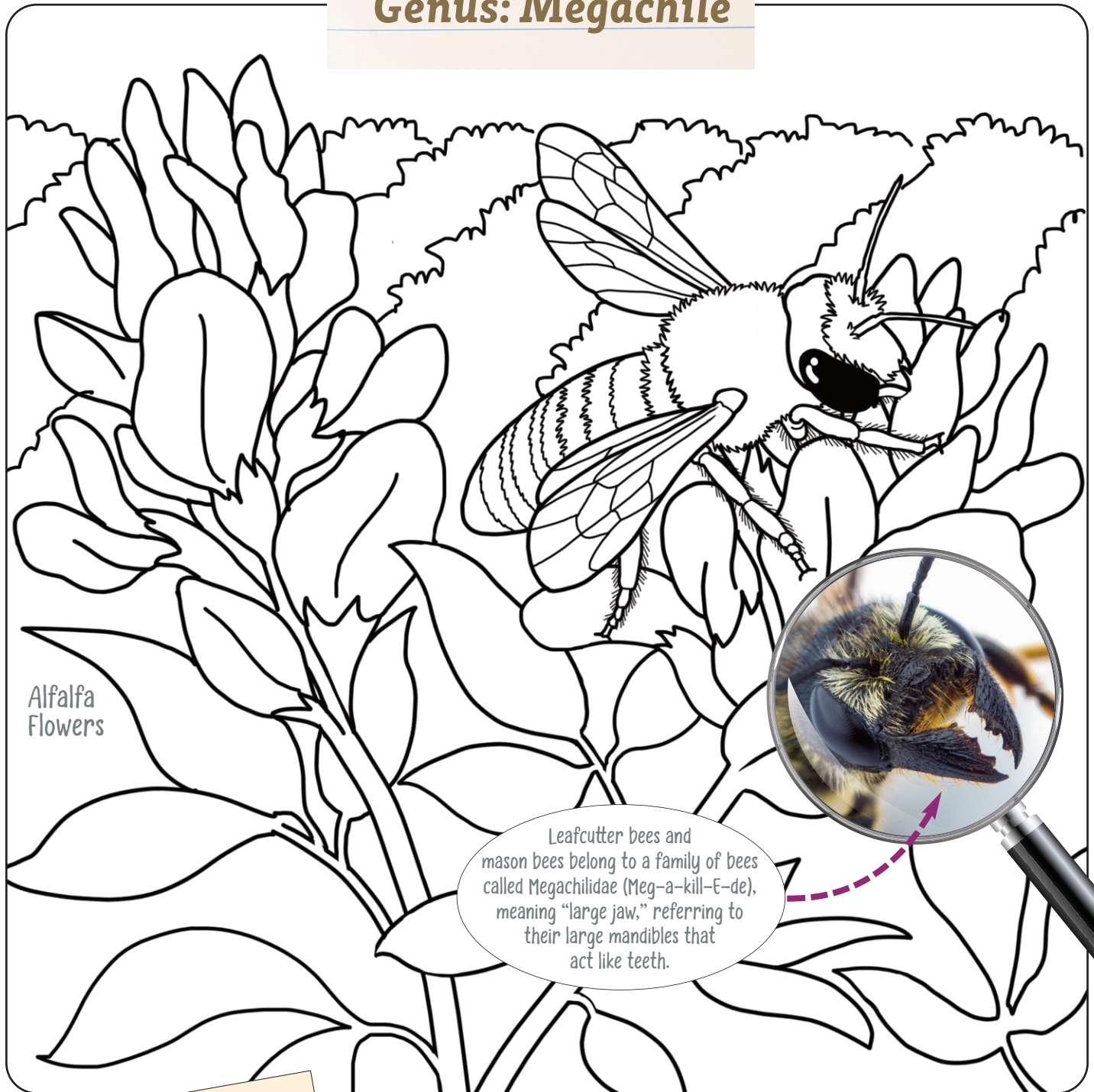


Leafcutter Bees

Genus: *Megachile*



Alfalfa
Flowers

Leafcutter bees and mason bees belong to a family of bees called Megachilidae (Meg-a-kill-EE-de), meaning “large jaw,” referring to their large mandibles that act like teeth.

Field Notes:

Leafcutter bees, which belong to the genus ***Megachile*** (pronounced mega-KY-lee), are pollinators of alfalfa and many wild plants. They are called leafcutter bees because they cut out small pieces of leaves to use to build their nests. Leafcutter bees are darkly colored, small to medium-sized bees. In Oregon, they are important pollinators of alfalfa grown for seed. Farmers buy the seed to grow alfalfa plants, which are fed to cows and other livestock (animals raised on a farm) that give us milk and meat.



The next time
you eat beef,
thank a leafcutter bee!