



# SYMBOLS OF MISSOURI

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A RESOURCE COLORING GUIDE FOR  
**MISSOURI STUDENTS**

A GIFT FROM  
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## The Great Seal



The Great Seal of the State of Missouri is a symbol made up of many other symbols. Judge Robert William Wells, who designed the seal, gave each element a special meaning.

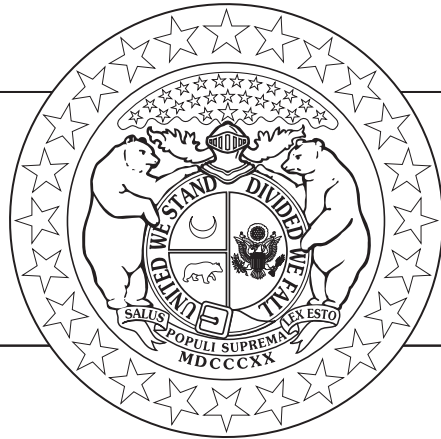
Circling the Great Seal is the state's motto: "*Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto*" which is Latin for "The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law." The two large bears stand for courage and strength; the 24 stars show that Missouri was the 24th state to be admitted to the Union.

The Great Seal is used to authenticate official acts of the government. The secretary of state, entrusted as the official "keeper" or custodian of the Seal, affixes or embosses its likeness on documents and special papers. The first Great Seal was authorized on January 11, 1822.

## The State Capitol

Missouri's present State Capitol is actually the state's third in Jefferson City. After the second capitol burned in 1911, the people of Missouri decided to build the grandest in the country, using stone excavated from quarries near Carthage. The Capitol has many magnificent features—the rotunda, the stained glass windows, the murals and paintings and photographs of legislators. Two museums display items from Missouri's past and help explain the state's history and resources.

The Capitol is where our elected leaders meet to discuss the laws and programs which affect Missourians. The House of Representatives and the Senate meet to debate proposed laws in their own chambers, and the governor and other statewide elected officials have offices in the Capitol as well.



## **The State Flag**

The Missouri state flag was designed by Marie Elizabeth Oliver, of Cape Girardeau. The flag consists of three large horizontal stripes of red, white and blue. In the center white stripe is the Missouri coat-of-arms. Thanks to the efforts of Missouri students, Mrs. Oliver's original flag has been restored and is on display in Jefferson City. The legislature adopted Mrs. Oliver's design as the official state flag on March 22, 1913.

## **Missouri Day**

On March 22, 1915, the 48th General Assembly set aside the first Monday in October each year as "Missouri Day," due to the efforts of Mrs. Anna Brosius Korn, a native Missourian. In 1969, the 75th General Assembly changed the date to the third Wednesday in October. Missouri Day is a time for schools to honor the state and for the people of the state to celebrate the achievements of all Missourians.



## **The State Bird**

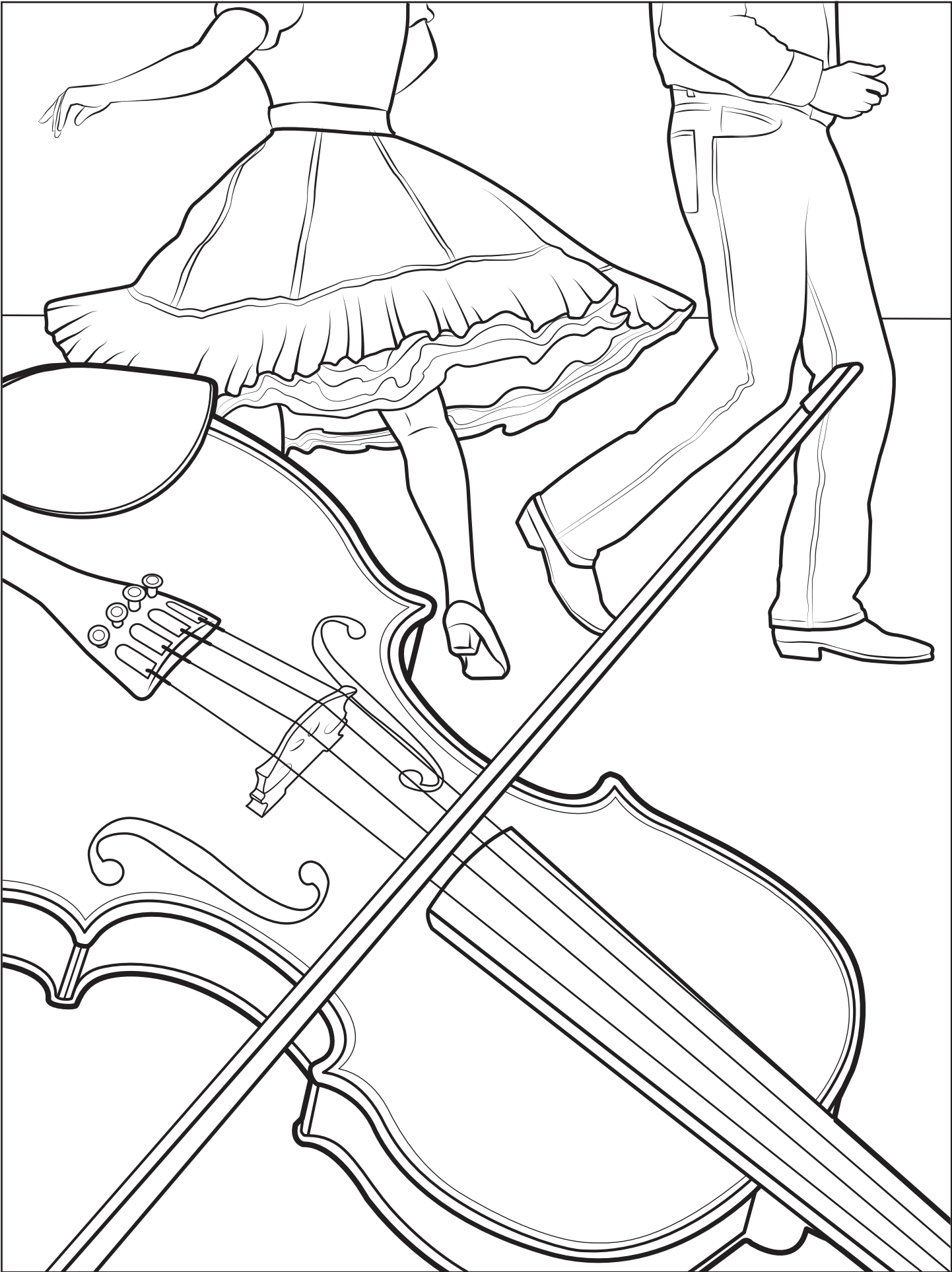
### *The Bluebird*

A symbol of happiness and a friend to farmers, the native bluebird is Missouri's state bird. With a distinctive red, white and blue coloring, the bluebird is easily recognized. The Missouri legislature passed a law naming the bluebird as the state bird on March 30, 1927.

## **The State Tree**

### *The Flowering Dogwood*

The flowering dogwood is Missouri's state tree. Found throughout the state, the dogwood is most beautiful during the spring, when its pink or white blossoms brighten both wild areas and city landscapes. The flowering dogwood became Missouri's state tree on June 20, 1955.





## **The State Musical Instrument**

### *The Fiddle*

The fiddle was an important part of Missouri life for many years, providing the entertainment at hoedowns or community events. The fiddle is also known as a violin; it just depends what kind of music you want to play on it. The fiddle was chosen as the state musical instrument on July 17, 1987.

## **The State American Folk Dance**

### *The Square Dance*

Square dances originated from folk and courtship dances brought to the United States by European immigrants. Lively music, often played on fiddle or banjo, and an animated "caller" are the hallmarks of square dancing. The square dance became Missouri's official dance on May 31, 1995.

## **The State Song**

### *The Missouri Waltz*

"The Missouri Waltz" is the state's official song. It was first published in 1914 and did not sell well. By 1939 the song had gained popularity. After Harry S. Truman became president sales went up. "The Missouri Waltz" became the state's official song in 1949.



## **The State Insect**

### *The Honeybee*

The honeybee is Missouri's state insect. The industriousness of honeybees, which help pollinate crops as well as provide honey, convinced the General Assembly that the insect would be a suitable symbol for Missourians. The honeybee became our state insect on July 3, 1985.

## **The State Floral Emblem**

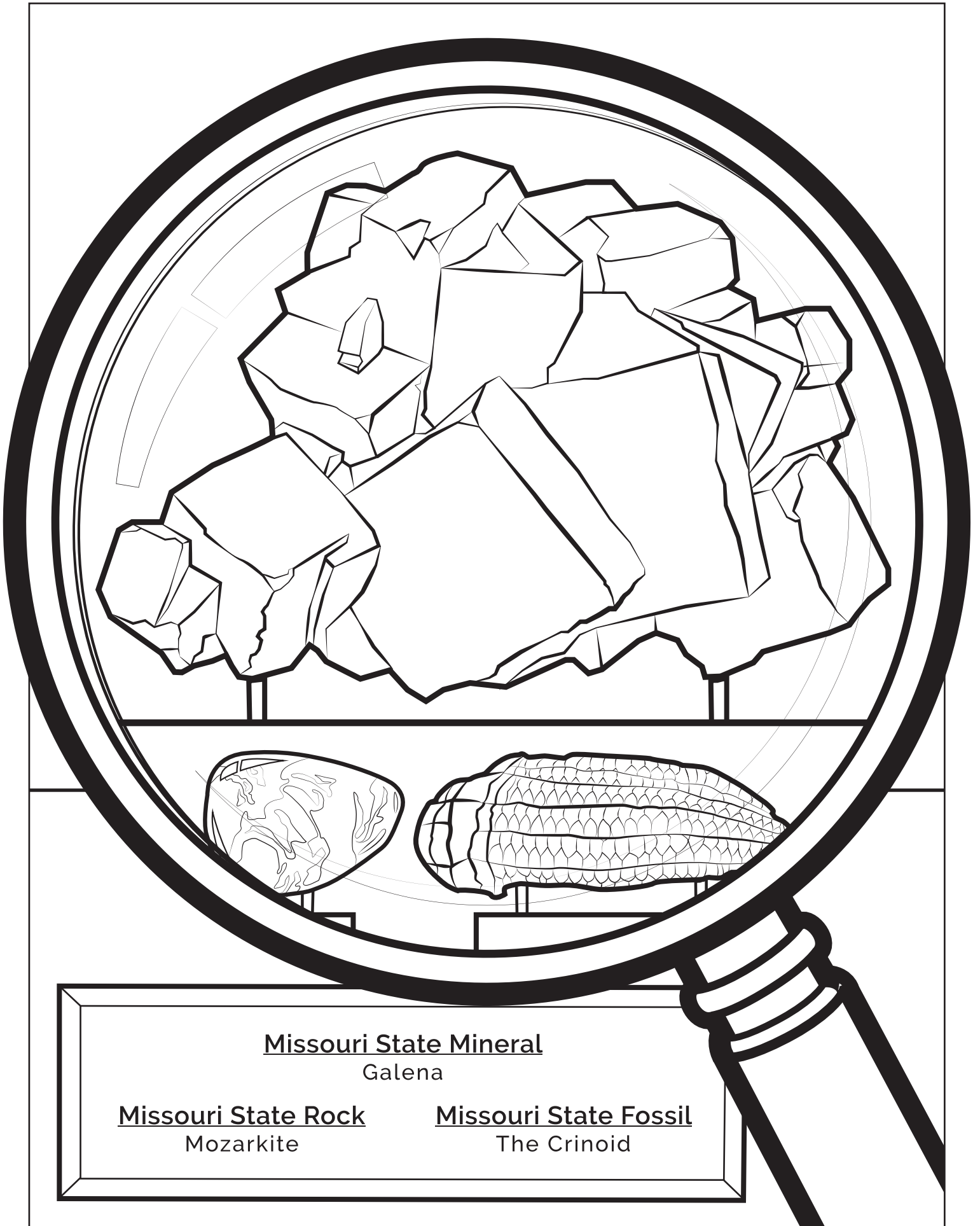
### *The Hawthorn*

Missouri's state floral emblem grows on a tree. The white hawthorn has a thorny trunk and produces beautiful clustered blossoms in the spring. More than 75 species of the hawthorn are found throughout Missouri. The white hawthorn blossom became Missouri's state floral emblem on March 16, 1923.

## **The State Grape**

### *Norton/Cynthiana*

On July 11, 2003, the Norton/Cynthiana grape was adopted as the official state grape. This adaptable, self-pollinating variety has been cultivated since the 1830s and is likely North America's oldest grape variety still commercially grown.



**Missouri State Mineral**

Galena

**Missouri State Rock**

Mozarkite

**Missouri State Fossil**

The Crinoid

## **The State Mineral** **and State Rock**

*Galena and Mozarkite*

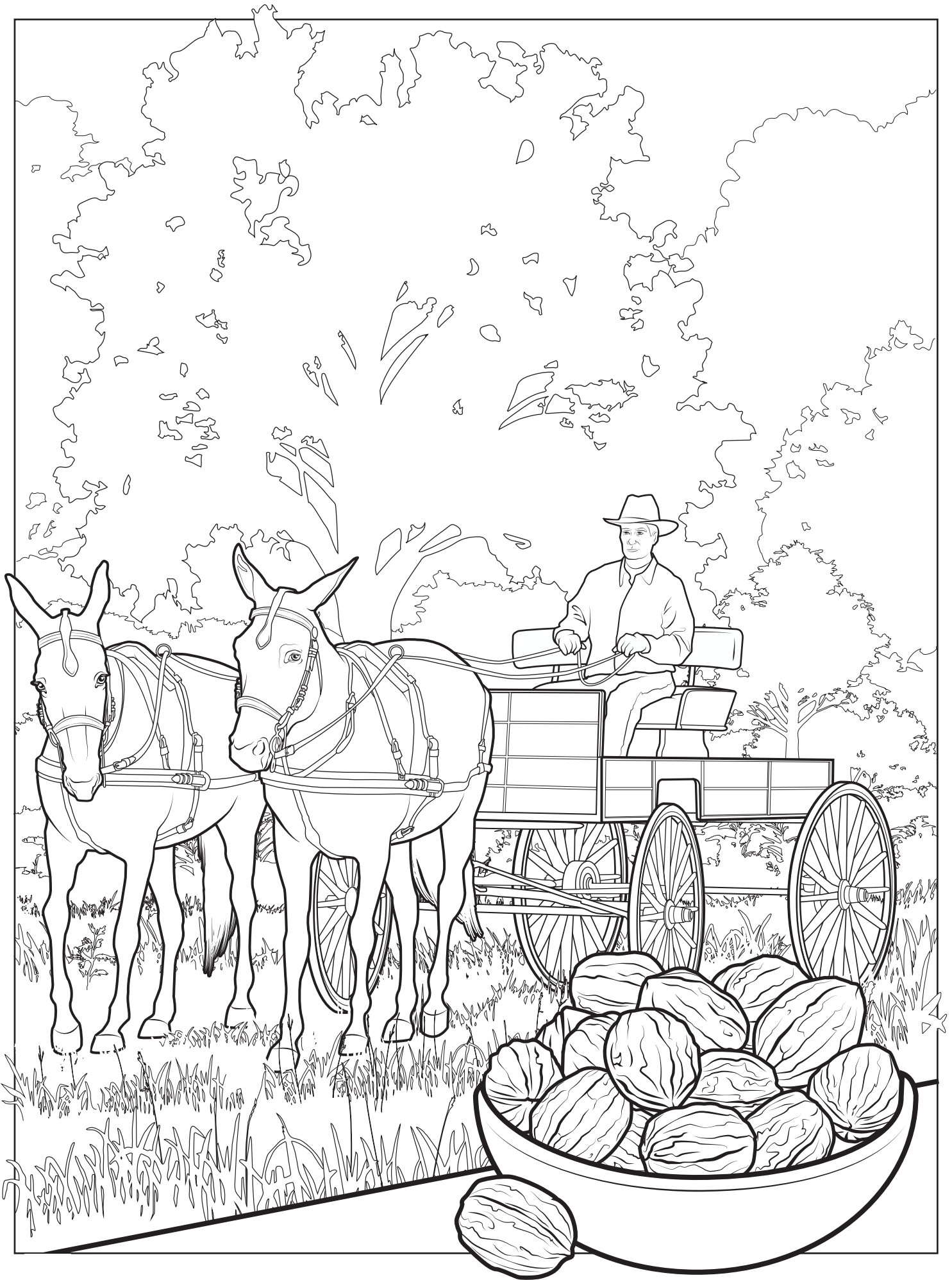
Much of Missouri's heritage comes from the state's soil. Lead is an important product throughout the world, and Missouri is a leading producer of galena, which is the principal ore of lead. Because the mineral was so important to Missouri's mining industry, galena became the official state mineral on July 21, 1967.

On the same day, the legislature recognized mozarkite as the state rock. Unlike galena, mozarkite has no major significance in mining, but when polished can make unique and attractive ornaments. Mozarkite, also known as chert, is found in the Missouri Ozarks.

## **The State Fossil**

*The Crinoid*

The crinoid is the fossilized remains of an ancient sea animal that resembles a plant and is related to the starfish and sand dollar. Although not as abundant as they once were, there are about 600 species alive in the ocean today. Thanks to the efforts of Missouri students, the crinoid became the state's official fossil on June 16, 1989.



## **The State Tree Nut**

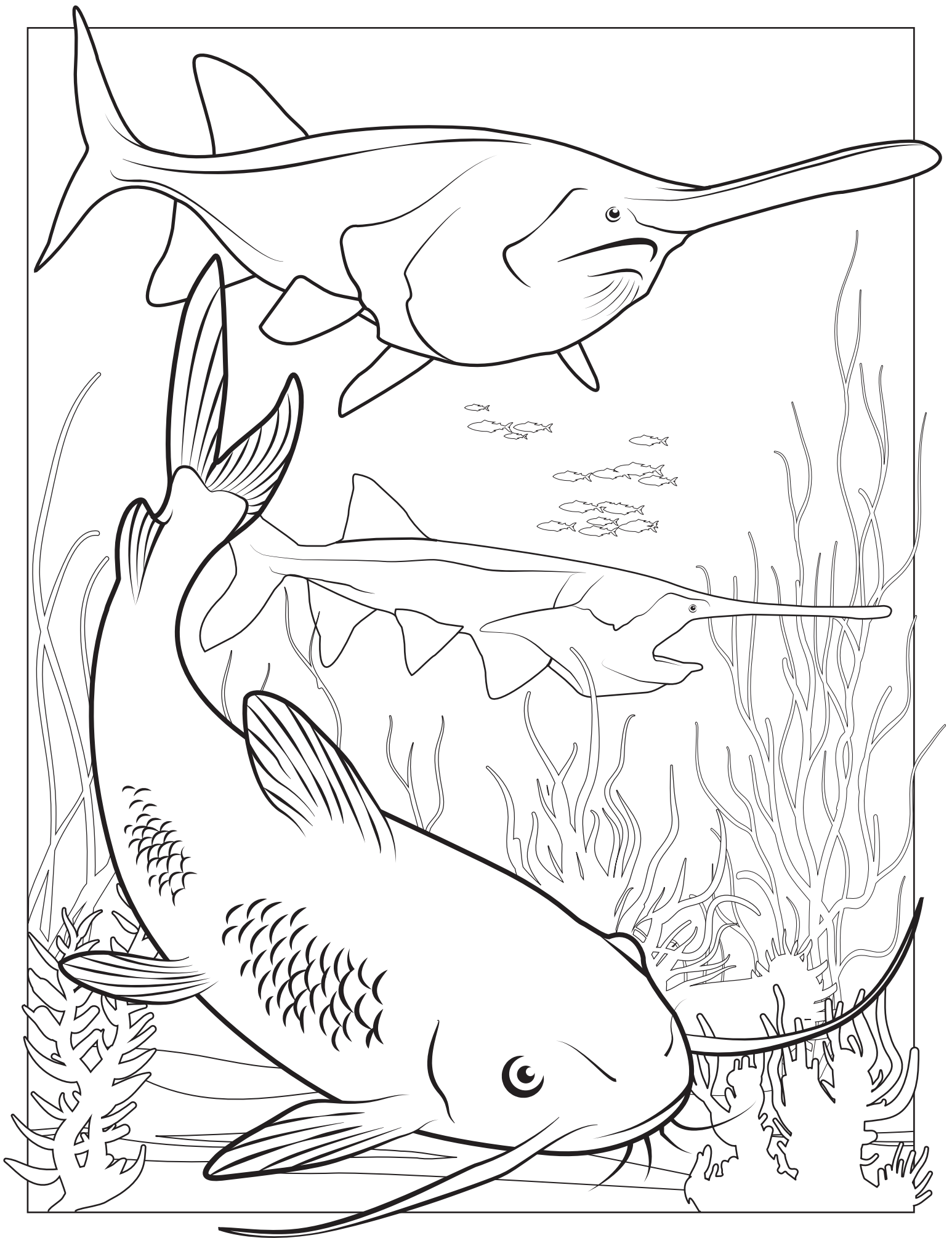
*Eastern Black Walnut*

The eastern black walnut became Missouri's official state tree nut on July 9, 1990. The walnut is a delicious food product and its shell is used in several industrial applications. Lumber from the tree is also highly valued.

## **The State Animal**

*Missouri Mule*

Missouri mules pulled pioneer wagons to the American West during the 19th century and played a crucial role in moving troops and supplies during World Wars I and II. For decades, the Show Me State was the nation's premier mule producer. The Missouri mule was named the official state animal on May 31, 1995.





## **The State Fish**

### *Channel Catfish*

The channel catfish is slender, with a deeply forked tail. Young have spots that disappear with age. It does not rely on sight to find food; instead, it uses cat-like whiskers to assist in the hunt. The channel cat is the most abundant large catfish in Missouri streams. Its diet includes animal and plant material. Adults are normally 12 to 32 inches long and weigh from a half-pound to 15 pounds. The channel catfish was named the official fish May 23, 1997.

## **The State Aquatic Animal**

### *Paddlefish*

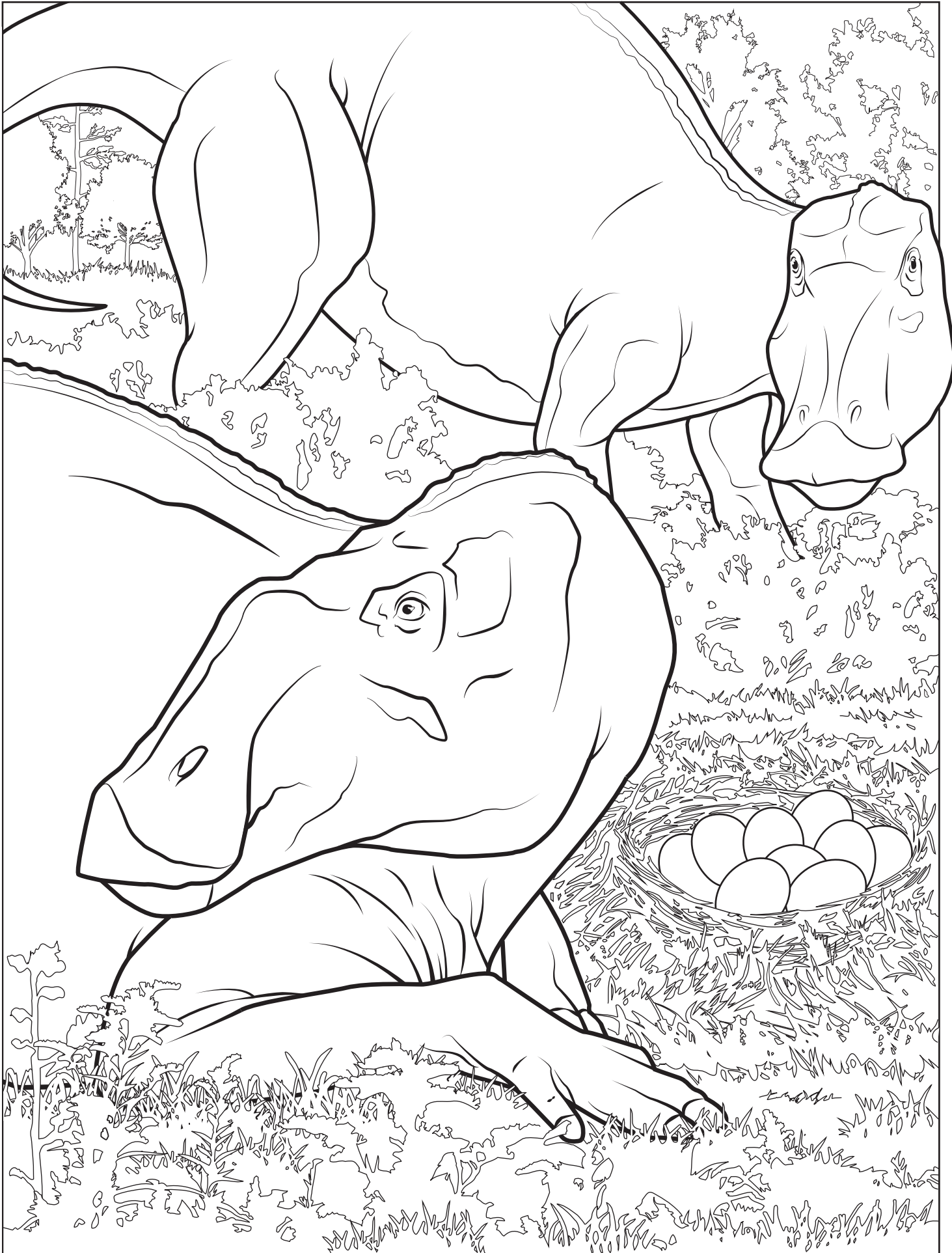
Only three rivers in Missouri support substantial populations of the paddlefish; the Mississippi, Missouri and the Osage. They are also present in some of the state's larger lakes. The paddlefish is primitive, with a cartilage skeleton, rather than bone. They commonly exceed five feet in length and weights of 60 pounds; 20-year olds are common, and some live 30 years or more. The paddlefish was named the official aquatic animal May 23, 1997.



## **The State Horse**

### *Missouri Fox Trotter*

Missouri fox trotters were developed in the rugged Ozark hills of Missouri during the early 19th century. Bloodlines can be traced from early settlers to Missouri from the neighboring states of Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Arkansas. The distinguishing characteristic of the fox trotter is its rhythmic gait, in which the horse walks with the front feet and trots with the hind feet. This gait gives the rider a smooth gentle ride. The Missouri Fox Trotter became the official state horse June 4, 2002.



## The State Dinosaur

### *Parrosaurus missouriense*

*Parrosaurus missouriense* is a type of dinosaur called a Hadrosaur or "duck billed" dinosaur. It was a herbivore with jaws that contained over 1,000 teeth. *Parrosaurus* had evolved specialized teeth to handle the tough, fibrous vegetation of the time. *Parrosaurus* lived in Missouri during the Late Cretaceous Period. *Parrosaurus* was first discovered in 1942 by Dan Stewart, near the town of Glen Allen, Missouri, and became the official state dinosaur on July 9, 2004. The name was changed from *Hypsibema missouriense* in 2022, due to legislation (House Bill 1738) in the 101st General Assembly, Second Regular Session.



## **The State Amphibian**

### *American Bullfrog*

On June 5, 2005, the American Bullfrog became the official state amphibian. The bullfrog is the largest frog native to Missouri and is found in every county. Most Missourians are familiar with the deep, resonant "jug-of-rum" call, which is typically heard on warm, rainy nights between mid-May and early July. The idea for the bullfrog designation came from a fourth grade class at Chinn Elementary School in Kansas City.

## **The State Reptile**

### *Three-toed Box Turtle*

On June 21, 2007, the three-toed box turtle became the official state reptile. Most Missourians are familiar with this land-dwelling turtle. Three-toed box turtles, as their name implies, typically have three hind toes. The hinged bottom shell allows the turtle to retreat inside as if enclosed in a box. Males have red eyes and females have brown eyes.





## **The State Game Bird**

### *Bobwhite Quail*

The bobwhite quail, also known as the northern bobwhite, is the official state game bird. The northern bobwhite is found throughout Missouri in a variety of habitats. In the fall and winter, northern bobwhites form loose social groups better known as a covey. A covey will generally contain ten to twelve quail, but can have as many as twenty or thirty birds. The familiar two- or three-note "bobwhite" whistle is made by males in the spring and summer to attract females.

## **The State Invertebrate**

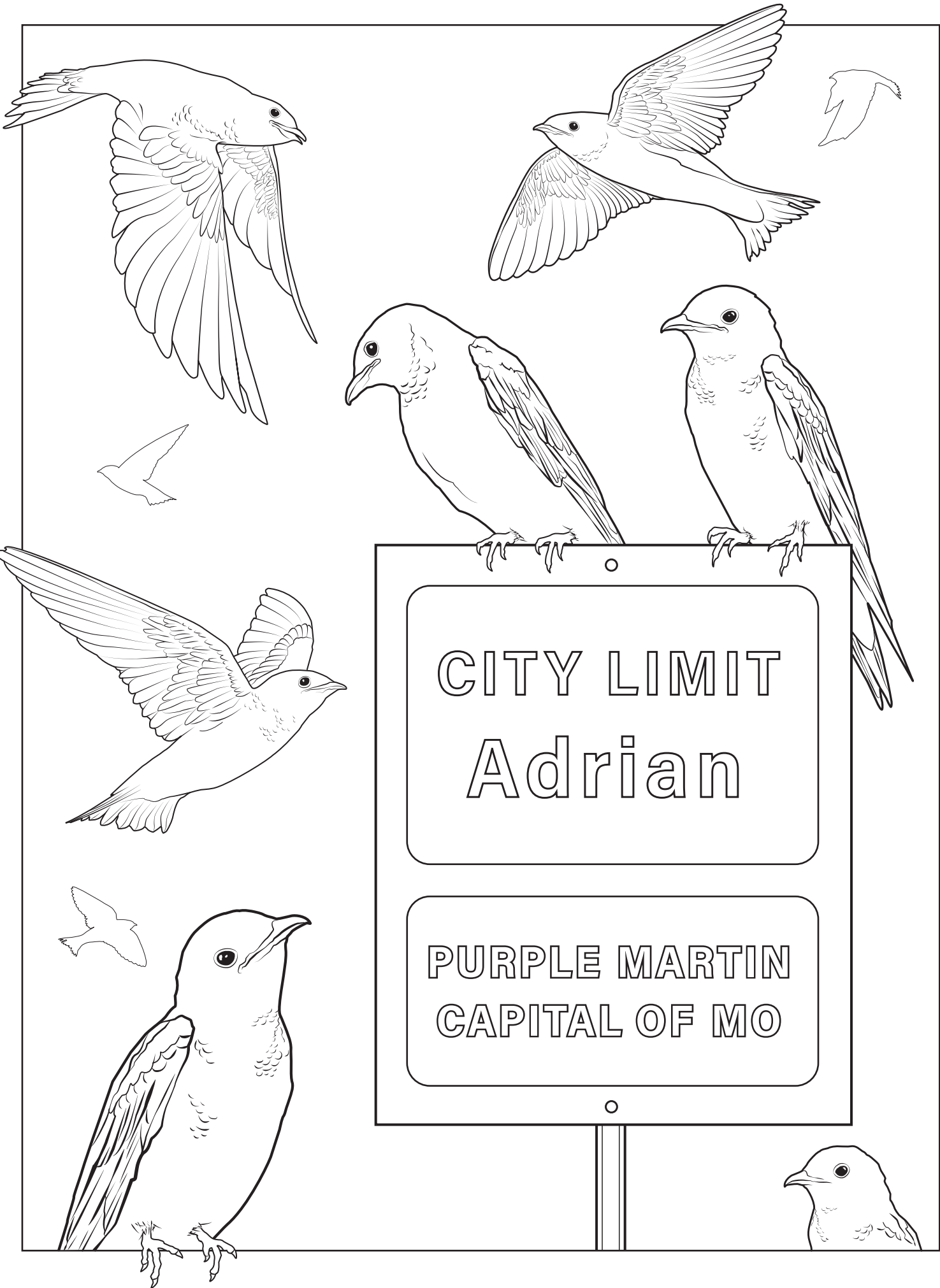
### *Crayfish*

On June 21, 2007, the crayfish (also known as crawfish and crawdad) became the official state invertebrate. Crayfish are an important food source for Missouri fishes. Missouri supports more than 30 species of crayfish (including seven species that occur nowhere else in the world). Crayfish are found in every county of the state and contribute to our unique biodiversity and conservation heritage. The nomination of crayfish for state invertebrate came from Mrs. Janna Elfrink's elementary school class in Reeds Spring, Missouri.

## **The State Grass**

### *Big Bluestem*

Big bluestem was designated as Missouri's stategrass on June 11, 2007, as a result of efforts by the Fourth Grade class at Truman Elementary School in Rolla. Big bluestem is native to Missouri and occurs throughout the state, with the exception of a few southeastern-most counties. It is a major component of Missouri's tallgrass prairies where it impressed the first explorers by sometimes growing tall enough to hide a person on horseback. The name "bluestem" comes from the bluish-green color of the leaves and stems that turn an attractive reddish-copper color in autumn.



CITY LIMIT  
Adrian

PURPLE MARTIN  
CAPITAL OF MO

## **The Purple Martin Capital**

*City of Adrian*

The City of Adrian, located in Bates County, was declared the purple martin capital of the state of Missouri on Aug. 28, 2003. Purple martins are largely dependent on humans to build and maintain their housing and are happy in large bird houses or in gourds. These creatures are partial to living near water, in open parts of a yard, or along rural roadsides. Purple martins are popular among bird lovers because of their melodic singing and aerial feats.

## **The State Tartan**

The "Show-Me Tartan" was designated as Missouri's official tartan on Aug. 28, 2019. Missouri is one of 29 states to adopt an official tartan, and the design is registered with the Scottish Tartan Authority. The design, a criss-crossing line pattern of blue, brown and silver on a field of dark blue and green, was inspired by four of Missouri's state symbols; the Eastern Bluebird, the Missouri mule, and the crescent moon and bear present on the Great Seal. The dark green and blue are symbolic of Missouri's lands, waters and the Ozark Mountains. The Eastern Bluebird is symbolized by stripes of light blue, white and red. A band of brown represents the Missouri mule. A narrow band of light blue reflects the crescent moon symbol of the Seal, and another brown band represents the grizzly bear of the Seal. The pattern is intended to reflect the concepts of "vigilance and justice, valor, purity, steadfastness, hope and strength."

## **The State Symbol for Child Abuse Prevention**

The blue ribbon became the state of Missouri's official symbol for child abuse prevention on August 28, 2012. It is a symbol of efforts to increase awareness of the prevalence and warning signs of child abuse and the prevention methods and measures available to reduce the incidence of child abuse in Missouri.



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## **The State Dessert**

### *Ice Cream Cone*

The ice cream cone became the state of Missouri's official dessert on Aug. 28, 2008. The 1904 World's Fair in St Louis was the birthplace of the treat and has become a staple at many community events across the state, such as the State Fair. The University of Missouri–Columbia has played a large role in the development of ice cream products for over a century. Missouri ranks among the top ten states in ice cream production.

## **The State Exercise**

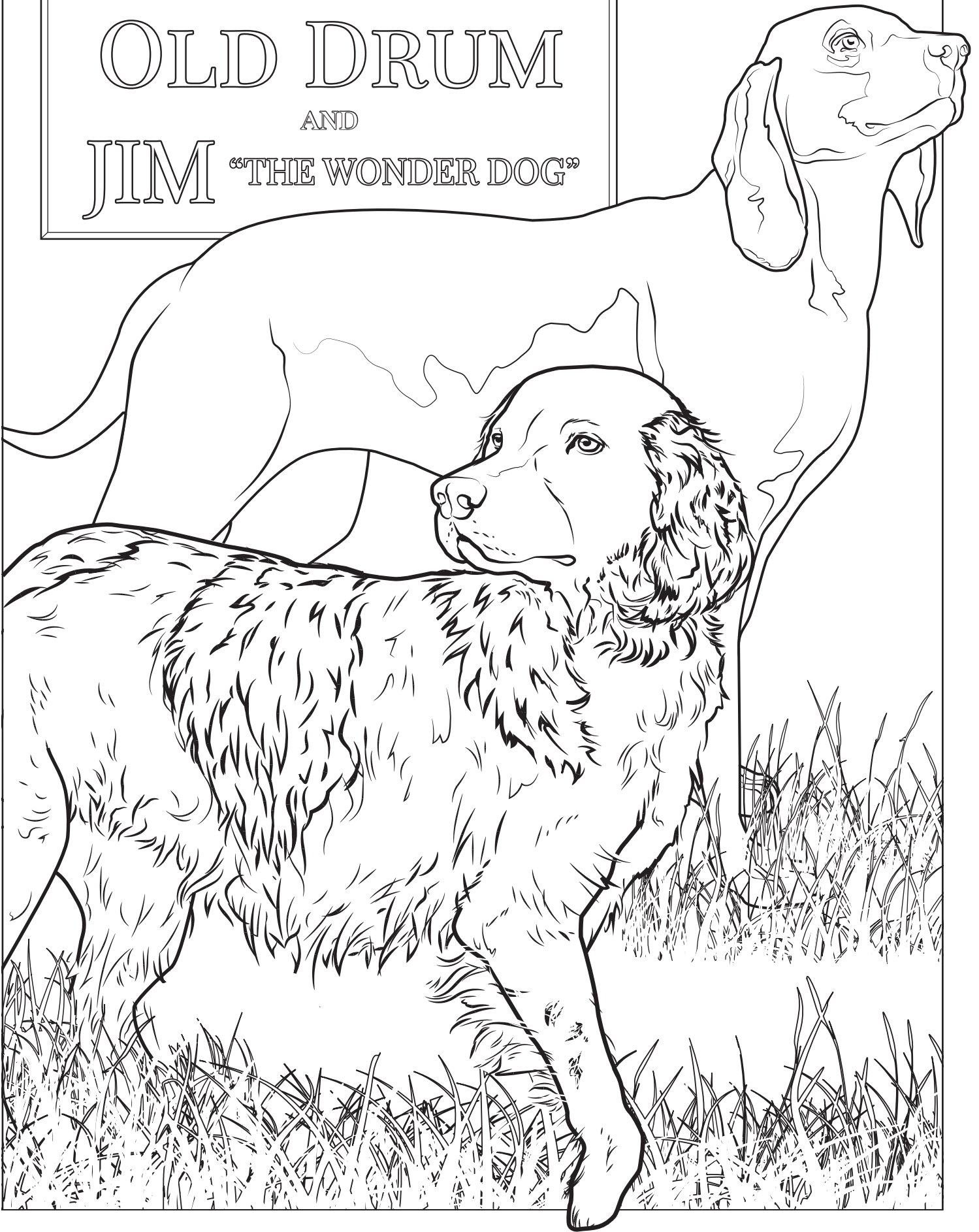
### *Jumping Jack*

The jumping jack exercise was invented by Missouri-born Army General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing as a training drill for cadets when he taught at West Point in the late 1800s. The idea for the jumping jack designation came from students at Pershing Elementary School in St. Joseph.

OLD DRUM

AND

JIM "THE WONDER DOG"



## The Historical Dog

### *Old Drum*

On Aug. 28, 2017, Old Drum was designated the historical dog of Missouri. Old Drum was a black and tan hunting hound whose shooting death became the subject of an 1870 Missouri Supreme Court case. The closing arguments for the plaintiff, delivered by attorney George Graham Vest, brought tears to the eyes of jurors and became famously-known as the *Eulogy of the Dog*. Although the words of the speech were not written down until sometime after the trial, it became renowned for its appeal to dog lovers in its praise of the dog as a man's "best friend." Both Old Drum and the *Eulogy of the Dog* are memorialized with a statue and plaque at the Johnson County courthouse in Warrensburg, Missouri.

## The Wonder Dog

### *"Jim the Wonder Dog"*

On Aug. 28, 2017, "Jim the Wonder Dog" was designated as Missouri's wonder dog. A Llewellyn Setter, born in 1925, Jim first gained notoriety for his prowess as a hunting dog. He tracked over 5,000 birds, a total no other dog had ever achieved, earning him the *Outdoor Life Magazine* designation of "The Hunting Dog of the Country." Eventually Jim began to exhibit a wide range of other talents not typically associated with dogs. He could pick a car on the street by license number, recognize unknown people in a crowd and carry out instructions, oral or written, given to him in any foreign language, Morse Code or shorthand. Jim predicted seven Kentucky Derby winners and was known for accurately determining the gender of unborn babies. He performed before the Missouri Legislature and was featured in *Field and Stream*, *The Kansas City Star*, *Missouri Ruralist* and Ripley's Believe It or Not. Jim is buried in Marshall, Missouri's Ridge Park Cemetery. His grave is the most visited spot in the cemetery.

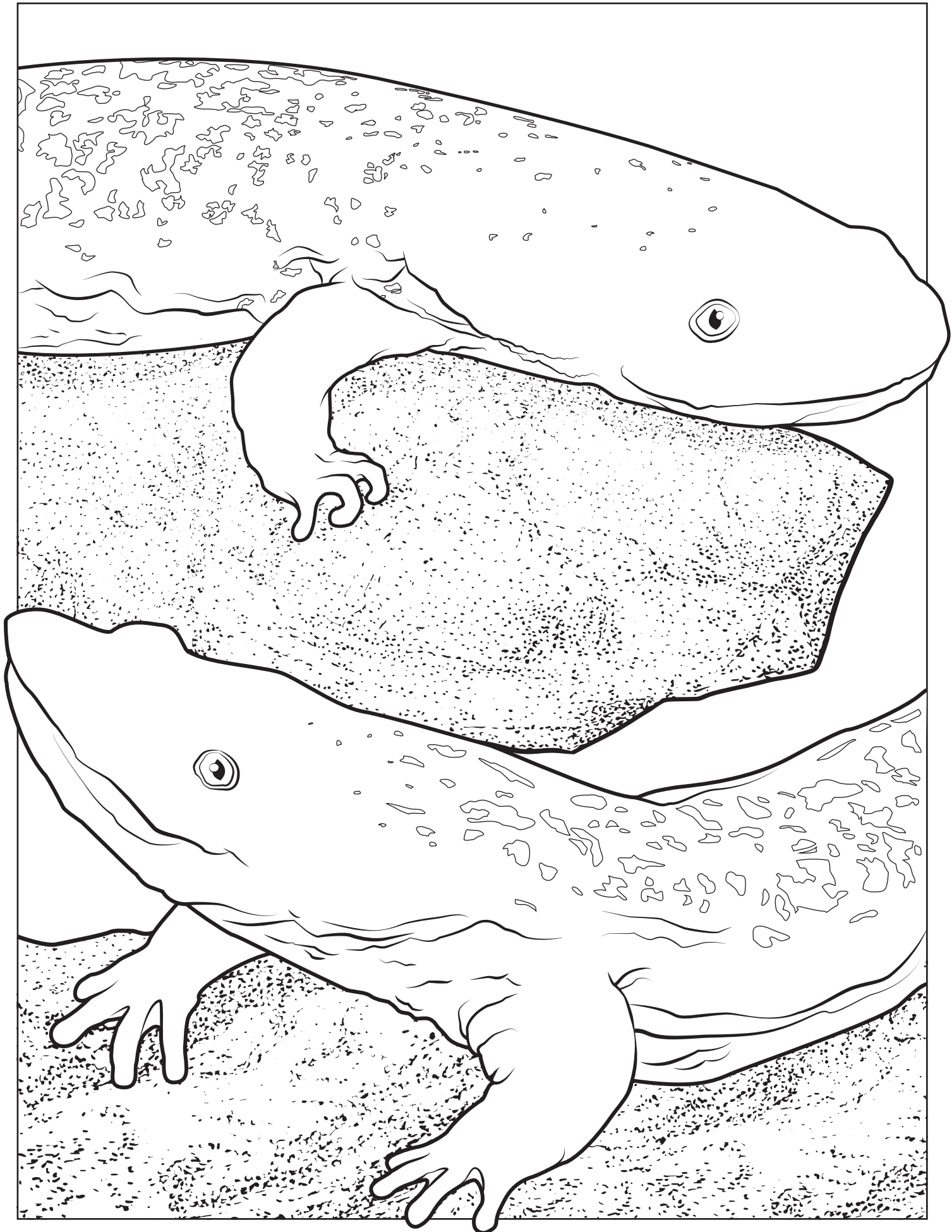




## **The State Fruit Tree**

### *Pawpaw Tree*

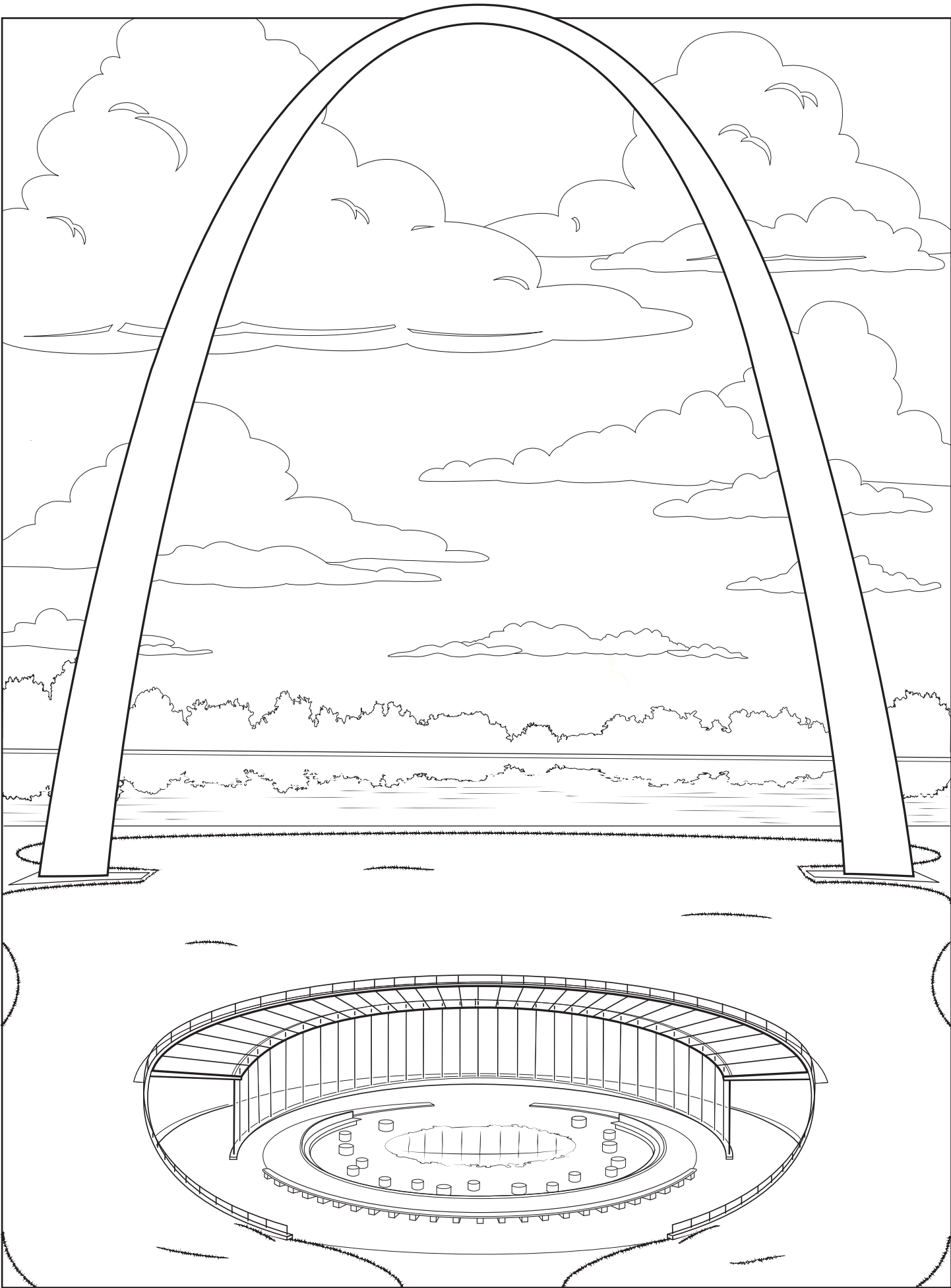
The Pawpaw tree was designated as Missouri's official state fruit tree on Aug. 28, 2019. The pawpaw tree is a small, deciduous tree, typically growing in forest understorey. Pawpaws can grow to a height of 11 feet, although taller ones have been measured. They have the distinction of producing the largest edible fruit that is also native to the U.S. The richly-colored maroon flowers ripen into a green, then yellow or brown fruit, 2-6 inches in length and 1-3 inches wide. The flesh of the pawpaw fruit is pale yellow, with a custard-like texture and large black seeds. The flavor is often compared to that of banana, mango or kiwi. Pawpaw fruit is also known regionally, by colloquial names such as "Missouri banana," "Ozark banana" and "hillbilly mango."



## **The Official Endangered Species**

### *Hellbender Salamander*

On Aug. 28, 2019, the Hellbender Salamander was designated as Missouri's official endangered species. It is also known as the "snot otter" or "lasagna lizard," and is an aquatic salamander. There are two subspecies, the Ozark and the Eastern. The Hellbender can live up to 30 years and grow up to two feet long. They breathe through their skin and are nocturnal foragers. Missouri is the only place to have both subspecies of the Hellbender and both are listed as endangered. The salamander is important due to its role as an indicator of overall stream health. The Ron Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation's successful breeding program at the St. Louis Zoo currently has released over 5,000 back into the wild. Westminster College student Cameron Gehlert submitted the suggestion.



## **The Official State Monument**

### *Gateway Arch*

The Gateway Arch is perhaps Missouri's most iconic and recognizable structure. In the 1930s, St. Louis officials developed the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Association intended to revitalize the riverfront and increase tourism in the city. After a decade of research and fundraising, they opened a public design competition with the goal of erecting a monument to western expansion. St. Louis was near the site of the 1804 Lewis and Clark Expedition launch, and the city later served as a gathering place for pioneers collecting supplies for trips to the American West, earning the city the nickname "Gateway to the West."

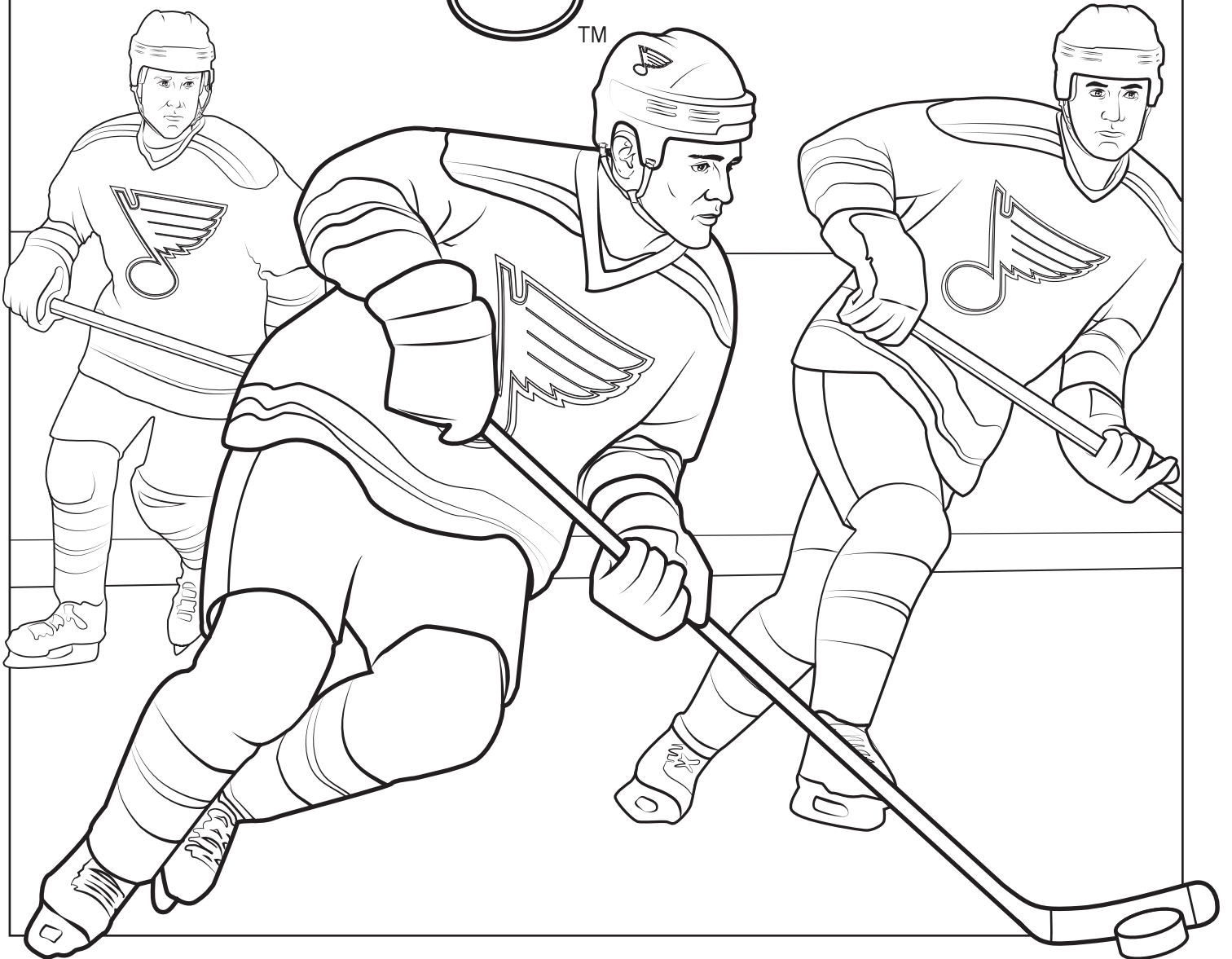
Architect Eero Saarinen designed the winning monument in 1947 in the shape of a weighted catenary arch. Construction began in 1963 and was completed in 1965. Today, approximately 4,000,000 tourists visit the site every year. Visitors to the Gateway Arch may explore an underground museum and ride a tram up the inside of the Arch to the top where an observation deck provides a stunning view of St. Louis, the Mississippi River and surrounding areas.

In February 2018, the Gateway Arch and nearby Old Courthouse were designated as Gateway Arch National Park, the first national park in Missouri. Gov. Mike Parson signed a bill in 2021 designating the Gateway Arch as Missouri's official state monument.

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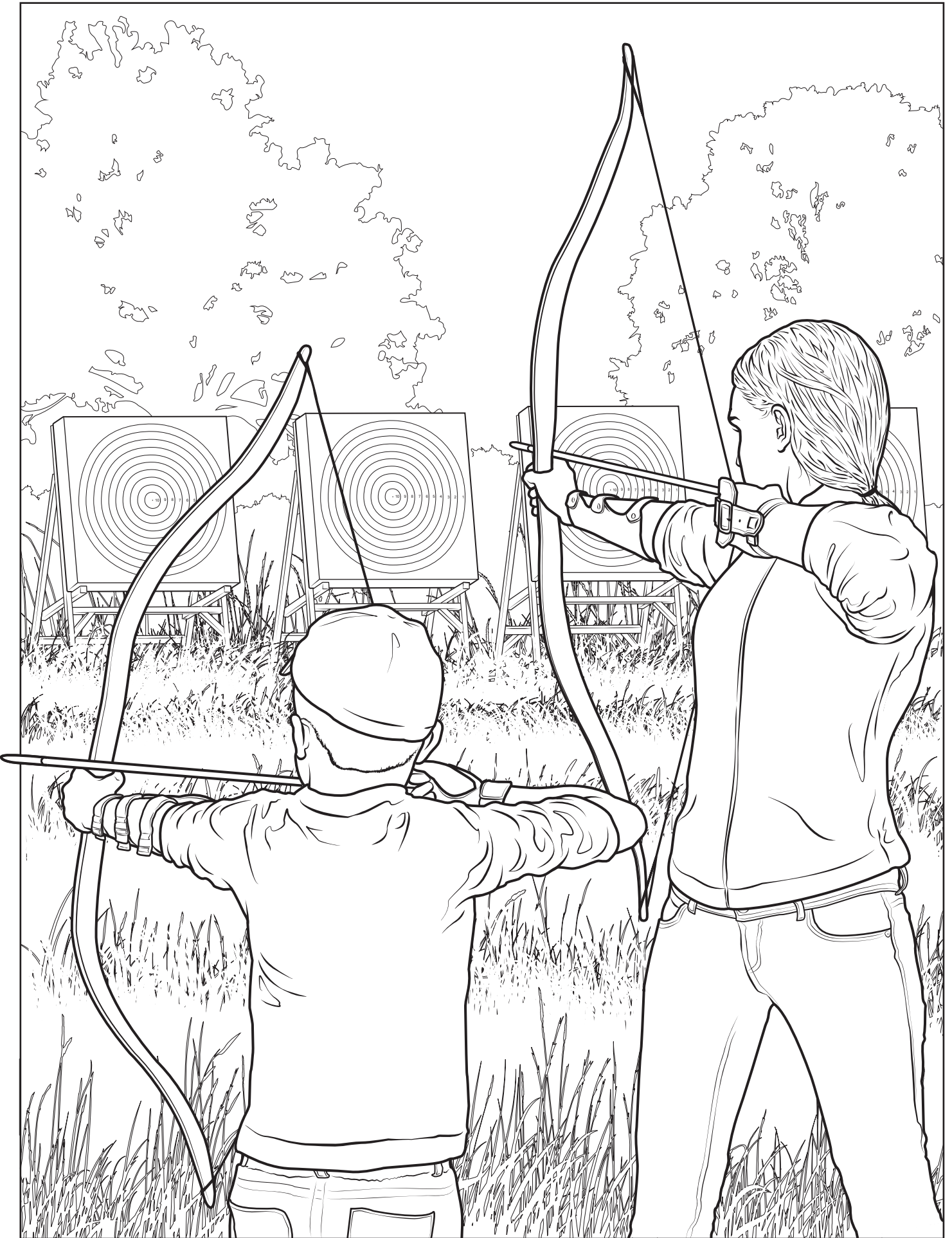
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## **The Official State Hockey Team**

*St. Louis Blues*

On Aug. 28, 2019, the St. Louis Blues was selected and shall be known as the official state hockey team of Missouri. In 2019, the Blues won the first Stanley Cup championship in the team's history.





## **The Official State Sport**

### *Archery*

Archery is a method of shooting a projectile point secured to the tip of a shaft propelled by a bow: the age-old "bow and arrow." Archery dates back tens of thousands of years, and its uses range from hunting and warfare to target shooting. In Missouri, archery took on special significance when in 1966 Kansas City resident Holless W. Allen submitted a patent for the compound bow, which was approved in 1969. Allen's invention revolutionized archery because his pulley design created a mechanical advantage that allowed a person to draw more pounds of force than otherwise capable.

Other Missouri archery connections include the Archery Hall of Fame & Museum in Springfield; the Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program run by the Department of Conservation, which teaches target archery to students in grades 4 through 12; and, the Grayson Archery Collection and Library at the University of Missouri Museum of Anthropology, one of the largest and most comprehensive collections in the world containing over 5,500 pieces representing six continents.