

THE  
PRESERVERS

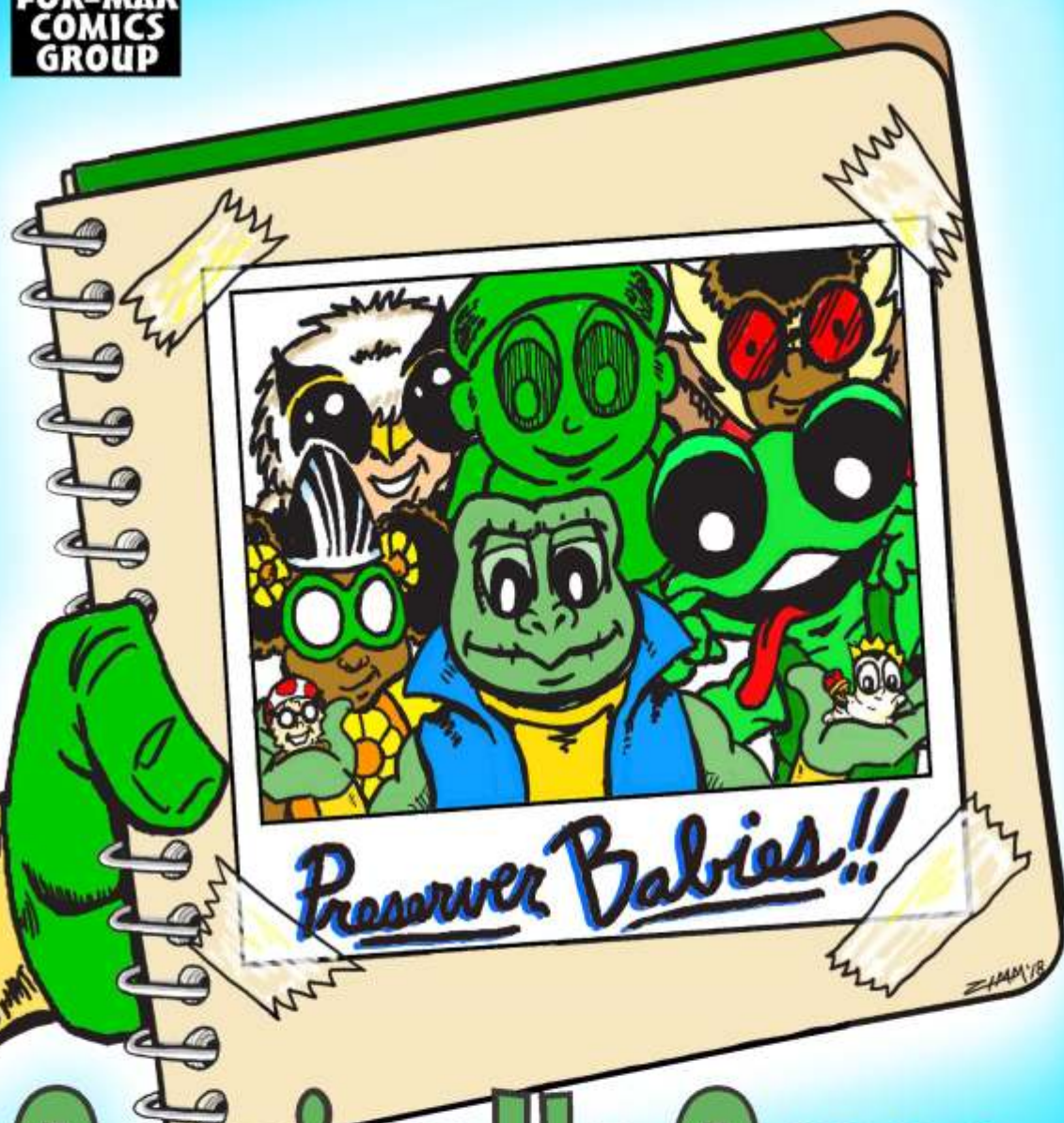
THIS ISSUE: MEET THE PRESERVER BABIES!



FOR-MAR  
COMICS  
GROUP

**THE**  
*NATURE'S SUPERHEROES!*  
**Preservers**™

#4 FREE!



Growing Up Green





## FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM

Nature gives us so much, sometimes it's good to give back. Since 1970, that's been the spirit behind For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum. With 383 acres of carefully preserved Michigan flora and fauna and one of the state's finest collections of rare trees, For-Mar is where Michigan goes to learn about — and from — the best of the world around us.

## THE MERKLEYS' LEGACY

Forbes and Martha Merkley ran a successful dairy farm just a few minutes east of downtown Flint. It was a magnificent landscape with open meadows, mature

forests, wetlands and ponds. The Merkleys wanted to preserve their special corner of Genesee County and make it available for environmental education as an arboretum and wildlife sanctuary. So they donated their property to the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission to establish For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum.



## UPDATE FROM THE PRESERVERS – GENESEE COUNTY PARKS' NATURE'S SUPERHEROES



Nature's Superheroes, The Preservers, made their public debut in April 2015, when the first Superhero Trail opened at For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum. This facility of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission is home to The Preservers, where they teach and train Genesee County residents the skills that will help them become Nature's Superheroes too. You can meet and join them on their journeys at For-Mar's special superhero programs or community events, or you can invite them to your school or special event. In our 4th edition "Growing Up Green", The Preservers travel back to their childhood as they relive their life cycles that make them each special. This issue is filled with ways you and your family can learn and play outdoors because we understand that outdoor childhood memories create the next generation of Nature's Superheroes. Stay tuned for the fifth edition "Superhero Training School", that is filled with training

tips to help you become a superhero for nature too!



SOCIALIZE

#Geneseecountyparks



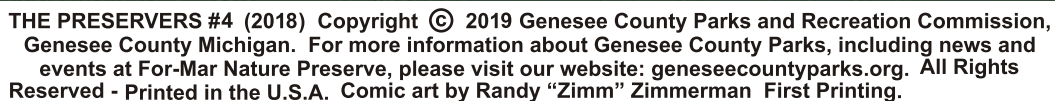
geneseecountyparks.org



GENESEE COUNTY PARKS

Get away. Right away.

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# MEET: *THE Preservers*™ NATURE'S SUPERHEROES!

## GRAND MASTER SNAPPER

LEADER AND MENTOR OF THE TEAM, GRAND MASTER SNAPPER HAS BEEN AROUND FOR MANY YEARS AND KNOWS MANY THINGS!



## D.K. THE DECOMPOSER

MASTER OF DECOMPOSITION. FUNGI, BACTERIA AND INVERTEBRATES ARE D.K.'S FRIENDS AND MERS TO CONTROL!



## The Frog

FANTASTIC LEAPER AND EXPERT SWIMMER, THE FROG IS ALSO AN INDICATOR SPECIES AND CHANGES FROM GREEN, TO YELLOW, TO RED DEPENDING ON THE DANGER AROUND HIM!



## THE GREEN

TALL AND QUIET, THE GREEN CAN MAKE PLANTS AND TREES INSTANTLY GROW!



## Miss Sunflower

CONTROLS SUNLIGHT WHICH SHE NOT ONLY USES TO HELP THINGS GROW, BUT SHE CAN ALSO SOLIDIFY IT TO DO WHATEVER SHE CAN IMAGINE IT TO DO FOR HER!



## OWL-GIRL

A NOCTURNAL PREDATOR WHO LIVES, SEES AND FLIES IN THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT!



## QUEEN BEE

A FLYING POLLINATOR WHO AIDS IN THE HEALTHY GROWTH OF PLANTS. HER ROSE SCEPTER CAN PACK A HEFTY STING!

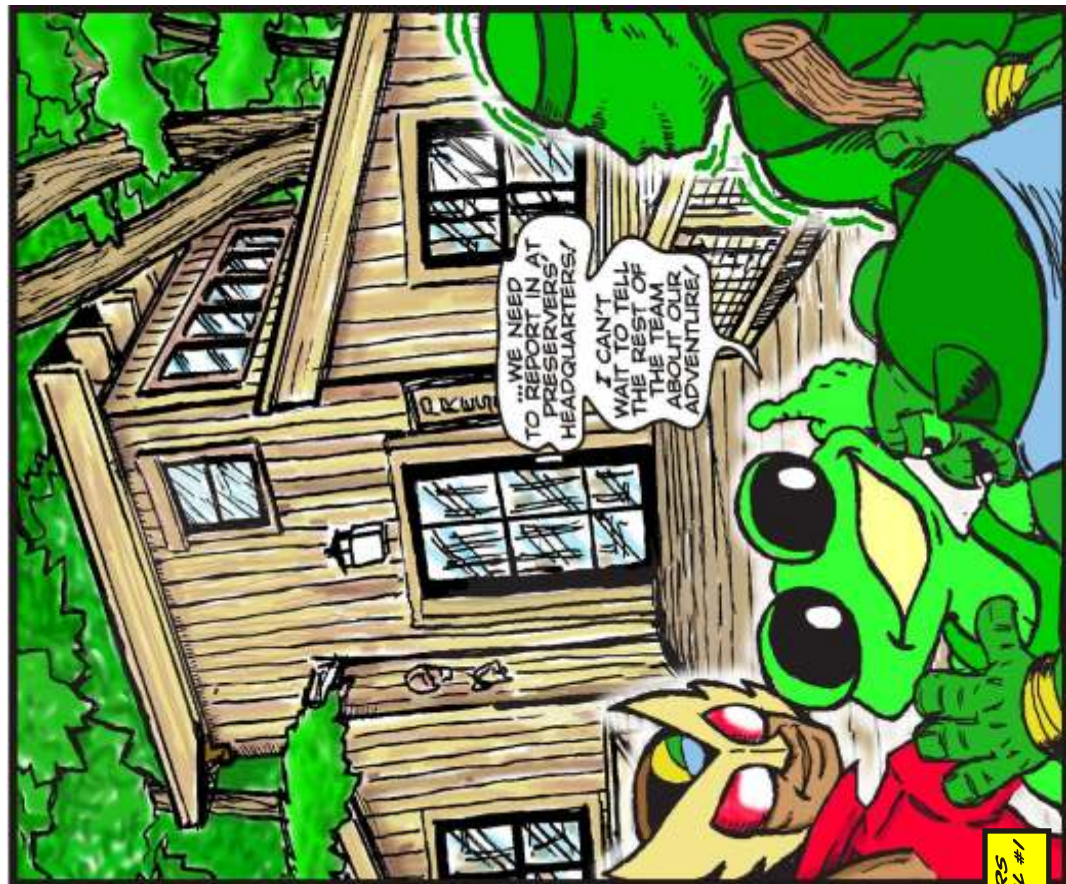


## RED HAWK

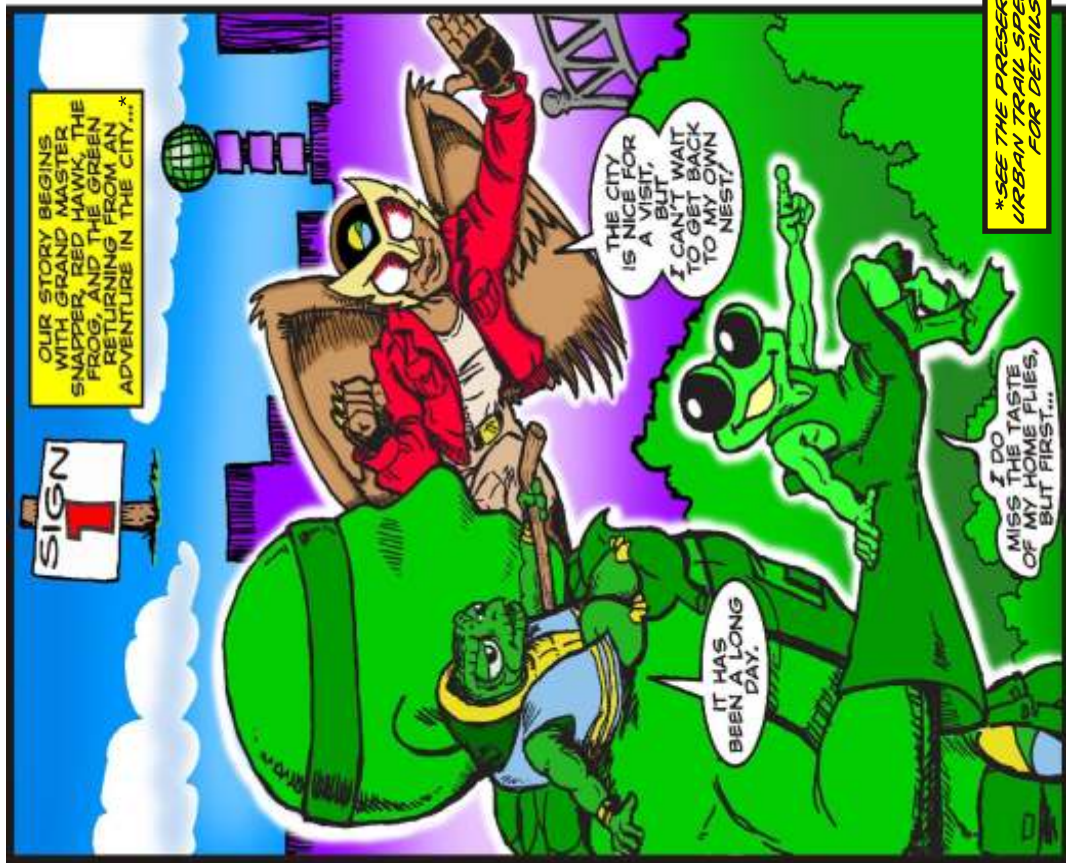
THIS FLYING DAYTIME TOP PREDATOR IS AS STRONG AND HEROIC AS HE IS FULL OF HIMSELF!



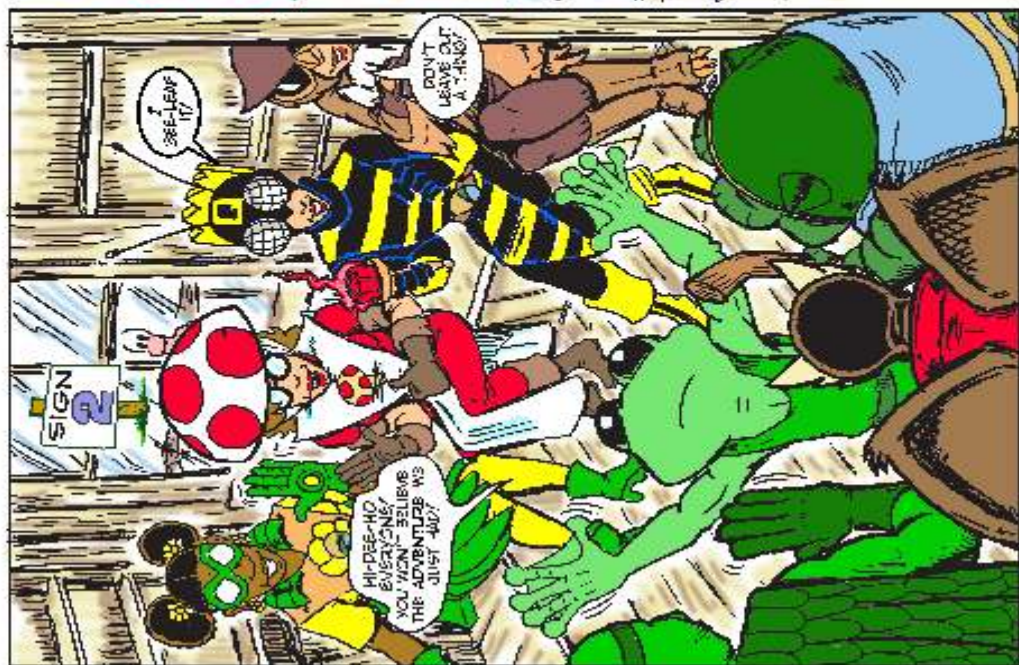




\*SEE THE PRESERVERS URBAN TRAIL SPECIAL #1 FOR DETAILS!



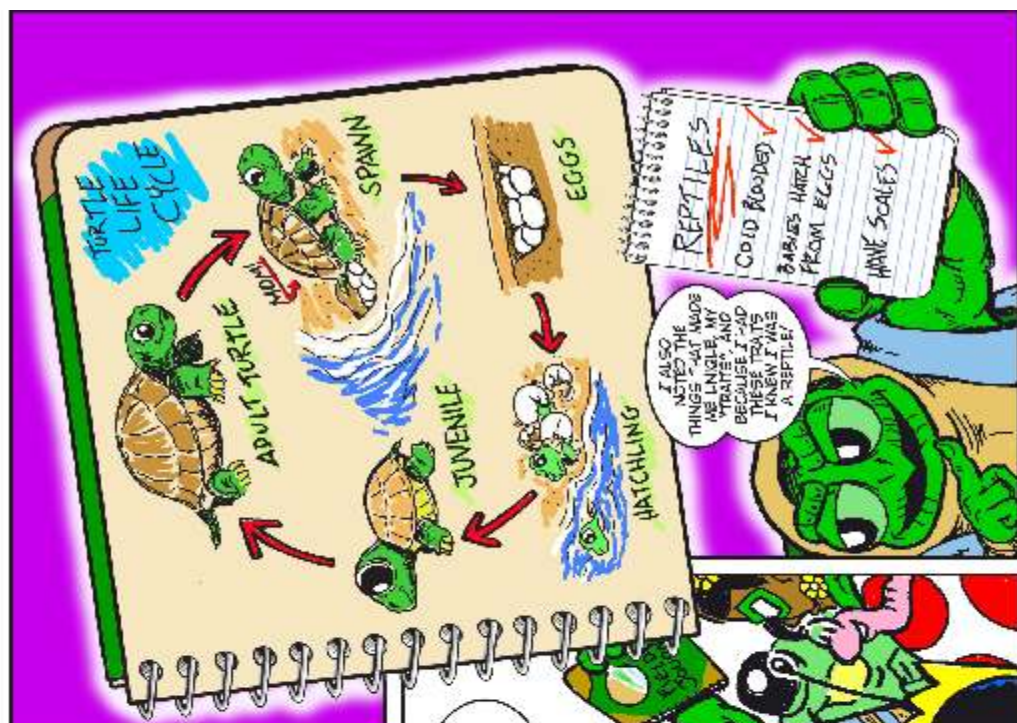


















BY THEIR TRAITS I KNEW THE LARGER CREATURES WERE FISH.

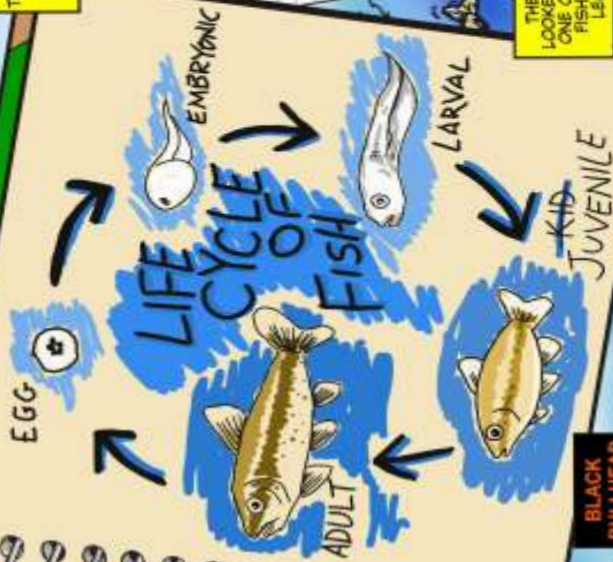
**FISH** ✓  
COLD-BLOODED ✓  
HAVE SCALES ✓  
AND FINS ✓  
BREATHE UNDERWATER WITH GILLS ✓

THEN I LOOKED AND FOUND ONE OF THE FISH HAD LEGS!

**TIPPING TADPOLES!**

**CONTINUED ON THE NEXT SIGN...**

WHAT KIND OF FISH CAN THIS BE? FISH DON'T HAVE LEGS!



**BLACK BULLHEAD CATFISH**

**GOLDFISH**

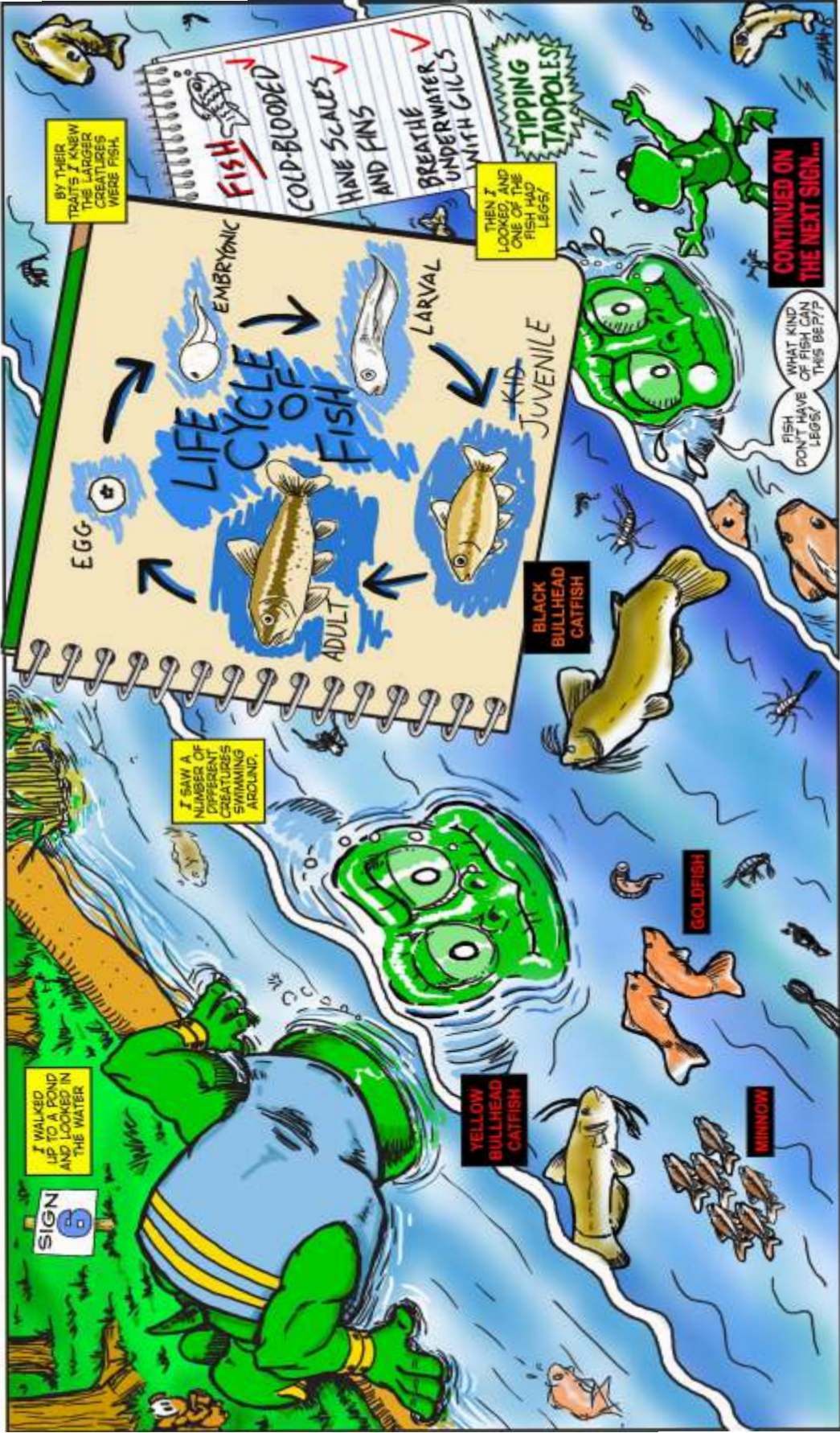
**YELLOW BULLHEAD CATFISH**

**MINNOW**

I WALKED UP TO A POND AND LOOKED IN THE WATER.

**SIGN 6**

I SAW A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CREATURES SWIMMING AROUND.







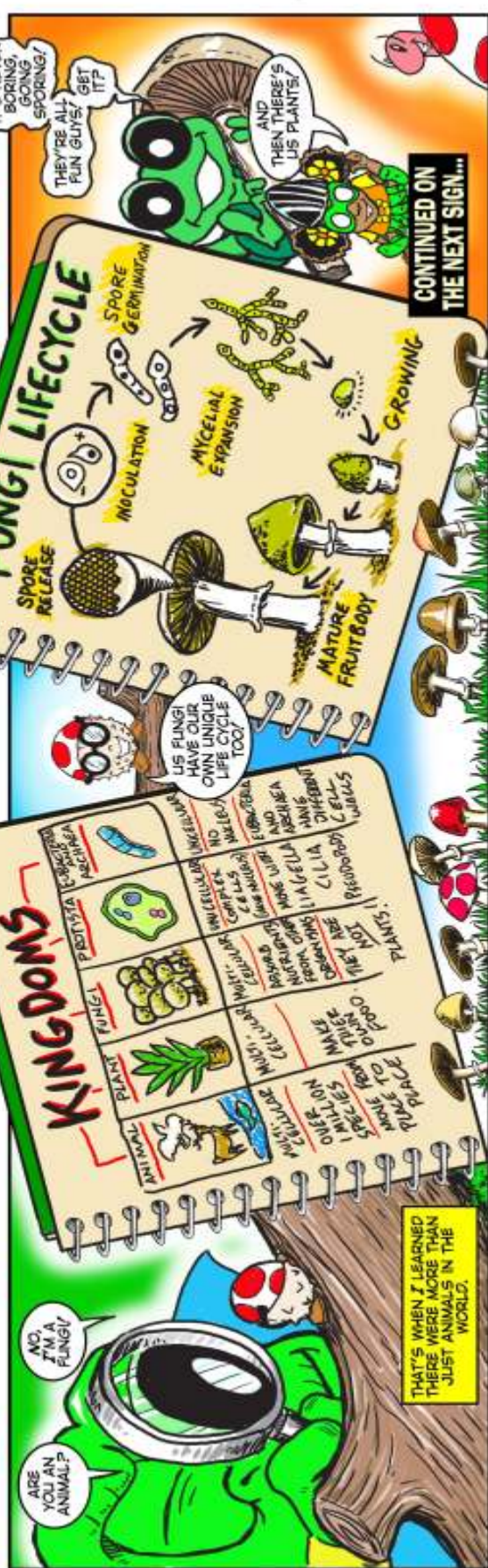




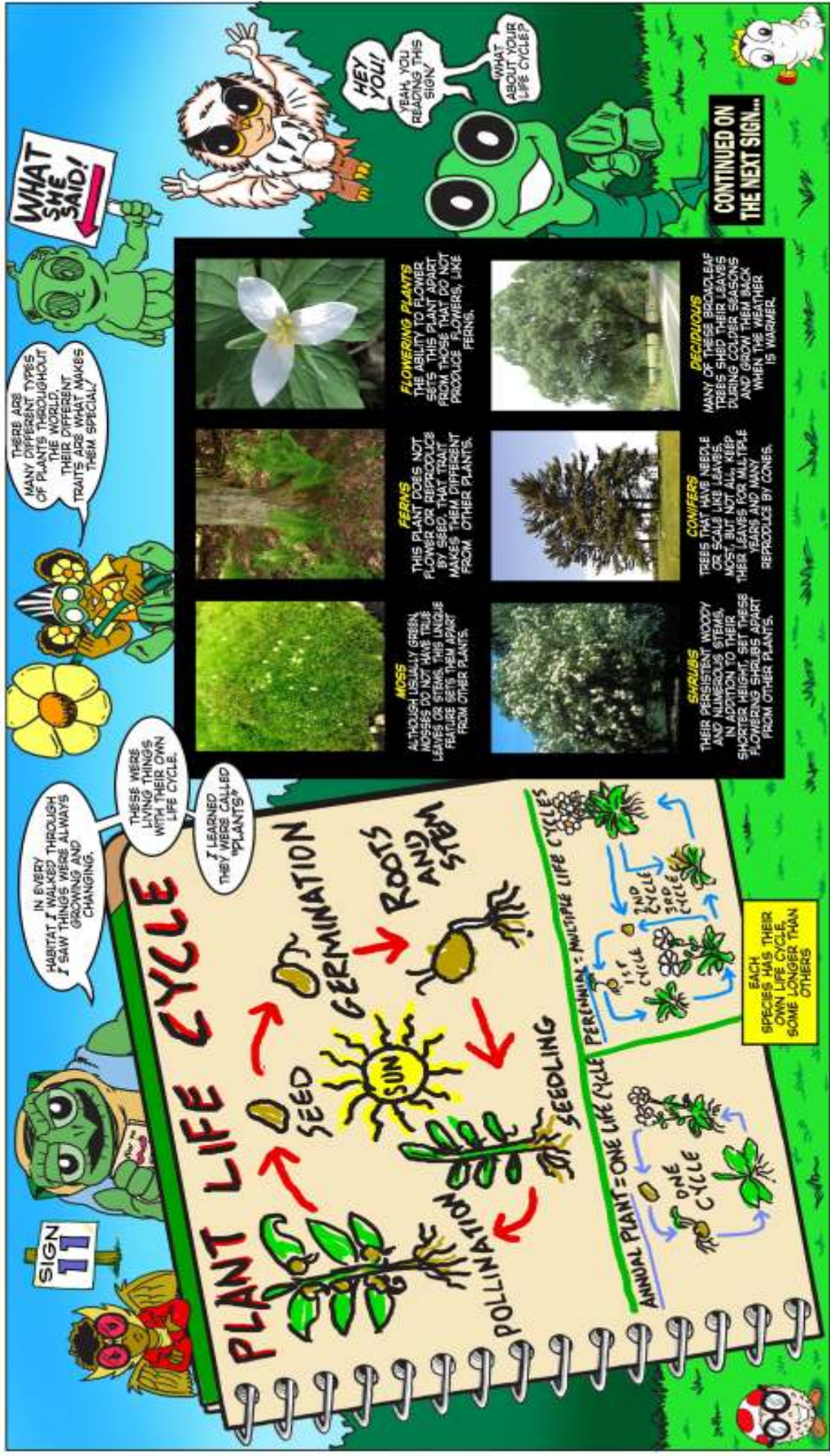












SIGN 11

IN EVERY HABITAT I WALKED THROUGH I SAW THINGS WERE ALWAYS GROWING AND CHANGING.

THESE WERE LIVING THINGS WITH THEIR OWN LIFE CYCLE.

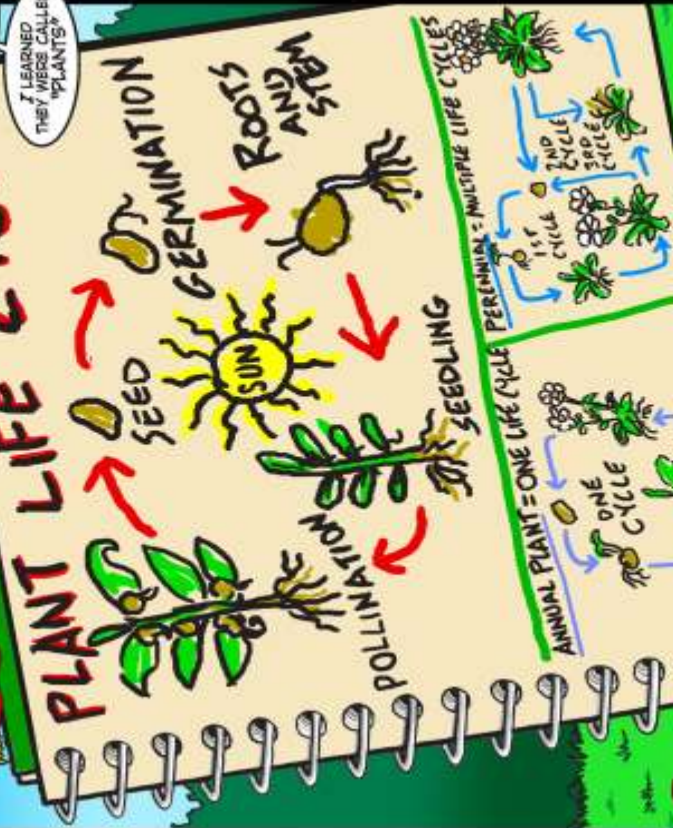
I LEARNED THEY WERE CALLED "PLANTS"

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLANTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THEIR DIFFERENT TRAITS ARE WHAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL!

WHAT SHE SAID!

HEY YOU!  
YEAH, YOU READING THIS SIGN?  
WHAT ABOUT YOUR LIFE CYCLE?

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT SIGN...



EACH SPECIES HAS THEIR OWN LIFE CYCLE SOME LONGER THAN OTHERS



**FLOWERING PLANTS**  
THE ABILITY TO FLOWER SETS THIS PLANT APART FROM THOSE THAT DO NOT PRODUCE FLOWERS, LIKE FERNS.



**FERNS**  
THIS PLANT DOES NOT FLOWER OR REPRODUCE BY SEED. THAT TRAIT MAKES THEM DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PLANTS.



**MOSS**  
ALTHOUGH USUALLY GREEN, MOSSES DO NOT HAVE TRUE LEAVES OR STEMS. THIS UNIQUE FEATURE SETS THEM APART FROM OTHER PLANTS.



**DECIDUOUS**  
MANY OF THESE BROADLEAF TREES SHED THEIR LEAVES DURING COLDER SEASONS AND GROW THEM BACK WHEN THE WEATHER IS WARMER.



**CONIFERS**  
TREES THAT HAVE NEEDLE OR FOLIAGE LIKE LEAVES. MOST CONIFERS KEEP THEIR NEEDLES FOR MULTIPLE YEARS AND MANY REPRODUCE BY CONES.



**SPRUCES**  
THEIR PERSISTENT WOODY AND NUMEROUS STEMS, IN ADDITION TO THEIR SHORTER HEIGHT, SET THESE FLOWERING SPRUCES APART FROM OTHER PLANTS.



**NAME THE TRAITS  
THAT MAKE THESE  
ANIMALS UNIQUE!**

# BIRDS

WARM BLOODED ✓

BABIES HATCH  
FROM EGGS ✓

HAVE FEATHERS  
AND WINGS ✓

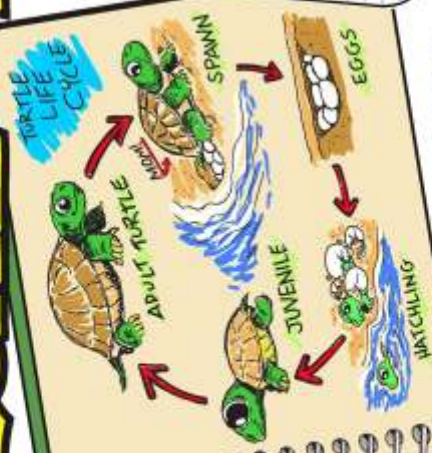


## REPTILES

COLD BLOODED ✓

BABIES HATCH FROM EGGS ✓

✓ HAVE SCALES



## AMPHIBIANS

COLD BLOODED ✓

SLIMEY SKIN ✓

BABIES HATCH FROM EGGS ✓

LIVE ON LAND  
AND IN WATER ✓

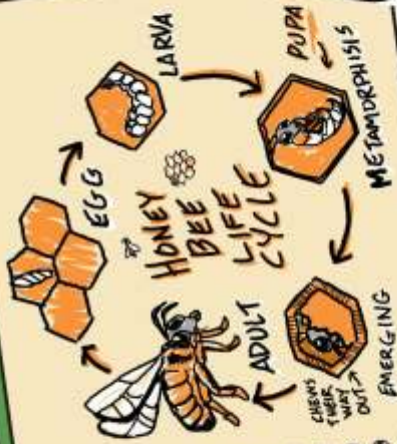


# INSECTS

NO BACKBONE ✓

✓ 5937 x 15

HAVE ANTENNAE ✓







**WRITE AN  
OUTDOOR  
MEMORY  
YOU HAD  
WITH YOUR  
FAMILY!**





**MINI NATURE EXPLORERS BECOME THE NEXT GENERATION OF NATURE'S SUPERHEROES!**





# FINISH THE GARDEN

FINISH DRAWING THIS BIG, HEALTHY GARDEN. TRY TO MAKE YOUR OWN GARDEN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!



## MY PLANT JOURNAL

DRAW AND MEASURE YOUR PLANT AS IT GROWS!

DAY 1	DAY 5	DAY 10	DAY 15	DAY 20	HOW TALL?
					5' 1/2"
					5' 1/4"
					5'
					4' 3/4"
					4' 1/2"
					4' 1/4"
					4'
					3' 3/4"
					3' 1/2"
					3' 1/4"
					3'
					2' 3/4"
					2' 1/2"
					2' 1/4"
					2'
					1' 3/4"
					1' 1/2"
					1' 1/4"
					1'
					3/4"
					1/2"
					1/4"
PLANT THE SEED.	DRAW THE SPROUT.	HOW HAS YOUR SEEDLING GROWN?	IS YOUR PLANT BLOOMING?	WHAT KIND OF PLANT DID YOU GROW?	



# GET AWAY. RIGHT AWAY. ANY DAY.

[geneseecountyparks.org](http://geneseecountyparks.org) | 800.648.PARK



Buell Lake County Park



For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum



Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad



Wolverine Campground



E.A. Cummings Event Center



Stepping Stone Falls

Busy as life can be, sometimes you just need to get away, right away. Welcome to the Genesee County Parks, Michigan's largest county park system. With more than 11,000 acres of woods, rivers, lakes, trails, beaches and campgrounds, getting away in the great outdoors is as close as one of the Genesee Parks. So when your routine starts to feel a little too routine, slip away to Mid-Michigan's favorite outdoor playground. It's just around the corner. At your Genesee County Parks.



**GENESEE COUNTY PARKS**  
Get away. Right away.