

OFFICIAL STATE OF

# LOUISIANA

COLORING BOOK



*Compliments of*

**KYLE ARDOIN**

SECRETARY OF STATE



# KYLE ARDOIN

S E C R E T A R Y O F S T A T E

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P.O. Box 94125 • Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125 • [www.sos.la.gov](http://www.sos.la.gov)

Dear Student,

Louisiana is a state like no other. We hold a unique place in the history of the United States and take pride in the many things that help to distinguish our people, the places they live and the things they cherish the most.

Known for our cultural diversity, Louisiana's rich heritage can be linked to our official state symbols. This coloring book includes a sampling of those symbols and gives you a chance to use your artistic imagination to complete them. A complete listing of state symbols can be found in our Louisiana Facts brochure or by visiting the Louisiana Legislature's website.

I hope you enjoy learning and exploring Louisiana. Please feel free to contact my office should you need assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

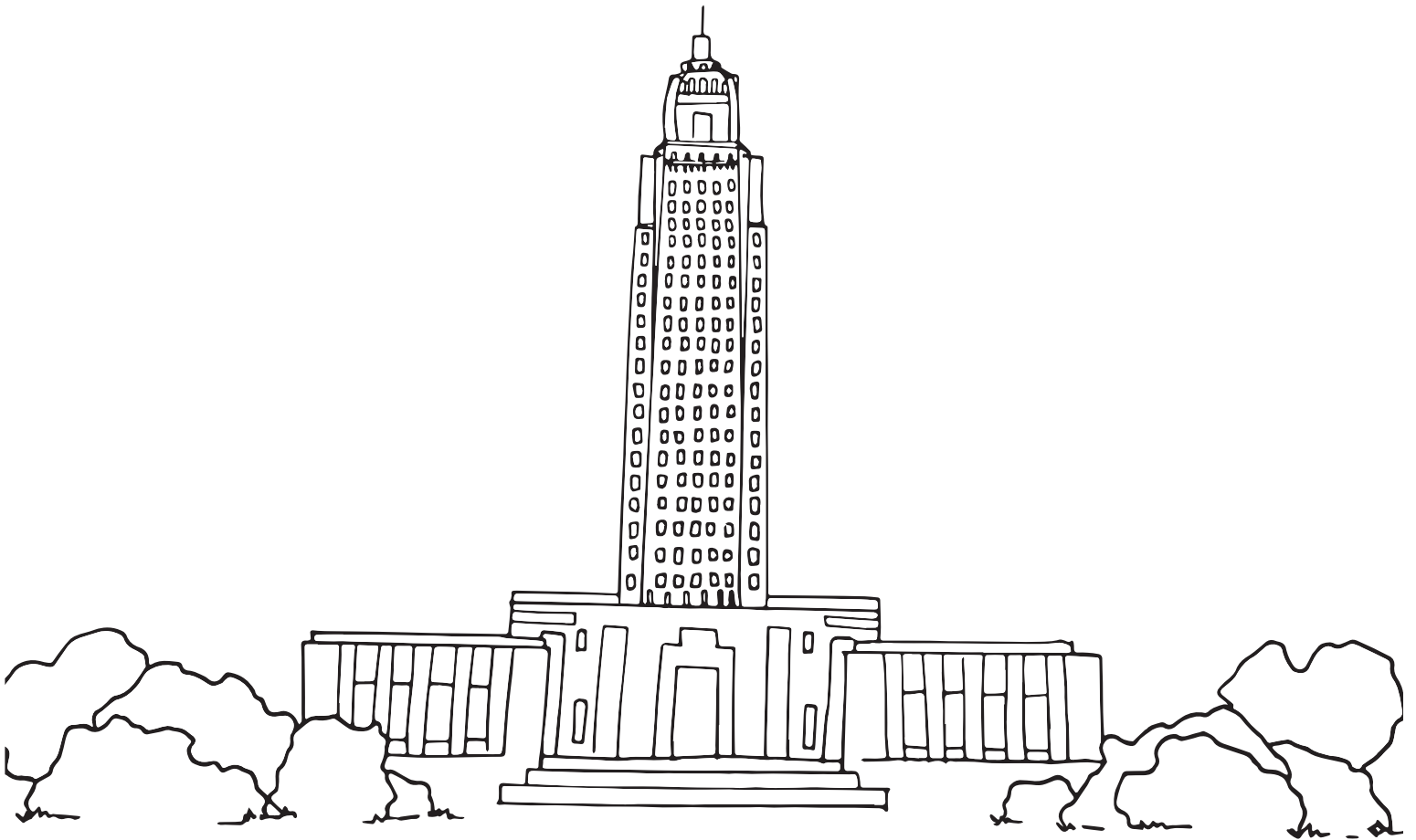
Kyle Ardoin  
Secretary of State

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LOUISIANA'S

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# STATE CAPITOL



The new Louisiana State Capitol was completed in March of 1932, in a mere 14 months and stands on a 27-acre tract. As the tallest state capitol in the United States, the building is 450 feet high with 34 floors. Twenty-five hundred rail cars were needed to bring in the limestone for the exterior and the marble for the interior.

Pictured on the front cover, Louisiana's Old State Capitol, a Gothic architectural treasure, stands high on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. It has withstood war, fire, scandal, bitter debate, abandonment and an occasional fist fight. Today, the building stands as a testament to bold, inspired leadership and active citizenship.

# STATE FLOWER

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# MAGNOLIA

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The large creamy-white bloom of the magnolia tree (*Magnolia grandiflora*) was designated the state flower in 1900 because of the abundance of trees throughout the state. The magnolia is an evergreen, and the flower is usually fragrant. After the six to 12 petals of the flower have fallen away the large cone shaped fruit of the magnolia is exposed.

# LOUISIANA

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# IRIS

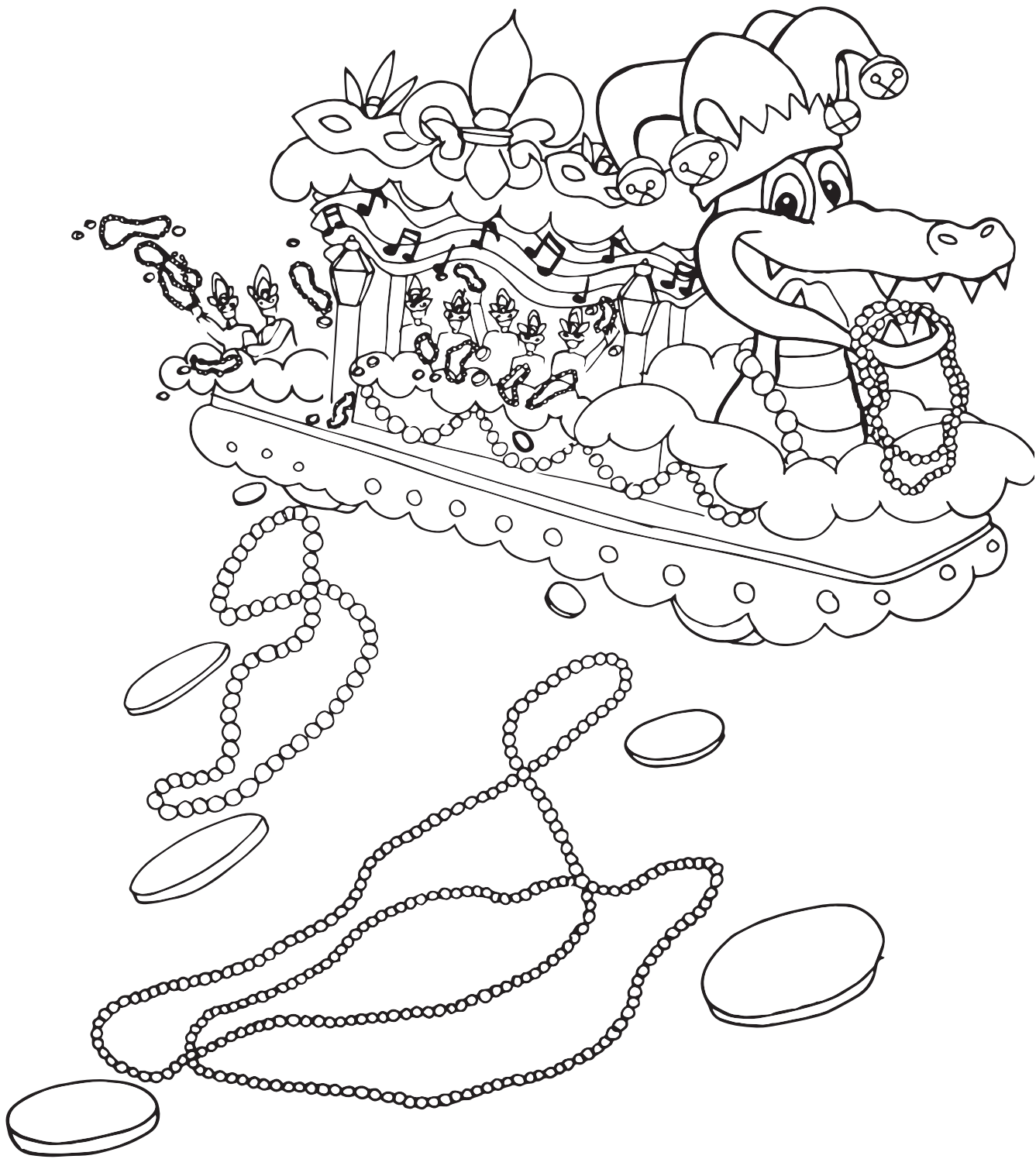


## STATE WILDFLOWER

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The Louisiana iris (*Giganticaerulea*) is perhaps the most magnificent of its species. Although it is adaptable to all climates, it is seen growing wild mainly in damp, marshy locations in Louisiana's coastal areas and for perhaps 100 miles inland. This graceful beauty grows to a height of five or six feet and has a wider color range than any other iris, from pale blue to deep indigo. It became our official wildflower in 1990.

# MARDI GRAS



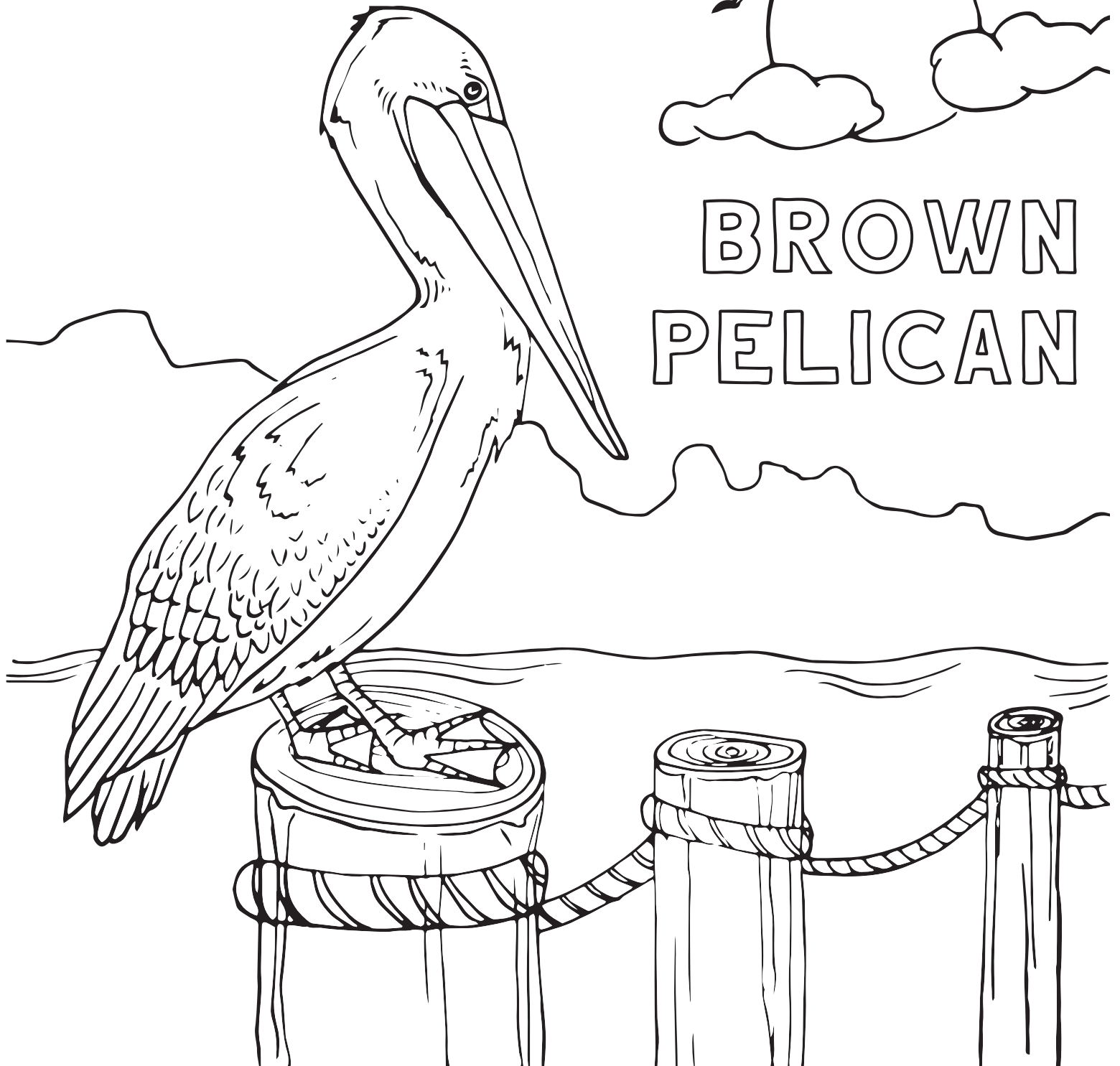


Mardi Gras is an ancient custom that originated in southern Europe, was brought to Louisiana by the French and was later continued by the Spanish. As each year passed, Mardi Gras became a bigger and bigger event. Soon superbly ornamented carriages, musical marching bands and richly decorated masqueraders began to parade the streets of New Orleans. Although Mardi Gras is actually only one day, Fat Tuesday, today it has come to mean the last two weeks of carnival that immediately precede Mardi Gras Day. The celebration occurs in preparation for the 40 days of Lent that follow, and festivities may include balls, parades, street masking or any combination of these activities.



# STATE BIRD

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## BROWN PELICAN

The brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) became Louisiana's official bird on July 27, 1966. They nest from South Carolina to Brazil and are famous for their large bill, the lower portion of which has a pouch which may be greatly extended. The birds use their pouches to scoop up their food from salt water. Average consumption of a one-month old pelican is five pounds of fish per day.



# STATE NICKNAME

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## SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE

Louisiana's state nicknames are the Pelican State and Sportsman's Paradise. Half of Louisiana is timbered with an abundance of varied and beautiful trees, but it wasn't until 1963 that the bald cypress (*taxodium distichum*) was made the official tree of Louisiana. The cypress grows in many areas of the state, particularly the swampy areas. The state boat is the pirogue and adopted in 1993, the sac-au-lait (*pomoxis annularis*) is Louisiana's state freshwater fish. The sac-au-lait, also known as white perch and white crappie, is translated from Cajun French to English as sack of milk.

# STATE MAMMAL

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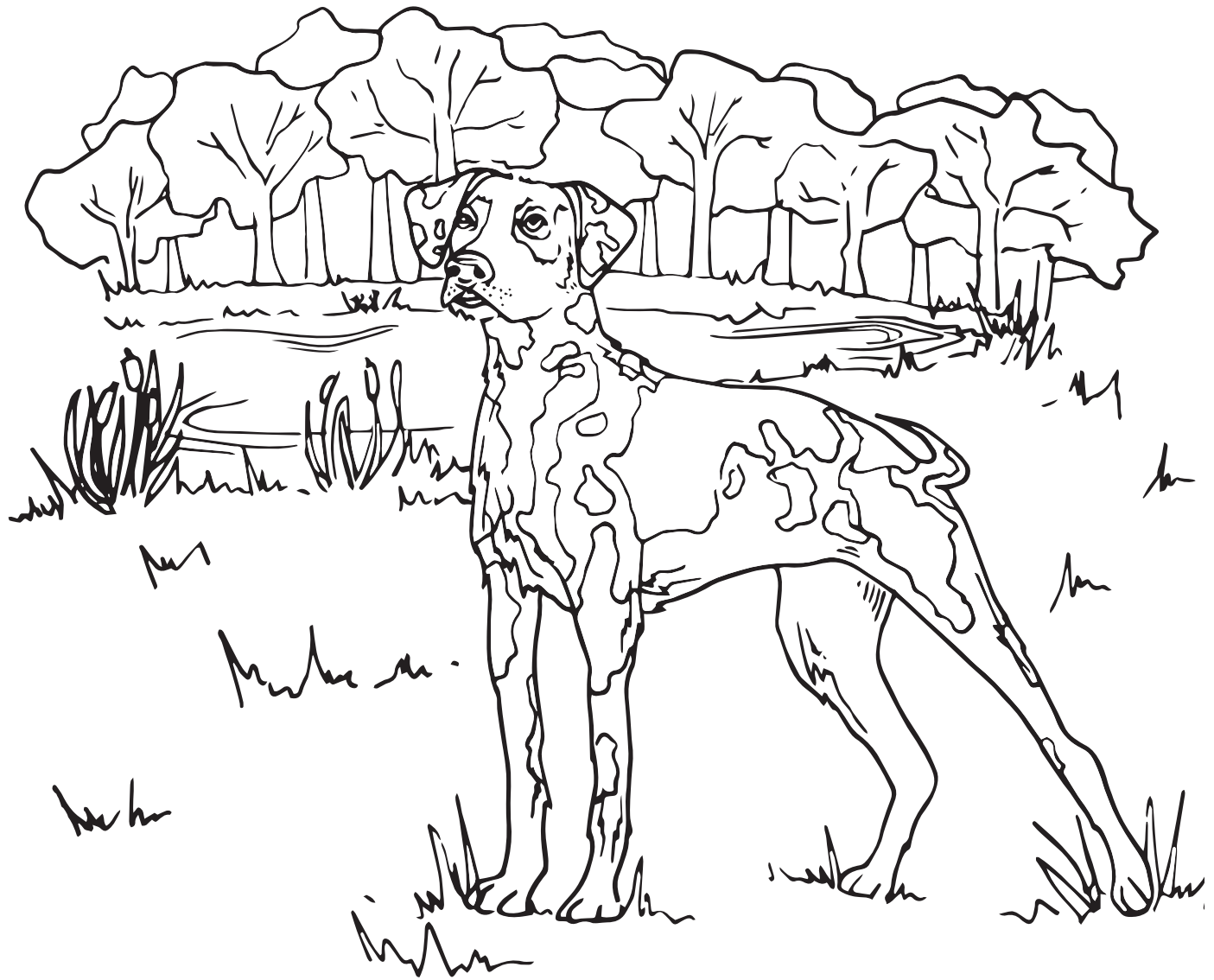
## BLACK BEAR

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In 1992, the Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus lutelous*) became the state's official state mammal. Black in color, some with distinct white blazes on their chests, it is one of 16 unique subspecies of the American black bear. These bears typically inhabit dense woodlands along the Tensas, Black and Atchafalaya Rivers. Today, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries works with other governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to protect black bears in Louisiana with recent research indicating a population of more than 700 statewide.

# STATE DOG

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## CATAHOULA LEOPARD

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The Catahoula Leopard dog is the only breed of dog native to Louisiana and became our official state dog in 1979. This hound is a cross of a domestic dog the Indians of the Catahoula Lake region raised and a Spanish “war dog” that came through the area in the early 1500s. The dog has glassy eyes, webbed feet and spotted coat. Catahoulas are gentle with children, loyal to family and aggressive to strangers, making them good pets and guard dogs. As a hunting dog, they are diligent, dependable, efficient and especially good at tracking deer, raccoons and squirrels.

# STATE FRUIT

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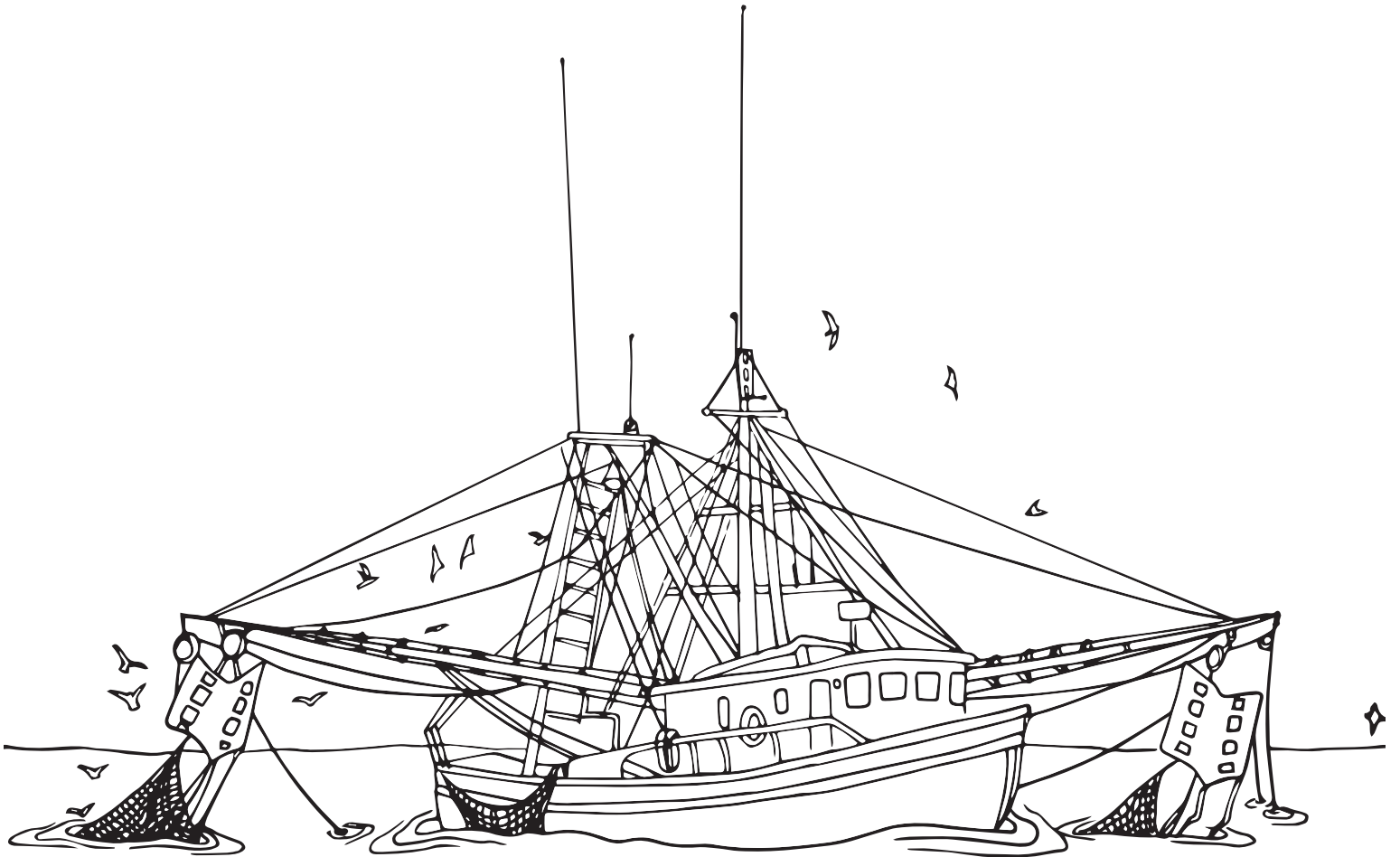
# STRAWBERRY

The 2001 Louisiana Legislature selected the strawberry as the official state fruit. Ponchatoula, located in Tangipahoa Parish, is considered the strawberry capital of Louisiana. The annual festival attracts 300,000 festival goers to the small town of 7,000.

LOUISIANA

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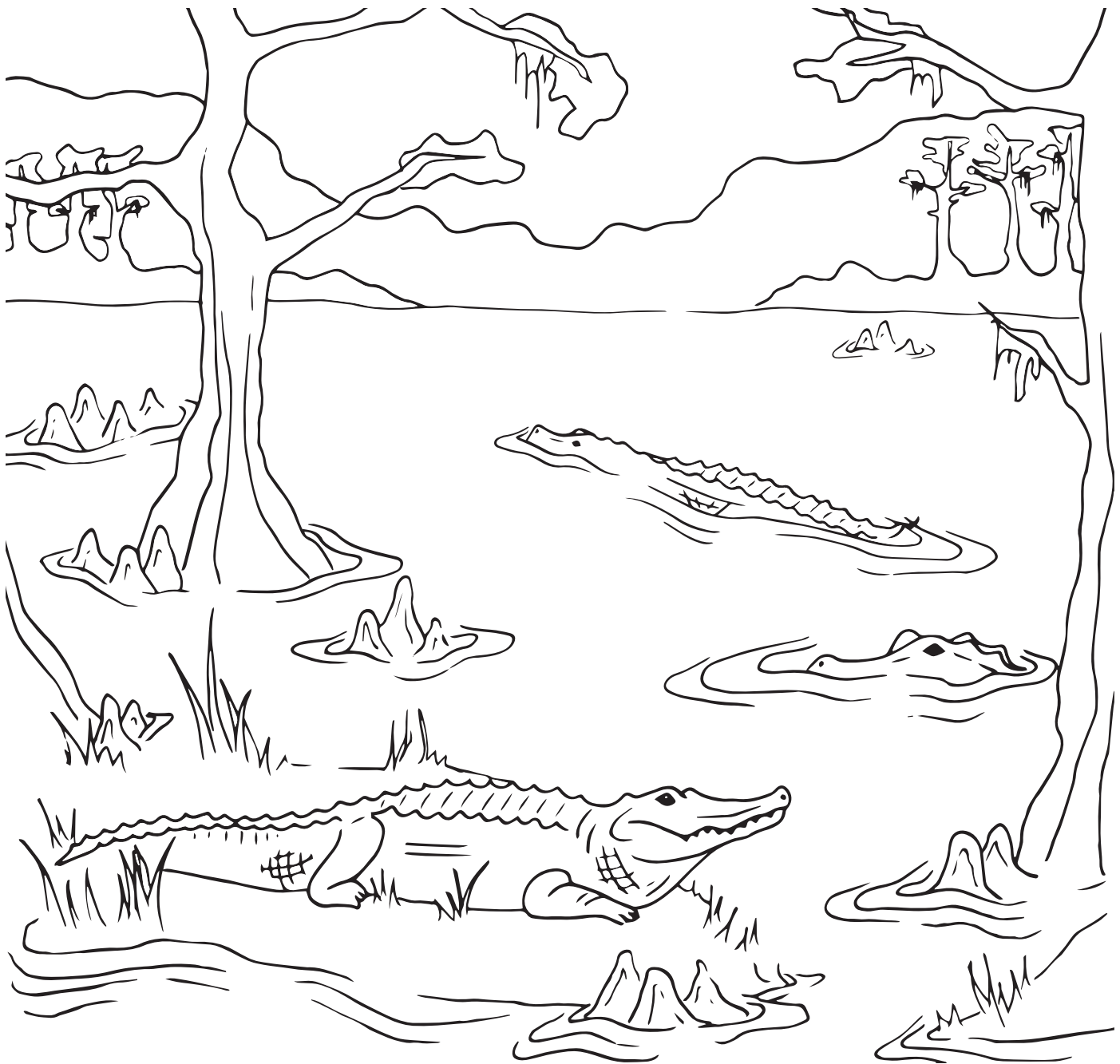
# SEAFOOD



Louisiana produces more than 850 million pounds of seafood each year. Louisiana's seafood industry is one of the state's largest employers and also plays an important role in tourism by connecting travelers and food-lovers with shrimp, crab, crawfish, oysters and other delicious Louisiana seafood products.

# STATE REPTILE

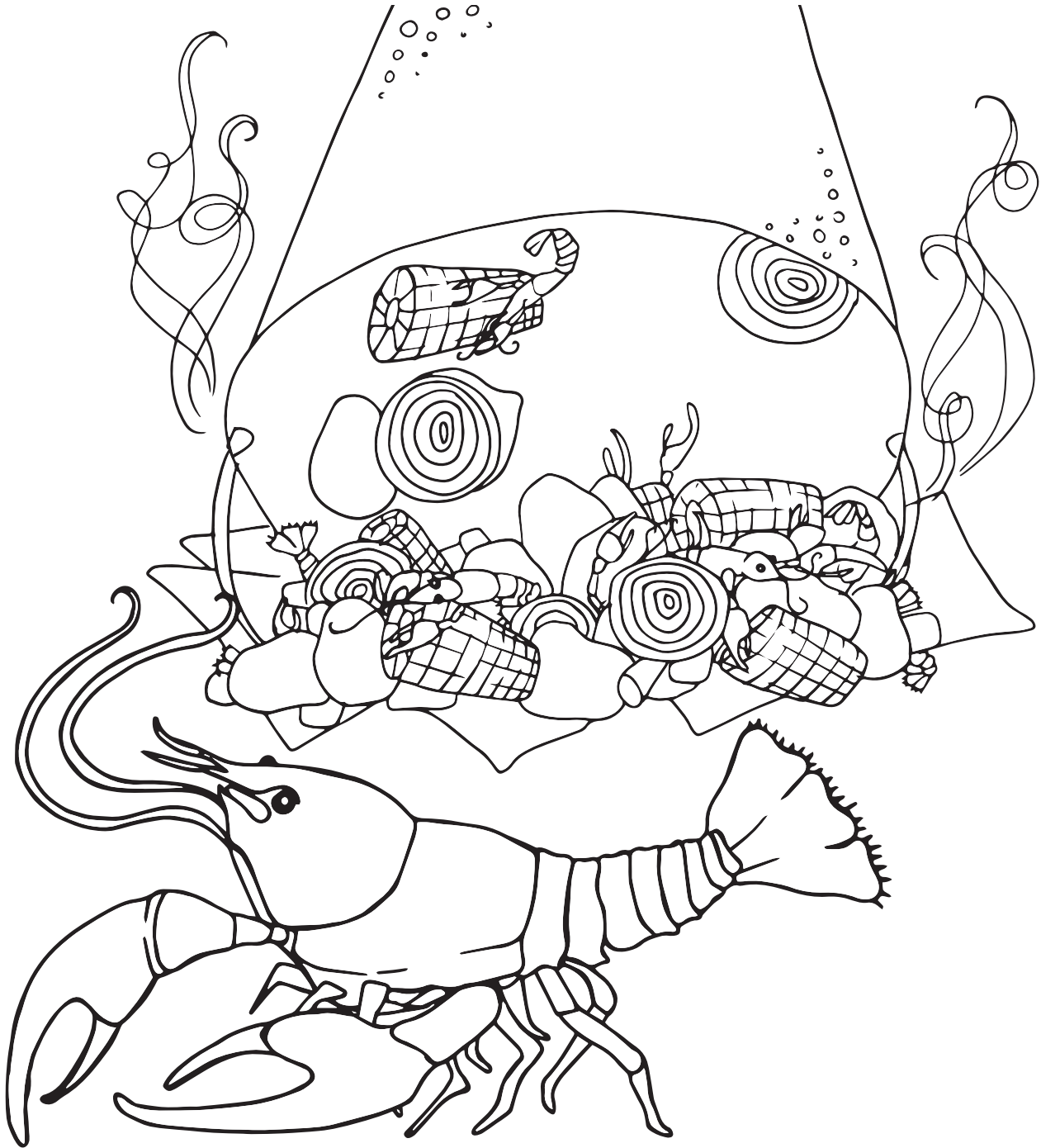
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# ALLIGATOR

The alligator was adopted as Louisiana's state reptile in 1983. It lives in the waters and low lands of the state and other locations of the southeast United States. Resembling a lizard in shape, grown males, larger than females, reach a length of 11 to 12 feet and weigh 450 to 500 pounds. When grown, its color is dull gray and dark olive.

# CRAWFISH



## STATE CRUSTACEAN

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South Louisiana is the crawfish capital of the world, supporting a multi-million dollar industry. The crawfish, in appearance, greatly resembles the lobster, but is much smaller. Its color varies with the water in which it lives and its variety.



# AGRICULTURE

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Louisiana is one of the nation's largest producers of cotton, sugar cane, rice, sweet potatoes and pecans. The state is also a major producer of soybeans and corn.

# STATE SONGS

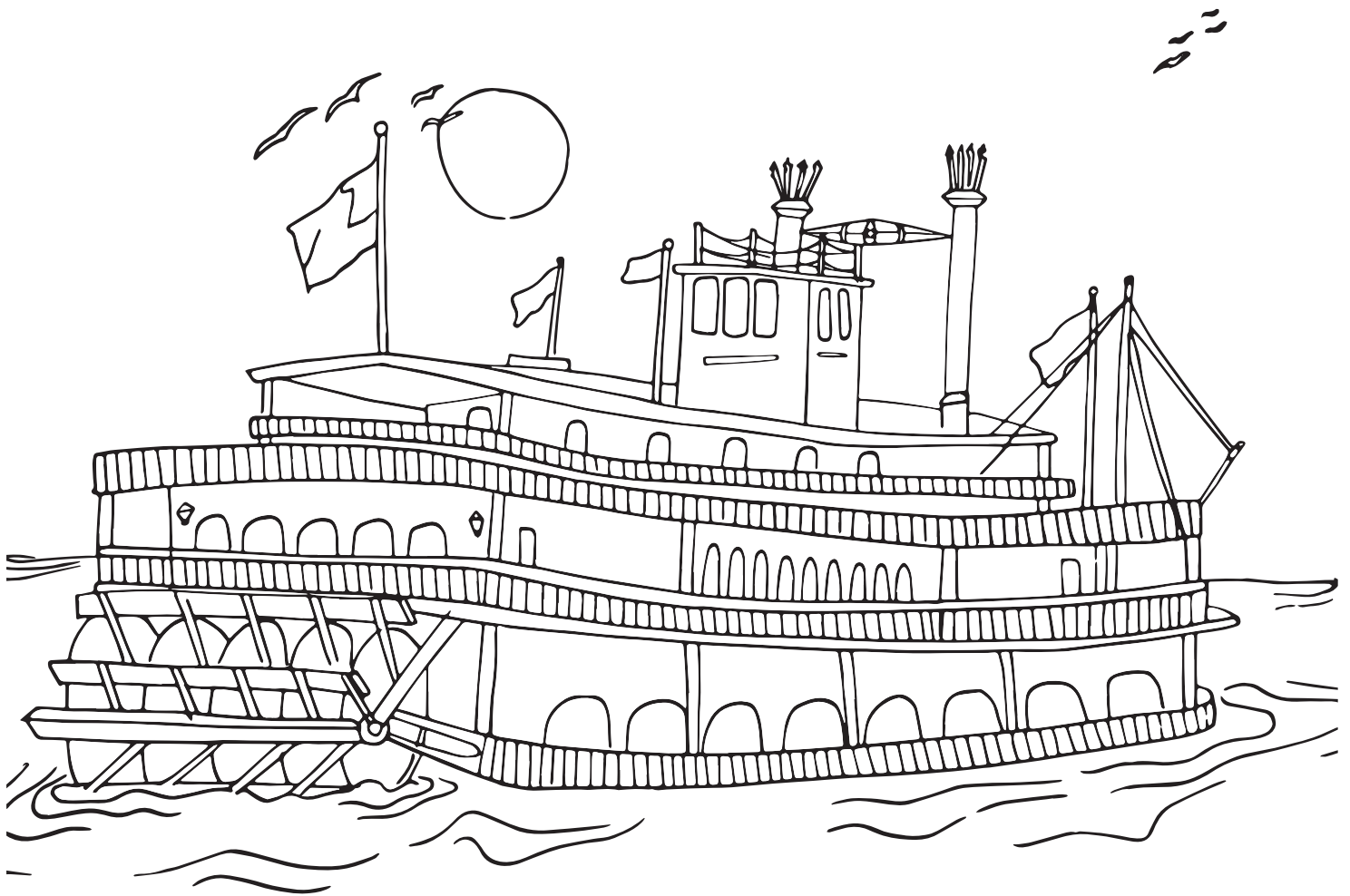
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# MUSIC

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“You Are My Sunshine” by former Louisiana Gov. Jimmie Davis and Charles Mitchell is Louisiana’s state song. Louisiana’s official musical instrument, the diatonic accordion, commonly known as the “Cajun” accordion, was adopted in 1990.



# TOURISM

As Louisiana's fourth largest employment sector, tourism-related jobs employ more than 231,500 people. The tourism industry takes immense pride in the state's historic places, unique arts and crafts, natural resources and rich heritage.

# GEOGRAPHY



One of the South Central states, Louisiana is bound on the north by Arkansas and Mississippi; east, by Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico; south, by the Gulf of Mexico; and west, by Texas. The Mississippi River flows along part of the eastern boundary, then enters the state and creates the rich delta region, center of fertile agriculture lands. Coastal marshes, alluvial plains and rolling pine hills are a part of the varied topography.

# ANCIENT OAKS

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Live Oak trees are a southern staple that can be found across Louisiana. With elegantly draped Spanish Moss, evergreen leaves, and long, gnarled branches, these magnificent trees can grow to massive sizes and live for hundreds of years.

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