Imaginary Animal Creation Activity

Species: *Kalaana rhatcensis* (Mace-tailed Kalaana)

Creator: P. Hrishikesh

This imaginary animal is a solitary, herbivorous creature primarily inhabiting the Amazon basin rainforests.

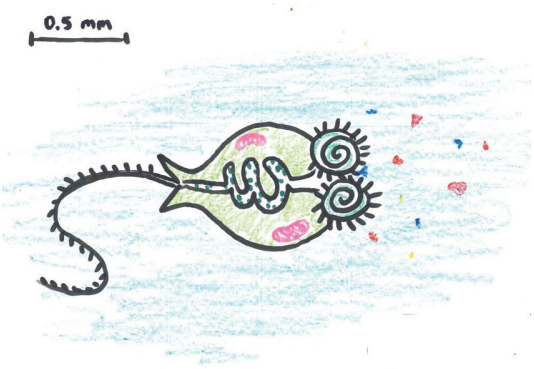
Physical Characteristics and Defense: It possesses a shell with a flower at the top, which serves as a food source when regular sustenance is scarce. For defense, it utilizes a club located at the end of its tail. When dormant and inside its shell, it resembles a large flower at first sight.

Behavior and Life Cycle: The animal is mostly dormant and solitary. Its life cycle is notable for its unique reproductive strategy: it mates only once and then the female migrates to Hawaii to lay eggs. The males remain behind and eventually die of old age. The average lifespan is exceptionally long, estimated to be around 200 years.

Ecology and Status: In aquatic environments, its main predator is the shark. Due to very limited research, the current population numbers for this species are unknown.

Species: *Plastiphagia mycofidus*

Creator: G. Pannagasri



A symbiotic relationship where the rotifer houses the fungus in its digestive tract and wheel organs, in turn receiving simpler hydrocarbons from the digested microplastics. Filter feeders are its biggest threat but its tail is lined with nematocysts that pack a painful sting to other threats. The coronated wheel organs at the oral opening help filter out sand and other debris from the ocean water, and fungi lining them help filter in mostly plastic. In the absence of microplastics, it switches to sustaining on nutrition through photosynthesis. They also have asymmetrically placed respiratory organs to avoid suffocation during conjugation.

Species: *Walkipisci sri*

Creator: Srijita Pal*

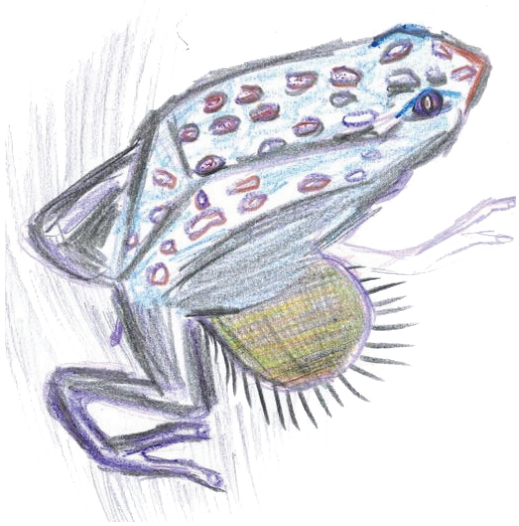
As per the brief given, we had to draw a species from our imagination that does not exist on Earth, with adaptive physical features which will help it survive climate change in the long run. I've always had weird thoughts like what if humans had tails or wings, what if fishes had wings. One of those thoughts were 'What if fish had legs and could walk and survive on land as well?'.

So, I have put this thought on paper. Here goes the description of this 'Walking Fish': This is a fish that can do both, walk on land and swim in water. So, I've named it 'Walking Sri Fish' after my name (Srijita). Also, I've given it a scientific name – Walkipisci sri, walki as it can walk, pisci for it being a fish, and again sri after my name. It can live in both land and water, thus, has both lungs and gills to respire. Has pointy hard scales and electric current in its tail for defence. Eats insects, for that it has a long sticky tongue which helps it to catch insects. It's blue-green in colour so that it can get mixed up in the greens of grasses and blues of water.

Also, I feel with the growing freshwater pollution, pollution in the ocean, and other issues like over fishing, fishes being not considered as 'wildlife' and eventually not being given enough protection, the fishes hypothetically might evolve to adapt and survive on land. Then, they might have legs and look somewhat similar to this. It was really fun to draw an imaginary creature.

Species: *Bursatus asiatica* (A common Ballfrog)

Creator: M. Nishigandha



This is a frog evolved from a Bullfrog adapting to climate change and rising temperatures. The depressions or burrows on the back are for better thermoregulation and play both mechanical and chemical role in regulating the body temperatures. The big sac adjoined to the abdomen is also a multipurpose easily inflatable and deflatable pouch developed for:

1) a reservoir for carrying water in the drier and harsher climates,
2) it also serves as a bag to carry it's own tadpoles,
3) during the time of hibernation the frog can get inside the sac, save space and camouflage in the ground.

The thorny structure on the outer surface of the sac acts as defense from the predator turning the frog into a spiky ball, looking like a Datura fruit yet much smaller in size.

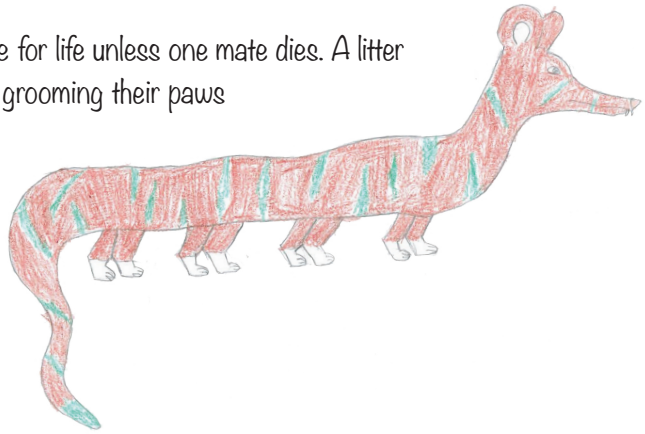
Species: White-footed caterpillar mouse

Creator: Sanjana Vadakke Kuruppath

Description: A common small eight-legged omnivorous mammal, related to both mustelids and rodents. Average length (snout to tail) is 10 for both sexes. Fur is sandy to dark brown with dark green stripes, except for the paws, which are cream to white. Canines are slightly long as its preferred prey is beetles.

Habitat: Forages for fruit and insects in trees and bushy undergrowth, and sleeps and nests in underground burrows. It has successfully adapted to human-modified areas, living under cupboards and in rafters under tile roofs. It also scavenges from garbage dumps and kitchens. It is increasingly considered a household pest.
Physiology: Adept at running, swimming and climbing due to their strong and touch-sensitive paws. Fur can be shed at will to adapt to temperature fluctuations.

Behaviour and reproduction: A monogamous species, they mate for life unless one mate dies. A litter can have between 8 to 12 pups. Much of the rest time is spent in grooming their paws to keep them in good condition. They live in colonies of up to 25 individuals per burrow. As they are preyed upon by mesocarnivores, snakes and raptors, they have developed camouflage, are quick to bite if touched, and make a shrill shrieking sound to alert colony mates when cornered or lifted.



Species: Vibranto Na-Bi

Creator: Shreya Yadav

Vibranto Na-Bi, a colorful butterfly is my imaginary creature. The name "Vibranto" means 'vibrant color' and "Na-Bi" means butterfly in Korean. It is found in garden, trees, forest, agricultural land etc. You will find this butterfly almost everywhere. It has two legs which help it while walking and it has sharp toenail to fight and walk. Vibranto has a tooth which is used to eat soft leaves, flower petals and to protect itself from danger. When humans try to harm, it will use the teeth to bite. The wings have black, red and blue color. It looks amazingly colorful. The body has red dots which release a chemical. The secretion of chemical help them to avoid human. If humans come in contact with this chemical, they will get allergic reaction and in some severe cases it will cause death. Vibranto will be eaten by only big animals like tiger, wolf, lion etc., This butterfly has 1 month life span. Usually, butterflies have a week, but I gave it at least a month to live so that it can see more into this world and humans can admire it from distance without capturing it.

I intentionally have not given long life span because I don't want it to live more in this cruel world where it can get hurt. I want it to be safe from humans because wherever humans put hand on anything it starts destroying. I want it to live peacefully.

Species: XLR8-A Climate Resilient Fish of the Future

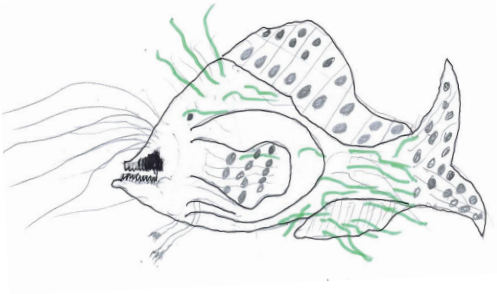
Creator: Sajahan Naufal Nazium

XLR8 is a highly specialized, migratory fish imagined to evolve in a future Earth facing severe climate change, heavy pollution, and extreme temperature fluctuations. This species combines traits seen in different aquatic animals and survives through an advanced algae–animal symbiosis that provides energy, camouflage, and protection from toxins. XLR8 represents how aquatic life may adapt to harsh and unstable environments. The most unique feature of XLR8 is its symbiotic algae-covered skin. The algae grow within special grooves on the fish's body and help it blend into its surroundings, such as kelp forests, algal blooms, polluted harbours, and nutrient-rich waters. This camouflage reduces the risk of predation and allows the fish to ambush prey effectively. The algae also play a nutritional role by producing energy-rich compounds that support the fish during food shortages.

XLR8 has photo-receptor cells in its fins that capture sunlight even in murky or polluted water. The collected energy powers algal photosynthesis, allowing the algae to produce sugars, fats, and amino acids that supplement the fish's metabolism. In addition, the algae can absorb and neutralize heavy metals and toxic chemicals, turning the fish's skin into a living filtration system that allows survival in heavily polluted environments.

Physically, XLR8 is well adapted for flexible feeding and defence. It possesses a baleen-like filter plate that enables it to feed on plankton, microalgae, and organic debris in degraded ecosystems. At the same time, it retains sharp inward-curved teeth for active predation, making it an opportunistic omnivore. Modified front fins form claw-like appendages that help it grip surfaces such as rocks, mangrove roots, and submerged structures. Sensitive barbels allow it to detect chemicals, vibrations, and toxins in the water.

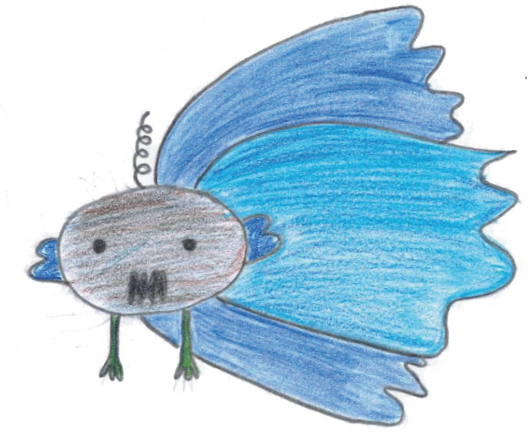
XLR8 shows extreme environmental tolerance. It can survive in both very cold and very hot waters using antifreeze and heat-shock proteins. It moves freely between freshwater, brackish, and marine habitats. A modified air bladder allows it to survive for long periods in oxygen-poor waters. Ecologically, XLR8 acts as an indicator of extreme environmental degradation and serves as a biological bridge between fragmented aquatic ecosystems.



Species: Susukai

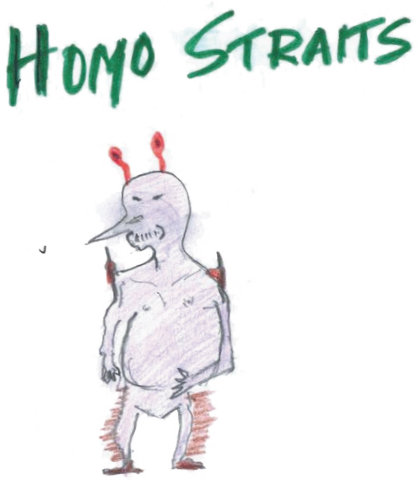
Creator: Ishika Shah

Hello, I am "SUSUKAI" an alien species. I have hug wing which is hydrophobic in nature. My wings protect me from both rain and sun. I have antenna through which I communicate. I live in forest, desert and also in ocean but I don't like ocean much. I eat flash and blood but I mostly suck the blood out of my prey and leave the flesh for other species. I am very destructive in nature but I am scared of ants, once they enter my ear I get annoyed a lot. Initially researchers thought that I have arrived from some other universe and categorized me as an alien species (dumb humans) but I have evolved in earth.



Species: Homo Straits

Creator: K. Gokul



Post sixth extinction, most of the life forms vanished from the earth, but some of the remains of last lived group of Homo sapiens developed a genetic mutations model that left the growth of new species with high adaptability for the extreme fluctuations of the planet earth's post extinction. Homo straits has adapted for a borrowing lifestyle and primarily live around subterranean habitats.

Characteristics:

Slimy body, short and slightly bent body structures, some are shapeless.
Lost eyesight – Eyes reduced to photoreceptive pits that can detect vibration and the magnetic fields.
Expandable nose/snout – To dig through the underground, the nose can inflate and deflate like a fleshy drill to sense prey underground.
Developed finrays and limbs – Arms and legs can fold onto while burrowing. It moves using muscular ripples, like worms.
Antennae – Instead of ears, it has developed antennae-like that detect sound vibrations and helps communicate with other species.

Behaviours:

Borrowing – it helps soil nutrients and aerates underground ecosystems. Hence, Homo straits is the new keystone species.
Mating – emerge to the surface only for few hours to mate and goes back to borrowing habitat.
Echo-language – it communicates through rhythmic low-frequency burrow rumbles that travel through the ground. Antenna helps to receive the frequencies.
Symbiotic relationship - mutualism with fungal and underground roots network which helps them in understand and live underground while there's harsh environmental fluctuations in the surface. Some species even have living fungi colonies on their backs that help digest minerals deposits. In return, their burrowing behaviour helps in constant flow of the nutrient cycling in the soil which boasts the fungal network and roots systems of tree.

Taxonomic notes:

There's a notable divergent evolutionary in these species – Homo straits and Homo cannoins.
Homo straits feeds on algae, fungi, and bacteria and can live for so long without eating.
Homo cannoins feeds on worms and they're well known for their cannibalistic behaviour and they need to feed on something constantly.
*Notes and field observations from some of the last remains of Homo sapiens from the planet Mars.

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