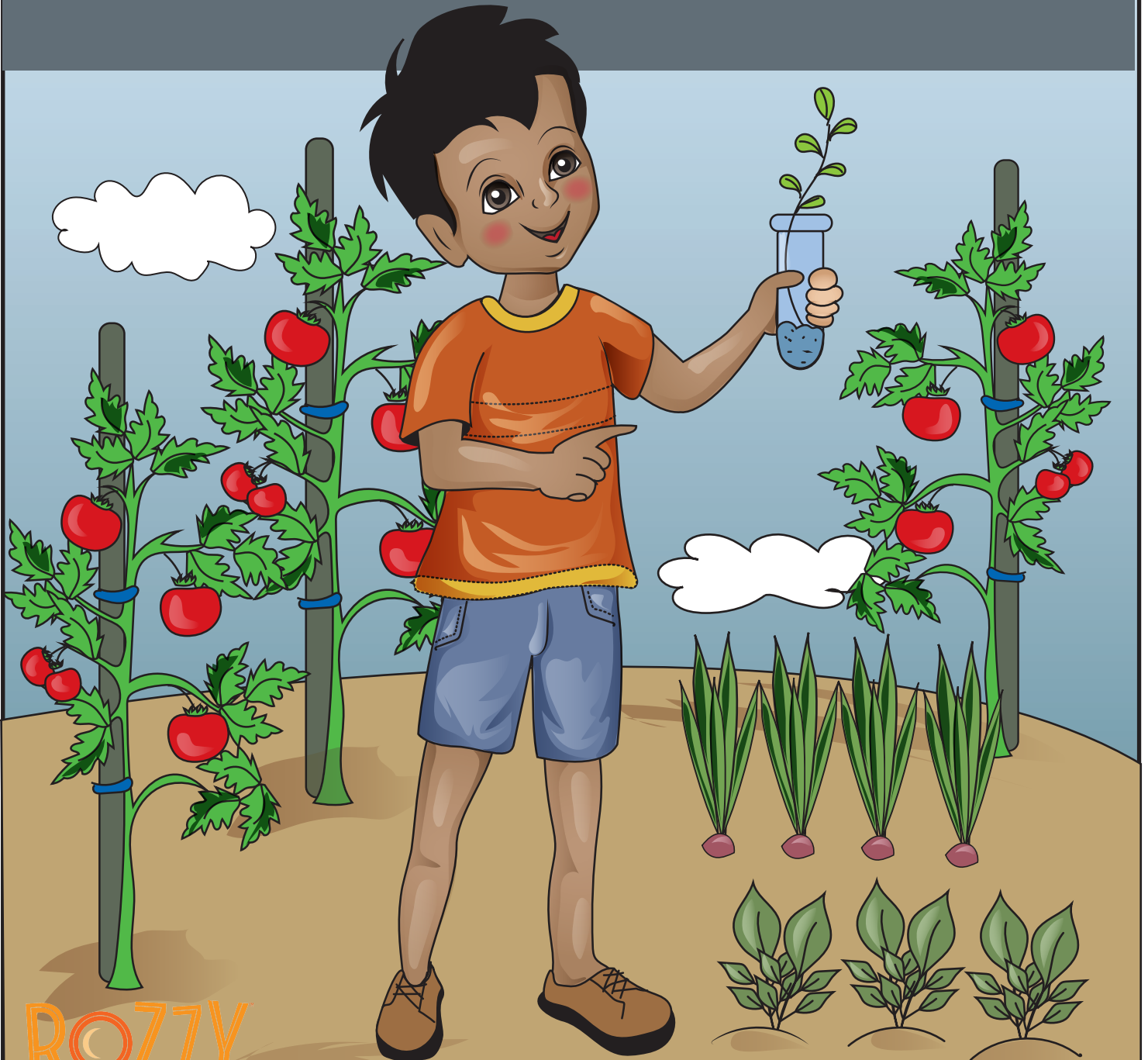


Prateek

the Plant Scientist



Prateek the Plant Scientist

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Hi! I am Prateek, and I am a plant scientist.

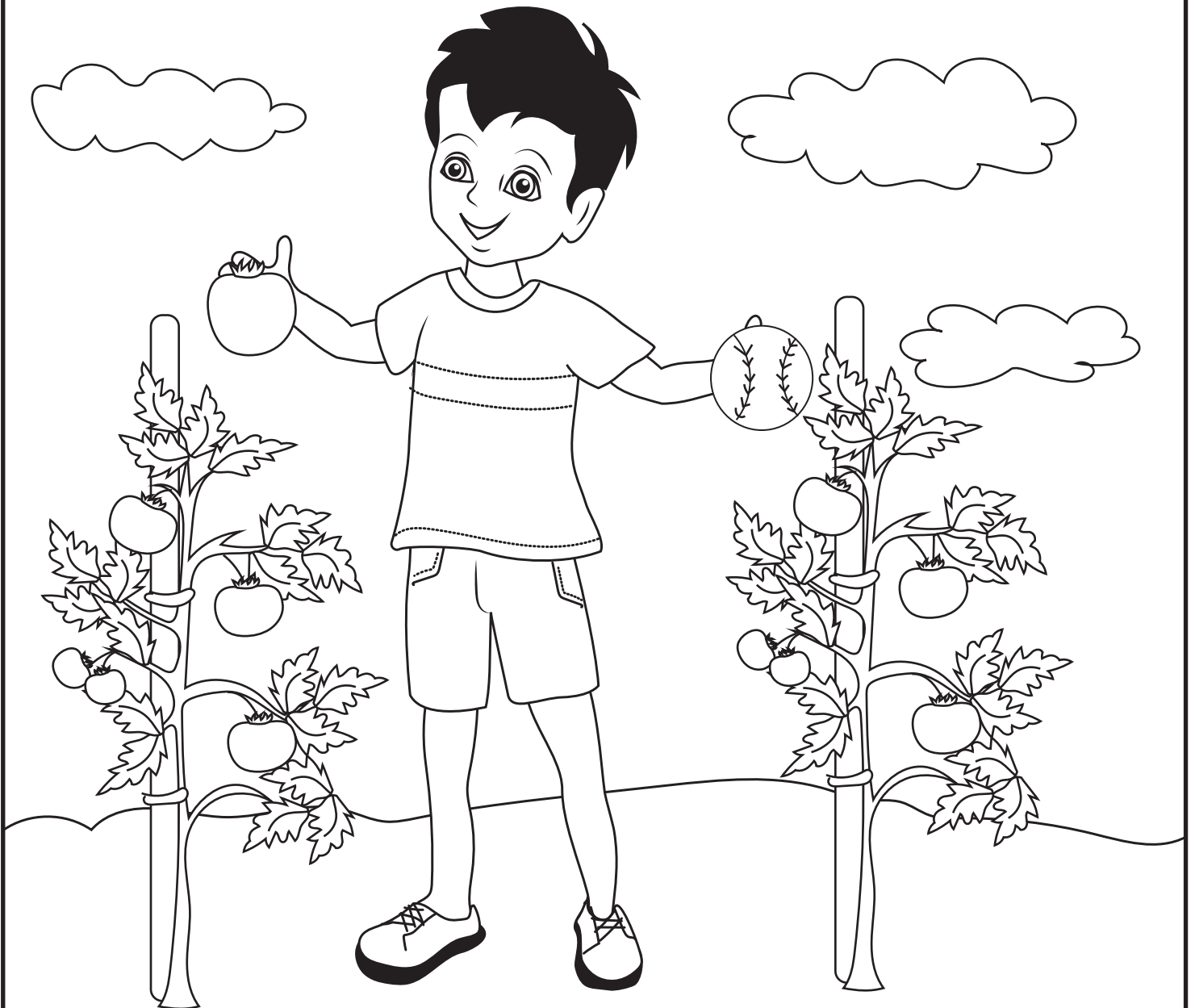


A plant scientist studies plants, vegetables, and fruits. They also learn how plants grow, what they are made of, and how they can help humans.



I've always wanted to be a plant scientist because I love to garden and eat vegetables and fruits. 2

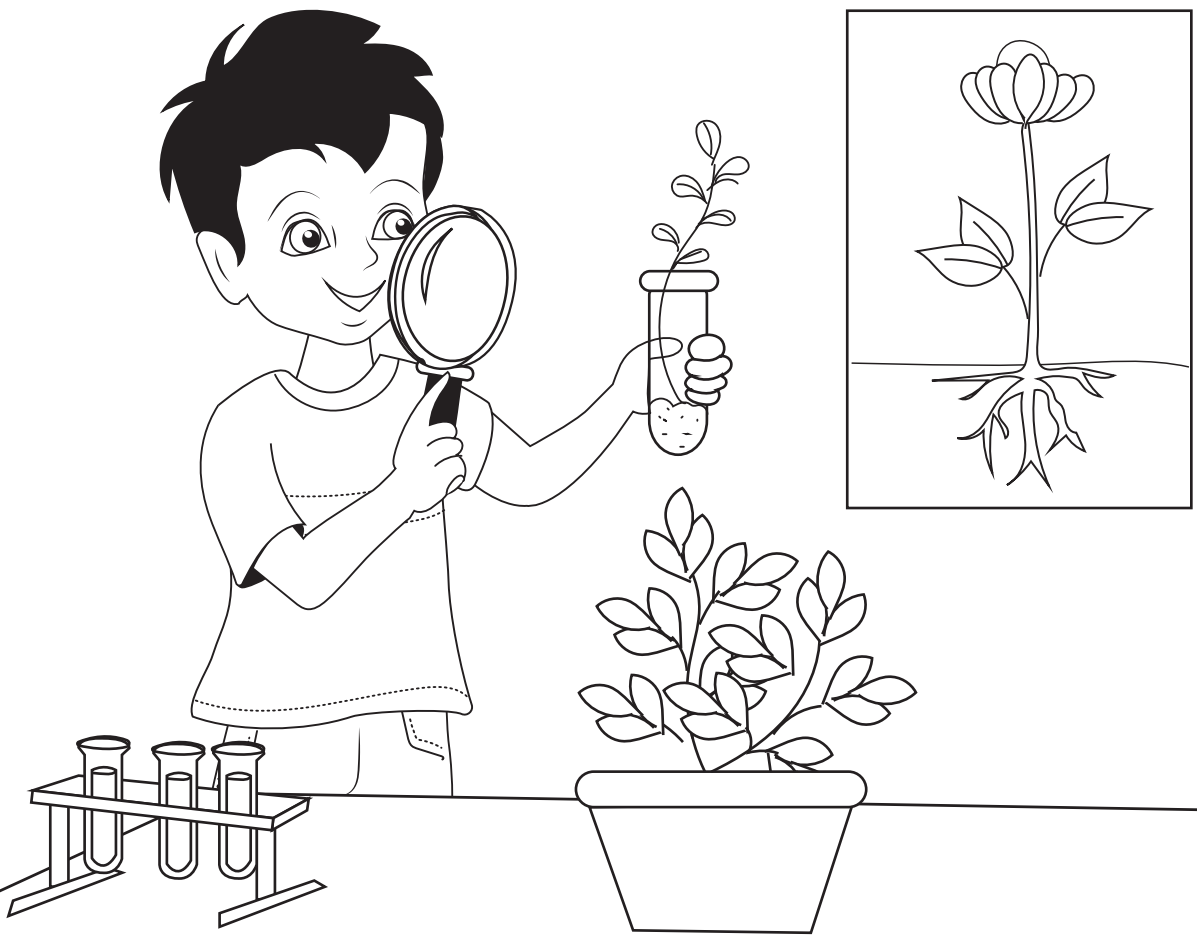
One of my first experiences with plant science was growing tomatoes and cucumbers in my family's garden.



My tomato grew so large it was almost as big as a baseball!

Adventure 1: Harvesting Food

This week, I am working in the garden in my lab. A lab is a place where scientists work. My lab is a garden where I study different vegetables.

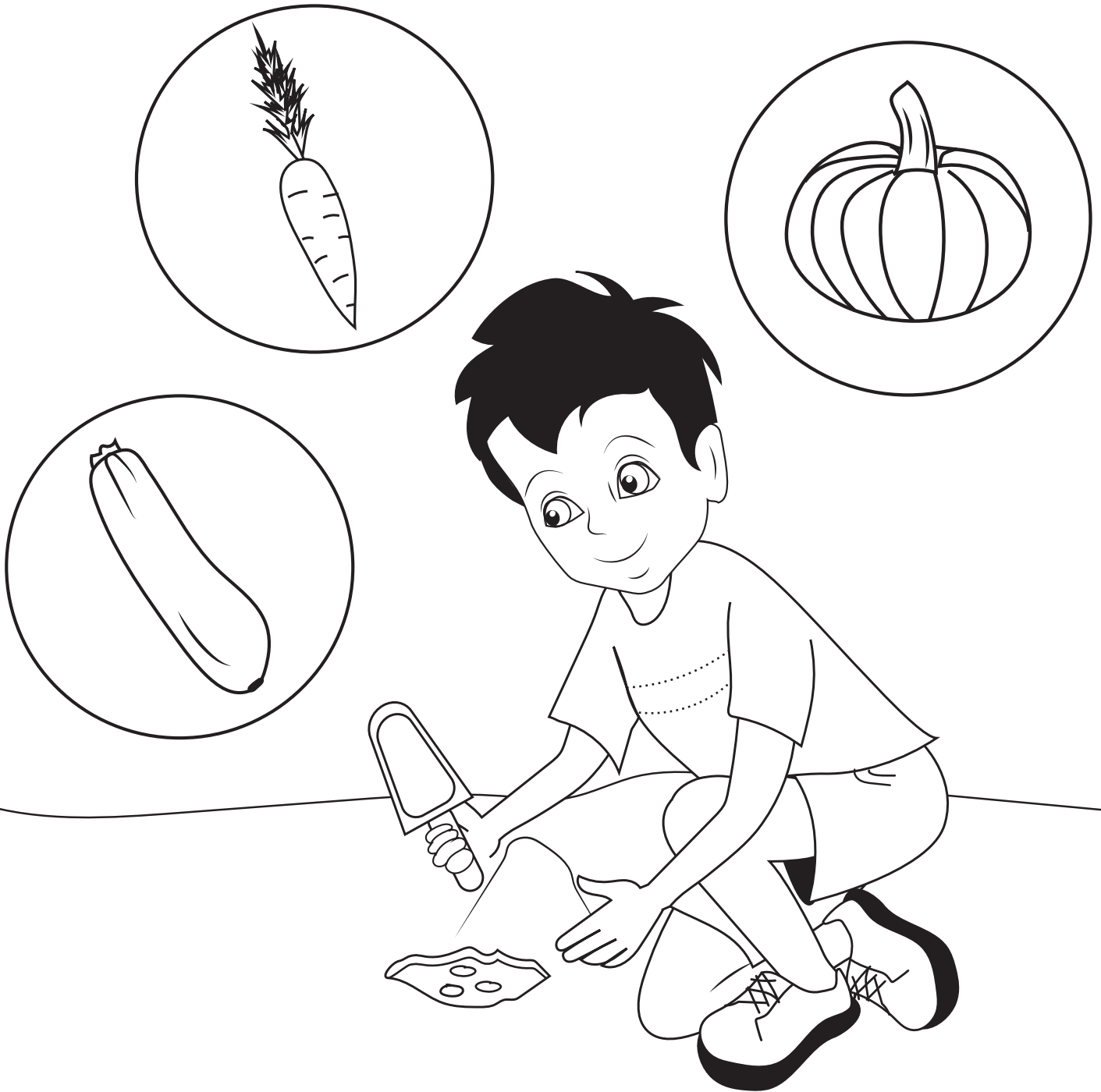


It is summertime, and I can't wait for my garden produce to be ready to pick!

It's my job to plant all the seeds in the soil,
water them, and pick each vegetable.



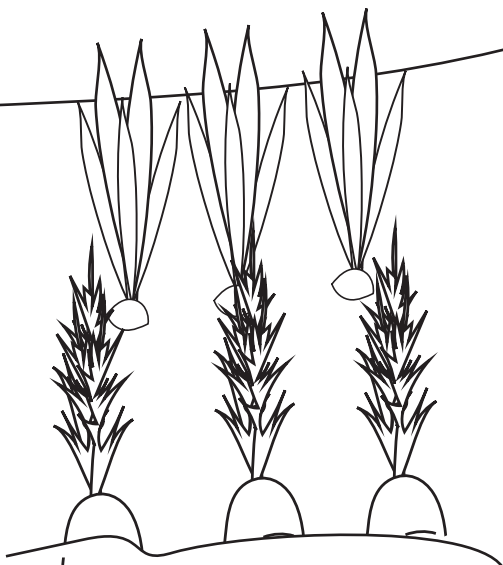
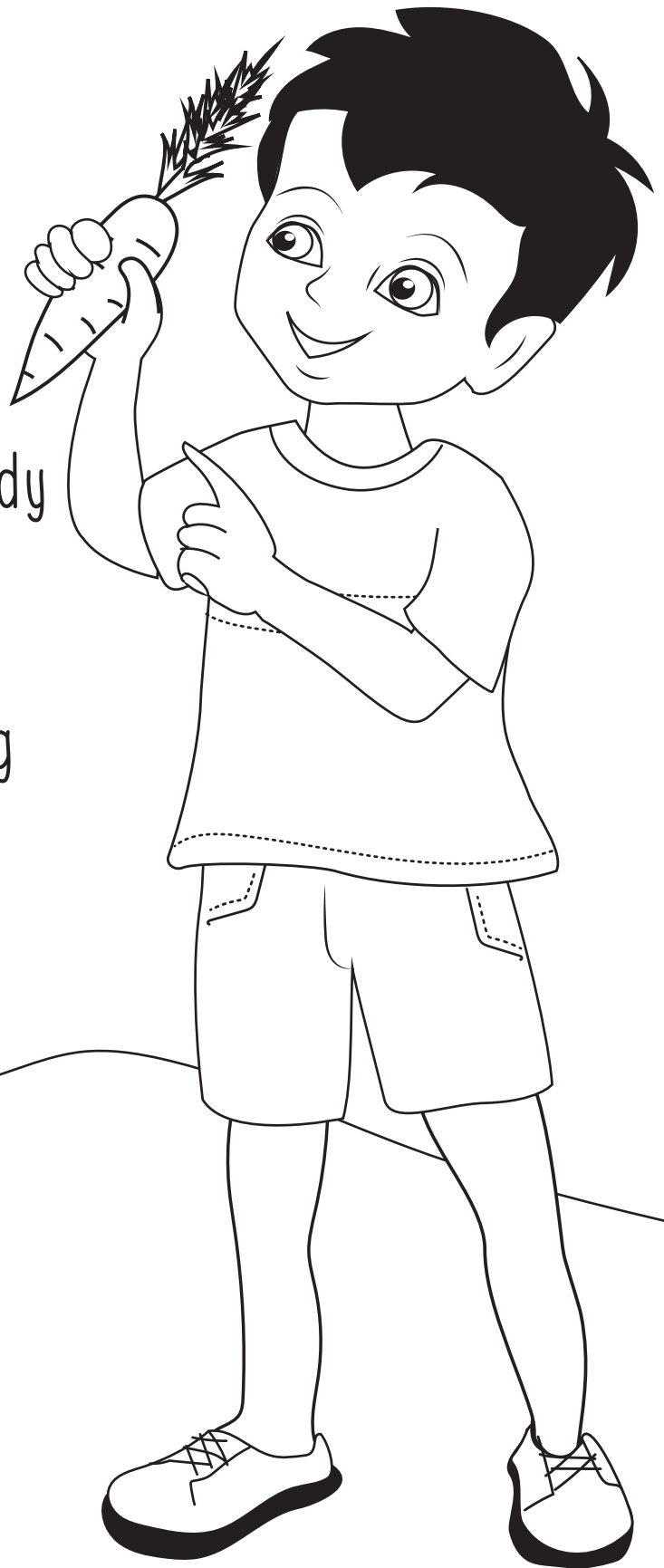
Every vegetable is different so I have to research
each plant and learn how to take care of them. 5



This year, I planted zucchini, carrots, and pumpkins.
There is so much food to pick!
I dont know if I can do it myself.

I want to figure out
a way to know when
the vegetables are ready
to be picked.

I also need help picking
the vegetables as
quickly as possible.

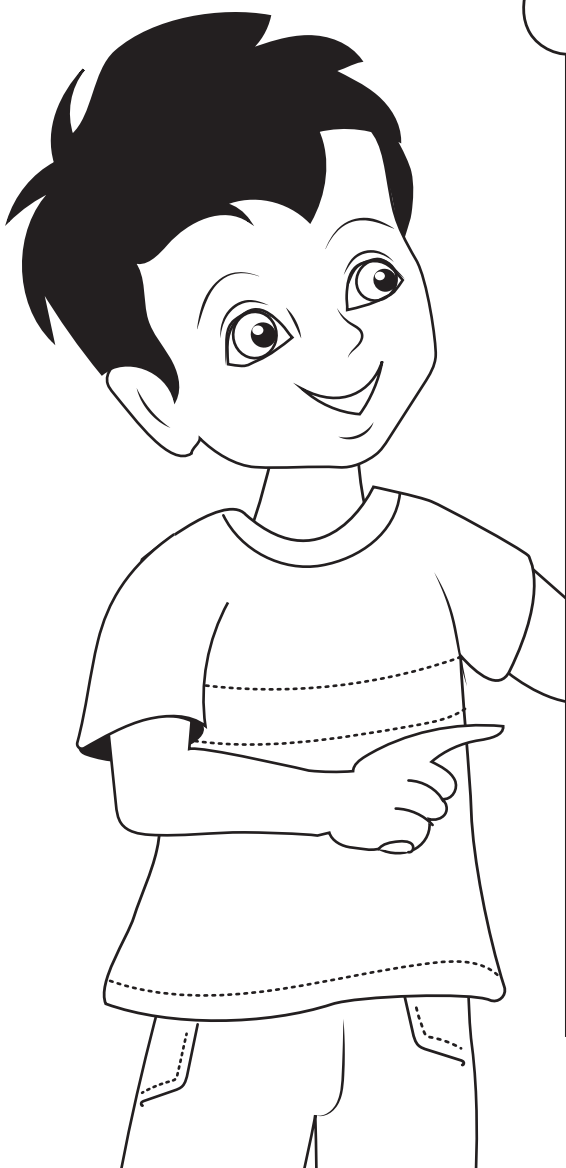


I don't know the answer right away so I ask my colleagues to brainstorm ideas with me.

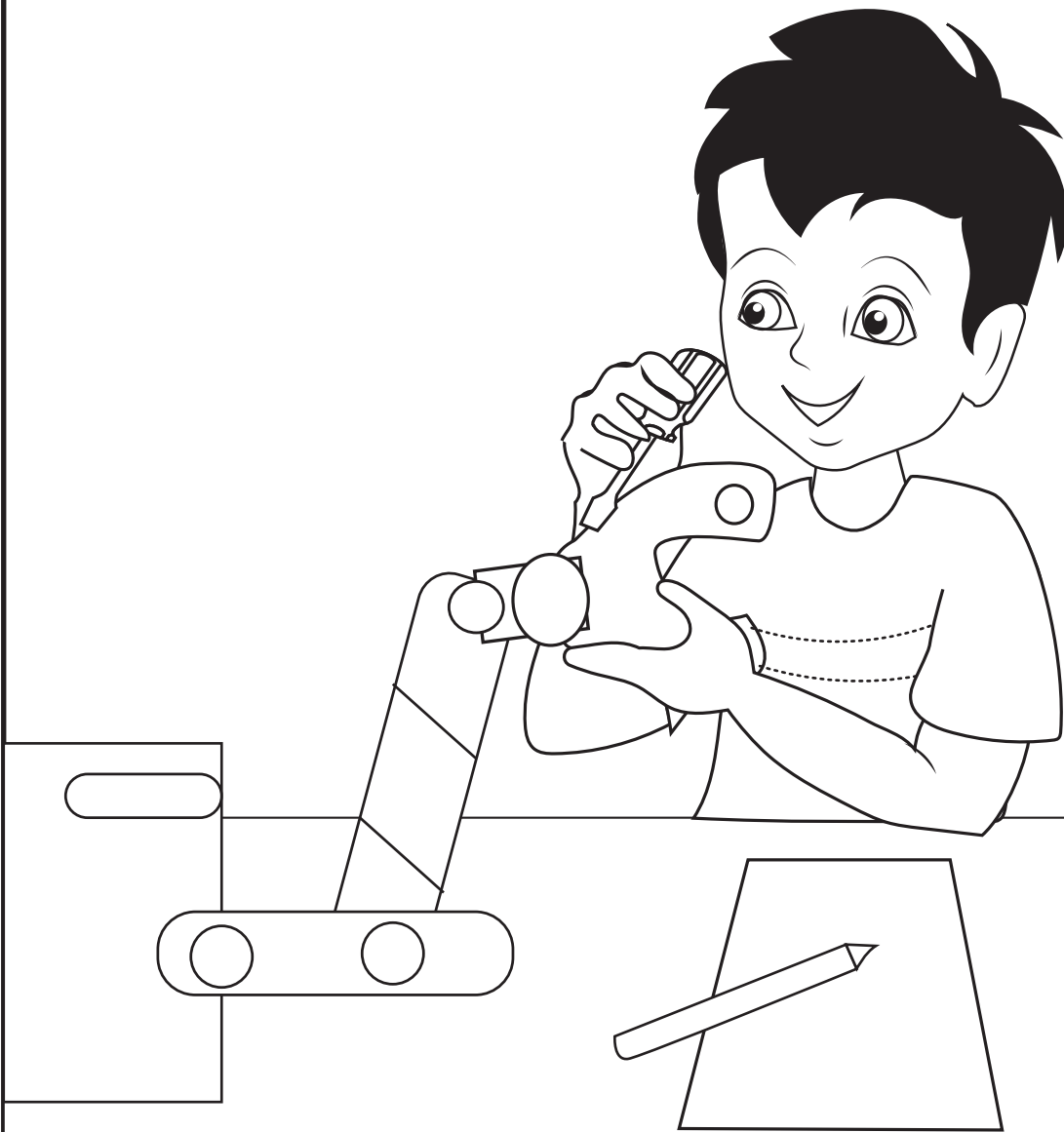
Can you help me brainstorm ideas?

How would you quickly pick all of these vegetables?

Write or draw your ideas.

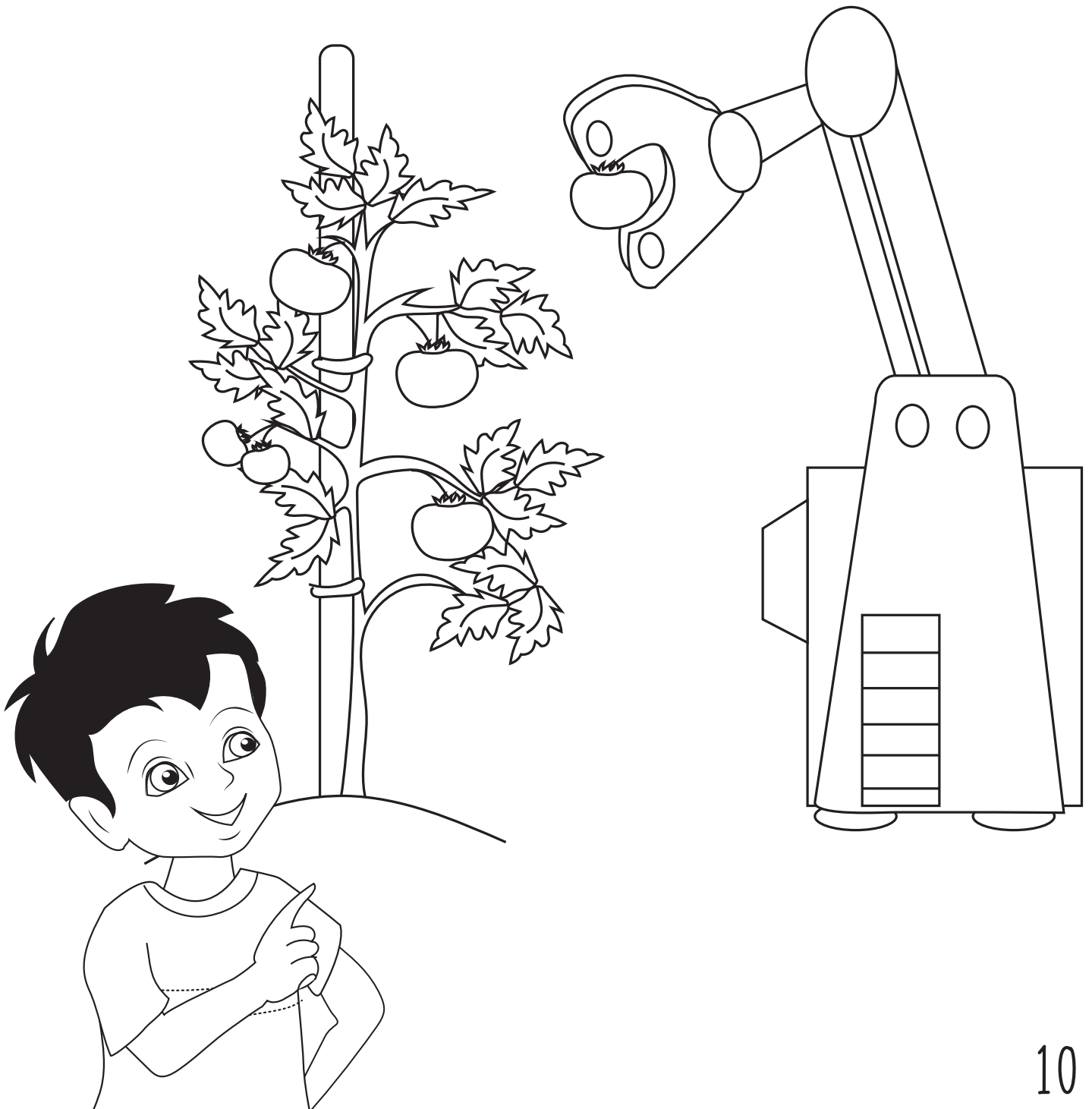


Thanks for your help! After brainstorming with other scientists, I decide to build a robot to help pick all of the vegetables.



I test the robot in the garden to make sure it works.

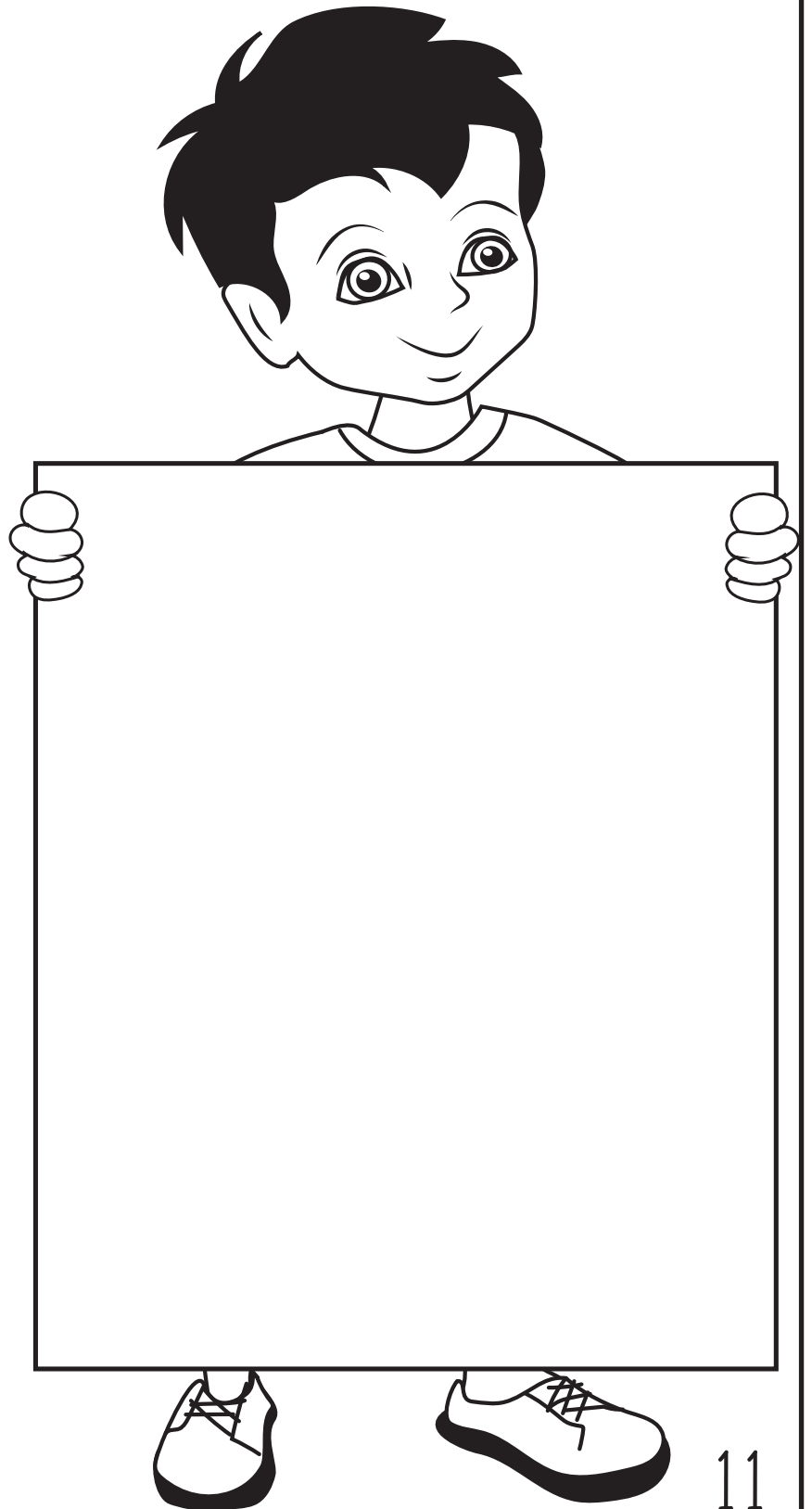
The robot uses sensors in the soil to know when the vegetable is ready to be picked. It then uses a long arm to reach out and pick the vegetable. The robot can pick vegetables very fast!



Thanks so much for your help!
Want to try building your own vegetable-picking robot?

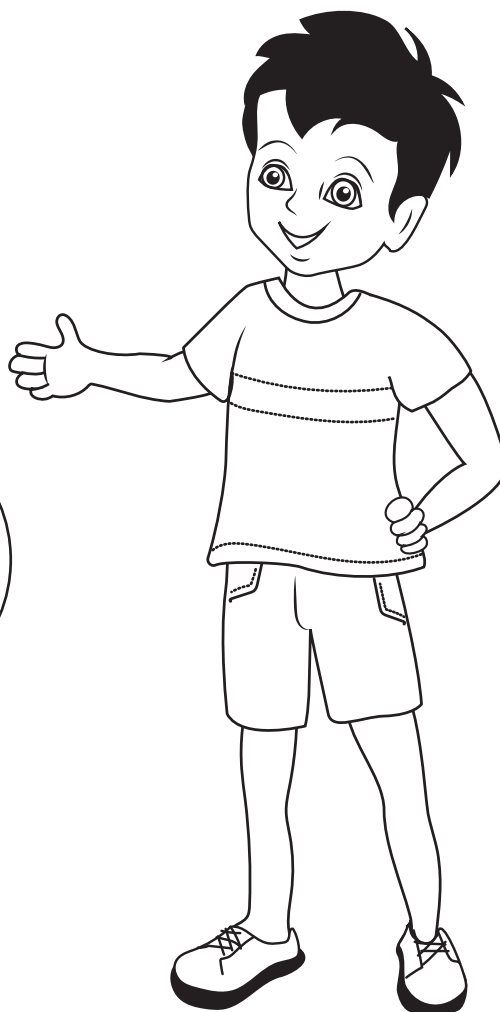
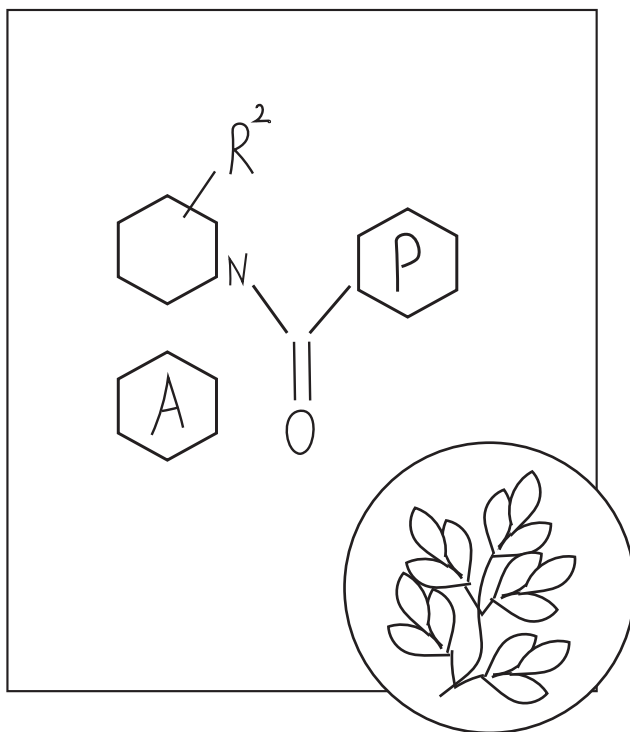
First, draw a picture
of what the
robot looks like!

Then, use art and
building supplies
to build the robot!

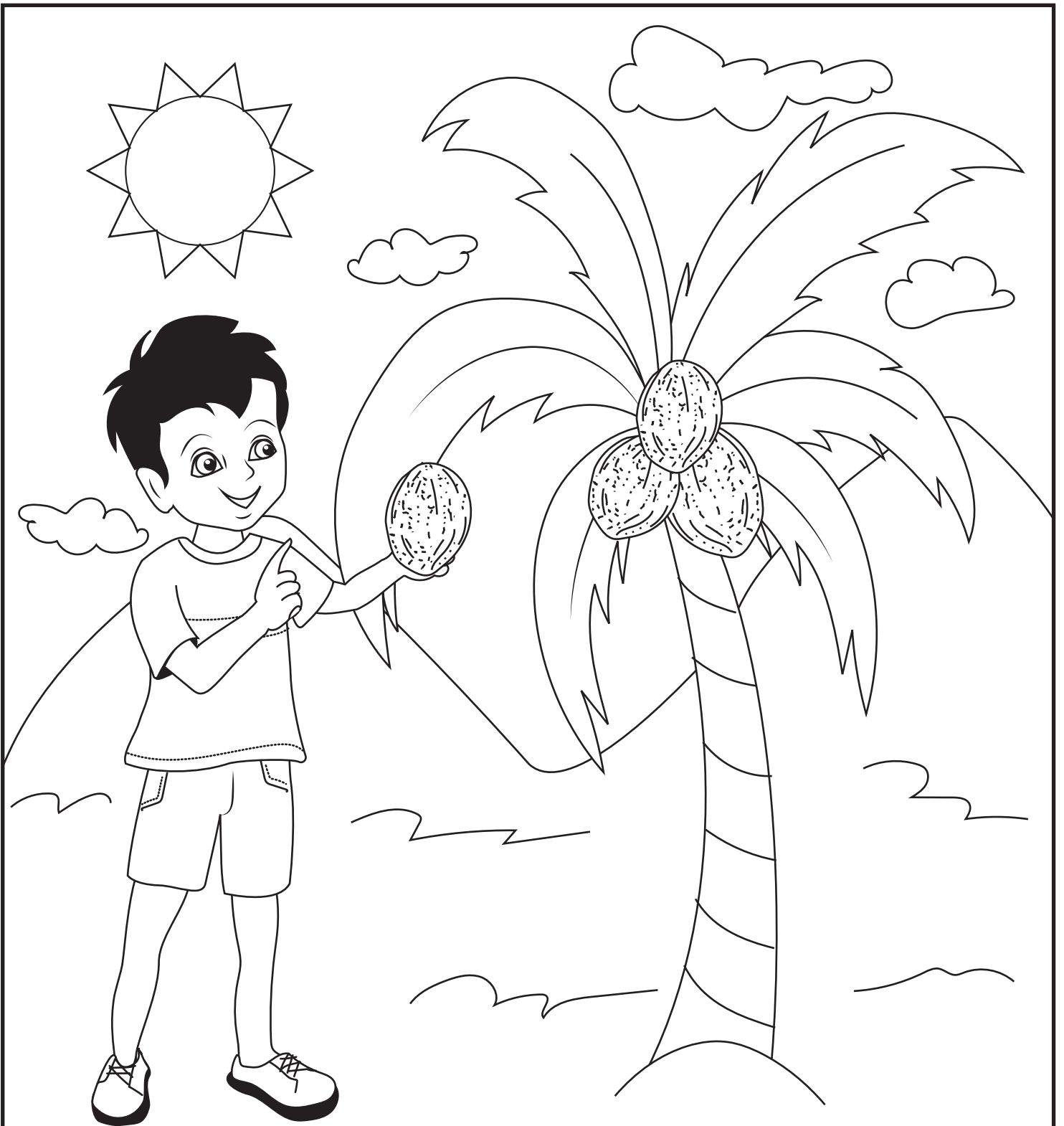


Adventure 2: Plants that Help People

As a plant scientist, I am always researching ways that plants can help people.

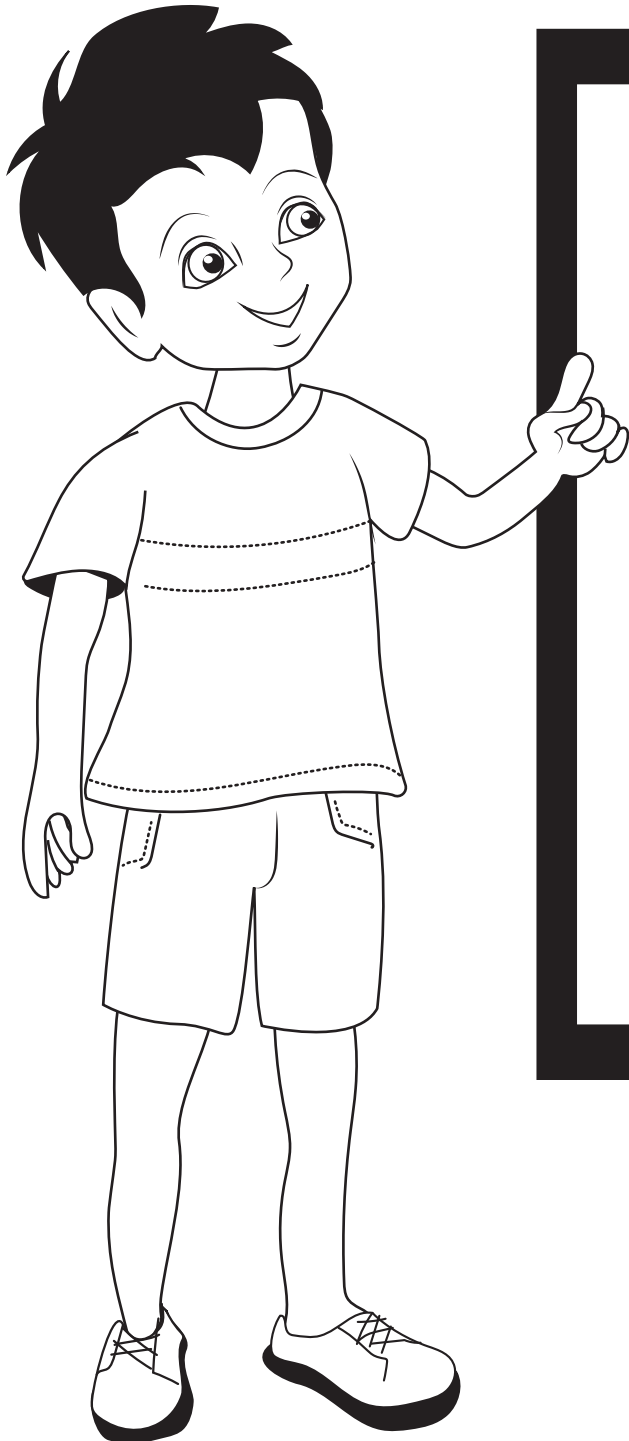


I live on an island where it gets very hot. Since so many people spend their time on the beach, I want to identify plants that can help people who have sunburns.

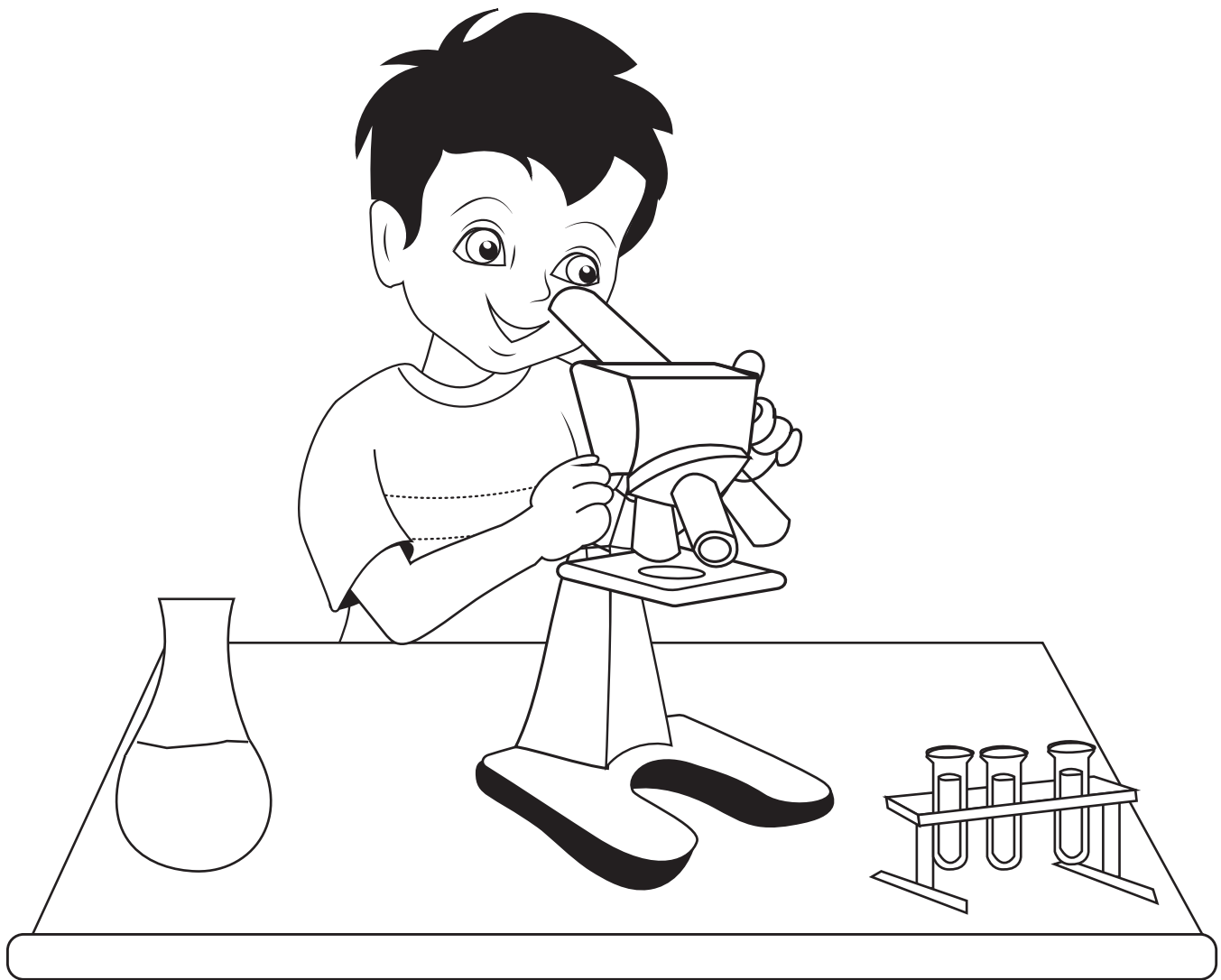


I already know that aloe is used to heal sunburns.
However, the island I live on doesn't have
any aloe plants. But we do have coconuts!

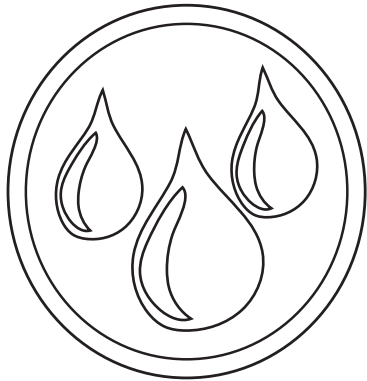
Coconuts are a type of nut that grows on trees.
They have a hard outer shell and fruit in the
middle.



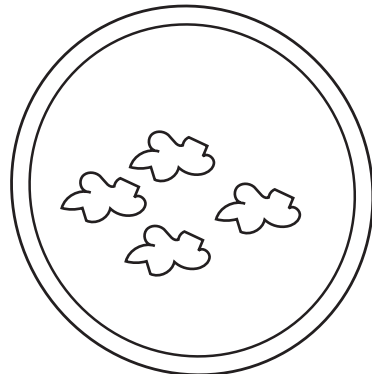
To learn if coconuts help sunburns, I extract coconut oil from inside the coconut. Then, I use a microscope to see what the oil is made of.



I see that coconut oil has a lot of nutrients and water in it.



Water



Nutrients

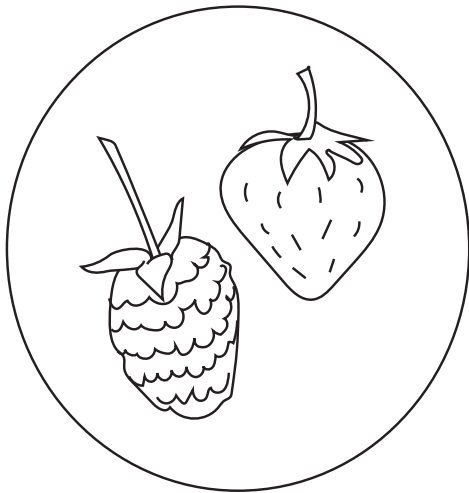
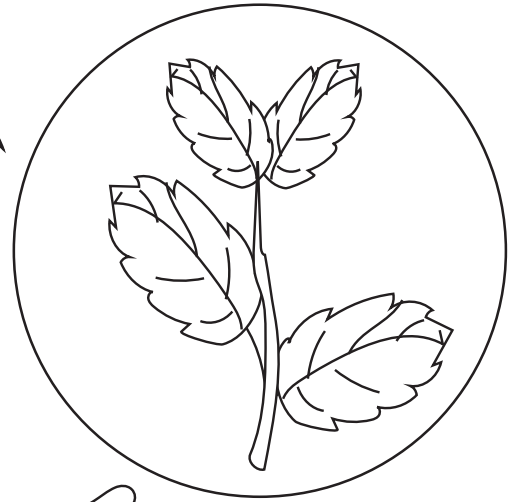
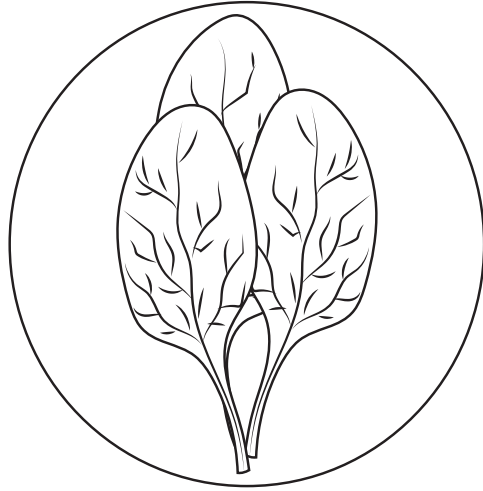


Water and nutrients will definitely help heal sunburns!

After analyzing the coconut oil, I also discover that I can use water from inside the coconut to drink.

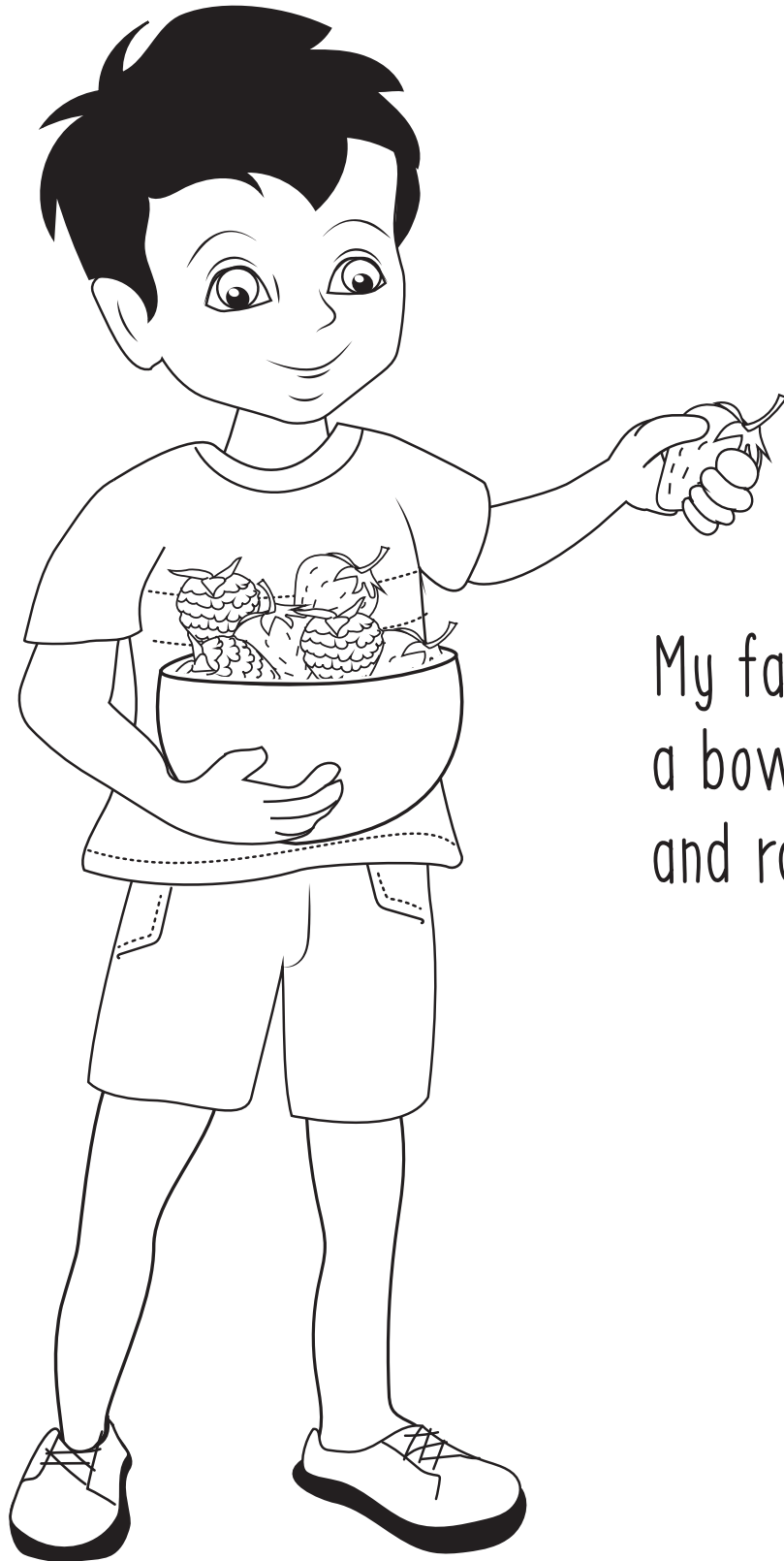


Drinking coconut water when I play soccer helps keep me hydrated.



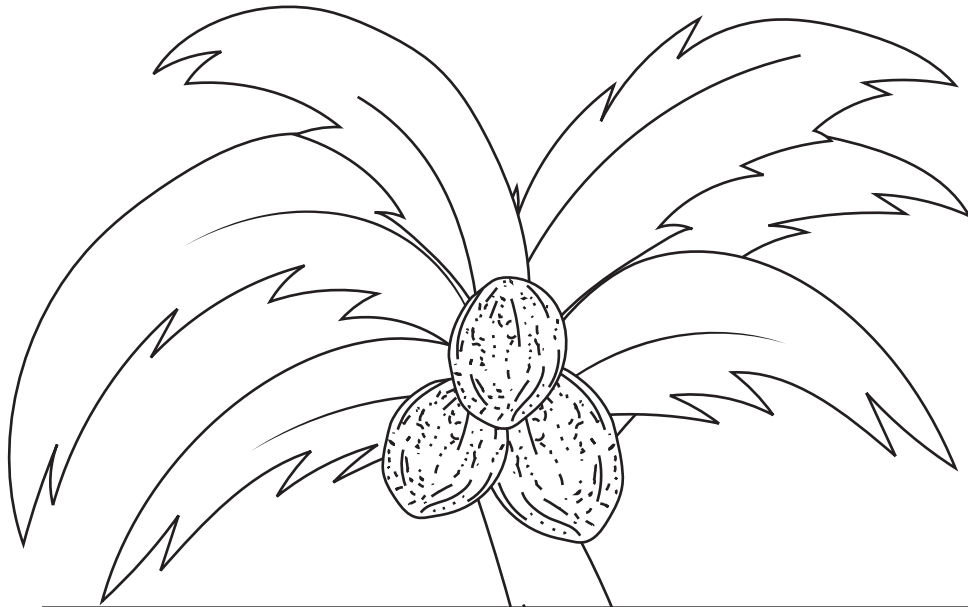
There are many plants, vegetables, and fruits that are good for people. As a plant scientist, I research the benefits of spinach, berries, and even plants like mint.

The more I learn about plants, the more I make sure to eat a lot of them.



My favorite snack is a bowl of strawberries and raspberries!

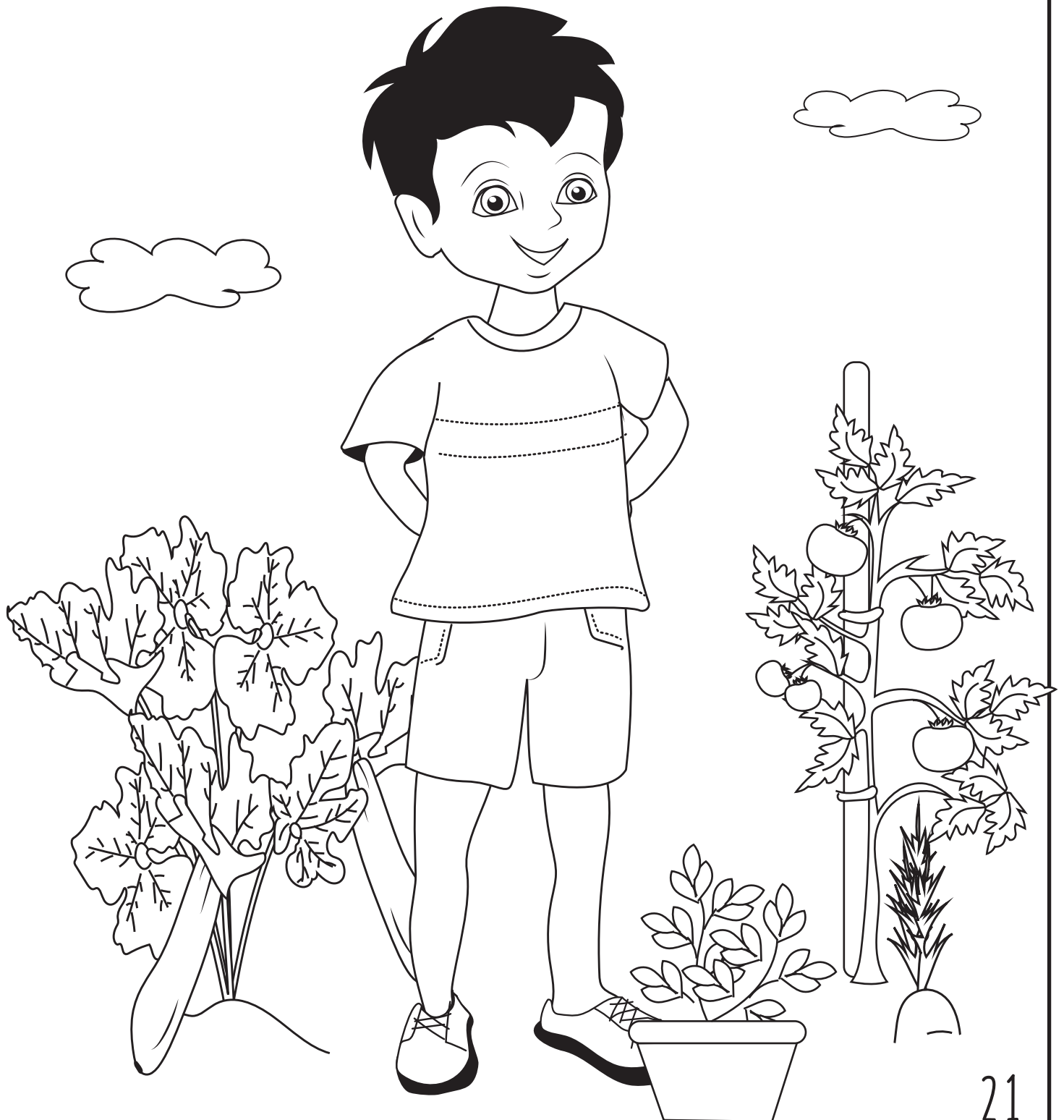
What are some of your favorite plants,
vegetables, and fruits to eat?



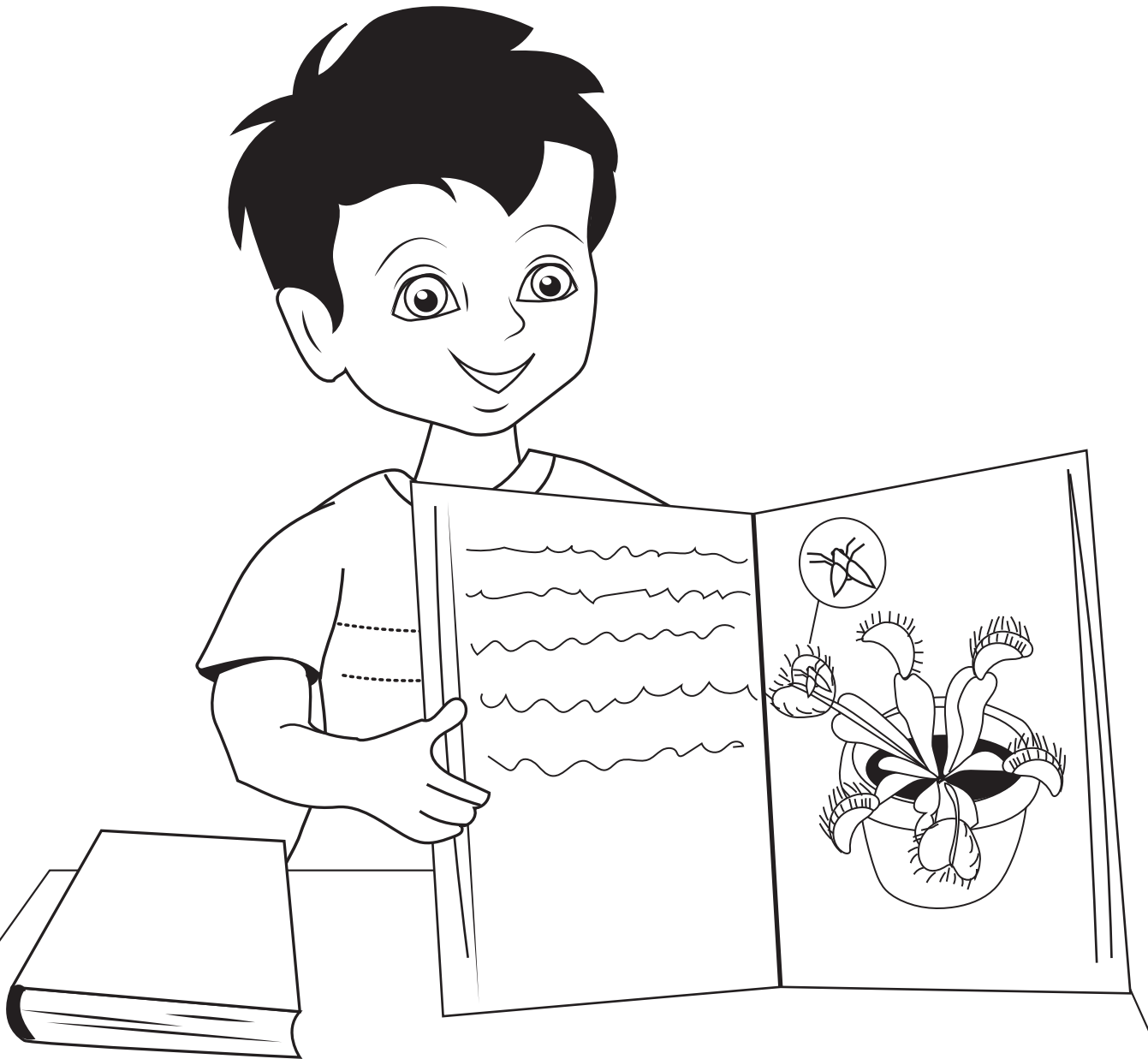
Write or draw them below.



If you like plants as much as I do,
you should become a plant scientist!



Plant scientists go to college and take classes on many different types of plants, fruits, and vegetables.



My favorite class was learning about the venus fly trap. This plant actually eats bugs!

As a plant scientist, I get to travel the world
and study plants in different places like
the Amazon rainforest.



Thanks for helping me learn about plants!

Check out these words you may have learned while reading.

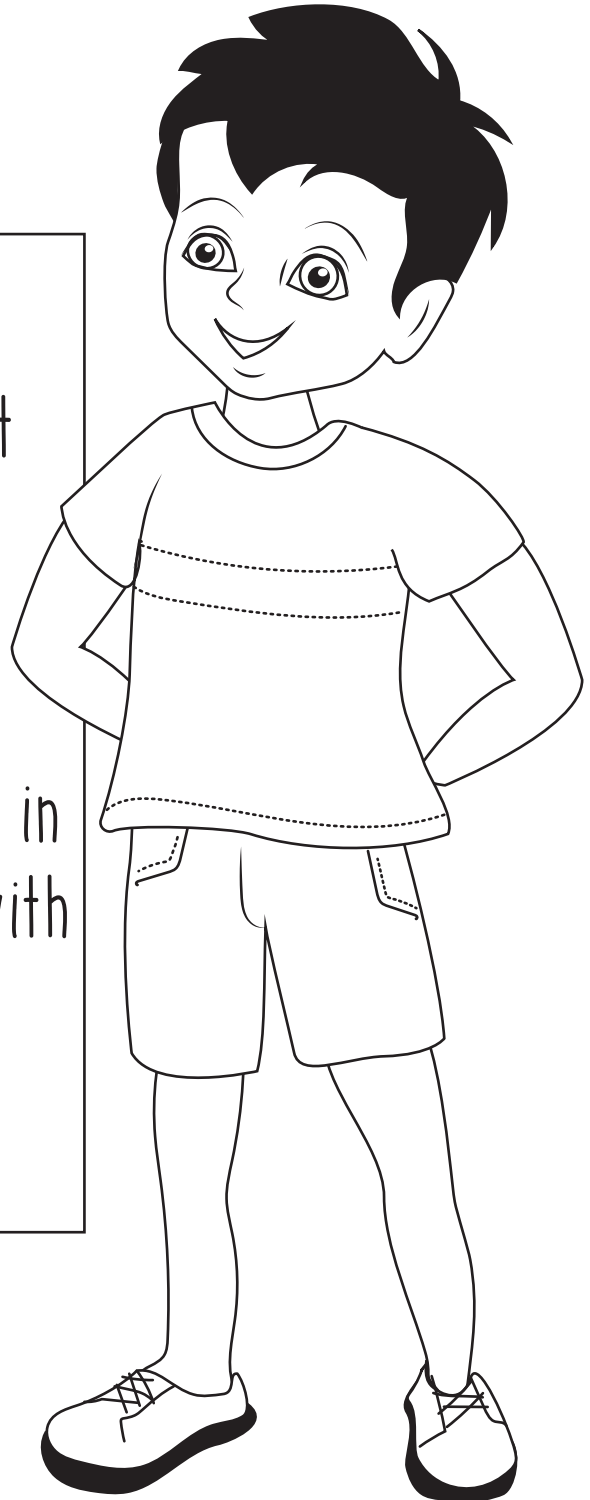
Plant Scientist: A scientist that studies plants and how they can help people

Produce: Fruit and vegetables

Soil: The dirt that plants grow in

Colleagues: People you work with

Sensors: A tool that tells you when something is ready



Also, check out these words you may have learned while reading.

Identify: To find or look for

Extract: Remove

Nutrients: Things found in fruits and vegetables that are good for your body

Hydrated: Full with water

Benefits: Good things

