

HISTORY OF AMERICA PLAY DOUGH MATS VOLUME I



By **BONNIE ROSE HUDSON**



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History of America Play Dough Mats, Volume 1

The following 16 play dough mats are the perfect way to introduce some American history to your little learners. In the first few pages of this book, you will find background information you can read aloud and share with your students as they work on their mats. Beneath the background information for each mat is a copy of the instructions for that mat. Following the background information is a copy of just the instructions that you can give to the students if they are able to read the instructions independently.

The *Mayflower* and the Voyage to America

The Pilgrims were a group of people from England who came to the New World long before it was the United States of America. They wanted to start a new country where they could be free. The *Mayflower* was the ship that carried them to America. Two of the well-known passengers were William Bradford and Myles Standish. The trip across the ocean was very hard on the Pilgrims and on the ship. Once, an important part of the ship broke and the Pilgrims almost had to turn back to England, but the crew was able to fix it. Terrible storms threw the small ship off course, and it landed in a very different spot than the passengers had planned. The *Mayflower* made it all the way to Provincetown, Massachusetts, where it landed with the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims finally left the ship at Plymouth, Massachusetts, to start a new colony.

Instructions: Add the Mayflower in the water as it makes its long journey across the ocean. You can also add some whales that may have been swimming and jumping out of the water.

Plymouth Colony (Parts 1, 2, and 3)

The Pilgrims who settled in Plymouth Colony had a very hard time at first. They landed during winter, so it was very hard to build homes and find ways to get food to eat. There weren't any stores, and they couldn't grow their own food until the weather got warmer. In the spring, a Native American named Samoset came to visit the Pilgrims and, later, he came back and brought Squanto. Squanto helped the Pilgrims learn new ways to grow food and hunt, and he helped them make peace with other Native Americans who lived in the area. The homes of the Pilgrims were not fancy, but they were warm and dry. The people had some of the things they were able to bring with them on the *Mayflower* and things they made after they got to their new home.

Instructions, Pt. 1: *Add vegetables to the garden and add stacks of wood for the Pilgrims to use to keep warm and cook their food.*

Instructions, Pt. 2: *Add food on the table and fill in the parts of the chair that are missing.*

Instructions, Pt. 3: *Add a baby in the cradle and put some of the children's toys on the floor so they have something to play with.*

Liberty Bell

When the colonies decided they had to fight to get their freedom from England, they signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This said that the colonies were going to be a free country. When the Declaration of Independence was read to the people for the first time, men rung the Liberty Bell. It was used different times, but after a while, it cracked. No one rings the Liberty Bell anymore, but sometimes, on very special occasions, it is struck, and the sound is sent out through televisions and computers so people can hear it all over the country.

Instructions: *Fill in the board that is holding the Liberty Bell and fill in the clapper that makes the bell ring. Fix the crack if you would like.*

Valley Forge

The colonies fought a long, hard war to win their freedom from England. George Washington and his troops camped at Valley Forge one of the winters during the Revolutionary War. The army lived in small log houses they built themselves during the winter. Many of the men did not have shoes or enough clothes to keep warm. Many soldiers got very sick because they were not only cold, but they did not have enough food to eat. The troops who were very loyal and dedicated kept training through the hard winter and, by spring, they were ready to go back to fighting for freedom.

Instructions: *Add snow to the trees and add more snow coming down.*

Bald Eagle

When the United States became a free country, it chose the bald eagle as its national bird. Eagles are known for their strength and for being very brave, so this symbol was important to the new country. Bald eagles only live in North America, so this kind of eagle was extra special to the new country.

Instructions: *Fill in the beak, the feet, and the feathers.*

Louisiana Purchase

The Louisiana Purchase was a very large piece of land the United States bought from France. It made the United States almost two times as big as it was before the land was purchased. The United States bought all the land that France owned from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. This gave the people in the United States much more land to spread out and make new cities, towns, and farms.

Instructions: *Add a boat in the river. Put tents and supplies on the shore where the explorers are camped, and put animals on the mountains across the river.*

Erie Canal

The Erie Canal was built in New York to help people move and ship products and do it faster. Before it was built, it was very hard and expensive to move things from New York to other states farther away. The Erie Canal helped people with their businesses and made it easier for people to travel across parts of the country. Mules or horses walked along beside the canal and pulled barges, boats with flat bottoms, through the water. It wasn't very fast, but it was much shorter than traveling by land. Towns were built along the canal, and some of them became very big cities.

Instructions: *Put water in the canal. Add a sun and some flowers in the field.*

Oregon Trail

The Oregon Trail was a route people used to travel west a long time ago before there were roads or airplanes. Often, people traveled by wagon train along the Oregon Trail. They wanted to reach new land that wasn't already crowded so they could build farms and homes for their families. It was a long, difficult trip across a big part of the country, but many brave men, women, and children made the journey and built homes and towns in brand new places.

Instructions: *Add wagons and put leaves on the trees (you can make it summer or autumn).*

California Gold Rush

A man named John Sutter lived in California and hired other men to build a sawmill for him. While the boss was walking around looking at the work that had been done, he found specks of gold in the dirt that had been dug up. The men finished their work and then started trying to find gold in other places close by. By the next year, many people had heard about the gold and went to California to try to get rich. Some people tried to find gold in the rivers, and some companies dug deep mines to try to find gold. After a while, it became very hard to find gold, and people started looking for gold in other places.

Instructions: *Add gold nuggets for the miners to find.*

George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver was an African American who was born before the United States made slavery illegal. Because his mother was a slave, George was born a slave too. When people finally weren't allowed to have slaves anymore, he stayed in the same place until he was about eleven years old. Many people did not want African Americans to go to school, and it was a long time before George was able to go to college. When he did, he studied agriculture, which is the science of farming and raising animals. After he finished college, he went to teach at a college named Tuskegee that had been opened to help African Americans get a good education. While he was working at Tuskegee, George Washington Carver did many experiments with plants and showed farmers that if they planted peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans instead of always planting cotton, they would have better farms. He also

invented new ways to use the soybeans and peanuts so farmers would have a way to sell what they grew. He invented more than 100 new ways to use sweet potatoes and at least 300 new ways to use peanuts.

Instructions: *Fill the empty beakers and add George Washington Carver working in his lab.*

Transcontinental Railroad

In the United States, the Transcontinental Railroad was a railroad that was built all the way across the country. There were already many railroads that went part way across the country, and some between places in other parts of the country, but there was not one railroad that went the whole way across the country. One part of the transcontinental railroad was built starting in the east, and another part was built starting in the west. Many people came to the United States just to work on the railroad. The two parts of the railroad met at Promontory, Utah, and a golden spike was driven into the railroad to mark the spot.

Instructions: *Fill in the parts of the train and add more ties for the railroad.*

Sioux

The Sioux are a group of Native Americans who used to live in part of the area the United States bought in the Louisiana Purchase. There were many different groups that made up the Sioux. They lived in teepees made from long pieces of wood covered with bison hides. This kind of home could be moved very easily, which was important because the Sioux often traveled a lot. The Sioux were known for being very brave and were very good fighters. Some of the groups were good hunters and farmers. Other groups were known for hunting buffalo. The Sioux were pushed out of their land by settlers who wanted the land for themselves. Groups of Sioux were forced to live on reservations, and there were many wars fought between the United States and Native Americans who didn't want to have their land taken.

Instructions: *Fill in the teepees and add more teepees.*

Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty is a very large statue that stands at the entrance to New York Harbor. It is one of the largest statues that has ever been built. France gave it to the United States as a gift to show friendship and celebrate freedom. The French people gave money to build the statue, and the people of the United States gave money to build the pedestal, or base, it stands on. For a very long time, when people came to the United States through New York, they passed the Statue of Liberty and felt they were coming to a place where they would be able to live in freedom.

Instructions: *Fill in parts of the crown and the flame on the torch.*

Kitty Hawk

Kitty Hawk is a town in North Carolina. A little distance outside of the town, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful airplane flight. Before this time, there were no airplanes that could fly using a motor to keep them going. After Orville and Wilbur Wright proved to people that they could fly, airplanes started becoming more and more popular.

Instructions: *Put an airplane on the ground waiting for the Wright Brothers to test it.*

Instructions for Completing the Play Dough Mats

The *Mayflower* and the Voyage to America: Add the *Mayflower* in the water as it makes its long journey across the ocean. You can also add some whales that may have been swimming and jumping out of the water.

Plymouth Colony – Part 1: Add vegetables to the garden and add stacks of wood for the Pilgrims to use to keep warm and cook their food.

Plymouth Colony – Part 2: Add food on the table and fill in the parts of the chair that are missing.

Plymouth Colony – Part 3: Add a baby in the cradle and put some of the children's toys on the floor so they have something to play with.

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Valley Forge: Add snow to the trees and add more snow coming down.

Bald Eagle: Fill in the beak, the feet, and the feathers.

Louisiana Purchase: Add a boat in the river. Put tents and supplies on the shore where the explorers are camped and put animals on the mountains across the river.

Erie Canal: Put water in the canal. Add a sun and some flowers in the field.

Oregon Trail: Add wagons and put leaves on the trees (you can make it summer or autumn).

California Gold Rush: Add gold nuggets for the miners to find.

George Washington Carver: Fill the empty beakers and add George Washington Carver working in his lab.

Transcontinental Railroad: Fill in the parts of the train and add more ties for the railroad.

Sioux Settlement: Fill in the teepees and add more teepees.

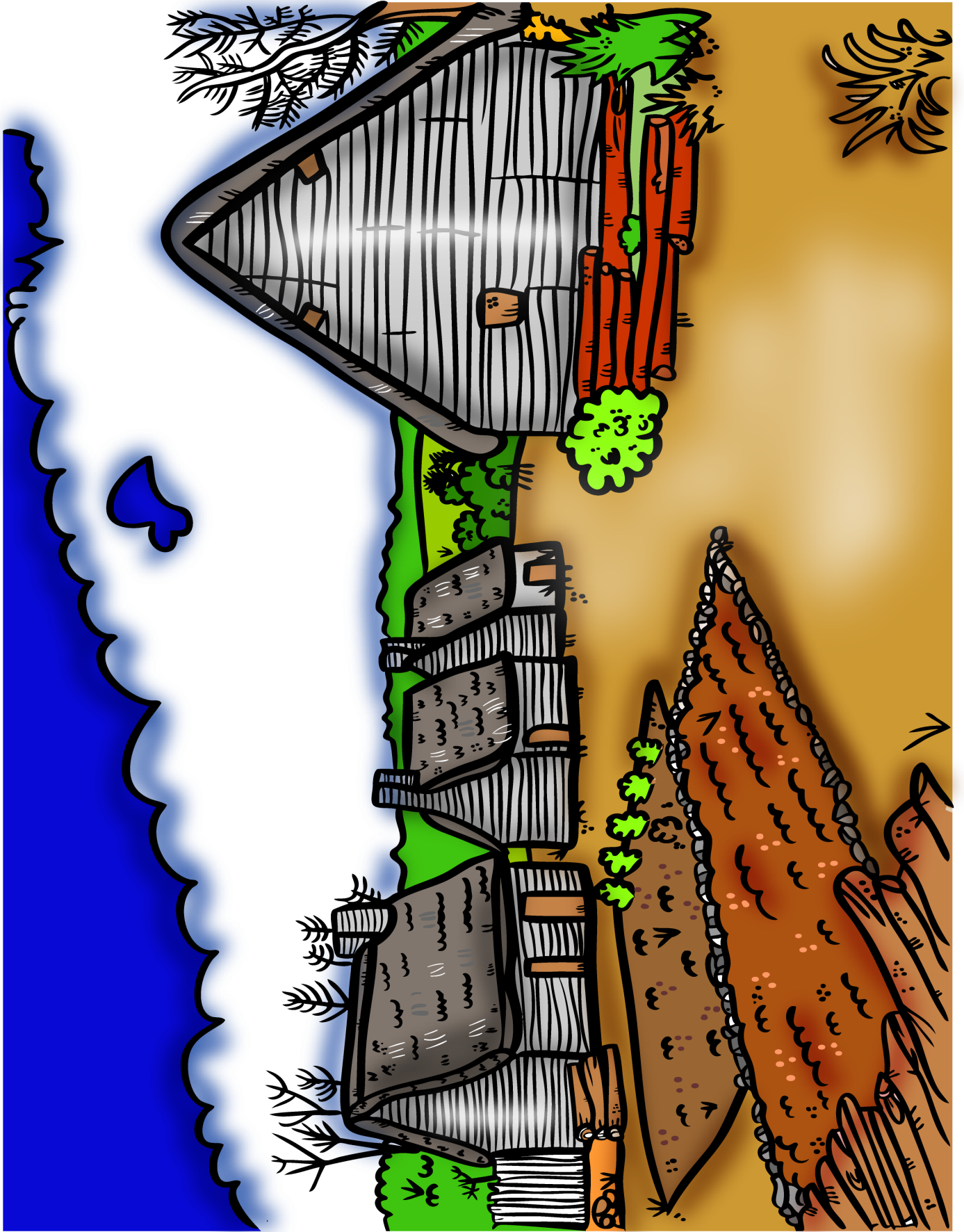
Statue of Liberty: Fill in parts of the crown and the flame on the torch.

Kitty Hawk: Put an airplane on the ground waiting for the Wright Brothers to test it.

The *Mayflower's* Journey to America



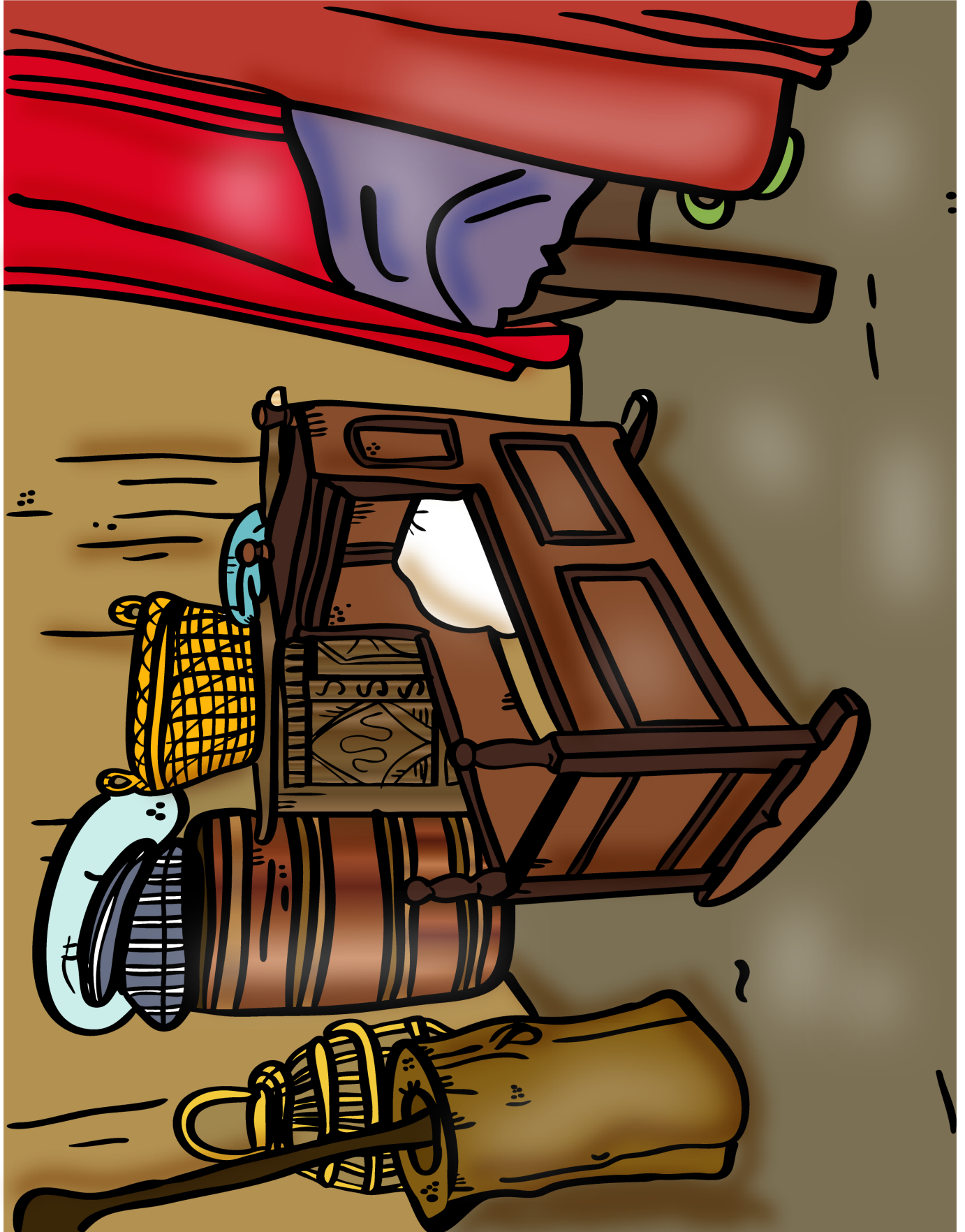
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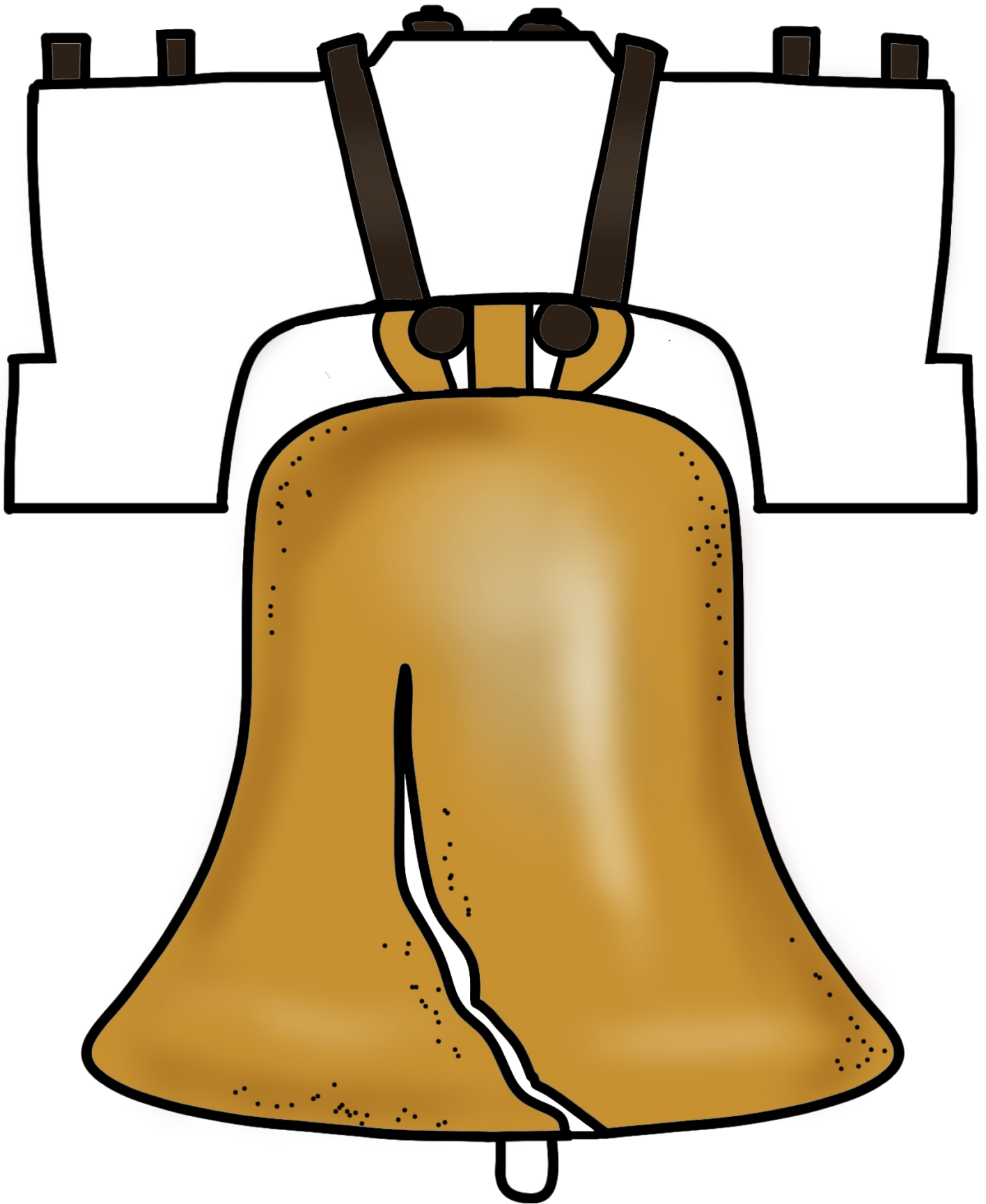
Plymouth Colony—Part 2



Plymouth Colony—Part 3



The Liberty Bell



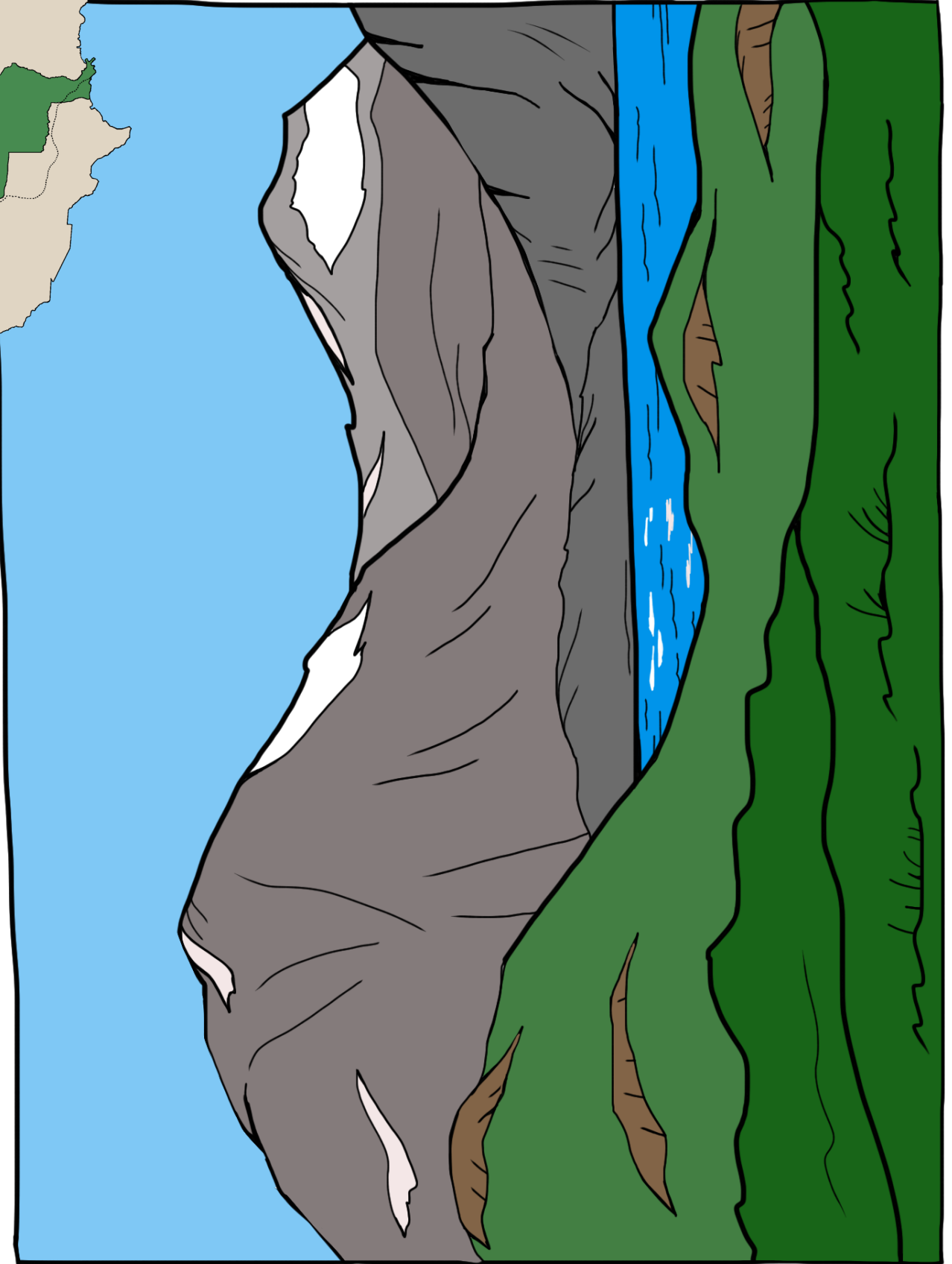
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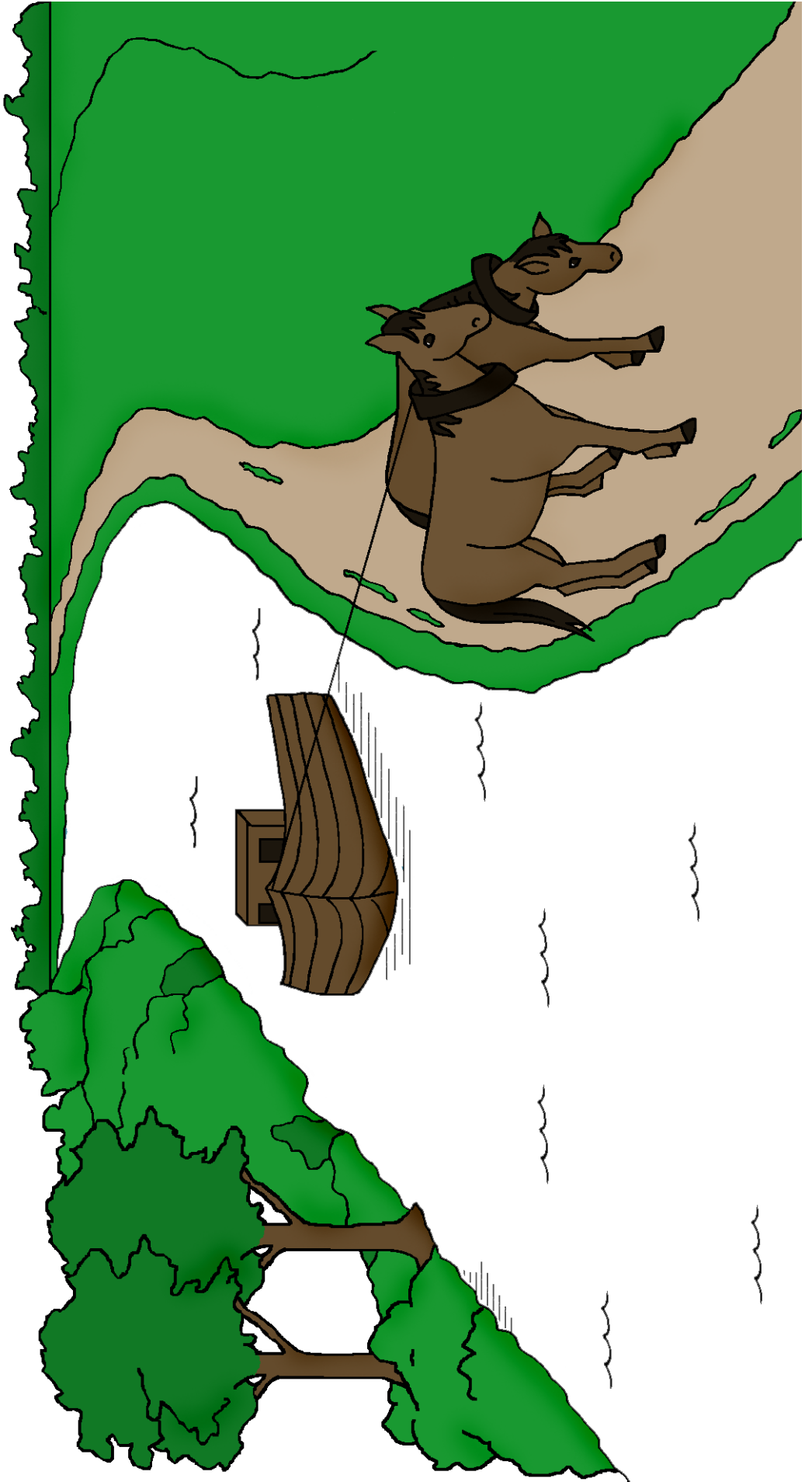
Bald Eagle



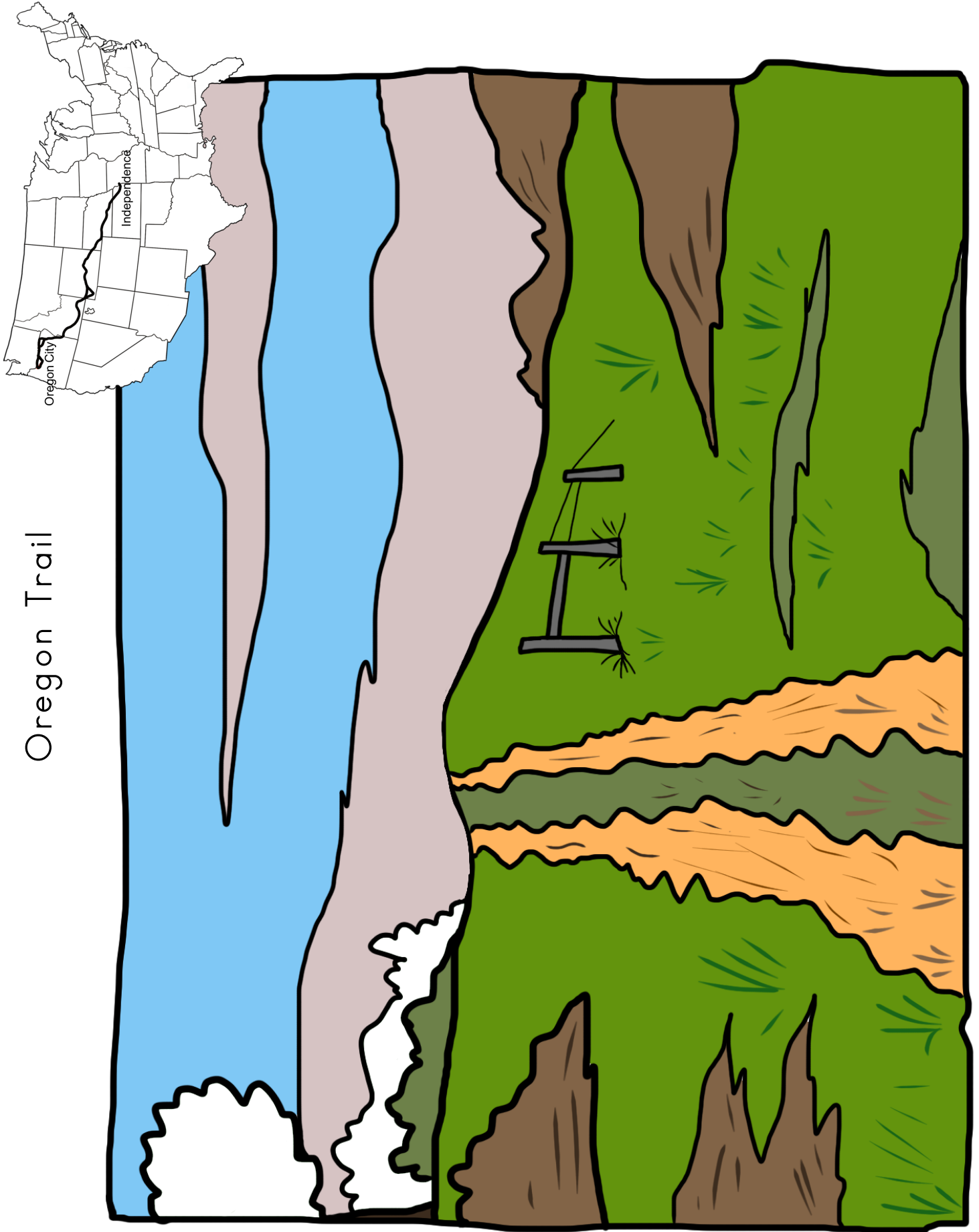
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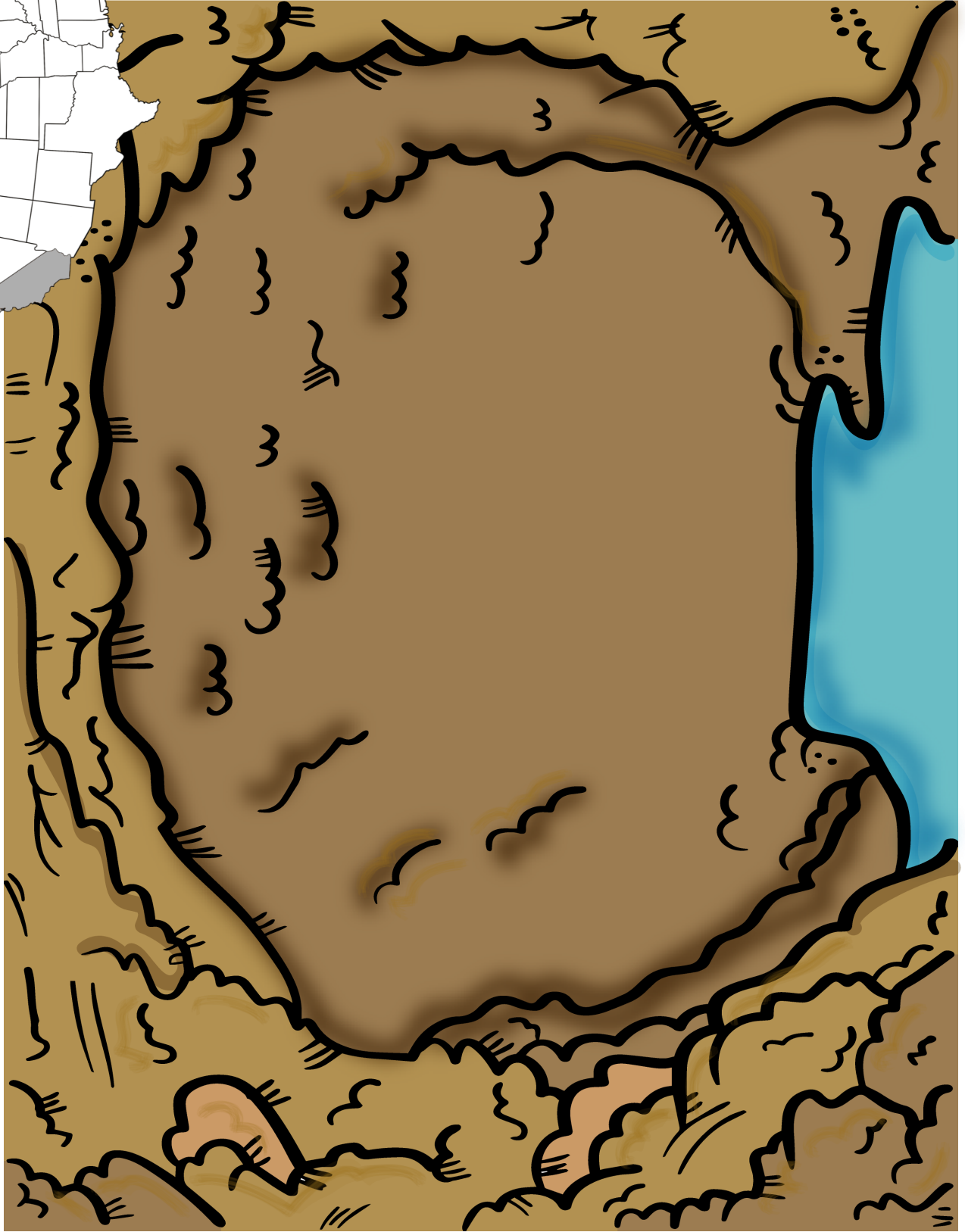
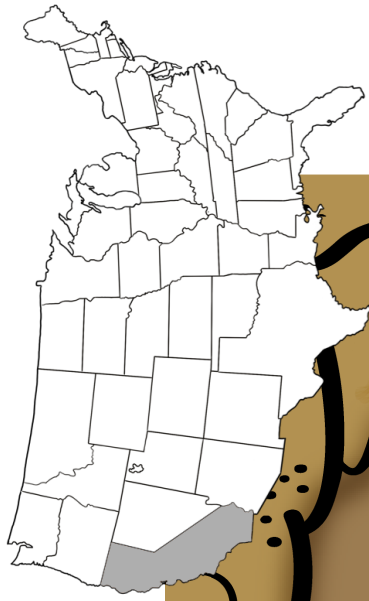
Erie Canal



Oregon Trail



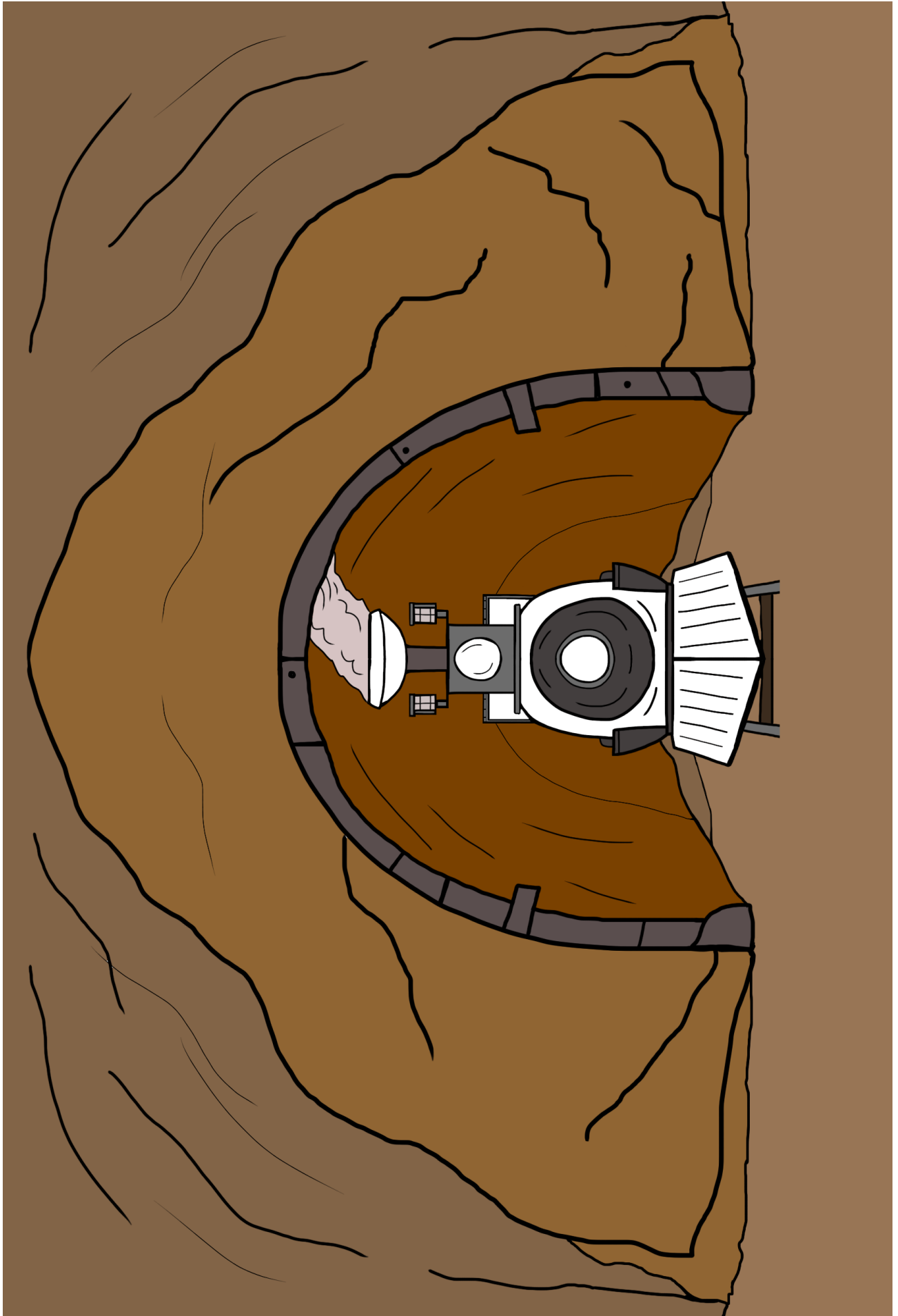
California Gold Rush



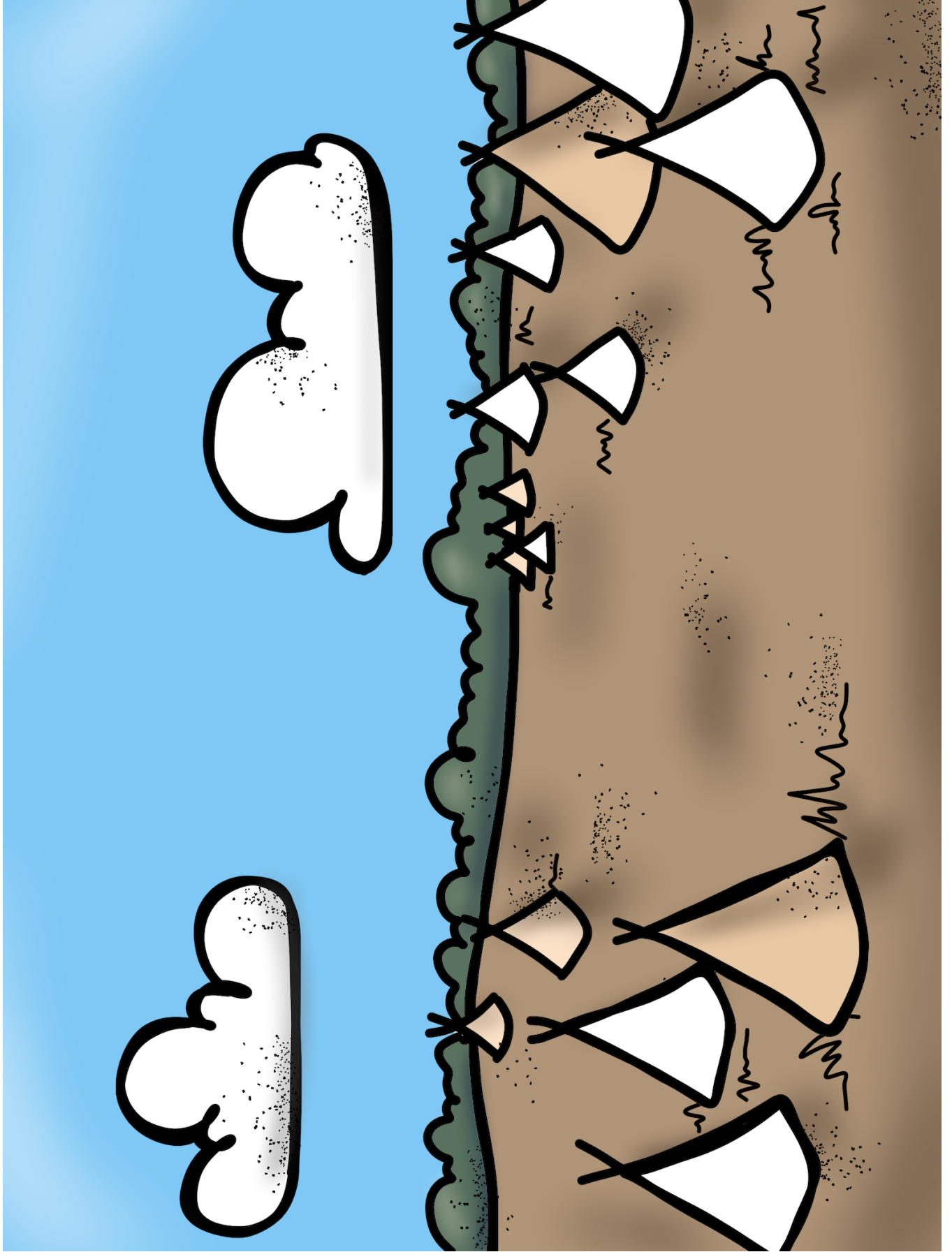
George Washington Carver



Transcontinental Railroad



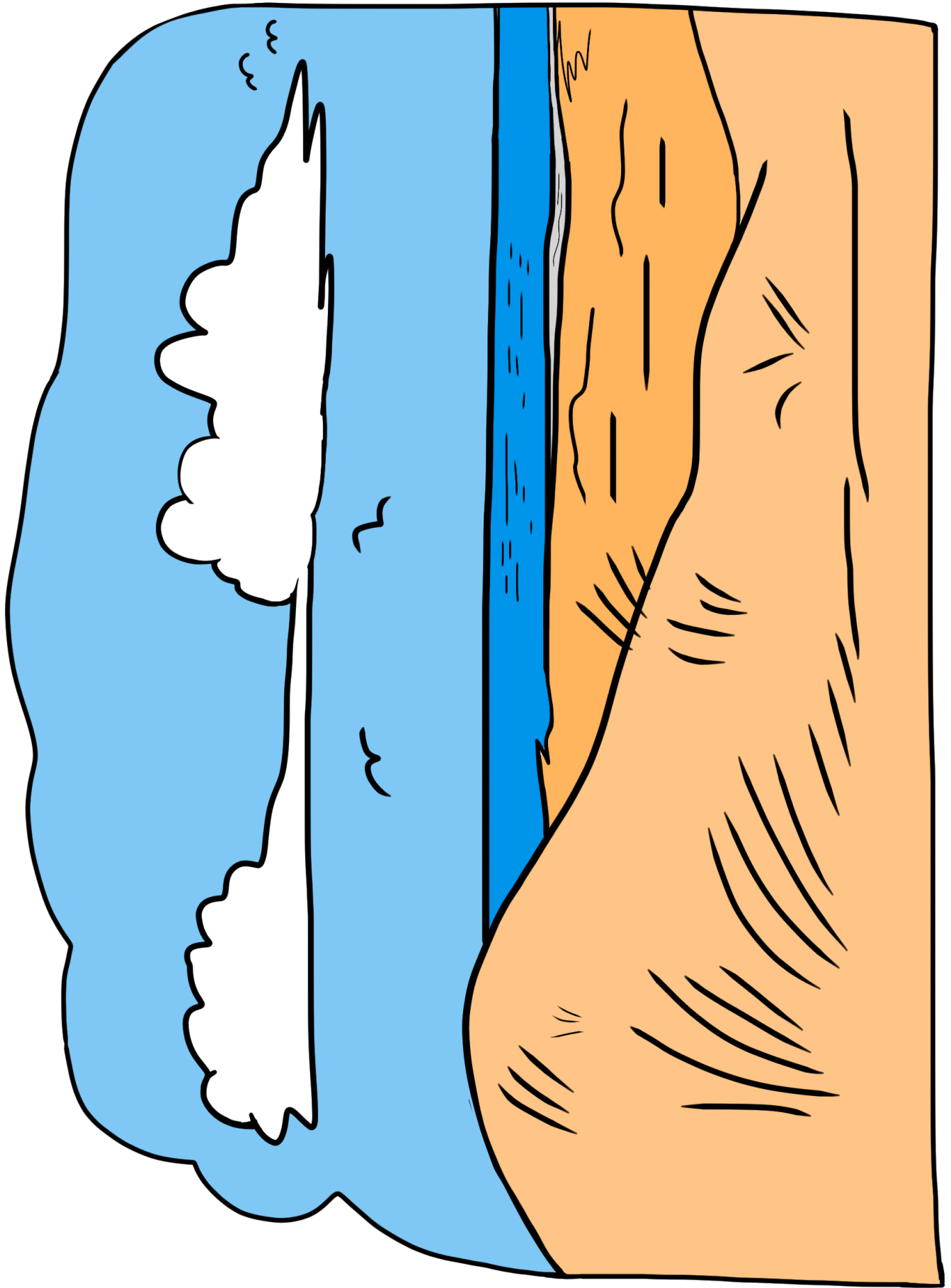
Sioux



Statue of Liberty



Kitty Hawk





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