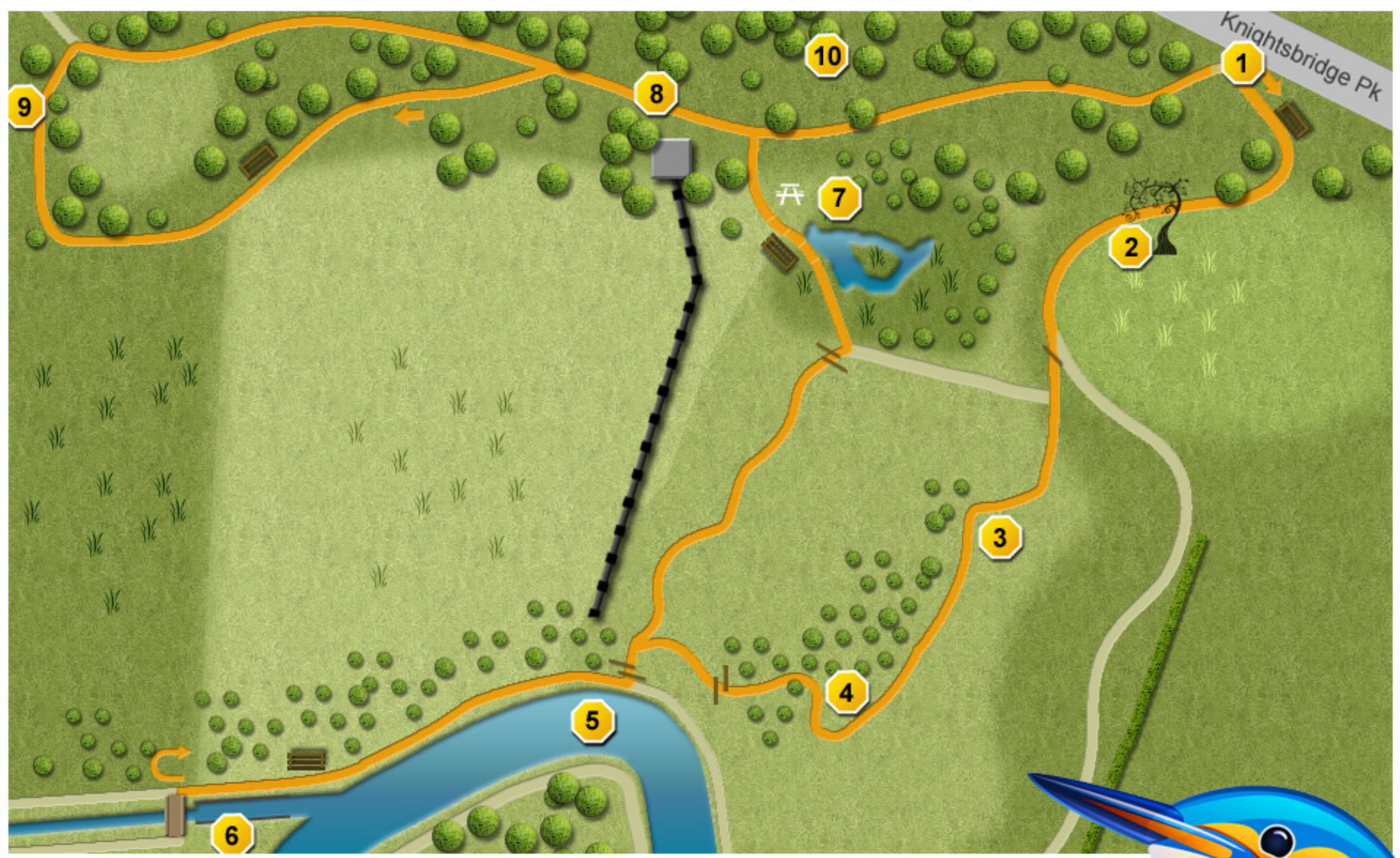


# Lagan Meadows Trail Activity Pack







How many miles long is the park?

How many places can you park your car in the park?

Name a flower you might find in Lagan Meadows?

Name a bird you might find in Lagan Meadows?

Name an insect you might find in Lagan Meadows?

Look at the towpath code. Pick one rule that you think is the most important. Give a reason why you chose this.

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# The Fairy Tree

As you walk along the path you will come to a hole in the hedge where you can take the magic path through the hay meadow.



This is no ordinary tree it is the fairy tree. These trees are deciduous so they loose their leaves in winter. They have thorny branches and bright red berries called 'haws'. The small leaves look like fairy wings. Its flowers appear in May and can be pink and white. Some people call it Mayflower.



Using your ID chart can you correctly identify this tree?

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These trees are magical. If you've been good you can ask Gabriel Finn, 'King of the Fairies' to grant a wish!

**Everyone chant together**

Gabriel Finn, 'King of the Fairies' please can I have...

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Don't tell anyone your wish or it won't come true!!!





# In the Meadow

Look at some of the plants and flowers growing around the meadow. Choose one that you find interesting to look at. In the space below do a pencil drawing of your plant or flower putting in as much detail as possible.



Can you tick which of the following you spotted in the meadow?



Red clover



Buttercup



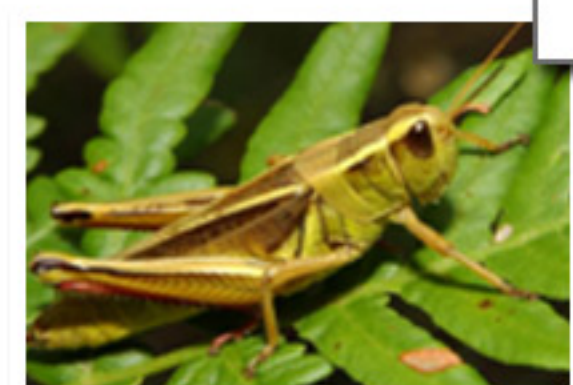
White clover



Ladybird



Orchid



Grasshopper



Meadow Brown



Bee



Large White





# Meadow plants

You will find many kinds of plants and flowers in a meadow. One shrub you'll definitely see in Lagan Meadows is gorse. Can you spot a gorse bush?



Look at it more closely. Do you think it would make a good habitat for birds? Give a reason for your answer.

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Some plants in the meadow have brightly coloured flowers to attract insects like bees. This is how they are pollinated. Others have seeds that are easily blown by the wind.



Decide whether the plants below are insect or wind pollinated.



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# Discovering the Natural World

Find a space on your own, sit down and in the circles below make a note of the colours, shapes and sounds you find.

Colours

Shapes

Sounds



Now, discuss and compare what you have observed with the rest of your class.





# In the Larch Trees

At the top of the hill you will have a great view of the river. The trees around you are called larch. They are conifer trees.



What are the leaves of conifer trees called?

\_\_\_\_\_

Most conifers are evergreen but larch trees are deciduous.



In the boxes below explain the meaning of evergreen and deciduous.

Deciduous

Evergreen



Red squirrels love to eat the seeds from larch cones. Can you name 2 more creatures that might eat larch cones?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# Animal Tracks

As you walk along the path you may see signs that birds and animals have been here. Look for tracks in the mud.



1



2



3



4



5



6



From the pictures below can you label each footprint?



Squirrel



Fox



Dog



Heron



Badger



Duck





# The River Lagan

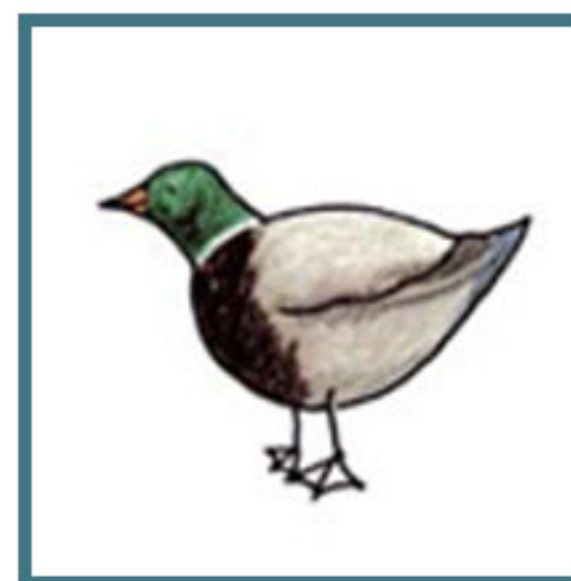
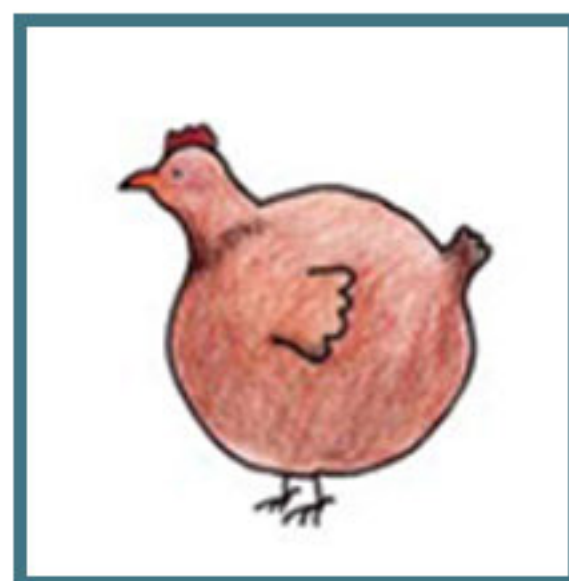
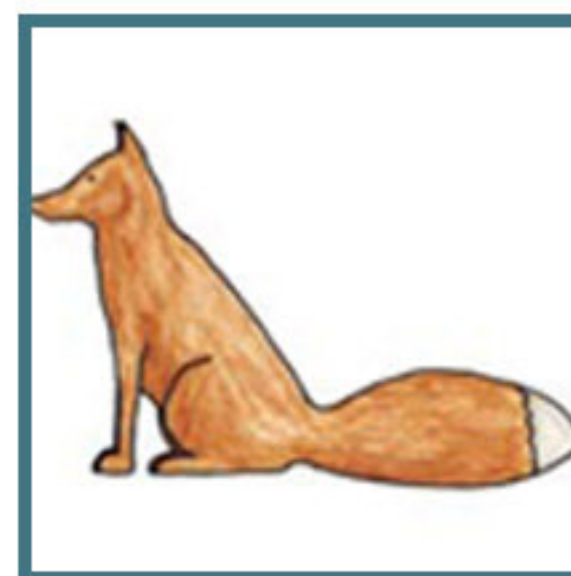
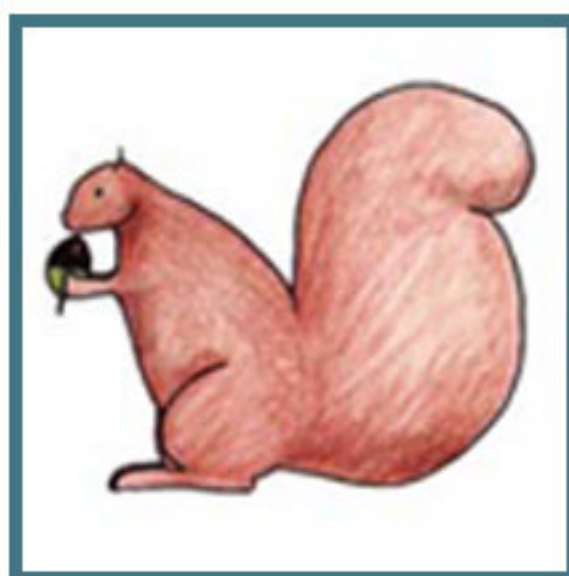
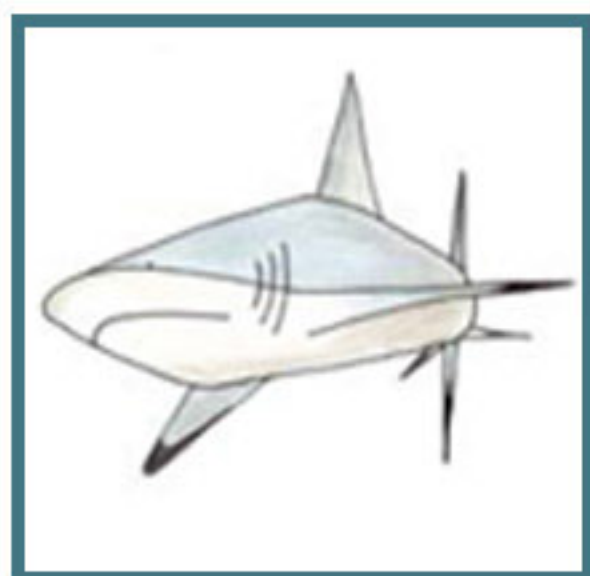
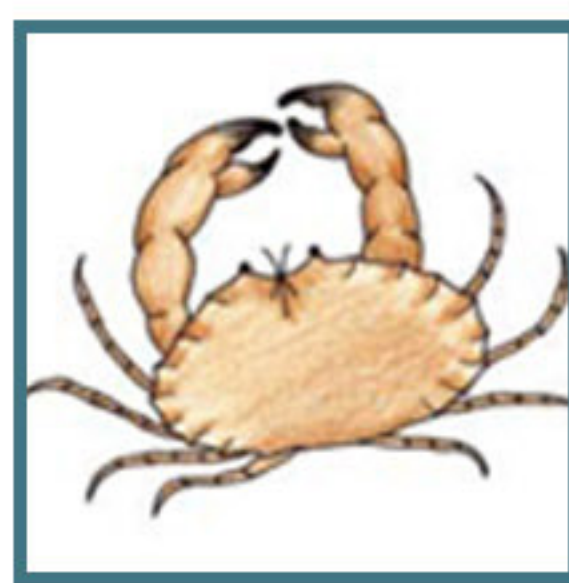
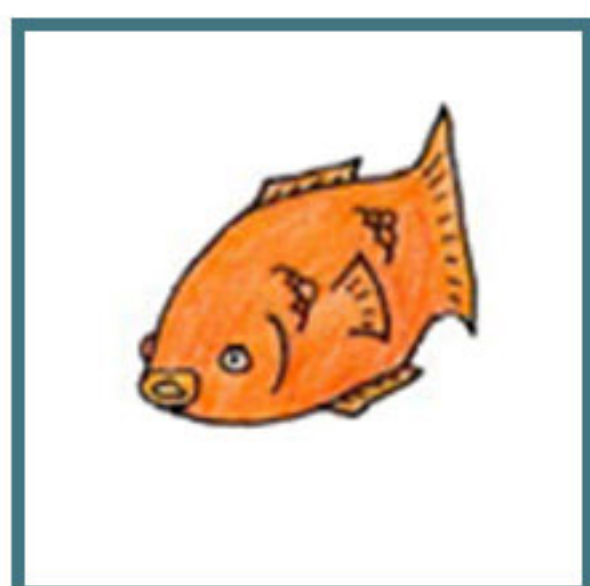
From the path you can see the River Lagan. Think about what kind of animals would live in or on the river.



Can you put a **circle** around creatures you would find in a river?

Can you put a **square** around creatures that live in the woods?

Can you put a **triangle** around creatures that live at the beach?





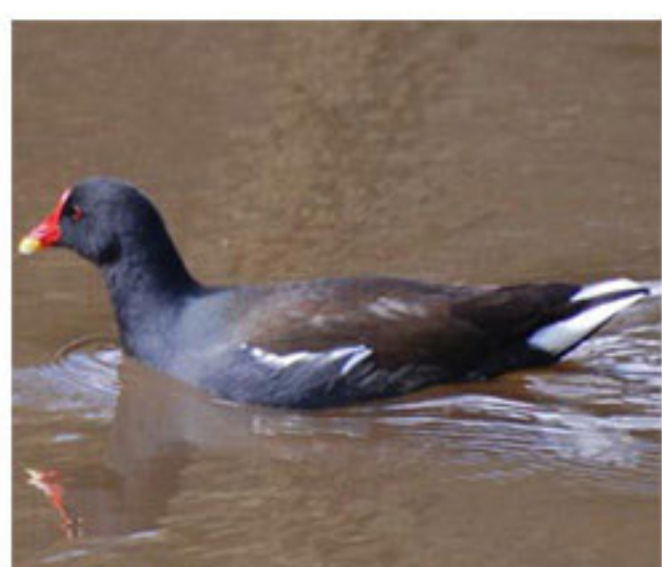


# Birds on the River

As you walk along the river and canal keep a tally of the birds that you see.



King fisher



Moorhen



Little grebe



Mute swan

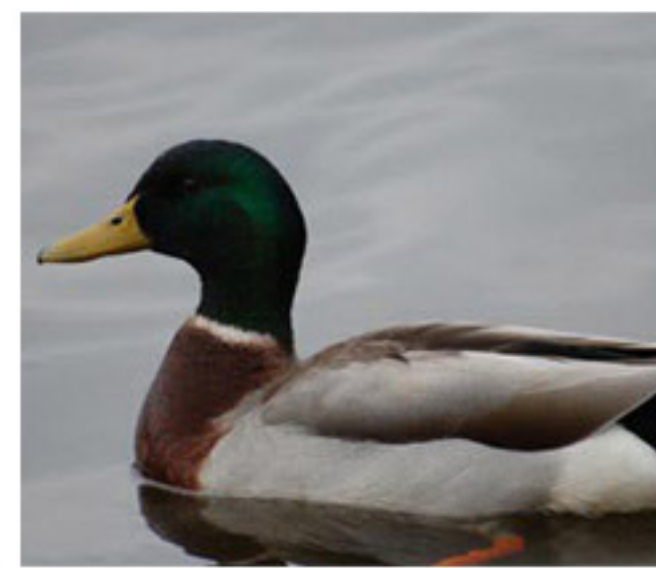
Tally



Dipper



Tufted duck



Mallard



Heron

Tally





# Micky Taylor's Lock No.2



*This is a lock keeper.*



*This is how the canal looks today.*



When do you think the picture on the left was taken?

1861

1052

**1983**



In the space below can you write a short description of what you think a Lock Keeper's job was?





# Lester's Dam



This is Lester's dam. It is a fantastic habitat for wildlife. Can you read the information panel and answer the questions below?



What did Lester's Dam supply to Belfast?

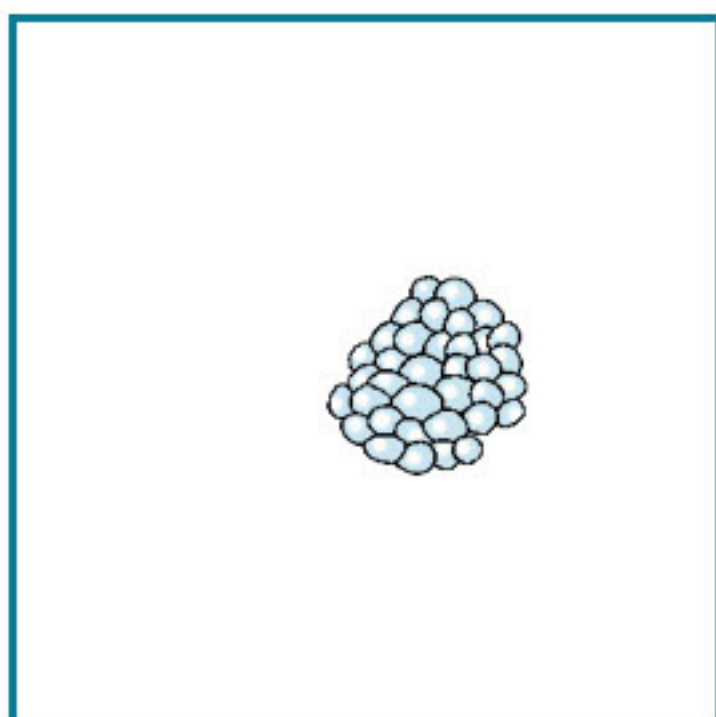
When was it constructed?

What plant has formed an island in the middle of the dam?

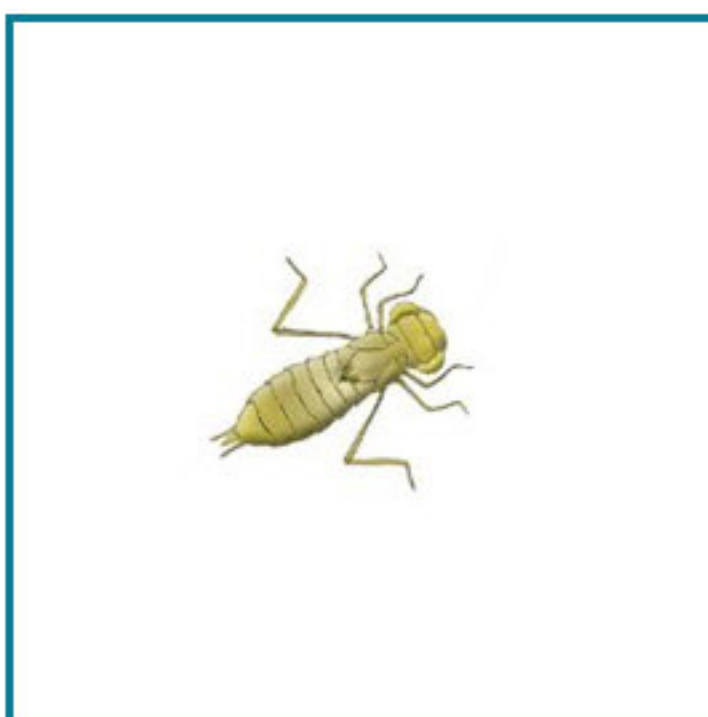
What bird might you find living in this wetland?



Can you name the 3 stages of a damselfly lifecycle?



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# Discovering Trees

Using your tree identification chart, can you correctly identify 2 different trees? Draw the leaves or buds in the boxes below and label them.

**Leaves**

 Alder <input type="checkbox"/>	 Ash <input type="checkbox"/>	 Beech <input type="checkbox"/>	 Birch <input type="checkbox"/>
 Elder <input type="checkbox"/>	 Hawthorne <input type="checkbox"/>	 Holly <input type="checkbox"/>	 Horse Chestnut <input type="checkbox"/>
 Ivy <input type="checkbox"/>	 Lime <input type="checkbox"/>	 Maple <input type="checkbox"/>	
 Hazel <input type="checkbox"/>	 Rowan <input type="checkbox"/>	 Larch <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Twigs and buds**

 Alder <input type="checkbox"/>	 Ash <input type="checkbox"/>	 Beech <input type="checkbox"/>	 Birch <input type="checkbox"/>	 Blackthorn <input type="checkbox"/>
 Elder <input type="checkbox"/>	 Hawthorn <input type="checkbox"/>	 Hazel <input type="checkbox"/>	 Horse Chestnut <input type="checkbox"/>	 Larch <input type="checkbox"/>
 Lime <input type="checkbox"/>	 Oak <input type="checkbox"/>	 Rowan <input type="checkbox"/>	 Sycamore <input type="checkbox"/>	 Maple <input type="checkbox"/>

[www.laganscape.co.uk](http://www.laganscape.co.uk)

[www.laganvalleylearning.co.uk](http://www.laganvalleylearning.co.uk)

Lagan Valley Regional Park



# Leaves



Alder

☐

Ash

☐

Beech

☐

Birch

☐

Elder

☐

Hawthorne

☐

Holly

☐

Horse Chestnut

☐

Ivy

☐

Lime

☐

Maple

☐

Oak

☐

Hazel

☐

Rowan

☐

Larch

☐

Sycamore

☐



# Twigs and buds

Alder

☐

Ash

☐

Beech

☐

Birch

☐

Blackthorn

☐

Elder

☐

Hawthorn

☐

Hazel

☐

Horse Chestnut

☐

Larch

☐

Lime

☐

Oak

☐

Rowan

☐

Sycamore

☐

Maple

☐





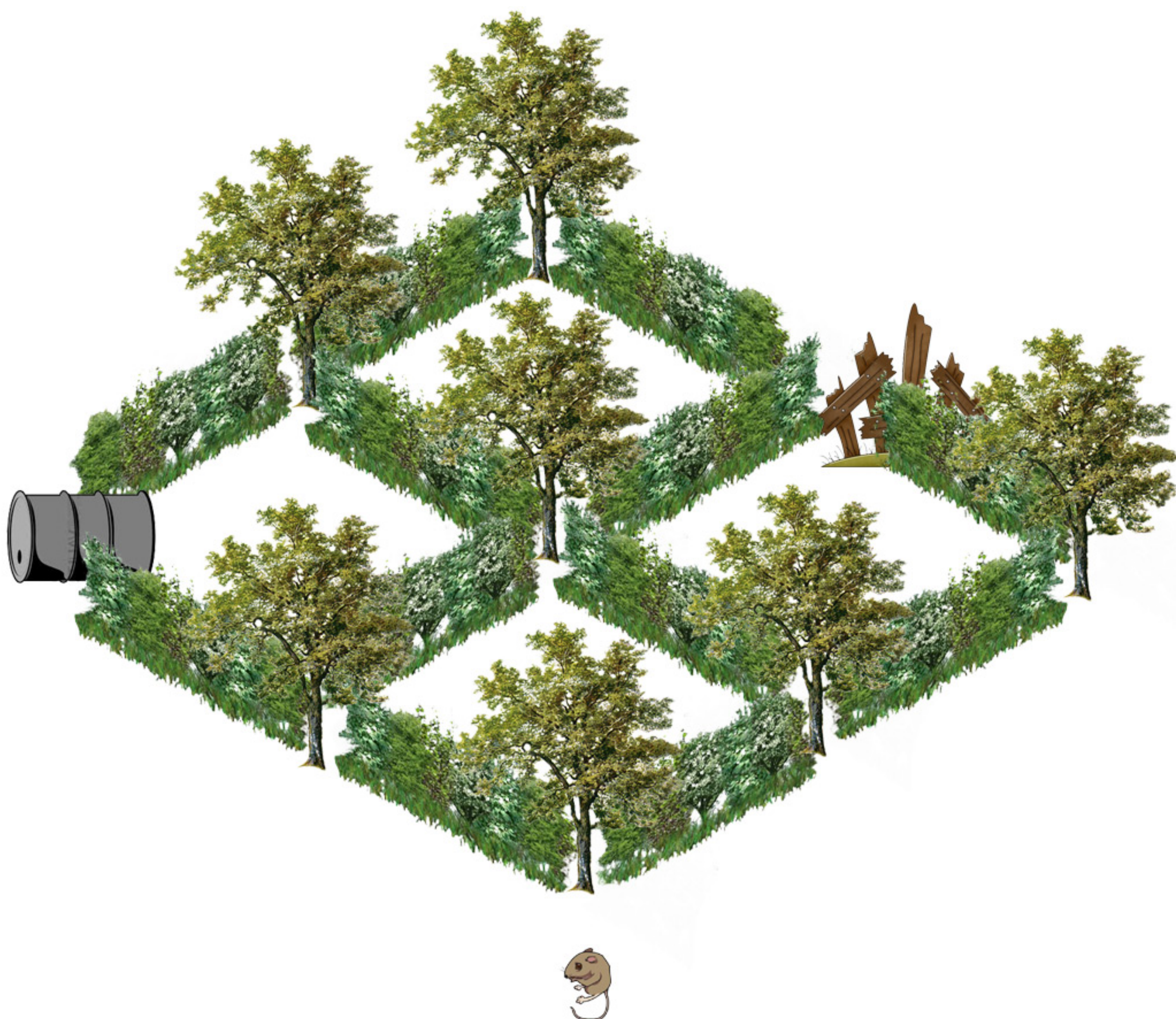
# Discovering Hedgerows

Hedges are really important for wildlife. They provide food and shelter for small mammals, birds and minibeasts. They are also 'wildlife corridors' and allow creatures to move safely from one habitat to another.



Maisy mouse needs to find her way back to her nest. Can you find 5 different ways she can travel back to her nest?

NEST







# Looking for Evidence

As you walk through the woodland tick the items below that you can find.



☐ Bird nest



☐ Green leaf



☐ Red/orange/  
brown leaf



☐ Bluebell



☐ Pine cone



☐ Magpie



☐ Tree with silver  
bark



☐ Road



☐ Insect