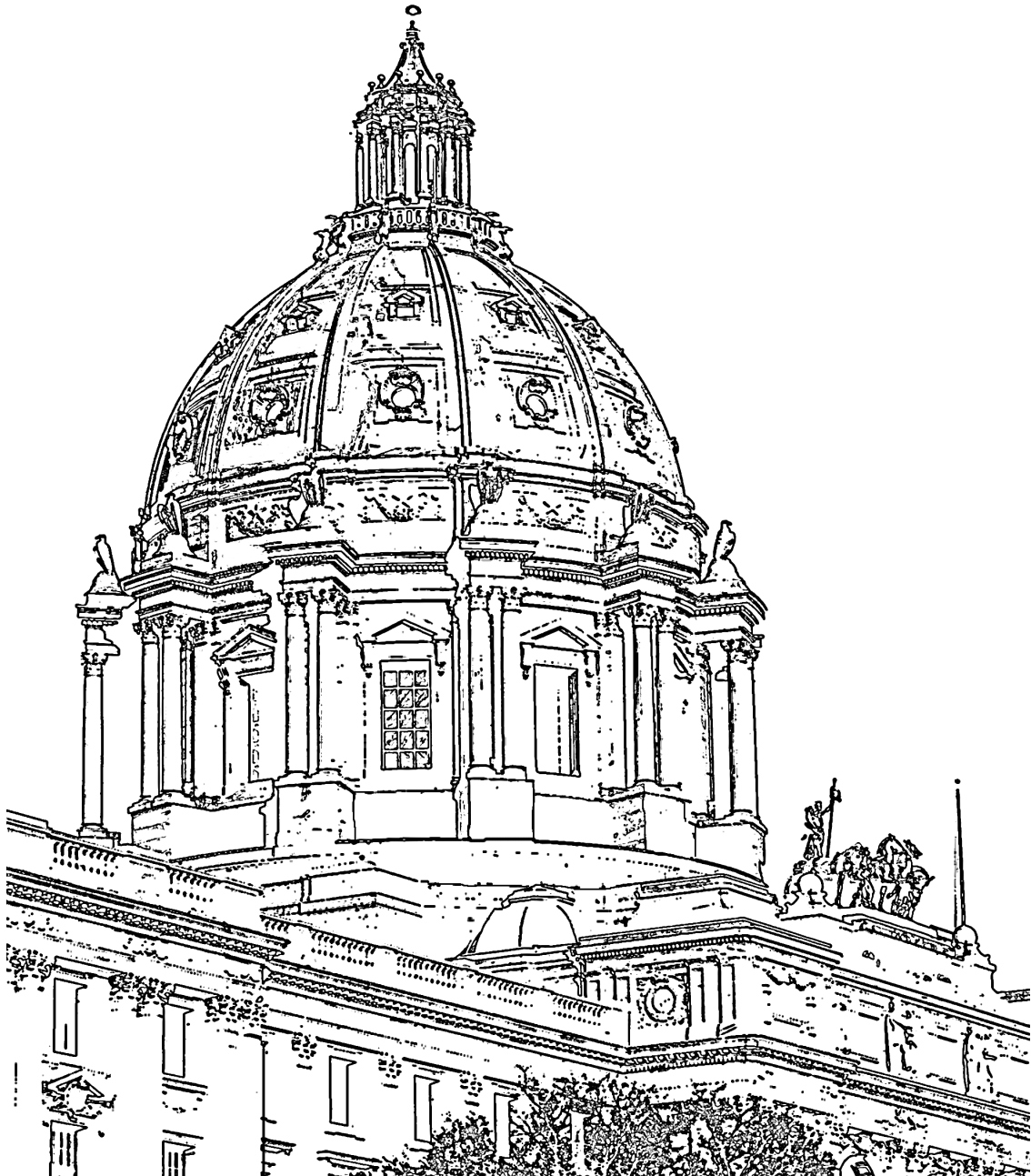


Minnesota House of Representatives  
State Symbols  
**Coloring Book**



# Minnesota State Symbols

**O**ver the course of Minnesota's statehood, the Legislature has adopted 19 such symbols to identify the state.

## The State Seal

**T**he Great Seal of the State of Minnesota has been around for more than 160 years.

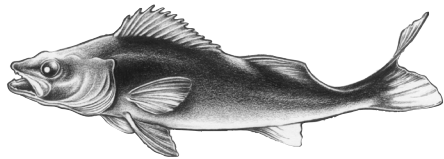
Essential elements of the territorial seal remained largely intact until 2023, when a state emblems redesign commission created the current seal. ▼



## The State Fish

**I**n May 1965, the Legislature adopted the walleye as the state fish. It was chosen for its value to both sport and commercial fishing.

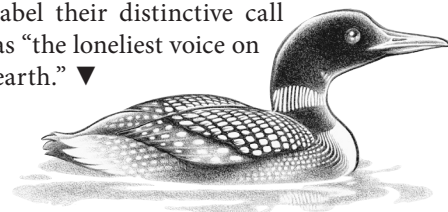
The walleye gets its name from its eyes, which have a milky appearance like bluish-white marbles. ▼



## The State Bird

**T**he Legislature adopted the common loon as the state bird in 1961.

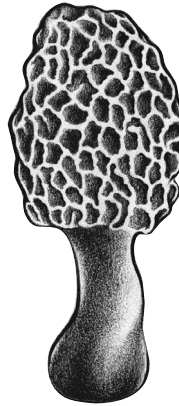
Loons are loners and prefer Minnesota's isolated lakes, leading some to label their distinctive call as "the loneliest voice on earth." ▼



## The State Mushroom

**T**he morel, sponge mushroom or honeycomb morel, became Minnesota's official state mushroom in 1984.

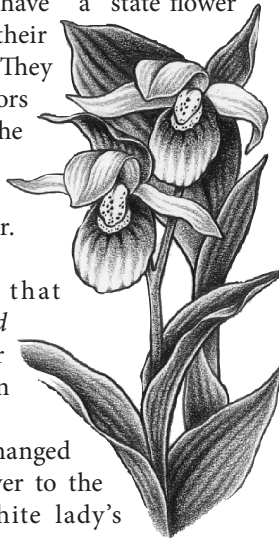
The morel's cups resemble cone-shaped sponges, pitted like a honeycomb. The morel is usually 4 inches to 8 inches high. ▼



## The State Flower

**I**n 1893 a group of women preparing an exhibit of the state's products for the World's Fair in Chicago decided they should have a state flower to decorate their display. They asked legislators to adopt the wild lady's slipper as the state flower. But officials discovered that the *wild* lady's slipper didn't grow in Minnesota.

So, they changed the state flower to the pink and white lady's slipper. ▼



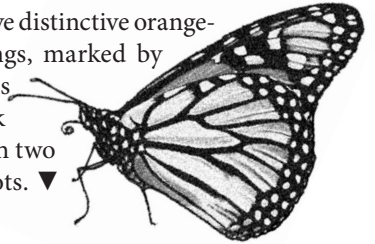
## The State Motto

**L'**etoile du Nord (translation: "Star of the North") was adopted formally as the official state motto in 1861. ▼

## The State Butterfly

**T**he Monarch butterfly was named the state butterfly by the Legislature in 2000.

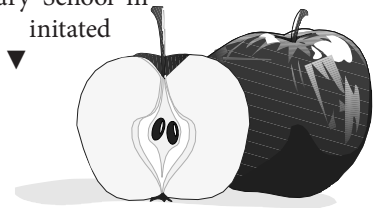
They have distinctive orange-brown wings, marked by black veins and a black border with two rows of spots. ▼



## The State Fruit

**A**n assignment to write a persuasive letter ultimately led to the Honeycrisp apple to be deemed the state fruit in 2006.

Fourth-grade students from Andersen Elementary School in Bayport, initiated the idea. ▼



## The State Song

**T**he song, "Hail! Minnesota," has been the state song since 1945.

The song dates back to 1904, when it was sung in a University of Minnesota play.

In 1945, the university gave permission to the state to use the song. Then the words were changed slightly from "Hail to thee our college dear," to "Hail to thee our state so dear." ▼

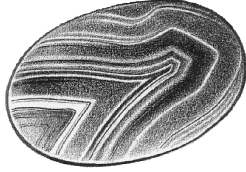
## The State Drink

**I**n 1984, the Legislature designated milk as the official state drink. Why? For starters, there are many more dairy cows than lakes in the state. ▼

## The State Gemstone

The Legislature adopted the Lake Superior agate as the official state gemstone in 1969.

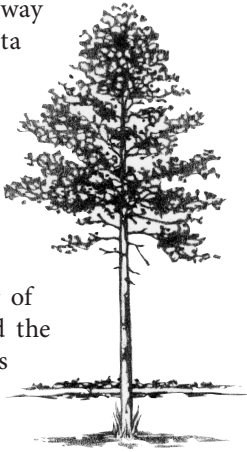
Found mainly along the north and south shores of Lake Superior, the stone's red color comes from iron, the major industrial mineral in the state. ▼



## The State Tree

In 1953, Minnesota adopted the Norway pine as the state tree. Norway pines typically reach heights of 80 feet and diameters of up to 3 feet.

The largest Norway pine in Minnesota is in Itasca State Park. The tree is over 120 feet tall and is more than 300 years old. It's called a red pine because of the pale red color of its heartwood and the reddish color of its bark. ▼

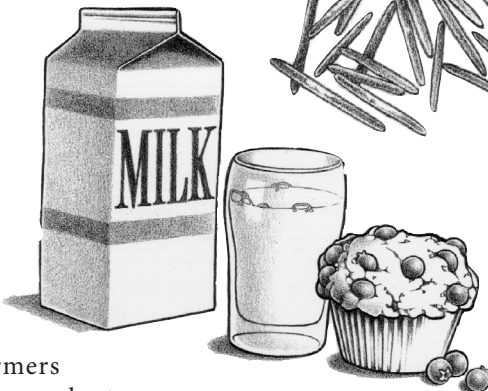


## The State Muffin

In an exercise to see how a bill becomes law, a class of third-graders from Carlton proposed that the blueberry muffin be designated as the state muffin.

They asked themselves a question: If Minnesota were to have a state food, what would it be? The answer they gave was the blueberry muffin. They reasoned that wild blueberries are plentiful and popular in northern Minnesota, and farmers from across the state grow wheat.

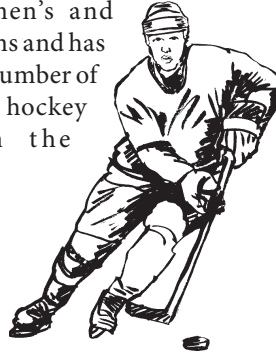
In 1988, their bill was signed into law. ▼



## The State Sport

The Legislature made ice hockey the official state sport in 2009.

In addition to the Minnesota Wild, the state has five Division I collegiate men's and women's teams and has the greatest number of high school hockey players in the country. ▼



## The State Bee

The rusty patched bumblebee became Minnesota's state bee in 2019. It can be identified by a rust-colored patch on its abdomen. It's found in grasslands and prairies in and around the Twin Cities metro area. ▼



## The State Grain

For centuries, wild rice has been a staple for the American Indians of northern Minnesota.

To recognize that, and the fact that Minnesota is a leading producer of natural wild rice in the nation, the Legislature adopted wild rice as the official state grain in 1977.

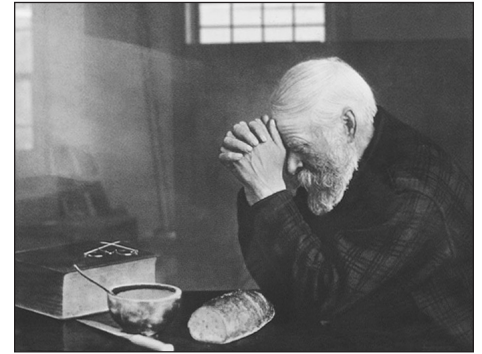
Wild rice, which is really a grain, grows naturally in the many lakes and rivers in the northern half of the state. ▼



## The State Photograph

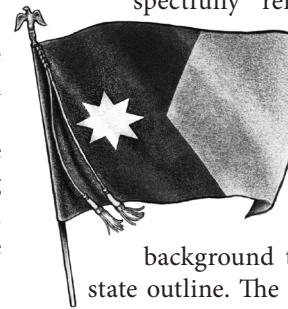
A world-renowned photograph became the state's 14th state symbol.

Shot in Bovey, by Eric Enstrom in 1918, "Grace" features an elderly man sitting pensively with his head bowed and hands folded. He is leaning over a table, and on the table is a pair of spectacles resting atop a thick book, a bowl of gruel, a loaf of bread and a knife. ▼



## The State Flag

Minnesota's latest state flag was adopted on Dec. 19, 2023 by a commission whose charge included designing a flag that "accurately and respectfully reflects Minnesota's shared history, resources, and diverse cultural communities."



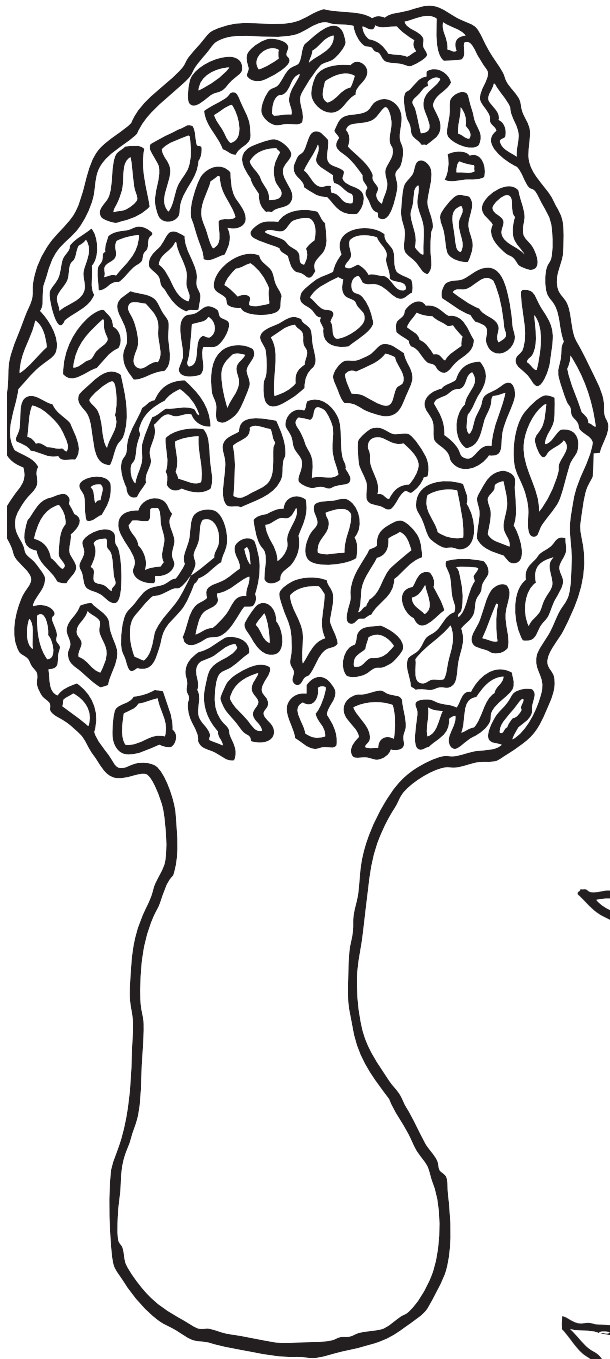
The flag includes a white, 8-point star in a dark blue background that resembles the state outline. The star represents the North Star and the dark blue represents the night sky. The bright blue field on the right represents water. ▼

## The State Soil

Found in 17 counties in south-central Minnesota, Lester was designated the state soil in 2012.

Named because of its prevalence in the area around Lester Prairie, the soil is well-drained and formed in loamy, calcareous glacial till on ground moraines. Principal crops grown in Lester soil are corn and soybeans. ▼

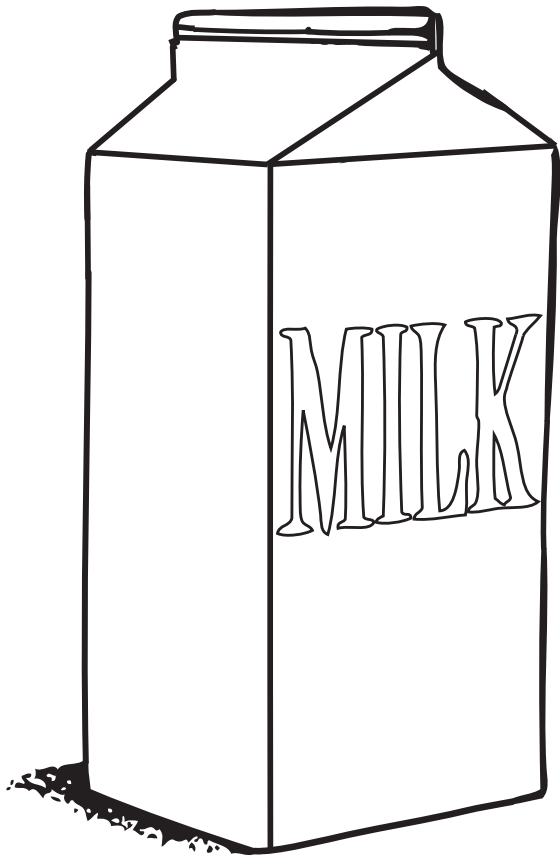




**State Mushroom  
Morel**

**State Flower  
Pink and White  
Lady's Slipper**

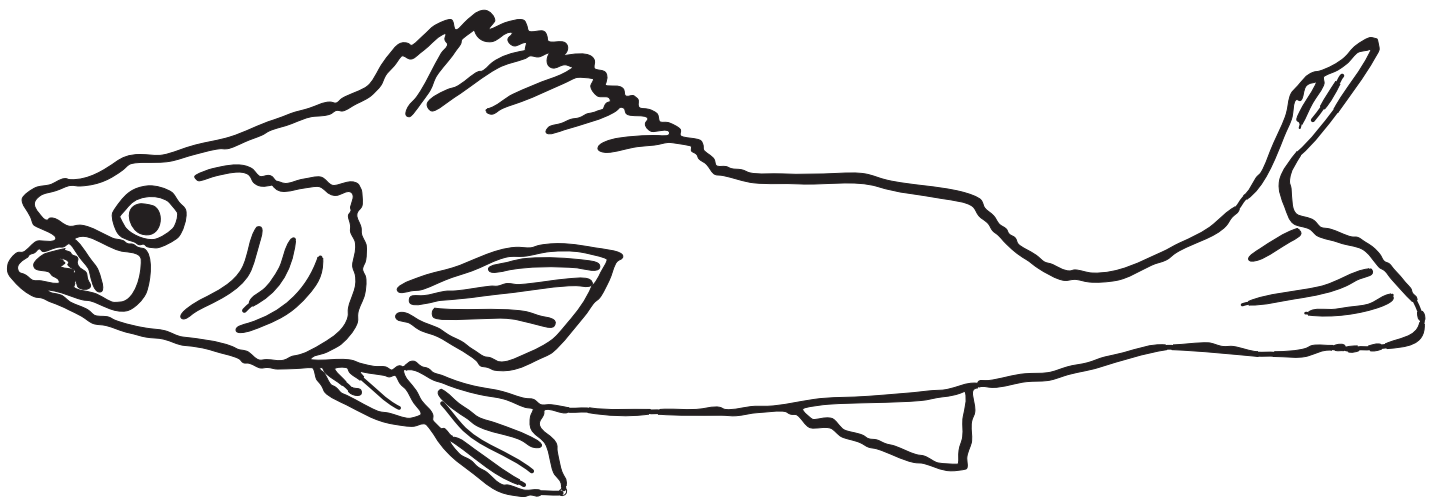




**State Drink  
Milk**

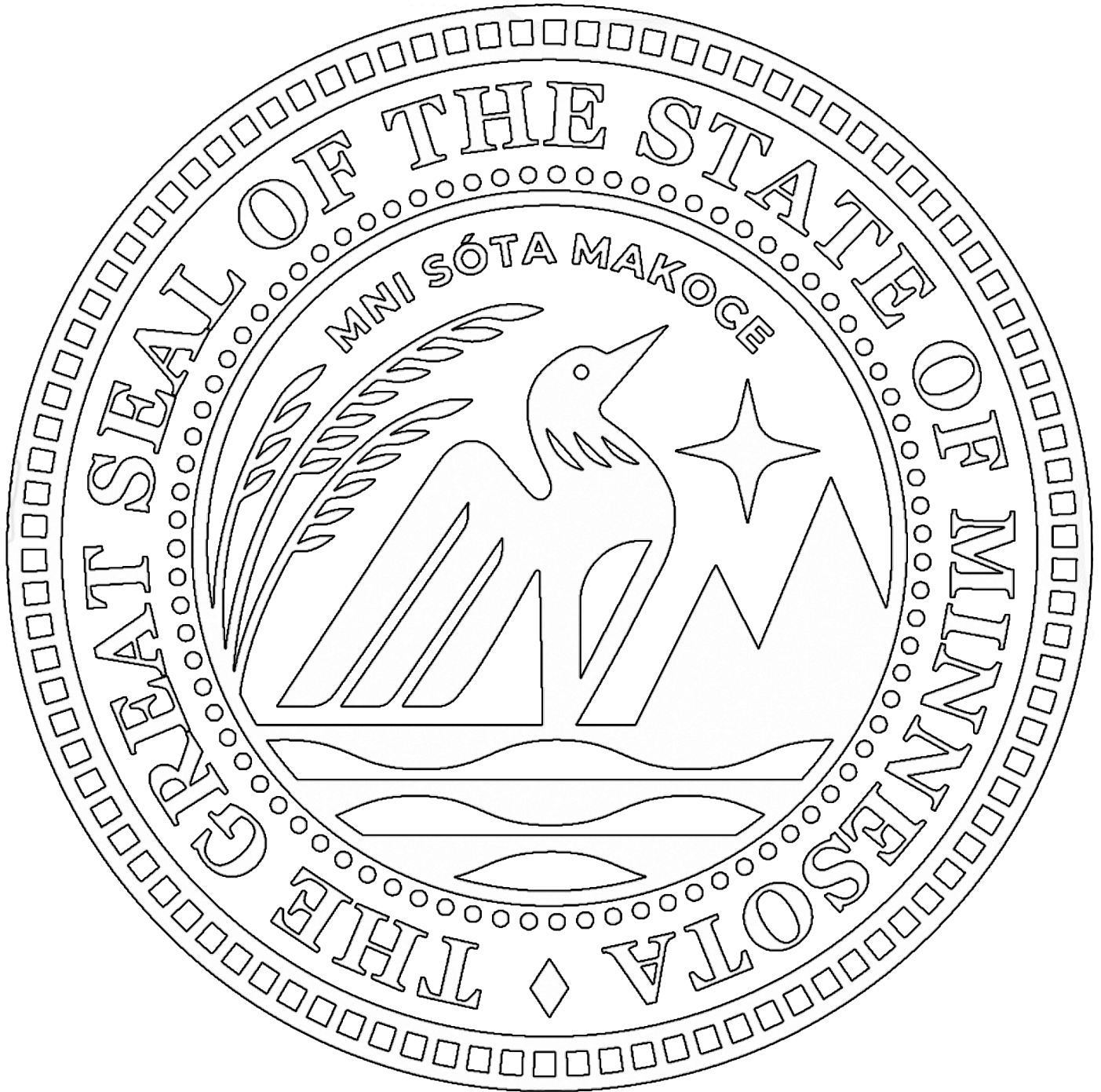


**State Muffin  
Blueberry**



**State Fish  
Walleye**

# State Seal



  
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