

Wetland Detective - Fact Sheet

Mudskipper skips!

Location: | Coastal Trail & Mud Experience

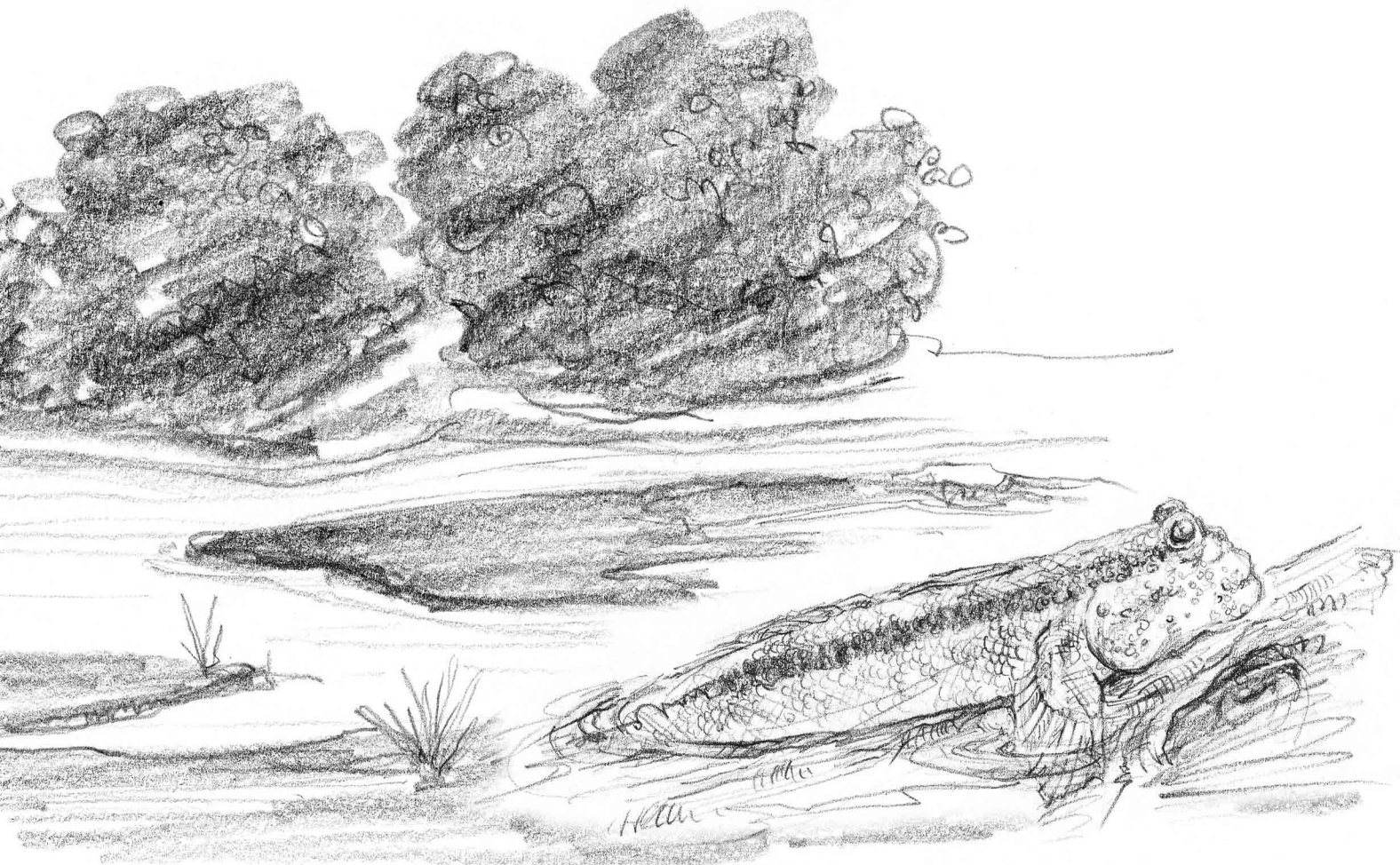
Suitable for family with children from 6 to 10 years old

Fact:

1. Mudskippers are amphibious fishes, can withstand to be out of water for extended period.
2. They are well adapted to *intertidal habitats unlike most fishes which need pools of water to survive or move along with the water when the tide retreats.

*intertidal habitat is an area where it is covered with water during high tide and expose when tide is low.

3. They use their muscular pectoral fins to skip around on the mud. They can jump up to 60cm across the mud by flicking their muscular body and catapult themselves across.
4. Mudskippers are quite active when out of water. They can be seen feeding, building their own pool or defending their territories.
5. They are in the family Gobiidae, one of the largest families of fish with more than 2000 species.



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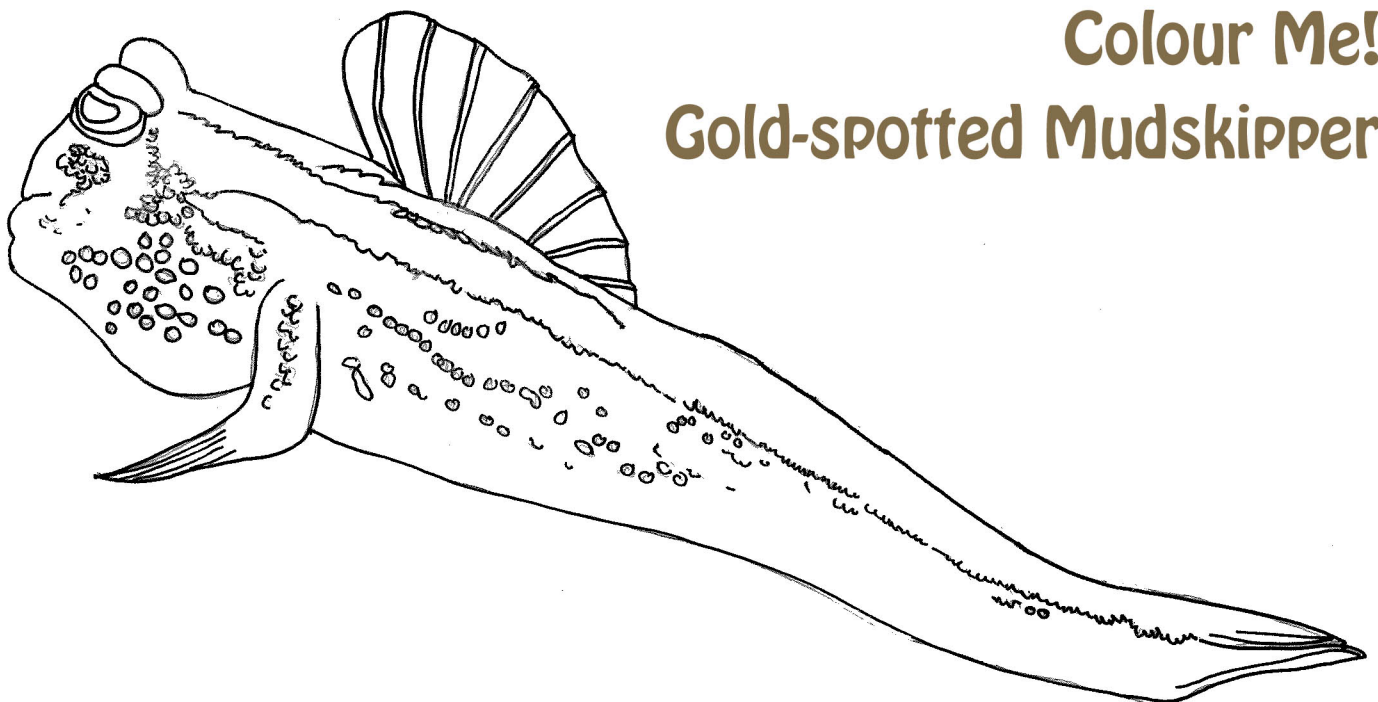


1. Gold-spotted Mudskipper

(*Periophthalmus chrysospilos*)

Characteristics:

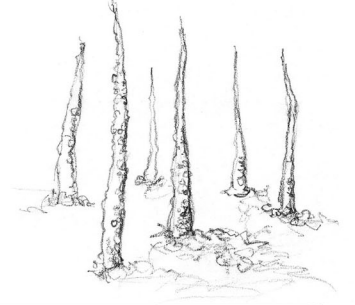
- Commonly seen on Singapore shores.
- Tends to move around in groups in a line, following the leader.
- Size: 6-12cm.
- Speckled with orange spots on 'cheeks' and the underside of the body.
- The male raises his bright orange-and-black dorsal fin to attract females and intimidate rival males.
- The mudskipper digs a burrow on soft mud flats, spitting out balls of mud as it digs out the hole.
- It eats small crabs, prawns and insects.



Colour Me!
Gold-spotted Mudskipper

Mudskipper skips!

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2. Blue-spotted Mudskipper

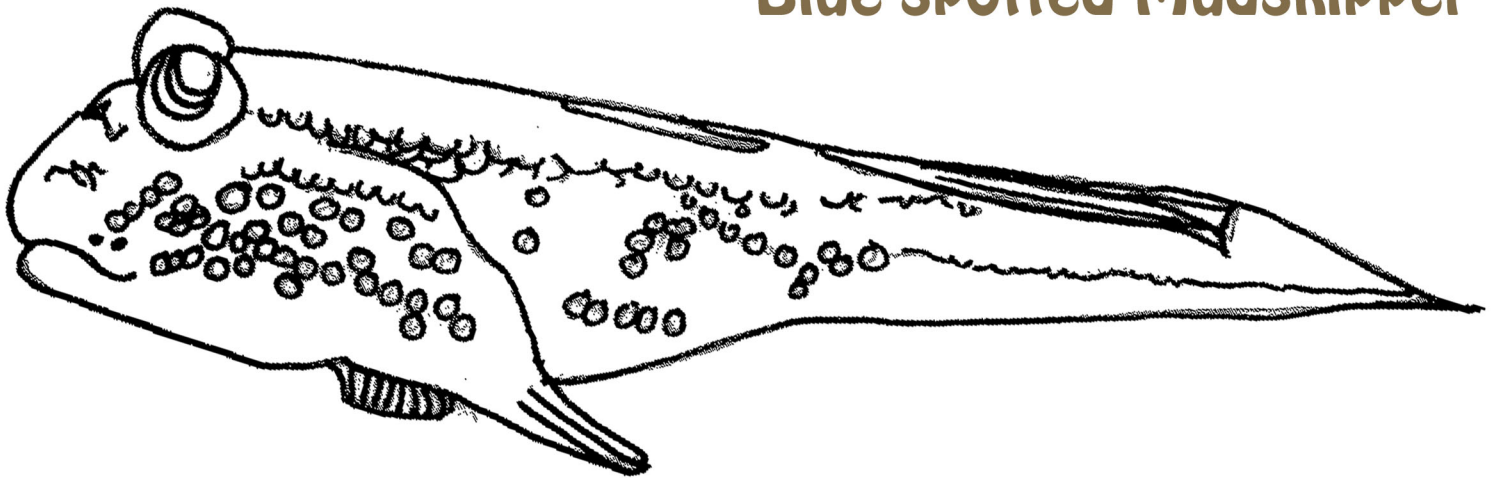
(*Boleophthalmus boddarti*)

Characteristics:

- Seen in the back mangroves. During high tide, it hides in its burrow with a bubble of air.
- Size: 22cm long
- Brown with 6-7 dark diagonal bars along the body.
- Lots of tiny blue spots on the 'cheeks', along the sides of the body and on the fins.
- It grazes on algae and edible bits on the surface of the mud by moving its head from side to side.



Colour Me! Blue-spotted Mudskipper



Mudskipper skips!

Location: **I** Coastal Trail & Mud Experience



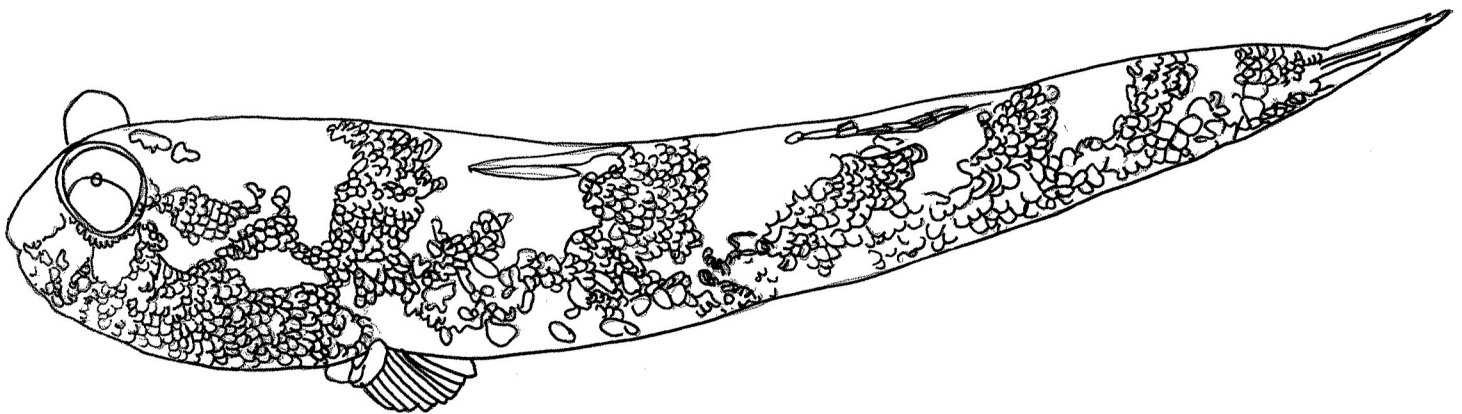
3. Dusky-gilled Mudskipper (*Periophthalmus novemradiatus*)

Characteristics:

- Commonly seen near mangroves.
- Size: 4-6cm.
- A small mudskipper with spots and speckles. Blackish area on the underside near the gills.

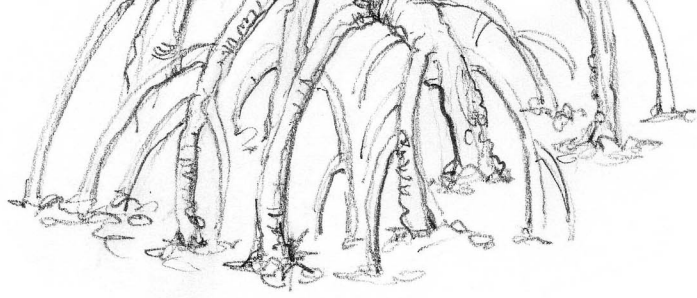


Colour Me!
Dusky-gilled Mudskipper



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4. Giant mudskipper

(*Periophthalmodon schlosseri*)

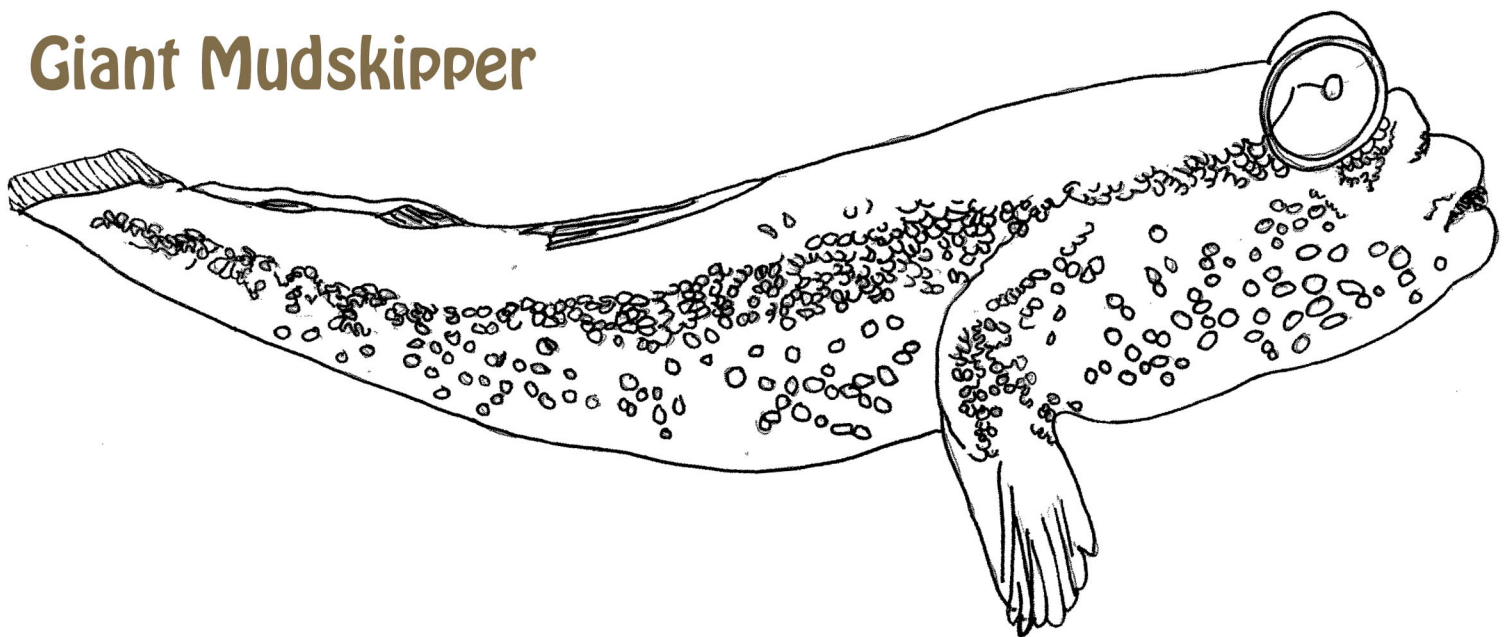
Characteristics:

- The most frequently seen large mudskipper in Sungei Buloh. At low tide, they are often seen in or near their 'swimming pool'. At high tide, they may be seen clinging to mangrove tree roots, rocks and other surfaces.
- Size: At 15-27cm long, they are the largest mudskipper in Sungei Buloh.
- Has a black stripe along the side of its body.
- Builds a pool with deep tunnels in the mud as a nursery for its young.
- An aggressive hunter, it eats mainly prawns, small crabs and insects. It may even snack on smaller mudskippers!

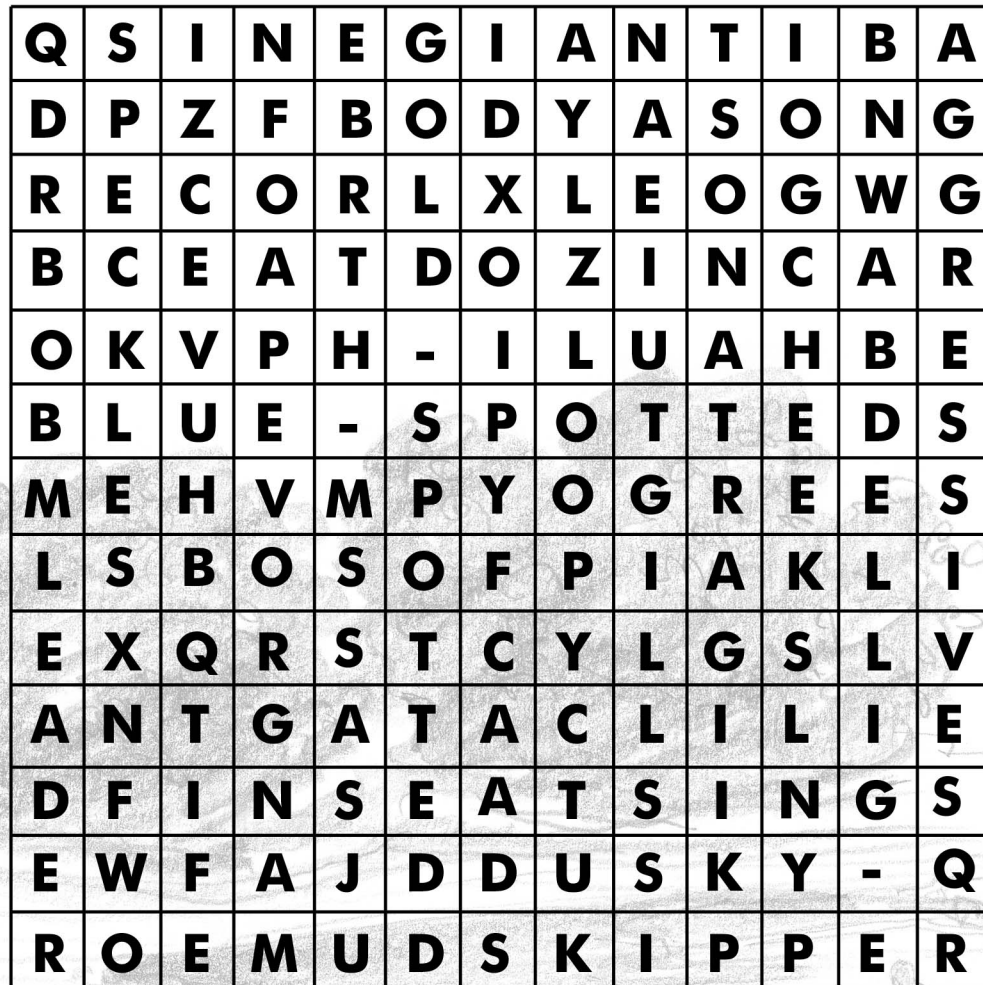


Colour Me!

Giant Mudskipper



Word Search - Mudskipper skips!



Find the words in **CAPITAL BOLD**

1. **MUDSKIPPER** comes in various **SIZES**.
2. **BLUE-SPOTTED** Mudskipper has lots of tiny blue spots on the **CHEEKS**, sides of the **BODY** and on the **FINS**.
3. **DUSKY-GILLED** Mudskipper is a small mudskipper with spots and **SPECKLES** and blackish area near the **GILLS**.
4. **GOLD-SPOTTED** Mudskipper moves in a line as a group following a **LEADER**.
5. **GIANT** Mudskipper is the largest mudskipper seen in the **MANGROVE** mudflats of Sungei Buloh.
6. The Giant Mudskipper builds a **POOL** with **DEEP** tunnels in the mud as a nursery for its **YOUNG**.
7. The Giant Mudskipper is an **AGGRESSIVE** hunter. It **EATS** on prawns, small crabs & fishes, insects and even smaller mudskipper!