



Trail Maps & Activity Guide

Nature Projects and Puzzles
Coloring Book Pages • Animal Tracks and Facts

Get Your Boots Dirty!

Welcome to the Dirty Boots Club Activity Book! We hope it will help you get your hiking boots dirty exploring the many Simsbury Land Trust trails. Along the way you can learn new things about the many plants and animals that share the land with us. Please remember that we are guests in their home and we should make sure we leave their home in the same condition (or better!) than we found it.

We hope that you will enjoy your hikes and you will encourage your family and friends to join you in your explorations. As you learn and become familiar with the trails, perhaps you and your family will find a favorite one that you would like to help maintain. You may even have an idea for a new trail to blaze. The Land Trust hopes to hear from you—and to have you join us in helping to preserve these special places.

SAFETY FIRST!

Hiking is great fun and an adventure, but remember, is very important. While you probably won't meet up with a bear or something scary like that, other things can happen.

Here are a few hiking safety tips:

ALWAYS hike with an adult!

NEVER touch a wild animal. While they may seem tame or friendly, you could catch rabies or other diseases from them.

NEVER eat wild plants or berries. They may look tasty but you don't want to take the chance of eating anything poisonous.

NEVER touch any vine or plant that might be poison ivy. Poison ivy has three leaves and can make your skin very itchy.

DON'T touch owl pellets or scat (animal droppings). They may contain bacteria that could make you sick.

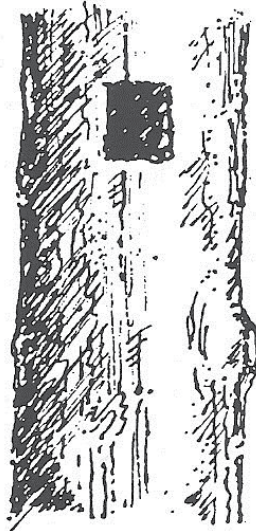
DO pick up any litter or trash you see along the trail. Bring a trash bag with you just in case.

DO check for ticks after a hike.

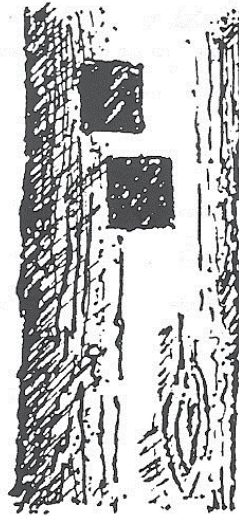
DO take along a camera, binoculars, water and a snack, and of course, your Activity Book!

And most importantly, DO have fun!

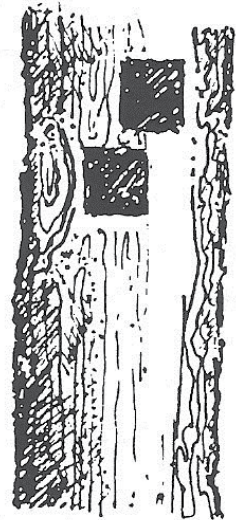
Trail Blazes



Trail goes
straight ahead



Trail turns
left

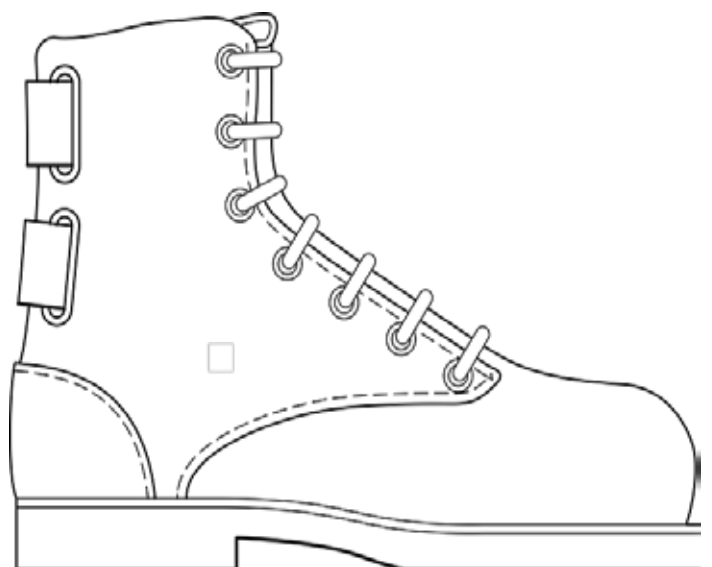
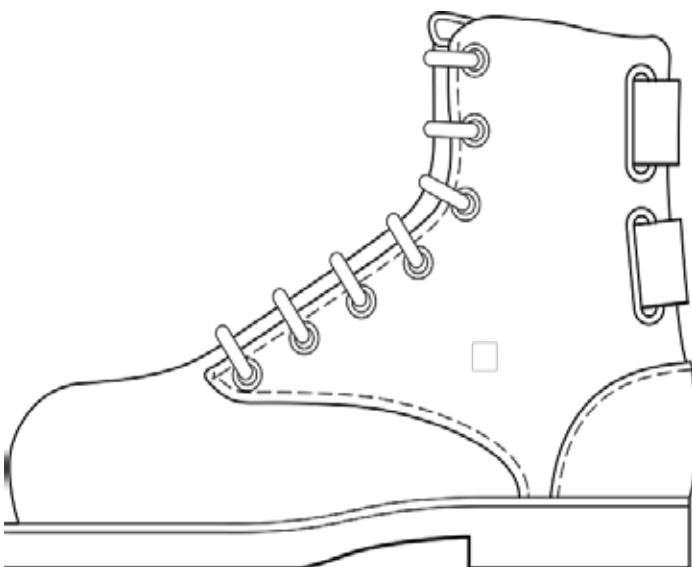


Trail turns
right

The trails maintained by the Simsbury Land Trust are clearly marked and easy to follow. The trails have been cleared of brush and obstacles and then marks are painted on trees or rocks along the trail. These paint marks are called blazes and each trail is marked with a specific color paint. When standing at one blaze you should be able to see the next blaze further down the trail. If the trail turns left or right, the tree will have two blazes as shown in the illustration above. By following the blazes you will find your way safely through the Land Trust properties.

Hiking boots are meant to get dirty!

Color these boots to show how much you have enjoyed hiking the trails

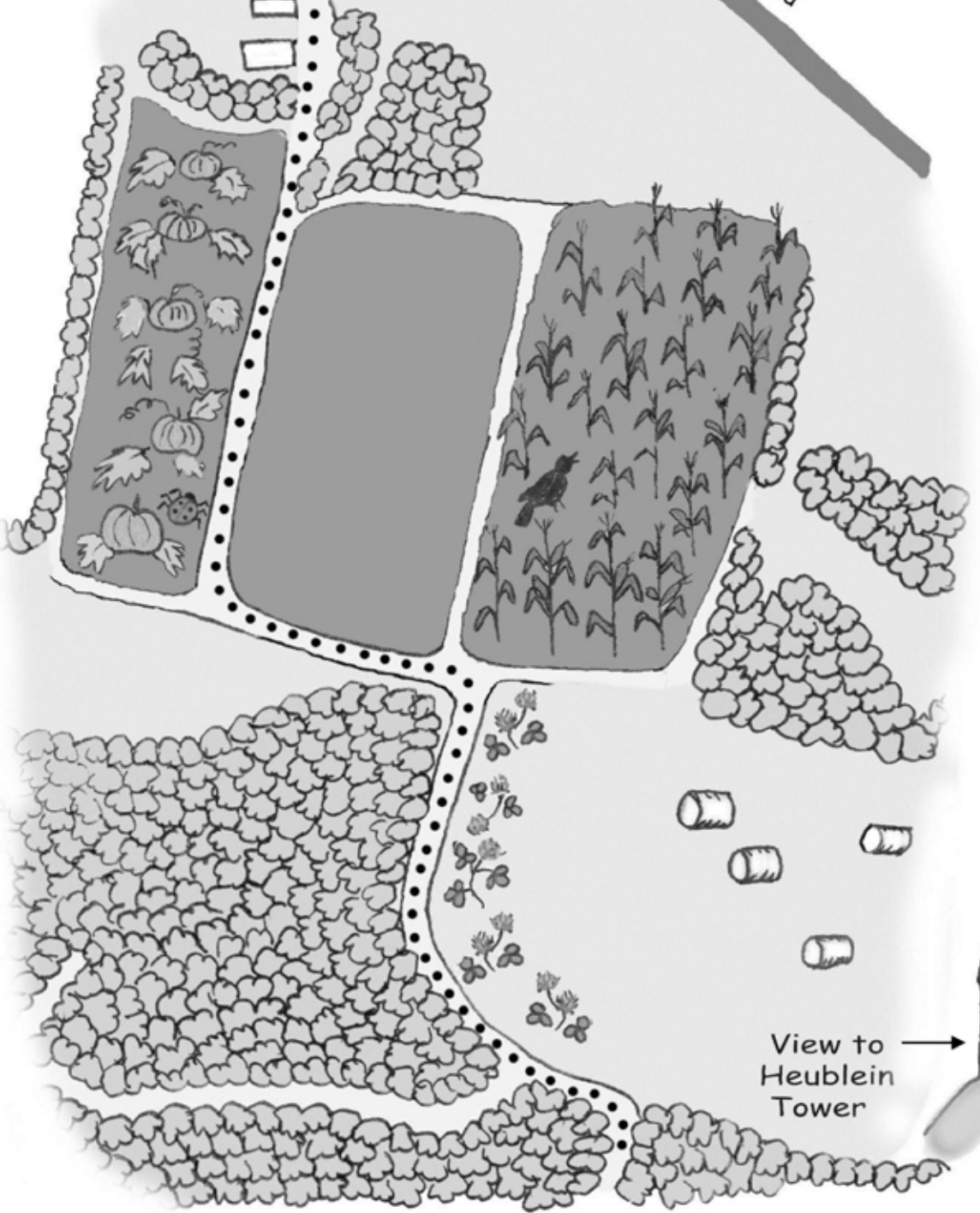


Tulmeadow Farm

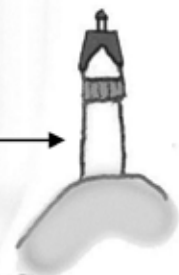


Parking

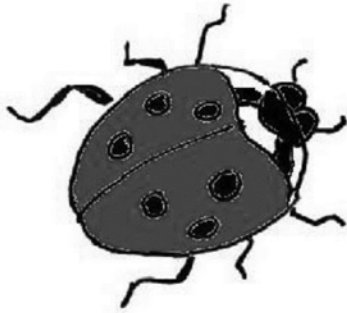
Farms Village Road



View to Heublein Tower



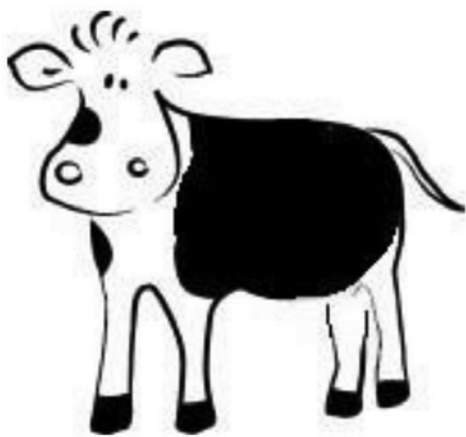
START at the Tulmeadow Farm Store. Be sure to try some ice cream while you're here - YUM! To start your hike, head down the farm road toward the woods.



Good Bugs & Bad Bugs

Good bugs help farmers and gardeners by eating or killing insects that damage important plants. Ladybugs are good because they eat aphids which eat the farmer's crops. Look for ladybugs and other insects on your walk.

Riddle: How did the farmer count his cattle?



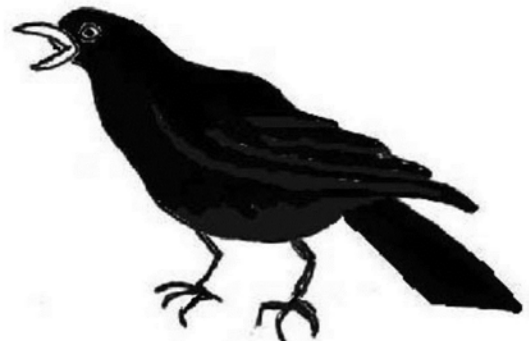
Answer: He used a cow-culator!

The cows at Tulmeadow Farm are beef cattle.

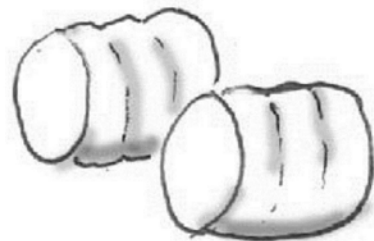


Make a Clover Chain

If you find clover growing beside the fields you can make a clover flower chain: Pick a flower with a long stem. Tie the end of the stem tightly around another stem just below the flower. Add as many as you want to make a bracelet, necklace or chain. Just watch out for bees!

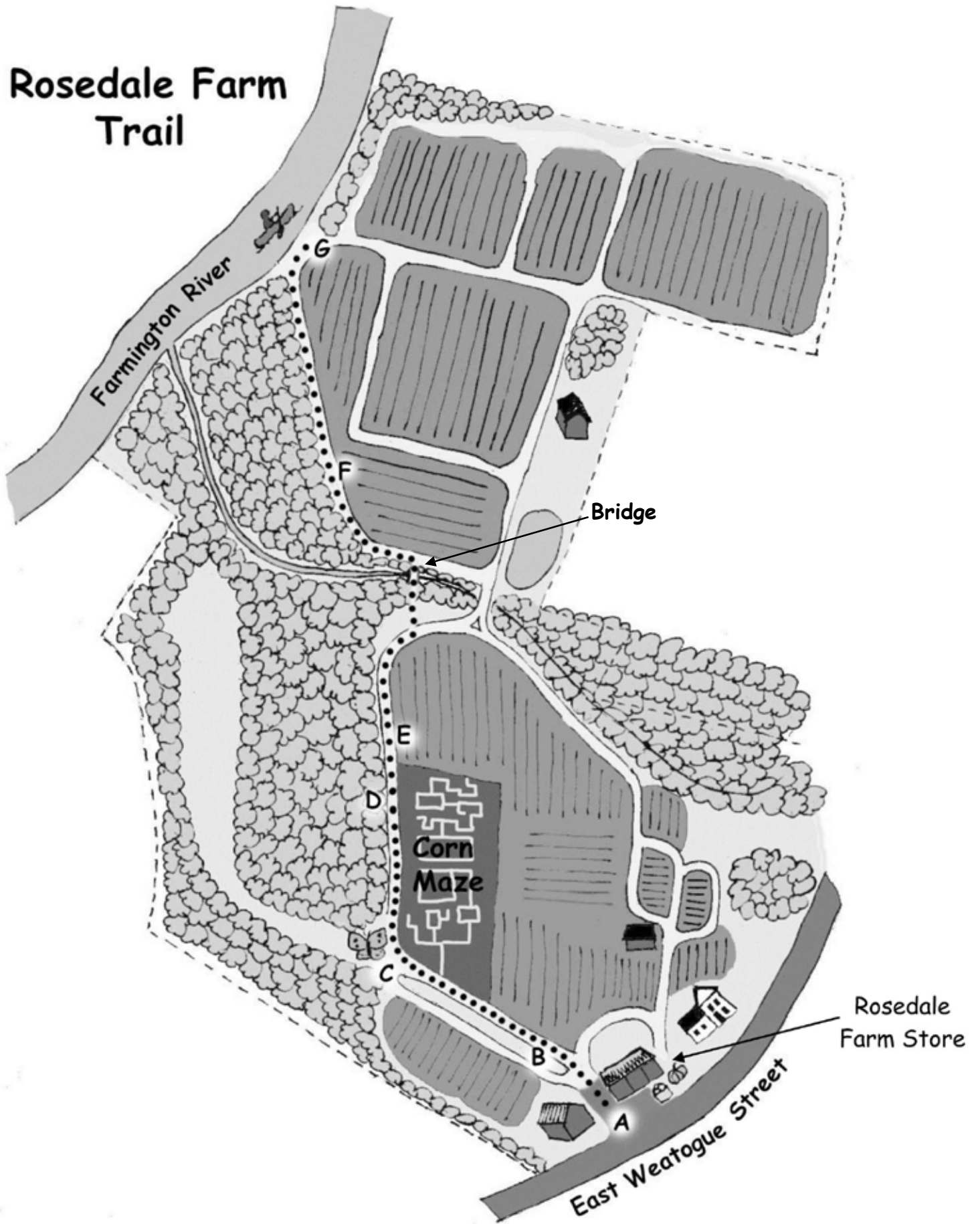


If you find a black feather, it probably came from an American Crow. These intelligent birds may eat young corn seedlings but are fun to watch and listen to!



The giant marshmallows you see in the field are really big bales of hay that are used to feed the cows or sold to other farms.

Rosedale Farm Trail



Rosedale Farm Trail

- A. If the farm store is open, stop and get a snack to eat when you get to the river at the end of the trail.
- B. On the left, near the beginning of the trail, look for the bluebird houses and possibly a bluebird. Male Eastern Bluebirds are blue on the back and rusty-red on the throat and breast. Females are less colorful. Bluebird houses provide important nesting sites for the bluebirds.
- C. Where the trail turns right along the woods, read about the plants around the pond that provide nectar for butterflies or leaves for the caterpillars to eat. Many caterpillars are very picky eaters and may eat only one kind of plant! Without these plants, we would have fewer caterpillars and butterflies.
- D. Look for the vines that grow up the trees. What are they? (Hint: One of the trail signs will tell you.)
- E. Read the signs to find out about the geology and soils at Rosedale Farm. What are the two types of bedrock? How were they formed? How long does it take to form one inch of topsoil? Why are flood plain soils so important?



- F. Along the sandy trail you might observe small ant-hills. Ant-hills are the entrances to the underground tunnels that form an ant colony. If the ants are active stop and observe them.
- G. Next to the Farmington River, sit quietly and watch for birds especially during the spring and fall migrations. Great blue herons, little green herons, and wood ducks can often be seen, or perhaps a river otter if you are lucky. Wave to the people canoeing or kayaking on the river.



What trees grow along the trail? Find a leaf and match it to the leaves on the next pages.

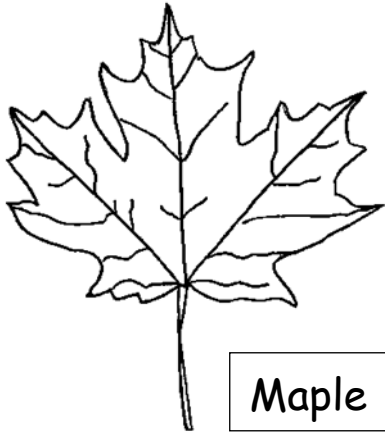
Do you see any animal tracks along the trail? See if you can match them to the track shown on the next page.

Match the Animal to their Tracks

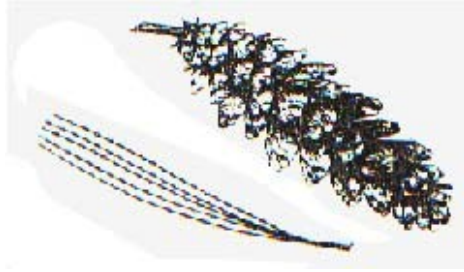
Each animal makes a different footprint. Draw a line from the animal to its track.



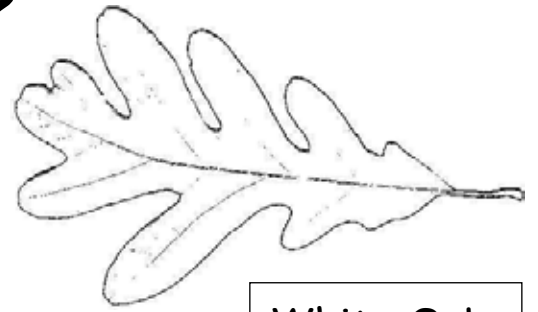
Can You Find These Trees?



Maple



White Pine



White Oak



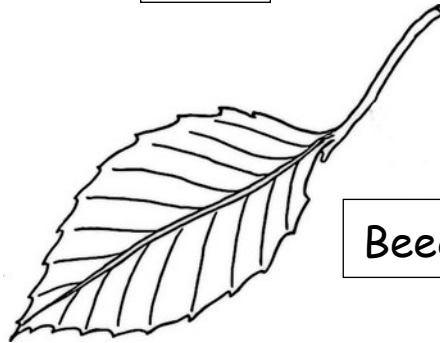
Red Oak



Hemlock



Ash



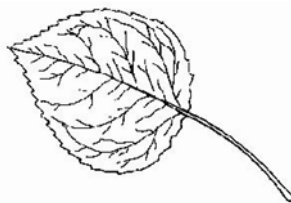
Beech



Hickory



Tulip Tree



Quaking
Aspen



Sassafras

Reptiles and Amphibians: Reptiles have scales and amphibians lay their eggs in water. Here are some of the animals you might see along our



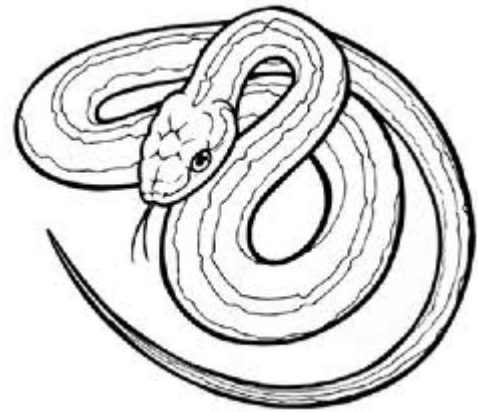
Spotted Salamander



Spring
Peeper



Wood

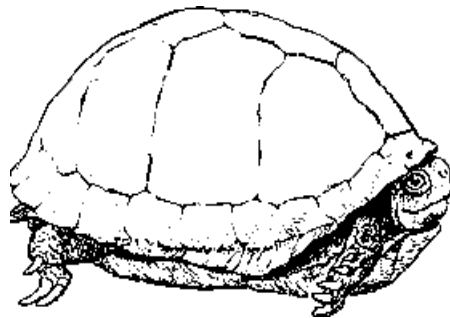


Eastern Garter Snake

Gray



American



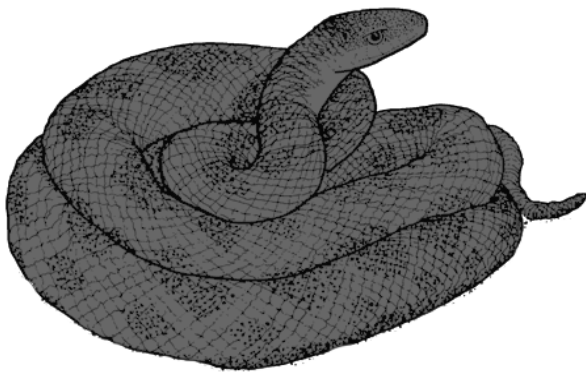
Box Turtle



Red
Spotted



Painted Turtle



Black Rat Snake



Pickerel
Frog



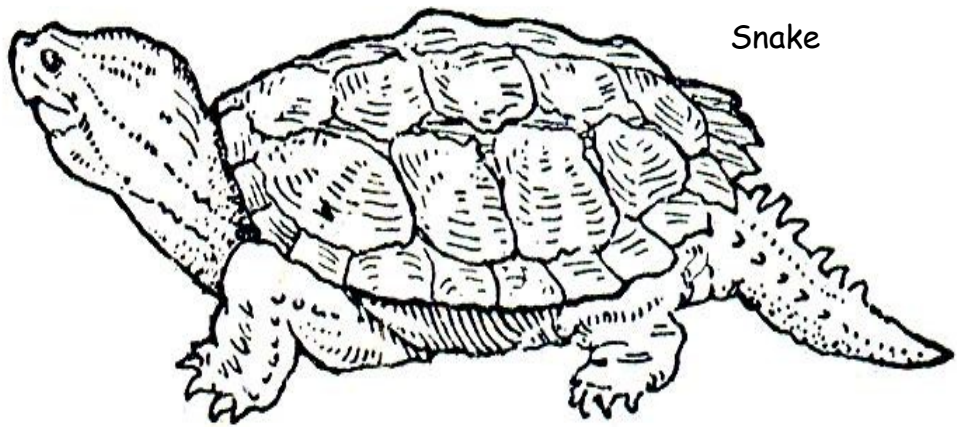
Green Frog



Ringneck
Snake



Bullfrog



Snapping Turtle



Word Search

Find the hidden words and circle them.

Words appear straight across, backwards, straight across, up and down, down and up, and diagonally.



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

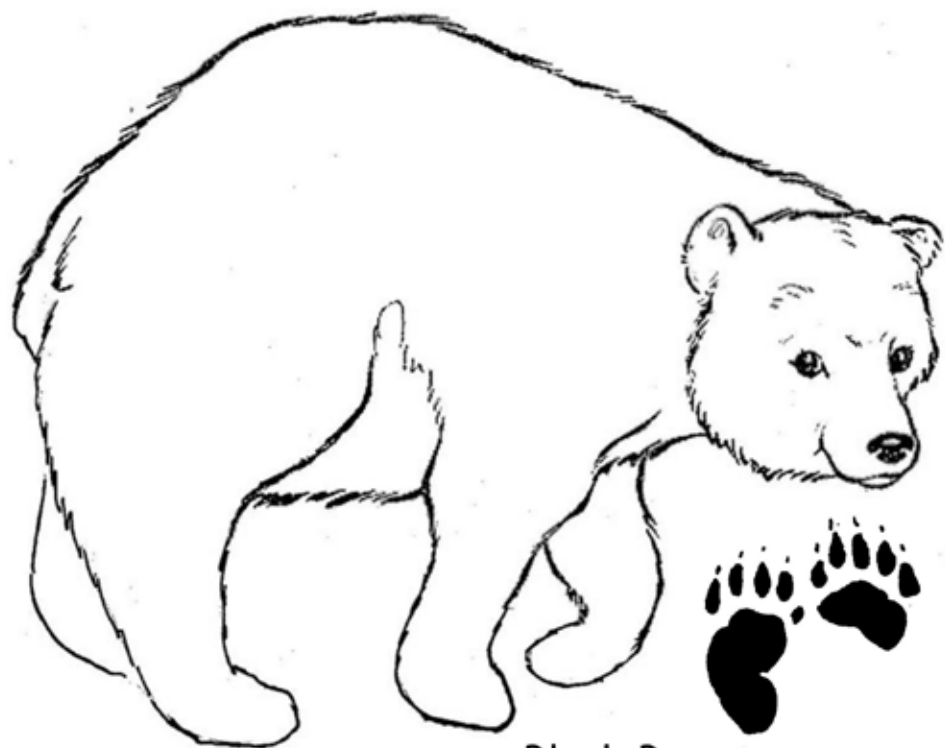
ANTS
 BASALT
 BEDROCK
 BOG
 BUTTERFLIES
 CANOEING
 CEDAR
 CLOVER
 CORN
 COWS
 CROWS

FARM
 FARMINGTON
 RIVER
 FLOODPLAIN
 GEOLOGY
 HERONS
 HIKING
 ICE CREAM
 LADYBUG
 MAPLE
 MEADOW

OAK
 OTTER
 QUARRY
 ROSEDALE
 SIMSBURY
 SOIL
 TRACKS
 TRAIL
 TREES
 TULMEADOW
 WILDFLOWERS



Color the Mammals — All mammals have fur. Perhaps you will see signs



Black Bear



Gray Squirrel



Red Fox



Chipmunk



Striped Skunk



Otter

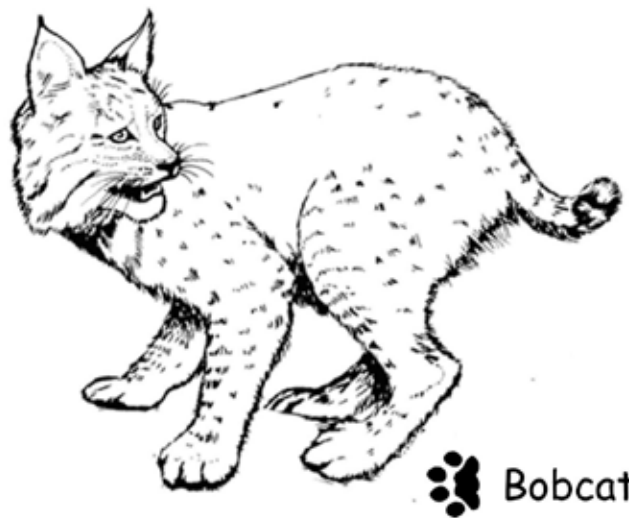



Porcupine

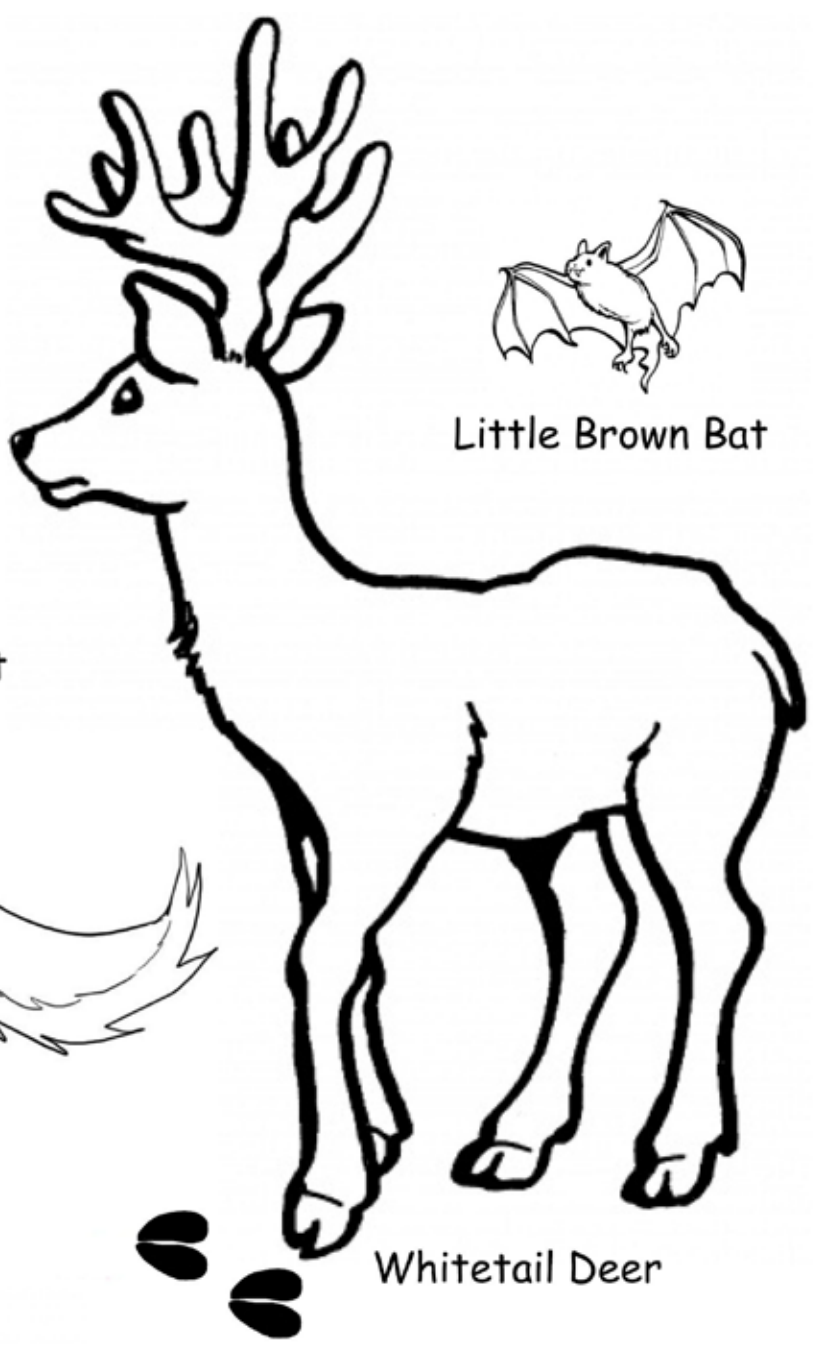


Cottontail

of these animals along our trails.



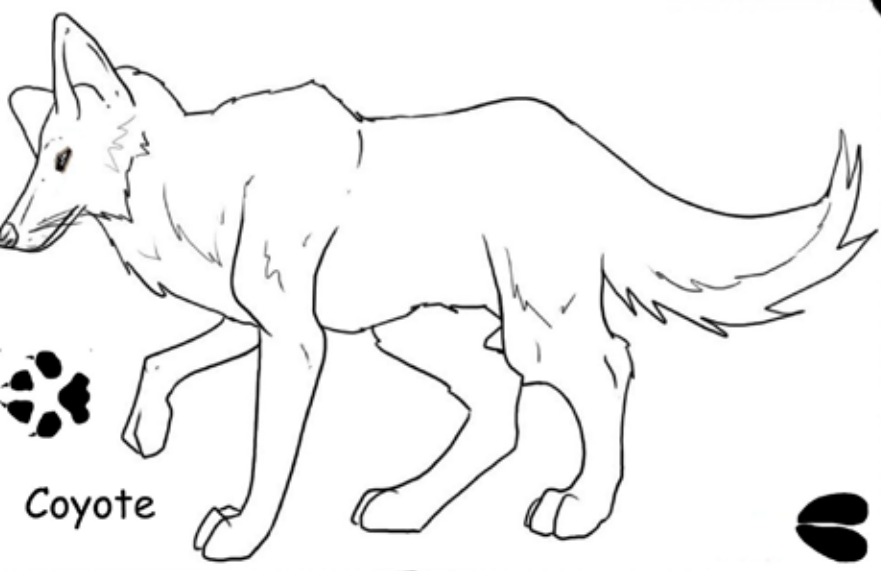
 Bobcat




 Whitetail Deer




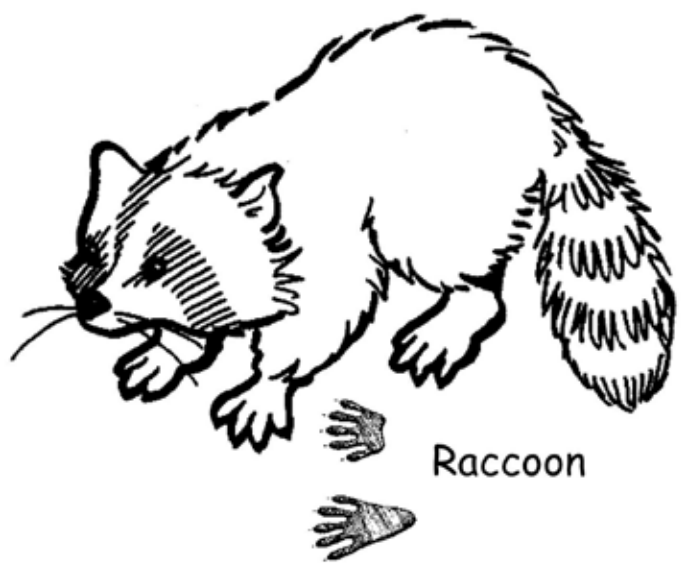
Little Brown Bat



 Coyote



 Beaver



 Raccoon



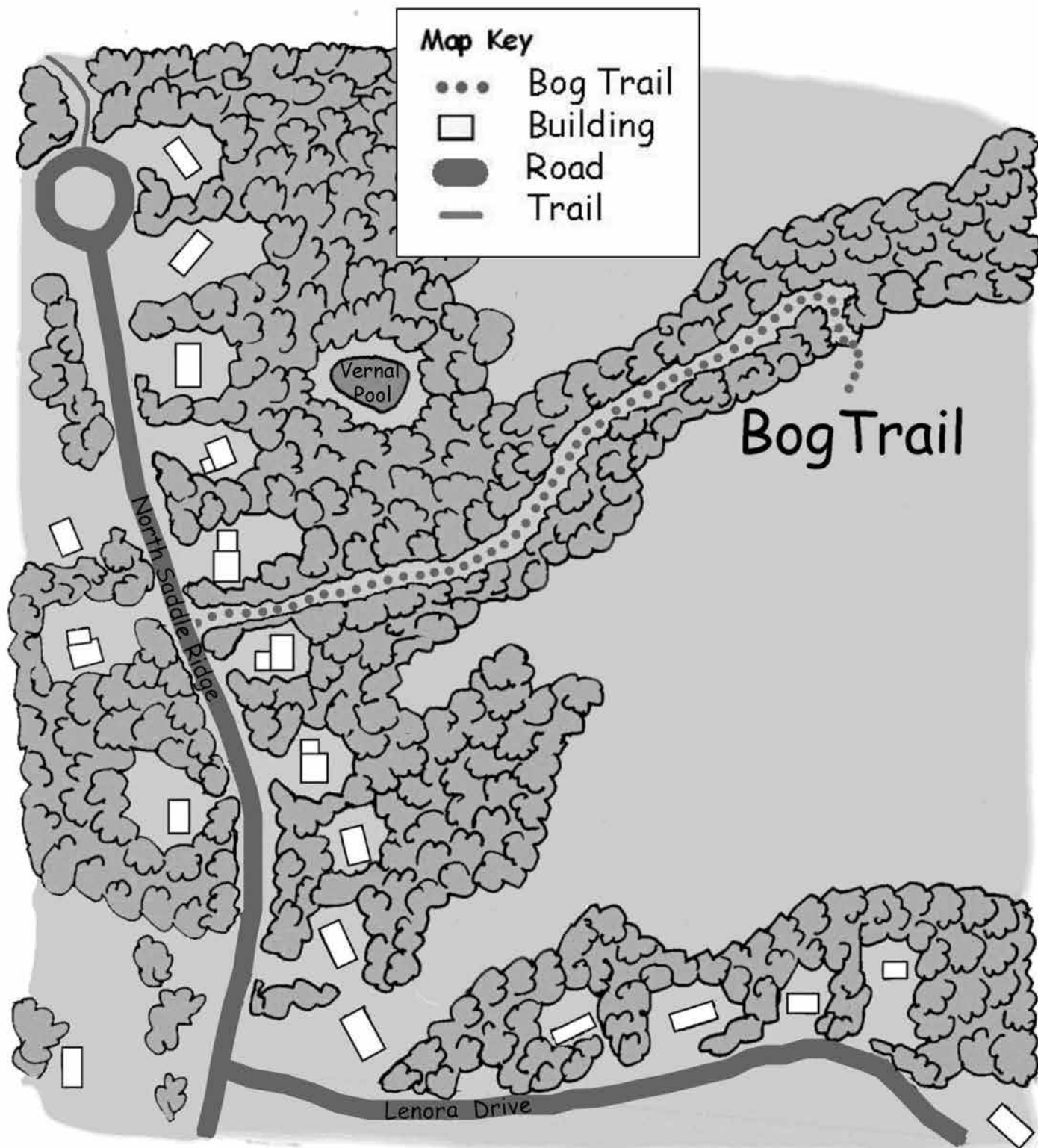
Mole



Deer Mouse

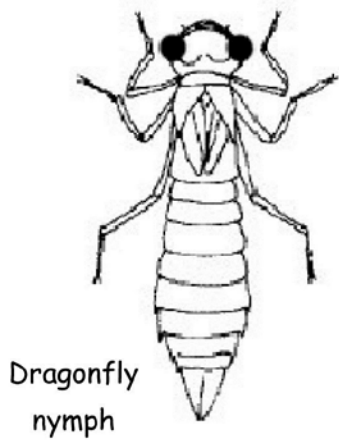
What is a Bog?

The 39-acre Bog property is the only large bog found in Simsbury. Although a common habitat in parts of northern New England and Canada, bogs are much less common in Connecticut. Unlike a swamp that has flowing water, a bog is often fed only by rainwater or groundwater and has stream flowing in or out of the bog.

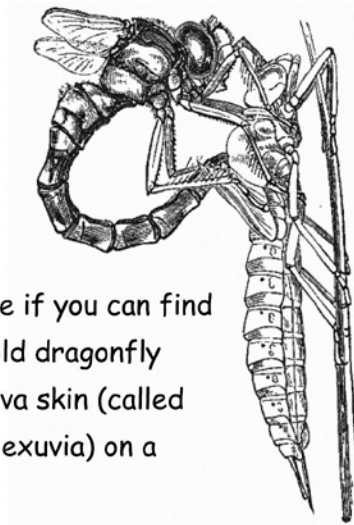


Dragonflies & Damselflies

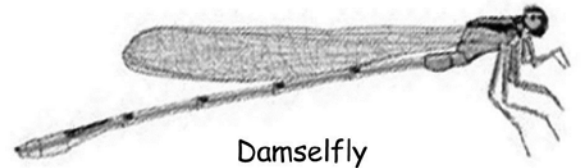
The bog is a good place in late spring through fall to spot dragonflies and their close cousins, damselflies. Can't tell which is which? Look at their wings when they are resting. If the wings are stretched out flat, it's a dragonfly. If the wings are held upright, it's a damselfly.



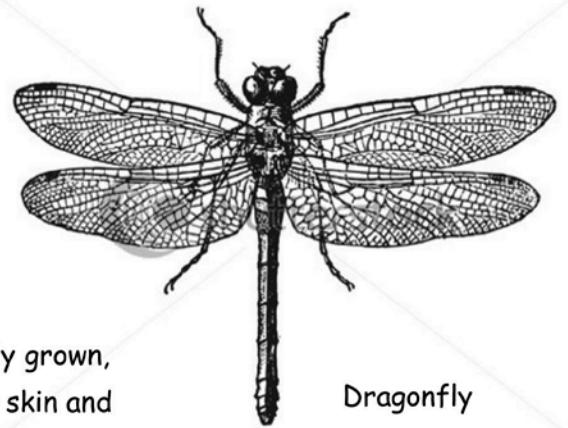
Dragonfly nymph



See if you can find a old dragonfly larva skin (called an exuvia) on a



Damselfly



Dragonfly

Dragonflies and damselflies spend most of their lives underwater as nymphs (young insects). When they are fully grown, they crawl out of the water onto a plant stem, shed their outer skin and become the dragonflies and damselflies we see flying around the bog.

The Sounds of the Bog

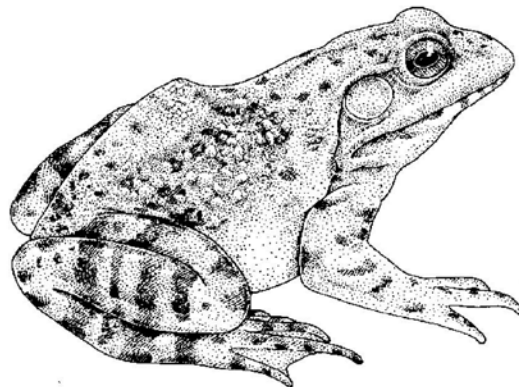
Bogs are good places to find frogs. You may not see them but you may hear them. Listen for these frogs:



Spring Peepers peep.



Gray tree frogs make a short high trill,



Bullfrogs bellow "jug of rum."

None of our frogs say "Ribbet!"



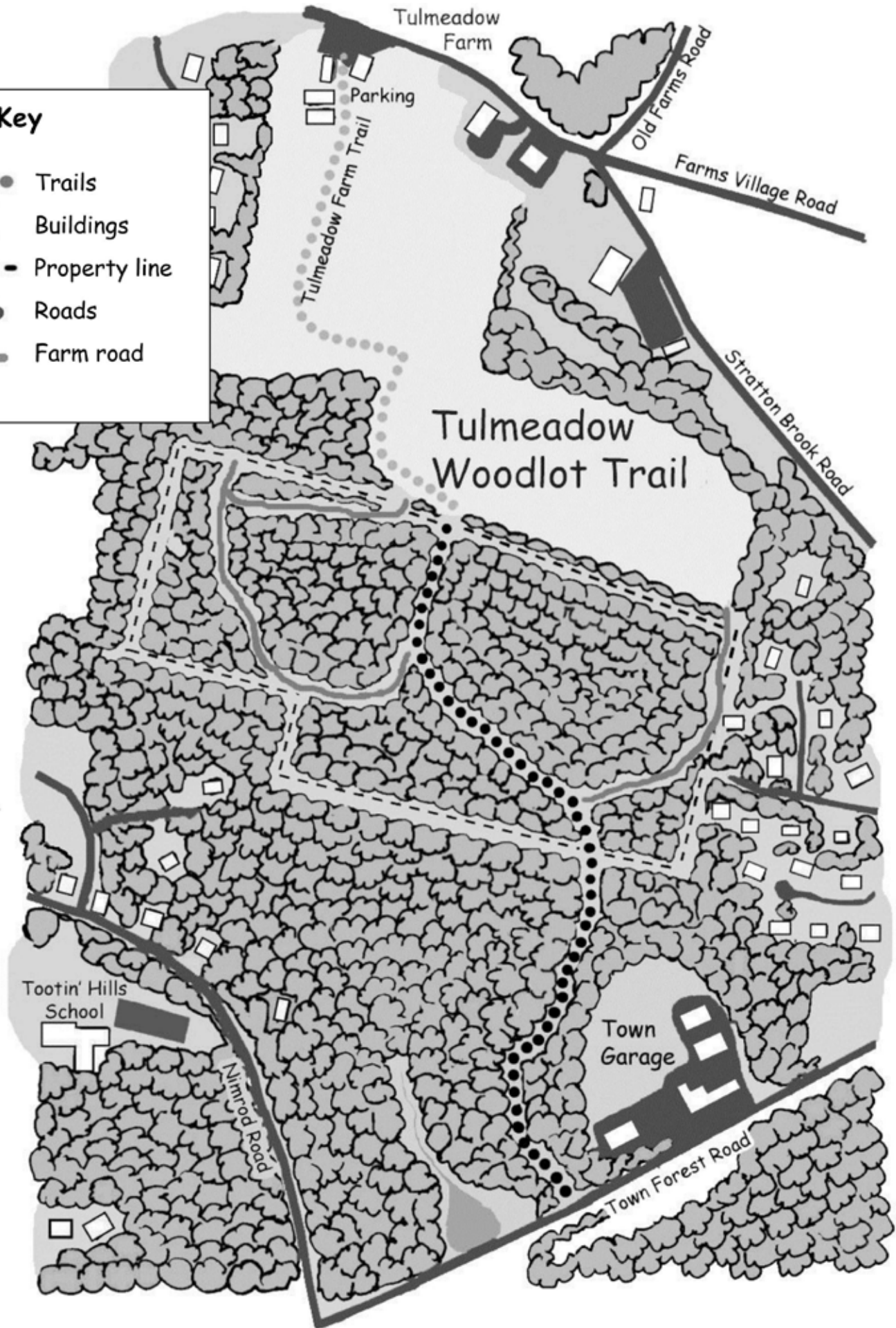
In early spring, wood frogs quack!



Green frogs sound like the twang of a plucked rubber band, "glunk."

Map Key

- ● ● Trails
- Buildings
- - - Property line
- ▬ Roads
- ▬ Farm road



The Tulmeadow Woodlot Trails can be reached by the following the trail from the Tulmeadow Farm parking lot.

Whoos in the Woods?

Not all owls say "who-who". Each species has a special call. If you come for a full moon hike on these trails you might hear the owls that live in these woods calling to each other. If you are in the woods when the West Simsbury Fire Station alarm goes off you might also hear these owls calling back!



The **Barred Owl** makes a call that sounds like
Who-cooks-for-you?
Who-cooks-for-you-all?



The **Saw-whet Owl**, our smallest owl, makes sound like someone blowing one note many times on a wooden flute.



The **Eastern Screech Owl** makes a whinnying or trilling sound that starts high and ends low.



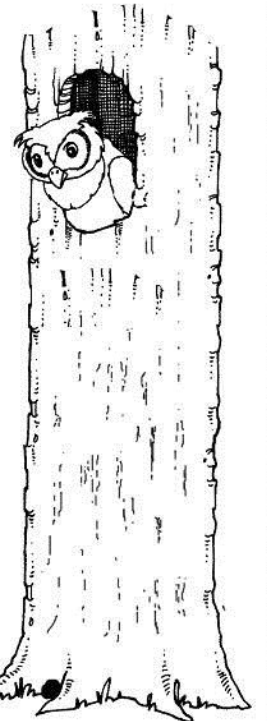
Our largest owls, the **Great Horned Owl** says "hoo-hoo-hoo hoooooo hoooooo"

Old Trees—Young Trees

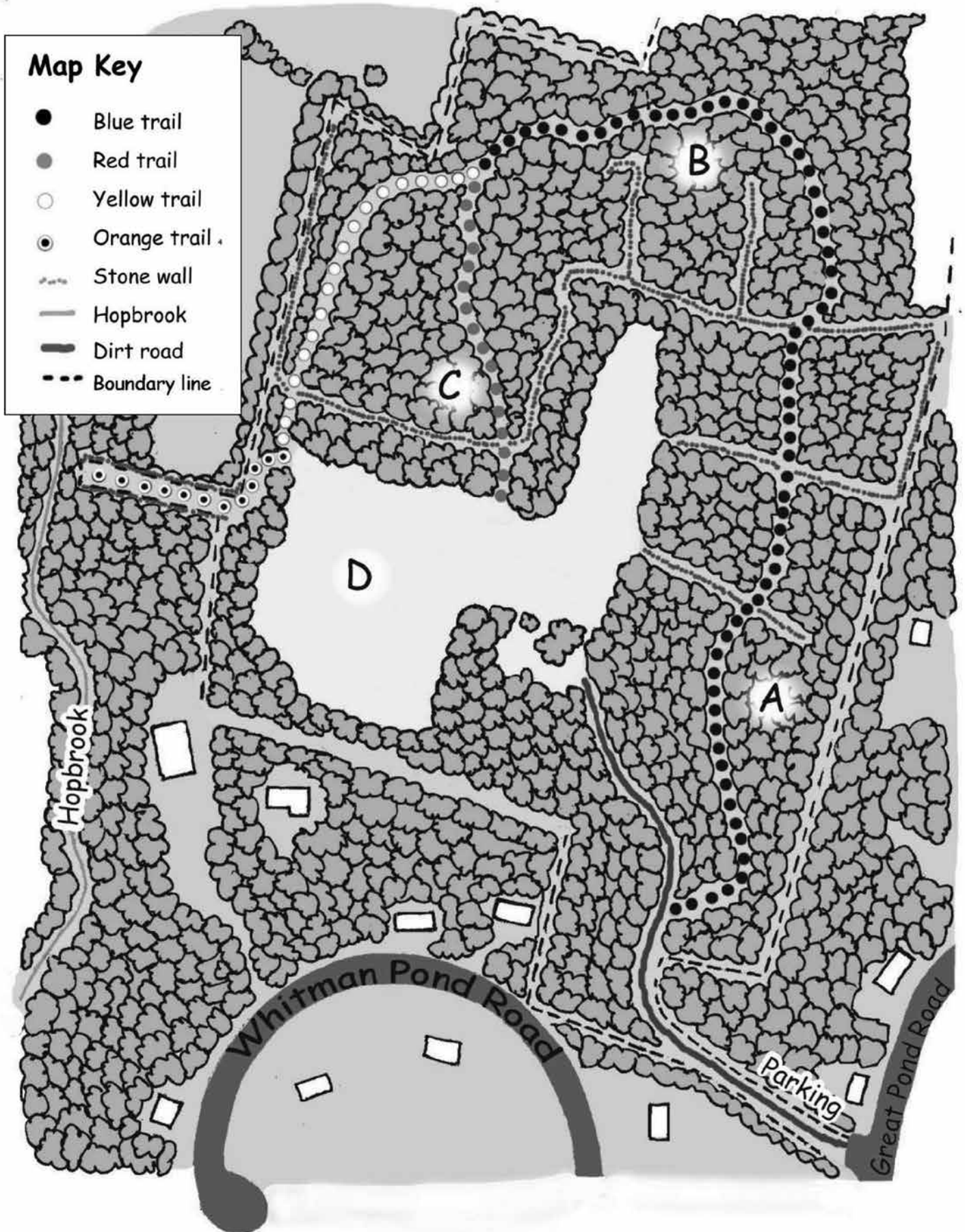
Logging has been part of Tulmeadow Farm since it became a farm 230 years ago. Trees are harvested every 7 to 10 years. When the trees are removed, new wildlife habitat is created for the animals that prefer to live in areas with younger trees and shrubs.

Old trees provide nesting cavities and shelter for many forest creatures such as squirrels and birds. Many of these holes are made by woodpeckers looking for food or making nest cavities in trees. How many tree holes can you find?

Who do you think made the holes in the ground near the trees?



Wagner Woods Trails



The Wagner Woods is located at 135 Great Pond Rd. There is a parking area large enough for five cars and a kiosk with a trail map. A series of relatively flat trails will take you past two ponds, through a large forest and across one of the largest open fields in Simsbury. There are several different habitats here in which you can see a variety of plants and animals, particularly birds.

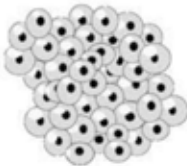
A Vernal Pools

Vernal means spring. In this area, shallow pools form in the spring when the snow melts. By summer these pools are often dry. Wood frogs and salamanders lay their eggs in vernal pools. Look for their jelly-like egg masses in the early spring.



Wood frog

Salamander egg mass



B Birds, Birds and More Birds

Many kinds of birds live in or visit Wagner Woods. How many different birds can you see?



Great horned owl



Blue jay



Chickadee



Mourning dove



Goldfinch



Cardinal



Flicker

C Stone Walls

Many years ago, farmers built these walls at the edge of their fields. Why are they now in the middle of the woods? Where did the farmers find all these stones for the walls?

D Seeds!

Plants are busy making seeds in the fall. Plants make sure that the seeds can travel far enough away from the mother plant to find a place to grow. See how many you can find in the woods and the fields of Wagner Woods.



Maple seeds and milkweed seeds are blown by the wind to new locations



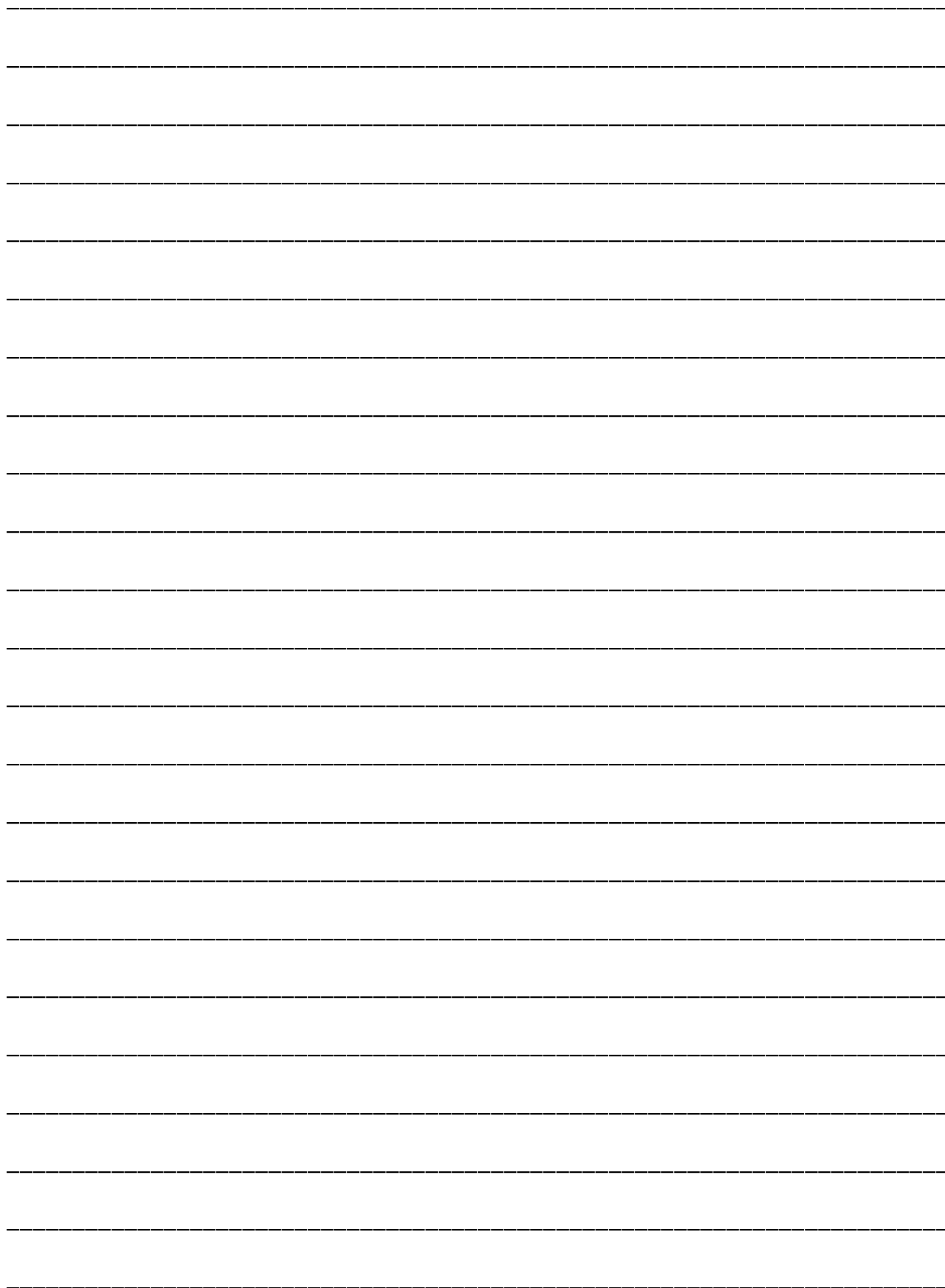
Squirrels bury acorns and hickory nuts for winter



Burdock seeds have little hooks that catch on the fur of passing animals.



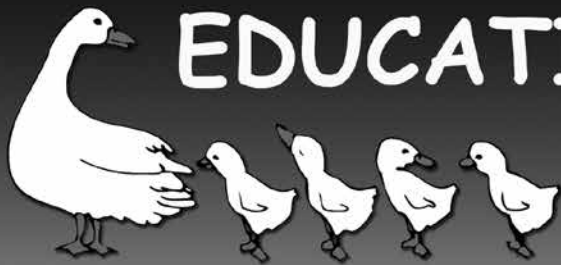
Plants like grasses make many seeds in hope that some will sprout next year.



Draw a picture of something you saw along the trail.



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