21T-3048
September 1991

ENDANGERED SPECIES COLORING BOOK

Endangered Species
Protection Program

EPA
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Pesticide Programs (H7506C)
Washington, DC 20460

Printed on Recycled Paper

EPA's Endangered Species Protection Program

This coloring book is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). OPP's Endangered Species Protection Program is dedicated to protecting threatened and endangered species from potentially harmful exposure to pesticides while at the same time maintaining viable agricultural production in the United States.

The plants and animals depicted here are not necessarily threatened by pesticides; however, they are representative of the many different species our program is protecting. The Endangered Species Protection Program will place use limitations on pesticides that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines may jeopardize endangered or threatened species. The labels on these pesticides will instruct the user to follow instructions in a County Bulletin, which will explain where the threatened or endangered species lives, list pesticides that may harm the species, and explain how individuals can use the product in a way that will not harm the species. Until the program formally begins, EPA is providing this information in the form of Interim Pamphlets.

In addition to the bulletins and pamphlets, EPA is developing a series of fact sheets on endangered and threatened species in the United States to assist the public in learning about endangered and threatened species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

EPA wishes to thank the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Reference Service for their help in developing OPP's Endangered Species Protection Program and in developing and reviewing this publication.

Introduction

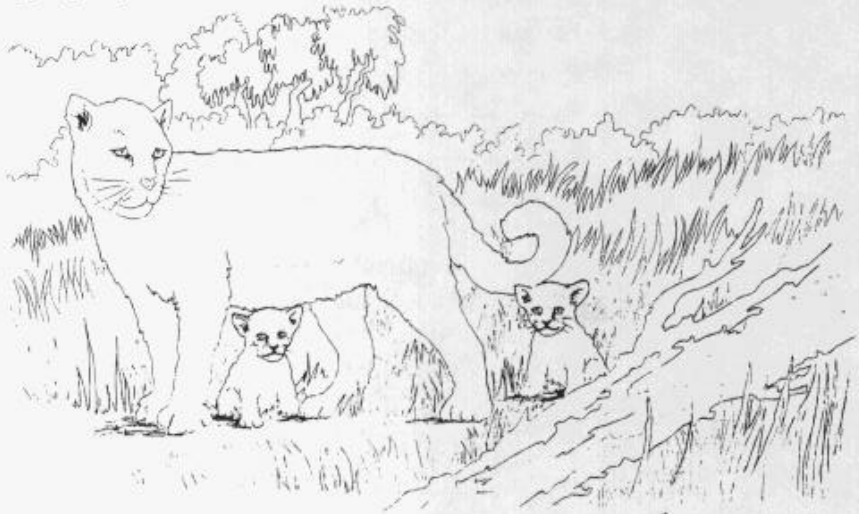
What Are Endangered and Threatened Species?

A century ago, a bird called the passenger pigeon lived in North America. There were so many passenger pigeons that people often saw great flocks of them flying overhead containing thousands, even millions, of birds. Today, there is not a single one left. What happened?

The passenger pigeon became **extinct**. All living passenger pigeons disappeared from the earth entirely. The passenger pigeon became extinct for two reasons. First, the forests where it lived were cut down to make way for farms and cities. Second, many pigeons were shot for sport and because they were good to eat. At that time, there were no hunting laws to protect endangered species like there are now.

The passenger pigeon is one of the many plants and animals that once lived on our planet and have become extinct. For example, dinosaurs, mammoths, and saber-toothed tigers all became extinct long ago. More recently, the dodo bird and the sea mink also have disappeared. Extinction has been going on since life began on earth. But today, extinction is happening faster than ever before.

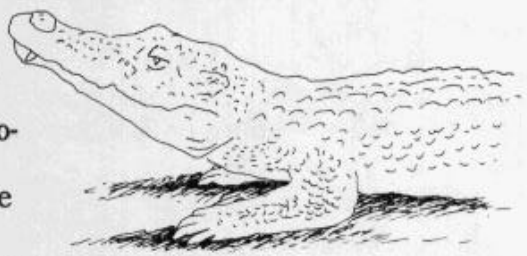
There are more than 600 endangered or threatened species in the United States today. **Endangered species** are those plants and animals that are so rare they are in danger of becoming extinct. **Threatened species** are plants and animals whose numbers are very low or decreasing rapidly. Threatened species are not endangered yet, but are likely to become endangered in the future.



How Does Extinction Happen?

Species disappear because of changes to the earth that are caused either by nature or by the actions of people. Sometimes a terrible natural event, like a volcano erupting, can kill an entire species. Other times, extinction will happen slowly as nature changes our world. For example, after the Ice Ages, when the great glaciers melted and the earth became warmer, many species died because they could not live in a warmer climate. Newer species that could survive a warmer environment took their places.

People can also cause the extinction of plants and animals. The main reason that many species are endangered or threatened today is because people have changed the homes or **habitats** upon which these species depend. A habitat includes not only the other plants and animals in an area, but all of the things needed for the species' survival—from sunlight and wind to food and shelter. The United States has many habitats, from ocean beaches to mountain tops. Every species requires a certain habitat in order to live. A cactus, for example, needs the sunny, dry desert in order to grow. A polar bear, on the other hand, would not live in a desert, because it could not find enough food and water.

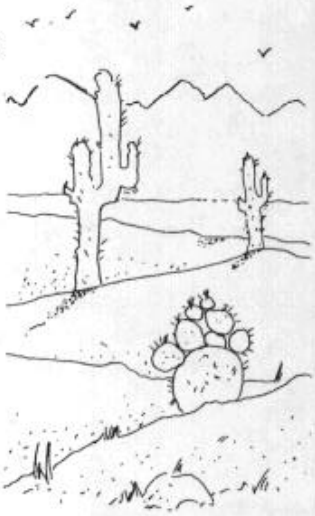


Pollution can also affect wildlife and contribute to extinction. The Nashville crayfish is endangered mainly because the creek where it lives has been polluted by people living nearby. **Pesticides** and other chemicals can poison plants and animals if

they are not used correctly. The bald eagle is one bird that was harmed by pesticides. In the past, a pesticide called DDT was used by many farmers. Rains washed the pesticide into the lakes and streams where it poisoned fish. After eating the poisoned fish, the eagles would lay eggs with very thin shells. These eggs were usually crushed before they could hatch. Today, people are not allowed to use DDT, and the bald eagle, although still endangered, has slowly begun to increase in number.

People can also endanger plants and animals by moving, or **introducing**, new species into areas where they do not naturally live. Some of these species do so well in their new habitat that they endanger those species already living there, called the **native** species. For example, when some fish are introduced into a lake or stream, they may prey upon, or eat the food of the native fish. The native species may then have to find a new source of food or a new home, or face becoming endangered or extinct.

Another way that people harm animals and plants is by taking them from the wild. Some people might catch an insect like the Mission Blue Butterfly for a butterfly collection. Others might capture a wild animal for a pet, or pick a flower because it's pretty. In addition, some people illegally hunt animals for food, skins, or fur. In the past, lots of American crocodiles were killed so that their skins could be made into shoes and other clothing. This crocodile is now an endangered species.



Why Protect Endangered and Threatened Species?

Can you imagine walking in the woods without hearing birds singing in the trees, or picture what a field would be like without wildflowers blooming in the grasses? Our plants and wildlife make the world a more interesting and beautiful place. More importantly, all living species, including people, depend on other species for survival. For example, if a fish such as the shortnose sturgeon becomes extinct, all of the species that rely on it for food will also suffer and may become threatened or endangered.

We all depend upon plants and wildlife. From studying them, we have learned new ways of growing foods, making clothing, and building houses. Scientists have discovered how to use certain plants and animals as sources of medicines. If we fail to protect threatened or endangered species, we will never know how they might have improved our lives.

Endangered and threatened species need our help. Government agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service, along with state fish and wildlife agencies and private groups are making information available so people can better protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats. To do your part, contact these agencies for information and join the challenge in helping to protect endangered and threatened species, and all wildlife, from extinction.

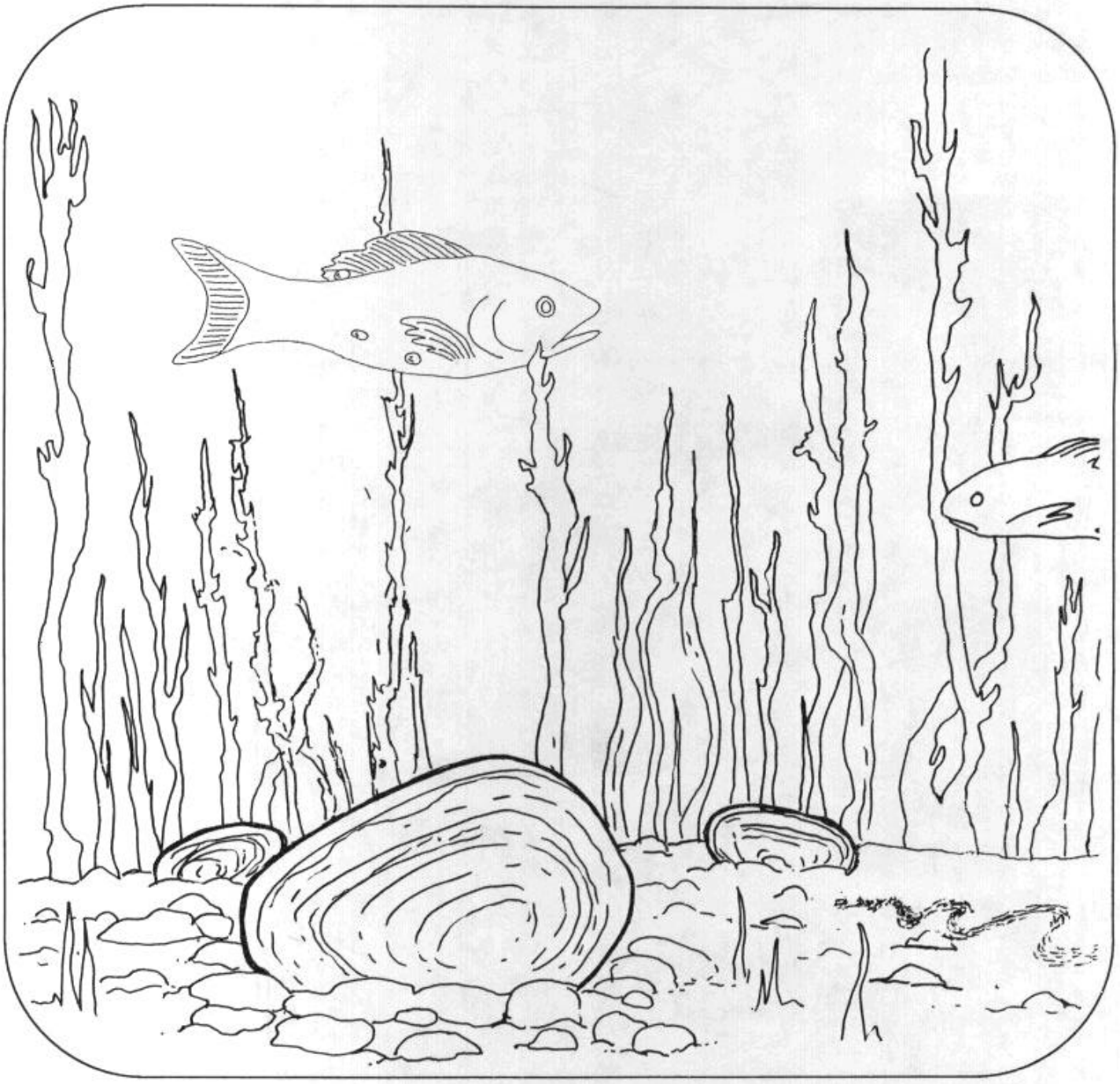
This coloring book will introduce you to 21 endangered and threatened plants and animals found in the United States. As you color these pages, you will journey to oceans, swamps, deserts, and islands and bring to life a variety of plants and animals. If we all work together, we can continue to share the earth with these fascinating and important species and enjoy them in the wild–not only in the pages of books.

Shortnose Sturgeon

This fish gets its name from its short pointy nose. The shortnose sturgeon is shaped like a torpedo and can swim very fast. It has two homes. In the winter and spring, the fish lives in rivers and swims upstream to lay eggs. This trip can be over 100 miles long! Then, in the summer and fall, the fish swims out to its second home in the ocean.

In what states is the shortnose sturgeon found?

Dwarf Wedge Mussel



See the squiggly line on the river bottom? It wasn't made by a snake or worm. It was made by the dwarf wedge mussel. These animals look like small clams, and have hard shells and soft bodies. Female mussels can carry thousands of eggs inside their shells, and these shells are only an inch or two long.

In what states is the dwarf wedge mussel found?

Nashville Crayfish

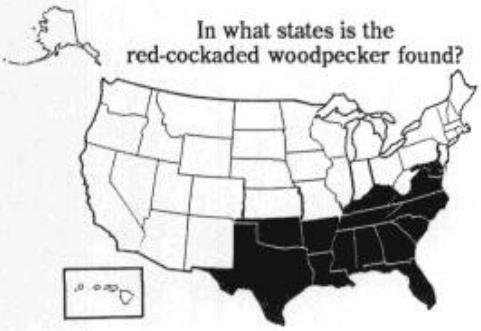
The Nashville crayfish looks like a very small lobster. Like a lobster, the crayfish has claws that can pinch! As a young crayfish grows, it gets too big for its shell. When this happens, it grows a bigger shell and casts off the old one like a snake sheds its skin.

In what states is the Nashville crayfish found?

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

High up in the trunk of a pine tree, the red-cockaded woodpecker digs a hole with its sharp beak. Sap flows from the tree and collects around the hole. Because the sap is sticky like glue, it keeps enemies such as snakes away. In this and other holes in nearby trees, a family of nine birds will live quite happily.

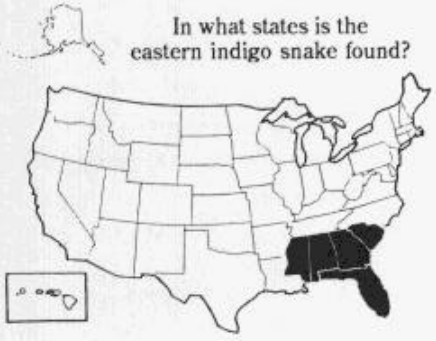
In what states is the red-cockaded woodpecker found?



Eastern Indigo Snake

When full grown, the eastern indigo snake is longer than most people are tall. Indigo is the blue-black color of the snake's skin. This animal eats birds, frogs, and even other snakes.

In what states is the eastern indigo snake found?



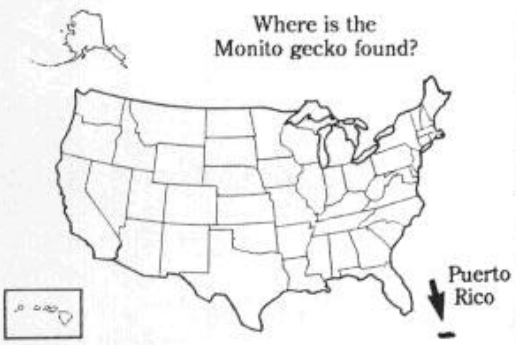
Florida Manatee

This gentle animal lives in the coastal waters of Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico. It is about 10 feet long and can weigh up to 2,000 pounds—as much as a car! Manatees eat only plants. After eating, they may swim to the bottom and rest for awhile. Manatees can hold their breath for up to 12 minutes at a time.

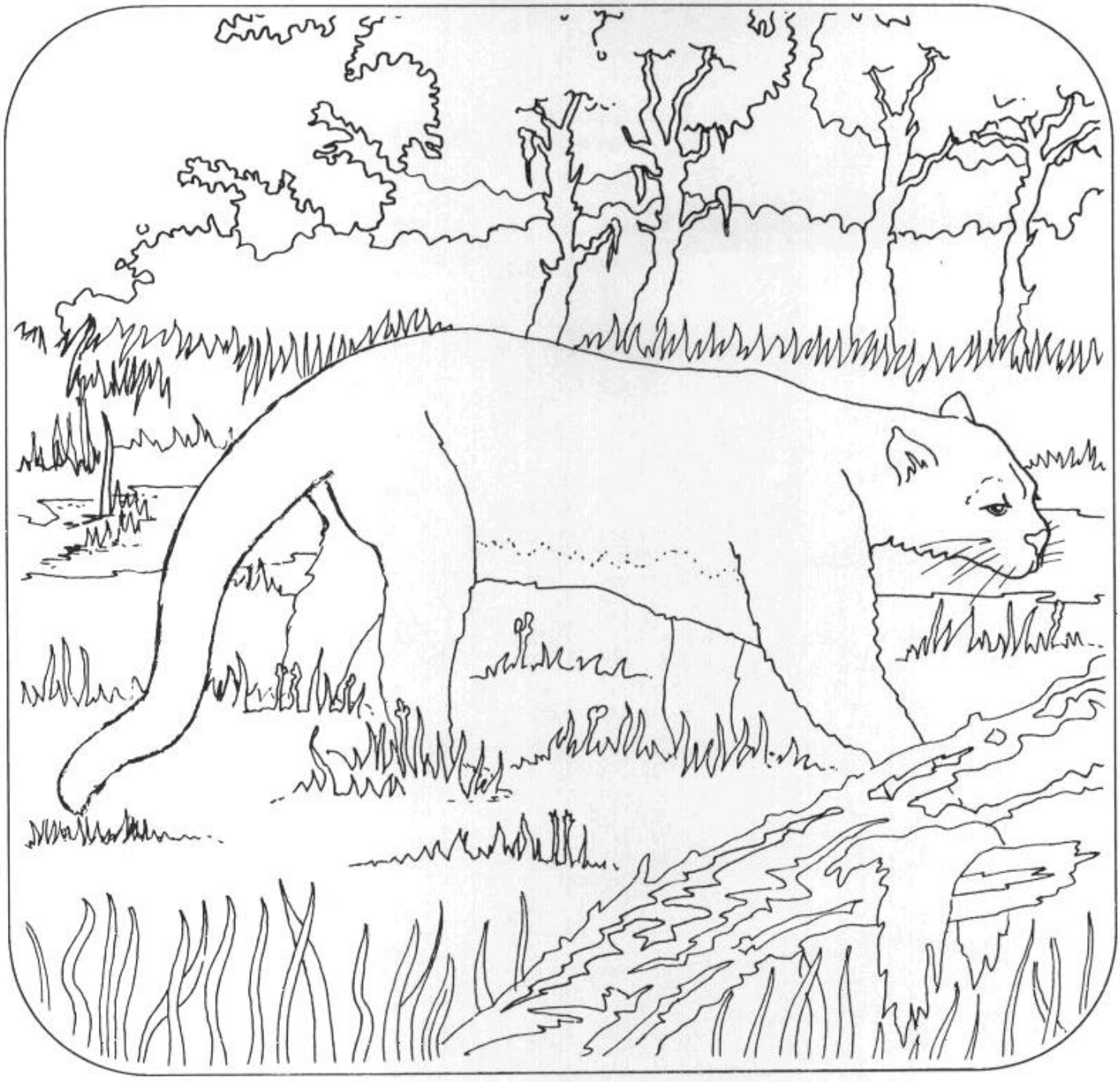
Where is the Florida manatee found?

Monito Gecko

This little lizard with bulging eyes is quite an acrobat. It races easily across cliffs and can even walk upside-down! Full-grown Monito geckos are about as big as your thumb—only 1-1/2 inches long.



Florida Panther



The Florida panther has a cowlick in the middle of its back and a crook at the end of its long tail. Like housecats, the Florida panther keeps clean by licking its fur with its tongue. These graceful cats make a lot of different noises, including chirps, peeps, growls, and hisses. Panther kittens make a sound like a whistle to tell their mother where they are. There are fewer than 50 Florida panthers alive, making this cat one of the rarest animals in the world.

Green Pitcher Plant

This plant eats bugs! When an insect lands on one of the plant's leaves, it gets stuck in a gooey liquid. Then it slides down the leaf into the plant's hollow stem where the bug is digested like food in our stomachs.

In what states is the green pitcher plant found?

Mississippi Sandhill Crane

This tall, grayish bird is very rare. Sometimes, a group of cranes will dance in a great circle. The cranes bow to their partners and leap into the air. It would be sad if these graceful, dancing birds were to disappear.

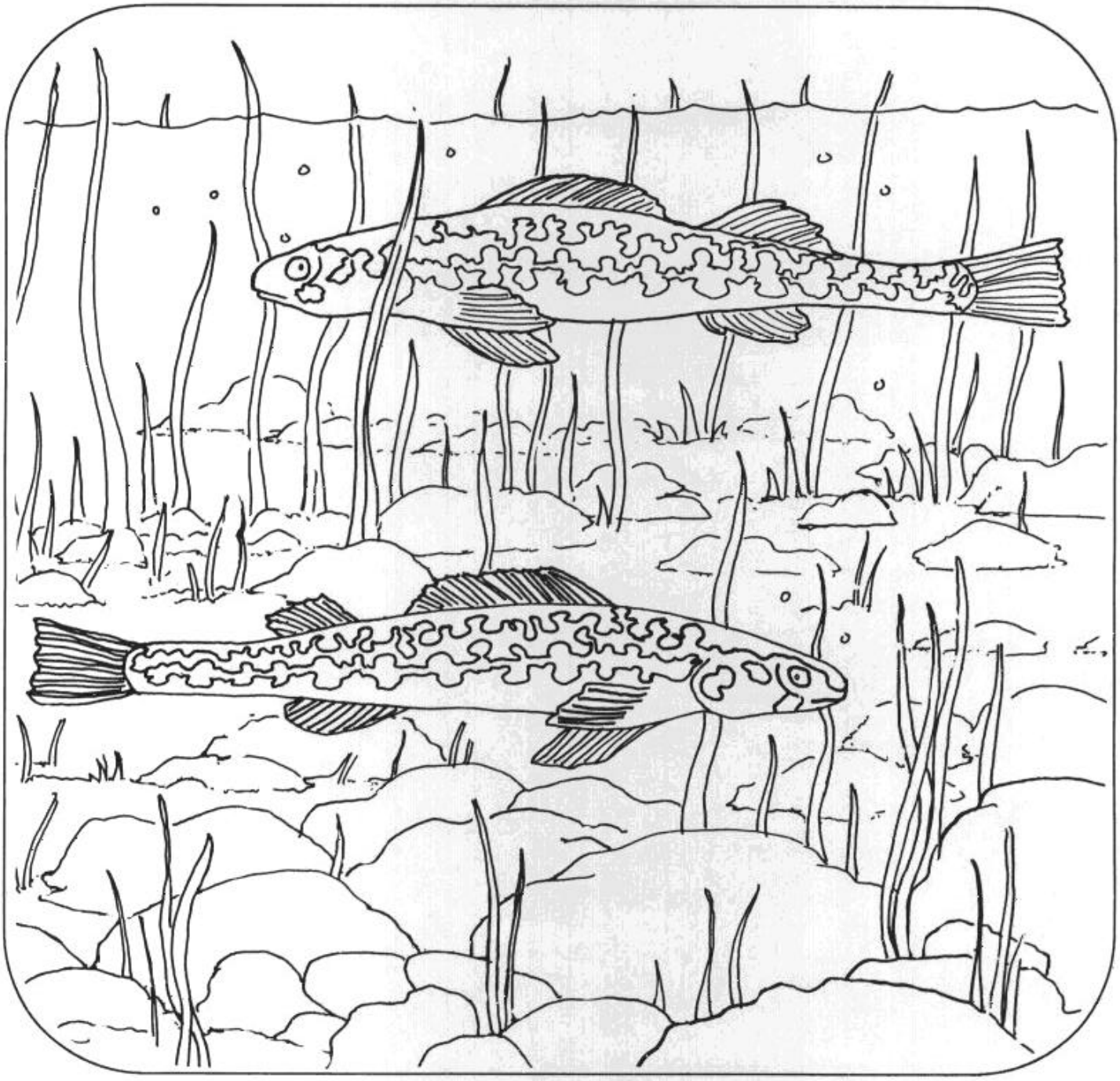
In what states is the Mississippi sandhill crane found?

Ozark Big-Eared Bat

This bat has big ears and orange-red fur. During the day, it sleeps hanging upside-down inside of caves. At night, the bat hunts for moths and other insects. On summer evenings, you might see bats flying back to their caves. Hungry babies are waiting to be fed!

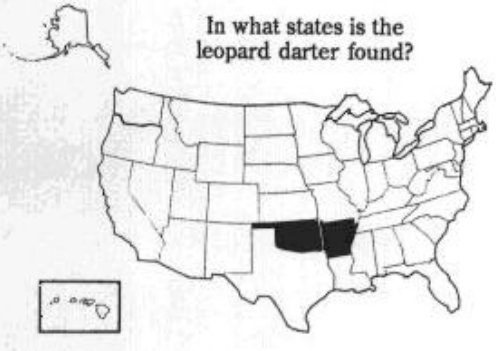
In what states is the Ozark big-eared bat found?

Leopard Darter



These little fish have leopard spots and leopard speed! They zip through rivers in a wink of an eye, darting after insects, which they eat. Leopard darters grow to only 3 inches long and live for 1 to 3 years.

In what states is the leopard darter found?



Wyoming Toad

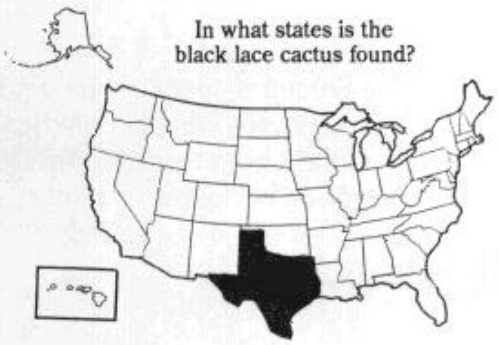
The Wyoming toad has green skin with dark blotches. This coloring helps it blend into the grass and hide from animals that might want to eat it, like raccoons and gulls. These toads have lived in Wyoming a long time—since the great glaciers of the Ice Age disappeared more than 12,000 years ago!

In what states is the Wyoming toad found?

Black Lace Cactus

This tiny cactus, only 6 inches tall, grows in the deserts of southern Texas. The plant's pink and purple flowers with red centers are very pretty. But watch out! This plant, like most cacti, has spines as sharp as pins.

In what states is the black lace cactus found?



Attwater's Greater Prairie Chicken

Oo-loo-woo, sings the male prairie chicken to his mate. Prairie chickens sing and dance every spring in the grasslands of Texas. Their dancing area is called the "booming ground" because of the loud songs of the males.

In what states is the Attwater's greater prairie chicken found?

Desert Tortoise

This tortoise lives in the deserts of Arizona, southern Utah, Nevada, and California. Actually, it mostly lives *under* the desert! In the summer, the tortoise digs tunnels underground to hide from the sun. All winter it sleeps, or "hibernates," in deep holes.

In what states is the desert tortoise found?

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

Some insects are endangered, too. The valley elderberry longhorn beetle lives only in elderberry trees in California. Female beetles lay their eggs in cracks and crevices in the tree bark. It takes 2 years for an adult beetle, with its bright green wings trimmed with orange, to appear!

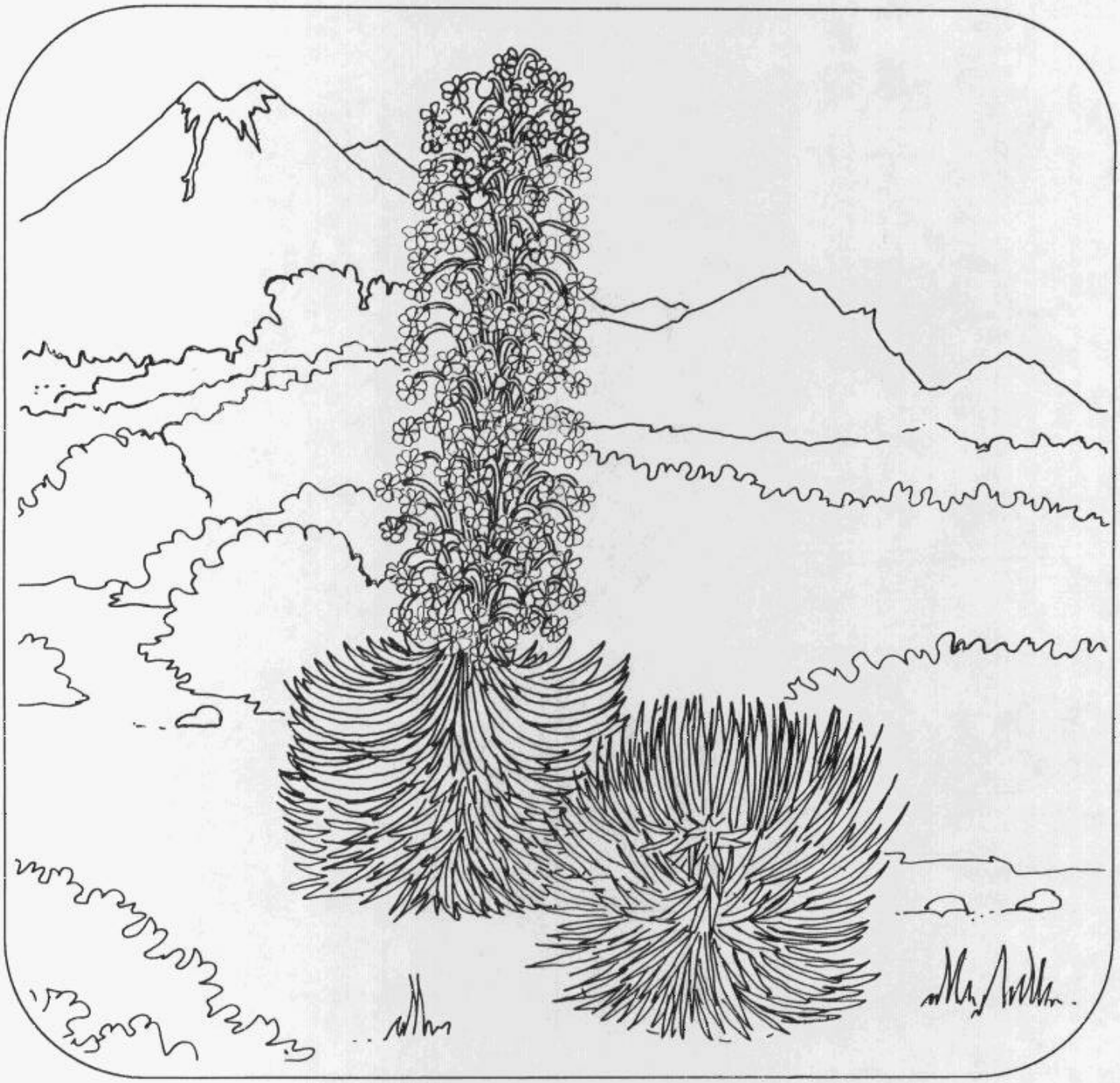
In what states is the valley elderberry longhorn beetle found?

Mission Blue Butterfly

The mission blue butterfly flits and flutters, looking for just the right flower in which to lay its eggs. In a few weeks, these eggs hatch into caterpillars. Sometimes, these caterpillars are guarded by ants that protect them from enemies, like flies and other insects. The caterpillars "pay" the ants back by giving off a sweet, gooey liquid that the ants like to eat.

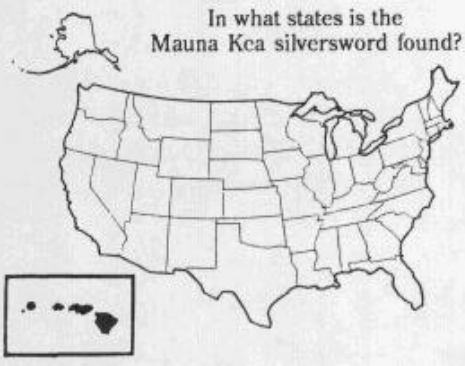
In what states is the mission blue butterfly found?

Mauna Kea Silversword

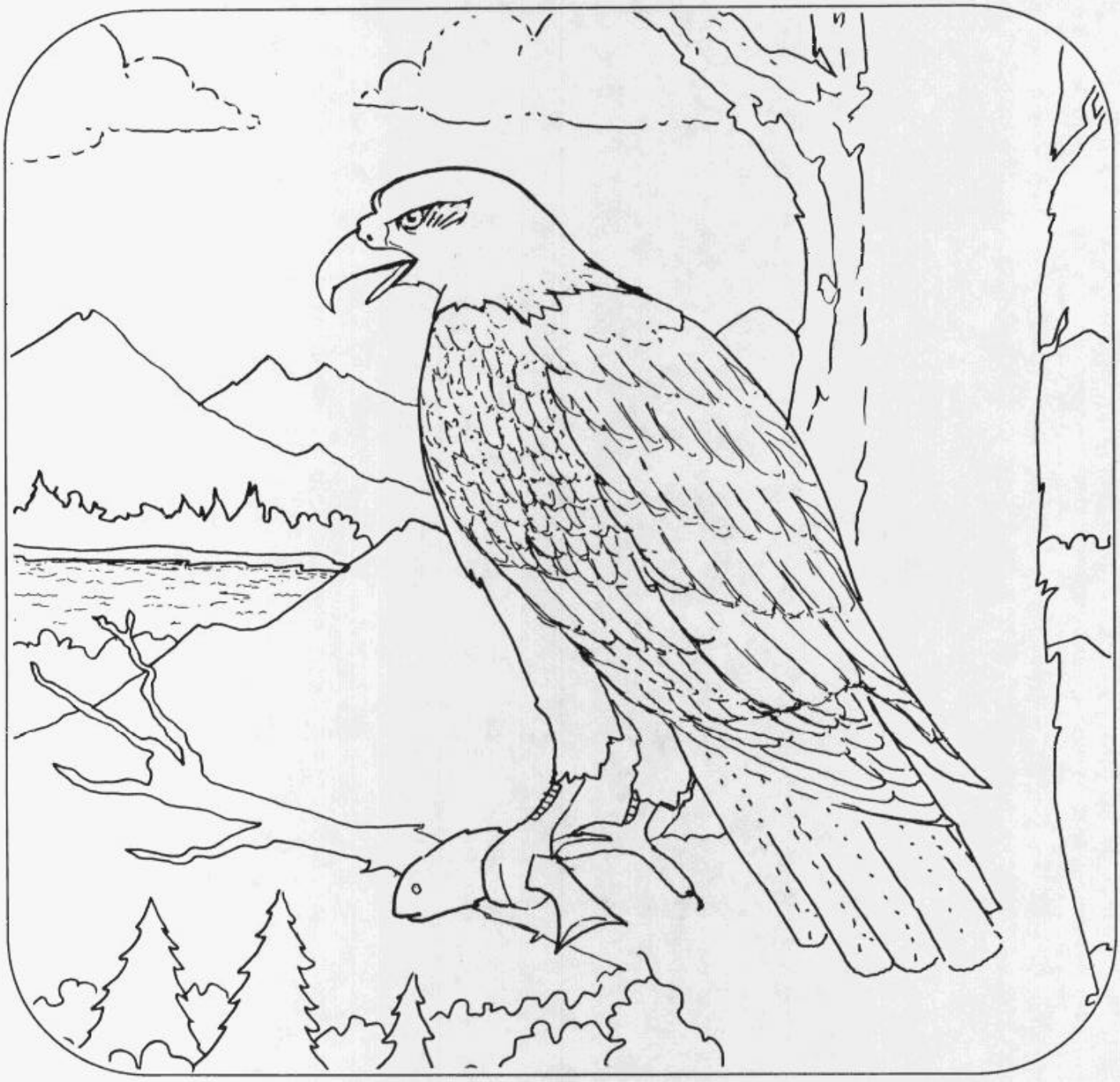


The Mauna Kea silversword is found only in the State of Hawaii on the island of Maui. The pretty pink flowers of this plant can rise over 7 feet high! At the bottom of the plant is a ball of pointed, silvery leaves that look like swords. The leaves are sharp as swords, too!

In what states is the Mauna Kea silversword found?



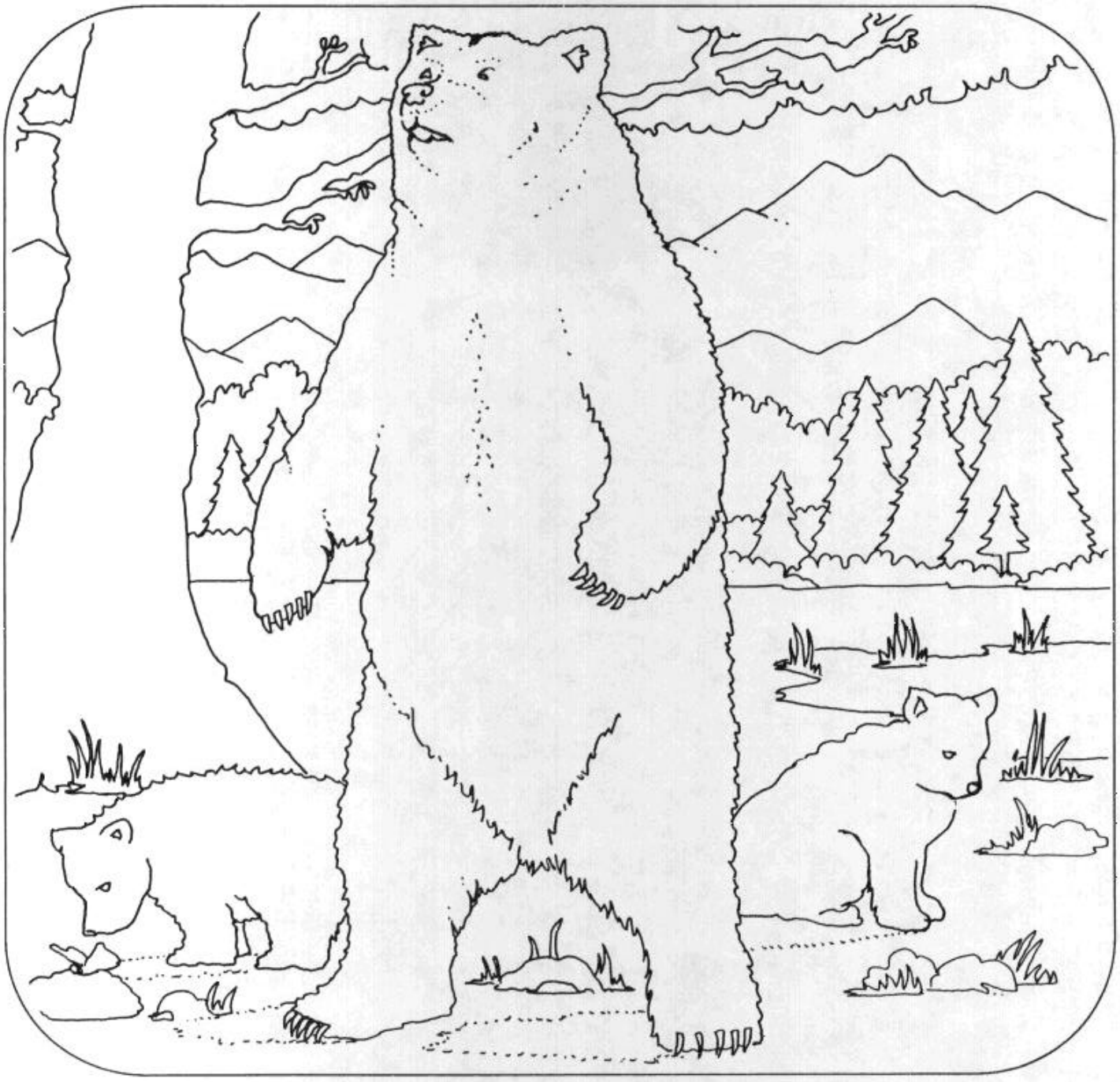
Bald Eagle



The bald eagle is our national symbol. Its eyesight is so good that it can spot a fish from more than a mile away. It is so fast that it can swoop down through the air at 100 miles an hour to catch this tasty meal with its strong claws.

In what states is the bald eagle found?

Grizzly Bear

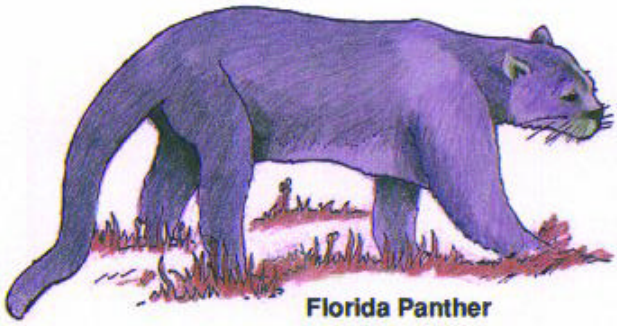


You'd look pretty short standing next to this 8-foot tall bear! The grizzly bear is one of the biggest animals in North America. Adult grizzly bears are shy and usually live alone. Young cubs stay with their mother for several years. She teaches them to hunt, fish, and find berries and nuts.

In what states is the grizzly bear found?

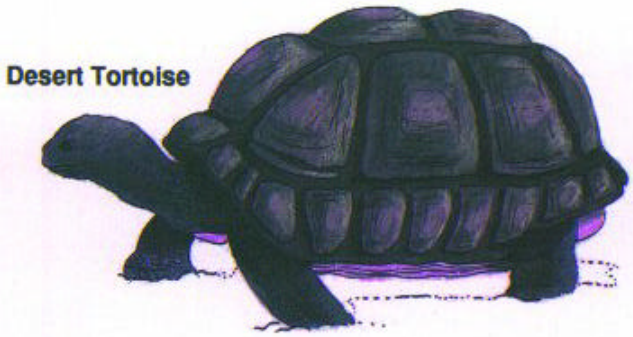
Index of Species' Common Name, Scientific Name, and Status

PAGE	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS
3	Shortnose sturgeon	*Acipenser brevirostrum*	endangered
4	Dwarf wedge mussel	*Alasmidonta heterodon*	endangered
5	Nashville crayfish	*Orconectes shoupi*	endangered
6	Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	endangered
7	Eastern indigo snake	*Drymarchon corais couperi*	threatened
8	Florida manatee	*Trichechus manatus*	endangered
9	Monito gecko	*Sphaerodactylus micropithecus*	endangered
10	Florida panther	*Felis concolor coryi*	endangered
11	Green pitcher plant	*Sarracenia oreophila*	endangered
12	Mississippi sandhill crane	*Grus canadensis pulla*	endangered
13	Ozark big-eared bat	*Plecotus townsendii ingens*	endangered
14	Leopard darter	*Percina pantherina*	threatened
15	Wyoming toad	*Bufo hemiophrys baxteri*	endangered
16	Black lace cactus	*Echinocereus reichenbachii var. albertii*	endangered
17	Attwater's greater prairie chicken	*Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*	endangered
18	Desert tortoise	*Gopherus agassizii*	threatened
19	Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	threatened
20	Mission blue butterfly	*Icaricia icarioides missionensis*	endangered
21	Mauna Kea silversword	*Argyroxiphium sandwicense ssp. sandwicense*	endangered
22	Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	endangered (conterminous U.S. except WA, OR, MN, WI, MI where it is threatened)
23	Grizzly bear	*Ursus arctos (=U.a. horribilis)*	threatened (48 conterminous states)



Florida Panther

Mission Blue Butterfly



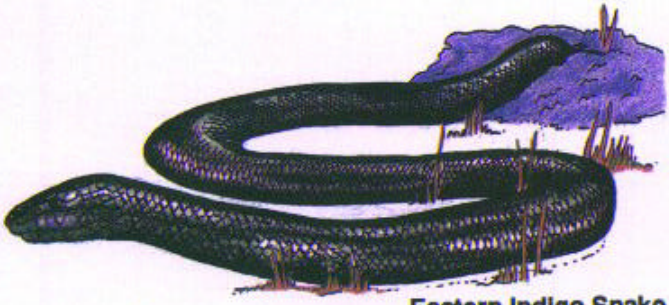
Desert Tortoise

Dwarf Wedge Mussel

Grizzly Bear

Bald Eagle

Shortnose Sturgeon



Eastern Indigo Snake

Leopard Darter

Valley Elderberry
Longhorn Beetle

Mississippi
Sandhill Crane

Attwater's Greater
Prairie Chicken

Green Pitcher Plant

Wyoming Toad

Ozark Big-Eared Bat

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

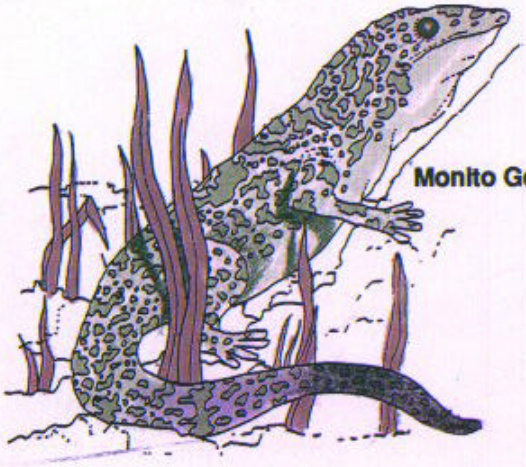
If you would like more information about EPA's Endangered Species Protection Program, contact:

Endangered Species Protection Program (H7506C)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20460

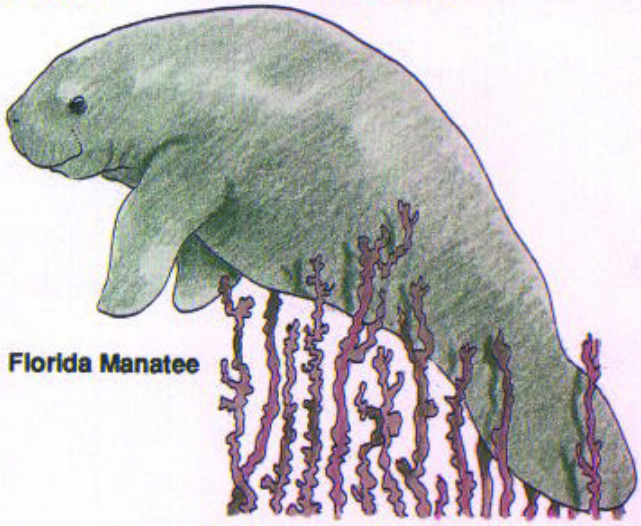
Mauna Kea Silversword

Nashville Crayfish

Black Lace Cactus



Monito Gecko



Florida Manatee