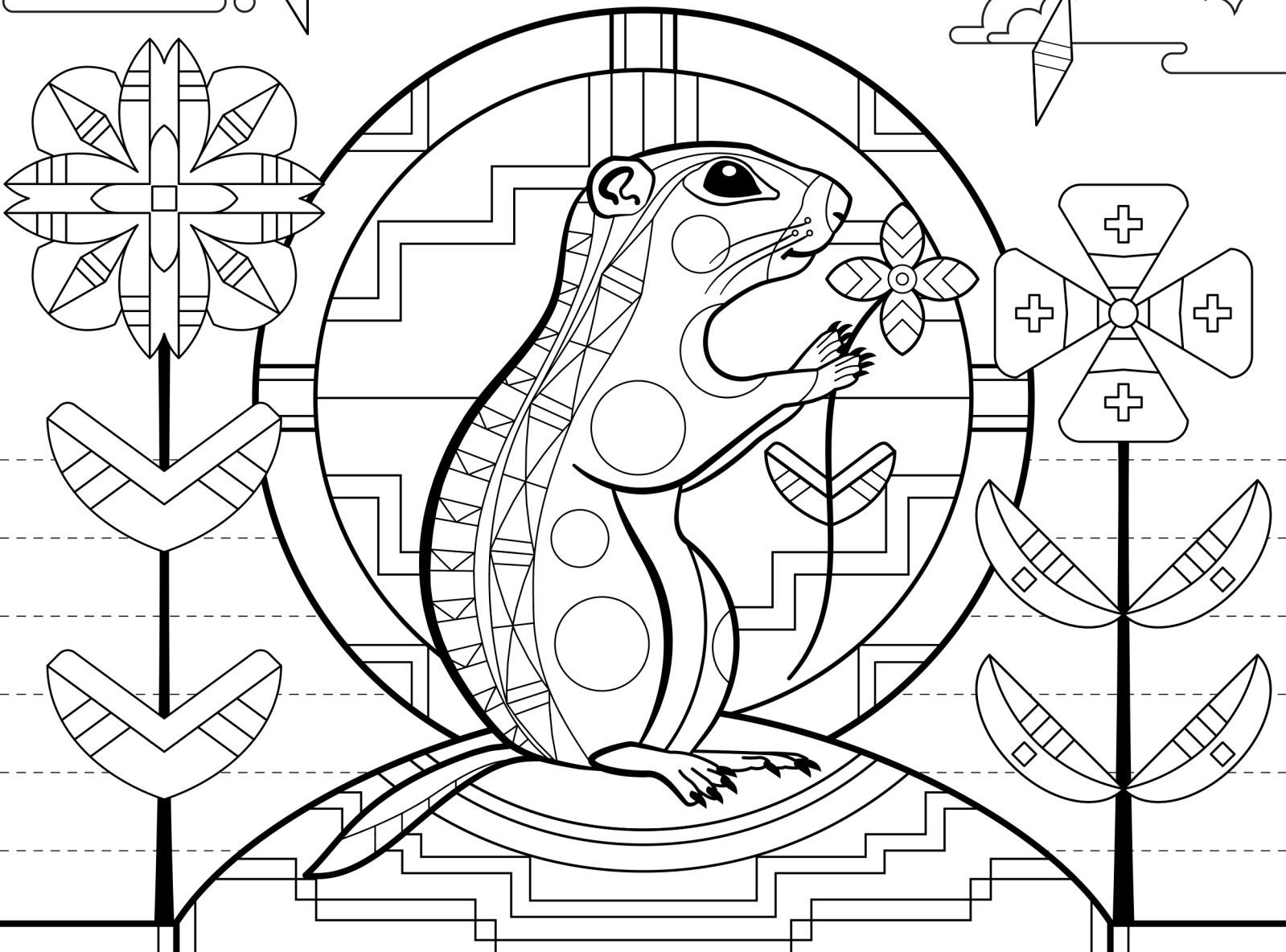


Hetkádąn

Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel



Known as the thirteen-lined ground squirrel in Mnísota, this little animal is called **Hetkádąn** in the Dakota language. With bold stripes running down their back, the **Hetkádąn** is more than just cute, they're a tireless helper of the land!

As they dig and burrow, they aerate the soil, spread seeds, and cycle nutrients, keeping Grandmother Earth healthy and strong. Even after they move out, other animals often move in: their tunnels become cozy homes in an underground network of life.

It's no wonder the University of Mnísota modeled Goldy the Gopher after this mighty little relative!