



Language and Culture Archives

The Beaver alphabet book

Marshall & Jean Holdstock, authors

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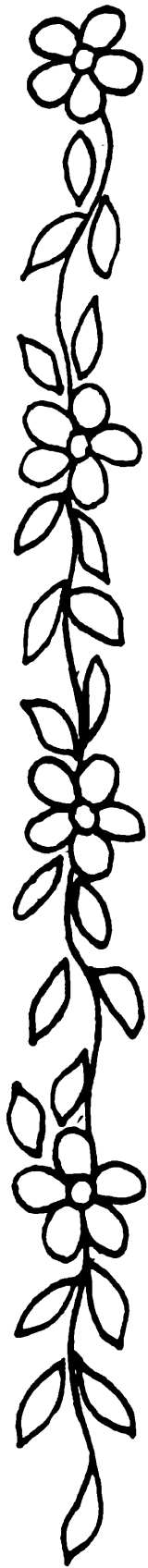
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The Beaver Alphabet Book



*The
Beaver
Alphabet
Book*

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank:

School District #60

and

The Native Advisory Committee
for their vision and encouragement
for the production of this book;

The Friendship Society of Fort St. John
for the funding that made
the preparation and production possible;

S.D. #60 Resource Centre who undertook the printing;

and

the Beaver People of the Doig Indian Reserve
who gave input and suggestions
and without whom this book would not have been possible.

Marshall and Jean Holdstock
Summer Institute of Linguistics

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PREFACE

This "Beaver Alphabet Book" was produced to be used in the linguistic component of the Intermediate Native Studies Program to be held at the Upper Pine Elementary School. It was prepared, in consultation with the Beaver Literacy Committee of the Doig reserve, to be used in the pilot project introducing spoken Beaver in the classroom.

It was designed to introduce the Beaver alphabet by using words which are relevant to their Native culture to represent the letters and sounds being taught. These words were illustrated and put in a format that could be colored by the children.

It should be noted that the glottal stop ʔ, the rare vowels ʌʌ, ʌɛ and the prelabialized vowels are not illustrated but can be found in the Guide to Pronunciation of the Beaver alphabet on pages 96-98.

A video presentation of "The Beaver Alphabet Book" has also been produced.

It is hoped that as the children use this book and are exposed to the letters of the alphabet and words key to their culture, they will be encouraged to use their language.

INTRODUCTION

COURSE OVERVIEW

The "*Intermediate Native Studies / Conversational Beaver*" curriculum project has been developed in three parts. Each part will be in itself a separate entity though all portions are of the same curriculum, designed for the benefit of Native students through the furthering of Native Studies programs.

The "*Intermediate Native Studies*" portion of the program is designed to develop a deeper, more relevant cultural awareness based on local terms, relationships, history and geography. The intent of this part of the curriculum is to establish a positive sense of identity among the Native students as they learn of their Beaver heritage and culture, and as a result develop positive attitudes in relationships with people of other cultures.

The "*Introduction to Conversational Beaver*" portion of the curriculum is designed to help the students to appreciate, start to speak and to encourage them to use the Beaver language. A video presentation of the Beaver Conversation Book is also available with this section of the curriculum.

The "*Beaver Alphabet Book*" was designed to appeal to the intrinsic characteristic of the Native student through visual art, portraying illustrations of cultural relevance which can then be coloured. A presentation of a Native speaker teaching the sounds of the Beaver alphabet, using the words illustrated in this book will also be available in video format.

The Intermediate Native Studies / Conversational Beaver curriculum can be obtained as a unit or each section separately from either:

School District #60 Resource Center, 9803 - 102nd Street, Fort St. John, B.C. (604) 787-7885

Native Education Department, Upper Pine Elementary School, 9803 - 102nd Street,
Fort St. John, B.C. (604) 827-3691

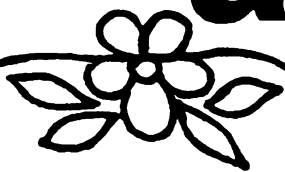
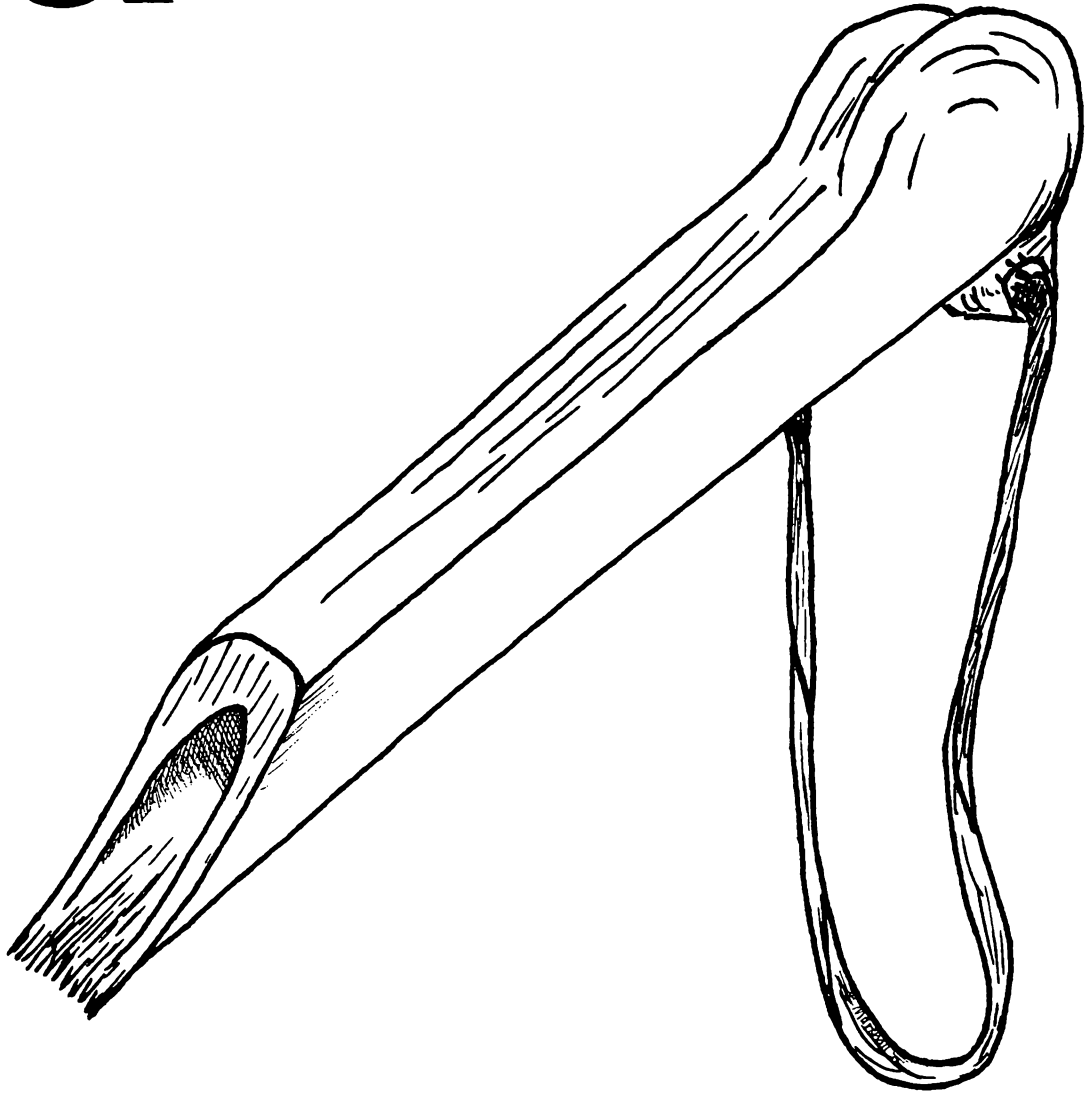
Holdstock-Smith & Holdstock, P.O. Box 39, Charlie Lake, B.C. V0C 1H0
(604) 827-3258 (604) 785-1391

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	saa	sun	5
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	meshk'ae	gull	7
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a



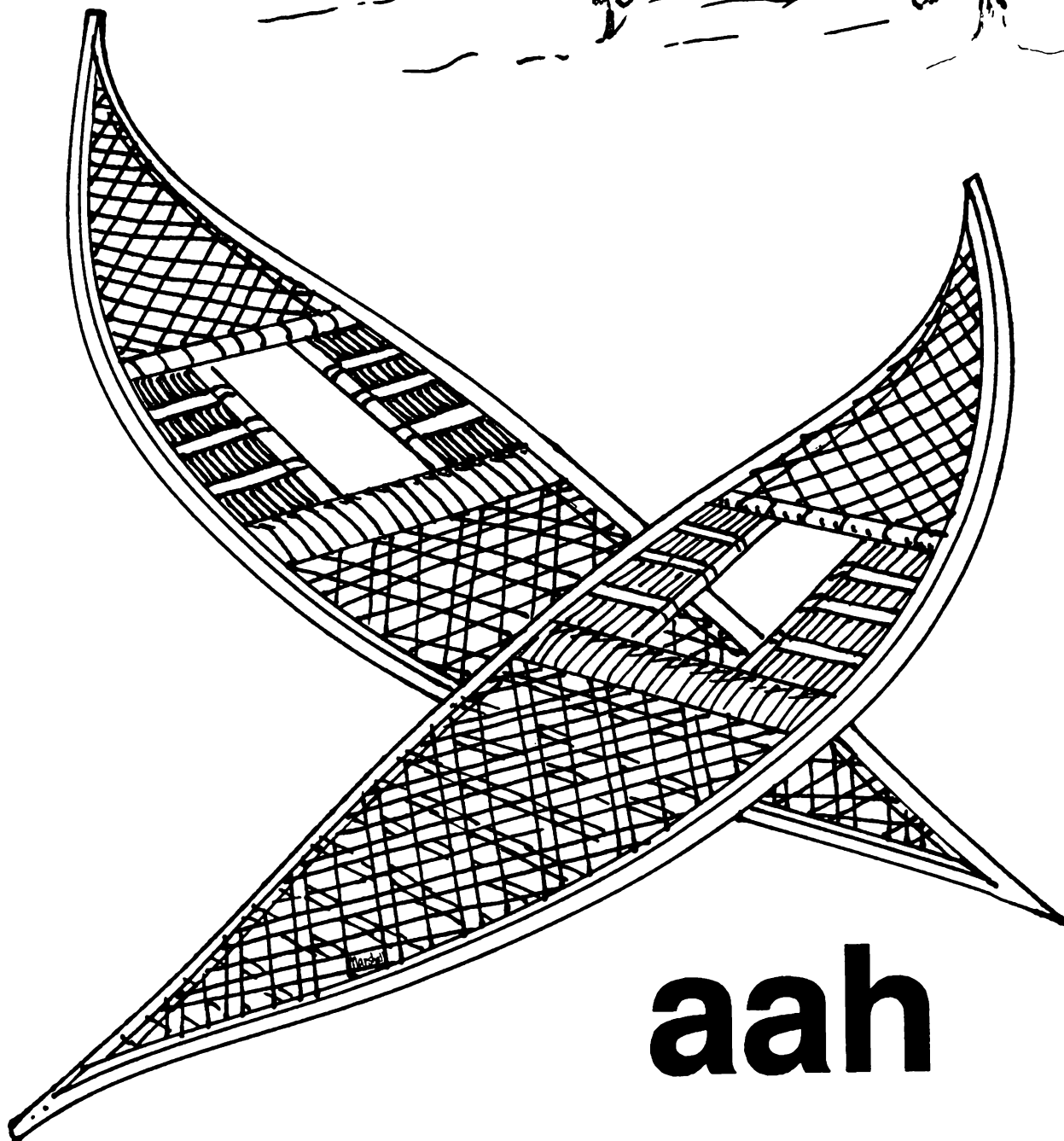
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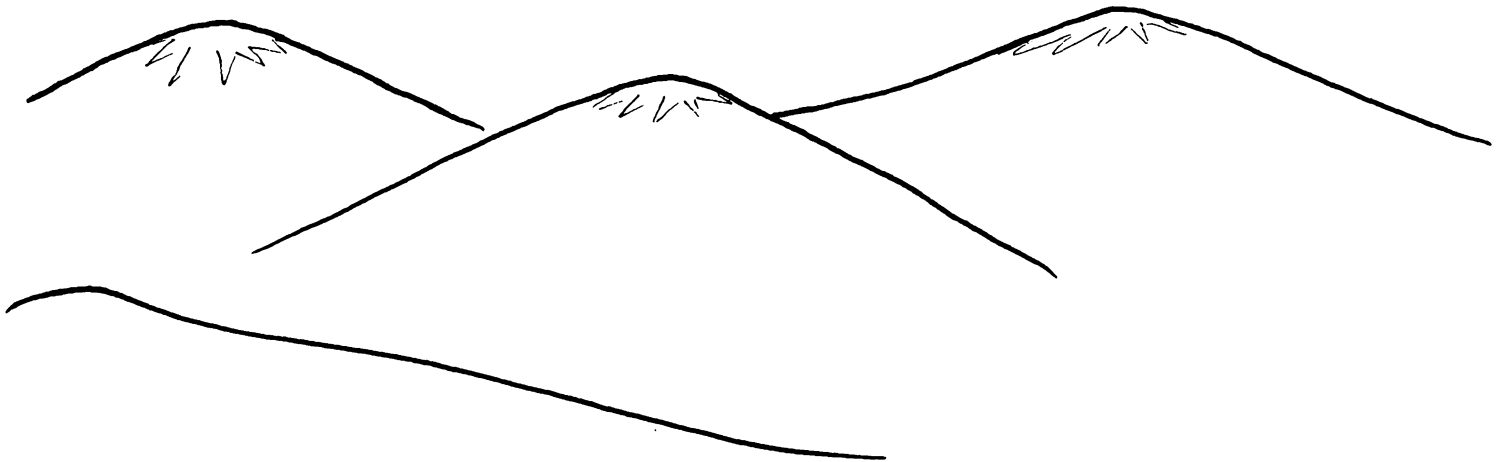
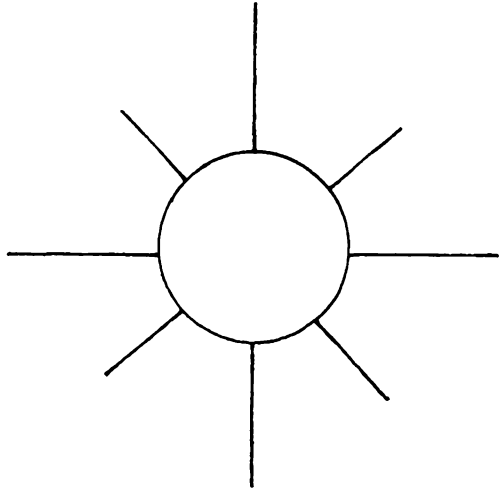
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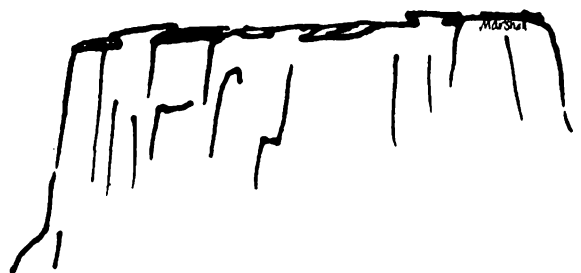


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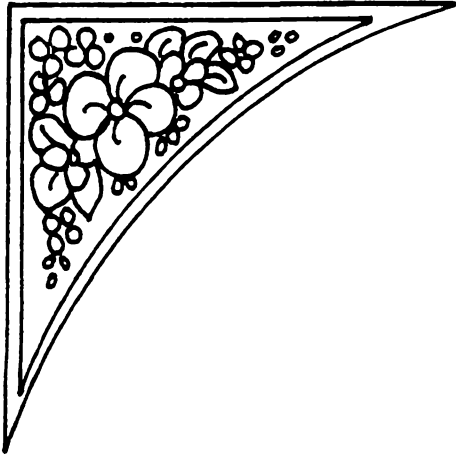
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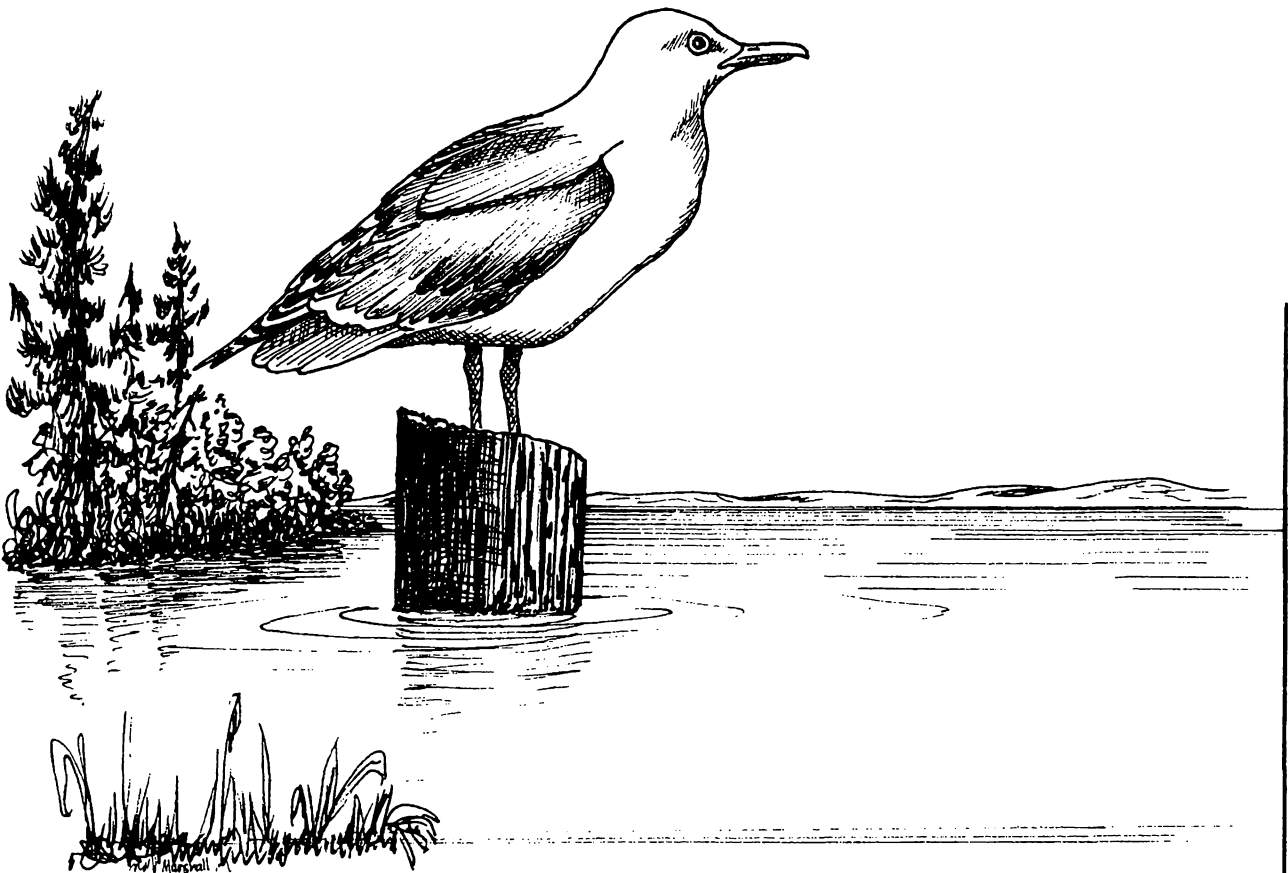
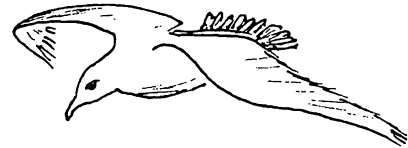
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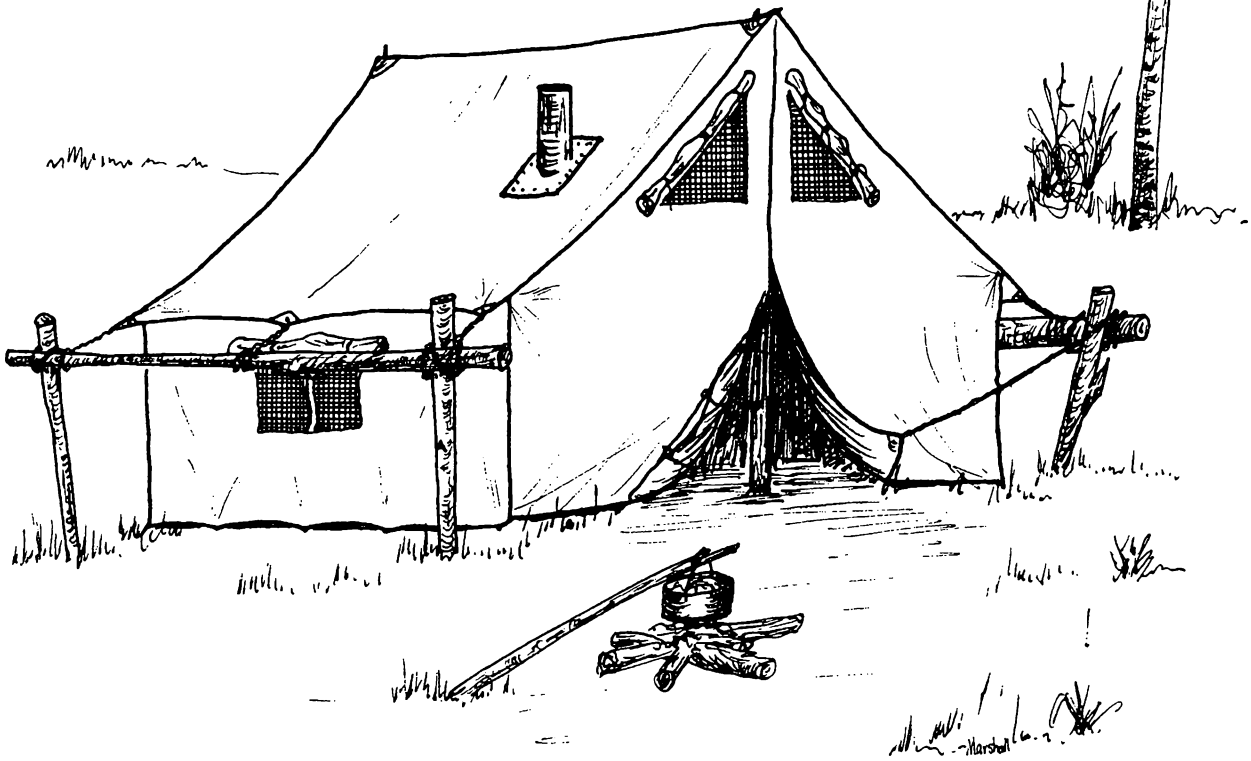


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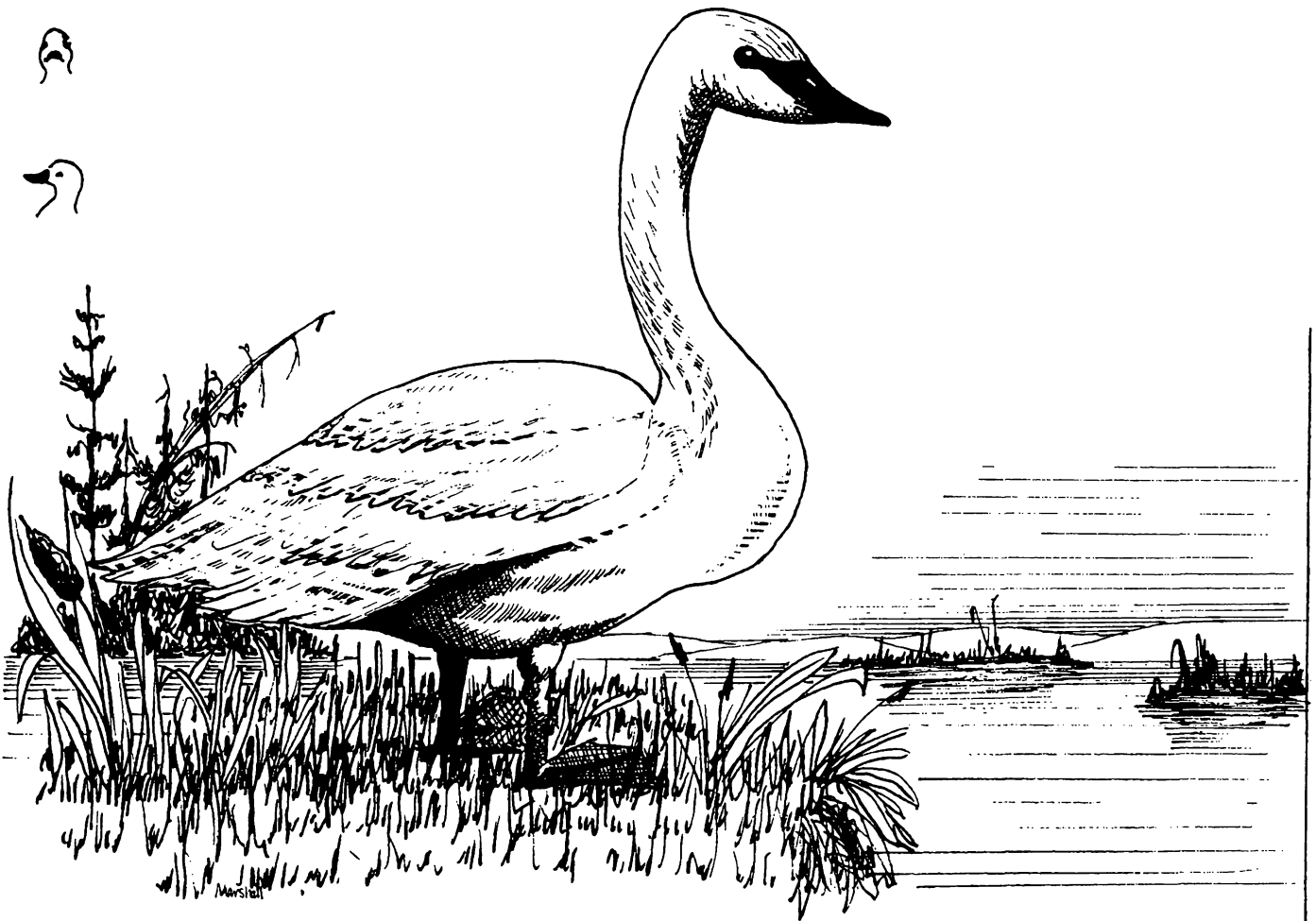
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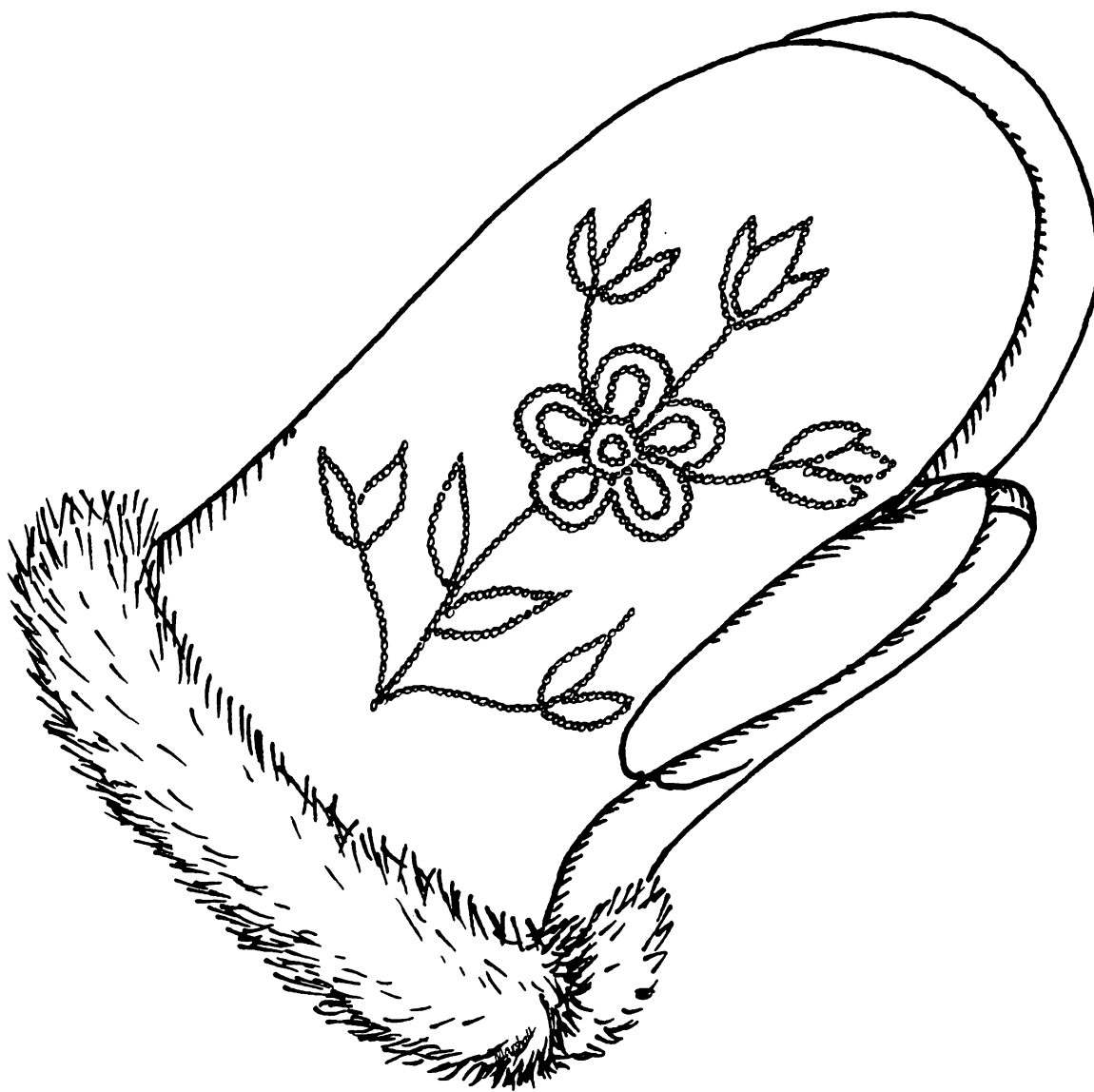


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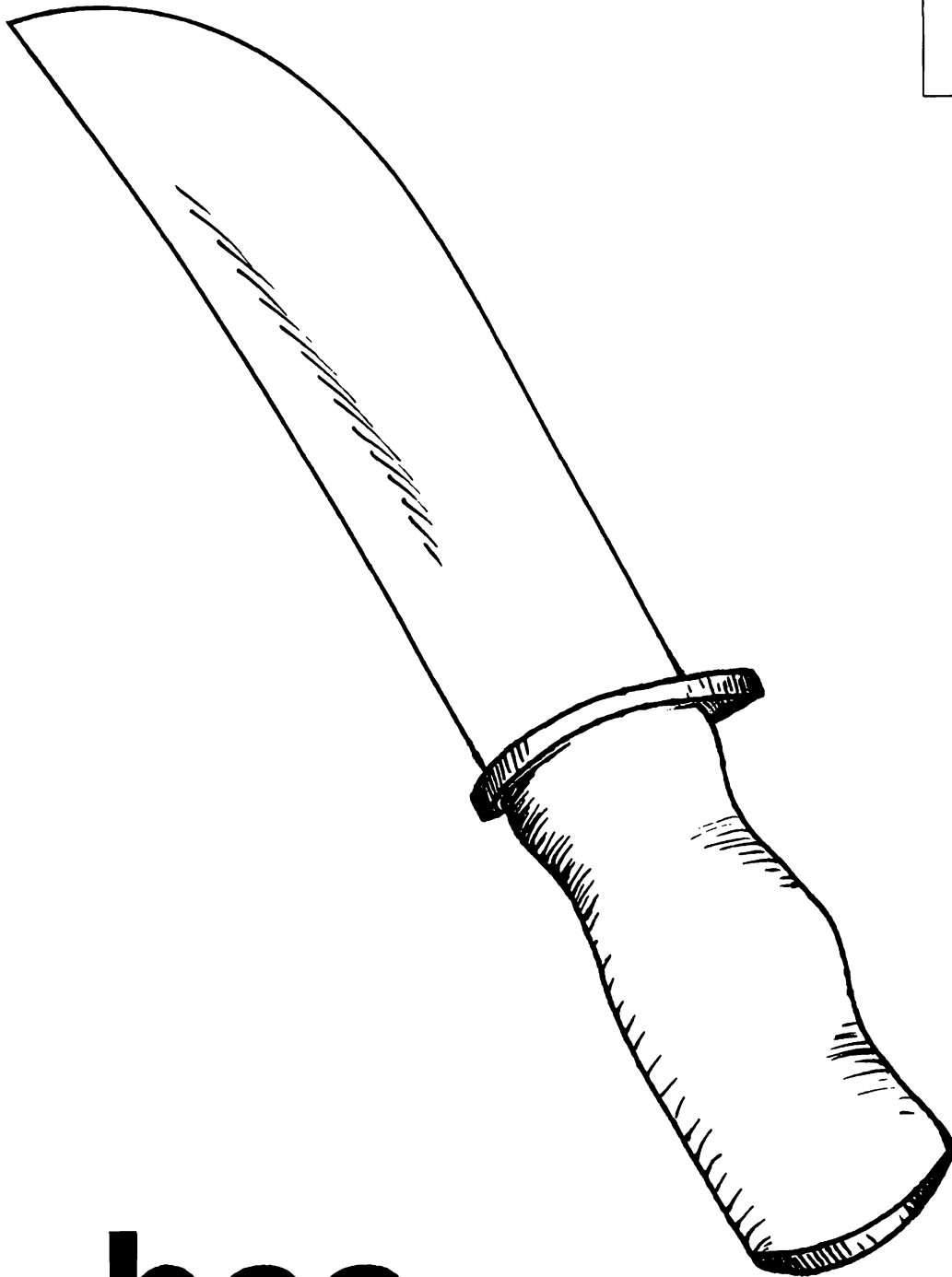
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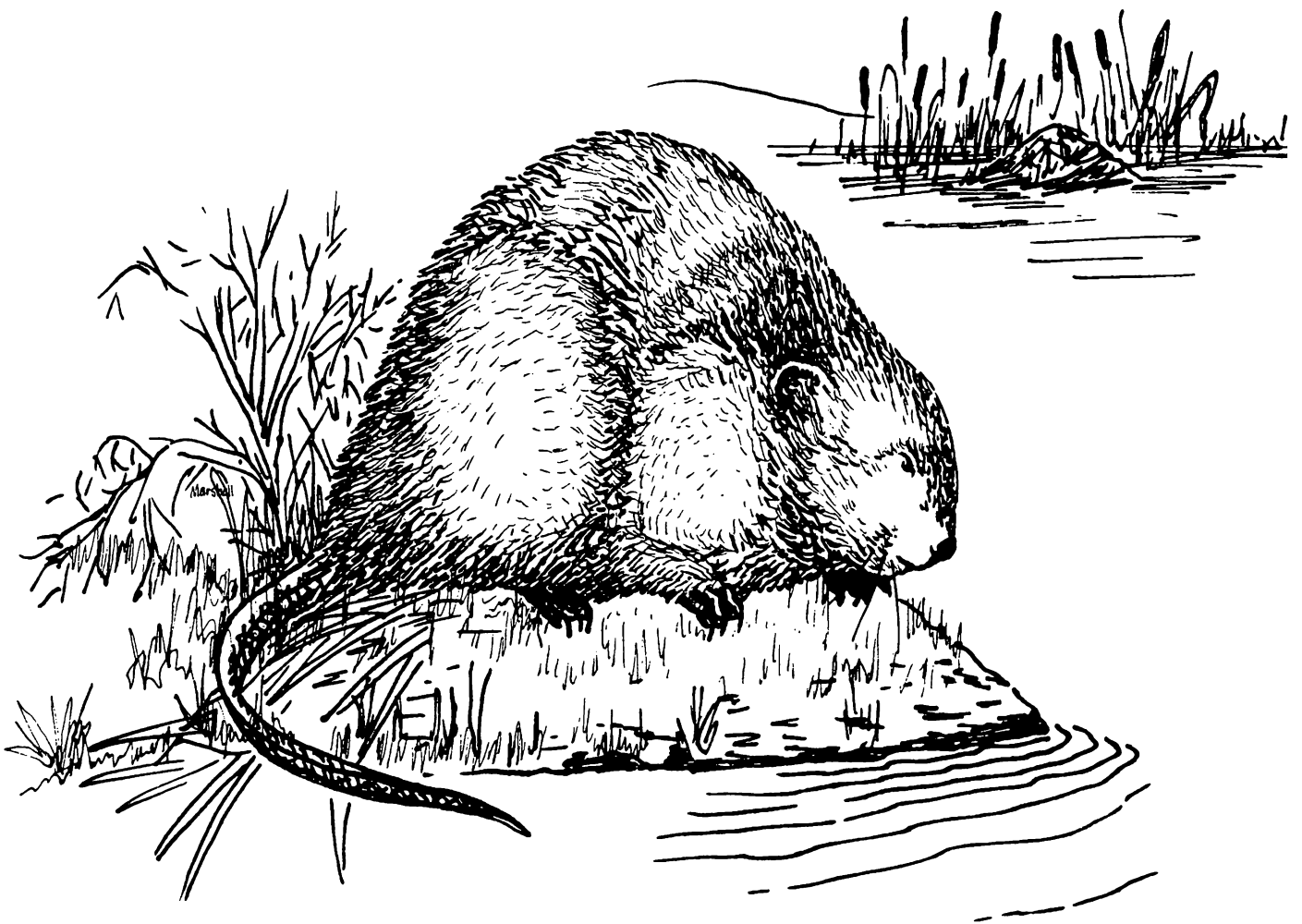
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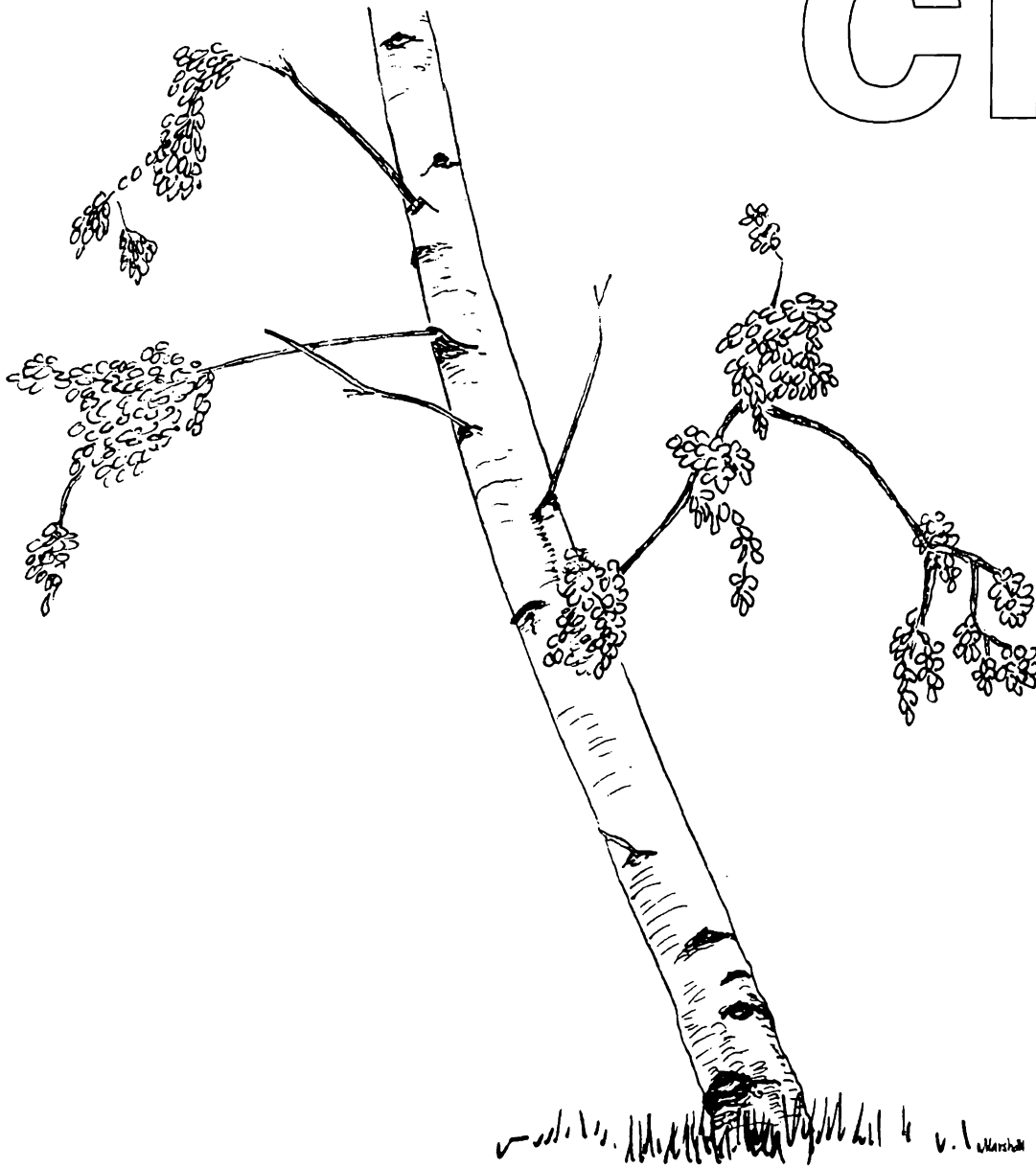
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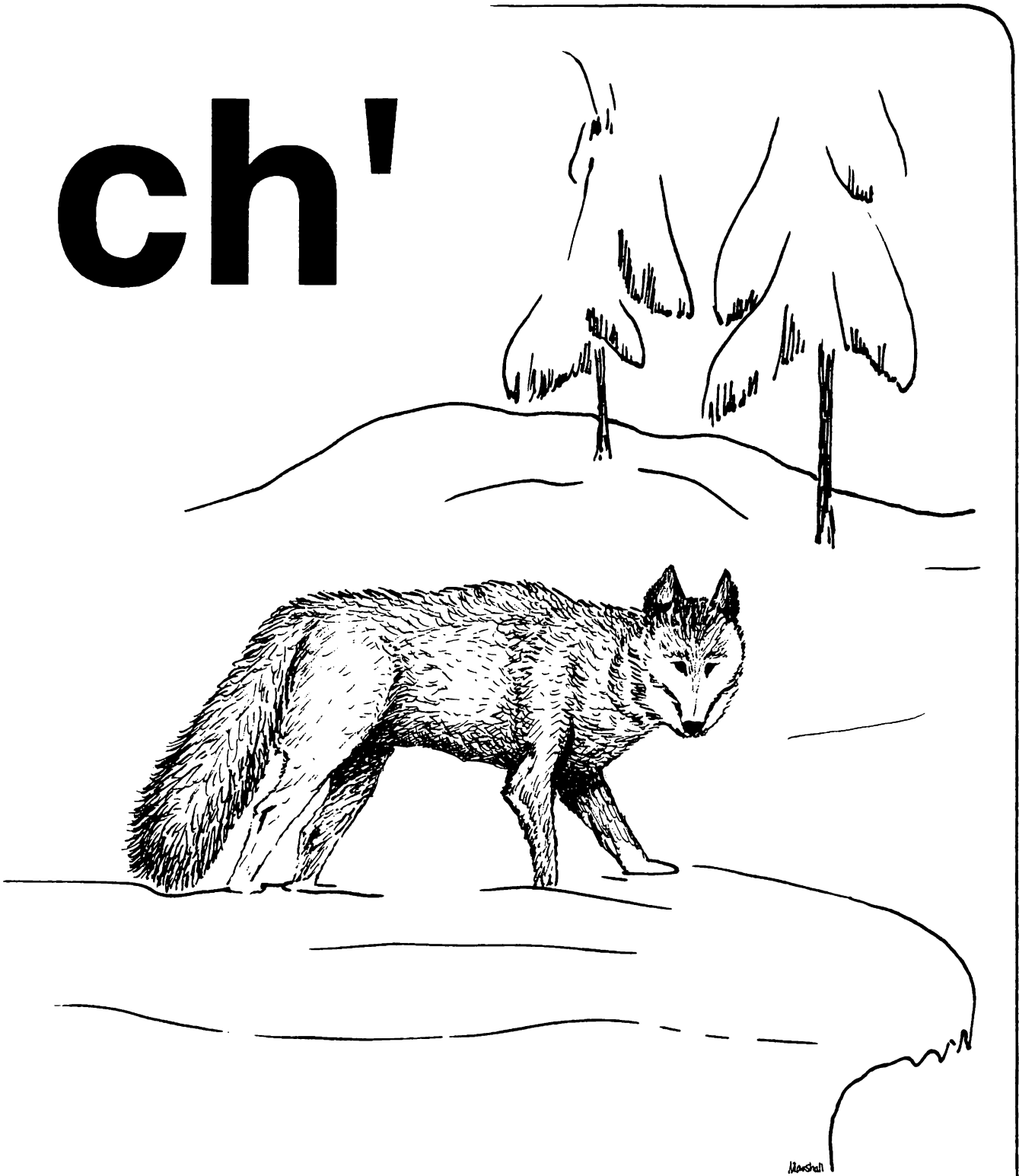
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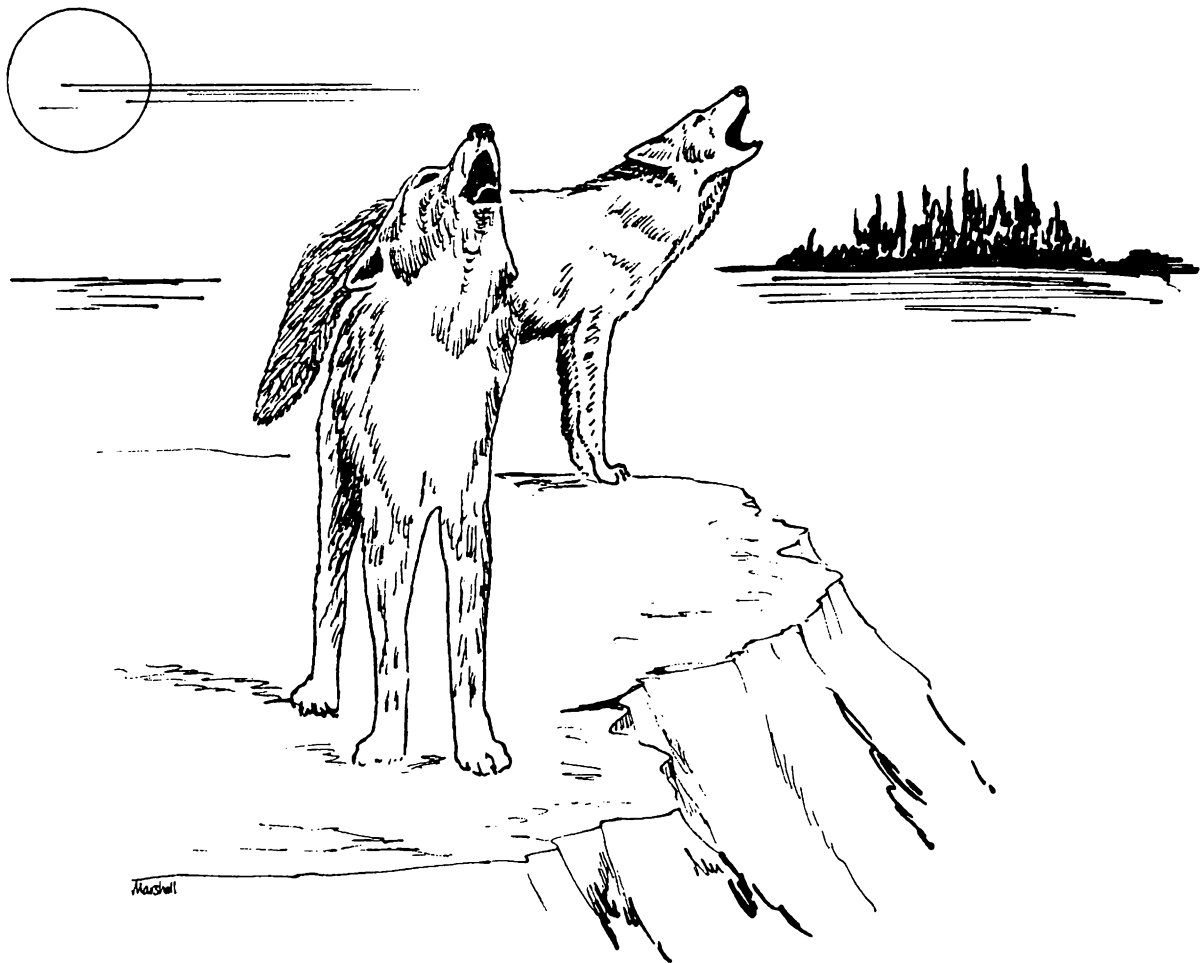
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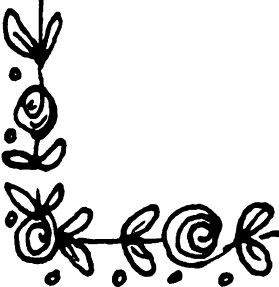


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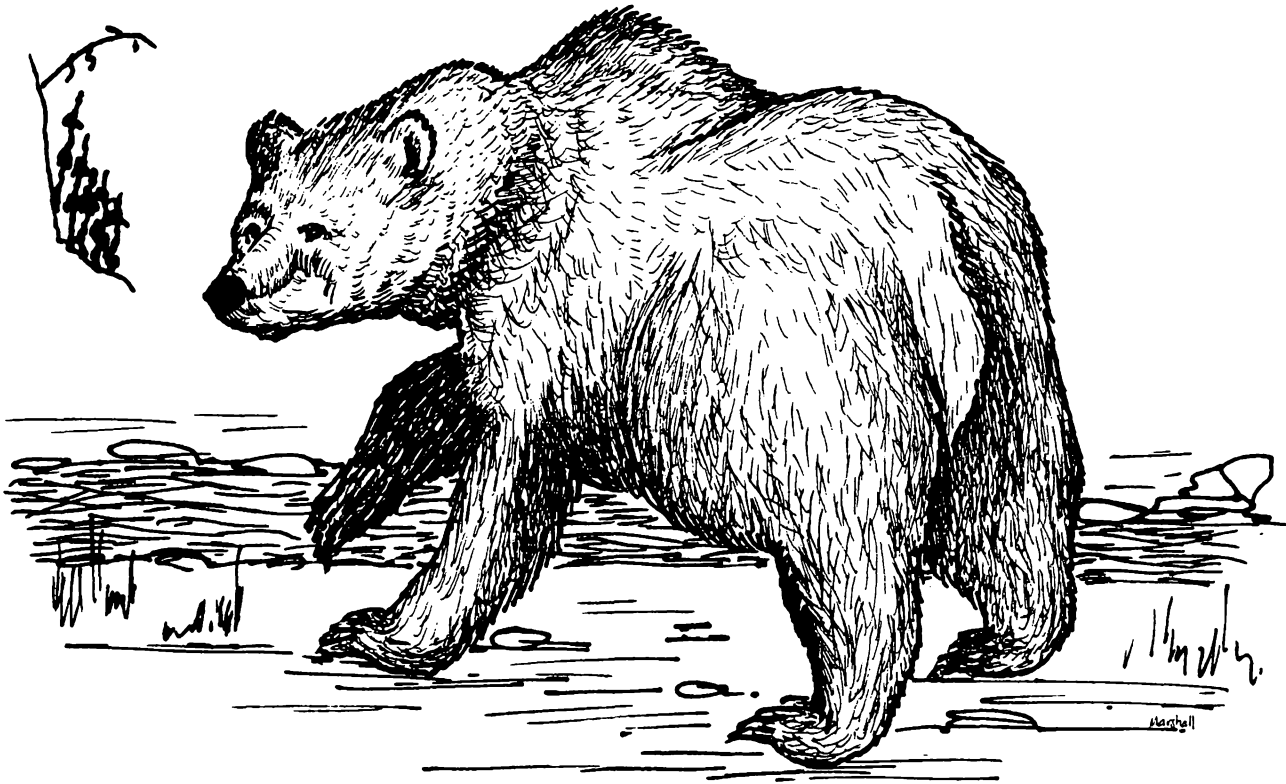


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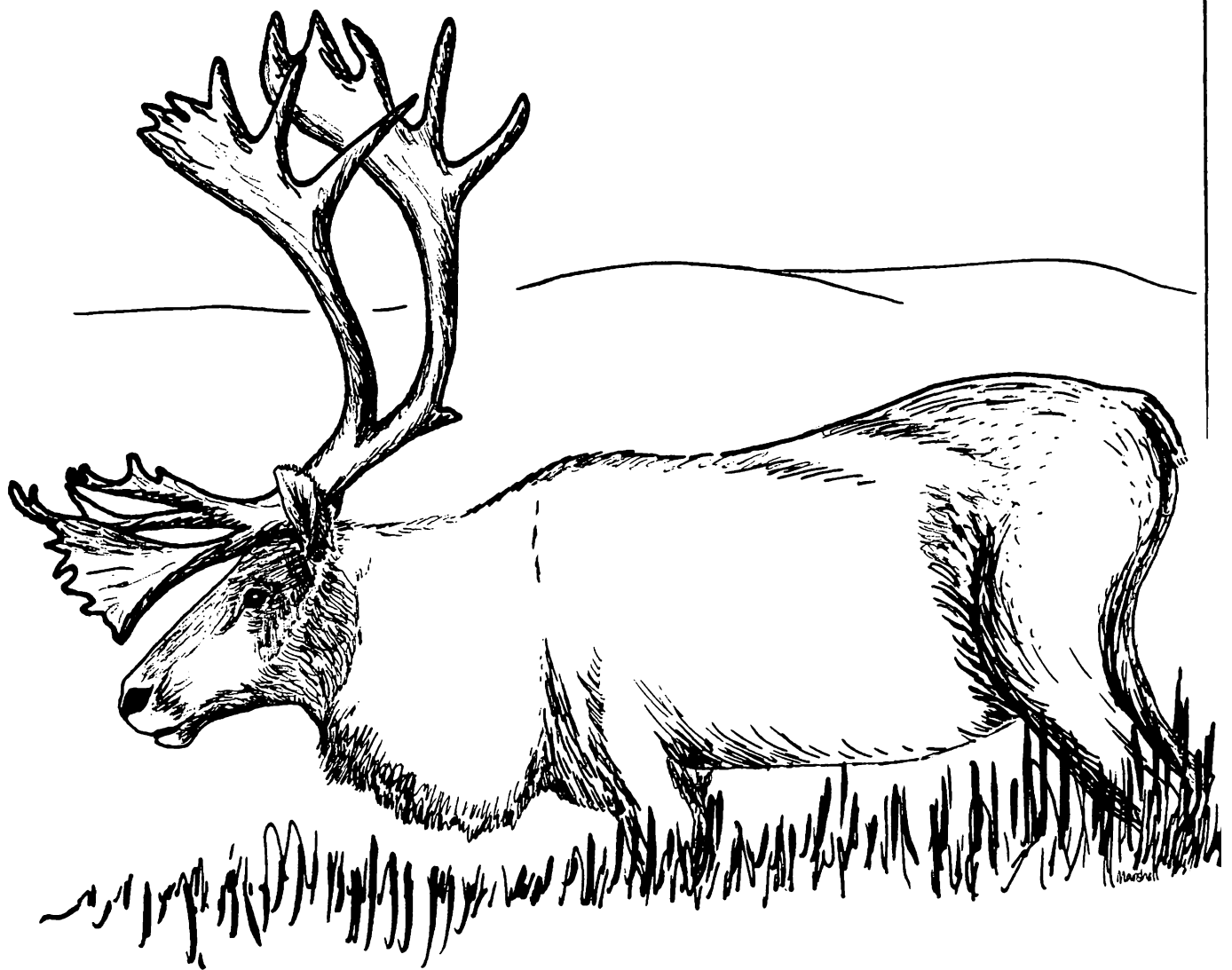
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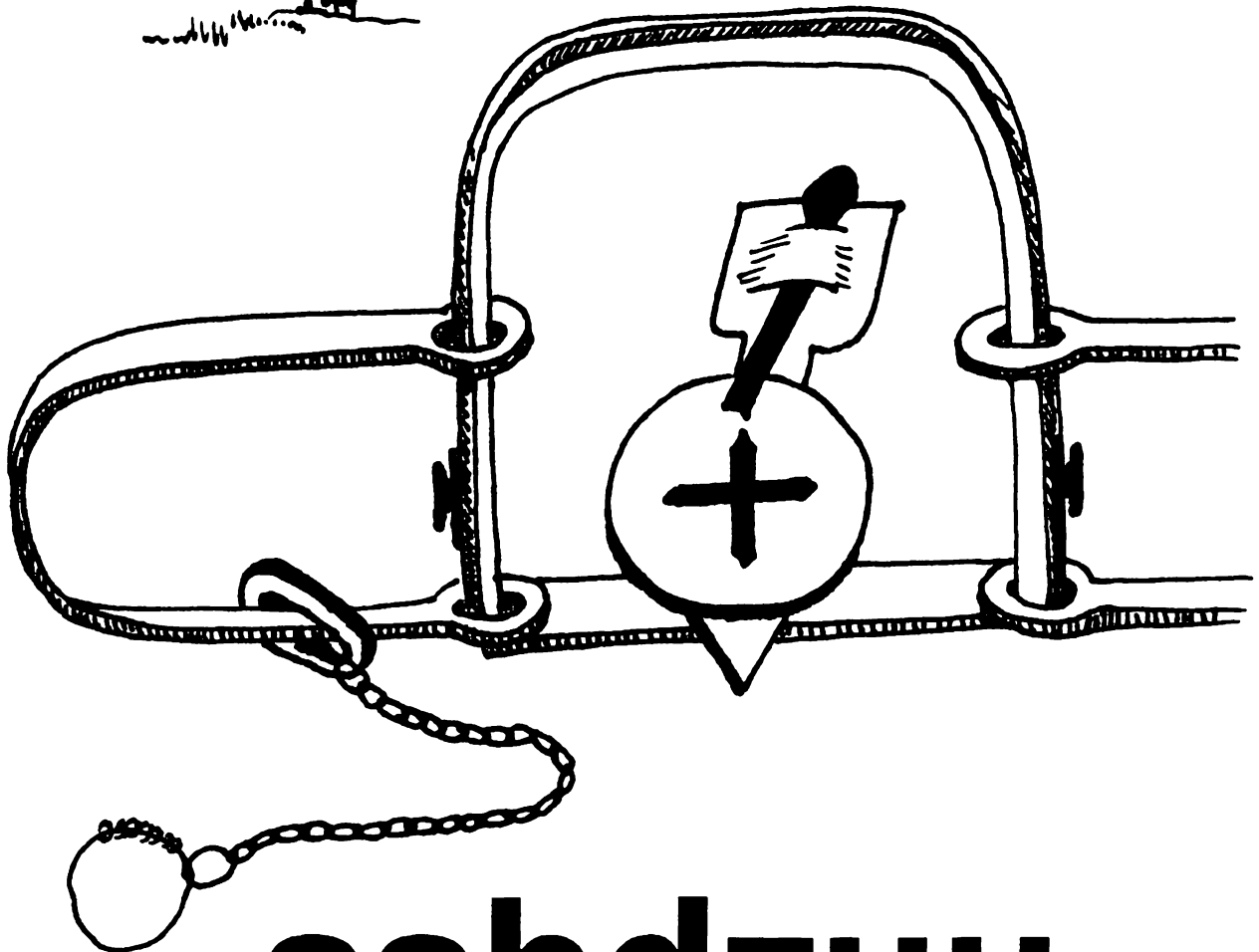
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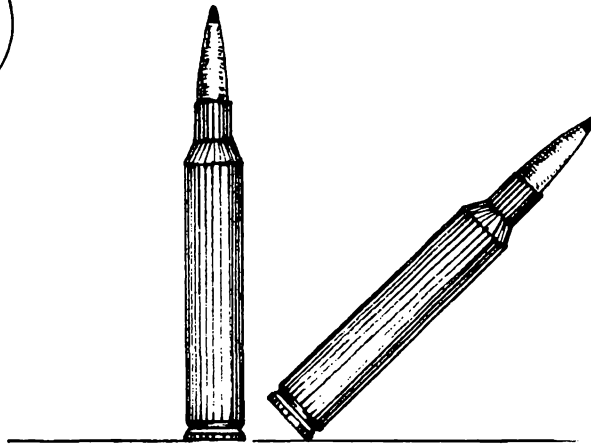
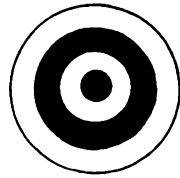
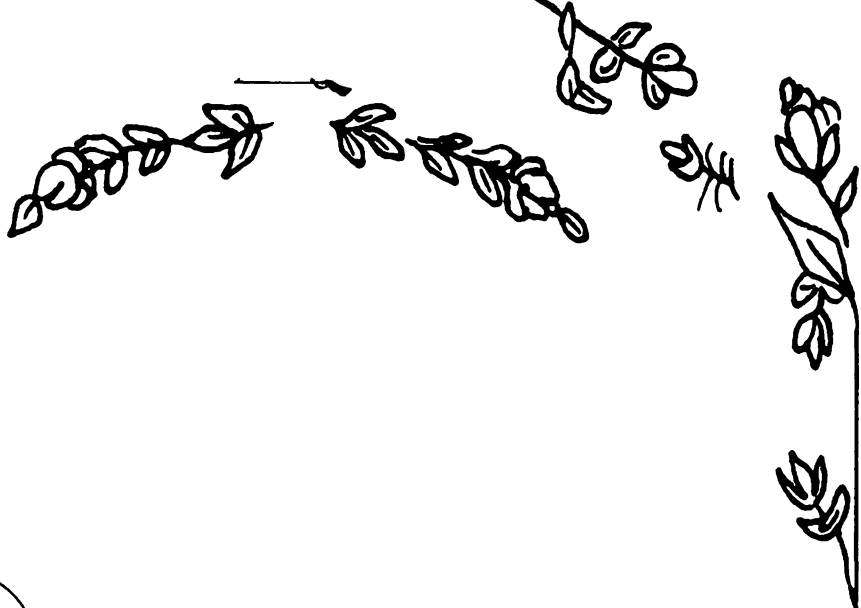


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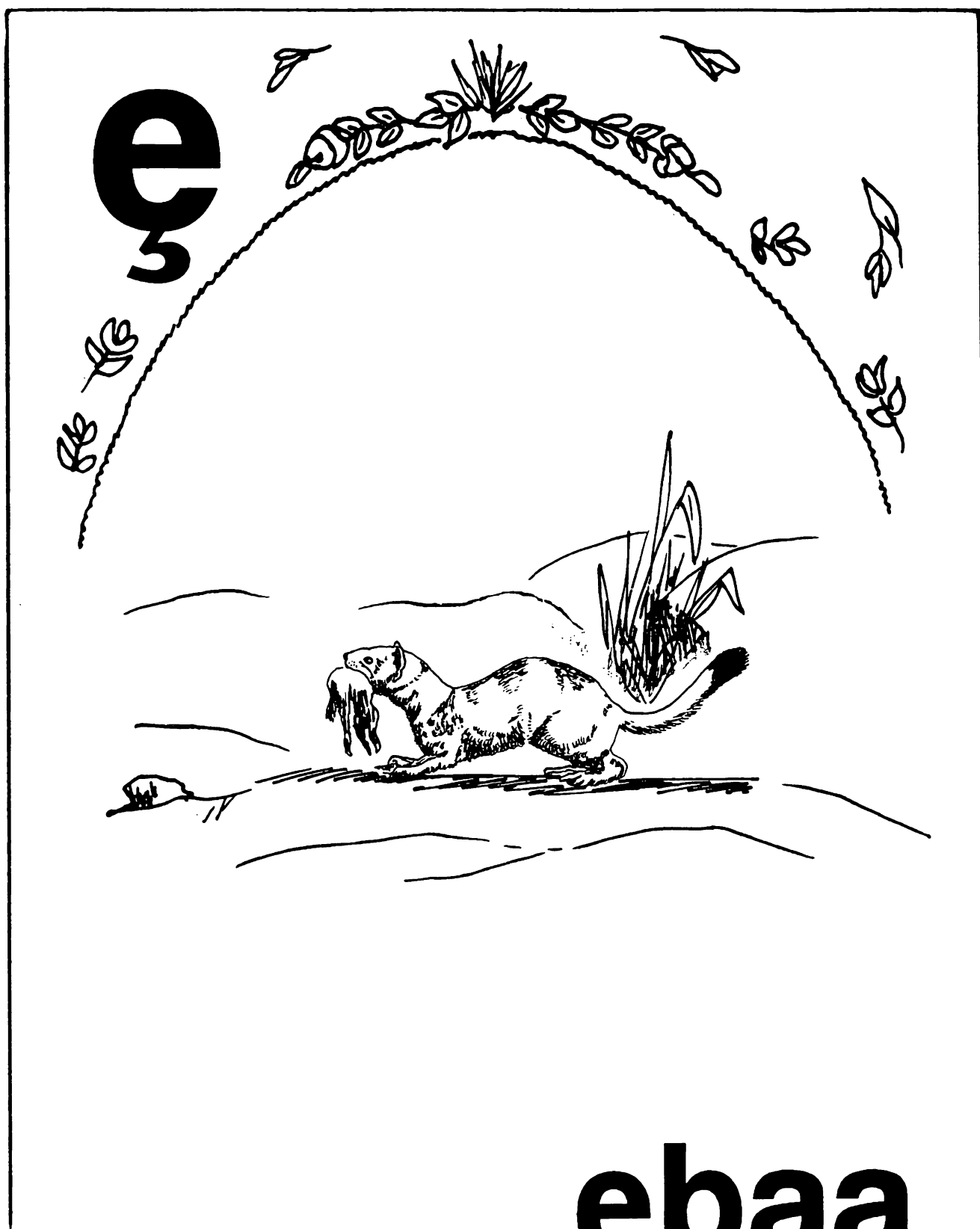
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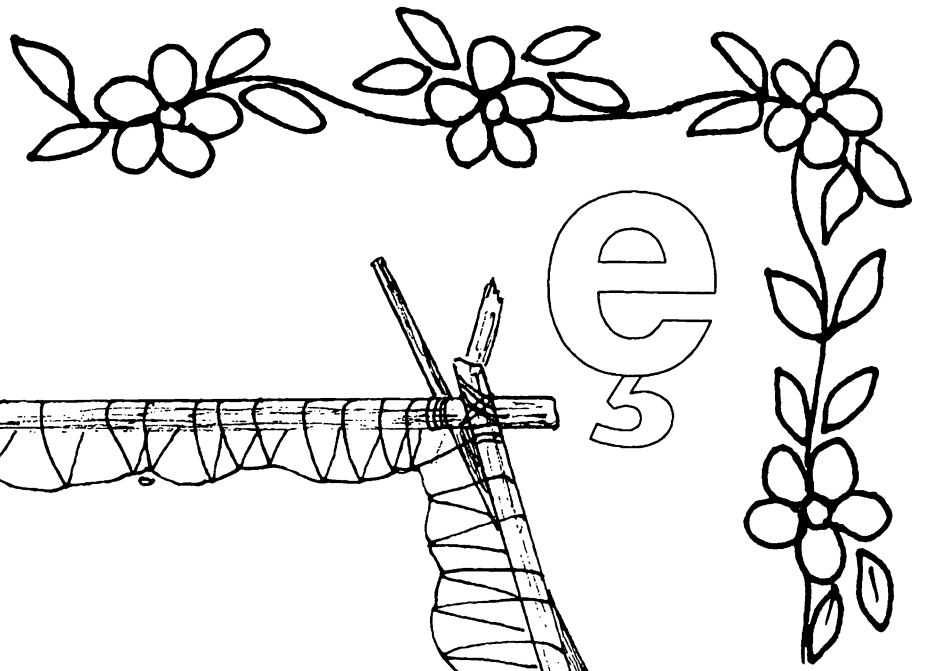


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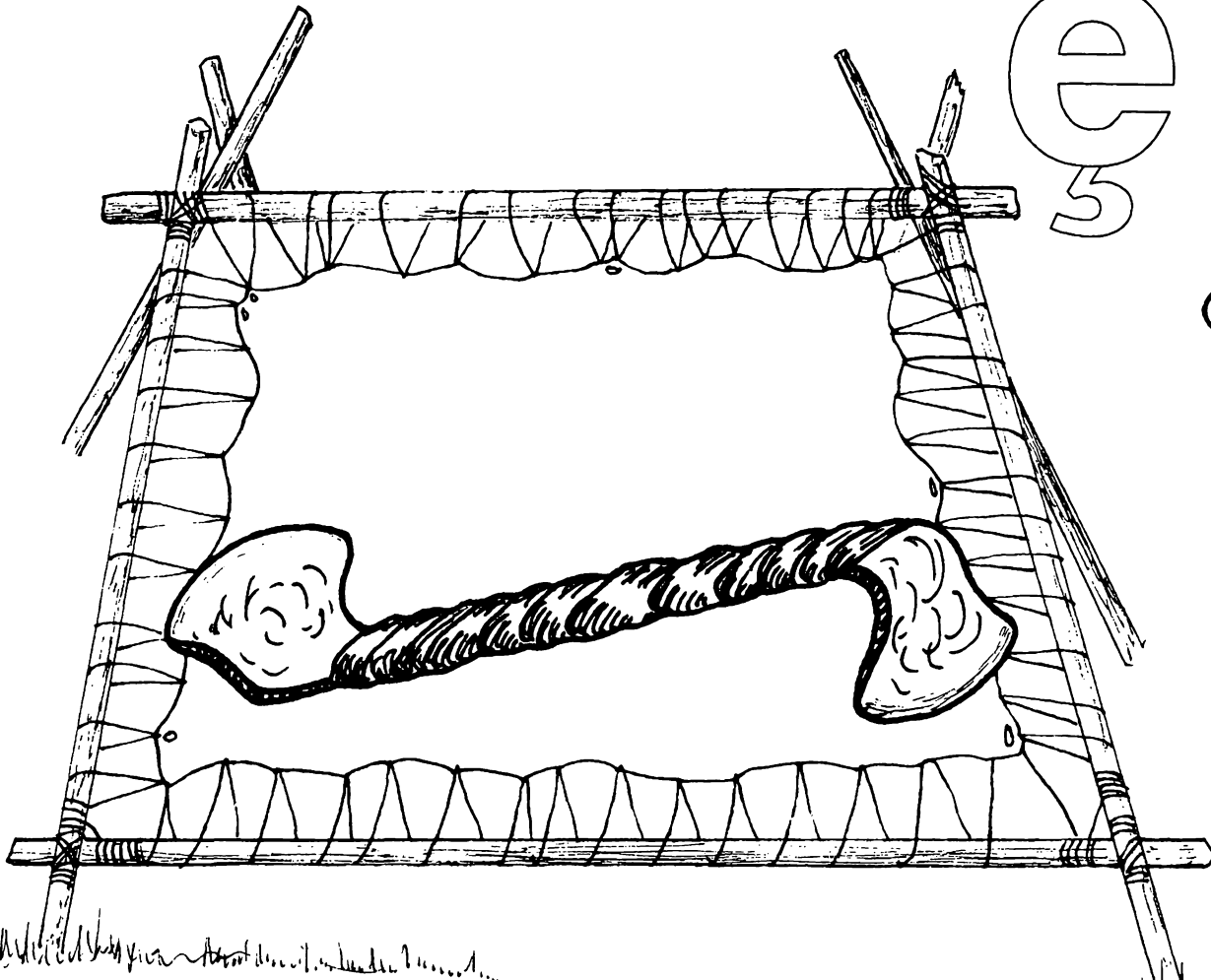




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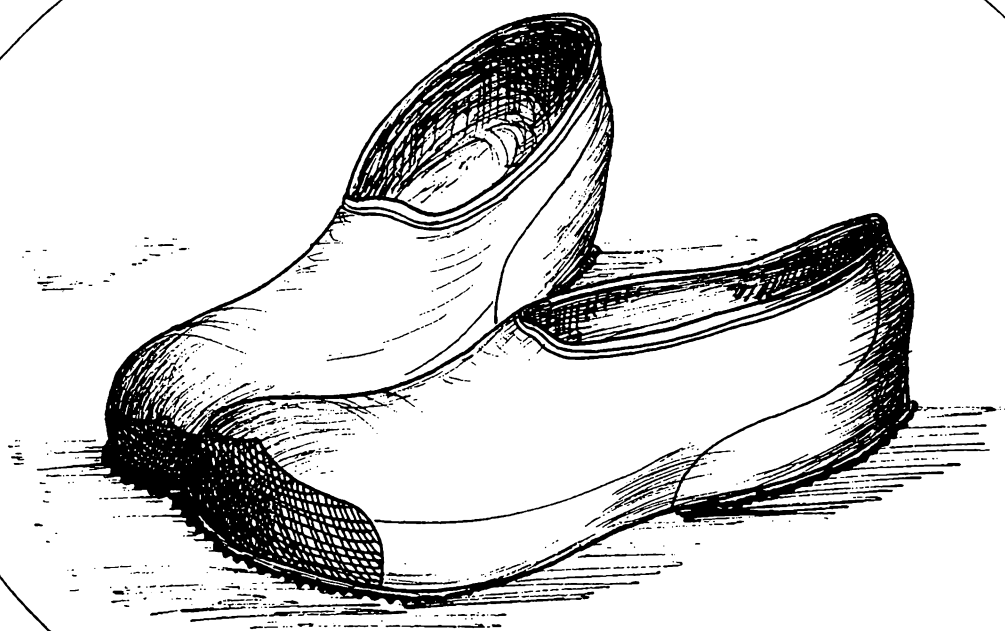
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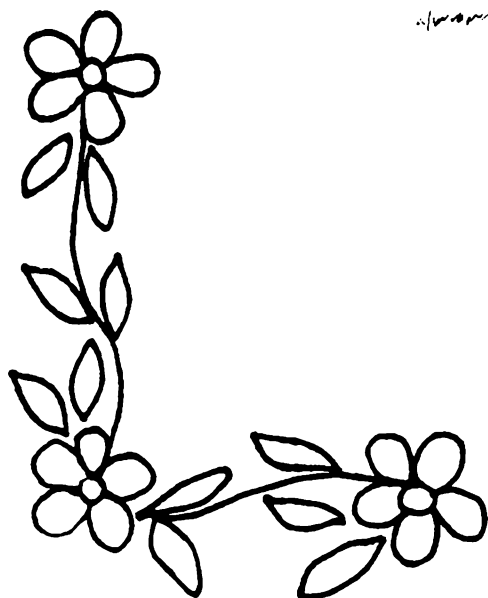
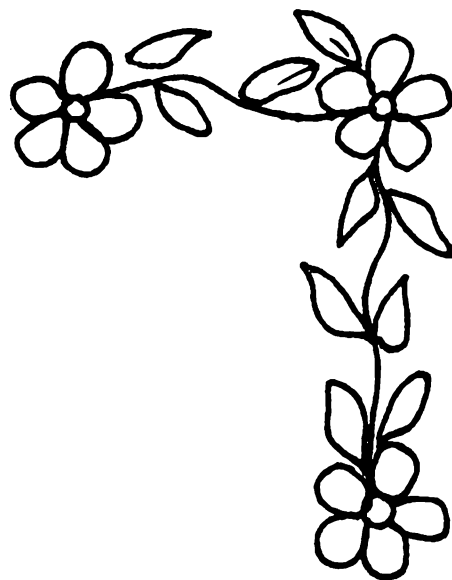
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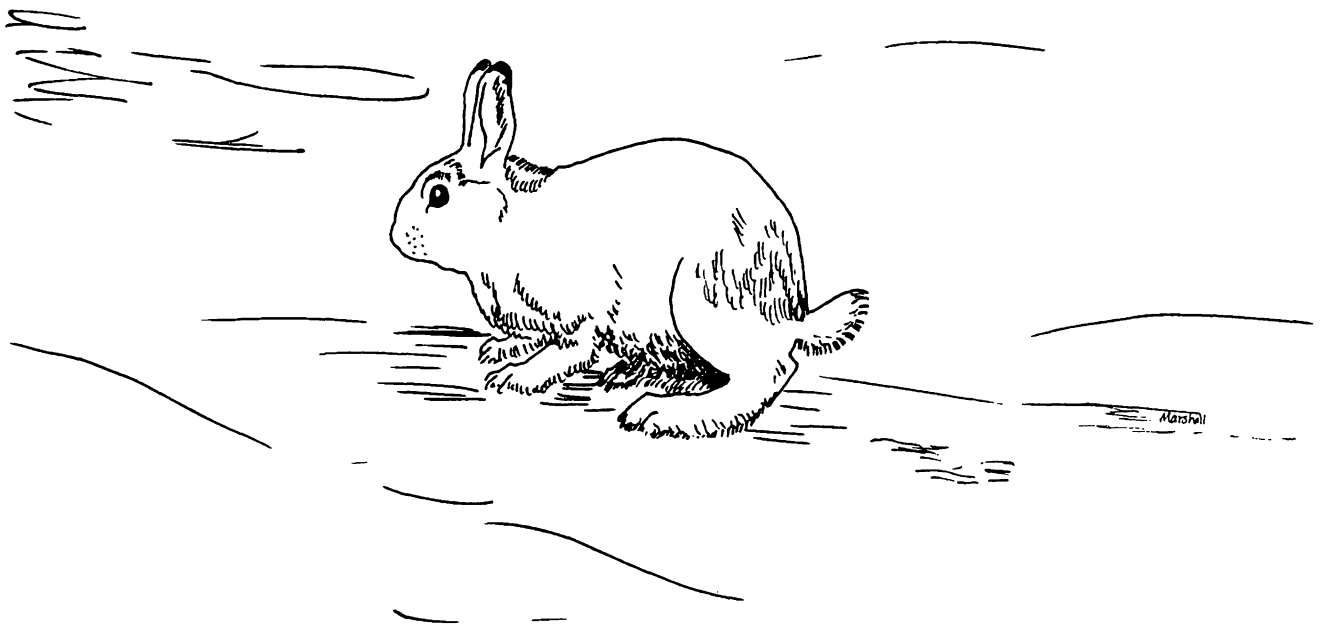
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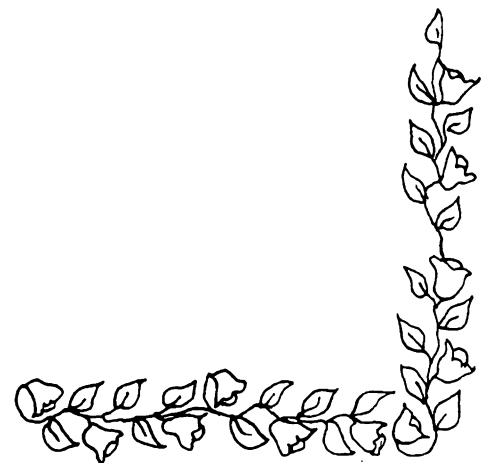
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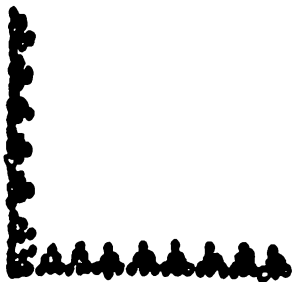
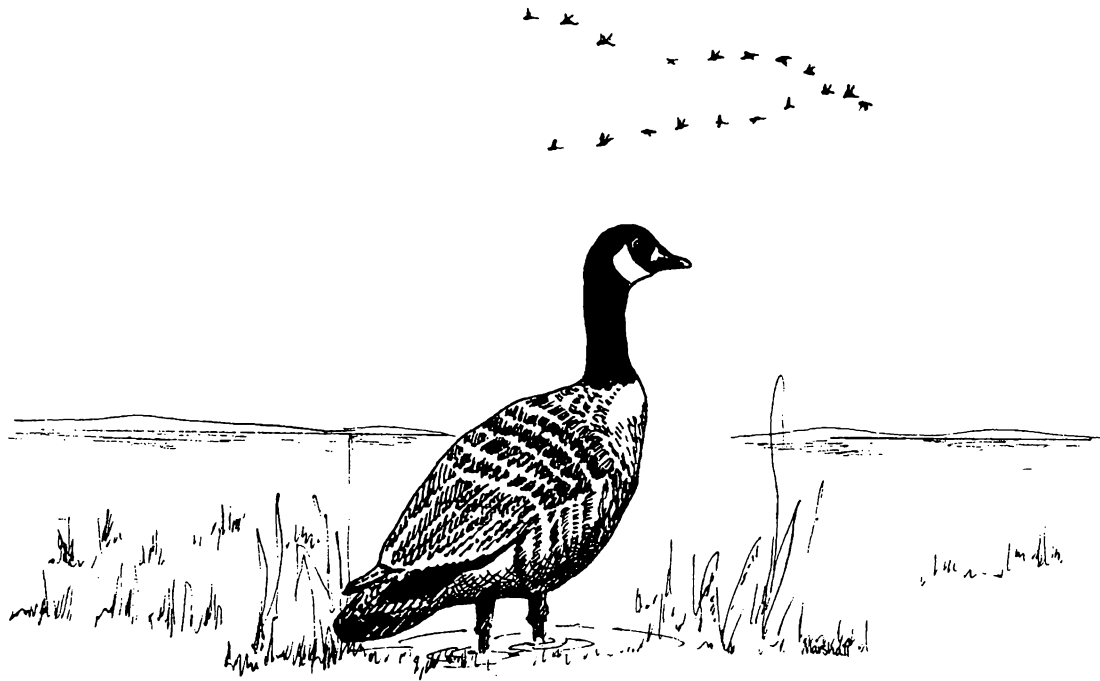
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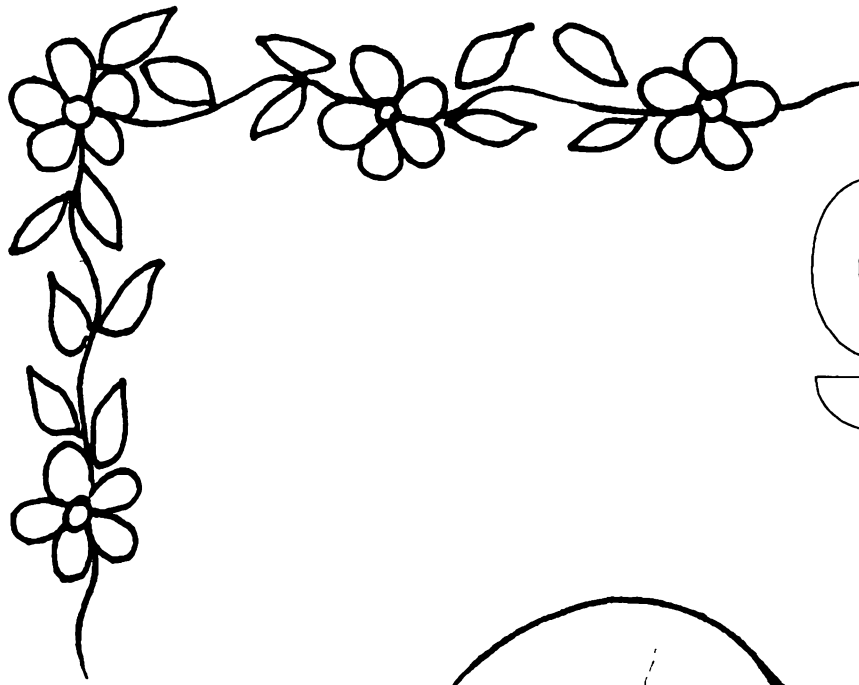
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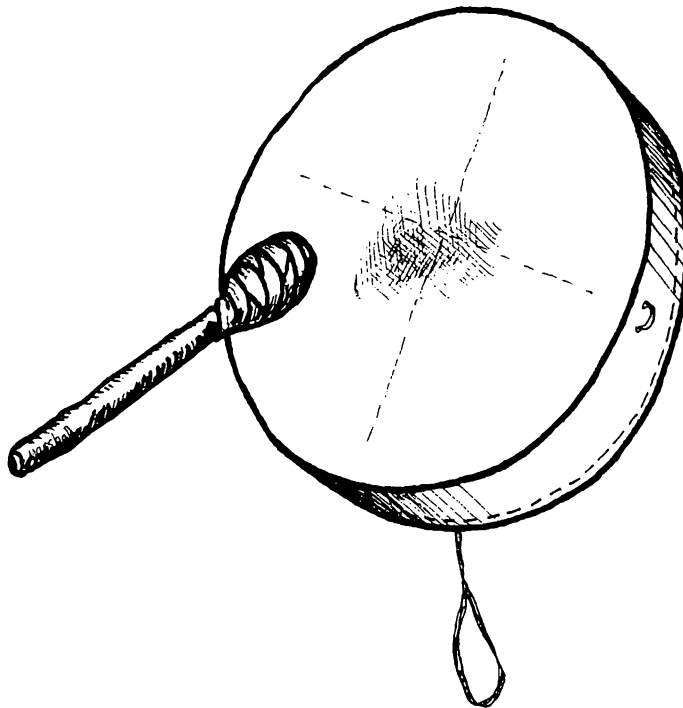
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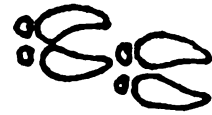
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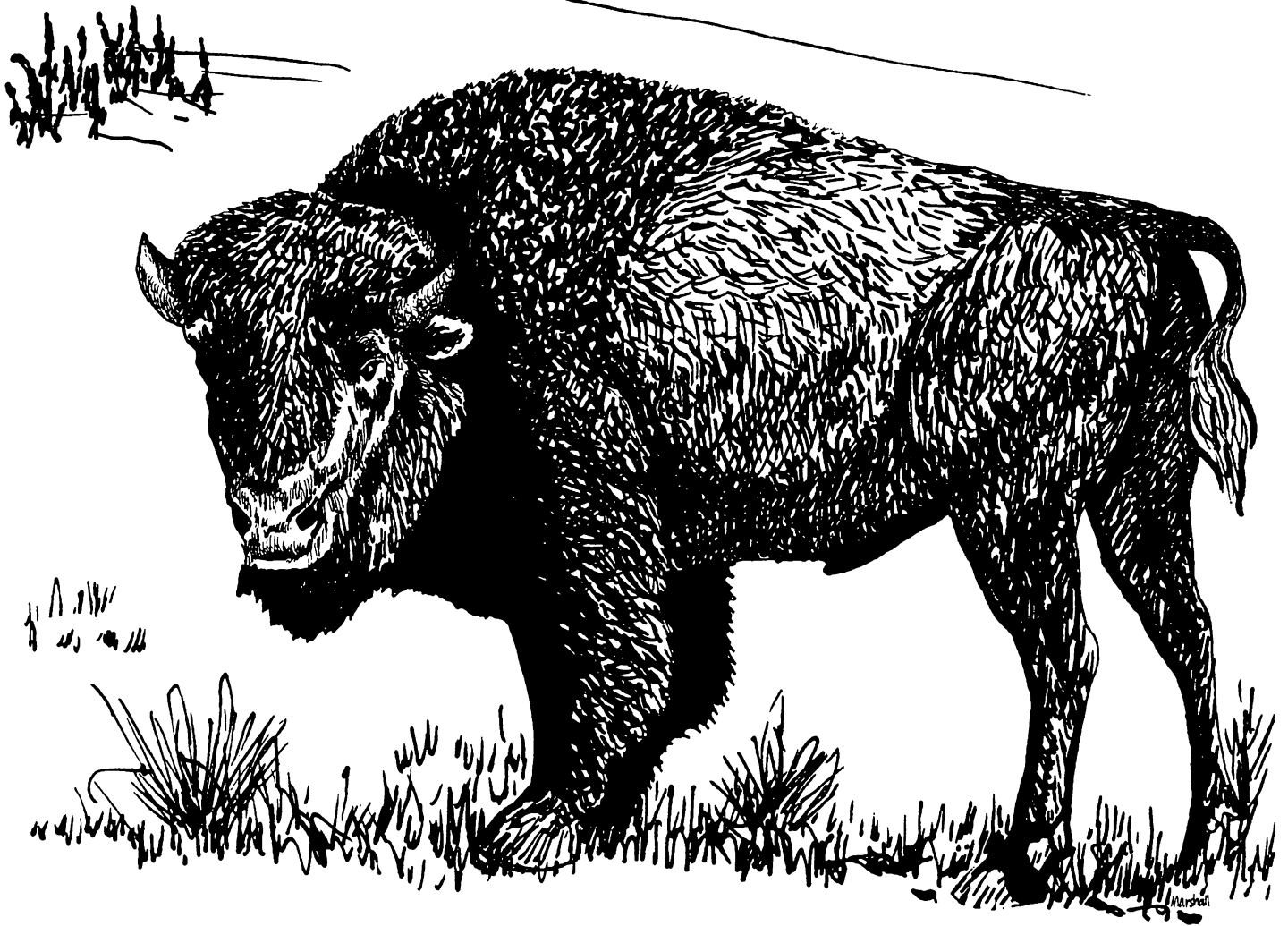


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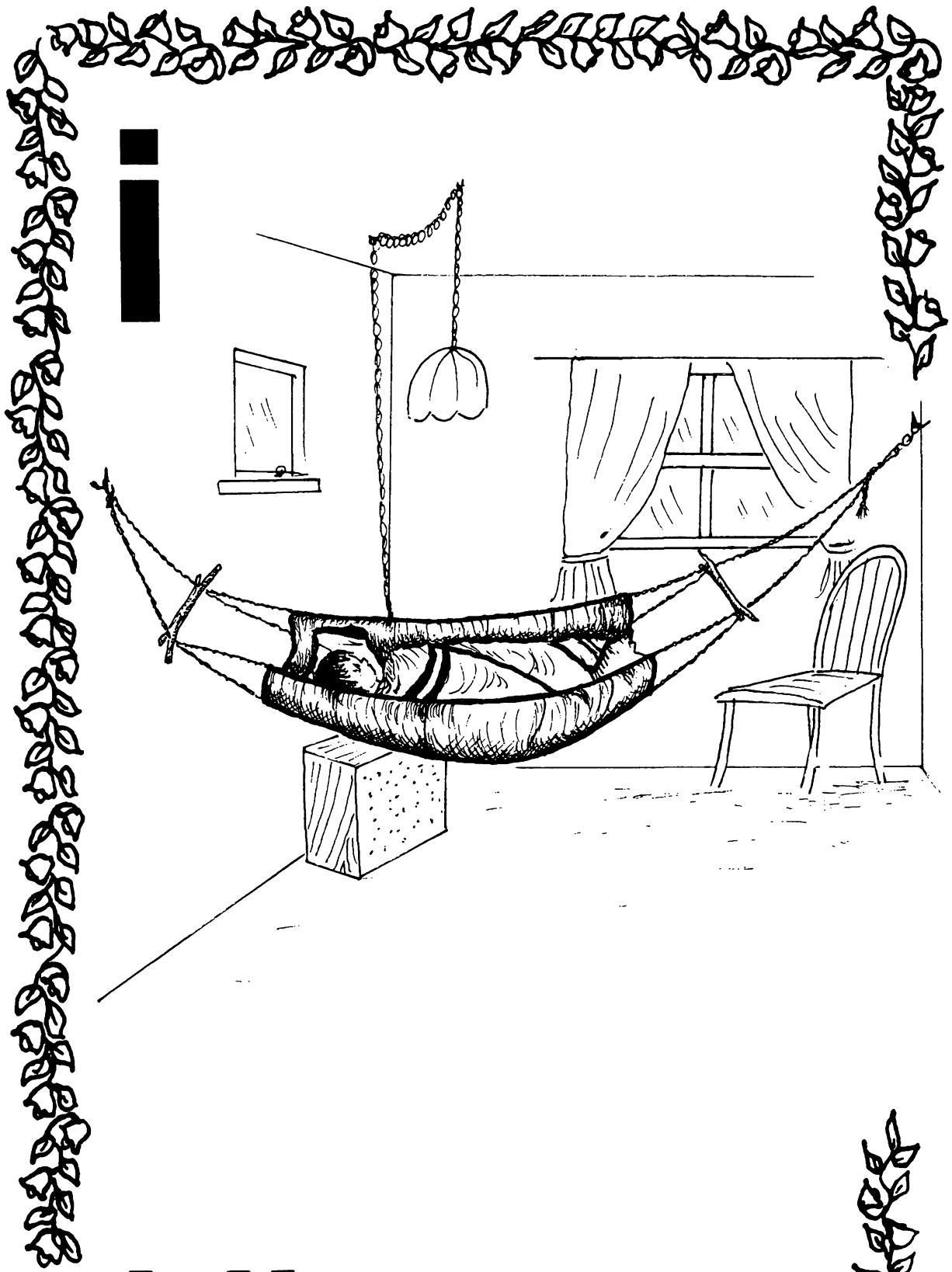


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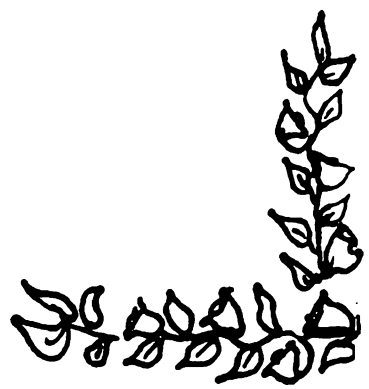
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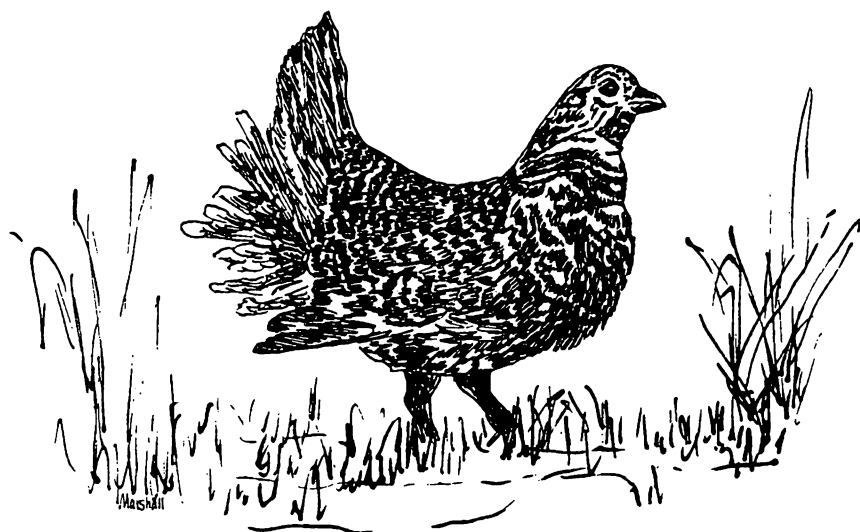


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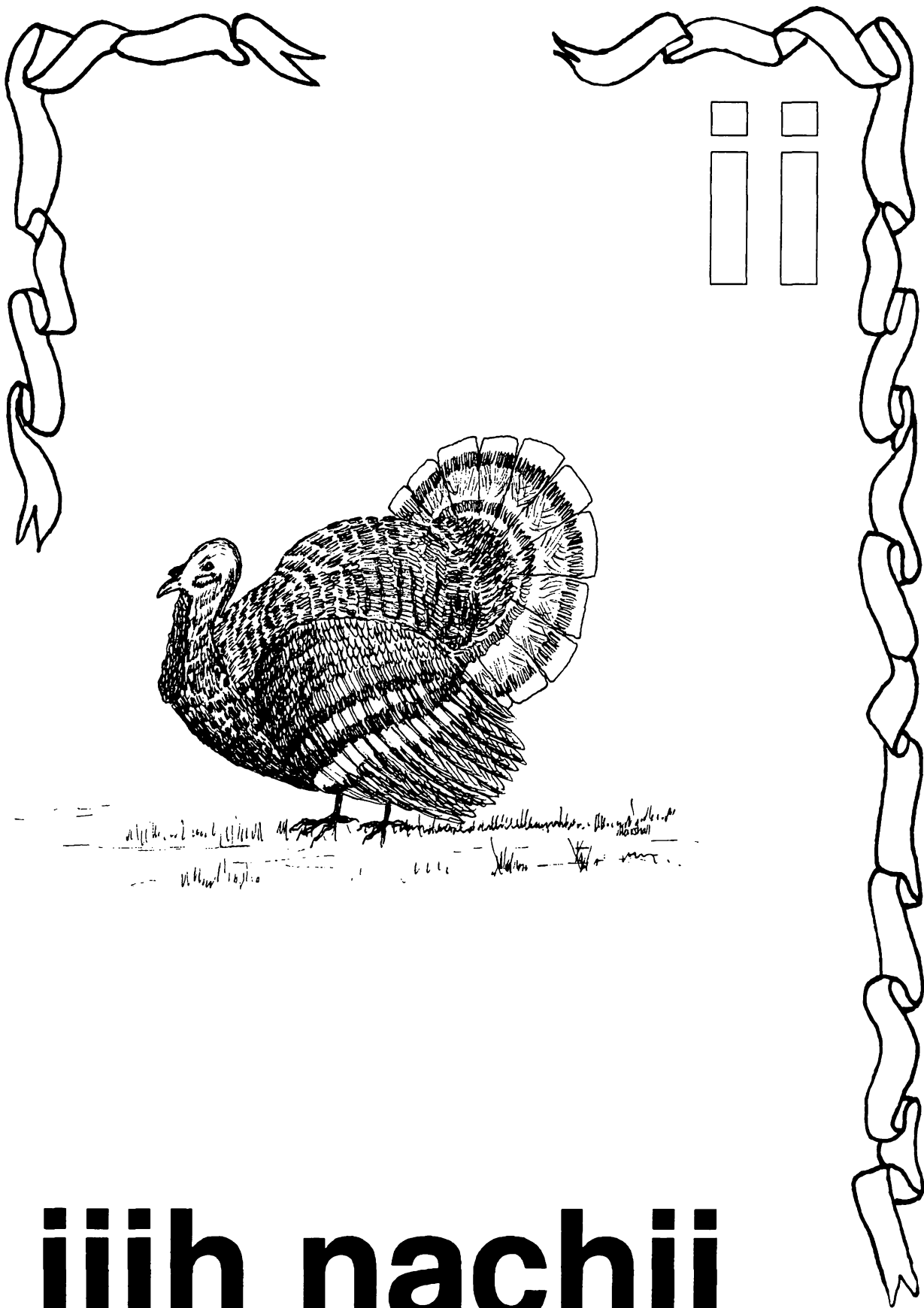




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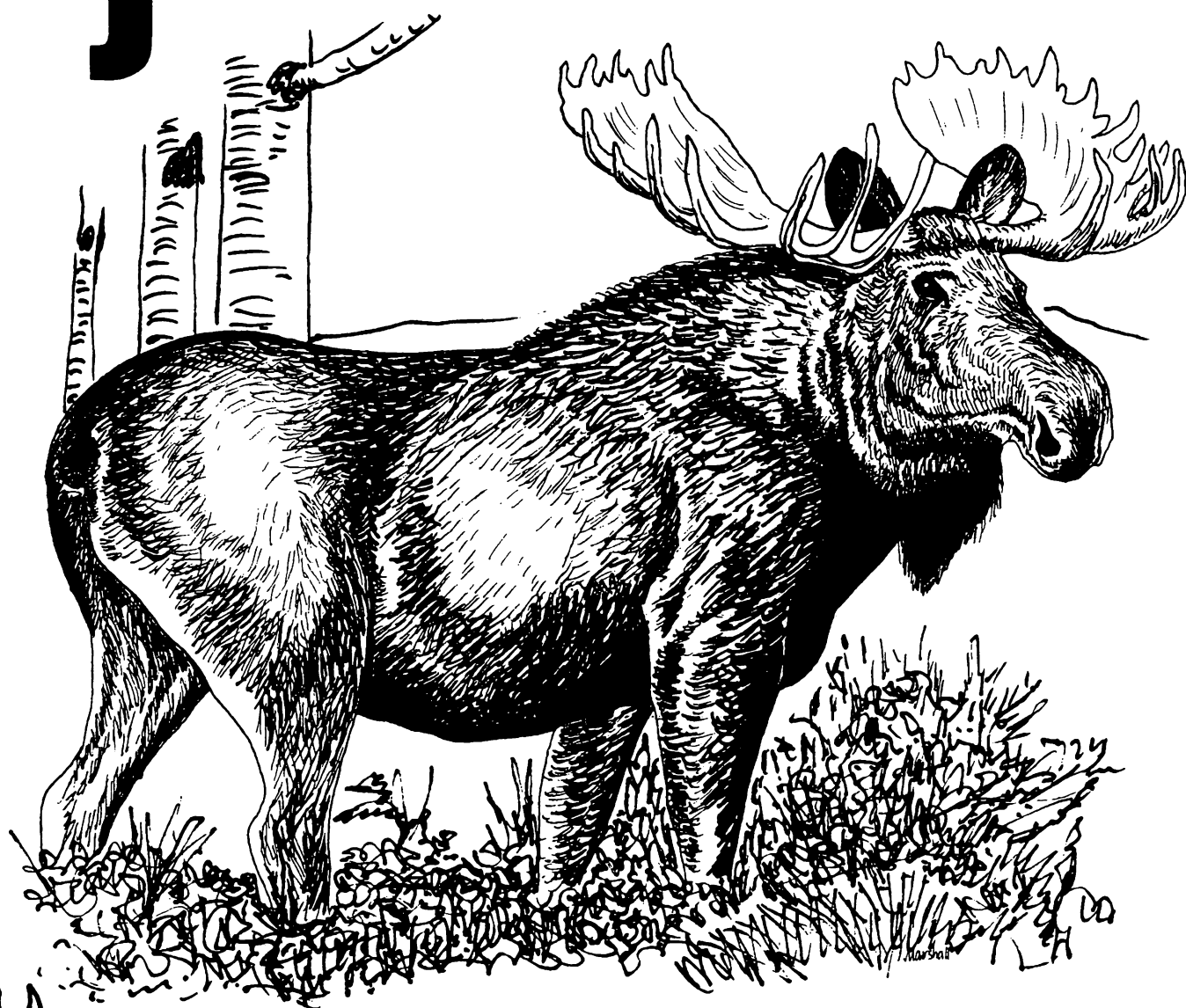


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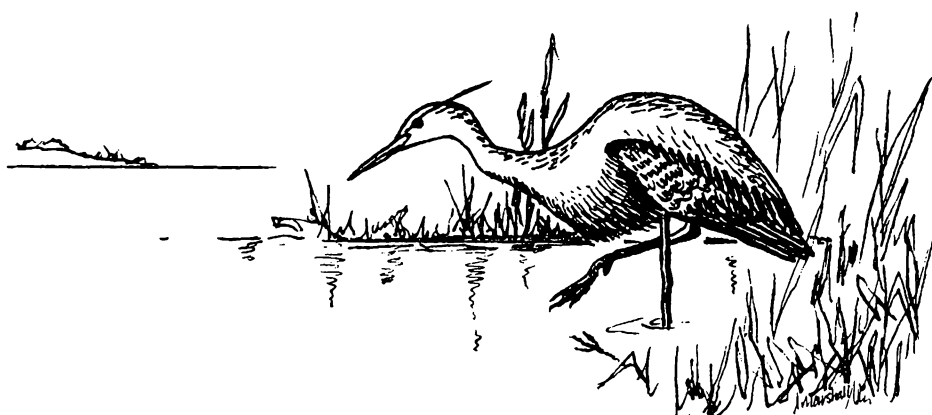
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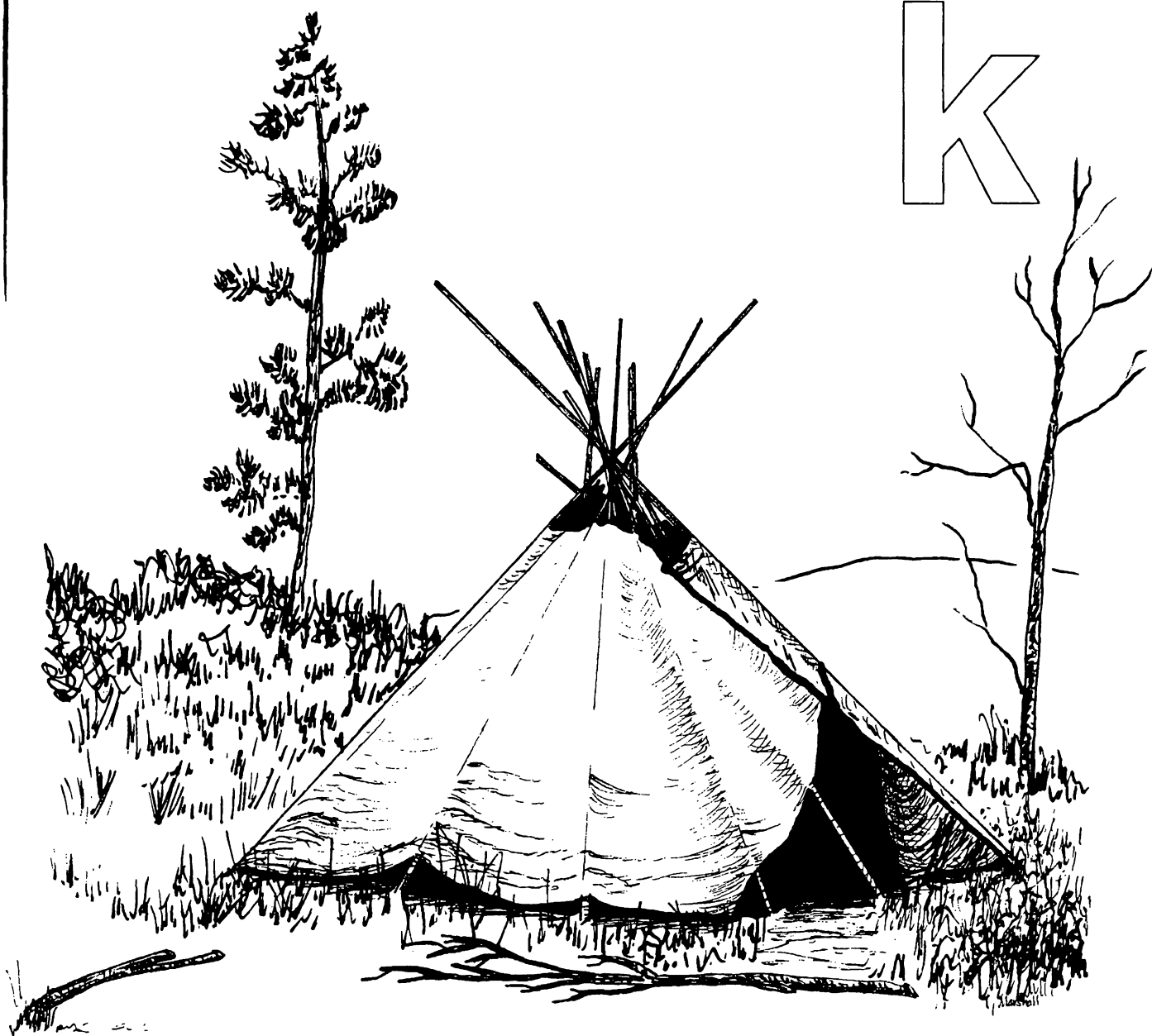


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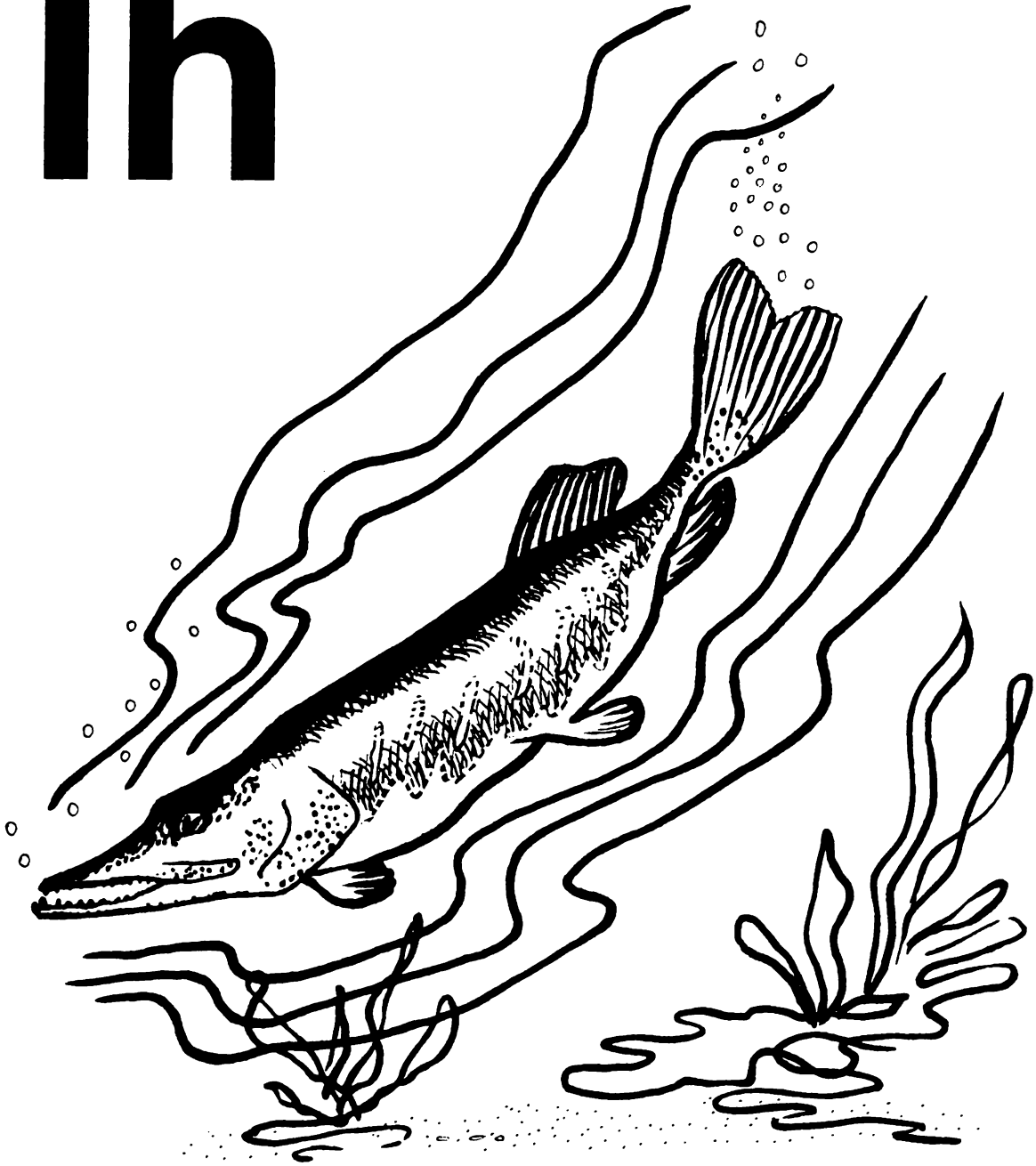
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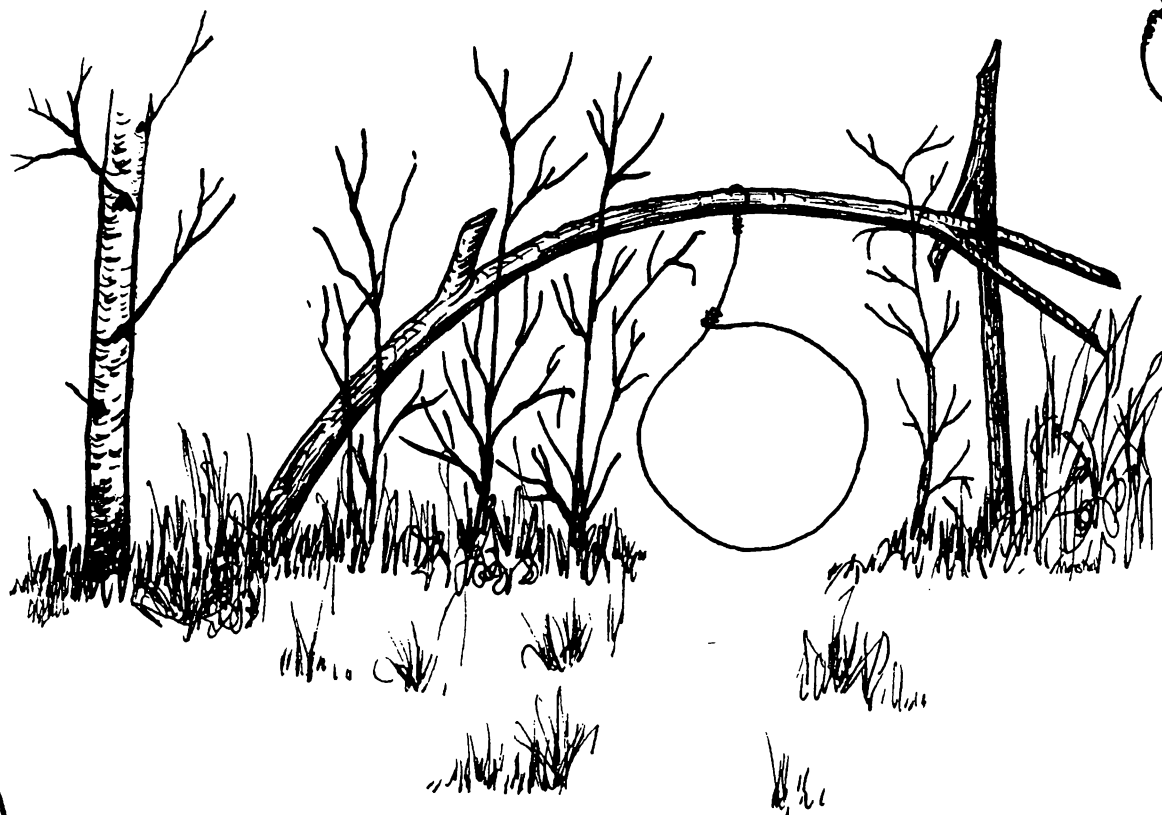
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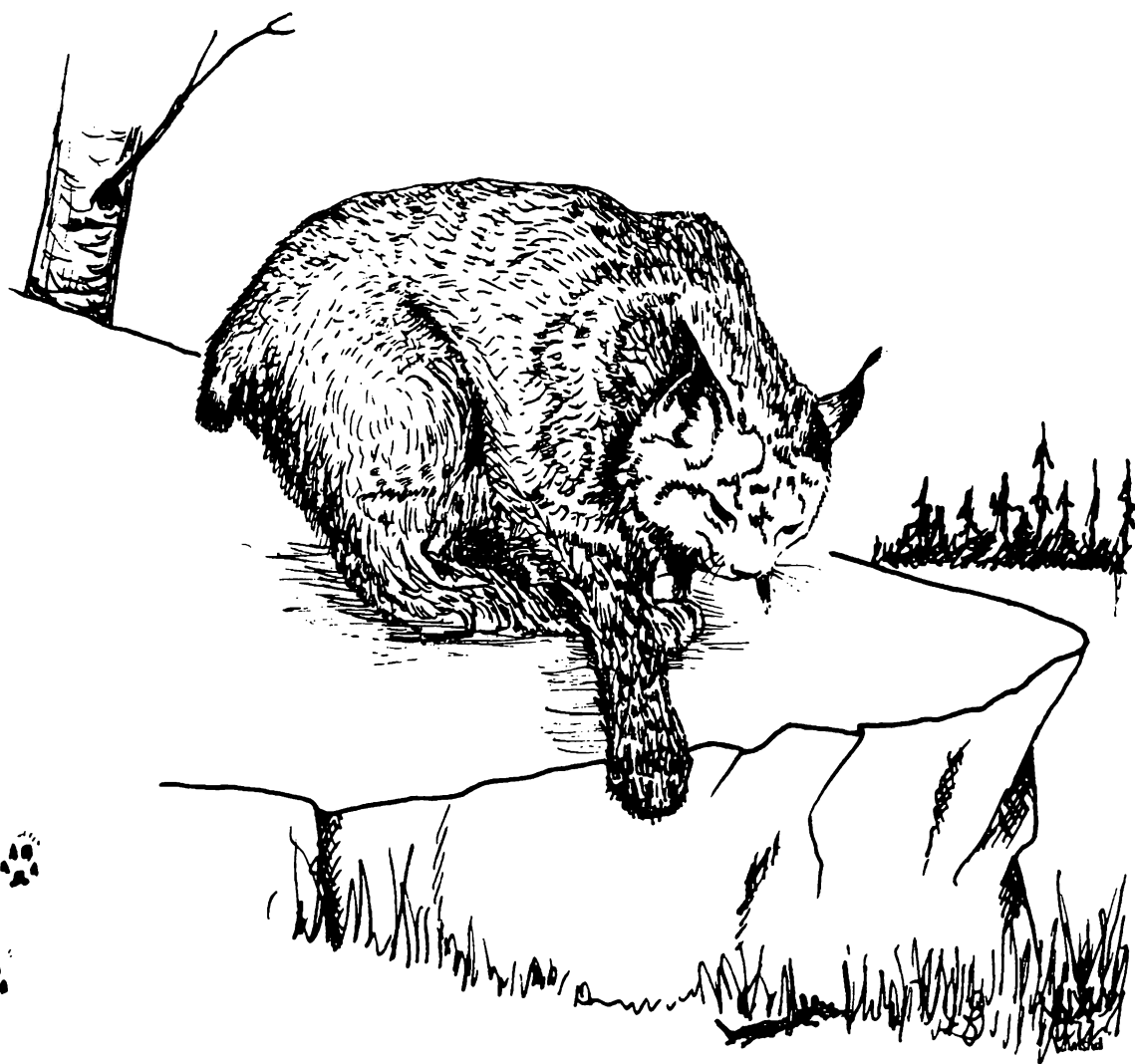
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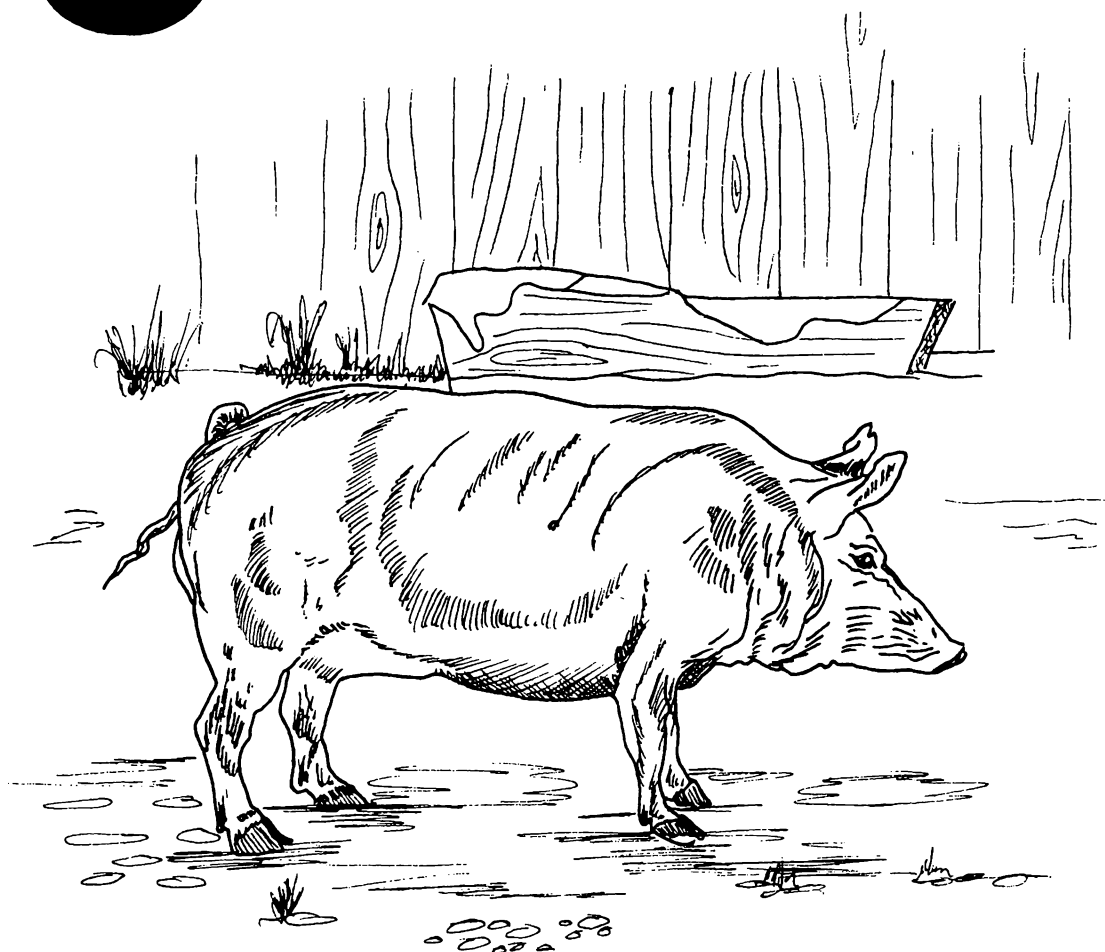
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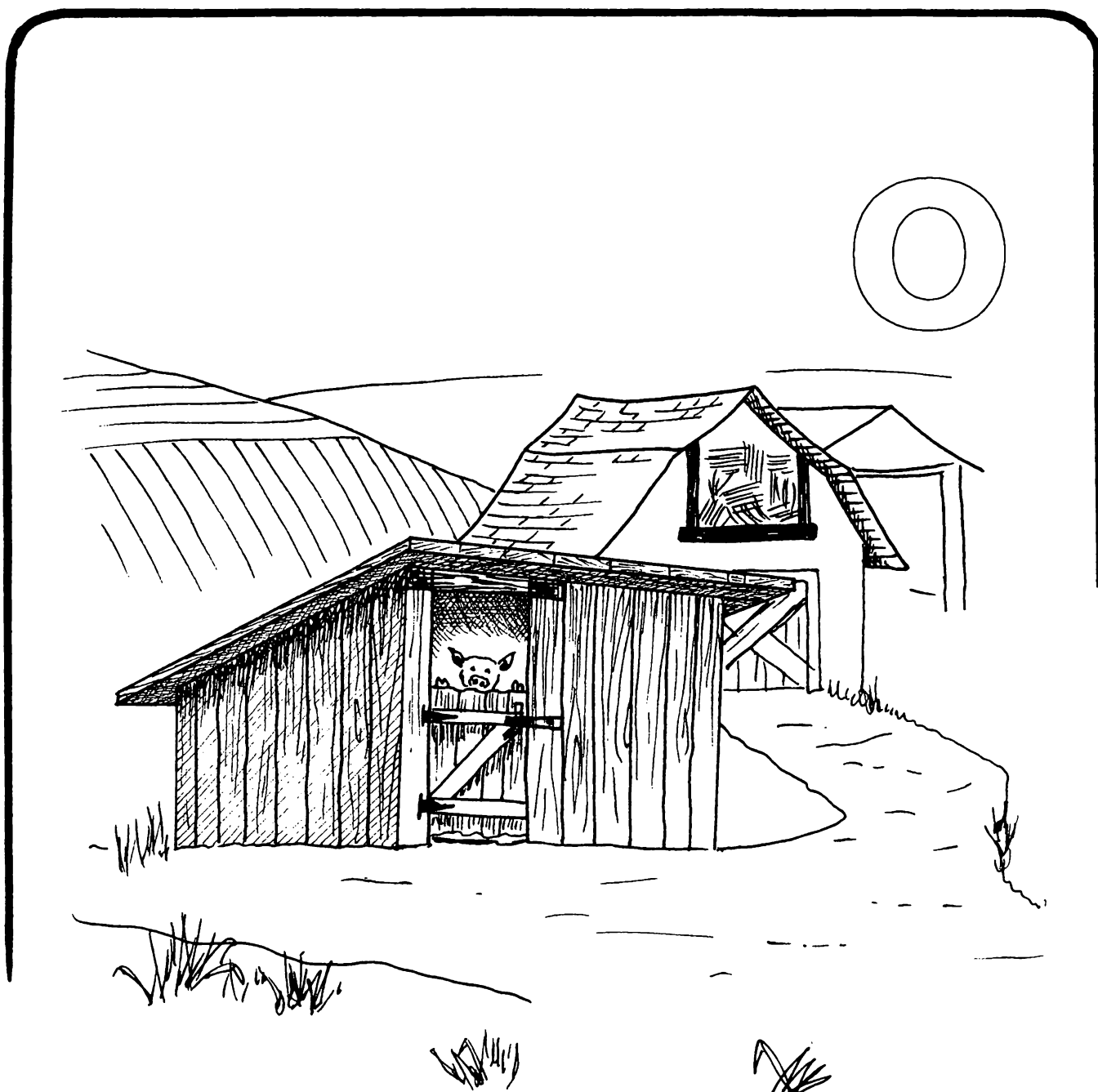


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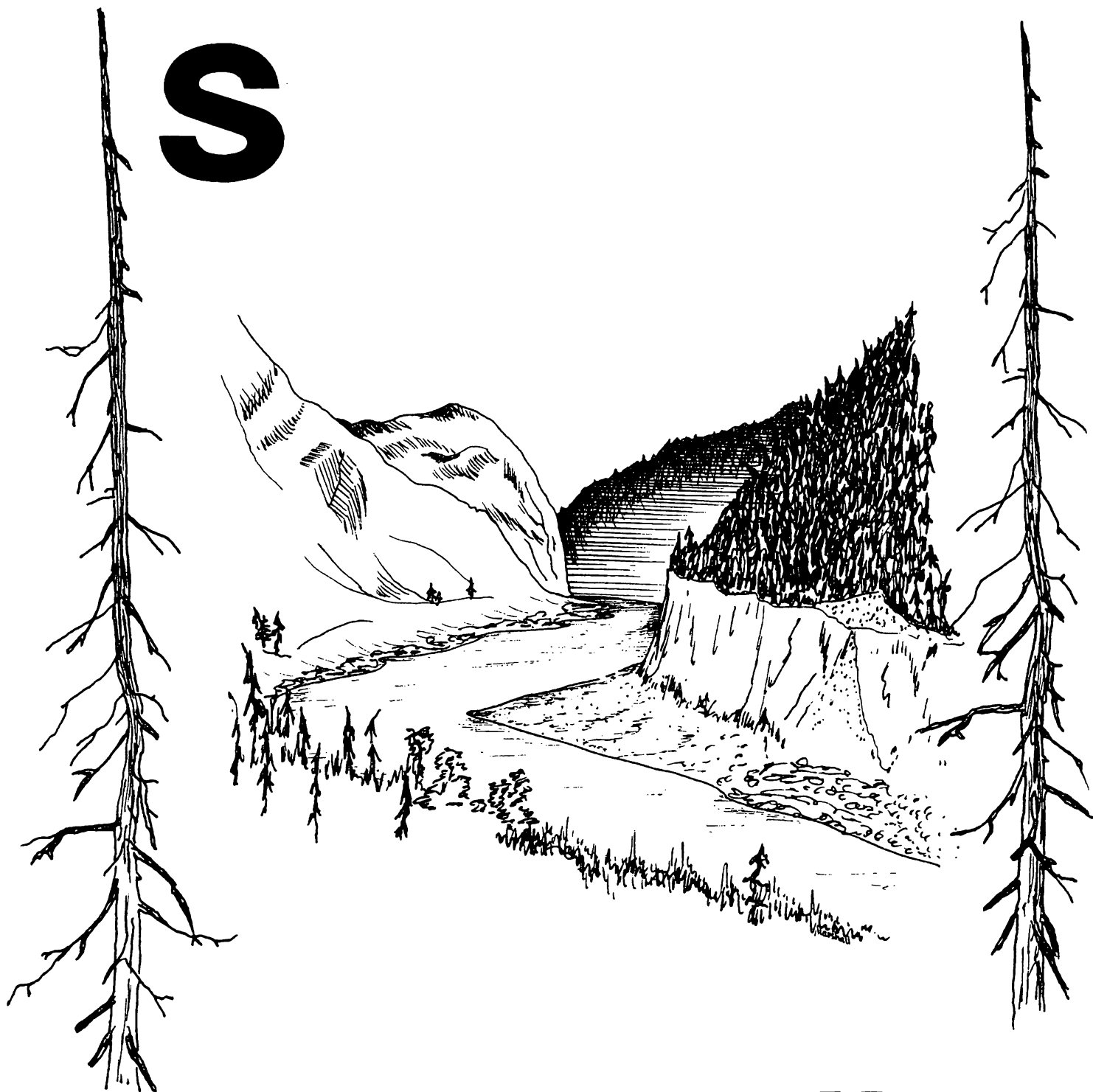


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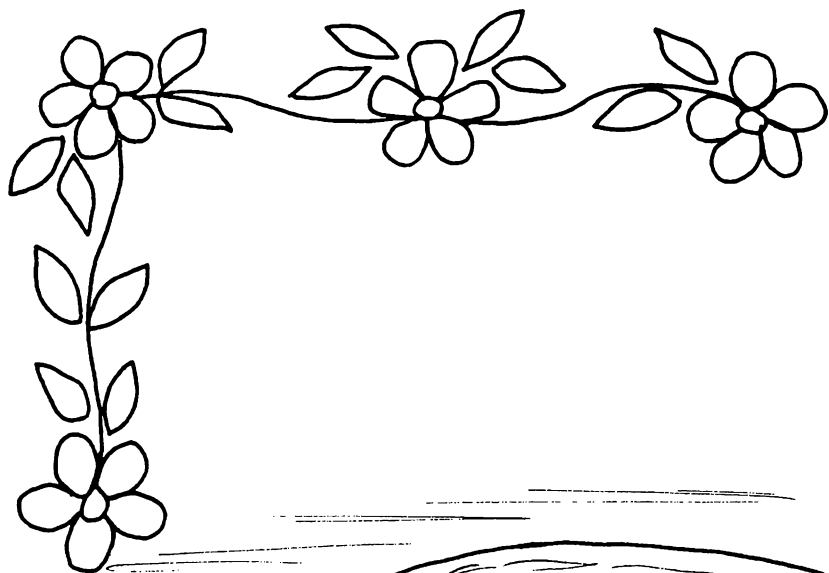


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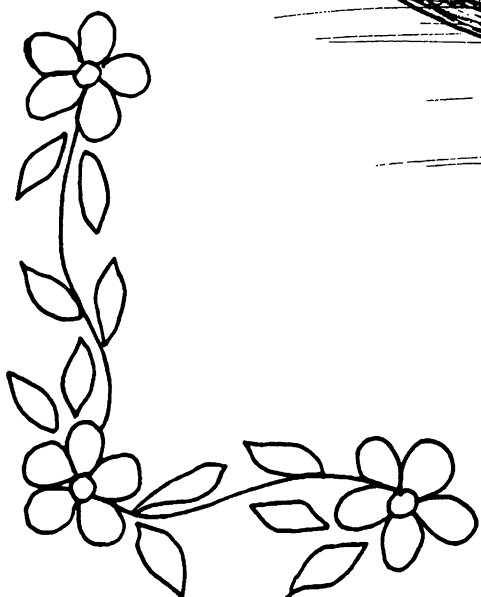
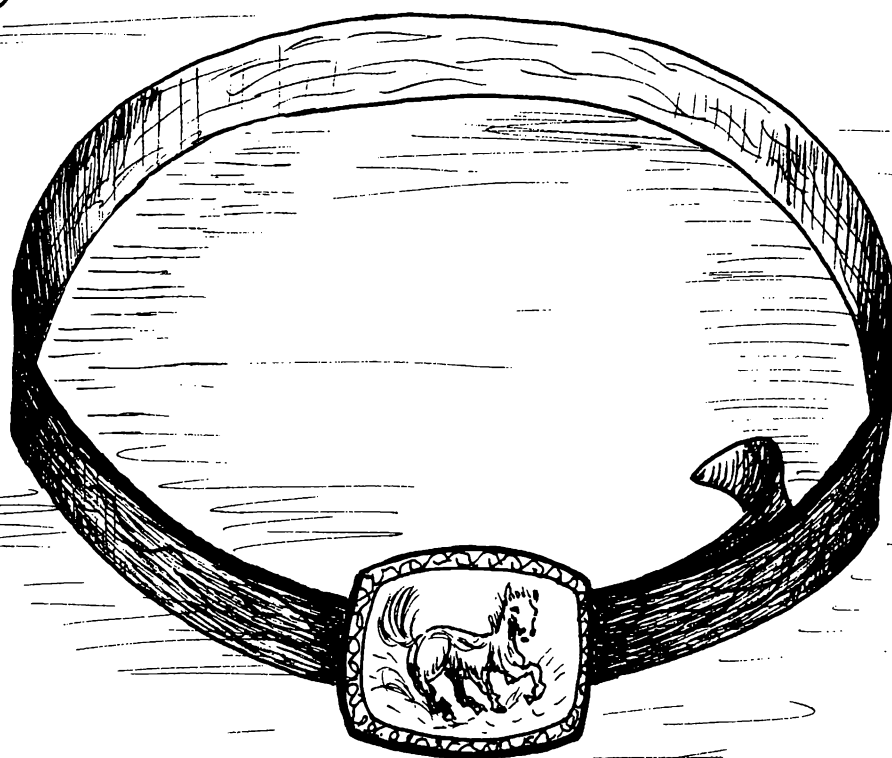
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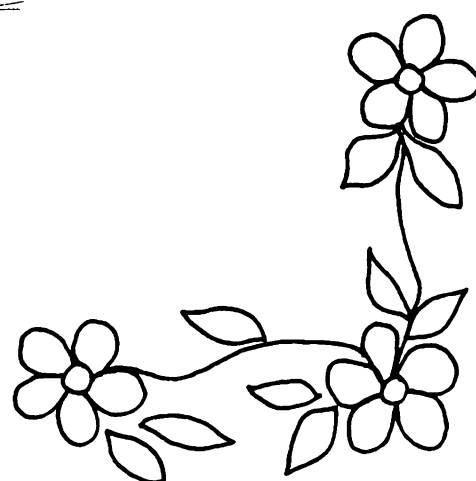
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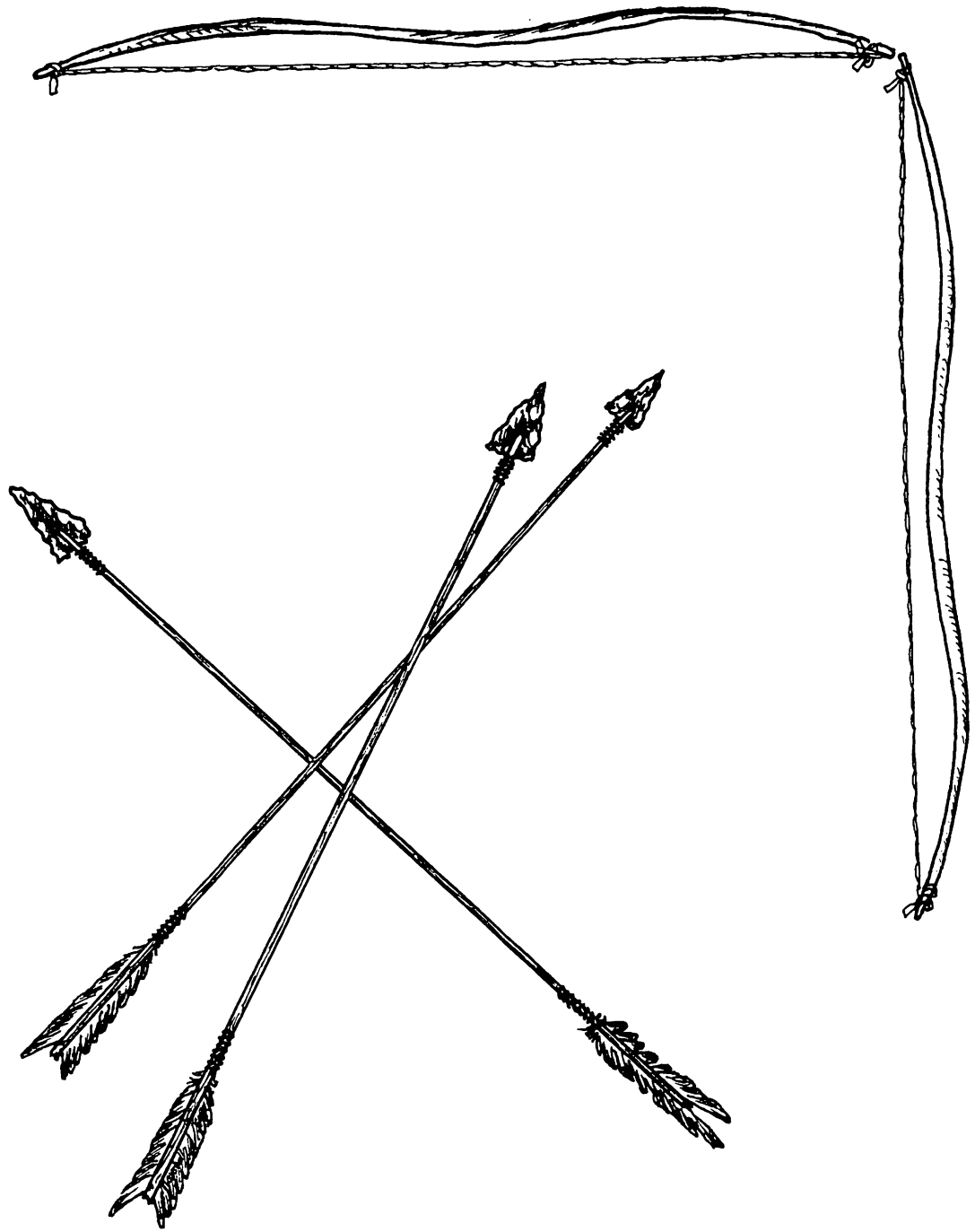


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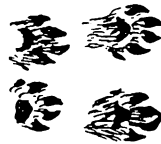
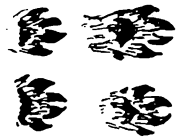


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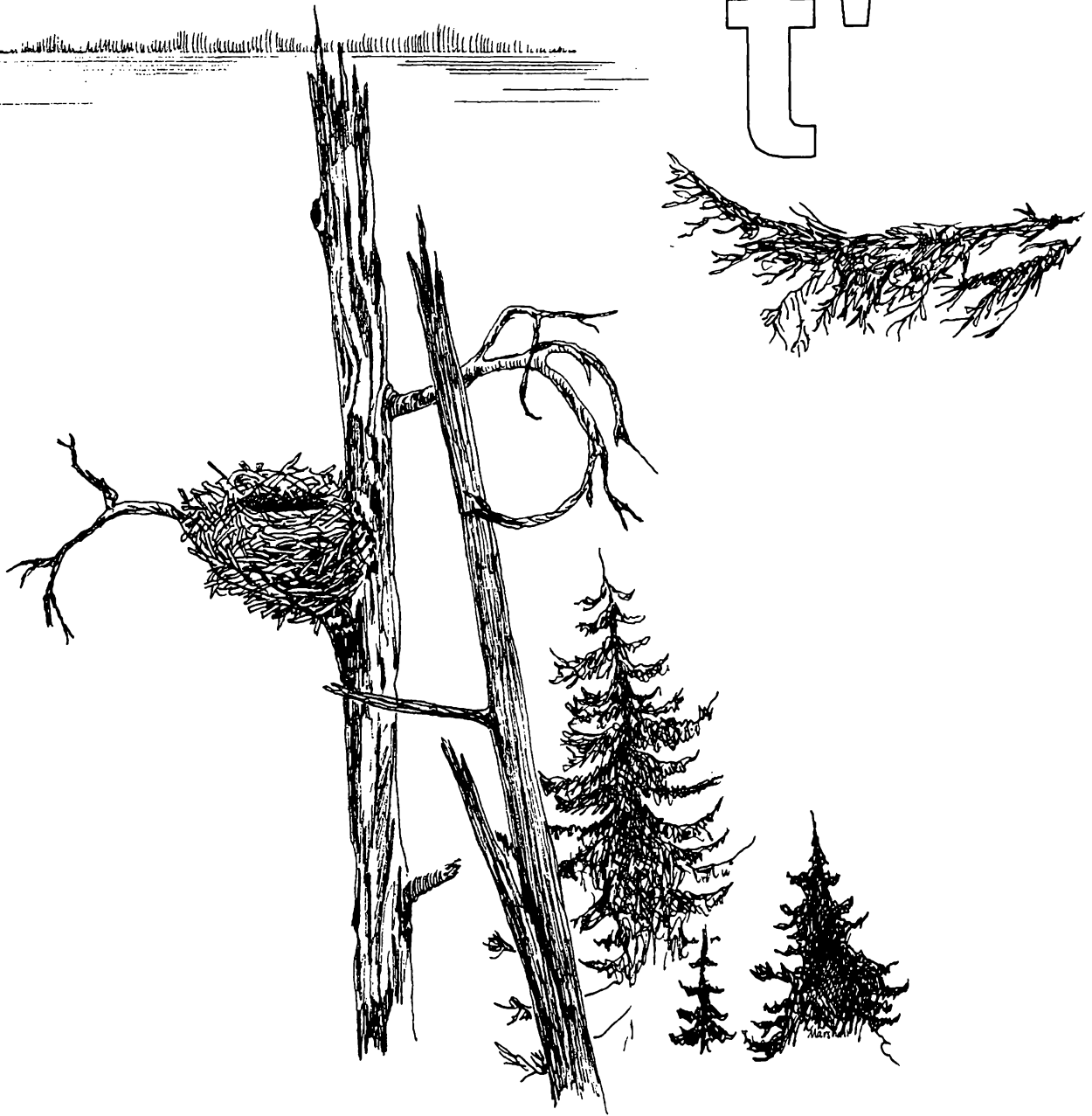
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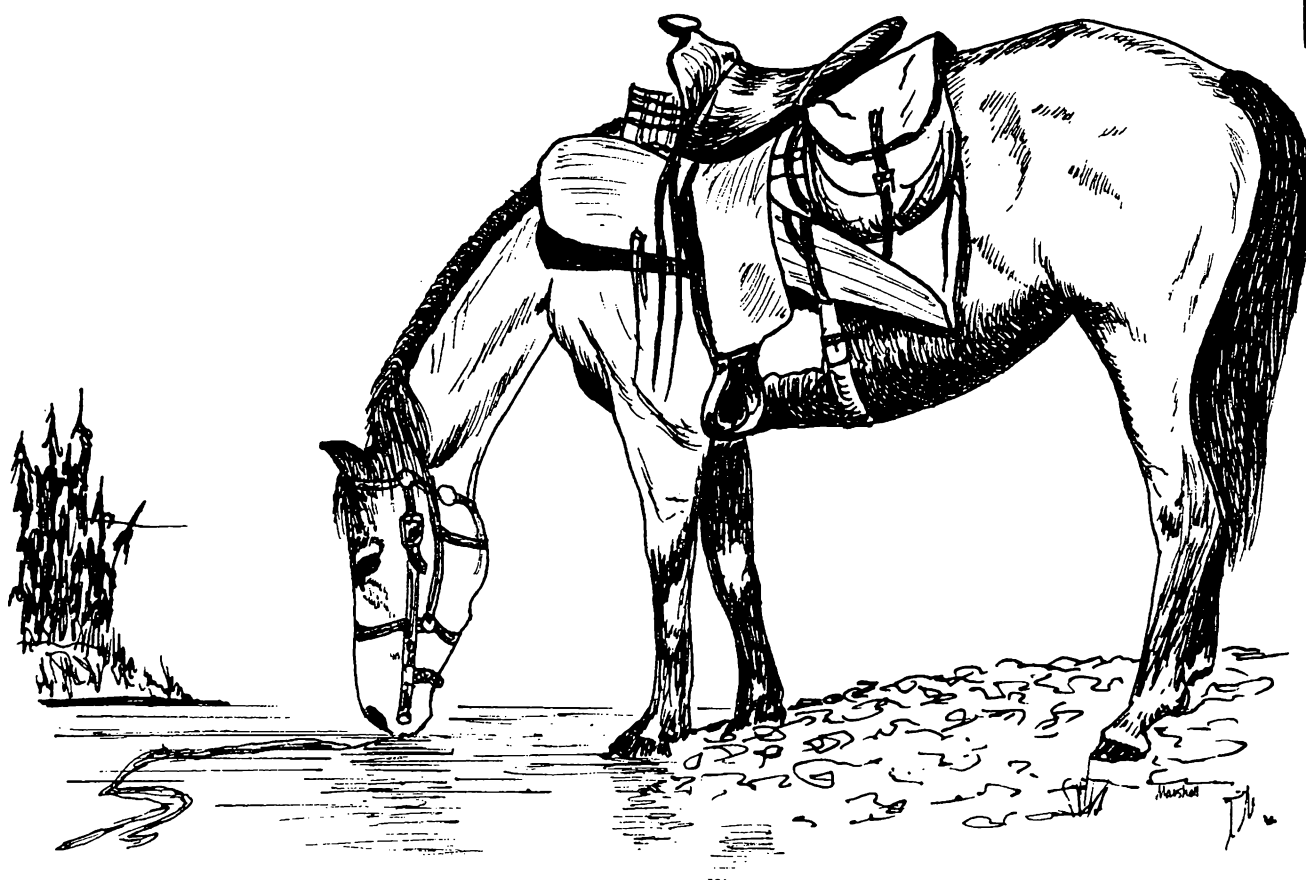
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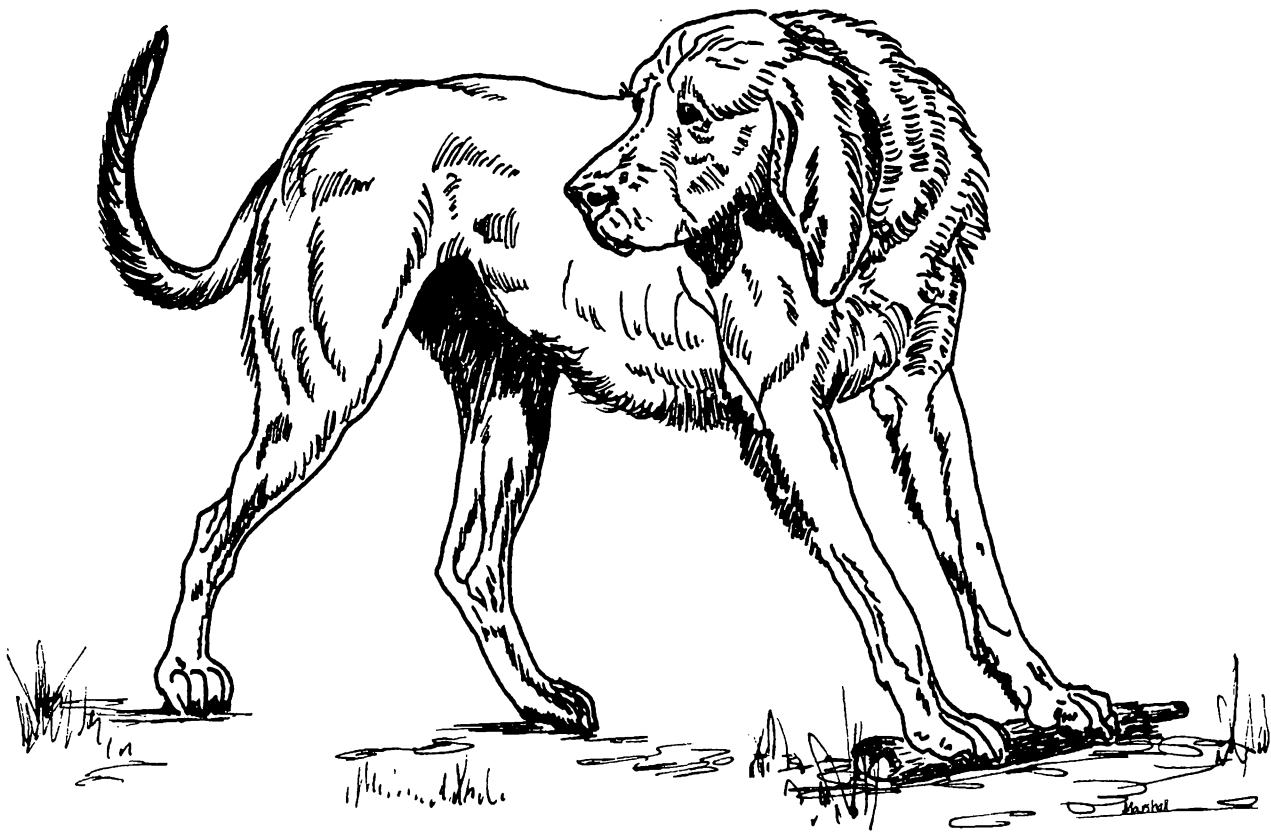
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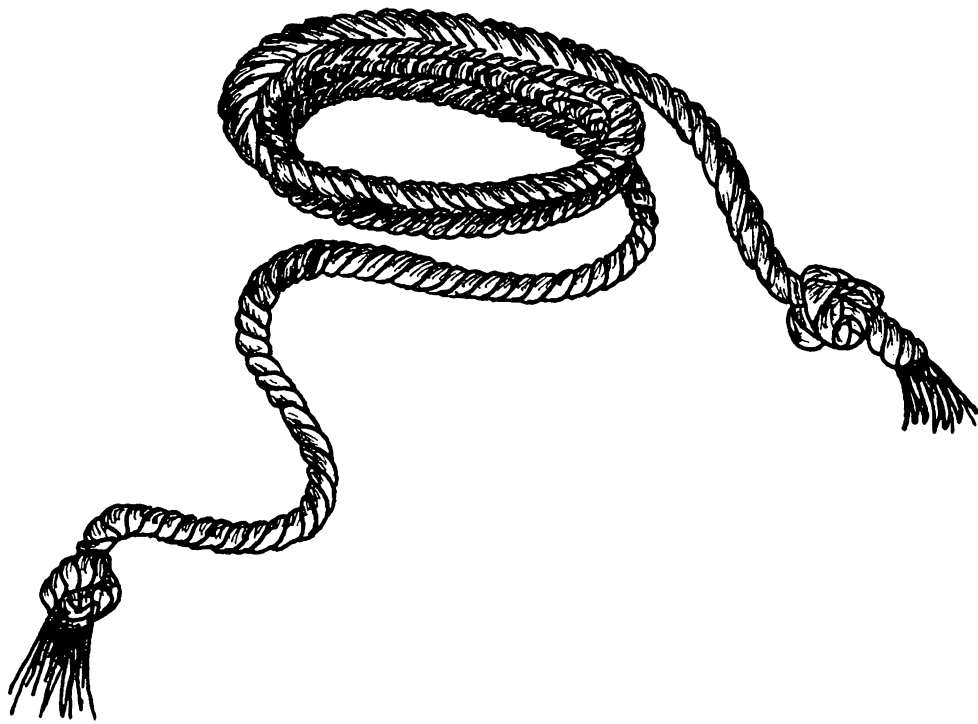


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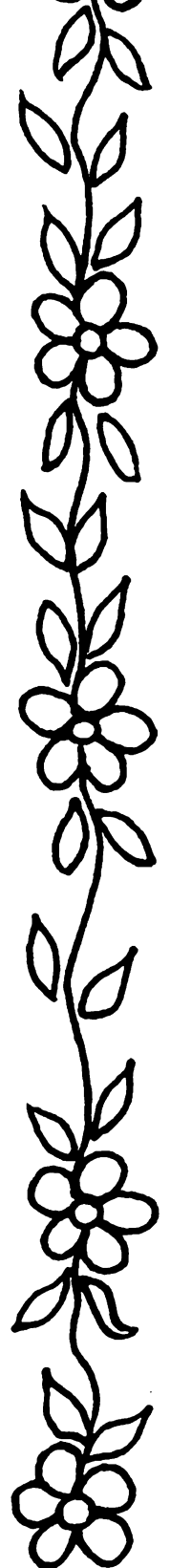


tle_zaa

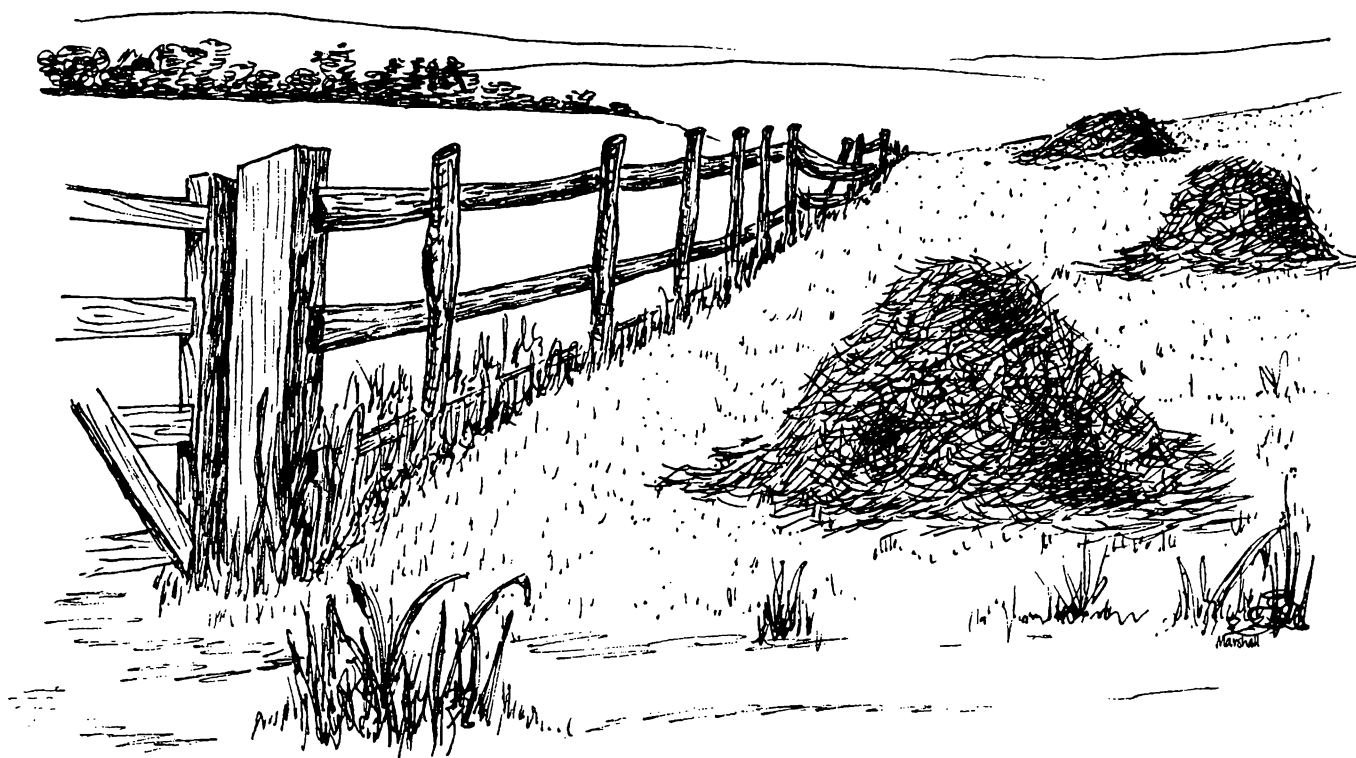
tl'



tl'uulh



tl'

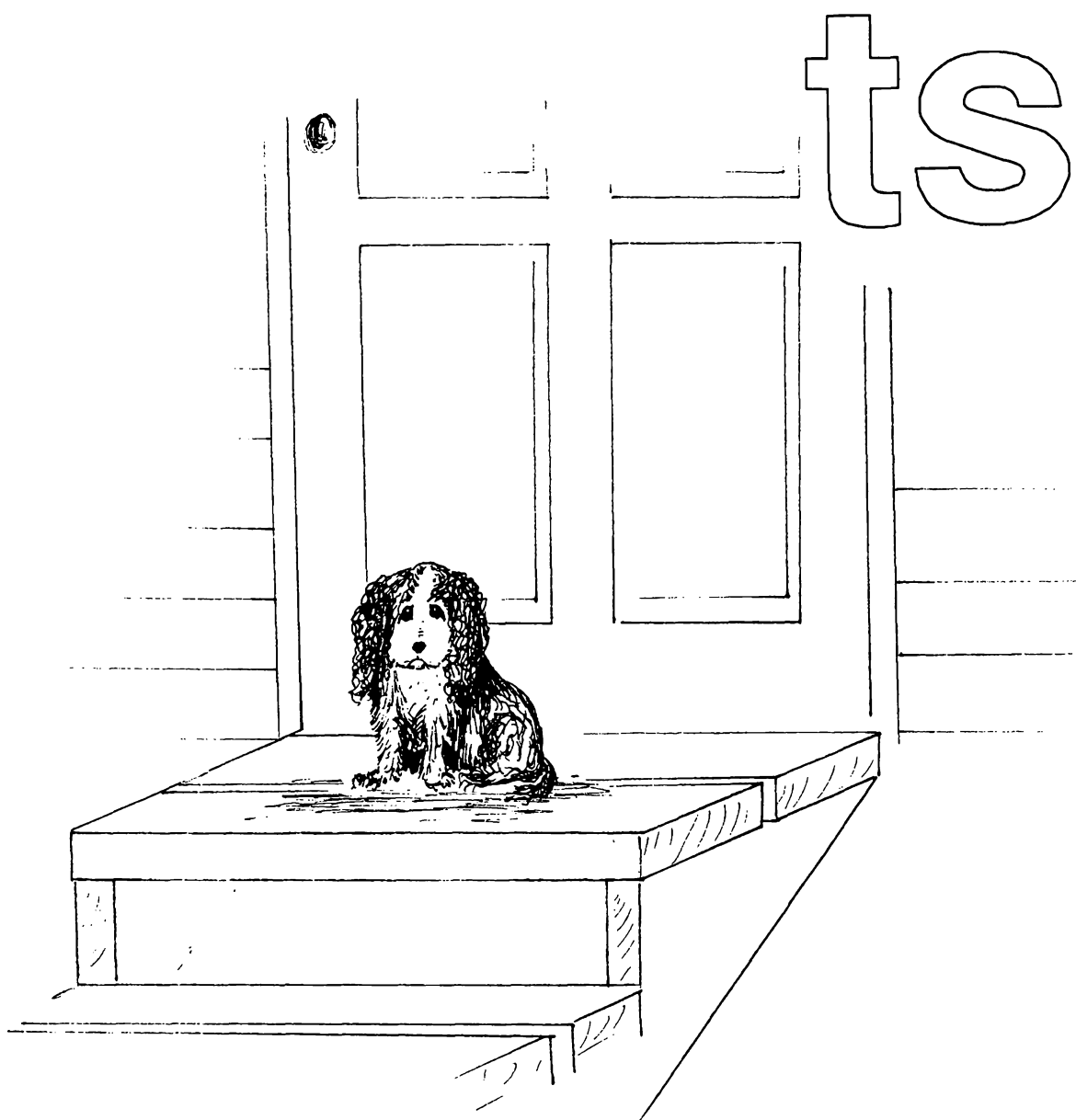


tl'uge

ts

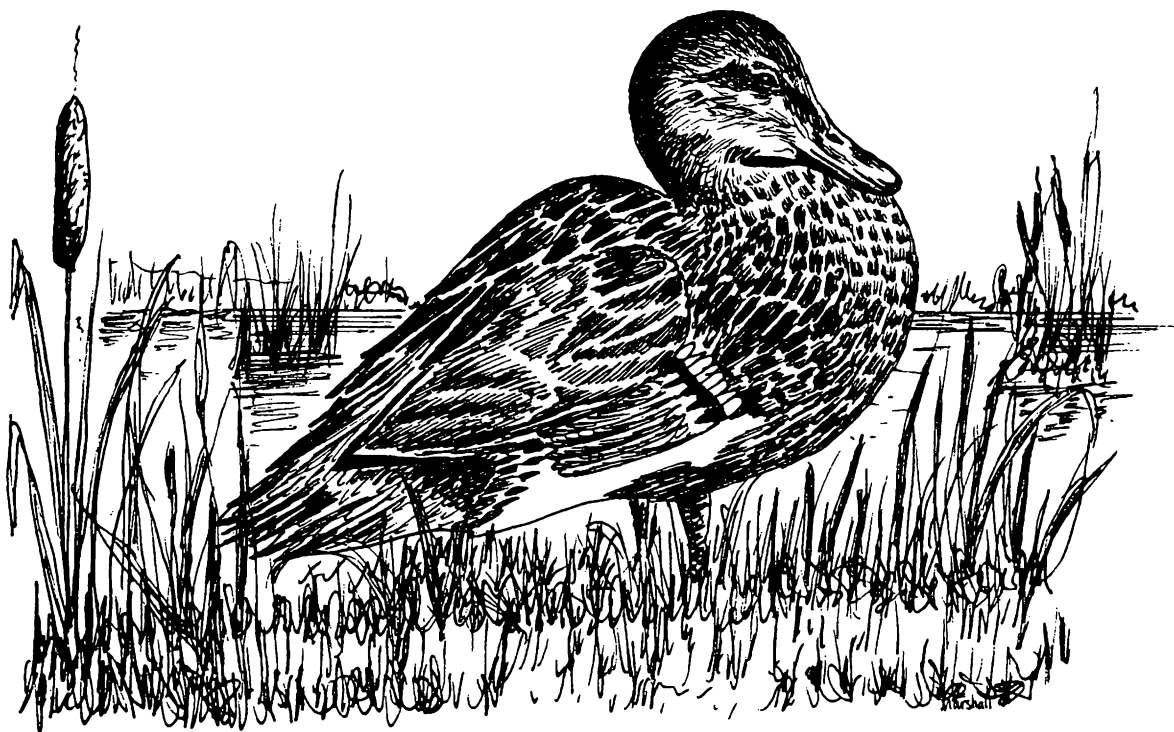


tsaa?

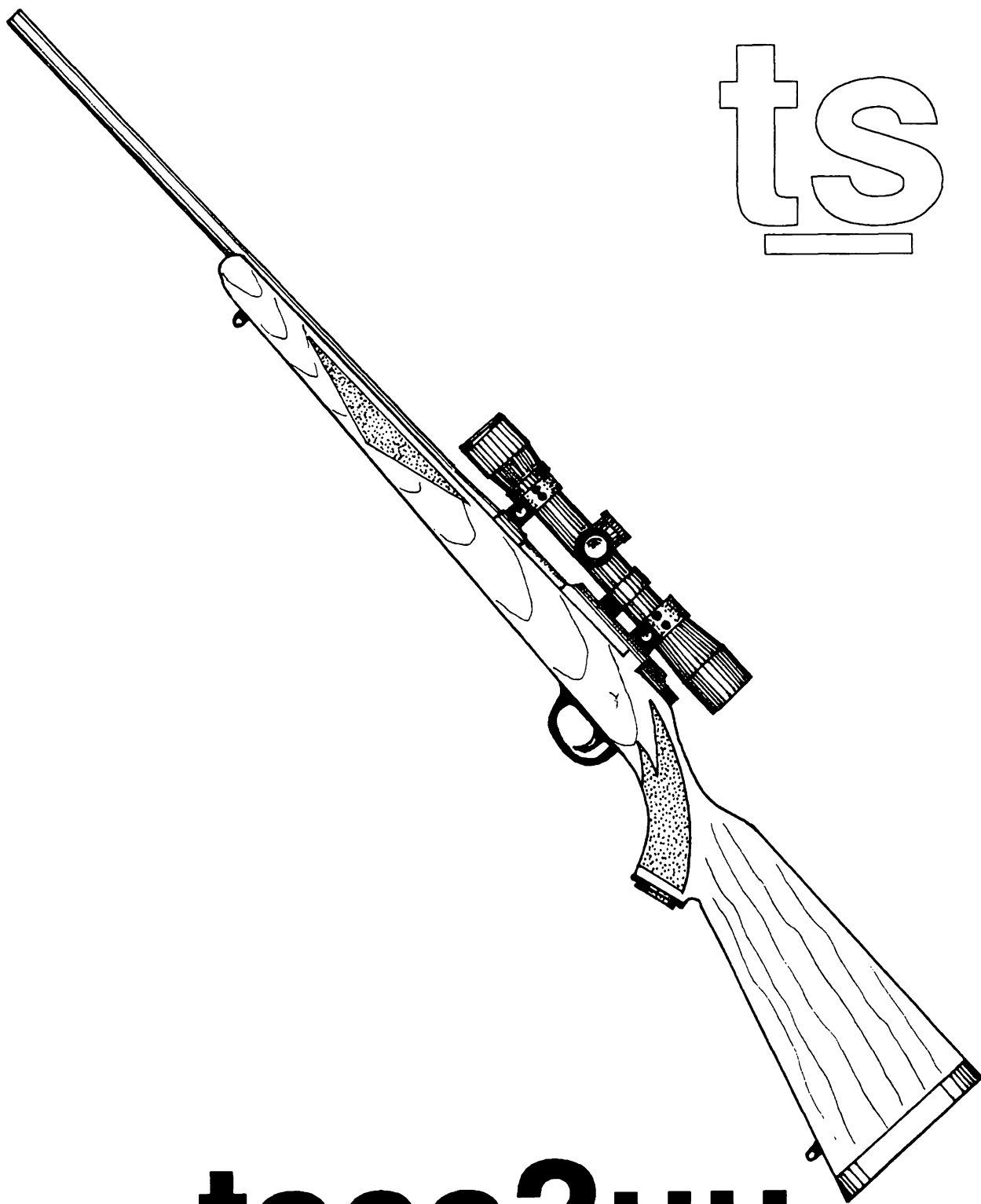


tsitsweah

ts



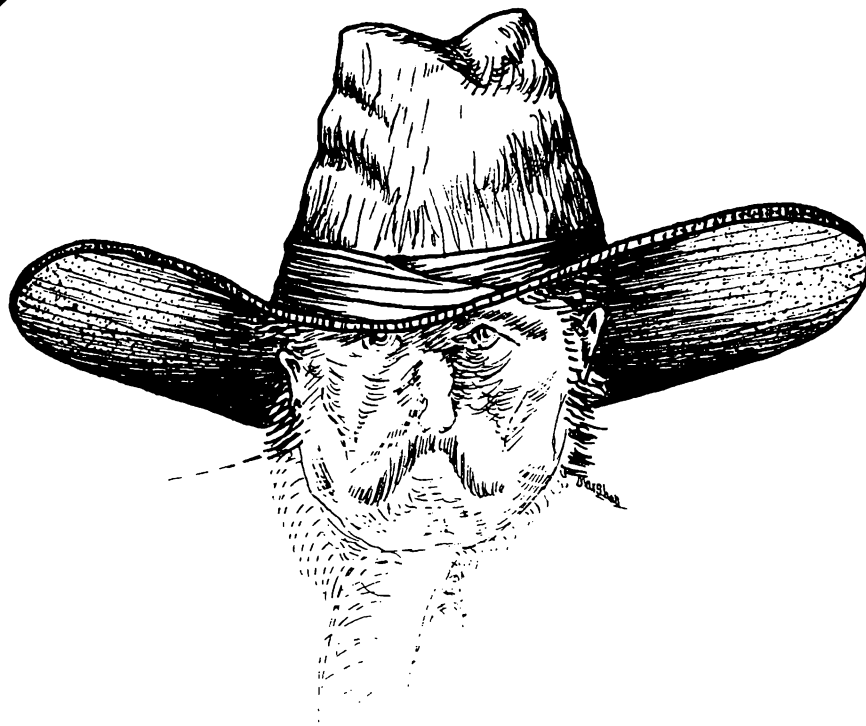
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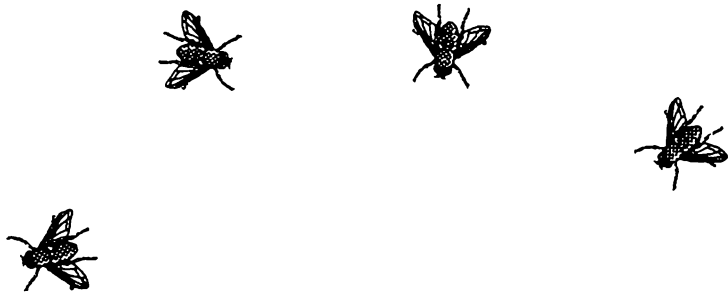
ts

ts?uu

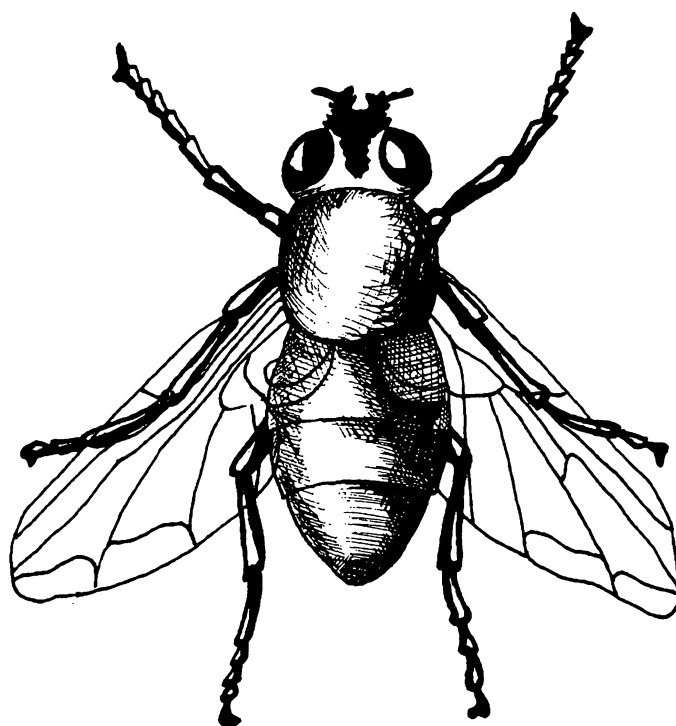
ts'



ts'at

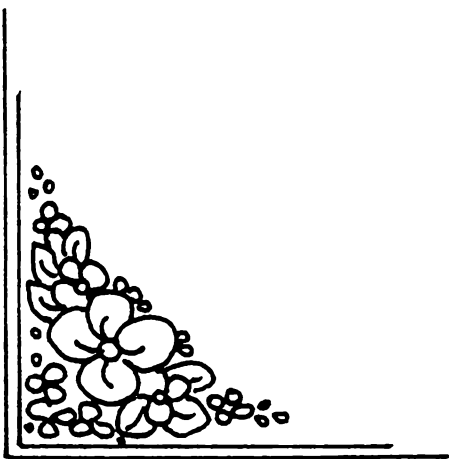
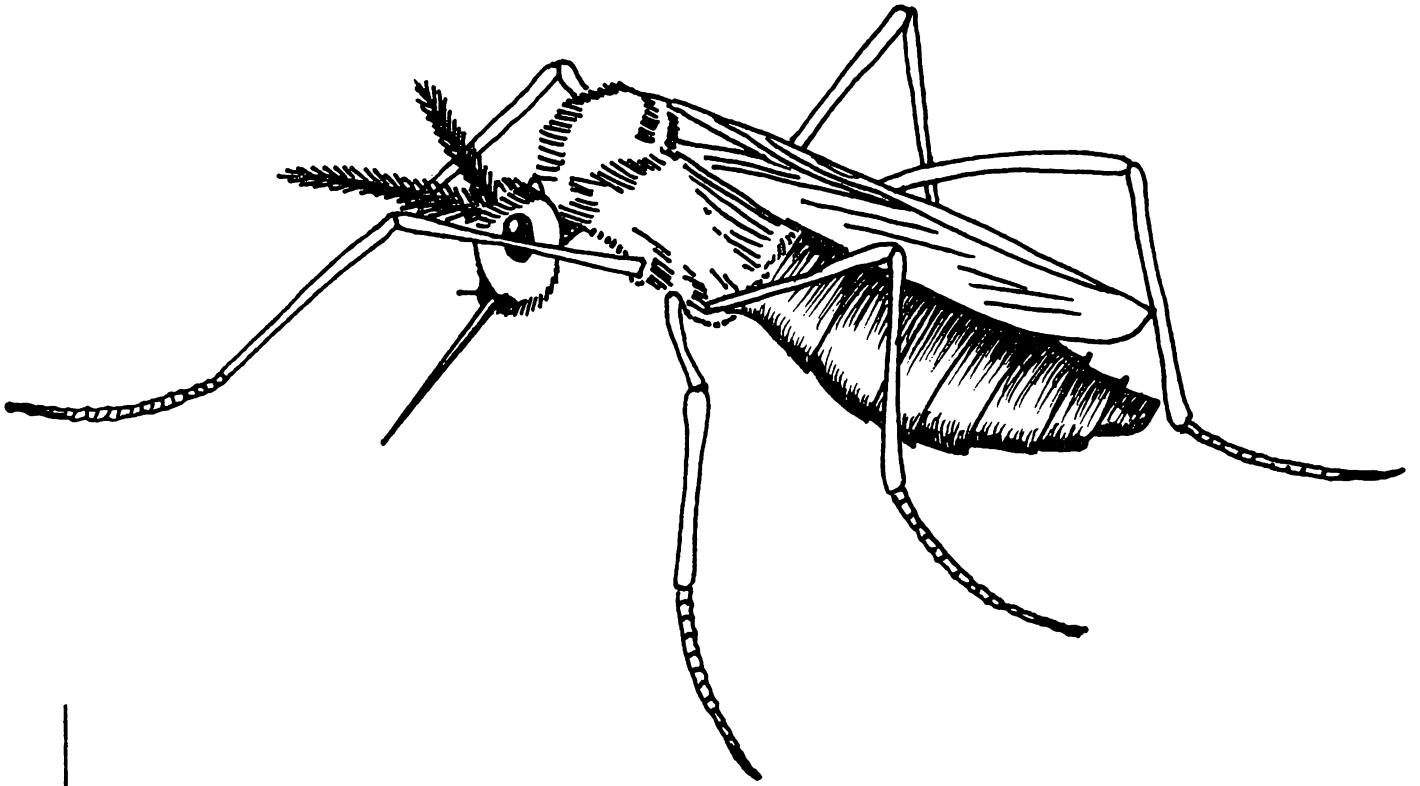
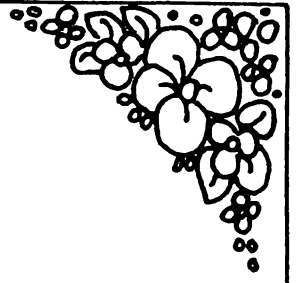


ts'



ts'udzeh

ts'



ts'i ih

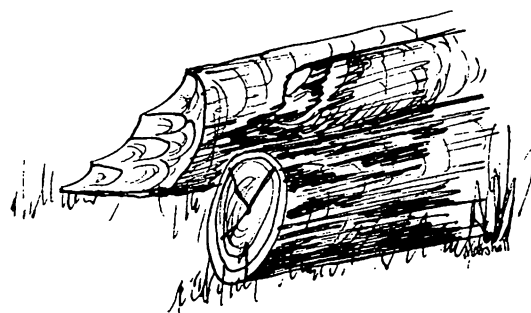


ts'

ats'aahnuu



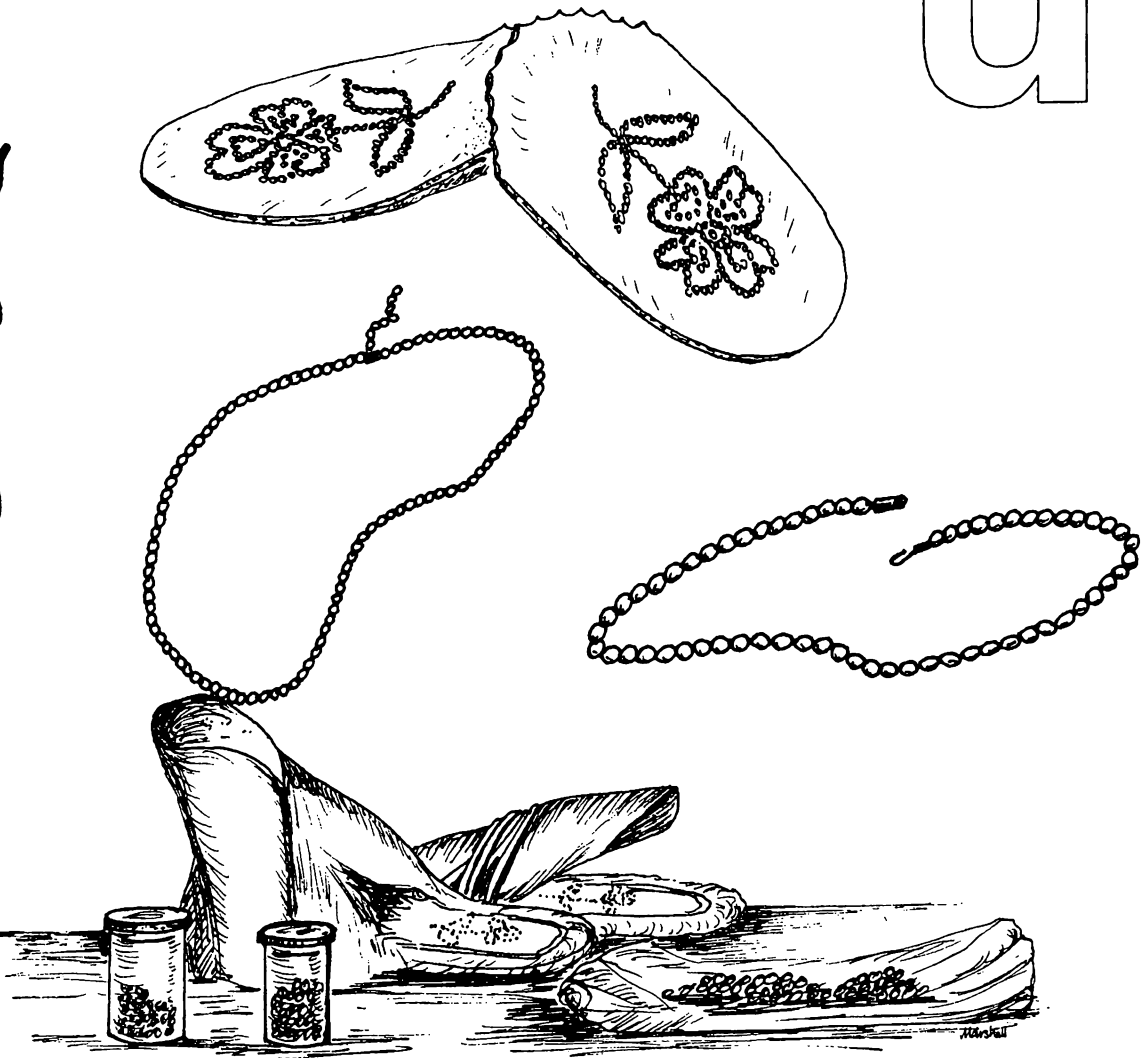
u



kun



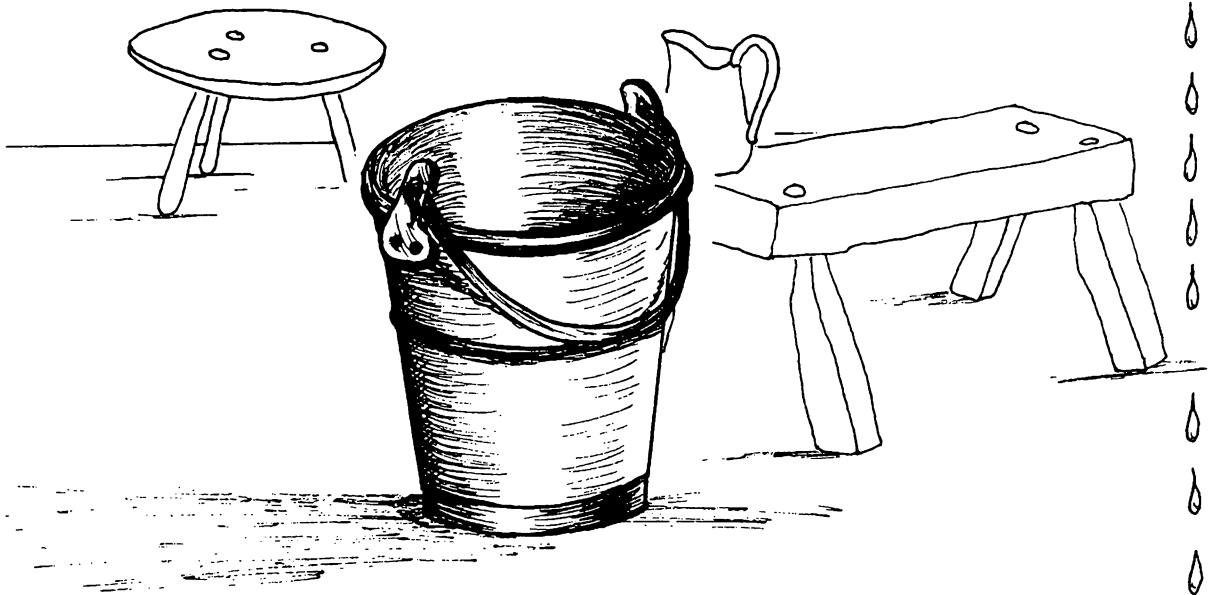
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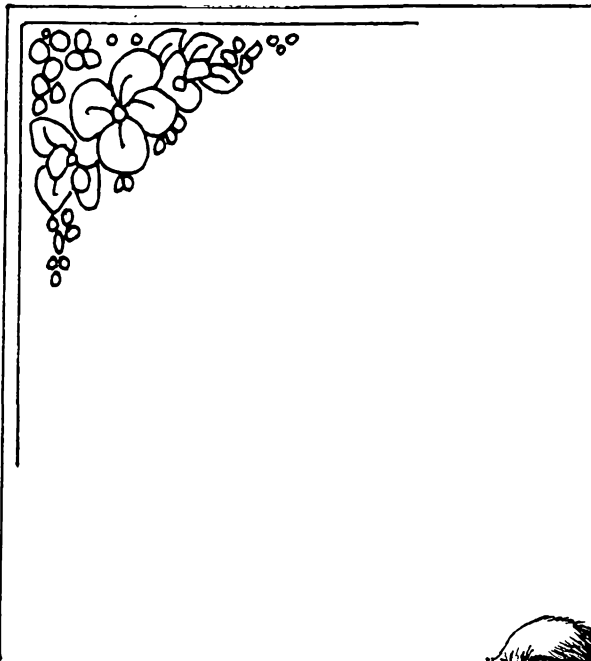
gusadle



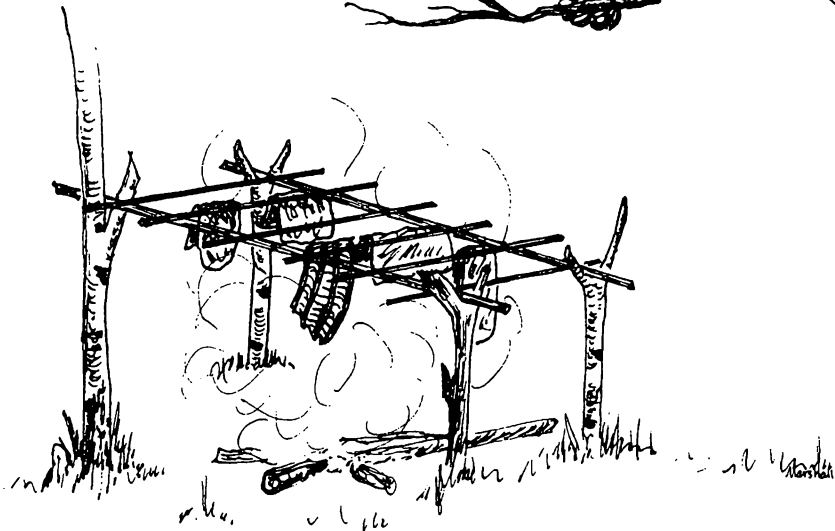
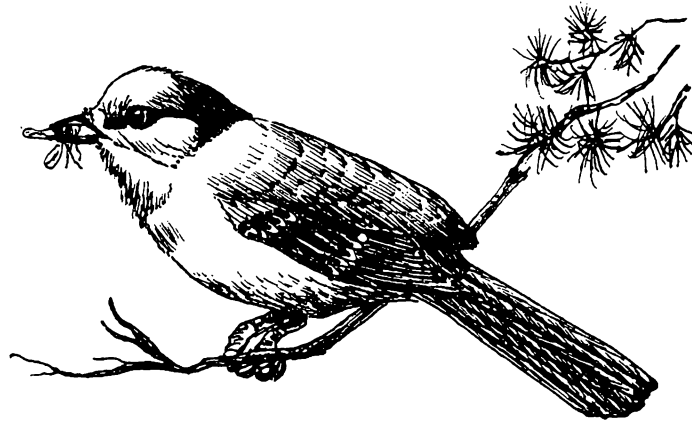
uu



uusaa?



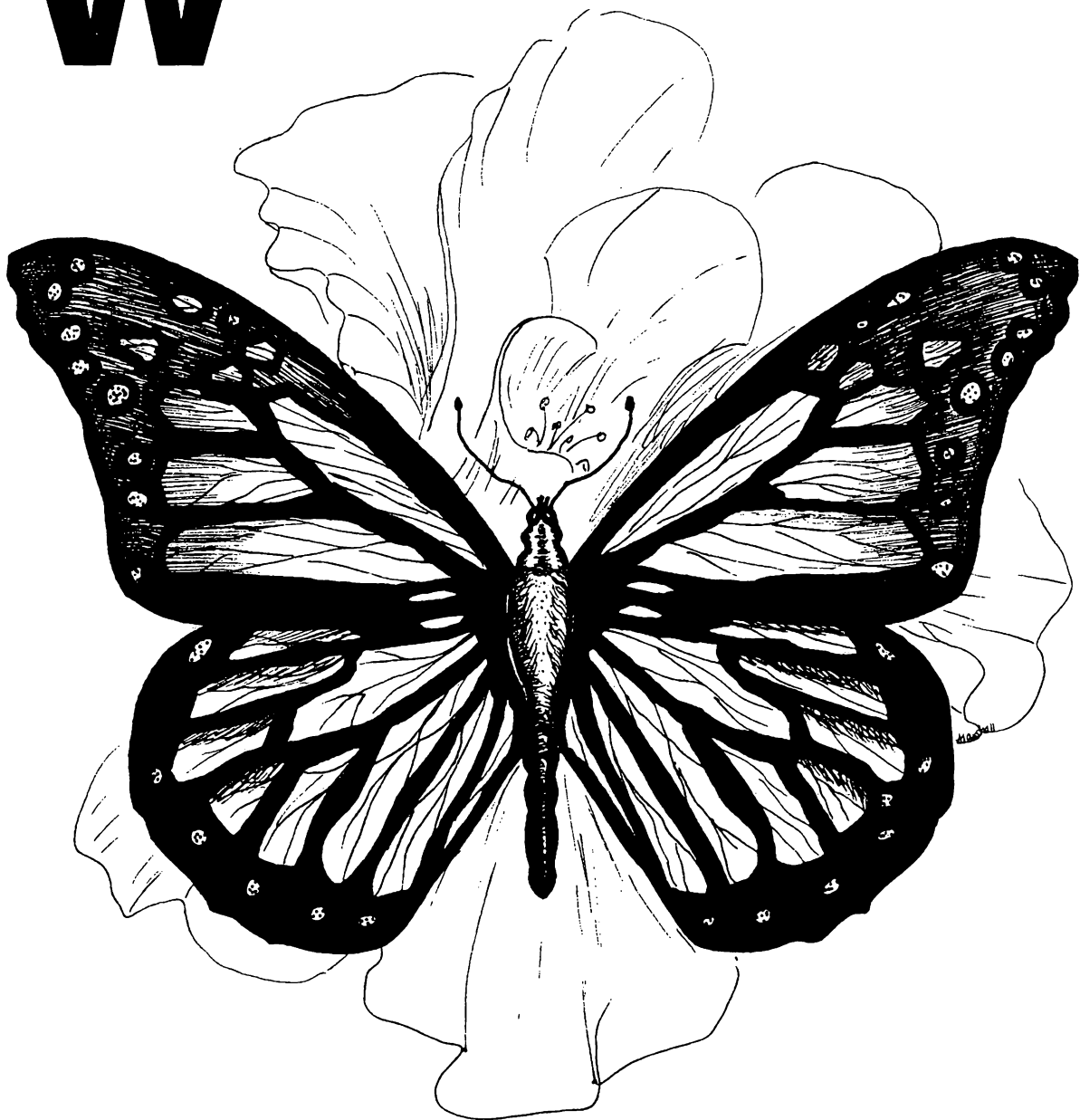
uu



uushk'ae



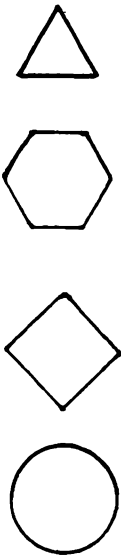
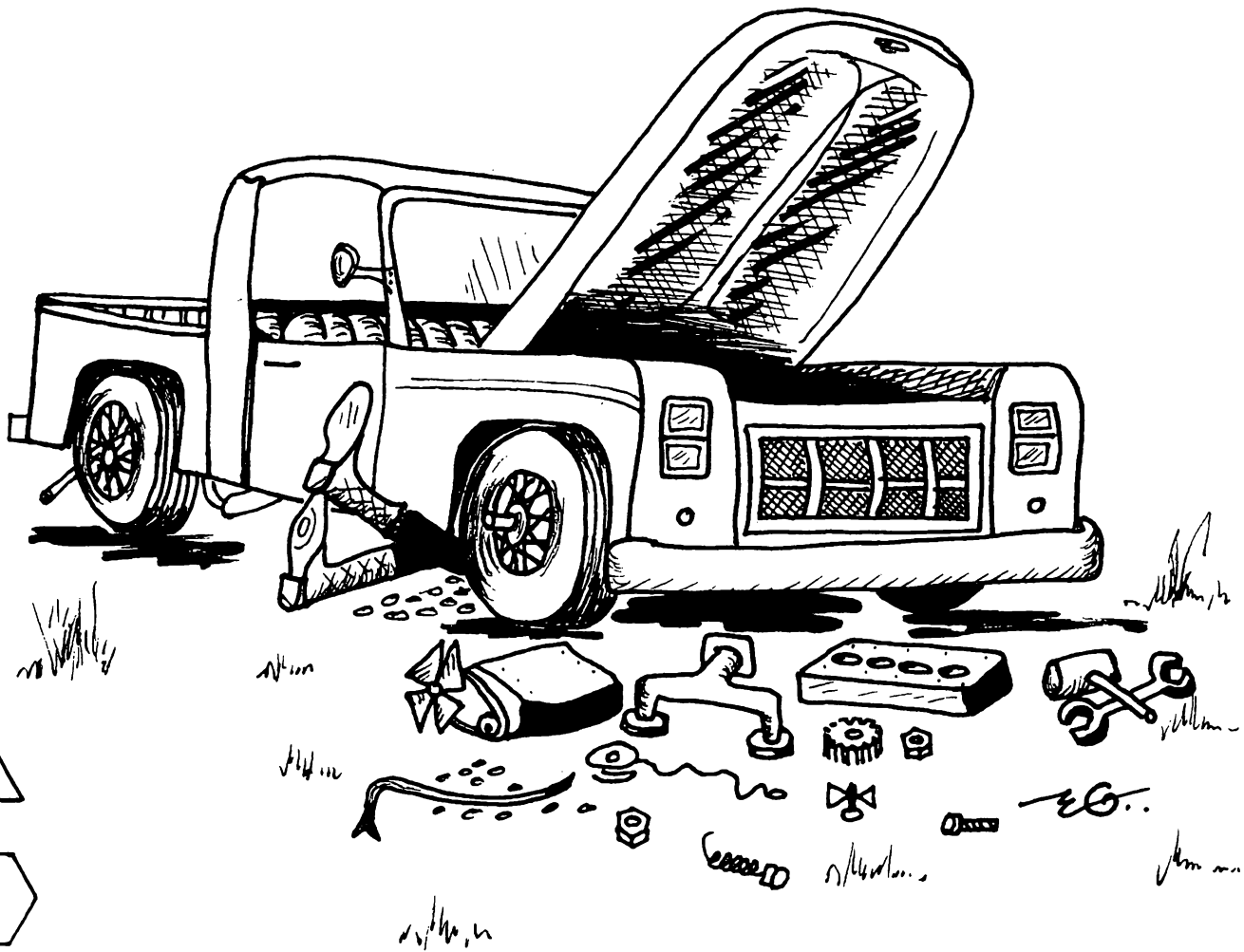
W



walale

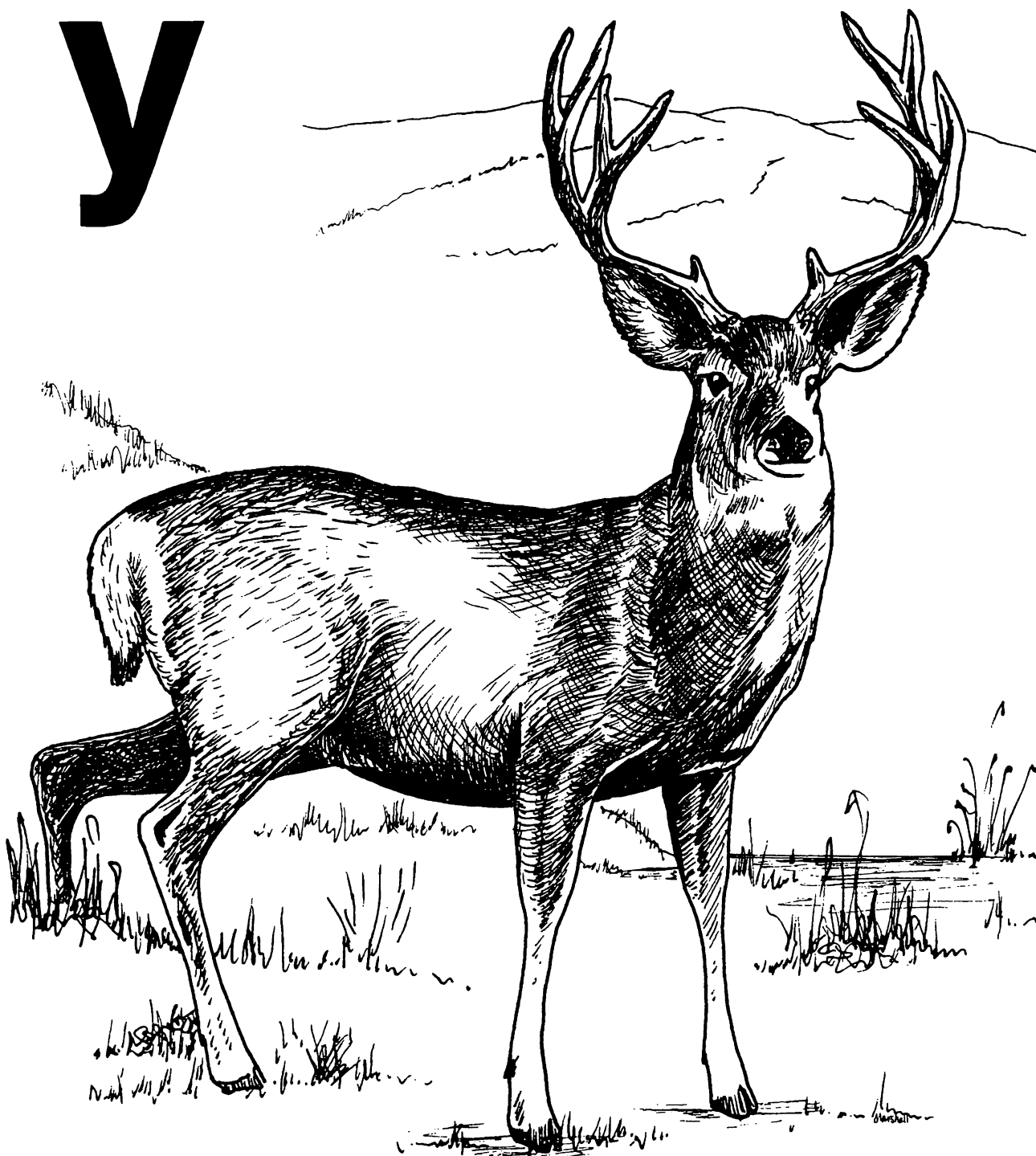


W



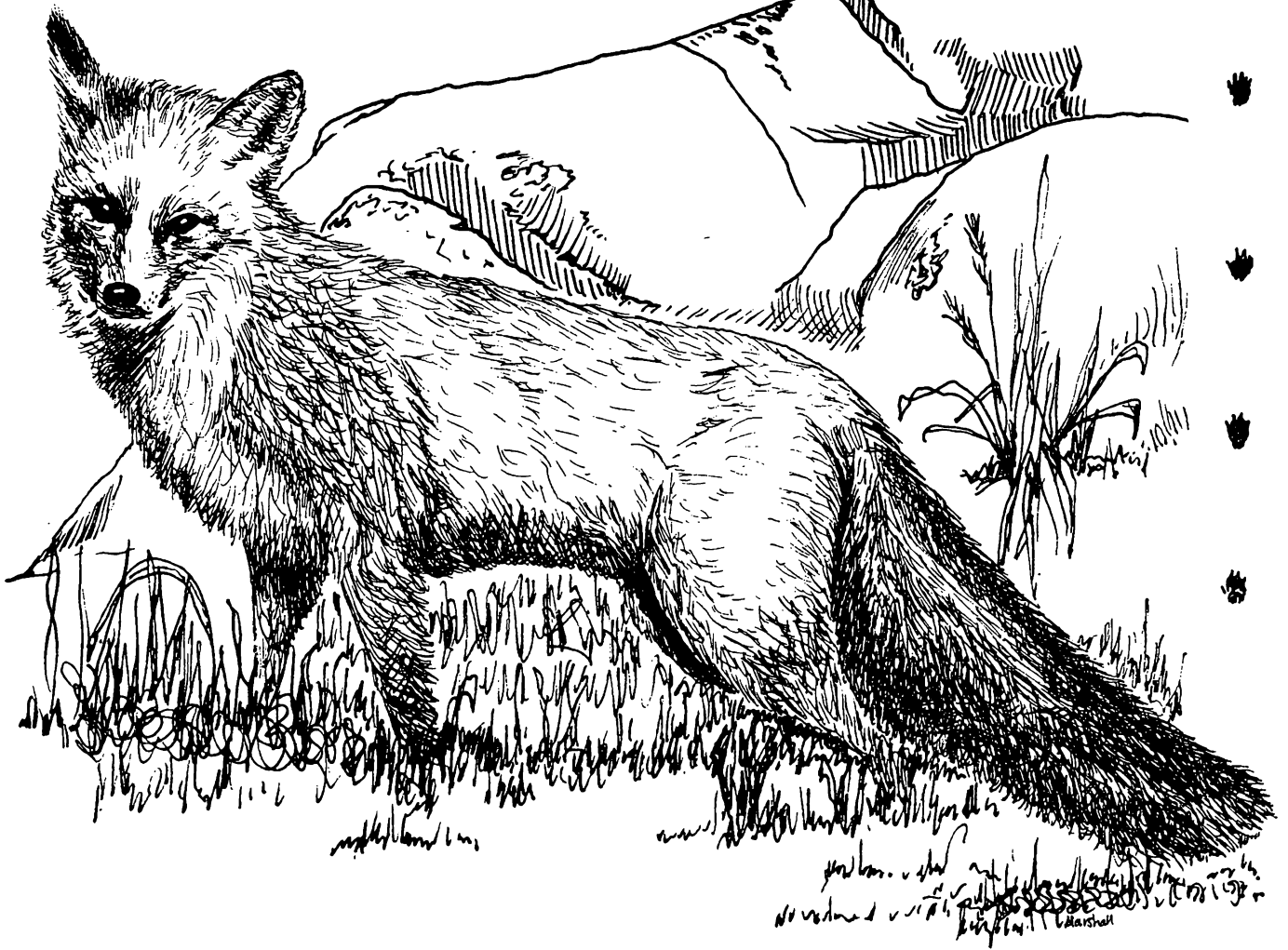
wasdluuze

y



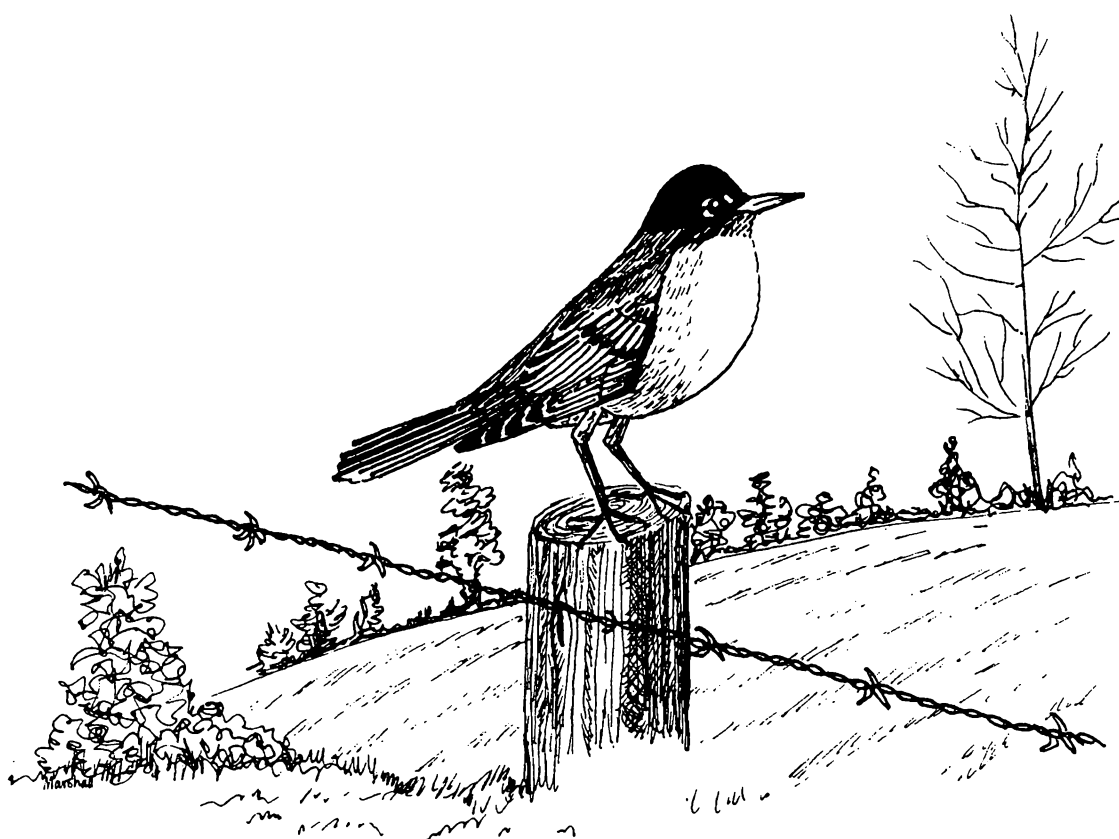
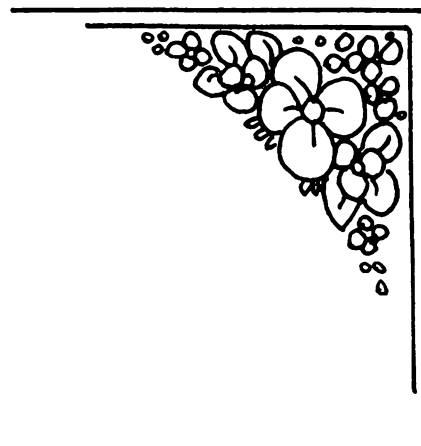
yaatune

y

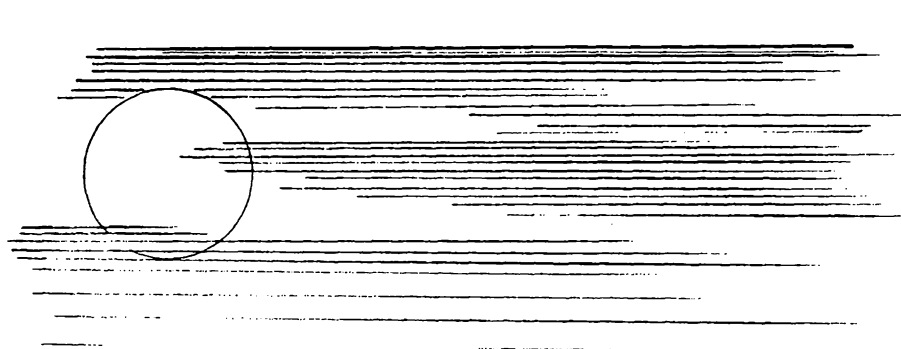


yuuse

z



ziihgae



Z



noze

z

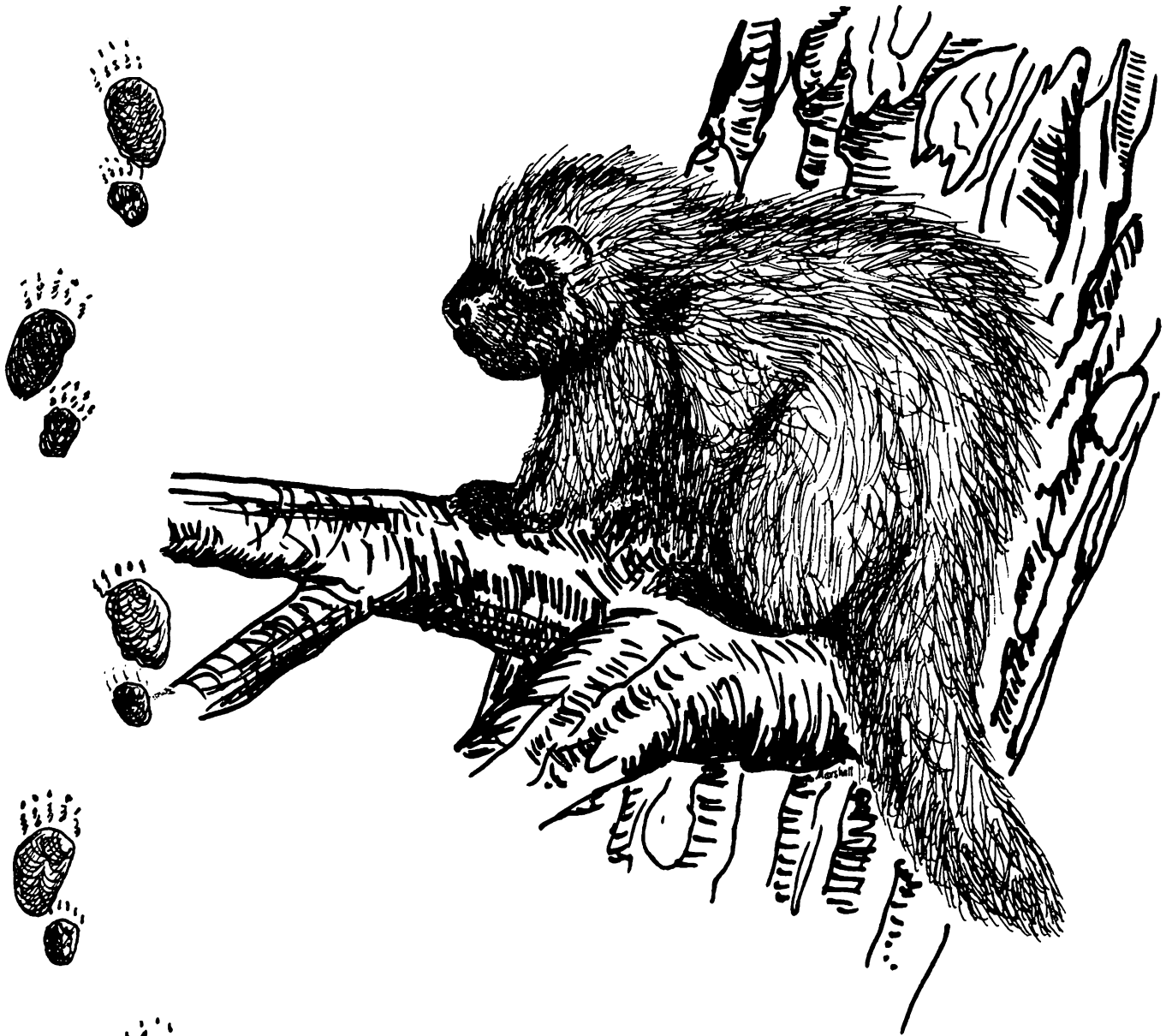


zezuulh



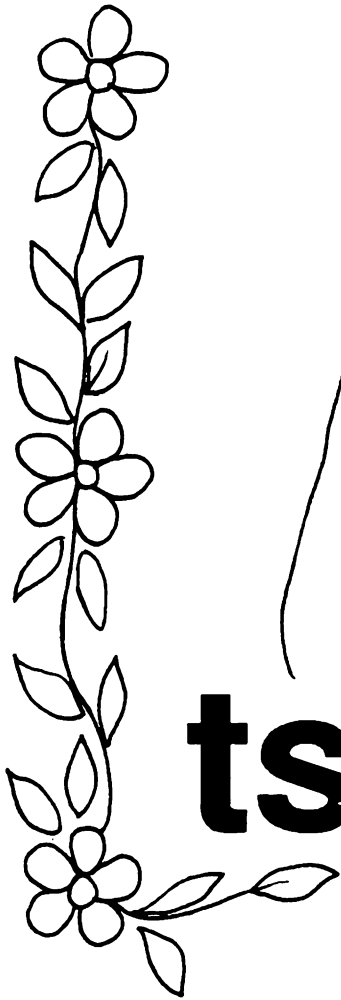
mehzę

zh



aahjiizhe

zh



ts'iizhwęą

A GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION

This guide is included for the benefit of those who have not had a linguistic background or previous acquaintance with the phonology of the Beaver Language. It is not intended to be exhaustive, and it is recommended that one consult a Native Speaker of the language for the refinements of pronunciation.

Beaver letter	Beaver word	English meaning	English equivalent or near equivalent of sound
a	sas	bear	like u in 'bus' or 'nut'.
aa	saa	sun	like a in 'father'.
q̣q̣	ahq̣q̣	yes	as a above but said through the nose.
ae	egae	spoon	This is the two Beaver vowels a and e pronounced as one syllable with the a very brief and the e longer.
q̣q̣̥	saa n̄q̣̥ʔ̣	sunset	as in ae above but said through the nose.
ai	hak'ai	cow	this is the two Beaver vowels a and i and pronounced as one syllable.
b	bes	knife	like b in 'ball'.
ch	acheʔ	tail	like ch in 'chick'.
ch'	ch'q̣ne	coyote	like ch but said with a catch in the breath.
d	dane	person	like d in 'dog'.
dl	dleye	grizzly	like dl in 'meddling'.
dz	adzeʔ	heart	like ds in 'beds'.
<u>dz</u>	<u>dzenii</u>	calendar	like ds in 'beds' said with the tongue just behind the teeth.
e	<u>se</u>	belt	like a in 'fate' but without the English vowel glide.
q̣̥	q̣̥baa	weasel	as Beaver e above but said through the nose.
ea	dabeah	sheep	like a in 'hat'.
q̣̣q̣̣	kuleq̣̣	old man	like ea above said through the nose.

g	gaah	rabbit	like g in 'goat'.
gh	ghaje	goose	similar to g but a "soft" continued sound not stopped.
h	halh	club	similar to the h in 'hen', sometimes breathy.
i	<u>tsits</u>	duck	like i in 'stick'.
ii	jiih	prairie chicken	like i in 'police'.
j	jejq	bull moose	like j in 'job'.
k	ke	shoes	like k in 'keg'.
k'	k'at	willow	like k but said with a catch in the breath.
l	alaaʔ	boat	like l in 'leaf'.
lh	lhuuge	fish	like l in 'clock', but more breathy; it is voiceless.
m	mɛlh	snare	like m in 'moon'.
n	nɔdaa	lynx	like n in 'noon'.
o	gogosh	pig	like o in 'comb', but without the English vowel glide.
q	at'qʔ	leaf	like o but said through the nose.
s	sas	bear	like s in 'saw'.
<u>s</u>	<u>san</u>	star	like s but said with the tongue just behind the teeth.
sh	shin	song	like sh in 'shoe'.
t	<u>tiṣ</u>	crutch	like t in 'tea'.
t'	at'qʔ	leaf	like t but said with a catch in the breath.
tl	tlɛzaa	dog	like tl in 'throttling'.
tl'	tl'uulh	rope	like tl but said with a catch in the breath.
ts	tsaaʔ	beaver	like ts in 'cats'.
<u>ts</u>	<u>tse</u>	pipe	like ts but said with the tongue just behind the teeth.

ts'	ts'adeʔ	blanket	like ts but said with a catch in the breath.
<u>ts</u> '	<u>ts</u> 'iih	mosquito	like ts but said with a catch in the breath.
u	kun	fire	u before k is like u in 'duck'. Following k , k' , g , gh , and h , like o in 'one'. In any other environment, more like wa in 'swat'.
uu	chuu	water	like oo in 'food'.
w	walale	butterfly	like w in 'worm'.

w following a consonant and before a vowel is pronounced like the **w** in the English word 'twin'. The difference between English and Beaver is that in English the **w** can be thought of as going with the consonant it follows, but in Beaver the **w** should be thought of as going with the vowel or vowels that follow it. Therefore **waa**, **we**, **wea**, etc. are vowel units in Beaver in much the same way that **aa**, **e**, and **ea** are vowel units.

wą	kwą	house	like wu of 'swung', but said through the nose.
waa	et'waah	'22' shell	like like ua in 'suave'.
wąą	hwąą	near	like waa but said through the nose.
we	madzedzweʔ	his lungs	like way in 'sway'.
wea	machweah	my little daughter	like ua in 'quack'.
węą	dlwęą	mouse	like wea but said through the nose.
wi	k'wisje	jacket	like wl in 'twin'.
wii	gwiiyiskeguu	their children	like wee in sweet.
y	yuuʔ	medicine	like y in 'young'.
z	maziiʔ	his body	like z in 'zoo'.
<u>z</u>	<u>az</u> is	hide	like z but said with the tongue just behind the teeth.
zh	dézhaa	he has started to go	like s in 'measure'.
ʔ	maʔaahəʔ	his snowshoes	made by closing the throat.

High tone **á é í ó ú** marks a vowel which has a higher pitch.