

FIELD NOTES FROM THE TREE FORT
A Naturalist Observation Activity: Mystery Creature



In **ZOMBIE ZOO**, Felix never trusts his memory alone. When something strange happens, he scribbles fast notes on a small field notepad on the spot – then later, safe in his tree fort, he copies the important parts into his prized leather-bound field journal, adding careful sketches. Try Felix’s two-step method on a mystery creature of your own!

QUICK NOTES
(on the spot, like Felix's notepad)

Write fast! What do you notice right away about your mystery creature?

What does it look like?

What does it smell or sound like?

What is it doing?

JOURNAL ENTRY
(safe in the tree fort, write it up)

Now copy your best clues into a real entry – and don't forget the sketch!

sketch it here

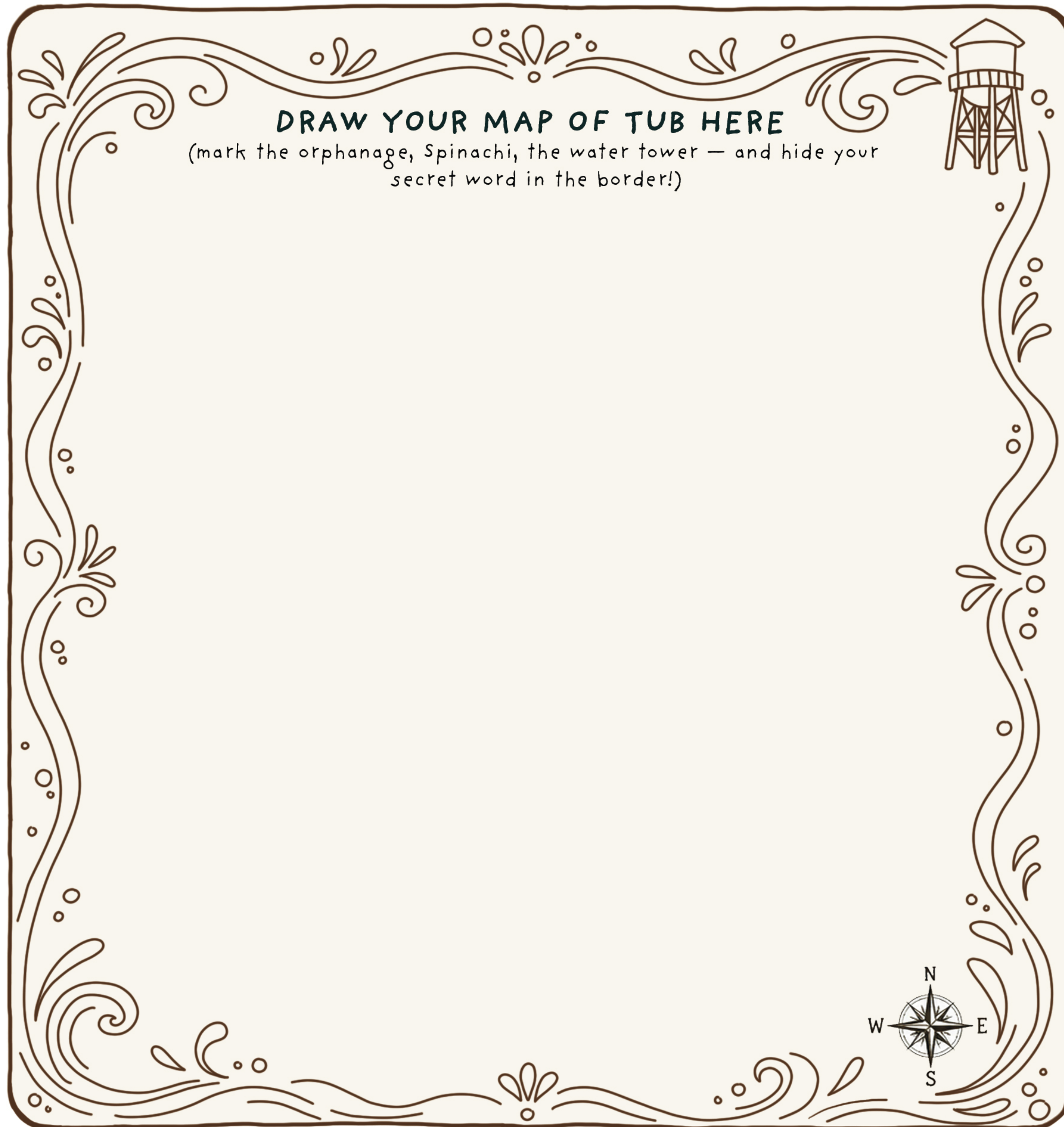
Naturalist Challenge: Felix once mixed up an egg count because he didn't look closely enough – check your sketch twice before you call your notes finished!

CRACK DOC BRUNNE'S MAP CODE

A Cartography & Real-Science Activity



Doc Brunne's maps of Spinachi are covered in gorgeous detail – and a secret. Tucked into the fancy swirls of every border, Doc hides his own name in tiny letters. Felix has to hunt for it before Doc will admit he's the mapmaker! Design your own map below, and hide a name or word somewhere in the border for a friend to find.



MY HIDDEN WORD

(write it small in your map border — don't tell!)

MAP SYMBOL KEY

 = orphanage

 = water tower

 = brackish water

 = Doc's house

THE REAL SCIENCE BEHIND THE NOCTILUNA

In the story, Doc explains that Noctiluna are bioluminescent creatures that only survive in brackish water – the mix of salt and fresh water found where oceans meet inland streams. That's Felix and Ninja's first big clue: when they find Noctiluna glowing in Doc's freshwater well, they know right away something has gone very wrong.

Think like a Naturalist: why might finding a brackish-water creature in fresh water be a clue?

