

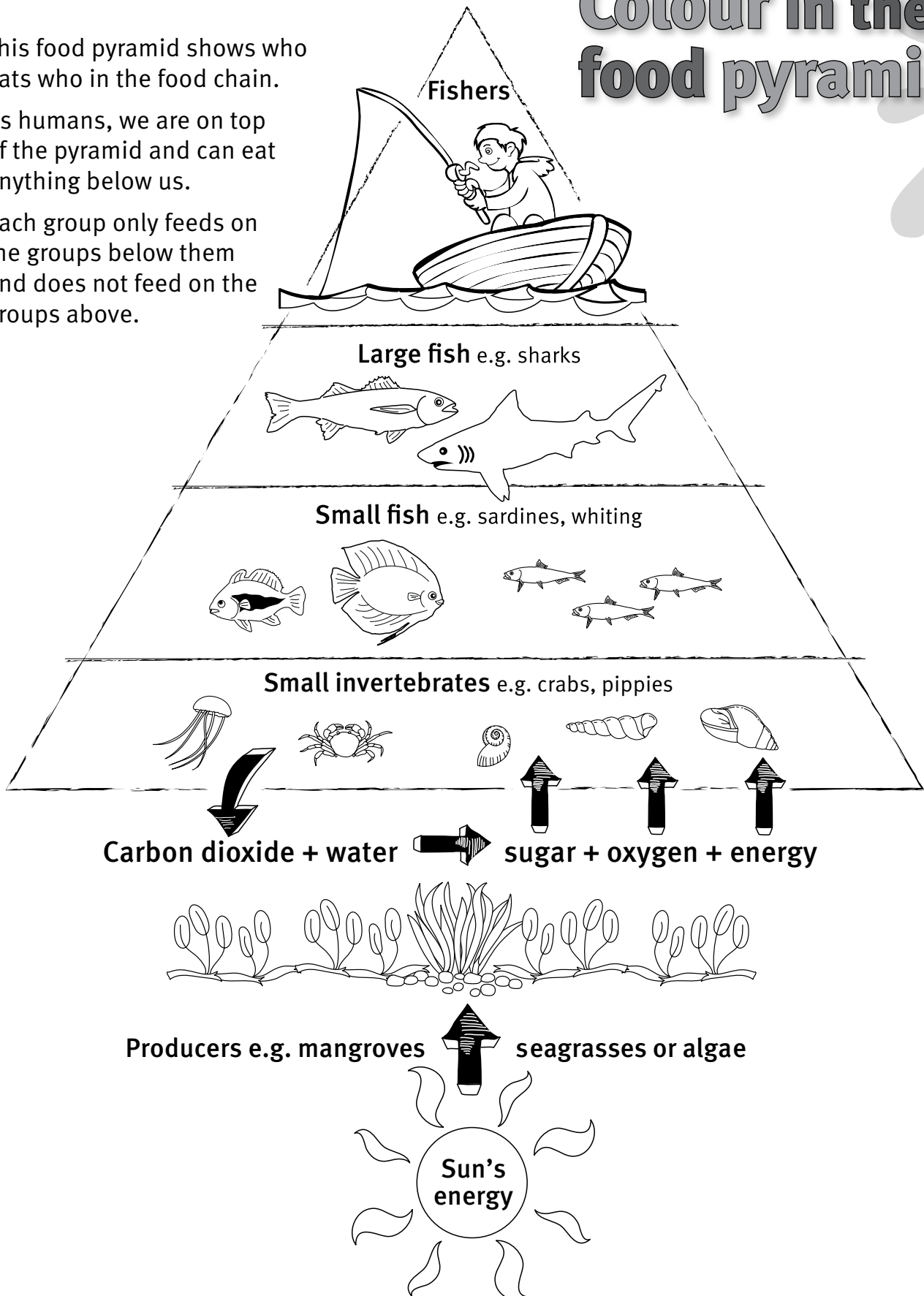
Food pyramid

Colour in the food pyramid.

This food pyramid shows who eats who in the food chain.

As humans, we are on top of the pyramid and can eat anything below us.

Each group only feeds on the groups below them and does not feed on the groups above.



Connected habitats

Marine and freshwater fish habitats are all connected by freshwater or salt water.

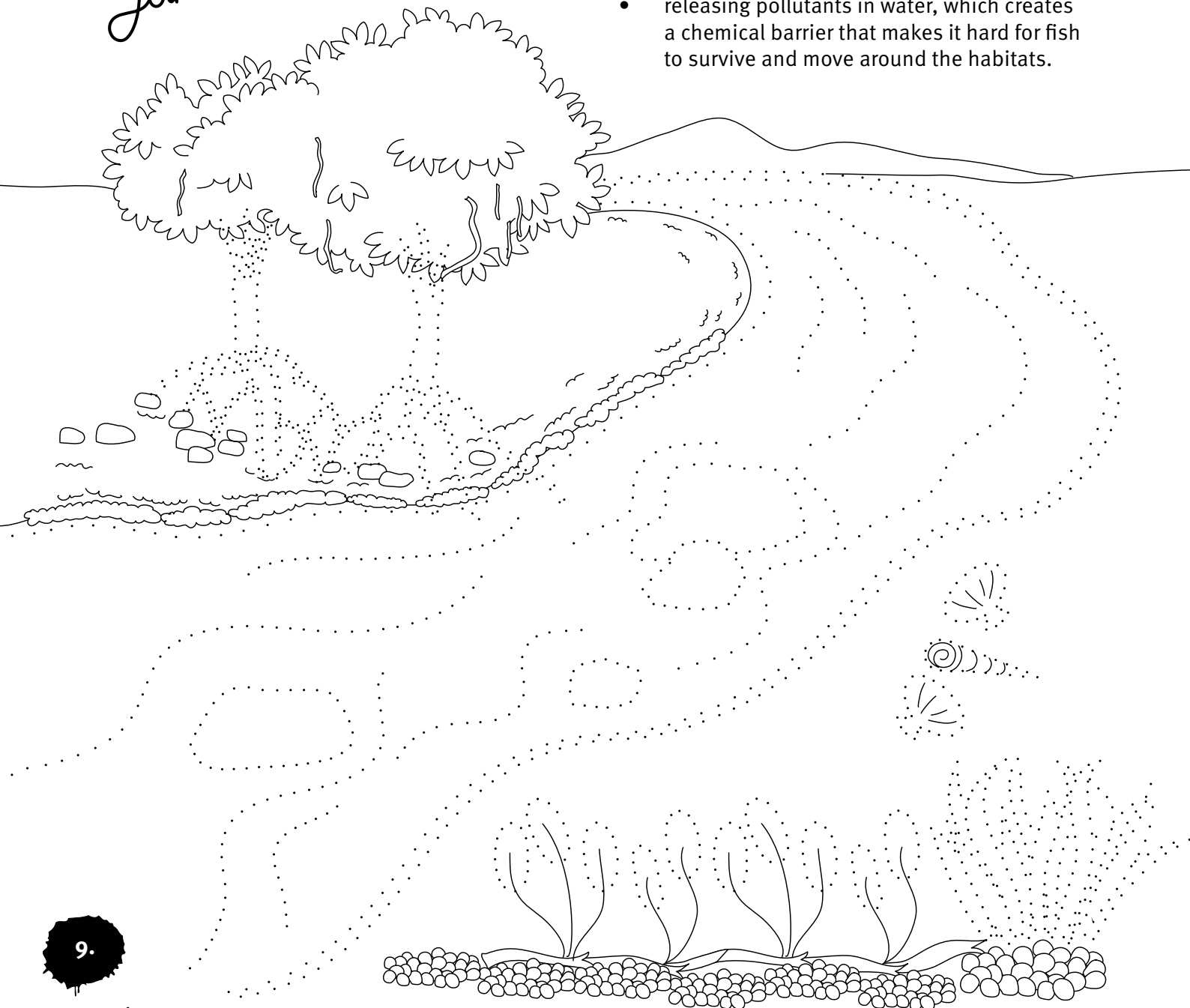
Wetlands, streams, rivers and the ocean all connect the different habitats that marine animals move between as they grow and develop.

A connected network of habitats is important to allow fish and other aquatic animals to move. Some even move from freshwater to the sea and back.

Many fish cannot survive and grow if the connections between different habitats are broken by:

- building physical barriers, such as dams, which stop fish from moving upstream or downstream in waterways
- filling wetlands and removing important plants such as mangroves and seagrass, as this destroys the habitats and also creates a physical barrier for fish
- releasing pollutants in water, which creates a chemical barrier that makes it hard for fish to survive and move around the habitats.

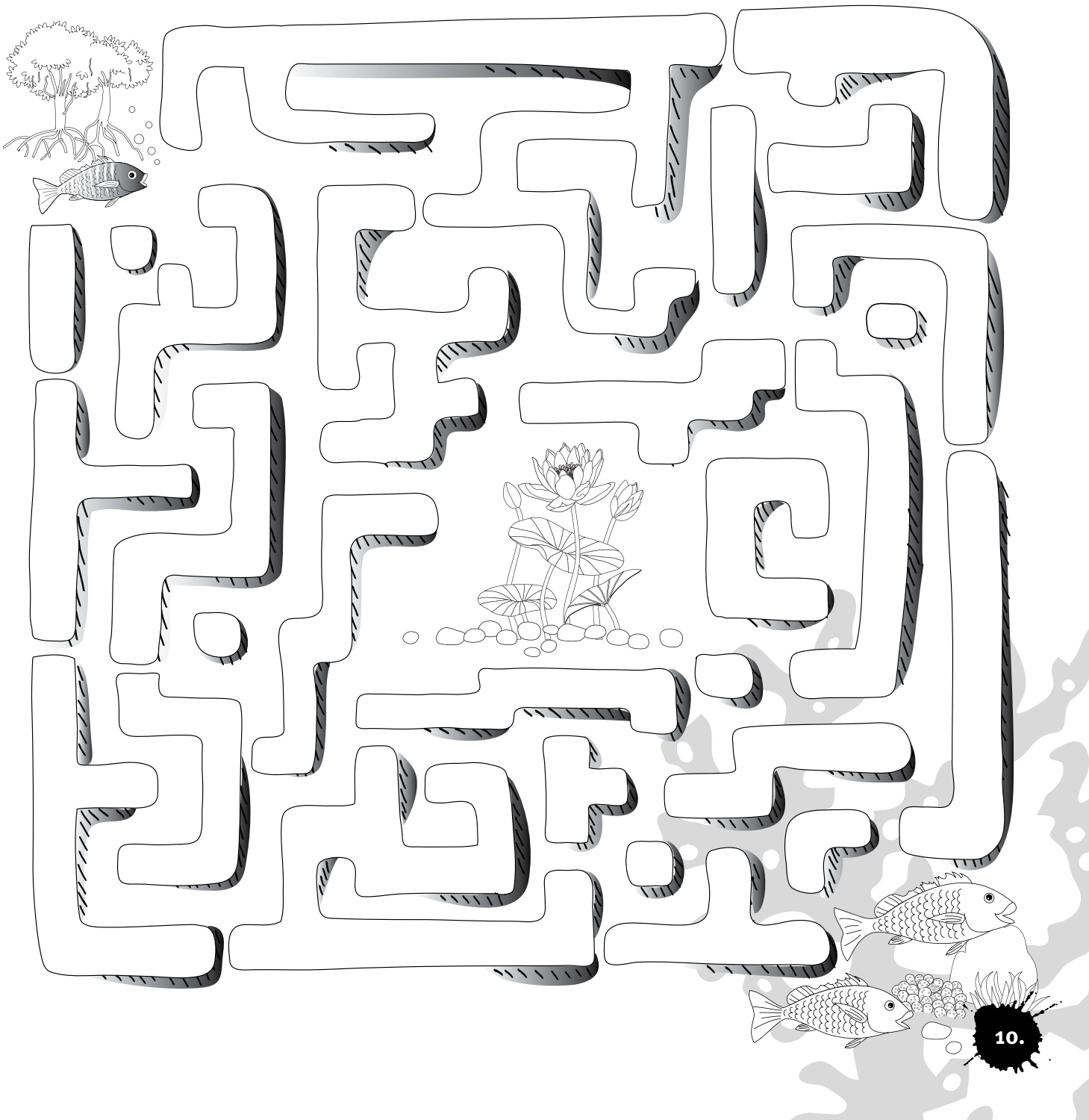
Join the dots...



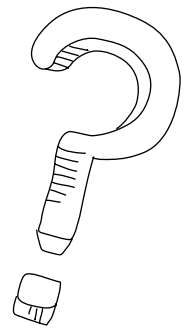
The much-travelled mangrove jack

Mangrove jack live in northern Australia and are a very popular fish for people to catch and eat. This species depends on many different fish habitats for each stage of its life cycle. Young mangrove jack live in freshwater, river estuaries and coastal habitats, and love hiding in rocky banks and snags. As they get older, teenage mangrove jack move downstream into the estuaries and mangrove

forests before going further offshore to live in deep water. Adult mangrove jacks move to coral reefs to breed and spawn. Their babies (larvae) are transported on currents and move closer to the shore or into river estuaries and freshwater, where they remain before the breeding cycle begins again.



What are declared Fish Habitat Areas?



Declared Fish Habitat Areas are set aside to ensure that we will always have fish. These areas are very important because they protect the places where fish live from development.

All of the different types of habitat are protected within declared Fish Habitat Areas. Only limited development that benefits the community such as jetties, pontoons, boat ramps and moorings are allowed. Any structure placed in a declared Fish Habitat Area requires approval.

Development activities such as building houses, resorts and marinas can disturb Fish Habitat Areas

by removing mangroves, mudflats and other areas that are nursery grounds. These grounds provide food and shelter for our fish.

In Queensland we have a total of 70 declared Fish Habitat Areas that cover over 1 million hectares of coastal fish habitats—from the Gold Coast near Brisbane all the way up to the Gulf of Carpentaria near the Northern Territory border.

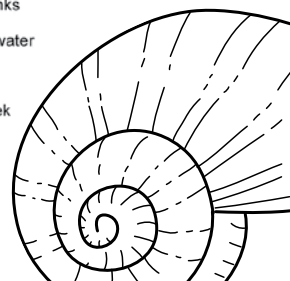
You can still access declared Fish Habitat Areas for fun activities like fishing, boating or going for a walk or picnic with your family and dog.



Do you know
your local
declared Fish
Habitat Areas?



Read map!



How **much** did you learn about declared **Fish Habitat** Areas ?

How many declared Fish Habitat Areas are there in Queensland?

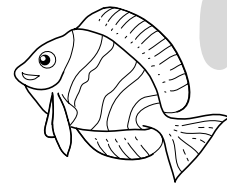
Can you build a marina in a declared Fish Habitat Area?

Are you allowed to fish in a declared Fish Habitat Area?

What types of structures are allowed in declared Fish Habitat Areas?

Why are declared Fish Habitat Areas important?

Where do you **go** fishing?



There are many different ways that you can go fishing. The most popular spots are from the shore, along the beach off a jetty or from a boat—even from a fishing kayak. If you go fishing near or in the ocean, you are visiting a marine fish habitat.

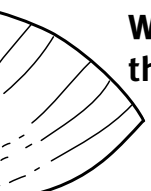
Do you go fishing?

How do you like
to fish?

Do you have a bait
that works really well?

Have you been to a
fishing clinic to learn
to fish?

What was the best
thing you learned?

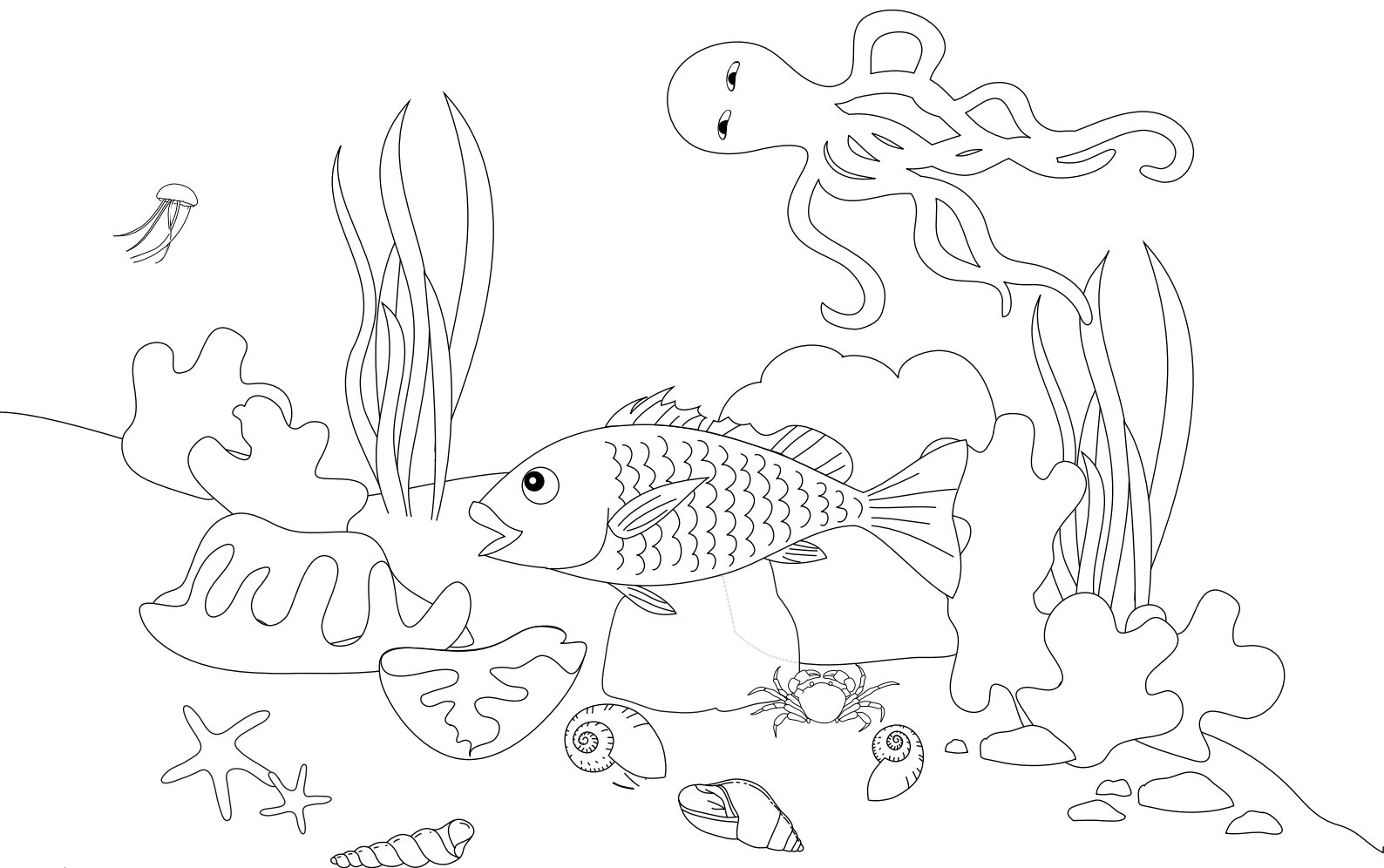


Keeping fish habitats healthy

There is plenty that you can do to make sure that your local fish habitats stay healthy and produce fish.

Healthy habitats begin on the land, not in the water, because rubbish and pollutants wash from the land to the water. You can help keep habitats healthy in the following ways:

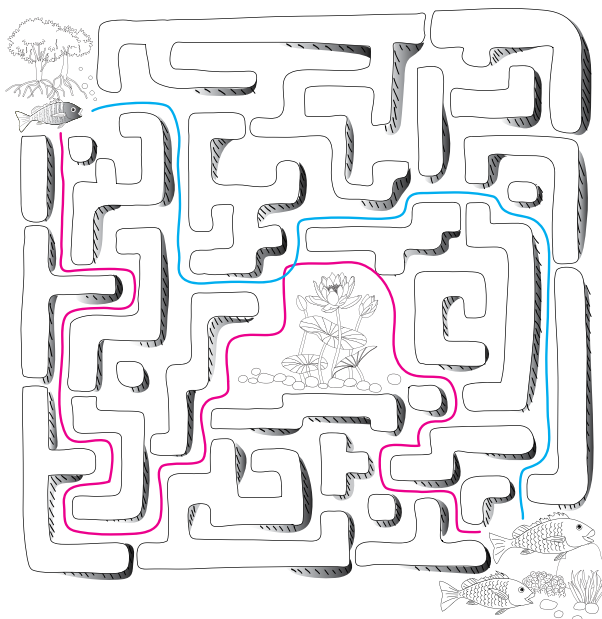
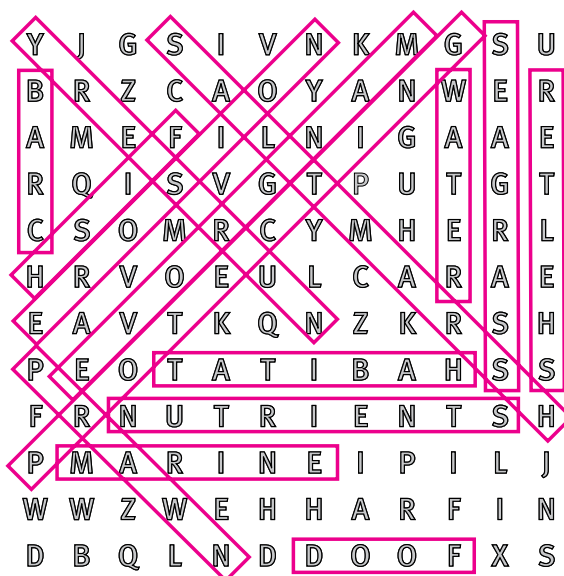
- Reduce, re-use and recycle rubbish—there will be less to throw away.
- Make sure your rubbish and recycling goes in the right bin.
- Take photographs or draw pictures of habitats and fish to remind people how beautiful they are.
- Research your local habitats—you can tell others about why healthy habitats are important.
- Adopt a local declared Fish Habitat Area—keep an eye on your local declared Fish Habitat Area and make sure it's not being damaged.
- Tell everyone about your amazing fish catch from healthy habitats.



Design your own fishing habitat



Answers



What are declared Fish Habitat Areas?

1. 70
2. No
3. Yes
4. Jetties, pontoons, boat ramps and moorings.
5. Fish Habitat Areas are important because they protect the places where fish live from development.

More information

For more information on fish habitats, visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au or contact Fisheries Queensland on 13 25 23.

For more information on declared Fish Habitat Areas (FHAs), contact the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing on 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

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