



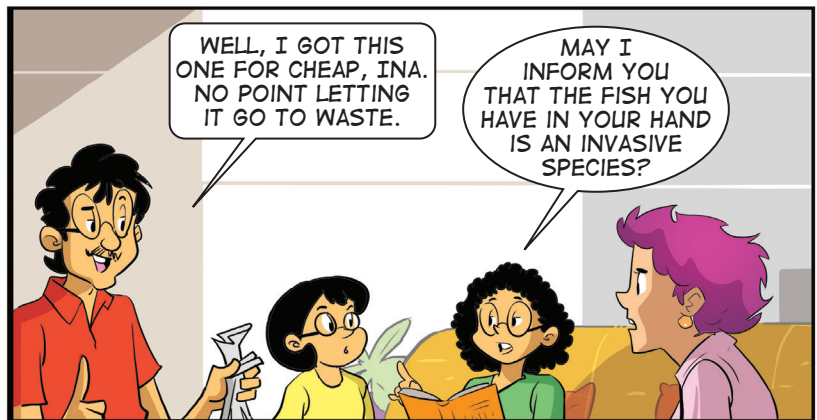
FISHY BUSINESS



LOOK WHAT I HAVE GIRLS. AN ARMoured SAILFIN CATFISH TO SET UP AN AQUARIUM.

YAY!

DAD, YOU DO KNOW THAT SETTING UP AN AQUARIUM WILL REQUIRE YOU TO SPEND MONEY, RIGHT?



WELL, I GOT THIS ONE FOR CHEAP, INA. NO POINT LETTING IT GO TO WASTE.

MAY I INFORM YOU THAT THE FISH YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND IS AN INVASIVE SPECIES?



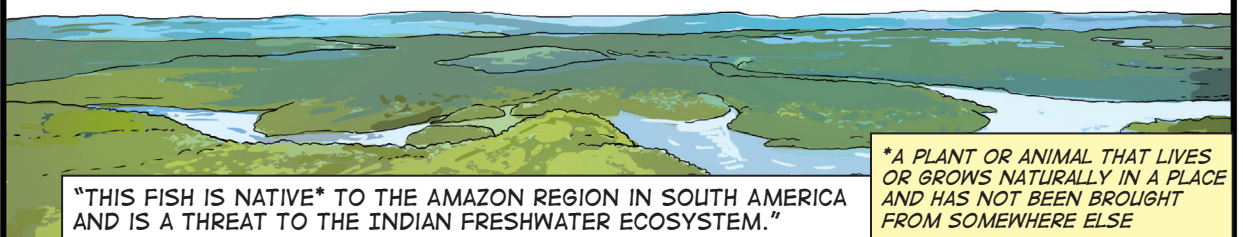
WHAT IS AN INVASIVE SPECIES?



MO, LET ME EXPLAIN.

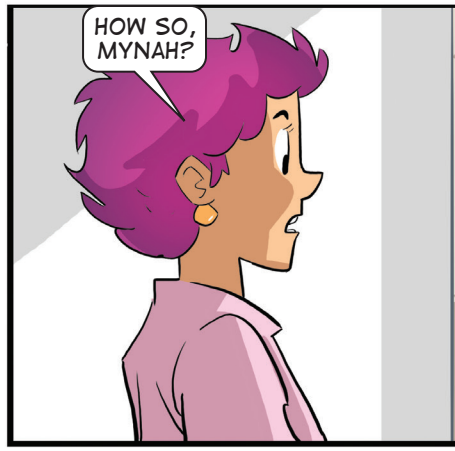


"INVASIVE, ALIEN SPECIES ARE EXOTIC SPECIES THAT CAUSE DISTURBANCE IN THE ECOSYSTEM AND THE ECONOMY."

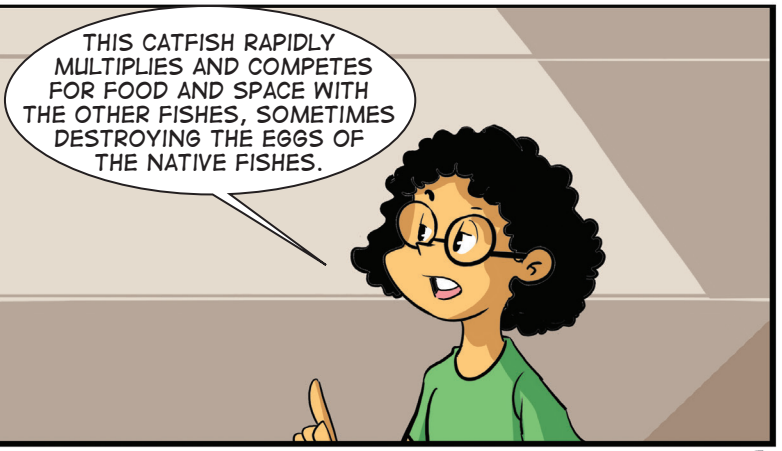


"THIS FISH IS NATIVE* TO THE AMAZON REGION IN SOUTH AMERICA AND IS A THREAT TO THE INDIAN FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEM."

*A PLANT OR ANIMAL THAT LIVES OR GROWS NATURALLY IN A PLACE AND HAS NOT BEEN BROUGHT FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE



HOW SO, MYNAH?



THIS CATFISH RAPIDLY MULTIPLIES AND COMPETES FOR FOOD AND SPACE WITH THE OTHER FISHES, SOMETIMES DESTROYING THE EGGS OF THE NATIVE FISHES.



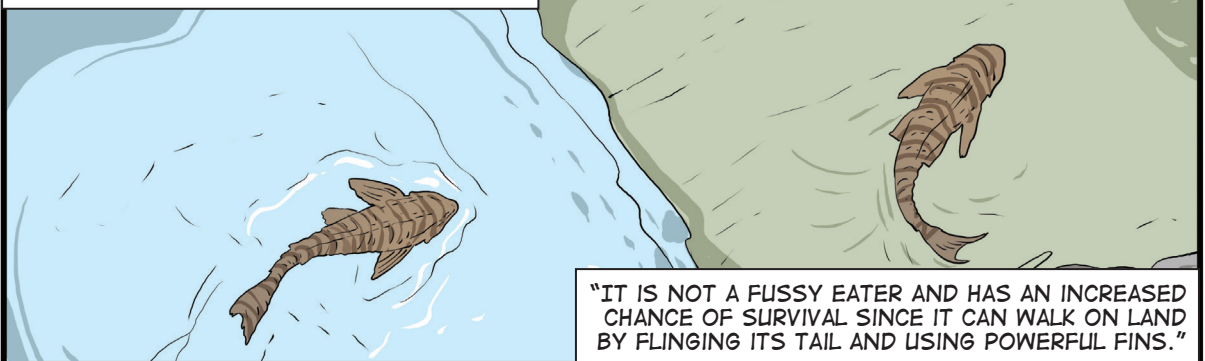


"AS THEIR NUMBERS IN FRESHWATER INCREASE, FISHERFOLK ALSO FIND THEMSELVES IN TROUBLE."

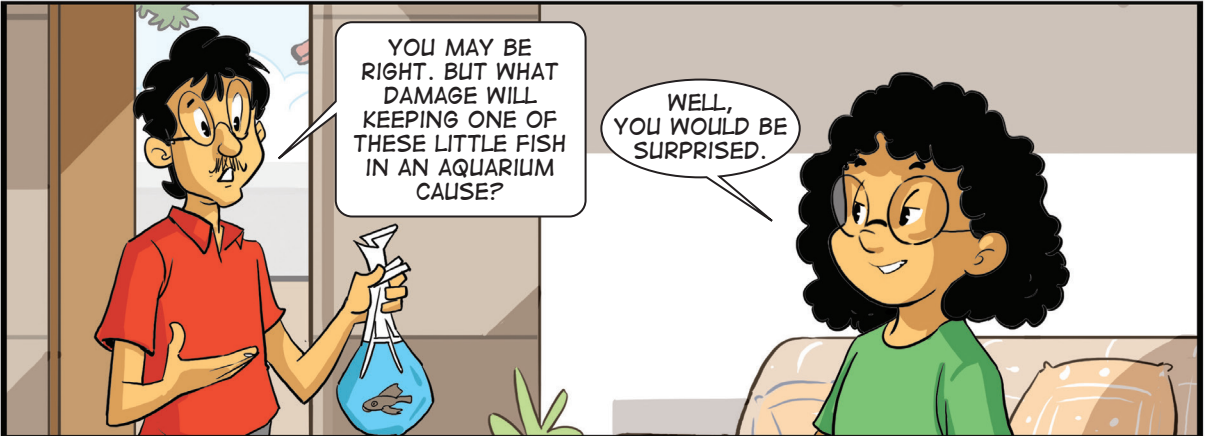


"ITS SHARP FINS DAMAGE THE NETS AND INJURE FISHERFOLK. THE FISH IS NOT EATEN; HENCE IT DOES NOT GENERATE ANY MONEY."

"COMMONLY CALLED DEVILFISH, IT SURVIVES IN WATERS WITH LOW OXYGEN CONTENT."



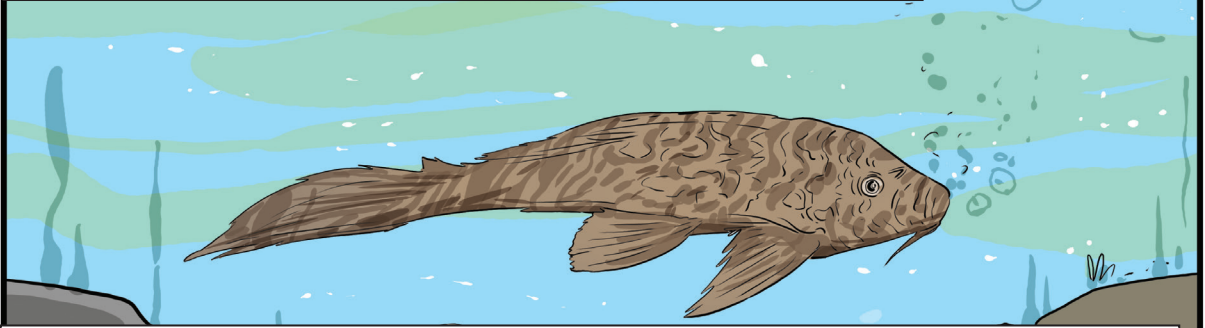
"IT IS NOT A FUSSY EATER AND HAS AN INCREASED CHANCE OF SURVIVAL SINCE IT CAN WALK ON LAND BY FLINGING ITS TAIL AND USING POWERFUL FINS."



YOU MAY BE RIGHT. BUT WHAT DAMAGE WILL KEEPING ONE OF THESE LITTLE FISH IN AN AQUARIUM CAUSE?

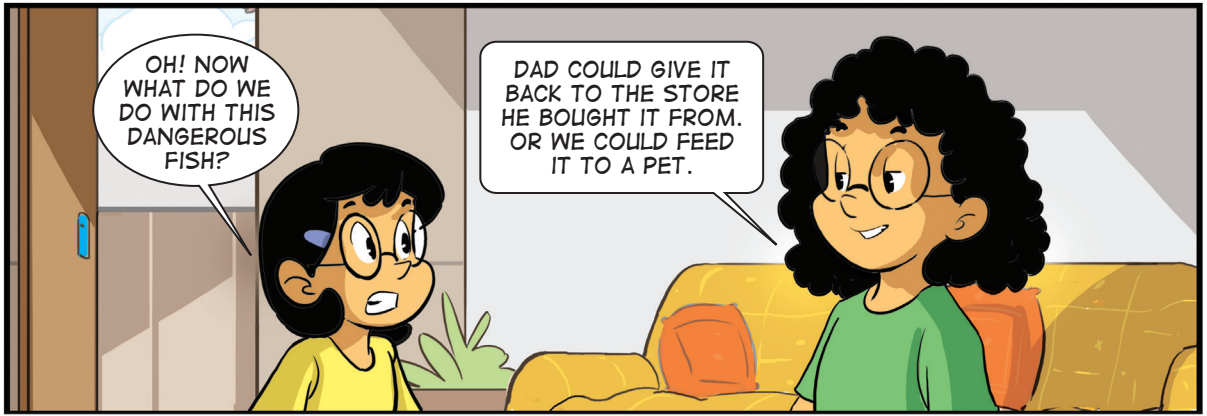
WELL, YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED.

"THE ARMOURD SAILFIN CATFISH WERE INTRODUCED IN INDIA DUE TO THEIR UNIQUE APPEARANCE AND ABILITY TO EAT UP ALGAE IN THE AQUARIUM."

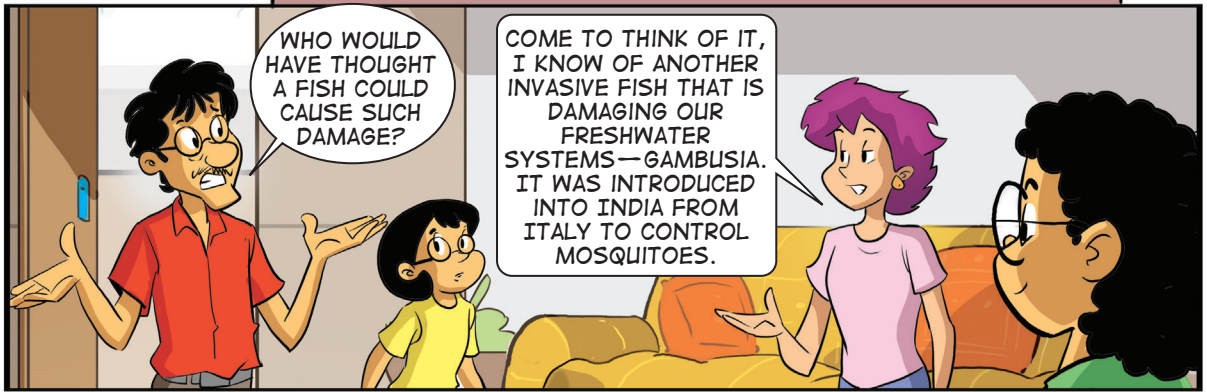


"BUT THEY WERE RELEASED INTO WATERBODIES ONCE THEY GREW TOO BIG FOR AQUARIUMS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THIS FISH HAS INVADDED 60 PER CENT OF WATERBODIES IN THE EASTERN GHATS."



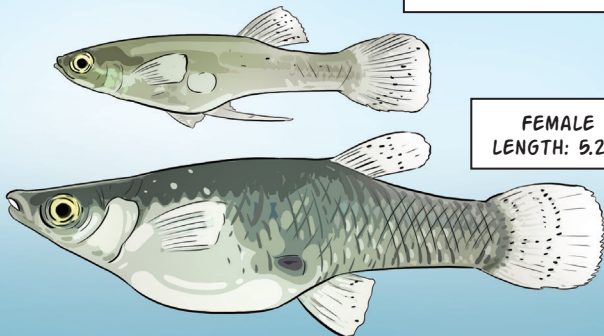


“INSTEAD OF USING EXOTIC, ORNAMENTAL FISH IN AQUARIUMS, WE COULD USE FISH THAT ARE LOCAL TO THE REGION.”



“INA, SHOULD WE TAKE A DEEP DIVE INTO GAMBUSIA?”

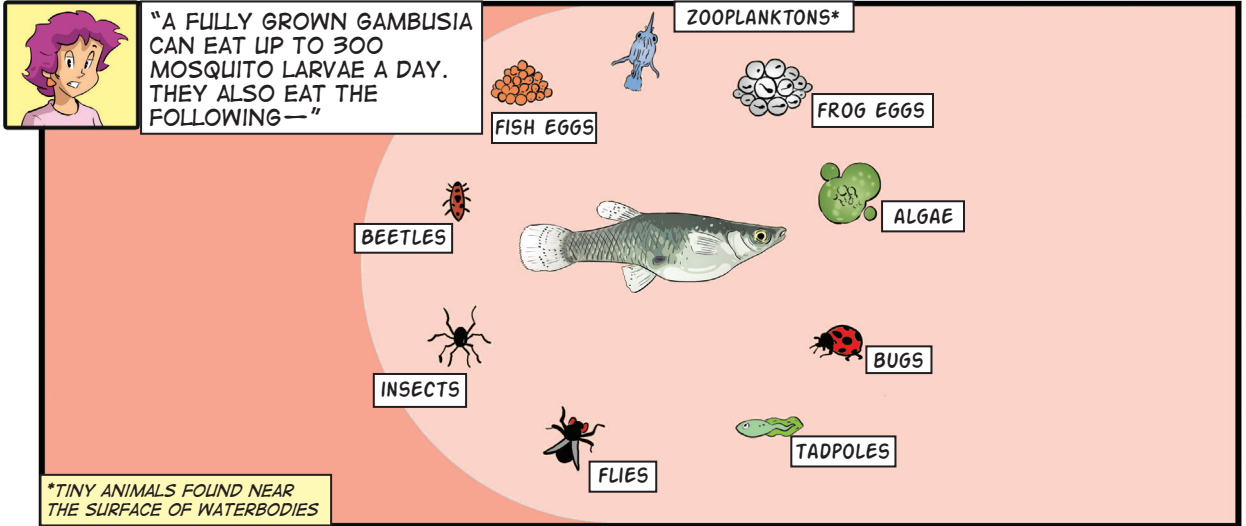
MALE GAMBUSIA'S LENGTH: 4.5 CM



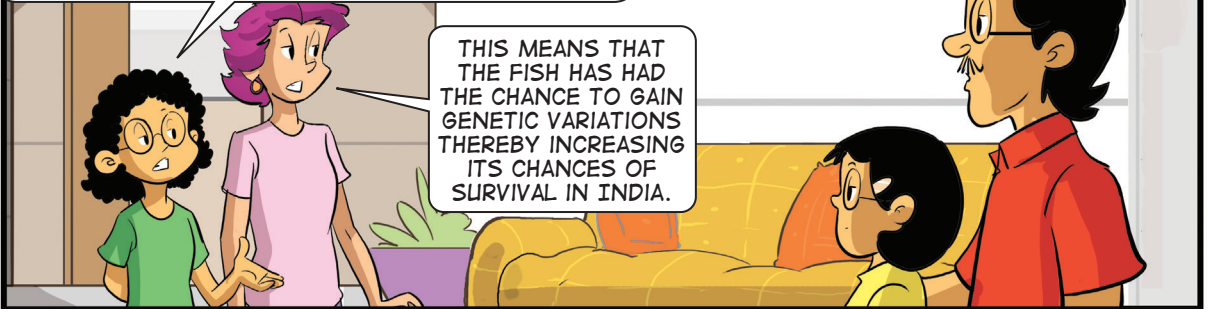
FEMALE GAMBUSIA'S LENGTH: 5.2 CM TO 6.8 CM

SURE. THEIR LIFESPAN IS APPROXIMATELY 5 YEARS. THEY BREED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN TROPICAL CLIMATES.





GAMBUSIA WERE FIRST INTRODUCED IN BENGALURU BACK IN THE 1920s TO CONTROL MOSQUITOES. SINCE THEN, GAMBUSIA FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO INDIAN WATERBODIES.



GAMBUSIA DEplete THE POPULATION OF NATIVE SPECIES. THEY ALSO EAT UP FISH EGGS THAT ARE BEING CULTIVATED FOR AQUACULTURE*.

GAMBUSIA IS LISTED AMONG THE 100 MOST INVASIVE SPECIES. AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE BANNED GAMBUSIA IN THEIR WATERBODIES.

