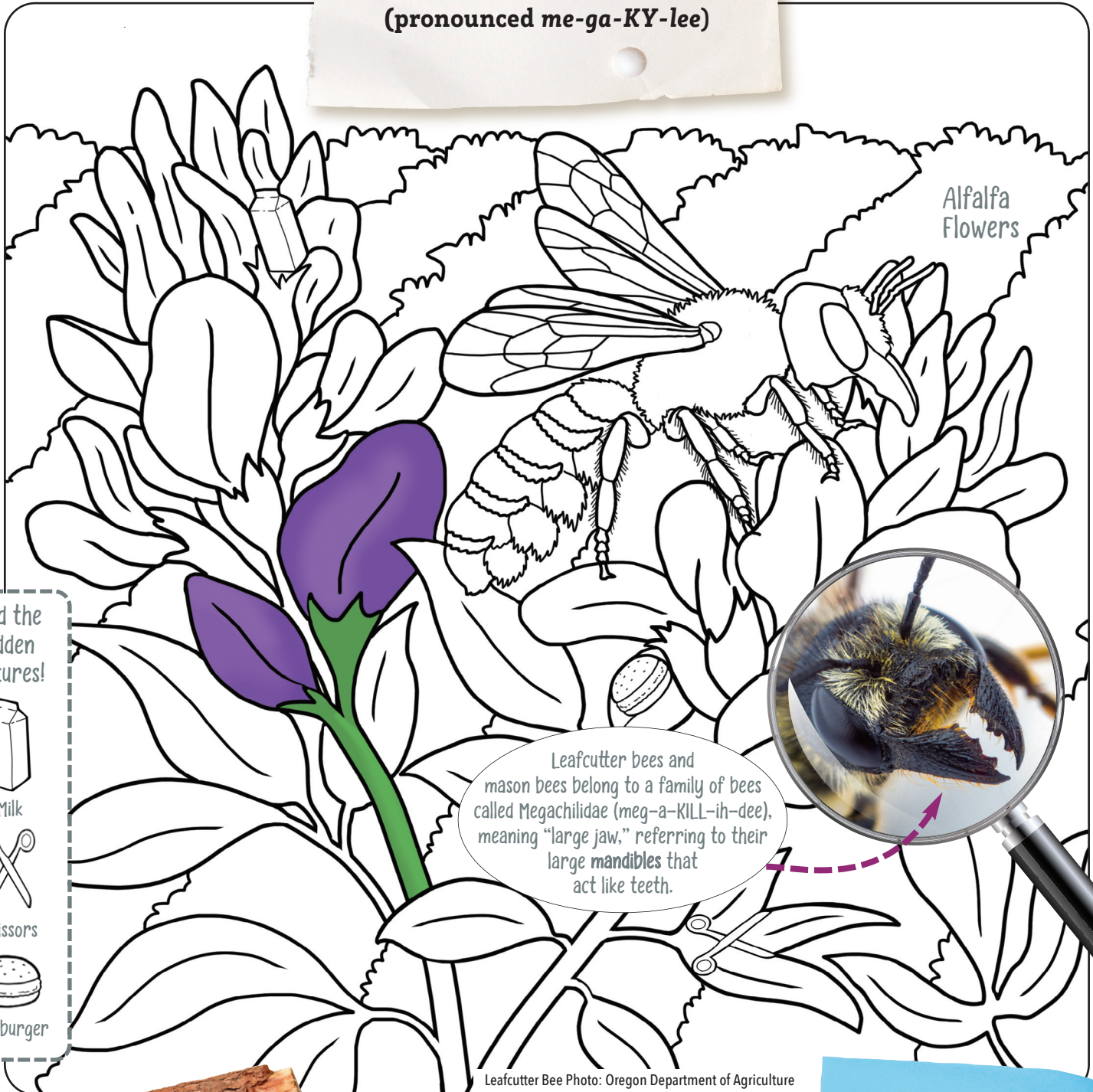




Solitary Bees  
**Leafcutter Bees**  
 Genus: *Megachile*  
 (pronounced me-ga-KY-lee)



Leafcutter Bee  
 6 to 22 mm in length



Find the hidden pictures!



Milk



Scissors



Hamburger

Leafcutter bees and mason bees belong to a family of bees called Megachilidae (meg-a-KILL-ih-dee), meaning "large jaw," referring to their large mandibles that act like teeth.

Leafcutter Bee Photo: Oregon Department of Agriculture

**Field Notes:**

**Leafcutter bees** 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, cheese, yogurt, eggs, meat and more.

**Name at least one trait of the leafcutter bee that differs from a trait of a bee on another page. Name at least one trait that is the same.**



A trait of this bee is that it can cut leaves for its nest.  
 A synonym for cut is: