

Kansas Historical Society

# Kansas State Symbols

Coloring book

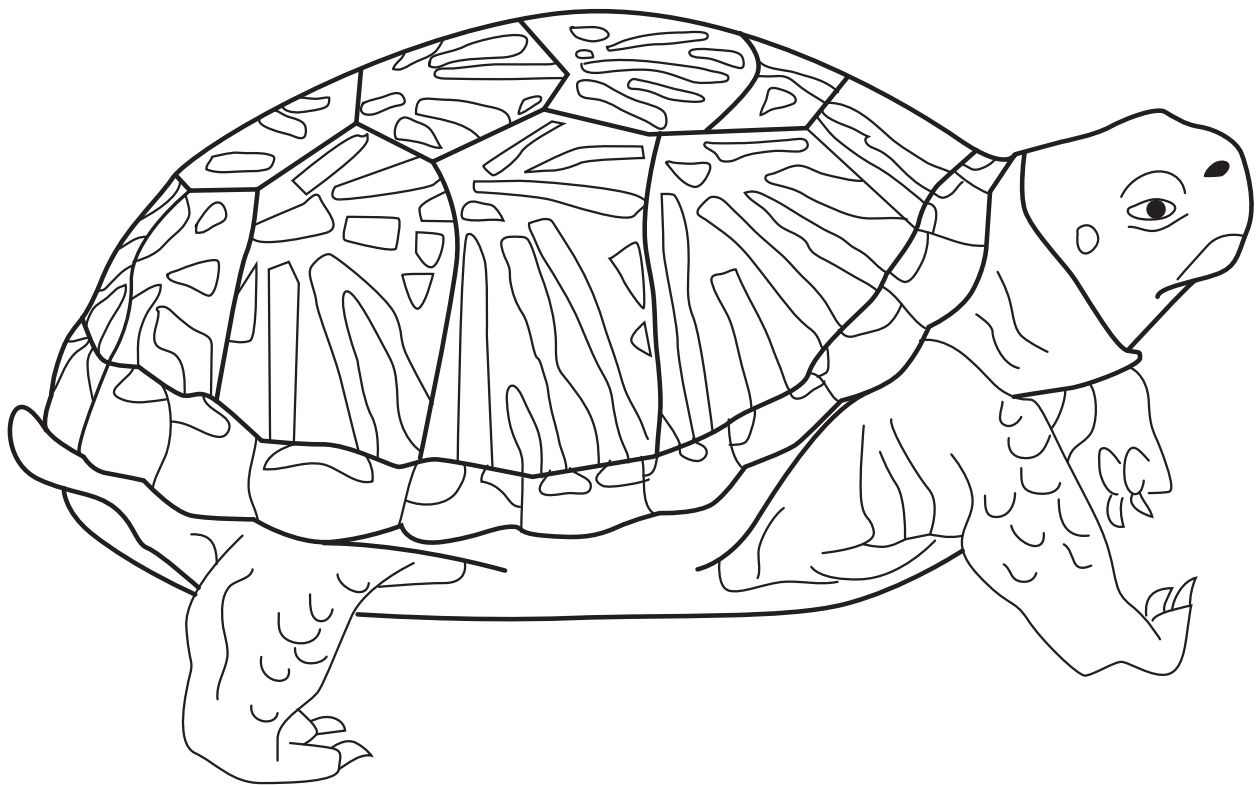


# American Buffalo



The American buffalo was recognized as the animal symbol of Kansas in 1955. A male bison can weigh over 1800 pounds!

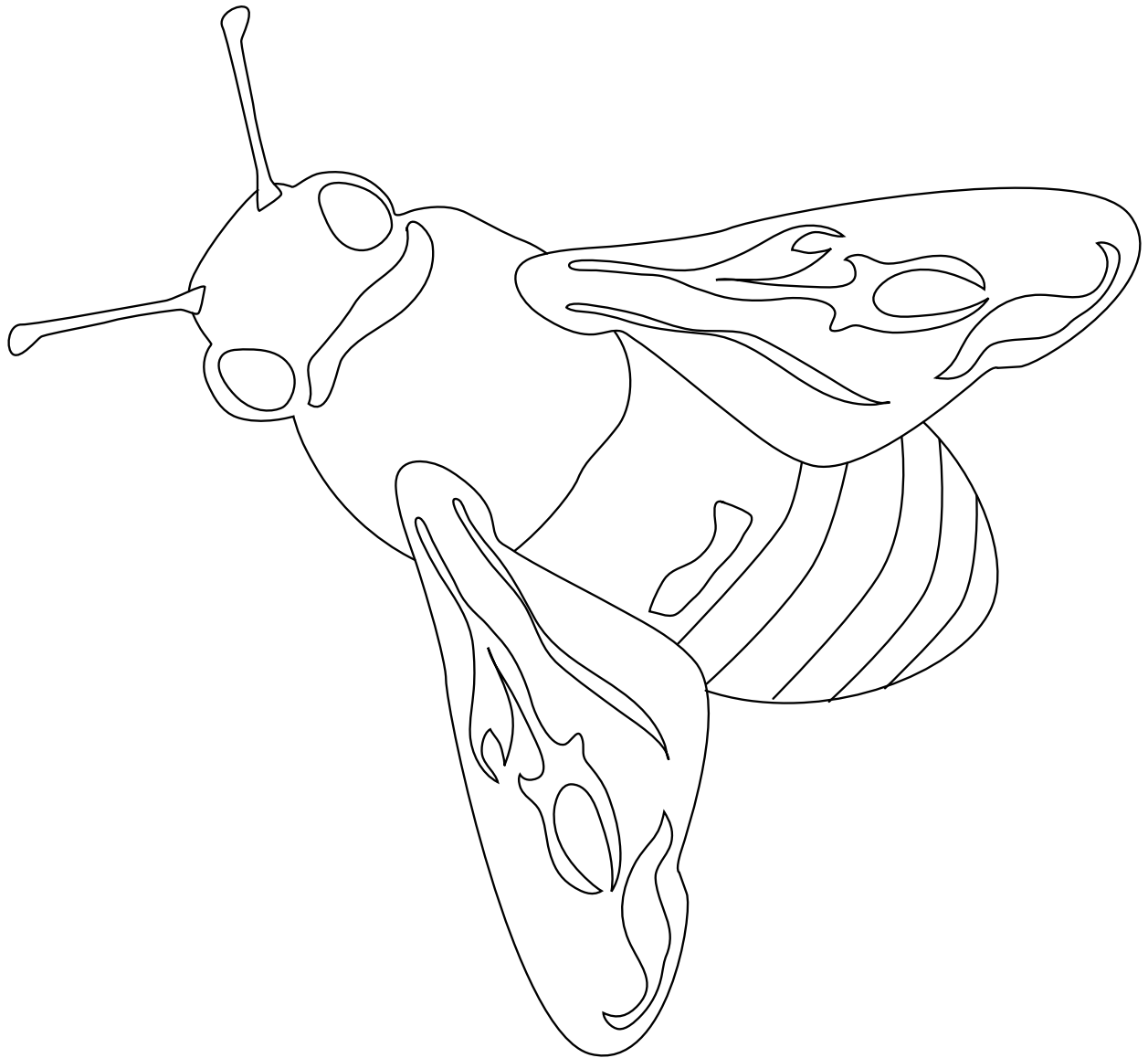
# Ornate Box Turtle



The ornate box turtle became the official state reptile in 1986.

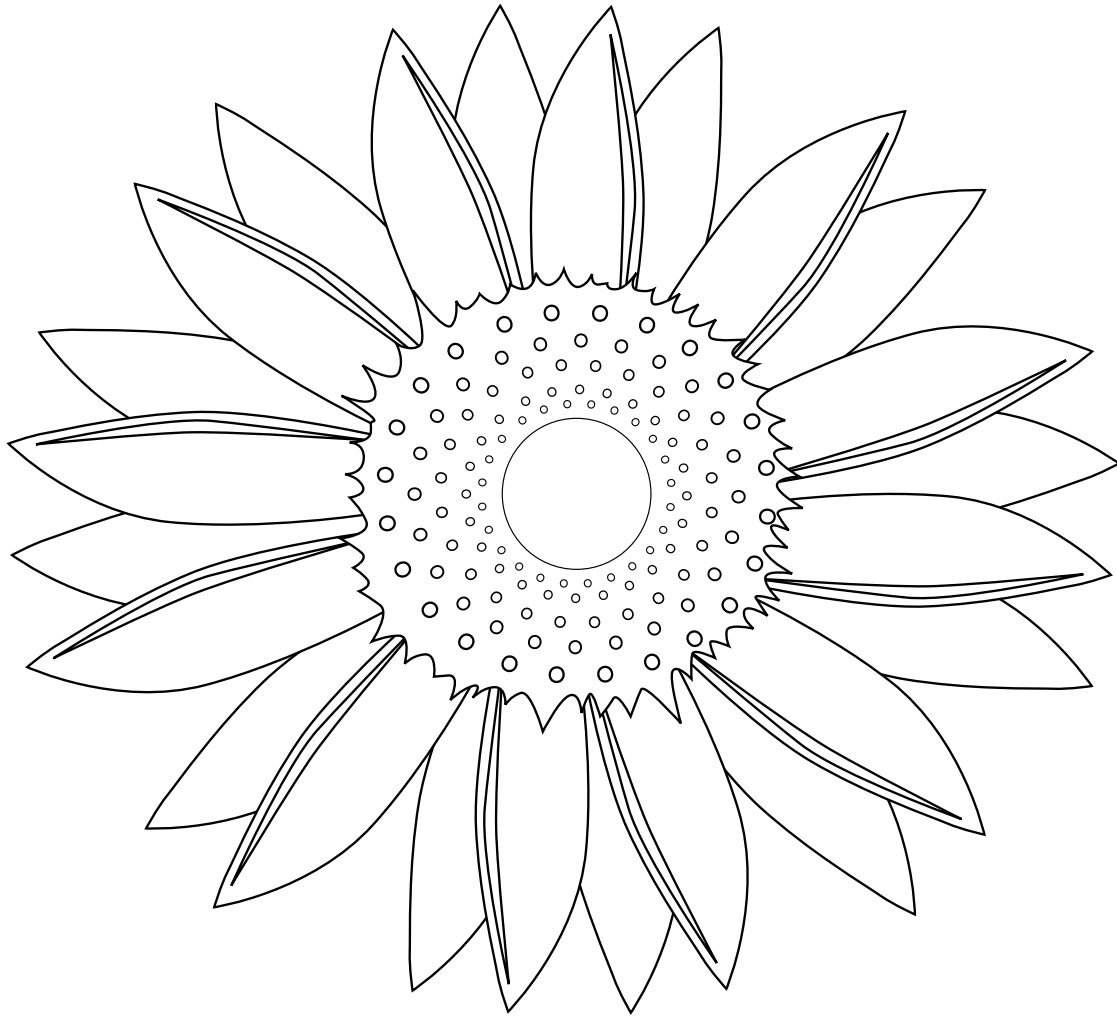
The box turtle prefers prairies and pastures.

# Honeybee



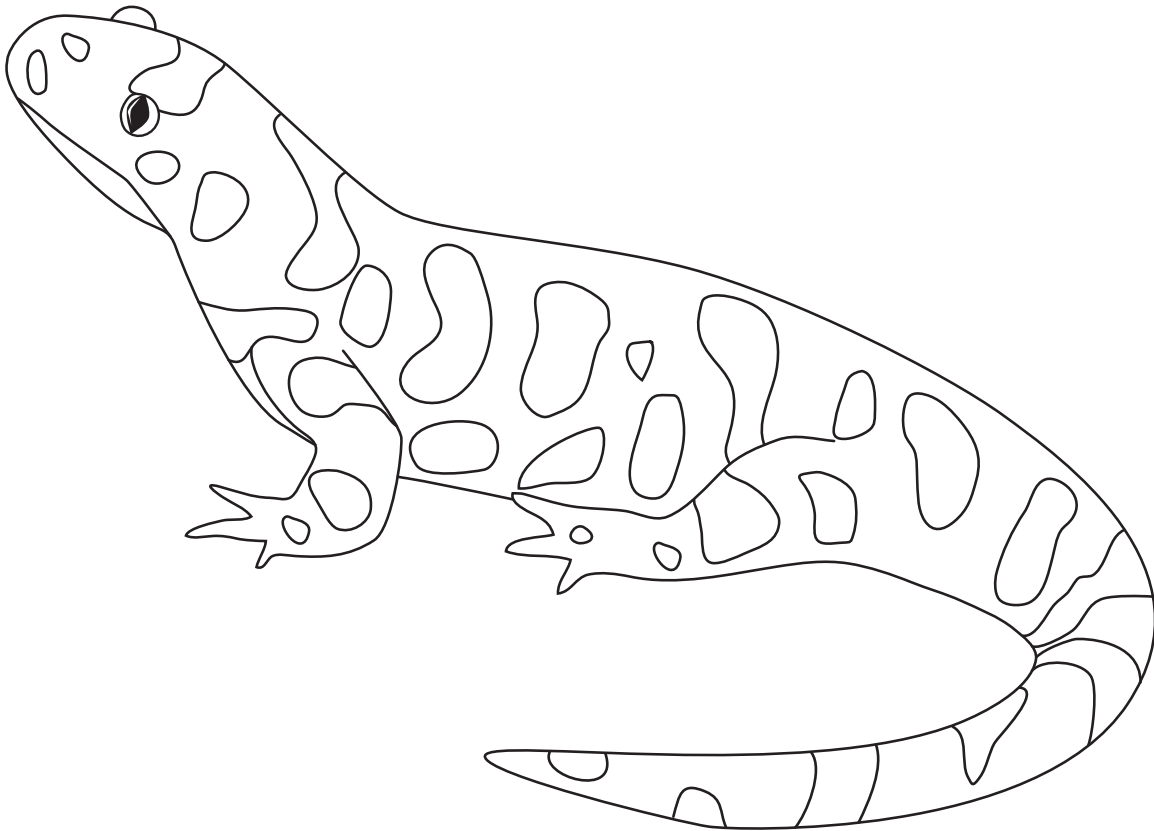
The honeybee became the official state insect in 1976.  
Honeybees play an important role in agriculture.

# Wild Native Sunflower



The sunflower became the official state flower in 1903. It is on the Kansas state quarter, state flag, and the nickname for Kansas is "The Sunflower State."

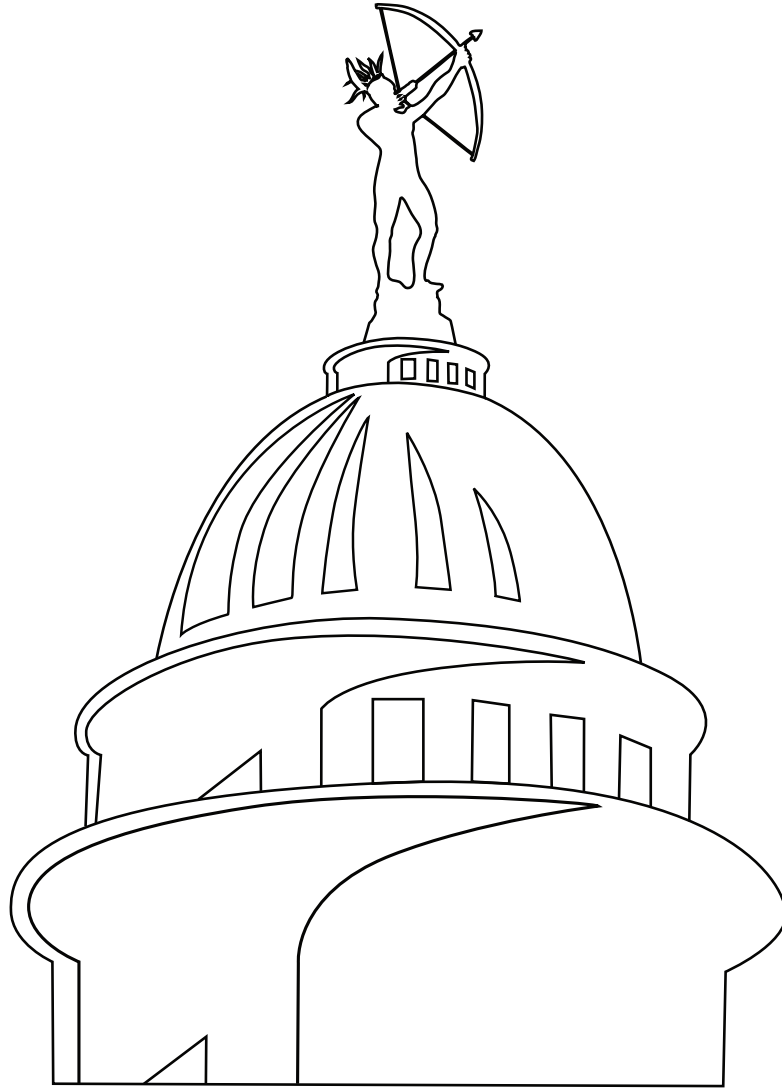
# Barred Tiger Salamander



The barred tiger salamander became the official state amphibian in 1994. It can grow to be 14 inches long.

# Ad Astra Per Aspera

"To the stars through difficulties"



The state motto of Kansas is *Ad astra per aspera* (To the stars through difficulties). The state motto can be seen on the Kansas state flag and state seal.

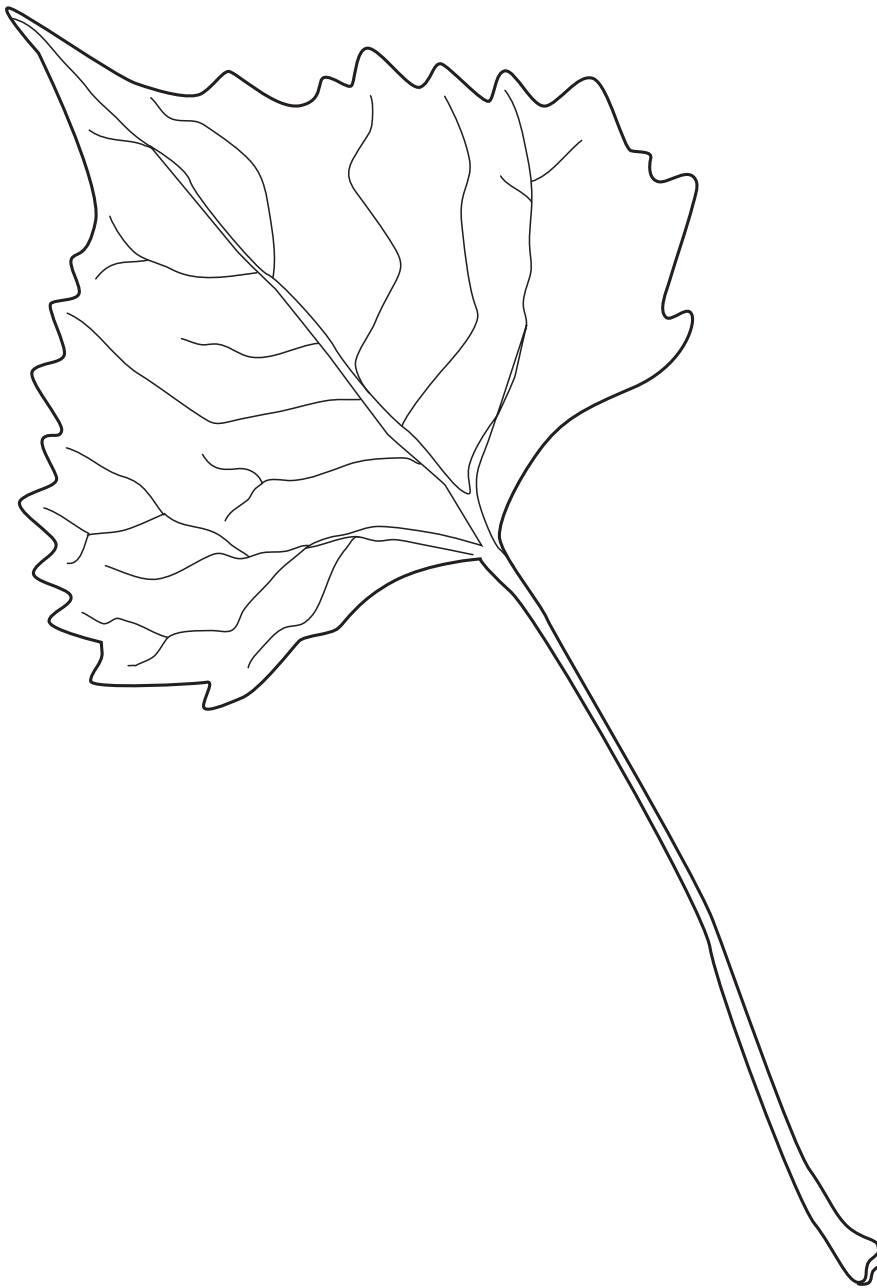
# Western Meadowlark



In 1937 the western meadowlark became the official state bird. The western meadowlark is a familiar songbird often seen perched on fence-posts in grasslands.



# Cottonwood



The cottonwood became the official state tree in 1937.  
The cottonwood have triangular to diamond-shaped leaves.

# Little Bluestem



Because of the efforts of school children from across the state, Little Bluestem became the official grass of Kansas in 2010. This native grass can be found in every county in Kansas.

It grows from two to five feet tall.



# Harney Silt Loam



Kansas even has a state soil. Harney silt loam became the state soil in 1990. This prairie soil covers almost four million acres in west central Kansas and is ideal for growing wheat and prairie grass.

# State Seal



The symbols on the official state seal were named by the first Kansas legislature in 1861.