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Ojibway Nature Center Colouring Book

Mariah Alexander

Bkejwanong (Walpole Island)

Ojibway Nature Centre

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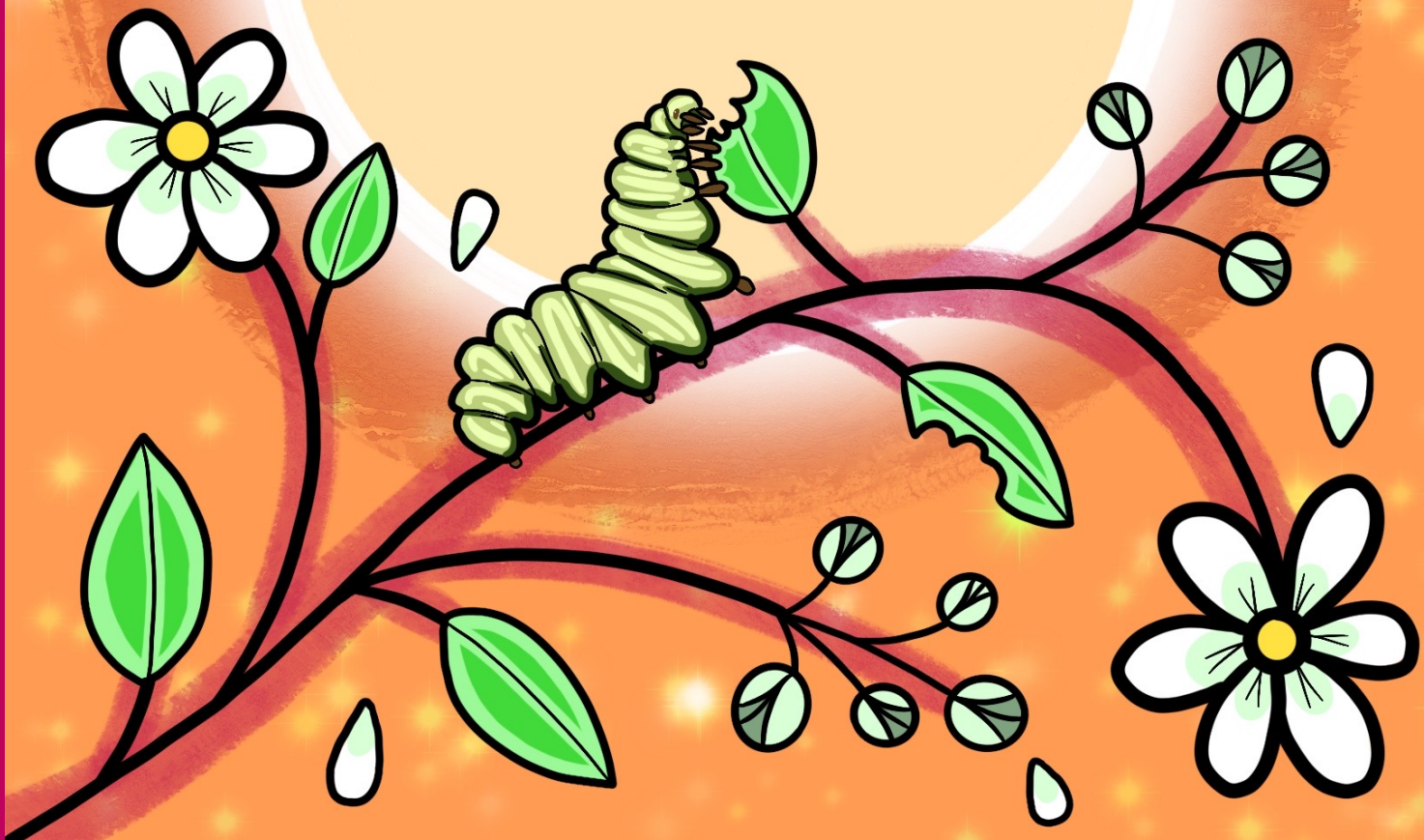
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Ojibway Nature Centre Colouring Book
Illustrated by Mariah Alexander



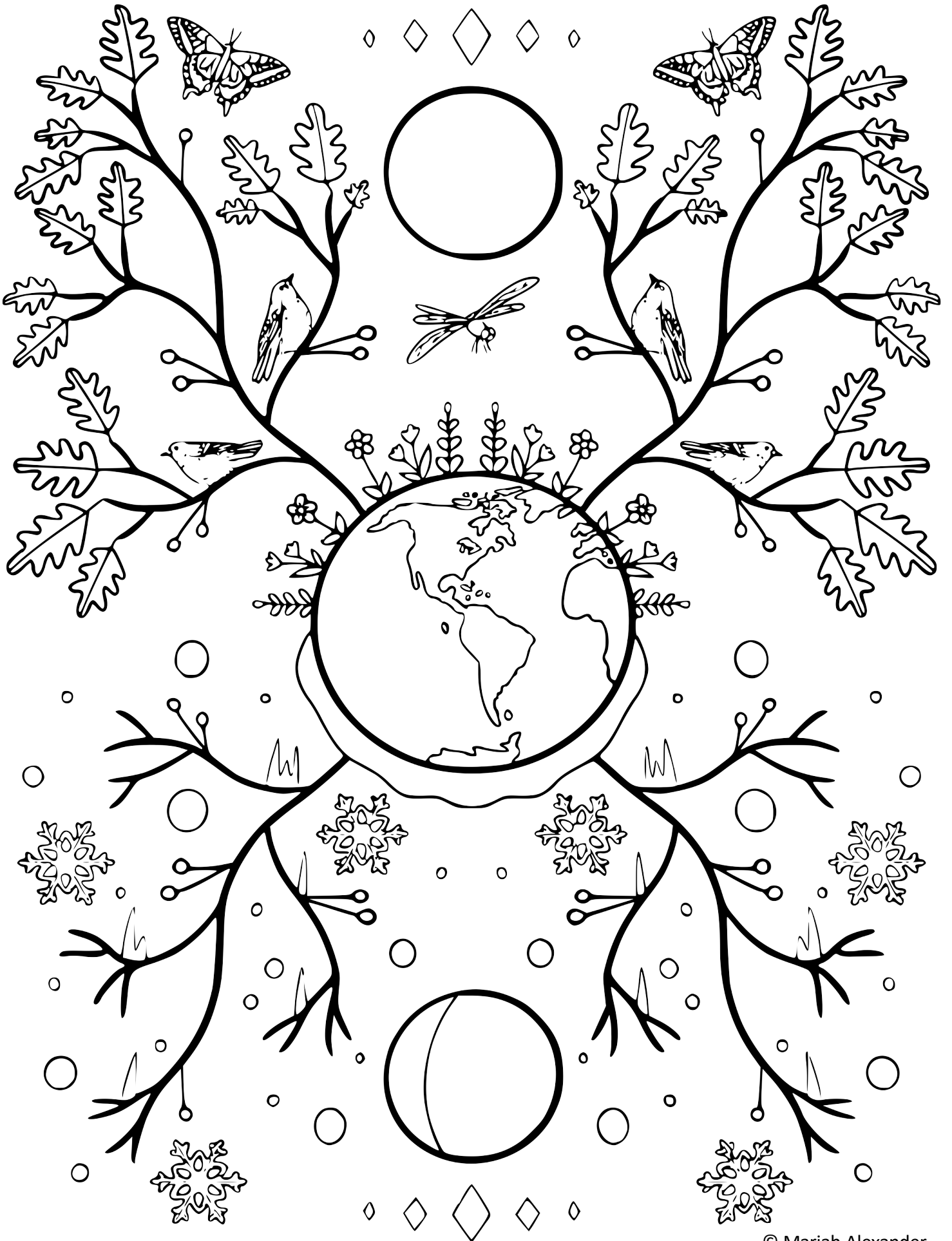
About this Colouring Book

This book is one piece of a larger project dedicated to weaving the Ojibway language, art and culture throughout the [Ojibway Prairie Complex](#) and the Ojibway Nature Centre.

Stories introduce each colouring page and include the Ojibway language (Anishinaabemowin). This is the language that was spoken here by the Original People of this place. The Ojibwe words were chosen from the [Ojibwe People's Dictionary](#) and the book [Bkejwanong Dbaajmowinan/Stories of Where the Waters Divide](#) by Monty McGahey II.

The colouring pages in this book are inspired from the home of the artist Mariah Alexander, [Bkejwanong \(Walpole Island\)](#) and Ojibway Prairie Complex (Windsor, Ontario), where water (pond, stream), tree and tallgrass prairie habitats are alive and home to all of our Relations.

Embedded hyperlinks are provided to take you to other resources on the internet including learning how to pronounce many of the Ojibway words.



The Four Directions

The Four Directions represent the North, South, East and West. They are often represented with a Medicine Wheel and can symbolize the interconnectedness of many things, including the seasons, life stages, medicines ([mashkikiwan](#)), and endless stories ([dibaajimowinan](#)).



Turtle Island

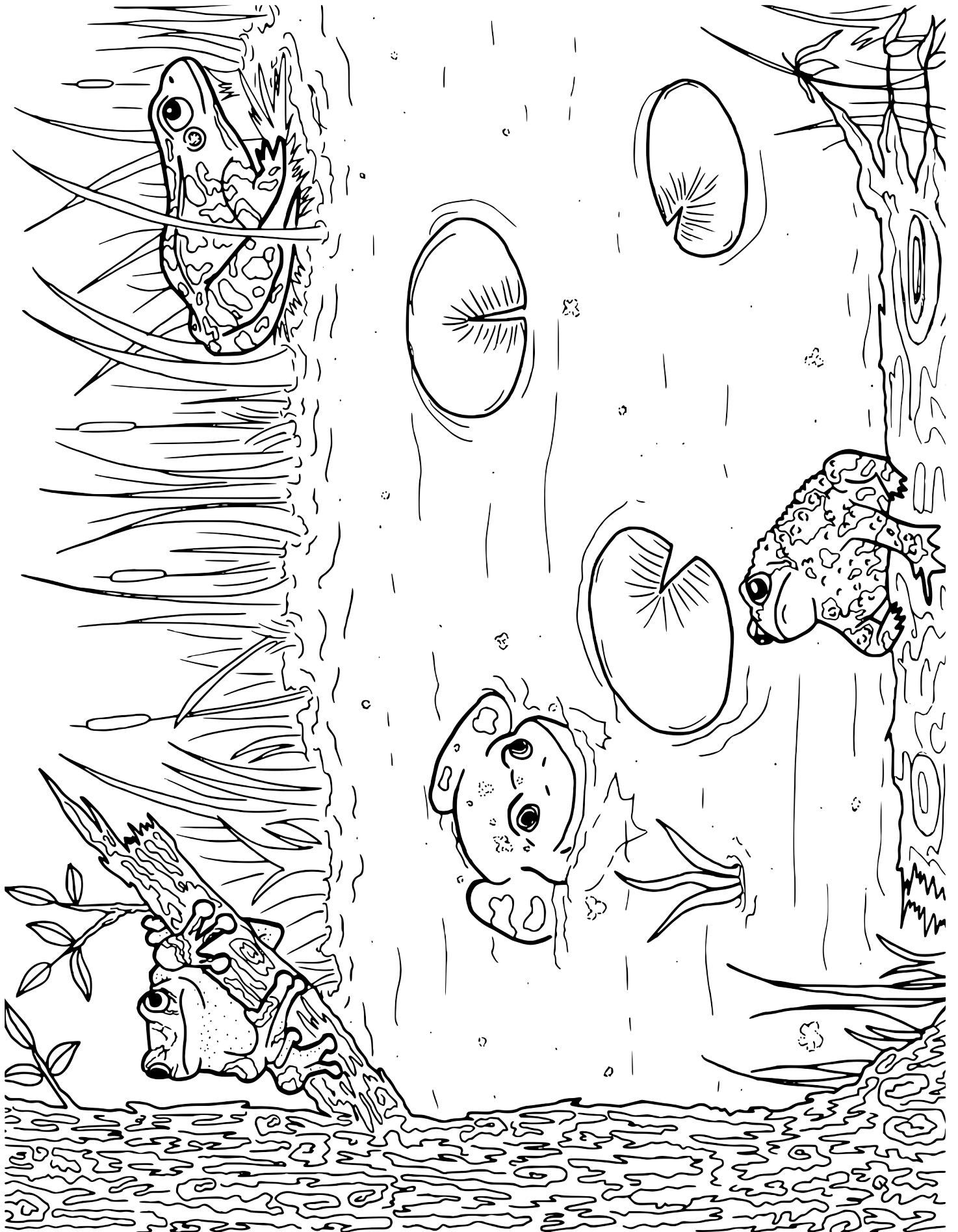
Turtle Island is a name that the Ojibwe people (Anishinaabeg) give to North America. Looking closely at a map you will see that North and South America looks like the top view of a turtle (mishiikenh).

Bkejwanong (Walpole Island, “Where the waters divide”) is home to many different turtles like the endangered Blanding’s turtle. The pond (waanzhibiiyaa) in Ojibway Park is a great place to watch the turtles stay warm in the sun (Giizis).



Wetland Relations

The marsh (waabshkokiing) is home for many of our relations who share the earth (aki) with us humans. They include fishes (giigoonyag), dragonflies (oboodashkwaanishiinyag), mussels, ducks (zhiishiibag), plants (egtigaadegin) and trees (mitigoog) and many more. The wetland itself acts as the filter for the earth's water (nibi) and provides plenty of food ([mijjim](#)) and medicine (mshkiki). You can visit this habitat in Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park.



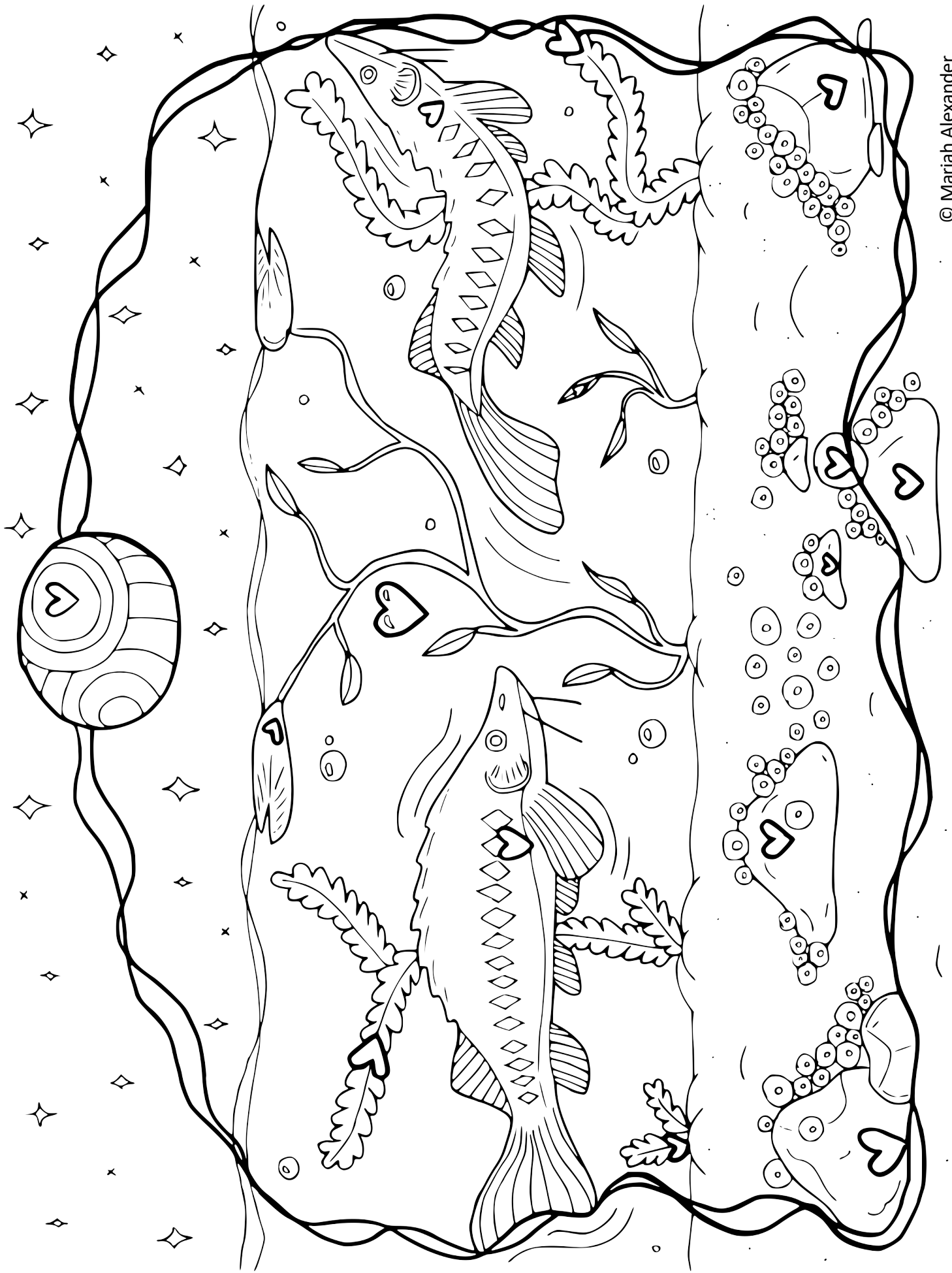
Little Frogs (Magakiins)

Frogs love to sing (nagamowin)! They especially like to sing in the spring when vernal pools create a place for them to come together. Listen when you are walking to the Ojibway Park pond (waanzhibiiyaa) and see if you can hear the song (nagamon).



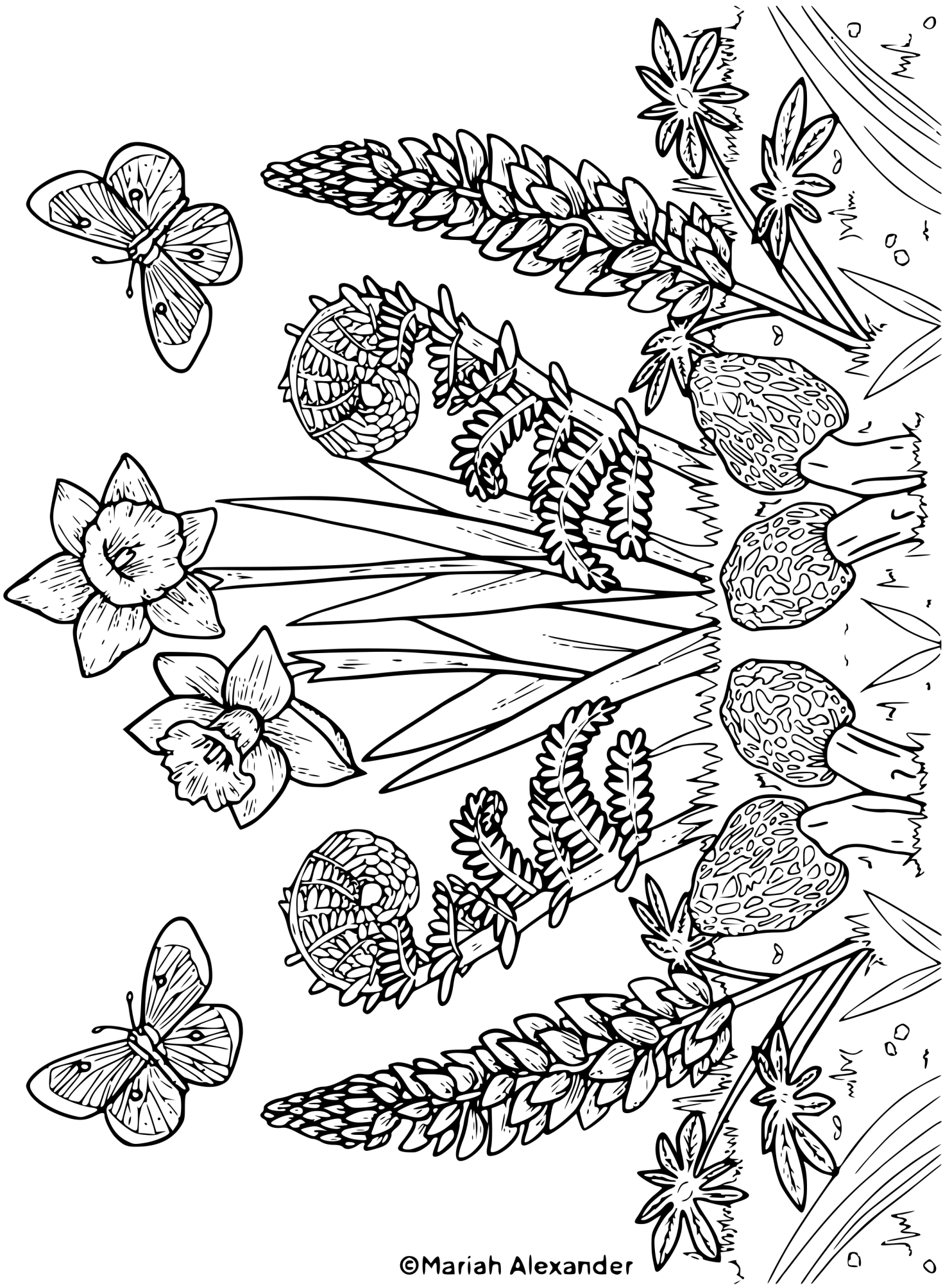
Busy Beaver (Amik)

Beavers are tough to find at Ojibway Prairie Complex, but they are here. Beavers are busy creating the perfect homes in the water for other animals (awesiinyag), fish (giigoonh), turtles (mishiikenyag), frogs (magakiins), birds (bineshiinyag) and ducks (zhiishiibag).



A Love for Sturgeon (Namekaa)

Did you know that sturgeon can be found in the Detroit River/ Lake St. Clair (Waawyejiwang). Some fish (giigoonh) can be 100 years old! These fish like to be near the bottom of the water and use their mouths like a vacuum to eat.



Prairie Life

The prairie (mashkode) is the place to find the flowers (waabigwaniin), bugs (mnidooshag) and snakes (gnebigooog)! There is a special sound created when the wind moves through the plants (egtigaadegin). Bkejwanong and the Ojibway Prairie Complex use fire (ishkode) in the Spring to maintain the prairies (mashkode). You will see this at the Spring Garden Natural Area. You may also see flowers such as daffodils that are not native here, but have been brought in the natural area by squirrels ([misajidamoo](#)) foraging in adjacent residential areas.



© Mariah Alexander

Cottontail Rabbit (Mizhiwe)

Bunnies are very happy to eat the flowers (waabigwaniin) offered by the prairie (mashkode). She will sleep under the grasses (mashkosiwan) and play in the sun (giizis).



Birds (Bineshiinyag)

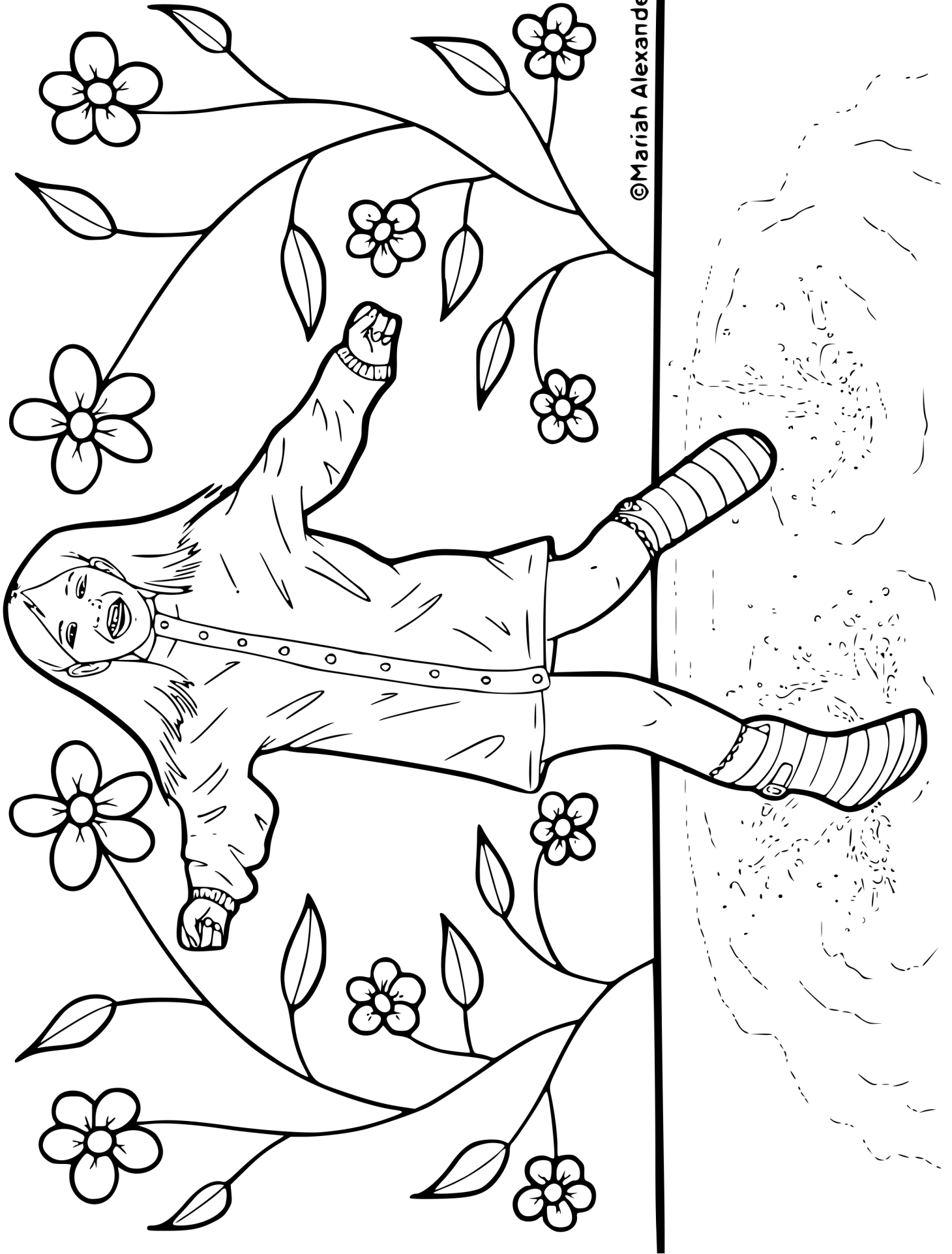
You can spot birds are everywhere at Ojibway Prairie Complex. This mother robin (pichi) is feeding her birds worms in their tree (mitig). This bird family is in a black ash tree (wiisgaak), an important tree for making baskets. Black Oak Heritage Park is home to both robins and black ash trees.



The Tufted Titmouse

Many people come to the Ojibway Nature Centre to watch the birds at the feeders through the windows. Here is the Tufted Titmouse – one of our favourites!

Can you see one?



©Mariah Alexander

The Artist

We are grateful for the gifts of Indigenous Artist Mariah Alexander - Baashkooniingad Kwe which in the Ojibway language (Anishinaabemowin) translates to “buds on the tree beginning to open woman”. Mariah is from Bkejwanong where she is inspired to create works of art infused with a respect and passion for all her relations, environment and Ojibway stories.



[Ojibway Nature Centre & Healthy Headwaters Lab](#)

The Ojibway Nature Centre and the Healthy Headwaters Ode'imín (Indigenous Knowledge Circle) are working in partnership with the intention of including local Indigenous Knowledge in a good way.

The Artist was supported through the 2020-2021 Seek to Know *Nanadagikenim* grant from the Centre of Teaching and Learning at the University of Windsor.



THE HEALTHY HEADWATERS LAB

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