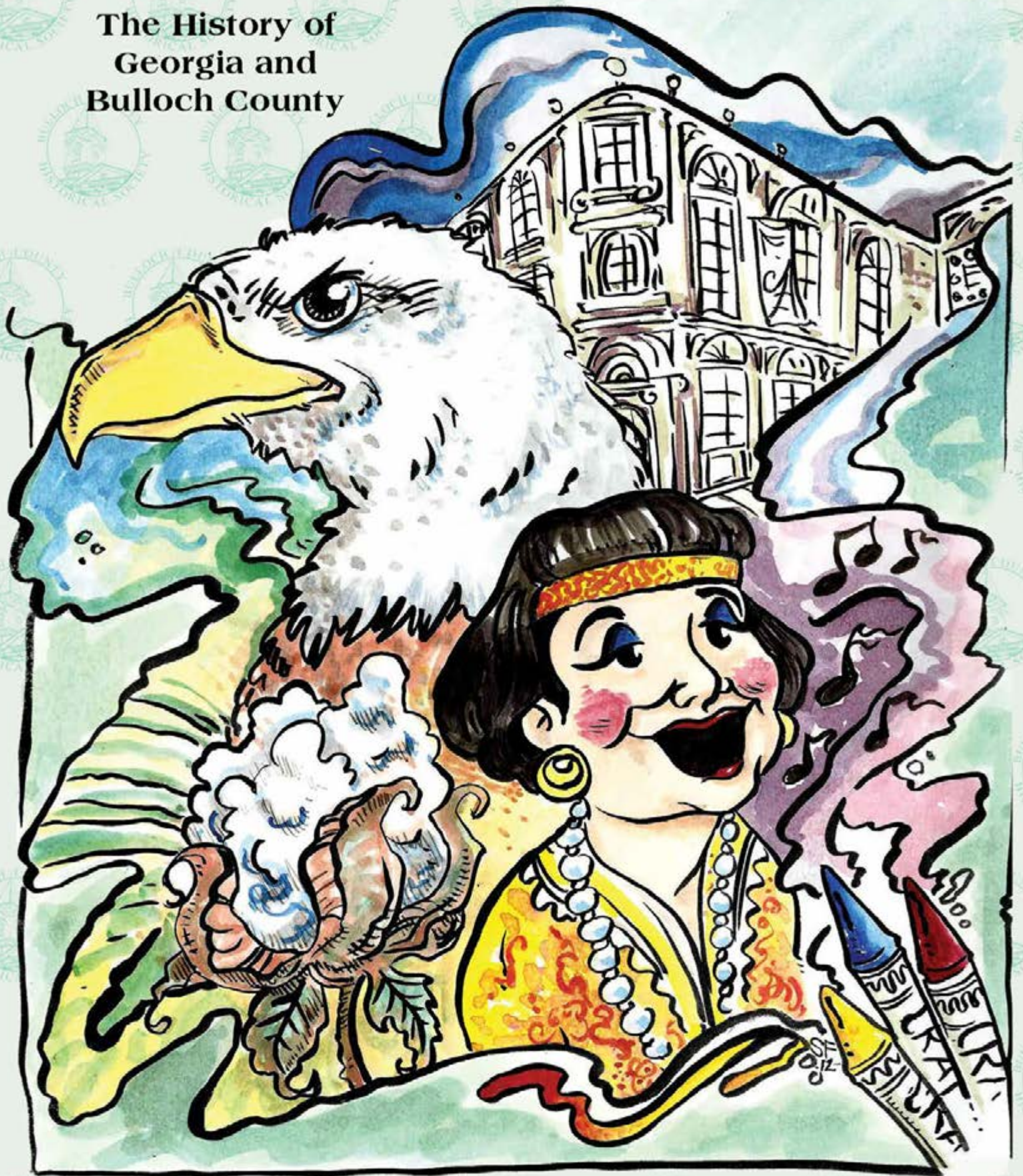


# A Colorful Tale:

The History of  
Georgia and  
Bulloch County







*The Bulloch County Historical Society wishes to acknowledge with gratitude  
the following who contributed to this publication:*

*This publication was underwritten through a grant by the Jack N. and Addie D. Averitt Foundation.*

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The state of Georgia is one of the 13 original colonies of the United States of America. General James Edward Oglethorpe and settlers who traveled with him from England founded it in 1733.

Bulloch County is located in the coastal plain of Southeast Georgia, approximately 55 miles northwest of Savannah, 80 miles south of Augusta, and 125 miles southeast of Macon. The Georgia Legislature created it in 1796.

The history of Georgia and Bulloch County, however, begins long before the English, the Spanish, and even the Native Americans arrived here.

*Draw some things that make you think of Bulloch County.*



Our planet is made up of seven continents separated by five oceans. Scientists now know that all these continents were once connected into a single land mass. They call this ancient, big continent Pangea, a word that comes from the Greek words meaning “whole” and “land.” Over hundreds of millions of years, Pangea broke into pieces that drifted apart to make the continents we know today.

*List the seven continents and five oceans we know today.*

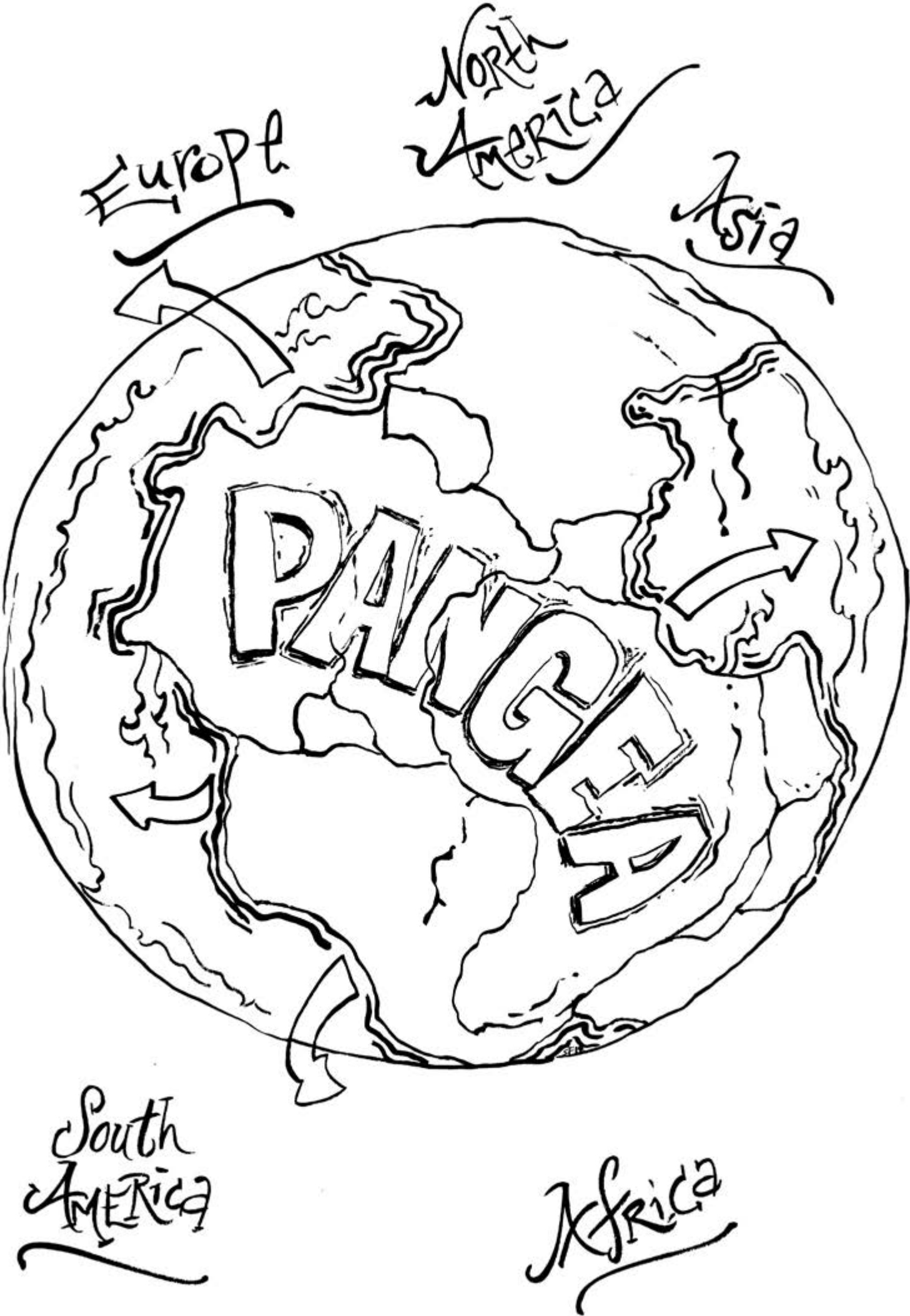
*Continents:*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

*Oceans:*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

*Can you color the drawing of Pangea to show some of the current continents on earth?*



For millions of years, an ocean that contained strange and familiar animals covered much of Georgia and the area that is now Bulloch County.

The bulldog fish (*Xiphactinus*) is extinct now. Extinct means there are no longer any of them alive. We know about them only from fossils. Bulldog fish could be as long as 15 feet and had very large, sharp teeth.

Jellyfish have been around for a very long time and there are still many types of jellyfish living in our oceans. Some jellyfish are clear, but many are brightly colored.

*Draw some other fish for the bulldog fish to eat.*

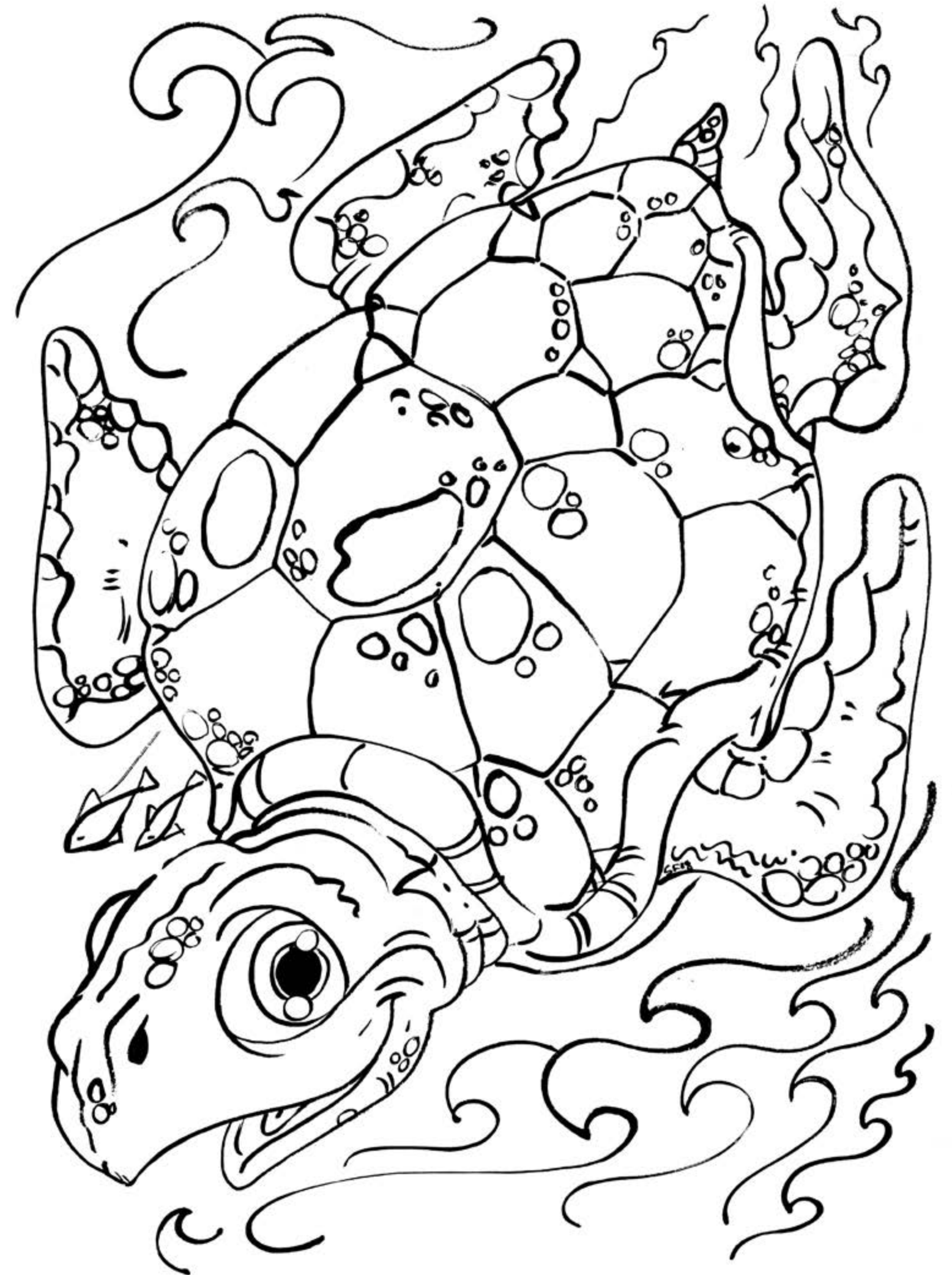




There were also sea turtles in the ancient oceans covering Bulloch County. Sea turtles today are smaller than the ones who lived at the same time as the bulldog fish.

Today, sea turtles are threatened by things we do. They can get tangled or sick from plastic and trash thrown or washed into the ocean. Sea turtles use the light of the moon to find their way back into the ocean, but often get confused by the lights on or near the beach. Sea turtles lay eggs in nests on the beach, which can easily be trampled and destroyed by humans and their pets.

*Write on the turtle's back some ways you can help the sea turtles.*



Among the first Native American peoples to meet European explorers and settlers were the Guale (pronounced "wally") tribe. They lived along the coast and on the Sea Islands and were part of a culture that built large platform mounds from dirt and used them for burials and ceremonies.

The arrival of Europeans brought disease and slavery to the Guale and, by the time Gen. Oglethorpe arrived, the Guale people were extinct as a separate tribe.

In the puppet show, Tumaque (pronounced "too-mah-kway") is a Guale medicine man. He wears bone, beads, feathers, and animal hides and has tattoos.

*Draw a scene of some Guale people using the mounds for an important ceremony. Include some of the animals you think Tumaque may have used to make his clothes and jewelry.*



In 1733, General Oglethorpe left England with about 100 men, women, and children. He arrived in what would eventually become the city of Savannah. Oglethorpe struck up a friendship with the Yamacraw Chief Tomochichi.

Mary Musgrove was the daughter of a Creek Indian woman and an English trader. She grew up in her Creek village of Coweta and the colony of South Carolina. She and her husband opened a trading post near the Savannah River and she, like Tomochichi, was of great assistance to helping the English colonists and the Creek Indians understand and peacefully trade with each other.

*Draw some of the items you think might have been for sale at Mary Musgrove's trading post.*





Fort Frederica is located on St. Simons Island and, in 1742, it was attacked by thousands of Spanish troops led by Don Manuel de Montiano attempting to invade Georgia. The English were outnumbered, but using the heavy brush surrounding the marshes and the dense smoke of the musket fire to provide cover, Oglethorpe and his men fought the Spaniards and turned them back at the Battle of Bloody Marsh.

*Can you draw a soldier on the Fort or in the marsh?*



Oglethorpe's troops included Highlanders, men who had come to Georgia from the Highlands of Scotland. They arrived in 1736 and founded the town of Darien only a few miles north of St. Simons. Because of its location near where the Altamaha River and the Atlantic Ocean meet, Darien became an important port for the export of rice, cotton, and timber.

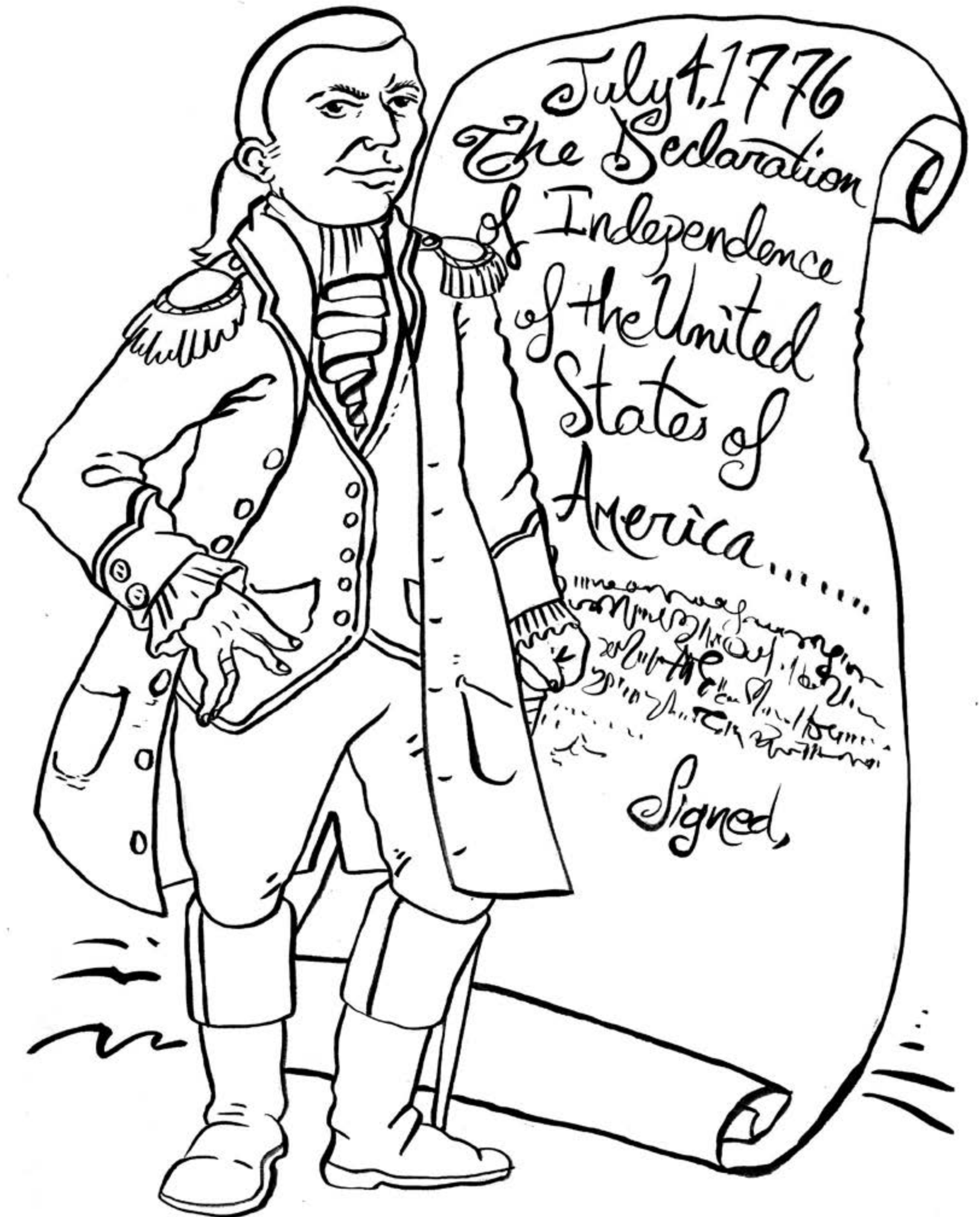
*Behind the Highlander, draw pictures of the crops that were exported from Darien and the ships that carried them.*





Bulloch County is named for Archibald Bulloch, a Revolutionary War hero and a delegate to the Continental Congress who impressed the other delegates when he arrived at the convention wearing homespun clothing symbolizing his state's commitment to an embargo on British goods. He would have been one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence had he not returned to Georgia to aid in the Revolution. He later became Georgia's first governor under the State Constitution.

*Add your signature to the Declaration of Independence to show your pride as an American.*



The city of Statesboro was founded in 1803, but its name at that time was spelled "Statesborough." Maude Brannen Edge, the first female born in Statesboro after the Civil War and the author of a newspaper column about local history, wrote that the name can be traced to European settlers who wanted the main town in Georgia's big new county to be the "state's borough." Whatever its origins, one thing is certain: unlike many cities who share their names with cities or towns in other states, there is only one Statesboro.





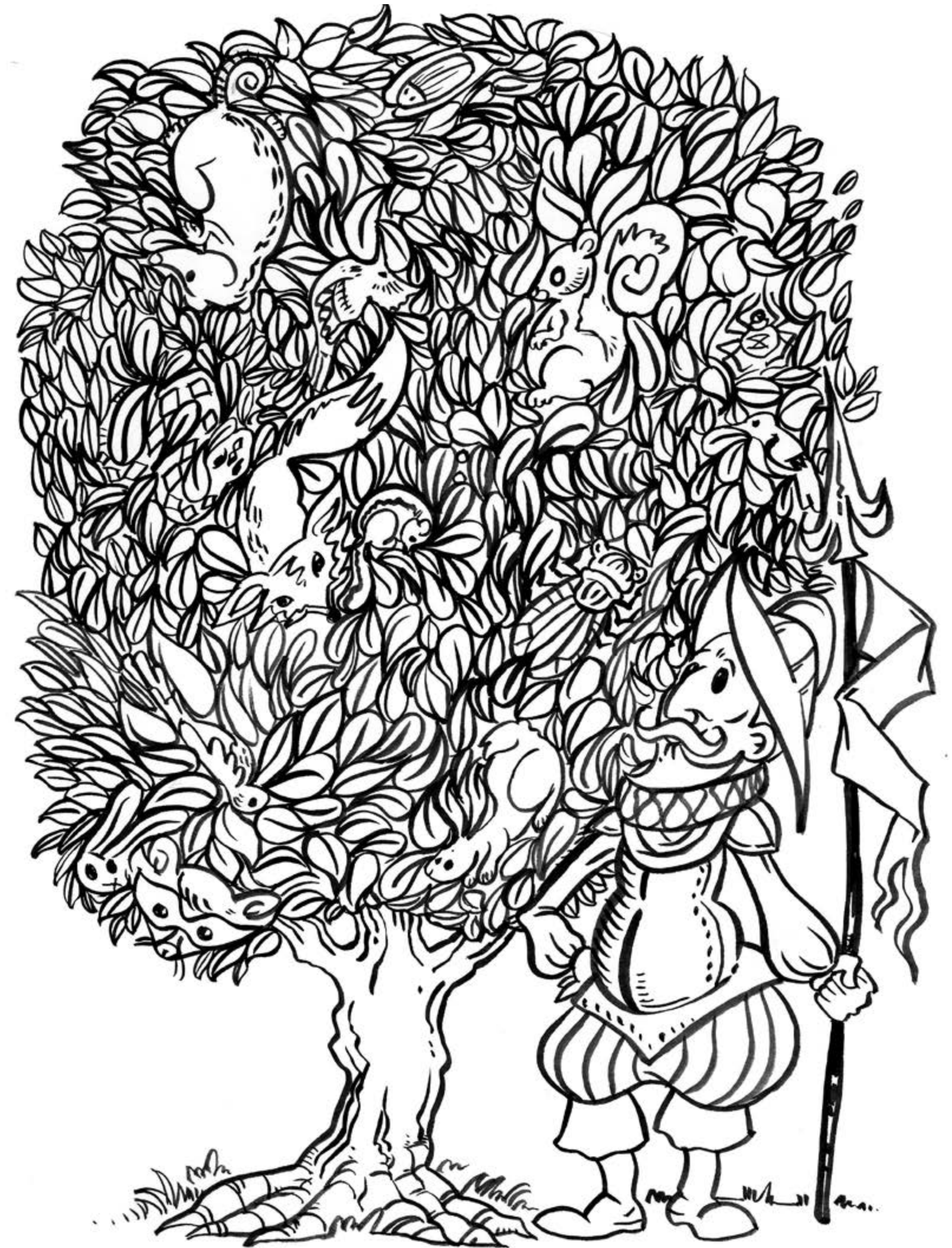
The first courthouse in Bulloch County was a log cabin built in 1806 on land donated by George Sibbald. The current courthouse, built in 1894 and completely renovated in 1990, is located on the original site.

*Something is missing from the courthouse tower. Can you correct the mistake?*



The original courthouse was built near the Old Walnut Tree, a Statesboro landmark for over 100 years. Legend says that Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto may have planted the walnut tree when he visited the area in 1539 or 1540.

*How many animals can you find in the Old Walnut Tree?*





In the early 1800s, Georgia farmers first began planting Sea Island cotton. It quickly became an important crop in Bulloch County, contributing to the county's growth as an important agricultural center. In 1903, Statesboro was the largest inland exporter of Sea Island cotton in the world and Bulloch County was recognized as the world's largest Sea Island cotton producing county.

*Which of these pictures comes first? Number them in order.*

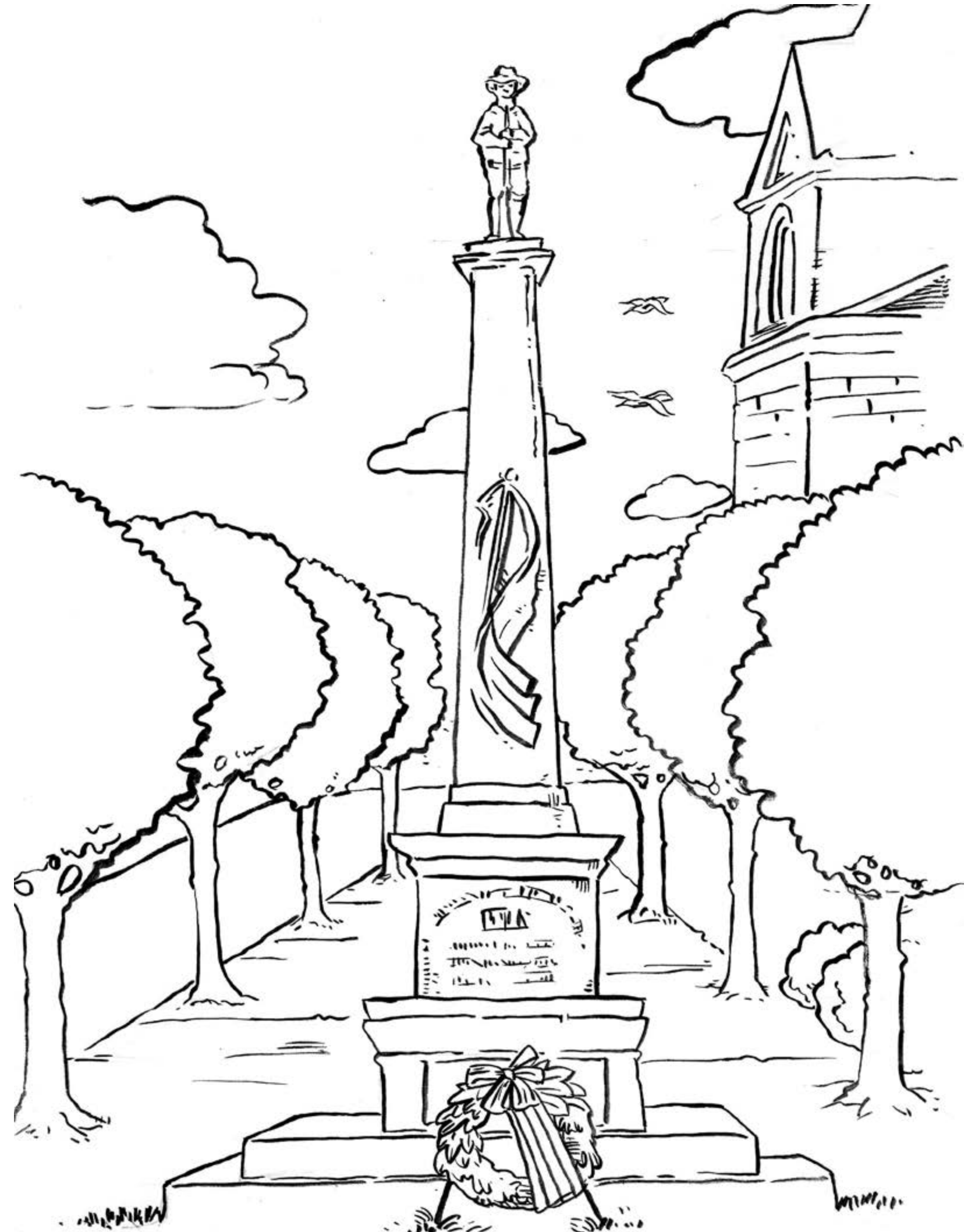


Color and circle each thing that is made of cotton.  
Color and draw a square around each thing that is used  
in growing cotton.





In 1861, Georgia seceded from the union, along with ten other states, and Bulloch County, whose population was only about 5,000, supplied 600 soldiers to the Confederate Army. In 1909, the United Daughters of the Confederacy erected a monument on the Courthouse Square as a memorial to those soldiers.

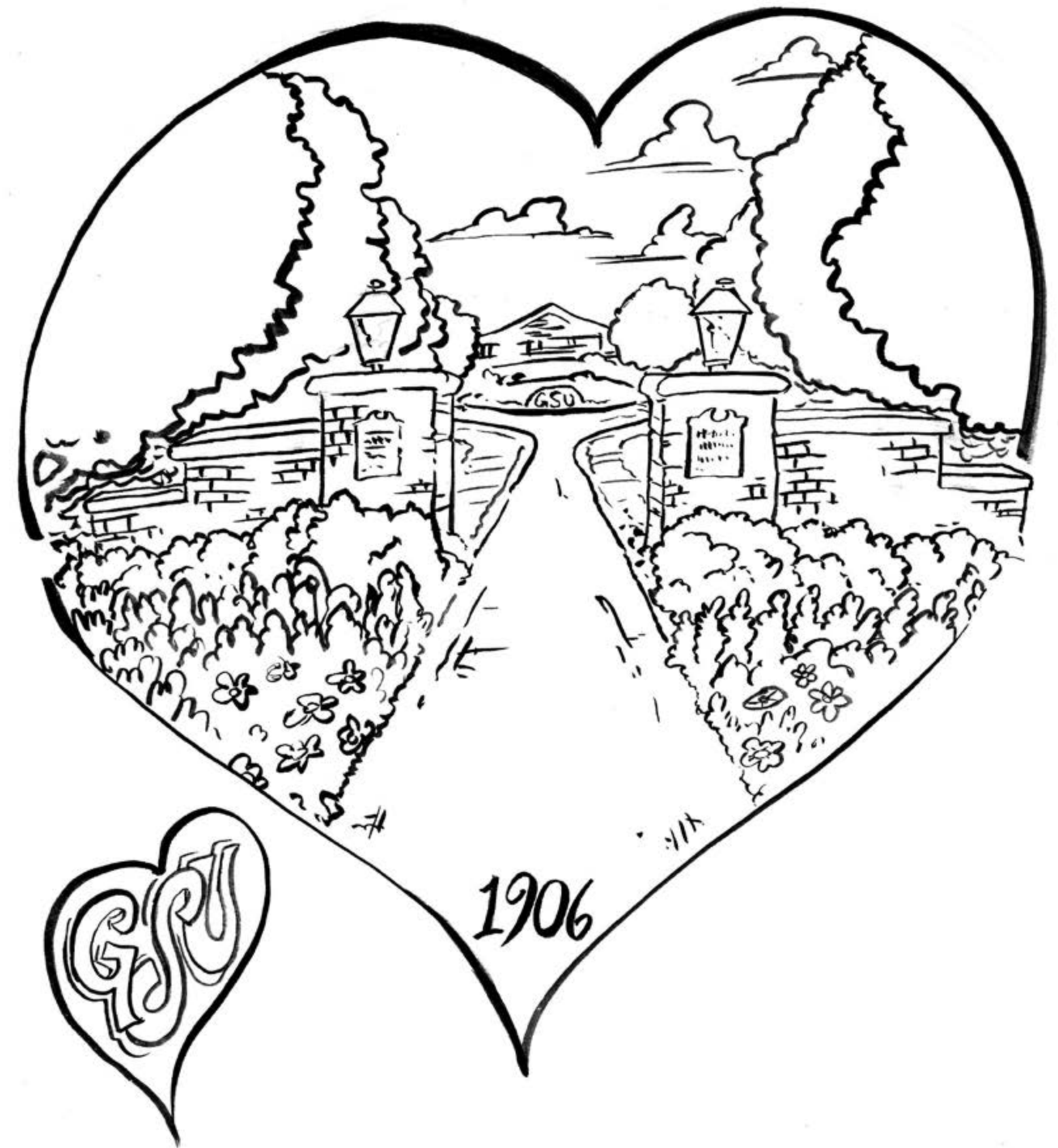


On December 3, 1864, a part of General William Sherman's army passed through Statesboro on the sweep through Georgia known as "the March to the Sea." A part of the southern column of the army, under the command of Maj. Gen. Howard, skirmished with some Confederate locals at a location near town on what is now U.S. Highway 80.

*On the map draw something that is on Highway 80 today that would not have been there when General Sherman's army came to town.*



In 1906, Bulloch County was granted the charter for the First District Agricultural and Mechanical School. The school later became Georgia Teachers College, then Georgia Southern College, and in 1990, Georgia Southern University. The original part of campus is known as "Sweetheart Circle" and is the site of special events and a beautiful and fun place to relax.



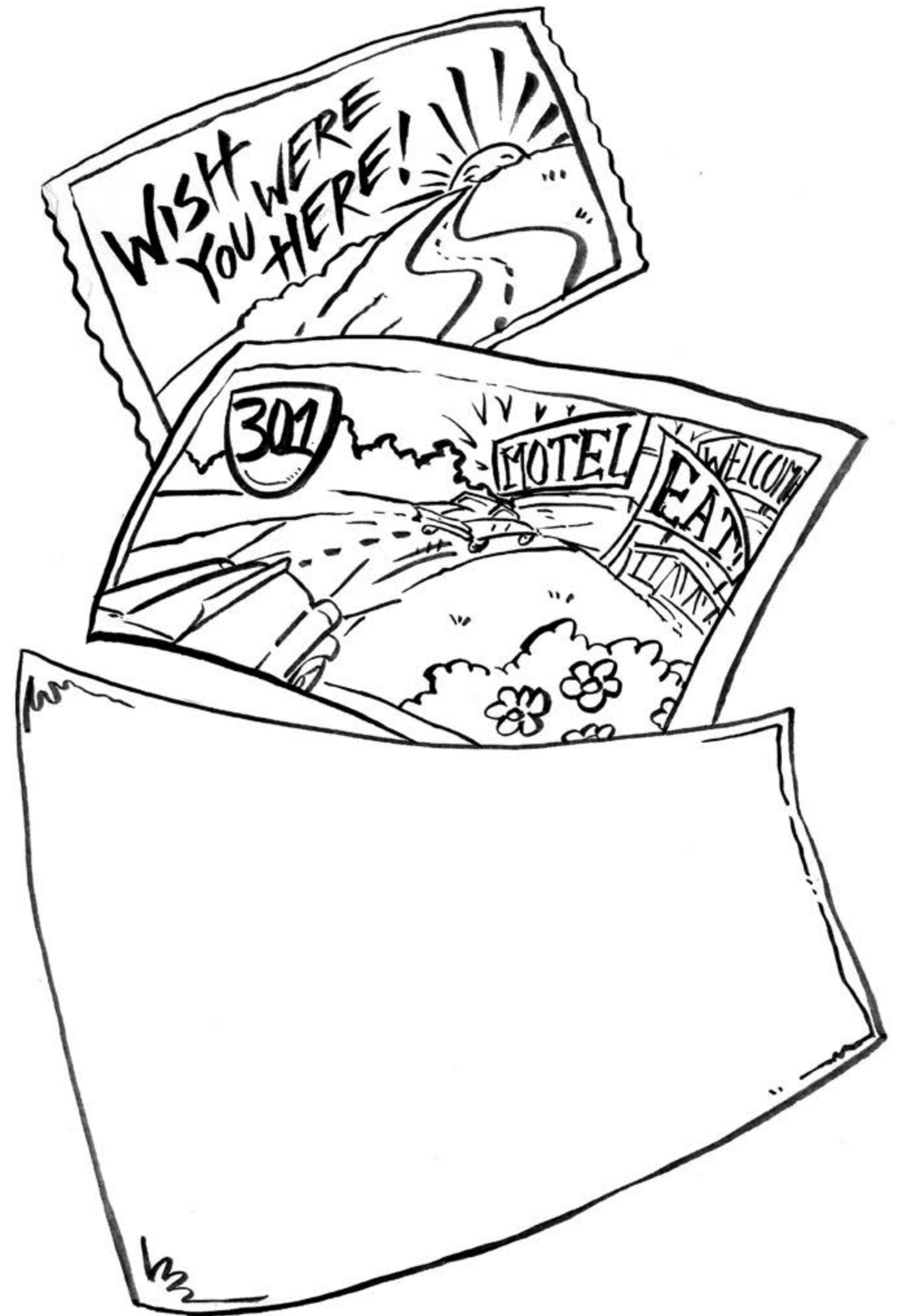


Ogeechee Technical College was founded in 1986. Students study to get work in construction, nursing, hotels, police work and much more. The school is named for the river that runs through southeast Georgia where so many of the college's students come from.



After World War II, U.S. Highway 301 became the major transportation route from the Northeast to Florida and brought thousands of tourists to Statesboro. A number of motels and restaurants in the city catered to the travellers and Statesboro became known as the "Tourist City."

*Create your own postcard saluting Statesboro and Bulloch County.*



Statesboro and Bulloch County continue to draw visitors in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Averitt Center for the Arts, located in the historic Bank of Statesboro Building in downtown Statesboro, sponsors performances, exhibits, and educational opportunities in the visual and performing arts, including the annual favorite, "The Nutcracker," featuring local dance students.

*Draw lights and ornaments to help Clara and Fritz decorate the Christmas tree from "The Nutcracker."*





The Emma Kelly Theater, venue for “The Nutcracker” and other performances, is named for one of Statesboro’s most famous residents. “Miss Emma,” as she was known, was called “the Lady of 6,000 Songs,” by famous songwriter Johnny Mercer because she could sing and play on the piano over 6,000 songs from memory.

*What song do you think Miss Emma is singing?* \_\_\_\_\_



Visitors also come to Statesboro and Bulloch County for recreational opportunities. Mill Creek Recreational Complex hosts baseball, softball and soccer tournaments year-round and Splash in the 'Boro Water Park has the only Dual Flow-Rider in the state. One of the most popular features at Splash is the Lazy River.



**The Georgia Southern University Museum, the Center for Wildlife Education and the Botanic Garden at Georgia Southern bring visitors to Statesboro and Bulloch County year-round.**





The mosasaur on exhibit at the Georgia Southern Museum lived 78 million years ago. He lived in the ocean and was 26 feet long from head to tail.

*Which of these other animals may have lived at the same time as the mosasaur?*



The Vogtle whale, also on exhibit at the museum, lived 42 million years ago. He was 11 feet long. This is the oldest whale skeleton in North America.

*Draw an ocean around the whale so that he has someplace to swim.*



**At the Center for Wildlife Education eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons perform in flight shows. Visitors can also take habitat walkway tours to get up-close views of how the birds live.**

*Can you identify each bird?*







**Botanic Garden at Georgia Southern University was once the farmstead of Dan and Catherine Bland. In 1990, the Garden opened and now serves as an educational resource and a place of quiet reflection. Woodland trails and many different gardens help us learn about native plants and animals of Bulloch County and Georgia.**

*Draw the animals you think might have lived here when it was a farm.*



In 1981, legendary college coach Erk Russell came to town to start a football program at Georgia Southern. Within just a few short years, his coaching skills, the mystique of Beautiful Eagle Creek, and what he called “the prettiest little stadium in America” had produced back-to-back national championships. Now every fall, fans and alumni converge on Paulson Stadium to cheer on the Eagles.

*Draw a bald eagle in the sky of the stadium.*



High-quality medical care provided at East Georgia Regional Medical Center also draws residents of other communities to Statesboro and Bulloch County. EGRMC draws on a long history of physician-based health care that began in 1908 with the opening of the Statesboro Sanitarium on Hill Street. In 1937, the Bulloch County Hospital opened on East Grady and Donehoo Streets as the first publicly owned and operated health care facility in the county.





Even as they have embraced progress and looked to the future, the people of Statesboro and Bulloch County have worked hard to preserve their history. A number of historic buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Beaver House located at 121 South Main Street and the M.M. Holland House located at 27 South Main Street.



Also on the National Register is Statesboro City Hall which was originally built as the Jaeckel Hotel in 1905. William Jennings Bryan, who served as Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson, was a guest at the hotel while he was in Statesboro to deliver his famous Prince of Peace speech.



**Influential African-American blues musician and songwriter Blind Willie McTell was a regular performer on the veranda of the Jaeckel Hotel. The greatest twelve-string guitarist of his time, one of his best known compositions is "Statesboro Blues," which he recorded in 1928. In 1971 the song was recorded by the Allman Brothers Band and garnered a new generation of fans.**





Blind Willie McTell was honored by the City of Statesboro with the naming of a walking trail in his honor. The McTell Trail is a one-mile pathway connecting downtown Statesboro to the campus of Georgia Southern University. The trail begins at Fair Road's Memorial Park and ends at Triangle Park in downtown Statesboro.

Strollers on the trail will observe 14 varieties of trees and can access the entrance to the Downtown Dog Park. The dog park is located between East Grady Street and East Cherry Street.

*Draw a picture of you and your pet on the trail.*



The history of Statesboro and Bulloch County is all around you and it is happening every day.



**Miss Franklin's class learned a lot about Georgia and Bulloch County history on their field trip.**

*Make a list of three things you enjoyed most about your field trip.*

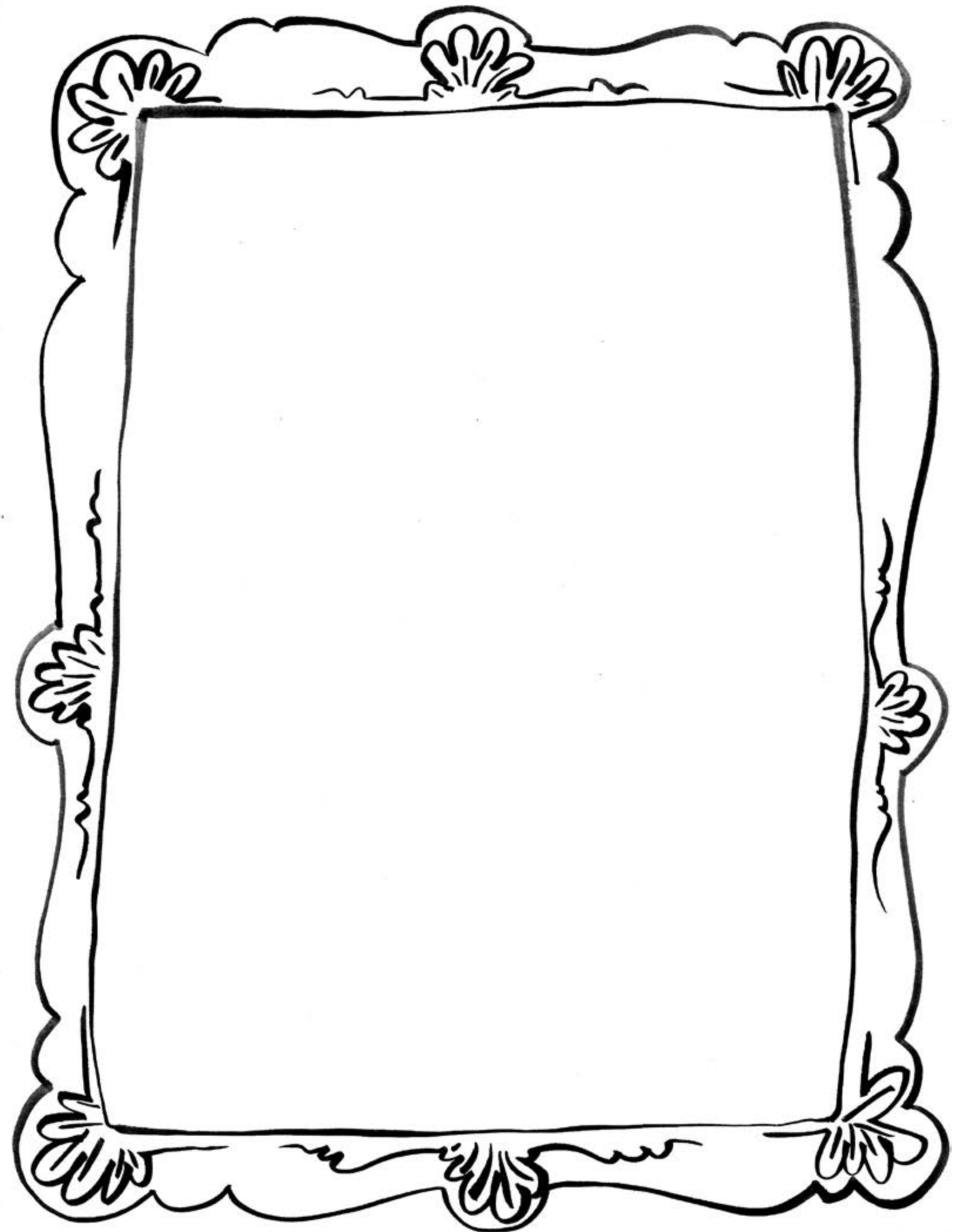
*I liked:*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.





**You are a part of the colorful future of Statesboro and Bulloch County. Draw a picture of that future and be sure to include yourself.**





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**This publication was underwritten through a grant by the  
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