



Dabi

The friendly river

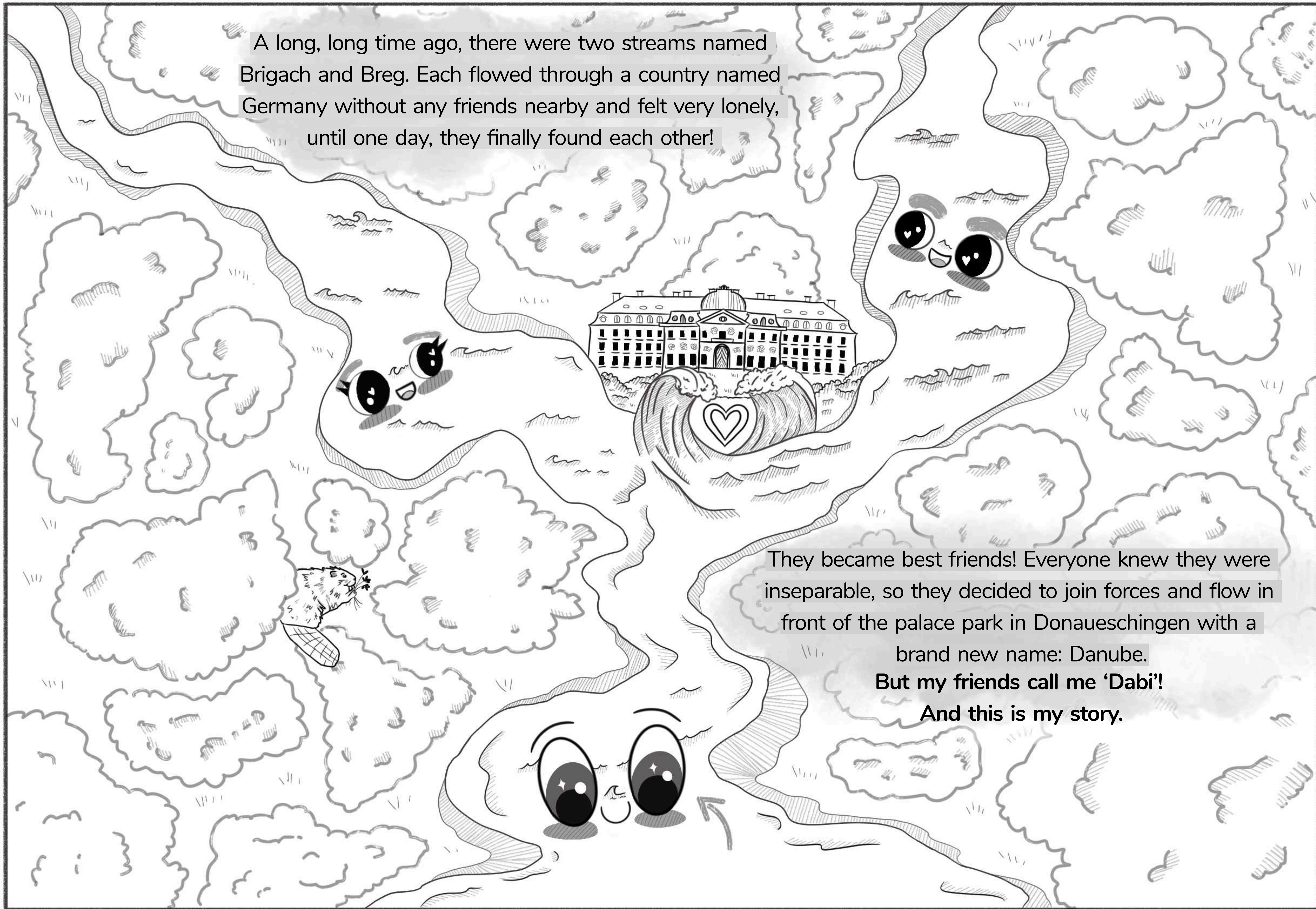
A story based on the Danube river

Can you find the beaver on each page?

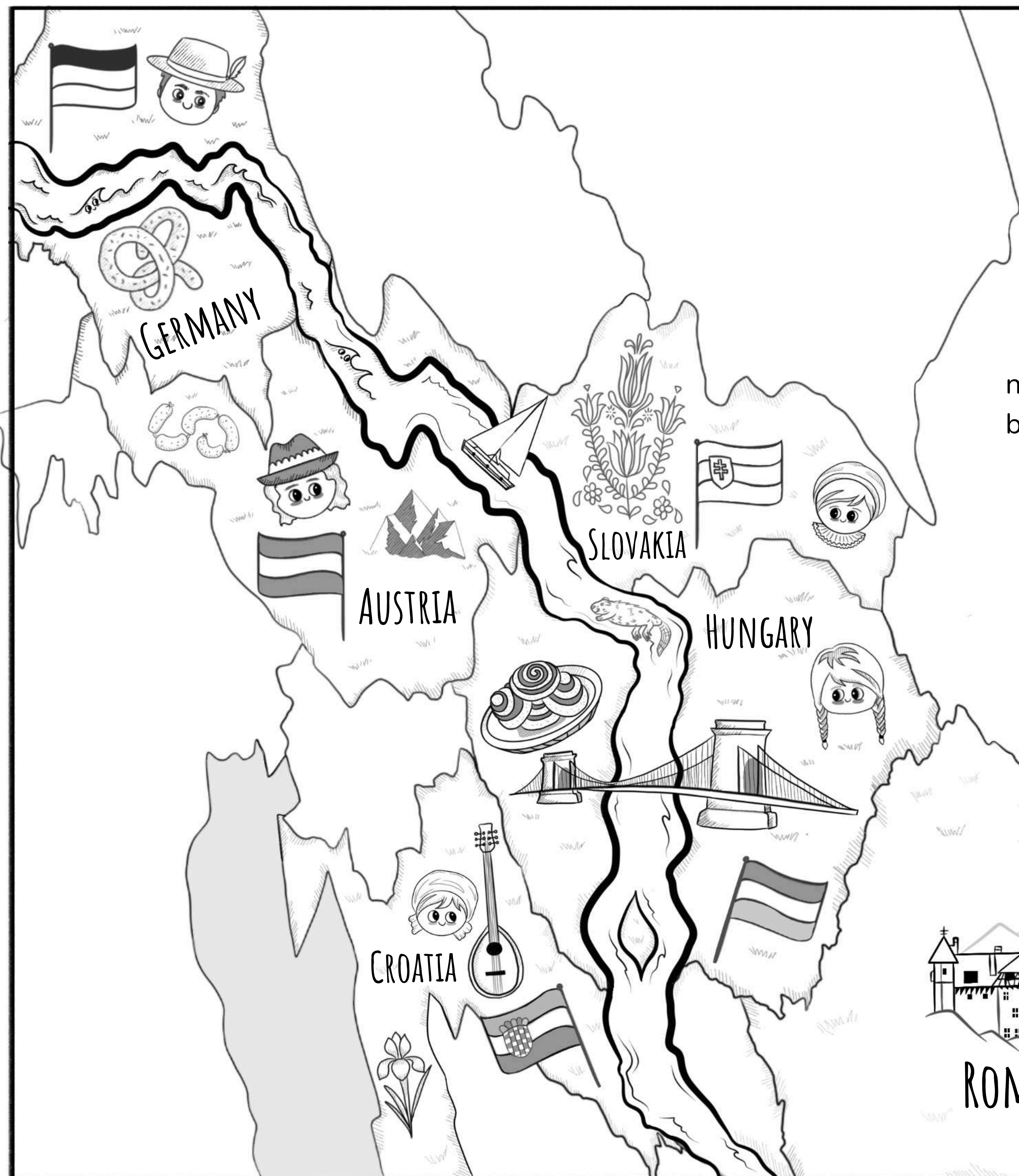


Written and illustrated by E. Tay Taleno

A long, long time ago, there were two streams named Brigach and Breg. Each flowed through a country named Germany without any friends nearby and felt very lonely, until one day, they finally found each other!



They became best friends! Everyone knew they were inseparable, so they decided to join forces and flow in front of the palace park in Donaueschingen with a brand new name: Danube. But my friends call me 'Dabi'! And this is my story.



Even though I love my home in the Black Forest, I needed to explore more countries so I started to grow bigger and larger. I traveled through multiple territories before I arrived at a very special sea, the Black sea, where my journey ended.

Those territories would later become the countries of Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Ukraine.

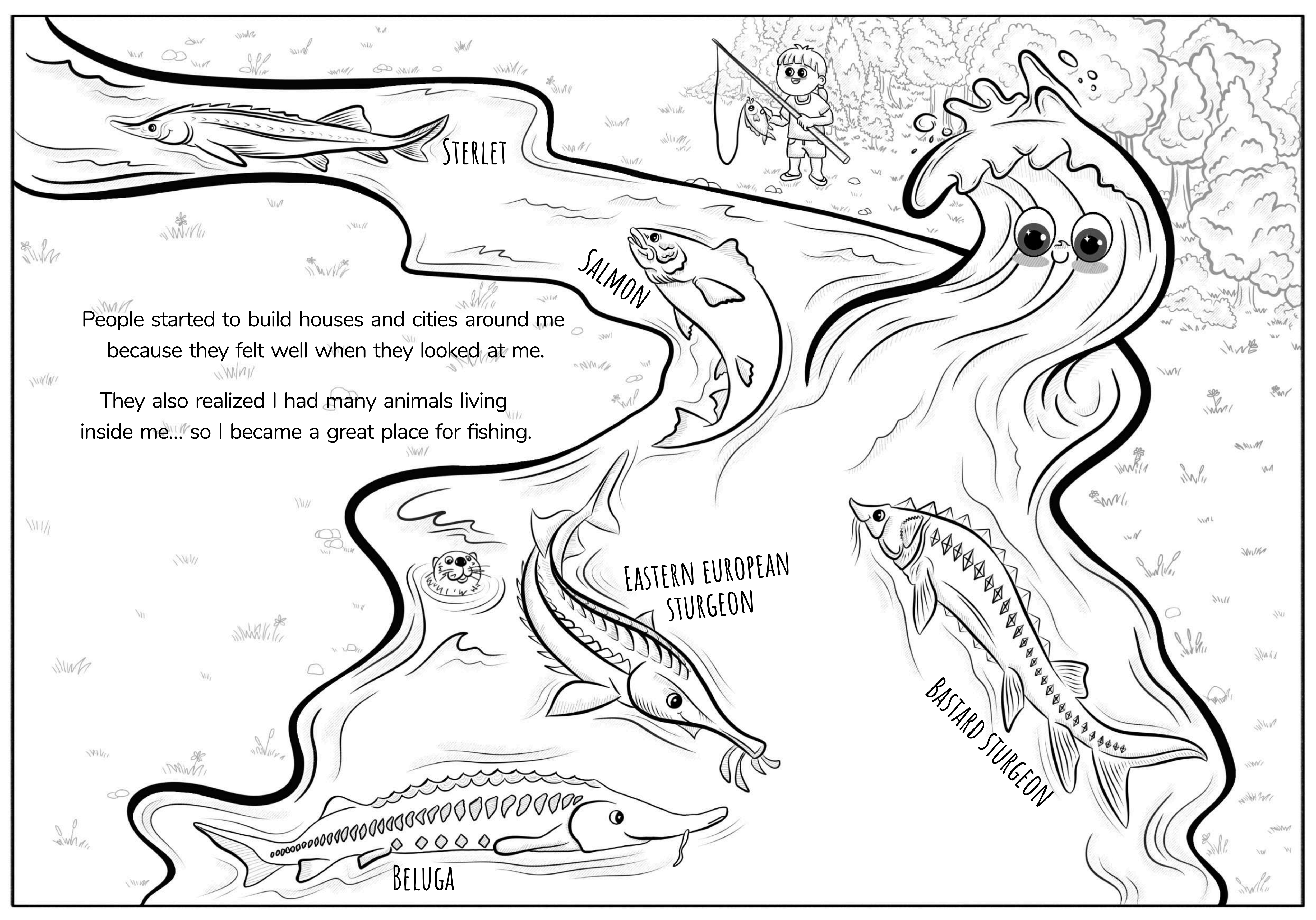


ROMANIA

I got so big that I became the second-largest river in Europe
- Volga beat me to it! But I don't mind since we are friends.

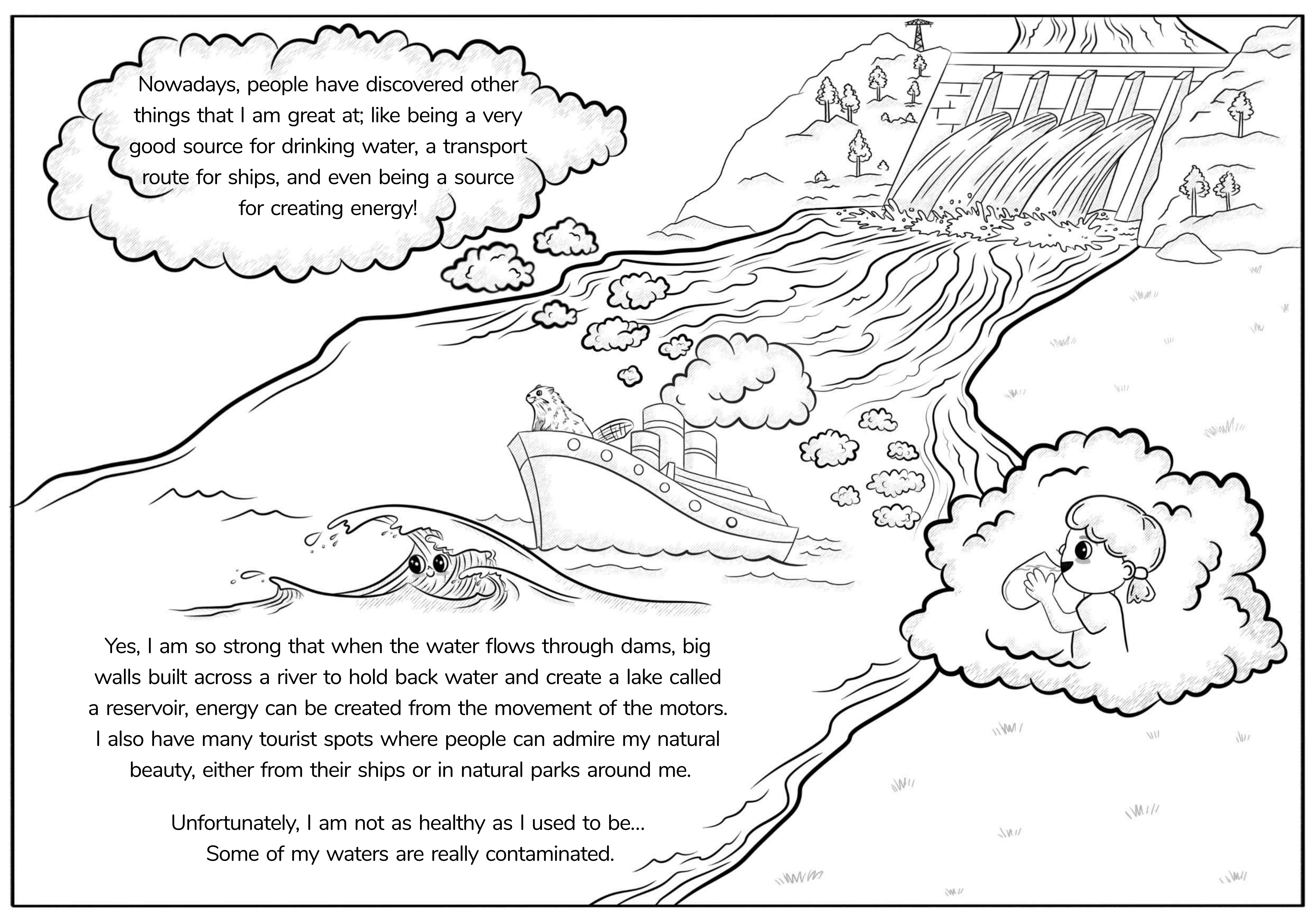
As I grew, people around me started to see the potential
things I could offer them. For example, they used me to
mark the borders of their empires and kingdoms.





People started to build houses and cities around me
because they felt well when they looked at me.

They also realized I had many animals living
inside me... so I became a great place for fishing.

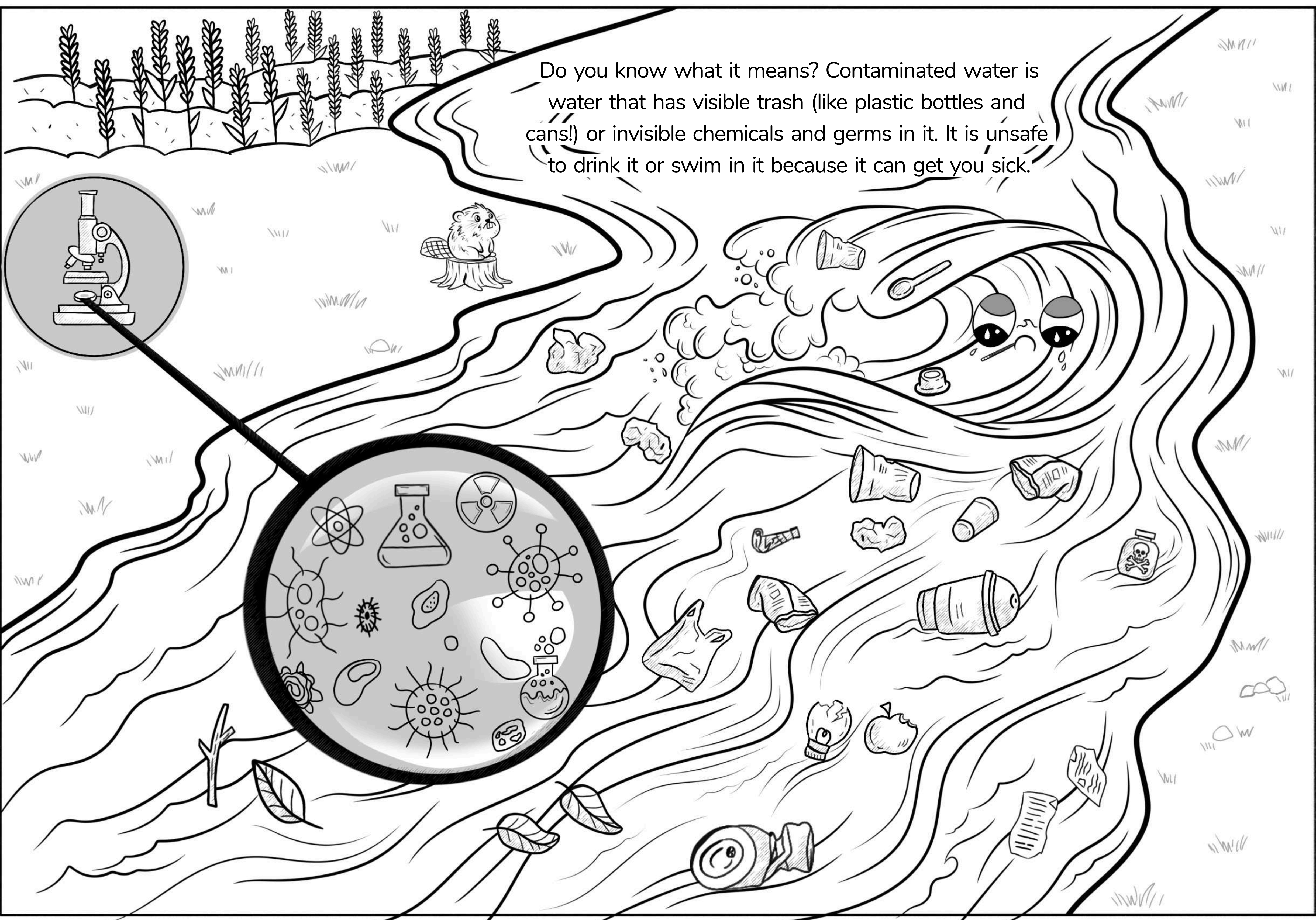


Nowadays, people have discovered other things that I am great at; like being a very good source for drinking water, a transport route for ships, and even being a source for creating energy!

Yes, I am so strong that when the water flows through dams, big walls built across a river to hold back water and create a lake called a reservoir, energy can be created from the movement of the motors. I also have many tourist spots where people can admire my natural beauty, either from their ships or in natural parks around me.

Unfortunately, I am not as healthy as I used to be...
Some of my waters are really contaminated.

Do you know what it means? Contaminated water is water that has visible trash (like plastic bottles and cans!) or invisible chemicals and germs in it. It is unsafe to drink it or swim in it because it can get you sick.



Some pollution can be caused by natural causes, like floods and storms, but the main part comes from humans who don't know they are hurting me or they don't care. For example, when they throw their garbage outside of the trash cans, when companies throw their dirty water inside of me or when farmers use chemicals that affect my fish friend's health. All of that affects me and the plants and animals inside of me!

Nevertheless, you can still help me get better!

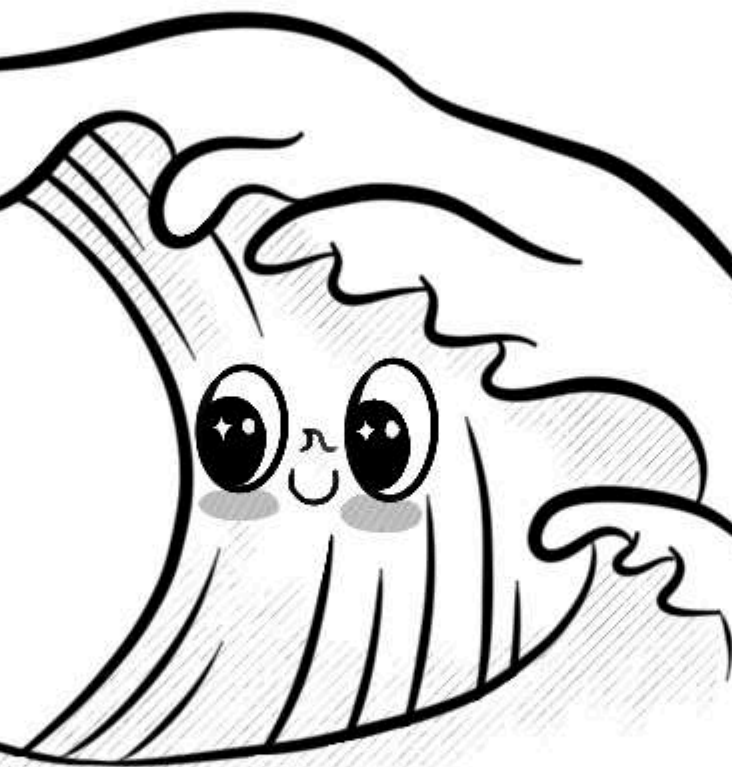


We are friends in the good and the bad! Whether you are at school or home, never throw paint and oils down the sink and toilets because that makes me sicker. Instead, give them to the adults around you so that they take care of them. Also, you could come walk alongside my shores and have a trash hunt! That is a fun way to place all the trash correctly in the bins and have a nice and clean place to have a picnic later.

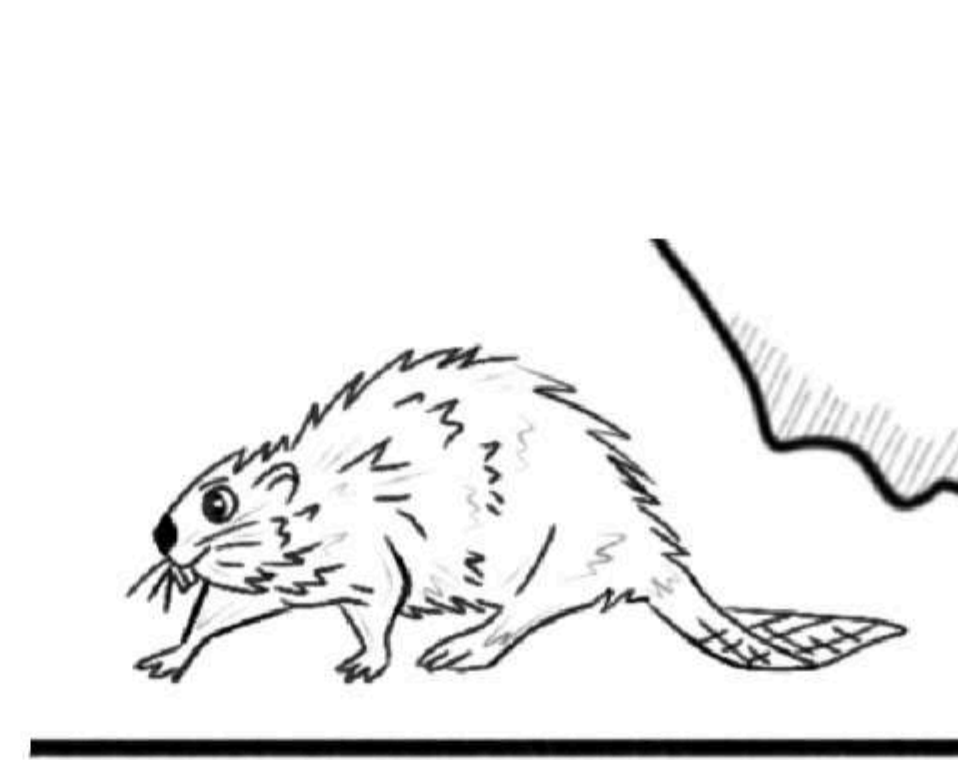
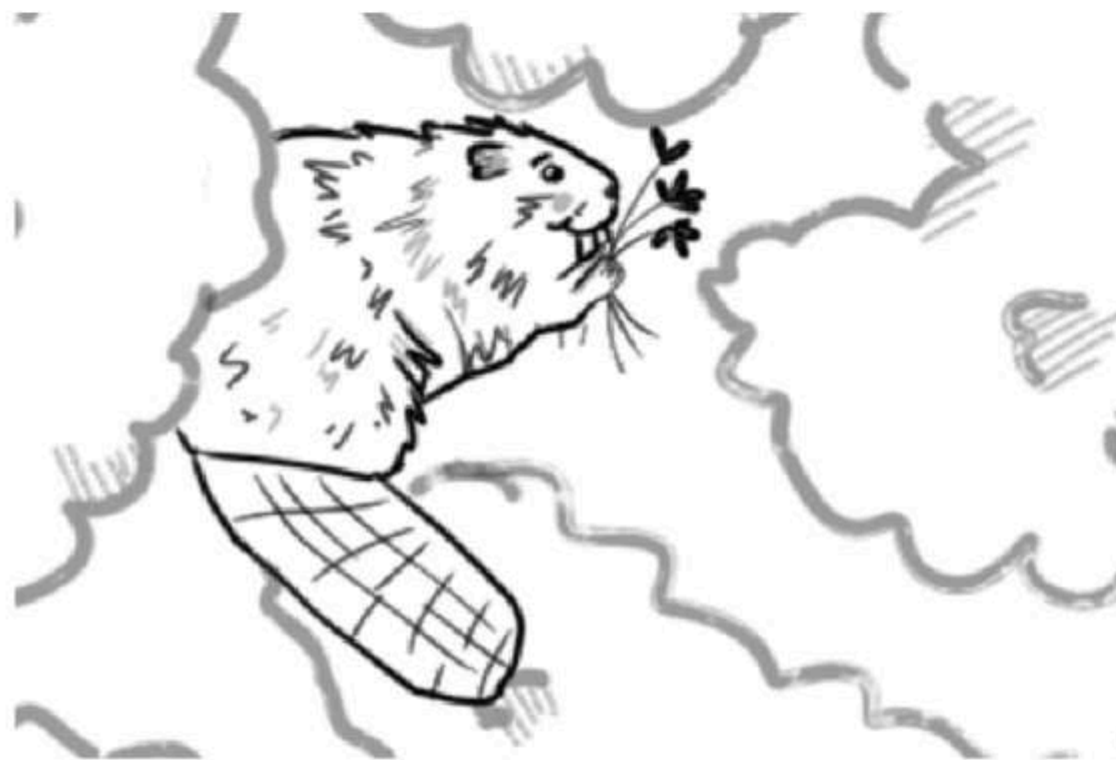
There's also national natural parks where you can plant trees and flowers, which are my medicine to get healthy over time.



Although it is not possible for you to prevent all types of water pollution, I appreciate every small aid you, your family, and your friends can give me. I want to have clean and safe waters when you come to visit me. I have lots of great hiking and biking trails, as well as beautiful sights that have created amazing legends and stories over time, **so come visit me whenever you can!**



Did you find me?



STREAM



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Thank you for your financial support
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