PEARL MUSSEL

ACTIVITY BOOK
COLOURING

Here are some pictures to colour from the book

"MAGGIE — my story"

If you have not read it already you can get it at

www.freshwaterpearlmussel.com
Once upon a time all our rivers were beautiful and clean. Trees grew right down to the water's edge and salmon and trout lived in the sparkling water. Many wonderful animals lived in the clean gravel of the river bed including our precious Pearl Mussel. Do you know any other animals that live in our rivers?
The wolf once lived in our forests and drank from our rivers. Are there any wolves living in IRELAND now?
Before there were bridges, people and their farm animals crossed rivers at shallow spots called fords. Some fords are still in use today. People began living close to many of the busy crossing spots and these became towns. Some of them still have the word 'ford' in their names. Do you know any?
Many Pearl Mussels alive in our rivers today are over 100 years old and have seen lots of things that we only learn about in history books.
Many rivers were changed by making them deeper and straighter so that they would carry water away faster. This was very bad for the animals and plants that lived in the river. We need to be very careful about how we do this type of work so that we do not damage our rivers and their wildlife.
We can make our rivers cleaner by planting trees along the banks and using fences to keep animals out of the water.
Salmon spawn in rivers but the young fish return to the sea for a year or two. There they grow big before they return to the same river in which they were born. They have a dangerous journey swimming up the river before they reach a place to spawn. On the next page there is a game to play in which that dangerous journey up the river must be made.
THE SALMON RACE You are a salmon returning to the river from the sea and trying to reach the lake. Make a small salmon with plasticine. Throw a dice and move forward. If you stop on a box with a note, do as you are told and see how you get on!

- You are washed down the falls - go back to 47
- Fish pass - move up to 51
- Flood - go back to 27
- Pollution spill - go back to 14
- You are washed down the falls - go back to 19
- Rest in the pool - miss one go
- Fish pass - move up to 10
- Poachers nets - go back to 57
- Heavy weed growth - miss one go
- Low water - miss one go
- Slow current - up to 42
- Side stream shortcut - up to 34
TWENTY WORDS TO FIND

ALDER  BANK
BUBBLE  DOG
FORD  HOME
MOUTH  MUSSEL
RIVER  SALMON

SAND  SHELL
SOLDIER  STREAM
TREE  TROUT
WATER  WILLOW
WOLF  WORLD
TWENTY WORDS TO FIND - ANSWERS

Did you find them?
Nearly all of these trees grew along our rivers when Maggie the Mussel was born, but the Horse Chestnut was only brought to this country in recent times.
# Fill in Events That Happened on the Time Line

A couple are already in. When were you or your Granny born?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEARS</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2013 Maggie tells her own story</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>1990</td>
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<td>1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1912 The sinking of the Titanic</td>
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<td>1900</td>
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<td>1890</td>
<td>1890 Maggie the pearl mussel was born</td>
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<td>1840</td>
<td>1845 William Parsons built the biggest telescope in the world at Birr</td>
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<td>1790</td>
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<tr>
<td>1780</td>
<td>1786 The last wolf was killed in Ireland</td>
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<td>1770</td>
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<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>1760 Maggie’s mother was born</td>
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</table>
FEET WITH HEADS
If you lived in the river and saw feet crossing at the ford would you know who they belonged to? 
Join them correctly
CROSSWORD - Answers

ACROSS
15. PIGEON 17. WHALE 19. BADGER 20. NEWT

DOWN
2. OTTER 4. CRAB 5. COW 6. CAT 8. TREE 10. IVY 11. CROW
12. SEAL 13. PIG 16. EGGS 18. HEN

Run through the maze to try and catch the rabbit
QUIZ TIME

1. How many legs has a ladybird
2. How many wings on a honeybee
3. Which is bigger a mouse or a hedgehog
4. What tree has acorns
5. What colour is the dandelion flower
6. Has an adult frog got a tail
7. Can a chicken swim
8. What is the biggest animal alive
9. What Irish animal has a black and white face
10. How many legs has a spider got

Now here is a bonus question.
What animal in Ireland lives to the greatest age?
QUIZ TIME - Answers

1. Six
2. Four
3. Hedgehog
4. The Oak
5. Yellow
6. No
7. No
8. The Blue Whale
9. The Badger
10. Eight

Answer to Bonus Question:
The freshwater Pearl Mussel. 
It can live to 140 years of age!
Have you read Maggie’s story?
(www.freshwaterpearlmussel.com)

How many did you have right?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>Great</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/10</td>
<td>Einstein!</td>
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</table>

If you got the bonus question right you deserve 10/10!!
TANGLED LINES
Follow the line to see what the fisherman has caught
Write down the names of some rivers and streams in your area.
Write down some animals that live in the river.

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How can you help to keep the River clean?
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This publication is also available at www.freshwaterpearlmussel.com