

# River Bluffs Scenic Byway Activity Book



This book includes road games, maps,  
coloring pages and much more!



# Acknowledgements

The creation, funding and distribution of the River Bluffs Scenic Byway activity book is the product of the many individuals and organizations below:

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# About this Activity Book

Welcome to the River Bluffs Scenic Byway! This activity book has been created to help you gain an understanding of what a byway is and the experiences you will likely gain from driving the River Bluffs Scenic Byway. Each page within this book represents an activity, place or unique feature found along this scenic path. While driving this route, you will have an opportunity to learn about the history and culture of the region, explore the areas unique landscape, and identify fun and interesting things to see and do! After all, a scenic byway is a road, but not just any road. It's a road with a story to tell.

## What is a Byway?

A byway is a set of roads that tell the story of their area's cultural, archaeological, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities in a compelling and extraordinary way. They are roads that serve as gateways to adventures where no two experiences are the same.

## Route Description

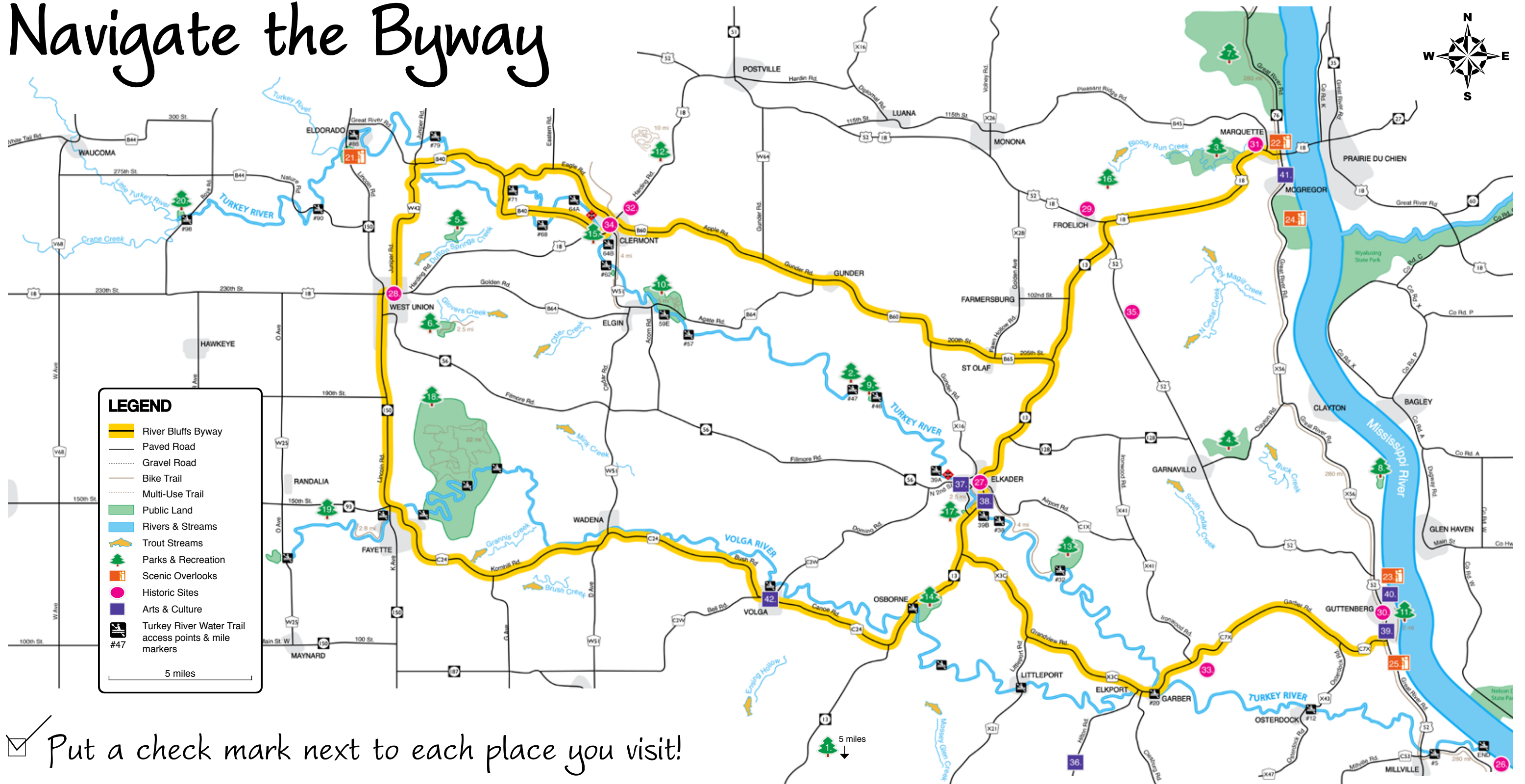
The River Bluffs Scenic Byway is a 109-mile driving route that takes travelers through 13 communities; with hiking and walking trails, recreational parks and rivers, wildlife management areas and historically significant places. The route takes about 4 hours to travel and winds through Clayton and Fayette Counties in northeast Iowa.

## Iowa's Byways

If you enjoy your drive, make visiting a different byway in Iowa part of your next road trip. Iowa's scenic byways are a system of nine state and two nationally designated routes that offer outstanding beauty. All of Iowa's Byways are clearly marked with colorful signs and are indicated with dotted lines in the official Iowa highway map. To learn more about each byway, visit [www.iowabyways.org](http://www.iowabyways.org).



# Navigate the Byway



✓ Put a check mark next to each place you visit!

- |  |  |   |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Backbone State Park & Campground    | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Frenchtown County Park & Campground     | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Skip-A-Way Resort                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Marquette Observation Deck        | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Froelich Tractor Museum  | <input type="checkbox"/> 36 Amish Wood Community         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Big Springs Fish Hatchery           | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Frieden's County Park & Campground      | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Spook Cave & Campground           | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Guttenberg North Overlook         | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Lock & Dam 10            | <input type="checkbox"/> 37 Elkader Opera House          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Bloody Run County Park & Campground | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Gilbertson Nature Center & Corn Maze   | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Turkey River County Park          | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Pikes Peak State Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Marquette Depot Museum   | <input type="checkbox"/> 38 George Maier Heritage Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Buck Creek County Park & Campground | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Guttenberg Fish Aquarium & Hatchery    | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Volga River State Recreation Area | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Guttenberg South Overlook         | <input type="checkbox"/> 32 Montauk Historic Mansion | <input type="checkbox"/> 39 Guttenberg Creativity Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Dutton's Cave Park & Campground     | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Heritage Farm Park & Campground        | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Wildwood Nature Center            | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Cassville Ferry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 33 Plagman's Barn           | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 Lockmaster's Heritage Museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Echo Valley State Park & Campground | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Motor Mill Historic Site & County Park | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Gouldsburg County Park            | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Carter House Museum               | <input type="checkbox"/> 34 Reigel Blacksmith Shop   | <input type="checkbox"/> 41 McGregor Center for the Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Effigy Mounds National Monument     | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Osborne Welcome Center                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Goeken County Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Fayette County Historical Society | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 Sherman Swift Tower      | <input type="checkbox"/> 42 Volga Opera House            |



# What Can I See and Do?

Unscramble each of the words below to reveal a variety of things to see and do along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway. Once the words are unscrambled, copy the letters in the numbered boxes to the boxes with the same number at the bottom of the page to decode the secret message.

HIEK

HIKE

KIBE

ANCEO

HFSI

SIWM

BCREHSAOK REDI

KYAKA

PAMC

DIBRWCTHA

POSH

TUHN

SGHSEEIT

ETBU

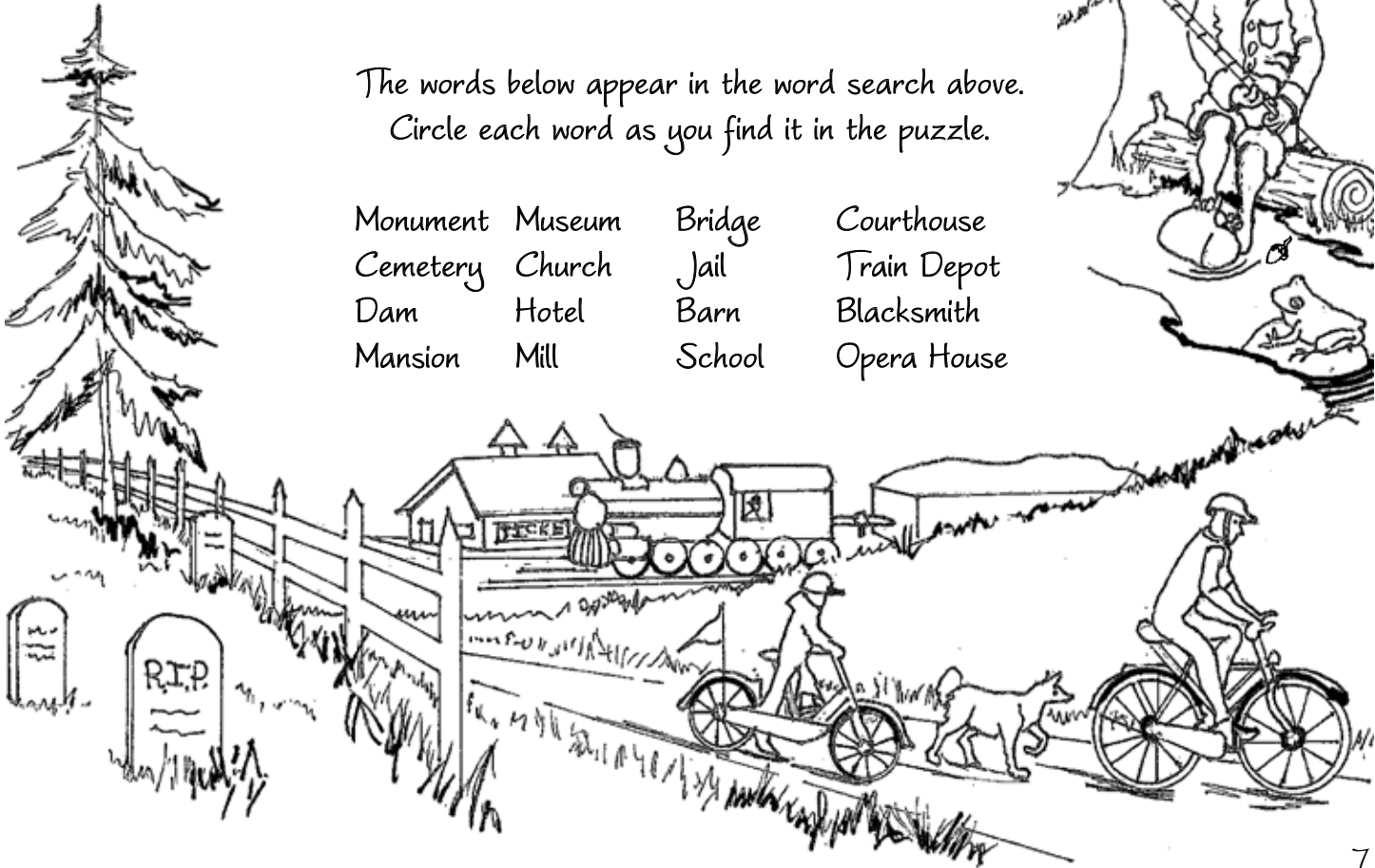

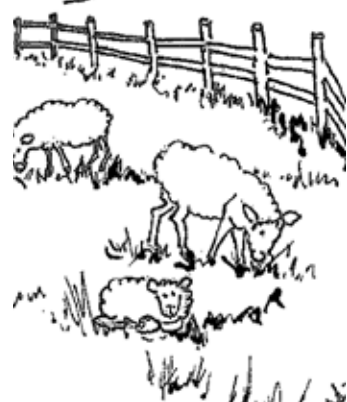

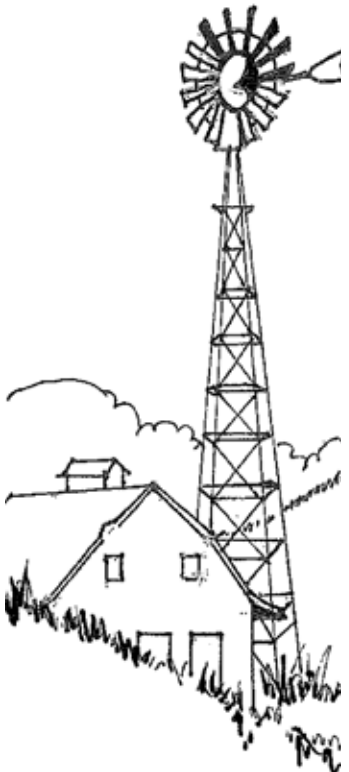
FOGL

GEACEOHC

Decode the Secret Message Below:

# Identify Historic Places

There are many historical sites worth exploring along the byway. Watch for old buildings, structures, objects and sites that offer a glimpse of the past



Y X O Y A M I H D H Y T

N R M P U R O N T Q R B

C A E E E T Y I R A E R

D H S T E R M L I A J I

T U U L E S A N K V B D

M B S R K M D H B P N G

S E R C C E E Y O P O E

B L A T P H Z C W U I E

S L C O U R T H O U S E

B I T N E M U N O M N E

J M H Q S C H O O L A J

J K C V Q A M M S W M S

The words below appear in the word search above.

Circle each word as you find it in the puzzle.

Monument

Museum

Bridge

Courthouse

Cemetery

Church

Jail

Train Depot

Dam

Hotel

Barn

Blacksmith

Mansion

Mill

School

Opera House



# Spot the Raptor Birds



Red Tailed Hawk

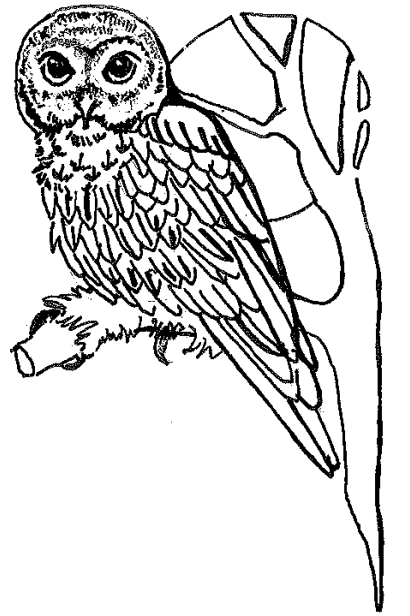
Birds of prey found along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway include several hawks, eagles, vultures, falcons and owls. These birds are known as raptors, as they primarily hunt and feed on animals, other birds and small insects.

Red Shouldered Hawk



Barred Owl

"Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all," says the barred owl. Owls hunt at night using their binocular vision and hearing to catch their prey.



## Beaks and Talons

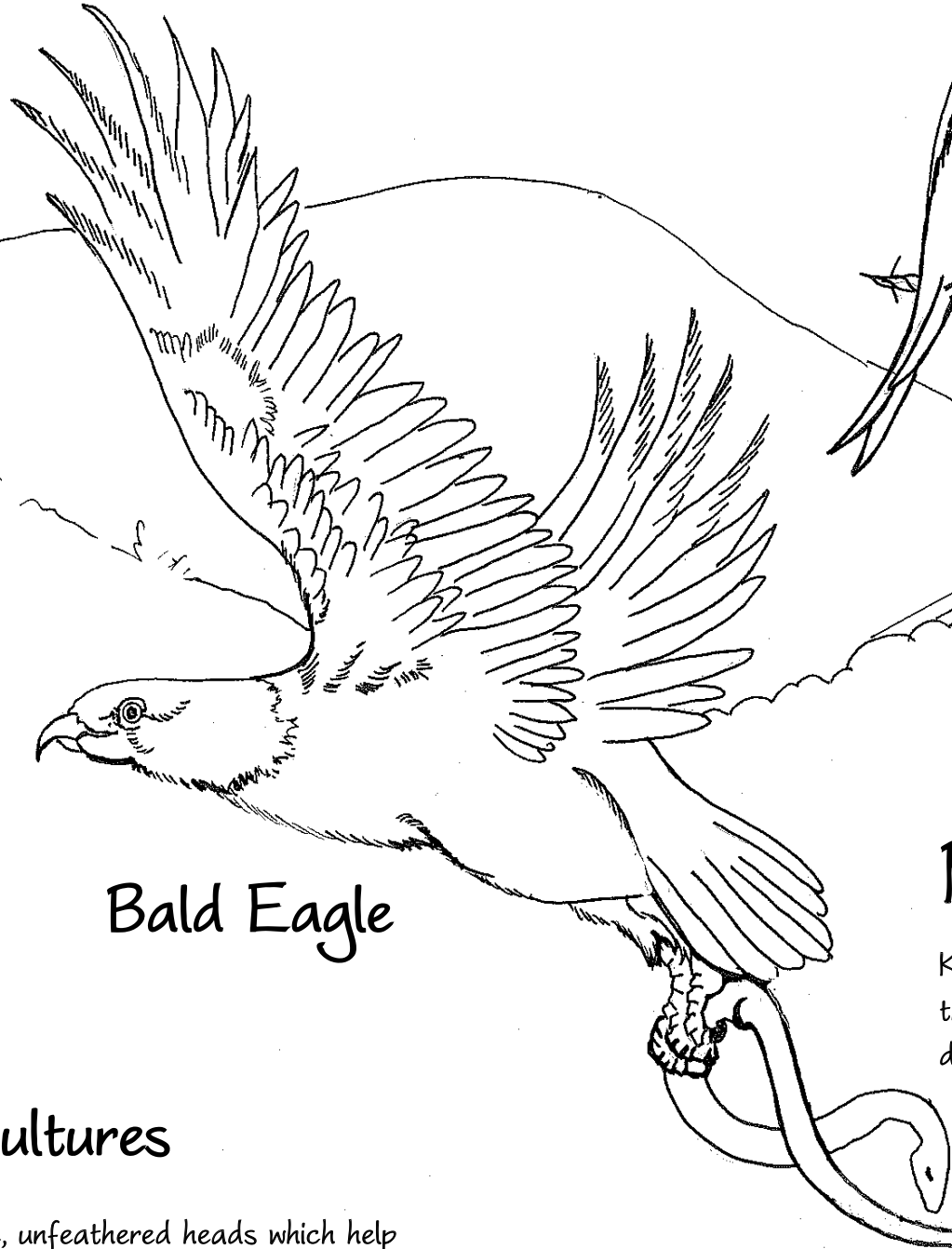
All raptors have the same beak design, curved at the tip with sharp cutting edges. Their talons are perfectly designed to catch, hold and carry prey.



Turkey Vultures

Vultures have bare, unfeathered heads which help reduce infection when feeding on rotten meat. Vultures wings make a V formation when flying.

Bald Eagle

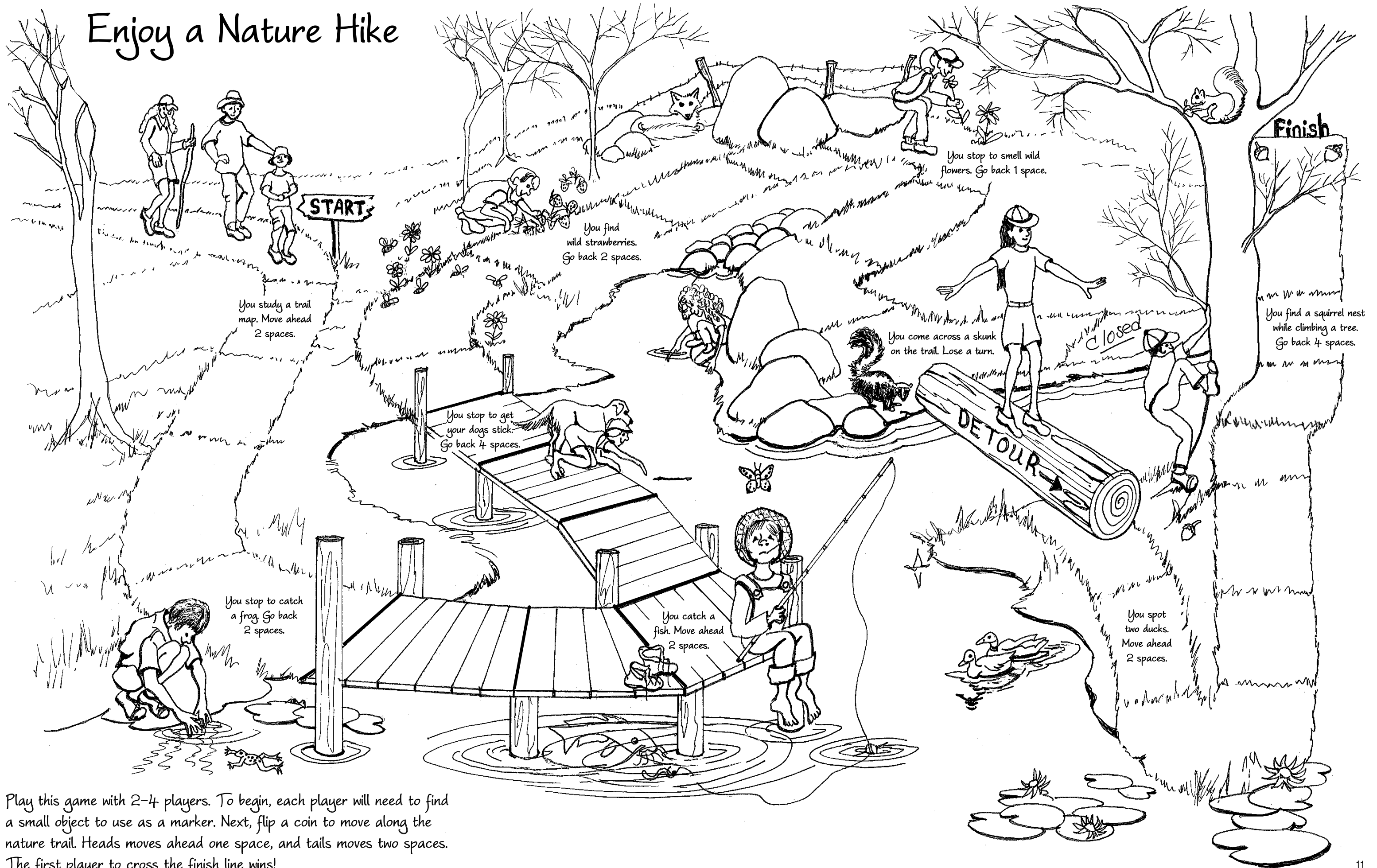


Peregrine Falcon

Known as the "duck hawk," the peregrine falcon is the fastest animal ever to live on earth and can dive at a speed of 150 mph.



# Enjoy a Nature Hike

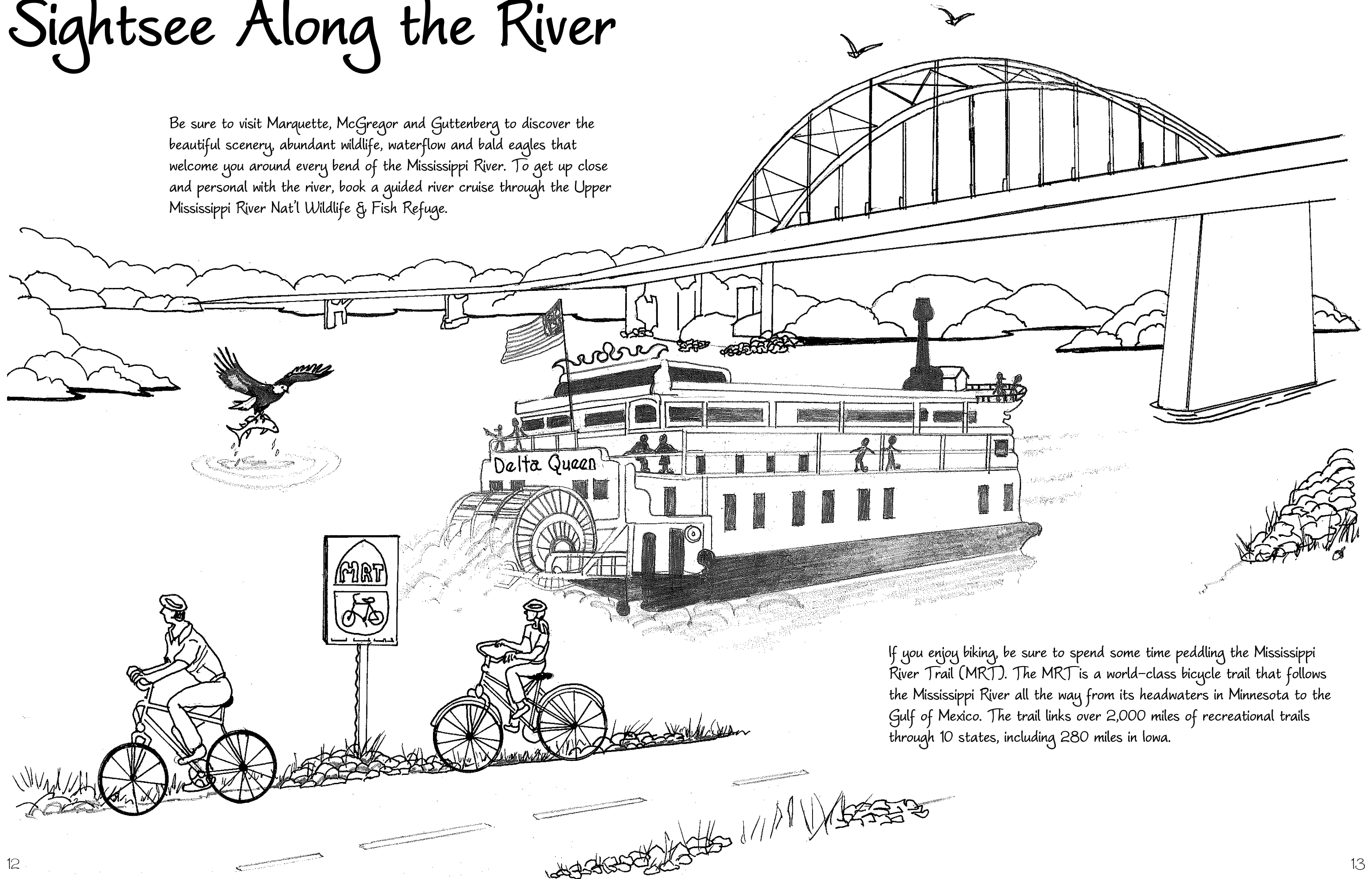


Play this game with 2-4 players. To begin, each player will need to find a small object to use as a marker. Next, flip a coin to move along the nature trail. Heads moves ahead one space, and tails moves two spaces. The first player to cross the finish line wins!



# Sightsee Along the River

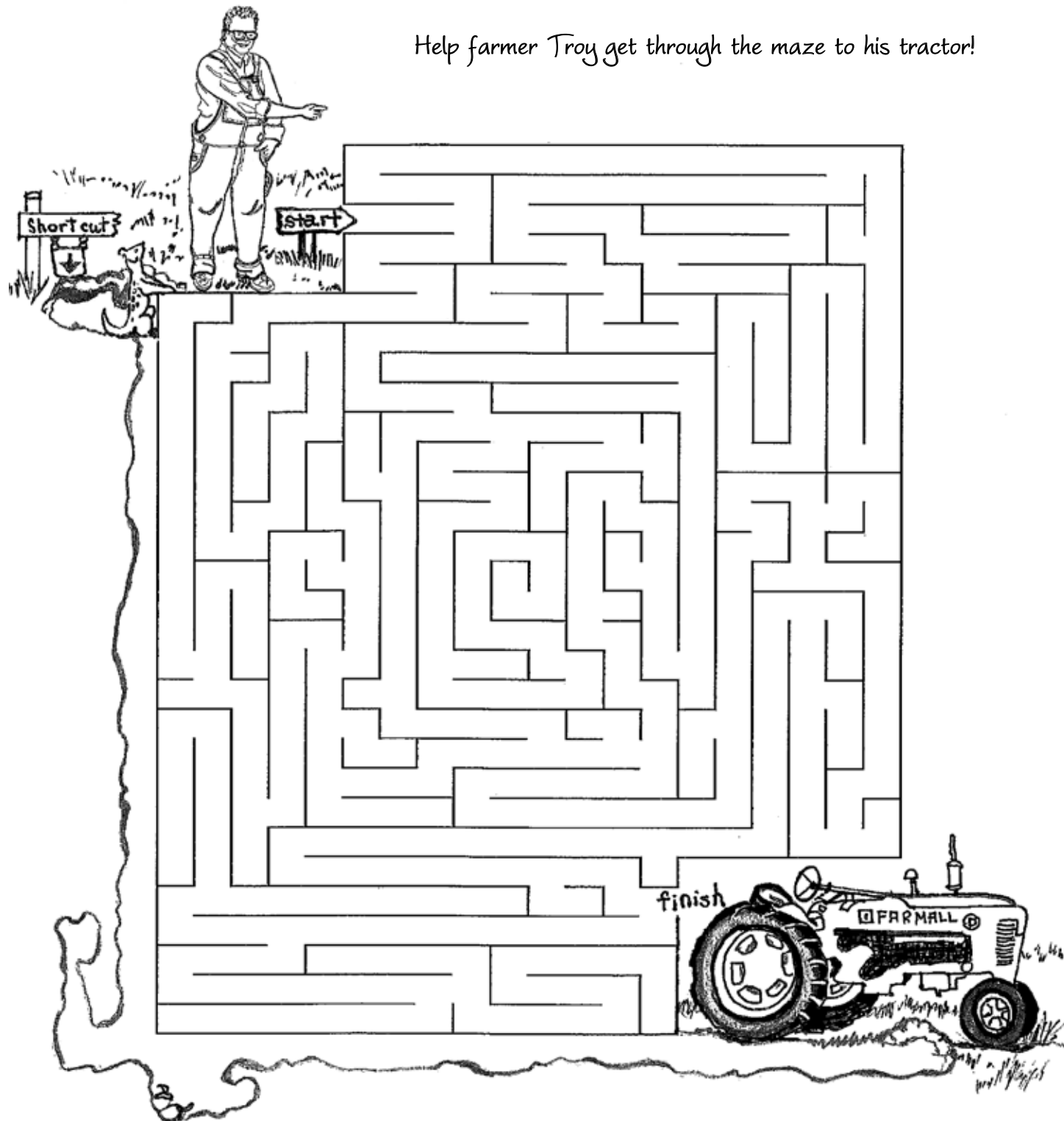
Be sure to visit Marquette, McGregor and Guttenberg to discover the beautiful scenery, abundant wildlife, waterflow and bald eagles that welcome you around every bend of the Mississippi River. To get up close and personal with the river, book a guided river cruise through the Upper Mississippi River Nat'l Wildlife & Fish Refuge.



If you enjoy biking, be sure to spend some time peddling the Mississippi River Trail (MRT). The MRT is a world-class bicycle trail that follows the Mississippi River all the way from its headwaters in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The trail links over 2,000 miles of recreational trails through 10 states, including 280 miles in Iowa.

# Get Lost in a Corn Maze

The maize maze in Elgin is a corn maze that features over 2 miles of pathways. Be sure to stop by when the maze is open July-October on Saturdays and Sundays from 1pm-5pm.



Help farmer Troy get through the maze to his tractor!

# Discover Historic Museums

Unscramble the words below to discover the historic museums along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway. Then, match the decoded word with the historic museum description.

PLAGNMA BRNA

EXAMPLE: Plagman Barn

B

FROLECHI TACTROR MUEUSM

MRQTTEAUE EPODTMSEUMU

EGFYFI OUNMDS NATONILA MNUMOETN

CARERT OUHSE MUEUMS

LKMASTEROCS OUSHE

FYATE TE OUCTNY HITORCALSI CIETYSO

- A. This museum features history of the railroad & Marquette from the 1860s to present with railroad artifacts, pictures and souvenirs.

B.



This barn allows visitors to learn about what farming was like in the early 1900s.

- C. Here visitors can learn how lockmasters and their assistants lived as well as how the lock and dam system works and why it is needed.

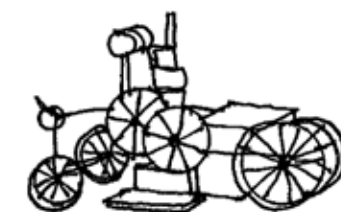
- D. This national monument is home to over 200 burial mounds known as effigies, many of which are shaped like animals.



- E. This 18-room mansion built by the Carter brothers in 1855 is now a museum that shows how Iowan's lived 150 years ago.

- F. Within this historical center, visitors can find farm tools, military items, books, treasures and stories of the families of Fayette County.

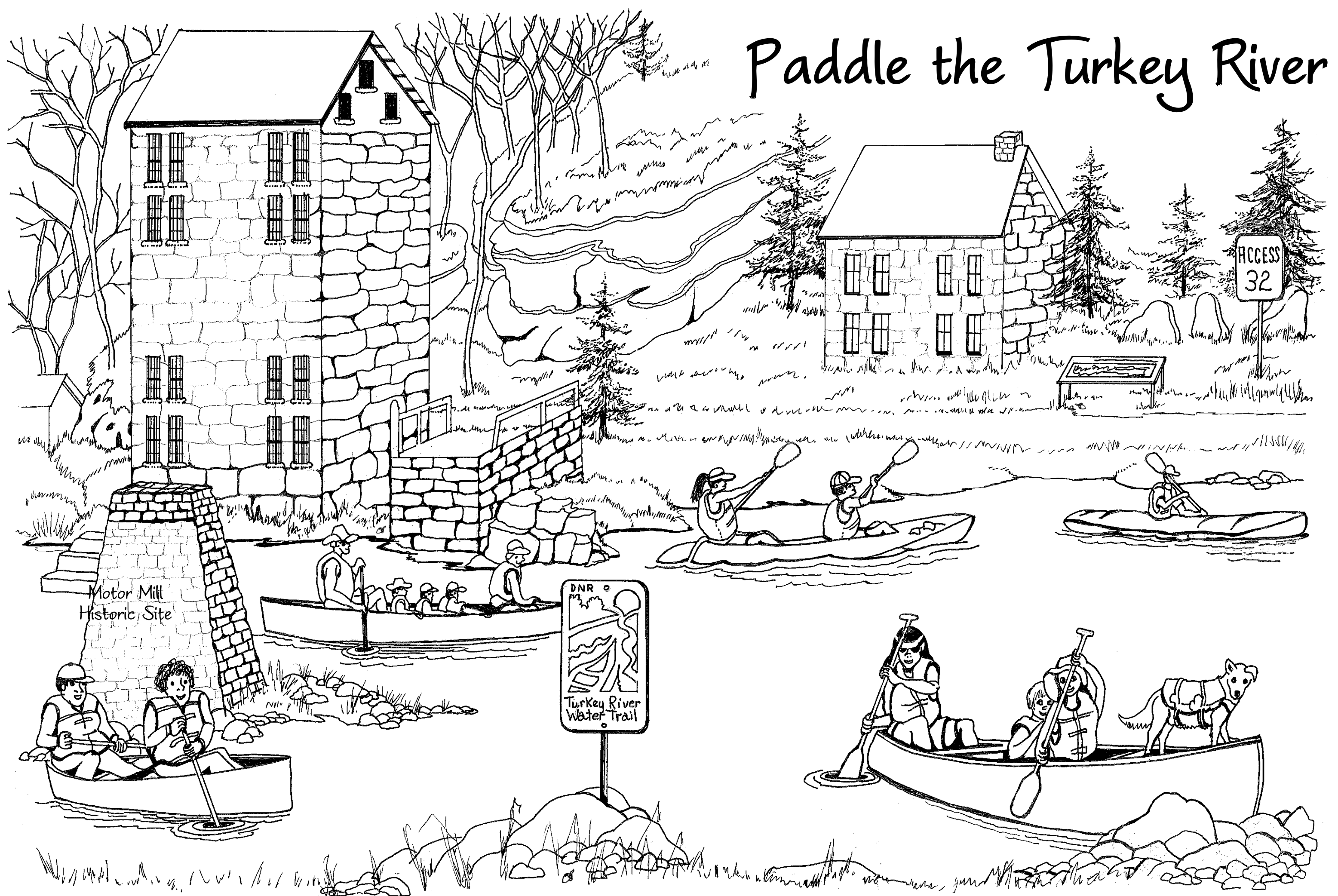
G.



This museum is located in the hometown of John Froelich, inventor of the self-propelled gasoline tractor.

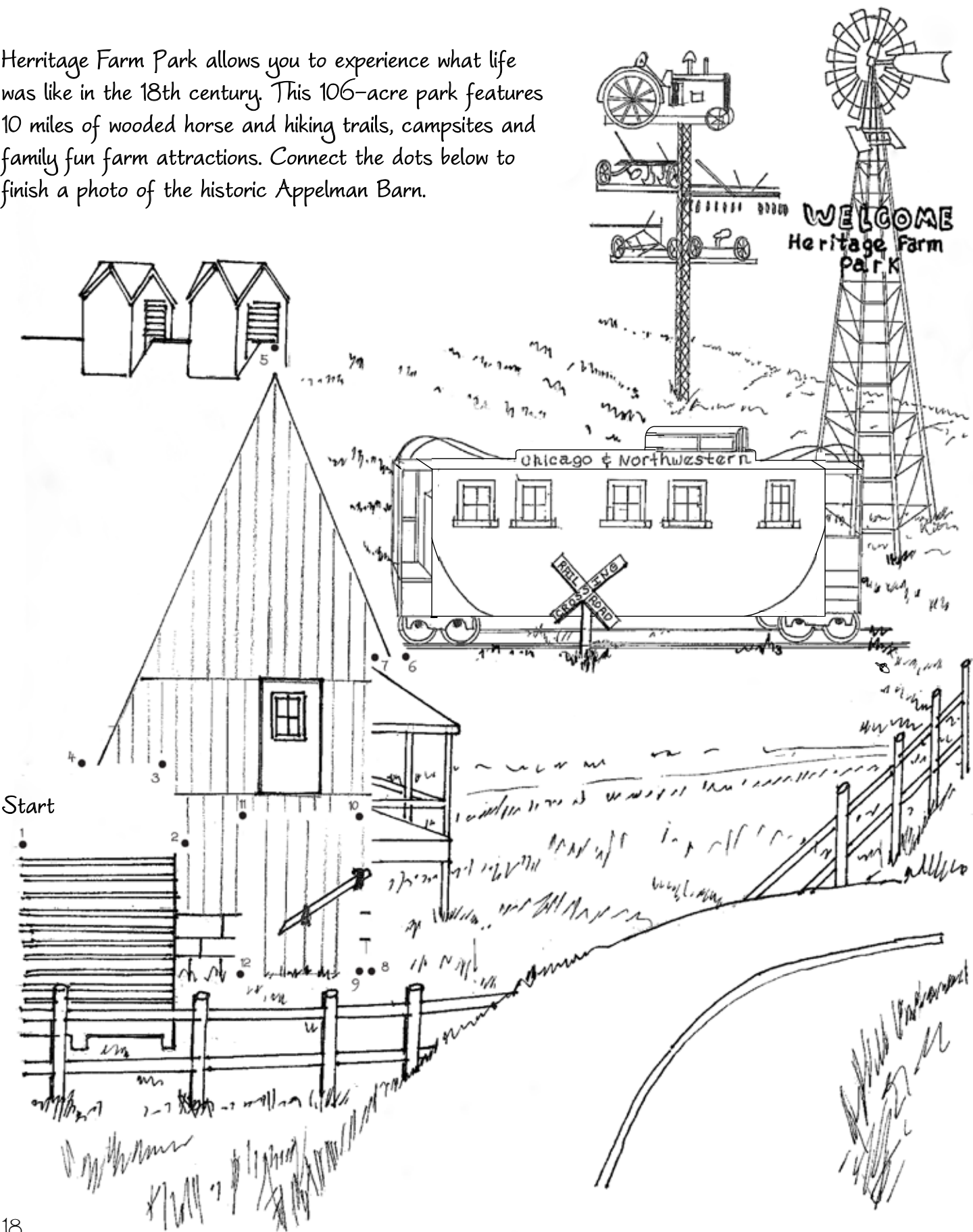


# Paddle the Turkey River



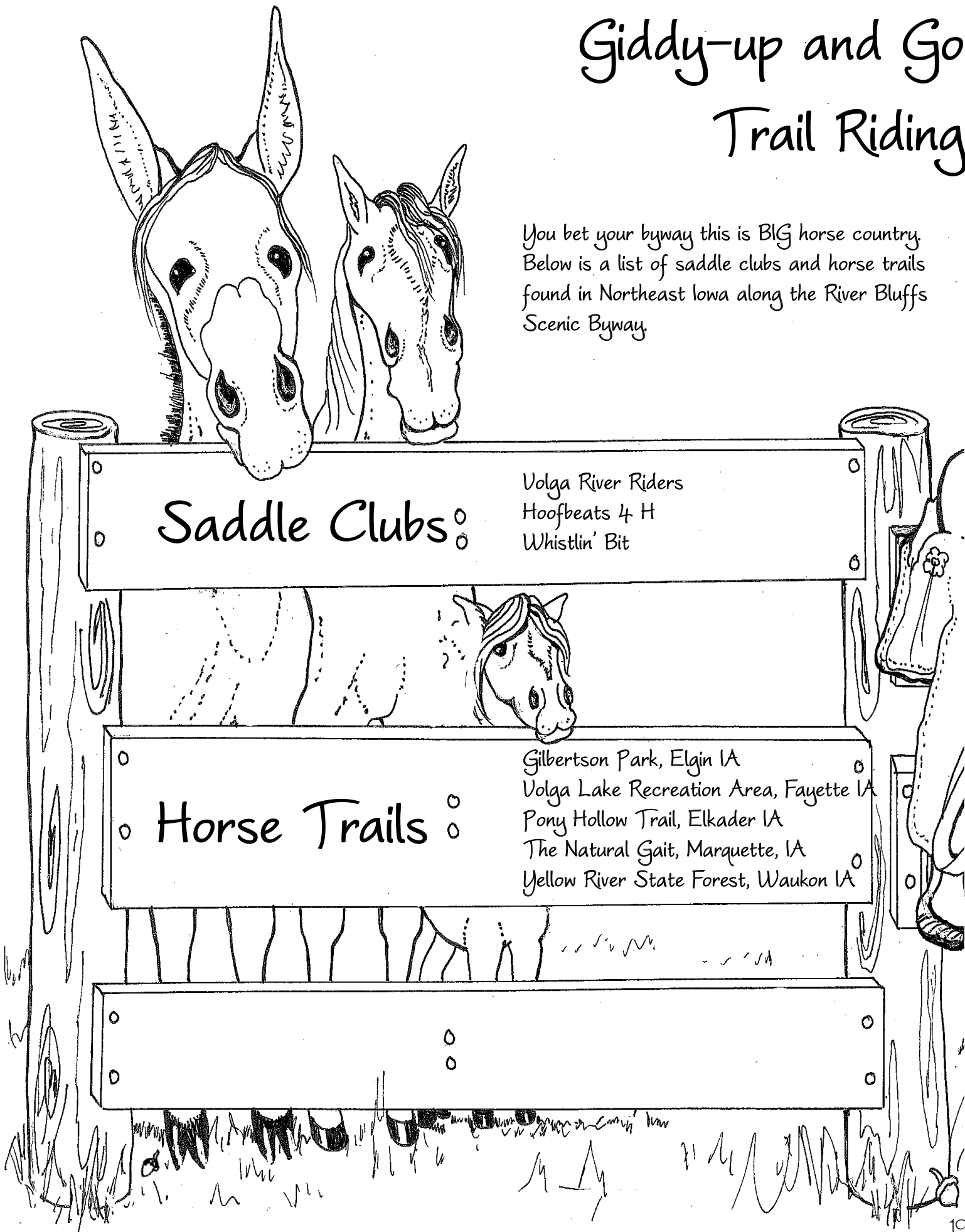
# Plan a Trip to Heritage Farm Park

Heritage Farm Park allows you to experience what life was like in the 18th century. This 106-acre park features 10 miles of wooded horse and hiking trails, campsites and family fun farm attractions. Connect the dots below to finish a photo of the historic Appelman Barn.

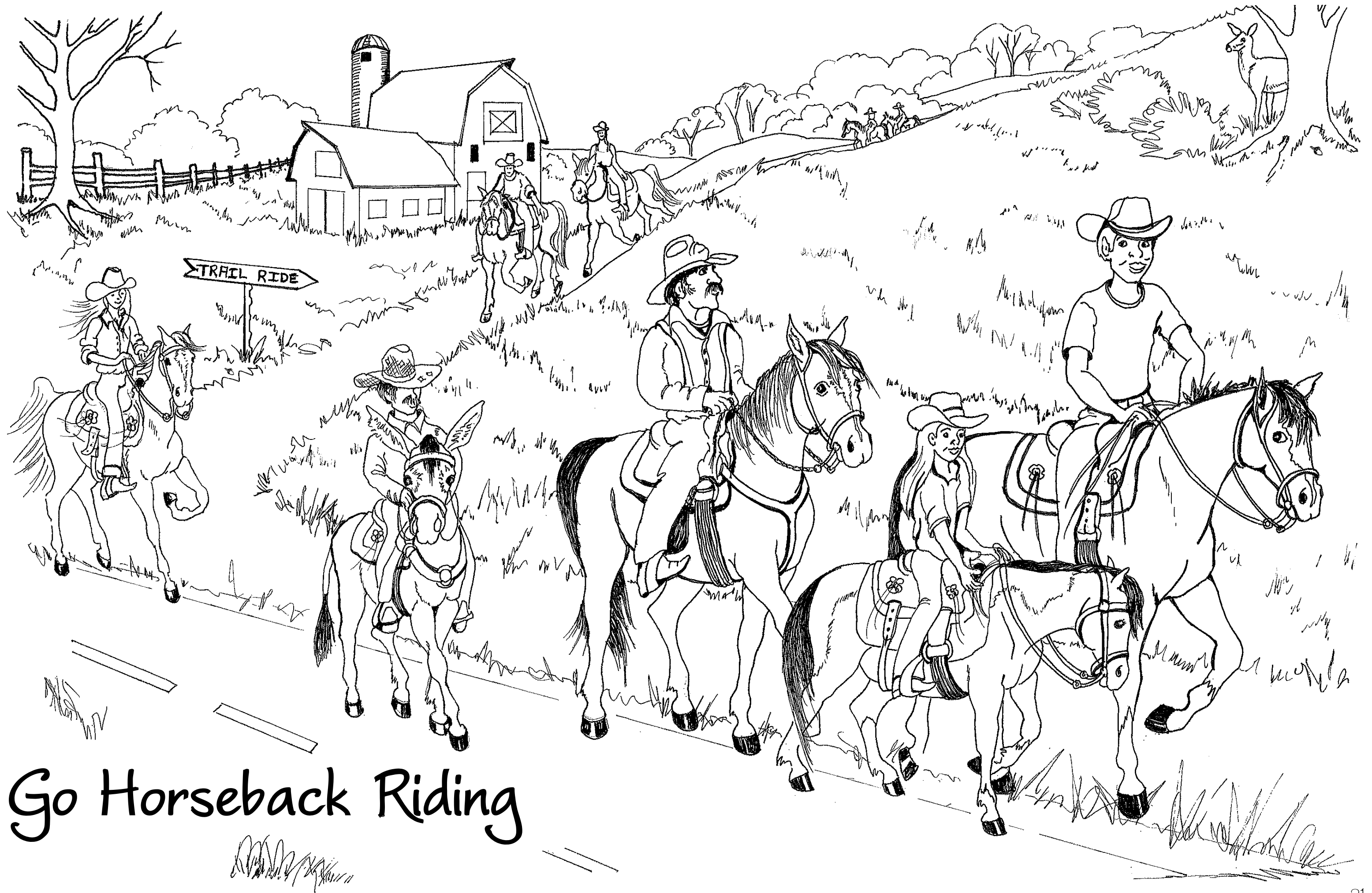


# Giddy-up and Go Trail Riding

You bet your byway this is BIG horse country. Below is a list of saddle clubs and horse trails found in Northeast Iowa along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway.







Go Horseback Riding



# Tour the Grounds of Montauk

Take a journey into the past by visiting the home of Iowa's 12th Governor, William Larrabee. Tour the grounds of his 14-room brick and limestone mansion to learn about how the Larrabee's were instrumental in reshaping the community of Clermont. Use the key below to identify the four larger than life statues of Civil War heroes found at the Montauk historic mansion.



$\frac{5}{E}$   $\frac{11}{E}$   $\frac{14}{A}$   $\frac{9}{9}$

$\frac{5}{E}$   $\frac{14}{E}$   $\frac{11}{I}$   $\frac{17}{9}$   $\frac{9}{9}$   $\frac{E}{9}$

$\frac{3}{O}$   $\frac{3}{E}$   $\frac{5}{5}$

$\frac{A}{3}$   $\frac{10}{I}$   $\frac{14}{A}$   $\frac{9}{9}$

$\frac{3}{A}$   $\frac{17}{I}$   $\frac{3}{3}$

$\frac{4}{A}$   $\frac{14}{A}$   $\frac{14}{A}$   $\frac{5}{U}$   $\frac{16}{16}$

$\frac{5}{E}$   $\frac{11}{E}$   $\frac{14}{A}$   $\frac{9}{9}$

$\frac{18}{I}$   $\frac{9}{9}$   $\frac{9}{I}$   $\frac{10}{A}$

$\frac{15}{E}$   $\frac{6}{E}$   $\frac{14}{A}$   $\frac{10}{A}$   $\frac{11}{11}$

$\frac{5}{E}$   $\frac{11}{E}$   $\frac{14}{A}$   $\frac{9}{9}$

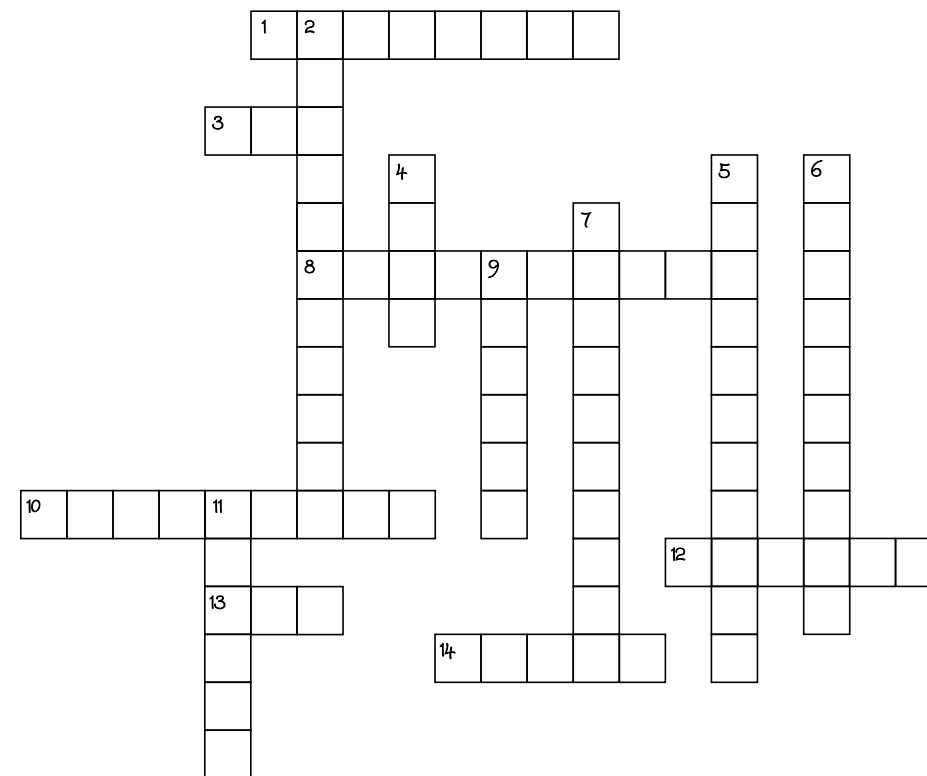
$\frac{U}{9}$   $\frac{U}{15}$   $\frac{E}{15}$   $\frac{E}{15}$

$\frac{15}{A}$   $\frac{5}{A}$   $\frac{14}{A}$   $\frac{11}{11}$   $\frac{16}{16}$

Key:  $\frac{B}{1}$   $\frac{C}{2}$   $\frac{D}{3}$   $\frac{F}{4}$   $\frac{G}{5}$   $\frac{H}{6}$   $\frac{J}{7}$   $\frac{K}{8}$   $\frac{L}{9}$   $\frac{M}{10}$   $\frac{N}{11}$   $\frac{P}{12}$   $\frac{Q}{13}$   $\frac{R}{14}$   $\frac{S}{15}$   $\frac{T}{16}$   $\frac{U}{17}$   $\frac{W}{18}$   $\frac{X}{19}$   $\frac{Z}{20}$

# Pack For Your Byway Adventure

When planning a trip to the River Bluffs Scenic Byway, be sure to come prepared for a variety of weather conditions and outdoor activities. Complete the crossword puzzle below to reveal a list of items to bring with you on your road trip.



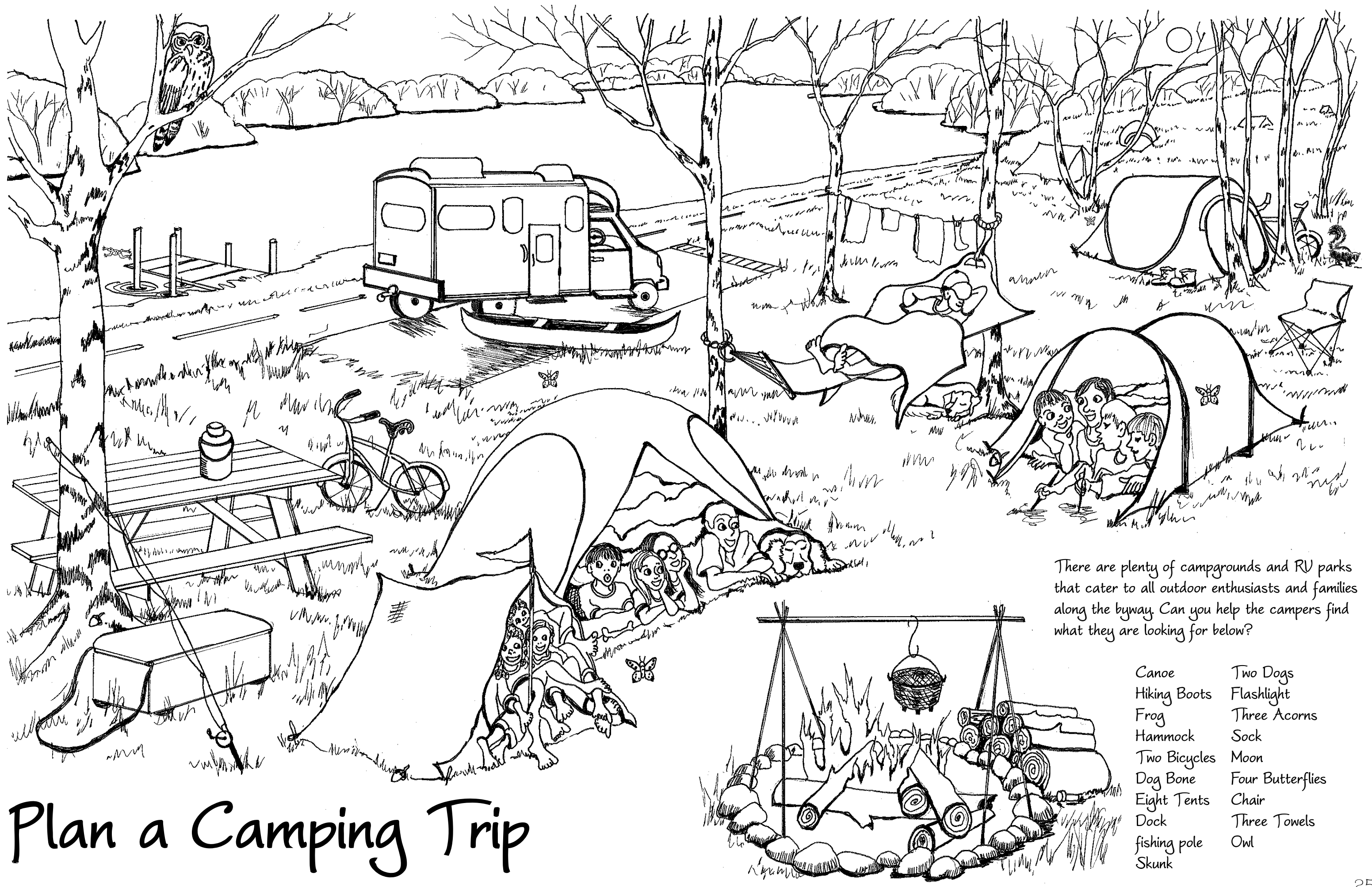
## Across

1. An item of clothing worn for swimming
3. Piece of clothing that is worn on your head
8. Used to view far away objects
10. Lotion applied to your skin when it is sunny
12. Used for drying off after being in the water
13. Document showing where things are located
14. Footwear worn for hikes

## Down

2. Container used for holding liquid
4. Sleep in this when you go on a camping trip
5. Tool used to catch fish
6. Glasses worn to protect eyes on sunny days
7. Portable light that helps you see in the dark
9. Insulated bin used to keep food & drink cold
11. Device used to record and store images





There are plenty of campgrounds and RV parks that cater to all outdoor enthusiasts and families along the byway. Can you help the campers find what they are looking for below?

# Plan a Camping Trip

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Canoe        | Two Dogs         |
| Hiking Boots | Flashlight       |
| Frog         | Three Acorns     |
| Hammock      | Sock             |
| Two Bicycles | Moon             |
| Dog Bone     | Four Butterflies |
| Eight Tents  | Chair            |
| Dock         | Three Towels     |
| fishing pole | Owl              |
| Skunk        |                  |

# Enjoy the Colors of Autumn Leaves

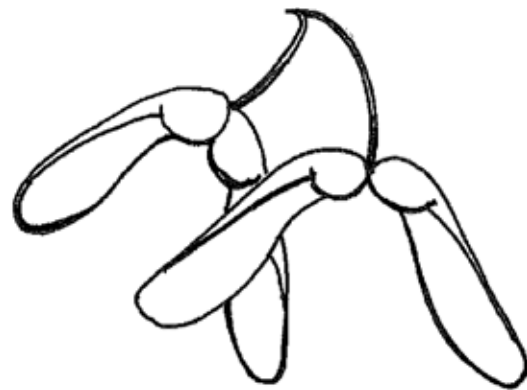
The River Bluffs Scenic Byway is lined with sugar maple trees.

The sugar maple is best known for three things:

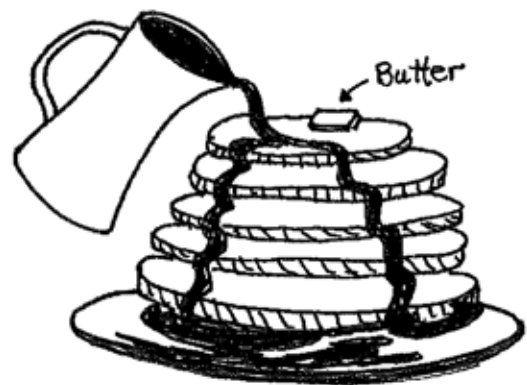
1. Colorful leaves that are seen in the fall each year. The leaves turn from green to bright colors like red, yellow & orange. Color the fall leaves below:



2. Helicopter seeds that whirl to the ground like a helicopter blade. Draw a helicopter seed below:



3. Maple Syrup that is made from sap stored in tree trunks. Draw a pancake with syrup below:



# Visit a Maple Syrup Camp

On average, it takes 45 gallons of evaporated sap to produce one gallon of pure maple syrup.

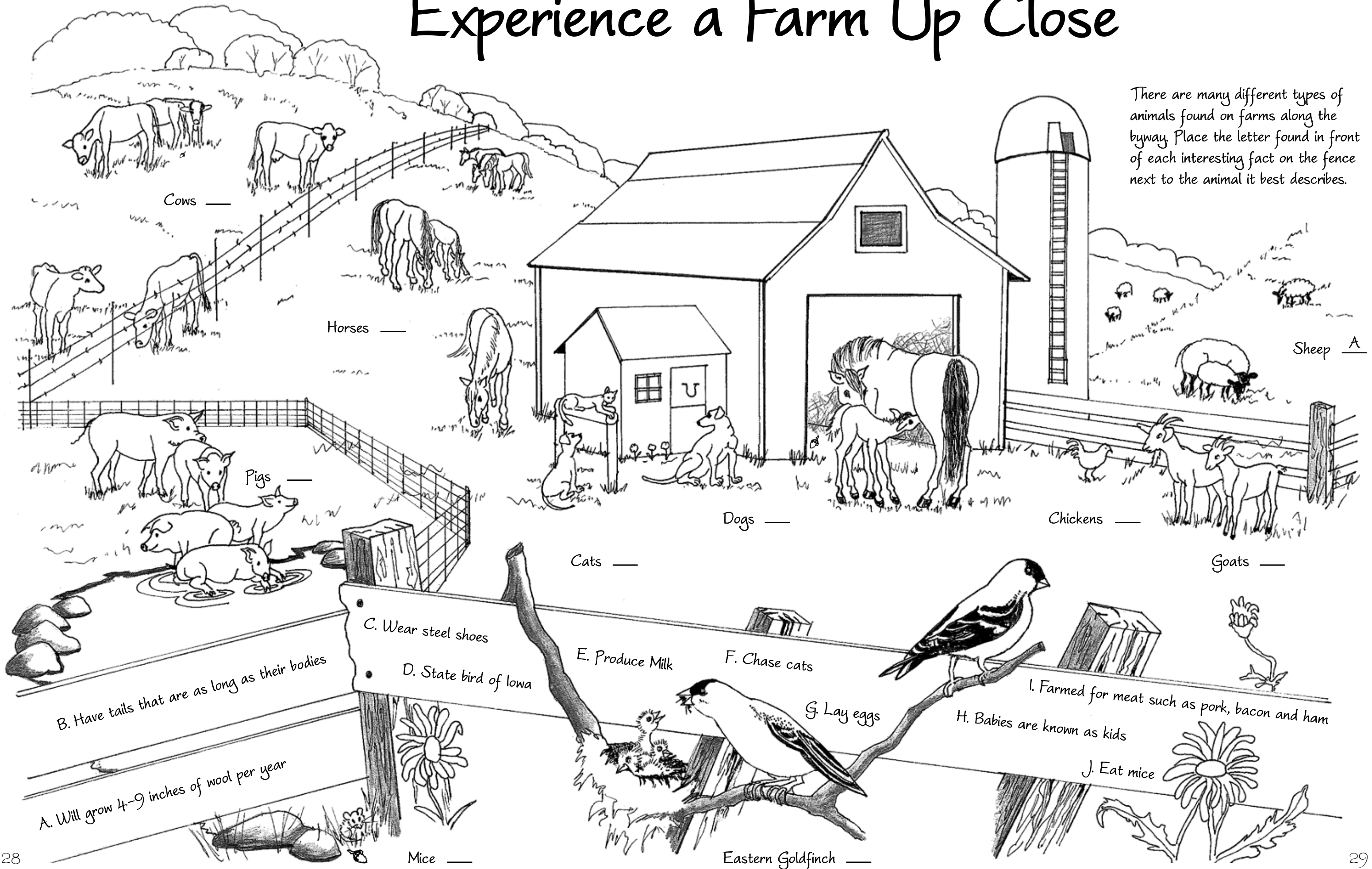


Buckets are used to collect the sap and draft horses are often used to pull the sled back to camp after the sap has been gathered.

When the tree sap flows it's called a "run" or "running." March is the best month for a sugar maple tree to run.

# Experience a Farm Up Close

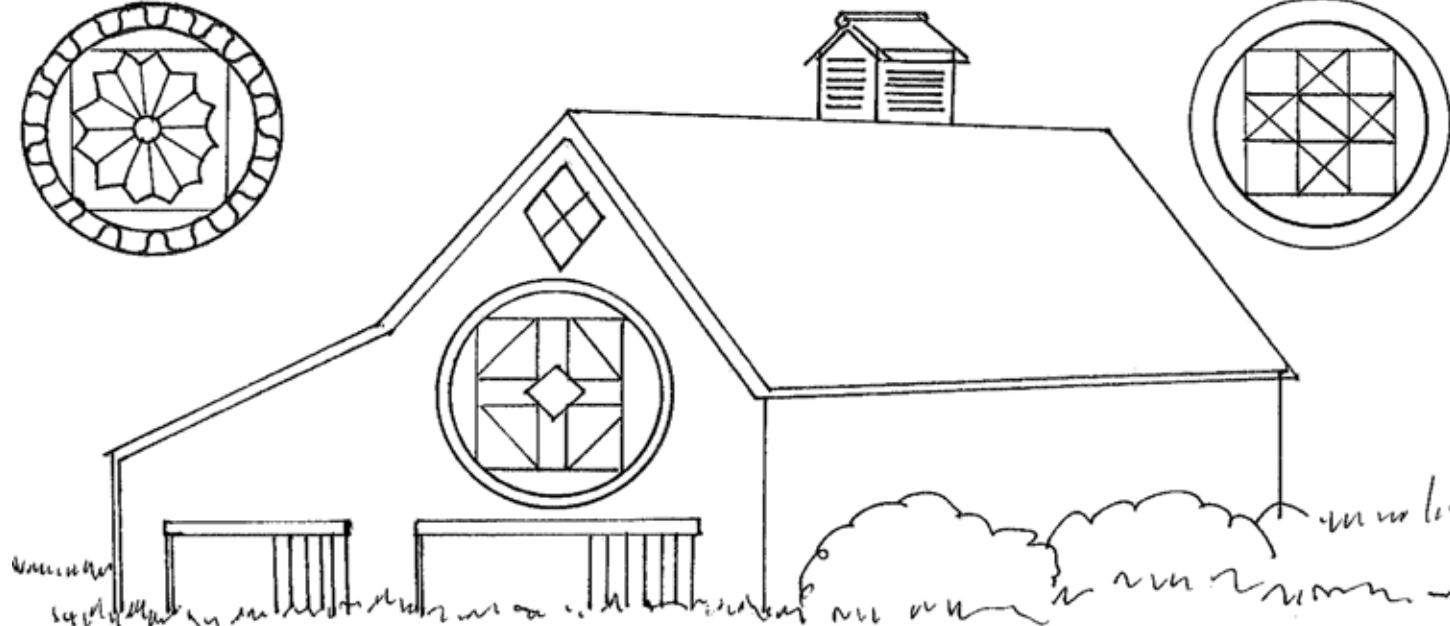
There are many different types of animals found on farms along the byway. Place the letter found in front of each interesting fact on the fence next to the animal it best describes.





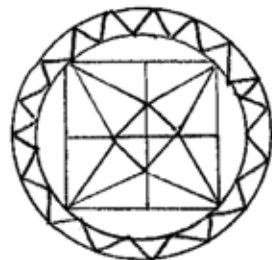
# Find the Barn Quilts

While traveling the byway, be on the lookout for barn quilts. Barn quilts are 8x8 wooden squares that have painted designs of traditional quilt patterns. There are over 90 barn quilts in Fayette and Clayton County!



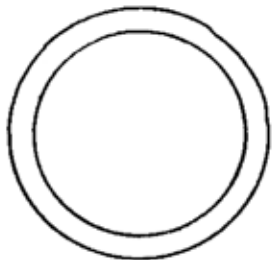
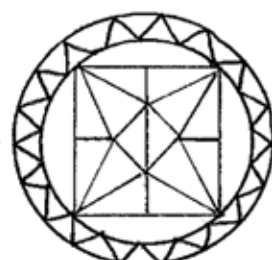
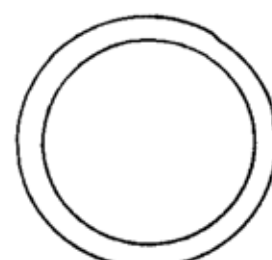
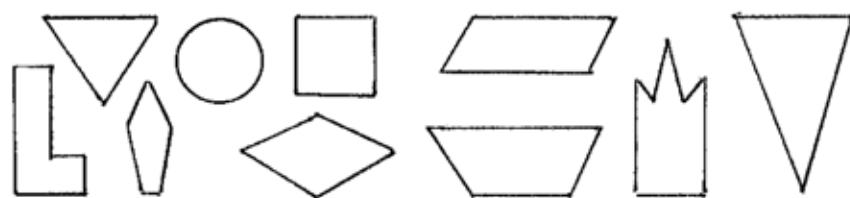
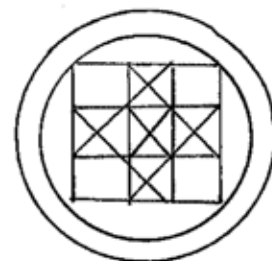
Find and color the two barn quilts that are exactly the same.

Next, use the shapes shown below to design your own barn quilt in the two blank circles below.



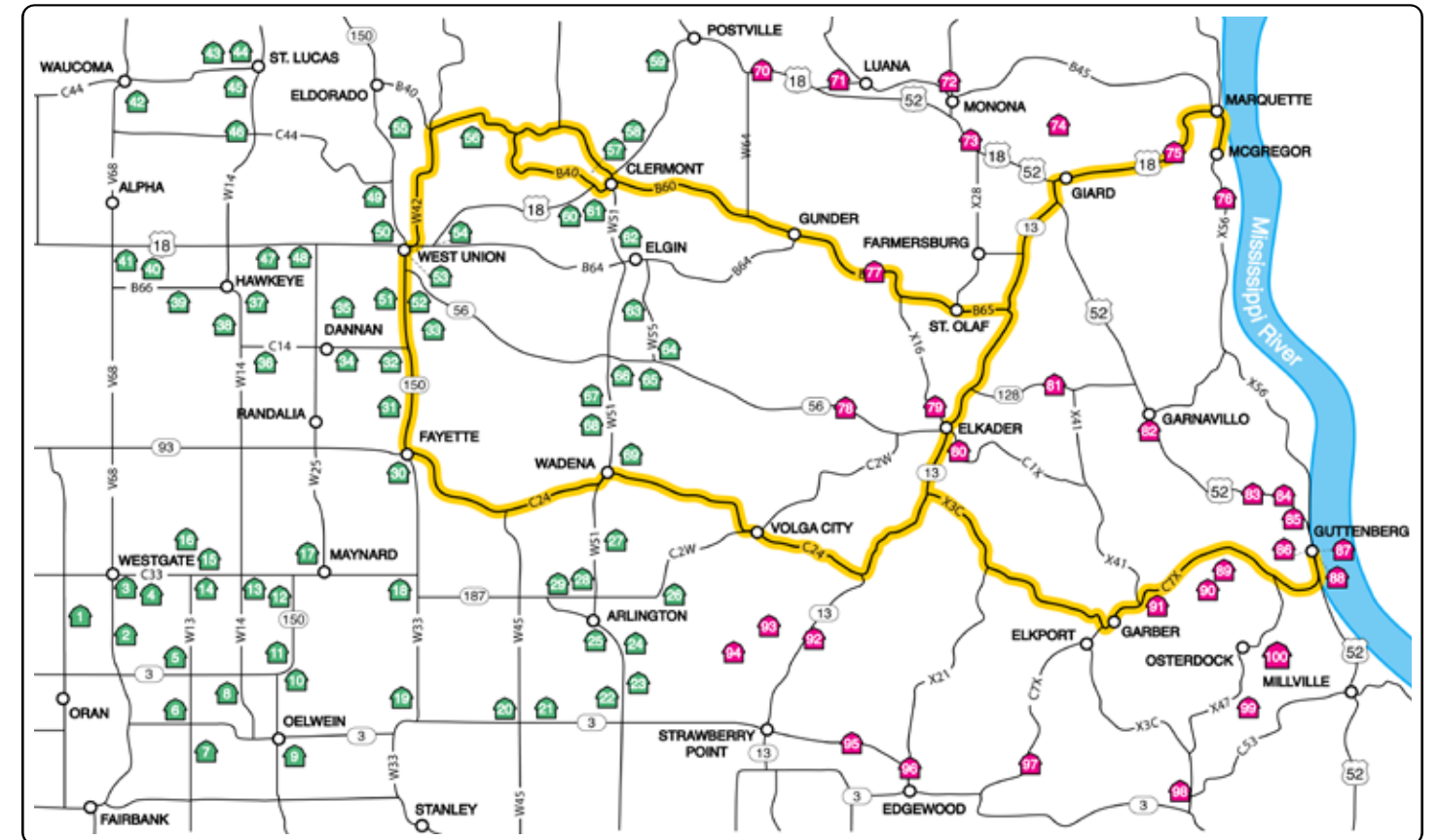
Keep a tally of the number of barn quilts you see!

\_\_\_\_\_



# Count the Barn Quilts

Fayette and Clayton County are covered with barn quilts! Watch for colorful quilt designs hung on barns, corn cribs and other structures along the byway.



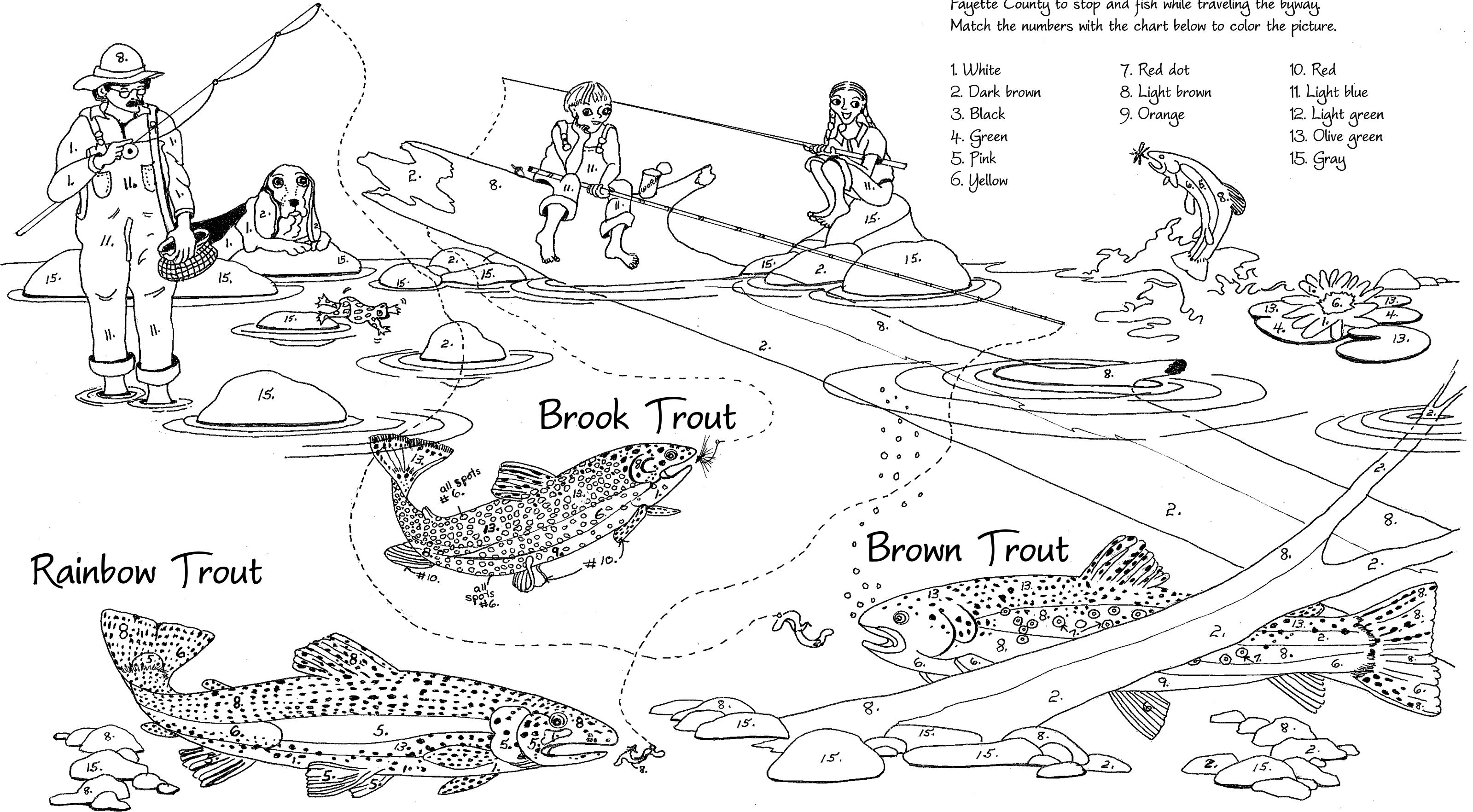
— River Bluffs Scenic Byway   
 — Paved County & State Rds   
 ■ Fayette County Barn Quilts   
 ■ Clayton County Barn Quilts

- How many towns are on the River Bluffs Scenic Byway? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many barn quilts are within 5 miles of West Union? \_\_\_\_\_
- What byway town is about 20 miles southwest of Marquette? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many barn quilts are in Clayton County? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many towns are on or within 10 miles of the Mississippi River? \_\_\_\_\_
- If traveling the byway, how far is it from barn quilt #57 to #80? \_\_\_\_\_

# Wet a Line Fishing

There are over 15 coldwater trout streams in Clayton and Fayette County to stop and fish while traveling the byway. Match the numbers with the chart below to color the picture.

- |               |                |                 |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. White      | 7. Red dot     | 10. Red         |
| 2. Dark brown | 8. Light brown | 11. Light blue  |
| 3. Black      | 9. Orange      | 12. Light green |
| 4. Green      |                | 13. Olive green |
| 5. Pink       |                | 15. Gray        |
| 6. Yellow     |                |                 |



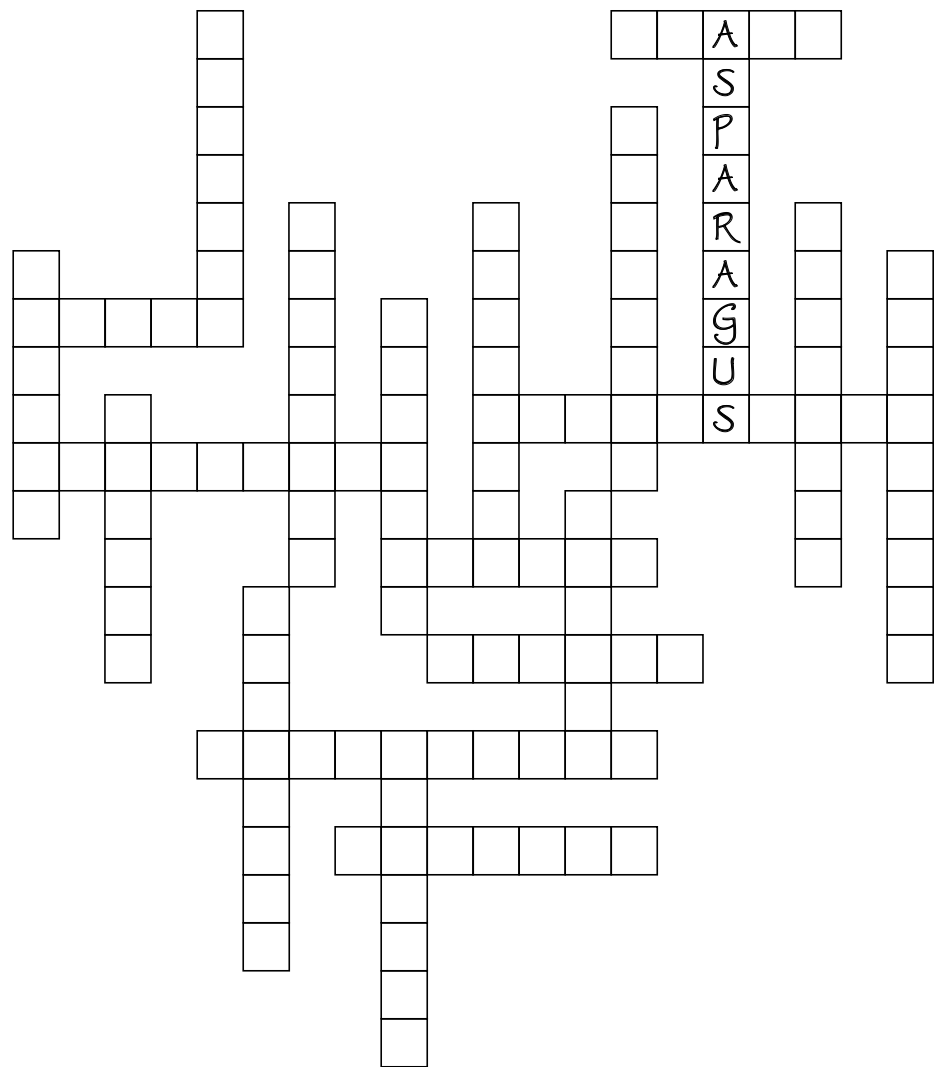
Rainbow Trout

Brook Trout

Brown Trout

# Eat Local Foods Along the Byway

If you get hungry while traveling the byway, be sure to stop at any one of the many farmers' markets or orchards to enjoy fresh produce and a great conversation with its grower. Below is a list of locally grown fruits an vegetables. Fill in the puzzle using the words listed at the bottom of the page.



5 Letters:	6 Letters:	7 Letters:	8 Letters:	9 Letters:	10 Letters:
onion	potato	pumpkin	broccoli	sweetcorn	watermelon
grape	carrot	rhubarb	mushroom	asparagus	maple syrup
apple	celery	spinach	cucumber	raspberry	
	radish	lettuce	rutabaga		
	squash		kohlrabi		

# Word Fun

How many words can you come up with that rhyme with the words below?

Car: \_\_\_\_\_

Road: \_\_\_\_\_

Brake: \_\_\_\_\_

Trip: \_\_\_\_\_

Van: \_\_\_\_\_

Hill: \_\_\_\_\_

Hot: \_\_\_\_\_

# Word Fun

How many words can you make using all or some of the letters from the words below?

Scenic: \_\_\_\_\_

Archaeological: \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic: \_\_\_\_\_

Recreational: \_\_\_\_\_













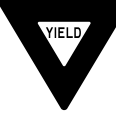

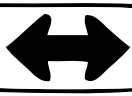









Natural: \_\_\_\_\_



















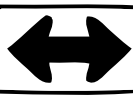









Sign Find Bingo

Look for road signs along the byway. The first person to circle 5 road signs down, across or diagonal wins.

				
				
		Free Space		
				
				



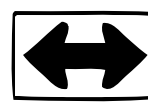





















Sign Find Bingo

Look for road signs along the byway. The first person to circle 5 road signs down, across or diagonal wins.

				
				
		Free Space		
				
				






















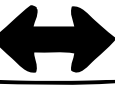


Sign Find Bingo

Look for road signs along the byway. The first person to circle 5 road signs down, across or diagonal wins.

				
				
		Free Space		
				
				

Sign Find Bingo

Look for road signs along the byway. The first person to circle 5 road signs down, across or diagonal wins.

				
				
		Free Space		
				
				



# Thank You to Our Sponsors

The River Bluffs Scenic Byway Activity Book was developed to help travelers of all ages explore the many things to see and do along the byway. We would like to thank the following very generous sponsors for their help in making the creation of this activity book possible.

## UPPER MISSISSIPPI GAMING CORPORATION

