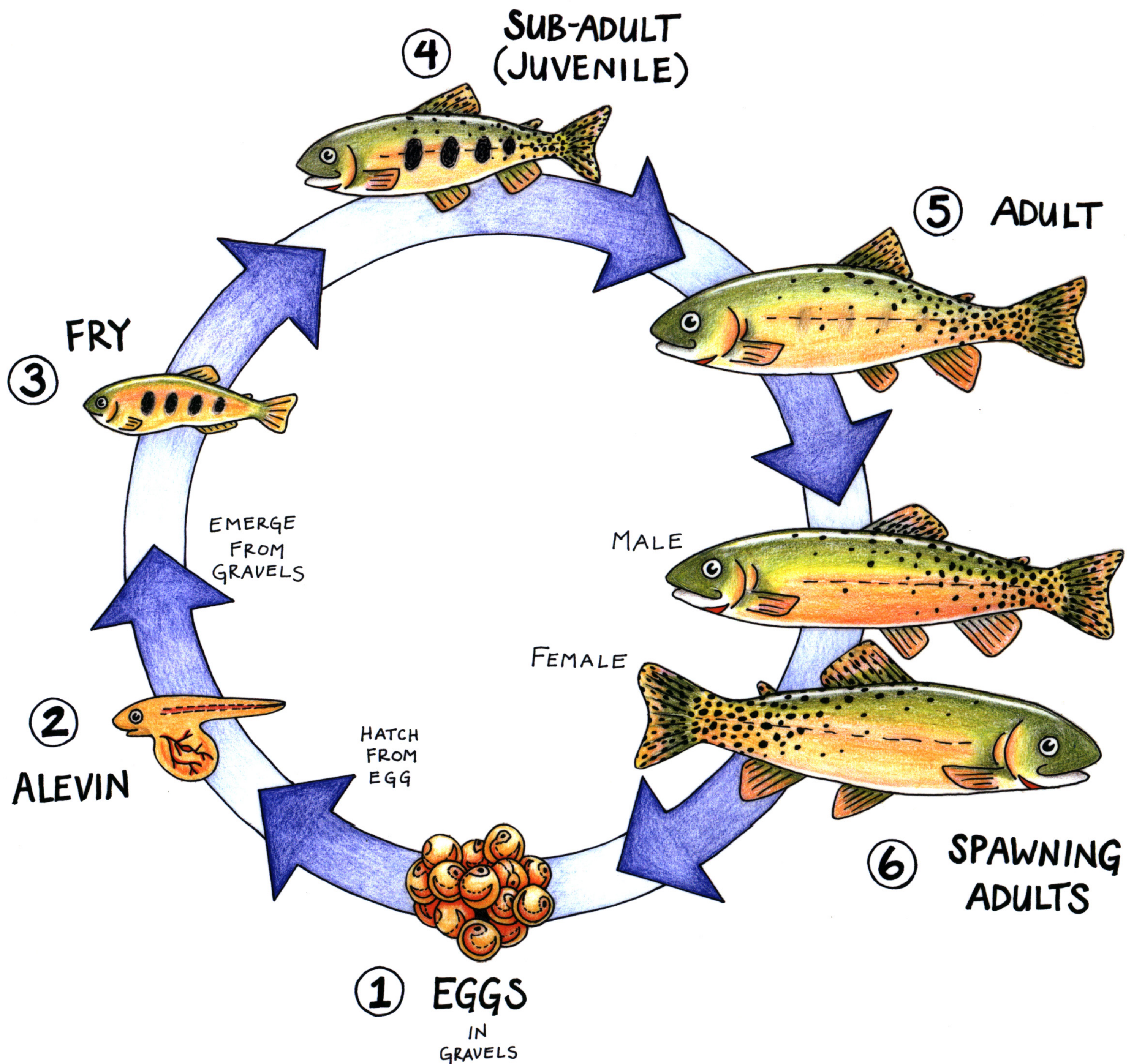


THE RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT TROUT LIFE CYCLE



ACTUAL SIZES

EGG ● 3/16 inch = the size of a green pea

ALEVIN ━━━━ 1 inch = the length of a paperclip

FRY ━━━━━━━━━━━ Up to 4 inches = the length of a crayon

SUB-ADULT ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ Up to 6 inches = the length of a pencil

ADULT ━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━━ Average size is 10 inches = the length of a football

━━ Maximum size of a Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout is around 16 inches!

SPAWNING GRAVELS

━━━ to ━━━━━━━━━━━
1 to 4 inches = marble to tennis ball-sized rocks
It is the spaces between the gravels that are important.

LIFE CAN BE SCARY IN THE STREAM. THE CURRENT IS SWIFT AND YOU GET SWEEPED DOWN-STREAM.
LOSE **3** E.T.'S

A KID LEAVES THE FAUCET RUNNING AT HIS HOUSE. HE'S WASTING YOUR WATER!
LOSE **2** E.T.'S

A BROWN TROUT IS HUNGRY. HE EATS YOU FOR BREAKFAST, TOO BAD!
- START OVER -

YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH! YOU ARE NOW A SUB-ADULT FISH.
- ROLL AGAIN -

A RAINBOW TROUT EATS ALL YOUR FOOD. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO EAT.
LOSE **2** E.T.'S

LOGS CREATE FISH HABITAT. A TREE FALLS IN AND GIVES YOU A HOME.
GAIN **3** E.T.'S

SOMEONE DUMPS THEIR CAR OIL DOWN THE GUTTER. THIS DRAINS INTO YOUR STREAM AND POLLUTES IT.
LOSE **3** E.T.'S

YOU FIND SOME YUMMY INVERTEBRATE BUGS FOR LUNCH.
GAIN **2** E.T.'S

"BUTTON UP!"
YOU ABSORB YOUR YOLK SAC AND GROW BIGGER. YOU LEAVE YOUR GRAVELS. NOW YOU ARE A **FRY**.
GAIN **3** E.T.'S

OH NO! A 4-WHEELER DRIVES UP THE STREAM AND CRUSHES THE GRAVELS. YOU ALMOST DIE!
LOSE **1** TURN

YOU'VE HATCHED FROM YOUR EGG!
YOU ARE NOW A VERY SMALL **ALEVIN** AND YOU CARRY A YOLK SAC.
GAIN **2** E.T.'S

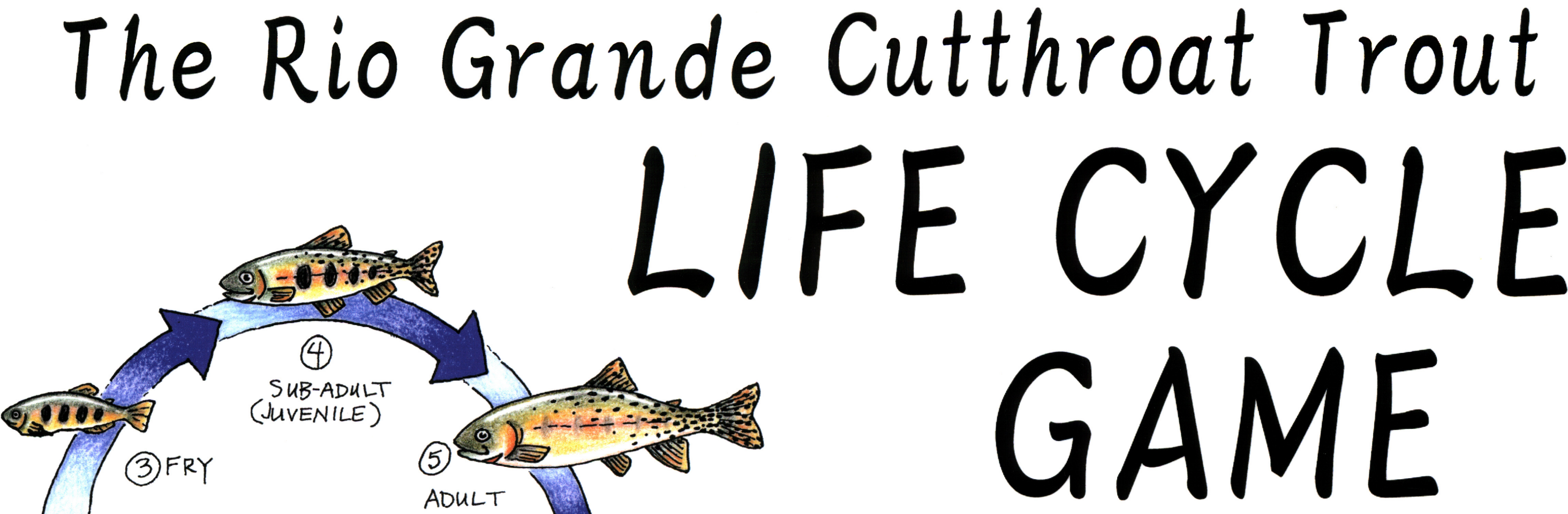
A BIG SNOWPACK IN THE MOUNTAINS MAKES STREAMS FLOW WITH LOTS OF WATER.
GAIN **2** E.T.'S

EROSION! PEOPLE DRIVE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR STREAM. THE DIRT CLOGS YOUR GRAVELS AND YOU ALMOST CHOKE!
LOSE **2** E.T.'S

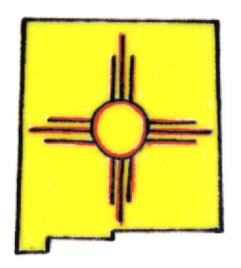
WATER FLOWS THROUGH YOUR GRAVELS TO GIVE YOU FRESH AIR AND FOOD.
GAIN **2** E.T.'S

YOU ARE A TINY EGG IN THE GRAVELS OF A STREAM. GAIN **5** ENERGY TOKENS (E.T.'S) CAN YOU MAKE IT TO ADULTHOOD?

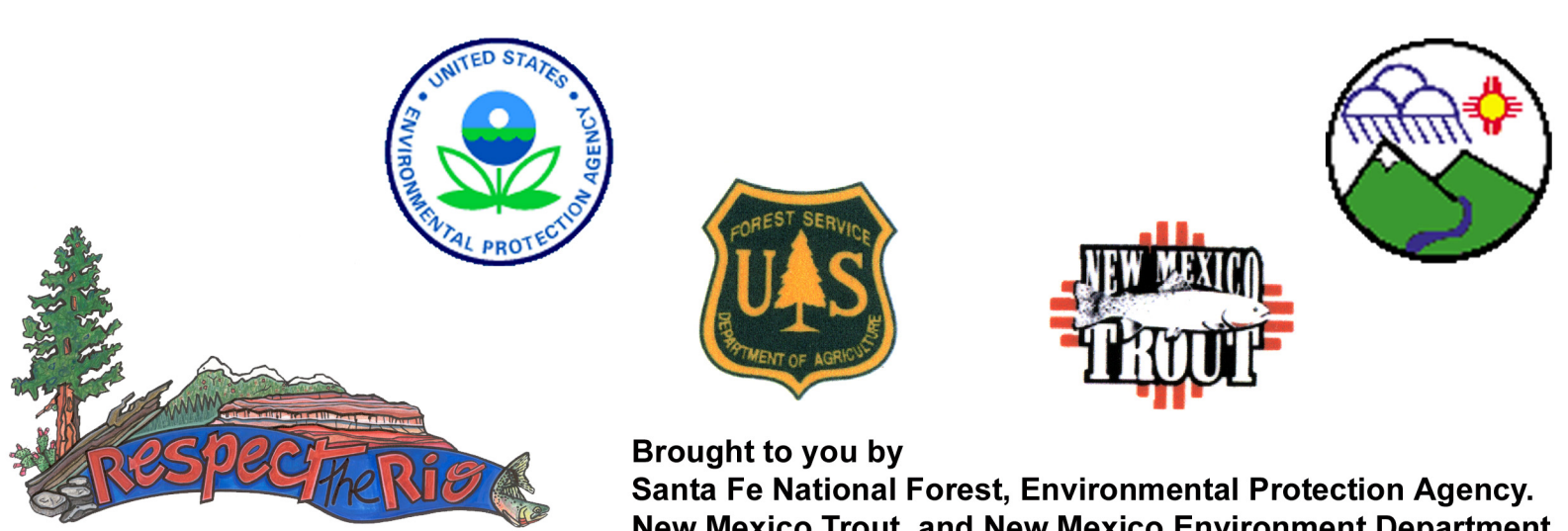
START



The Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout LIFE CYCLE GAME



Learn about New Mexico's State Fish, a declining species found nowhere else on Earth.



WHERE IS ALL YOUR WATER?! FARMERS USE YOUR STREAM WATER FOR THEIR FIELDS.
LOSE **2** E.T.'S

YOU ARE GETTING BIGGER AND STRONGER. YOU ARE NOW AN ADULT FISH!
- ROLL AGAIN -

OH NO! A FISHERMAN CATCHES YOU AND EATS YOU FOR DINNER.
- START OVER -

YOU FIND A NICE POOL TO CHILL OUT.
GAIN **2** E.T.'S

CONGRATULATIONS! SWIM WELL!
YOU MADE THE JOURNEY OF THE RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT TROUT!

PEOPLE PUT YOU IN A HATCHERY TO HARVEST YOUR EGGS. YOU MISS YOUR STREAM.
LOSE **1** TURN

IT'S SPRINGTIME! YOU FIND ANOTHER FISH AND SPAWN.
GAIN **2** E.T.'S

COWS EAT ALL YOUR STREAMSIDE PLANTS. NOW YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO HIDE AND YOUR WATER GETS TOO HOT!
LOSE **2** E.T.'S

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Life Cycle Game

You are a tiny egg in the life cycle of a Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Can you make it through the journey of life and survive to spawn?

Materials Needed

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Life Cycle Game board

Life Cycle poster, for reference

1 die

1 game piece per player (little plastic fish work well)

“Bank” of about 100 Energy Tokens (E.T.’s), representing growing fish’s needs, such as water, space, temperature, food, etc.

How to Play

1. Groups larger than 6 playing on one game board may want to share game pieces.
2. Each player begins with game piece on “Start.”
3. Each player begins with 5 Energy Tokens (someone can be official “banker” of tokens).
4. Roll die to determine who goes first, second, etc.
5. Roll the die in turn and move your game piece the number of squares rolled.
6. Read aloud and follow instructions in the square you land on.
7. If you die, either by running out of E.T.’s or getting eaten, you can start over at “Start” with 5 E.T.’s. Keep track of how many lives it takes to finish.
8. “End” square can be reached with an exact roll or a higher number.
9. Groups can play until one player reaches the end, everyone spawns, or time is up. If you make it to the end, you can start over with 5 E.T.’s.

Discussion Questions

How many of you spawned?

How many died?

What challenges did you face growing up?

What made life easier for you?

What can humans do to help Rio Grande cutthroat trout survive to spawning adulthood?

