

MY
WETZLAND
COLORING
BOOK

WETLANDS
AND THEIR
IMPORTANCE

WETLANDS

Wetlands are just that . . . *wet lands*.

Not long ago most Americans did not know that our wetlands are a very important natural resource. They thought a swamp was just a swamp, and they went right on filling the creeks and bayous and drying up the bogs. Then they used the land for farms or built factories and cities on it.

Now we know better. Now we know how important our wetlands are, and we are working hard to keep them alive and healthy.

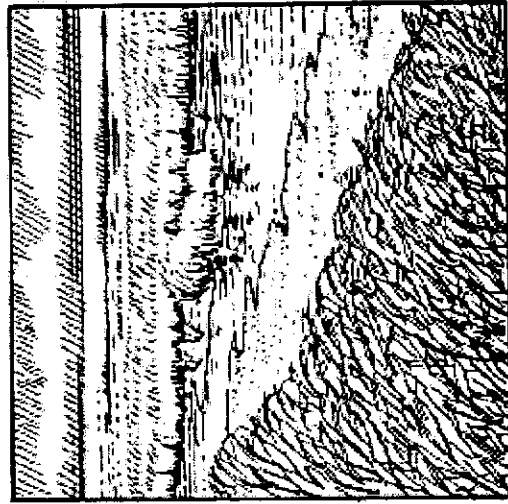
Because wetlands are places that are under water at least some of the time, they are home for many special plants and animals that can live nowhere else.

Wetlands can be swamps, marshes, bogs and even the bottomlands along creeks and rivers. Some wetlands—like the Big Thicket in Texas, the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia and the Everglades in Florida—are unique. But all wetlands are important. They must be taken care of.

Look for wetlands near your home and when you are on vacation. Look at the plants and animals living there and try to tell what kinds of wetlands you find. Look to see whether those wetlands are being protected. As you will discover in this coloring book, the wetlands are important to us all.

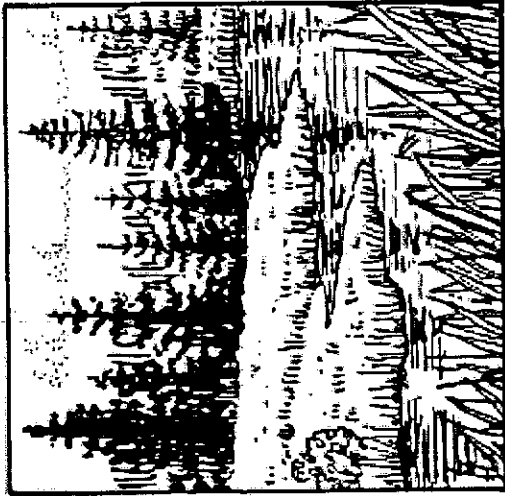


LAKE OR POND



COASTAL WETLAND

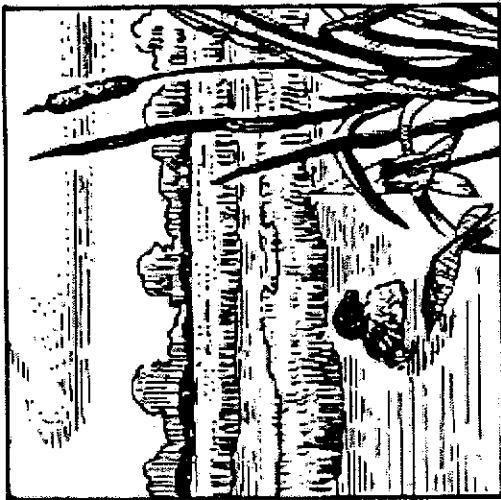
WETLAND PICTURES



BOG



RIVER OR STREAM



MARSH



SWAMP

BOTTOMLAND WETLANDS

**Bottomlands are wet forests near creeks and rivers.
What kinds of animals live in bottomlands? Without wetlands
many plants and animals would become extinct.**



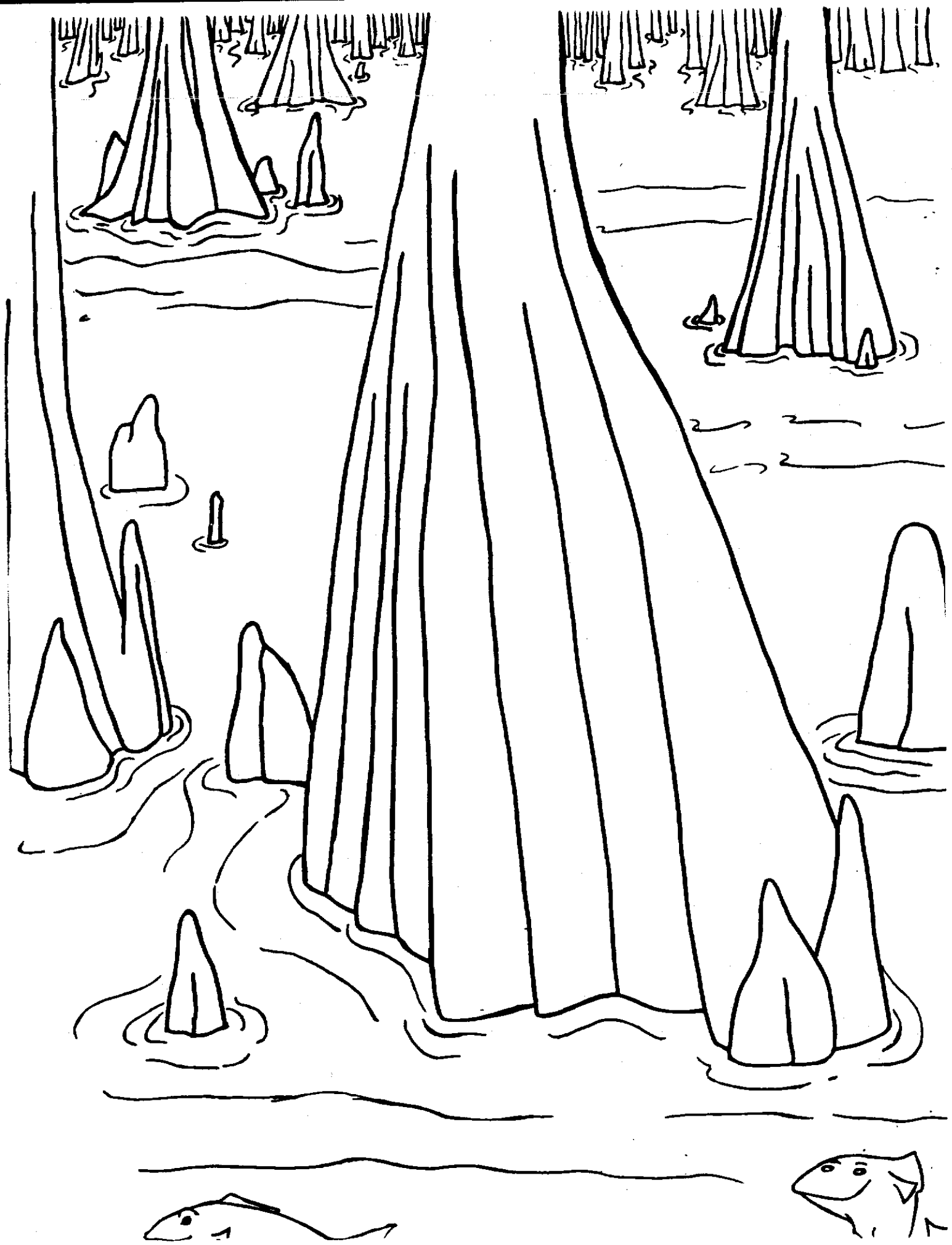
FRESHWATER MARSH

**Freshwater marshes are found near rivers and lakes.
Can you find the cattails in this freshwater marsh?**



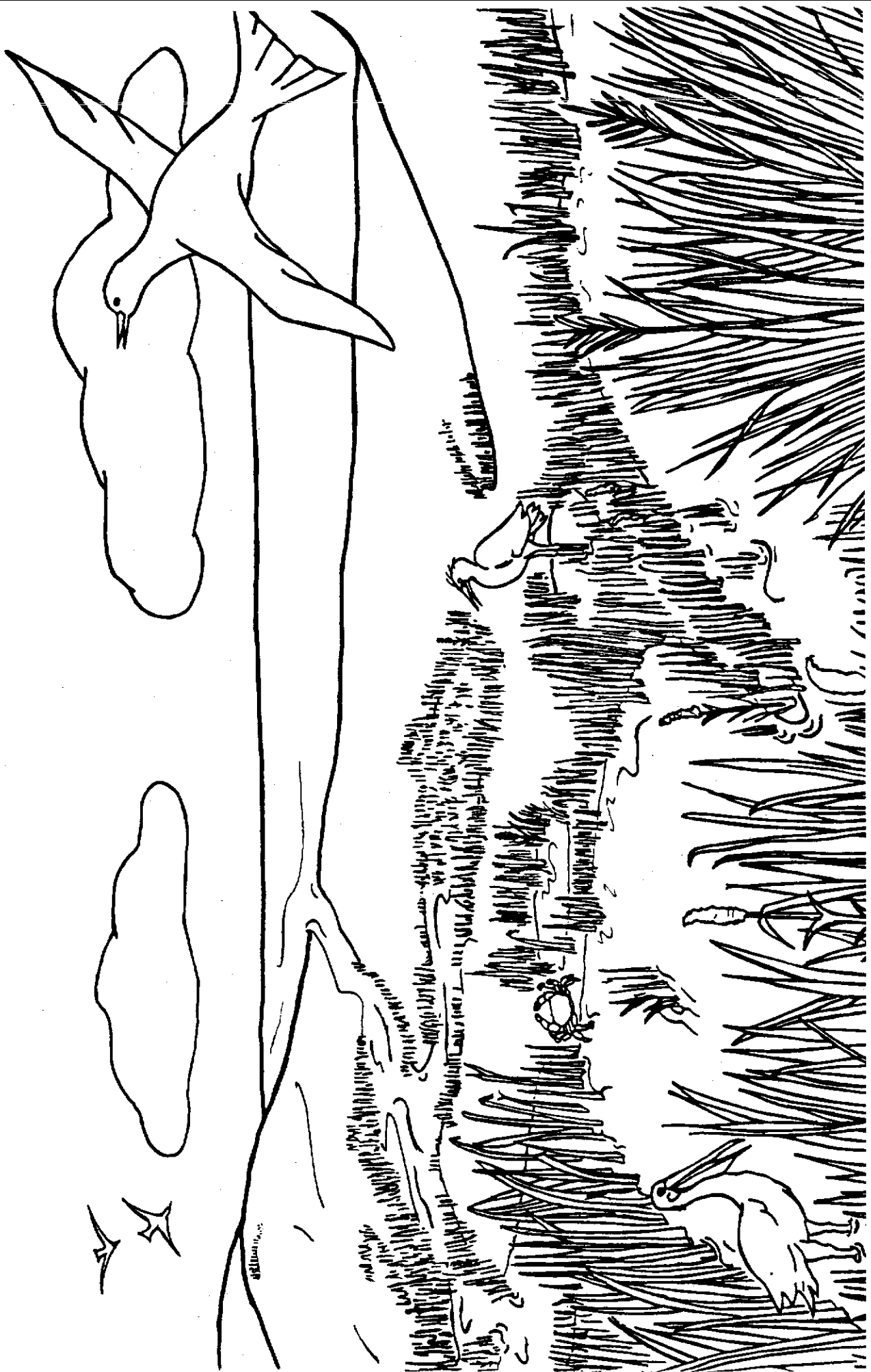
FRESHWATER SWAMPS

In freshwater swamps the trees grow right out of the water. Swamps and bottomlands help keep floodwater away from towns and cities. Wetlands also purify the water.

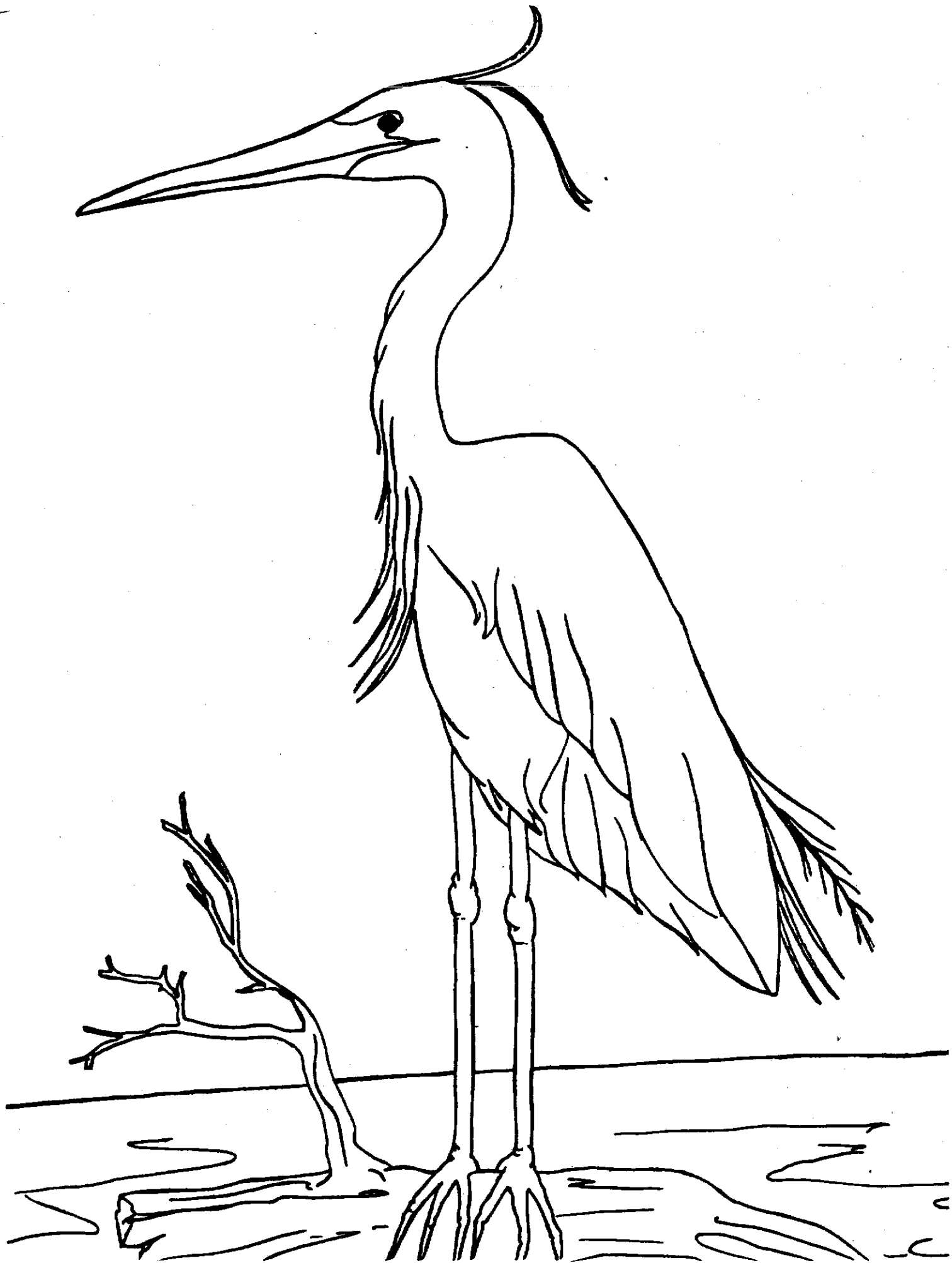


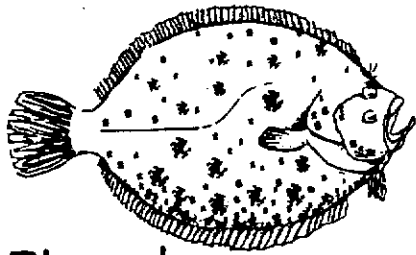
SALTWATER MARSH

Saltwater marshes are usually found near the ocean. Many of the fish, shrimp and oysters that we enjoy eating live in saltwater marshes.

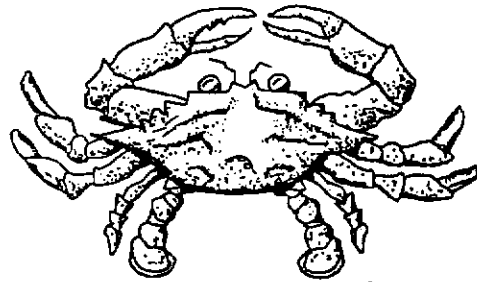


**Next time you see a wetland . . .
Look to see what kinds of plants and animals live there.
They can tell you if it is a saltwater marsh, a freshwater
marsh, bottomland wetland, or a swamp.**





Flounder



Blue Crab



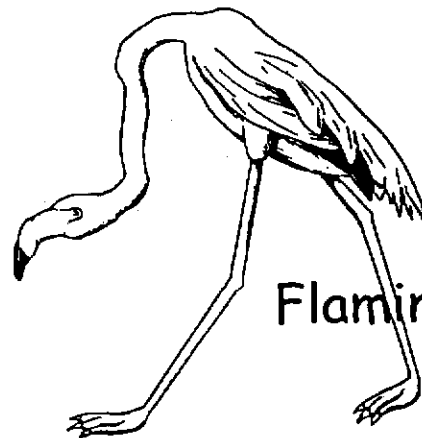
Pelican



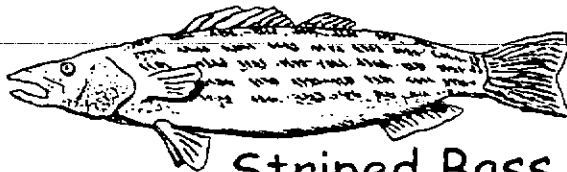
Clam



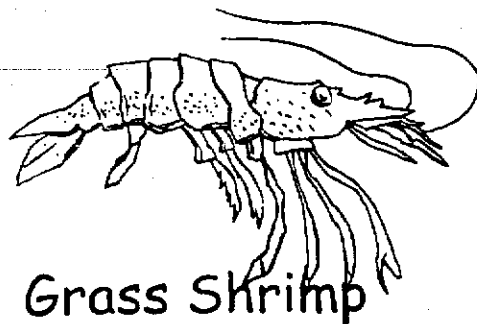
Oyster



Flamingo



Striped Bass



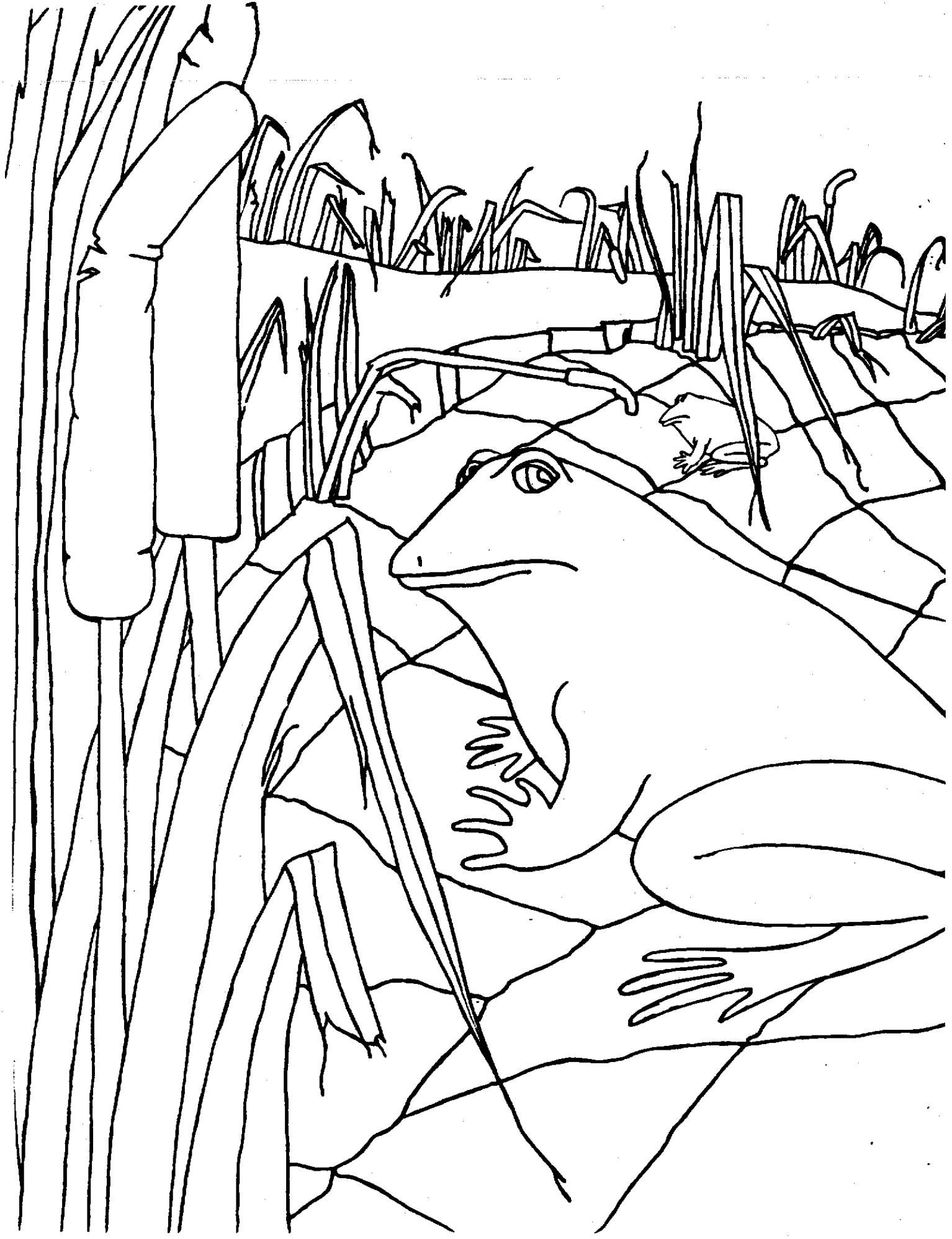
Grass Shrimp

WETLANDS
IN
DANGER

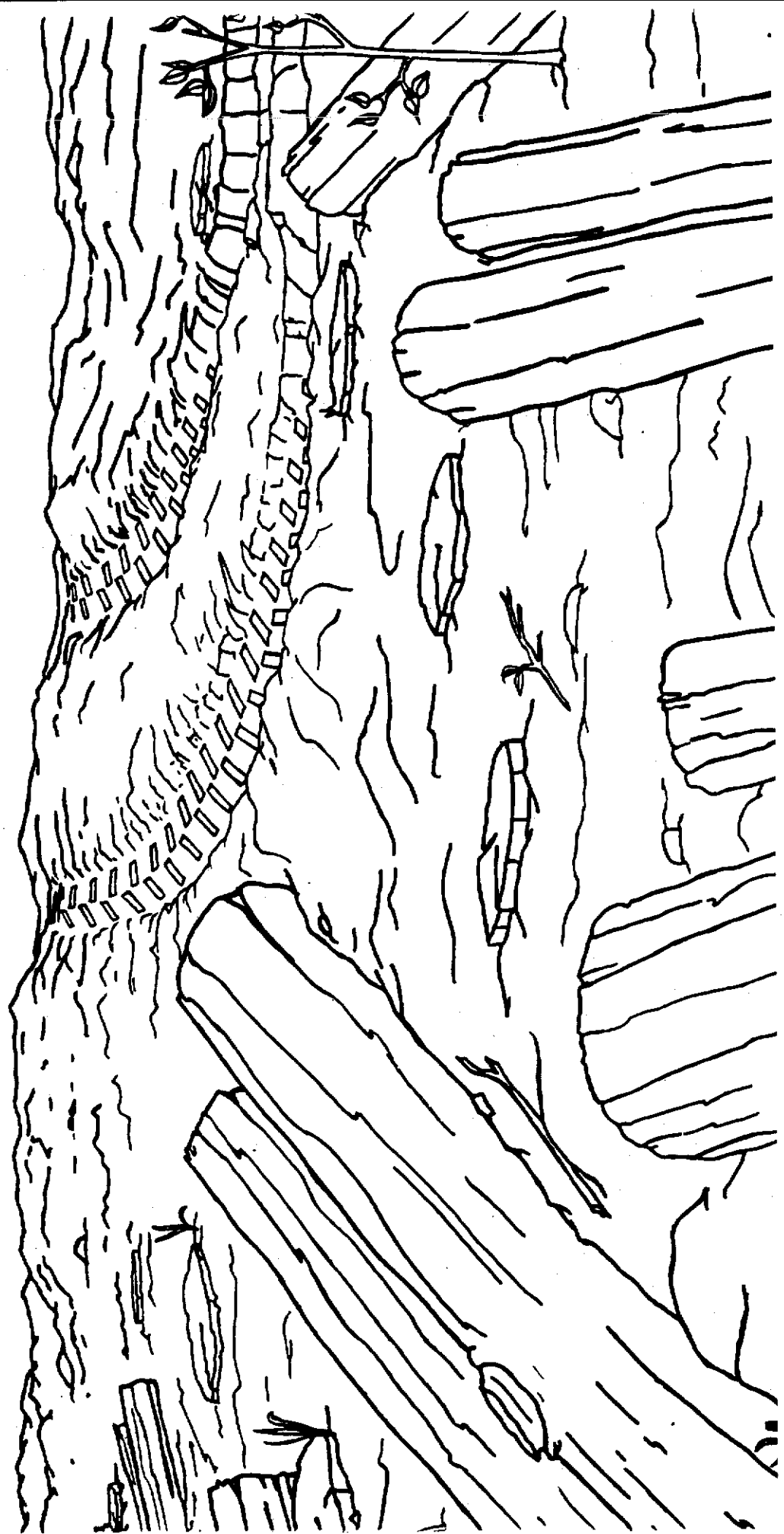
**Sometimes people fill marshes so they can build
houses near the ocean.**



Sometimes swamps are drained and . . .



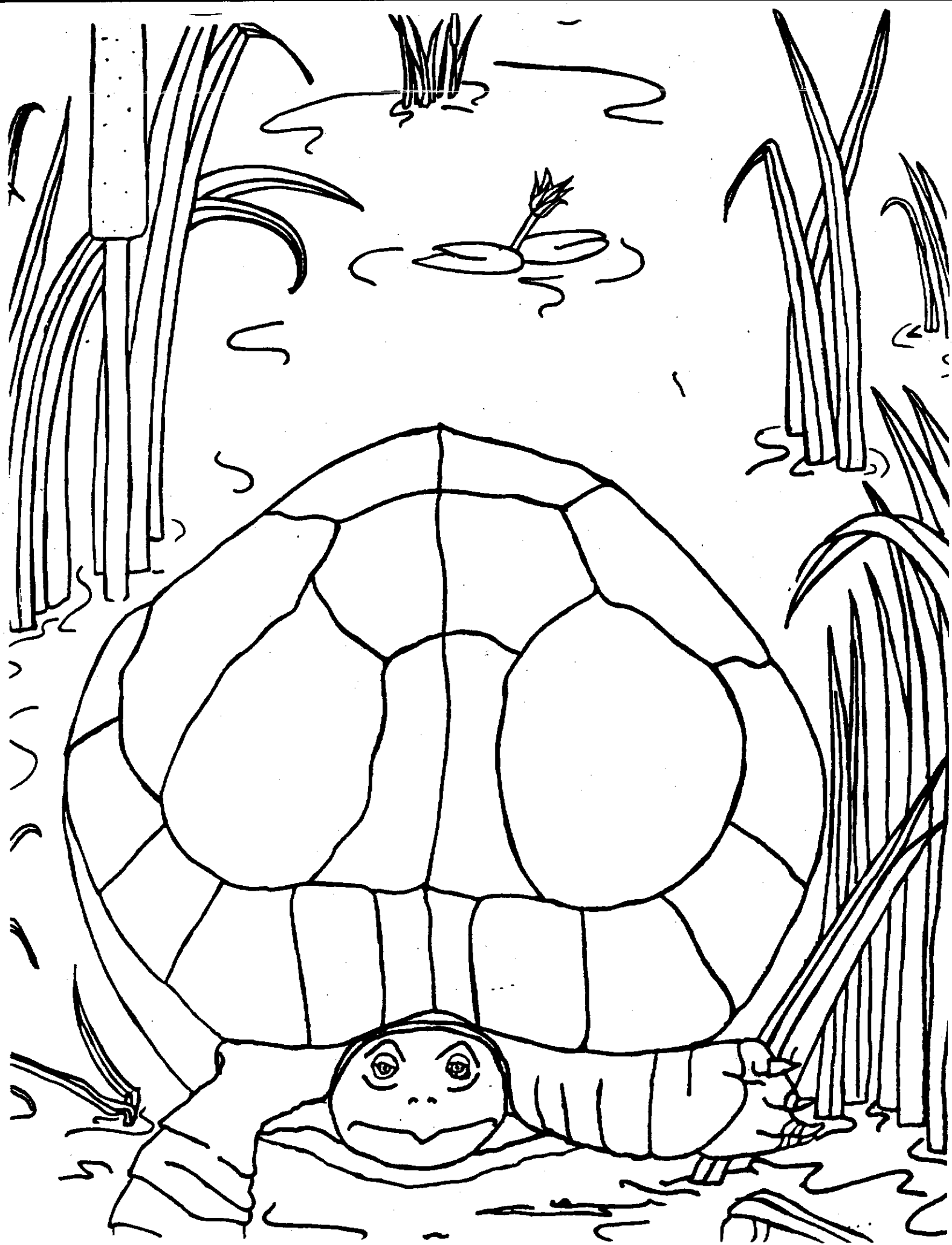
... sometimes bottomland forests are destroyed to make new farmland.



**Wastes from factories can poison wetland plants
and animals.**



What kind of wetland is this? Is it going to be protected or destroyed?



Do you remember why wetlands are important to us all?