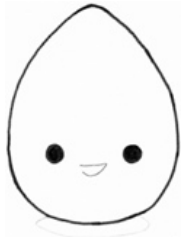


WHERE'S BUDDY? COLOURING BOOK

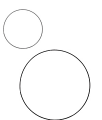
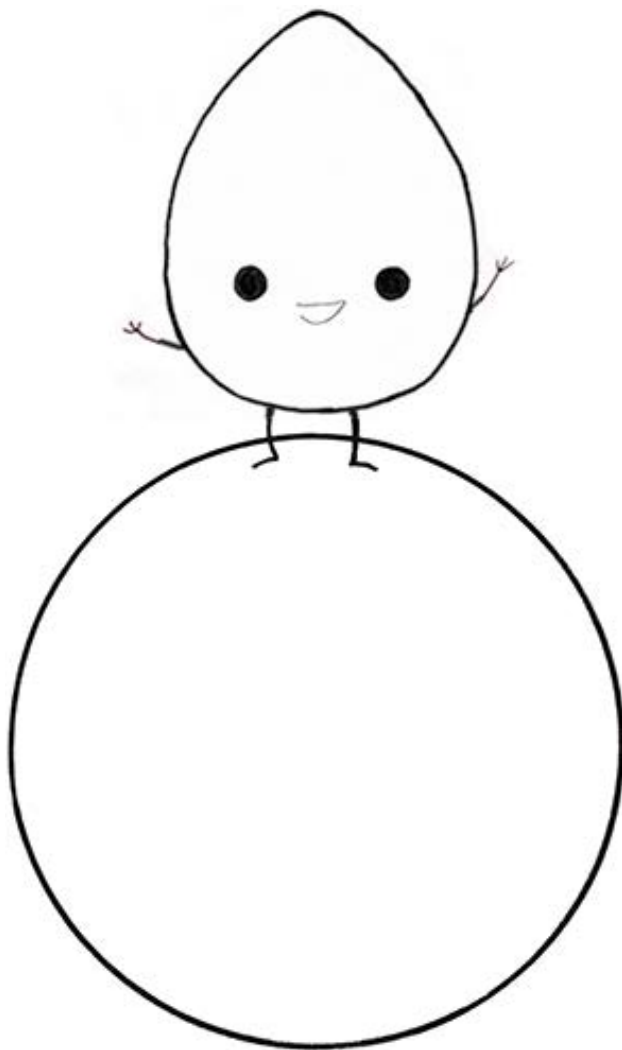
HELLO!



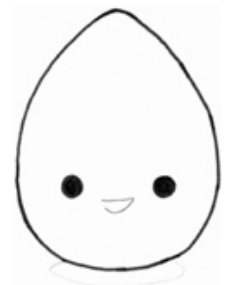
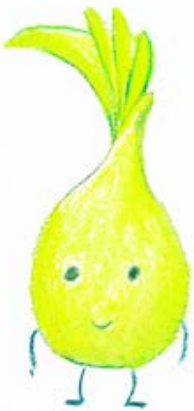
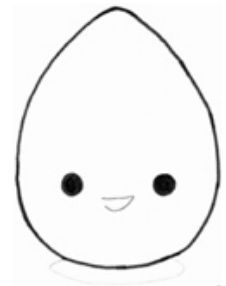
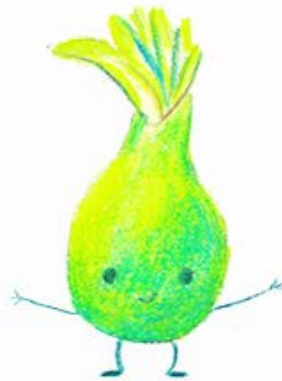
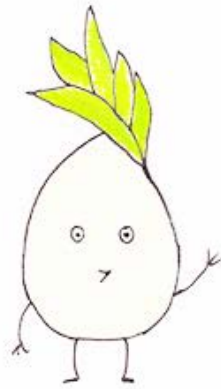
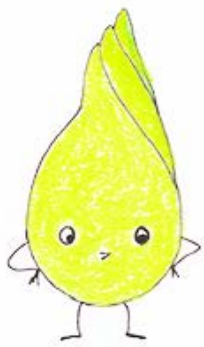
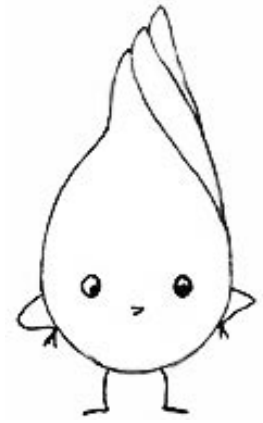
This is Buddy!
Buddy's a tree bud.



Buddy's friends are tree buds!

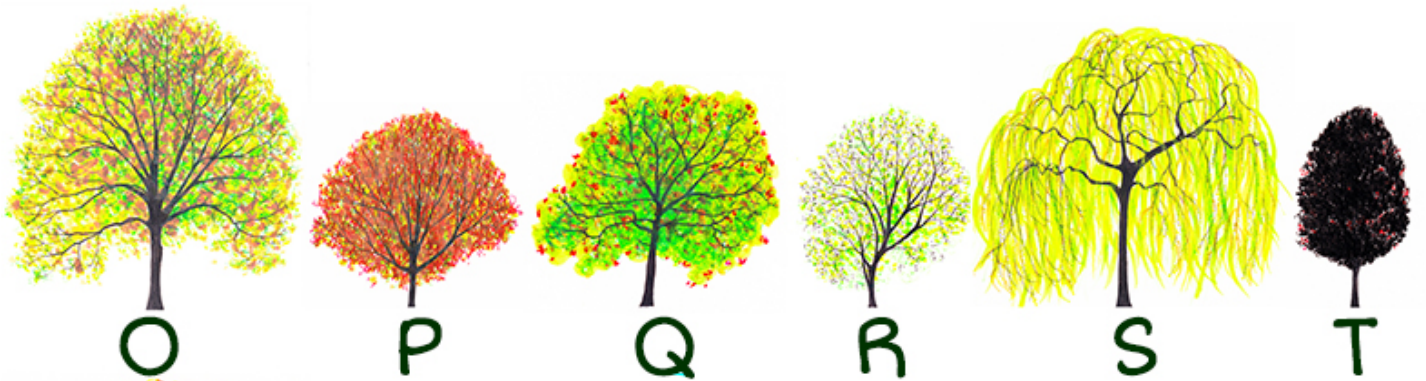
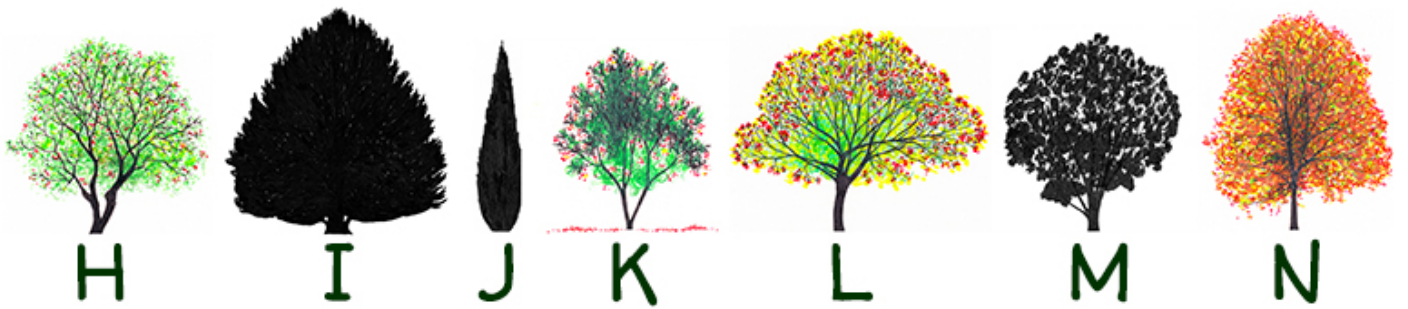
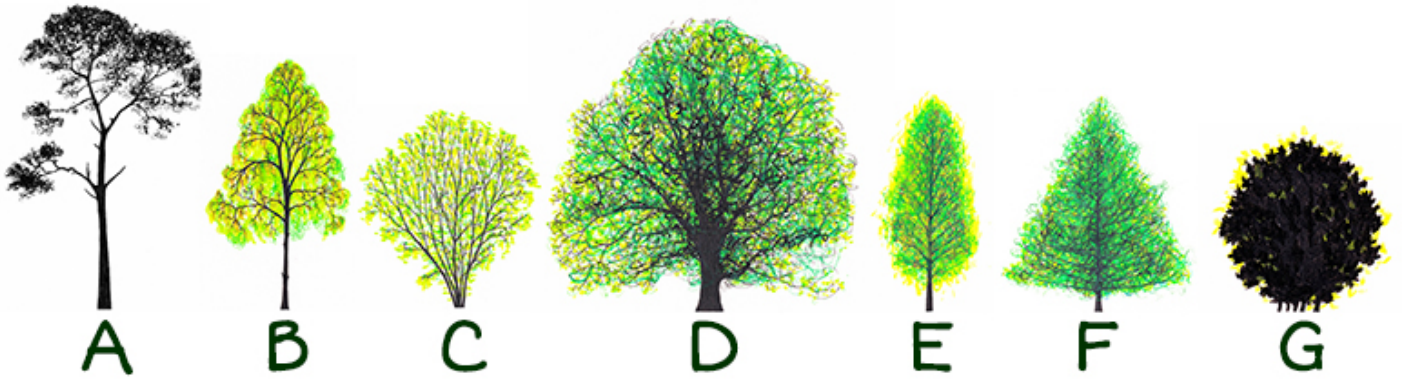


Buddy likes exploring the world
while waiting to grow up and blossom

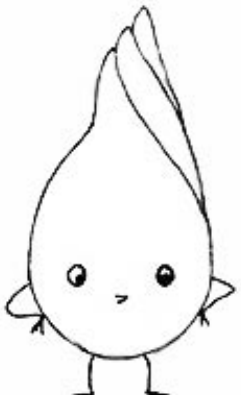


DRAW YOUR OWN BUDDY

Buddy is learning the Irish Tree Alphabet



DRAW the alphabet here

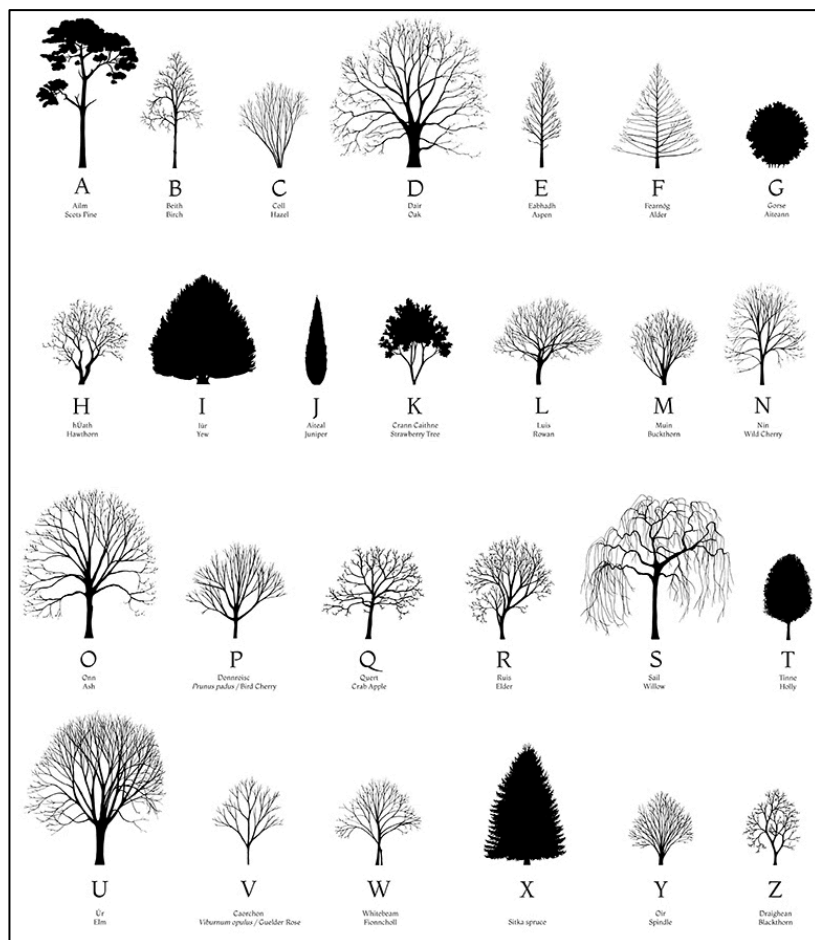


What do
you think a
tree alphabet is?

In the
IRISH TREE
ALPHABET
each letter
of the ABC
is replaced
with a TREE



The **IRISH TREE ALPHABET** is an art project that allows us to write with Irish Trees.



Download poster: www.treealphabet.ie

In this colouring book we will meet the first three letters: **A B C**

A = Ailm / Scots Pine

B = Beith / Birch

C = Coll / Hazel

I made drawings of trees, existing native trees as well as non-natives that now call Ireland home due to the changing climate. Each tree replaces a letter in the alphabet. We're going to meet them here.

Together, we'll explore language ecosystems and the magic of our words. The **Irish Tree Alphabet** finds roots and inspiration in **Ogham**, a medieval alphabet used to write the early Irish language. We'll learn more about Ogham with letter "O." But first, let's start with letter A.

What's a tree?

That's right, trees are large plants!

DRAW your favourite **TREE** here

Some trees are so

BIG

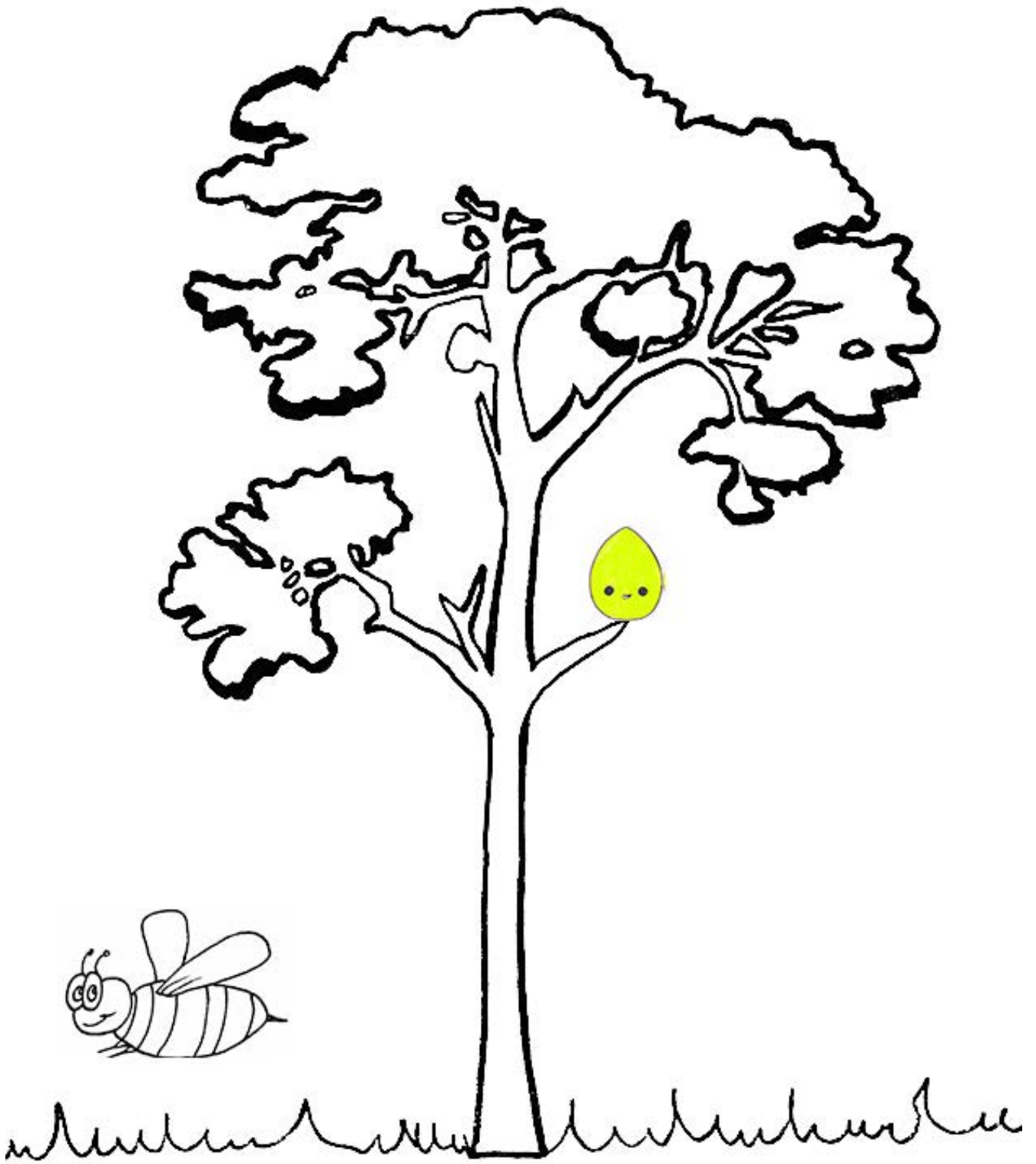
they are

the largest

living things on



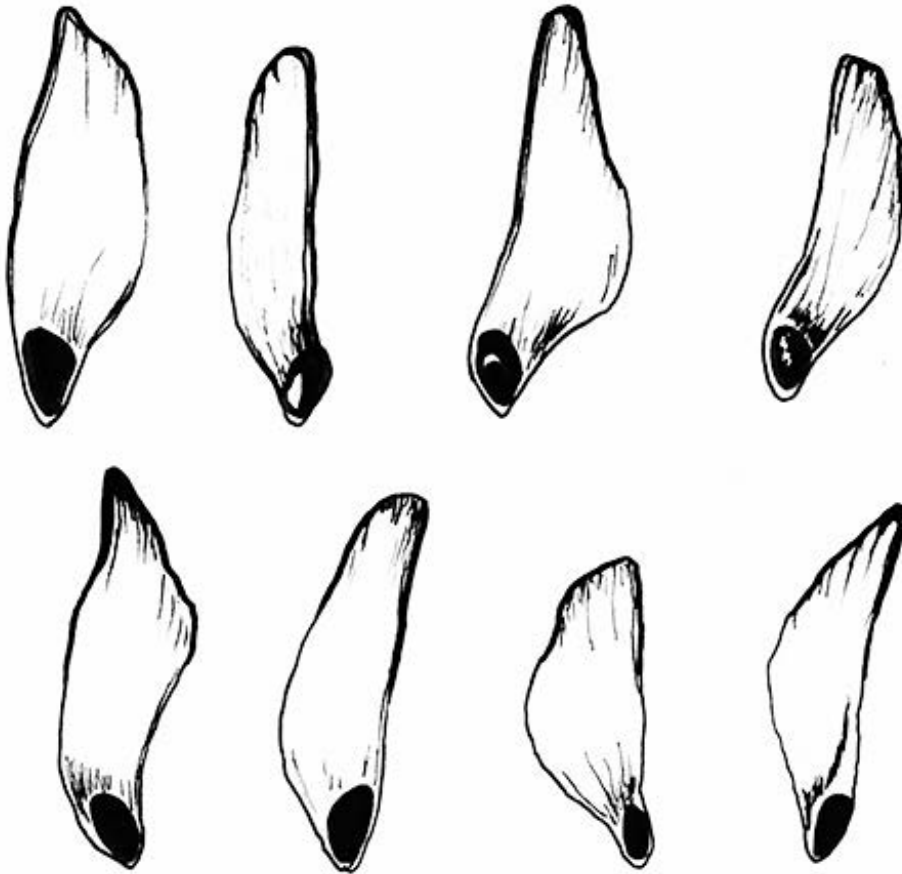
Earth!



A is for Ailm

"A" in the Irish Tree Alphabet is represented by a drawing of Scots Pine, Ailm in Irish.

Ailm is the only pine tree native to Ireland.



Pine is one of the oldest seed-bearing plants on our planet. The seeds have wings, like fairies, so they can fly through the air.



seed

A is for ABOUT

About Me

Hello! My name is Katie. I'm an artist explorer.

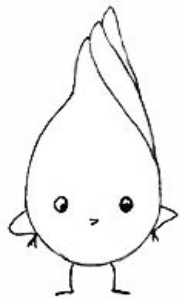
I was born in Dublin a long time ago. I grew up in Ardee in Co. Louth, the smallest county in Ireland. Our house is beside Ardee Bog. You could say I'm a bogger. I'm also a tree hugger!



Katie is quarantined with a Moreton Bay Fig tree in California, 2020.

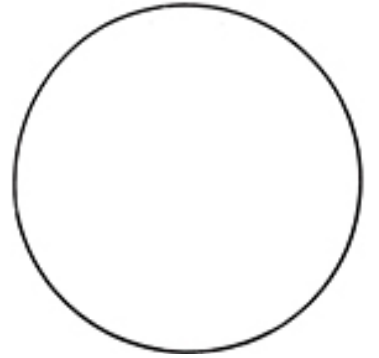
I love trees and believe we can learn a lot from them. I made the Irish Tree Alphabet so we can slow down and write with Irish trees.

ABOUT ME

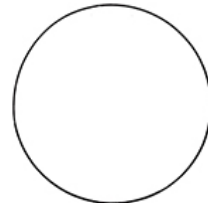


DRAW yourself
with your favourite tree

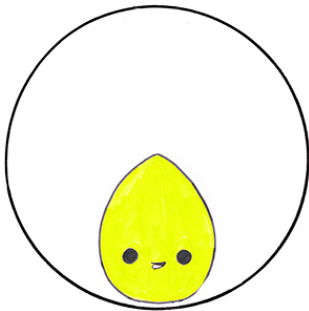
A is for AIR



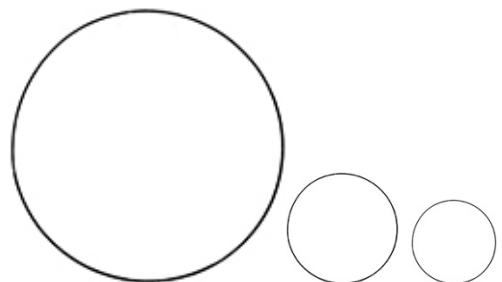
AIR helps keep everything alive.



Air is all around us, but is invisible, so we can't see it.

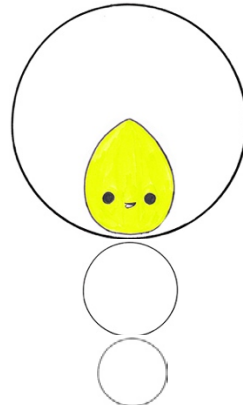


Sometimes we can see tiny dust motes floating in the **air**. We can see the **air** when it moves tree leaves.



Air is made up of atoms: nitrogen, oxygen, argon, carbon dioxide, water vapor, and tiny dust particles.

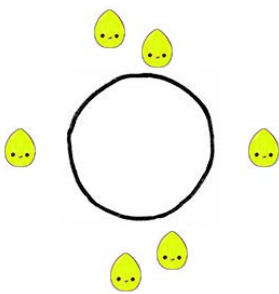
A is for ATOM



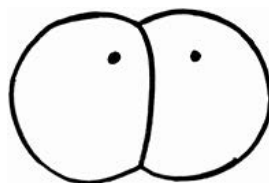
ATOMS are teeny tiny .

Atoms are sometimes called the “building blocks of life” because everything is made of atoms!

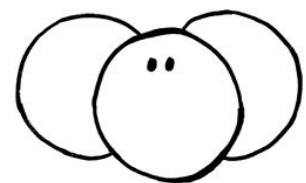
Every human is full of Carbon, Oxygen, Hydrogen, and Nitrogen atoms.



Carbon



Oxygen



Carbon Dioxide

Every tree is full of Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sulfur atoms.

A is for ART

Art is magic!

Art is our imagination at play!

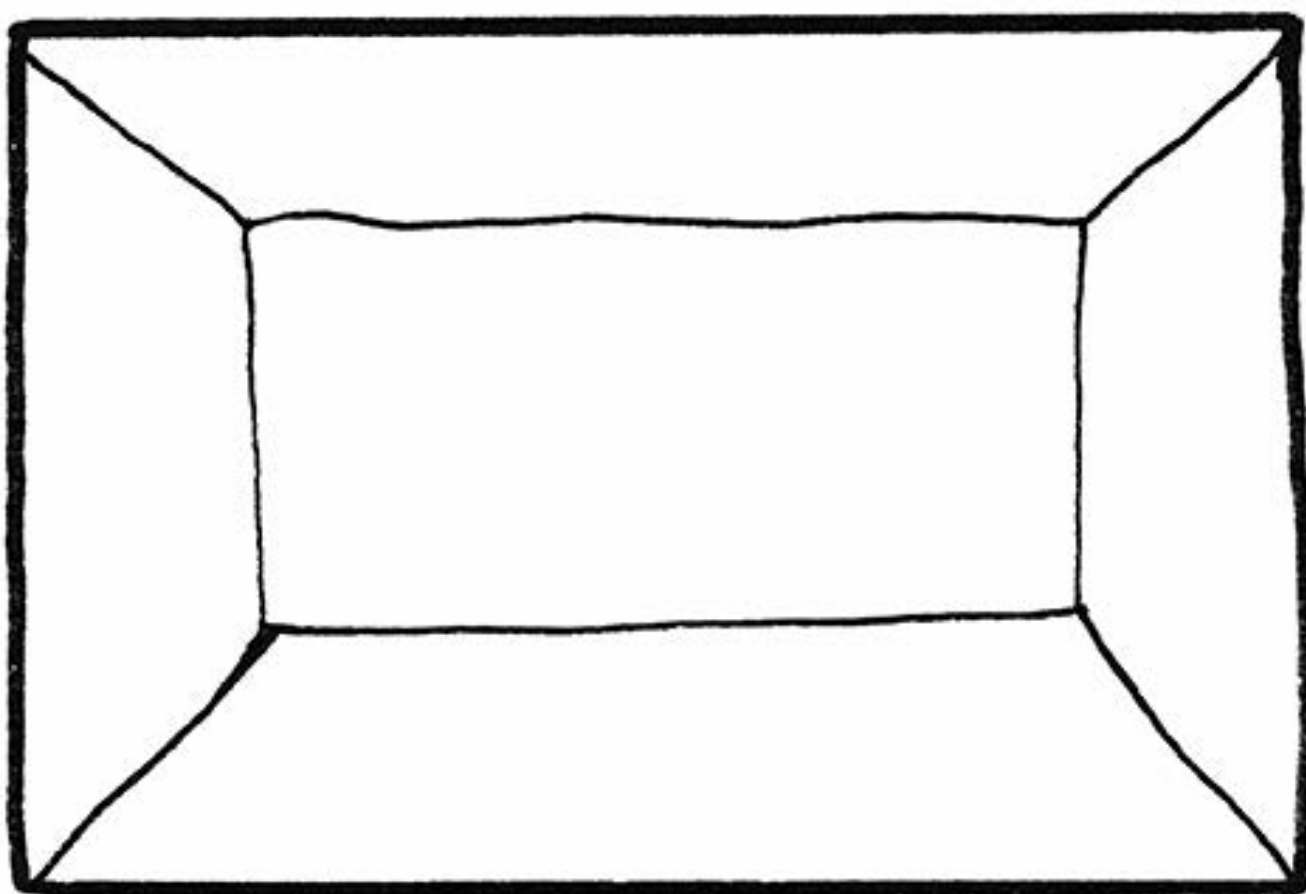
Everyone who is curious and wants to explore how the world works is an artist.



Katie Holten: Paths of Desire, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, 2007.

This is a photograph of my first exhibition in a museum. I made a tree from rubbish. We can see the tree roots, which are usually hidden underground. Art lets us share the beauty of the world around us. What do you find beautiful?

DRAW your own art exhibition
in this empty museum!



A is for ACTIVISM

An **activist** is a person who believes strongly in political or social change and takes action to try to make this happen. Tree huggers are one kind of activist.

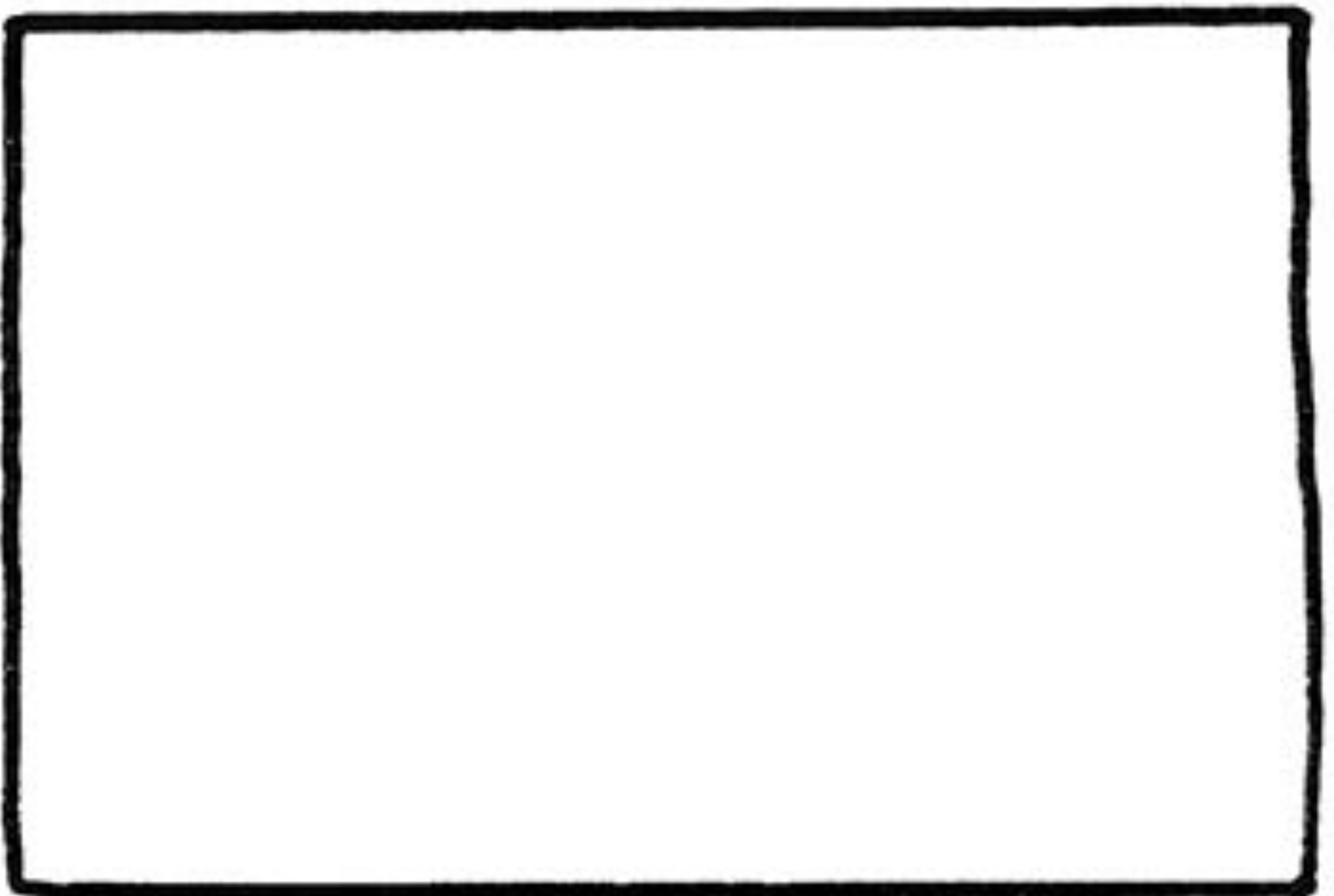


Greta Thunberg and friends outside the UN in New York City, 2019.

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish environmental activist. In August 2018, at age 15, she started spending her school days outside the Swedish Parliament to call for stronger action on **Climate Change** by holding up a sign reading **Skolstrejk för klimatet: School Strike for Climate**.

MAKE A SIGN!

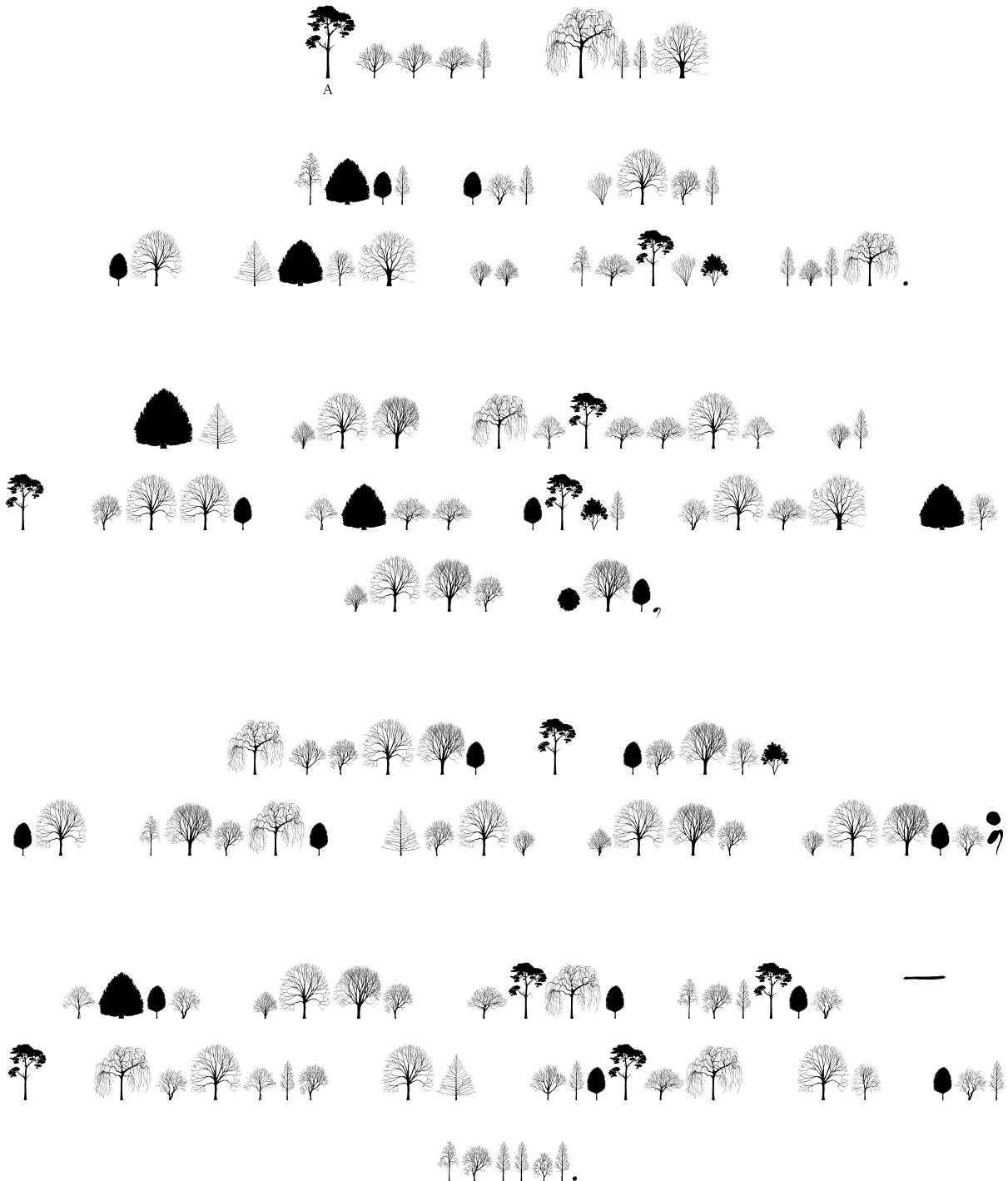
What will you put on your sign?



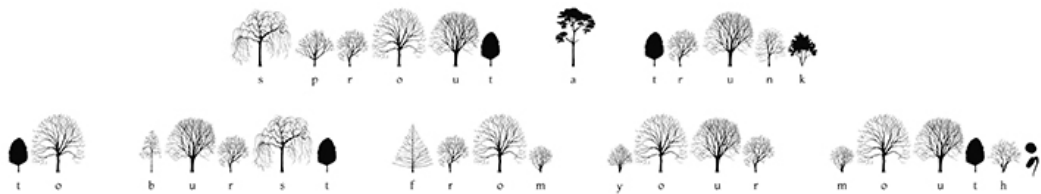
What do you care deeply about?
Maybe there is someone, like a tree,
that needs your help?

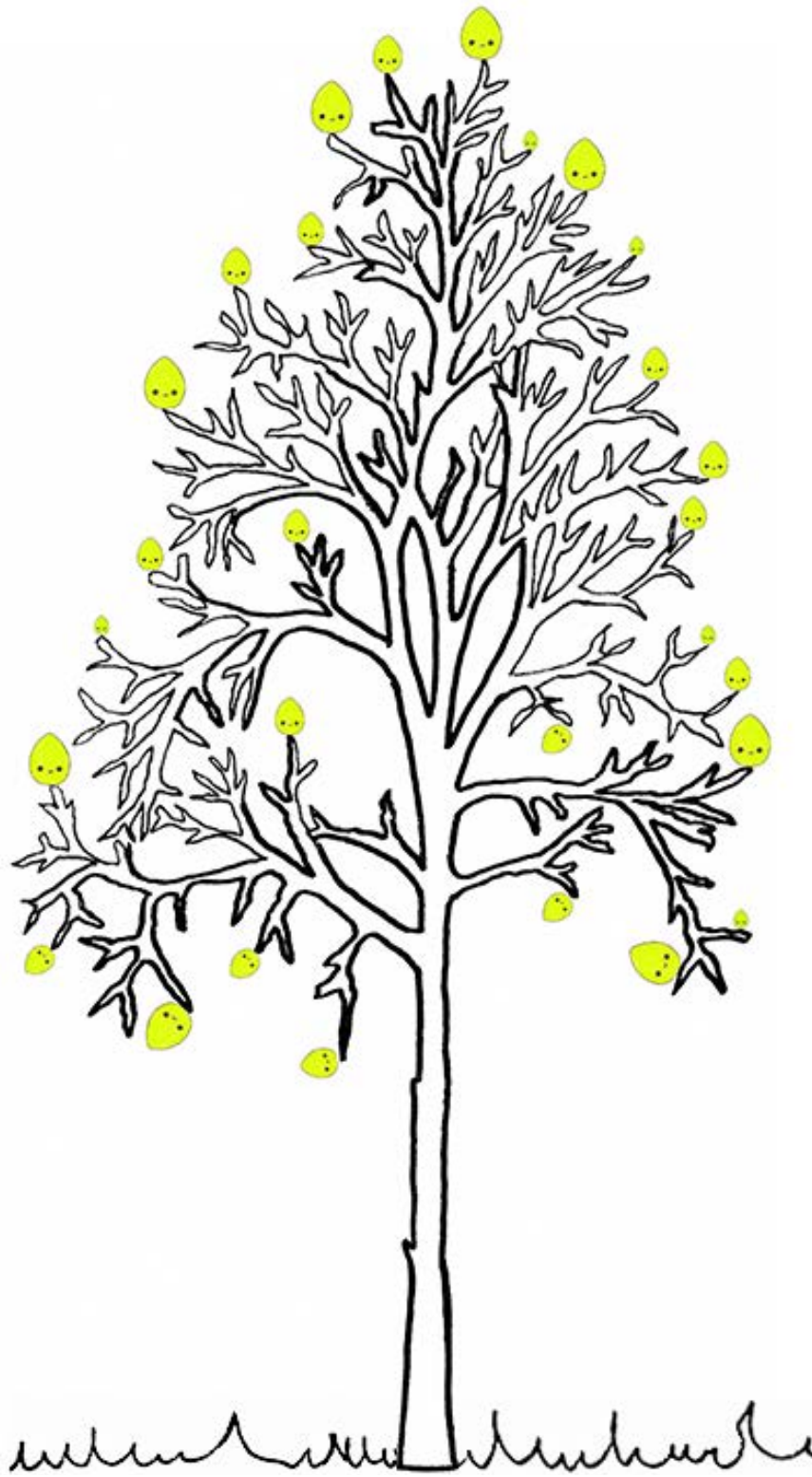
A is for APPLE

The poet Jessica Traynor was inspired by the Irish Tree Alphabet to write this poem.



Can you translate the forest and read the poem?





B is for **B**irch

"B" in the Irish Tree Alphabet is a drawing of Birch, Beithe in Irish.

Beautiful Birch

There are two types of Birch in Ireland,
Downy Birch and Silver Birch.

They are both graceful, delicate trees with
fine branches and small leaves.



Summer



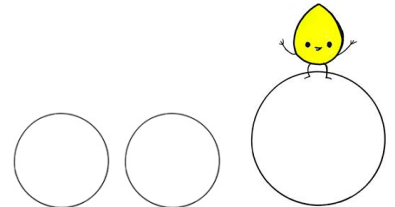
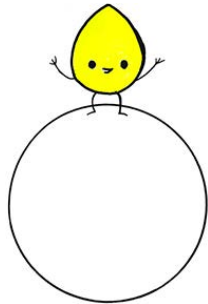
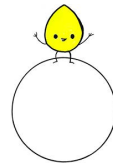
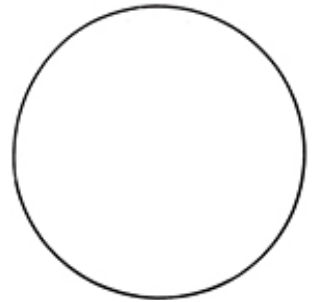
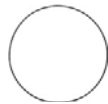
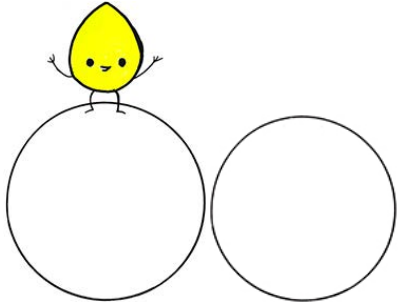
Autumn

COLLECT leaves. **DRAW** their outlines.
Do they look like little trees?

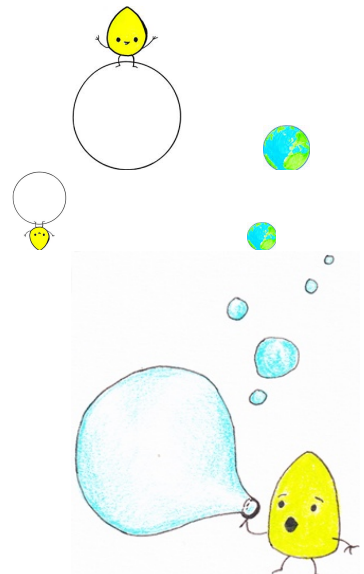
B is for BUBBLES



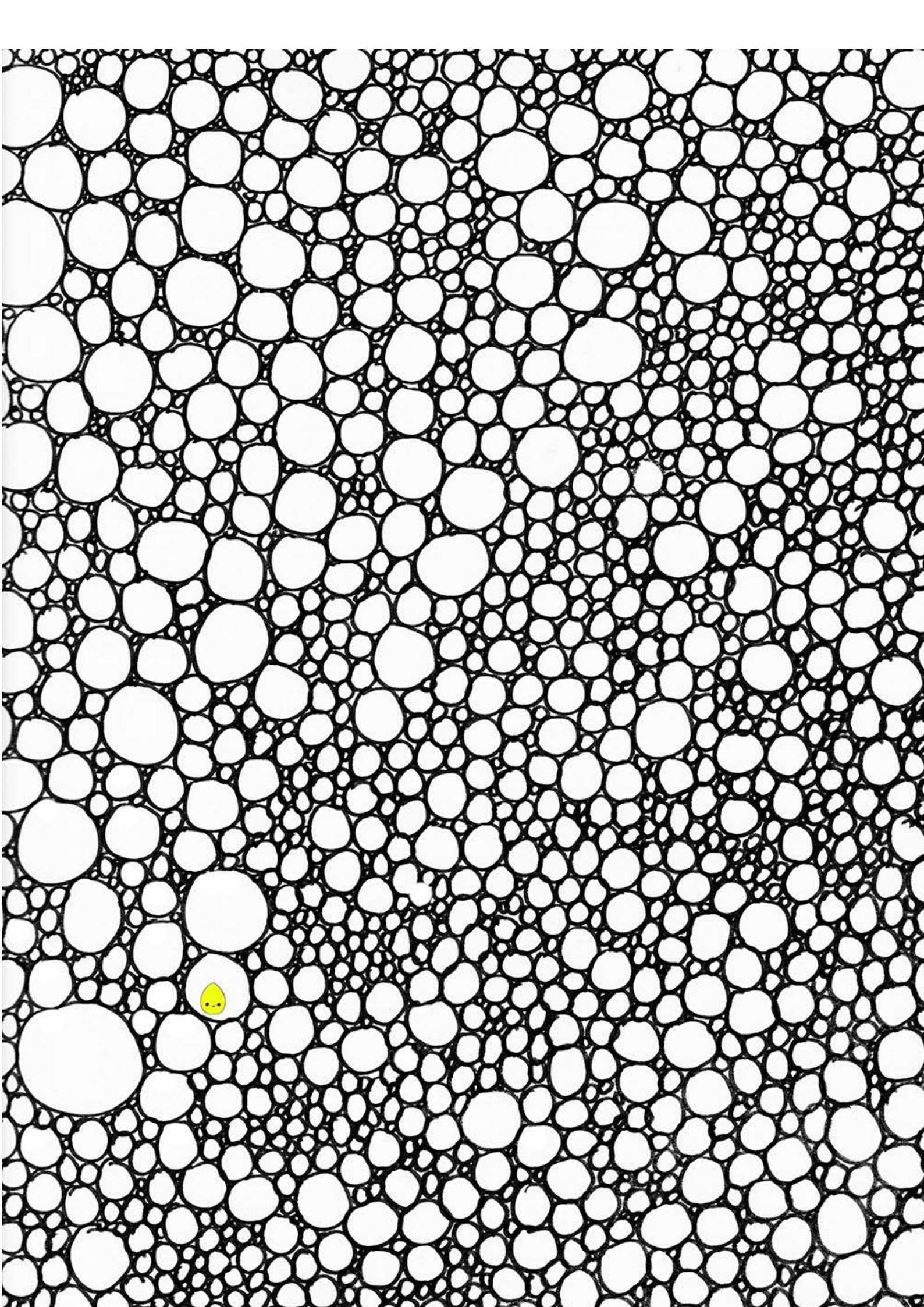
Bubbles are always round, like Earth!

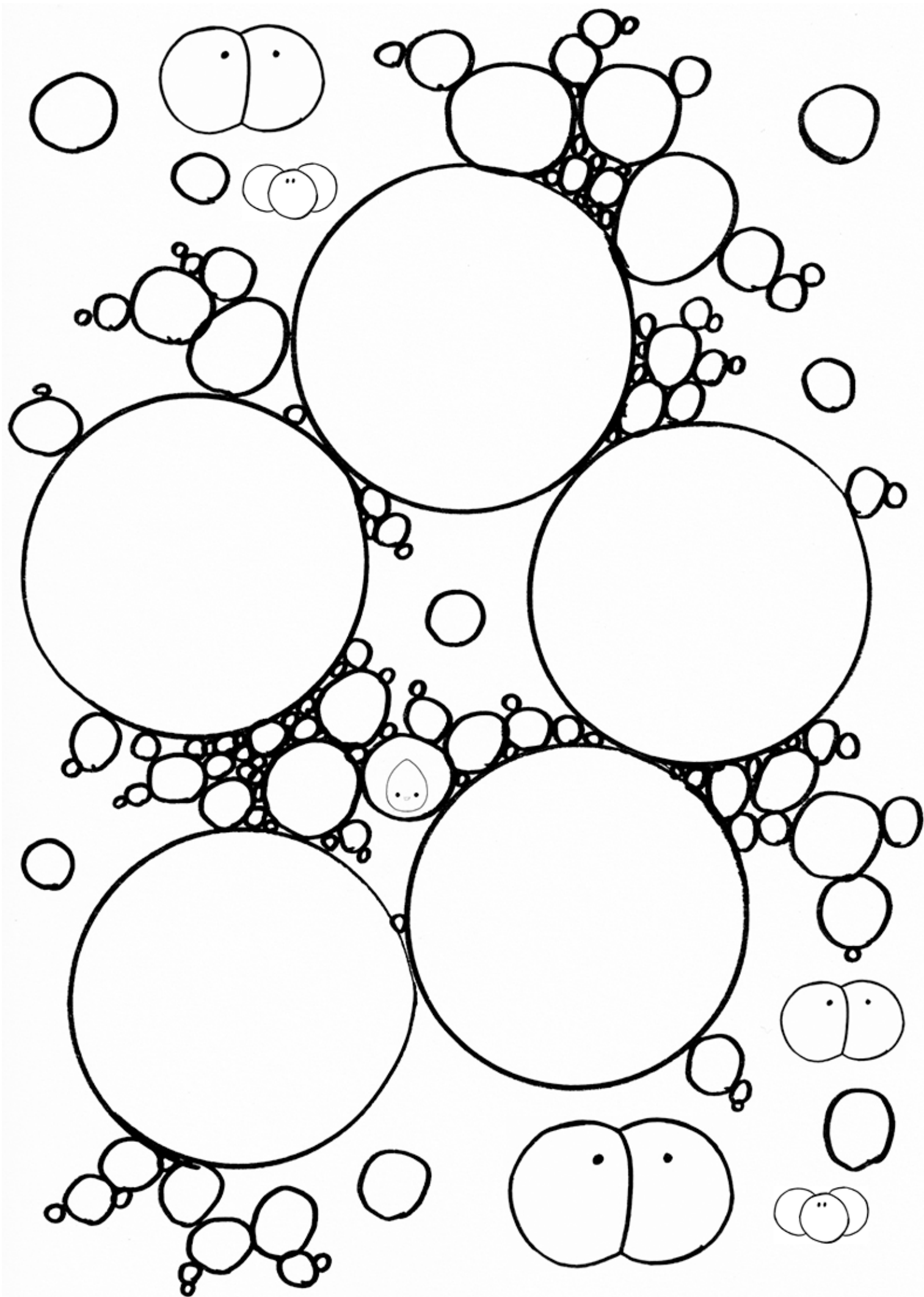


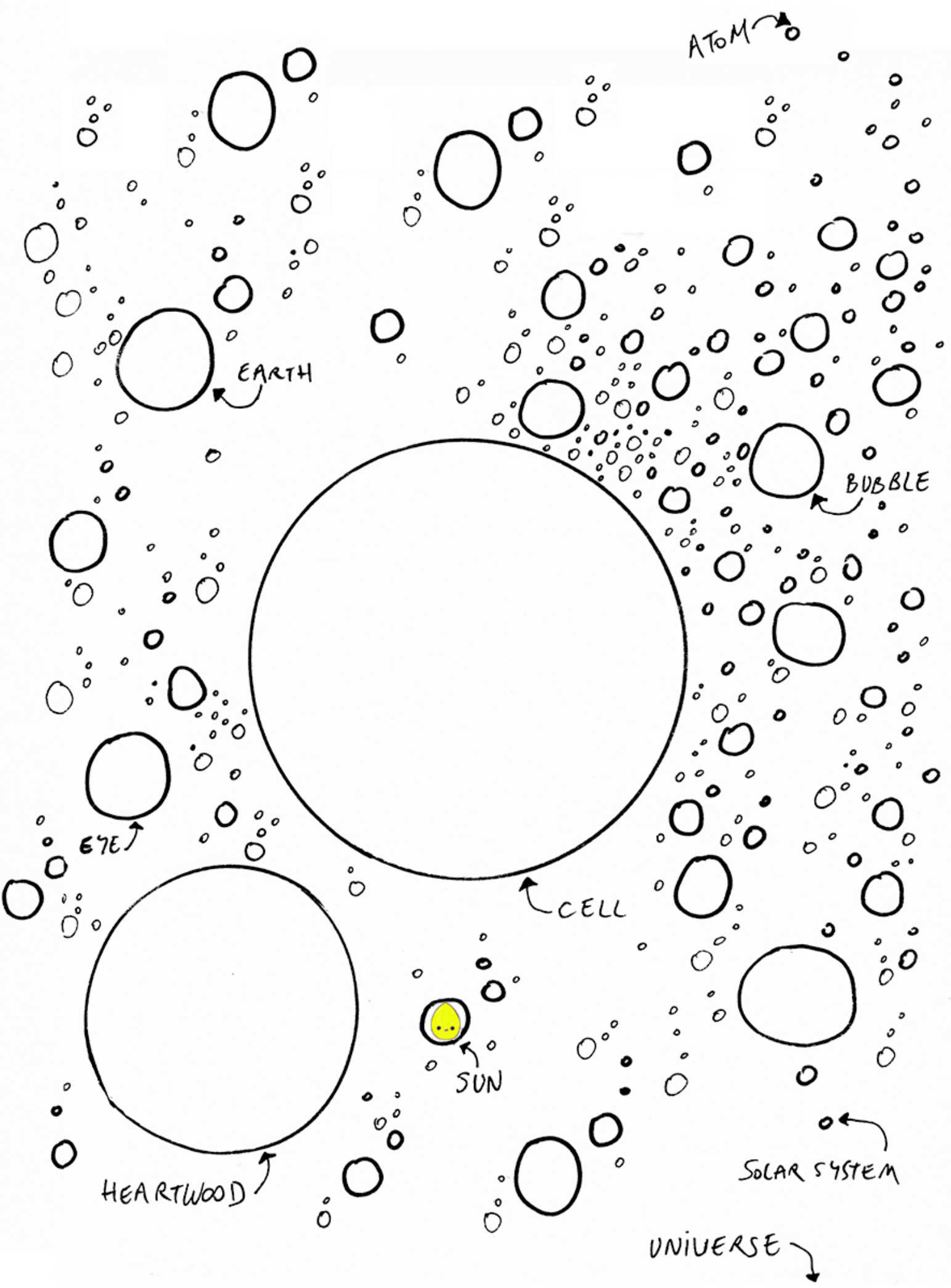
Bubbles are beautiful



Buddy likes blowing bubbles







ATOM →

EARTH →

BUBBLE →

EYE →

CELL →

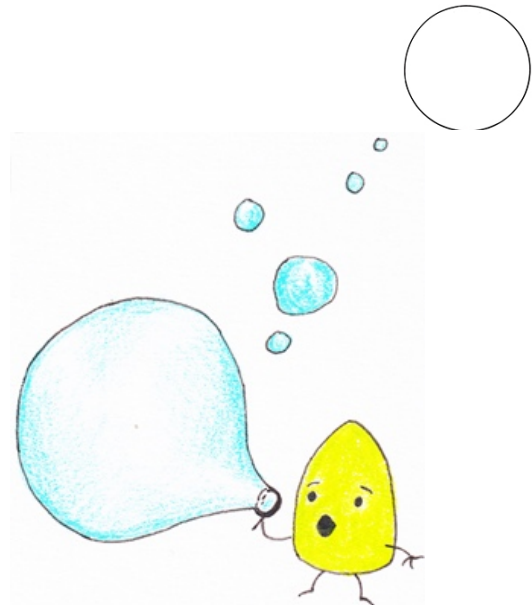
SUN →

HEARTWOOD →

SOLAR SYSTEM →

UNIVERSE →

B is for BLUE

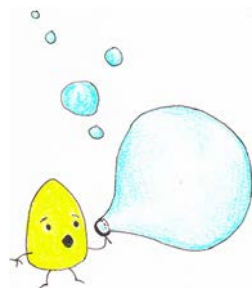
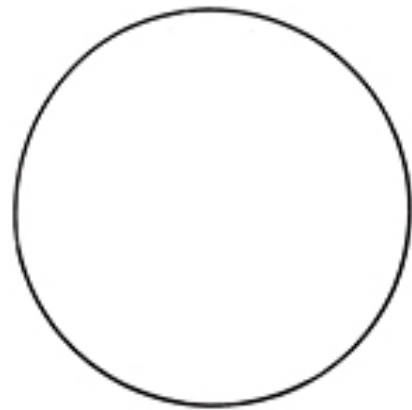


Bubbles are blue

Water is blue. The sky is blue.



Earth is a **BLUE** dot in outer space



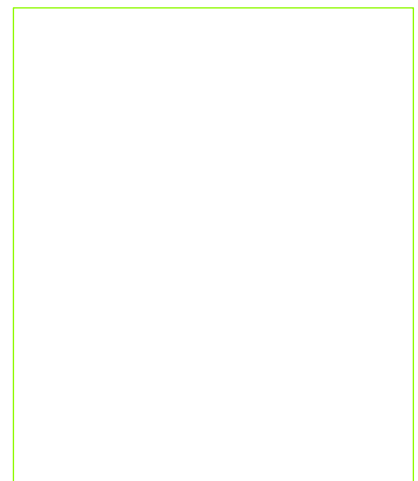
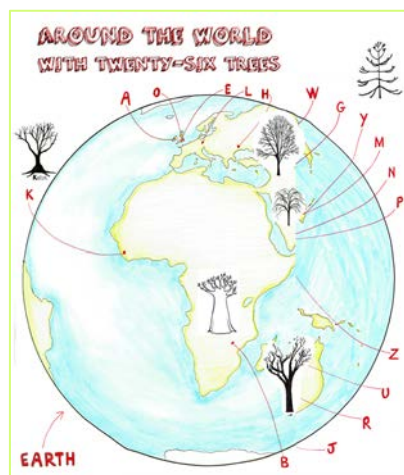
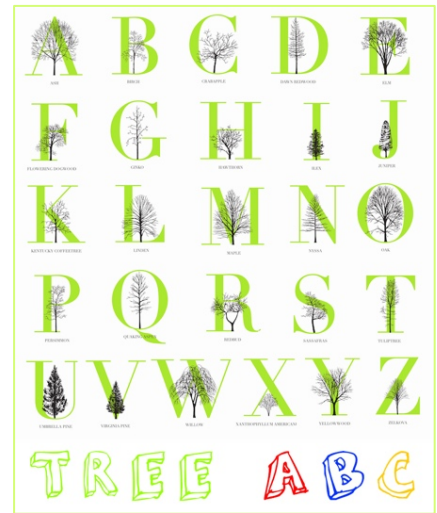
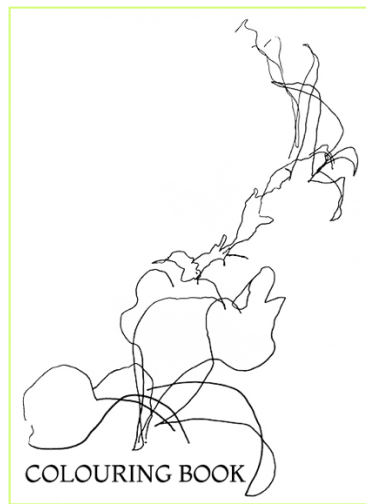
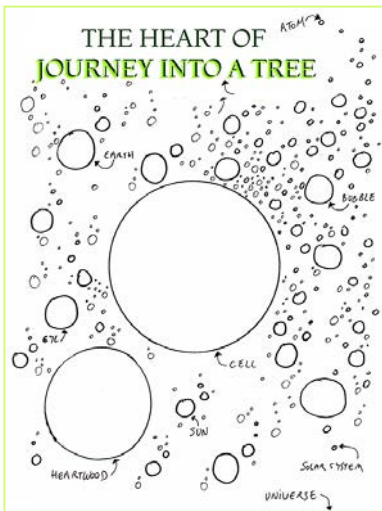
What else is blue?

B is for BOOK

Books are made from trees.

Books have always been connected to trees.

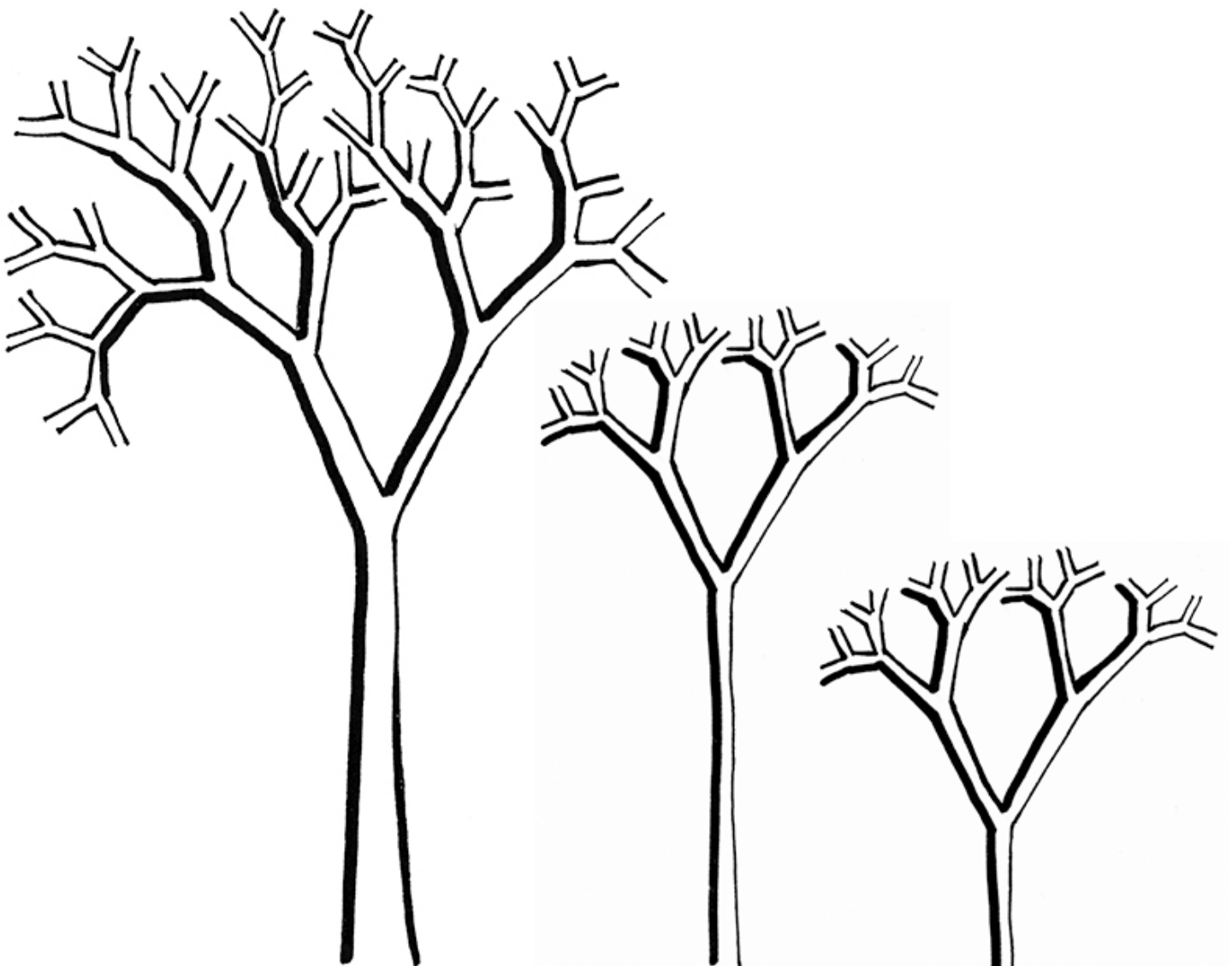
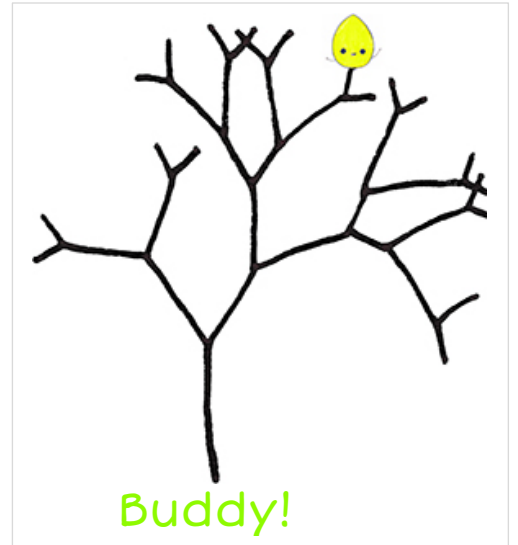
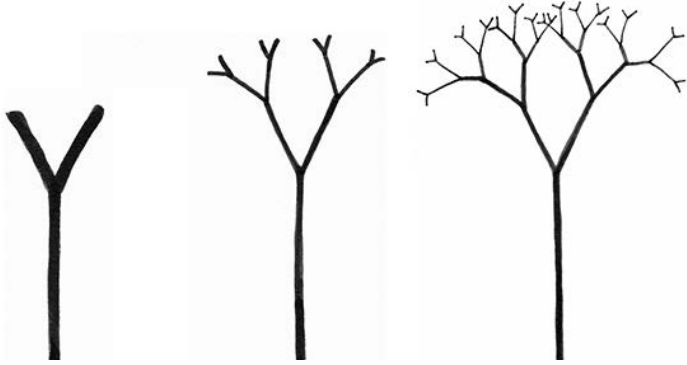
The word **book** originally comes from the old German word for Beech tree.



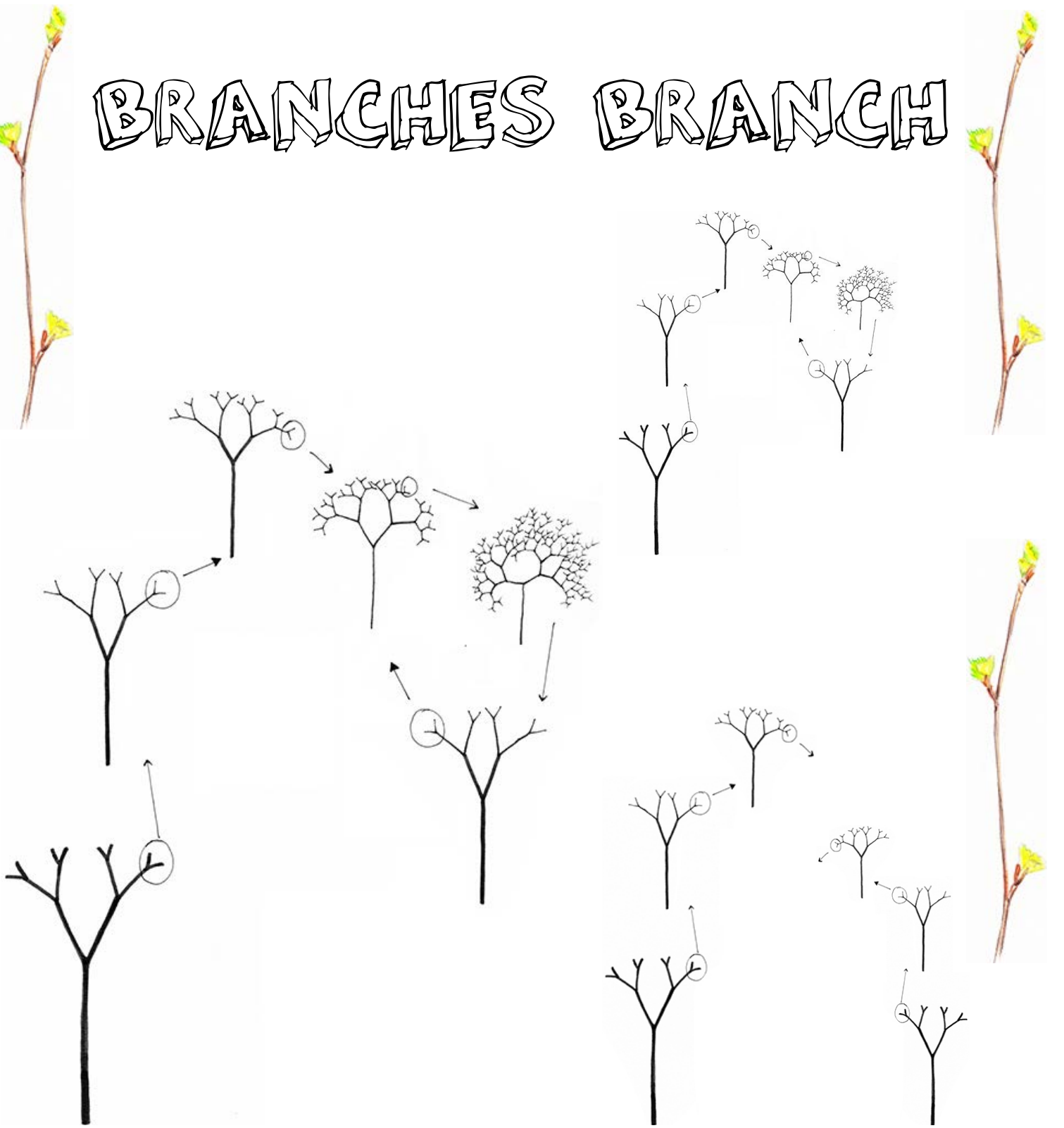
It's fun to think of ideas for books about trees.

DRAW your own tree book!

B is for BRANCH



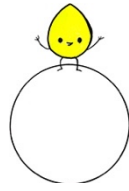
BRANCHES BRANCH



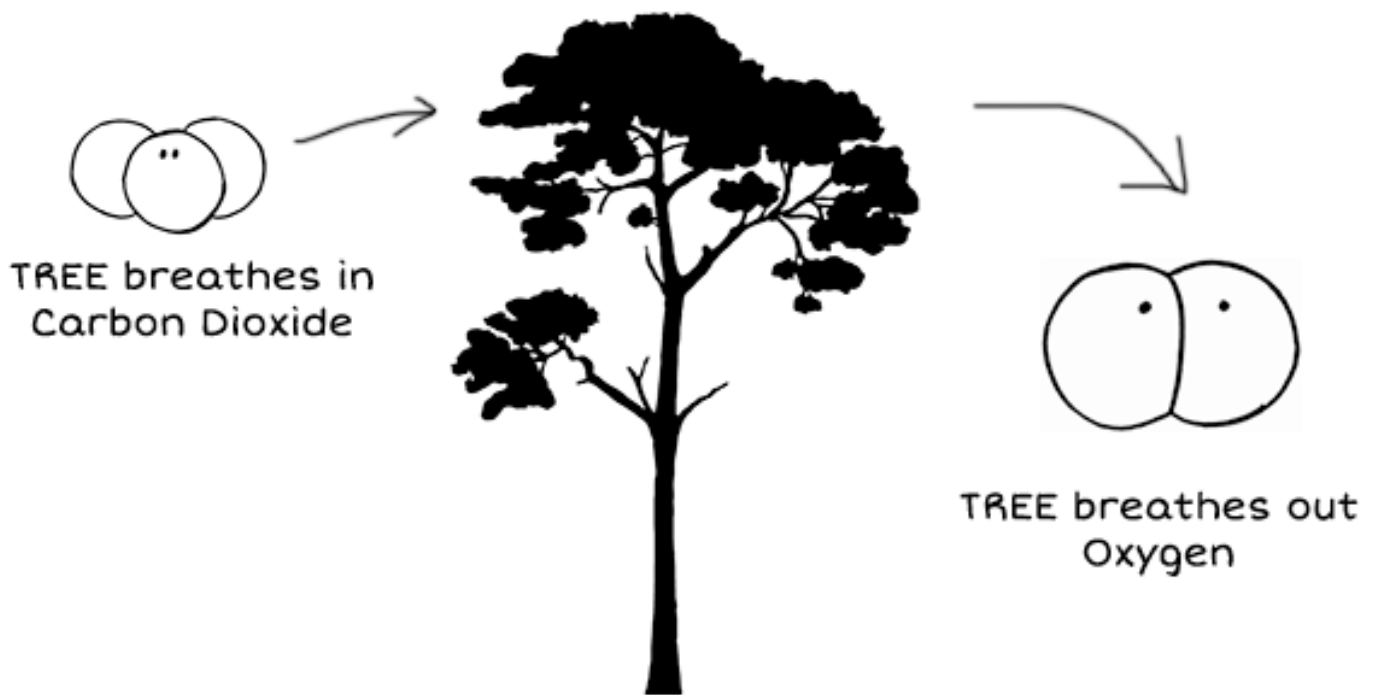
It's fun to look up at tree **branches** and follow the lines. Try drawing the tree from where it touches the earth, to where it touches the sky.

Like **fractals**: the more you look, the more you see! We'll look closer at fractals with the letter "F."

B is for BREATHING

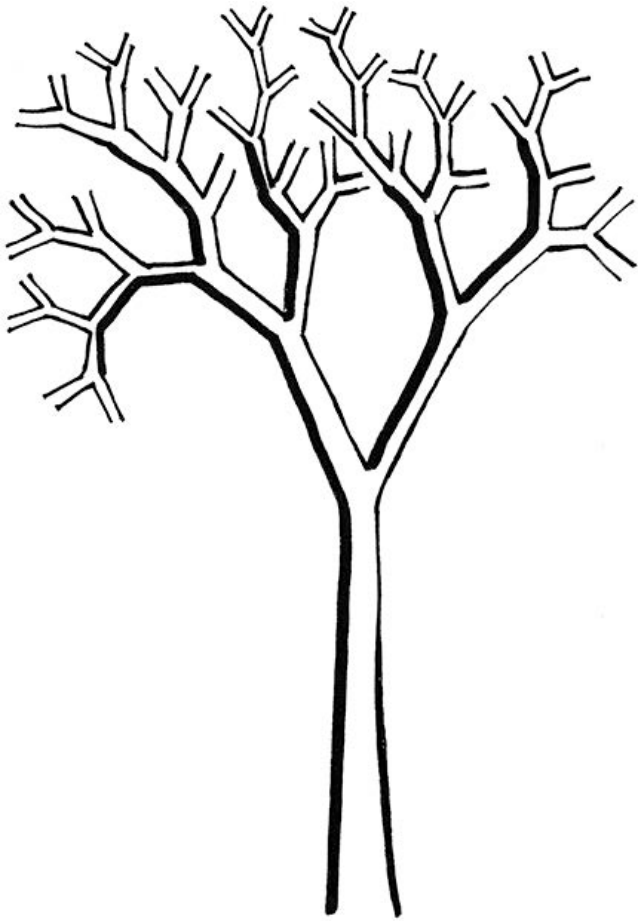


The simple things in life are best,
don't you think? Like **breathing!**

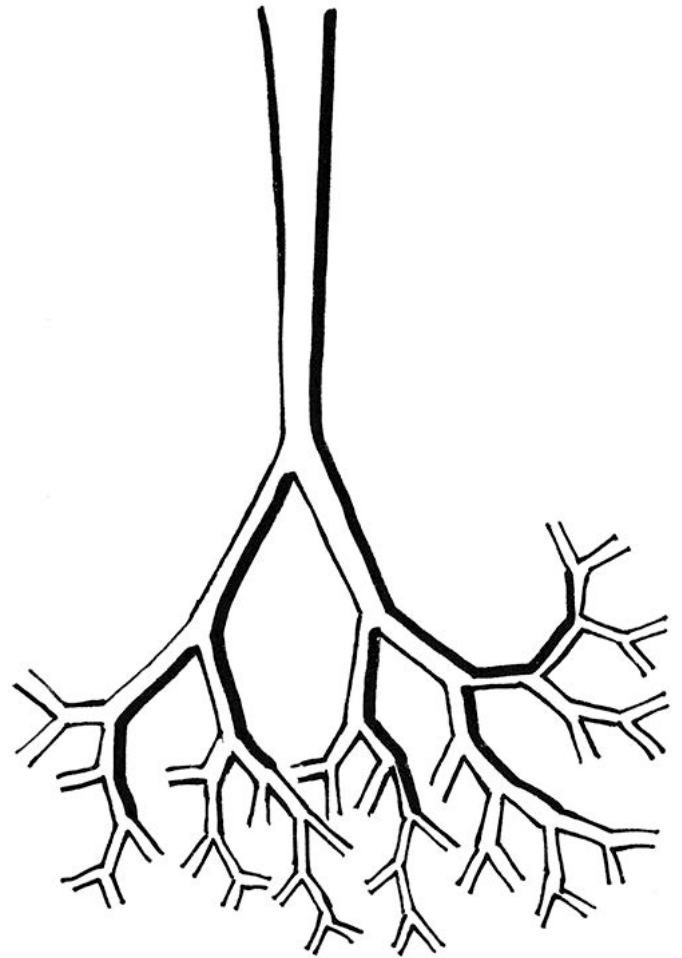


TREES **BREATHE OUT**
WE **BREATHE IN**

BREATHING



TREE



LUNGS

Trees are called the lungs of the Earth.

Trees **breathe** in Carbon Dioxide from the air.
Trees **breathe** out Oxygen that we need to live.
A perfect partnership!

Everything breaths. Earth breathes.



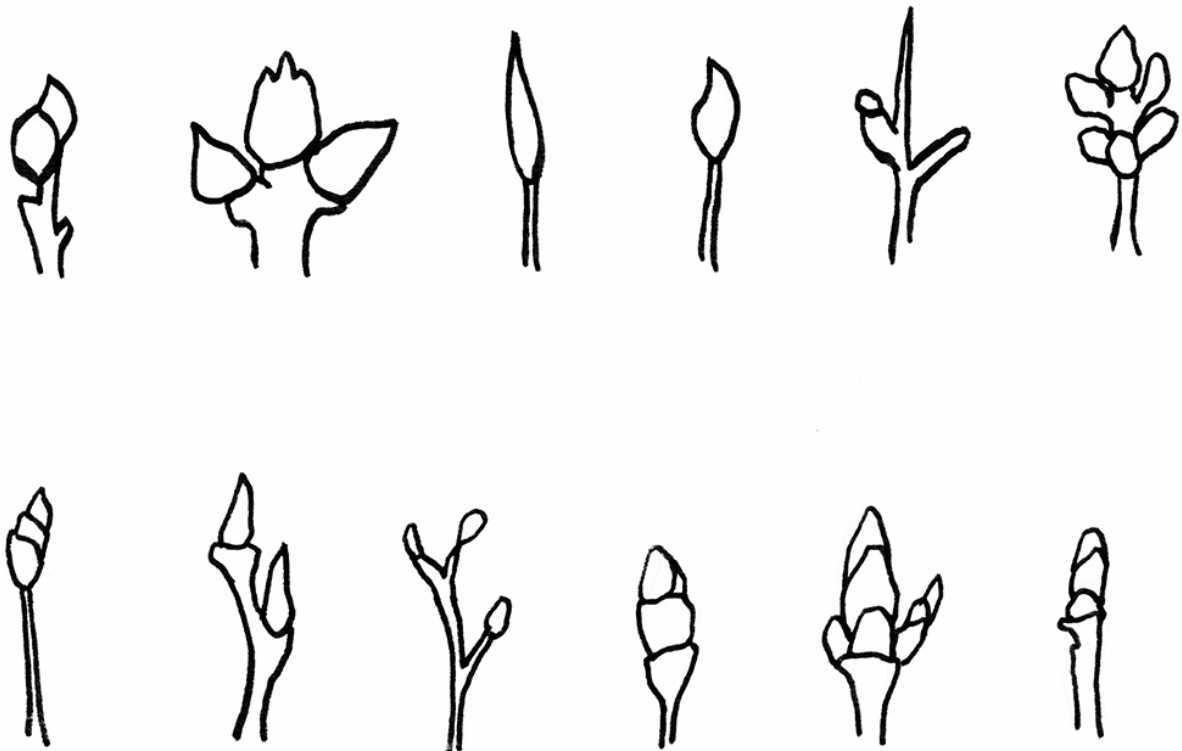
SIT quietly and notice your **breathing**.
This is a lovely way to relax. **TRY IT!**

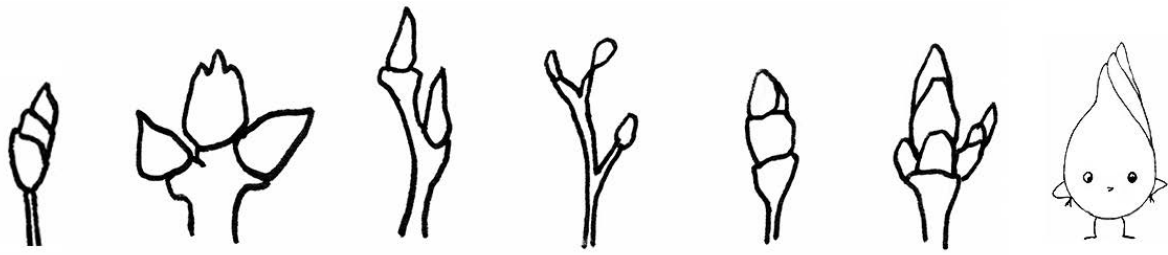
B is for BUDS

Buds are small bumps at the tips of twigs.



Buds can grow into flower, leaf or stem.





COLLECT twigs, put them in water, and watch the buds slowly open!

B is for BOG

Bogs store more carbon than all our trees,
so we can say

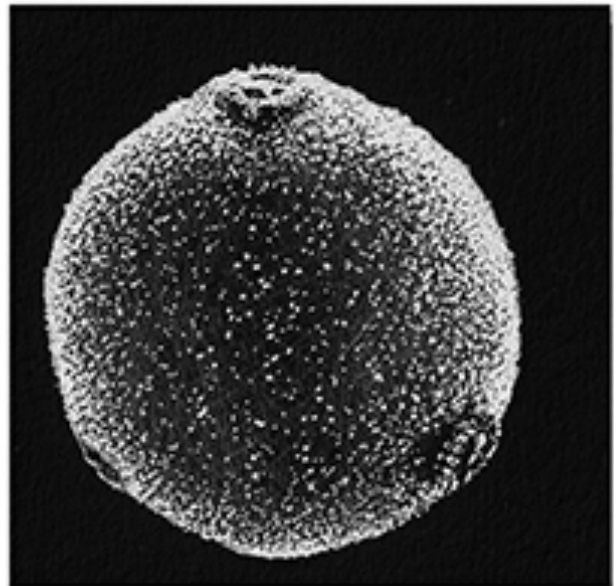
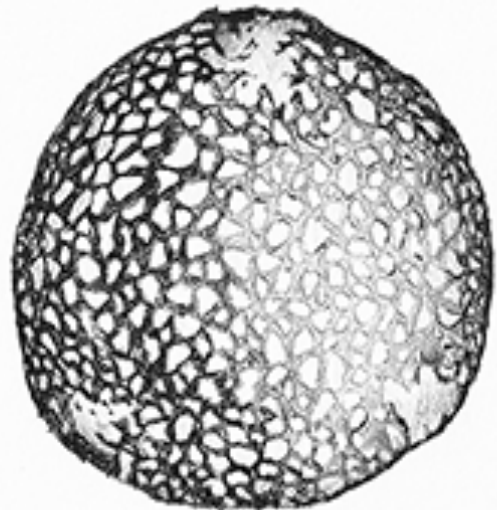
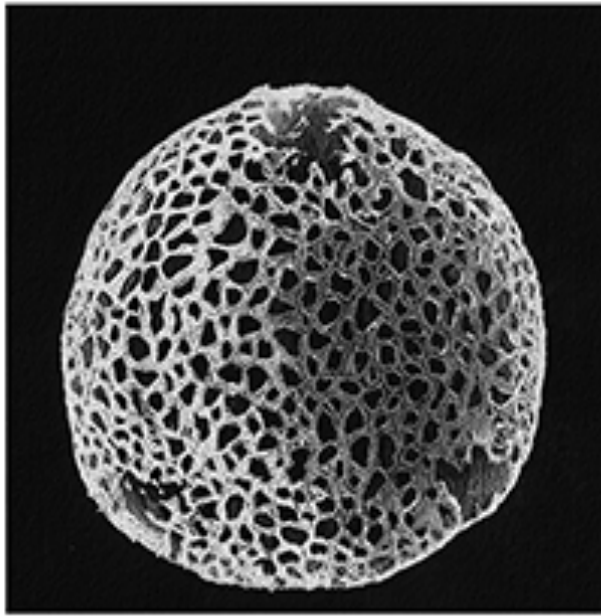
BOGS ARE IRELAND'S RAINFOREST!



Ardee Bog in Co. Louth. Heather, Orchids, Sphagnum moss and Birch trees at the edge.

I grew up beside [Ardee Bog](#). When I was little I would spend hours exploring the bog, lying in the springy peat and heather, looking up at the clouds.

Pollen (and other things!) lie buried in **bogs**. Looking closey at pollen is one of the ways that we can time-travel with trees. We'll explore time with the letter "T."



These are drawings I made of pollen from trees **A** and **B** in the Irish Tree Alphabet.

What trees are they?

B is for BLIND DRAWING

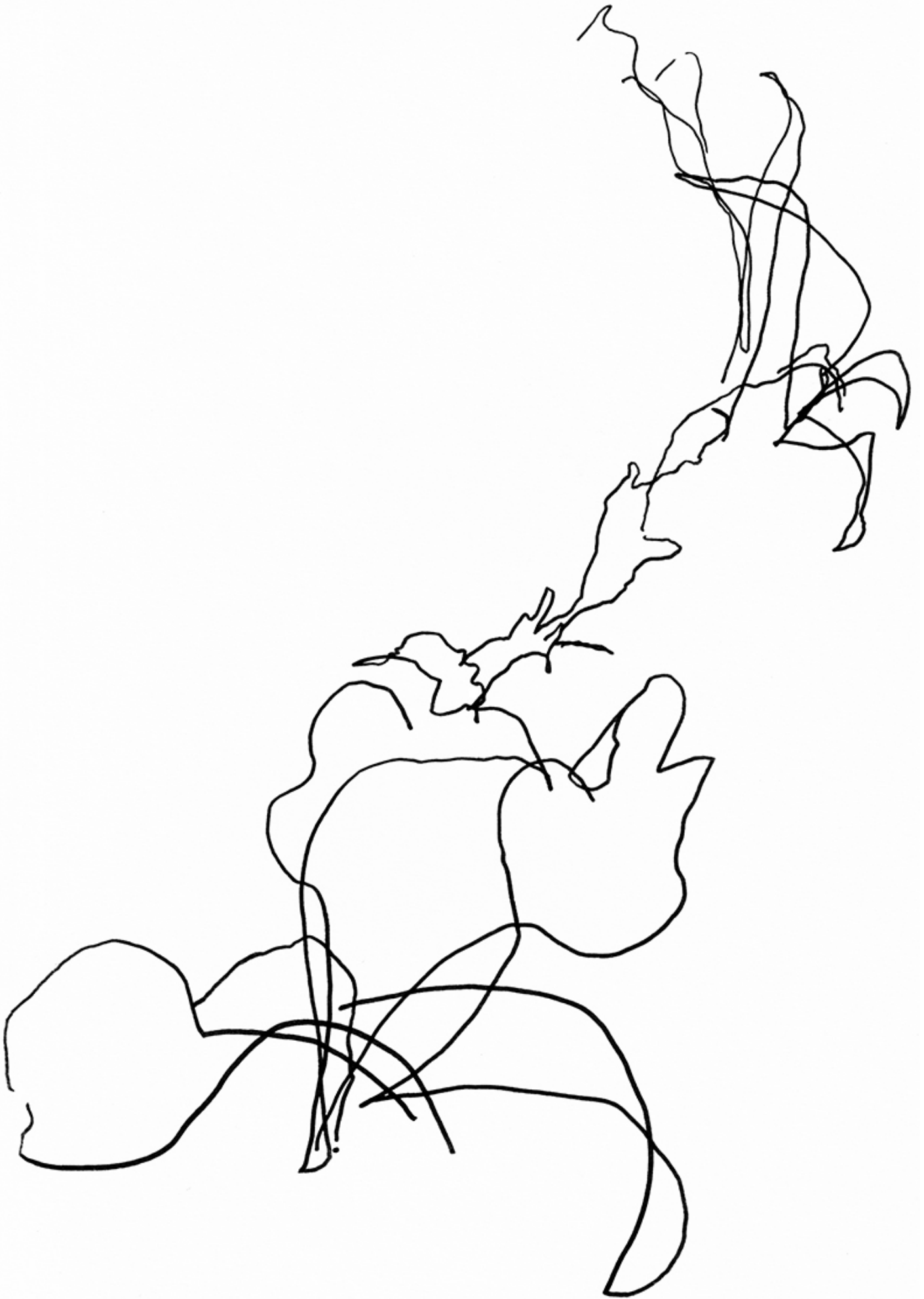


I drew the trees in my garden without looking at the paper. We call this "blind drawing."

TRY IT!



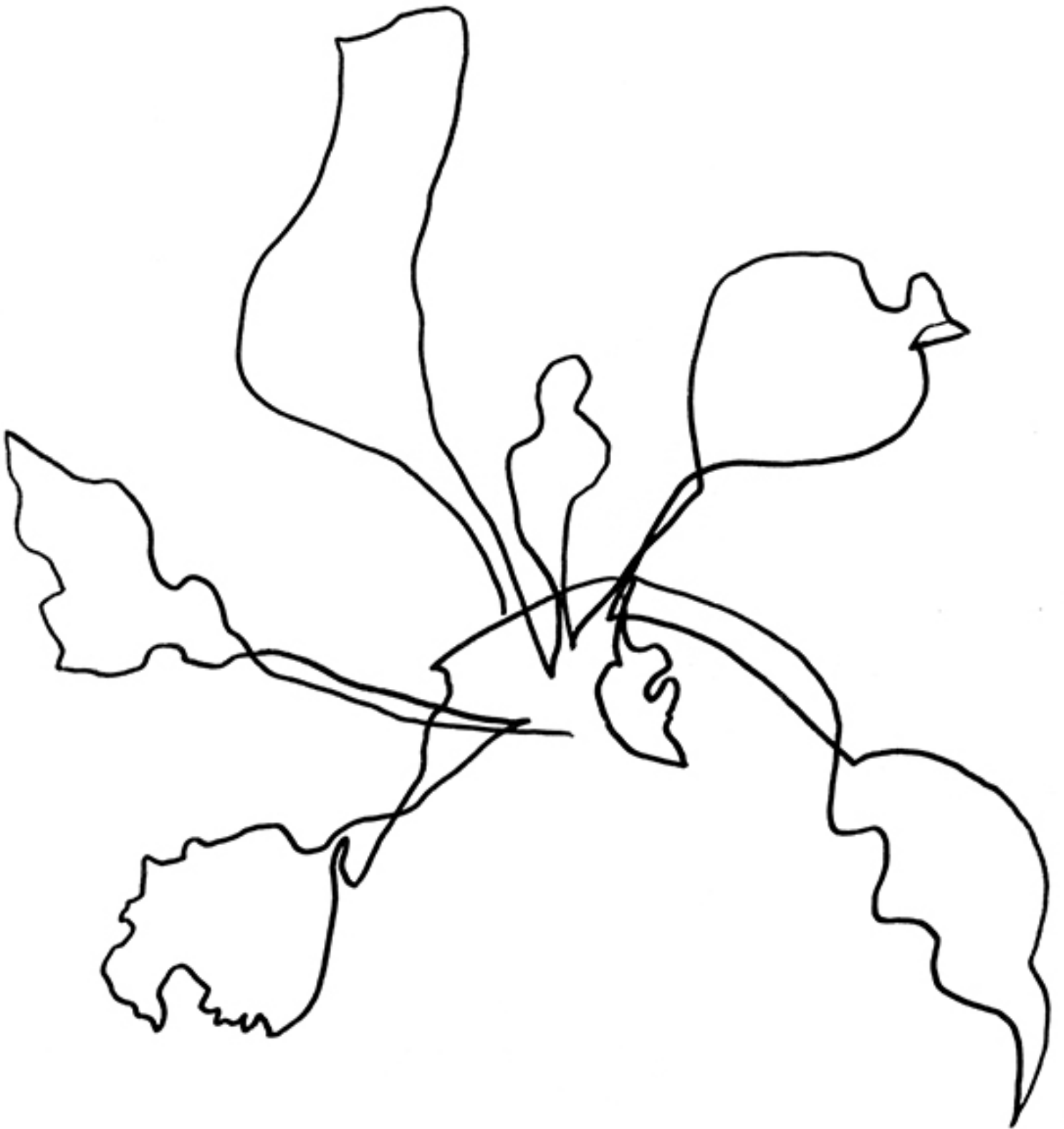
Apple tree branch with buds, leaves, and a flower



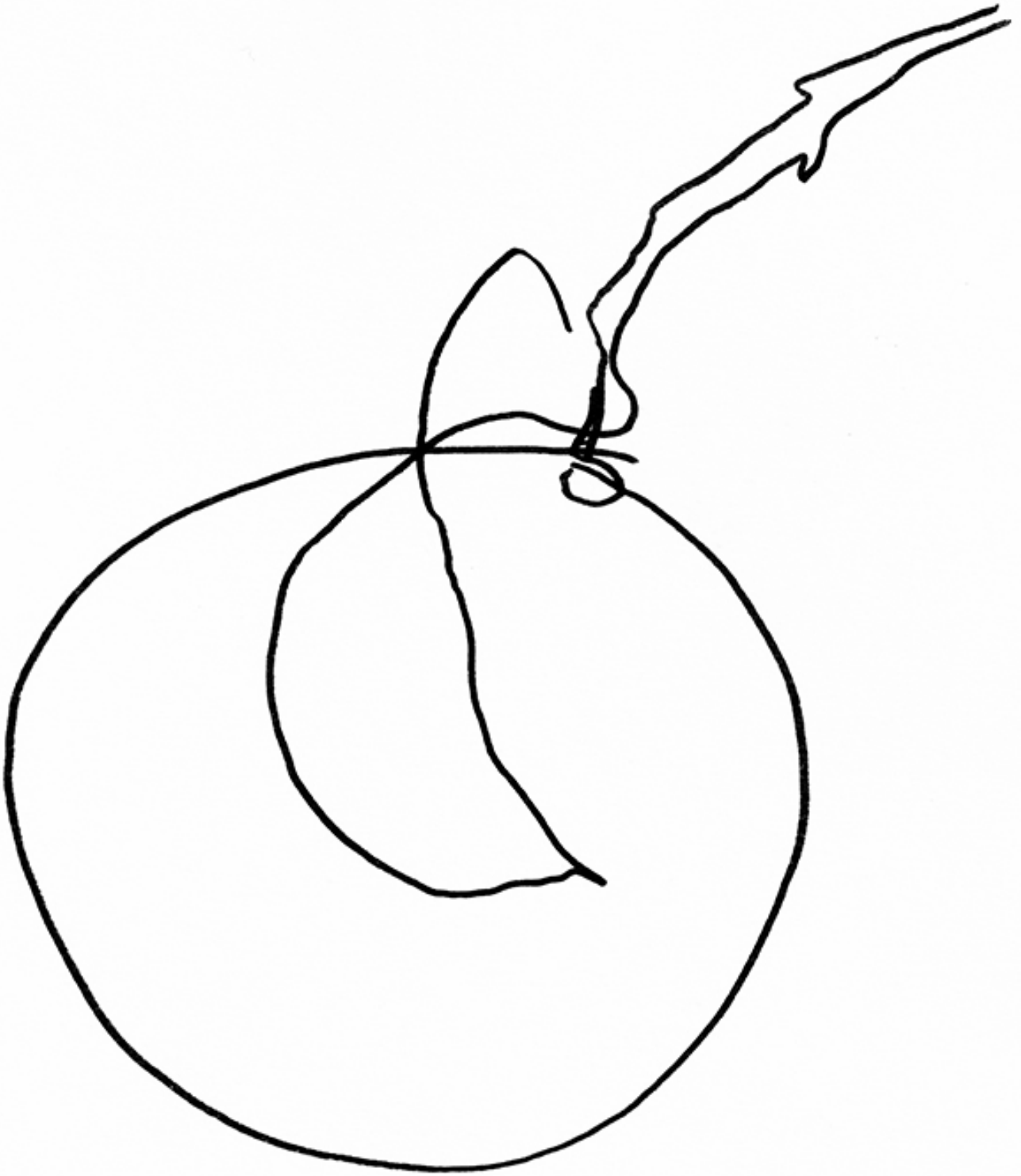
Apple tree twig with leaves



Apple tree twig with three leaves

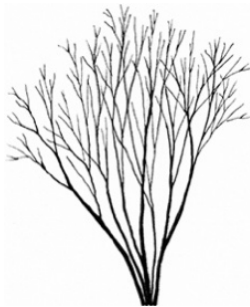


Apple tree twig with leaves



Lemon tree twig with a lemon and a leaf

C is for Coll



Winter



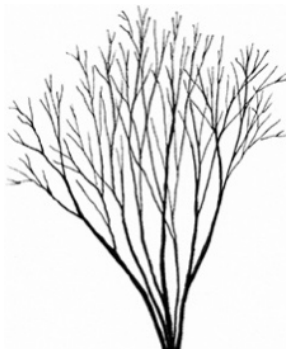
Spring



Summer



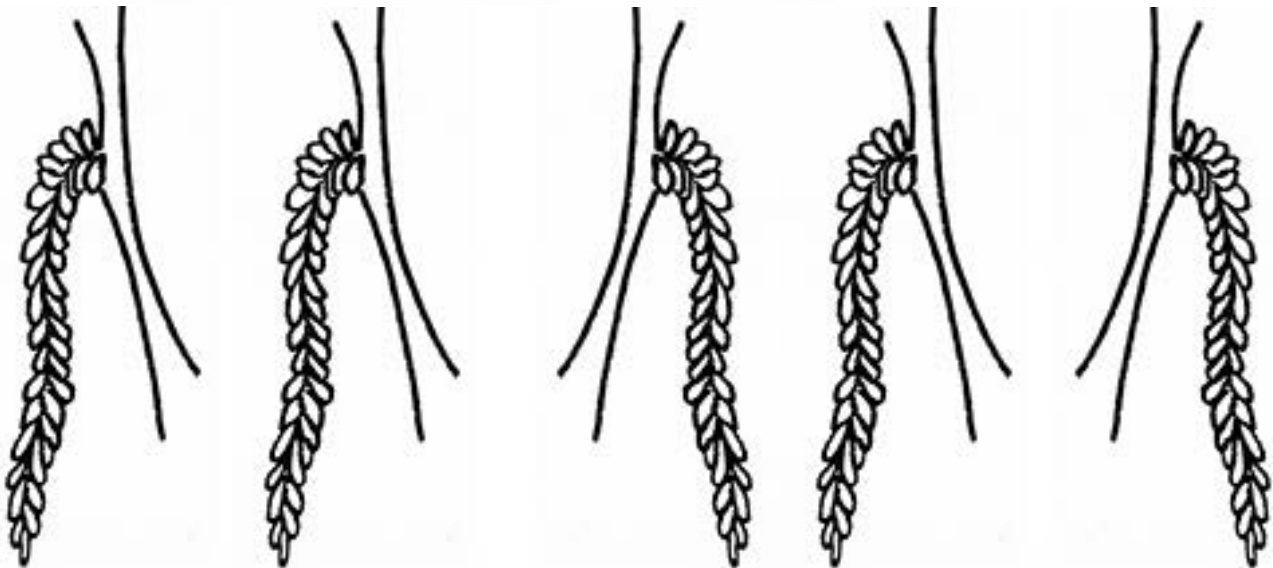
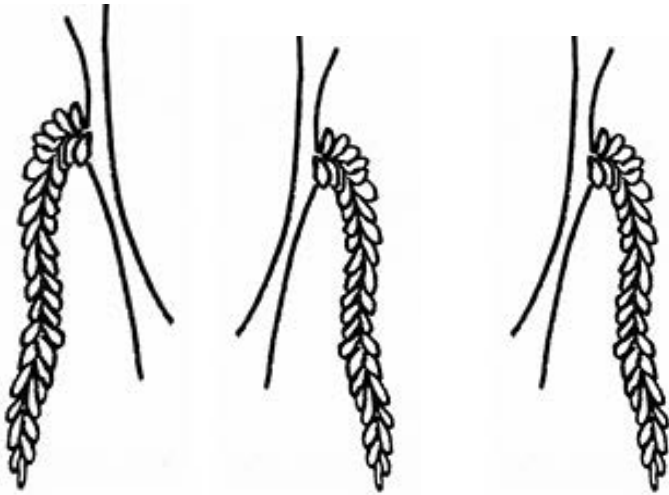
Autumn



“C” in the Irish Tree Alphabet
is Hazel, or Coll in Irish.

C is for CATKIN

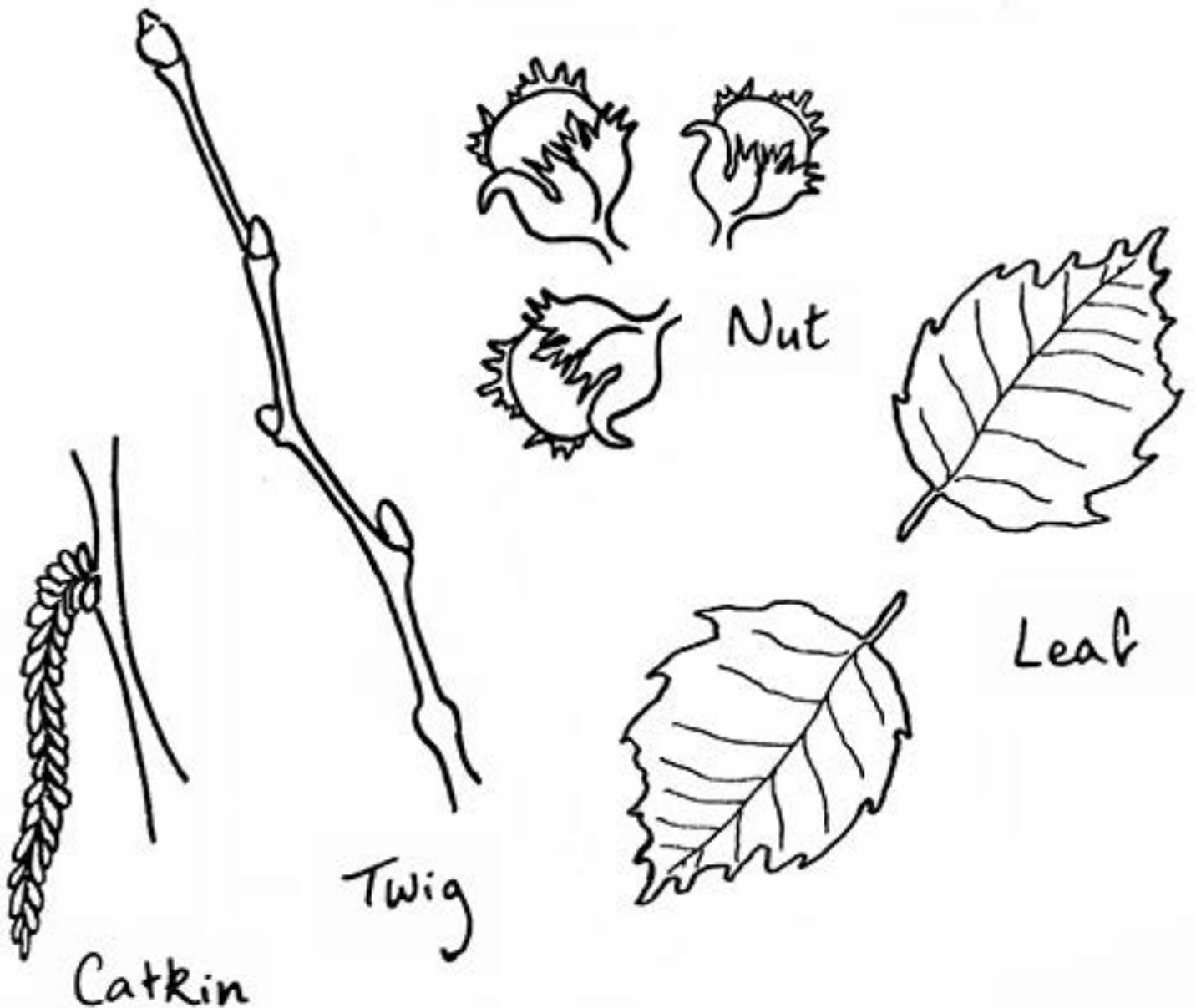
Coll, or Hazel, is one of the oldest trees in Ireland.



Hazel has beautiful flowers called **catkins**. They appear before the leaves, in early Spring. Maybe you've seen them? They look like fairy cat tails! Speaking of fairies, Hazel is considered magical. A fairy tree! We'll look at fairies with letter "F."

C is for COLLECT

Some people like collecting things.
It is a fun way to see connections between things.



This is a collection of things that I gathered from under a Hazel tree.


COLLECTION

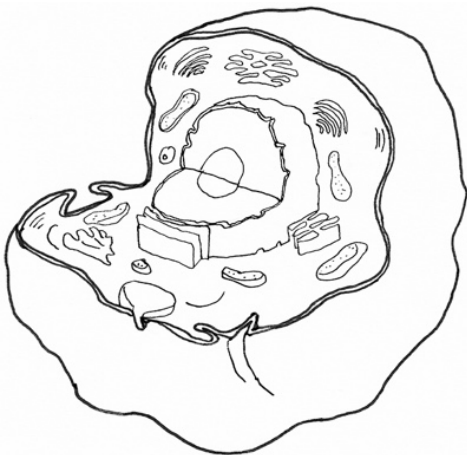
GO for a WALK. COLLECT things.
DRAW them here.

C is for CELL

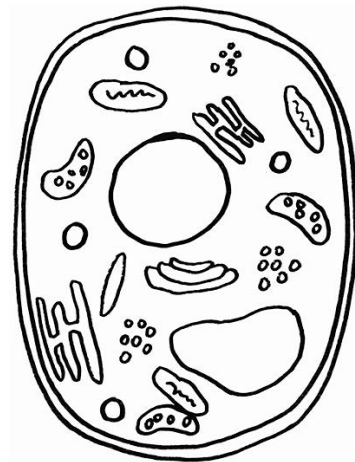
Humans and trees look very different,
but we are all made up of **cells**.

Cells are made up of atoms.

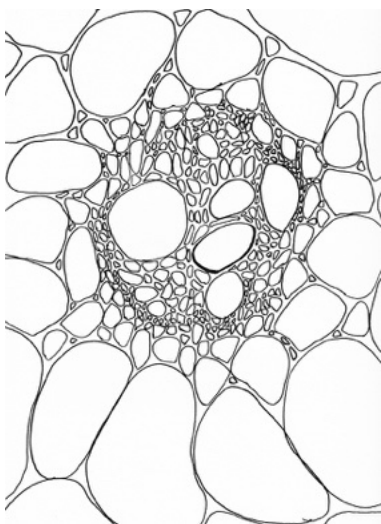
Remember atoms? 



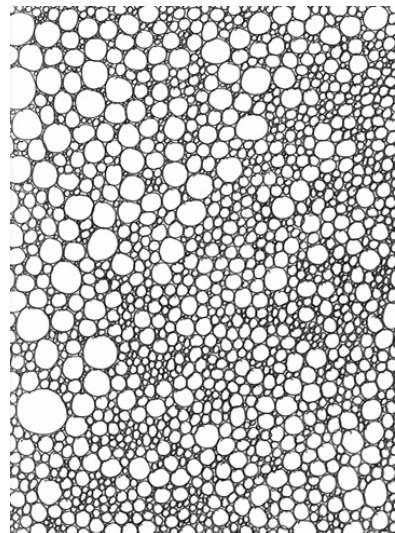
HUMAN CELL



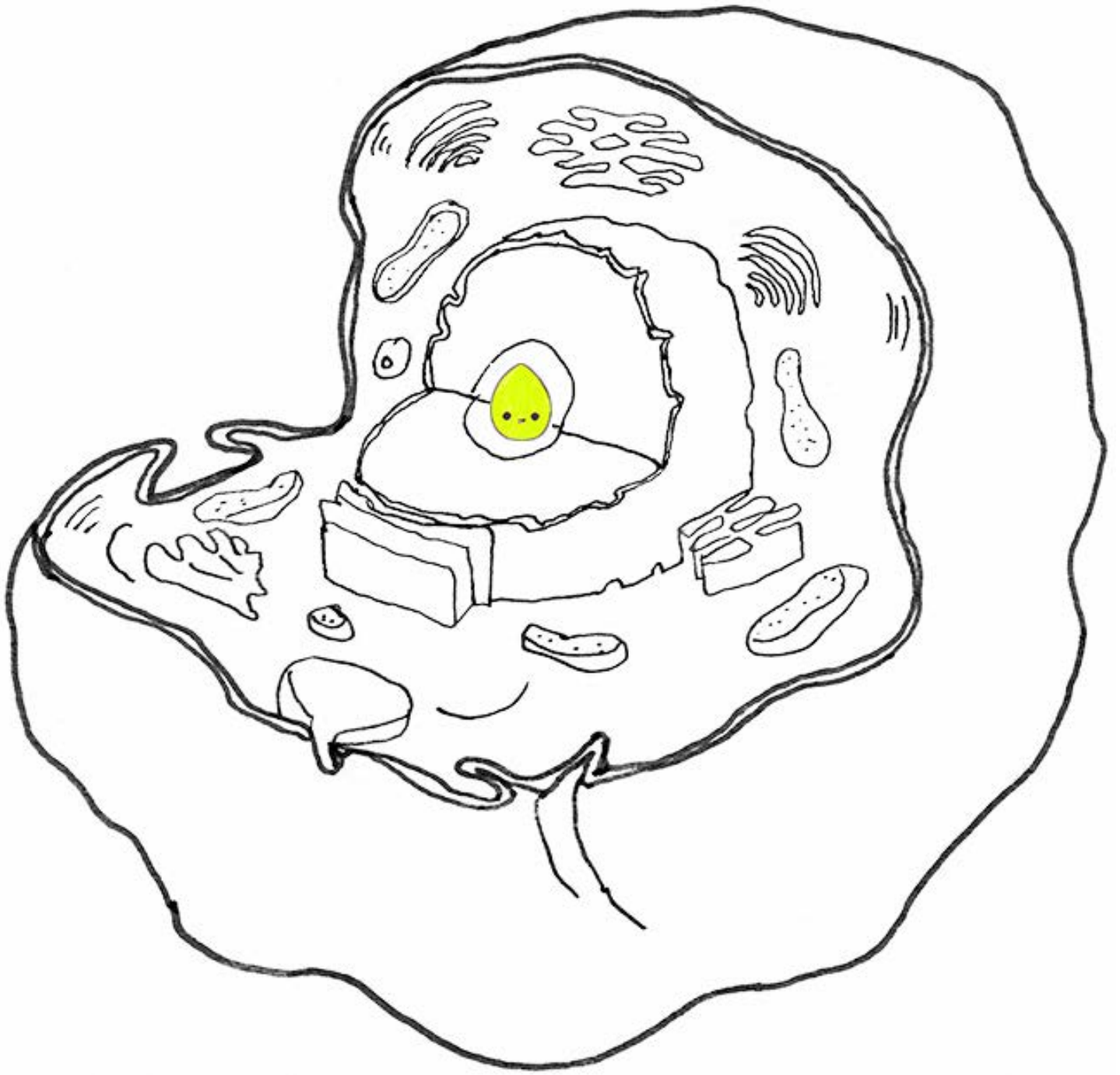
PLANT CELL



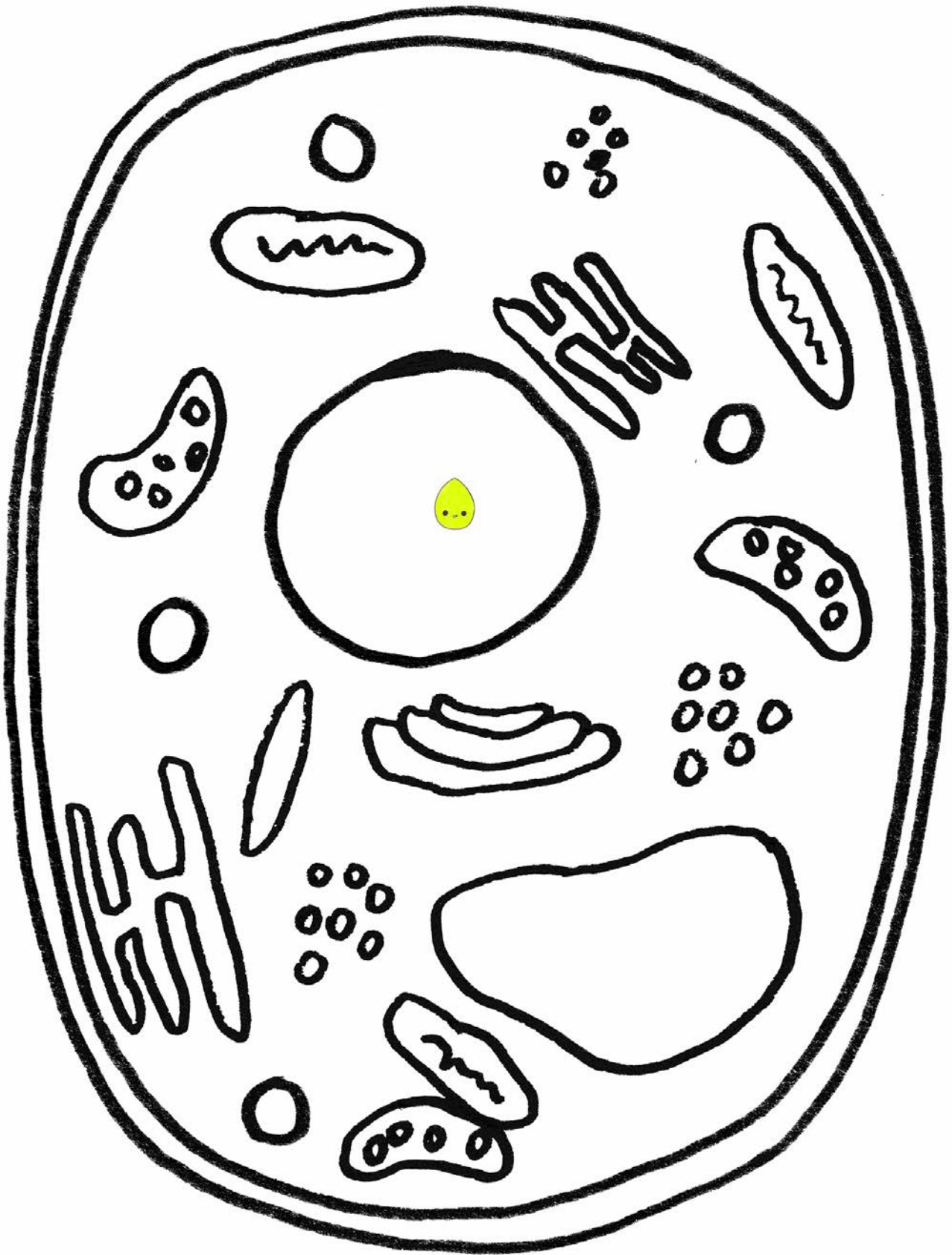
LOTS OF BUD CELLS



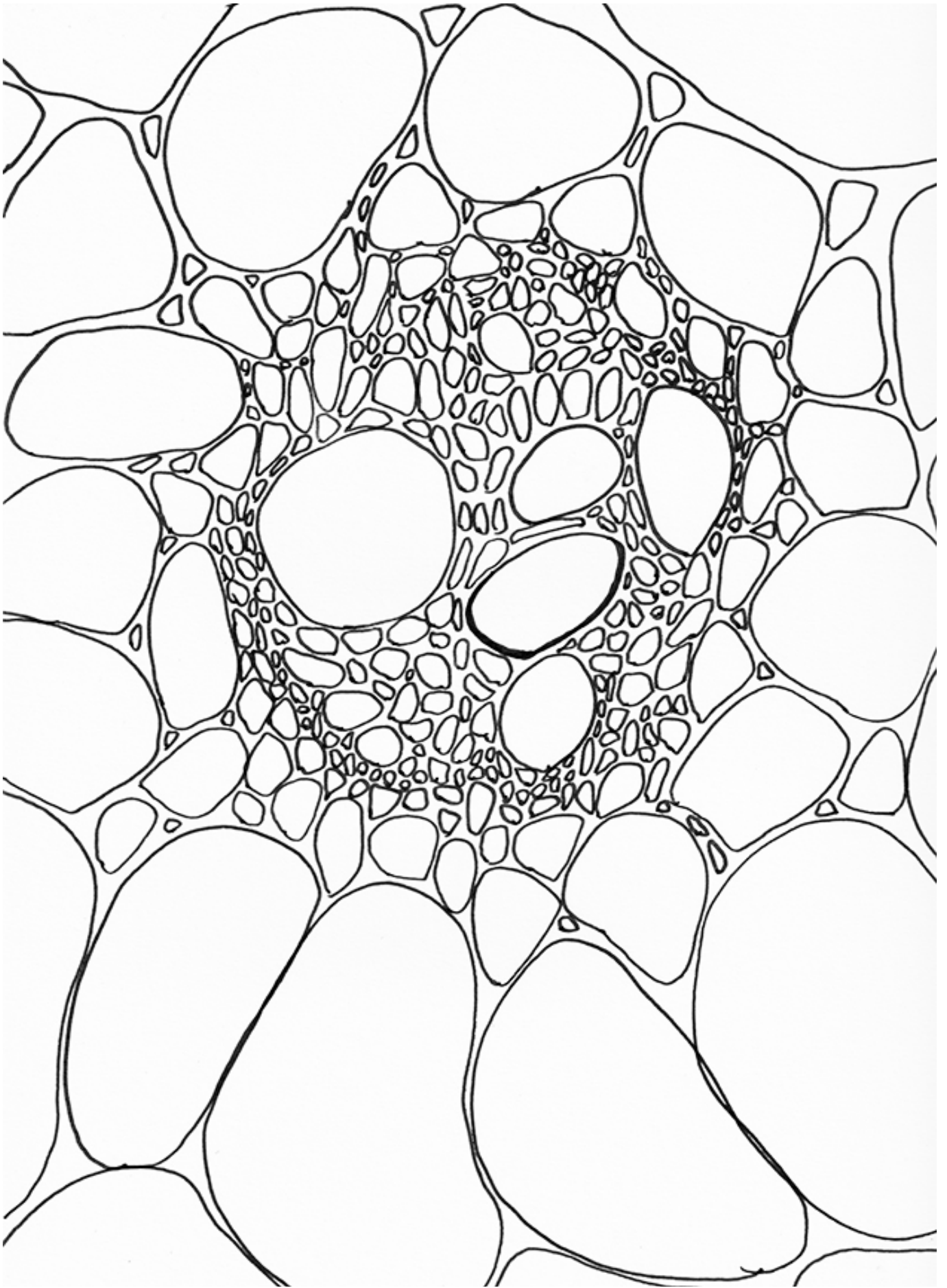
LOTS AND LOTS OF PLANT CELLS



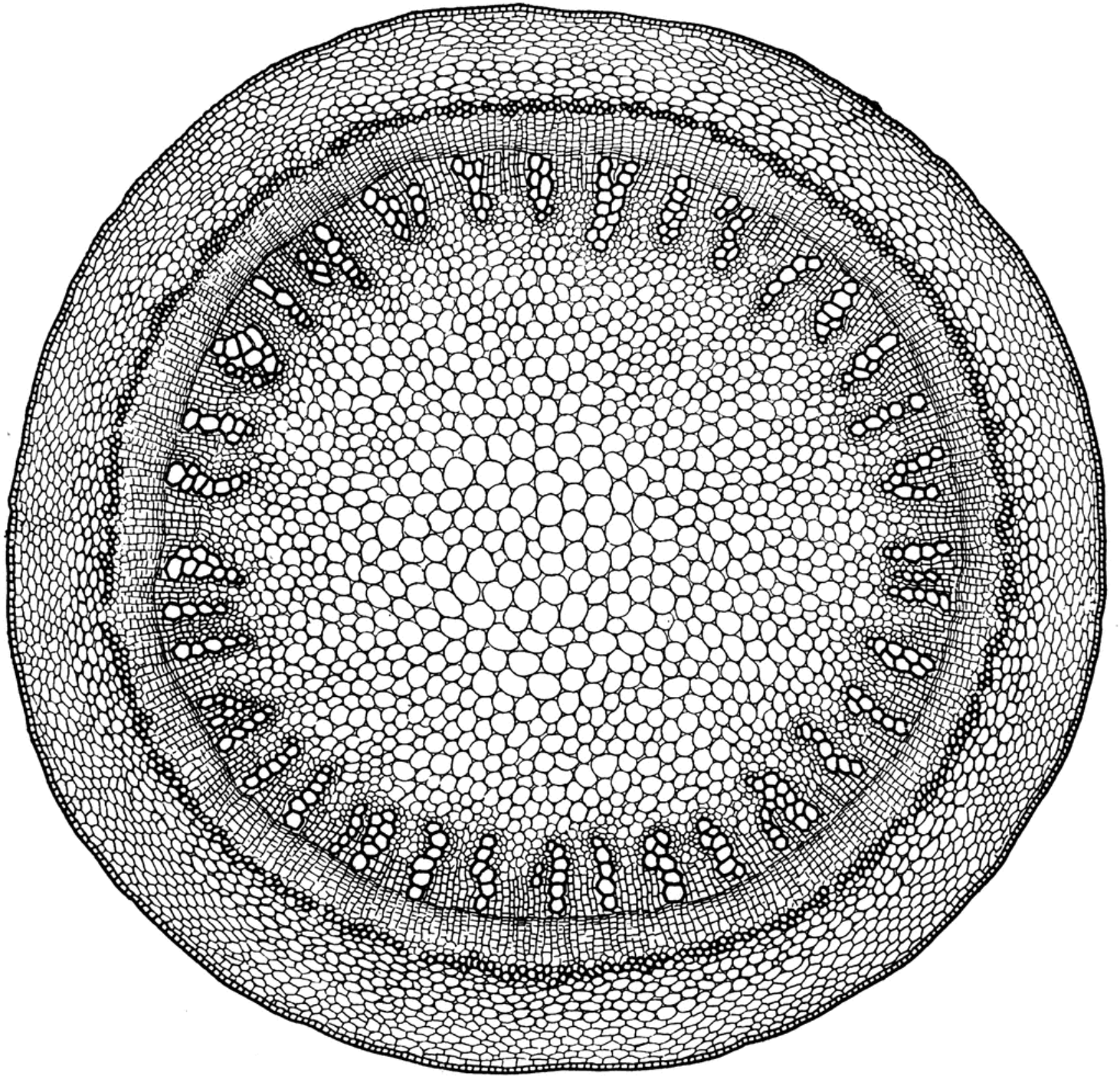
HUMAN CELL



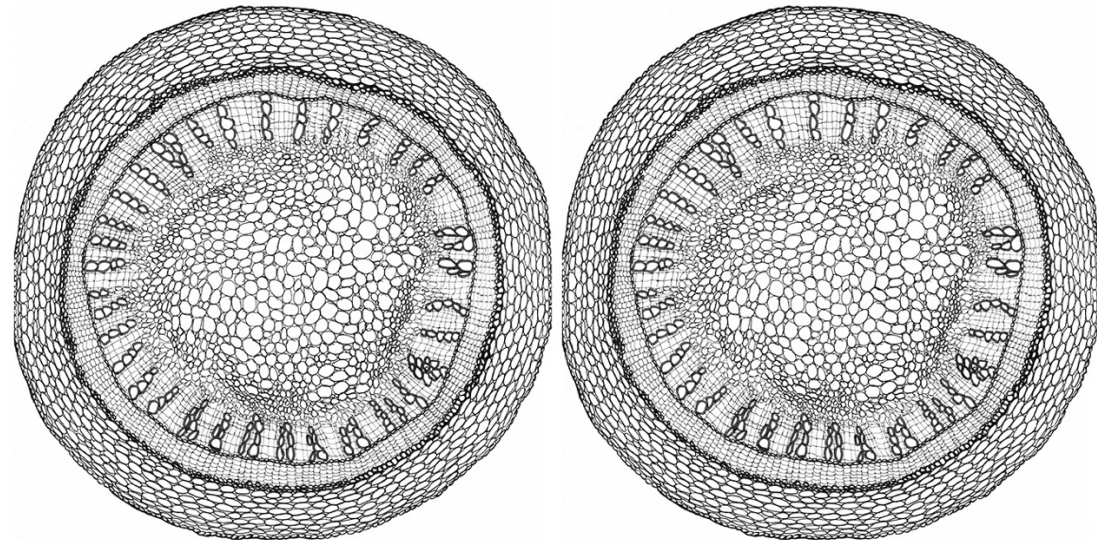
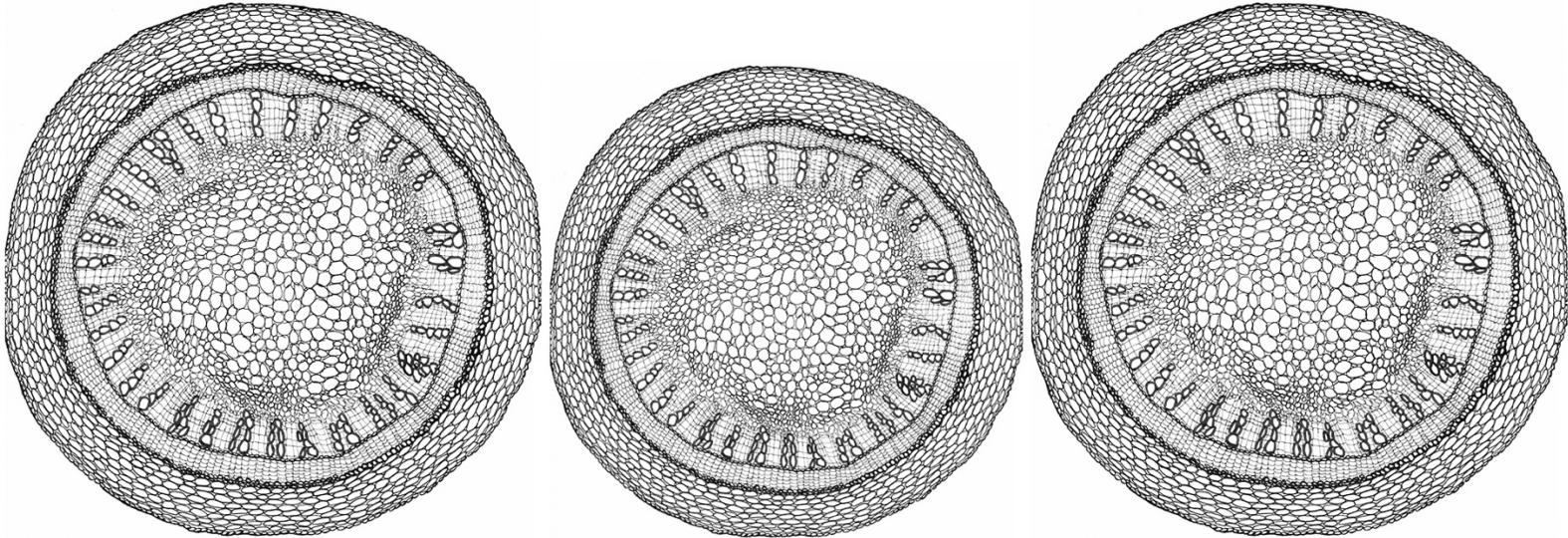
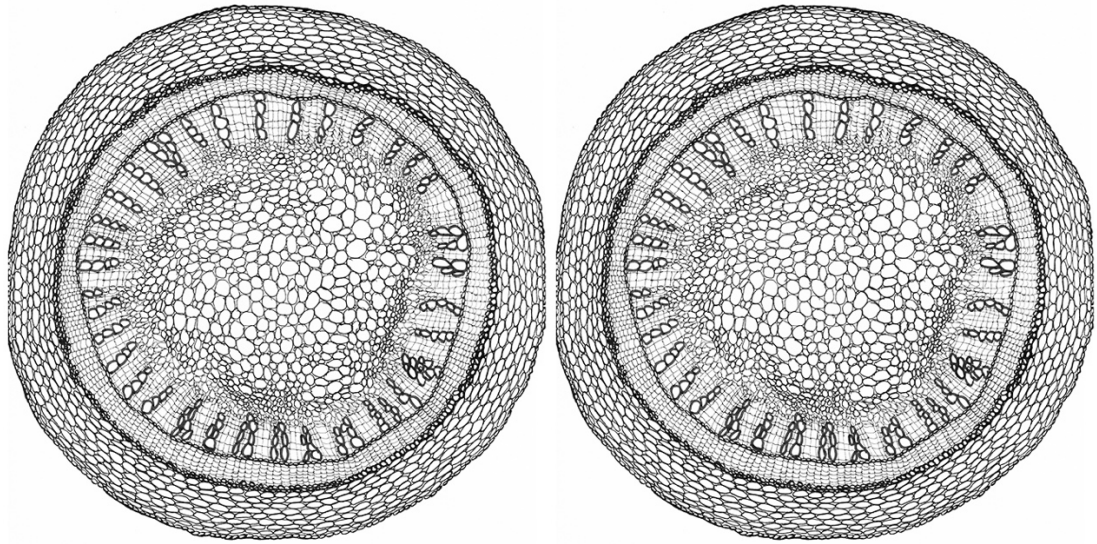
PLANT CELL



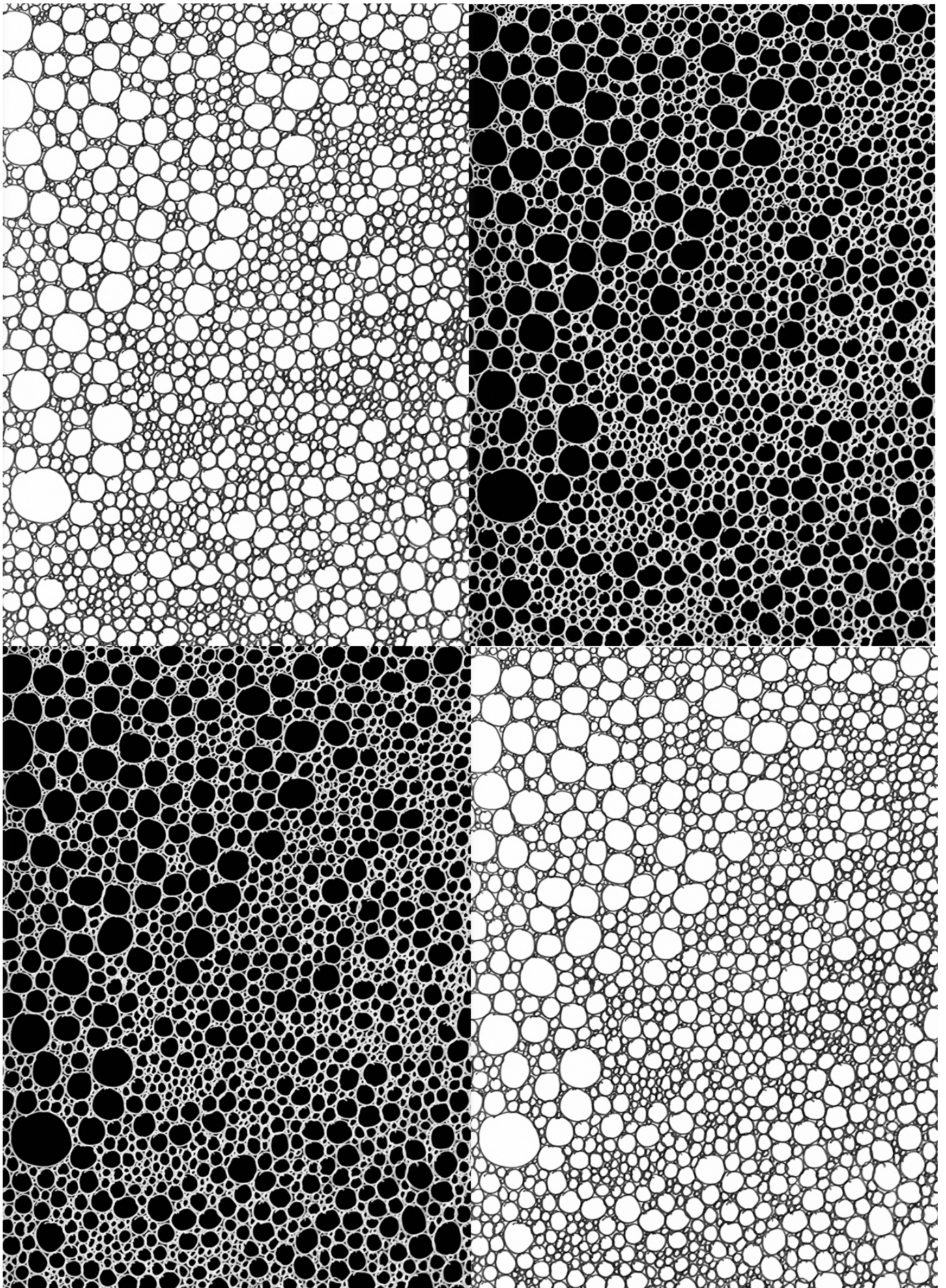
LOTS OF PLANT CELLS



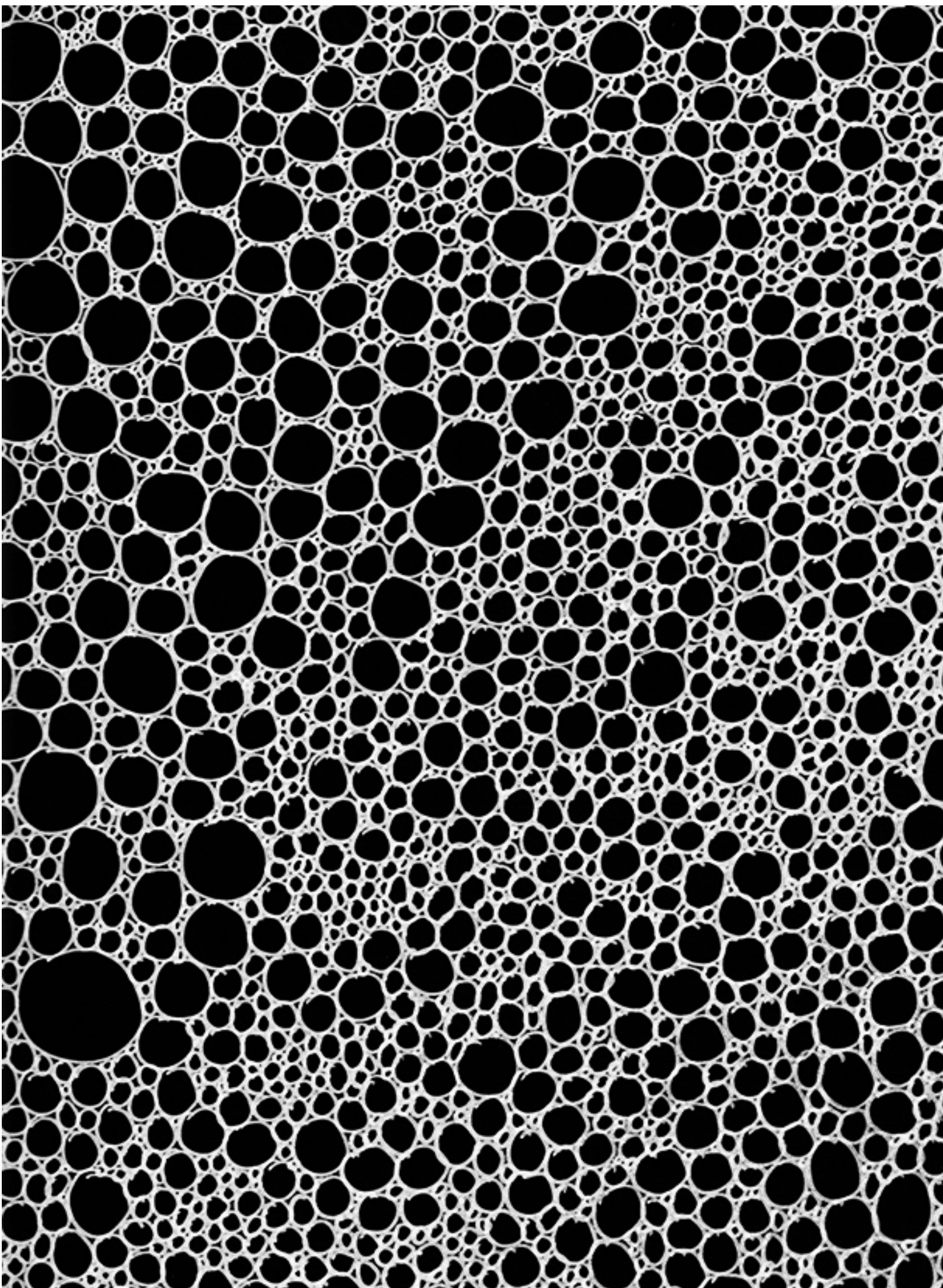
LOTS AND LOTS OF
CELLS IN A BRANCH



CELLS IN 7 BRANCHES



ATOMS or BUBBLES or CELLS?



C is for COLOUR

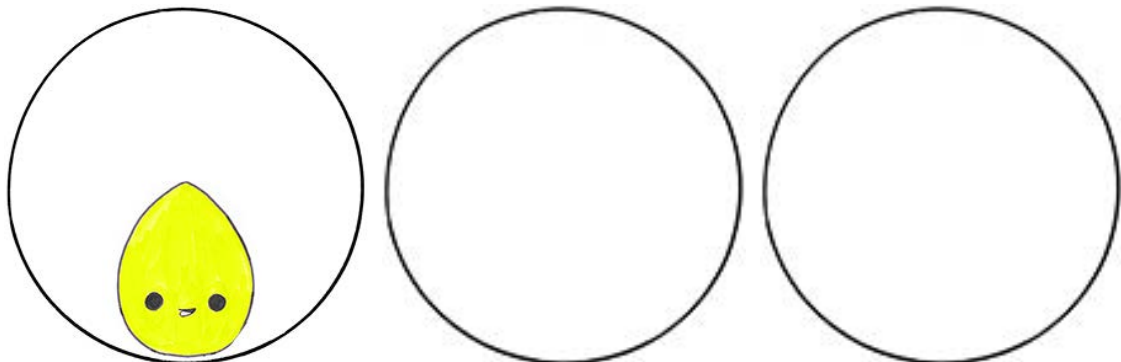
Colour is beautiful.

It makes the world sparkle!

We are all different colours; pink, brown, black, freckled, yellow, and different shades in between.

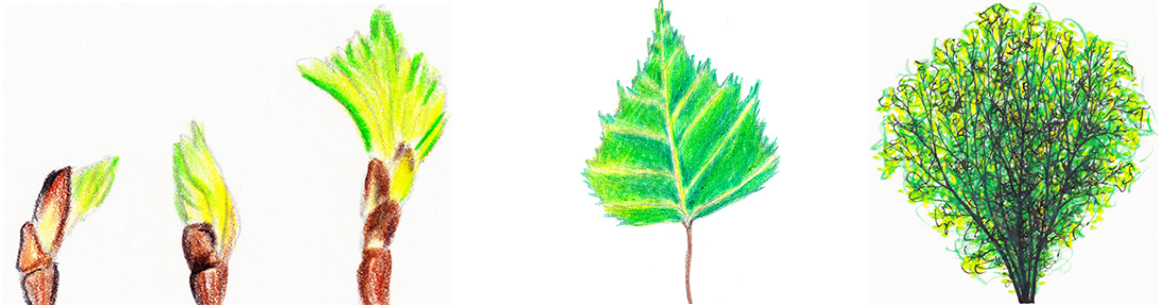
Look at your skin. What colour is it? What colour is the bark of your favourite tree?

Draw yourself as a tree, with skin like moss covered bark, or green like Buddy!



C is for CHLOROPHYLL

Chlorophyll gives plants their green color.



Buds

Leaf

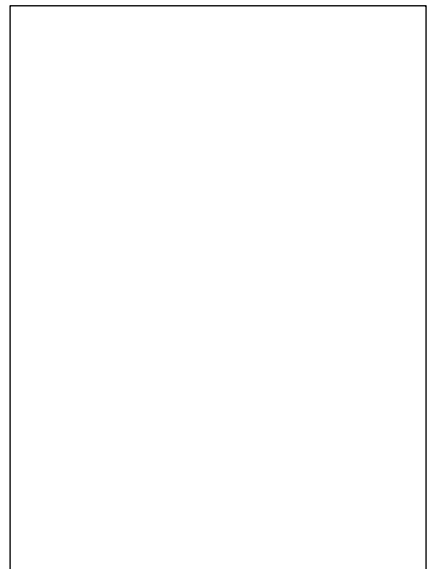
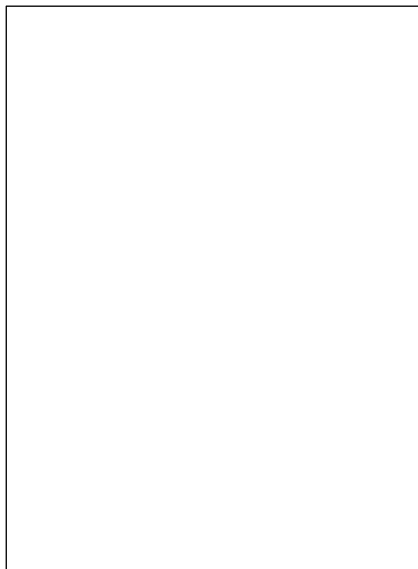
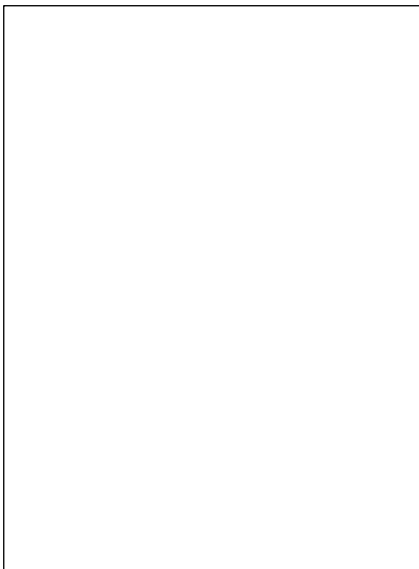
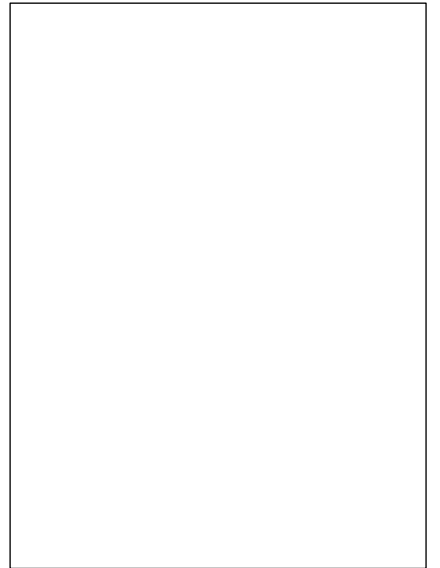
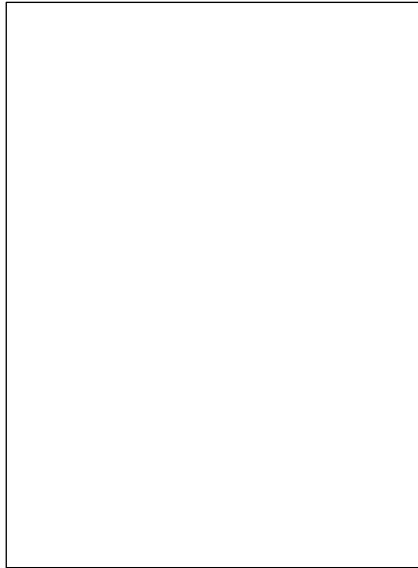
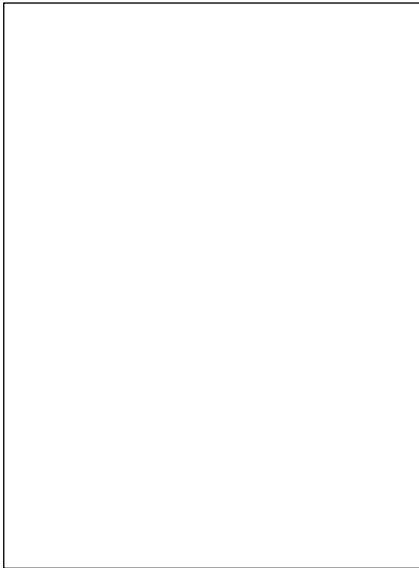
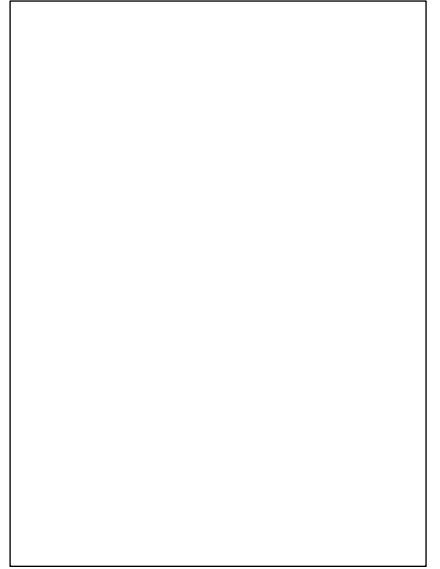
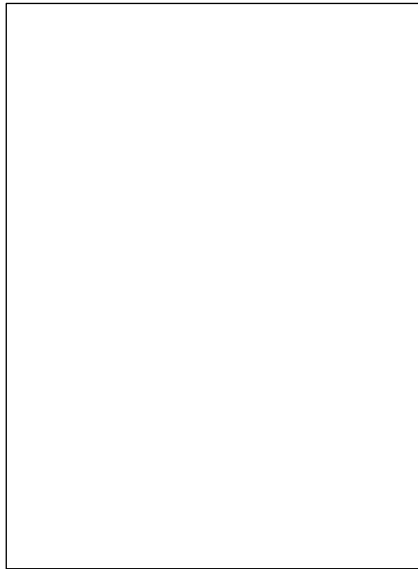
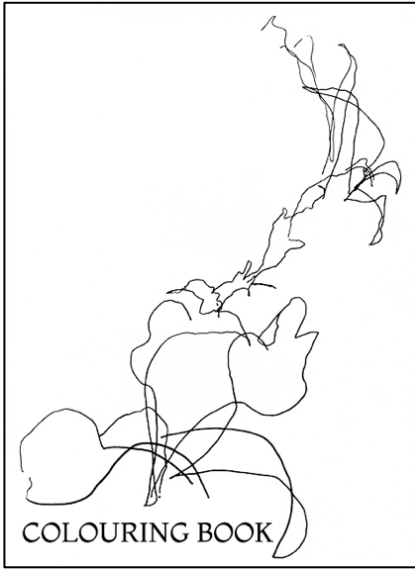
Tree

Through photosynthesis, plants take in carbon dioxide, nutrients and water. With the help of the sun and chlorophyll, trees convert all these things into sugars and oxygen. The sugars are stored in the plant, so it can grow and the oxygen is released into the air, so we humans can breathe.

Humans take in Oxygen and release Carbon Dioxide. We can't create our own food.

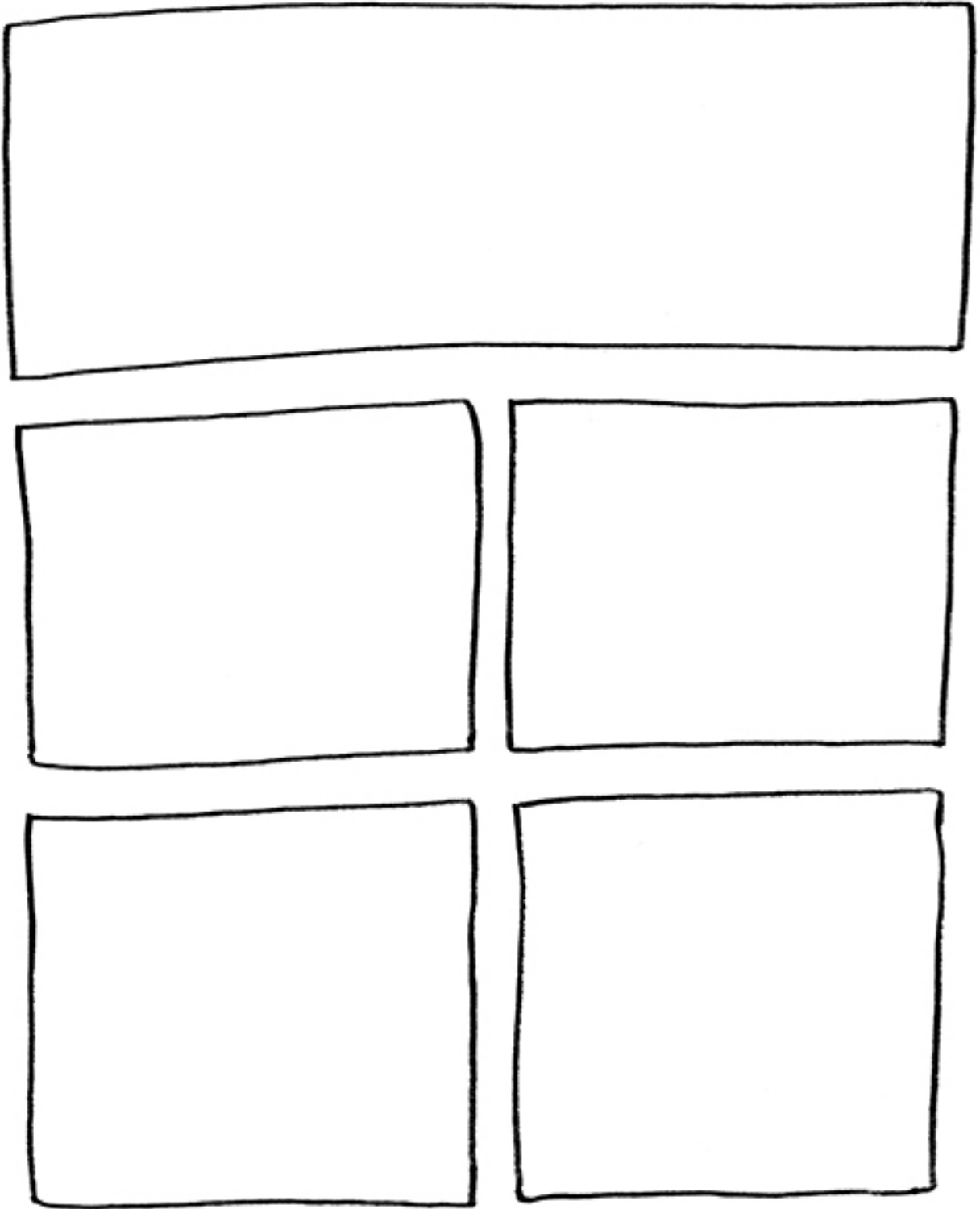
DRAW all the **green** food you can think of!

Pick a colour, maybe your favourite colour. Imagine what it looks like. That's difficult isn't it? **DRAW** everything that you can think of that is that colour. Before you colour it in, ask people if they can guess your colour!



MAKE your own colouring book!

C is for COMIC



DRAW a comic about your favourite tree

C is for CLIMATE CHANGE

Do you know what the “climate” is? Yes, it’s like the weather! The weather is a specific event, like rain or sunshine. Climate is the average weather over a long period of time.

Since I was born, the Earth’s climate has started to change due to all the pollution that we Humans have created. This is so disturbing that sometimes people don’t like to talk about it. But it’s important to be aware of difficult things that upset us. We have affected the climate of our only planet. The science shows us that temperatures are rising: Earth has a fever!



Flossie’s climate strike outside the Dáil in Dublin.



Global Climate Strike, NYC, 2019.

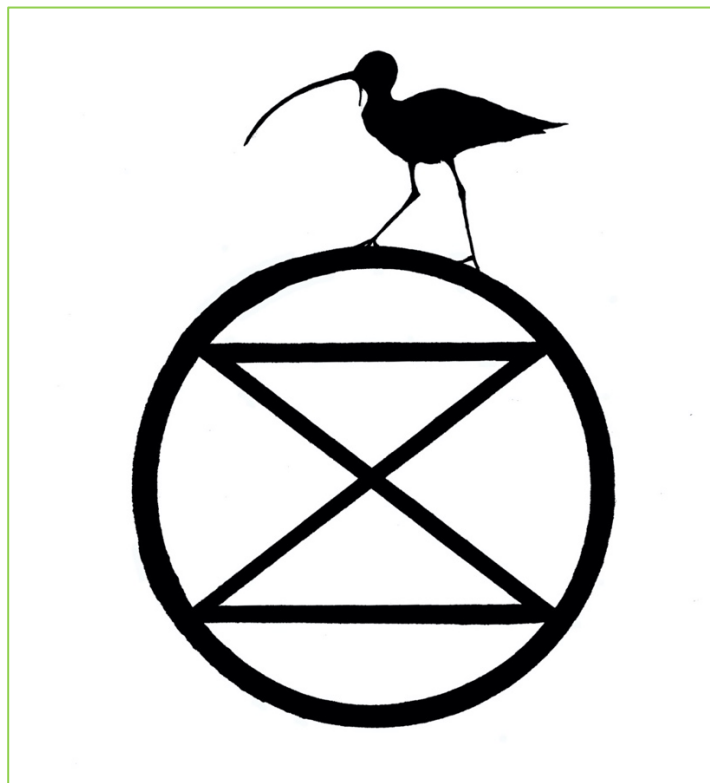
Trees can help us fight climate change and regulate Earth’s fever.

C is for CONSERVATION

Conservation is the protection of trees, plants, animals, and natural areas from the damaging effects of human activity.

C is for CURLEW

Curlew is a bird with a beautiful long bill. There are only 138 breeding pairs of Curlews left in Ireland. If we don't do something to protect them, they might go extinct in the next 5-10 years.



This is a poster that I made for World Curlew Day



Katie with her sign for World Curlew Day on April 20, 2020.

I hope you enjoyed this Colouring Book.

Let me know how I can improve it!

Share your pictures: studio@katieholten.com

Hope you'll join me next time,
when we'll explore the rest of the
Irish Tree Alphabet.

This Colouring Book
accompanies Katie Holten's solo exhibition at VISUAL
Irish Tree Alphabet, July 18 – October 23, 2020

Download the *Irish Tree Alphabet* poster and font
www.treealphabet.ie

@katieholten
www.katieholten.com

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Photographs of Katie Holten © Dillon Cohen

Commissioned by VISUAL