



BIG SKILLS
for
little hands®

TODDLER

I Can Trace!

Includes
wipe-off
page!

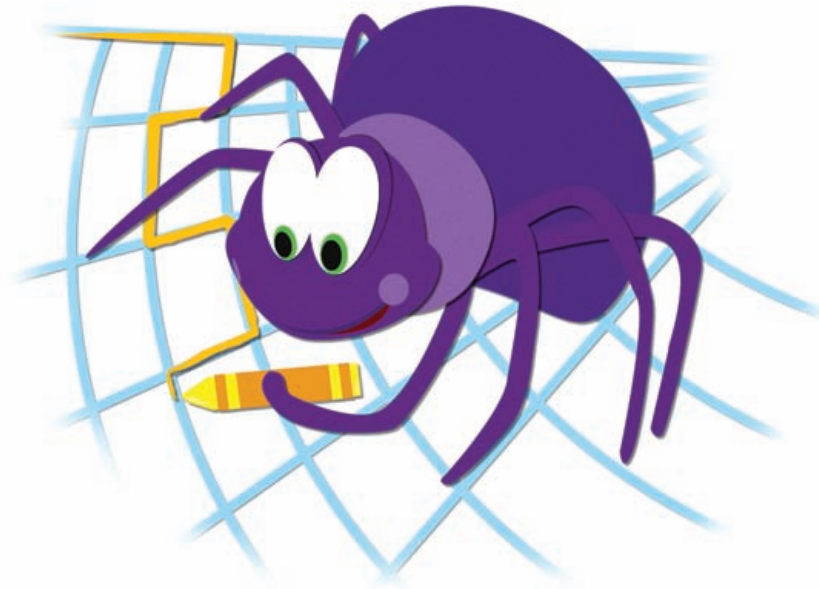


Activities meet
national standards
for preschool and
kindergarten!

- Features fun mazes, puzzles, and tracing activities
- Develops your child's fine motor skills while teaching alphabet and numbers
- Builds important skills needed in preschool and kindergarten



I Can Trace!



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INTRODUCTION

The Importance of Fine Motor Skills

Welcome to *Big Skills for Little Hands: I Can Trace!* This hands-on activity book is an introduction to tracing skills. The act of tracing lines and shapes helps a child develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Fine motor skills are movements or activities that are produced by small muscles or muscle groups. Children in preschool spend a lot of their day developing these muscles in their hands. Developed motor skills are the key to success in kindergarten.

Developing fine motor skills is also an important part of brain development. Movement helps the organization of the brain. It reinforces growth and builds connections between different parts of the brain. More connections mean more brain power!

Fine motor skills are essential to developing the coordination, hand strength, and brain power needed to write, cut, button, zip, and eventually read. Finger plays, turning pages in books, screwing lids on and off jars, hammering nails, molding dough, sorting, pouring, and building with blocks are all examples of fine motor activities. These play experiences also develop dexterity, strength, hand-eye coordination, and visual discrimination.



Arts and crafts are a great way to enhance your child's fine motor skills. Not only are your child's little fingers bending, twisting, pinching, and pulling, they are also engaged in color, texture, and a variety of crafting mediums. The activities in this book are specifically structured to address your child's growing fine motor skills. There are parent instructions and tips on each page to guide you as you work through this book with your child. Remove each page from the book before your child begins working on it. Then, separate the activity section from the directions by cutting along the solid line.

You can save your child's completed tracing activities in a shoebox that he or she decorated. Your child can use them later for play or for arts and crafts. Enjoy working through this book with your child. The time you invest in your child's development is priceless and will reap countless rewards for years to come!

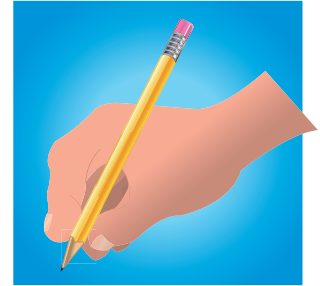


Writing Tools and Safety

Using Writing Tools

Big Skills for Little Hands: I Can Trace! teaches your child prewriting skills through playful tracing activities. Prewriting skills are essential for kindergarten success and include tracing lines in left to right, top to bottom, and circular movements. The activities help develop hand-eye coordination and teach numbers and shapes. All the activities build toward teaching proper letter formation.

One of the major standards of the preschool curriculum is learning to hold a pencil correctly and use it skillfully. As his or her fine motor skills develop, your child will advance from a tight-fisted grip to a proper grip, where he or she will hold the writing utensil between his or her thumb and fingers. To teach your child to maintain the proper hand position, remind him or her to “pinch” the writing utensil and let it rest on the third finger. You should model a proper grip and explain it using terms that your child will understand.



During this important developmental period, your child will learn which hand he or she prefers for writing, eating, throwing, etc. At this stage, children may switch hand preference daily. Allow your child to experiment with using either hand. To help your child gain confidence, allow many opportunities for him or her to color, write, and draw. As your child works, let him or her experiment with different kinds of writing instruments. In addition, provide different types of paper for your child to use.

This book was designed to be completed with you working with your child. This one-on-one time maximizes learning opportunities. *I Can Trace!* is more than just an activity book! This workbook is an opportunity for your child to learn colors, to learn how to follow directions, to develop a proper writing grip, and to build key pre-kindergarten skills. Try completing a couple of pages a day with your child.

Safety First

Here are some tips to make your child's first tracing experiences pleasant and safe:

- Select markers, crayons, and pencils that are child-friendly. Look for a label that says “Non-Toxic and Washable.”
- Some manufacturers make large crayons and colored pencils specifically for little hands. Large utensils are not a must, but they may be helpful for your child's first writing attempts.
- Remind your child that crayons, markers, and pencils are to be used on paper—not walls! (There are crayons that your child can use on shower or bathtub walls. These are a fun alternative, but make sure your child knows that they are to be used only in the shower or bath.)
- Use a large piece of paper or a vinyl tablecloth to cover the space where your child is working. This will make clean up a snap!
- Keep wipes or paper towels handy so you can wipe marker from your child's hands.

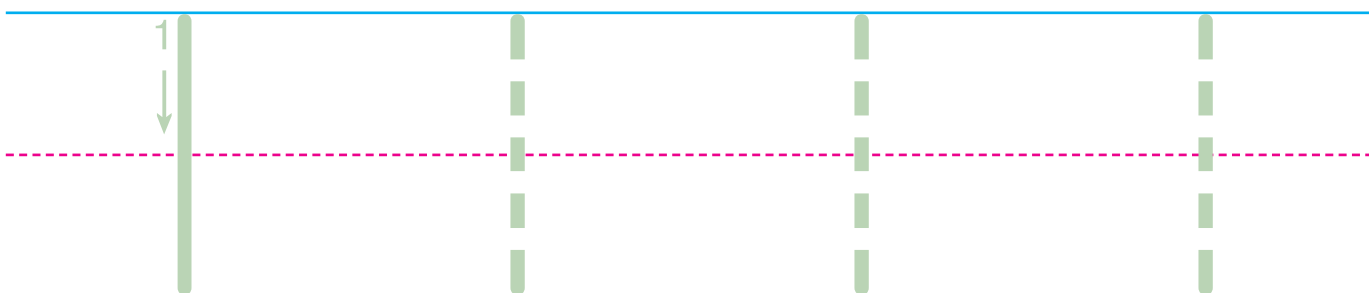
ACTIVITY

1

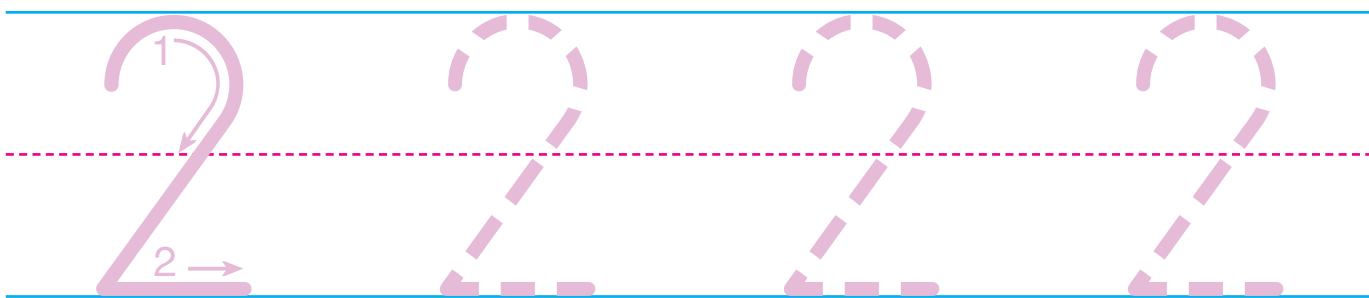
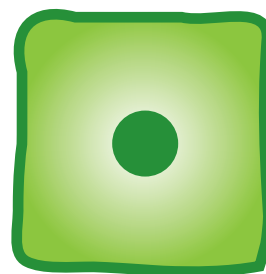
One and Two

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a number. Together, you and your child will say each number. Then, your child will trace the numbers with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity. When your child is done tracing, have your child touch the number words as you say them. Then, help your child count the dots on each die.

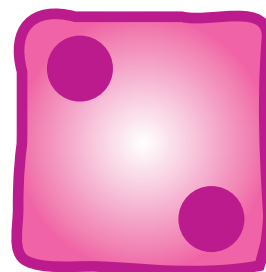
Trace a number.



one



two



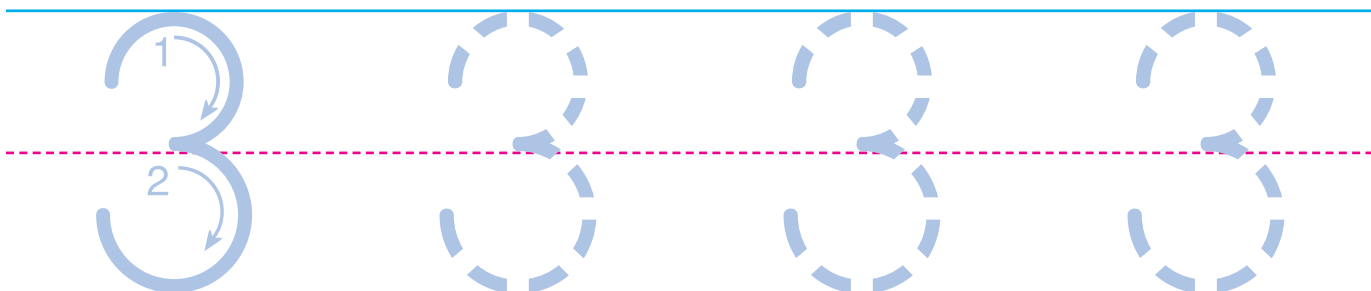
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ACTIVITY
2

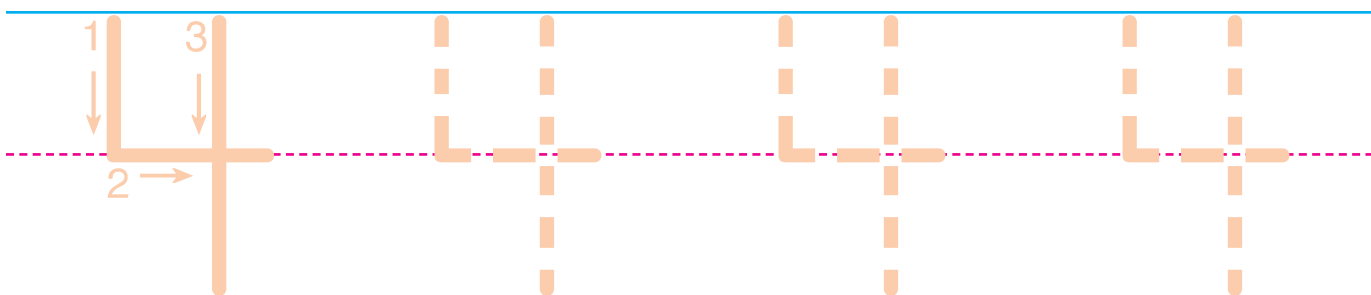
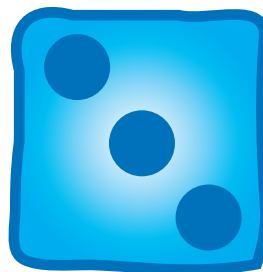
Three and Four

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a number. Say each number out loud with your child. Have your child trace the numbers with his or her finger first. Then, he or she will use a pencil to complete the activity. When your child is done tracing, have your child touch the number words as you say them. Then, help your child count the dots on each die.

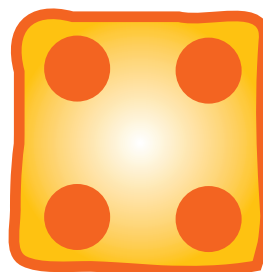
Trace a number.



three



four



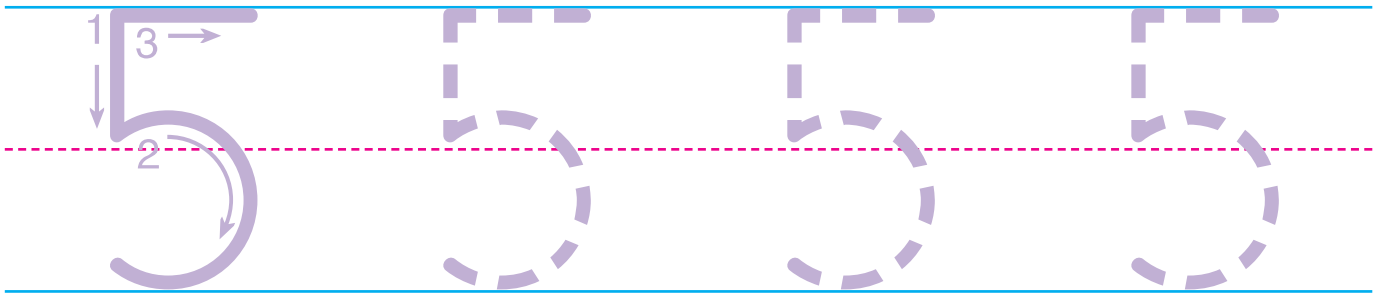
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ACTIVITY
3

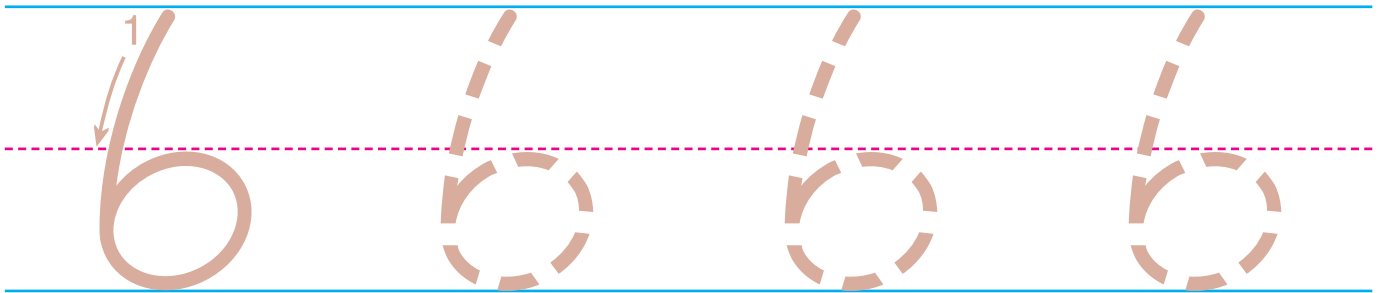
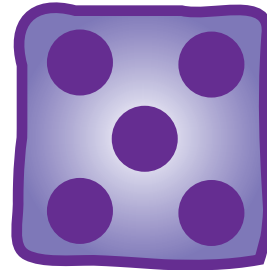
Five and Six

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a number. Say each number out loud with your child. Have your child trace the numbers with his or her finger first. Then, he or she will use a pencil to complete the activity. When your child is done tracing, have your child touch the number words as you say them. Then, help your child count the dots on each die.

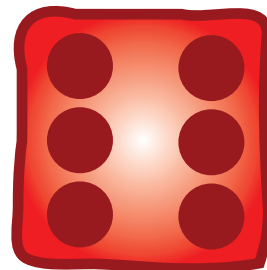
Trace a number.



five



six



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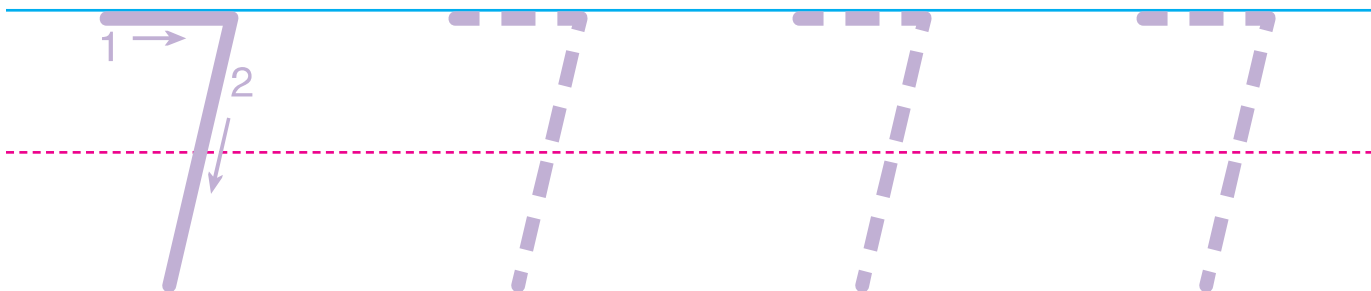
ACTIVITY

4

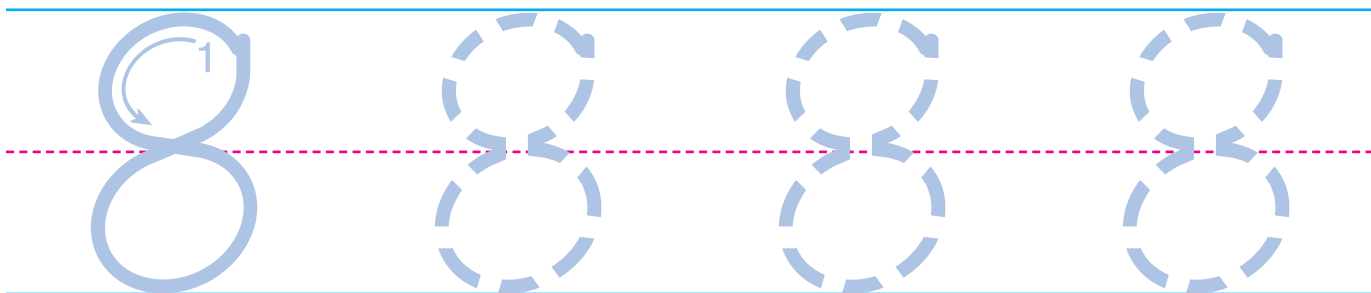
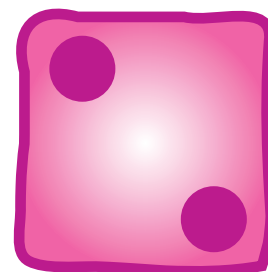
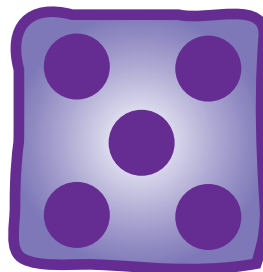
Seven and Eight

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a number. Say each number out loud with your child. Have your child trace the numbers with his or her finger first. Then, he or she will use a pencil to complete the activity. When your child is done tracing, have your child touch the number words as you say them. Then, help your child count the dots on each die.

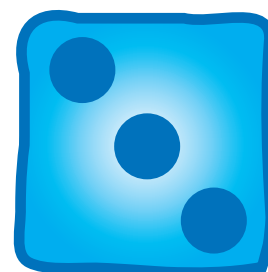
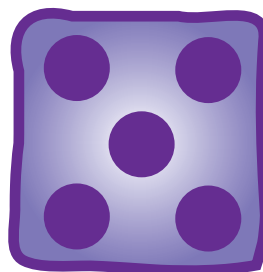
Trace a number.



seven



eight



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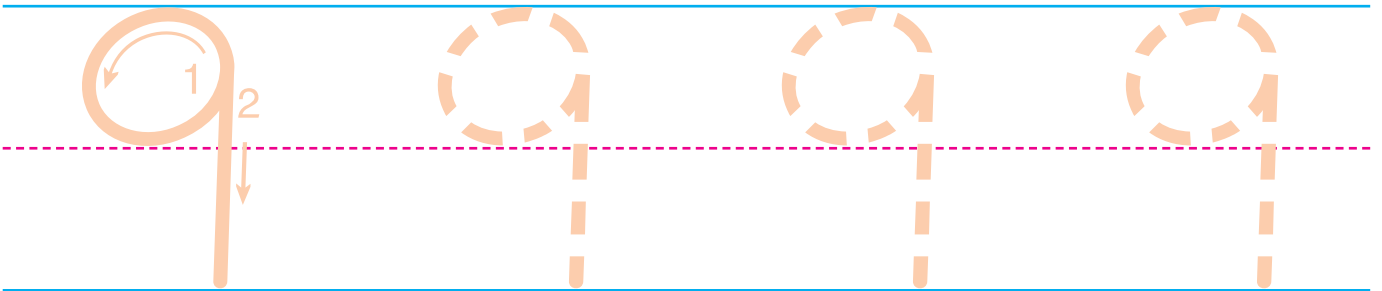
ACTIVITY

5

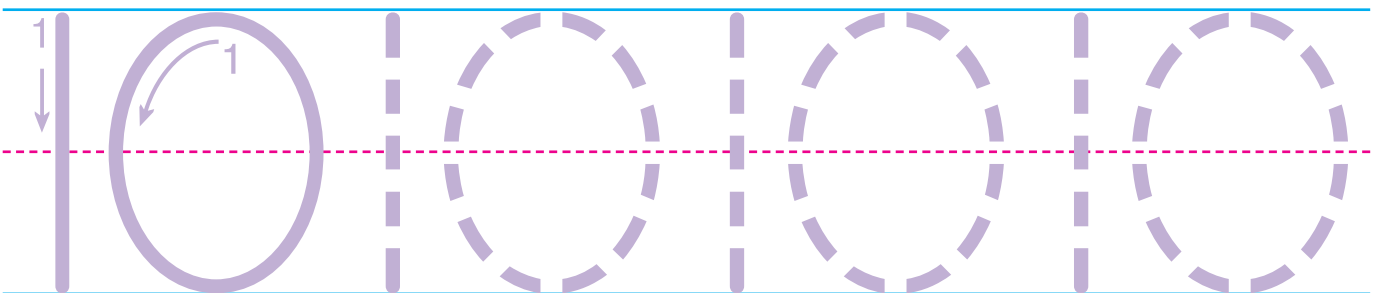
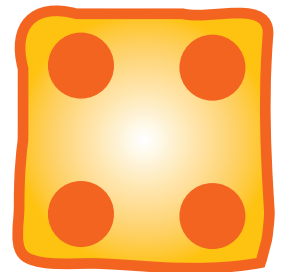
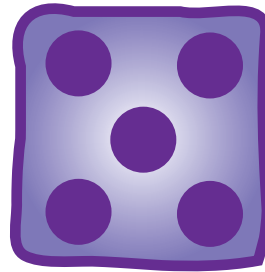
Nine and Ten

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a number. Say each number out loud with your child. Have your child trace the numbers with his or her finger first. Then, he or she will use a pencil to complete the activity. When your child is done tracing, have your child touch the number words as you say them. Then, help your child count the dots on each die.

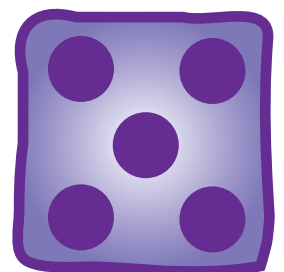
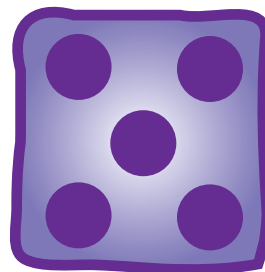
Trace a number.



nine



ten



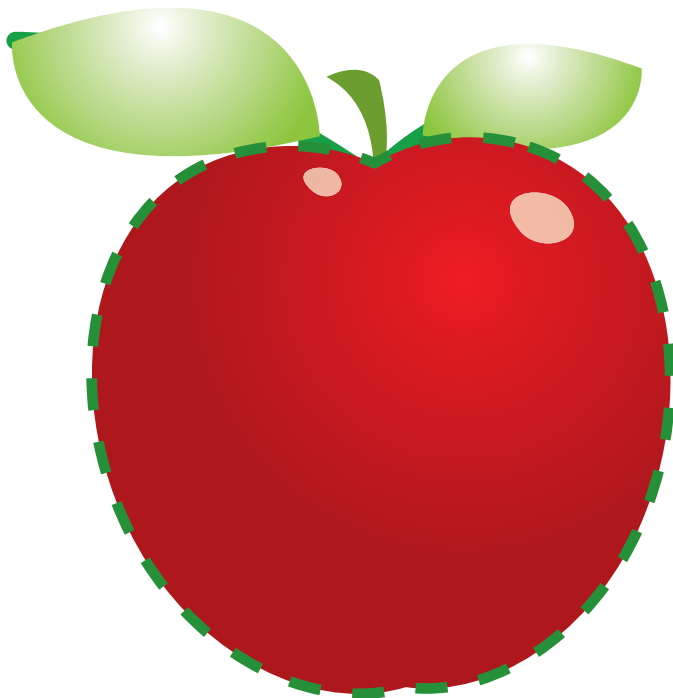
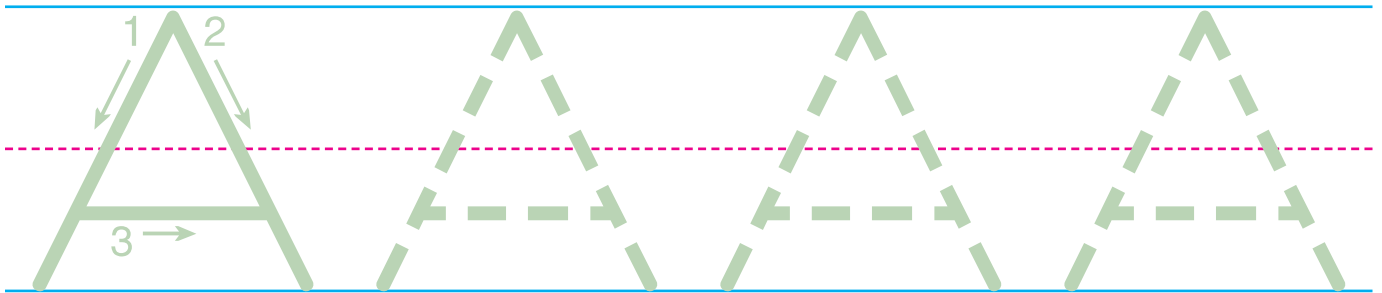
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A Is for Apple

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *apple*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



A is for apple.

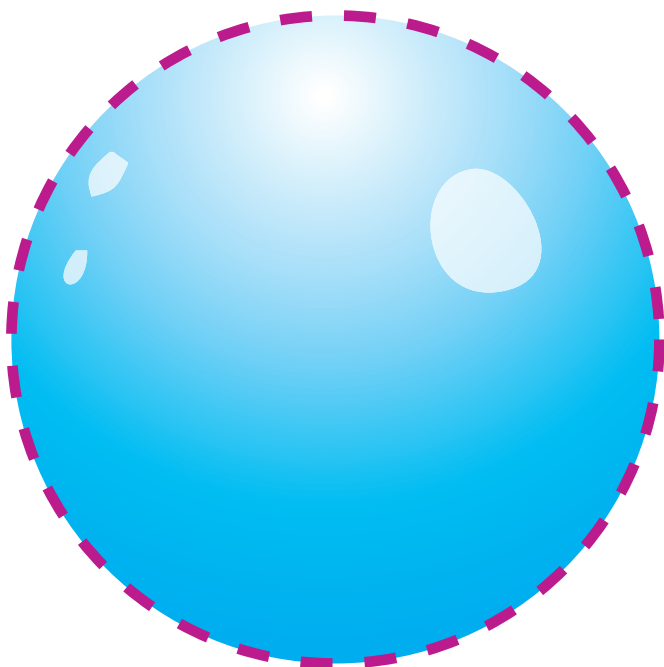
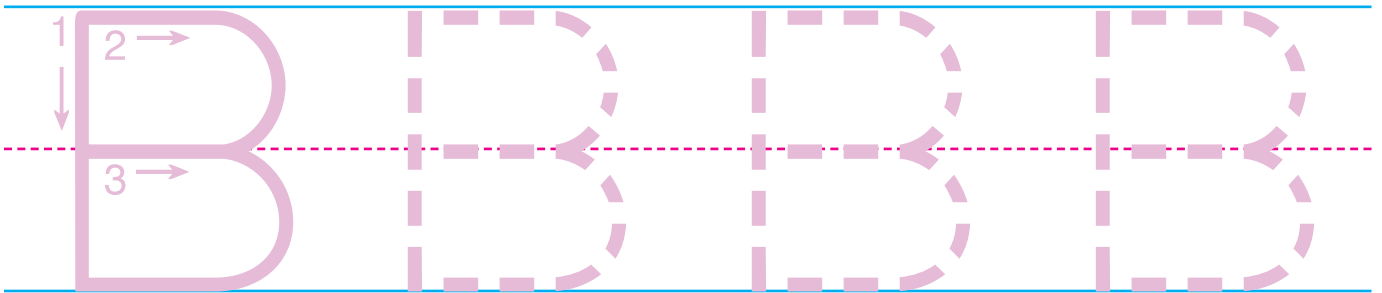
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B Is for Ball

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *ball*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



B is for ball.

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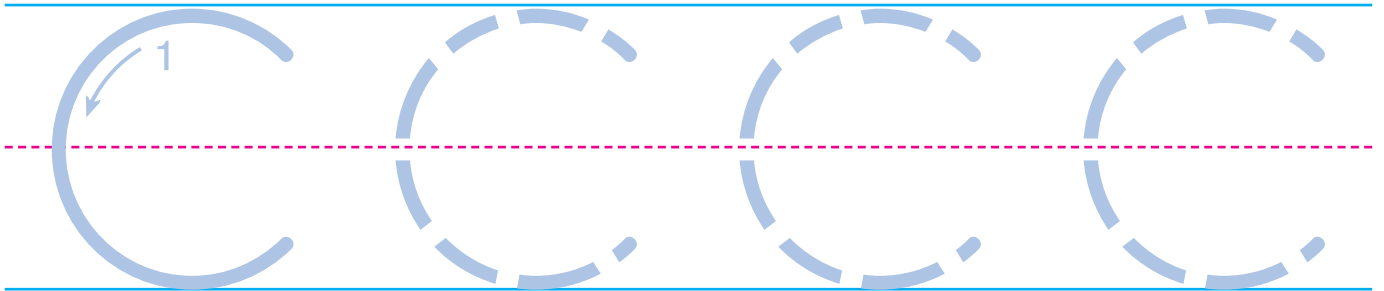
ACTIVITY

8

C Is for Car

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *car*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



C is for car.

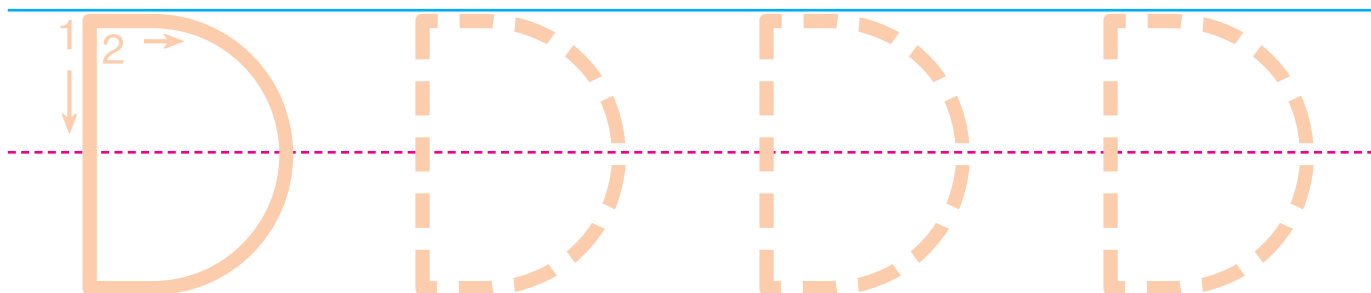
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D Is for Duck

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *duck*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



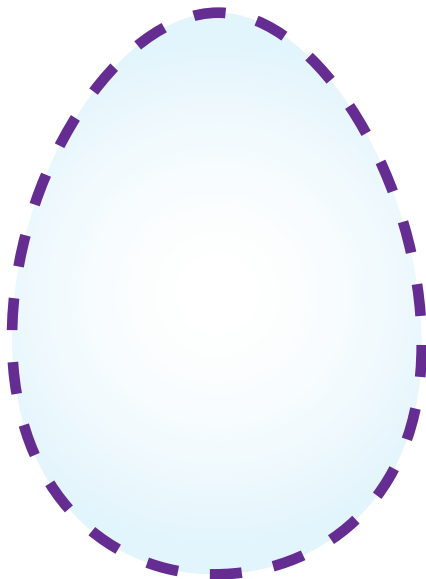
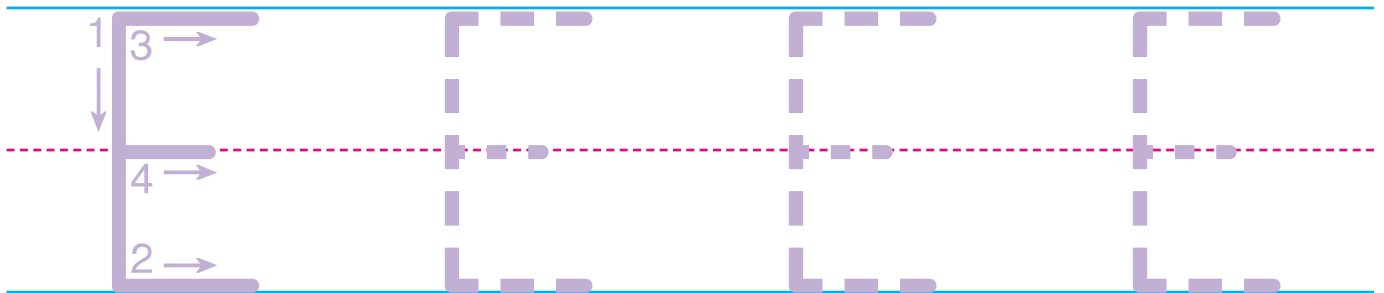
D is for duck.

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ACTIVITY
10**E** Is for Egg

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *egg*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



E is for *egg*.

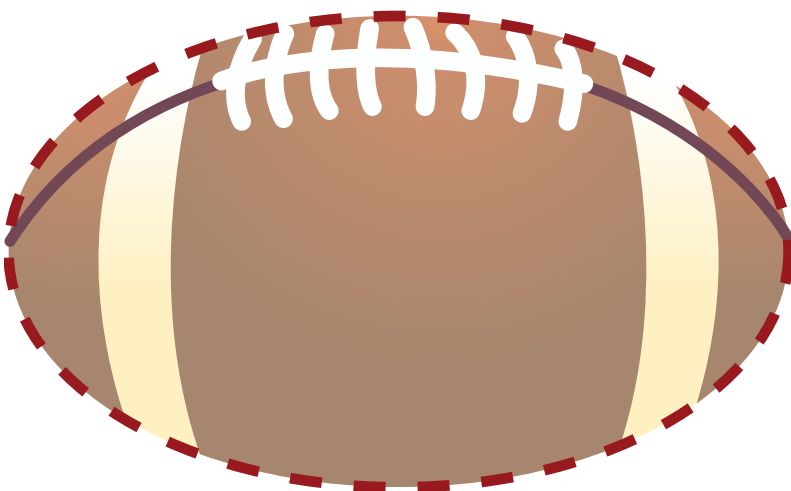
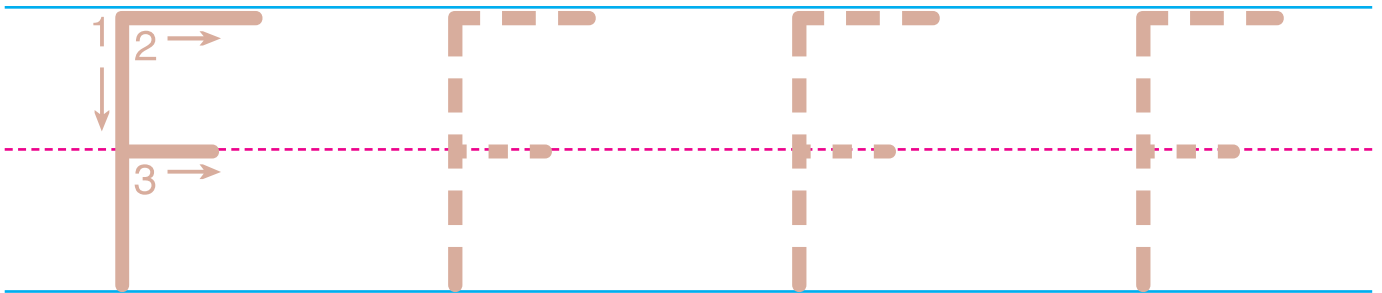
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F Is for Football

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *football*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



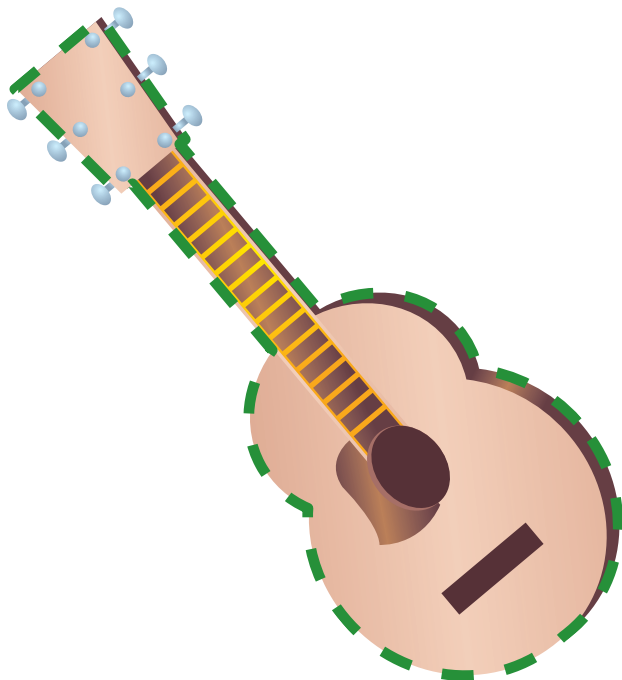
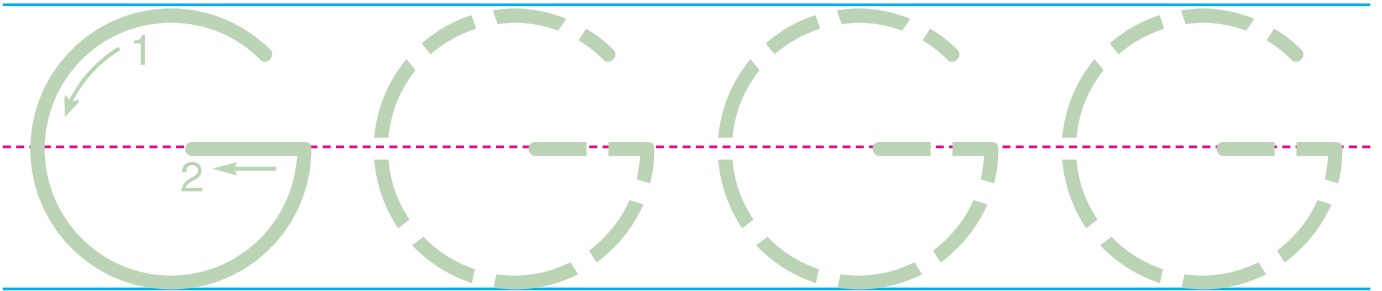
F is for football.

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ACTIVITY
12**G** Is for Guitar

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *guitar*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



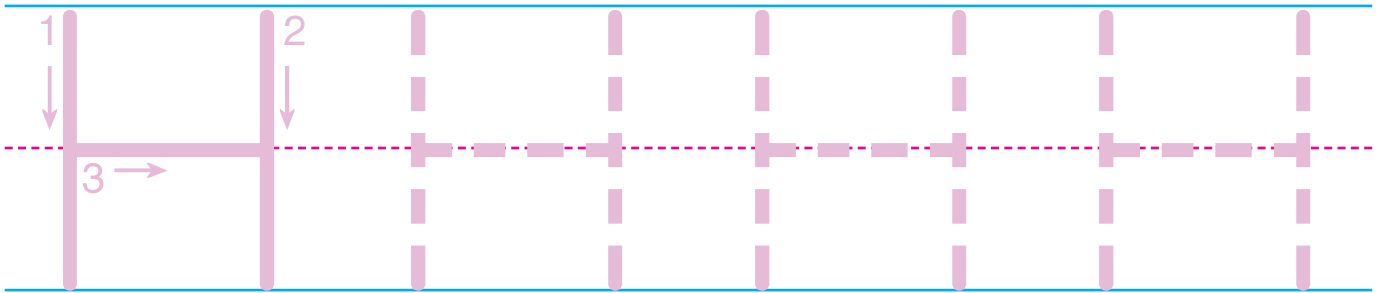
G is for guitar.

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ACTIVITY
13**H** Is for Hammer

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *hammer*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



H is for **hammer**.

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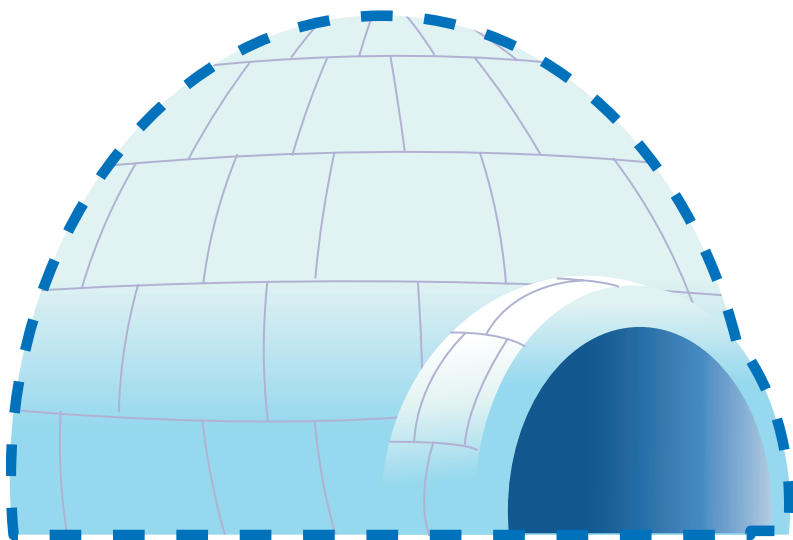
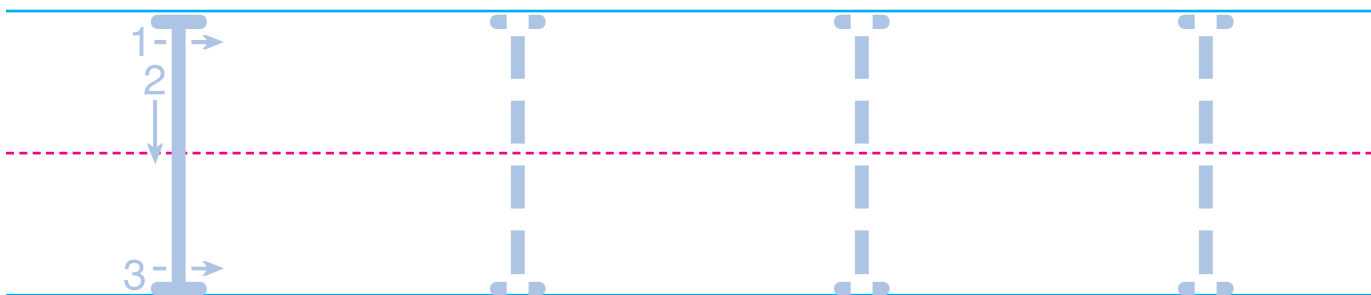
ACTIVITY

14

I Is for Igloo

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *igloo*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



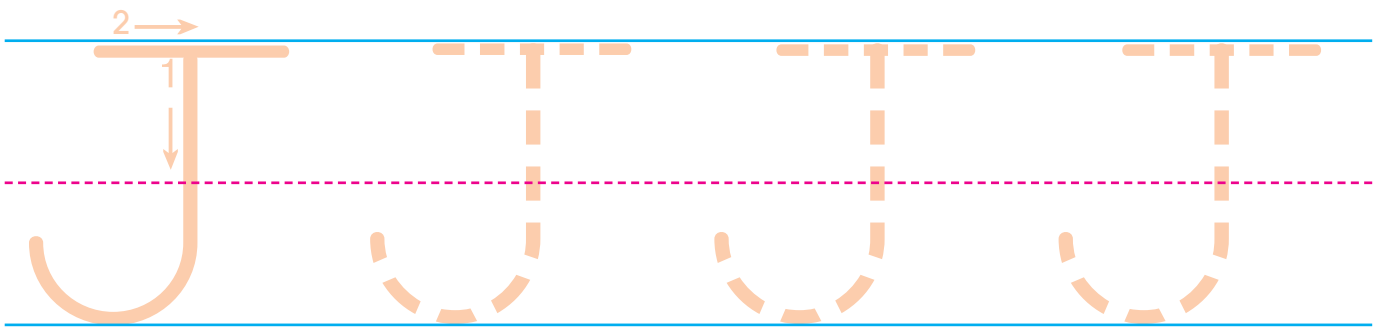
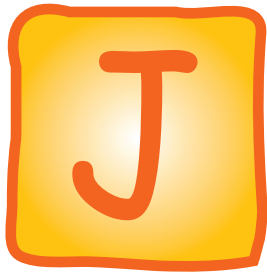
I is for igloo.

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ACTIVITY
15**J** Is for Jelly Bean

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *jelly bean*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



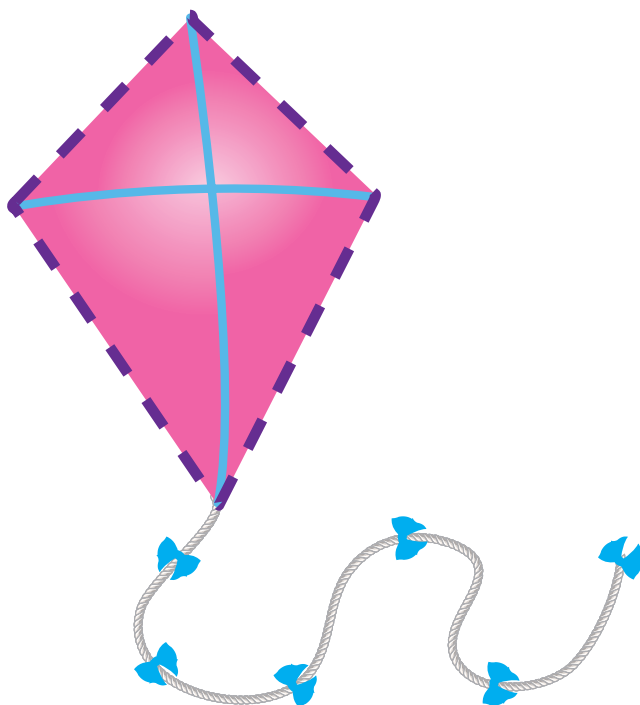
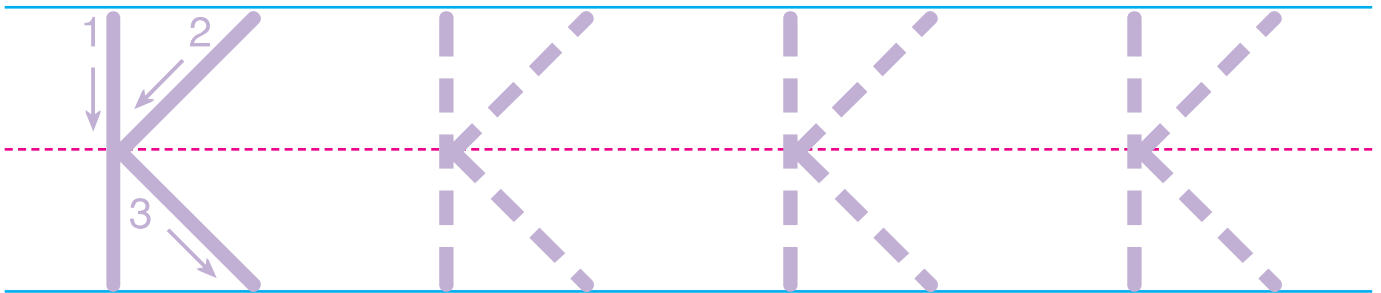
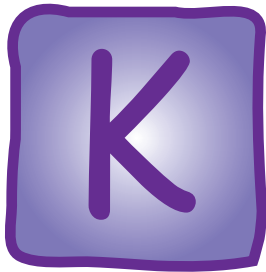
J is for **j**elly bean.

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ACTIVITY
16**K** Is for Kite

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *kite*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



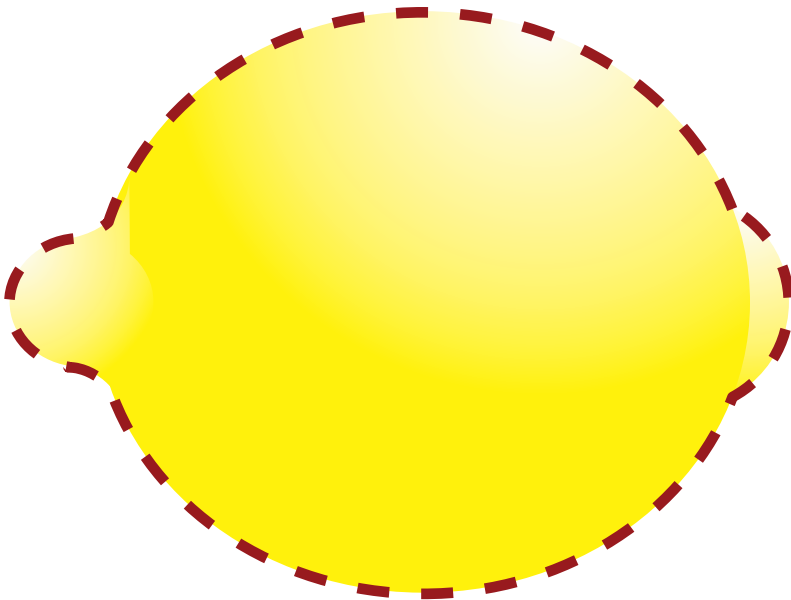
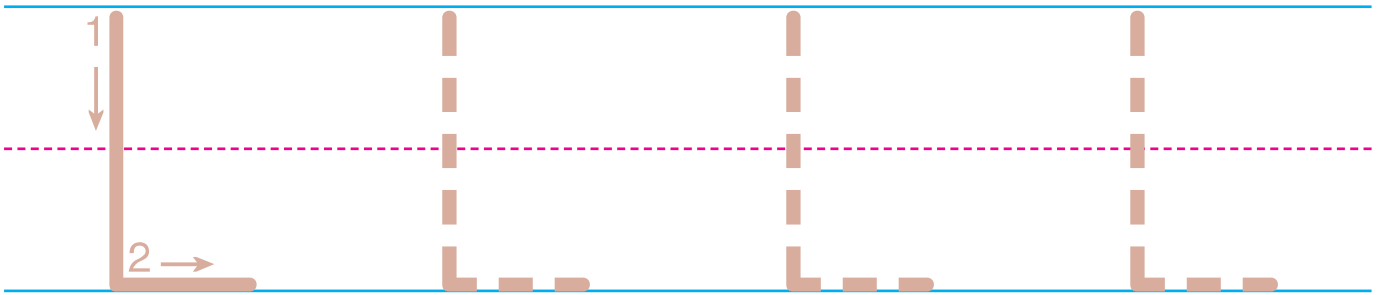
K is for kite.

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ACTIVITY
17**L** Is for Lemon

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *lemon*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



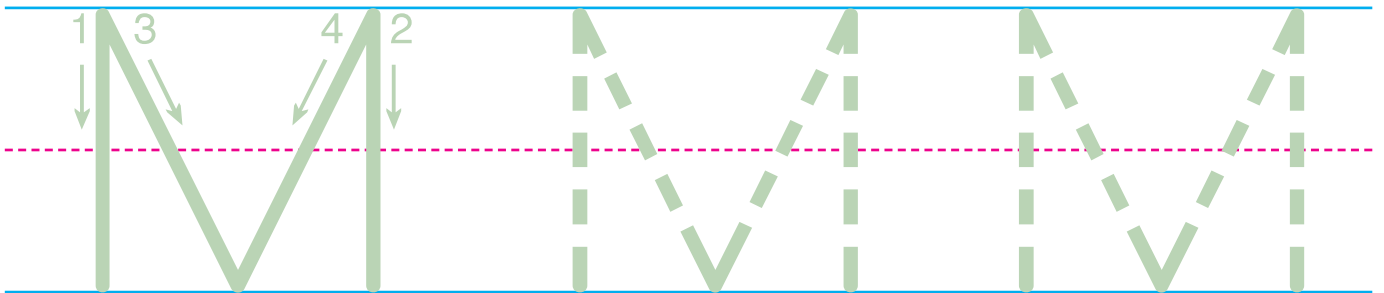
L is for **lemon**.

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ACTIVITY
18**M** Is for Mitten

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *mitten*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



M is for mitten.

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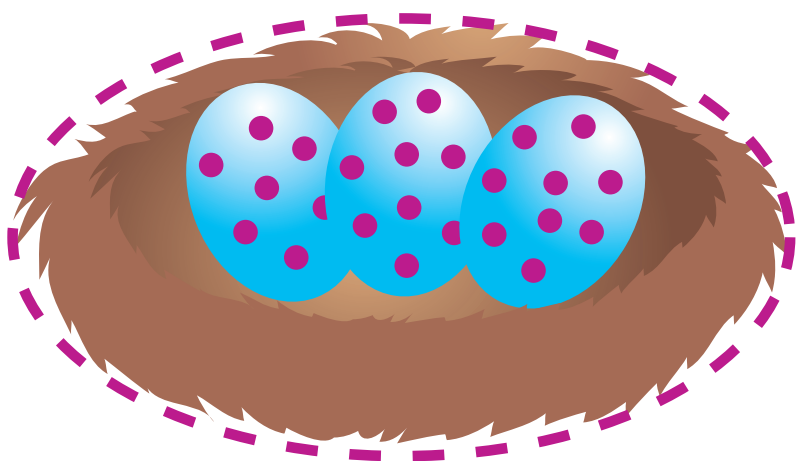
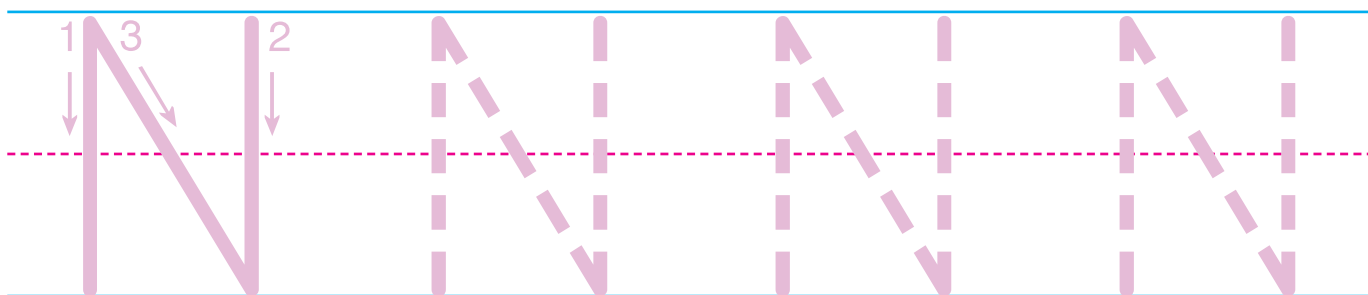
ACTIVITY

19

N Is for Nest

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *nest*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



N is for nest.

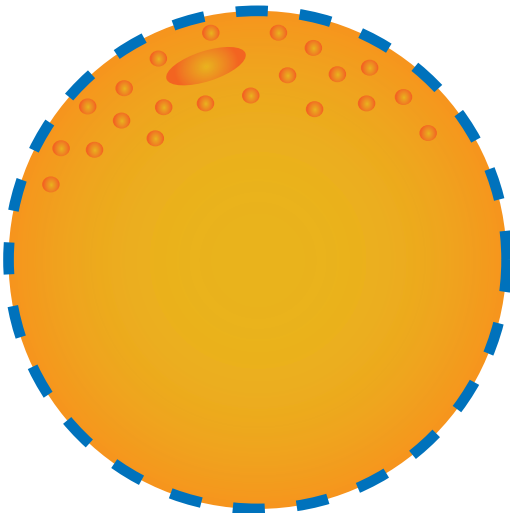
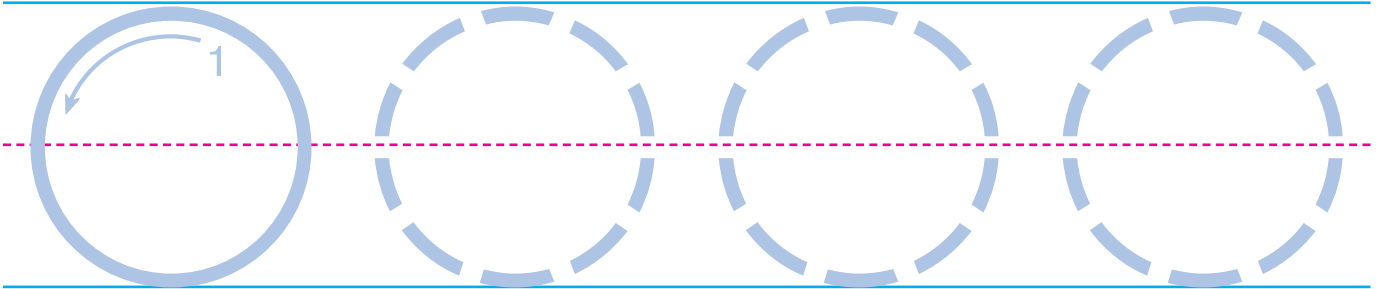
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O Is for Orange

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *orange*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



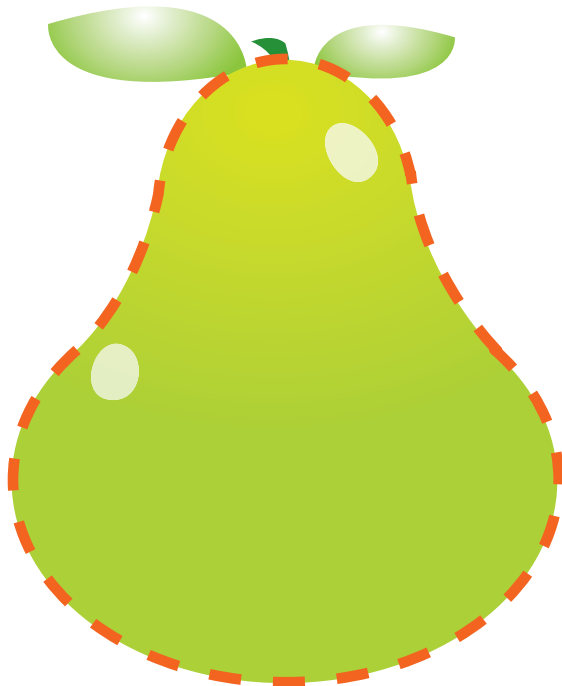
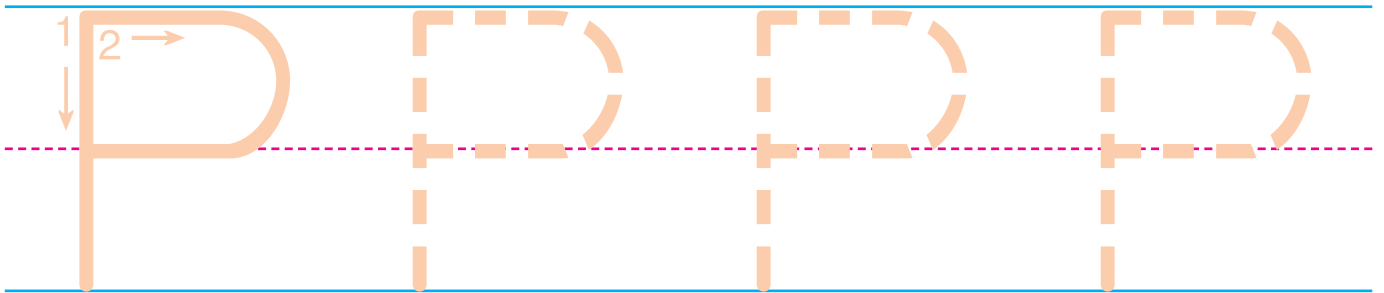
O is for orange.

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ACTIVITY
21**P** Is for Pear

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *pear*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



P is for **pear**.

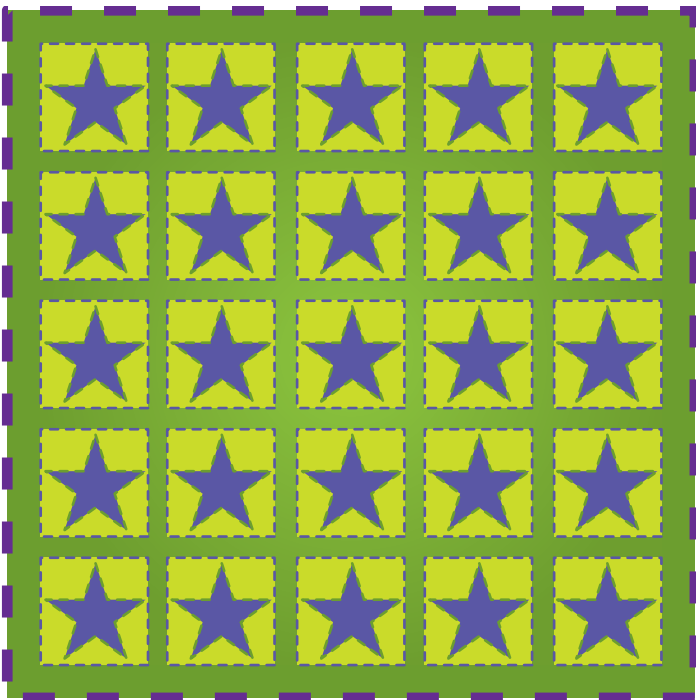
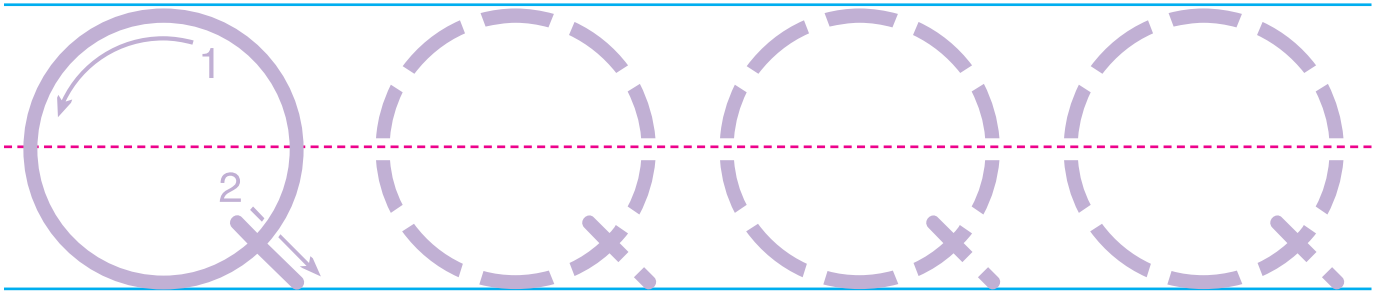
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Q Is for Quilt

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *quilt*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



Q is for quilt.

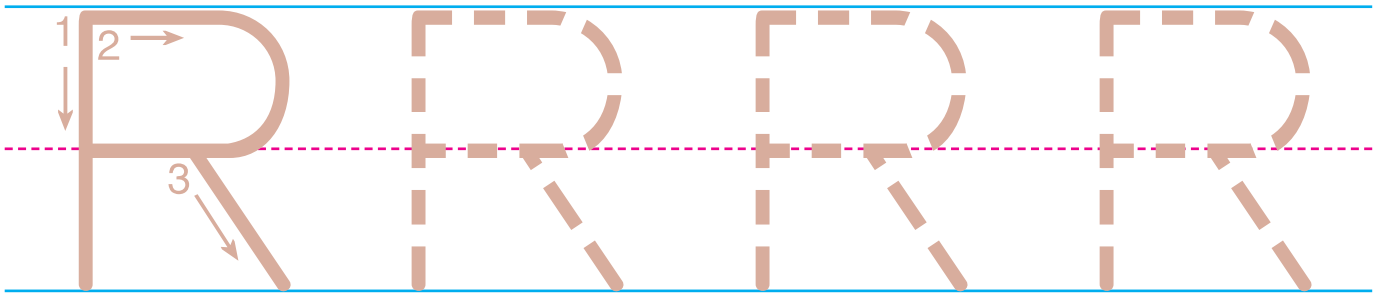
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R Is for Rainbow

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *rainbow*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



R is for rainbow.

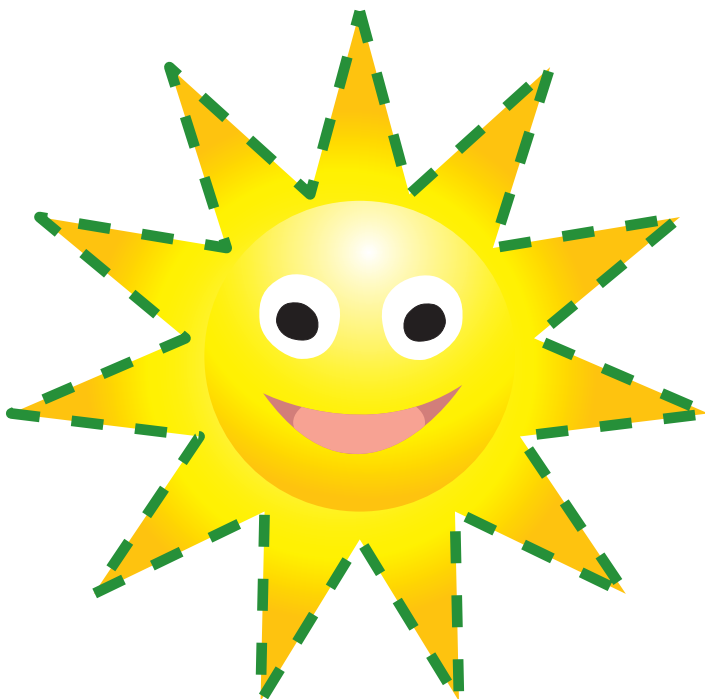
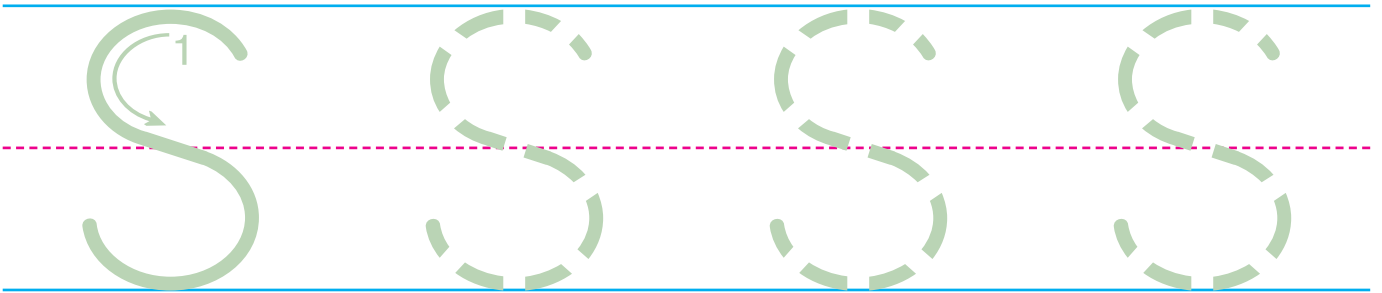
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S Is for Sun

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *sun*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



S is for sun.

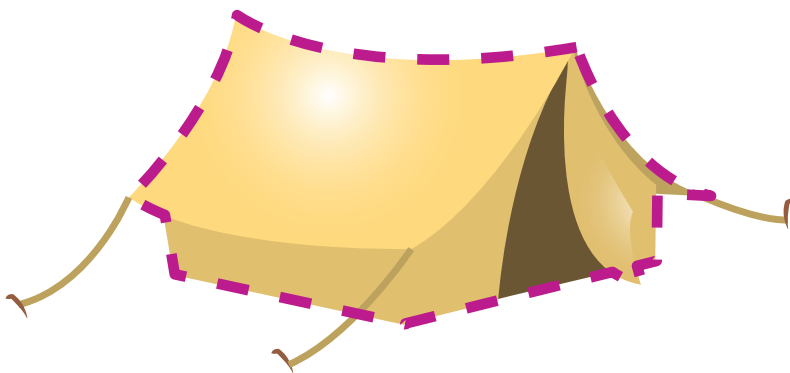
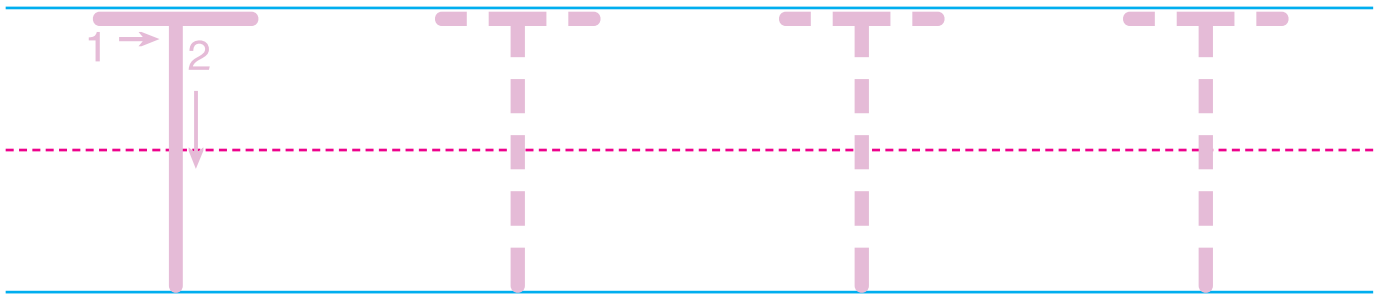
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T Is for Tent

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *tent*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



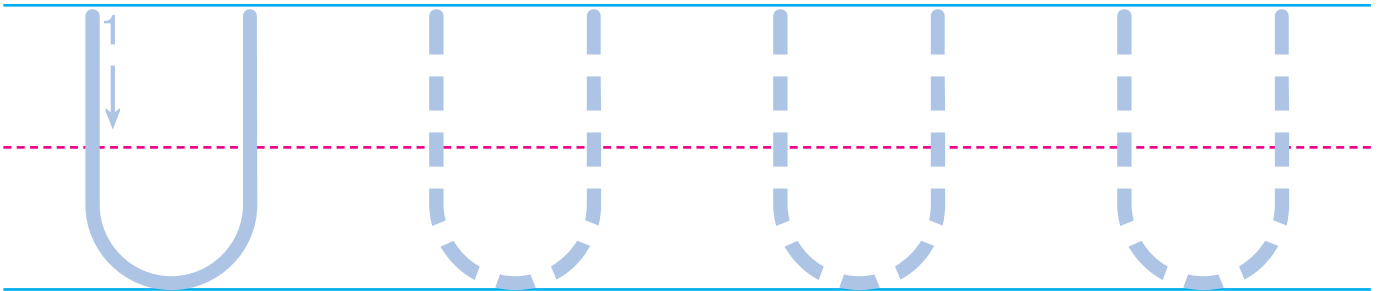
T is for tent.

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ACTIVITY
26**U** Is for Umbrella

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *umbrella*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



U is for umbrella.

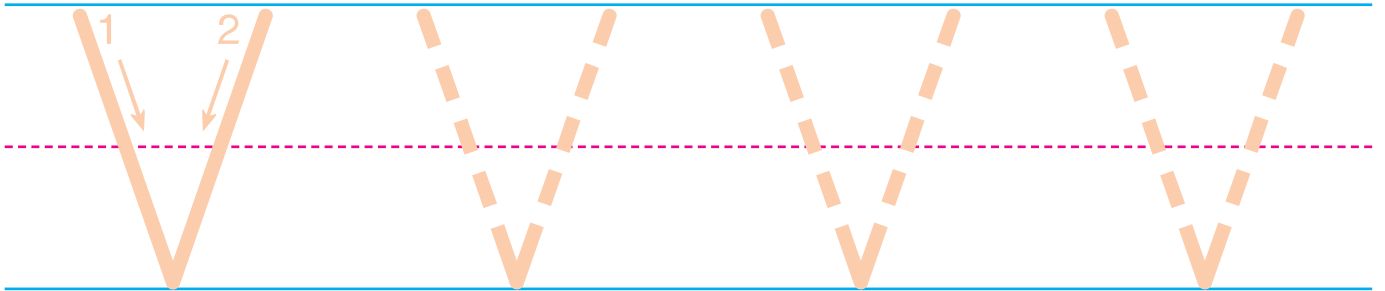
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V Is for Vase

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *vase*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



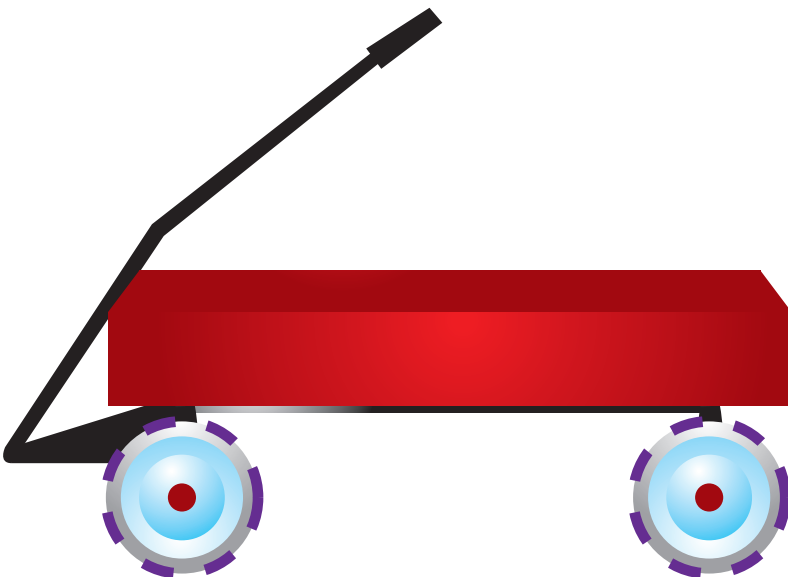
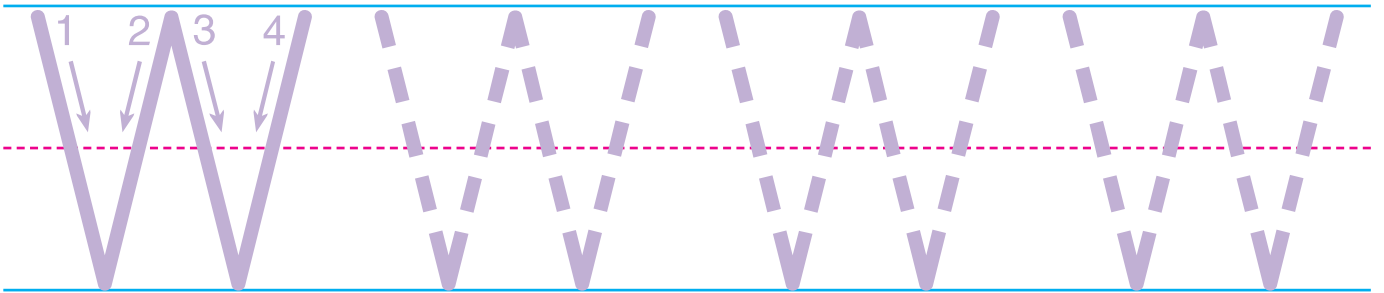
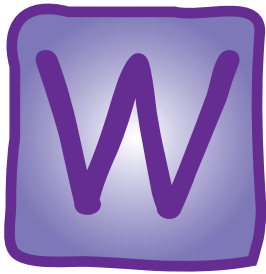
V is for vase.

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ACTIVITY
28**W** Is for Wheel

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *wheel*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



W is for wheel.

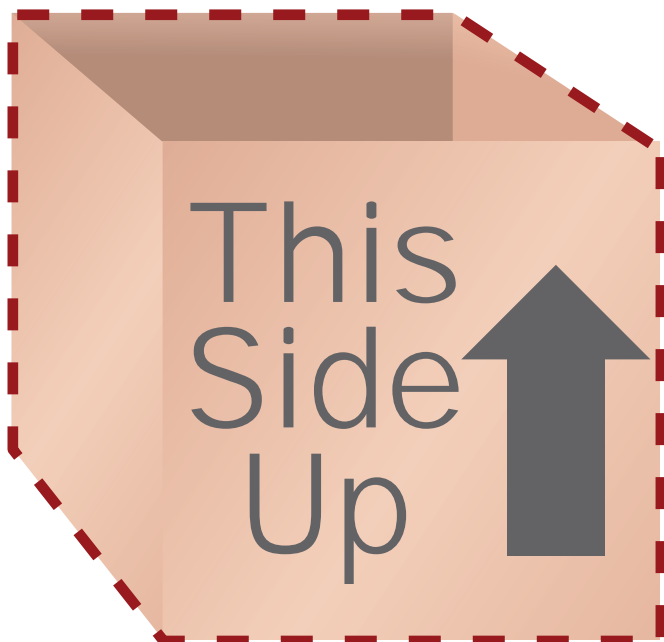
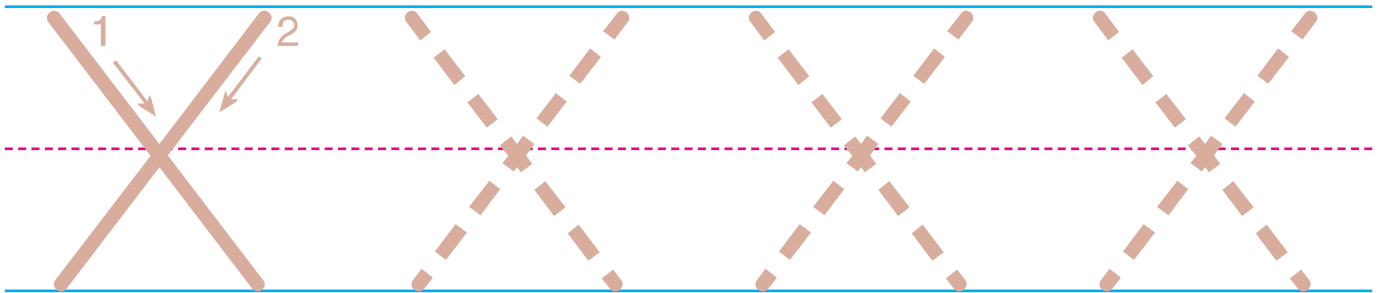
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X Is for Box

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that end with the same sound as *box*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



X is for box.

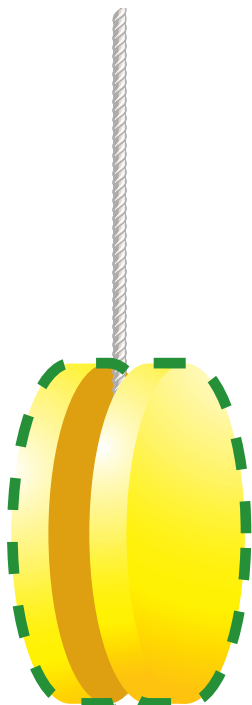
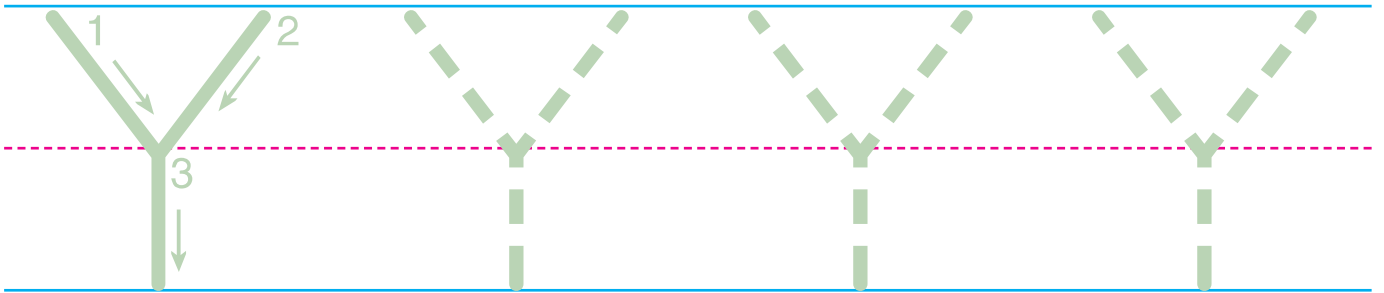
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Y Is for Yo-Yo

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *yo-yo*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



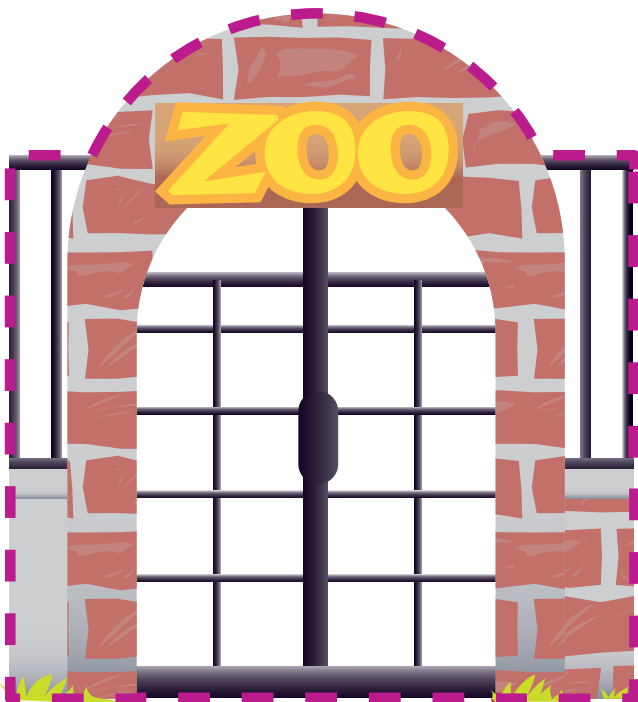
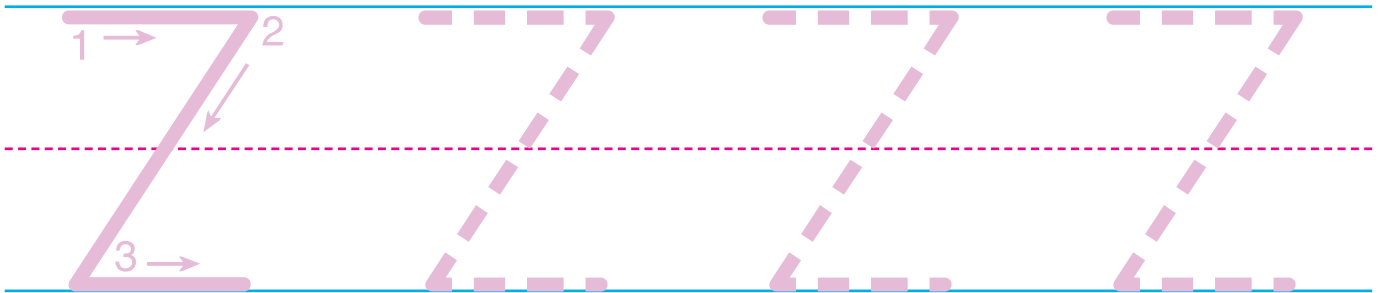
Y is for yo-yo.

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ACTIVITY
31**Z** Is for Zoo

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a letter. Say the letter name out loud and have your child repeat the letter back to you. What other words can your child think of that start with the same sound as *zoo*? Remind your child to trace the letters with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Trace a letter.



Z is for **zoo**.

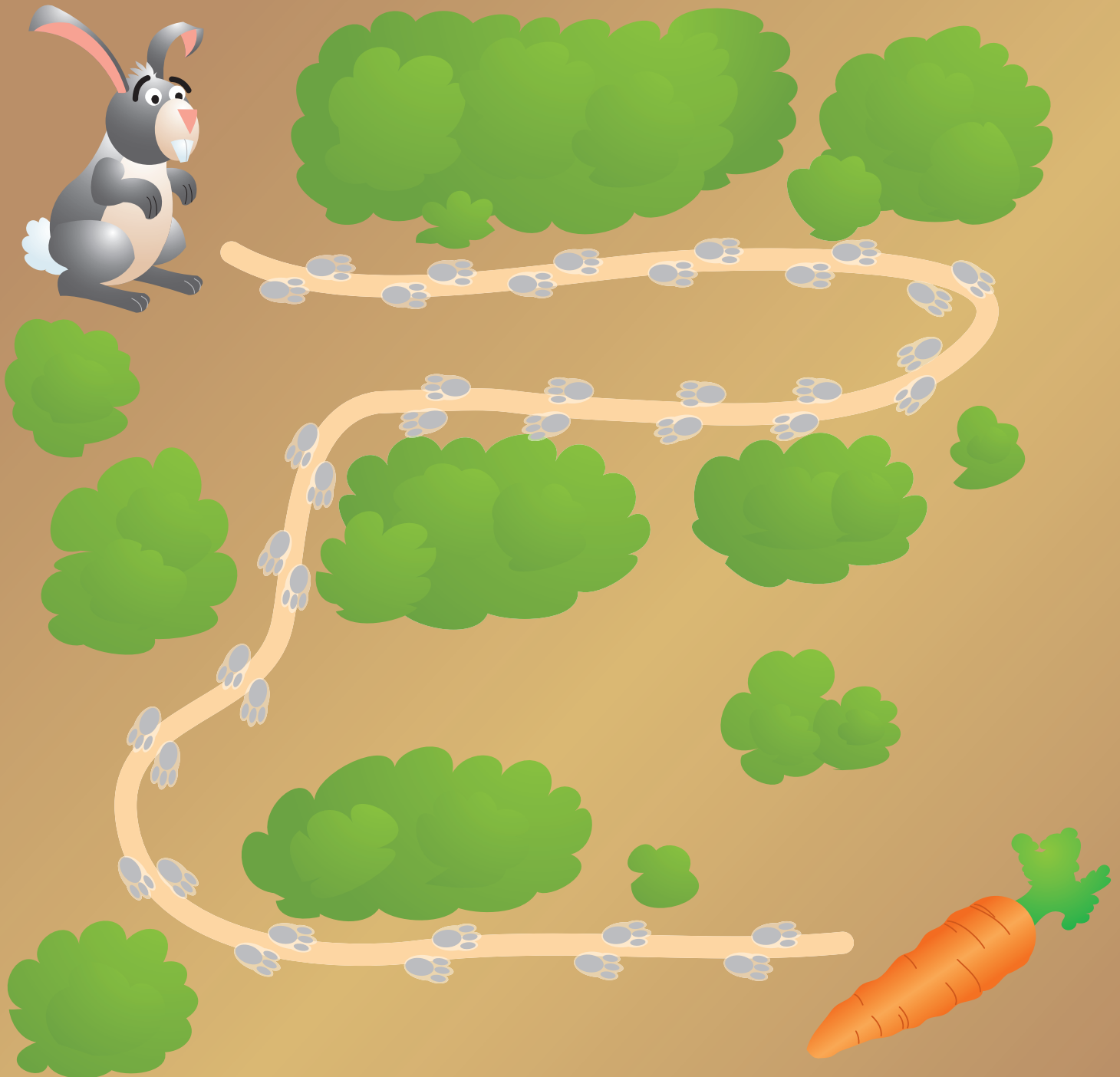
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ACTIVITY
32

Hungry Bunny

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a path. Help your child trace the bunny tracks to help the bunny get to the carrot. Show your child how to follow the path by moving from one set of bunny tracks to another.

Trace a path.



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ACTIVITY
33

Going Bananas

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a path. Your child will follow the banana peels to help the monkey get to the bananas.

Trace a path.



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Wind-Blown Butterfly

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a path. Tell your child that it is too windy! The butterfly can't fly to the flower! Your child will trace the line to help the butterfly get to the flower.

Trace a path.



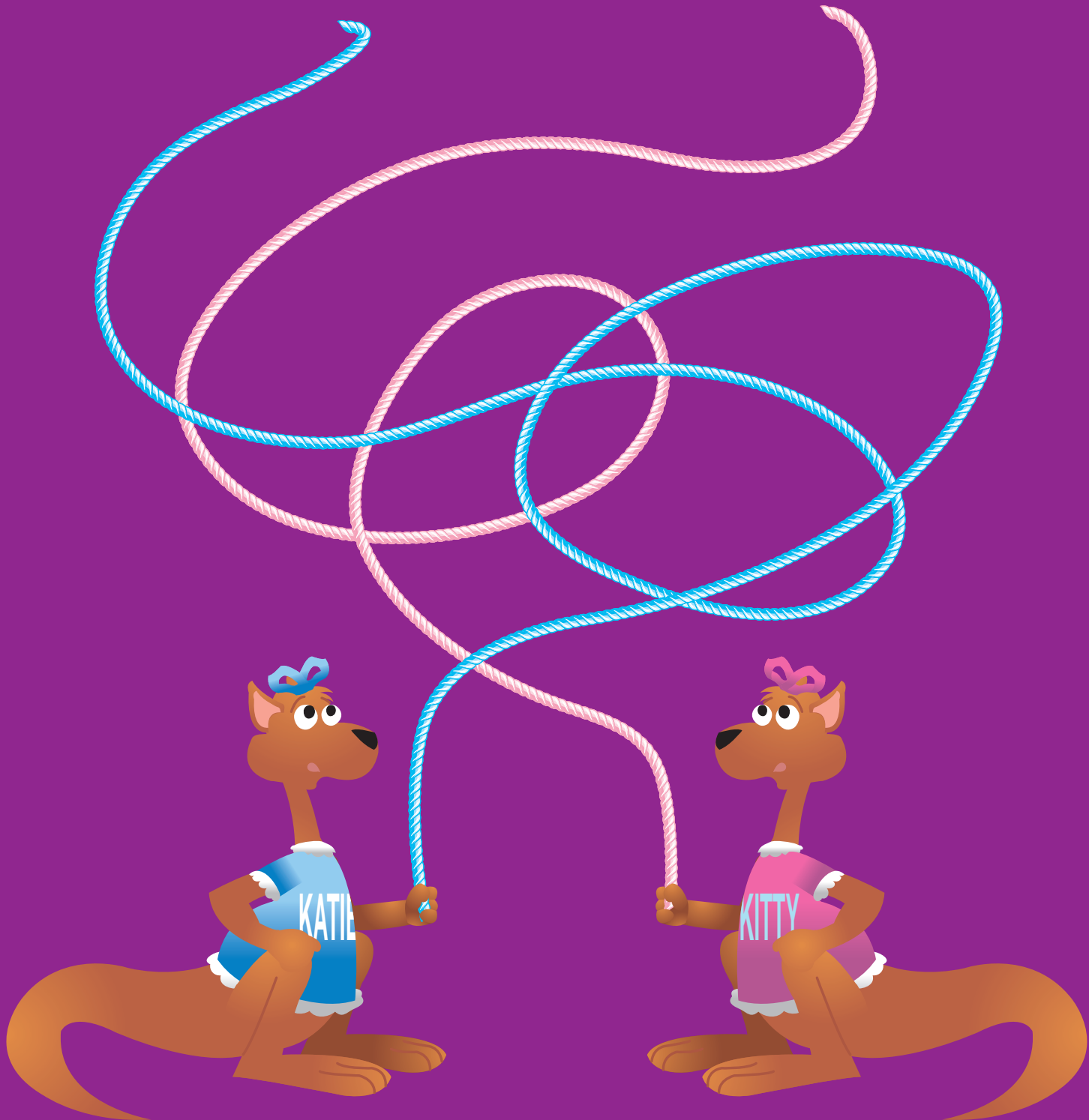
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ACTIVITY
35

Jumbled Jump Ropes

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a path. By tracing the lines, your child will help Kitty and Katie Kangaroo find their jump ropes. Tell your child to trace the lines with his or her finger first.

Trace a path.



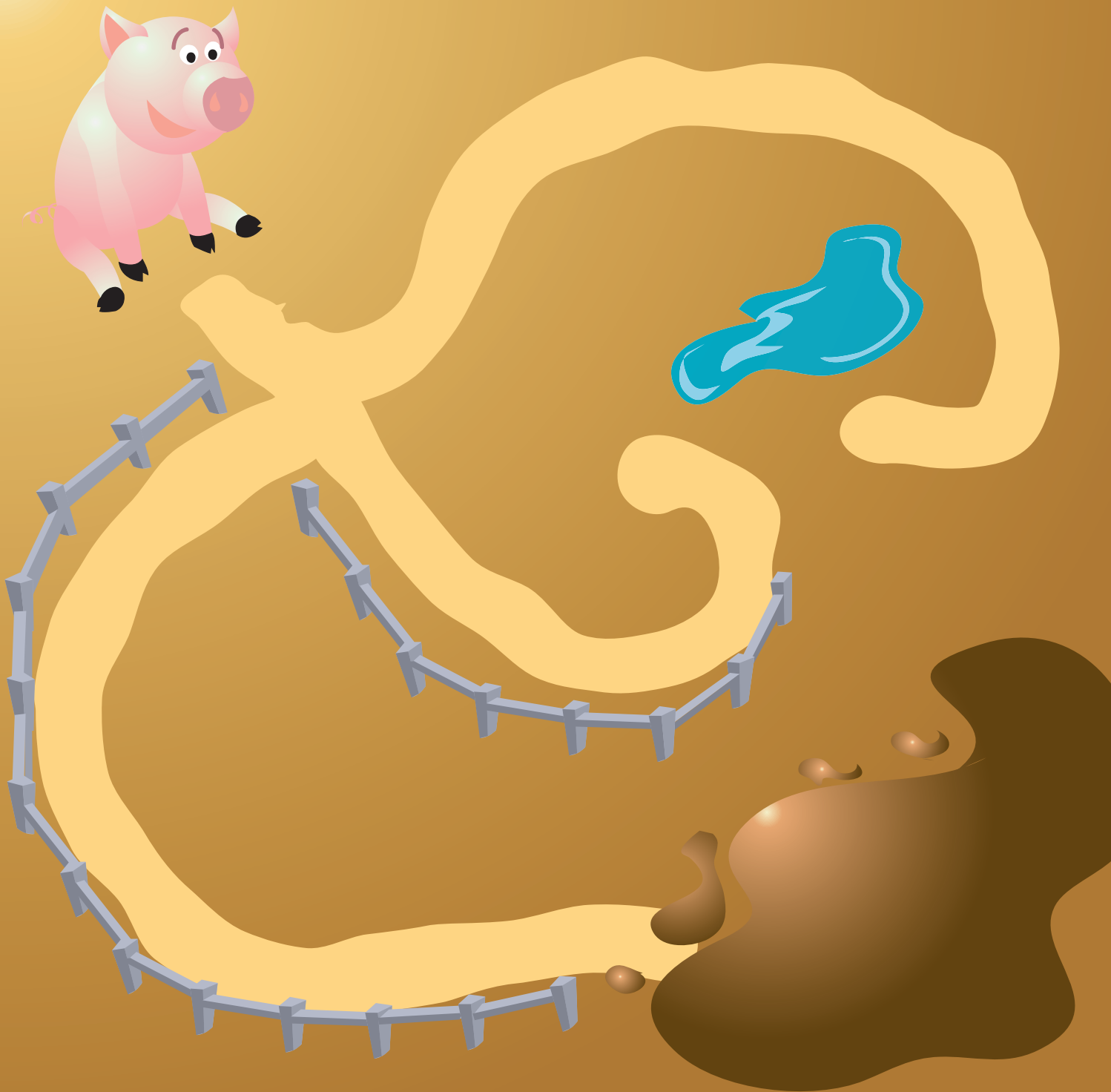
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ACTIVITY
36

Mud Bath

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a path through a maze. Your child will trace a path through the maze to help the pig get to the mud bath. Your child should trace the maze with his or her finger before using a pencil to complete the activity.

Complete the maze.



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ACTIVITY
37

Fly Home

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a path through a maze. Your child will trace a path through the maze to help the robin get to the nest.

Complete the maze.



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ACTIVITY
38

Picnic Guest

Directions: Your child will practice tracing a path through a maze. Your child will trace a path through the maze to help the ant get to the picnic basket. Because this maze is challenging, tell your child to trace the maze with his or her finger first.

Complete the maze.



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Use a dry-erase marker to practice drawing and coloring on this write-and-wipe board.