

ACTIVITY BOOK

# INVADERS

*in* IDAHO

KEEP ANIMAL AND *Plant* INVADERS OUT!



# INVADERS in IDAHO

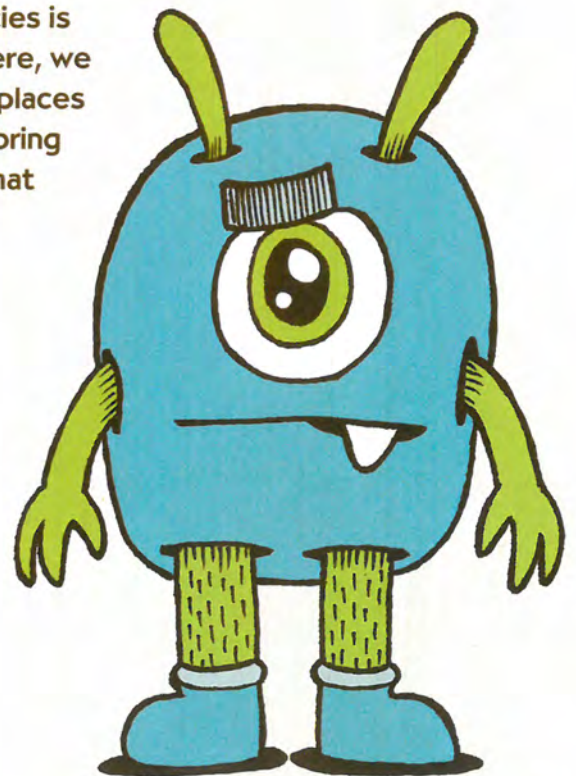
## KEEP ANIMAL AND *Plant* INVADERS OUT!

**Aliens have landed in Idaho and many more aliens are looking for a way in!** But these aliens aren't from outer space—they're plants and animals, usually from other countries, that have ended up in Idaho, either by accident but sometimes on purpose. These invaders can be carried into Idaho on firewood, in crates and boxes, on people's camping and fishing equipment, and even in suitcases! Invaders make it tough for native plants and animals to live and grow and once they're here, it's hard to get them out of here. They're like super-rude, uninvited party crashers eating all the food and overstaying their welcome.

The best way to protect Idaho from invasive species is keep them out in the first place. But if they are here, we need to make sure we don't spread them to new places in the state. Knowing the different pathways that bring invasive species here can help us all understand what we can do to stop them.

GREEEEETINGS!

An *extremely* invasive species





# BUGS/FIREWOOD



*Emerald Ash Borer*



*Sirex Woodwasp*



*Asian Longhorned Beetle*



*Gypsy Moth*

MMMMMMM!



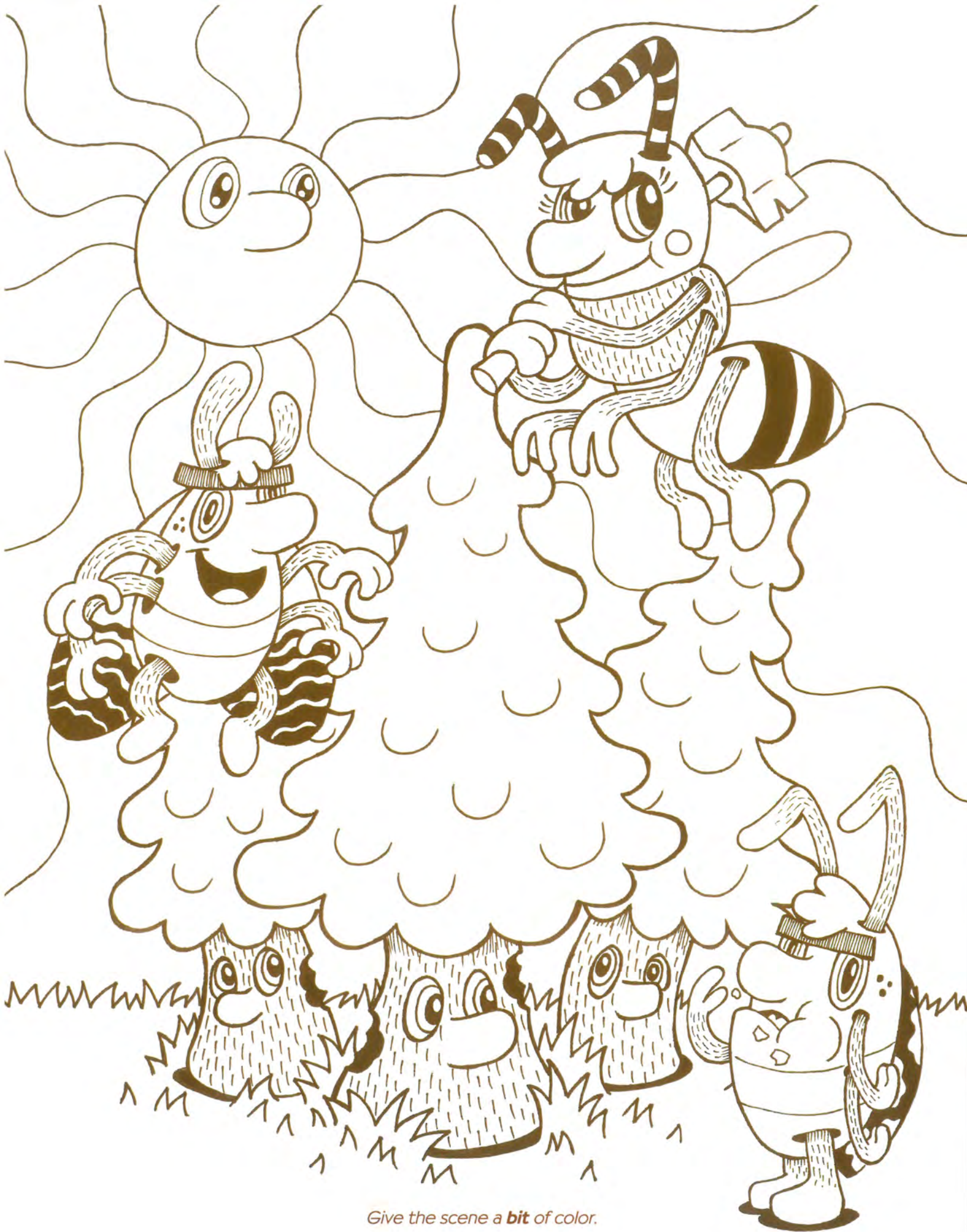
## BUY IT *Where* YOU BURN IT.

**Don't bring firewood with you on your trip.** Invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer, often hitchhike on firewood and end up destroying our forests. Be sure to get firewood **only near where you plan to burn it** and help keep our trees safe from invasive insects.

WORD SCRAMBLE!  
**ROIFODEW**



Answer on page 20



Give the scene a **bit** of color.

# GYPSY MOTH WORD FIND

In spite of their name, gypsy moths don't read crystal balls and tell your fortune. Actually, they are invasive insects that can destroy forests. Females lay **fuzzy brown egg masses** (a fancy way of saying egg blobs) on firewood, outdoor furniture, playground equipment, and even cars. If you find any, scrape them off and get rid of them. *Search for EGG MASSES (and other buggy words) below.*



**EGG MASSES**  
**HUNGRY**  
**GYPSY**  
**MOTH**  
**TREES**

**CATERPILLAR**  
**FIREWOOD**  
**FOREST**  
**FUZZY**  
**PLANTS**

**GOOOD LUCK!**

Answer on page 20



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

**TIDBIT:** A gypsy moth egg mass can contain as many as 500 eggs! That's a lot of hungry little mouths to feed and these babies are definitely not fussy eaters. They like to munch on over 500 different kinds of trees and plants. You might think, "What's the big deal? What could those tiny caterpillars do?" Well when you get a whole bunch of them, like millions of them, together they can kill a whole forest. You might even say their bite is worse than their bark.



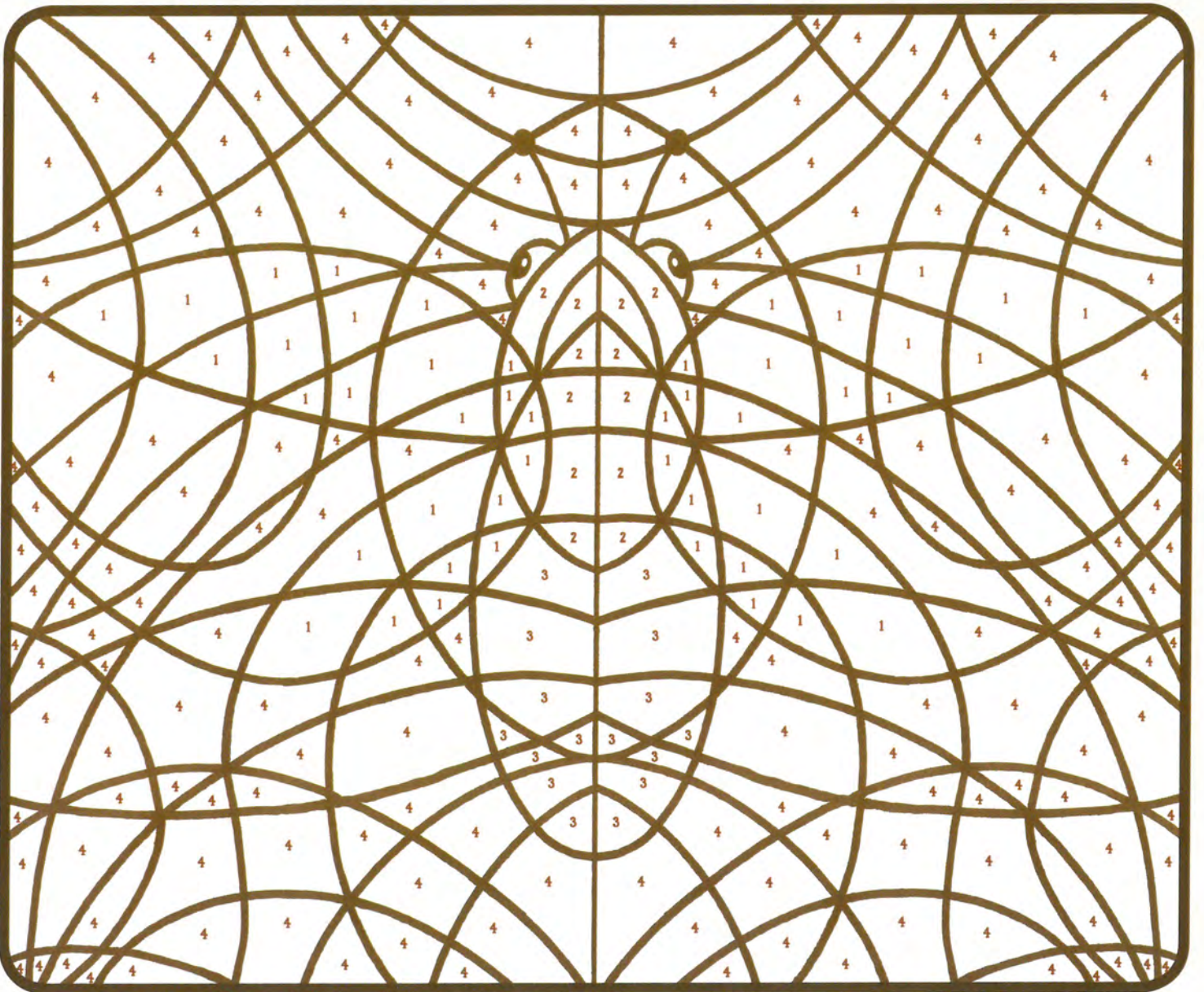
# EMERALD ASH BORER

## COLOR BY NUMBER

Emerald ash borers are not long-winded green bugs that tell boring stories. They're tiny green insects **smaller than a penny** whose babies bore into ash trees and kill them. They may be pretty, but they are very bad for ash trees (and there are a lot of ash trees in parks and along streets in Idaho cities.) *Being an artist is as easy as 1, 2, 3 (and 4.)* With the colors listed below, match the numbers and fill in the spaces for a buggy work of art.



1 = dark green   2 = light green   3 = red   4 = blue



**TIDBIT:** The emerald ash borer came from Asia to the U.S. in 1990, probably as hitchhikers in wooden crates, and has spread to 16 states and killed nearly 100 million trees. Emerald ash borers are usually moved in firewood, so buy firewood near where you plan to use it.

# ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

## DRAW-A-BEETLE

CRRRUNCH!

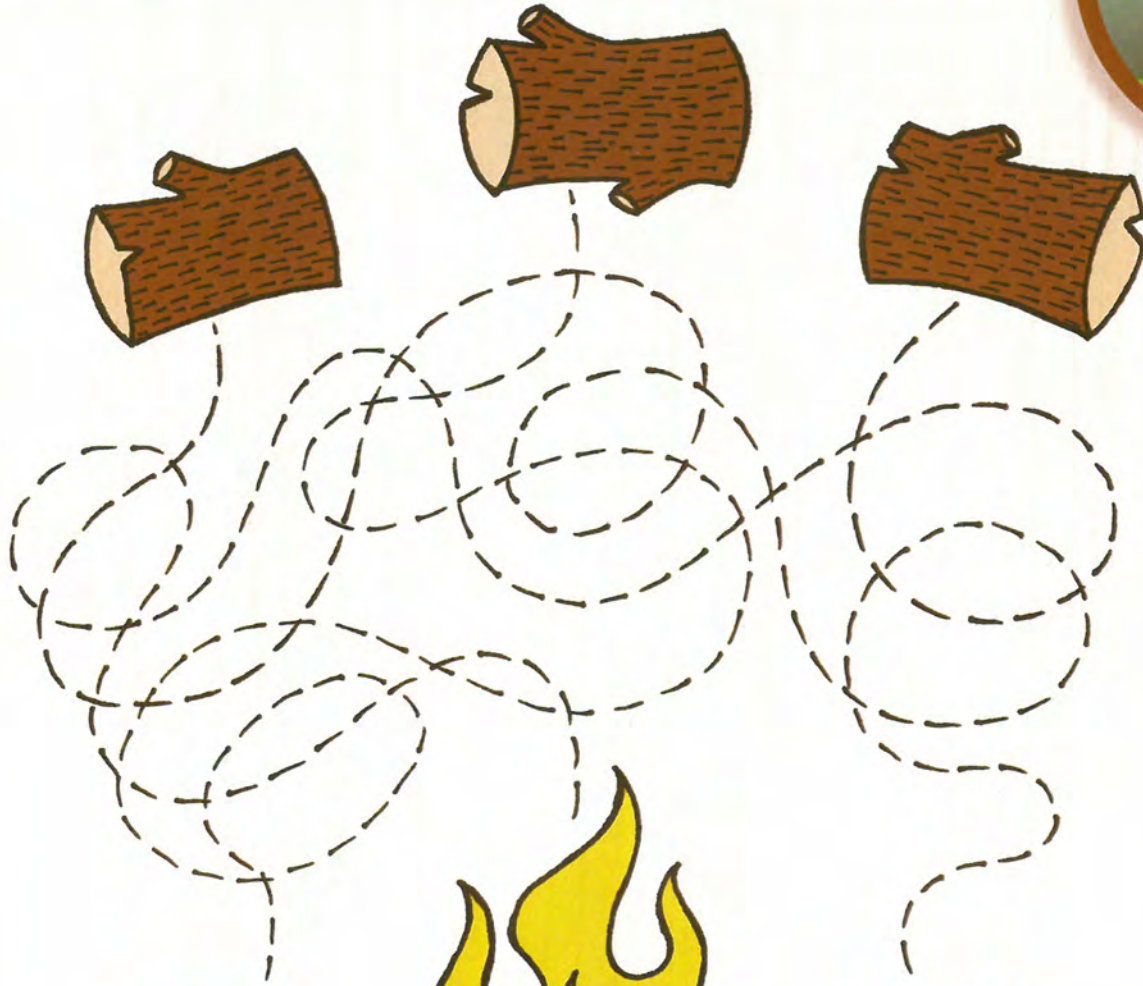
It's hard to imagine a world without trees. They're fun to climb, they're homes for the birds and squirrels, and they're perfect shady spots for picnics. The Asian Longhorned Beetle was imported accidentally from Asia by way of wooden shipping containers. Once they hit dry land, they started hitchhiking in firewood, where they hide under the bark. When you get to your picnic or camping site, they move from the firewood into the trees **and start having a feast**. Which means, as you lounge under that nice shady tree asking for seconds on potato salad, this aggravating creepy-crawly could turn our parks, neighborhoods and forests into a woodless wasteland. *In the space below, draw your own beetle munching on one of his favorite snacks.*



# FIREWOOD

## TRACE THE PATH

Tree-killing insects and pathogens that cause disease can lurk in firewood. When people move firewood, these pests go along with it and **can destroy our forests**. Always buy firewood near the place you will use it and never haul it long distances. Be sure to burn all the wood you buy completely before leaving your campsite and never take it with you. *Follow the twisty-turny, topsy-turvy paths below to find which piece of firewood was bought from a nearby seller and is OK to use.*



**SORRY!**

*This firewood was brought from home.*



**YEAH!**

*This was purchased from a local source.*



**SORRY!**

*This was leftover from a campsite far away.*





# Plants



Houndstongue



Cheatgrass

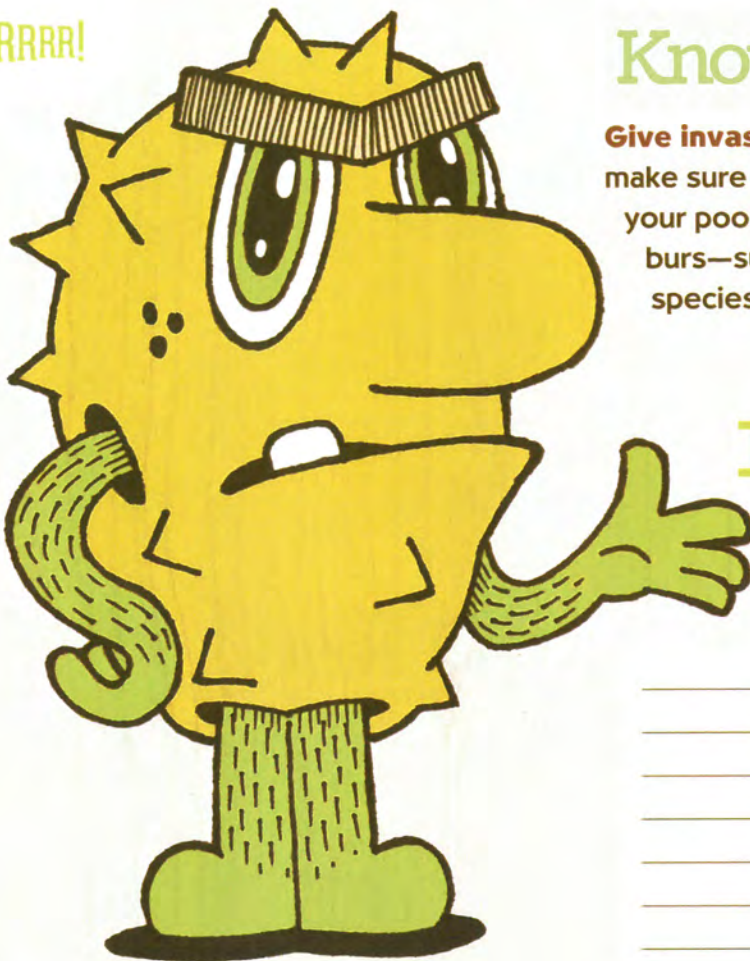


Puncturevine



Yellow Starthistle

GRRRRRR!



## Know **What** YOU Grow.

**Give invasive species the brush off!** After the hike, make sure your vehicles, clothes and boots (and even your pooch's paws) are free of seeds, stickers, and burs—such as those from cheatgrass. Stop invasive species in **YOUR** tracks.

### WORD PLAY!

## PLANTS

How many different words can you find in "**PLANTS**"?

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# JAPANESE KNOTWEED

## CONNECT THE DOTS

Some invasive plants act like monsters in their new environments. In the 1800s, people brought this plant here from Asia to add some curb appeal to their homes and gardens. With its strong root system, it was a simple solution to keep dirt from being moved around by wind and water (erosion). This monster weed has an **appetite for destruction**. Not only does it crowd out native plant species, it can even damage buildings and roads. *Follow the numbers to connect the dots, then give the scene some color!*



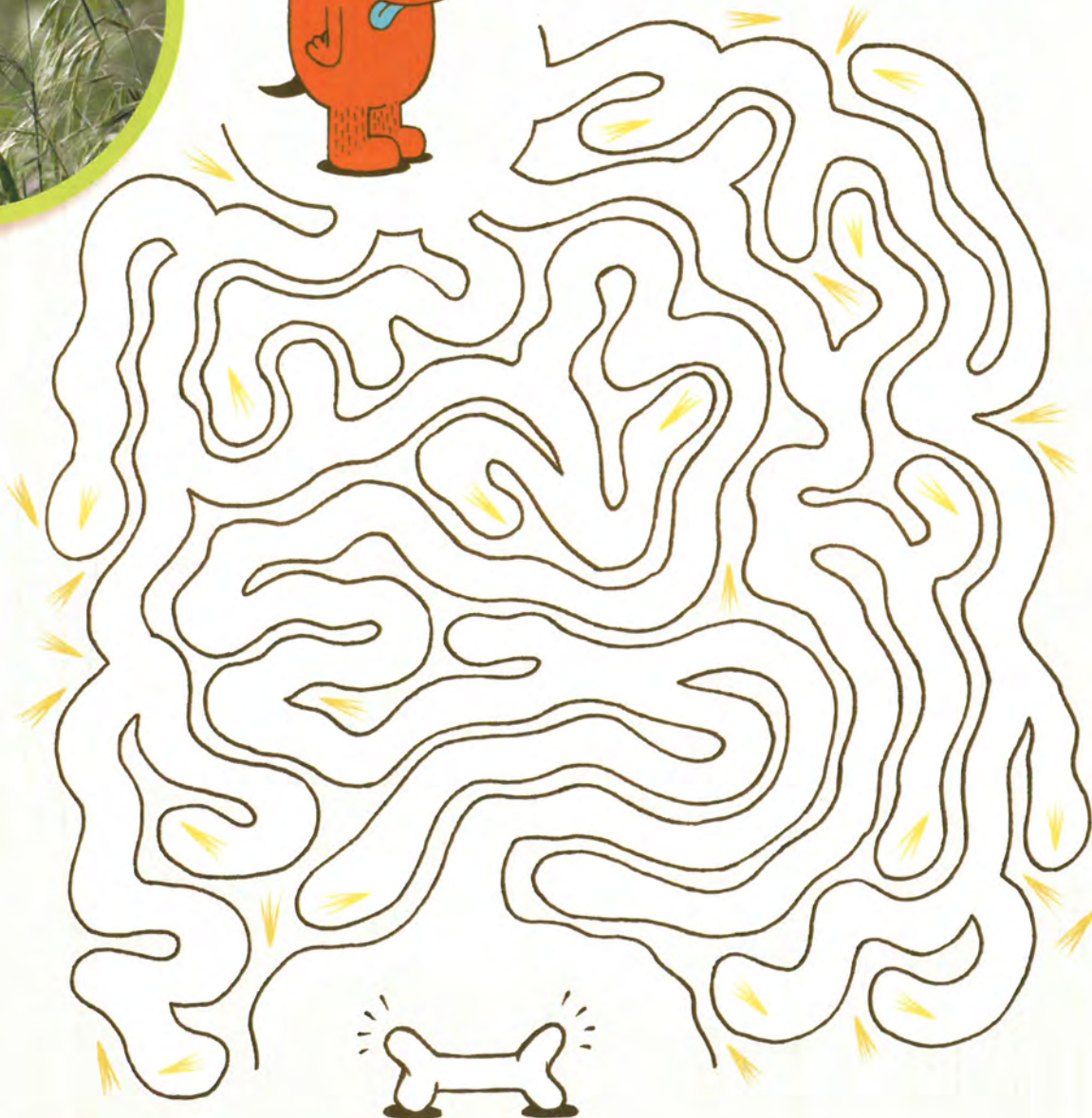
# CHEATGRASS MAZE

Where does cheatgrass get its name? Well, it's not from looking at other kids' papers in class. Cheatgrass actually grows in faster than other crops. So farmers are fooled by cheatgrass into thinking their crops are doing great. Cheatgrass takes over native grasses in rangelands and pastures and causes weed problems in wheat crops. It's also very flammable and may cause fires that can do even more damage. Cheatgrass can be a real pain in other ways too, **especially for wildlife and pets**. Their prickly seeds can work their way into skin, paws, noses and ears. Sometimes, a veterinarian has to surgically remove them!



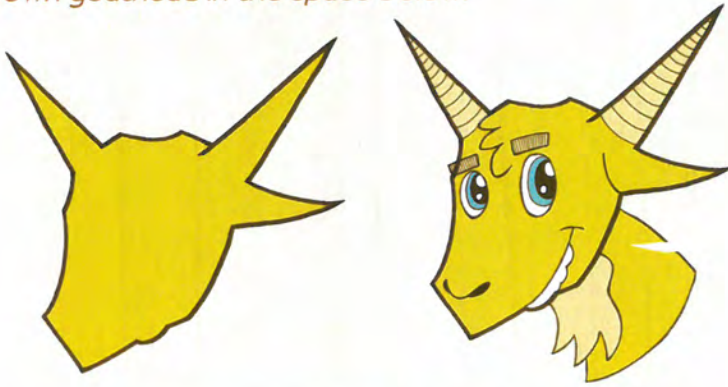
RUFF!

*It's definitely no fun for your furry friend to run into cheatgrass. Help Oliver find his bone without getting **stuck**.*



# PUNCTUREVINE GOATHEAD WEED

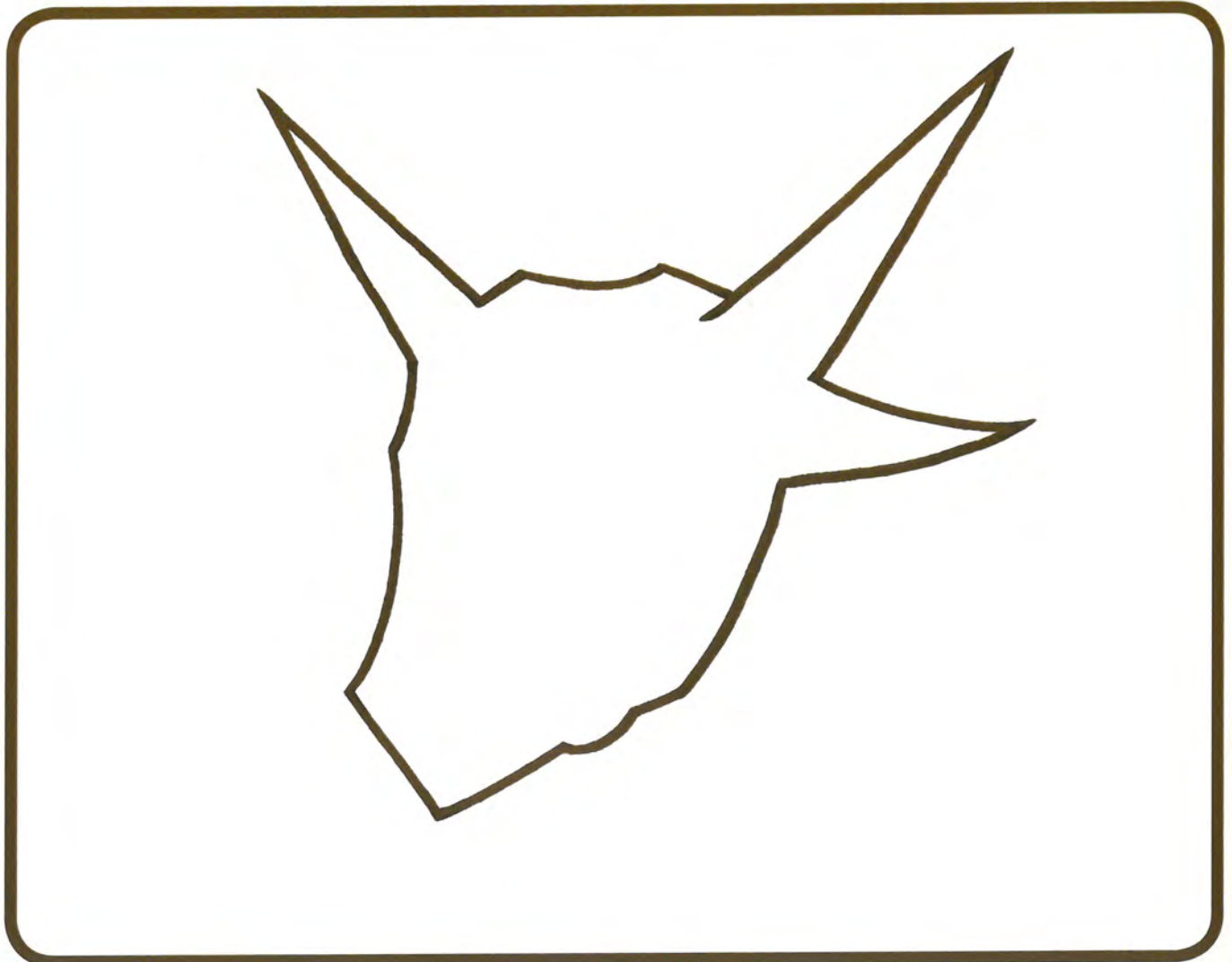
Puncturevine seeds, or goatheads, **can last 20 years** and if they have to, they'll wait that long for the right conditions to grow and the right time to stick in your bare feet or your bike tires. Ouch! Goathead weeds came here from Europe and they don't have any redeeming qualities like a charming accent, just thorny things sticking out that hurt. *Can you see why the plant was named "goathead" weed? Draw your own goathead in the space below.*

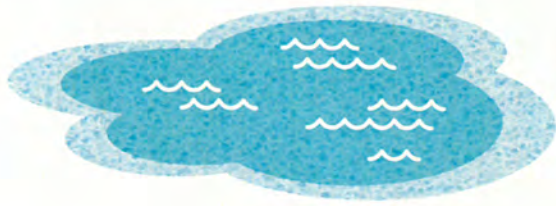


BAA-AA-AH!



**RIDDLE:** WHY DIDN'T THE GOATHEAD GET TO GO ON A BIKE RIDE? Answer on page 20





# WATER



Hydrilla



Quagga Mussel



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Zebra Mussel

## CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

**Before you drop anchor** in different waters, inspect your boat and equipment for invasive creatures, such as the ones above, and make sure they don't get a **free ride to the lake!**

ARRRGH!



**1 DOWN:**

Opposite of 'dirty'

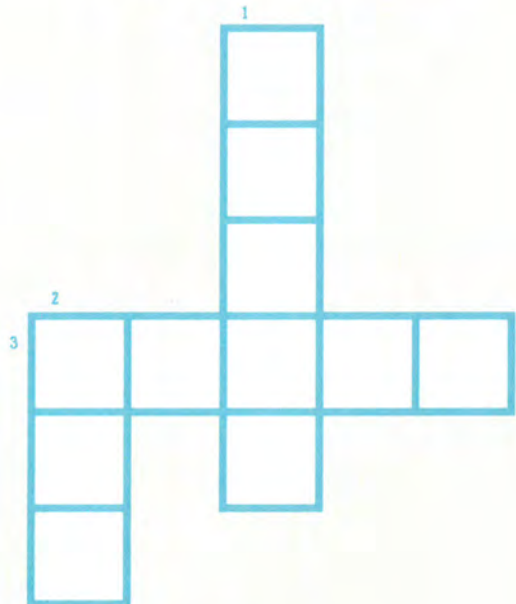
**2 DOWN:**

Climate of the desert

**3 ACROSS:**

The hole in your bathtub

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE!**



# EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

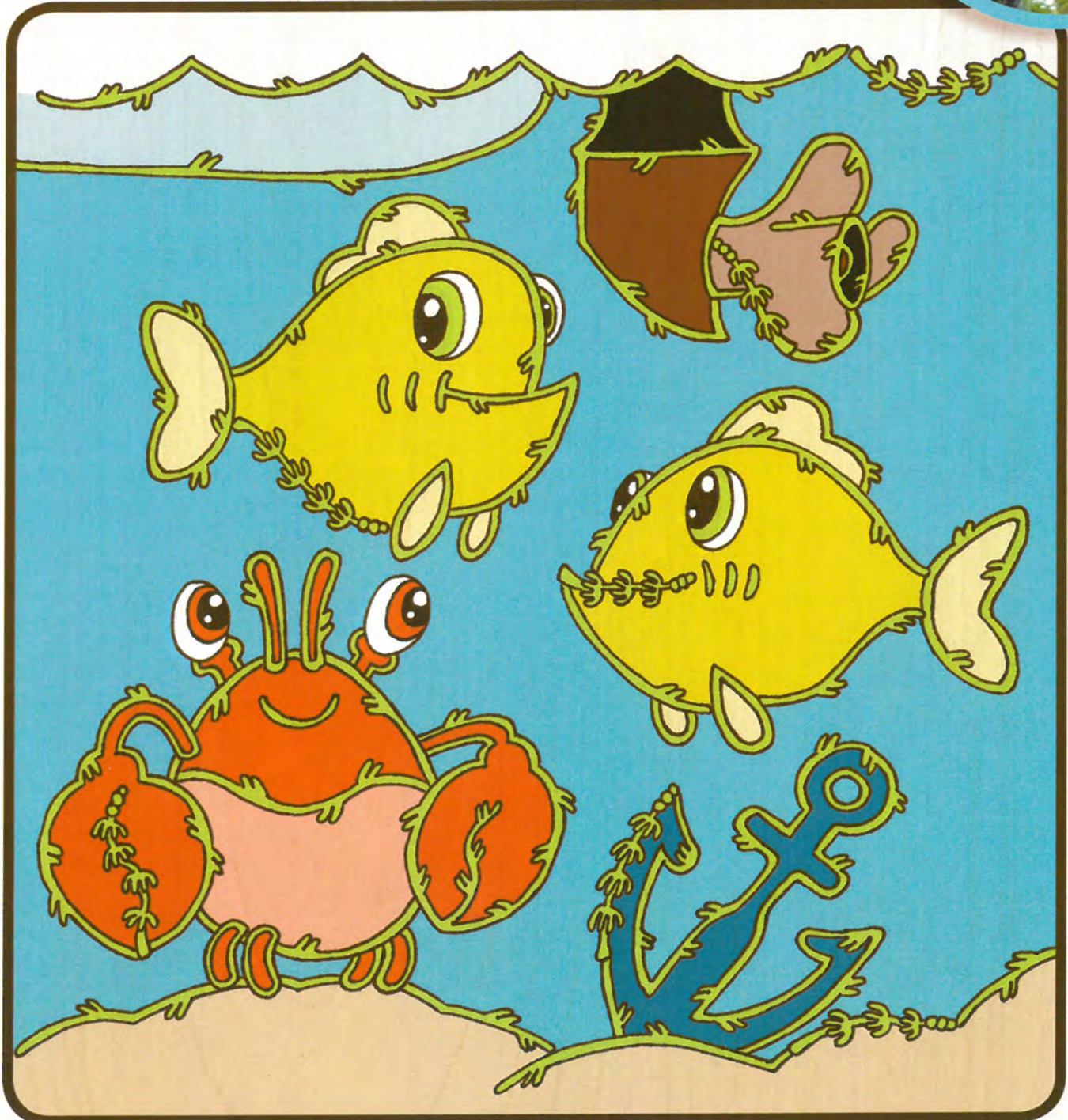
## SEEK & FIND

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) is an invasive water plant from Asia and Europe that is very good at hitching a ride on boats and other water equipment. You might say EWM is not very good at sharing. It has a bad habit of outgrowing almost every native water plant and taking over lakes and streams. **EWM is hard to get rid of**, and it's expensive to make sure it stays out of the water. *Foil the Milfoil before it foils you. Circle all of the places where this invader might be hiding below.*



Answer on page 20

Eurasian Watermilfoil



# ZEBRA MUSSELS



**Mussels can occur in huge numbers**, and they're not the kind you get from going to the gym. When their populations are high, these little zebra-striped mussels ruin the waters for native plants and animals by using up the nutrients (food) that they depend on for survival. They attach to almost everything—aquatic plants, sediment, and all kinds of surfaces, such as piers, pilings, water intakes, and boats.

**TIDBIT:** Zebra mussels were accidentally brought to the U.S. in the 1980s. They are now found in several Western states.

# QUAGGA MUSSELS

So far, no Quagga mussels have been found in Idaho, so let's all keep our eyes peeled and make sure we know what to do to avoid being "mussel bound." People should **always check their boats** for invasive mussels after being in the water.

**TIDBIT:** Did you know that a single quagga mussel can filter nutrients out of a whole liter of water per day? That's one thirsty mussel!



## CLEAN.

Any visible mud, plants or animals from your boat.

## DRAIN.

All places in your boat where water collects, including from the lower outboard unit, ballast, livewell, etc.

## DRY.

All areas of your boat and equipment.

**RIDDLE: WHY DON'T MUSSELS TAKE BATHS?** Answer on page 20

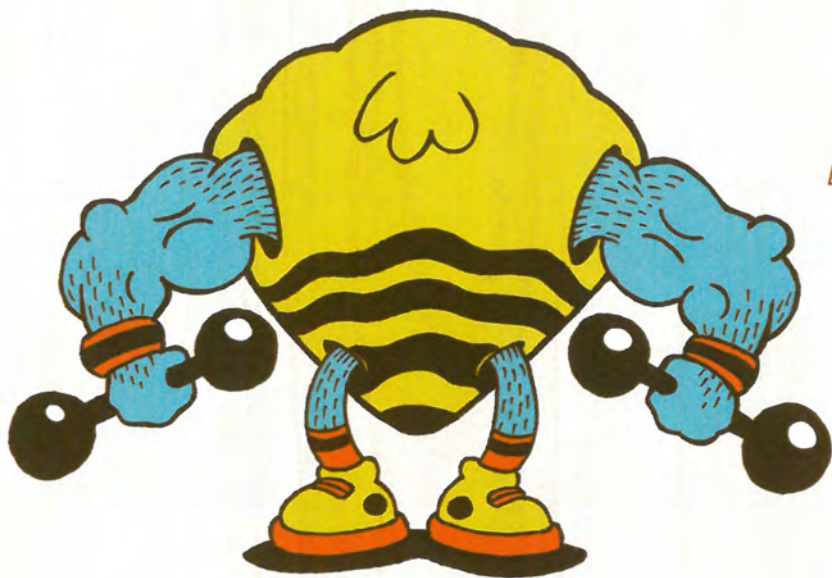
# MUSSELS

## MATCH TWO

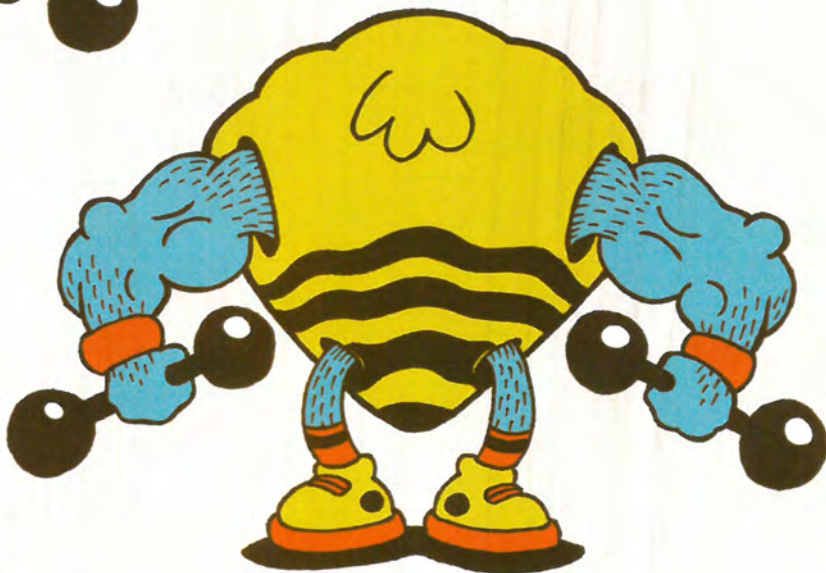
Look closely. Not all of these mussels are alike.  
Circle the two that are a perfect match.

Answer on page 20

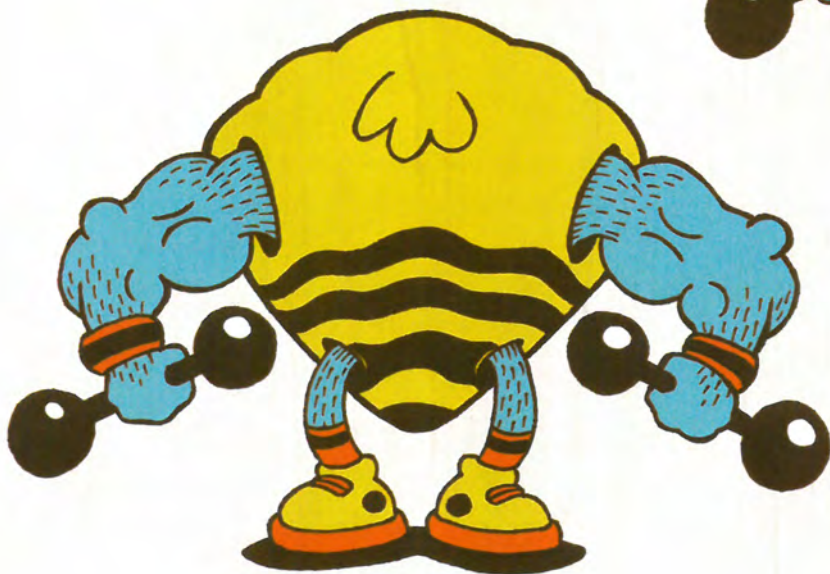
A



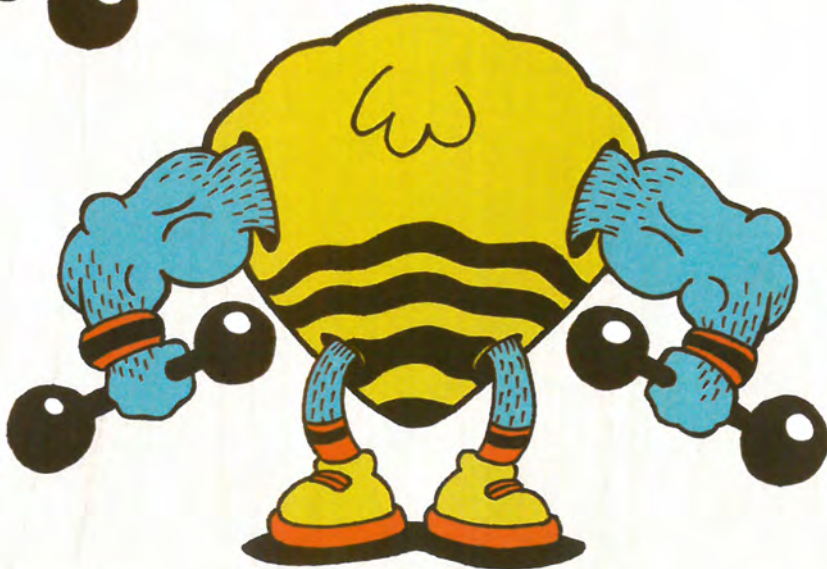
B



C



D







# PETS



*Snapping Turtle*



*Monk Parakeet*

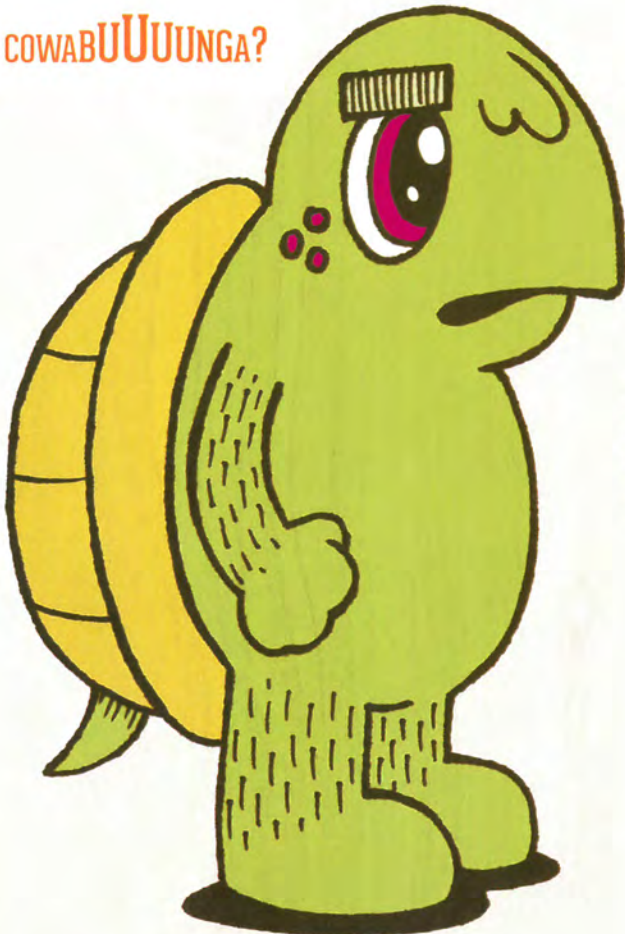


*Red-eared Slider*



*Mediterranean Gecko*

COWABUUUNGA?



## DON'T LET IT Loose.

When pets are young they are tiny and cute and fun. But as they grow bigger, they will still need their owner's care for the rest of their lives. Sometimes irresponsible pet owners release unwanted pets into woods, ponds and streams instead of finding a better solution. Most of them can't make it on their own. And if pets do make it, they can damage wild areas forever or carry diseases that could kill native species. **Never release a pet into the wild**, whether it is a turtle, a snake, a bird, a fish, a cat, a dog or any other kind of animal. **Talk to your vet** about the best way to take care of an unwanted pet.

WORD SCRAMBLE!  
**LETRTU**

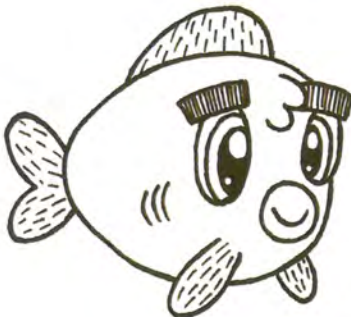
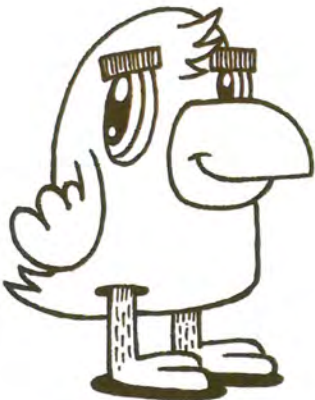
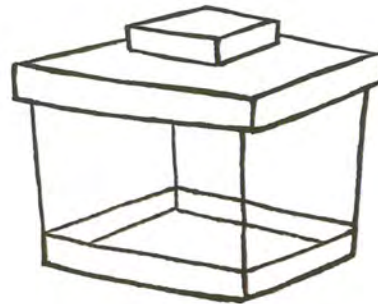
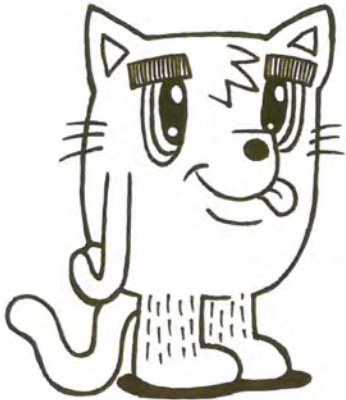
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# PETS & PLACES

## PICTURE MATCH

Color these pets and put them back home by drawing a line to where they belong.

Answer on page 20



# INVADERS in IDAHO

*Remember these easy tips to keep invasive species out.*

## BUY IT *Where* YOU BURN IT.

**Don't bring firewood with you on your trip.** Invasive species use this pathway to destroy our forests. Be sure to get firewood **only near where you plan to burn it** and help keep our trees safe from invasive insects.

## Know **What** YOU *Grow*.

**Give invasive species the brush off!** After the hike, make sure your vehicles, clothes and boots (and even your pooch's paws) are free of seeds—stop invasive species in **YOUR** tracks.

## CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

**Before you drop anchor** in different waters, inspect your boat and equipment for invasive creatures and make sure you don't move them to new places!

## DON'T LET IT *Loose*.

If you have a pet that you don't want any more, **don't let it go in the wild.** Whether it is a turtle, a snake, a bird, a fish, a cat, a dog or any other kind of animal, work with your pet store and veterinarian to find out what you should do.

# INVADERS IN IDAHO

## CODE BREAKER

Match the letters to the corresponding numbers and uncover a **not-so-secret** message.

1. A typical gypsy moth egg mass can contain up to \_\_\_\_\_ hundred eggs.  
6 7
2. The emerald ash borer come to the U.S. from \_\_\_\_\_ .  
9 13
3. Asian longhorned beetles hide under the \_\_\_\_\_ of a tree.  
4
4. Japanese knotweed is known for its strong \_\_\_\_\_ system.
5. Cheatgrass gets its name by growing \_\_\_\_\_ than other crops.  
14
6. Goathead weed is also known as \_\_\_\_\_ .  
10 2 12 3
7. Eurasian watermilfoil is spread by \_\_\_\_\_ and other water equipment.  
5
8. A single quagga mussels can filter up to one \_\_\_\_\_ of water per day.  
1 8
9. Never \_\_\_\_\_ a pet into the wild.  
11 15

## HELP PREVENT

\_\_\_\_\_

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

\_\_\_\_\_

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

# ANSWERS

**Page 2** - Word Scramble: *FIREWOOD*

**Page 4** - Word Find:



**Page 8** - Word Play:

A	PANS	NAP
ALP	PANT	NAPS
ALPS	PANTS	PA
AN	PAS	PAL
ANT	PAST	SLANT
ANTS	PAT	SLAP
APT	PATS	SLAT
AS	PLAN	SNAP
ASP	PLANS	SPA
AT	PLANT	SPAN
LA	PLANTS	SPAT
LAP	PLAT	SPLAT
LAPS	PLATS	TA
LAST	SAL	TAN
LAT	SALP	TANS
LATS	SALT	TAP
PALS	SAP	TAPS
PAN	SAT	

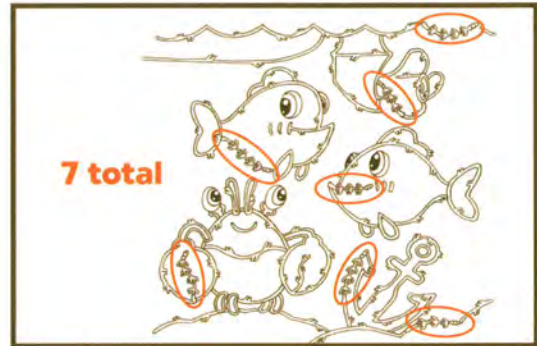
**Page 11** - Answer:

*Because he was "baahd."*

**Page 12** - Crossword:



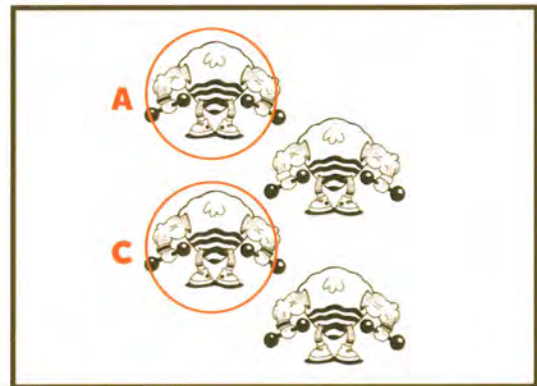
**Page 13** - Seek & Find:



**Page 14** - Answer:

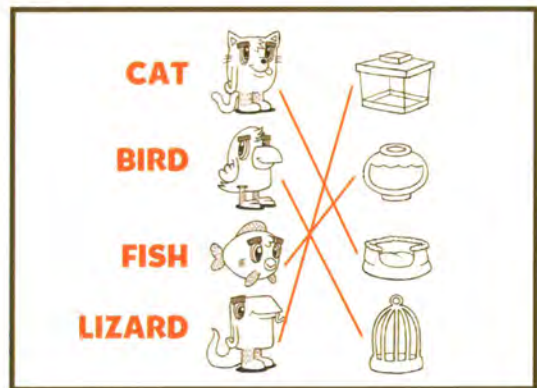
*Because they might "quagga" drain*

**Page 15** - Match Two



**Page 16** - Word Scramble: *TURTLE*

**Page 17** - Picture Match



**Page 18** - Answers:

1. FIVE
2. ASIA
3. BARK
4. ROOT
5. FASTER
6. PUNCTUREVINE
7. BOATS
8. LITER
9. RELEASE

Code: *HELP PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES*

## THE IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT *of* AGRICULTURE

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) works closely with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to search for and manage invasive species in our state. By teaching children to protect their natural world today, we ensure the future of our beautiful land where our native plants and animals dwell.

Visit the ISDA Invasive Species Kids' Corner at:

**INVASIVE** *Species*.**IDAHO.GOV**

