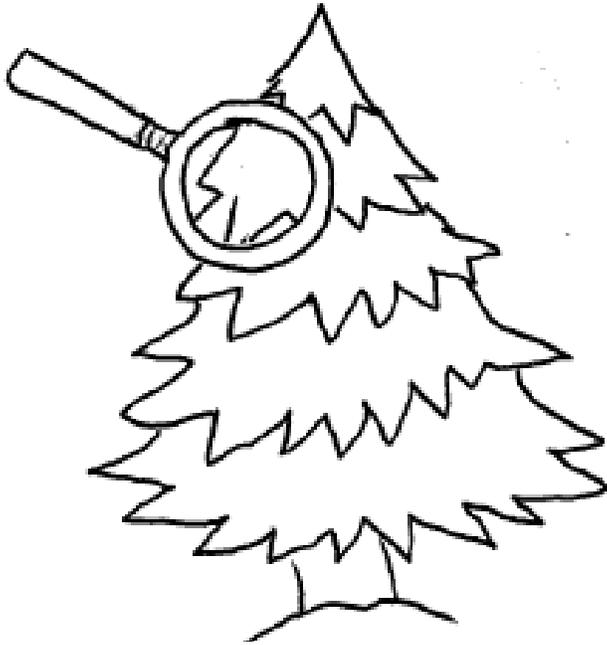


I Spy Forest Eye



Background:

Natural resources are naturally occurring materials, such as: air, water, plants and animals, which can be used by human beings. Some of them are crucial for survival of both people and animals, while others are used to make our lives better. Everything in our world is connected, thus the health of our natural world determines our quality of life and the life of wild animals. Trees and plants provide shelter, tools, paper, oxygen, and many other things.

It is important to be aware of how our actions affect the land, so we can minimize harmful effects and maximize beneficial effects. This way, our children and our grandchildren will be able to benefit from the sustainable resources and enjoy their aesthetic beauty. Learning good conservation practices at a young age will help kids build a foundation that can last a lifetime and encourage them to make a positive influence on the world.

Key Groups:
Families,
School Groups
(Ages 5-7)

Subject:
Natural
Resources

Duration: 25
Minutes

Abilities:
Observation,
Comparing and
Contrasting,
Coloring

Materials:
The Lorax
(book or
movie),
Pint/Quart Jar,
Soil, Rocks,
Small Pieces
of Various
Litter, Rubber
Gloves, Trash
Bag

Vocabulary:
Natural
Resources,
Environment,
Litter

Method:

Activity # 1: Get a copy of *The Lorax* and read it aloud to the kids. Movies and audio books can also be used.

Ask:

-How did the environment look before the business started making Thneeds?

-Why do you think the Once-ler cut down all of the trees?

-What changes happened to the environment?

-What can we learn from this book?

Activity # 2: “I Spy Litter Jar”

Fill a pint or quart jar with a mixture of soil, rocks, and minerals. Next, add items (litter) which doesn't belong in the dirt. Using the jar play “I spy,” identifying only the litter items.

Outdoors (in the canyon):

Activity # 1: Review what plants need to survive. Include sun (heat and light), water (rain or snow), soil and nutrients, and space to grow.

Ask:

What makes a forest happy and healthy? (not a lot of dead trees on the ground or growing on a tree, and plenty of fresh plants for animals to eat).

Walk around with the kids and notice signs of human presence, whether good or bad. If the kids see bad outcomes of human presence...

Ask:

What should have been done here to protect the environment?

Now consider the activities that will minimize consequences to the environment due to our activity.

Ask:

What games or activities can we do that won't hurt the environment? (you could play “follow the leader” with the kids to demonstrate some appropriate behavior or activities).

Activity # 2: Have the kids participate in a scavenger hunt while picking up trash, seeing who can find the most items, or the more diverse items.

Litter brings toxins into the soil and prevents rain water from entering the ground- harming plant life unnecessarily. Garbage can become a breeding place for bacteria, causing public health concerns. It can even cause fires. Picking up trash is an excellent way to keep wildlife safe.

Assessment:

-Why is it important for people to take care of the land?

Further Learning:

-Discuss how kids' different actions affected the environment, for better or worse. This works best when everyone is outside. You can even extend this for a week and discuss how the kids tried to leave the environment better than they found it.

-Visit Mill Creek Canyon and play "I Spy" with all the many kinds of plants identified in the coloring book. You can even research more plants for the kids to find.

http://www.ehow.com/info_8634413_effects-littering-environment-animals.html

Scheid, J. (n.d.). *Littering the Environment*. Retrieved June 27, 2013, from love to know green living:

http://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Littering_the_Environment

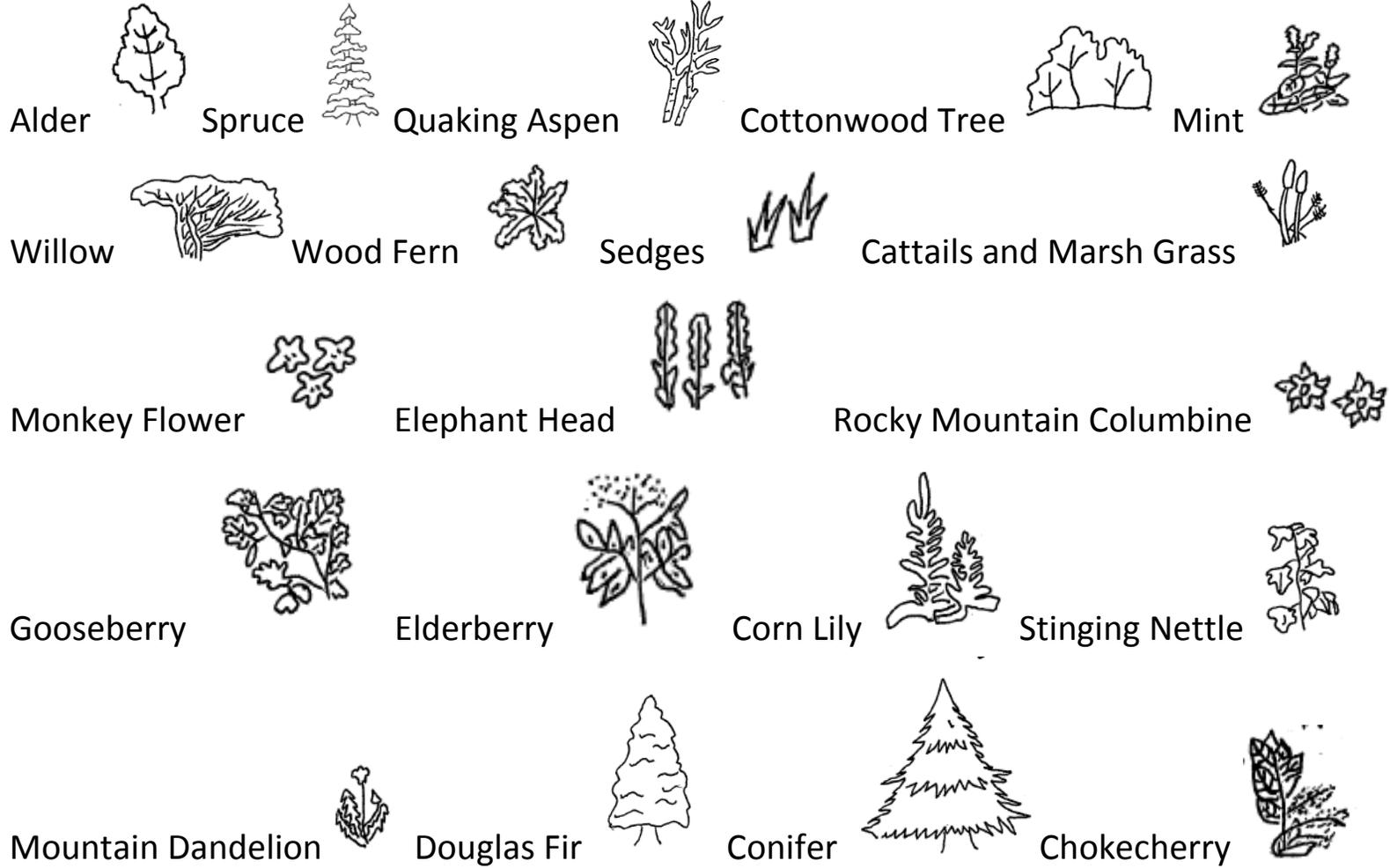
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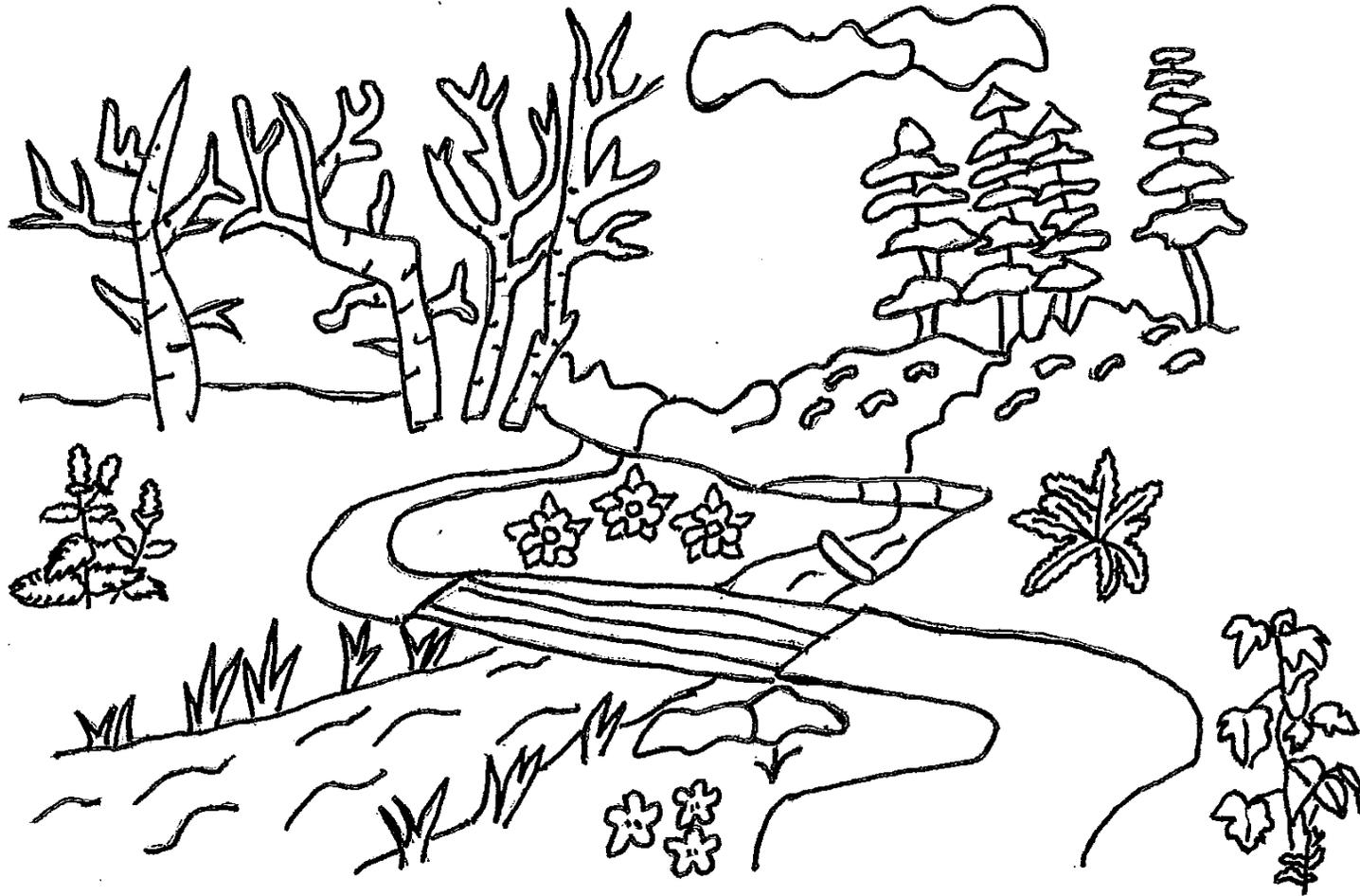
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http://shelledy.mesa.k12.co.us/staff/computerlab/ColoradoLifeZones_Riparian_Plants.html#Higher_Elevation

Irving, C. (n.d.). *The Effects of Littering on the Environment and Animals*. Retrieved June 27, 2013, from ehow:

I Spy Forest Eye



I spy: 4 Quaking Aspens, 4 Spruce, some Mint, 3 Rocky Mountain Columbine, a Wood Fern, some Sedges, Wild Raspberry, some Monkey Flower, Stinging Nettle, and a fallen log.



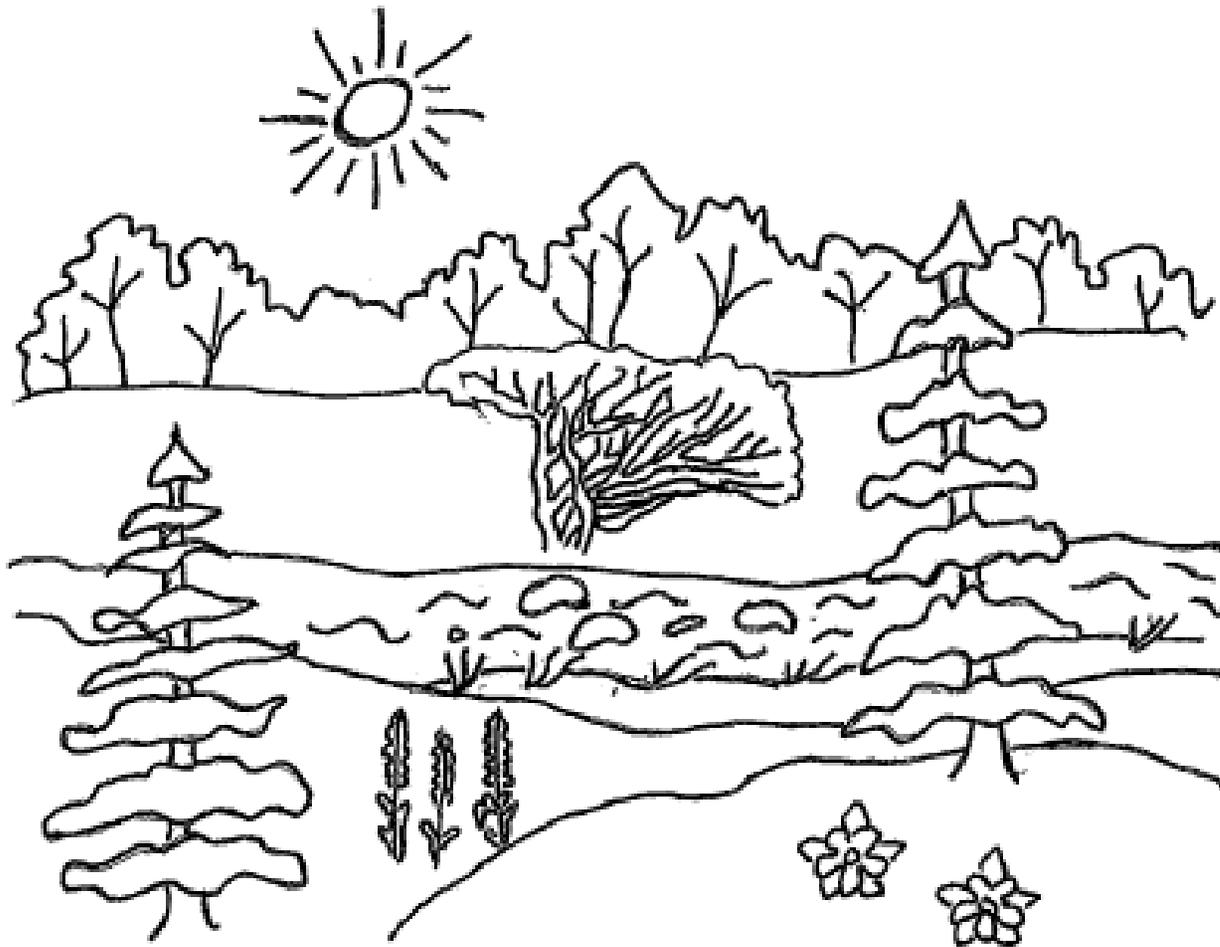
The many plants along the bank are very important, not only for people and animals, but for streams as well.

I spy: a Mountain Willow, some Elderberry, some Corn Lily, 4 roots, 3 Monkey flower, some Mint, 7 rocks, 3 fallen logs, and many Lodgepole Pines (forest).



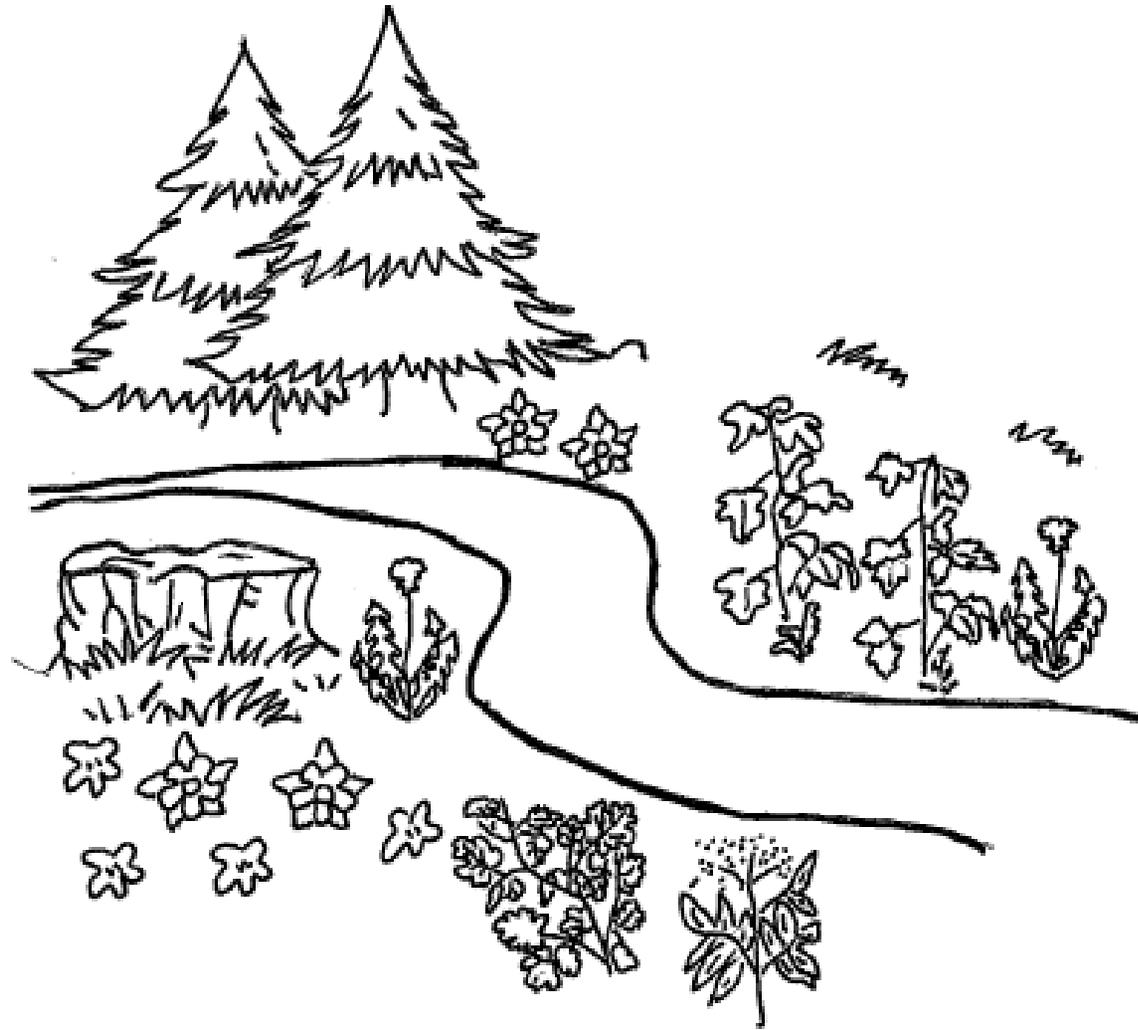
The roots hold the ground together and keep soil from washing away, while the plant above ground provides shade and cover for fish.

I spy: the sun, 1 Mountain Willows, 2 Lodgepole pines, 2 Rocky Mountain Columbine Flowers, some Sedges, 3 Elephant Head (flowers), and many Cottonwood Trees.



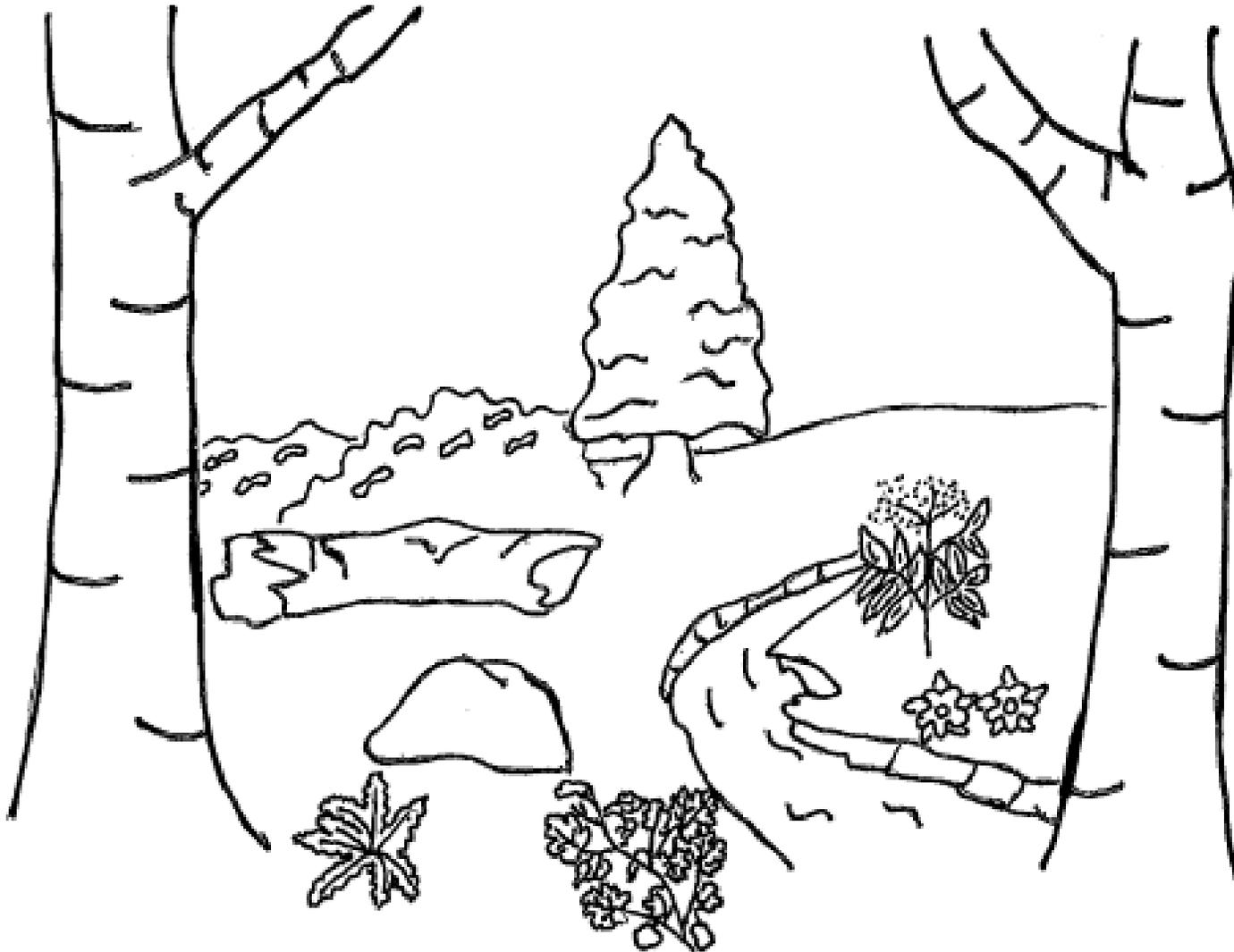
The more different kinds of plants there are along a stream, the better soil will be kept out of the water and allow the channel to flow freely and any fish to swim easily.

I spy: 2 Conifers, 4 Rocky Mountain Columbine, 2 Stinging Nettle, 2 Mountain Dandelion, 4 Monkey Flowers, a stump, a Gooseberry, and an Elderberry.



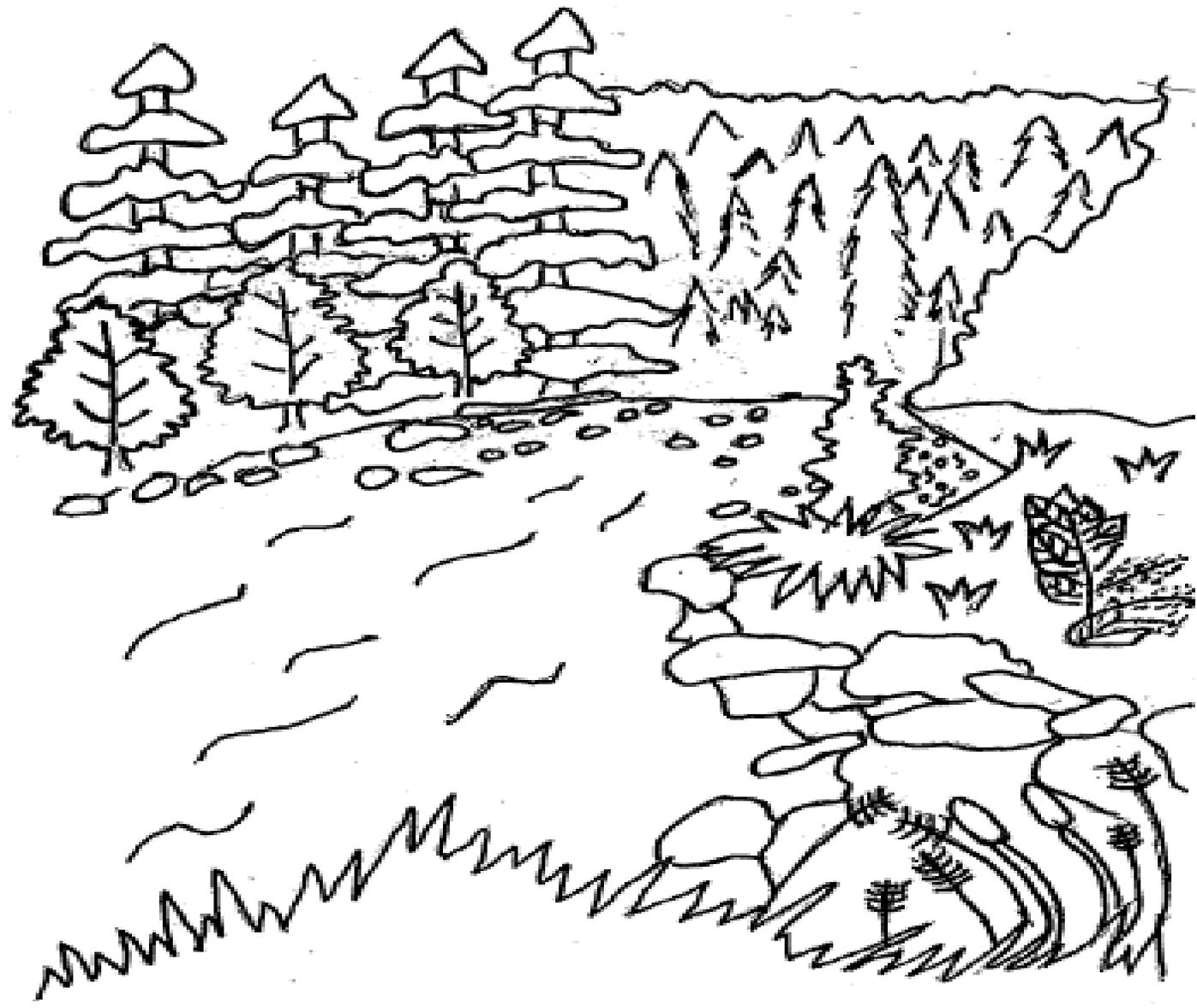
It's important to stay on trails and not walk on vegetation to conserve wildlife habitat, prevent soil from entering streams or eroding away, and preserve the beauty of the environment for others to enjoy.

I spy: 2 Quaking Aspens, a Douglas Fir, Wild Raspberry, a log, 2 Rocky Mountain Columbine, a Wood Fern, and some Gooseberry.



It's also important to protect plants because they help recycle our air and keep it clean.

I Spy: 4 Spruce, 3 Alders, Douglas Firs (forest), Sedges, Chokecherry, and some Cattails and Marsh Grass.



Practice throwing away any trash you bring up with you. Leave an area better than you found it.

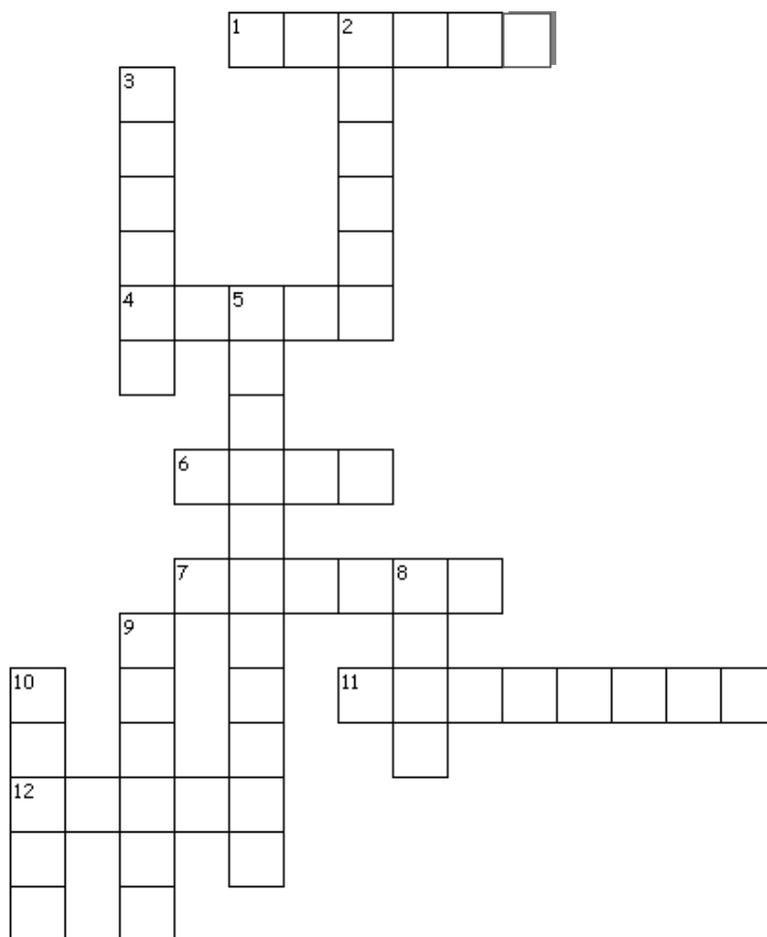
Natural Resources

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

DIRT FOREST LOG MINERALS LITTER

PLANTS ROCKS SOIL TRAILS TREES

Natural Resources



Across

1. Don't leave this on the ground when you leave.
4. These are tall and provide shelter for animals.
6. This makes up the ground and has no dead plants or animals in it.
7. The Forest Service helps care for this.
11. Rocks are made from many of these.
12. Plants help keep our air ____.

Down

2. You should stay on these when you go hiking.
3. These are what some animals eat.
5. This is the area that is around an animal and affects their survival.
8. This is dirt with dead plants and animals in it.
9. Rocks and plants help this keep its shape.
10. When you throw too many of these in the water, you block the stream flow.

litter, clean, rocks, plants, soil, trails, forest, minerals, stream, environment, dirt, trees