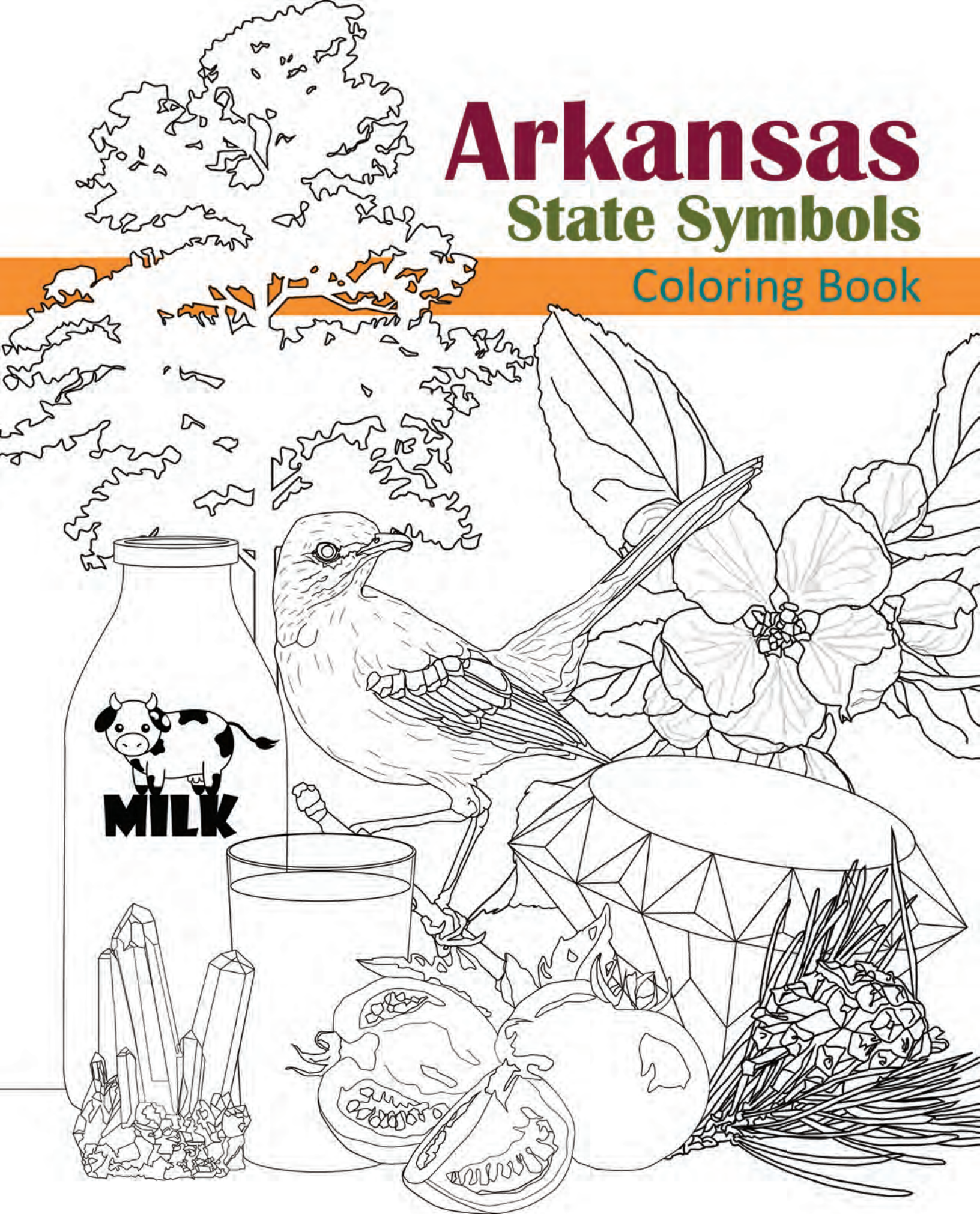


# Arkansas

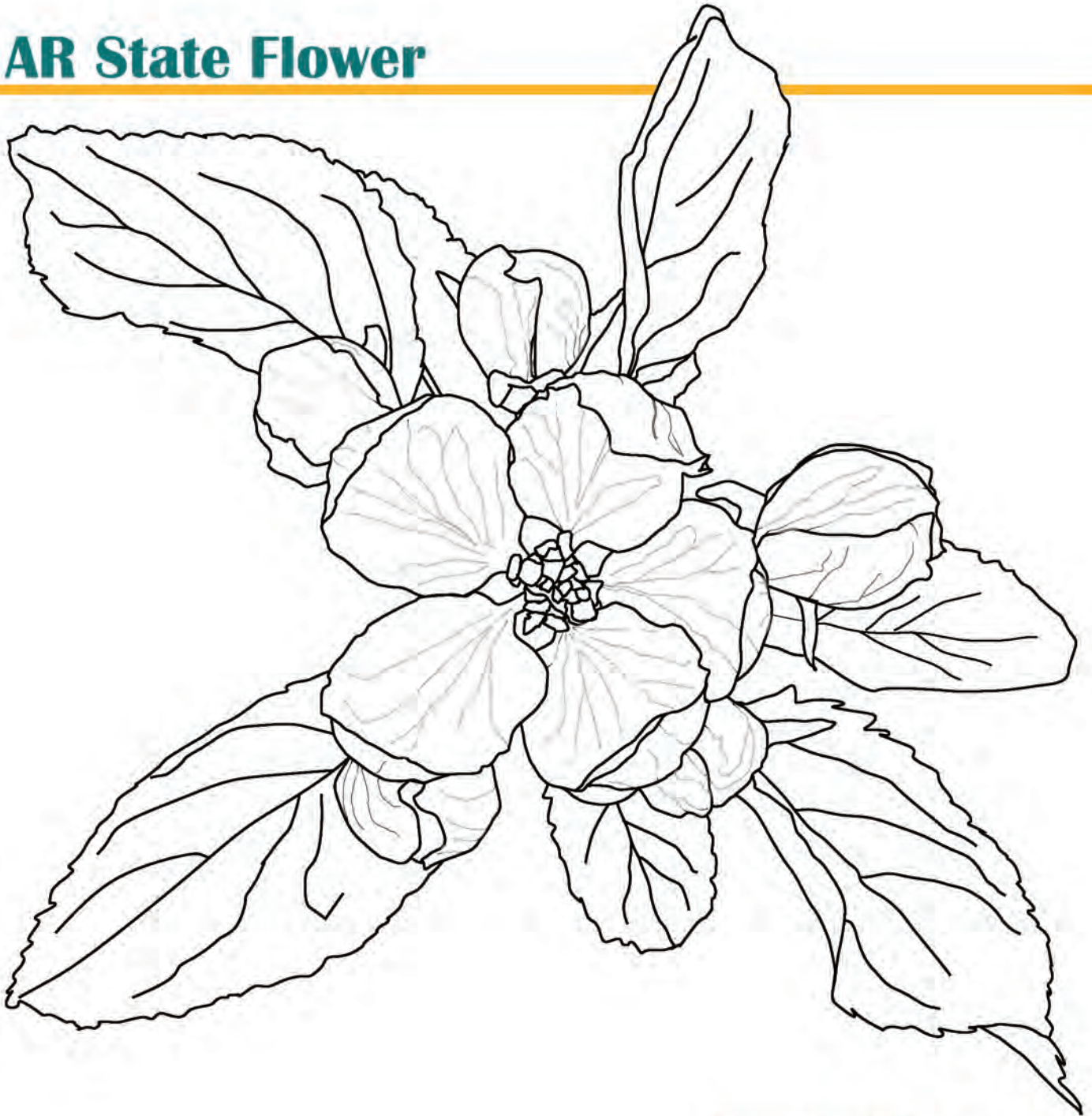
## State Symbols

Coloring Book



## AR State Flower

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### **Apple Blossom**

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The apple blossom was adopted as the Arkansas State Flower in 1901 by the General Assembly . Apple blossoms have pink and white petals and green leaves. At one time Arkansas was a major apple producing state. The town of Lincoln in Washington County hosts the annual Arkansas Apple Festival.

# AR State Tree

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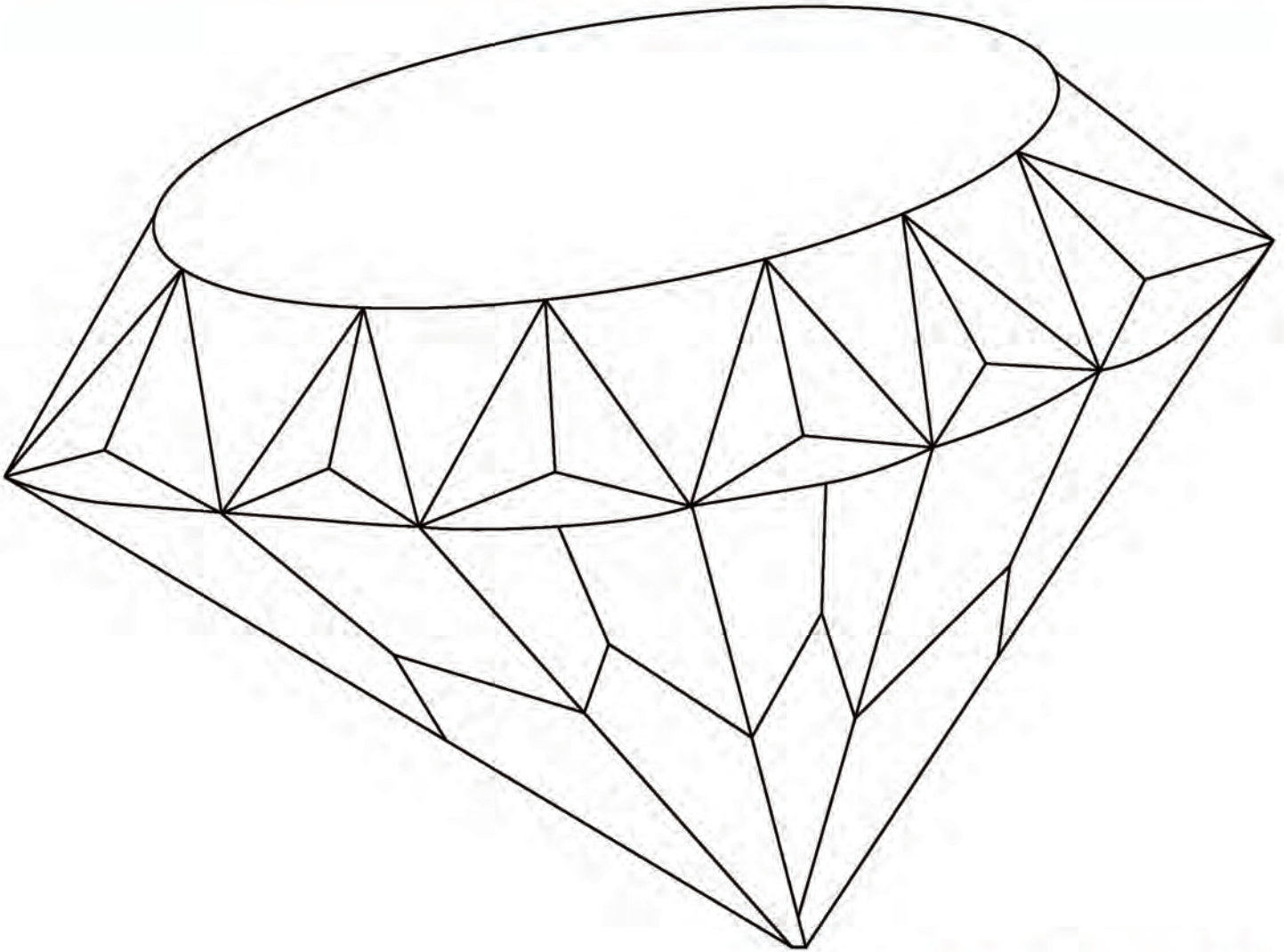
## Pine Tree

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The pine was adopted as the Arkansas State Tree by the General Assembly of 1939. The loblolly and shortleaf pine are varieties of southern yellow pine found in our state. Both varieties may grow to be 100 feet tall and can be found in our two National Forests, the Ouachita National Forest and the Ozark St. Francis National Forest.

## AR State Gem

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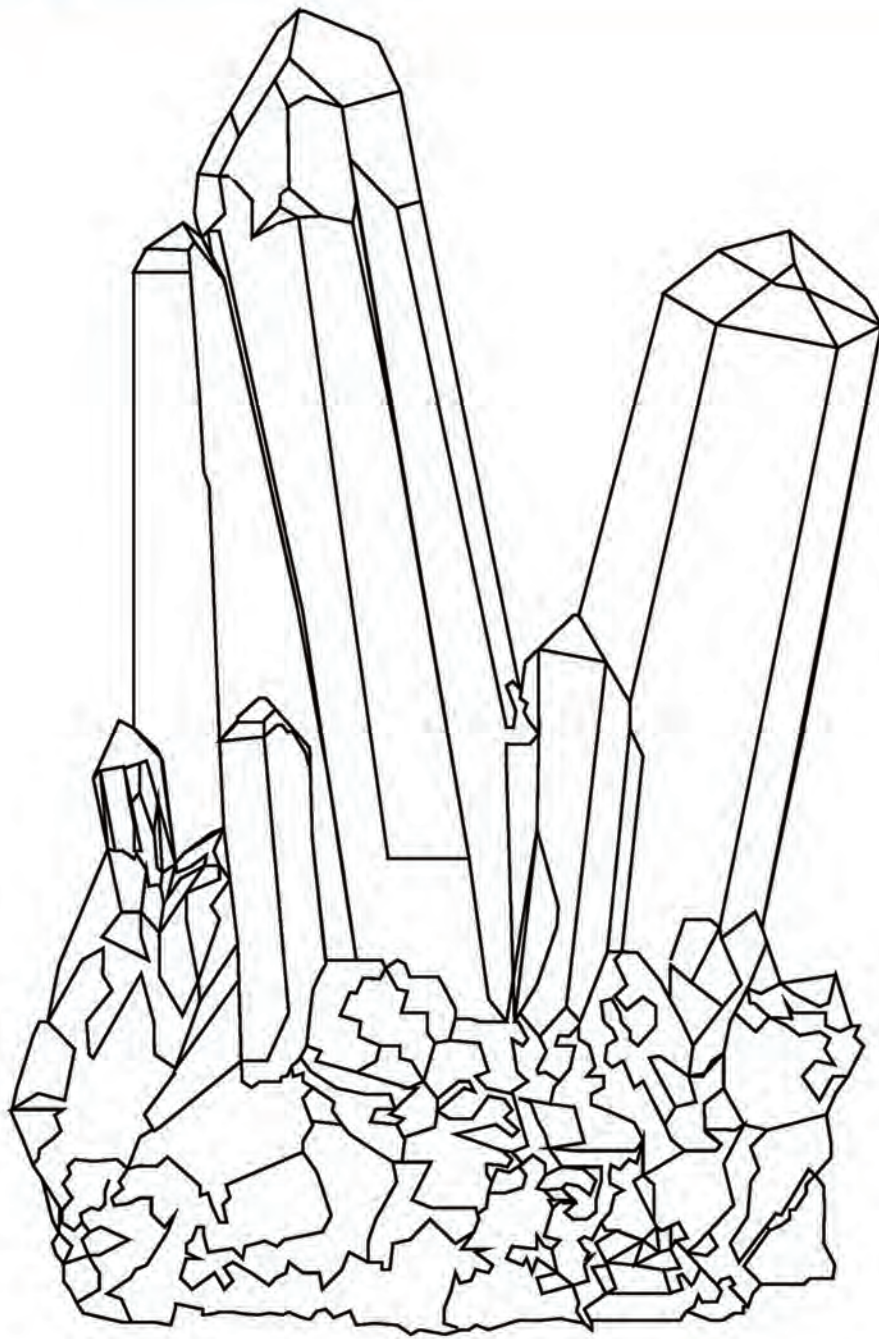
## Diamond

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The diamond was adopted as the Arkansas State Gem in 1967 by the General Assembly. Diamonds were discovered in Arkansas in 1906 near the mouth of Prairie Creek. Efforts were made to mine Arkansas diamonds commercially after World War II, the failed commercial mine became a privately run tourist attraction. It became Crater Diamonds State Park in 1972 when the state bought the property. Since then, the park has attracted over 2.3 million visitors more than 25,369 diamonds weighing a total of 4,954.41 carats have been reported.

# AR State Mineral

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## Quartz Crystal

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The quartz crystal was adopted as the Arkansas State mineral by the General Assembly of 1967. Quartz crystals are mined in the Ouachita Mountains and are used in computers and sold to visitors to our state.

# AR State Beverage

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**Milk**

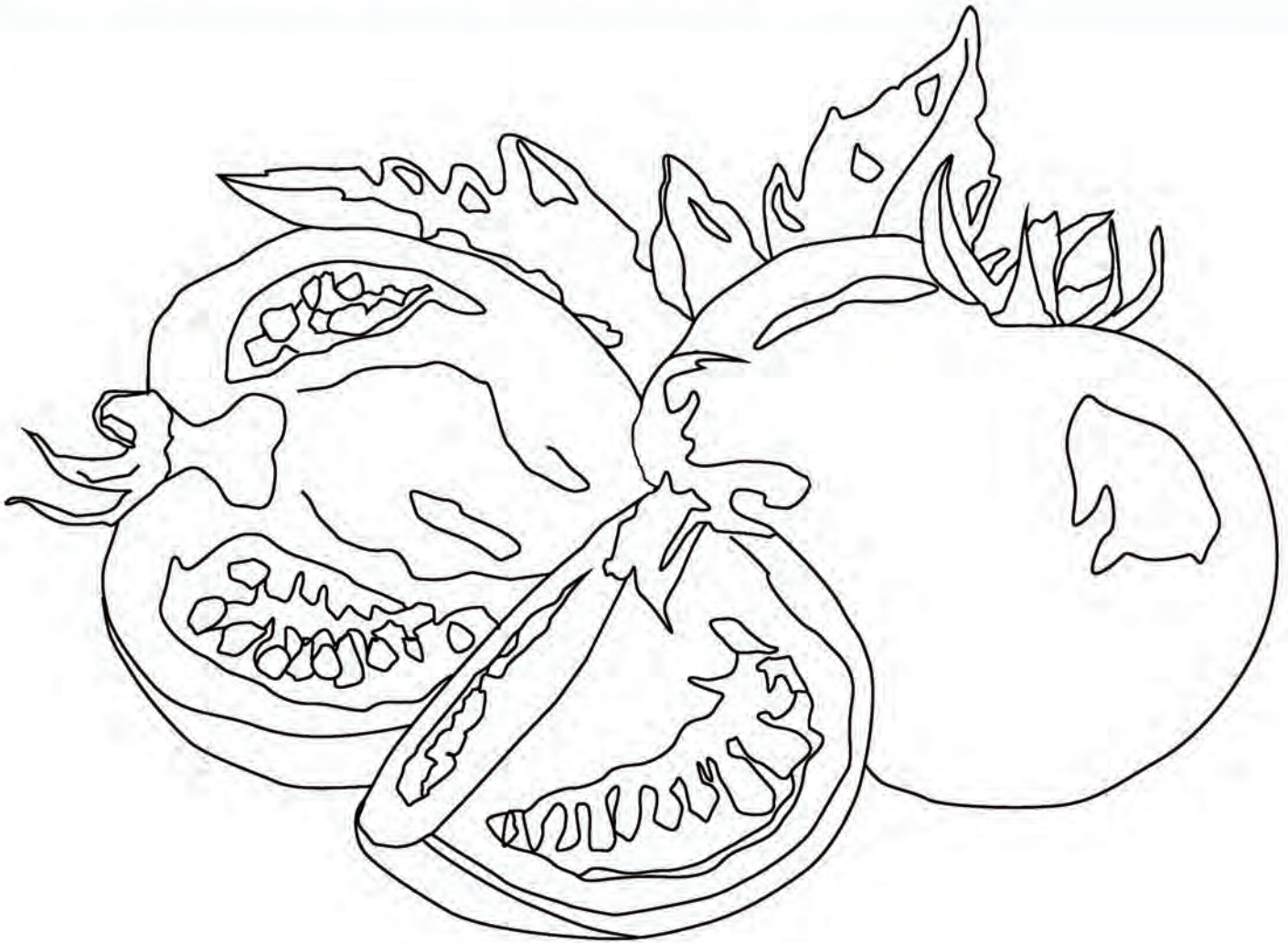
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Milk was adopted as the Arkansas State Beverage in 1985. Dairy Farming is an important part of Arkansas agriculture. Reasons for the designation included milk's healthfulness, the desirability of encouraging milk consumption, and the importance of the dairy sector in Arkansas.

In 1940, Arkansas's milk cows numbered about 439,000. Today there are 32,000 milk cows in Arkansas.

# AR State Fruit and Vegetable

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## South AR Vine Ripe Pink Tomato

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The South Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink Tomato was adopted as the Arkansas State Fruit and Vegetable by the General Assembly of 1987. The tomato is officially defined as the fruit but is commonly used as a vegetable. In the 1920s, southeast Arkansas market farmers favored breeds that ripened to a pink hue and could be picked and shipped at “breaker” (first ripening). Pink tomatoes have been crowded out of national markets by more durable competitors. For Arkansas consumers, the vine ripened pink remains available in farmers’ markets and other locally sourced produce stands during summer. The Pink Tomato Festival is held each year in Bradley County.

## AR State Bird

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## Mockingbird

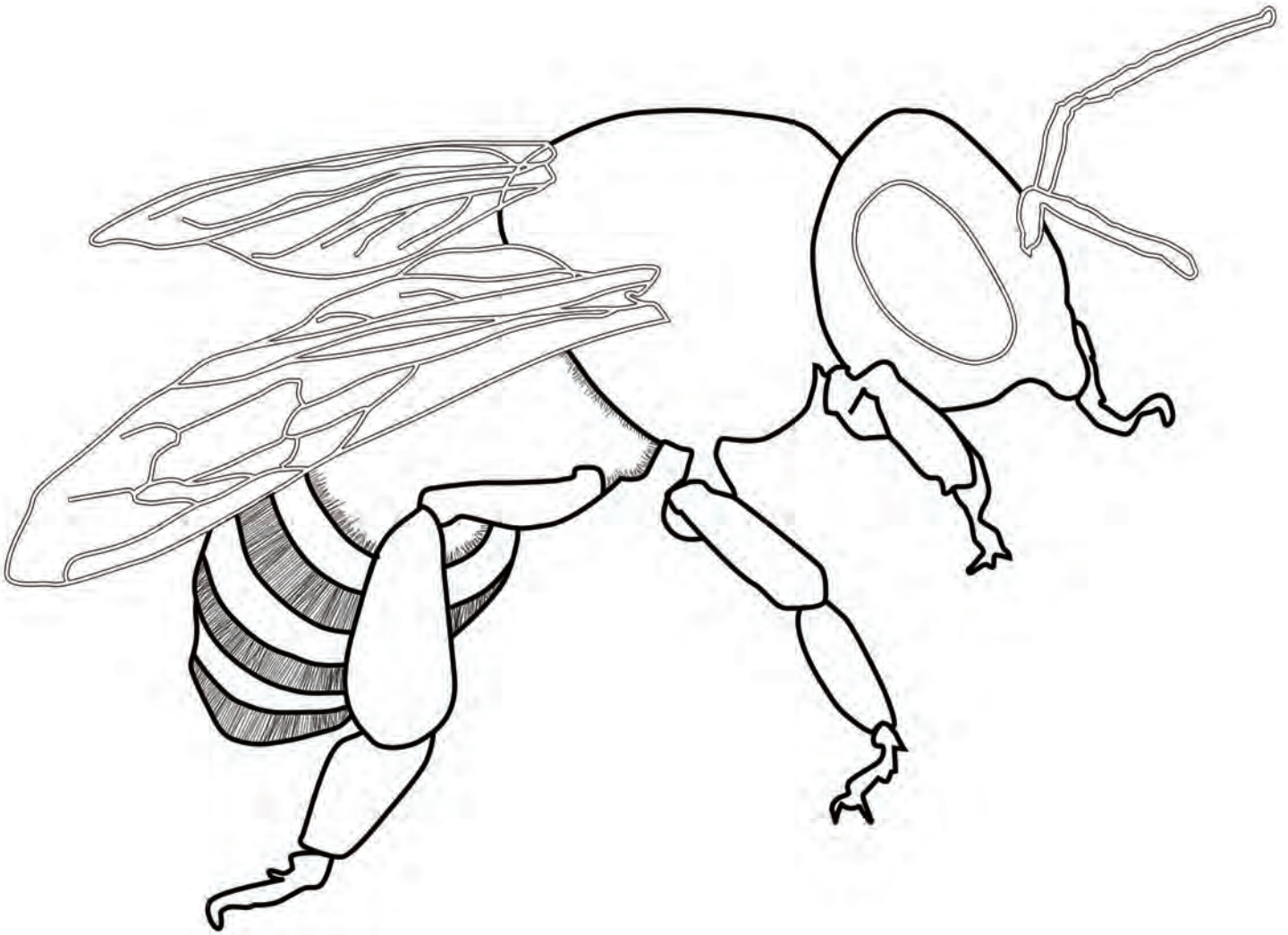
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The mockingbird was adopted as the Arkansas State Bird by the General Assembly of 1929. The mockingbird, one of the best-recognized birds in the South, does not migrate. The mockingbird can sing for hours on end; it can mimic other bird species as well as dogs, sirens and even squaky gates- thus it's scientific name, *mimus polyglottos*, or "mimic of many tongues."



# AR State Insect

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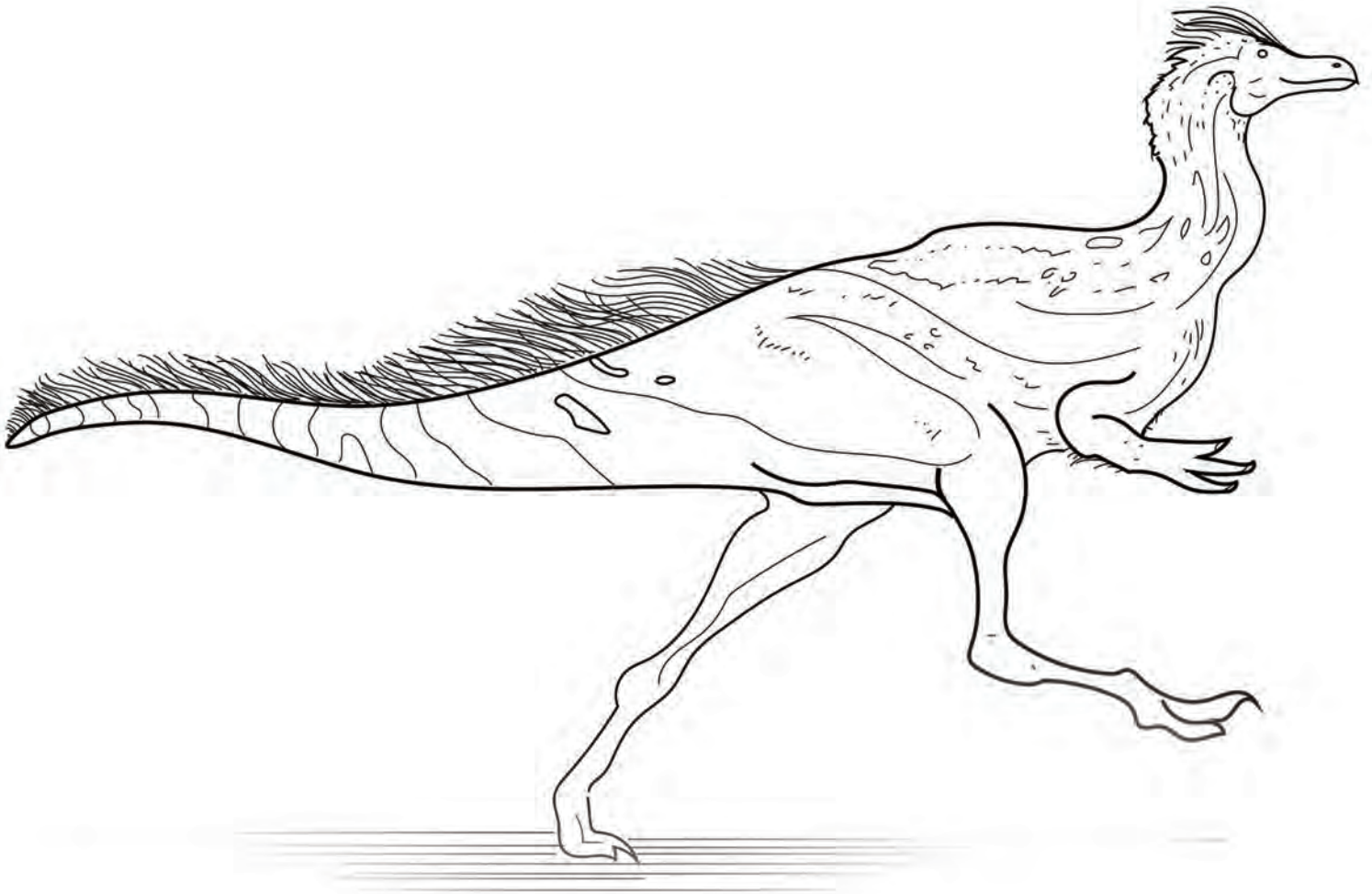
## Honey Bee

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The state insect is the honeybee. Honeybees are very helpful for farmers. They fly from flower to flower to collect pollen. The pollen helps plants make the fruit and seeds that farmers sell. Bees also make honey.

# AR State Dinosaur

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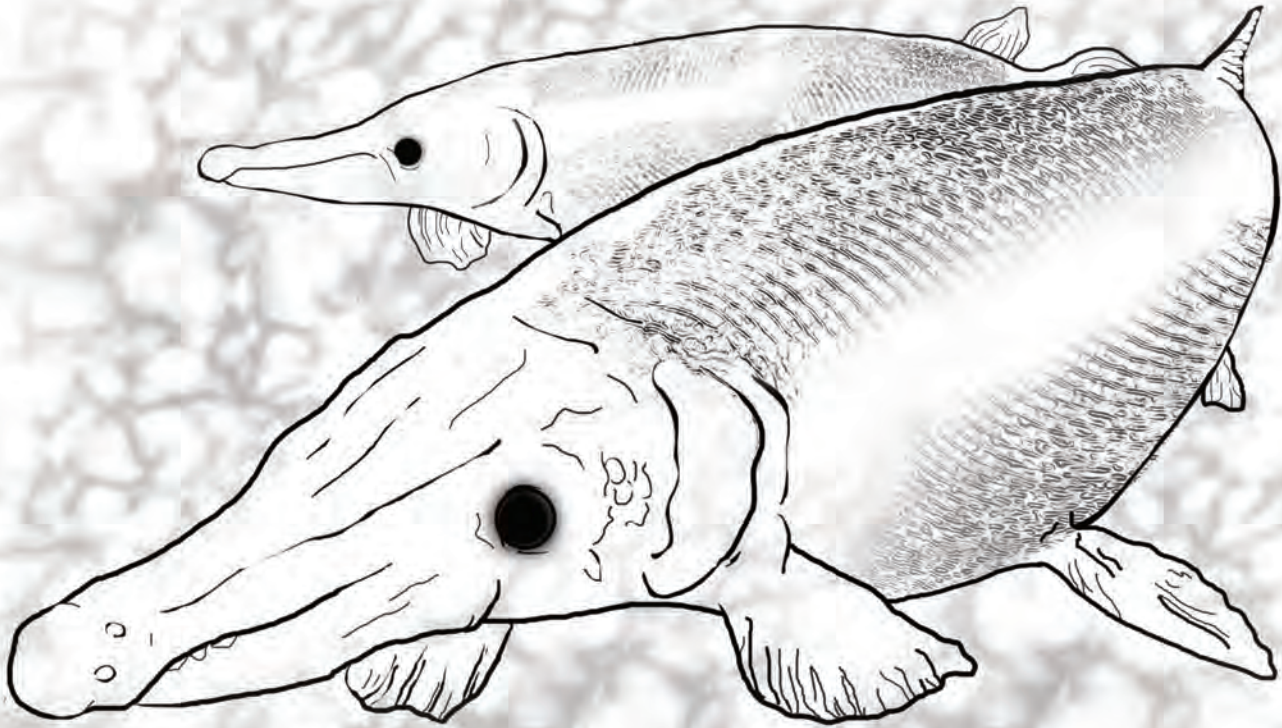
## Arkansaurus fridayi

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In August 1972, Joe B. Friday discovered the remains of the right hind foot of a dinosaur on his land in Lockesburg (Sevier County). The dinosaur was given the informal name "Arkansaurus fridayi" in 1973. They are the only dinosaur bones known to have been found in Arkansas. In 2017, the Arkansas Legislative Assembly designated *Arkansaurus fridayi* the official State Dinosaur.

## Alligator Gar

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In 2019, the General Assembly passed a bill naming the alligator gar as the official primitive fish of the state of Arkansas.

The alligator gar, *Atractosteus spatula*, is commonly recognized by Arkansans for its razor-sharp teeth and its stone-hard scales, which make it as tough as the Arkansas Razorback. Alligator gar in Arkansas have been known to exceed 8 feet in length and 240 lbs. in weight, by far the largest fish in Arkansas.

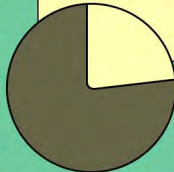
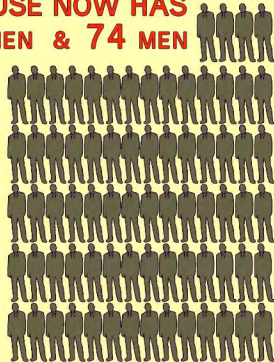
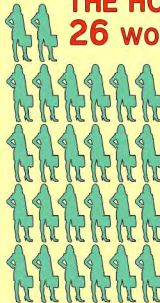
The alligator gar has for centuries been 1 of 2 Arkansas's most remarkable resident creatures, with its scales used by Native Americans for arrowheads and its striking features likely noted by Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto, who described eating a fish "the size of a hog, with rows of teeth above and below" in his exploration in the 1500s of what later became the State of Arkansas.

# MEET YOUR ARKANSAS

## 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



THE HOUSE NOW HAS  
26 WOMEN & 74 MEN



82 REPUBLICANS

18 DEMOCRATS

# Arkansas General Assembly

## Glossary

The words we use to describe public service may not be in every text book, but knowing the terms will help you better understand the legislative process and your community.

Understanding the legislative terms will help with understanding the branches of government, how a bill becomes a law, and even your role as an Arkansas resident.

Laws are passed every year and every Arkansan is affected by these laws. Understanding our laws will help with understanding your nation, your state, your community.

### Adjournment

Termination of a Session for that day, with the hour and day of the next meeting being set prior to adjournment.



### Adjournment Sine Die

The final adjournment of a legislative Session.

### Amend

To change the wording by inserting and/or removing text of a bill, constitution.



### Amendment

A change to legislation in committee or on the chamber floor that adds to, revises, or deletes language from the legislation.



### Biennium

A two -year term of legislative activity, usually used in association with the budget.



### Bill

An idea or plan for a possible new law.

### Branches of Government

The three distinct sections of government: executive, legislative, and judicial.



### Calendar

A list of days and months of a particular year. The General Assembly meets annually, starting on the second Monday in January, for 60 days in evennumbered years and 30 days in odd-numbered years.

### Capital

The city where the government of a state is located.



### Capitol

The building where a state's government meets.



### Caucus

An informal meeting of a group of members, most often called on the basis of party affiliation or regional representation.



### Citizen

A member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection.

# Arkansas General Assembly

## Glossary

### Committee

A group of legislators from the House of Representatives or the Senate organized for the purpose of considering deciding on the disposition of legislation.

### Constituent

A person who is represented by an elected official.

### Constitution

An official document that establishes the basic principles of government.

### Fiscal Year

A 12-month accounting period used in the State budget.

### Floor

The portion of the chamber reserved for members, staff, and other persons granted access during session.



### Gallery

Balconies of each chamber from which visitors may view the proceedings.

### General Assembly

The legislative branch of Arkansas government that makes state laws. The General Assembly consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

### Government

A representative group of people who make rules and laws, carry out rules and laws, and decide if rules and laws have been broken.

### Governor

A person who is that state's top elected official and is the head of the executive branch of government.



### Law

Rules people live by



### Legislator

An elected member of a legislative body who acts for or represents others.

### Lobbyist

A person who represents a particular interest or group of interests before the General Assembly.

### Population

Number of people living in a community.

### Rules

What people must or must not do.

### Session

The Time period the General Assembly meets to conduct business.

### Symbol

A sign or object that stands for something else.



### Tax

The money that you have to pay the government so that it can provide public services.



### Tradition

A custom or belief that happens over a long period of time.

### Veto

To not approve or reject a bill.

### Vote

An expression of your choice, usually by raising your hand or writing on a piece of paper.

# ARKANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## WORD SEARCH

C R K N X C A M E N D M E N T  
O A E C O N S T I T U E N T A  
M D C P O L E G I S L A T O R  
M J J O R A R K A N S A S B G  
I O W L N E F K H H P K K B O  
T U K A A S S E M B L Y X I V  
T R V W E X T E W I P C A L E  
E N C A I N Q I N R H O M L R  
E W E Z R D D O T T Y U E V N  
S P E A K E R Y U U A N N E M  
R E S O L U T I O N T T D T E  
N H K G L R L V U C R I I O N  
E L E C T B F O N N Z E O V T  
B C A U C U S T U H W S Z N E  
X Q R U L E S E N A T O R Q X

REPRESENTATIVE

CONSTITUENT

CONSTITUTION

RESOLUTION

ARKANSAS

GOVERNMENT

LEGISLATOR

ASSEMBLY

AMENDMENT

SPEAKER

CAUCUS

COUNTIES

RULES

SENATOR

ELECT

BILL

VOTE

VETO

COMMITTEE

ADJOURN

AMEND

LAW

# ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Arkansas General Assembly is made up of two houses, the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives has 100 members and the Senate has 35 members. All members of the General Assembly are elected by voters from their respective districts. The primary duties of the General Assembly are to make, amend, and pass laws.

## Senate

**35  
MEMBERS**

**The Lieutenant Governor  
serves as President of  
the Senate.**

**In his/her absence, the  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
takes their place.**



## House of Representatives

**100  
MEMBERS**

**The House Speaker  
is elected by the  
House members at the  
beginning of each  
regular session.**

The Arkansas General Assembly convenes on the second Monday in January of odd number years for regular session. Fiscal Sessions are held in even-numbered years. Fiscal Sessions begin the second Monday in February in years in which the preferential primary election is held in May or the second Wednesday in April in which the preferential primary is held in March. The Governor can issue a "call" for a special session any time in the interim. The Arkansas General Assembly meets at the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock.

## TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ONE MUST...

- Be at least 25 years old.
- Be a resident of Arkansas for at least 2 years.
- Be a resident of his/her district for at least 1 year.
- Serve a 4 year term.

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Be a resident of Arkansas for at least 2 years.
- Be a resident of his/her district for at least 1 year.
- Serve a 2 year term.



# WRITE YOUR OWN BILL

USE THE BILL TEMPLATE TO WRITE OUT AN IDEA YOU HAVE FOR A NEW LAW IN ARKANSAS.

1      **State of Arkansas** **Call Item 1**

2      \_\_\_\_\_ **General Assembly**

3      **First Extraordinary Session, 20\_\_\_\_\_** **HOUSE BILL 1**

4

5      **By: Representative \_\_\_\_\_**

6

7      **A BILL related to**

8

9      **Be in enacted by the General Assembly of Arkansas that**

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

<b>OFFICIAL USE BY CLERKS</b>	
<b>Passed by the House of Representatives</b>	<b>Passed by the Senate</b>
without amendments with amendment(s) substitute substitute w/amendment(s)	without amendments with amendment(s) substitute substitute w/amendment(s)
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Clerk of the House of Rep.</b>	<b>Clerk of the Senate</b>