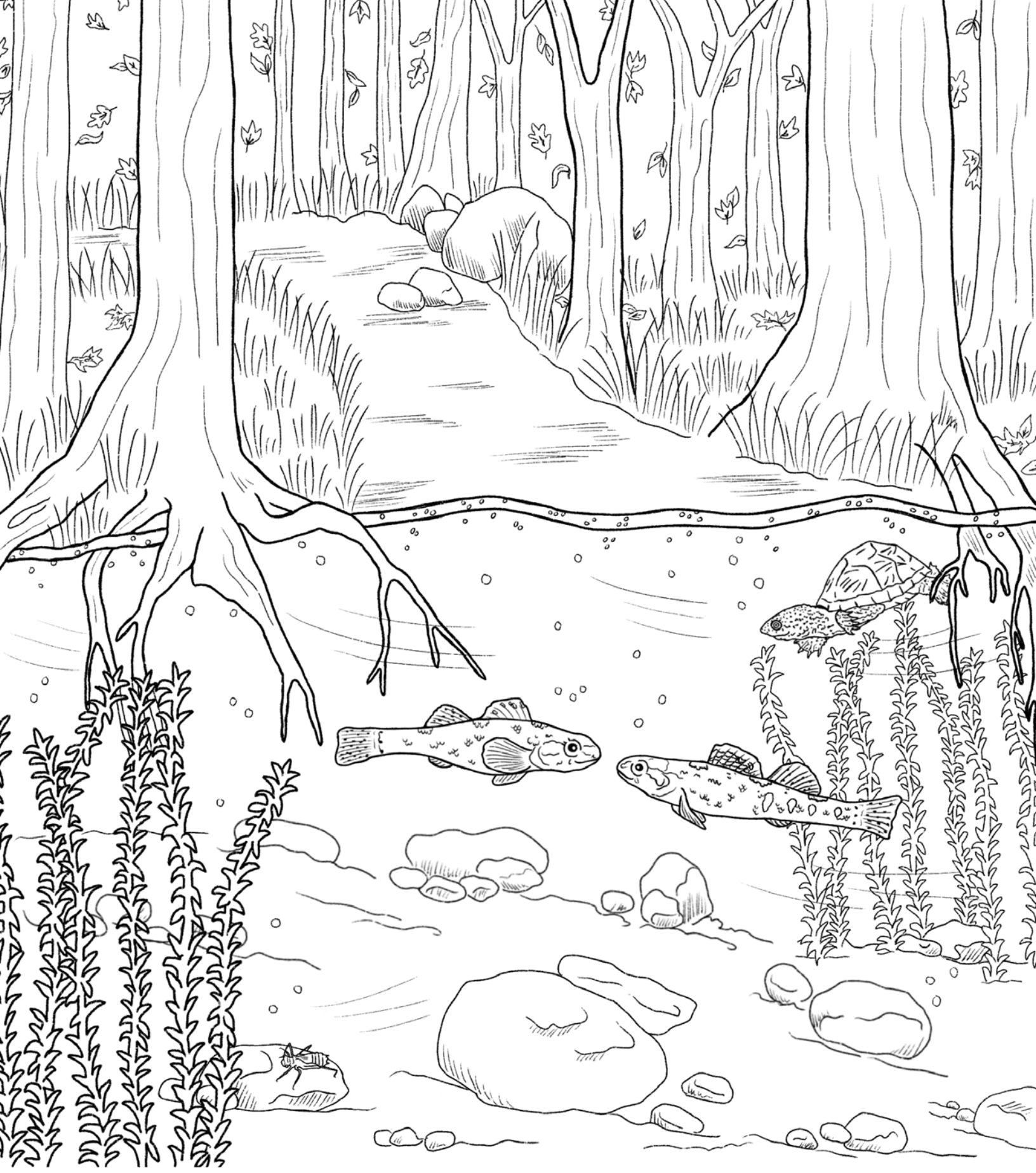


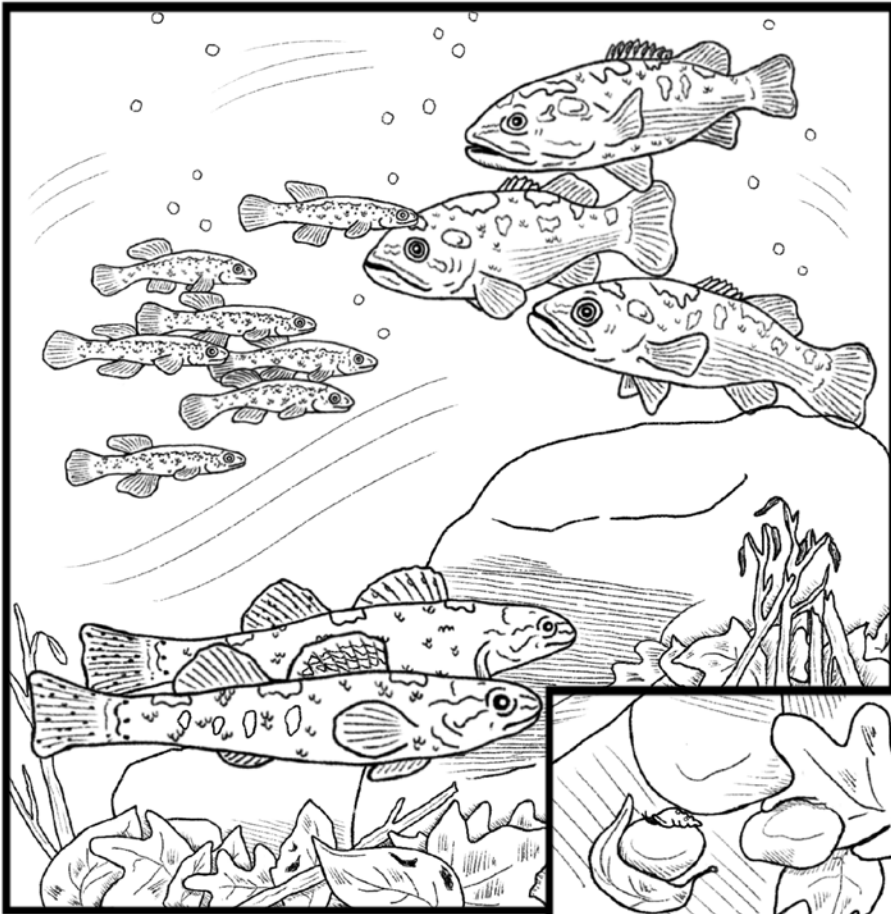
# How to Spot a Trispot

LITTLE FISH, BIG JOURNEY

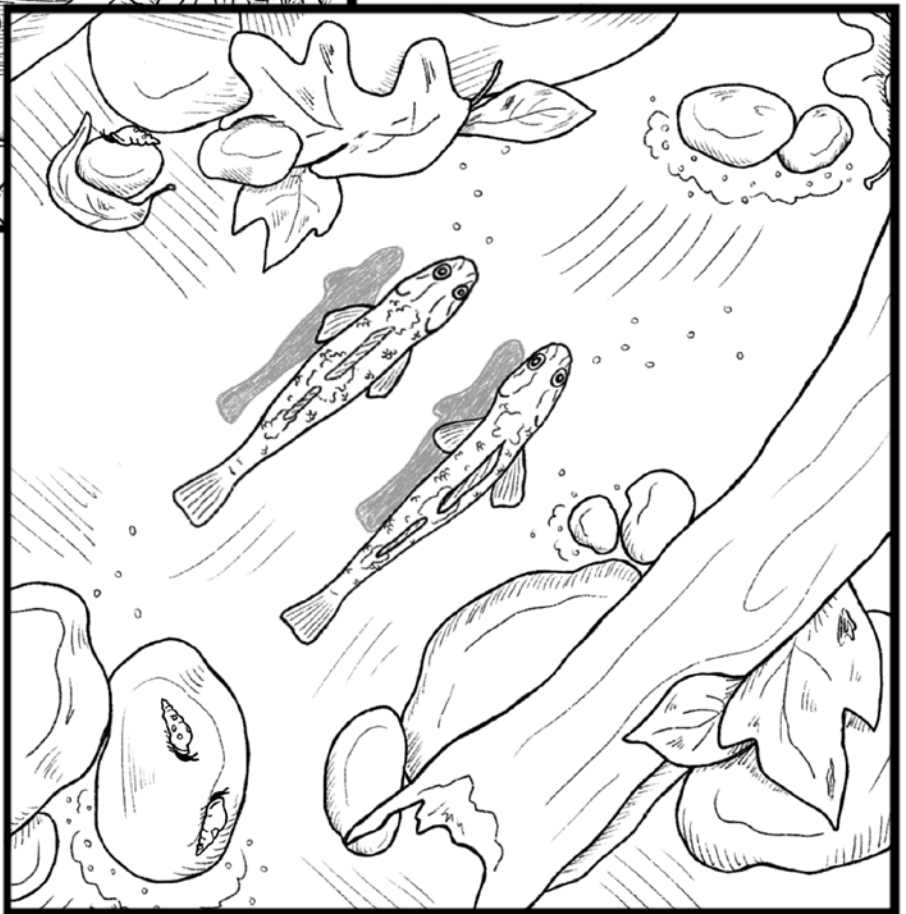
Illustrated by  
Kristin Roberts



Hey Trey, do you feel that?  
It's getting colder and the little streams are flowing!



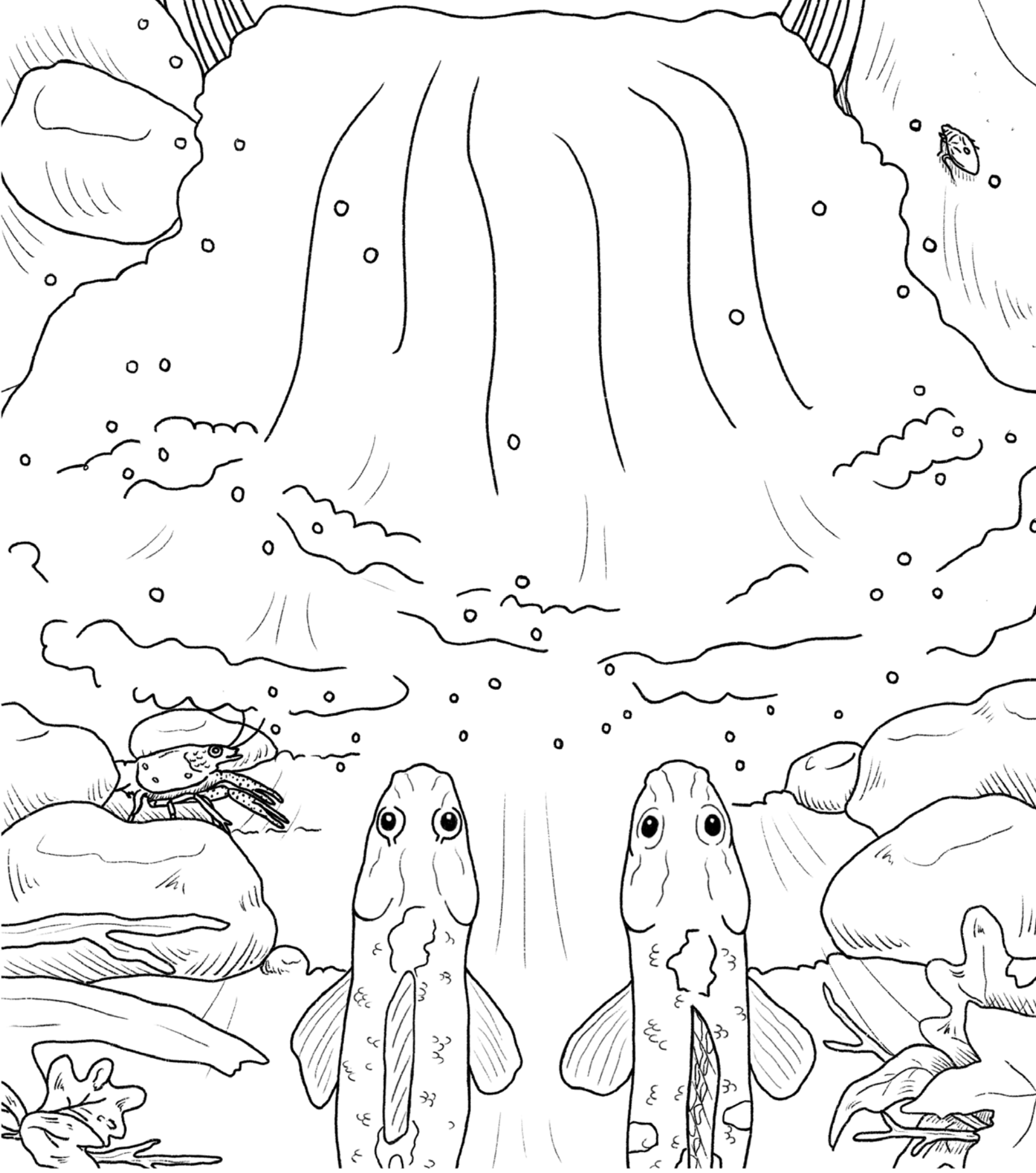
Too many neighbors  
here, Trina.



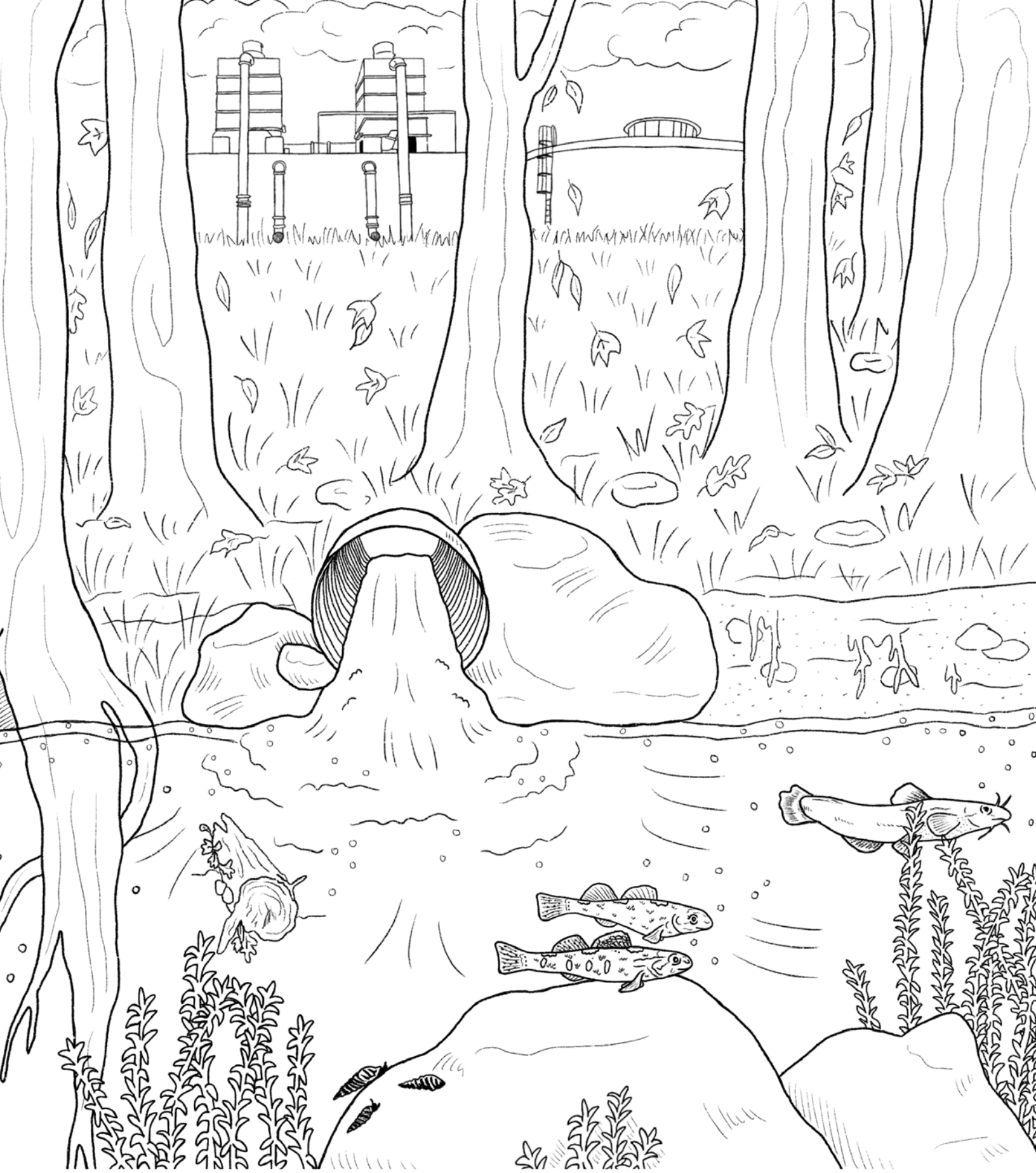
Let's go upstream and find  
a quiet place to lay our eggs!



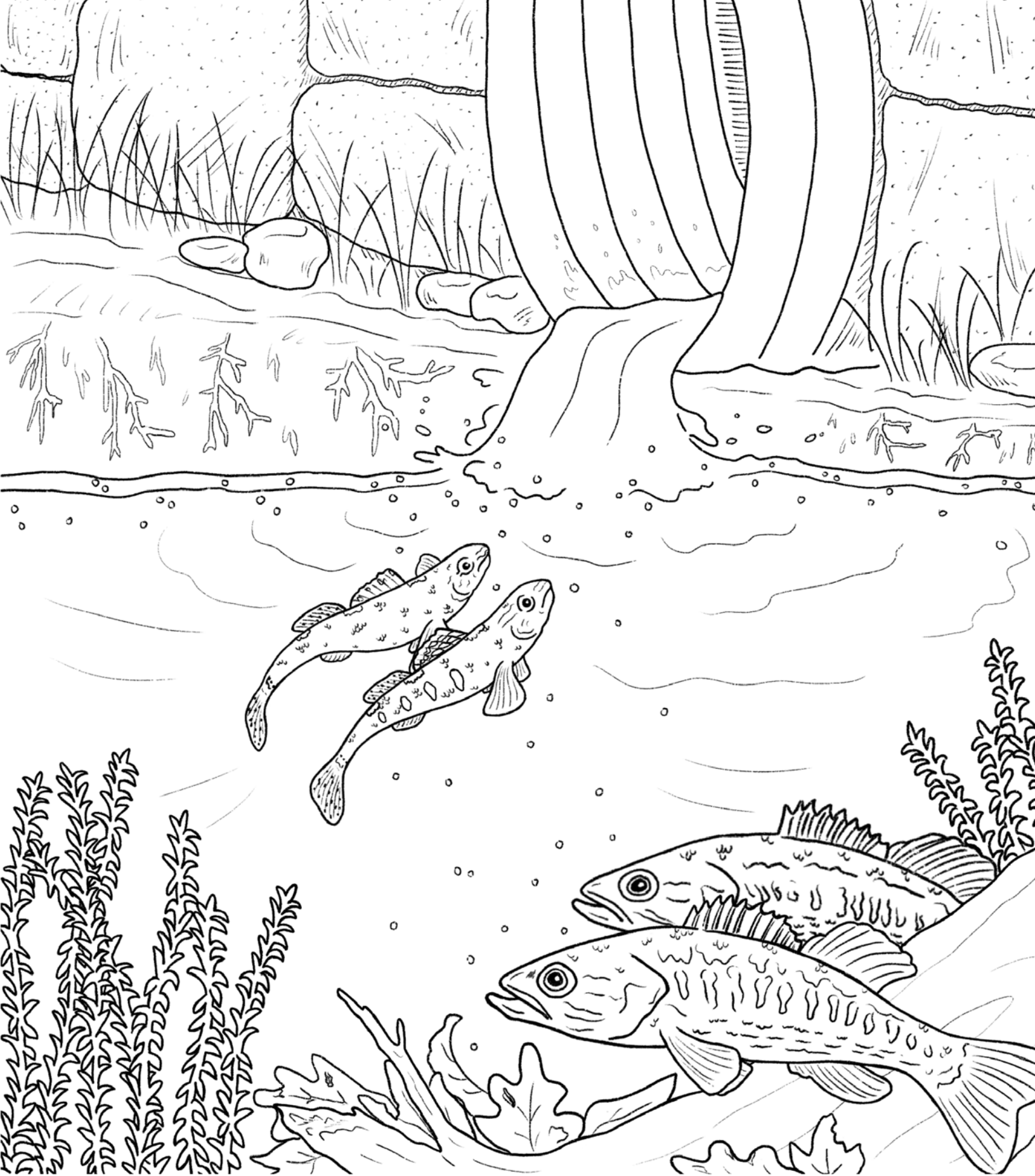
Here's a little tributary joining the river.  
Let's check it out!



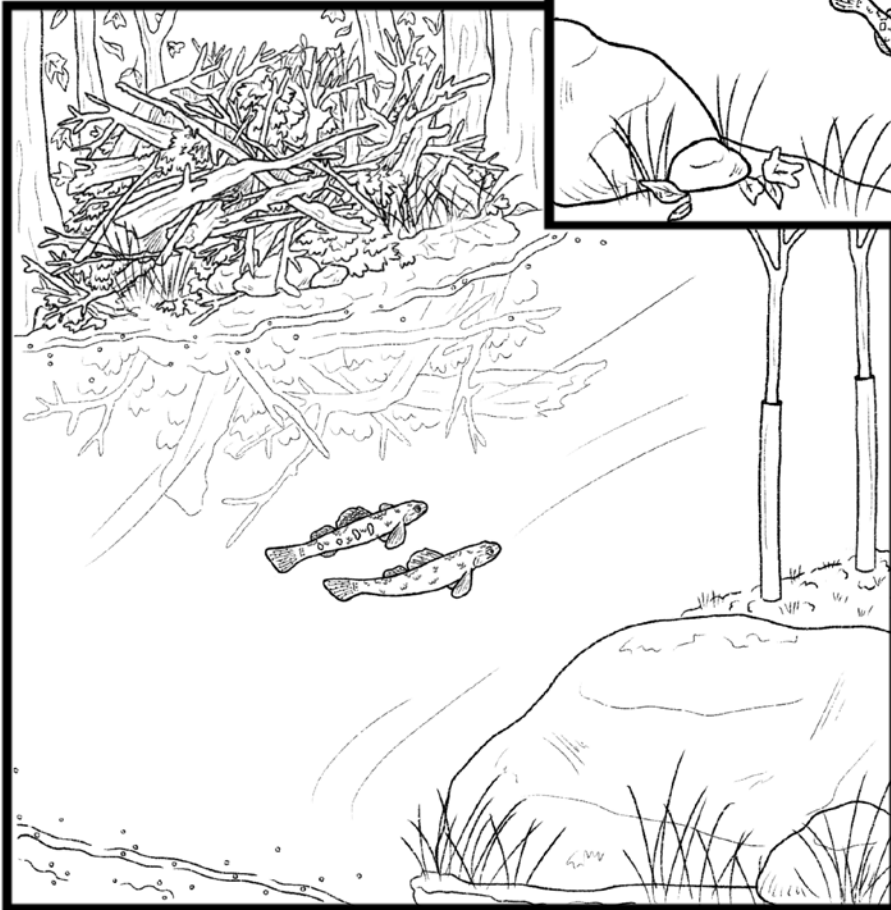
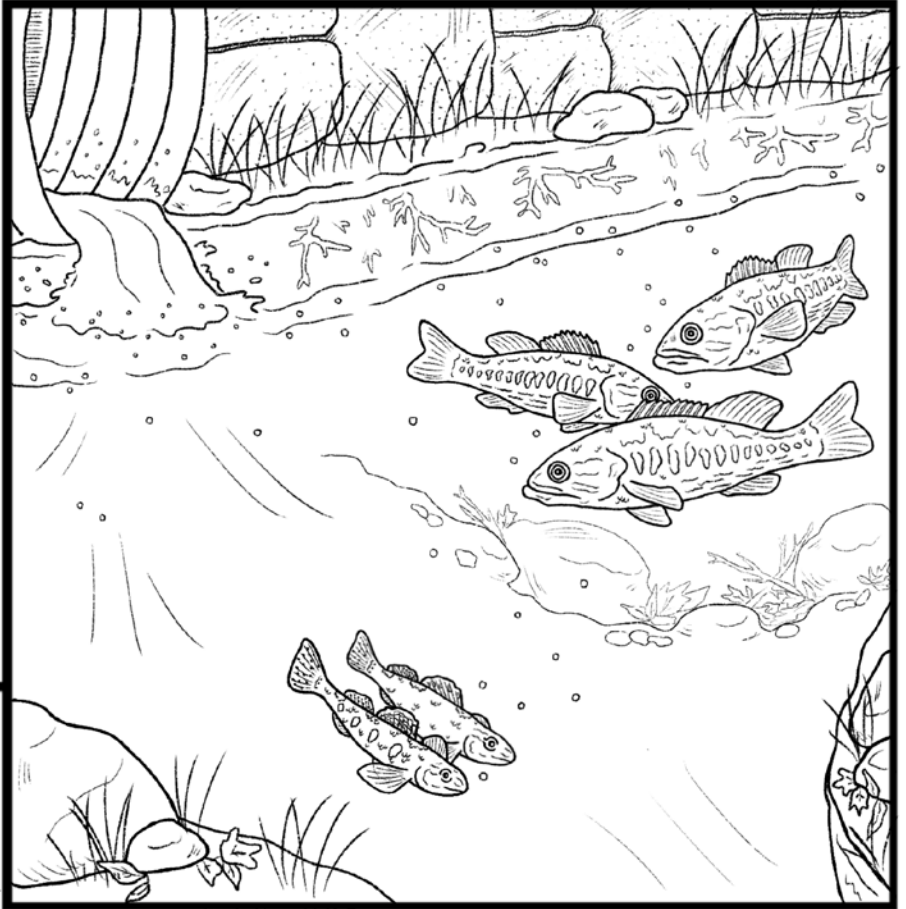
Wow, that water is flowing really fast.  
It's coming out of that pipe like a fire hydrant!



We'd never be able to swim up there.  
Plus, that water smells funny. Let's keep swimming.



That waterfall is higher than it was last year, and look at all those hungry bass swimming in the pool! We can't make it upstream here...



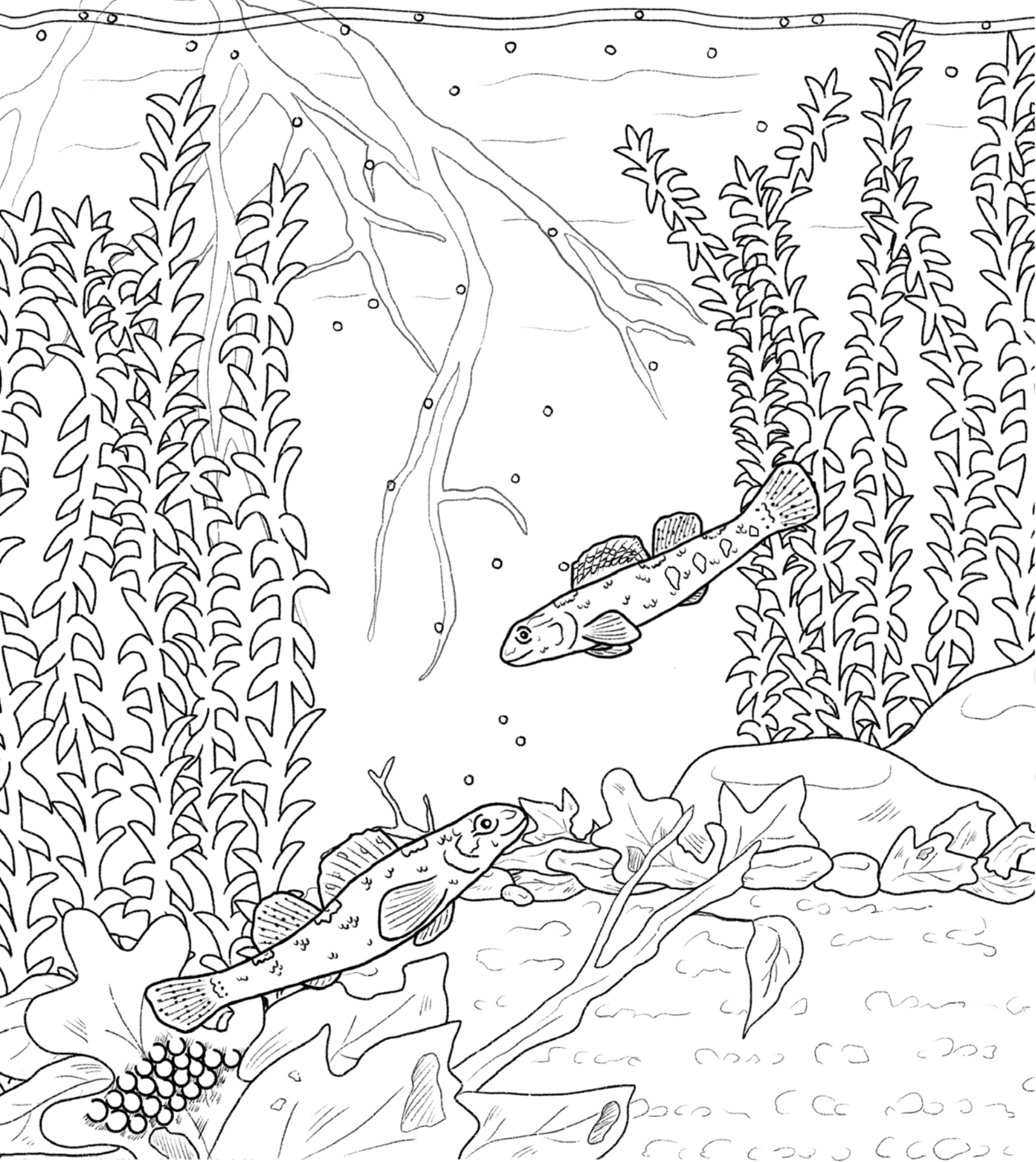
Yikes, predators!  
Let's get out of here.

Maybe we can swim  
through this beaver dam!



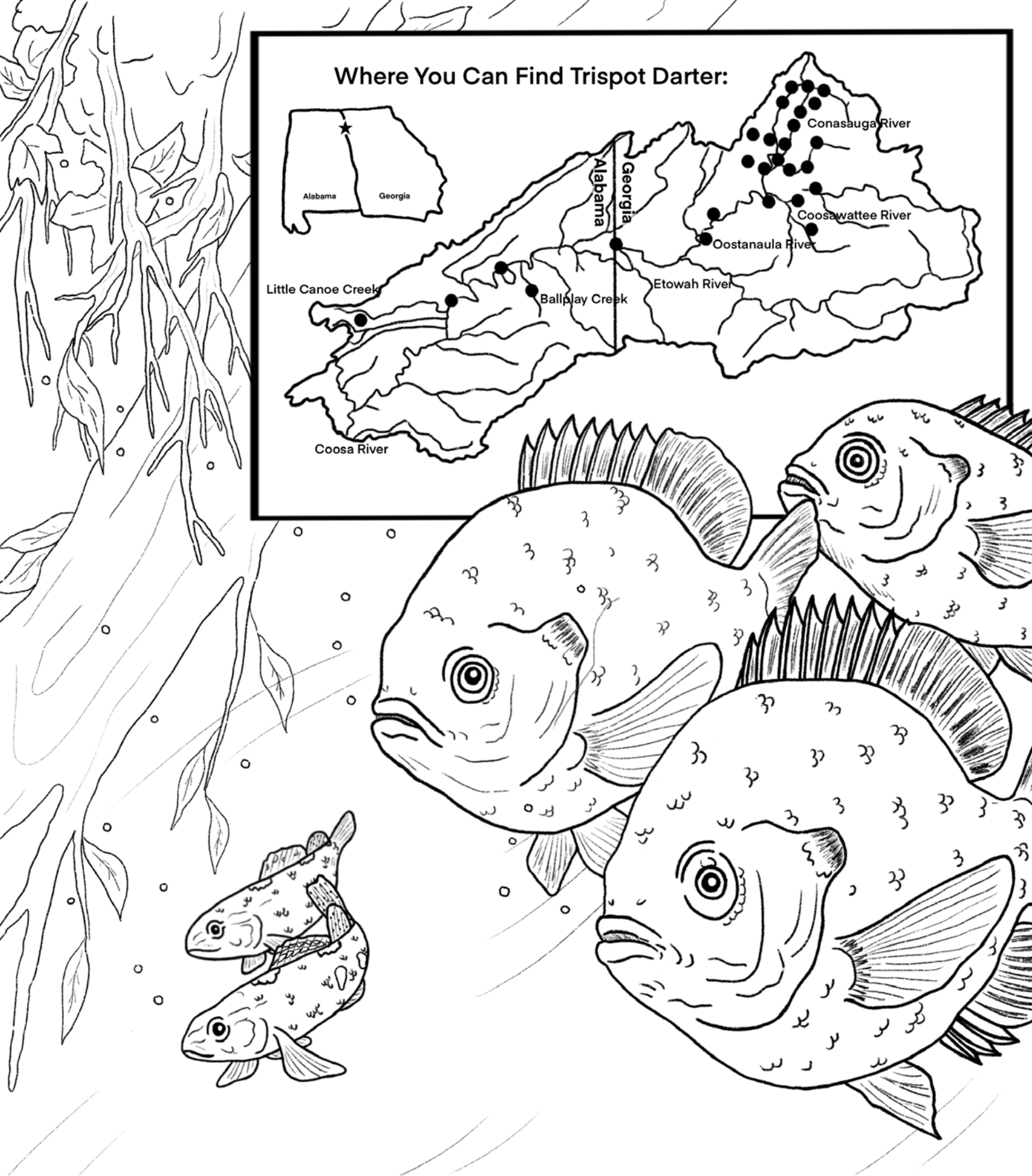
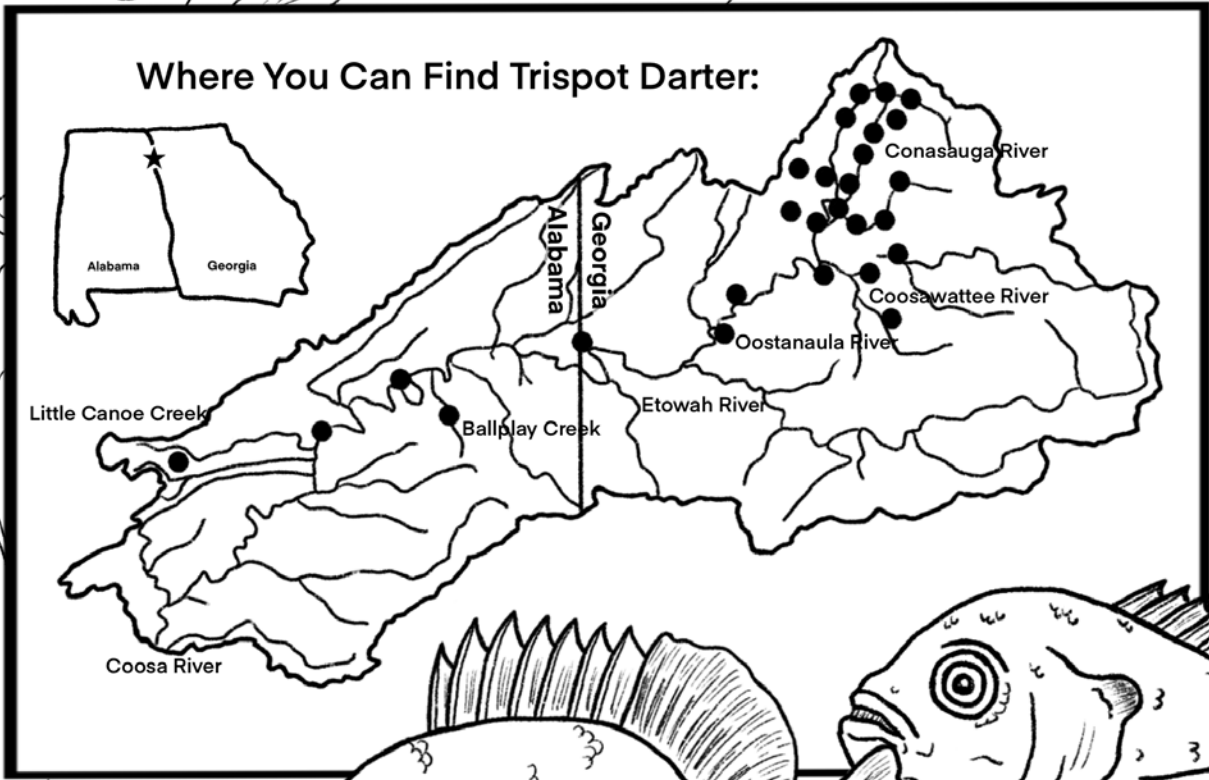


Look, there's a little path through the sticks. Let's go!

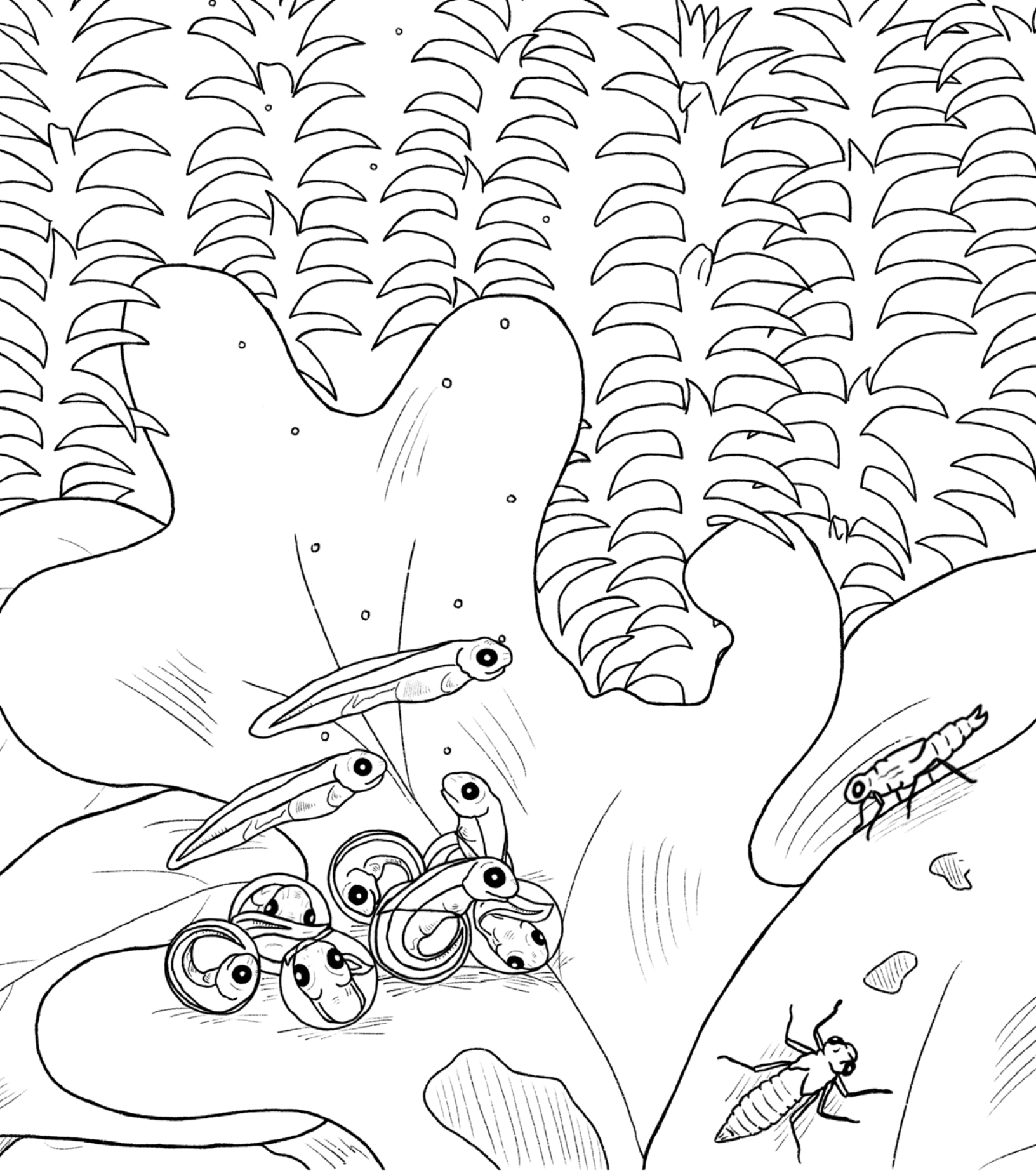


This water feels great, and these leaves and sticks are a great place to lay our eggs.

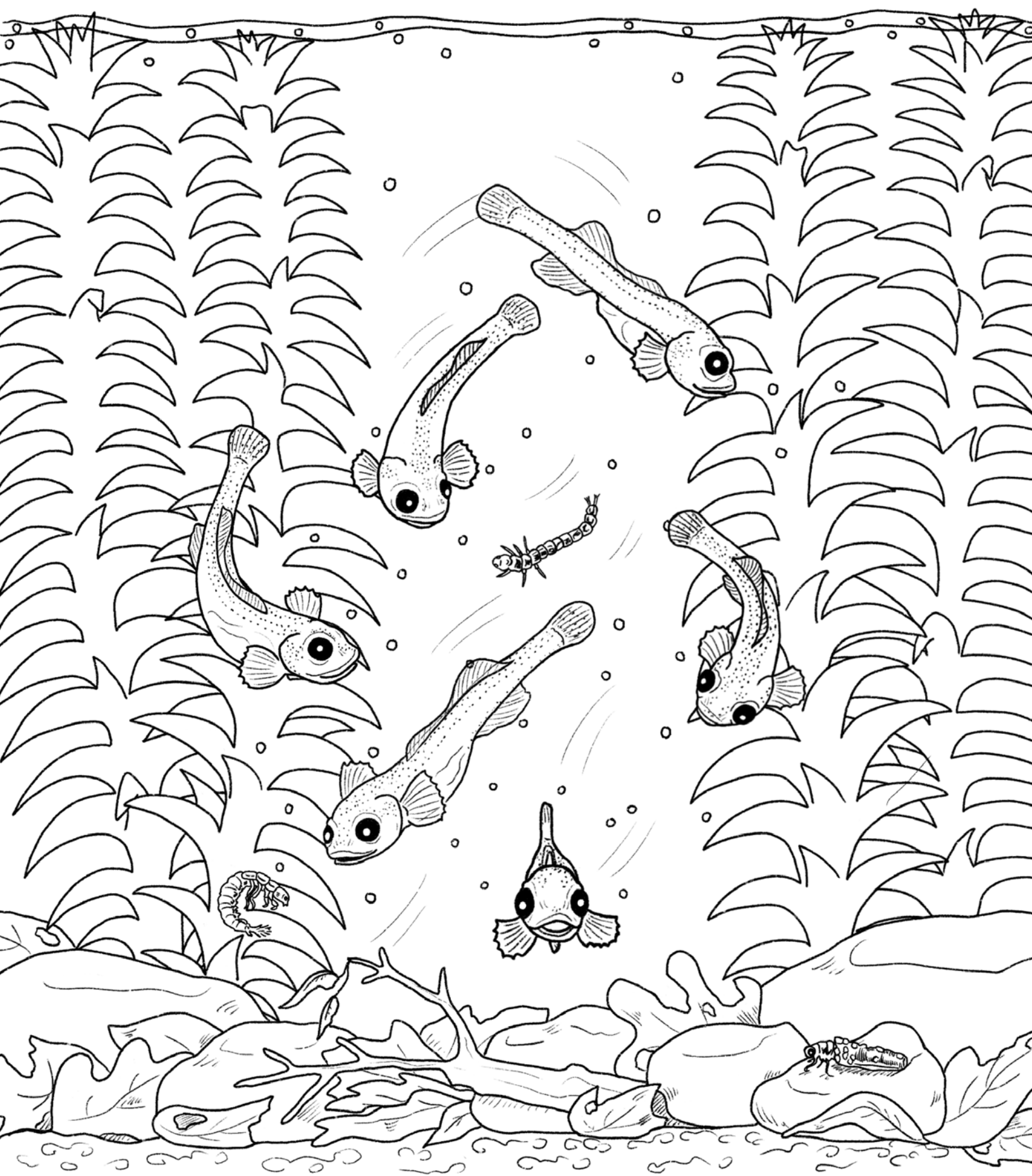
# Where You Can Find Trispot Darter:



I'm glad we found a good home for our eggs here in the Coosawattee River. I wonder if my cousin down in Ballplay Creek had any luck?



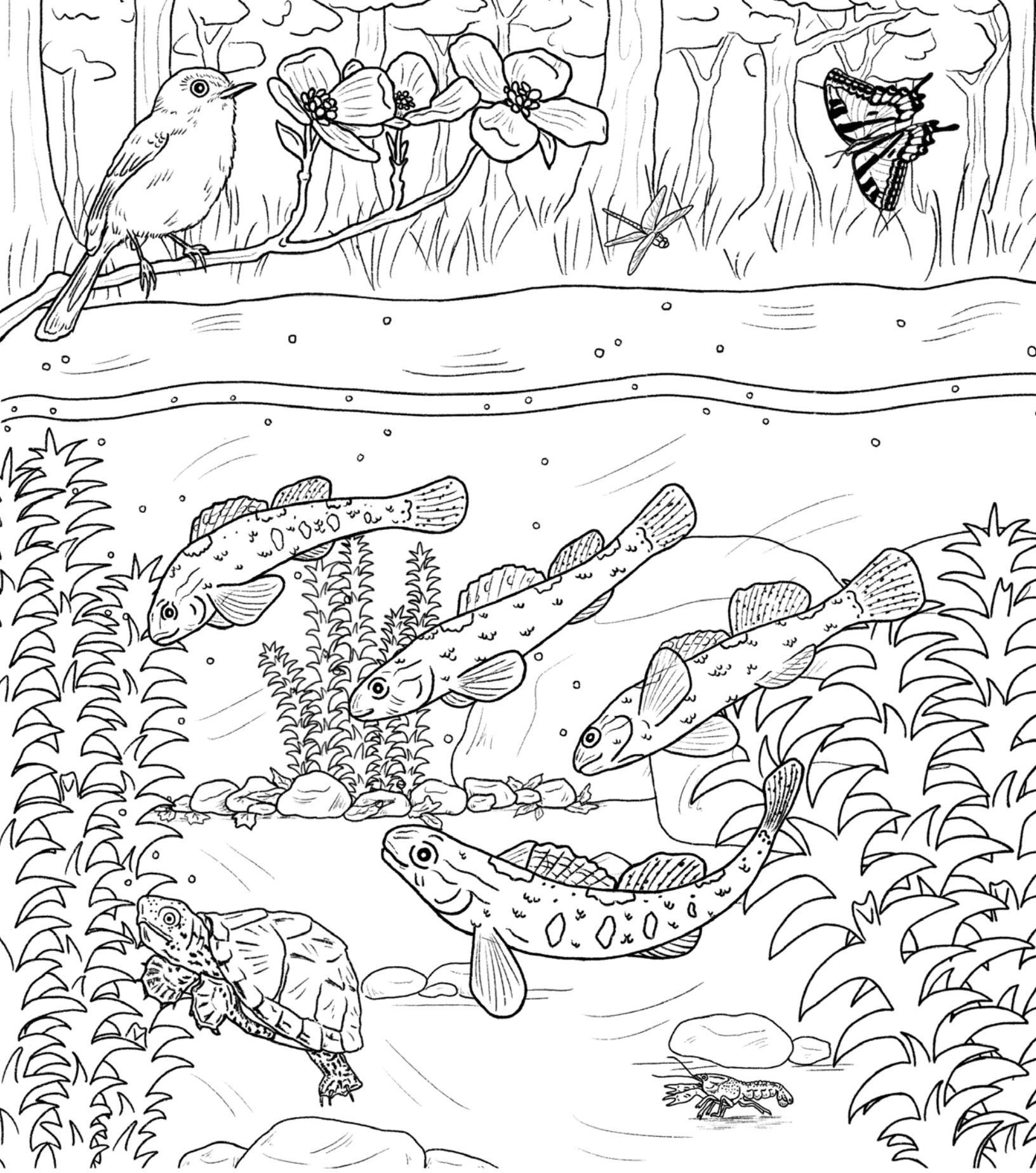
*A few days later, larval Trispot begin to hatch out of Trina and Trey's eggs. Safe from predators, they begin to eat and grow.*



This water is warming up, and I'm hungry!  
Let's swim downstream.



Wow, look at all these fish!  
I'm glad we weren't eggs here.



Look, there's mom and dad!



Male Trispot Darter



Female Trispot Darter

## Trispot Darter (*Etheostoma trisella*)

The Trispot Darter (*Etheostoma trisella*) is a federally threatened fish endemic to the Coosa River basin of Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama. This two-inch fish makes a seasonal spawning run from mainstem streams and rivers into seasonally wet tributaries. Because these spawning habitats are small they are vulnerable—often developed, plowed over for row crop or pasture, or disconnected from the mainstem channels by perched or improperly sized road crossing infrastructure (culverts). The Wildlife Resources Division is working with other partners to improve habitat connectivity for the Trispot, ensuring that these little fish can continue to make big moves. Partners and funders working toward Trispot conservation include:



LIMESTONE VALLEY  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION  
& DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



Photos: Alan Cressler