

Bluegill

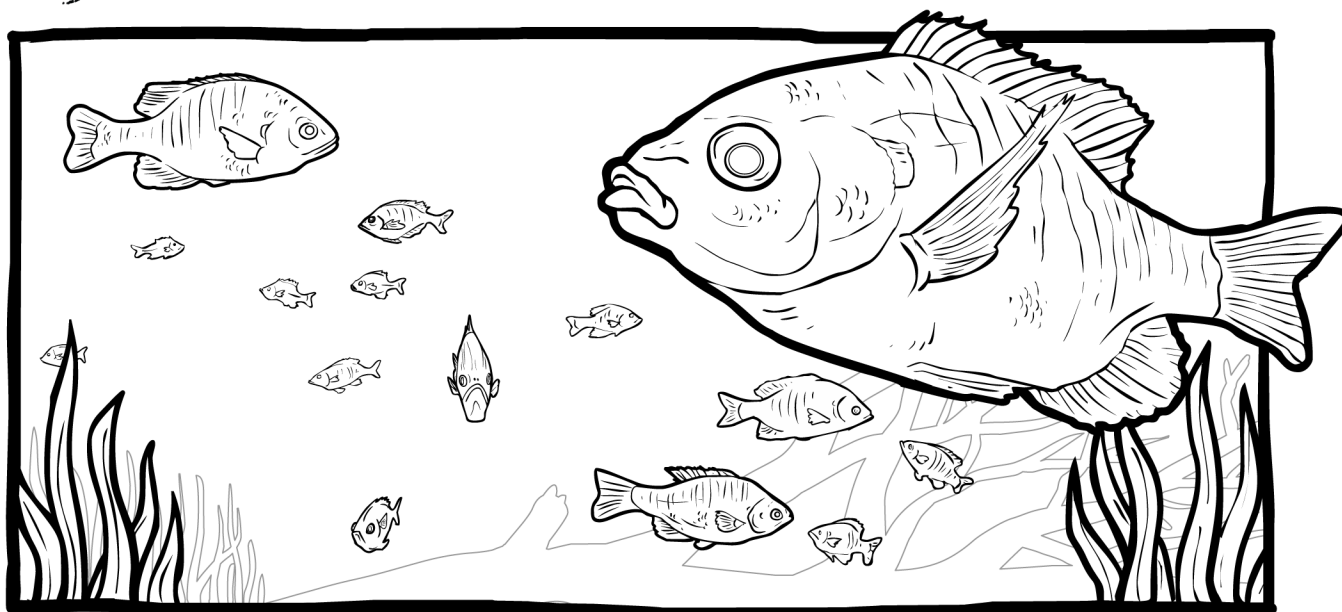
Bluegill *(Lepomis macrochirus)*

Instant ID

- A small freshwater sport fish in the sunfish family
- Grows 7-10 inches and weighs up to 2 pounds (rarely)
- Oval shaped body looks like a compressed bass and is olive colored with 5-9 darker, vertical bars
- Shows a dark spot on the gill covers and sometimes has a blue color to the edge of the gill covers

Native Niches

- Found throughout bodies of fresh water, east of the Rocky Mountains, south of Canada and into northern Mexico
- Utilizes almost all freshwater habitats
- More commonly seen in shallow areas with vegetation



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Favorite Foods

- Eats insects and insect larvae
- Also eats anything living that will fit in its mouth

Critter Characteristics

- Males build a nest, swim in circles and make grunting noise to attract females
- Males guard the nest until eggs hatch
- A large female can lay as many as 100,000 eggs

Population Protection

- Leave a buffer of unmown vegetation around lakes and ponds
- Fish responsibly and dispose of fishing line properly