

Plants and Animals of the Northwest Territories

An ecology colouring book

Artwork by: **Melissa Clark**

Translation by: **Maro Sundberg & Stacey Drygeese-Sundberg**

In partnership with:



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book was created by Watersheds Canada as part of its Nature Discovery Program. In just 5 years, this program has reached over 5,600 children and youth across Canada, helping connect families, classes, and students with their local freshwater and nature!

Watersheds Canada is a federally incorporated charity and non-profit organization (#863555223RR0001). Founded in 2002 as a community-based lake association, it has grown into a national organization working from coast-to-coast-to-coast. Through on-the-ground habitat restoration programs and education outreach, Watersheds Canada protects and restores freshwater areas in collaboration with regional, provincial, and national partners. Watersheds Canada is deeply committed to the communities it delivers programming in, co-creating initiatives that are locally relevant and informed.

The artwork in this book was drawn by Melissa Clark, a Yellowknife-based artist. Wiiliideh Dene Yatì translation was provided by Maro Sundberg and Stacey Drygeese-Sundberg who are from the Yellowknife Dene First Nation community of T'e?ehdaà (Dettah).

This Nature Discovery Program resource was made possible with support from:



**TD Friends of the
Environment Foundation**



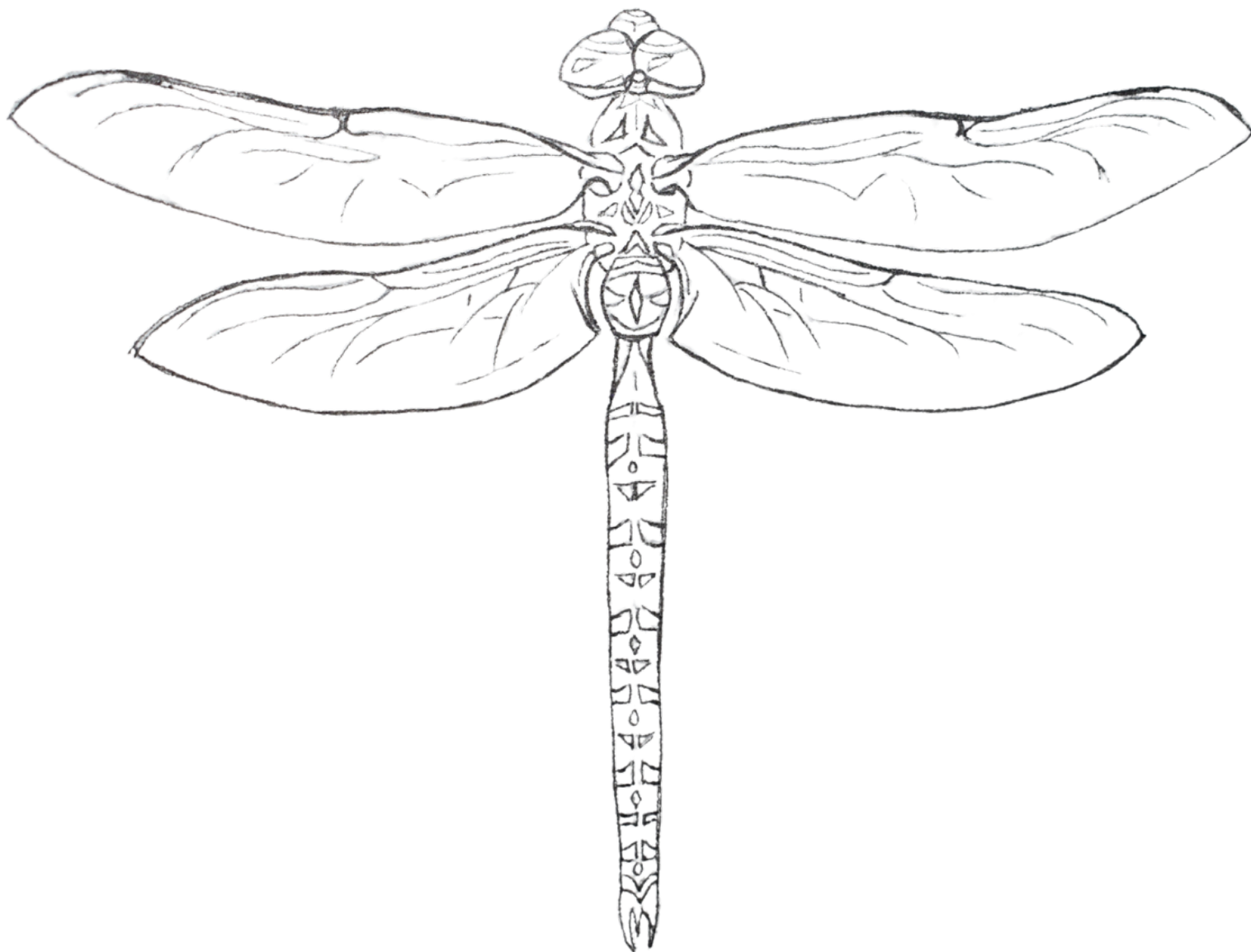
**Ocean
Week
Canada**

Led by



gotsèwhị

Dragonfly



ekwò

Caribou



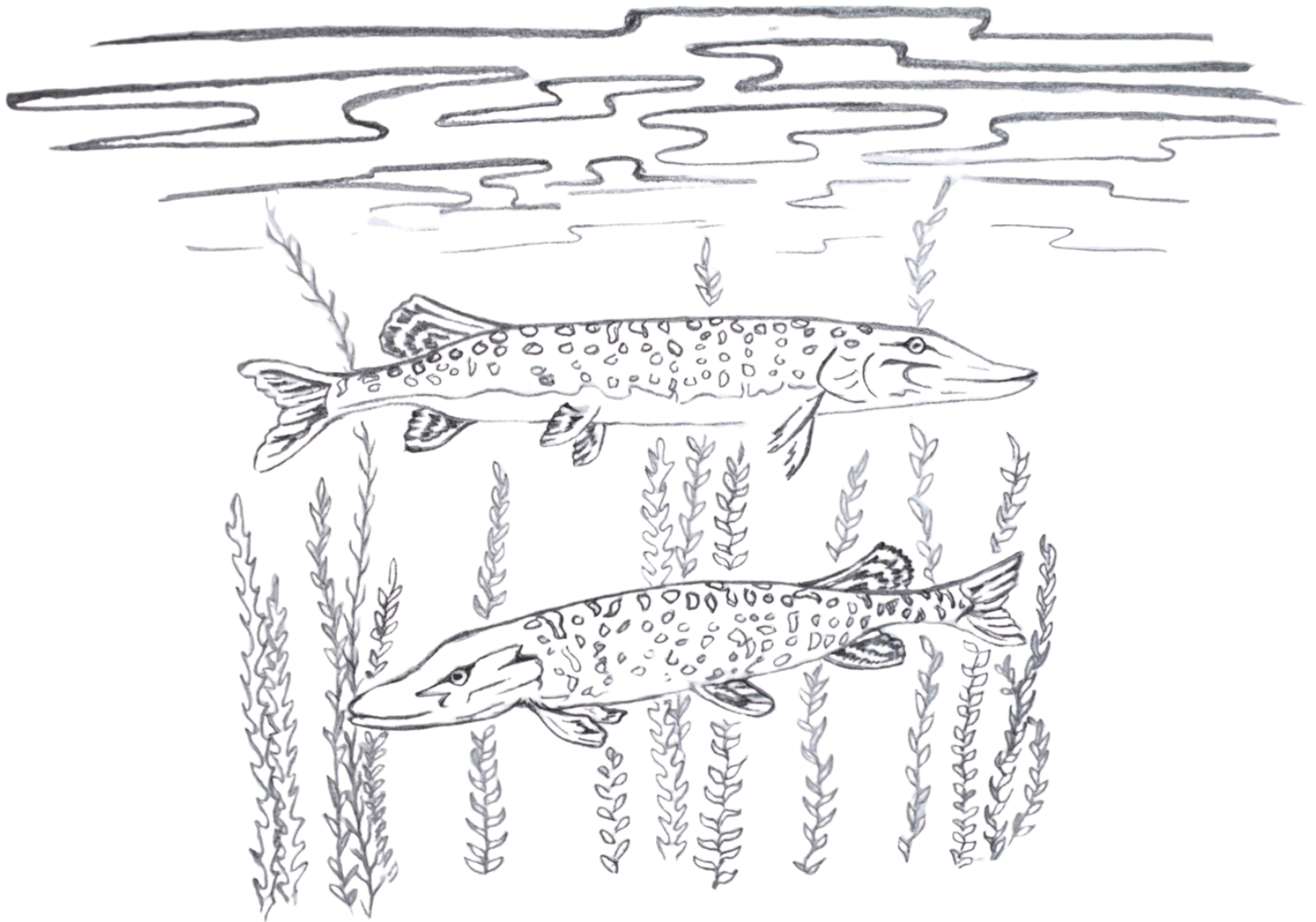
Tatsò

Common Raven



Ìndaà

Jackfish / Northern Pike



nòtsaa

Sandhill Crane



Mq̄hkw̄l

Great Grey Owl



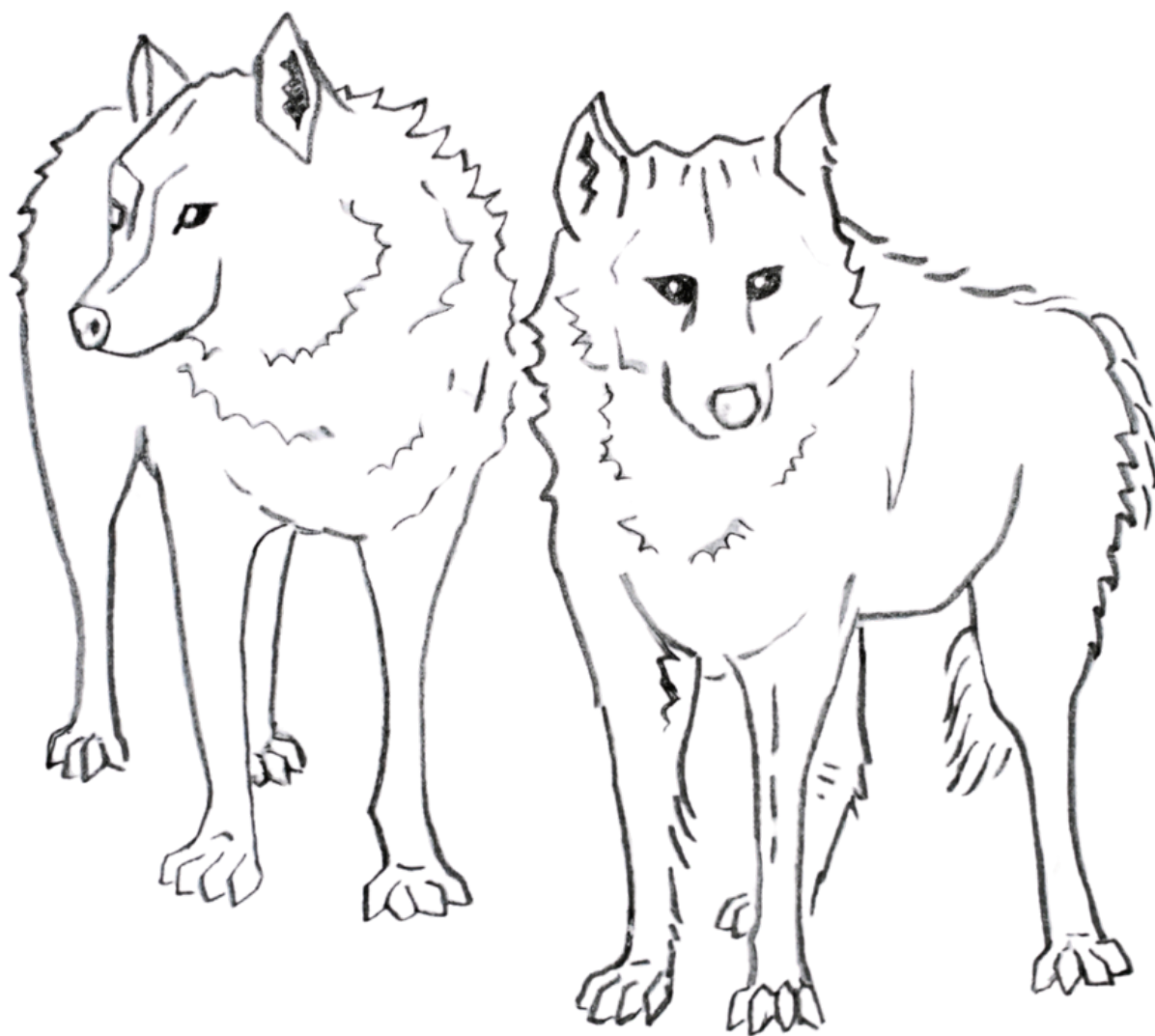
dzq

Muskrat



nədi

Grey Wolf



gah

Snowshoe Hare



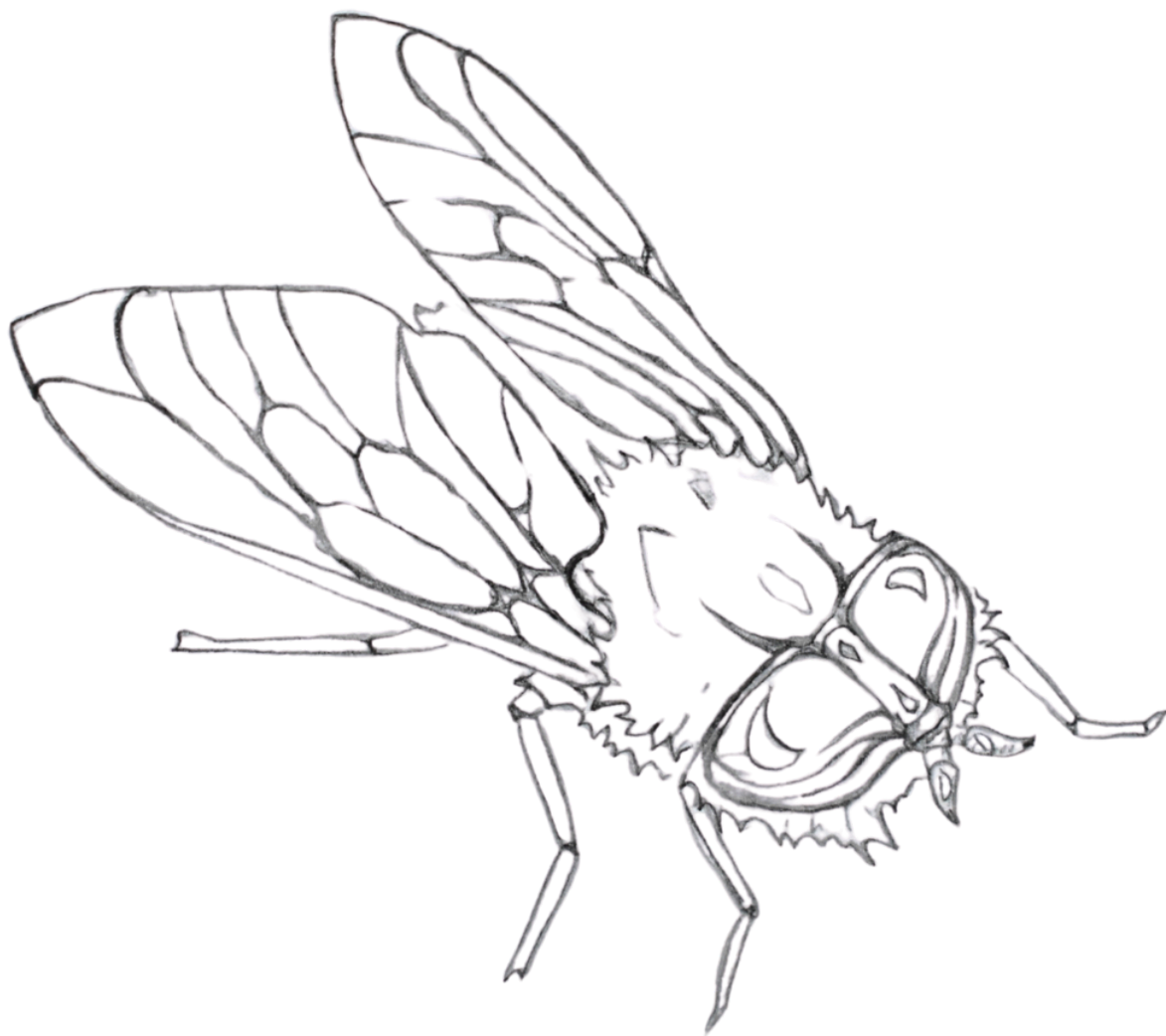
wha

Pine Marten



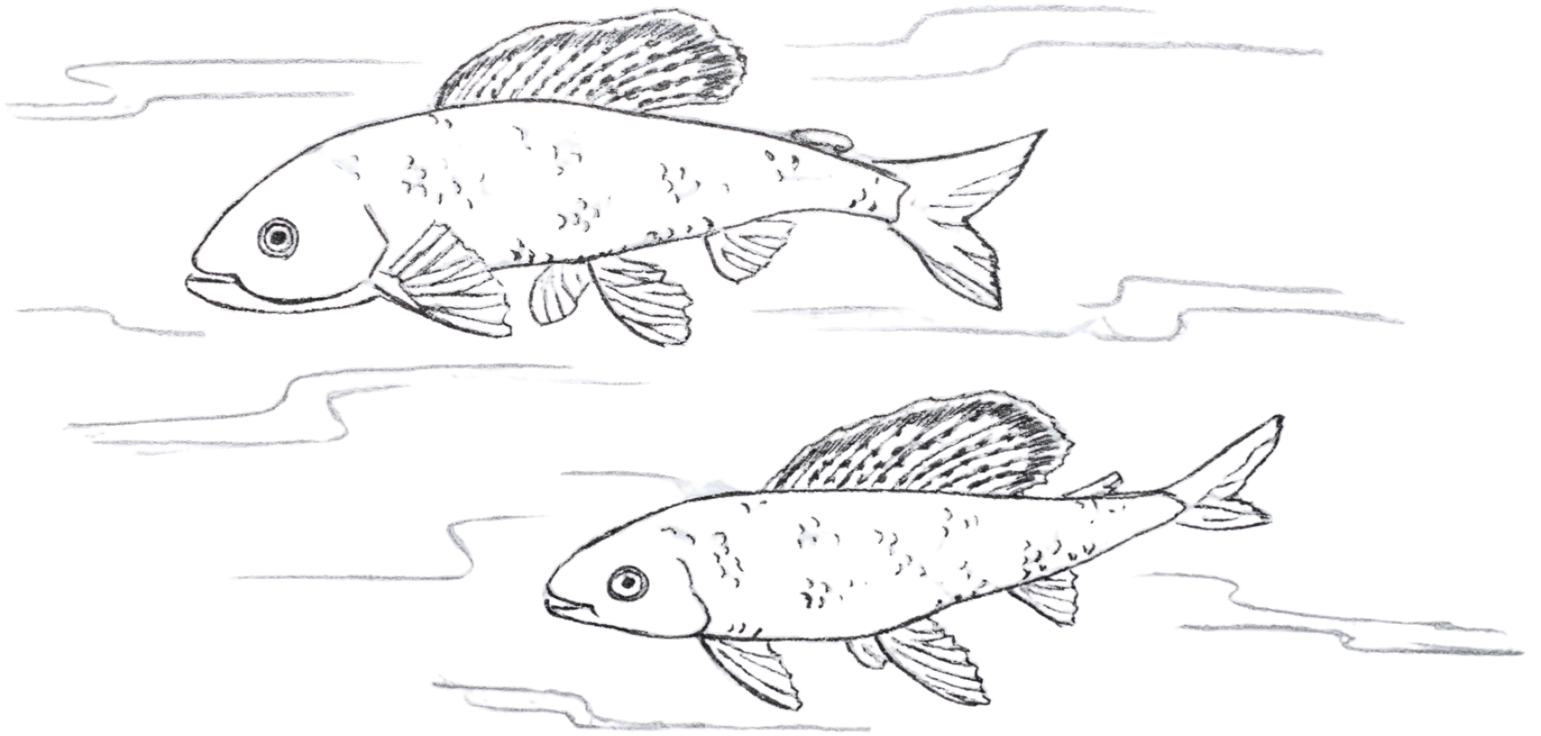
naidì

Horsefly



ts'èt'ı̄

Arctic Grayling



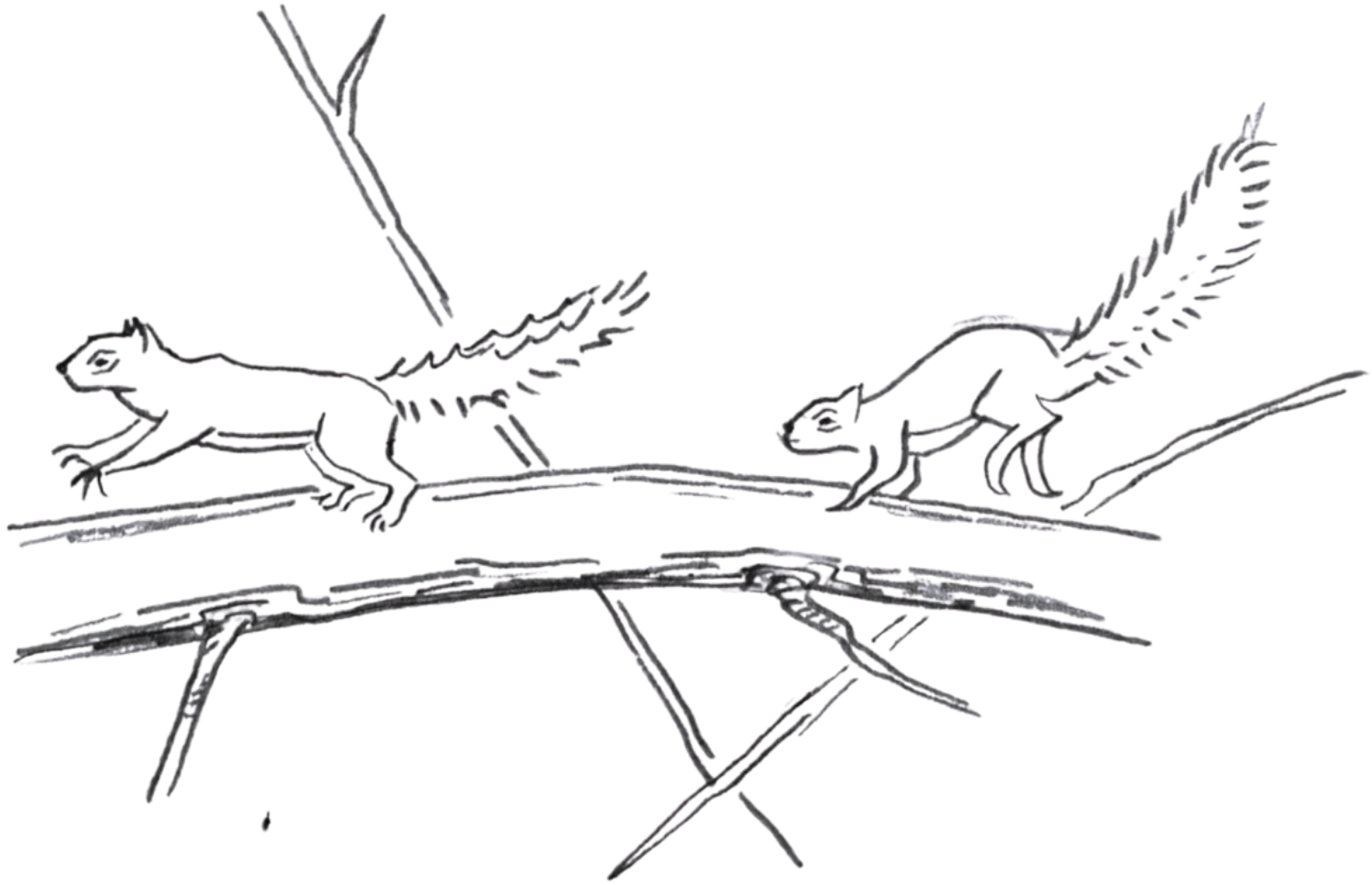
K'acho

Arctic Tern



dloò

Squirrel



Itl'ò

Cranberry



nqhdlaà

Cloudberry



Nature Observation Pages

What do you see, hear, smell, and feel when you explore by freshwater? Write or draw it here!

Nature Observation Pages

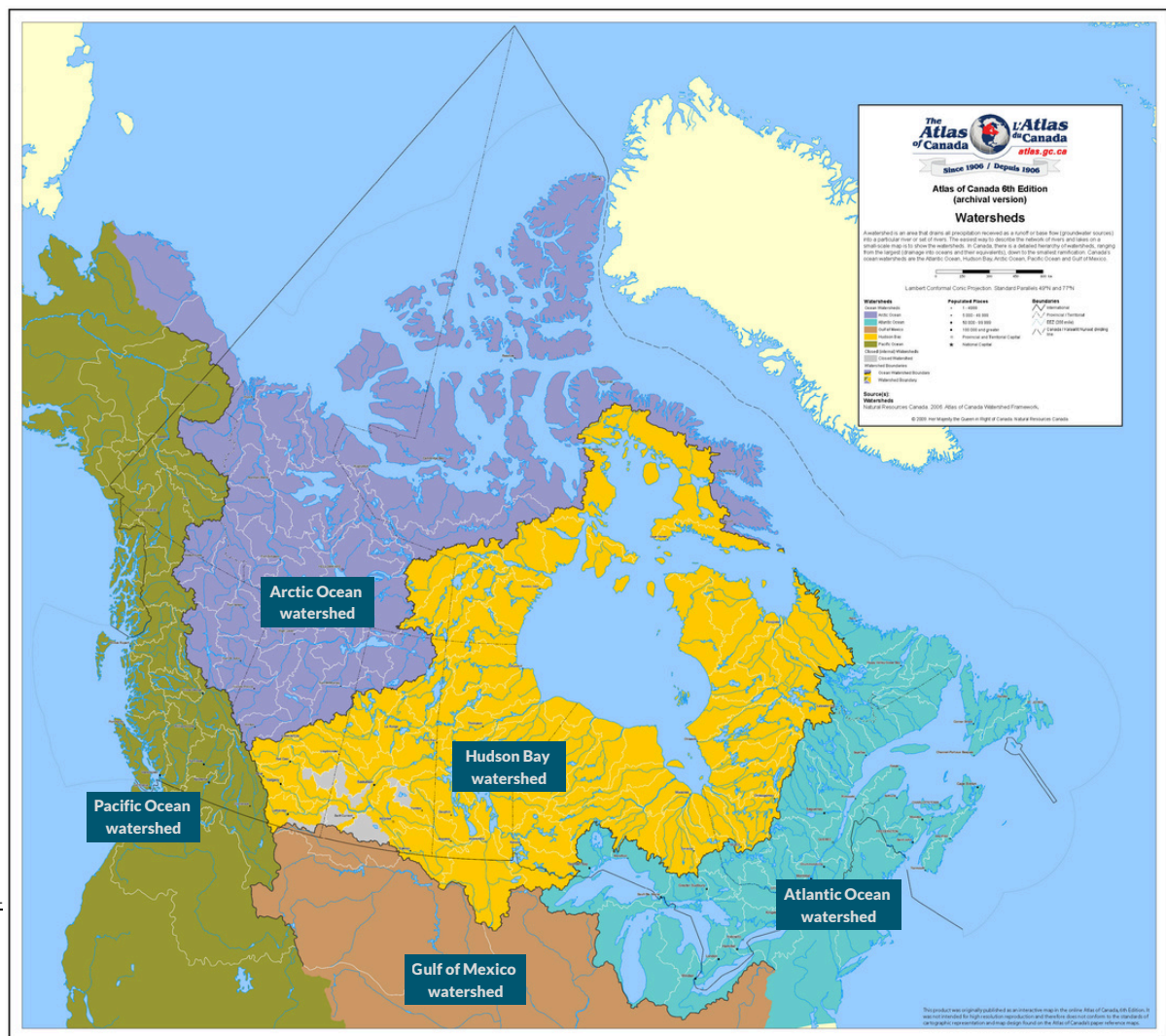
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Nature Observation Pages

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WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

- A **watershed** is an area of land that water flows through or across on its way to a particular water body, like a stream, river, wetland, lake, or coastline.
- A watershed is the land where precipitation — like rain — falls and flows to a common, watery place! Canada has five ocean basins where all freshwater in Canada eventually drains.
- Watersheds show how all of us are connected, across cities, regions, provinces, territories, and ecosystems.
- We can all work together to protect the health of our fresh water and oceans, no matter where we live!



RESILIENT SHORELANDS

The **Littoral Zone** extends from the water's edge to where sunlight no longer penetrates to the bottom of the water. This is where docks are built and people swim. However, we share this area with an incredible array of biodiversity as up to 90% of lake species (e.g., pike, ducks, otters and turtles) are born, raised, fed, or live in the littoral zone.

The **Shoreline** is the edge where the land and water meet. The mix of plants, shrubs, and trees form an intricate web of roots, foliage, and fallen limbs that hold the waterfront together and fend off erosion from wind, rain, boat wakes and ice.

The **Riparian Zone**, also known as the Ribbon of Life, extends inland from the shoreline for at least 15 metres and may be flooded during high water periods. It is a natural buffer protecting the shoreline, water quality, and natural habitat both on land and in the water. It is made up of trees, shrubs and grasses that absorb excess nutrients (e.g., fertilizers) and pollutants (e.g., seepage from septic systems, oil, gas and pesticides) before they can contaminate the water.

The **Upland Zone** is a drier forested area with better drainage compared to the riparian zone. The deep roots of trees stabilize the slope, the foliage buffers the effects of wind, the canopy cools its surroundings, and plants provide habitat for deer, birds, porcupines, grouse, rabbits, and many other creatures.



Watersheds
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