

MY
WETLAND
COLORING
BOOK

The battle to protect our environment is one that must continue from generation to generation if our descendants are to be assured of a pleasant, healthy place in which to live. Awareness of environment concerns must therefore begin early in life.

This coloring book concerns one of our nation's important but often misunderstood natural resources. I hope the book will kindle in the children who use it a better understanding of our wetlands and a growing concern for the fragile nature of the world around them.

signed: *Adlene Harrison*

Adlene Harrison
Region 6 Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Dallas, Texas



Texas
Arkansas
Louisiana
Oklahoma
New Mexico

WETLANDS

Wetlands are just that . . . *wet lands*.

Not long ago most Americans did not know that our wetlands are a very important natural resource. They thought a swamp was just a swamp, and they went right on filling the creeks and bayous and drying up the bogs. Then they used the land for farms or built factories and cities on it.

Now we know better. Now we know how important our wetlands are, and we are working hard to keep them alive and healthy.

Because wetlands are places that are under water at least some of the time, they are home for many special plants and animals that can live nowhere else.

Wetlands can be swamps, marshes, bogs and even the bottomlands along creeks and rivers. Some wetlands—like the Big Thicket in Texas, the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia and the Everglades in Florida—are unique. But all wetlands are important. They must be taken care of.

Look for wetlands near your home and when you are on vacation. Look at the plants and animals living there and try to tell what kinds of wetlands you find. Look to see whether those wetlands are being protected. As you will discover in this coloring book, the wetlands are important to us all.

WETLANDS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

SALTWATER MARSH

**Saltwater marshes are usually found near the ocean.
Many of the fish, shrimp and oysters that we enjoy eating
live in saltwater marshes.**



FRESHWATER MARSH

**Freshwater marshes are found near rivers and lakes.
Can you find the cattails in this freshwater marsh?**



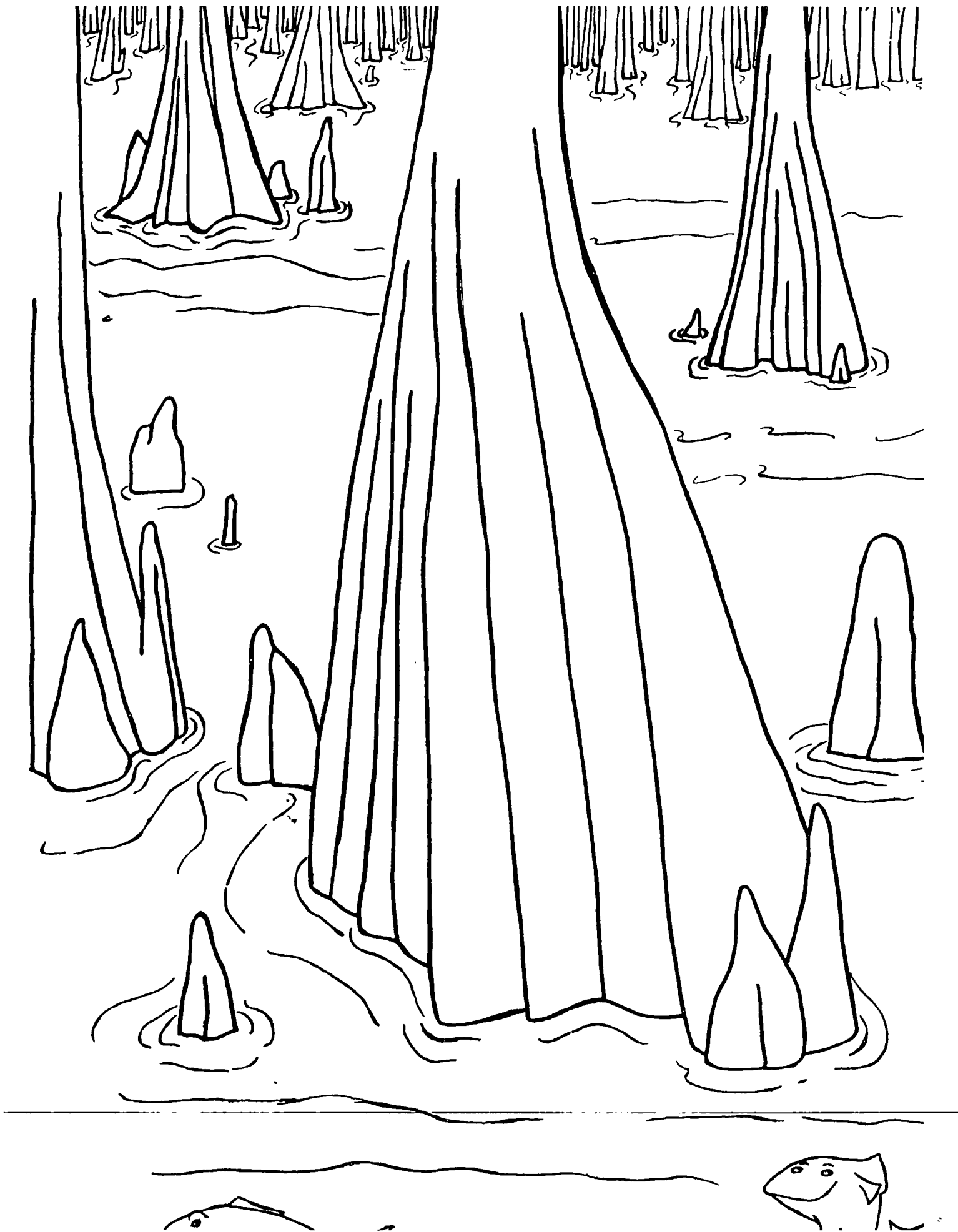
BOTTOMLAND WETLANDS

**Bottomlands are wet forests near creeks and rivers.
What kinds of animals live in bottomlands? Without wetlands
many plants and animals would become extinct.**



FRESHWATER SWAMPS

In freshwater swamps the trees grow right out of the water. Swamps and bottomlands help keep floodwater away from towns and cities. Wetlands also purify the water.



WETLANDS
IN
DANGER

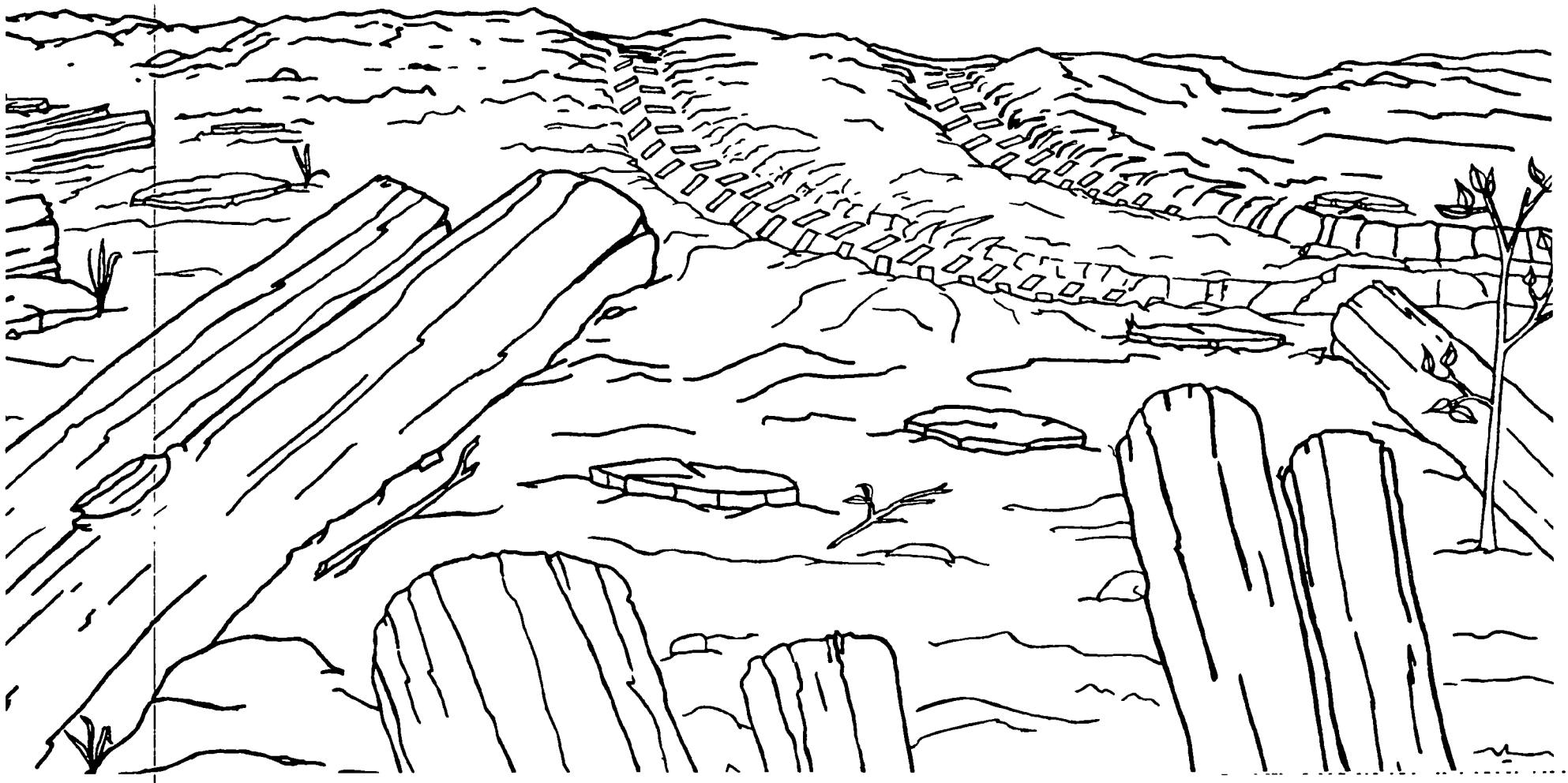
Wastes from factories can poison wetland plants and animals.



Sometimes swamps are drained and . . .



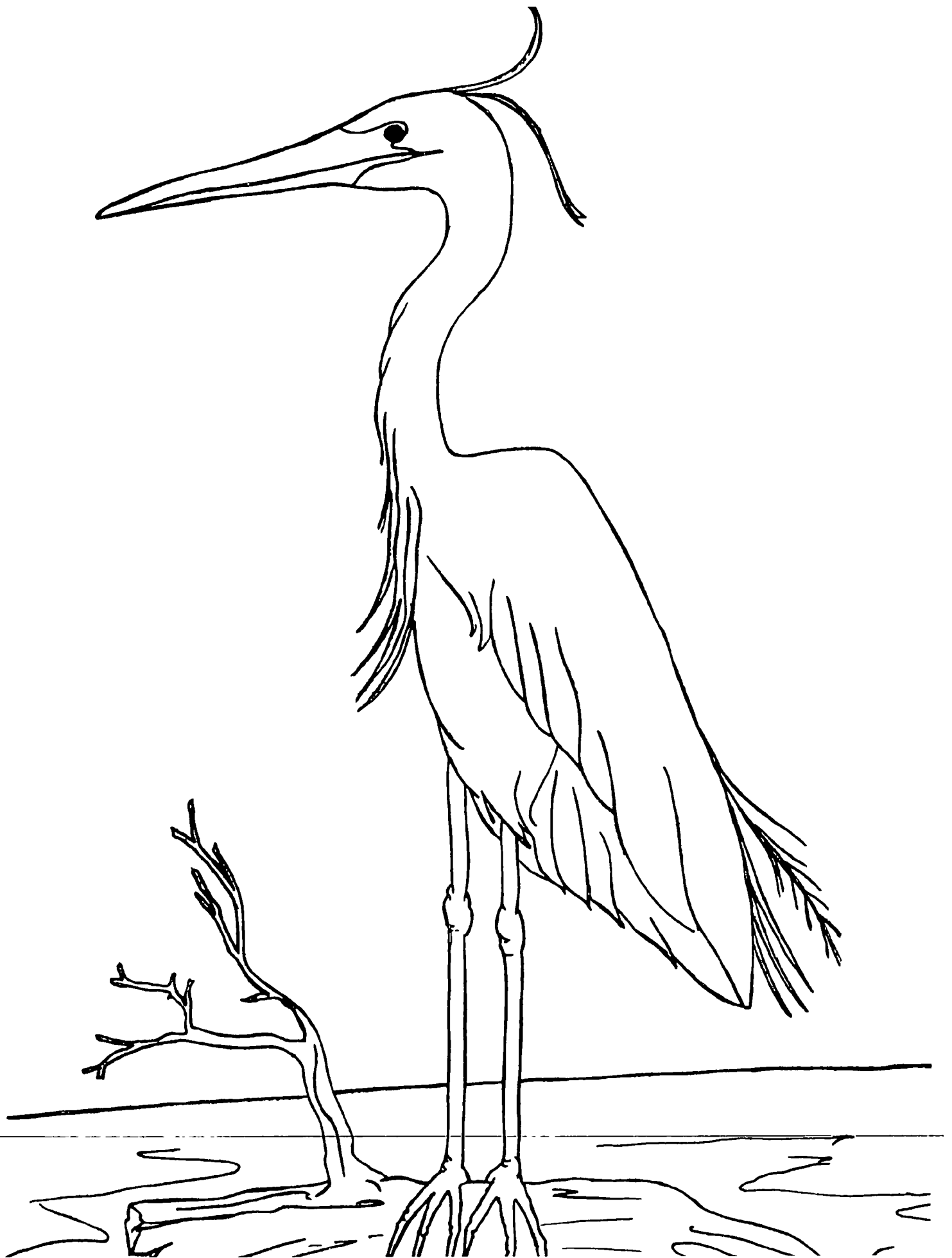
... sometimes bottomland forests are destroyed to make new farmland.



Sometimes people fill marshes so they can build houses near the ocean.



Next time you see a wetland . . .
Look to see what kinds of plants and animals live there.
They can tell you if it is a saltwater marsh, a freshwater marsh, bottomland wetland, or a swamp.



What kind of wetland is this? Is it going to be protected or destroyed?



Do you remember why wetlands are important to us all?




This coloring book was produced by the Enforcement Division, Wetlands Unit of the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, in cooperation with the Region's Office of Public Awareness

EPA is the federal government's principal guardian of environmental quality. The agency is responsible for the major programs protecting and enhancing the quality of our nation's air and water, regulating the use of pesticides and toxic chemicals, controlling noise and radiation and managing the disposal of solid waste materials.

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Single copies of this publication may be obtained by writing:

 **Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1201 Elm Street
Dallas, Texas 75270**