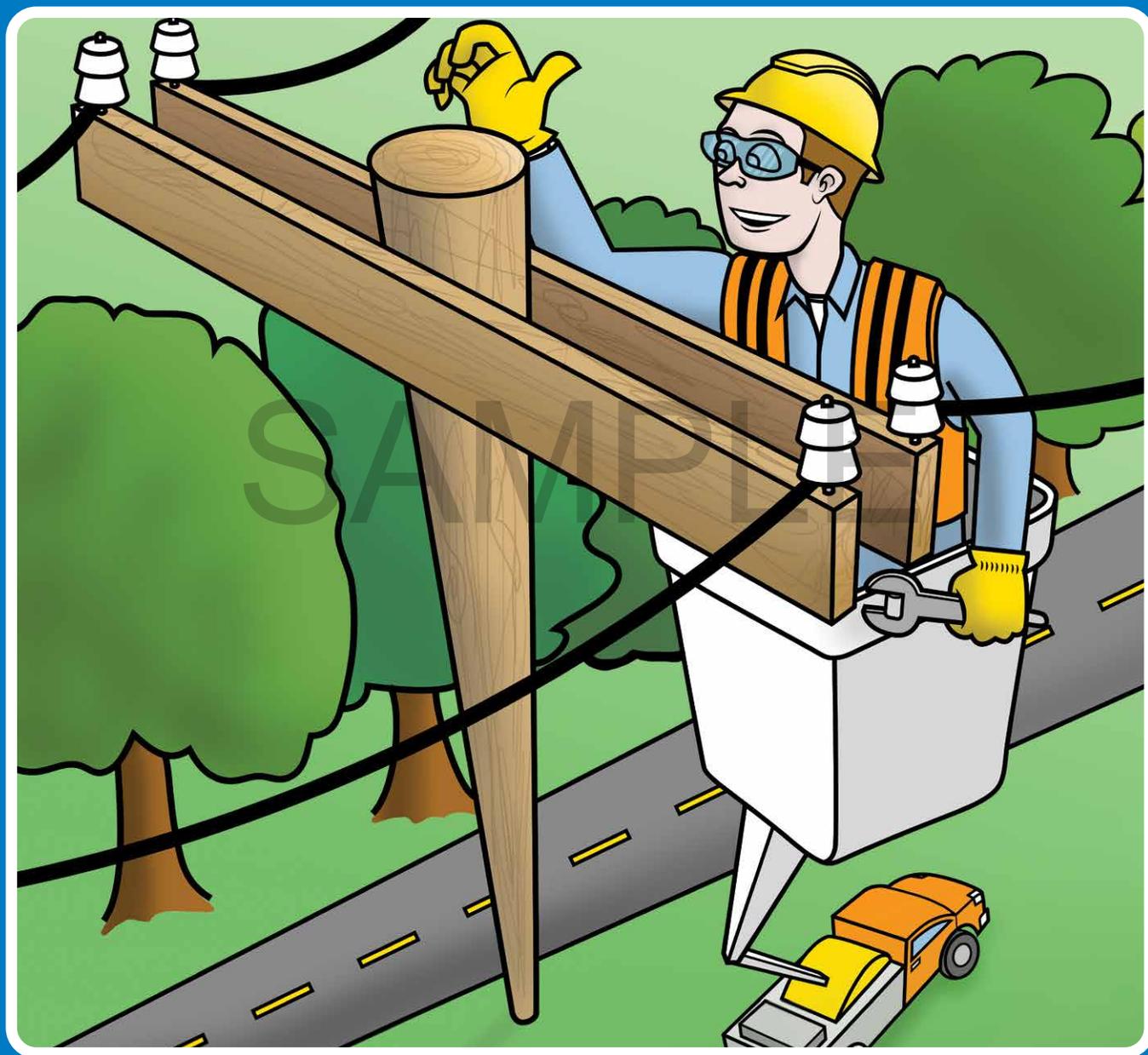


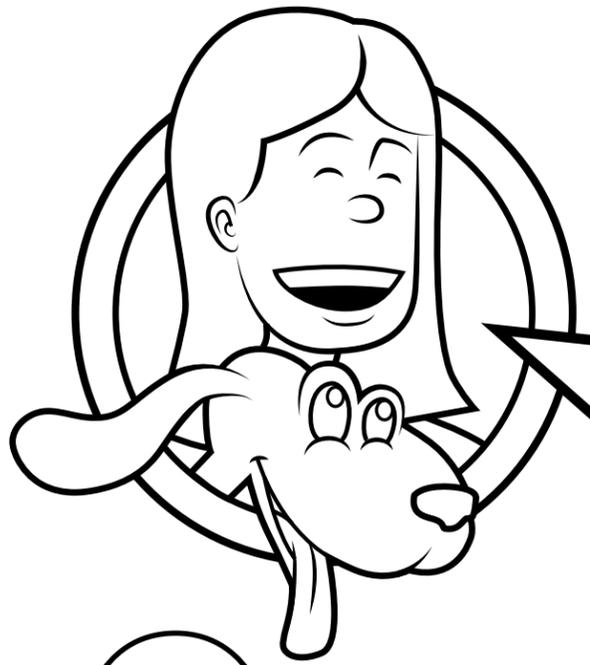
THE ELECTRIC CO-OP COLORING BOOK



Hi, we're the Coopers and we're members of an electric co-op. We're here to tell you what that means and why electric co-ops are unique.

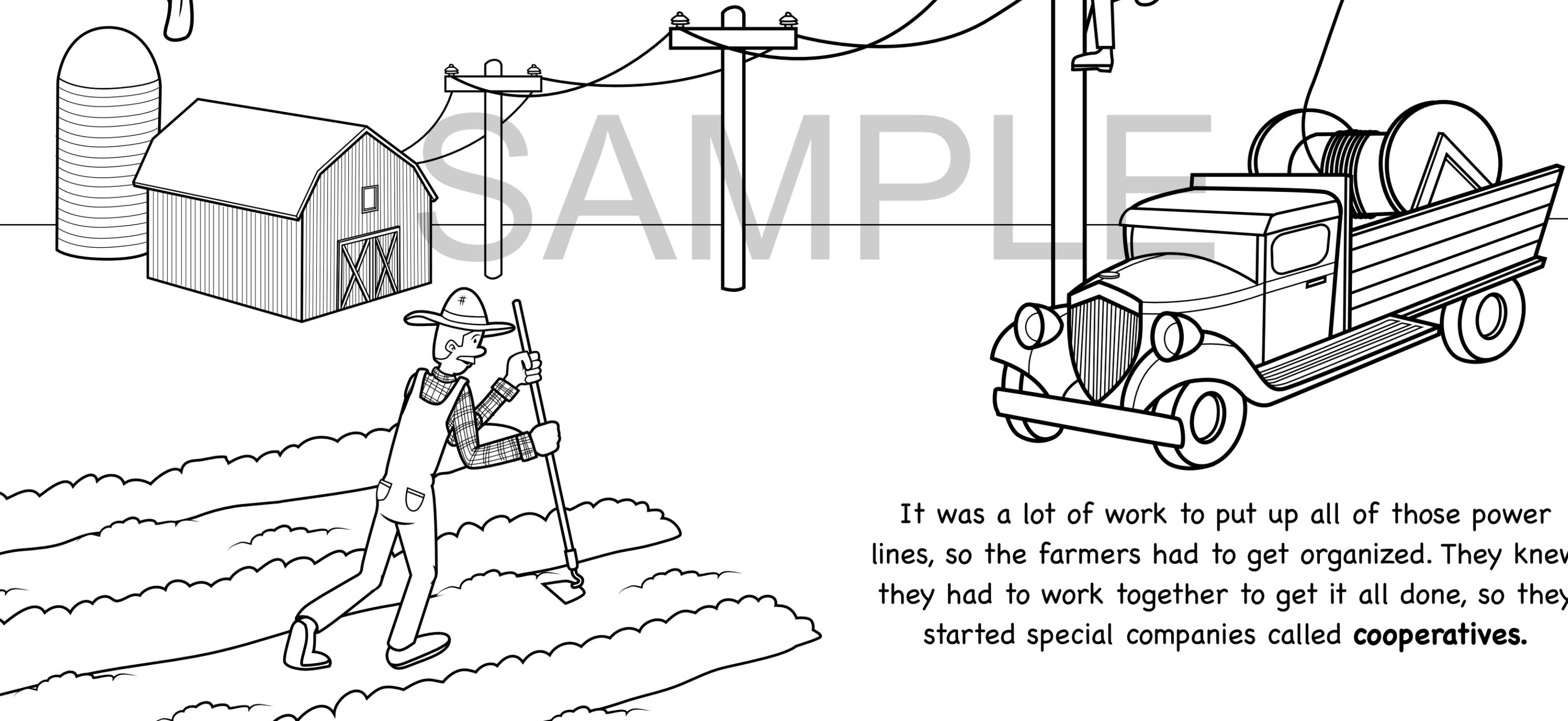
SAMPLE





The idea of the electric co-op started way back in 1936, with the Rural Electrification Act. At the time there were lots of places in the country that didn't have electricity at all.

The government helped farmers and rural communities get access to electricity by lending them money to put up power lines.

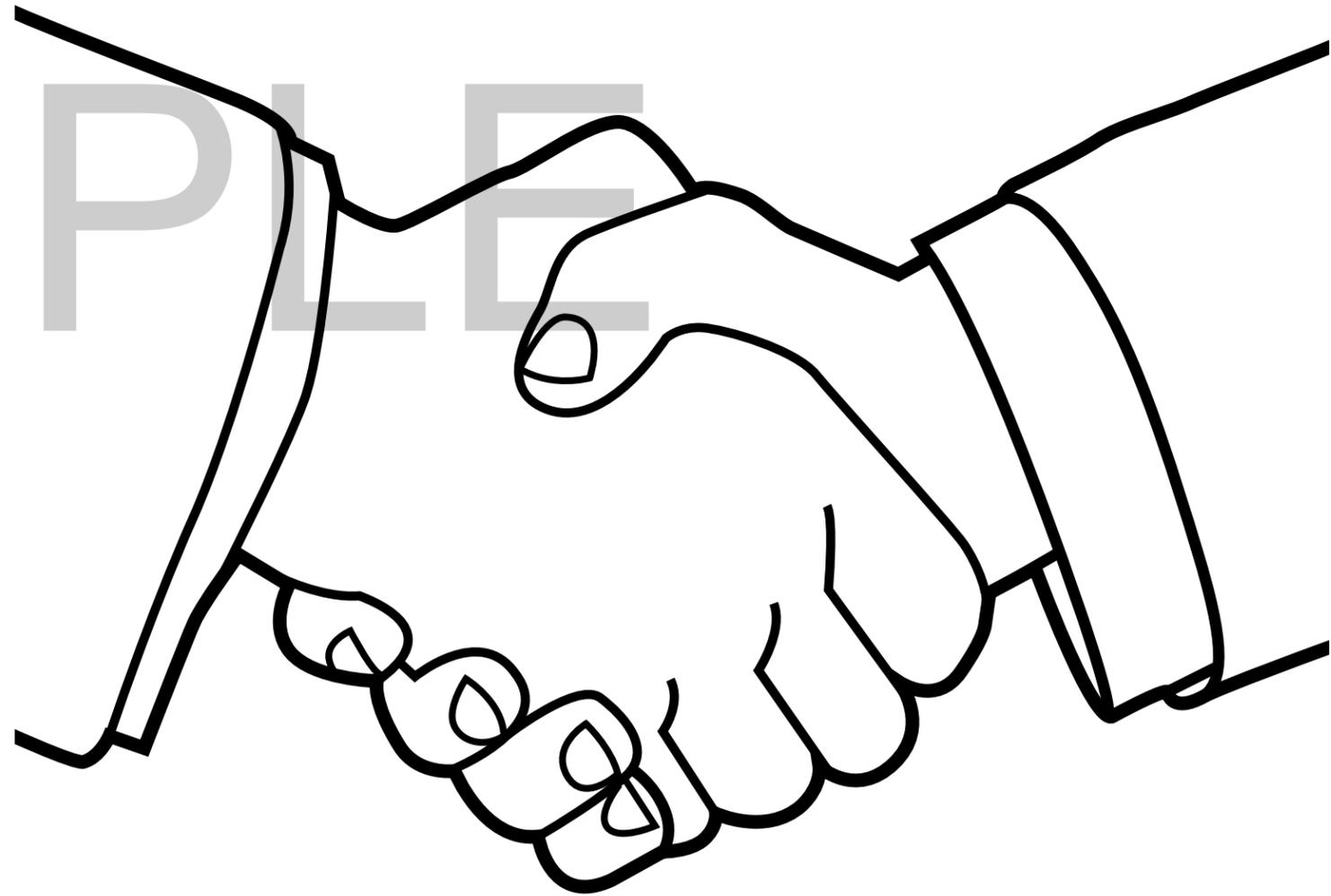


It was a lot of work to put up all of those power lines, so the farmers had to get organized. They knew they had to work together to get it all done, so they started special companies called **cooperatives**.

A **cooperative** is a company that is owned by members. All the members are equal. These companies are called co-ops for short.

Everyone who gets electricity from an electric co-op is a part owner of the company.

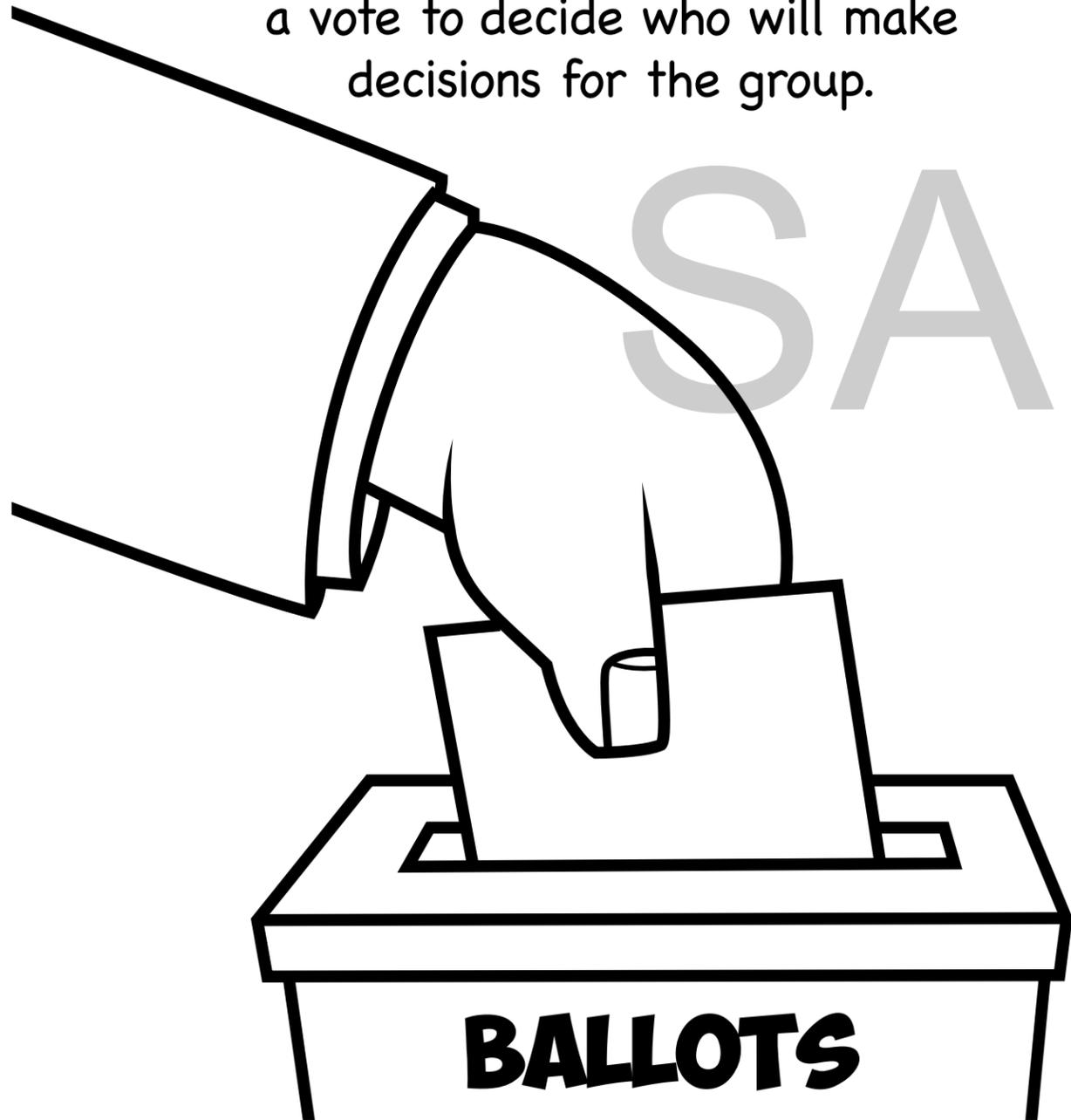
We are all able to keep the lights on by **COOPERATING!**



There are a few principles that are very important to all electric co-ops, such as:

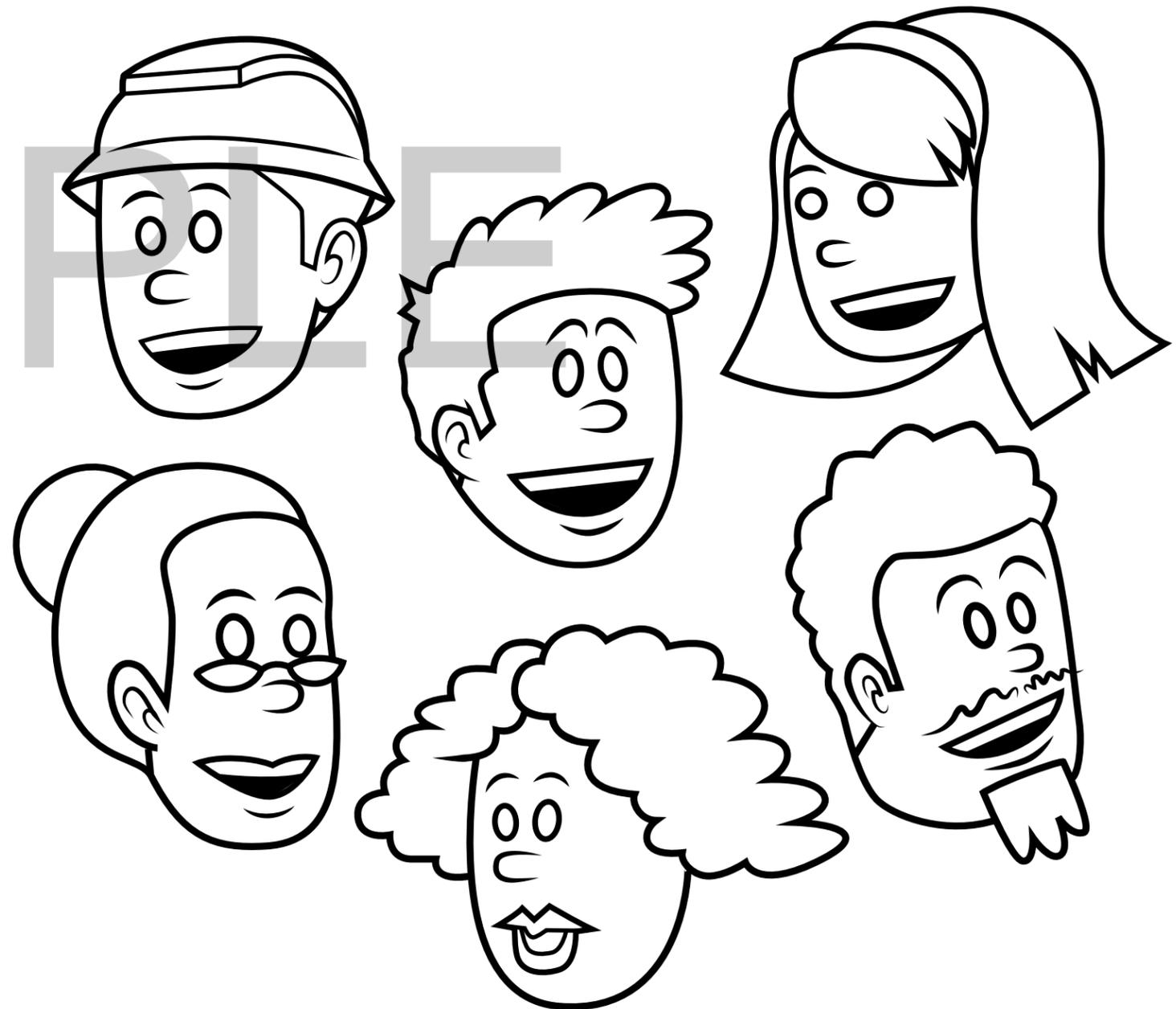
DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED LEADERSHIP

Every member of the co-op gets a vote to decide who will make decisions for the group.



That's because electric co-ops are

OWNED BY MEMBERS



AT COST SERVICE

Electric co-ops charge their members based on what they need to provide electricity.



This means that any profit they make is reinvested in the co-op, or given back to the members!

Electric co-ops have really grown over the years.

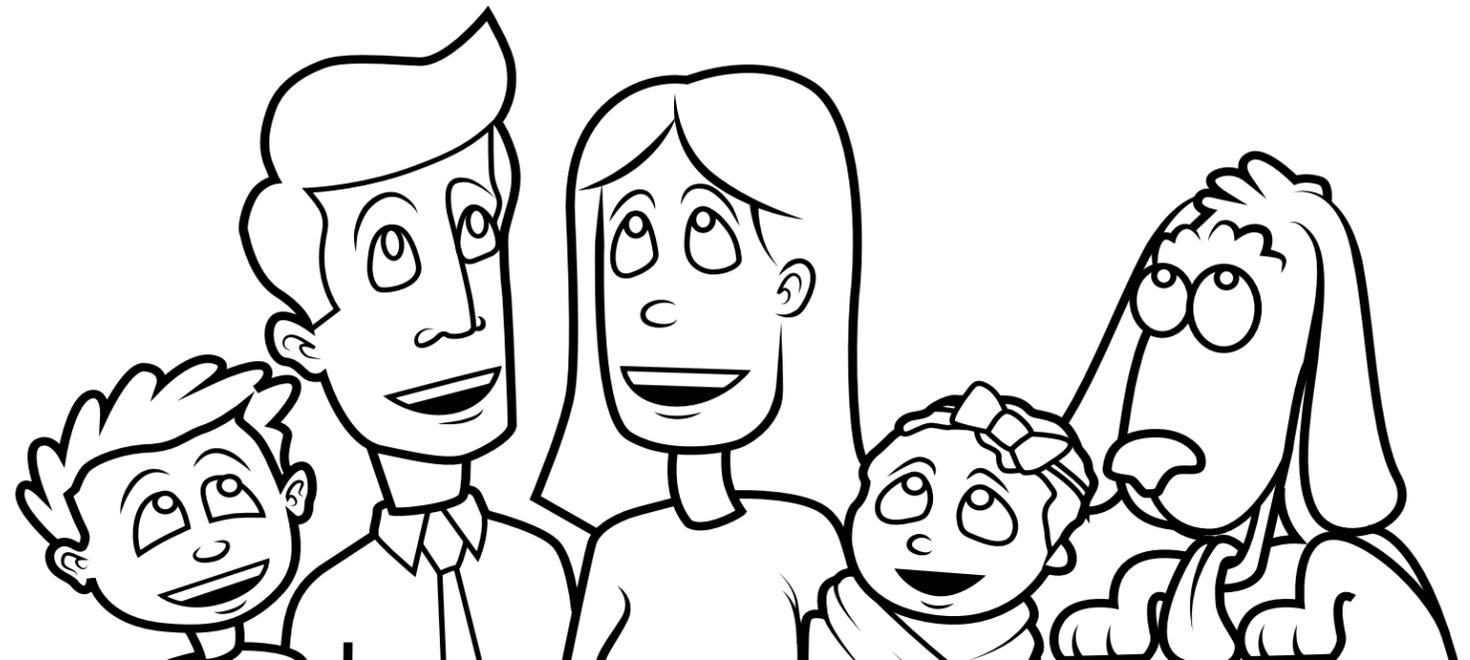
THERE ARE
903
CO-OPS
IN THE USA

BRINGING POWER TO
42
MILLION PEOPLE
IN 47 STATES

AND

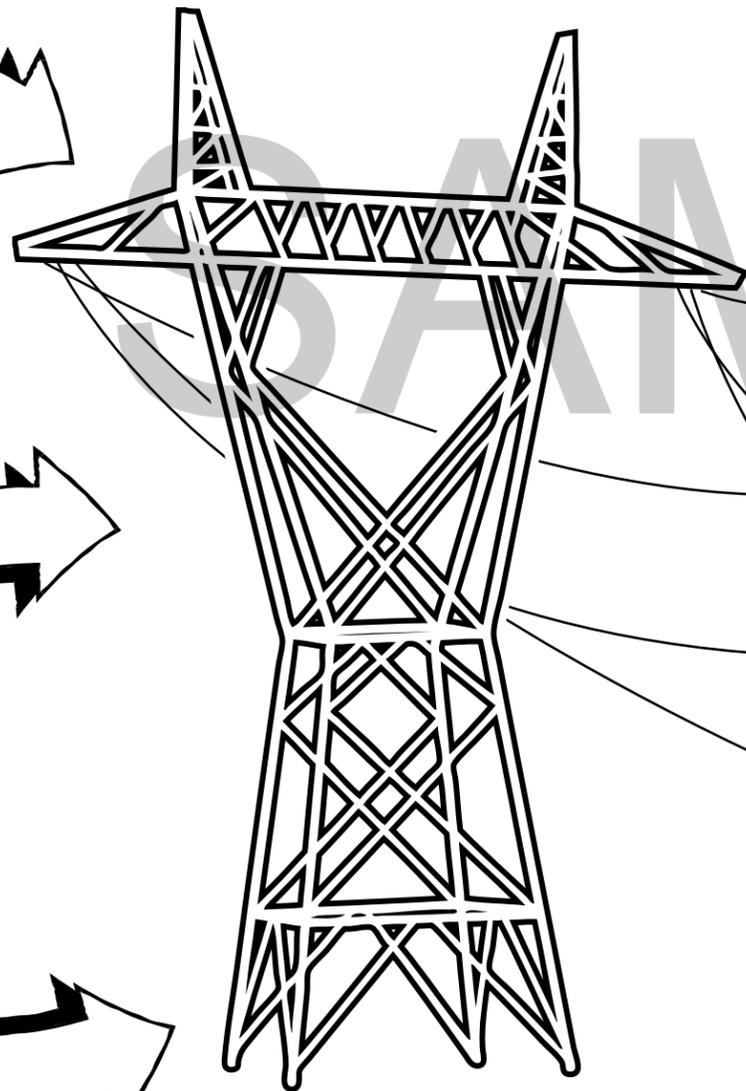
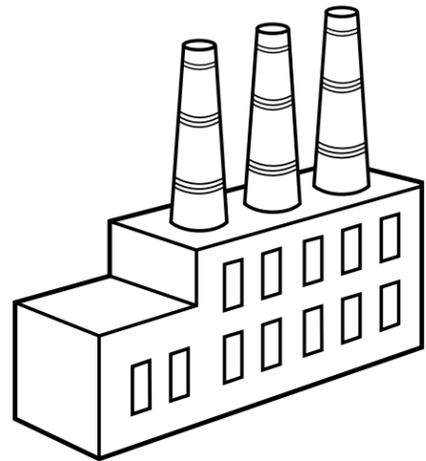
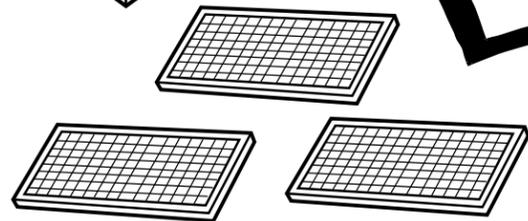
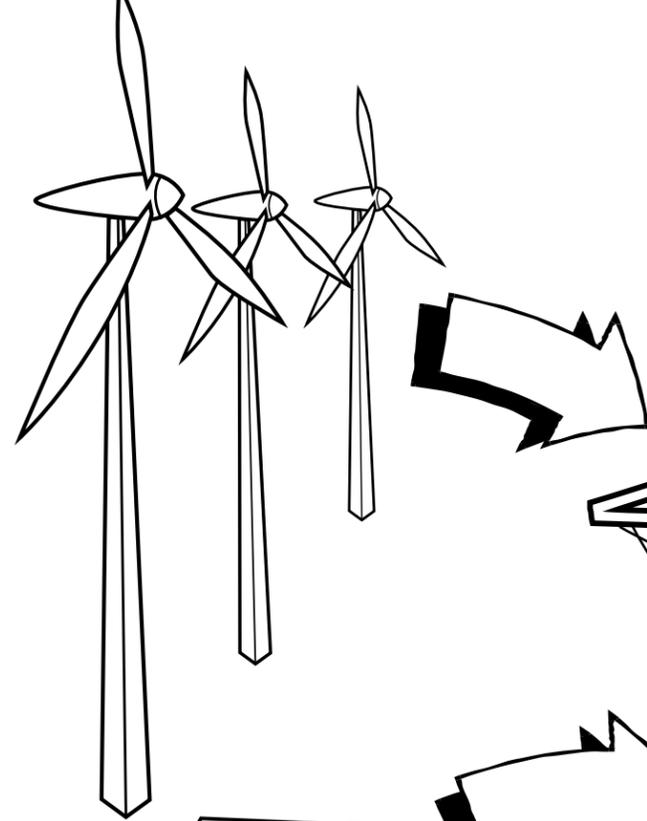
13%

OF THE NATION'S
ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS
ARE MEMBERS OF CO-OPS

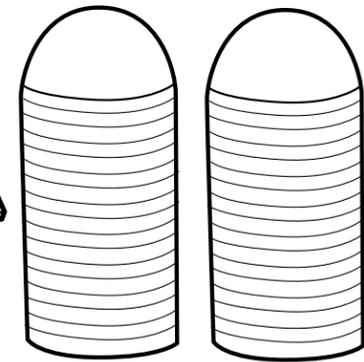
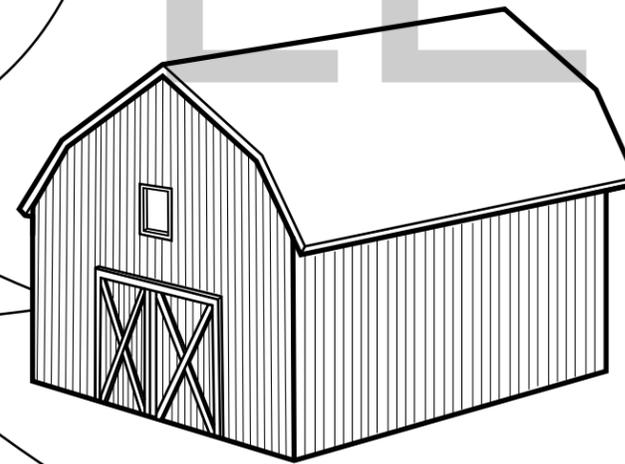




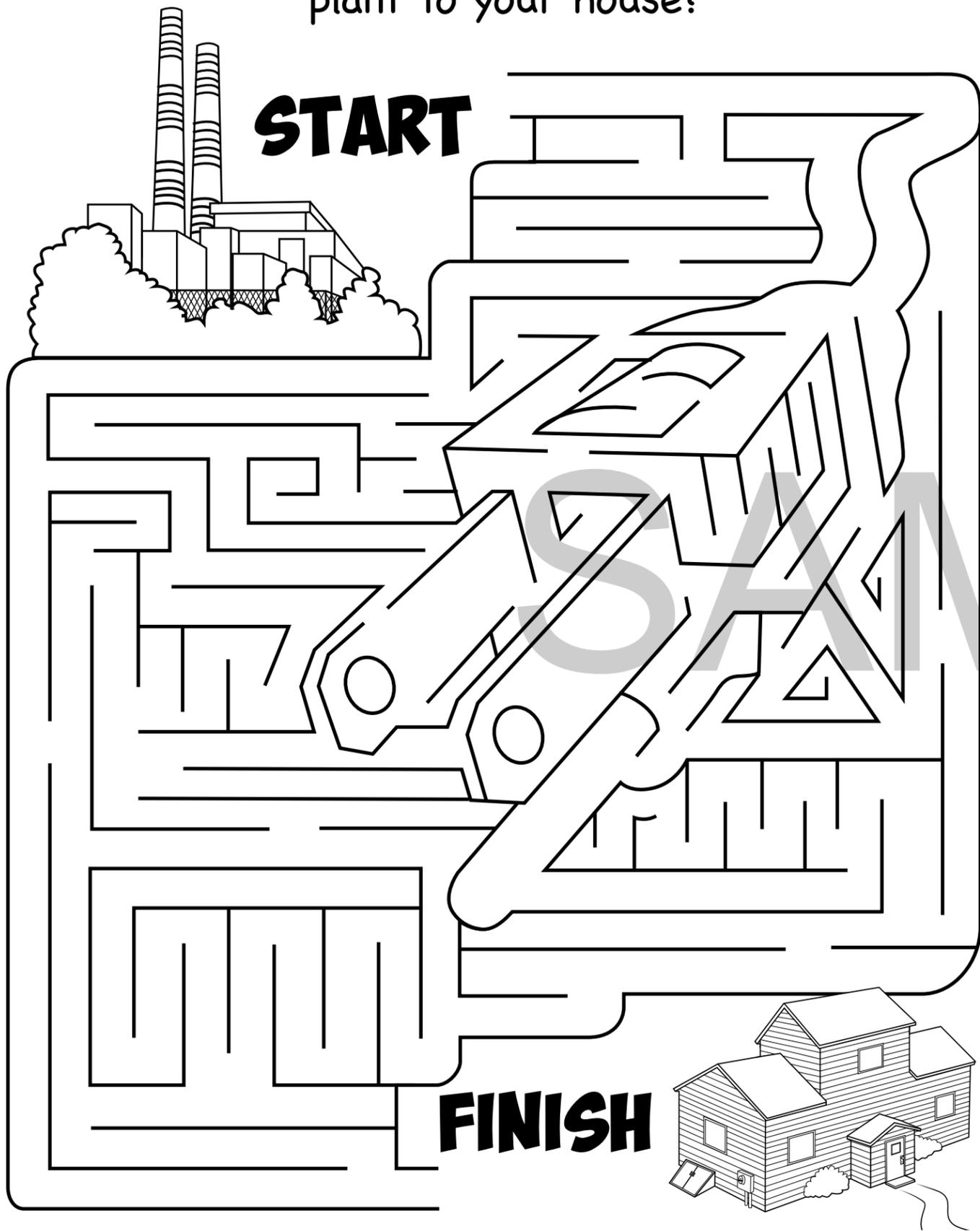
Electricity can be generated in many ways. Natural gas, wind, solar, coal, and other sources are all used to create electricity.



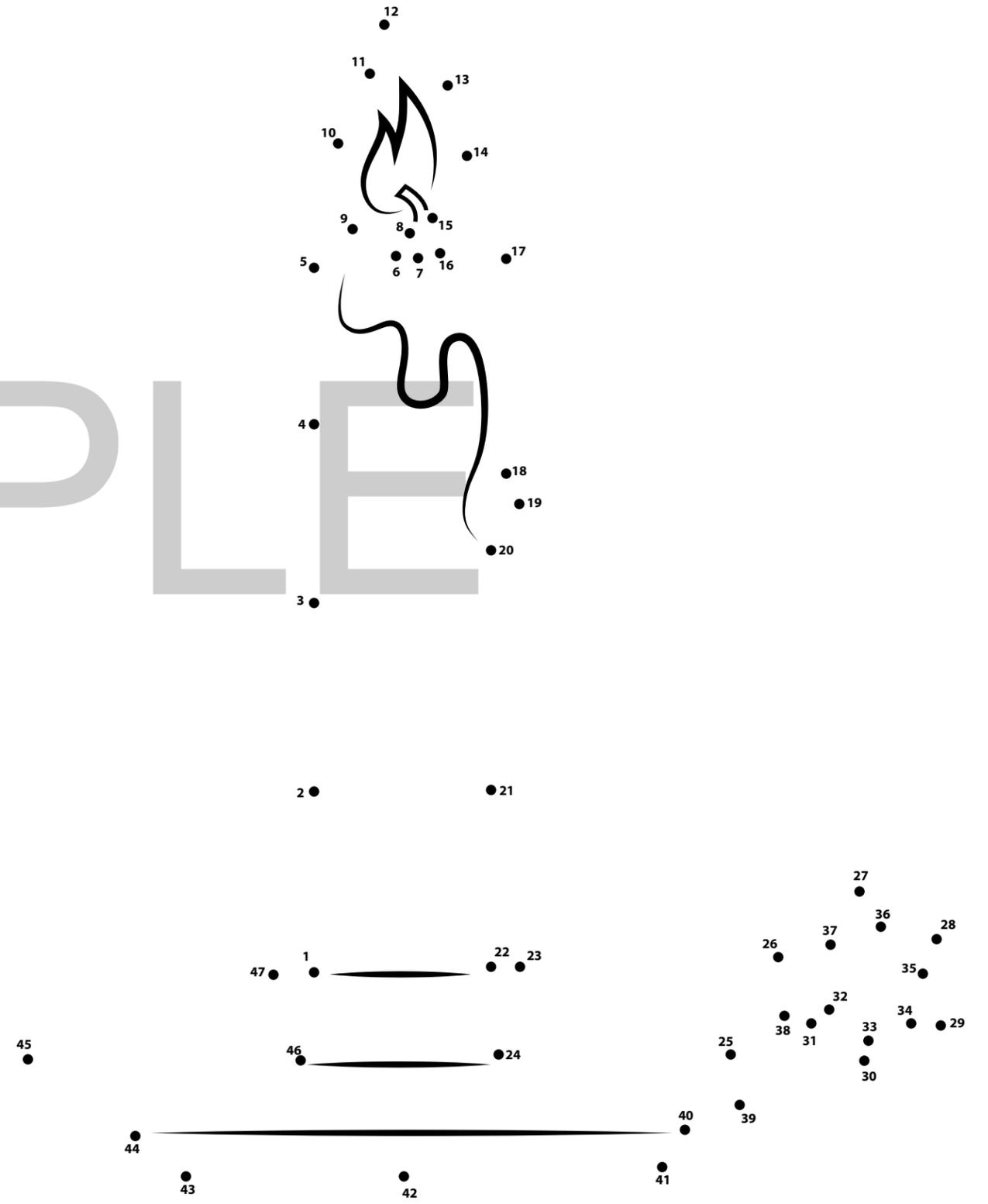
An electric co-op makes sure the electricity gets to houses, farms, schools, and businesses through wires called power lines.



Can you help the electricity get from the power plant to your house?

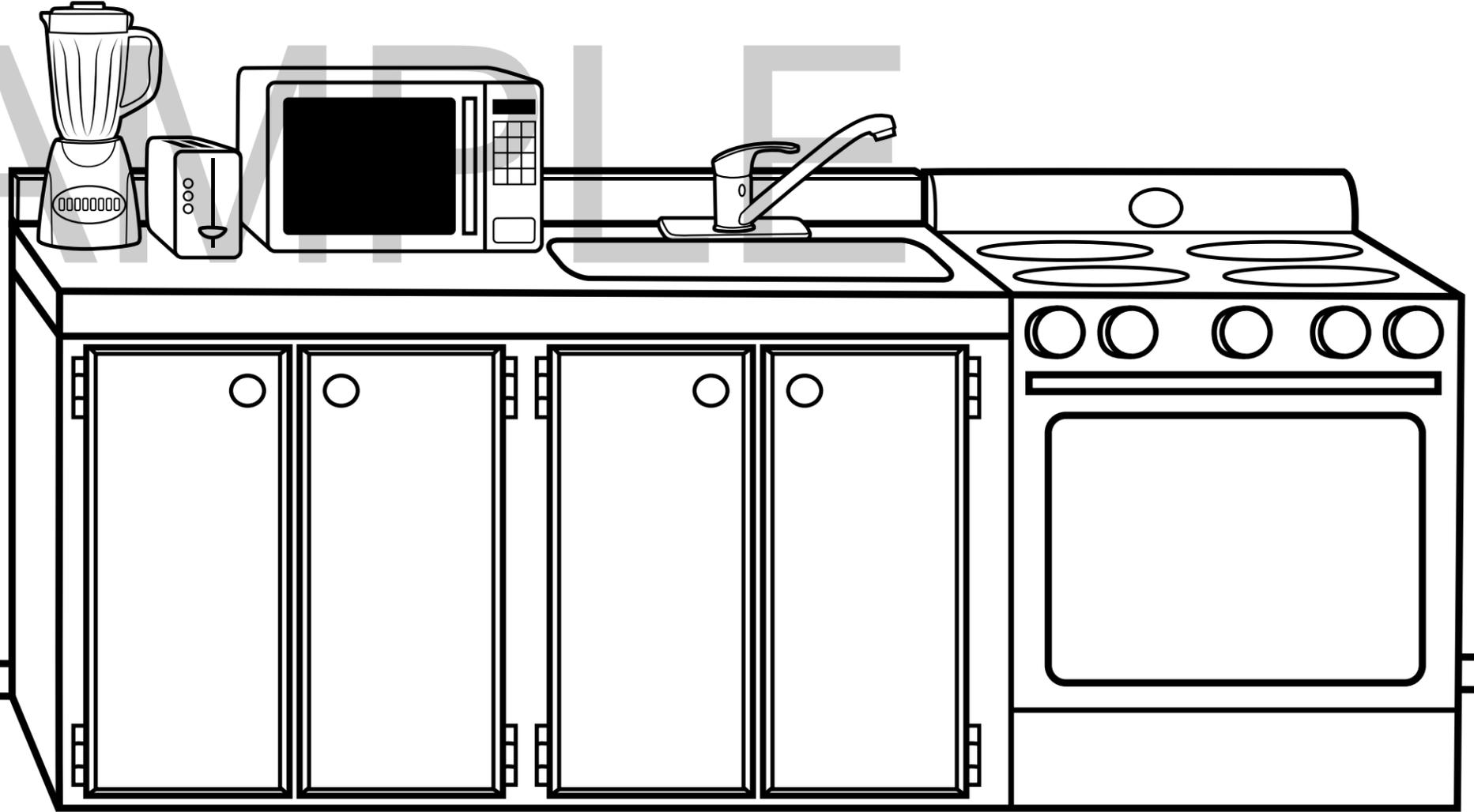
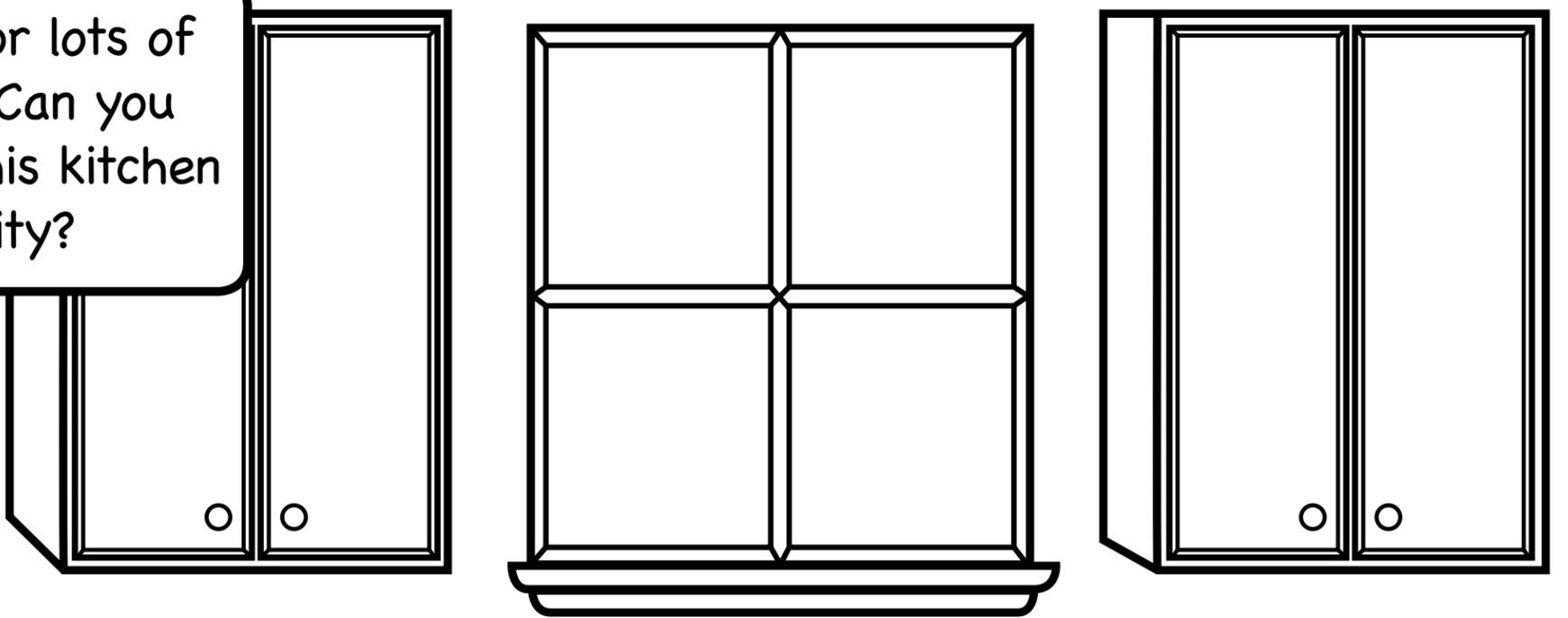


Can you imagine what it was like before houses had power? Connect the dots to see what you would need to read at night without electricity.

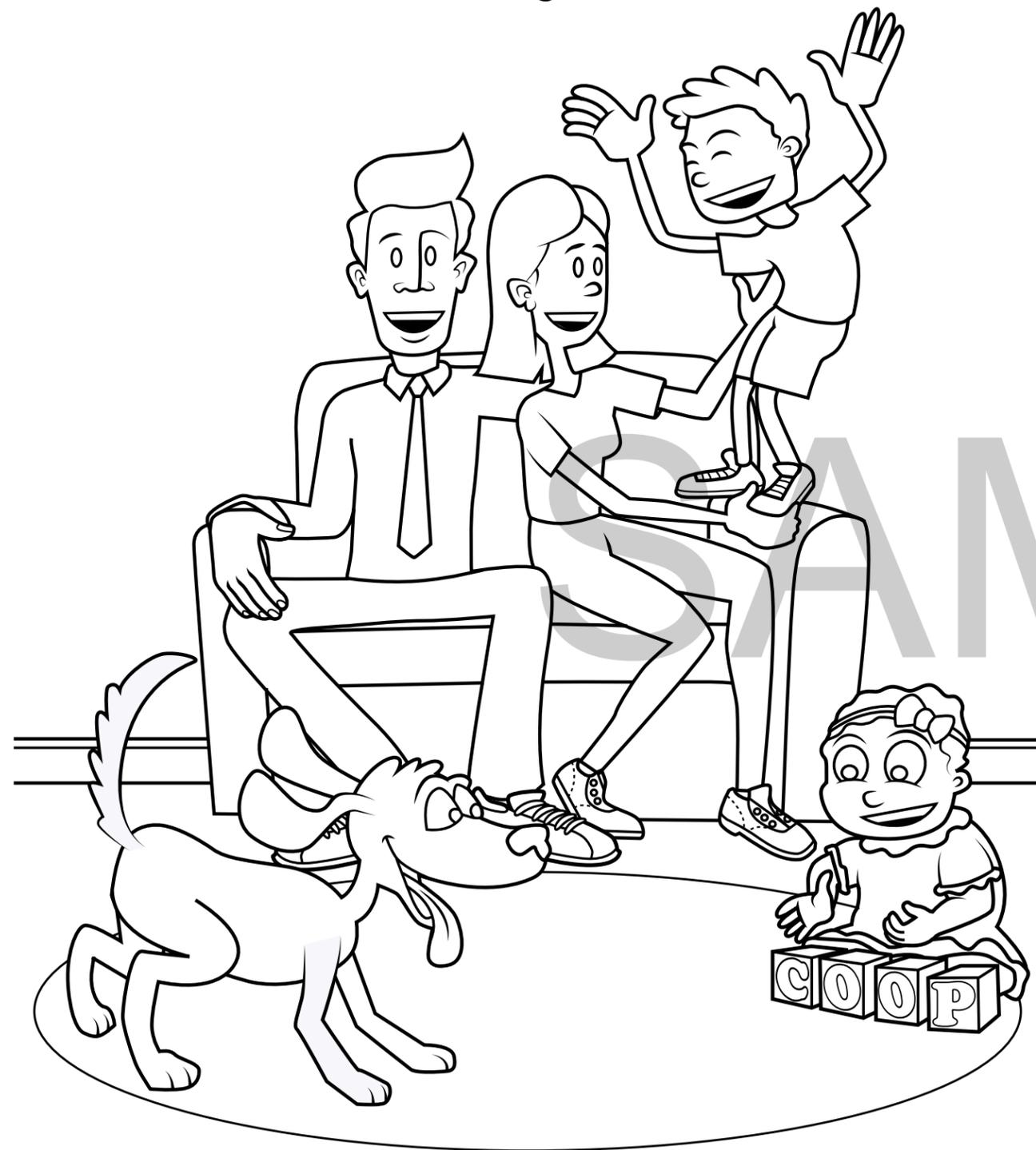




We need electricity for lots of things in our homes. Can you find all the things in this kitchen that use electricity?



Electric co-ops are a great example of how people can do important things when they work together!



It's Great to Cooperate!



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