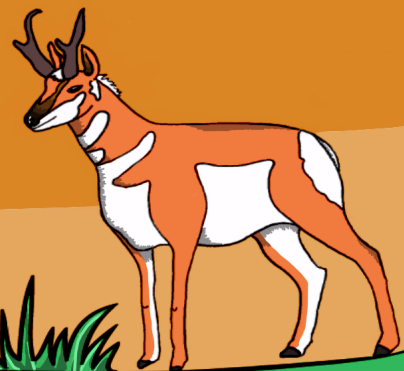
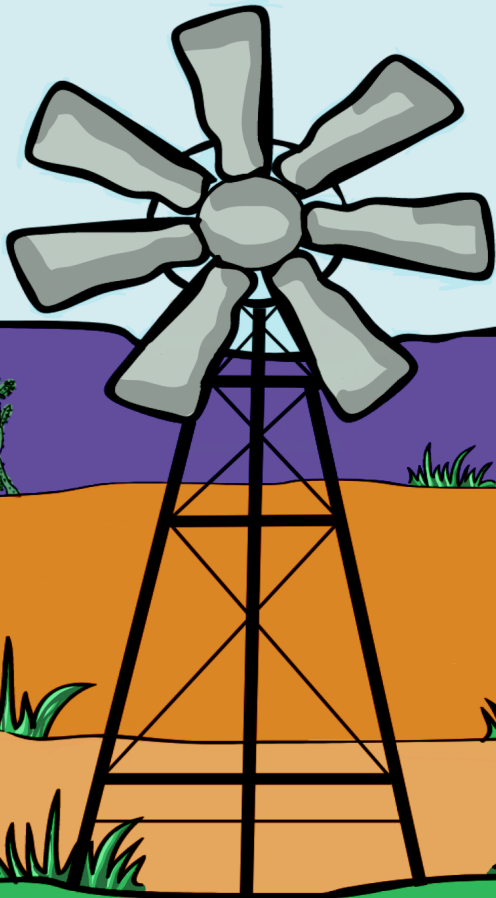
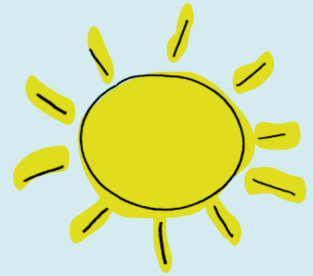


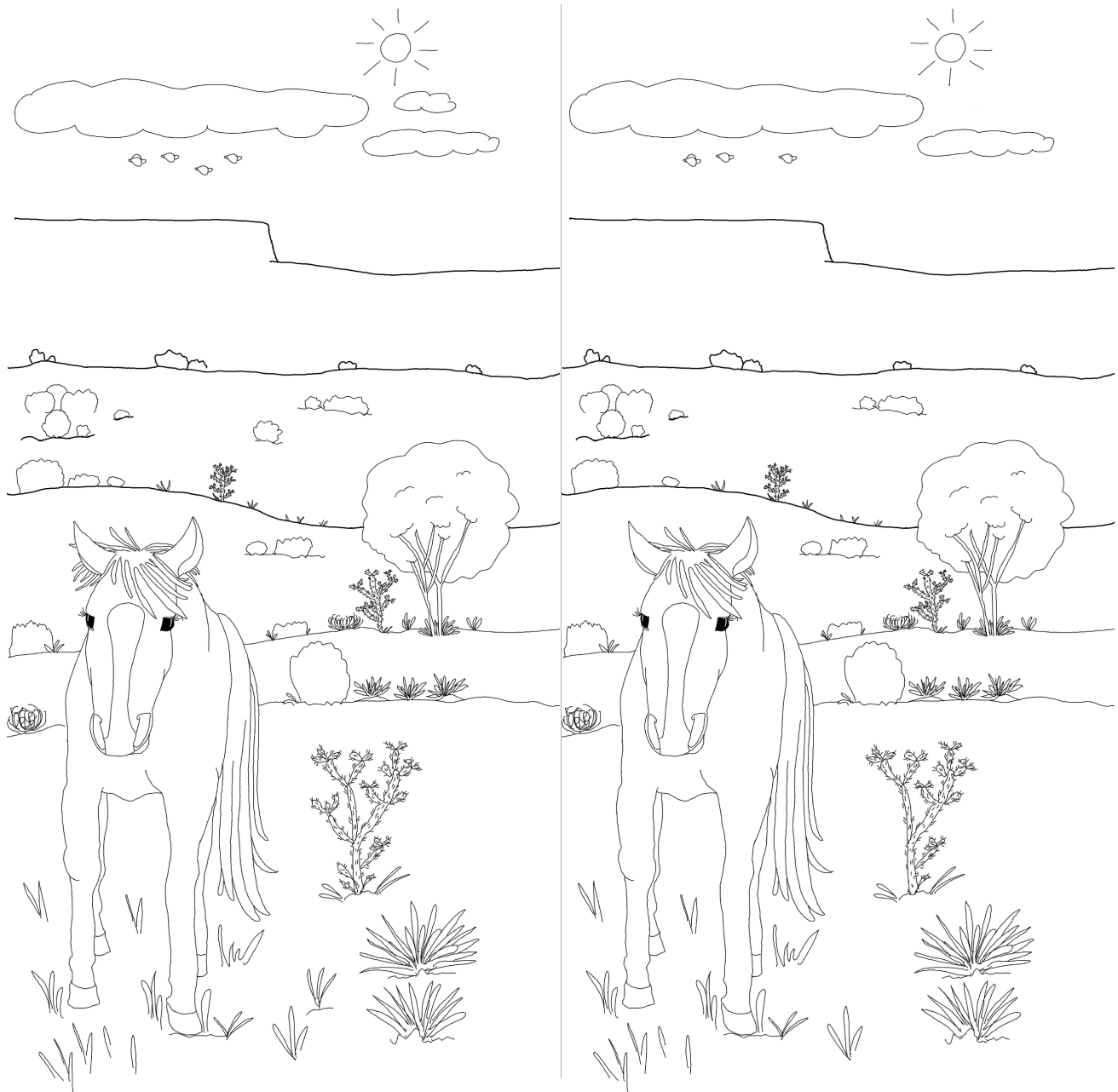


WATER IN THE HIGH PLAINS ACTIVITY BOOK





THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:



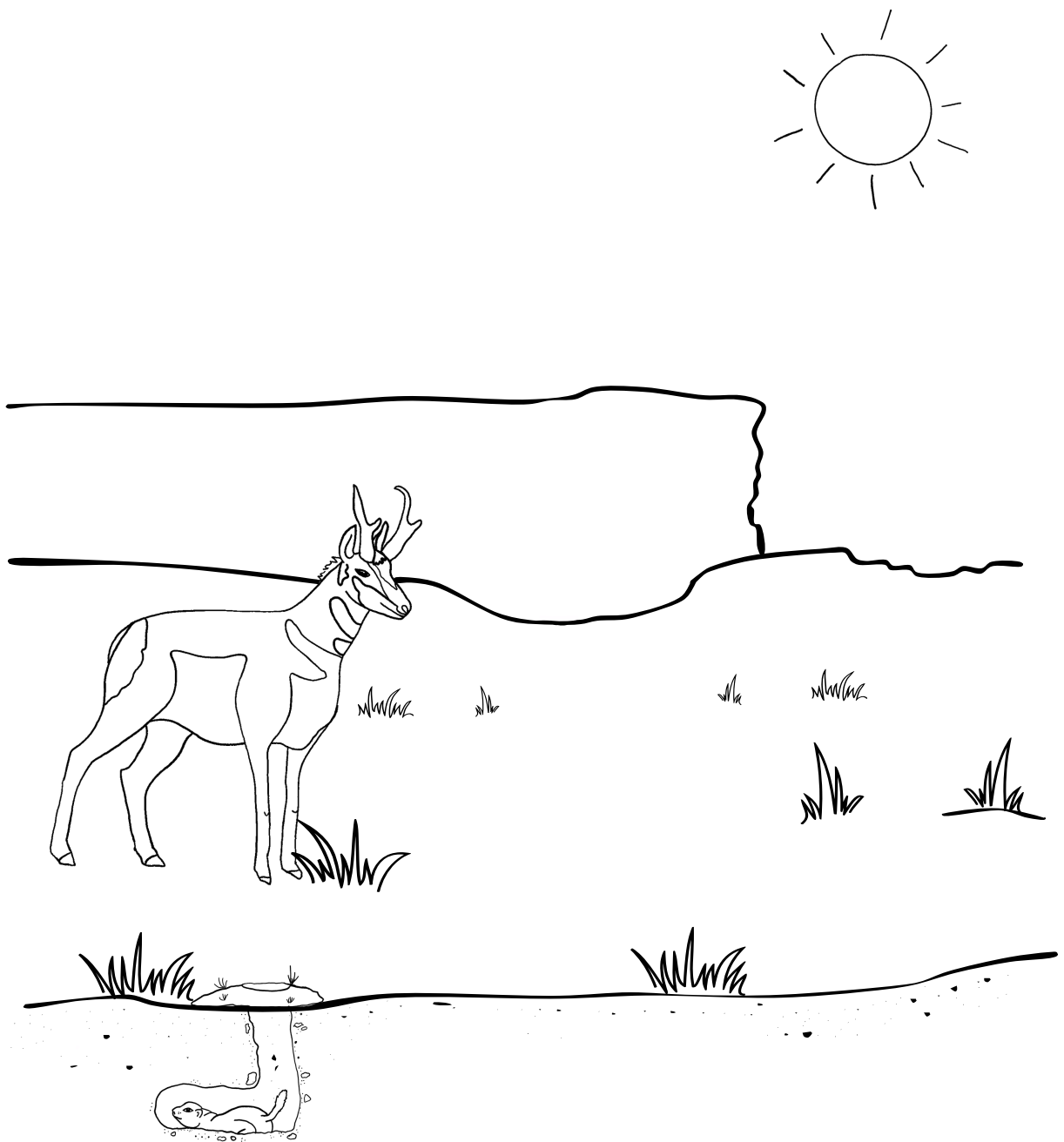
In school, you may have learned about a region called the **Great Plains**, known for its vast grasslands and open ranges. The *High Plains* is a region that lies in the middle of the Great Plains, on top of an aquifer called the **Ogallala Aquifer**. It is in 8 states: Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, South Dakota, Kansas, Wyoming, and Nebraska!

The climate of the High Plains region is **semi-arid**, meaning that it doesn't receive much rain. However, the region still has a rich diversity of plants and animals, each with their own special adaptations that help them call the High Plains their home!

With access to the aquifer, the High Plains also makes good land for farming and ranching- horses and cows can graze on the grass that characterizes the landscape.

Can you find the seven differences between the pictures above?

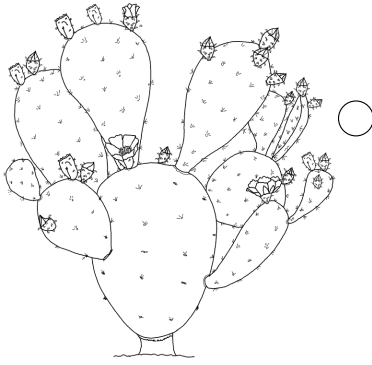
key: 1.the cloud 2. the bird 3. the bush 4. another bush! 5. the horse left hair 6. the horse next to the horse



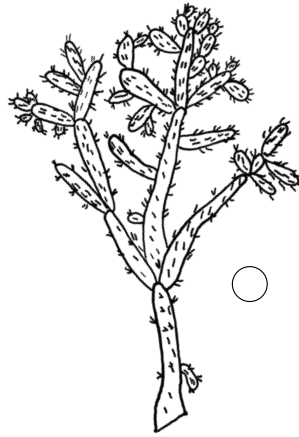
Fauna is another word for animal life. Some fauna in the High Plains include the pronghorn, meadowlark, and the prairie dog!

Pete the pronghorn has his dinner by feeding on grass and other nearby plants. He doesn't need to drink much water- the water already stored in his food is usually enough for him!

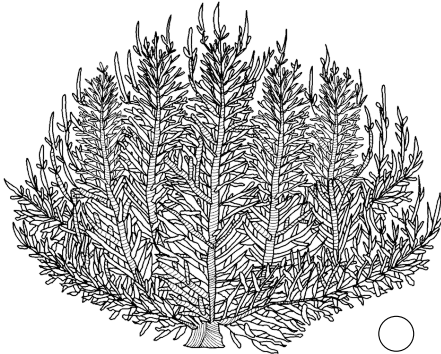
Pete and Paisley the prairie dog are having a get together, but they need guests! Draw some other animals that live in this landscape.



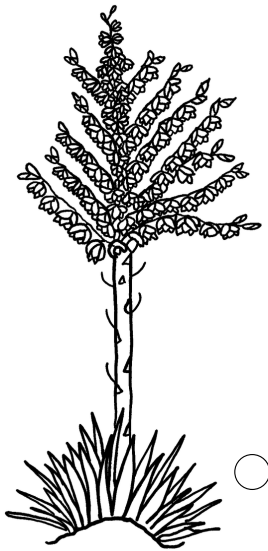
☐ TUMBLEWEED



☐ PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS



☐ YUCCA



☐ CHOLLA



☐ SAGEBRUSH

Flora is another word for plant life. Some flora that live in the High Plains, in particular, include one seed juniper, yucca, sagebrush, and the prickly pear and cholla (which are two types of cacti)!

The flora of the High Plains do not need much rain- they are able to store water within themselves, making them especially good at surviving droughts!

**The flora of the High Plains all have a unique look- can you tell which is which?
Draw a line to their name.**

key: from top to bottom: row 1- prickly pear, sagebrush, yucca; row 2- cholla, tumbleweed

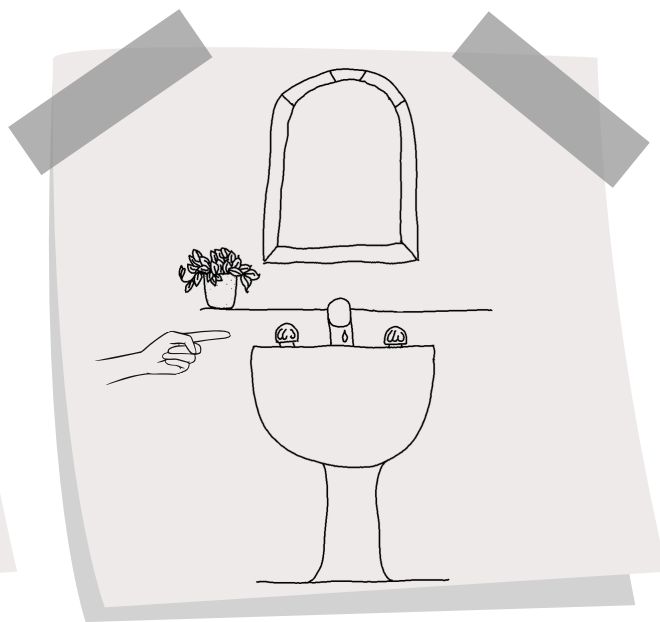
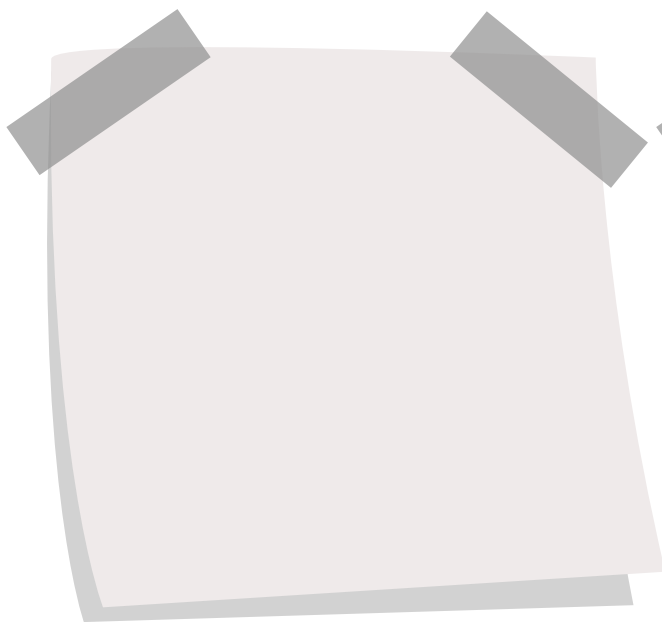
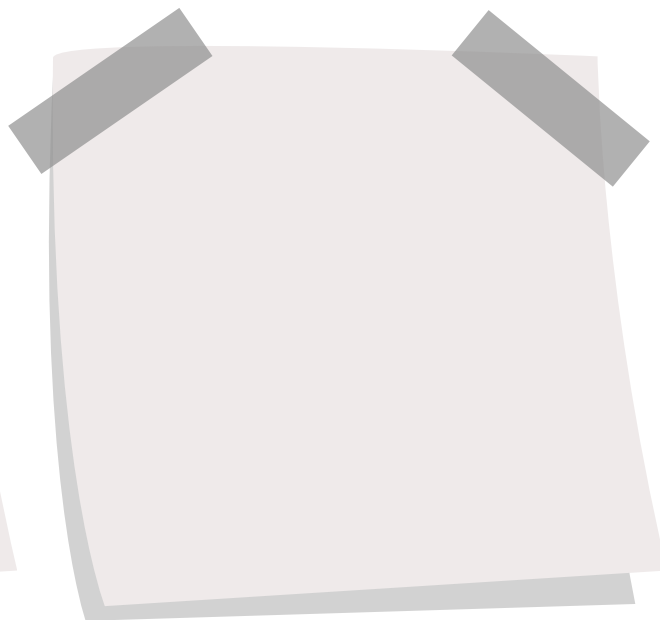
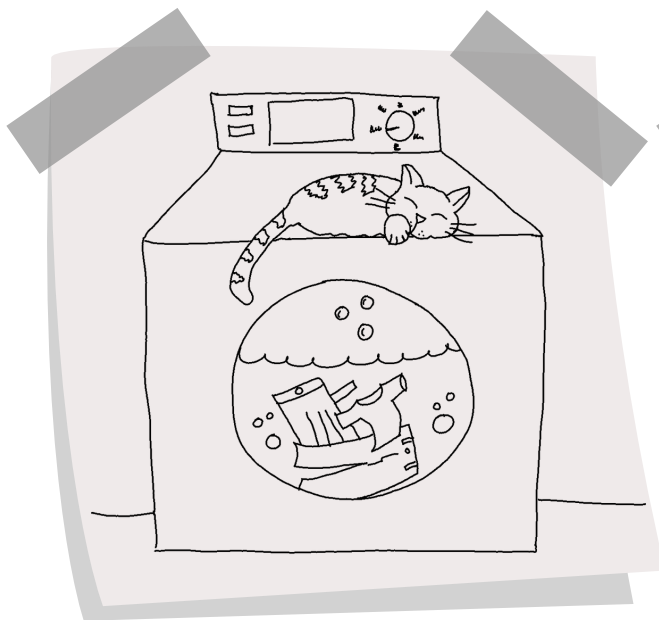
Water plays an important role in our lives, and, for this reason, it is important to **conserve** it. Some ways that you can help conserve water include turning the sink off when brushing your teeth, taking shorter showers, and using any leftover water for your plants instead of pouring it down the drain.



The High Plains is home to an aquifer called the Ogallala. It supplies water to the land, helping the flora, fauna, and people like you, survive!

Water is essential to life. We can see the ways we use water by looking at our own lives, where we use it for everything from drinking, to swimming, to showering! Without clean, running water, our lives would be very different than they are today.

**What are some other ways that you use water in your household?
Write them down in the lines below.**



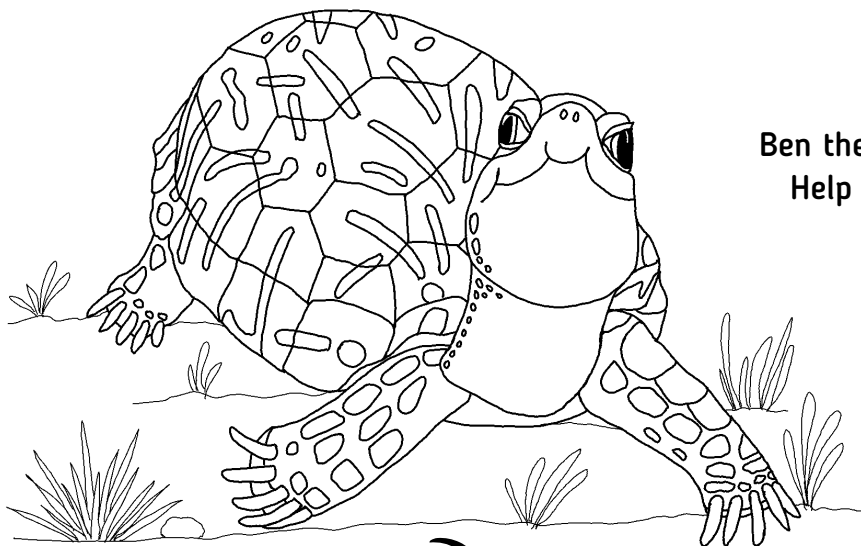
Taking care of water in your household looks like:

- 💧 Making sure your dishwasher is full before running it.
- 💧 Avoiding use of the garbage disposal- compost food instead!
- 💧 Limiting the time you spend in the shower.
- 💧 Using the leftover water from your water bottle for plants.
- 💧 Reporting water leaks to adults.

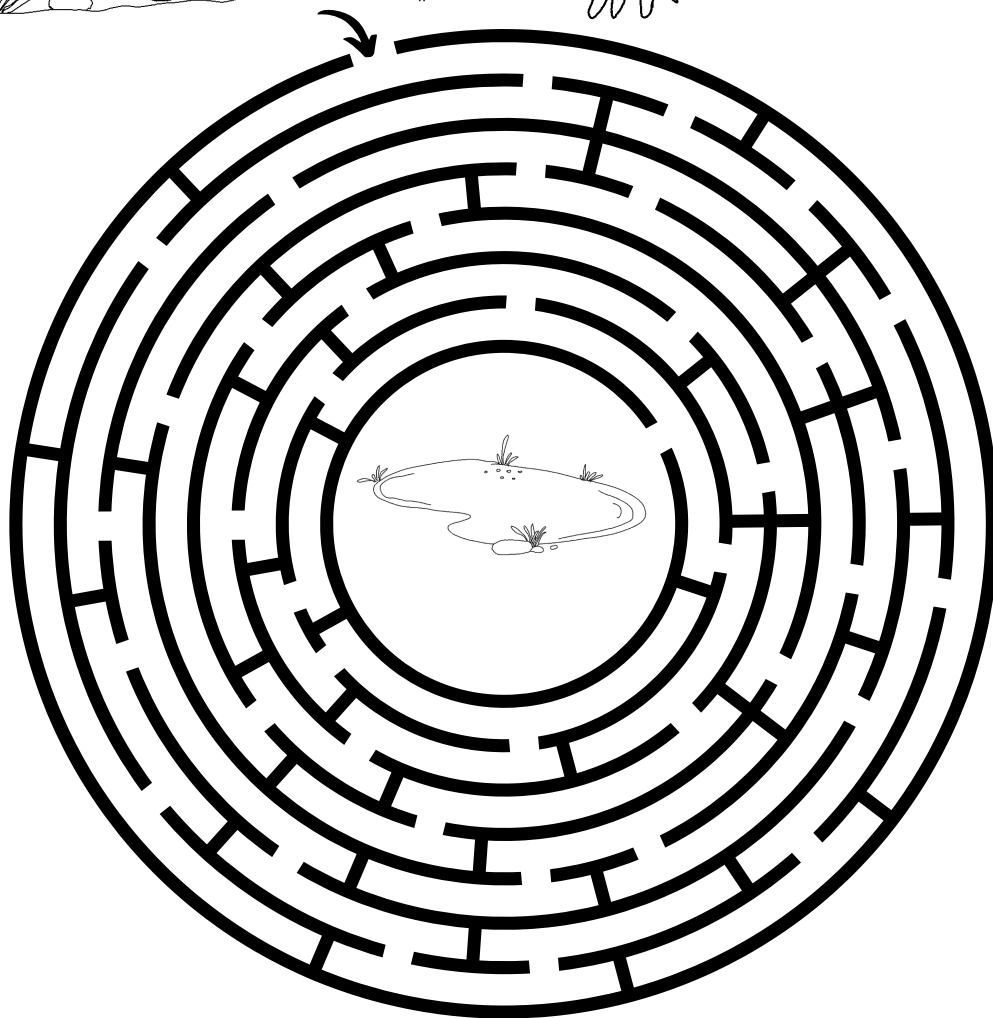
Can you think of any other ways to conserve water in your household? Draw them in the spaces above.

Just like you, wildlife also needs water to survive! They use the water from dew, plants and fruits, as well as ponds and rivers.

Ben the Ornate Box Turtle is one of the few turtle species that is able to survive in the High Plains. Turtles and other wildlife are essential for a healthy ecosystem, as they can help disperse seeds, which grow other plants for them (and others) to eat.

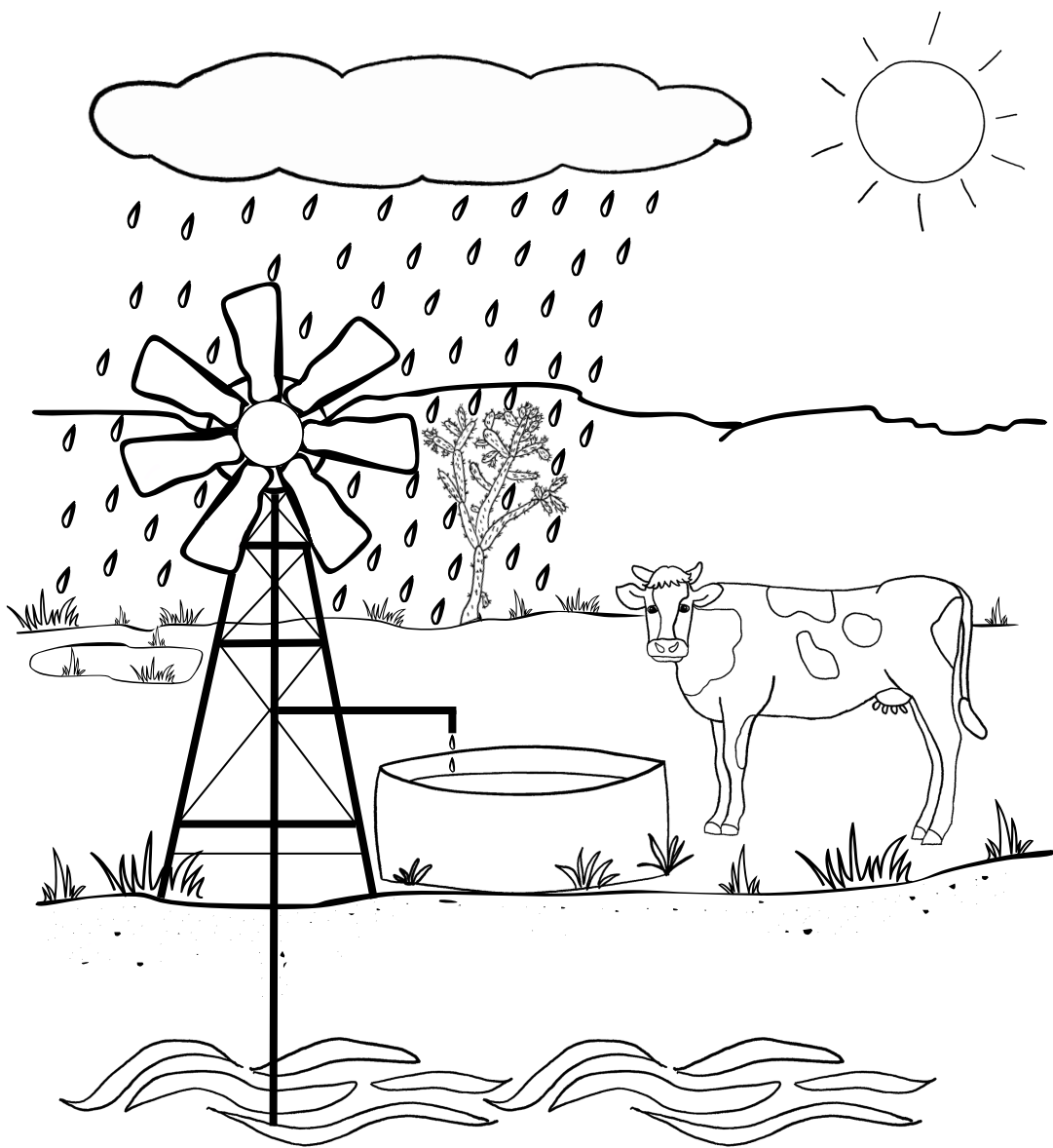


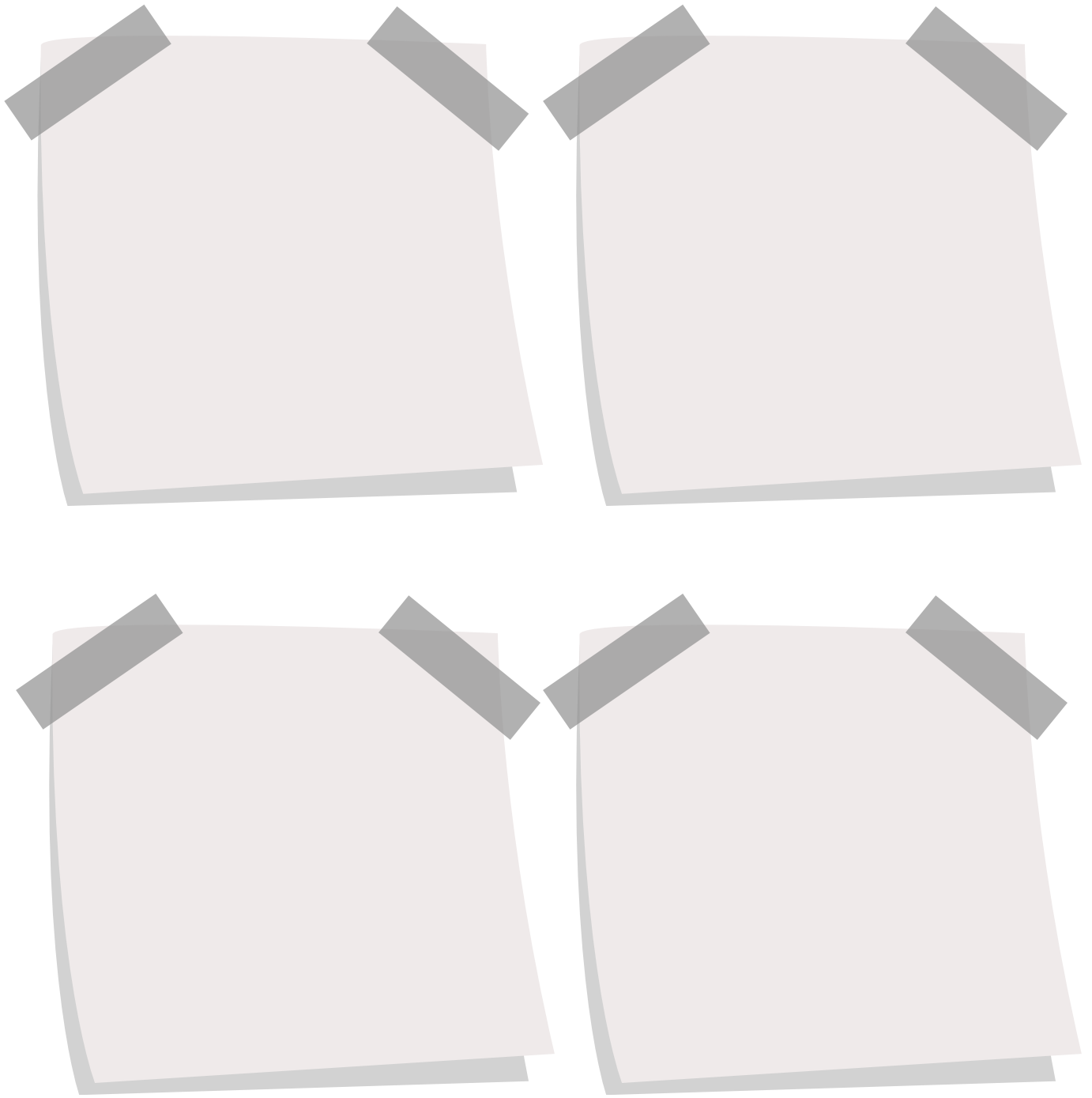
**Ben the Box Turtle is thirsty.
Help him find the water!**



Just like we use water for our households, water also plays a vital role in the **community**. We use rain, surface, and ground water to combat fires, to water crops and animals, and to clean public spaces, like streets and parks!

Can you think of any other ways that we use water as a community? Write them down in the lines below.





Taking care of water in your community looks like:

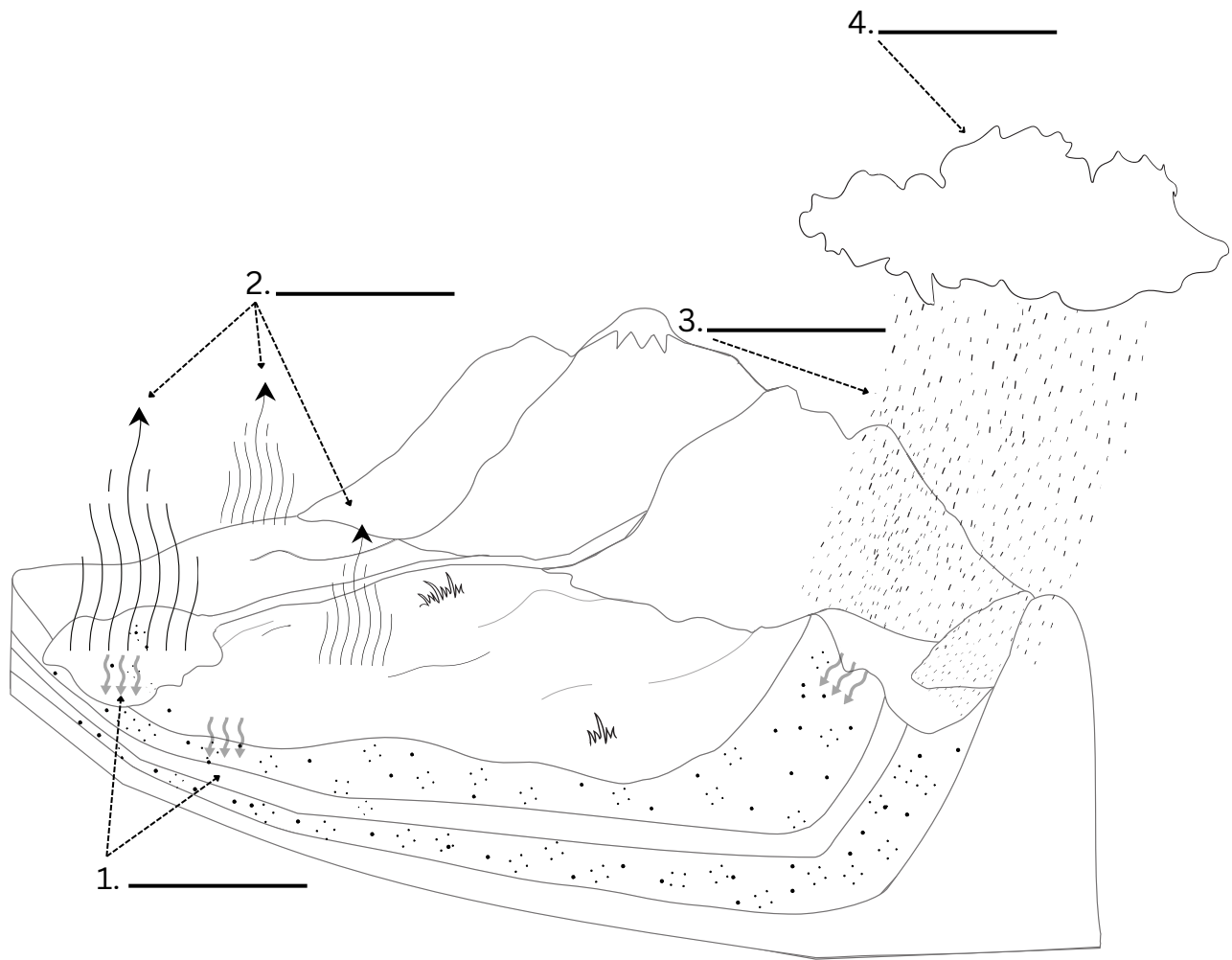
- 💧 Keeping public spaces and water sources clean.
- 💧 Participating in tree-planting and community clean-up events.
- 💧 Telling others about why water is important to you!

Draw some other ways that you can care for water in your community in the spaces above.

Water that is brought to us is continually renewed through a process called **the water cycle**. The main parts are as shown:

- Water is taken up from soil and plants, and from the surface water in lakes, rivers, and oceans, through a process called **evaporation**.
- It then undergoes **condensation**, forming the clouds that allow it to rain.
- When the water falls from the clouds, it is called **precipitation**.
- The water then **accumulates** back into lakes, rivers, and oceans, or it seeps into the ground, making the groundwater that we use today! Once it accumulates, the cycle repeats!
- In the High Plains, farmers also access this groundwater to irrigate their crops and for watering their cattle.

Can you match the parts of the water cycle to the lines below? Fill in the blanks using the bolded words above!

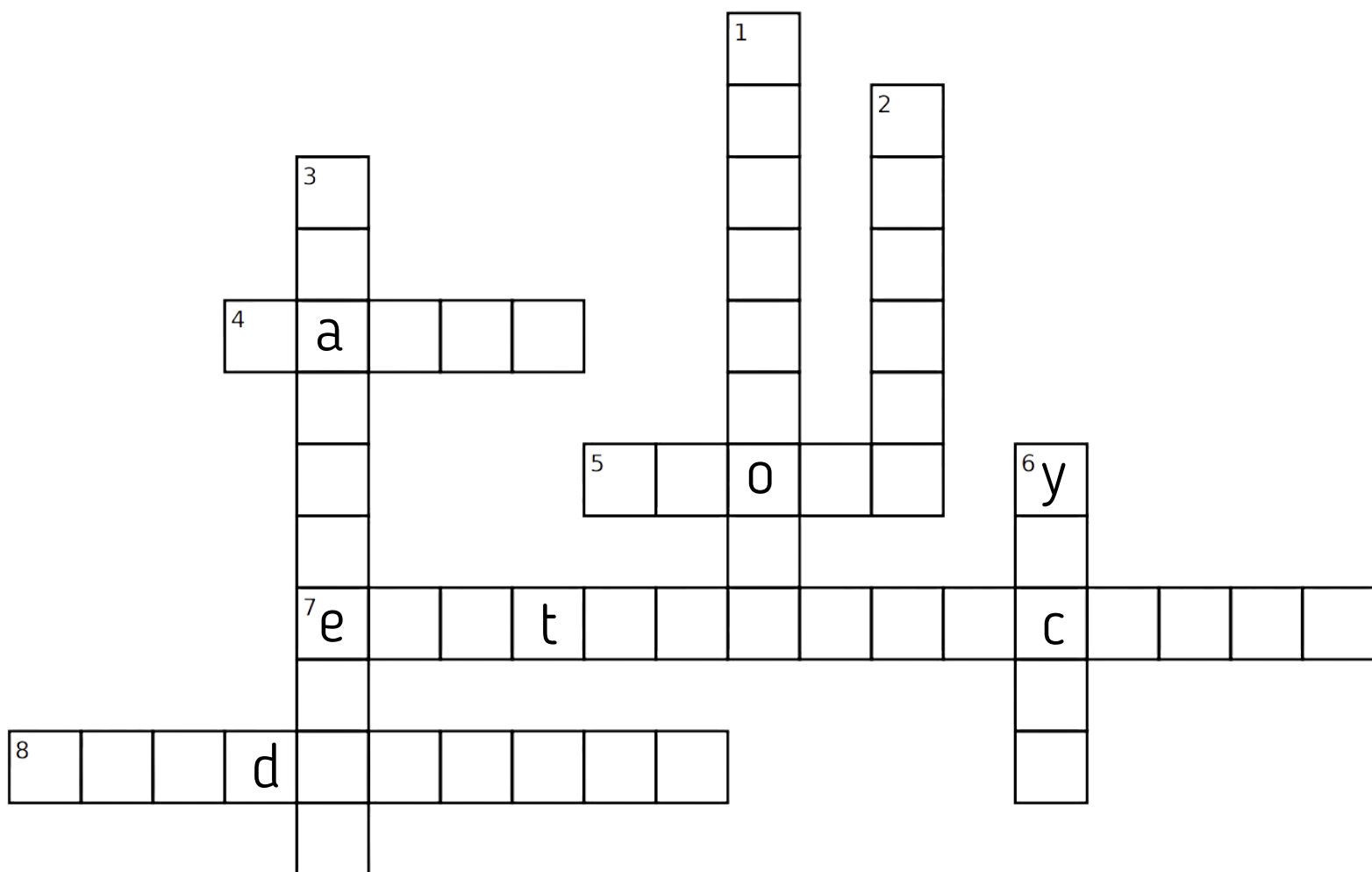


key: 1. accumulation 2. evaporation 3. precipitation 4. condensation

Can you solve this prairie crossword puzzle?

Down:

1. a large animal with horns, hooves, and a goat and antelope-like appearance
2. a cactus that is native to Mexico and the Southwestern US
3. a small brown rodent that burrows in the ground
6. a shrub with white flowers



Across:

4. another word for animal life
5. another word for plant life
7. an evergreen tree that has a conical shape
8. a small bird with a yellow belly & beige wings

key: Down: 1-pronghorn; 2-cholla; 3-prairie dog; 6-yucca
Across: 4-fauna; 5-flora; 7-eastern red cedar; 8-meadowlark

Can you find all the words in this word search?

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

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden:



Word Bank:

AGRICULTURE
ARID
COMMUNITY

CONSERVE
DROUGHT
FARMING

IRRIGATION
RANCHING
WATER CYCLE



*Created by Abby Curry, Belem Carrasco,
and Jacqueline M. Vadjunec*

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Crossword Puzzle on pg.11 created by Abby Curry using Worksheet Generator on (www.education.com).

Word Search on pg.12 created by Abby Curry using Word Search Generator on Super Teacher Worksheets (www.superteacherworksheets.com).

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Please see <https://water.okstate.edu> for more information on water resources. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions, or recommendations expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of our funders.



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The Water Cycle

