

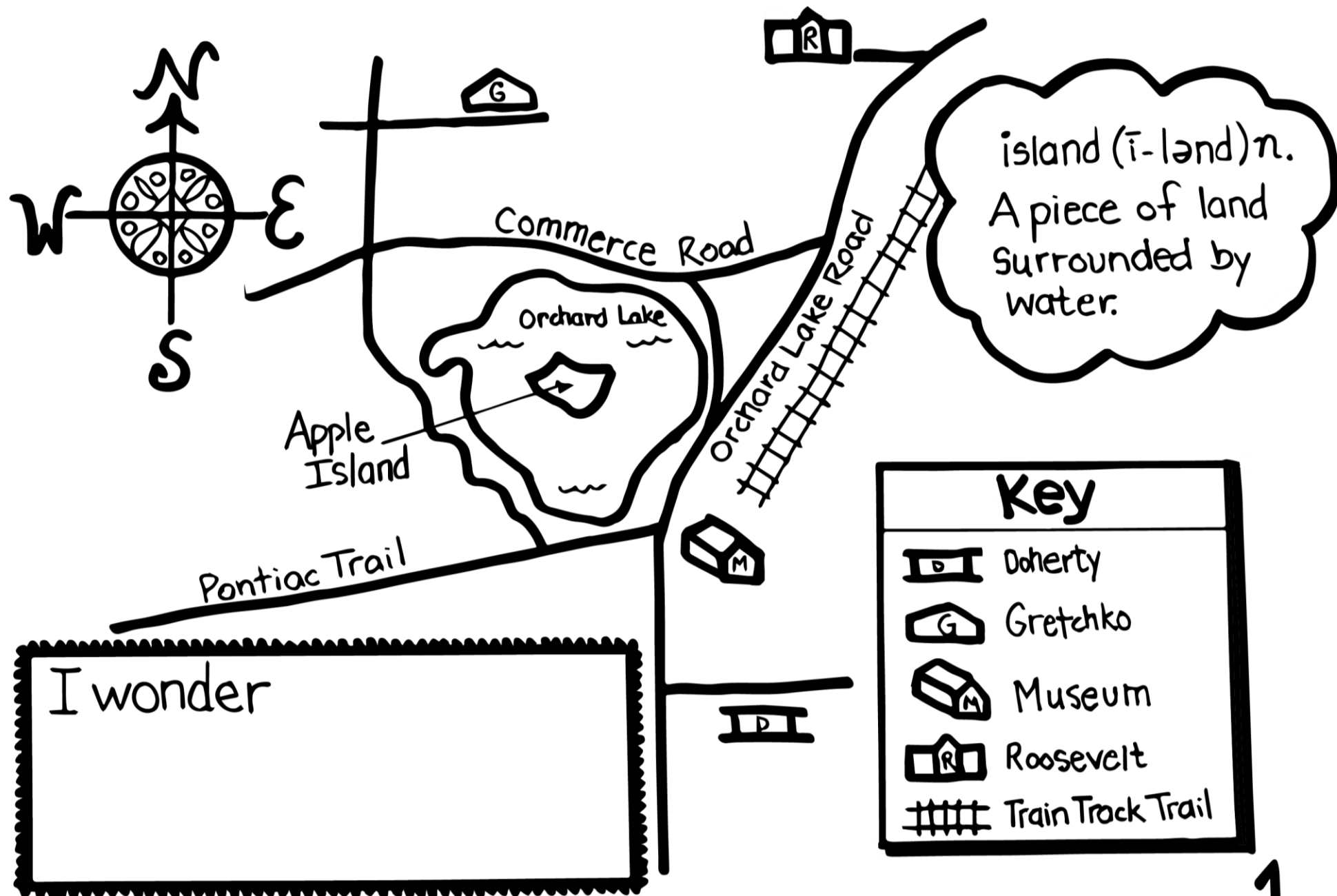
# APPLE ISLAND

## EXPLORER'S JOURNAL

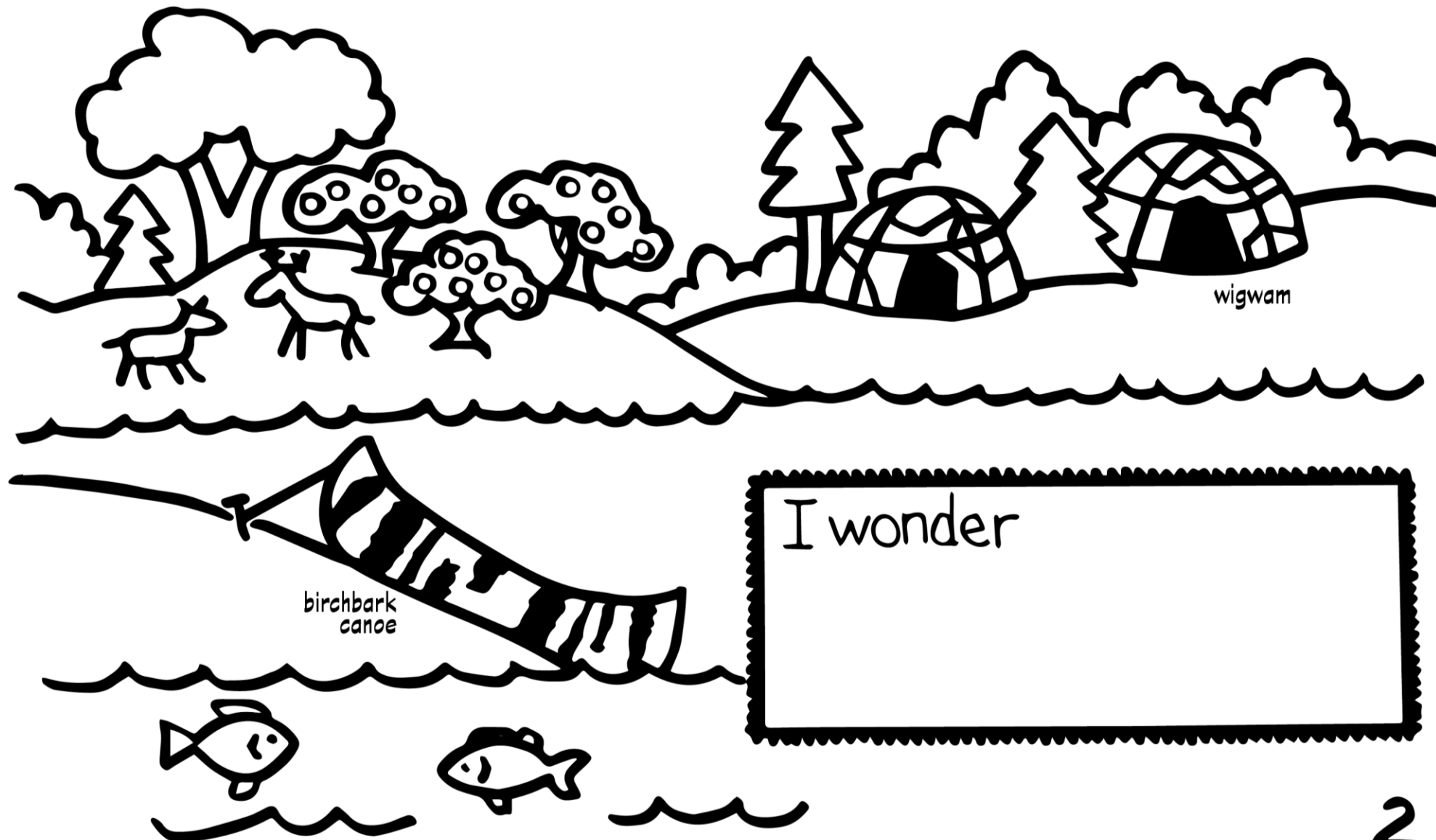


I am Explorer \_\_\_\_\_

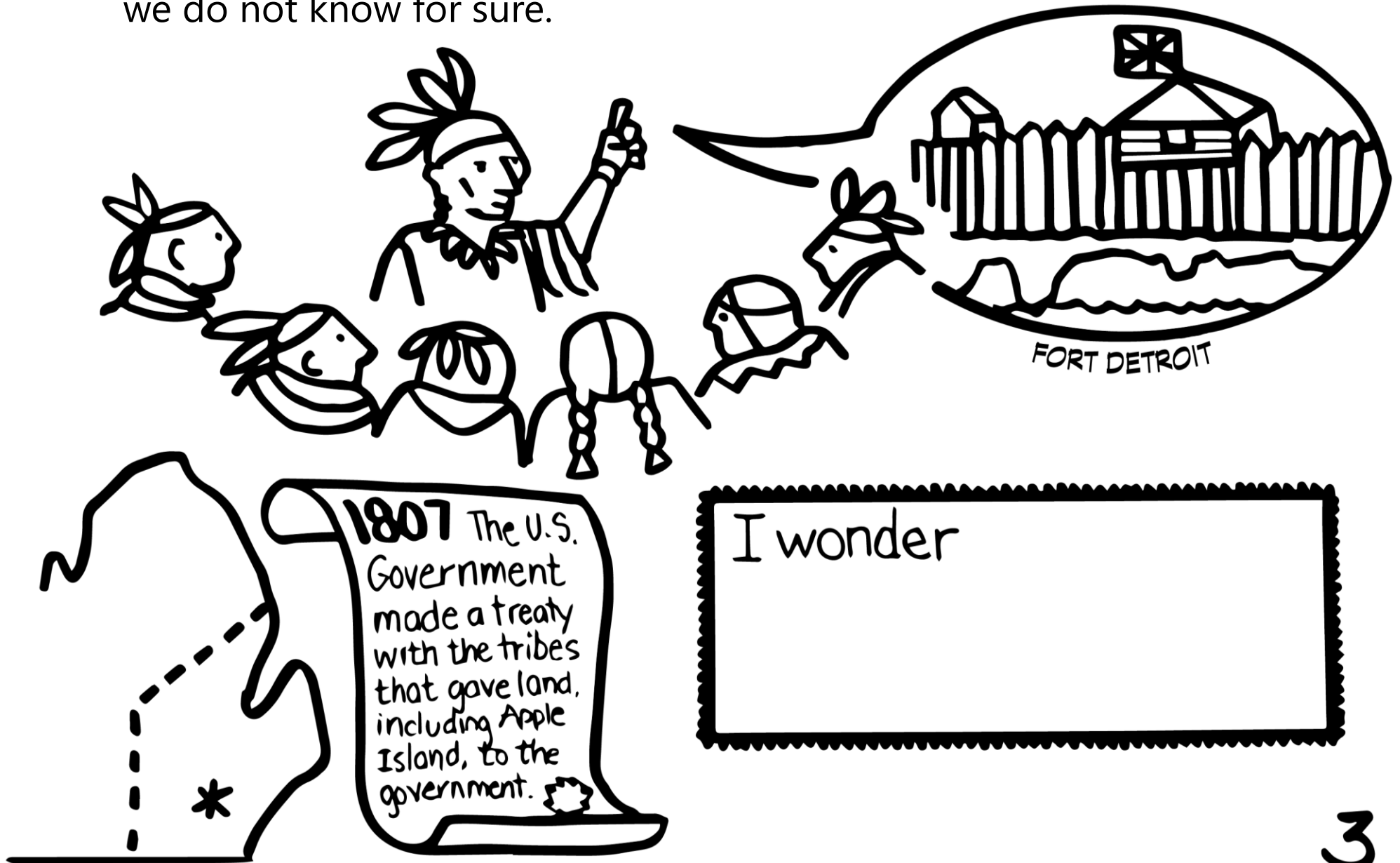
Apple Island is located in the middle of Orchard Lake. It is not far from your school. Have you ever seen Apple Island from the road?



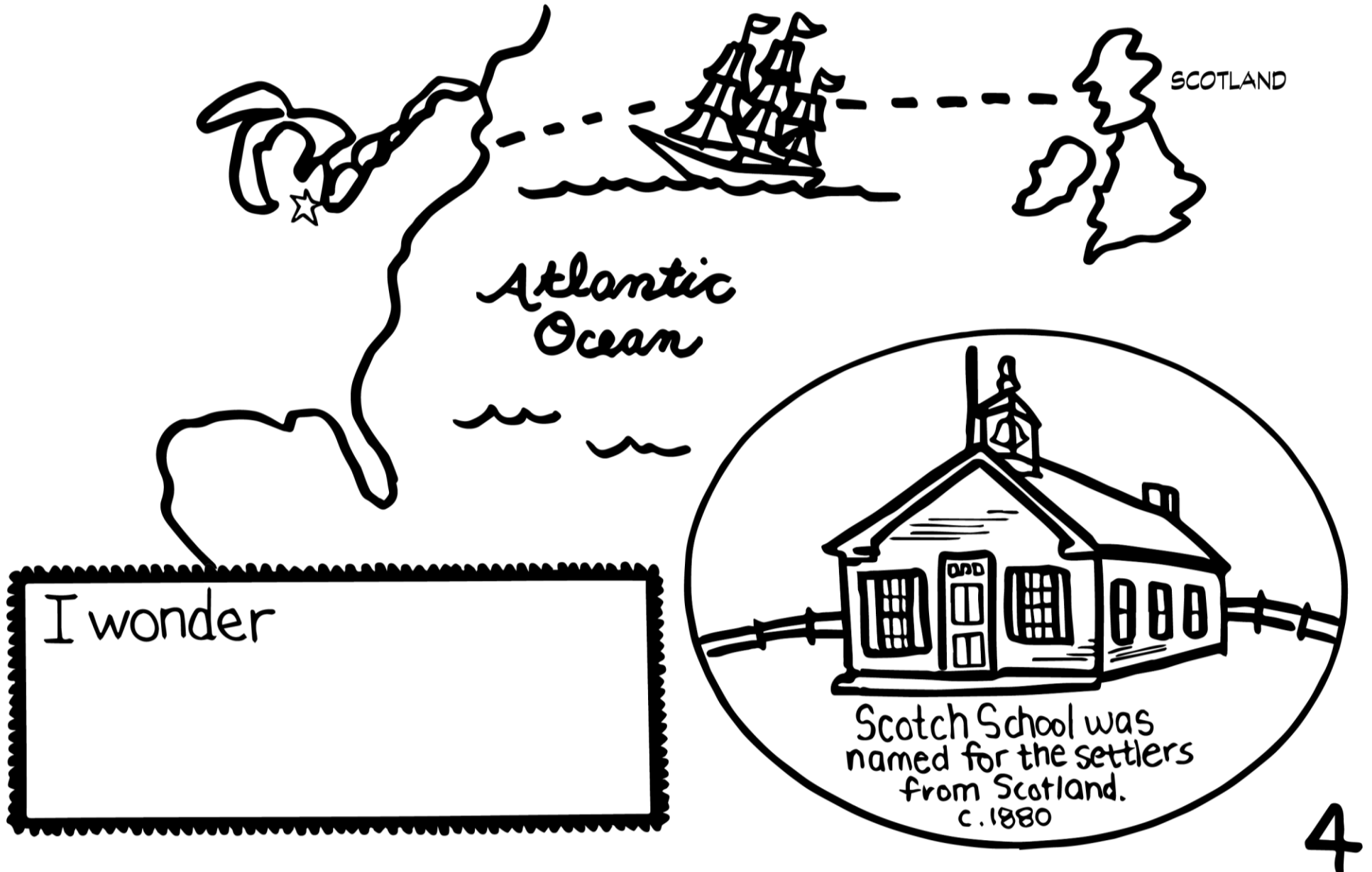
Native tribes lived around Orchard Lake many years ago. They hunted in the woods. They fished in the lakes. They planted crops. They lived in **wigwams** made of bark. They traveled by canoe on the rivers. The local tribes were the Ojibwa, Odawa, and Bodewami.



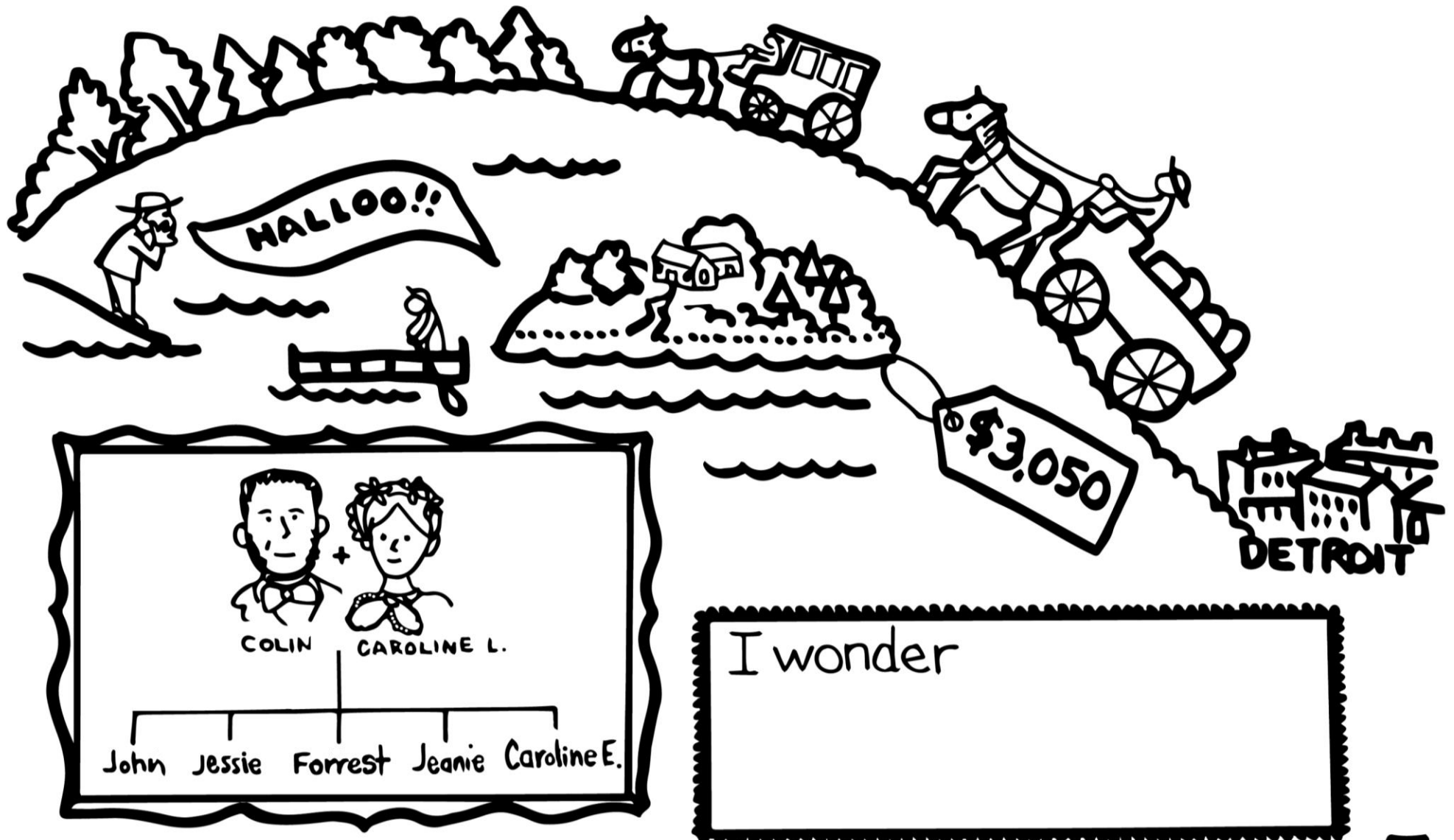
Pontiac was a famous Odawa chief. He was a good leader. Pontiac did not like how the **British** near Detroit treated the Native people. So he brought tribes together to fight the British in 1763. Pontiac may have visited Apple Island to plan his **siege** on Fort Detroit, but we do not know for sure.



People took ships across the ocean from Europe to the United States. Some people came from Scotland. Many Scottish people settled near Orchard Lake. In 1872, James Galloway from Scotland was the first **settler** to own Apple Island.



Colin Campbell owned a store in Detroit. He bought Apple Island in 1856 as a vacation spot for his family. Mr. Campbell paid \$3,050 for the island. The family would travel by horse and wagon from Detroit to Orchard Lake for the summer.



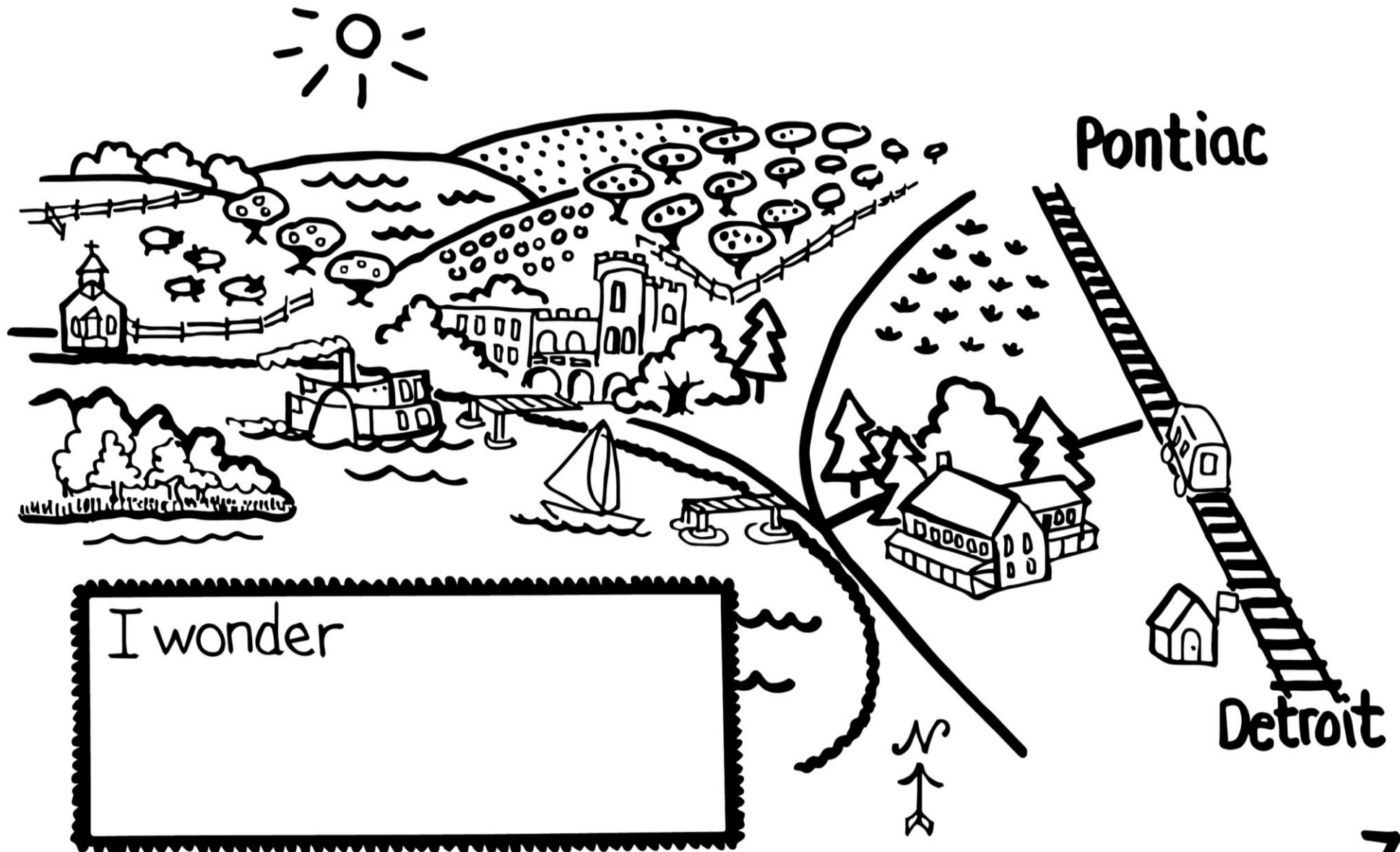
It was fun to be on Apple Island in the summer. Everyone could swim, fish, and sail on the lake. Children could play games, sing songs, and climb trees. Children also had chores to do. They weeded the gardens. They picked apples, melons, and squash to eat. They got water from the wells. The children helped wash the laundry with rainwater collected in the **cistern**.



I wonder

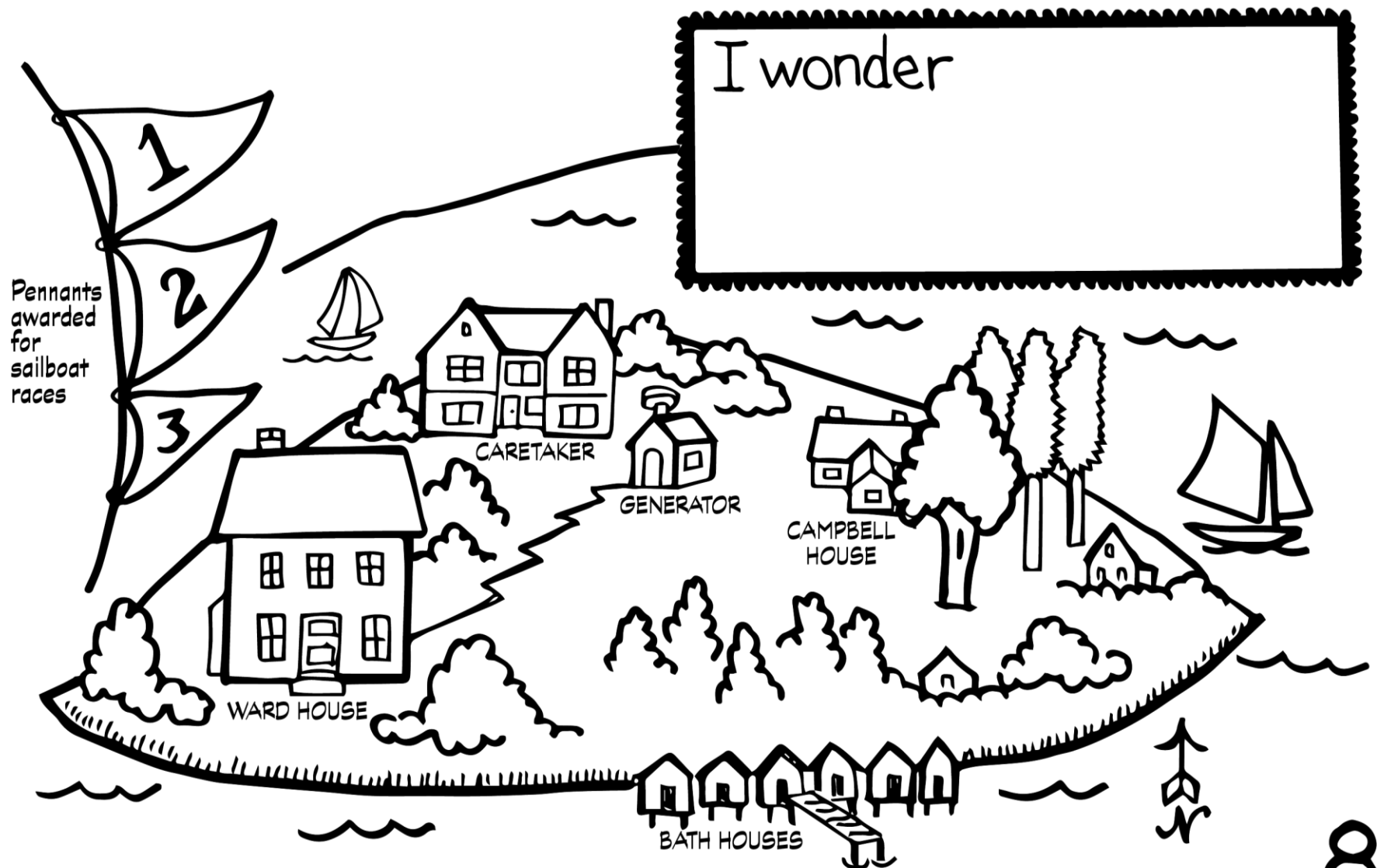


Other people enjoyed the beauty of Orchard Lake, too. Two hotels were built on the shore. Vacationers could travel by rail from the cities to the hotels. There were farms with orchards and sheep near the lake, as well.

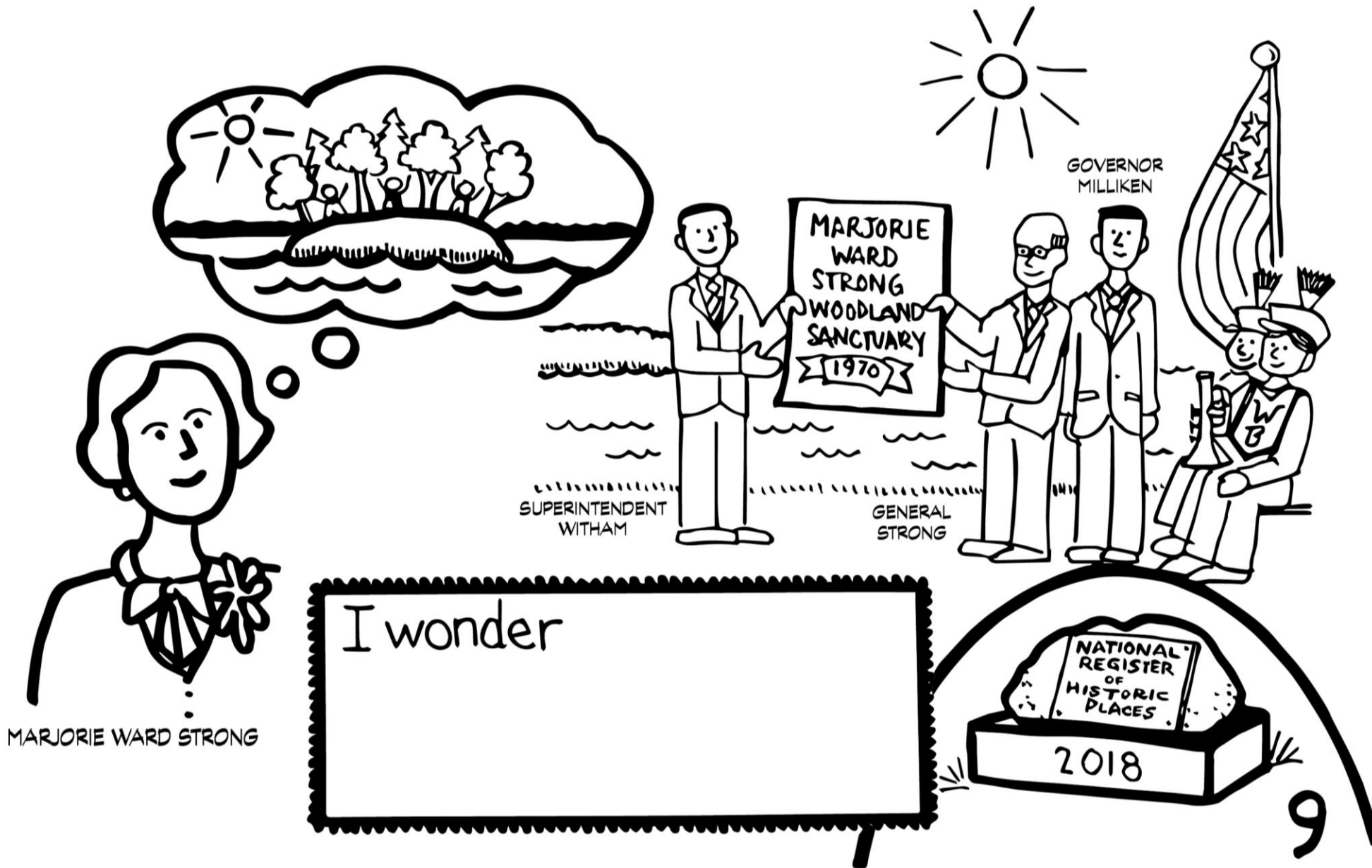




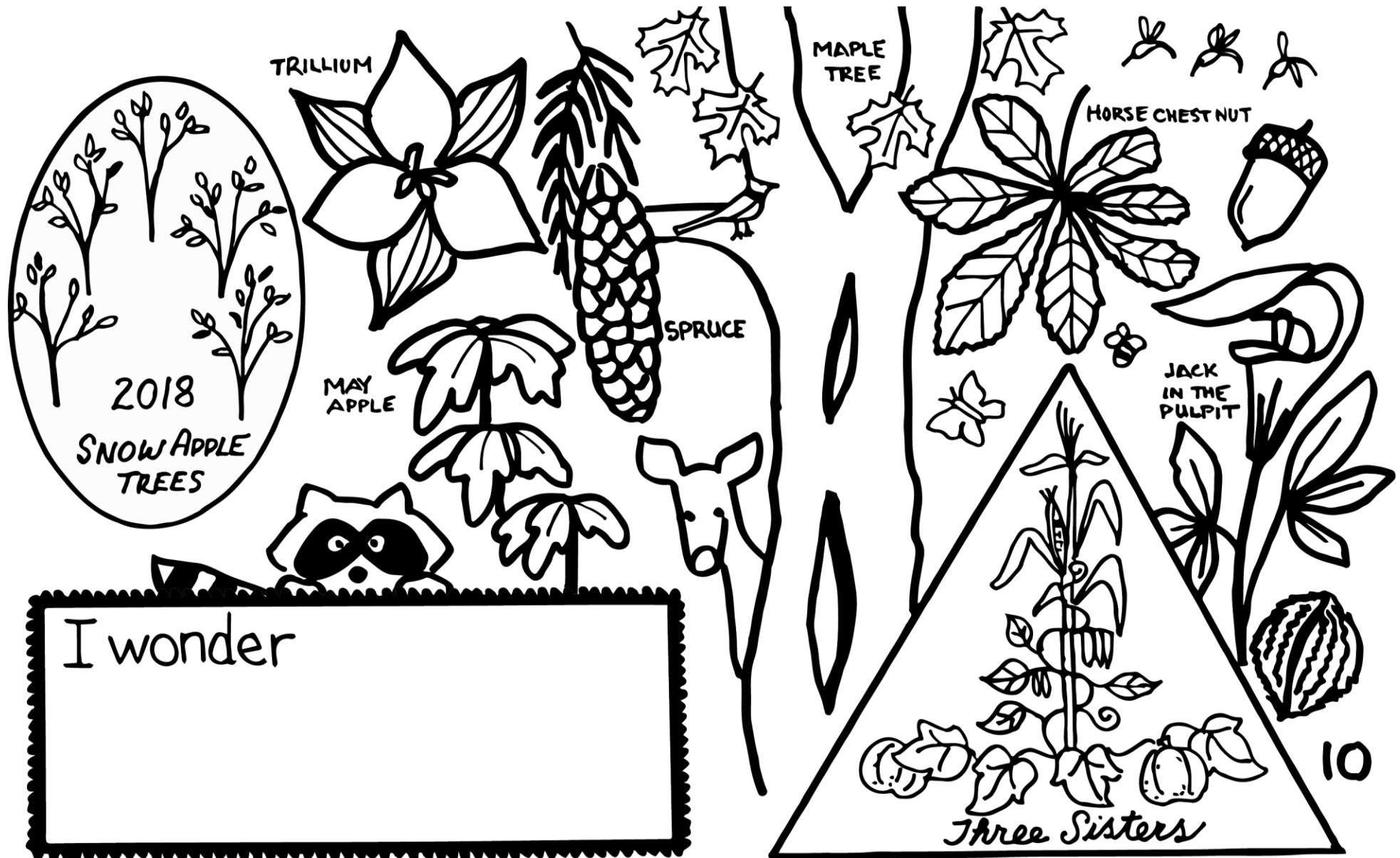
The Campbells owned Apple Island for 60 years. Then they sold it to their friend Willis Ward in 1915. He built a new house on the island. It even had electricity. Mr. Ward loved the natural beauty of Apple Island and sailing on Orchard lake. So did his children, Harold and Marjorie.



Marjorie Ward Strong wanted to save Apple Island as a place where children could learn about nature. After she died, her husband gave Apple Island to the West Bloomfield School District in 1970. Even the Governor and the marching band came to the celebration.



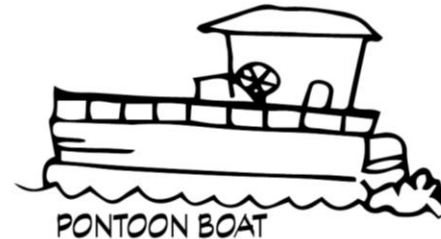
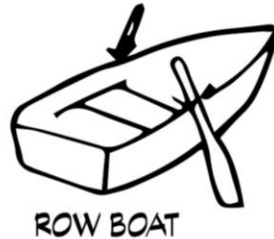
Apple Island is full of plants and animals. There are over 400 kinds of plants and trees on Apple Island. Chipmunks and raccoons live on the island. Sometimes, deer swim to the island. There are five apple trees on Apple Island. Students from Gretchko Elementary School planted them in 2018. Some day, the trees will bring apples back to Apple Island.



People have traveled to Orchard Lake and Apple Island many different ways. How would you get to Apple Island?

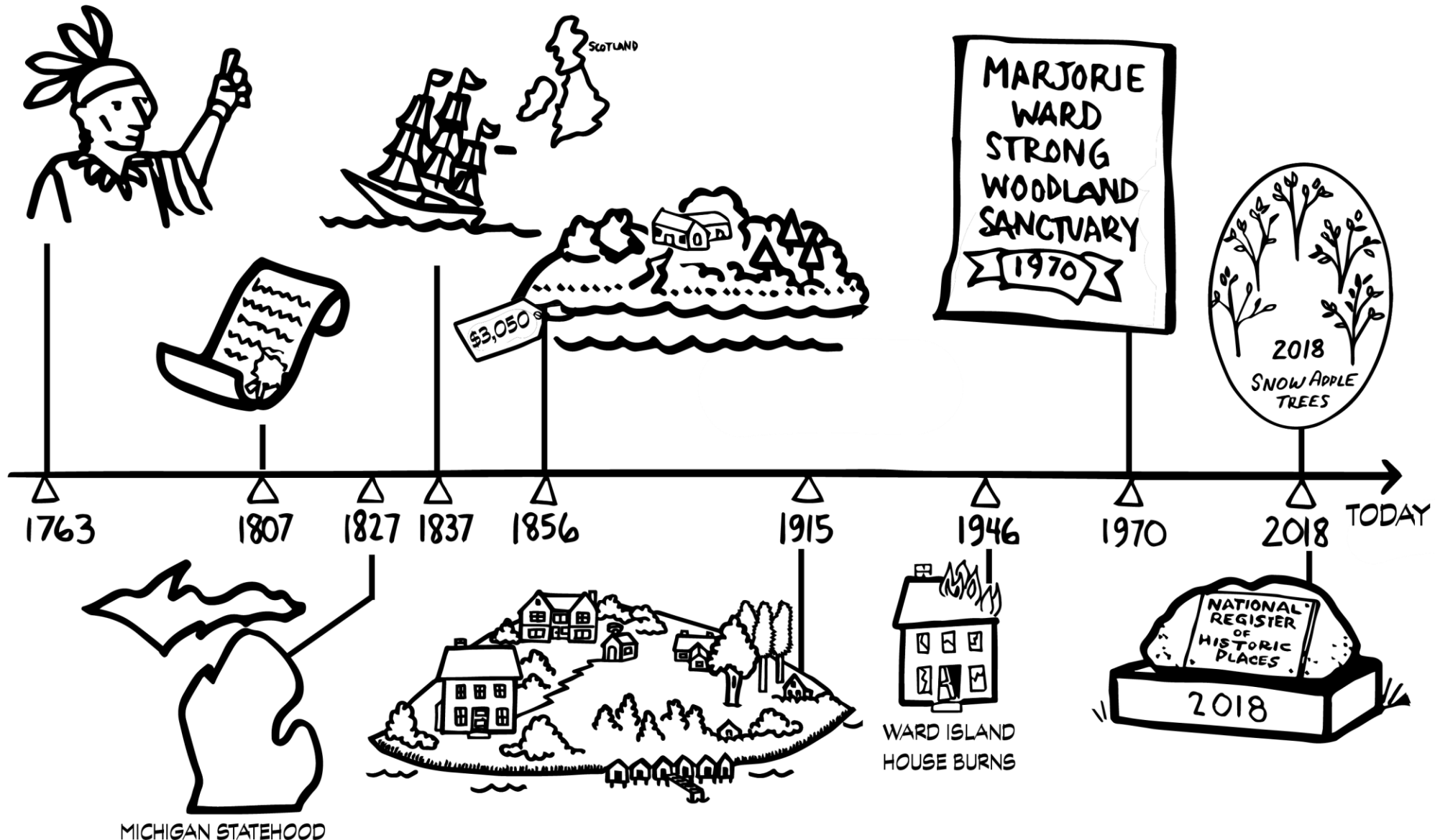


HORSE DRAWN WAGON

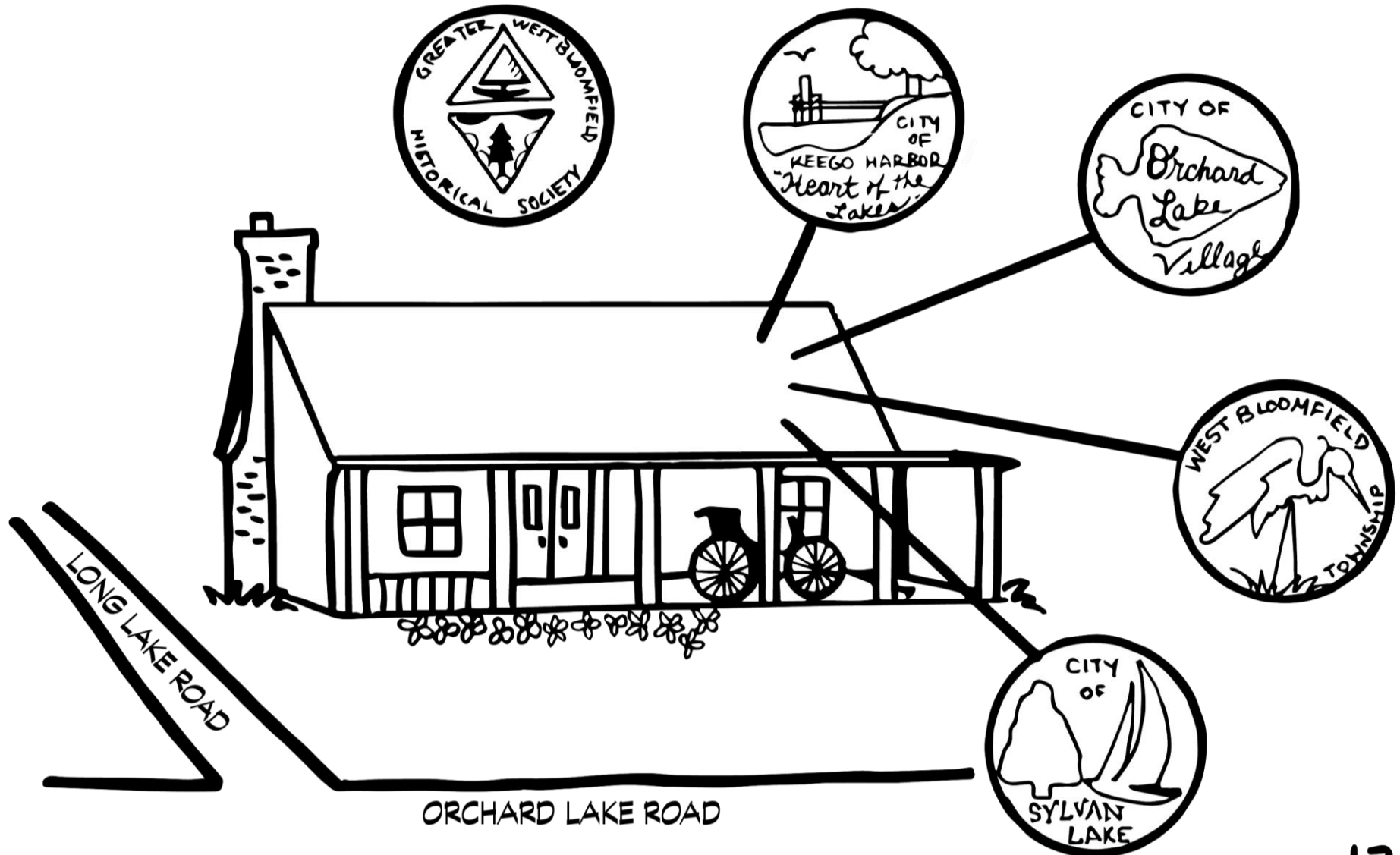


I wonder

Apple Island is a special place. It is a place with an interesting history. It is a place filled with natural beauty. Native peoples camped on the island long ago. Scotch settlers enjoyed Apple Island for vacation. Now it is a woodland **sanctuary**. Hopefully someday you can visit Apple Island too!



You can learn more about Apple Island and our community at the Orchard Lake Museum. The museum is the home of the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society. **Docents** from the society lead tours of Apple Island. Find out more at [www,gwbhs.org](http://www,gwbhs.org).



# Glossary

**Me-nah-sa-gor-ning** – An approximation of a Native way to say Apple Place (cover)

**wigwam** – a domed hut made of bark and wood (page 2)

**British** – people from England (page 3)

**siege** – a forceful attack (page 3)

**treaty** – an agreement between groups to end a conflict (page 3)

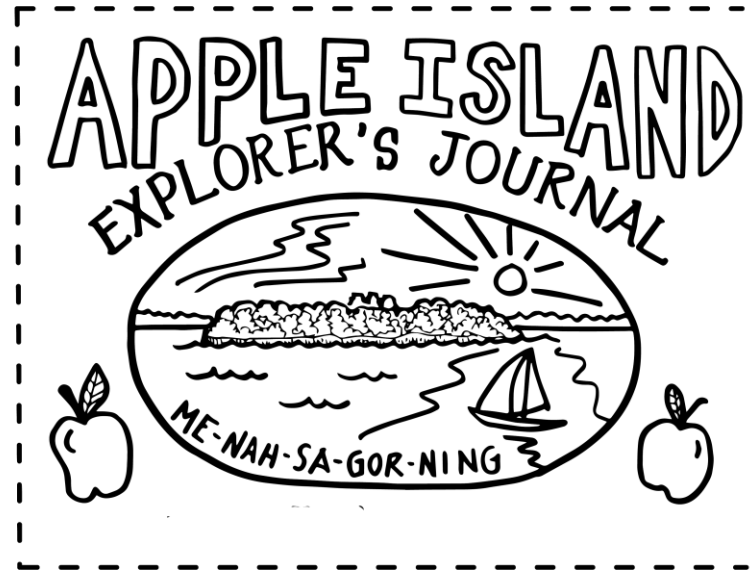
**cistern** – a tank to store rainwater so it can be used later (page 6)

**Three Sisters** – a traditional way to plant squash, corn, and beans together (page 10)

**scow** – a flat-bottomed boat used to transport people, animals, or supplies (page 11)

**sanctuary** – a protected space of rest or refuge (page 12)

**docent** – a specially-trained museum guide (page 13)



*For the children of West Bloomfield School District in honor of the  
Marjorie Ward Strong Woodland Sanctuary, also known as Apple Island*

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Collaborators

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Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society



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