

# Ohio's State Nature Symbols

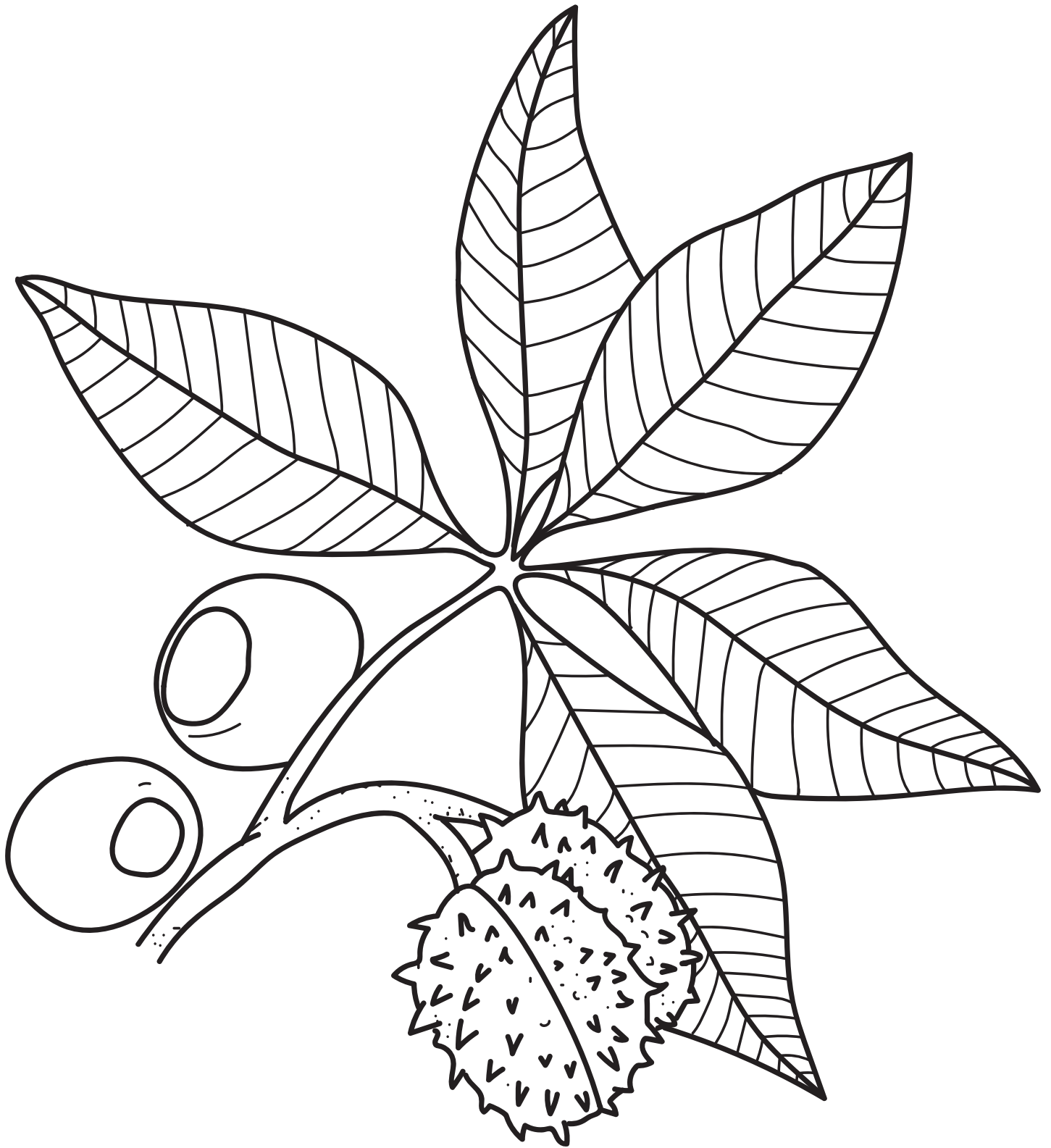
# COLORING BOOK

Presented by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Illustrations by Ryan Moss

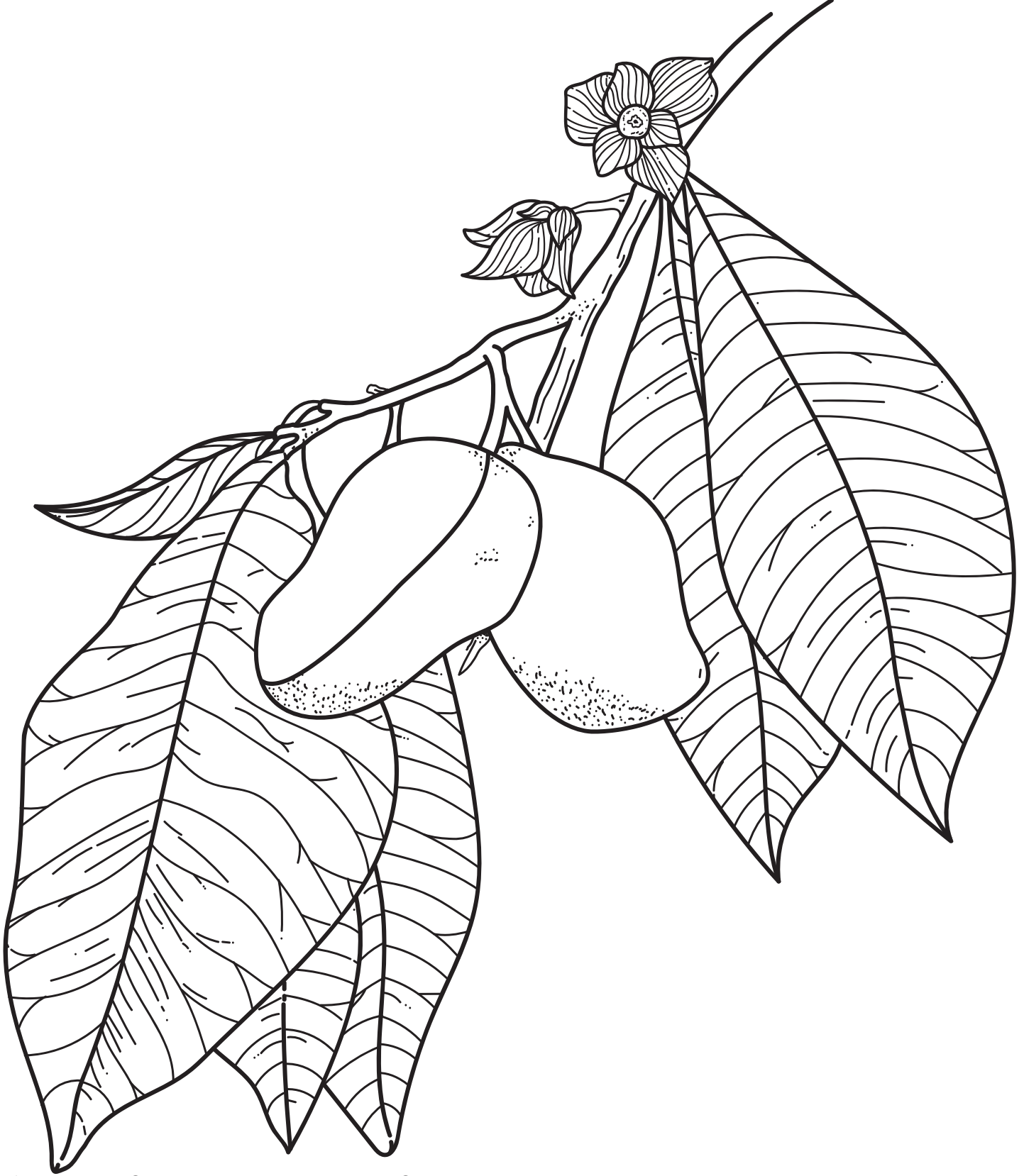


OHIO DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL  
RESOURCES**



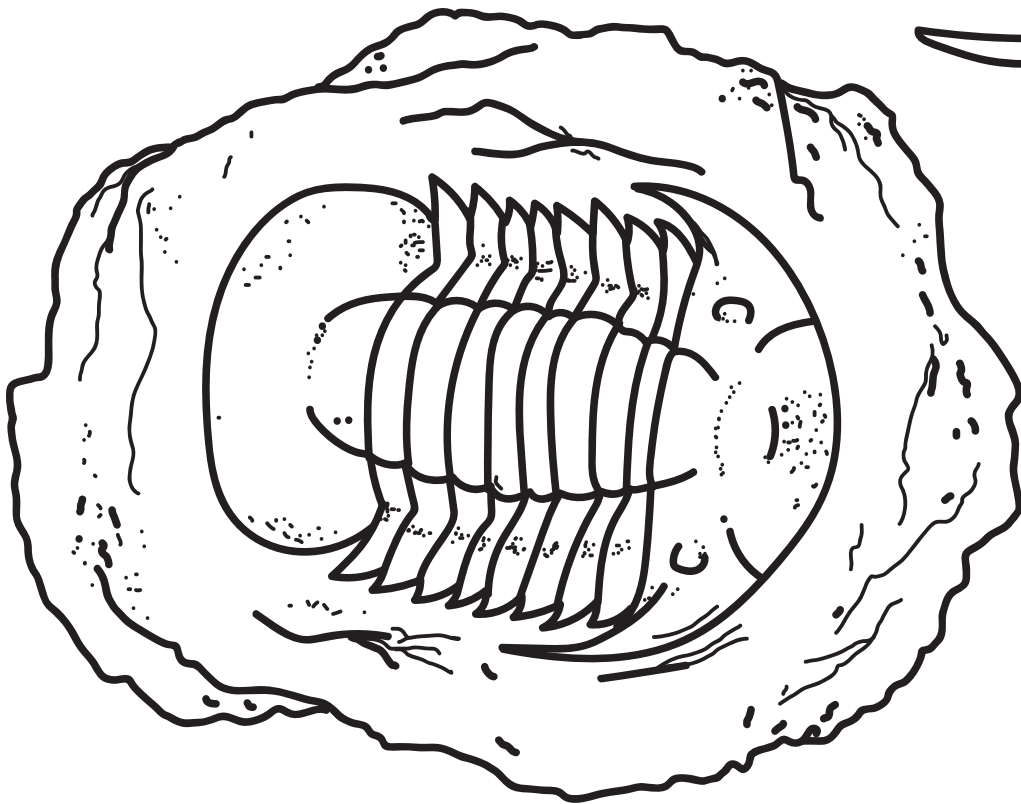
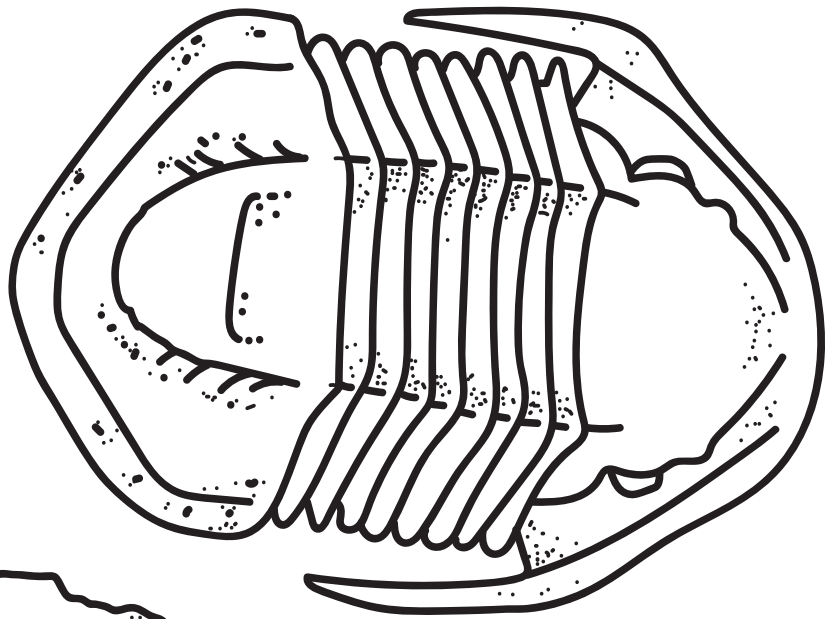
# Tree: Ohio Buckeye

The Ohio buckeye, the state tree of Ohio, is found primarily on bottomland sites with moist, but well drained soils. The Fruits of Ohio buckeye usually contain one seed, commonly called buckeye nuts, are contained in a slightly spiny, golden-brown, husk. The buckeye received this designation in 1953.



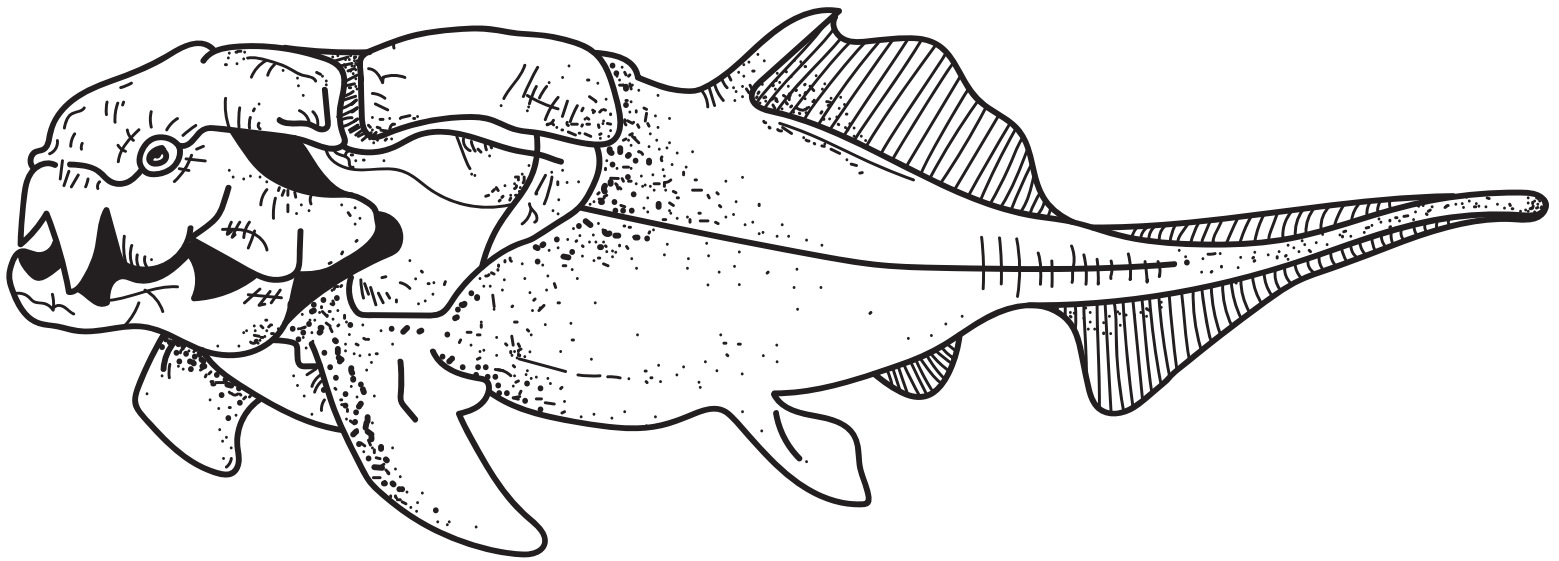
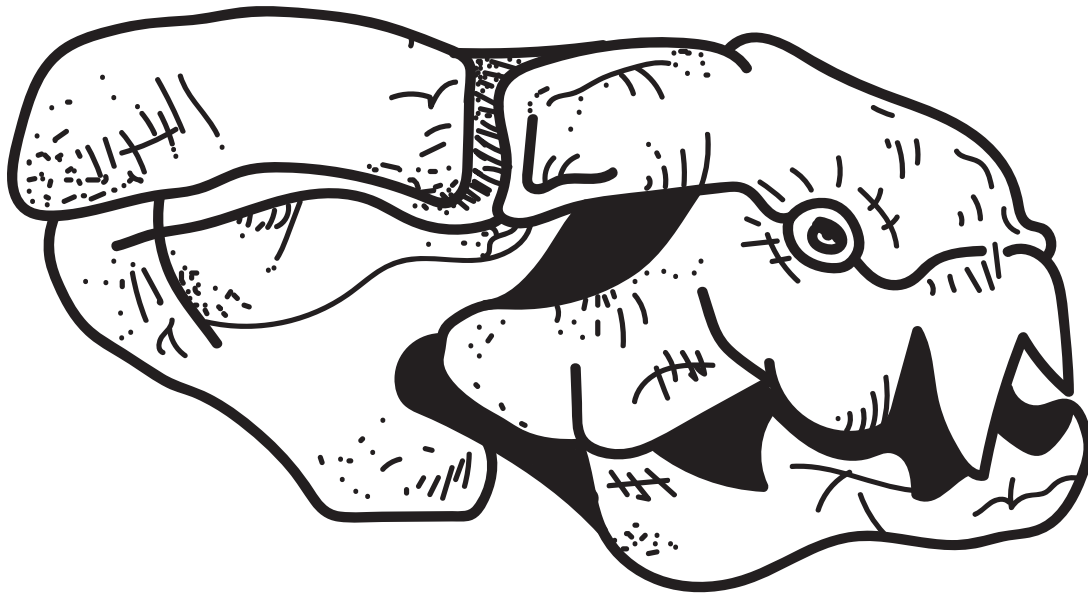
# Native Fruit: Pawpaw

The Pawpaw is the state fruit of the buckeye state. The fruit grows on small trees, tastes a lot like bananas and ripens in the early fall months. The pawpaw was named the state native fruit in 2009.



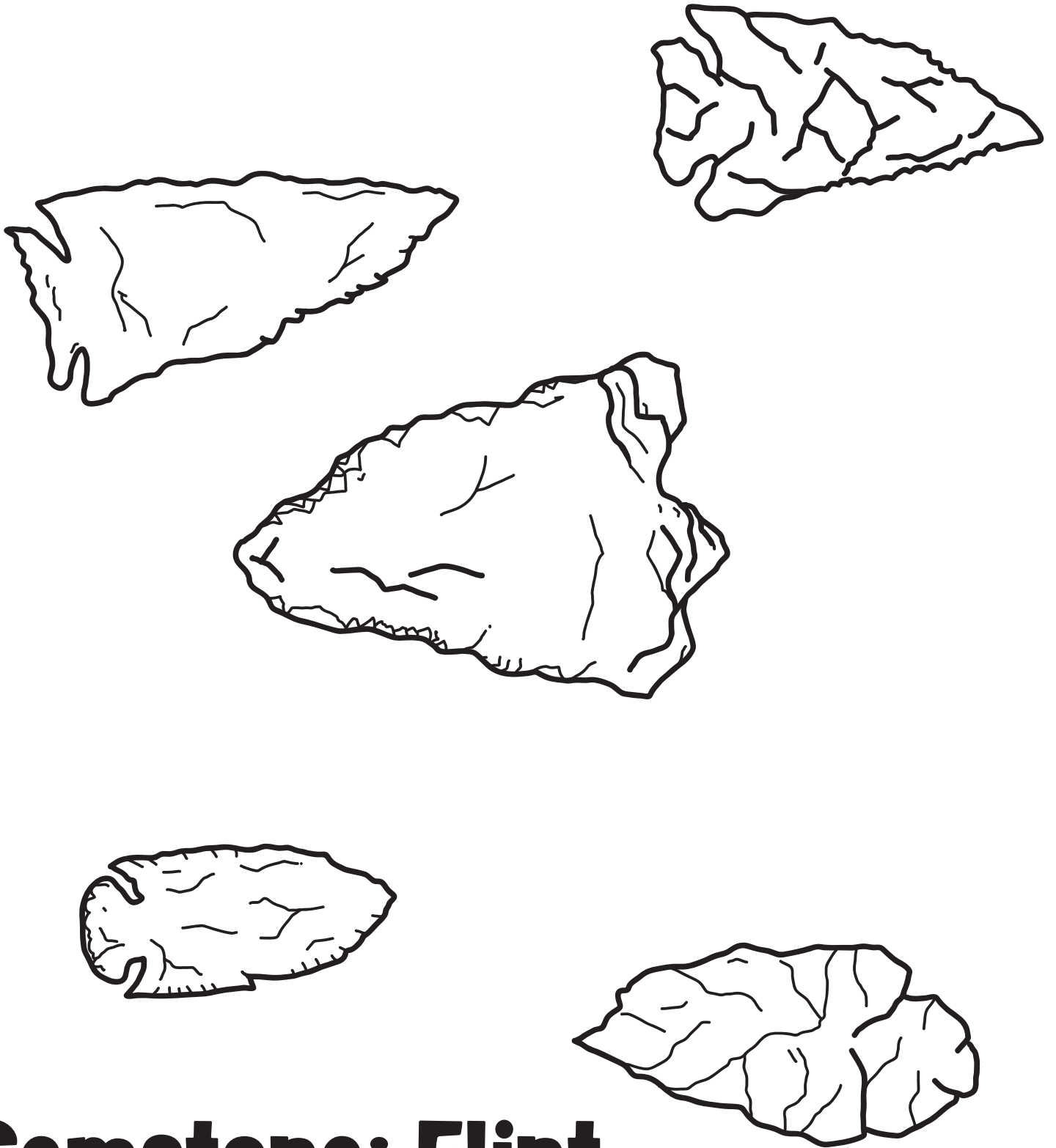
# Invertebrate Fossil: Isotelus

Isotelus (pronounced "ī-sō-TEE-lus") was a kind of trilobite that lived long before dinosaurs, when Ohio was covered by a warm, shallow sea. Isotelus roamed the ancient sea floor, searching for food. It grew to more than 20 inches long. Trilobites are now extinct. Isotelus was named Ohio's official State Invertebrate Fossil in 1985.



# Fossil Fish: Dunkleosteus

Dunkleosteus was a large fish that roamed the sea many millions of years ago, long before dinosaurs, during a time known as the “Age of Fish.” Parts of its body were covered with bony plates, like a layer of armor. It grew to more than 20 feet long—bigger than today’s great white sharks. Dunkleosteus is now extinct but it is one of Ohio’s most famous fossils. It became Ohio’s official State Fossil Fish in 2020.



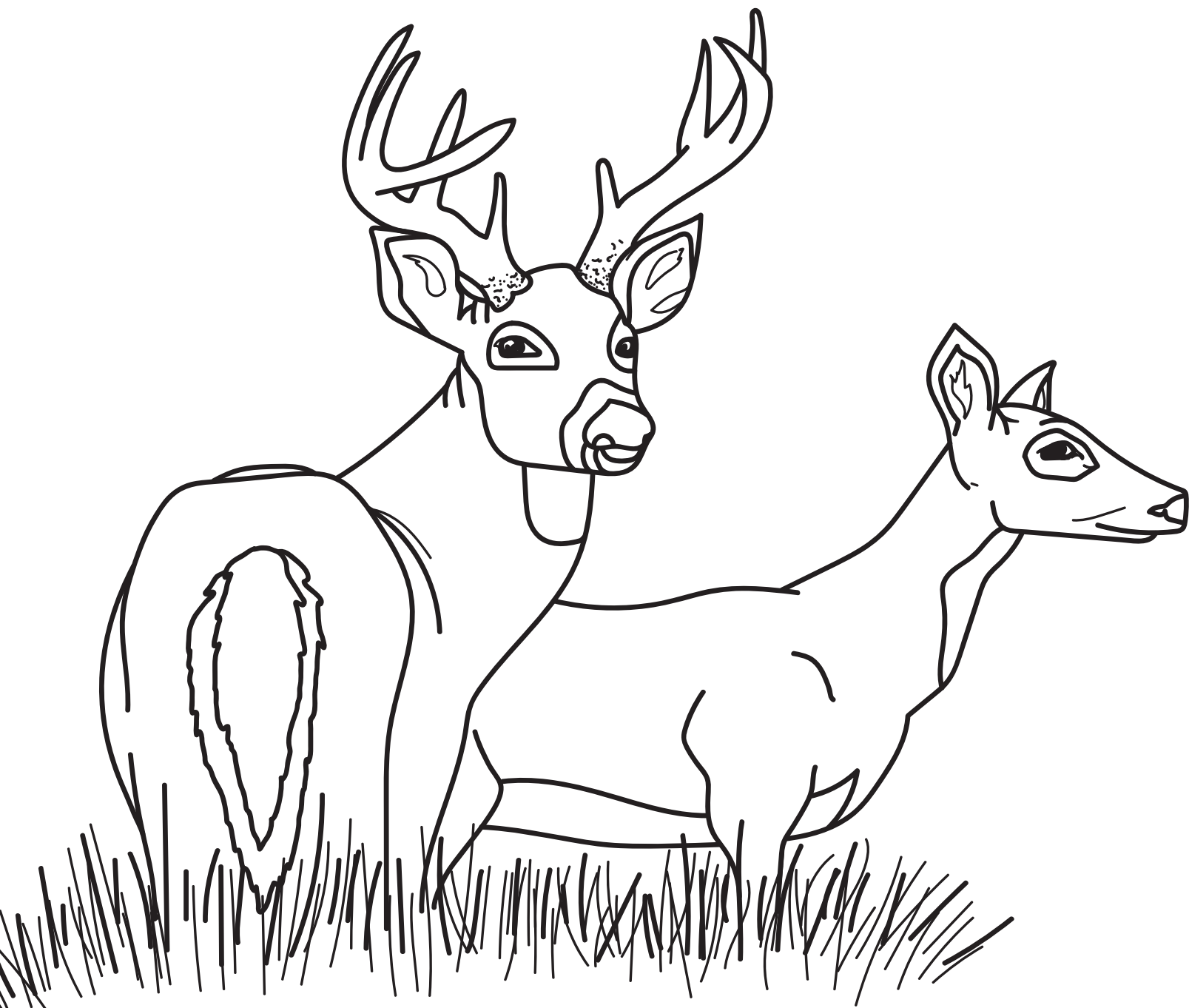
# Gemstone: Flint

Flint is a sedimentary rock made mostly of a mineral called quartz. Flint is hard enough to scratch steel, but it is also brittle and can be shaped to produce sharp edges. Ohio flint was highly valued by prehistoric Native Americans, who used it to make weapons and tools, such as spears, arrow heads, and drills. Today, flint is used to make beautiful jewelry. It became Ohio's official State Gemstone in 1965.



# **Wildflower: Large-flowered Trillium**

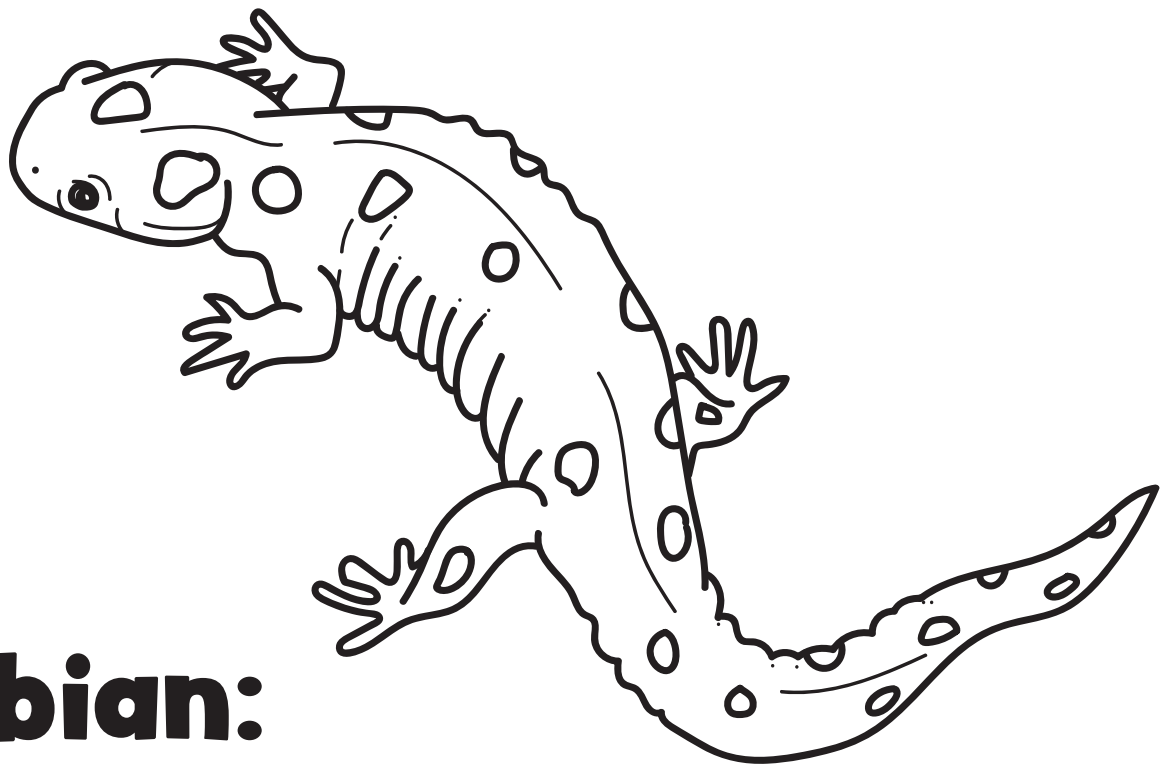
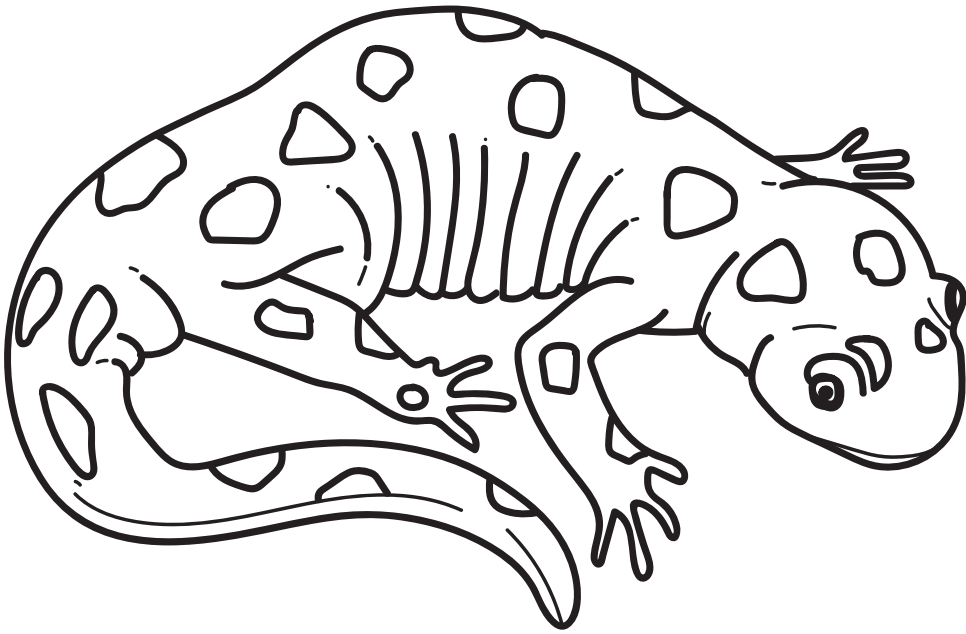
The large-flowered trillium is the state wildflower of Ohio and is found in woodlands during spring across the state. This flower has three distinct large white petals and can grow up to 20" tall. In 1986, the Ohio General Assembly made the large-flowered trillium Ohio's official wildflower.



**Mammal:**

## **White-tailed Deer**

The white-tailed deer is the state mammal of Ohio and are seen throughout the entire state. Did you know that these deer have two seasonal coats? This includes a reddish-tan spring and/or summer coat and a thicker gray winter coat. The white-tailed deer became the official mammal in 1988.



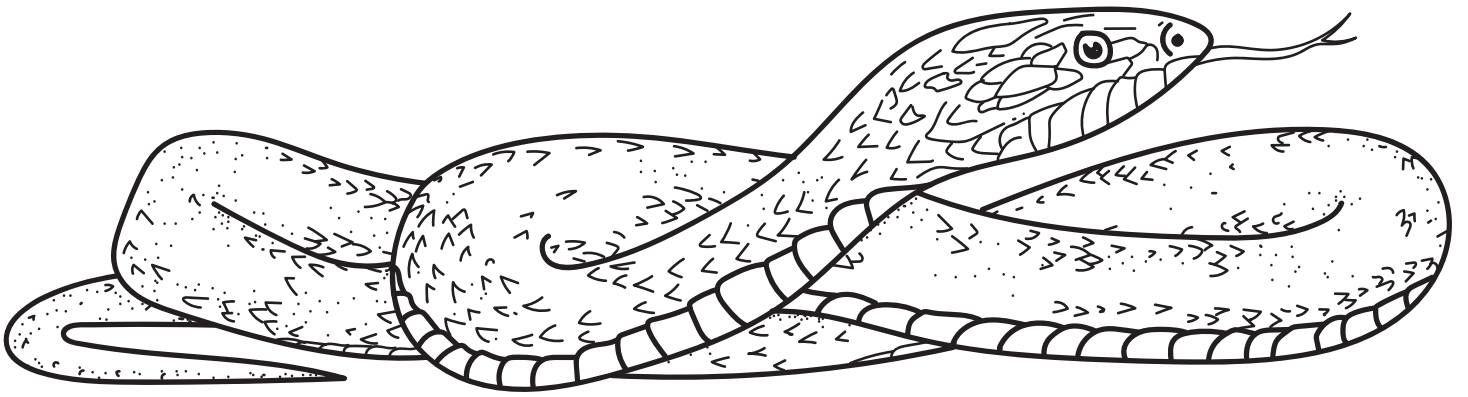
# **Amphibian: Spotted Salamander**

The spotted salamander is the state amphibian of Ohio and can be found in low-lying moist woodlands adjacent to swamps, ponds, and creeks. You won't see them much in the day because they are only active at night. State lawmakers declared the salamander's status as the state amphibian in 2010.



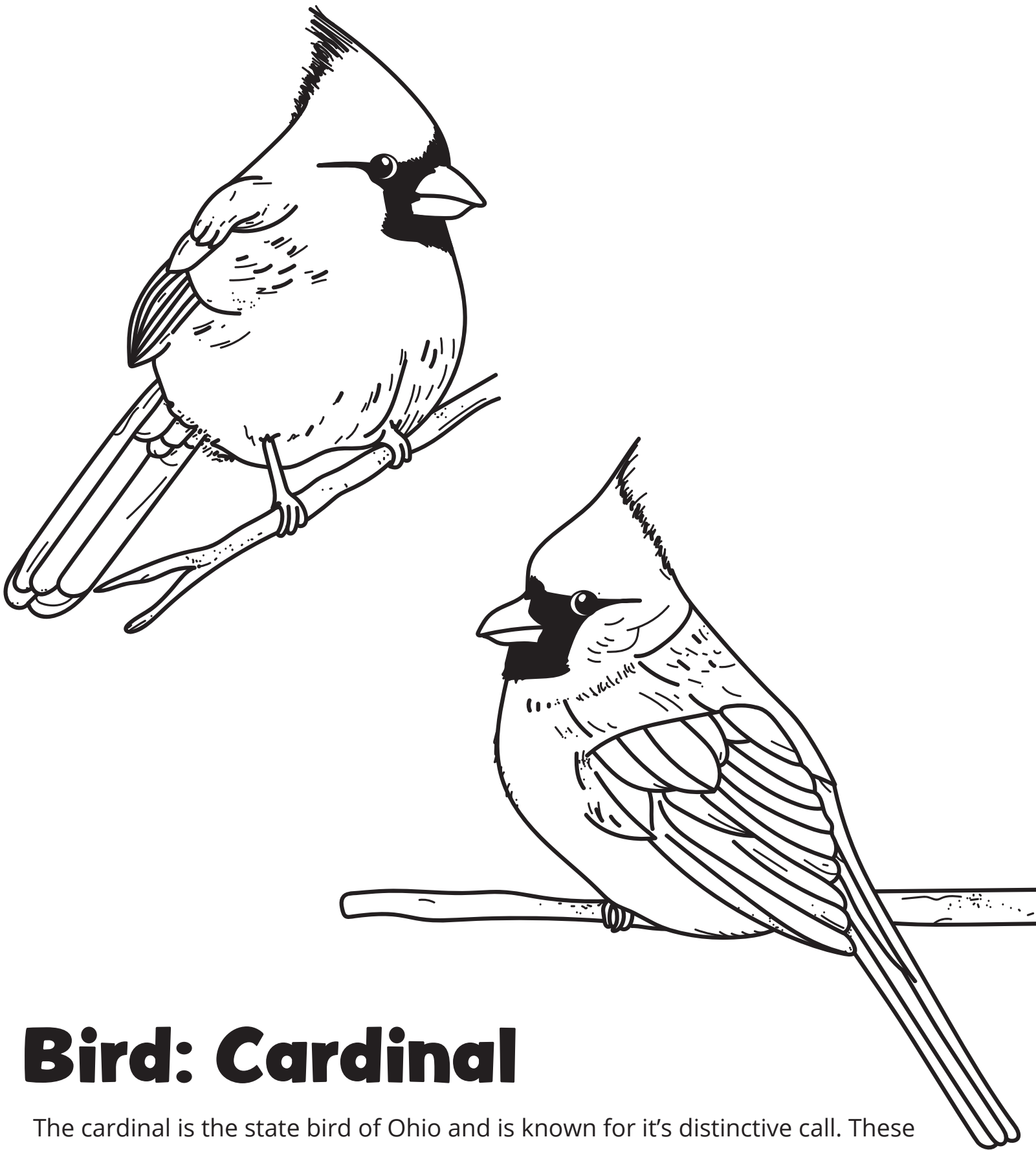
## Frog: Bullfrog

The bullfrog is the state frog of Ohio and is the largest frog in North America. Did you know that sometimes you can hear the call of the male bullfrog from a mile away? They can be found in ponds, marshes, and large slow-moving streams. In 2010, Ohio lawmakers made the bullfrog the official state frog.



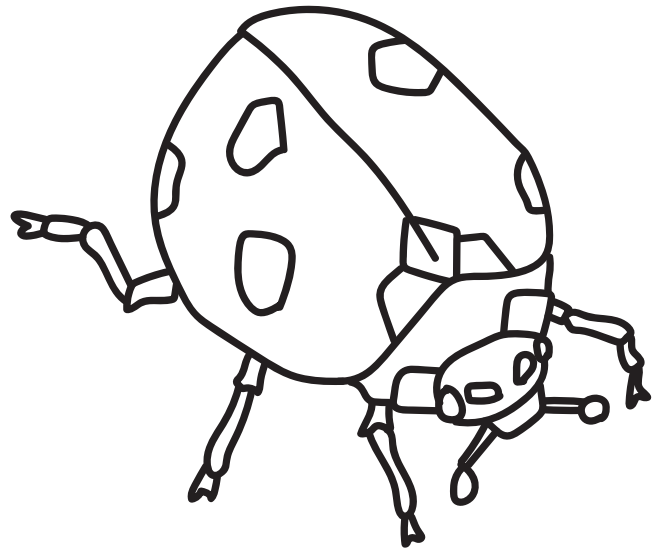
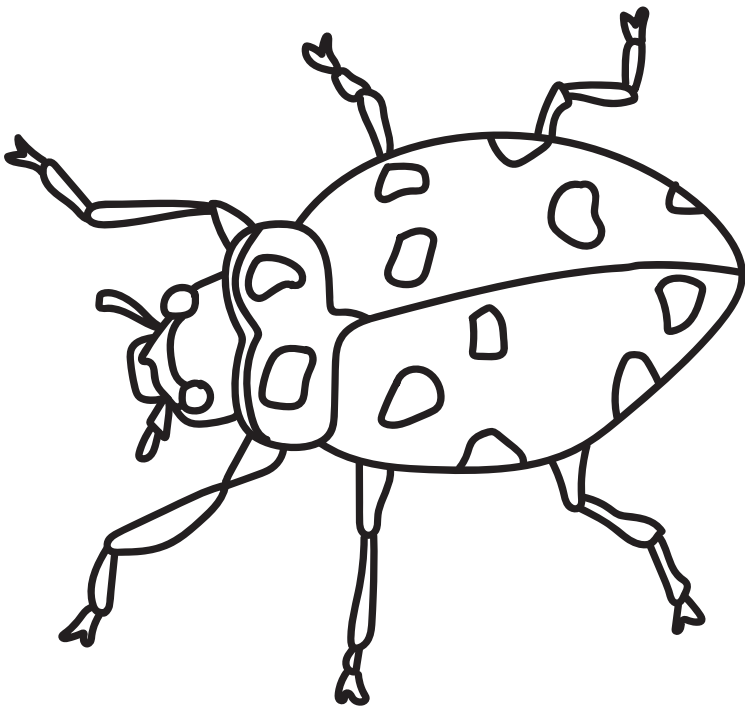
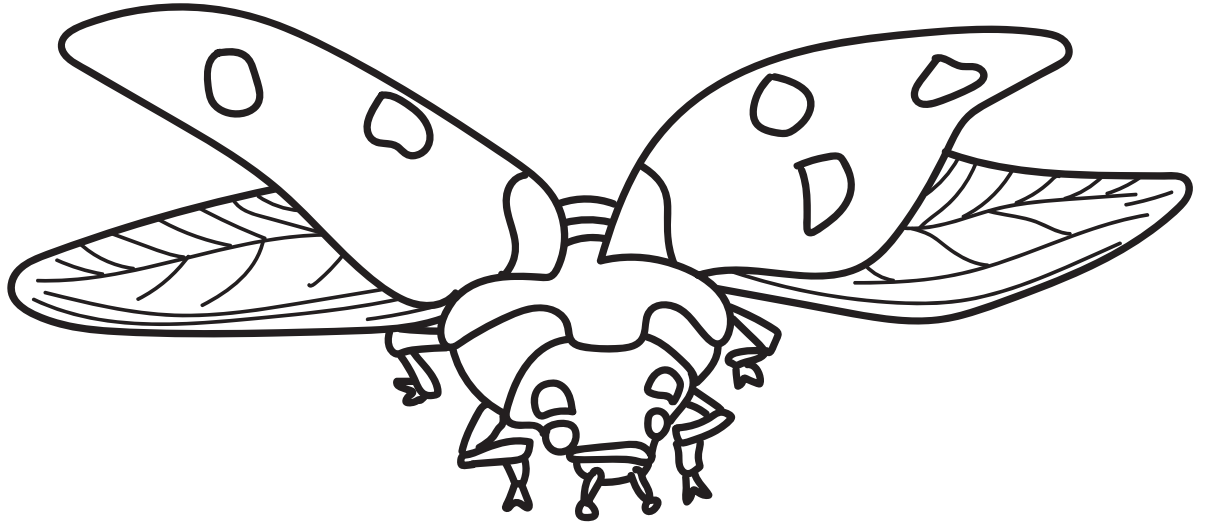
# Reptile: Black Racer Snake

The black racer snake is the state reptile of Ohio. These snakes are found mostly in the eastern part of the state. Did you know that they move at about 8-10 miles per hour? In 1995, the Ohio Legislature made the black racer Ohio's official reptile.



## Bird: Cardinal

The cardinal is the state bird of Ohio and is known for its distinctive call. These birds are found all across the buckeye state especially in woodlands, brush and forest edges. The cardinal received this recognition in 1933.



# Insect: Ladybug

The ladybug is the state insect of Ohio and exists in all of the state's 88 counties – with more than 450 species in North America. Did you know that ladybugs eat small pests, such as aphids, greatly assisting Ohio's farmers and gardeners by reducing the needs for insecticides? In 1975, the Ohio government selected the ladybug as Ohio's official insect.