

Where do Brook Trout keep their money?

In the riverbank.

## A Brook Trout Mystery Word

In each set of letters, cross out the letters that appear more than once. Write the remaining letter in the line below each set to discover the mystery word.

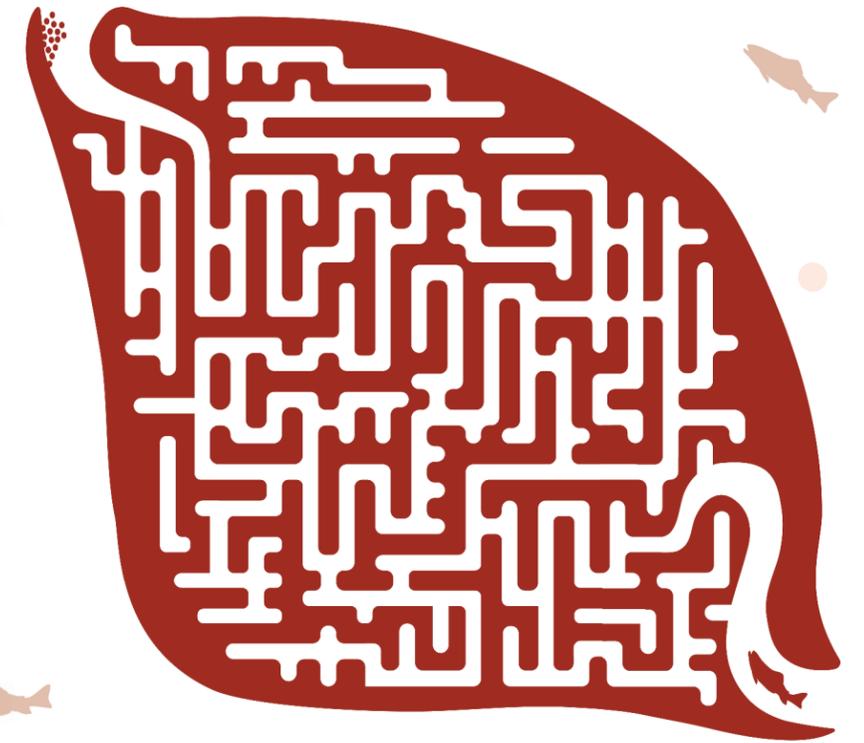
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | P | E | M | R | K | T | R | C | U | N | O | B | L | E |
| R | J | T | I | T | M | R | C | L | Y | Y | J | J | T | E |
| P | R | E | T | K | I | O | L | T | O | J | N | L | J | B |

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## Maze With a Mission

Help the female Brook Trout swim upstream to spawn her eggs.

End



Start

## Brook Trout Word Search

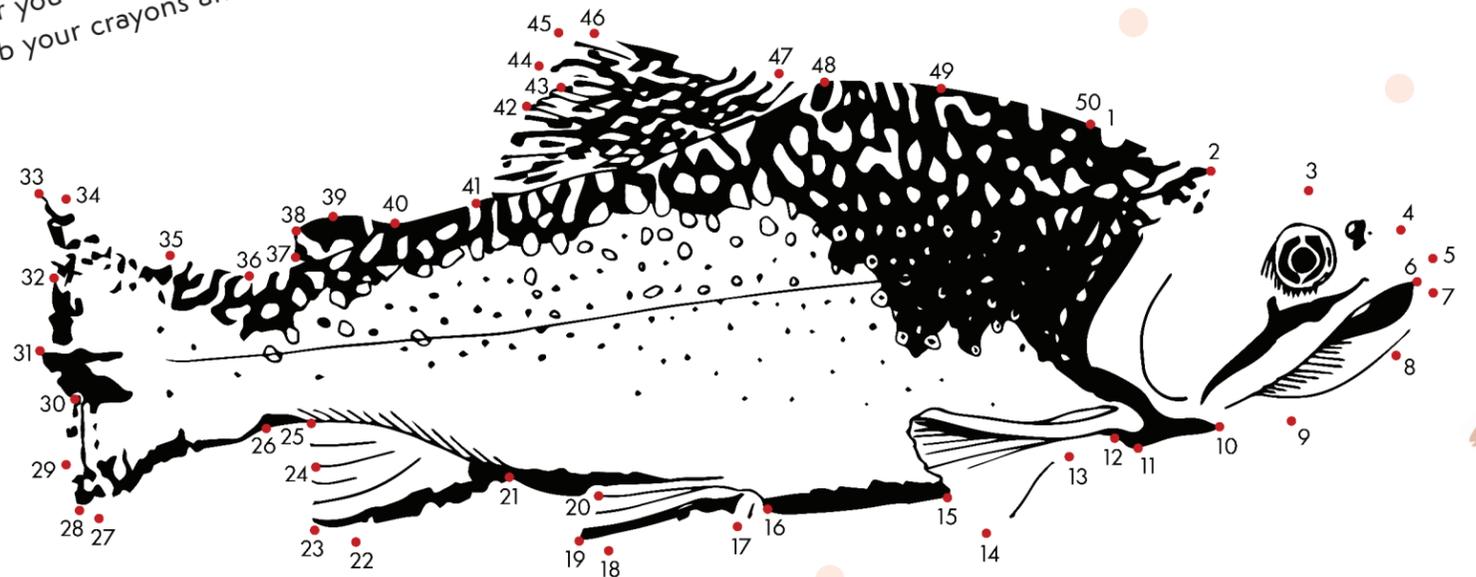
Find the words in the left column in the word puzzle. Words can be diagonal and backwards, too.

- FISH
- TROUT
- STREAM
- SOUTHERN
- APPALACHIAN
- NATIVE
- COLDWATER
- SCALES
- SALMONID
- FRESHWATER
- FINS
- FISHING
- SPAWNING
- RESTORATION
- TENNESSEE

N W G V E E B S M R S B J D N  
P A B N V F A J E G O X Q D Q  
Q B I I I L O T W M U N V A Y  
W K T H M H A O T A T O L Z J  
E A C O C W S R P E H I Y P C  
N W N P H A T I J R E T K W K  
J I L S E K L E F T R A V B S  
D Z E A B J H A N S N R F C F  
J R Y P I T W Y P N Y O F I X  
F G N I N W A P S P E T N S D  
C O L D W A T E R K A S F H J  
S C A L E S F R H C K E S V P  
F C B B R P I A O D X R P E D  
U H U X V H S P N U B R H V E  
F K D O J B H Z T S T F Z N J

## Connect the Dots

After you connect the dots on the image below, grab your crayons and markers and color it in!



# TENNESSEE'S NATIVE BROOK TROUT

## Southern Appalachian Natives

Did you know the Southern Appalachian Brook Trout is the only trout species naturally found in Tennessee? They can be found in mountain streams, where the water is cold and fast-moving. Adult Brook Trout live by themselves in large pools until moving upstream to mate in groups, also known as spawning.

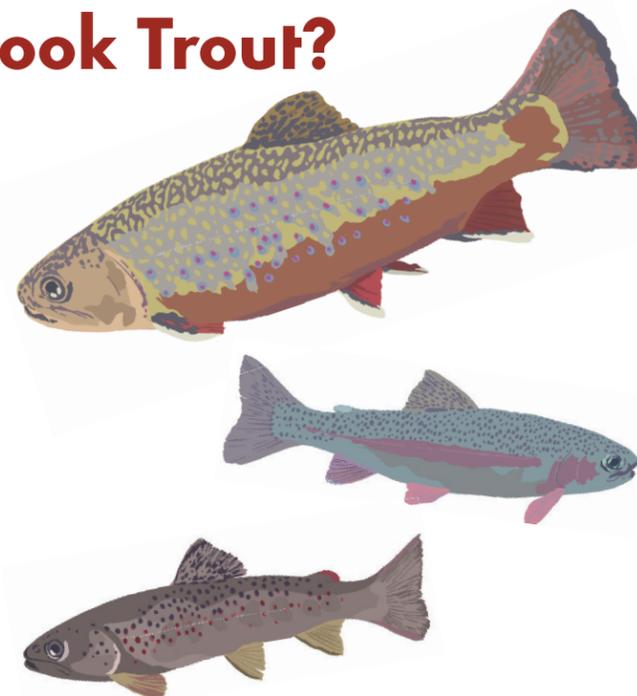
In order to reach spawning locations, Brook Trout can jump up small waterfalls as high as 2½ feet! Once they arrive, females use their fins to create nests on the bottom of the stream that look like large bowls. Once their eggs are laid, parents will cover them up and head back downstream. When the baby fish hatch, they will have to fend for themselves.

Humans have released other species of trout like Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout into Tennessee's streams to be caught by fishermen. Unfortunately, these other fish compete with Brook Trout for food and territory, causing Brook Trout numbers to decline. Today, biologists are reintroducing Brook Trout into their native streams. One method they use is translocation. This means the fish are moved from a stream with a lot of Brook Trout into one where there are almost none left. Once they are released, the translocated Brook Trout help to jump start a new population.

Another way biologists help Brook Trout is by planting more grasses, bushes and trees that grow along a stream bank. These plants keep the stream bank from wearing away while also providing shade to keep the water cool, which Brook Trout love! With a healthy waterway, a stream can host a larger and healthier population of Brook Trout.

## How do you know it's a Brook Trout?

1. All three species have spots, but Brook Trout are the only ones with red spots with blue halos.
2. Southern Appalachian Brook Trout usually have orange bellies, and their bottom fins are outlined by both a black and a white stripe.
3. Rainbow Trout have a large pink line down their sides.
4. Brown Trout have a square tail. Brook and Rainbow Trout have forked tails.



## The Tennessee Aquarium in Action

Biologists at the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute are working to restore Southern Appalachian Brook Trout using captive propagation. Adult trout are collected from a stream and taken to our freshwater science center to lay their eggs. Once the babies hatch, they are raised until they are a few inches long and strong enough to survive in the wild. Scientists then release them into mountain streams, where they hopefully grow up to adulthood. This allows biologists to put large numbers of fish back into the wild.

## TRUE or FALSE

1. Brook Trout are the only native trout to Tennessee.
2. Brook Trout like to live in warm water.
3. Brook Trout feed on terrestrial insects that fall in the water.

1. True 2. False 3. True