

Section #5

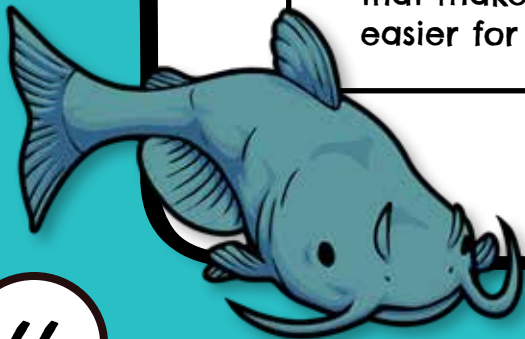
FISH



There are over 170 species of fish in Ohio. They can be found in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Fish live in Ohio ponds, lakes, small streams, big rivers, and wetlands.

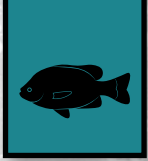
WHAT MAKES FISH UNIQUE?

- Fish are ectothermic and can only live in water.
- They have gills that work like our lungs. Gills take oxygen out of the water for them to breathe.
- Many fish have scales for their skin; others have smooth skin.
- They have many adaptations that make life underwater easier for them.



WHAT DOES A FISH LOOK LIKE?

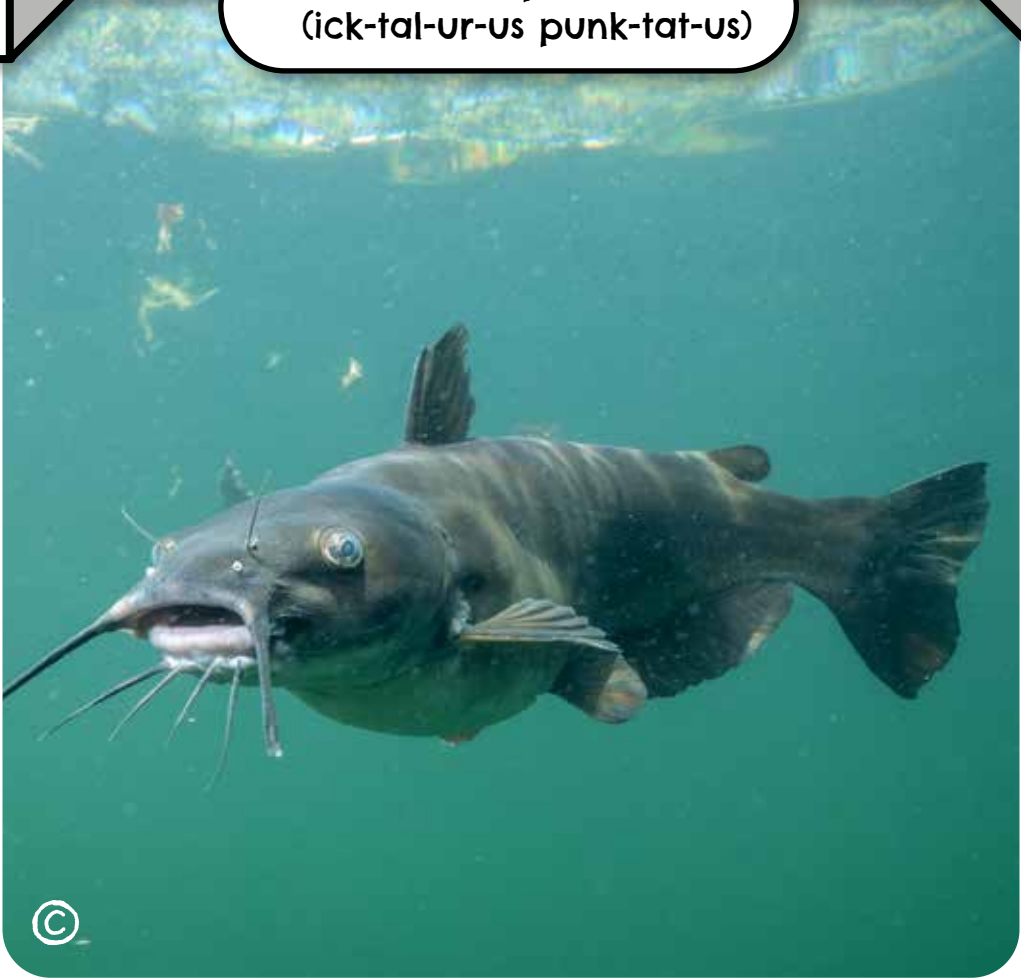
Draw a fish using what you learned in the “What Makes Fish Unique” Section!



SEEN
IT?

CHANNEL CATFISH

Ictalurus punctatus
(ick-tal-ur-us punk-tat-us)



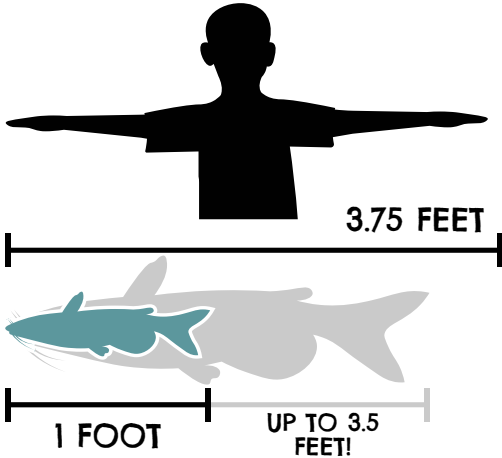
LIFESPAN: Up to 30 years in the wild!

HABITAT: Ohio's large streams, rivers, and lakes. They nest along riverbanks or in muskrat burrows.

YOUNG: Females lay large jellylike masses of 8,000-15,000 eggs.

HOW BIG ARE CHANNEL CATFISH?

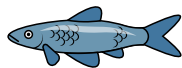
- 2-10 pounds, up to 37 pounds!



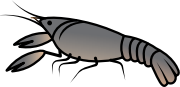
WHAT DO CHANNEL CATFISH EAT?



INSECT LARVAE



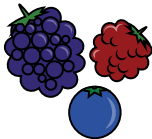
FISH



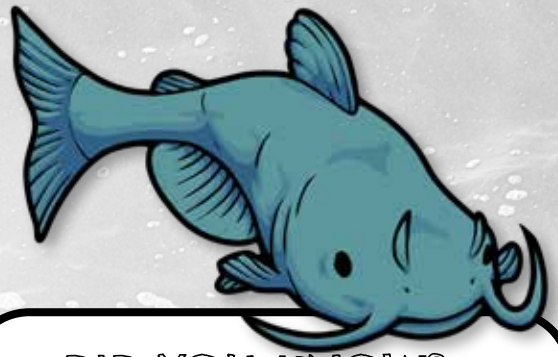
CRAYFISH



MOLLUSKS



FRUIT AND BERRIES

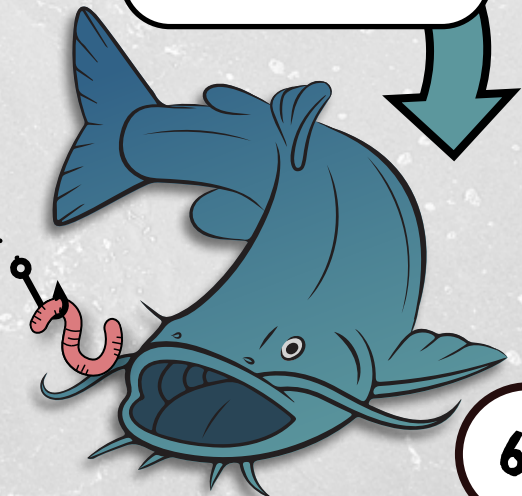
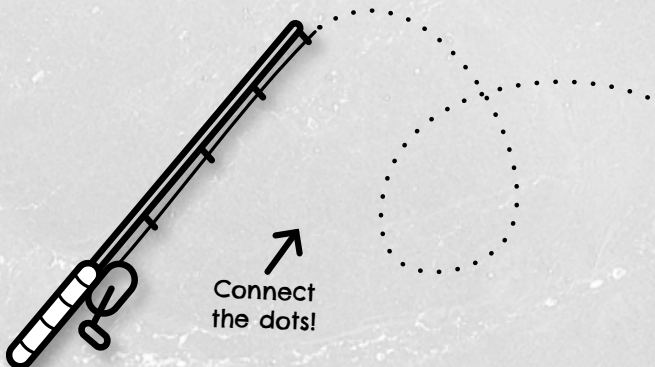


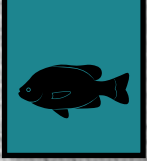
DID YOU KNOW?

- Young catfish have spots that disappear when they become adults.
- Catfish have a great sense of smell and taste.
- Their whiskers are called "barbels."
- Catfish have hard, spiny bones in their fins to defend against predators, which can make them difficult to hold.

CATCH THE CATFISH!

Connect the hook and fishing pole to catch the catfish!





SEEN
IT?

BLUEGILL

Lepomis macrochirus
(Leh-po-mis mak-ro-chir-us)



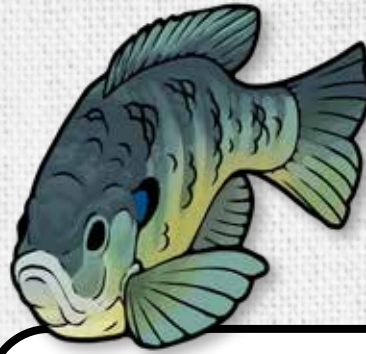
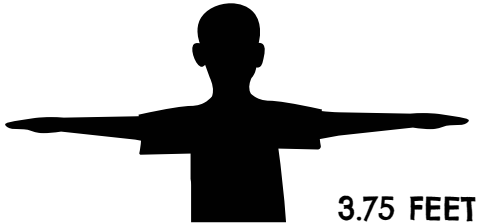
LIFESPAN: 5-8 years in the wild.

HABITAT: Ohio's farm ponds, small streams, rivers, and lakes.

YOUNG: Females lay 10,000-60,000 eggs per mating season. The males protect the eggs.

HOW BIG ARE BLUEGILLS?

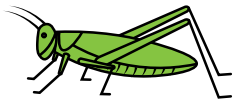
- 1-2 POUNDS



DID YOU KNOW?

- Bluegill are often called pan-fish because they are good to eat and fit in a cooking pan.
- They have a black spot near their ear and a streak of blue along the bottom of their mouth.
- They are the most common sunfish in Ohio.

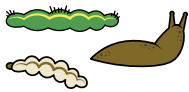
WHAT DO BLUEGILLS EAT?



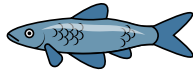
INSECTS



WORMS



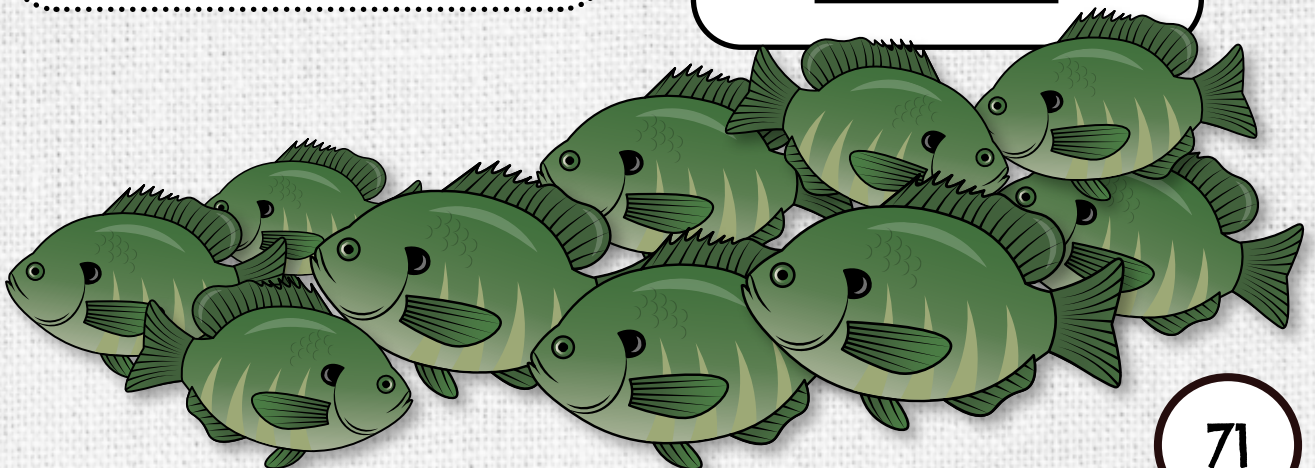
ANY TYPE OF BAIT



SMALLER FISH

COUNT THE COLONY!

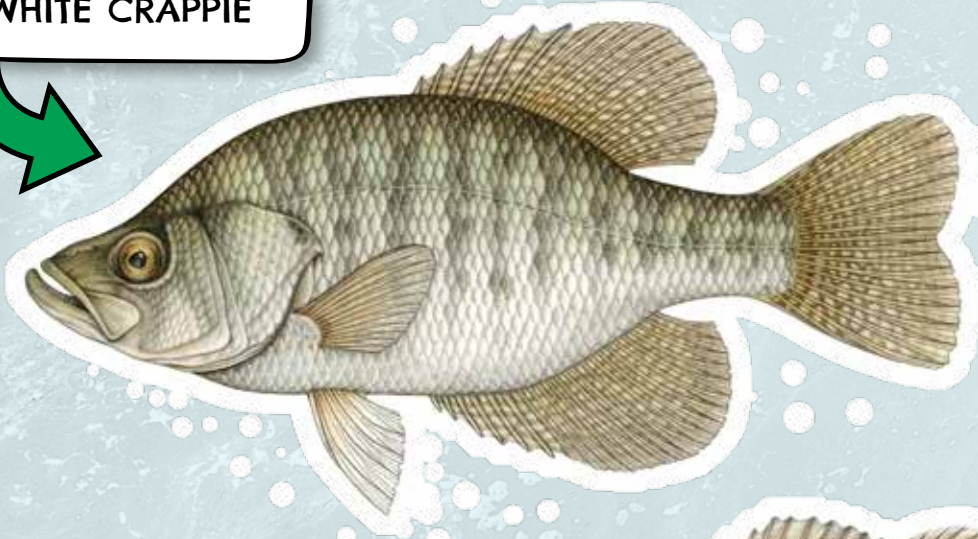
Can you count how many fish are in the colony? Write it below!



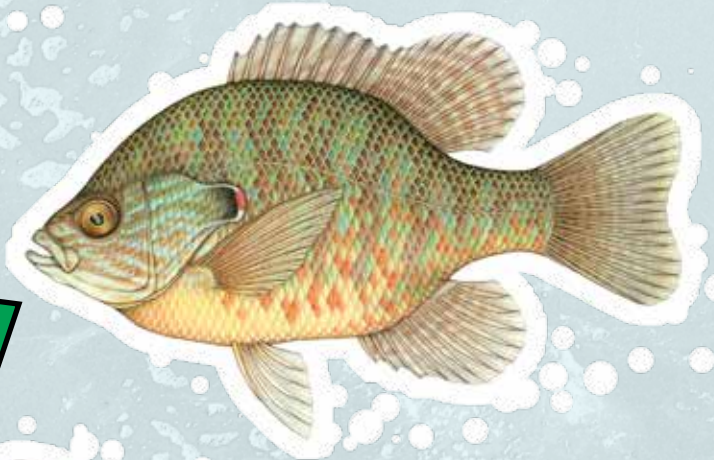
OHIO'S OTHER SUNFISH

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT A FEW OF OHIO'S DIFFERENT SUNFISH

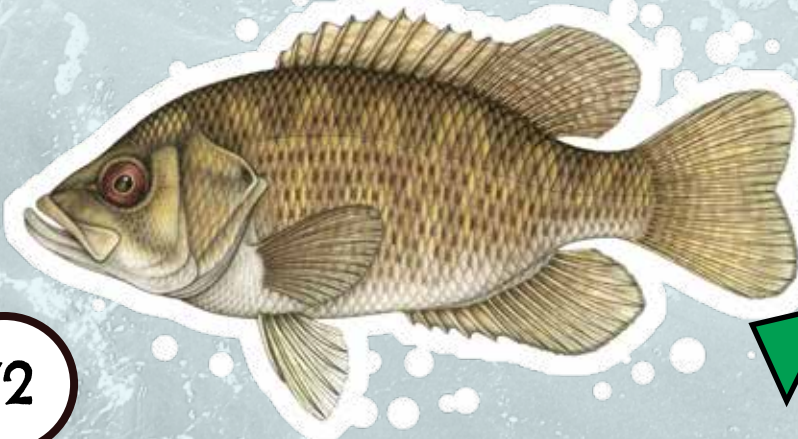
WHITE CRAPPIE



PUMPKINSEED



ROCK BASS



GRAB YOUR FISHING POLE!

All of these members of the sunfish family are fun to catch and eat. Have an adult take you fishing and see if you could catch one!

LARGEMOUTH BASS



SMALLMOUTH BASS

