

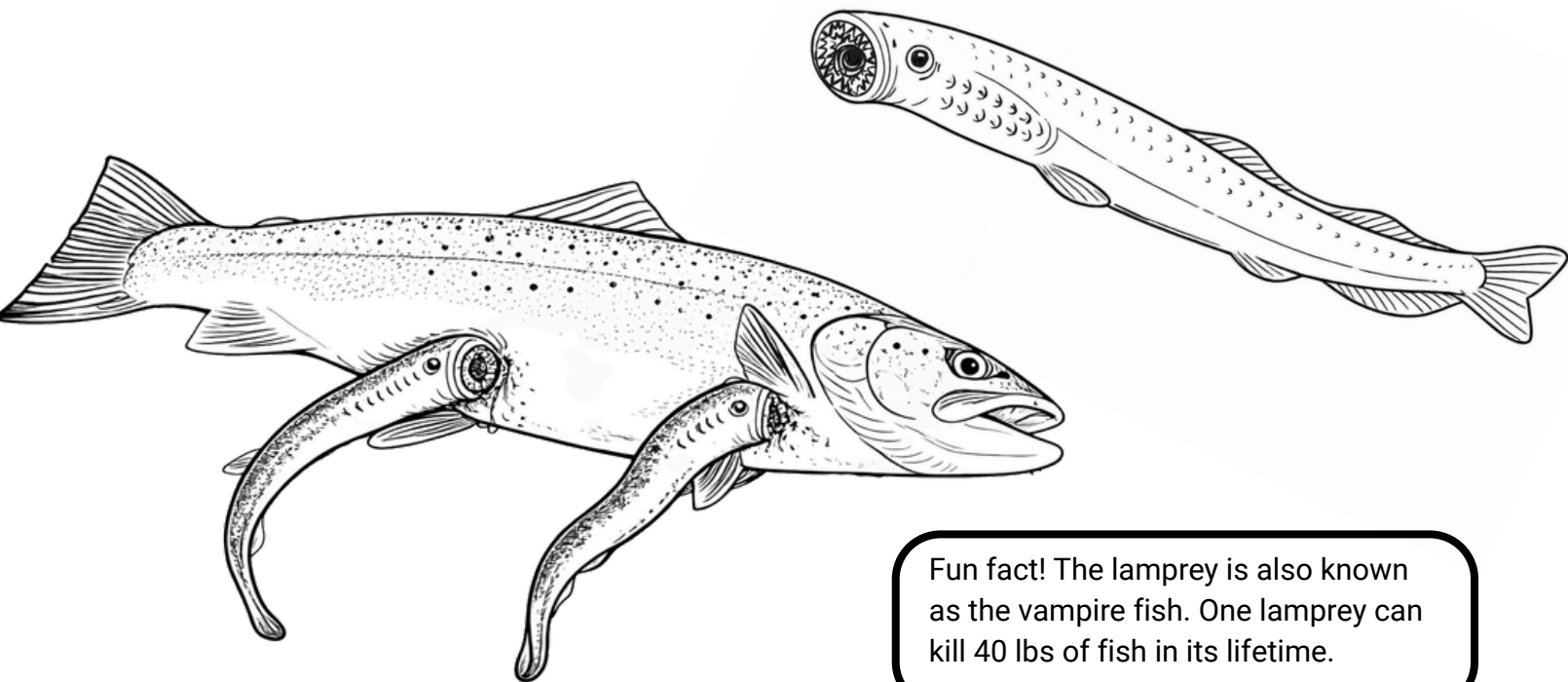


# OCTOBER LEARNING CHALLENGE

## INVASION OF THE SEA LAMPREY

In the 1800s, engineers built shipping canal, including connections like the Welland Canal, to link the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. These waterways allowed ships to bypass natural barriers such as Niagara Falls and dramatically increased trade and travel. However, the canals opened more than just shipping routes. They also created pathways for invasive species to enter the Great Lakes. One of the most destructive was the sea lamprey, a parasitic fish native to the Atlantic Ocean.

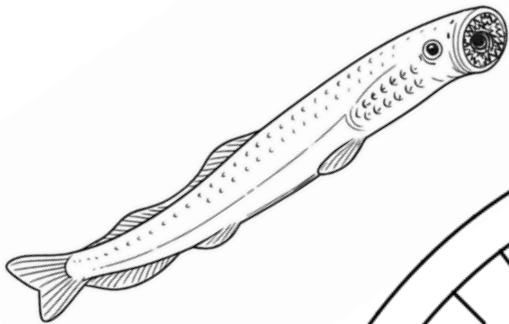
Sea lampreys attach to native fish with their suction-cup mouths and sharp teeth, feeding on their blood and body fluids. Today, they are found in all five Great Lakes and have caused significant declines in native fish populations, especially lake trout.



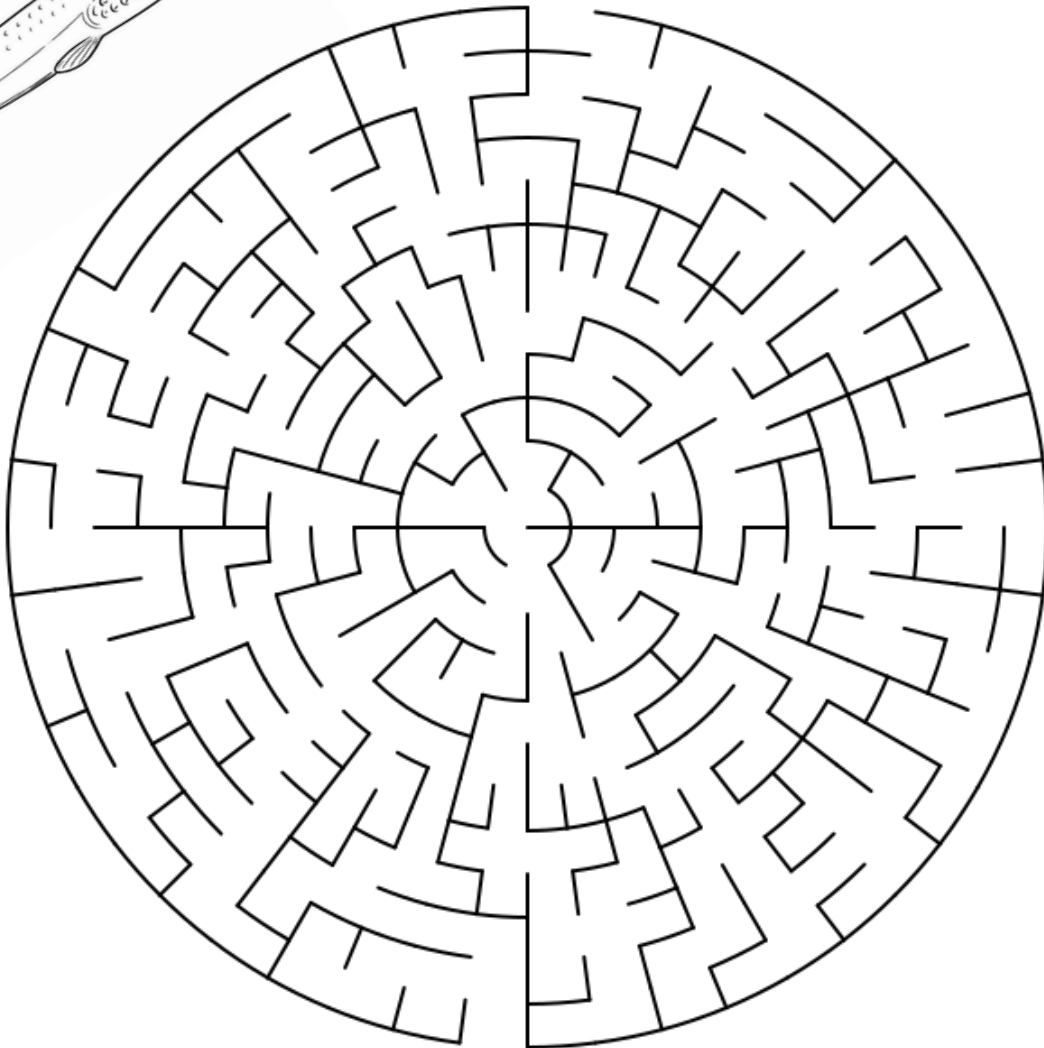
Fun fact! The lamprey is also known as the vampire fish. One lamprey can kill 40 lbs of fish in its lifetime.

Each month, participants who complete the Learning Challenge sheet and return it to the Museum will be entered into a prize drawing.

On the last day of October, we will draw one child winner and one adult winner from all completed entries. Each winner will receive a book, a sticker pack, and two museum passes.



Start in the Atlantic Ocean



End in the Great Lakes

Name:

Age:

Email:

Phone:

