

ROAD TRIP GUIDE



Andy Austin

MONTANA'S



MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

800.653.1319 MISSOURIRIVERMT.COM   



Visit Montana.

Howdy!

Welcome to Missouri River Country—the land of more room to roam, more miles to drive and more space to social distance. A place of badlands, prairies, lakes and the mighty Missouri River. Our corner of Montana is alive with wildlife and brimming with history, and we're here to help you see it all.

Travel Safely

Remember to follow these 5 simple practices to travel safely during the pandemic:



Wear a mask



Maintain
Social Distance



Wash your hands



Avoid touching
your face



Cover Coughs
& Sneezes

Getting Here

You can reach Missouri River Country by plane or train, but nothing is more scenic than a road trip through the region. Quaint communities offer fun pit stops along the way, and traffic is all but unheard of.

U.S. Highway 2, Highway 200, Highway 59, U.S. Highway 191, and U.S Highway 85 all run through Missouri River Country, connecting you to the rest of Montana. Highway 200 goes all the way through Montana's Missouri River Country from east to west. Highway 59 enters our region from the south (from Miles City) and joins into Highway 200 at Jordan.

30 Things to Do

1 Hike to the church in Zortman.

Breathe some fresh air while soaking up the history of **Zortman**, a once prosperous mining town of 2,000 that has since settled into a nostalgic village of approximately 70 residents. One especially picturesque piece of history left behind is the white clapboard church sitting high above the town on a grassy mountainside.

FOR MORE INFORMATION TRY:

Malta Area Chamber of Commerce
2 S 1st St E, Malta, MT 59538
406.654.1776

Zortman Motel and RV Park
396 Whitcomb St, Zortman, MT 59546
406.673.3160

Buckhorn Store, Cabins & RV Park
143 Whitcomb St, Zortman, MT 59546
888.654.3162



2 Grab a local brew (or two).

If you want to feel like a local, drink like a local. A number of **local microbreweries** can be found scattered throughout Missouri River Country, all pouring their own unique small-batch brews for thirsty locals and visitors alike.

Meadowlark Brewing & Public House
117 South Central Avenue,
Sidney, MT 59270
406.433.2337

1035 Brewing
1035 S Central Ave, Sidney, MT 59270
406.433.3055

Busted Knuckle Brewery
303 1st Avenue South, Glasgow, MT 59230
406.228.2277

Missouri River Breaks Brewing
326 Main Street, Wolf Point, MT 59201
406.653.1467

Blue Ridge Brewing
320 S 1st Street E, Malta, MT 59538
406.654.2855



3 Watch for wildlife on a scenic drive.

Combine two popular pastimes in Missouri River Country by turning your scenic drive into a wildlife tour. Our region is home to sweeping vistas and stunning sunsets, as well as many iconic North American animals. Just be sure to stay on designated roads and have your cameras ready to capture Montana made memories.

TOP SPOTS FOR A SCENIC WILDLIFE TOUR:

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge

Leo B. Coleman Wildlife Pasture

Slippery Ann Elk Viewing Area

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

[MAPS AND DETAILS HERE >](#)



4 Go boating on Fort Peck Reservoir.

Go for a lazy cruise on a pontoon or explore more on a speed boat—Fort Peck has plenty of room for everyone and every style of **boating**. The massive reservoir, formed by the Fort Peck Dam, boasts more miles of shoreline than the entire California coast and over 50 species of fish.

TOP BOATING SPOTS:

Rock Creek Marina

652 South Rock Creek Road, Fort Peck, MT 59223
406.485.2560

Fort Peck Marina and RV Park

15 SW Marina Rd, Fort Peck, MT 59223
406.526.3442

Hell Creek Marina

1 Hell Creek Rd, Jordan, MT 59337
406.557.2345



5 Dig for dinosaur bones.

Our region is famous for **its rich prehistoric past**, and all of the now famous fossils uncovered here. You can see many of those fossils in the dinosaur-filled museums scattered throughout Missouri River Country, or **roll up your sleeves and dig for more!** The Great Plains Dinosaur Museum offers DinoDig programs for adults and junior rangers alike, led by real paleontologists on the quest for new scientific discoveries.

MUSEUM:

Great Plains Dinosaur Museum
405 N 1st Ave E, Malta, MT 59538
406.654.5300



6 Experience a classic Montana rodeo.

Rodeos are a beloved Western tradition in Montana, and Missouri River Country has no shortage of rodeos to enjoy. Plan your trip around one of our NRA Rodeos or Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) rodeo events. Many of these events happen alongside the county fairs, so saddle up for some rip-roaring good times.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
ANNUAL RODEOS IN
NORTHEAST MONTANA**



7 Spot a new species on the Northeast Montana Birding Trail.

Over 200 species of birds call the big skies and Great Plains of northeast Montana home, making our region a hot spot for birders. Visit the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, Medicine Lake Wildlife Refuge, Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge for some of the best birding in the state.

BEST BIRDING LOCATIONS



**Charles M. Russell National
Wildlife Refuge**

**Medicine Lake
Wildlife Refuge, Bowdoin**

National Wildlife Refuge

UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge



8 Bundle up for a night of stargazing.

Missouri River Country has some of the darkest skies in the lower 48 states, making it a dream come true for stargazers. Visit one of our favorite spots for unparalleled views of the cosmos.

Not sure what time to go, or how to prepare your camera for the cosmos? [Learn more about stargazing in Missouri River Country.](#)

TOP PLACES TO STARGAZE:

The Pines Recreation Area

Brush Lake State Park

Hell Creek State Park

Little Rocky Mountains

Nelson Creek Campground

Rock Creek



Burnt Image Photography

9 Fish for ancient paddlefish

The Missouri and Yellowstone rivers cut through dramatic landscapes, and both are thick with their own possibilities—including the chance to land more than 100-pounds of something harkening back to another time. Ancient paddlefish of enormous size can still be found in both rivers, and fishing for these creatures requires an additional state license, big treble hooks, heavy weights and a deep-sea rod.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE ANCIENT RIVER MONSTERS](#) >



Jason Mitchell Outdoors

10 Hang with the locals at a county fair.

Missouri River Country consists of eight counties, and each of these counties has an annual fair during the summer months. These fairs are full of fun events and activities for the whole family such as rodeos, live country music concerts, 4-H competitions, community BBQs, petting zoos, kids events and more.

Find details on the dates and schedules for each county fair.

11 Stop along the Montana Dinosaur trail.

Millions of years before the Missouri River began to form, this land was a lush wetland for prehistoric giants to roam. And the evidence is all around us—Missouri River Country is home to world class fossil discoveries, and more T-rex skeletons have been found in Montana than any other state. If dinosaur discoveries and relics of Northeast Montana's ancient landscape have piqued your interest, look no further than the famous **Montana Dinosaur Trail.**

MAIN STOPS INCLUDE:

Fort Peck Interpretive Center

Yellowstone Rd, Fort Peck, MT 59223
406.526.3493

Garfield County Museum

952 Jordan Ave, Jordan, MT 59337
406.557.2517

Great Plains Dinosaur Museum

405 N 1st Ave E, Malta, MT 59538
406.654.5300

Phillips County Museum

431 US-2, Malta, MT 59538
406.654.1037



12 Explore the Pioneer Town in Scobey.

Just west of Scobey is the Daniels County Museum & Pioneer Town, a 20-acre park with 35 buildings that have been developed or restored to depict turn of the century businesses and homes. Experience Daniels County history in all its forms as you wander through reimagined buildings, observe artifacts and appreciate their impressive collection of antique cars, tractors and machinery.

Daniels County Museum & Pioneer Town

720 2nd Avenue, Scobey, MT 59263
406.487.5965



13 Pan for gold in Zortman.

Go gold panning in Zortman, the once booming mining town nestled under the Little Rocky Mountains. The local mines produced an estimated \$125 million in gold before the 1950s, but the town has since become a quaint community of around 70 people. While the mines are no longer operating, folks can still find trace amounts of gold throughout the area.

RENT GOLD PANNING
EQUIPMENT OR
BRING YOUR OWN. >



14 Take a scenic motorcycle ride.

Cruise alongside badlands formations, rivers, mountains and plains in Missouri River Country, and take your time in each friendly small town you find along the way. If you love the journey as much as the destination itself, you'll feel right at home on the open roads of northeast Montana.

CHECK OUT SOME
OF OUR FAVORITE SCENIC
MOTORCYCLE RIDES. >



15 Shop for something special.

You won't find packed shopping malls and luxury brand stores in Missouri River Country—that's just not our thing. What you will find are some incredibly unique and fun local shops, full of Montana-made goods and one-of-a-kind souvenirs. Visit one of the shops below, and check out #25 on our list for tips on antiquing in the region!

Sidney Mercantile
214 S. Central Ave, Sidney, MT 59270
406.480.3319

Prairie Pickins
311 Main St, Circle, MT 59215
406.485.4745

Studio U
301 Main St, Circle, MT 59215
406.974.2110

Shippwrecked
227 5th Street South Glasgow, MT 59230
406.228.8228

Robyn's Nest
501 1st Ave S, Glasgow, MT 59230
406.228.4646



16 Go wildlife viewing on one of many wildlife refuges.

Missouri River Country offers a getaway with less people, and therefore more room for wildlife to roam. From bighorn sheep and bison to eagles and osprey, our region is packed with unique and breathtaking animals.

Wildlife refuges in Missouri River Country include: Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge, Leo Coleman Wildlife Park.

**FIND MORE INFORMATION
ON LOCAL SPECIES AND
WHERE TO SPOT THEM.** >



17 Peruse a local farmers market.

Take a stroll through rows of locally grown food and locally made goods, while meeting the people who know this region best. Missouri River Country's seasonal markets are a delightful way to get an authentic experience, and sample some delicious Montana-grown food.

FIND DETAILS ON EACH FARMERS MARKET IN MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY. >

18 Check out Peck's Rex

Get to know the monstrous dinosaurs that once roamed in Missouri River Country, like the famous Peck's Rex on display in Fort Peck. The Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center & Museum features both the skeleton and a fleshed-out copy of the well-known Tyrannosaurus rex that was found in the area back in 1997.

**Fort Peck Dam
Interpretive Center
& Museum**
157 Yellowstone Road,
Fort Peck, MT 59248
406.526.3493



19 Tee up for a day of golfing.

The scenic vistas, rolling hills and gorgeous blue skies of Northeast Montana are the perfect backdrop for a round (or two) of golf. Tee up for a day of unforgettable **golfing** and enjoy an afternoon at one of the 9 or 18-hole golf courses throughout the region.

The Sunnyside Golf Club

Airport Golf Club, Scobey Golf Course

Plentywood Golf Club

Marian Hills Country Club

Sidney Country Club

**FIND MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT EACH GOLF COURSE,
AND ANNUAL GOLF
TOURNAMENTS. >**



20 Soak in the Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs.

Treat yourself to a relaxing soak in the naturally hot mineral waters of Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs. Either make it a quick stop after a long day of outdoor adventure, or book one of their cabins or luxury suites to make a weekend out of it.

**Sleeping Buffalo
Hot Springs & Resort**
669 Buffalo Trail, Saco MT 59261
406.527.3320



21 Hit the prairie on an ATV.

More room to roam means more miles to explore off-road! Driving four-wheel-drive vehicles in Missouri River Country is a fun and thrilling way to enjoy the rolling prairies, badland formations, mountains and rivers that make up our region. Please note that ATVs are allowed on marked roads as well as designated trails.

**Popular areas for four-wheel-drive
recreation:**

CAMP CREEK CAMPGROUND >

GLASGOW OHV >



22 Visit a local quilt shop.

Quilting is a beloved tradition in Northeast Montana that has spanned generations, from the days of pioneers to modern times. The knowledge and craftsmanship of quilting has been passed down through the years from one quilter to the next, and you can learn more about this locally loved craft by visiting a quilt shop.

Crazy Woman Quilts

27 US Highway 2 E,
Glasgow 59230
406.228.9665

Quilts & More

12653 County Road 352,
Sidney 59270



MonDak Heritage Center

23 Go cross country skiing.

We never let a little winter weather slow us down in Missouri River Country, so when the trails get covered in a layer of white we just grab our skis. The snow transforms our prairies and badlands into winter wonderlands, and **cross country skiing** is the perfect way to experience it.

Groomed cross country skiings trails are offered at the Downstream Campground, Kiwanis Park and Beaver Creek Nature Trail at Fort Peck.

24 Fish on frozen lakes.

Fishing is a way of life here in Northeast Montana, so when the winter comes and the waters freeze we don't let a little cold stop us. Learn how to ice fish in Missouri River Country and have family-friendly fun on our frozen waters. Check ice conditions before heading out and always put safety first.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
ICE FISHING IN MISSOURI
RIVER COUNTRY.**



Jason Mitchell

25 Go antiquing.

Missouri River Country has a rich history, making it the perfect place to go treasure hunting at local antique shops. Whether you find local goods with a story, or storied souvenirs from far away lands, there's always something interesting to learn when you're perusing an antique shop.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE LOCAL FAVORITES THROUGHOUT THE REGION:

Mary's Mercantile

431 1st Ave S,
Glasgow, MT 59230
406.263.8619

Julia's Junque

119 S 1st Ave E,
Malta, MT 59538
406.654.7448

CollectM Antiques

1827 S. US Hwy 191,
Malta, MT 59538
406.654.2646

Yellowstone Mercantile

102 N Central Ave,
Sidney, MT 59270
406.488.1201

The City Dump 2nd Hand Antique Store

Main Street,
Medicine Lake, MT 59247
406.480.3844

Glenwood Thrift Store

202 E 1st Ave,
Plentywood, MT 59254
406.765.1777

The Copper Cup

112 E 2nd Ave
Plentywood, MT 59254
406.765.1287

The Attic

540 W Boundary Ave,
Plentywood, MT 59254
406.765.2002



26 Sharpen your photography skills.

It can be hard to capture Missouri River Country, with its unique terrain and quaint small towns. But when you get that perfect shot, it's magic. Grab your camera and go on a chase for the warmest sunset, brightest stars and quirkiest local spots in Northeast Montana.

Want a little inspiration?

CHECK OUT OUR
PHOTO GALLERY. >



Andy Austin

27 Visit the official “middle of nowhere.”

Glasgow proudly wears the title of the official “Middle of Nowhere” in the United States, originally coined by **the Washington Post**—and for good reason. Glasgow is nestled in the prairies of Northeast Montana, 4.5 hours from any other major city. This town of 3,300 offers a seemingly endless supply of room to roam and small-town charm—after all, what better escape from the hustle and bustle than the actual “middle of nowhere”?

VISIT GLASGOW >



Visit Montana

28 Skip the hotel and set up camp.

Most people visiting Missouri River Country have one important thing in common—a true love of nature and all things outdoors. If this sounds like you, consider ditching the hotel reservations and setting up camp in one of the many campgrounds dotting the region. Camping in Northeast Montana offers unparalleled stargazing by night, and immediate access to outdoor recreation by day.

**BROWSE
CAMPGROUNDS
AND FIND YOUR
FAVORITE HERE.** >



29 See a traditional American Indian powwow.

Lewis and Clark may have been early visitors to Missouri River Country, but when they arrived the region was already home to the Assiniboine people. Members of the Sioux Nation call our corner of Montana home, and their proud cultural heritage continues to be celebrated today. Annual powwows and celebrations are held on the Fort Peck Reservation, where traditional dance, song, and tribal ceremonies can be seen. Visitors can meet with the singers, dancers and drummers to learn about their roles in the powwow.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
ANNUAL POWWOWS AND
AMERICAN INDIAN SITES IN
MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY.** >



30 Go for a Wagon Train Ride.

Giddy up for some good ol' fashioned Western fun at the Annual Wagon Train Rides in Missouri River Country. Bring the whole family and make new memories as horses pull covered wagons along the prairie in this beloved local event. Locations vary year to year, so please check out our events calendar.

EVENTS CALENDAR >





How's the Weather?

Missouri River Country is a four-seasons kind of place, where there's always adventure to be had no matter the weather outside. In the summer temperatures can rise into the 90s, perfect for days on the lake or river, and drop to a comfortable 50-60 degrees in evening. In the winter, temperatures drop low enough to freeze the surface of lakes and send chunks of ice drifting down the rivers. Expect snowfall in the winter months, and a higher chance of rain during those warm summer months.

ROAD CONDITIONS

Check updated Montana road conditions by calling **511** or **1.800.226.ROAD (7623)**, or visiting mdt.mt.gov/travinfo.

Word Search

There's a lot to spot when you're driving through Missouri River Country, from badlands to big game. Next time you take a break from scanning the horizon outside the car window, see what you can find in our Northeast Montana word search!

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

Word List:

ANTELOPE
MISSOURIRIVER
PADDLEFISH
ICEFISHING
STARGAZING

MAIASAURA
BADLANDS
DEER
ELK
YELLOWSTONERIVER

DINOSAUR
PRAIRIE
BISON
FORTPECK
GOLDPANNING

STURGEON
PHEASANT
WALLEYE
ZORTMAN
PRONGHORN



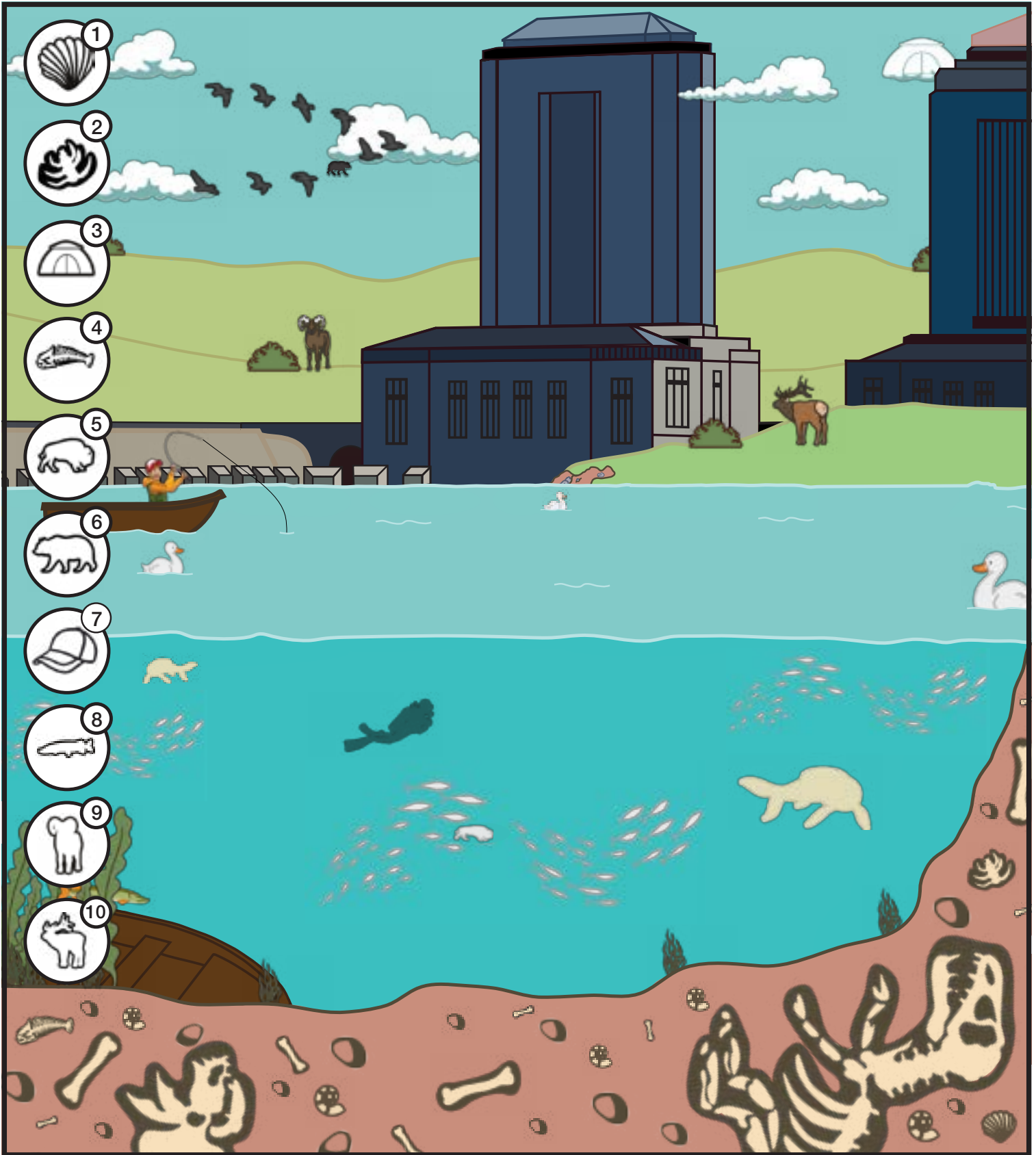
True or False

1. There are more miles of shoreline on the Fort Peck Reservoir than the entire California Coast.
2. Missouri River Country has some of the darkest skies in the lower 48 states.
3. A sturgeon can live up to 50 years old.
4. In all, the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent more time in Montana than anywhere else—close to six months.
5. Many dinosaur fossils have been found in Missouri River Country, though very few have been from the carnivorous Tyrannosaurus rex.

(1) True (2) True (3) False—a sturgeon can live more than 100 years! (4) True (5) False—more T-rex bones have been found in Montana than any other state, and the first scientifically described T-rex was excavated here in 1902.

I-Spy

The Fort Peck Reservoir is teeming with wildlife, from the skies above to the depths below. How many things can you spy in this picture? See answer key on page 25.





Rick and Susie Graetz

Visitor Etiquette

Visiting a new place means experiencing new landscapes, wildlife, communities and cultures. Here are a few simple ways our visitors can best respect and enjoy their trip to Missouri River Country.

- Follow local health and safety guidelines, and do your part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. For current information visit covid19.mt.gov.
- Leave No Trace—be sure to pack out any food or trash that you bring into the great outdoors, and leave only footprints.
- Be respectful of American Indian communities and their varying cultures and traditions, especially when visiting a reservation or attending an event.



1

Andy Austin



2

Visit Montana



3

Visit Montana



4

Visit Montana



5

Visit Montana

Picture-Worthy Stops

There's a lot to take in as you cruise through vast prairies, small towns and unique landscapes, so make sure you document your road trip with plenty of pictures. Here are some of our favorite spots to snap a photo.

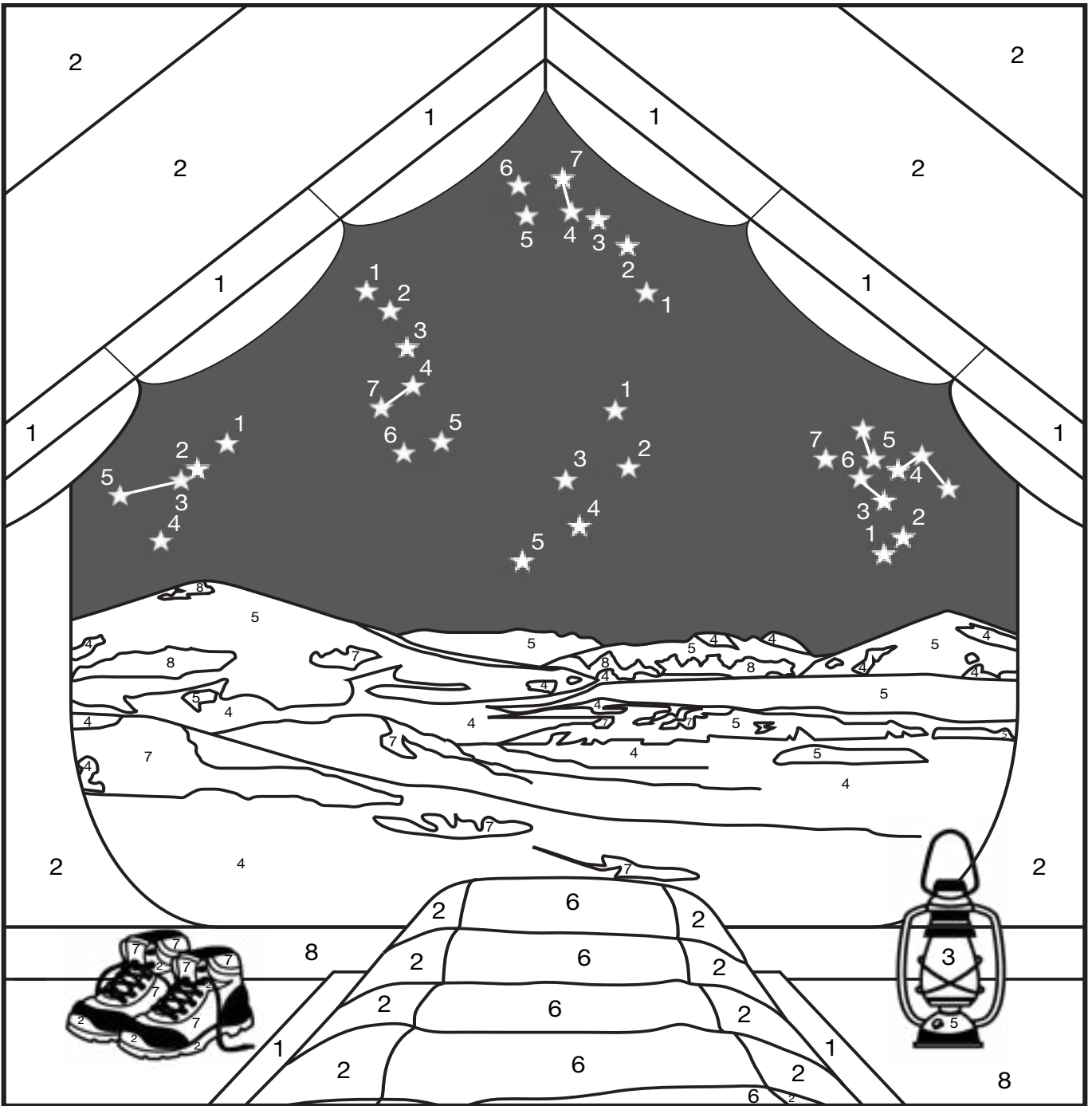
- 1 Fort Peck Dam
- 2 Peck's Rex at The Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center & Museum
- 3 The "Middle of Nowhere" sign in Glasgow
- 4 Brush Lake State Park—at night!
- 5 Anywhere along the Missouri River

Big Star Country

Did you know that Missouri River Country has some of the darkest night skies in the United States? Since we have less light pollution and more room to roam, stars light up brighter than ever once the sun goes down. And the only thing better than stargazing in northeast Montana, is stargazing while camping!

Use the color key below to fill in the scenic view from your tent after a long day of outdoor adventure. Then, connect the stars in the night sky to form the constellations overhead. For help, view the answer key on page 25.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8





Ken Plourde

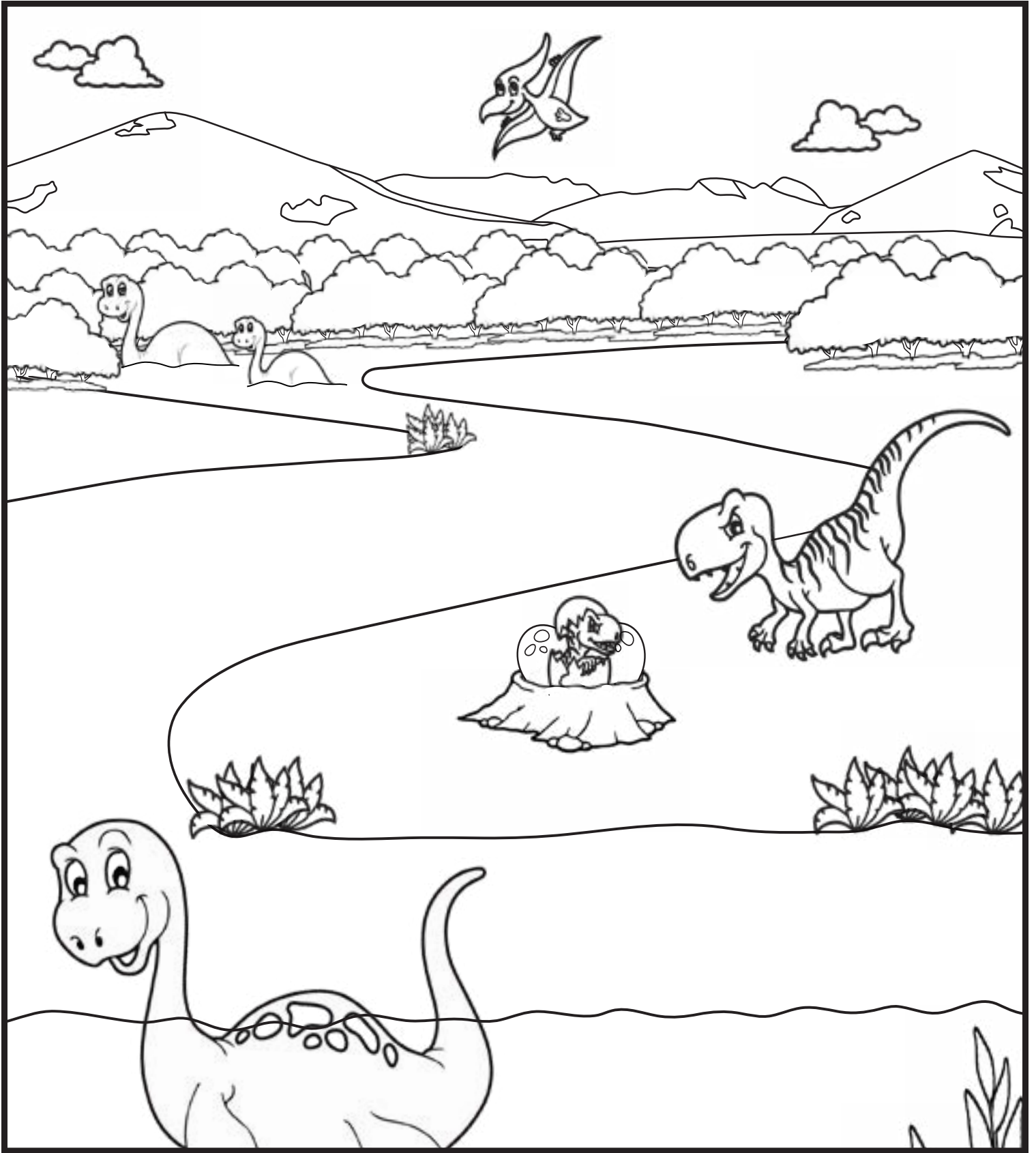
Treasure Hunt in the Treasure State

Keep your eyes peeled for all of the incredible things that define Missouri River Country, from shooting stars to soaring eagles and everything in between. How many things can you spot on your treasure hunt throughout the Treasure State?

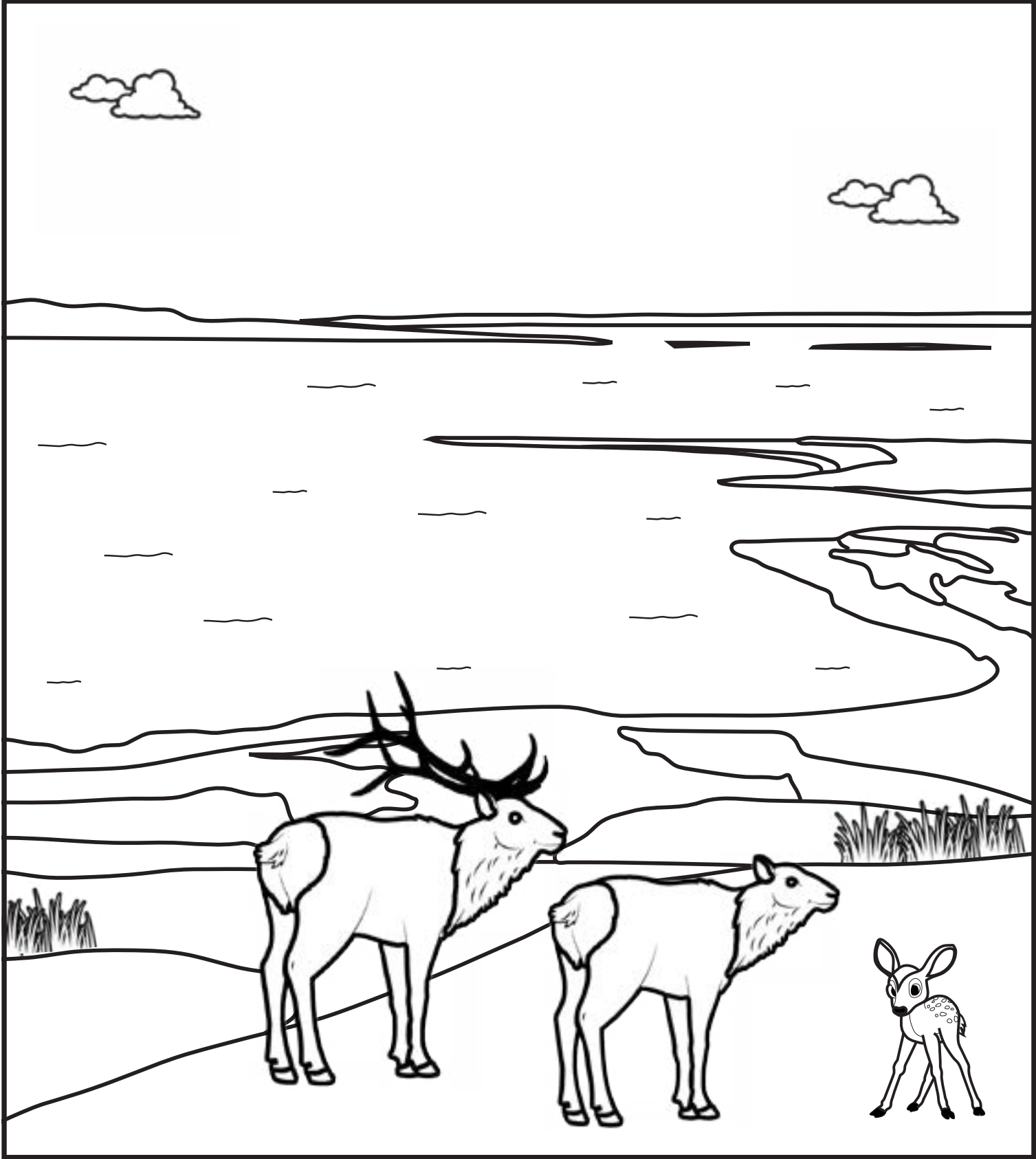
✔ Check off your finds below:

- State Animal: Grizzly Bear
- State Bird: Western Meadowlark
- State Butterfly: Mourning Cloak Butterfly
- State Fish: Spotted Cutthroat Trout
- State Flower: Bitterroot
- State Fossil: Duck-billed Dinosaur
- State Gemstone: Montana Agate
- State Gemstone: Sapphire
- State Grass: Bluebunch Wheatgrass
- State Tree: Ponderosa Pine
- Pronghorn
- Fort Peck Reservoir
- Dinosaur fossil
- Pheasant
- Osprey
- Eagle
- Blue Heron
- Prairie Dog
- Great Plains Dinosaur Museum
- Missouri River
- Grain Elevator
- Big Dipper Constellation
- Shooting Star
- Horses
- Badlands

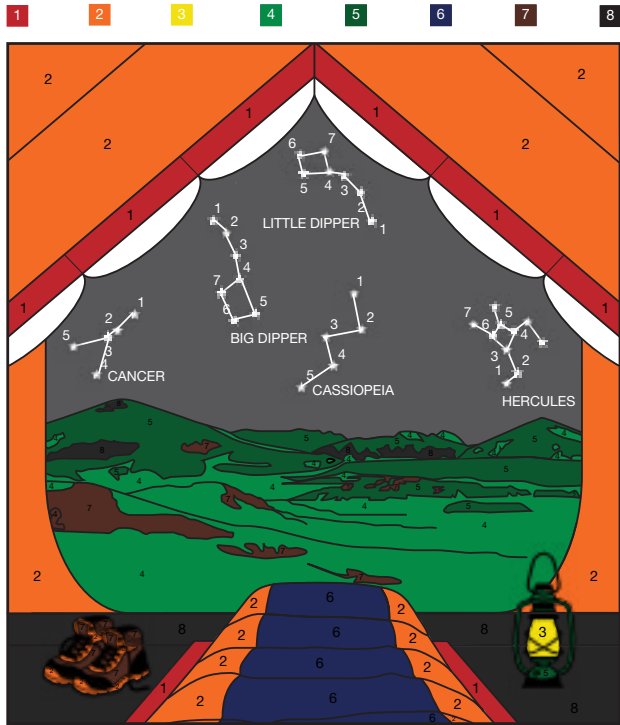
Give Montana Some Color



Give Montana Some Color



Star Answer Key



I-Spy Answer Key

