

learning about our

Spring and farms

activity book



©

Dear Teachers and Parents:

This student activity-coloring book is designed to introduce children to two of Columbia County's most valuable assets: springs and farms.

Columbia County is home to the Ichetucknee River and springs – Florida's most pristine natural spring and one of the world's most popular tubing, diving, and canoeing destinations. Columbia County also is home to many farms and forests which produce the food we eat and other commodities we use.

Springs and farms are vital to the environment, the economy, our rural way of life, and our children's futures. Neither should be taken for granted, but rather should be preserved and protected.

This book, produced cooperatively by The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP) and the Santa Fe Soil and Water Conservation District (SFSWCD), aims to increase a child's understanding of and appreciation for our local land and water resources by making learning about them fun as well as educational. The book has been designed for use both inside and outside of the classroom.

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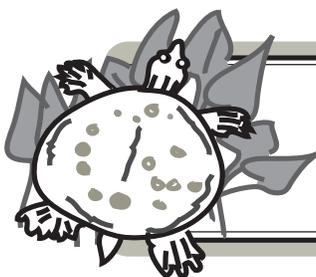
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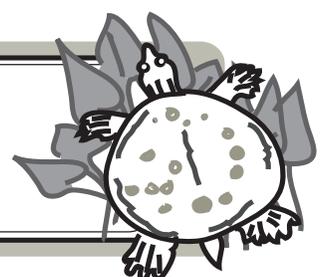
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THIS BOOK BELONGS TO



Hi, boys and girls! My name is Bellamy Beaver. I want to tell you about my favorite place to visit – the Ichetucknee River and springs, right here in Columbia County.

Have you ever been to the Ichetucknee? It is a very special place. Birds, fish and other animals live there. Long ago, Indians lived near the banks of the river. In fact, Ichetucknee is an Indian word meaning “beaver pond.”

Florida’s first highway was built near Ichetucknee Springs. It was called the Bellamy Road, or Bellamy Trail. That’s where my name, Bellamy, comes from.

The Ichetucknee is one of the cleanest and prettiest springs in all of Florida. The water is so clear you can see down to the bottom! How does it stay that way? That’s what you will discover in this book. Come along, as we learn what it means to be a good steward of our water.

A steward is someone who takes care of things or who uses things wisely. If you spend and save money wisely, you are a good steward. If you do things to help protect our water, you are a good steward. Farmers are good stewards. They take care of the land on which they produce the things we eat and use every day. They also try to be good stewards by helping to keep our water clean.

You, too, can learn to be a good water steward. To find out how, just follow me!



**Hi! My name is
Bellamy Beaver.**

What is a spring?

A spring is a place where water bubbles up from underground. Springs help form rivers and lakes.

Springs provide a home for all kinds of plants and animals.



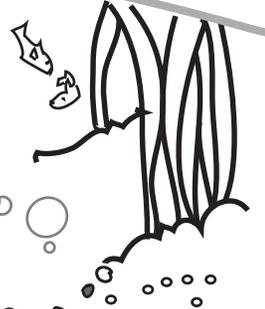
Bellamy Beaver



water lettuce



turtle



fish



crayfish



lime rock

Lime rock is a type of rock found in Florida. It lets water pass through it underground forming an underground water system or aquifer.

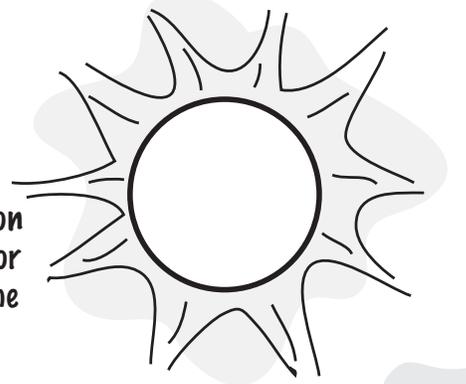
water drop



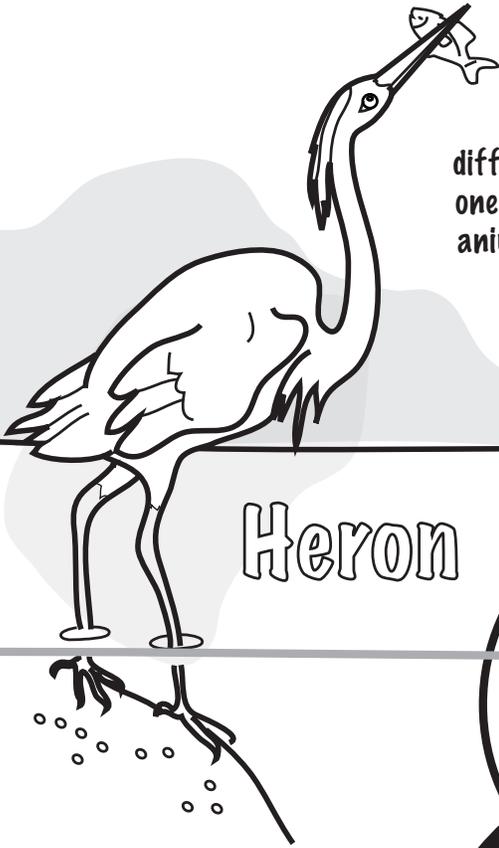
Help the underground water drop find its way to Bellamy Beaver.

Circle of life.

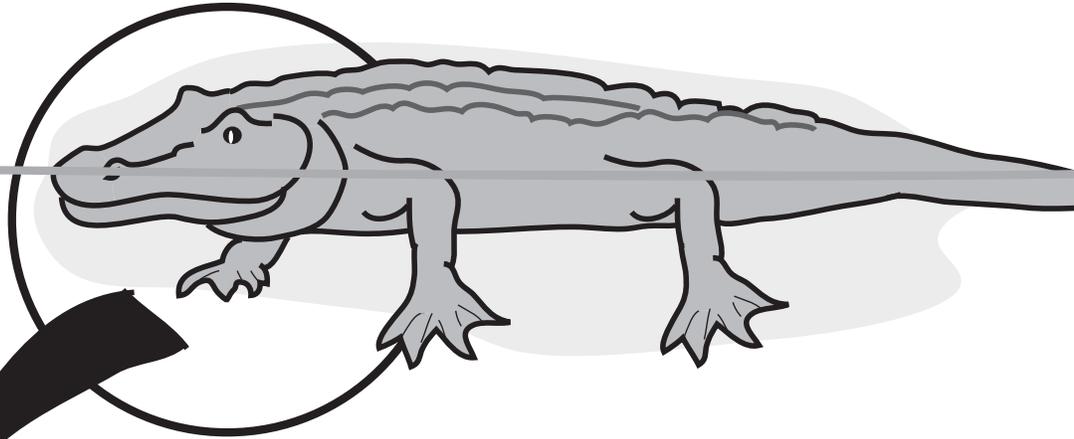
Springs and rivers are home to different plants and animals who depend on one another for food. If one of the plants or animals is removed from the food chain the others may die.



Sun

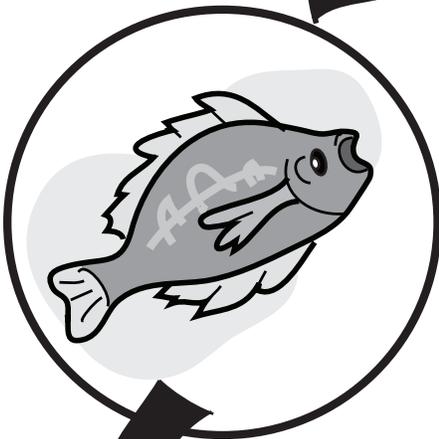


Heron

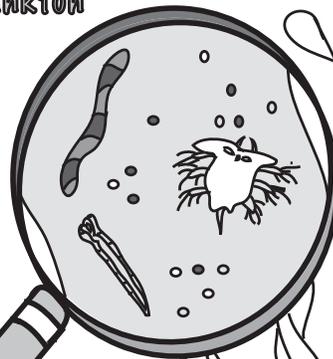


Alligator

Fish

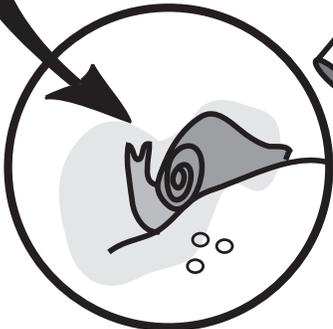


Zoo plankton



Grass

Snail



From Seed to Fruit.

Farms can grow all types of products.
Farmers follow certain rules when
they grow things.

Plant the seed.

1.



2.

Just enough fertilizer.



3.

Just enough water.



4.

Harvest the fruit.



5.



From Farm to Market.

Farmers send their products to the store where you can buy them.

1.



2.

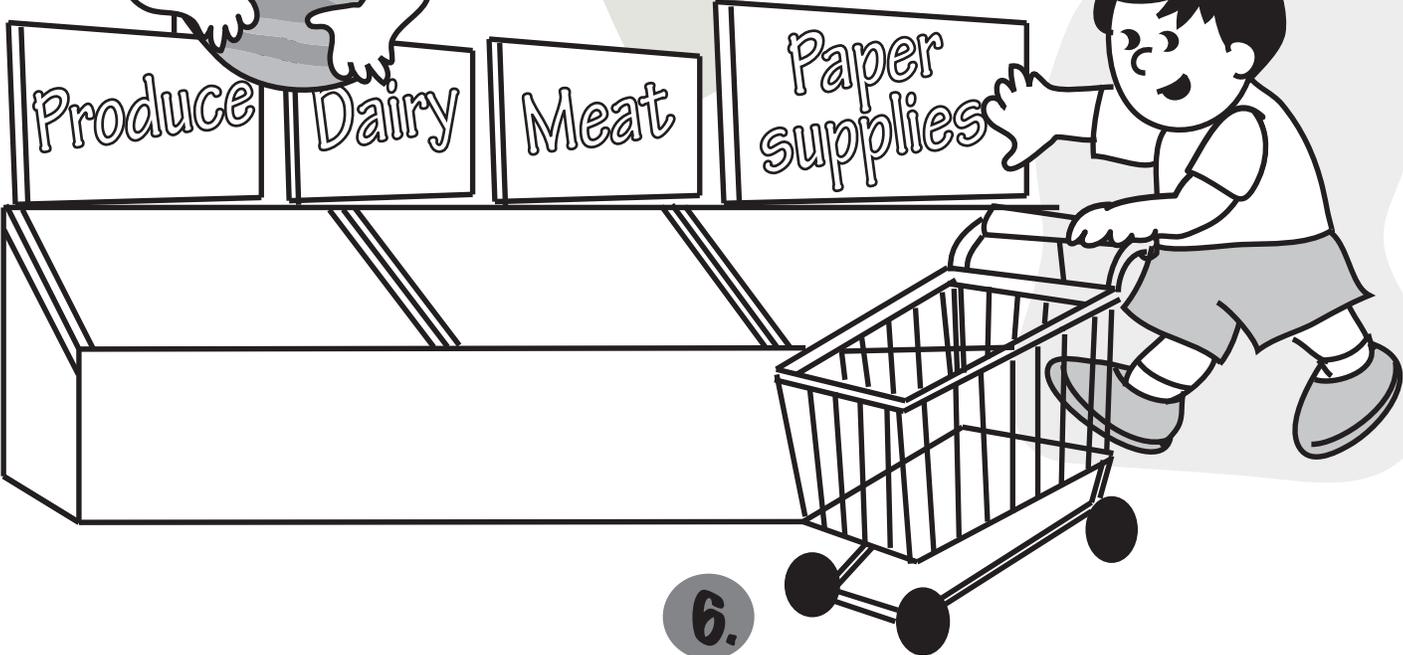


GROCERY STORE

3.



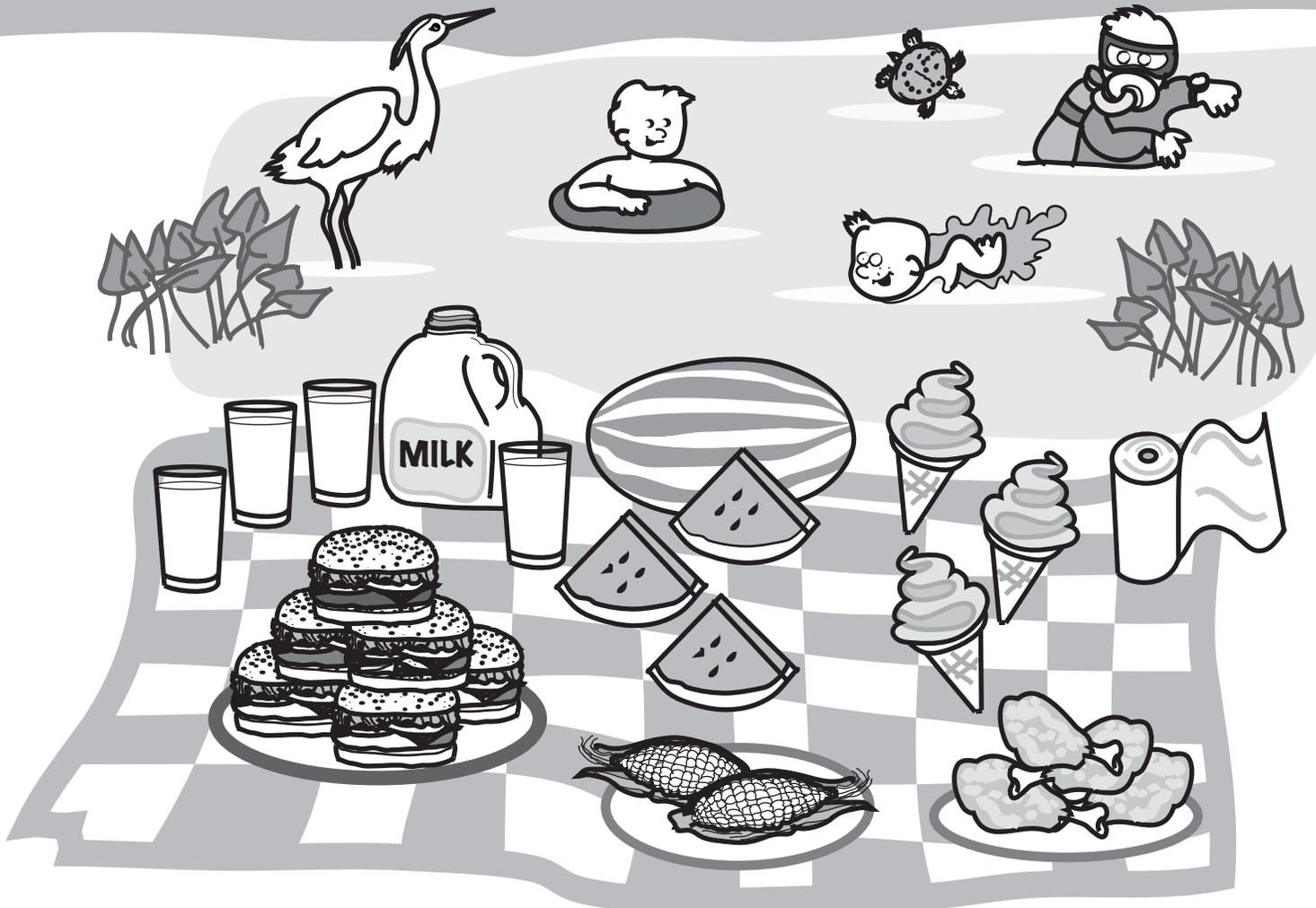
4.



6.

Fun things to do at the springs.

The springs are a great place to have fun.
Can you count how many different things there
are to do at the springs?



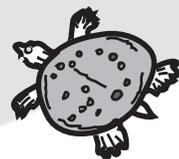
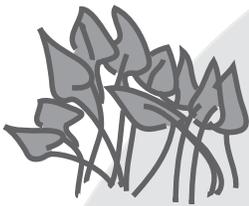
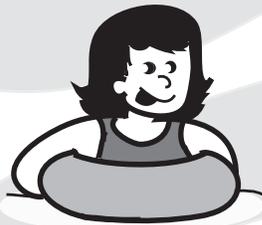
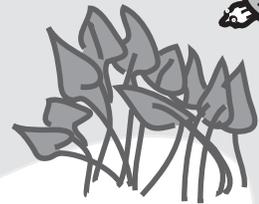
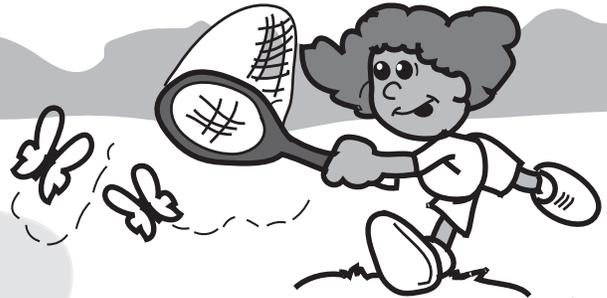
Picnics are fun to have when you go to the springs.
Lots of things you take to a picnic come from Columbia County farms.

Count how many.

Count the things below that are on both pages and write the number in the box.

- | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| How many  s? | <input type="text" value="6"/> | How many  s? | <input type="text"/> | How many  s? | <input type="text"/> |
| How many  s? | <input type="text"/> | How many  s? | <input type="text"/> | How many  s? | <input type="text"/> |
| | | How many  s? | <input type="text"/> | | |

Fun things to do at the springs.



What comes from a farm?

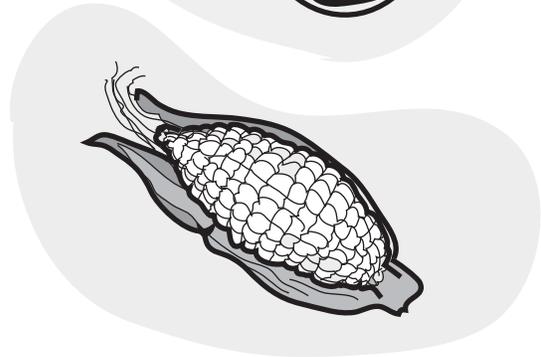
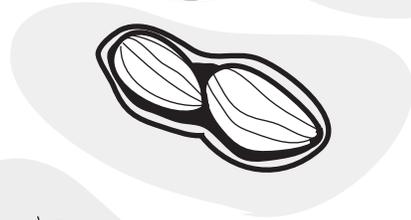
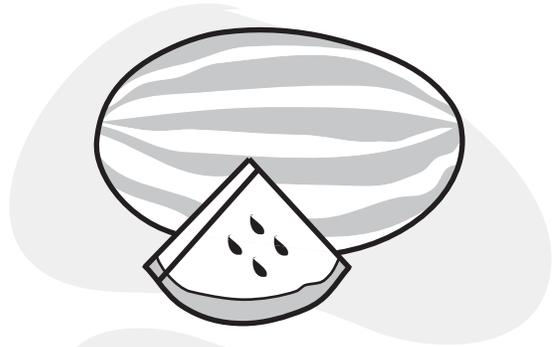
Fruits and vegetables

Trace the word. Draw a line from the word to the correct picture.

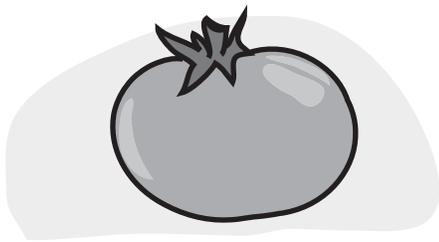


Trace the word.

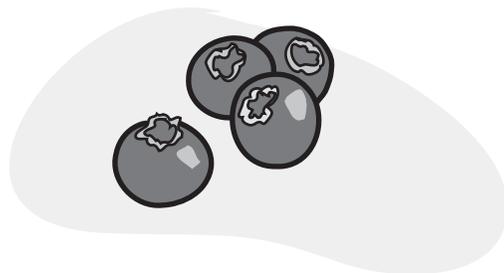
peanut



Bb blueberries



Ww watermelon



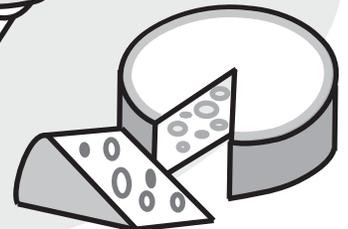
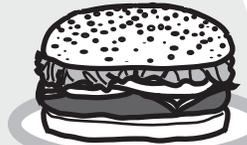
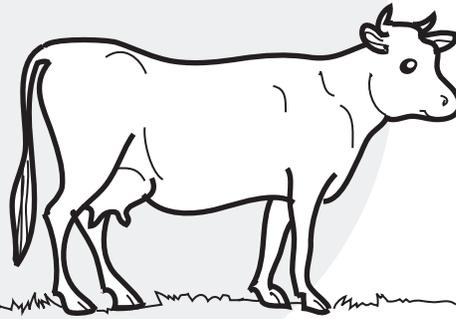
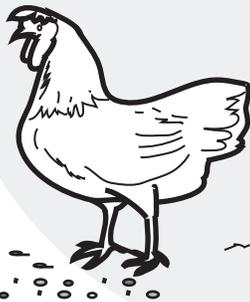
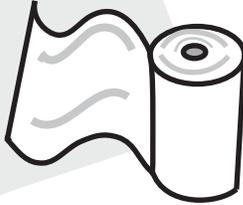
Cc corn

Tt tomato

Things we use come from farms.

○ Timber, bees, cattle and poultry ○

Draw a line from the products to the plant or animal they come from.



How can we help save water?

There are lots of things you can do or help your parents do to save water inside your home.



When you help with the dishes, don't turn on the faucet until you're ready to rinse the dishes.

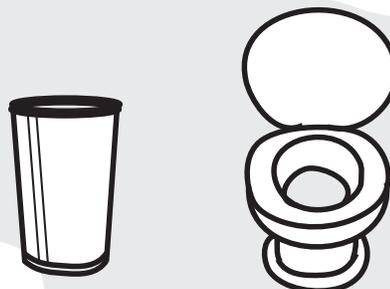
When you brush your teeth, do not run the water while you're brushing. When you wash your hands, turn off the faucet while you're scrubbing your hands.



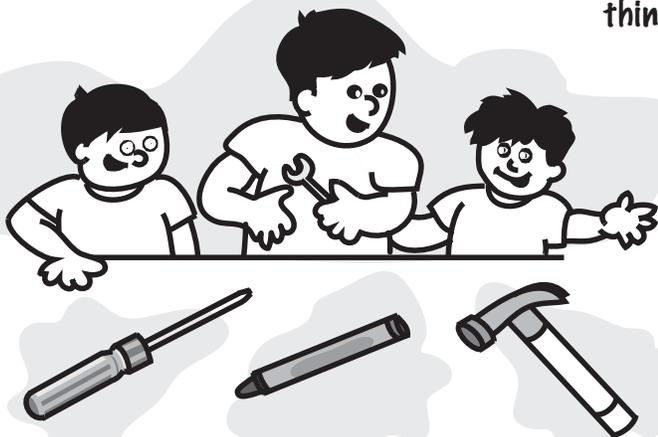
It's important to not use water when you don't need to. When you use a tissue where do you throw it?



Cross out the place where you **should not** throw your tissue.



To help save water, your parents can fix things that leak.



Cross out the one thing that **does not** belong in a toolbox.



Cross out the one thing that **does not** use water.

How can we help?

There are lots of things you can do or help your parents do to save water outside your home.



It is good to have a nozzle on your hose to turn it on and off.



Circle the things that you wash with a hose and nozzle.

Using the right amount of fertilizer is good for your lawn. Using too much can harm your lawn and our springs.



Circle the **least** amount of fertilizer.

Using the right amount of water is good for your lawn. Using too much water is wasteful and can also be bad for your lawn.



Circle the **least** amount of water.

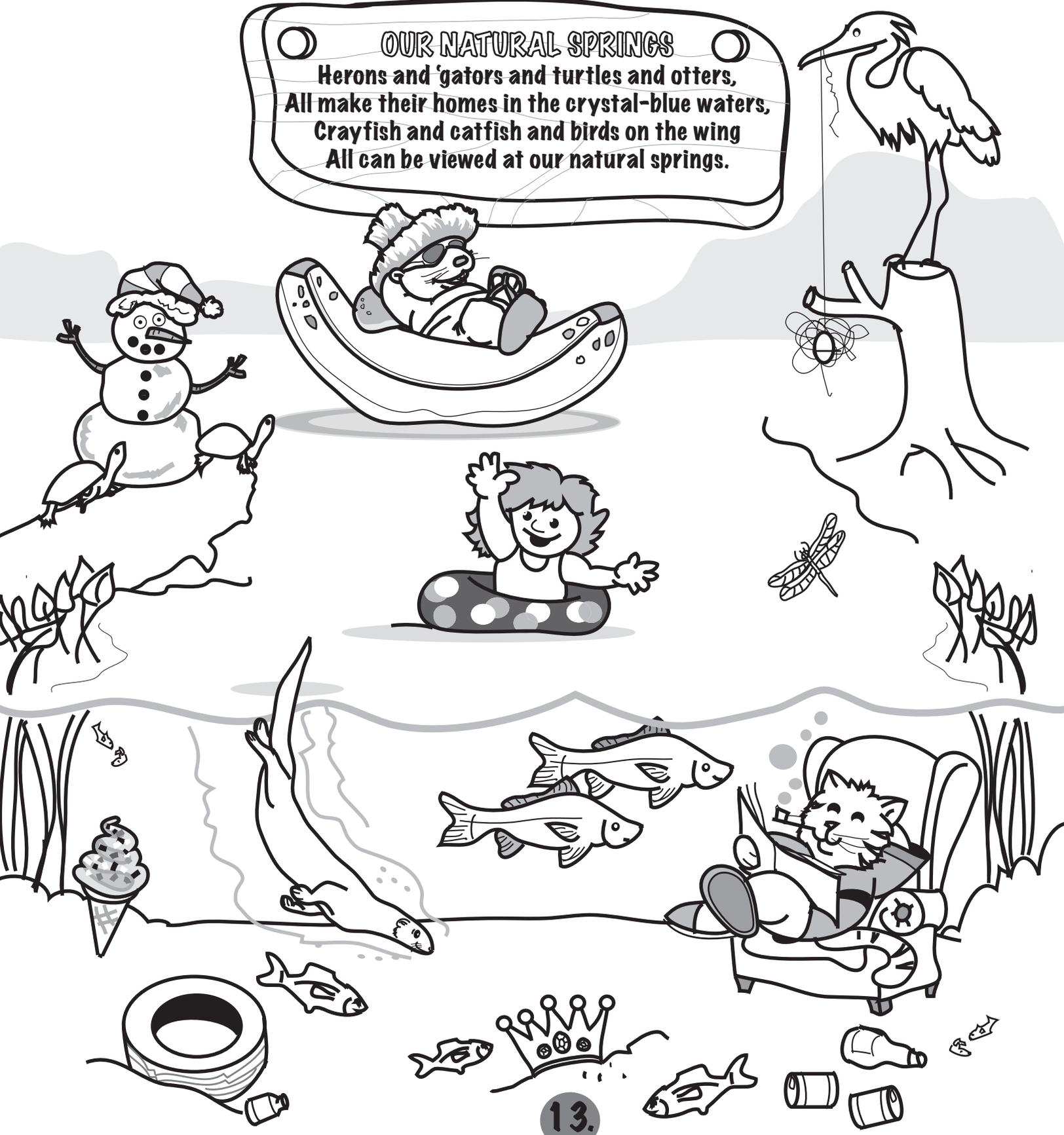


What can we recycle?
Draw a line from the things you can recycle to the recycle container.

What doesn't belong?

Circle the things that don't belong in the springs.

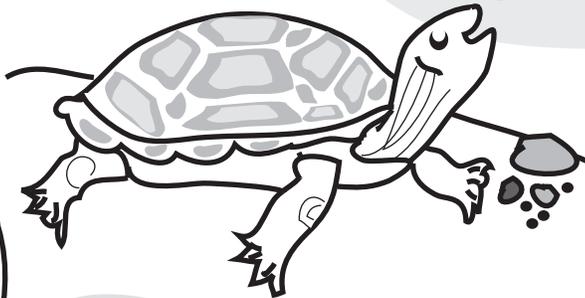
OUR NATURAL SPRINGS
Herons and 'gators and turtles and otters,
All make their homes in the crystal-blue waters,
Crayfish and catfish and birds on the wing
All can be viewed at our natural springs.



DID YOU KNOW?

Lehetucknee Springs attracts more visitors than any other springs in our area.

Rainwater soaks into the ground. It becomes the water we drink.



72°

The water coming out of Lehetucknee Springs is always 72 degrees.

The water that comes out of your faucet at home comes from underground.

Farmers use groundwater to produce things we eat and use.

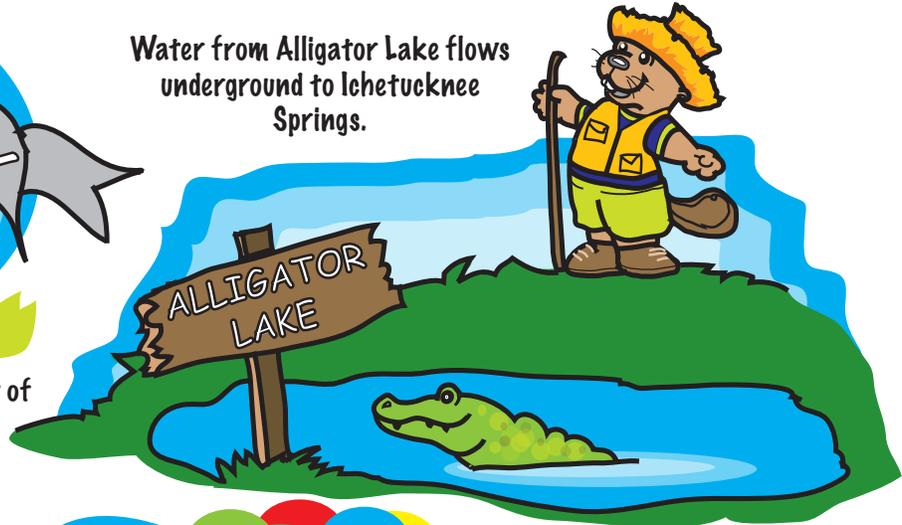


Help Bellamy Beaver find his way.

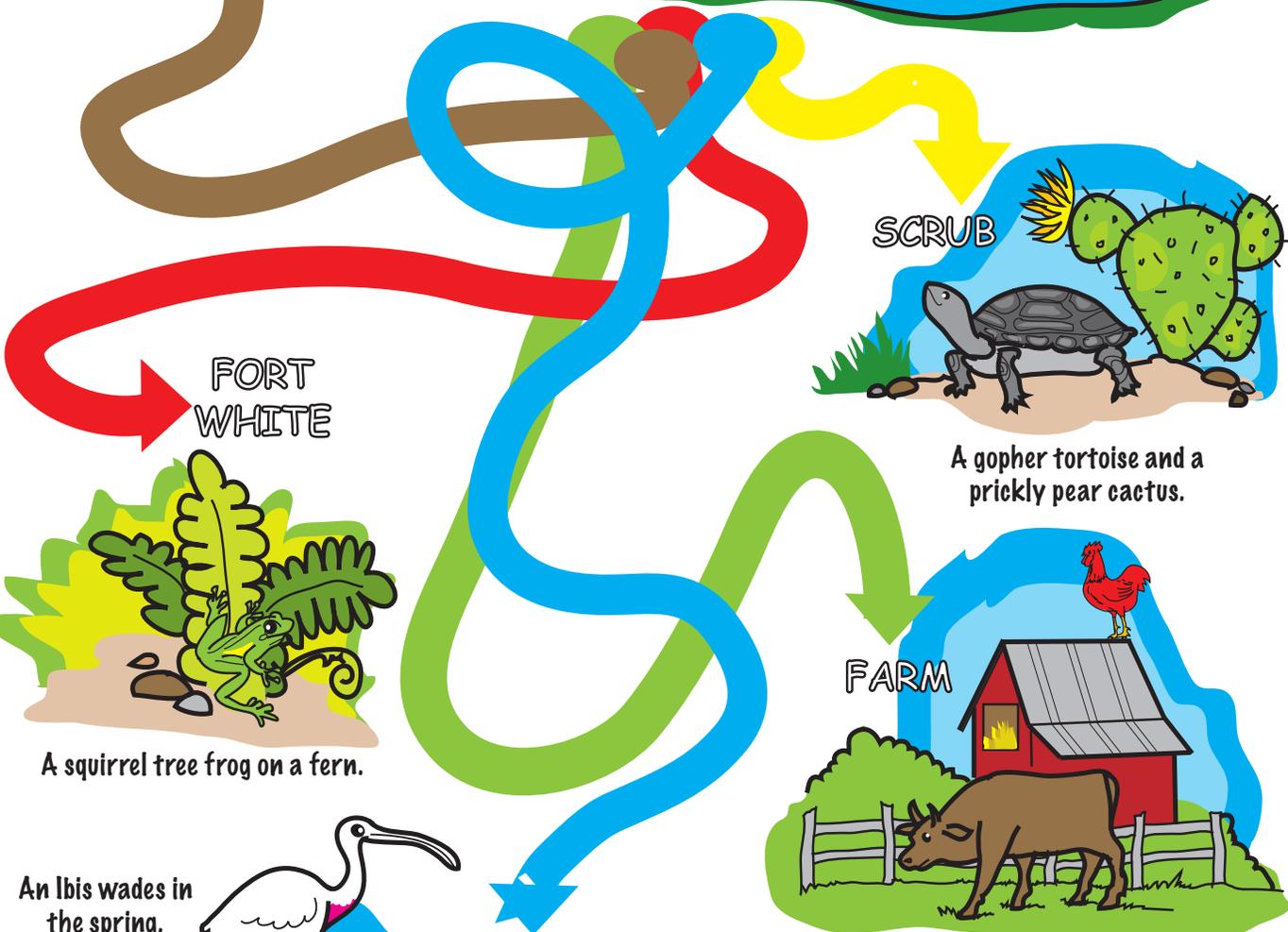


Lake City is the county seat of Columbia County.

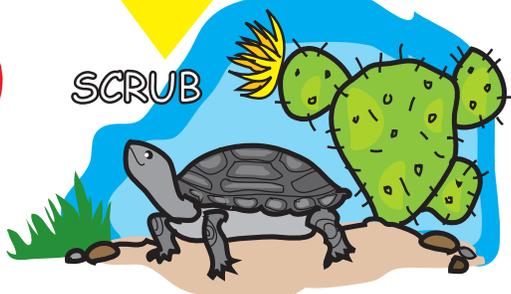
Water from Alligator Lake flows underground to Ichetucknee Springs.



ALLIGATOR LAKE



SCRUB



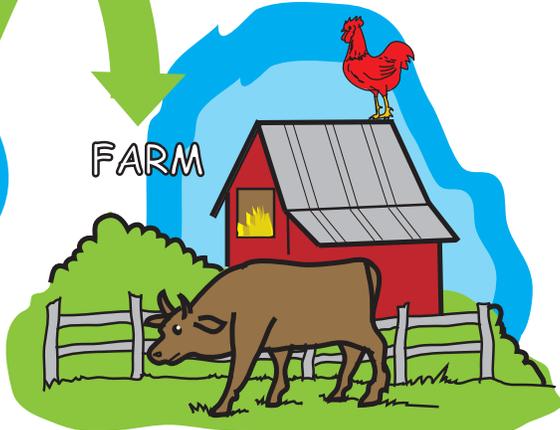
A gopher tortoise and a prickly pear cactus.

FORT WHITE



A squirrel tree frog on a fern.

FARM



There are many different types of farms in Columbia County.

An Ibis wades in the spring.



ICHETUCKNEE SPRINGS

