

*An Agricultural
Adventure with
Lewis and Clark*

The Mission



Meriwether Lewis



William Clark

In 1803, Thomas J _____,
the third President of the United States,
purchased the L _____
T _____ for future settlement. He
wanted to give people the opportunity to own land.

Jefferson hired the C _____ D _____ to see if the new land
would be fit for farming. The group's mission: To report whether the area was a
g _____ or a d _____.

M _____ L _____, Jefferson's secretary, lead the expedition
through this region. Lewis asked a friend from the army, W _____ C _____,
to help him lead the Corps of Discovery.

Lewis and Clark sent s _____, m _____, p _____ and other
items back to the President to be evaluated. The reports proved that the land was
both a desert and a potential garden. The Louisiana Territory offered vast amounts of
land, with much of it being f _____ and perfect for growing w _____,
c _____ and c _____.

The s _____ journey lasted for nearly two and a half years –
starting in May 1804 and ending in September 1806. It was one very long
c _____ trip!

Word Bank

desert	Corps of Discovery	Jefferson	cotton
successful	plants	wheat	garden
Louisiana Territory	camping	Meriwether Lewis	soils
corn	fertile	minerals	William Clark

An Abundance of Wildlife Grazed the Land

The Lewis and Clark expedition was to report not only on the Louisiana Territory's soil and its capability to grow crops, but also the kinds of animals that roamed the land.

The expedition found the land to be abundant with wildlife. On July 9, 1806, Lewis and Clark reported to have seen 10,000 buffalo in a two-mile circle.

This multitude of wildlife was a supermarket, which was invaluable to the expedition. The group averaged about nine pounds of meat per day per person.

The following list of game was killed by the expedition:

Deer - 1,001

Elk - 375

Buffalo - 227

Dogs - 190

Beaver - 113

Geese - 104

Antelope - 62

Plovers - 48

Grouse - 46

Ducks - 45

Grizzly Bears - 43

Bighorn Sheep - 35

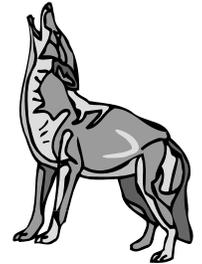
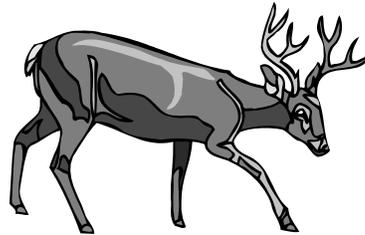
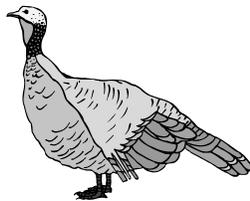
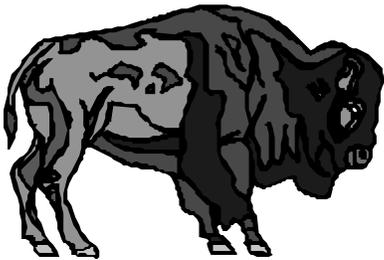
Black Bears - 23

Wolves - 18

Otter - 16

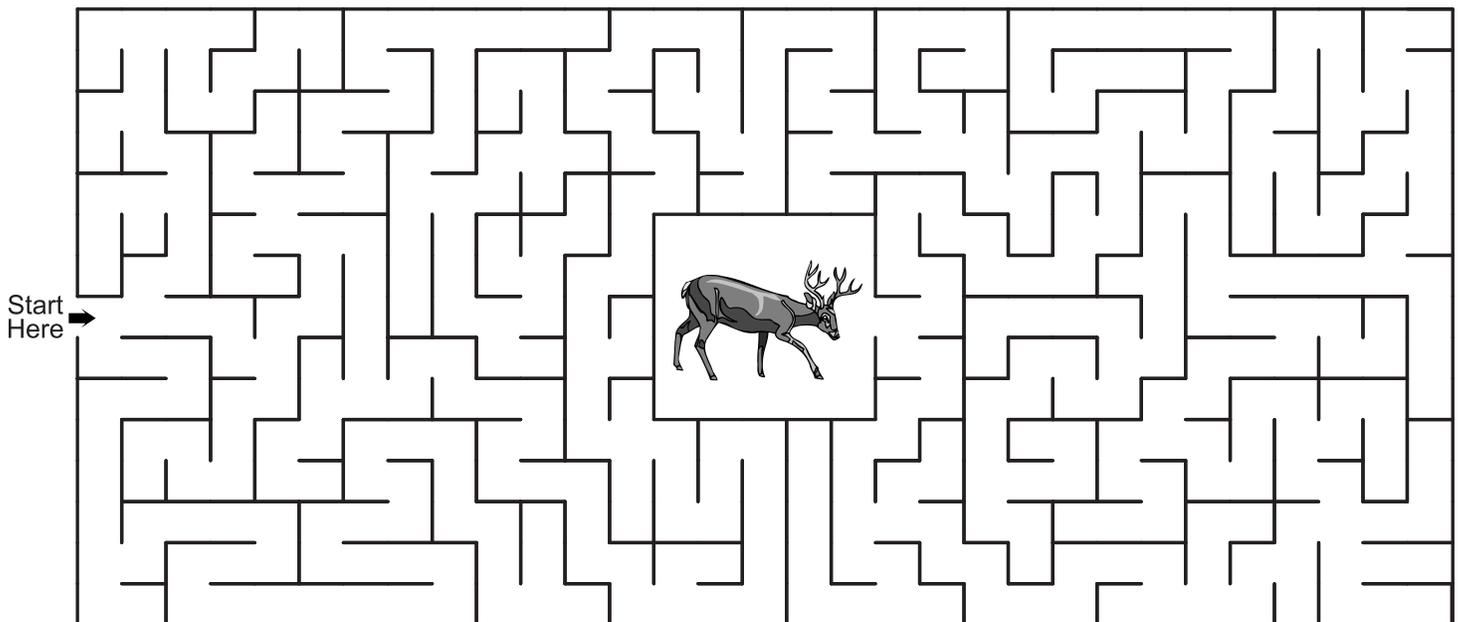
Horses - 12

Turkeys - 9



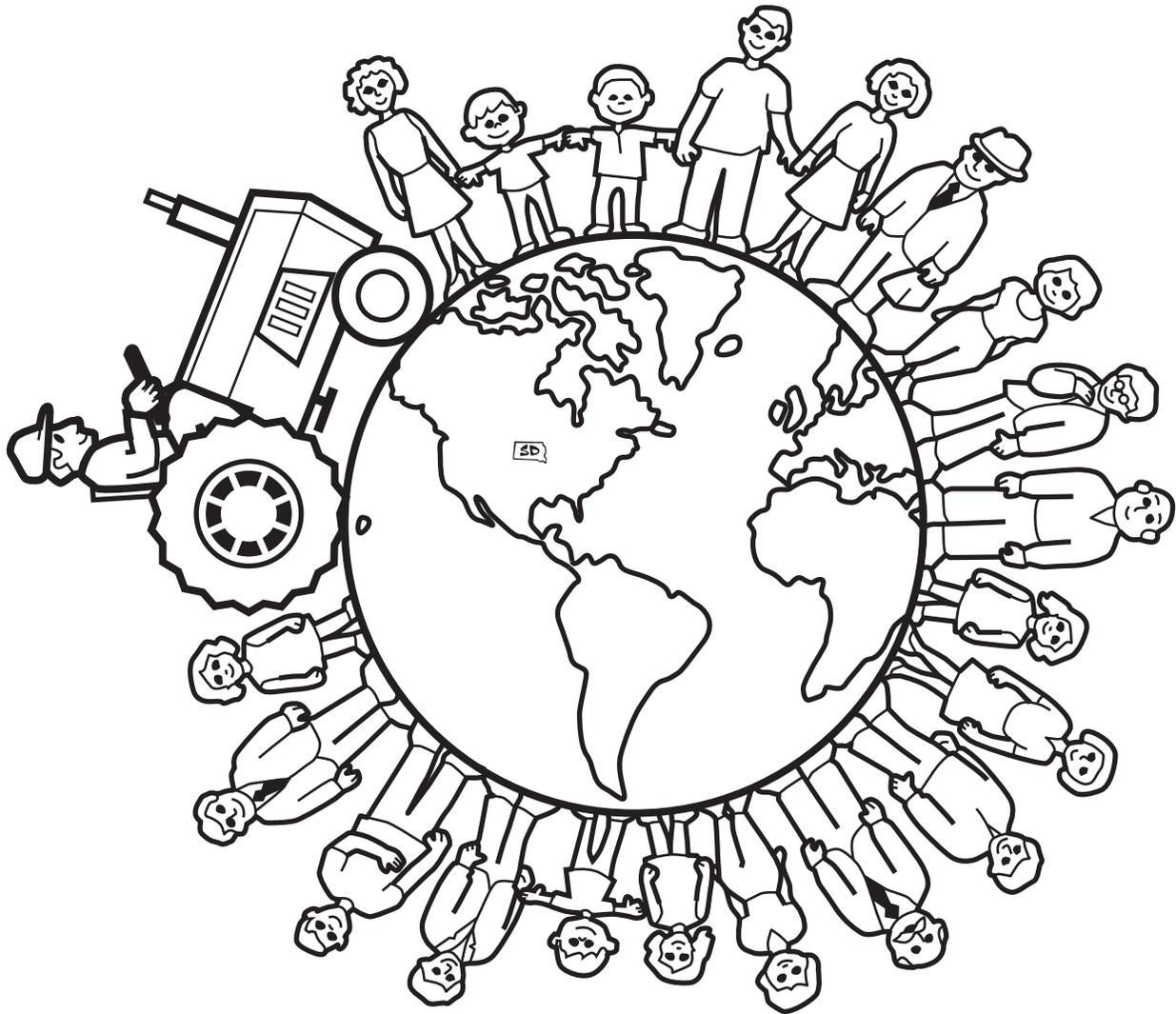
Guiding the Expedition

The Lewis and Clark expedition is hungry. Can you guide the group to find food to eat?



Source: www.mazecreator.com

Taking Care of the Earth and Taking Care of Us



Farmers and ranchers are “hands-on” caretakers of the earth. They work on the land to provide the food we eat and the clothes we wear from the soil and water. They hold the land – the key to life – in their hands every day.

In addition to growing crops and raising livestock to feed and clothe us, farmers and ranchers do a whole lot more. They also care for all the things that the earth naturally produces, such as forests, minerals, soil and water.

The United States is the world’s largest agricultural exporter and the world’s largest donor of foreign food aid. One-fourth of the

world’s beef and nearly one-fifth of the world’s grain, milk and eggs are produced in the United States.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees work hand-in-hand with farmers and ranchers to conserve natural resources on private lands. NRCS is an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

NRCS helps land users understand how natural resources relate to each other and to all Americans, and how our activities affect the Earth’s resources.

The Earth's Foundation

Would you like to learn something important? Complete each blank by matching the number to the letter to figure out the message below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

19 15 9 12 9 19 20 8 5 6 15 21 14 4 1 20 9 15 14

15 6 1 12 12 12 9 6 5 15 14 5 1 18 20 8

Everything – the food we eat, the shelter we live in, the clothes we wear and the oxygen we breathe – is connected, directly or indirectly, to soil.

While much of the landscape has changed and we are becoming more of an urban nation, none of us have lost our dependence on the land around us. Agricultural production on privately owned land continues to be as important as it was in 1803 when Lewis and Clark launched their remarkable expedition.

Today, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment. NRCS also provides information on climatology, water management, watershed planning and flood control.

What our land has to offer and how we manage it remains crucial to our economic and environmental well-being, even if we never set foot on a farm or ranch.

A Glance at South Dakota's Agriculture

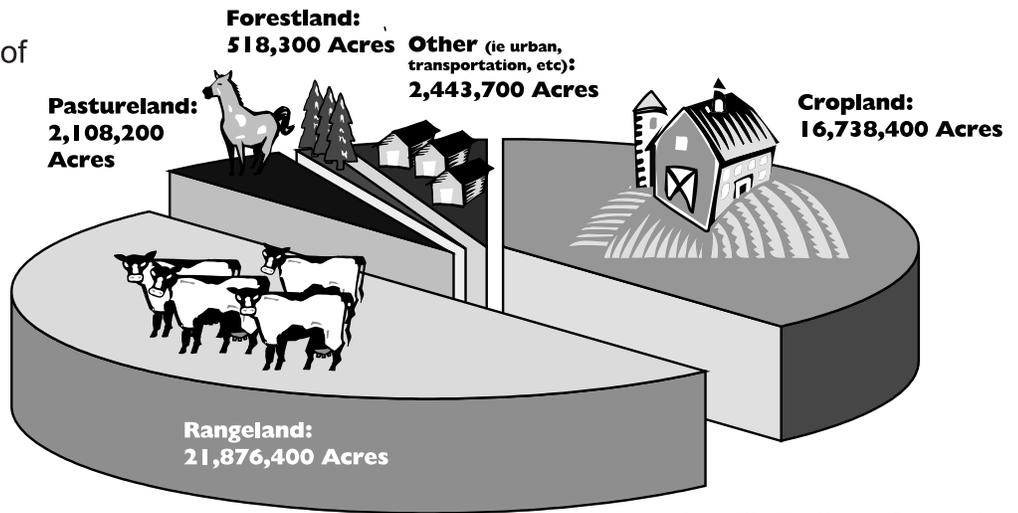
Agriculture is South Dakota's leading industry and generates nearly \$17 billion for the state. Livestock is the state's biggest product. There are nearly 4 million cattle in the state, which averages to about five animals per person. If you lined them up from head to tail, they would stretch across the United States almost two times.

Crops are another big part of South Dakota's agriculture. Farmers grow crops from the seeds they plant. Some crops are produced for animal feed while others are for humans to eat. One farmer in our state grows enough food to feed 140 people. South Dakota's land and climate are good for growing many different

crops, such as corn, soybeans, wheat, sunflowers, sorghum, oats and barley.

Agriculture is around us all year long and is in in every county of our state.

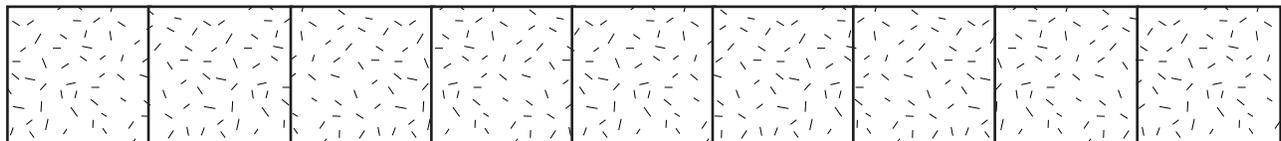
USE OF PRIVATELY-OWNED LAND IN SOUTH DAKOTA



Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
South Dakota, 1997 National Resources Inventory

Reveal the Message

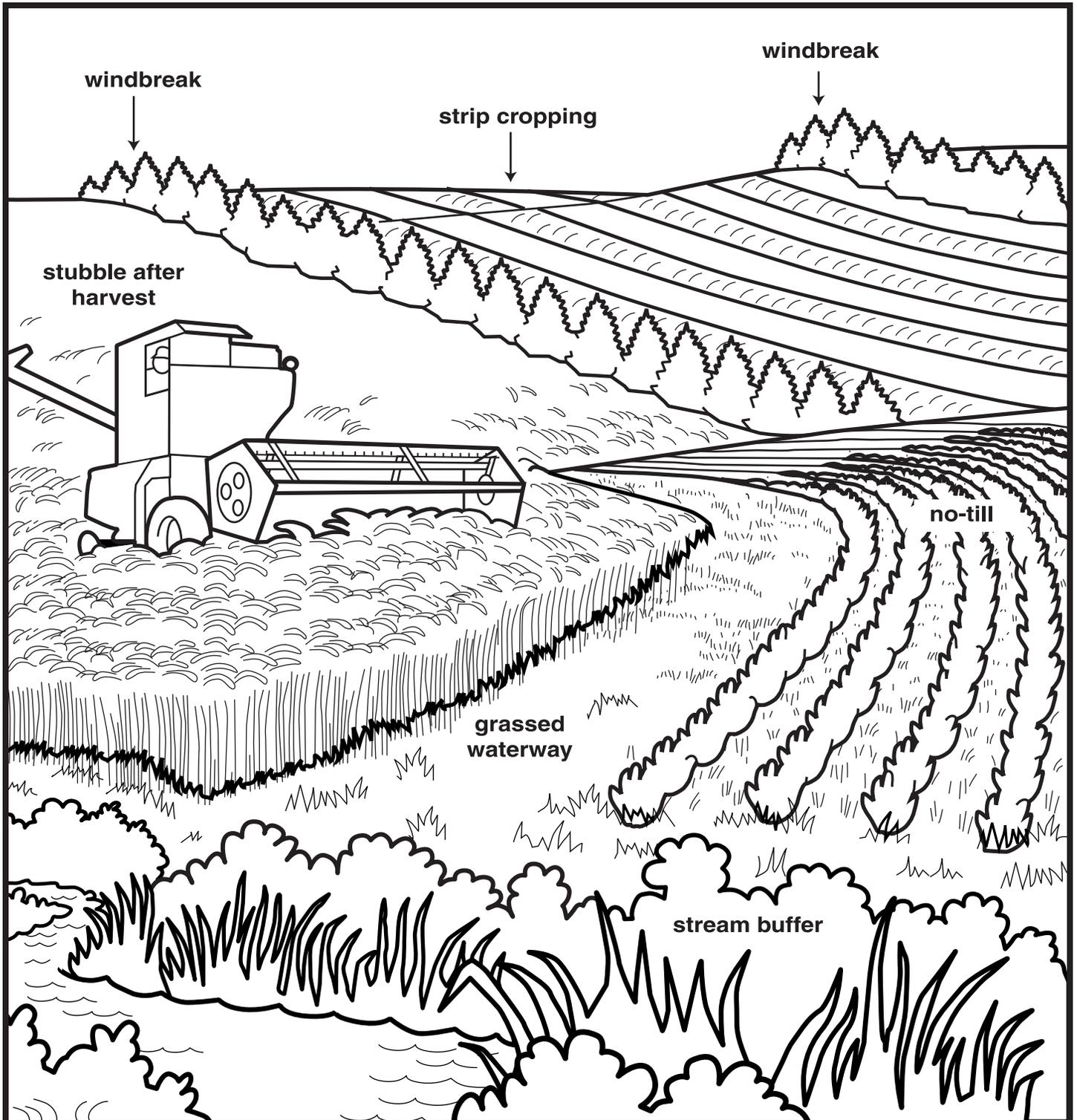
Rearrange the tiles below and write the letters of each tile in the blank tiles to reveal a message.



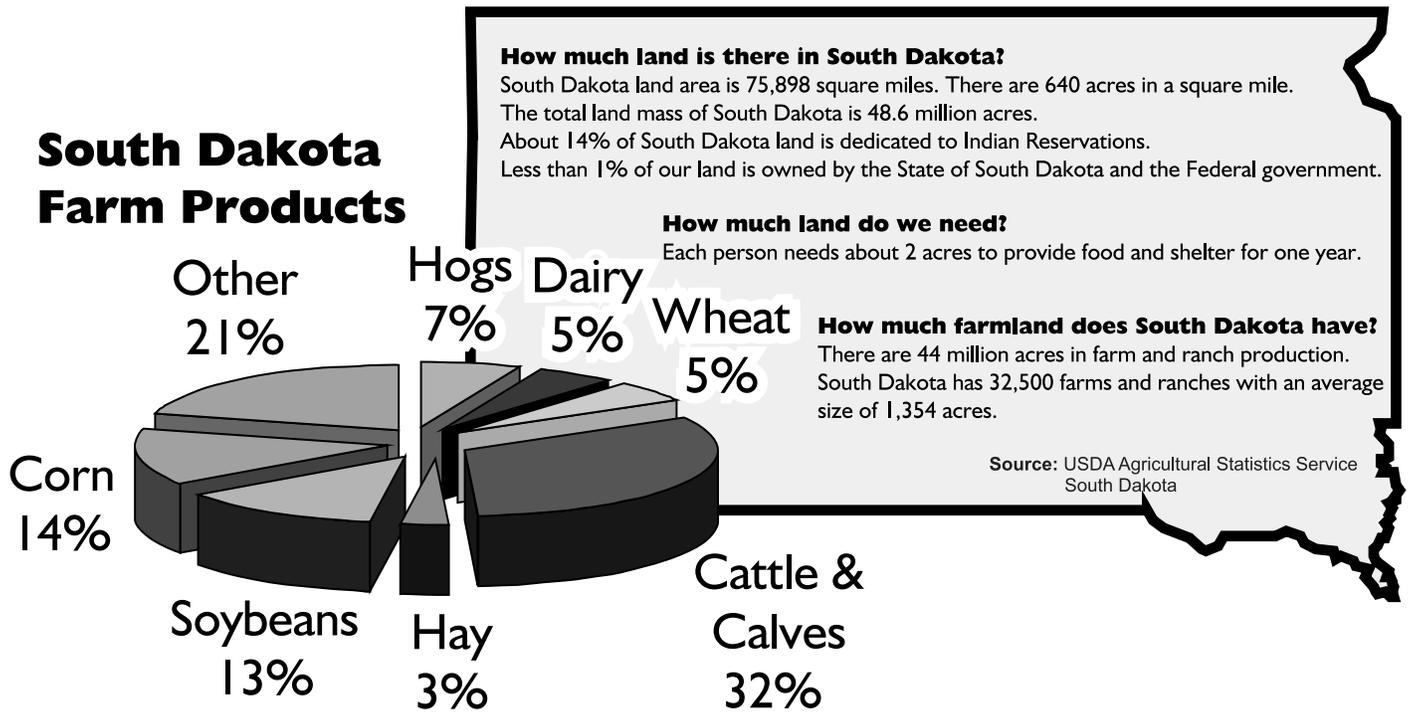
Growing Crops and Conserving Soil and Water

South Dakota's farmers and ranchers are some of the most important people on Earth. With their hands, they help conserve the Earth's soil by planting crops that put nutrients back into the soil to keep it healthy. They also use "techniques"

such as no-till farming that help prevent soil erosion. Since 1995, South Dakota's farmers and ranchers have cut soil erosion nearly in half by the different conservation measures they practice on their land.



South Dakota Farm Products



How much land is there in South Dakota?
 South Dakota land area is 75,898 square miles. There are 640 acres in a square mile. The total land mass of South Dakota is 48.6 million acres. About 14% of South Dakota land is dedicated to Indian Reservations. Less than 1% of our land is owned by the State of South Dakota and the Federal government.

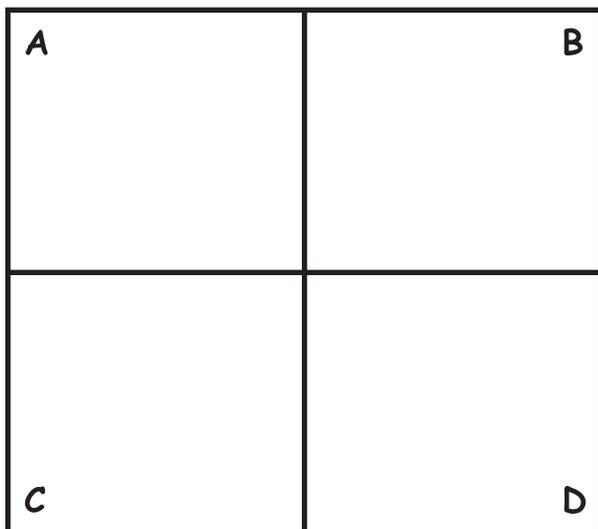
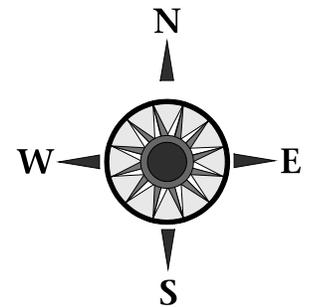
How much land do we need?
 Each person needs about 2 acres to provide food and shelter for one year.

How much farmland does South Dakota have?
 There are 44 million acres in farm and ranch production. South Dakota has 32,500 farms and ranches with an average size of 1,354 acres.

Source: USDA Agricultural Statistics Service
 South Dakota

Map the Right Spot

Farmer Bob is getting ready to plant his spring crops. Here is a map of his farm. He wants to plant corn, soybeans, wheat and sorghum. Farmer Bob needs help in deciding which crop to plant where. The following information will help you select the best location for each crop.

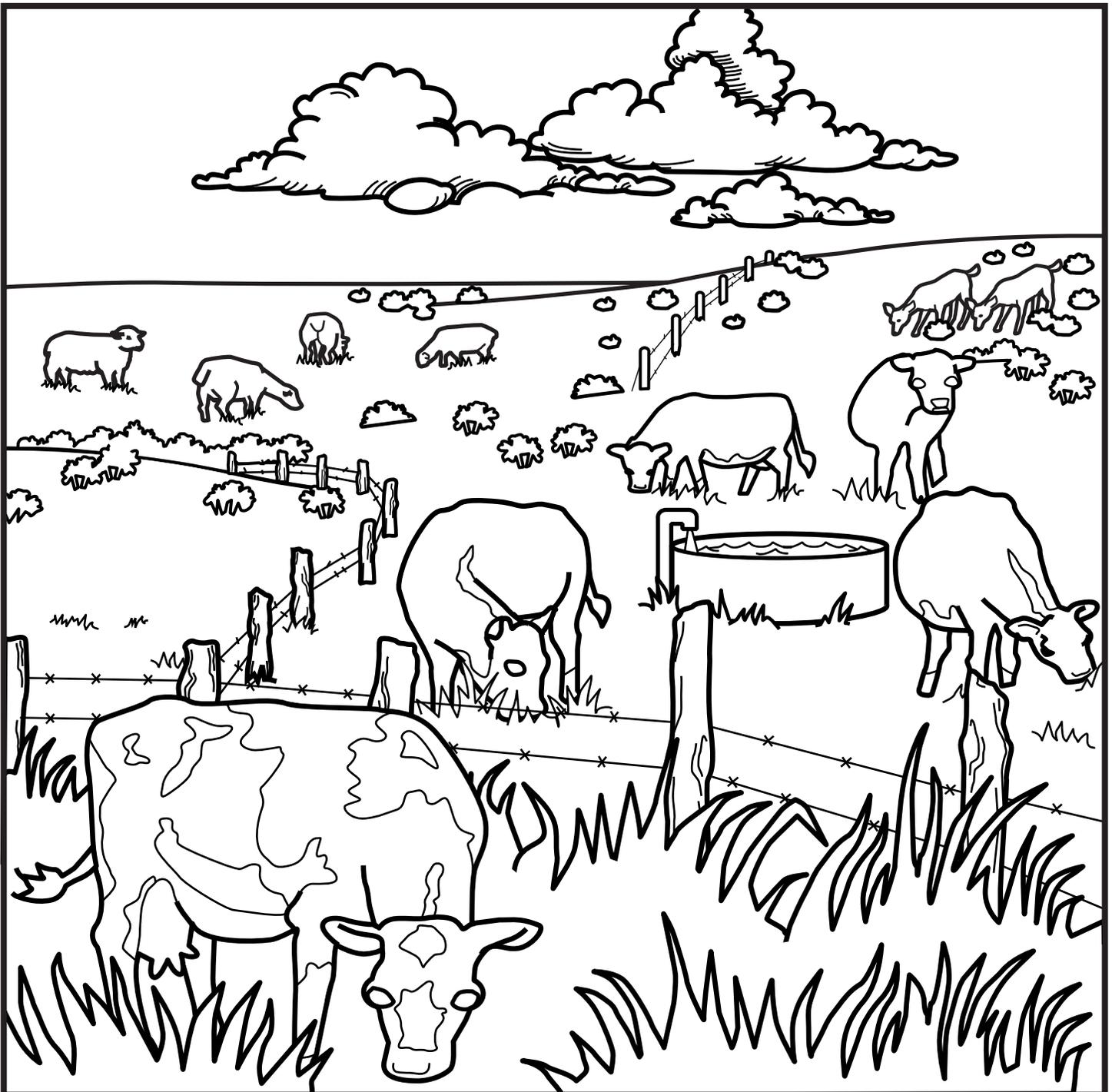


- Farmer Bob wants to plant the sorghum directly north of the corn.
- Farmer Bob does not want to plant the wheat on the east side of his farm because it will then border his neighbor's wheat.
- Farmer Bob wants the soybeans beside the corn.

Raising Livestock and Conserving Plants, Water and Soil

South Dakota's grazing lands provide scenic beauty, homes for wildlife, open space, clean water, food for livestock and a way of life for many South Dakotans. The health of South Dakota's grazing lands lies in the hands of farmers and ranchers. It is their job to manage and conserve the soil and plants that provide

food for the animals. Today's farmers and ranchers dig wells and build dams and ponds to provide drinking water for many kinds of livestock such as beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and horses. These same drinking sources also make it possible for wildlife to drink water and graze everywhere.



Livestock Fun Facts

Did you know these facts about South Dakota's animals?

- ✓ More than 50 percent of South Dakota's land area is grassland, which supports more than 3.5 million head of cattle and 600,000 head of sheep.
- ✓ A cow will eat about 25-30 pounds of grass in a day.
- ✓ A cow doesn't bite the grass she eats; instead she curls her tongue around it and pulls to break it off.
- ✓ South Dakota is the largest shipping producer of fine wool with each sheep producing about nine pounds of wool each year.
- ✓ Sows (female pigs) generally have litters of seven to eight piglets twice a year.
- ✓ South Dakota's chicken population will lay an average 375 million eggs each year.
- ✓ South Dakota is one of the United States top honey states, producing about 30 million pounds of honey a year.

Livestock Word Find

Find the products that come from South Dakota's livestock:

HAMBURGERS

STEAK

MILK

ICE CREAM

LAMB CHOPS

LEATHER COATS

SHOES

CHEESE

SWEATERS

WOOL GLOVES

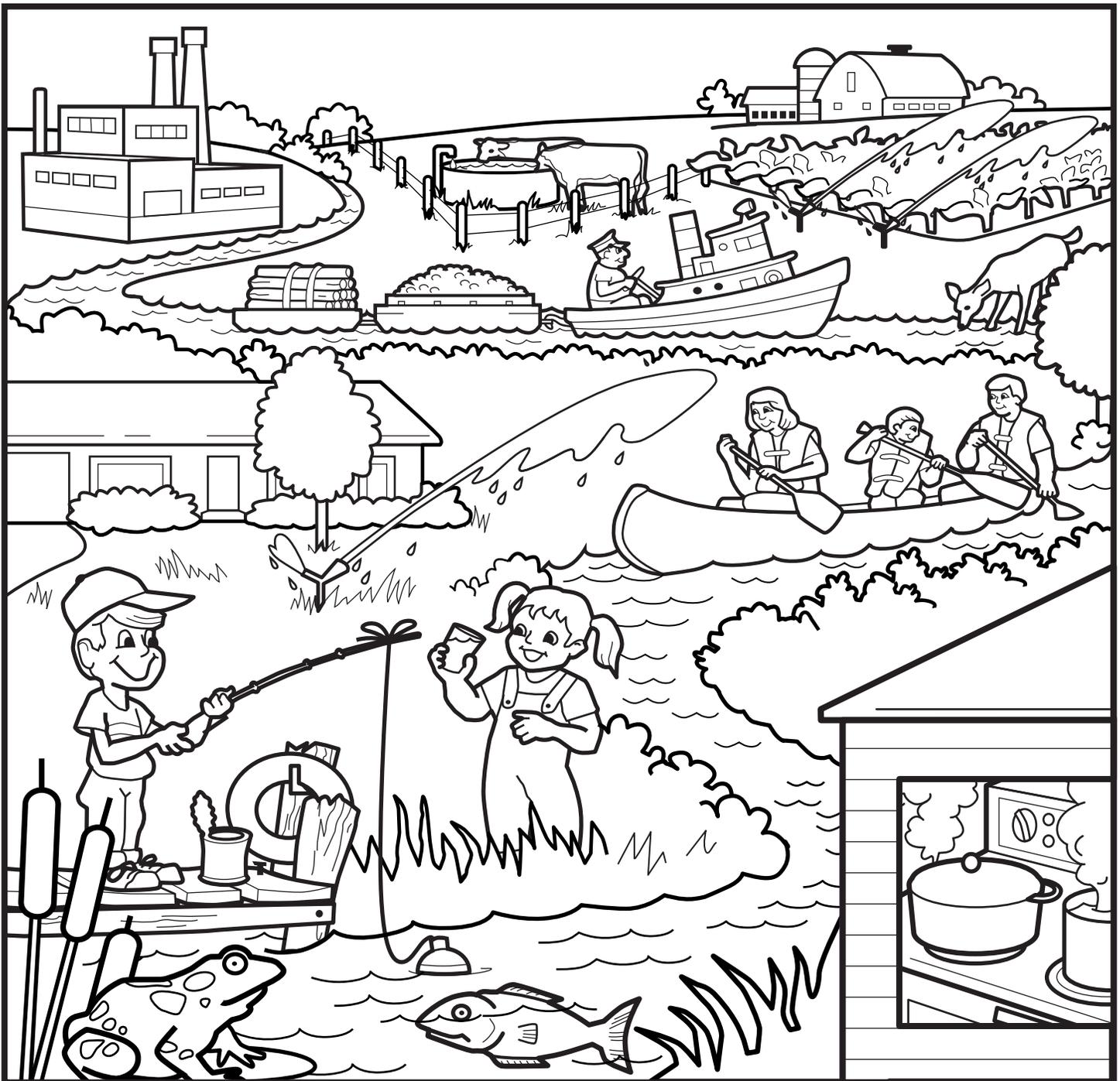
PRIME RIB

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

We All Need Water

Water makes all life on Earth possible. It connects all living things today and through time. In a never-ending cycle, water is used and reused by animals, plants and people. The water used in South Dakota today is the same water that was available to the dinosaurs millions of years ago. Only one percent of the Earth's water is liquid fresh water available for

human consumption. That is why it is so important for South Dakotans to consider all the uses for water and the impacts on water. South Dakota's farmers and ranchers do their part by installing conservation practices that help prevent sediments and pollutants from entering water sources.





For questions or additional information:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Federal Building
 200 Fourth Street SW
 Huron, SD 57350
 Phone: (605) 352-1200
 E-mail: publicaffairs@sd.usda.gov
<http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov>

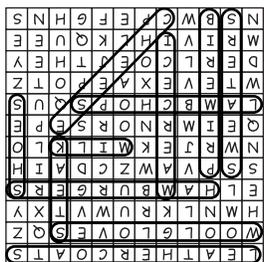
South Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom
 P.O. Box 577
 106 W. Capitol Ave. Suite 4
 Pierre, SD 57501
 Phone: (605) 945-2306 or 1-800-573-2482
 e-Mail: sdagclassroom@iw.net
<http://www.sdagclassroom.org>

South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts
 P O Box 275
 Pierre, SD 57501-0275
 Phone: 1-800-729-4099
 E-mail: info@sdconservation.org
<http://www.sdconservation.org>

For additional information on Lewis and Clark's expedition, visit the United States official Web site at <http://www.lewisandclark200.gov/>.

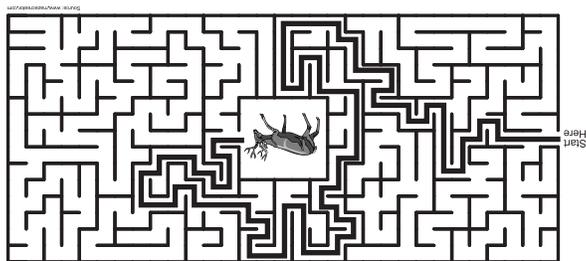
For more Lewis and Clark natural resources information and to learn about soil painting, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/lewisandclark/index.html>.

Puzzle Answers:



Livestock Word Find

The Earth's Foundation
 Soil is the foundation of all life on Earth.
 A - Wheat B - Sorghum C - Soybeans D - Corn
 Map the Right Spot
 Agriculture is everywhere
 Reveal the Message



Guiding the Expedition

The Mission
 In 1803, Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, purchased the Louisiana Territory for future settlement. He wanted to give people the opportunity to own land. Jefferson hired the Corps of Discovery to see if the new land would be fit for farming. The group's mission: To report whether the area was a garden or a desert.
 Meriwether Lewis, Jefferson's secretary, lead the expedition through this region. Lewis asked a friend from the army, William Clark, to help him lead the Corps of Discovery.
 Lewis and Clark sent soils, minerals, plants and other items back to the President to be evaluated. The reports proved that the land was both a desert and a potential garden. The Louisiana Territory offered vast amounts of land, with much of it being fertile and perfect for growing wheat, corn and cotton. The successful journey lasted for nearly two and a half years – starting in May 1804 and ending in September 1806. It was one very long camping trip!