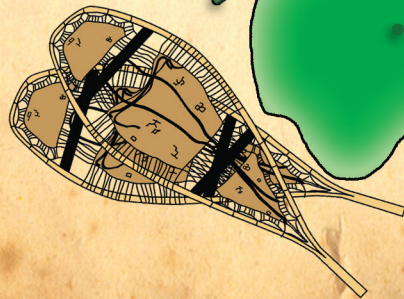
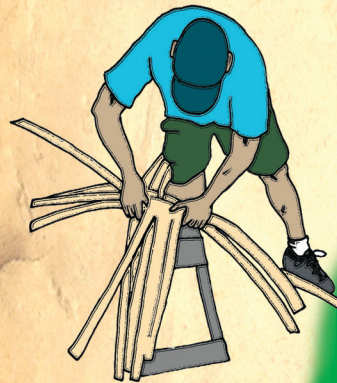


WISQOOQ IN MI'KMA'KI BLACK ASH COLOURING BOOK



MI'KMAW CONSERVATION GROUP
THE CONFEDERACY OF MAINLAND MI'KMAQ

Acknowledgements:

In the summer of 2013, the Mi'kmaw Conservation Group (MCG) undertook an ambitious tree planting project in our MCG member Communities. Together with the help of funding partners and dedicated summer students, MCG planted up to nine Black Ash and several hundred white spruce trees per Mi'kmaw Community. In this project there was an education component that brought youth together with Elders or Community Knowledge Holders. We were able to witness several demonstrations of traditional basket making and other uses of Black Ash. In the winter of 2014 we re-visited the Elders and Community Knowledge Holders. We recorded their thoughts on traditional uses of Black Ash. The knowledge that was shared with us during the workshops and interviews has been instrumental in the completion of this colouring book. MCG would like to thank all the participants in our Black Ash Education and Restoration projects. Special Thanks and gratitude to Elders: Gerald Toney - Annapolis Valley First Nation; Annie Paul - Indian Brook First Nation; Libby Meuse - Indian Brook First Nation; Della Maguire - Glooscap First Nation; Noel Nicholas - Pictou Landing First Nation; Leonard Cremo - Pictou Landing First Nation; Rose Morris - Gold River/Indian Brook First Nation; Gilbert Sewell - Pabineau First Nation and to Community Knowledge Holder and Mi'kmaw Scientist Donna Hurlburt - Acadia First Nation / Acadia University; for taking the time to share your inspiring stories and vast knowledge with us. It was a privilege to spend time with each of you.



Gerald Toney Sr.
Annapolis Valley



Annie Paul
Indian Brook
(Sipekne'katik Band)



Libby Meuse
Indian Brook
(Sipekne'katik Band)



Della Maguire
Glooscap



Noel Nicholas
Pictou Landing



Leonard Cremo
Pictou Landing



Rose Morris
Gold River
/ Indian Brook
(Sipekne'katik Band)



Gilbert Sewell
Pabineau First
Nation



Donna Hurlburt
Acadia First Nation
/ Acadia University

MCG would also like to thank Community Members from Annapolis Valley, Glooscap, Indian Brook (Sipekne'katik Band), Millbrook, Pictou Landing, and Fort Folly First Nation. Thank you to the MCG Advisory Board for their support for and guidance of MCG's work with Black Ash. We would also like to acknowledge the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps which provided funding for two summer students. The students, Faith Julien and Anthony Pryor, contributed enthusiasm and research to the Black Ash and native forest workshops and to this colouring book. We would also like to thank Evangeline Dedam and Stephen Logan from Eastern Woodland Print Communications for the book design and layout and for creating the colouring book illustrations. Thank you all for making our Black Ash and native forest work possible.

Wisqoq in Mi'kma'ki: Let's Protect Wisqoq for the Next Generation

In Nova Scotia, there are only 12 known mature Black Ash or Wisqoq, trees. This means that only 12 Black Ash trees produce seeds. Donna Hurlburt, a Mi'kmaq scientist, says that there is upwards of 1000 Black Ash trees in the province, but they are not all healthy trees. This concerns Mi'kmaq Communities because Black Ash is a very important cultural species. It is used in basket making, to create axe and tool handles, snowshoes, and lobster hoops. As Black Ash disappears from the province, it becomes even more important to create opportunities for Elders and Community Knowledge Holders to share their experiences with youth.

This Black Ash and native forest colouring book shows real activities, traditions, science, and stewardship of Black Ash undertaken in Mi'kmaq Communities. Caring for Wisqoq reminds us of the concept of **Netukulimk** – the Mi'kmaq practice of sustaining oneself while sustaining the environment for future generations. Please share what you have learned about Wisqoq with others.

Wela'lin,
The Mi'kmaq Conservation Group
www.mikmaqconservation.ca



Black Ash life cycle.

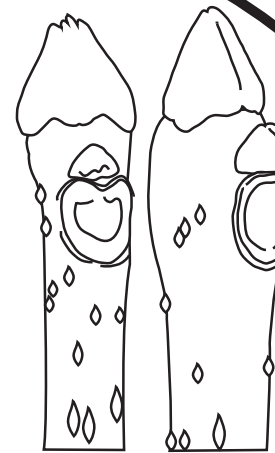
Seedling Establishment & Growth

Seedling growth depends on their environment. Sunlight is very important. In the right environment Wisqoq can live up to 150 years and grow up to 90ft tall.



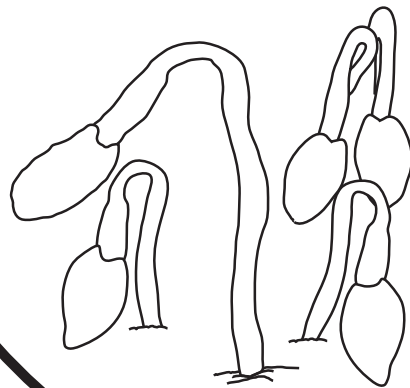
Breeding System

Black Ash flowers can be both male and female, or hermaphroditic. Black Ash flower in Siwkw (Spring – May to June).



Germination

Seeds go dormant after dispersing. It can take 1-8 years to sprout and grow.

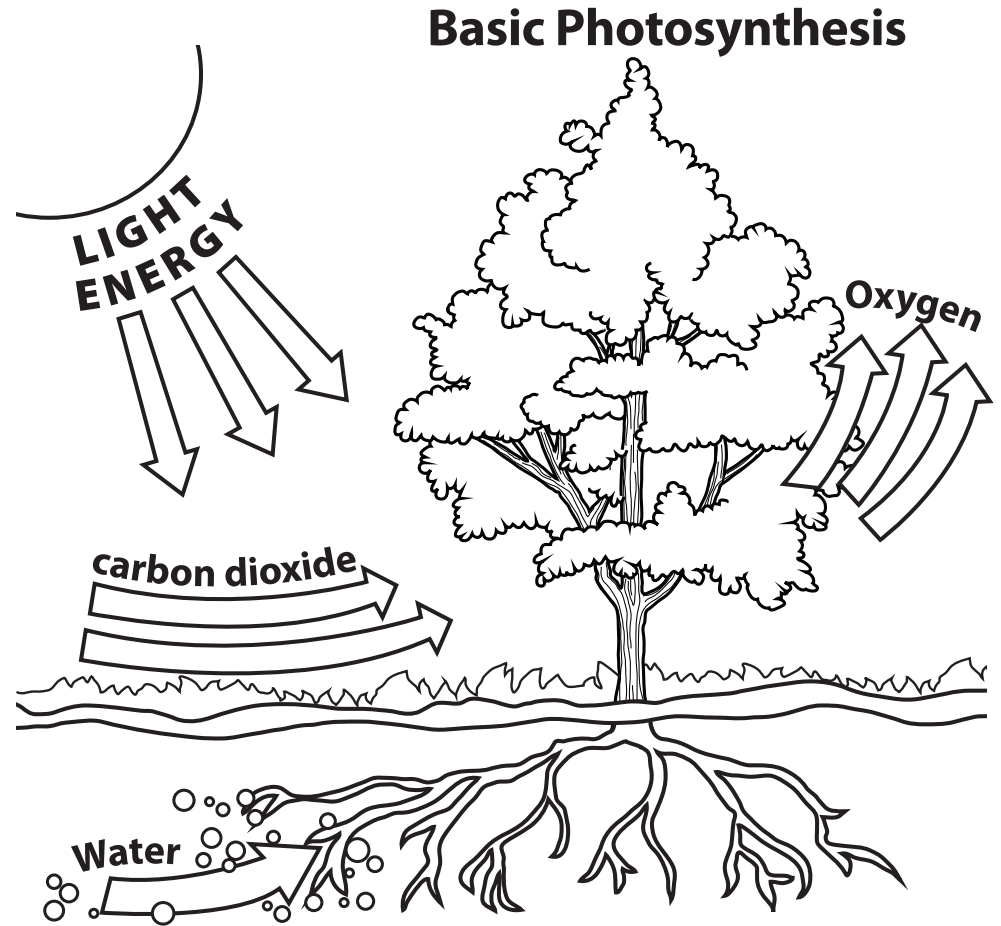
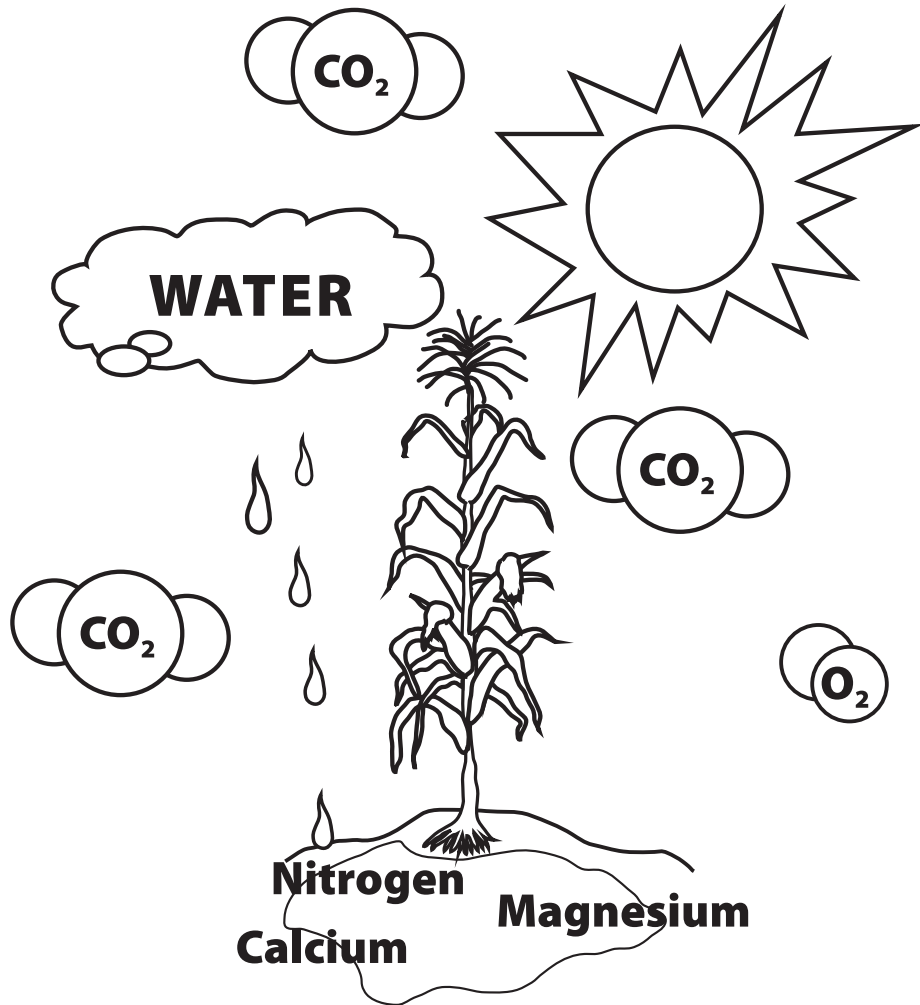


Pollination / Seed Production

Wind pollinates Black Ash. Seeds ripen and start dispersing in Nipkw (Summer).



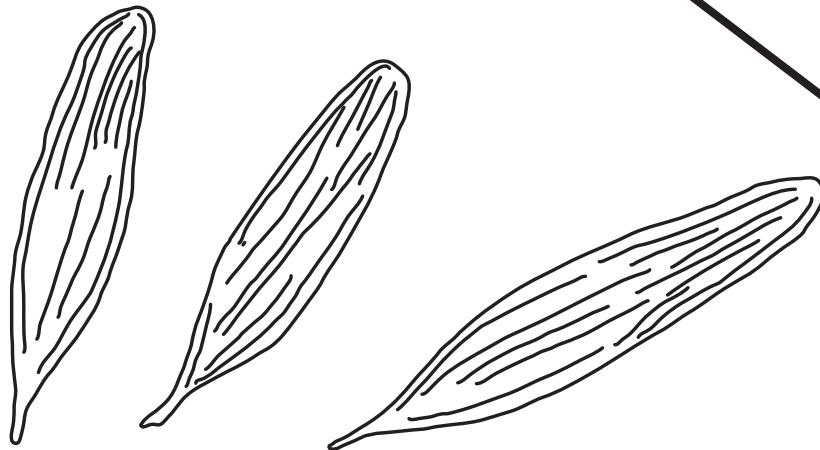
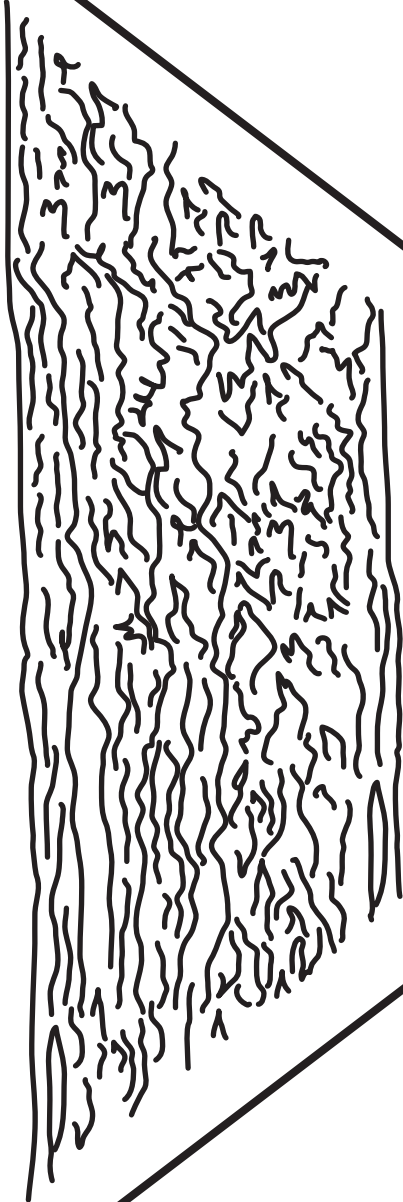
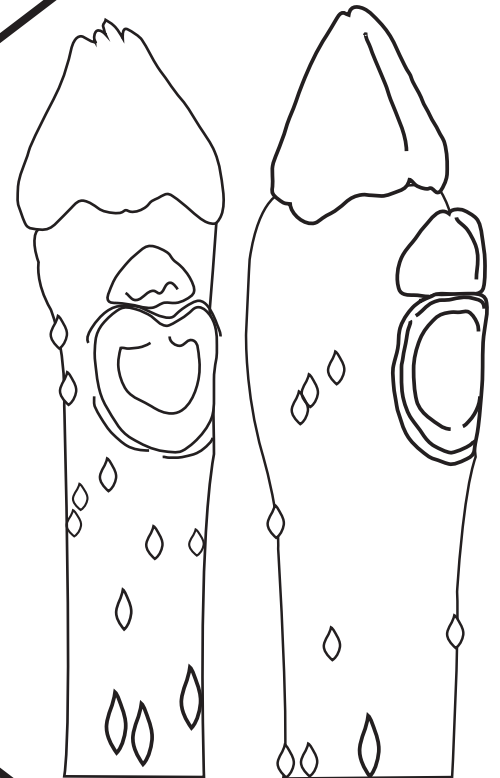
How do trees make their food?



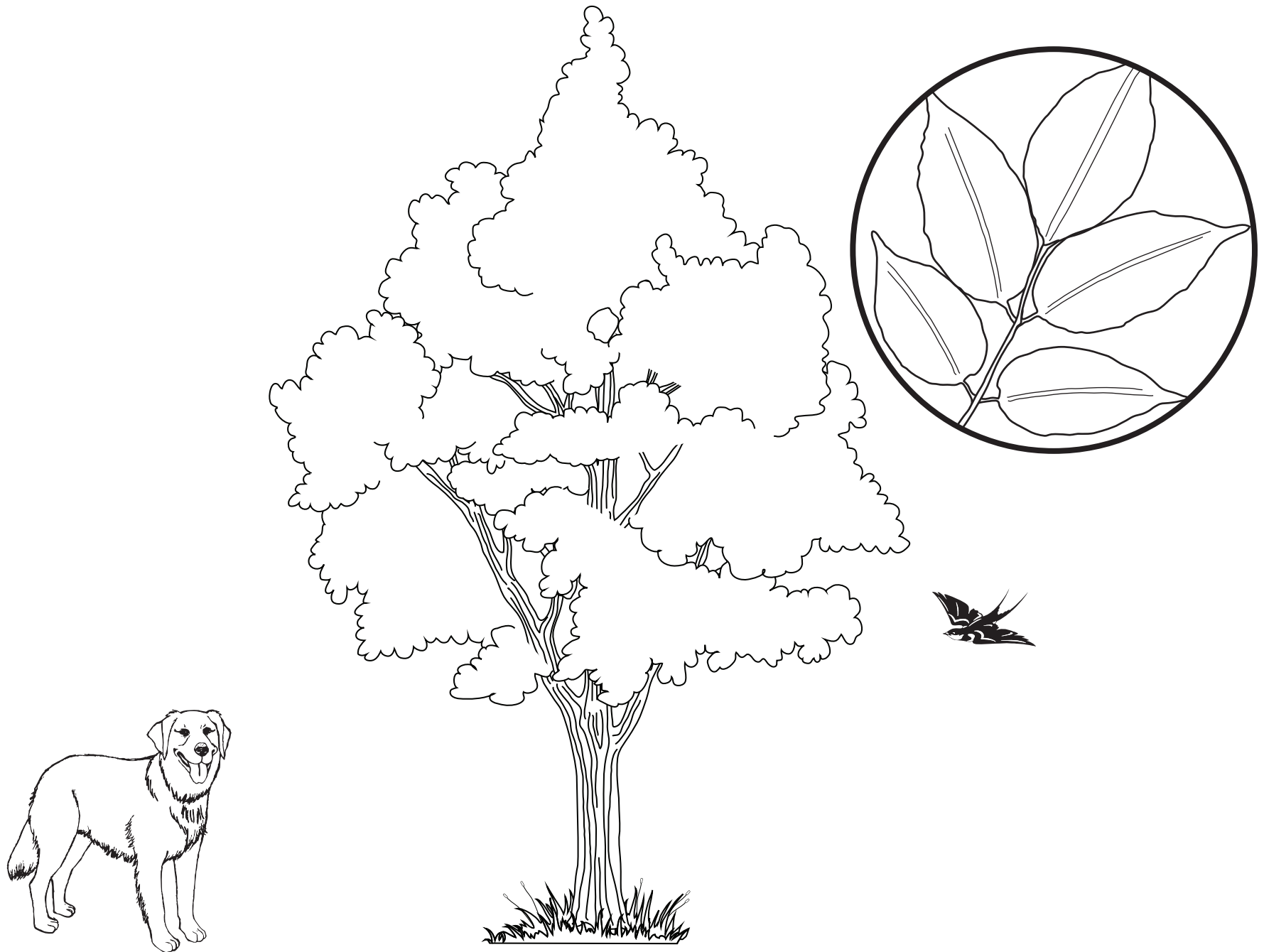
The Mi'kmaw word for Black Ash is Wisqoq.



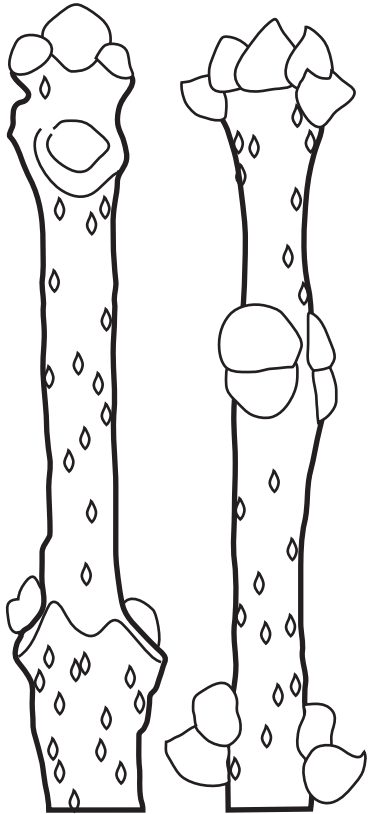
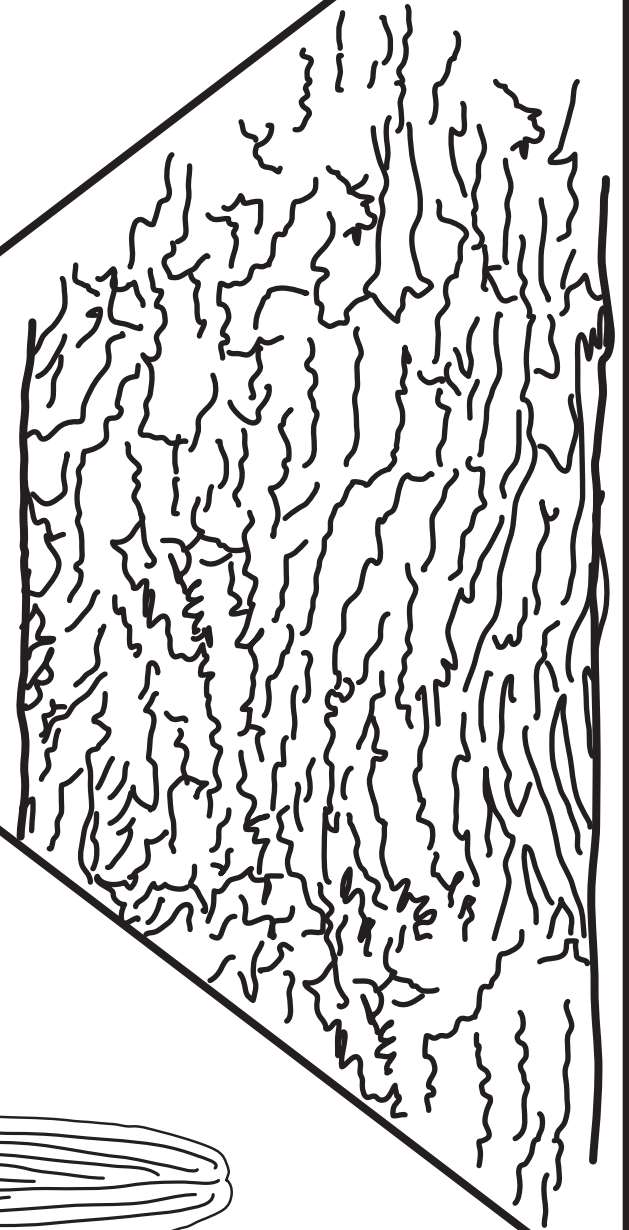
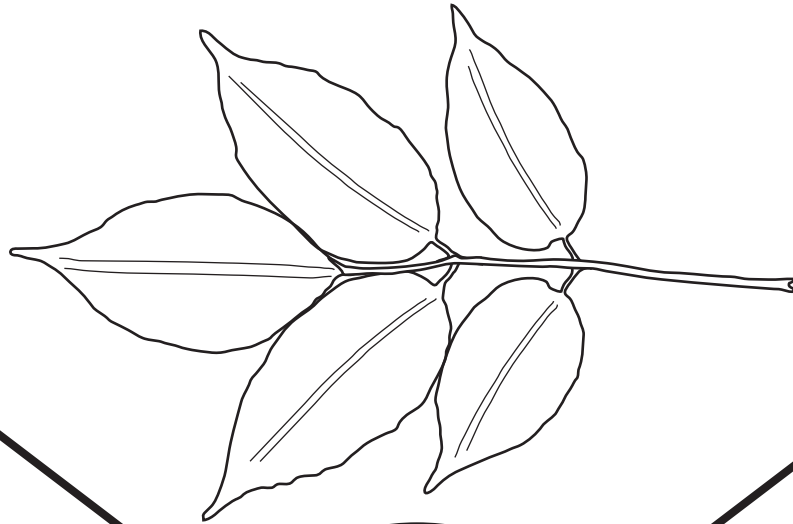
**How to
identify a
Black Ash
tree.**



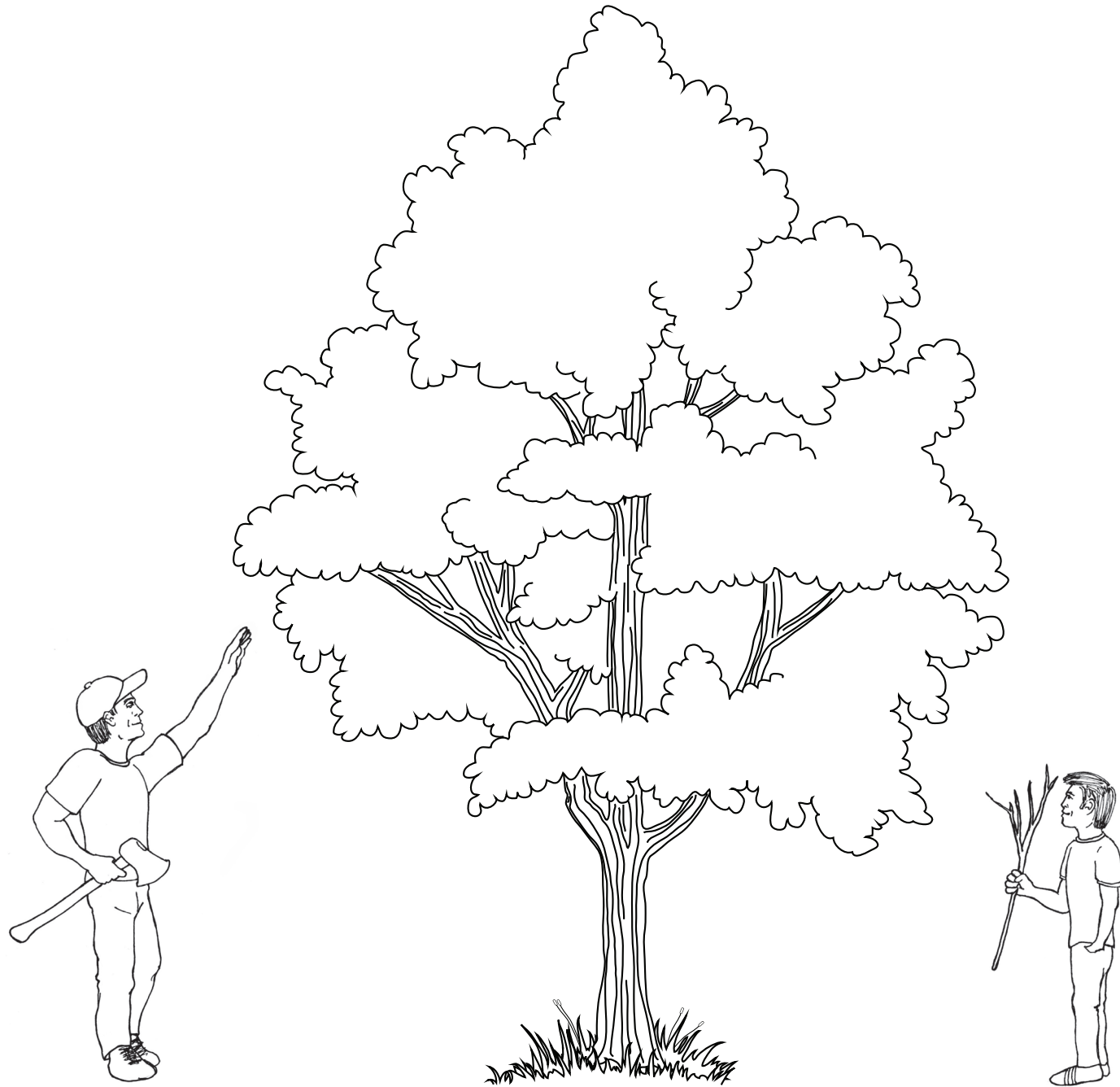
The Mi'kmaw word for White Ash is Aqamoqey.



**How to
identify a
White Ash
tree.**



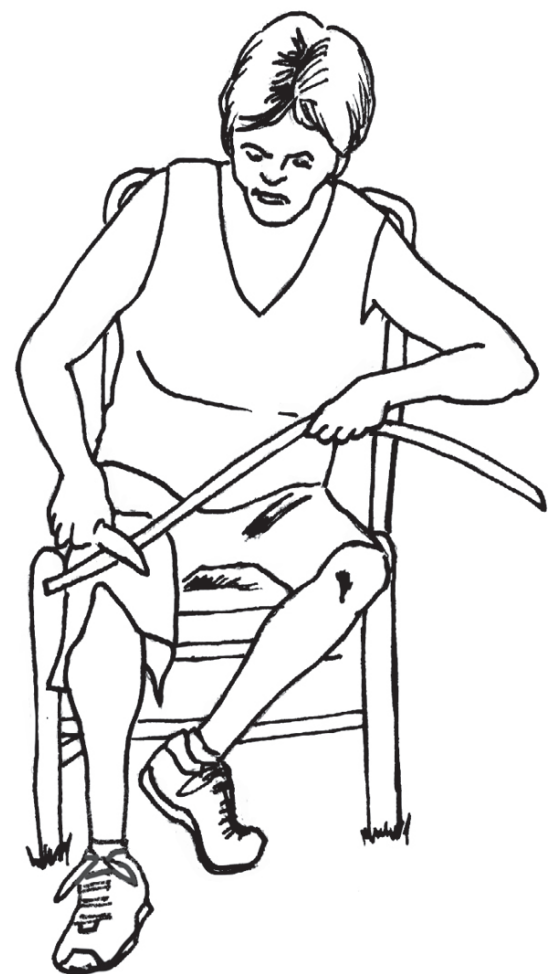
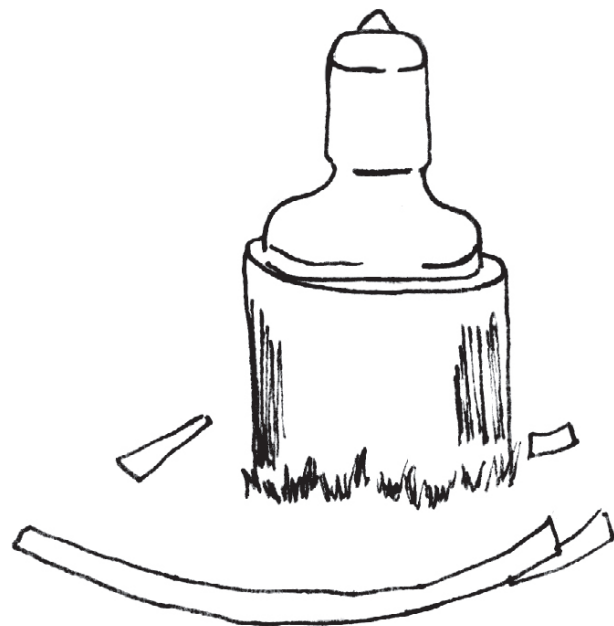
How do you select an ash tree to make a basket?



Pounding and soaking the ash.



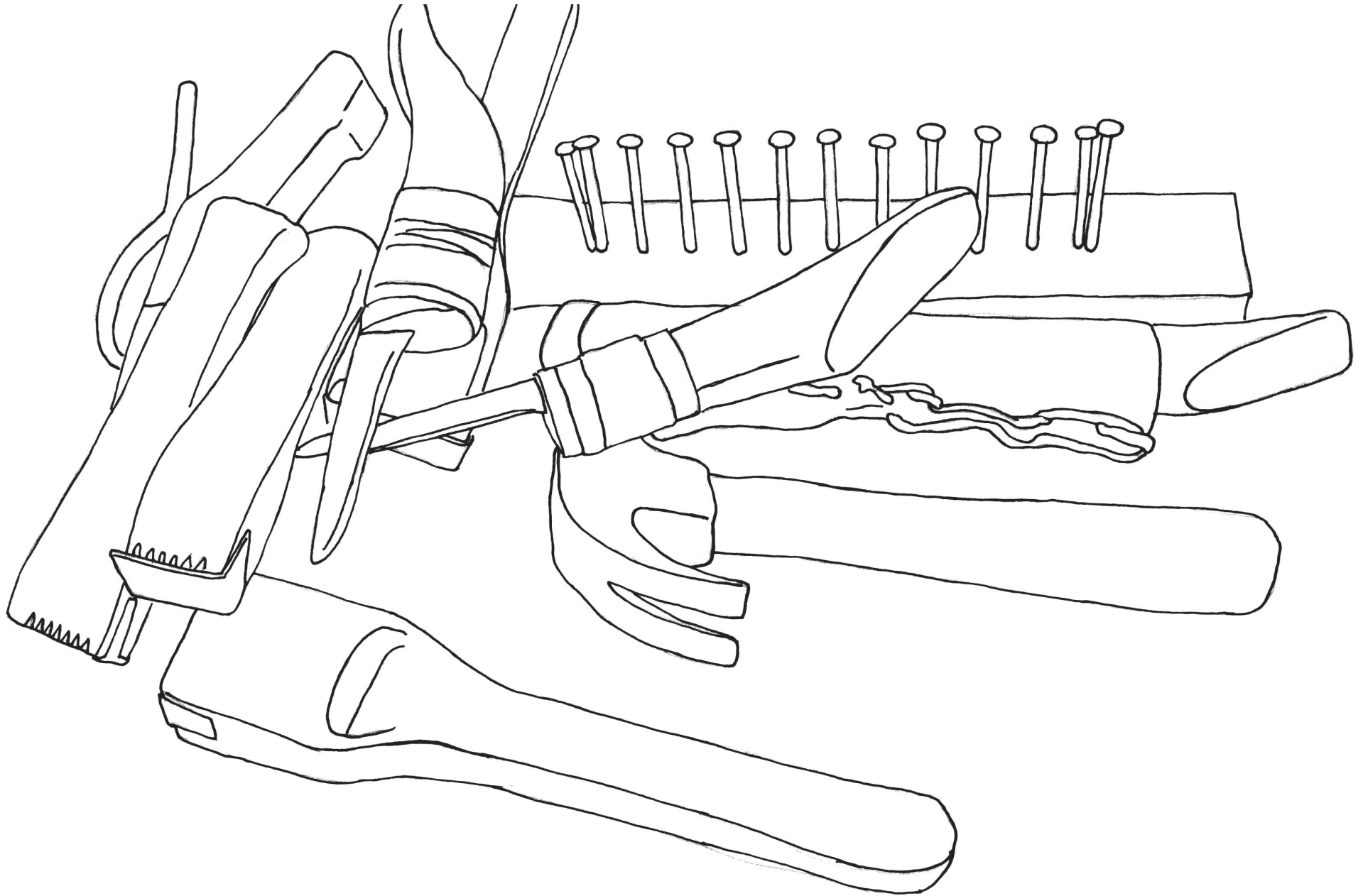
Stripping the ash.



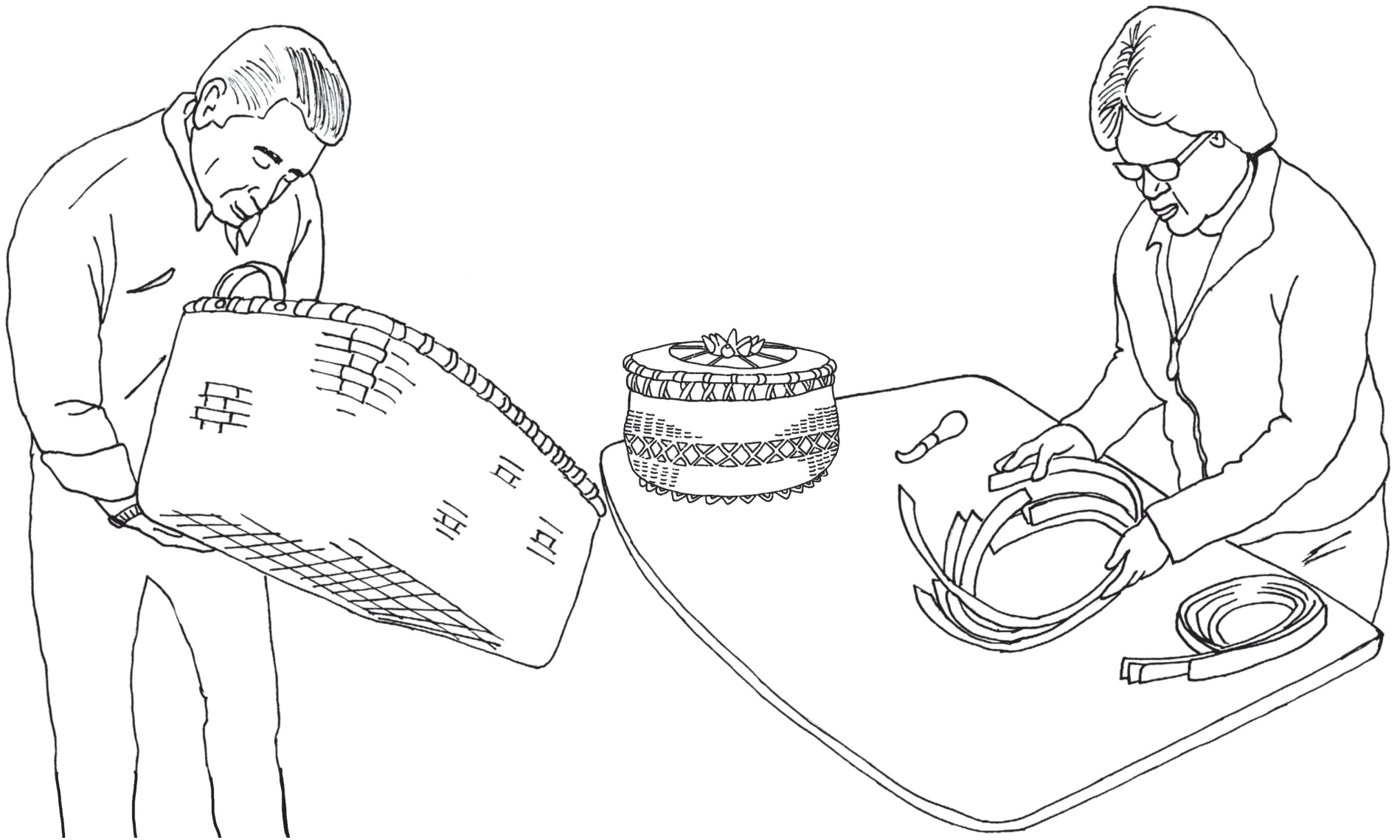
Weaving the ash.



These are tools used to make fancy baskets and small wooden strips.



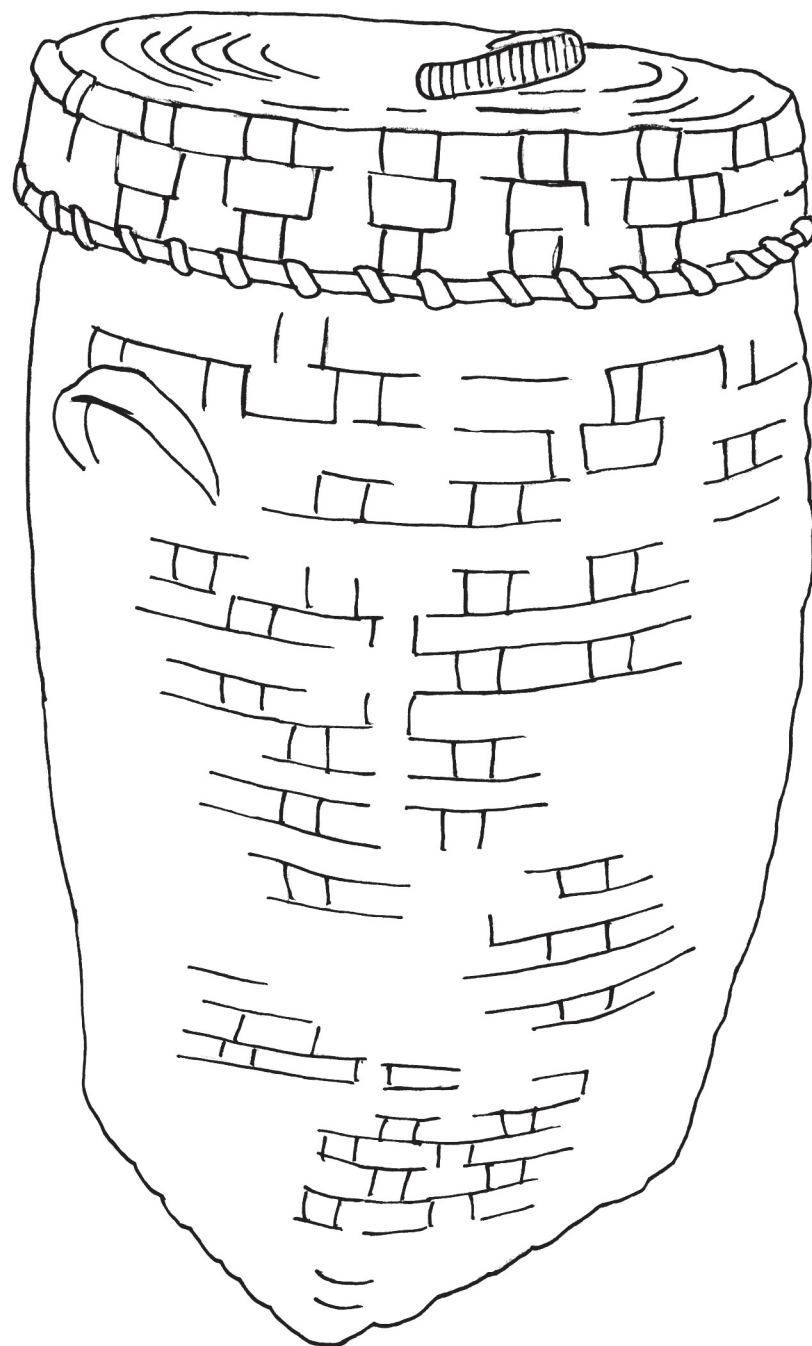
Baskets made out of White and Black Ash.



“When my mother sold my first basket she used the money to buy me shoes – I was so proud of my shoes that I wanted to make more baskets.”



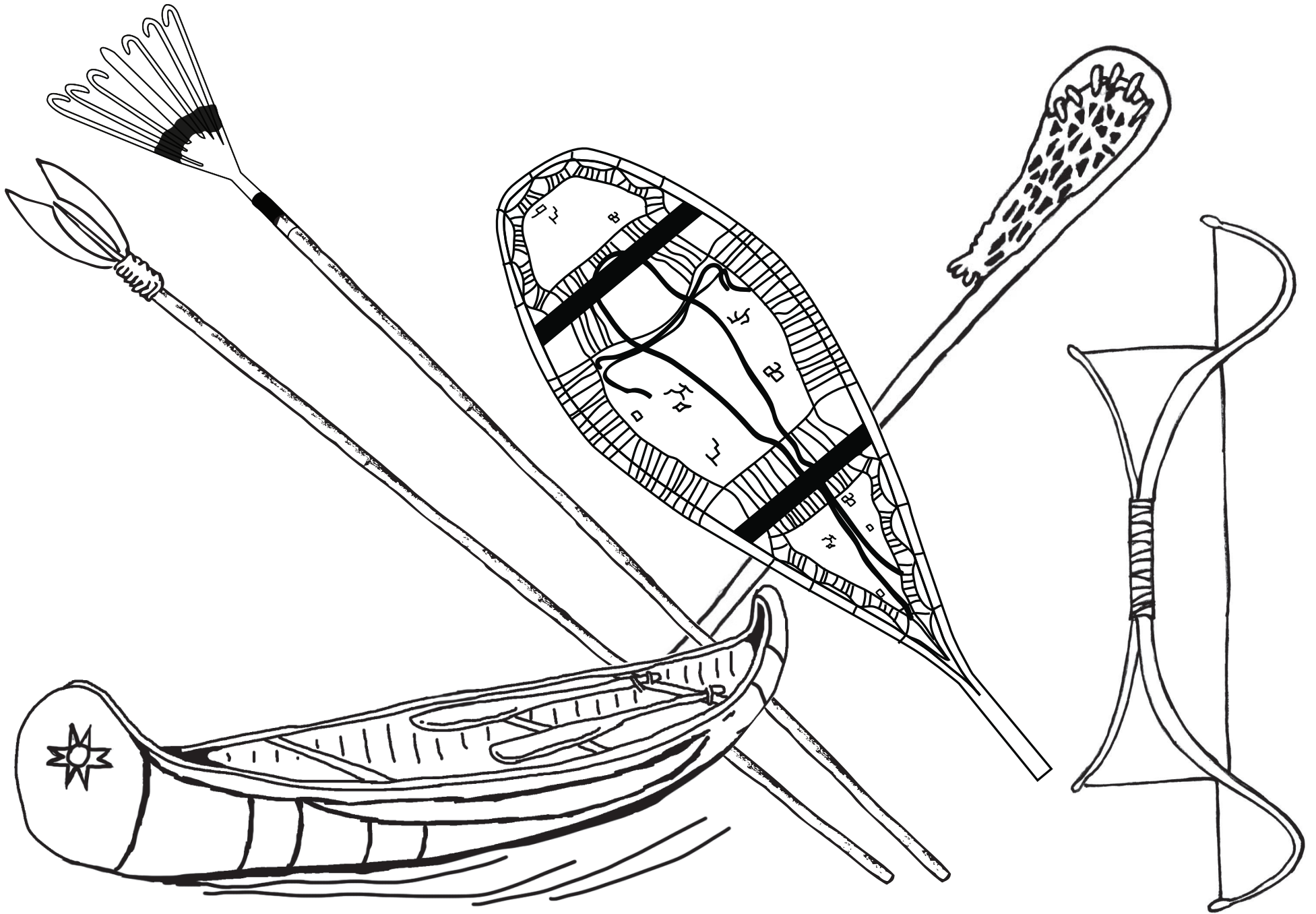
“I made things all my life.”



Wooden flowers made by Libby Meuse.



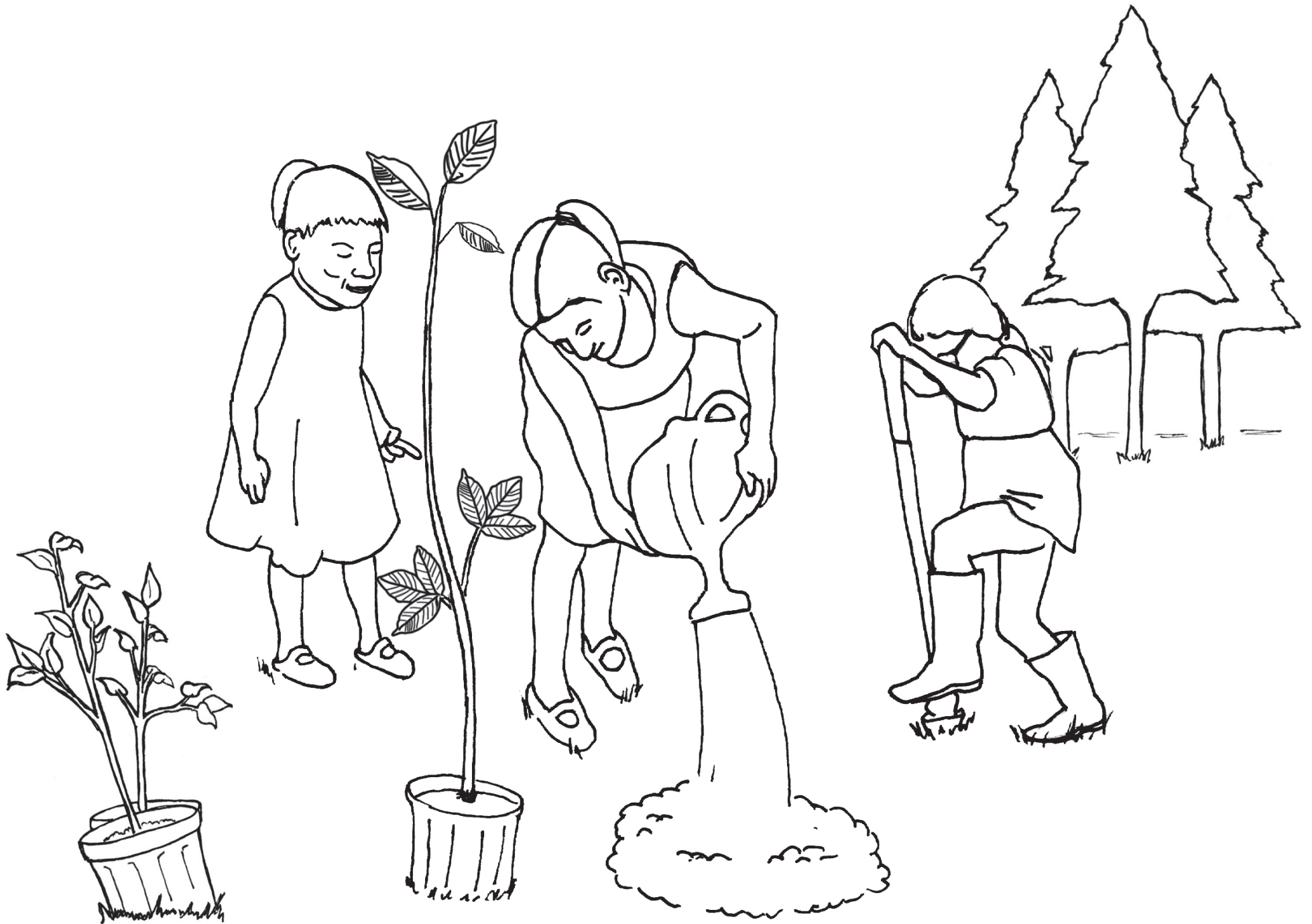
There are many things that are made from native tree species.



Mi'kmaw people have been making baskets for generations.



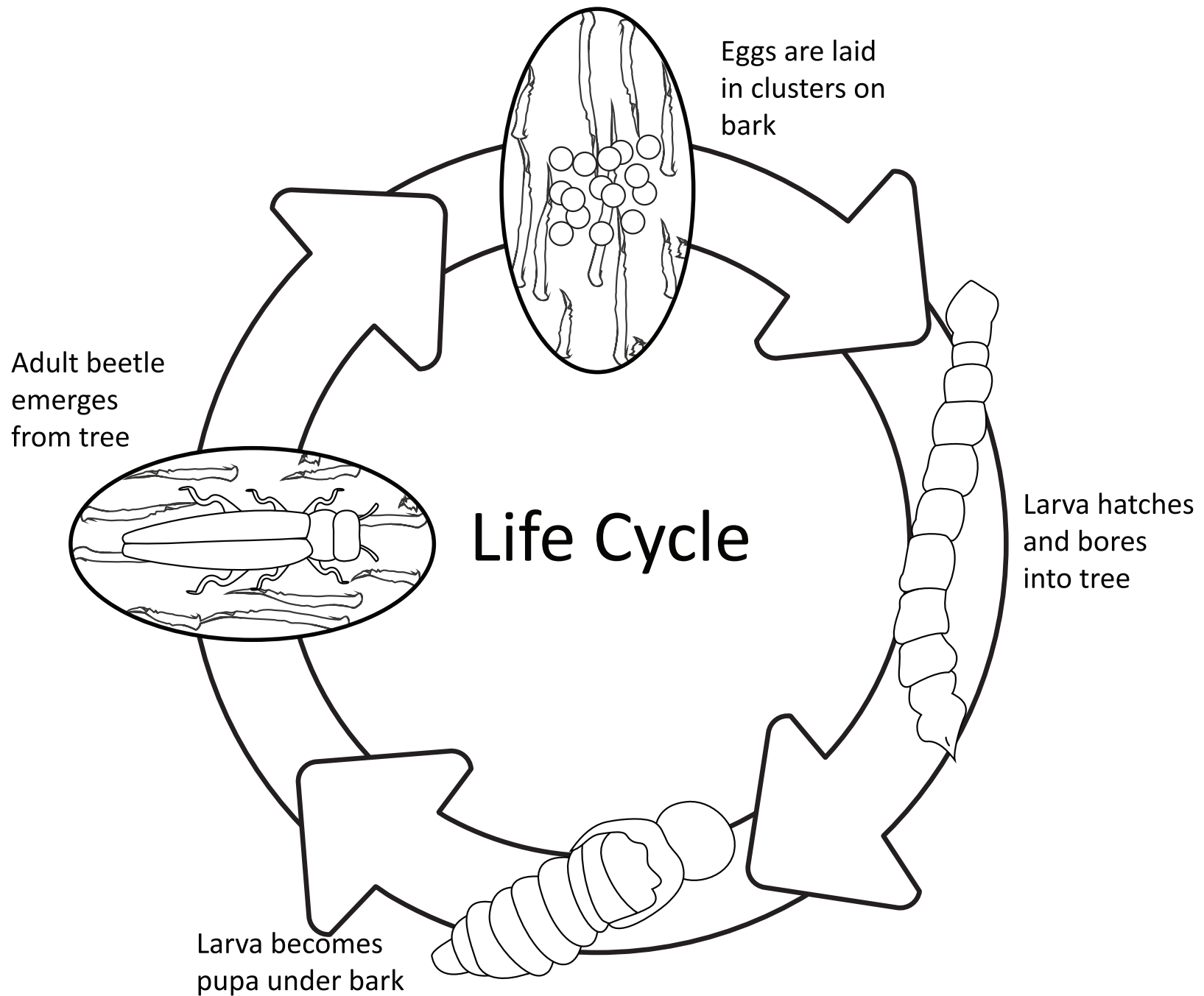
Tree planting is an activity for all ages.



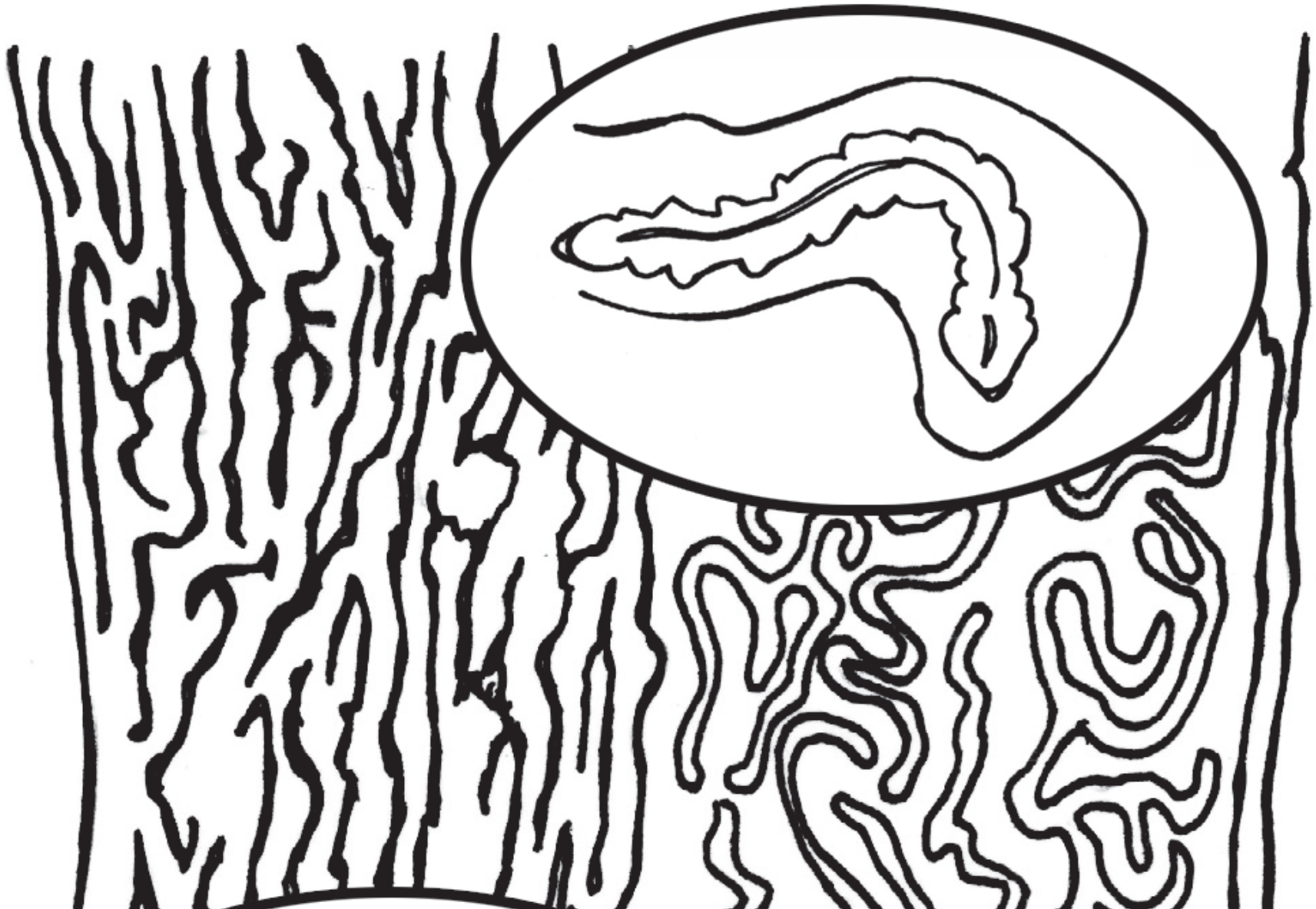
Black Ash like to be planted in moist areas near streams.



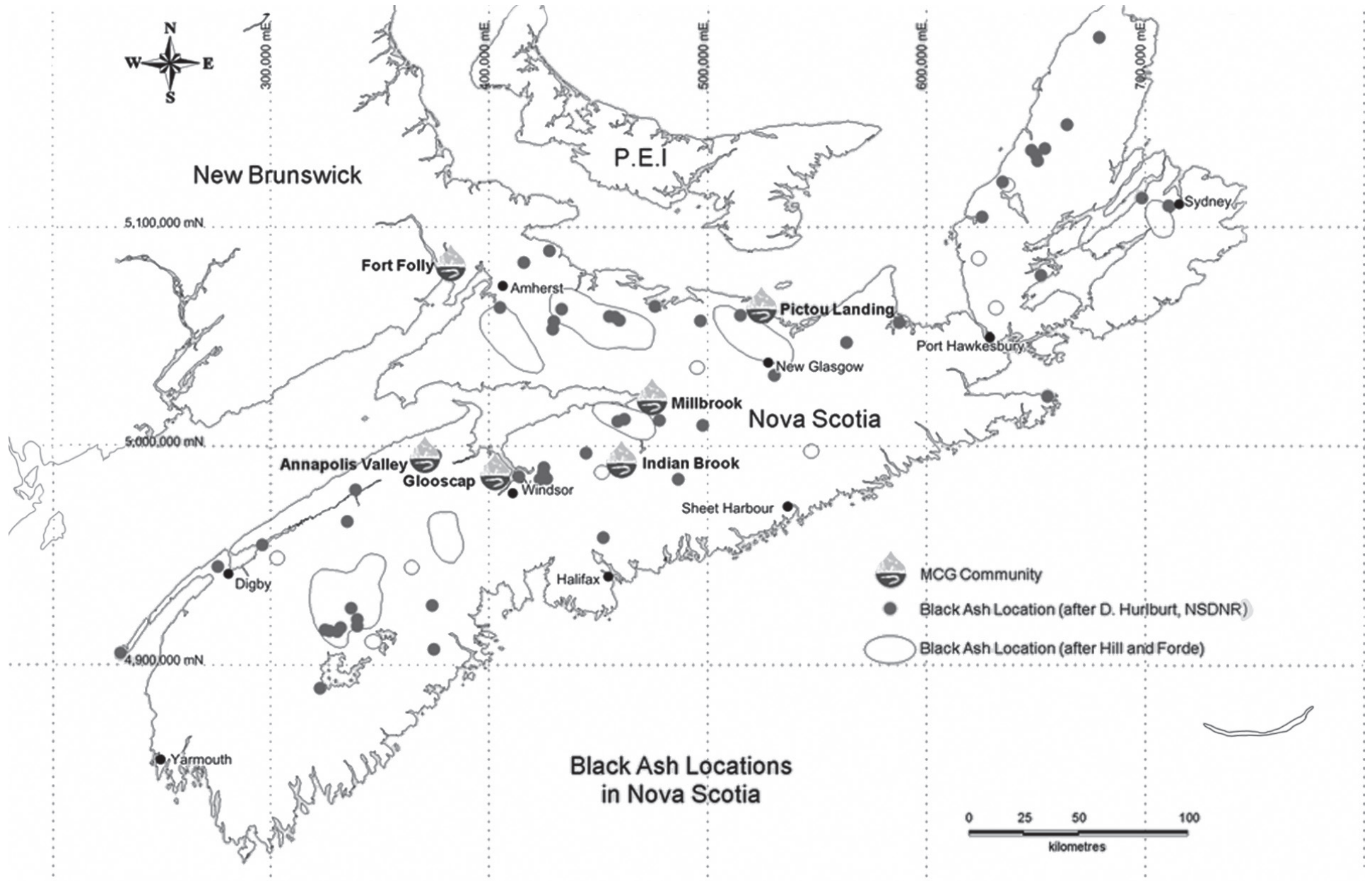
Life cycle of the Emerald Ash Borer



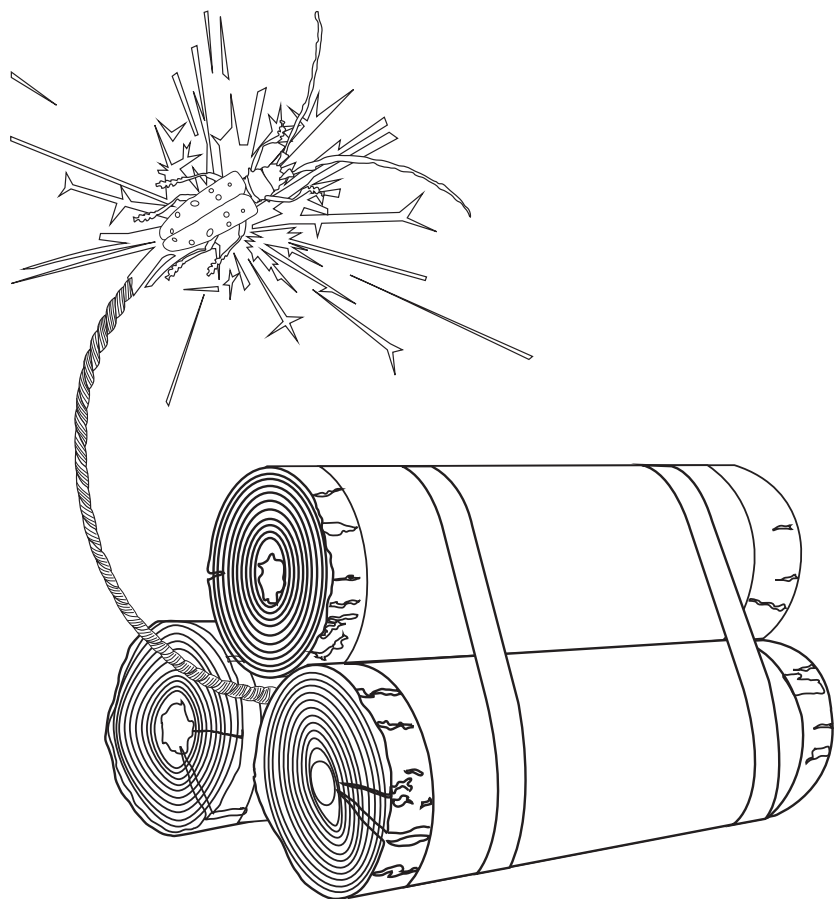
Emerald Ash Borer can harm ash trees by feeding on their inner bark.



Wisqoq in Mi'kma'ki



How can you help Wisqoq in Mi'kma'ki?



**A single piece
of firewood
can DESTROY
millions of trees.**

Moving firewood, even
just a few kilometers away,
can spread invasive insects
and diseases to our forests.

DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD

Buy it locally. Burn it onsite. Never bring it back home.

For more information call 1-800-442-2342 or visit www.inspection.gc.ca



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canada

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THE BLACK ASH COLOURING BOOK



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