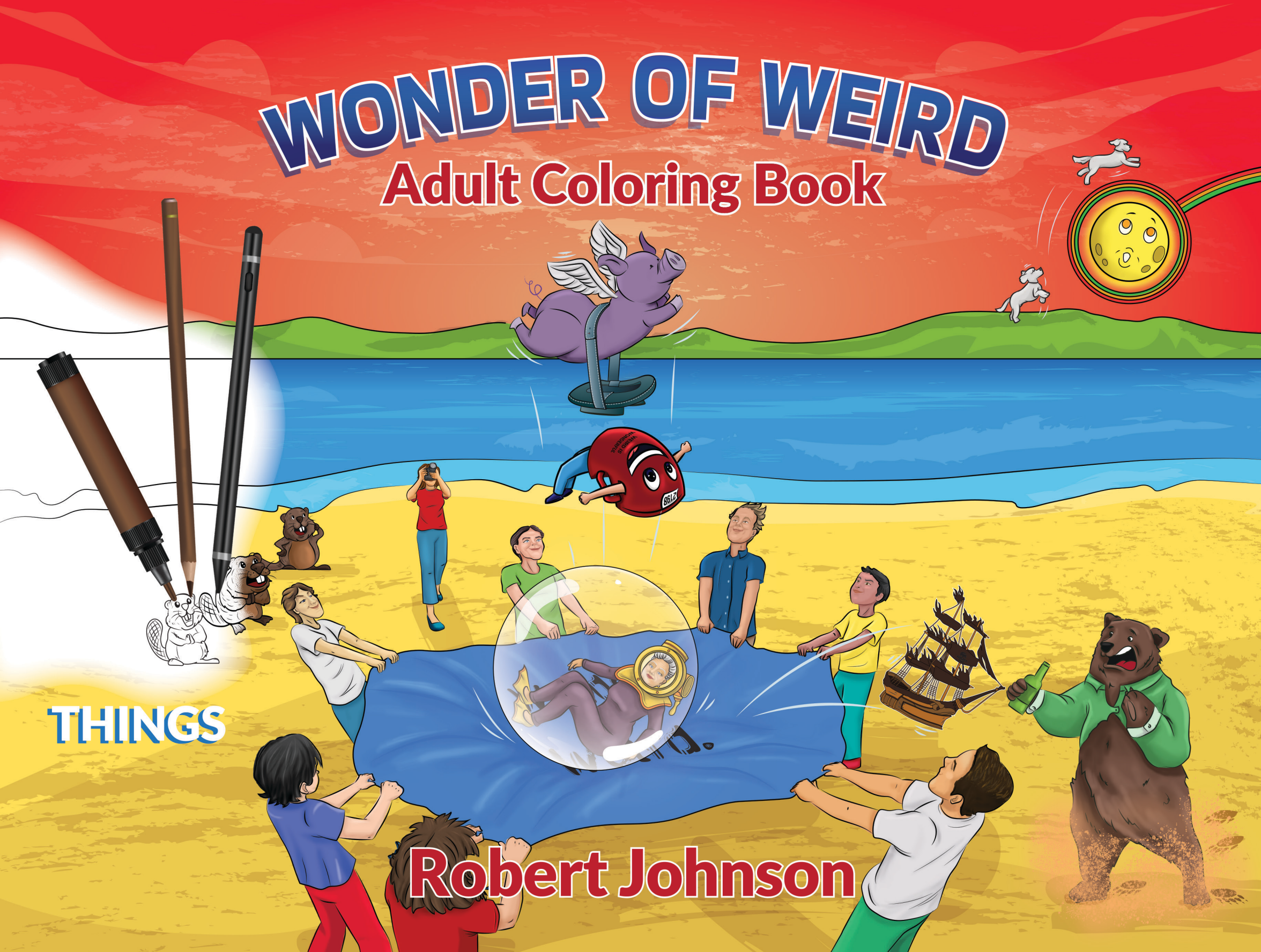


WONDER OF WEIRD

Adult Coloring Book



THINGS

Robert Johnson

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Life goes better with a little weirdness. It is hoped that the Weird people portrayed here, in illustration and story, both open and expand the mind **in wonder and awe**. For the sake of the occasional flamboyant side of weirdness, visit us at: www.getyourweird.com.



Sample these pages of Weird Things.
Bend your imagination and lose track of time
as you travel to your own hidden garden.

The Fascinating Tale of Beavers

The beaver –Oregon’s state mascot and Canada’s national symbol–is a beloved animal worldwide. But what makes them so special?

Although not the rarest, they remain one of the weirdest animals on the planet. You need to watch beavers build a dam to understand their uniqueness. However, there’s much more to the beaver than tree gnawing and dam building. Join us as we take a closer look at the secret lives of one of the weirdest animals across North America.

Why You Should Give a Dam

Beavers are the largest rodent in North America, weighing up to 60 pounds (27 kilograms). It gives us an excellent example of evolutionary adaptation. They were giant *Castoroides* during the Ice Age—weird, eight-foot-long animals weighing over 200 pounds. They shrunk over the years to be the adept builder army we know today.

The semi-aquatic fuzz balls have valves in their nose and ears. They also feature a third set of transparent eyelids similar to goggles, and their lips close behind their teeth.

Castoroides of the past didn’t have the iconic beaver tail, but now it has various purposes. The iconic tail acts as a rudder to help them swim and provides balance while they build their lodge. It also acts as a danger alarm when they slap it on the ground.

Beavers also boast some great innate survival tactics. For instance, one of the reasons they build a dam is to stop the water system behind it from freezing completely. This work allows them to feed and store food during the cold winter months.

The critters join the handful of animals who are monogamous. After a young male builds his beaver lodge, he’ll find a mate to have a family that lives together. The world’s largest beaver dam is located in Alberta, Canada, and is almost 3,000 feet (850 meters). It joins the list of wondrous things humans have found by accident via satellite images. Scientists believe that generations of the same beaver family are responsible for such a massive dam.

Interesting Facts

- Beavers can hold their breath for fifteen minutes.
- Beavers secrete a substance called castoreum that smells and tastes like vanilla. This chemical compound is an FDA-certified natural flavoring that perfume companies often include in their products. A Beaver Latte, anyone?
- Beaver’s teeth are orange because their enamel contains iron, making them super strong, a crucial feature to building a dam.
- Beavers don’t always build dams. Instead, if the water is deep enough to keep them safe from predators and stop ice from blocking the entrance, they live in bank burrows or create small lodges above the water.
- Their front teeth never stop growing. However, gnawing on wood prevents them from growing too long. If any issues occur, Mr. Weird is always on hand to help with his chainsaw.

The Architects of the Animal World

Are you as busy as a beaver or a bridge builder? If so, be proud that you’re one of the weirdest animals. They’re famous for their building skills and family values. An interest in weird things and a love for animals go hand in hand. After all, nature is full of weird and beautiful things.



Moments of Wonder

I like "Quirky." A journey into weirdness is not about bizarre, strange, or odd topics with inside-out eyelids or three-headed iguanas. Weird is different in that it creates moments of wonder about how, what, when, where, and why.

It expands the mind without "shock jock" efforts to rise above the noise. Here, the noise is of your making, the tea kettle boiling, a background of music or TV, or that special someone snoring in the next room.

I have always tried to find something funny in many things. It lightens almost any mood. So please do suggest weird new ideas. All are welcome or update me on the ski conditions in Provo.

I hope you vent, don't fester, stay away from in-the-box boundaries, and flatten any norms... dumpster style. You are not alone; join me and plenty of others who are weird and/or into weird.

What makes you weird?

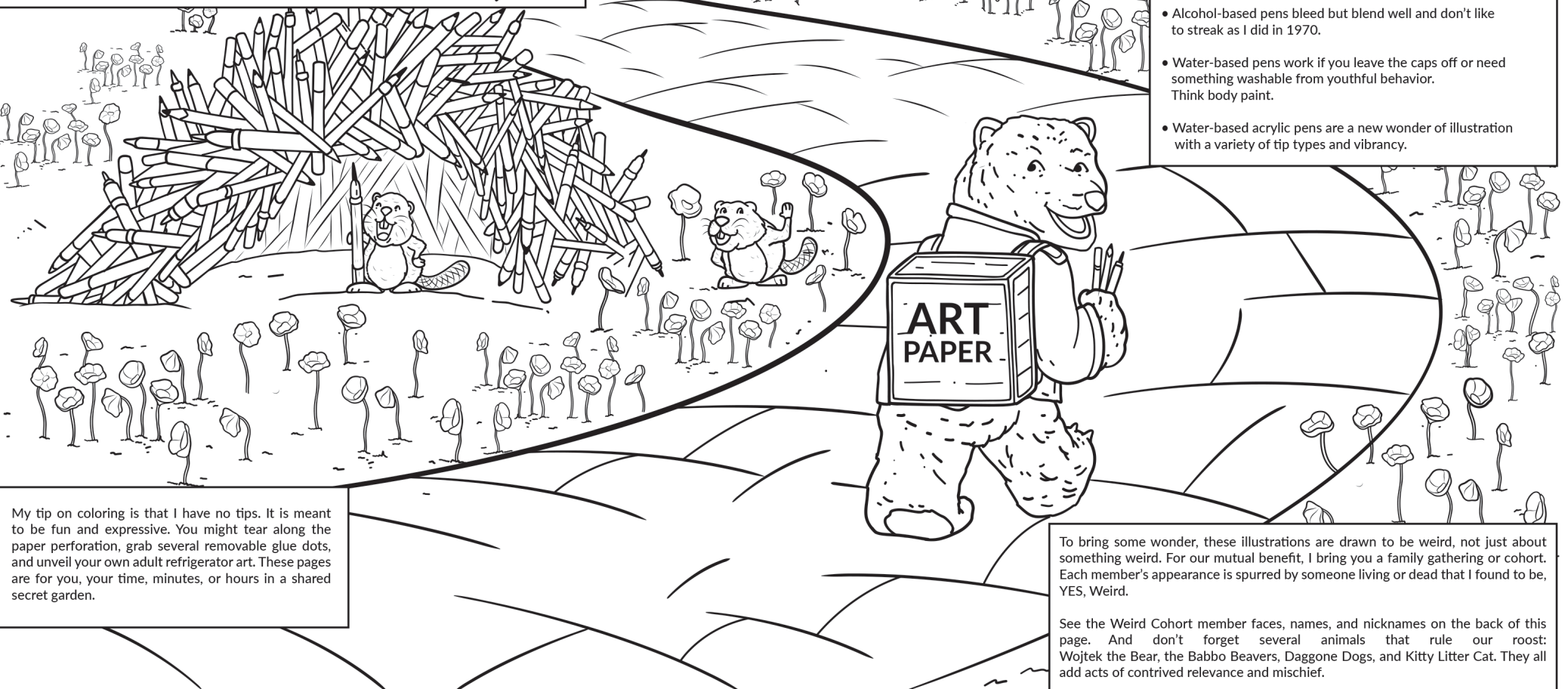
Robert Johnson

The *Wonder of Weird* combines coloring entertainment and a bit of education about weird topics, what we call Edutainment.

Forget being outside the "box"; just don't have one as we accentuate work, love, and life with drawings that encourage you to go beyond the lines.

Take care as you choose your drawing tools. Do not use Sharpie™. They will soak right through because they are meant to penetrate. Test for bleed-through in the blot area in the upper right-hand corner of this page. (apologies to the *Weird Matters* game show set on the reverse side).

- Fine liners are best for small spaces, and in this book, you'll find some of those.
- Colored pencils of all types and colors are fun and don't bleed.
- Alcohol-based pens bleed but blend well and don't like to streak as I did in 1970.
- Water-based pens work if you leave the caps off or need something washable from youthful behavior. Think body paint.
- Water-based acrylic pens are a new wonder of illustration with a variety of tip types and vibrancy.



My tip on coloring is that I have no tips. It is meant to be fun and expressive. You might tear along the paper perforation, grab several removable glue dots, and unveil your own adult refrigerator art. These pages are for you, your time, minutes, or hours in a shared secret garden.

To bring some wonder, these illustrations are drawn to be weird, not just about something weird. For our mutual benefit, I bring you a family gathering or cohort. Each member's appearance is spurred by someone living or dead that I found to be, YES, Weird.

See the *Weird Cohort* member faces, names, and nicknames on the back of this page. And don't forget several animals that rule our roost: Wojtek the Bear, the Babbo Beavers, Daggone Dogs, and Kitty Litter Cat. They all add acts of contrived relevance and mischief.

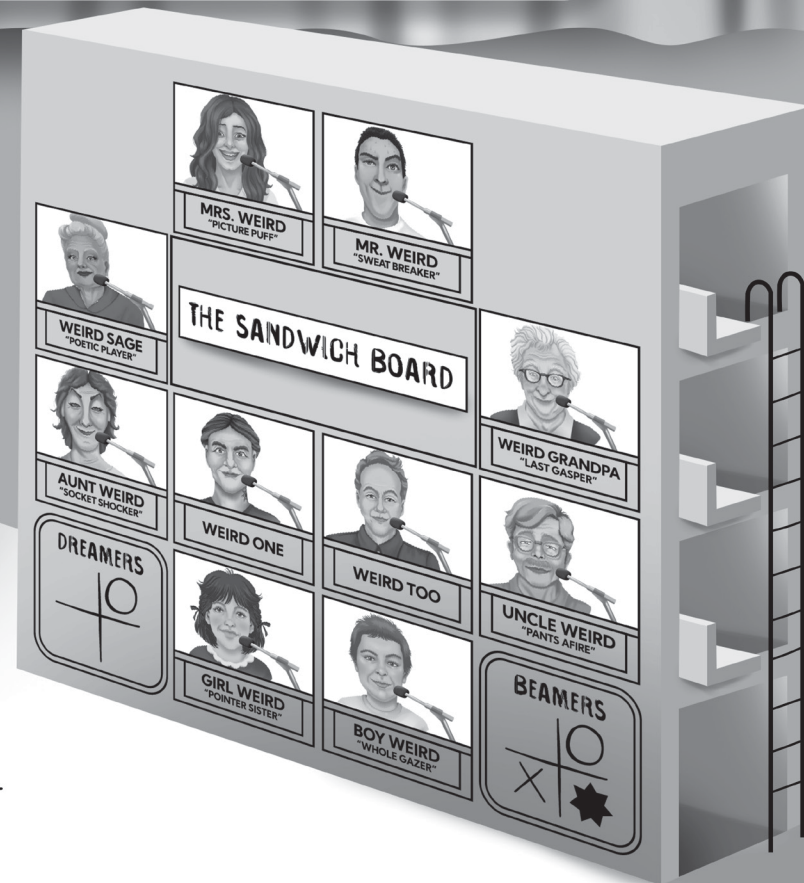
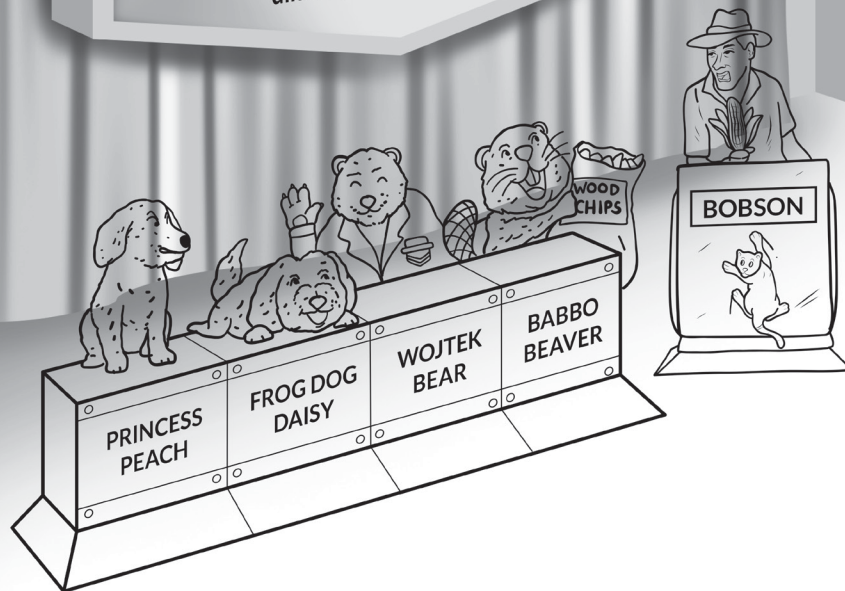
A weird world requires time for play. Here at play, we introduce our Weird family, a cohort of characters that stretches reality in all directions and finds themselves in many of this book's illustrations.

The Wonder of Weird Casting staff mixes them to stump the opposing team with false or honest "Sandwich Board" innuendo spoken by two randomly selected cast members who offer both Dreamers and Beamers incredulous recounting of people, places, and things, all done with a straight face. Almost always.

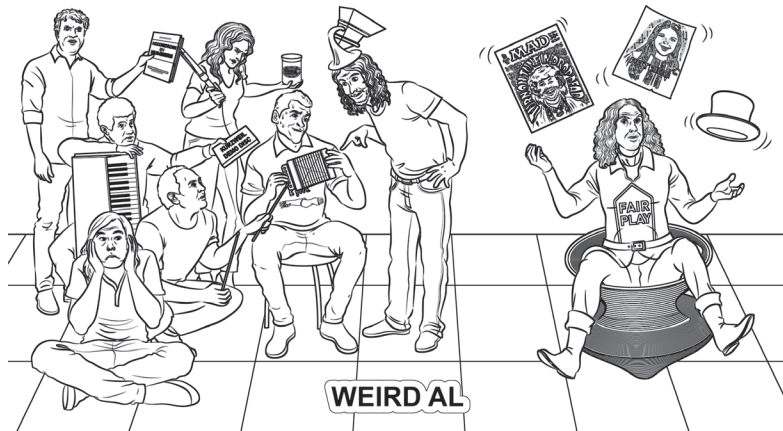
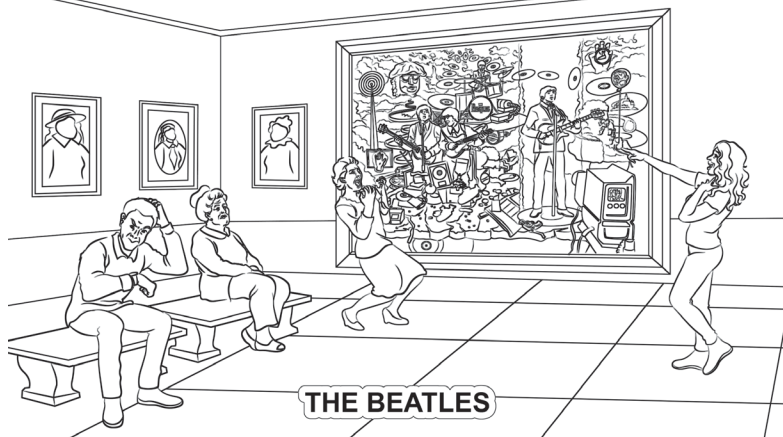
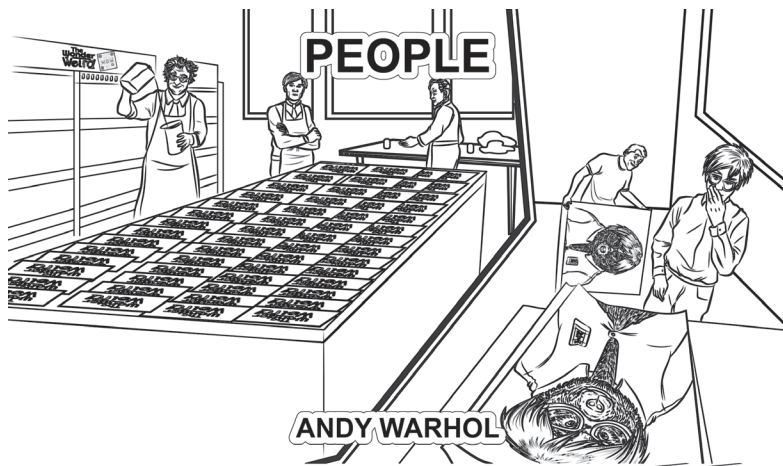
The panel of intelligent animals judge nothing, and are called upon to look pretty, eat morsels, and kibble, and drink various libations. Given they are unpaid and do not understand guild membership our show host Bobson needs plenty of corn to herd them and lead game players through a modified game of telephone tag featuring X's and O's that are far from hugs and kisses.

WEIRD MATTERS

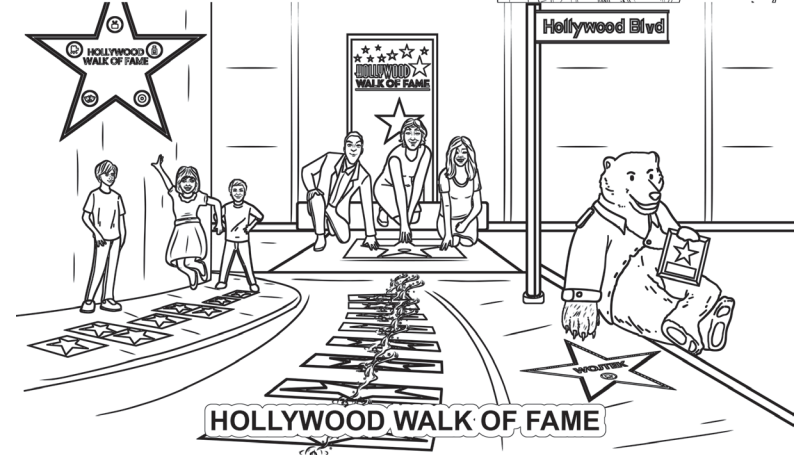
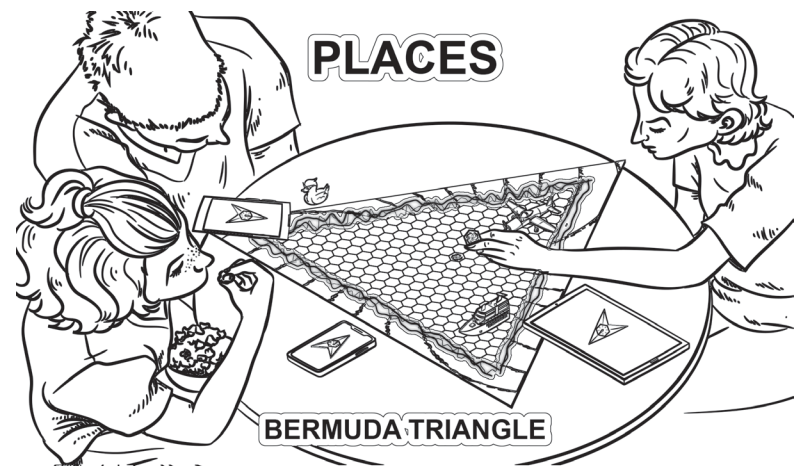
Right or Ruse? Which is True?
Did Francis Edgerton hold
dinner parties for dogs?



FIRST Edition



FIRST Edition



WONDER OF WEIRD



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