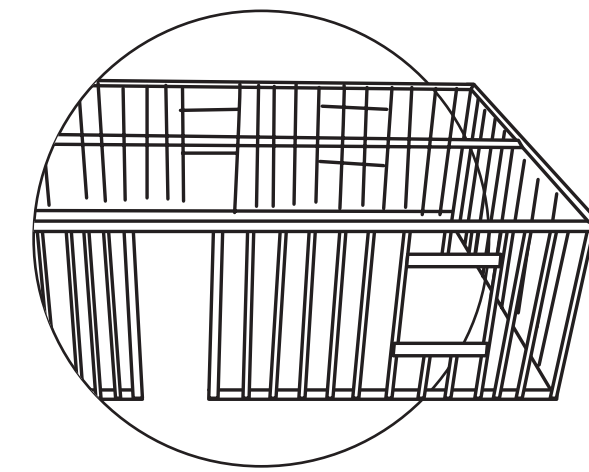


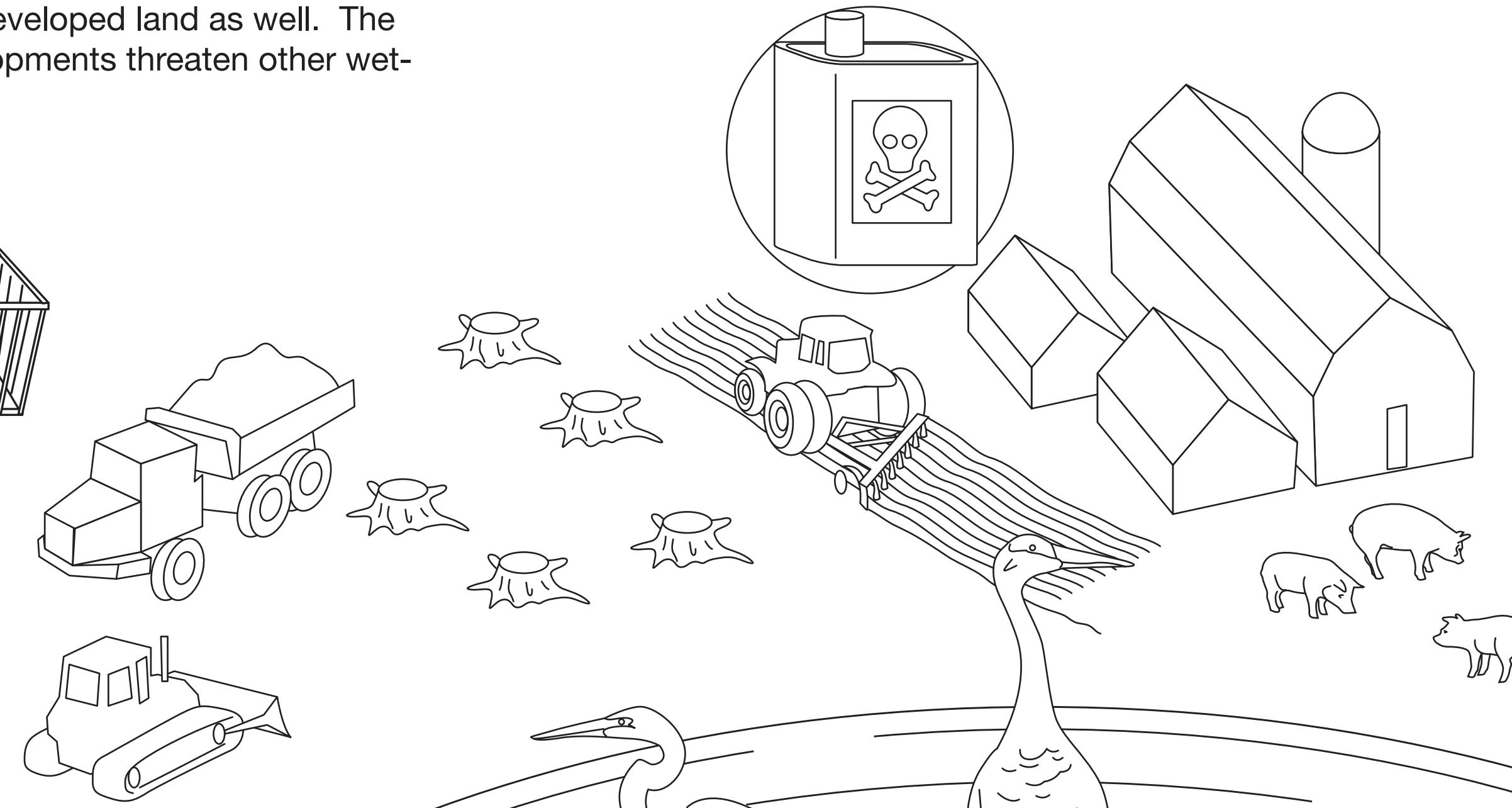
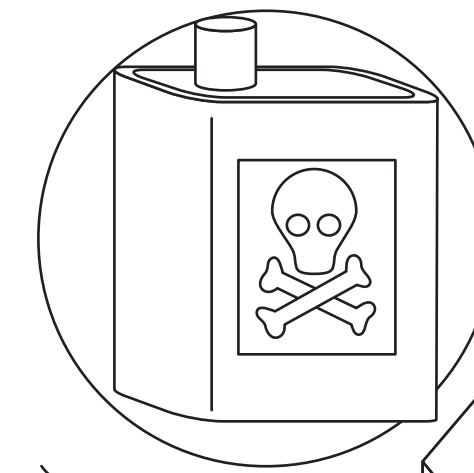
Loss of Habitat

Wetlands, long regarded as “wasteland,” were filled in for the development of farms, towns and cities. New airports and shopping malls replaced the habitats of frogs, fish and birds. The removal of trees and plantlife hasten the erosion of undeveloped land as well. The runoff of these new developments threaten other wetlands.



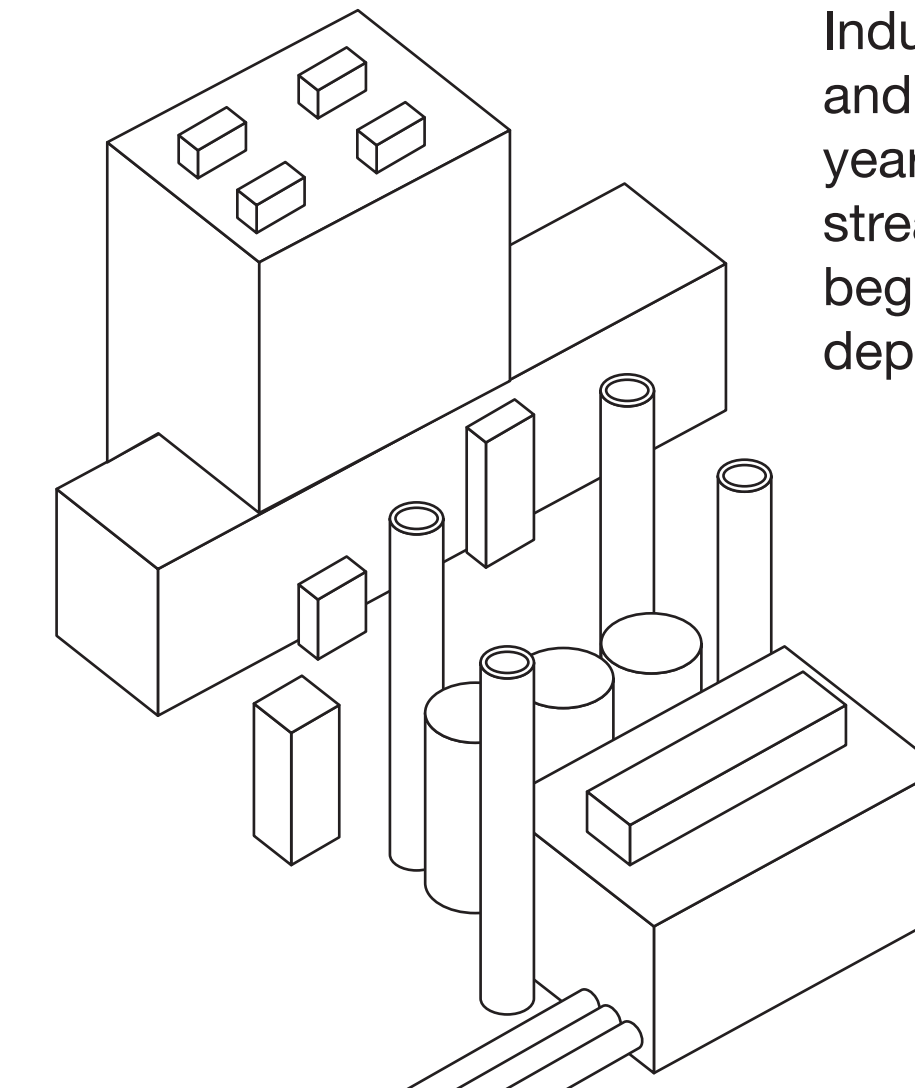
Agricultural Practices

Much farmland was created by filling in the bottom lands - wetlands - along rivers and streams. Streams and creeks were dammed to divert water for irrigation. Chemicals applied to crops are being washed into nearby streams and rivers. Animal waste is also allowed to seep into ground water and nearby wetlands.



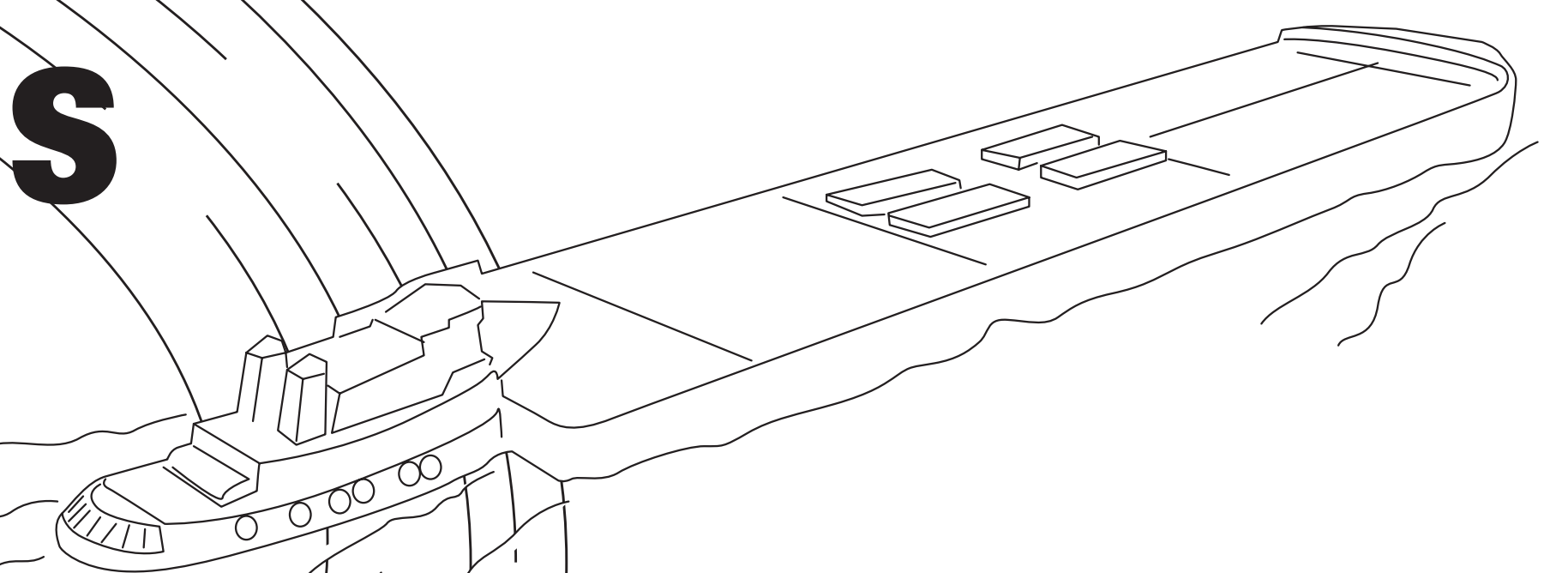
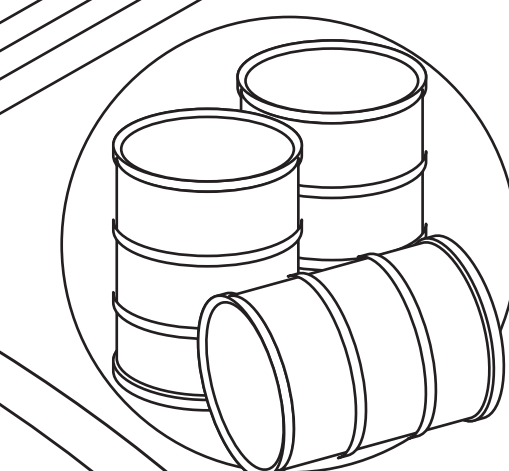
Industrial Indifference

Industrial waste has long been a threat to the wetlands and waterways through the United States. For many years the practice of dumping toxic waste into rivers and streams went unchecked. Raw by-products of industry began killing fish and destroying the habitat of the animals dependent on the wetlands.



Navigational Channels

Many wetlands - marshes and bogs - are destroyed by dredging to create deeper canals and waterways for transportation. This water traffic can erode the banks of rivers and pollute the water with gas and oil, endangering the wetlands and the wildlife that depends on them.



Threats to our Wetlands and the animals that live there.

45% of all animals and 26% of plants listed as endangered or threatened species in the United States depend on the wetlands to survive. 200 million acres of wetlands once covered the United States. 100 million acres have been lost to human development and carelessness.

The Human Population

The pollution and trash created by the human population continues to destroy our wetlands. Trash, debris and sometimes human waste are constantly flushed into our wetlands. Paints, oils and other toxins dumped in storm drains are also directed to the wetlands fouling the water and in some cases creating deadzones where animal and plant life can no longer exist.

