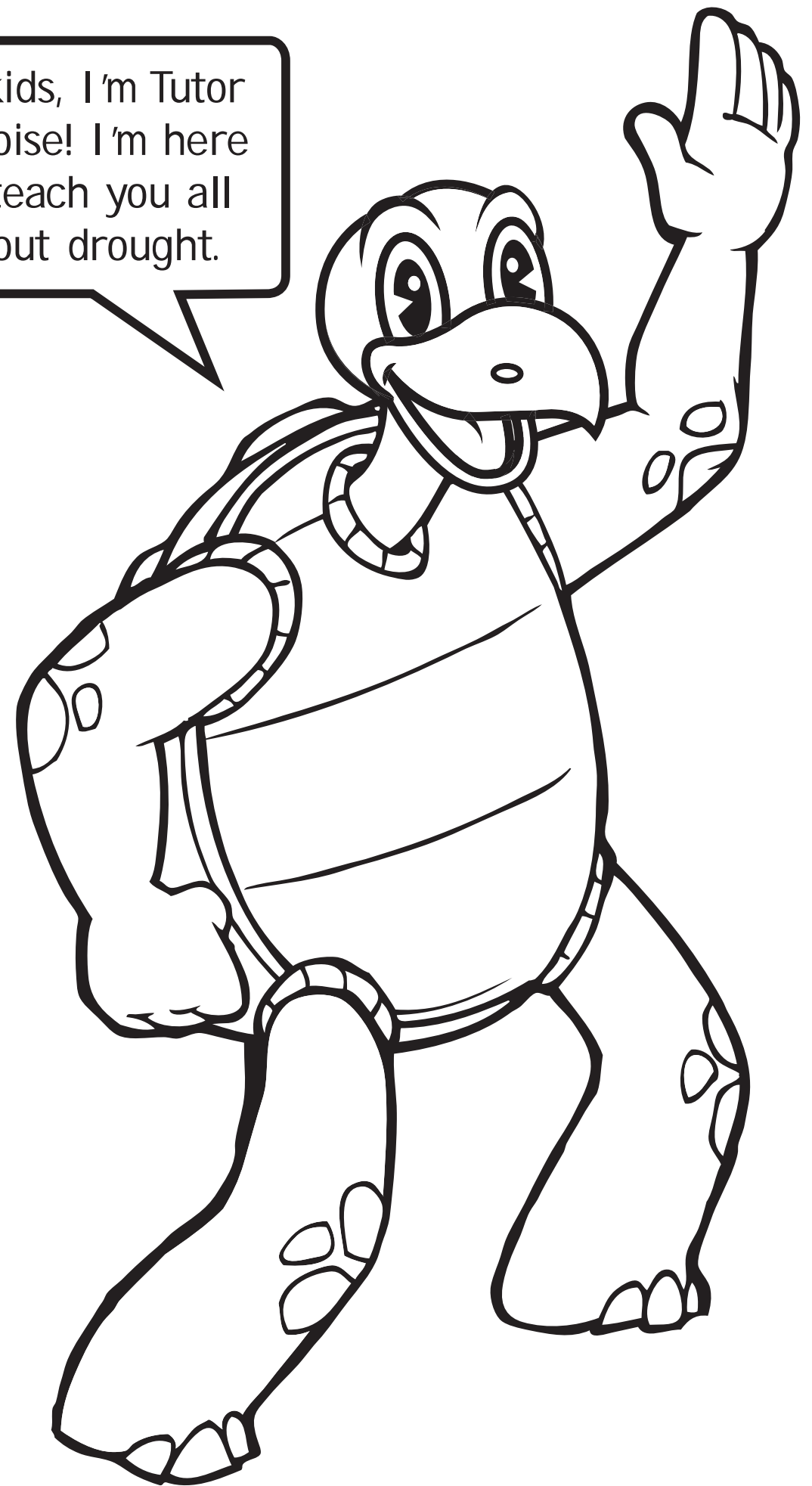


Tutor Tortoise Learns About

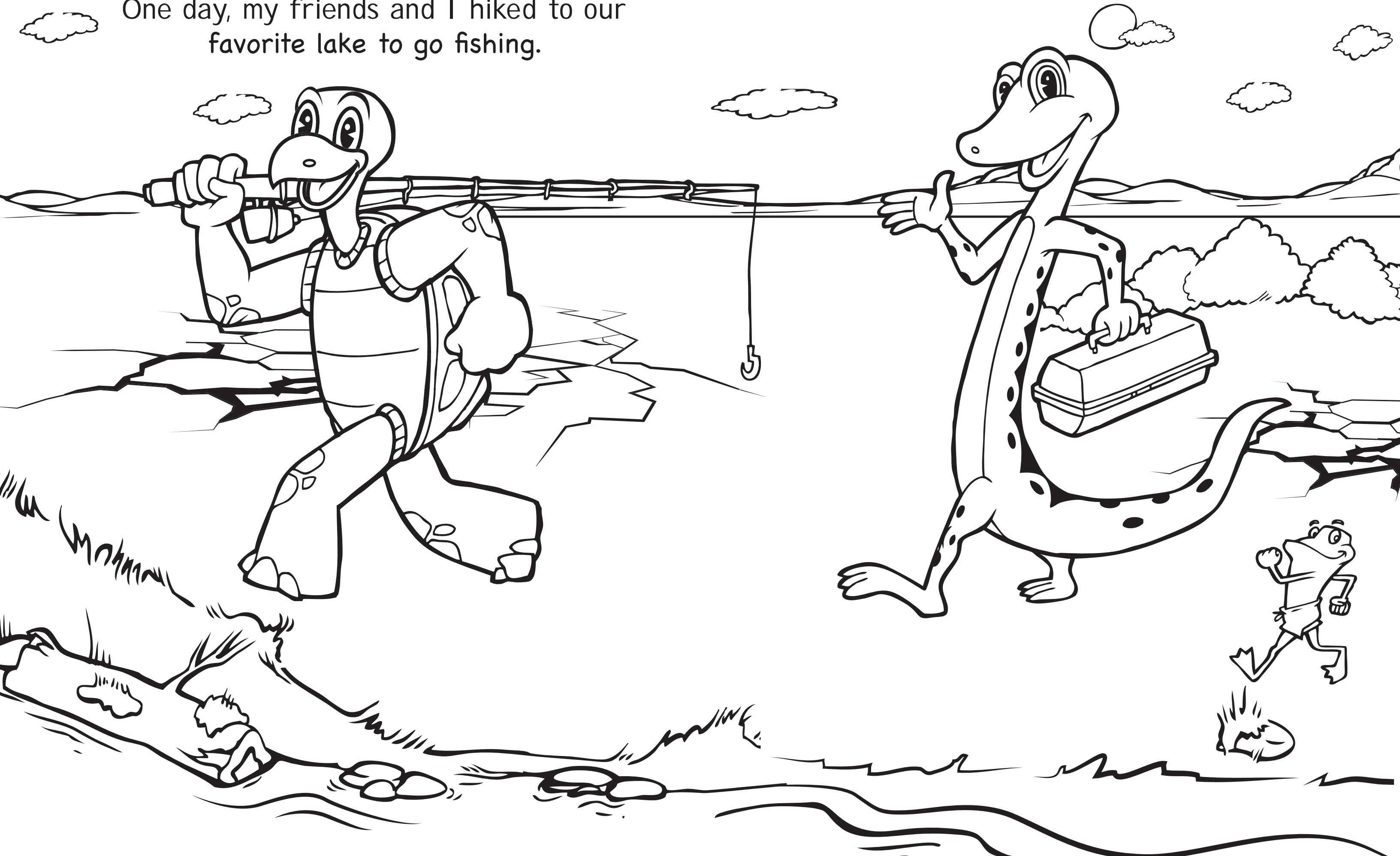
DROUGHT



Hi, kids, I'm Tutor
Tortoise! I'm here
to teach you all
about drought.



One day, my friends and I hiked to our favorite lake to go fishing.



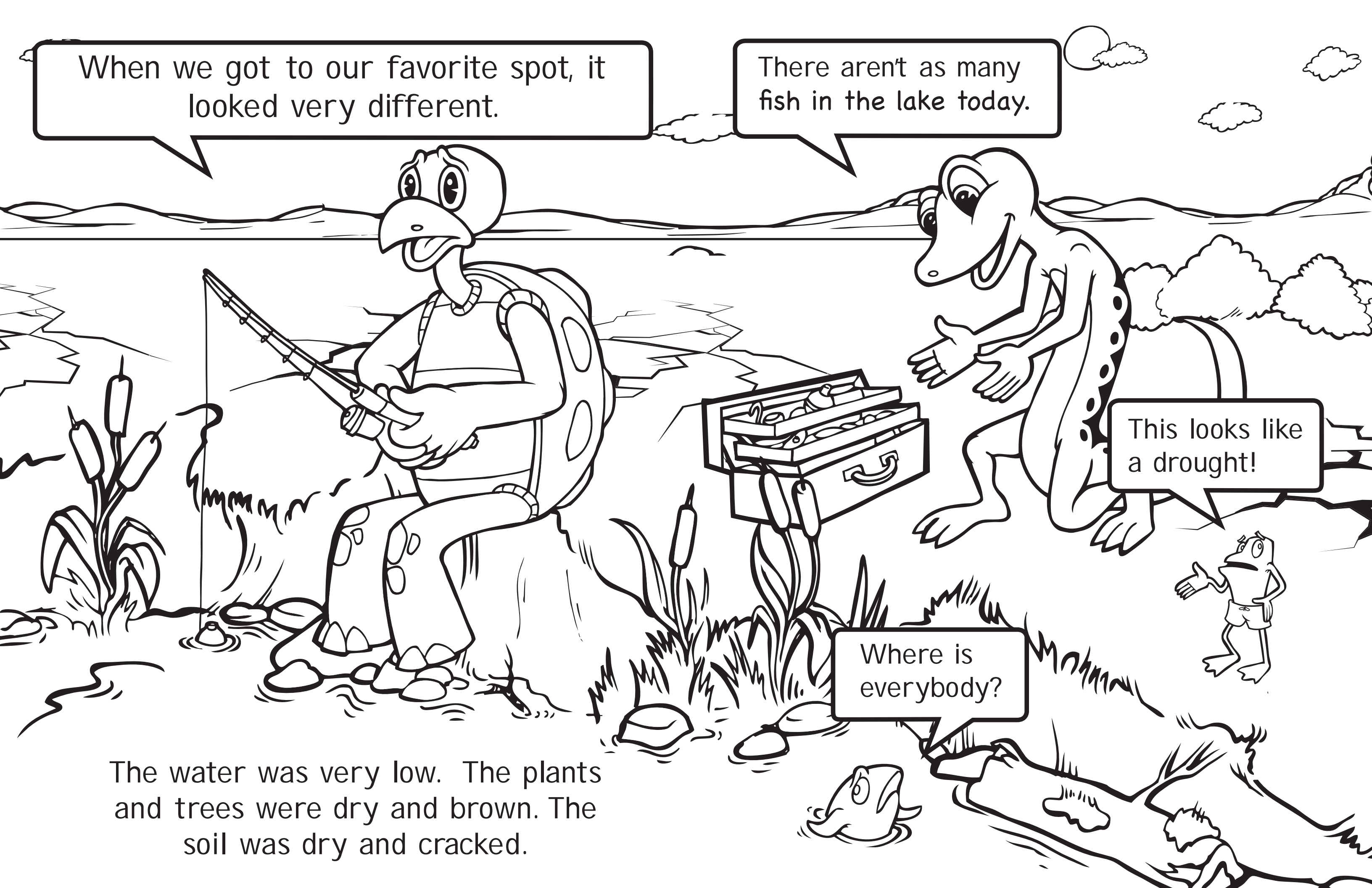
When we got to our favorite spot, it looked very different.

There aren't as many fish in the lake today.

This looks like a drought!

Where is everybody?

The water was very low. The plants and trees were dry and brown. The soil was dry and cracked.



A drought happens when it hasn't rained in a long time. Drought can happen anywhere.

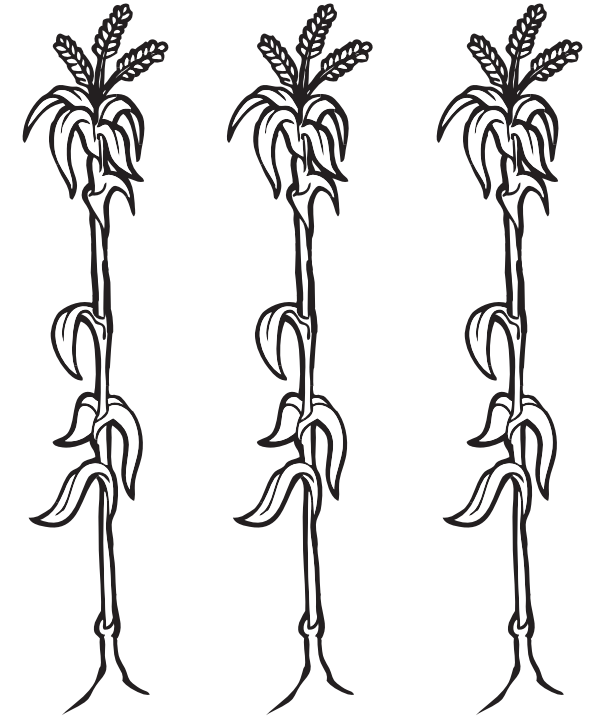


During a drought, there's less water for all of these things:

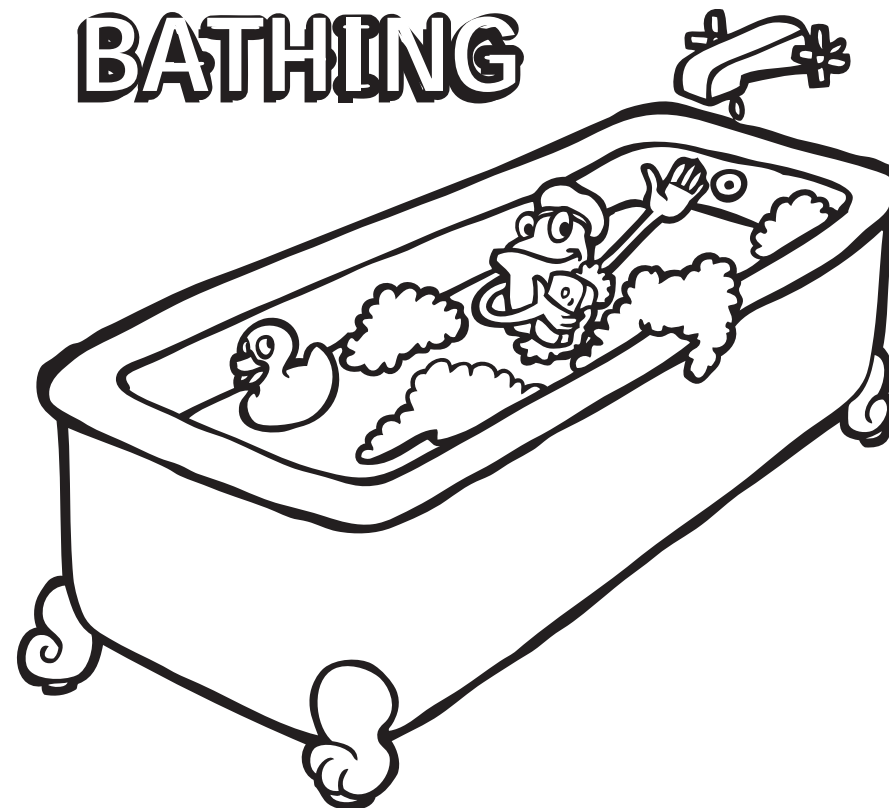
WATERING THE PLANTS



FARMING



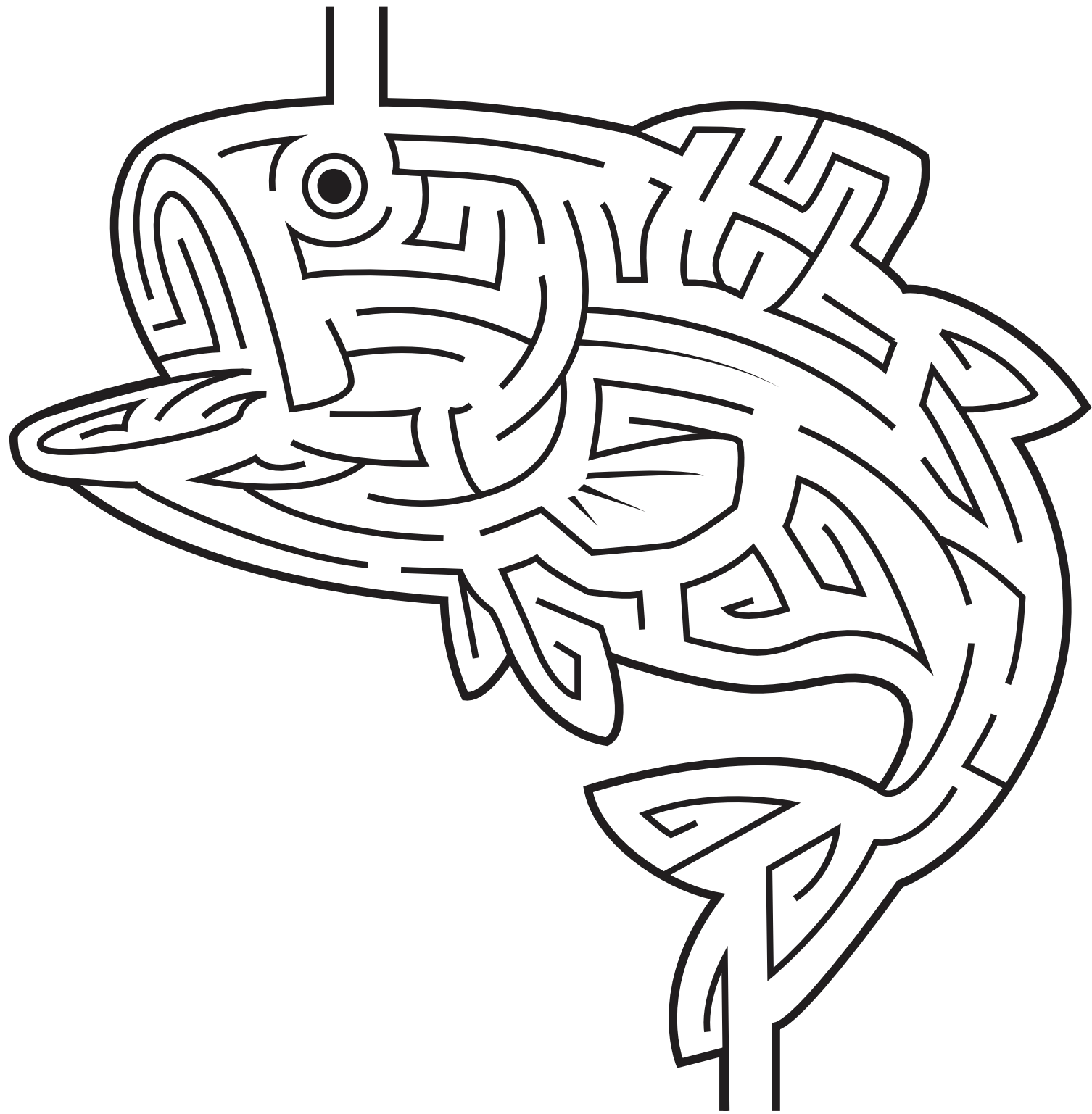
BATHING



We can't make it rain, but we can do a lot to help during a drought!

Can you find your way through this
"fishy" maze?

START

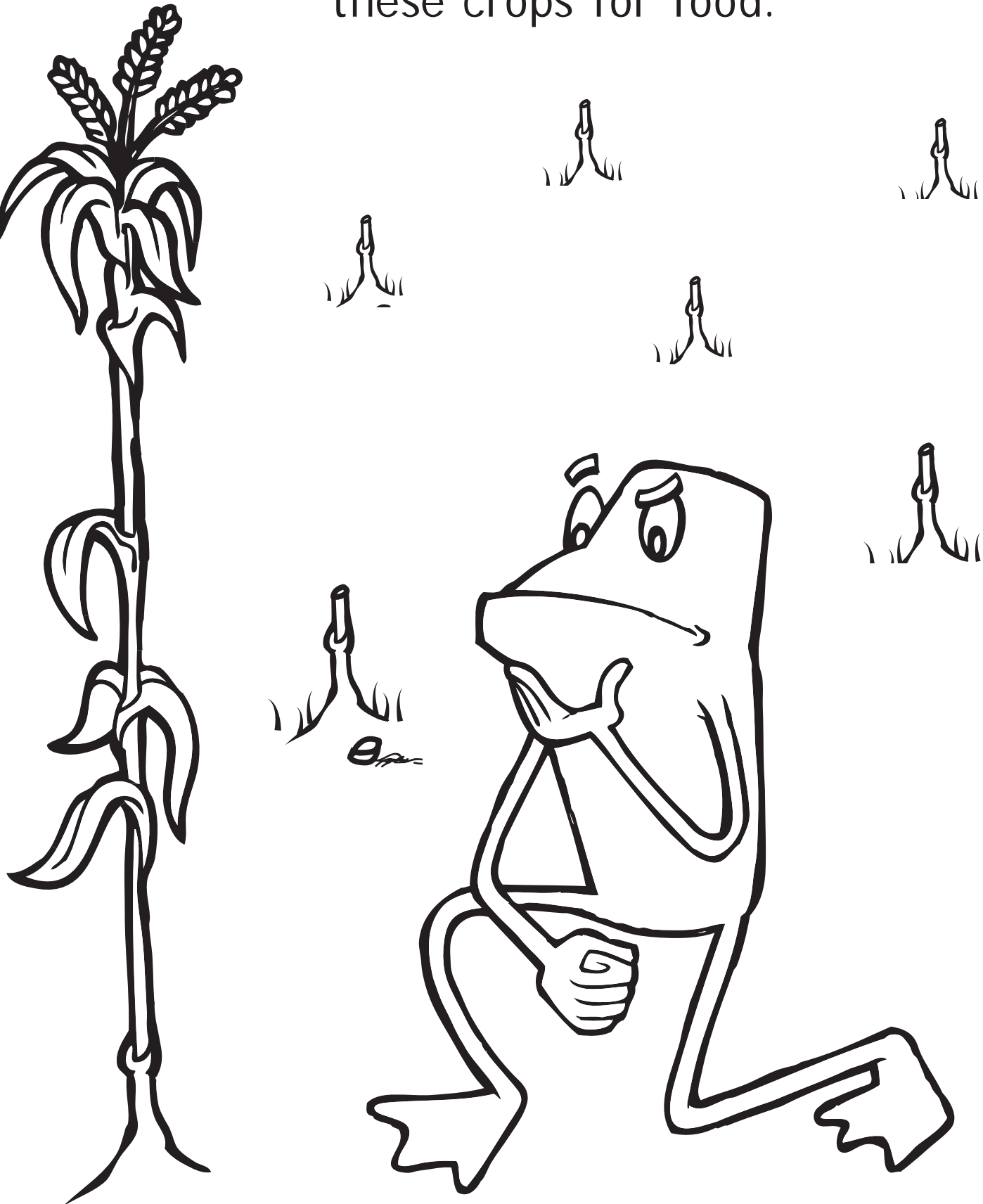


FINISH

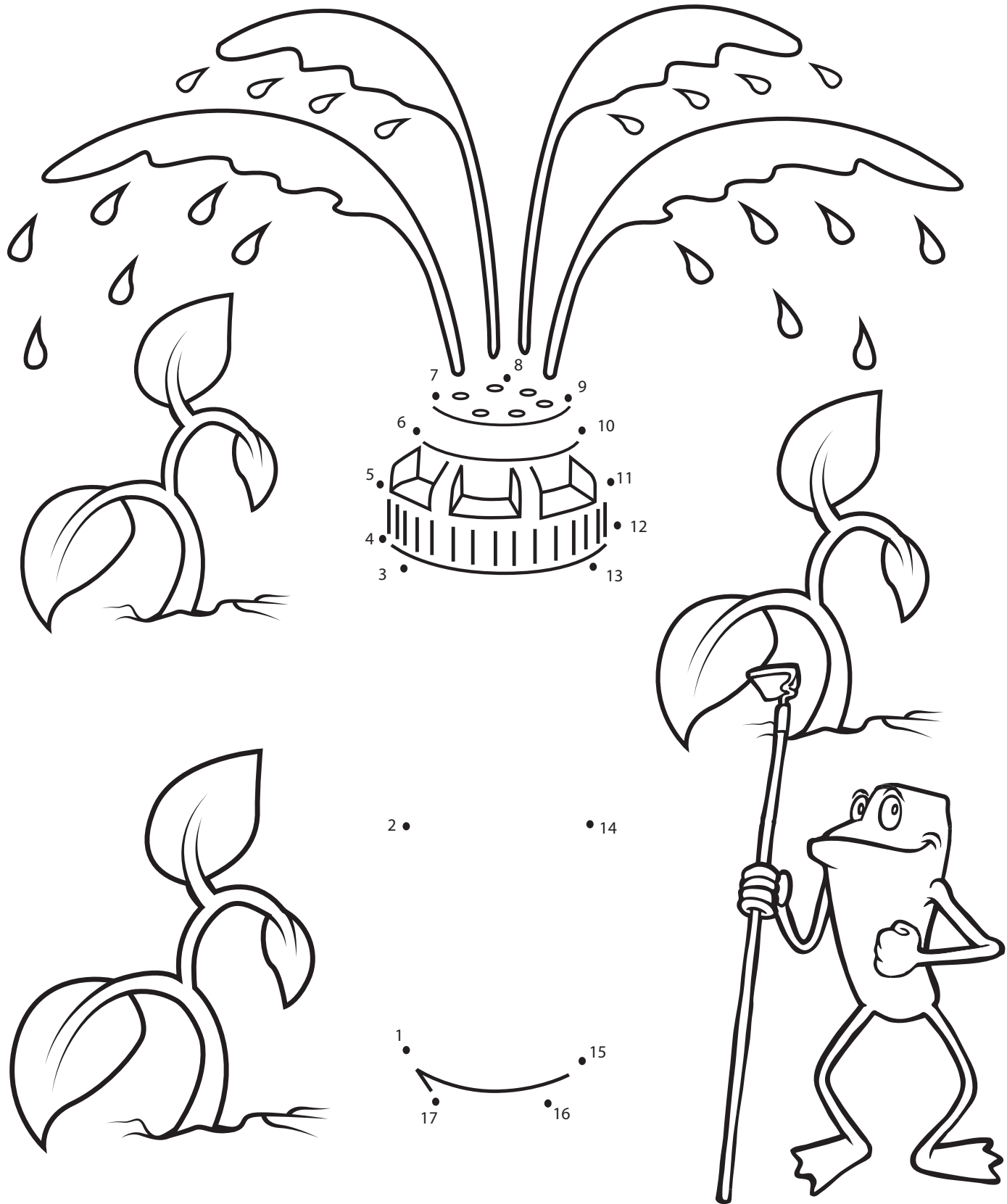
During a drought, forest fires can start
very quickly. Let's help the forest! We can
do that by not lighting a campfire.



If the soil becomes too dry, it can be difficult for farmers to grow crops. Farmers harvest these crops for food.



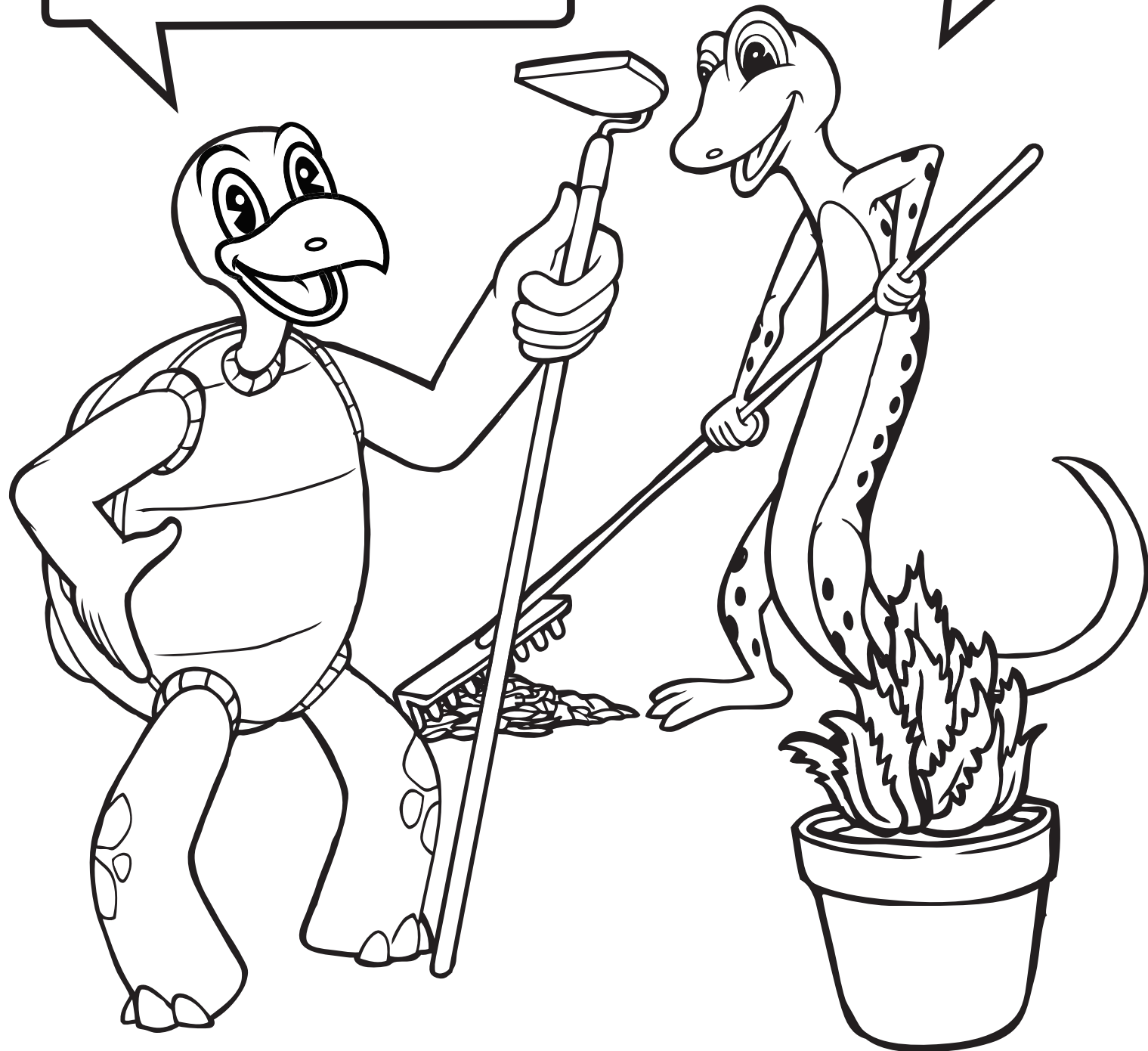
Irrigation brings water to dry soil and crops. Connect the dots to bring water to these thirsty plants!



During a drought, everyone needs to pitch in to save water. At home, Tutor found lots of ways to help.

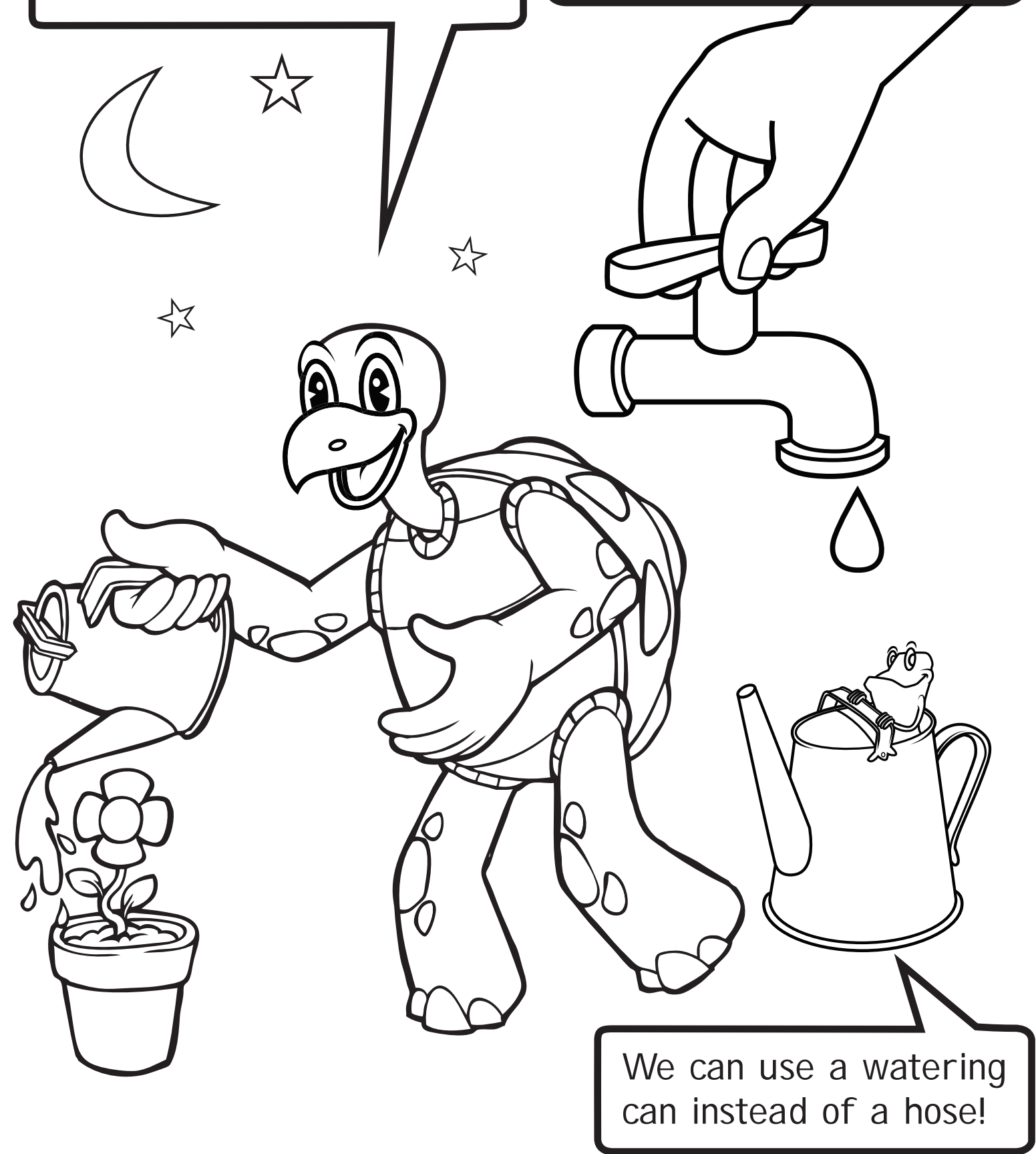
Let's save water in the yard. We can do it by growing plants that don't need a lot of water.

We can spread mulch over the soil so it holds more water!



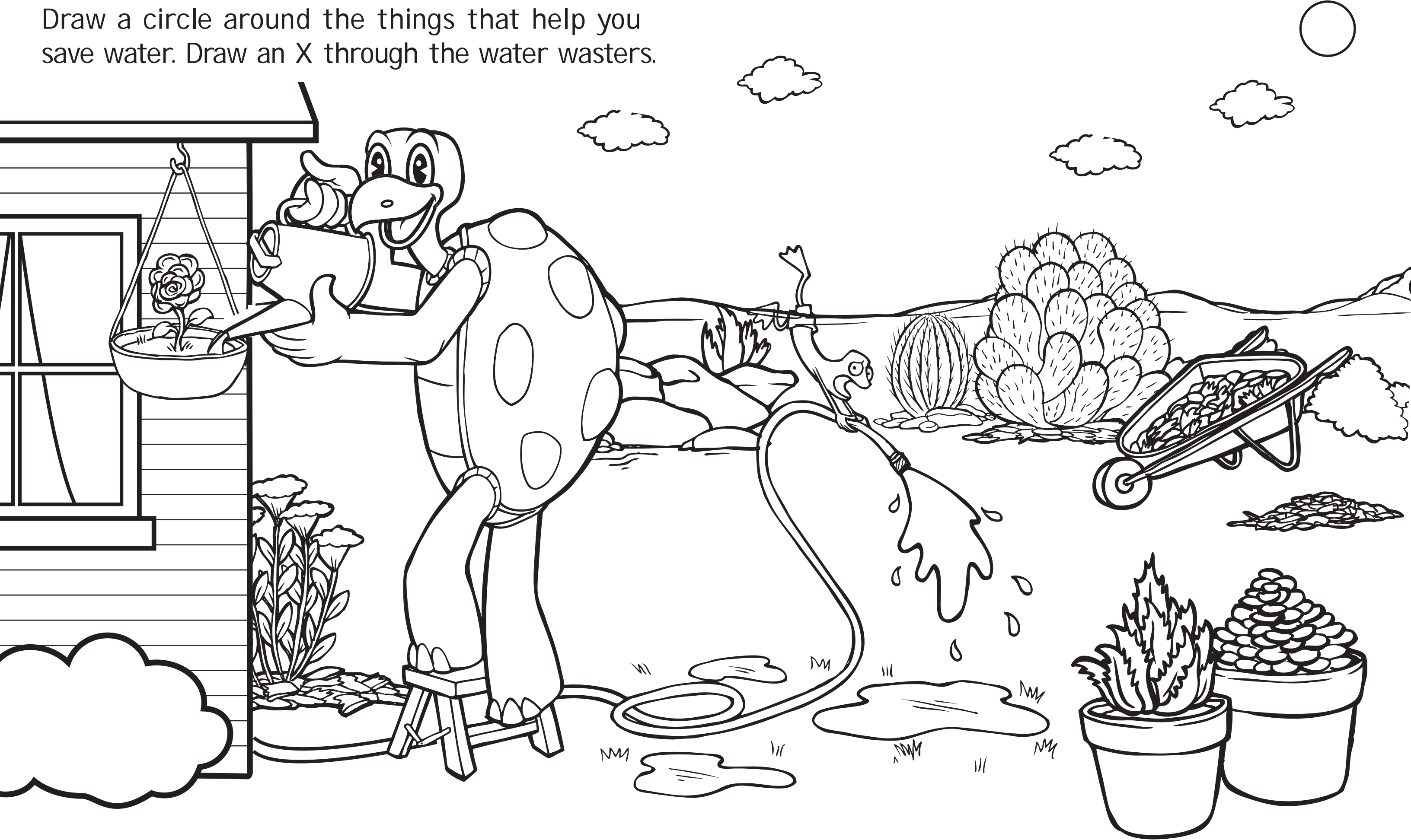
We can water plants in the morning or evening, or when it's not too sunny.

We can turn off the water when we're not using it!



We can use a watering can instead of a hose!

Draw a circle around the things that help you save water. Draw an X through the water wasters.



Remember, kids, we can save
water every day!



For Parents & Guardians

Here are some simple questions and answers to help you talk to your child about drought.

What is it called when it hasn't rained in a long time?

Answer: A drought.

What are the signs of drought?

Answer: The soil is dry and cracked and some plants turn brown.

What is Mulch?

Answer: A material spread over the ground to provide a protective layer that retains water.

What is irrigation?

Answer: Irrigation is when farmers bring water to their crops. Many farmers in the Coachella Valley use Colorado River water rather than groundwater to irrigate with.

What are some ways you can help during a drought?

- Water plants in the morning or evening, or when it's not sunny.
- Don't let water flow off lawns into the gutter.
- Use a nozzle on your hose when washing the car.
- Sweep rather than washing down driveways and patios.
- Plant desert-friendly plants.
- Turn off water when you're not using it.
- Spread mulch over the soil so it holds more water.



This book is published by Water Education Group for the Coachella Valley Water District. For more information about Water Education Group, go to www.watereducationgroup.com. For more information about the Coachella Valley Water District, go to www.cvwd.org or www.waterfun4kids.org.

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