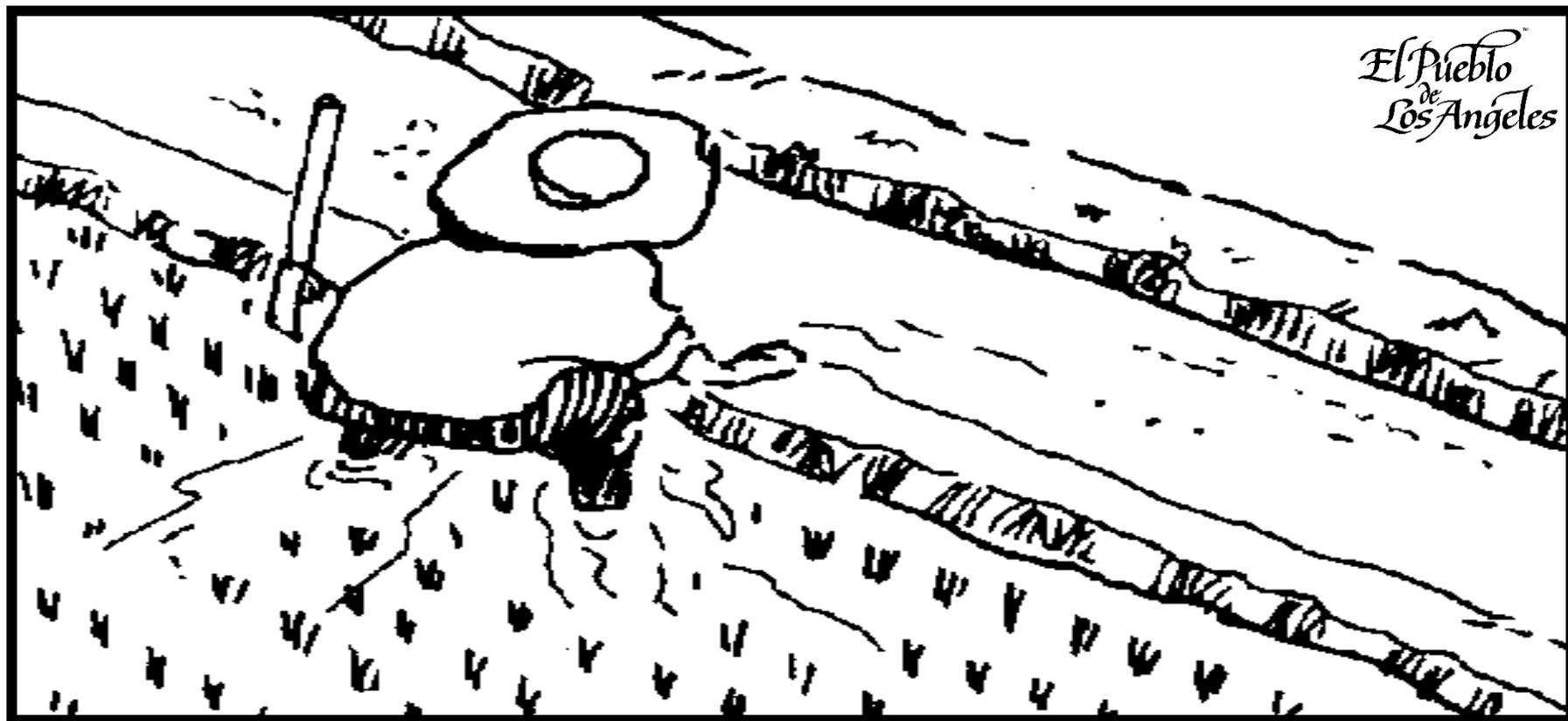


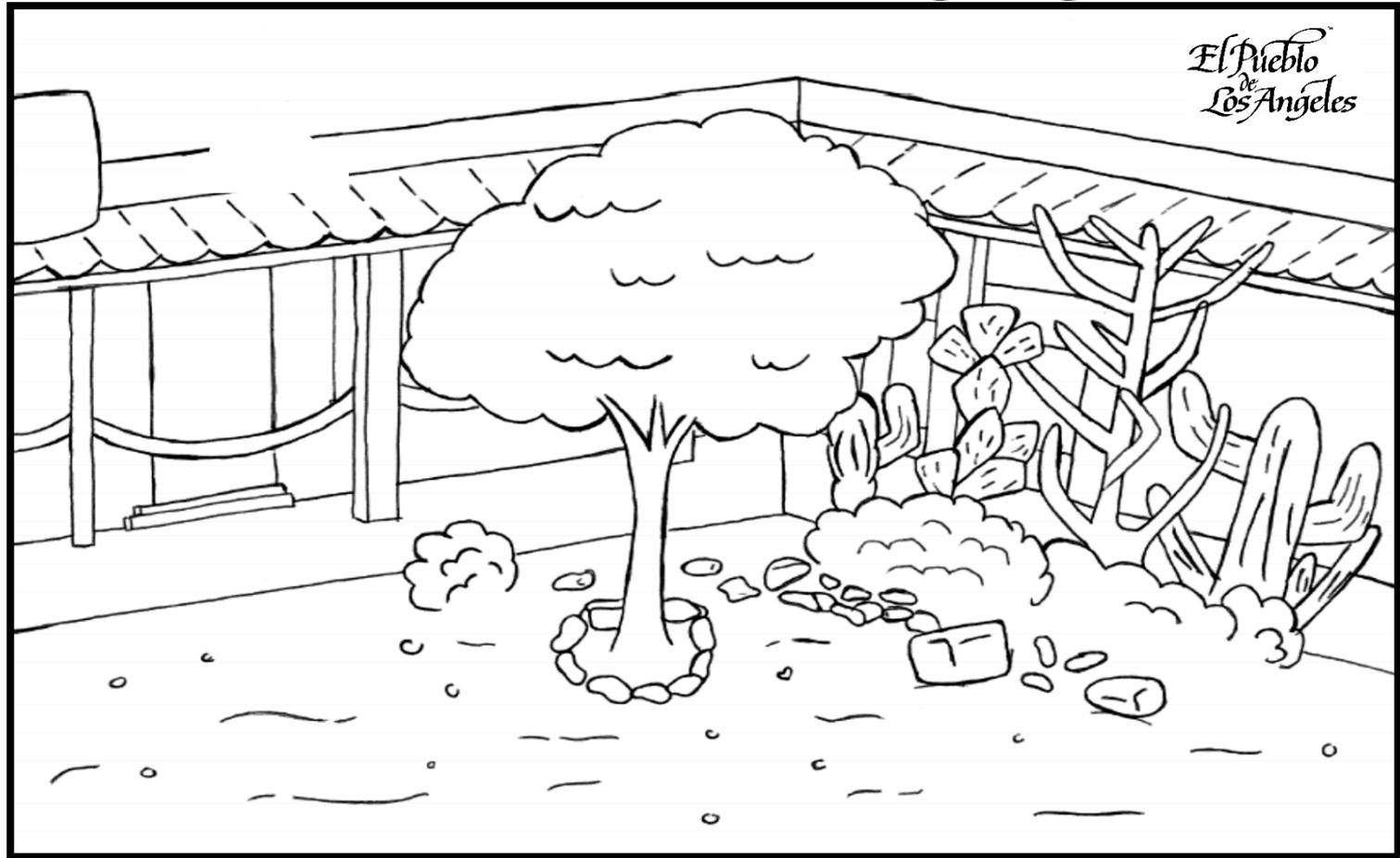
# Zanja Madre Coloring Page



**El Pueblo de Los Angeles started as a small farming town. The crops needed water to grow and that water came from the Los Angeles River. The water traveled to the pueblo through a system of ditches. The original ditch was called The Zanja Madre or “The Mother Ditch.” Built by community laborers in 1871, the Zanja Madre was made from bricks. The water it carried was used for drinking and cultivated farmland both in town and along the route to El Pueblo.**

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For any additional questions, please contact [ep.tours@lacity.org](mailto:ep.tours@lacity.org) or (213) 628-1274.*

# Avila Adobe Coloring Page



**The Avila Adobe was built in 1818 by Don Francisco Avila. The home was made of mud, straw, and water, which made adobe bricks. Don Francisco Avila moved from Sinaloa, Mexico to Los Angeles in 1794. His family lived in the house until 1868. The Avila Adobe accommodated many families and later became a boarding house, but it fell into bad shape over the years. In 1926, Christine Sterling dedicated her efforts in repairing and successfully preserving the Avila Adobe. She also created a Mexican marketplace on Olvera Street in 1930, which is still visited by many today. Now over 200 years old, the Avila Adobe is a museum. People from all over the world come to the museum to learn about life in California during the 1840s.**

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# The Merced Theater

**The Merced Theater was Los Angeles' first official theater. Before 1870 there were no buildings in Los Angeles that functioned specifically as theaters.**

**Businessman William Abbot hired Pico House architect Ezra F. Kysor to design the theater. The theater, named after Abbot's wife Merced Garcia, opened on December 30, 1870 and became the center of artistic culture in Los Angeles.**

**The theater had three floors. The first floor was used for shops, the second for performances, and the third was the family's living quarters.**

**A doorway connected the Merced Theater to the Pico House so that guests of the hotel could move from their hotel rooms to their theater seats easily.**

**Today the Merced Theater is a historic building and treasured part of El Pueblo Historical Monument.**