



ONTARIO
RIVERS
ALLIANCE



Izaak Walton
Fly Fishing Club



Trout Unlimited Canada



Greg Clark Chapter

9 June 2021

The West Credit River Ecosystem Colouring Sheet Activity for Students

Dear Teacher/Educator:

The Coalition for the West Credit River (Coalition) is pleased to present a fun activity for your students to help raise an awareness of the unique habitat and biodiversity of the West Credit River. It is unique because of the cold, clean water that bubbles up from coldwater springs flowing into this pristine ecosystem. Brook Trout are a sensitive species that require temperatures no warmer than 19°C for any sustained period of time, and this coldwater habitat supports one of the few remaining native Brook Trout populations in southern Ontario.

Unfortunately, the West Credit River is now under threat from the proposed Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant that will discharge over 7.1 million liters of warm sewage effluent daily into the heart of this wild and self-sustaining coldwater Brook Trout spawning, nursery, and rearing habitat. To help raise an awareness of this freshwater ecosystem, the Coalition is presenting an activity for students that focuses on Brook Trout and the aquatic benthic life that thrives in this waterway.

The Coalition is advocating to relocate the discharge of this sewage effluent to a less harmful location through an alternative wastewater management system that will ensure this West Credit River Brook Trout habitat and fishery are protected for our present and future generations.

The Coalition is made up of the following organizations: Belfountain Community Organization, West Credit River Watch, Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club, Trout Unlimited Canada - Greg Clark Chapter, Ontario Streams, and Ontario Rivers Alliance. We advocate to protect and bring awareness to this habitat and biodiversity.

The attached information sheet also provides details of a contest your students can participate in to win a prize. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

We hope you will consider inviting your students to participate in this fun activity. Thank you for your consideration!

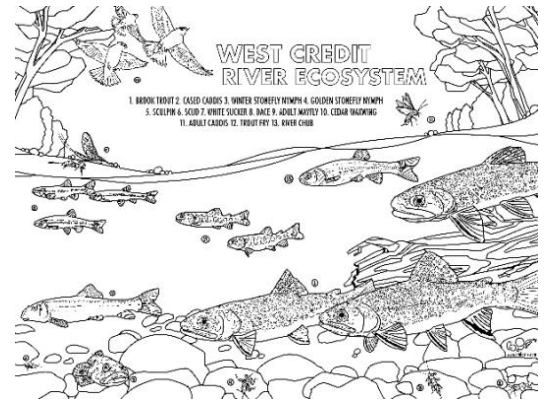
Ann Seymour

Coalition for the West Credit River
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<http://westcreditriverwatch.ca>

The West Credit River Ecosystem Colouring Sheet Activity

For Teachers: The following is an educational activity from the Coalition for the West Credit River. The purpose of this colouring activity is to increase awareness of the West Credit River ecosystem and its Brook Trout.

To introduce this aquatic ecosystem to students, view the video and illustrations in the Resources section below.



Brook Trout Ecosystem Colouring Sheet Activity Directions:

1. **Materials:** Colouring sheet, pencil crayons, markers.
2. Download the full-sized colouring sheet image.
3. Print the colouring sheet image (Make sure you print in landscape and use the "Fit to Printable area" option). Or share with students electronically so they may colour with electronic tools.
4. Learn about the colours and markings on Brook Trout and start colouring.
5. Be creative, have fun and learn about Brook Trout.
6. To enter contest, scan or take a photo of the finished art, and email it to the Coalition for the West Credit River at info@cwcr.ca along with the name and age of the student.

Key Questions:

1. Why do Brook Trout need cold, clear water to thrive and survive?
2. Where does the water flowing into the West Credit River come from?
3. How will Climate Change affect the temperature of river water?
4. Describe the colours and where they are located on the Brook Trout's body.
5. What other species live in the West Credit River?

Vocabulary: Ecosystem, aquatic, fresh water, climate change

Win a Prize: Students entering the contest have a chance to win a Brook Trout plushie, The Ultimate Book of Sharks, or a subscription to National Geographic Kids magazine.

Note: Contest closes on June 30 and the winners will be announced on July 12, 2021.

The Coalition for the West Credit River is committed to environmental protection, conservation, and restoration of the West Credit River. We are working to raise awareness of this unique ecosystem so that present and future generations of children, residents and visitors may continue to experience pristine nature in close proximity to the GTA. We are advocating to protect this sensitive freshwater habitat and its biodiversity in an UNESCO Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

Resources:

[Brook Trout Colours Video.](#)

[Video of Brook Trout swimming and spawning in the West Credit River.](#)

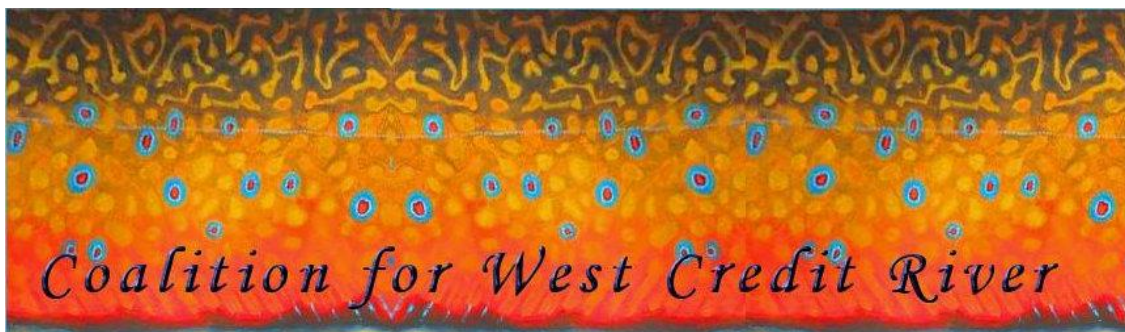
[For more information on the issues the West Credit River is facing.](#)

[Thanks to Bri Dostie for this illustration.](#)

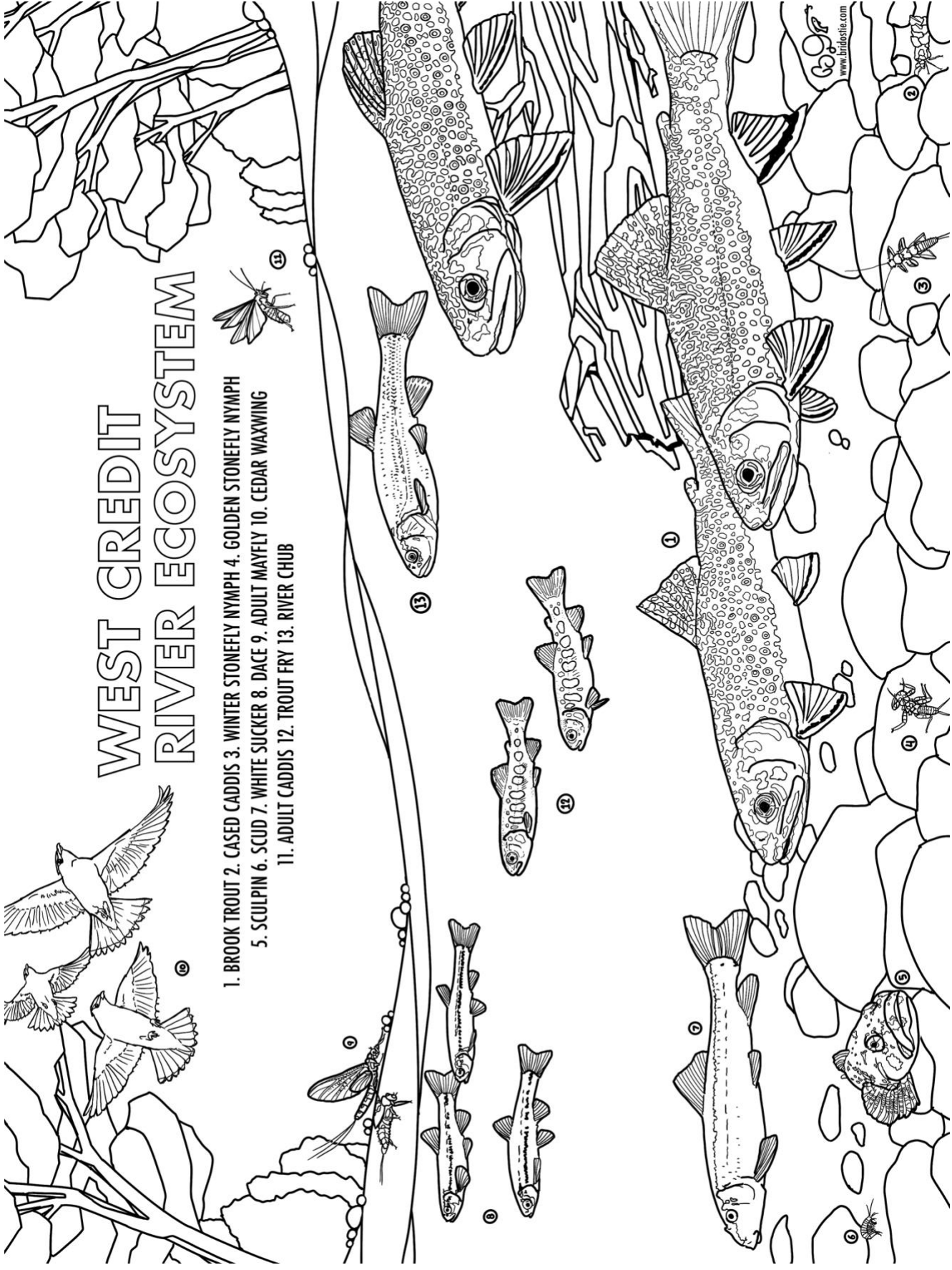
[Coalition for the West Credit River](#)



Brook Trout are a fresh water species of fish. They are native to Ontario.



Cold-water aquatic ecosystem Colouring Activity handout for students (Next Page).



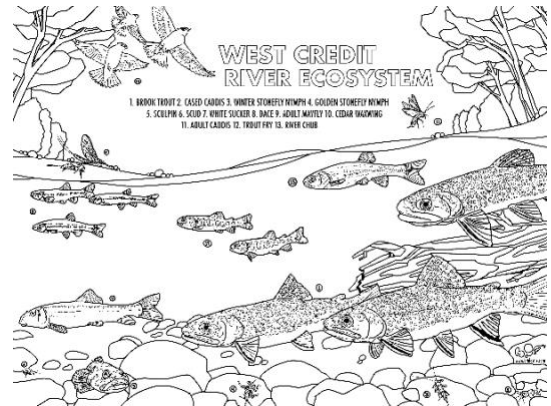
WEST CREDIT RIVER ECOSYSTEM

- 1. BROOK TROUT 2. CASED CADDIS 3. WINTER STONEFLY NYMPH 4. GOLDEN STONEFLY NYMPH
- 5. SCULPIN 6. SCUD 7. WHITE SUCKER 8. DACE 9. ADULT MAYFLY 10. CEDAR WAXWING
- 11. ADULT CADDIS 12. TROUT FRY 13. RIVER CHUB

The West Credit River Ecosystem Colouring Sheet Activity

Directions for Students:

Learn about Brook Trout fish and their aquatic ecosystem. Add colours, and your creativity, to the West Credit River fresh-water ecosystem illustration.



Fish Facts and West Credit River:

- The West Credit River is a rare cold-water river located in Ontario's Greenbelt.
- Water feeds into this tributary river from under-ground springs. Cold water bubbles up into the West Credit.
- The West Credit River joins the main Credit River and then flows into Lake Ontario.
- Brook Trout fish are a native species and they thrive in water that is cooled. It is very important to keep the water cool because of Climate Change. Brook Trout like to live in clean cold-water.
- Brook Trout are a sentinel species that signal cool pristine waters and wild and healthy natural spaces.
- West Credit River has one of the last remaining self-sustaining native Brook Trout populations in Southern Ontario. The Coalition for the West Credit River is working to protect them for future generations.

Colouring Directions:

1. **Materials:** Colouring sheet, pencil crayons, markers (Pencils will work best), or a computer with drawing tools. Colours may be added electronically.
2. Download the full-sized Colouring Sheet image from [here](#), or print the page (Make sure you print in landscape and use the "Fit to Printable area" option).
3. Learn about the colours and markings on Brook Trout fish. Brook Trout are very colorful, with an **orange-red** belly, scattered **turquoise spots** that have a **red dot** in the center. The remainder of their body have a variety of brown colours.
4. Have fun and learn about the Brook Trout and their ecosystem at the same time.
5. So, get out those colored pencils and have some fun applying your artistic touches to the page.

Contest (optional): There will prizes for the best adult and for the best child under 12 years of age. Once you are finished email your creation and enter the contest, just scan or take a photo of the finished art and send it to the Coalition for the West Credit River at [this email address](#). Please be sure to let us know the name and age of the artist. You will have a chance to win one of the following:

- A Brook Trout plushie,
- The Ultimate Book of Sharks, or
- A subscription to National Geographic Kids magazine.

Contest closes at midnight on 30 June. The winners will be announced on 12 Jul 2021.