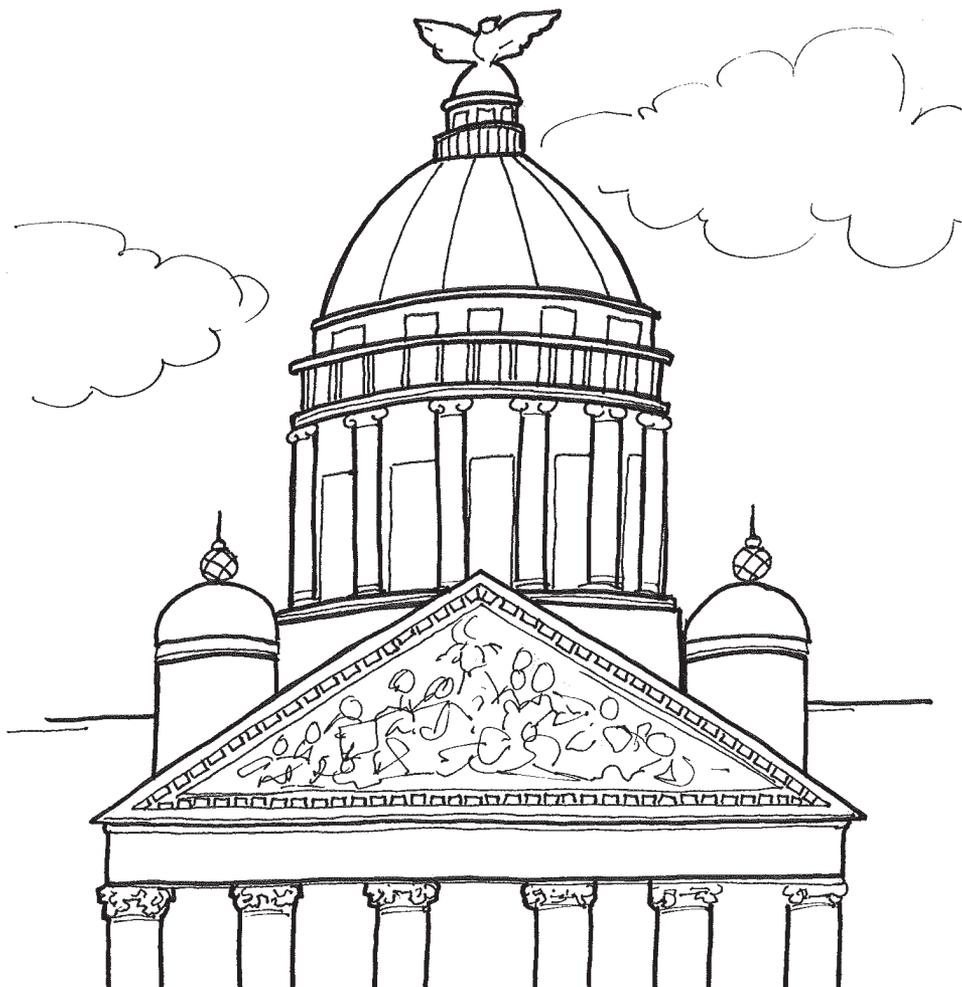


★ My ★  
Mississippi

A Coloring & Activity Book



From Your Secretary of State  
Delbert Hosemann



**DELBERT HOSEMANN**  
*Secretary of State*



To my special friends --

We have a lot to be proud of in Mississippi.

With our sandy beaches, lush forests and rich Delta soil, our State is well known for its agriculture and tourism.

From the soulful Mississippi blues to our rich literary heritage, we have gained worldwide recognition for our contributions to the arts and entertainment world.

With hometown festivals and regional fairs steeped in tradition and local color, Mississippi is full of our beloved heritage and diverse culture.

"My Mississippi" has been specially created to acquaint you with just a little of what our Great State has to offer. I hope my Mississippi will become your Mississippi as well.

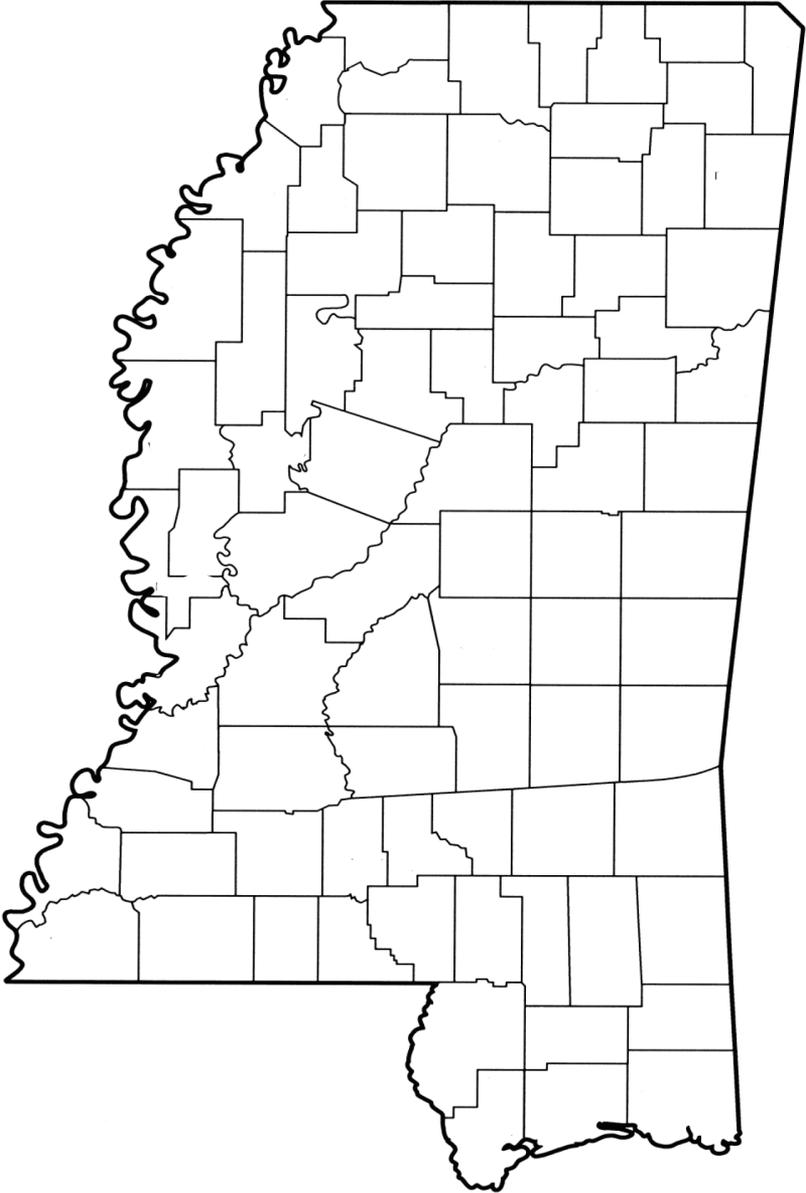
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Delbert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delbert Hosemann

# Mississippi

The “Magnolia State” became the 20th state to join the United States of America in 1817.



Mississippi is also known as “The Hospitality State.”

# Teddy Bear

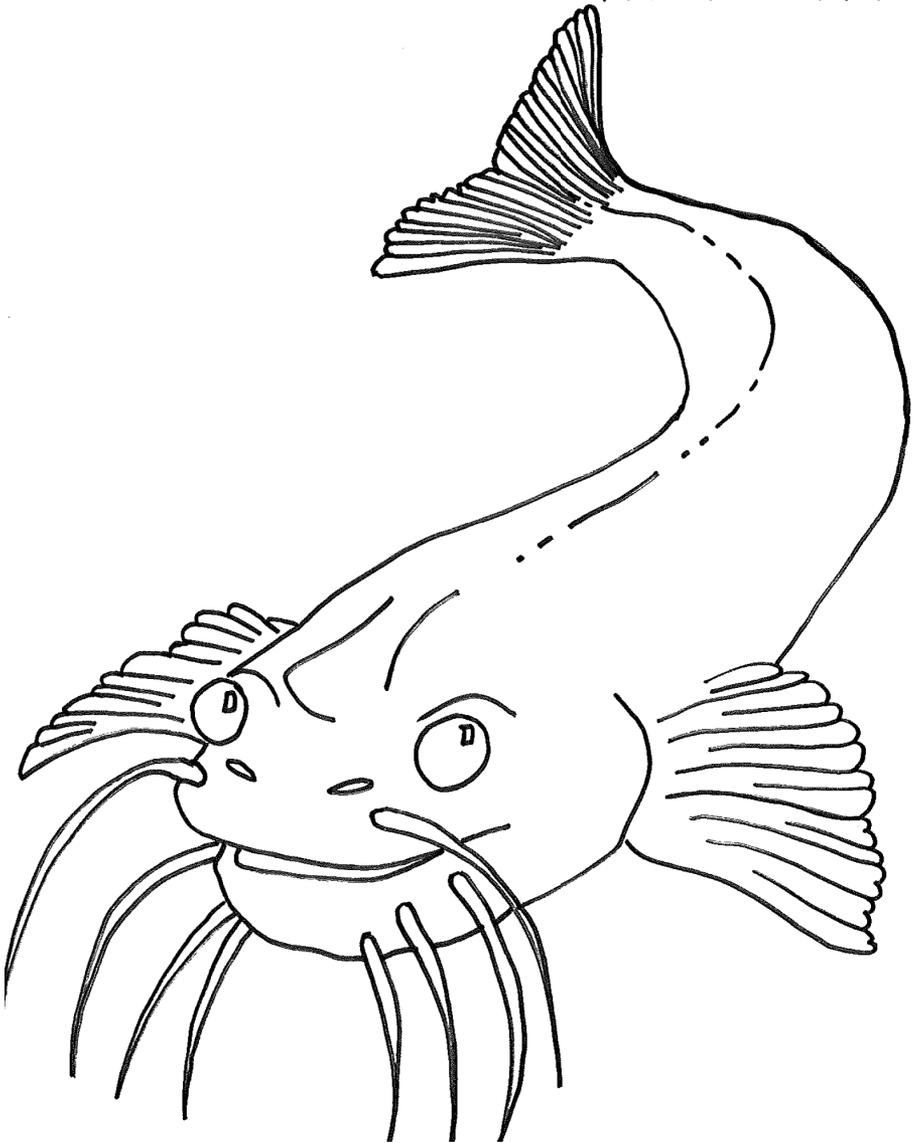
In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt was hunting in the Mississippi Delta and refused to shoot a helpless bear cub that crossed his path. A New York merchant heard the kind-hearted story and created a stuffed toy bear labeling it "Teddy's Bear."



The Teddy Bear was such a hit, the lovable stuffed animal led to the creation of the Ideal Toy Corporation in 1903.

# Catfish

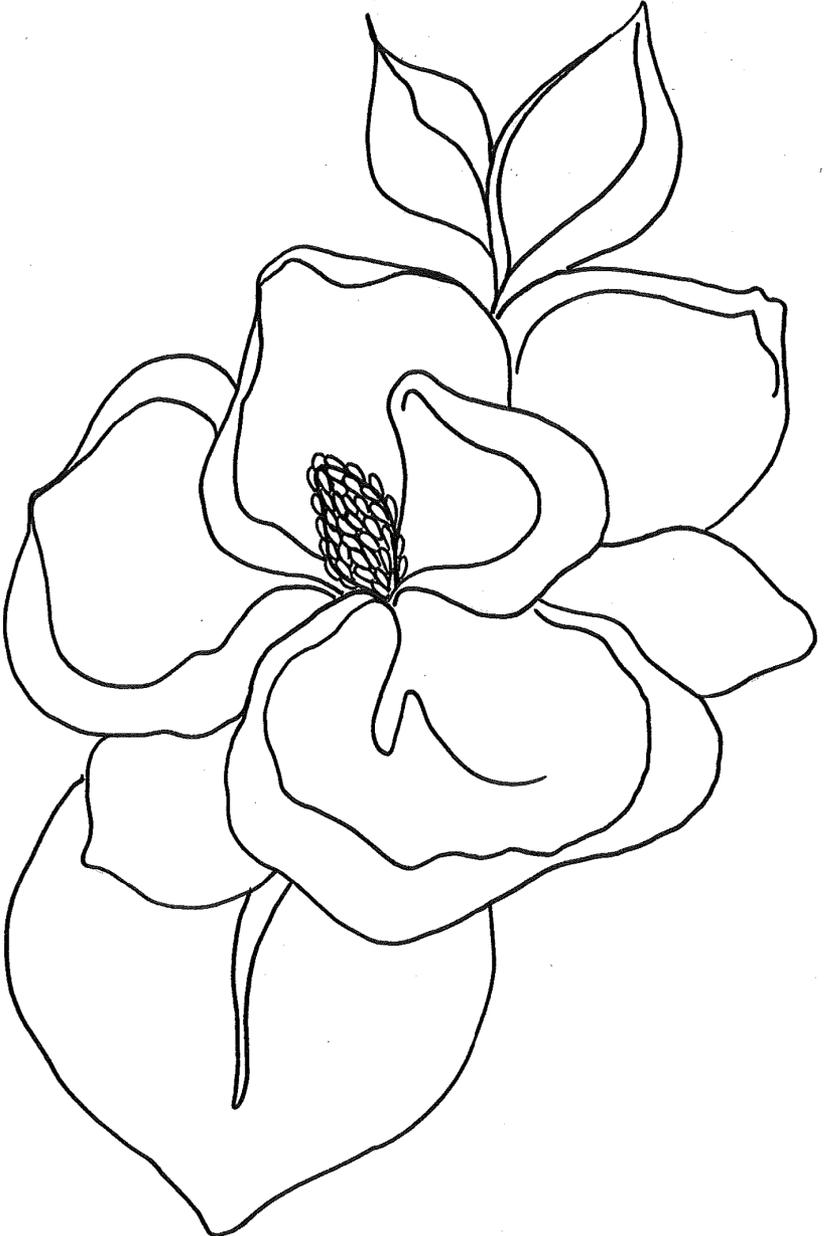
Mississippi produces more than 60% of the world's farm-raised Catfish.



Belzoni is the Catfish Capital of the World.

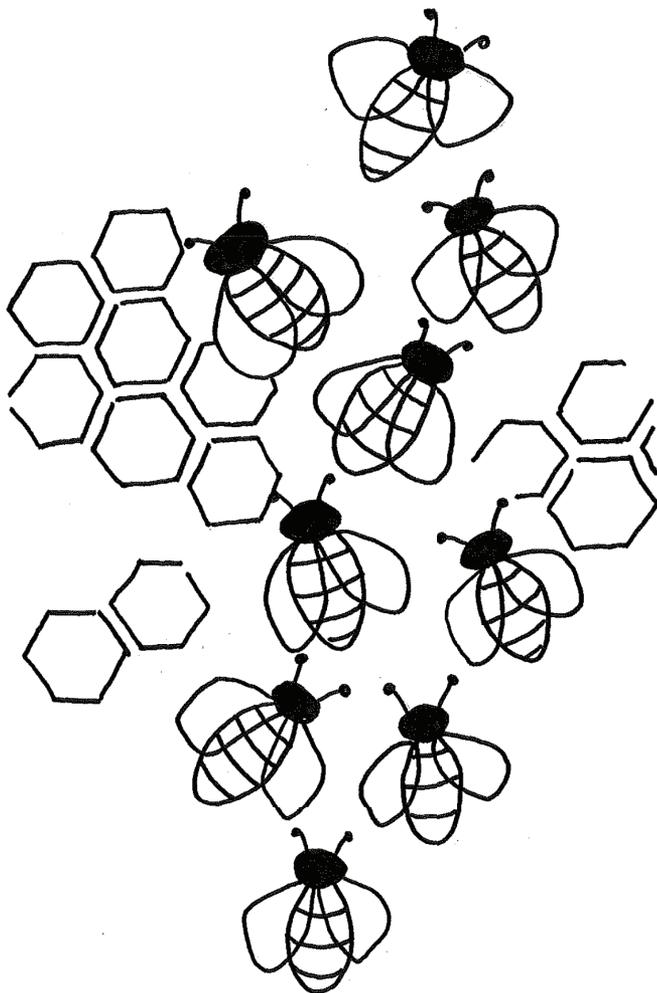
# Magnolia

Mississippi's official state flower is the magnolia.  
It is also the official state tree.



# Honey Bee

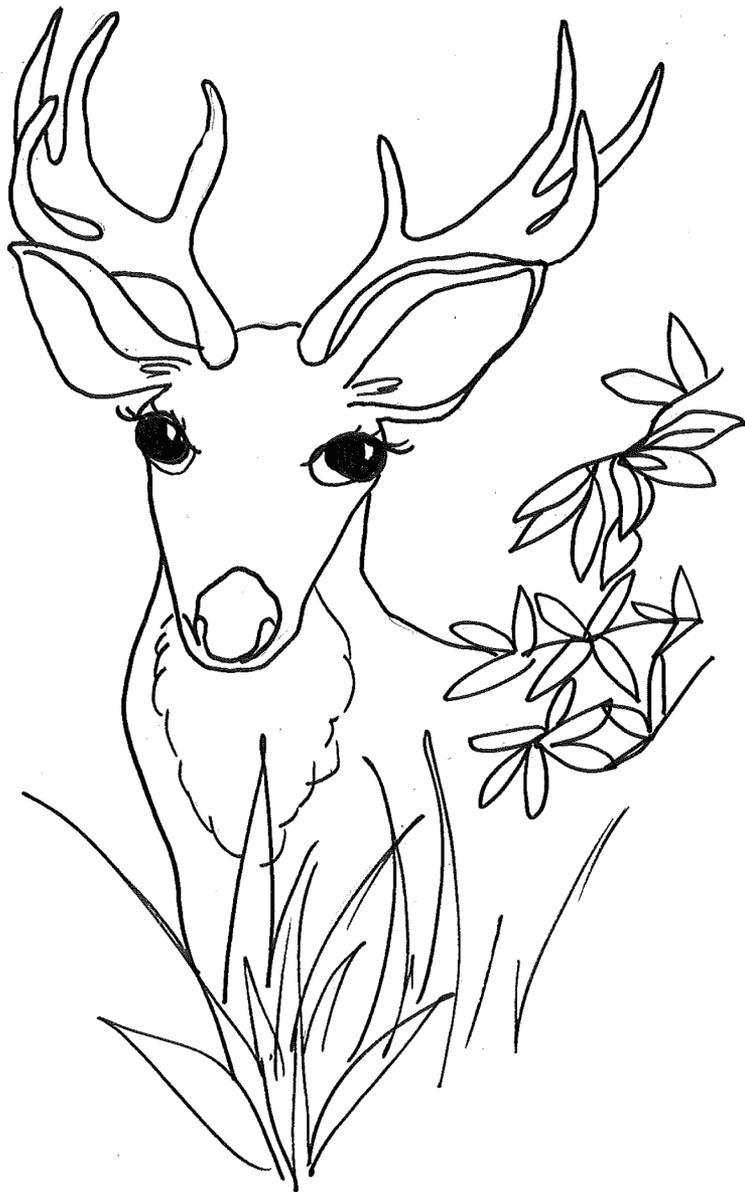
The honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) is the state's official insect.



Woodville is home to one of the largest honeybee populations in the United States.

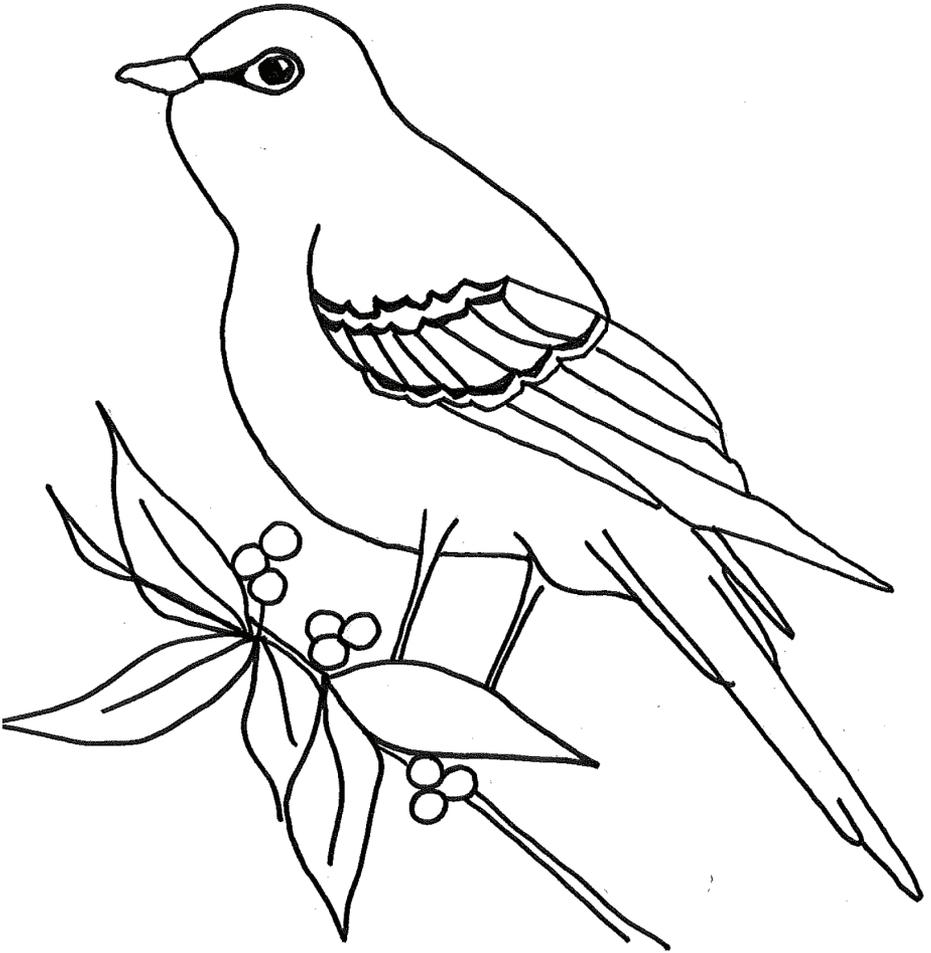
# Deer

The white-tailed deer was chosen as Mississippi's official state land mammal in 1974.



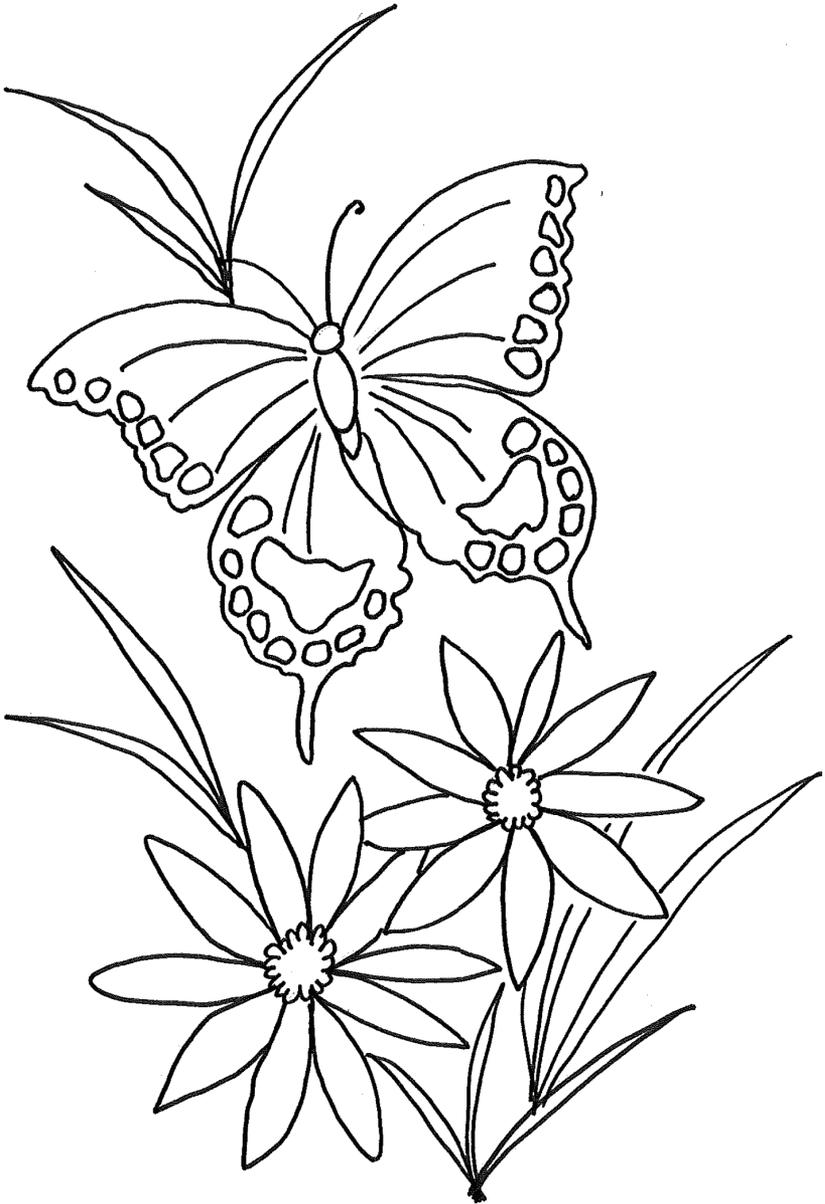
# Mockingbird

The cheerful mockingbird was chosen in 1944 as  
the office state bird.



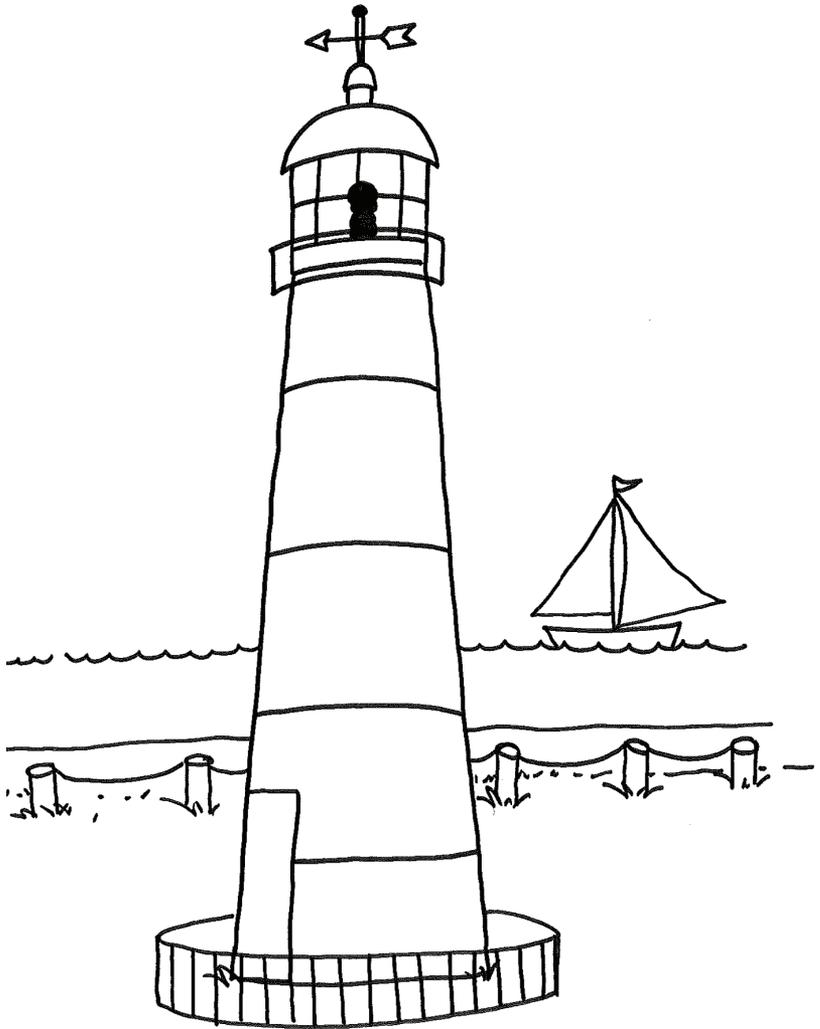
# Butterfly

Mississippi's official state butterfly is the spice-bush swallowtail. The state wildflower is the Coreopsis. Both were chosen in 1991.



# Lighthouse

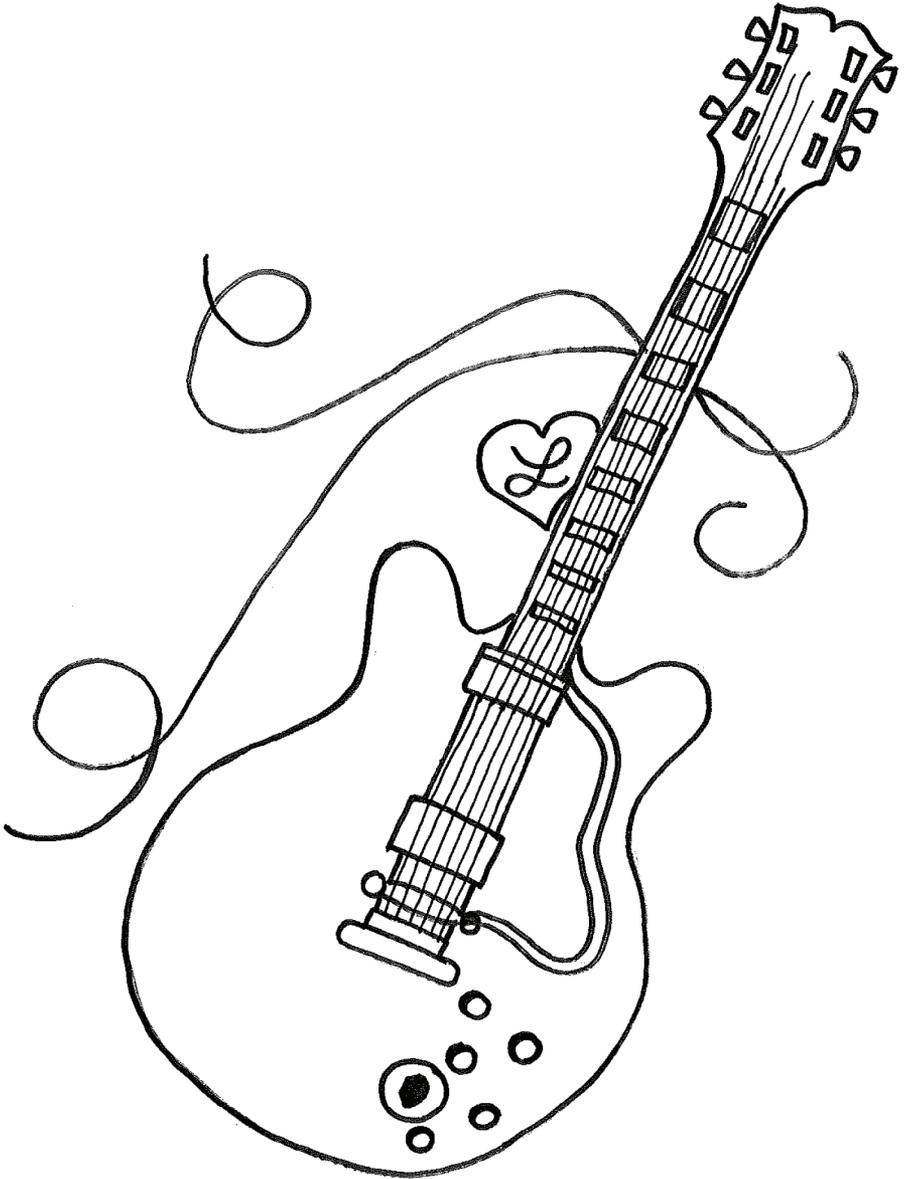
The Biloxi Lighthouse, built in 1848, is the only lighthouse in the U.S. to stand in the middle of a four-lane highway.



The Biloxi lighthouse survived Hurricane Katrina and is reported to be the most photographed landmark on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

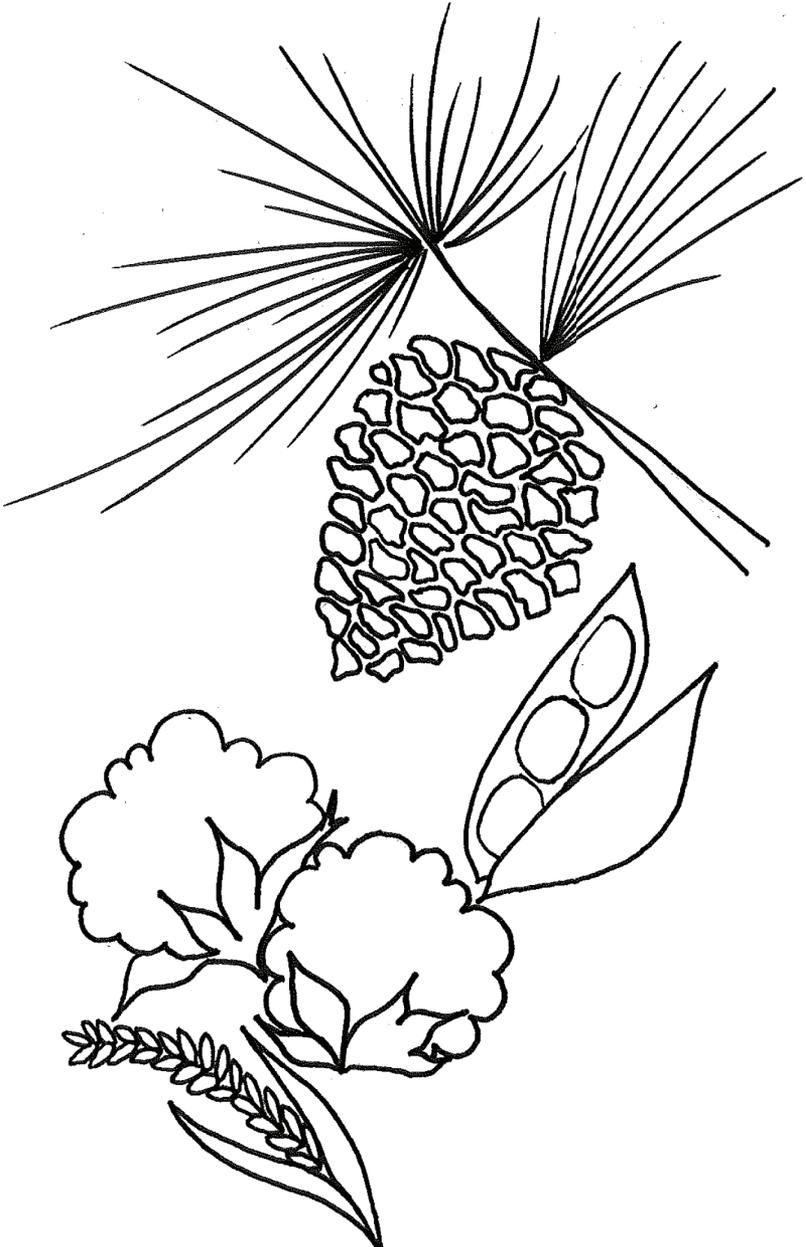
# Blues Guitar

World-famous blues singer B.B. King was born in the Mississippi Delta. His beloved guitar is nicknamed "Lucille."



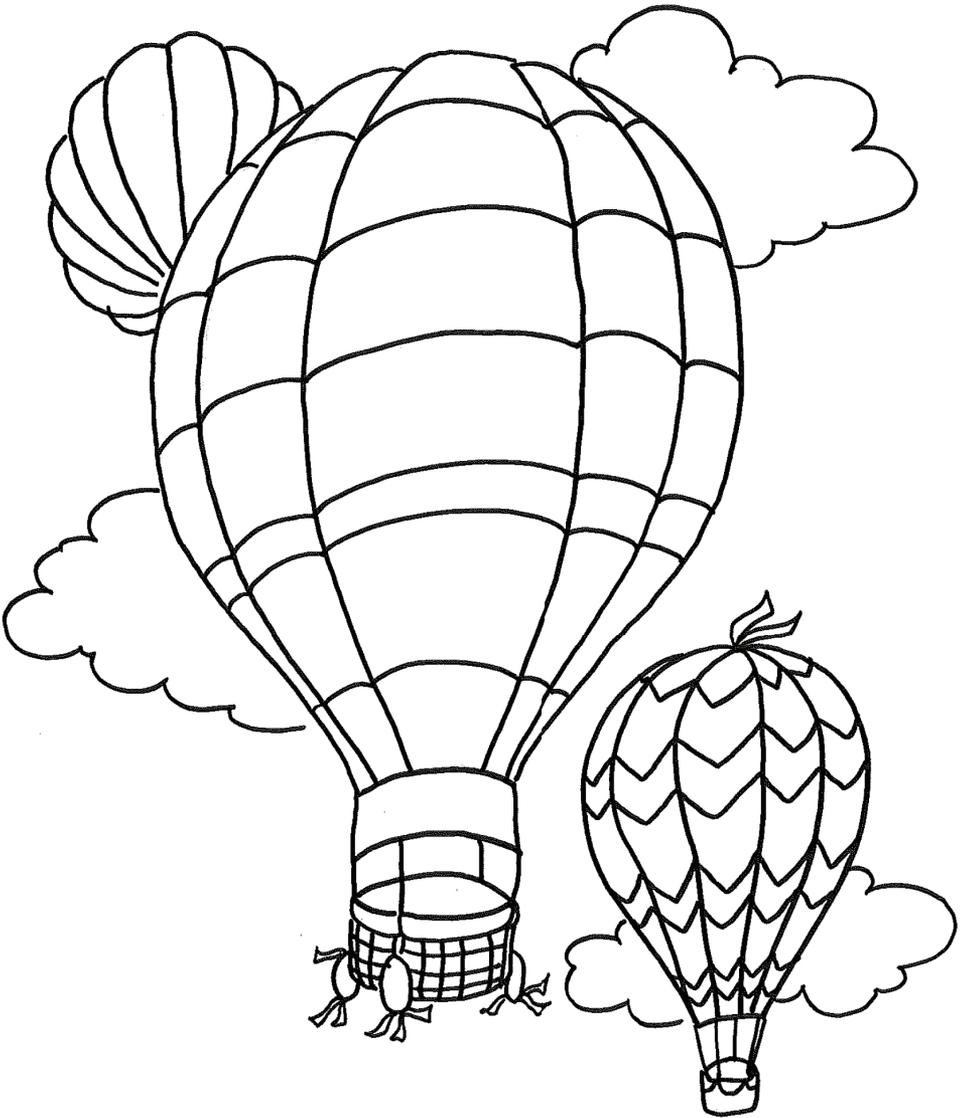
# Farming

Agriculture is important to Mississippi's economy. Some of the state's top crops include cotton, rice, soybeans and timber.



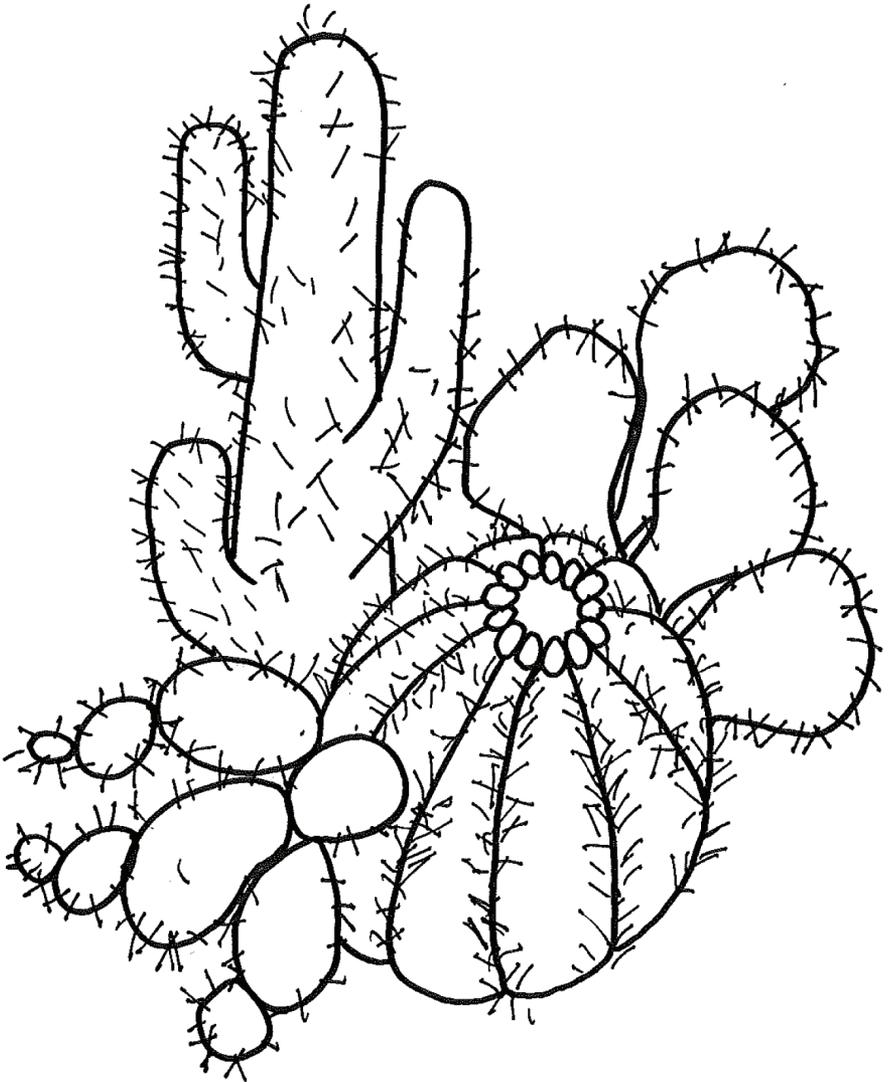
# Hot Air Balloons

The Mississippi Championship Balloon Festival is held every July in Madison County.



# Cactus

The world's largest cactus plantation, with more than 3,000 varieties, is located in Edwards.



## ACROSS

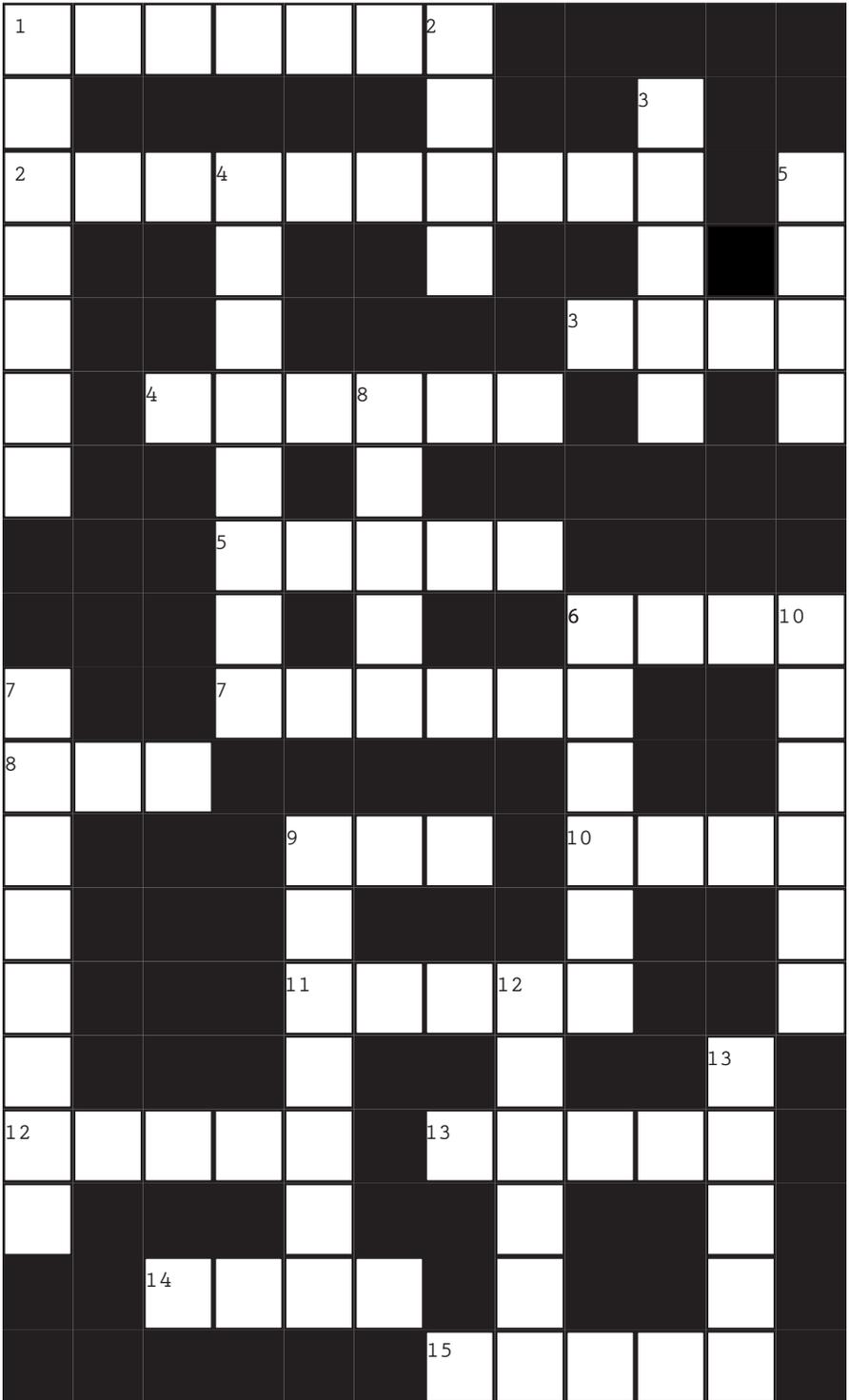
1. Who were the earliest settlers of what is now Mississippi?
2. What is one of the most famous and enduring landmarks on Biloxi beach?
3. What is the hometown of country singer Faith Hill?
4. It's not easy for him to be green. Created by Jim Henson, a native of Greenville.
5. Mississippi is the birthplace of this popular genre of American music.
6. Edward \_\_\_\_\_ created this popular root beer in Biloxi in 1898.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Welty is Mississippi's Pulitzer prize-winning first lady of letters.
8. The Mississippi Museum of \_\_\_\_\_ is located in Jackson.
9. Jubilee \_\_\_\_\_ is a music festival held in Jackson.
10. Indian folk \_\_\_\_\_ is celebrated annually at the Choctaw Indian festival in Philadelphia.
11. Mississippi's Gulf \_\_\_\_\_ has the longest man-made beach in the U.S.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Presley was born in Tupelo.
13. The storied Natchez

\_\_\_\_\_ stretches from Mississippi to Nashville, TN.

14. Bluesman B.B. \_\_\_\_\_ was born in Indianola.
15. TV star \_\_\_\_\_ Winfrey was born in Kosciusko.

## DOWN

1. Cat, Horn and Deer \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What was first sold in boxed pairs in MS in 18>>?
3. Mississippi's rich alluvian soil that birthed the blues.
4. What is Mississippi's state insect?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Gibson is home to the Ruins of Windsor.
6. The International \_\_\_\_\_ Festival is held in Jackson every four years.
7. Author William \_\_\_\_\_ lived at Rowan Oak in Oxford.
8. Emerald \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the largest in the U.S..
9. Mississippi's Capital City.
10. The Sweet Potato \_\_\_\_\_ host an annual parade in Jackson.
12. Gulf Coast fishermen load their nets with this crustacean during harvest season.
13. Tourists love to play on the Mississippi Gulf Coast's white sandy \_\_\_\_\_.



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Created especially for you  
by Secretary of State  
**Delbert Hosemann**

My  
Mississippi

