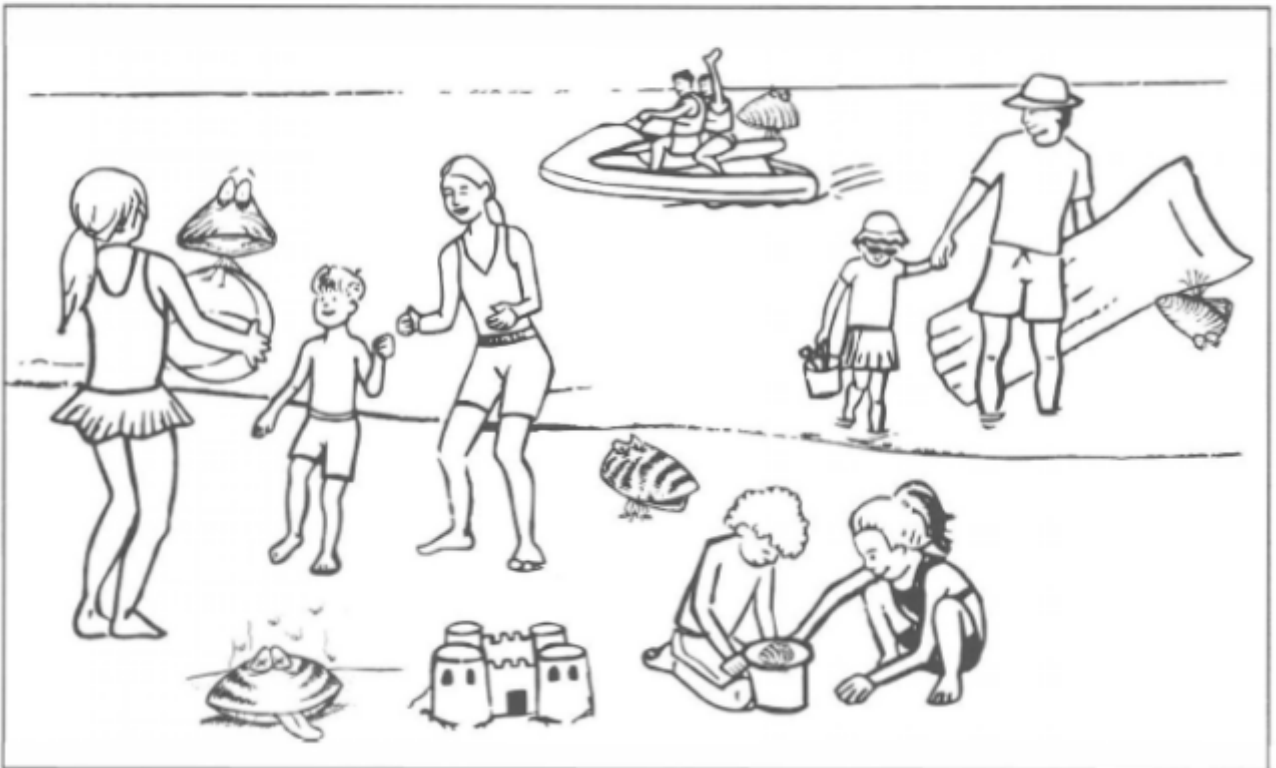
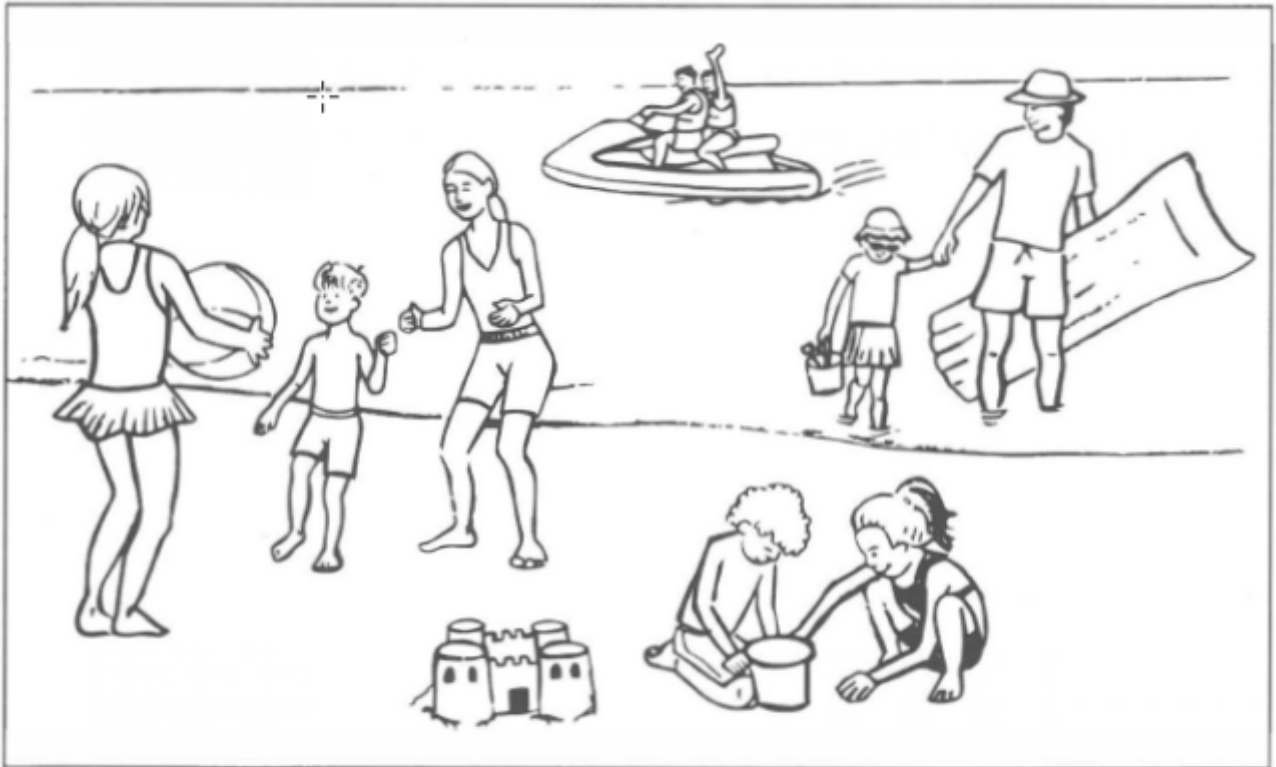
Veligers are so tiny, there could be a hundred of them in a single drop of water.





# Spot the difference

There are six differences between these two pictures.



# Word Scramble

Clean, drain and dry everything you use or play with in the water. Can you unscramble the words below to identify some things used in the water?

a o t b

h i s g i f n d o r

l o p o e o d o n l

o g s g e g l

a h b c e a l l b

## Choose the correct word and fill in the blank.

(hint: the answers are found in this booklet.)

Adult zebra \_\_\_\_\_ (muscles / mussels) usually have \_\_\_\_\_ (stripes / strips), which is what gives them their name. They're very small, but their byssal threads make them quite \_\_\_\_\_ (strange / strong) and allow them to stick to things in the water.

Baby zebra mussels are called \_\_\_\_\_ (villages / veligers). They're so \_\_\_\_\_ (smiley / small) that humans can't see them. Zebra mussels are bad for our lakes and rivers because they eat lots of \_\_\_\_\_ (planks / plankton) and there's little food left for the fish.

They also wash onto the shore and \_\_\_\_\_ (die / dye). That's bad because they're very \_\_\_\_\_ (smelly / smiley) and have \_\_\_\_\_ (sharp / shape) edges that can cut your feet.

If we want to stop zebra mussels from invading our lakes and rivers, we must clean, \_\_\_\_\_ (drone / drain) and dry everything we used in the water that day.

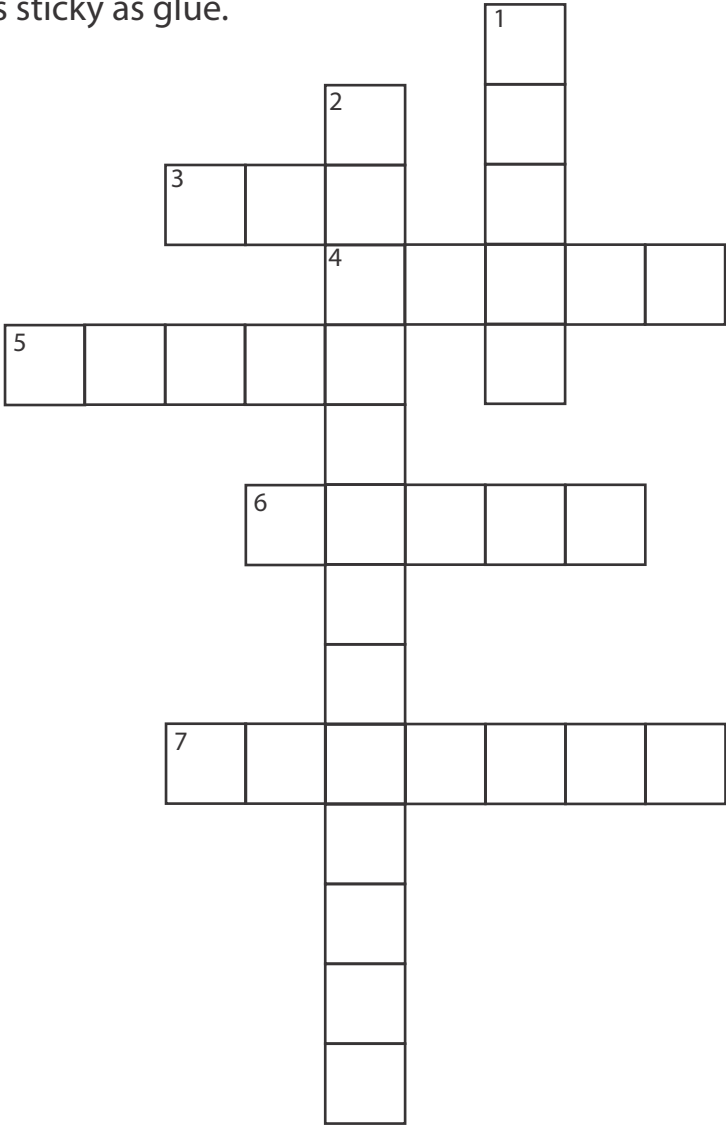
# Crossword Puzzle

**Across:**

- 3. The third thing you should do when you take your toys out of the water.
- 4. Pee-eww. Dead zebra mussels \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. Zebra mussels hitched a ride on these to come to Canada.
- 6. What's the first thing you should do when you take your toys out of the lake?
- 7. This feature of a ZEBRA mussel is one reason it isn't called a DOT mussel.

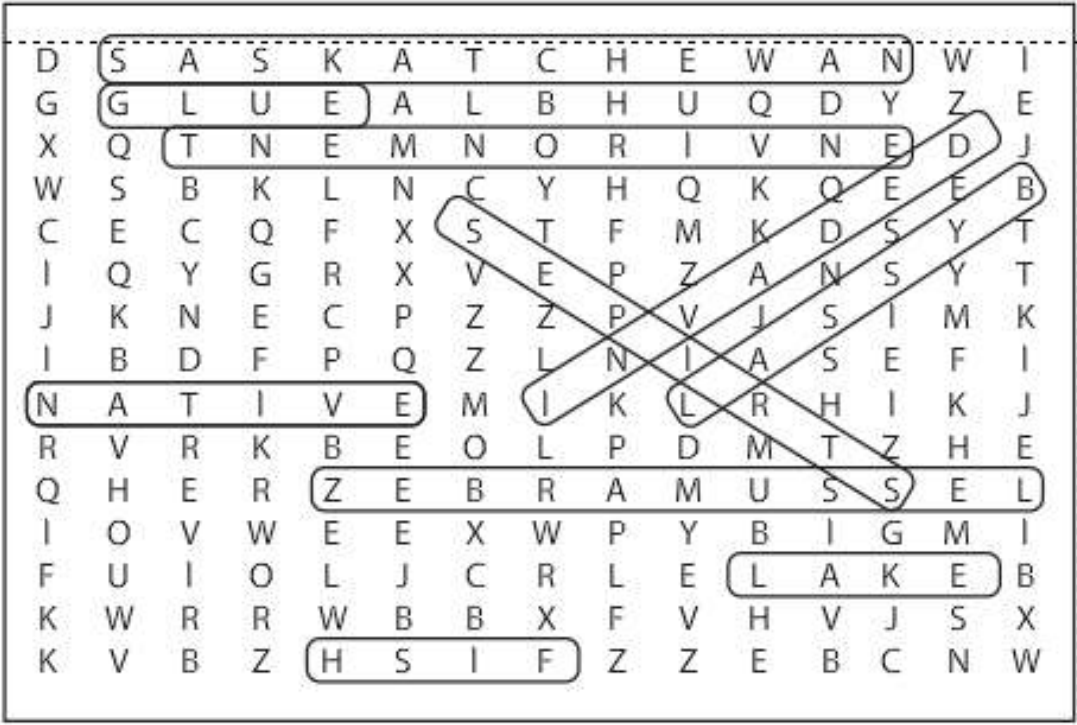
**Down:**

- 1. What's the second thing you should do when you take your toys out of the water?
- 2. It's as sticky as glue.

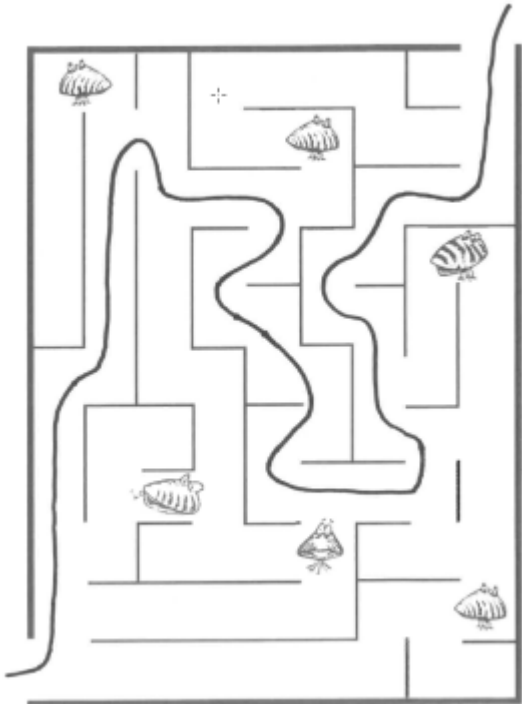


**Draw a picture of your favourite thing to do at the beach.**

# Check your answers.



## Word Search, page 4



Maze Game, page 7



Spot the Difference, page 9

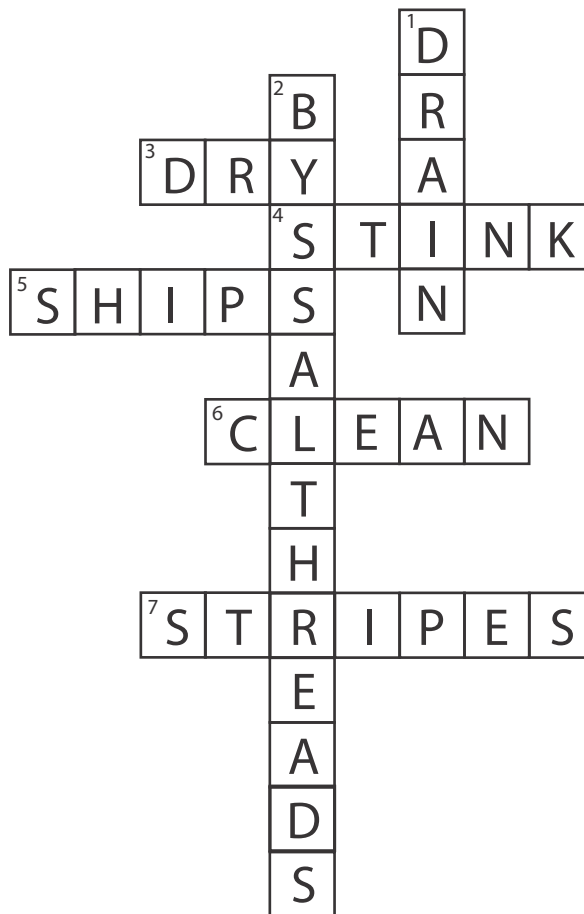
## Word Scramble, page 10

boat, fishing rod, pool noodle, goggles, beach ball

## Fill in the Blanks, page 11

mussels	plankton
stripes	die
strong	smelly
veligers	sharp
small	drain

## Crossword Puzzle, page 12







Protect our waters

**CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY  
YOUR BOAT**

For more information on zebra mussels,  
visit [saskatchewan.ca/invasive-species](https://saskatchewan.ca/invasive-species)