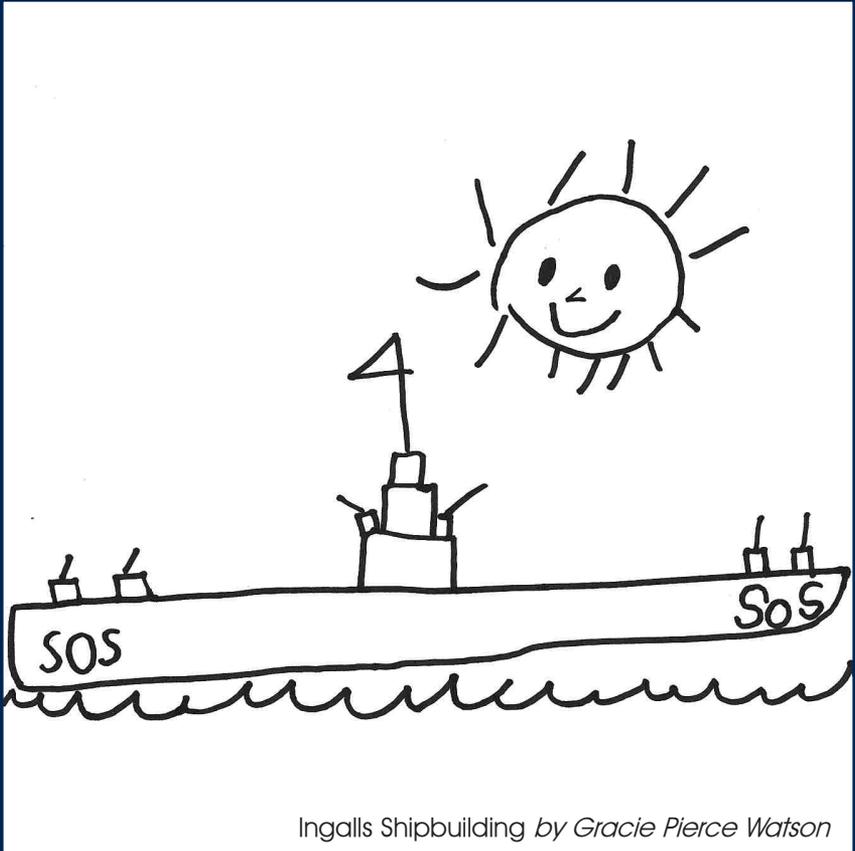


My Mississippi

A Coloring and Activity Book



Ingalls Shipbuilding by *Gracie Pierce Watson*

From your Secretary of State



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

Dear Friends,

What makes us so proud to call this great state our home?

Is it the cotton fields, soybean fields, and catfish ponds that are the heartbeat of the Delta?

Or is the light shining from the Biloxi Lighthouse that leads coastal shrimp boats ashore?

Could it be the arts and culture throughout the state that's garnered national recognition?

Or is it the comfort of southern hospitality in every corner of our communities?

No matter what it is, My Mississippi is your Mississippi, and with the help of my girls, we've created this guide that'll allow you to learn more about all Mississippi has to offer. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

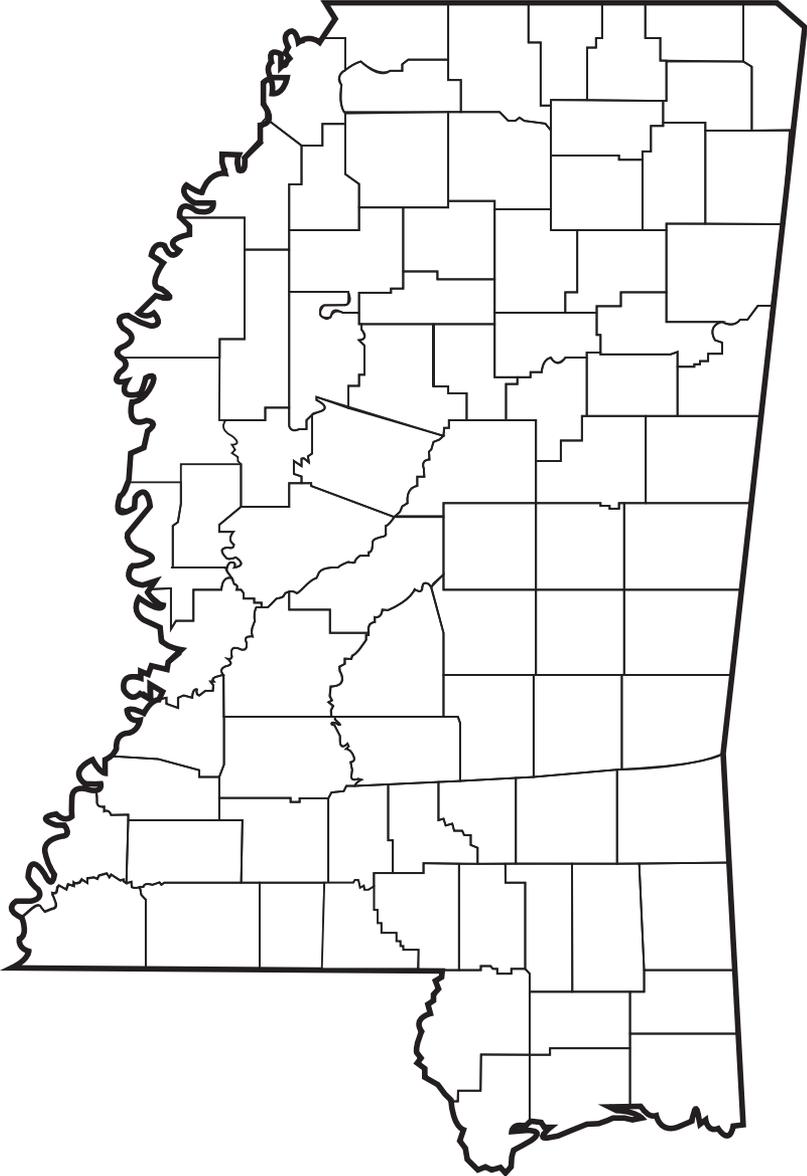
Michael Watson
Secretary Michael Watson



FRONT COVER: Ingalls Shipbuilding is located in Pascagoula. Ingalls is the largest manufacturing employer in Mississippi and a major contributor to the state's economic growth.

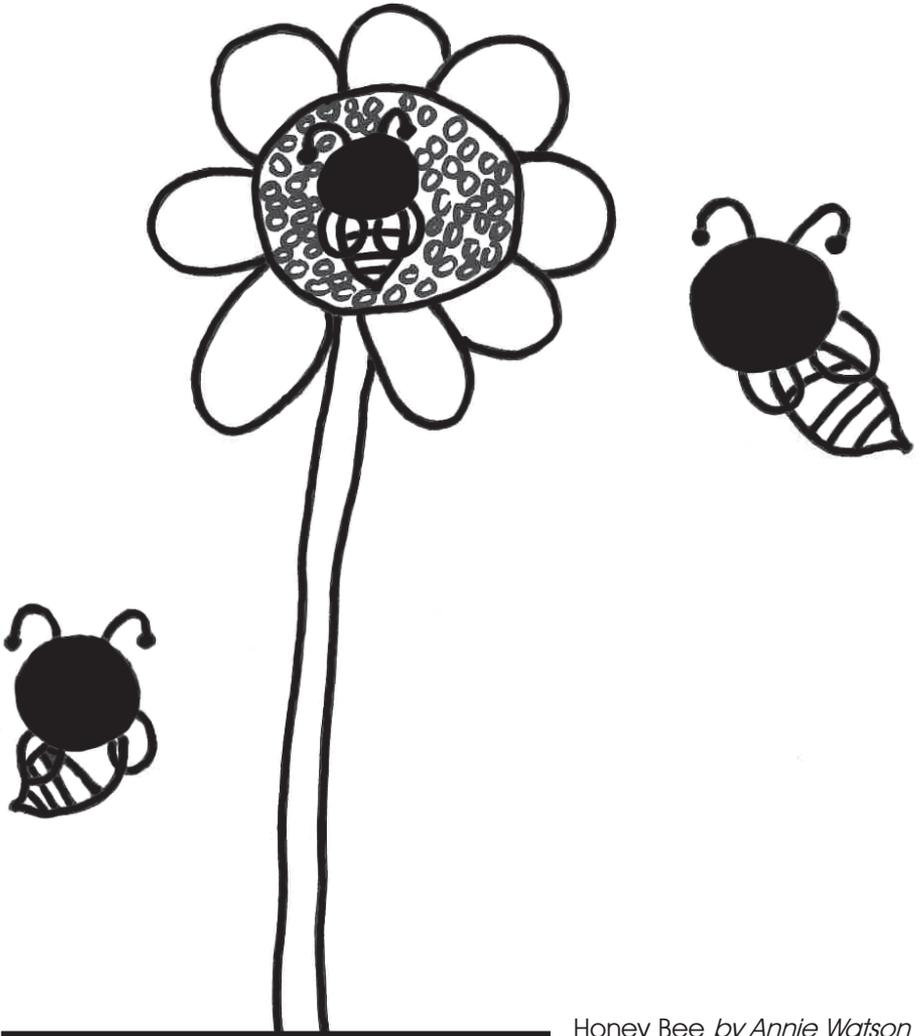
Mississippi

The "Magnolia State" became the 20th state to join the United States of America in 1817. Mississippi is also known as "The Hospitality State."



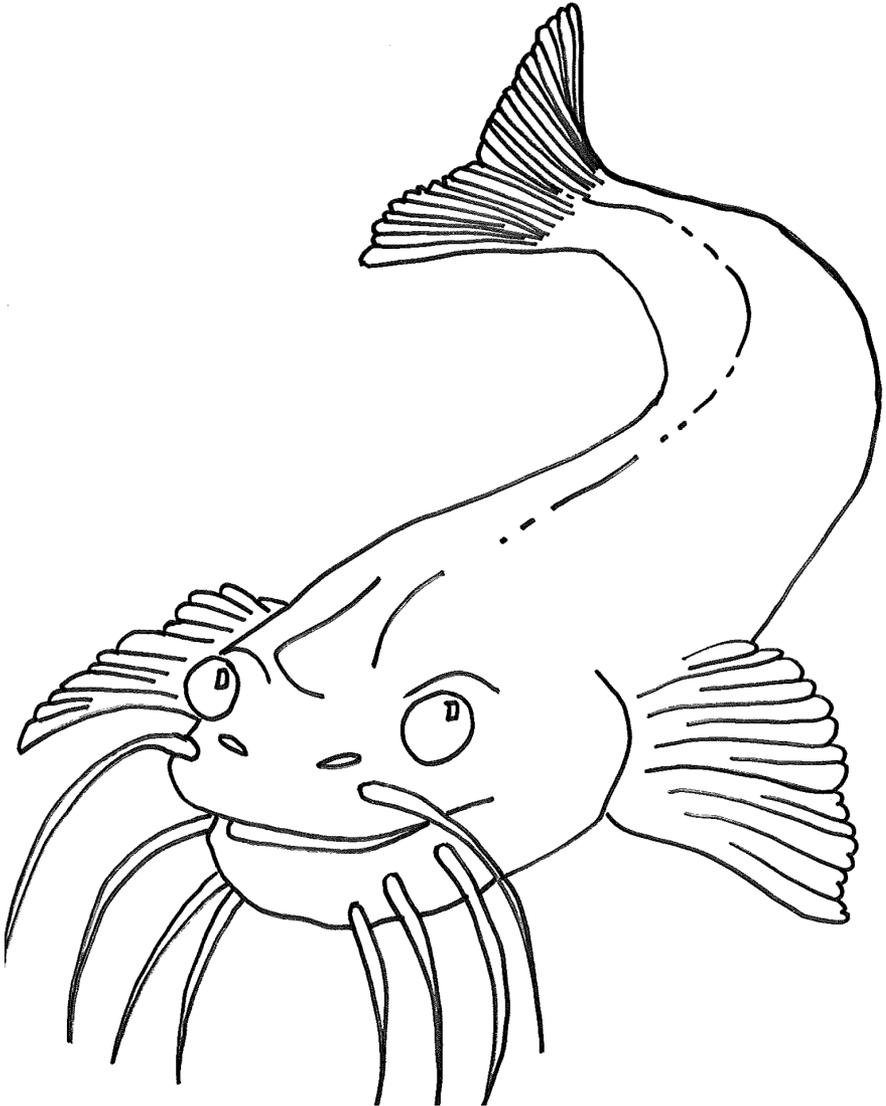
Honey Bee

The honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) is the state's official insect. Woodville is home to one of the largest honeybee populations in the United States.



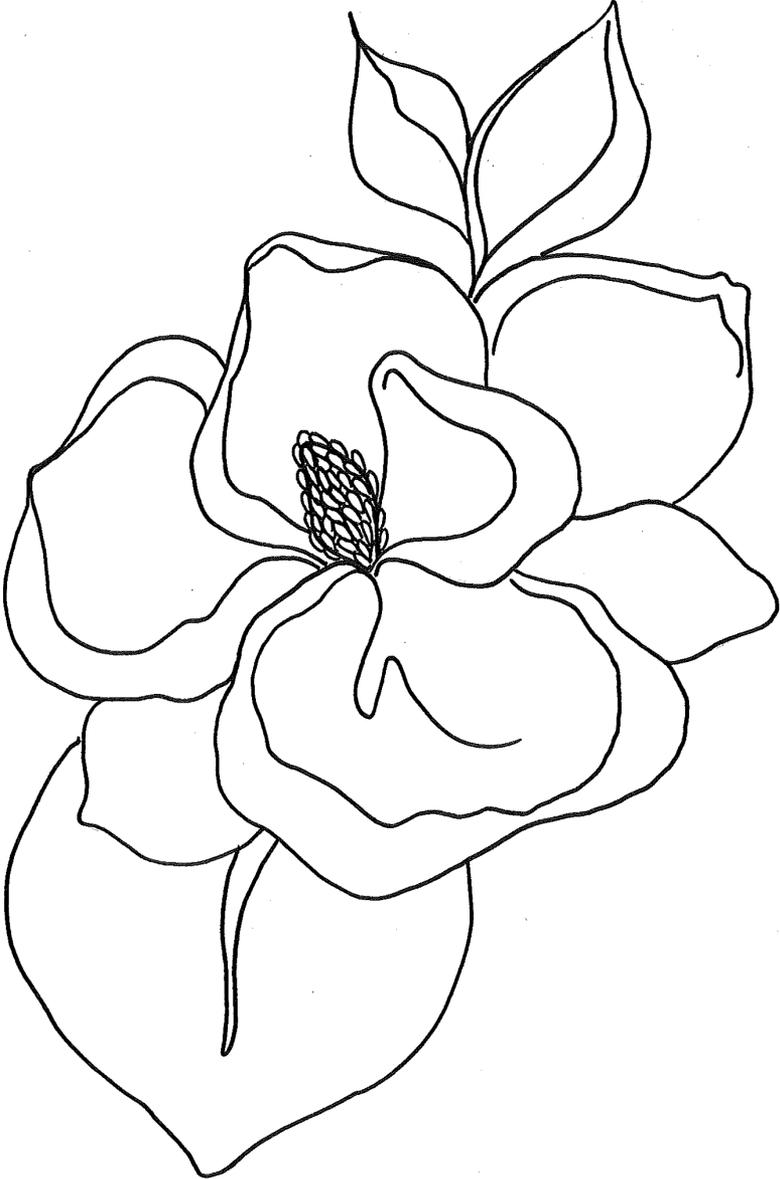
Catfish

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.



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.



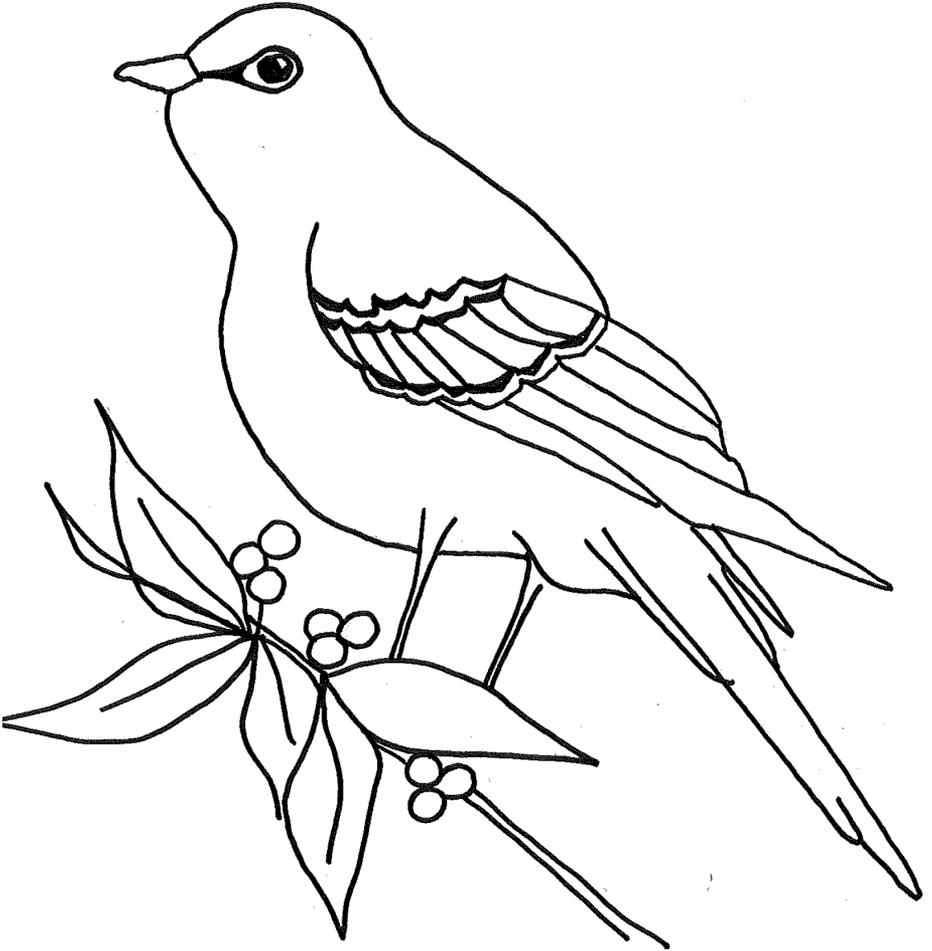
Pecan Tree

Mississippi has some of the highest concentrations of wild pecan trees. Mississippi pecan growers can produce between three and four million pounds of pecans per year.



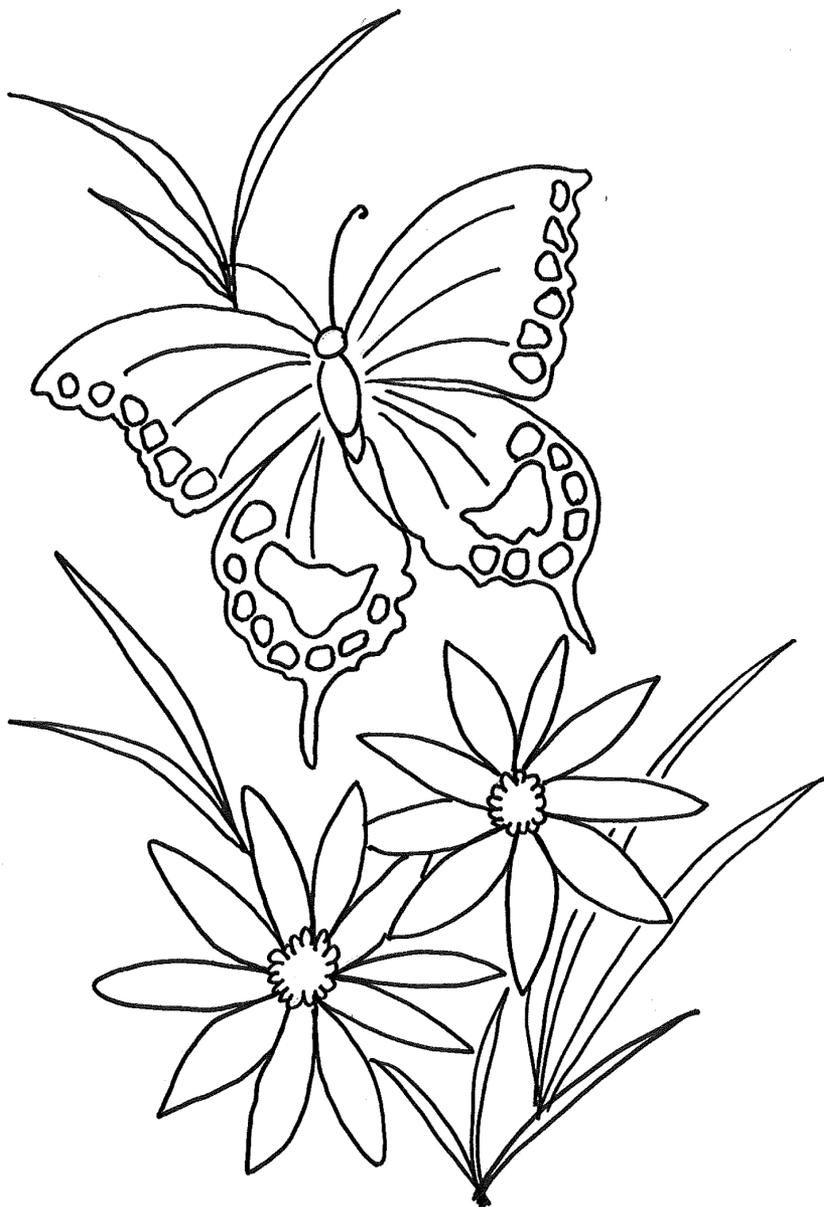
Mockingbird

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



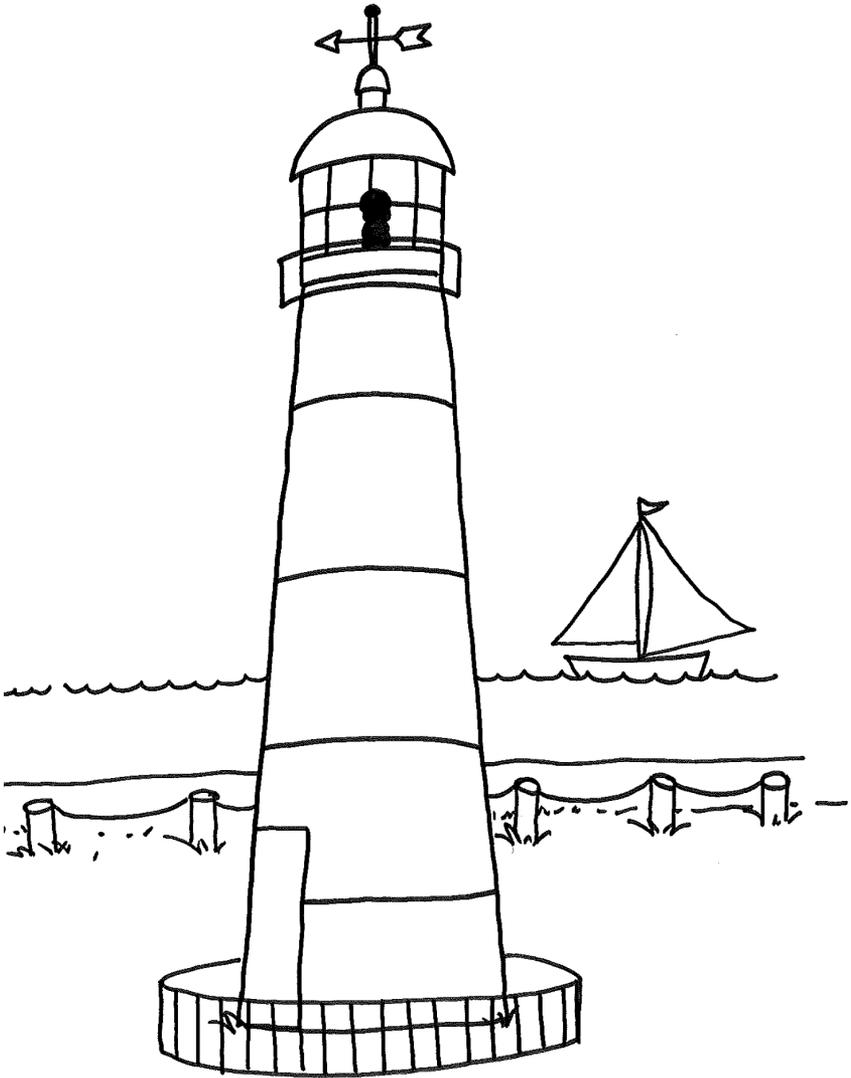
Butterfly

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



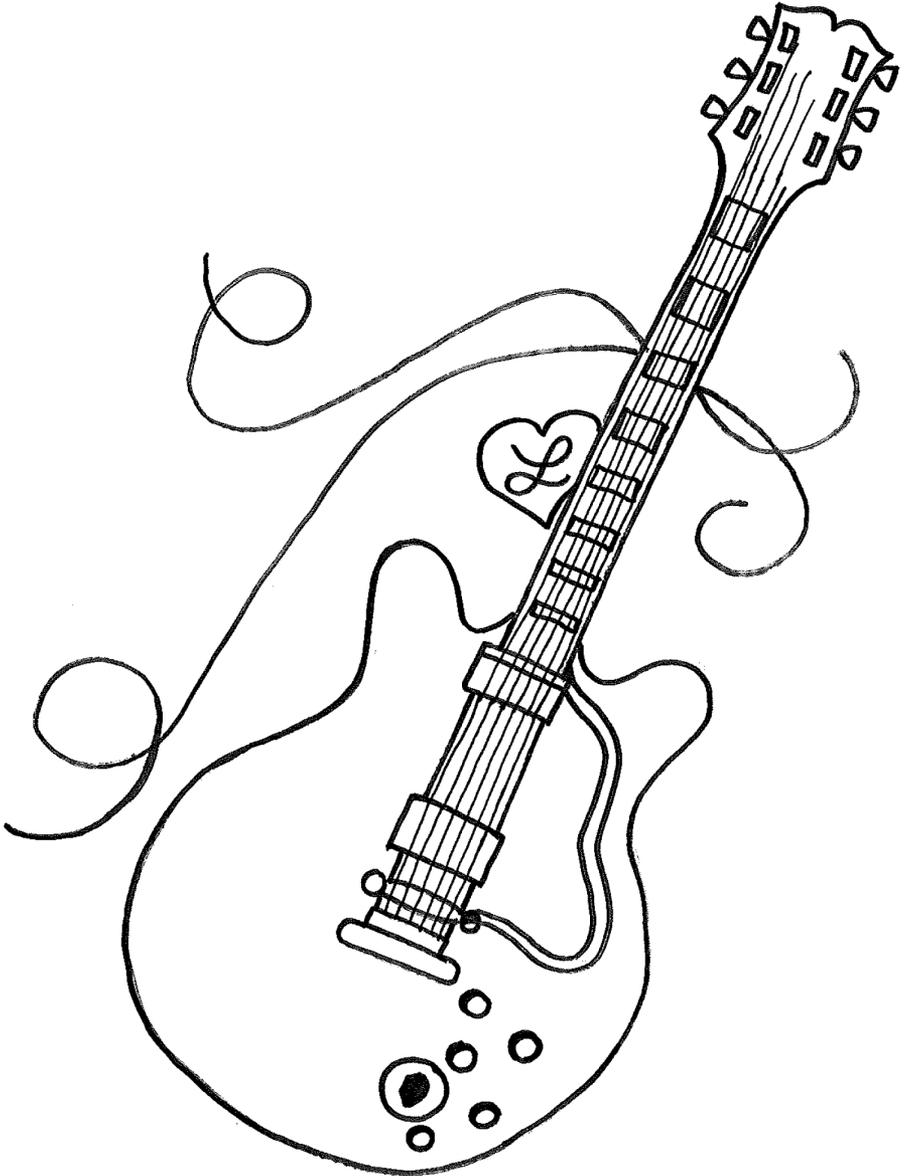
Lighthouse

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.



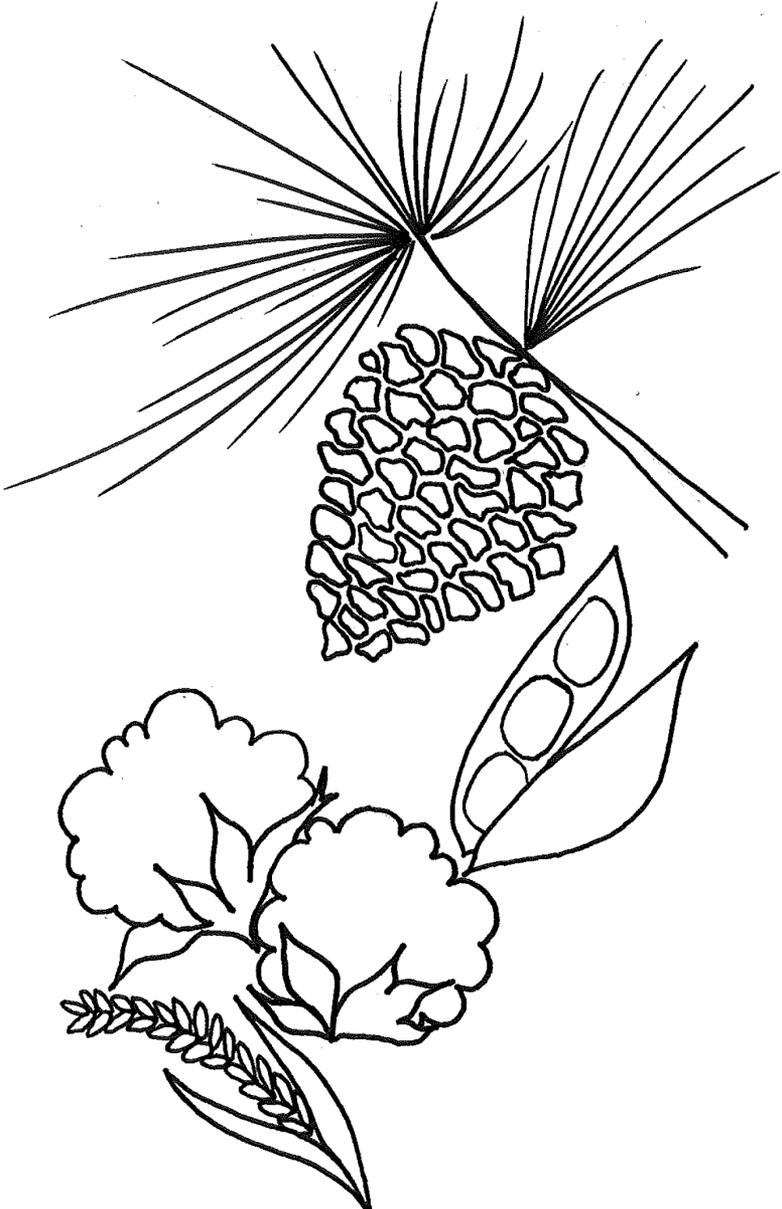
Blues Guitar

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



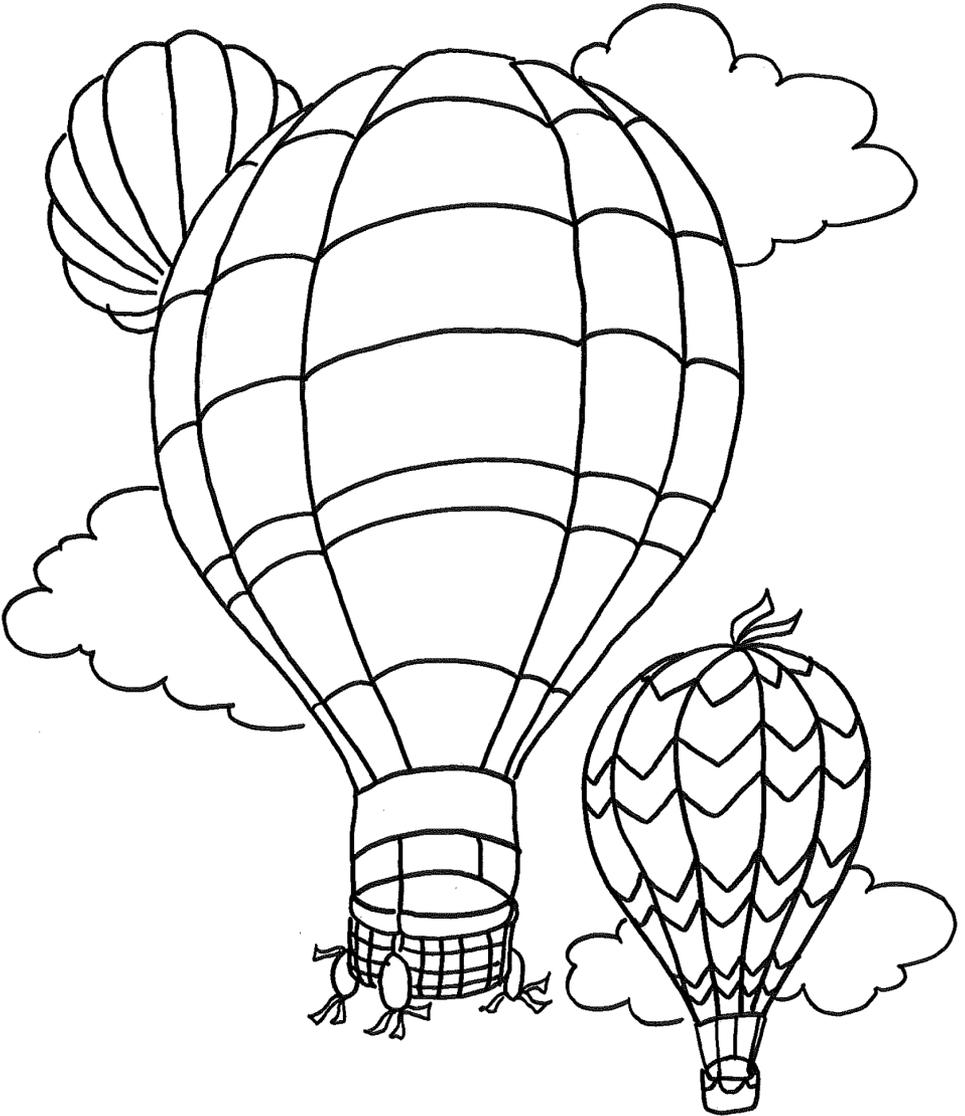
Farming

Agriculture plays an important role in Mississippi's economy. Some of the state's top crops include cotton, rice, soybeans and timber.



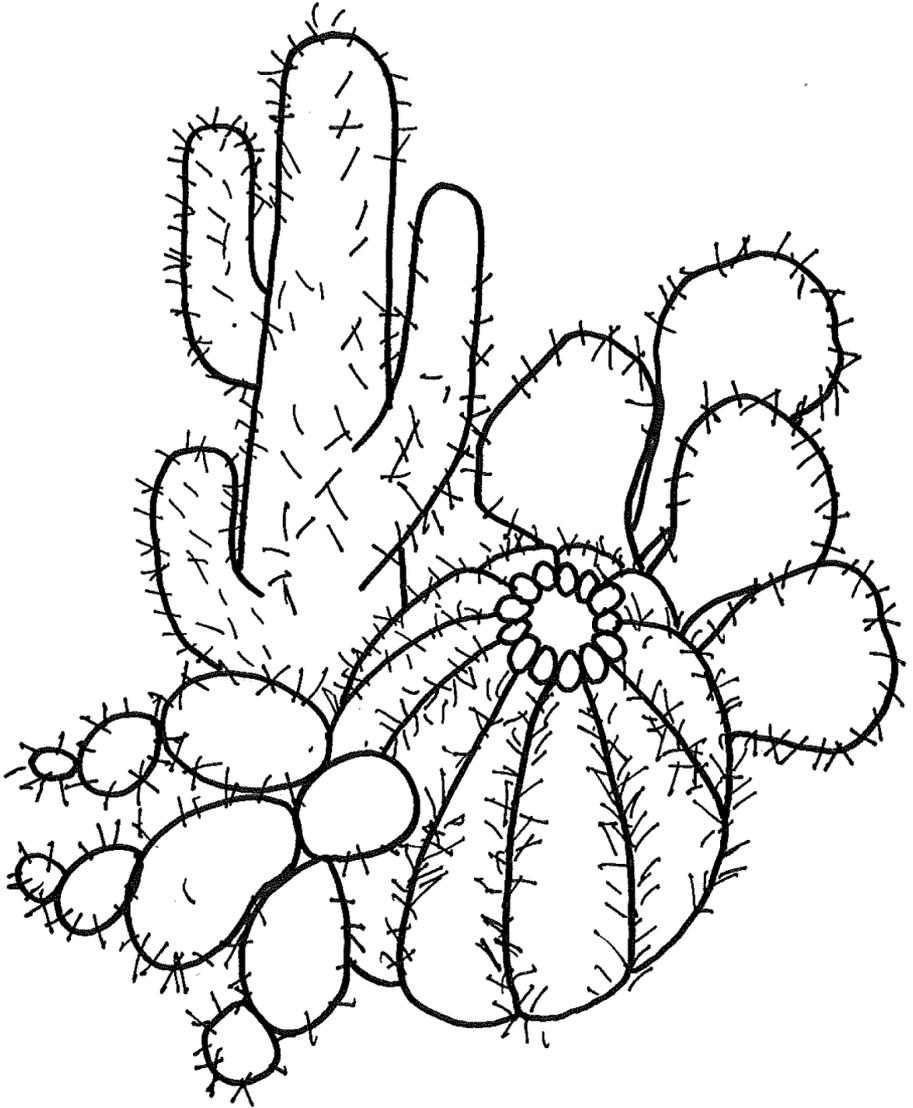
Hot Air Balloons

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



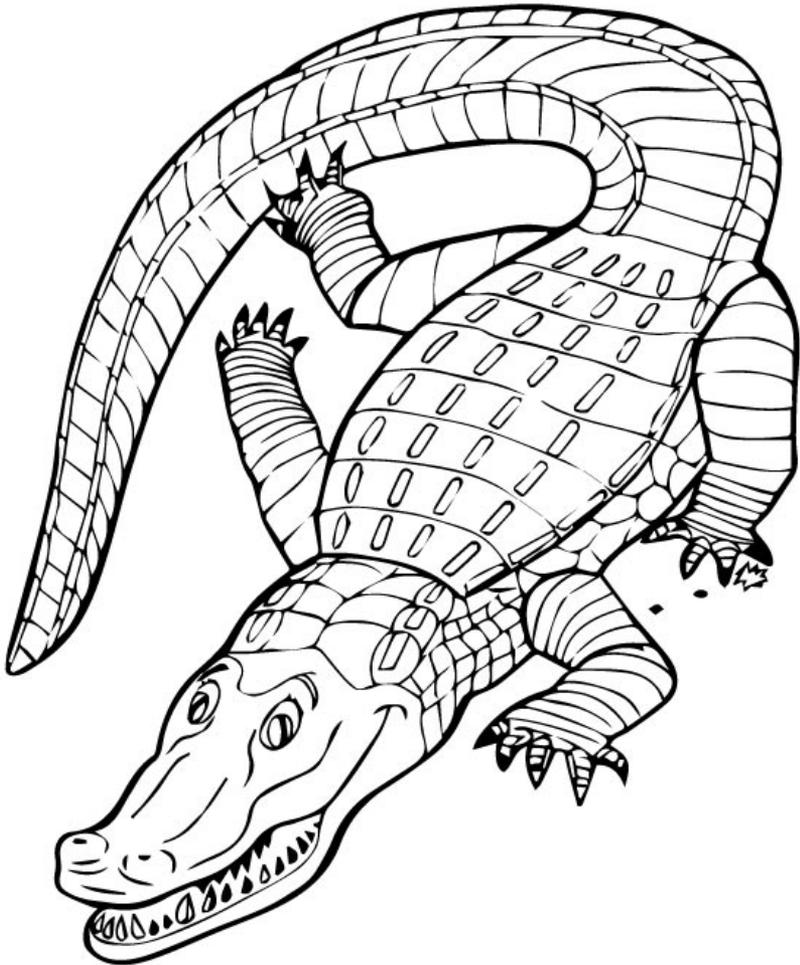
Cactus

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



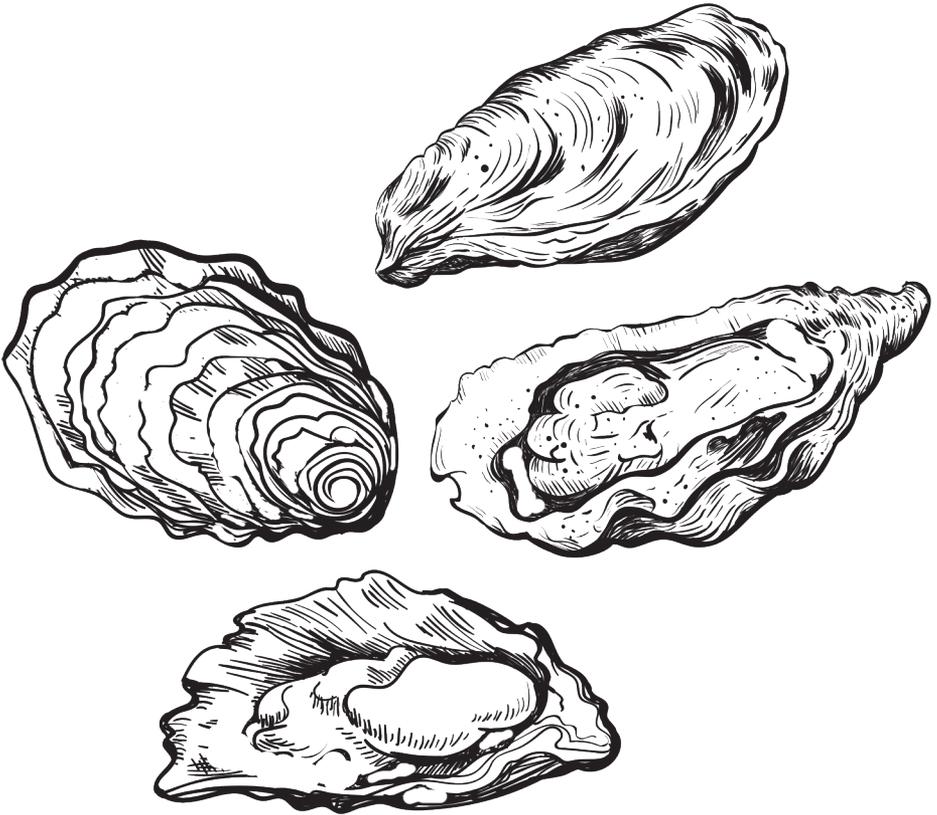
Alligator

Mississippi designated the American alligator as the official state reptile in 2005. The name "alligator" comes from the Spanish words "el lagarto" (the lizard). A typical male alligator reaches 13-14 feet in length and can weigh over 600 pounds.



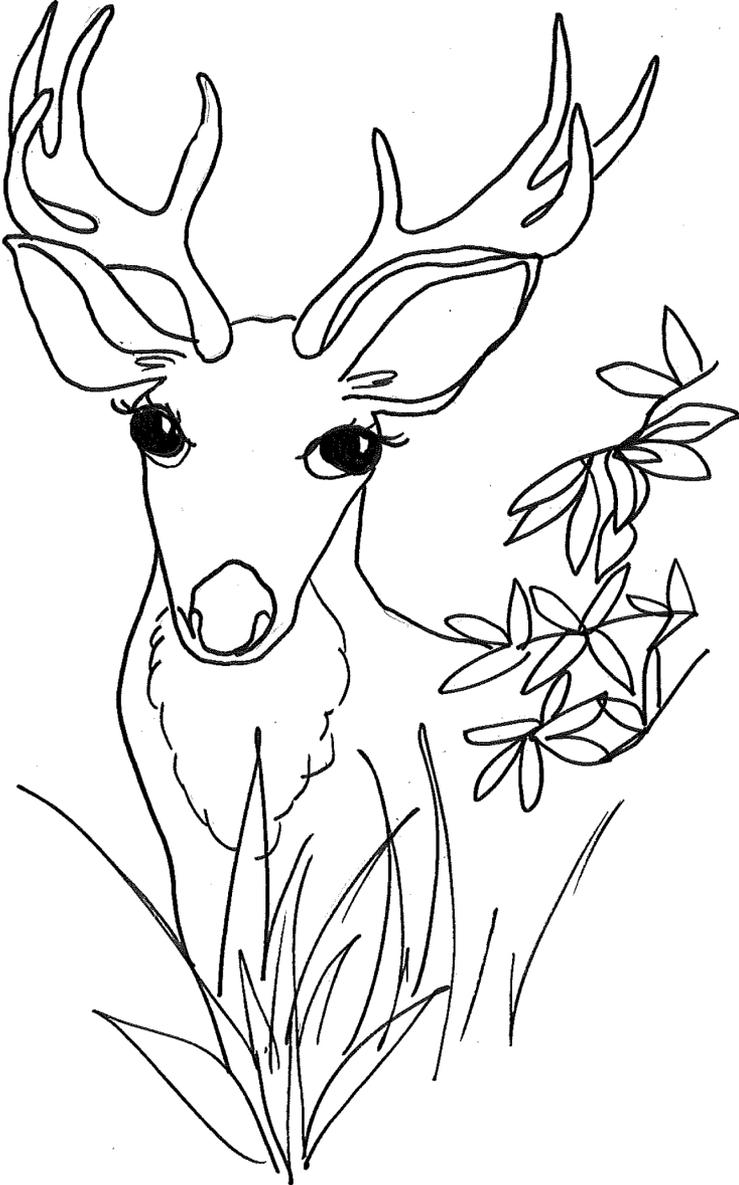
Oysters

Mississippi designated the oyster shell as the official state shell in 1974. The American oyster is a valuable resource of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Sometimes, a bit of sand gets inside the oyster's shell, irritating the oyster. The oyster covers the sand with shiny, smooth Mother of Pearl, and this is what makes a pearl.



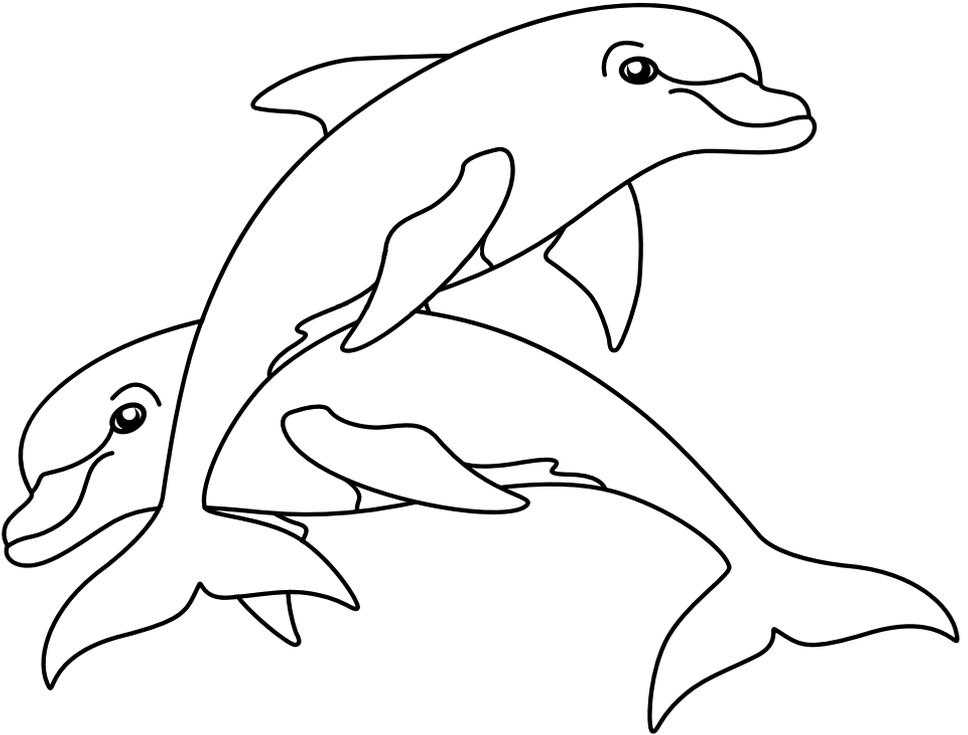
Deer

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



Bottlenose Dolphin

The bottlenose dolphin was designated as Mississippi's water mammal in 1974. Common along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, bottlenose dolphins are extremely intelligent and social creatures. They can live to the age of thirty, occasionally attaining a length of twelve feet, although most are in the six- to eight-foot range.



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. Indian folk _____ is celebrated annually at the Choctaw Indian Festival in Philadelphia.
10. Mississippi's Gulf _____ has the longest man-made beach in the U.S.
11. _____ Presley was born in Tupelo.

12. The storied Natchez _____ stretches from Mississippi to Nashville, TN.

13. Bluesman B.B. _____ was born in Indianola.

14. TV star _____ Winfrey was born in Kosciusko.

DOWN

1. Cat, Horn and Deer _____.

2. Mississippi's rich alluvian soil that birthed the blues.

3. _____ Gibson is home to the Ruins of Windsor.

4. What is Mississippi's state insect?

5. Emerald _____ is one of the largest in the U.S.

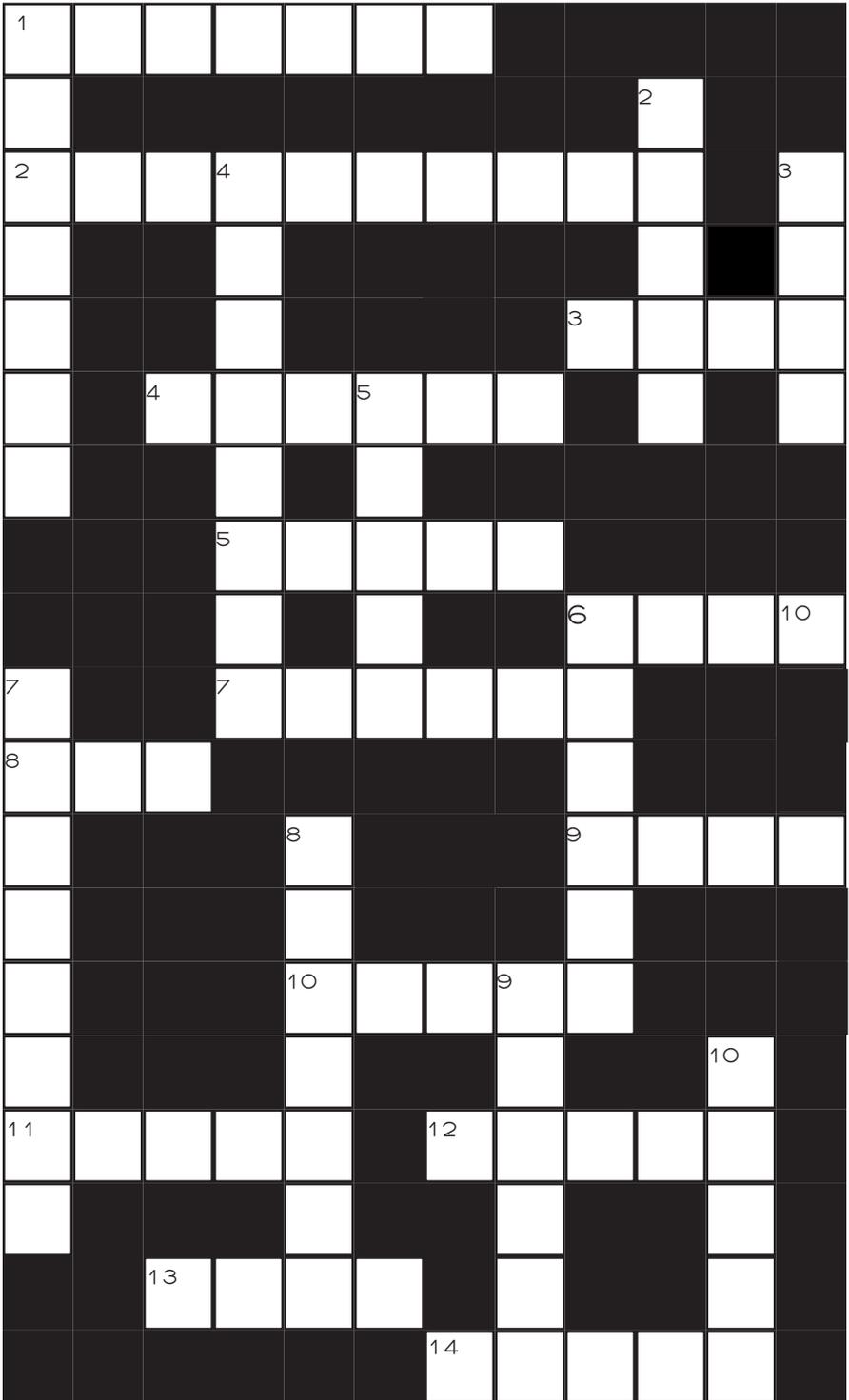
6. The International _____ Festival is held in Jackson every four years.

7. Author William _____ lived at Rowan Oak in Oxford.

8. Mississippi's Capital City.

9. Gulf Coast fishermen load their nets with this crustacean during harvest season.

10. Tourists love to play on the Mississippi Gulf Coast's white sandy _____.



Mississippi Fun Facts

- Pine-Sol was invented in Jackson in 1929.
- Mississippi has more churches per capita than any other state.
- Dr. Tichenor created Dr. Tichenor's Antiseptic in Liberty.
- The first football player on a Wheaties box was Walter Payton of Columbia.
- Greenwood is the home of Cotton Row, which is the second largest cotton exchange in the nation and is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The 4-H Club began in Holmes County in 1907.
- On April 25, 1866, women in Columbus decorated the graves of Confederate and Union soldiers in Friendship Cemetery. This gesture became known as Decoration Day, the beginning of what we observe as Memorial Day.
- In 1963, Dr. James D. Hardy performed the first heart transplant in the world in Jackson at the Mississippi Medical Center.
- Natchez was settled by the French in 1716 and is the oldest permanent settlement on the Mississippi River. Natchez once had 500 millionaires, more than any other city except New York City. Natchez now has more than 500 buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places.
- In 1894, Coca-Cola was first bottled by Joseph A. Biedenharn in Vicksburg.
- The company that makes Iced drinks is owned by Fred Montalvo from Edwards.
- Serving during Reconstruction, Hiram Revels was the first Black U.S. Senator.
- Mississippi University for Women in Columbus was the first state college for women in the country, established in 1884.



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

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