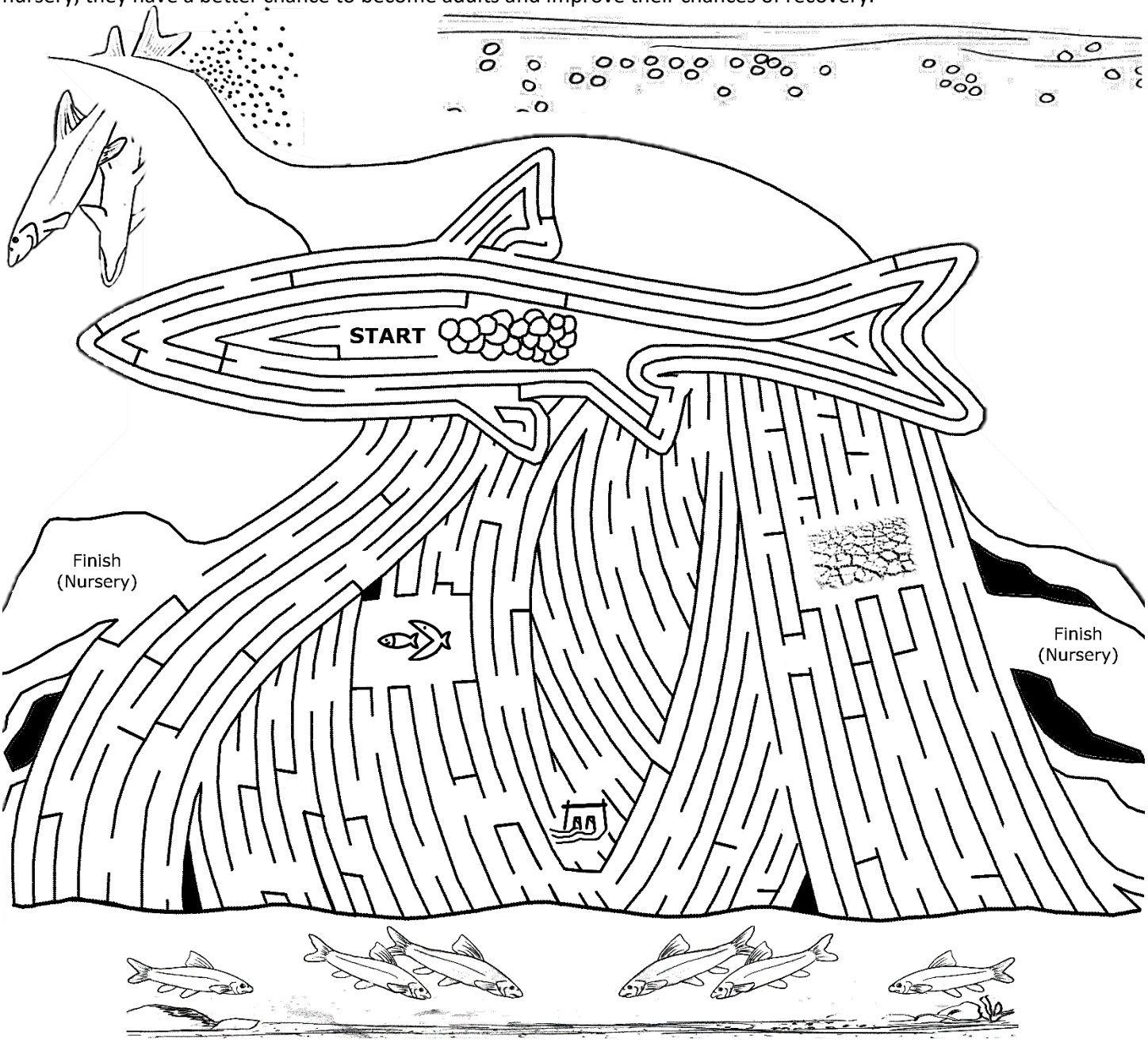
STUDENT WORKSHEET: RIO GRANDE SILVERY MINNOW RIVER MAZE

Name _____

The ***Rio Grande*** is about 1,885 miles long. It is one of the longest rivers in the United States. Its headwaters (its beginning) are in Colorado. From Colorado it flows through New Mexico and Texas. Its mouth (the end) is in Mexico where it flows into the Gulf of Mexico. One native fish species of the Rio Grande is the ***Rio Grande Silvery Minnow***. The Rio Grande Silvery Minnow used to live in the Rio Grande (and its tributary, Pecos River) from Española, New Mexico, down to the Gulf of Mexico. Now it only lives in about 174 miles of the Rio Grande in New Mexico. The Rio Grande Silvery Minnow was listed as endangered (at risk of extinction) in 1994. The Rio Grande Silvery Minnows begin their life as eggs that float just below the surface of the river. They face many dangers as they grow. Dangers include lack of suitable habitat, river drying, predators, dams, and pollution.

Help our Rio Grande Silvery Minnow eggs find their way to their nursery habitat. Their ideal nursery habitat is slow moving water along the Rio Grande where they can find food and cover. Avoid the dangers. Once they reach their nursery, they have a better chance to become adults and improve their chances of recovery.