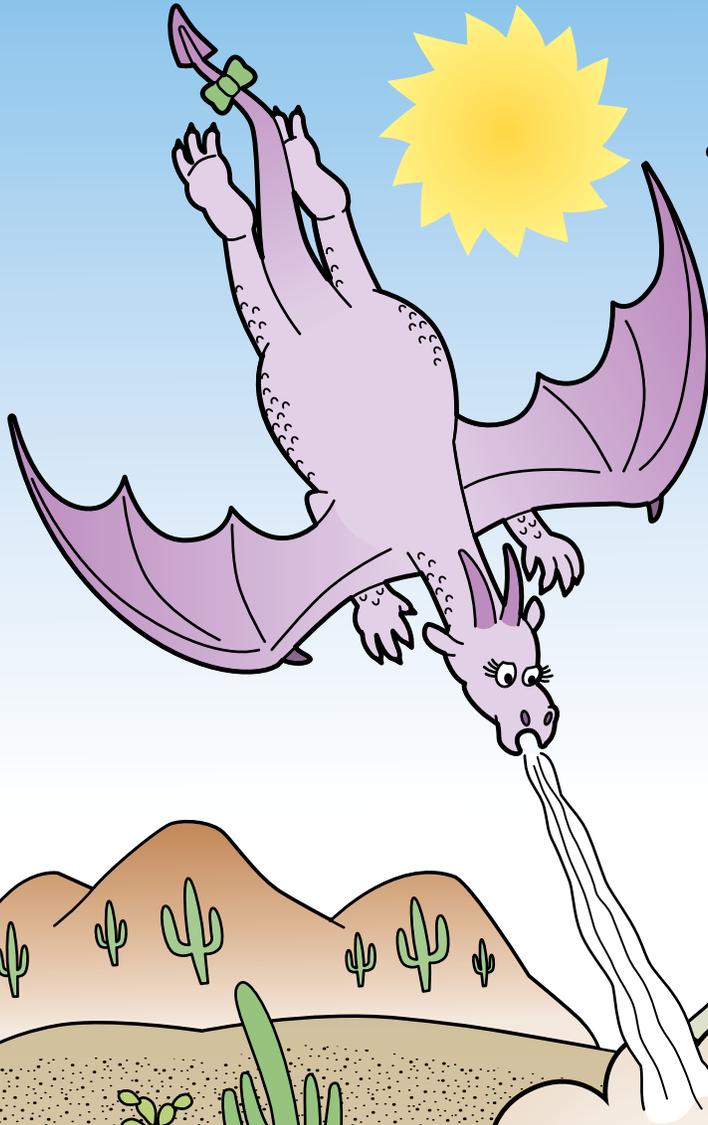


The
Story of

Drucilla the Drought Dragon

Pima County Regional
Wastewater Reclamation
Department



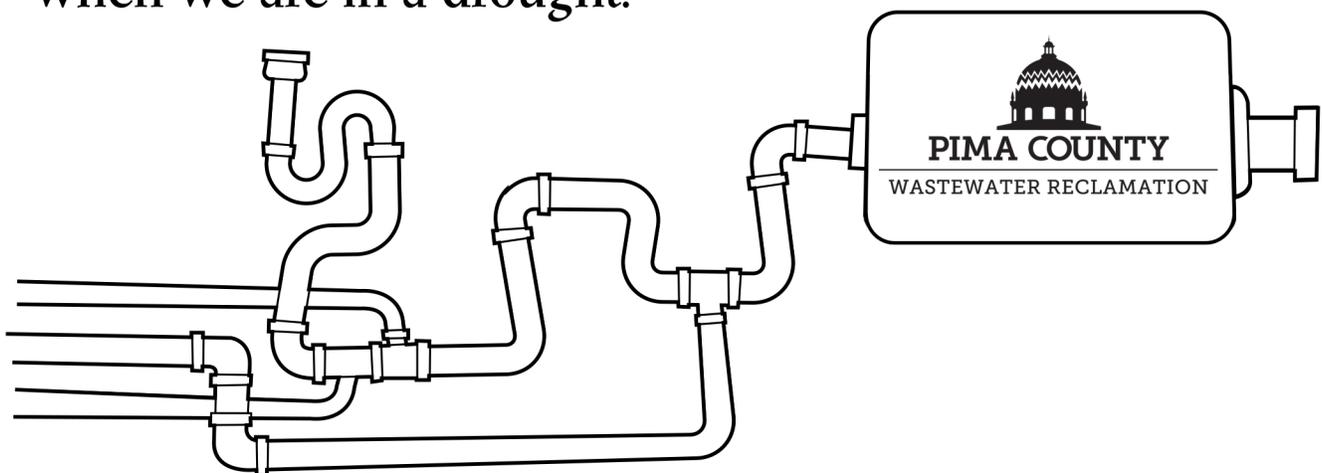
**What Drought
Means to Our
Desert World**

What is the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department and what do they do?

Underneath our streets, there are more than 3400 miles of pipes that make up our sanitary sewer system. The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department operates the underground sanitary sewer system in Pima County.

When you take a shower, flush your toilet or wash clothes in the washing machine, that dirty water goes out of your home and into the sanitary sewer system. From there, it flows to the Wastewater Reclamation Facilities where the dirty water is cleaned and returned to the environment.

Because we recycle water, we know a lot about water, how to protect it and how to conserve it. We want you to know too. In these pages you will learn how very important it is to save water, especially when we are in a drought.

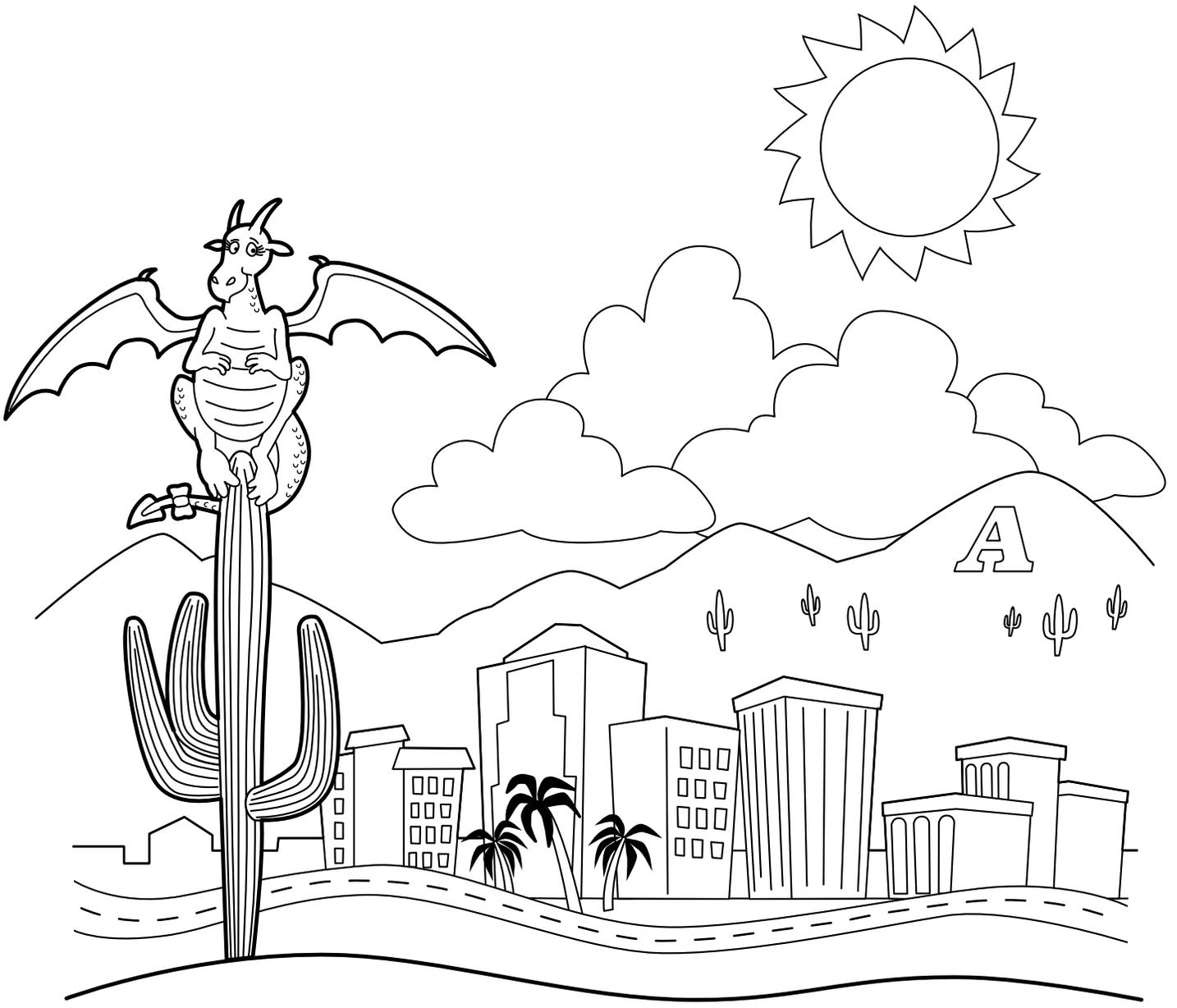




nce upon a time, long ago, Drucilla the Drought Dragon decided that she wanted to go on an adventure and see what she could discover out there in the big wide world.



She traveled to every country on the globe and discovered lots of interesting and pretty places. One of those places was a city called Tucson in a county called Pima in a state called Arizona located in the United States of America.



Drucilla particularly liked Tucson because Drought Dragons like hot, dry places and Tucson and all the towns around it are hot and dry.

Some states in our country are full of swamps, others are full of farmlands, and some are deserts. Some states in the northwest part of the country get about 100 inches of rain every year, but Tucson is located in the Sonoran Desert which gets only about 13 inches of rain each year.

In some years it gets even less!



When any place gets less rain than usual for many years in a row, that place is in a DROUGHT.

When Tucson is in a drought, the desert becomes very hot, dry and dusty and Drucilla the Drought Dragon comes to visit.

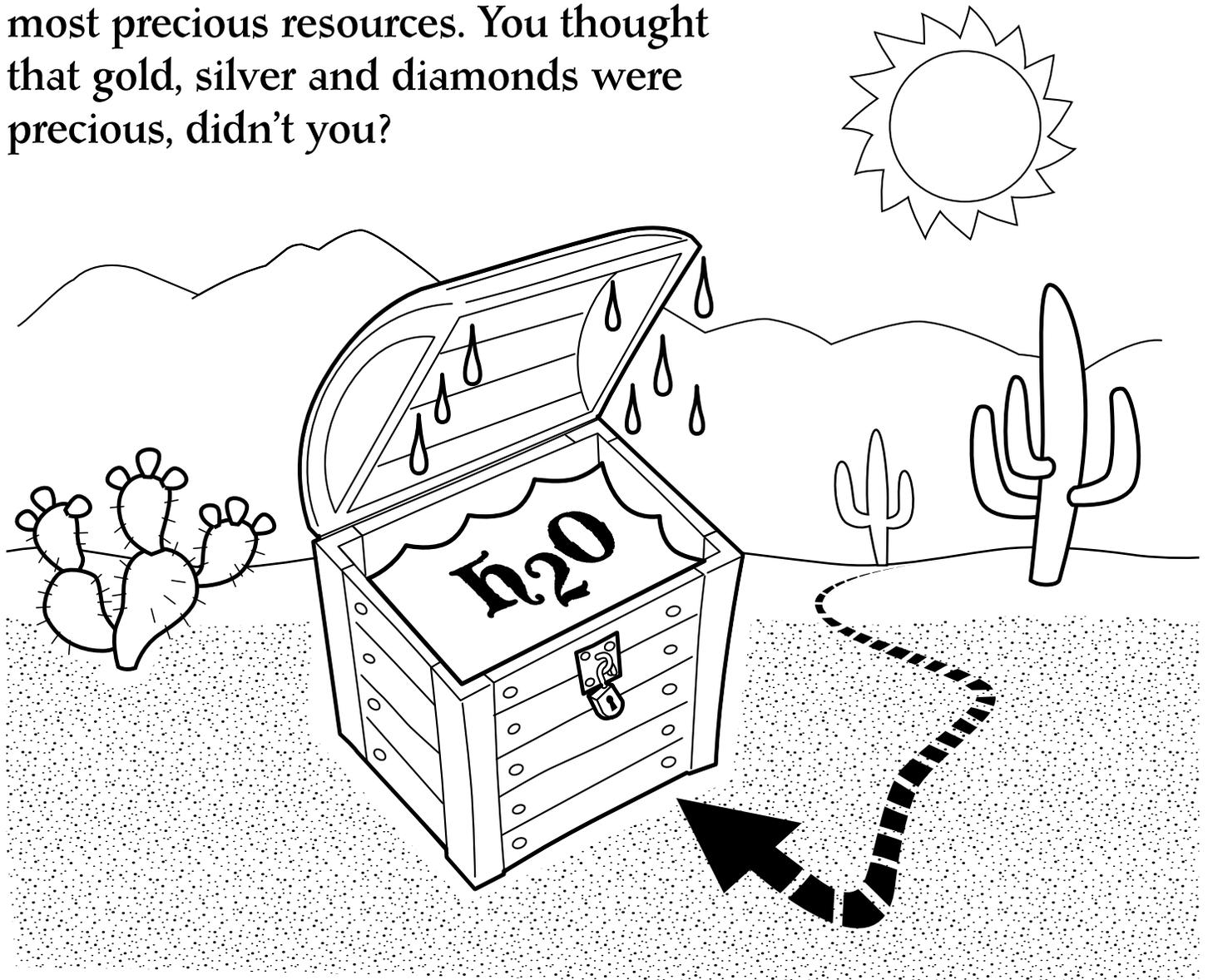
Drucilla loves droughts!

She will stay here until the drought ends. The problem is that no one ever knows when a drought is going to end. Some droughts in the Sonoran Desert have lasted for many decades. When there is a drought in Tucson and Drucilla is visiting, she likes to roll around in the dirt with the dust devils and tumbleweeds.

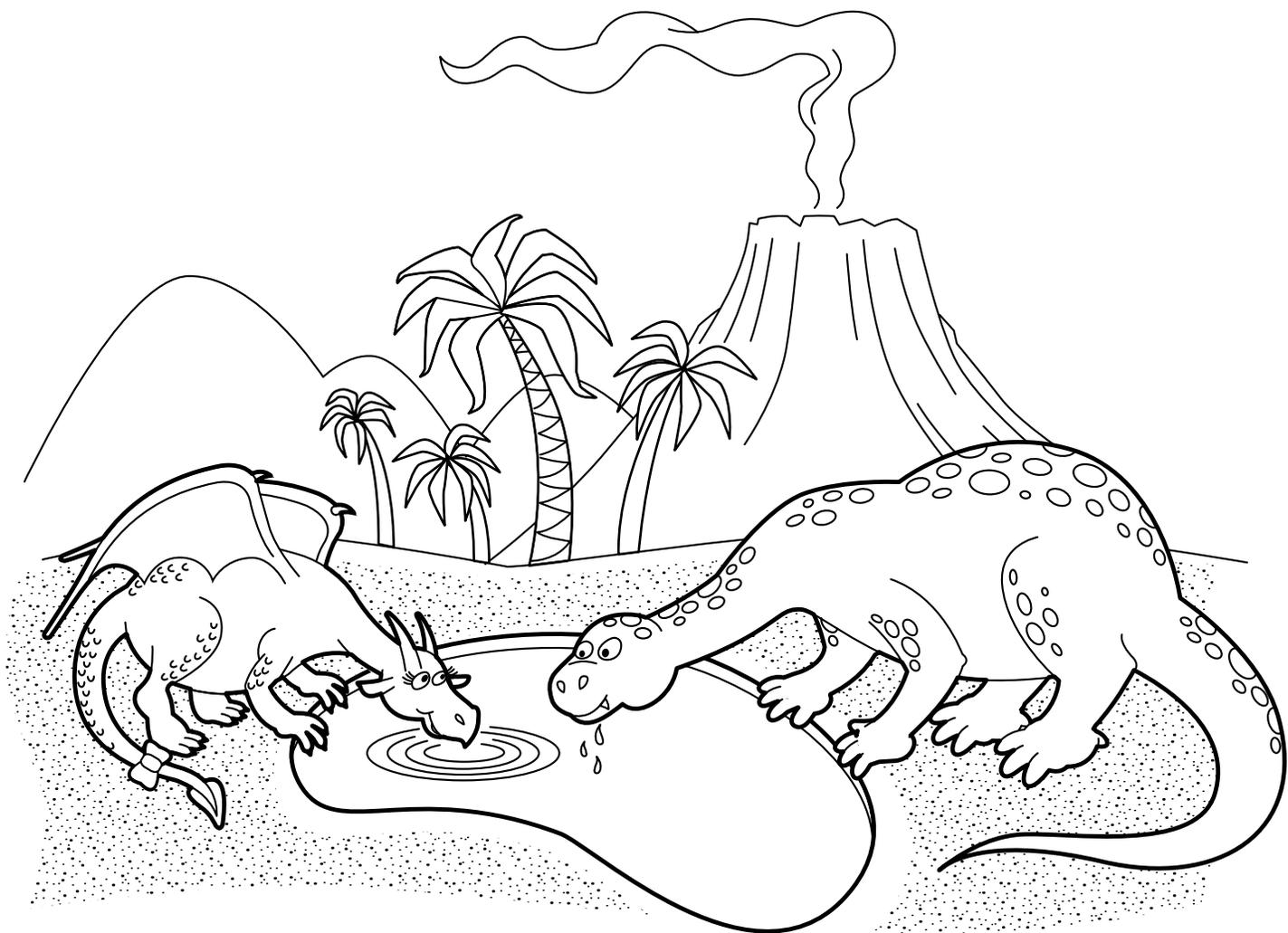
The drought we are in right now began in 1993, and we don't know when it will end!

When Drucilla is in town and we are in a drought, we need to be extra careful about how we use water and we need to save as much as we can.

In the desert, water is one of our most precious resources. You thought that gold, silver and diamonds were precious, didn't you?



We can live without those things, but without water, people, animals and plants can't live. We need water to drink, to take showers, to flush our toilets, water our plants and trees, to wash our clothes and to brush our teeth.



Why is water so precious?

It is precious because there is only a certain amount of it on earth.

Did you know that we use the same water over and over?

Did you know that we have the same amount of water today that we did when the dinosaurs were alive?

On Earth, water is recycled over and over through what is called the water cycle.

The water cycle is cool! This is how it works:

Water **evaporates**. Evaporation occurs when the sun heats up a river, lake or ocean and creates water vapor or steam that travels through the air.

Then the water vapor **condenses**. Condensation is when the water vapor gets cold and changes from a gas to a liquid and becomes part of a cloud.

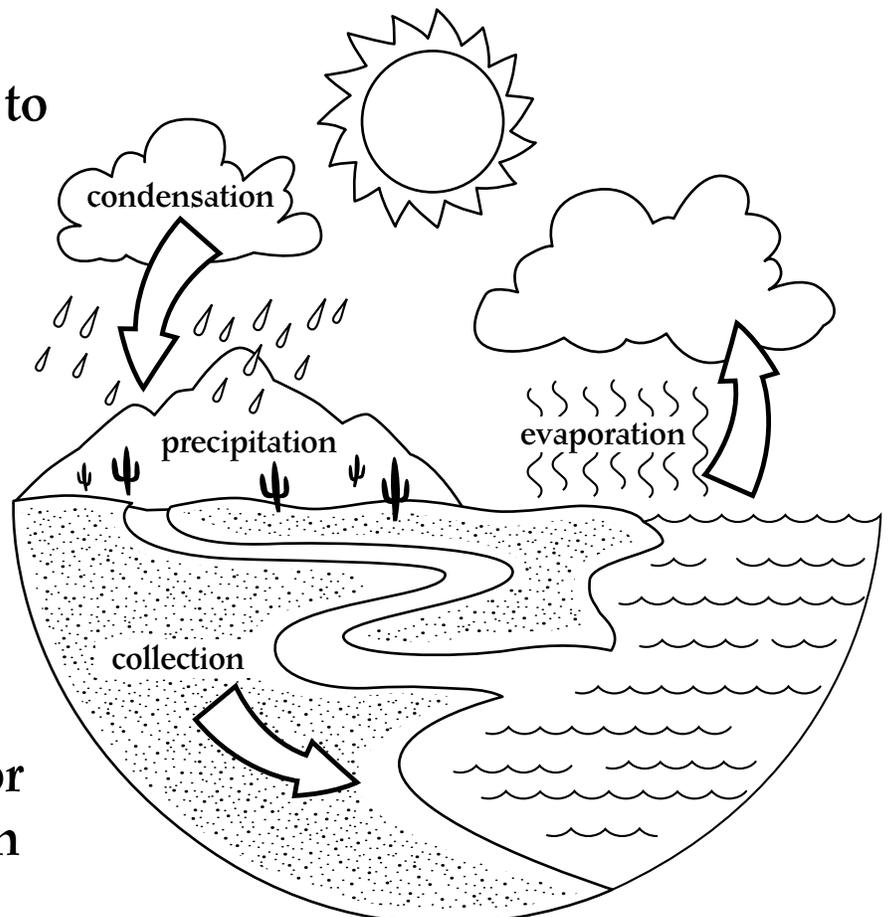
Water vapor gets heavy and falls down to Earth as **precipitation**. Precipitation is the same as rain, snow, sleet or hail.

Collection is when all that water that fell back to Earth once again joins rivers, lakes and oceans. Then, it soaks into the Earth again as ground water.

The Water Cycle

makes it very important to save water whenever possible! It's even more important during a drought, because when water evaporates it may not return to the same place that it evaporated from.

Instead, it sometimes returns to Earth as rain or snow somewhere else on the planet.



If the water cycle provides us with water and never ends, why must we worry about having enough water?

Some of the water we have used has become polluted and can no longer be used for drinking, bathing and growing food.

There are more people on earth today than ever before and all people need water to live.

So even though we have the same amount of water we had when the earth was new, humans have polluted some of that water and there are more humans that need to use water.



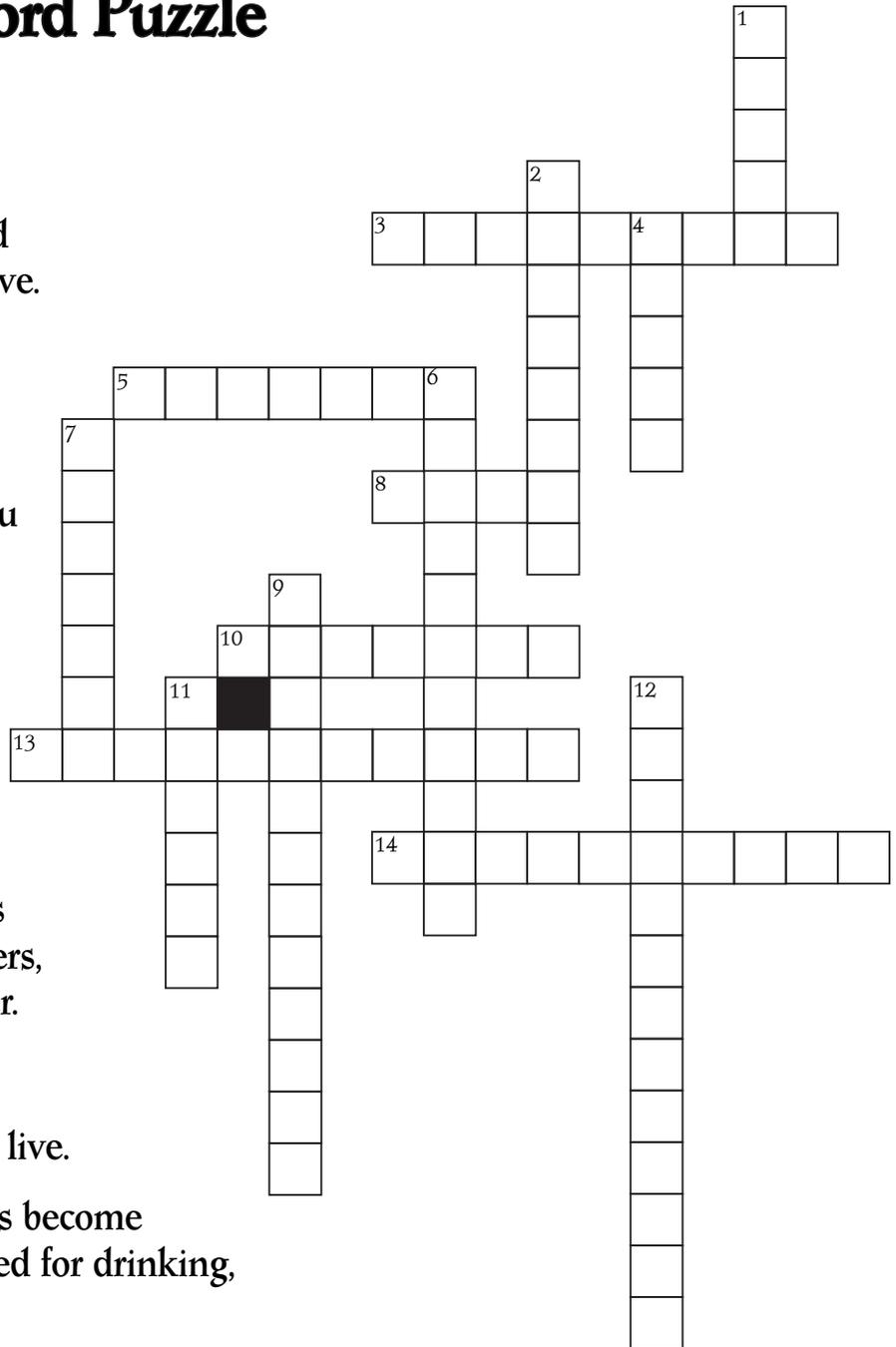
Water Facts Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

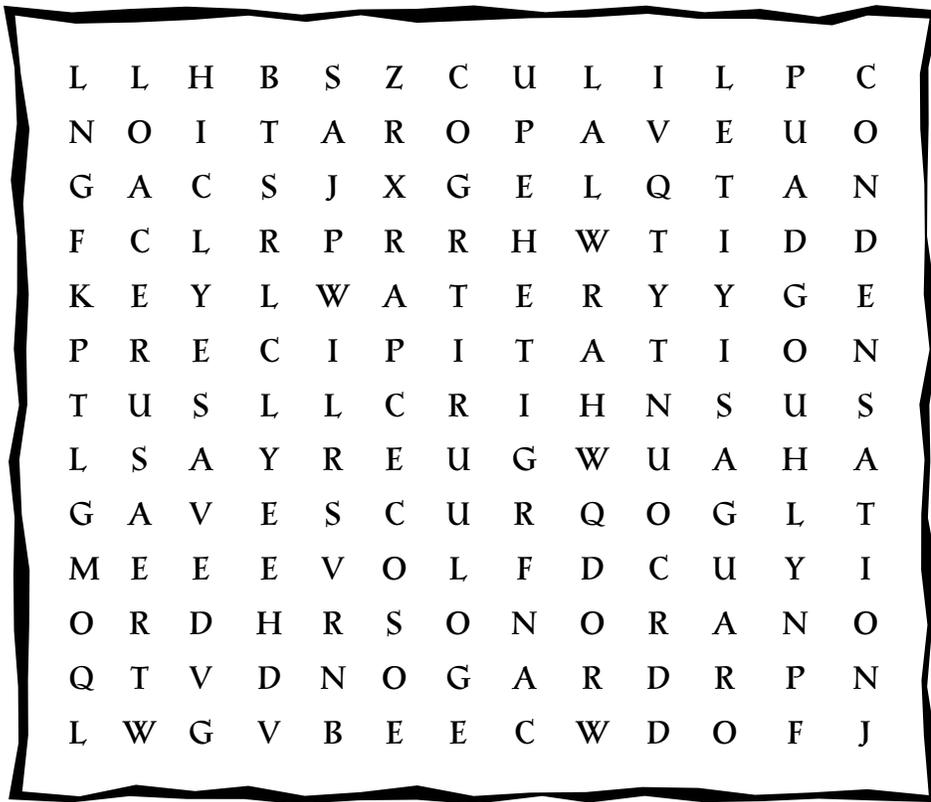
3. We have the same amount of water on Earth today as we did when the _____ were alive.
5. This type of water is found in lakes, rivers, and oceans.
8. You can _____ water by turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth.
10. The towns and cities of Pima County are located in the _____ Desert.
13. This is what we call water that is stored in the Earth.
14. This happens when water falls back to the earth and joins rivers, lakes, oceans, and groundwater.

DOWN

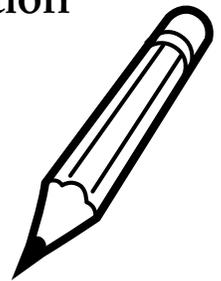
1. We all need _____ to live.
2. Some of the water on Earth has become _____ and cannot be used for drinking, bathing and growing food.
4. If you see a leaky faucet, ask an _____ to fix it.
6. This is what happens when the sun heats up a river, lake, or ocean and water turns into vapor or steam.
7. The place groundwater is stored is called the _____.
9. This is what happens when it gets cold and water vapor and steam turn into liquid and become part of a cloud.
11. _____ happens when precipitation runs along the soil and helps to fill up lakes and rivers.
12. Rain, snow, sleet and hail are all forms of _____.



Circle the 14 Watery Words Hidden in this Puzzle...



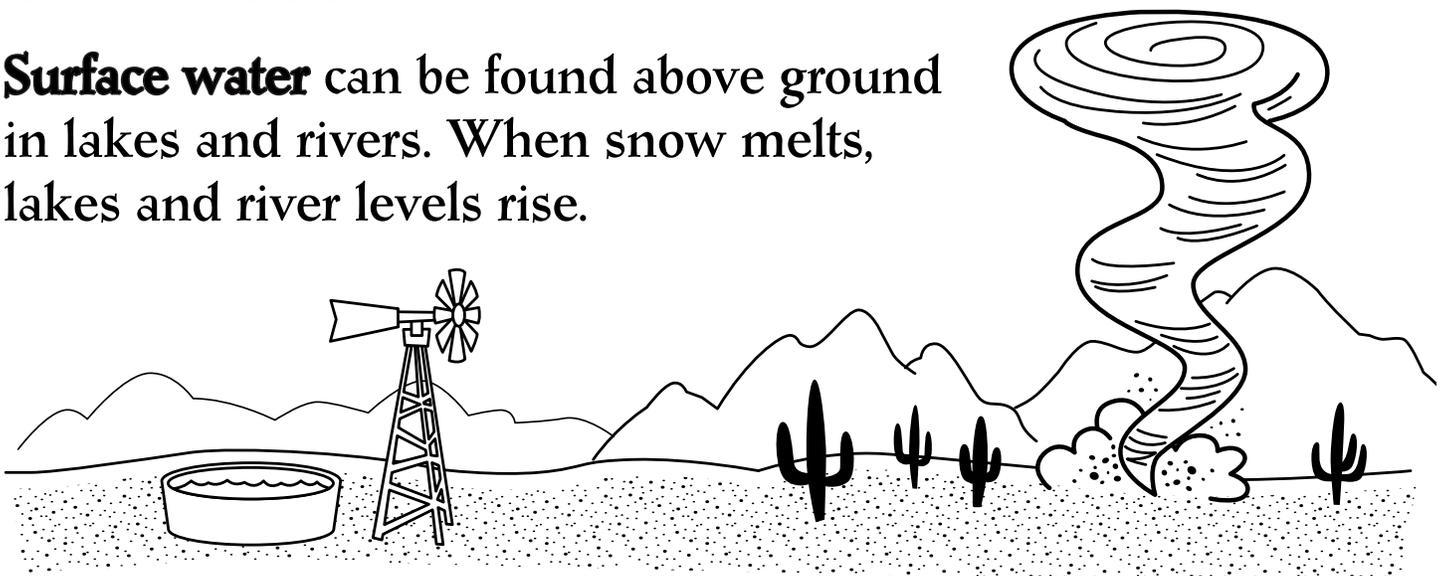
- Condensation
- County
- Cycle
- Desert
- Dragon
- Drought
- Drucilla
- Evaporation
- Precipitation
- Saguaro
- Save
- Sonoran
- Treasure
- Water



Two Places to Find Water:

Water comes from two sources: ground water and surface water. **Ground water** is stored underground in aquifers. Aquifers are layers of sand and gravel deep below the Earth's surface that hold a lot of water.

Surface water can be found above ground in lakes and rivers. When snow melts, lakes and river levels rise.



Don't forget!

We have the same amount of water we always had on the Earth, but sometimes the water goes to other places. One part of the earth can be in a drought while another place can be in a flood.

We all know that Drucilla the Drought Dragon is visiting Tucson and Pima County right now, and no one knows when she is going to leave! So let's be extra careful about how much water we use.

Here are some things you can do

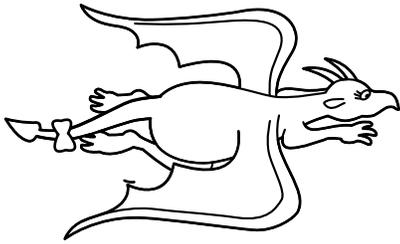
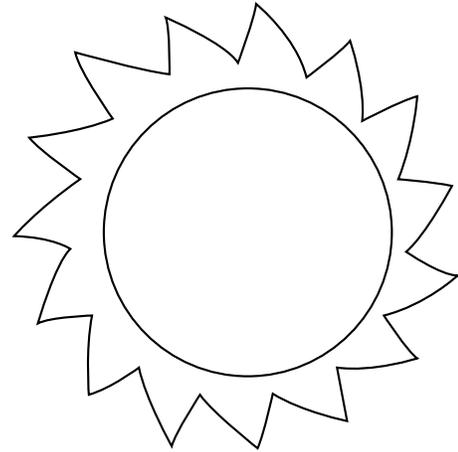
to become a Very Important Person (V.I.P.) in your own community. This is what a V.I.P. does to help save water:

Turn off the water when you brush your teeth and take shorter showers.



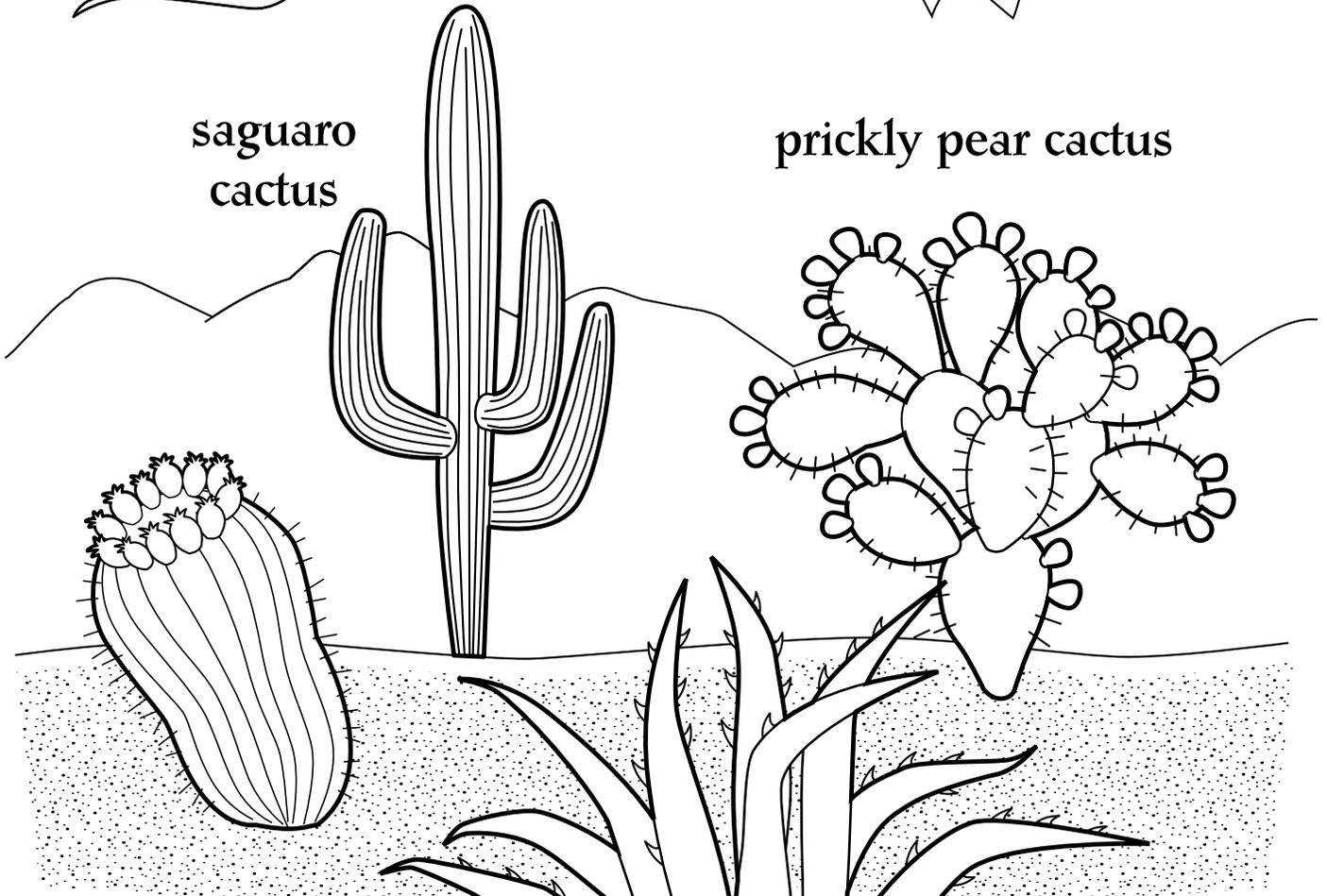
Plant desert plants that don't need a lot of water to grow.

Don't overwater your plants.



saguaro cactus

prickly pear cactus



giant barrel cactus

blue agave

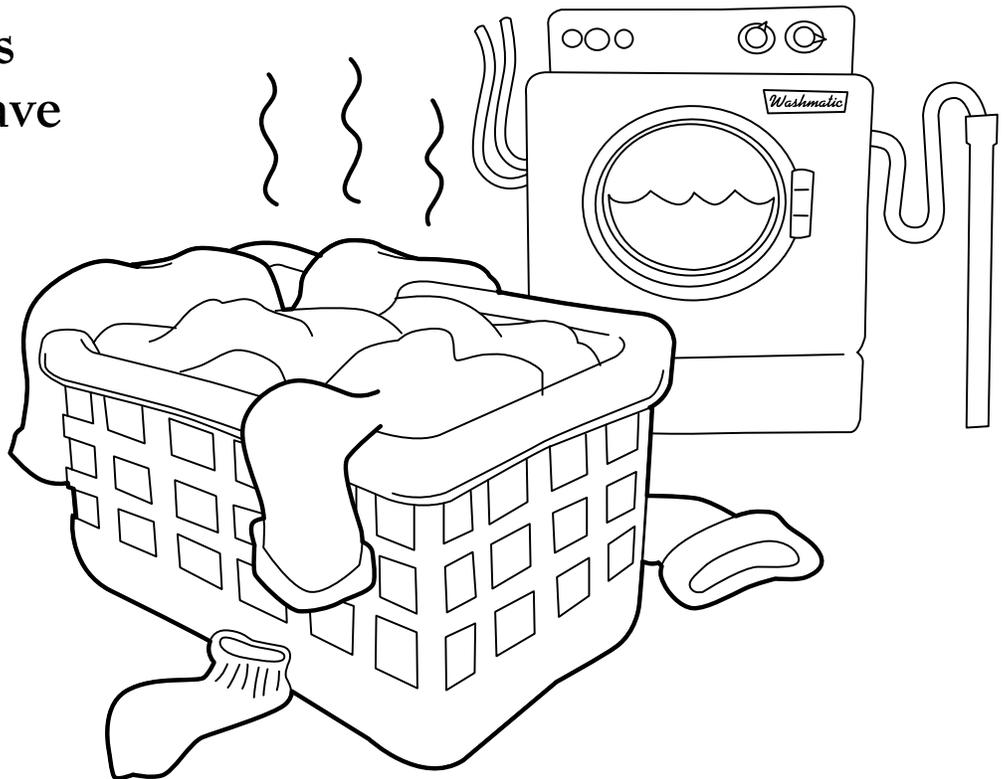


Ask an adult to fix leaky faucets.

Only use the dishwasher when it's full.

Ask an adult to install a low flow showerhead.

Wash your clothes
only when you have
a full load.



Be a V.I.P. and help save our water!



PIMA COUNTY

WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

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