

# REDSIDE DACE

The endangered species in your back yard



Activity  
Booklet

Meet Red,  
the redbside dace!



Grandfather  
Frog

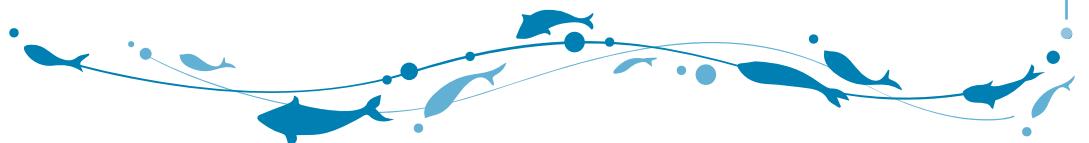


# Where Do I Live?

The **Morningside Tributary** is a major branch of the Rouge River. The two rivers meet on Toronto Zoo property! This area has many different kinds of wild animals. Some of the animals that live here are hard to find in other areas of Ontario.



One of the rare animals found here is a minnow called the **redside dace**. This area is important to the redbreasted minnow and it should be taken care of and protected. The redbreasted minnow is endangered, which means they are at risk of becoming extinct.



# Redside Dace Facts

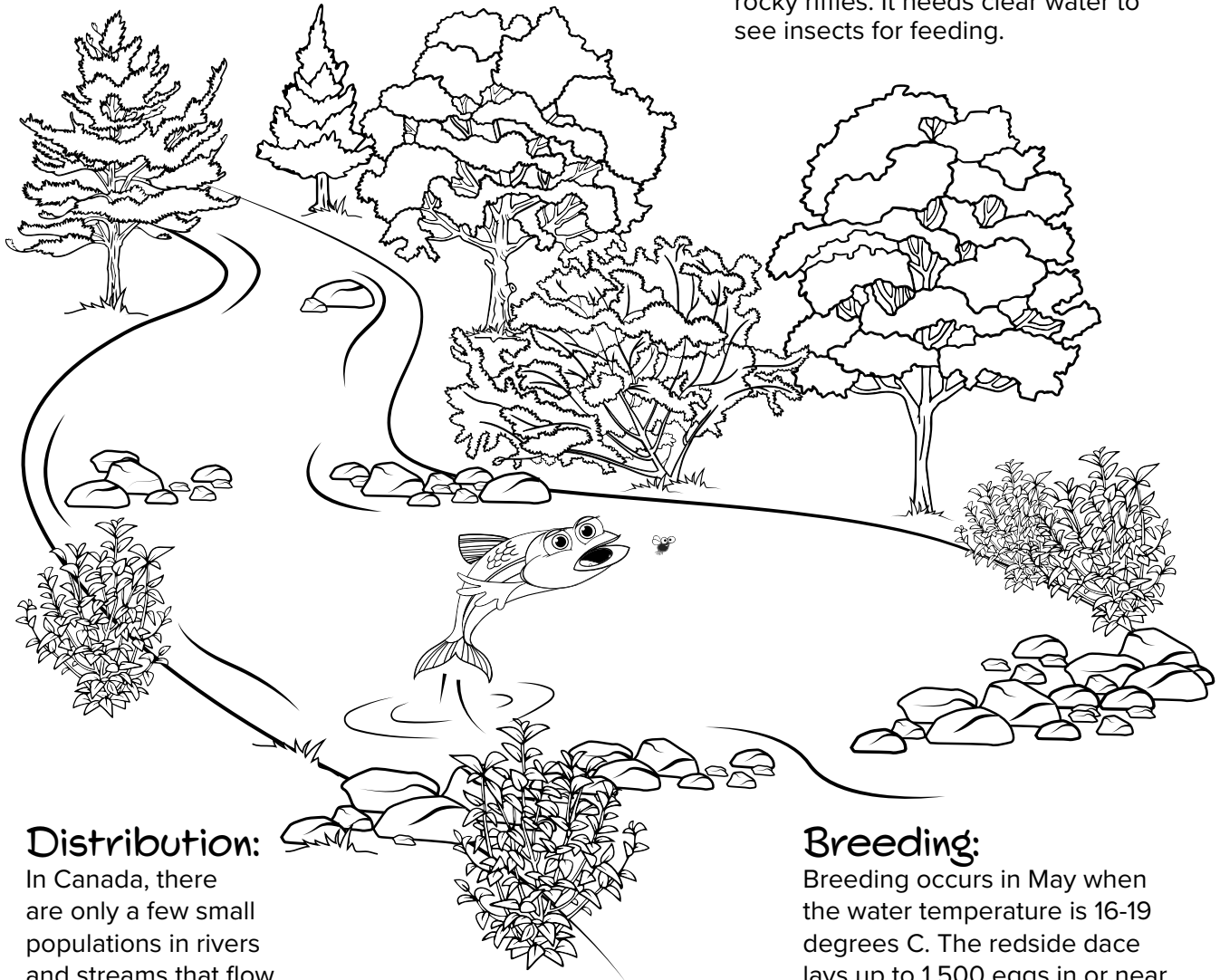


## Scientific Name:

*Clinostomus elongatus* (Pronounced "Cline-o-stow-mus e-long-gat-us")

## Habitat:

The redbside dace likes cool clear streams with deep pools and shallow rocky riffles. It needs clear water to see insects for feeding.



## Distribution:

In Canada, there are only a few small populations in rivers and streams that flow into Lake Ontario, Lake Huron and Lake Erie.

## Food:

The redbside dace is the only minnow that leaps out of the water to feed on flying insects!

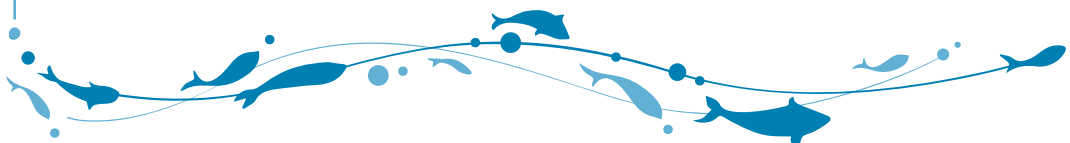
## Status: **ENDANGERED**

The redbside dace is in danger of becoming extinct. Over 80% of the redbside dace in Canada live in the Greater Toronto Area, where there is lots of human development.

## Breeding:

Breeding occurs in May when the water temperature is 16-19 degrees C. The redbside dace lays up to 1,500 eggs in or near the gravel nest of another minnow, the creek chub, who will guard the eggs from predators.

**Maximum Size:** 12 cm.  
Females are larger than males.



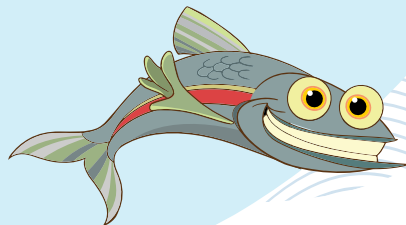
# Fill in The Blanks

The redbside dace is a \_\_\_\_\_ that lives in small  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in southern  
Ontario. It is an \_\_\_\_\_ fish in Canada, since  
much of its \_\_\_\_\_ has been impacted by humans.  
In the \_\_\_\_\_ Tributary the redbside dace lives in  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ water. The \_\_\_\_\_  
that the redbside dace lives in needs to be \_\_\_\_\_  
so that this \_\_\_\_\_ fish of the Rouge Valley can  
\_\_\_\_\_!

## Word List:

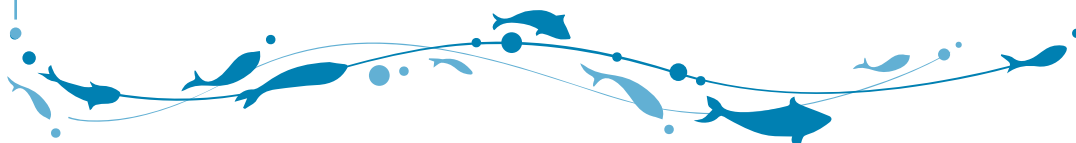
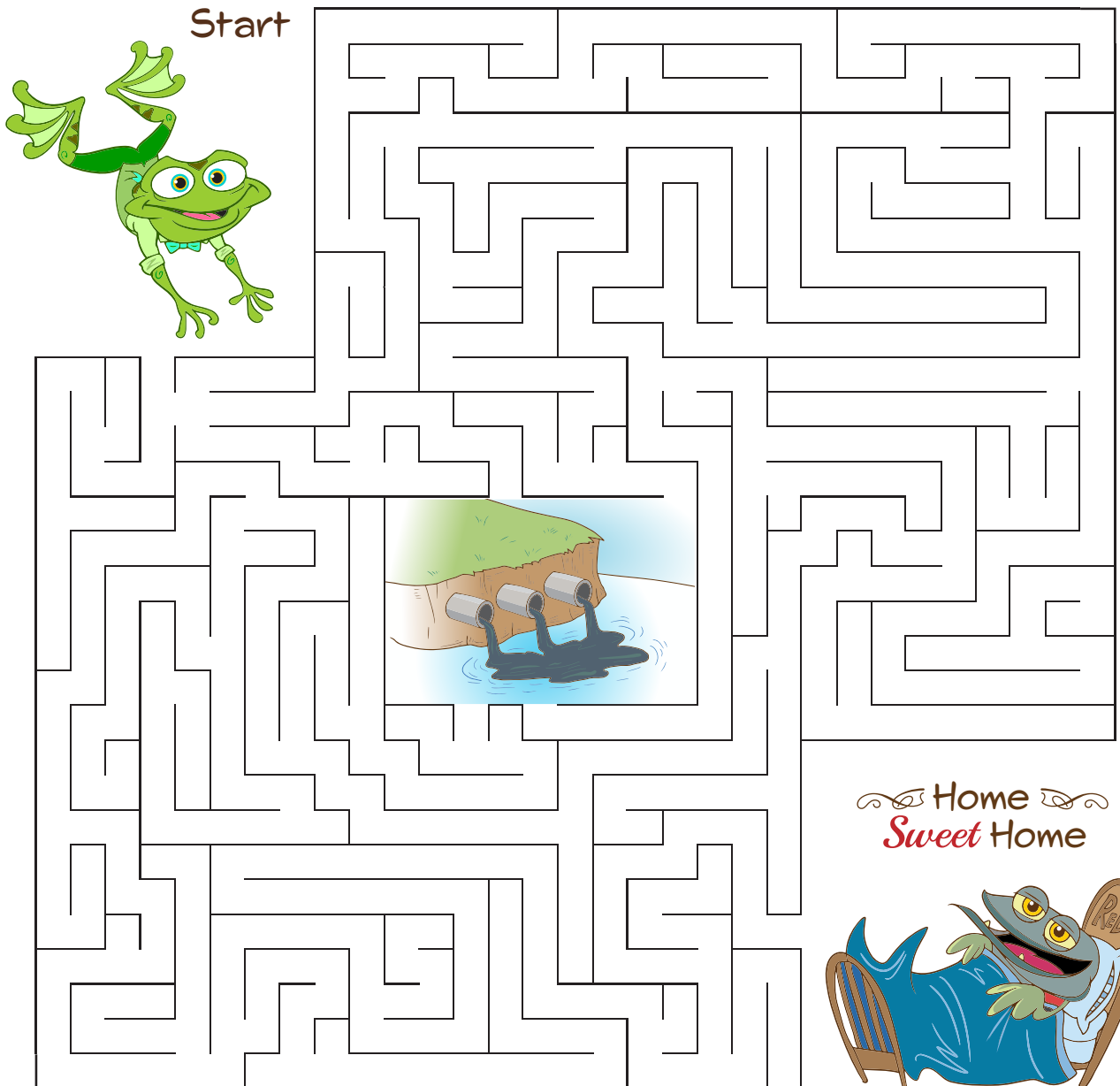
CLEAN  
COLOURFUL  
COOL  
CREEKS  
ECOSYSTEM  
HABITAT  
MINNOW

MORNINGSIDE  
PROTECTED  
ENDANGERED  
STREAMS  
SURVIVE



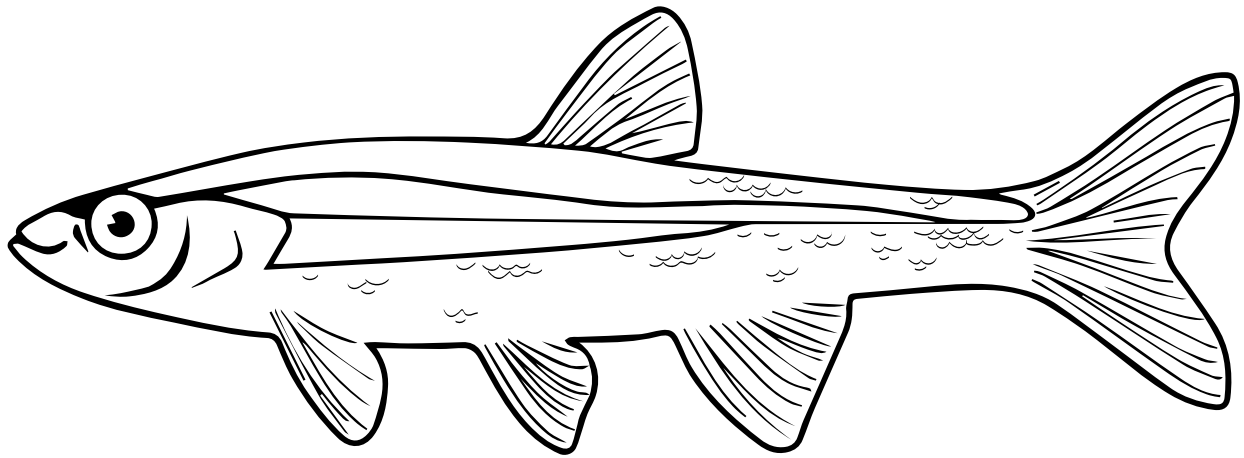
# A-MAZE-ING!

Help Grandfather Frog find Red – he's hiding in his creek bed!  
But make sure not to run into human development or pollution!

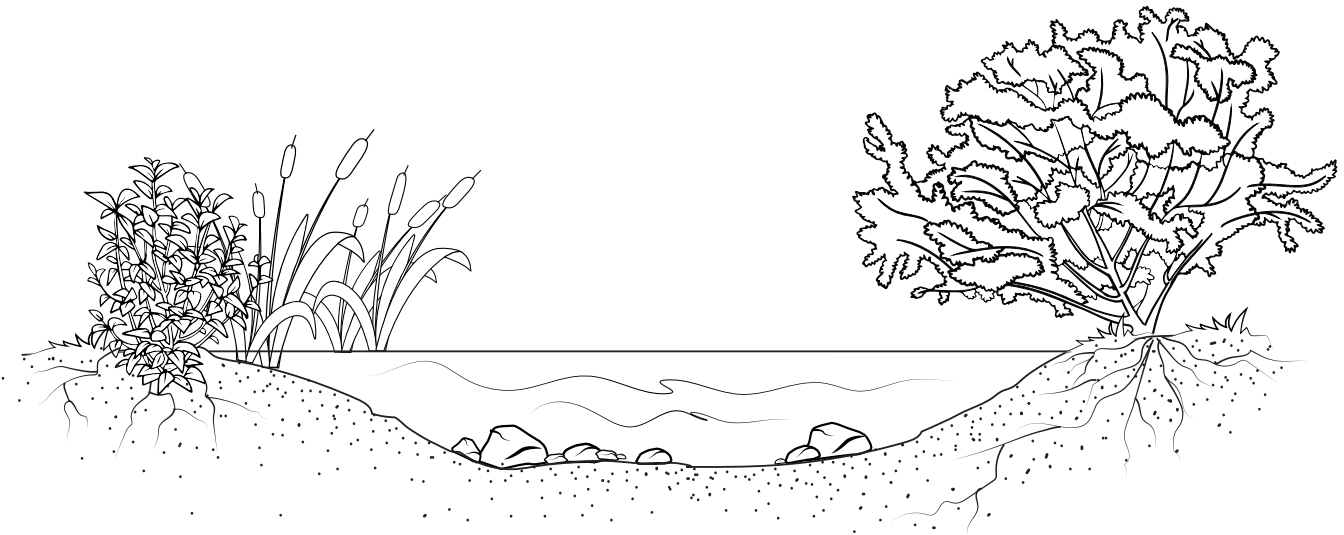




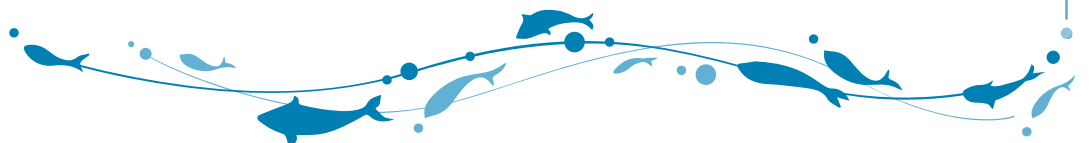
# Red Says: Colour Me & My Home!



I have a thin golden stripe on my side and a red band below the gold.  
My back is dark green and my sides are sprinkled with dark scales.



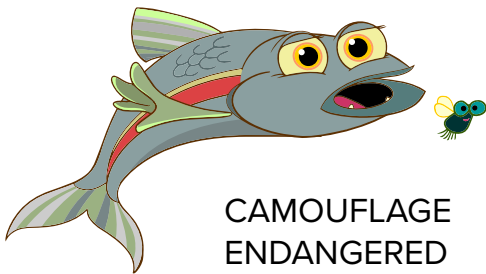
I live in clear, cool water with lots of insects flying around to eat.  
The bottom is sandy, rocky and gravelly. The plants on the shore  
are healthy and green!



# Fishing for Words!

Can you find all Red's words in the jumble?

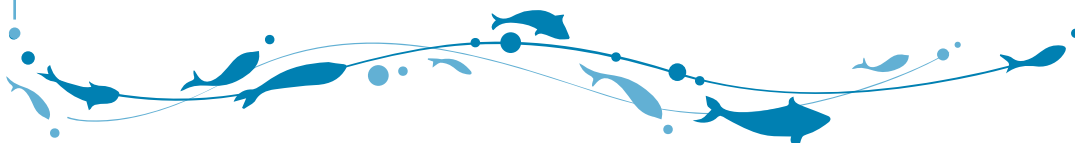
S E N D A N G E R E D F R S C  
K C X S S V W L W X B I I E A  
H S L T I H P A E G Y S V W M  
H C G C I G E O T A Q H E E O  
E A D I F N H L L E P Y R R U  
R L Y P L Z C T T L R Q I R F  
B E H S J L C T U E U X N M L  
I S D M E B S A C C R T D W A  
V L O M N I V O R E K L I V G  
O A Y D O X Y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



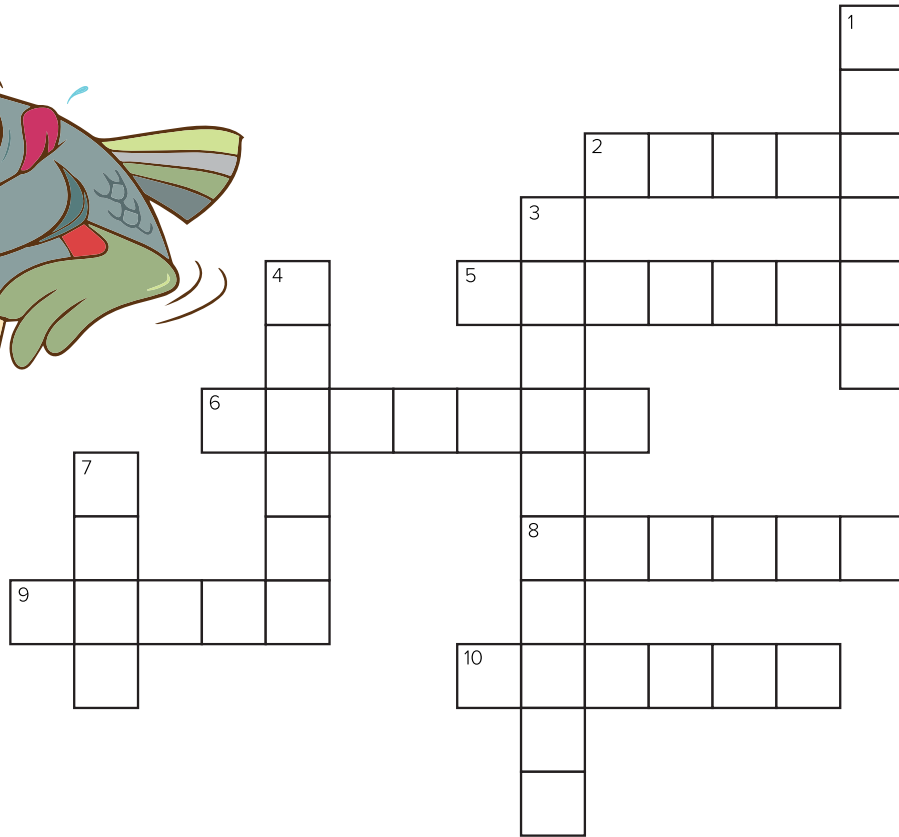
CAMOUFLAGE  
ENDANGERED  
GILLS  
HERBIVORE  
LAKES  
OMNIVORE  
RIVER

SHELTER  
STREAM  
CARNIVORE  
EXTINCT  
GREAT  
INDICATOR  
LEAP  
OXYGEN  
SCALES  
SIGHT

TRIBUTARY  
DACE  
FISH  
HABITAT  
INSECT  
MAMMAL  
POLLUTION  
SEWER  
STORM  
WATER



# Crossword Puzzle

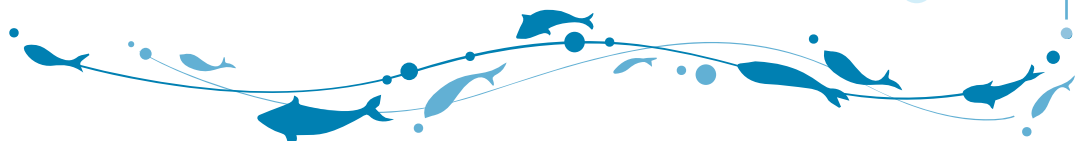


## Across:

2. The redbreasted dace does this near the nests of creek chub in May.
5. Most of the redbreasted dace live in southern \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Its destruction threatens the survival of the redbreasted dace.
8. The redbreasted dace prefers bottom substrates of rock, sand, or \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The redbreasted dace is found in deep \_\_\_\_\_ in streams.
10. The Morningside Tributary is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Rouge River.

## Down:

1. The redbreasted dace is part of the \_\_\_\_\_ family.
3. The redbreasted dace is given this label because of the destruction of its habitat.
4. Overhanging \_\_\_\_\_ creates shelter for the redbreasted dace.
7. The redbreasted dace requires \_\_\_\_\_, clear waters.



# True or False?

Are these sentences fact or fib? Circle the correct answer!

1. The redbside dace is a species of freshwater fish.

True or false

2. The redbside dace prefers warm, fast moving water.

True or false

3. Populations of the redbside dace are decreasing in Canada.

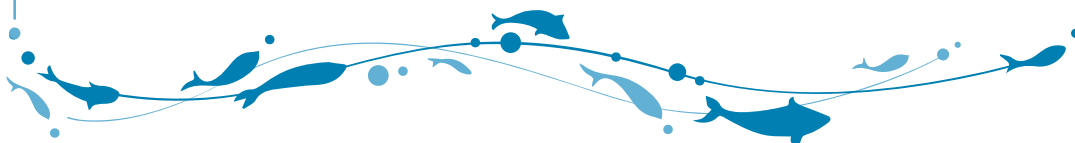
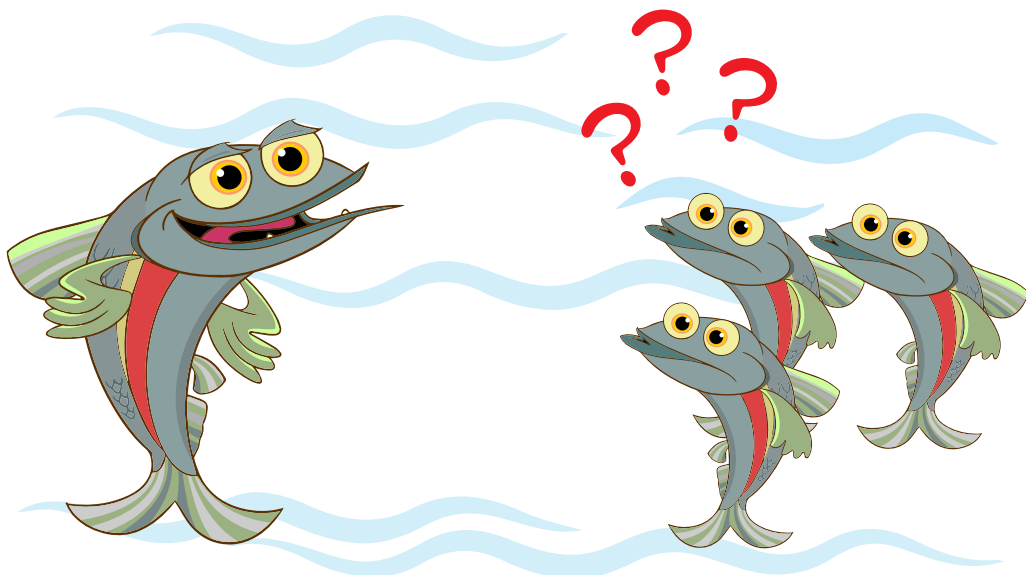
True or false

4. Planting vegetation on stream banks supports redbside dace habitat.

True or false

5. The redbside dace averages around 20 cm long.

True or false



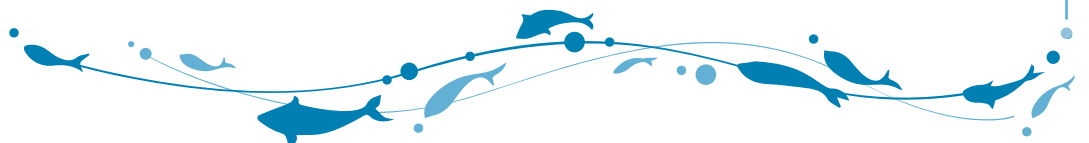
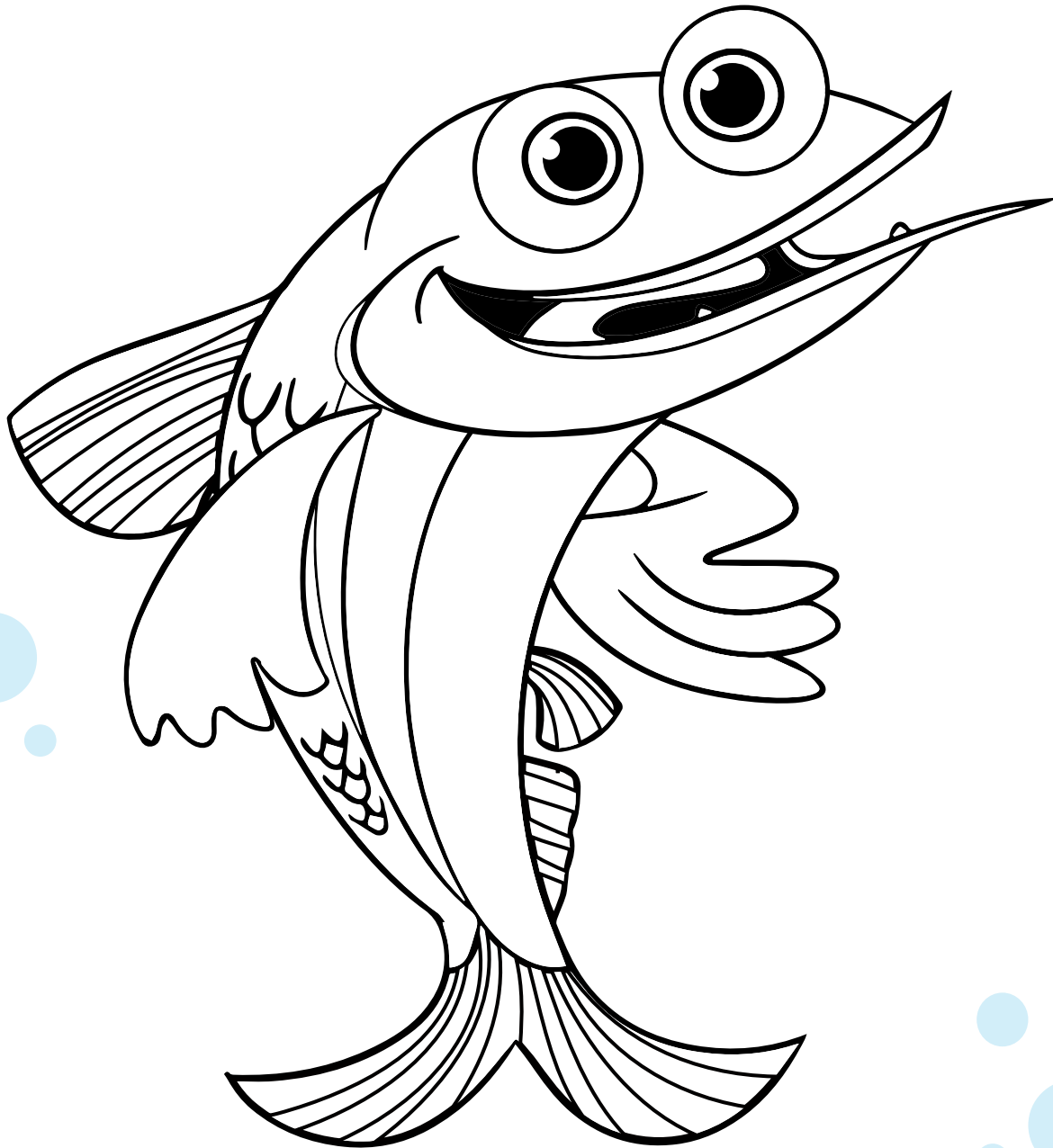


# Colour Red!

I leap! I watch for bugs flying above the surface, and then I jump for my dinner.

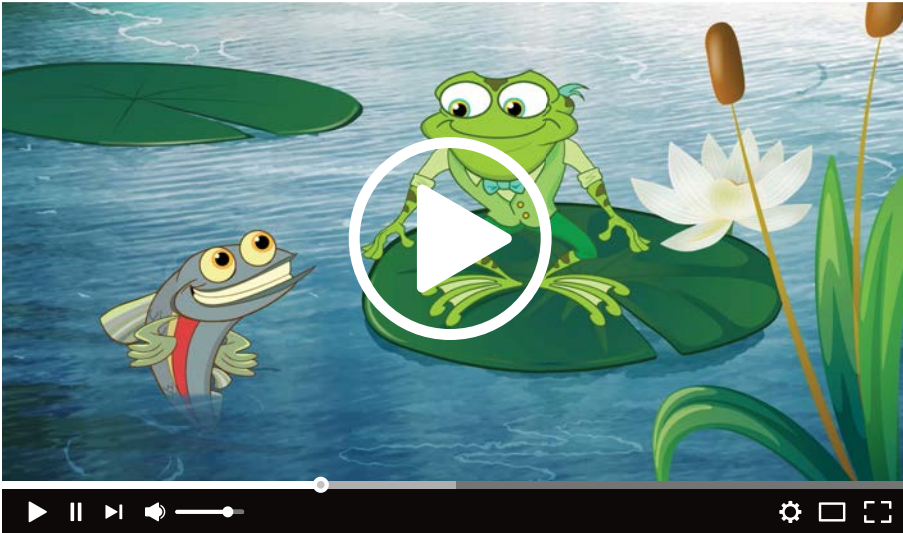
Check out my long lower lip, for feeding at the surface.

Draw a fly by my mouth for me to catch!



# Look Before You Leap!

Grandfather Frog meets Red, the redbside dace



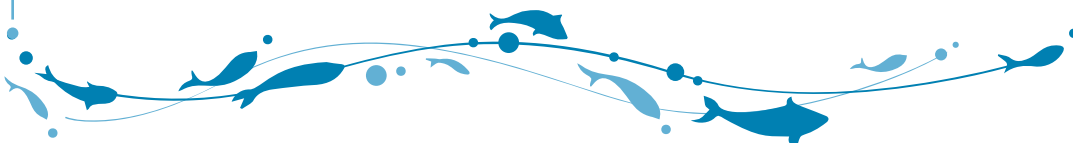
Grandfather Frog is catching flies for dinner when one of them gets swallowed by a mysterious leaping fish. It's Red, the redbside dace! He's a little minnow who's native to Ontario. Red's species is under threat from human development. Captain Nemo asks all of us to help protect the redbside dace – an important “indicator” species – and to support efforts at keeping our waterways healthy and clean.

This video was created in partnership with Kidoons, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, Toronto Zoo, Swim Drink Fish Canada, and the W. Garfield Weston Foundation, in association with The 20K Collective.

For more redbside dace resources and activities, visit:  
<https://www.torontozoo.com/tz/greatlakes>



Watch it online:





Created in partnership with:

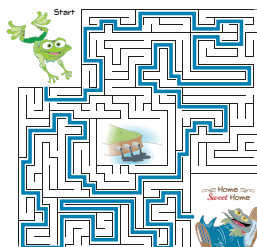


Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

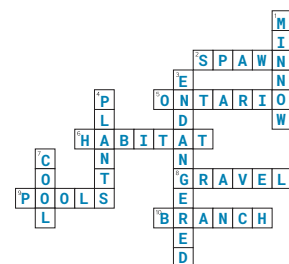
Pêches et Océans  
Canada

### Answers:

The redside dace is a minnow that lives in small streams and creeks in southern Ontario. It is an endangered fish in Canada, since much of its habitat has been impacted by humans. In the Morningside Tributary the redside dace lives in clean and cool water. The ecosystem that the redside dace lives in needs to be protected so that this colourful fish of the Rouge Valley can survive!



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



True or  
False?

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. F