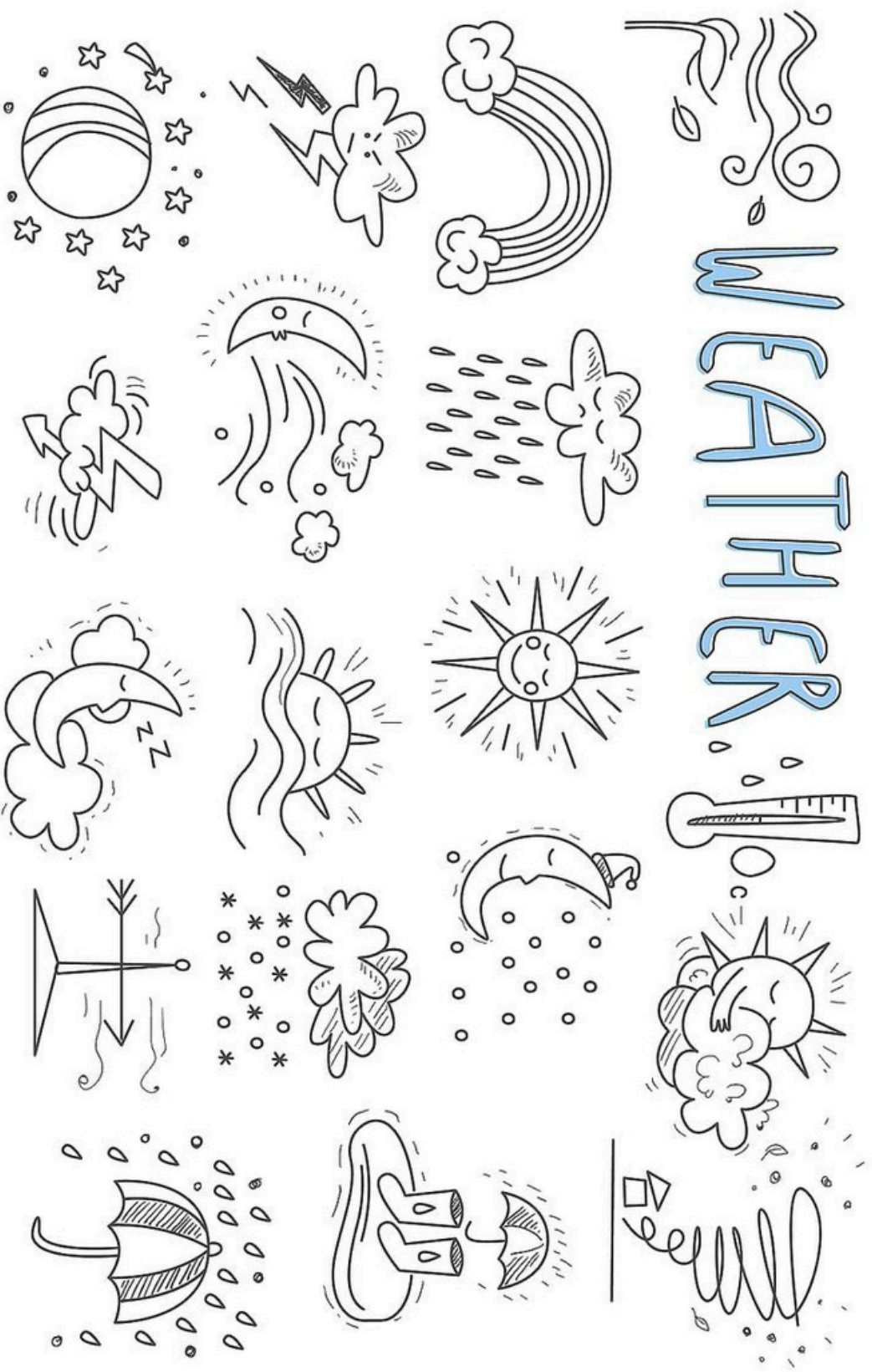


**sunny, rainy, stormy, or snowy!**



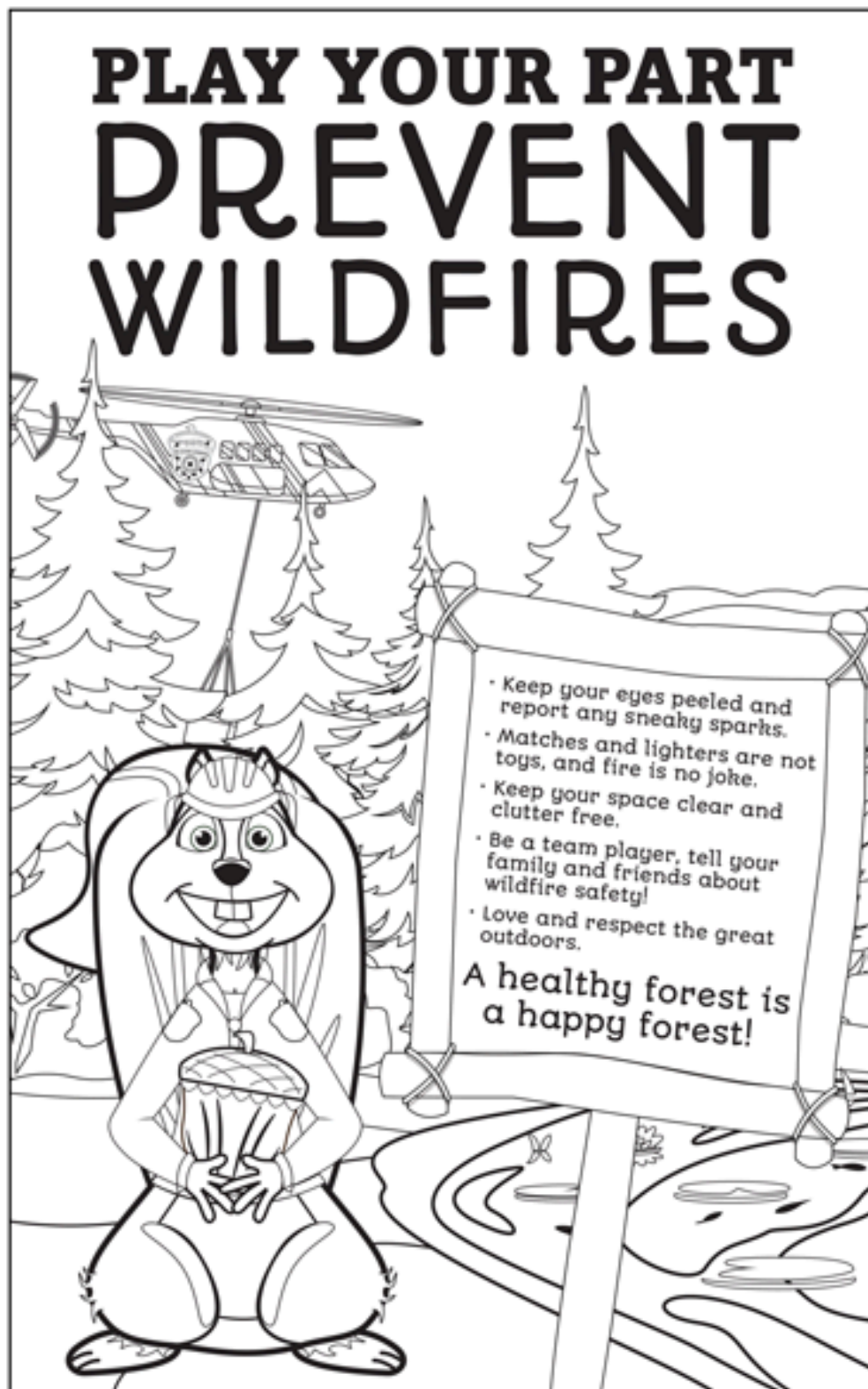
**heat waves, drought, and high winds** to occur more often.

**Climate** is a word used to describe the **weather** over long periods of time. In Colorado, we have a very **dry, desert-like climate!**



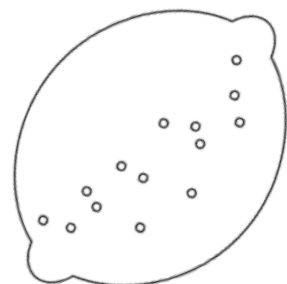
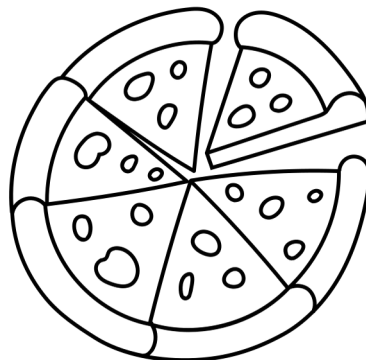
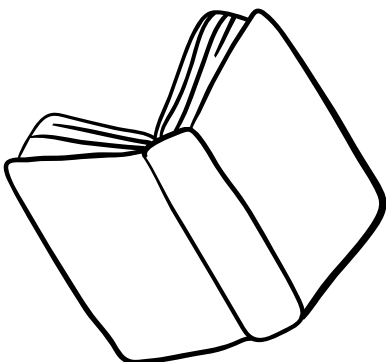
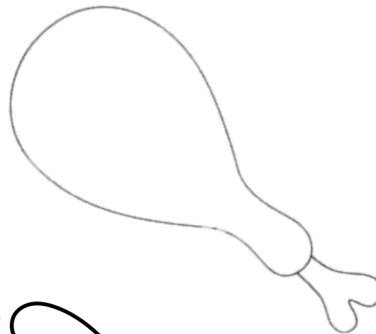
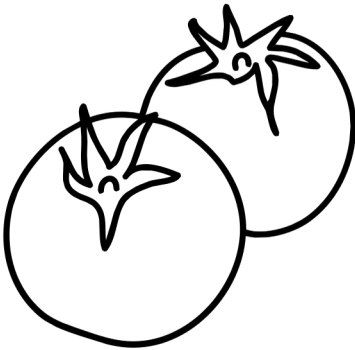
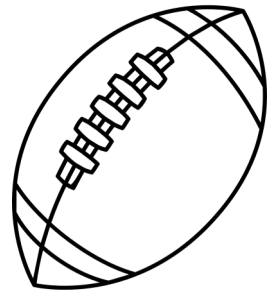
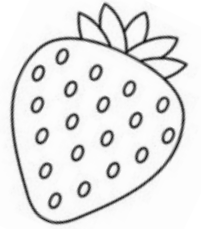
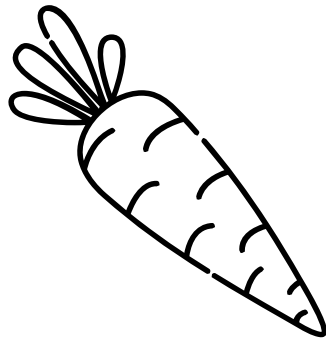
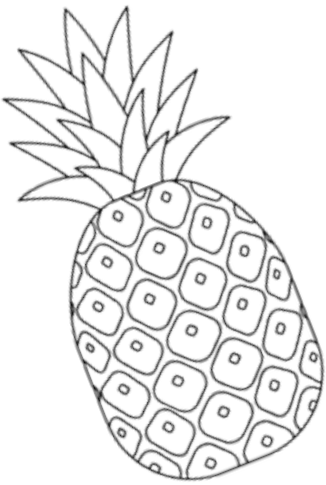


Wildfire smoke is a big contributor to poor air quality, but did you know that **most wildfires are accidents**? Be on the lookout and do your part by using **fire safety**!



# COLOR WHAT YOU CAN COMPOST

Did you know that **composting** helps combat climate change?  
Composting in itself **reduces greenhouse gasses**, but also reduces  
emissions that are produced in waste transportation!



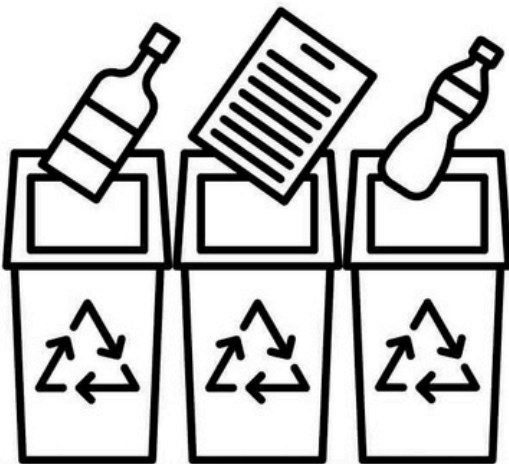
# THE THREE R'S



## REDUCE



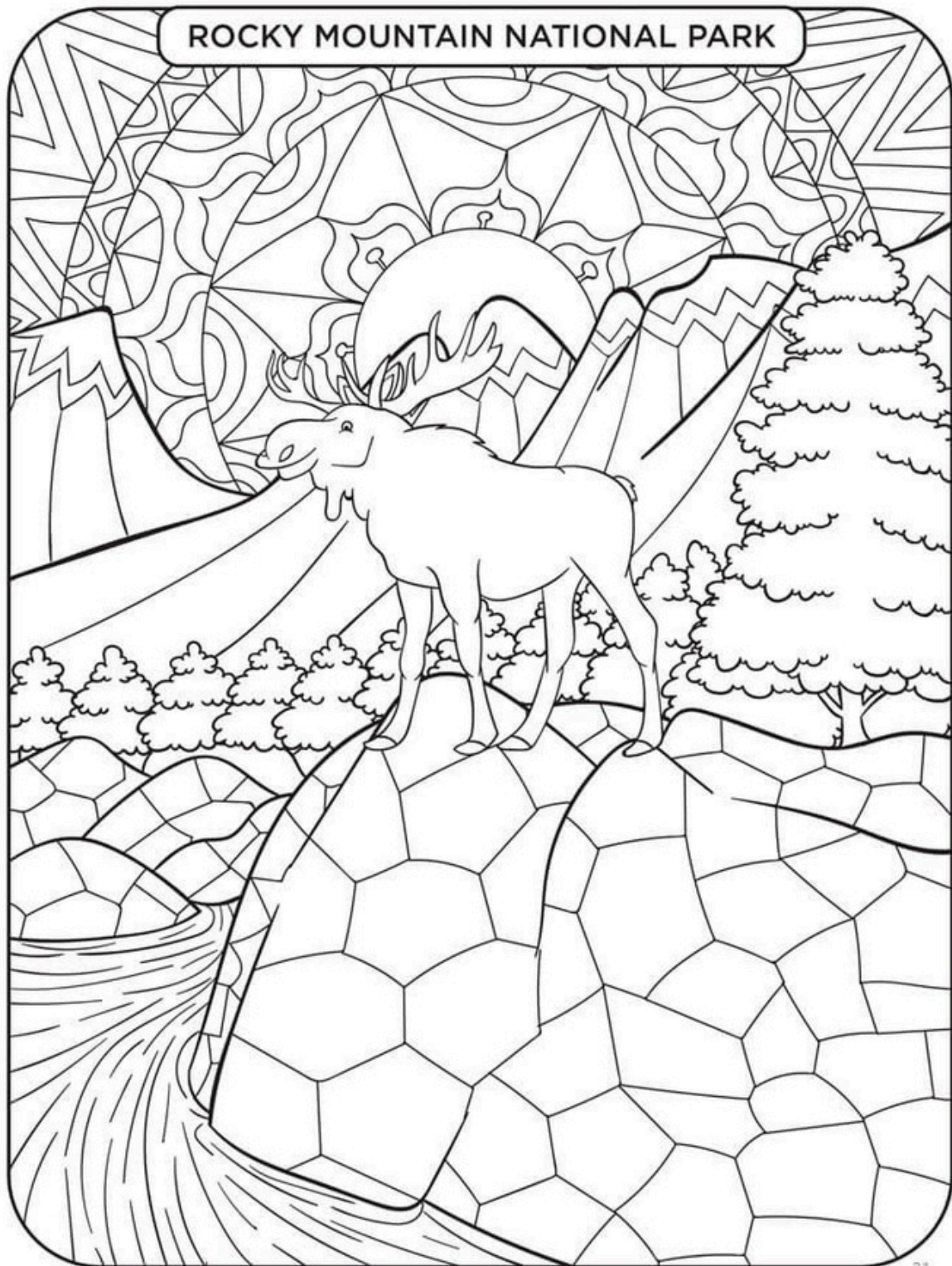
## REUSE



## RECYCLE

Notice the first R is for **reduce**. Reducing what you use is the best way to fight climate change. What are some ways you can reduce what you use in your life?

Because of Colorado's elevation and mountainous region, **we live much closer to the sun** than other Americans. Make sure to put on your sunscreen!

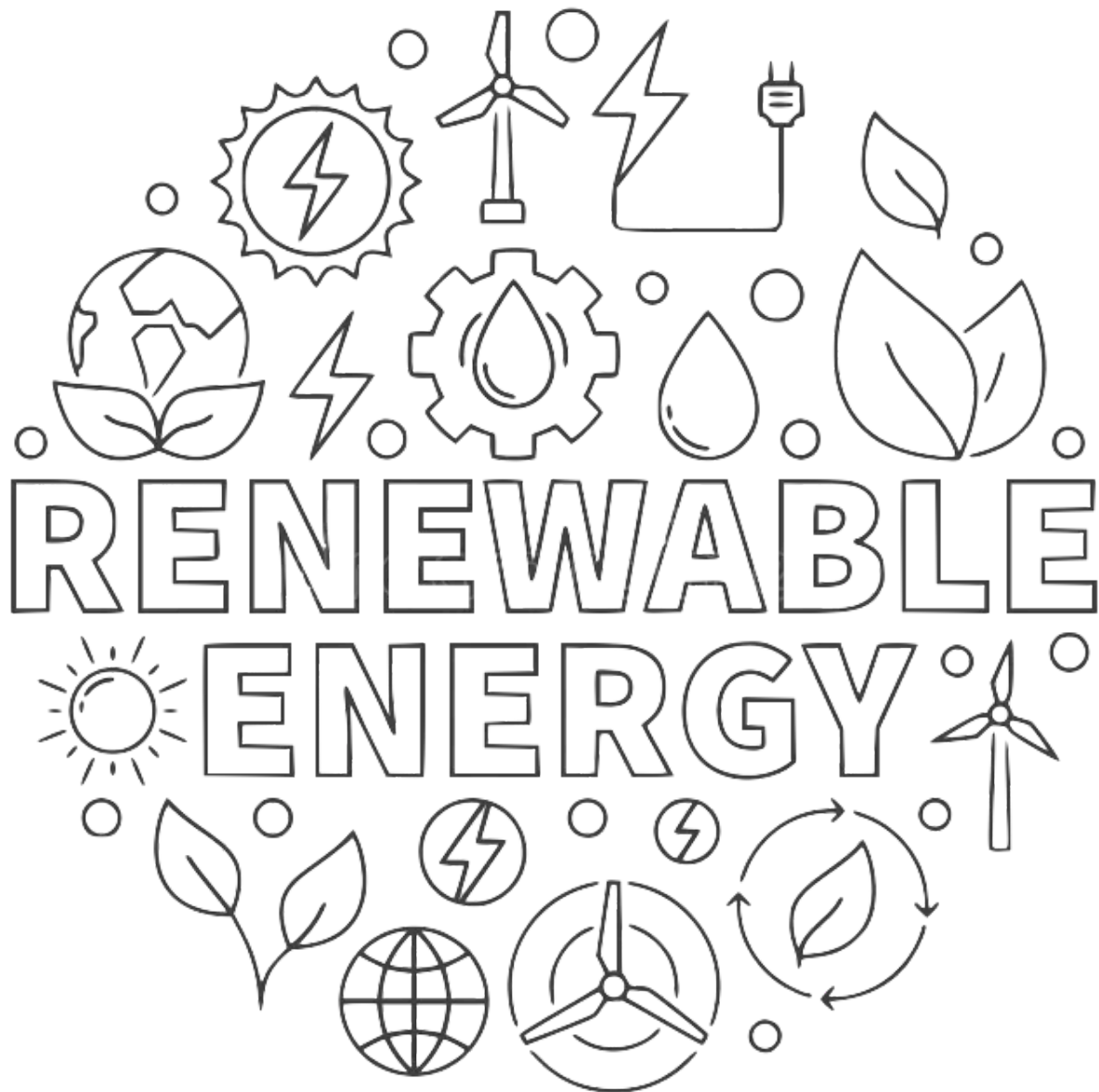




The **Colorado Columbine** is a native plant species. Unlike non-native plants, it can survive Colorado's arid climate. Using native varieties in your garden can help reduce your water consumption!



**Renewable energy** comes from natural sources such as the sun, wind, and water. **Solar panels**, **wind turbines**, and **water turbines** are a couple of way that we harness renewable energy.



Using these sources of energy helps to **reduce carbon emission** and other **greenhouse gasses**.



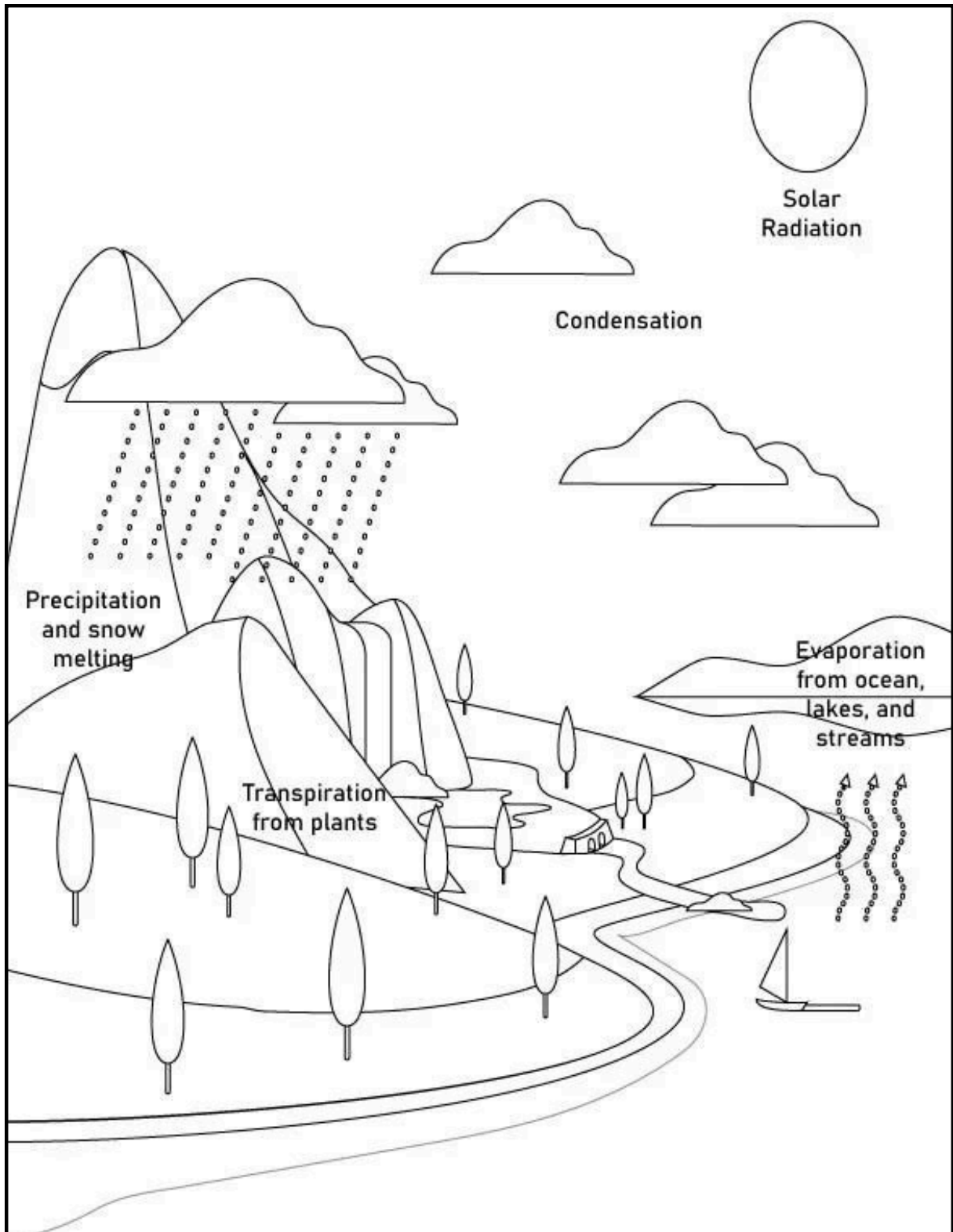
Simple actions to save energy like **turning off the lights** can help **reduce carbon emissions** and **greenhouse gasses**!



Did you know that places with trees, grass, and other plants are cooler than concrete? These areas can be up to **12 degrees cooler** compared to surrounding areas on a hot day. **Add trees to this picture to make it cooler!**



**Snow** is an important part of the **water cycle** in the San Luis Valley. **Snowmelt helps recharge the aquifer with water**, which is where many house wells get water from!





Plants that are **native to Colorado**, find it easier to survive and thrive in our hot, dry environment. **Check out these native flowers and plants!**



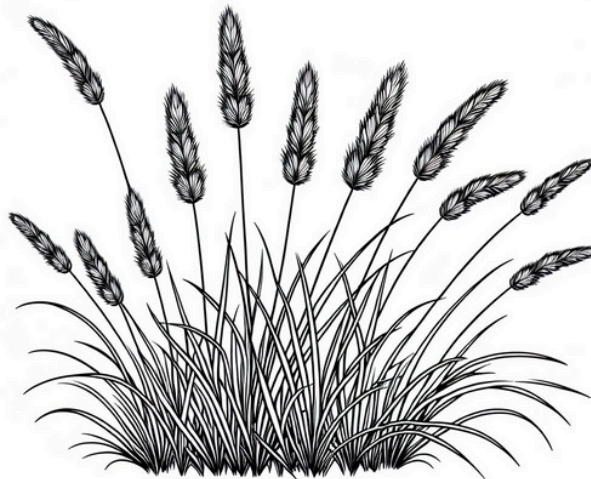
**Black-eyed  
Susan**



**San Luis  
Slender  
Wheatgrass**



**Zinnia**



**Blue Grama  
Grass**



**Blanket Flower**



**Yarrow**



**Salvia**

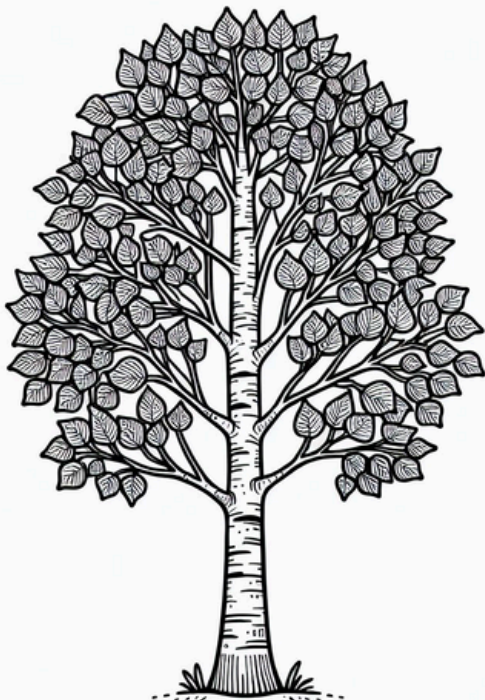
Plants that are **native to Colorado**, find it easier to survive and thrive in our hot, dry environment. **Check out these native trees!**



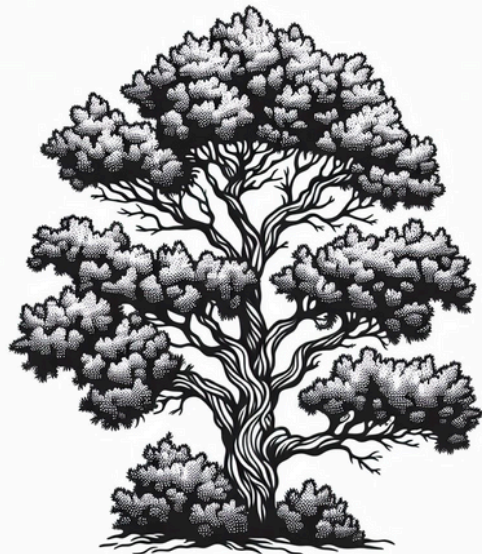
Blue Spruce



Narrowleaf  
Cottonwood



Aspen



Rocky Mountain  
Juniper



Plants that are **native to Colorado**, find it easier to survive and thrive in our hot, dry environment. **Check out these native shrubs!**



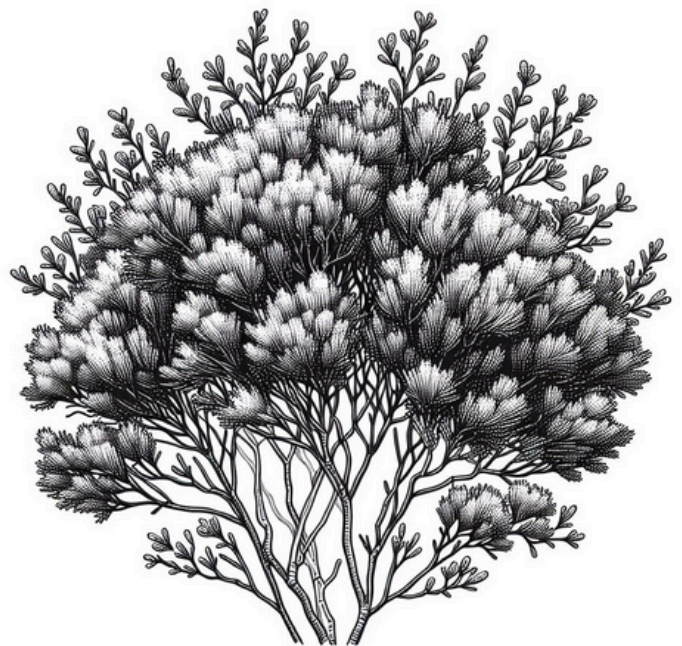
Sumac



Snowberry  
Shrub



Buffaloberry  
Bush



Rabbitbrush