

FIRST BLOOM EDITION

# KID POWER

Turn Over a New Leaf! Go Outside! Get your hands dirty and learn about the power of native plants!



## GET OUTDOORS!

Visit a national park and explore!  
Get your hands dirty!

As a Junior Ranger, you are a protector of the national park system-and a friend of the Earth. Not only will you enjoy fun activities, you will also learn about the power of native plants and how everything in our environment is connected.

As a Junior Ranger, you are an explorer. You and your family can explore the parks using activity books created just for you. You will also be a learner.

**Explore. Learn. Protect. Be a Junior Ranger!**

You can become a Junior Ranger even when you can't visit a national park. Become part of a growing group of young people who are interested in their world and their parks... be a WebRanger. All you need to start your journey is visit the website and sign in! You'll get your own Ranger Station, and over 50 activities to help you get to know your national parks. Drive a dog sled...help a baby sea turtle reach the sea...be a spy! Complete all the activities and earn a cool patch!

**So, Get Outdoors, Get Your Hands Dirty!**

To learn more about the Junior Ranger program  
or to volunteer at a national park, go to  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

Made with recycled paper.



# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY! GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown \_\_\_\_\_

National Park Nearest You \_\_\_\_\_

## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AND NATIONAL PARK WEEK!

America's national parks are some of the most special places in the world. In the parks, you can find some of the most beautiful natural landscapes.

First Bloom is an environmental program from the National Park Foundation that connects kids to nature and gets their hands dirty through hands-on planting of native landscapes at national parks near them.

So Celebrate Earth Day and National Park Week by visiting your national parks!

Illustrations by Warner McGee. Design and layout by Miesha Dennis,  
National Park Foundation.

Mr. Smarty Plants is a copyright of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's Native Plant Information Network. Learn more about native plants at [www.wildflower.org/explore](http://www.wildflower.org/explore).

"Kid Power: First Bloom Edition" is made possible through the generosity of:



[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)



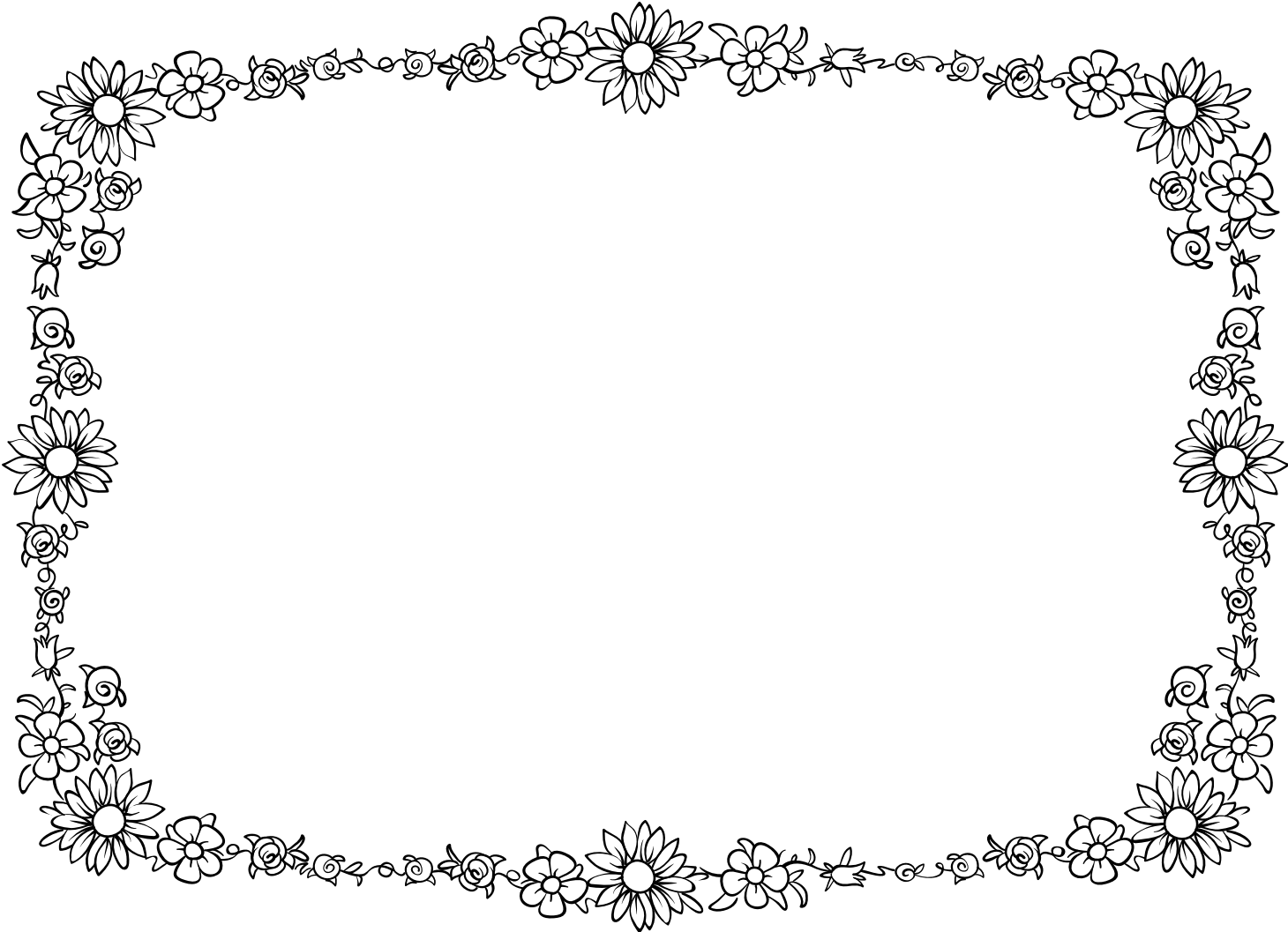
[www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org)



[macys.com](http://macys.com)

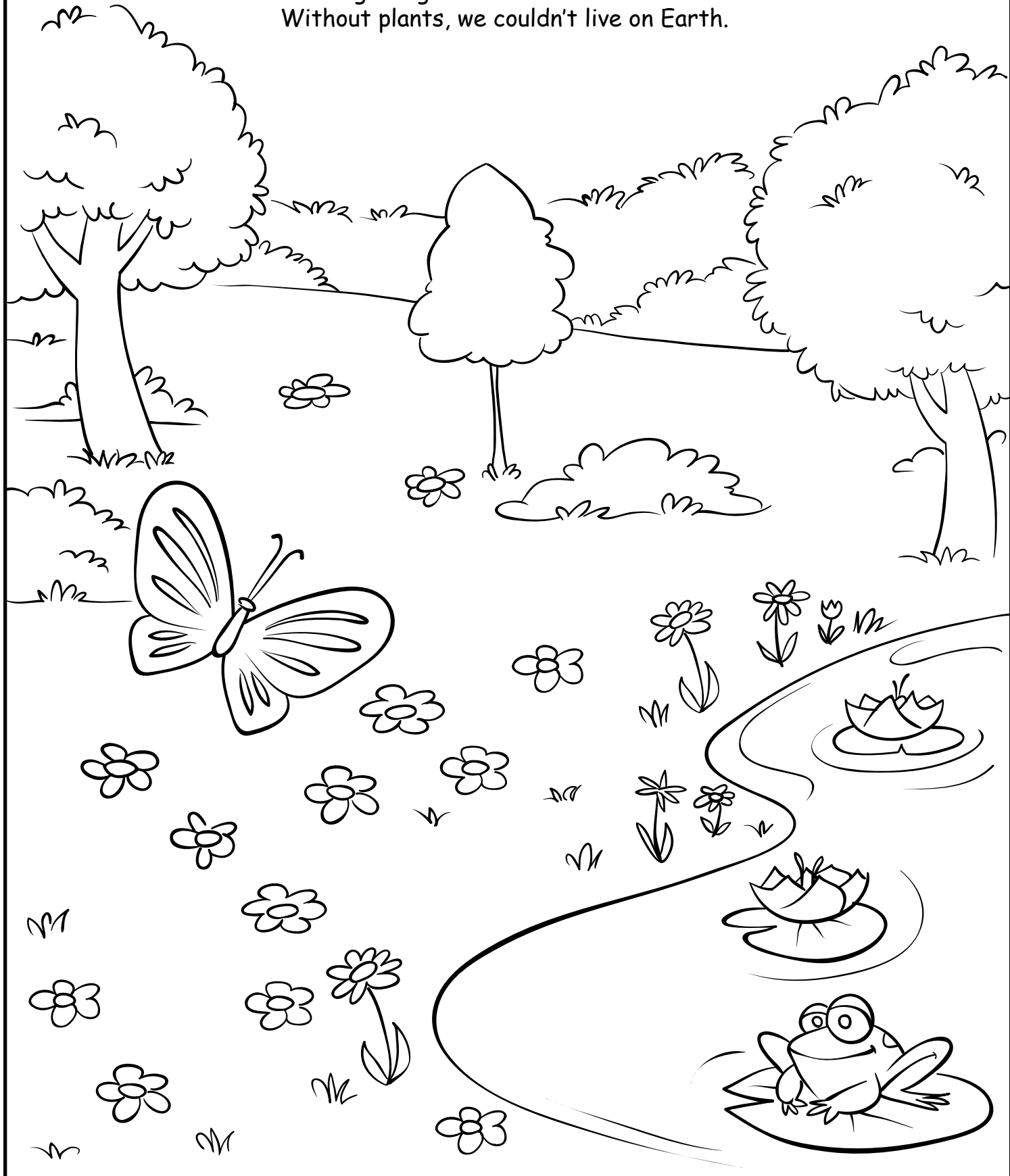


Draw a picture of yourself or your favorite flower or plant.



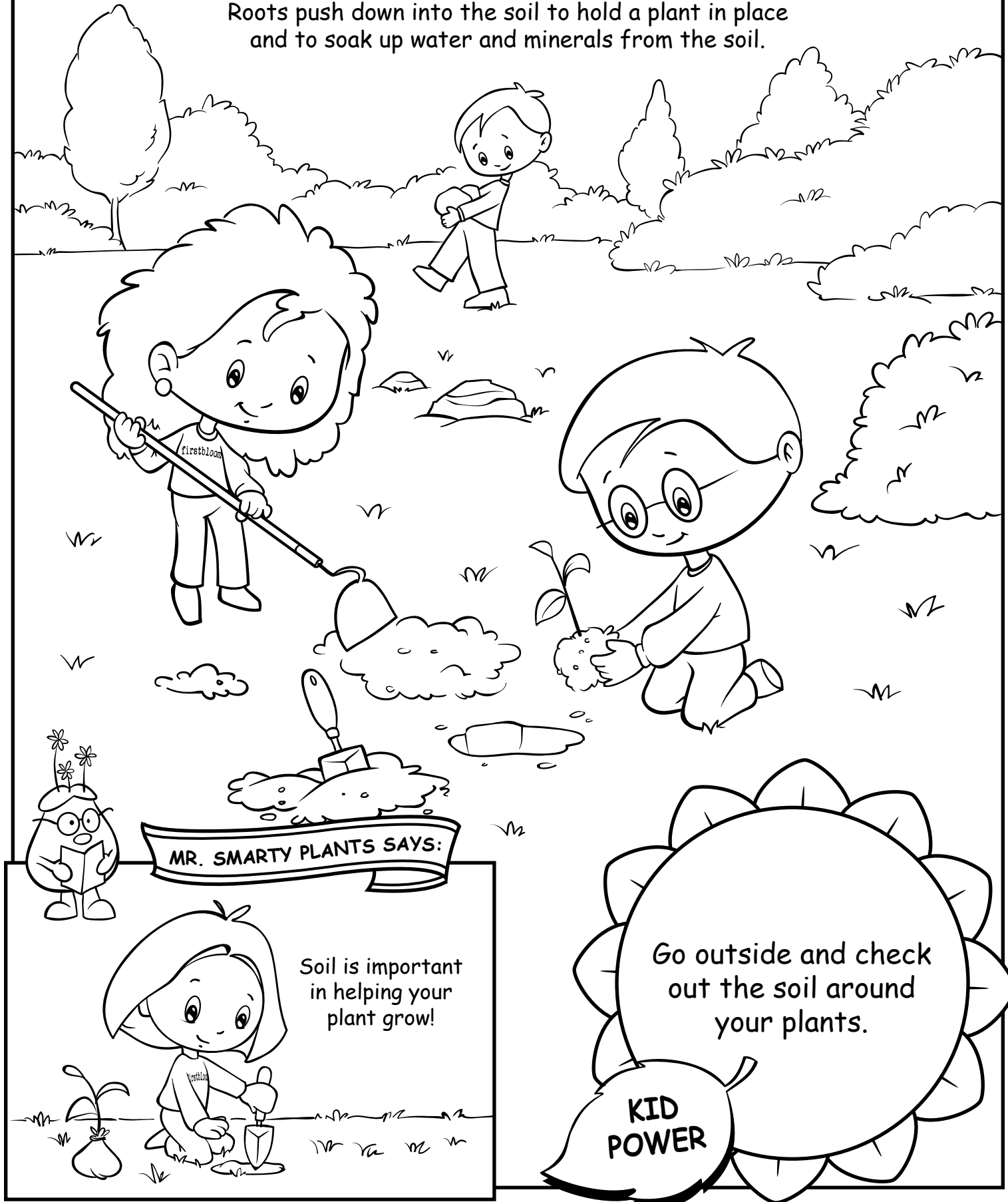
# EVERYTHING'S CONNECTED

Plants are important to everything living on our planet. They provide the air all living things breathe and all the foods we eat. Without plants, we couldn't live on Earth.



# WHAT'S IN YOUR SOIL

Soil is the material found on the Earth's surface. Roots push down into the soil to hold a plant in place and to soak up water and minerals from the soil.



MR. SMARTY PLANTS SAYS:

Soil is important in helping your plant grow!

Go outside and check out the soil around your plants.

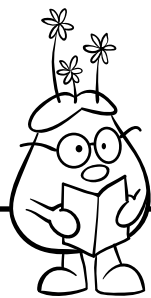
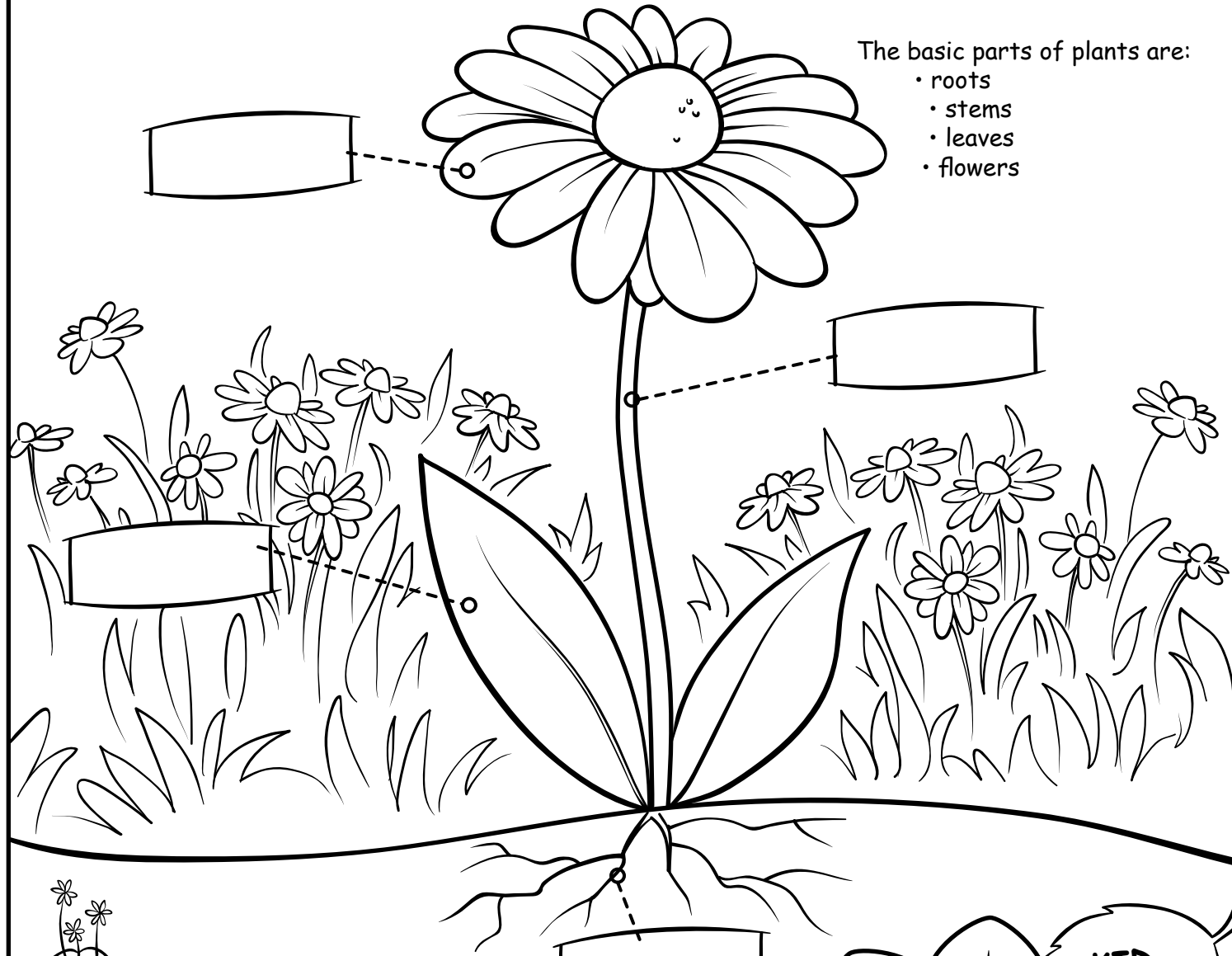
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# ROOTS TO TIP

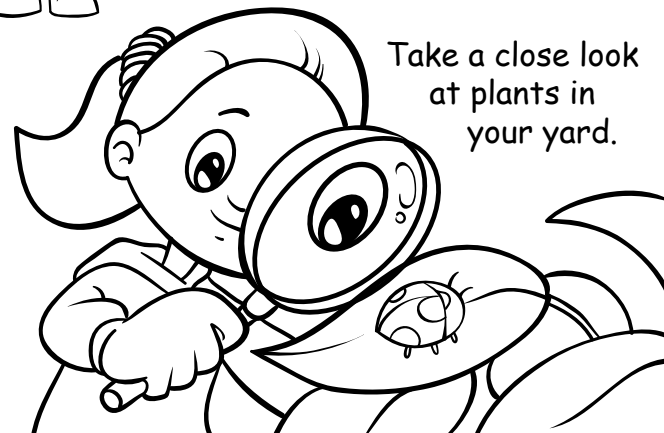
Plants are made up of different parts. Each part has a certain job. These parts can also help us to identify plants.

The basic parts of plants are:

- roots
- stems
- leaves
- flowers



MR. SMARTY PLANTS SAYS:



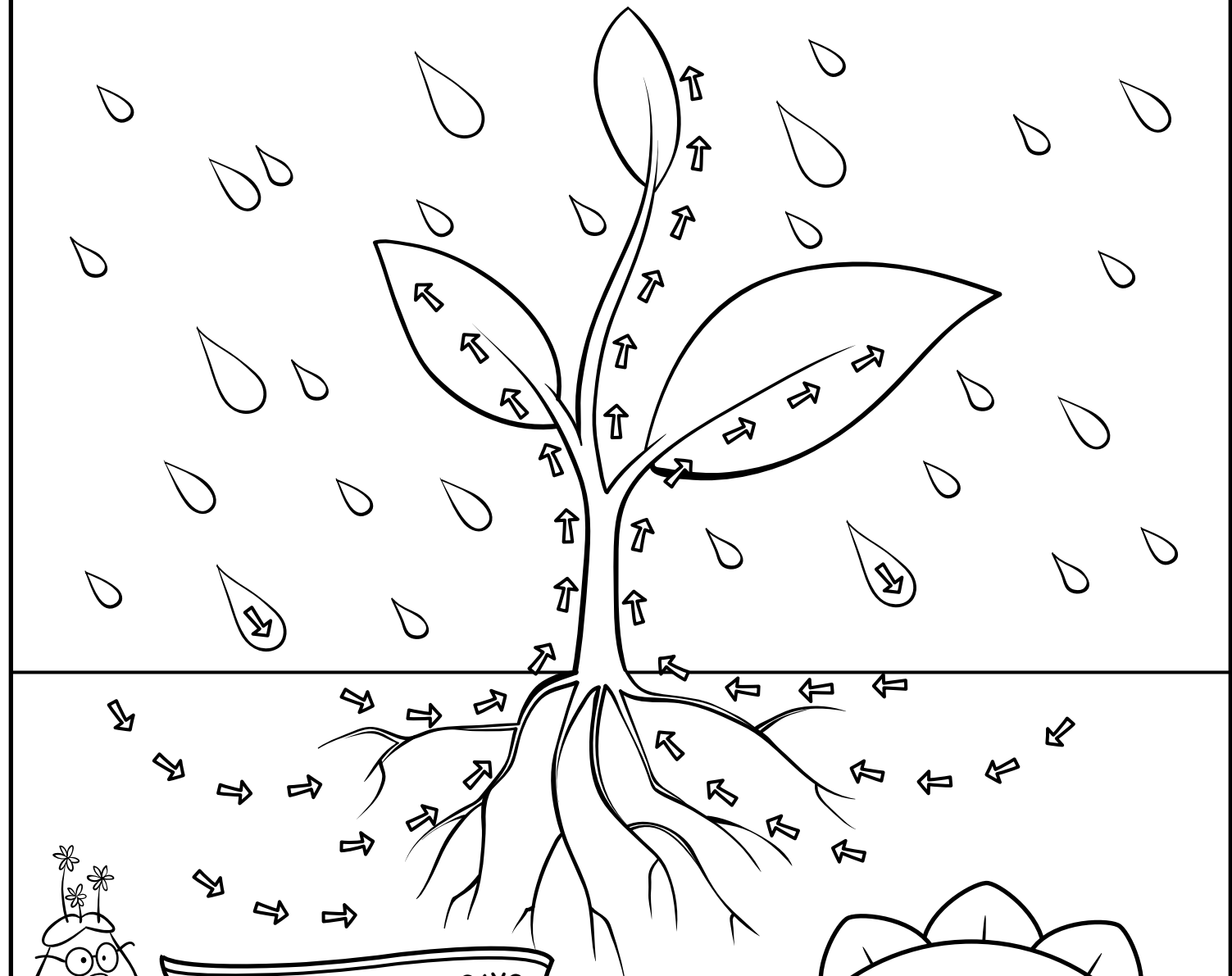
Take a close look at plants in your yard.

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Can you label the different parts of a plant on this page?

# LET IT RAIN!

Plants are 70% water. They need to drink water just like you. The plant's roots pick up water and move it up the stem to the leaves.



MR. SMARTY PLANTS SAYS:



Don't forget to feed your plants!

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Water a flower and watch how fast the water soaks into the soil.

# NATIVE PLANTS

What state were you born in? You are native to this state. Plants are also native to different places. They have their favorite place where the sun, soil, and water help them grow best.



MR. SMARTY PLANTS SAYS:

Do your part.  
Plant a native  
flower!

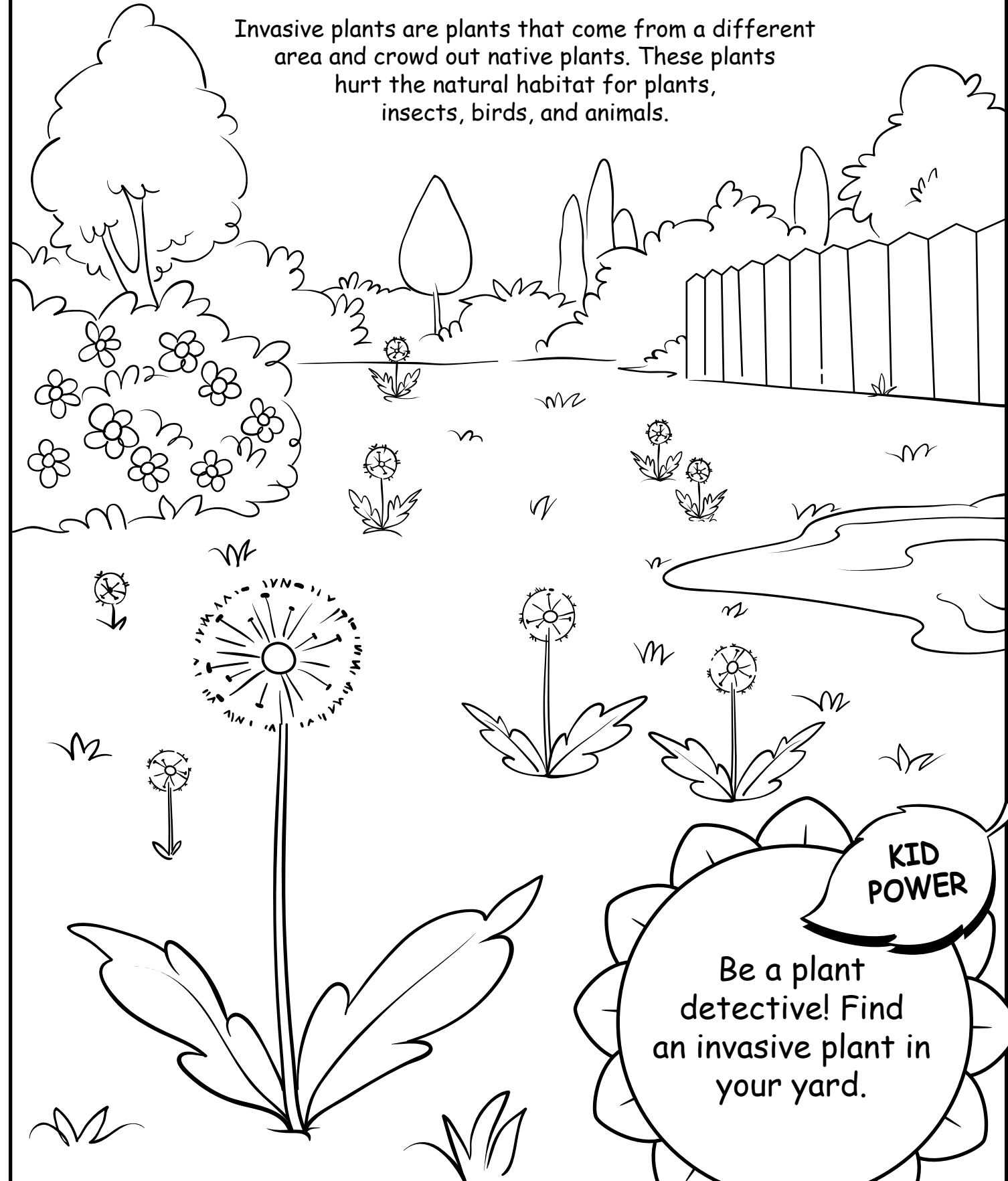


Identify a  
native plant in  
your yard.

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# SOIL INVADERS

Invasive plants are plants that come from a different area and crowd out native plants. These plants hurt the natural habitat for plants, insects, birds, and animals.



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Be a plant  
detective! Find  
an invasive plant in  
your yard.

# BUG OUT!

When insects rub against plants, their bodies carry pollen from flower to flower. Insects are attracted to plants by smell and colors.



MR. SMARTY PLANTS SAYS:

If you dig deep enough in the soil, you may find a worm!



Go in your backyard and identify many bugs and insects around your plants.

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# HELP OUR FIRST BLOOMERS PLANT!

Figuring out where to put your plants will help your garden grow bigger and better. They need a happy place to live.



MR. SMARTY PLANTS SAYS:

Make sure you leave enough room for your plants to grow!



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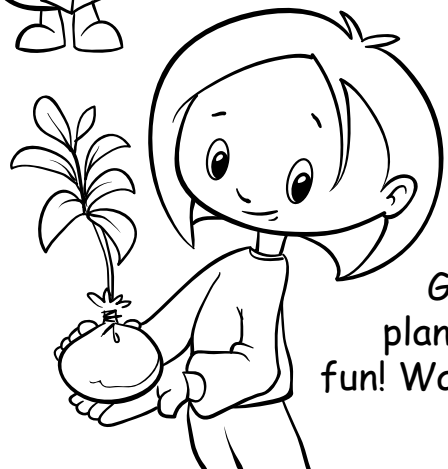
Help the First Bloomers by drawing plants in the empty holes.

# GROW YOUR OWN

Seeds come in different sizes, shapes, and colors. All seeds need water, warmth, and soil. Now it's your turn....plant a seed!



MR. SMARTY PLANTS SAYS:



Growing a plant is a lot of fun! Watch it grow!

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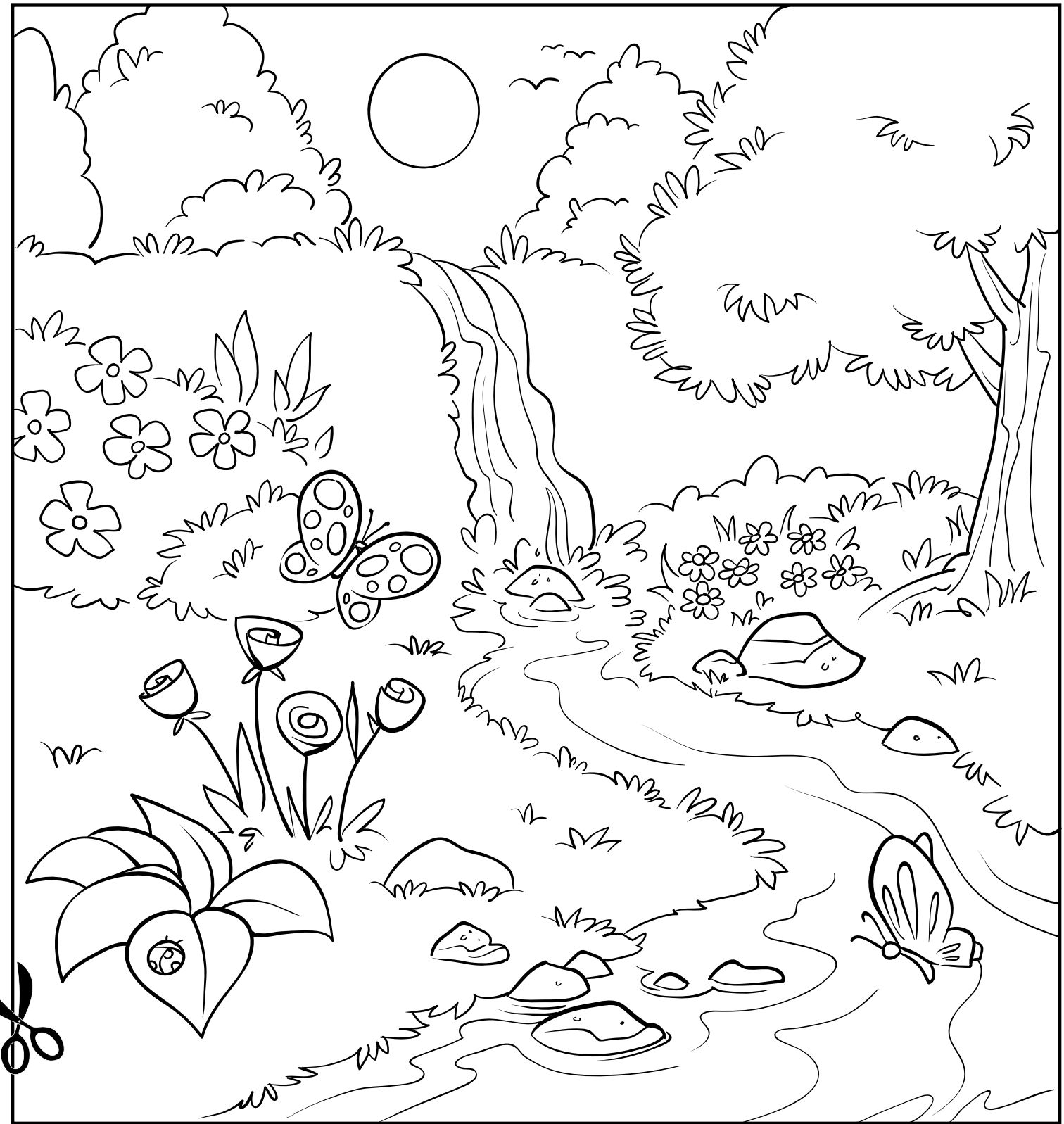
Plant a native seed in a small cup and watch it grow! Put the soil in the cup, make a hole in the soil with your finger, plant the seed, cover it, and give it a little water.

# IT'S YOUR TURN

Color this page or draw your own native landscape on the back. Cut it out and send to the address on the back to get your own Kid Power badge for the work you've done!\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



# IT'S YOUR TURN

Go in your backyard and draw your our native landscape on this page.



## Hey Parents!

One of the National Park Foundation's top goals is to connect children from all walks of life to our national parks. These special places provide unique opportunities for learning and fun, and they teach children the importance of caring for our environment.

Here are just a few of the ways that the National Park Foundation gets kids involved in parks:

**First Bloom** - A program of the National Park Foundation, First Bloom works with youth groups to bring children, particularly urban kids, to nearby national parks, where park rangers teach them about the environment and the importance of native habitats. The children then apply this knowledge to cultivate native landscapes in the park and in their own neighborhoods. Bring the spirit of First Bloom to your own backyard by helping your kids plant a native seed.



**Junior Ranger and Web Ranger** - As the largest private supporter of the Junior Ranger and Web Ranger programs, the National Park Foundation has **helped make the Junior Ranger program available in over 290 national parks**. Through fun, hands-on activities, Junior Ranger engages youth in the stories embodied in our national parks. Web Rangers, an online extension of the Junior Ranger program, encourages self-paced exploration with games, activities, maps and secret codes. Get your kids on their way to becoming a Junior Ranger by visiting [www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger/](http://www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger/)

To learn more about youth and our national parks, visit [www.nationalparks.org/kids](http://www.nationalparks.org/kids).