



TLC The Land Conservancy
of British Columbia

Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area



Activity Book for Kids

Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area Trail, BC

Open May 1 – Oct 31
from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Closed Nov 1 – April 30

Directions from Trail, BC:

1. Head northeast on Victoria St toward Pine Ave
2. Turn right onto Bay Ave
3. Continue straight onto Riverside Ave
4. Slight left to stay on Riverside Ave for 4.8km
5. Parking and gate is on the left

Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area
is owned and managed by:

The Land Conservancy of B.C.
5150 Cordova Bay Road
Victoria, BC V8Y 2K6

Toll free 1-877-485-2422
250-479-8053

www.conservancy.bc.ca
admin@conservancy.bc.ca

Illustrations
and
descriptions
by Karen Iwachow

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of British Columbia
2022



Access & Partners

Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area contains sensitive habitats and endangered plants and animals. We need your help to protect these special communities while supporting recreational use. We treasure Fort Shepherd for its ecological and historical value. Please tread carefully! Open to the public for day use from May through October.

- No motorized vehicle access allowed, including vehicles & ORV's
- Access allowed by foot and horse along main road only
- Please respect wildlife habitat
- No dumping. Pack it in, pack it out
- No cutting or removal of trees and plants
- No overnight camping
- No fires
- No smoking
- No harassment or disturbing wildlife
- Dogs are permitted on leash
- Cell service is limited
- Access at own risk. In event of emergency dial 911.

The FSCA is protected for its wildlife and habitat values, which include endangered species, and also its heritage features. Activities that are potentially harmful will be referred to the Conservation Officer Service and the RCMP.

Responsible users engaging in activities that are compatible with the purpose and objectives of the Conservancy Area are welcome and are encouraged to enjoy the many benefits the area has to offer.

Parking

Parking space is available at the gated entrance. Please park your vehicle with clearance so that emergency response vehicles have space to enter the gate.

History of the Conservancy Area

The Lower Columbia River, including Fort Shepherd, is part of the traditional territory of the Sinixt people. Although the Sinixt were declared extinct by the Canadian government in 1956, members of the Sinixt people still live on in the territory.

Fort Shepherd, a Hudson's Bay Company fort, was built in 1857. Fort Shepherd never became a successful trading post due to the lack of suitable land for farming and settlement. The construction of the Dewdney Trail from Hope to Wildhorse led through Fort Shepherd and for a time Fort Shepherd became an important trading and stopping post. The gold rush was short-lived and the Fort was closed for the last time in 1870. Fort Shepherd burned down in 1872 and all that remains on the site today is a cairn erected in 1951 to mark the location.



1857: Fort built

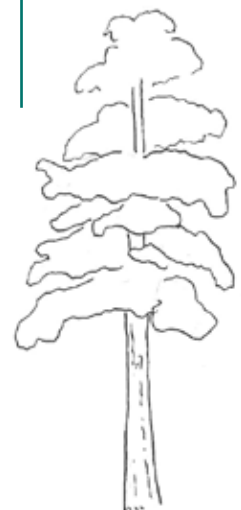
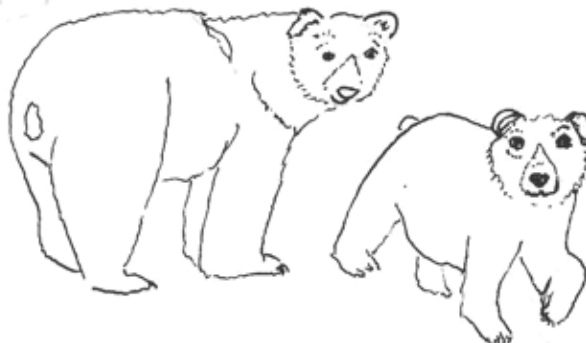
1872: Fort burned down

1960's: TWA Stewardship

The territory of the Sinixt peoples since time immemorial

1951: Cairn erected

2008: TLC Acquisition

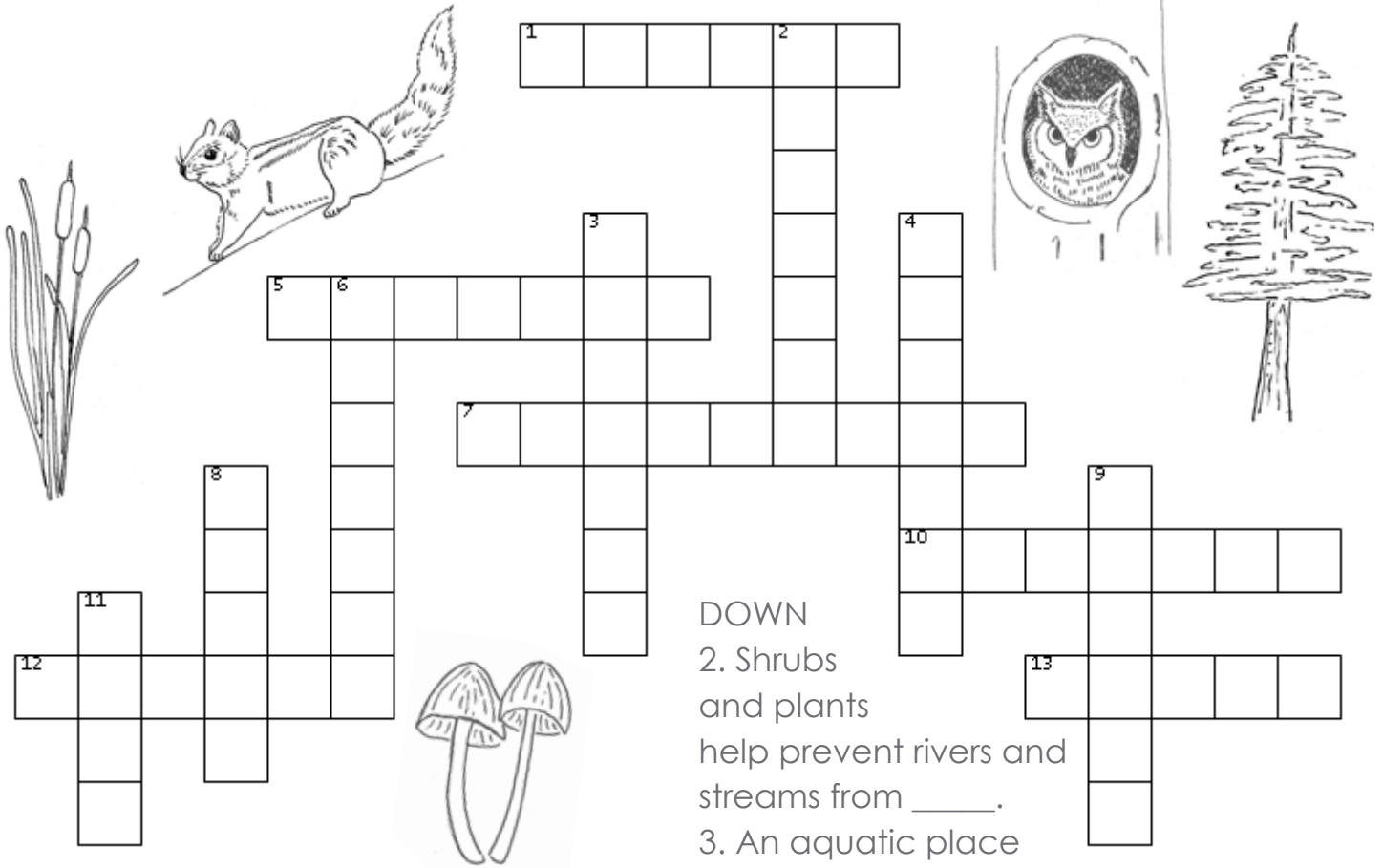




What is a Conservancy Area?



A conservancy is an area of land reserved for the preservation of nature. Typically these lands are in a wild state, meaning homes and businesses do not occupy the land but may have cultural and historical significance. It is essential for conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services. There are four main ecosystem services that make life possible for people: provision (clean water, air, pollination), regulation (erosion control, pest control), support (soil formation, photosynthesis), and culture (spiritual, health, tourism).



ACROSS

- 1. The invisible gas you breathe.
- 5. Trees can be used to make _____.
- 7. Bees, birds and bats help make fruit by doing this.
- 10. When we spend time in nature we often feel _____.
- 12. Carbon is captured by these places to help regulate air quality.
- 13. Most of our antibiotic medicine comes from this.

DOWN

- 2. Shrubs and plants help prevent rivers and streams from _____.
- 3. An aquatic place that filters water.
- 4. Nature helps build our beliefs, livelihoods and knowledge which creates our _____.
- 6. A place where plants or animals live.
- 8. These help to make shade.
- 9. Plants, animals, landscapes, and us.
- 11. Grasslands are really good at building this to help things grow and provide habitat for insects.

Trail Wildlife Association Stewardship

Trail Wildlife Association is a rod and gun club established in 1925 who's vision is to help protect, enhance the environment for present and future generations. TWA has stewarded Fort Shepherd for over 50 years.

Can you match the prints with the animals that made them:

Bear, Deer, Elk, Squirrel, Coyote, Raccoon, and Turkey



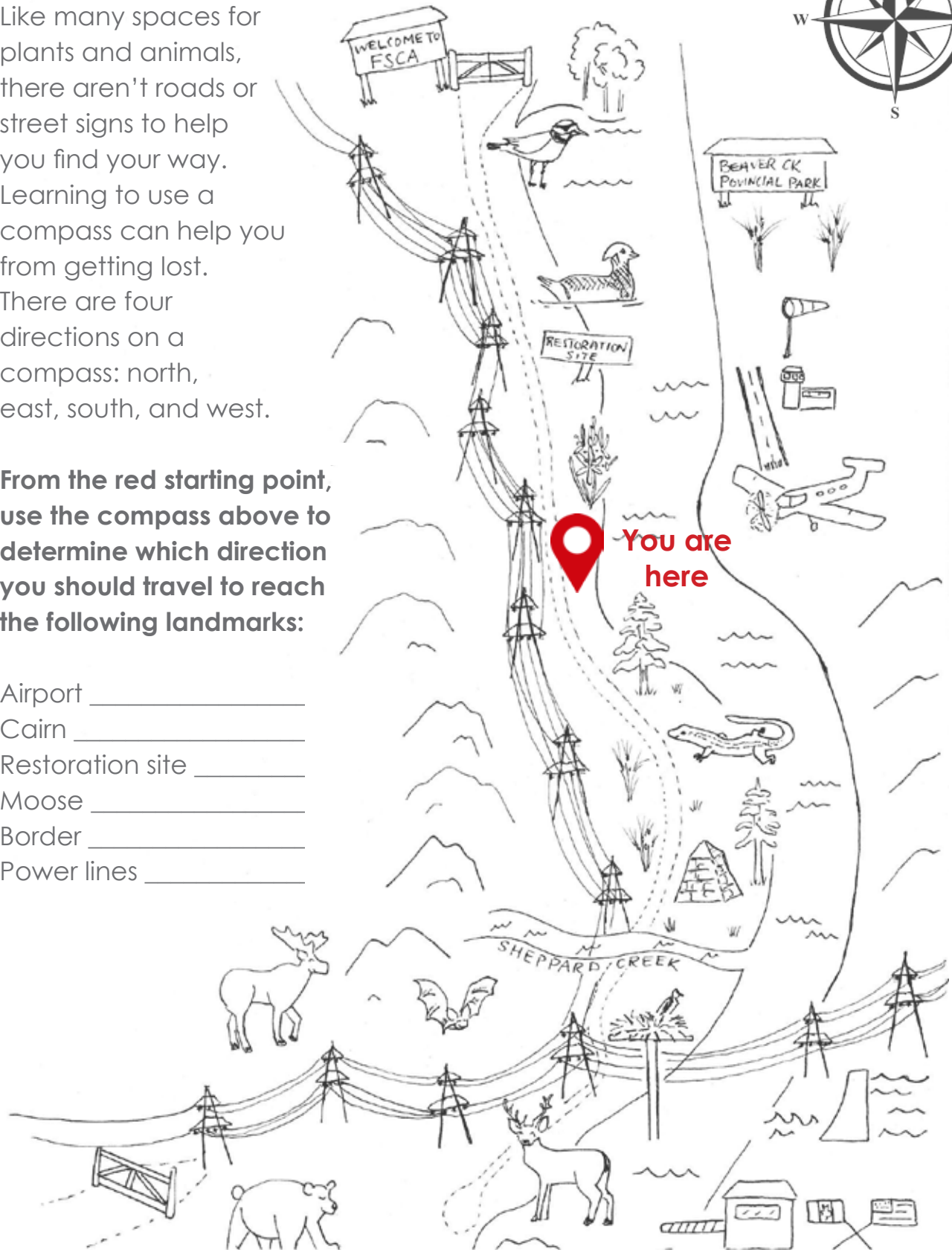
Wilderness Safety & Orienteering



Like many spaces for plants and animals, there aren't roads or street signs to help you find your way. Learning to use a compass can help you from getting lost. There are four directions on a compass: north, east, south, and west.

From the red starting point, use the compass above to determine which direction you should travel to reach the following landmarks:

- Airport _____
- Cairn _____
- Restoration site _____
- Moose _____
- Border _____
- Power lines _____

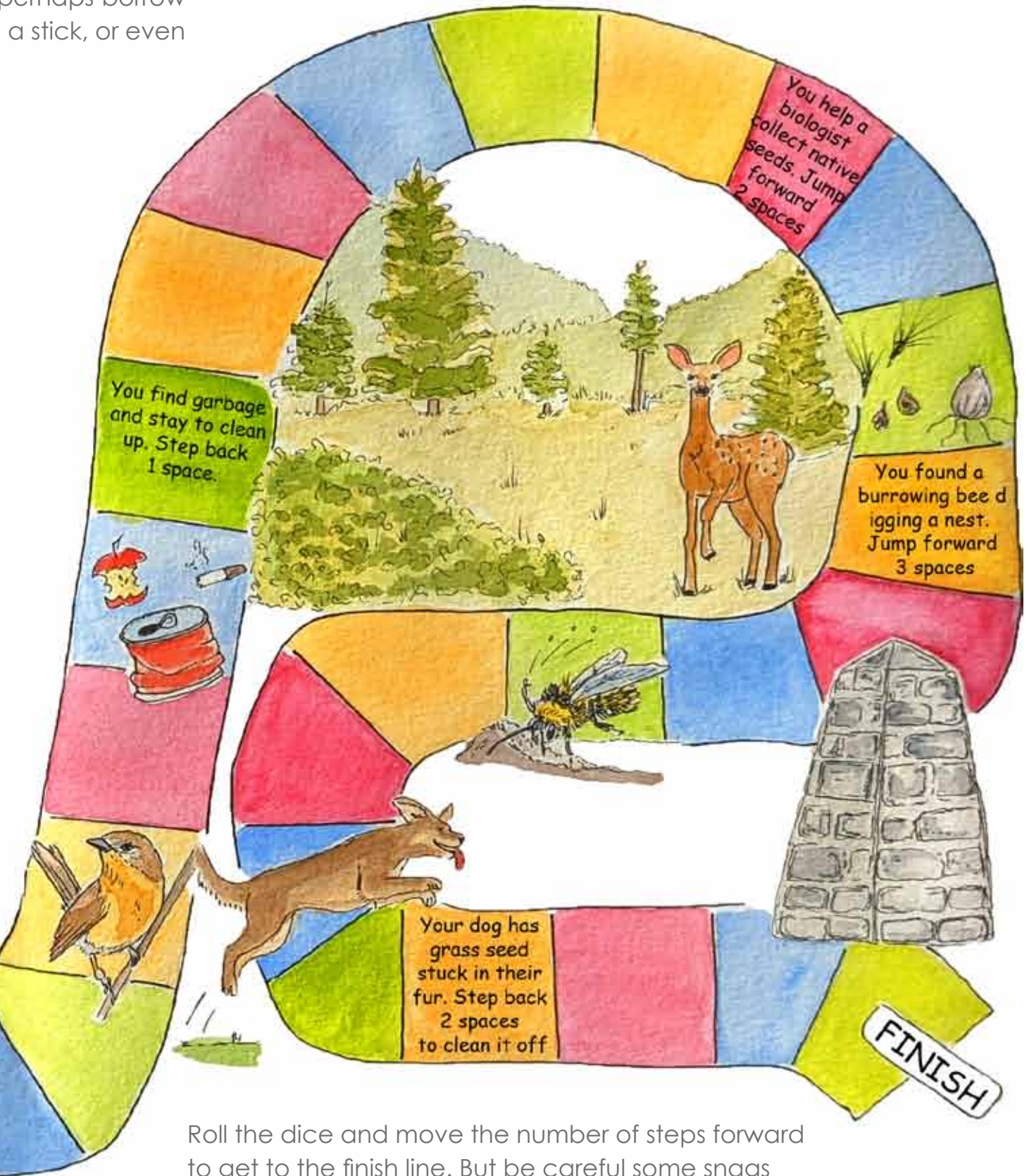


Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area Board Game

Hike through Fort Shepherd through this fun table game. You will need to find a dice; if you don't have one, use a coin or a small object from another board game. Then, go outside to find your player. It could be a rock, a pine cone!



perhaps borrow
a stick, or even



You help a biologist collect native seeds. Jump forward 2 spaces

You find garbage and stay to clean up. Step back 1 space.

You found a burrowing bee digging a nest. Jump forward 3 spaces

Your dog has grass seed stuck in their fur. Step back 2 spaces to clean it off

FINISH

Roll the dice and move the number of steps forward to get to the finish line. But be careful some snags might send you back or help you along the way!

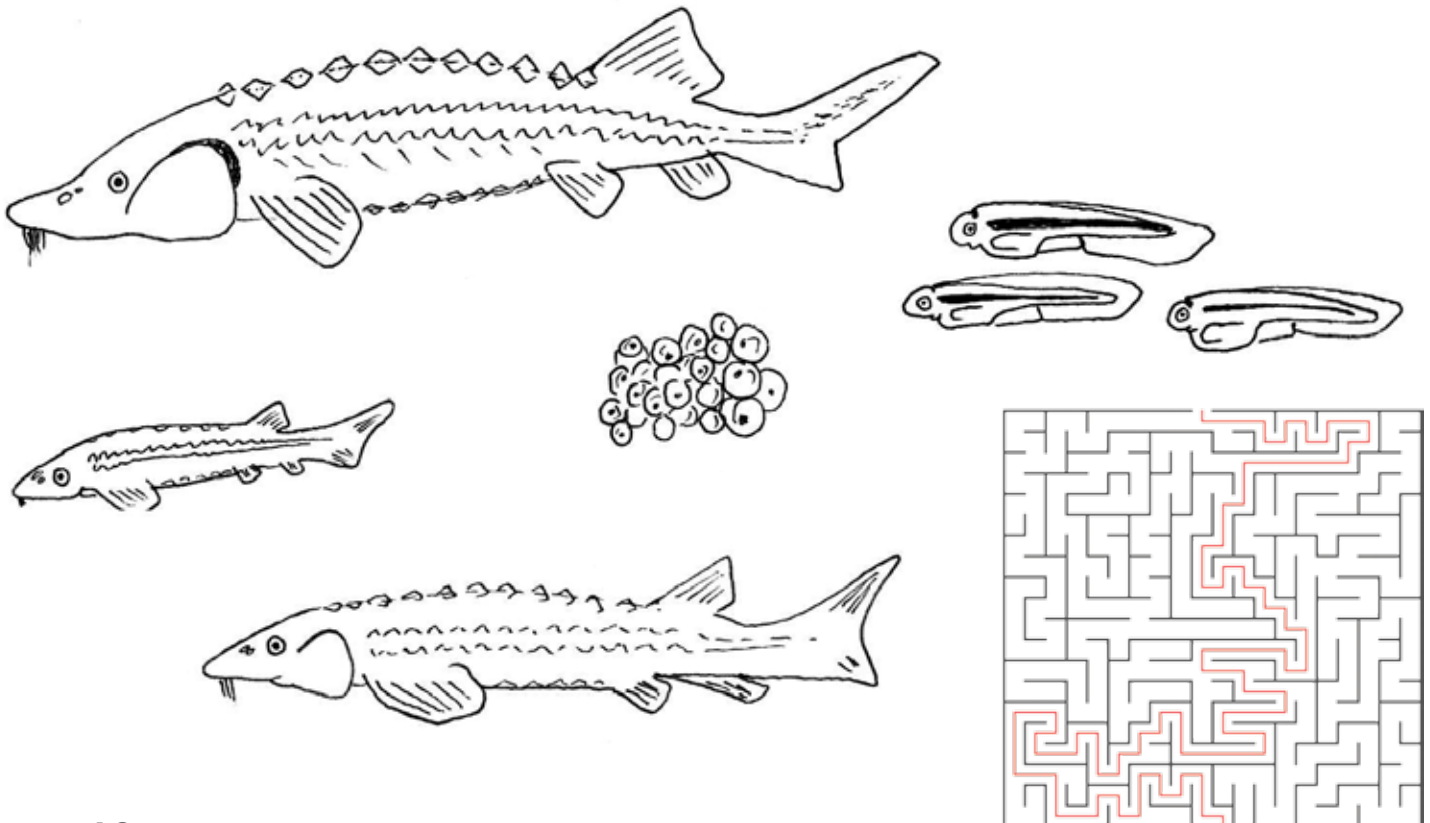
Columbia River

The Columbia River is 2,000 km in length starting in the Rocky Mountains of B.C., traveling next to Fort Shepherd, and flowing south into Washington and Oregon before meeting the Pacific Ocean! The Columbia River is a rich habitat for many aquatic animals and species who live on land who come to drink and fish from it. One of the most interesting inhabitants is the white sturgeon.

The white sturgeon are anadromous fish meaning they live part of their lives in freshwater like the Columbia River, and part of their lives in the salty ocean. Some species, like those that live in the Columbia River, are locked behind dams and live their lives in the river. White Sturgeon can live to 100 years of age if they make it to the ocean and can grow to be 6 meters long! That's about the size of a large pickup truck!

Can you draw arrows between the images below to match the life cycle of sturgeons described below?

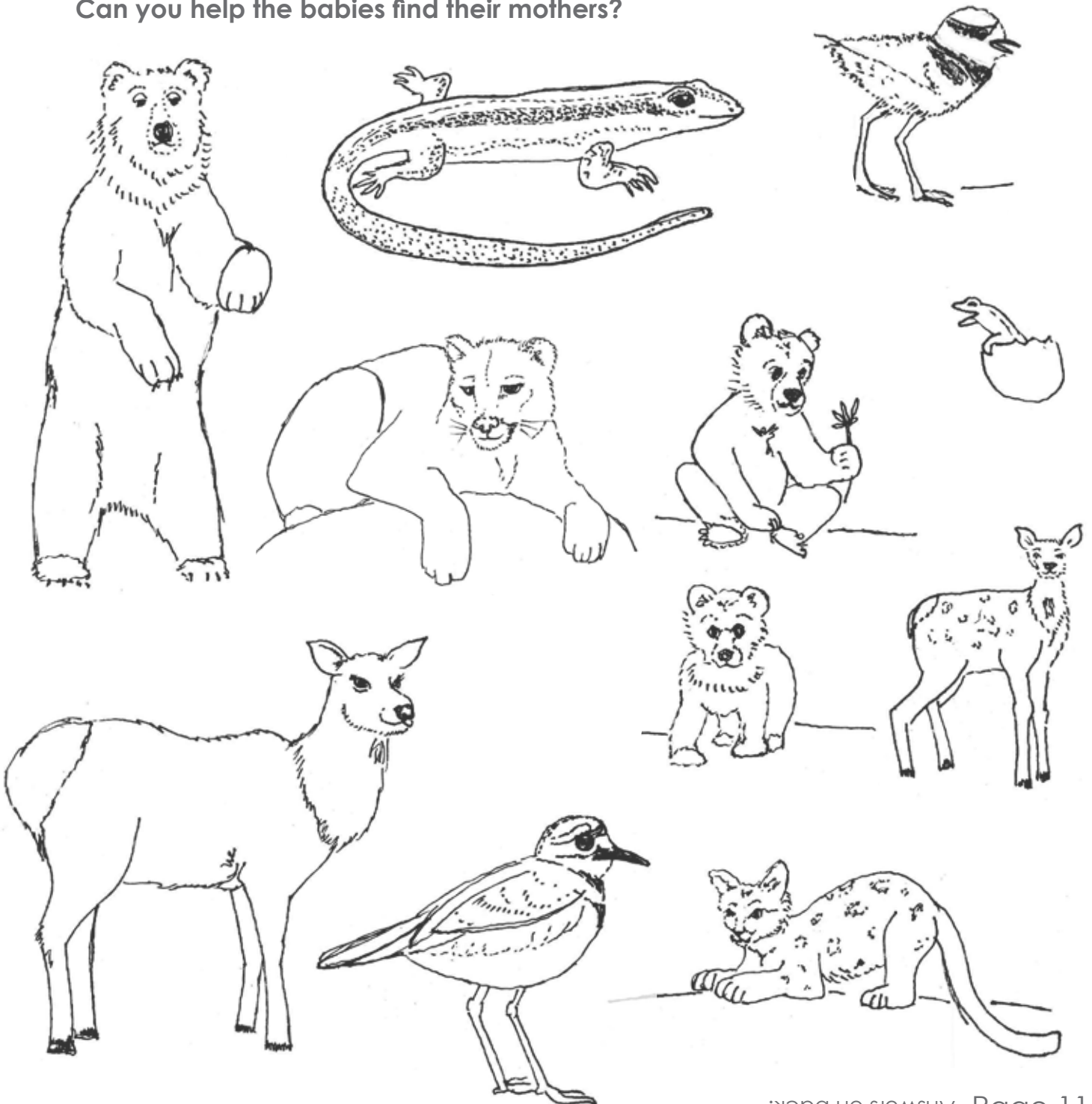
Sturgeon lifecycle: Eggs -> Larvae -> Juvenile -> Subadult -> Adult



Wildlife

FSCA has a diversity of habitat which support the lives of many different animals. Forested areas for bears and cougars, open grasslands for the deer, elk and reptiles, river shoreline for birds like ducks and birds. Everyone shares these habitat areas for shelter, reproduction, food and water.

Can you help the babies find their mothers?



Species at Risk



There are many different reasons for animals to struggle to find suitable habitat to live such as people building homes and clearing land for farming. Overtime, if an animal struggles to find a healthy habitat to reproduce, they can be put at risk of becoming endangered and extinct. It is important to leave land aside for our important animal neighbours. Fort Shepherd is a place dedicated to keeping the land as habitat for these animals to live. Fort Shepherd is home to about 29 species of endangered animals.



Word Search



Find the following words in the puzzle hidden → ↓ and ↘

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

COMMON NIGHTHAWK
 GREAT BLUE HERON
 LEWIS'S WOODPECKER
 RACER

RUBBER BOA
 VAUX'S SWIFT
 WESTERN SCREECH-OWL
 WESTERN SKINK

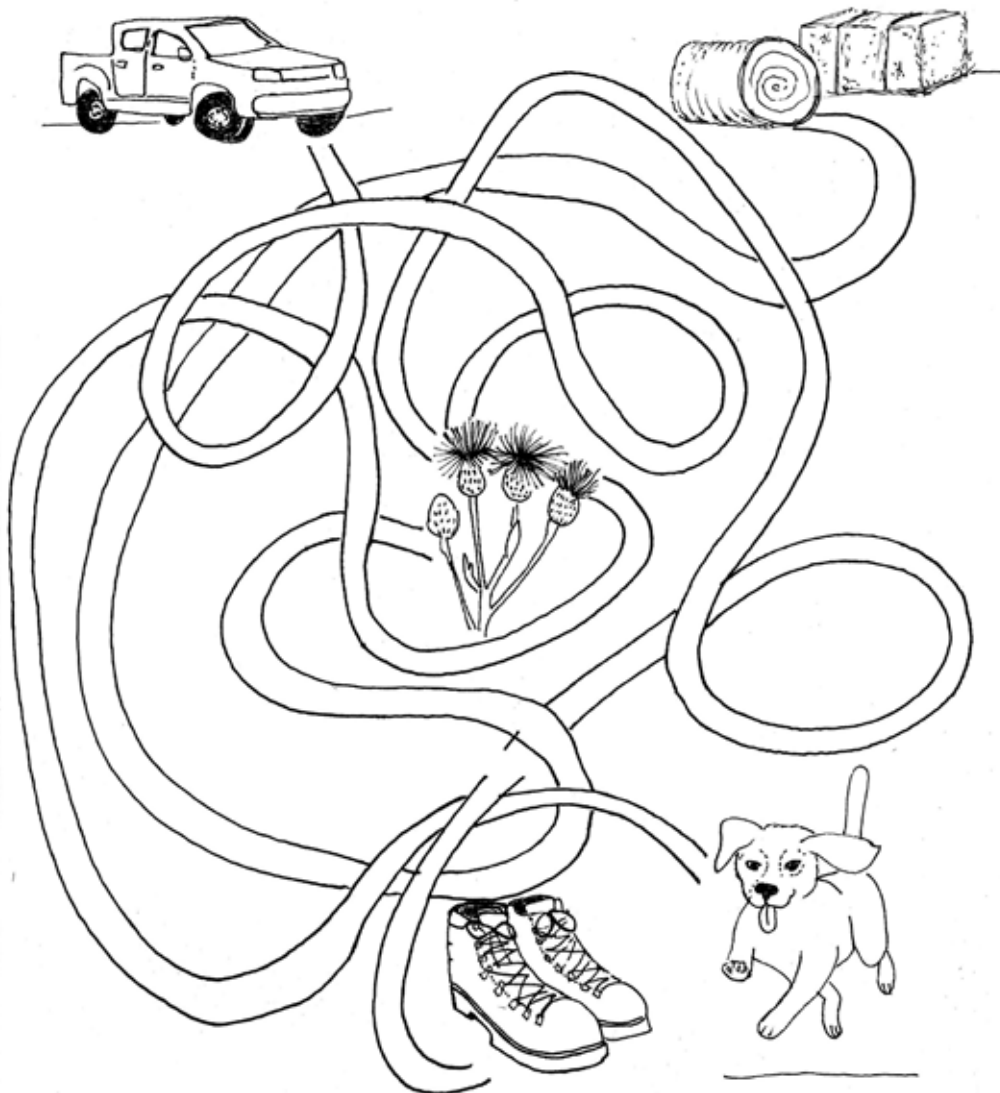
YELLOW-BREADED CHAT



Invasive Species

When a plant or animal is introduced to a new environment sometimes the conditions are desirable the plant or animal reproduce so much it pushes out the things that were there before. If it continues it becomes harmful to the habitat killing the native plants and species. When this happens we call the introduced plant or animal an invasive species. At Fort Shepherd there is a plant called the Spotted Knapweed. It is not native to the area and was accidentally brought in by people.

See the spotted knapweed plant in the middle of the maze? Follow the routes to find out what ways they can be brought to a new habitat! Find the answers on the back of this Activity Book.



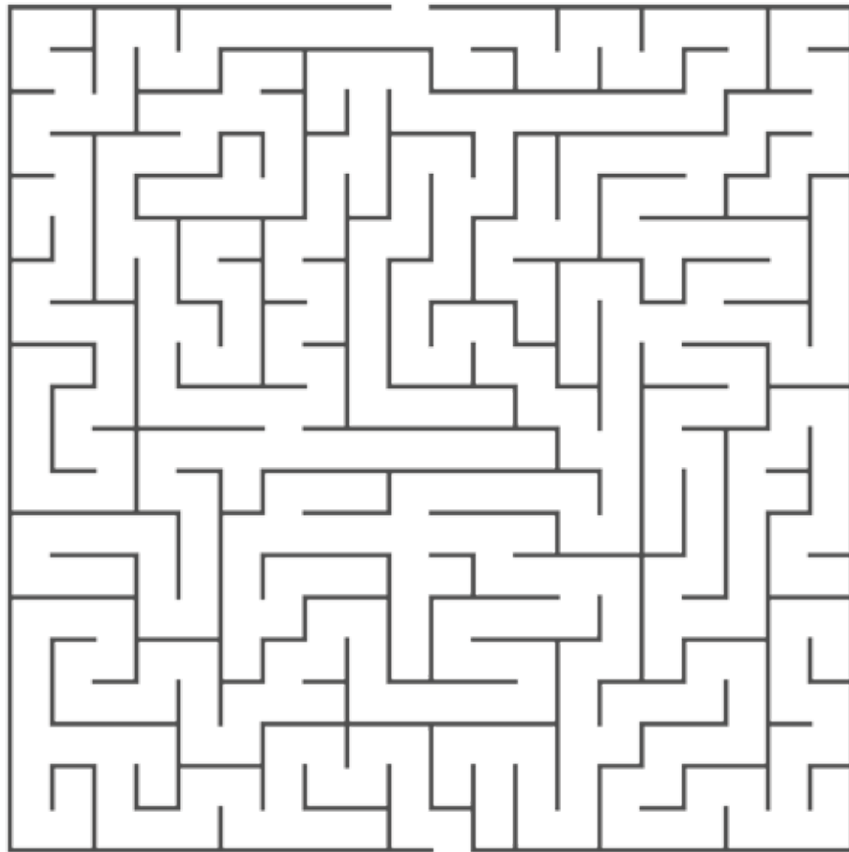


Pollinators

Some of our most important friends in the wild are small and overlooked. Animals that pollinate flowers are essential for human health as well as other plants and animals. Did you know 80% of flowering plants rely on pollinators to produce seed? Bees, flies, birds, beetles, butterflies, moths, and bats are all pollinators.

When we think of bees we think of the European honey bee who live hives and work as a team to produce honey for us. There are so many more types of bees! For example 30% of bees nest in the ground, soil or wood alone! This is why it's important to leave the ground messy with leaves and woody debris: it's a bees home!

Help the burrowing colletes plasterer bee out of the burrow to join her pollinator friends.



Everybody Eats

There are three common types of diets animals have: **carnivore**, **herbivore** and **omnivore**. Humans are generally omnivores though some choose to be herbivores. All these types of diets are important in the wild as they all play a role in creating a healthy habitat. Herbivores eat plants and help keep plants growing in a good way. Some animals are carnivores and eat animals that eat the plants, this helps keep the population of the herbivores in balance so they don't eat all of the plants! Some animals only eat insects and are commonly called insectivores. Other animals eat both plants and animals.

Did you know mice typically eat seeds and plants but often eat insects like beetles and larvae and worms?

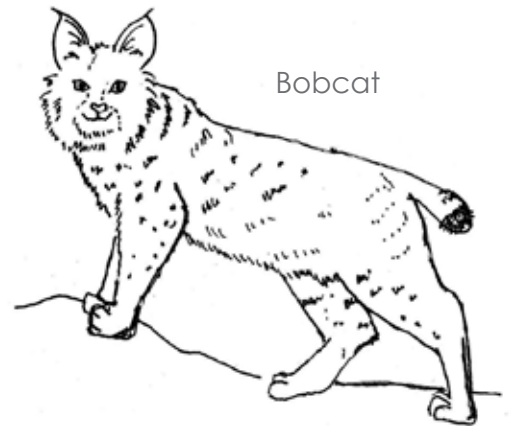
What type of diet do these animals have?



Mouse



Mountain Goat



Bobcat



Bat



Deer

Answers: Bobcat: carnivore. Mountain goat: herbivore. Deer: herbivore. Bat: insectivore. Mouse: herbivore/insectivore.

