



I'm Lump, a big rock in the middle of a stream. A really big boulder, too heavy to pick up. I've been here in the water for as long as I can remember.





Sometimes I wonder what it would be like to see the world. Imagine rolling off on a real adventure. Imagine having wings – or legs! But it's impossible – I'm a rock. Old and grey and mossy.

The days pass by here, below the alder trees. Sometimes the stream is full of water and covers my head as it rushes and roars. But it's not a problem – I'm a rock. On other days, the stream babbles gently along my sides.

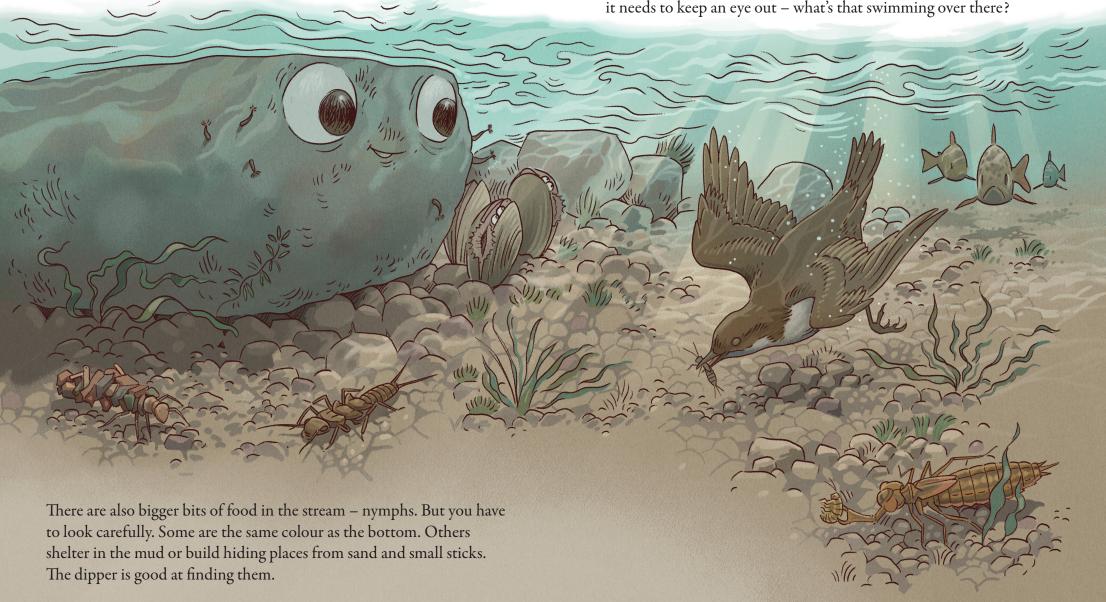


My best friends are the freshwater pearl mussels. They sit still like me, but they actually have a foot. They can live for 200 years. Me – I'm ancient. Other friends also come to visit. My back is flat enough for birds who want a drink or a quick swim.

The white-throated dipper often visits. It doesn't need a wash, because it dives and swims all the time anyway. It feels so good when it pecks at the midge larvae that like to sit on me. They itch!

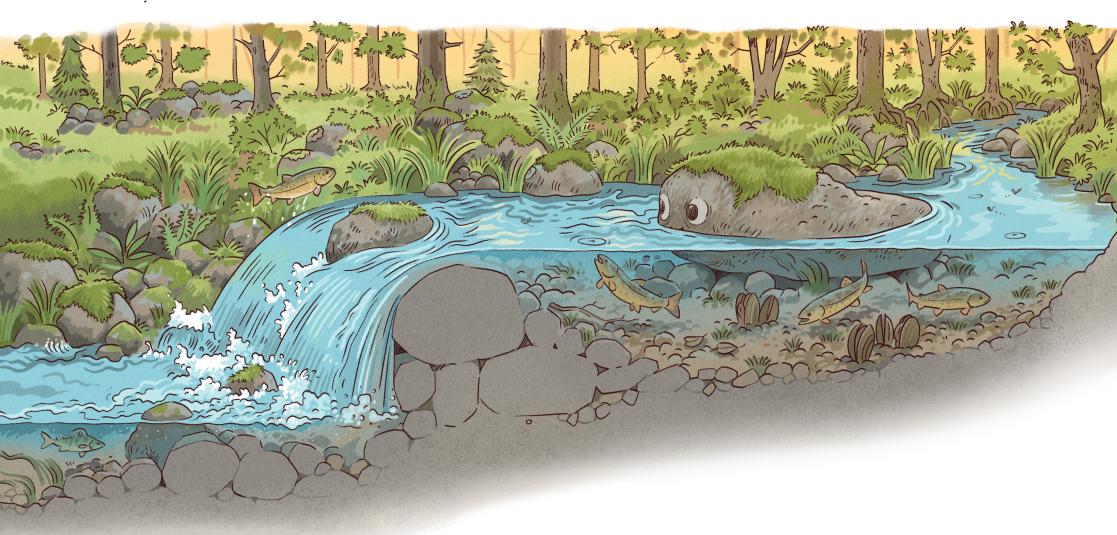
Hey dipper, don't take them all! Nymphs and other bugs are important. They eat old plants, so that the stream doesn't fill up with rotting leaves. And there has to be enough food for everyone. The creepy-crawlies in the stream had better watch out!

A dragonfly nymph is like a tiny crocodile. It eats other larvae. But now it needs to keep an eye out – what's that swimming over there?



A group of trout! Trout are inquisitive. They want to explore every water-way and see where it leads. Streams are their roads. It doesn't matter that the current is strong. They can even jump up waterfalls! Trout are speedy fish that swim long distances. They've been almost everywhere, perhaps even as far away as where the water flows into the sea.

The trout are helpful when the freshwater pearl mussels want to spread out. The mussels' larvae cling to the gills of fish and hitch a ride.



But they always return. Once upon a time, they were tiny fry. They hatched from eggs their mother laid in the gravel on the bottom of the stream.

At dusk, mayflies and midges emerge from the water. The air buzzes with flying insects. Some fall into the water. Then the trout are quick to arrive! But what's that sound? Swish, swish ...



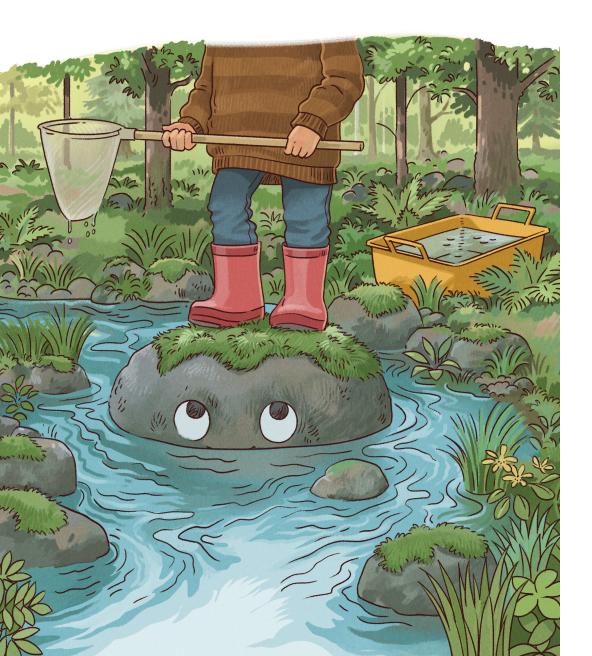
An otter comes splashing by at dawn. Just like the shrew, it has a holt somewhere along the bank. Maybe there are pups there that it's been feeding all night? Fish, crayfish and frogs taste best.

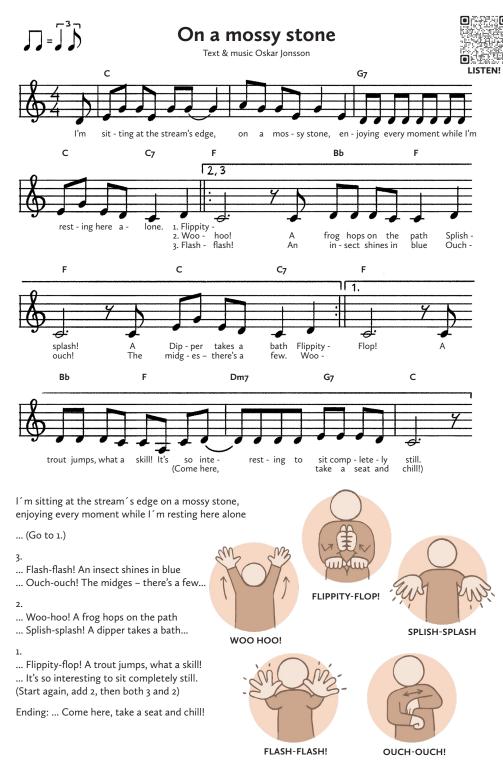
Now the water glitters in the sun. The otter is tired and dozes for a while on my soft moss. When it wakes up and licks its nose, I hear the mussels whisper to the trout, "Hide under the rock!"

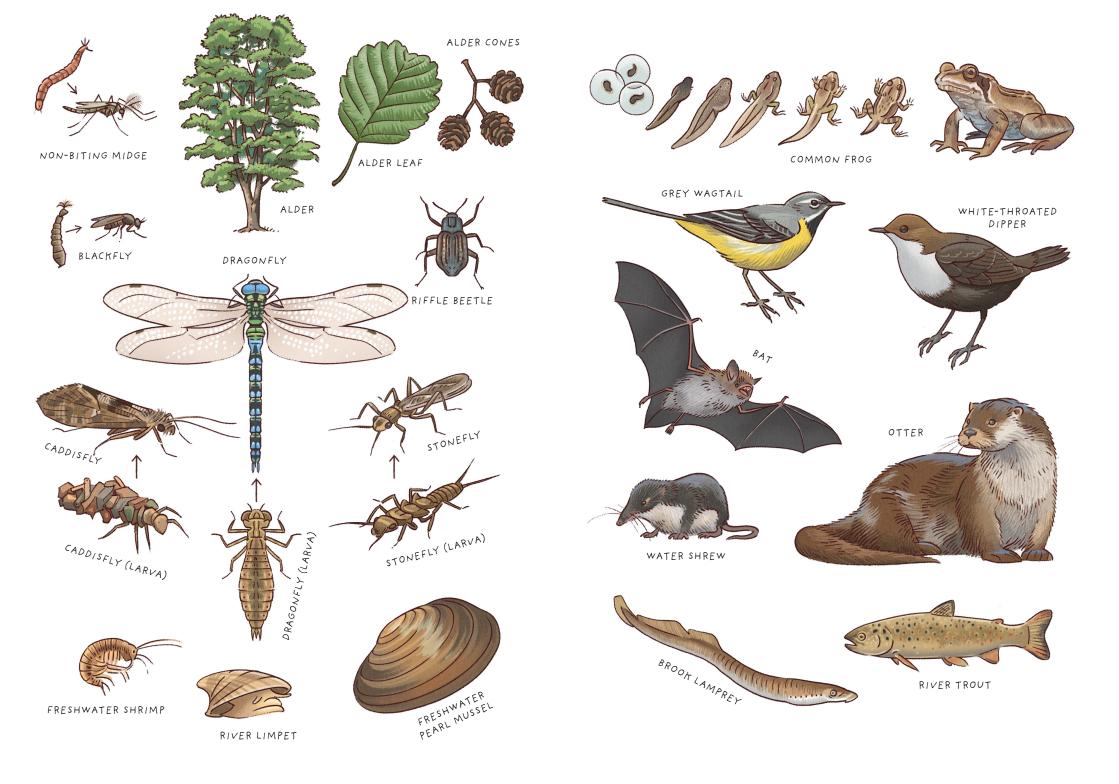


I'm Lump, a big mossy boulder. I live in the stream and can't move around. But exciting things happen here every day, both above and below the water. Just sitting still is a real adventure too.

Do you want to come and experience all this with me?





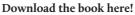




Lump is a rock. He sits in the middle of a stream and dreams of seeing the big wide world. But perhaps adventure is closer to home than Lump realises?

This book has been funded by Grip on Life, a project that works to combine active forestry practices with consideration for the forest's valuable watercourses and wetlands. Its aim is to improve the environment and outlook for animals and plants that live in watercourses and wetlands in forest landscapes.

More information is available at www.griponlife.se









© 2023 Skogsstyrelsen

Text, illustrations and graphic design Oskar Jonsson
Translation Clare Barnes
Repro and printing Elanders

EPRO AND PRINTING Elando ISBN 978-91-986297-7-4

With funding from the European Union's LIFE programme





The publisher is responsible for the book's contents, which must not be interpreted as the official position of the European Union or the European Commission.