



Handwriting Booklet Year 1-2

Australian Animals



Koala

Koalas are native to the east coast of Australia throughout Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Although koalas are marsupials, early European settlers thought they were bears and named them koala bears.

Koalas eat eucalyptus leaves and not much else. Eucalyptus leaves are poisonous to humans.



Kangaroo

Kangaroos are found all across Australia, living in social groups called 'mobs'.

The red kangaroo is the largest marsupial in the world.

Kangaroos are great swimmers but they are unable to walk backwards.

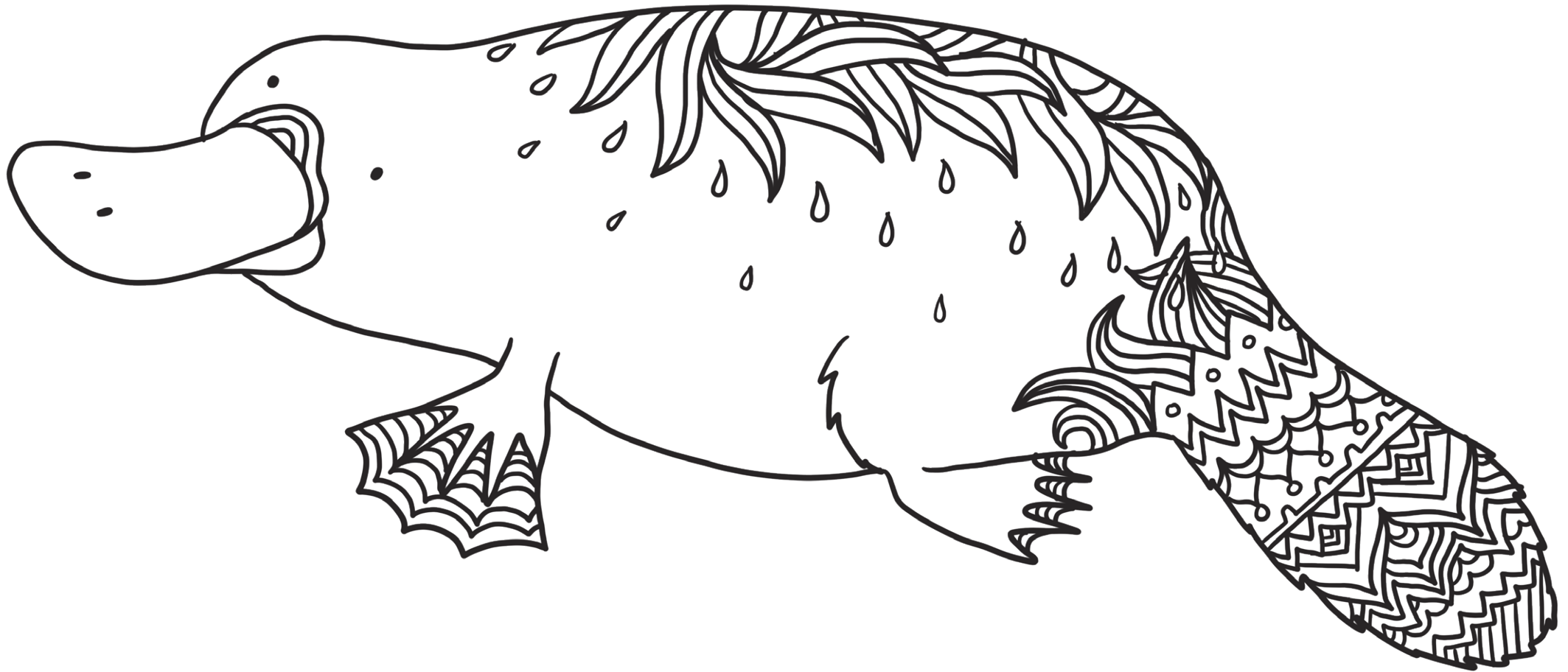


Wombat

Wombats are native to south-east Australia and can be found in coastal areas of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

Wombats are nocturnal animals, that mainly eat grasses and roots.

Wombats are marsupials too.

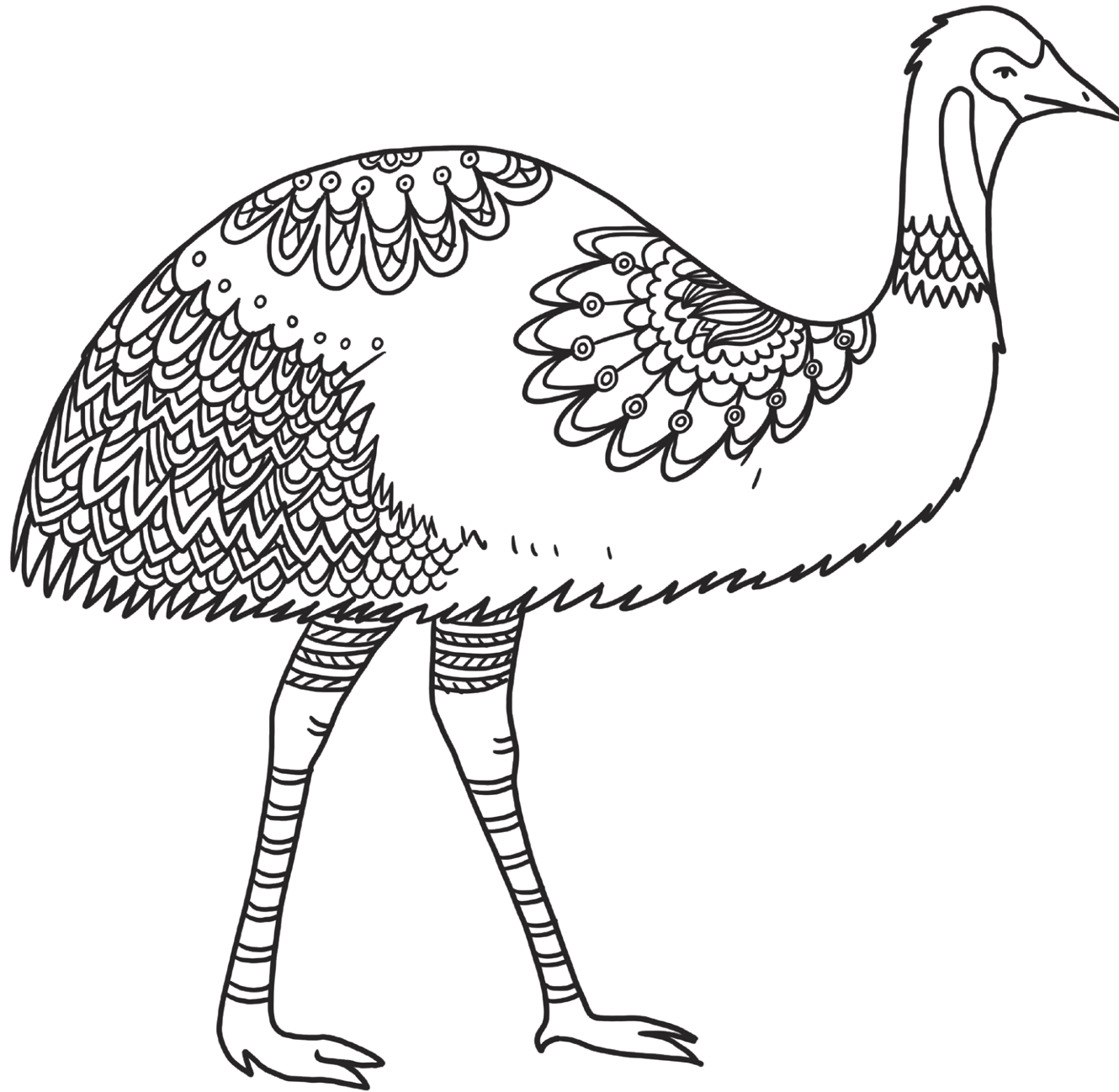


Platypus

The platypus is native to the eastern states of Australia, including Tasmania.

The platypus is a monotreme, which is a rare type of mammal that lays eggs.

Not many people know that the platypus is venomous!

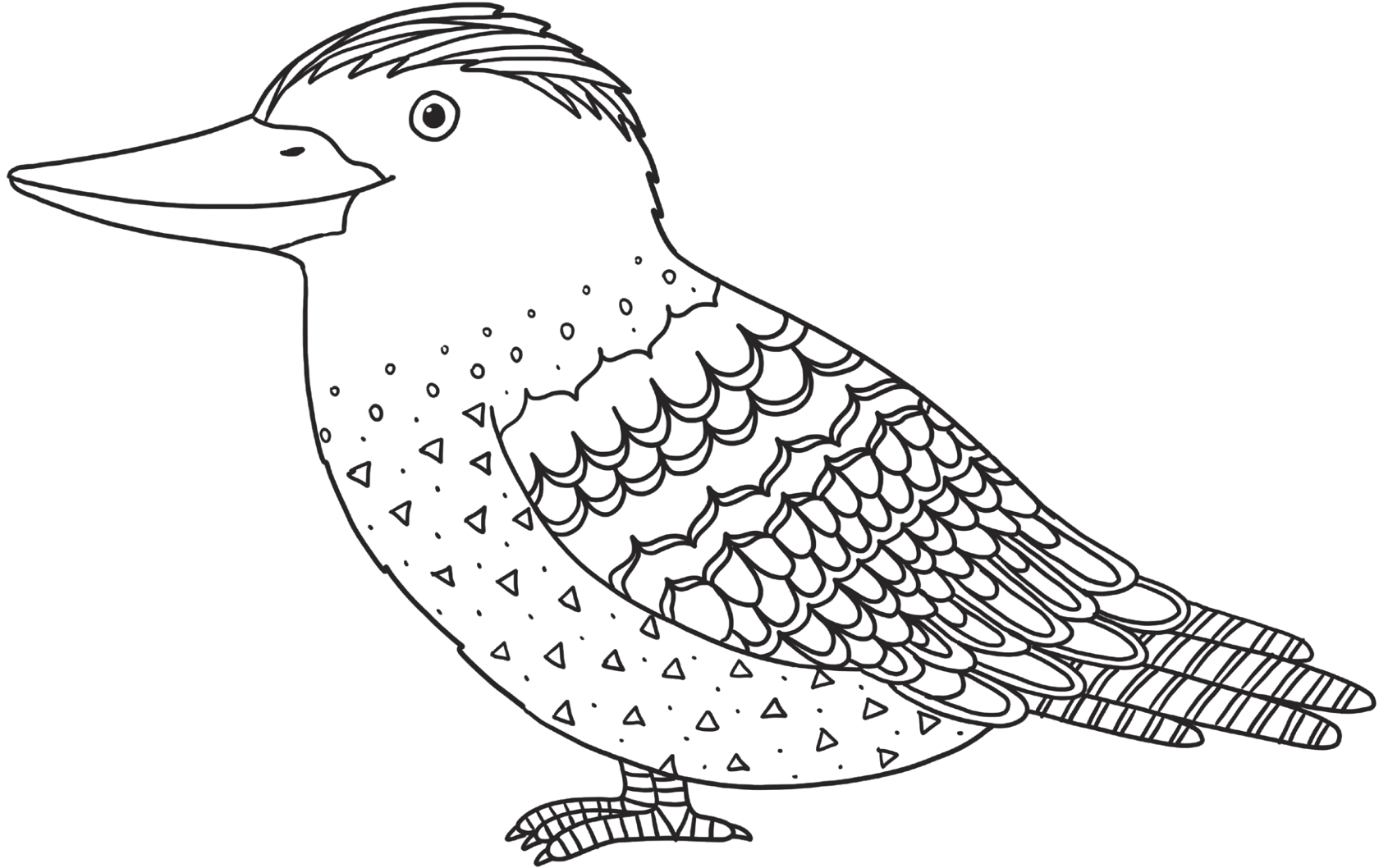


Emu

Emus can be found all across Australia, except Tasmania.

Although emus are birds, they cannot fly. However, they can run up to speeds of 50km an hour.

The emu appears on the Australian coat of arms, along with the red kangaroo.

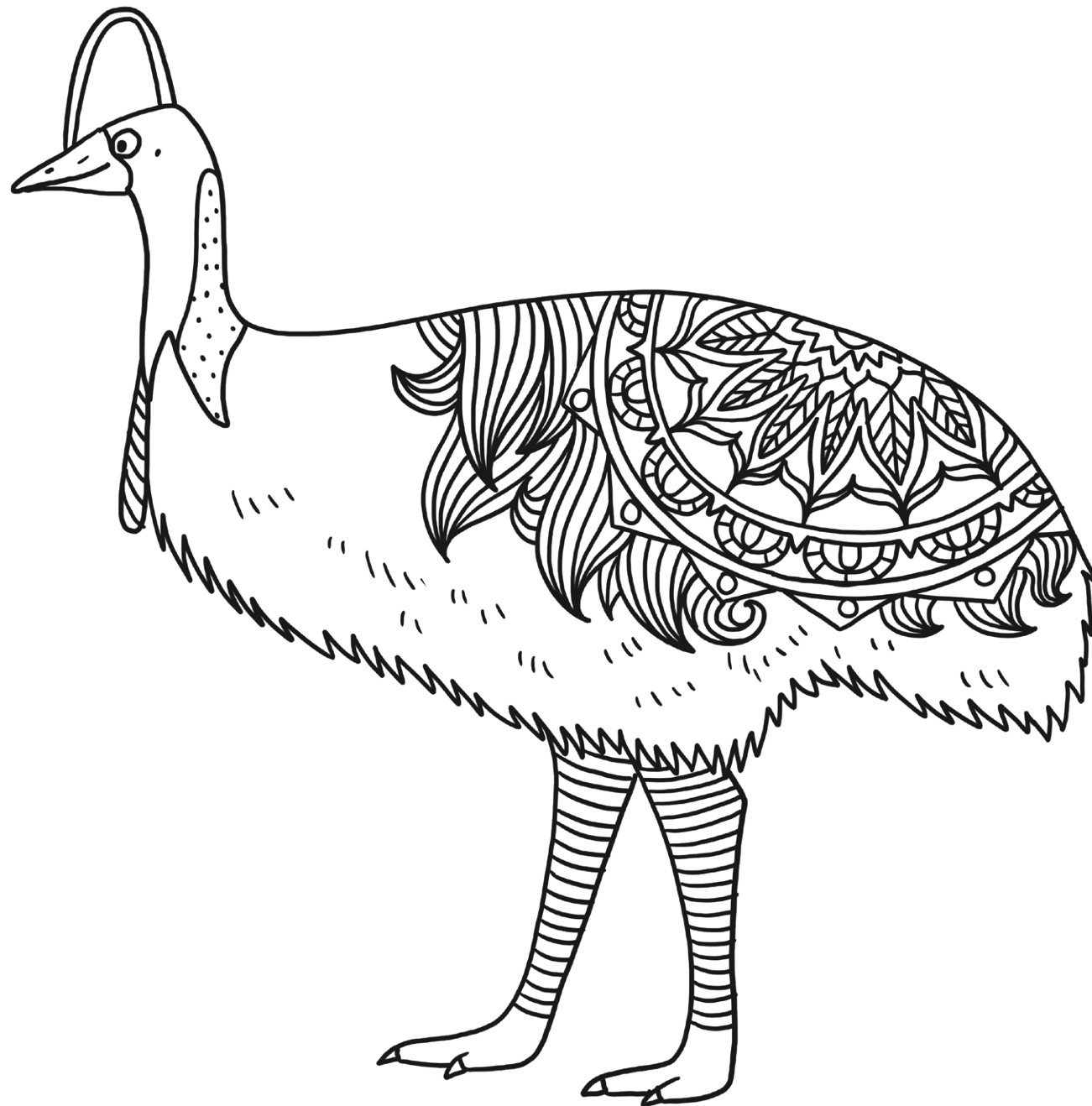


Kookaburra

Kookaburras can be found in coastal areas of eastern Australia and the south-west region of western Australia.

Kookaburras are the largest member of the kingfisher family.

Kookaburras are carnivores. They eat snakes, lizards, mice and smaller birds.

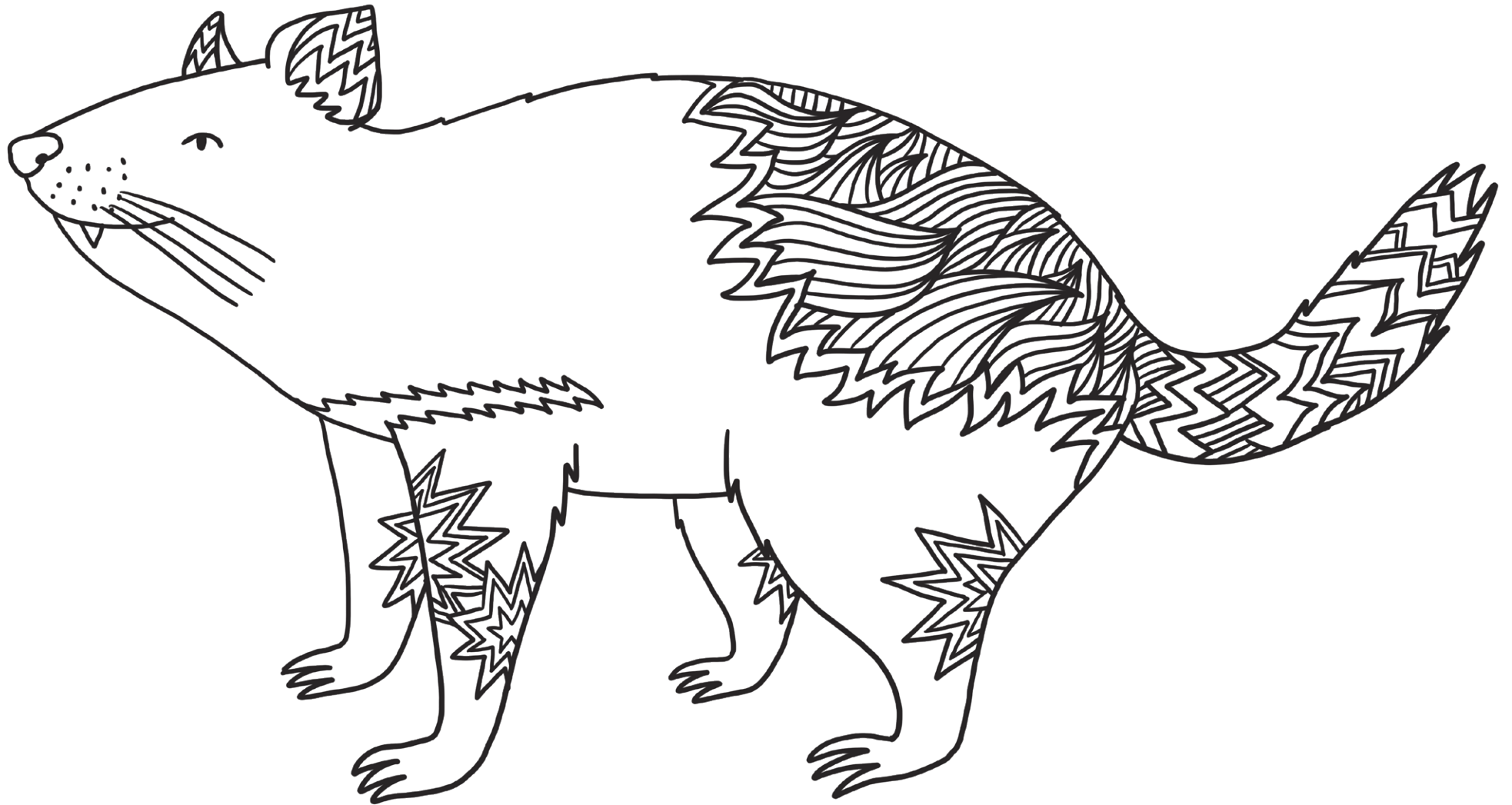


Southern Cassowary

The southern cassowary can be found in the rainforests of north-east Queensland.

They have distinctive bright blue feathers and red wattles.

Cassowaries are listed as endangered in Australia.



Tasmanian Devil

Tasmanian devils originally existed across Australia but are now only found in Tasmania.

Tasmanian devils may look fierce but they are not dangerous to humans, unless threatened.

Devils are carnivores and will eat animals like small lizards, frogs and insects.

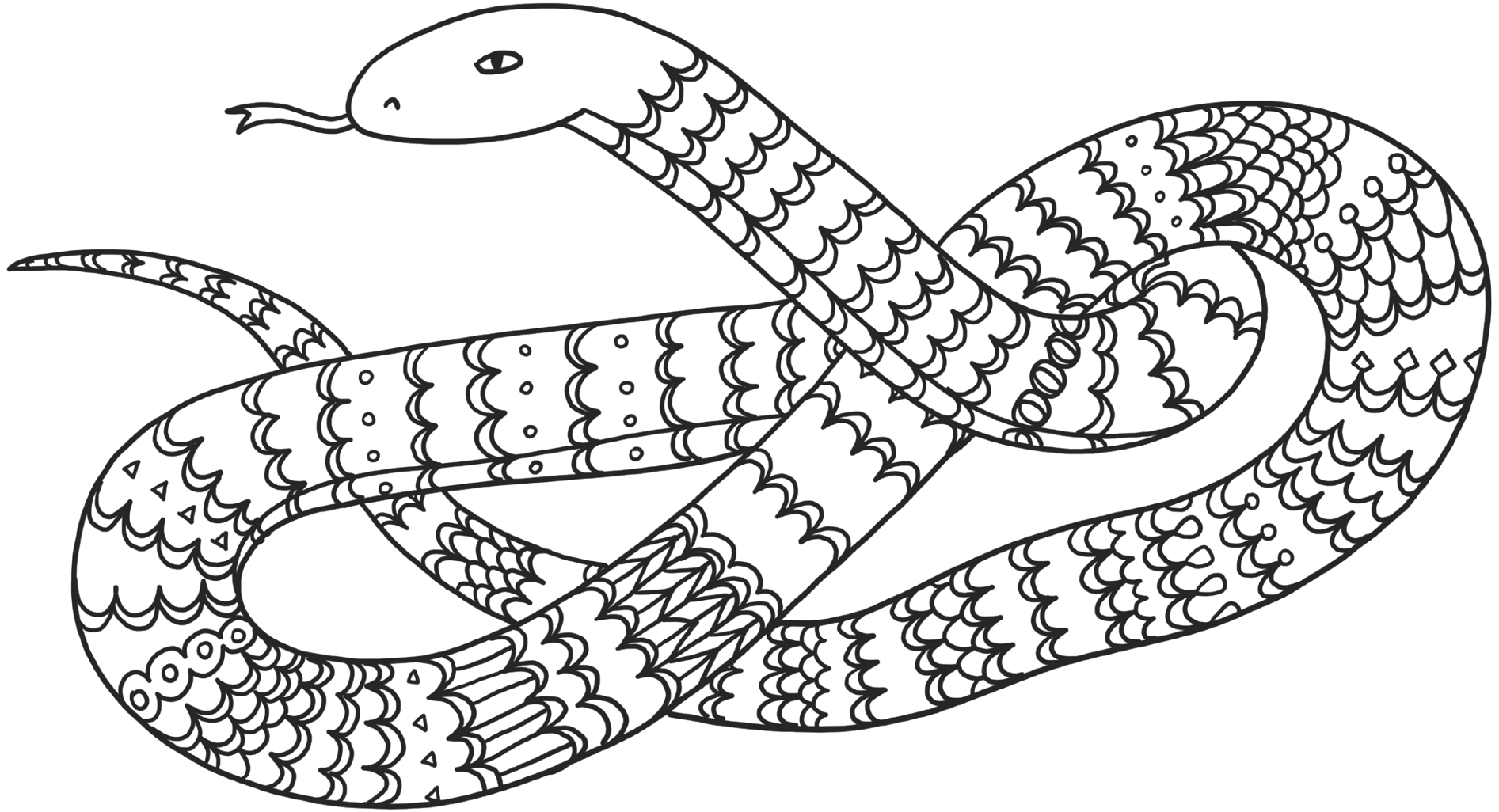


Bilby

The bilby is found in desert areas of north-west Australia, the Northern Territory and south-western Queensland.

Bilbies don't drink water. They get all their moisture from food!

Bilbies are listed as an endangered species.

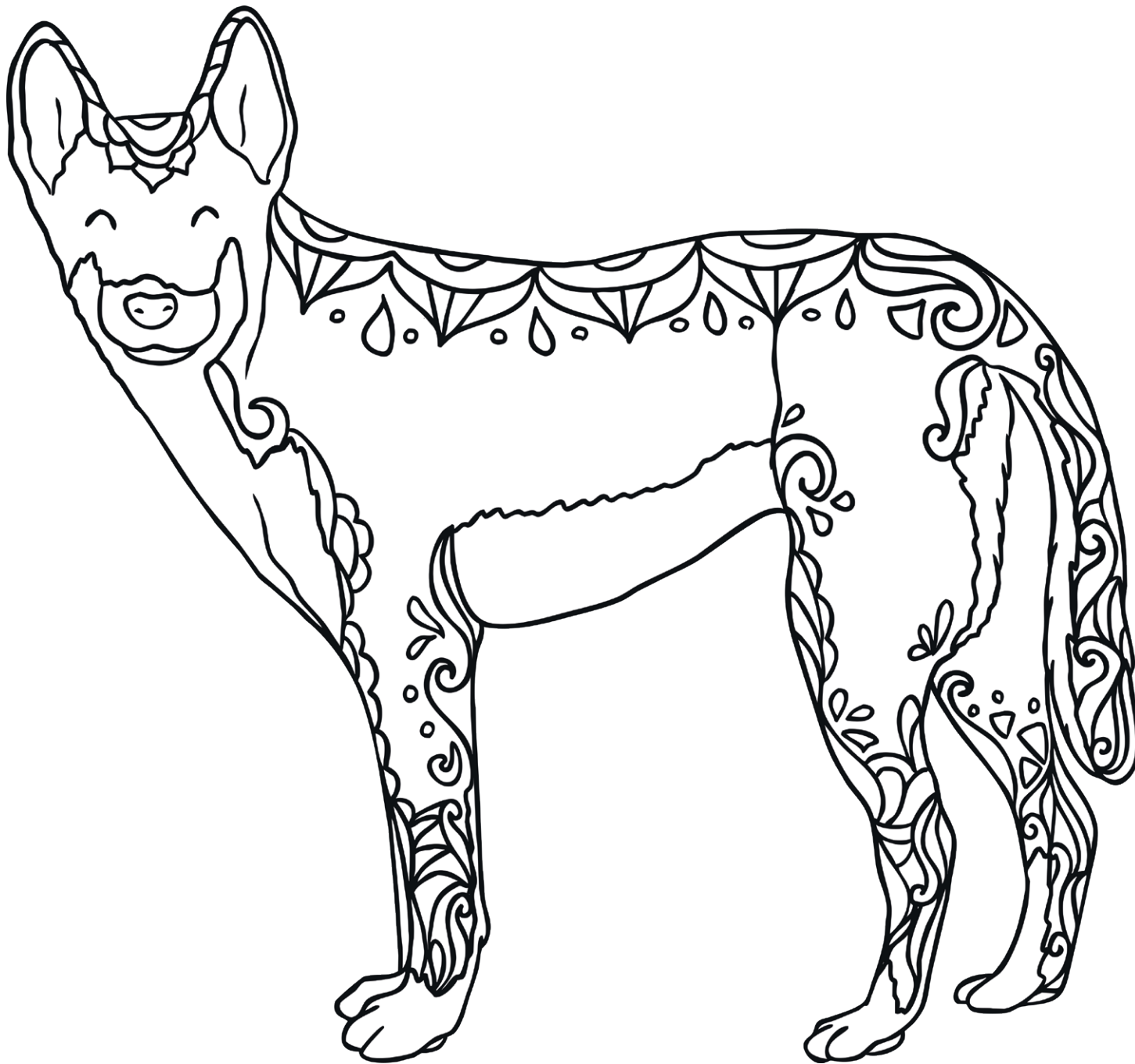


Red-Bellied Snake

The red-bellied snake is found in coastal regions of the eastern states of Australia.

The red-bellied snake mostly eats frogs but will also eat lizards, small mammals and birds.

The bite of the red-bellied snake is dangerously venomous but fortunately bites are rare.

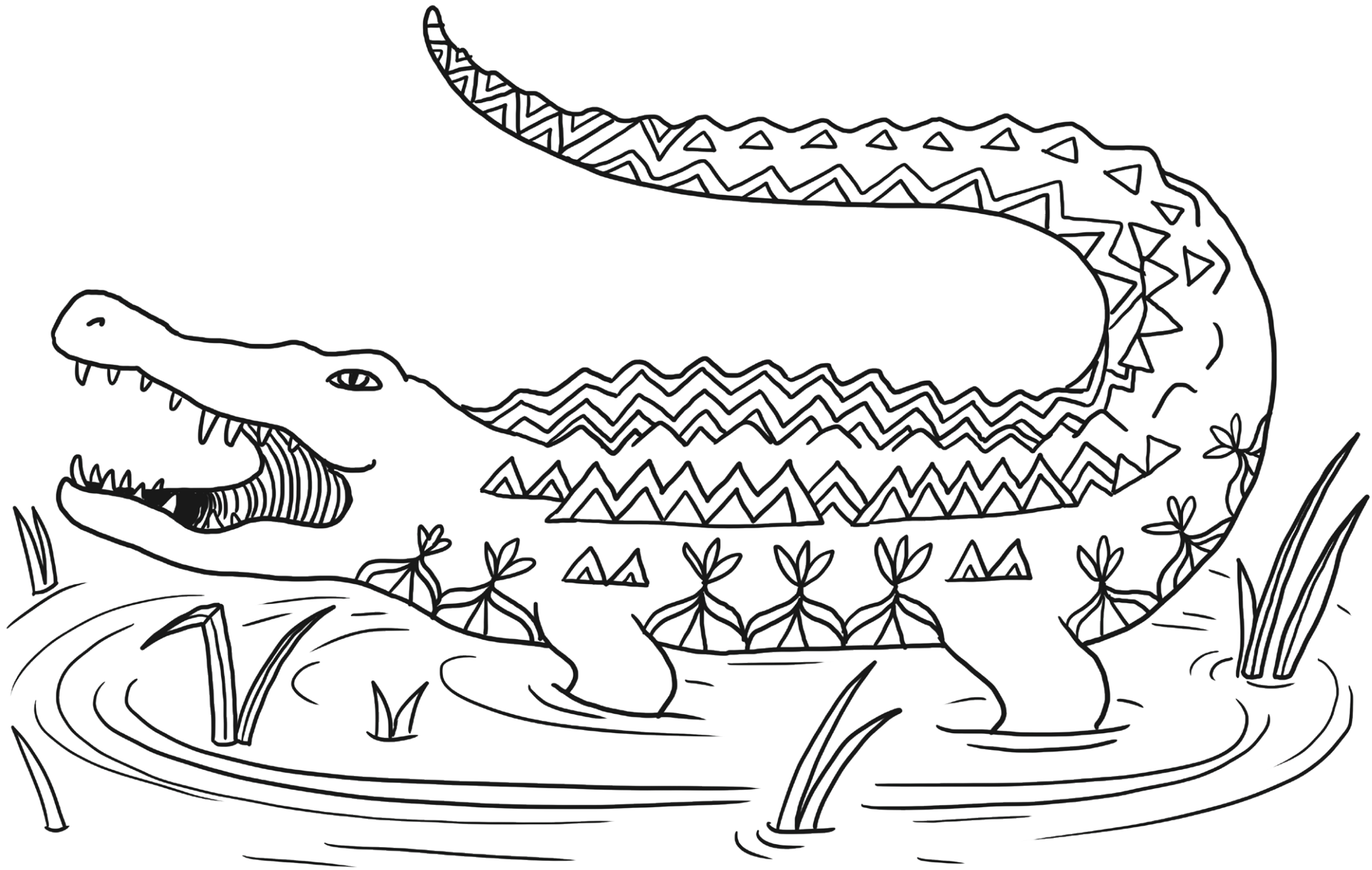


Dingo

Dingoes arrived in Australia around 5,000 years ago and are now found all across Australia, except Tasmania.

Dingoes have mixed with dogs since their arrival with the early pioneers, therefore purebred dingoes are rare.

Dingoes do not bark, they howl like wolves instead.



Crocodiles

There are two different species of crocodiles native to Australia. These are freshwater crocodiles and saltwater crocodiles.

Freshwater crocodiles are smaller and mostly eat small animals found near rivers, such as fish and frogs.

Saltwater crocodiles can grow to a large size and can be very dangerous.