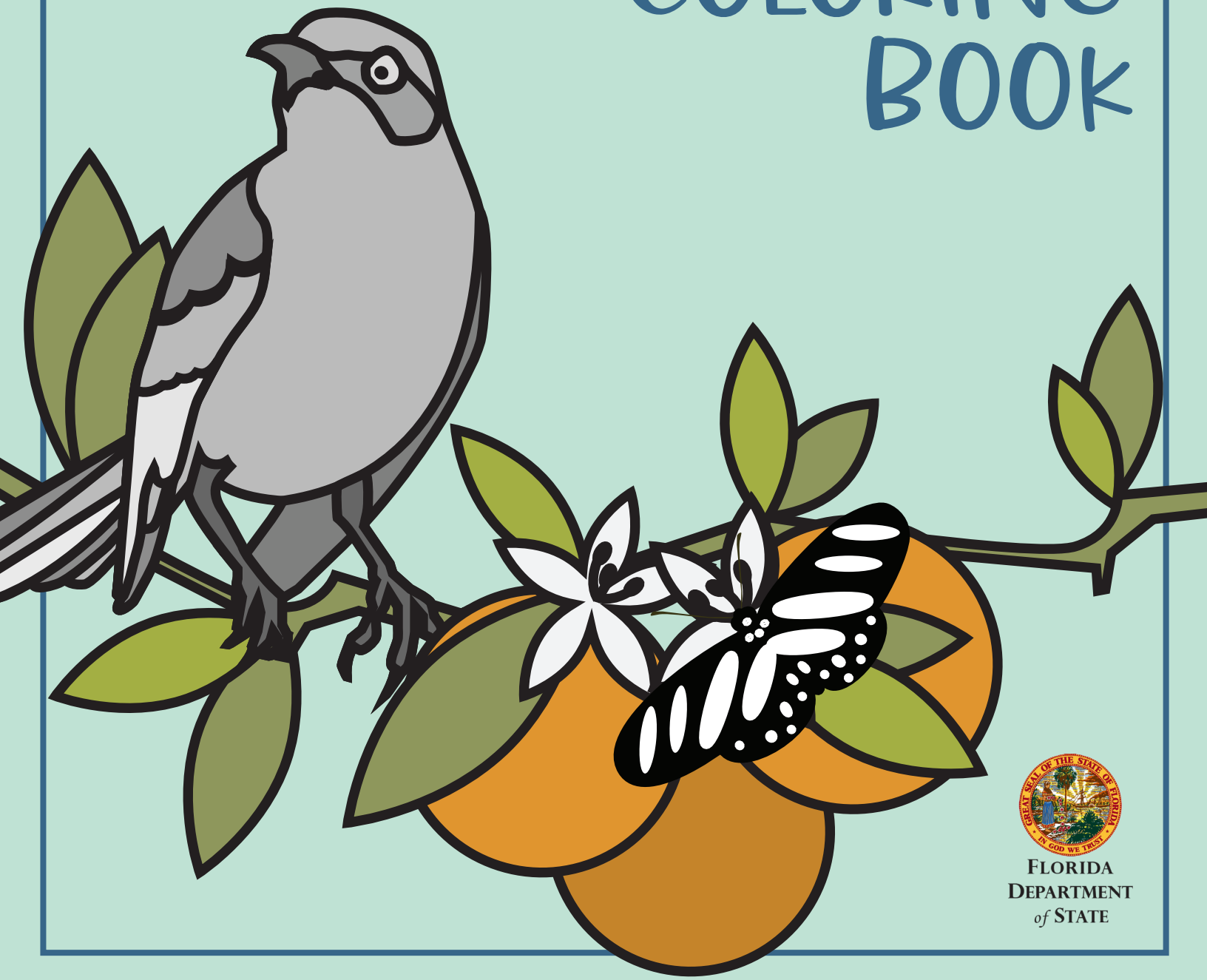
FLORIDA SYMBOLS COLORING BOOK



FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT
of STATE

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Produced by
The Florida Department of State
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
dos.fl.gov

Designed and Illustrated by Mark Ard
Director of External Affairs
Florida Department of State
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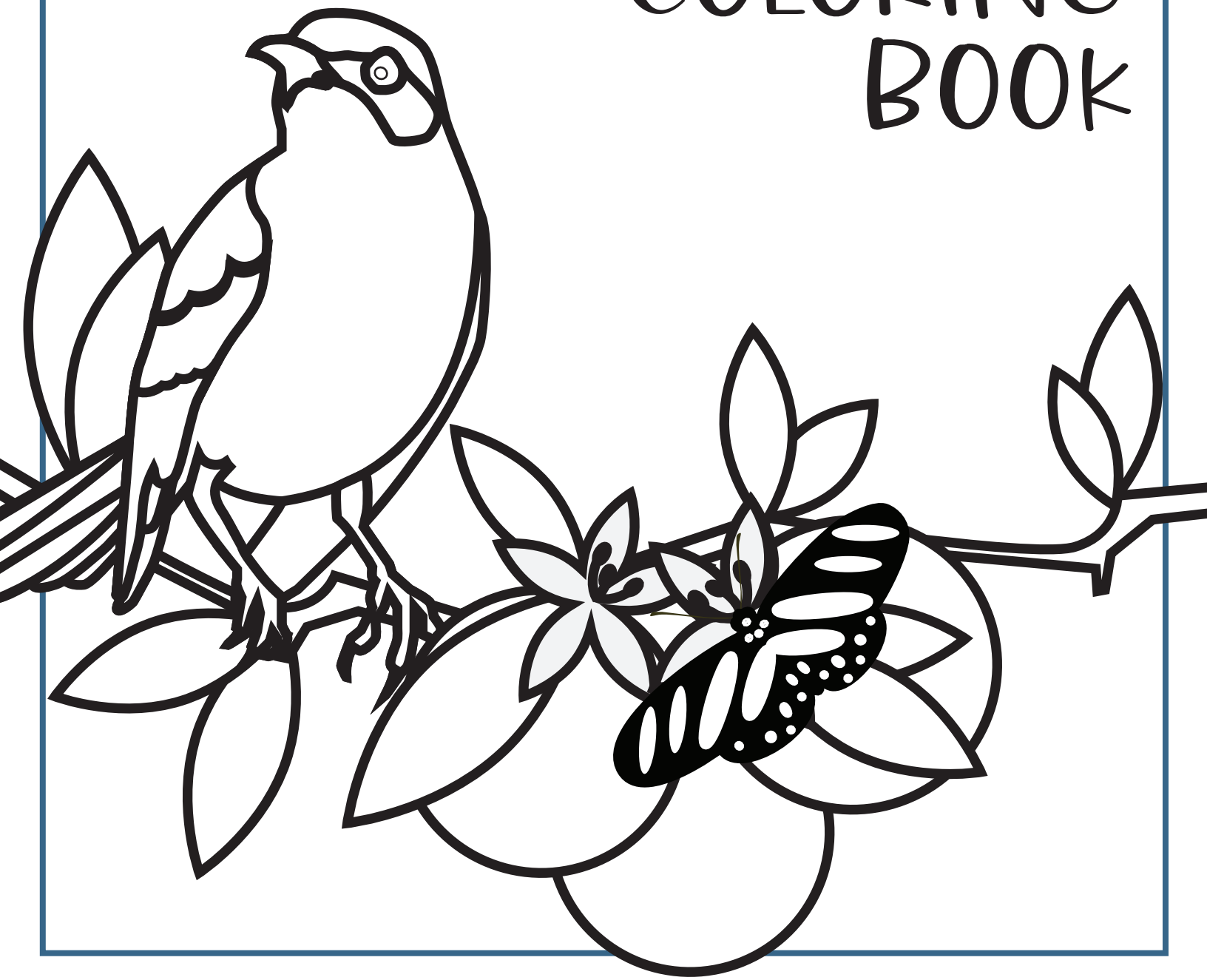
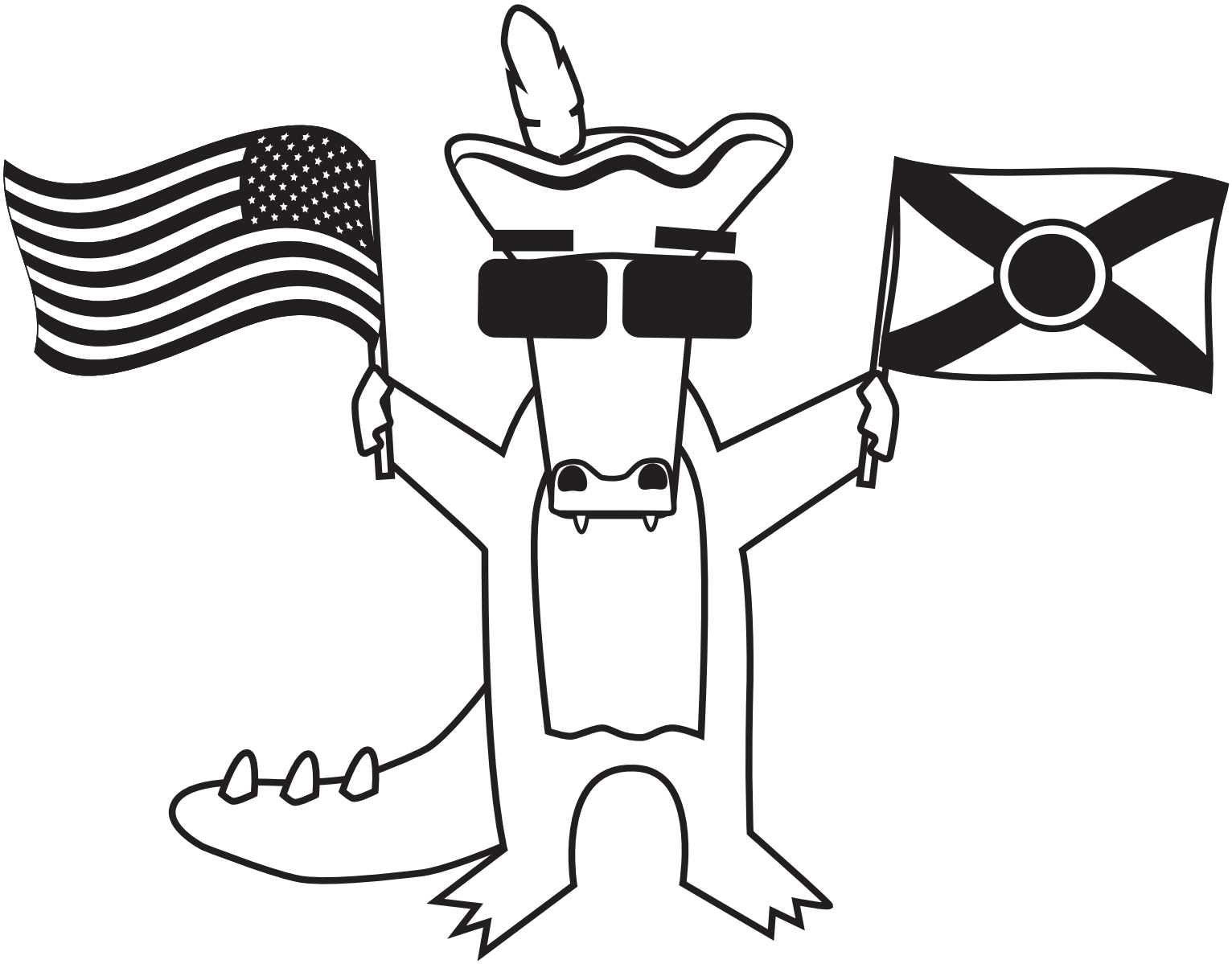


What are Florida's State Symbols?

Florida's state symbols are official emblems, images, or icons, that represent our state and that reflect its unique history and heritage. Florida has tangible state symbols that include birds, flowers, trees, and even food, and intangible state symbols like our state's motto, "In God We Trust" and our state's song, "Old Folks at Home," or our state's anthem, "Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky."

The process of choosing a state symbol often involves public input, legislative action, and usually an emphasis on education and tradition.

Have fun exploring some of Florida's State Symbols in this coloring book and visit dos.fl.gov/florida-facts to learn more!



State Seal

A joint resolution in 1868 called for a state seal that featured “a view of the sun’s rays over a high land in the distance, a cocoa tree, a steamboat on water, and an Indian female scattering flowers in the foreground.” The current version has been the official seal since 1985.

State Motto

“In God We Trust” was adopted by the Florida legislature as part of the state seal in 1868. This is also the motto of the United States and is a slight variation on Florida’s first state motto, “In God is our Trust.” In 2006, “In God We Trust” was officially designated in state statute as Florida’s motto.

GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
IN GOD WE TRUST

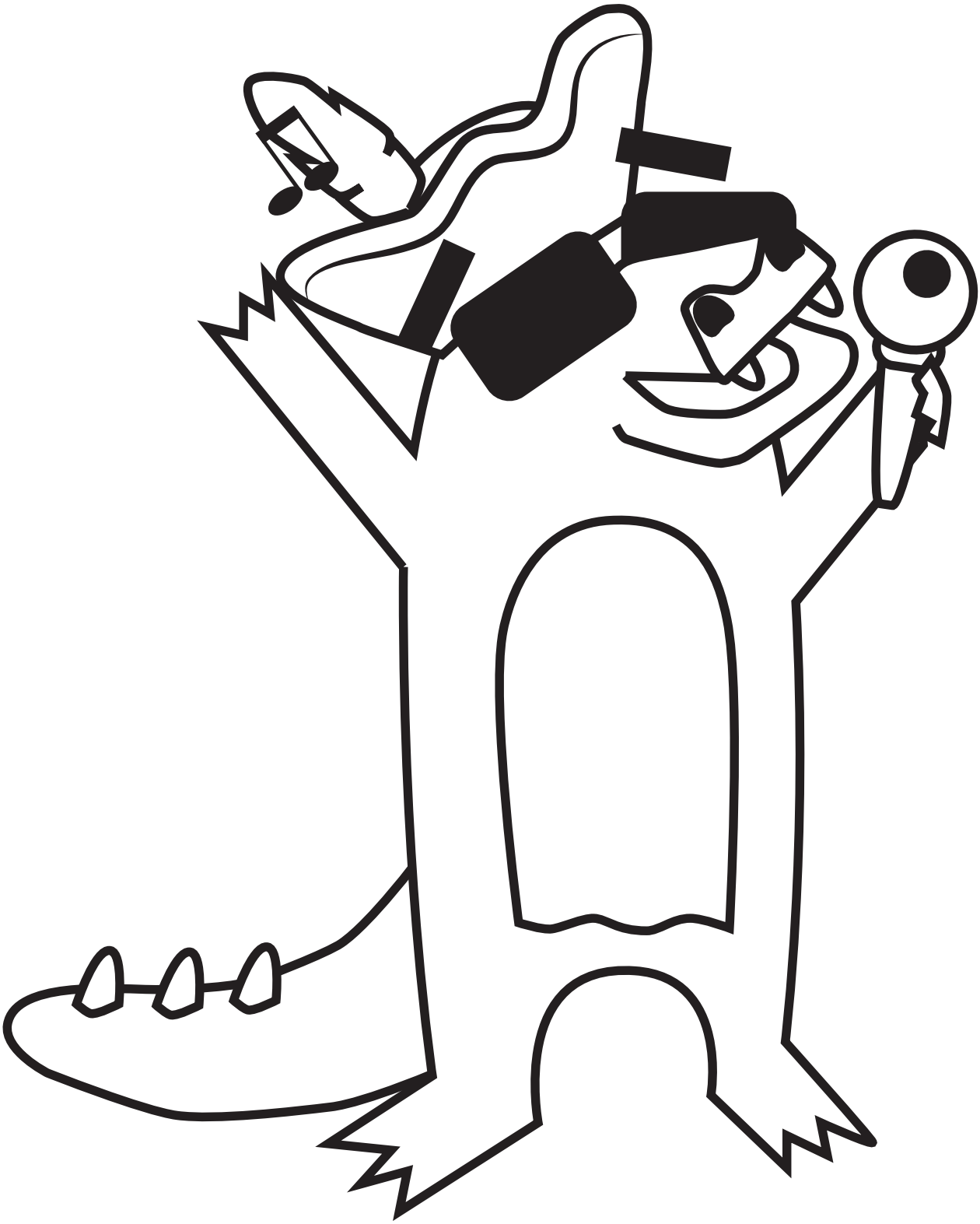
State Song

“The Swanee River” by Stephen C. Foster

Way down upon the Suwannee River,
Far, far away,
There’s where my heart is turning ever,
There’s where the old folks stay.
All up and down the whole creation,
Sadly I roam,
Still longing for my childhood station,
And for the old folks at home.

All the world is sad and dreary
Everywhere I roam.
O dear ones, how my heart grows weary,
Far from the old folks at home.

One little hut among the bushes,
One that I love.
Still sadly to my memory rushes,
No matter where I rove.
When will I see the bees a humming,
All ‘round the comb?
When shall I hear the banjo strumming,
Down in my good old home.

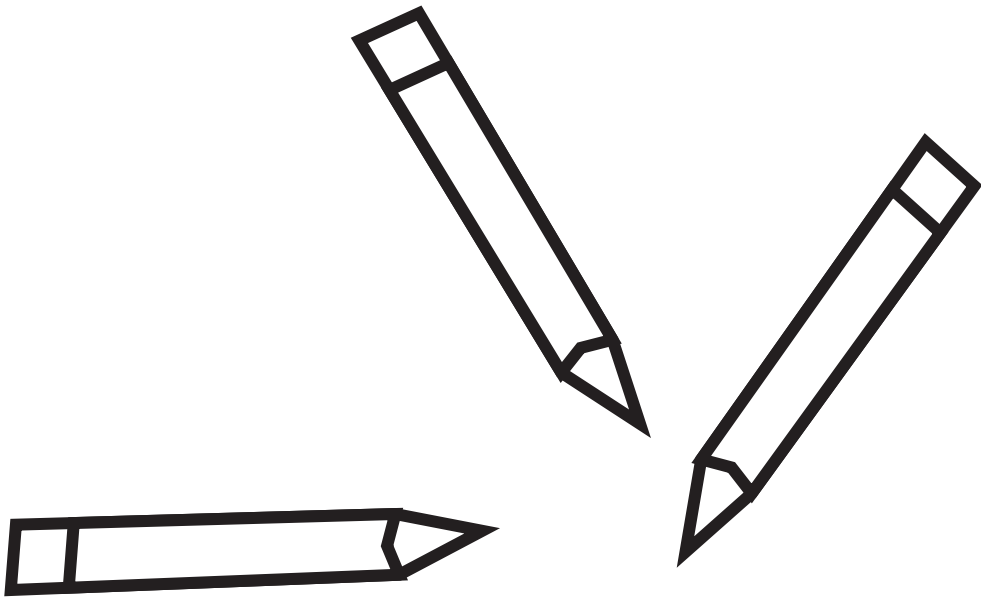


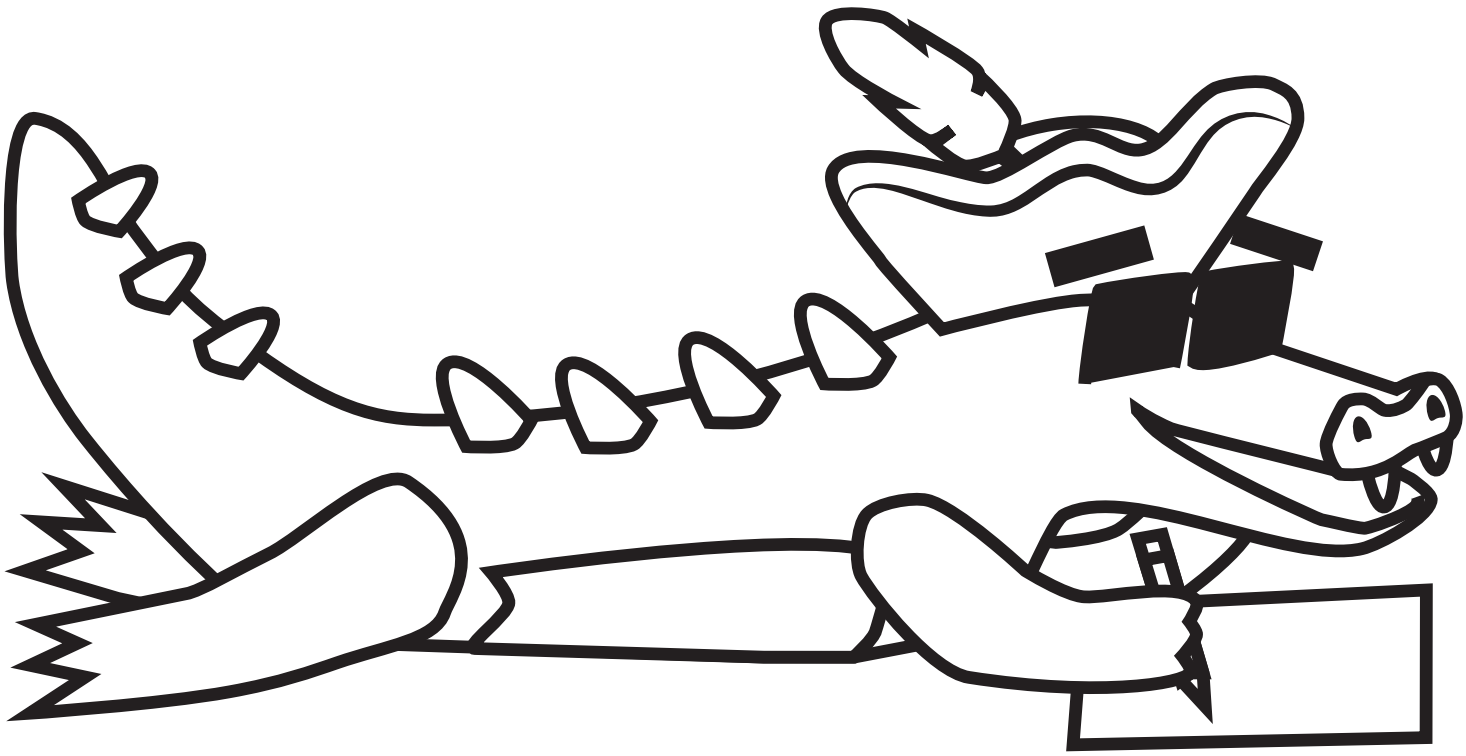
There's a lot to Florida!

Geologically, Florida perches on top of what geologists call the "Florida Platform," a plateau that is mostly underwater. Through geologic time, the Florida Platform has both been entirely underwater and entirely above sea-level. Today, about one-third of the Florida Platform is above sea-level.

Florida is made up of two distinct land formations: a peninsula and a panhandle. A peninsula is a stretch of land that it is almost completely surrounded by water, and a panhandle is a land boundary that juts into other land boundaries. Florida's Panhandle is generally considered to begin at the Apalachicola River and include all the counties to the west. The remainder of the state is often referred to as its peninsula.

Florida is made up of 67 counties totaling 65,758 square miles - 12,133 of those miles are water area. Florida's highest natural point, found in Walton County, has an elevation of only 345 feet, giving Florida the title of the flattest state in the nation!



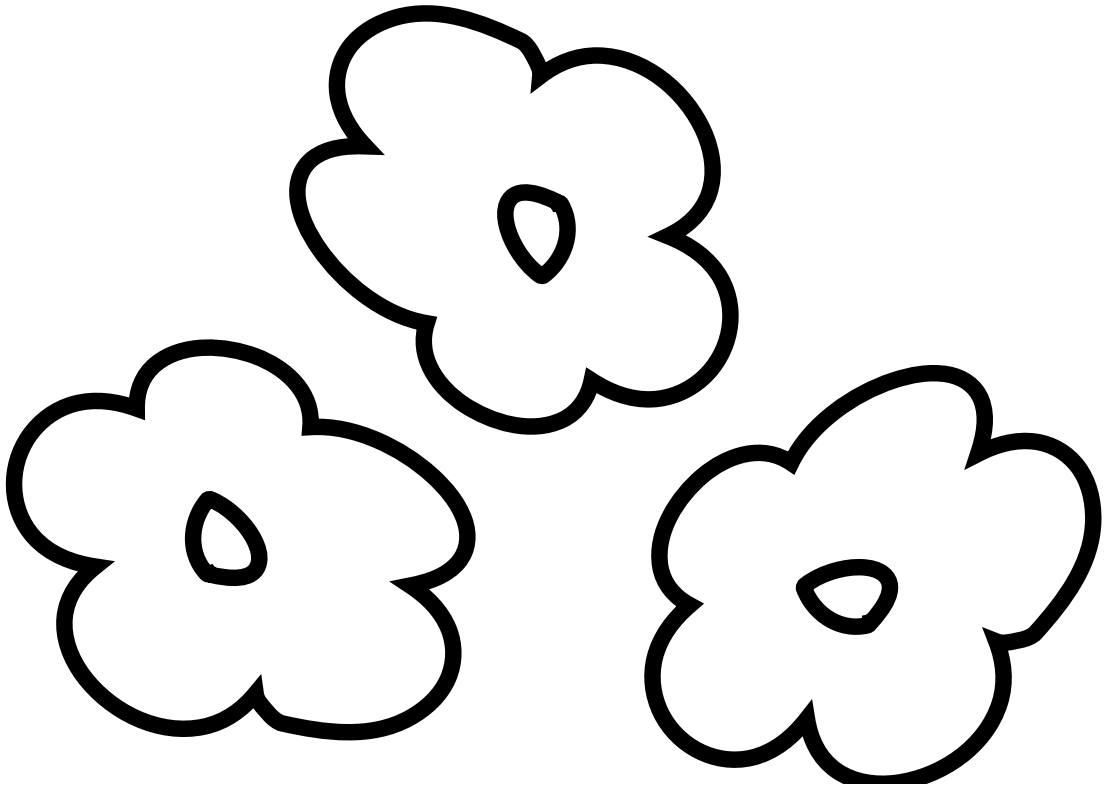


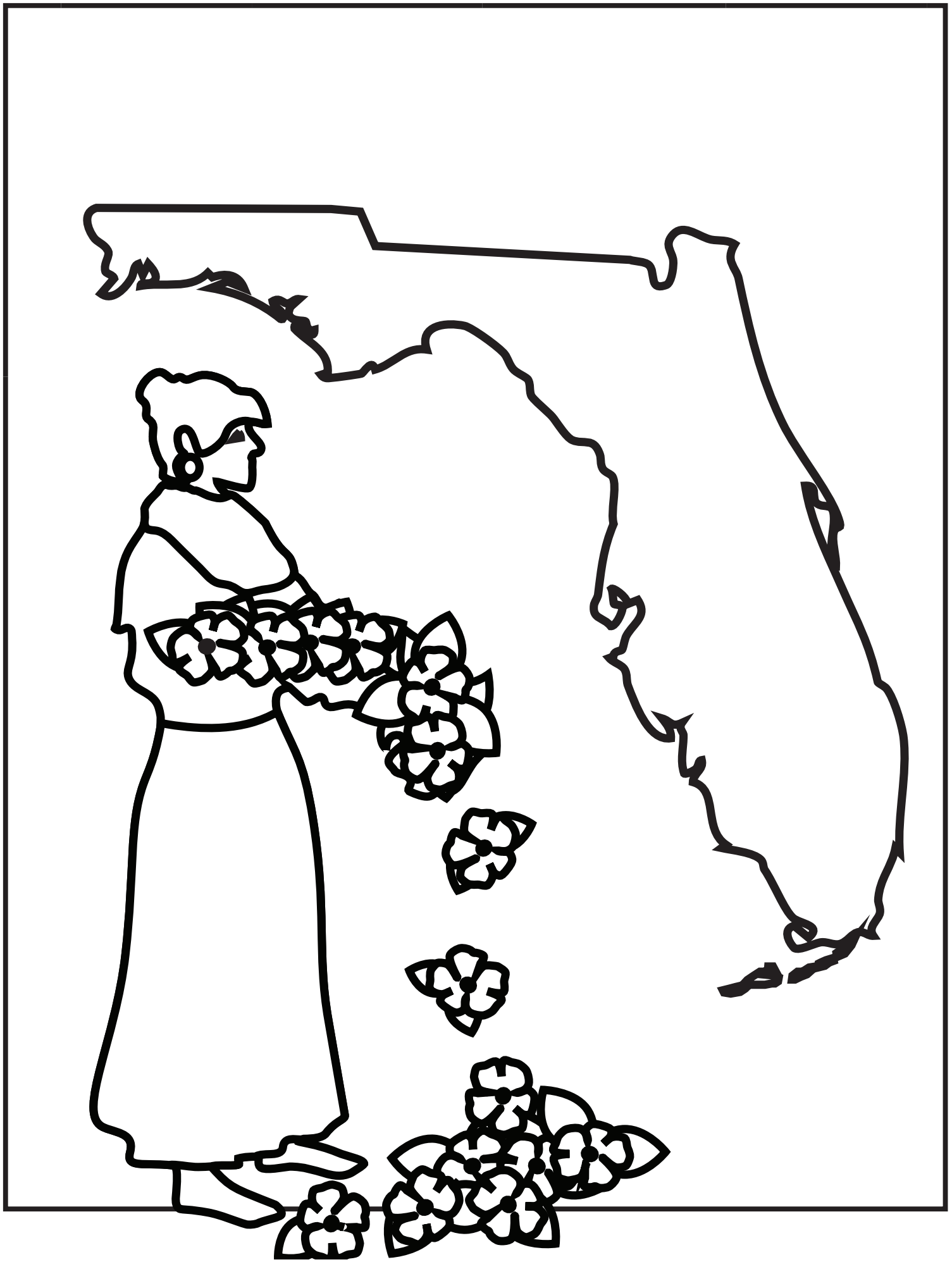
The Sunshine State

Florida is known as “The Sunshine State” and has 663 miles of beaches that line its peninsula. Florida also has 33 first-magnitude springs, nearly 8,000 lakes, and about 4,500 islands!

Florida was acquired from Spain as a U.S. Territory in 1821, and on March 3, 1845, Florida became the 27th state admitted into the United States of America.

Florida’s capital city is Tallahassee, which is in Leon County.



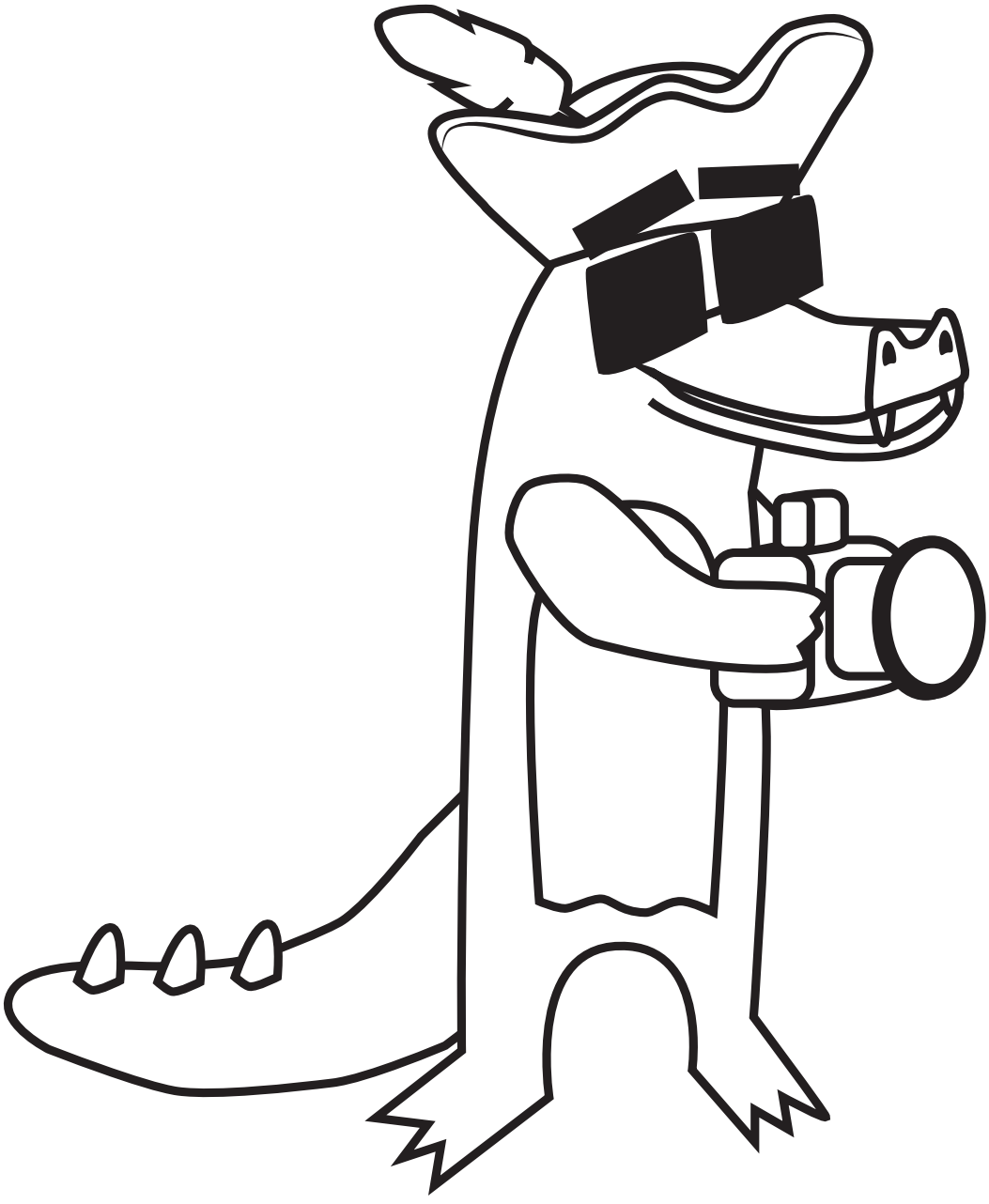


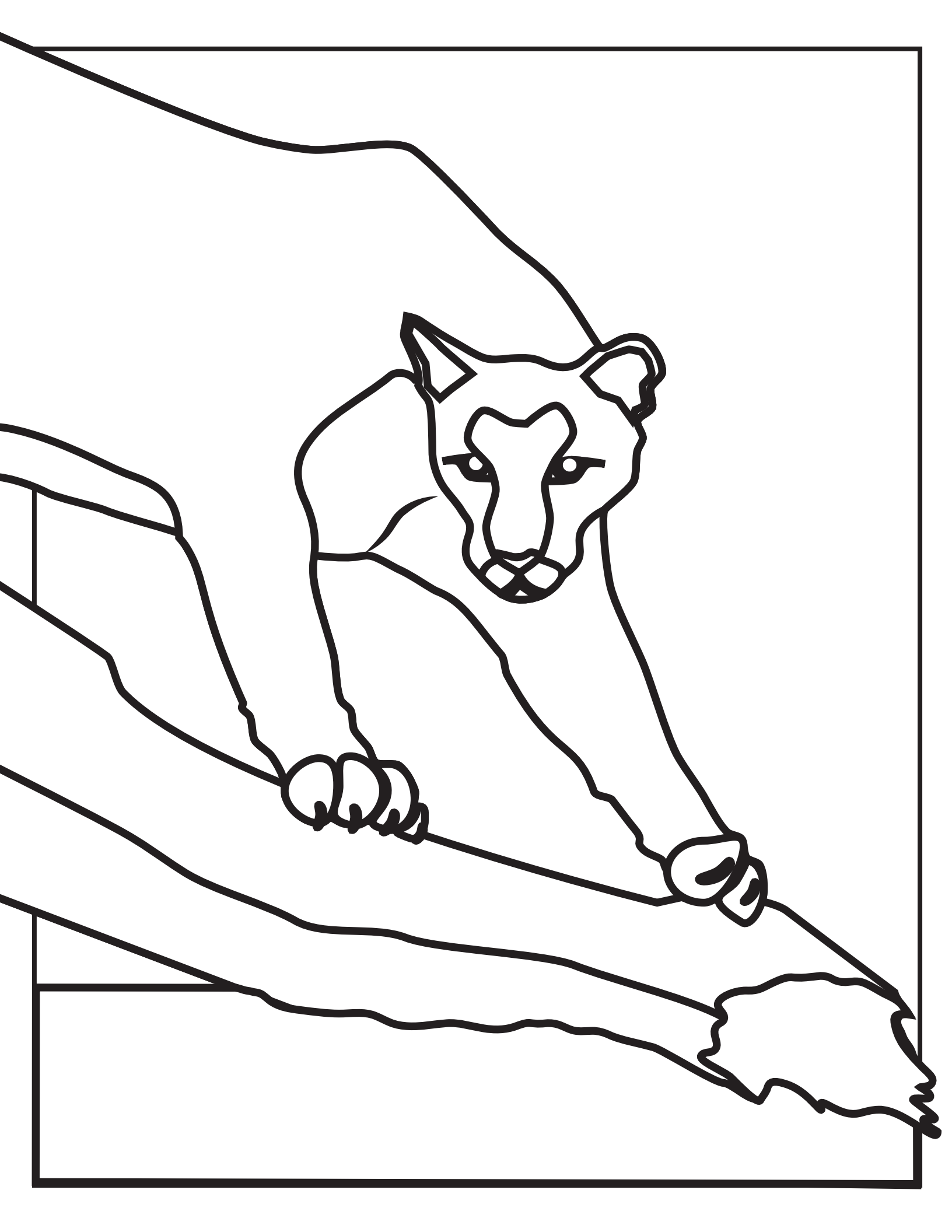
State Animal

Florida Panther (*Felis concolor coryi*)

Florida panthers are spotted at birth with blue eyes. As they grow, the spots fade, the coat becomes tan, and the eyes take on a yellow hue.

Florida panthers don’t roar. Instead they make sounds that include screams, whistles, chirps, growls, hisses, and purrs.



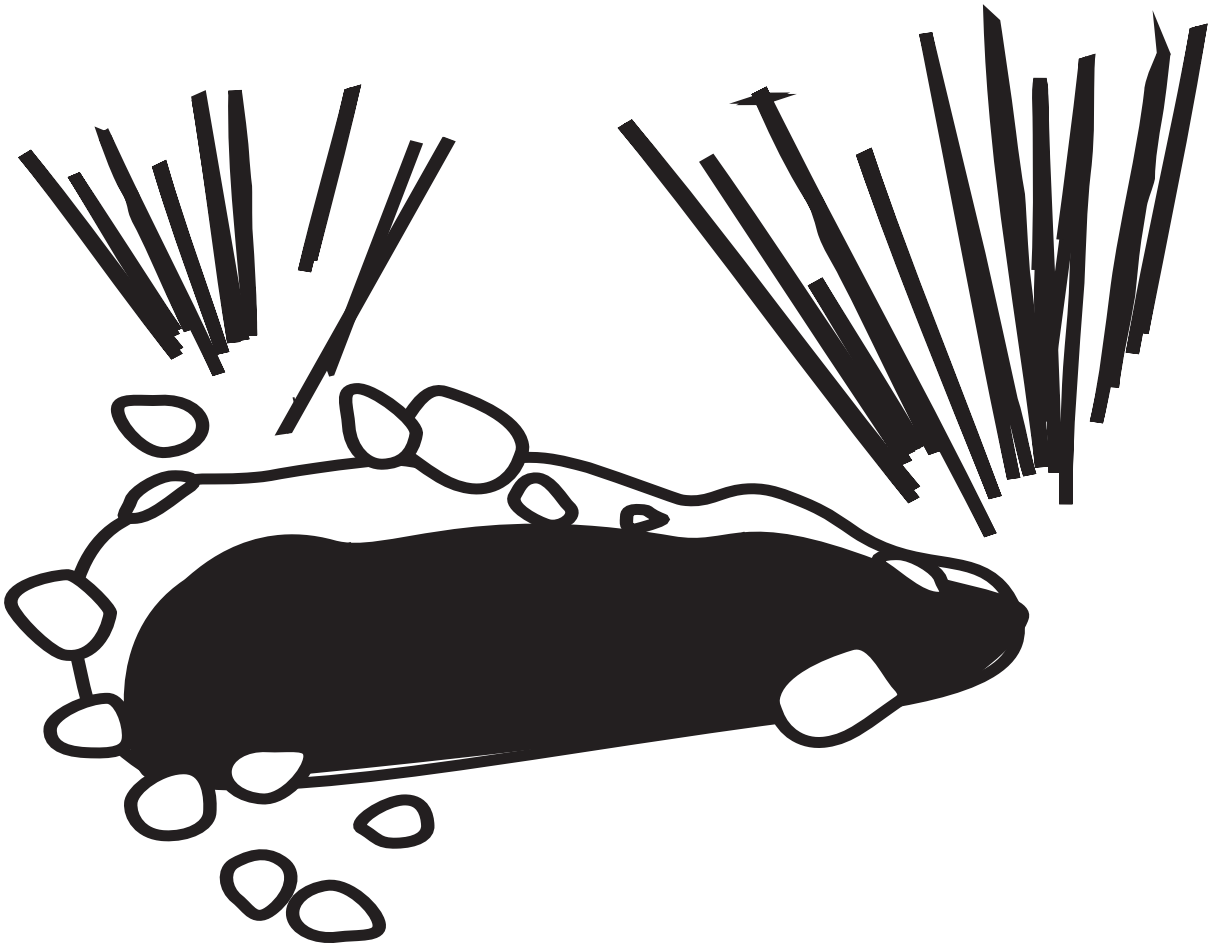


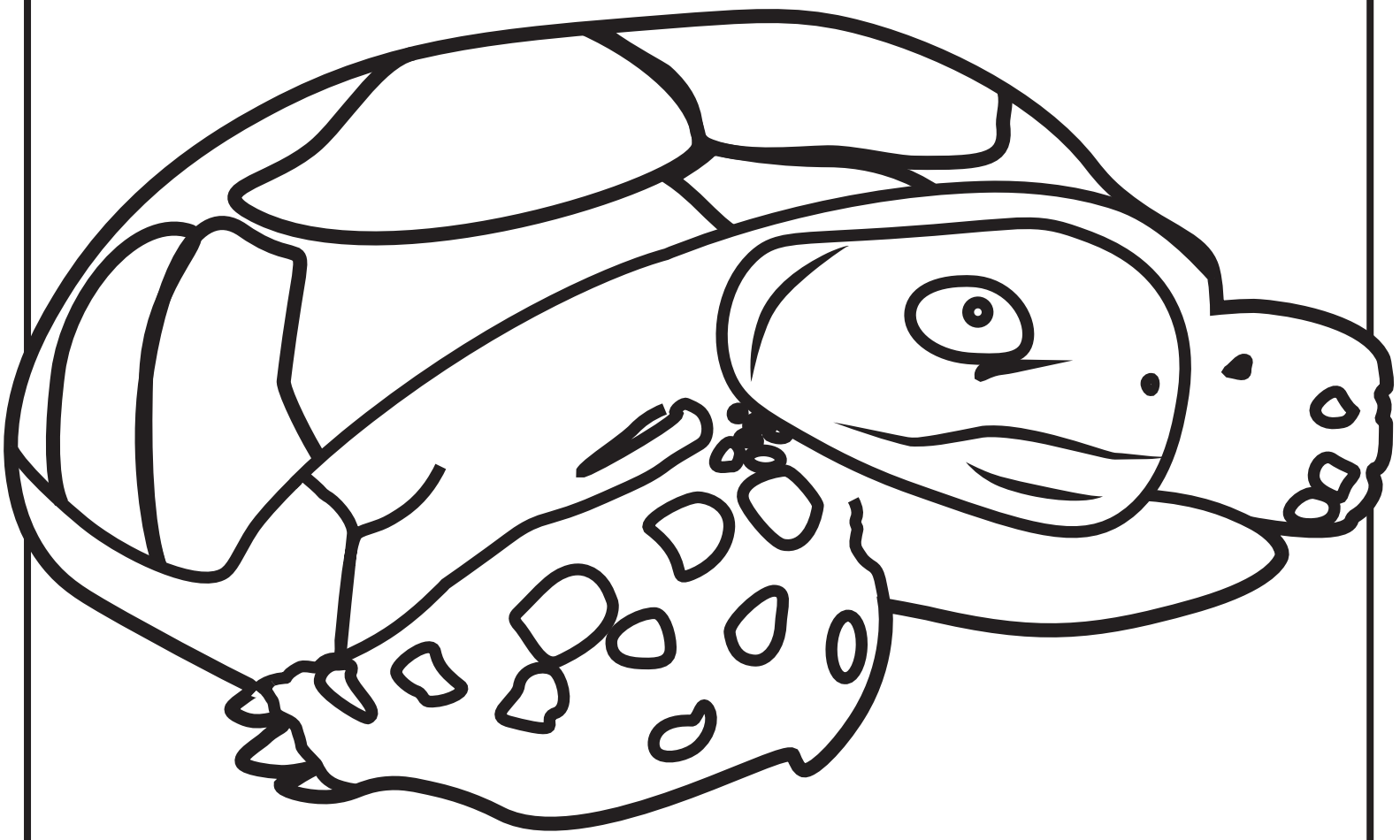
State Tortoise

Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)

The Florida legislature designated the gopher tortoise as the official state tortoise in 2008. Gopher tortoises are long-lived reptiles that occupy upland habitat throughout Florida including forests, pastures, and yards. They dig deep burrows for shelter and forage on low-growing plants.

Gopher tortoises share their burrows with more than 350 other species, and are therefore referred to as a keystone species. In Florida, the gopher tortoise is listed as threatened. Both the tortoise and its burrow are protected under state law.





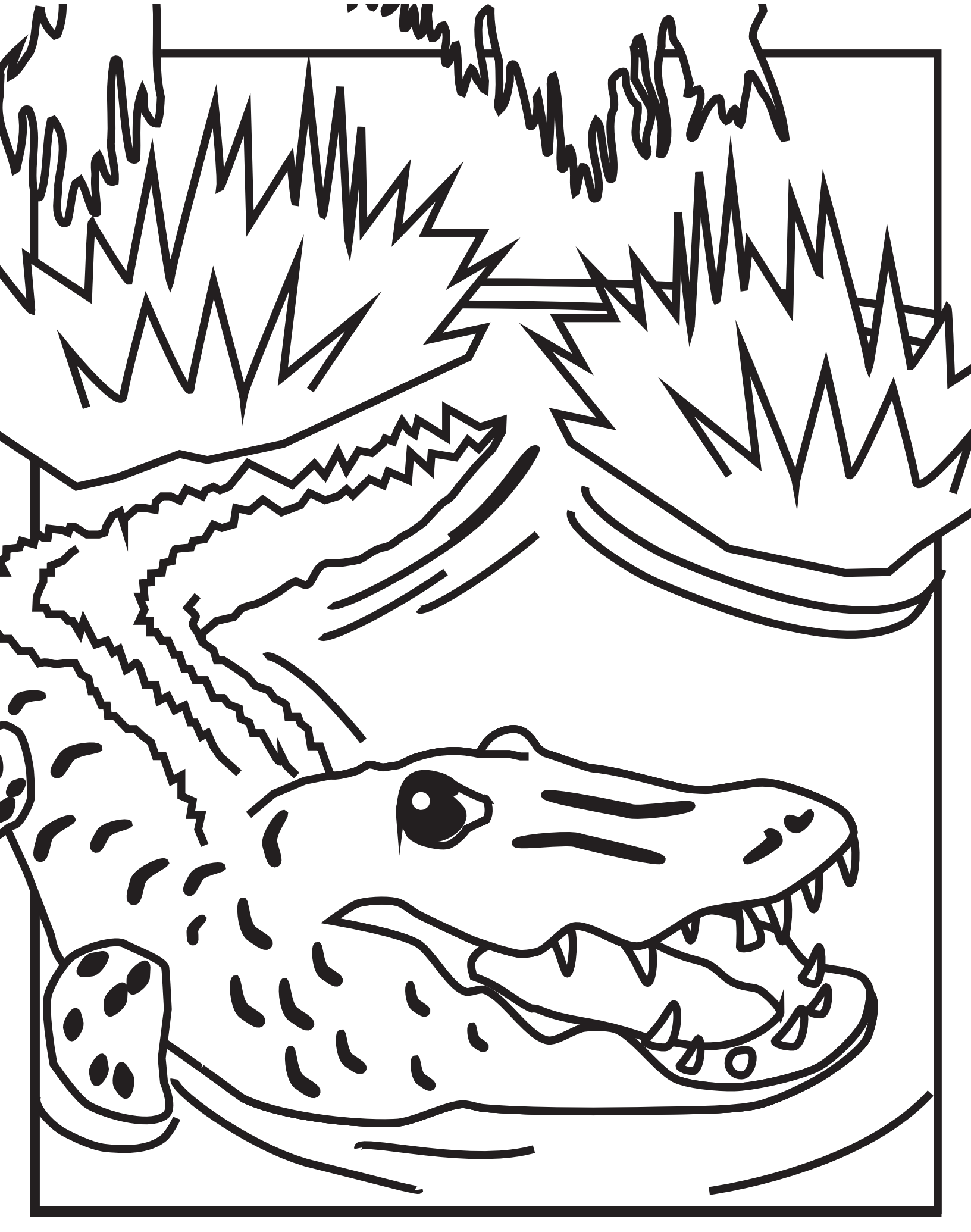
State Reptile

American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)

In 1987 the Florida legislature designated the American alligator as the official state reptile. Long an unofficial symbol of the state, the alligator originally symbolized Florida's extensive untamed wilderness and swamps.

Alligators are found throughout Florida and in parts of other southeastern states. They prefer lakes, swamps, canals, and other wetland habitats.

Did you know: female alligators usually lay thirty to fifty eggs in mound-shaped nests made of reeds and other vegetation. After about two months, baby alligators hatch fully developed and about eight inches long.

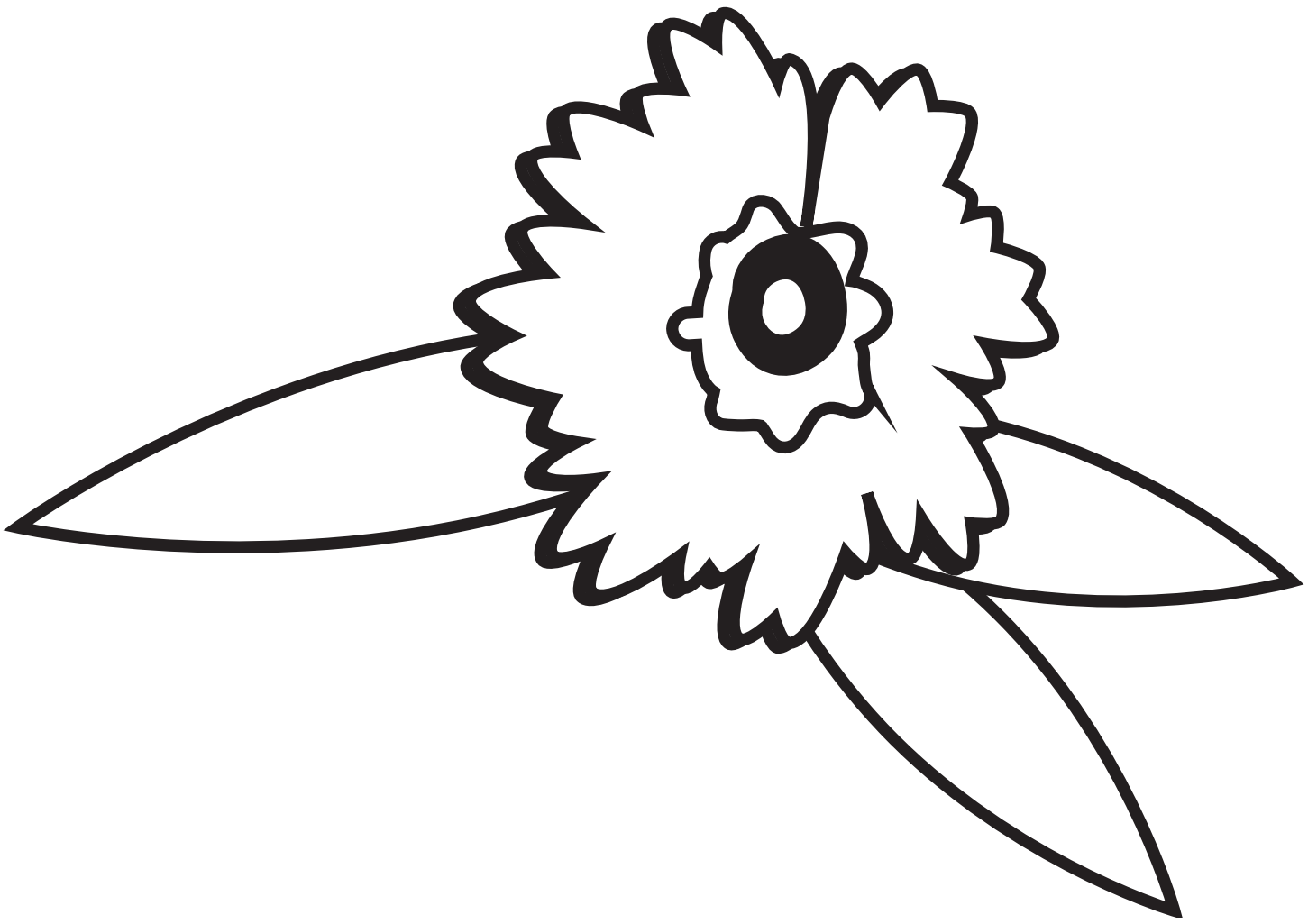


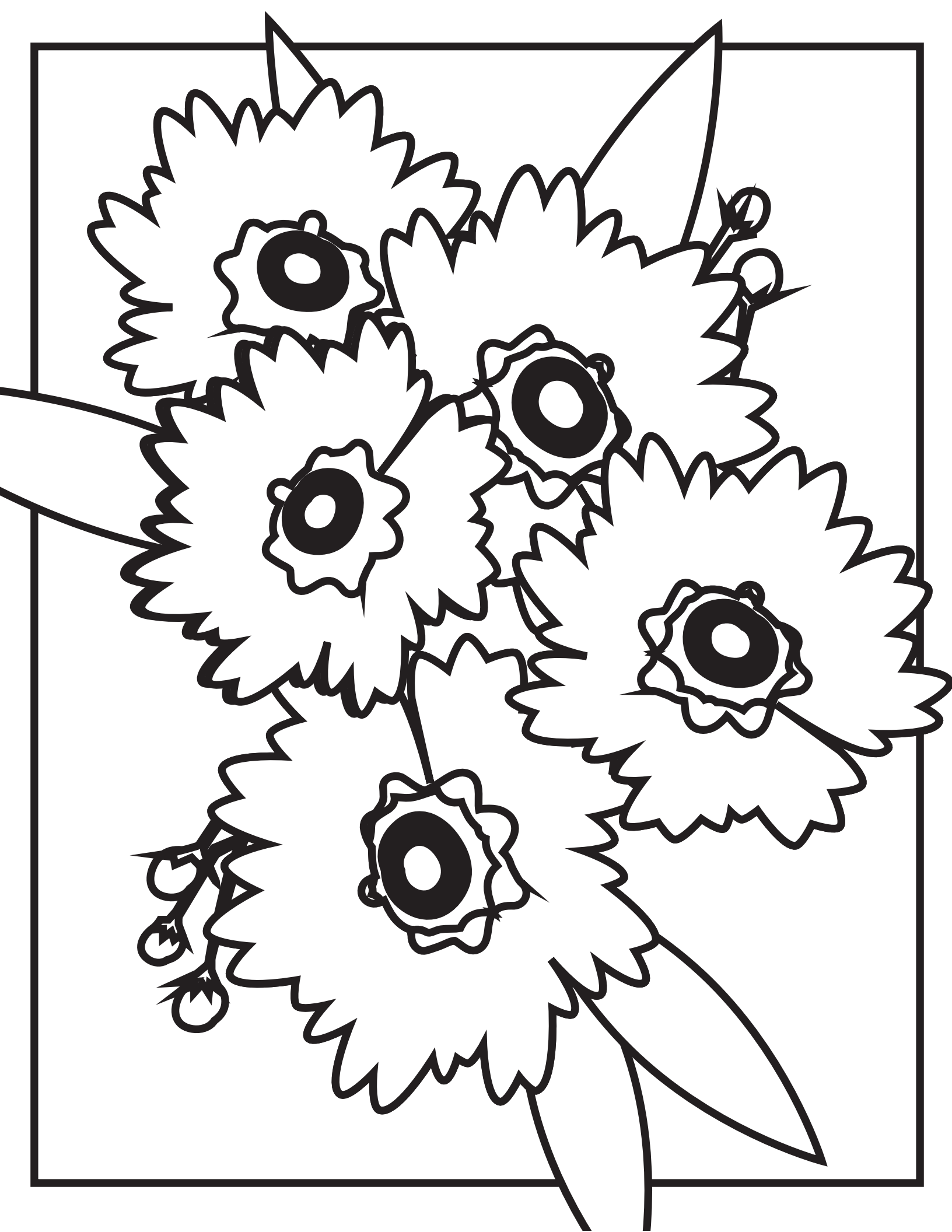
State Wildflower

Coreopsis

There are nearly 40 species of Coreopsis (also known as Tickseed) in a variety of colors from gold to pink. They attract a wide variety of beneficial insects, including butterflies, bees, wasps, and flies. Their bright colors and abundant nectar make them a popular choice for pollinators, and they are a valuable addition to any pollinator garden.

Coreopsis can often be seen along Florida's roads as they were used extensively in Florida's roadside plantings and highway beautification programs.



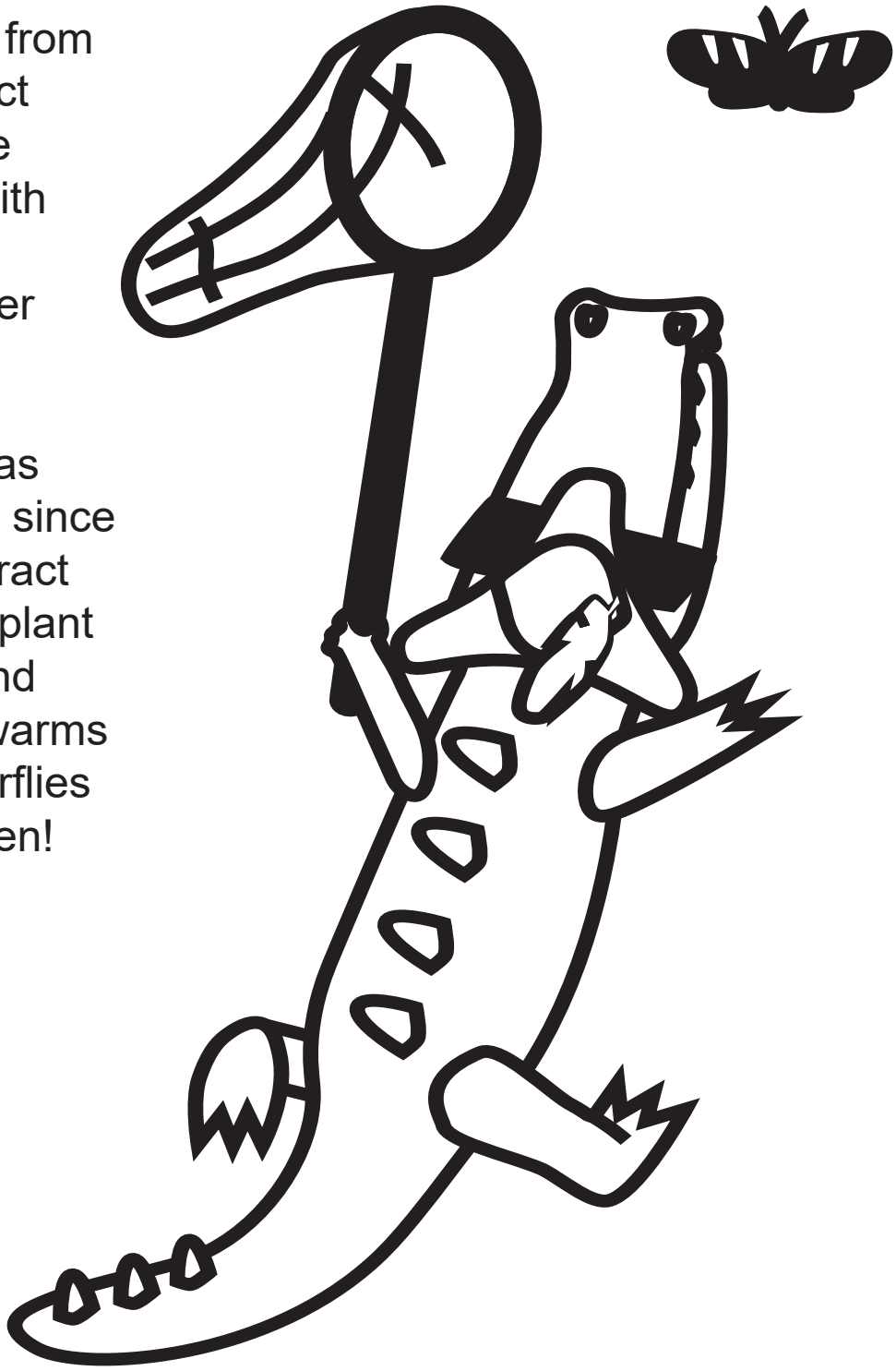


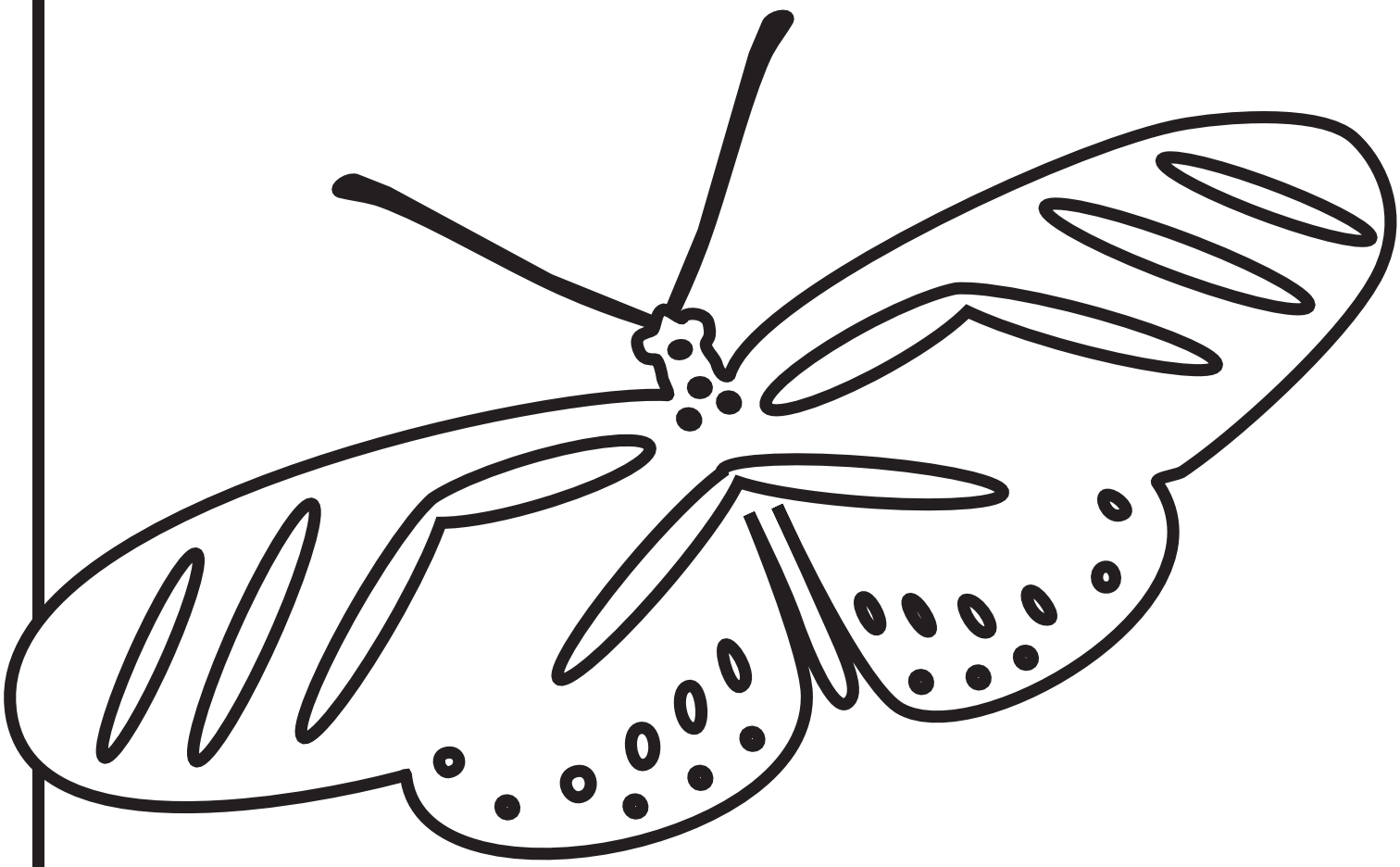
State Butterfly

Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charitonius*)

The black and white wing pattern is aposematic, meaning it stands out and warns predators it is not worth attacking. Their hostplant (a plant that provides nourishment and support) is the Passion Vine which is native to Florida. The chemicals derived from the Passion Vine protect caterpillars as well. The caterpillars are white with black spots and spines which also signal danger to predators.

The Zebra Longwing has been the state butterfly since 1996 and is easy to attract to your garden: simply plant some Passion Vines and nectar plants. Soon, swarms of these beautiful butterflies will populate your garden!





State Fruit

Orange (*Citrus sinensis*)

Citrus is an integral part of Florida's identity, intertwined with its history, part of its landscape, and still leaving its mark today.

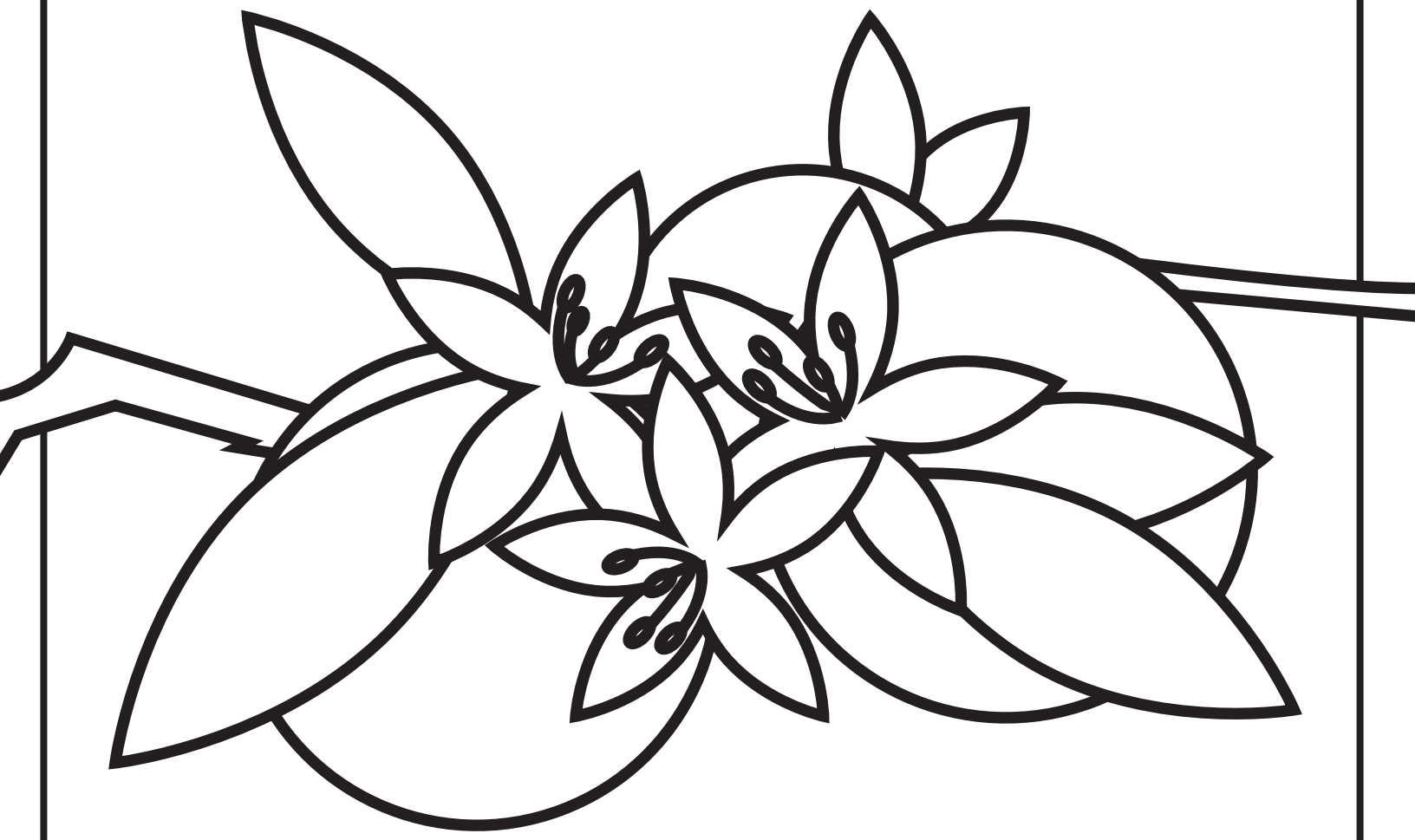
The primary varieties of Florida oranges are Navel, Hamlin, Pineapple, Ambersweet and Valencia, with the fresh orange season typically running from October through June. Fun Fact: Almost 88% of an orange is just Vitamin C.

State Flower

Orange Blossom (*Citrus sinensis*)

Orange blossoms bloom on orange trees in late winter and early spring, before the fruit starts to form, and are one of the most fragrant flowers in Florida.

The orange blossom has been the state flower since 1909.

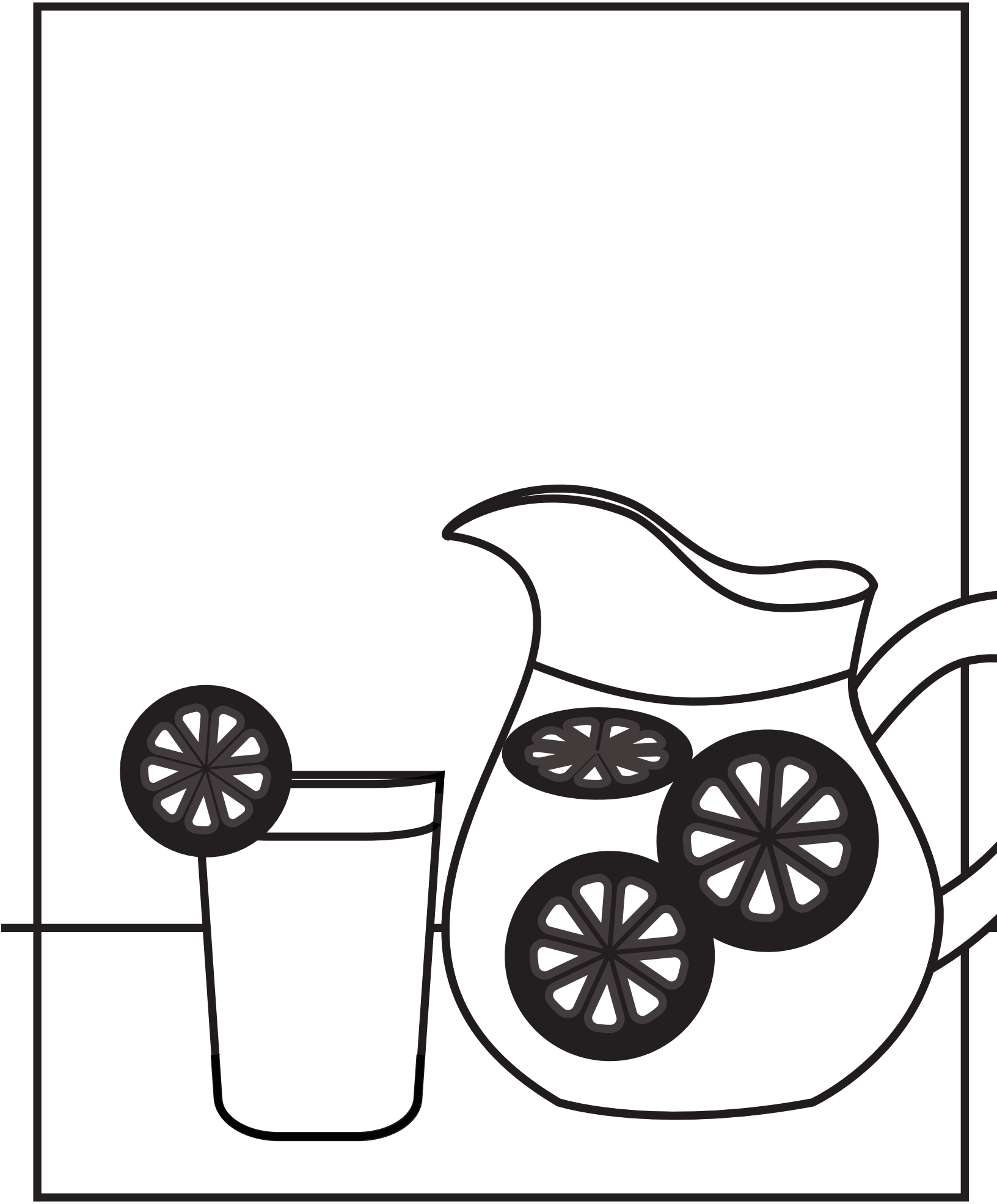


State Beverage

Orange Juice

Florida is the second-largest producer of citrus in the world and the largest producer of 100% orange juice in the United States.

Approximately 90% of Florida's orange production is used for juice, and about half of the orange juice Americans drink comes from Florida.

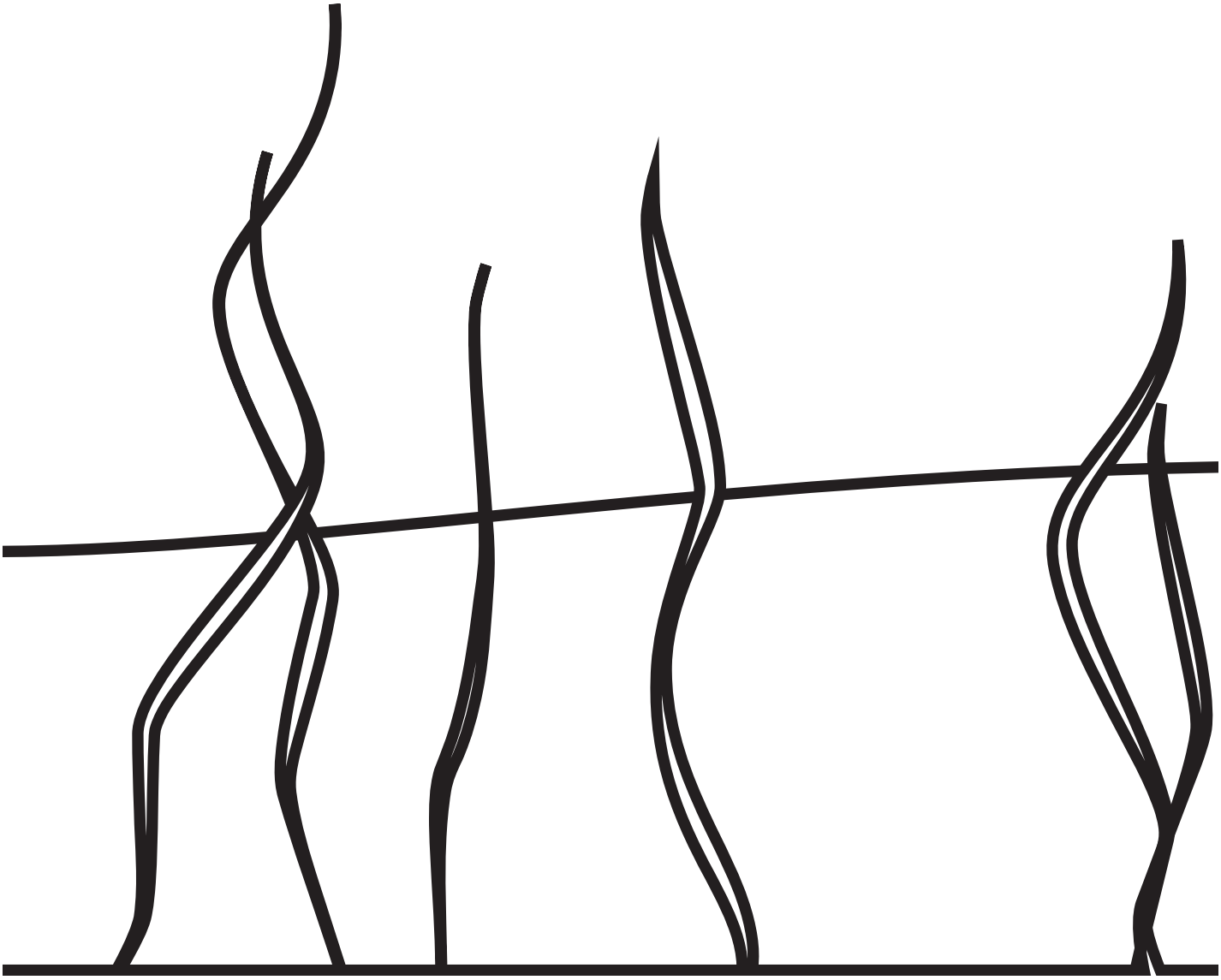


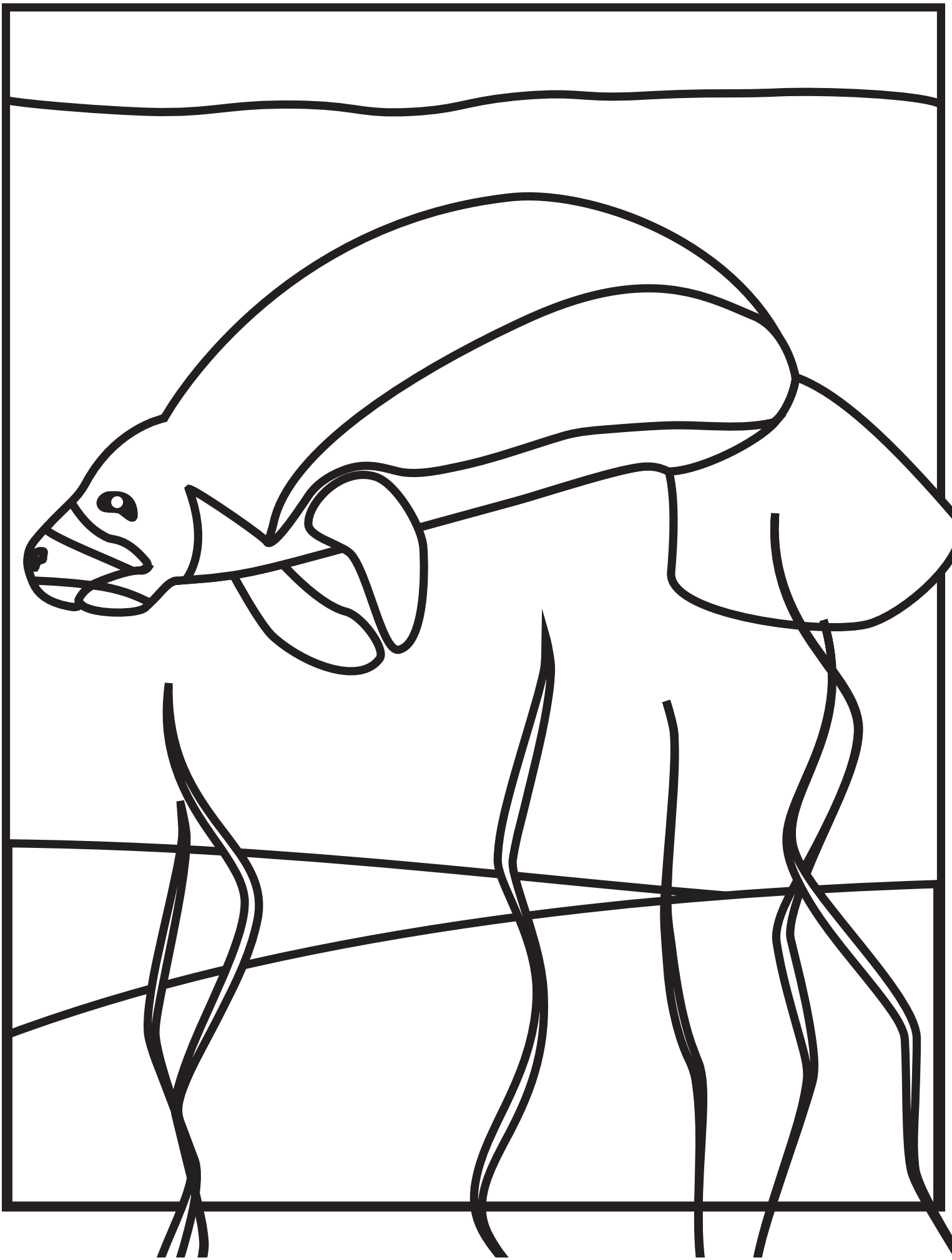
State Marine Mammal

Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*)

Manatees can reach eight to fourteen feet in length and can weigh more than a ton.

Manatees spend approximately 50% of the day sleeping submerged, surfacing for air regularly at intervals of less than 20 minutes. Fun fact: Manatees have toenails, or more accurately, flipper nails.



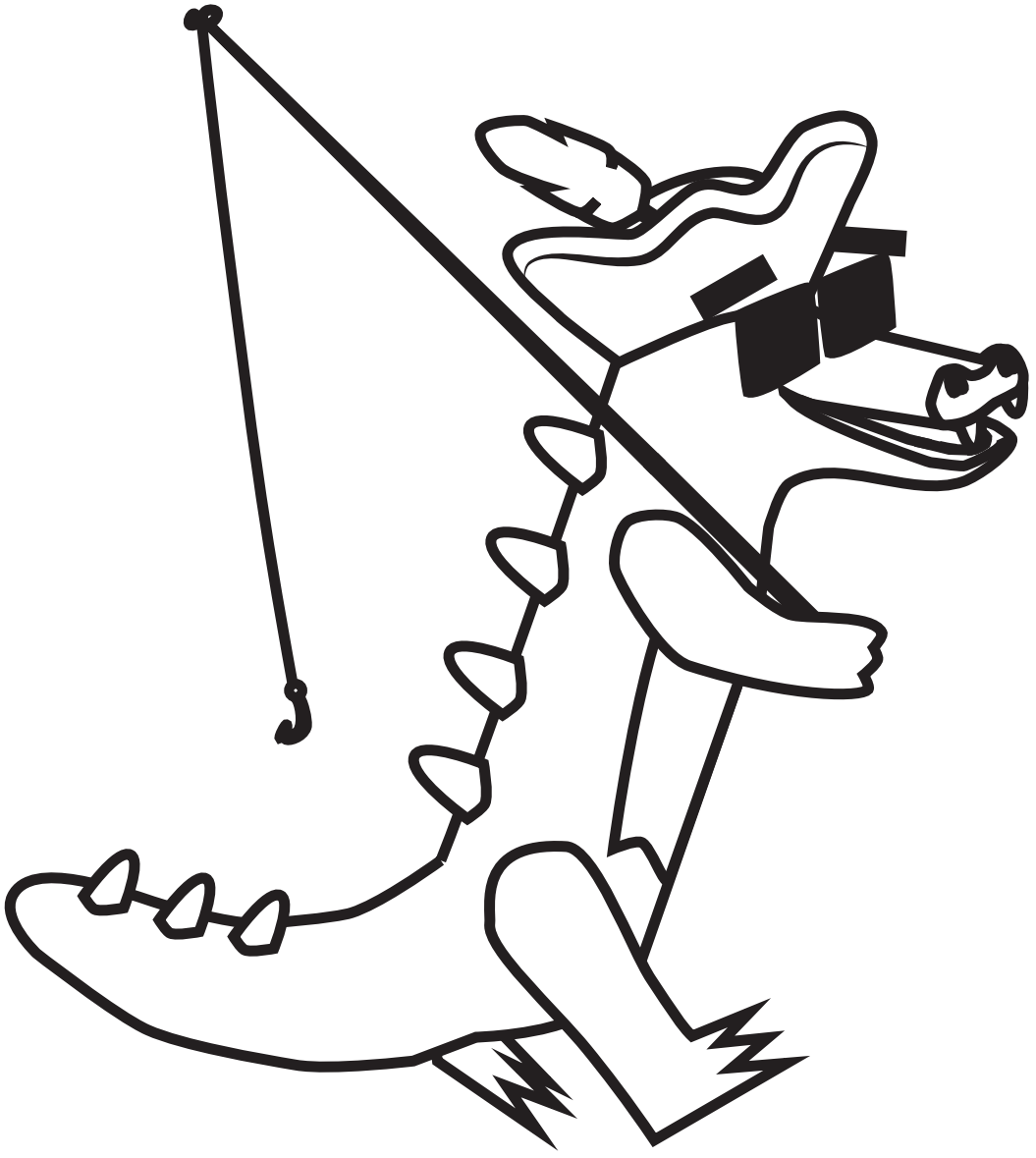


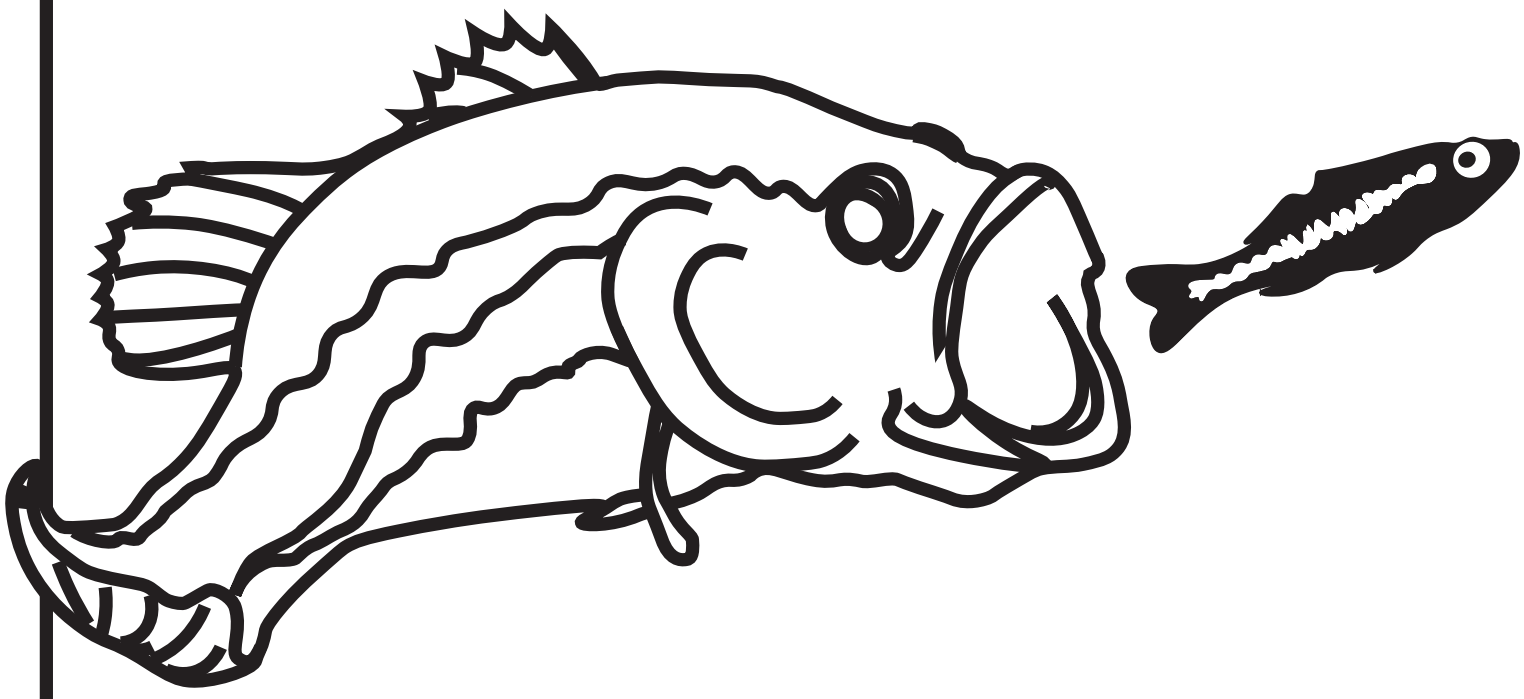
State Freshwater Fish

Florida Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)

In a 2022 study, genetic testing found that the Florida Bass is its own species. In 2024, the Legislature changed the name of the state freshwater fish from largemouth bass to Florida Bass.

Bass all over Florida like to bury themselves in and under grassy mats that grow on the water's surface. You can find them among hyacinths, water lettuce, hydrilla or any other type of grass that provides a nice hiding spot and access to food.



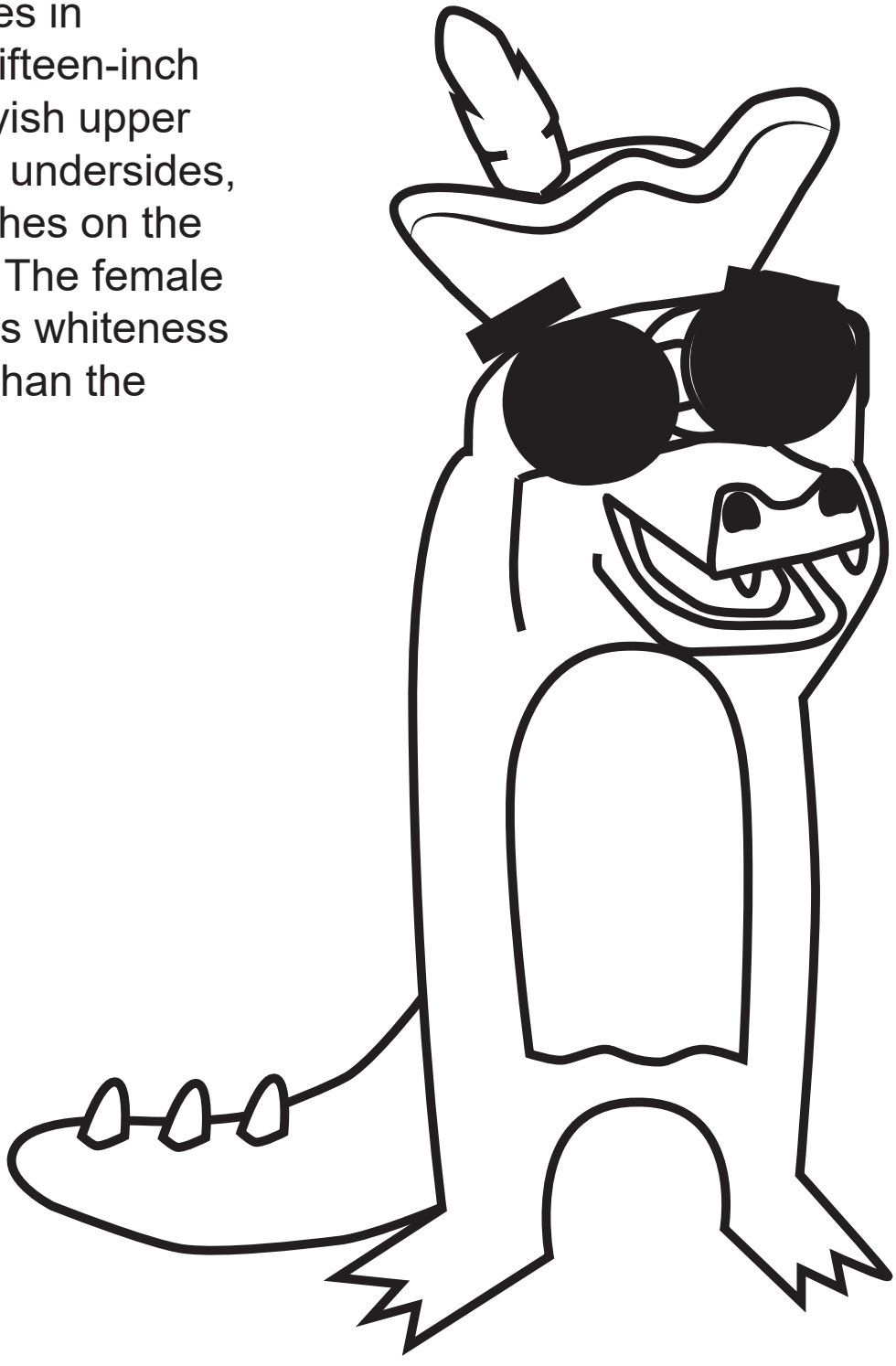


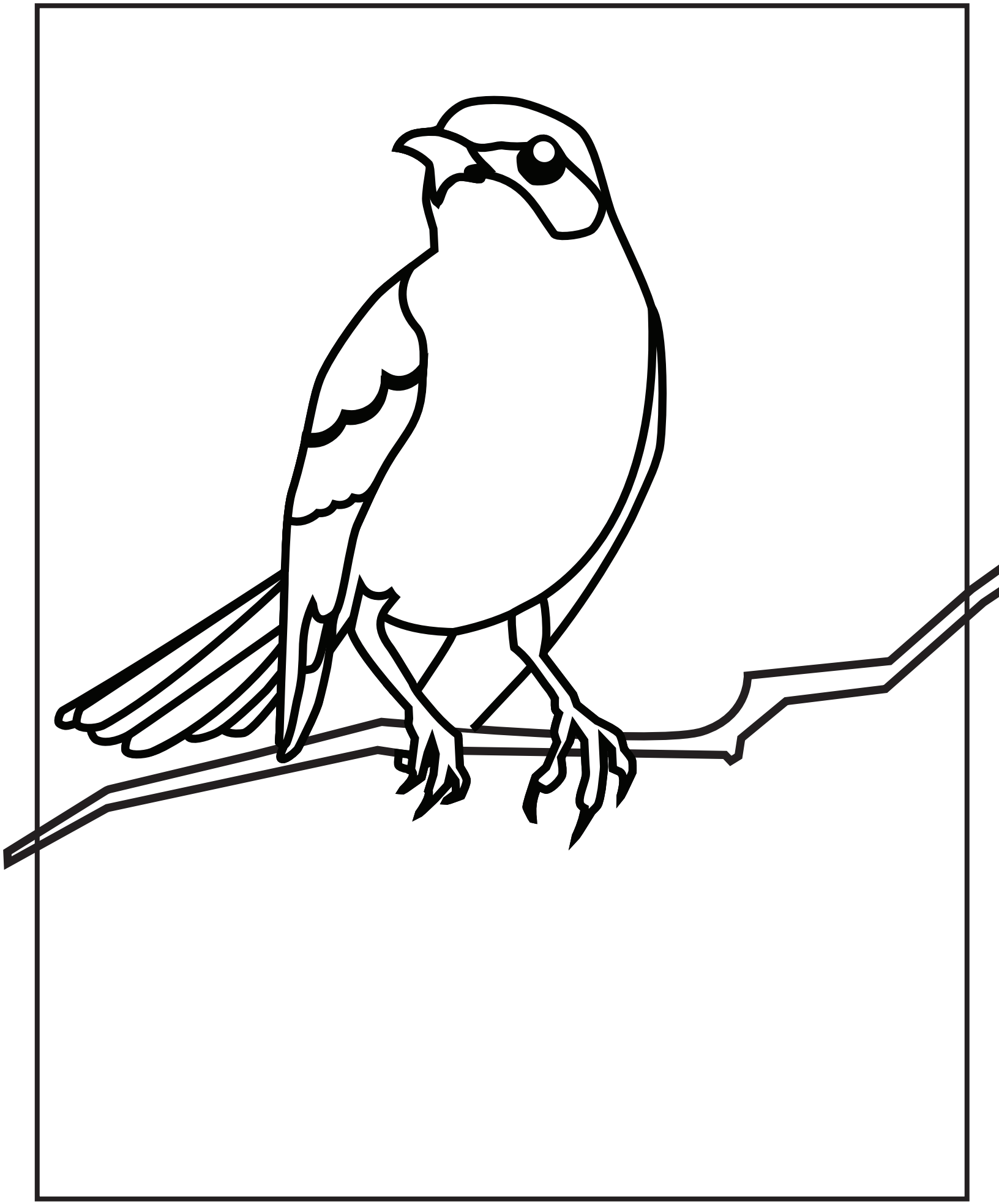
State Bird

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

The mockingbird has its own lilting song, but it also mimics other birds, insects, and even mechanical sounds.

Mockingbirds are usually about ten inches in length, with a fifteen-inch wingspan, grayish upper portions, white undersides, and white patches on the tail and wings. The female has slightly less whiteness in its feathers than the male.



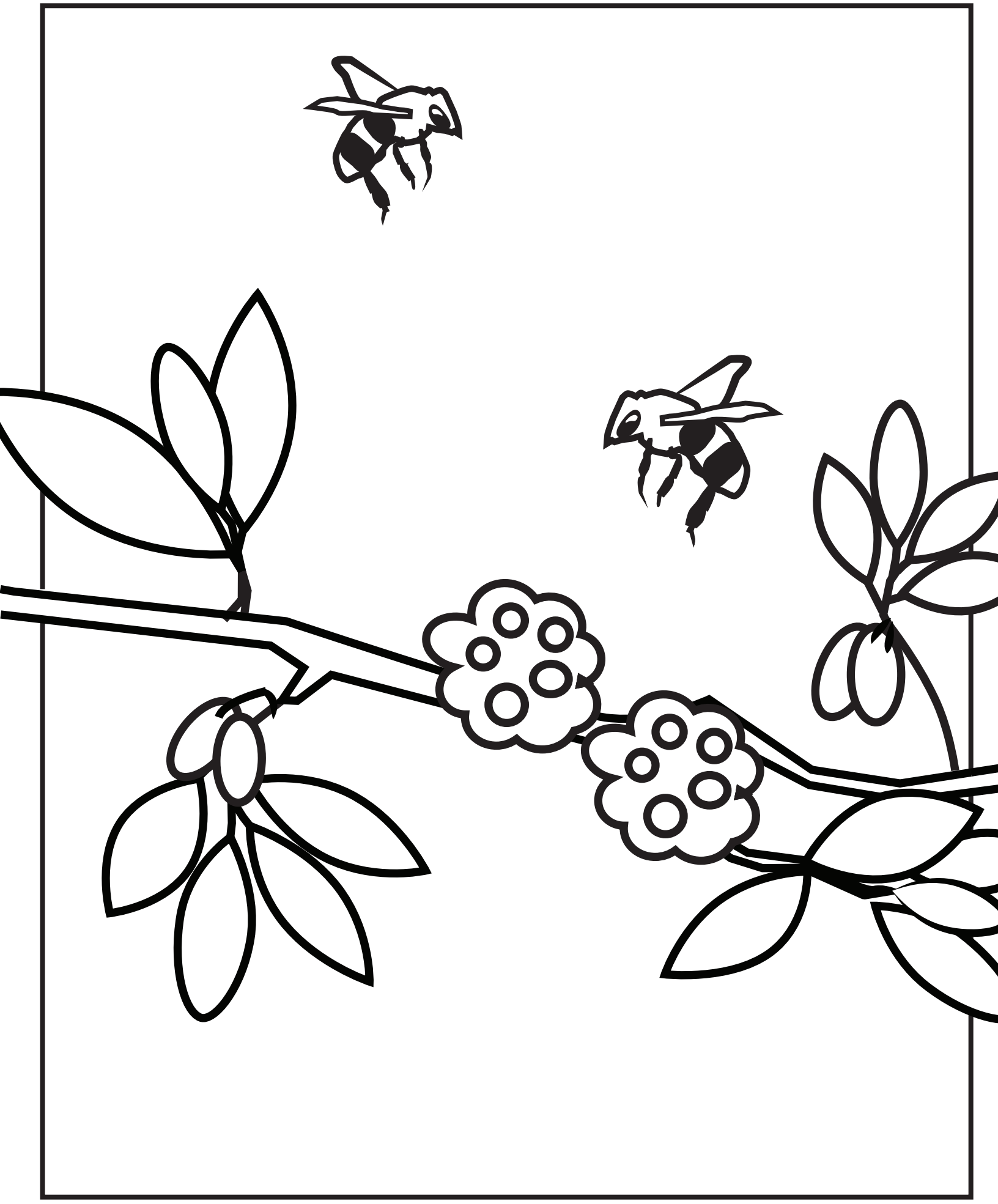


State Honey

Honey from Florida Tupelo Tree (Nyssa ogeche)

Florida Tupelo Trees grow in the swamps and wet areas along the banks of the Apalachicola and Chipola rivers of the Florida panhandle. Bees collect nectar from the fringed blossoms to make Tupelo Honey, which has been called some of the sweetest honey on earth because of its high fructose levels. Tupelo honey does not crystalize into grains like other honey.

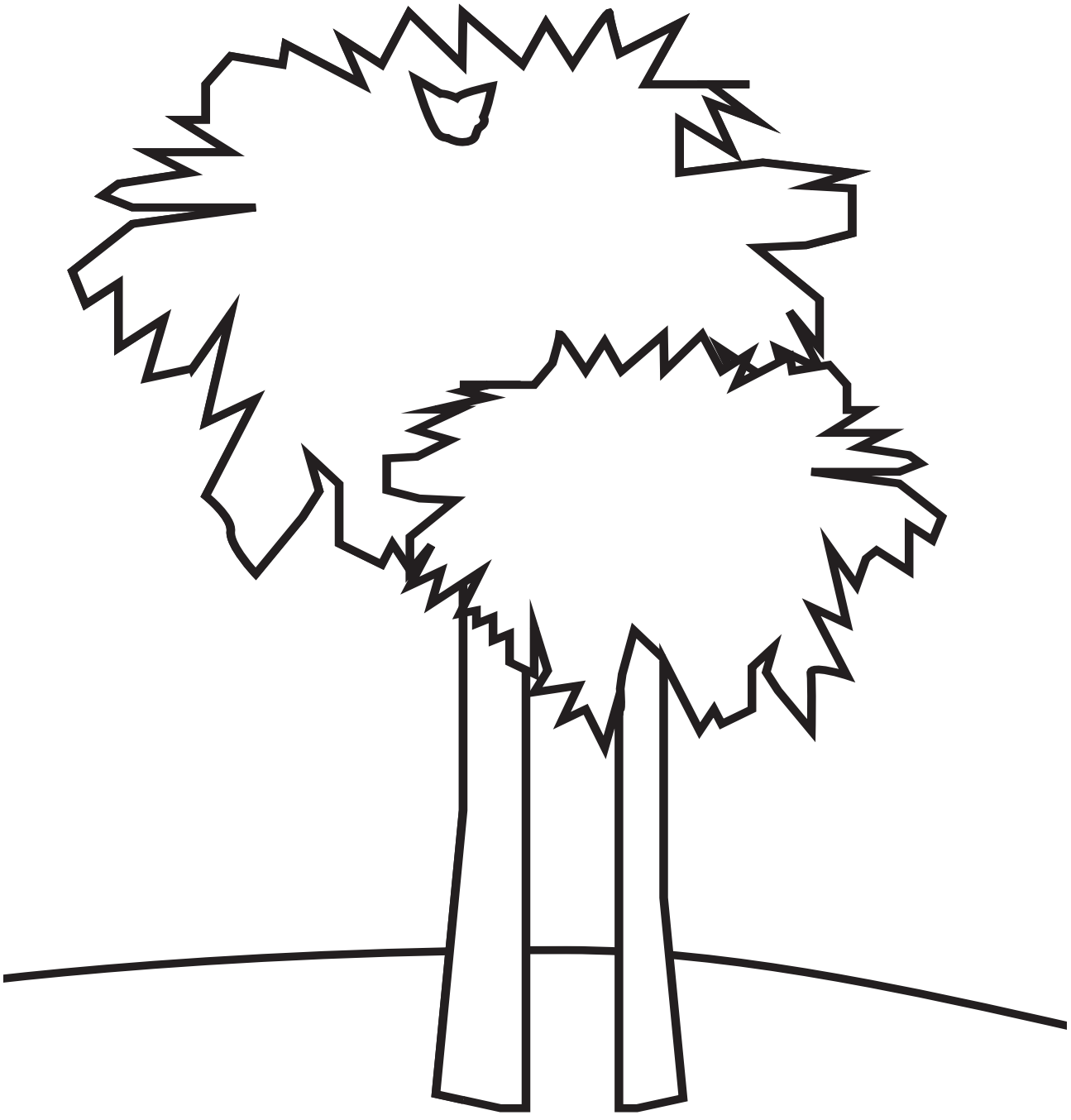
The Florida Panhandle is the only place in the world where Tupelo Honey is produced commercially.

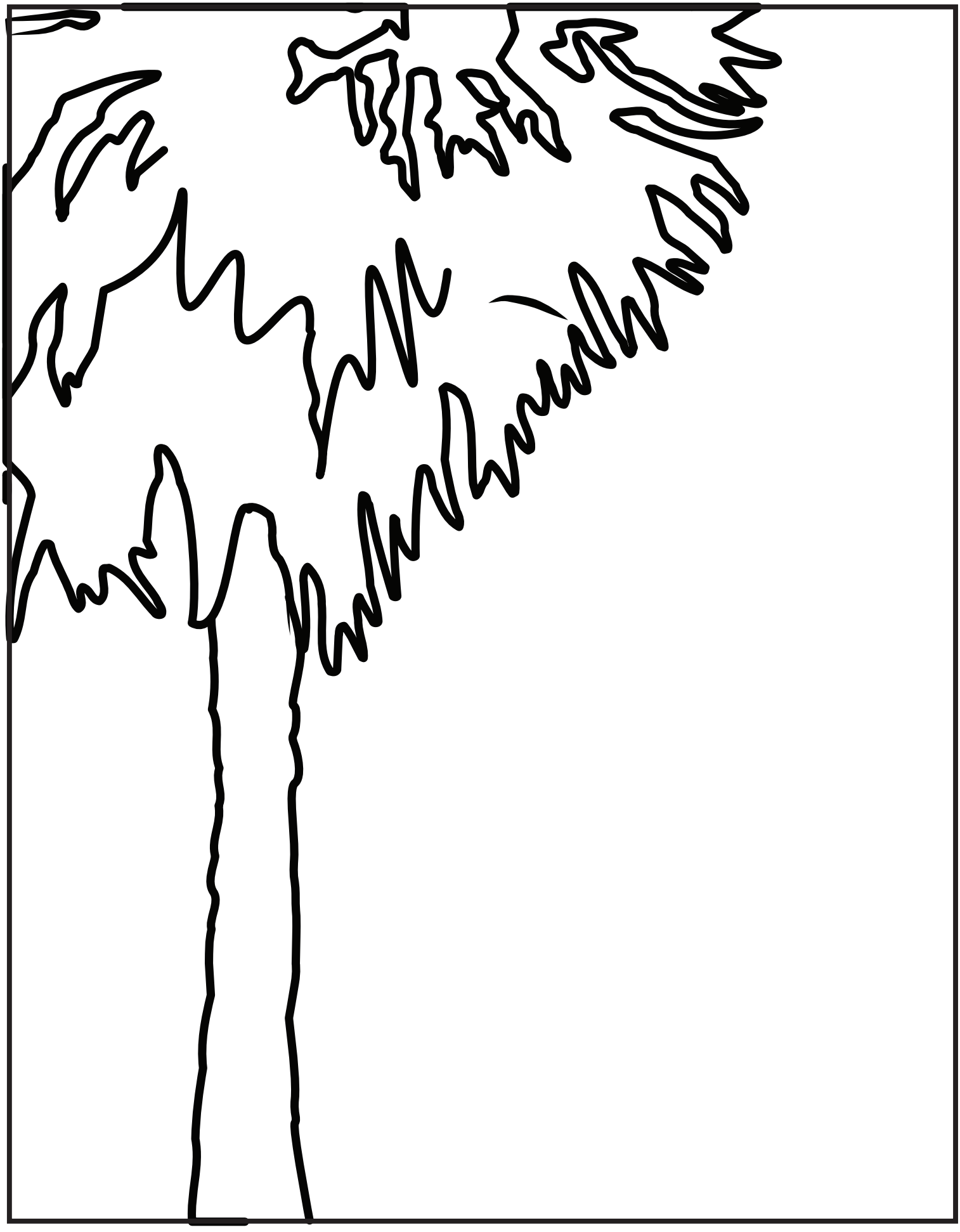


State Tree

Sabal Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)

The sabal palm is the most widely distributed palm in Florida. It grows in almost any soil and has many uses, including food, medicine, and landscaping.



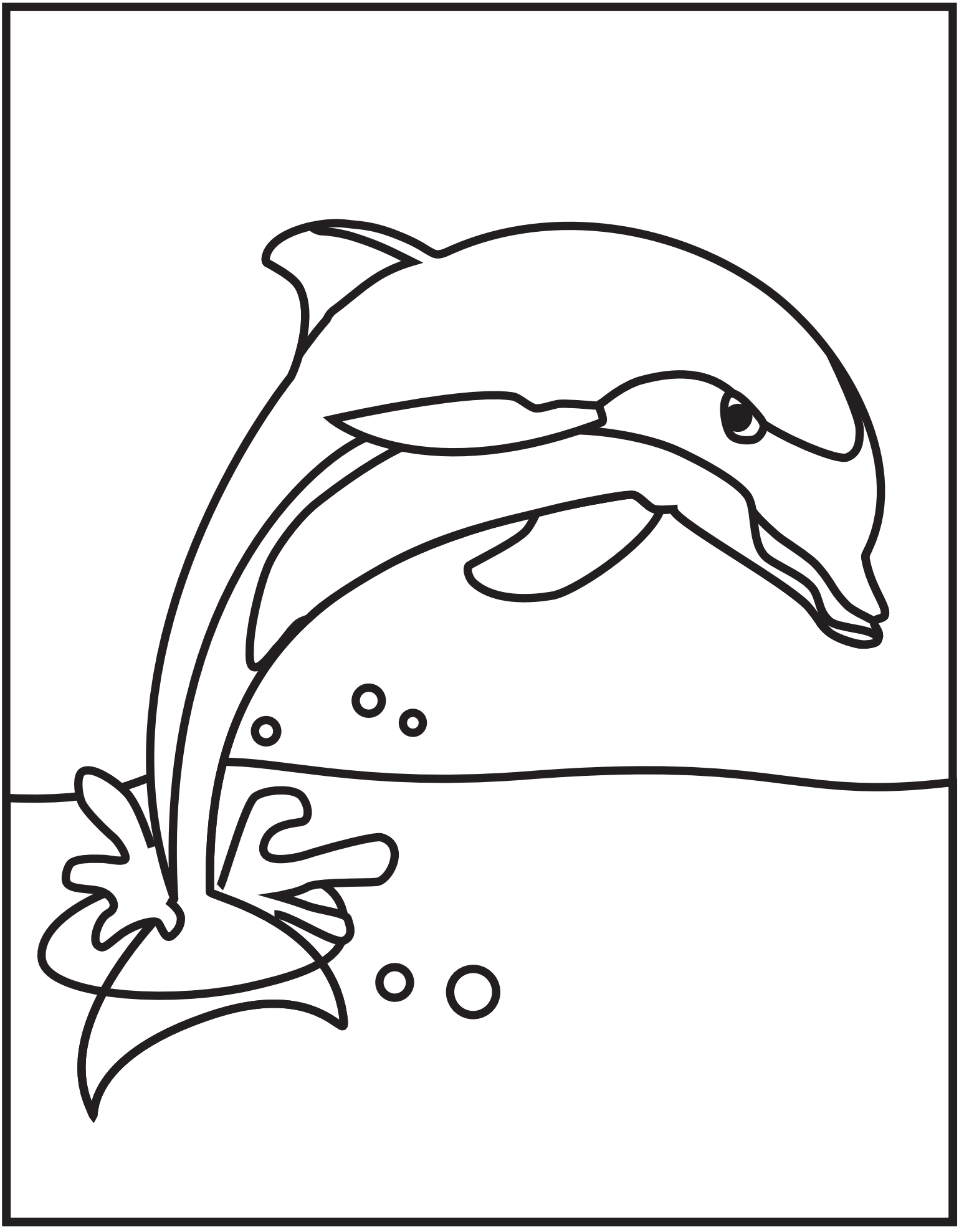


State Saltwater Mammal

Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncates*)

While the state animal is officially the porpoise, also commonly known as the dolphin, porpoises and dolphins are actually different animals. Generally, the Bottlenose Dolphin, found commonly in Florida, is considered to be the saltwater mammal.

Dolphins use echolocation, a system like sonar, to navigate, and find food and other objects.

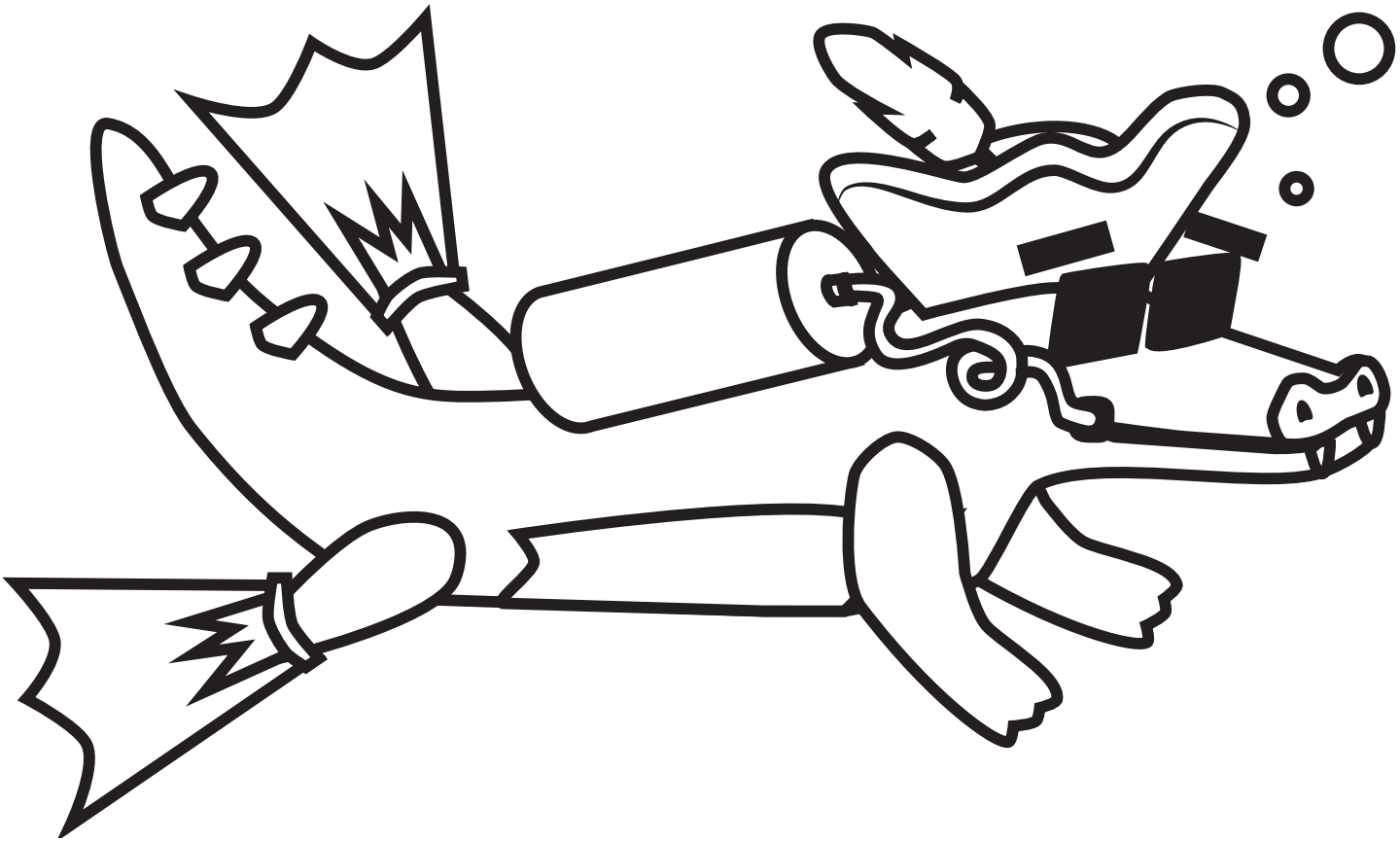


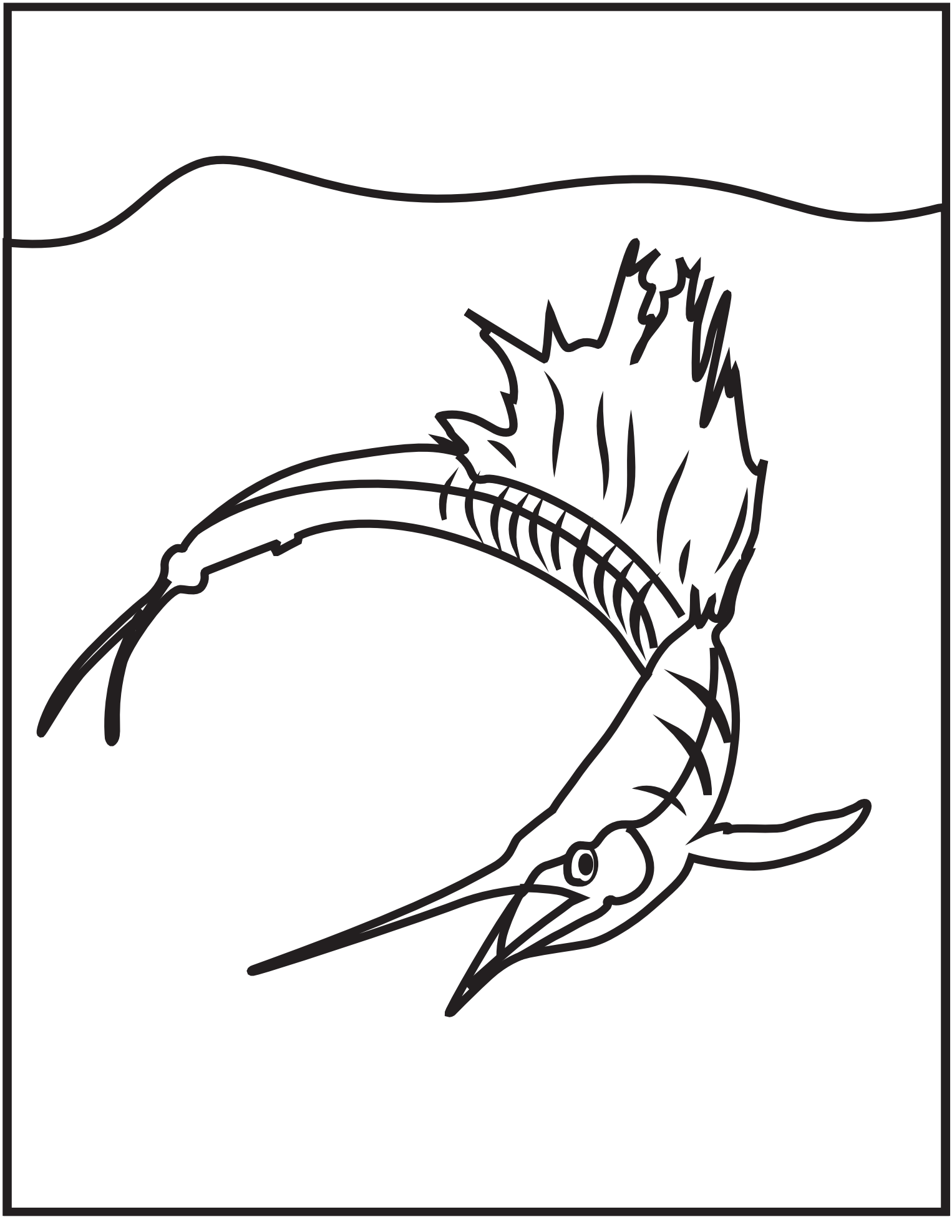
State Saltwater Fish

Sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*)

Sailfish are found nearly everywhere there is warm ocean water, but sailfish fishing is especially popular in Florida. These fish can swim at speeds of almost 60 miles per hour!

These impressive creatures can reach up to 11 feet in length and weigh as much as 220 pounds; however, average size is around six to seven feet and 230-40 pounds. They are characterized by their large, sail-like dorsal fin and long, spear-like upper jaw.

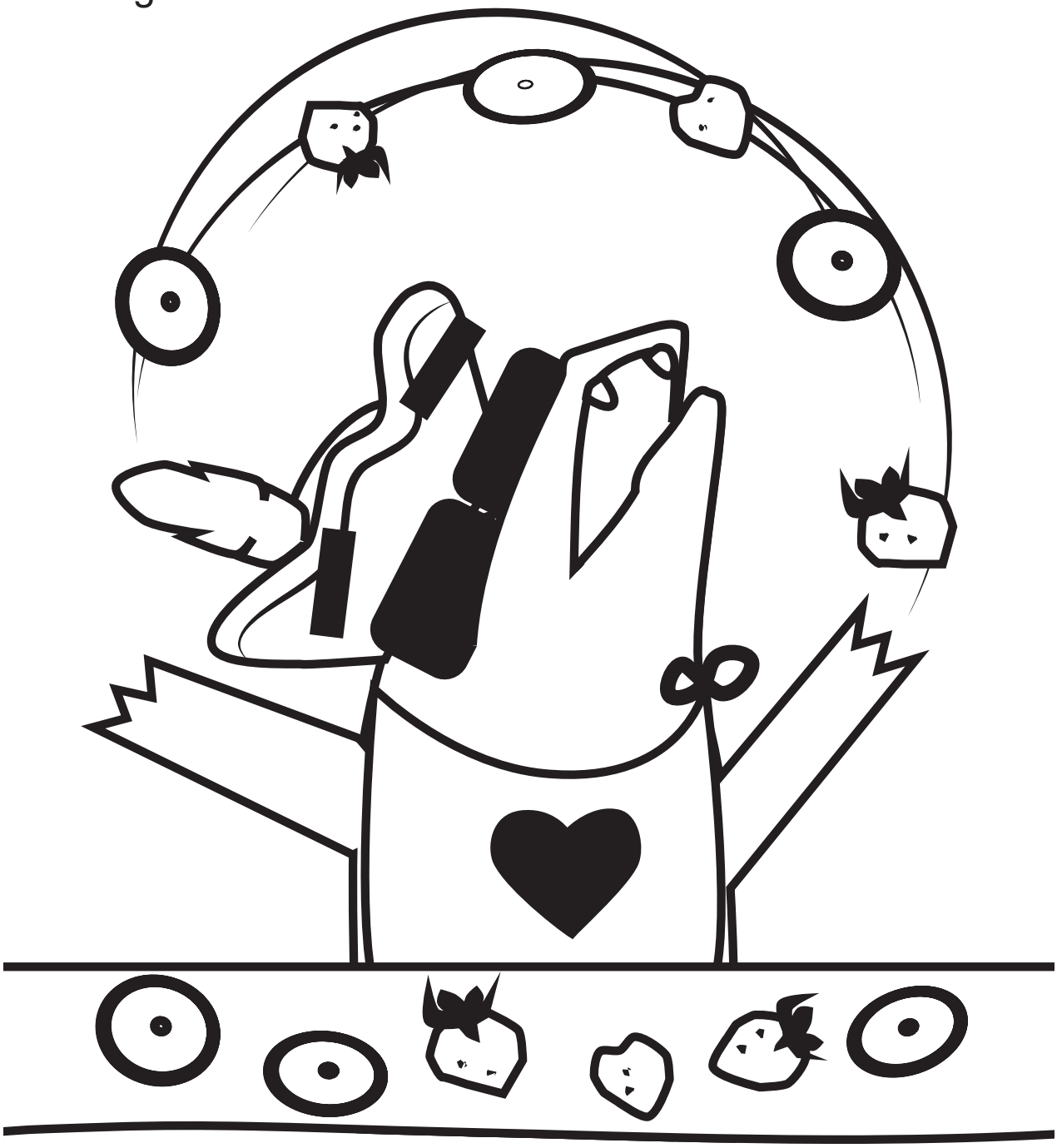


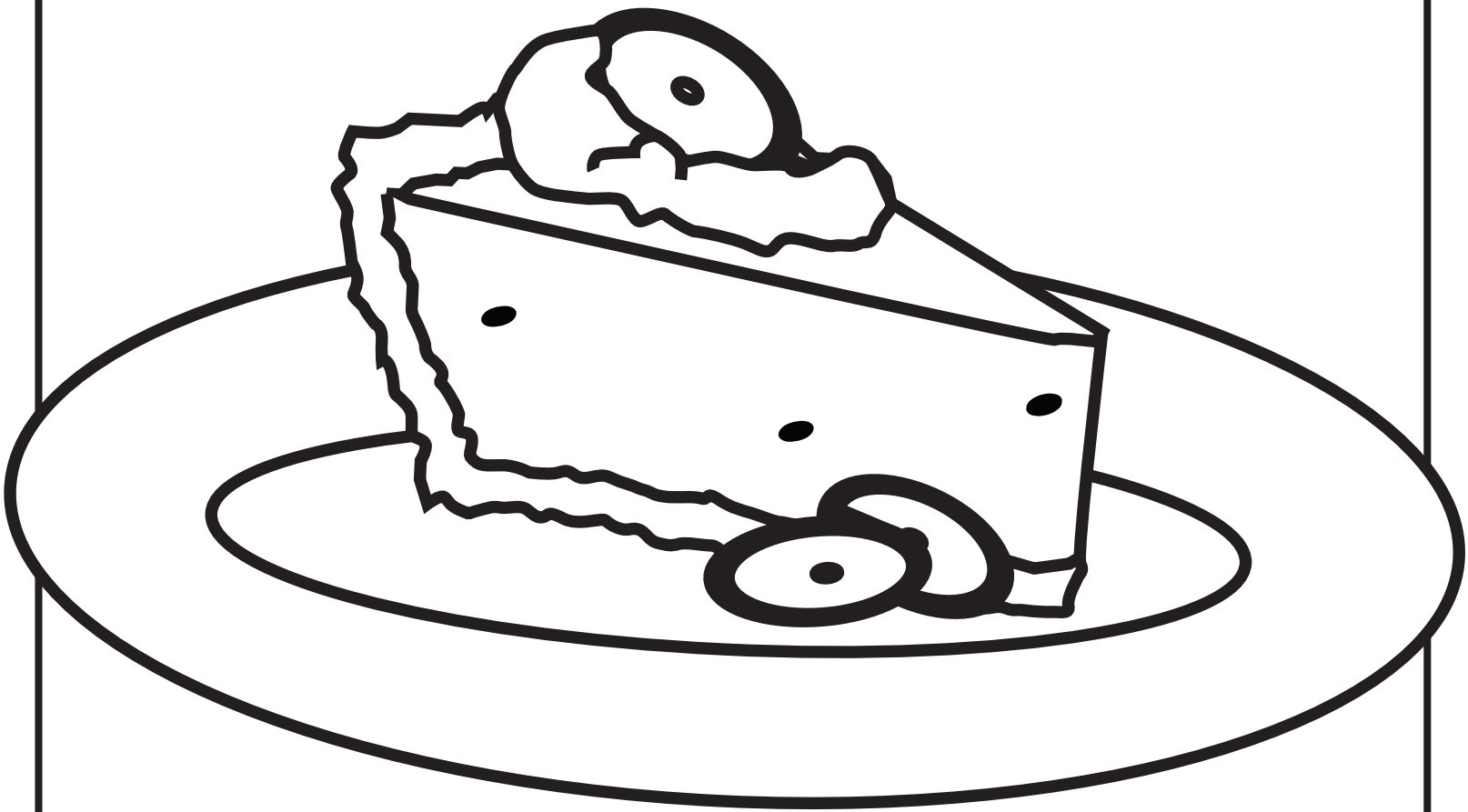


State Pie

Key Lime Pie

Traditional key lime pie filling is made from three simple ingredients: sweetened condensed milk, egg yolks, and juice from Key Limes (naturalized throughout the Florida Keys). The pie is usually topped with meringue or whipped cream. Since the juice of Key Limes is pale yellow, the filling of Key Lime pie is a soft buttery yellow color rather than green.

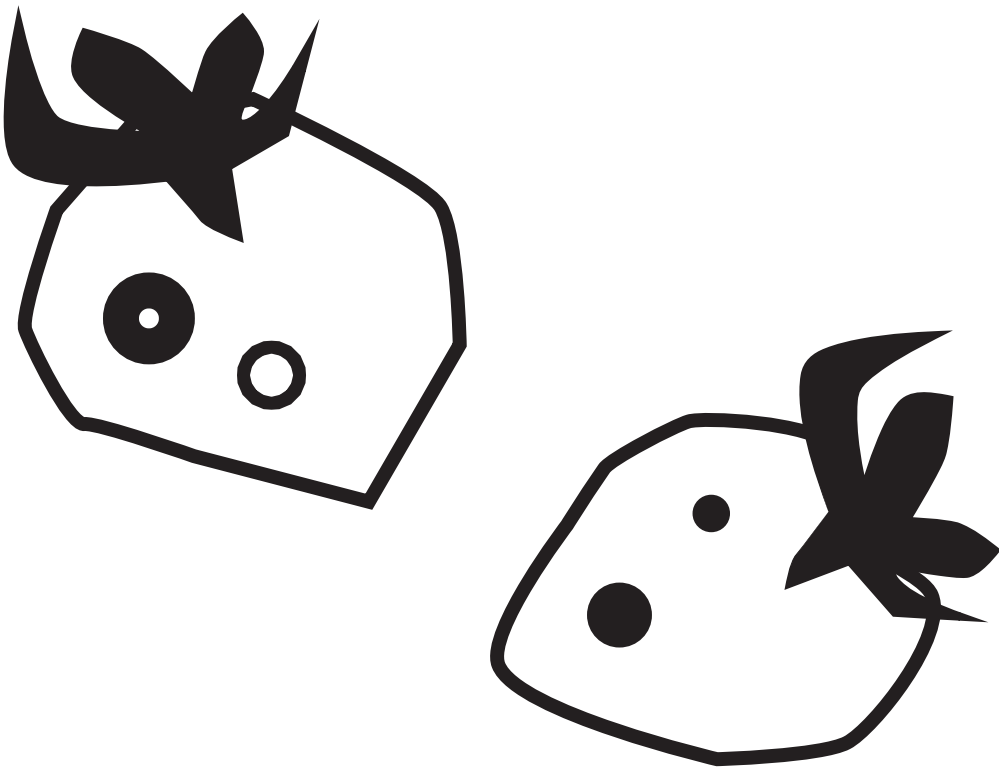


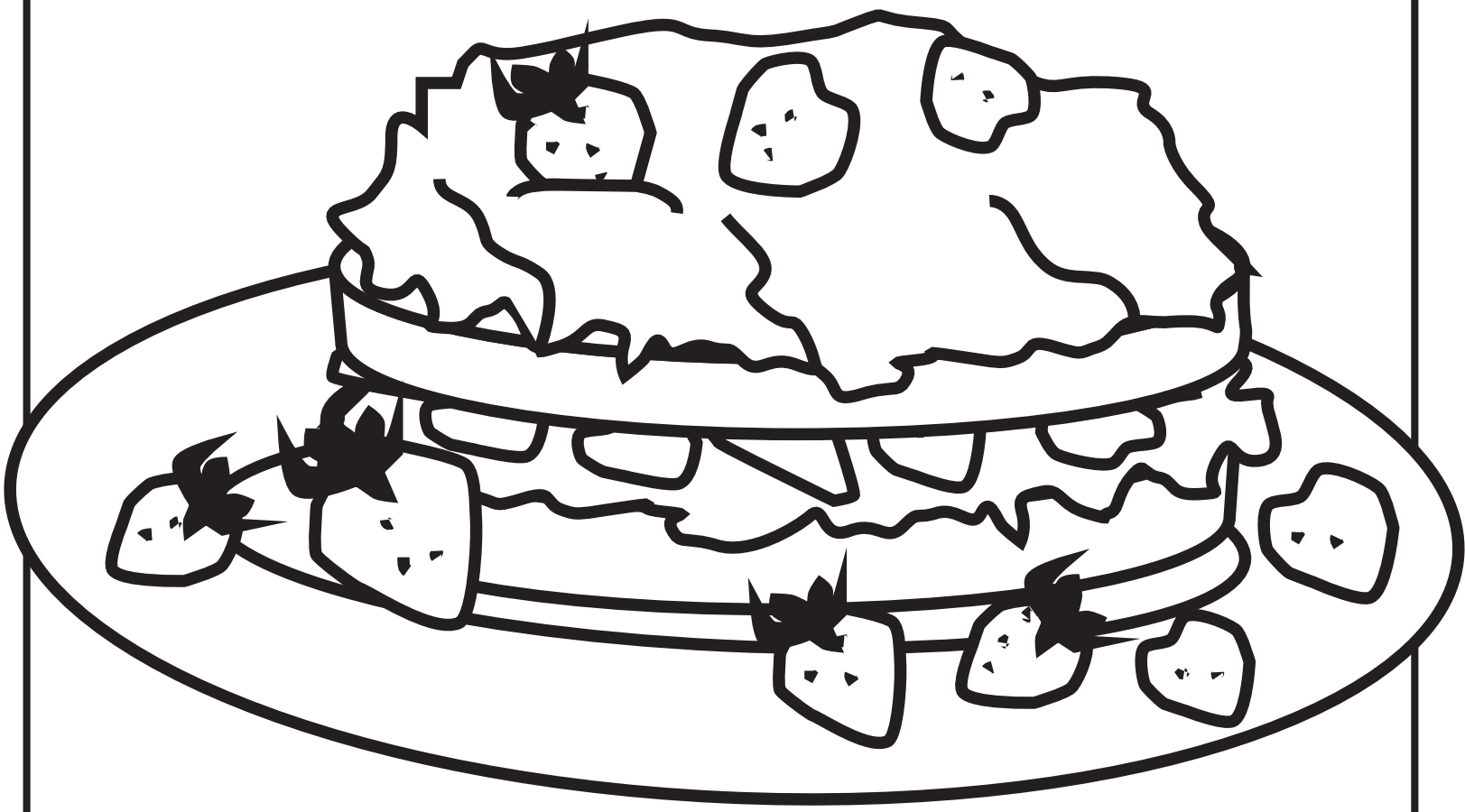


State Dessert

Strawberry Shortcake

The official Florida state dessert is strawberry shortcake with natural Florida dairy topping. This designation was made in 2022, as a tribute to Florida's strawberry farmers, who produce most of the strawberries for the United States during the winter.





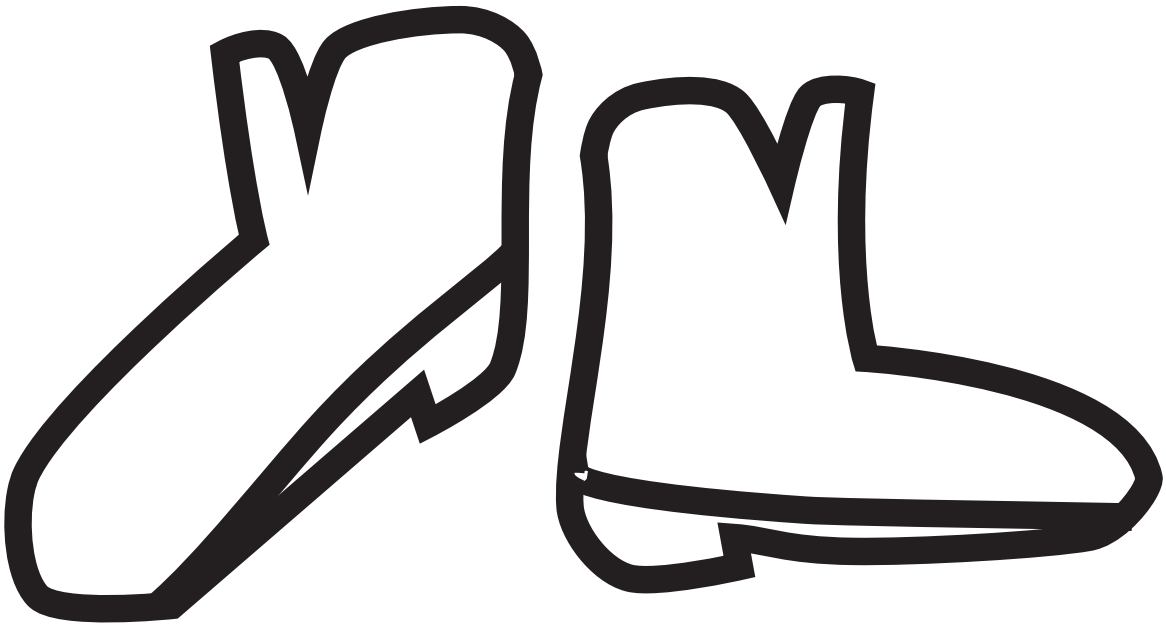
State Cattle

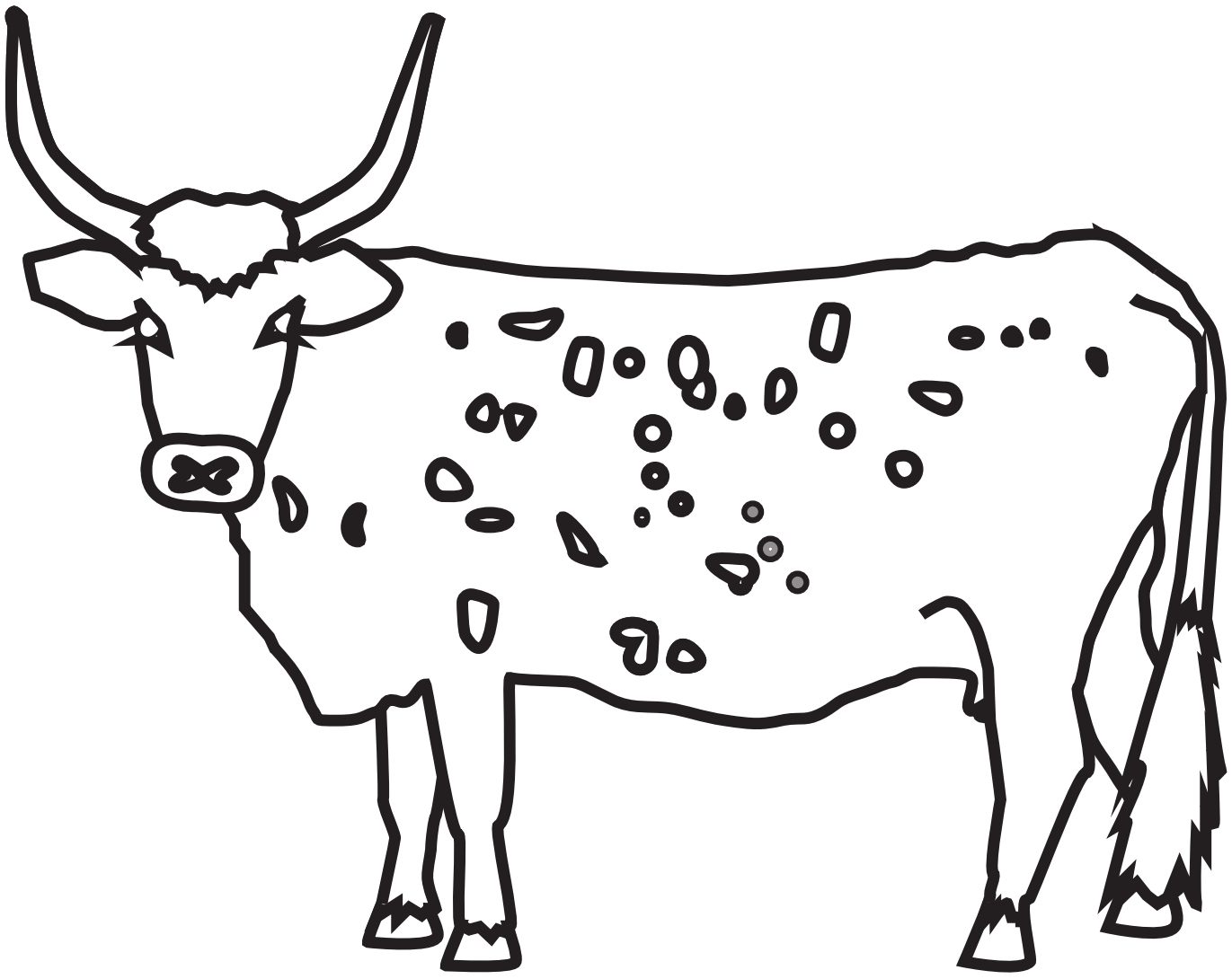
Florida Cracker Cattle (*Bos taurus*)

In 1565, Pedro Menendez De Aviles founded the city of St. Augustine and soon had cattle and horses shipped from Spain to begin producing beef for the garrison. By 1618, Florida's Spanish governors were expanding cattle production on local ranches, and by 1700, there were over 30 privately owned ranches in Florida.

During the War Between the States, Florida was the leading supplier of beef for troops on both sides. Records show that in one 10-year period (1868-1878), 1.6 million head of cattle were loaded on ships bound for Cuba, Nassau and Key West.

In 2018, the Florida Legislature passed a bill to recognize Florida Cracker cattle as the state's heritage cattle breed. This designation highlights the unique qualities of the breed and contributes to its ongoing preservation.



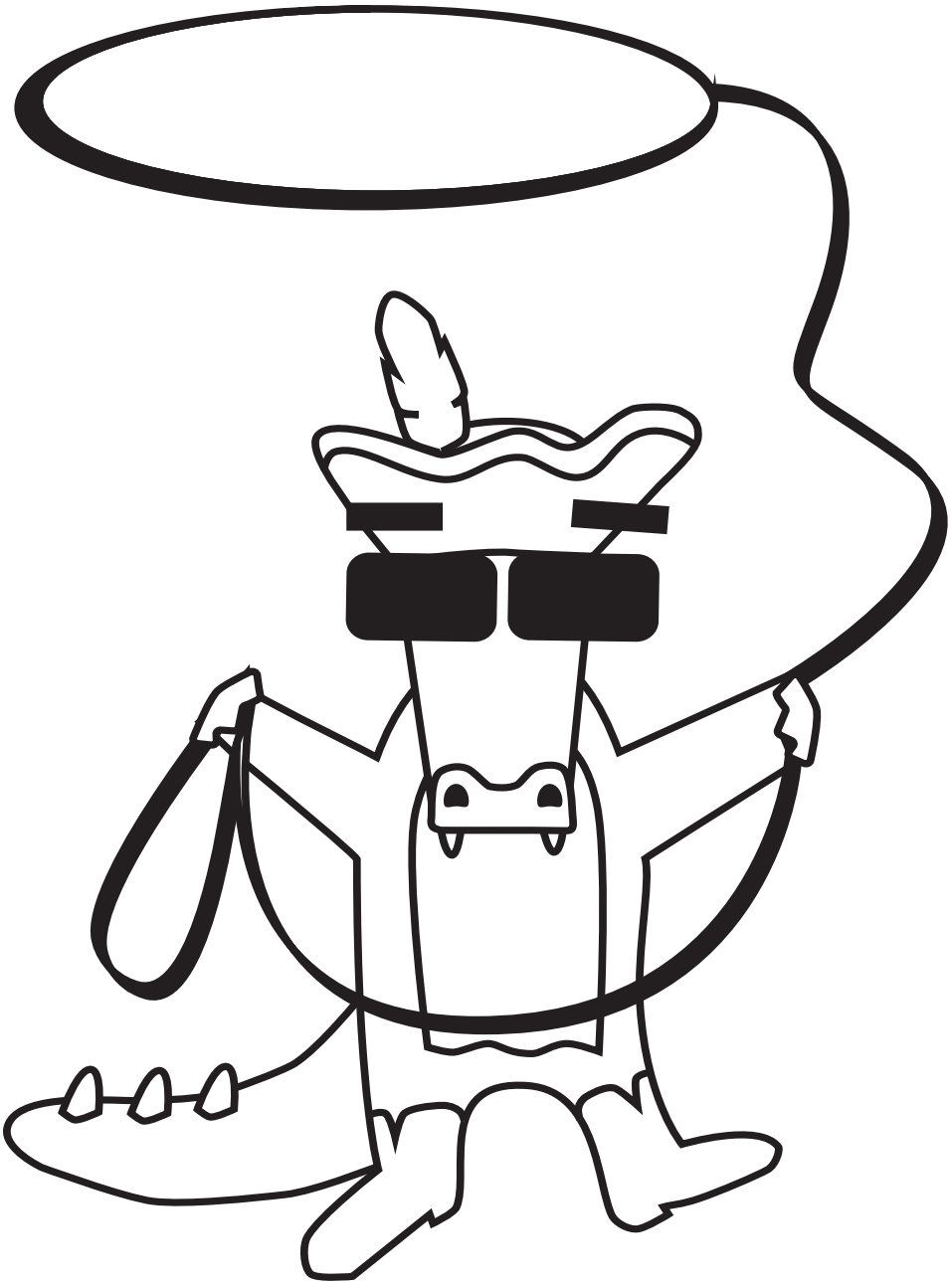


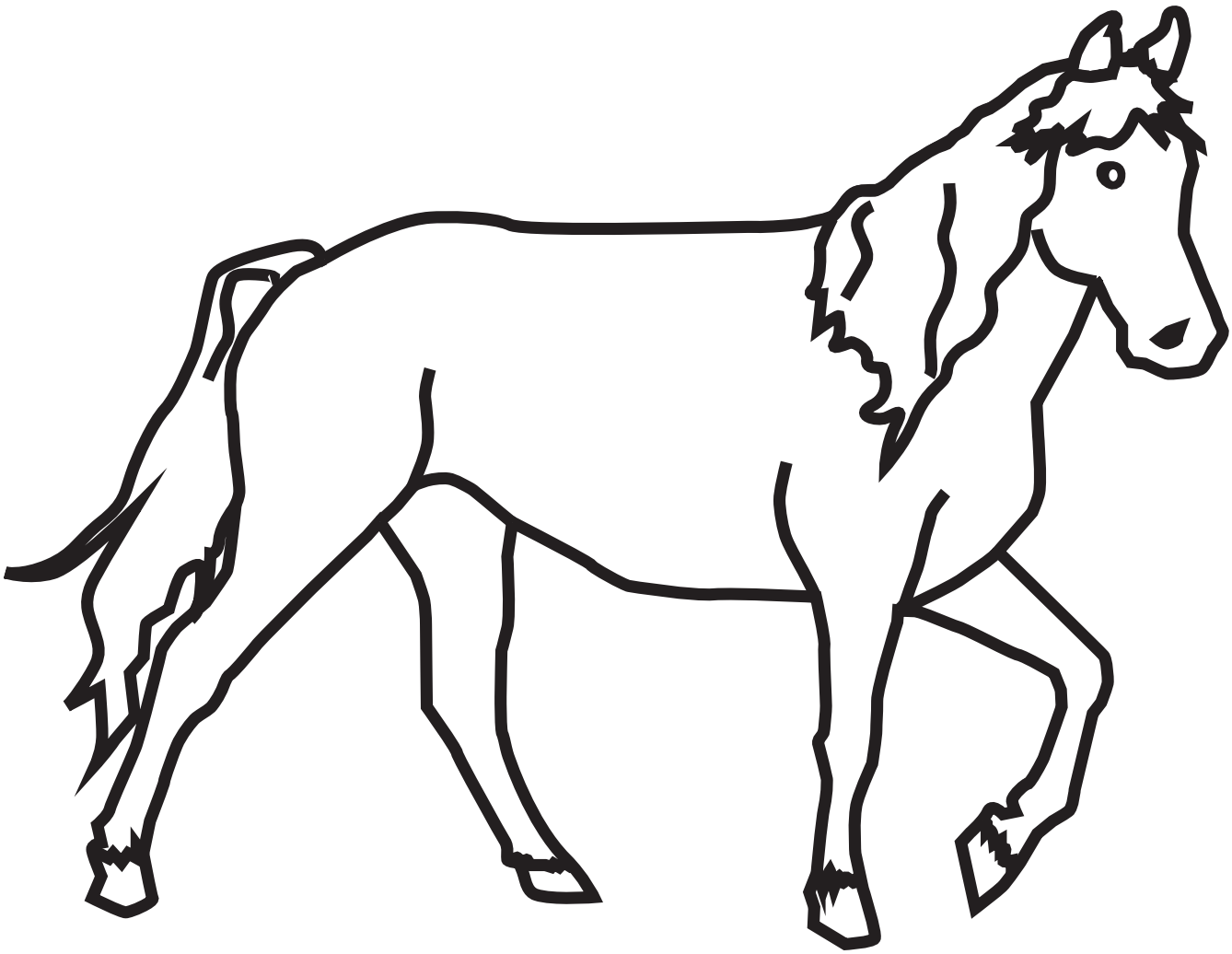
State Horse

Florida Cracker Horse (*Equus caballus*)

The Florida Cracker Horse's ancestry traces back to Spanish horses brought to Florida by explorers like Ponce de Leon.

The Florida Cracker Horse is also known as the Marshtackie, the Chickasaw Pony, Seminole Pony, Prairie Pony, Florida Horse, and/or Florida Cow Pony.





More State Symbols

Here is a list of some of Florida's other state symbols. Draw and color your favorite on the next page.

State Shell - Horse Conch

Horse Conch is native to the marine waters around Florida and can grow to a length of twenty-four inches. It also known as Giant Band Shell and has been Florida's official state shell since 1969. The word "conch" comes from a Greek word meaning "shell."

State Stone - Agatized Coral

Coral is the outside skeleton of tiny ocean animals called polyps, which live in colonies attached to hard underwater surfaces. Agatized coral occurs when silica in the ocean water hardens, replacing the limy corals with a form of quartz known as chalcedony.

State Gem - Moonstone

United States astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin ("Buzz") Aldrin landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, after having launched from Kennedy Space Center in Brevard County. The Florida Legislature sought to memorialize this "giant step" for humankind, and in 1970, the moonstone was adopted as the official state gem.

State Saltwater Reptile - Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Florida designated the loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta) as the official state saltwater reptile in 2008.

State Rodeo - Silver Spurs Rodeo

Florida designated the Silver Spurs Rodeo in Kissimmee (Osceola County), as the official state rodeo in 1994. Silver Spurs Rodeo was founded in 1944, and has since grown to become the largest rodeo east of the Mississippi, bringing tens of thousands of visitors each year.

America250FL is an invitation to every Floridian to commemorate the influential role that Florida played in the rich and unique story of our country.

The United States of America is a nation of freedom and opportunity that our Founders set into motion with the Declaration of Independence. July 4, 2026, marks the 250th (semiquincentennial) anniversary of our nation's founding. Florida's Secretary of State, Cord Byrd, is the chair of America250FL, Florida's Semiquincentennial Commission, and acts as the state's liaison to the national United States Semiquincentennial Commission.

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

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The Florida Department of State
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
dos.fl.gov