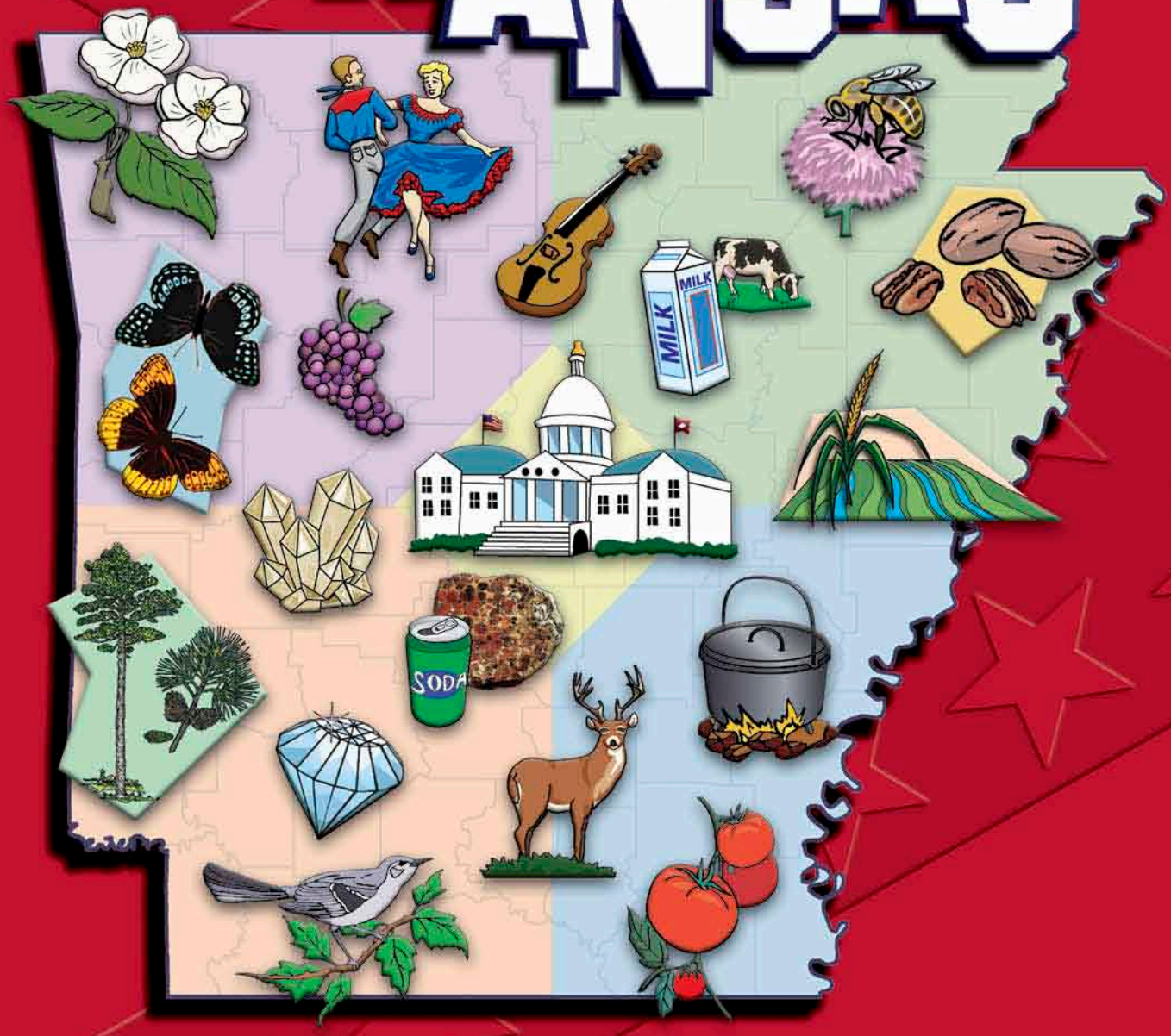
ARKANSAS



A Book of Symbols & Activities about the Natural State

Published by Secretary of State Mark Martin

There are so many things that make Arkansas a very special place to live. Beautiful mountains, towering forests, scenic rivers and rich farmland are just a few of the sights that give our state its nickname: The Natural State.

There are many other exciting things about Arkansas that you'll learn more about. Did you know:

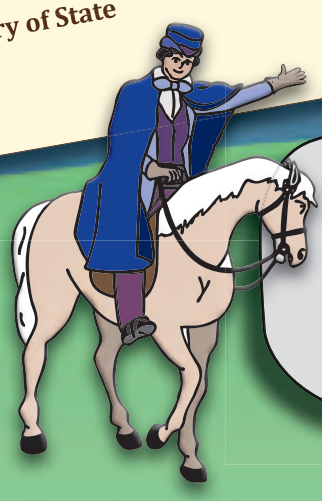
- You can dig for diamonds in Arkansas?
- Arkansas is the country's top rice-growing state?
- The state is known for its own special type of tomato?

One of my favorite places in Arkansas is the State Capitol in Little Rock. Part of my job is to care for the Capitol and make sure that you have fun learning when you visit. What a great job I have!

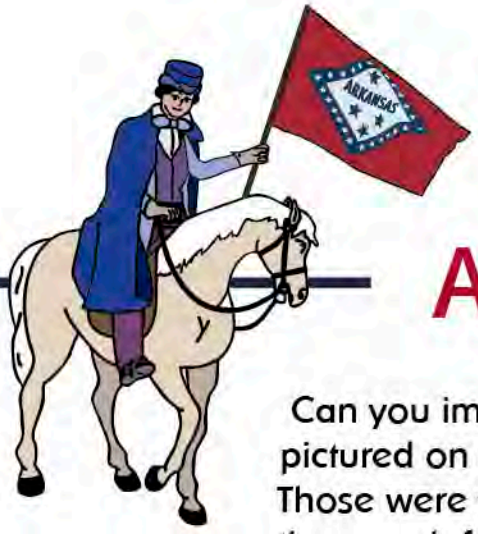
Please enjoy the activities in this book. I hope they help you learn more about our great state!

Mark Martin

Mark Martin
Arkansas Secretary of State



Hey kids!
I'm the Arkansas Traveler. I love traveling around the state to see its beauty and learn about its rich history. Follow me through this book and discover some of the things that make Arkansas so special!



The Story of the Arkansas Flag

Can you imagine Arkansas's flag with a big boat pictured on it? What about a dancing bear? Those were two of the ideas suggested during the search for the state's first official flag.

Before 1913, Arkansas did not have a state flag. The Pine Bluff Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution decided to hold a contest for ideas. There were 65 designs entered. Some were drawn with crayon, and some were pieced together with silk.

The winning design came from Miss Willie Hocker of Wabbaseka. She explained the meaning for all the symbols on her flag:

- Red, white and blue – the colors of the U.S. flag
- 25 stars – Arkansas was the 25th state admitted to the Union
- Diamond – Arkansas is the nation's only diamond-producing state
- The center stars –
  a) Three nations have ruled Arkansas: Spain, France and the United States
  b) Arkansas was the third state created from the Louisiana Purchase (1803)
  c) Two stars below "Arkansas" represent Arkansas and Michigan, "twin states" that became part of the United States near the same time (Arkansas on June 15, 1836, and Michigan on January 26, 1837)

The state's name was added on a suggestion by the selection committee. On February 26, 1913, the state legislature approved the design as the state's official flag.

In 1923, the legislature added a fourth blue star to indicate the state had been a member of the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1865. Its placement was moved in 1924 to make the design balanced once again.

Color the Arkansas Flag

Follow this guide to color your flag...

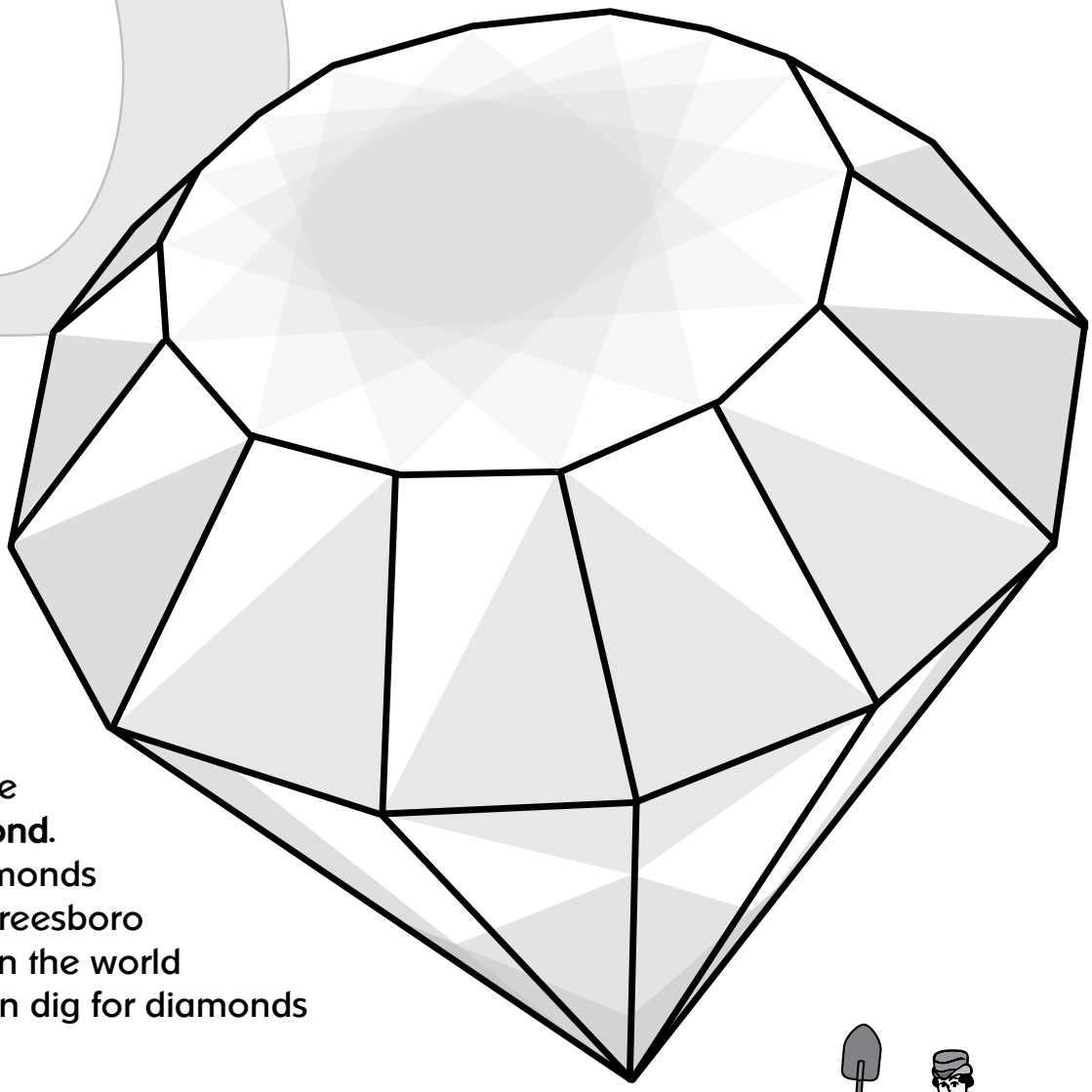
1. RED
2. BLUE
3. WHITE

How did Arkansas get its name?

The word **Arkansas** first came from the local Native American tribes. They were known as the "people who live downstream." French and Spanish explorers called them Quapaw and Arkansaw.

Diamond
The State Gem

D



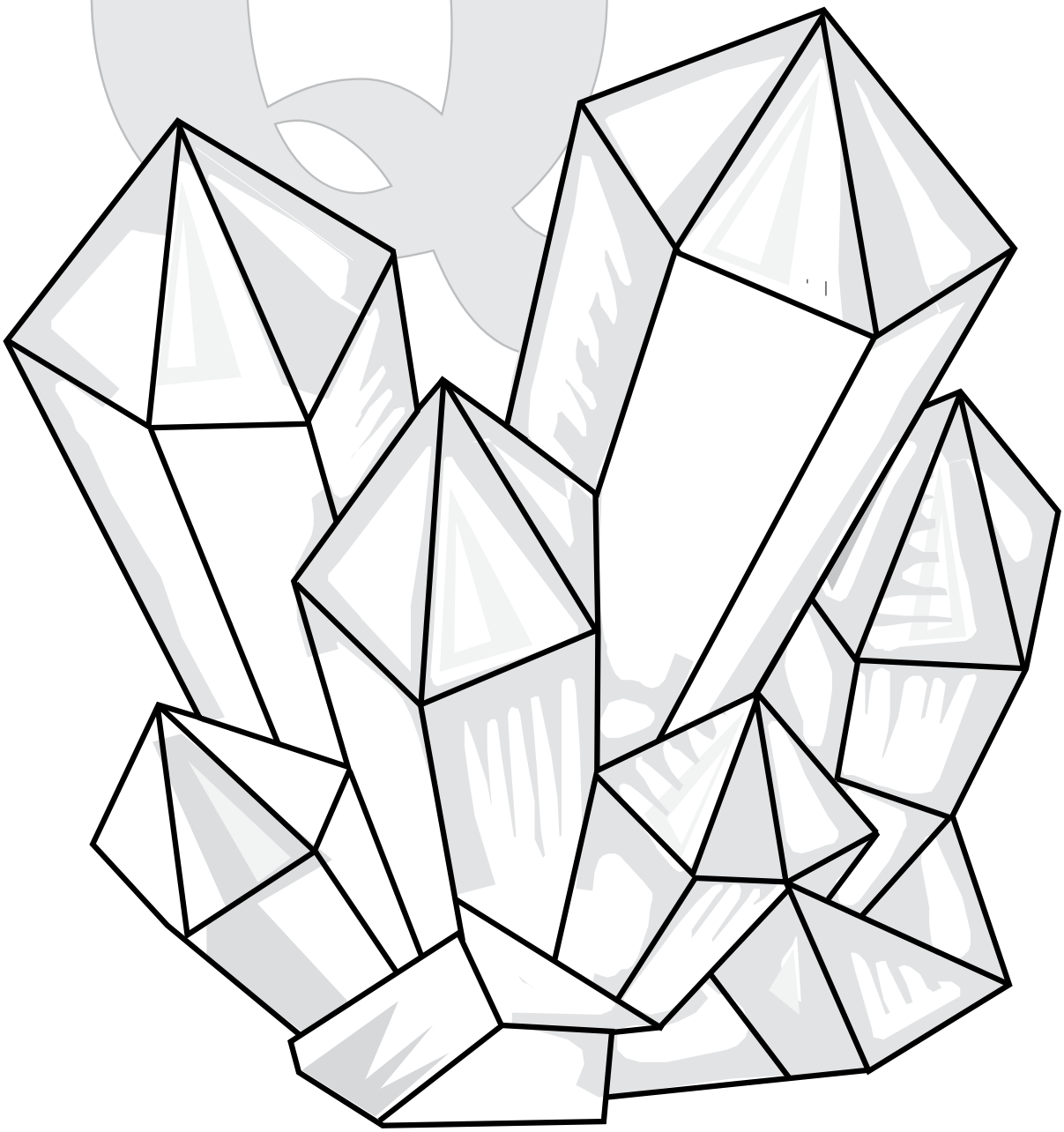
The Arkansas State Gem is the **diamond.** The Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro is the only place in the world where anyone can dig for diamonds – and KEEP them!

More than **75,000** diamonds have been found in the diamond field. Over 19,000 of those have been found since it became Crater of Diamonds State Park!*

* *Source: Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism,* **www.arkansas.com/things-to-do/diamond-hunting/**

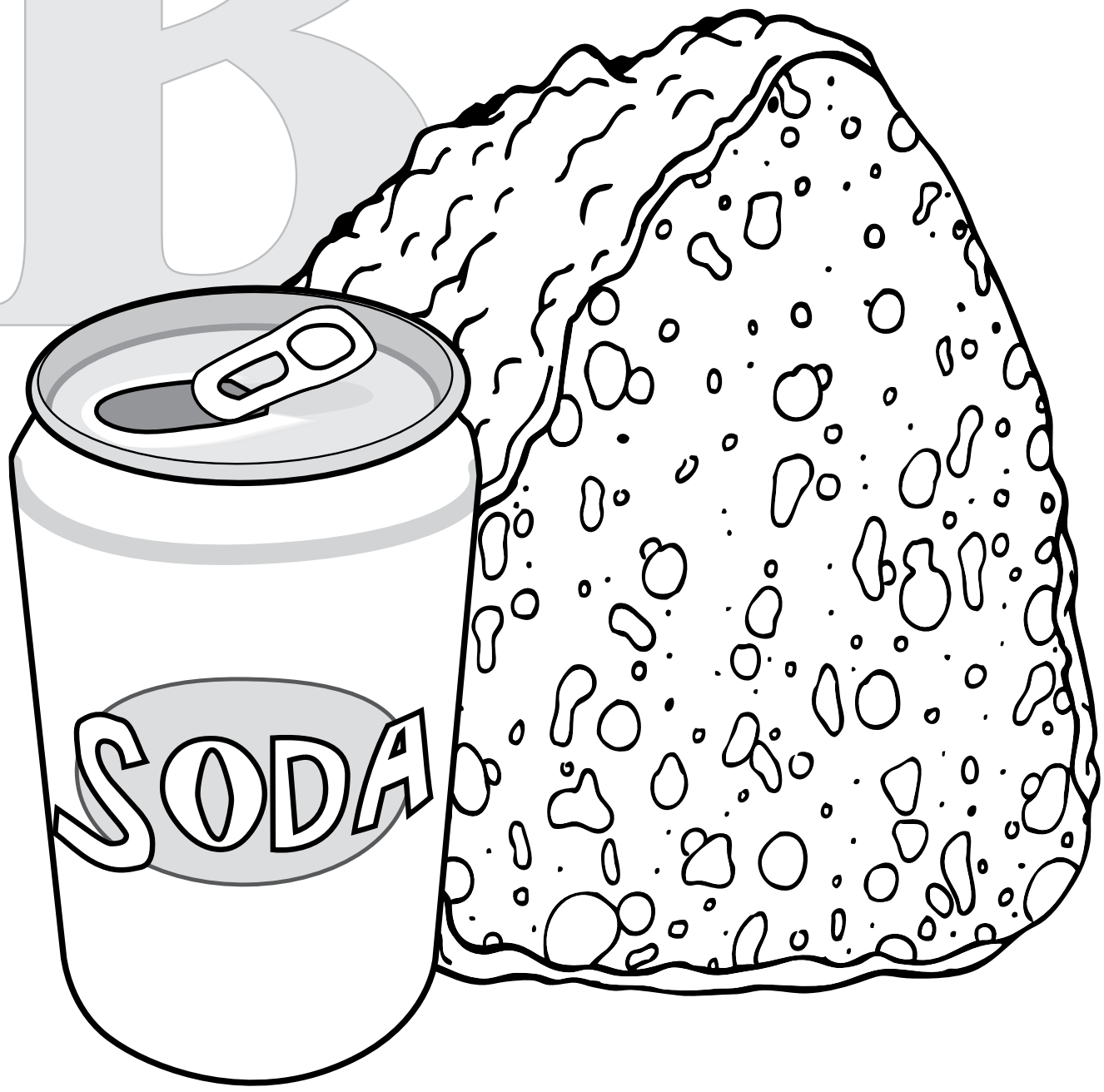
Quartz
The State Mineral

Quartz is mined in the Ouachita Mountains. The crystals are sometimes called "Arkansas Diamonds," but they really aren't diamonds. Quartz is usually clear or white, but can also be pink, yellow or even purple.



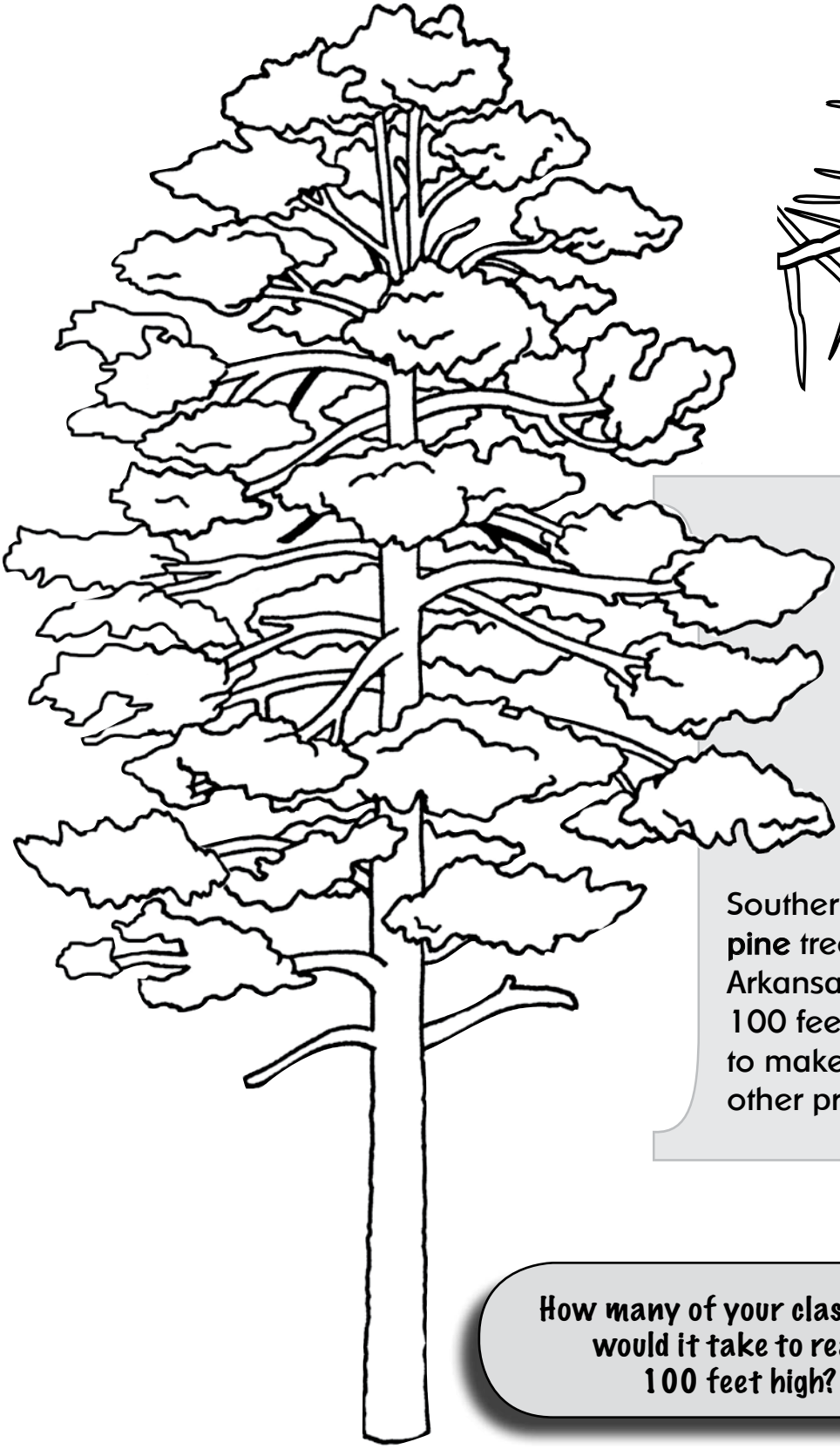
Bauxite
The State Rock

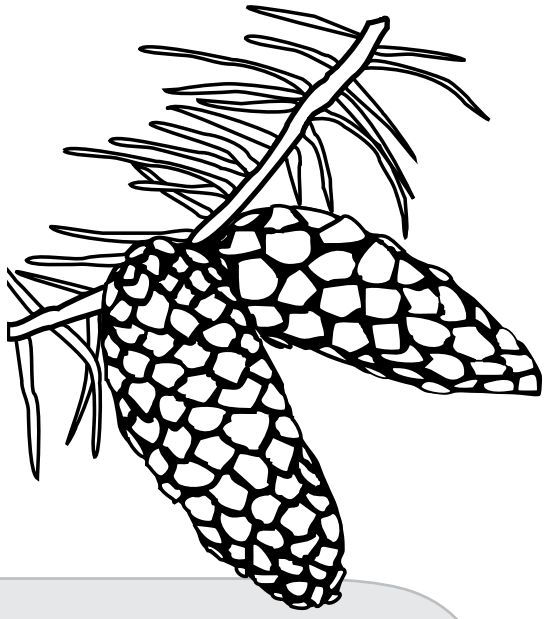
B



Bauxite is an important part of making aluminum, which is the metal used for soft drink cans. Saline County has the largest bauxite deposits in the United States. Colors in the rock are white, grey, yellow and red.

Pine
The State Tree





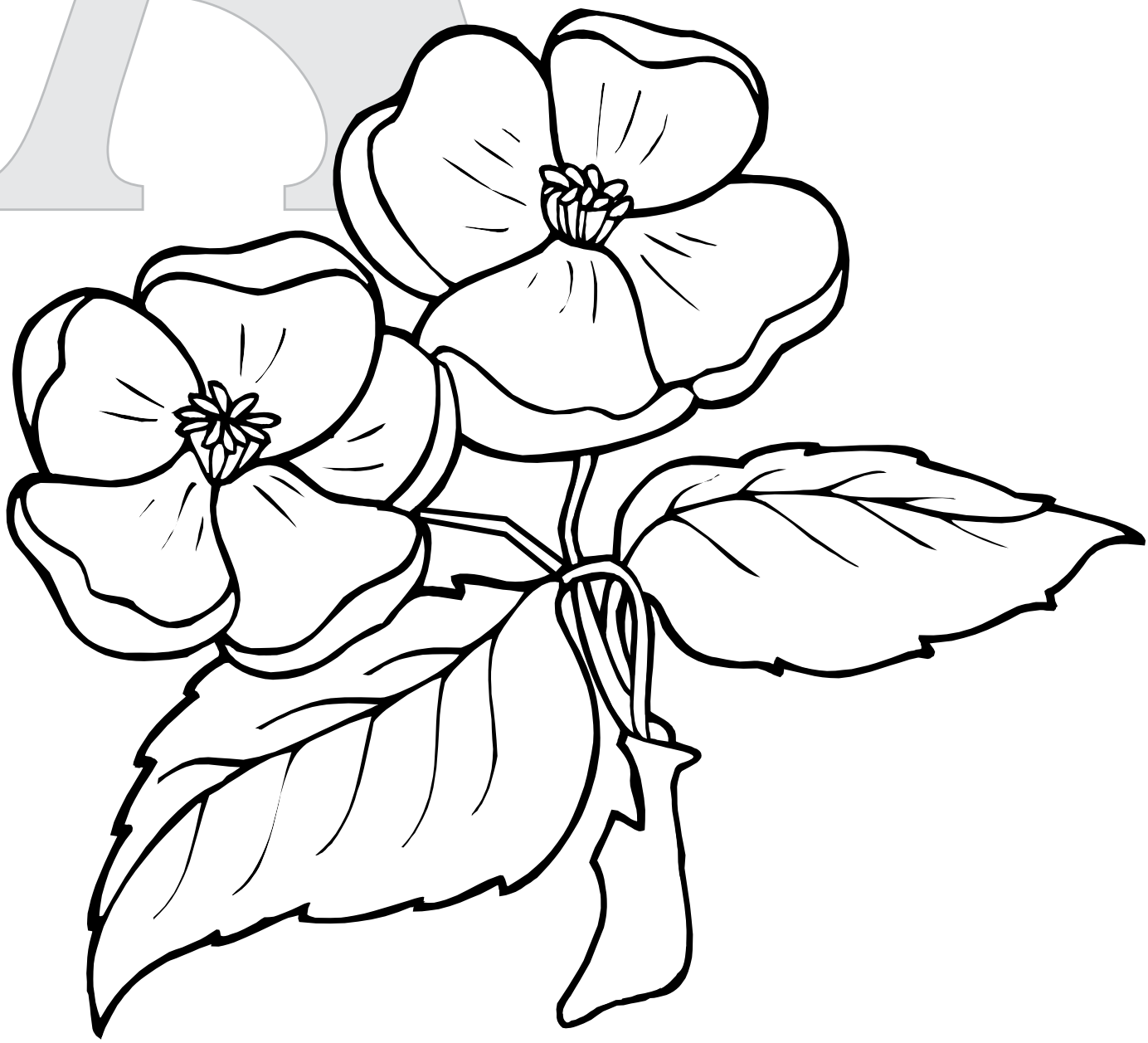
P

Southern yellow and loblolly **pine** trees are common around Arkansas. They can grow more than 100 feet tall. Pine trees are used to make paper, lumber and many other products.

How many of your classmates would it take to reach 100 feet high?

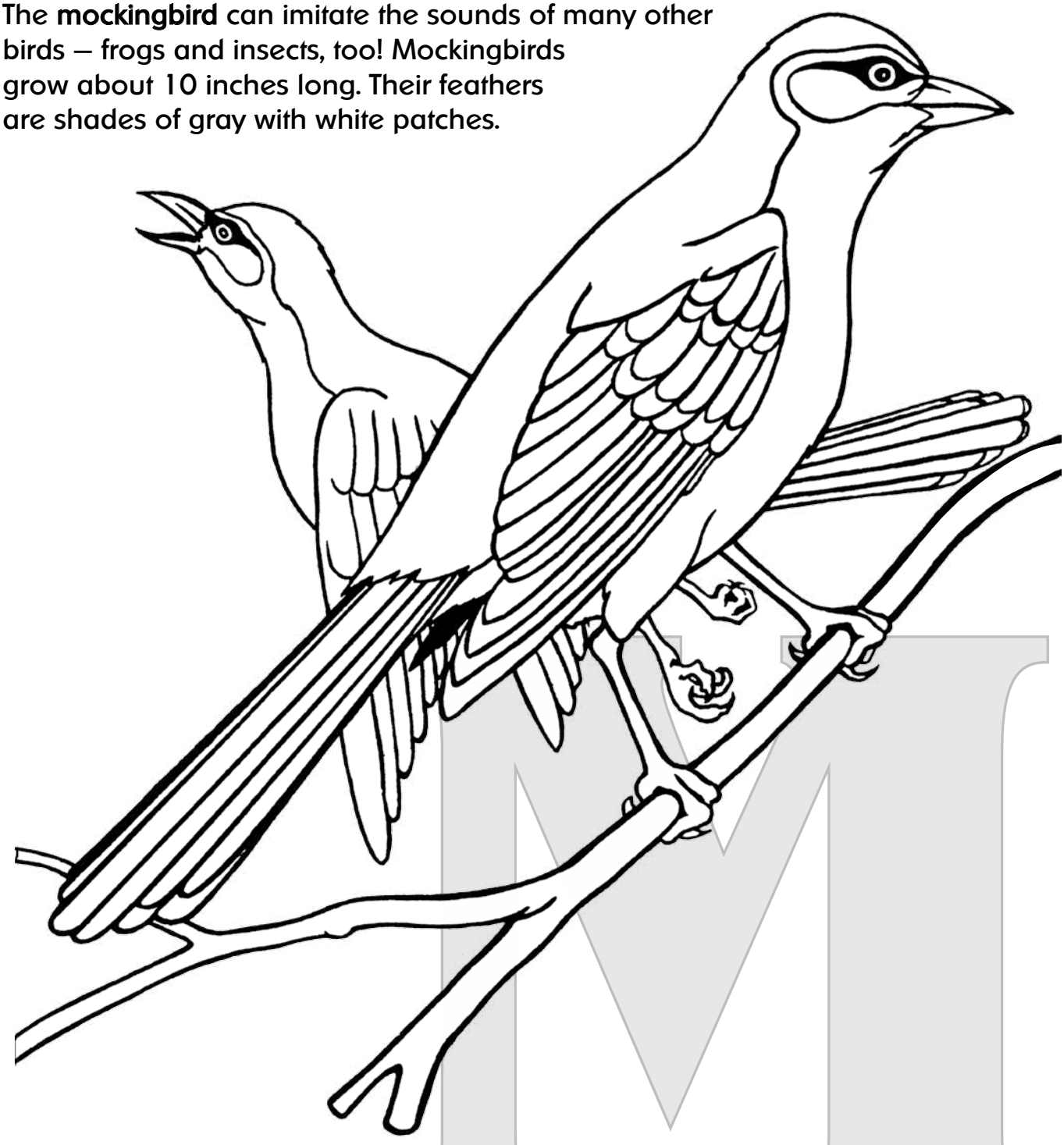
Apple Blossom
The State Flower

Apple blossoms grow on trees. They are pink and white with green leaves. At one time, apples were a major crop in the state. Today, the town of Lincoln in Washington County still hosts the annual Arkansas Apple Festival each fall.



Mockingbird
The State Bird

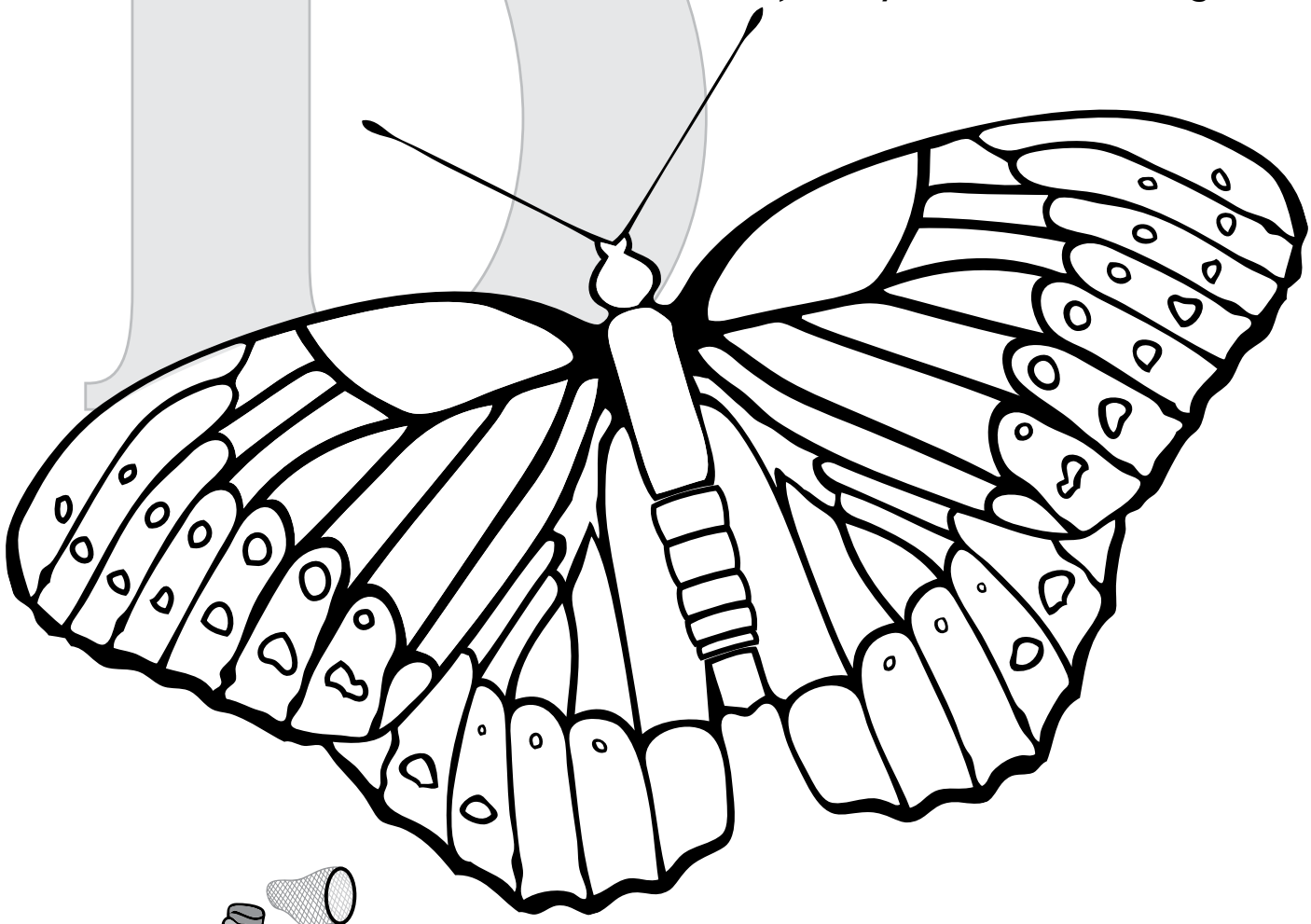
The **mockingbird** can imitate the sounds of many other birds — frogs and insects, too! Mockingbirds grow about 10 inches long. Their feathers are shades of gray with white patches.

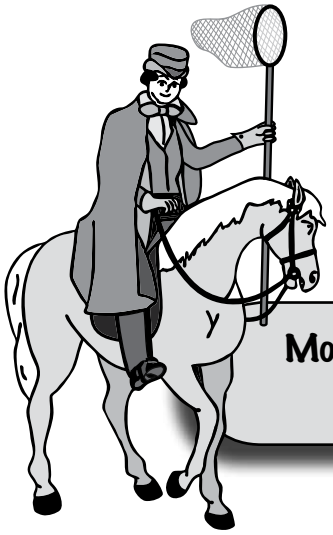


M

Diana Fritillary
The State Butterfly

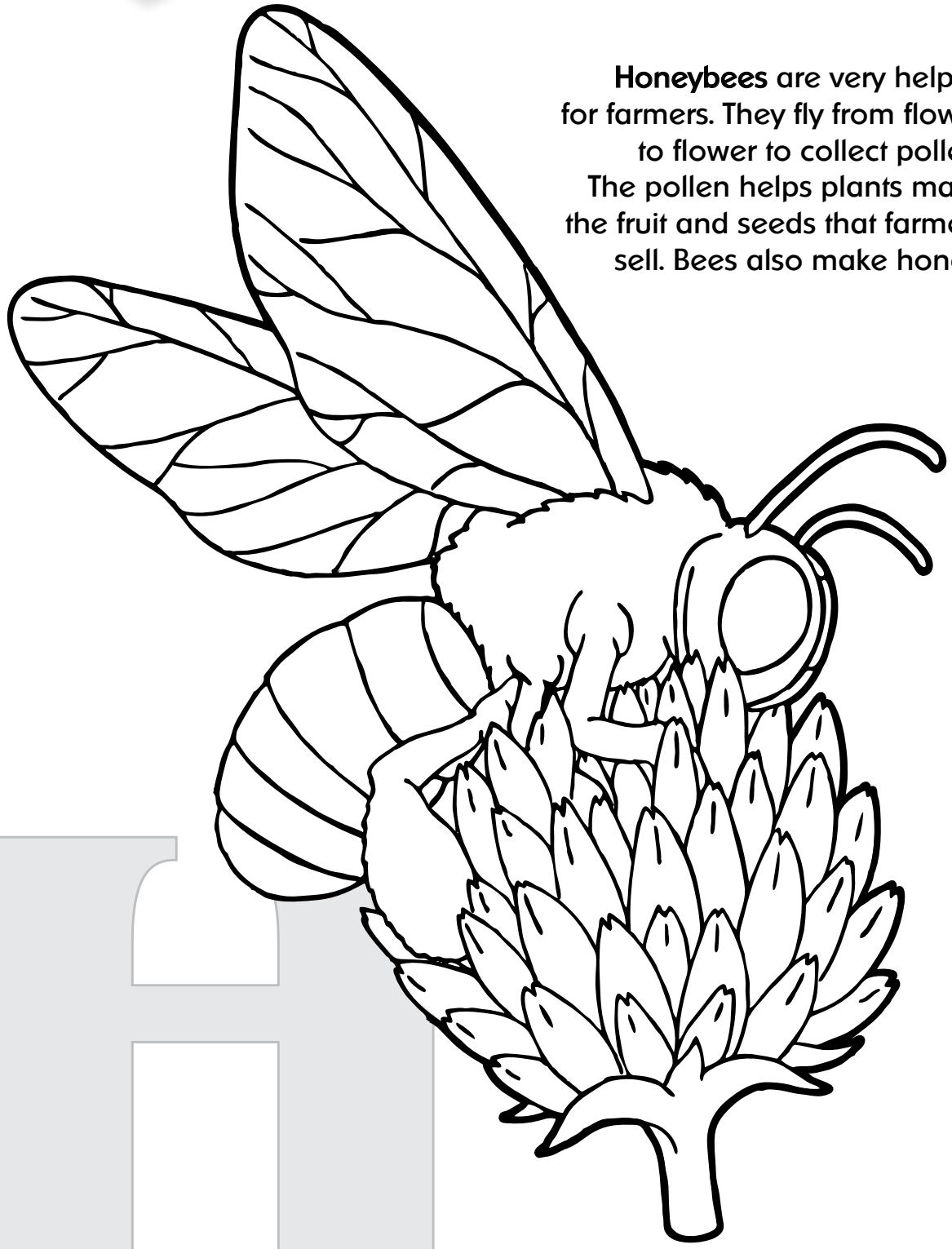
The **Diana Fritillary** butterfly is large and very colorful. Males are dark brown with orange markings. The females are larger and have bright blue markings with white spots. They live in moist mountain areas, especially around Mount Magazine.





Mount Magazine is Arkansas's tallest point.
Its peak is 2,753 feet high!

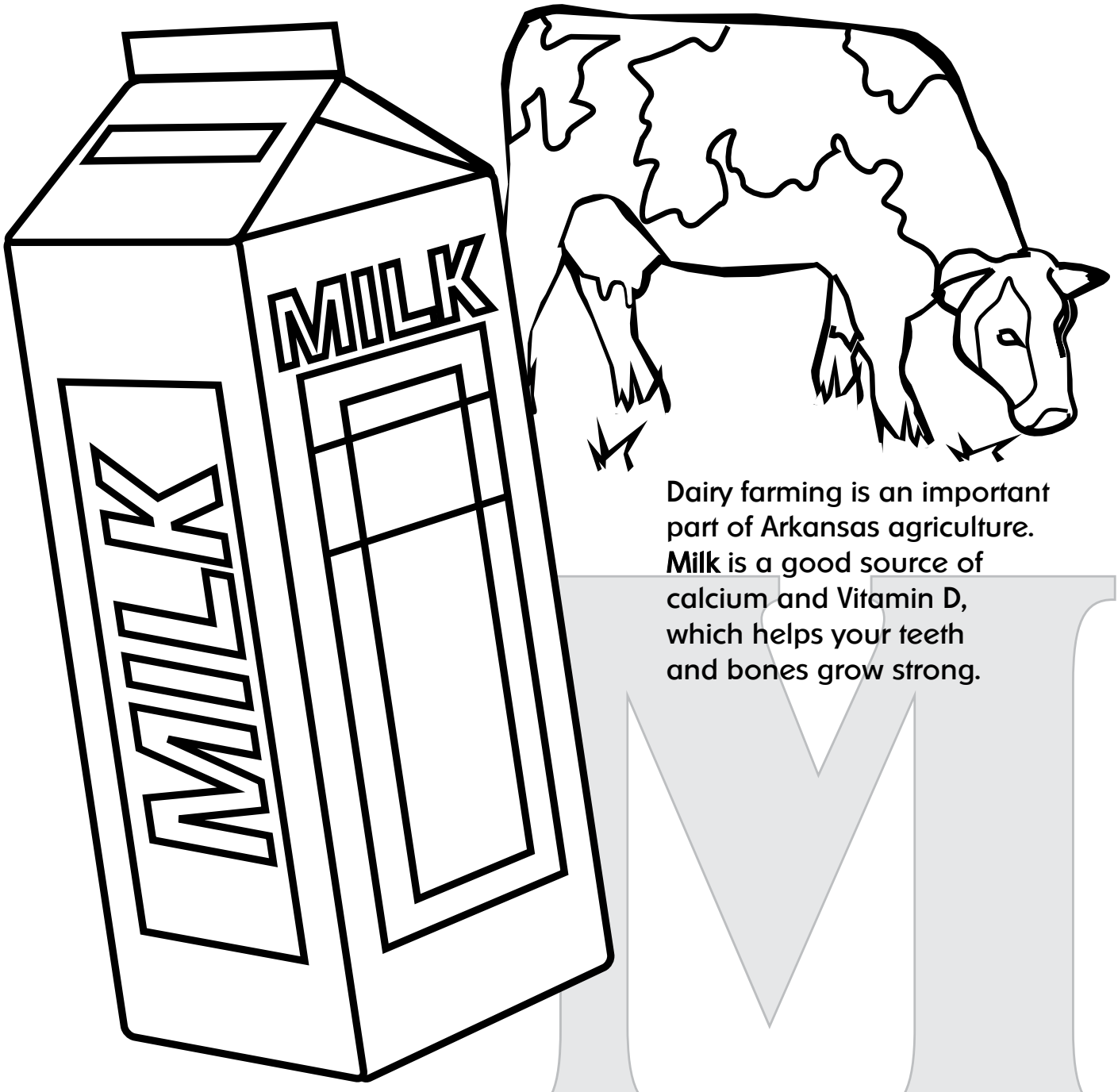
Honeybee
The State Insect



Honeybees are very helpful for farmers. They fly from flower to flower to collect pollen. The pollen helps plants make the fruit and seeds that farmers sell. Bees also make honey.

H

Milk
The State Beverage



Dairy farming is an important part of Arkansas agriculture. **Milk** is a good source of calcium and Vitamin D, which helps your teeth and bones grow strong.

M

White-Tail Deer
The State Mammal

White-tailed deer are the most popular game animal in Arkansas. Young deer have red fur with white spots that help them hide in tall grass. Their fur turns brownish-gray by their first birthday.

South Arkansas Vine Ripe

Pink Tomato

The State Fruit & Vegetable

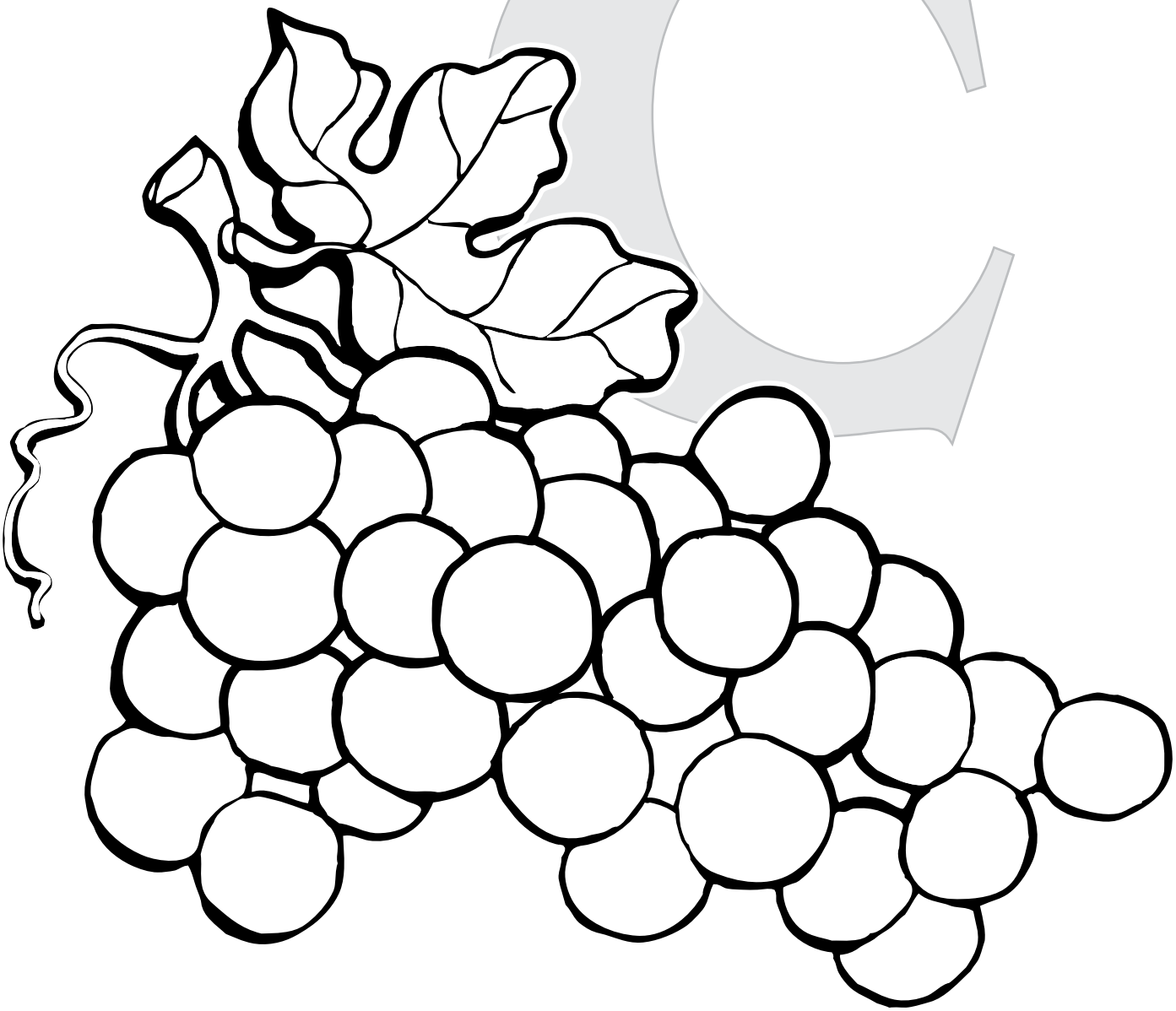
The **tomato** is officially a fruit, but is usually used as a vegetable. Bradley County in southern Arkansas celebrates the tomato with the annual Pink Tomato Festival.

Pecan
The State Nut

Pecan trees produce dark brown nuts that grow 1-2 inches long. The nuts are used in many southern recipes. Arkansas's pecan groves produce around 1 million pounds of nuts each year.

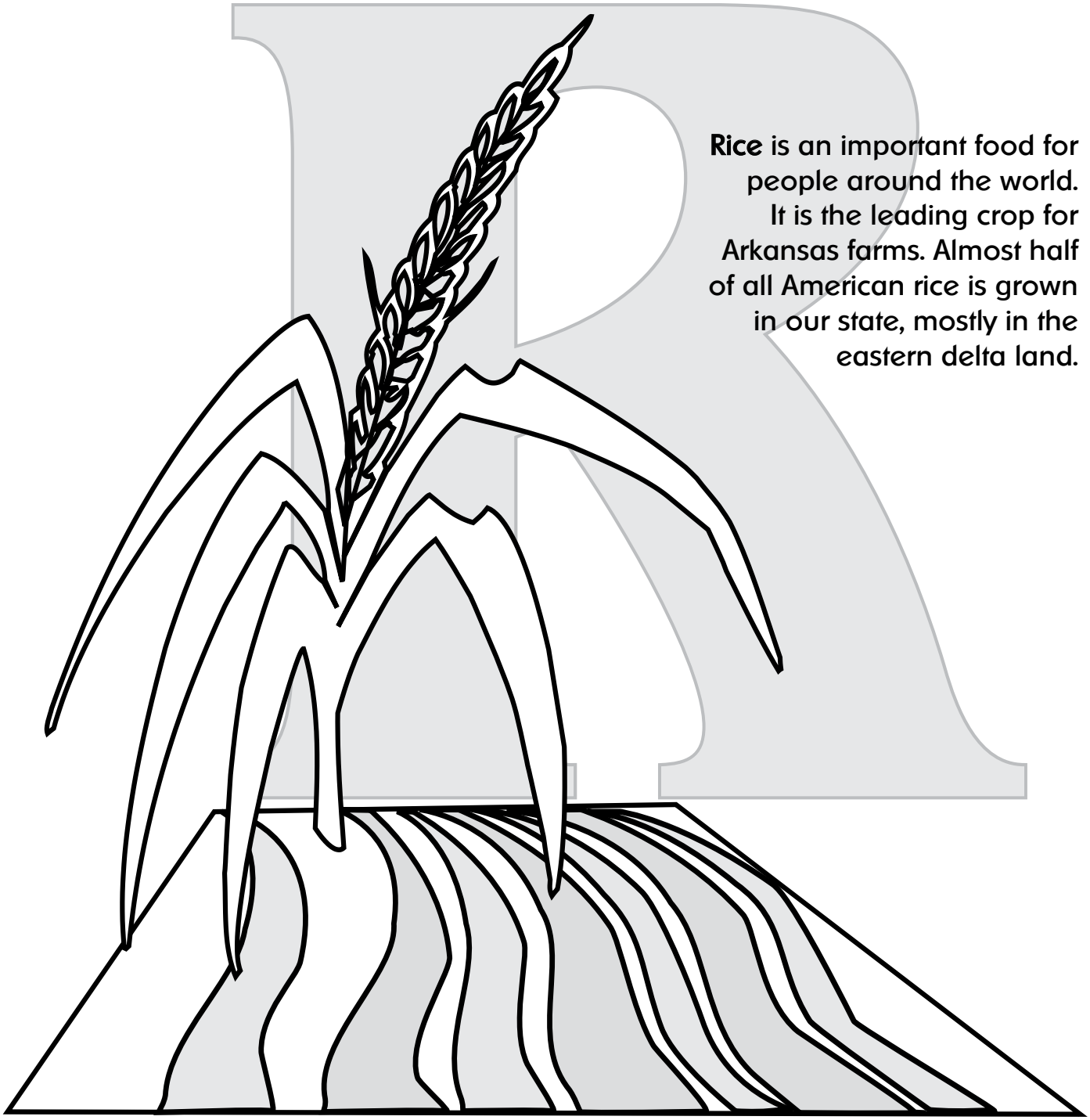
Pecan pie is my favorite dessert! What's yours?

Cynthiana
The State Grape



The north central part of Arkansas has a rich history of grape farming. The state is one of the nation's main producers of the **Cynthiana** variety of grapes.

Rice
The State Grain

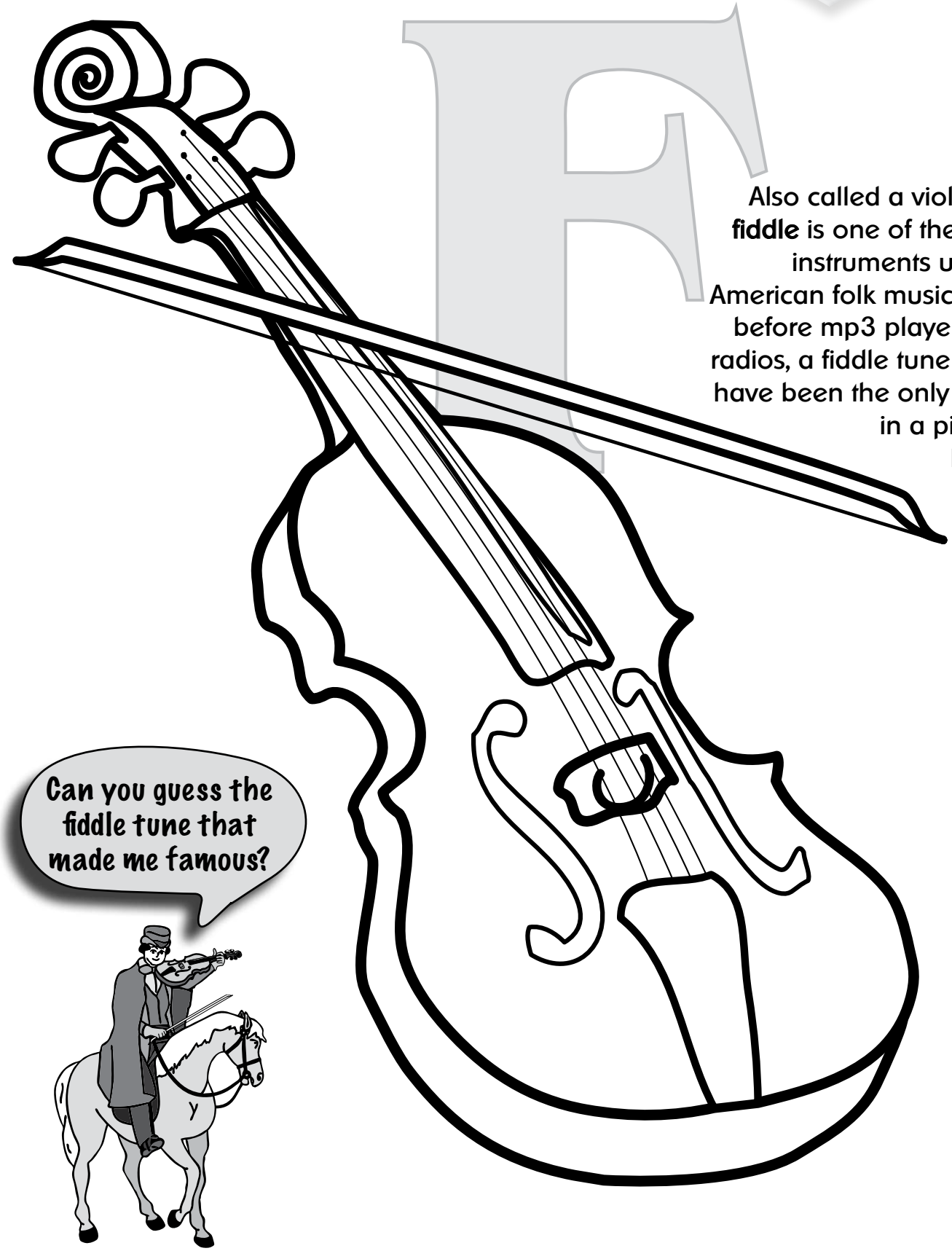


Rice is an important food for people around the world. It is the leading crop for Arkansas farms. Almost half of all American rice is grown in our state, mostly in the eastern delta land.

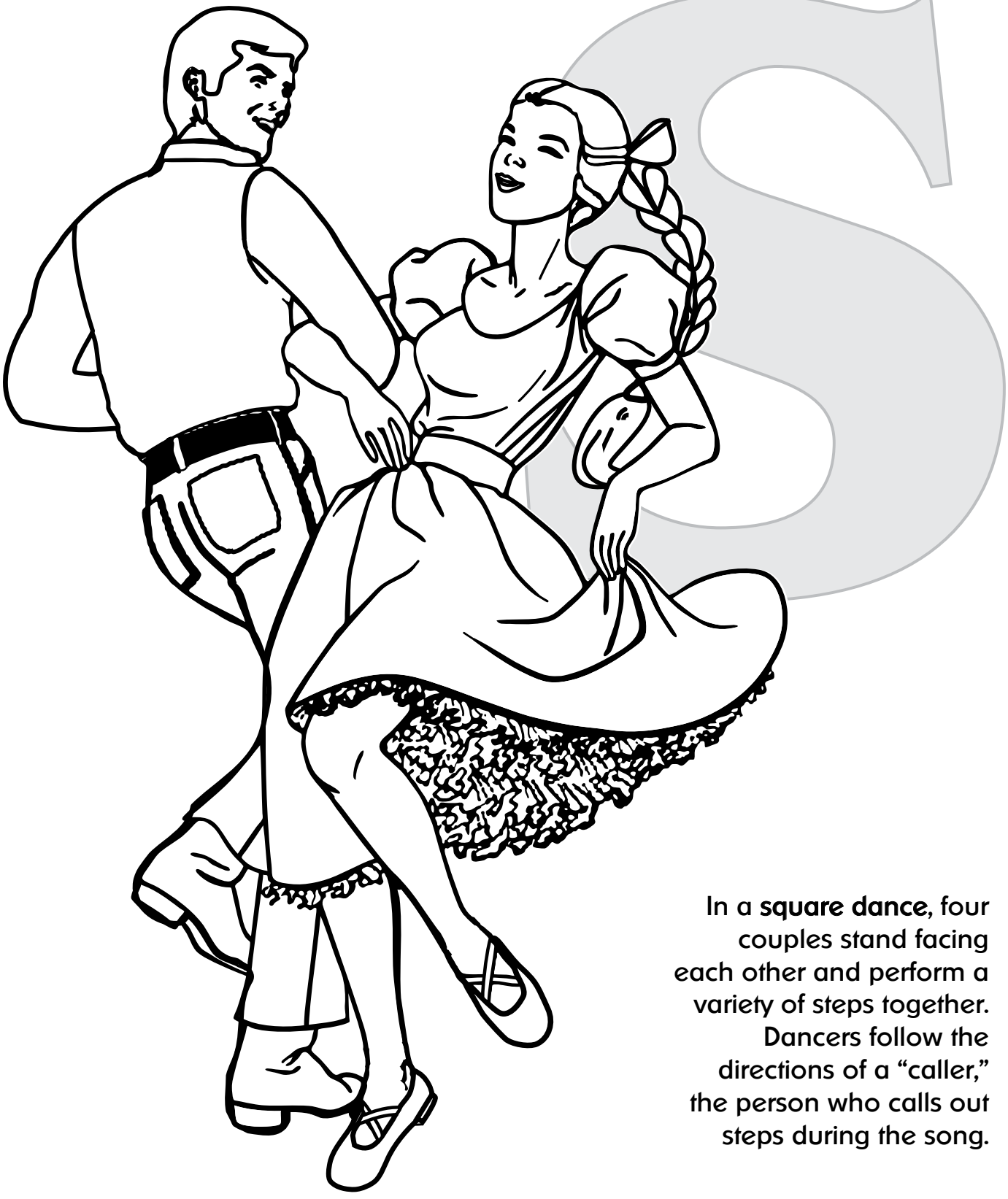
Fiddle
The State Instrument

F

Also called a violin, the **fiddle** is one of the main instruments used in American folk music. Long before mp3 players and radios, a fiddle tune might have been the only music in a pioneer home.



Square Dance
The State American Folk Dance

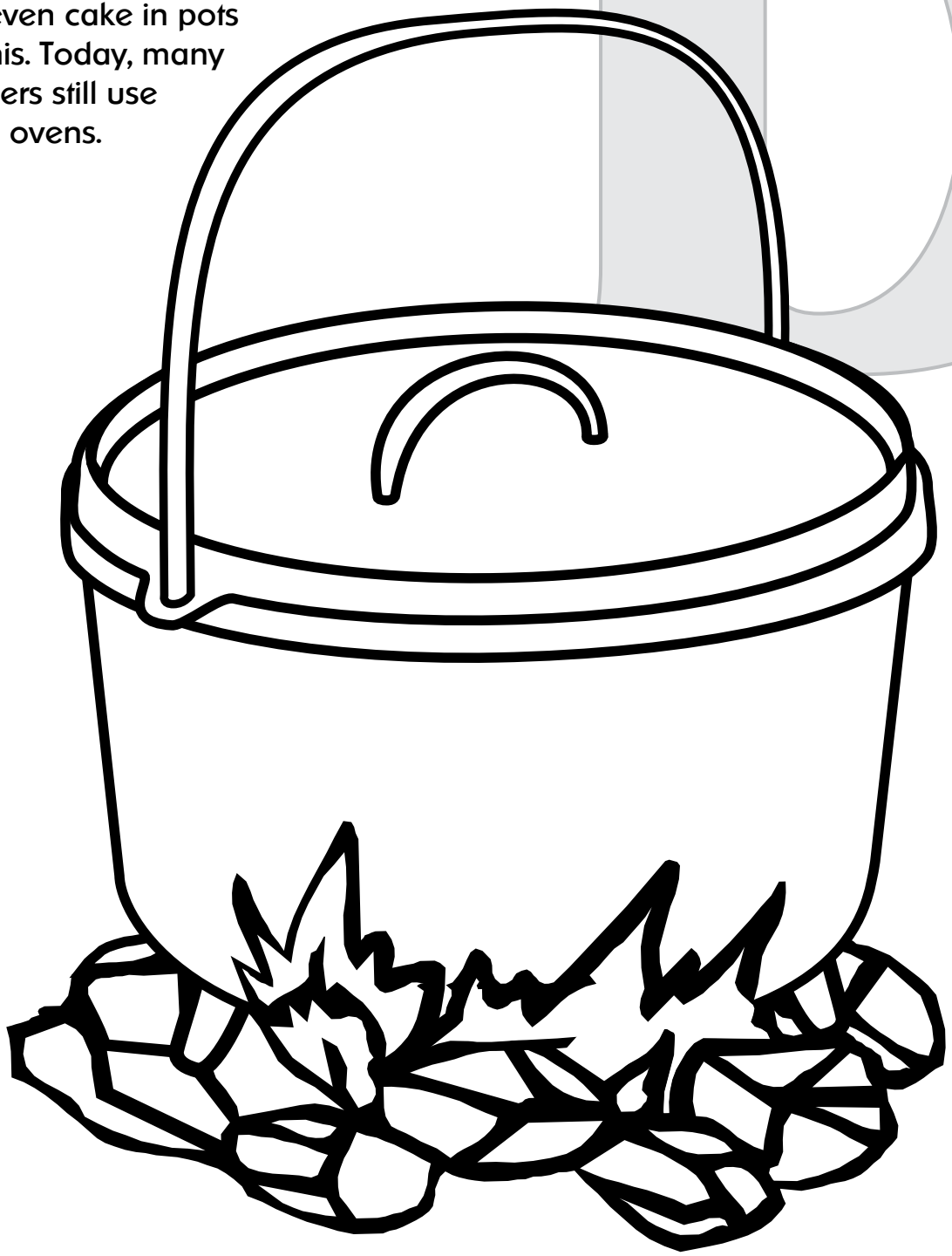


In a **square dance**, four couples stand facing each other and perform a variety of steps together. Dancers follow the directions of a "caller," the person who calls out steps during the song.

Dutch Oven

The State Historic Cooking Vessel

The **Dutch oven** is a deep, heavy pot with legs, a lid and a handle. Pioneers set the pot over a campfire and placed hot coals on the lid to cook their meals. They could make foods like soup, biscuits and even cake in pots like this. Today, many campers still use Dutch ovens.



Songs of Arkansas

Arkansas
(You Run Deep in Me)
by Wayland Holyfield

state song

October morning in the Ozark Moutnains,
Hills ablazing like that sun in the sky.
I fell in love there and the fire's still burning
A flame that never will die.

CHORUS
Oh, I may wander, but when I do
I will never be far from you.
You're in my blood and I know you'll always be.
Arkansas, you run deep in me.

Moonlight dancing on a delta levee,
To a band of frogs and whippoorwill
I lost my heart there one July evening
And it's still there, I can tell

REPEAT CHORUS

Magnolia blooming, Mama smiling,
Mallards sailing on a December wind.
God bless the memories I keep recalling
Like an old familiar friend.

REPEAT CHORUS

And there's a river rambling through
the fields and valleys,
Smooth and steady as she makes her
way south,
A lot like the people whose name
she carries.
She goes storng and she goes proud.

REPEAT CHORUS

Oh, Arkansas
by Terri Rose/Gary Klaff

state song

It's the spirit of the mountains and the spirit of the Delta,
It's the spirit of the Capitol dome.
It's the spirit of the river and the spirit of the lakes,
It's the spirit that's in each and every home.
It's the spirit of the people and the spirit of the land,
It's the spirit of tomorrow and today.

CHORUS
Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.
It's the spirit of friendship, it's the spirit of hope.
It's the Razorbacks every game they play.
Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.

It's the spirit of the forest, it's the spirit of the eagle.
It's the spirit of the country that we love.
It's the spirit of pride that we all feel deep inside,
It's the spirit that shines from above.
It's the spirit of our fathers, it's the spirit of our kids,,
It's the spirit of the music that we play.

Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.
Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.
Oh Arkansas, oh Arkansas, Arkansas U.S.A.

official state anthem

Arkansas
by Eva Ware Barnett

I am thinking tonight of the Southland,
Of the home of my childhood days,
Where I roamed through the woods
and the meadows
By the mill and the brook that plays;
Where the roses are in bloom
And the sweet magnolia, too,
Where the jasmine is white
And the filelds are violet blue,
There a welcome awaits all her children
Who have wandered afar from home

CHORUS

Arkansas, Arkansas, 'tis a name dear,
'Tis the place I call "home, sweet home";
Arkansas, Arkansas, I salute thee,
From they shelter no more I'll roam.

'Tis a land full of joy and of sunshine,
Rich in pearls and in diamonds rare,
Full of hope, fiath and love for the stranger,
Who may pass 'neath her portals fair;
There the rice fields are full,
And the cotton, corn and hay,
There the fruits of the field,
Bloom in winter months and May,
'Tis the land that I love, first of all, dear,
And to her let us all give cheer.

REPEAT CHORUS

state historic song

The Arkansas Traveler
Lyrics by the Arkansas State Song Selection Committee, 1947
Music by Colonel Sandford "Sandy" Faulkner, about 1850

On a lonely road quite long ago,
A trav'ler trod with fiddle and a bow;
While rambling thru the country rich and grand,
He quickly sensed the magic and the beauty of the land.

CHORUS
For the wonder state we'll sing a song,
And lift our voices loud and long.
For the wonder state we'll shout hurrah!
And praise the opportunities we find in Arkansas.

Many years have passed, the trav'lers gay,
Repeat the tune along the highway;
And every voice that sings the glad refrain
Re-echoes from the mountains to the fields
of growing grain.

REPEAT CHORUS

** All musical arrangements available for download at* **www.soskids.arkansas.gov**

Map It!

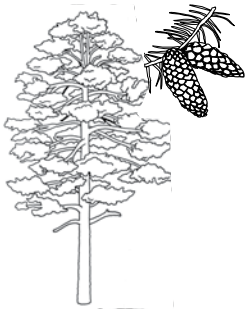
ARKANSAS

Arkansas is made up of 75 local governments called counties. Where do you live?

1. Color your county on the map above.
2. Draw a star where the state capital is located.
3. Connect the dots above the map to spell your state.

Make a Match

Match the symbol and its name

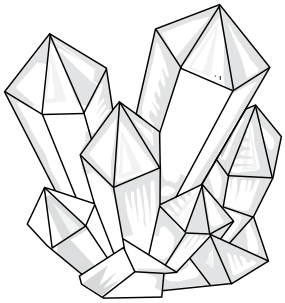


Quartz

Pine Tree

Rice

Dutch Oven



Pink Tomato

Word Search

Circle the words in the puzzle

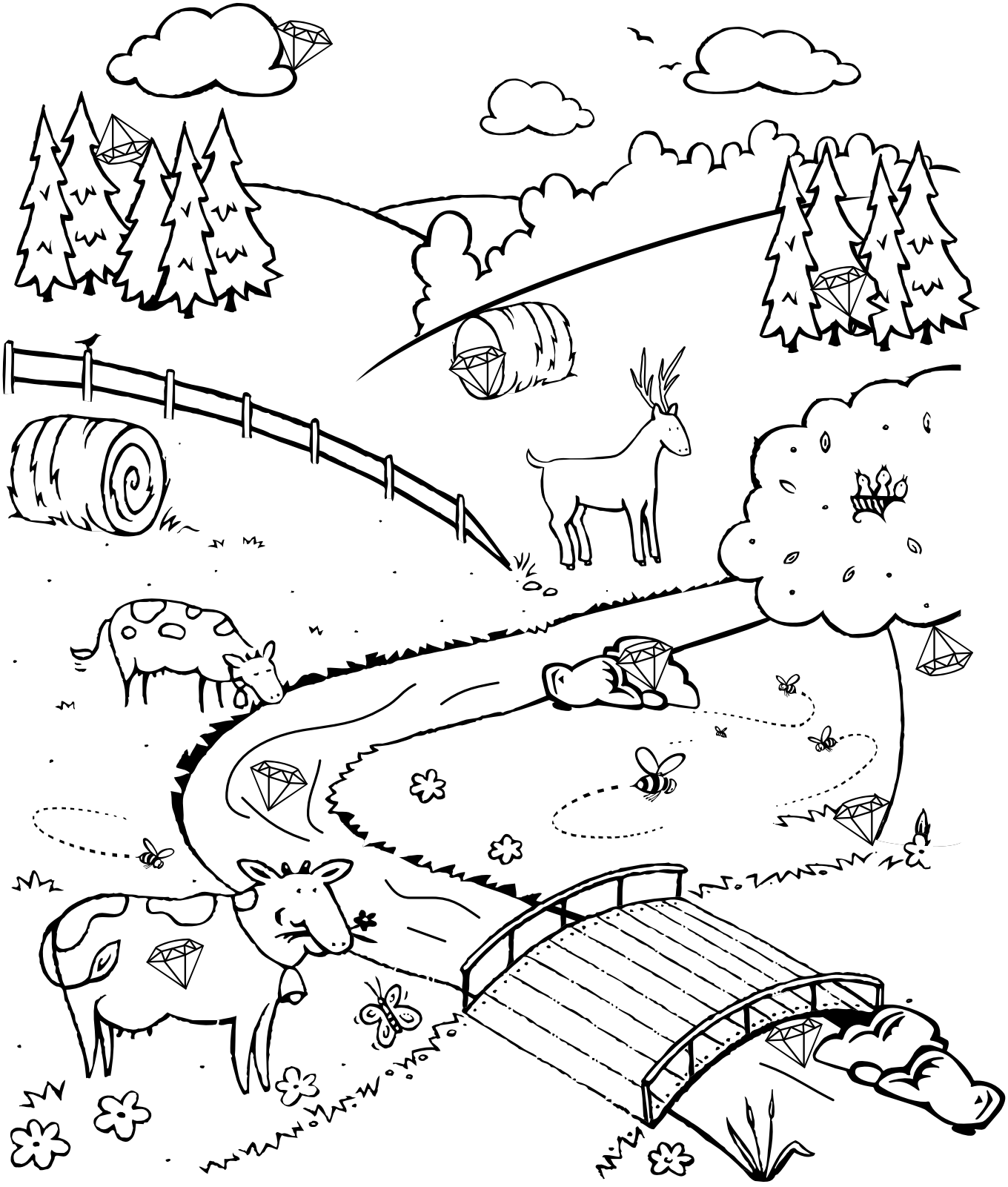
F	I	D	D	L	E	N	D	H	E	C
L	M	I	L	K	F	M	O	I	E	C
Q	U	A	R	T	Z	T	R	E	U	D
T	O	M	A	T	O	D	I	E	P	N
E	I	O	P	I	N	E	C	K	B	M
H	O	N	E	Y	B	E	E	A	O	O
E	T	D	C	M	D	R	E	N	E	T
D	N	Y	A	B	Z	P	O	N	N	F
Y	E	R	N	I	P	E	T	E	M	I
I	O	O	O	Q	B	E	O	E	A	O
L	R	E	M	E	E	D	P	N	C	A

DEER
DIAMOND
FIDDLE
HONEYBEE
MILK
PECAN
PINE
QUARTZ
RICE
TOMATO

Find the Diamond

How many diamonds can you find?

I found _____ diamonds.



A-Maze-ing Arkansas

Help the Arkansas Traveler find his fiddle

The Seal's the Deal

Use the state symbols you have learned to design your own State Seal

The Arkansas
State Seal

My
State Seal

Proclamation

This is to certify that

_____

has completed a study of the Great State of

Arkansas

and promises to continue to learn more about his/her state.

Mark Martin

Mark Martin, Arkansas Secretary of State

_____

Teacher or Parent Signature

_____

Date

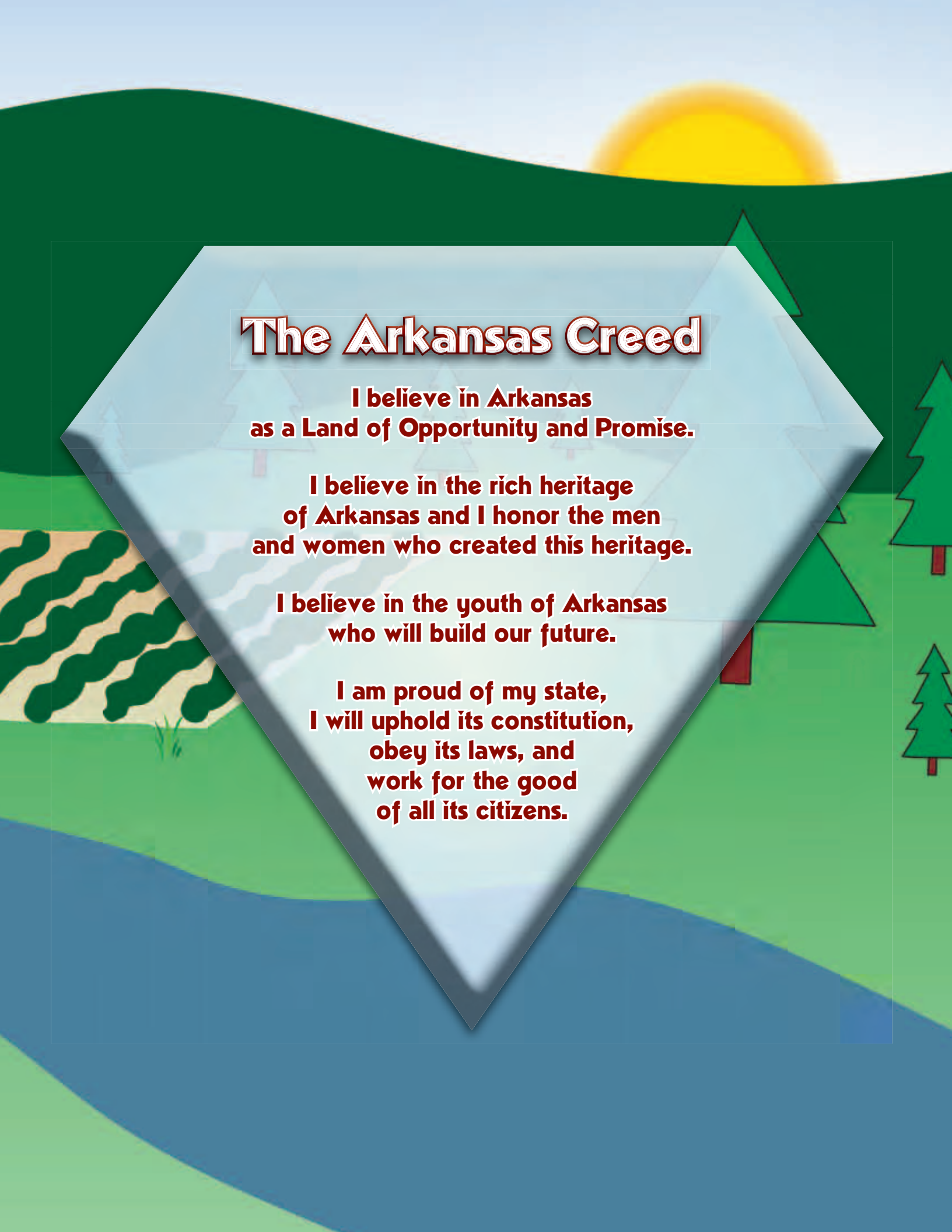
Tear here to detach bookmark

Pledge to the Arkansas Flag

Virginia Belcher Brock
Author

"I Salute the Arkansas Flag with its Diamond and Stars. We Pledge Our Loyalty to Thee."

Provided by
Mark Martin
Secretary of State



The Arkansas Creed

I believe in Arkansas
as a Land of Opportunity and Promise.

I believe in the rich heritage
of Arkansas and I honor the men
and women who created this heritage.

I believe in the youth of Arkansas
who will build our future.

I am proud of my state,
I will uphold its constitution,
obey its laws, and
work for the good
of all its citizens.