

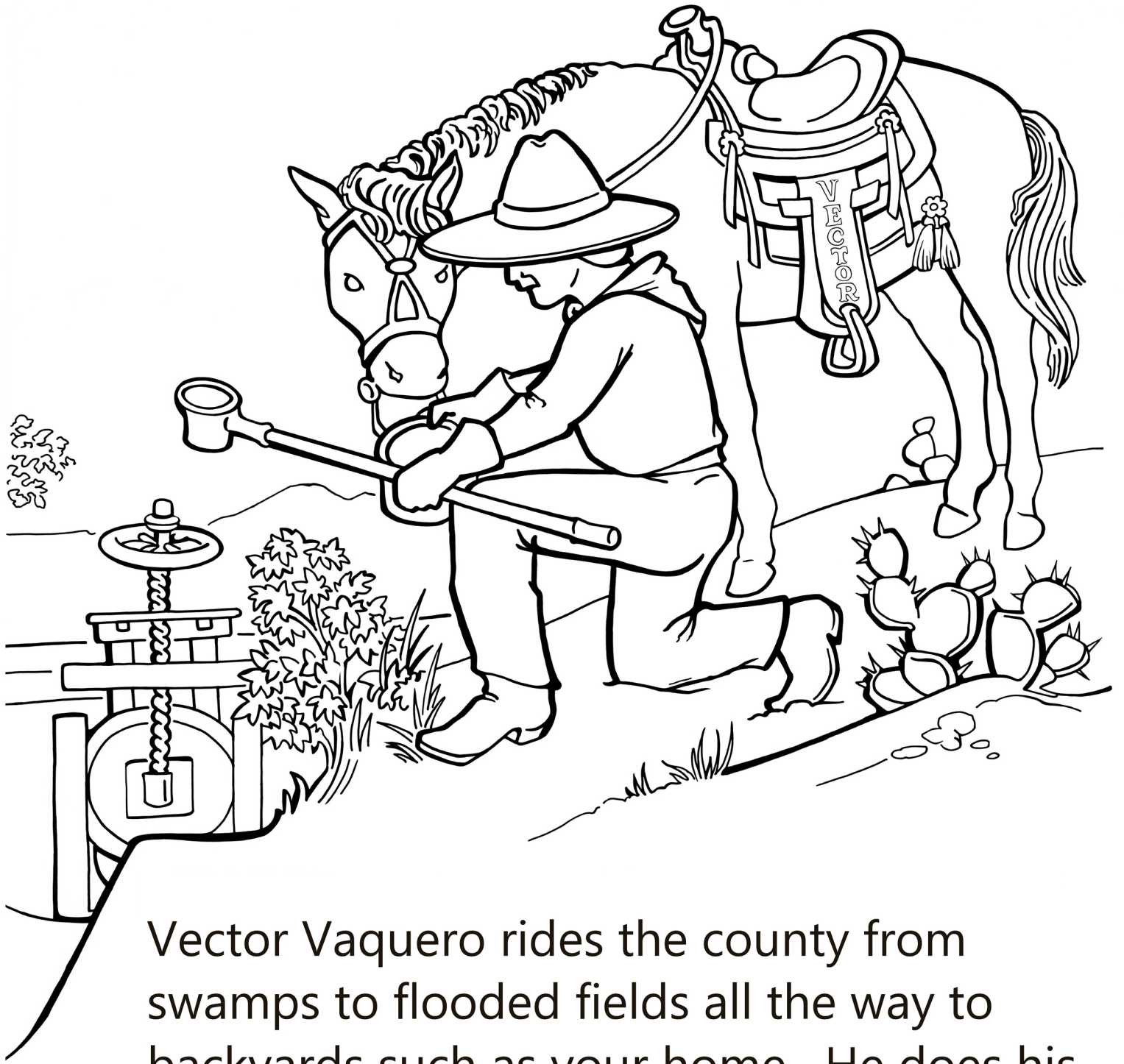
Lila Bear

HELPS
FIGHT THE BITE

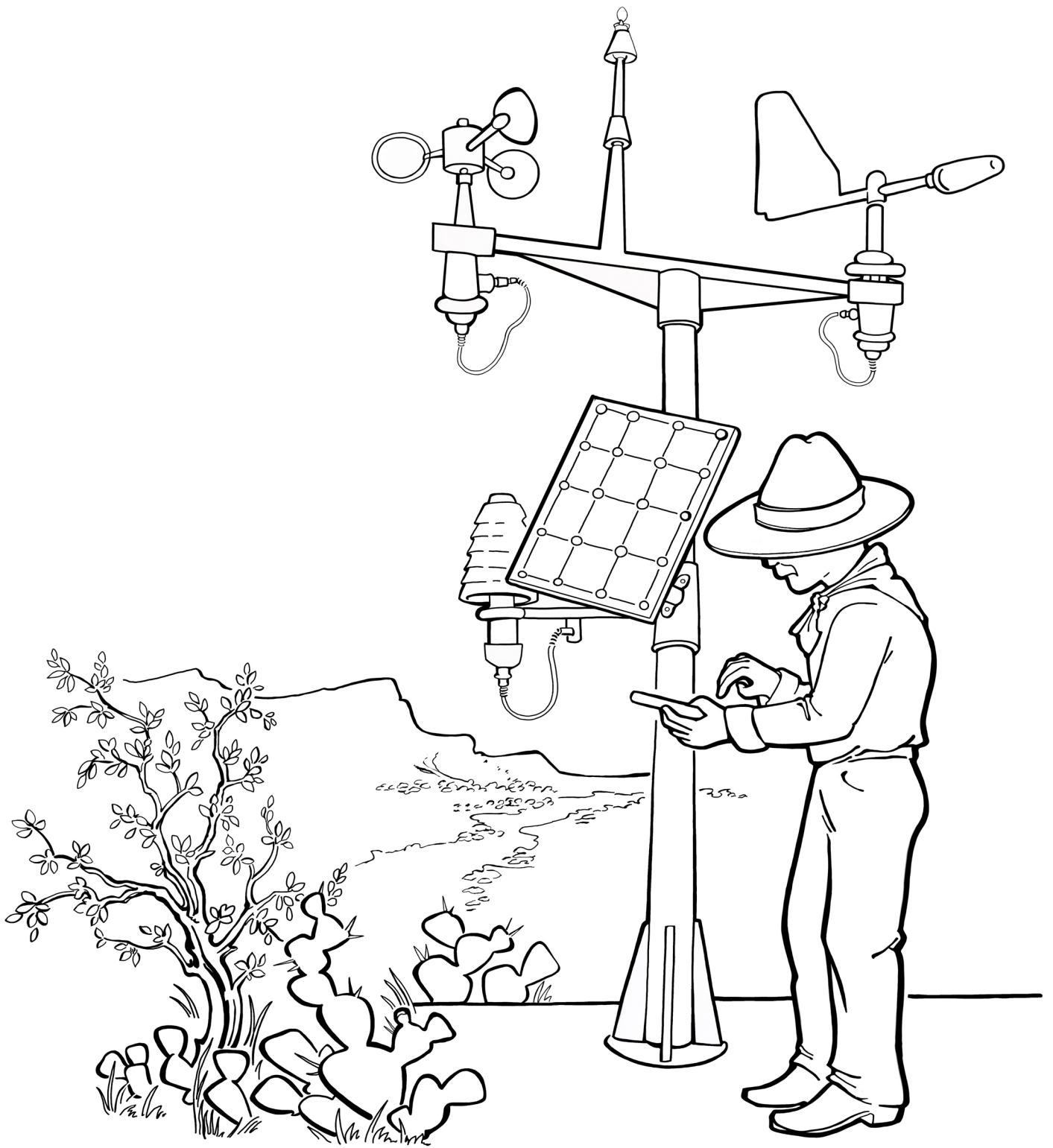


Illustrations by Tony Pennock





Vector Vaquero rides the county from swamps to flooded fields all the way to backyards such as your home. He does his best work on large areas of standing water. The tool of his trade is a dipper, used to catch mosquito larvae in the water where they live.



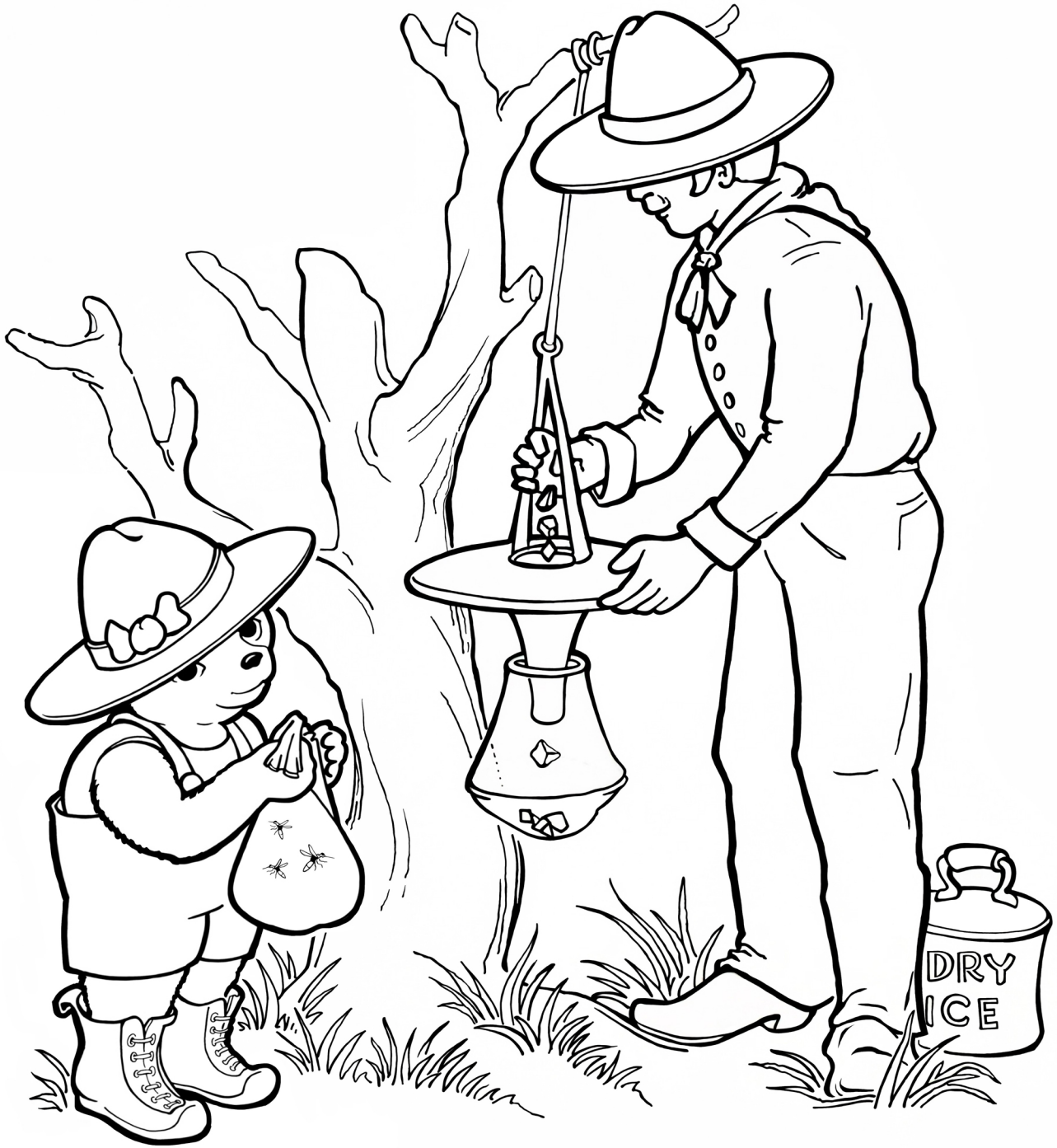
"Wow, that was some rain!" Vector Vaquero monitors weather stations throughout the county. Weather stations measure rainfall and water in the air to help predict the spread of mosquitoes.



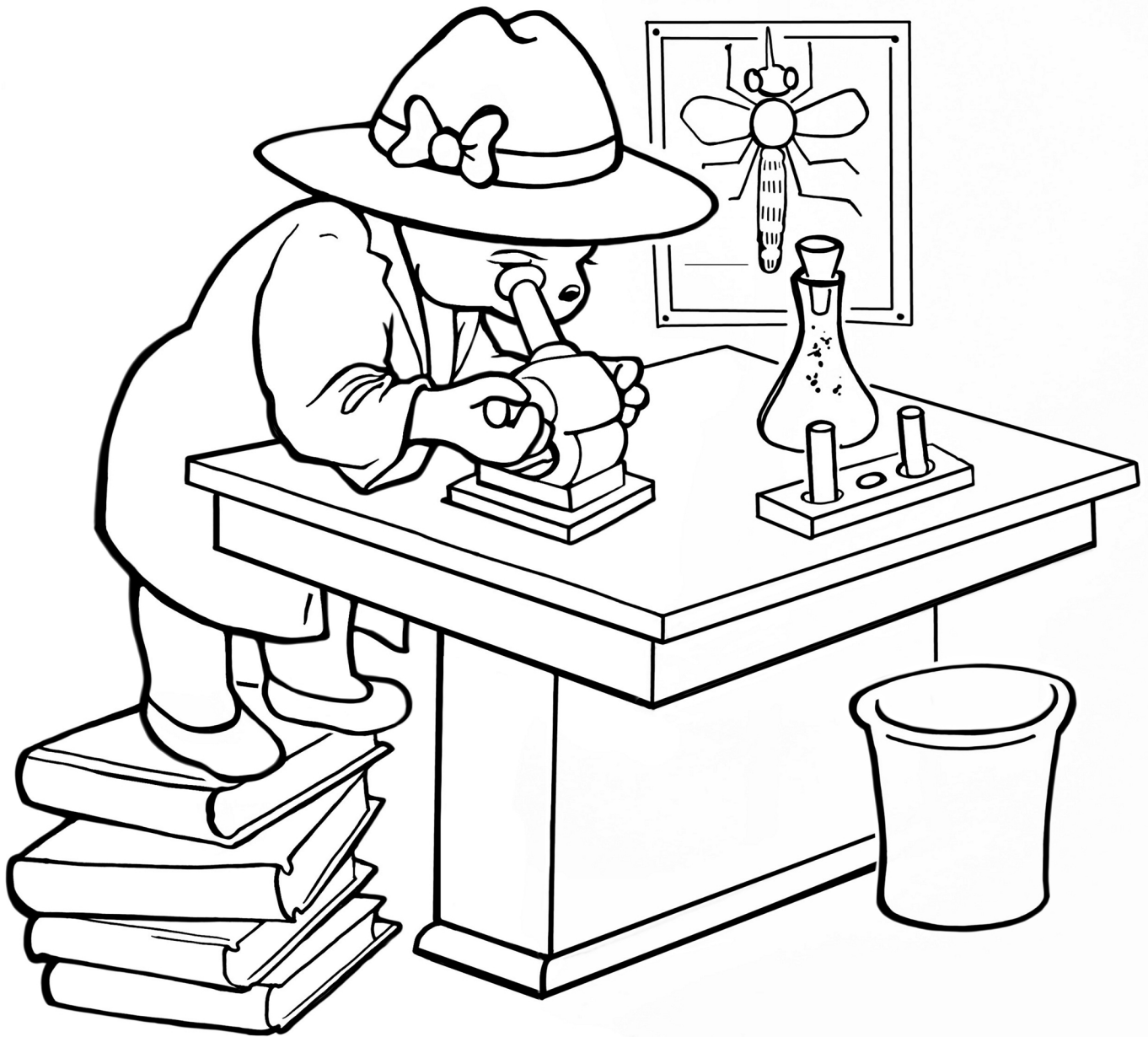
"Wow, that is one washed little bear cub!" Vector Vaquero realizes his little bear friend needs help!



Mr Vaquero found a dipper and hat for his new partner, Lila Bear. Lila Bear goes to work in mosquito control. She will be careful and not harm the native fish or frogs.



Nice catch! We set a mosquito trap to collect flying adult female mosquitoes. They were bagged here with dry ice. Why does this work so well?



Mr. Vaquero is taking Lila Bear to the university. That is where our mosquitoes will meet the scientists (entomologists) who study insects. Did you know each mosquito species looks different from others?



"Another big day! I will catch the Gambusia mosquito fish for visitors at our ponds. Our fish are always free to our guests."



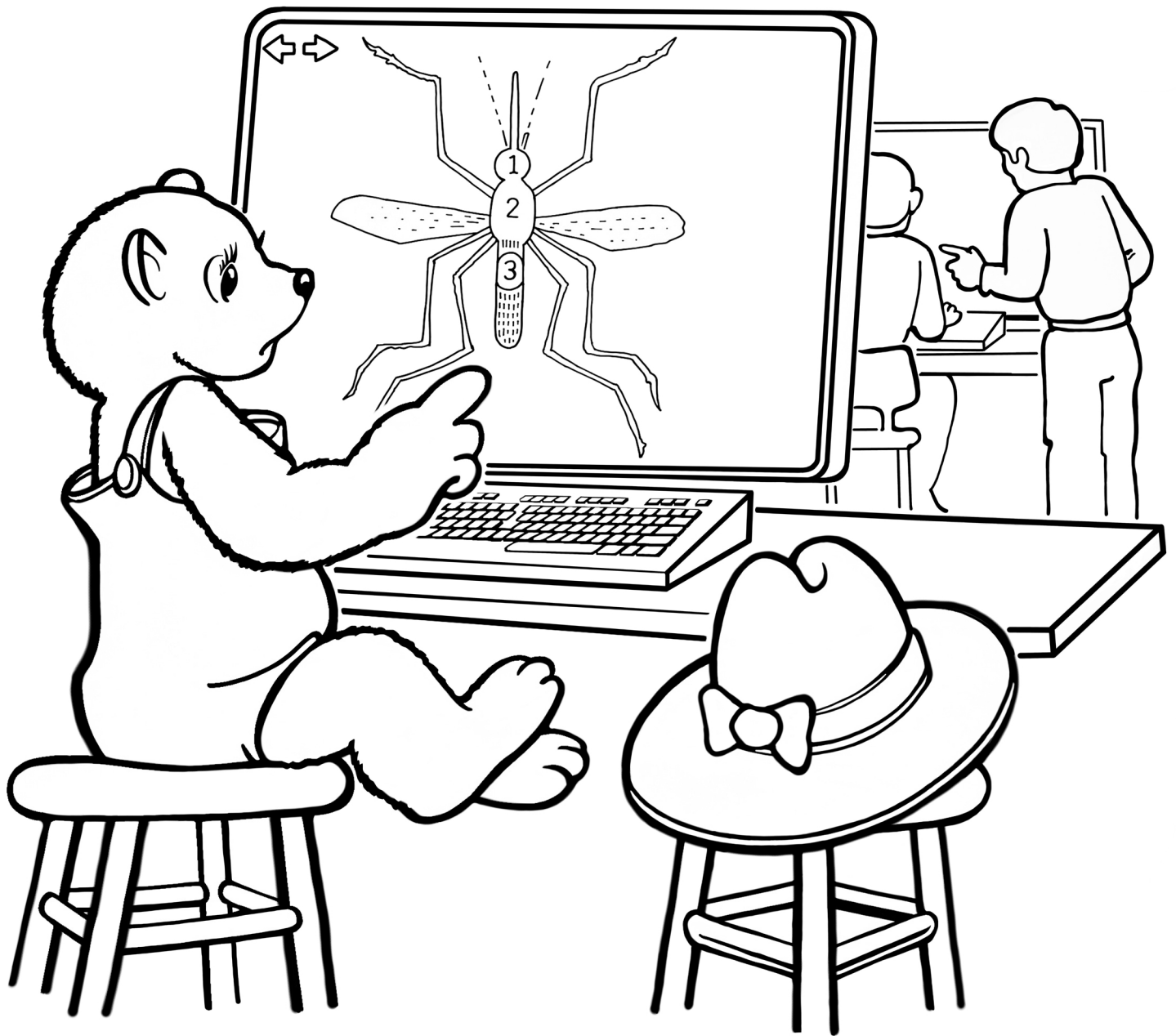
Moving mosquito fish to small ponds is very effective mosquito control. The fish will eat the mosquito larvae and naturally reduce their numbers.



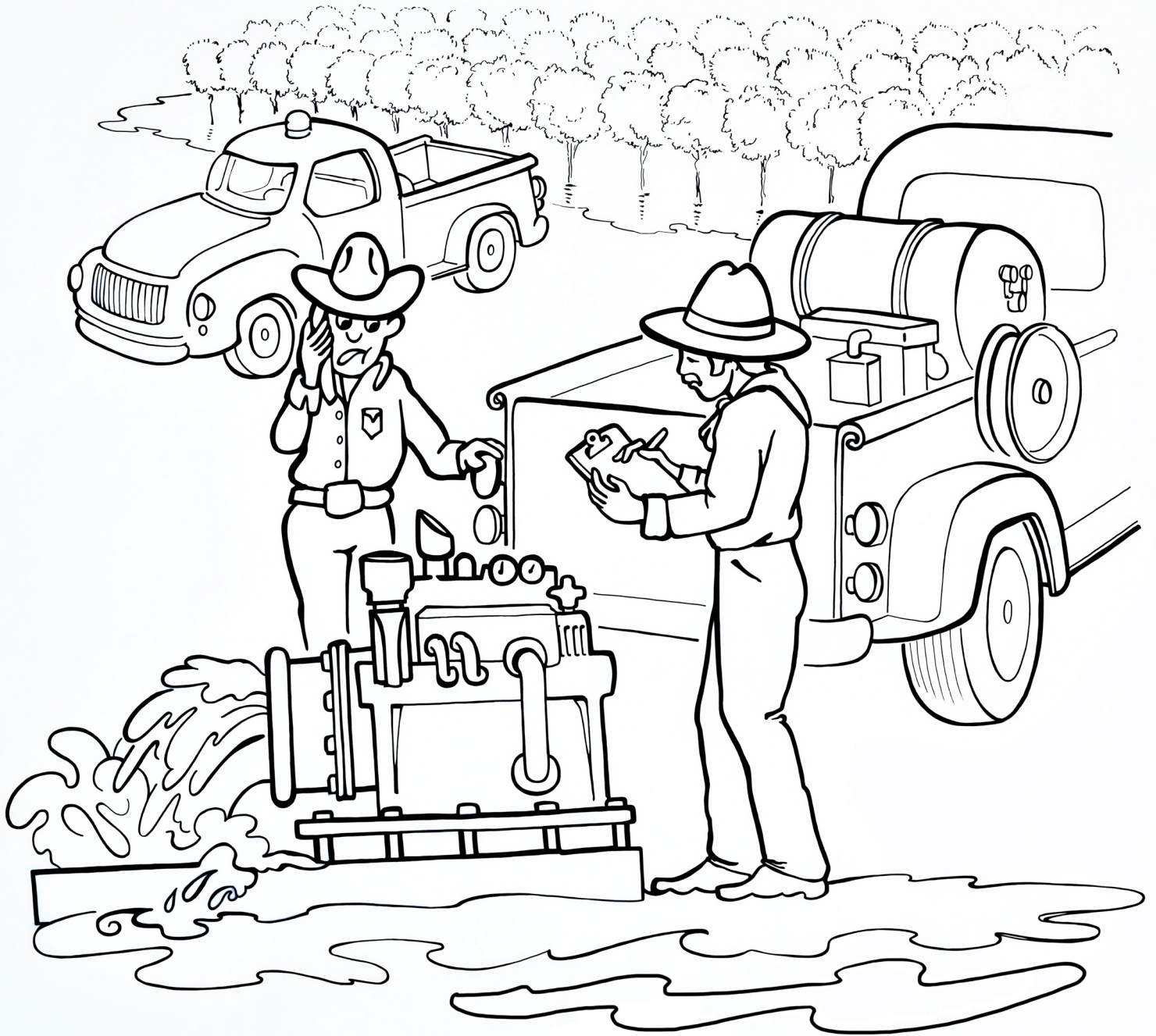
It is very important to help our neighbors by keeping irrigation channels clean to reduce standing water.



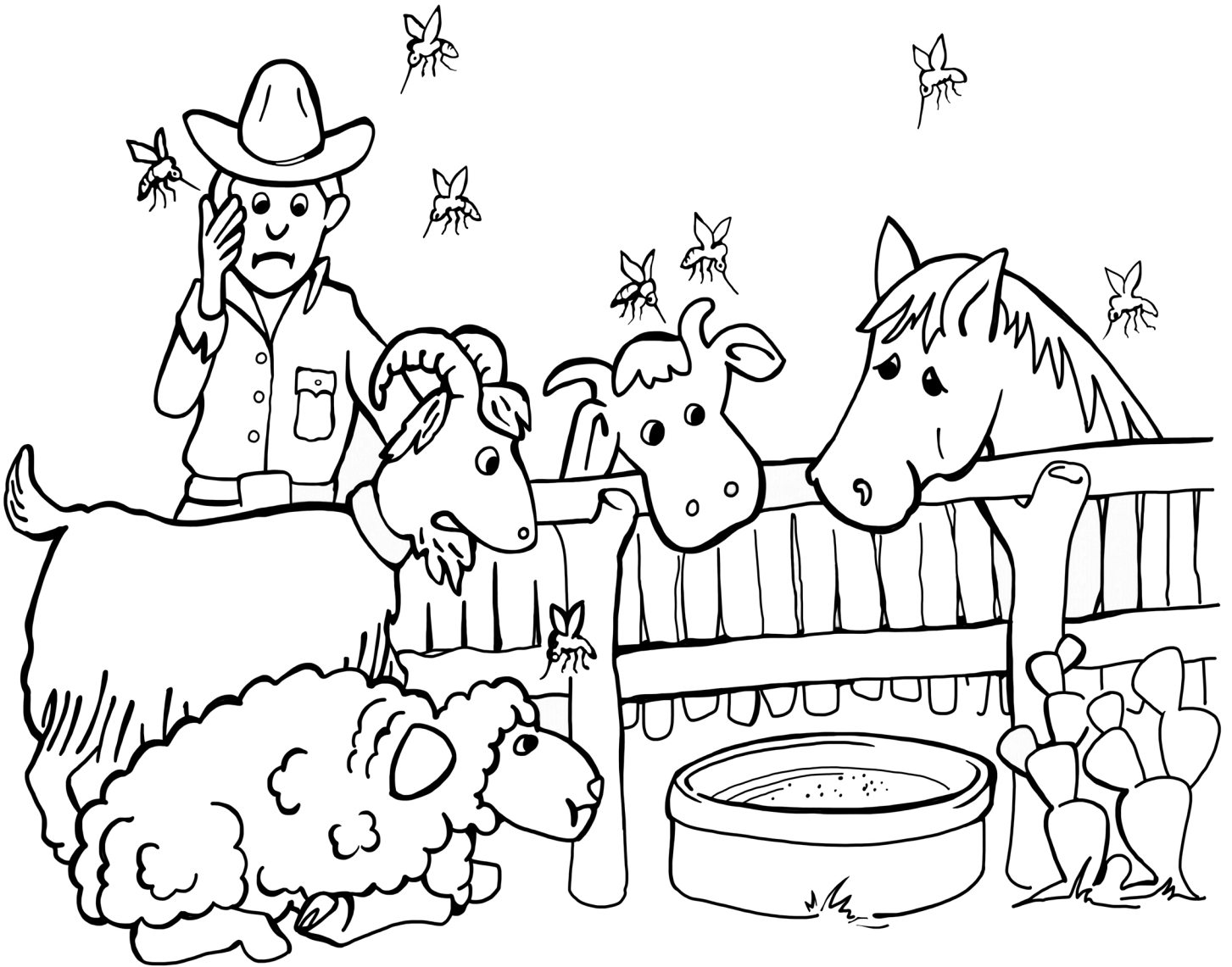
It's early morning and vector vaquero sprays safe mosquito control chemicals. Lila Bear says, "When I grow up, I'm going to drive this truck."



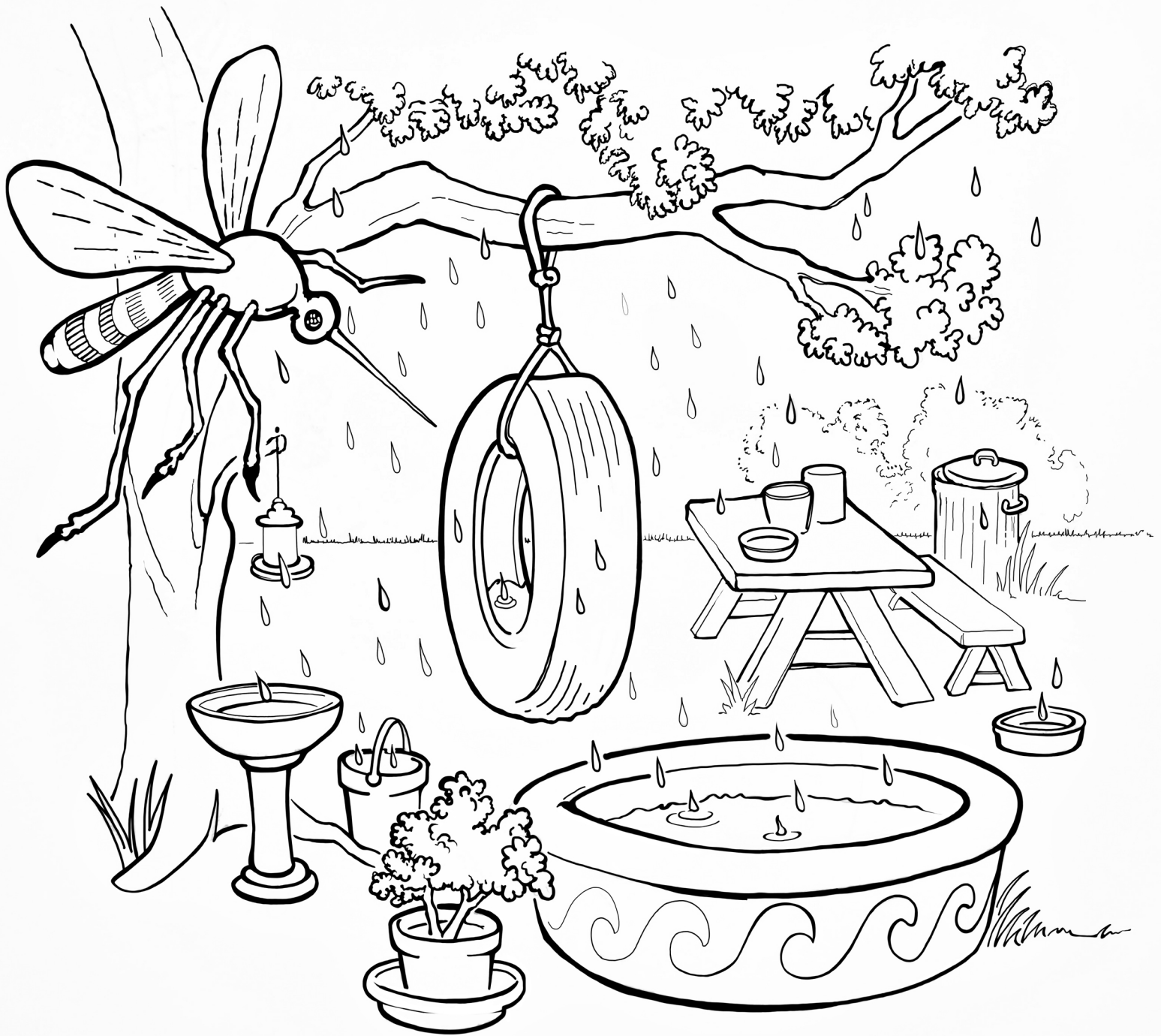
Vector Vaqueras work with a team of geographic map specialists to record where chemicals are placed, and how to map water basins. Computers are the best tool to manage this much information.



Vector Vaqueros are mosquito-control staff who study the science of minimizing mosquito populations. They will safely apply chemicals to reduce the number of mosquitoes, and they'll work with farmers to control irrigation water.



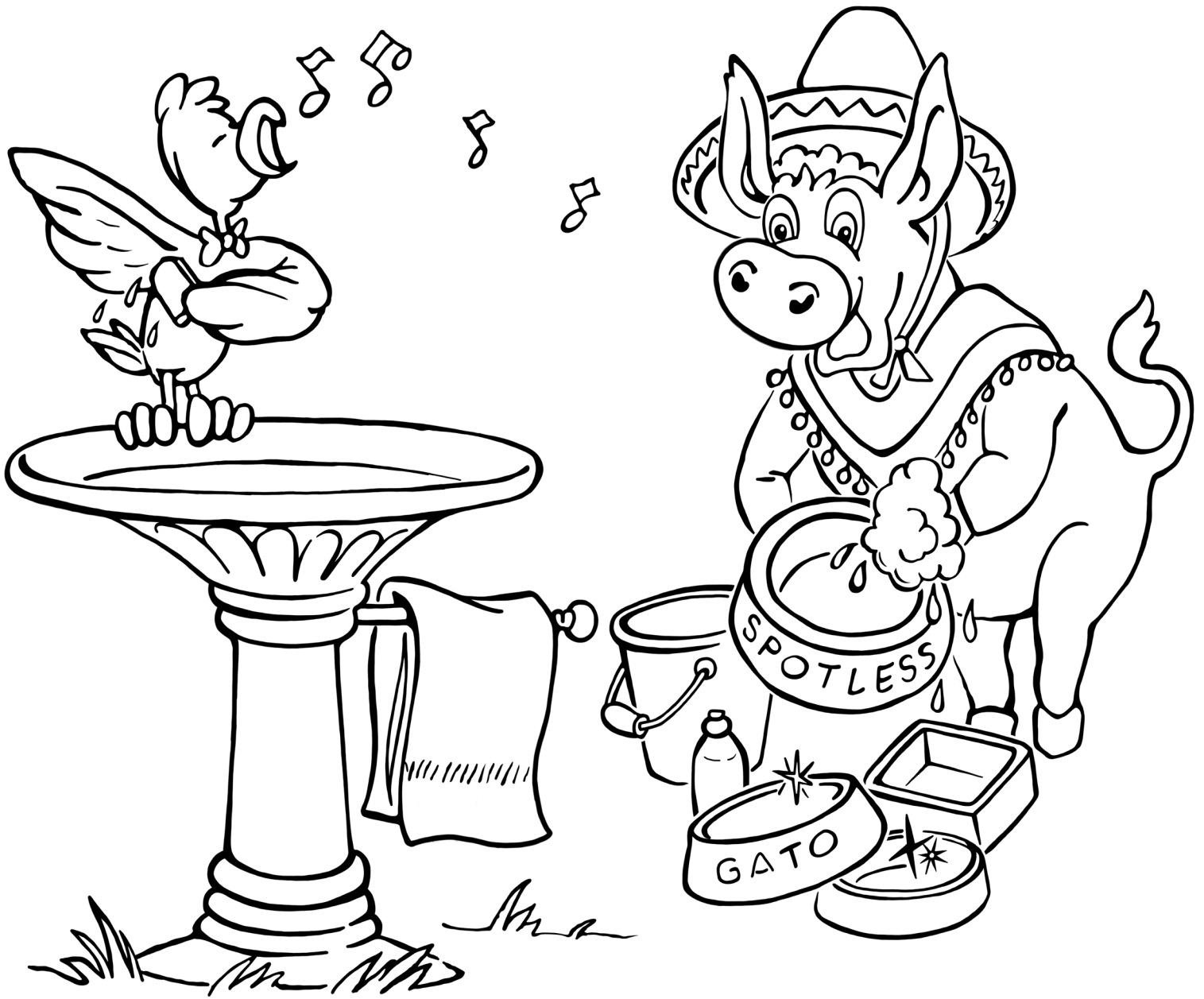
Sometimes mosquitoes spread diseases to dogs, horses and even people! How can you fight the bite and stop mosquitoes at your home?



The most important thing mosquitoes need is standing water in which to lay their eggs. Rain fills up all sorts of outside toys and containers.



Check your backyard for standing water. If you find water in tires or wading pools, ask your parents to check it for mosquito larvae.



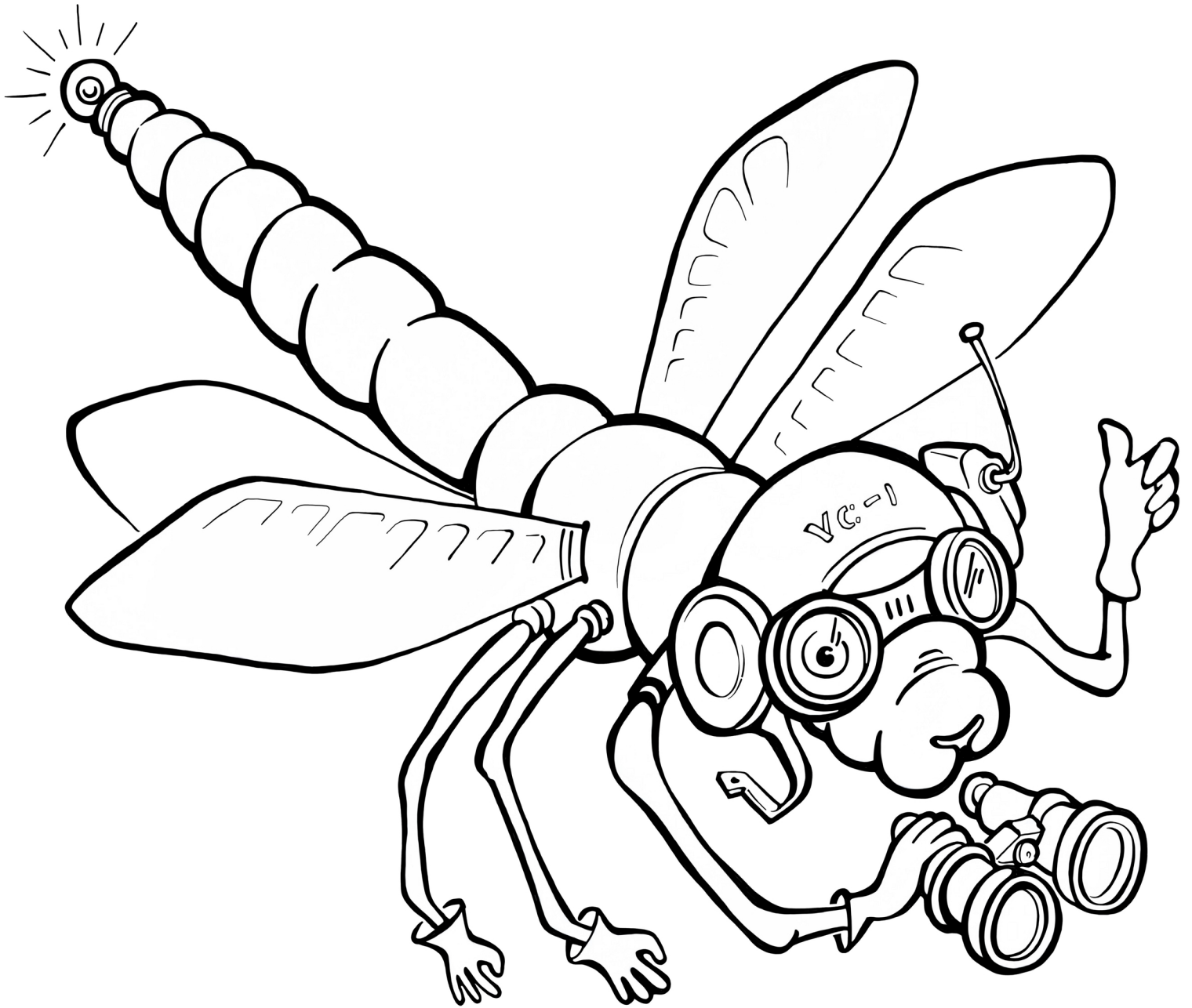
Change the water and scrub the sides of bird baths, animal troughs, and pet watering bowls often to get rid of mosquito eggs. Good healthy drinking water is what your pets need.



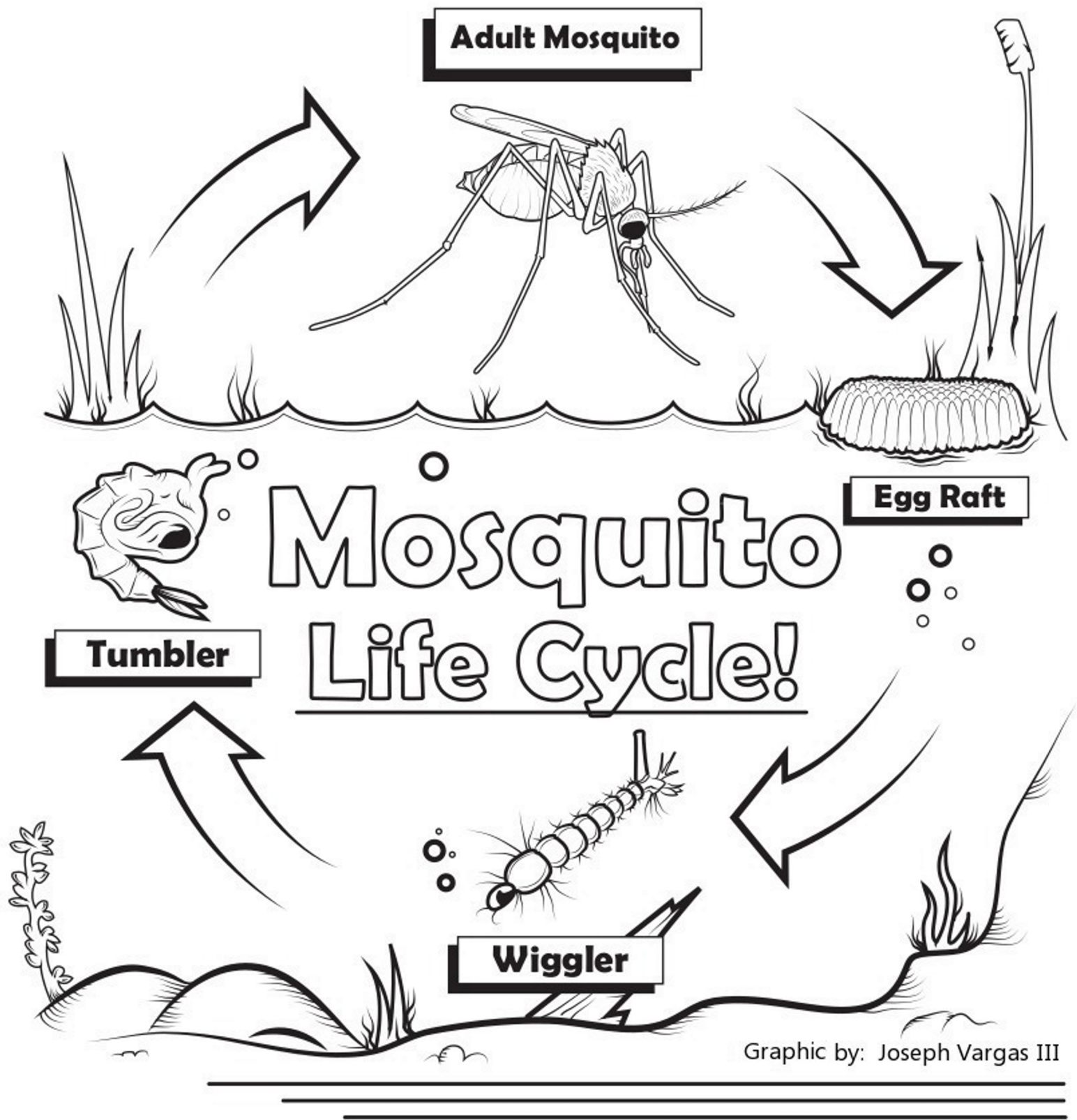
All our animal friends thank Vector Vaquero and Lila Bear for their prevention efforts and careful chemical use. Please help us protect and respect our desert by keeping it clean.



A quick spray keeps the mosquitoes away.
Use repellents.



Be a mosquito dragonfly! Use your sharp eyes to watch for standing water. Show your parents how to spot mosquito wigglers (larva) and tumblers (pupa).



Graphic by: Joseph Vargas III

Adult Mosquitoes lay their eggs in still water, making a raft. Then the eggs hatch into larvae, or “Wigglers”. Once the Wigglers mature, they turn into Pupae, or “Tumblers”. The last step is for the Tumbler to become an adult Mosquito!



It's time to get
Lila Bear back
home.

I'm going
to be a
Vector Vaquera
some day!

DRIVE
SLOW

BEAR
COUNTRY

Together we can all fight
the bite.

