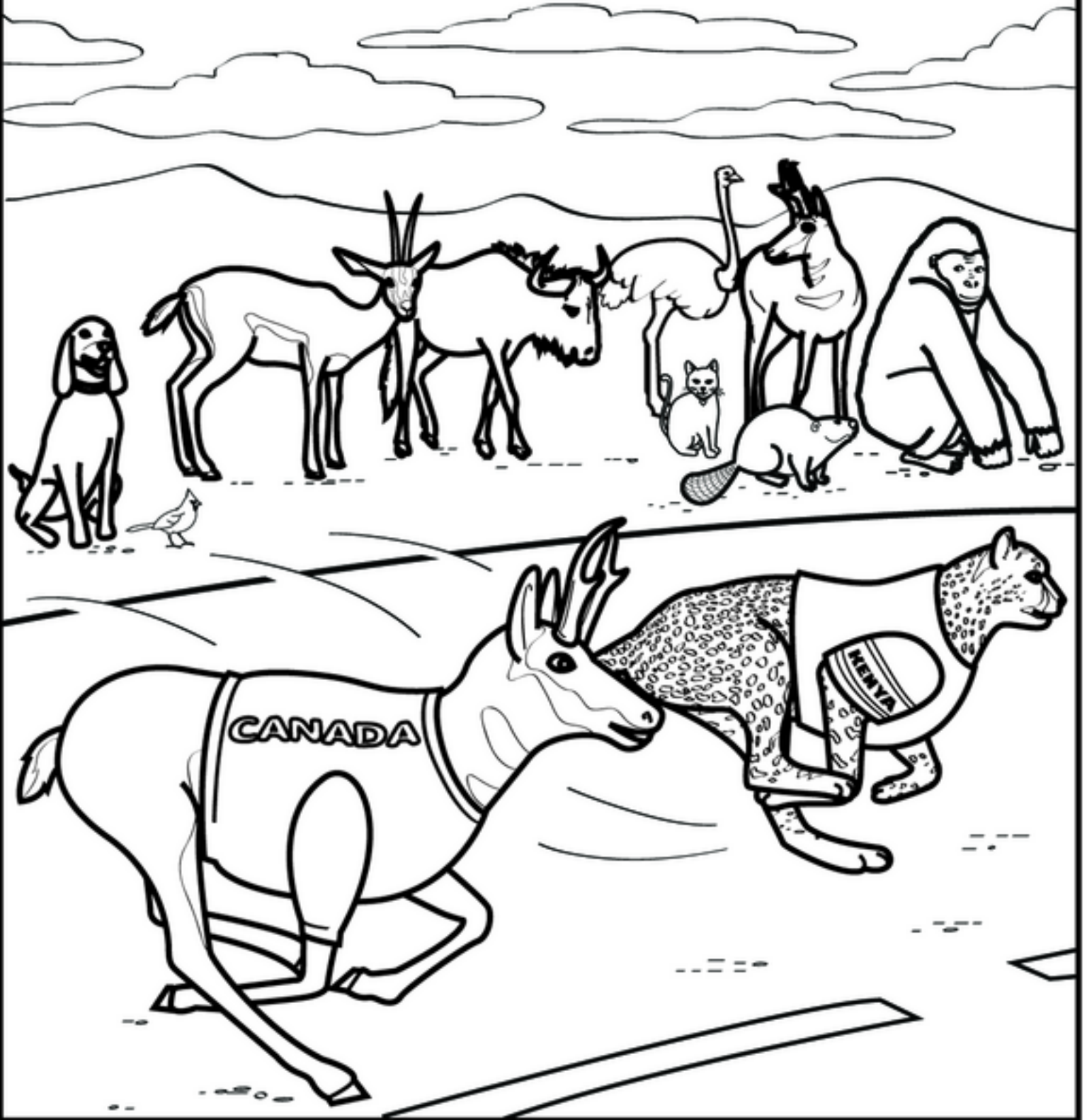
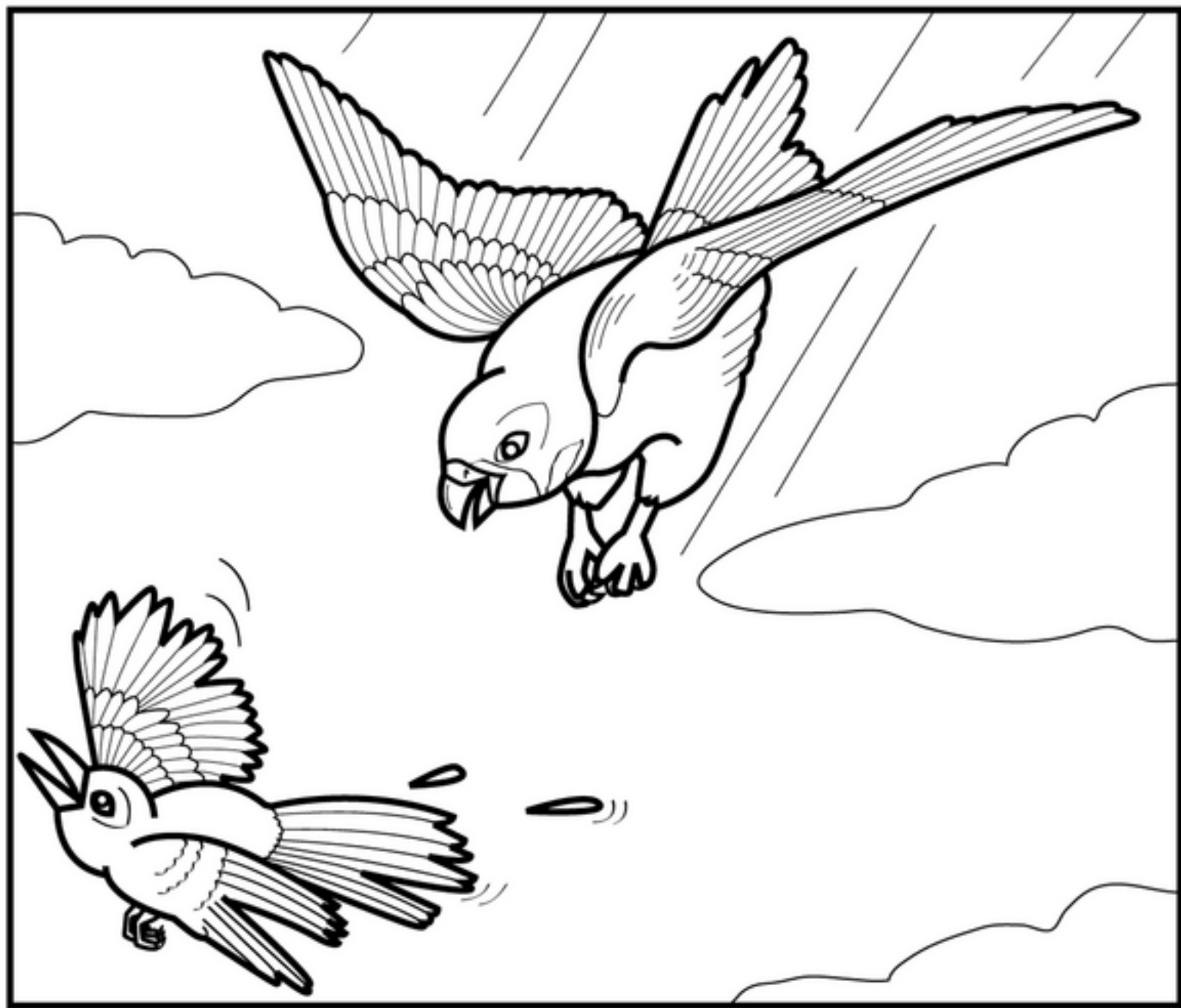


# Animal Olympics:

## The Fastest Animals on Earth

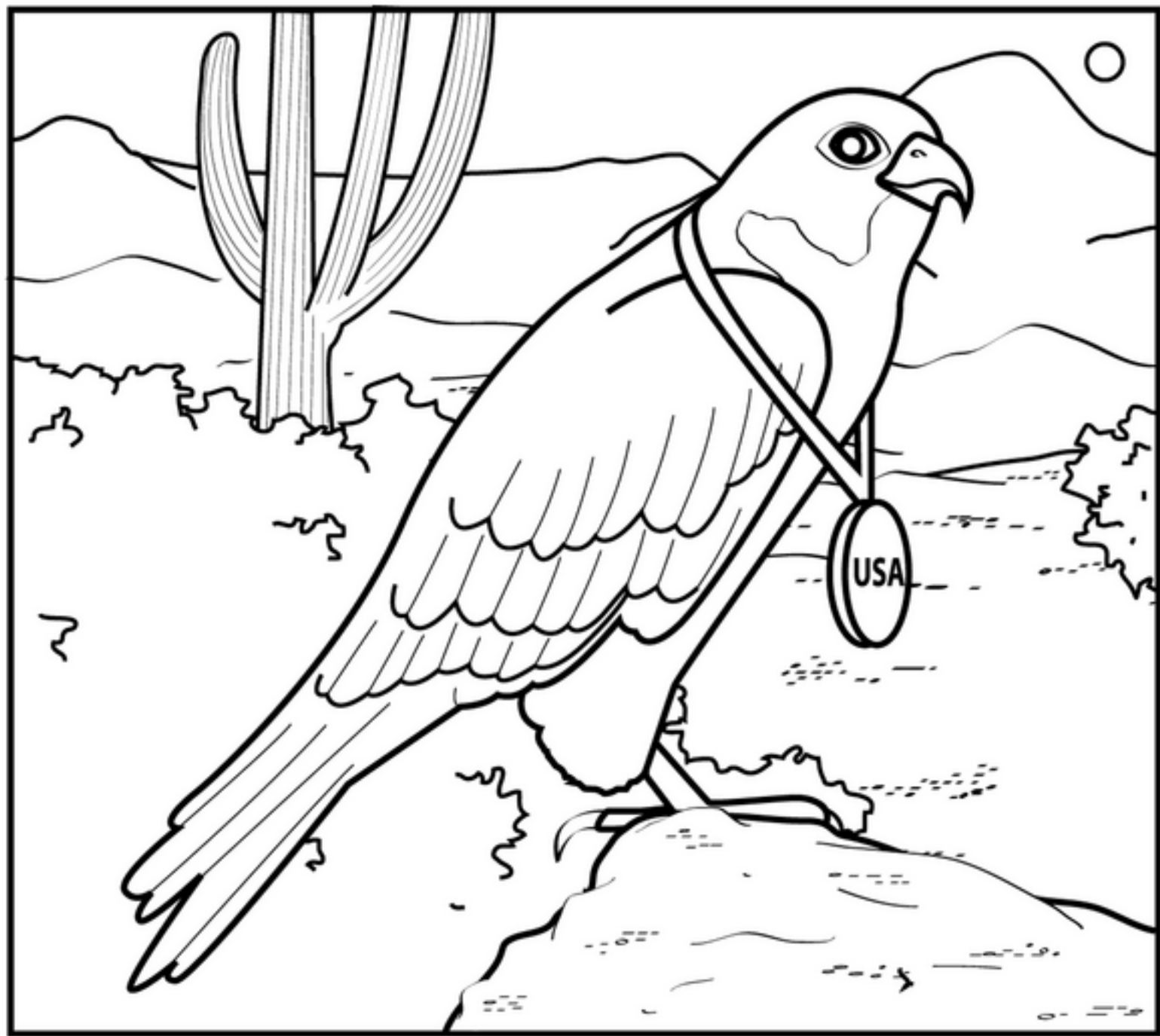




When it comes to the speed of animals there really is  
no match.

There is no animal on earth that can run fast enough  
to catch  
the Peregrine falcon when it makes its hunting dive  
called “the stoop.”

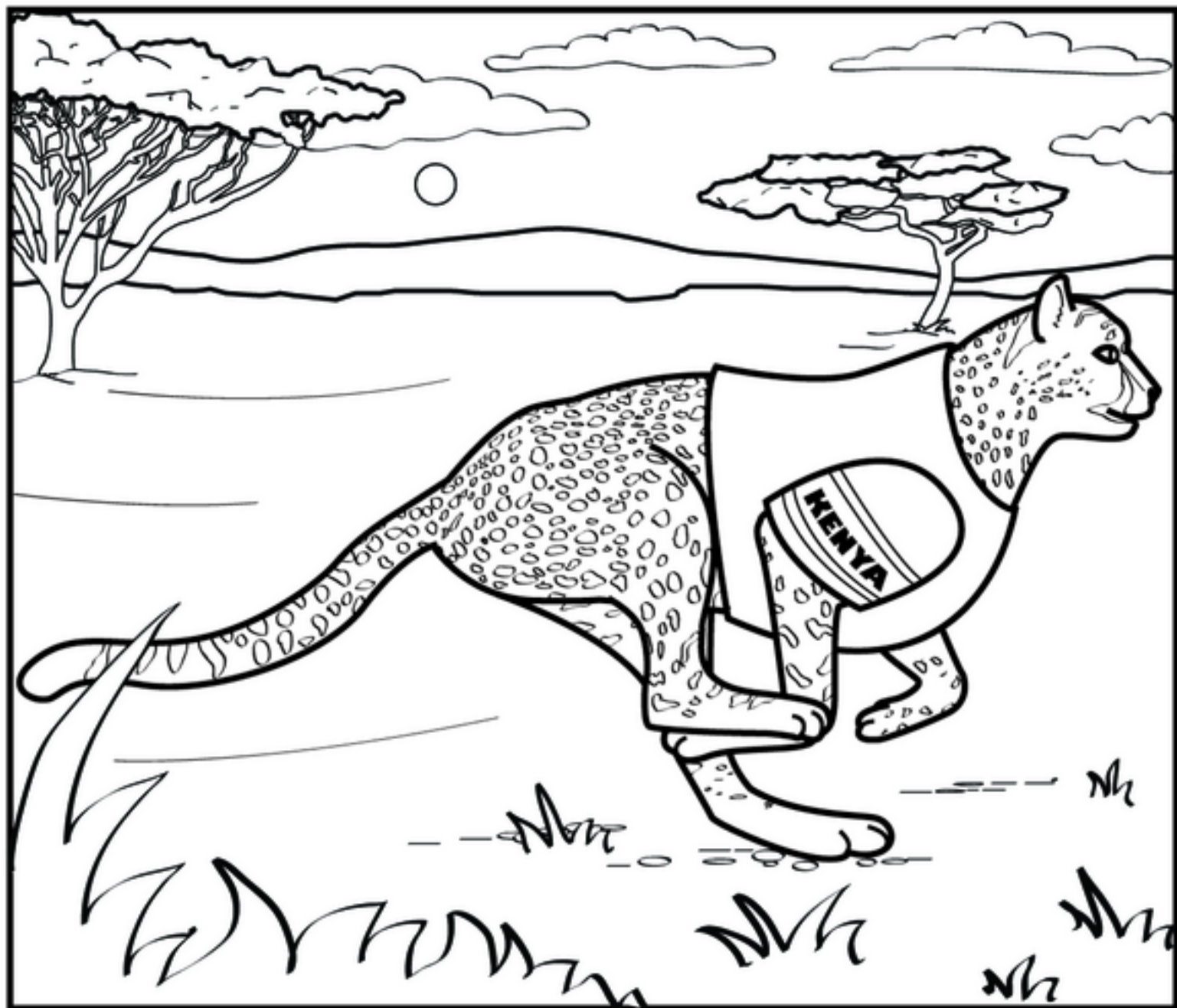
The falcon strikes its prey in mid-air and returns to  
catch it in one swoop.



This falcon's sometimes called a "Duck Hawk" in the falcon family.

It takes a falcon one full year to reach full maturity. The Peregrine falcon has the longest migration of any North American bird.

It's found everywhere except the Polar Regions. Lower land regions are preferred.

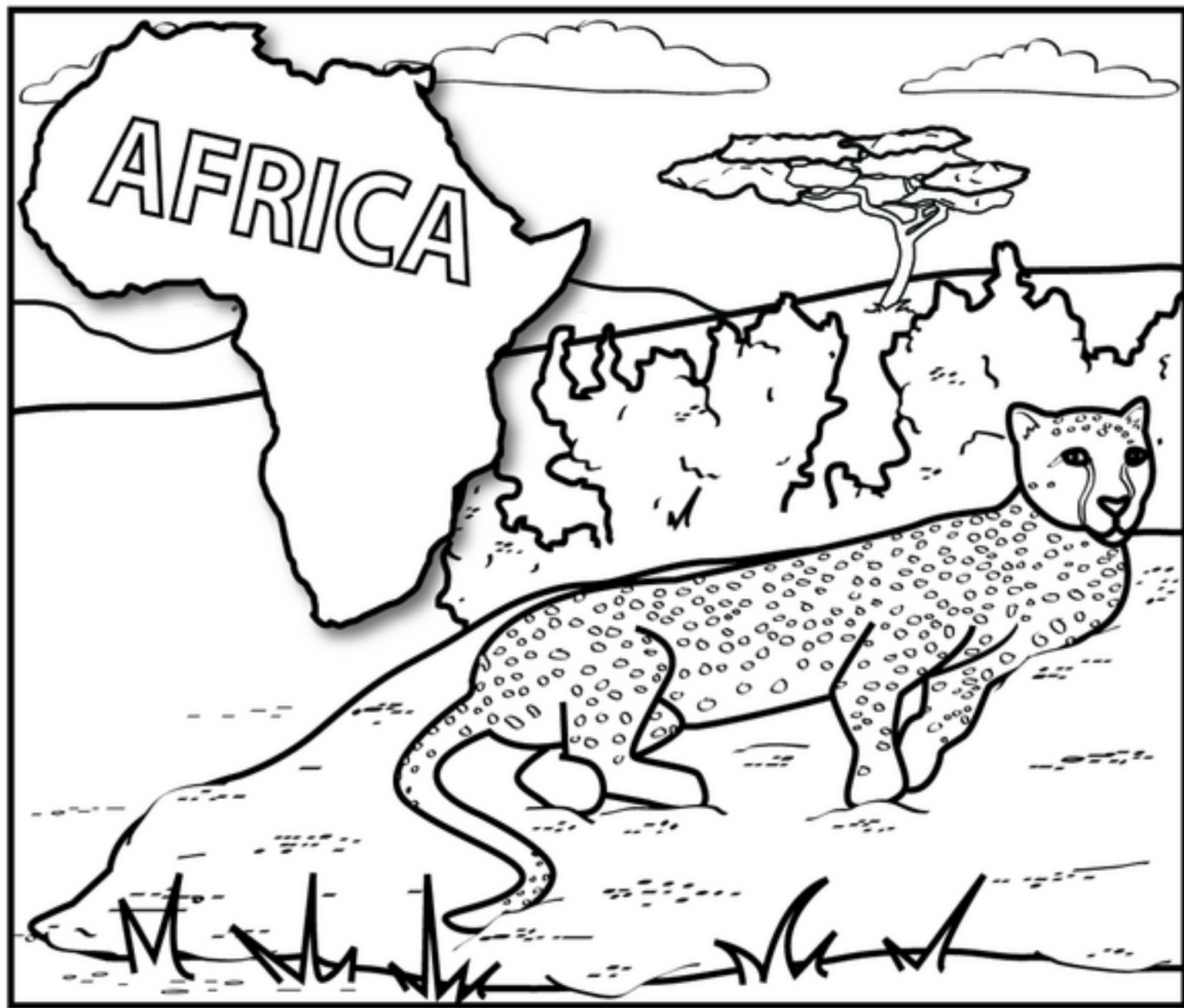


Running 70 miles per hour, the cheetah is the fastest animal on land.

The cheetah runs so fast, it leaves all the other animals in the sand.

The cheetah is in the cat family. It is quite large with spotted fur.

And just like our domestic cats, the cheetah, too, can purr.

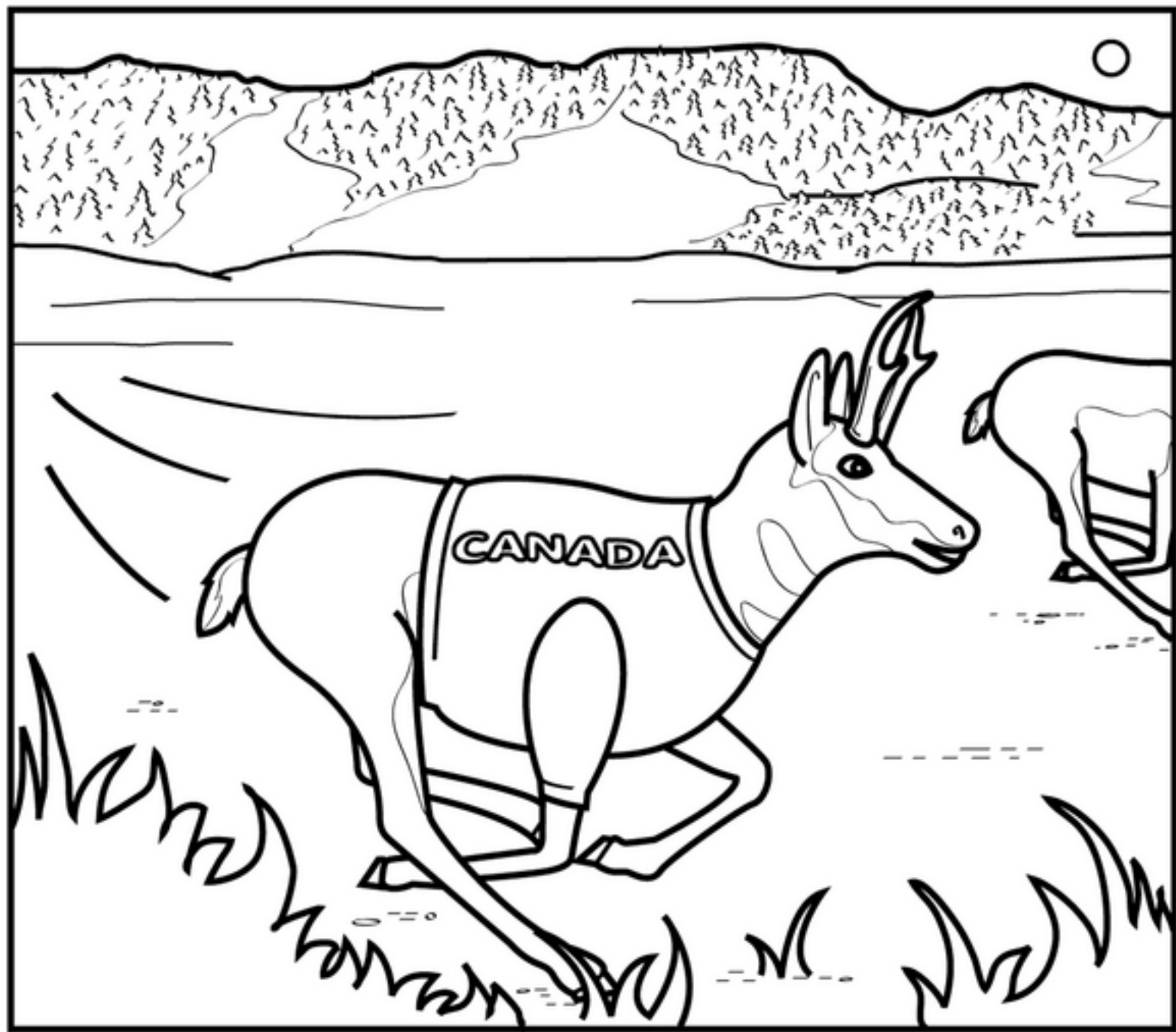


A cheetah breathes up to 150 times per minute as it reaches its full speed.

Its large heart, lungs, and liver give it the extra power it needs.

Cheetahs live mostly in Africa. A few near India have been found.

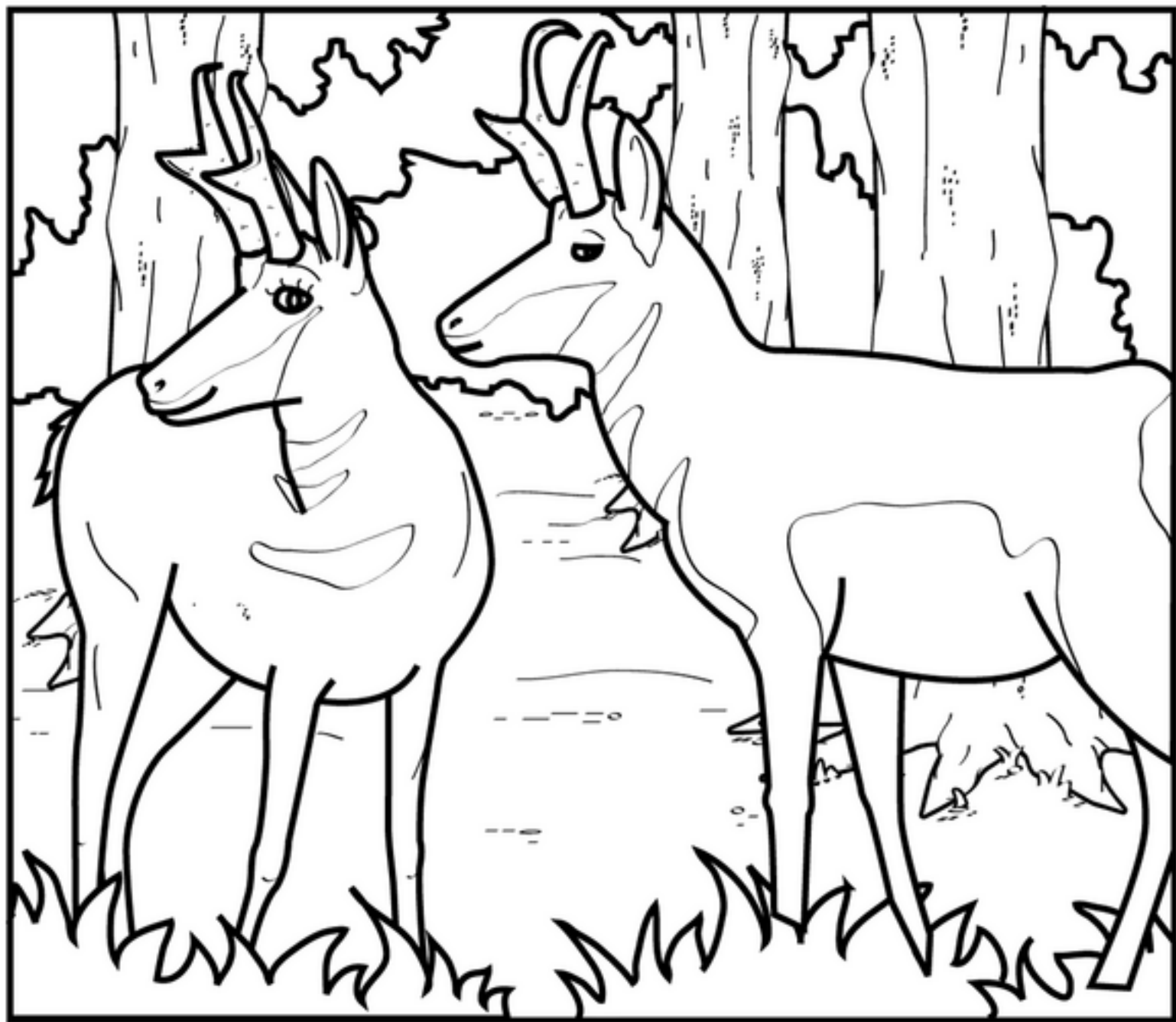
Because they can run so very fast, they can cover lots of ground.



The pronghorn antelope is next when it comes to running speed.

Running at least sixty miles per hour, it's the fastest of its breed.

The antelope is a hoofed mammal that lives in open grasslands that range from Canada to Mexico. These antelopes roam in bands.

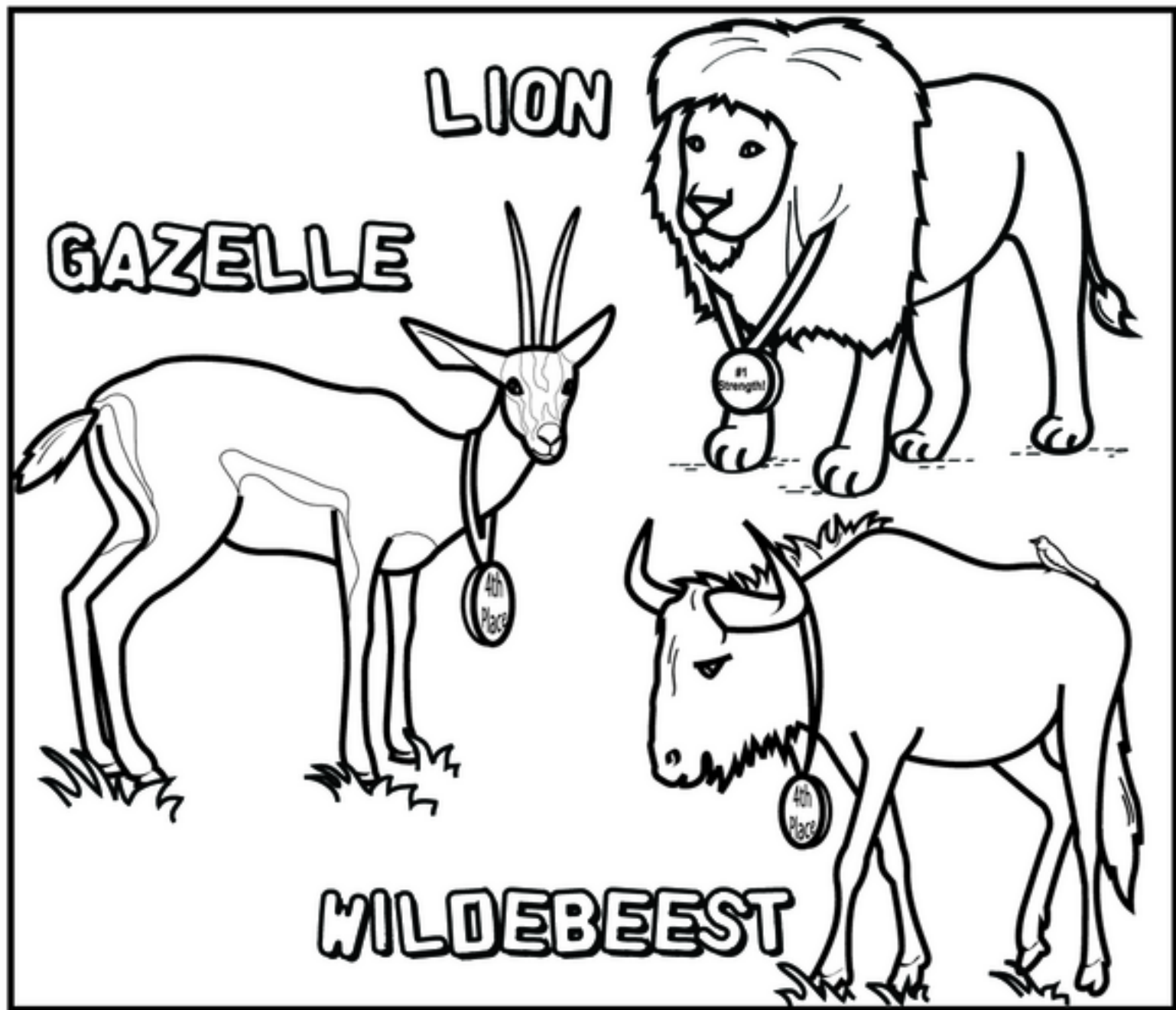


The antelope runs from its predators, but at jumping it is poor.

Gathering into large mixed herds, they can number a thousand or more.

Both male and female antelope have permanent horns atop their head.

The outsides of these horns are covered with hair that once a year is shed.



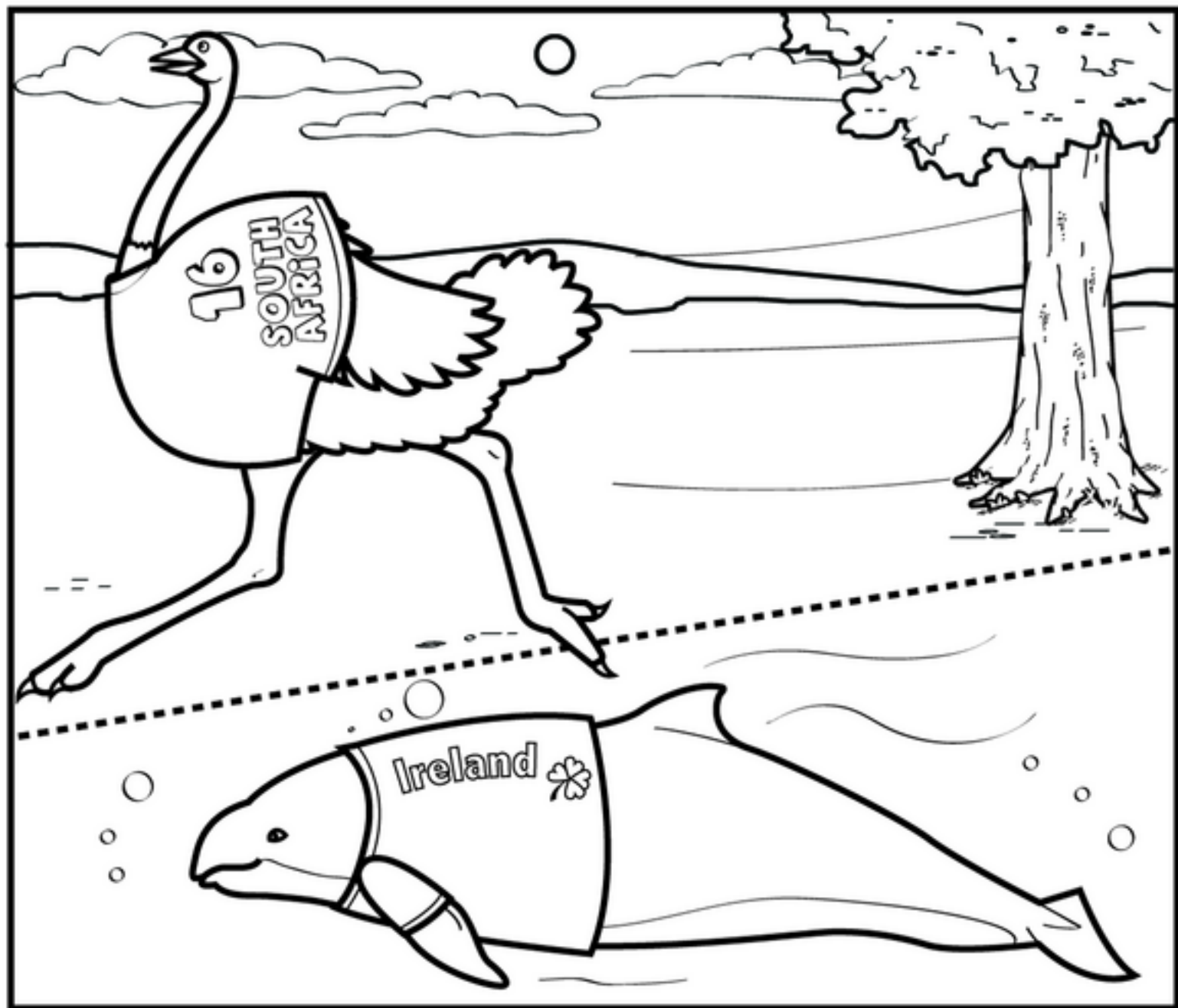
Next, the wildebeest, lion, and gazelle are tied when it comes to speed.

All three of these wild animals can run quite fast, indeed.

Each of these African animals can run at least fifty miles per hour.

But when it comes to real strength, the lion has more power.





There are many other animals that are fast movers,  
too.

There are porpoises and ostriches, if we named just  
two.

Humans aren't the only athletes that can do things  
that can astound.

There are many other amazing animals that are fast  
the world around.

1. What animal is considered the fastest of all animals?
  - a. the lion
  - b. the wildebeest
  - c. the Peregrine falcon
  - d. the coyote

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the Peregrine falcon's hunting dive called?
  - a. the stoop
  - b. the scooper
  - c. the soup
  - d. the dive

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is another name for the Peregrine falcon?
  - a. the night hawk
  - b. the duck hawk
  - c. the red-wing
  - d. the black hawk

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. What animal is considered the fastest land animal?
  - a. the giraffe
  - b. the lion
  - c. the cheetah
  - d. the buffalo

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Which animal is considered the third fastest animal?

- a. the wildebeest
- b. the lion
- c. the Pronghorn antelope
- d. the hippo

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which animals are tied as the fourth fastest?

- a. whale, elephant, alligator
- b. crocodile, alligator, sidewinder
- c. zebra, salmon, groundhog
- d. lion, wildebeest, gazelle

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_