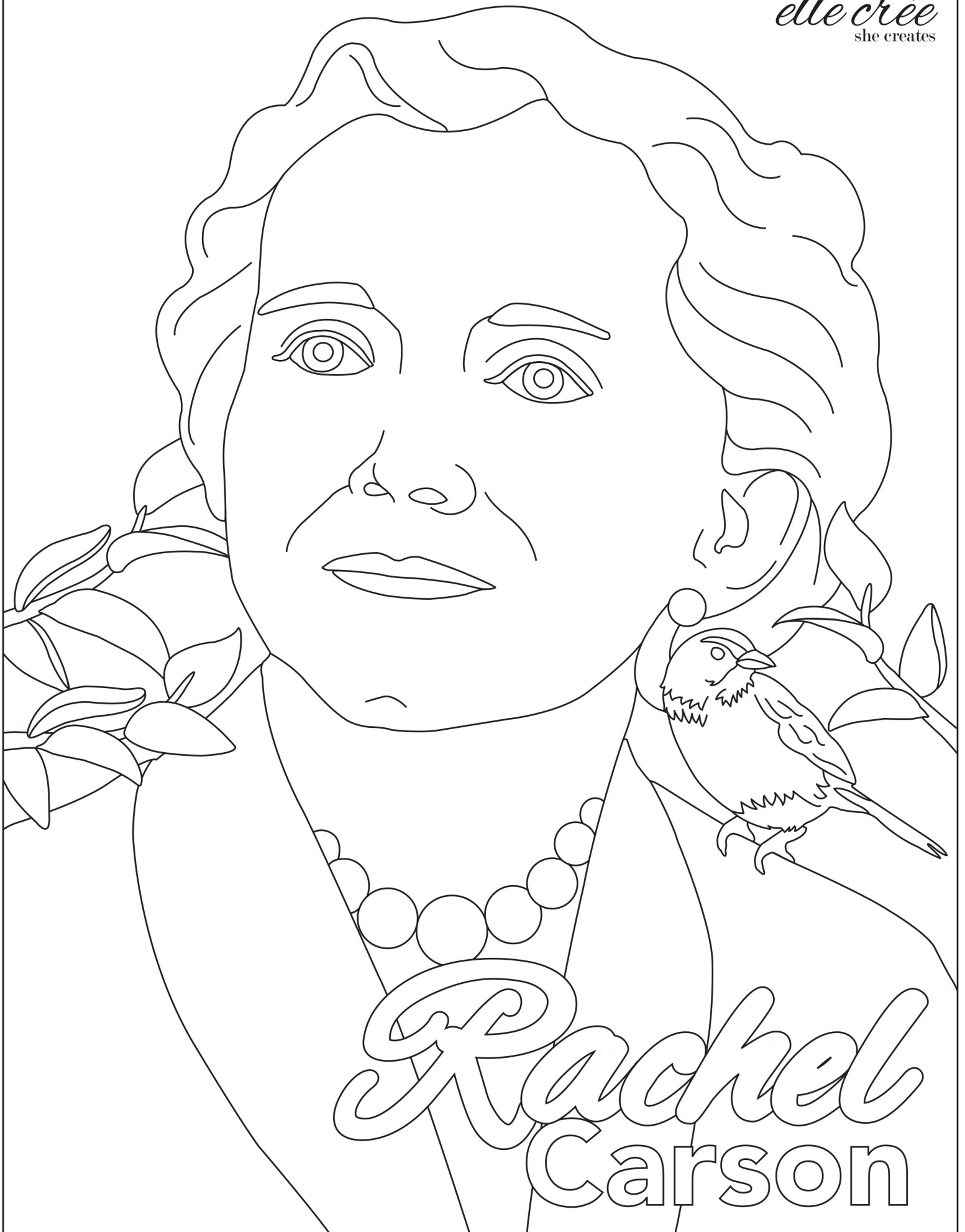


*elle crée*  
she creates



*Rachel*  
Carson

# About Rachel Carson (1907 – 1964)

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Marine biologist, Author, Conservationist

**“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”**

Rachel Carson grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania. She loved to read and write and published her first story at the age of 10 in a national children’s magazine. She graduated with a masters in Zoology before beginning a doctorate at the prestigious John Hopkins University.

Due to the Great Depression and the death of her father her studies were interrupted, and in 1935 she took a job at the US Bureau of Fisheries (which later became the US Fish and Wildlife Service) to support her family. At the Bureau she quickly became known for her compelling writing and educational radio programs about fish biology.

During her time there she published her first book, *Under the Sea Wind*, and started her second, *The Sea Around Us*, which made the NY Times Bestseller for a record-setting 86 weeks. By 1952, Rachel was able to leave the Bureau to write full time.

In the coming years, her interest turned to conservationism. By the late 1950s the federal government had begun using pesticides widely, sometimes involving aerial spraying of private land. Having recently moved to Maine, she began her own library and field research on the Atlantic coast. In 1962 she published her best known book, *The Silent Spring*, which drew attention to how the overuse of harmful pesticides - such as DDT - was effecting the bird population. Her book met initial criticism, especially from the chemical industry, but Rachel’s appearance on a televised CBS special on the issue made such an impact that pesticide use soon became a major public issue.

Rachel died from complications from cancer at age 56 a year after this program aired, but her work started a movement that resulted in the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After her death she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Carter and she came to be known as the “mother of the environmental movements”.