Wild axolotl in a lily canal

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.7 × 4.7 in (11.9 × 11.9 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.
Fabric: sage green cotton or linen.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

A 9 inch (23 cm) square of sage green cotton or linen.

An embroidery needle, size 9.

23 colors of floss (page 2): 2 skeins of DMC 502; one of each other color (an estimate from the drawing's lines and shapes).

A water-soluble pen, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric you can see through: page 3 taped to a sunny window, the fabric over it; trace.

Other fabric: dressmaker's carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint.

Iron-on pen: go over page 4, the mirrored page, and press it ink side down as the pen's packet says. The lines stay.

Then hoop it, inner ring under, tight as a drum.

How to read it

Floss has six strands: cut 18 inches (45 cm), pull out the number named one at a time, and lay them together.

Start a filling with tiny stitches, a line with a small knot; end under stitches on the back.

Every stitch in pictures: flossfield.com/embroidery/stitches.

New to this: flossfield.com/embroidery/guides/how-to-start.

Stitch in this order

Where a stitch page says otherwise, follow this list.

1. **Long and short stitch**
   1 strand, colors 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23
   Sky, far bank, far willows, mist, willows, near bank, far water, water, root, legs, tail fin, body, gills, head, pad undersides, lily pads, lily petals



2. **Satin stitch**
   2 strands, colors 4, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21
   Sun, lily stem, toes, eye rings, eyes, gold flecks, waterline, snail, snail shell



3. **Split stitch**
   colors 7, 9, 13, 14, 15, 18
   1 strand: bark lines, fin edge, waterline shade, pad rims, petal edges, snail shell line
   2 strands: mouth

4. **Straight stitch**
   colors 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
   1 strand: gill fringe, edges of the snail
   2 strands: eye highlights, stamens



5. **Fern stitch**
   2 strands, colors 6, 8, 12
   Water weed



6. **Stem stitch**, 3 strands, color 10
   Edge

7. **French knot**
   two wraps, colors 4, 14, 21
   1 strand: nostrils, stamen tips
   2 strands: lily center



Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop.

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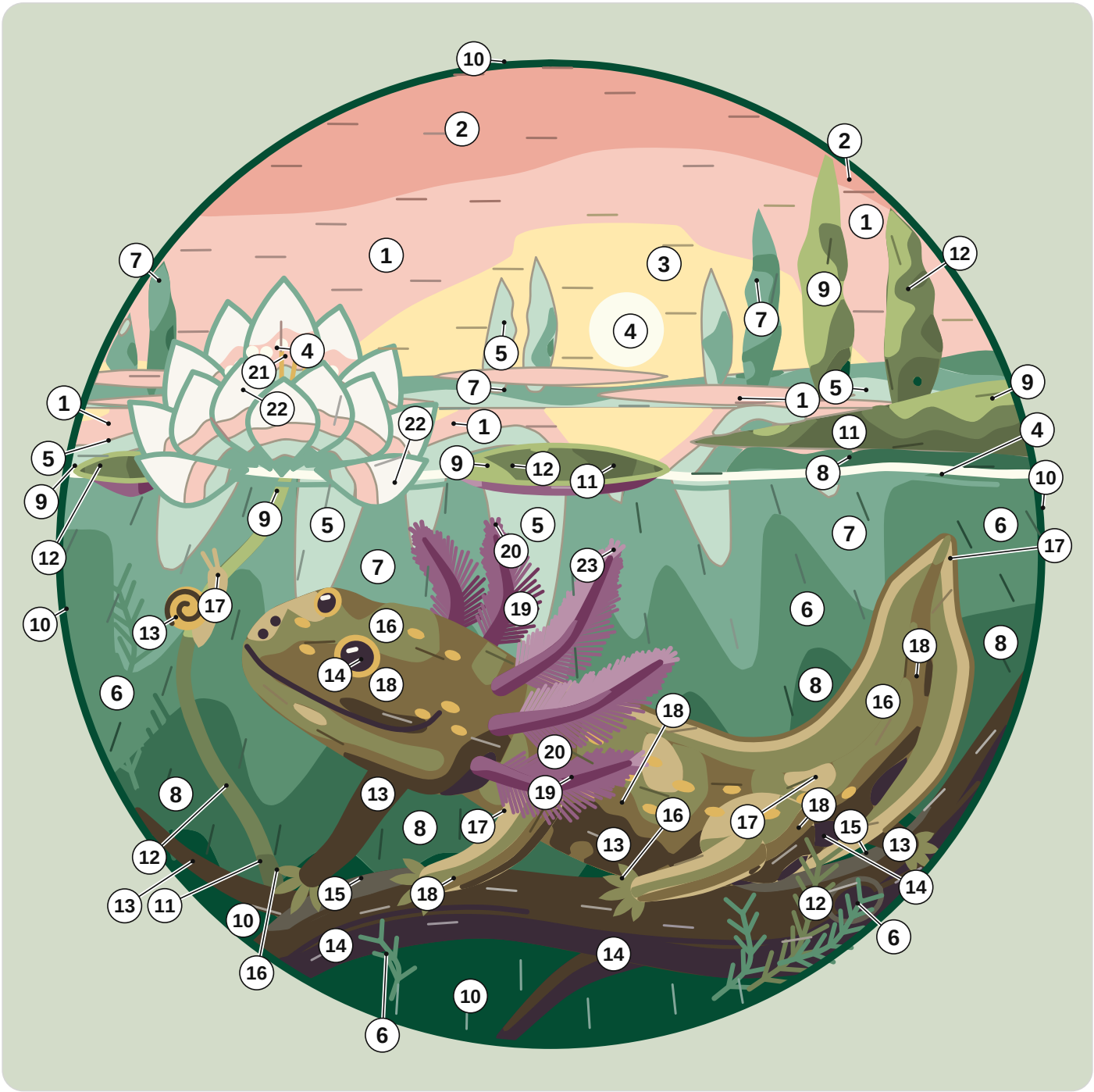
6 inch hoop

A number is a color of the list. Fine lines show which way the stitches lie: do not stitch them.



1	DMC 754 Light Peach	9	DMC 471 Very Light Avocado Green	17	DMC 372 Light Mustard
2	DMC 758 Very Light Terra Cotta	10	DMC 500 Very Dark Blue Green	18	DMC 829 Very Dark Golden Olive
3	DMC 745 Light Pale Yellow	11	DMC 3362 Dark Pine Green	19	DMC 3834 Dark Grape
4	DMC 746 Off White	12	DMC 3363 Medium Pine Green	20	DMC 3835 Medium Grape
5	DMC 504 Very Light Blue Green	13	DMC 3031 Very Dark Mocha Brown	21	DMC 3820 Dark Straw
6	DMC 502 Blue Green	14	DMC 3371 Black Brown	22	DMC 3865 Winter White
7	DMC 503 Medium Blue Green	15	DMC 3787 Dark Brown Gray	23	DMC 3836 Light Grape
8	DMC 501 Dark Blue Green	16	DMC 3011 Dark Khaki Green		

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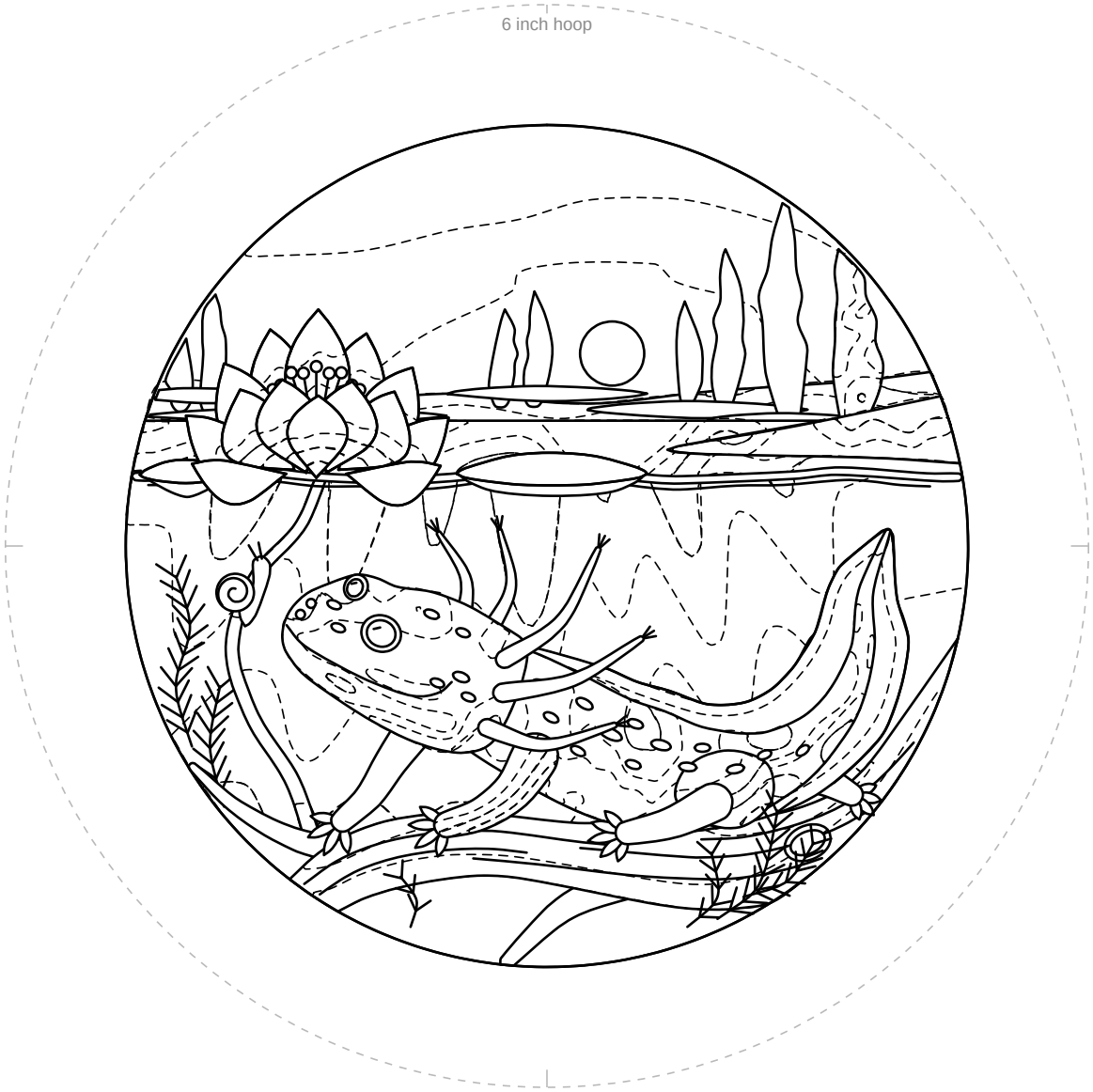
6 inch hoop

Print at 100% and measure the square. Trace the black lines only. The gray ring is the hoop: fold the fabric in four and lay the folds on its ticks.

On the drawing a ring is one French knot: mark a dot; a broken line inside a shape is where two shades meet: trace it, do not stitch it.



1 in
25.4 mm

Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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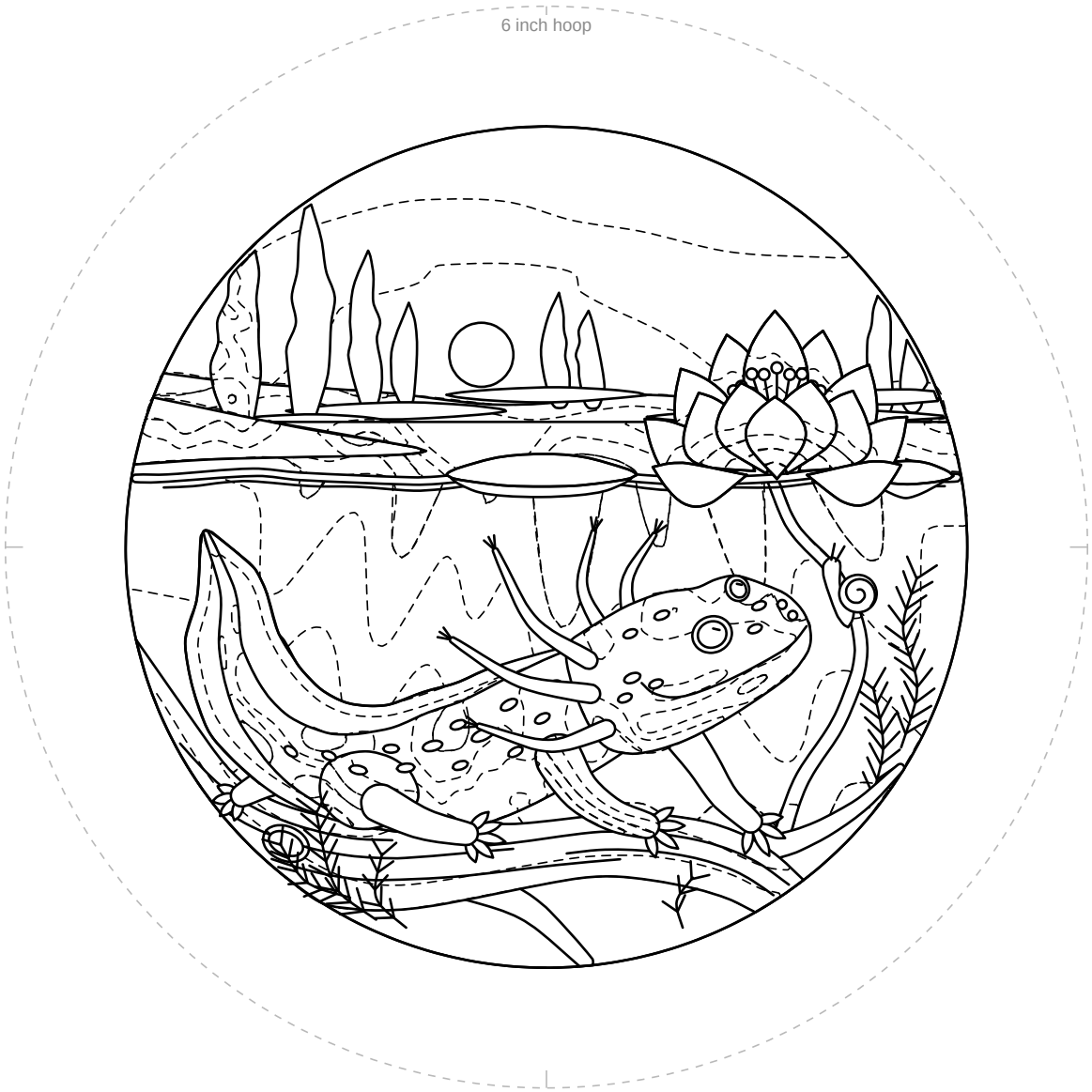
6 inch hoop

For an iron-on pen only. Go over the lines, press ink side down.



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