National Trails

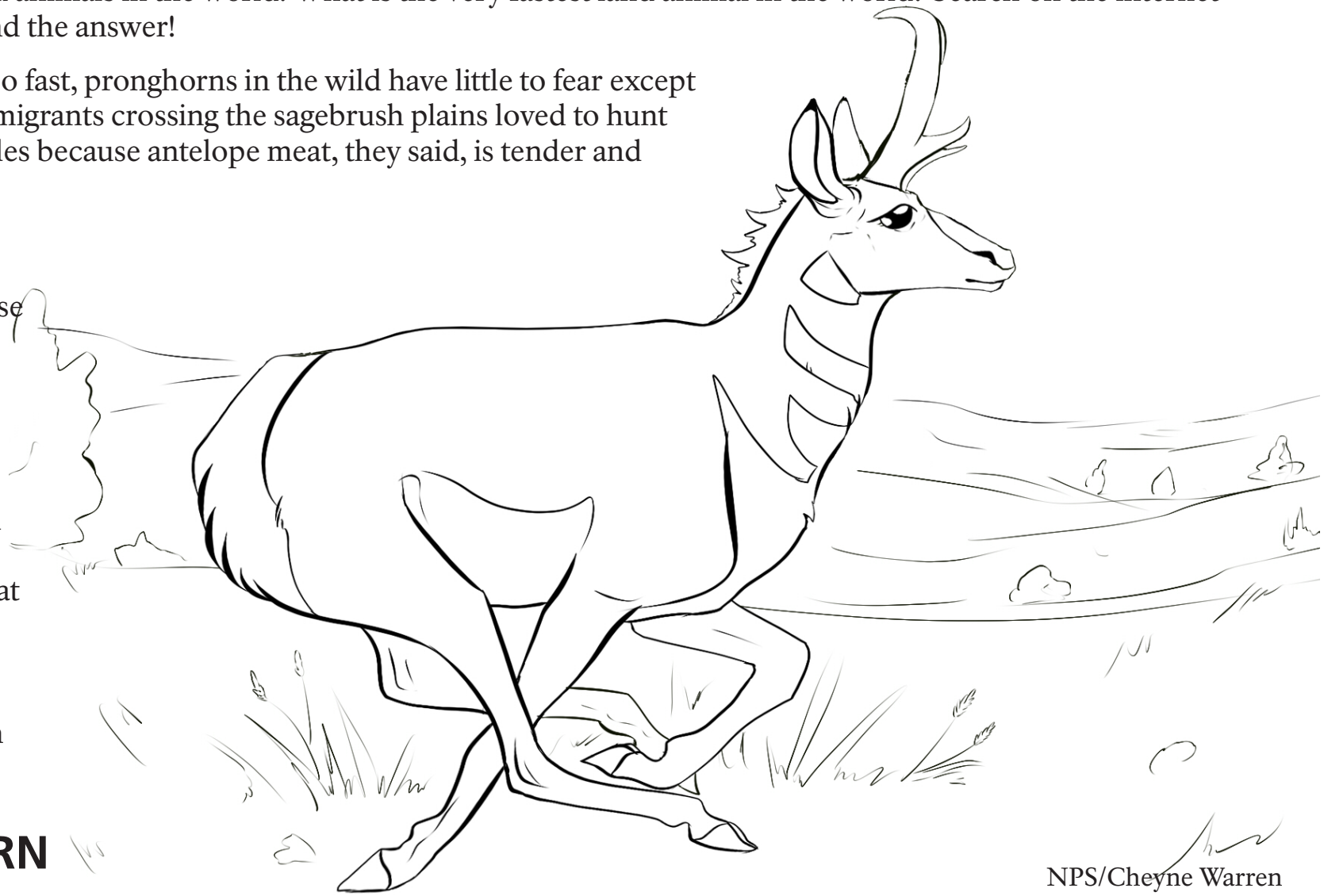
Color the Trails

The animal in this picture is a pronghorn, but most Americans know it as an antelope. It looks a bit like a deer and some covered wagon emigrants called it a prairie goat, but the pronghorn's closest living relative is the giraffe! Both buck (male) and doe (female) antelopes grow backward-curving horns. Unlike a sheep or a goat, they will shed these horns like a deer sheds its antlers. They have excellent eyesight and can run up to 60 miles per hour, making them the second-fastest land animals in the world. What is the very fastest land animal in the world? Search on the internet with an adult to find the answer!

Because they run so fast, pronghorns in the wild have little to fear except human hunters. Emigrants crossing the sagebrush plains loved to hunt them with their rifles because antelope meat, they said, is tender and delicious.

Covered wagon emigrants also loved to watch these curious animals play and run. The pronghorn in this picture is running. Its white rump bobs up and down as it runs, warning other antelopes that danger is near.

Do you think a coyote could catch this antelope?



PRONGHORN

NPS/Cheyne Warren