



A close-up photograph of an alligator resting on a sandy bank next to a body of water. The alligator's head is in the foreground, showing its textured, scaly skin and sharp teeth. The background is a calm body of water.

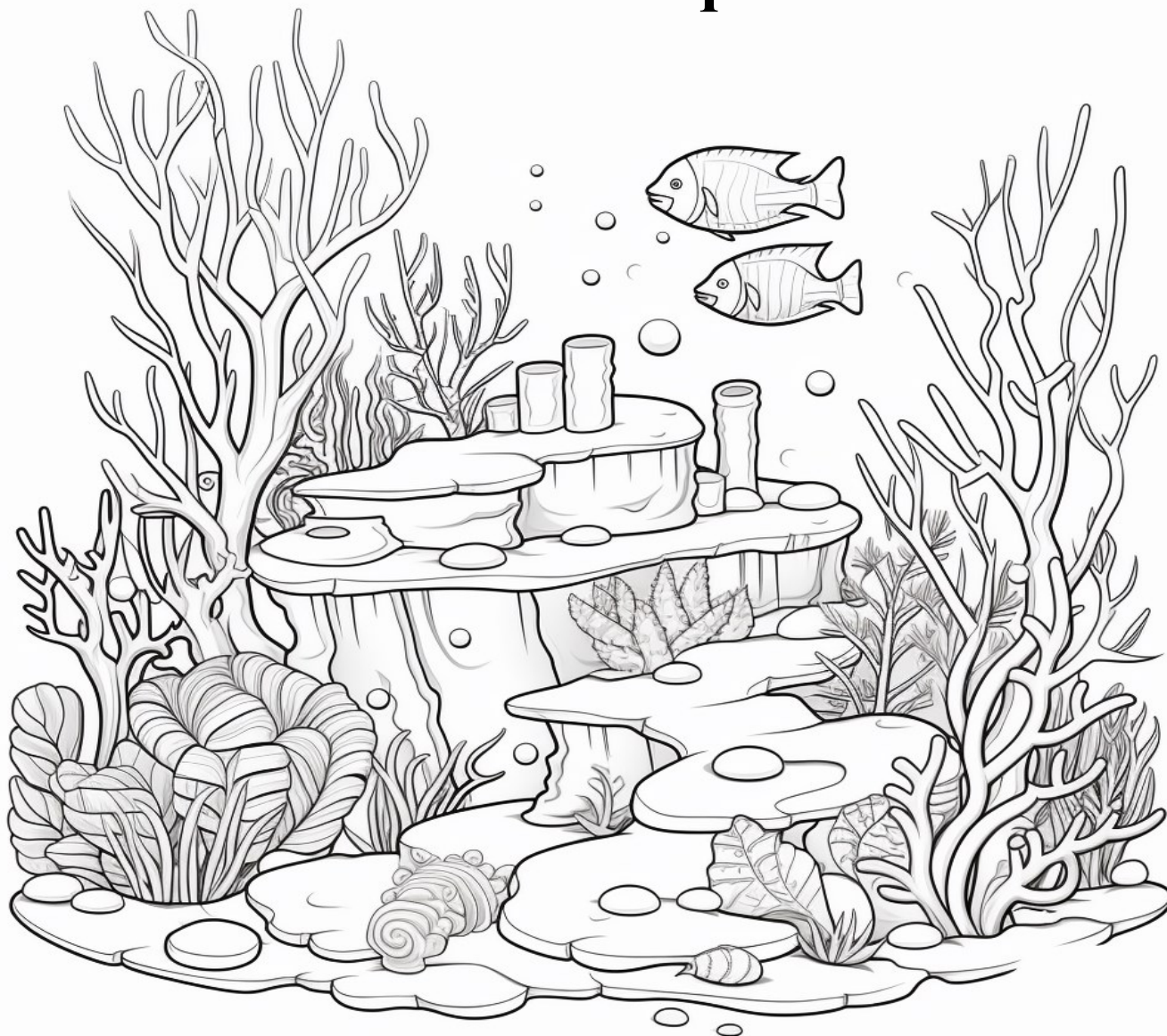




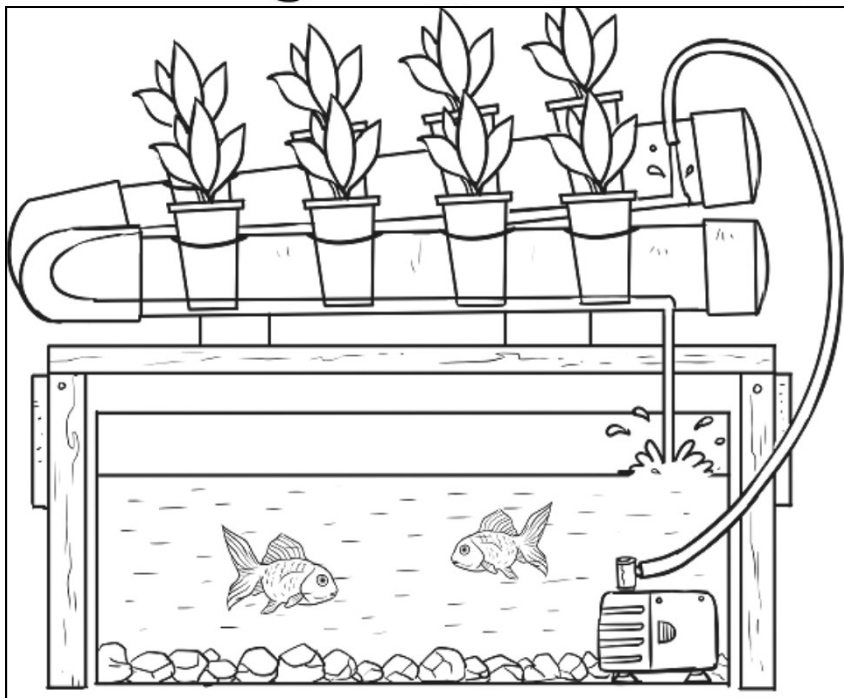
Visit the Division of Aquaculture
website for additional information
and educational resources using the
QR code



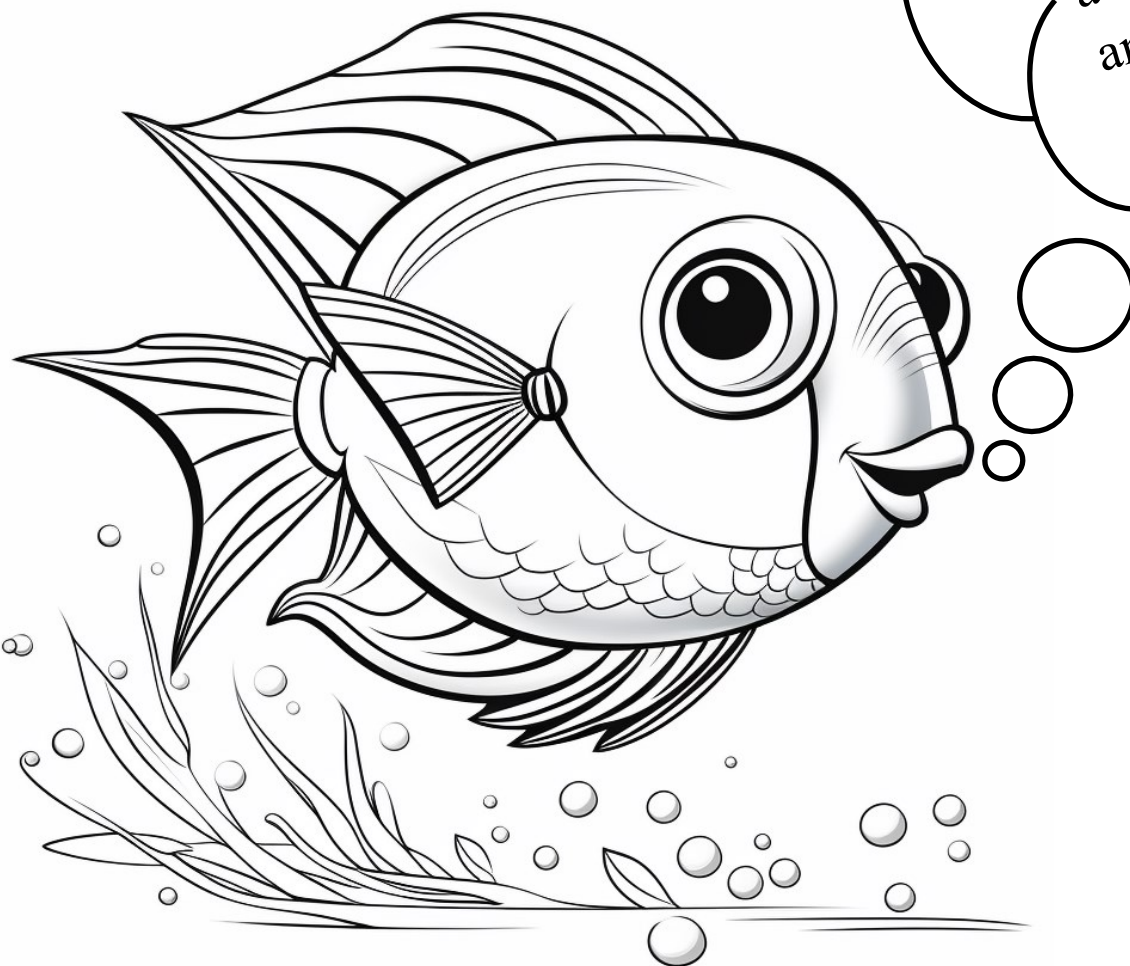
Introduction to Aquaculture



Aquaculture is the process of farming or growing animals and plants in a controlled water environment.



Blue Tang (*Paracanthurus hepatus*)



Reef fishes like me
can be raised on
farms so there isn't
a need to take wild
animals from their
reef homes!

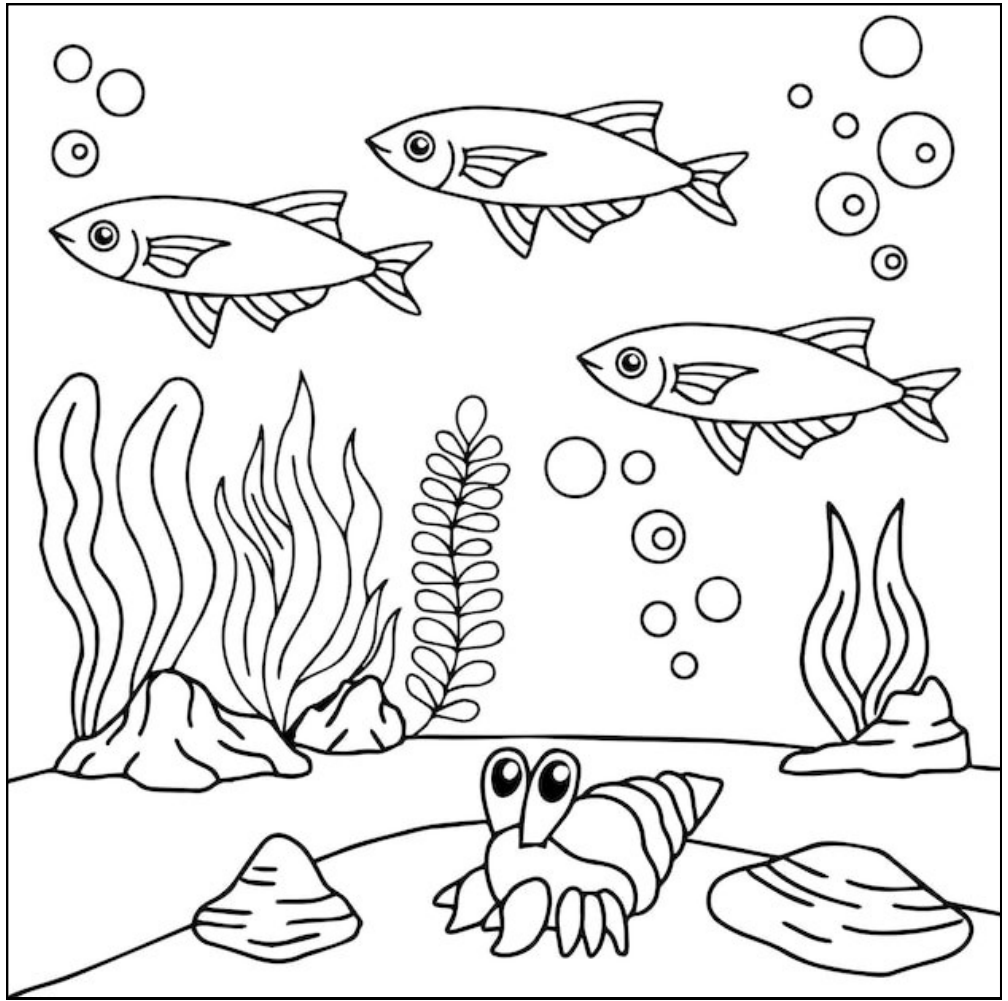


Florida farm-raised aquatic products include ornamentals, food fish, aquatic plants and algae, crustaceans, marine shellfish, bait and feed fish, stock enhancement and restoration, aquatic reptiles and amphibians.

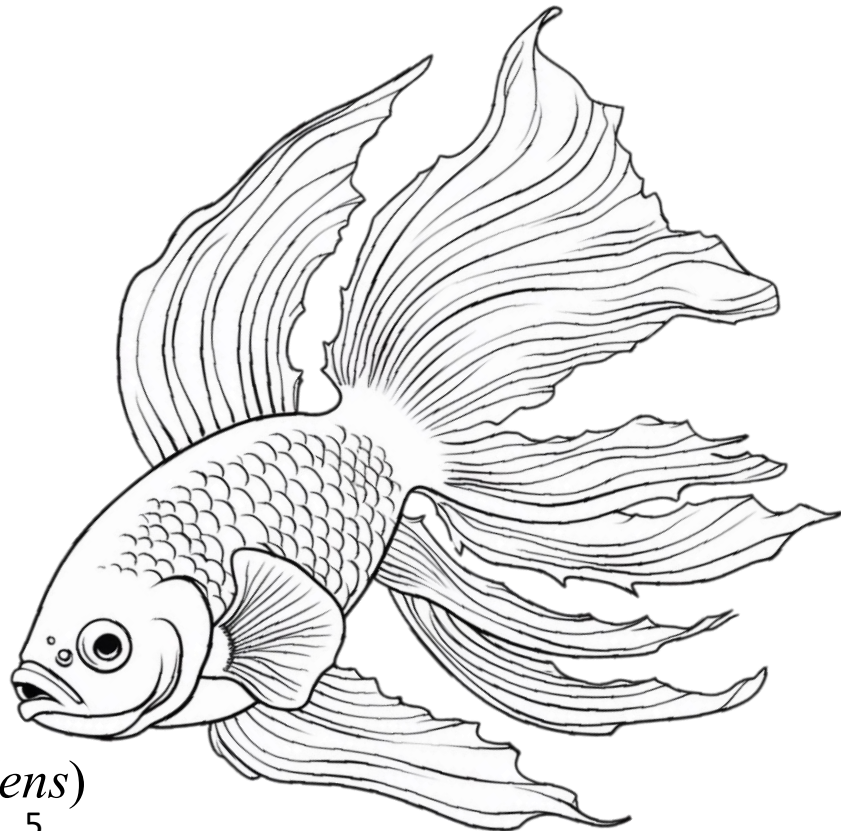


The Ornamental Industry

The ornamental industry includes marine and freshwater fish, marine and freshwater invertebrates, snails, coral, live rock, and aquatic plants.



I'm called a fighting fish for a reason. If you put 2 males in a tank together we would fight to the death!



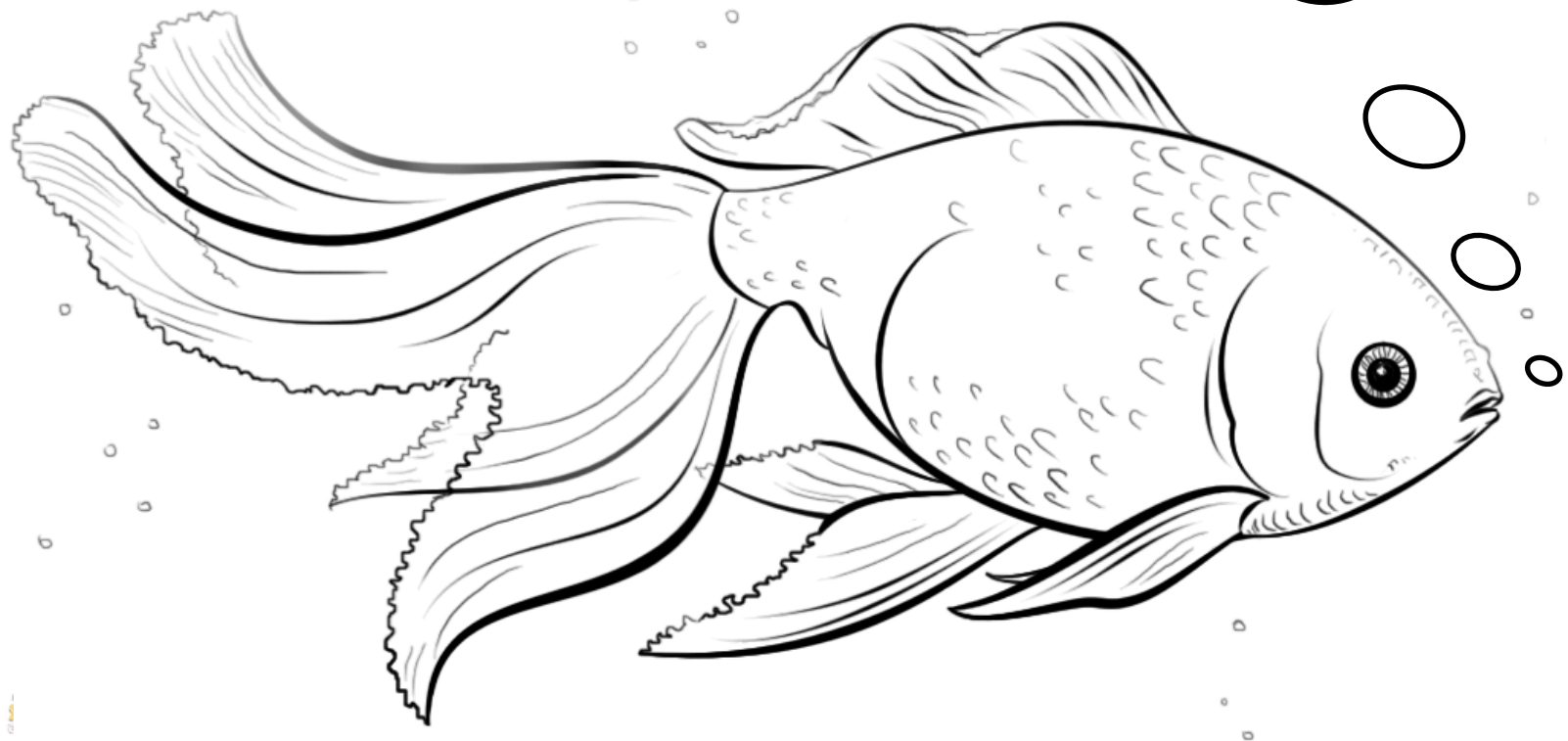
Betta Fish (*Betta splendens*)

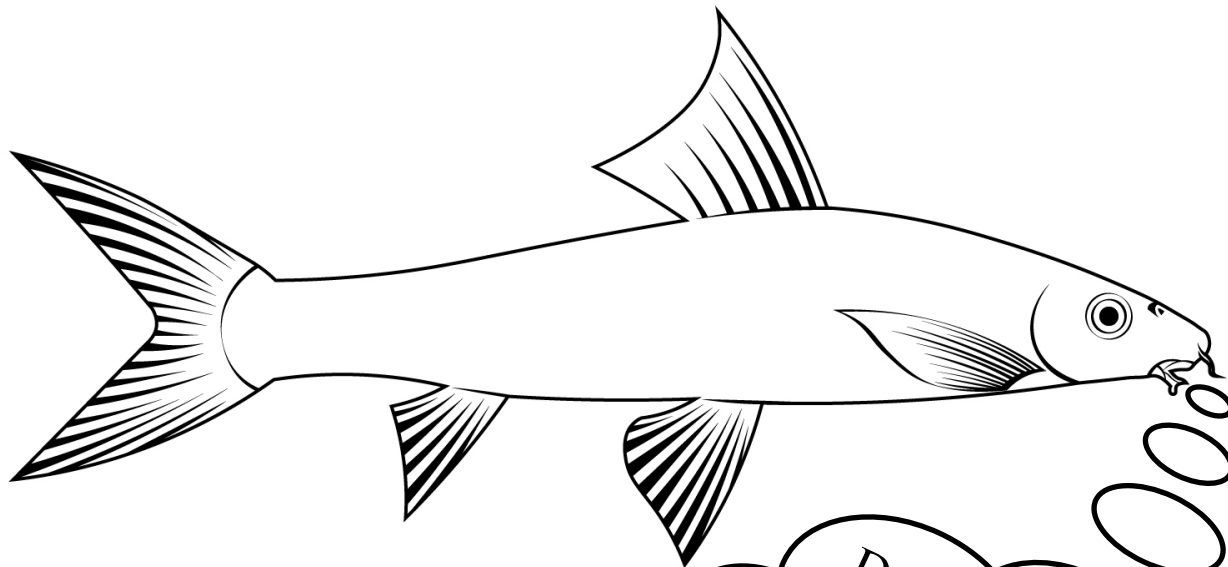


Florida consistently ranks first in the nation for ornamental fish production. There are over 100 aquarium fish producers in the state. Tropical fish are Florida's number one aquaculture product. Florida is the number one producer of aquarium fish in the country. Aquarium fish account for more than 40% of Florida's total aquaculture sales.

People have kept me as a pet for over 1,000 years!

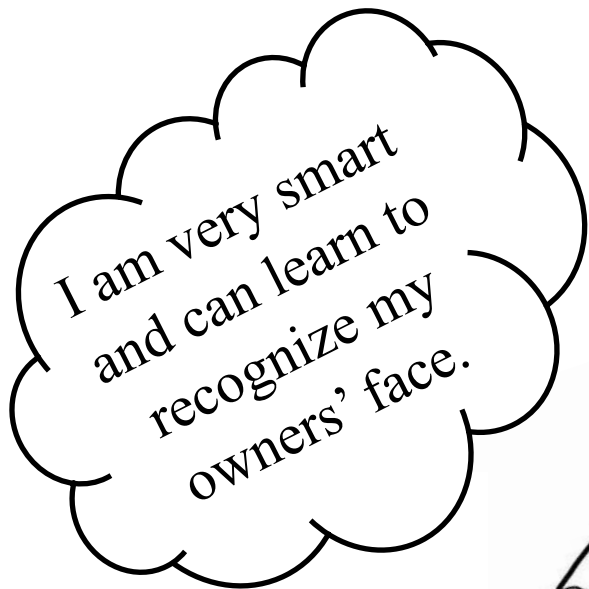
Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)





Rainbow Shark
(*Epalzeorhynchus frenatum*)

Despite my name, I am
not a shark but was
named that because I
look like one.

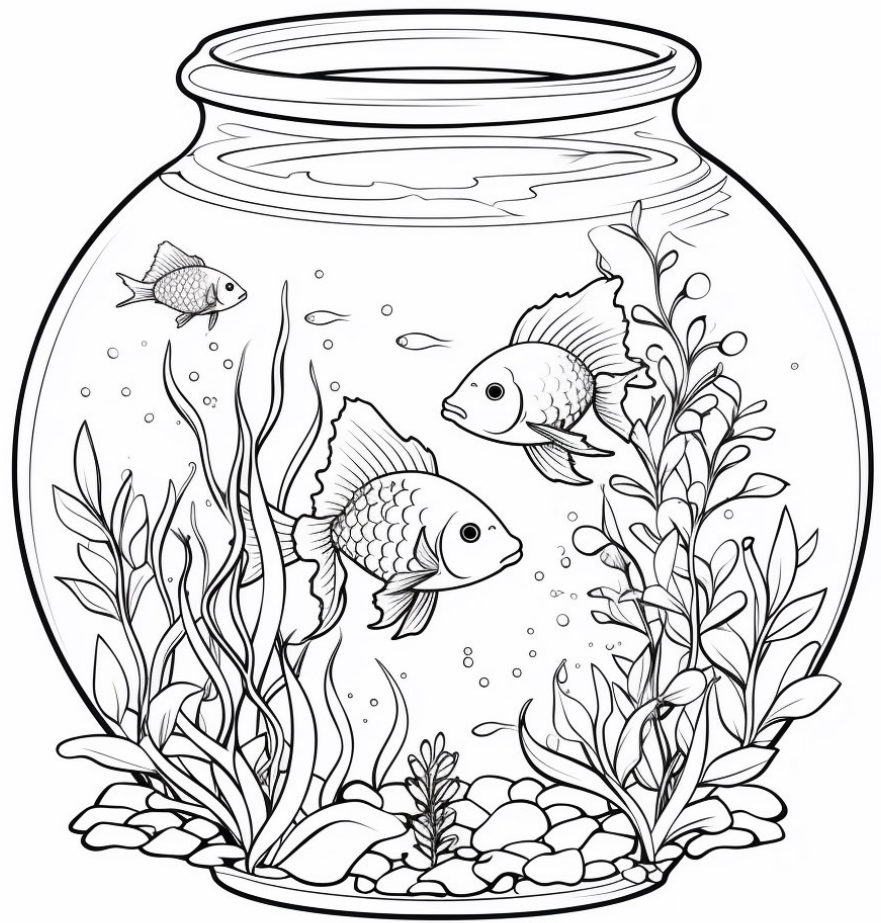


I am very smart
and can learn to
recognize my
owners' face.

Oscar (*Astronotus ocellatus*)

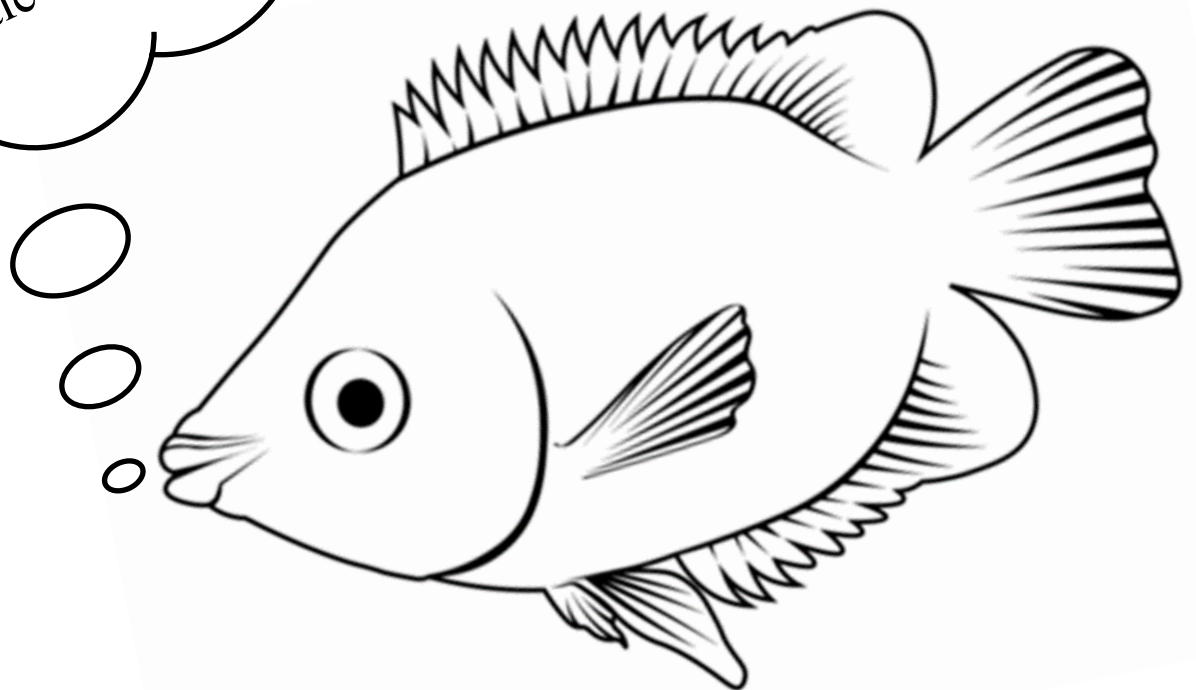


Ornamentals refers to the aquatic organisms that we keep as pets.



Aquaria Fish

We do in fact kiss,
but it is not out of
love, it is how we
settle fights!



Kissing Gourami (*Helostoma temminckii*)

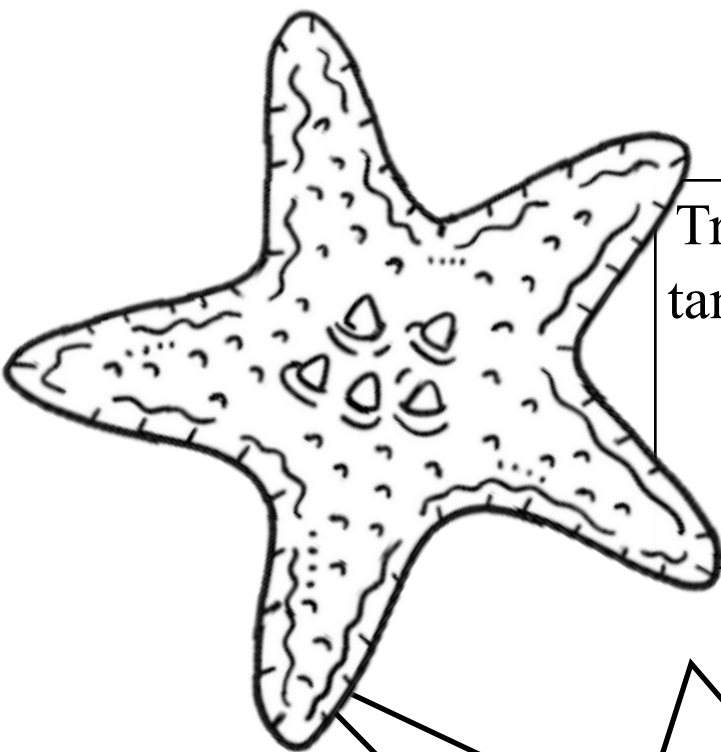


Aquariums and outdoor ponds have provided beauty and tranquility for many years.



Koi are a popular ornamental species with a long history of culture.





Tropical fish are normally grown in tanks and ponds. However, there are some marine ornamental fish produced in controlled, indoor facilities.

In 1853, the first aquarium exhibit opened in London's Regent Park.



Each type of fish is fed it's own special food. When they are big enough to be sold, farmers use dip nets and put them into plastic bags with water to transport them to the wholesaler or retailer.



I change color
depending on the
lighting of my
environment.

Neon Tetra (*Paracheirodon innesi*)

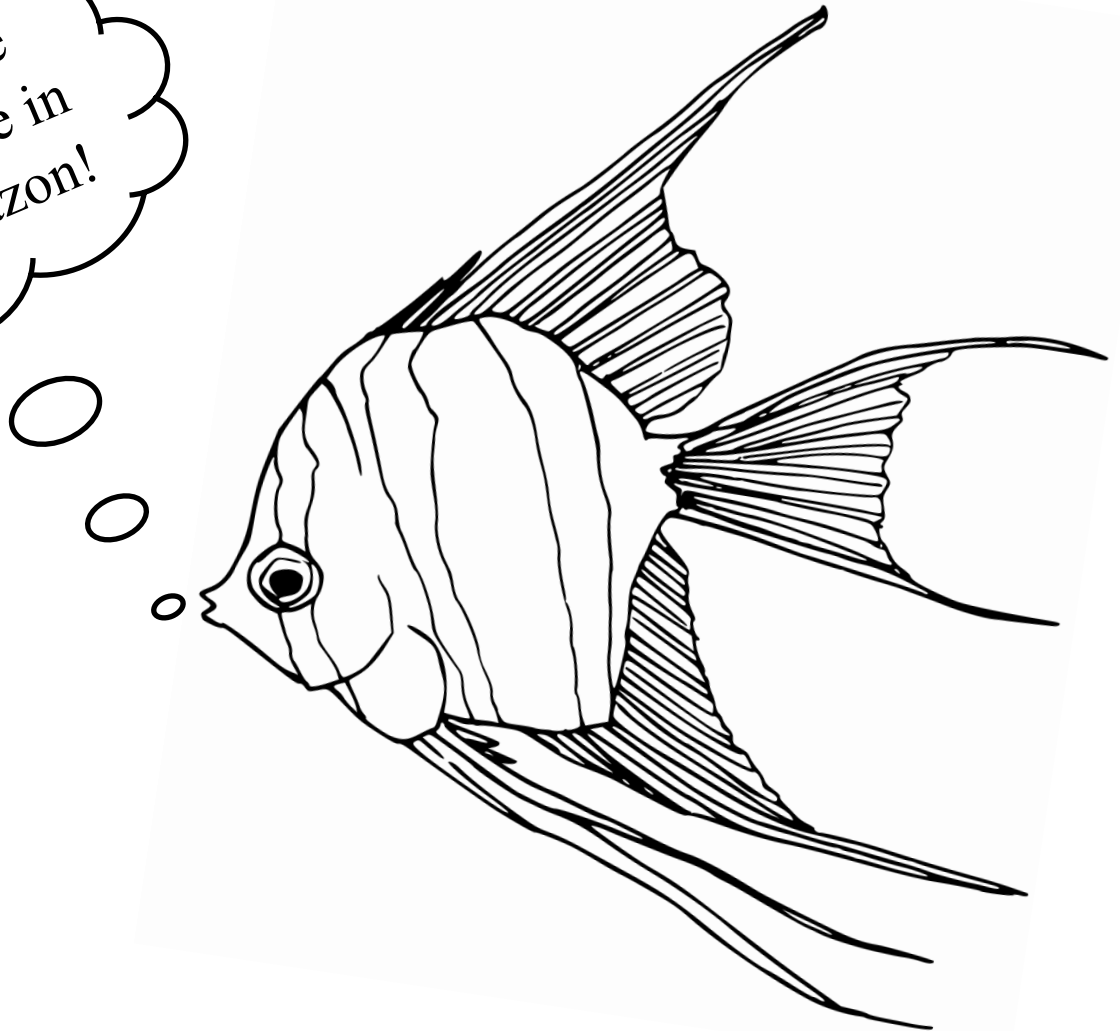
Tetras, mollies, guppies, danios
and platys are a few examples
of community/non-aggressive
fish. Community fish have a
tendency to get along well with
all the fish in the tank or
aquarium.

At most I grow to
be 13 centimeters.

Sailfin Molly (*Poecilia latipinna*)



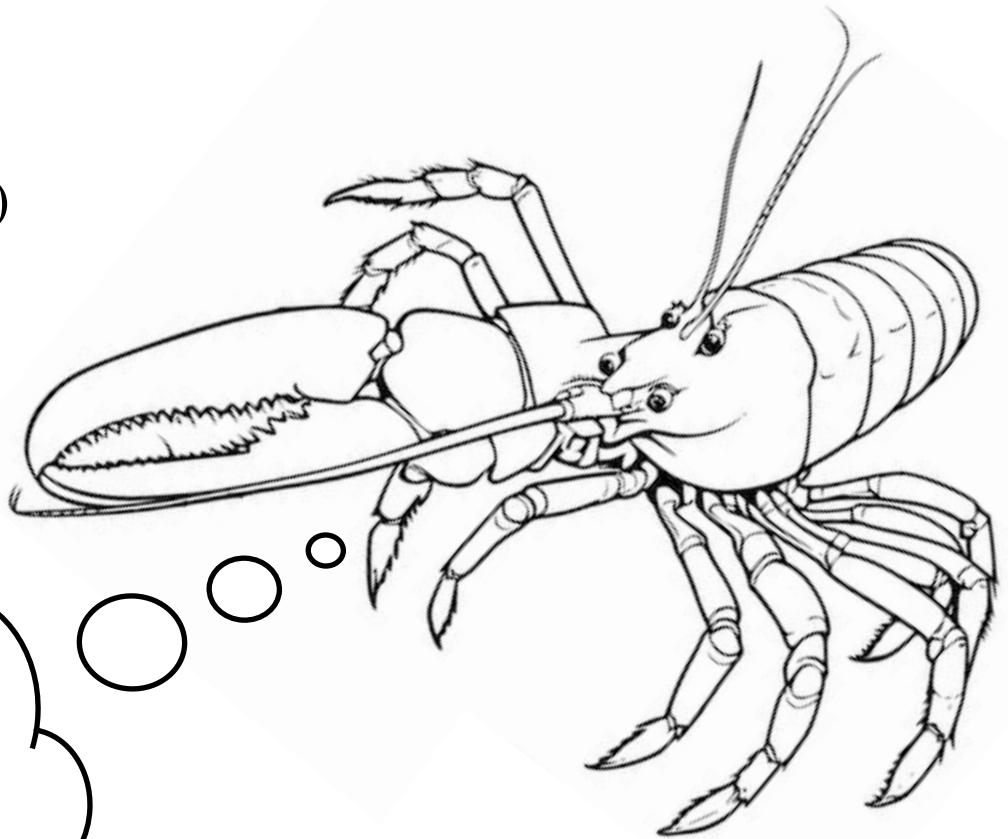
Angelfish (*Pterophyllum scalare*)



All aquaculture facilities are licensed by the State of Florida and must follow strict guidelines and Best Management Practices specific to their commodity to protect our water and environment.

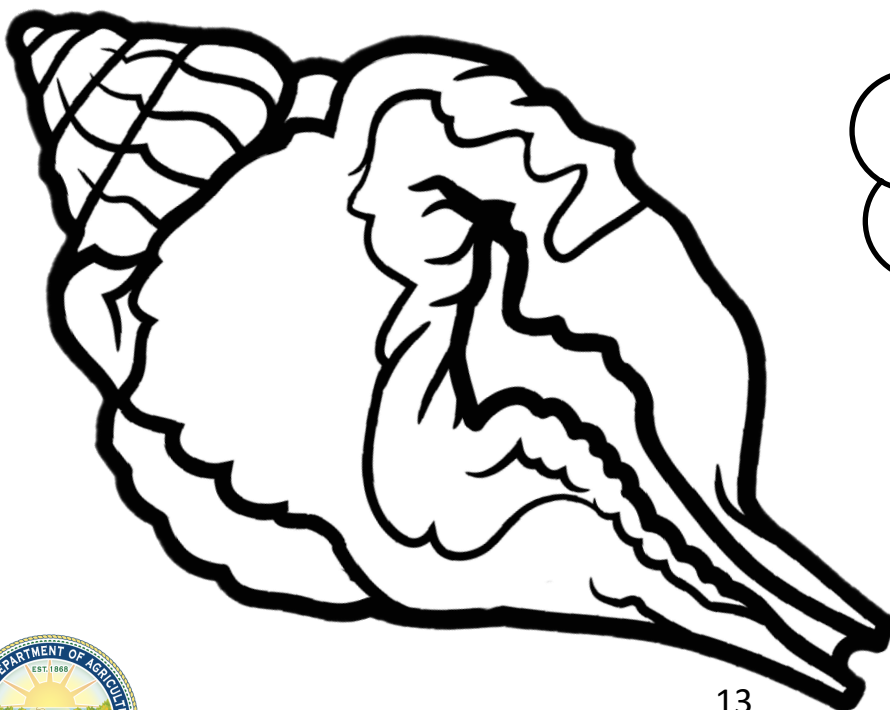


Rusty Crawfish
(*Faxonius rusticus*)



I pee out of my
face and use my
urine to
communicate!

True Conch (*Strombidae*)

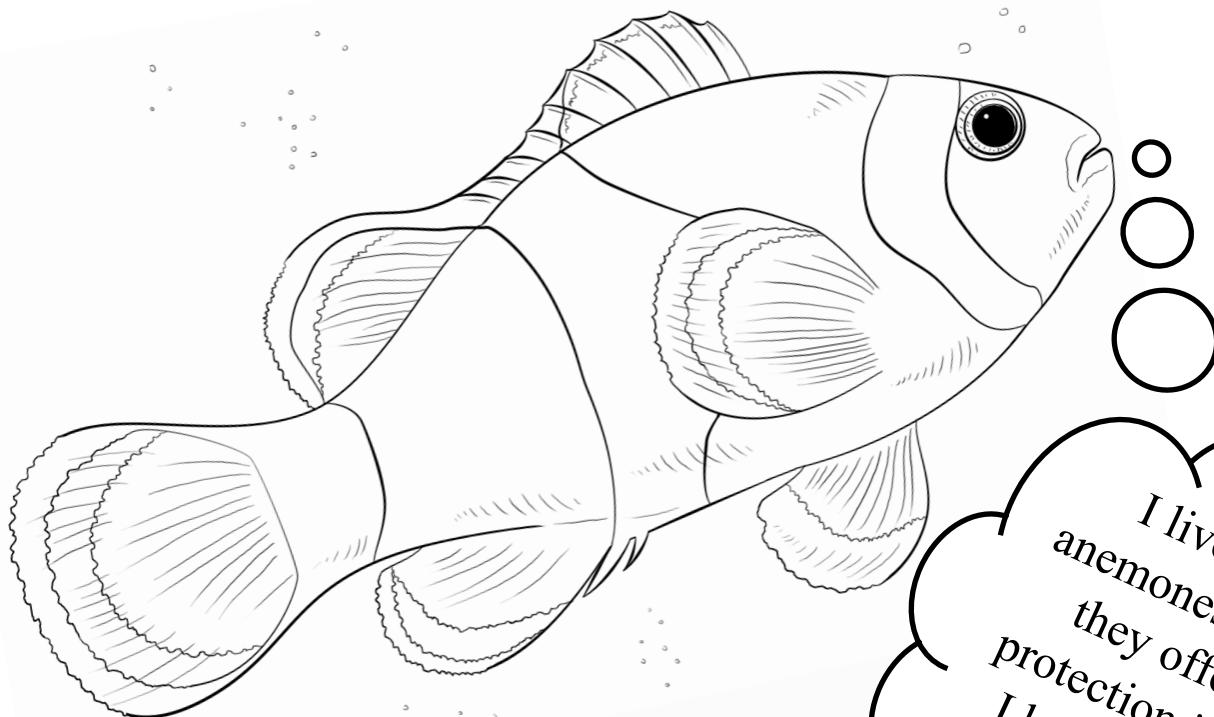
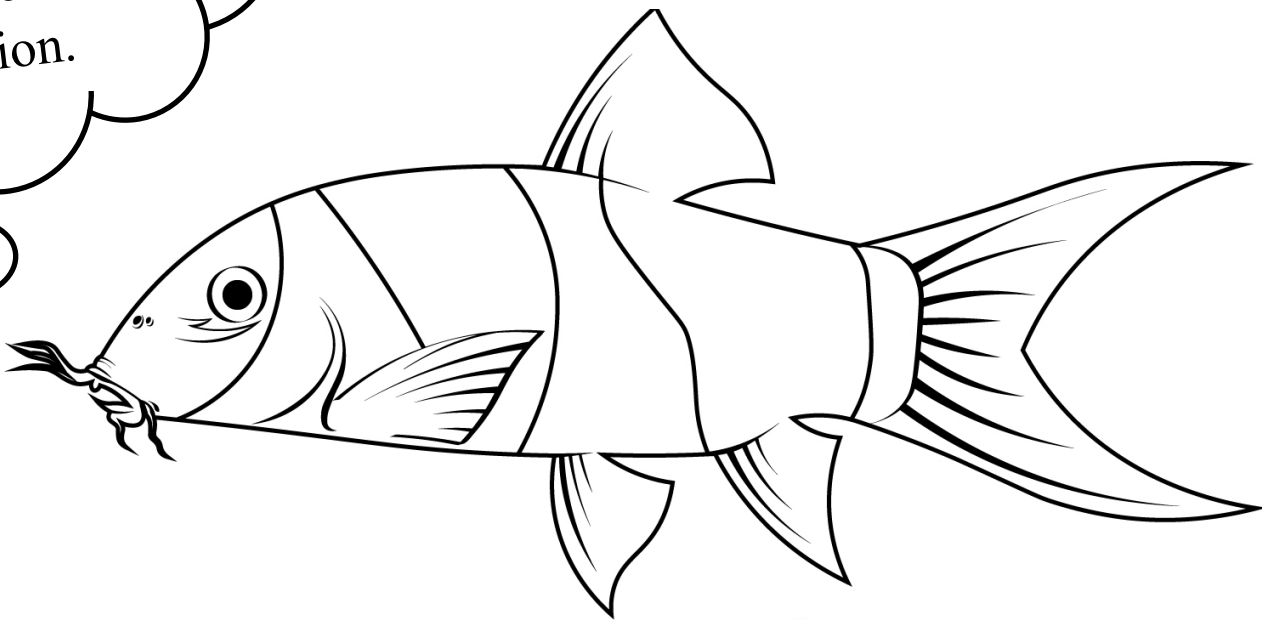


I am a herbivore.
I eat algae and
other tiny marine
plants.



I have sharp
spines below my
eyes for
protection.

Clown Loach (*Chromobotia macracanthus*)

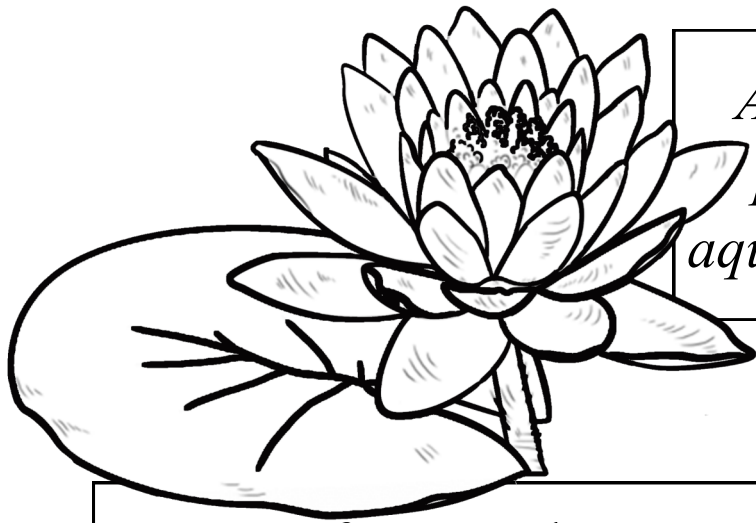


Clownfish (*Amphiprioninae*)

I live in sea
anemones because
they offer me
protection in return
I help keep them
clean and fed.



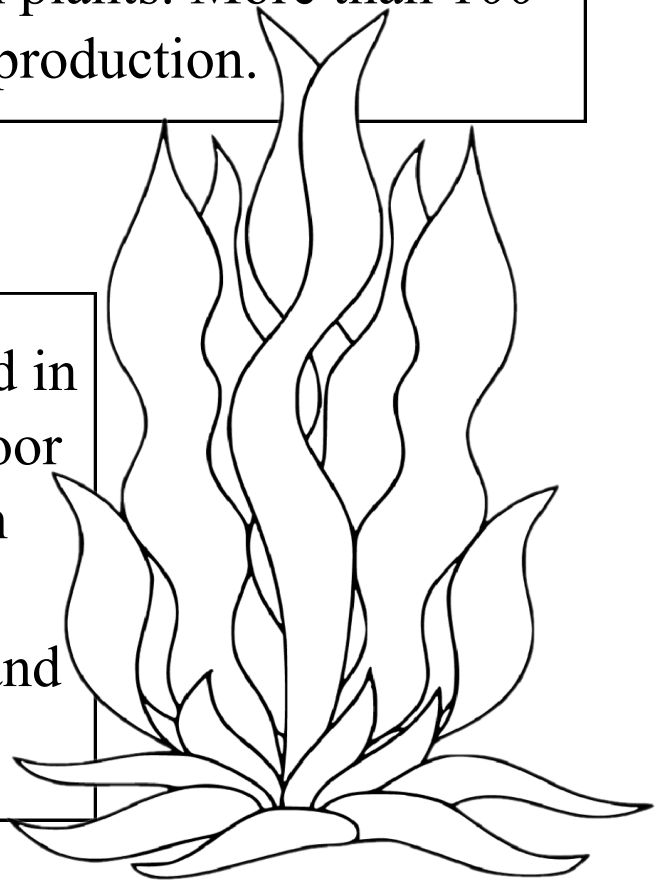
Aquatic Plants



Aquatic plants can add the perfect finishing touch to aquariums and outdoor ponds.

Many farmers choose to concentrate only on farming aquatic plants and leave raising tropical fish to others. These plants range from beautiful water lilies to flowering and non-flowering pond plants to many varieties of green, variegated and colorful aquarium plants. More than 100 plant varieties are in production.

Aquatic plants are primarily farmed in hydroponic greenhouses and outdoor tanks in the central and southern portions of Florida for use in aquariums, water gardening, wetland restoration and food markets.

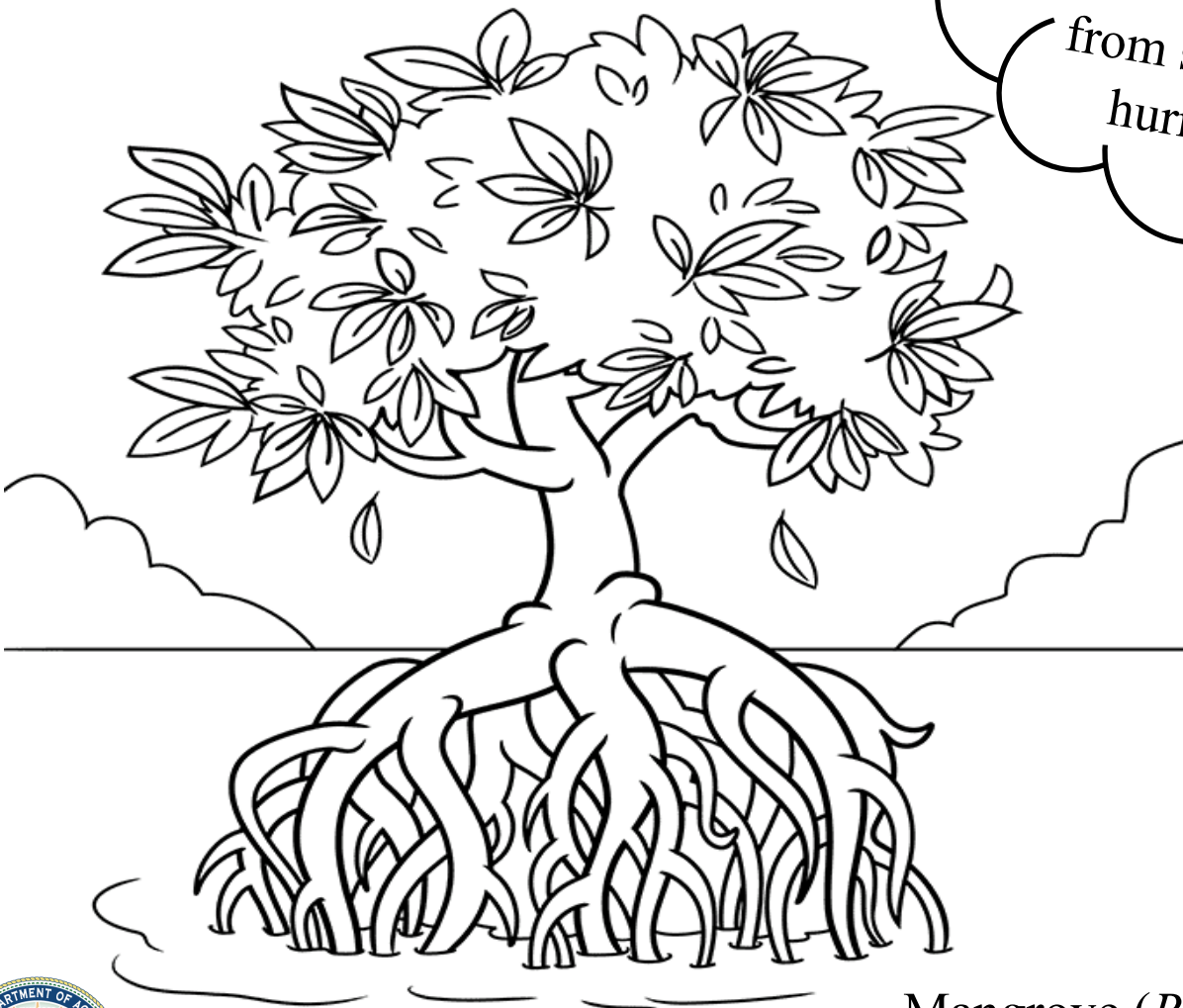


Lily Pad (*Nymphaeaceae*)

Our leaves and flowers are on the surface but we have long stems that attach us to the ground underwater like an anchor!



I help protect the shoreline from storms and hurricanes!



Mangrove (*Rhizophoraceae*)



Saving Species

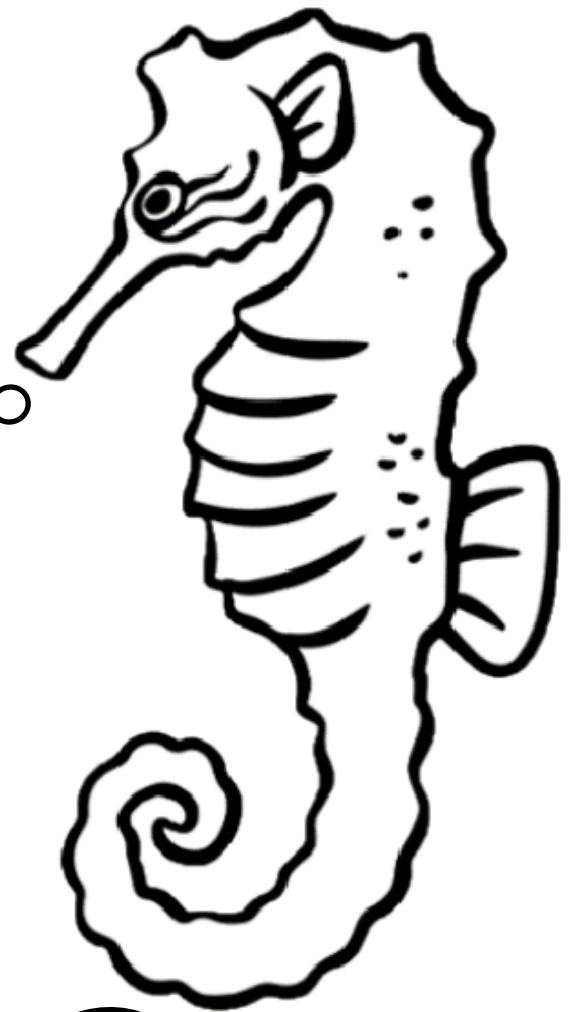
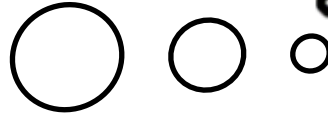
Sea Nettle Jellyfish (*Chrysaora quinquecirrha*)

It might not look like it,
but some of my closest
relatives are corals and
sea anemones.

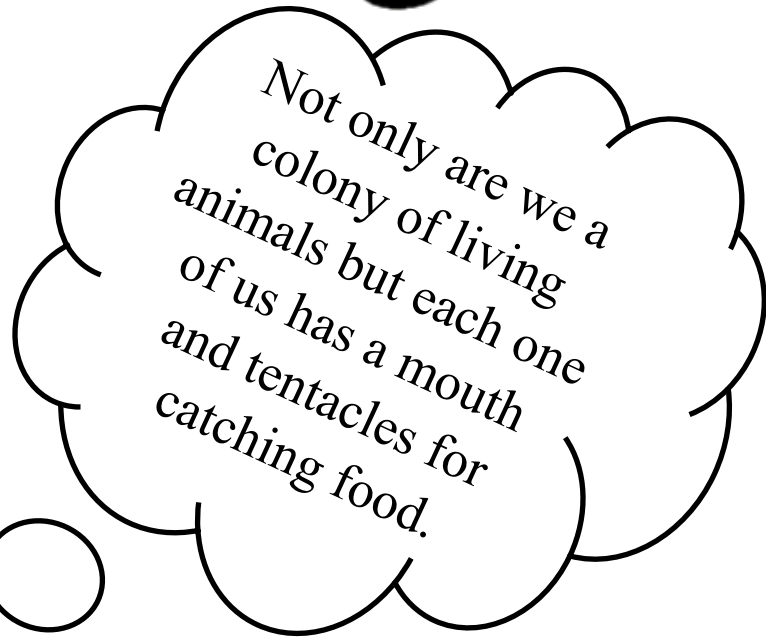
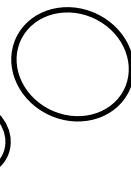
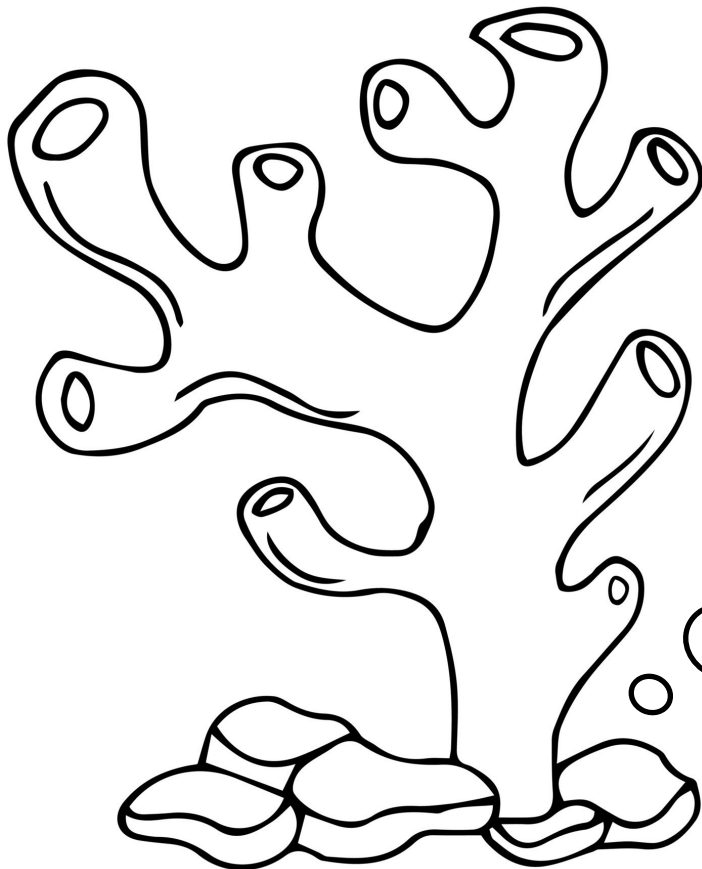


Aquaculture is used around the globe in aquariums and zoos! Breeding programs allow aquariums to stock their exhibits with animals raised in captivity so there is less need to take them from the wild.

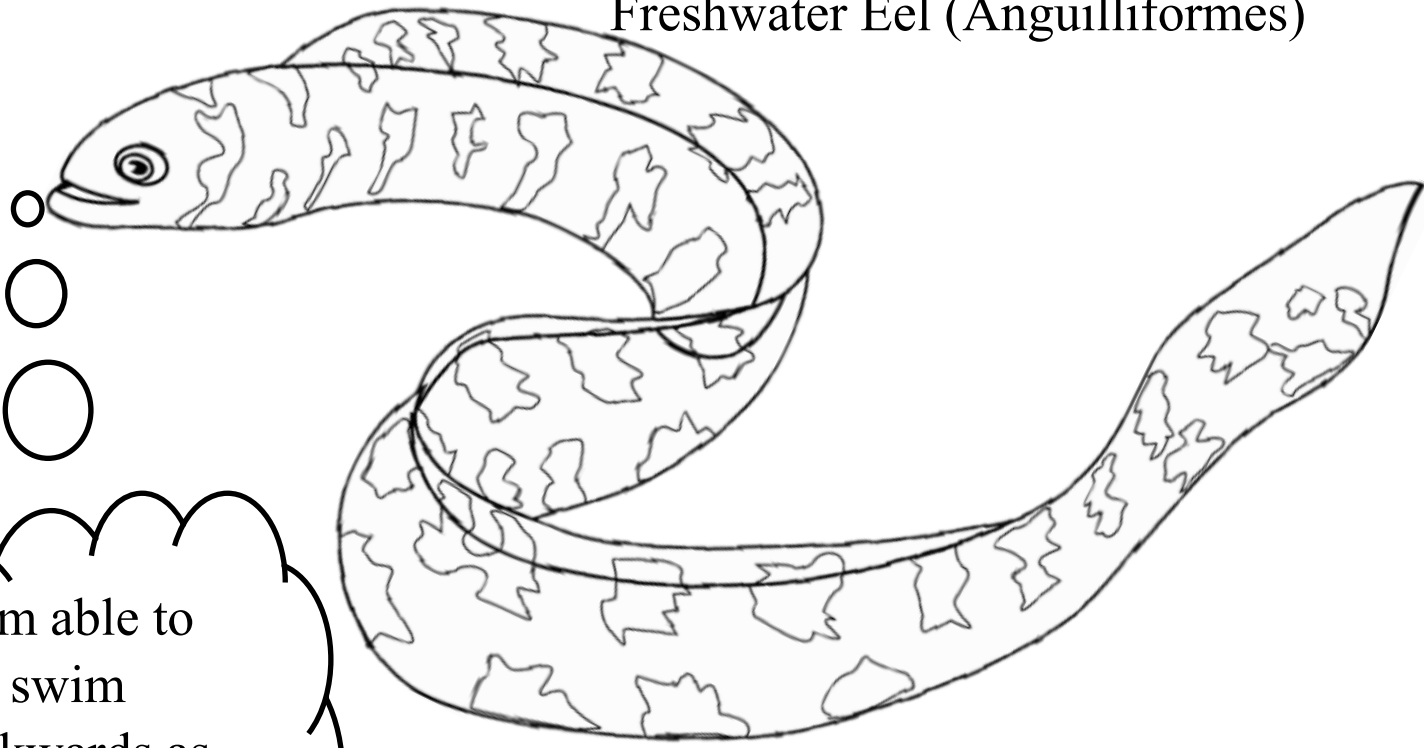




Sea Horse (*Hippocampus*)



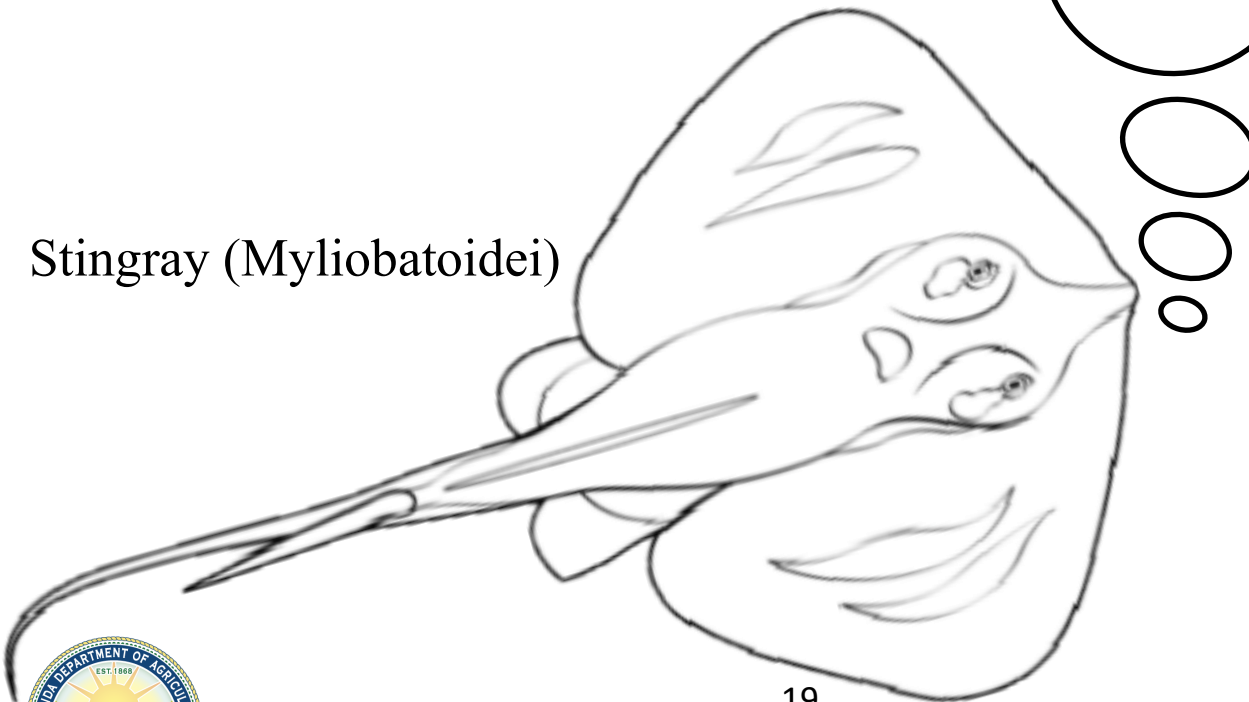
Freshwater Eel (Anguilliformes)



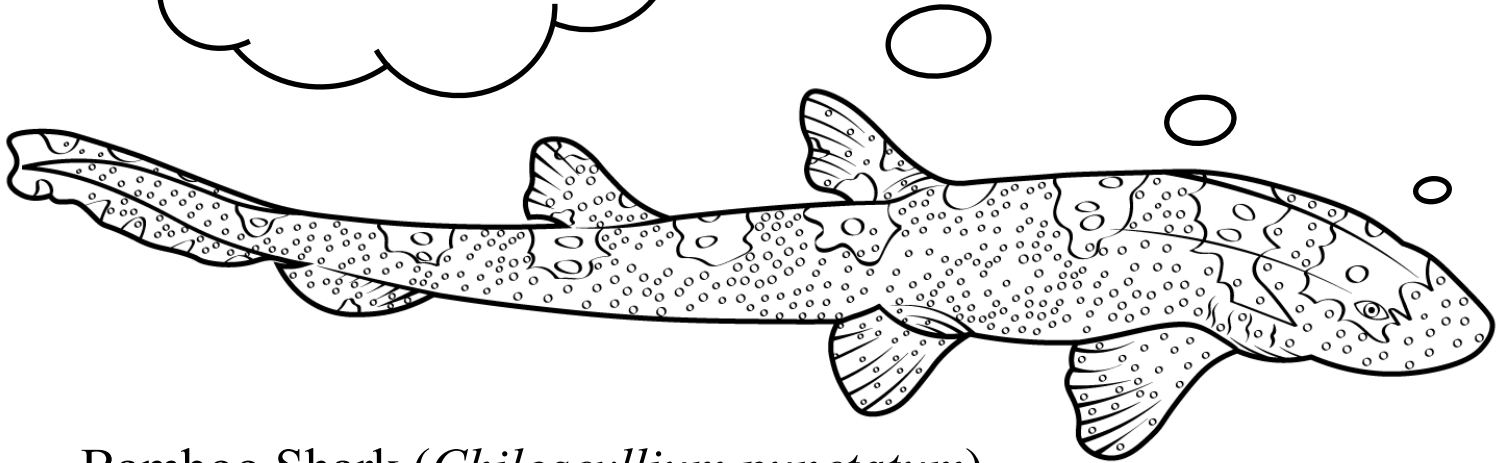
I am able to swim backwards as well as I can swim forward.

When I go to sleep I bury my body in the sand and stick my defensive barb out for protection as I sleep.

Stingray (Myliobatoidei)

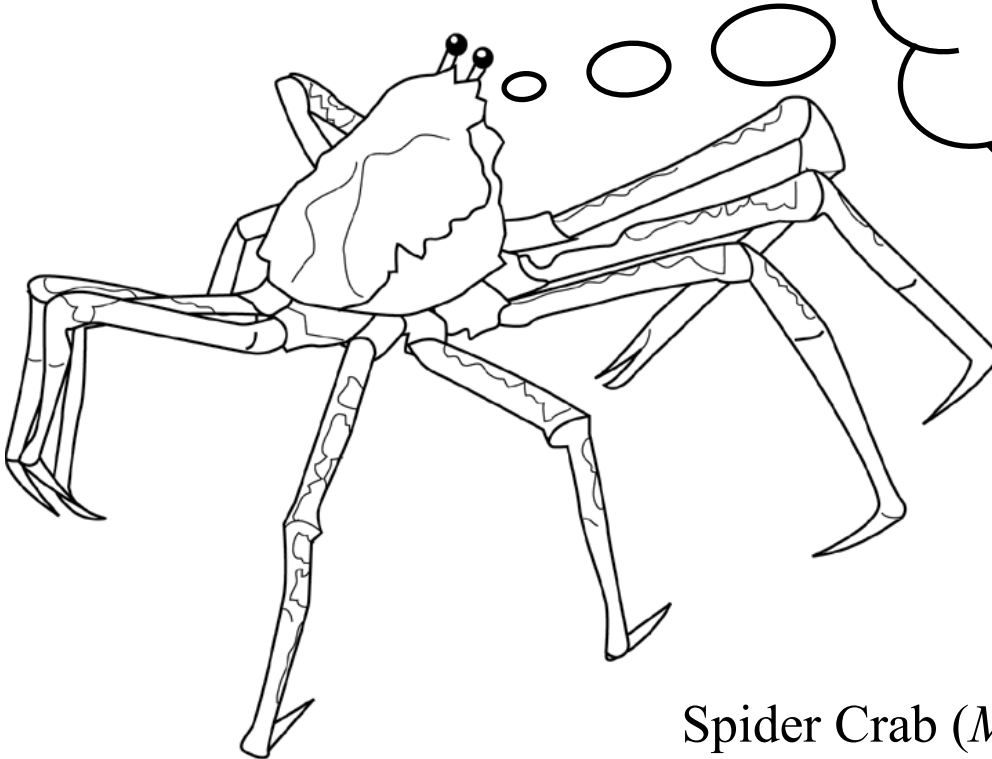


My teeth can fold
backwards inside
my mouth!



Bamboo Shark (*Chiloscyllium punctatum*)

My body will stay
the same size forever
but my legs will
continue to grow!

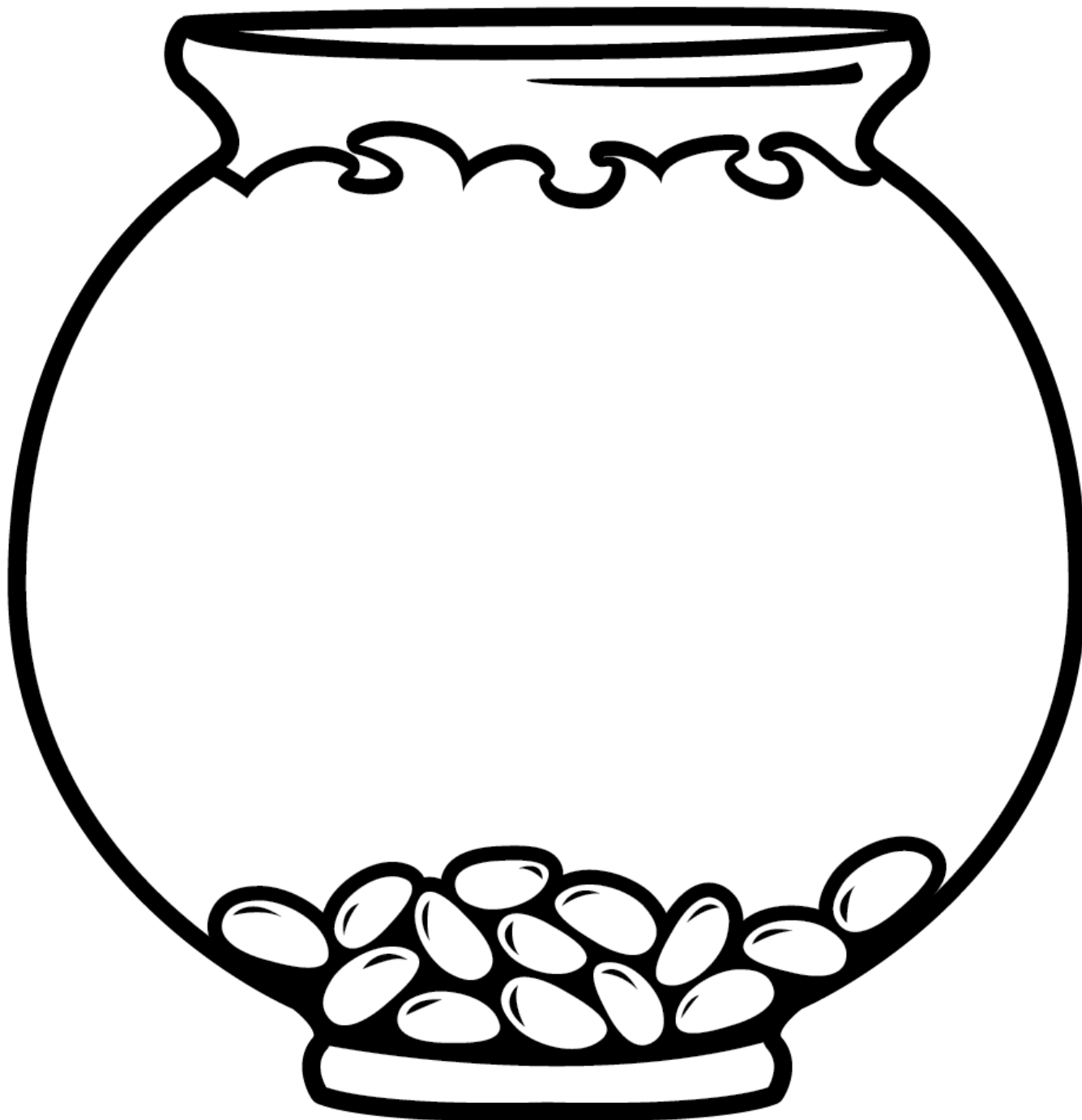


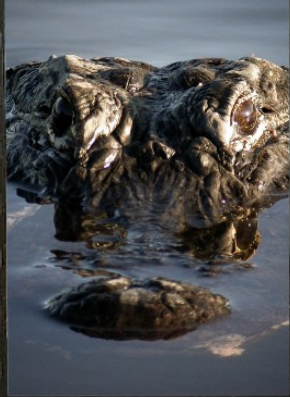
Spider Crab (*Macrocheira kaempferi*)



My Fish Tank

Draw fish you want to be in your fish tank!





**Color your way through Florida's Aquaculture Industry in
our Collection of Books!**

**Brought to you by the Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services, Division of Aquaculture**

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Find more resources for your classroom at:

www.FDACS.gov/Education/Aquaculture-Educator-Resources

