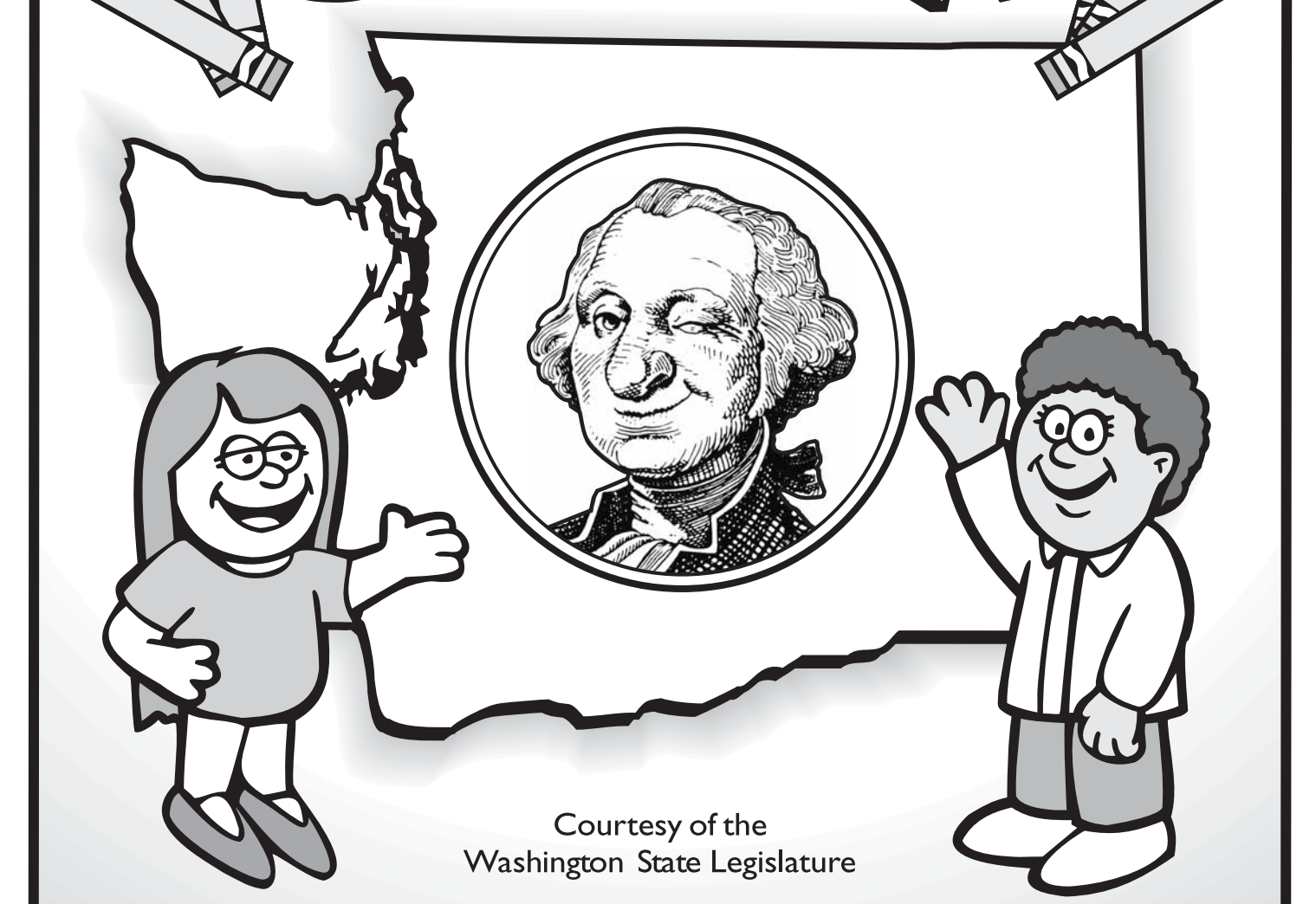
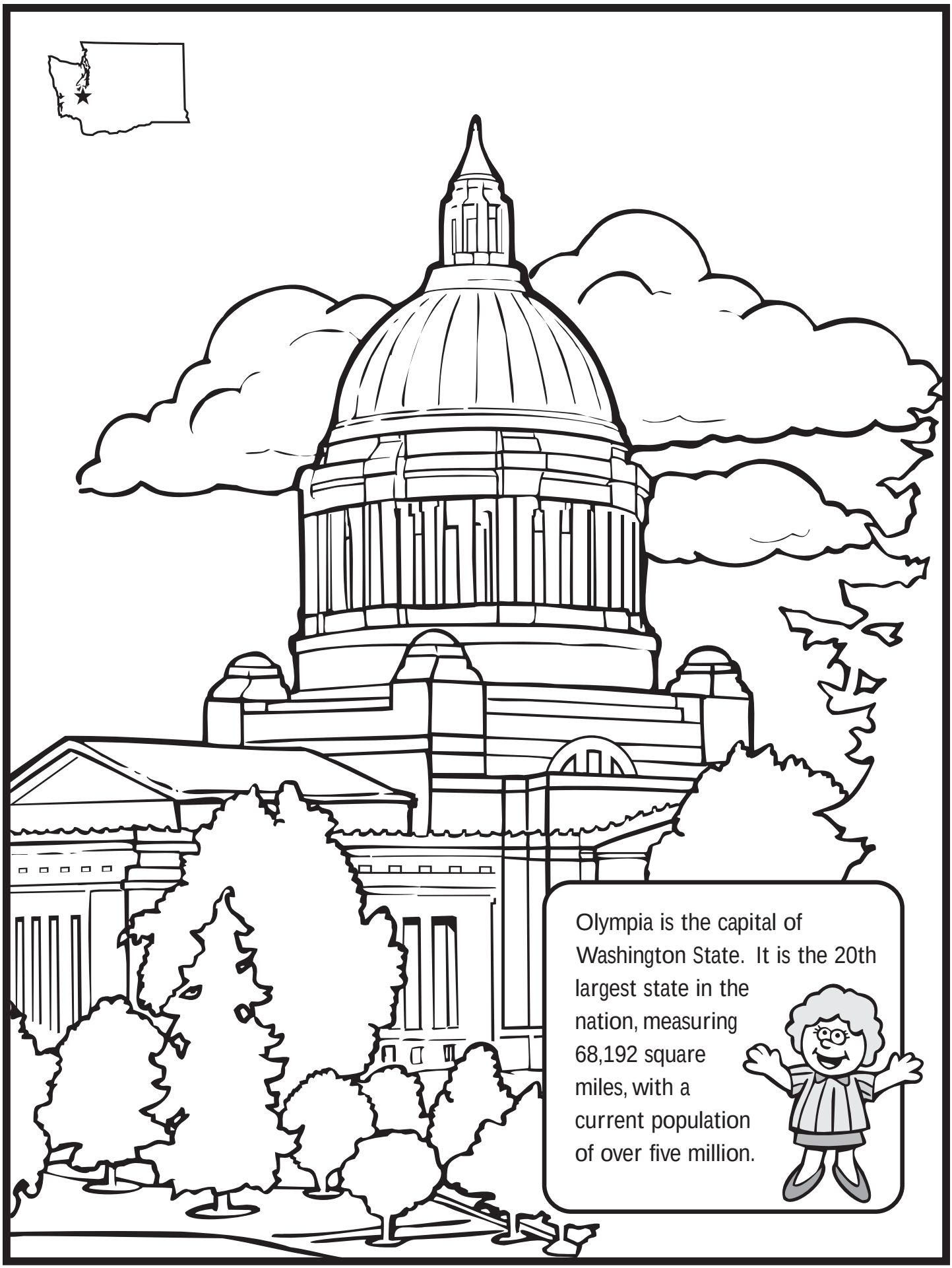
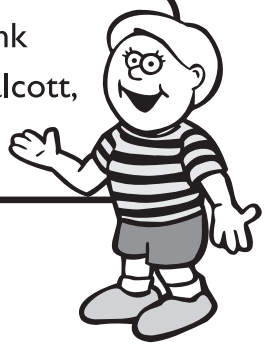
The Washington State COLORING BOOK

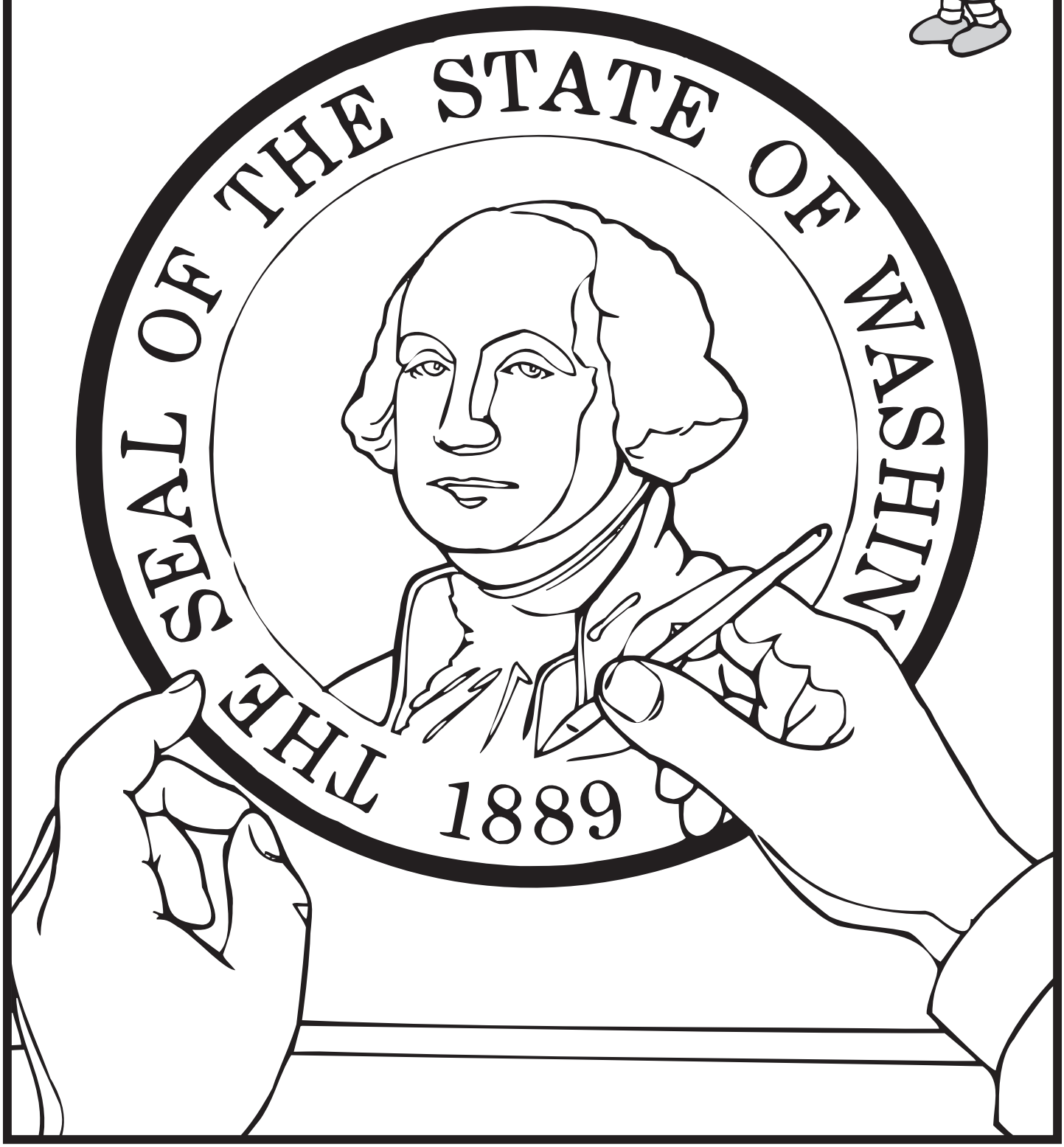


Courtesy of the
Washington State Legislature


Olympia is the capital of Washington State. It is the 20th largest state in the nation, measuring 68,192 square miles, with a current population of over five million.

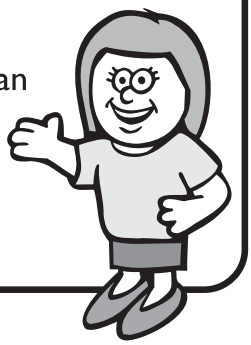
In 1889, jeweler Charles Talcott designed our first state seal using an ink bottle, silver dollar and a postage stamp. His two brothers, L. Grant Talcott, and G.N. Talcott helped letter the words and cut the printing die.

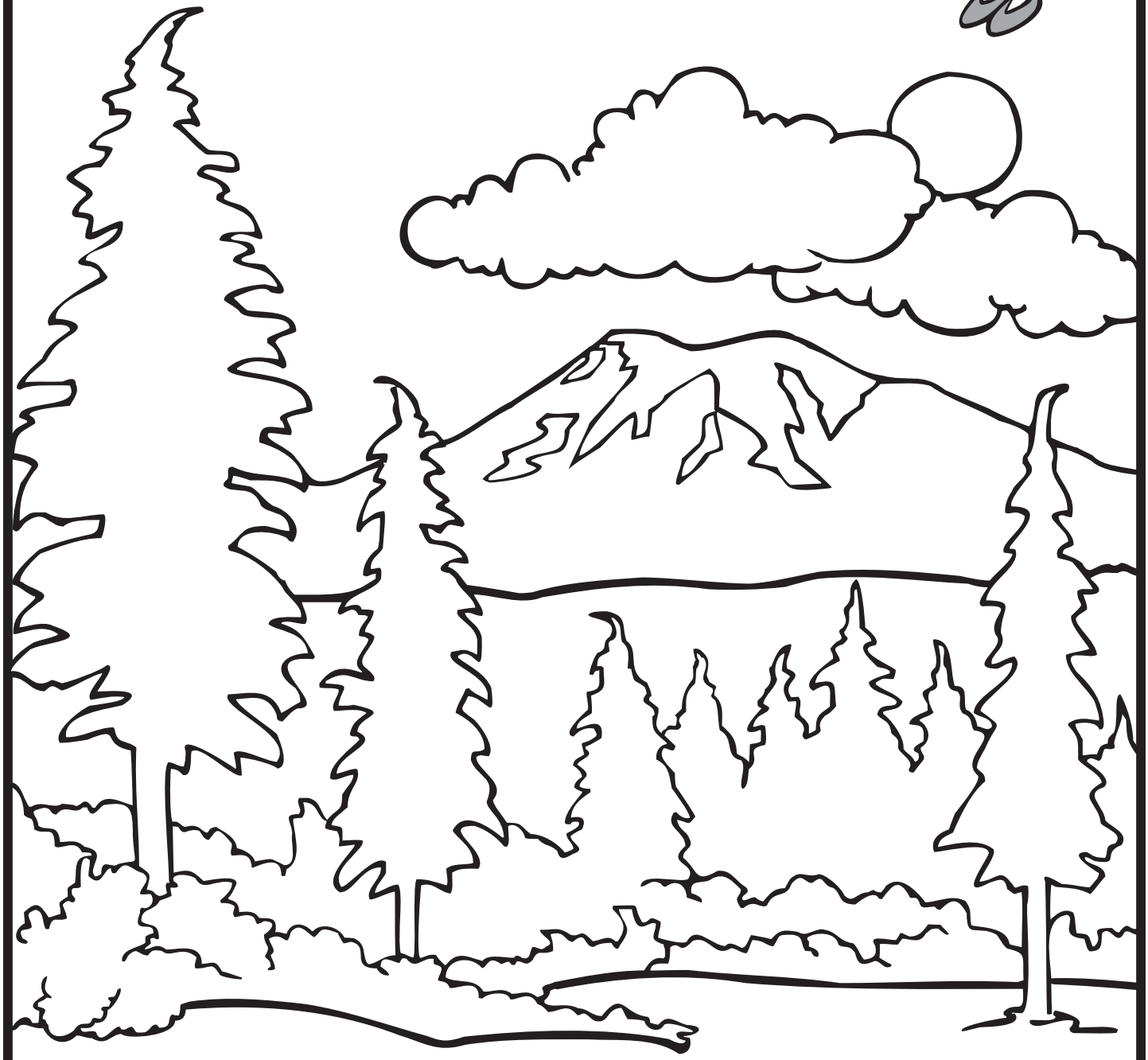


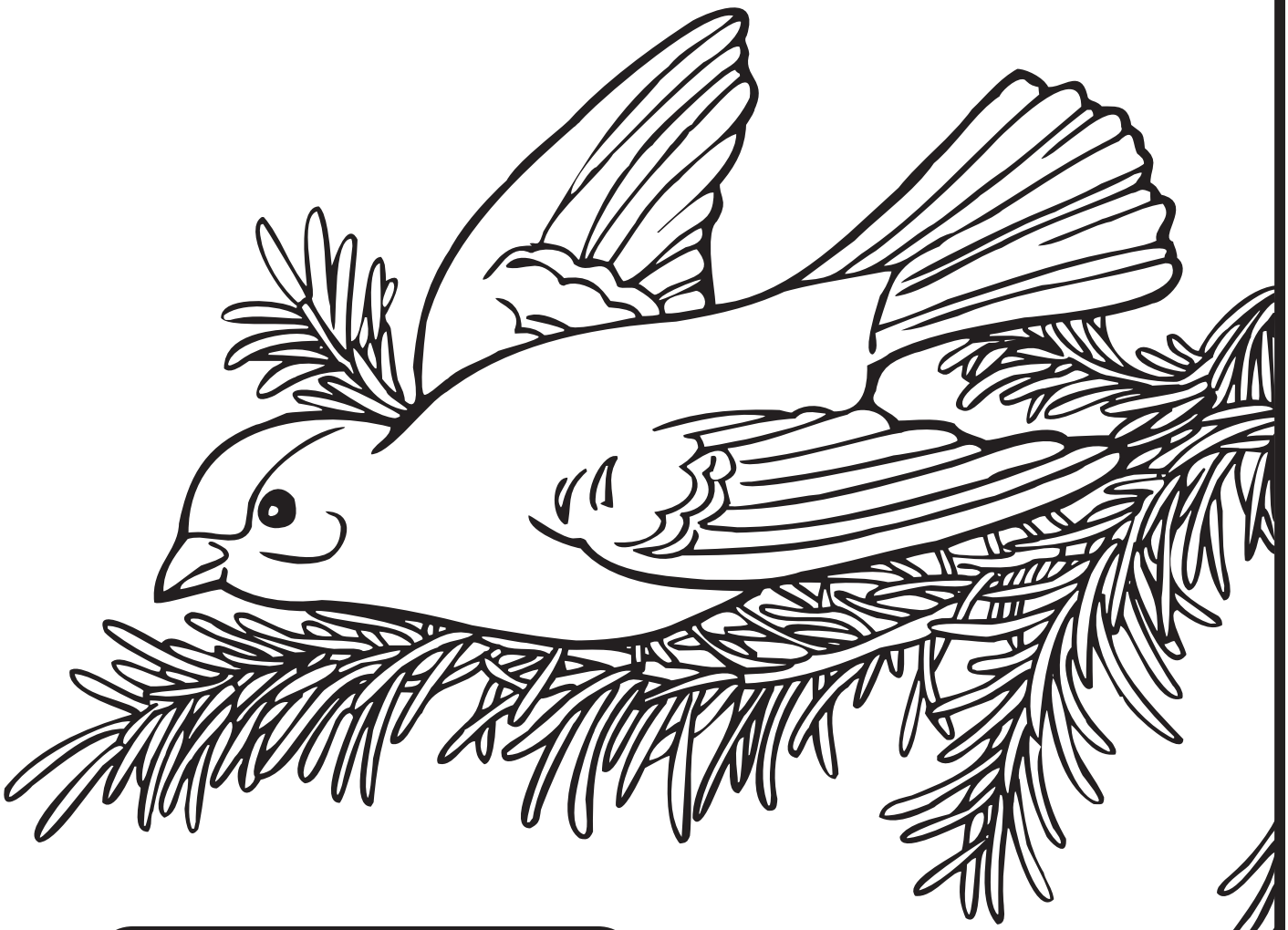


"The Evergreen State" was created as the state nickname by C.T. Conover, a Seatttle pioneer, realtor, and historian who chose the nickname to represent the abundant evergreen forests found in Washington.

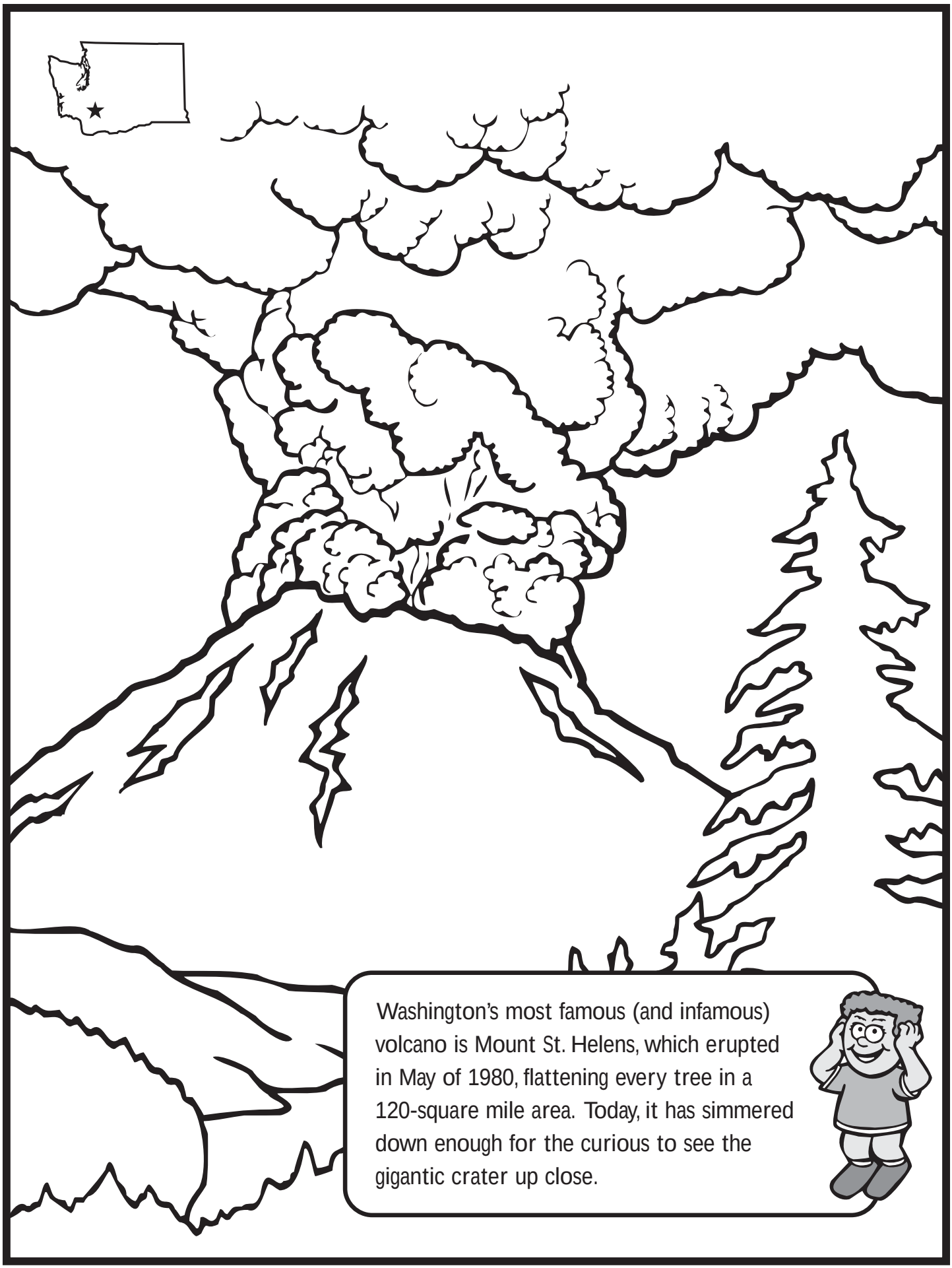
The Western Hemlock was selected as our state tree in 1946 after an Oregon newspaper kidded Washington for lack of a symbol and chose one for us. It was debated in the Legislature before being signed into law by then Governor Mon C. Wallgren.



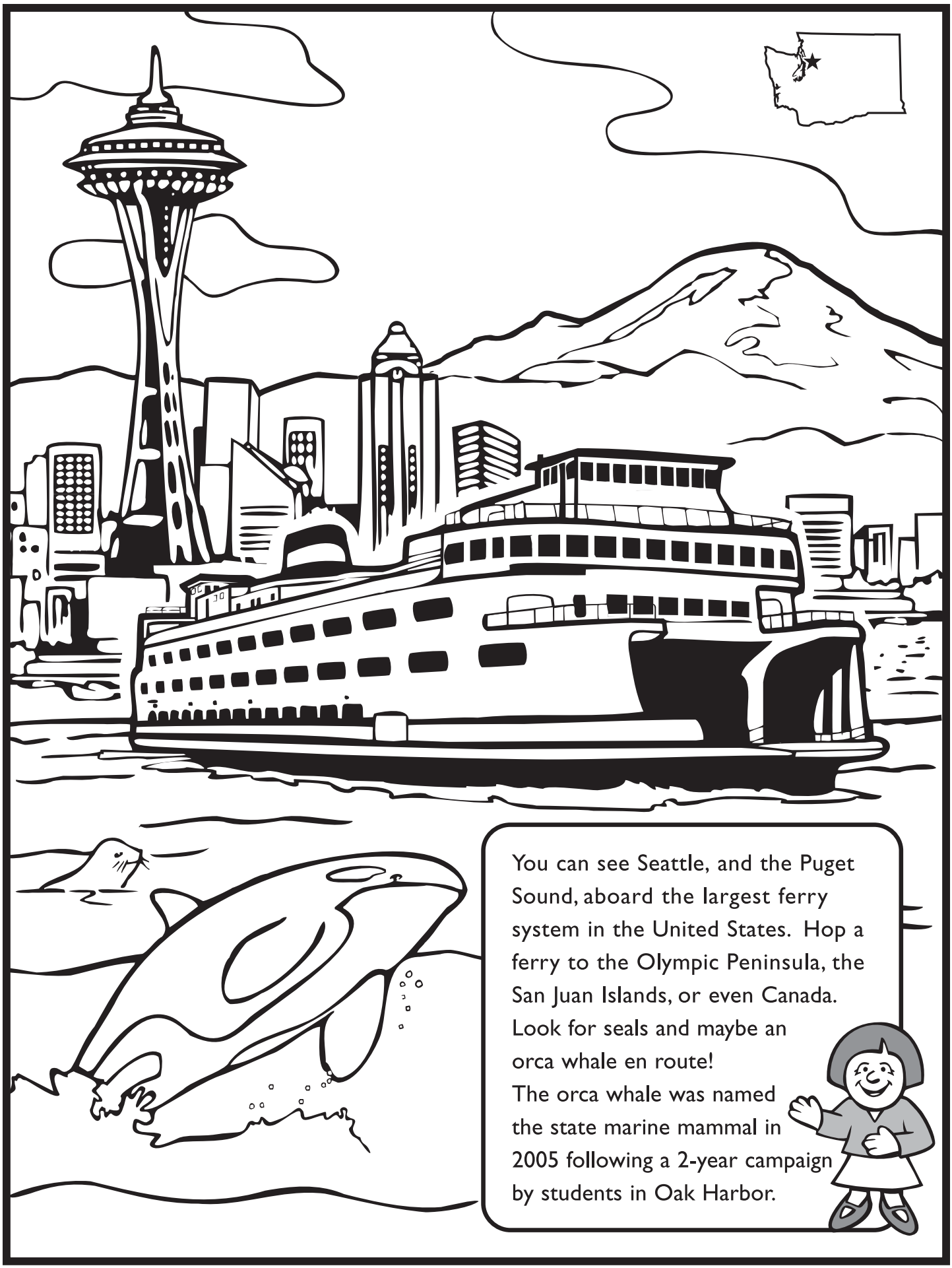




The Willow Goldfinch is the state bird. It is a small, yellow species with black wings, a black patch on its head, and a winning voice. In 1951, legislators called on school children for the second time in 20 years to let them decide by voting between the goldfinch and the meadowlark. The rest is history.



Washington's most famous (and infamous) volcano is Mount St. Helens, which erupted in May of 1980, flattening every tree in a 120-square mile area. Today, it has simmered down enough for the curious to see the gigantic crater up close.



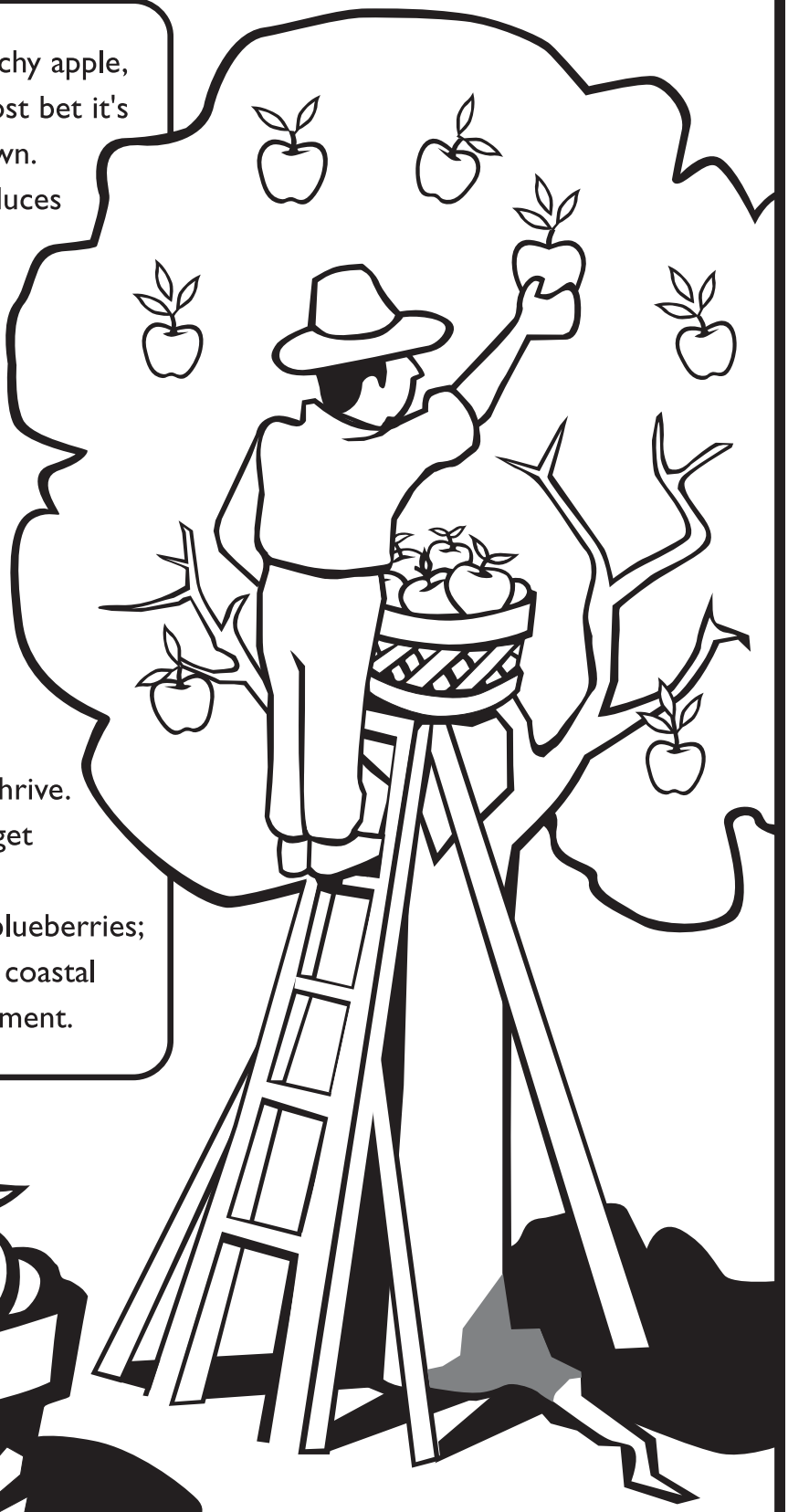
You can see Seattle, and the Puget Sound, aboard the largest ferry system in the United States. Hop a ferry to the Olympic Peninsula, the San Juan Islands, or even Canada. Look for seals and maybe an orca whale en route!

The orca whale was named the state marine mammal in 2005 following a 2-year campaign by students in Oak Harbor.

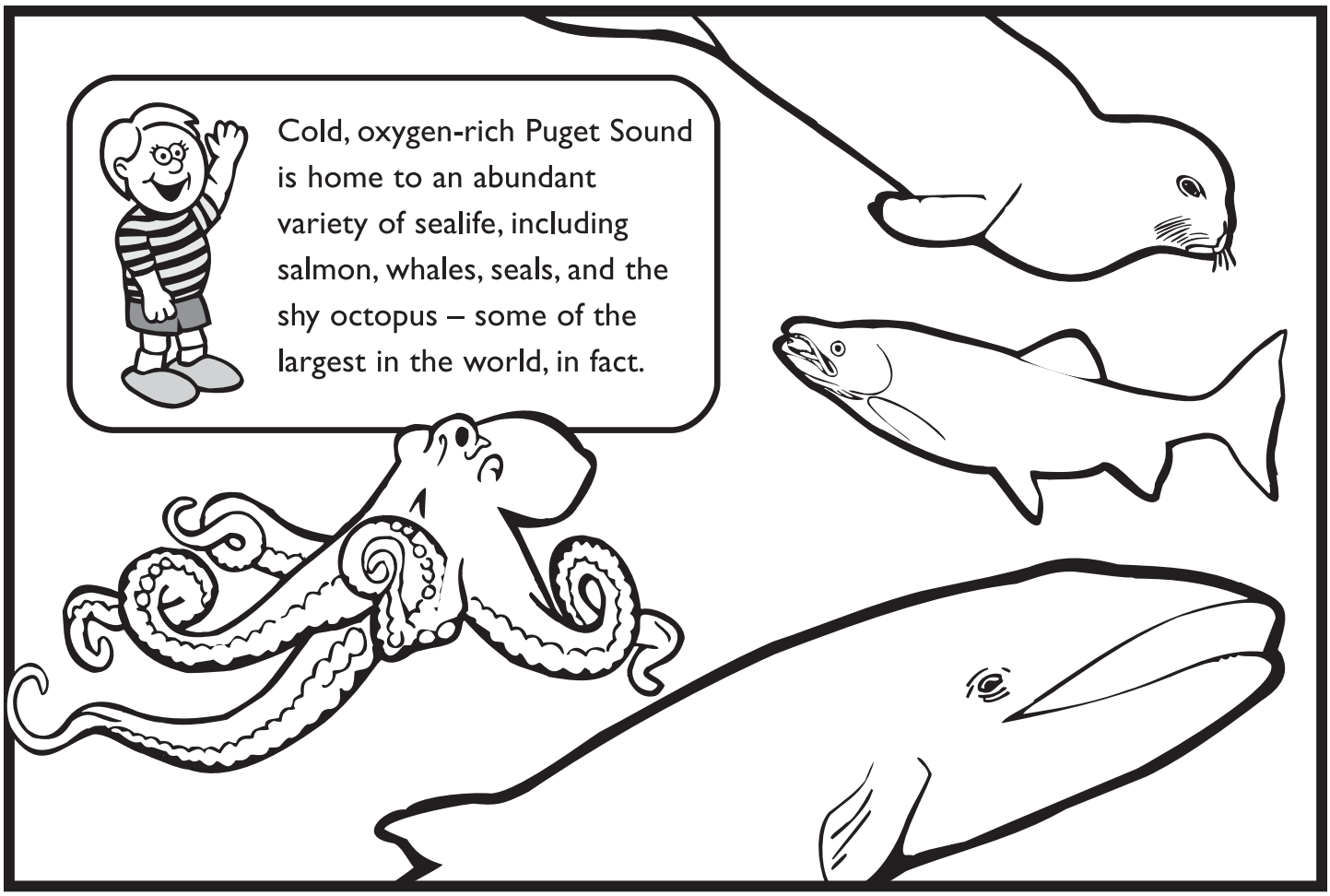
Square dancing became the official Washington State dance on April 17, 1979. Square dancing is fun, easy to learn, and a good form of exercise.

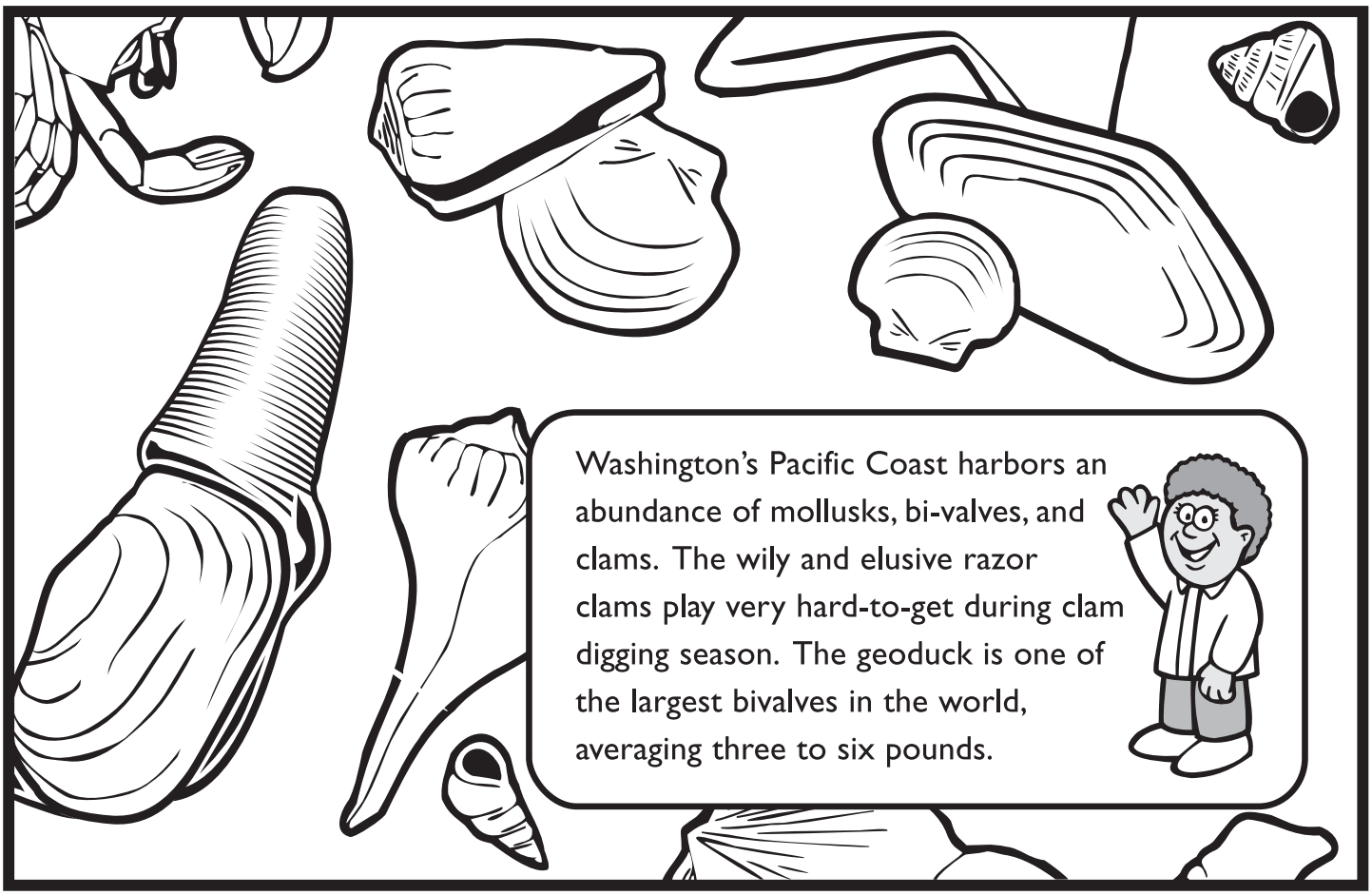
The Coast Rhododendron is the state flower. It can be pink, yellow, white, red or purple in color. Also known as the “Rhodie,” this floral species was chosen in a vote by state women in 1893 over the clover plant.

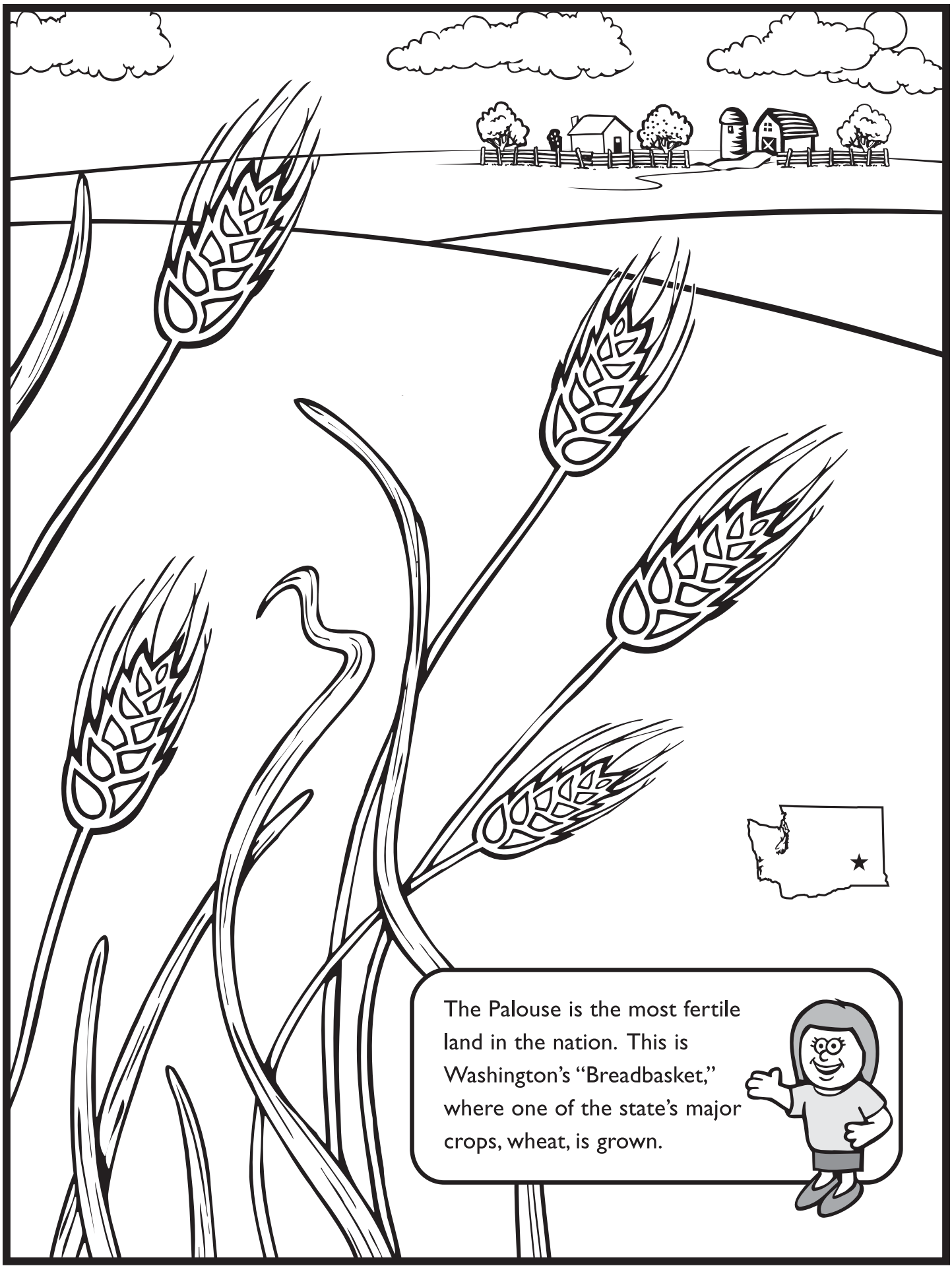
Bite into a tasty, crunchy apple, and you can almost bet it's Washington-grown. Washington produces 6 of every 10 apples eaten in the U.S. and supplies markets around the world. It's no wonder that in 1989 the apple was designated the state fruit. The weather East of the Cascades provides the ideal mix of warm sunny days, cool crisp nights, and nutrient-rich soil which makes apples, cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, prunes and plums thrive. The long, moist days in the Puget Sound region are perfect for strawberries, raspberries and blueberries; and cranberries flourish in the coastal breezes of our marine environment.

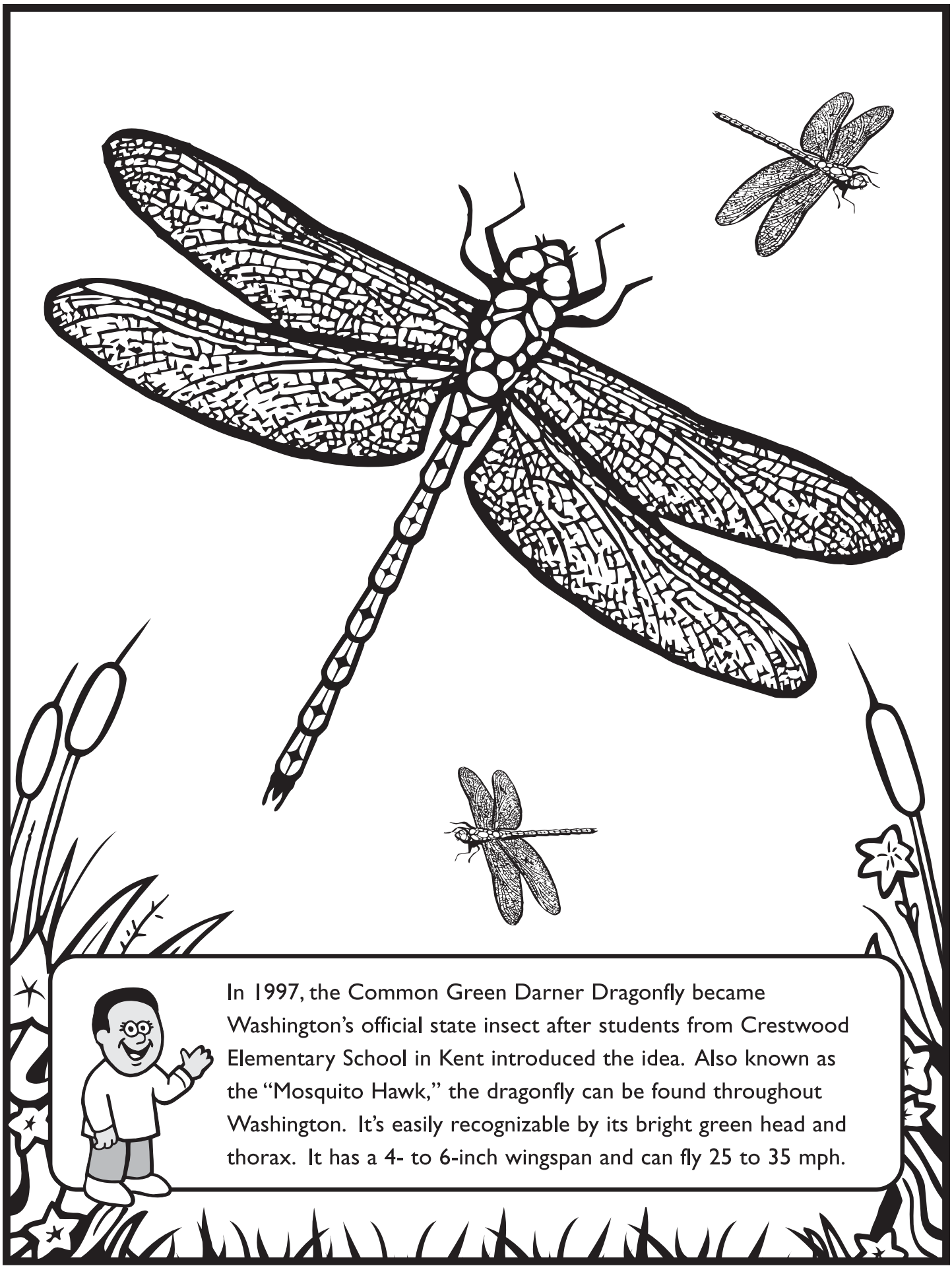


Washington's state fossil is the Columbian Mammoth. Students from Windsor Elementary School near Cheney led a four-year effort to have this behemoth designated as a state symbol in 1998. The Columbian Mammoths died out about 10,000 years ago. Several years ago, fossils of these mammoths were found on the Olympic Peninsula.


Cold, oxygen-rich Puget Sound is home to an abundant variety of sealife, including salmon, whales, seals, and the shy octopus – some of the largest in the world, in fact.

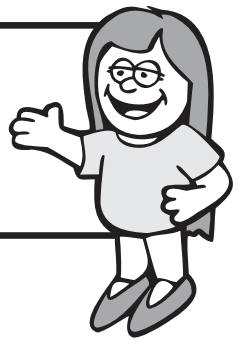

Washington's Pacific Coast harbors an abundance of mollusks, bi-valves, and clams. The wily and elusive razor clams play very hard-to-get during clam digging season. The geoduck is one of the largest bivalves in the world, averaging three to six pounds.

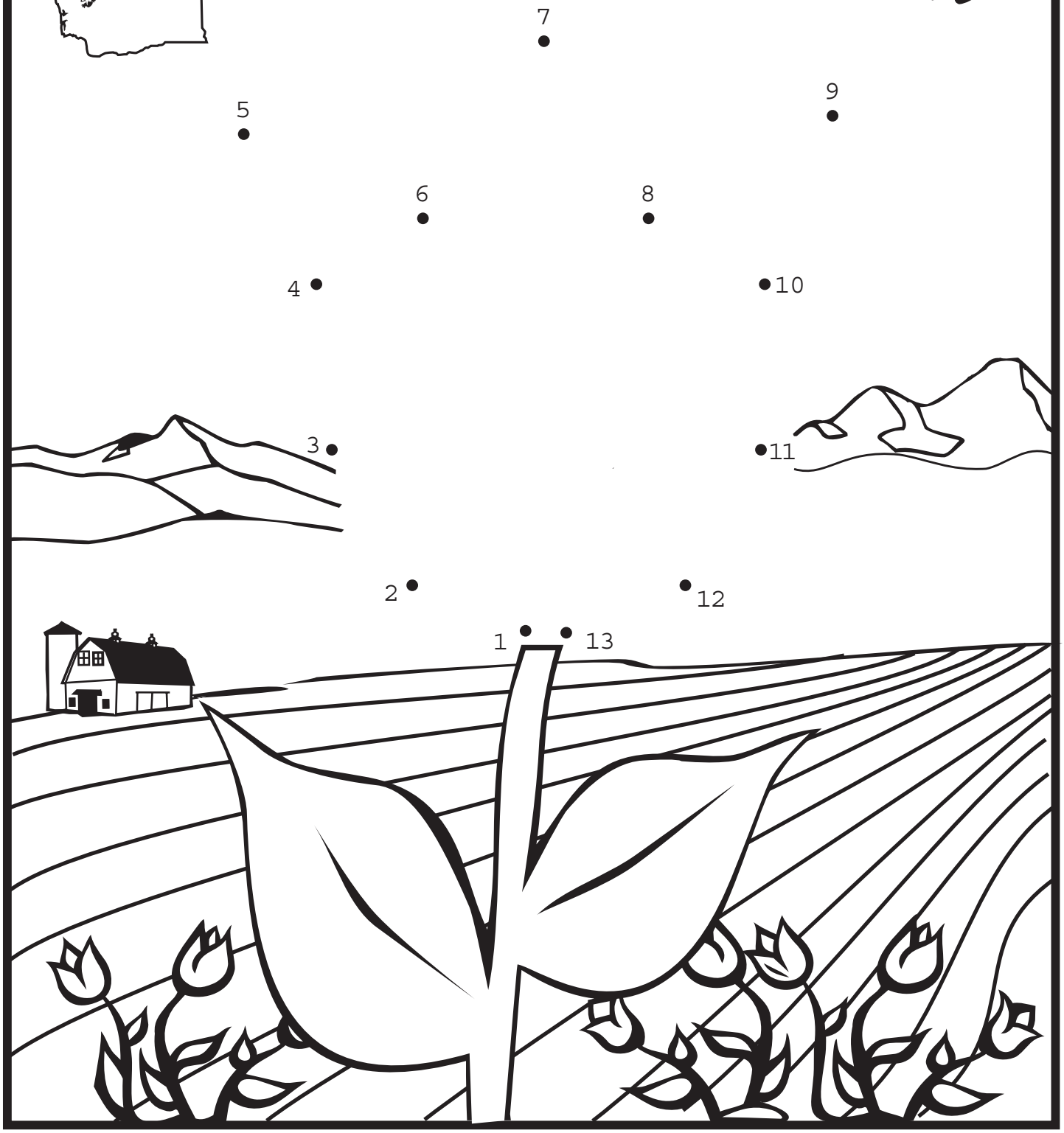

The Palouse is the most fertile land in the nation. This is Washington's "Breadbasket," where one of the state's major crops, wheat, is grown.

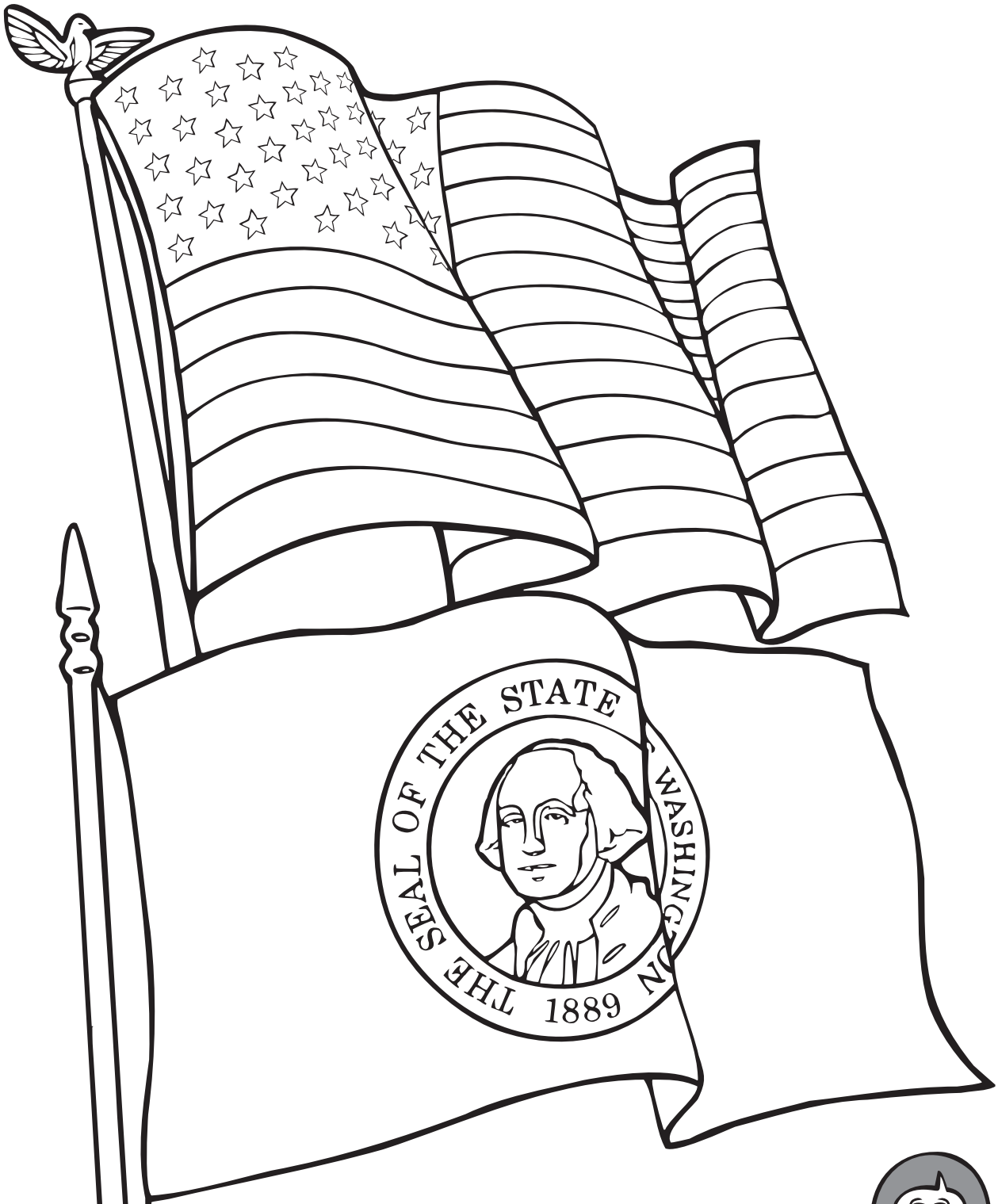


In 1997, the Common Green Darner Dragonfly became Washington's official state insect after students from Crestwood Elementary School in Kent introduced the idea. Also known as the "Mosquito Hawk," the dragonfly can be found throughout Washington. It's easily recognizable by its bright green head and thorax. It has a 4- to 6-inch wingspan and can fly 25 to 35 mph.

Where is the world's largest bulb producer? Not Holland, but the Washington State Skagit Valley. Visit in the spring for a dazzling view of the valley in bloom. Draw a line dot-to-dot to create your own bloom.







The state flag and the state seal are almost the same. The dark green flag with the state seal in the middle was adopted in 1923.

Recycled