RIVER ALIVE! HEROES INTRODUCTION: I researched, wrote and art directed this graphic that introduces kids and adults to some key characters that make up the Delaware River watershed. River Alive! opens this year in Philadelphia.



EVERY CHARACTER THAT LIVES IN THE WATERSHED HAS AN AMAZING ROLE TO PLAY IN KEEPING THE RIVER ALIVE AND HEALTHY.

Habitat loss hurts many species in the watershed. In the Upper Delaware alone, 25 animal species are listed as threatened or endangered, with more declining every day. Many plant and insect species are disappearing, too. **By** controlling development and rejuvenating wetlands, we can help them survive.



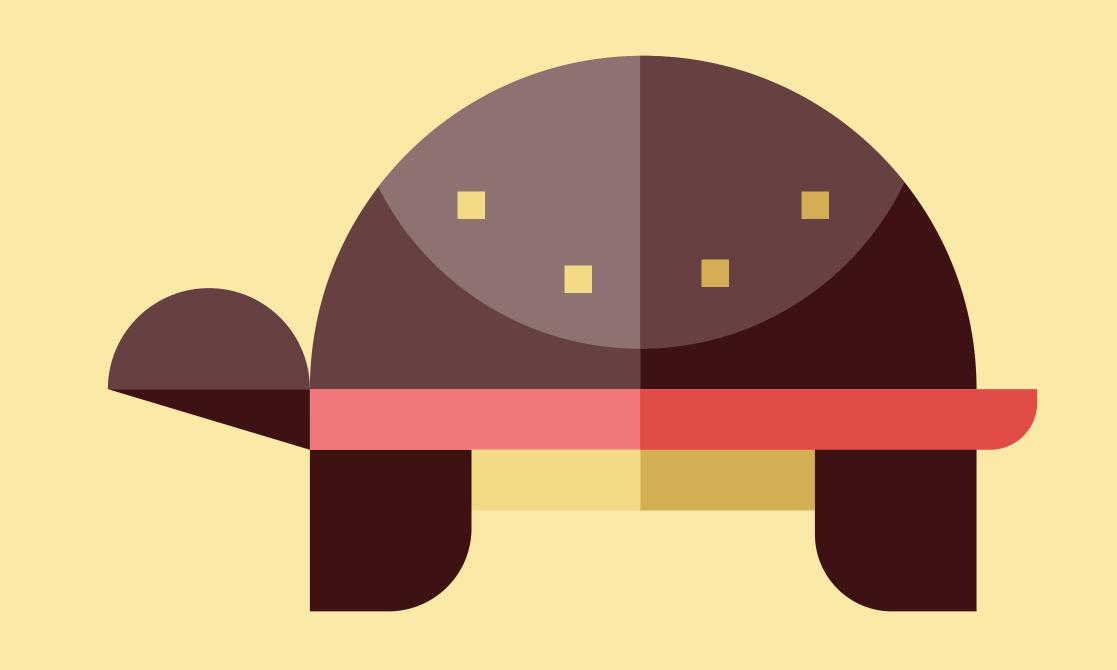
Thousands of plant, animal, and insect species work together in a complex dance of diversity that keeps the river clean, strong, and healthy.

Which river hero would

River Otter

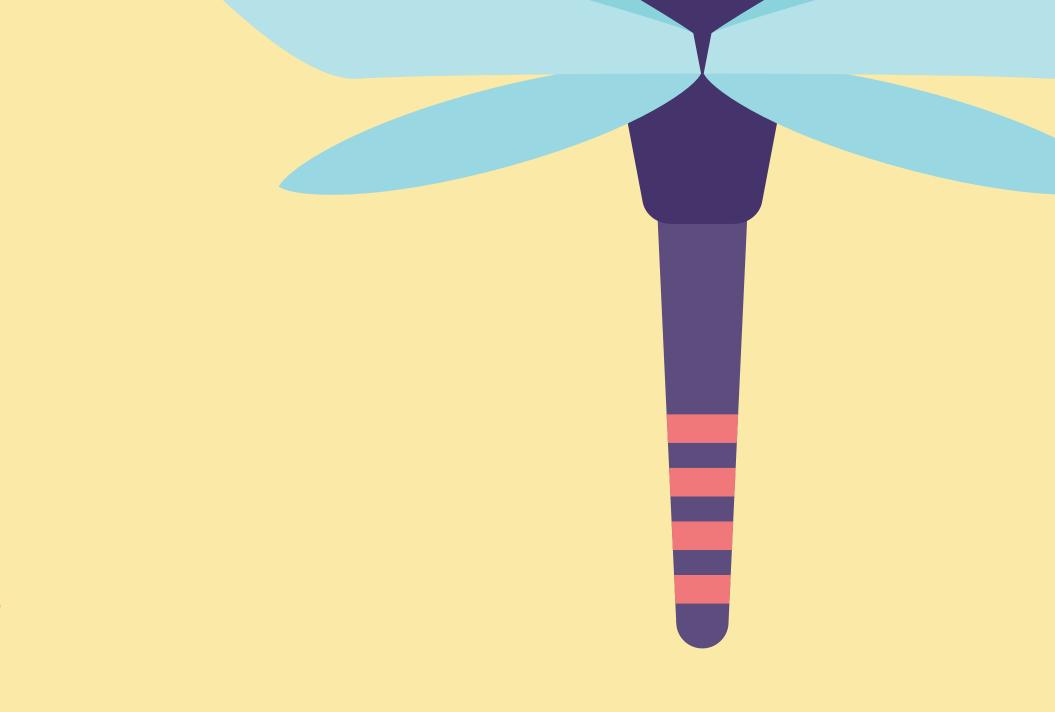
habitat to survive.

you like to be?

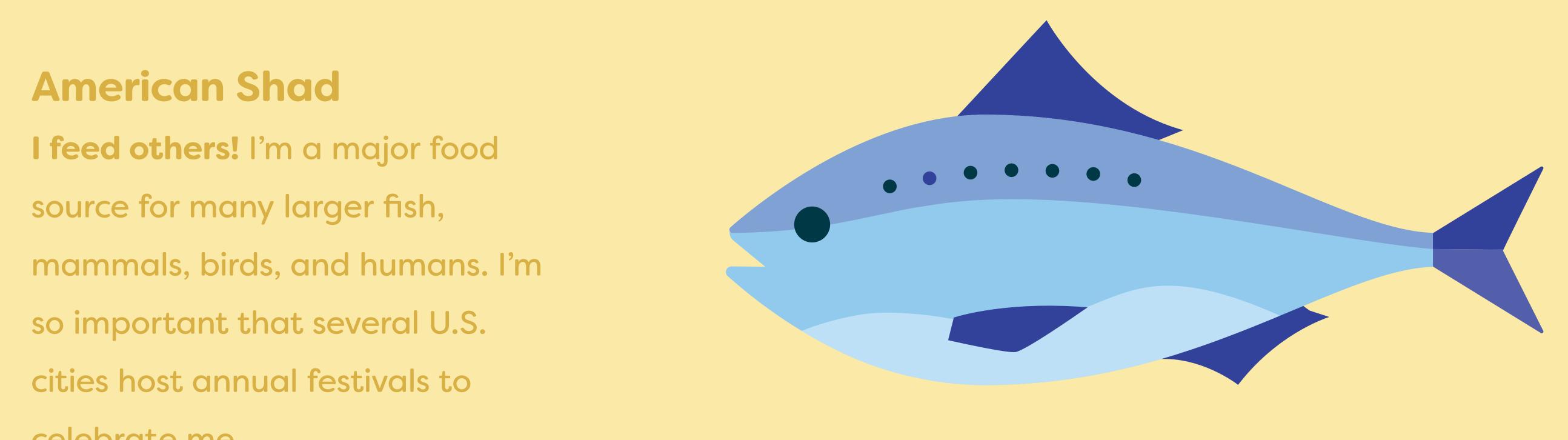


Painted Turtle

Dragonfly l'm a fierce hunter! l eat hundreds of mosquitoes, flies, gnats, midges, and wasps every day. That's how I keep insect populations in check so they don't overrun the habitat.



Dragonfly



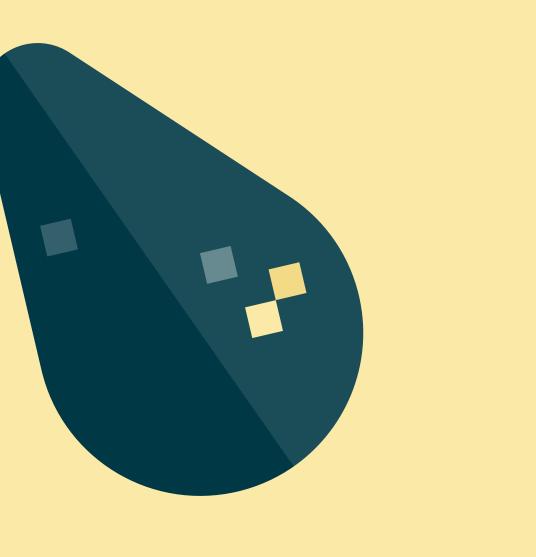
American Shad



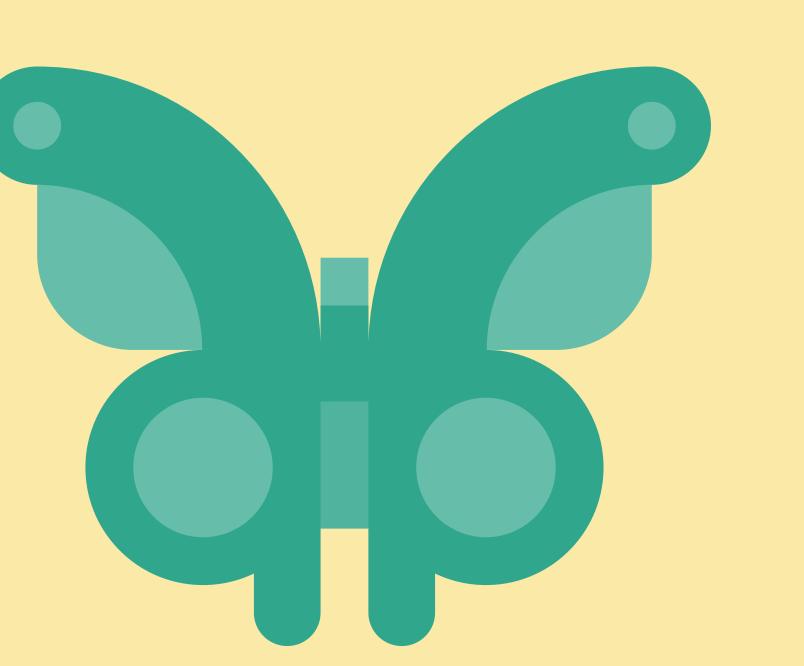
Fishing Spider

Pickerelweed

I breathe for others! My stems and leaves have air-filled chambers that leak oxygen into the soil of the riverbed, providing air for microorganisms at the base of the food chain.

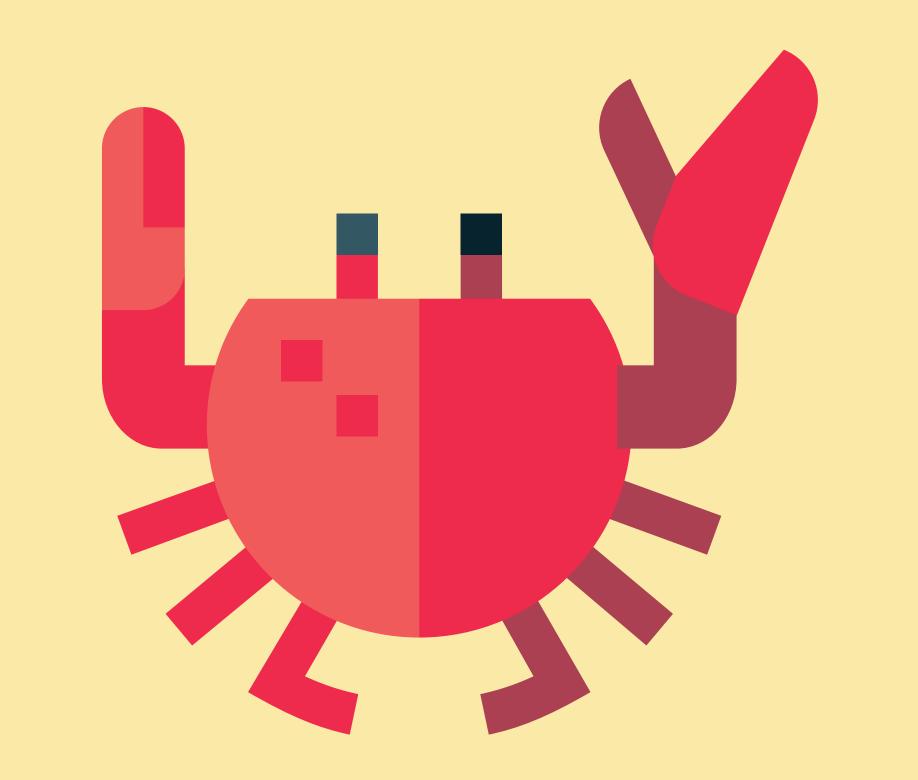


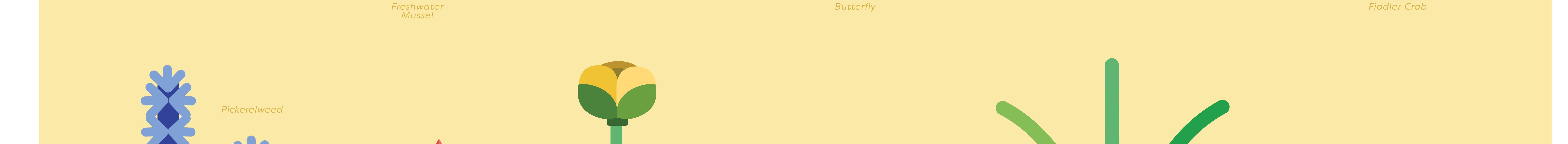
Freshwater Mussel I'm a strainer! I feed by inhaling water and filtering out tiny organic particles of food and debris. My filter feeding helps clean the water for all species that live in the river.



Fiddler Crab

I'm a cleaner! To eat, I shovel mud into my mouth, sift out bits of algae, bacteria and dead matter, and spit out the rest. This cleans the soil and adds air that helps other creatures breathe.





American Shad

celebrate me.