

**Large Scissor Skill Patterns for
Developing Fine Motor Skills!**

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**Look for All of Our
Little Kids... Books
at your local educational retailer!**

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Safety Warning! The activities and patterns in this book are appropriate for children ages 3 to 6 years old. It is important that children only use materials and products labeled child-safe and non-toxic. Remember that young children should always be supervised by a competent adult and youngsters must never be allowed to put small objects or art materials in their mouths. Please consult the manufacturer's safety warnings on all materials and equipment used with young children.

Little Kids... Books!

Welcome to the wonderful world of preschoolers where play is learning and learning is fun!



With these *Little Kids...Books!*, teachers can provide easy patterns and projects that will help young children obtain the necessary skills needed for their development. The simple activities of cutting, tracing, coloring and pasting provide a variety of cognitive learning skills that will help prepare preschoolers for reading and writing. These important developmental skills consist of:

Fine Motor Skills

finger-wrist dexterity, arm-hand movement, eye-hand coordination

Perceptual Motor Skills

identification, color and shape recognition, matching and location, spatial relationships

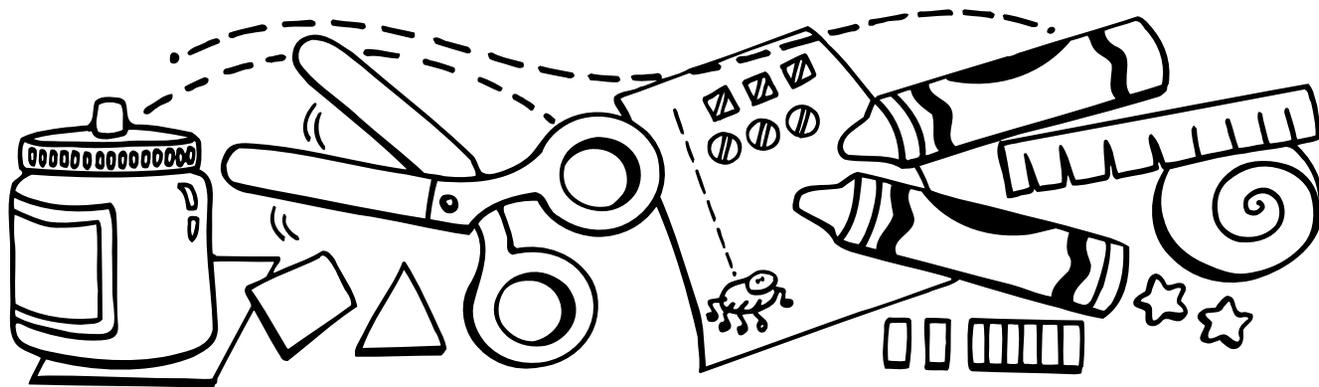
Expressive and Receptive Language Skills

listening, speaking, questioning, relating words and pictures, imitation, utilization, recognition and discrimination, visual perception and discrimination

Social and Emotional Skills

creativity and imagination, pride in accomplishments, self-reliance, self-control, self-confidence

The early years of schooling helps determine how a child will learn for a life-time. During this period, children develop a sense of self and decide whether school is a burden or a joy. We hope these books assist you in your goal to provide each child with a fulfilling and fun learning experience!



Introduction

Little Kids...Cut!

Most three and four year olds can begin to learn the skill of cutting. Very young children may need to practice paper tearing and pasting or gluing first. Here are some helpful ideas that will assist you in the progressive steps in helping students develop the fine motor skills of cutting.

TEARING AND PASTING/GLUING PAPER - Very young children may need to first practice these simple skills:

Reciprocal Tearing - Hands pull the paper away from the middle to tear.

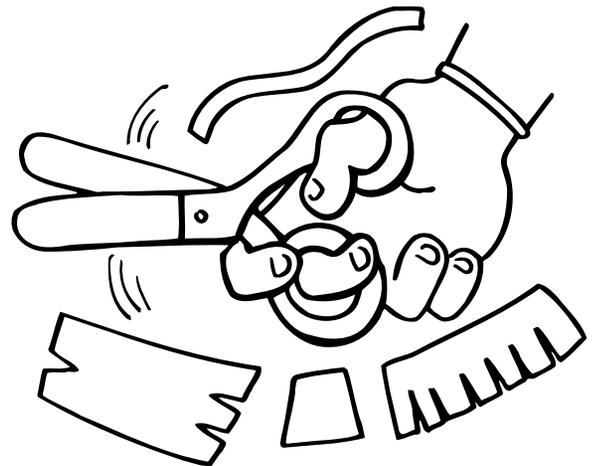
Bilateral Tearing - One hand pulls the paper away from the body while the second hand pulls toward the body.

Pasting/Gluing - Children take torn or cut pieces of paper and paste or glue them to a larger piece of paper.

CHOOSING THE SCISSORS - Do not use scissors of poor quality or with sharp points with preschoolers. Five-inch, blunt nose scissors are best for beginners. Test the blades for tightness and ease of use. Make sure you provide both right-handed and left-handed versions.

SCISSOR SAFETY - Teach children how to safely walk with a pair of scissors and how to hand them to someone else. (The hand should make a fist around the closed blades of the scissors, handles up.) Instruct children to never point, wave or misuse the scissors.

FINGER PLACEMENT - Show students how the thumb goes in one handle hole and the middle finger goes in the other. The index finger rests under the second handle to provide balance and strength. One hand provides the open/close movement of the scissors while the other hand holds the paper. Some children may want to turn their hand awkwardly making it difficult to cut. Tell the children that the thumb is up or, "Thumbs up!" when it comes to using scissors.



FIRST TIME CUTTING - Cut several 6" X 1" strips and have children make several cuts anyway they choose. If necessary, correct each child's finger placement and motion. Give plenty of praise and encouragement.

PATTERNS FOUND IN THIS BOOK:

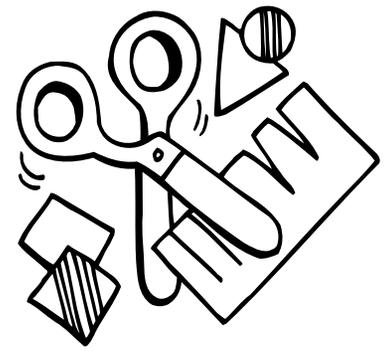
Many of the patterns found in this book have been designed so that the bold, black cutting lines extend to the edges of the page. This has been done so that children will know where to begin cutting. When making copies of these patterns, you may want to enlarge each page 105% so that the lines will still extend to the the edge of the paper.

Begin teaching children to cut using the snip strips first, then continue with the other exercise patterns as outlined on the next page. Children will soon be able to cut the simple craft patterns that can then be used to create fun projects. As you introduce each scissor skill or craft pattern, make several copies of the patterns and place them in your classroom's arts and crafts center. More complex patterns are located toward the back of the book

The craft patterns can be copied onto white paper and the children can color the patterns before cutting them out. The patterns can also be used to make templates from tag board or posterboard. The children can then trace the patterns onto colored paper before cutting them out. It is best to use heavy, solid colored, construction paper and/or index paper.

How to Use This Book!

Copy the patterns onto heavy, colorful paper. The teacher may need to cut some of the pattern pages apart before children attempt to cut. Patterns can be used by both right and left handed children. Instruct students to look for the ✂ to know where to begin cutting. Have the children place their cut pieces in resealable plastic bags to take home. As the children accomplish the more advanced cutting techniques, have them paste the cut out shapes to a large sheet of construction paper. These pages can be displayed on the board as a colorful, creative testament to the children's cutting ability.



ONE SNIP STRIPS - Start by giving each child a one snip strip. Instruct him or her to cut (or snip) across the strip in one motion following the solid black lines. Encourage the child to cut along each of the cutting lines on the strip. As children master this cutting method have them proceed to cut two and three snip strips.

TWO AND THREE SNIPS STRIPS - The two and three snip strips are wide enough to require small hands to make two or three motions when cutting across the strip. Have them master the straight cutting strip first before introducing the curve and angle snip strips. Cutting along curves requires the child to use his/her other hand to move the paper in relationship to the cutting movement. Cutting angles require children to stop cutting and change direction. Both of these movements are more advanced and will require more patience and persistence.

Remember to tell students that they need to turn the paper not the scissors when cutting anything other than a straight line.

STRAIGHT LINES - These practice pages require multiple motions to cut across the page. Have students practice cutting both solid and dotted lines.

ZIGZAG LINES - Show children how to cut along these angled lines by stopping and changing direction.

FRINGE STRIPS - Cut out the fringe strips and instruct the children to cut along the solid black lines. Make sure you instruct them to stop cutting where each line ends. Show the children how the fringe can be folded or bent and used in different craft projects.

SQUARES AND TRIANGLES - Using the same start/change direction method, instruct children to follow the ✂ symbol and cut out the squares and triangles

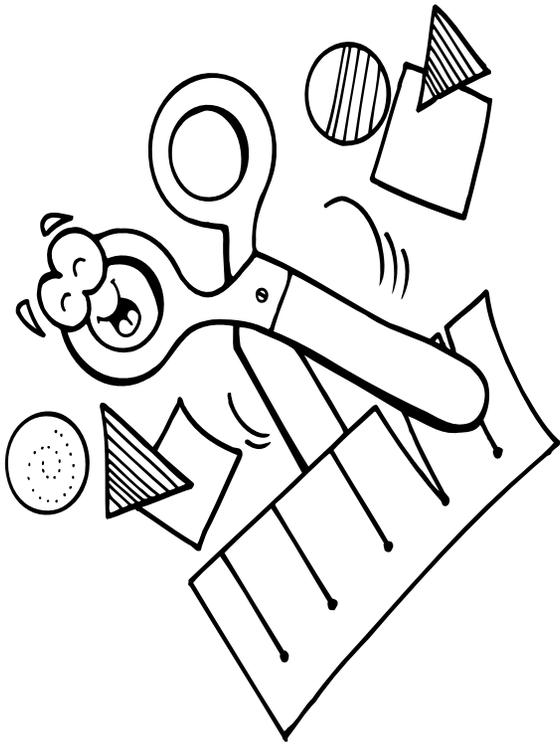
CURVED LINES - Have each child practice turning the paper with one hand while he or she cuts with the other hand using multiple cutting motions.

SCALLOP LINES - Cutting scallops or waves requires children to turn the paper while they cut, stop at a given point and change direction.

CIRCLES AND SPIRALS - Show children how they can cut out a circle or a spiral by simply rotating the paper as they cut. Stretch the spiral out to show children how it bounces.

START, STOP AND FOLD - Instruct each child how to cut, change direction and stop using this pattern page. Show them how the cut patterns can be folded back to create a flap. (This method can be used to create doors and windows in craft projects.)

CRAFT PATTERNS - These simple cutting patterns give children practice using their newly acquired cutting techniques. It will also give them the opportunity to create their own cute crafts to take home. In most cases, have the children glue their cut-out crafts to larger colored paper. The children can then decorate it anyway you choose. In some cases, you may have them use crayons, paints, tissue paper, dried beans, macaroni, glitter, etc. Most of the craft patterns have seasonal or holiday themes, however many of the patterns can be used anytime through the year.



I
can

Name

Teacher

Date



I know
Scissor
Safety!

Name

Teacher

Date

Group _____



Names

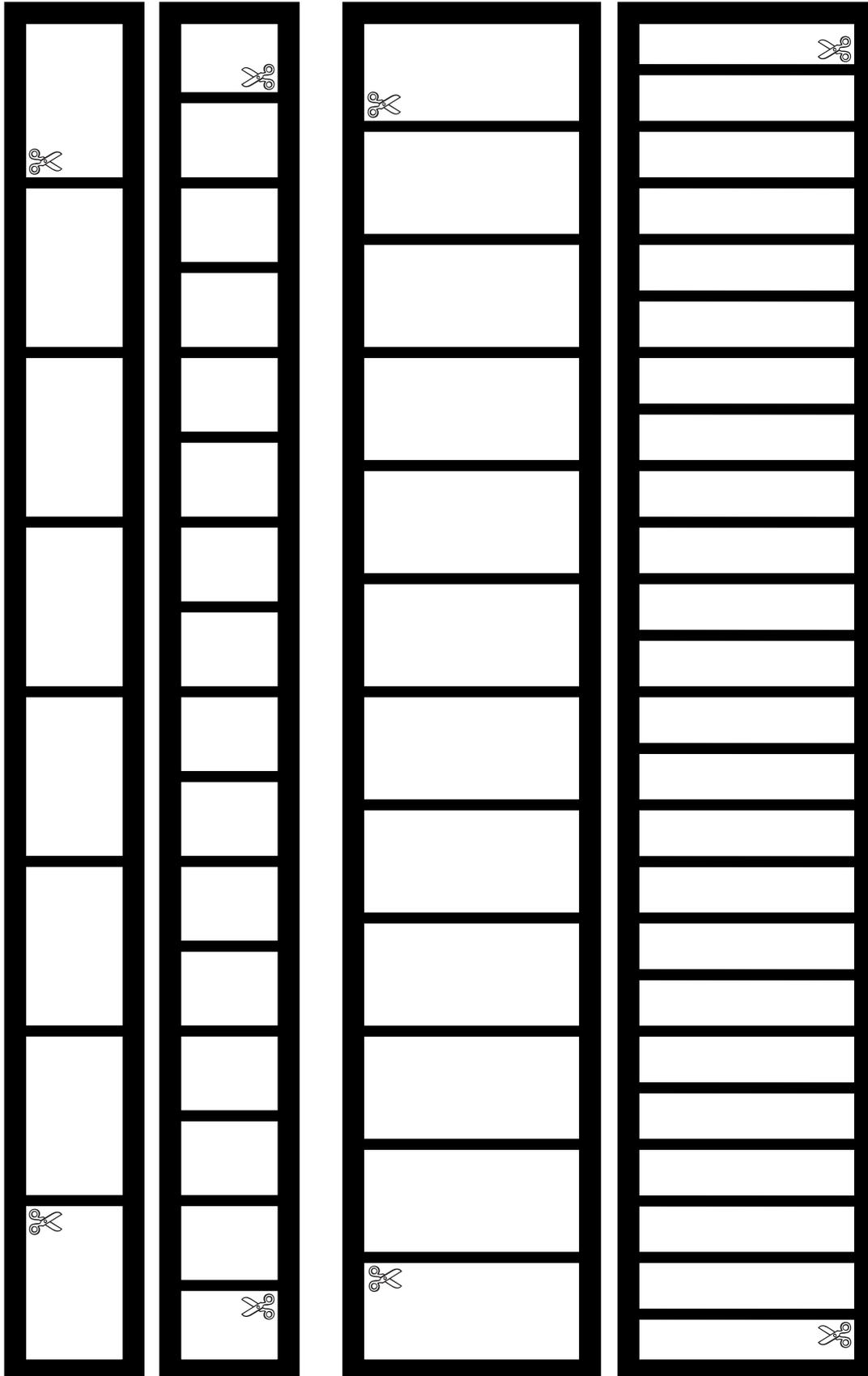
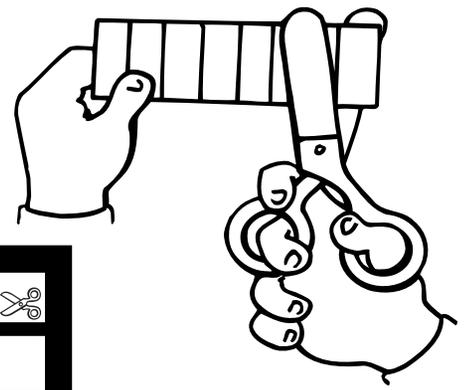
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**Scissor Skills
Check List!**

Tear Paper (Reciprocal Tearing)																				
Tear Paper (Bilateral Tearing)																				
Scissor Safety																				
Finger Placement																				
One Snip Strips																				
Two Snip Strips																				
Three Snip Strips																				
Fringe Strips																				
Straight Lines																				
Zigzag Lines																				
Squares & Triangles																				
Curved Lines																				
Scallop Lines																				
Circles & Spirals																				
Start, Stop & Fold																				
Pasting & Gluing																				

One Snip Strips

Two Snip Strips



- Copy these snip strips onto brightly colored paper and cut them apart before giving them to the children.

- Introduce the one snip strips (one motion) first.

- Show each child how to hold the scissors in one hand and the snip strip in the other.

- Instruct each child how to cut along each solid black line in one motion.

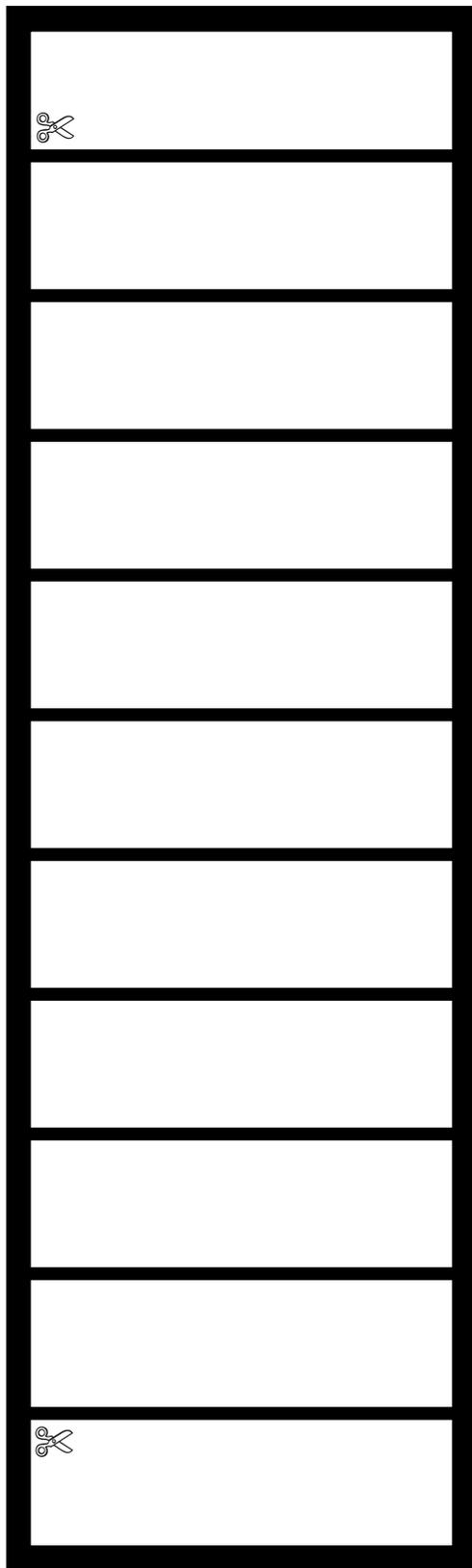
- Have each child collect the small pieces and paste them onto a large sheet of colored paper. Or, place the pieces in a reclosable plastic bag for the child to take home.

- When one snip strips are mastered, instruct each child to cut the two snips strips using two motions with the scissors.

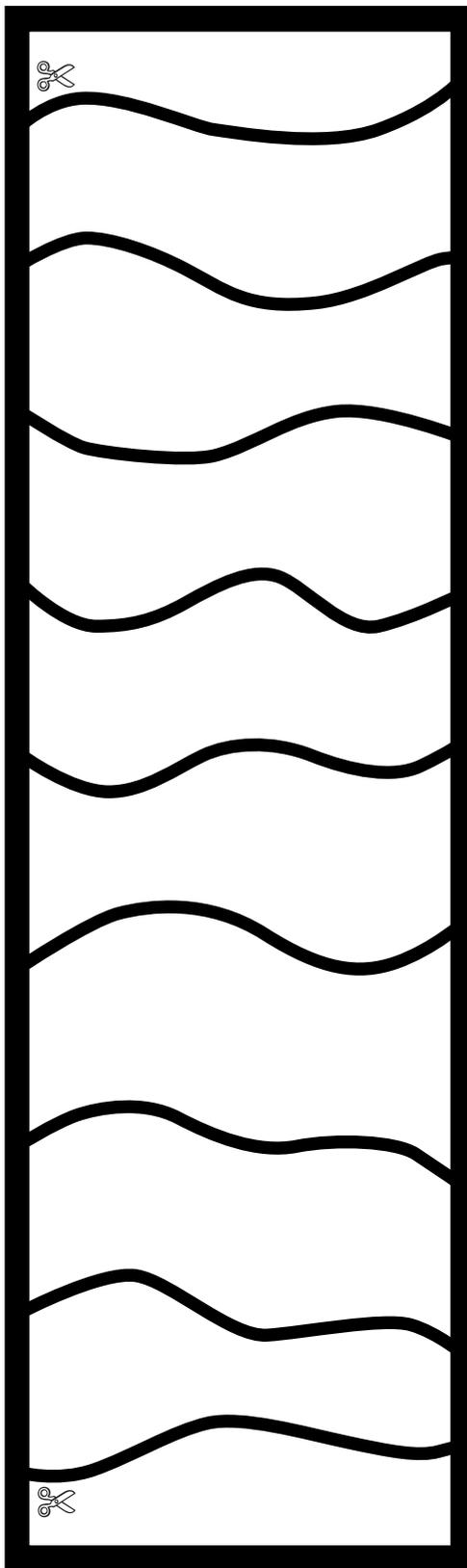
Three Snip Strips

- Cut these snip strips from brightly colored paper.
- Introduce the straight line snip strip first before proceeding with the curves and angles.
- Show students how to turn the paper, not the scissors, when cutting anything other than a straight line.
- Instruct each child how to cut along each solid black line in three or more motions.

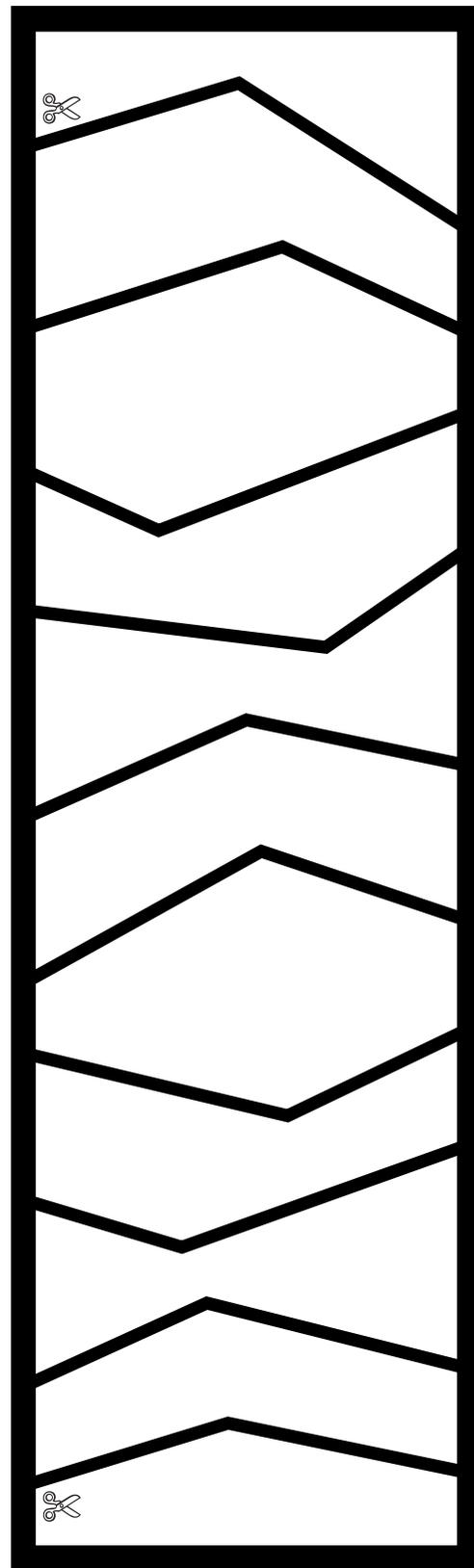
Straight Lines



Curved Lines



Angled Lines



Straight Lines (Multiple Motions)

- Instruct each child how to cut these straight lines using multiple cutting motions.
- Have the children practice cutting both solid and dotted lines.

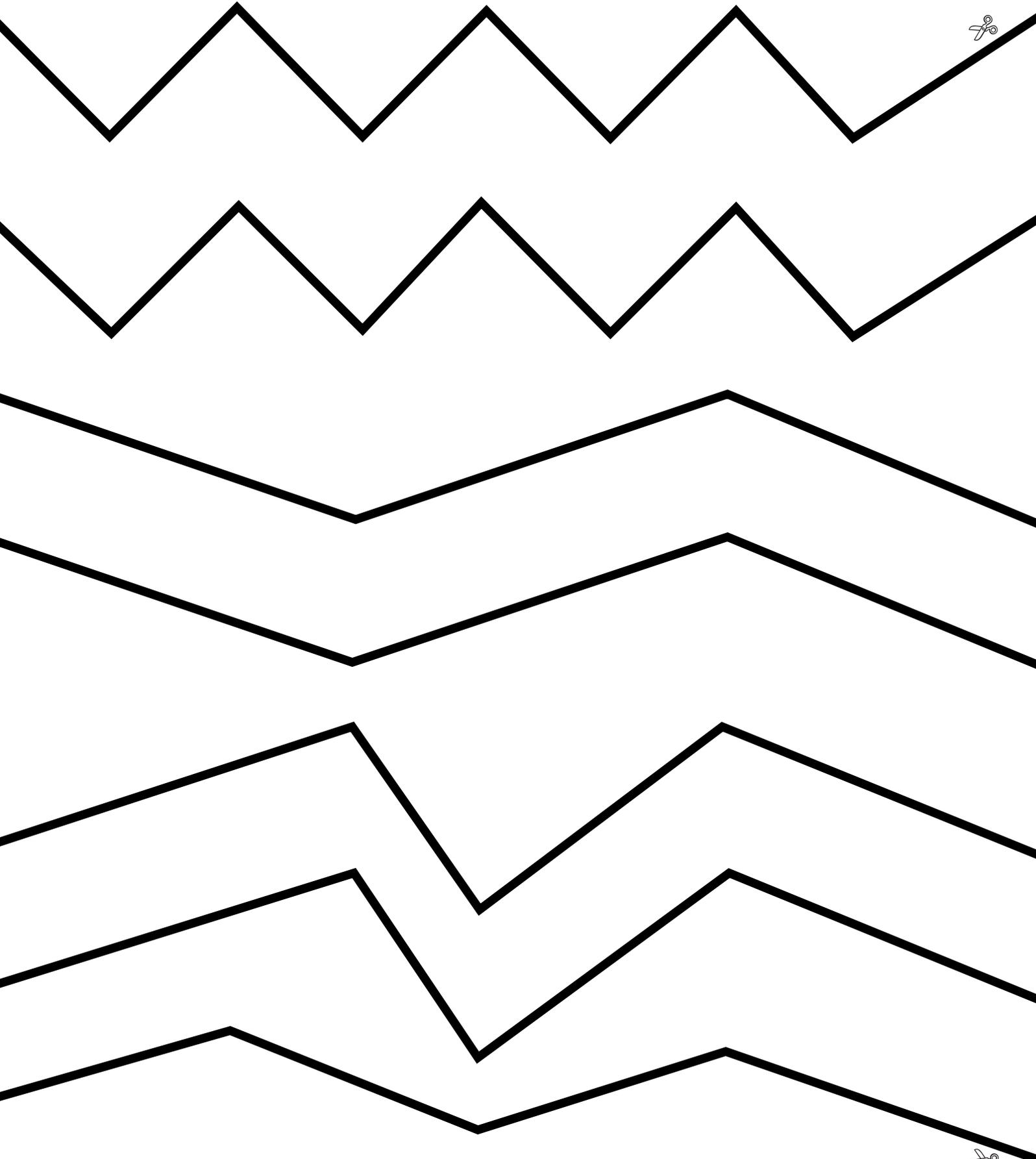


A series of horizontal lines for cutting practice. The first five lines are solid black lines. The next four lines are dashed black lines. The lines are spaced evenly down the page.



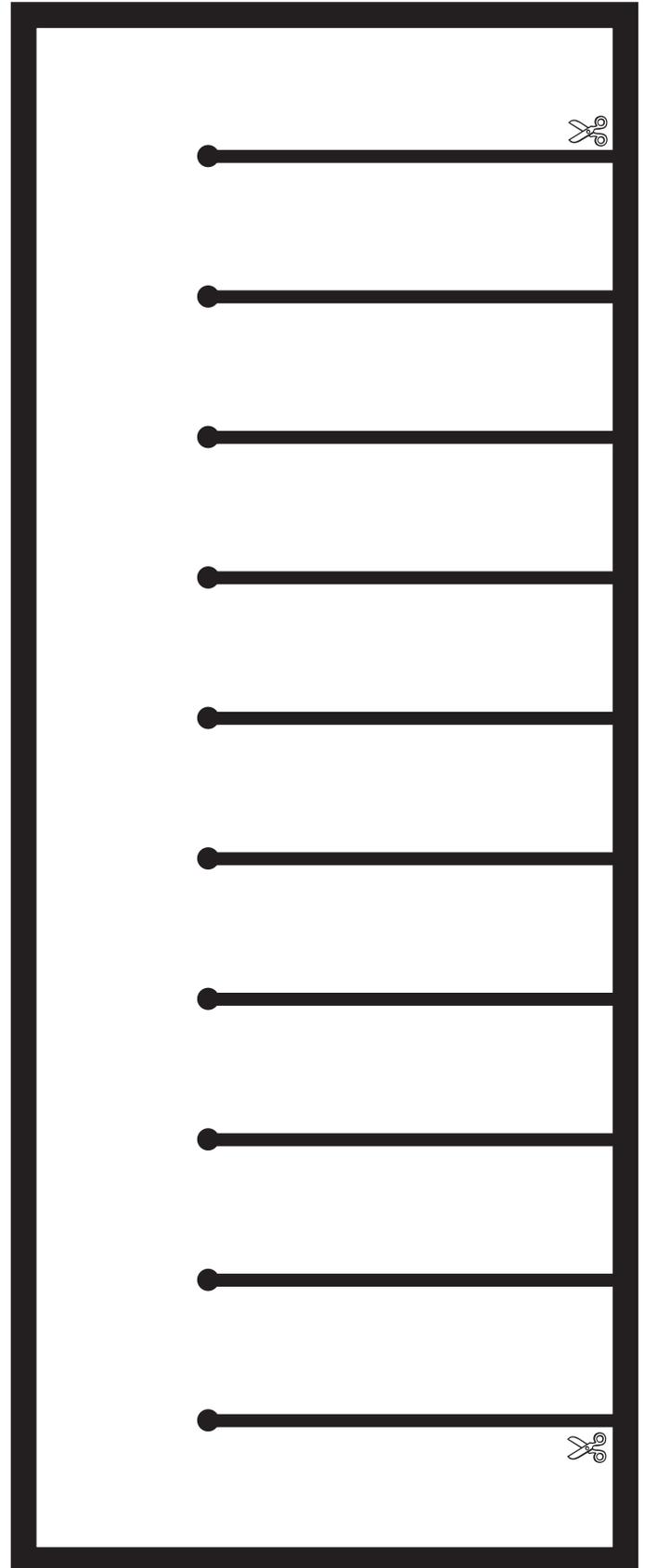
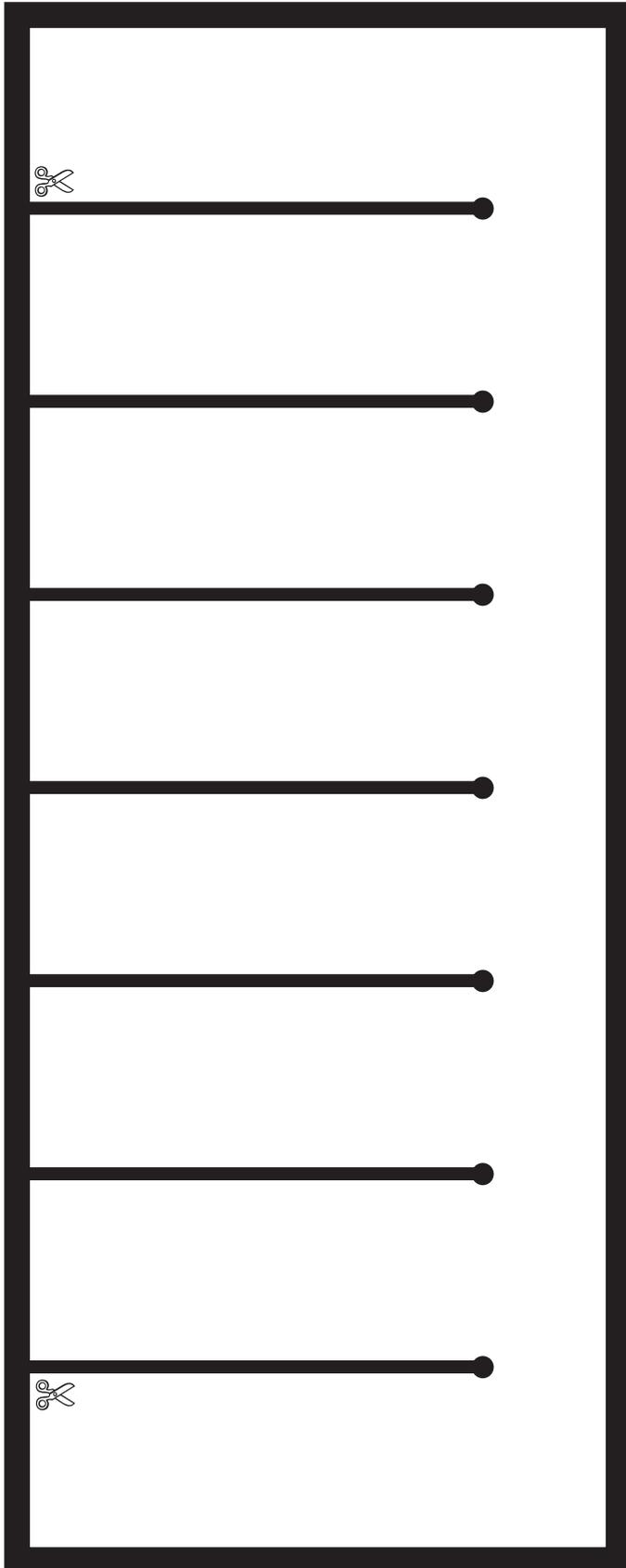
Zigzags

- Show the children how to cut along these angled lines by stopping the cut and changing direction. Encourage them to turn the paper with one hand while they cut with the other.



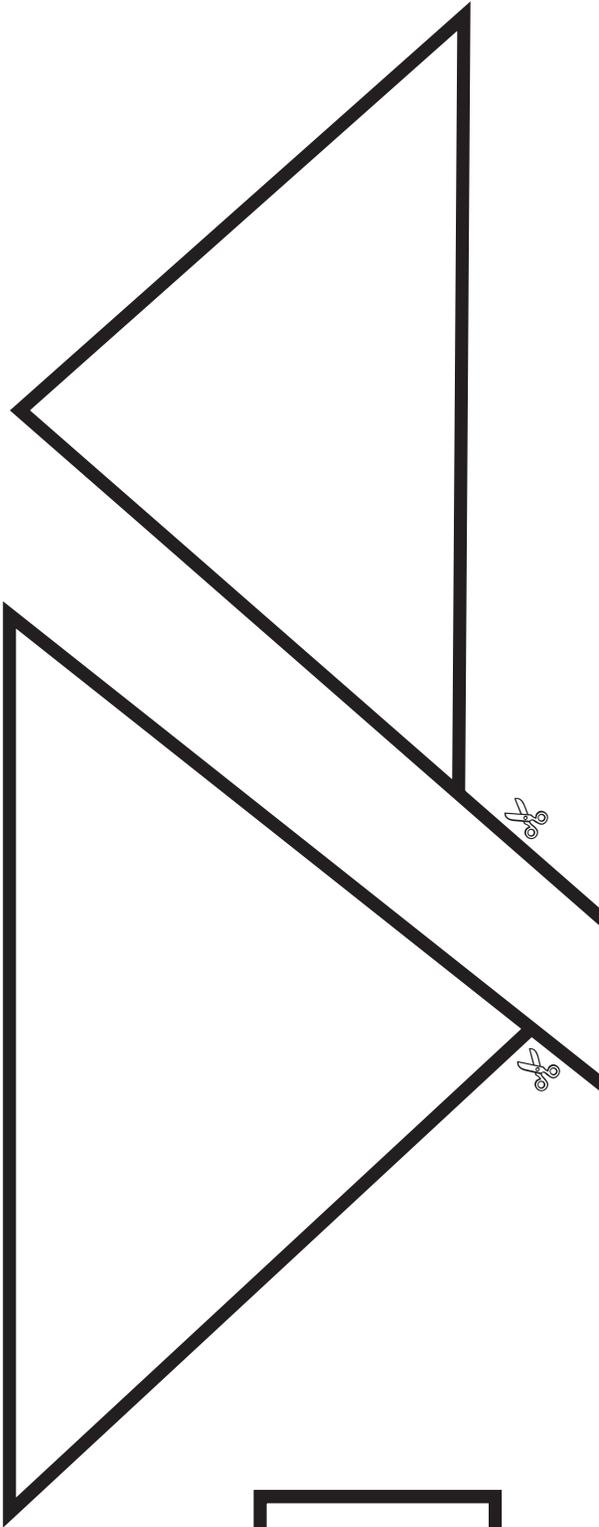
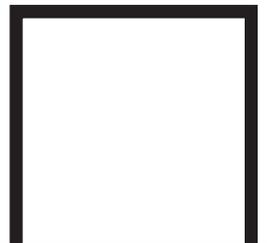
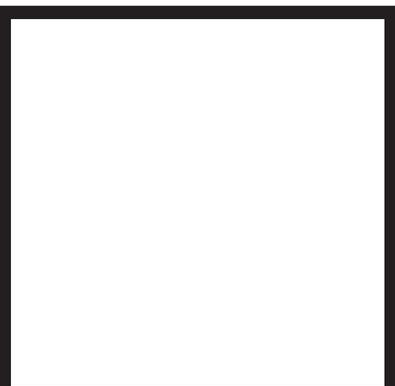
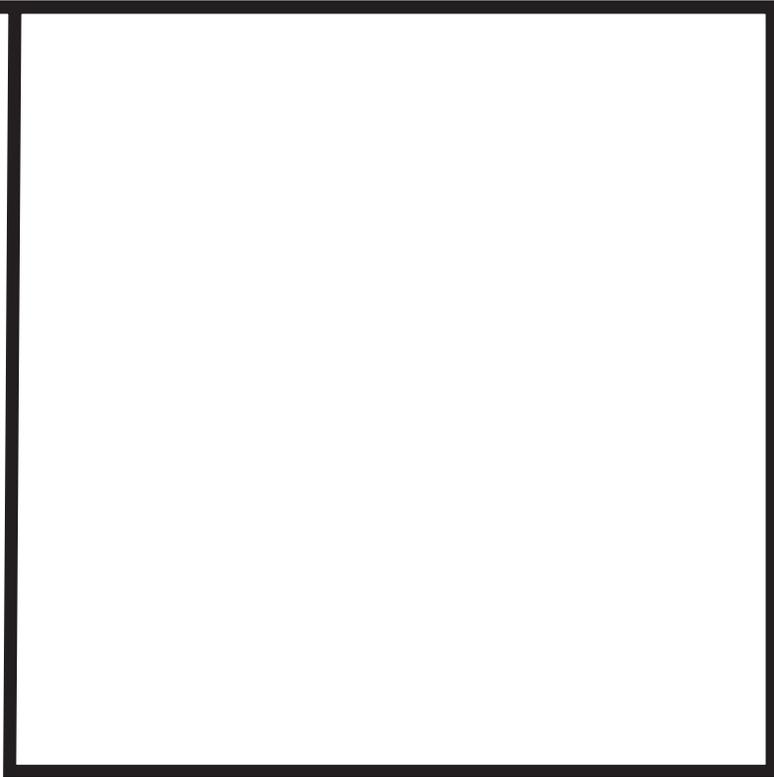
Fringe Strips

- Cut the fringe strips apart before giving them to the children.
- Instruct the children how to cut along the black lines and stop where each line ends.
Tell them to, "Stop at the dot."
- Show the children how to bend, fold, or curl the fringe for a craft project.



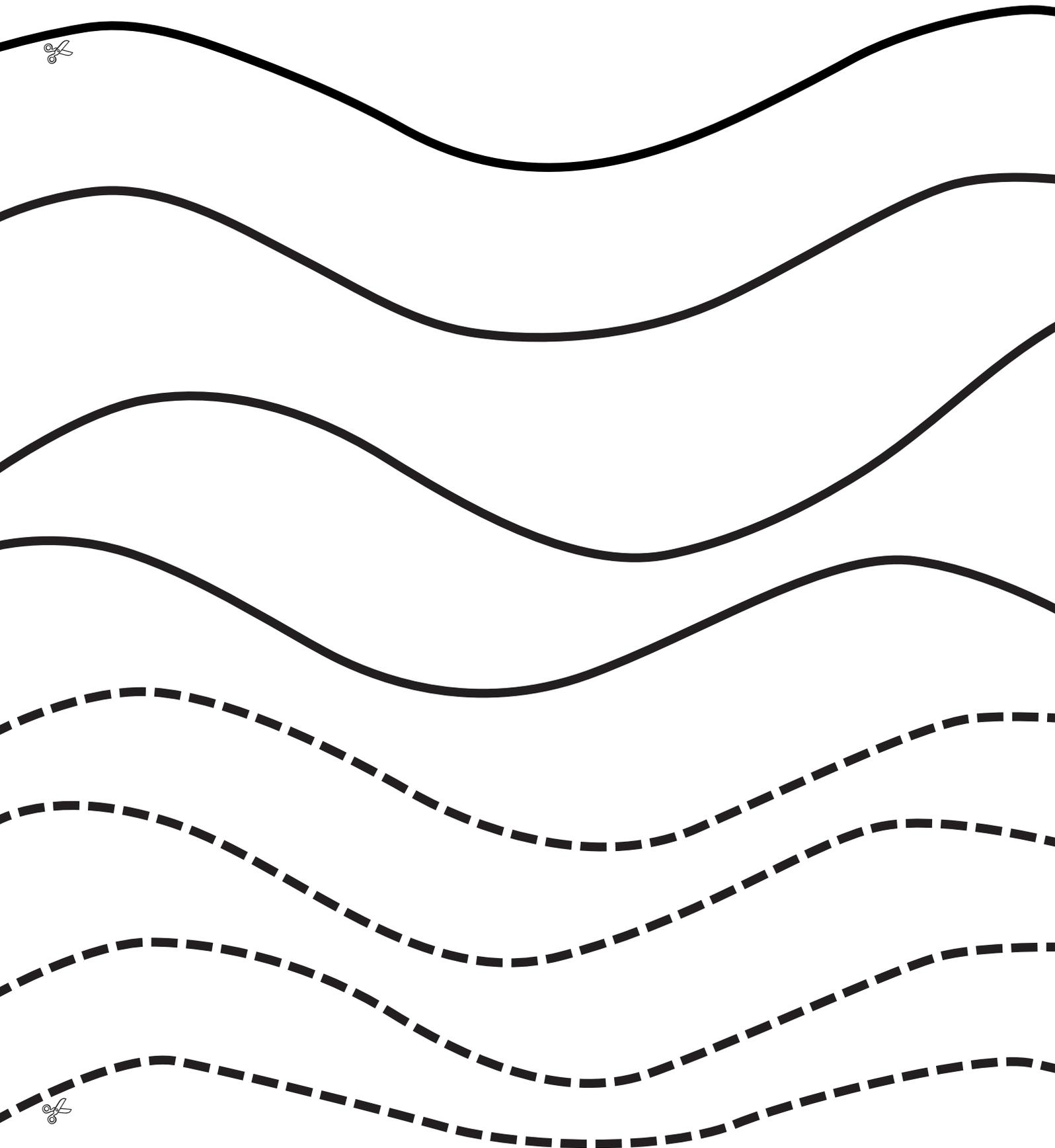
Squares & Triangles

- Cut the shapes out starting at the ✂ symbol.



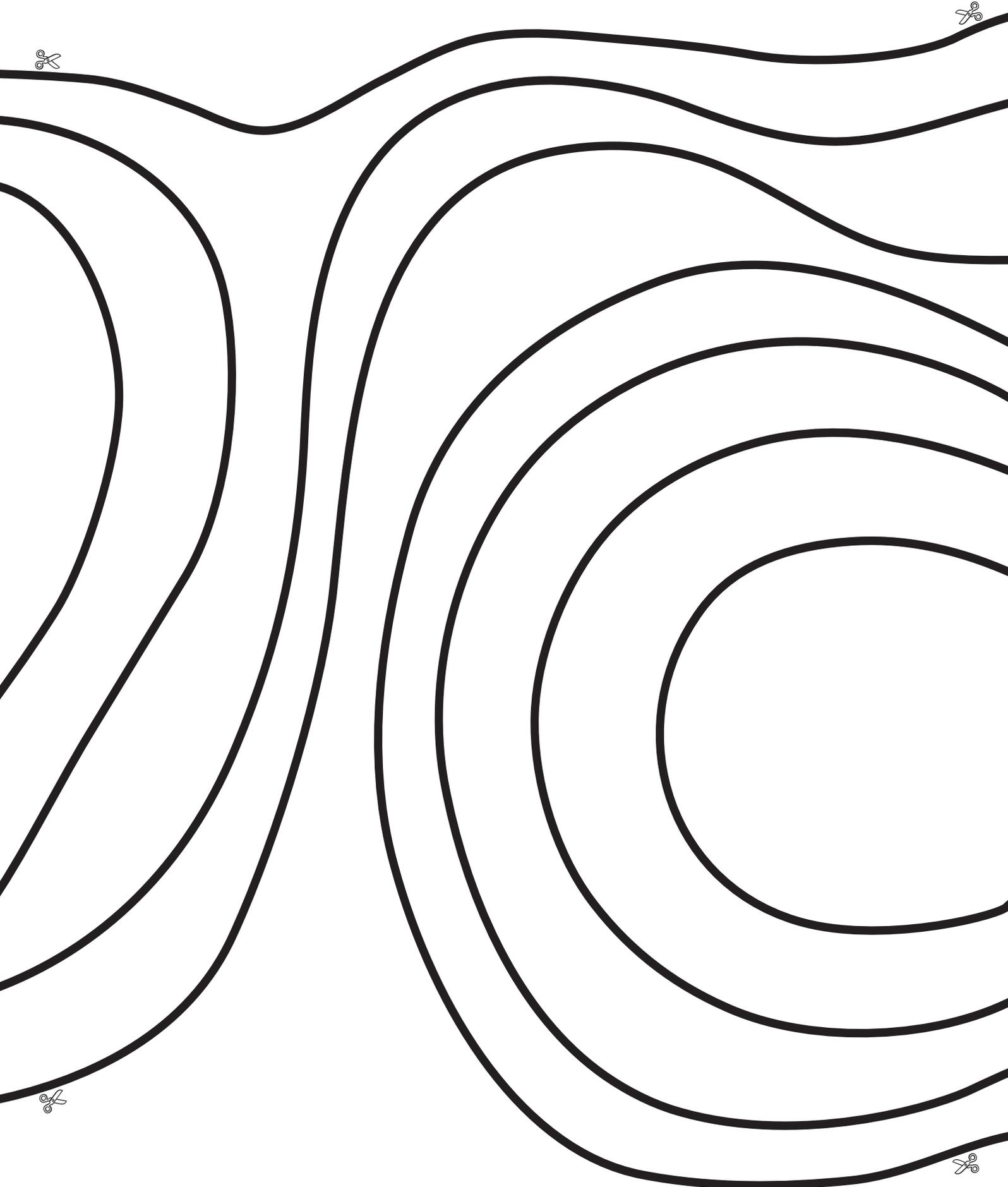
Curved Lines (Multiple Motions)

- Instruct the children how to cut these curved lines using multiple cutting motions. Show them how to turn the paper with one hand while cutting with the other.
- Have the children practice cutting both solid and dotted curved lines.



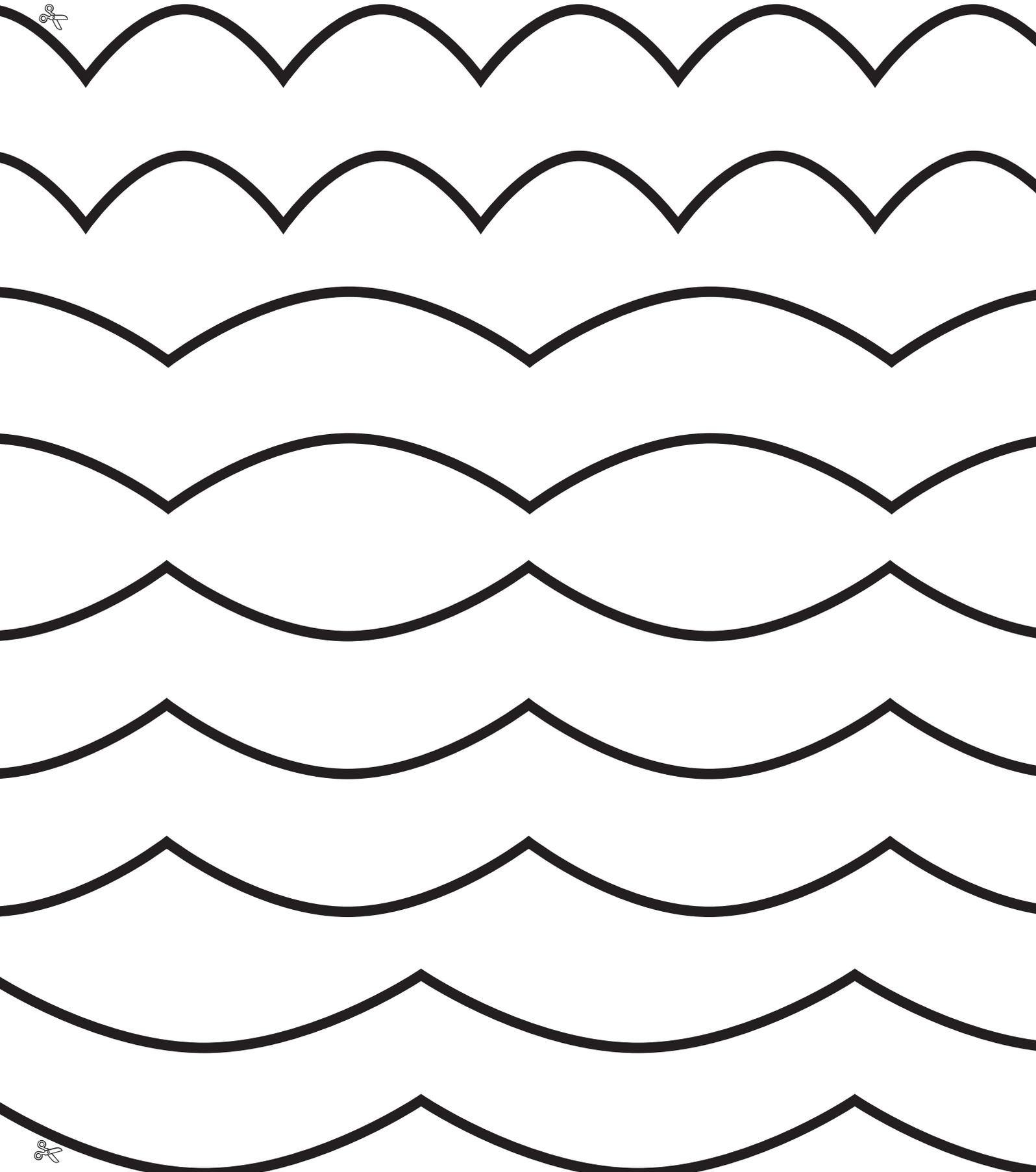
Curved Lines

- Cut along these curved lines. Rotate the paper as you cut.



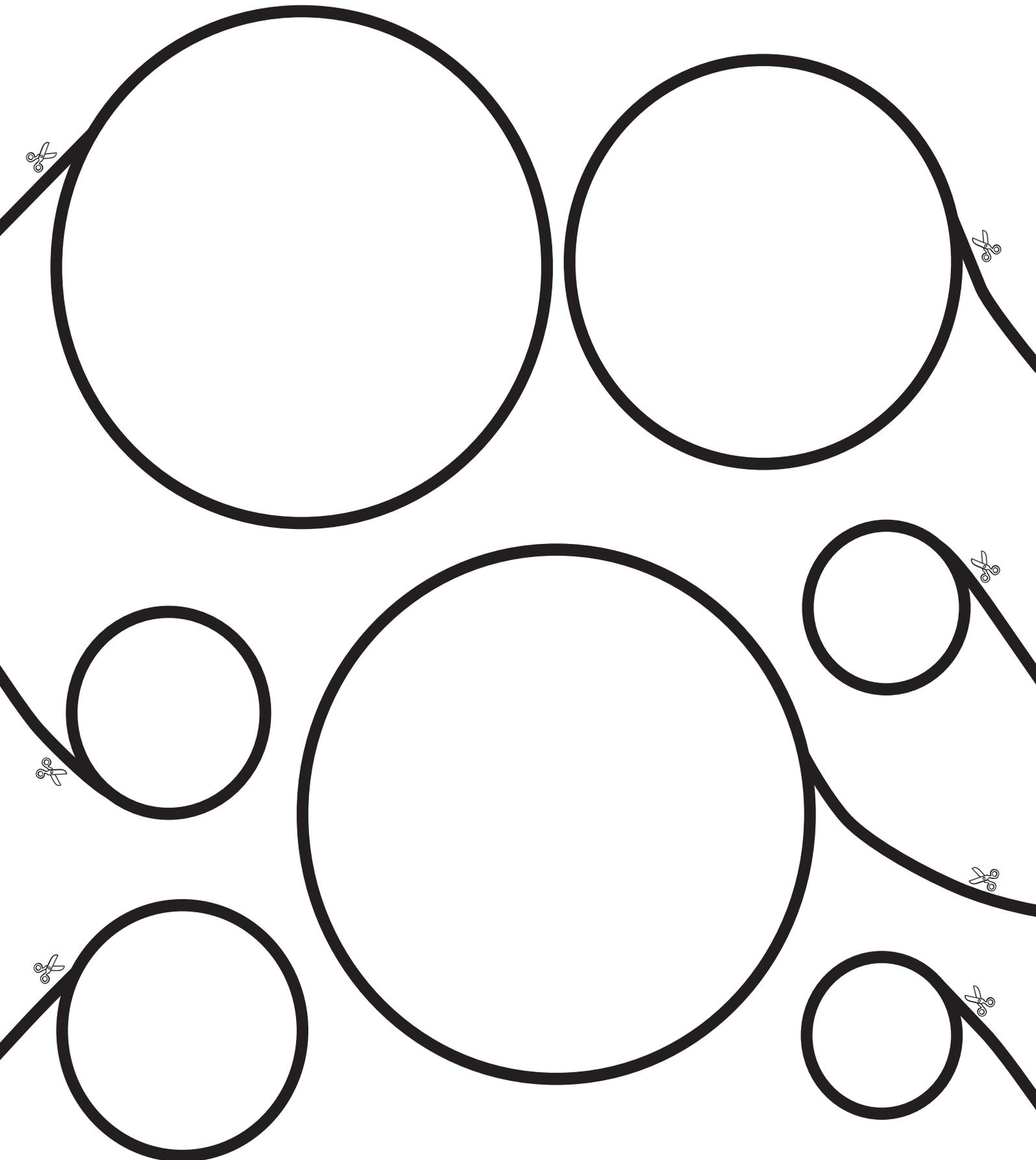
Scallops/ Waves

- Show children how to cut along these scalloped lines by stopping the cut and changing direction. Encourage them to turn the paper with one hand while they cut with the other.



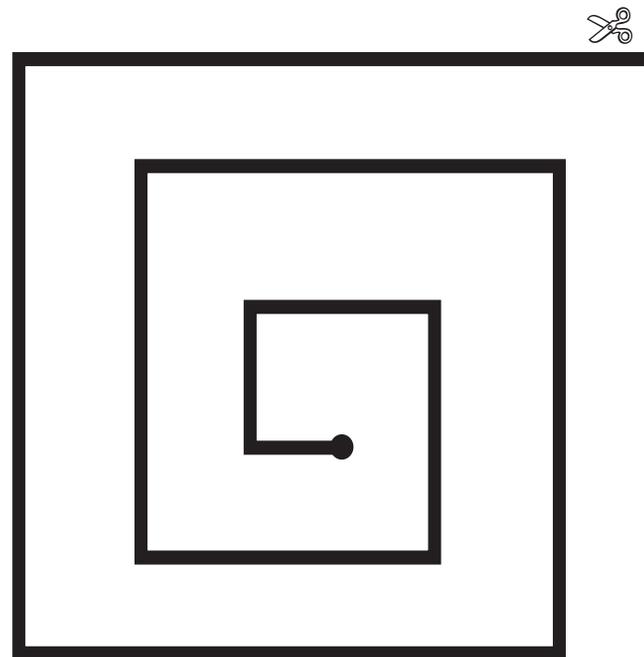
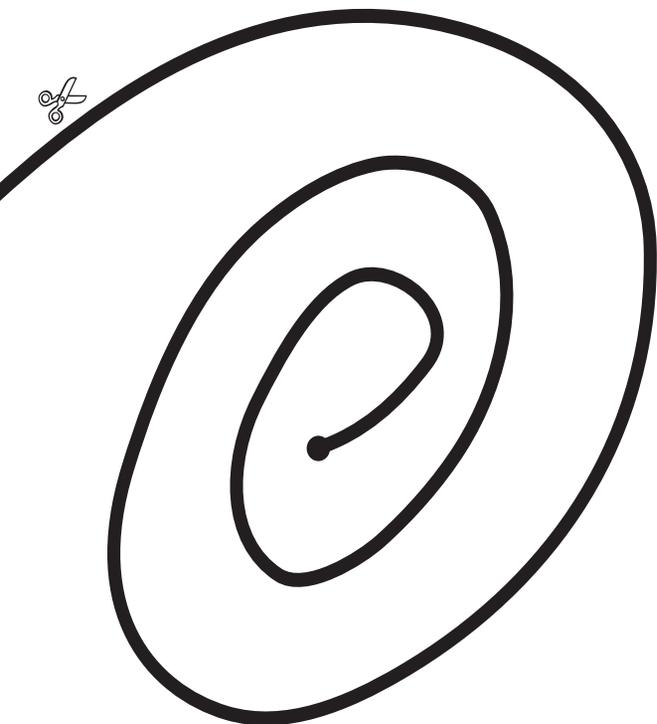
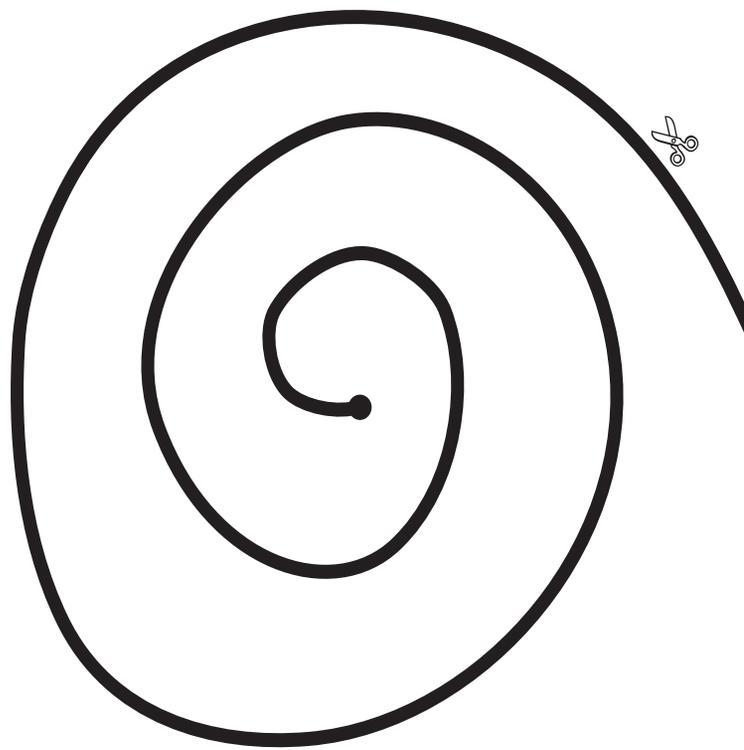
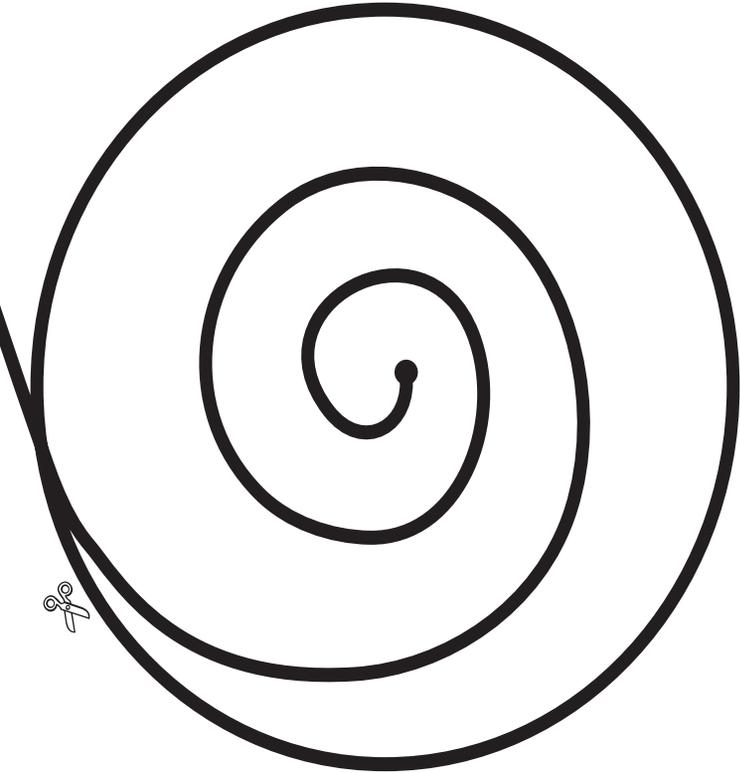
Circles

- Show children how to cut out the circles by rotating the paper as they cut.
- Left-handed children may find it easier to cut an object from the left side rather than from the right. Have them try cutting both ways.



Spirals

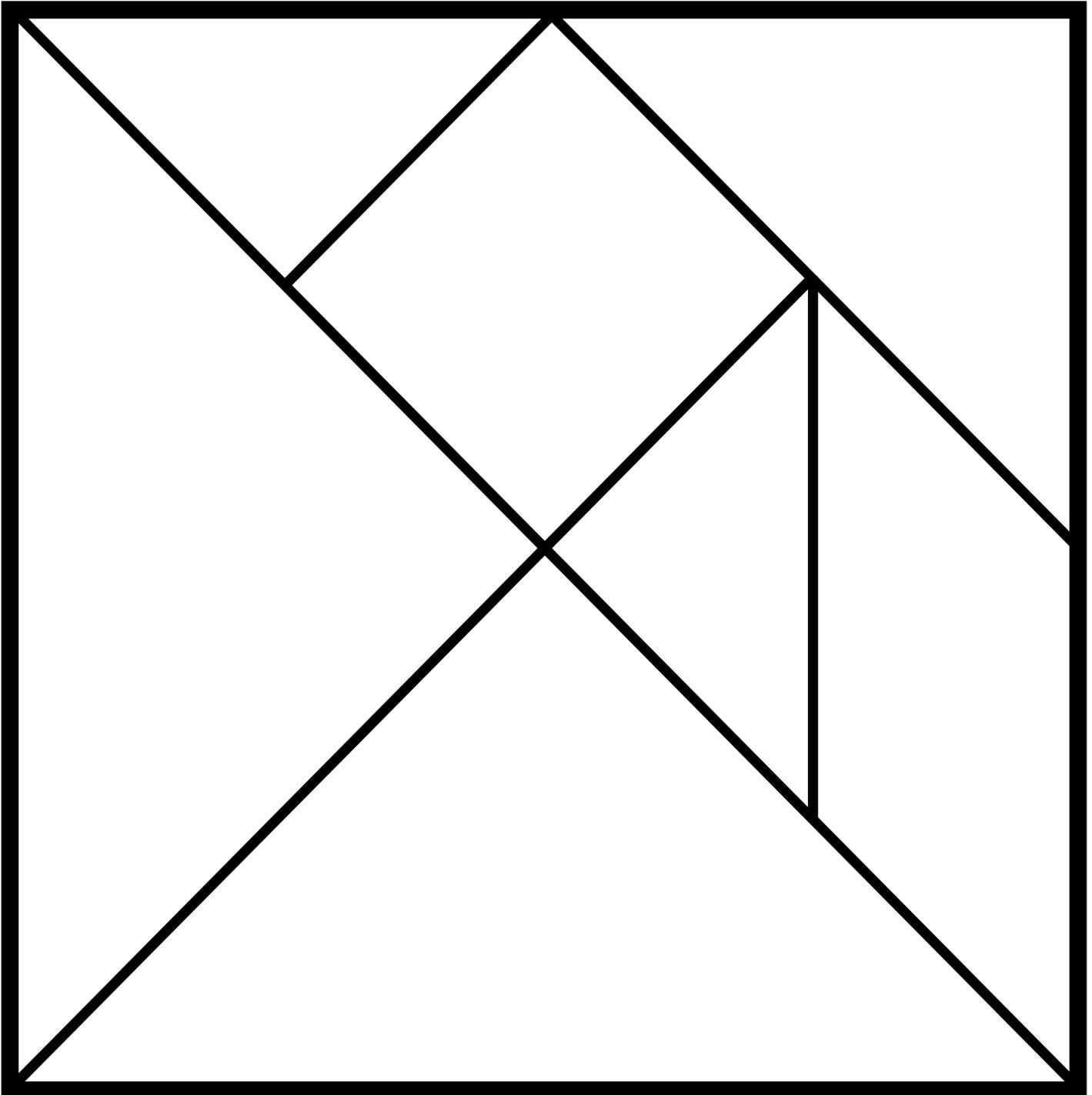
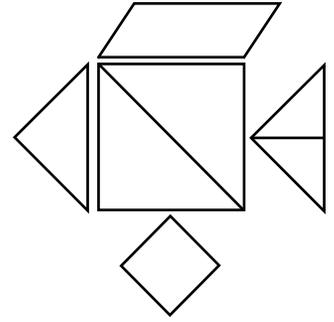
- Have the children cut out circle patterns before attempting to cut spirals.
- Show children how to carefully stretch the spirals out and make them bounce.



Tangram

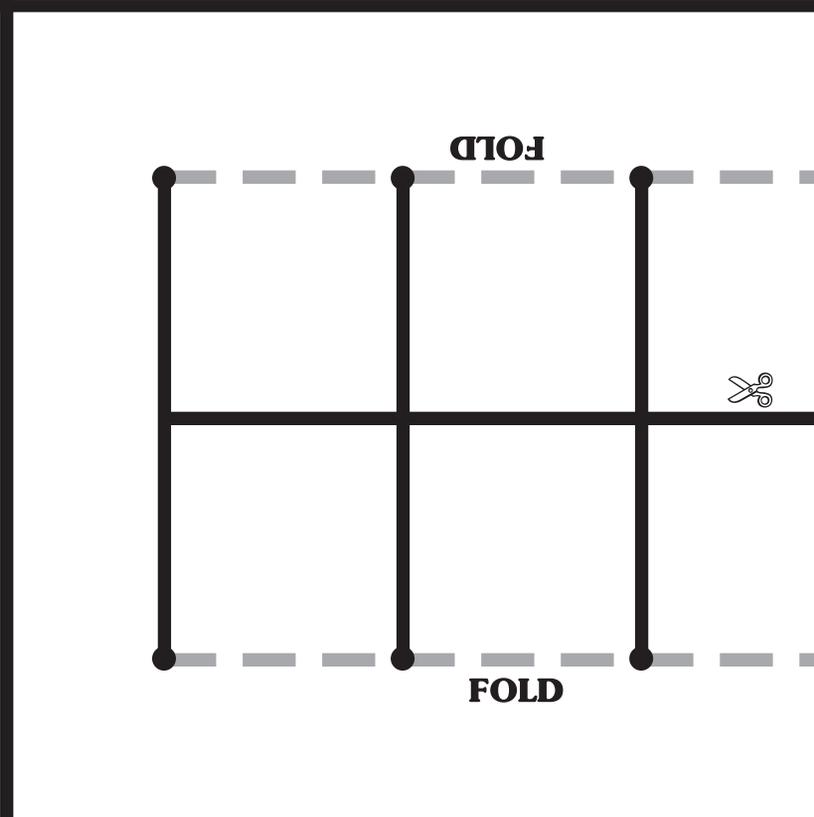
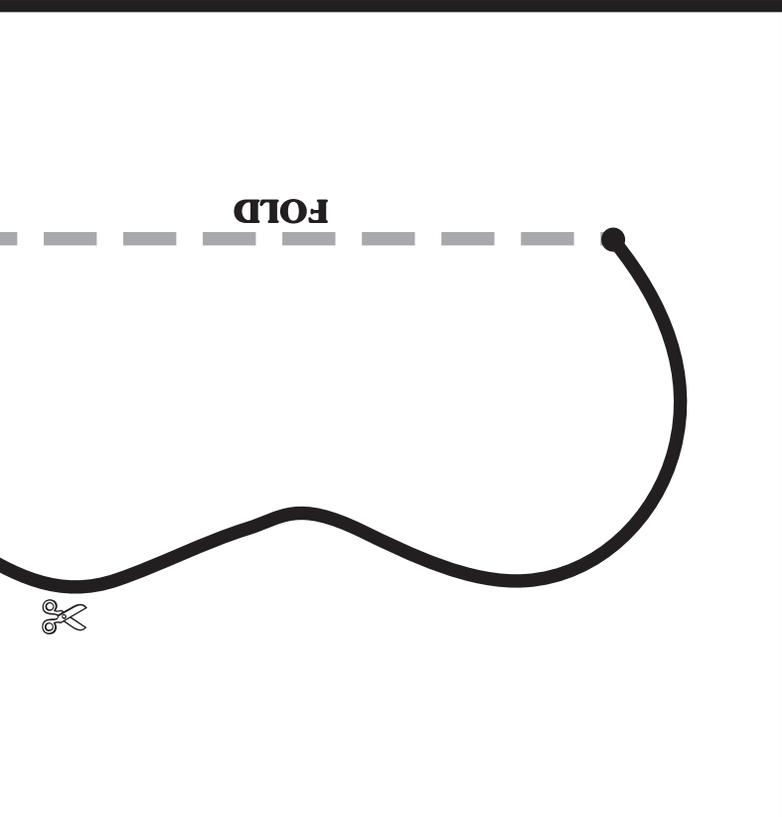
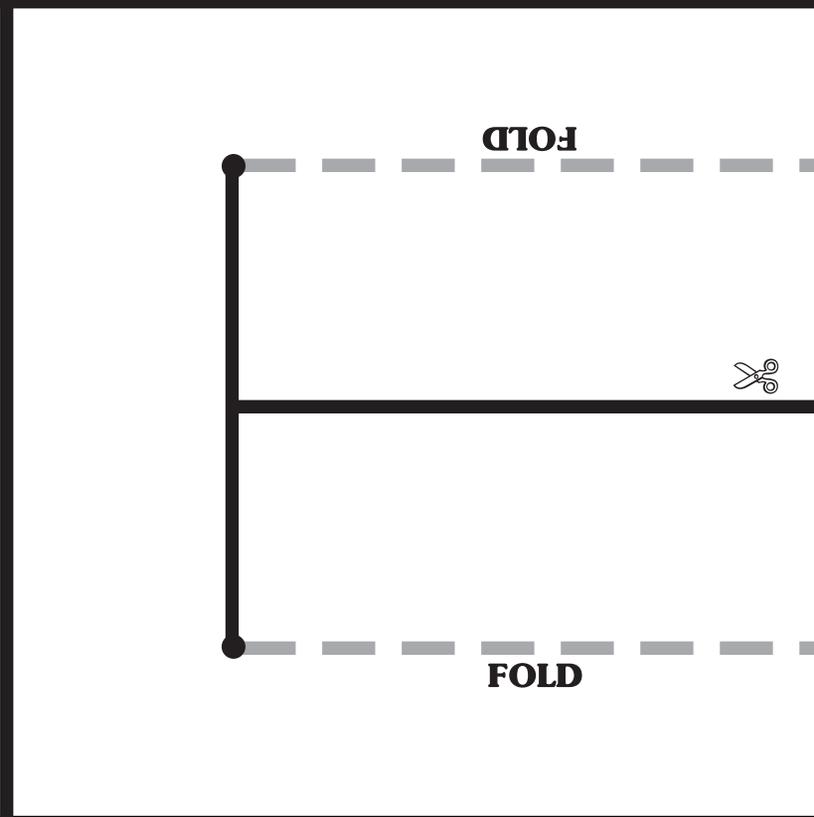
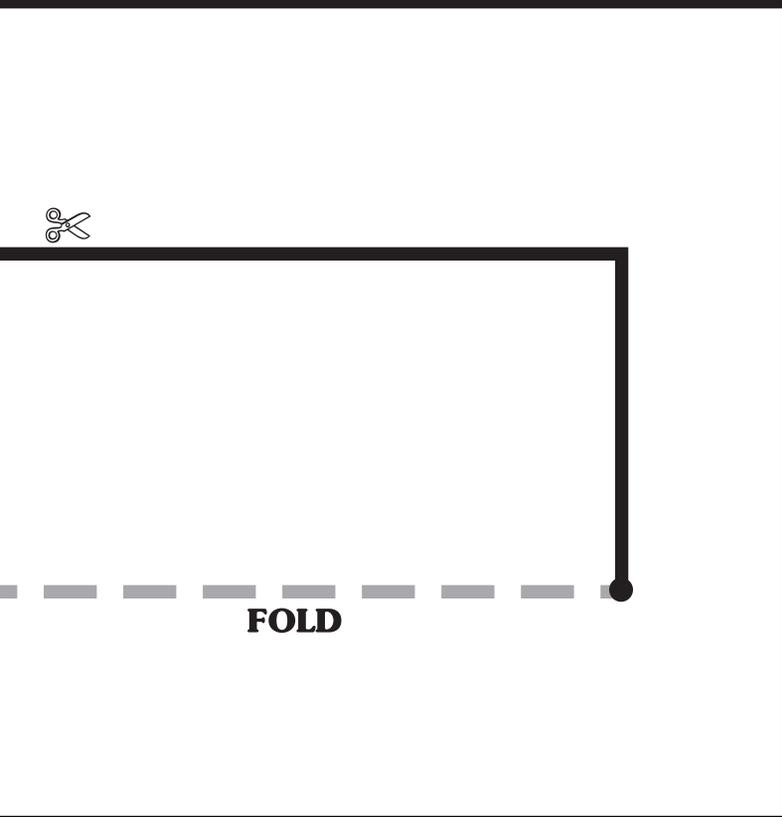
A tangram is an ancient Chinese puzzle cut from one square piece of paper. It consists of five triangles, a parallelogram and a small square. These seven shapes can be used to make many different designs.

Have students cut out the tangram and arrange the pieces in an interesting design on a contrasting sheet of colored paper. Instruct them to paste the pieces in place.



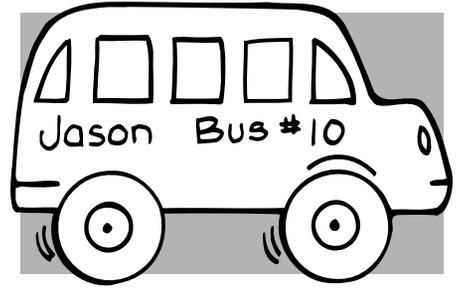
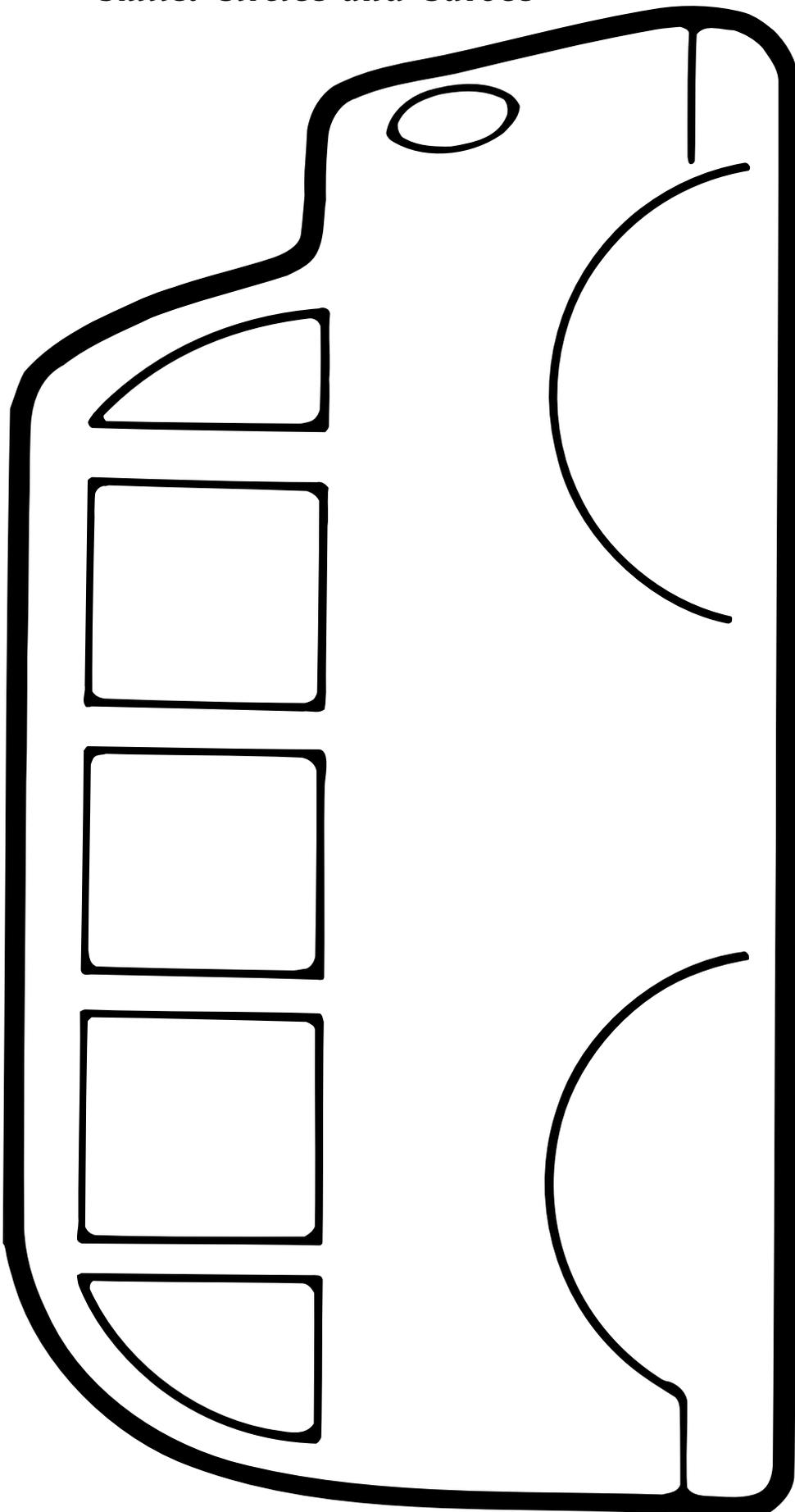
Start, Stop and Fold (Advanced Scissor Skill)

- Instruct each child how to cut on the solid black line, change direction, and then stop cutting. Make sure they stop at the dot.
- Make sure that they understand that the dotted lines are to be folded and not cut.
- Show them how to fold back the flaps along the dotted lines.



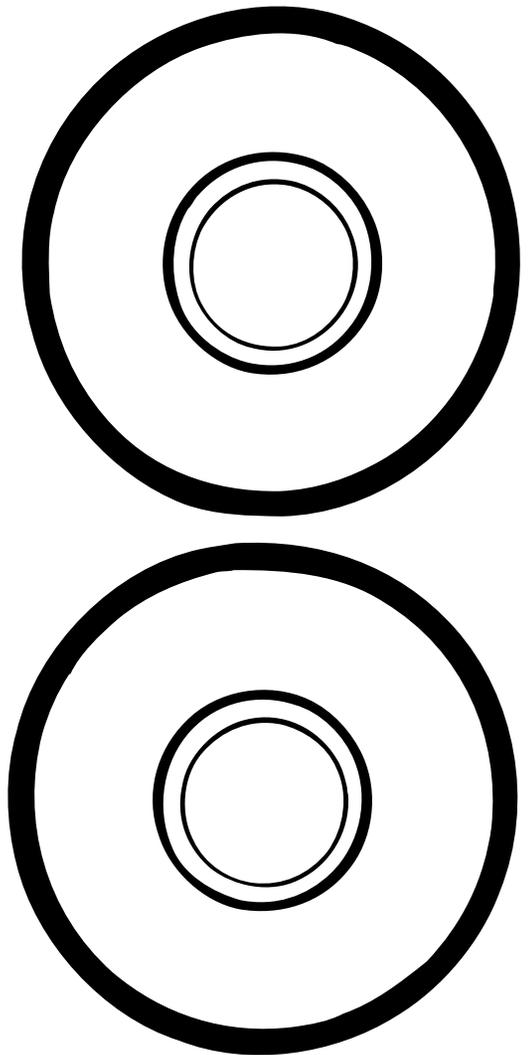
School Bus

Skills: Circles and Curves



- Color the bus yellow and the wheels black.
- Cut out the pattern pieces.
- Attach the wheels using brass fasteners or glue the pieces to a larger sheet of colored construction paper.

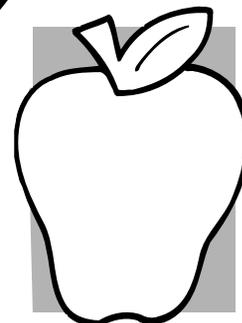
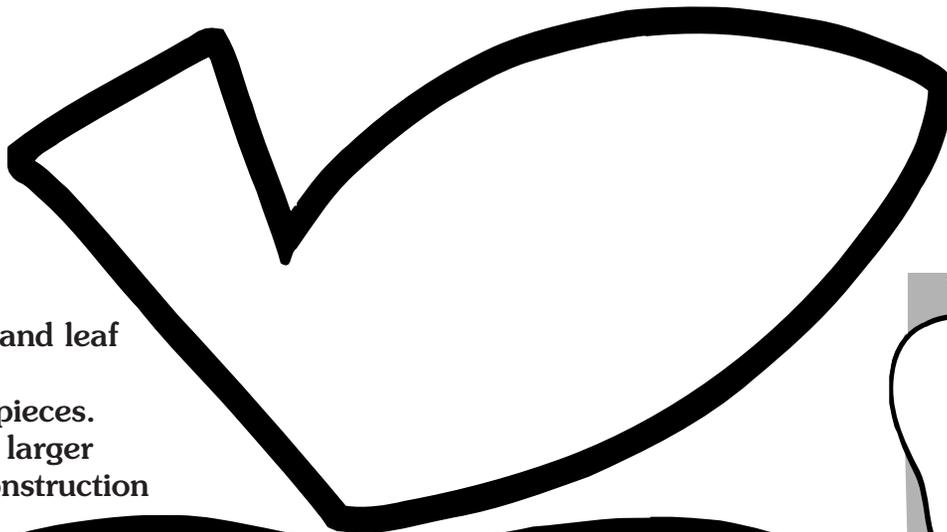
Write the child's name on the bus along with his or her bus number. Display the buses on the class board.



Apple

**Skills: Curves
and Zigzags**

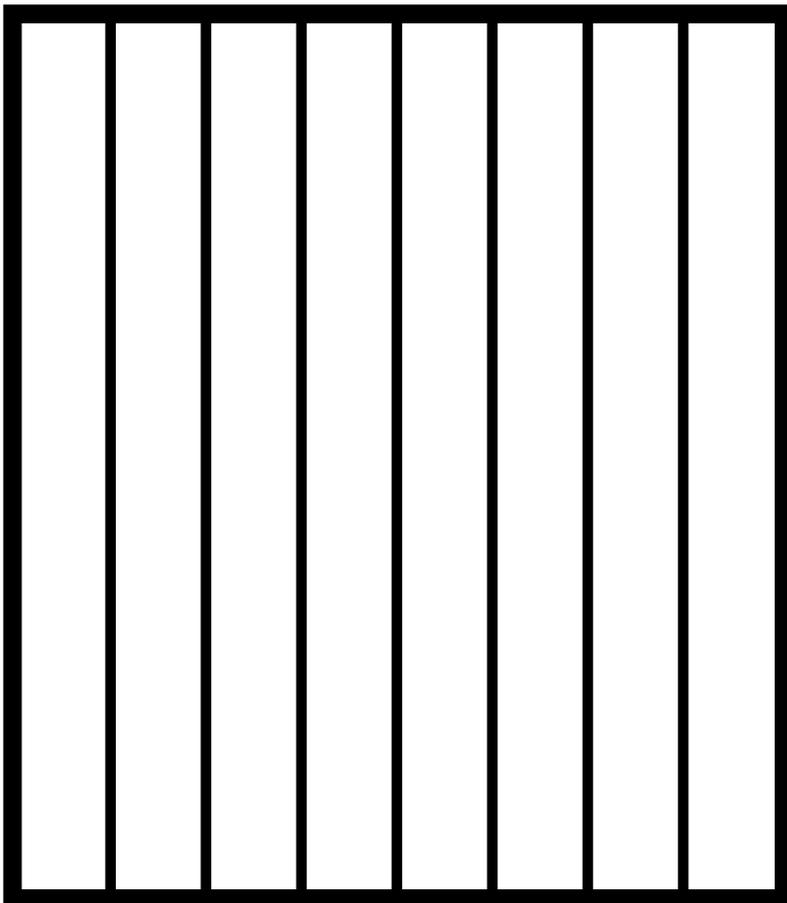
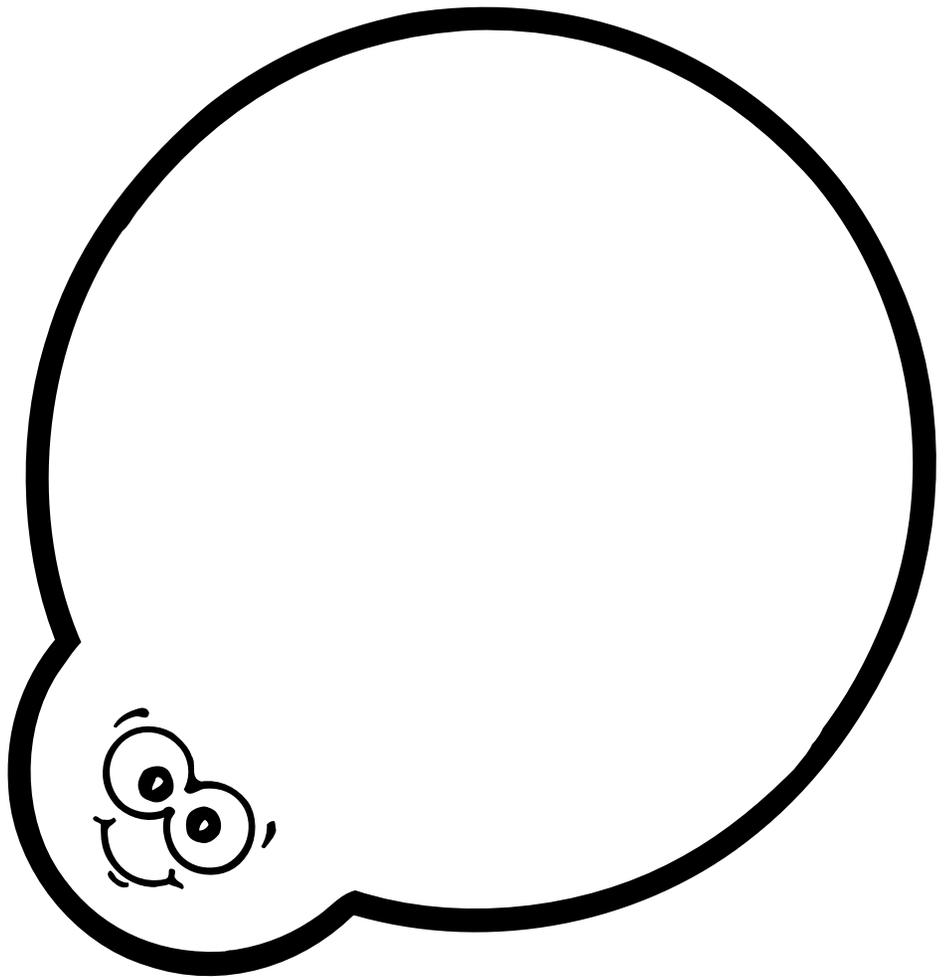
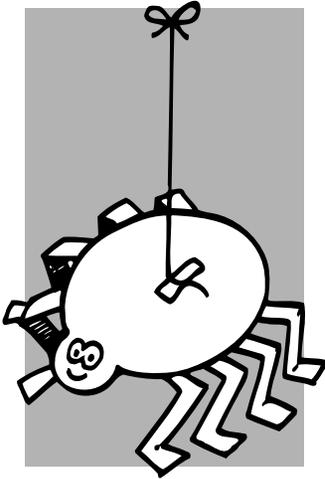
- Color the apple red and leaf green.
- Cut out the pattern pieces.
- Paste the apple to a larger sheet of colored construction paper.



Let the children eat apple sections and ask them to collect the seeds. Let the children glue the apple seeds to their apple pattern.

Spider

**Skills: Curves and
Straight Lines**



- Color this spider black and cut his legs from black construction paper.
- Paste the eight legs to the spider.
- Tape or staple a length of string to the spider's body and hang him from the ceiling.

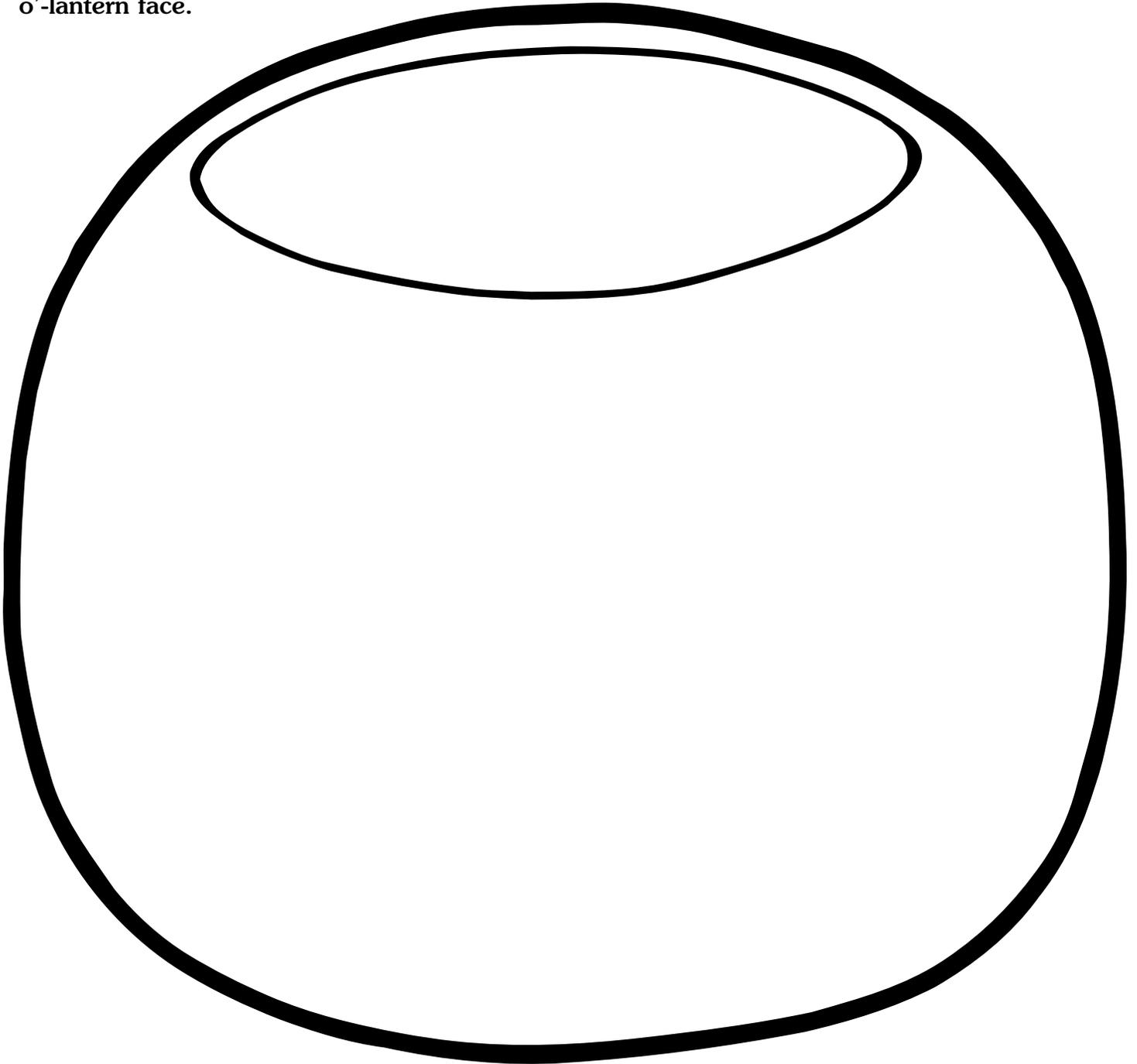
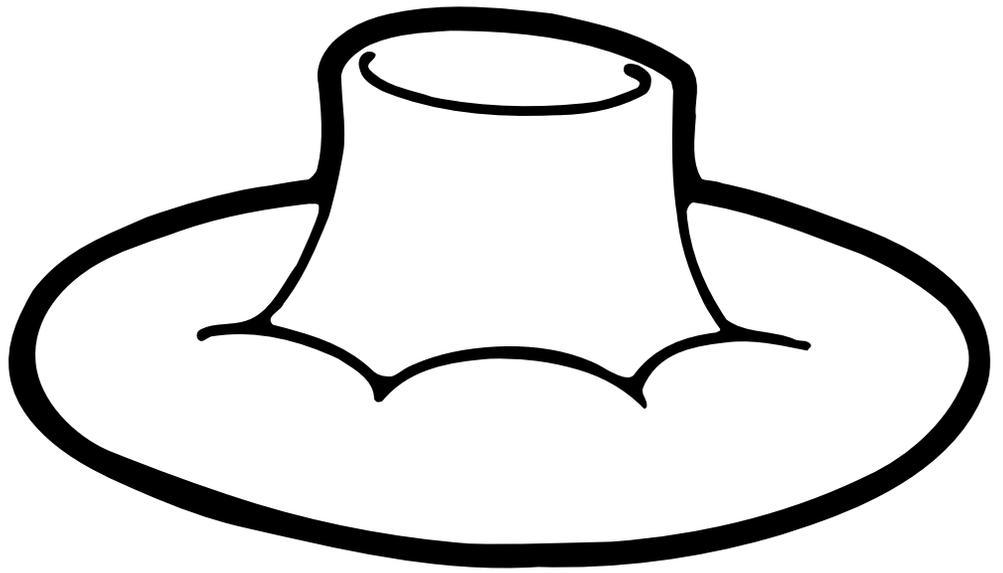
Show the children how the spider legs can be folded to make him stand on a table. (Legs can also be rolled around a pencil for "curly" legs.)

Pumpkin

Skills: Curves

- Color this pumpkin orange and the stem green.
- Cut out the pattern pieces.
- Paste the pumpkin and its lid to a sheet of black construction paper.

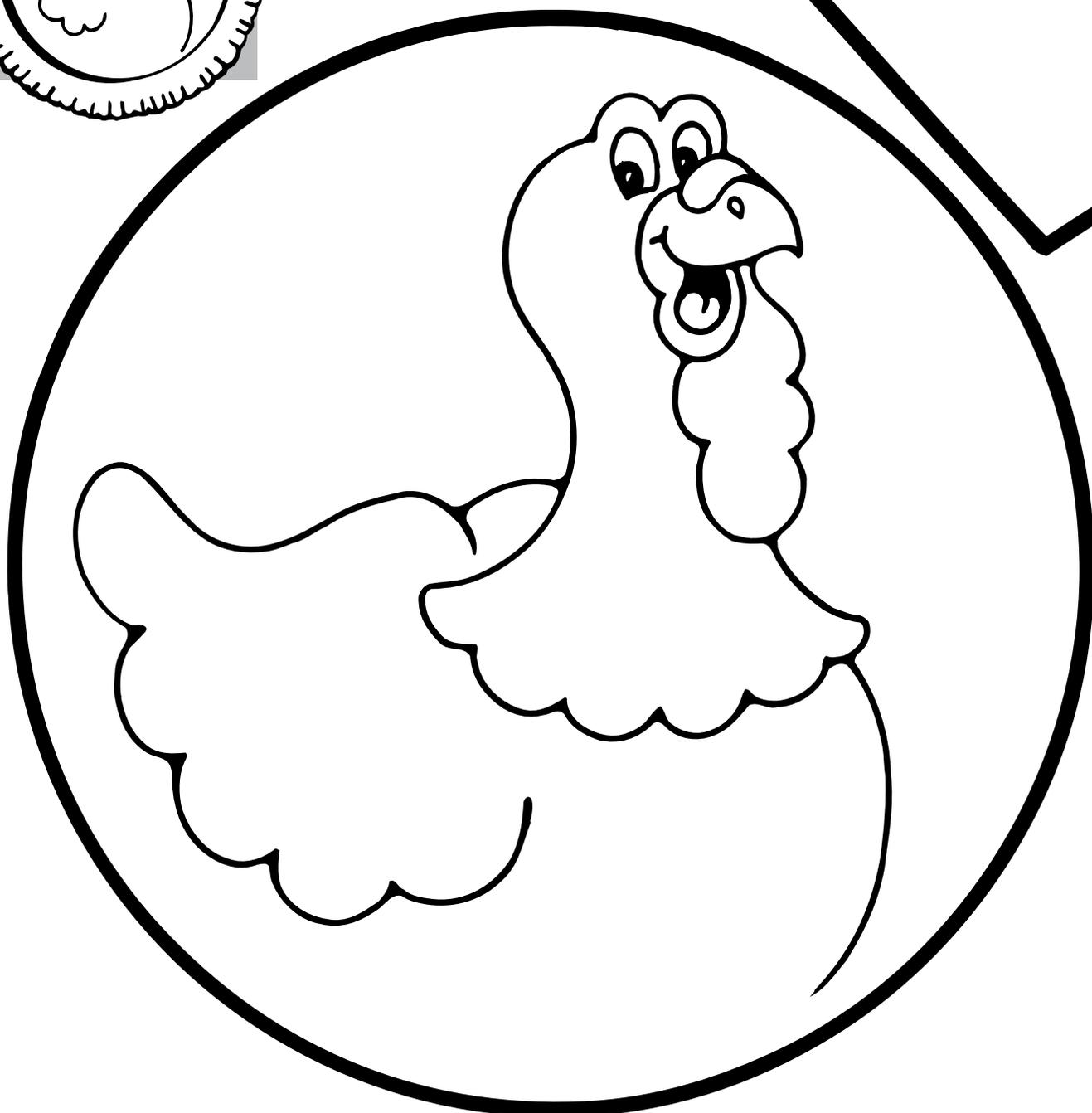
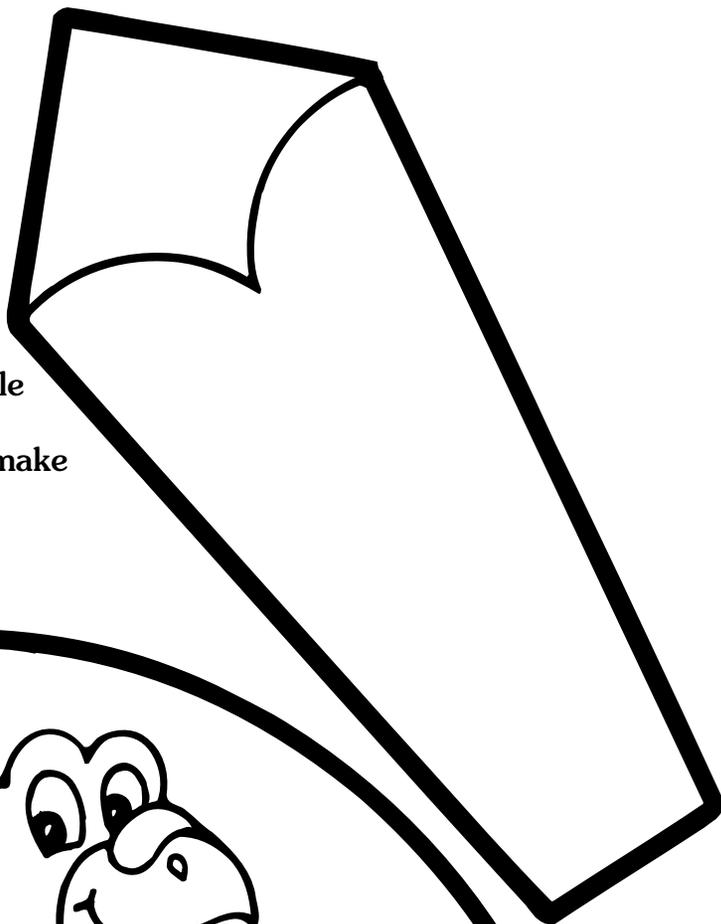
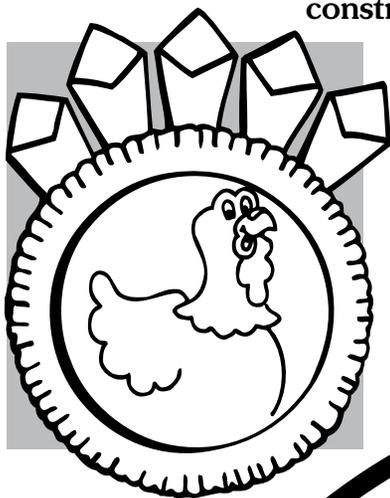
Instruct the children to cut geometric shapes from black construction paper and paste them to the pumpkin to make a jack-o'-lantern face.



Turkey

Skills: Circles and Straight Lines

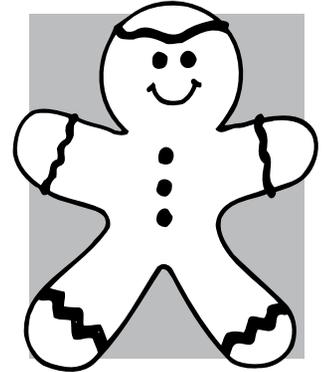
- Color this turkey autumn colors.
- Cut out the turkey and cut several feathers from brown, yellow, orange and red construction paper.
- Paste the turkey to the back of a fluted paper plate and staple or glue the feathers around the plate to make the turkey's tail.



Gingerbread Man

Skills: Curves

- Cut this gingerbread man pattern from brown construction paper.
- Spray the pattern with a spray adhesive and let the each child sprinkle their gingerbread man with ground cinnamon.



- Children can decorate him by gluing on short pieces of colored yarn, rick-a-rack, buttons, miniature candies, etc.

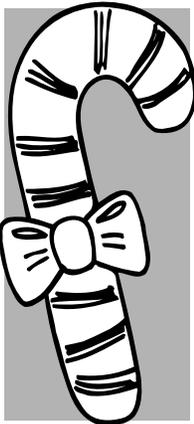
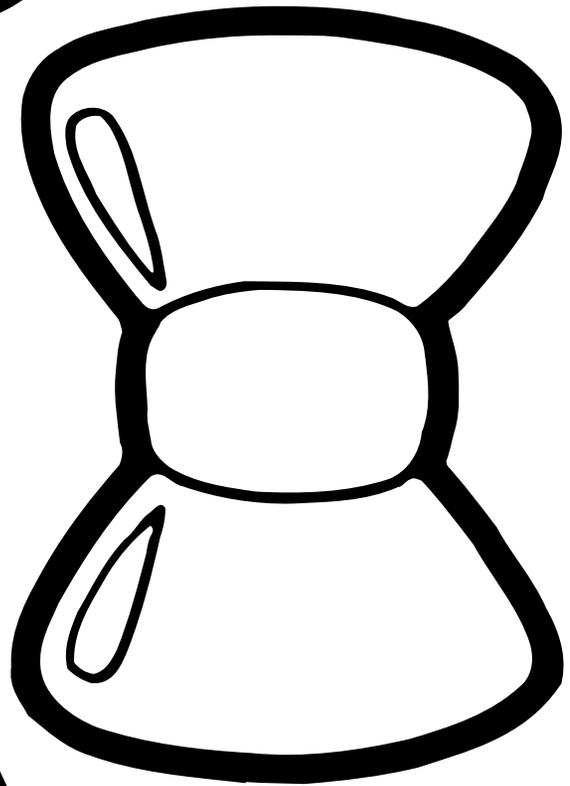
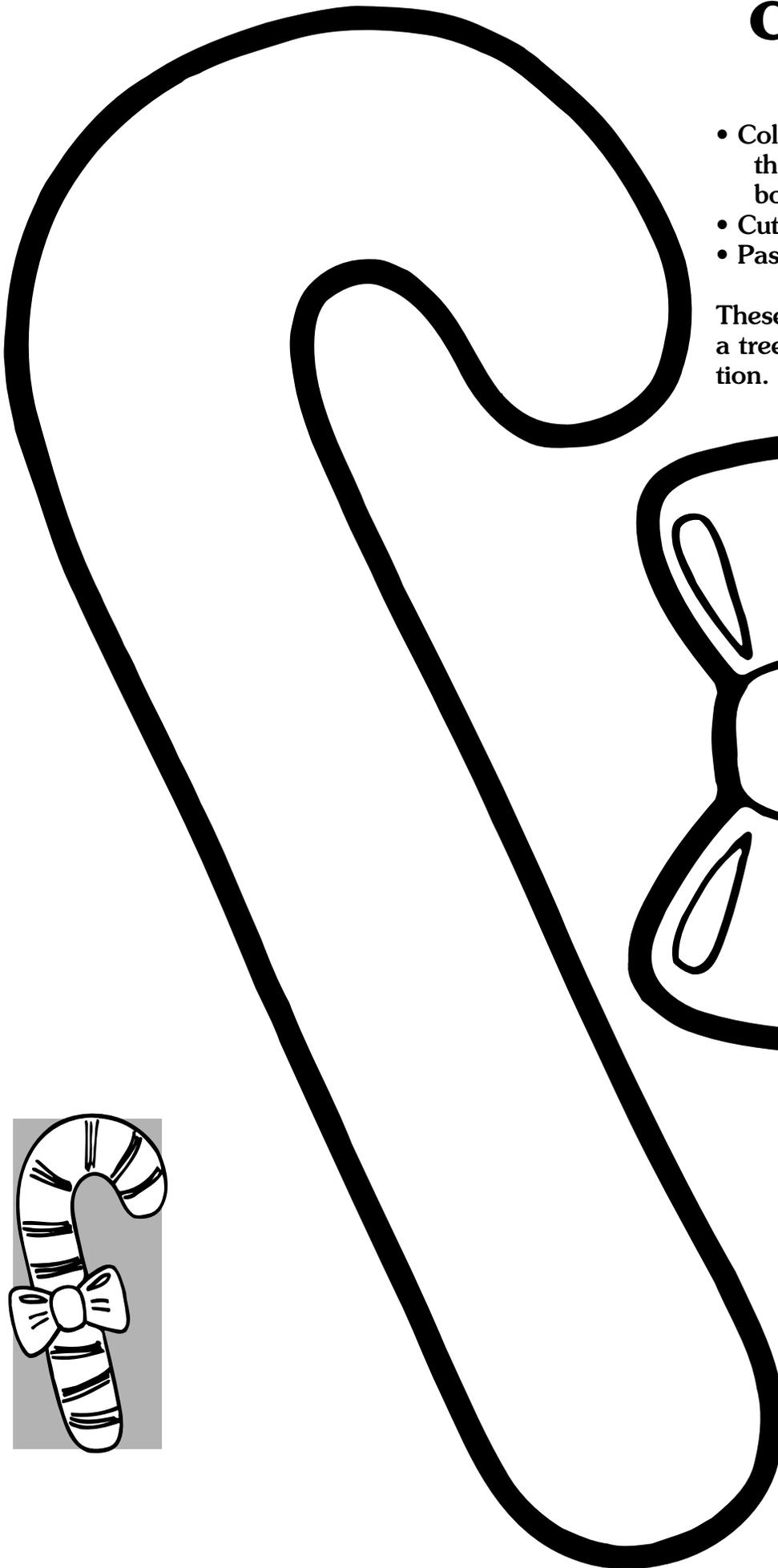
Display the gingerbread men on the class board for a wonderful smell all holiday season long.

Candy Cane

Skills: Curves

- Color red and white stripes on this candy cane and color the bow holiday green.
- Cut out the pattern pieces.
- Paste the bow to the candy cane.

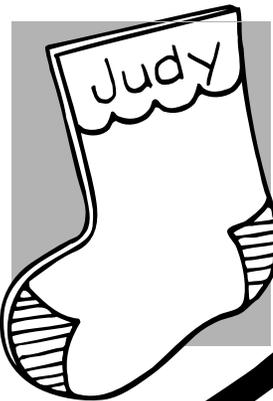
These candy canes can be hung on a tree branch as a holiday decoration.



Stocking

Skills:
Curves and
Straight
Lines

- Color this stocking pattern any way you choose.
- Cut out two stocking patterns.
- Glue the two stockings together by carefully apply the glue to the edges of one of the stockings. (Do not glue the top or stocking opening.)

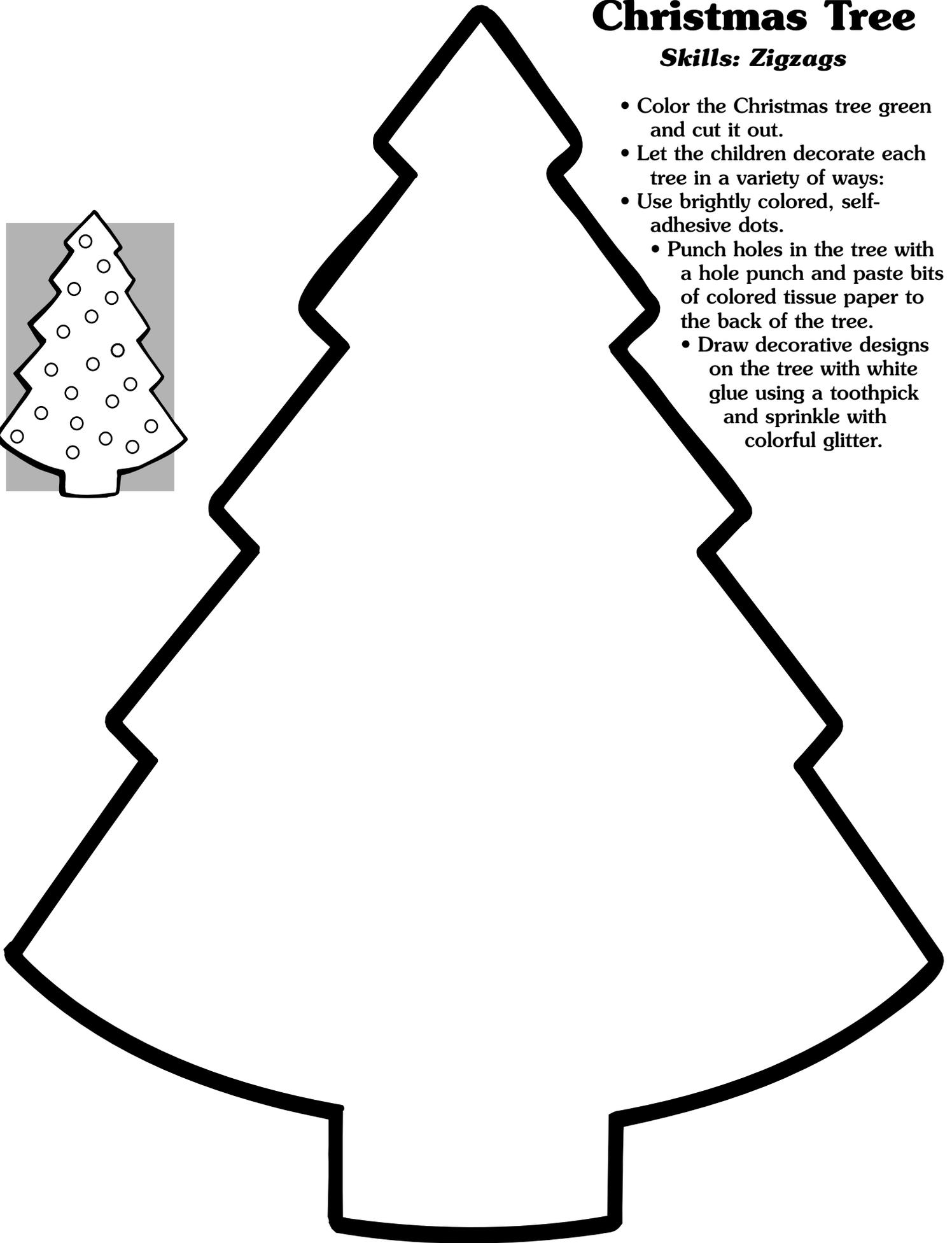
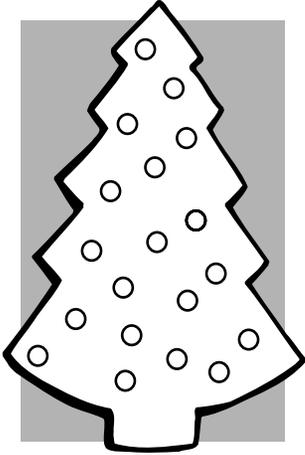


When dry, write each child's name on his or her stocking and display them on the class board. Place a candy cane in each stocking (pattern on page 27).

Christmas Tree

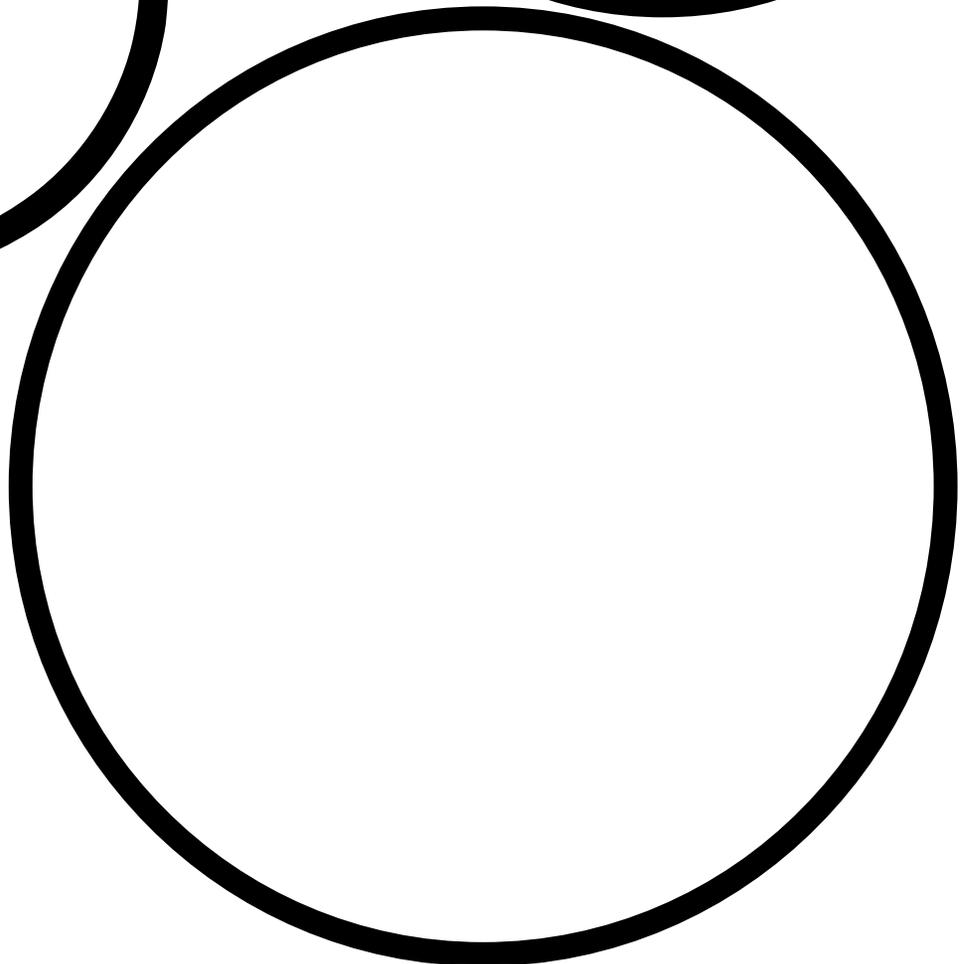
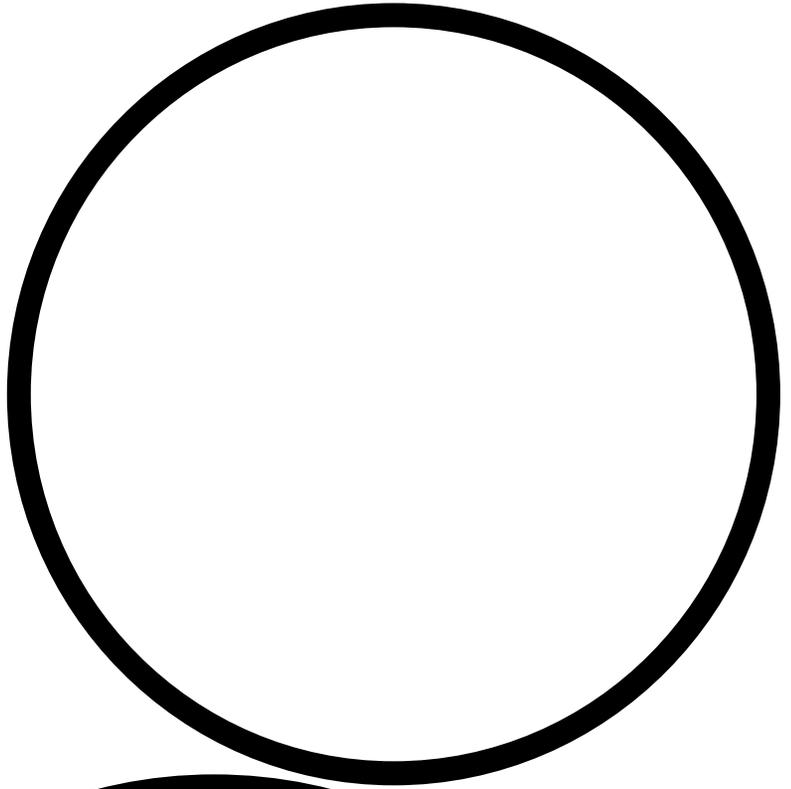
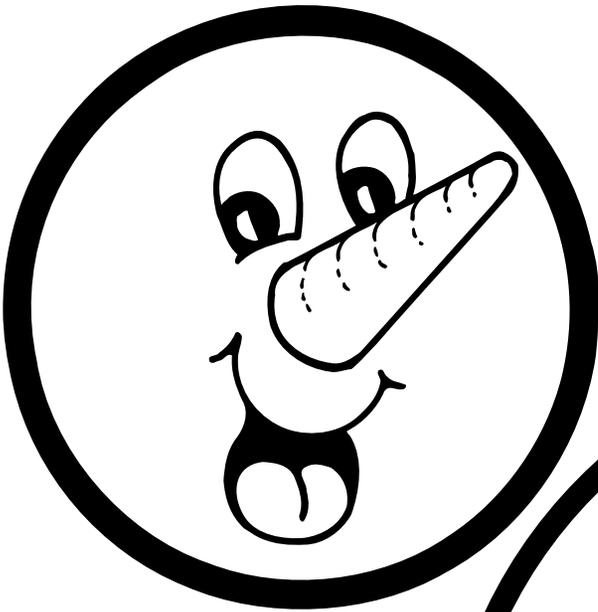
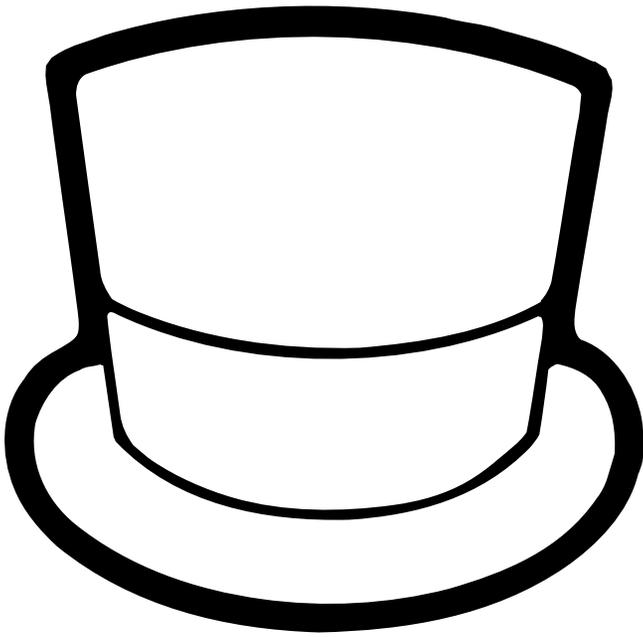
Skills: Zigzags

- Color the Christmas tree green and cut it out.
- Let the children decorate each tree in a variety of ways:
- Use brightly colored, self-adhesive dots.
- Punch holes in the tree with a hole punch and paste bits of colored tissue paper to the back of the tree.
- Draw decorative designs on the tree with white glue using a toothpick and sprinkle with colorful glitter.



Snowman

Skills: Circles and Curves



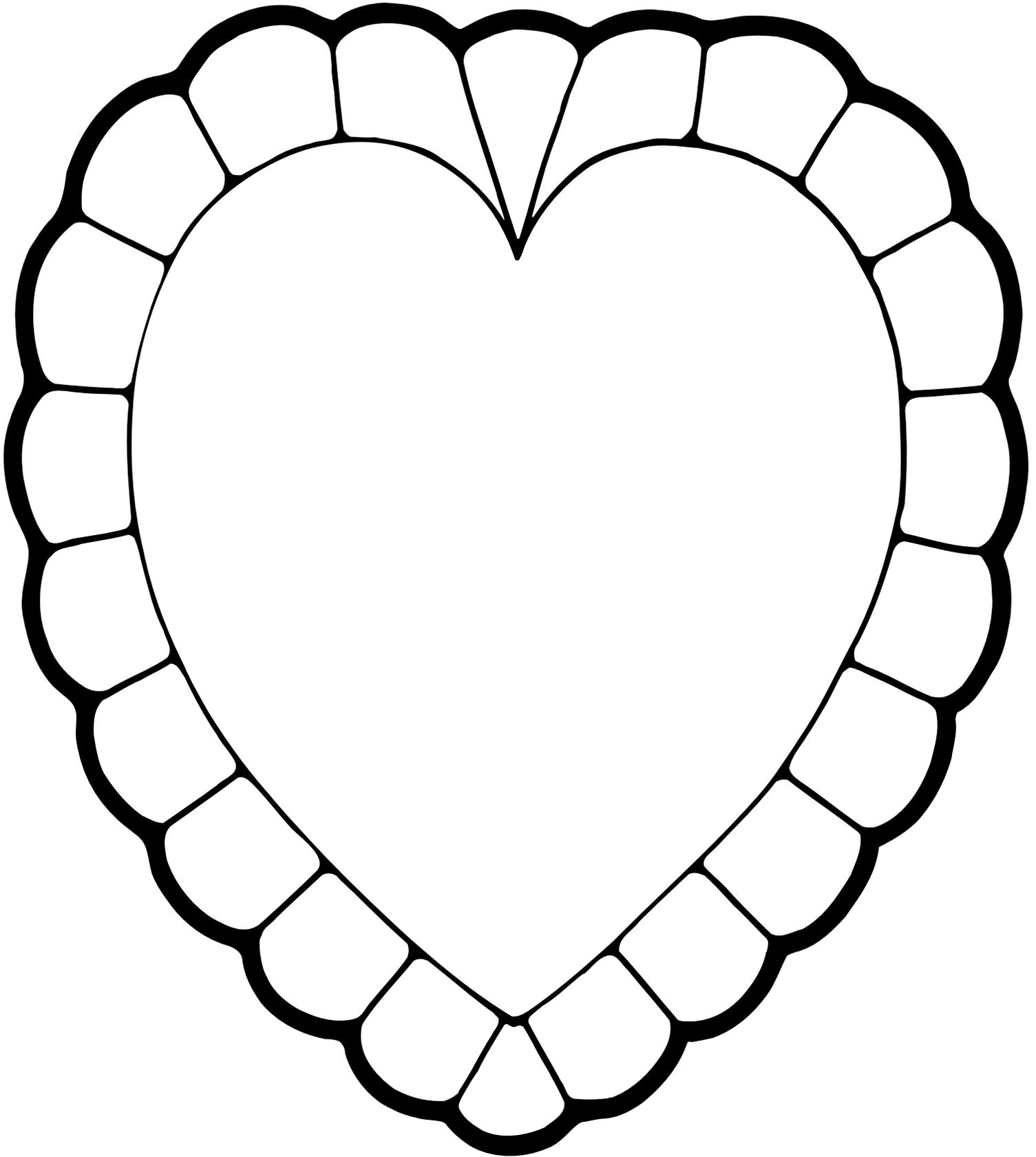
- Color this snowman's face and hat.
- Cut out the pattern pieces.
- Build the snowman on a sheet of light blue construction paper and glue him in place.

Have the children draw stick arms using a brown crayon. They may wish to cut a small strip of cloth from discarded fabric to glue around his neck as a scarf.

Valentine

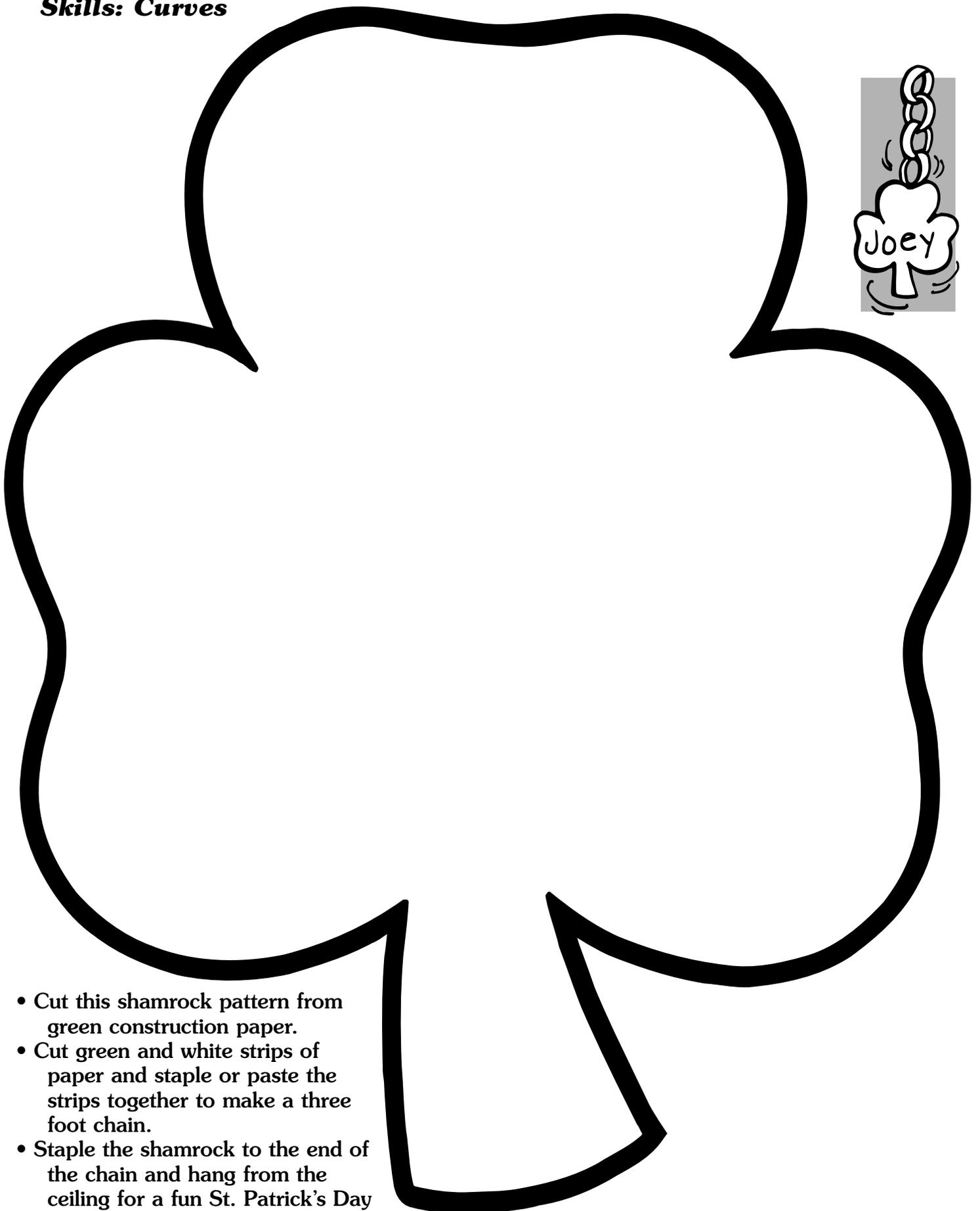
Skills: Scallops

- Cut the valentine heart from pink or red construction paper.
- Help the children write their own valentine messages on the heart to take home to a parent.



Shamrock

Skills: Curves

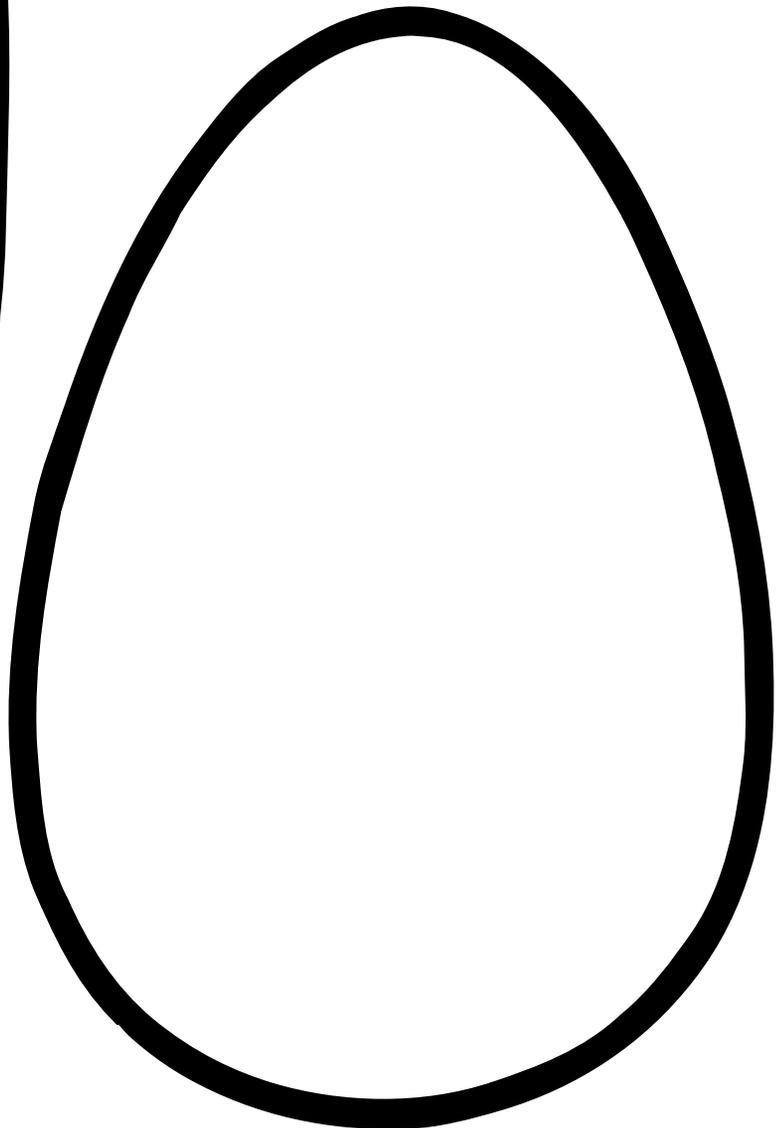
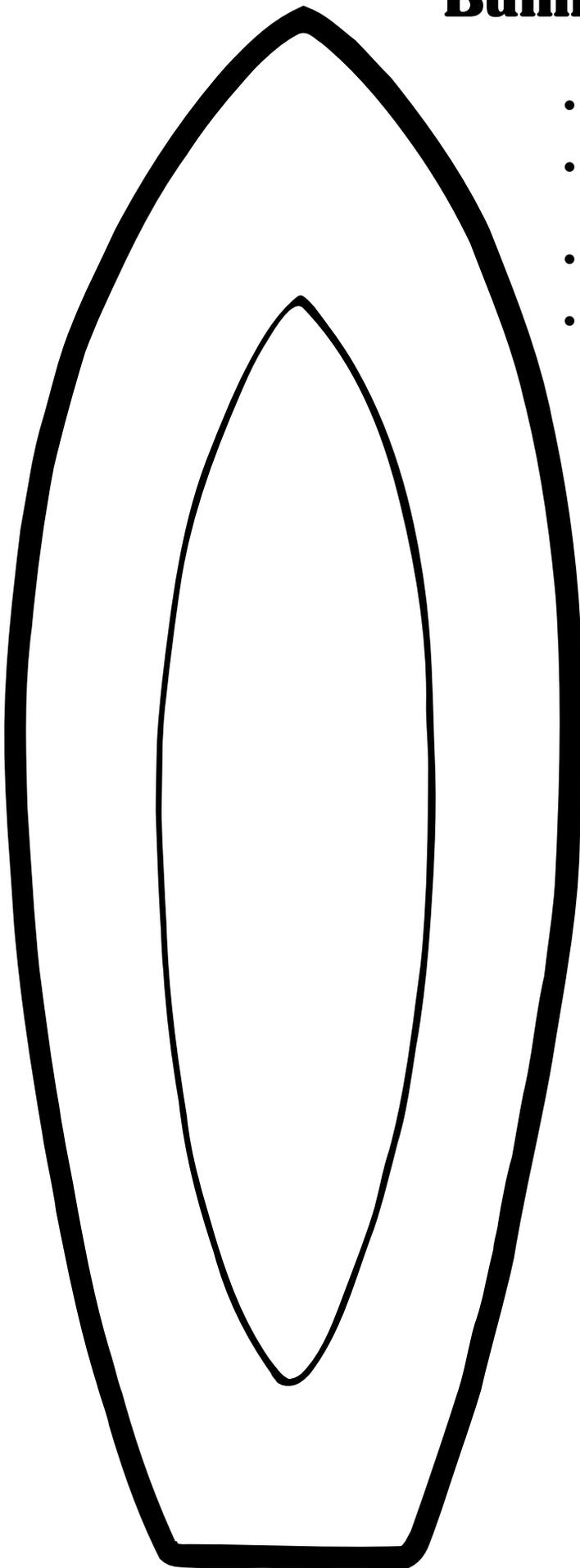
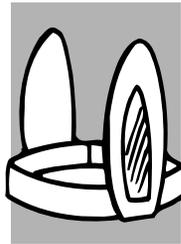


- Cut this shamrock pattern from green construction paper.
- Cut green and white strips of paper and staple or paste the strips together to make a three foot chain.
- Staple the shamrock to the end of the chain and hang from the ceiling for a fun St. Patrick's Day decoration.

Bunny Ears and Easter Egg

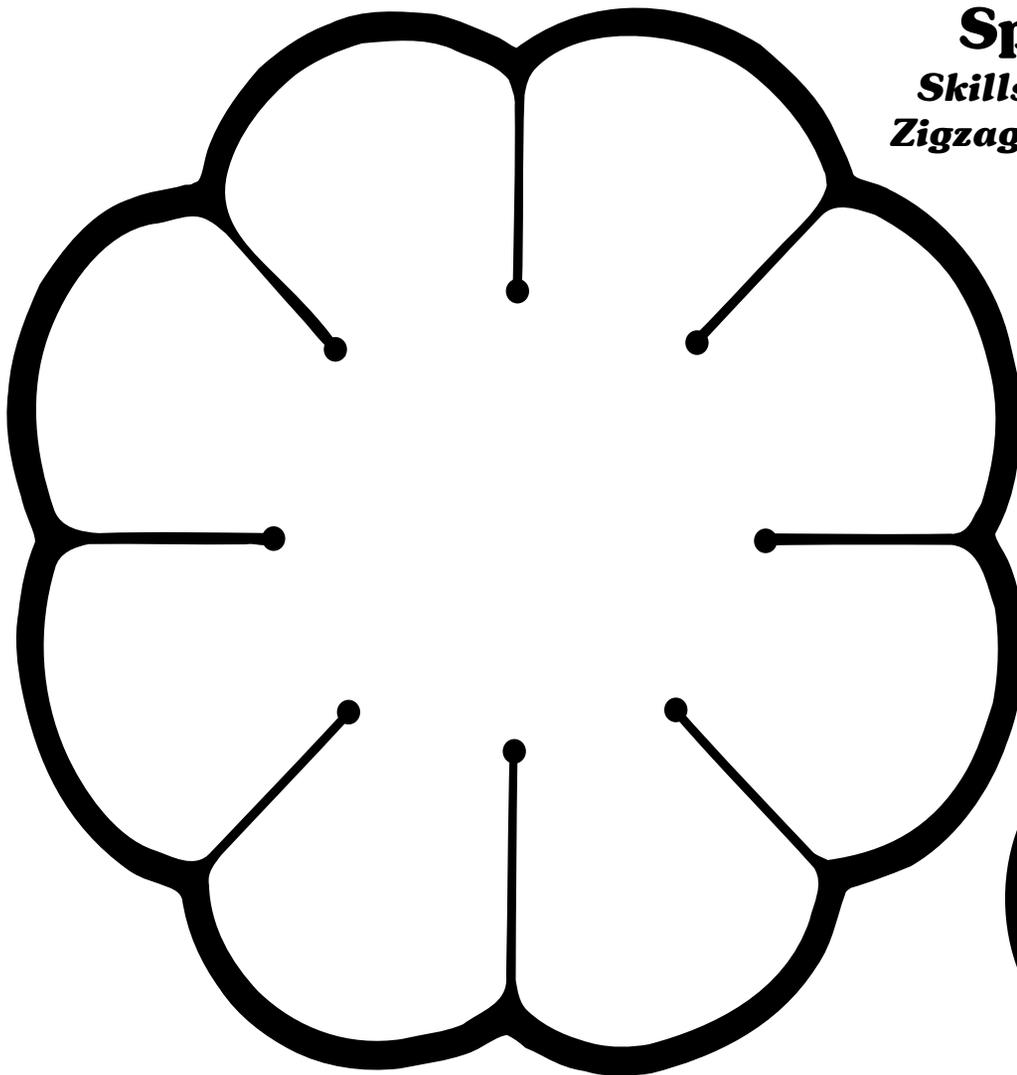
Skills: Curves

- Cut two bunny ears from white construction paper and color the inside of ears pink.
- Staple the ears to a white paper headband for a fun Easter costume.
- Color or paint several egg patterns with festive designs.
- Cut them out and display them as a border around an Easter bulletin board.



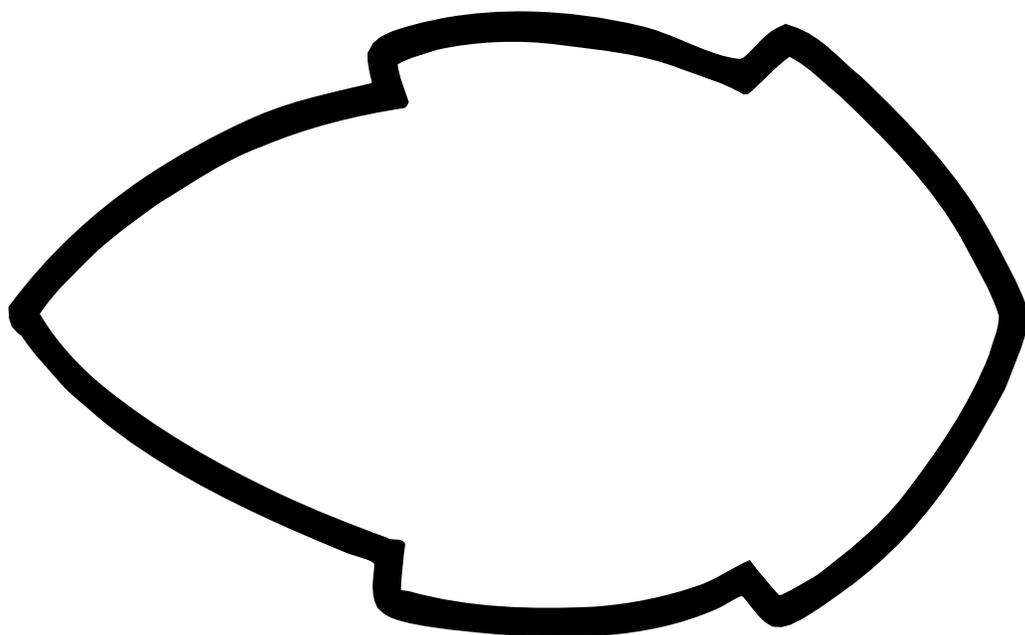
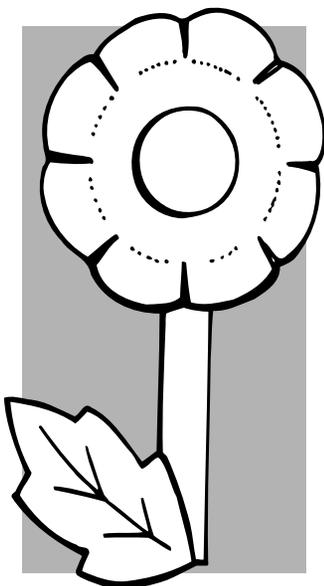
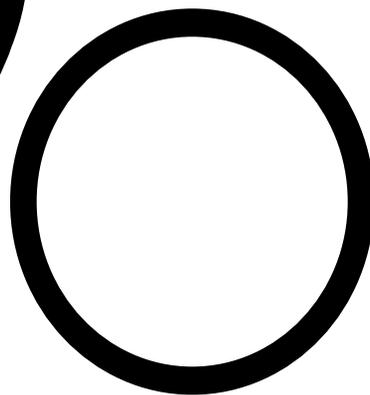
Spring Flower

Skills: Scallops, Fringe, Zigzags, Lines and Curves



- Cut flower patterns from construction paper.
- Cut between the flower petals. Make sure you stop at the dots!
- Paste the center to the middle of the flower.
- Assemble the flower patterns onto a larger sheet of construction paper and bend the petals forward. Glue the flower in place and display them on the class board.

This simple craft project can make a cute Mother's Day card.

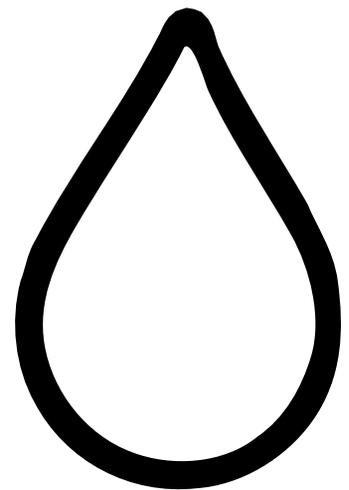
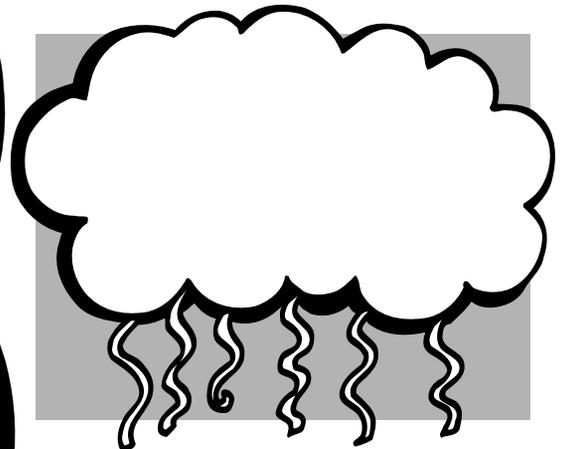


Cloud and Raindrop

Skills: Scallops and Curves

- Cut this cloud pattern from blue paper and the raindrop(s) from blue.
- Arrange the cloud and raindrops onto a larger sheet of dark blue construction paper and glue in place.

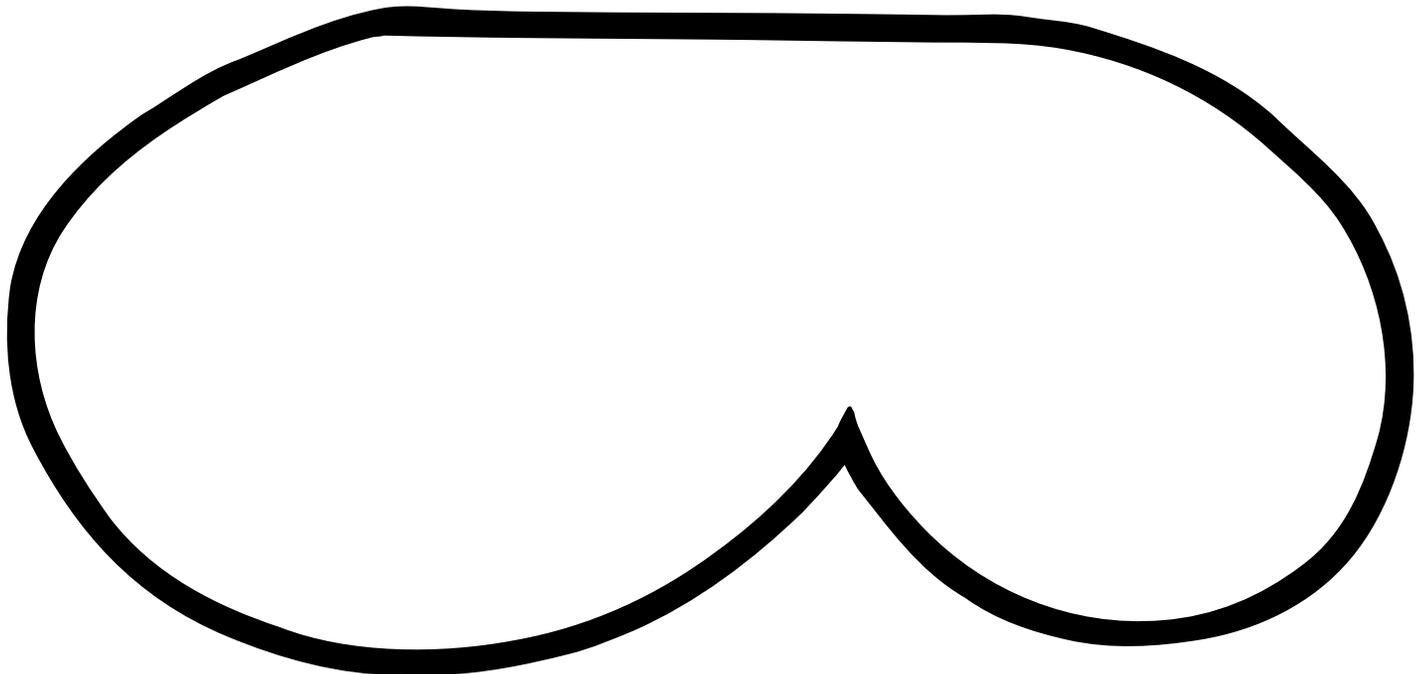
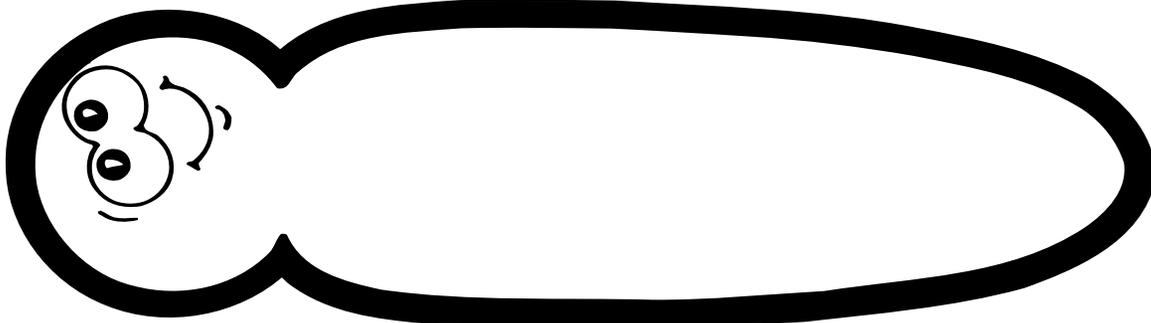
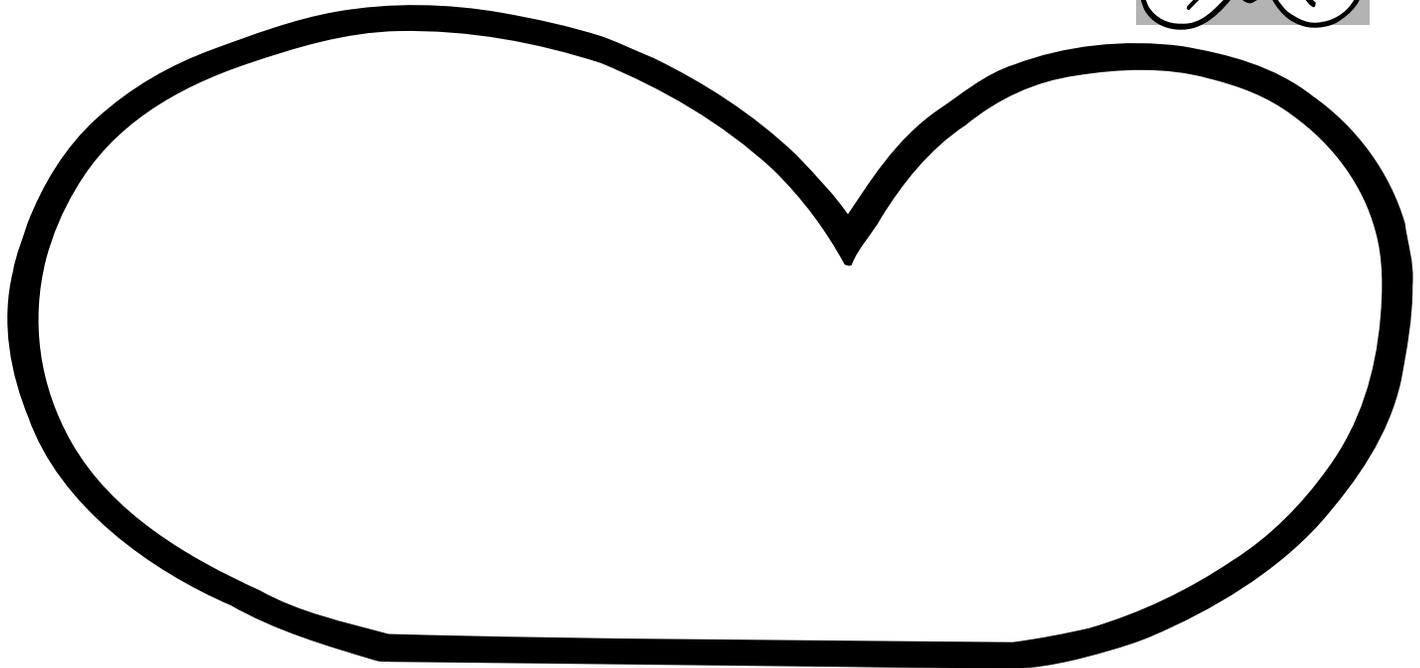
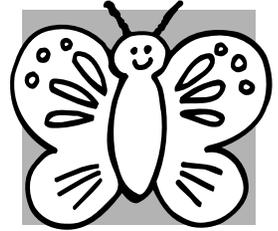
Let the children glue pieces of holiday tinsel from the cloud to simulate rain or lightning. Cotton balls can also be glued to the cloud. You may want to glue two cloud patterns together and let the “tinsel” rain hang from the cloud.



Butterfly

Skills: Curves

- Color and decorate this butterfly pattern anyway you wish.
- Cut out the pattern pieces.
- Paste the wing patterns to a larger sheet of construction paper. Paste the body pattern on top of the wings.
- Add two pipe cleaner antennae to the butterfly and display him on a springtime classroom board.



Tree Trunk

Skills: Curves and Zigzags

- Cut this tree trunk from brown construction paper.
- Paste the trunk to a larger sheet of light blue construction paper.
- Sponge paint or use bits of green tissue paper to create a leafy tree top.

Children can draw in grass, flowers, birds, clouds, etc. to complete the scene.

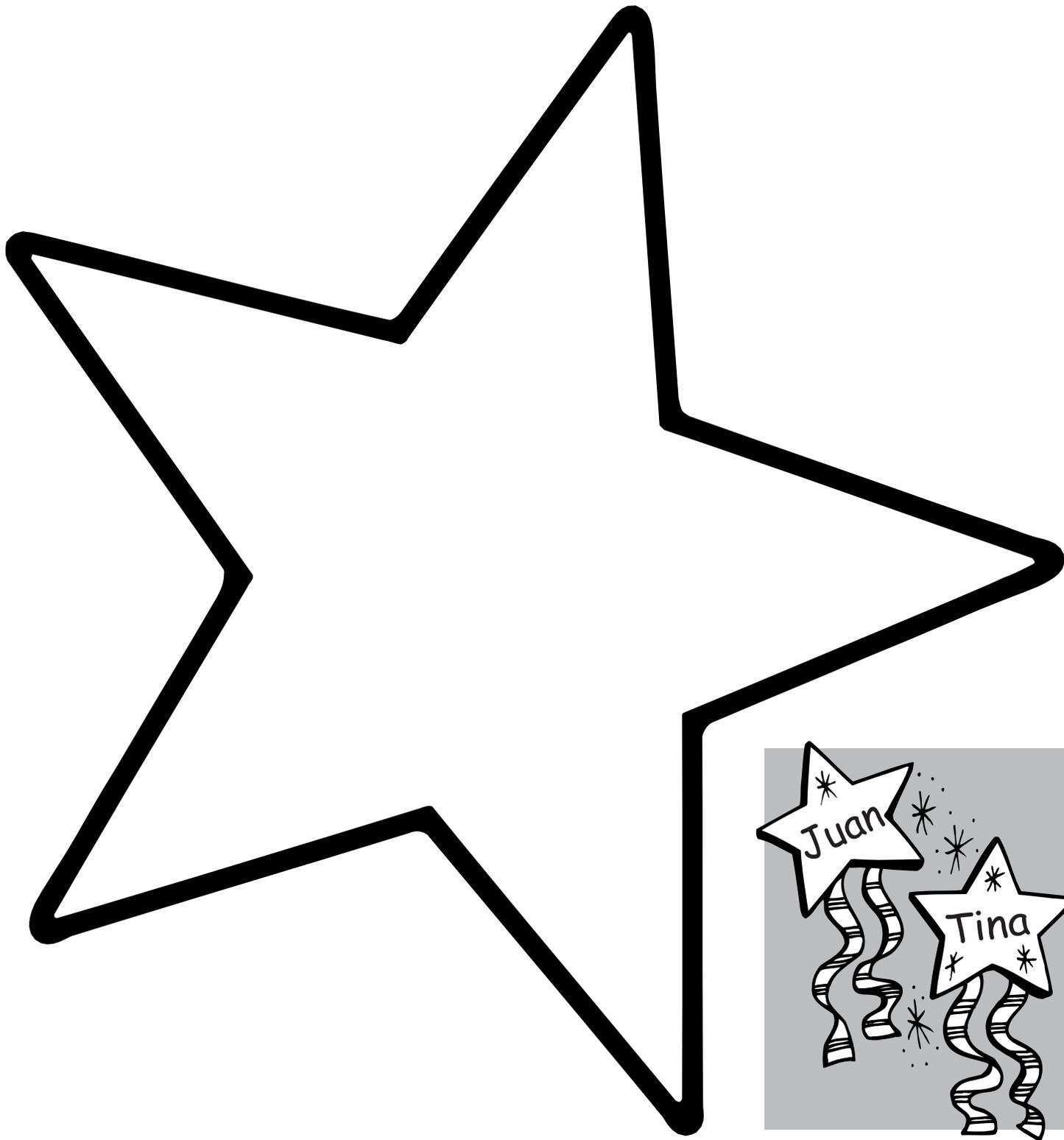


Star

Skills: Zigzags

- Cut this star from yellow construction paper.
- Write the child's name to the center of the star.
- Advanced students can trace the letters with white glue and sprinkle with glitter.

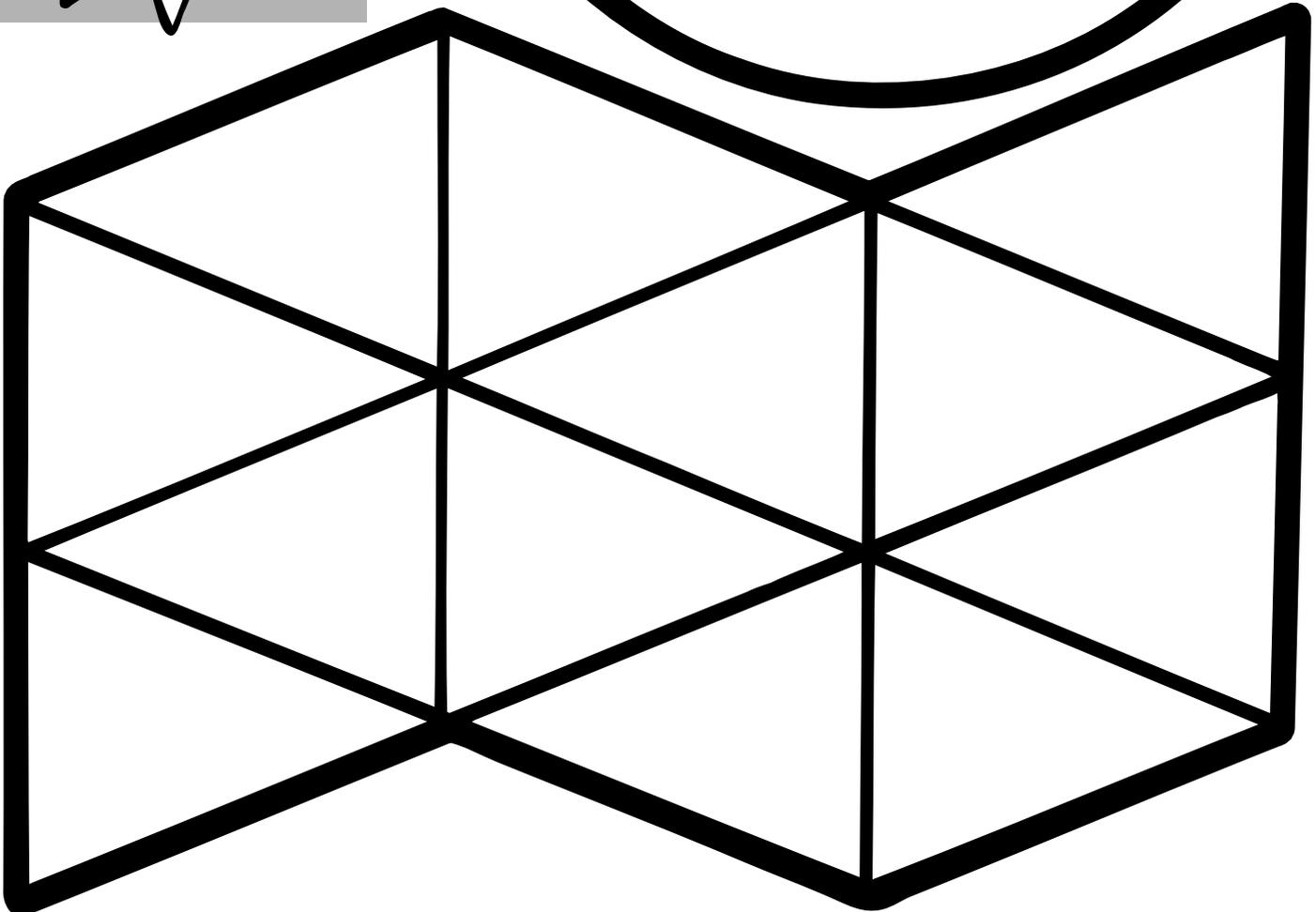
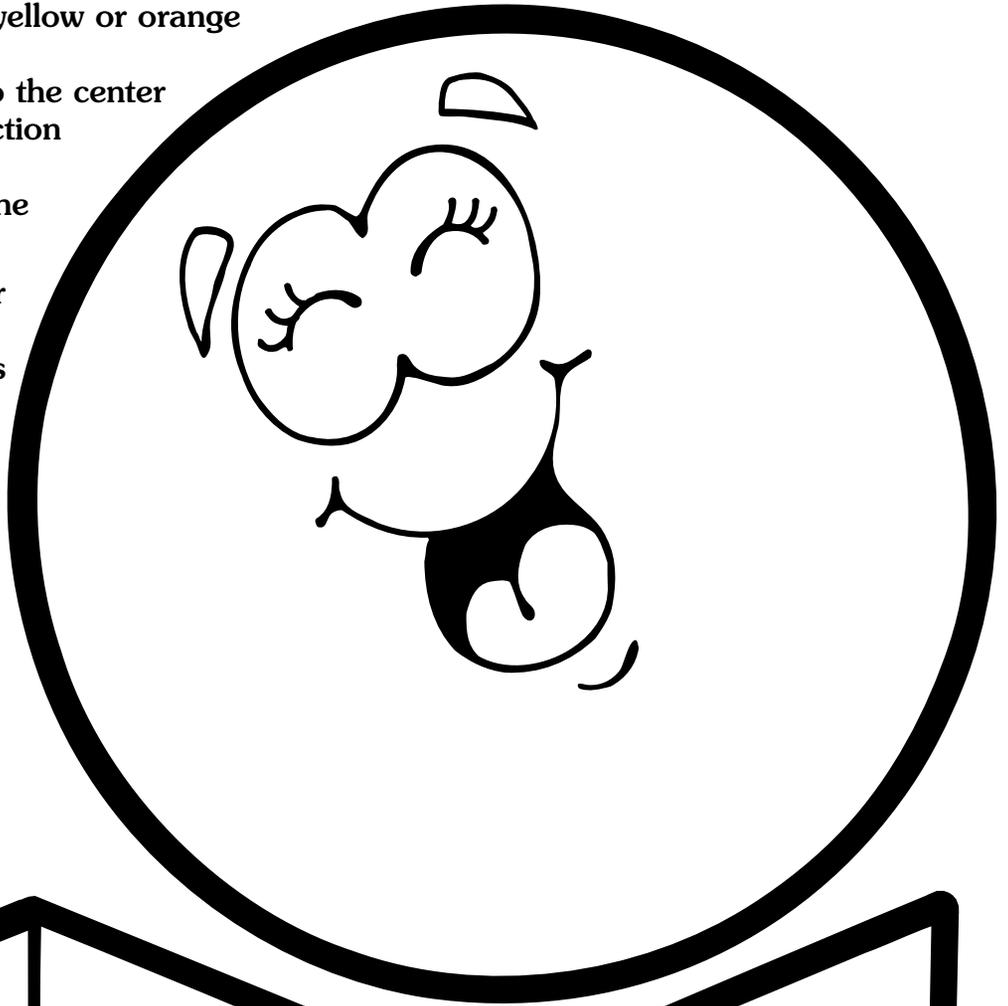
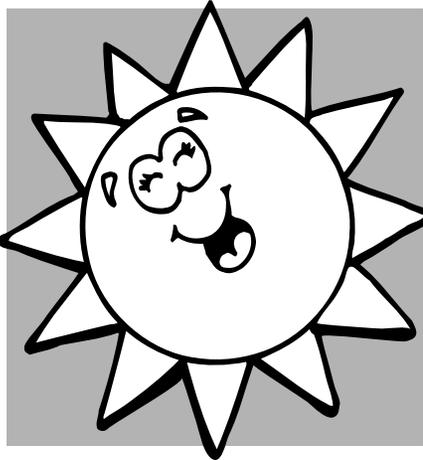
Hang the stars in the classroom or display them on the board to announce your "starring" students. Crepe paper streamers can be hung from the stars!



Sun *Skills: Circles and Straight Lines*

- Cut these sun patterns from yellow or orange construction paper.
- Paste the center of the sun to the center of a larger sheet of construction paper.
- Paste the sun's rays around the center.

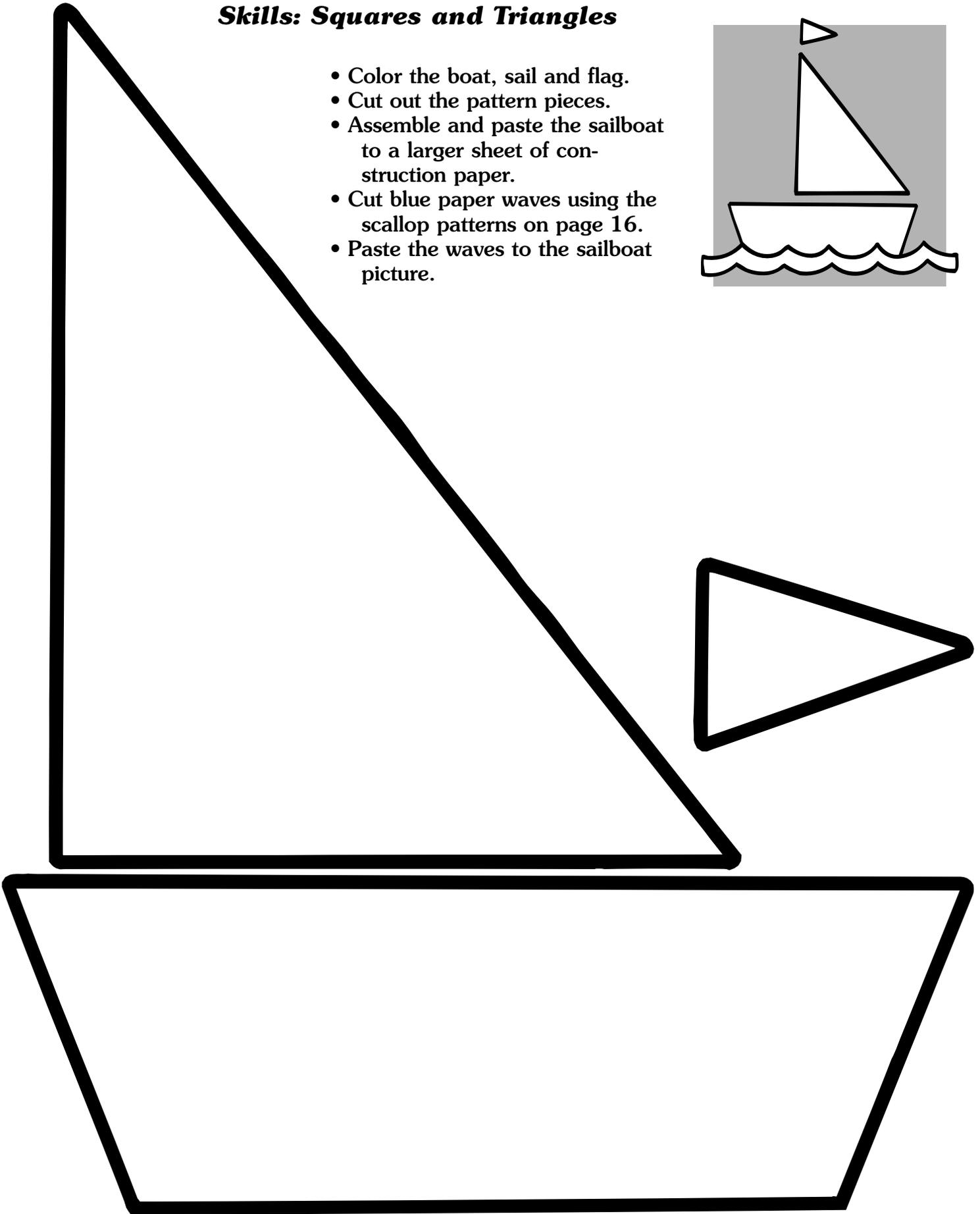
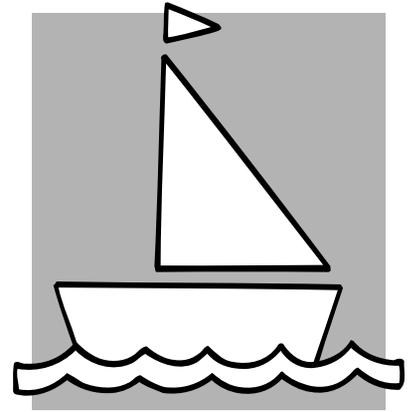
Children can add gold glitter or add their own crayon decorations before displaying the suns on the classroom board.



Sailboat

Skills: Squares and Triangles

- Color the boat, sail and flag.
- Cut out the pattern pieces.
- Assemble and paste the sailboat to a larger sheet of construction paper.
- Cut blue paper waves using the scallop patterns on page 16.
- Paste the waves to the sailboat picture.



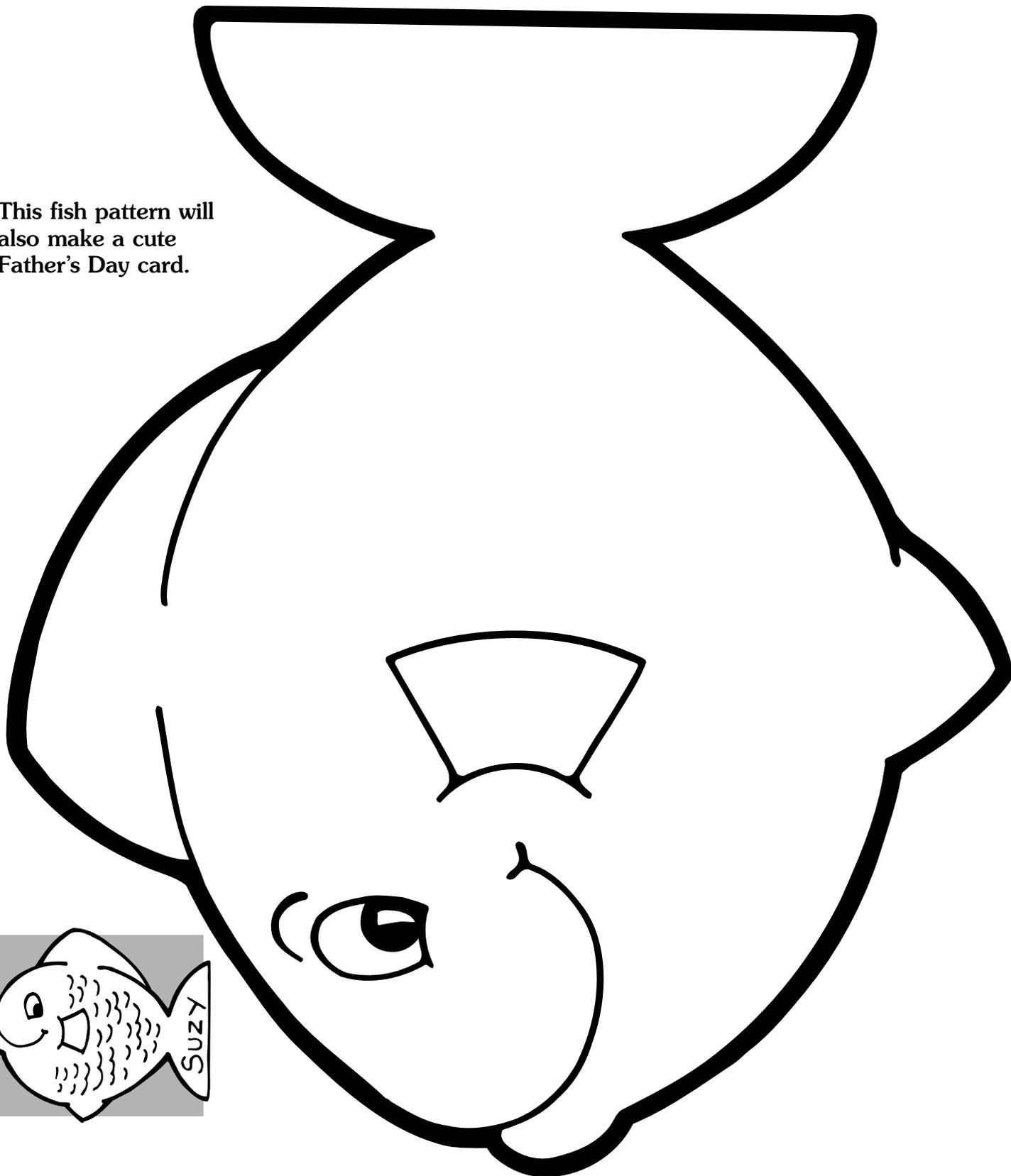
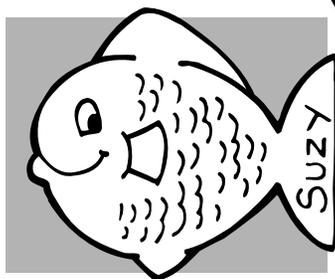
Fish

**Skills: Curves,
Scallops and
Straight Lines**

- Cut this fish pattern from colored construction paper.
- Sponge paint colorful scales on the fish.
- Child's name can be written on the tail.

Cover your class board with blue paper and create an underwater scene with the colorful fish. Use colored chalk to draw in rocks, plants, shells, etc.

This fish pattern will also make a cute Father's Day card.

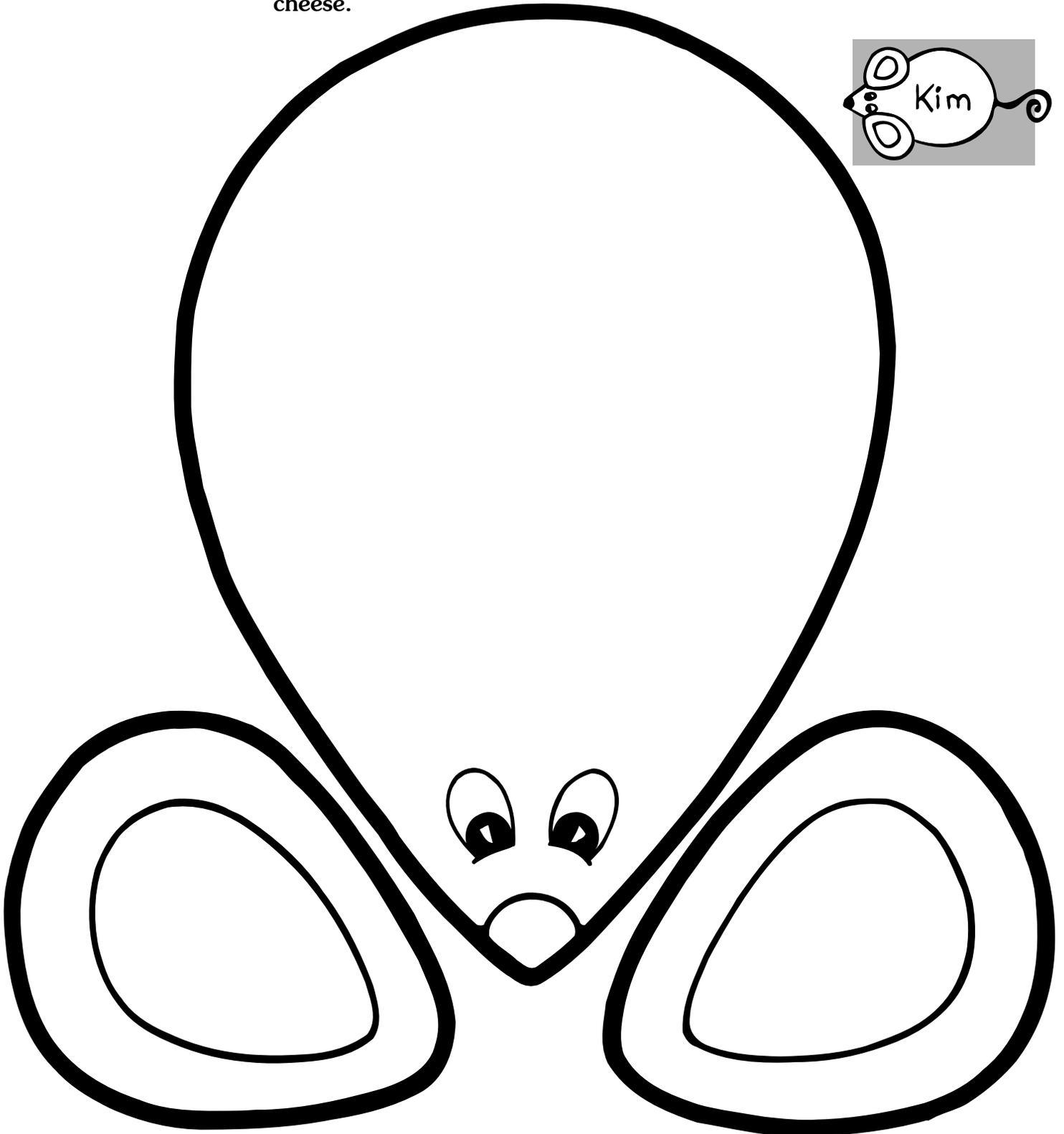
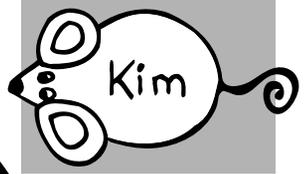


Mouse

Skills: Curves

- Cut these mouse patterns from grey or white paper.
- Color his nose and the inside of his ears pink.
- Paste the ears to the mouse.
- Attach a string or pipe cleaner for the mouse's tail.
- Children's names can be written on the mice and displayed on the class board.

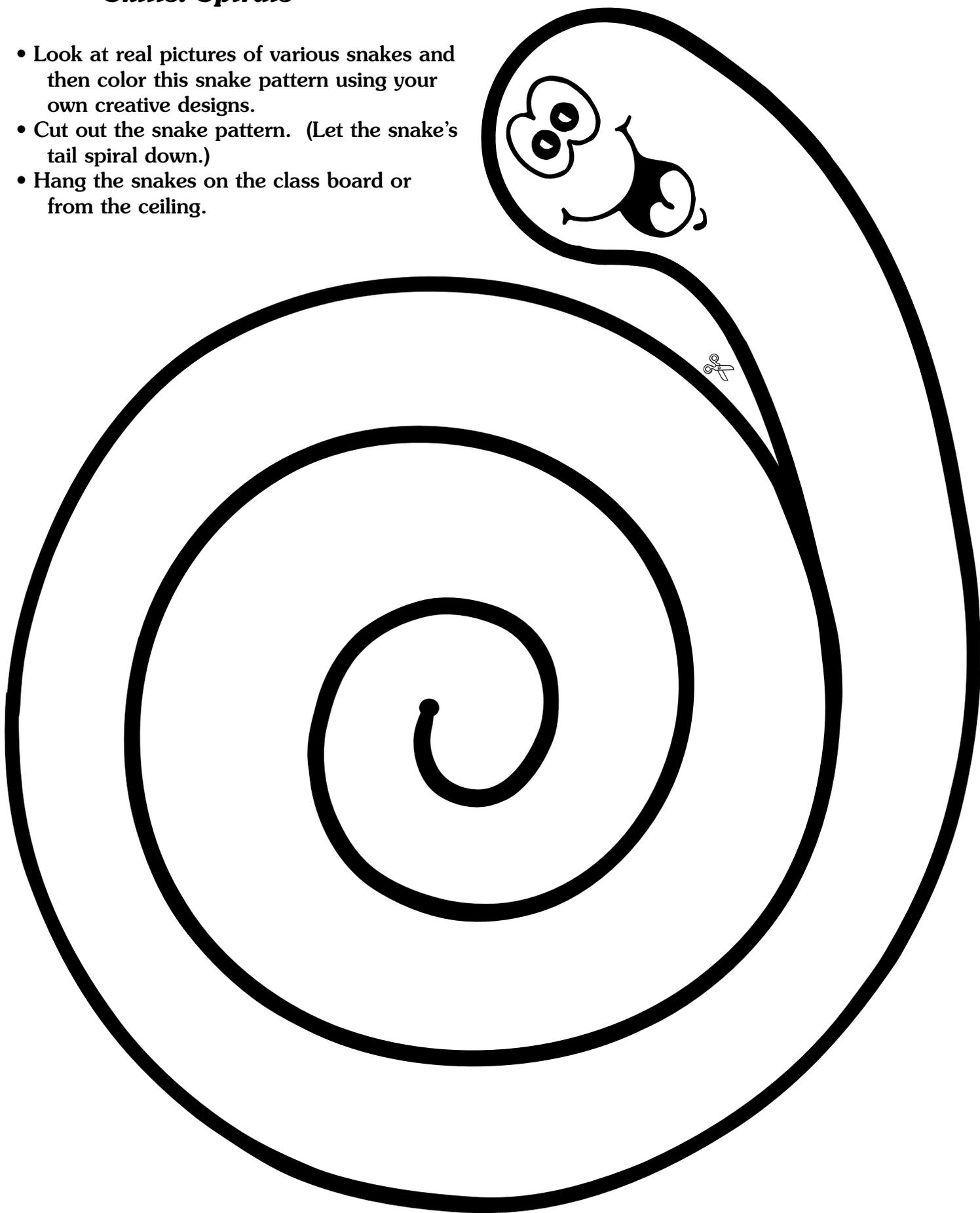
These mice can help make a clever motivational display by posting a yellow paper hunk of cheese at one end of the board and the mice at the other. As children accomplish tasks, move their mice closer to the cheese.



Snake

Skills: Spirals

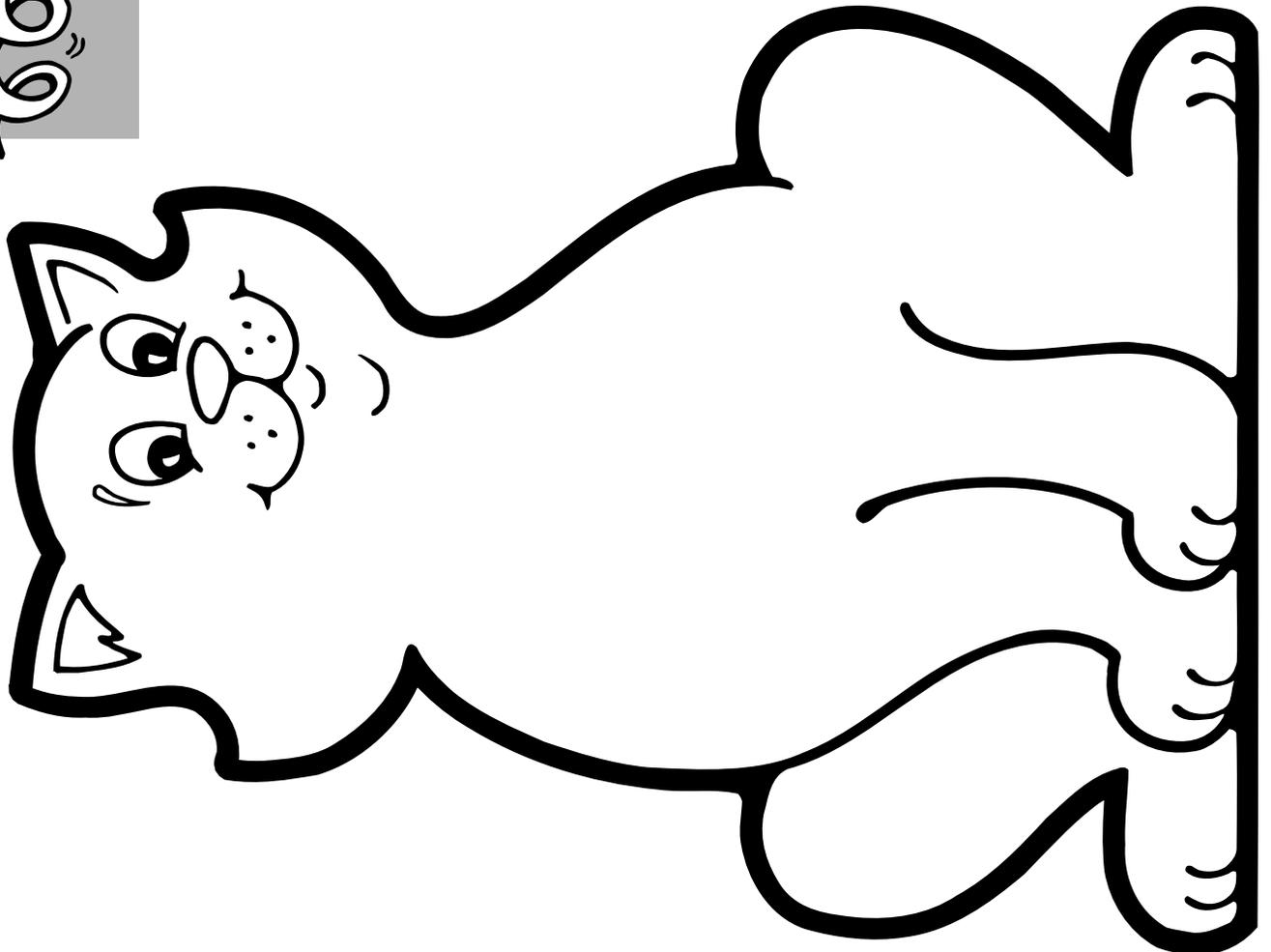
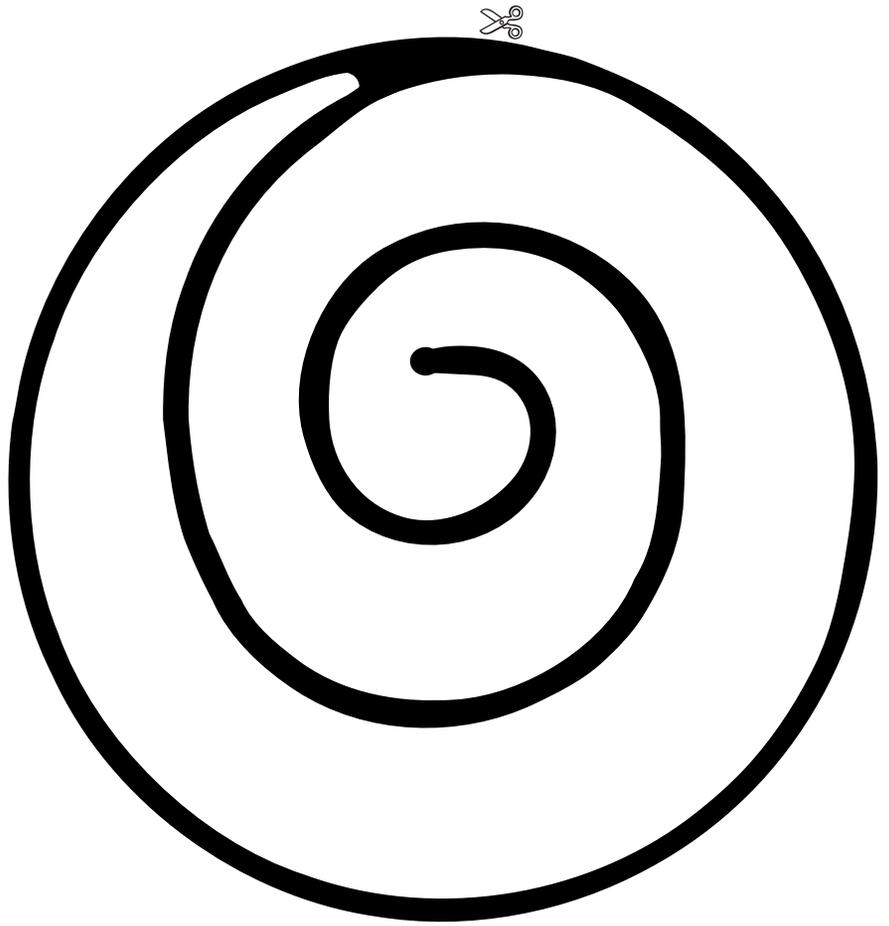
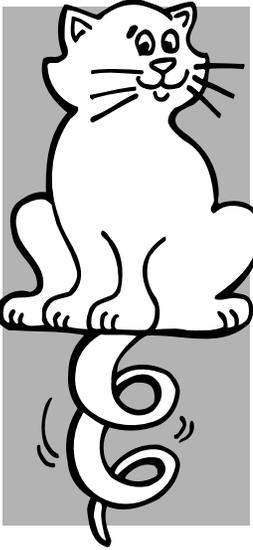
- Look at real pictures of various snakes and then color this snake pattern using your own creative designs.
- Cut out the snake pattern. (Let the snake's tail spiral down.)
- Hang the snakes on the class board or from the ceiling.



Cat

Skills: Curves and Spiral

- Cut these cat patterns from colored construction paper.
- Use crayons to draw stripes or spots on the cat and his tail.
- Paste or staple the tail to cat and hang him in the classroom.
- Paste on toothpicks for the cat's whiskers.

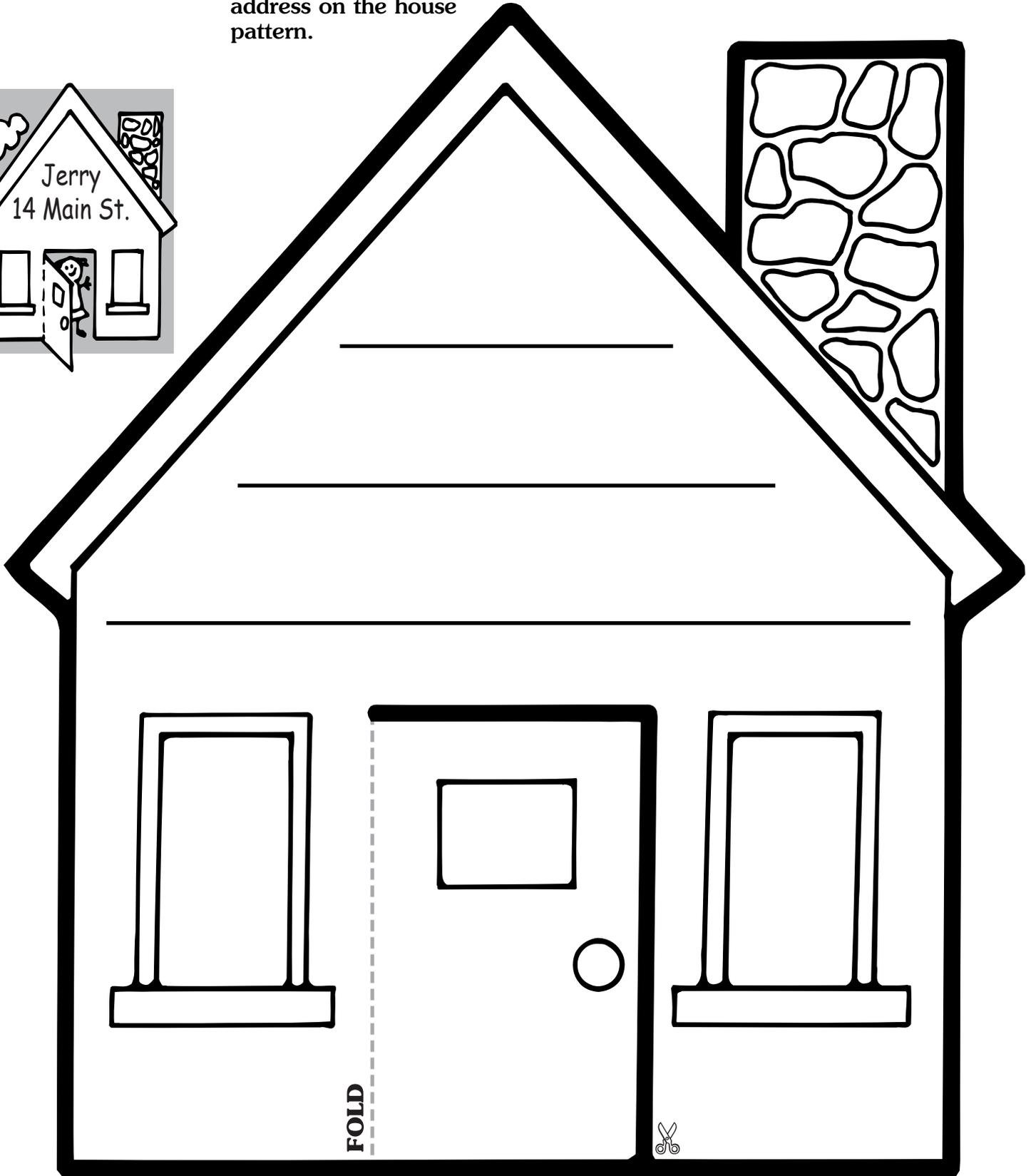
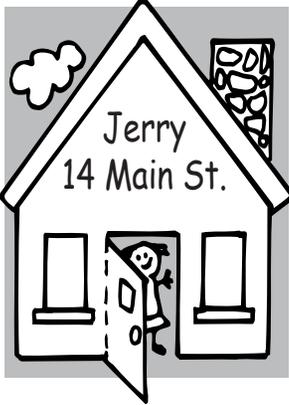


House

Skills: Straight Lines and Start, Stop and Fold

- Color this house any way you choose.
- Cut out the house pattern.
- Cut out the door, stopping at the dot. Fold the door open.
- Paste the house to a larger sheet of construction paper. Be careful not to paste down the door.
- Draw a picture of yourself inside the door. You may wish to color in bushes, flowers, sun, clouds, etc.

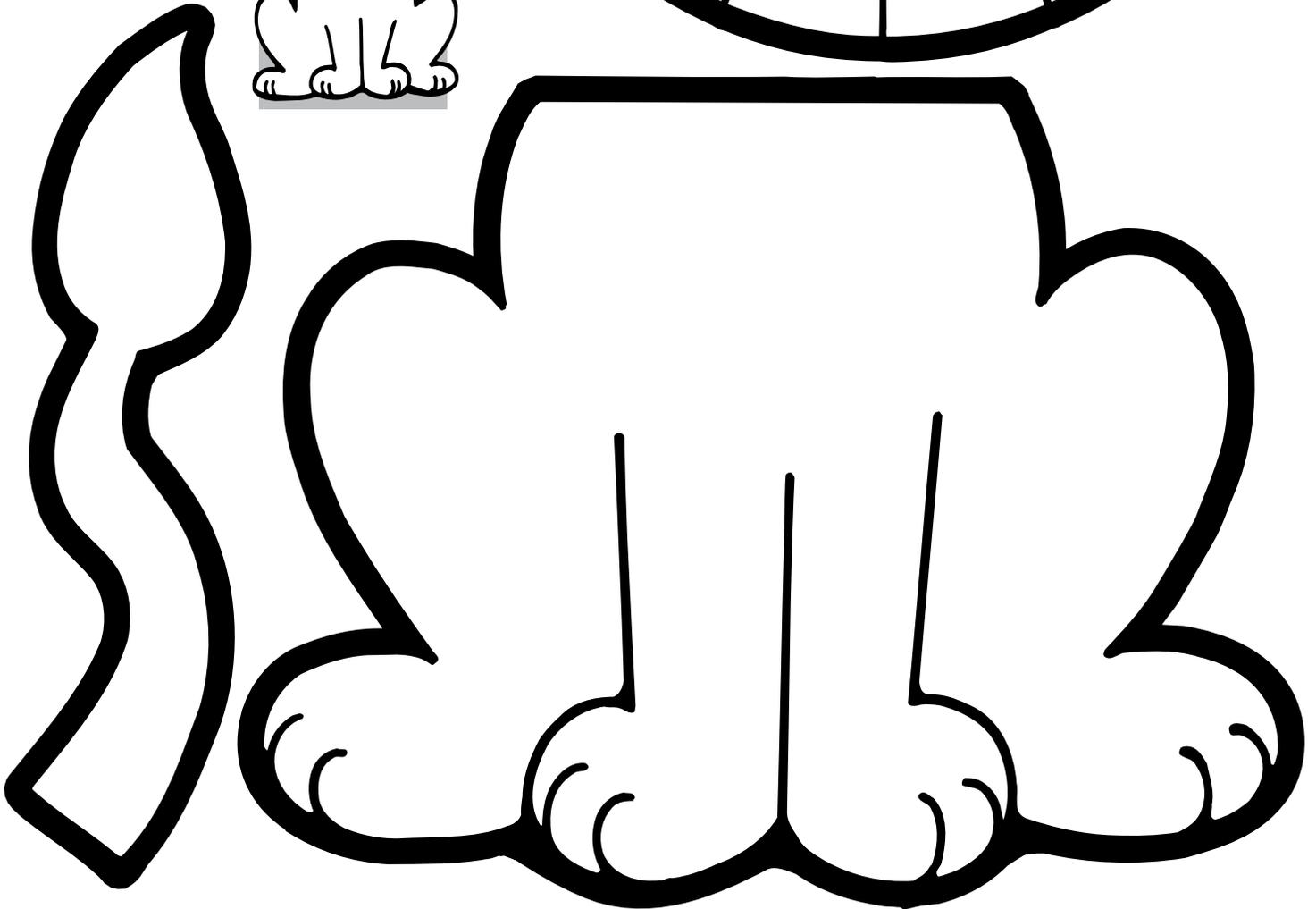
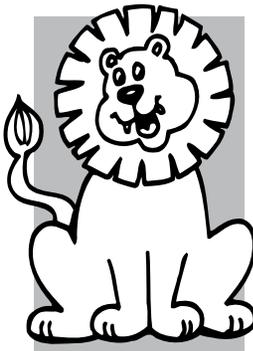
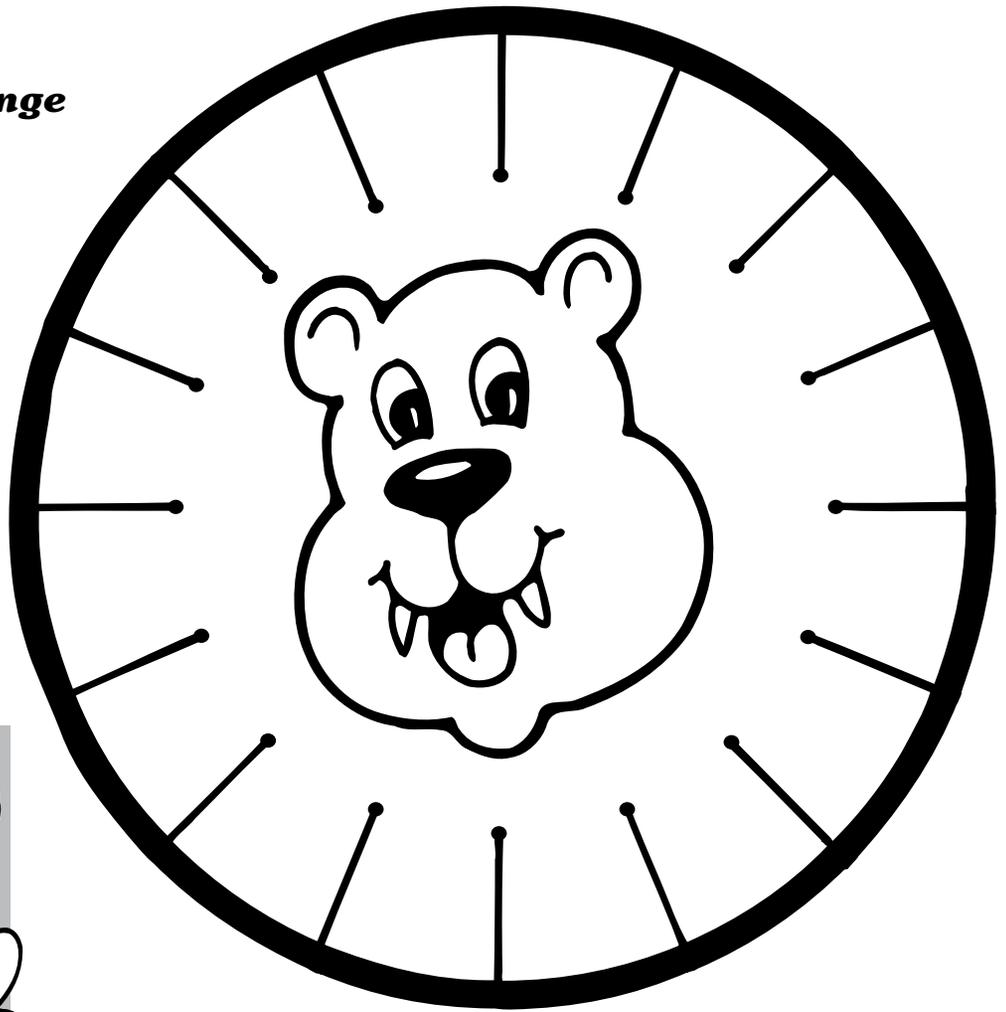
Help the child memorize his/her address by writing the child's name and address on the house pattern.



Lion

Skills: Curves and Fringe

- Cut these lion patterns from yellow or brown construction paper.
- Cut “fringe” around the lion’s mane. Bend the fringe forward.
- Paste the lion body pattern to a larger sheet of construction paper. Paste the lion’s head and his tail in place. (Be careful not to paste the lion’s mane.)

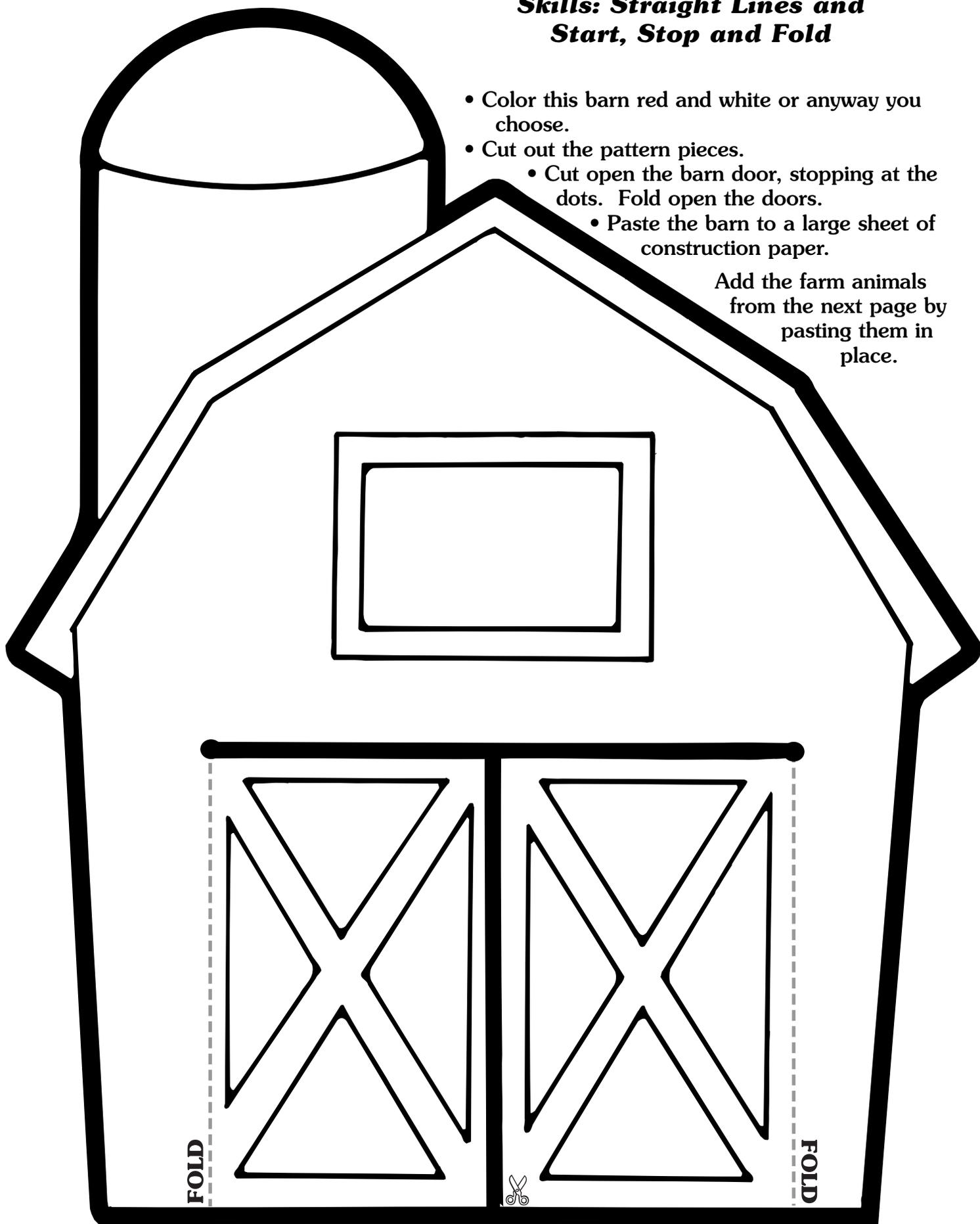


Barn

Skills: Straight Lines and Start, Stop and Fold

- Color this barn red and white or anyway you choose.
- Cut out the pattern pieces.
 - Cut open the barn door, stopping at the dots.
 - Fold open the doors.
 - Paste the barn to a large sheet of construction paper.

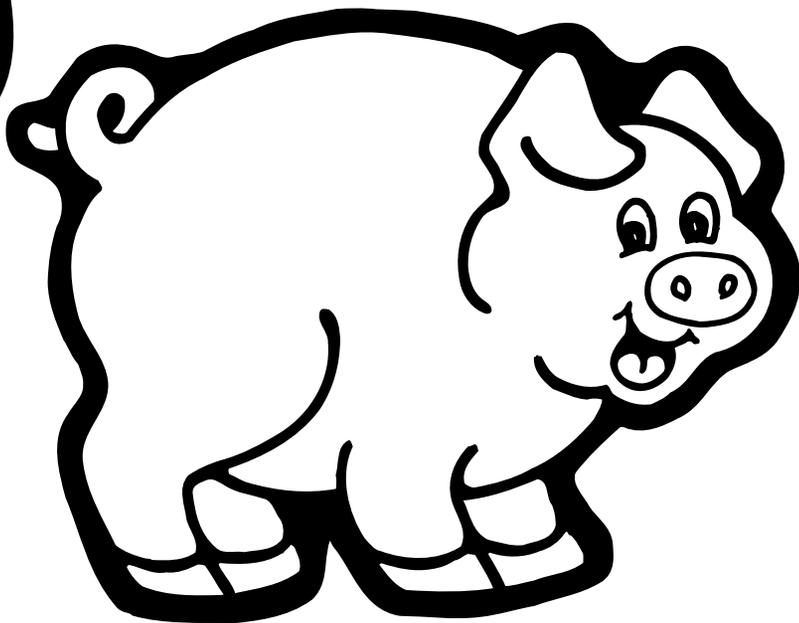
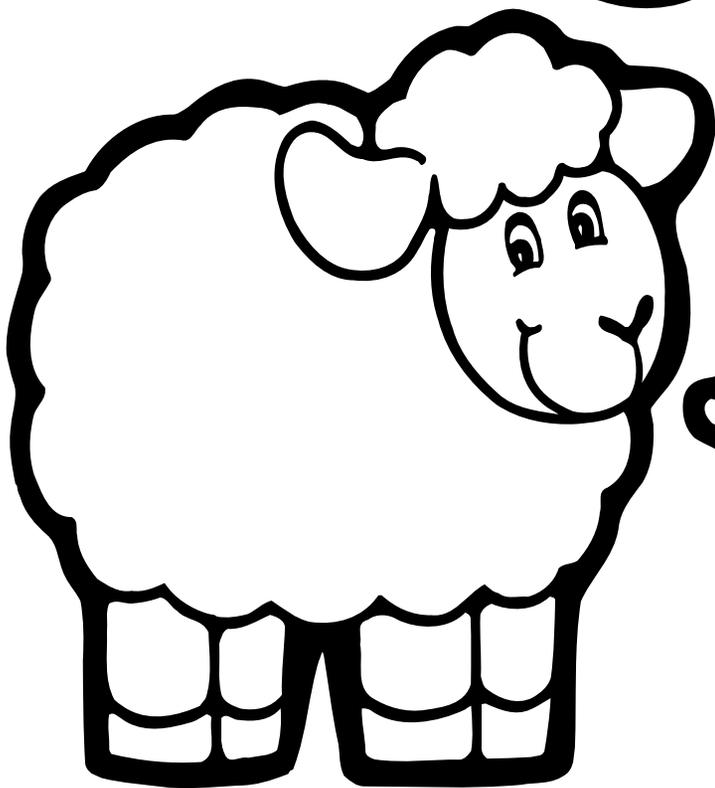
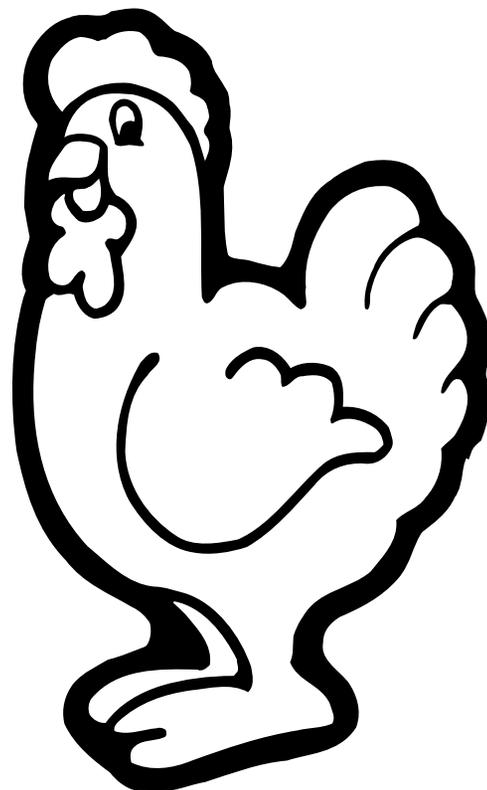
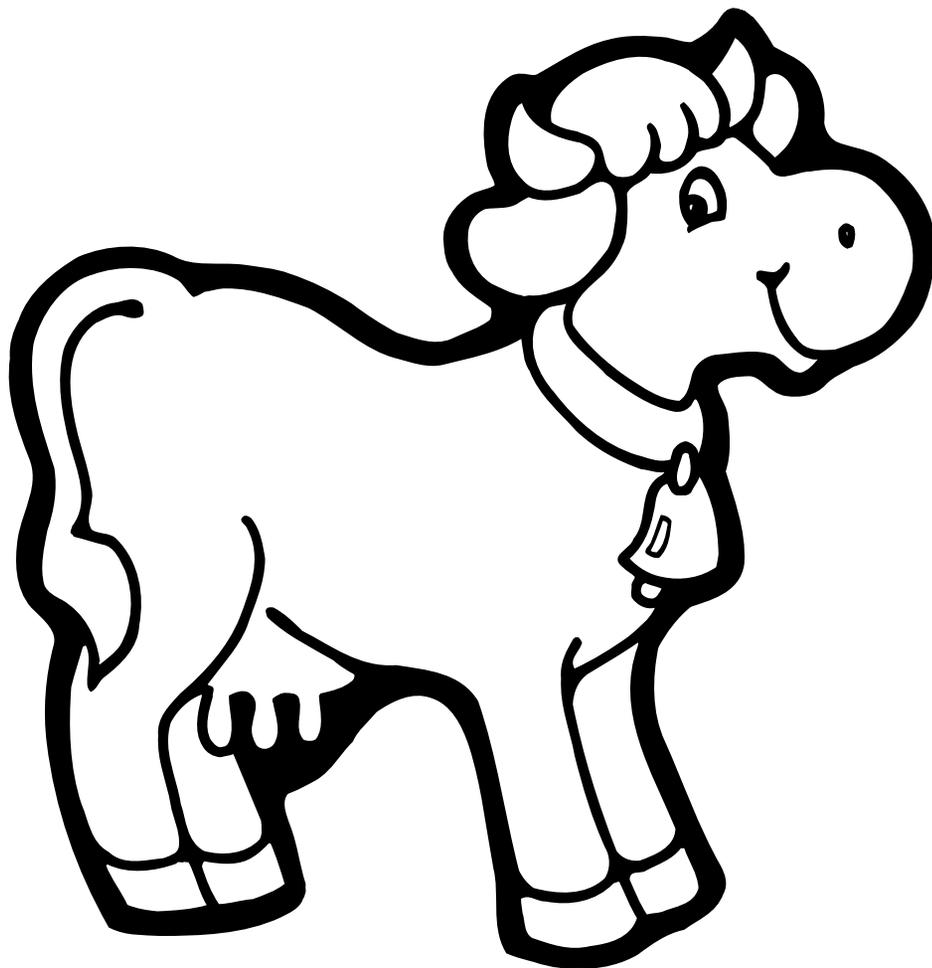
Add the farm animals from the next page by pasting them in place.



Farm Animals

Skills: Curves

- Color these farm animal patterns any way you choose.
- Cut out the patterns.



Young children need new and challenging experiences through fun, playful activities. It is important to know that most preschoolers can do the following activities; however, each child matures at his/her own rate and time.

Most Two Year Olds Can...

Climb up stairs, two feet at a time
Walk on tiptoe for a short time
March in time to music
Imitate gross motor skills (hands over head, touch toes, clap hands, etc.)
Jump off low step, step over low obstacles
Kick a ball and catch a large ball
Enjoy mud and water play
Put together large puzzle pieces
Name simple pictures in a book
String very large beads
Unscrew the lids of jars
Use a cookie cutter with clay
Enjoy pushing and pulling things
Begin to use pounding and interlocking toys
Begin some painting and coloring

Favorite phrases: "Mine," "Me do it," and "No"

Play with clay and/or fingerpaint
Color with large crayons on plain paper
Begin to tear paper and paste
Enjoy having their own books
Enjoy being read to, if story is not too long
Enjoy rhythmical equipment: rocking chairs, swings
Play with dolls and stuffed animals
Play act: imaginary eating, sleeping
Begin to talk in short sentences
Often talk to themselves
Play individually with flexible scheduling
Begin to learn to use the toilet
Sit in a group for only a few minutes
Not adapt, give in or be very patient
Not share toys or materials well
Not maintain attention span of more than a few minutes

Most Three Year Olds Can...

Walk quickly or run and walk a straight line
Climb stairs, jump off steps and walk backwards
Ride a tricycle
Catch and throw a large ball without losing balance
Get undressed by themselves (not dressed)
Unbutton big buttons
Tear paper and paste in place
Exhibit high interest in water play
Make things from clay, mud or sand
Begin painting with a brush on plain paper
Balance on toes or on one foot for a short time

Favorite phrases: "how," "what," "why," and "when"

Look at picture books on their own
Name pictures of things in books
Begin to draw simple shapes
Build towers with blocks
Pour from a small pitcher
String large beads
Assemble large puzzle pieces
Put pegs in a pegboard
Count two objects
Begin to learn to take turns, share and listen to others
Play well *next* to others and make new friends

Most Four Year Olds Can...

Love to run fast, skip, gallop and climb
Love to talk and shout
Have a good sense of balance
Build complex structures and do stunts
Swing, whirl and do somersaults
Walk up and down stairs, one foot to a step
Stand on one foot for up to 8 seconds
Begin to use roller skates
Ride a small bicycle with training wheels
Use hands to catch a smaller ball
Button, unbutton and dress themselves
Lace shoes and string smaller beads
Cut on a line with scissors
Recognize and name basic colors
Carry a cup of water without spilling
Enjoy drawing, coloring and painting

Favorite phrases: Anything to do with the word "why"

Put small groups of things in order
Match shapes and copy simple shapes
Follow dotted lines to link pictures
Cut a picture into pieces and and put it back together
Begin to print letters, numbers and their own first name
Learn more difficult speech sounds
Appreciate nature
Play imaginative games and pretend with dress up
Do puzzles and play dominos and simple card games
Sing songs and tell stories
Recite rhymes and fingerplays
Beat out a rhythm well
Love being silly and enjoy making up words
Draw recognizable people
Brush teeth and take care of simple personal needs
Begin to play well with others

Most Five Year Olds Can...

Hop, jump rope and climb a jungle gym
Swim and/or ride a two wheel bike (Some)
Enjoy building with both large and small blocks
Love to swing, skip, roller skate, jump from heights
Catch and throw fairly well
Love to play with simple materials and gadgets
Love being read to and looking at picture books
Love to sing and dance to recorded music
Enjoy acting out with puppets
Name various body parts
Color within lines and copy things
Identify some small words

Favorite phrases: Practically anything, especially likes to joke

Recognize their own name
Say the alphabet and print some letters of the alphabet
Count up to twenty objects
Add and subtract correctly within five
Write numbers 1-10
Hammer a nail
Use scissors carefully
Learn by doing things themselves
Share more with others
Forget safety rules
Easily be distracted

LIST OF TOYS, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS SUITABLE FOR MOST PRESCHOOLERS

Remember that equipment and/or materials suitable for a four or five year old are not necessarily safe for a two or three year old. Please keep in mind that small children should be supervised by a competent adult at all times. Keep small objects that could be swallowed or cause choking away from small children. Make sure that all equipment is in good repair and that all materials and toys are child-safe and non-toxic. Refer to the manufacturer's directions and warnings on all equipment and materials that you use with young children.

TWO YEAR OLDS!

Animals, stuffed or plastic
Balls, large, rubber or foam
Blocks, large (hollow, cardboard or plastic)
Blocks, linking (Legos®)
Boards for building, carrying, walking up inclines
Books, heavy-duty and/or cloth books
Brushes for painting with water
Bubble pipes
Cardboard boxes, large and sturdy
Child-size car (moves by pushing feet or pedals)
Clay, salt clay, Play-Doh® (non-toxic)
Cleaning equipment, broom, mop, dustpan, carpet sweeper
Climbing apparatus with safe, easily accessible platforms
Crayons, large-size
Dishes and cooking utensils (unbreakable)
Dolls, doll bed, stroller and clothing
Dress up box: hats, gloves, scarves, shoes, jewelry
Easel and large paper

Hand puppets
Jack-in-the-box
Musical instruments: drum, gong, xylophone, bells
Nesting boxes or cans
Paint, powder paint mixed with water (non-toxic)
Pets: fish, rabbits, turtles, guinea pigs
Rope and string
Sand box and sand toys (scoop, pail, big spoons, sifter)
Slide (small, attached to climbing apparatus)
Suitcases, bags
Table and chairs, child-size
Tape player (cassettes)
Tricycle
Toys: cars, planes, trucks, boats, trains, dump truck, telephone, ironing board
Kitchen toy appliances (child-size sink, refrigerator, stove)
Wagon
Wheelbarrow
Wooden beads, large, with heavy string w/metal tips

THREE YEAR OLDS!

Balls, varied sizes
Beanbags
Blocks, smaller for building
Boards for balancing, sliding, seesaw, bouncing
Books, picture/story
Building tools (child-size hammer, large nails, soft wood)
Climbing apparatus, jungle gym, boxes, slides, etc.
Color manipulatives
Colored paper

Felt pens (water-based, non-toxic)
Floor puzzles, large size
Fingerpaints
Materials for playing house and store
Musical instruments: tambourine, castanets, triangle
Poster paint in bright colors (non-toxic)
Rocking horse
Scissors, blunt
Sewing cards
Shape manipulatives

FOUR YEAR OLDS!

Board games, simple
Bicycle with training wheels
Camera (toy)
Coloring books and art paper
Cooking Equipment (toy pots and pans, play food)
Construction toys (fit-together type)
Crayons (more colors)
Doctor and/or nurse kit
Dollhouse
Flannel and felt board visuals
Flashlight

Garden tools, small
Jigsaw puzzles
Magnets
Miniature people, animals, vehicles, food
Paste, paper and materials (beans, macaroni, etc.)
Playhouse and/or tents
Ring toss game
Rollerskates
Screwing or twisting toys
Seesaw
Toy sailboat (things that float)
Water-play materials
Workbench and small tools (screwdriver, pliers, etc.)

FIVE YEAR OLDS!

Card games, simple
Clay (modeling; type that can be baked or fired)
Crafts, simple sewing, loop looms
Dollhouses with miniature people and furniture
Dolls with accessories
Dress up costumes: doctor, astronaut, carpenter, fireman, etc.
Jump/Skipping rope

Kites/Pinwheels
Play setting toys (farms, stores, gas stations)
Scrapbook (and things to paste in it)
Science materials (magnifying glass, stethoscope, bug catcher jar/net)
Scooter
Stilts
Toy action heroes or soldiers