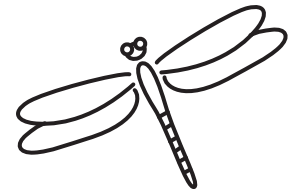


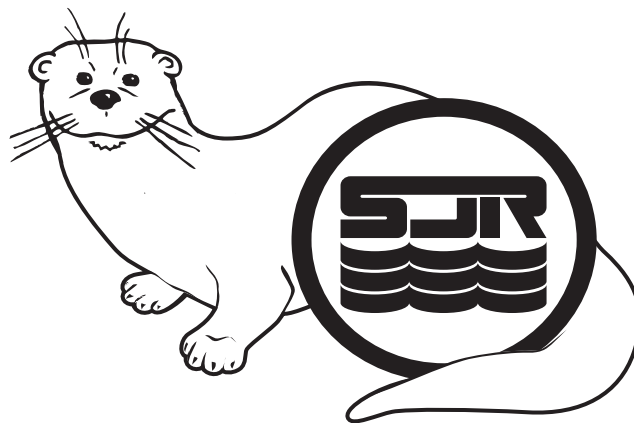


This book belongs to:

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# THE ST. JOHNS RIVER COLORING BOOK

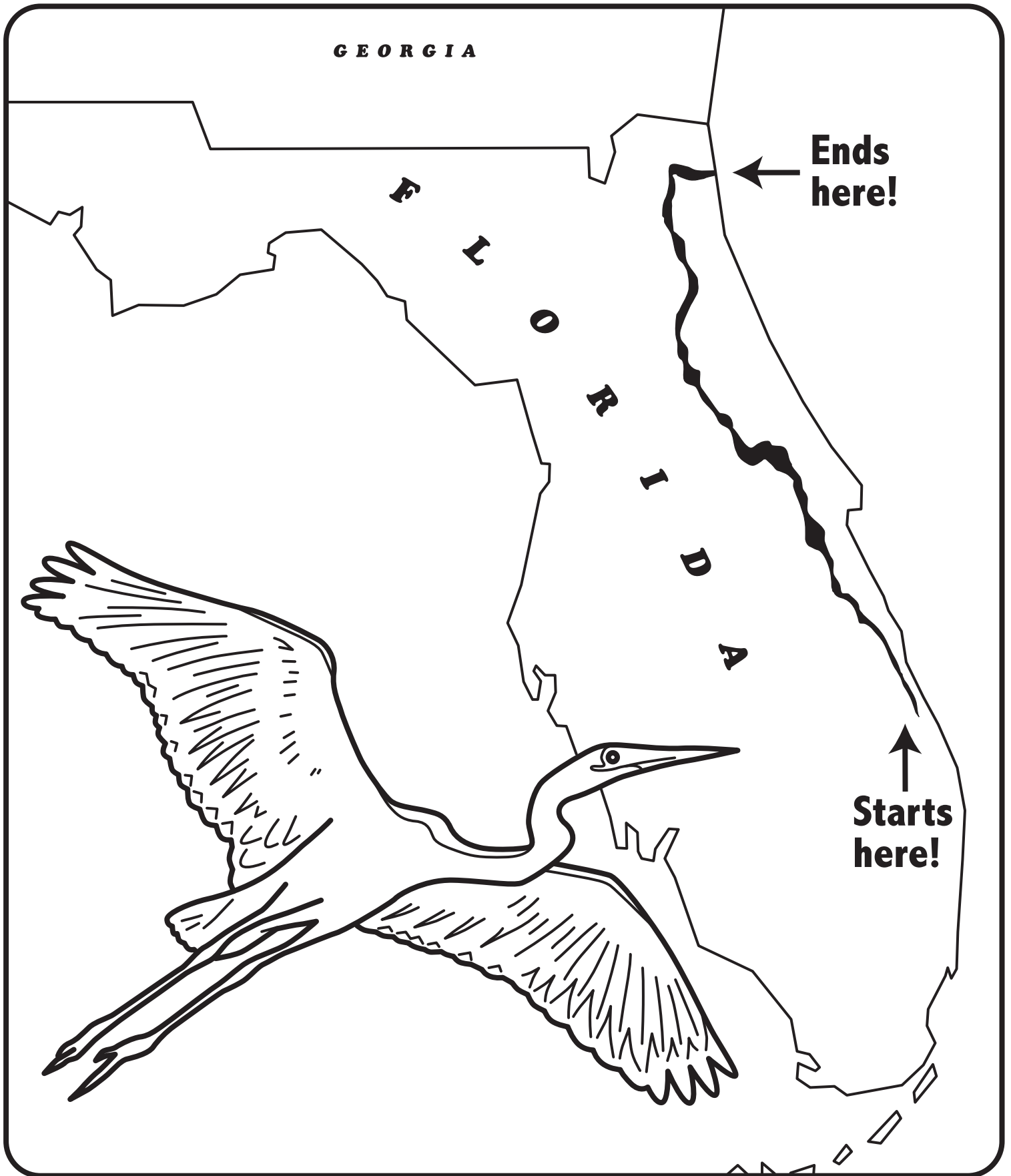


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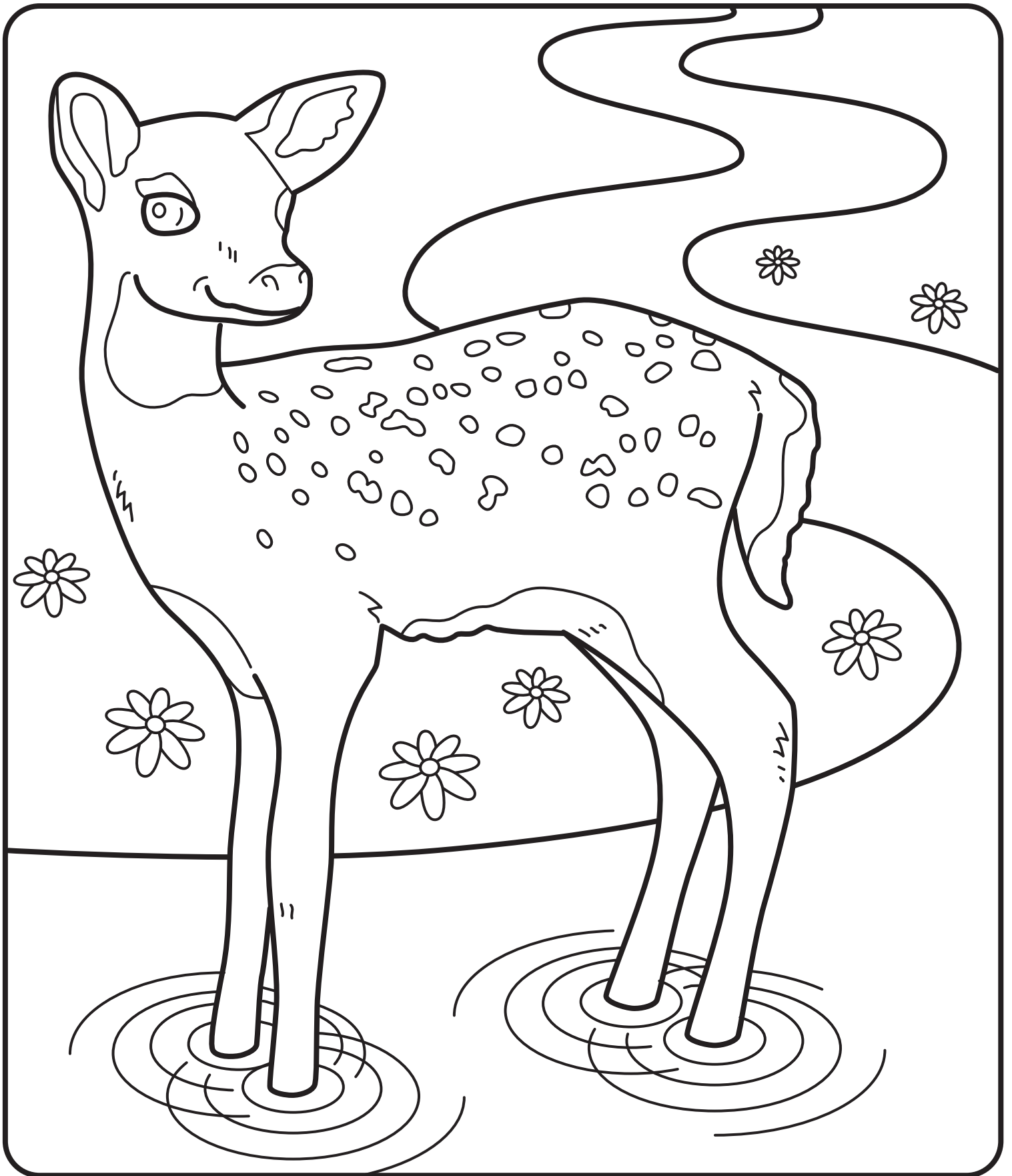
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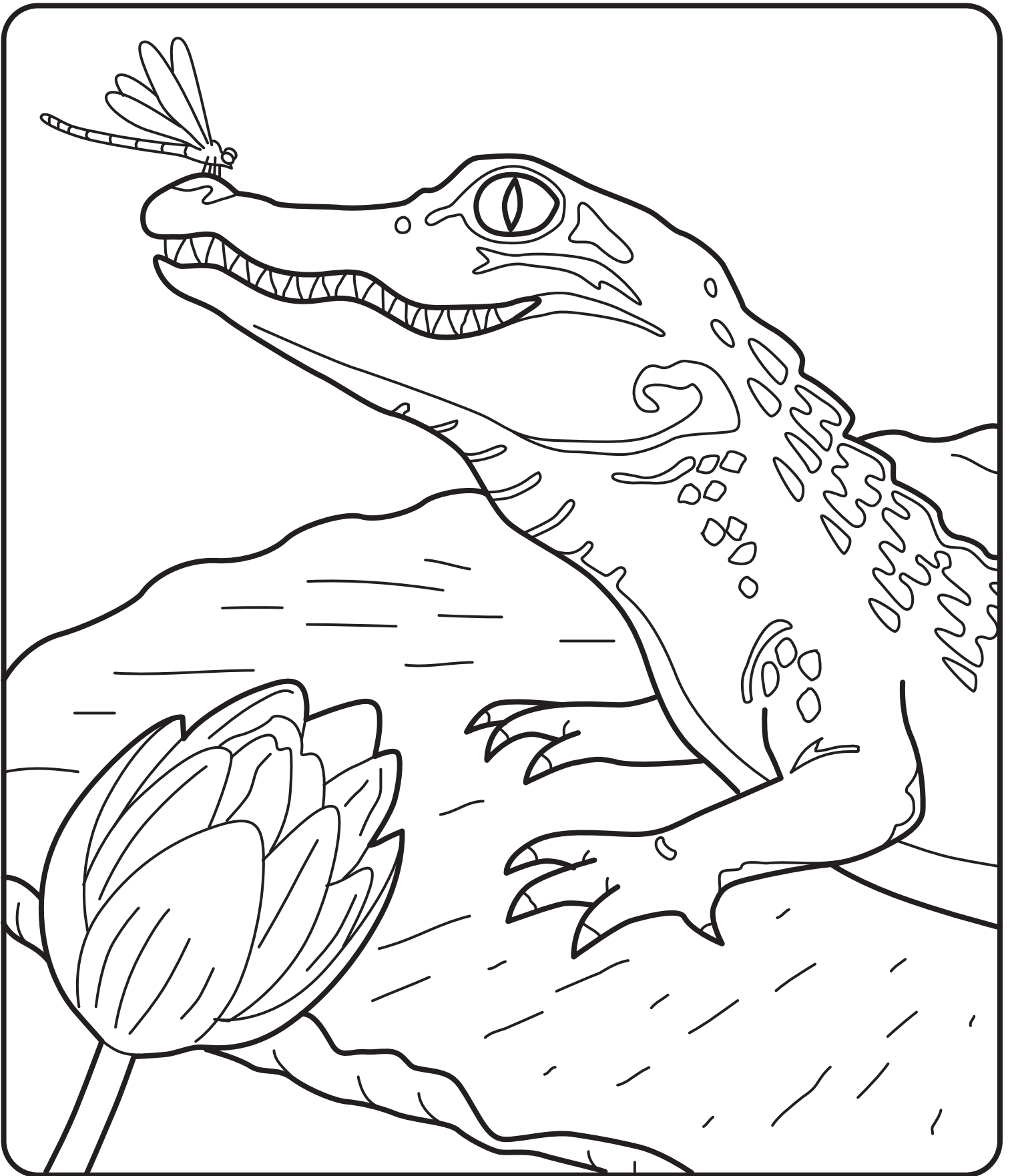
This is the story of the St. Johns River. It's the longest river in the state of Florida. Our river is a wonderful place and it's important that we take care of it.



A river is a natural stream of a lot of flowing water. The St. Johns River is different because it is one of the few rivers in North America that flow north. That is only one of the things that make our river special.



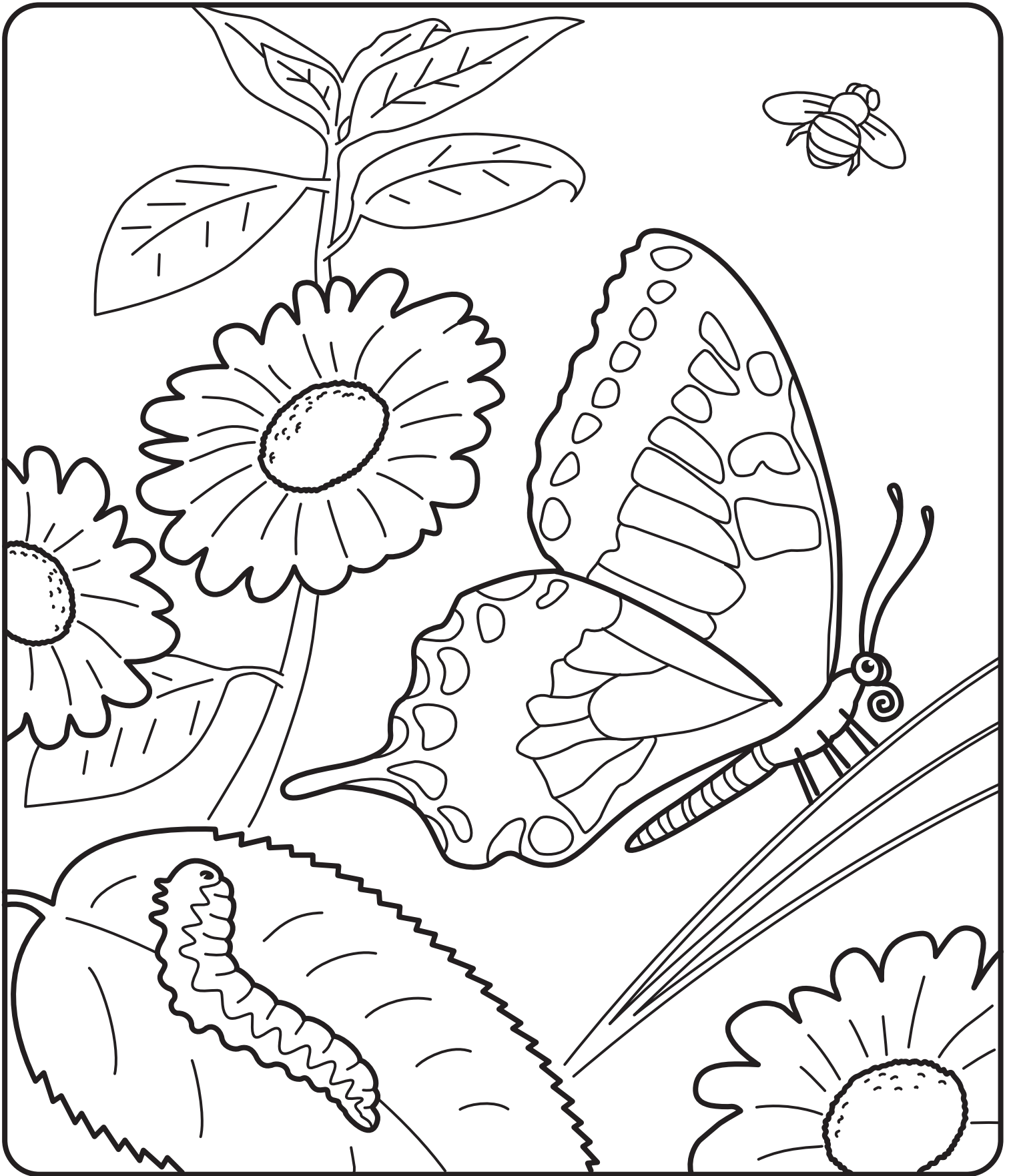
The beginning of a river is called its "source," or "headwaters." The St. Johns River begins near Melbourne. The river is formed by rain.



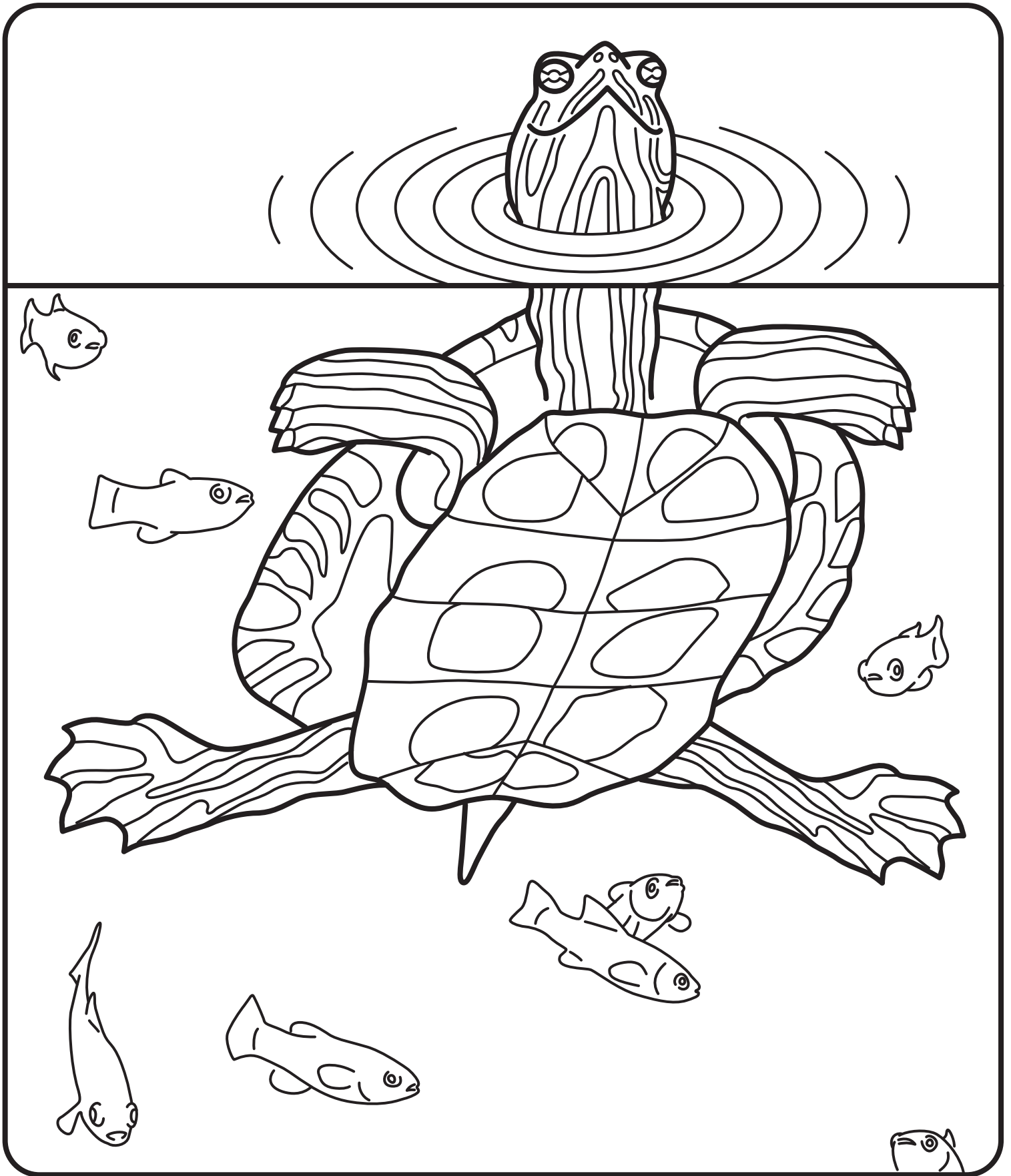
The river here is a large flat marsh and the water flows slowly. In the marsh, there is always time for new friends.



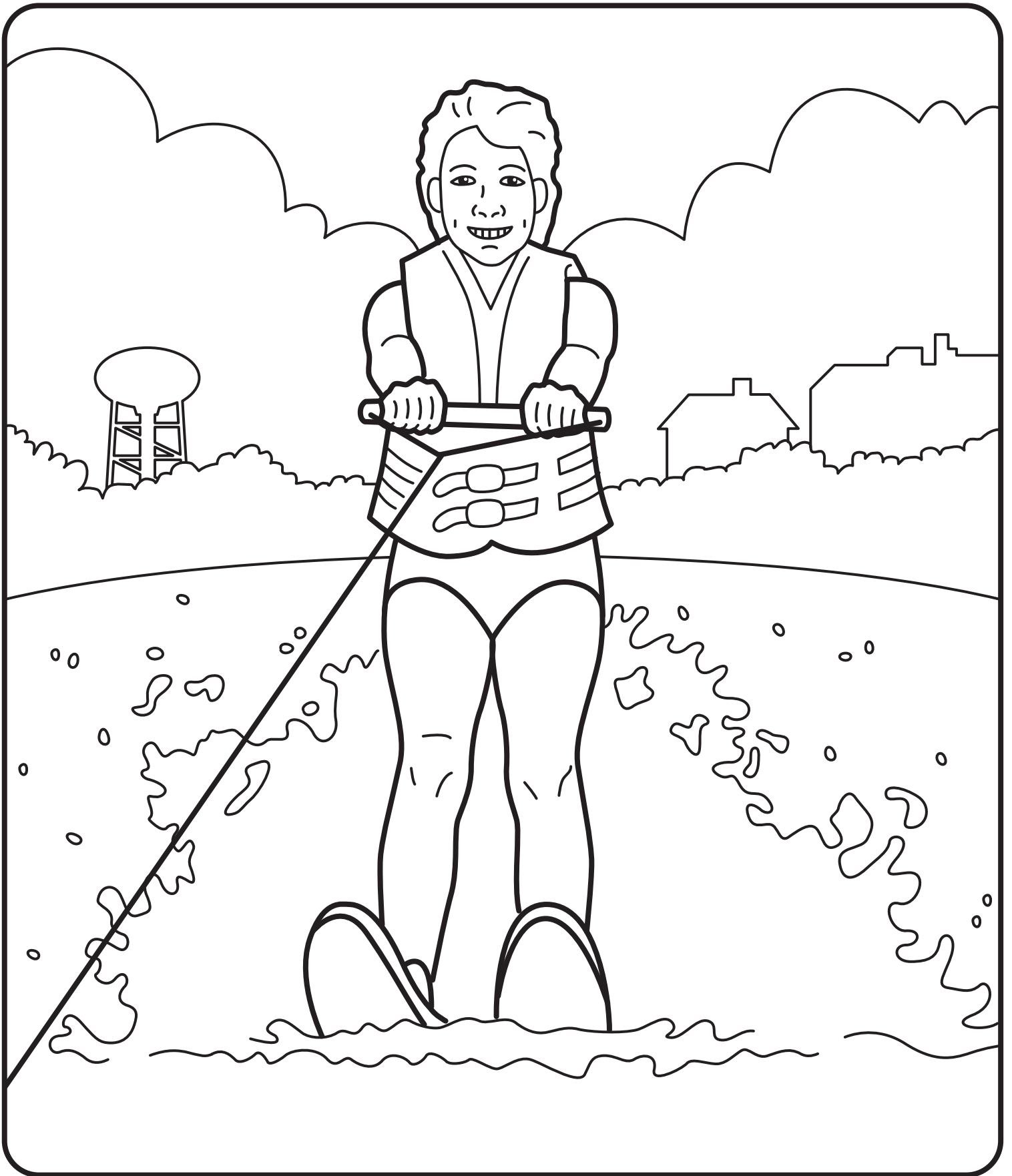
If you were in the marsh now, you might see a baby panther. Many different animals live in and around the swampy St. Johns River.



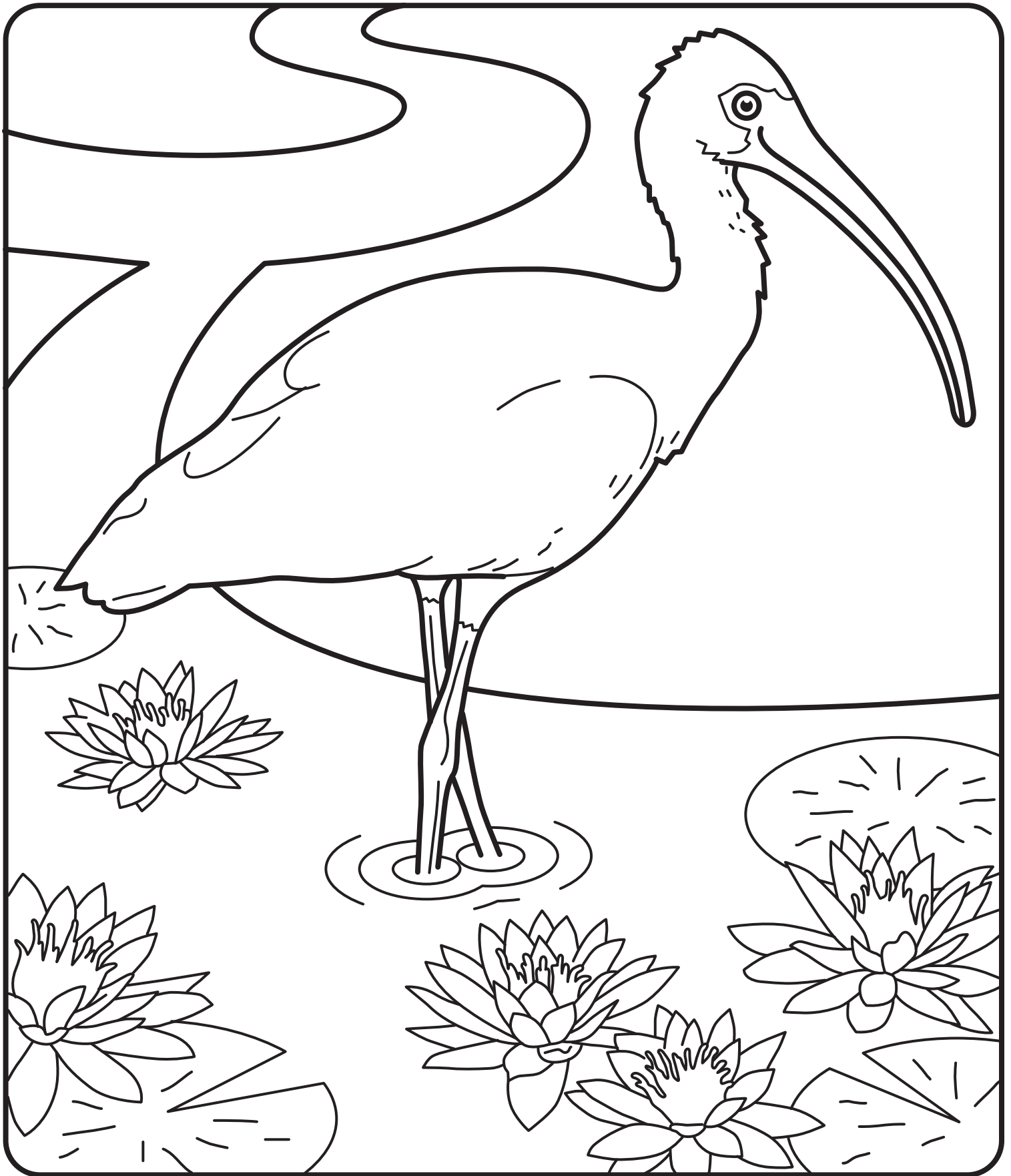
From dragonflies to butterflies, there are different insects that live in the marsh. All of these insects depend on many plants, and the plants need the river to live and grow.



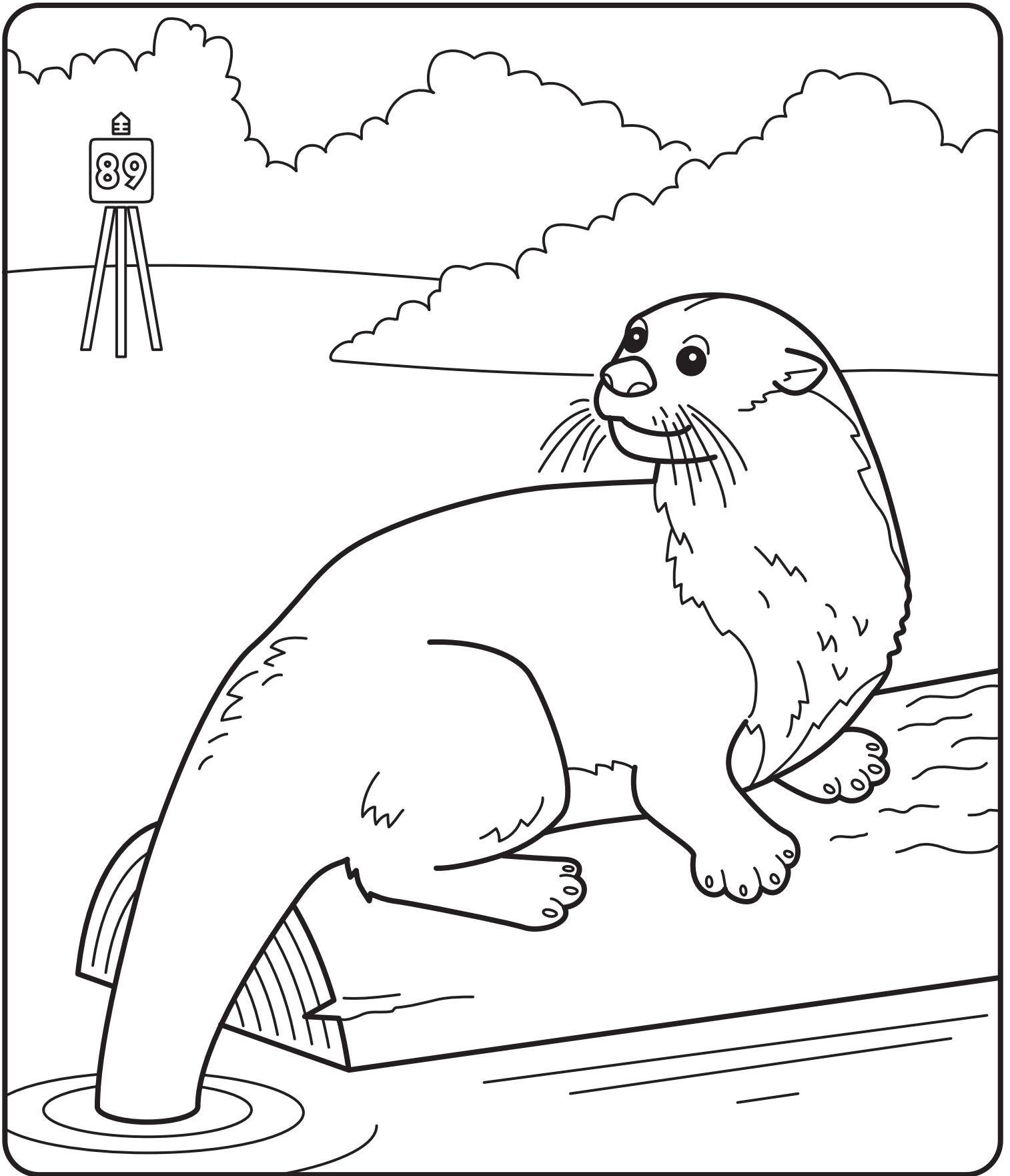
As the St. Johns River flows north, it becomes wider. Around here, you never know who might pop up!



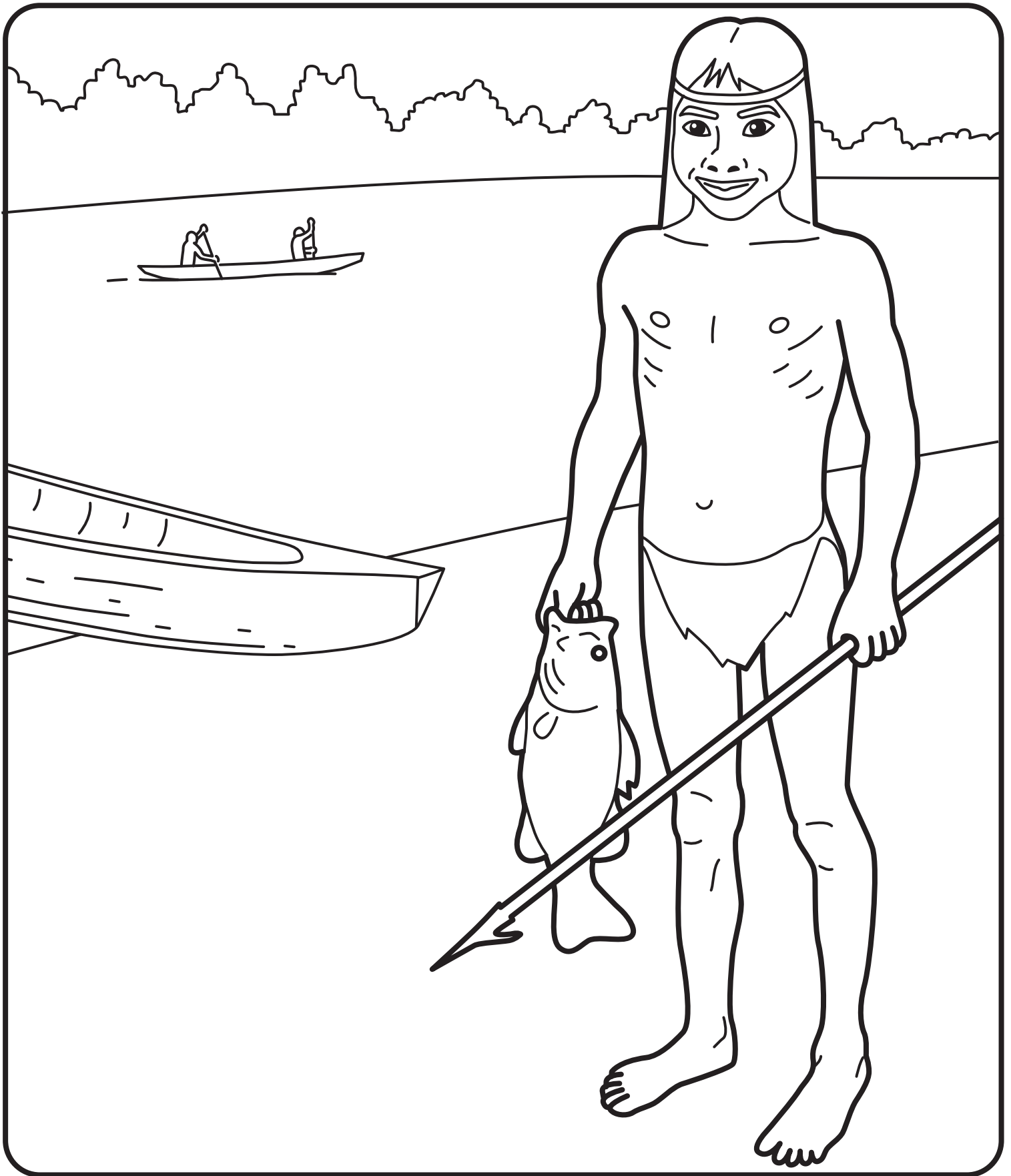
Waterskiing is a fun way to get some exercise on the St. Johns River. A good place to ski is near Sanford, where the river is very wide and looks like a lake.



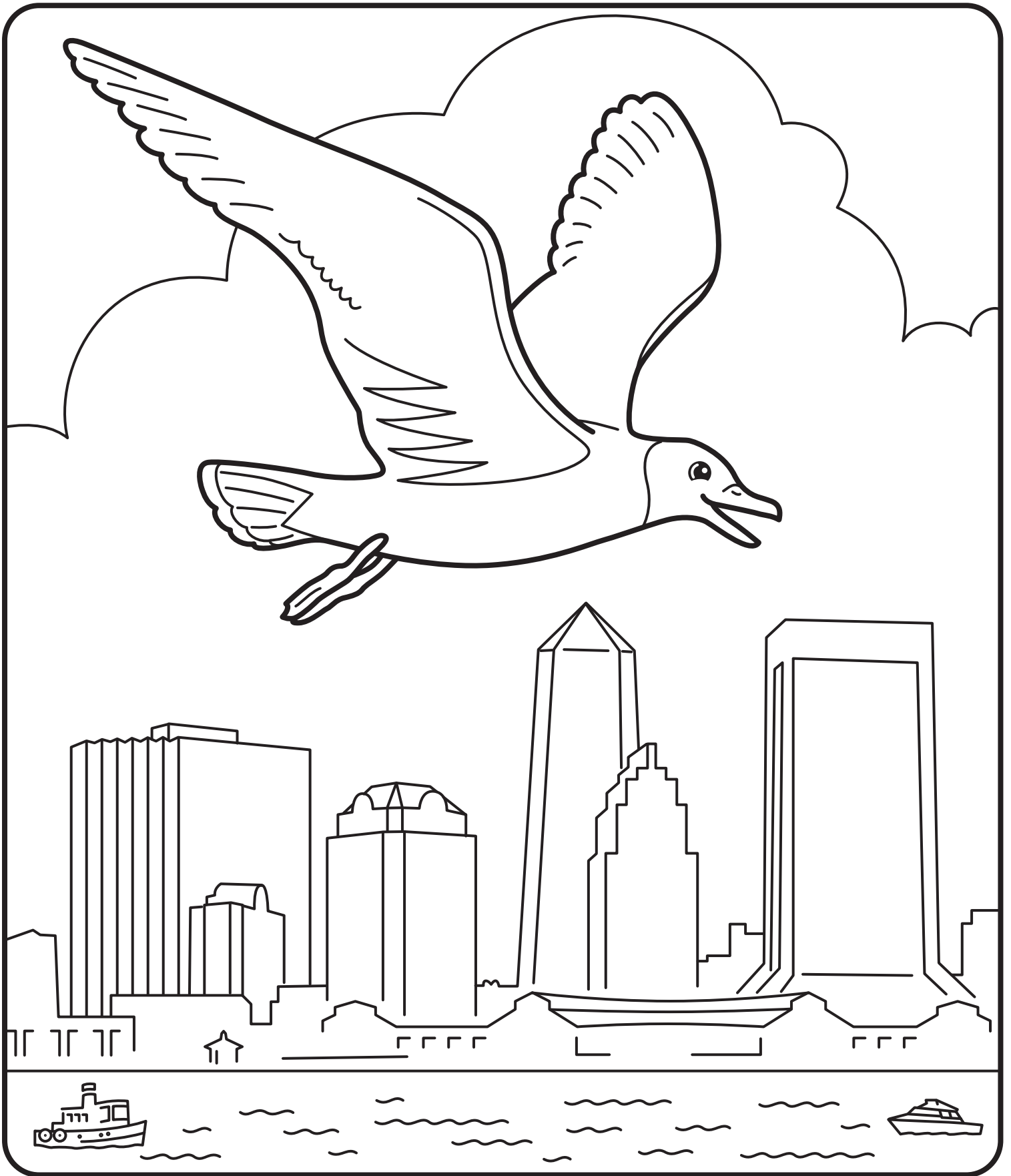
A white ibis wades in one of the many small creeks that flow into the St. Johns River.



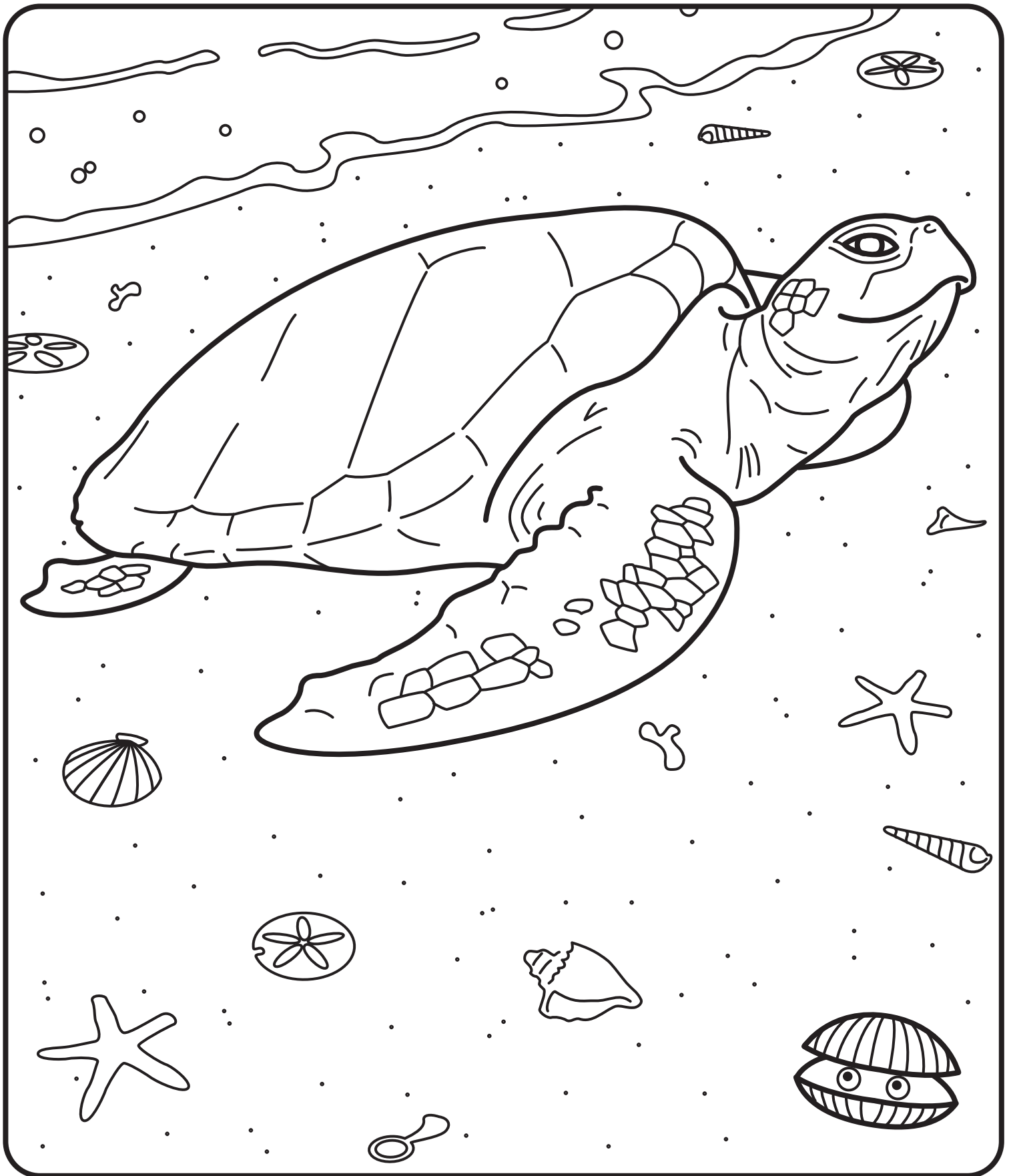
The Ocklawaha River flows into the St. Johns River near Lake George. It's a great place to play. Just ask this North American river otter.



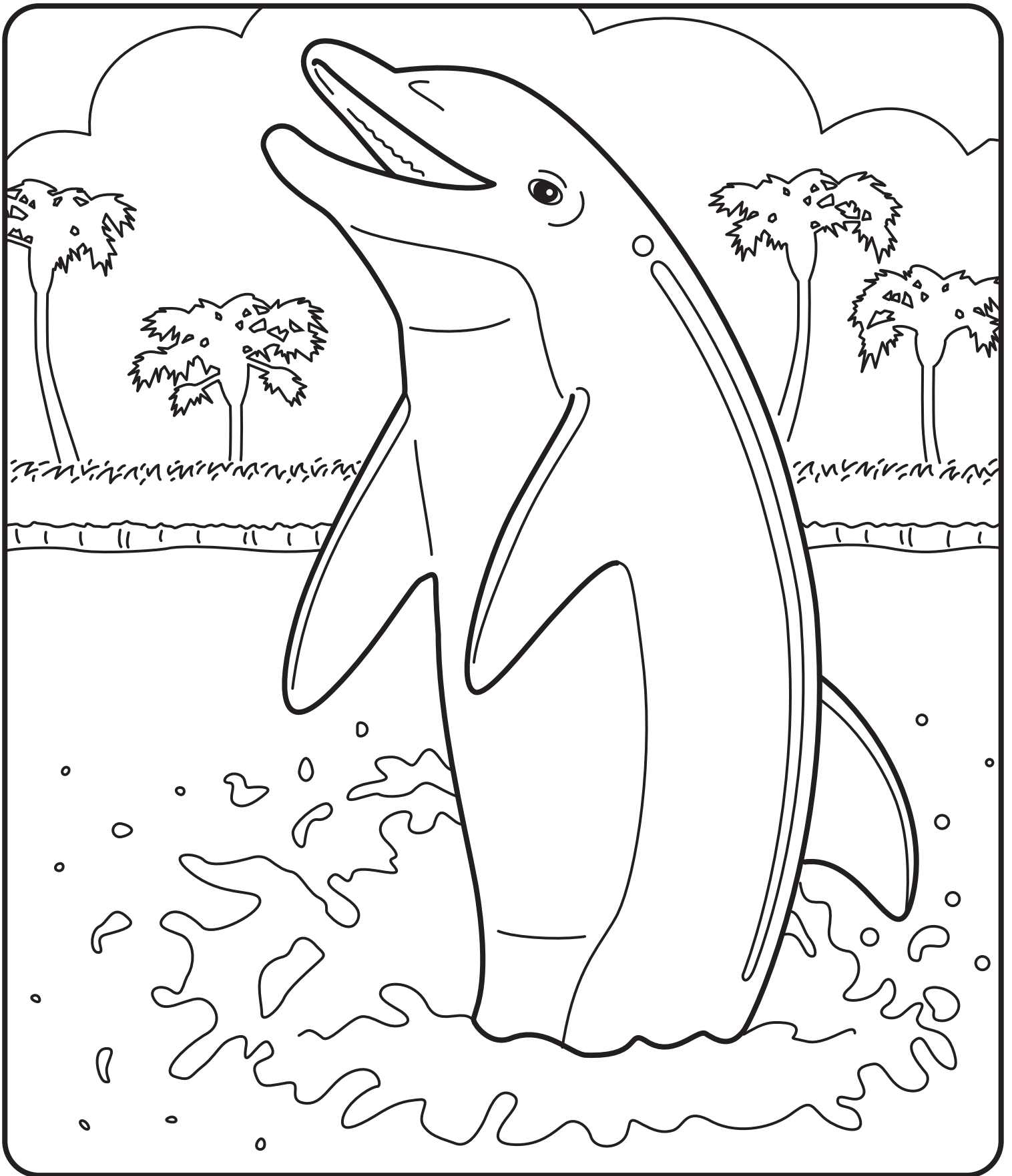
Many years ago, Indians fished in the St. Johns River and hunted along the banks. The river played an important role in their lives.



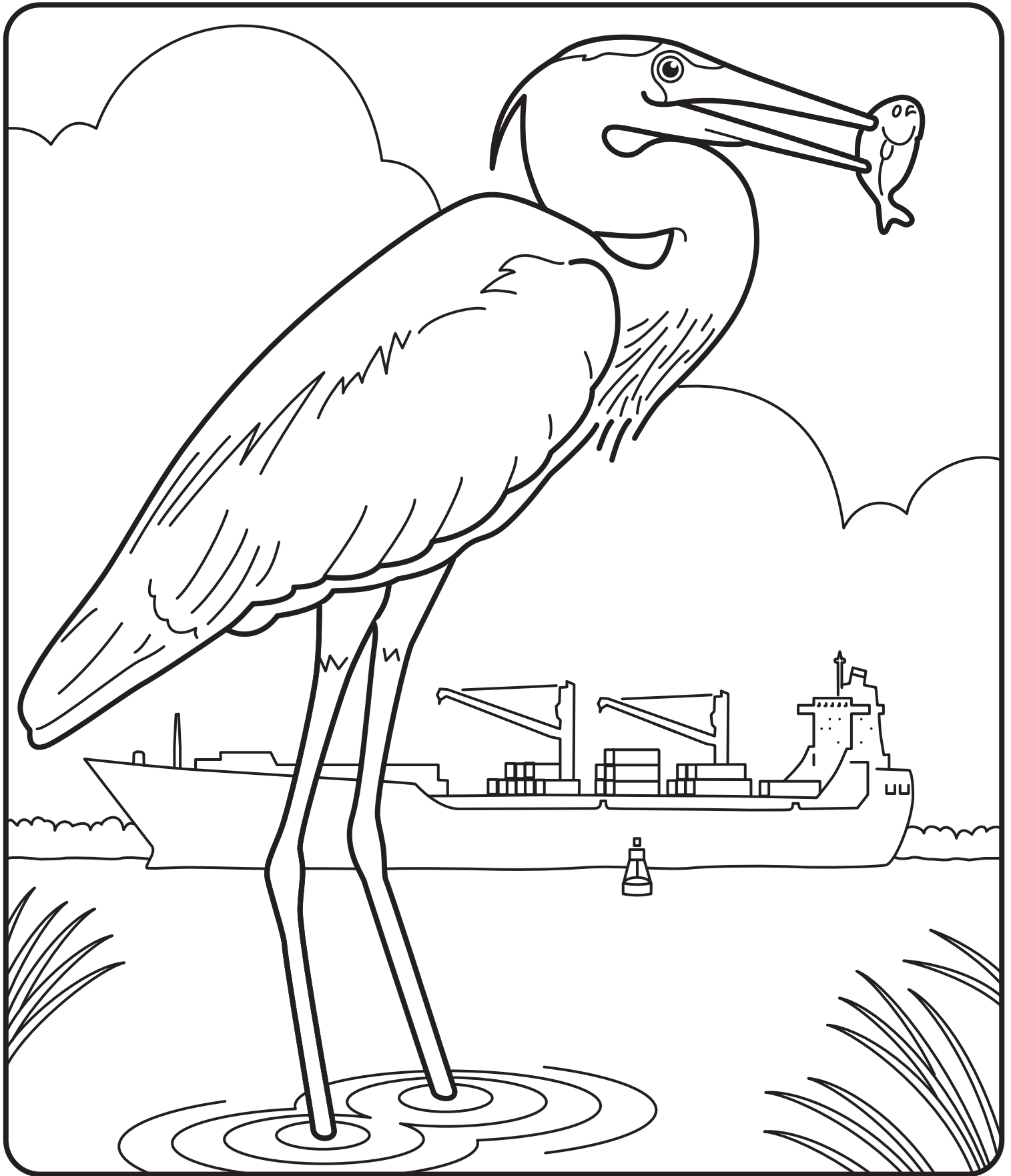
Today, the river flows by towns and cities. Palatka, Green Cove Springs and Jacksonville are on the St. Johns River.



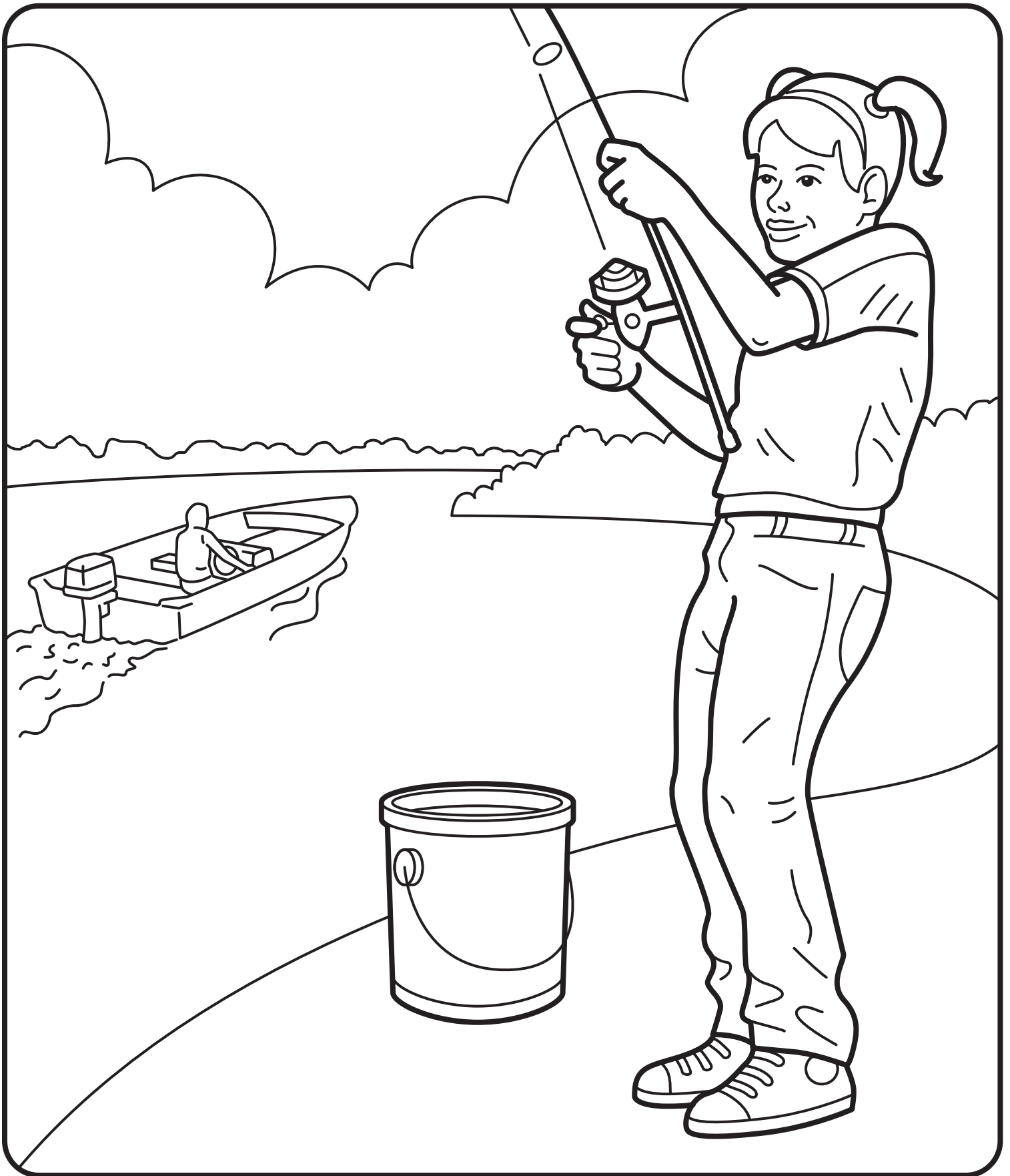
The St. Johns River empties into the Atlantic Ocean at Mayport. This area is called the "mouth" of the river. You would find both freshwater and saltwater animals here.



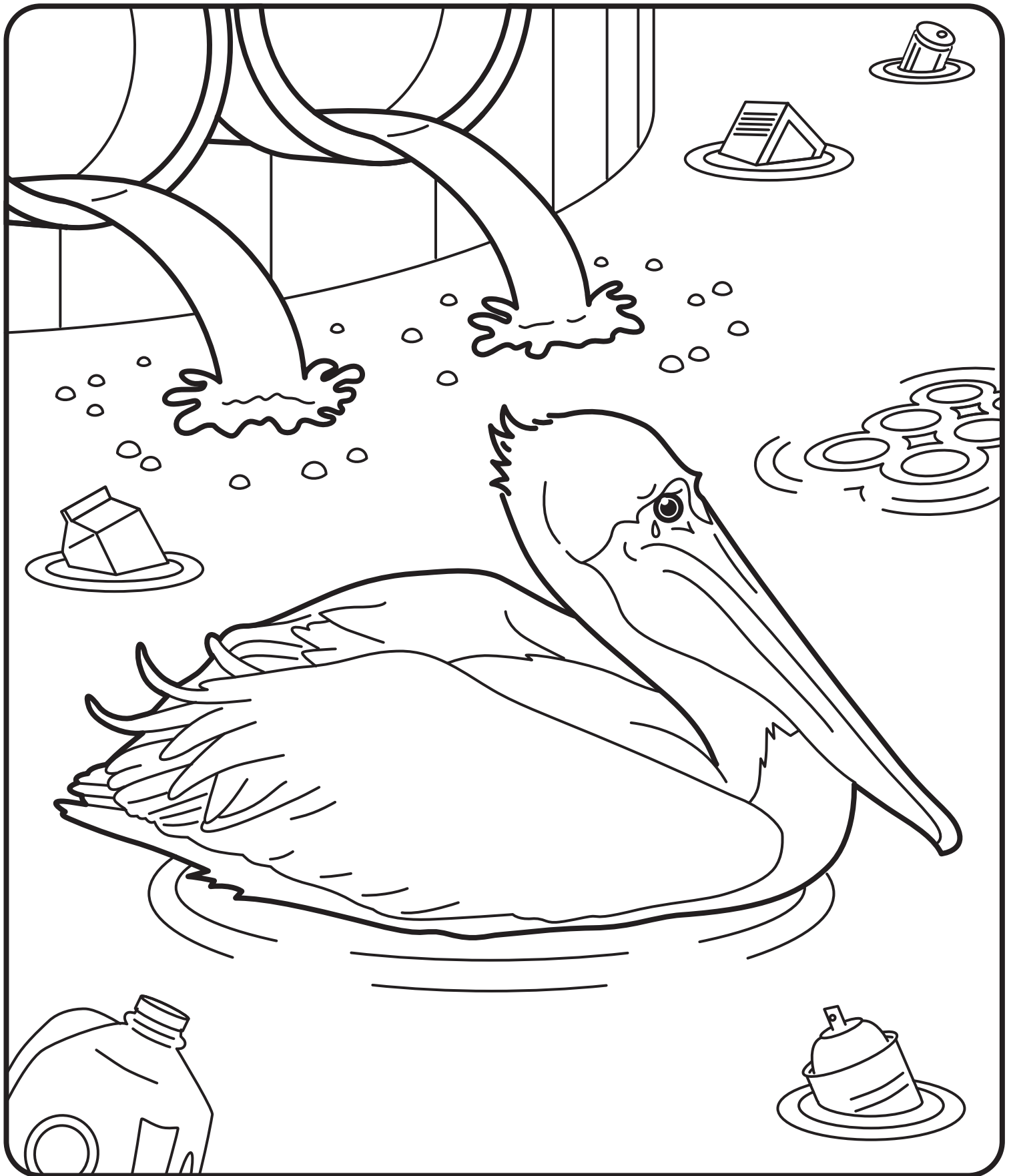
Water from the ocean flows into the St. Johns River. The place where the ocean tide meets the river is called an estuary. Dolphins like to come here to play and look for food.



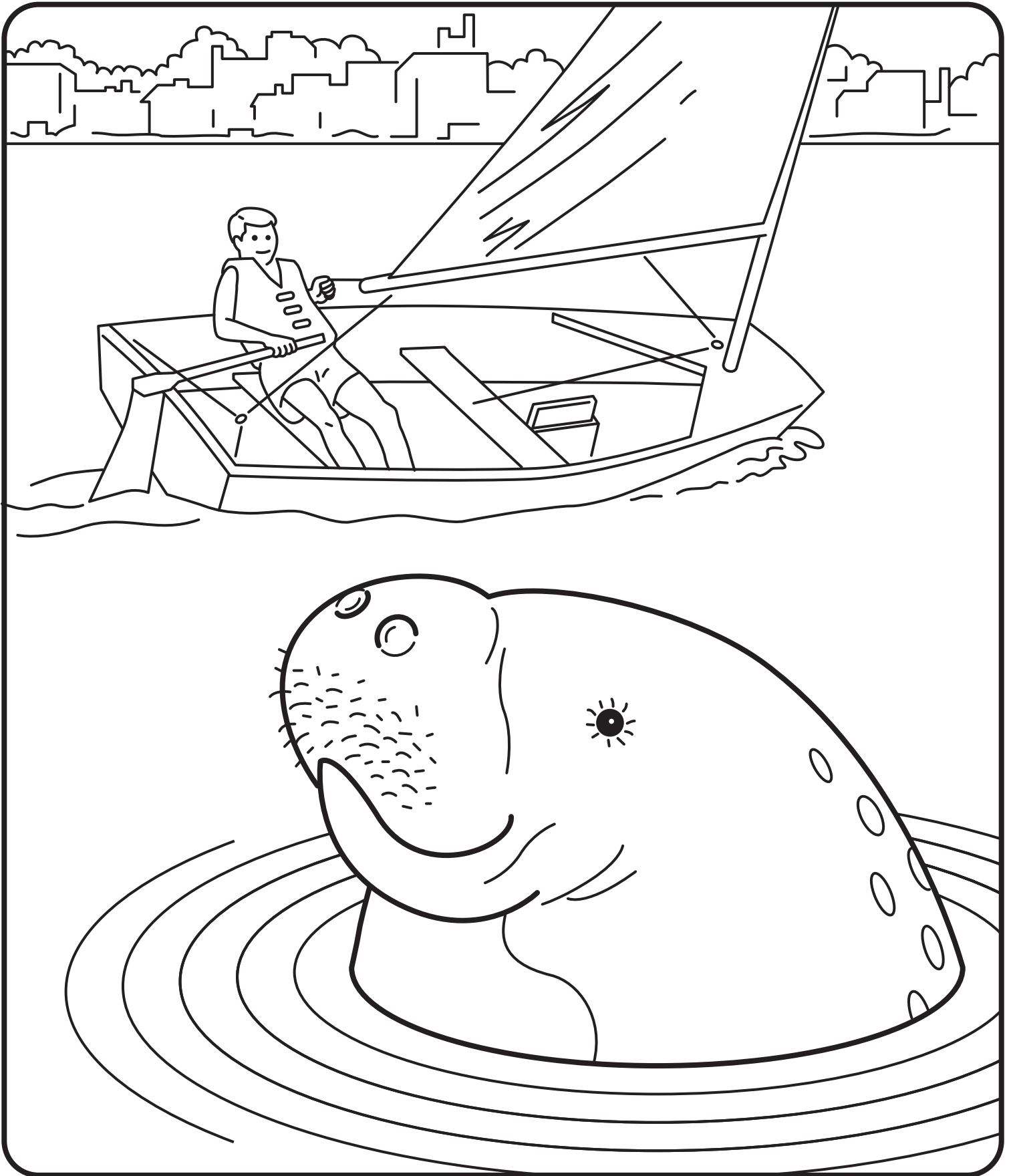
There are many ways to make a living on the St. Johns River. For some of us, like the great blue heron, catching fish is work.



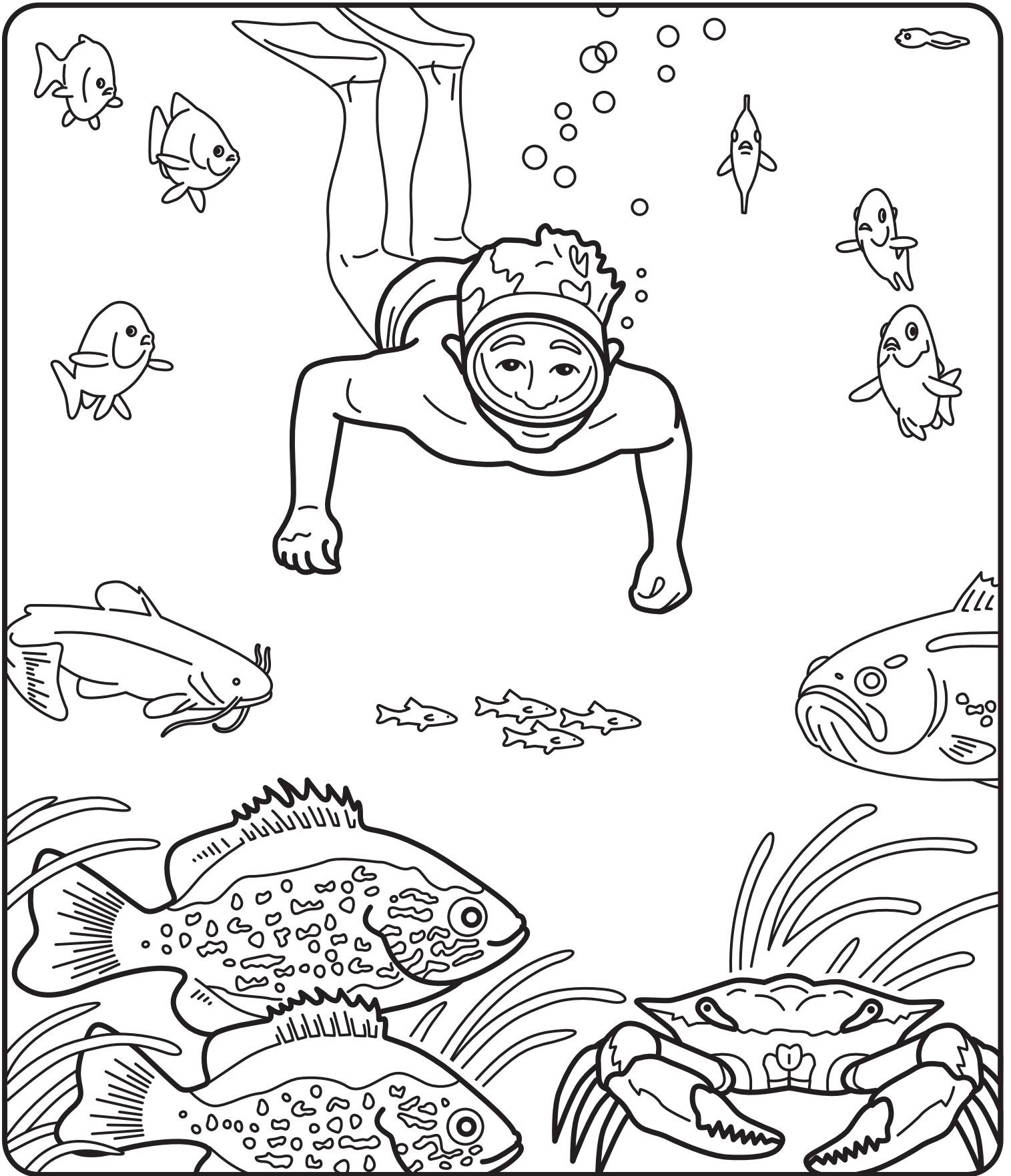
For others, catching fish is just for fun. There are all sorts of ways to enjoy the St. Johns River. What would be the best way for you to have fun on the river?



The river becomes dirty when we throw trash in it and pollute it with chemicals or fertilizers. This can cause plants and animals to get sick and die.



The river belongs to everyone. We must each take care of it for the future. You can help.



There are many exciting places on the St. Johns River to explore. By working together, we can keep it clean so that we will always be able to enjoy it.