

# Monty and the Lake Kutubu Invasion



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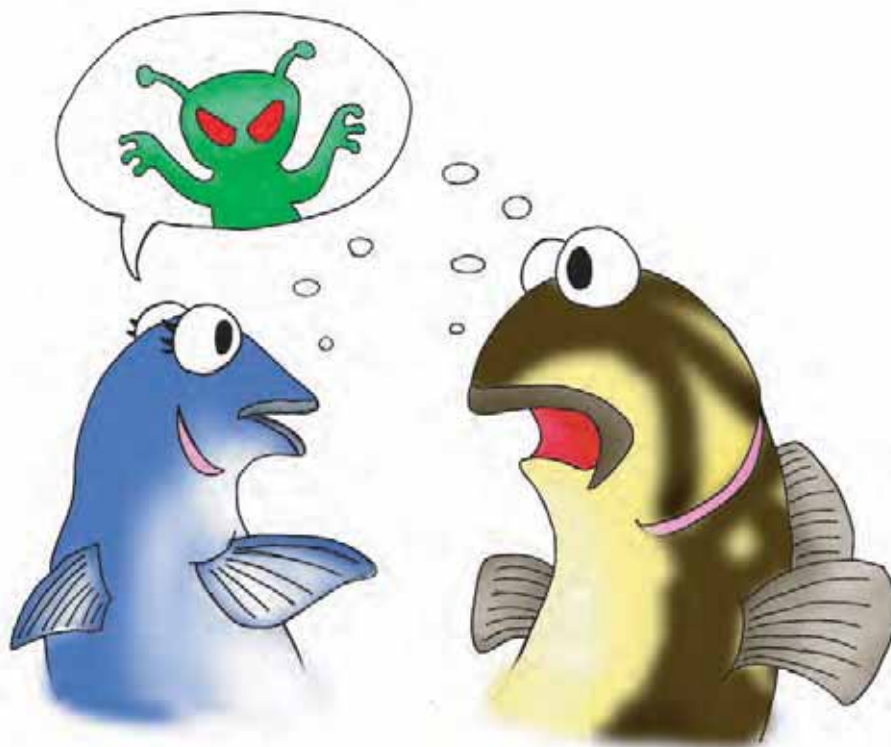
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ISBN 978 0 646 58762 2

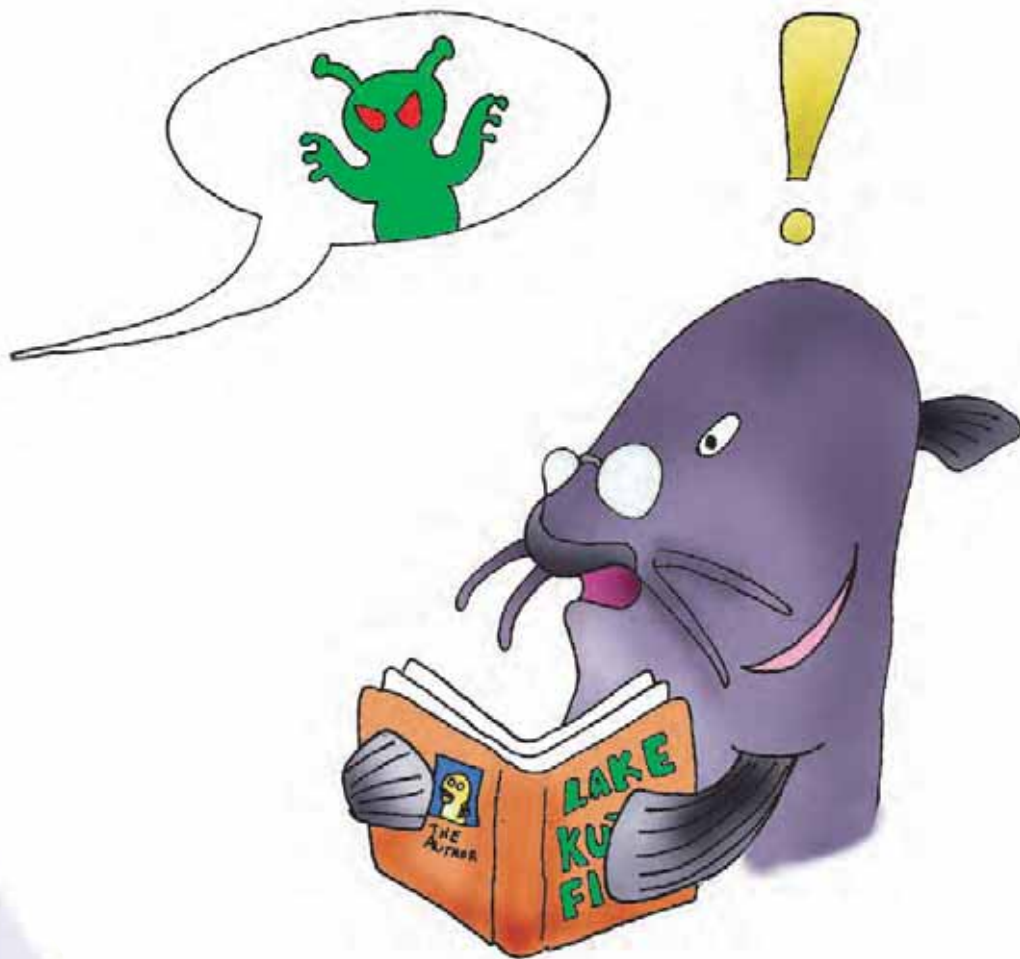
It all started on a peaceful morning in Kutubu Lake. Monty the Kutubu mogurnda was leaving his log for a little swim after his breakfast when he saw Melanie the rainbow fish. Melanie was Monty's neighbour. She lives in a rocky area above Monty, where the branch of a fig tree touches the water.



Melanie came to tell him some scary news:

- *We have been invaded by aliens!! she said.*
- *What do you mean? asked Monty. He did not understand what Melanie was saying.*
- *A monster appeared in the lake yesterday from nowhere! Your cousins saw it!*
- *I do not believe you, said Monty.*
- *Let's go and talk to your cousins then. They will tell you what happened.*

They went to visit Monty's two cousins: Molly the blotched mogurnda and Moe the variegated mogurnda. They live not far from Monty, near the lake shore, hidden between the aquatic plants. Monty and Melanie were not the first to hear about the invasion. Oliver the Tandan was also there asking some questions.



Oliver had come from the other side of the lake. He lived in a shallow place, far away from Molly and Moe. His home has a soft and muddy bottom and is covered with plants. Oliver was a very curious Tandan and came swimming as fast as he could when he heard the news.

When Monty and Melanie arrived they saw that something terrible had happened. Molly was crying and Moe explained to Oliver what they had seen.

- *It was the weirdest thing we have ever seen! said Moe.*
- *Are you sure it was not just one of those funny turtles that come here sometimes from the small creeks? asked Oliver.*
- *No! I am telling you. It does not look like anything that has ever come to this lake before, cried Moe.*



- *Are you sure it is something new? asked Monty*
- *Of course we are! Our fathers and grandparents told us everything we need to know about this lake, Molly replied.*

Everybody agreed with Molly. The Mogurnda family was well respected in Kutubu Lake. Monty's ancestors were famous for being one of the wisest in the region.

- *What are we going to do? asked Melanie.*
- *We need to find out if the stranger came in peace or if he is looking for trouble, said Oliver.*
- *You are right! Let's go back to the place where you saw the creature last time, suggested Monty.*

Although they were scared, nobody refused to go. They were all very brave fish.



When they arrived, everybody was very frightened.

- *There, on those rocks. We saw it swimming around on those rocks, Molly pointed.*

They swam around and looked for the creature. Suddenly they saw it! Monty pointed his fin in the direction of a shadow. They could not see it very well because the water was not as clear as usual. However, the creature saw them and started to swim in their direction. Monty was so scared that he closed his eyes.

- *Hi! said the creature.*

When Monty opened his eyes he did not see a monstrous alien. He saw a funny fish. The friendly fish introduced himself.

- *My name is Chris the carp, he added. I came here on an aeroplane from a very far away place. The humans brought me. They dropped me near here in a stream.*



- *Why would the humans drop you here? asked Molly*
- *I don't know. They all seem a little bit crazy to me.*

Everybody agreed. Humans did a lot of things that they did not understand. Chris looked like an honest fish so they decided to not bother him anymore.

- *Welcome to Kutubu Lake, Chris, said Monty.*
- *I hope you like it here. It is a very beautiful lake with nice clear water, said Melanie.*

The Mogurndas went home and left Chris. They were all relieved that Chris was not an evil monster. Melanie and Oliver stayed a little bit more to talk. They were curious about his trip and were asking all sorts of questions. They had never seen a fish that had flown before.



Everything went back to normal in Kutubu Lake and all the fish thought that their problems were solved. But after a few weeks, they started to realize that something was going wrong. Chris was not like the other fishes from the lake. He was always doing wrong things. But the worst was the water. He was making the water muddy!



Monty met Molly and she was very upset.

- *Chris is a very strange fish! I am not sure if I want him here anymore, Molly announced.*
- *You are right. The Lake always had such clear fine water. Now I cannot see the rocks on the other side of my home. Things are starting to get dangerous, said Monty.*
- *You are right. We need to go to Chris' house and complain.*



When they arrived at Chris' house they found most of the Kutubu fishes already there. They all looked upset and some of them were very angry.

- *We need to do something about this weird fish, said Moe.*
- *He is making everybody's life here very difficult, said Melanie.*
- *We should talk to him, suggested Oliver.*

They went to talk to Chris. They did not want him in the lake anymore. However, when they found Chris, they felt sorry for him. He was hiding from the other fish under a tin can, crying.

- *Why are you crying Chris? asked Molly.*
- *I am very sad. Everybody is upset with me. They said I do bad things to the lake.*



- *But if you know that you are doing bad things, why do you keep doing them? asked Moe.*
- *I can't stop myself. This is how carp do things where I come from. I don't know what to do. I do not belong here. I miss my home.*

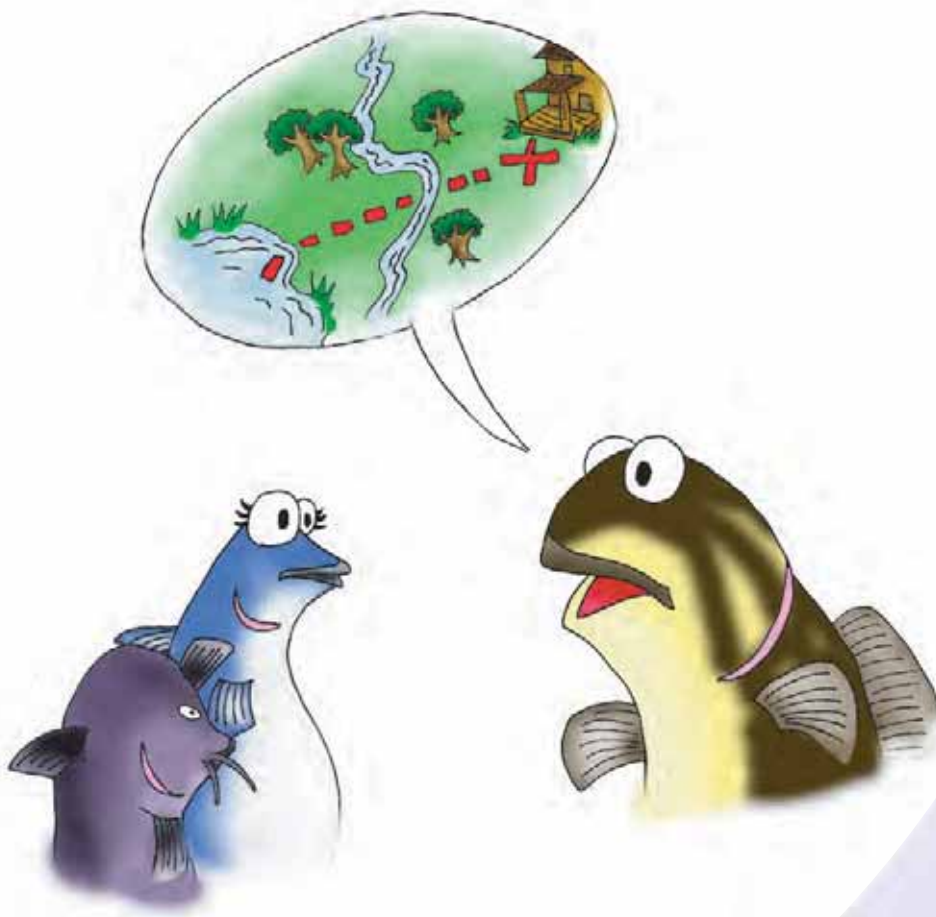
Everybody felt sorry for Chris. He was a good fellow. It was not his fault he was dropped in the lake.

They wanted to help Chris, but did not know how.

Suddenly, Monty, who was a very smart Mogurnda, had a fantastic idea.

- *Someone needs to go to the research centre and talk to the humans. They usually try to help us.*
- *That is a brilliant idea Monty! They can probably send Chris back home, said Melanie.*
- *I can go! volunteered Oliver.*

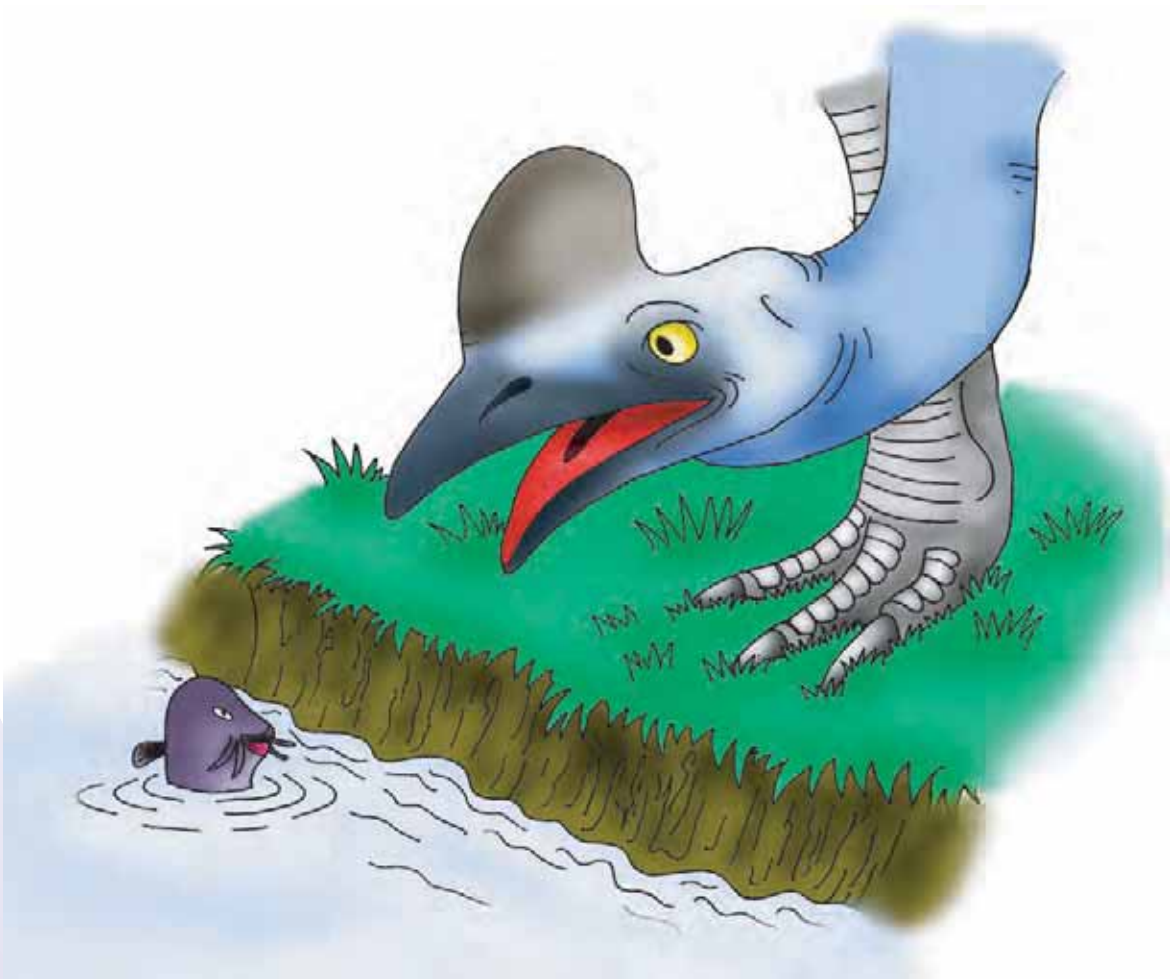
Everybody agreed. Oliver was the bravest fish in the lake and would do the job very well.



Oliver did not want to wait any longer. He put some food in his bilum and started to swim to the research centre. It was very far away and the trip took many days.

After two days swimming, he met Cassy the cassowary.

- *Good afternoon Cassy, said Oliver.*
- *Hello Oliver. How are you? asked Cassy.*
- *I am a little bit lost. Do you know where the research centre is? I need to talk to the humans.*
- *Oh! It must be a big problem if you had to come all this way to talk to them, said Cassy.*



- *Our new friend Chris the carp is in big trouble, and we think the humans can help, explained Oliver.*
- *Don't worry. You are very close now. Just turn left at the next creek and you will be there before nightfall.*
- *Thank you Cassy! said Oliver.*

Cassy was right. In a few hours, Oliver arrived at the research centre. He saw a human resting by the lake shore and swam close to talk to him.

- *Hi! said Oliver.*



The human jumped and stared at Oliver.

- *What was that!?* he exclaimed.
- *I am a Tandan,* explained Oliver.
- *I know what you are. I am a scientist who studies fishes. But I never saw a fish talking before.*
- *That is because we usually do not have much to say. But we are in trouble, and you need to help us!*

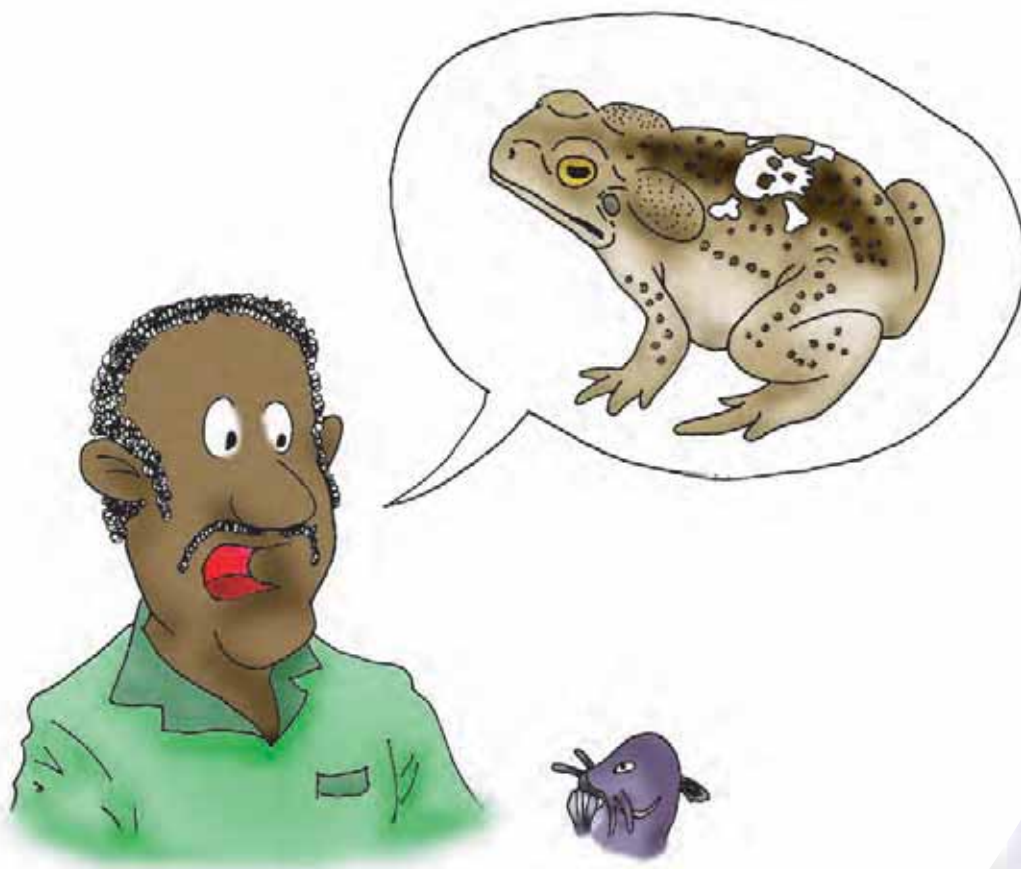
Oliver explained the problem to the fish scientist. He looked very worried by the end of the story.

- *You were right to come here. It is a serious matter indeed, said the scientist.*
- *We need to do something about it, said Oliver. The lake is getting muddy. Chris is a good fish but he cannot stay here. He needs to go back to where he belongs.*



- *I agree with you. It is never a good thing to introduce a new species into the environment. It can become a disaster, said the scientist.*
- *What do you mean? asked Oliver.*

The scientist explained everything to Oliver. Every animal and plant belongs in their original place. People should not move them to places where they did not exist before. You never know what can happen. He gave the example of the toads in Australia and New Guinea. People brought them there all the way from South America. They thought it was a good idea because they would eat the insects that were a problem in their farms.



But introducing a new species is not a good idea. Many local animals did not know that toads had poison in their skin. They thought it was just a new type of dinner and died after eating them. In the end the toads became a bigger problem than the insects that they were supposed to eat.

- *Australians are trying to stop the toads, but now there are so many that probably it is too late and lots of animals have already died, said the scientist, sadly.*
- *So we need to do something about Chris as soon as possible! said Oliver.*
- *You are right. Bring him here and I will send him back home.*
- *Thank you very much for your help. I will bring Chris here as soon as possible.*



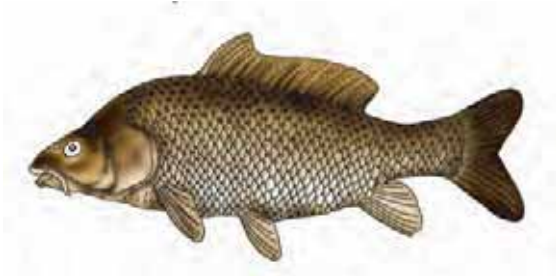
Oliver swam back home as fast as he could to tell the good news to his friends. Everybody went with Chris to the scientist's house to say goodbye. They all wished him a safe trip back home and waved when the plane left. Monty and his friends were happy and relieved that the problem was solved. Kutubu Lake now could go back to be the beautiful place that they all called home.



### ***Some real facts:***

We should not introduce species that do not belong to an area. It can be a disaster! People sometimes think that it is a good idea to bring new types of animals and plants to their place. But you never know how the plants and animals you introduce will affect your region. Some local animal and plants can even disappear! Here are some examples of introduced species.

Carp – *Ciprinus carpio*



Cane Toad – *Bufo marinus*



Fountain Tree – *Spathodea campanulata*



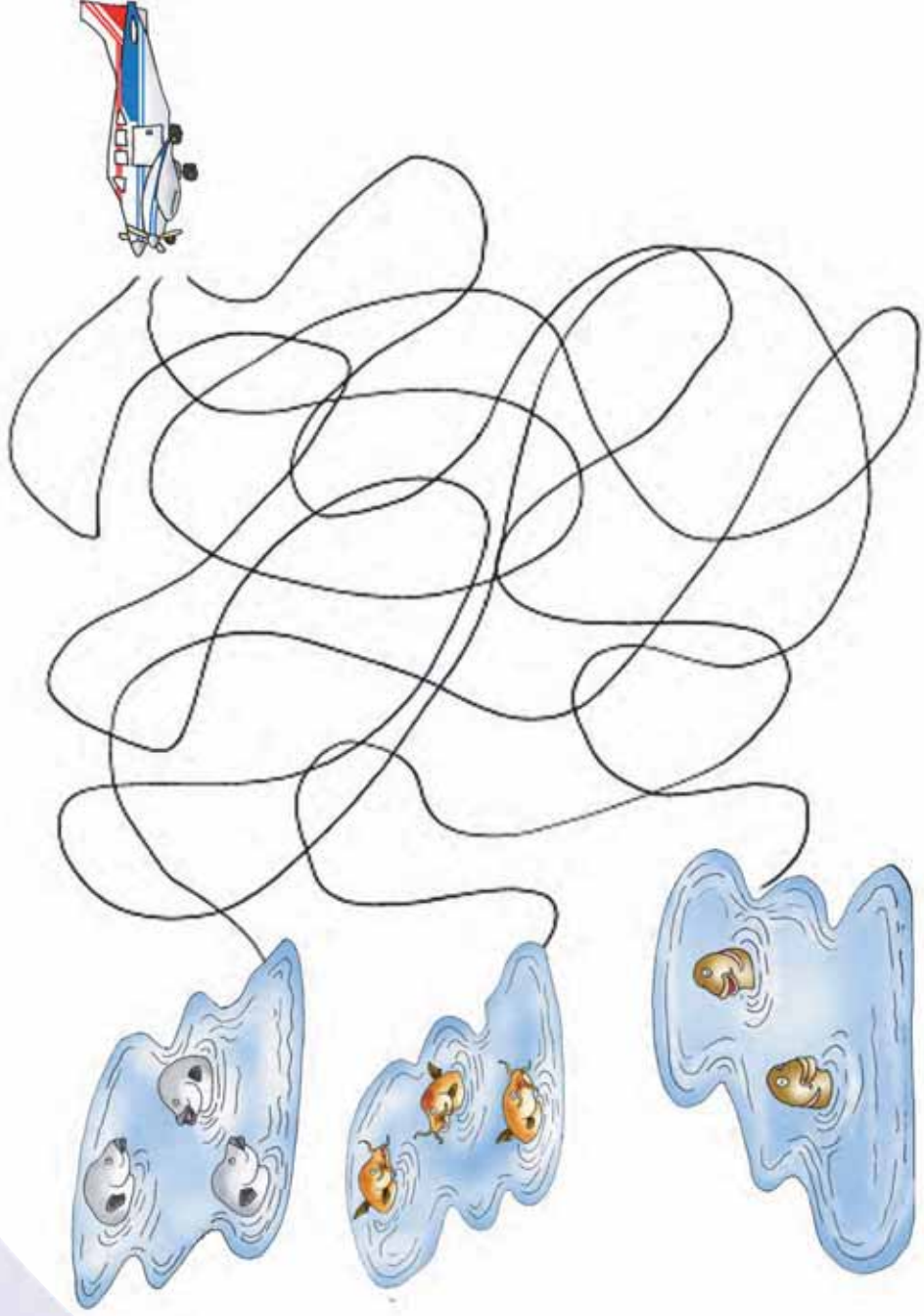
Red fire ant – *Solenopsis invicta*



Unfortunately the carp was introduced to nearby Mubi River and streams and then followed those streams into Lake Kutubu. Carp are still there. Now people need to work together to make sure that the carp do not become a big problem in a place as beautiful as Lake Kutubu.

## Games!

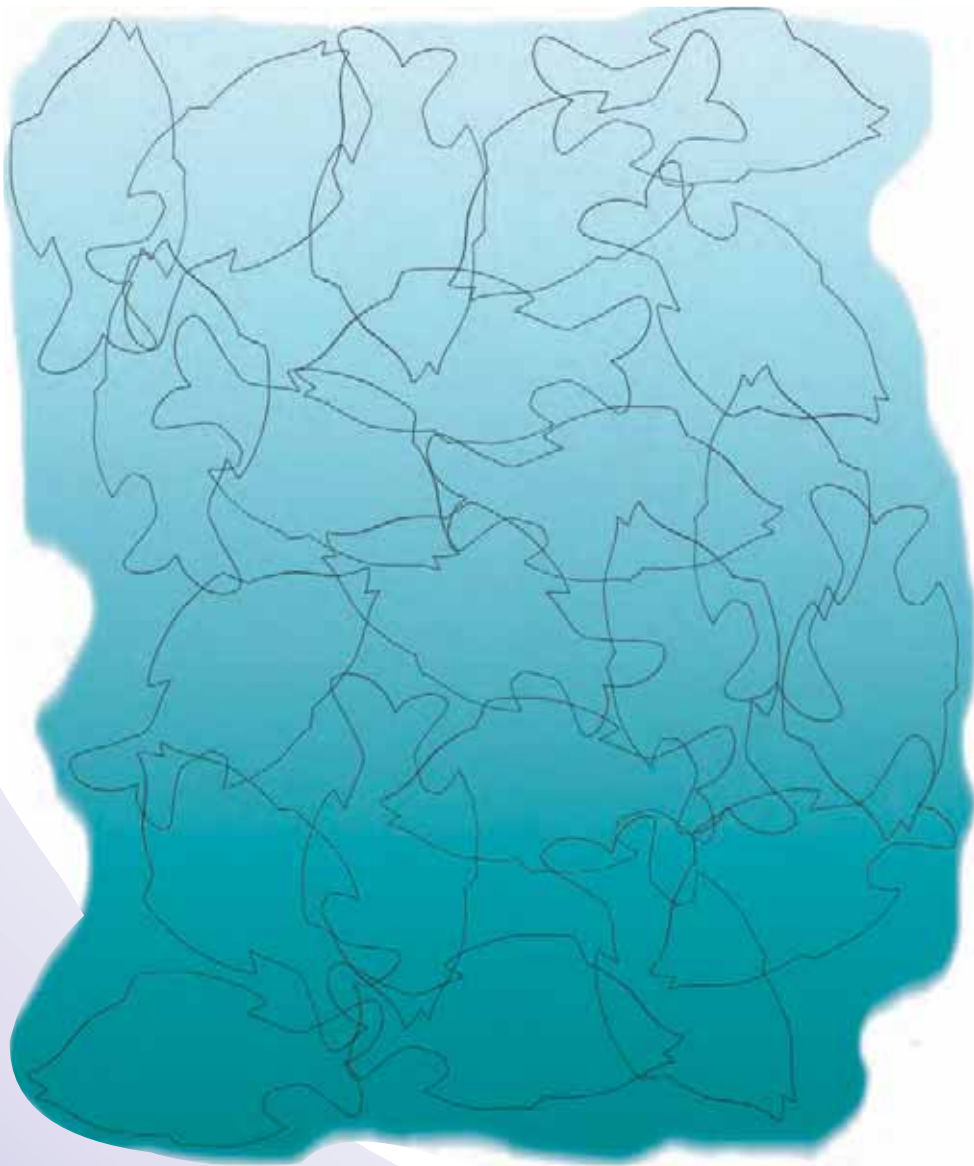
(1) Help the pilot to find his way back to Chris' lake.



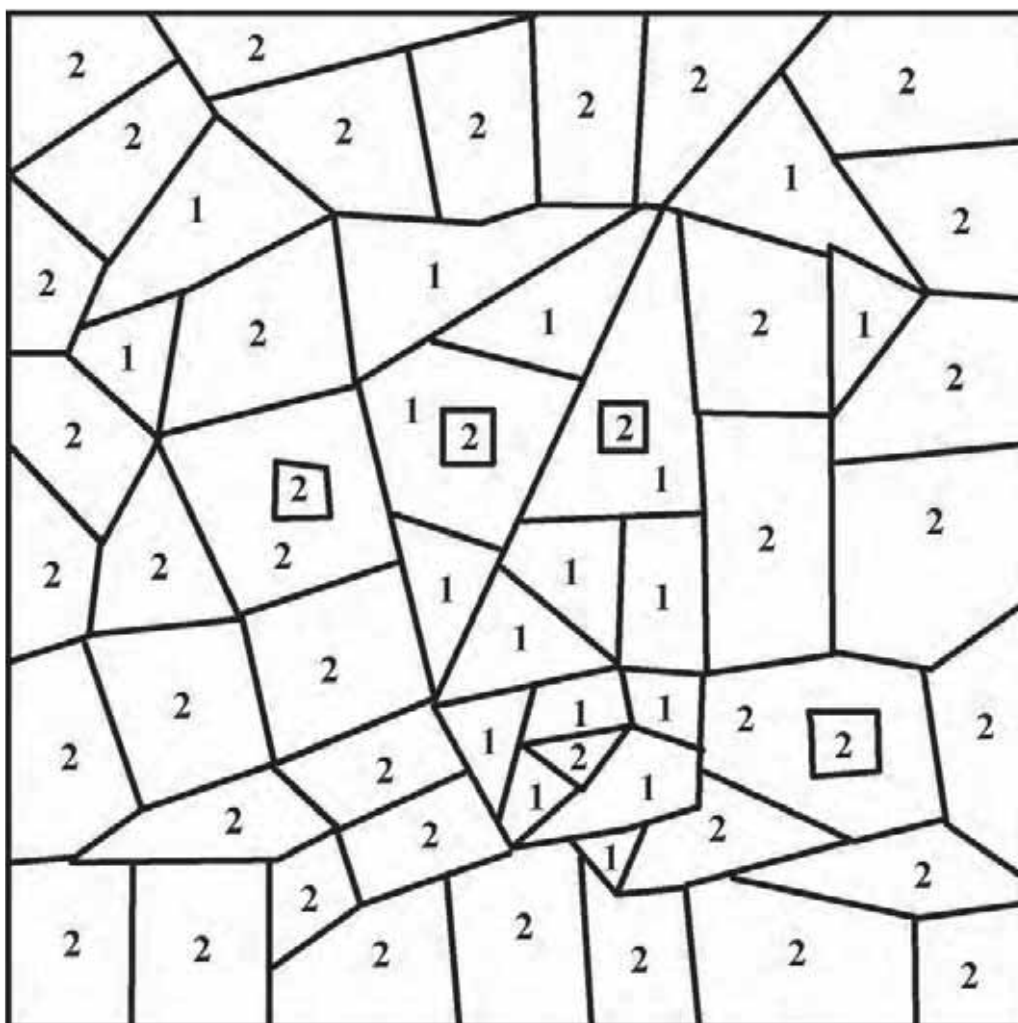
( 2 ) There are five Carps in the lake below. The scientist needs to find them to send them home. Can you help the scientist to find them?



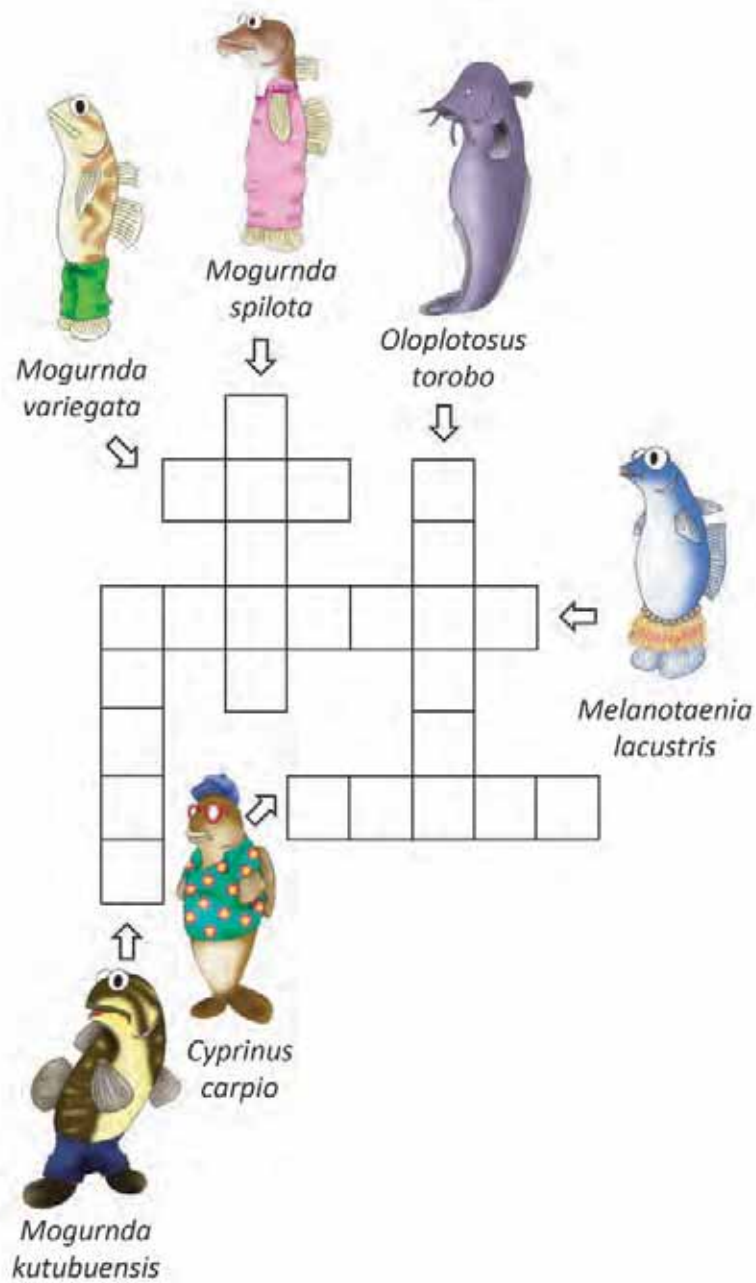
(3) Lake Kutubu is a very nice high lake, 800 m above the sea, and is located in the centre of Southern Highlands Province in Papua New Guinea. Count the number of fishes in the lake below and find out how many species of fish live in Kutubu Lake.



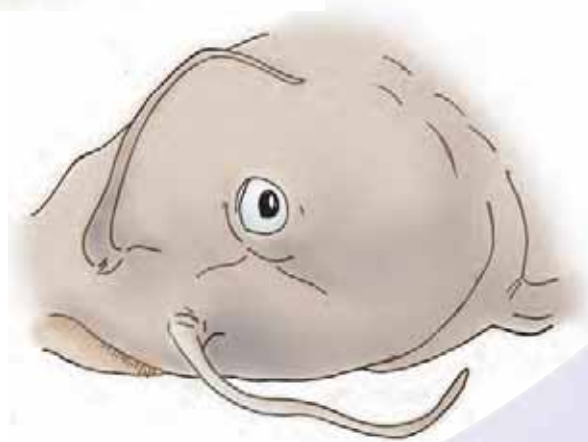
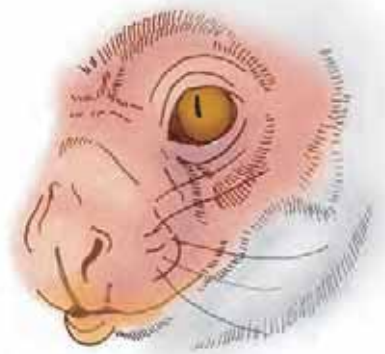
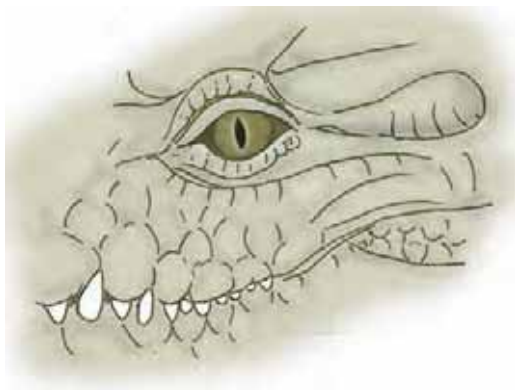
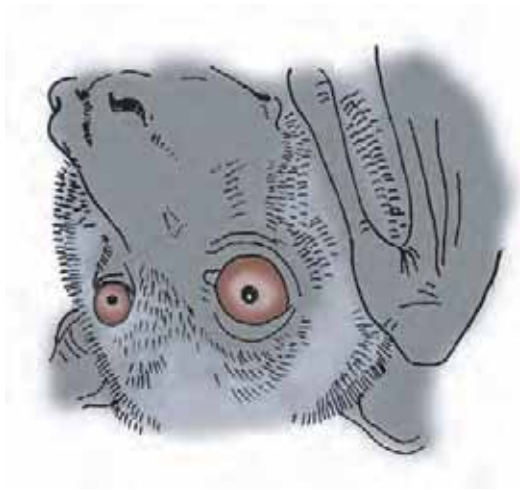
(4) If you colour all the figures that have a number one and leave the figures with the number two blank you will discover what strange animal Oliver found on his way to the research centre.



(5) These are our friends' scientific names. Can you fit their first name in the crosswords below?



(6) Which animals are these? Each picture is a close-up of a different animal. Can you guess them all?



(7) The scientist is looking for his books. Unfortunately, the books names of the books have rubbed off. See if you can figure out the names of the books.





(8) Help the fish to find their way across the lake to Chris house. Stop at all garbage but go past the rocks or plants.



(9) Can you find the 7 differences in these two drawings?





