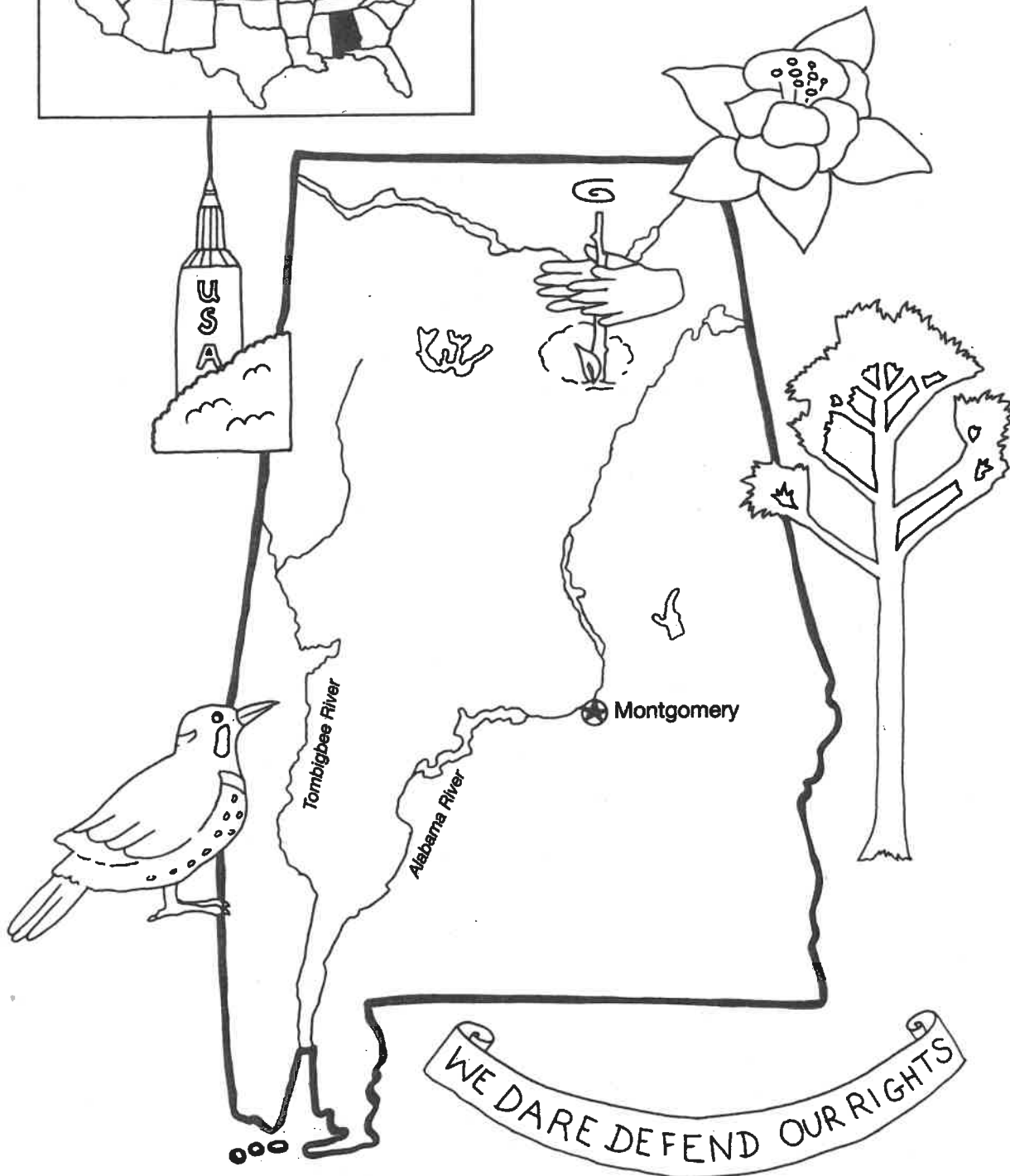




Alabama

Yellowhammer State



Capital: Montgomery

Flower: carnellia

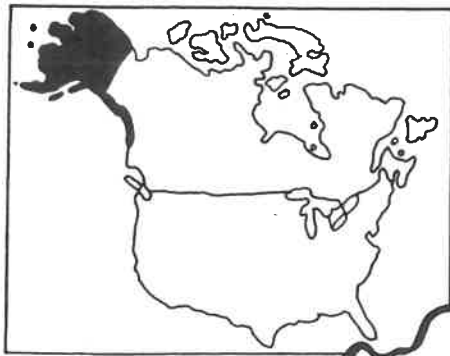
Bird: yellowhammer

Tree: southern pine

Main rivers: Alabama, Tombigbee

22nd state: December 14, 1819

The Alabama Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville has a large collection of spacecraft and missiles on display. In the Russell Cave National Monument there are the remains of prehistoric cultures dating from eight thousand years ago. Ancient Indian people lived and worked here from 7000 B.C. to 1000 A.D., leaving behind tools, weapons, and bones.



Alaska

Last Frontier



Capital: Juneau

Flower: forget-me-not

Bird: willow ptarmigan

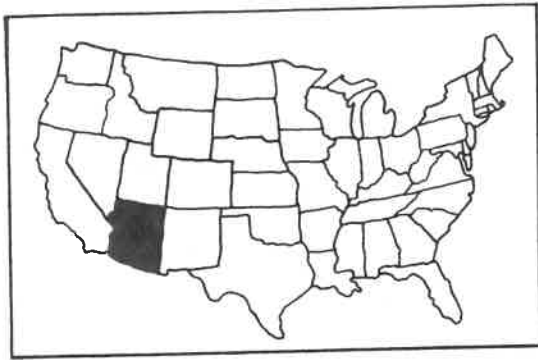
Tree: sitka spruce

Main river: Yukon

49th state: January 3, 1959

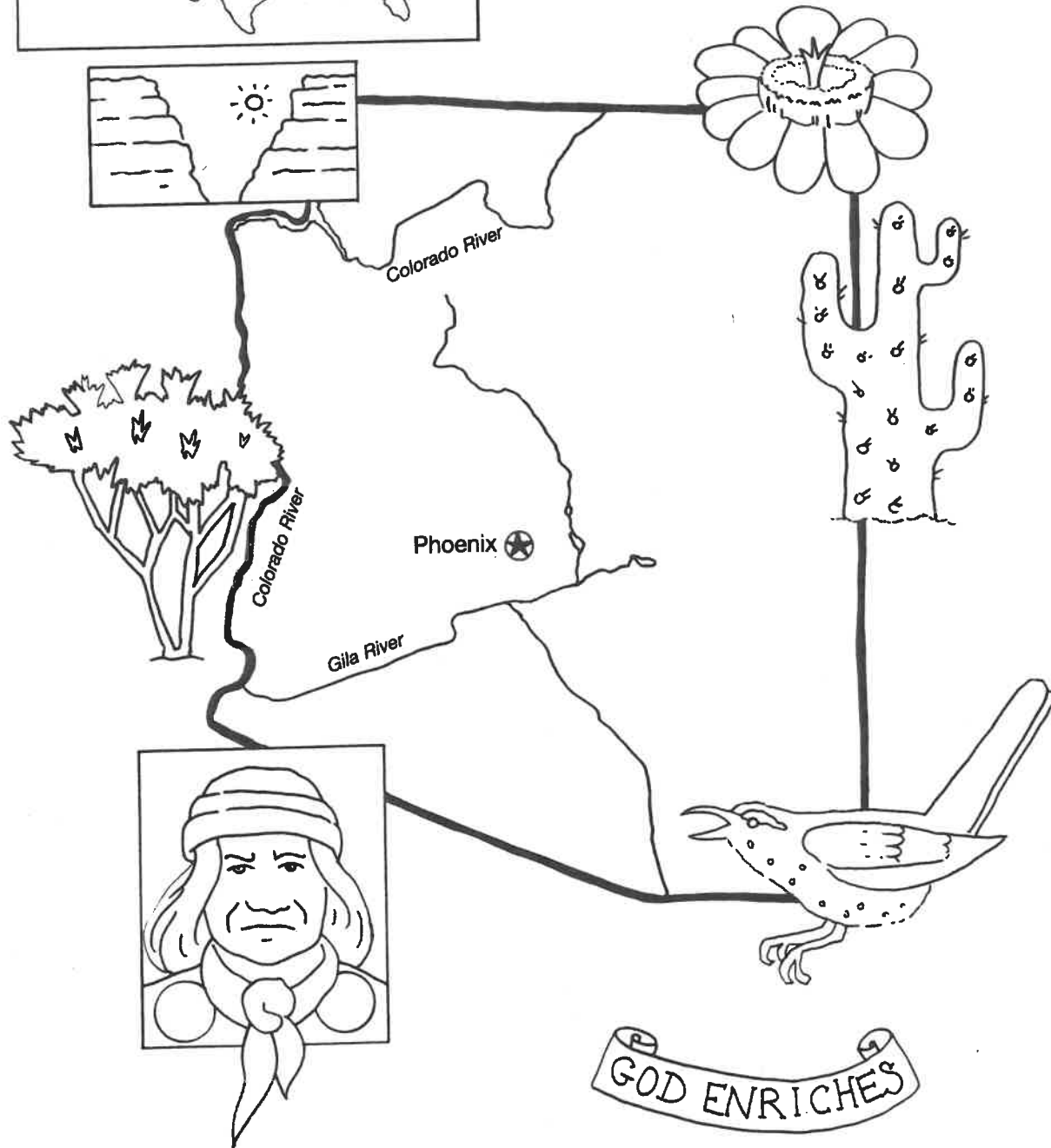
The highest mountain peak in North America is in Alaska; Mount McKinley is 20,320 feet tall.

Sleds pulled by teams of dogs are a traditional method of transportation across Alaska's snowy plains. To this day, dogsled teams race over one thousand miles from Anchorage to Nome in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race, a trip that can take up to 20 days.



Arizona

Grand Canyon State



Capital: Phoenix

Flower: saguaro cactus blossom

Geronimo, a famous Apache warrior, was born in Arizona in 1829.

A saguaro cactus can grow to be 60 feet tall and live 200 years.

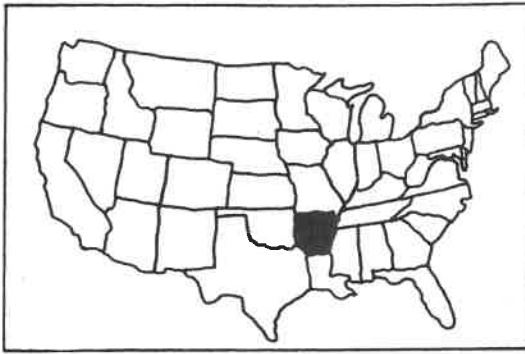
The Colorado River runs through the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is up to one mile deep in places, and reveals one million years of geologic history.

Bird: cactus wren

Tree: paloverde

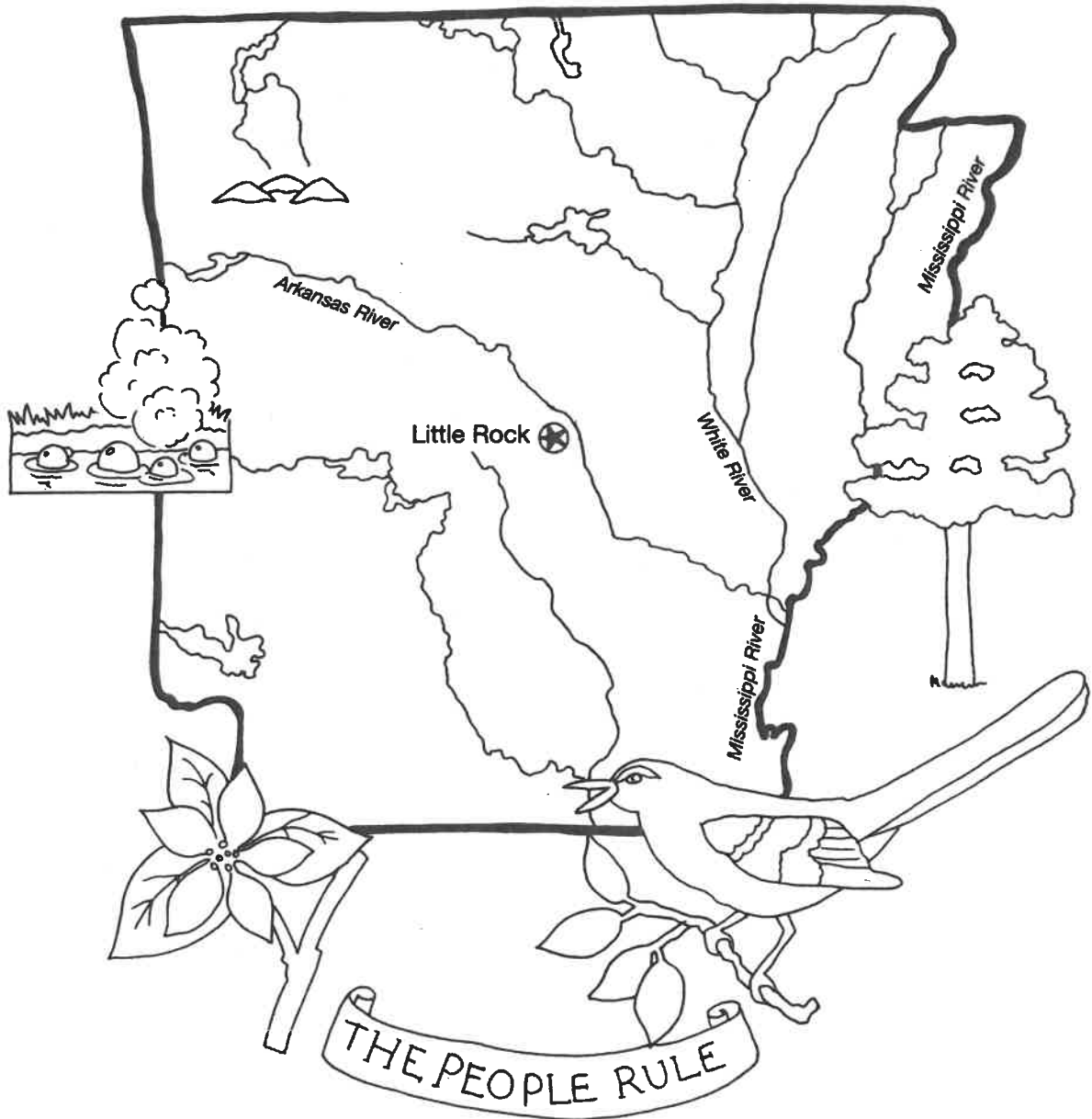
Main rivers: Colorado, Gila

48th state: February 14, 1912



Arkansas

Land of Opportunity



Capital: Little Rock

Flower: apple blossom

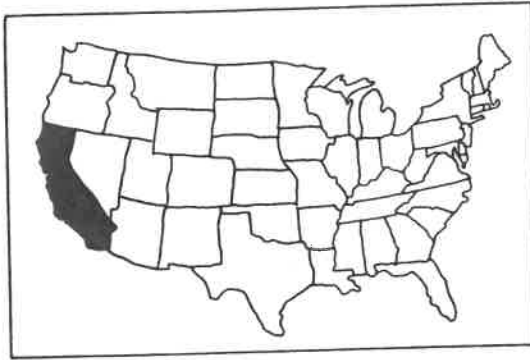
Bird: mockingbird

Tree: pine

Main rivers: Arkansas, Mississippi, White

25th state: June 15, 1836

Arkansas is famous for its hot springs, a natural source of hot mineral water. People believe that soaking in the hot springs relieves pain.



California

Golden State



Capital: Sacramento

Flower: golden poppy

Noted geological feature: Mt. Whitney

San Francisco is famous for its Golden Gate Bridge, which is painted red.

Giant redwood or sequoia trees can grow up to 300 feet high. These ancient trees are the tallest living things in the world.

Many movies are made in Hollywood. Many movie stars live there also.

Bird: California quail

Tree: California redwood

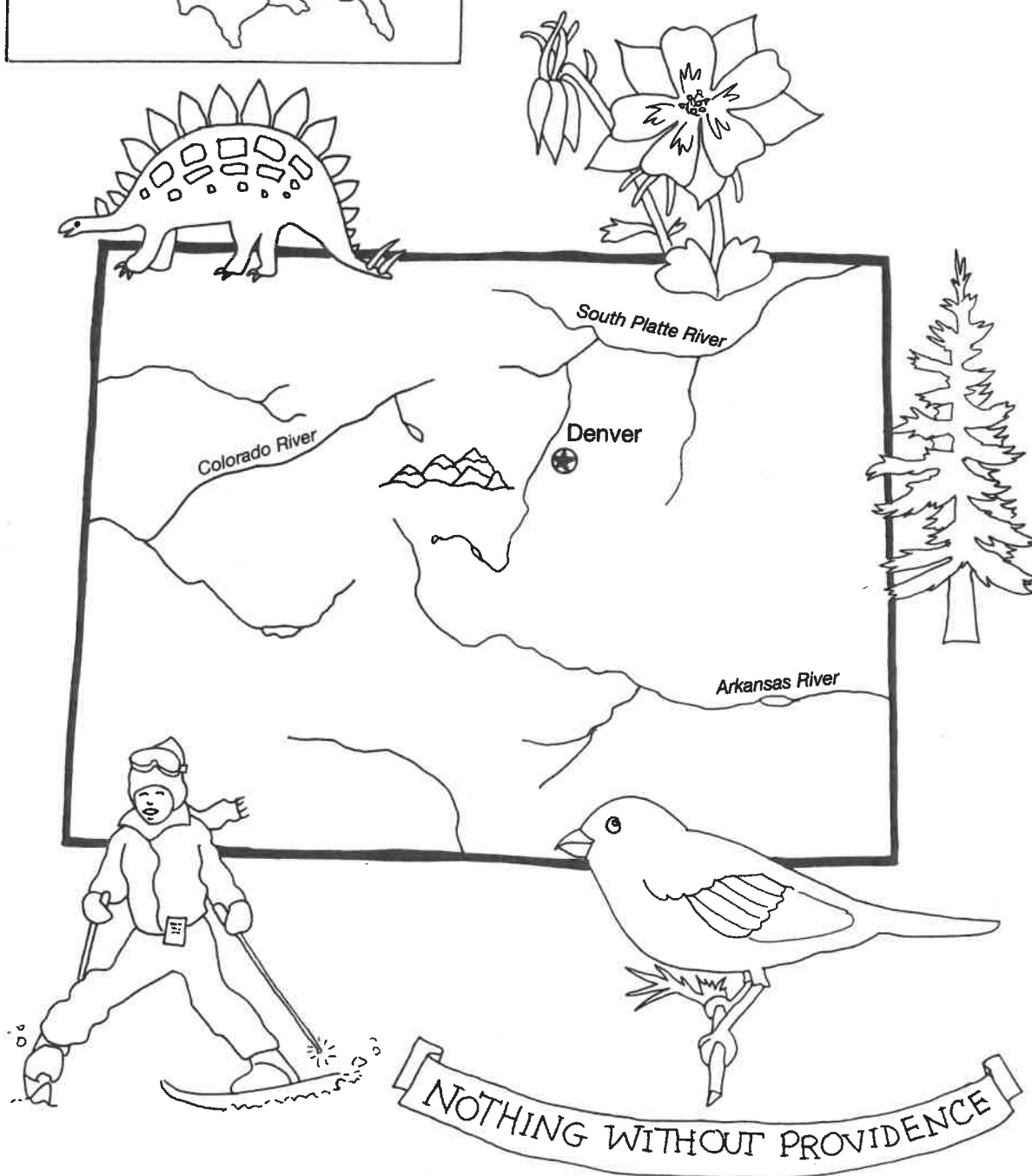
Main rivers: Colorado, Sacramento, San Joaquin

31st state: December 9, 1850



Colorado

Centennial State



Capital: Denver

Bird: lark bunting

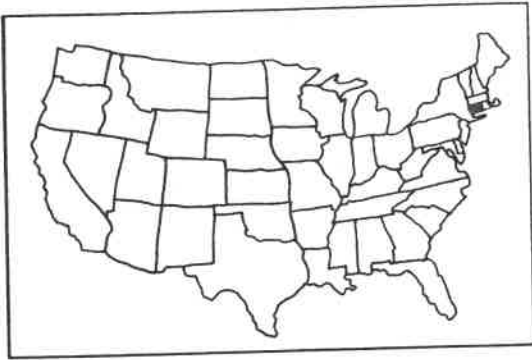
Main rivers: Arkansas, Colorado, South Platte

Flower: Rocky Mountain columbine Tree: Colorado blue spruce 38th state: August 1, 1876

Colorado is famous for its many sites containing dinosaur bones. The Stegosaurus is the state dinosaur.

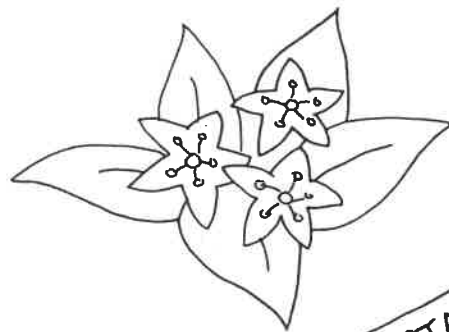
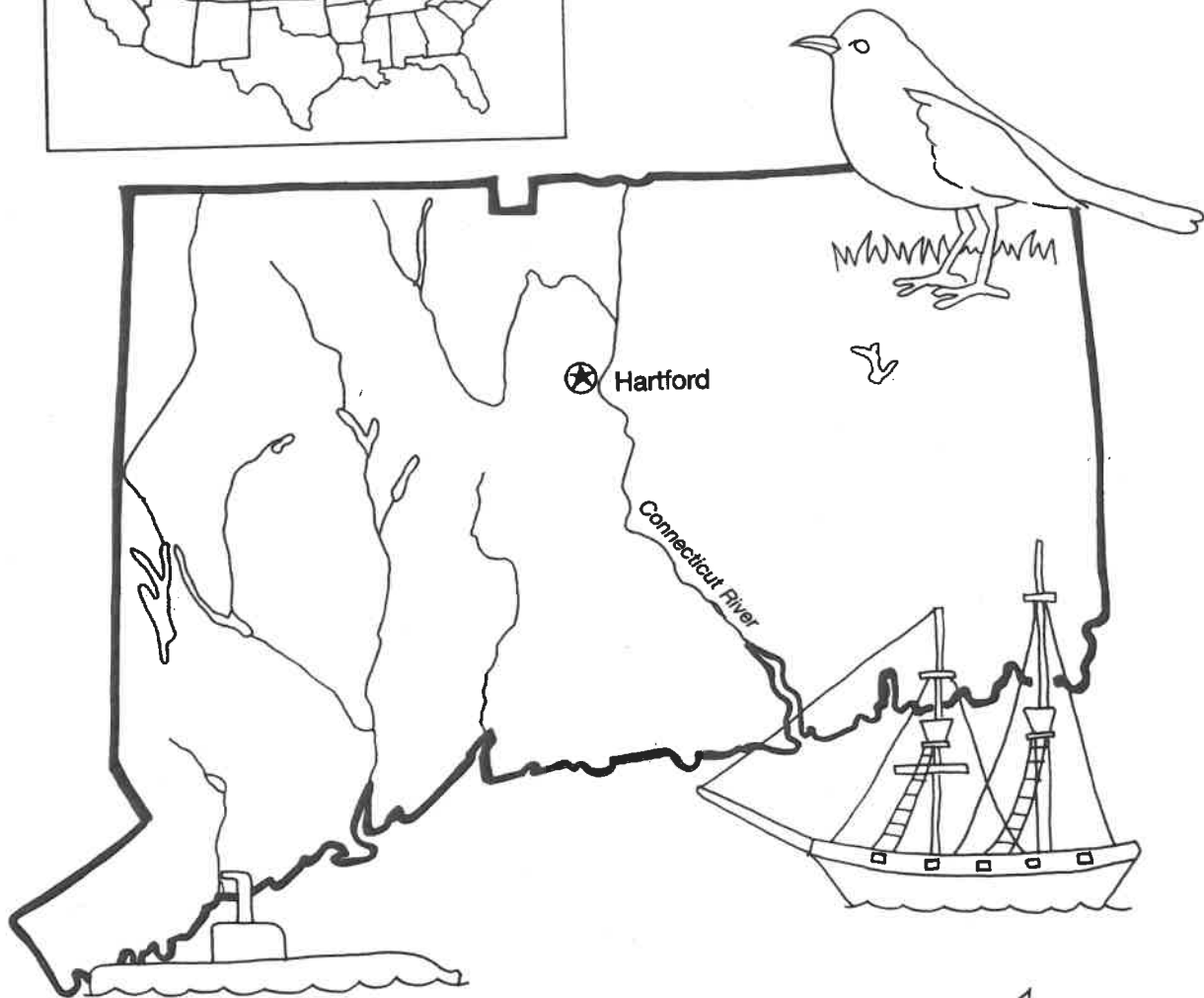
Colorado boasts 53 out of a total 80 mountains over 14,000 feet high.

Colorado has some of the best ski country in the United States.



Connecticut

Constitution State



Capital: Hartford

Flower: mountain laurel

Submarines, helicopters and jet engines are made in Connecticut.

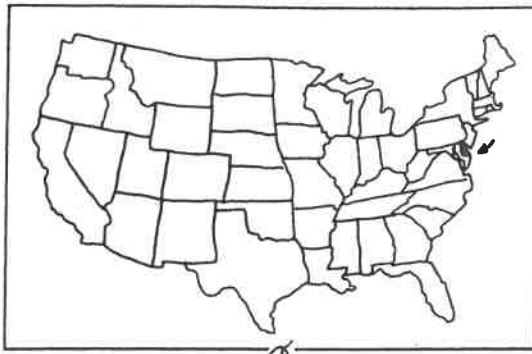
Mystic Seaport is a re-creation of a 19th-century sailing village.

Bird: robin

Tree: white oak

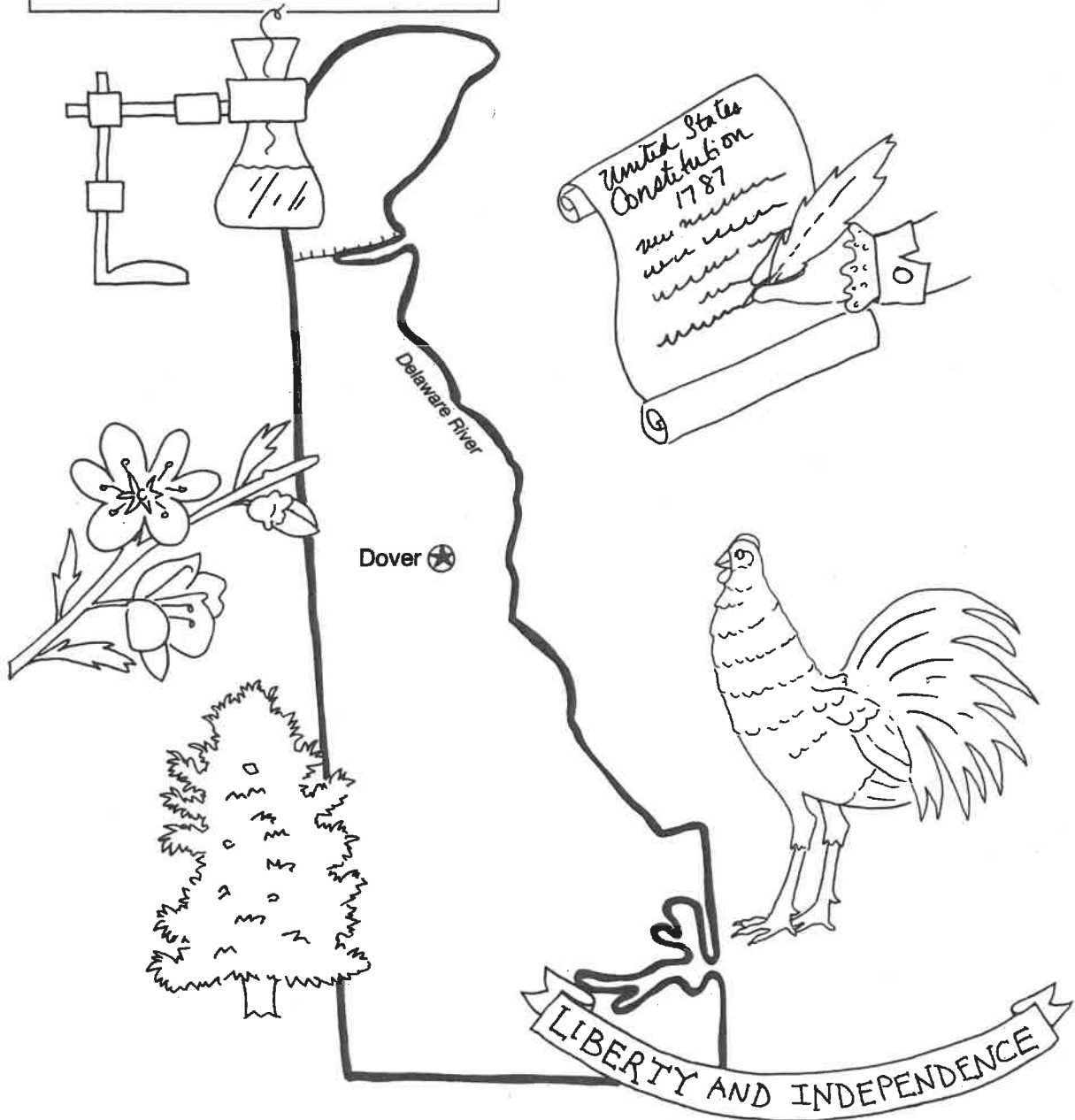
Main river: Connecticut

5th state: January 9th, 1788



Delaware

First State



Capital: Dover

Flower: peach blossom

Bird: blue hen chicken

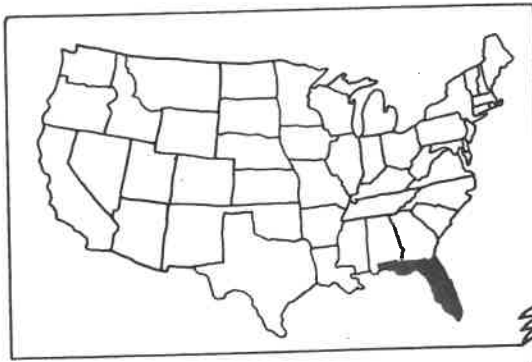
Tree: American holly

Main river: Delaware

1st state: December 7, 1787

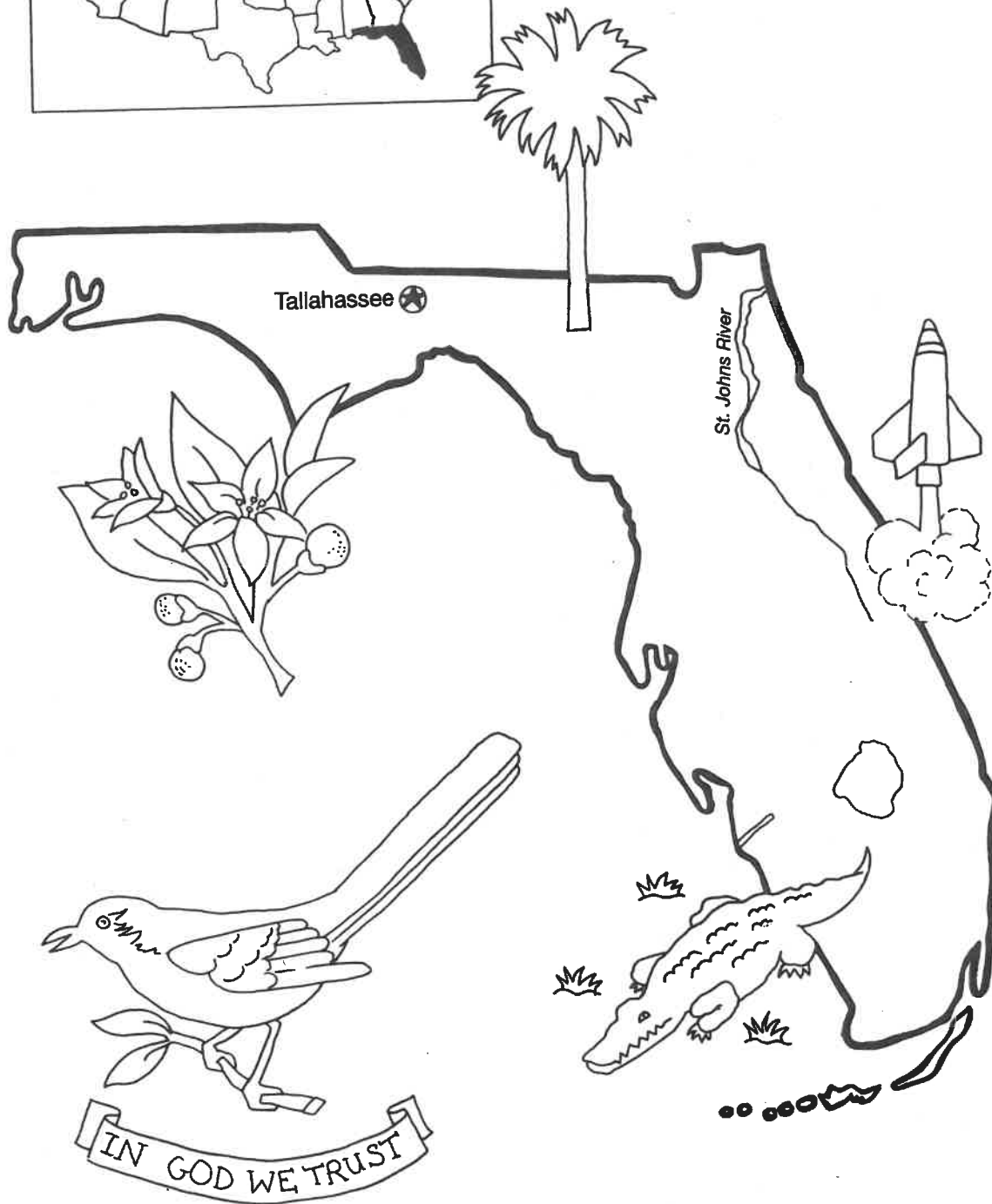
In 1787, Delaware was the first state to ratify the United States Constitution.

The du Pont family started a gun powder company in 1802. Today, it is one of the largest chemical manufacturing companies in the world.



Florida

Sunshine State



Capital: Tallahassee

Flower: orange blossom

Bird: mockingbird

Tree: palmetto palm

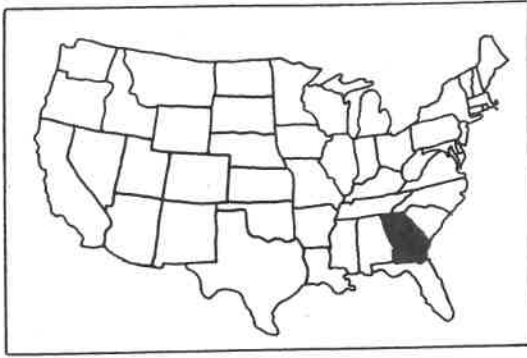
Main river: St. Johns

27th state: March 3, 1845

The first man to orbit the earth and the first man to walk on the moon were launched from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral. The Space Shuttle is still launched from there.

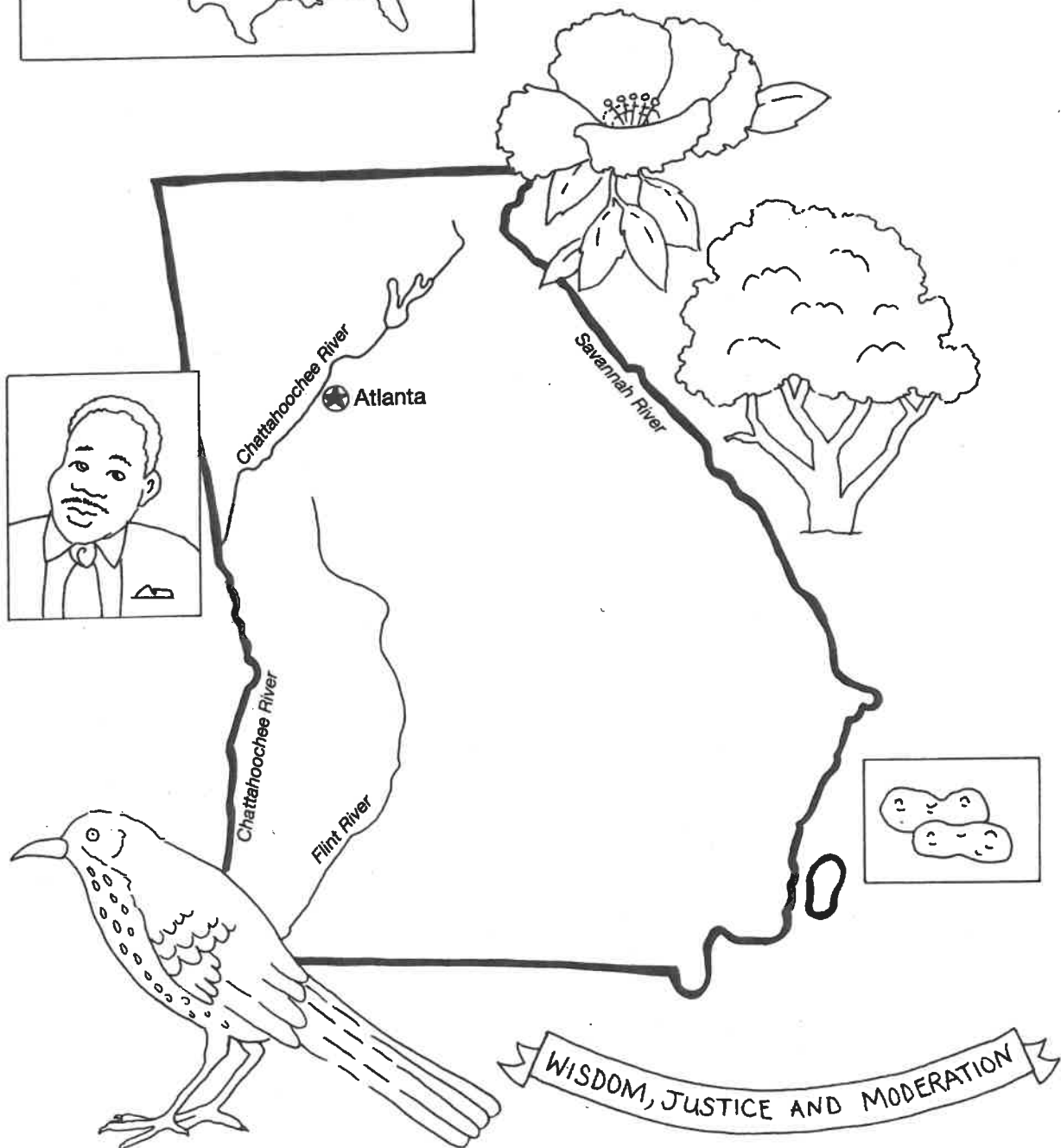
The swamplands of the Everglades National Park are home to alligators, bald eagles, flamingos and cougars.

Florida grows 75% of the oranges produced in the United States.



Georgia

Peach State



Capital: Atlanta

Flower: Cherokee rose

Bird: brown thrasher

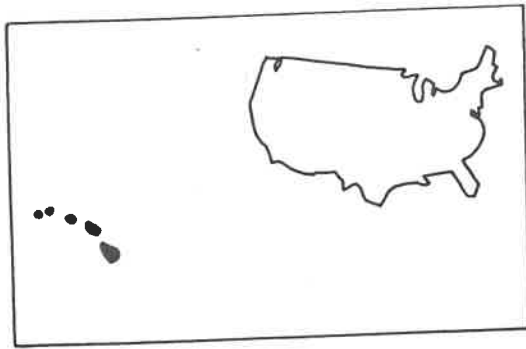
Tree: live oak

Main rivers: Chattahoochee, Flint, Savannah

4th state: January 2, 1788

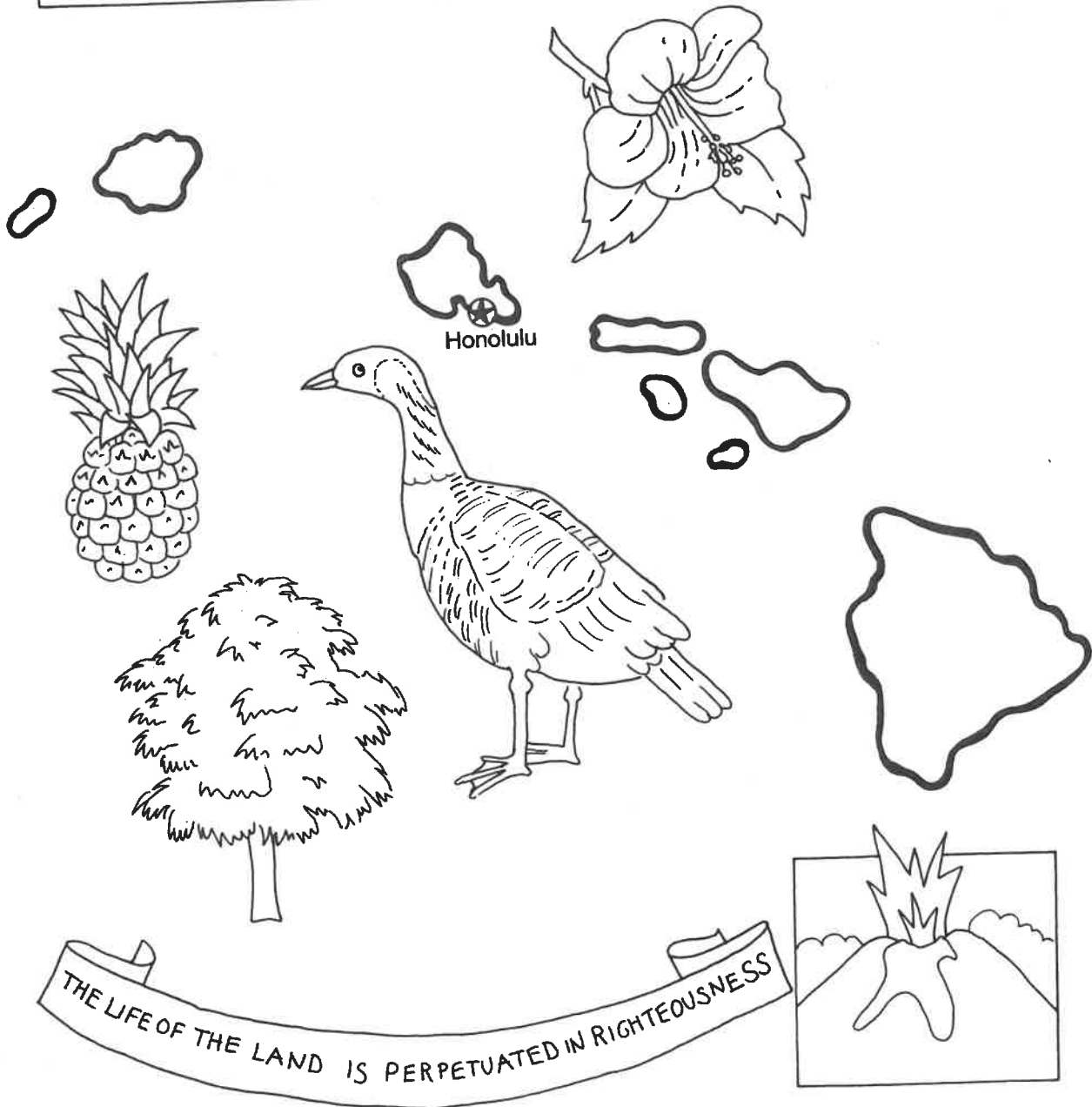
Martin Luther King, Jr., the great civil rights leader, was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1929.

Georgia is famous for its peaches. Sometimes called the Goober State, it also produces more peanuts, or "goobers" than any other state.



Hawaii

Aloha State



Capital: Honolulu

Flower: hibiscus

Bird: Hawaiian goose

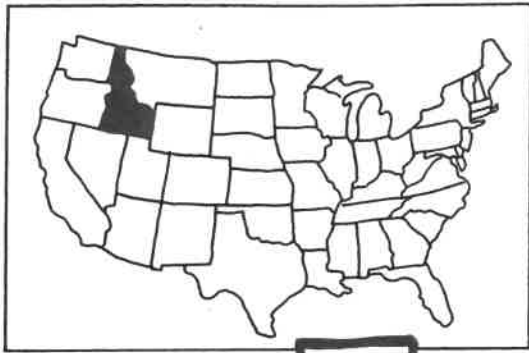
Tree: candlenut

50th state: August 21, 1959

Hawaii is the largest producer of pineapples in the United States.

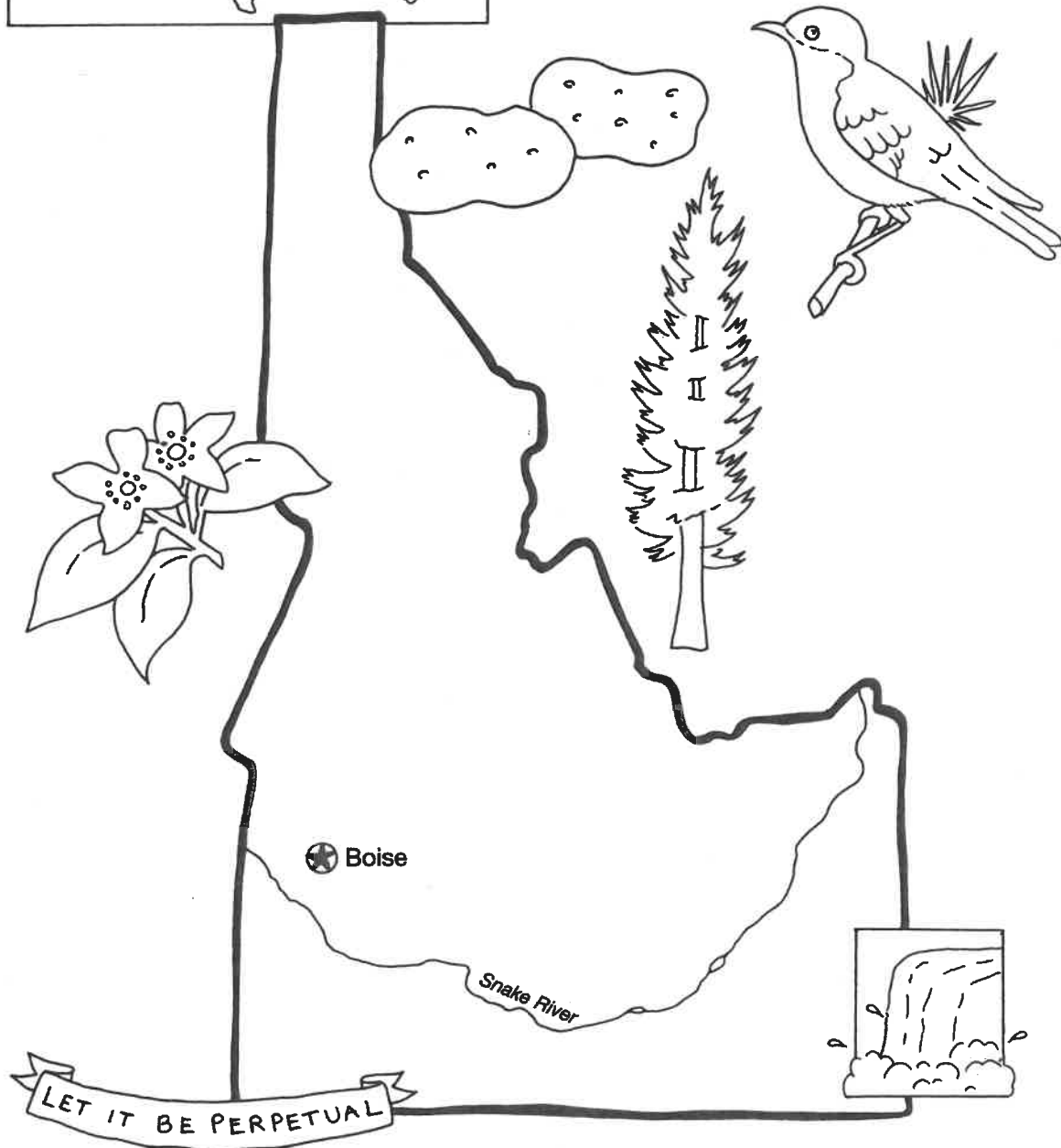
The Hawaiian islands were created by many volcanic eruptions. The Mauna Loa and the Kilauea volcanoes, on the island of Hawaii, are still active.

Hawaiian Islands: Hawaii, Maui, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai, and Niihau



Idaho

Gem State



Capital: Boise

Flower: syringa

Shoshone Falls, on the Snake River, are higher than Niagara Falls.

Potatoes are Idaho's most important farm crop.

Bird: mountain bluebird

Tree: western white pine

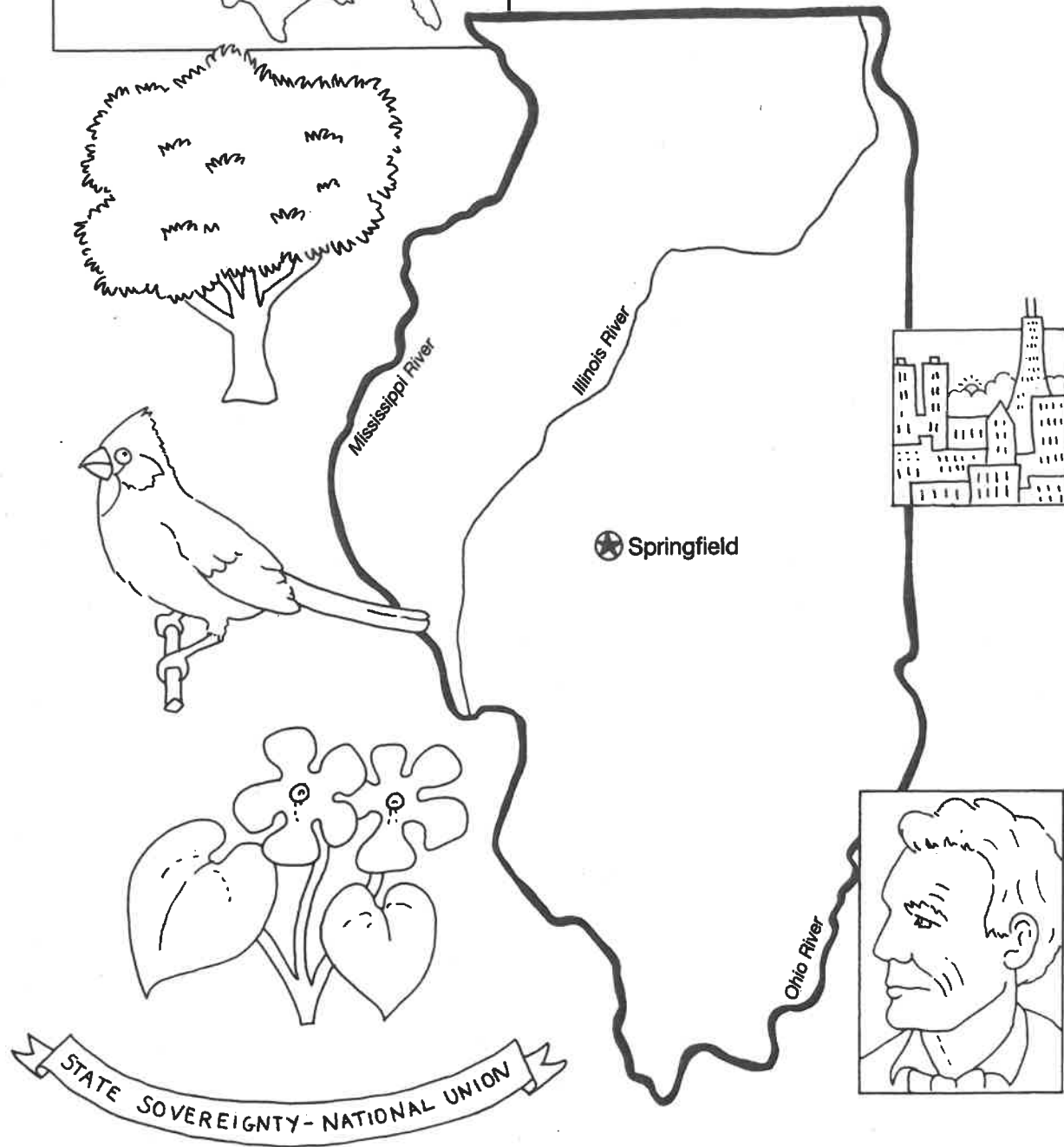
Main river: Snake

43rd state: July 3, 1890



Illinois

Prairie State



Capital: Springfield

Flower: violet

Chicago, the third largest city in the United States, boasts the tallest building in the world, the 110 story Sears Tower.

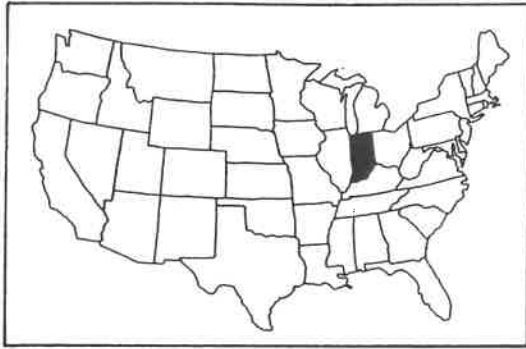
Abraham Lincoln began to practice law in Springfield.

Bird: cardinal

Tree: white oak

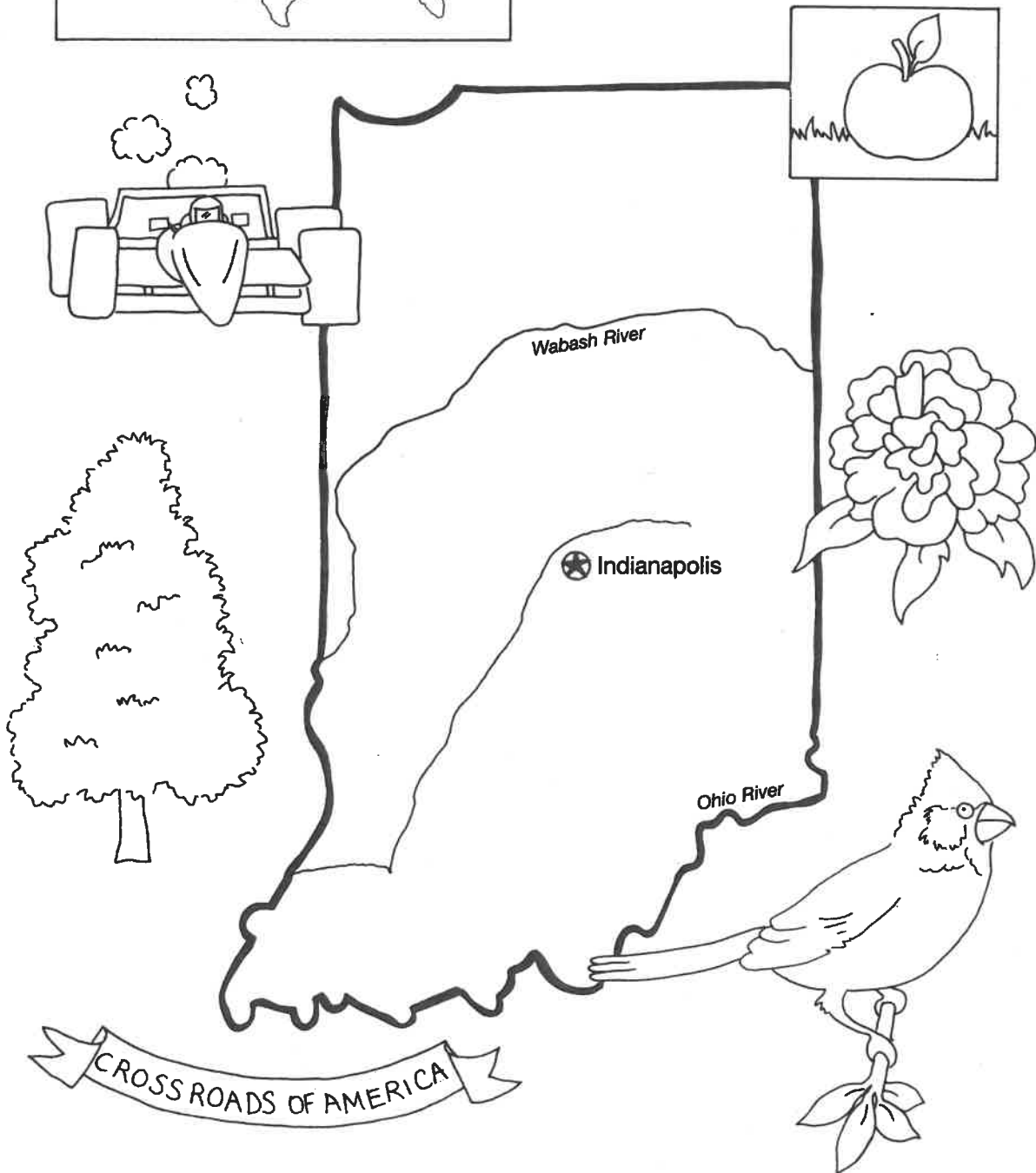
Main rivers: Illinois, Mississippi, Ohio

21st state: December 3, 1818



Indiana

Hoosier State



Capital: Indianapolis

Flower: peony

Johnny Appleseed is buried in Indiana.

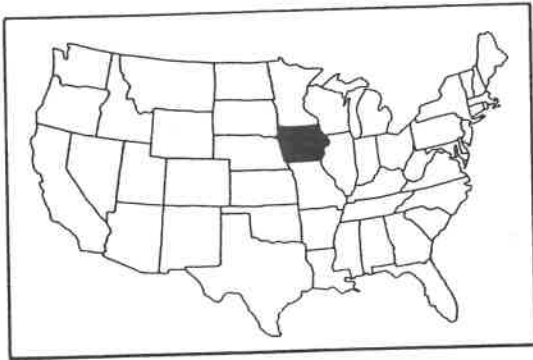
Bird: cardinal

Tree: tulip tree

Main rivers: Ohio, Wabash

19th state: December 11, 1816

The Indianapolis 500 is an automobile race held every year. The fastest cars in the world race 500 miles, or 200 times around the 2½ mile oval track.



Iowa

Hawkeye State



Capital: Des Moines

Flower: wild rose

Bird: goldfinch

Tree: oak

Main rivers: Des Moines, Mississippi, Missouri

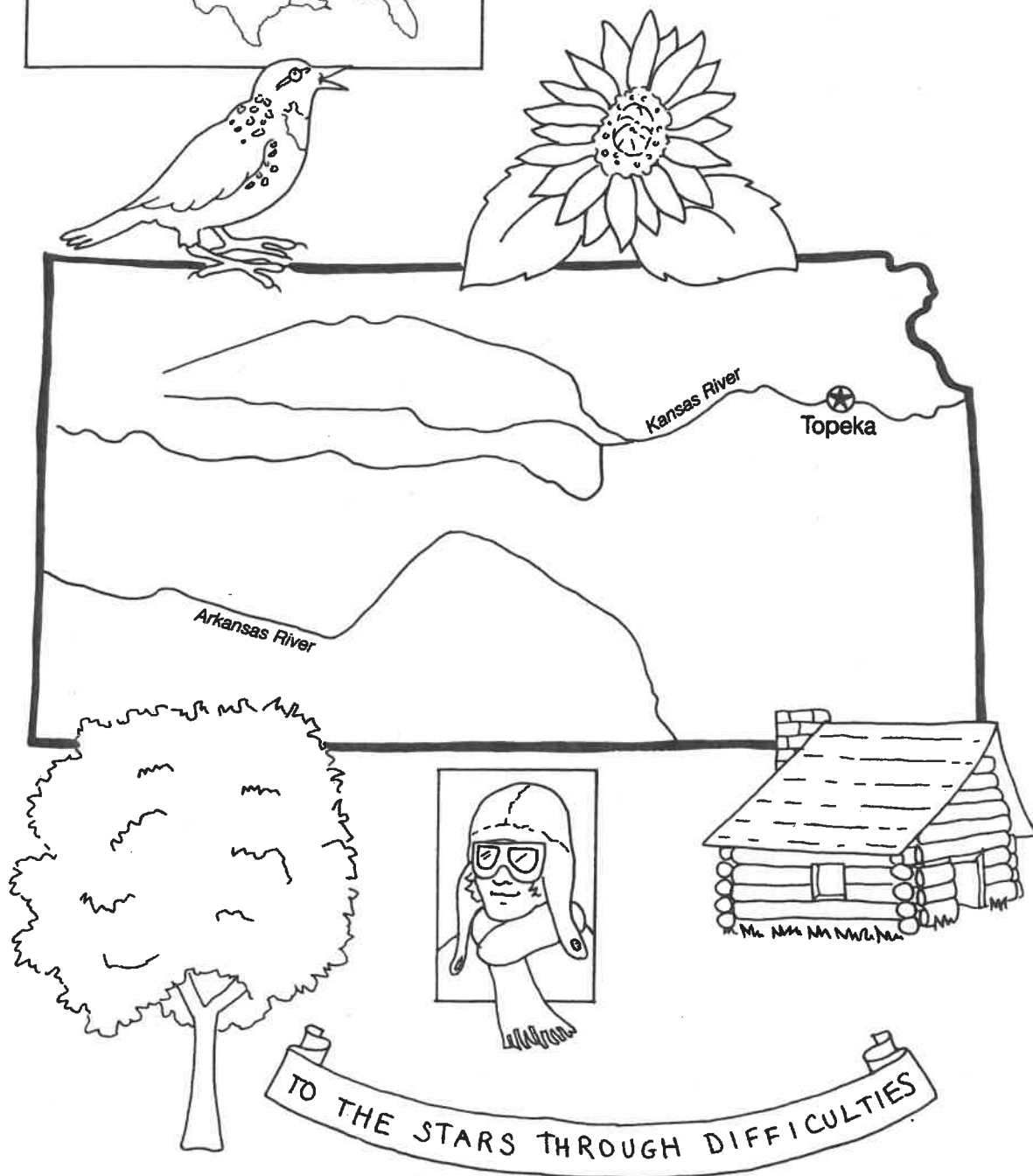
29th state: December 28, 1846

Iowa has many small farms which grow one fifth of all the corn in the United States.



Kansas

Sunflower State



Capital: Topeka

Flower: sunflower

Amelia Earhart, the famous flyer, was born in Kansas.

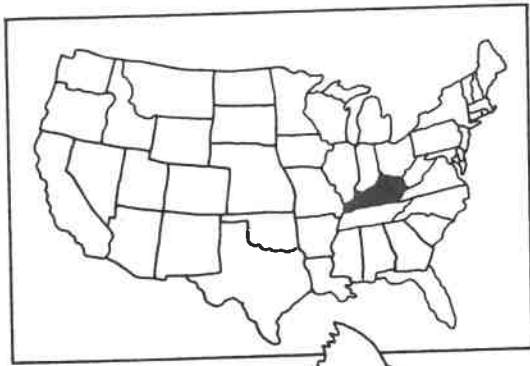
Author Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote the "Little House" books about the life of her family on the frontier. A reproduction of her house stands near Independence, Kansas.

Bird: western meadowlark

Tree: cottonwood

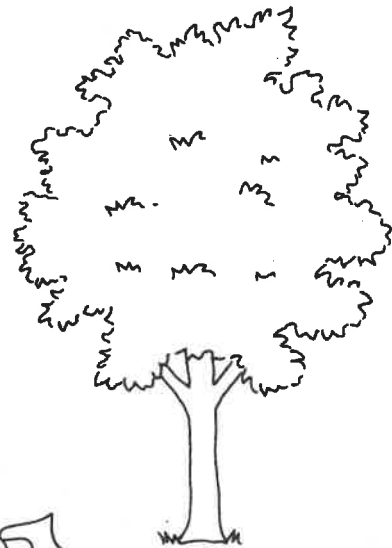
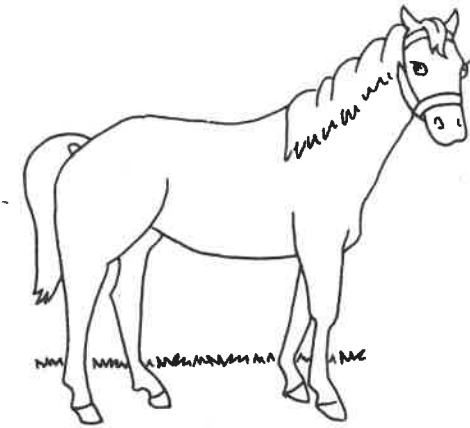
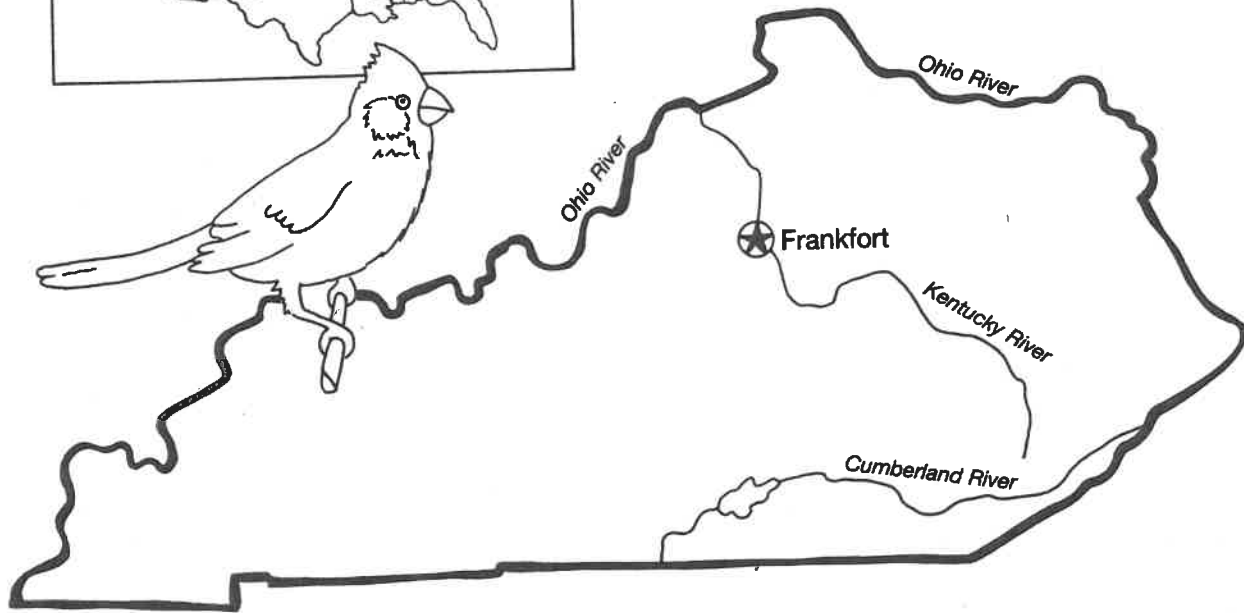
Main rivers: Arkansas, Kansas

34th state: January 29, 1861



Kentucky

Bluegrass State

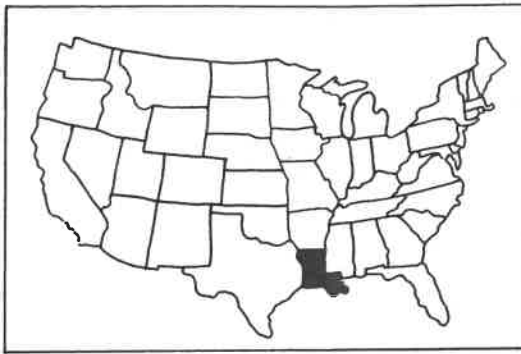


Capital: Frankfort
Flower: goldenrod

Bird: cardinal
Tree: Kentucky coffee tree

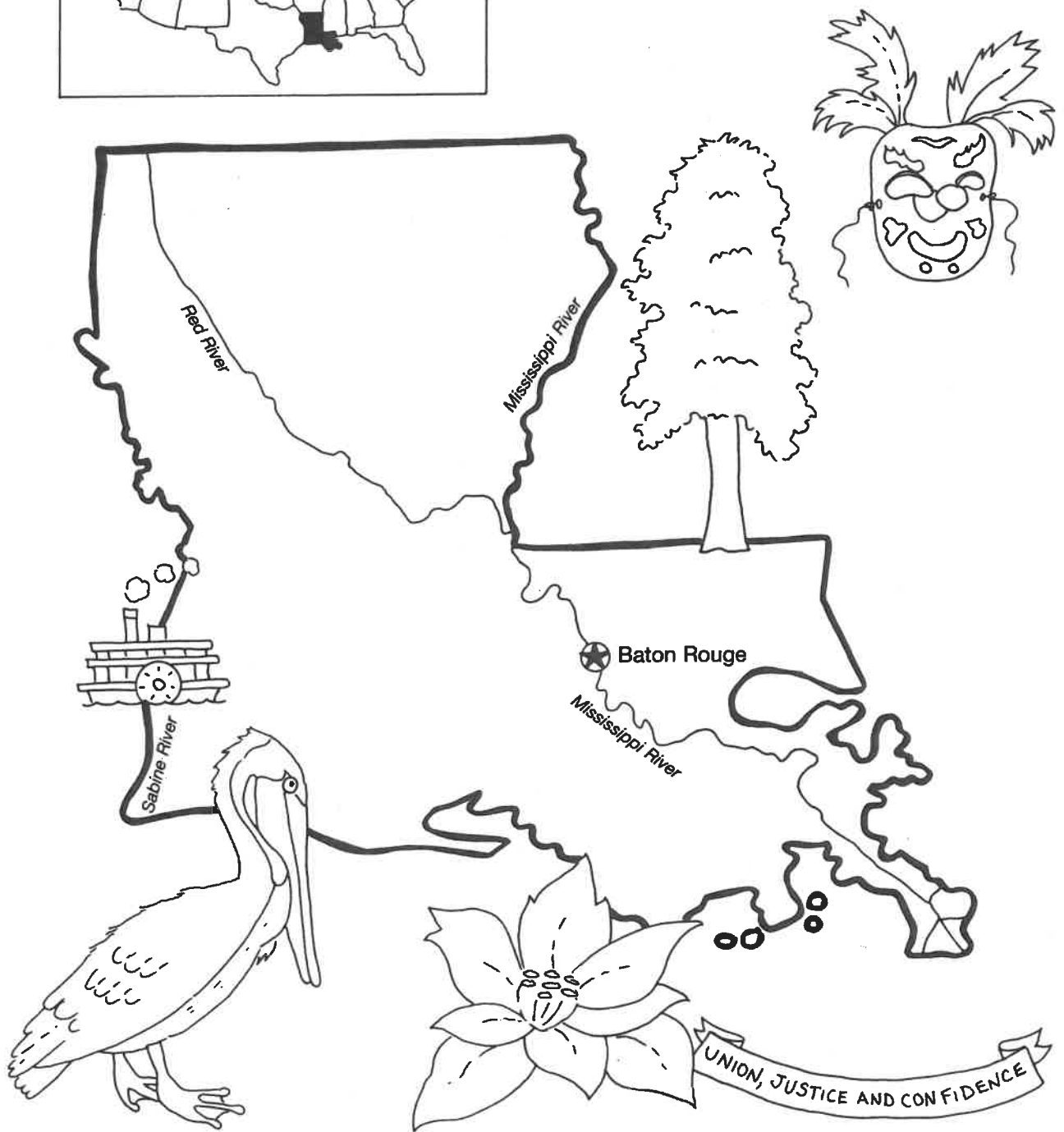
Main rivers: Cumberland, Kentucky, Ohio
15th state: June 1, 1792

Kentucky is horse country. Each May, thousands of people watch thoroughbred horses race in the Kentucky Derby.
Daniel Boone was one of the first non-Native Americans to explore Kentucky.



Louisiana

Pelican State



Capital: Baton Rouge

Flower: magnolia

Steam driven paddleboats still travel up and down the Mississippi River.

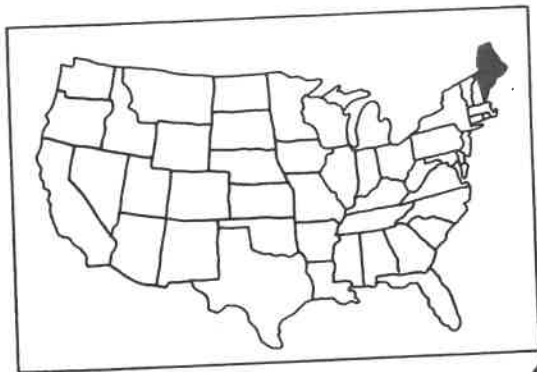
At Mardi Gras (the day before Lent begins), people dress in masks and costumes and parade through the streets of New Orleans.

Bird: brown pelican

Tree: bald cypress

Main rivers: Mississippi, Red, Sabine

18th state: April 30, 1812



Maine

Pine Tree State



Capital: Augusta

Flower: white pine cone, tassel

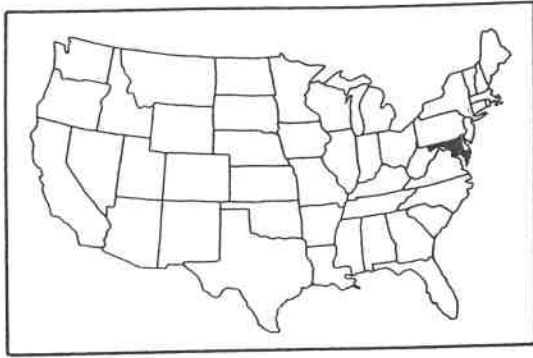
Bird: chickadee

Tree: white pine

Main river: Penobscot

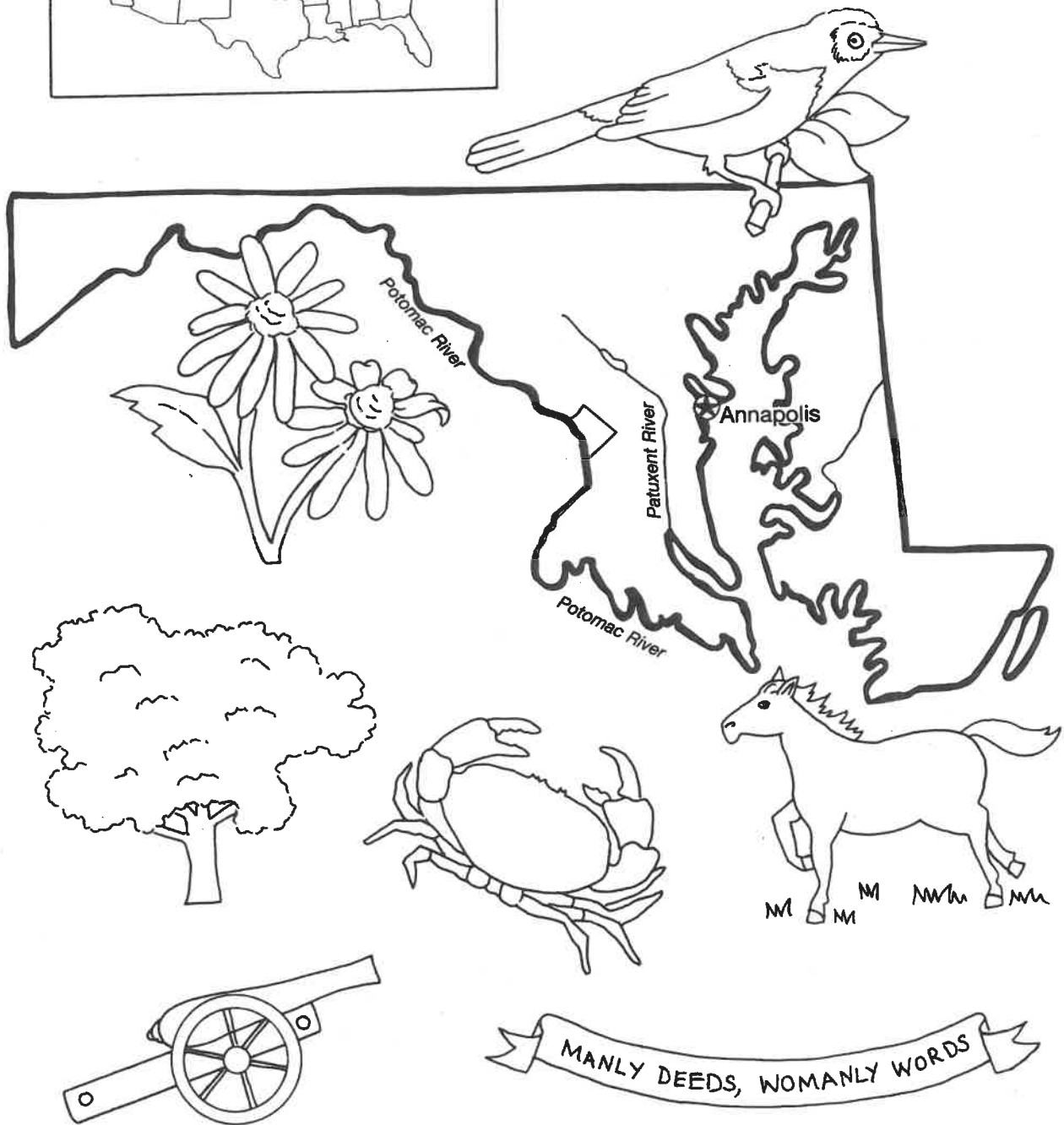
23rd state: March 15, 1820

More lobsters are caught in Maine than in any other state. Lighthouses warn boats of perils on the rocky shores.



Maryland

Old Line State



Capital: Annapolis

Flower: black-eyed Susan

Bird: Baltimore oriole

Tree: white oak

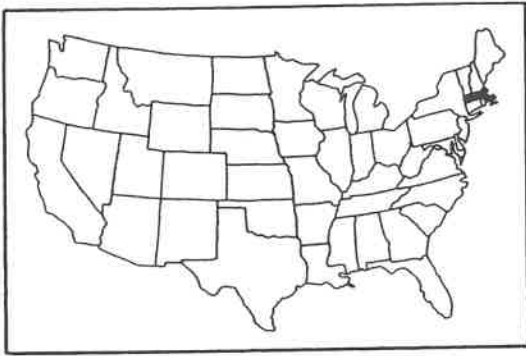
Main rivers: Patuxent, Potomac

7th state: April 28, 1788

The wild Chincoteague ponies live on Assateague Island National Seashore Park (which Maryland shares with Virginia).

Chesapeake Bay is famous for its delicious crabs.

At Fort McHenry on the Chesapeake Bay, Francis Scott Key watched the British attack in 1814, and was inspired to write our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."



Massachusetts

Bay State



Capital: Boston

Flower: mayflower

Bird: chickadee

Tree: elm

Main river: Connecticut

6th state: February 6, 1788

The pilgrims, sailing on the Mayflower, landed at Plymouth Rock on December 21, 1620.

The sandy beaches of Cape Cod are popular vacation spots.



Michigan

Great Lakes State



Capital: Lansing

Flower: apple blossom

Bird: robin

Tree: white pine

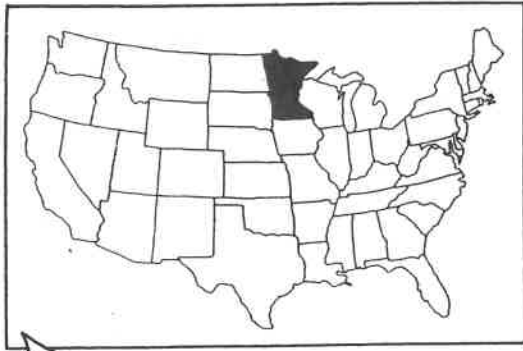
Main river: Muskegon

26th state: January 26, 1837

In 1903, Henry Ford built an automobile factory in Michigan. The automobile industry still dominates Michigan's economy.

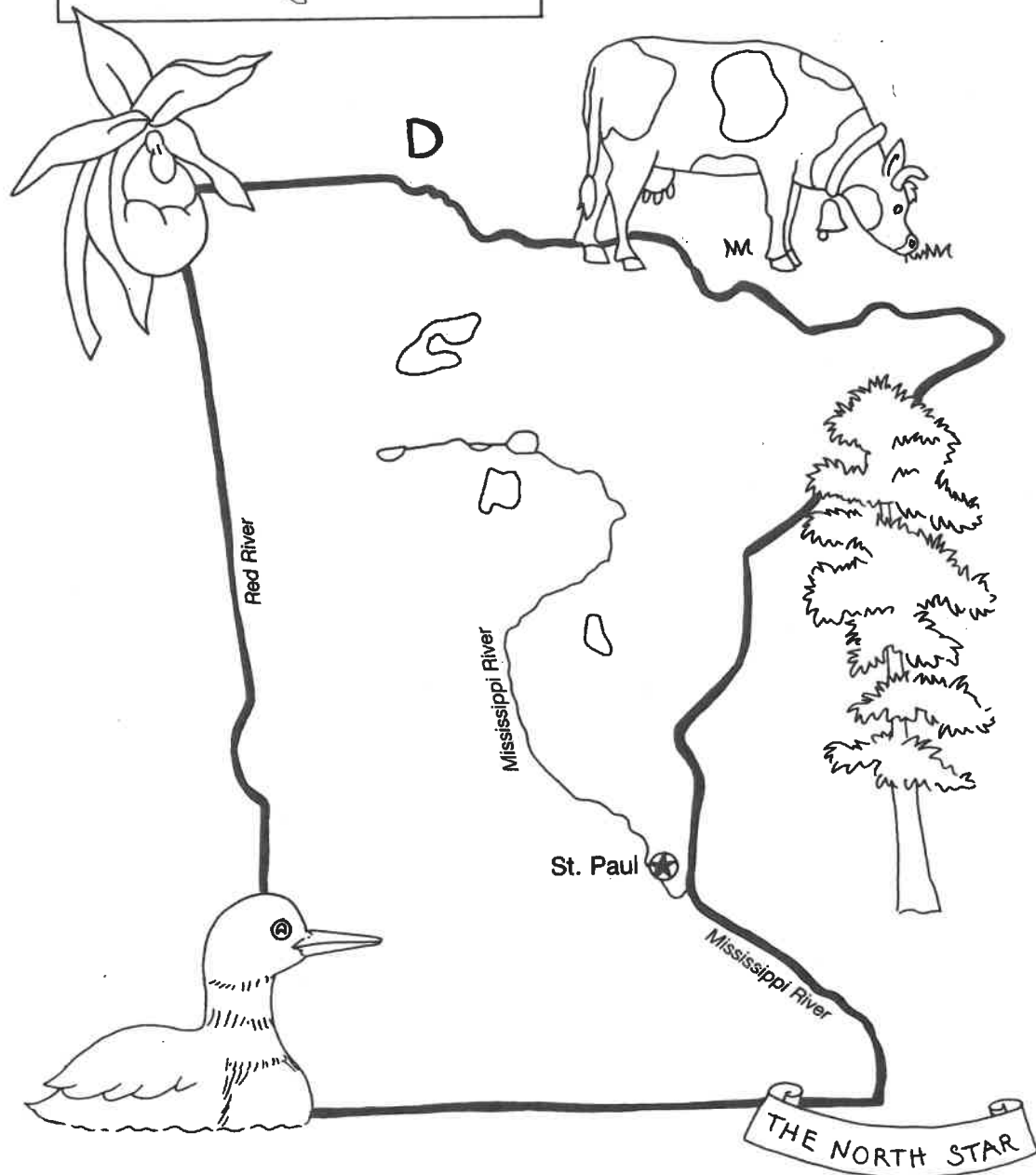
Most of the nation's cereal is made in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Michigan is bordered by four of the Great Lakes which create two peninsulas.



Minnesota

Gopher State



Capital: St. Paul

Flower: pink and white lady's slipper

Glacier activity in the last ice age left Minnesota with more than 15,000 lakes and fertile deposits of soil resulting in rich farmland.

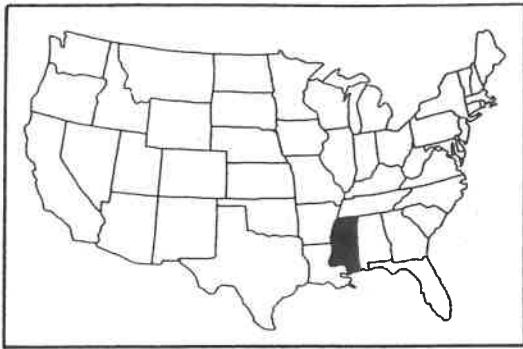
Many of Minnesota's farms have dairy cows.

Bird: common loon

Tree: red pine

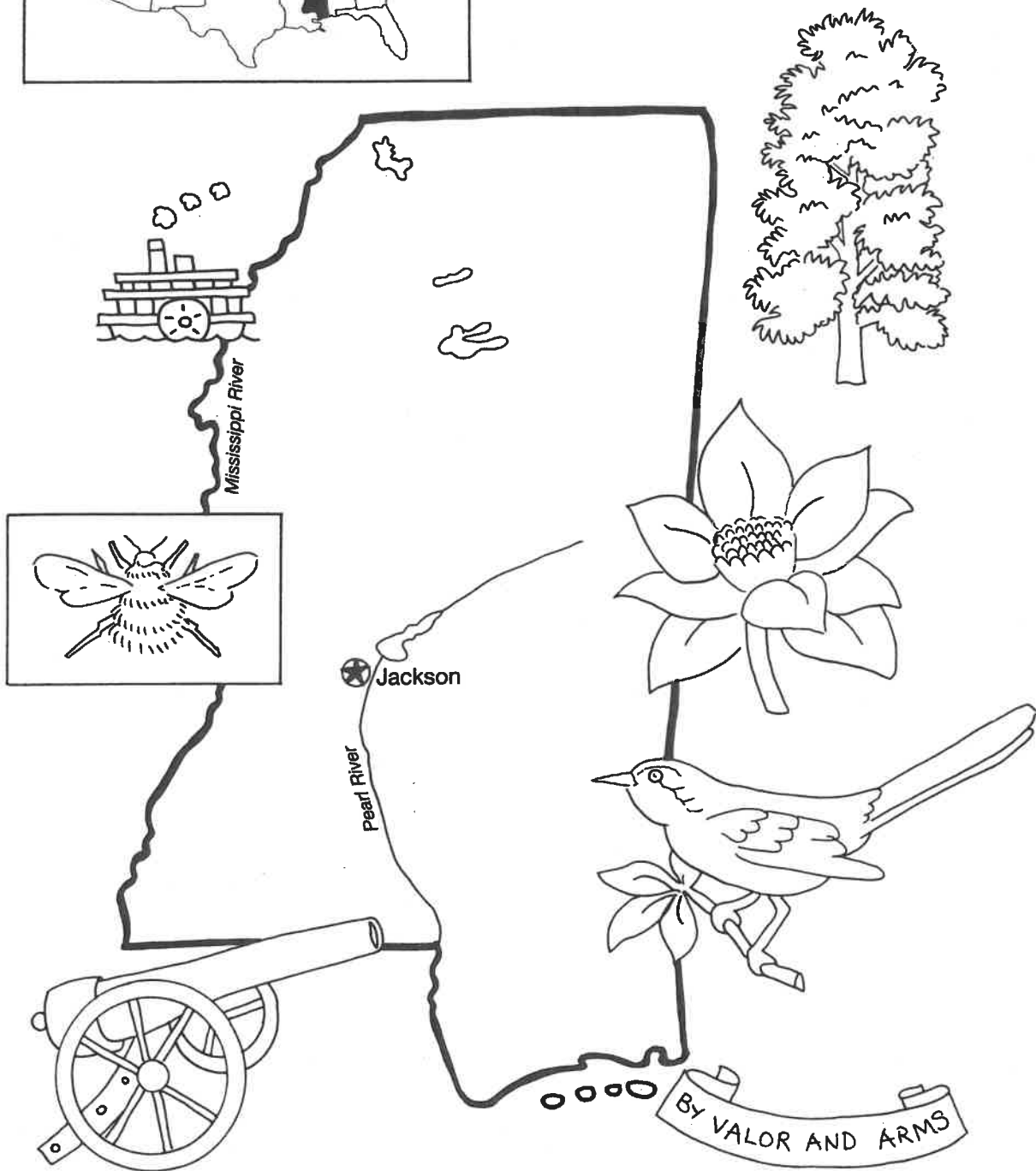
Main rivers: Mississippi, Red

32nd state: May 11, 1858



Mississippi

Magnolia State



Capital: Jackson

Flower: magnolia

Bird: mockingbird

Tree: magnolia

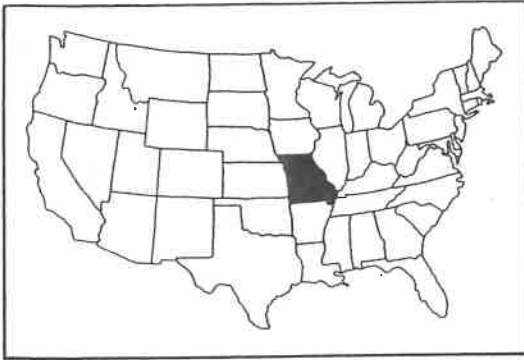
Main rivers: Mississippi, Pearl

20th state: December 10, 1817

The honeybee is Mississippi's state insect.

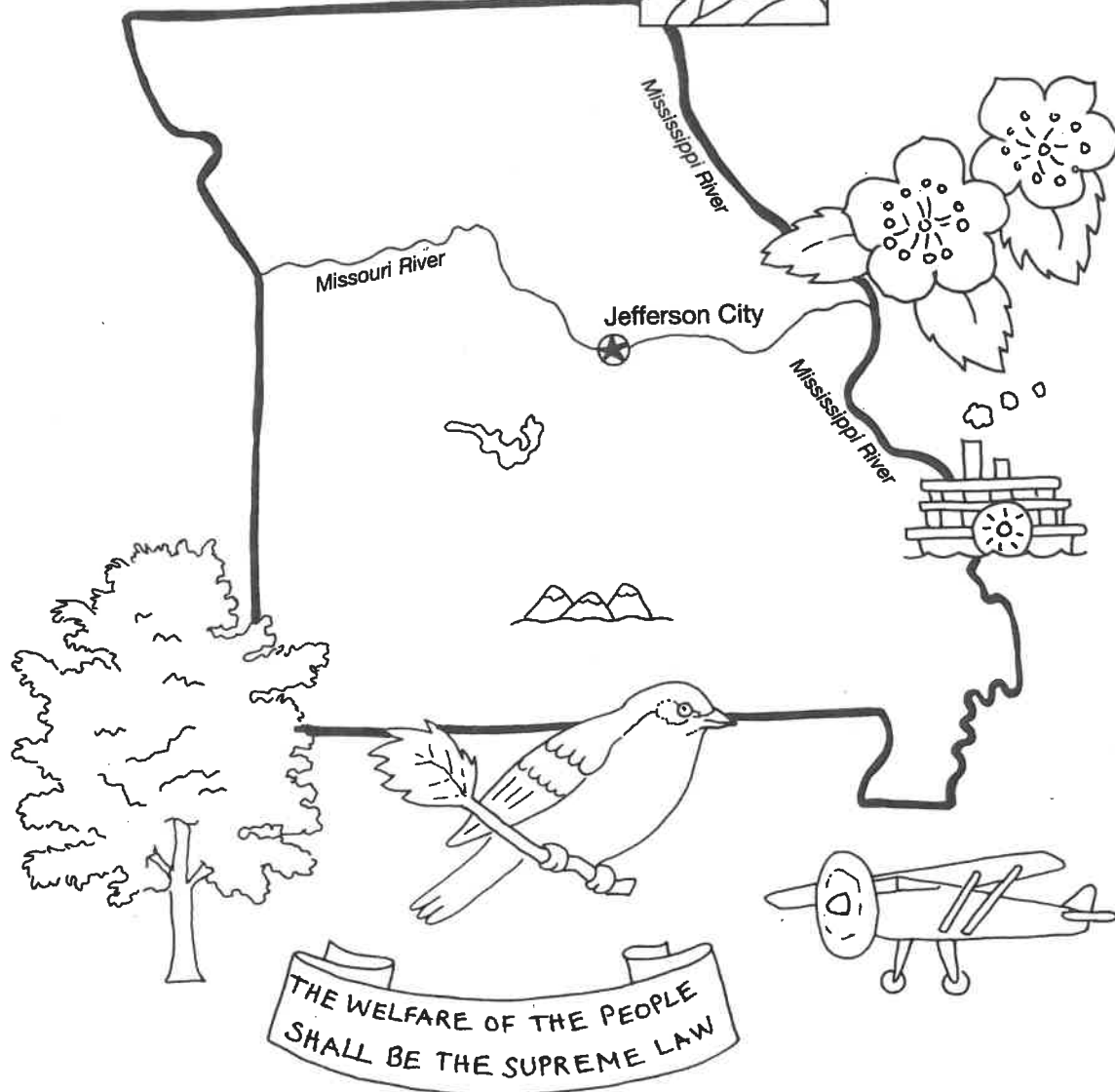
During the Civil War, the Union Army captured Vicksburg, Mississippi, cutting the South's lands in two, and giving the Northern army control of the Mississippi River.

Steamboats still travel up and down the Mississippi River.



Missouri

Show Me State



Capital: Jefferson City

Flower: hawthorn

Bird: bluebird

Tree: dogwood

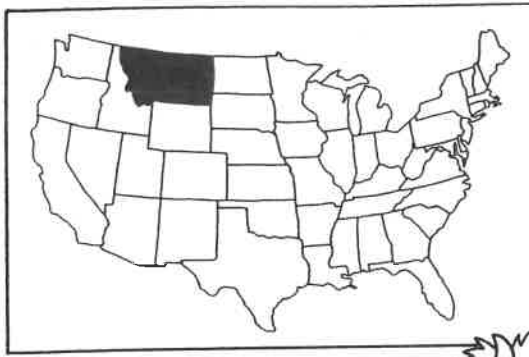
Main rivers: Mississippi, Missouri

24th state: August 10, 1821

Steamboats still travel up and down the Mississippi River.

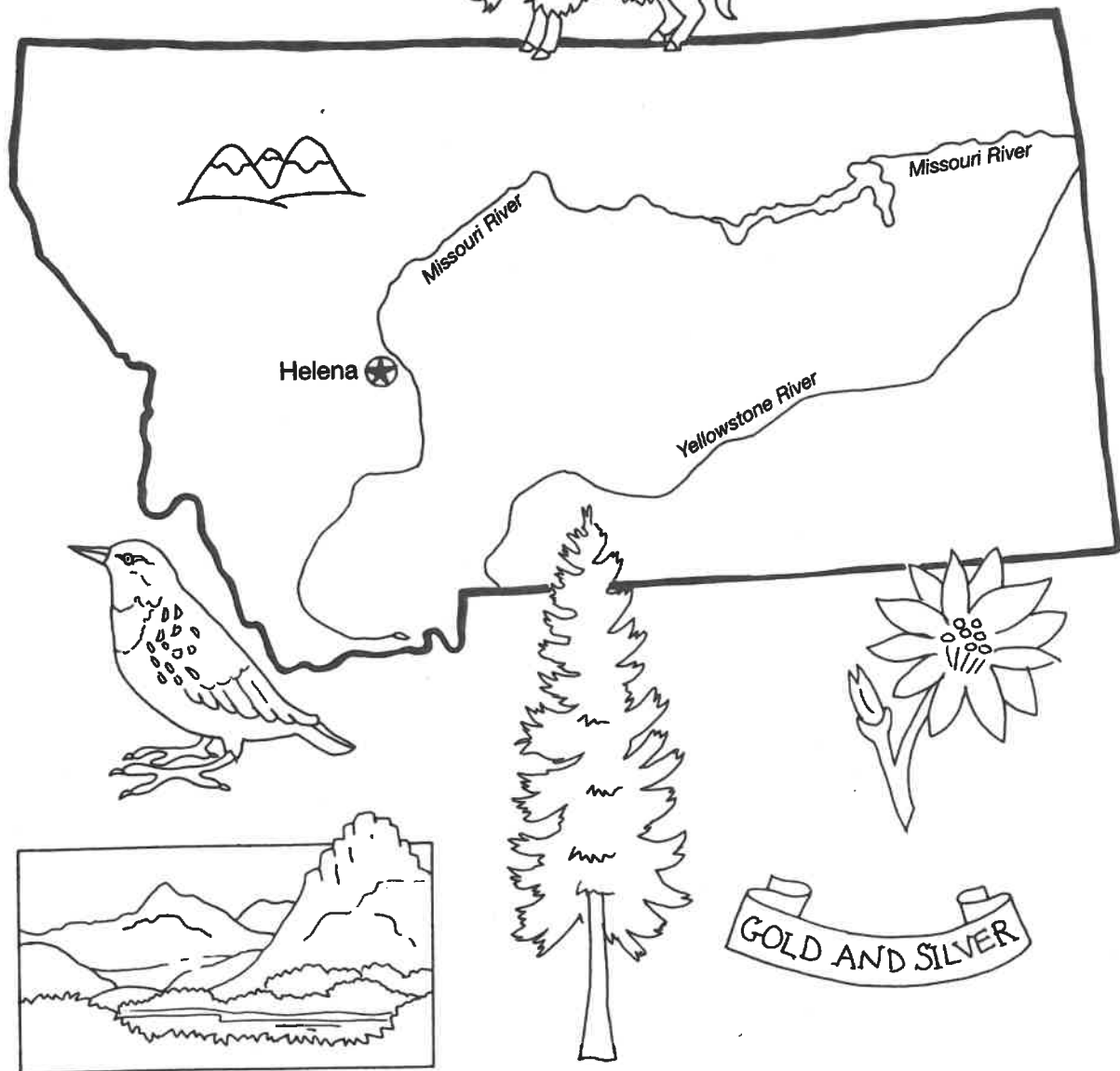
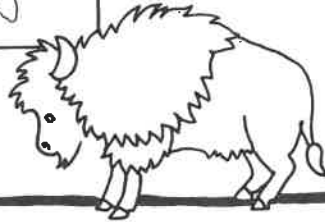
The great American story teller Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), author of *Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, was born and raised near the Mississippi River in Missouri.

"The Spirit of Saint Louis," the plane in which Charles Lindbergh made his famous solo flight across the Atlantic, was financed by and named in honor of group of investors from St. Louis, Missouri.



Montana

Treasure State



Capital: Helena

Flower: bitterroot

Bird: western meadowlark

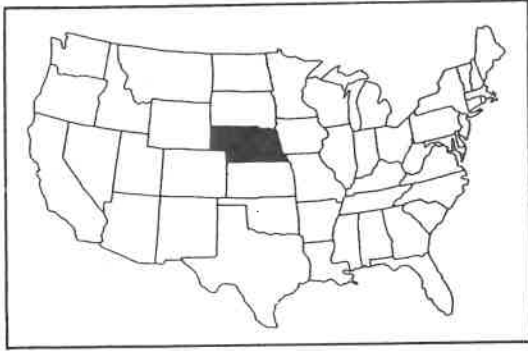
Tree: ponderosa pine

Main rivers: Missouri, Yellowstone

41st state: November 8, 1889

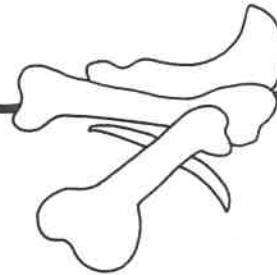
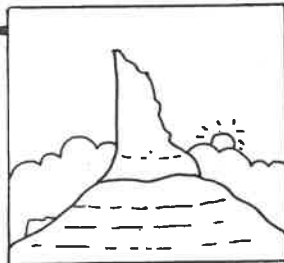
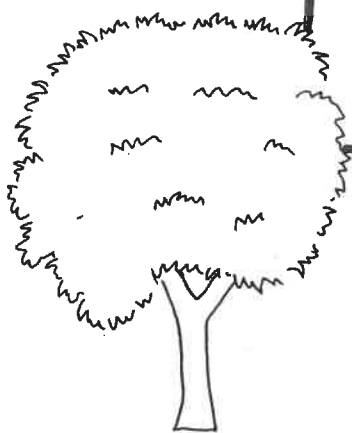
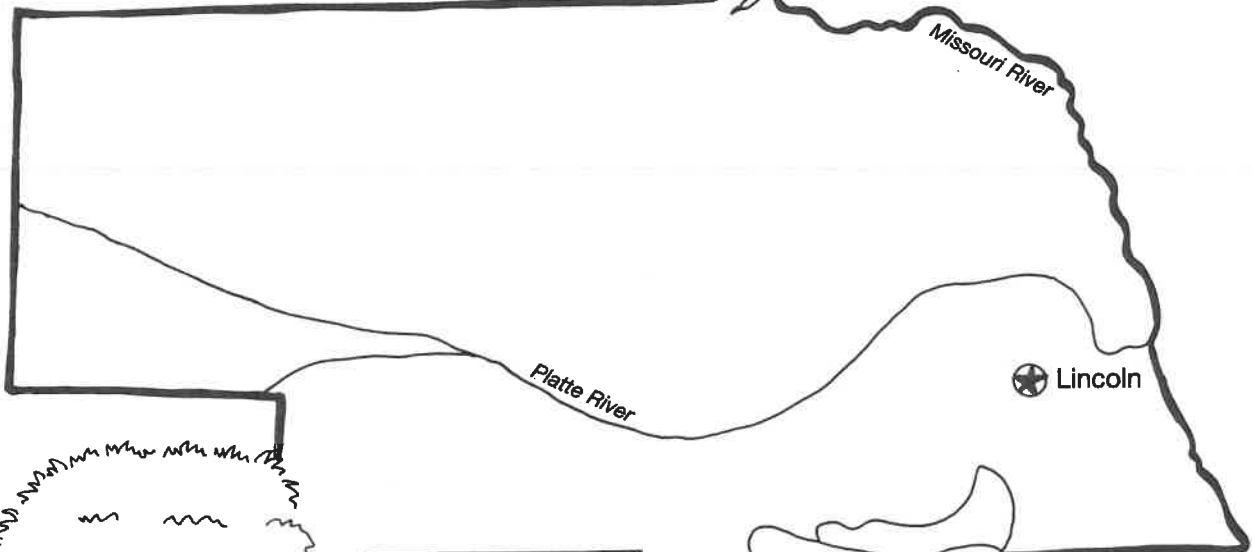
The Glacier National Park is a spectacular region of mountains, glaciers, and lakes.

One of the few surviving herds of bison lives in the National Bison Range in Montana.



Nebraska

Cornhusker State



Capital: Lincoln

Flower: goldenrod

Bird: western meadowlark

Tree: cottonwood

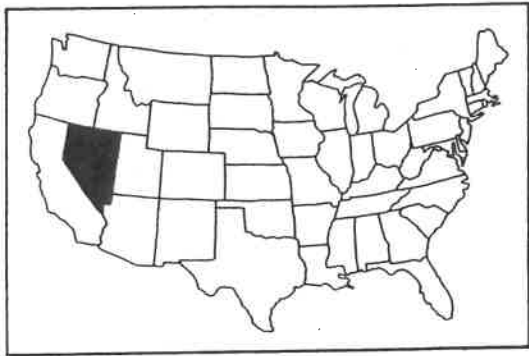
Main rivers: Missouri, Platte

37th state: March 1, 1867

Corn is the most important crop in Nebraska. Nebraska also grows more popcorn than any other state.

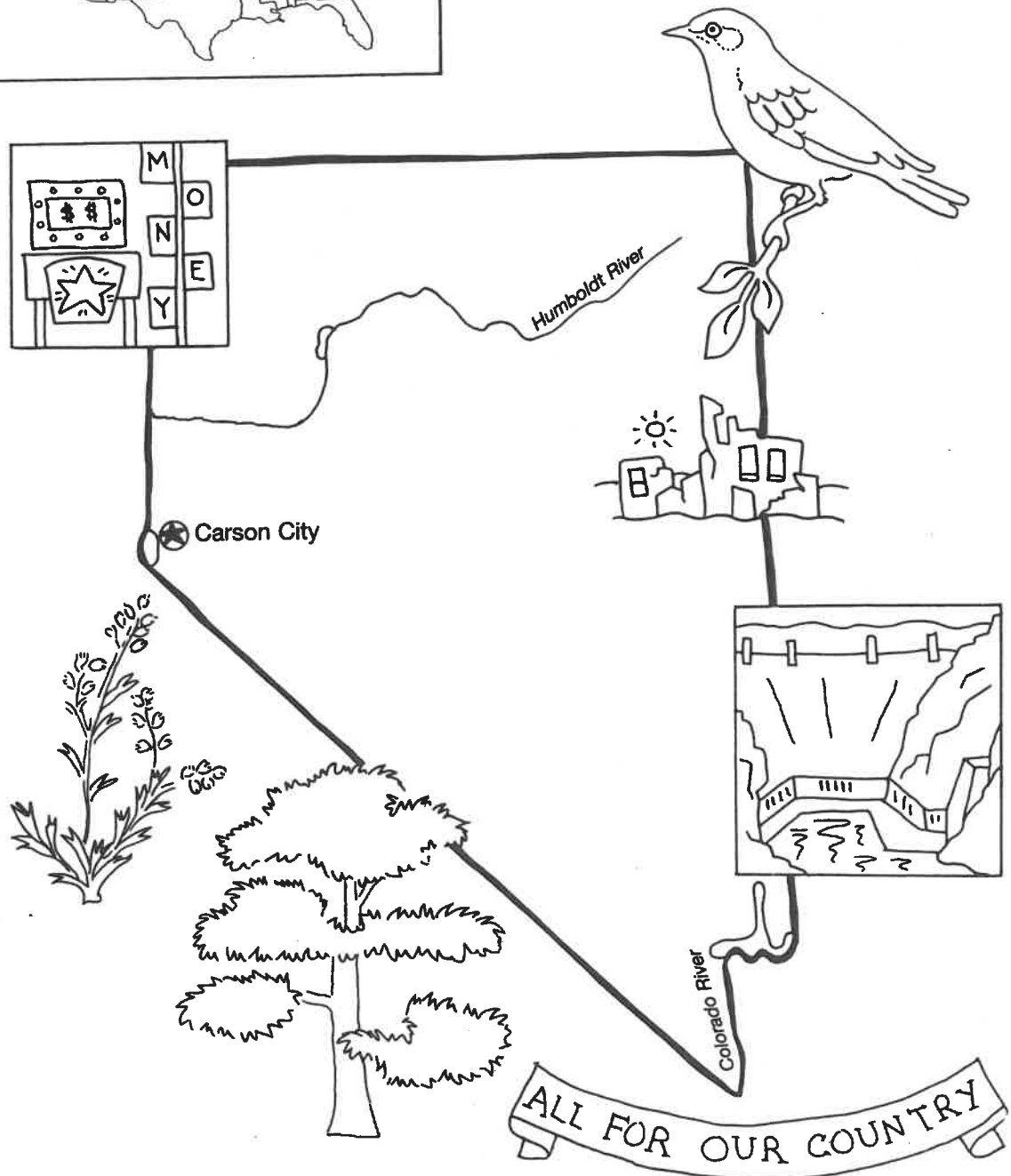
The bones of extinct mammals from millions of years ago can be found in Agate Fossil Beds National Monument.

As the pioneers in covered wagons traveled along the Oregon Trail more than 100 years ago, they designated the sight of 500 foot high Chimney Rock as marking the beginning of "The West."



Nevada

Silver State



Capital: Carson City

Flower: sagebrush

Bird: mountain bluebird

Tree: single-leaf piñon

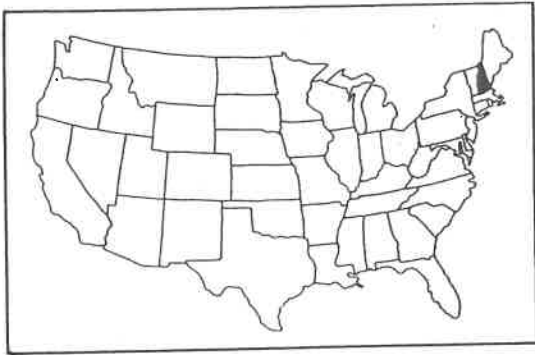
Main rivers: Colorado, Humboldt

36th state: October 31, 1864

Gold and silver were discovered in Nevada during the mid-1800s. Many mining towns sprang up overnight, but when the mines ran out of gold and silver, only ghost towns remained.

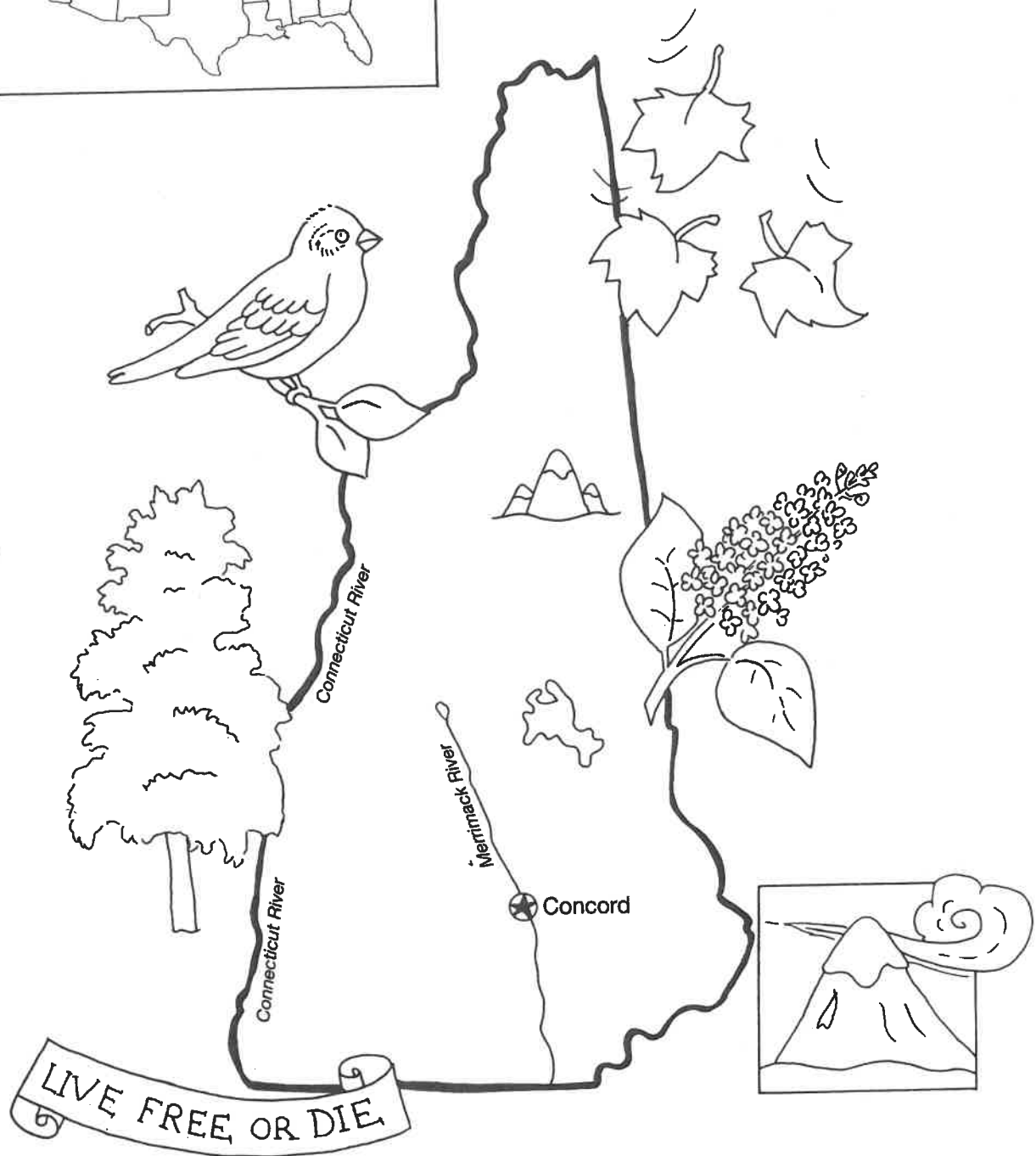
The construction of the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River created Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States.

Las Vegas, Nevada is one of the few places in the United States that allows gambling.



New Hampshire

Granite State



Capital: Concord

Flower: purple lilac

Bird: purple finch

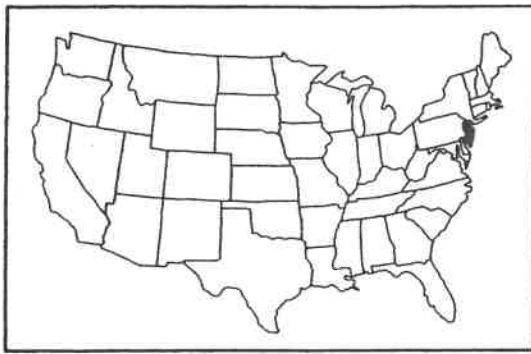
Tree: white birch

Main rivers: Connecticut, Merrimack

9th state: June 21, 1788

The fastest wind ever recorded on the earth—231 miles per hour—was at the top of New Hampshire's Mount Washington.

Many people visit New Hampshire in the fall to see the brilliantly colored leaves.



New Jersey

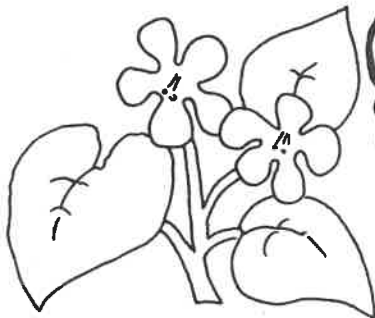
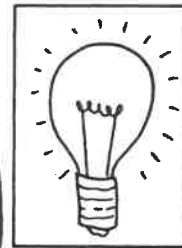
Garden State



Delaware River



Trenton



LIBERTY AND PROSPERITY

Capital: Trenton

Flower: purple violet

Bird: eastern goldfinch

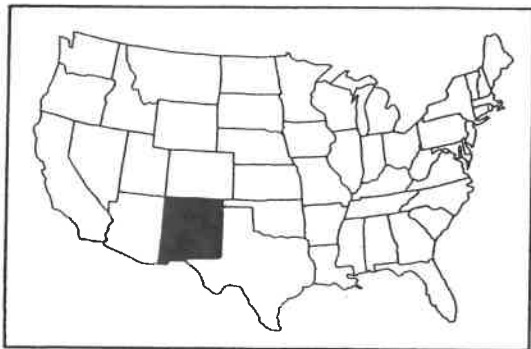
Tree: red oak

Main river: Delaware

3rd state: December 18, 1787

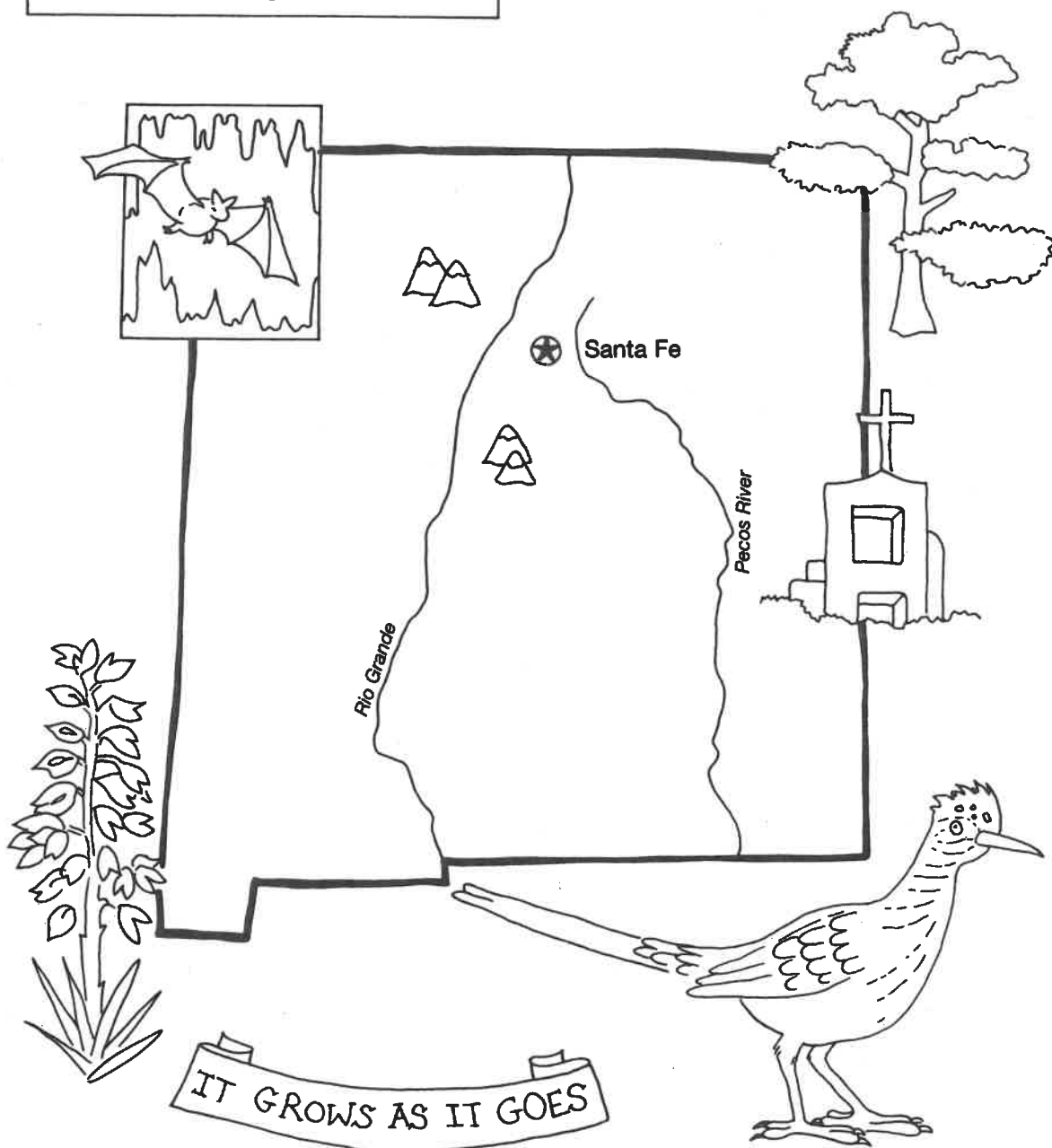
New Jersey is known for its rich farmland as well as for its many factories.

Thomas Edison, inventor of the light bulb, the phonograph and motion pictures, lived and worked in New Jersey.



New Mexico

Land of Enchantment State



Capital: Santa Fe

Flower: yucca flower

Bird: roadrunner

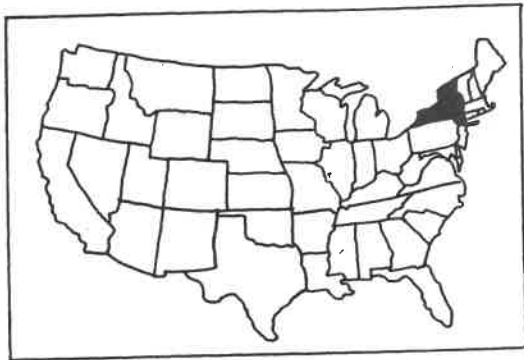
Tree: piñon

Main rivers: Rio Grande, Pecos

47th state: January 6, 1912

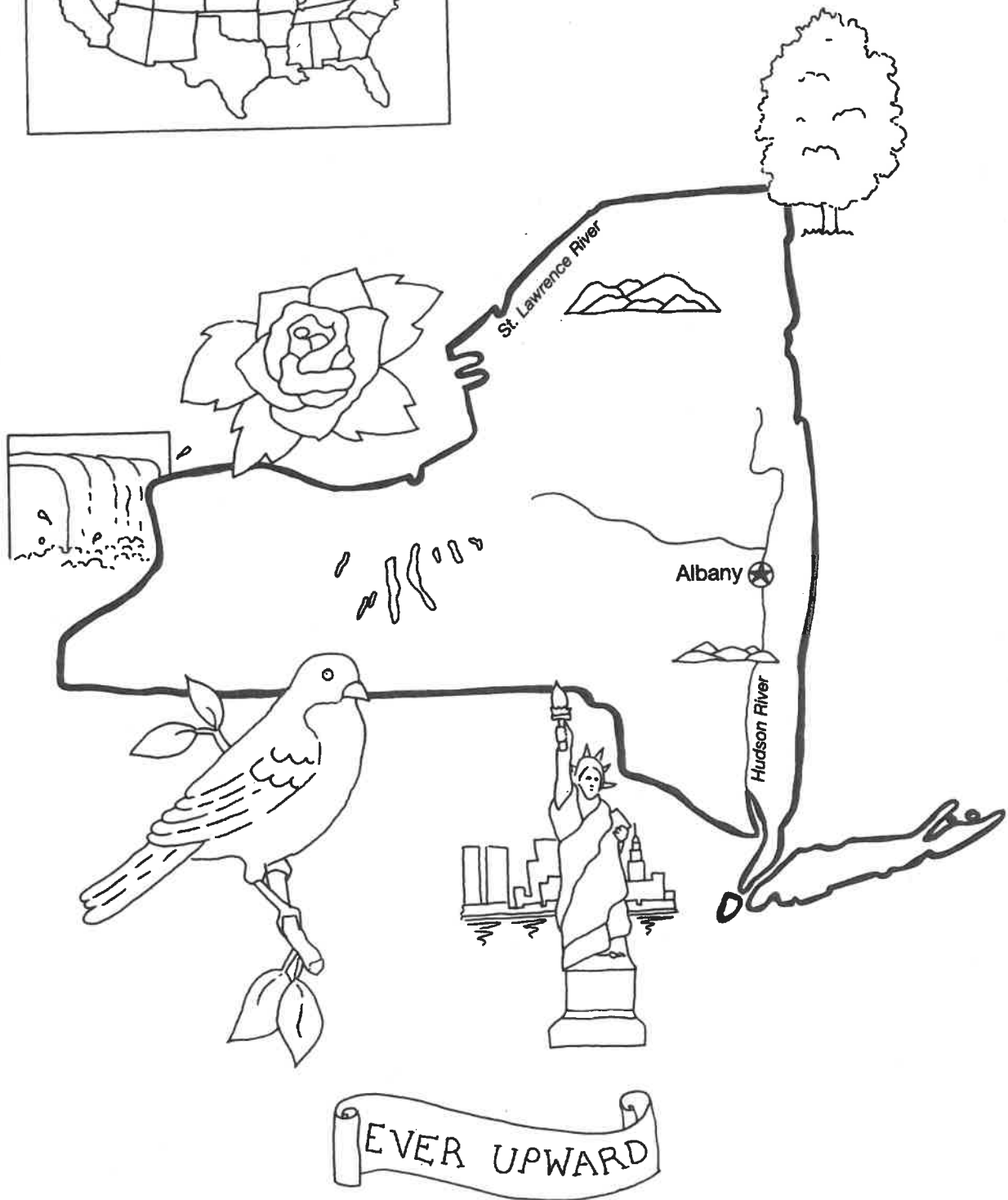
The San Miguel Mission is the oldest church in the United States.

The Carlsbad Caverns are the largest caves on Earth. Each evening, thousands of bats fly out to feed and return in the morning to sleep.



New York

Empire State



Capital: Albany

Flower: rose

Bird: bluebird

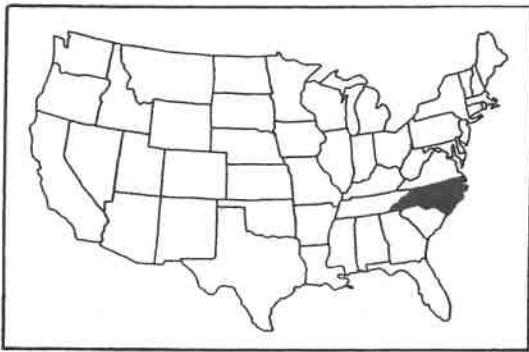
Tree: sugar maple

Main rivers: Hudson, St. Lawrence

11th state: July 26, 1788

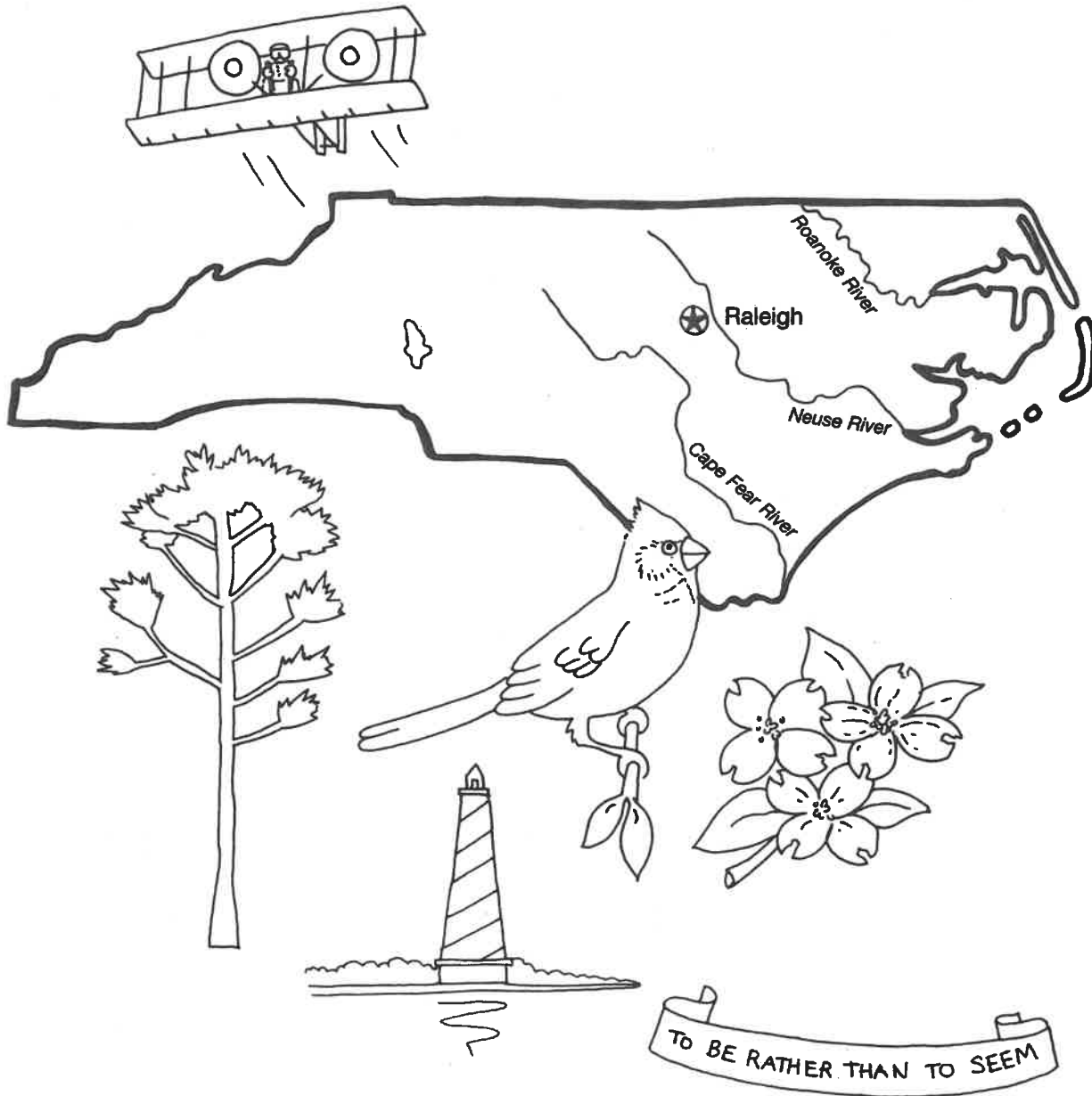
Once the nation's capital, New York City is the largest city in the United States. The Statue of Liberty, a gift of the people of France in 1886, is a popular attraction for visitors.

Niagara Falls is visited by over six million people every year.



North Carolina

Tar Heel State

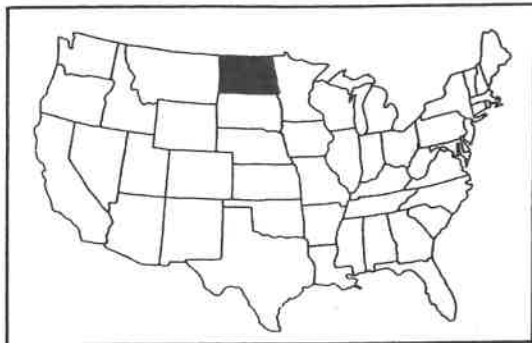


Capital: Raleigh
Flower: dogwood

Bird: cardinal
Tree: pine

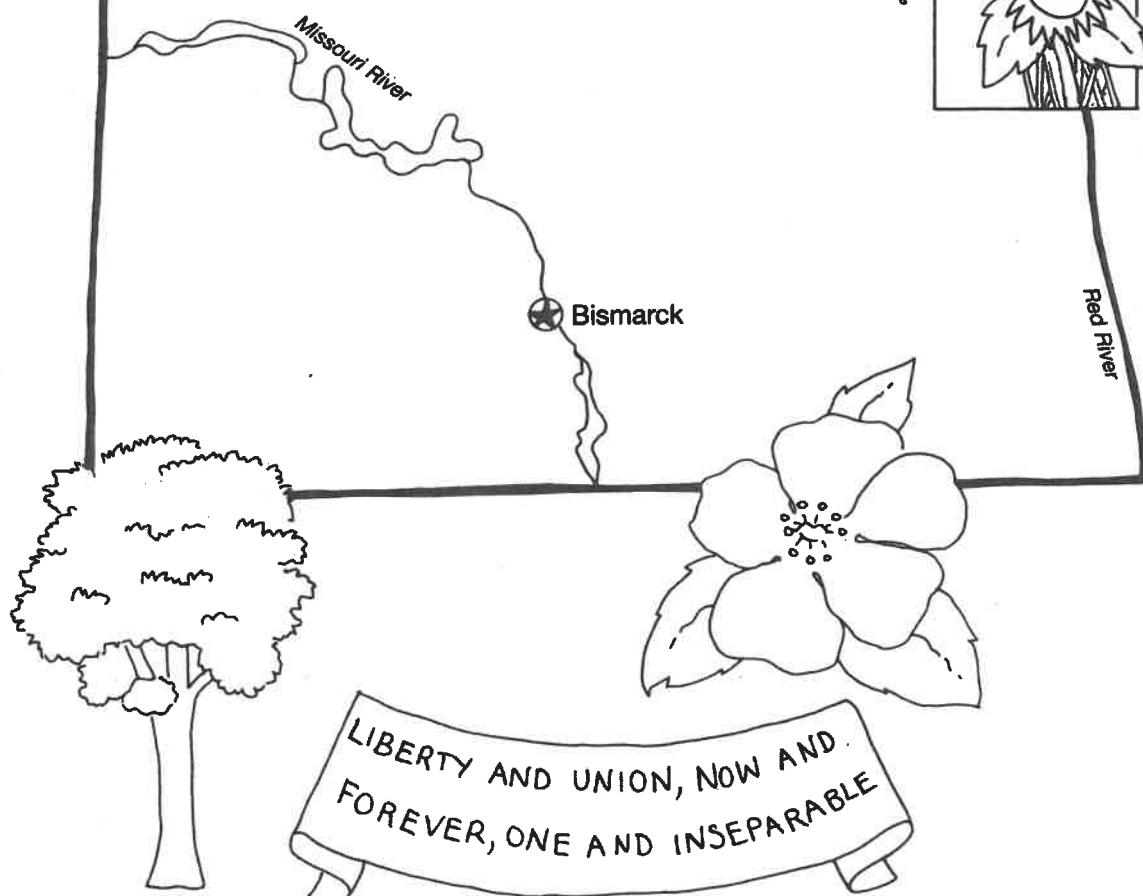
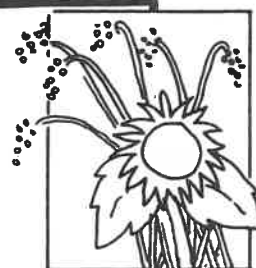
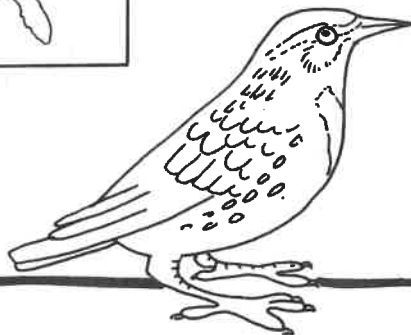
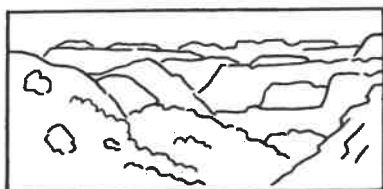
Main rivers: Cape Fear, Neuse, Roanoke
12th state: November 21, 1789

The world's first airplane flight, by Orville and Wilbur Wright, occurred in 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
At 208 feet, the lighthouse at Cape Hatteras is the tallest in the United States.



North Dakota

Peace Garden State



Capital: Bismarck

Flower: wild prairie rose

Bird: western meadowlark

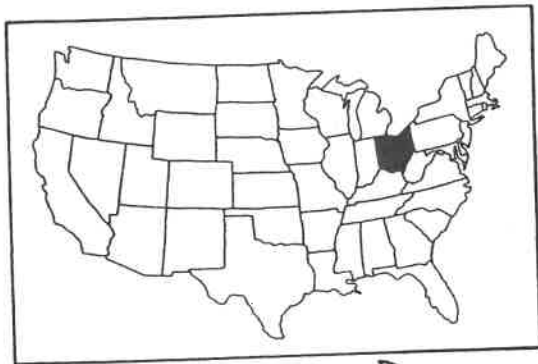
Tree: American elm

Main rivers: Missouri, Red

39th state: November 2, 1889

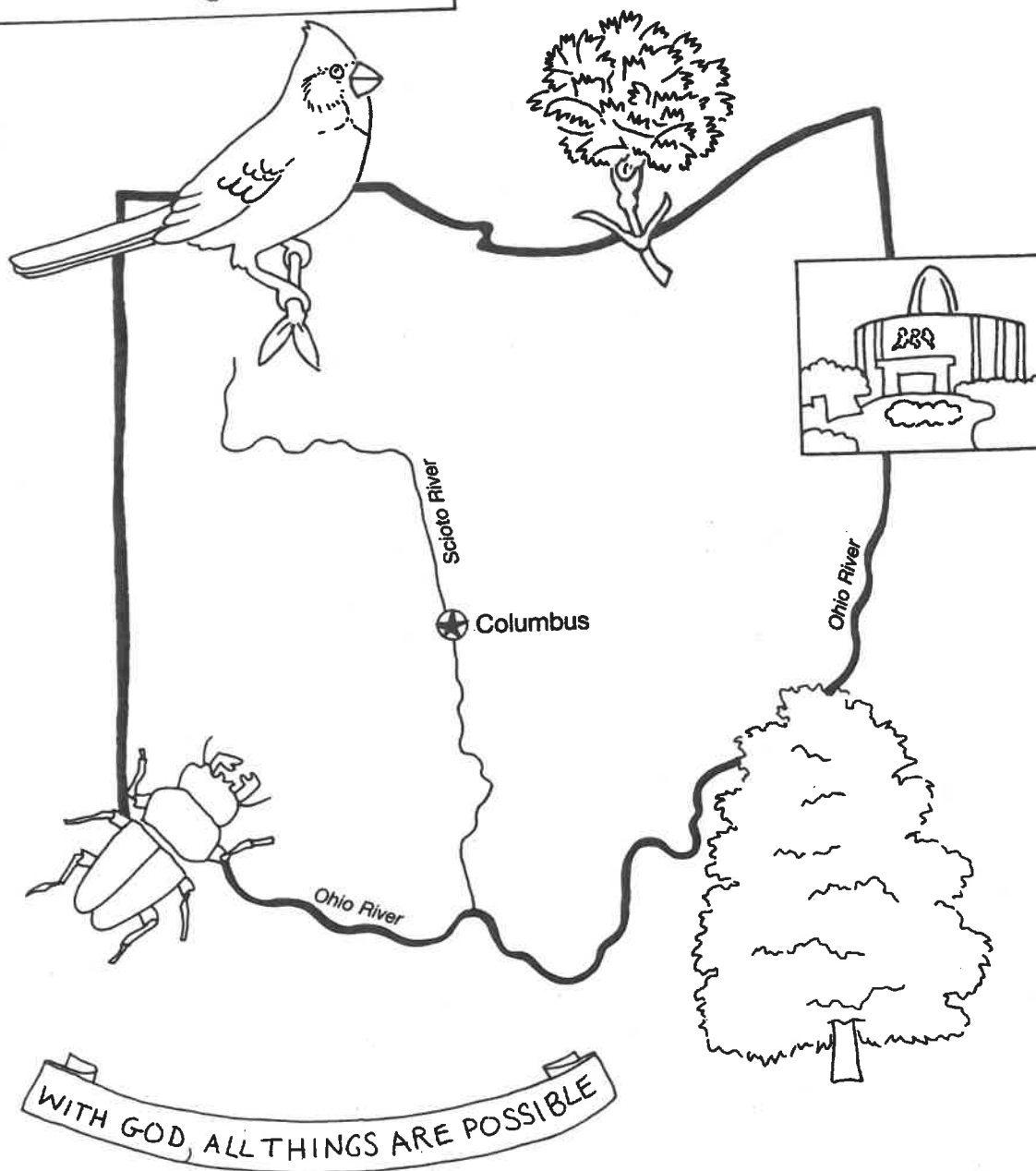
The Badlands were named by early settlers because they were so difficult to cross.

North Dakota is the leading producer of wheat and sunflower seeds in the United States.



Ohio

Buckeye State



Capital: Columbus

Flower: scarlet carnation

Bird: cardinal

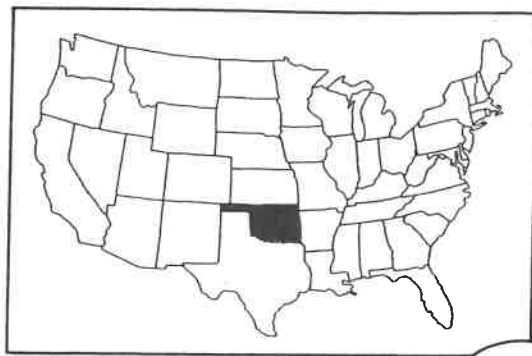
Tree: buckeye

Main rivers: Ohio, Scioto

17th state: March 1, 1803

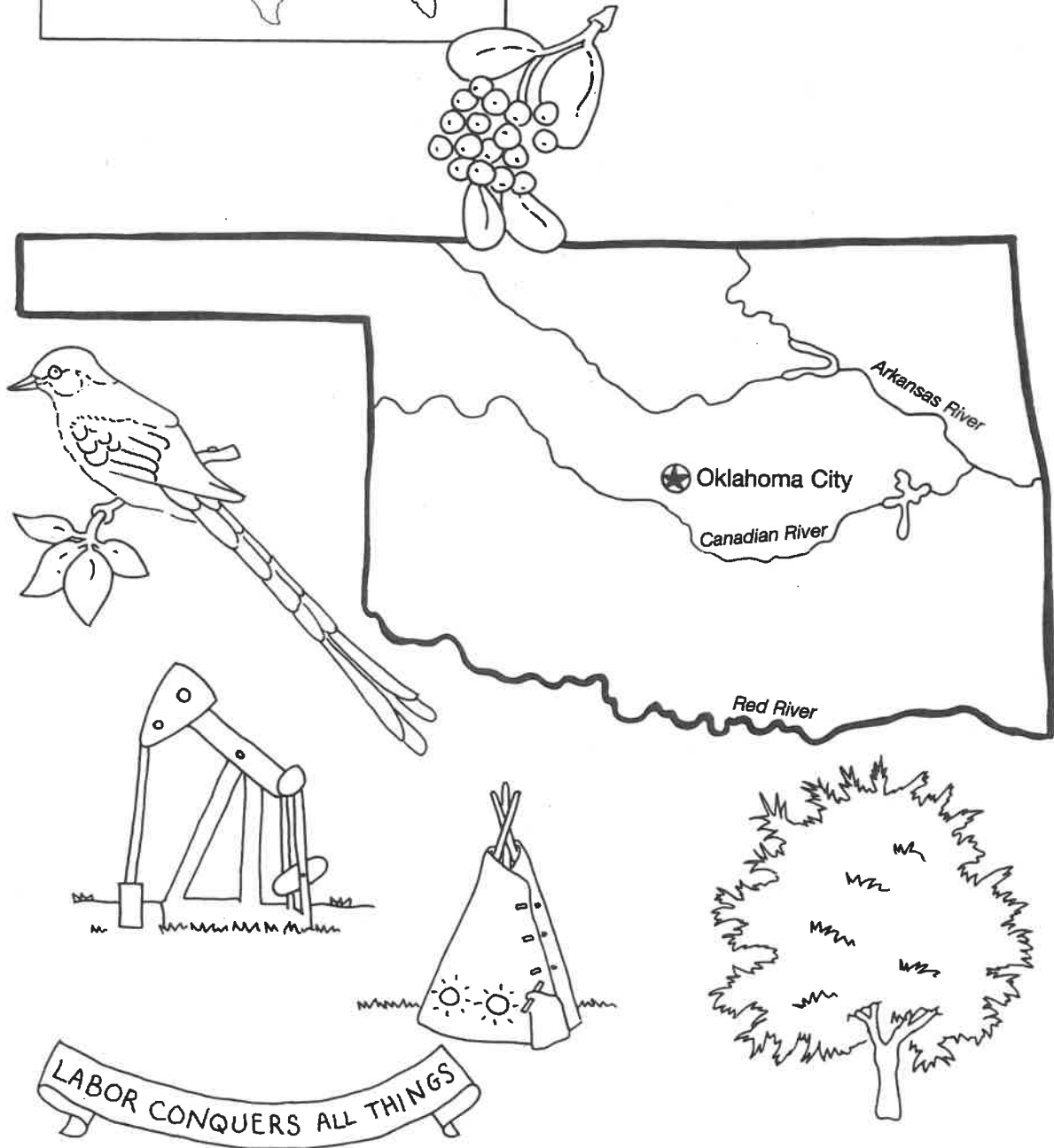
The Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio is filled with the memorabilia and history of pro football.

Cincinnati features the first zoo dedicated to insects in the United States.



Oklahoma

Sooner State



Capital: Oklahoma City

Flower: mistletoe

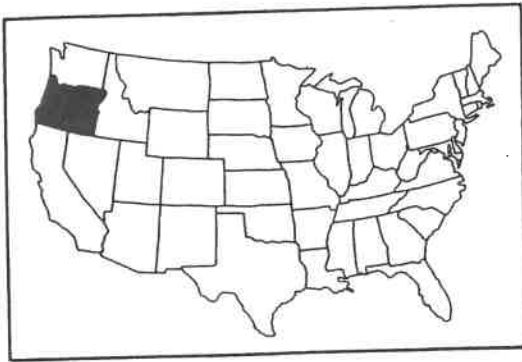
Bird: scissor-tailed flycatcher

Tree: redbud

Main rivers: Arkansas, Canadian, Red
46th state: November 16, 1907

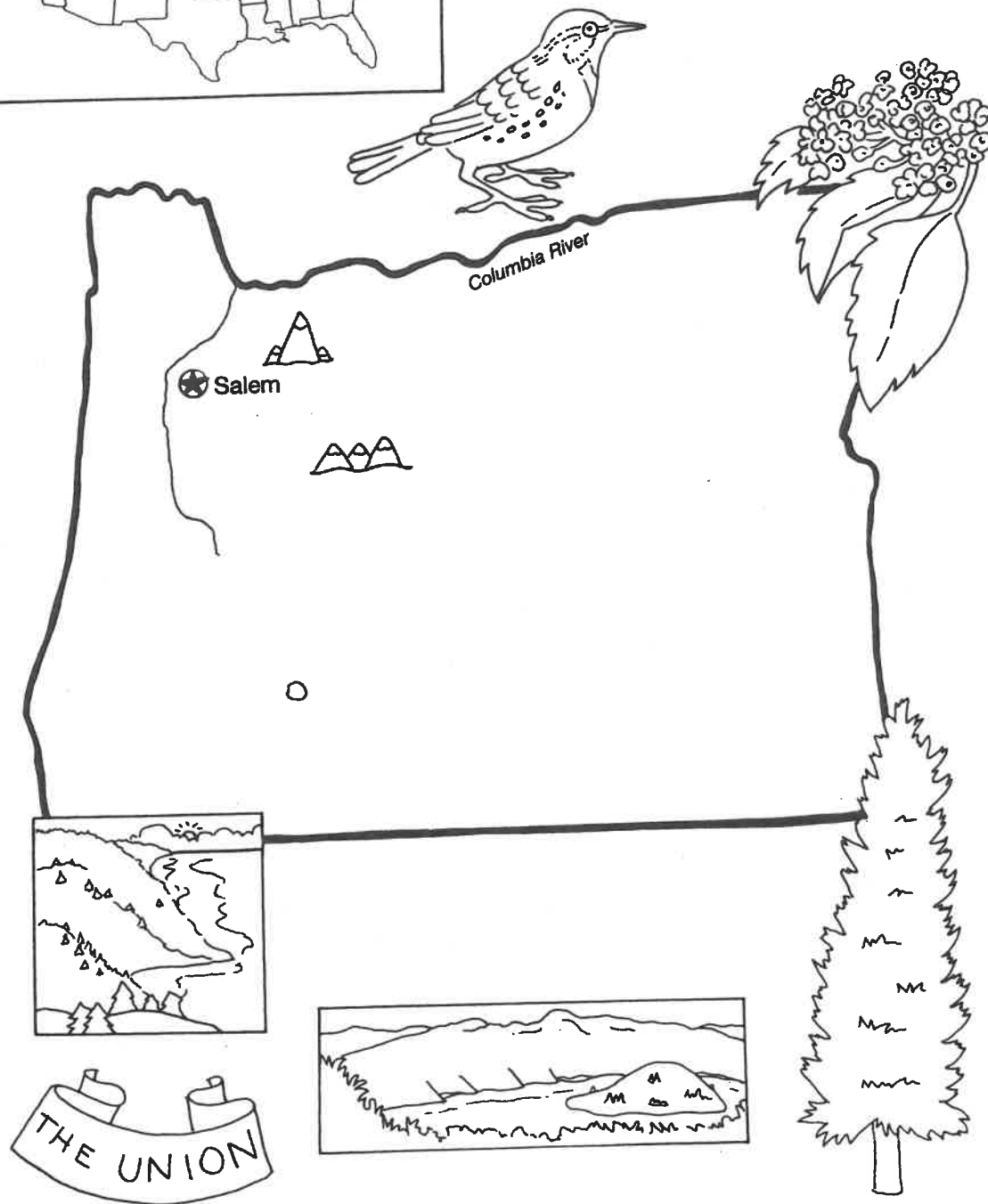
As many as 60 tribes of Native Americans live in Oklahoma.

Oil, or "black gold," was discovered in Oklahoma in 1928. There are oil wells on the front lawn of the state capitol building.



Oregon

Beaver State



Capital: Salem

Flower: Oregon grape

Bird: western meadowlark

Tree: Douglas fir

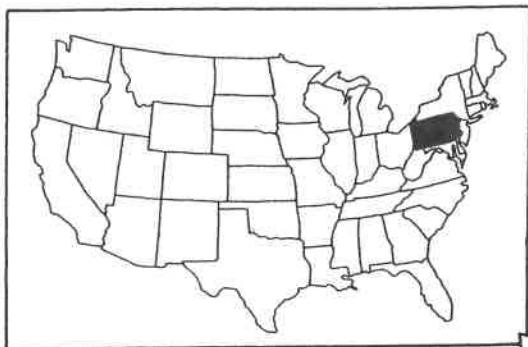
Main river: Columbia

33rd state: February 14, 1859

Oregon's rugged coast, with many protected harbors, is popular with visitors.

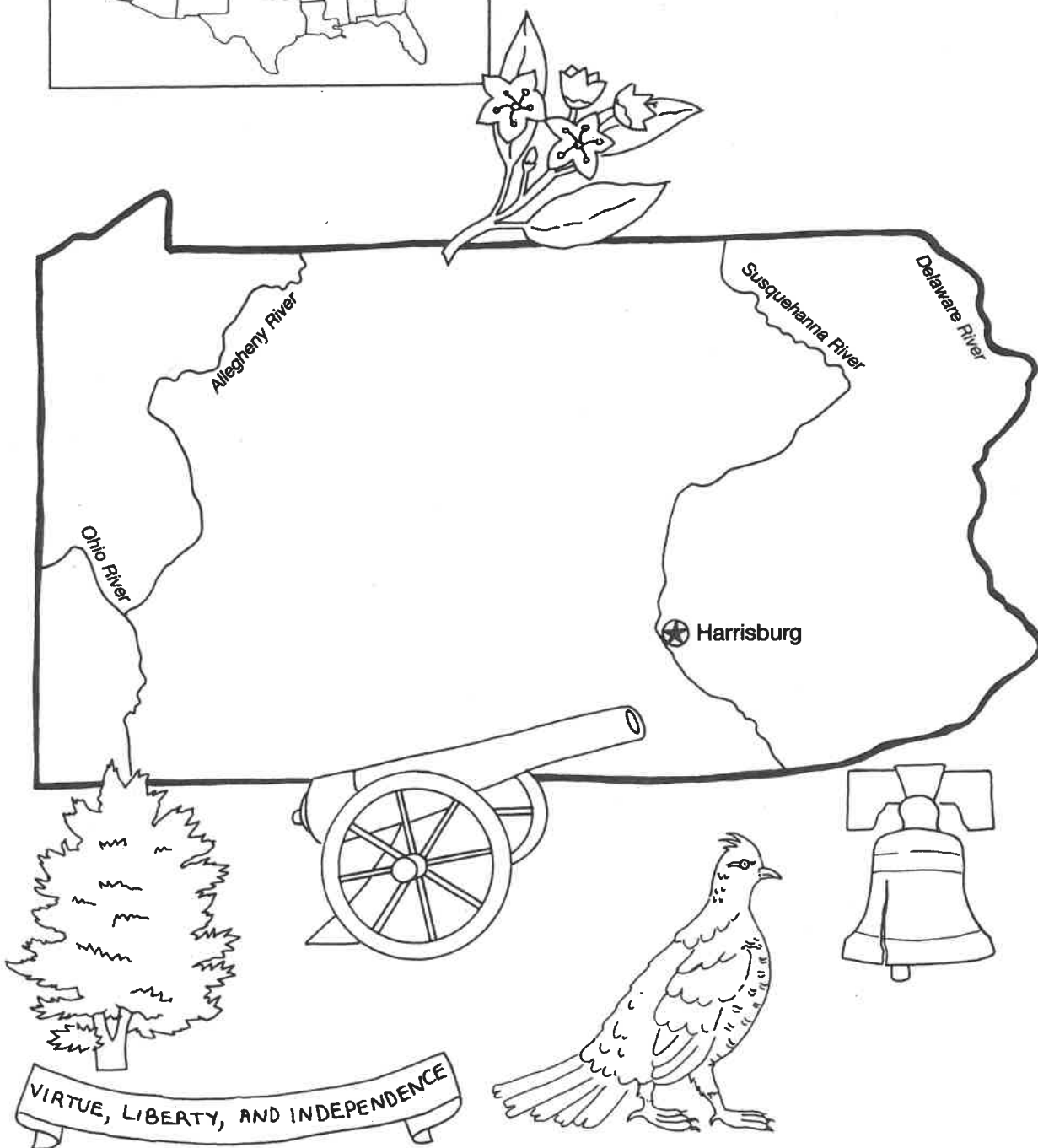
At 1932 feet deep, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States. It was formed nearly eight thousand years ago when the top of a volcano caved in.

At over 11,000 feet high, Mount Hood, in the Cascade Mountains, is among North America's highest mountain peaks.



Pennsylvania

Keystone State



Capital: Harrisburg

Bird: ruffed grouse

Main rivers: Allegheny, Delaware, Ohio, Susquehanna

Flower: mountain laurel

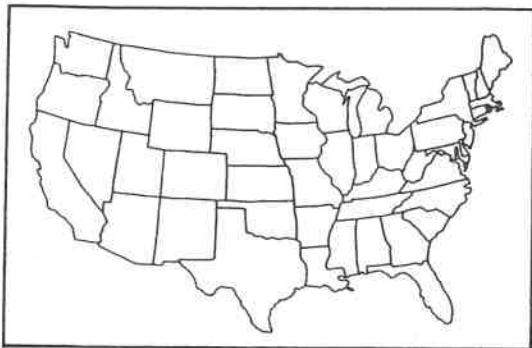
Tree: hemlock

2nd state: December 12, 1787

The Liberty Bell is a symbol of American freedom. The Declaration of Independence (1776) and the United States Constitution (1787) were adopted in the Pennsylvania State house, later renamed Independence Hall.

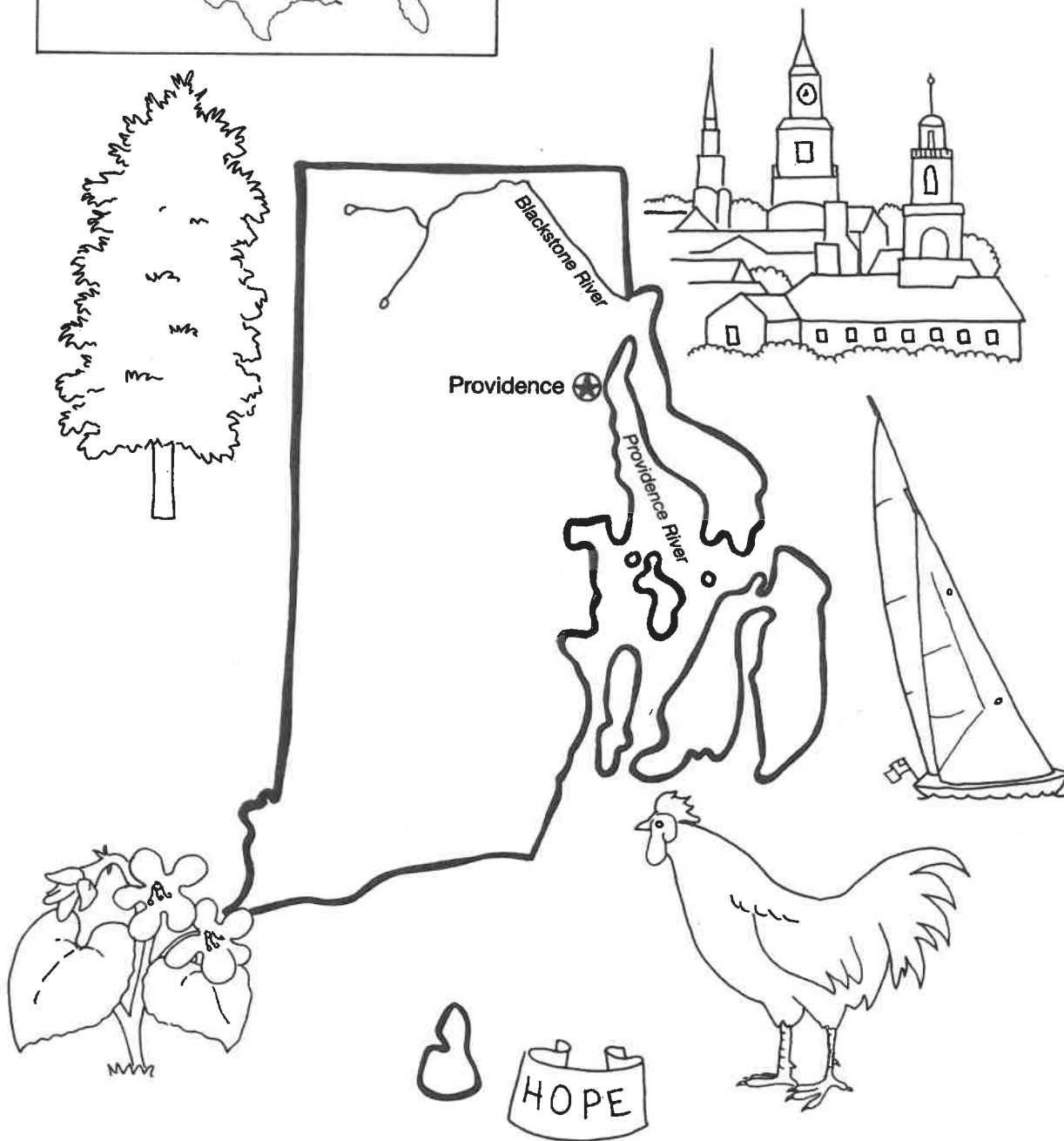
One of the Civil War's bloodiest battles was fought in July 1863 at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. With almost forty thousand soldiers killed, this battle proved a turning point for the Northern Army.

There are many mountain ranges in Pennsylvania, including the Pocono, Appalachian and Allegheny.



Rhode Island

Ocean State



Capital: Providence

Flower: violet

Bird: Rhode Island red

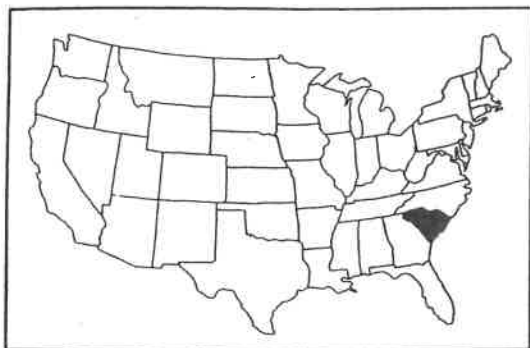
Tree: red maple

Main rivers: Blackstone, Providence

13th state: May 29, 1790

Providence, founded in 1636, is one of New England's largest ports.

Sailing is a popular pastime in Rhode Island's waters. For years, the America's Cup Yacht Race was held off Newport.



South Carolina

Palmetto State



Capital: Columbia

Flower: yellow jessamine

Bird: Carolina wren

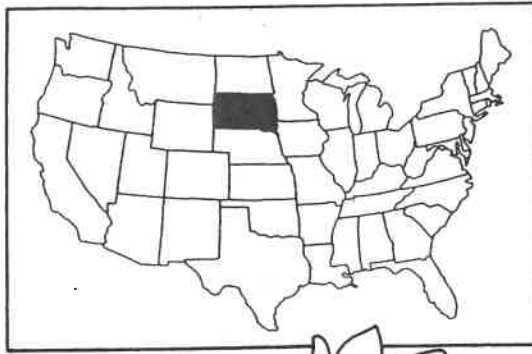
Tree: palmetto

Main rivers: Savannah, Pee Dee

8th state: May 23, 1788

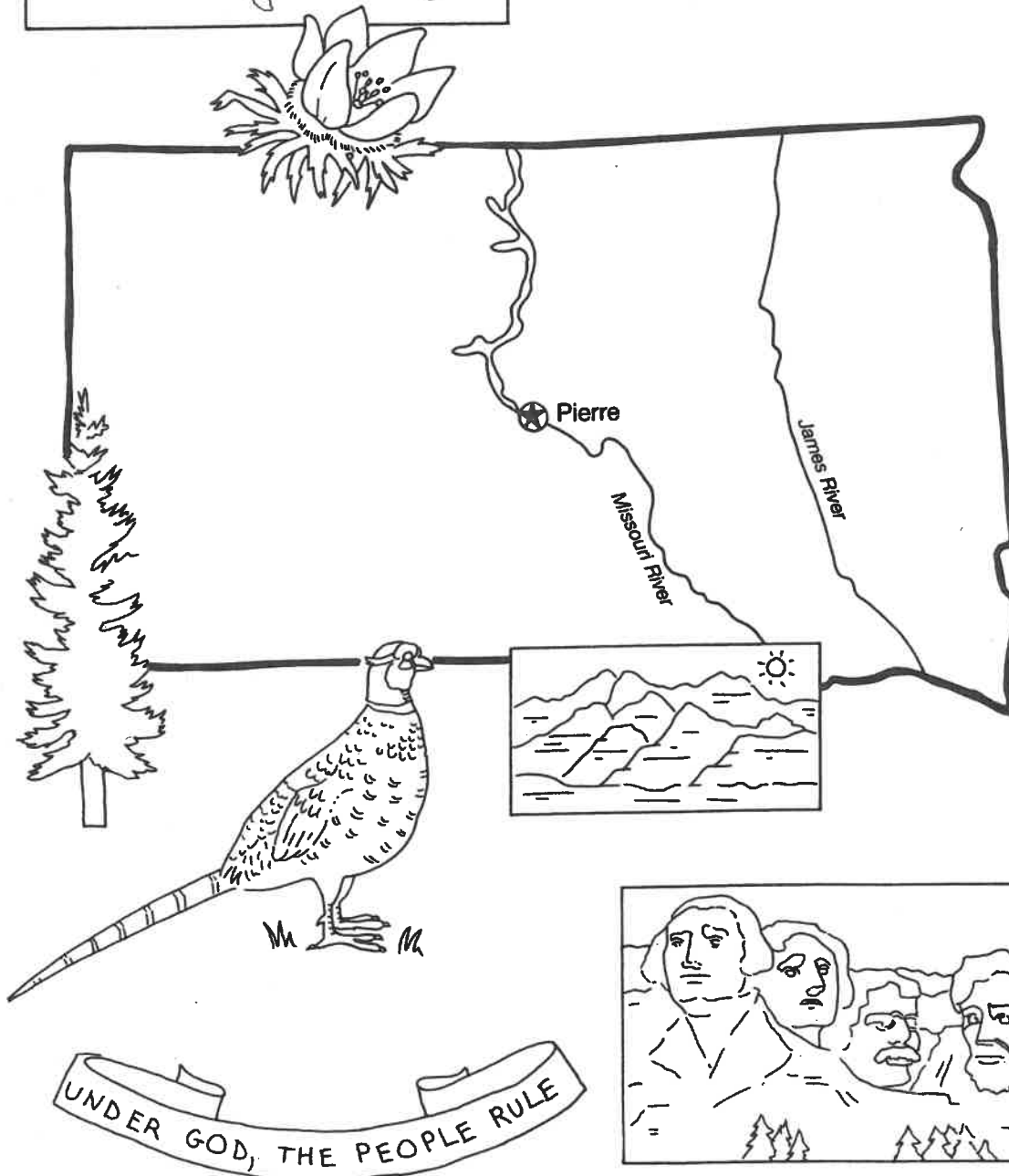
Charleston, founded in 1670, is one of the most historic cities in the United States.

The Civil War began in 1861 with the attack by Confederate Forces on Fort Sumter, situated in Charleston Harbor.



South Dakota

Coyote State



Capital: Pierre

Bird: red-necked Pheasant

Main rivers: James, Missouri

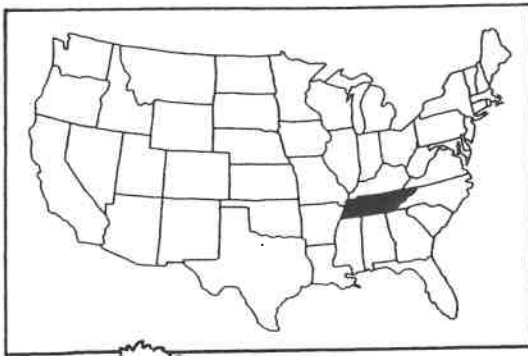
Flower: pasqueflower

Tree: Black Hills spruce

40th state: November 2, 1889

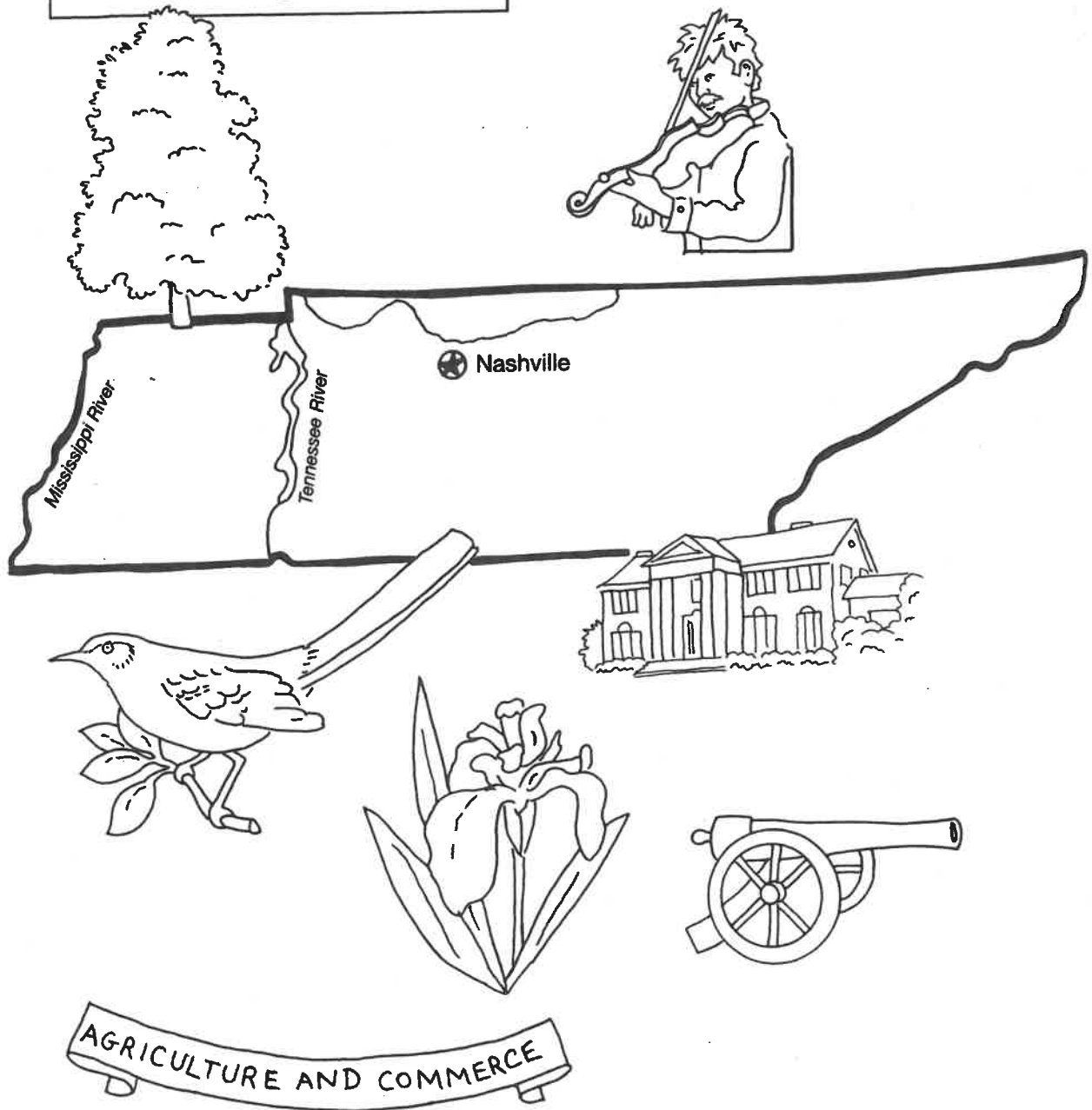
The Badlands is an area of spectacular natural beauty created by erosion.

The faces of United States Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln are carved in the granite sides of Mount Rushmore. The massive sculpture took fourteen years to complete.



Tennessee

Volunteer State



Capital: Nashville

Flower: iris

Graceland, Elvis Presley's mansion, is in Memphis.

Nashville is the country music capital of the world.

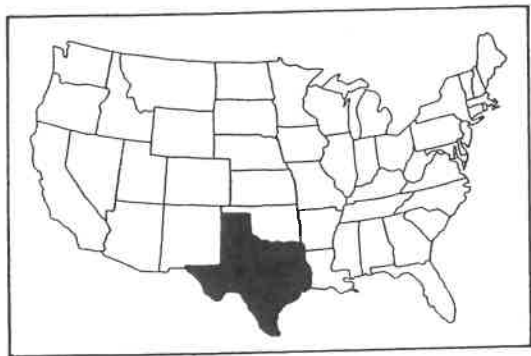
More than 400 Civil War battles were fought in Tennessee.

Bird: mockingbird

Tree: tulip poplar

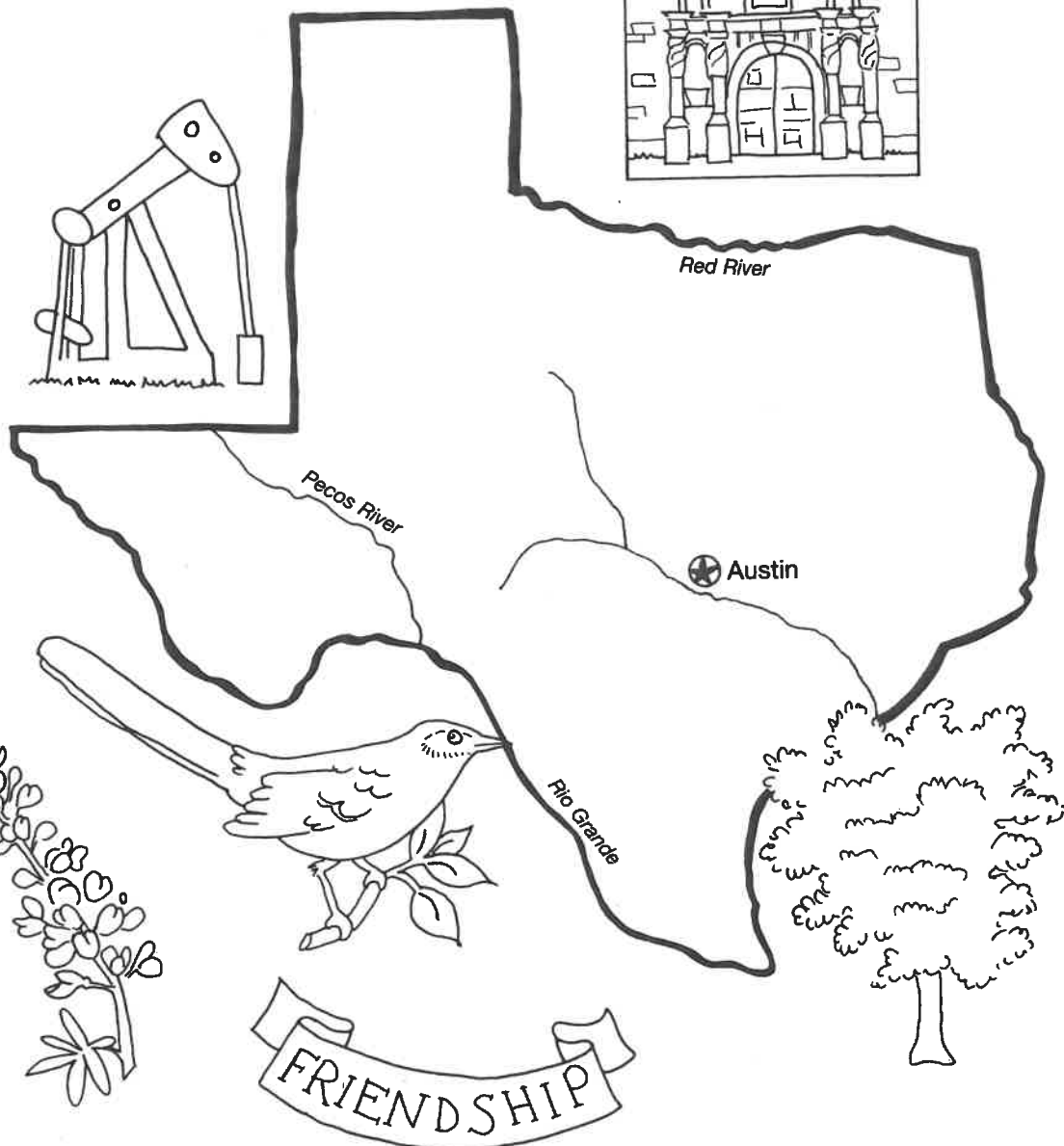
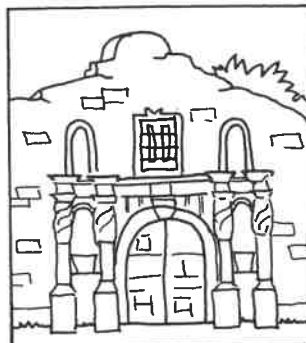
Main rivers: Mississippi, Tennessee

16th state: June 1, 1796



Texas

Lone Star State



Capital: Austin

Flower: bluebonnet

Bird: mockingbird

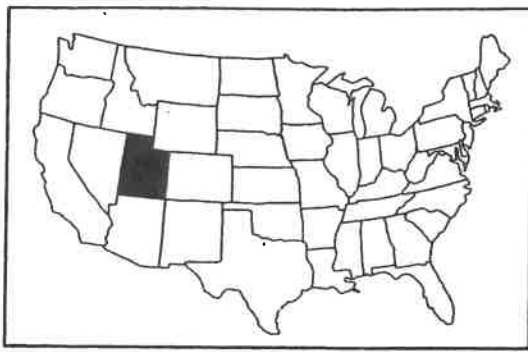
Tree: pecan

Main rivers: Pecos, Red, Rio Grande

28th state: December 29, 1845

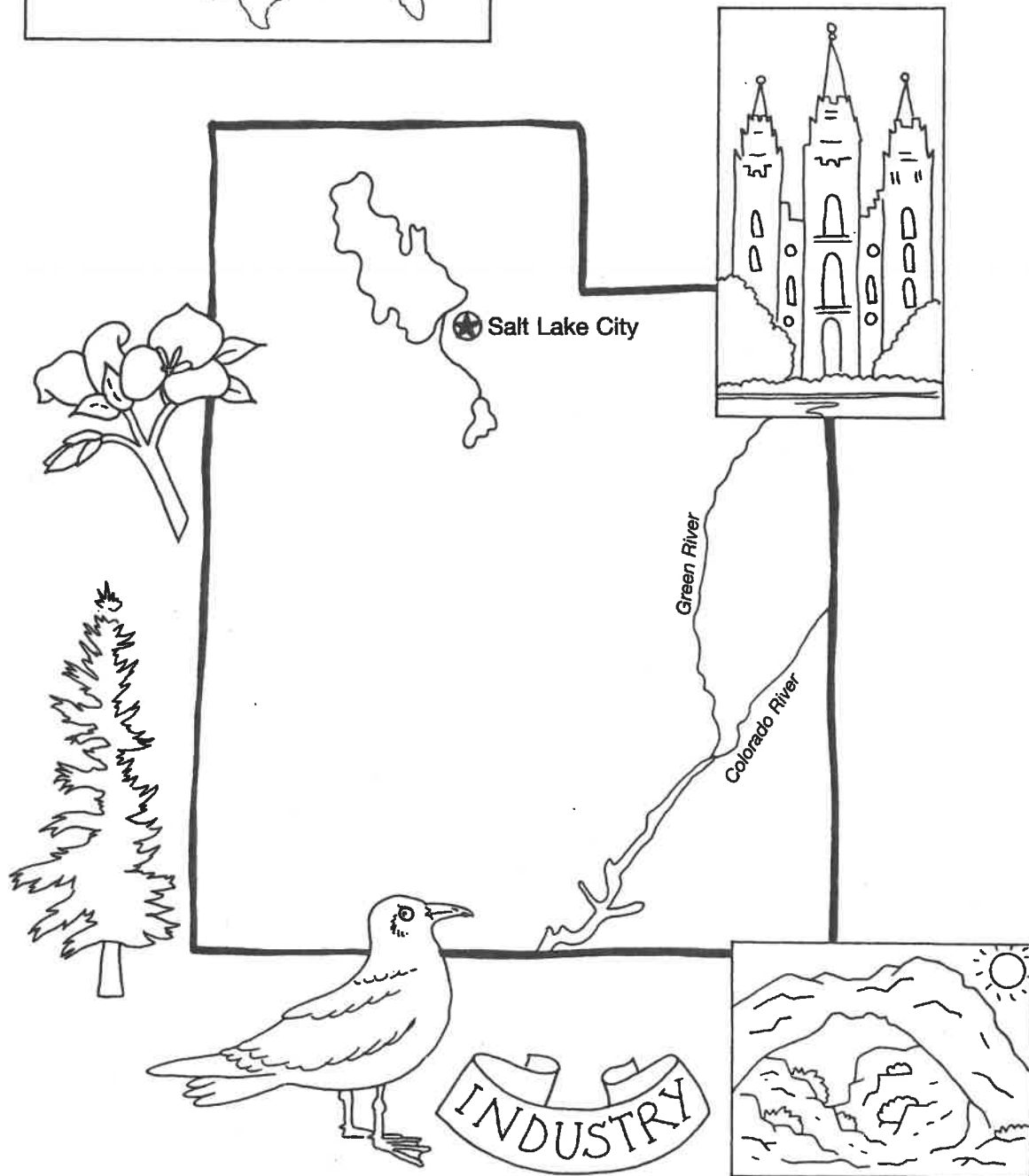
The Alamo was the chapel of an old Spanish Church in San Antonio, Texas, where 200 Texans fought for independence in 1836 and were defeated by five thousand Mexican soldiers.

Texas is the leading producer of oil in the United States.



Utah

Beehive State



Capital: Salt Lake City

Flower: sego lily

Bird: sea gull

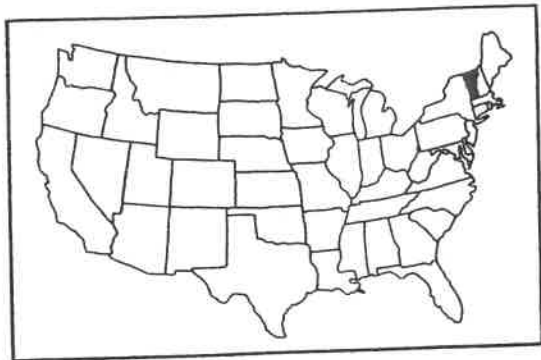
Tree: blue spruce

Main rivers: Colorado, Green

45th state: January 4, 1896

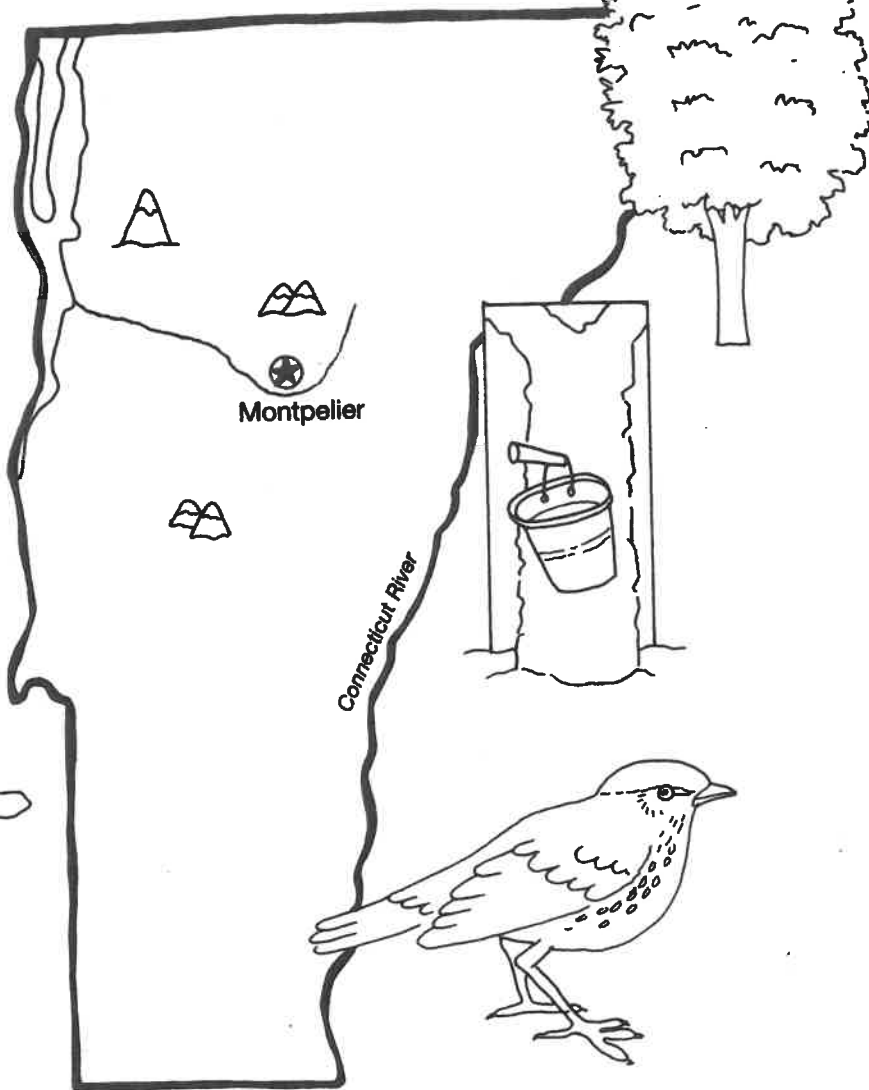
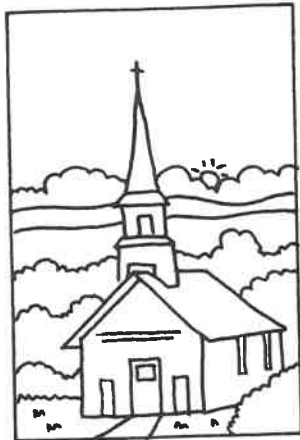
Arches National Park, one of five national parks in Utah, contains spectacular natural rock formations including arches, spires and pinnacles.

In the 1840s, the Mormons settled in Utah to practice their religion without interference. Today, approximately 70% of the population is Mormon. Temple Square in Salt Lake City features the Mormon Temple.



Vermont

Green Mountain State



FREEDOM AND UNITY

Capital: Montpelier

Flower: red clover

Bird: hermit thrush

Tree: sugar maple

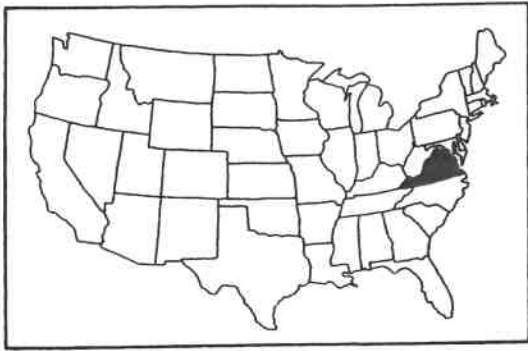
Main river: Connecticut

14th state: March 4, 1791

There are no large cities in Vermont, only small communities. Here is a Vermont church.

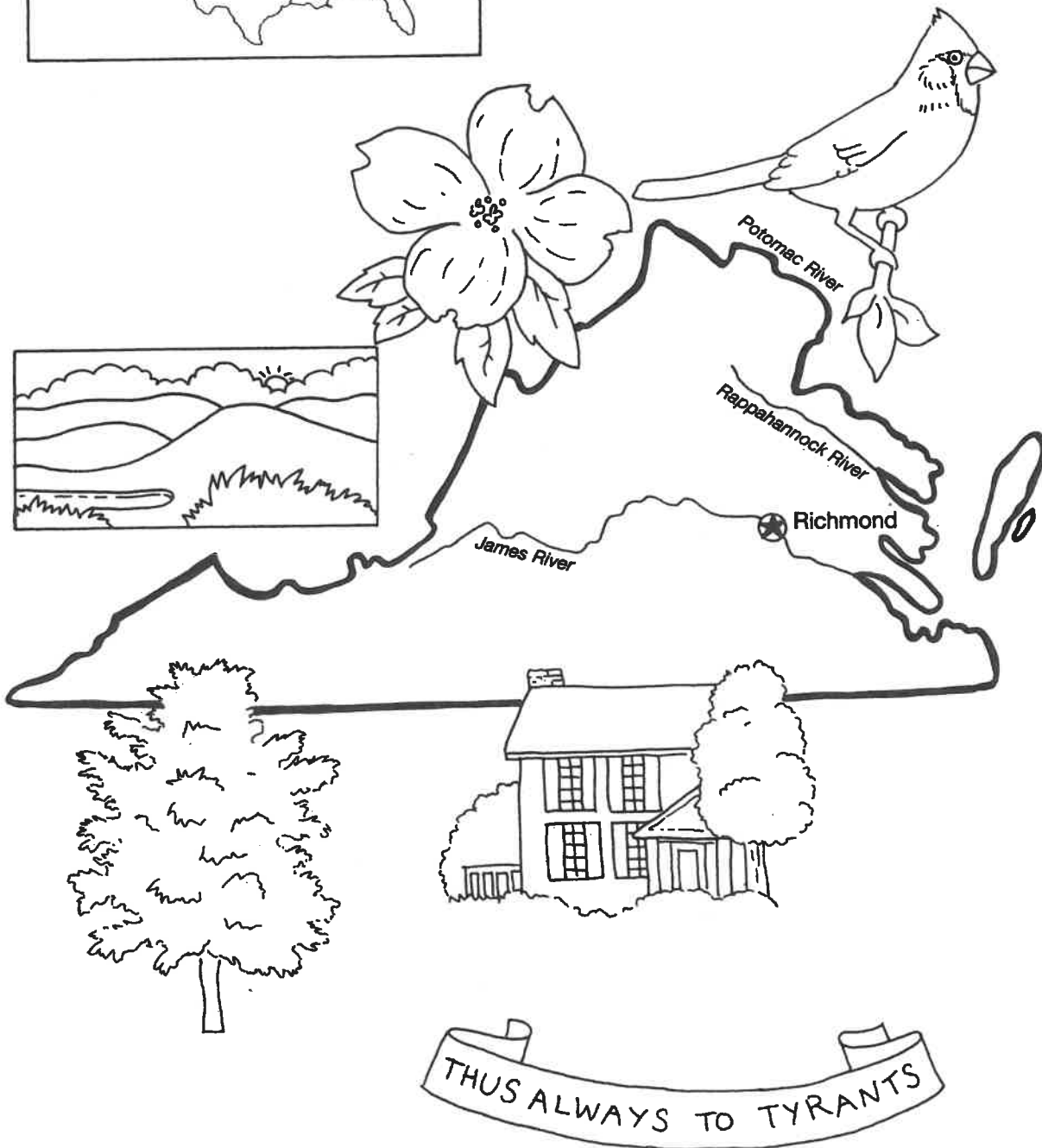
Maple syrup is made from sap which is tapped from maple trees.

Noted geological features: Mount Mansfield, Green Mountains



Virginia

Old Dominion State



Capital: Richmond

Bird: cardinal

Main rivers: James, Potomac, Rappahannock

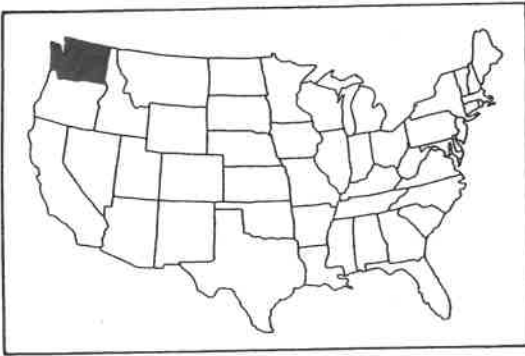
Flower: dogwood

Tree: flowering dogwood

10th state: June 25, 1788

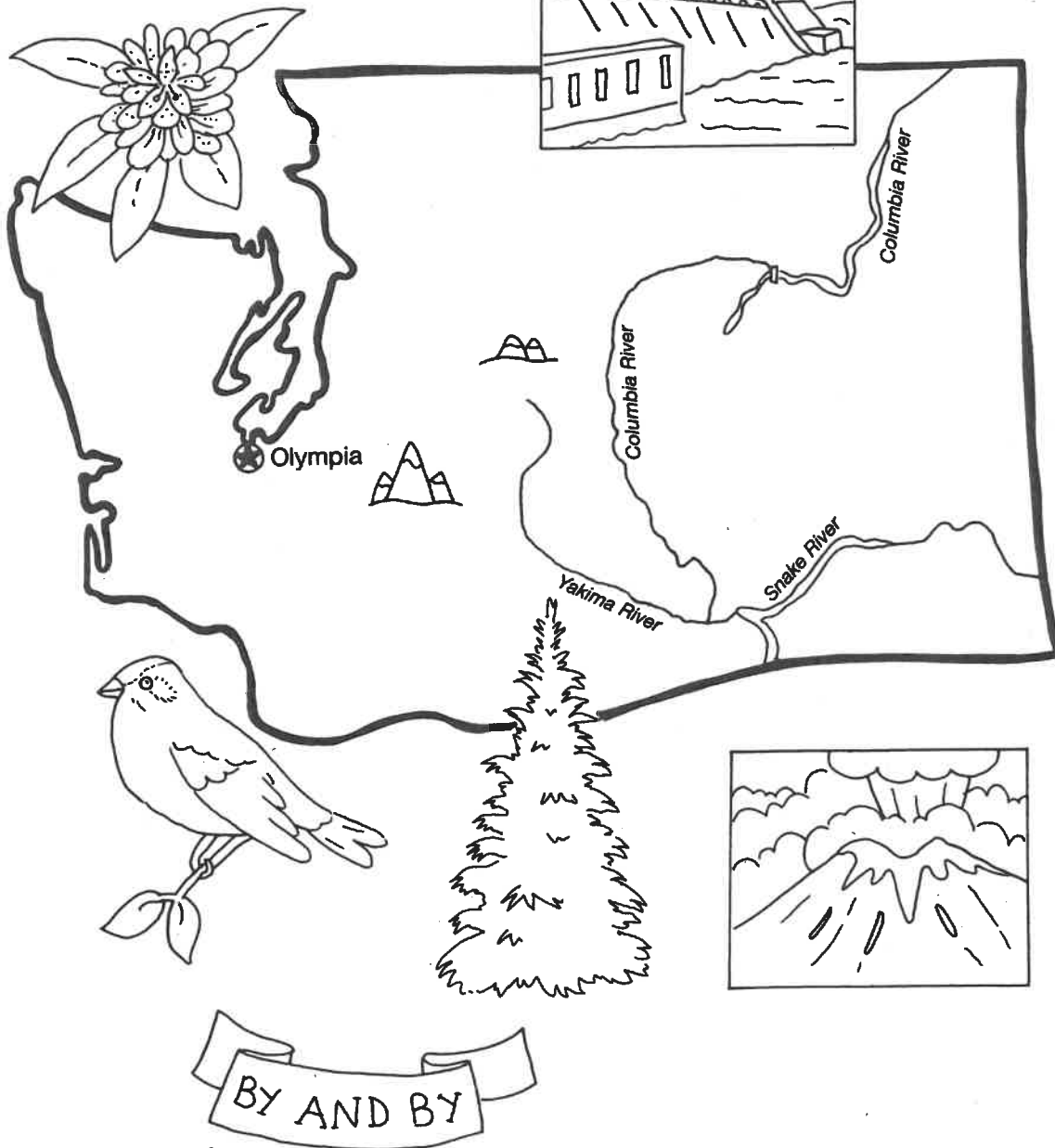
Williamsburg, restored to its colonial past, is a living history museum.

The Blue Ridge Mountains, part of the Appalachians, are inhabited and farmed by many people whose families have lived there for generations.



Washington

Evergreen State



Capital: Olympia

Flower: rhododendron

Mount St. Helens erupted on May 18, 1980, causing 57 deaths and billions of dollars of damage.

The Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River is the largest concrete dam in the United States.

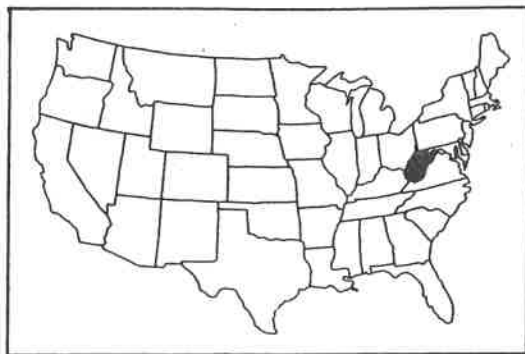
Mount Rainier, in the Cascade Mountains, is over 14,410 feet high.

Bird: willow goldfinch

Tree: western hemlock

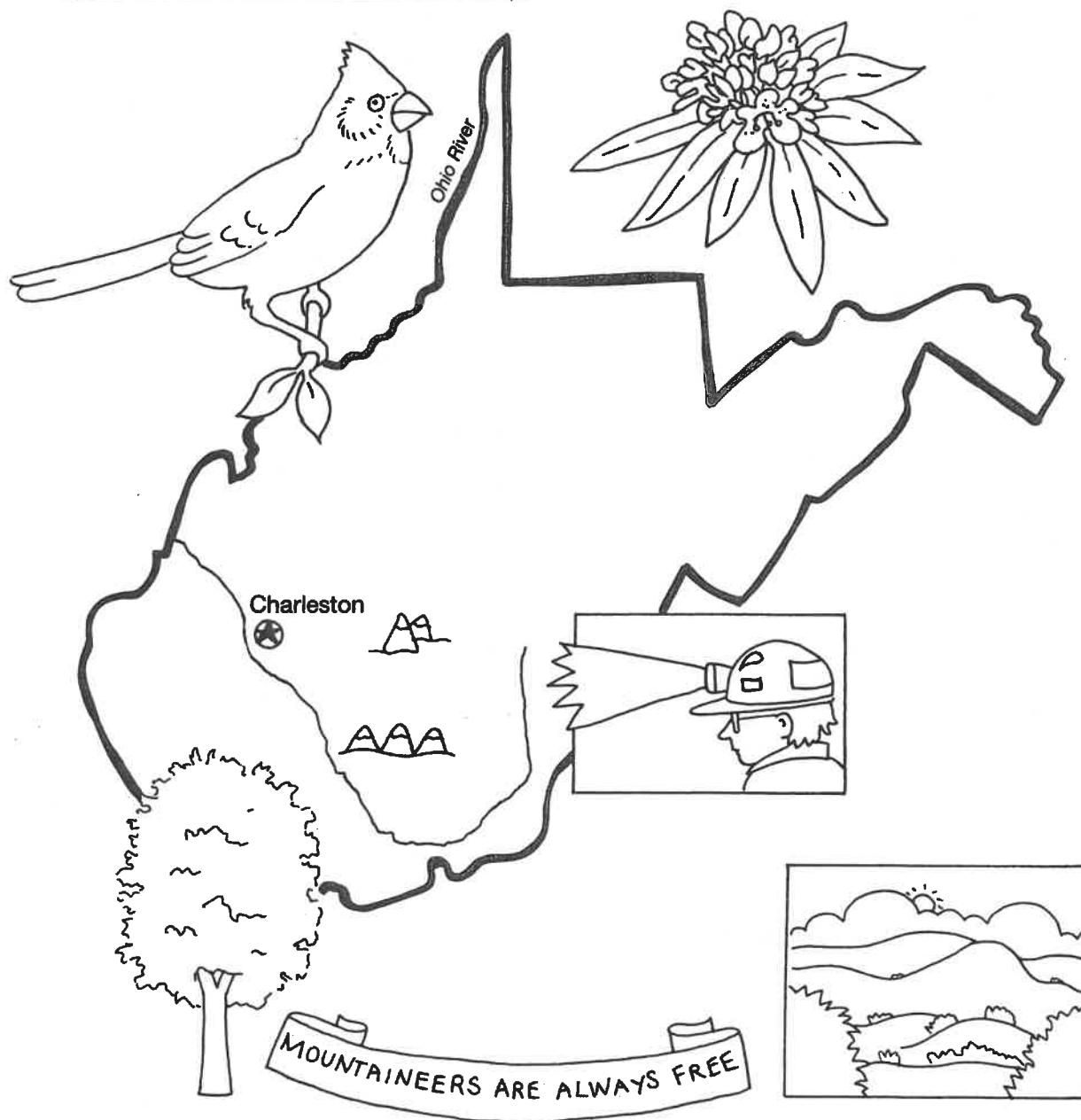
Main rivers: Columbia, Snake, Yakima

42nd state: November 11, 1889



West Virginia

Mountain State



Capital: Charleston

Flower: rhododendron

Bird: cardinal

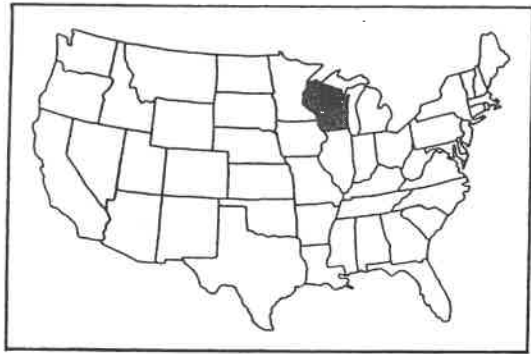
Tree: sugar maple

Main river: Ohio

35th state: June 20, 1863

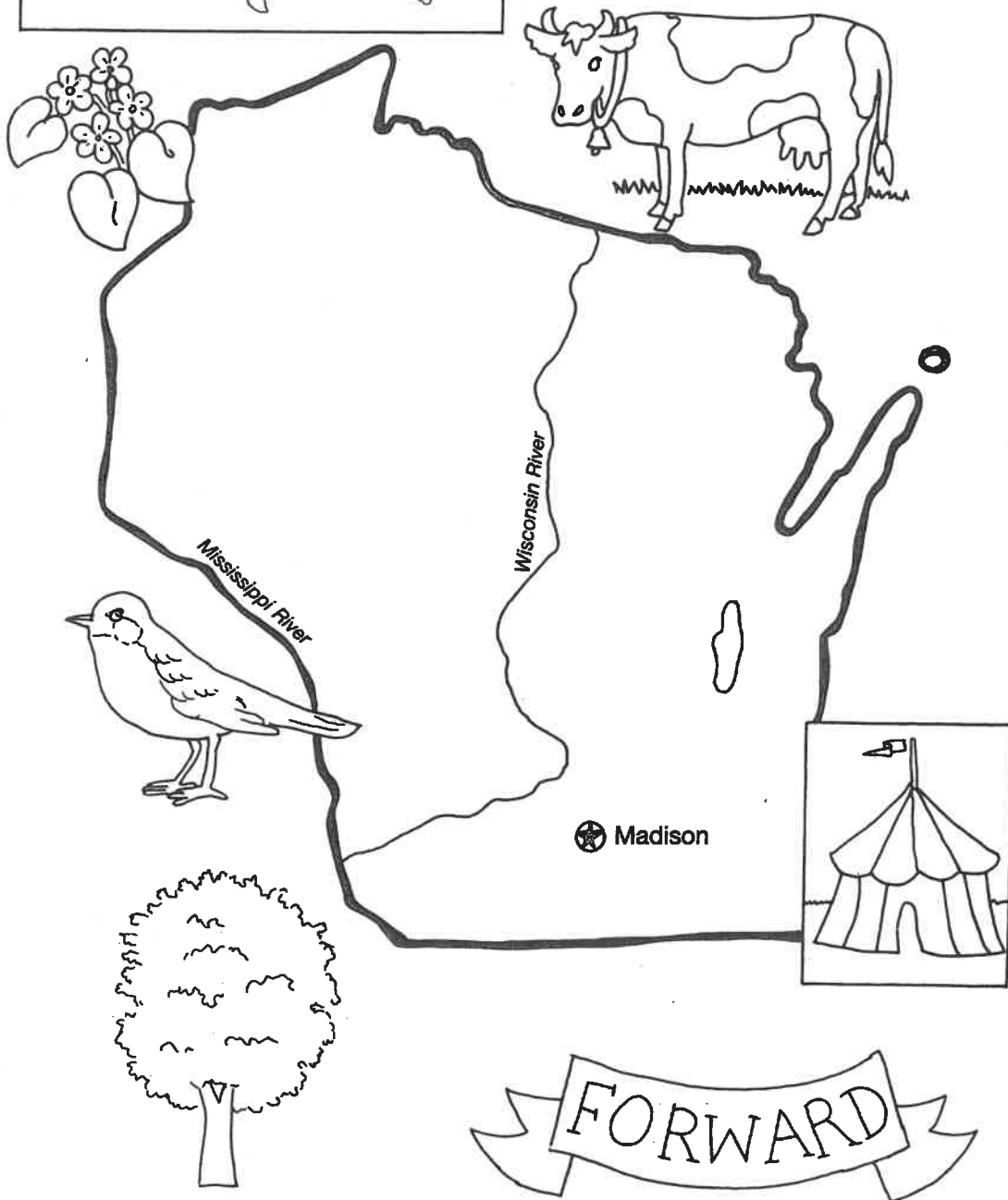
Most of West Virginia is covered by hills and mountains, including the Allegheny and the Appalachian, with almost no level ground.

Coal mining is West Virginia's most important industry.



Wisconsin

Badger State



Capital: Madison

Flower: wood violet

Bird: robin

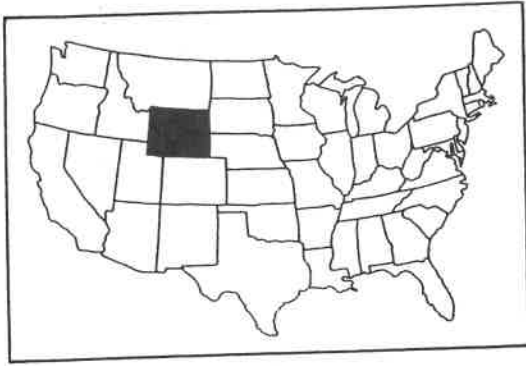
Tree: sugar maple

Main rivers: Mississippi, Wisconsin

30th state: May 29, 1848

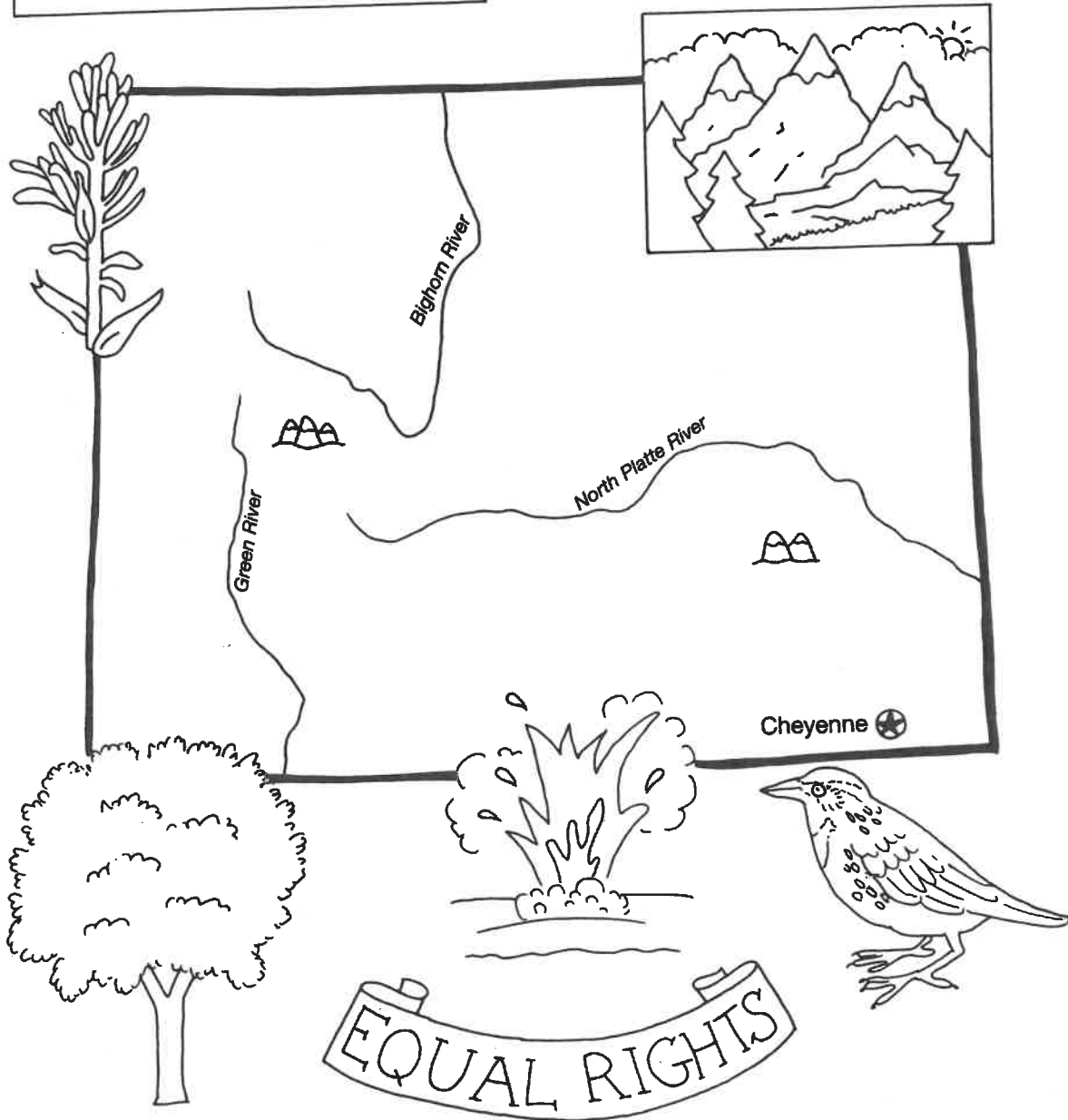
Wisconsin, which has more dairy cows than any other state, is a leading producer of milk and cheese.

The first Ringling Brothers Circus was held in Wisconsin in 1856.



Wyoming

Equality State



Capital: Cheyenne

Flower: Indian paintbrush

The Yellowstone National Park, the oldest in the world, contains geysers including "Old Faithful," which erupts about every 70 minutes.

Although Wyoming is among the largest states, it has the smallest population.

Bird: meadowlark

Tree: cottonwood

Main rivers: Bighorn, Green, North Platte

44th state: July 10, 1890