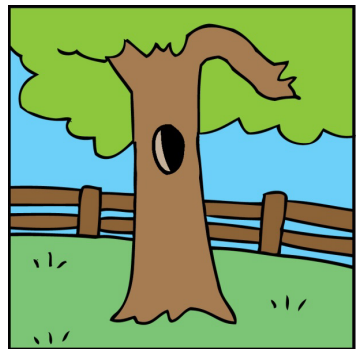
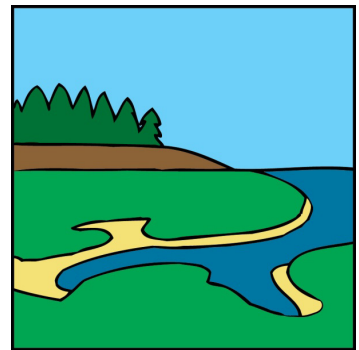
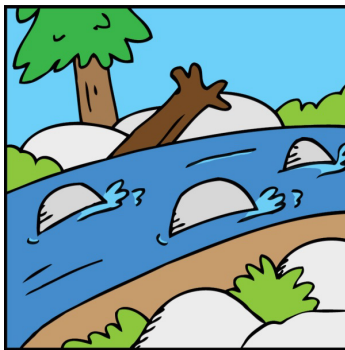
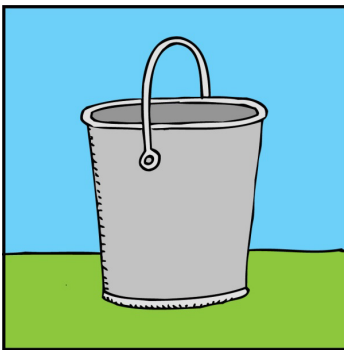


# Aquatic Habitats and Mosquitoes



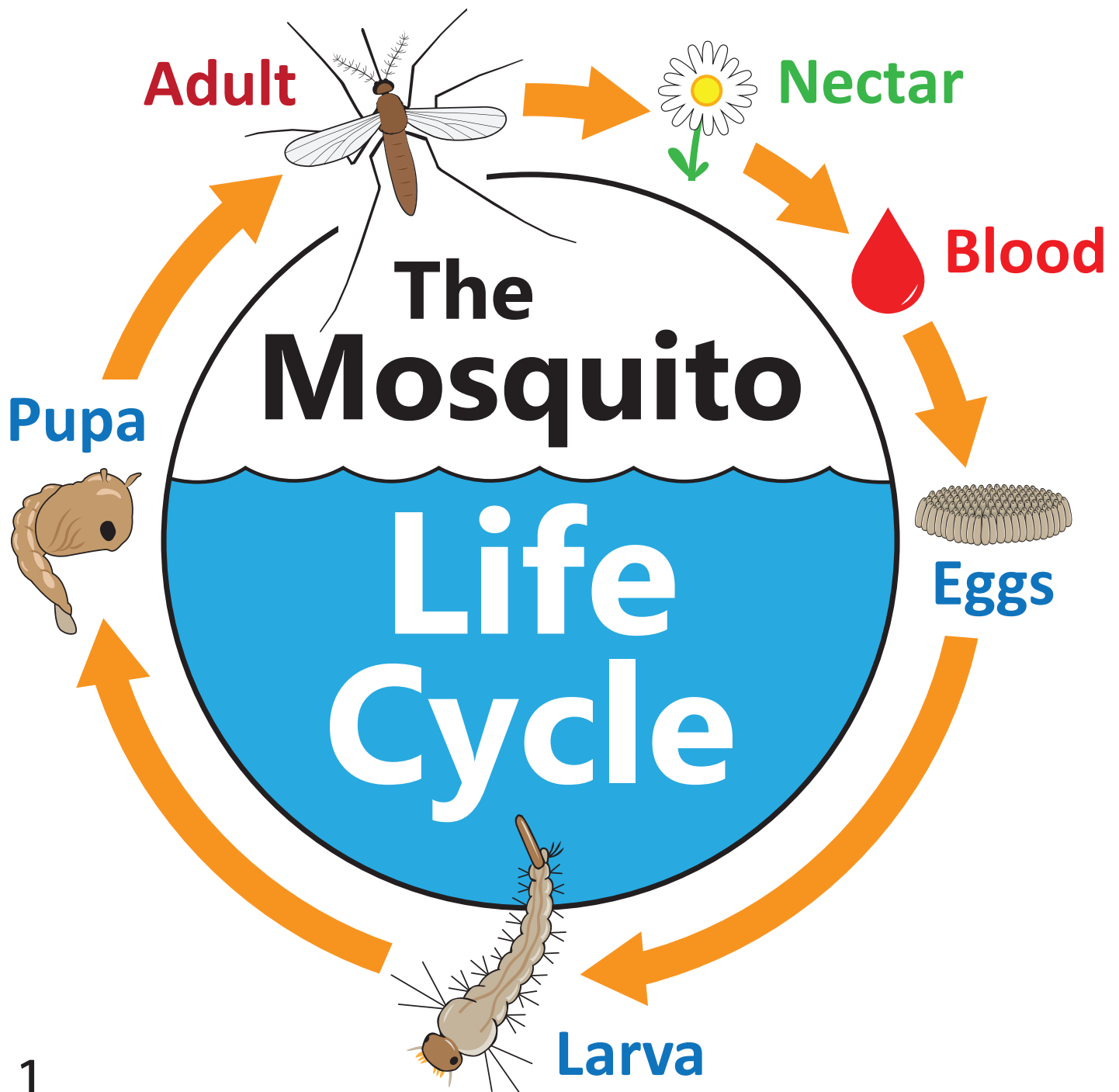
## Observation Journal



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

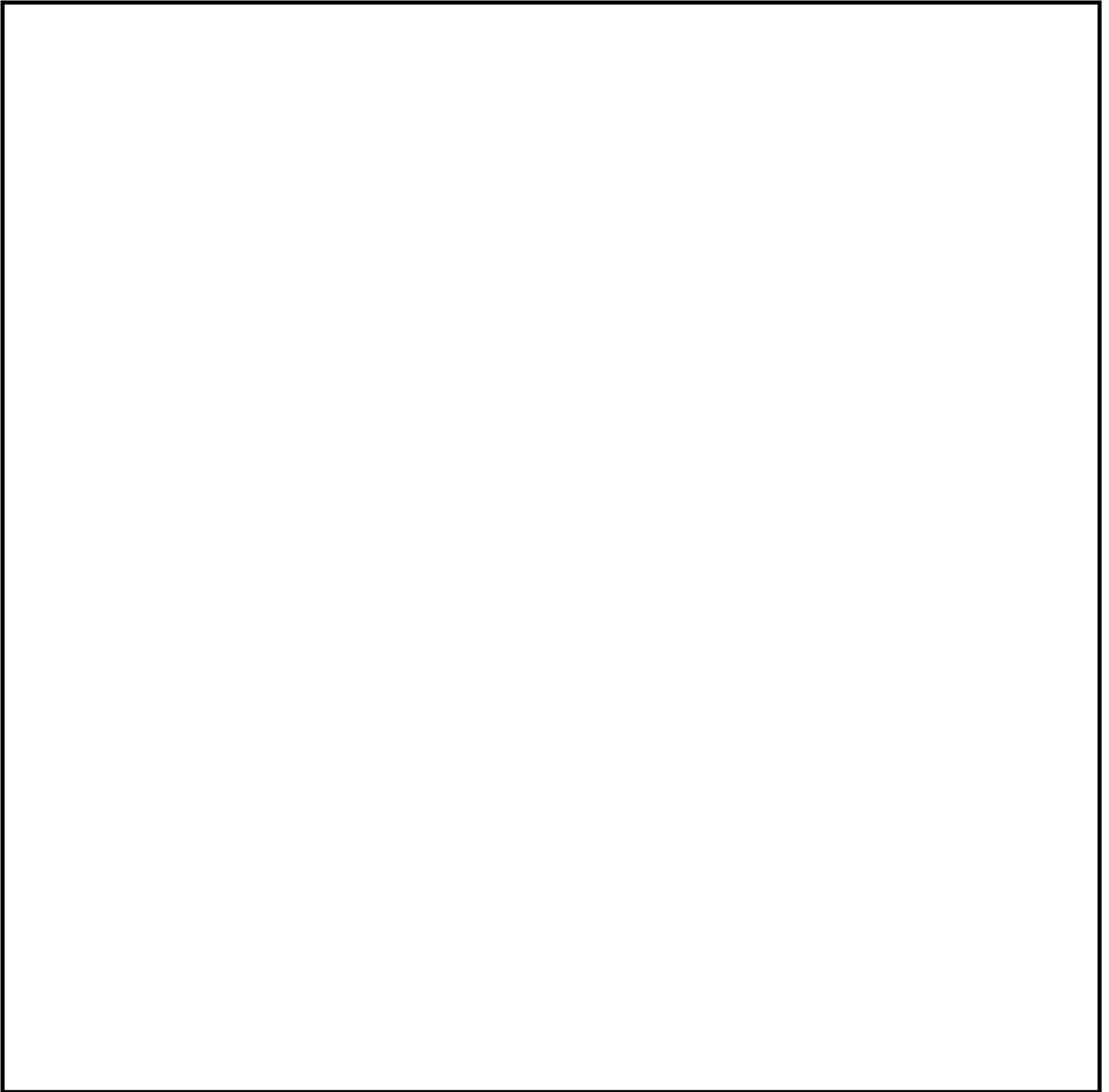
# Instructions

- This journal is designed to be used with a mosquito life cycle kit for 2 weeks (Week 1 and Week 2).
  - Some activities need to be completed at certain times.
  - Instructions in **blue** tell you when to complete these activities.
  - Vocabulary words printed in **red** are included in the glossary.
- 



# Mosquito Habitat

Complete this activity during Week 1



Draw what you see in the mosquito **habitat** in your classroom.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ How many **larvae**? \_\_\_\_\_

How many **pupae**? \_\_\_\_\_ How many adults? \_\_\_\_\_ 2

# Mosquitofish Habitat

Draw what you see in the mosquitofish **habitat**.

You can tell if a mosquitofish is male or female by looking at the shape of its fins.

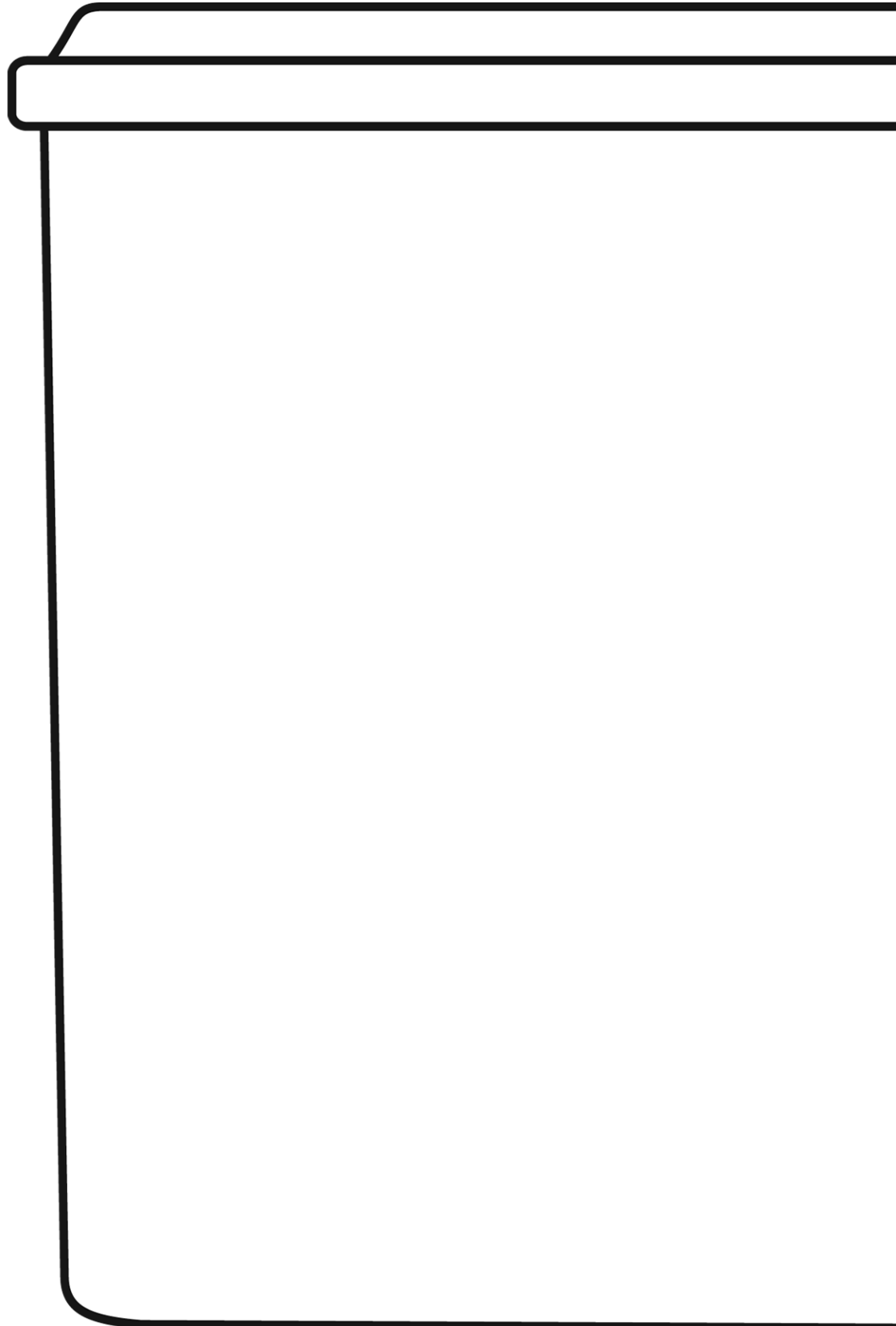
Look carefully at the fish in the aquarium.

How many female fish do you see?

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How many male fish do you see?

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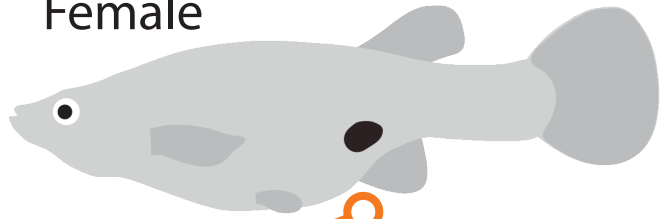


Male



Fin is  
long and slender

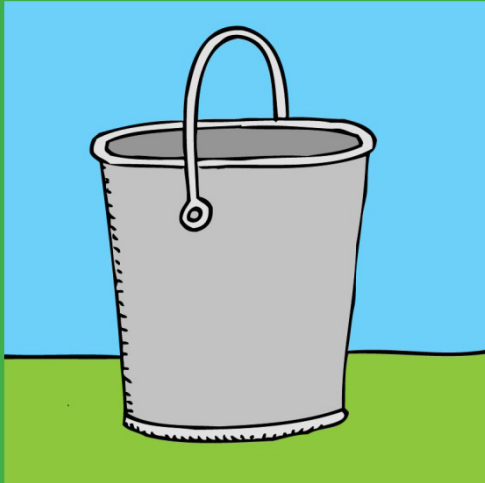
Female



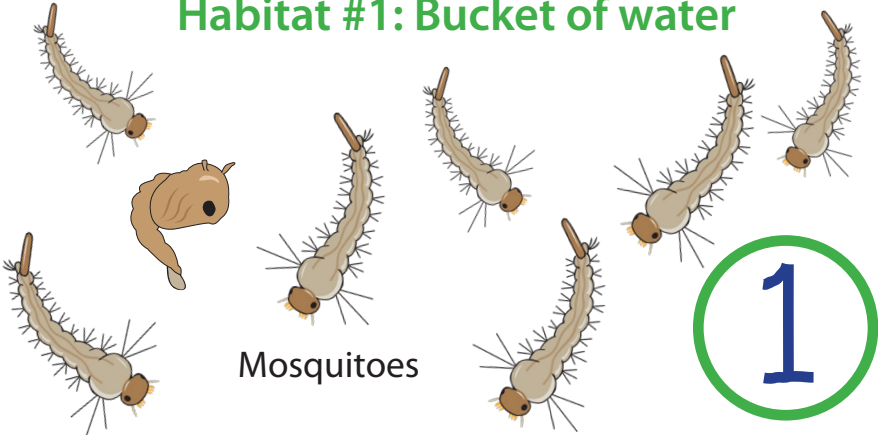
Fin is round

# Comparing Habitat Diversity

Count how many kinds of creatures are living in each **habitat**. Write your answer in the circle. The first one has been done for you (the answer is "1" because mosquitoes are the only kind of animal living in the bucket).

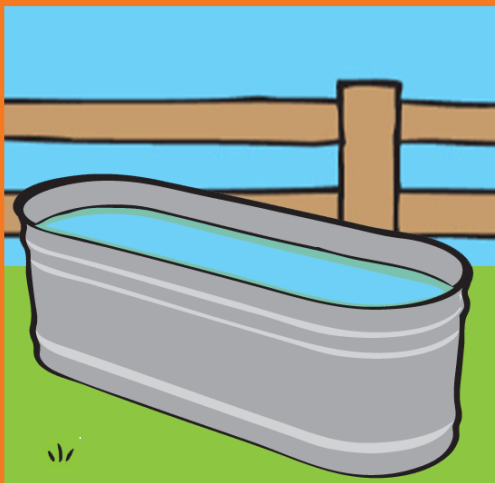


**Habitat #1: Bucket of water**

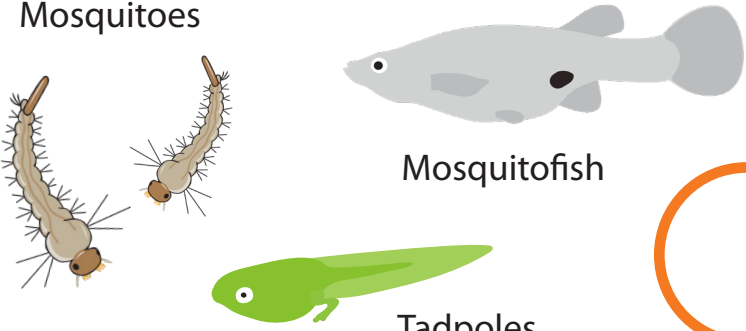


Mosquitoes

1




**Habitat #2: Water trough**



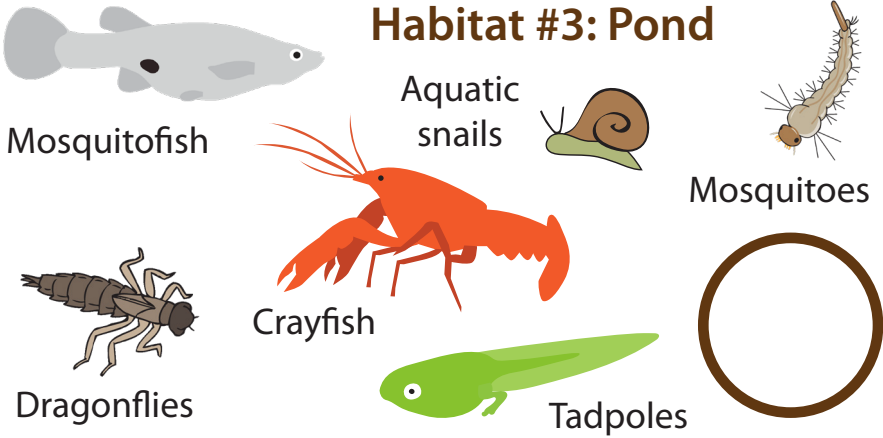
Mosquitoes

Mosquitofish

Tadpoles



**Habitat #3: Pond**



Mosquitofish

Aquatic snails

Mosquitoes

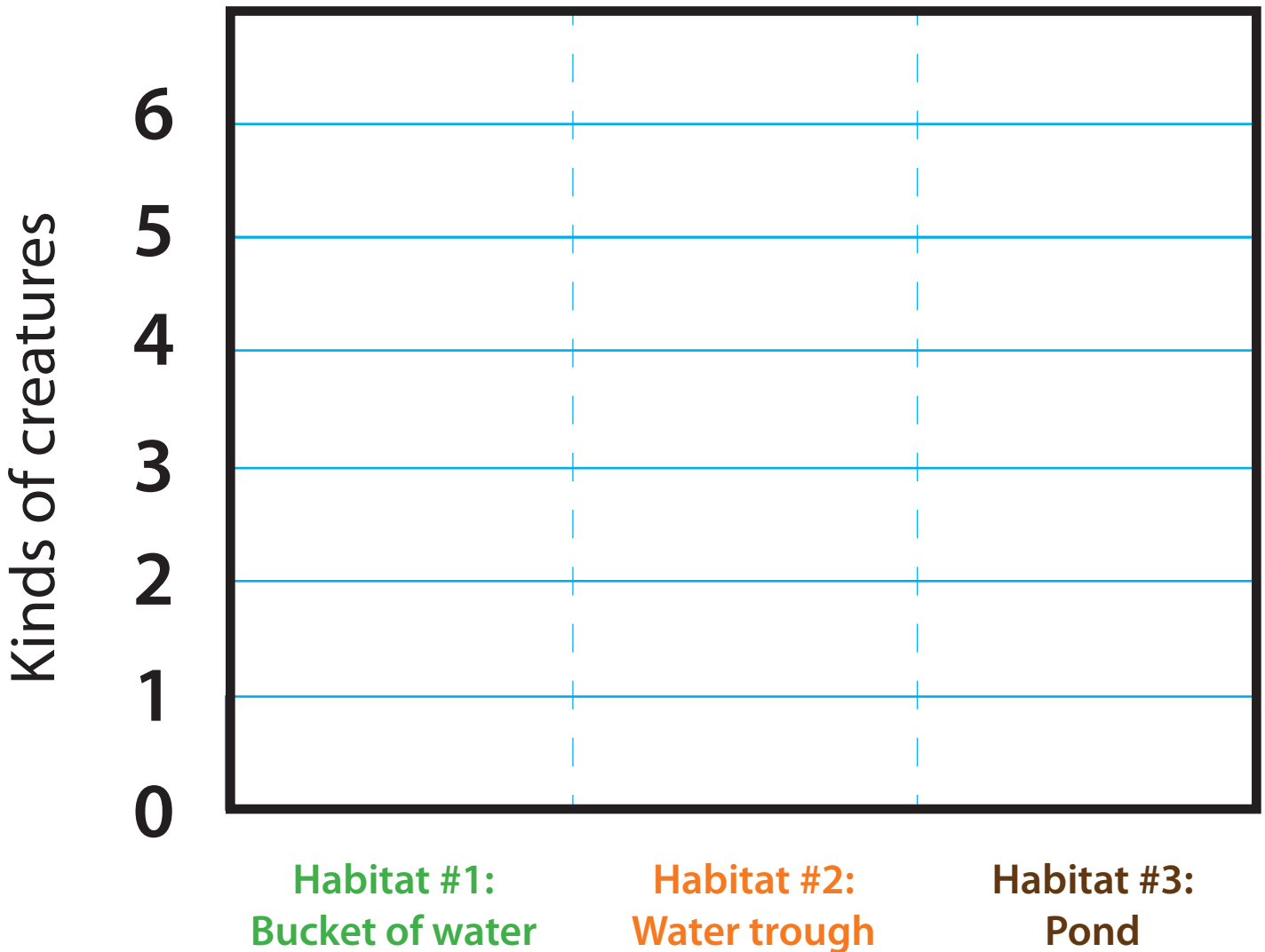
Dragonflies

Crayfish

Tadpoles

# Habitat Diversity Bar Graph

Use the answers from page 5 to fill in the bar graph and to answer the question below.



Why do you think the pond **habitat** had more kinds of creatures (higher **diversity**) than the other two habitats?

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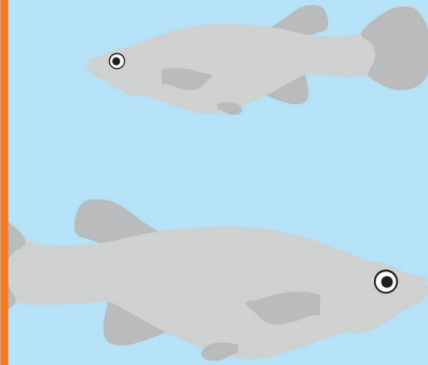
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# Predators in Ponds

Ponds are great **habitats** for many interesting creatures. Dragonflies, fish and egrets are examples of important creatures that you may see in or around ponds.



Dragonfly



Fish



Egret

Out of these three predators, which ones do you think would hunt for mosquitoes?

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Why do you think it's easier to use mosquitofish instead of other predators like dragonflies to control mosquitoes?

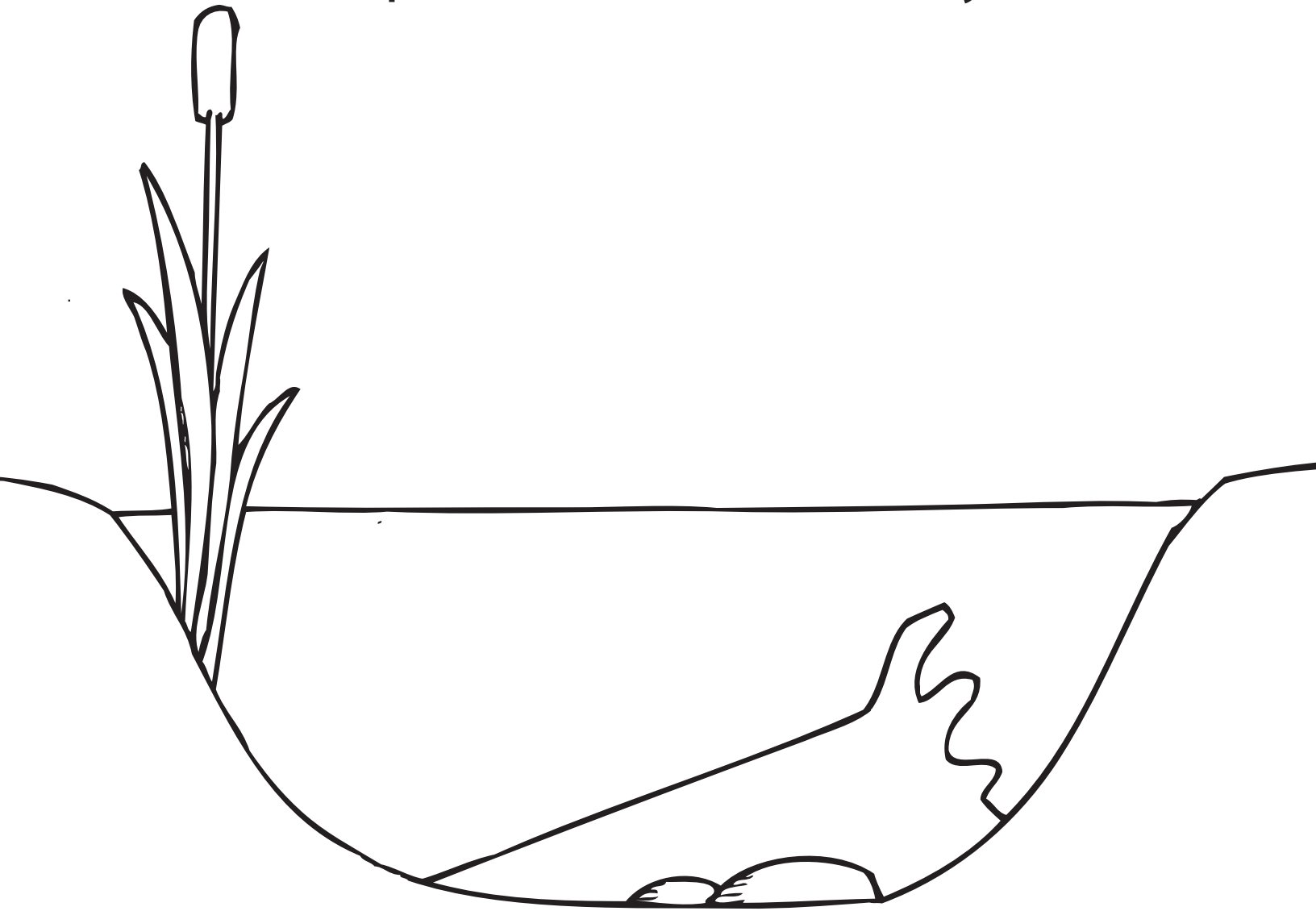
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# Aquatic Habitat Diversity



Draw and label creatures that would live in and around this aquatic habitat. Make the pond as diverse as possible. Why should we protect aquatic habitats?

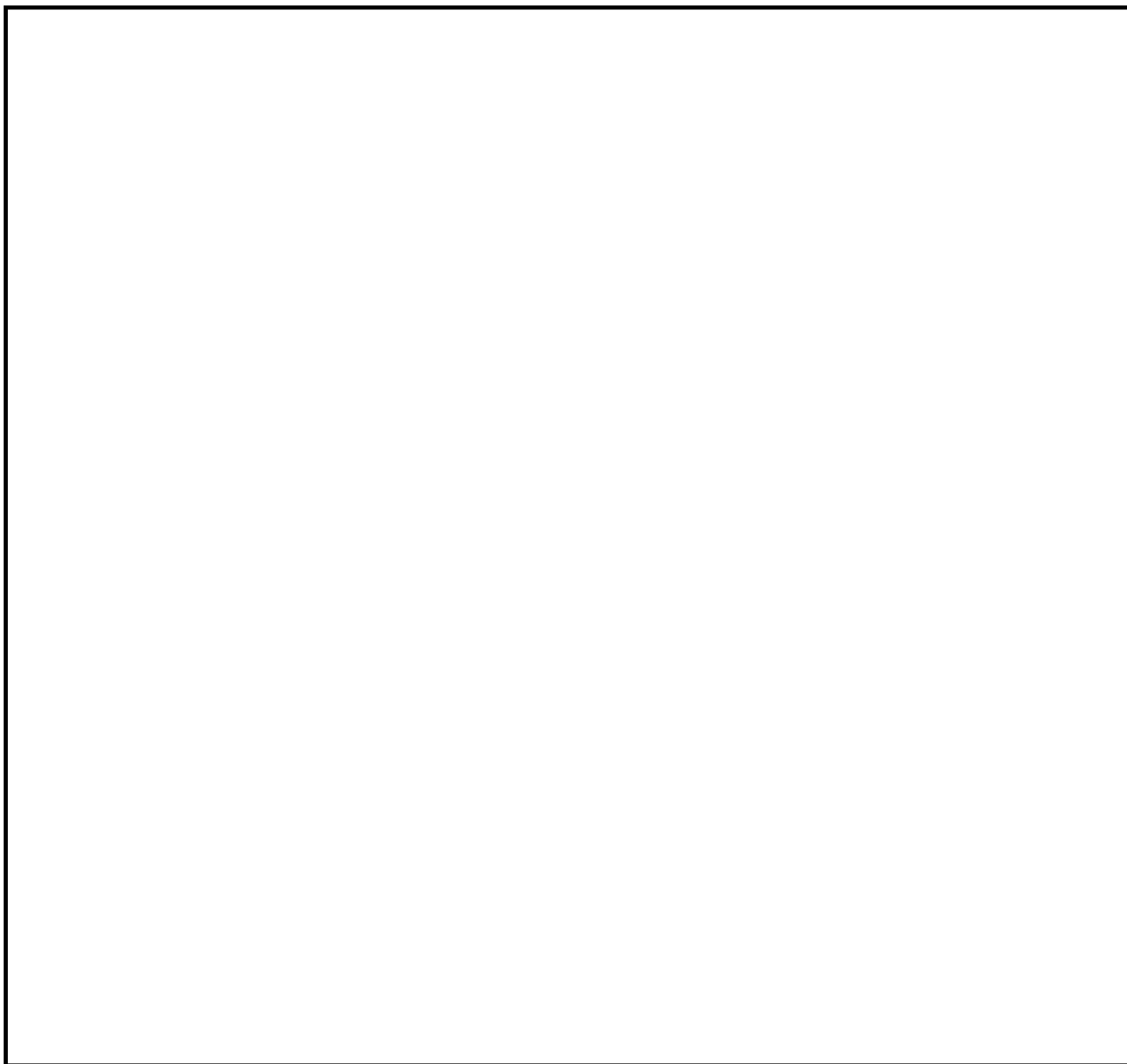
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# Classroom Mosquito Habitat

Complete this activity during Week 2



Draw what you see in the mosquito **habitat** in your classroom.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ How many **larvae**? \_\_\_\_\_

How many **pupae**? \_\_\_\_\_ How many adults? \_\_\_\_\_

9 Compare these observations to those on page 2.

# Glossary

<b>Aquatic:</b>	growing, living or found in water.
<b>Diversity:</b>	variety of plants and animals in an environment (biodiversity).
<b>Habitat:</b>	a place where a plant or animal lives and grows.
<b>Insect:</b>	arthropods with body divided into three parts (head, thorax and abdomen), 3 pairs of legs and usually 2 pairs of wings.
<b>Larva:</b>	(plural = larvae) wingless, feeding stage of an insect that undergoes complete metamorphosis.
<b>Predator:</b>	an animal that preys upon other animals.
<b>Pupa:</b>	(plural = pupae) an insect in the nonfeeding stage of development between larva and adult.
<b>Stagnant:</b>	not flowing or running.
<b>Vector:</b>	an animal such as a mosquito that can spread certain diseases to humans.
<b>Wetlands:</b>	areas of swampy or marshy land that hold water.

Dear Parents,

Your child has been learning about mosquitoes, mosquitofish, and aquatic habitats for the past two weeks. This educational program teaches students to recognize all 4 stages of the mosquito life cycle, and allows children to observe how quickly tiny mosquito larvae can grow up into adult mosquitoes. With this knowledge, your child can help identify potential habitats in your neighborhood where mosquitoes may grow.

Mosquitofish are an important component of our mosquito control program and are used in certain situations such as abandoned swimming pools, backyard ponds, and water troughs. In these situations, mosquitofish can often effectively control mosquitoes without the use of chemical insecticides. The District provides mosquitofish free of charge to residents of Marin and Sonoma counties (during the warmer months). Please visit [www.ms mosquito.org](http://www.ms mosquito.org) to learn about mosquitofish and much more, including:

- Free services available to residents of Marin and Sonoma counties
- Information about ticks, fleas, rats and yellowjackets
- Information about vector-borne diseases (such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, dog heartworm, and others)

Thank you,

Casey Richter  
Education Specialist  
Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District  
[caseyr@msmosquito.org](mailto:caseyr@msmosquito.org)



**Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District**  
call **707.285.2200**

or visit us online at [www.ms mosquito.org](http://www.ms mosquito.org)



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