



Awareness & training
for quality child care

EVER

WONDER!

Activity

BOOK



For more activities and tips, or if you would like an additional booklet, please visit www.wyqualitycounts.org!

WY QUALITY COUNTS is an investment in the future of Wyoming's children, brought to you by the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.



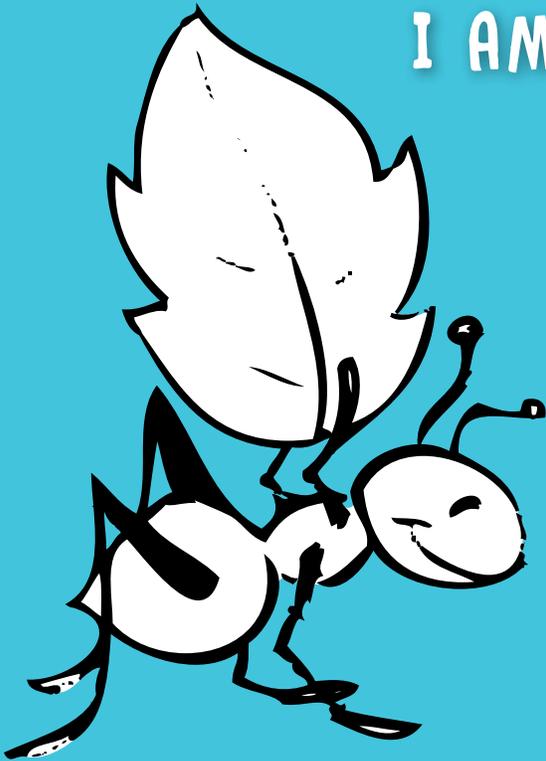
This Book
BELONGS TO:

.....

I AM



YEARS OLD

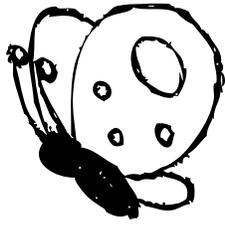


WY Quality Counts, housed in the Department of Workforce Services, helps Wyoming parents and child care providers identify and create quality learning experiences for children. Thanks to funding from the Wyoming State Legislature, the program invests in the future of Wyoming's children by providing scholarships, grants and training to child care professionals, while raising statewide awareness about the lasting impact of quality childhood experiences.

Positive early influences are critical to an individual's brain development and lifelong health. In fact, these experiences create a foundation for all essential skills and behaviors that follow. We believe so strongly in the power of quality interactions that this year we partnered with the University of Wyoming College of Education's Early Childhood Program to bring families and caregivers richer content and more developmentally-targeted ideas to help the kids in your life develop communication, a sense of self and relationships, curious minds, and strong, healthy bodies.



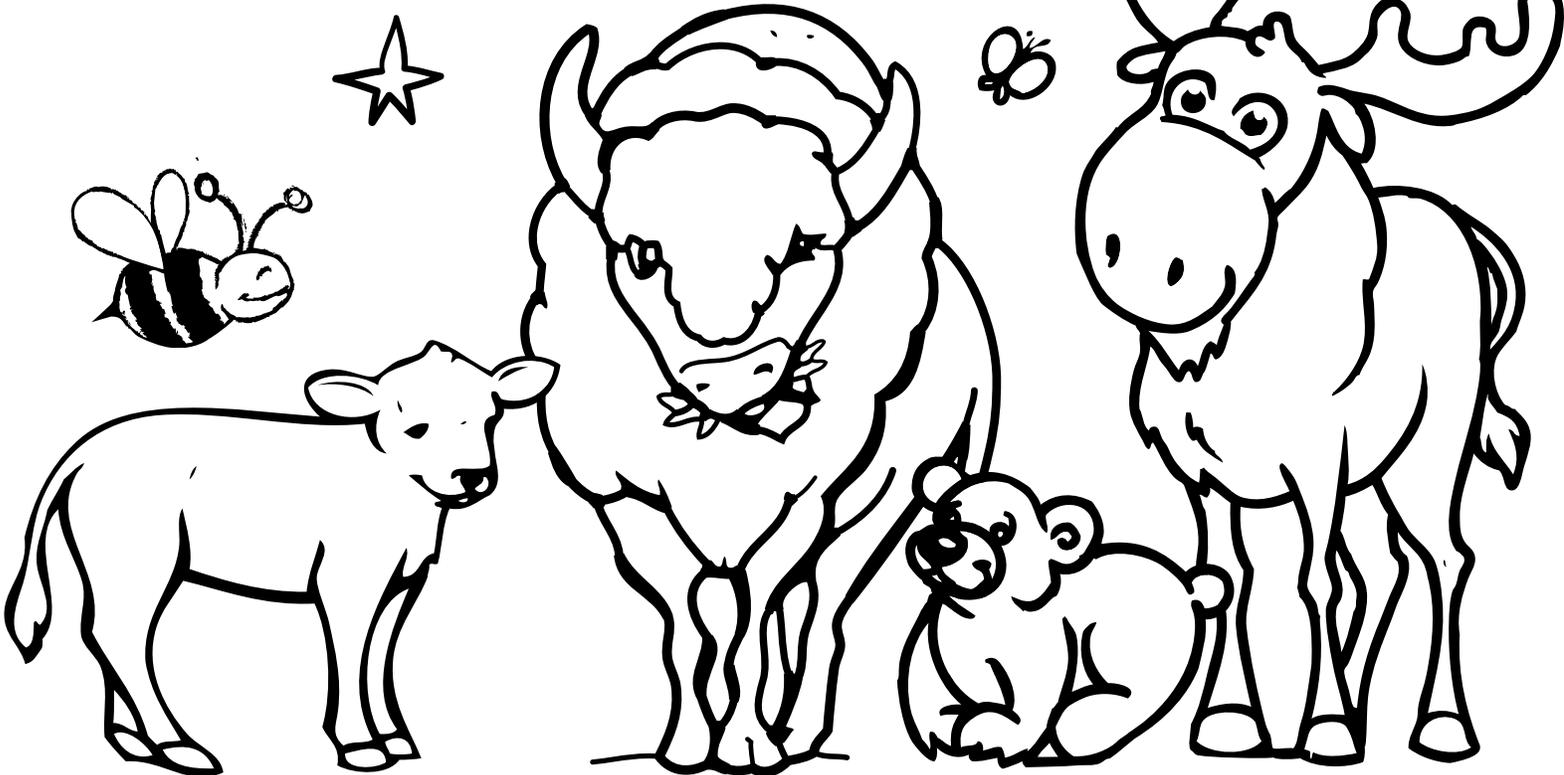
Awareness & training
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EVER WONDER? Activity **B** **O** **O** **k**



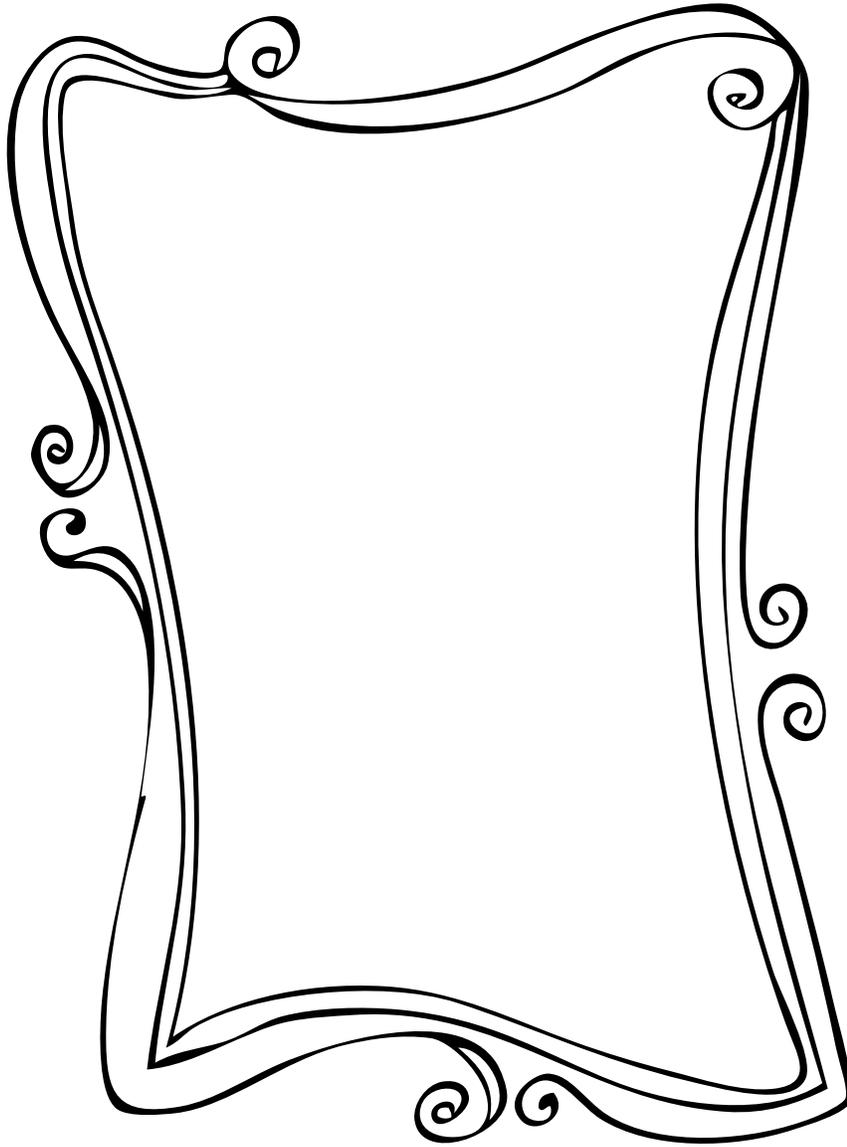
An activity book to help you discover Wyoming





Here is a drawing
of MYSELF:

My favorite game to play is: _____



My favorite thing to do is: _____

My favorite food is: _____

All about Me

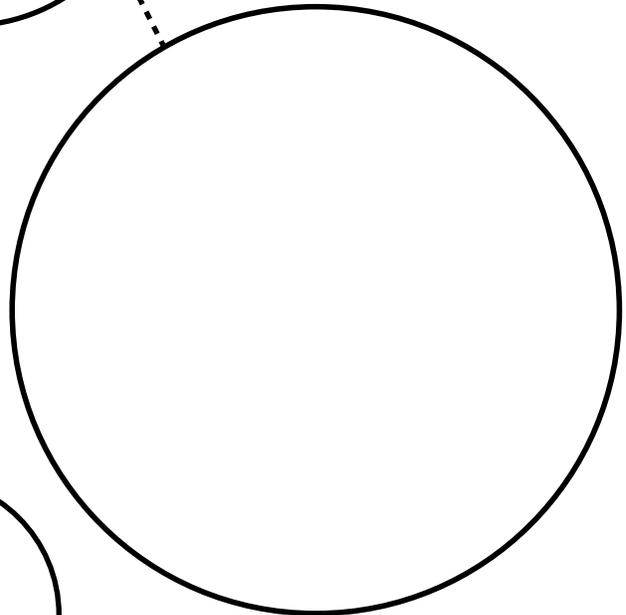
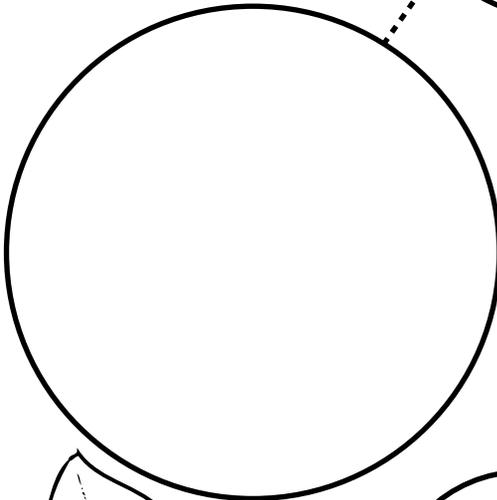
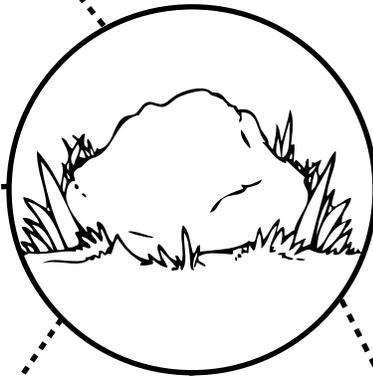
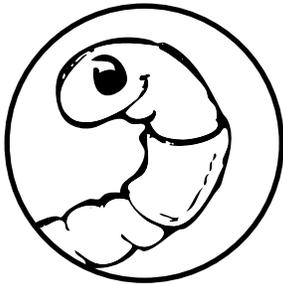
Here is a drawing of my FAMILY:

ACTIVITY: Work together with your family on a portrait that includes everyone. Let each person add part of the picture. Try a variety of art materials—and don't forget the background!

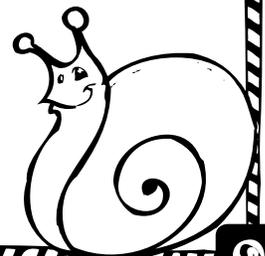


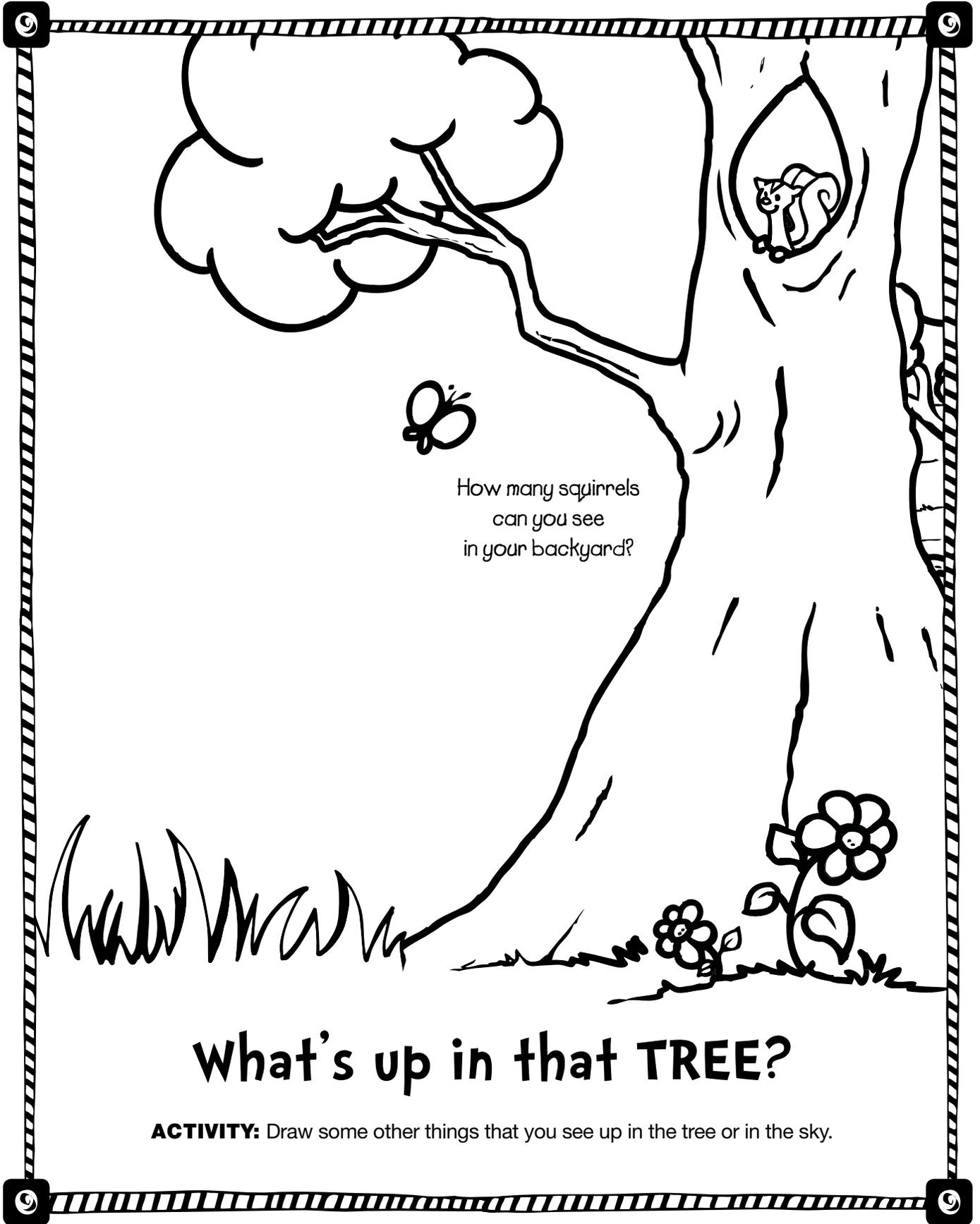
What's under that ROCK in the garden?

ACTIVITY: Draw some other crawling things you see on the ground outside.



Can you name all the creepy crawlies?





How many squirrels
can you see
in your backyard?

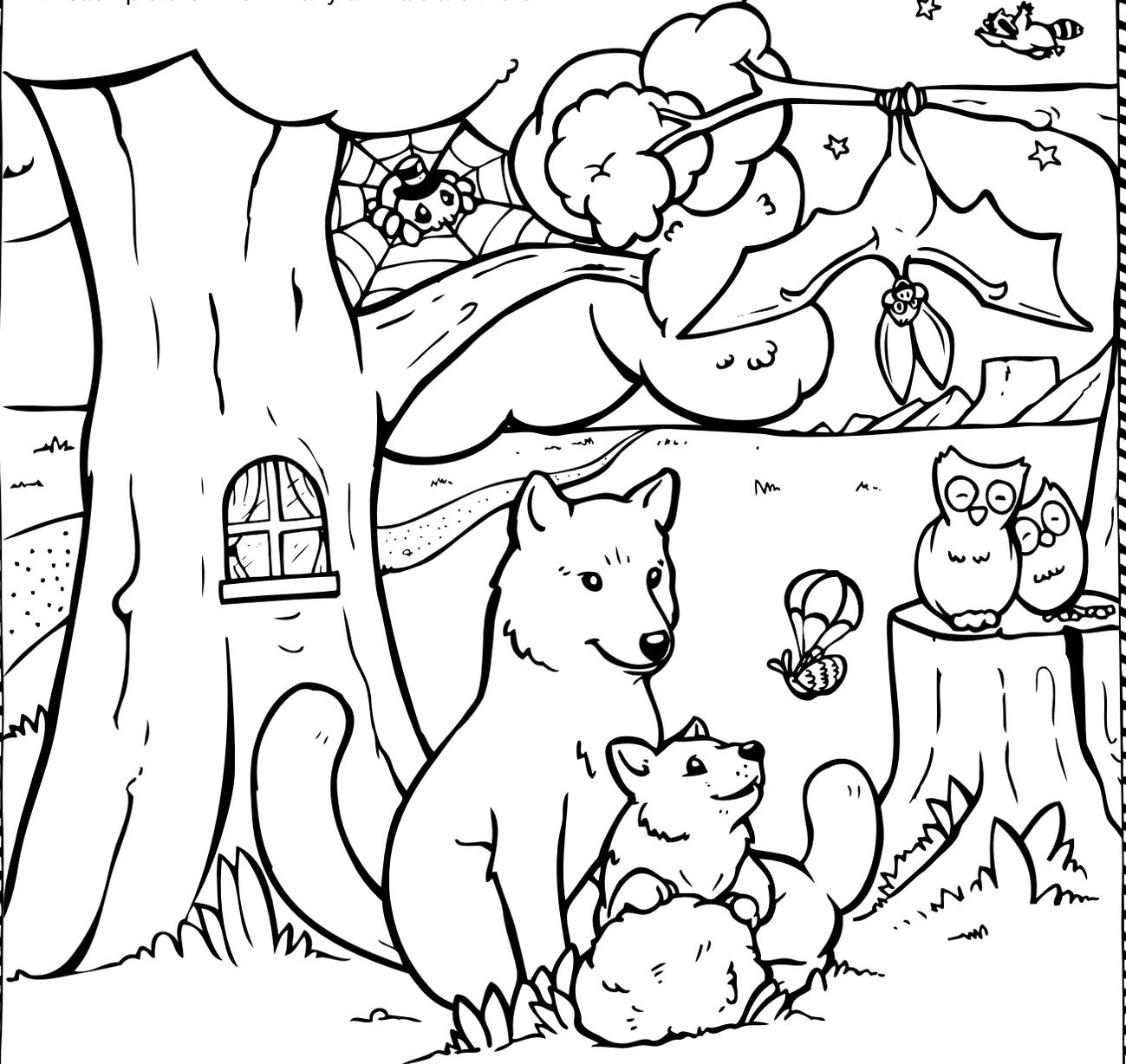
What's up in that TREE?

ACTIVITY: Draw some other things that you see up in the tree or in the sky.

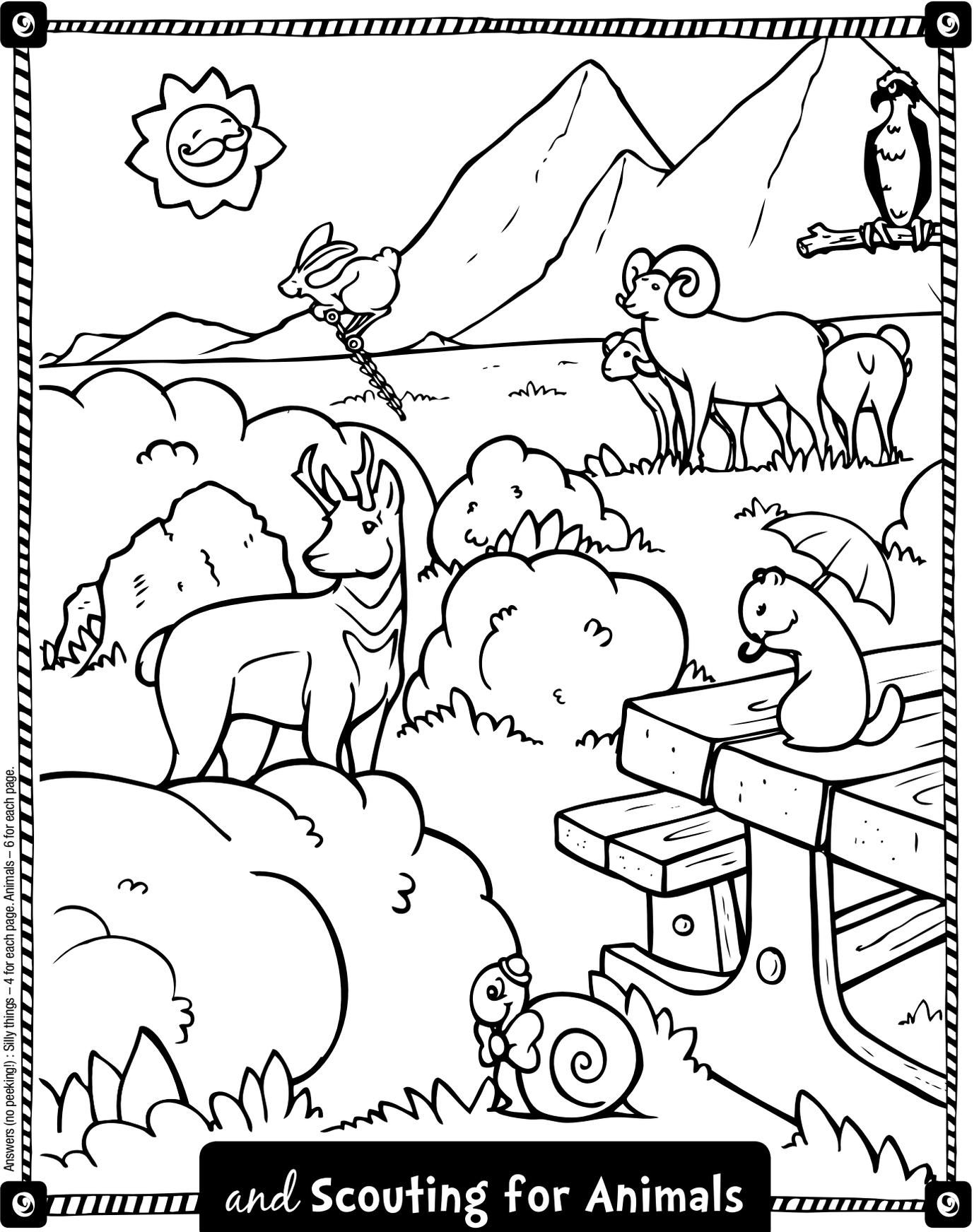
ever
WONDER?

How SHARP are your eyes?

ACTIVITY: Can you count how many silly things are in each picture? How many animals are there?



Having Fun Camping



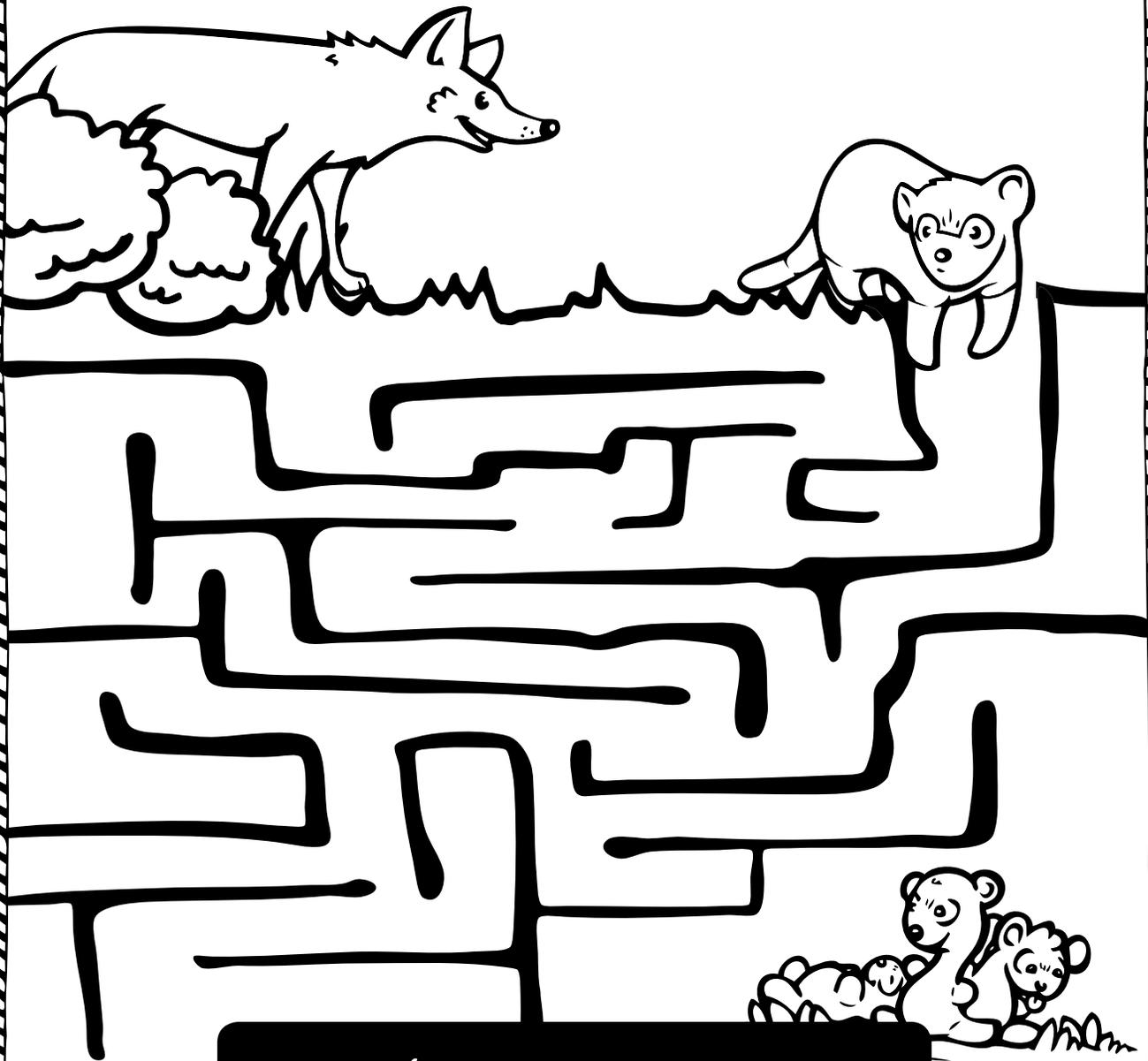
Answers (no peeking) : Silly things - 4 for each page. Animals - 6 for each page.

and Scouting for Animals

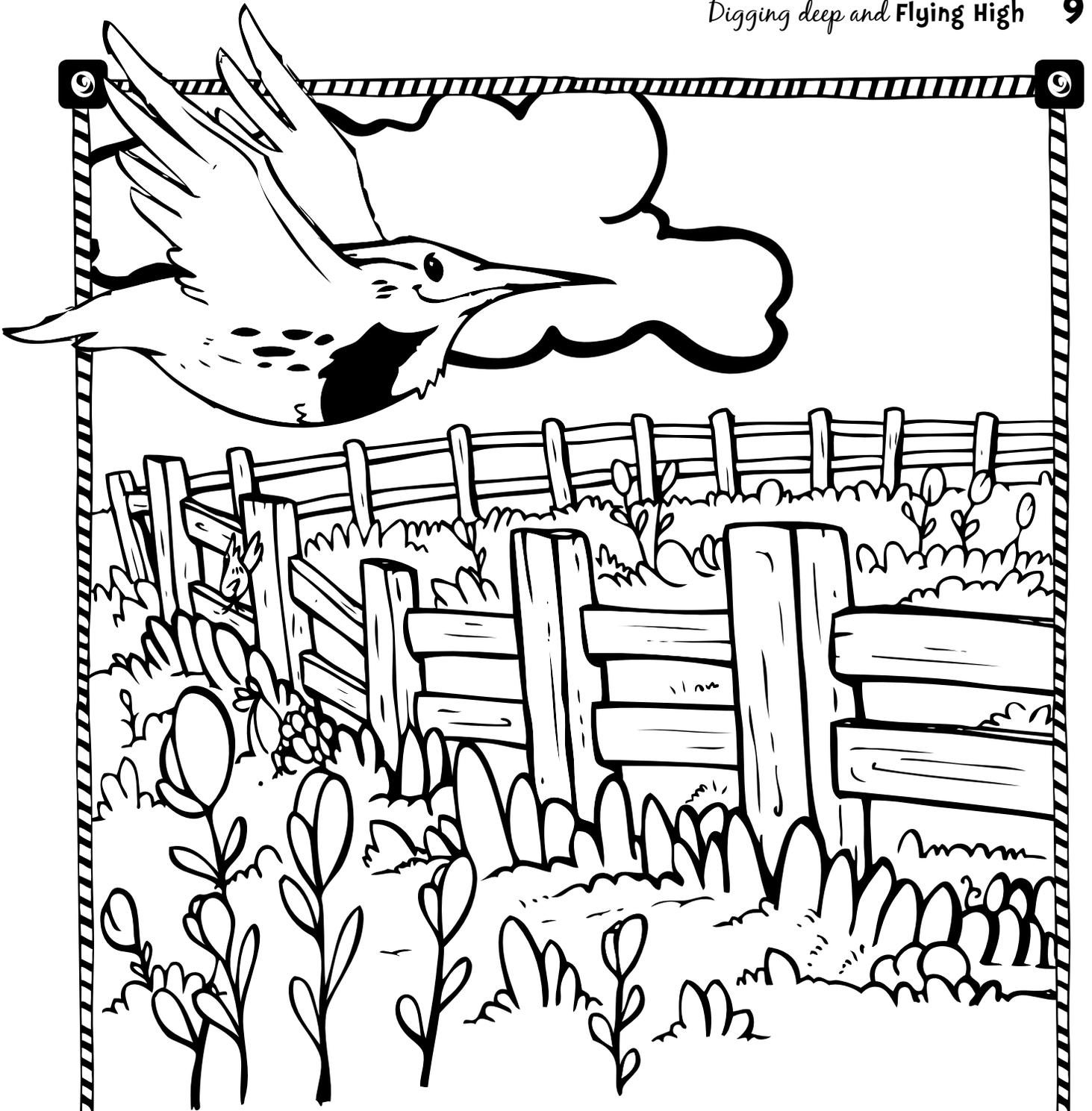


Where do FERRETS live?

ACTIVITY: Ferrets like to live in groups in old prairie dog tunnels and dens. Can you help the ferret hide from the coyote and find her babies? Can you help her find another way out after she reaches her babies?



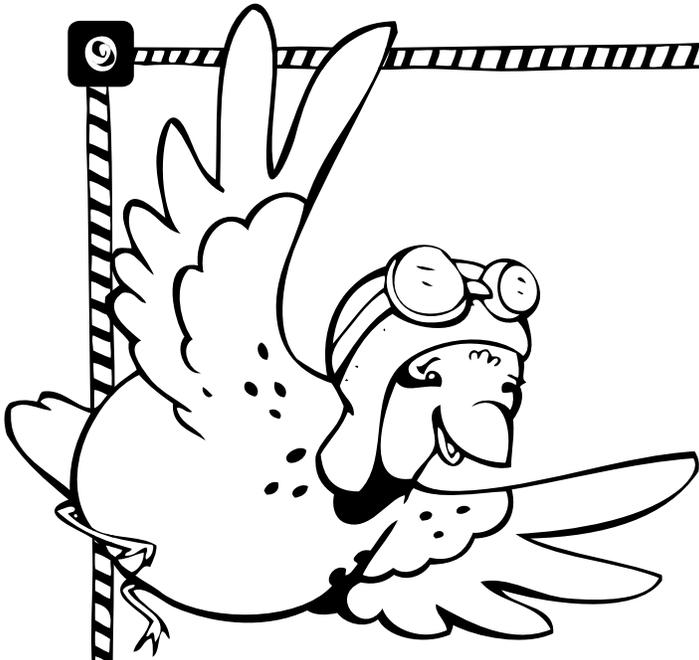
Digging Deep



What is that pretty yellow BIRD?

ACTIVITY: Can you help the meadowlark find her mate? He's hiding somewhere in the field.

and Flying High



What can you see in the CLOUDS?

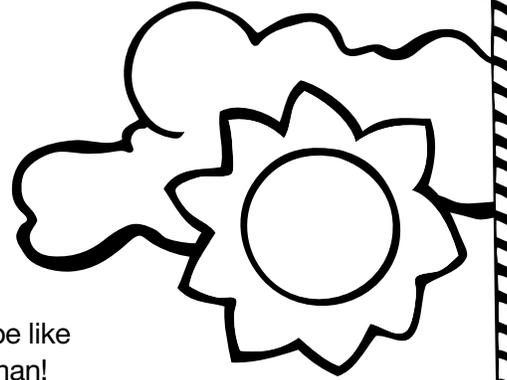
ACTIVITY: Have you ever looked up at the clouds and seen something you didn't expect? Clouds come in all sorts of shapes, and sometimes they look like a dog, a cat, or even someone's face!

On a nice day, go outside with an adult and look up at the clouds. What can you see? Try to find five different clouds that look like something—an animal, a building, or anything else. Then draw the things you saw in the space above.

Once you're done, try making up a story that includes everything you saw!

Keeping a watch on
The Weather

What is being a WEATHERMAN like?



ACTIVITY: In the table, keep track of the weather for a week. Then guess what you think the weather will be like after that. See if you have what it takes to be a weatherman!

Today's Date							
Sunny 							
Cloudy 							
Rainy 							
Windy 							
Snowy 							
Temperature (°F)							

MY PREDICTION FOR NEXT WEEK'S WEATHER:

Being a weatherman can be a lot of fun, especially in a state like Wyoming where the weather can change a lot. Weathermen have to keep track of what kind of weather we have and then try to tell us what kind of weather we will get.

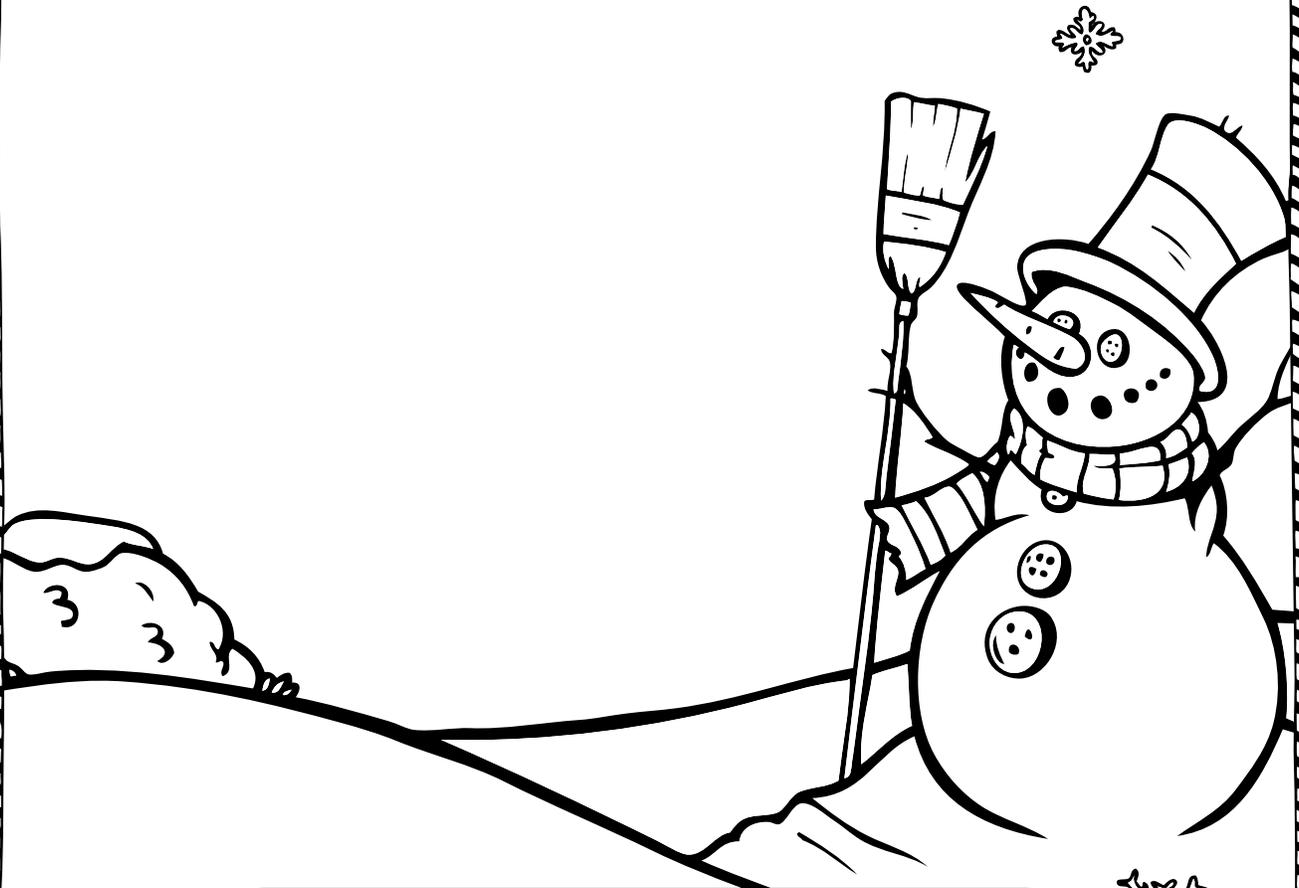


What do SNOWFLAKES look like?



ACTIVITY: Do you think all snowflakes look the same? To find out, put a piece of black construction paper in the freezer and wait for it to snow. When the snow comes, take your paper out of the freezer, go outside, and let some snowflakes fall on it. Then use a magnifying glass to see what they look like.

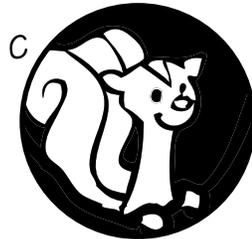
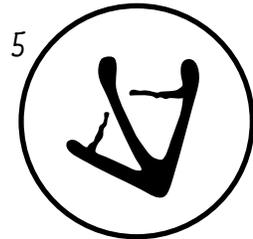
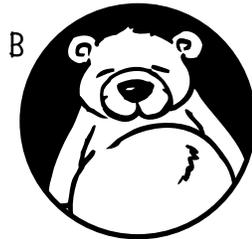
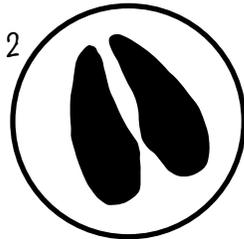
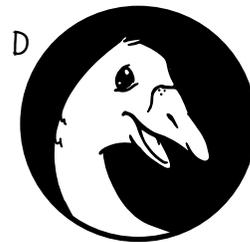
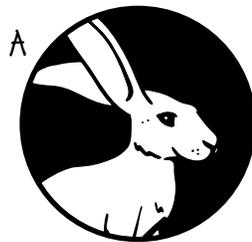
Below, draw some of the snowflakes you saw. How are the snowflakes alike? How are they different?



Learning about a
Wintery & Wild Wyoming

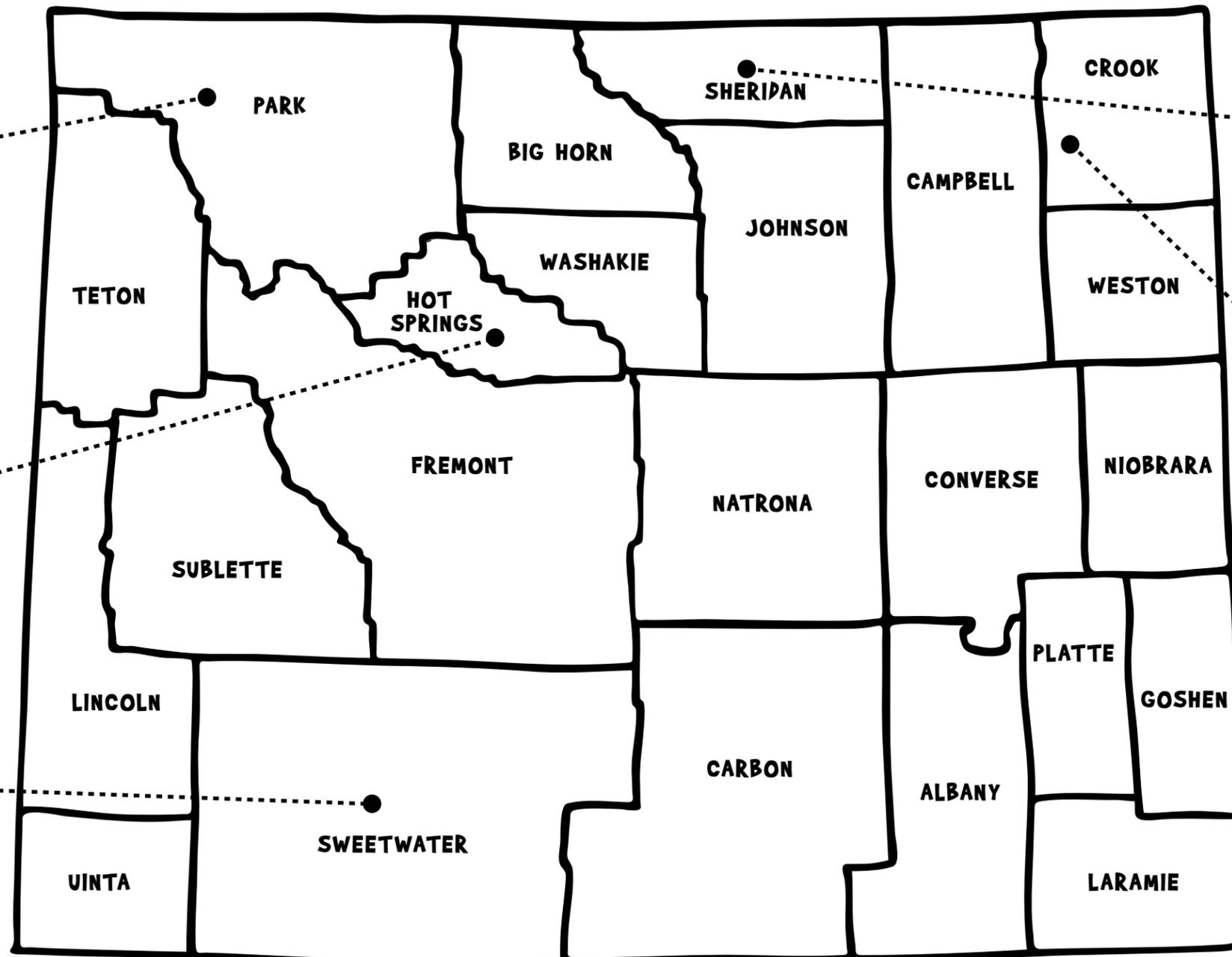
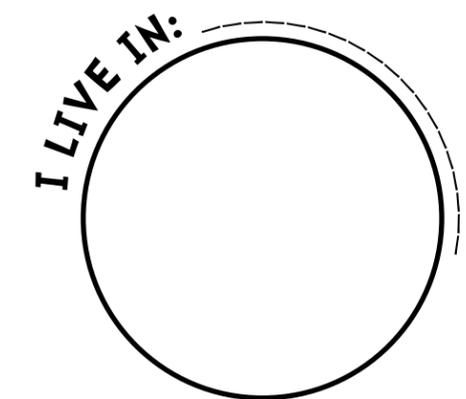
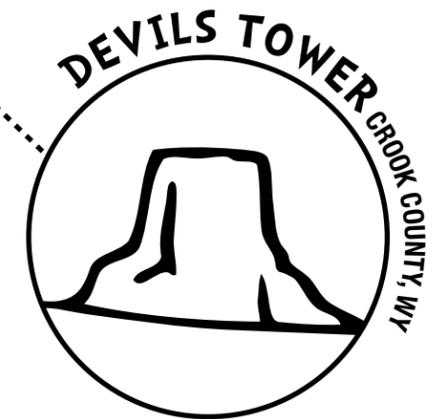
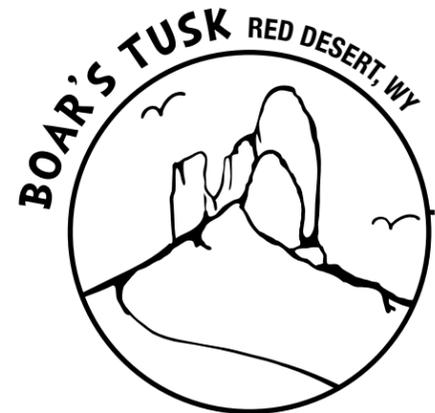
Why do animals leave TRACKS in the snow?

ACTIVITY #1: Have an adult help you match up the footprints with the animal.



ACTIVITY #2: Look for animal tracks outside in the snow, or make some tracks of your own. When it snows, look on your walkway, sidewalk, and in the garden for tracks. Most animals will leave tracks in the snow—even your dog and cat. See if you can tell which way the animal is going. Now make your own prints. Try walking backwards and walking on your tiptoes to see how your tracks change.

How big is Wyoming?



OLD FAITHFUL: Tourists started coming to see its predictable bursts of water and steam almost 150 years ago.

HOT SPRINGS STATE PARK: The world's largest mineral hot springs is here, where the water can be as hot as 127 degrees.

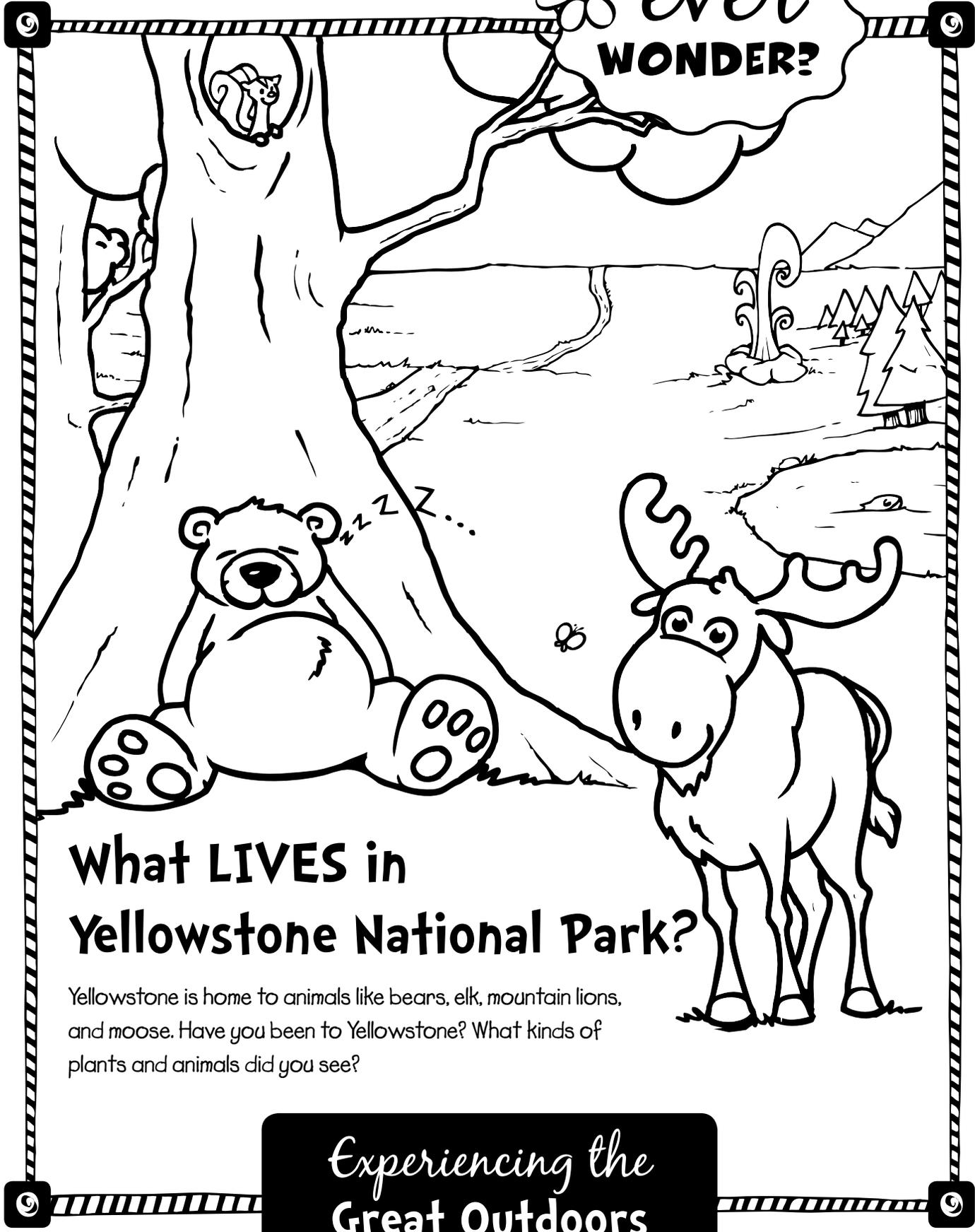
BOAR'S TUSK: For centuries, this natural wonder that looks like a wild boar's tooth has been a landmark for natives and people passing through.

SHERIDAN: The first plans for the town were drawn by John Loucks on the back of a sheet of wrapping paper.

DEVILS TOWER: This natural wonder was declared the first United States National Monument back in 1906.

ACTIVITY: Have an adult show you where you live on the map. Draw your home. Then circle all of the fun places you've been.

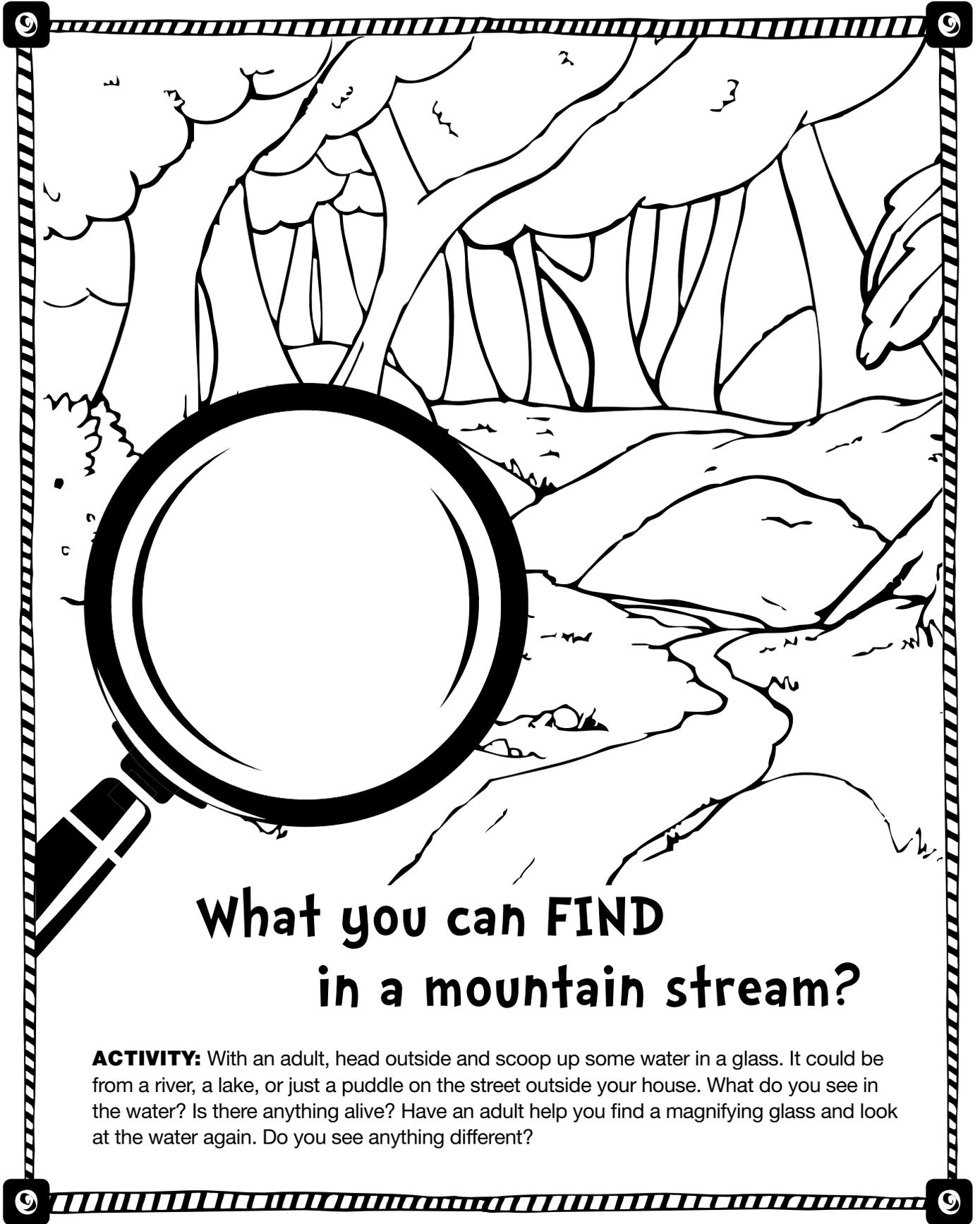
ever
WONDER?



What LIVES in Yellowstone National Park?

Yellowstone is home to animals like bears, elk, mountain lions, and moose. Have you been to Yellowstone? What kinds of plants and animals did you see?

Experiencing the
Great Outdoors



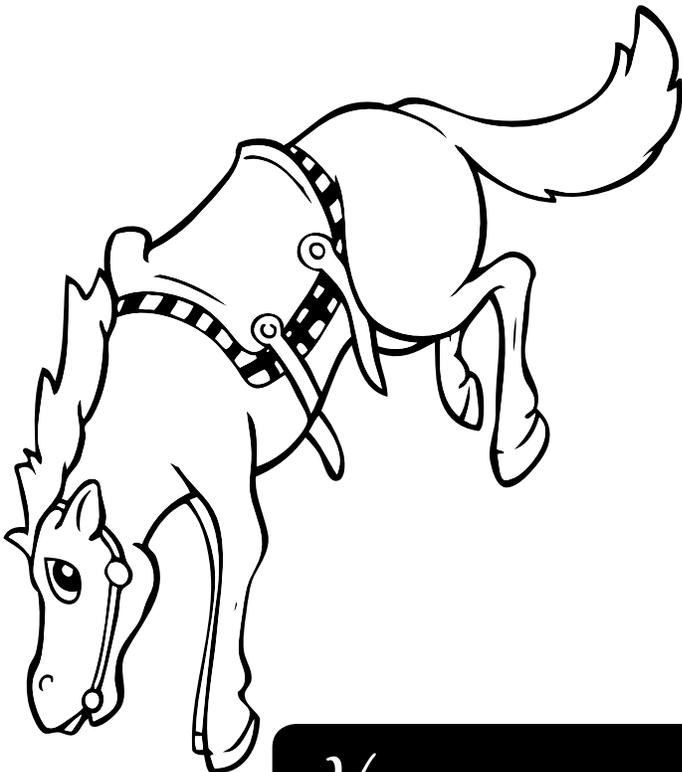
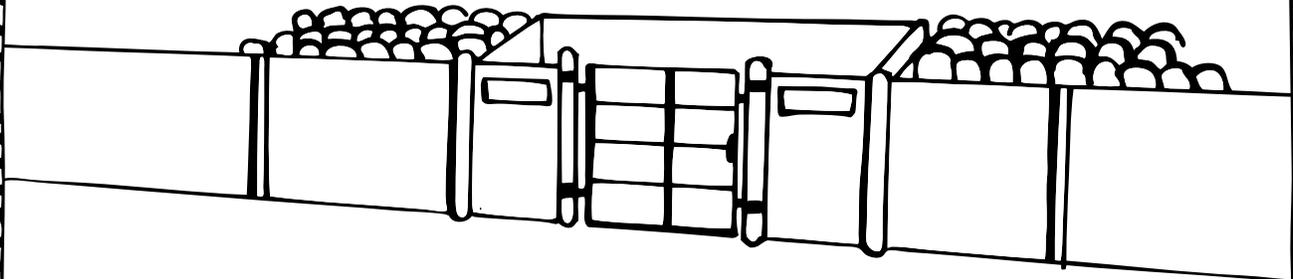
What you can **FIND** in a mountain stream?

ACTIVITY: With an adult, head outside and scoop up some water in a glass. It could be from a river, a lake, or just a puddle on the street outside your house. What do you see in the water? Is there anything alive? Have an adult help you find a magnifying glass and look at the water again. Do you see anything different?



Why do horses BUCK?

ACTIVITY: Draw yourself riding the bucking bronco below. Wyoming's bucking horse is named Steamboat. What would you name your bucking horse? Write it down in the box.



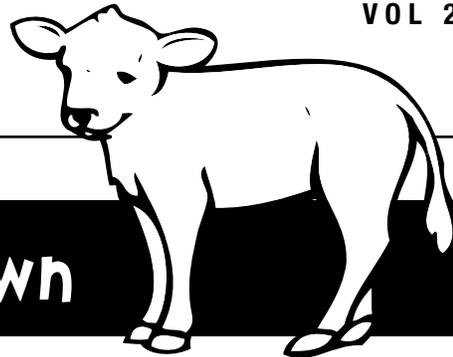
MY HORSE'S NAME:

Even though we usually only see bucking broncos at rodeos, any horse can buck if it wants to. Sometimes horses buck in order to protect themselves, and sometimes they do it just because they are happy! The horses you see in a rodeo can buck really high, making it hard for cowboys to stay on them.

Having a great time
At the Rodeo

THE **COWBOY**
CHRONICLES

VOL 27



Rodeo Comes to Town

ACTIVITY: To complete the newspaper article, get an adult to help you fill in the blanks below. Then read it out loud to hear about the rodeo!

The annual rodeo will be coming to _____ next month.
(name of your city)

Everyone is getting ready for what is sure to be a _____ night of cowboys,
(adjective)
cowgirls, and _____. The rodeo
(plural noun)
will include _____ horses, _____ cattle, and
(number) (number)
the famous bull named _____.
(name)

"I'm so excited for the rodeo I could _____," said
(verb)
_____. Everyone in the
(the name of someone you know)
city agrees. If you _____ down
(verb)
the street, you'll even hear the _____
(plural noun)
talking about it.

Last year, _____ came from
(plural noun)
over _____ away to watch the
(distance)
events, and everyone was left saying
_____. The audience
(your favorite word)

thought the barrel racing was _____
(adjective)
and that the bull riding was _____.
(adjective)

Everyone's favorite event, however, was the _____.
(activity)

The rodeo will be held at the _____
(name of a place in your city)
_____. As usual, everyone coming
should plan to where a cowboy hat and a

_____.
(adjective) (article of clothing)

There will also be an opportunity to ride the _____, so be sure to
(animal)
_____ before coming.
(verb)

The evening's events will last for _____,
(amount of time)
and the night will finish with a cowboy riding

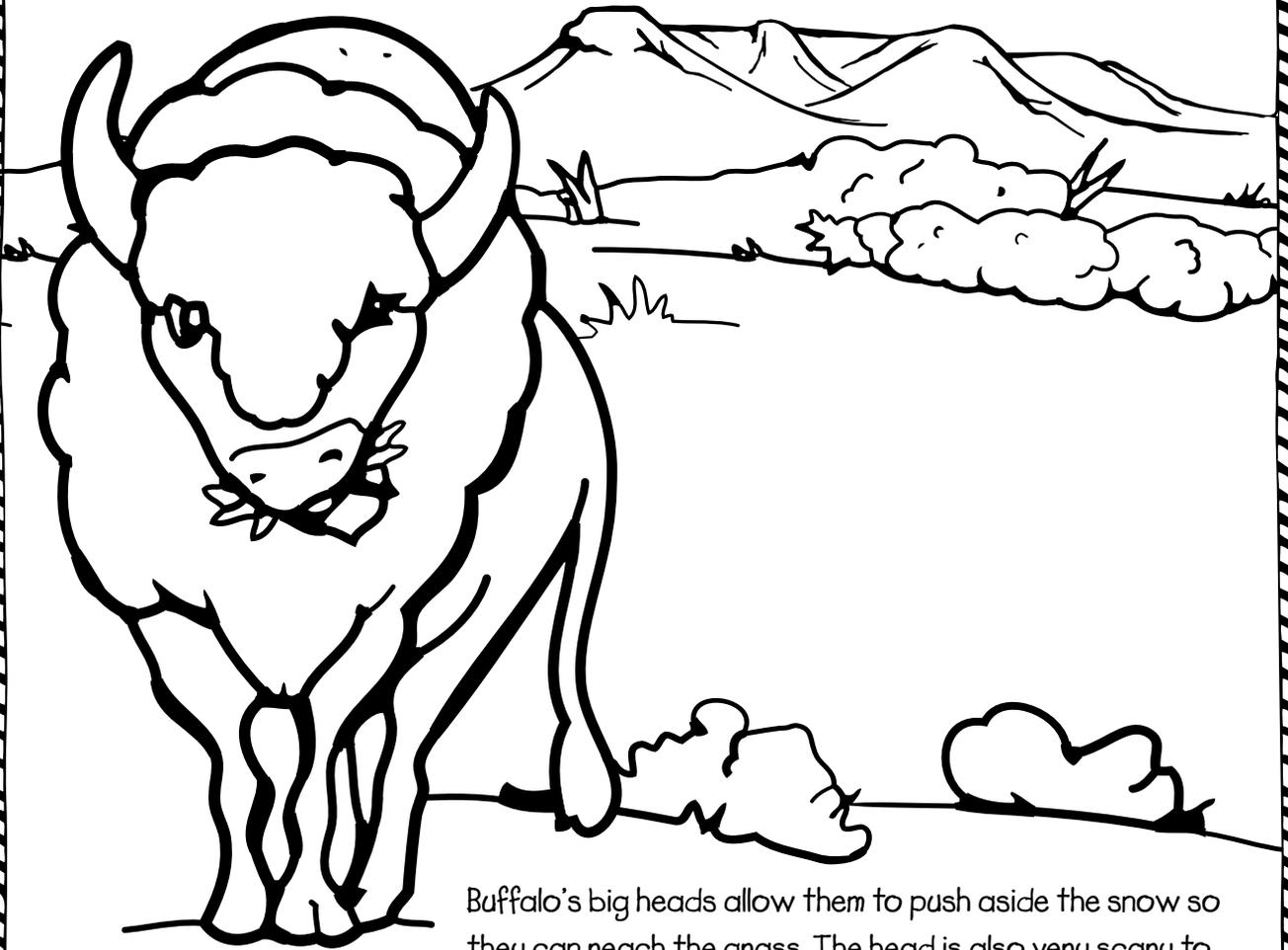
_____ horses around the stage.
(number)

Be sure to lasso up your _____
(plural noun)
and come! We hope to see you there!



Why is a buffalo's head so BIG?

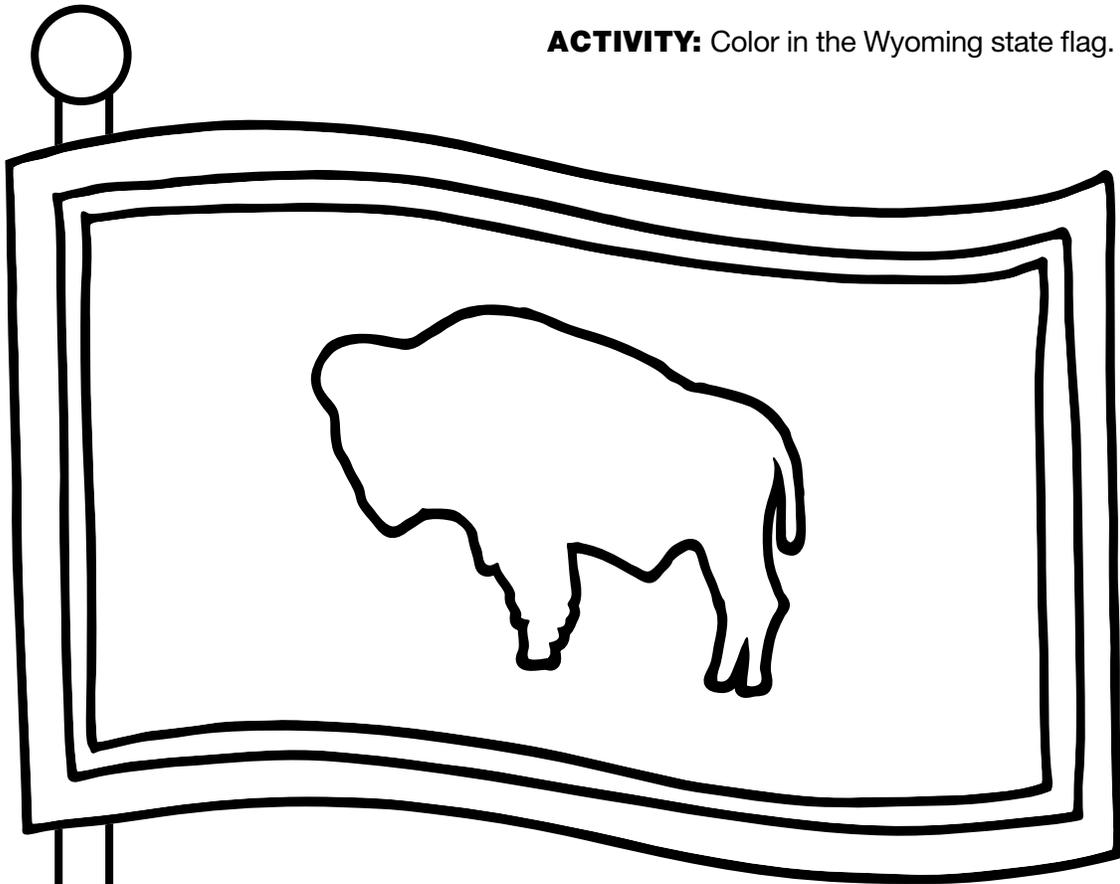
ACTIVITY: Draw some other things that you might see around buffalo.



Buffalo's big heads allow them to push aside the snow so they can reach the grass. The head is also very scary to wolves and people. Did you know that a buffalo can jump six feet high and run as fast as 40 miles per hour?

Why is the **BUFFALO** on the Wyoming state flag?

ACTIVITY: Color in the Wyoming state flag.



Believe it or not, buffalo used to run free all over Wyoming. Some of the early pioneers and Native Americans said that the plains were full of buffalo herds that stretched as far as the eye could see. That is why the buffalo is on the state flag. How many have you seen?



What was it like BACK THEN?

ACTIVITY: Talk to your grandparents or great-grandparents and ask them what it was like when they were growing up. Write down their answers and see how things have changed!

1. What did you do for fun as a kid?

2. What was your house like growing up?

3. Who were your heroes when you were a kid?

4. What was your favorite toy as a kid and why?

5. How is the world different today than when you were growing up?

6. What is one of your favorite childhood memories?



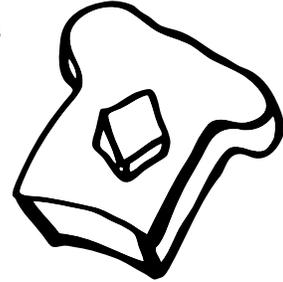
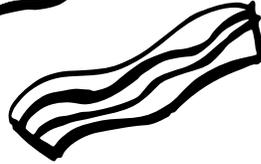
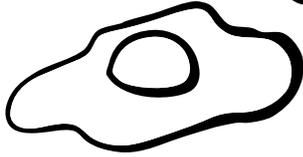
Where will you live
when you **GROW UP?**

ACTIVITY: Draw your dream house and everything that surrounds it. What state will you live in? What's your favorite room? Who will live with you?

and Future



What's for BREAKFAST?



ACTIVITY: To find out what's for breakfast, unscramble the words below. Then circle which breakfast foods are your favorite.

FLASFWE _____

BSMAELDRC SGEG _____

REETDUTB TAOTS _____

ASNPKEAC _____

EEARCL _____

OBNCA _____

GENARO UJIEC _____

NFUFIMS _____

TUSNDO _____

EOALMTA _____

NABNASA _____

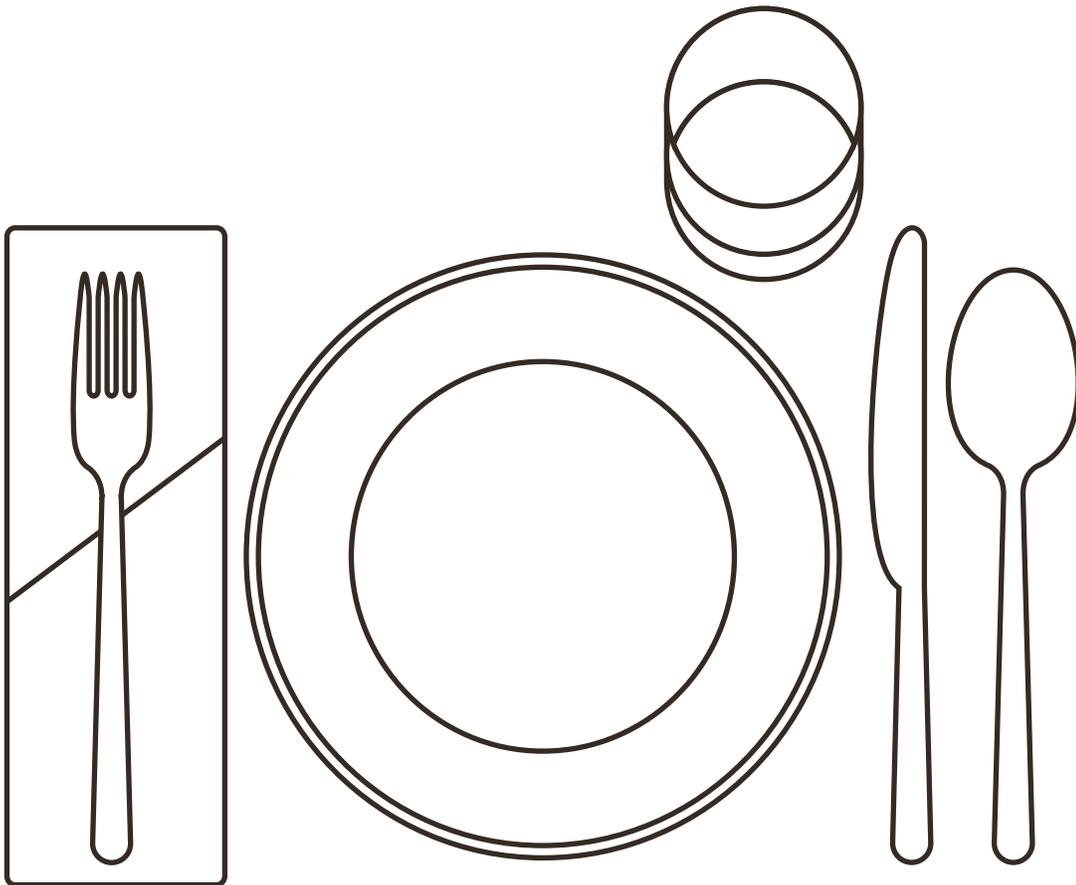
Answers (no peeking!): Waffles, Scrambled Eggs, Buttered Toast, Pancakes, Cereal, Bacon, Orange Juice, Muffins, Donuts, Oatmeal, and Bananas.

Yeah, it's Meal Time!

Can you be a WAITER?

ACTIVITY: Take a piece of paper and a crayon or pen. Ask the adult who is cooking if you can be their waiter. Next, ask the adult what they are making for dinner. Now that you know what the choices are, go ask everybody who will be eating with you what they would like. Write down their orders and bring them back to the cook.

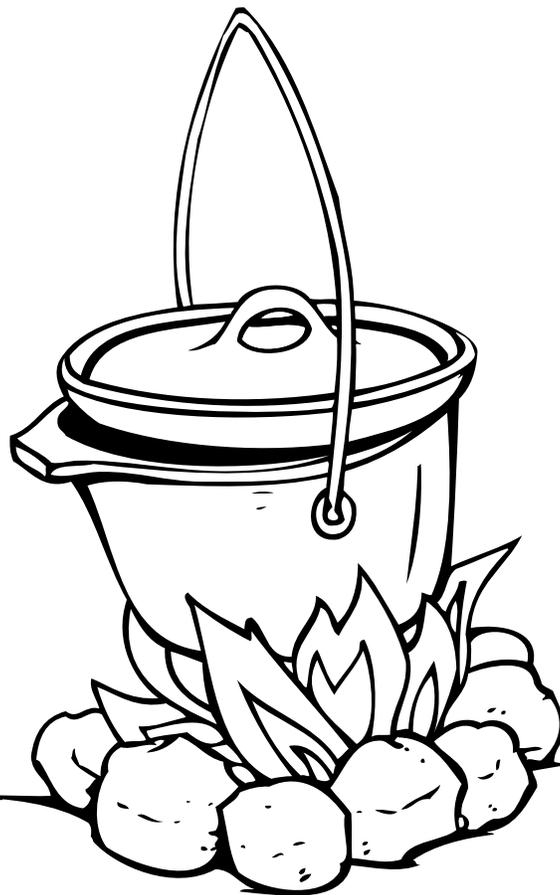
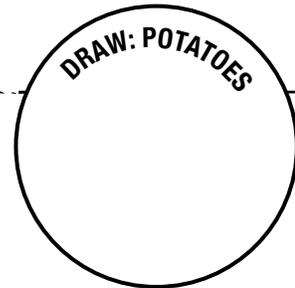
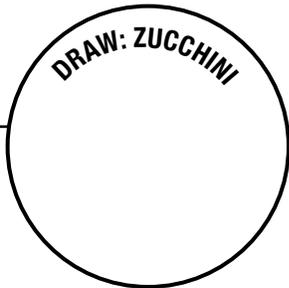
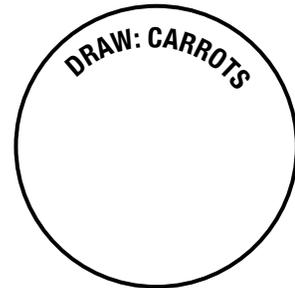
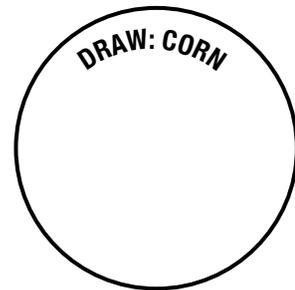
NEXT, HELP THE COOK BY SETTING THE TABLE JUST LIKE THIS.



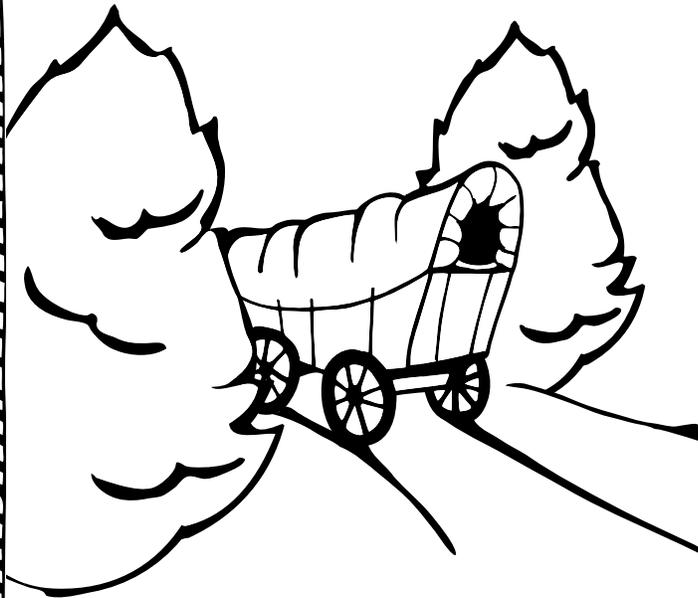


How did Pioneers COOK?

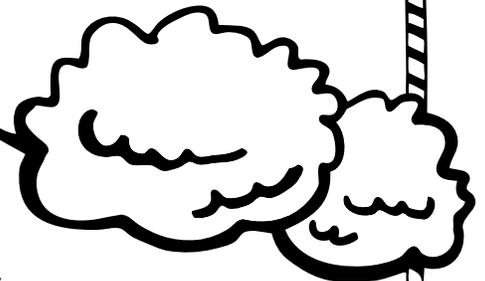
ACTIVITY: Look in your fridge and try to find all the items listed below. Then draw each one. Color in the whole scene to get a good idea of what Pioneer life was like.



See the pot hanging over the fire? That's no ordinary pot—it's a Dutch oven. In the Dutch oven, pioneers could cook stew, soup, and even bread.



What did pioneers eat for SNACKS?



ACTIVITY: One of the things that pioneers, soldiers, and mountain men used to take with them on long journeys was a food called hardtack. Hardtack doesn't get stale and it can last a long time.

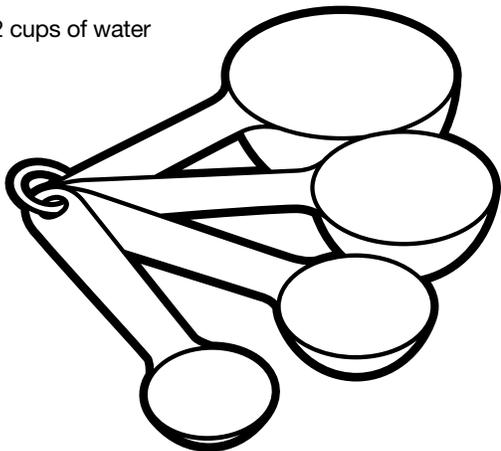
Ingredients

Help a grownup measure out:

4 cups of flour

4 teaspoons of salt

About 2 cups of water



Instructions

To make it, ask an adult to turn on the oven and pre-heat it to 375 degrees.

Mix the salt and flour together in a bowl, then add just enough water to make it stick together (but don't let it stick to your hands!). Mix the dough by hand, then roll it out and shape it into a big rectangle.

Next, cut the big rectangle into smaller squares (about 3 inches square and 1/2-inch thick). Now use a clean nail to press four rows of four holes into each square. Then turn it over and press four more rows of four holes in the other side.

Now place the squares on an ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 30 minutes. Turn each piece over and bake for another 30 minutes. The hardtack should be lightly browned on both sides.

If you really want to cook it like a pioneer, ask an adult to start a campfire, then cook the hardtack in a Dutch oven just like you would in the regular oven.

Now you're eating like a pioneer!

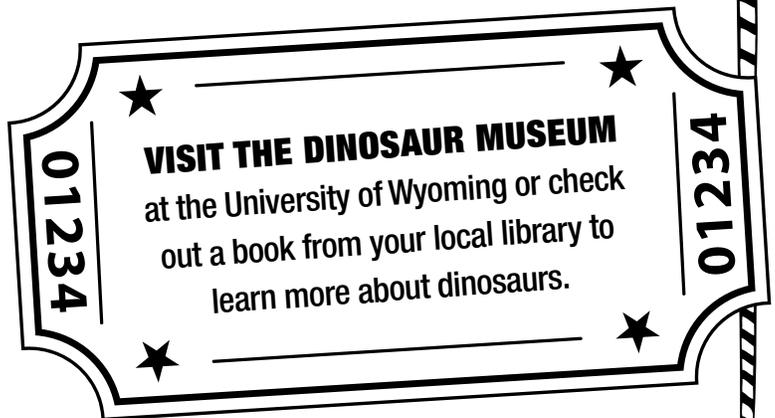


What is Wyoming's State DINOSAUR?

ACTIVITY: Connect the dots to discover Wyoming's state dinosaur fossil.

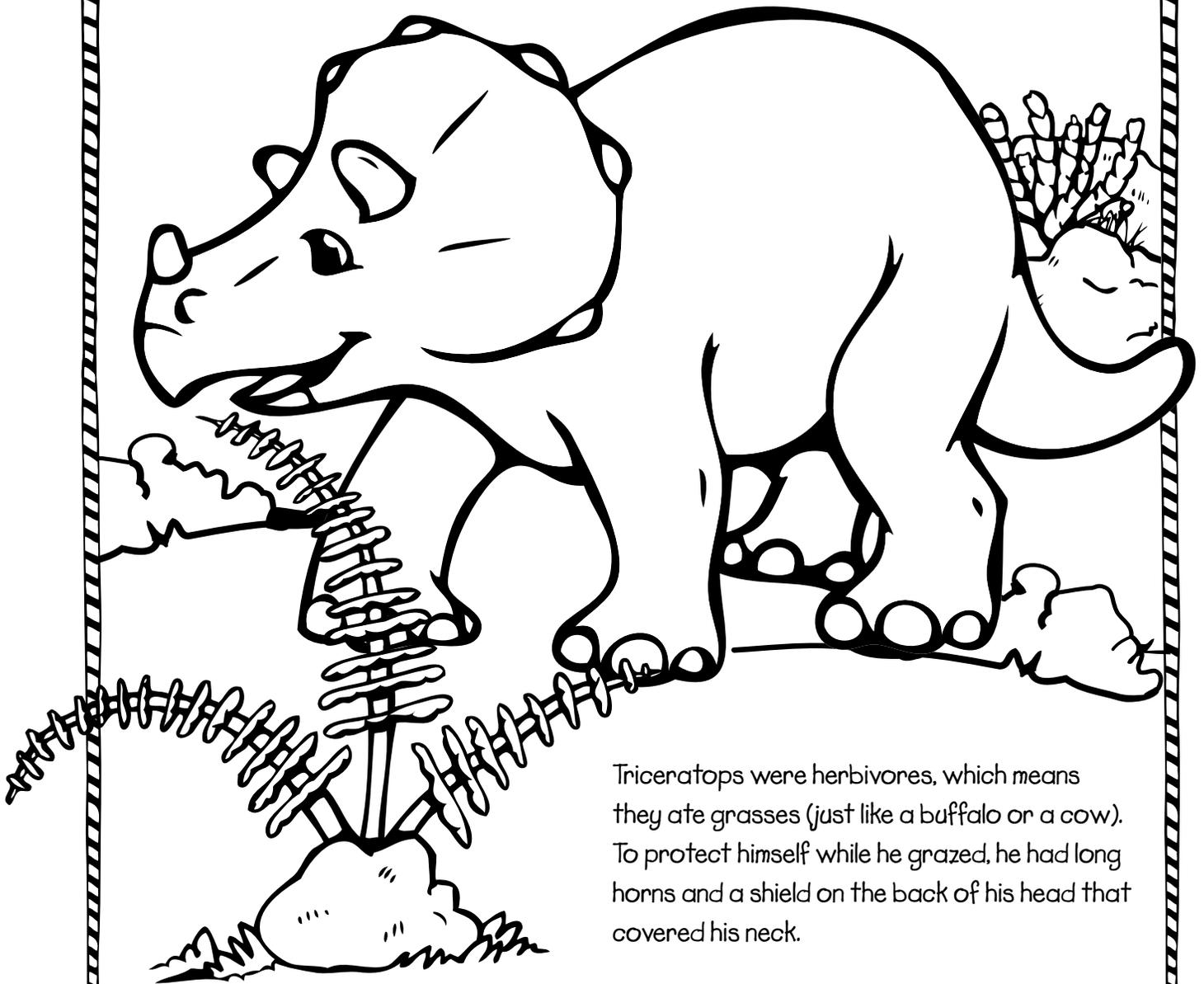


Did you know that the triceratops is as long as most travel-trailer RVs and twice as heavy? He was more than 26 feet long and almost as high as a basketball hoop. He had two long horns – each about three feet in length – and one more above his nose. You can see one at the University of Wyoming Dinosaur Museum.



What do TRICERATOPS eat?

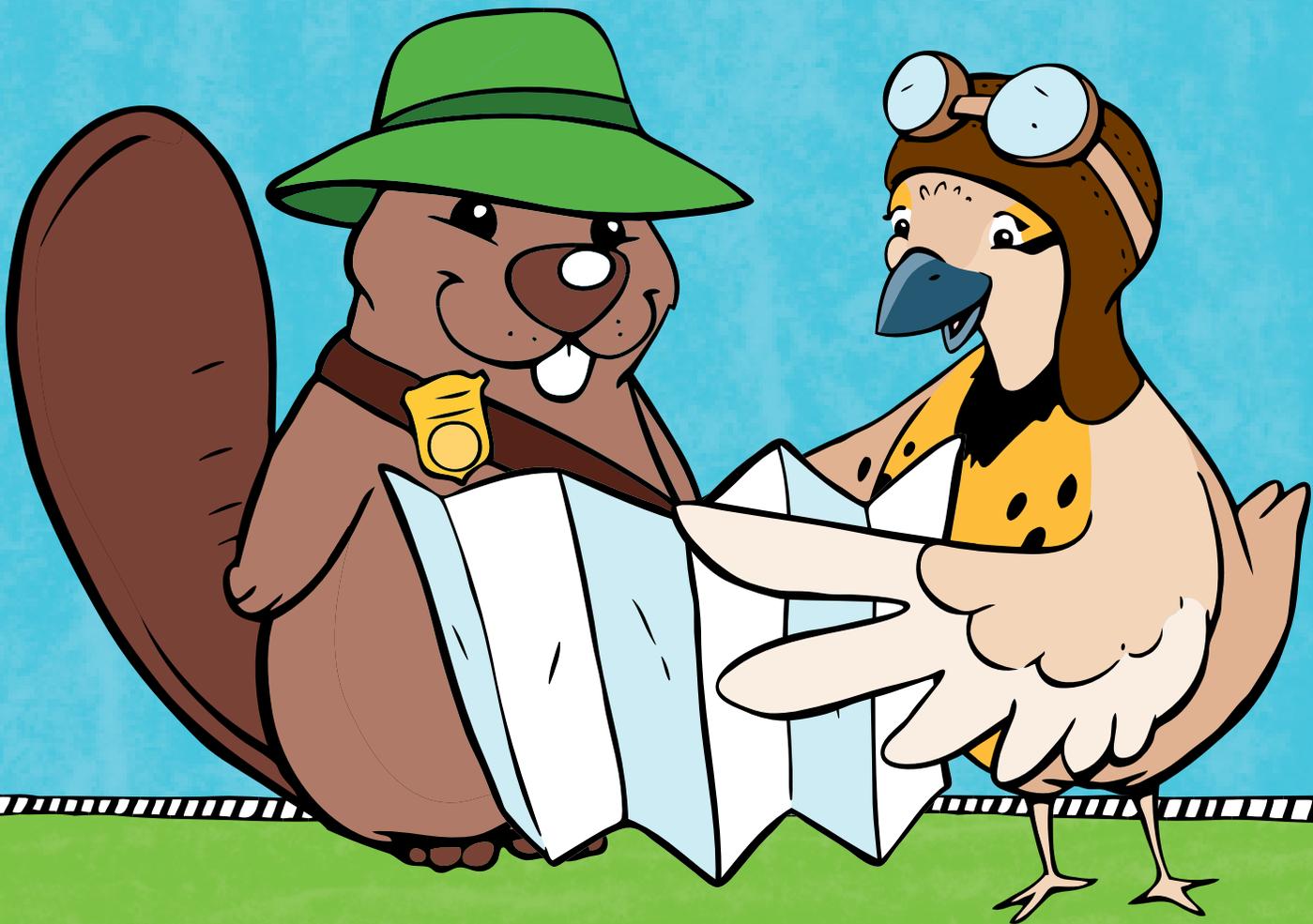
ACTIVITY: Color in the triceratops. Since nobody knows what color he was, what color will you make your triceratops?



Triceratops were herbivores, which means they ate grasses (just like a buffalo or a cow). To protect himself while he grazed, he had long horns and a shield on the back of his head that covered his neck.



Awareness & training
for quality child care



For more activities and tips, or if you would like an additional
booklet, please visit www.wyqualitycounts.org!

WY QUALITY COUNTS is an investment in the future of Wyoming's children, brought to you
by the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.