

LESSON PLAN:

Fishing in Western New York

DESCRIPTION:

This activity will allow students to create their own fishing rod, and fish, while also learning about the types of wildlife that call the Western New York waterways, like the Erie Canal, home. Fish and other aquatic animals are prevalent in our region, and this activity encourages students learn about them in a fun and engaging way.

Grade Level: 4th Grade

Activity Length: 45-minute lesson

MATERIALS:

- Fish in Western New York Waterways print outs
- Construction paper
- Glue stick
- Markers or crayons
- Mini magnet
- Paperclips
- Scissors
- Single holepunch
- String
- Tape

Note: This is a list of suggested materials, but the project can be completed without all items or with replacement materials.

DEVELOPMENT SUBJECT AREAS:

Art

- VA: CR 1.2.3.PK-5
- VA: PR 5.PK-5

Science

- 5-ESS3-1
- 3-LS3-2
- 3-LS4-2
- 3-LS4-3,4
- 2-LS4-1
- K-ESS3-1
- P-LS1-2

Funding Acknowledgment:

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Teacher Procedure

► DIRECTIONS

PART I: CREATING THE FISHING ROD

Step 1: Distribute materials to students.

Step 2: Instruct students to tape two wooden skewers or dowels together.

Step 3: Instruct students to tape enough string (at least double the length of the rod) to the top and bottom of skewers or dowels. Extra string should be hanging off one side of the fishing rod.

Step 4: Have students use glue to attach a magnet to the end of the string. Set fishing rod aside while completing Part II.

PART II: CREATING YOUR WILDLIFE

Step 1: Distribute templates of fish commonly found in Western New York waterways. Have students read brief description of the types of fish.

Step 2: Ask students to select one of the templates and have them color the fish on both sides. Students may use any design or color they wish to decorate their fish. Instruct students to cut out the two sides and glue or tape them together.

Step 3: Have students put a single hole punch in your creation and thread a paperclip through the hole.

Step 4: Place the fish in a bin or basket and have students use their fishing rods to try to collect their fish.

VOCABULARY

Aquatic: Relating to water.

Waterway: A river, canal, or other route for travel by water.

► FISH IN WESTERN NEW YORK

Bluegill: Found in Lakes Erie and Ontario, the Niagara River, the Erie Canal, and most inland lakes and ponds.



Carp: Found in most streams, the shallow bays off Lakes Erie and Ontario, as well as throughout the Niagara River and Erie Canal system.



Largemouth Bass: Found in shallow, weedy areas of the Niagara River, as well as in bays and harbors lining the shores of both Lakes Ontario and Erie.



Northern Pike: found in weedy areas around the Niagara River, as well as some of the harbors off Lakes Erie and Ontario, and the Erie Canal (especially in the spring near feeder creeks).



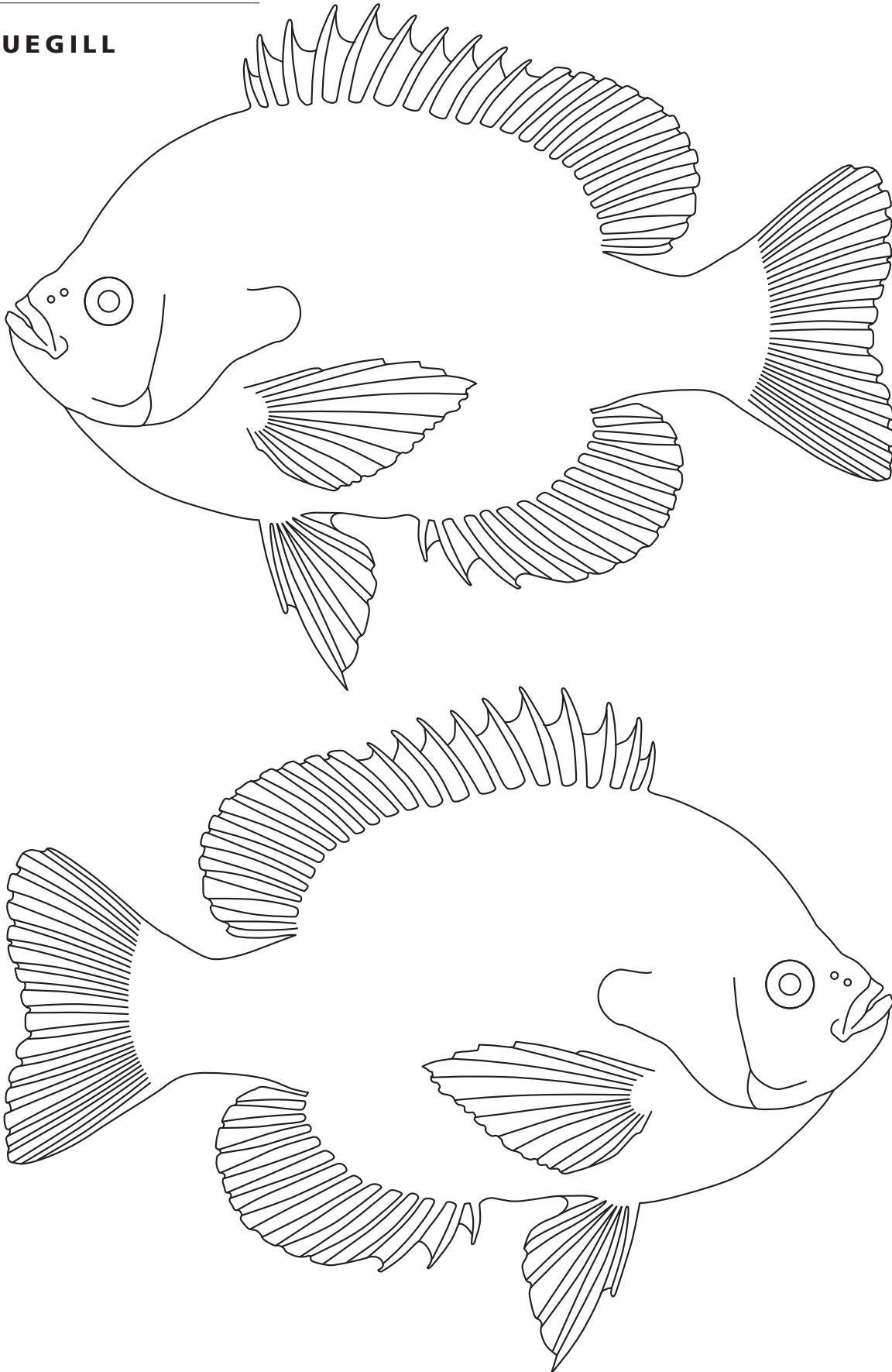
Pumpkinseed: found in Lakes Erie and Ontario, the Niagara River, the Erie Canal, and most inland lakes and ponds.



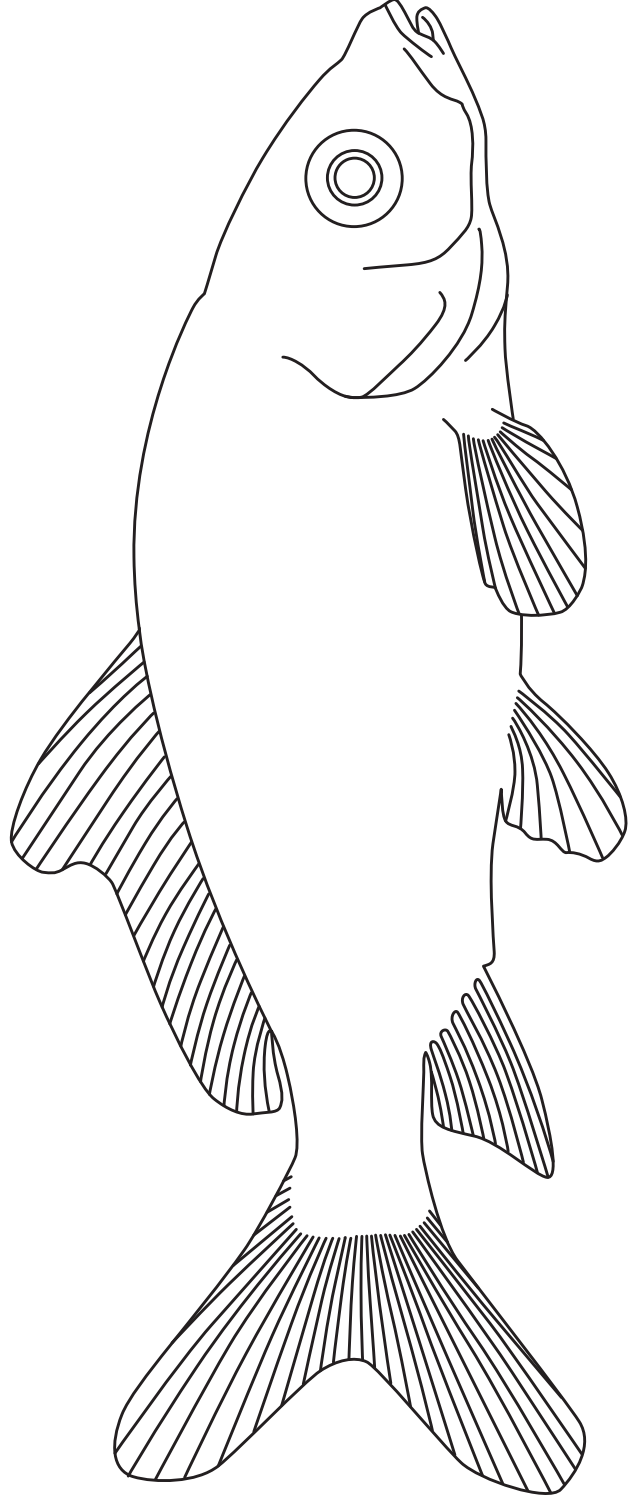
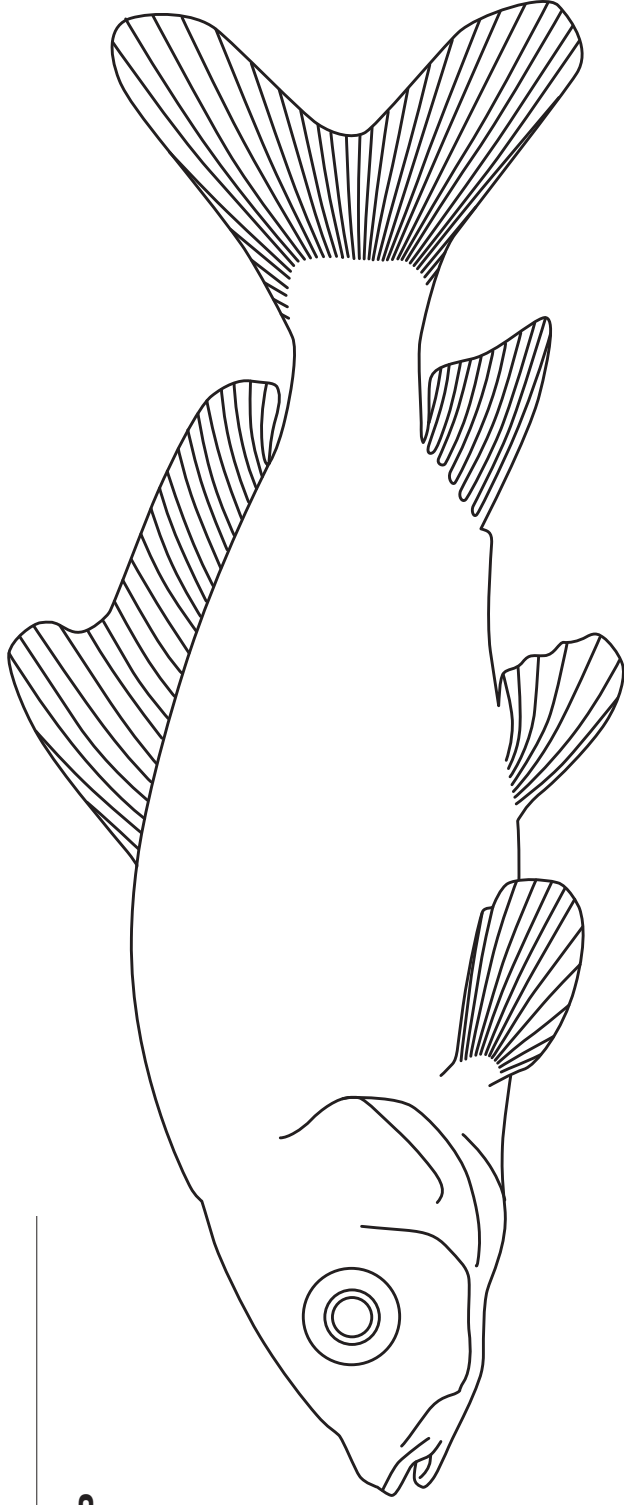
To learn more about these fish and others visit <https://www3.erie.gov/environment/fish-descriptions>

All images courtesy of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

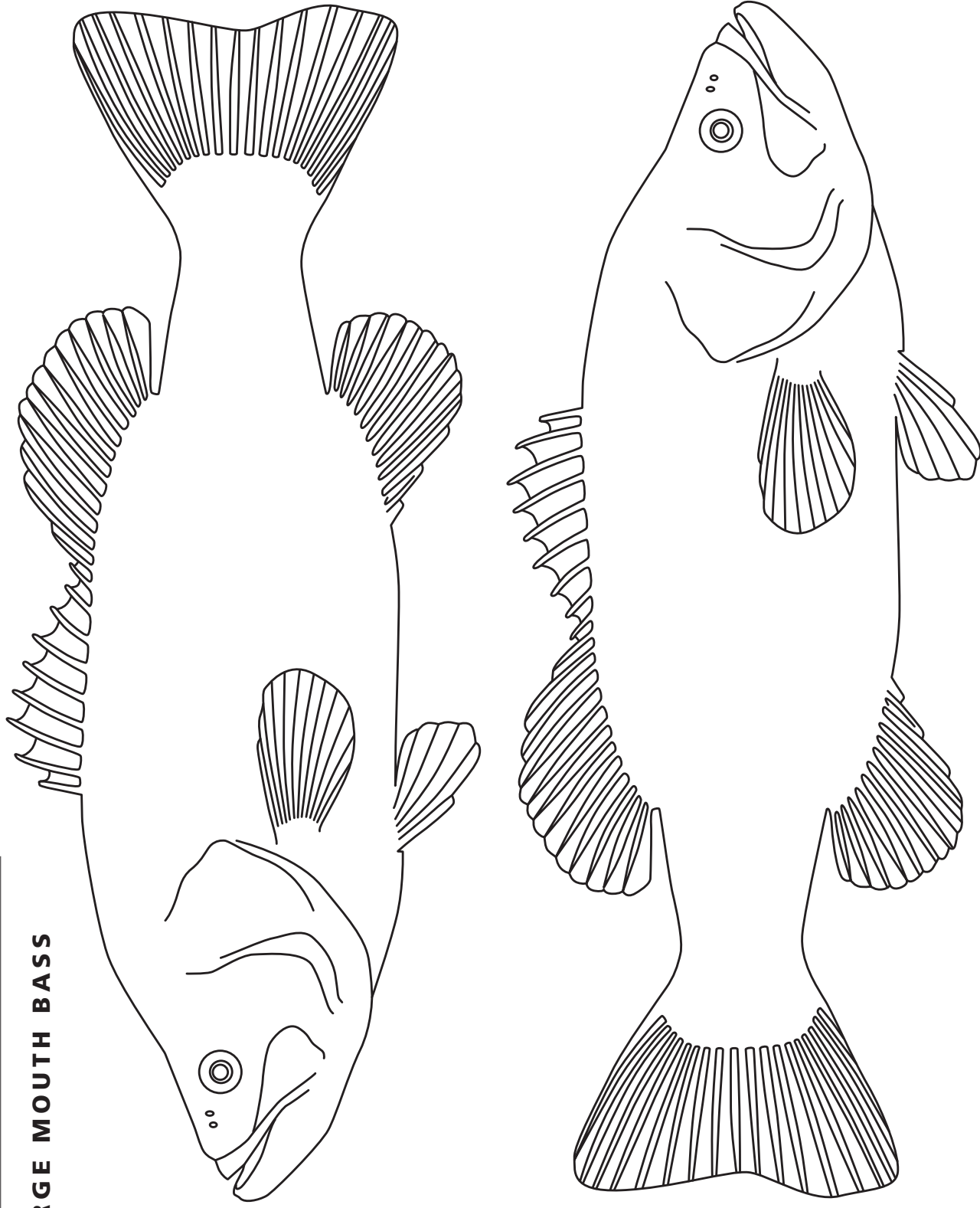
► **BLUEGILL**



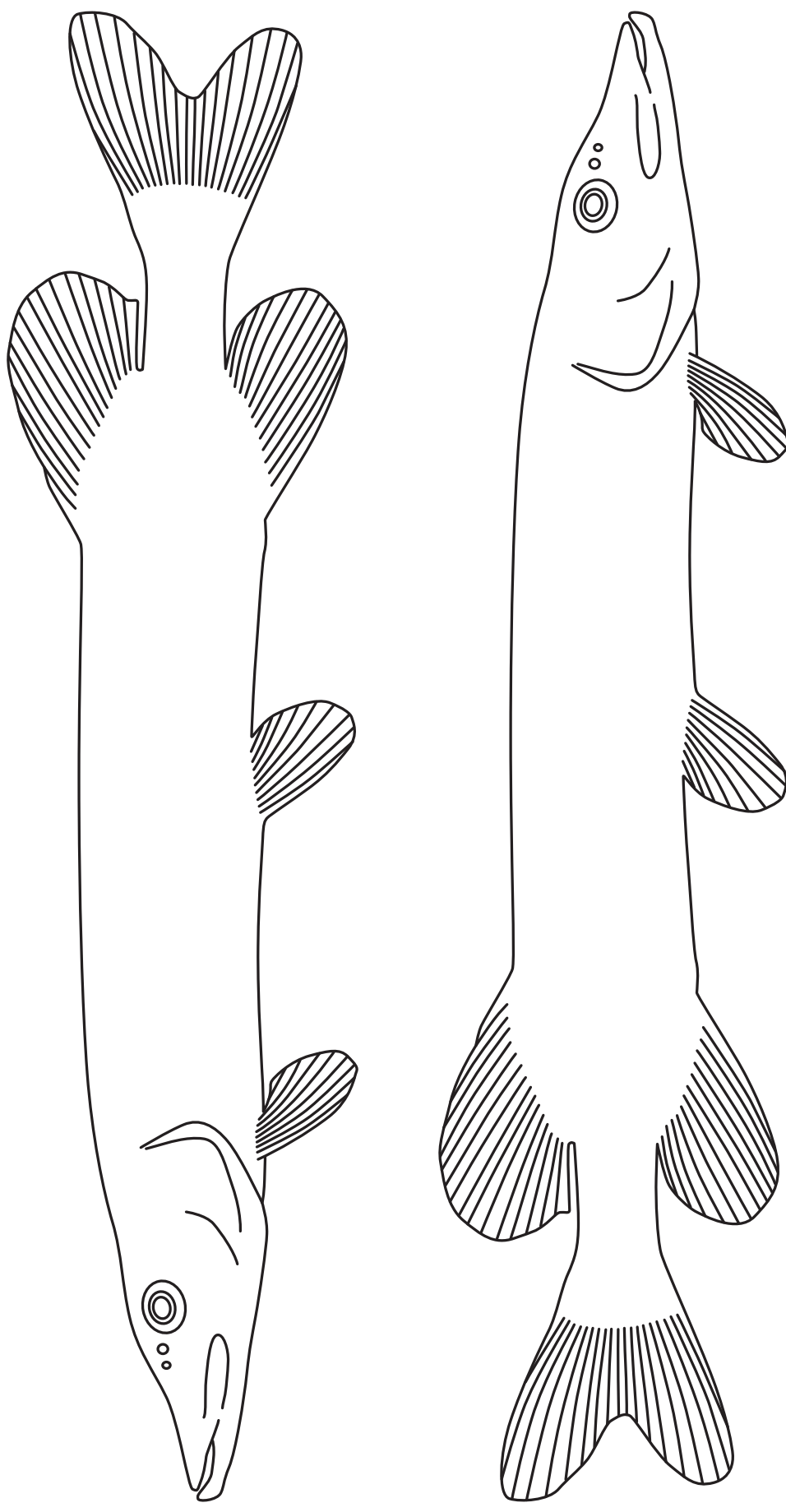
▲ **CARP**



► **LARGE MOUTH BASS**



▲ **NORTHERN PIKE**



► PUMPKIN SEED

