

Preschool Packet

January



Welcome to the Month of January



Celebrate Winter!

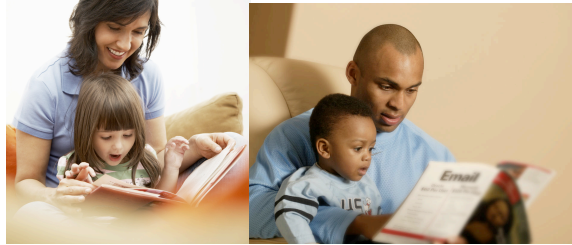
This month's preschool activities focus on the cooler weather and offer some ideas for getting out of the house. Some activities encourage your child's observation of the changing weather, including looking for signs of winter, some activities allow for indoor family time. G and H are the letters we'll work with this month. Your child will also have fun with circle shapes and explore the color blue. Read on and have fun!

Need to get out and stretch? Here are some ideas for fun!

- Plan a trip to your local library and check out some new books. Many of the Vancouver Library branches offer a free story hour once a week (Story hours for all branches are listed on the web at <http://66.96.75.5/index.cfm> or call 695-1561.) Once you have a Fort Vancouver Regional Library card, you can check it and return books at any of the branches.
- Visit the mall. Make it a treasure hunt. Tell your child that you're going to look for as many blue things as you can find. Or, go to the bookstore and browse with your child. Make a list of books he/she would like to put on a wish list for a birthday or other special occasion. If you have a toddler, stop in for story hour at Vancouver Mall Community Library on Tuesdays at 10:30 am (ages 24-36 mos.). Preschool story hour is on Wednesday at 10:30 am (ages 3-6).

- Explore one of our local indoor play places. Kids' Club Fun & Fitness is located one mile west of I-5 or I-205 from the 134th street exit at 13914 NW 3rd Ct. Kids' Club Fun & Fitness offers a jungle play land, open swim times, birthdays, and much more. Call 546-5437 for additional information. For some fun on wheels visit Golden Skate for some rollerskating adventures. Golden Skate is located at 4915 E. Fourth Plain Blvd. (696-0368).
- Visit one of our local indoor pools. Try the Jim Parsley Community Center located at 4100 Plomondon Road (313-4980), Propstra Aquatic Center at 605 N. Devine Road (313-3625) or Hough Pool at 1900 Daniels Street (696-8245). Prices and hours vary by location so call ahead for specific information.
- Explore OMSI - Oregon Museum of Science and Industry: OMSI is open from 9:30 - 5:30 Tuesday through Sunday. The cost is \$11 for adults and \$9 for youth (ages 3-13). Children under 3 are admitted free. OMSI has an exhibit just for the little ones. The Science Playground is located on the second floor and is specifically designed for children 0-6. The playground is a colorful and vibrant place for kids to play, explore, and engage in science. Visit the web site at <http://www.oms.edu> or call 797-6674.
- Oregon Zoo: For those breaks in rainy weather, plan a zoo date! The zoo's winter hours through April 14 are 9:00 - 4:00 daily. Admission for adults (ages 12-64) is \$9.75. Admission for children ages 3 - 11 is \$6.75. Children under 3 are free. The Oregon Zoo offers discounted admission on the second Tuesday of every month. On "2-Buck Tuesdays" guests can tour the zoo during regular zoo hours for the discounted price of \$2.00 per person.
- Children's Museum: Located in Portland's Washington Park (right next to the Oregon Zoo), the Children's Museum has lots of fun activities for children aged 6 months through 10 years. Exhibits include Me and My Shadow, Water Works, Zounds (Sounds), Kids Clinic, Kid City Market and more. Studios provide a place for your child to paint, sculpt, and design. Current hours are 9:00 - 5:00 Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$8.00 for ages 1 through 55. Visit the web site at: <http://www.portlandcm.org> or call 50-223-6500.
- Barnes and Noble: The Barnes and Noble store on Fourth Plain has children's story times on Saturday at 11 am. On the first Saturday of each month, story time includes a visit by a character from children's books (ages 3-10).

Reading



Fun Winter Reading

Find the Five Little Snowmen book in this packet. Before reading the book together, explore the pictures with your child. Look at the snowmen, count how many are on each page and discuss what might be happening.

After you have explored the book, read it to your child. Read it again and again. As you read always point to the words. After your child is familiar with the book, when you read, stop once in a while for your child to say the next word. For example, say "Four little snowmen, in the snow they dive, Along came another, and then there were _____ ." And then ask your child to say the word that comes next.

Count the snowmen on each page.

1. Ask your child to use his/her fingers to show the number of snowmen. Then have your child practice writing that number in the air.
2. Encourage your child to use his/her hands to show how many snowmen.
3. Next count how many snowmen are grouped together on the pages-1 then 2, then 3, then 4 and finally 5. Number the snowmen in each group and have your child trace over the numbers and say the numbers out loud.

Read the story again and have your child re-tell the story. Point to each page and see if he/she can re-tell the story based on the pictures. Orally re-telling the story over and over is great for language development. Have your child finish by coloring the book.

Letters and Sounds

- **Letters G and H:** Find the Alphabet Chant pages for G and H. Say the chant with your child. Cut the cards out and save them. Practice the chant often. Each month, you'll receive more Alphabet Chant cards.

- **Sing Along:** Sing songs with your child each night. If you have a bedtime reading routine, end your reading with a song or two. Children love music, and singing is another great language experience. Check out some children's song tapes or CDs from the library to learn even more songs together. Songs on tape or CD are also great for rides in the car. Sing together often!
- **Read-Alouds:** Make time to read aloud to your child for 20 minutes each day. This month we've included some recommendations for books that focus on winter.

Here are some recommended titles:

Snowballs (Lois Ehlert) - Pull on your mittens and head outside for a snowball day. Grab some snow and start rolling. With a few found objects-like buttons and fabric and seeds-and a little imagination, you can create a whole family out of snow. Children will love poring over Lois Ehlert's bold, funny illustrations and identifying the common (and not so common) objects she uses to decorate her snowy family.

The Mitten (Jan Brett) - When Nicki drops one of his new white mittens in the snow, he doesn't even notice it's missing. One by one, the woodland animals discover the mitten and crawl inside, each one larger than the last: a mole, a rabbit, even a big, brown bear! With a simplified text designed for younger listeners, Jan Brett's classic picture book is now available in a sturdy board book format. Full color.

The Snowy Day (Ezra Jack Keats) - Peter wakes up to find the world covered in snow-crisp, clean, and white. Excitedly, Peter ventures out to play. His feet make a variety of tracks, and when he hits a snow-laden tree with a stick, the snow falls off-plop! onto his head. Keats's sparse collage illustrations capture the wonder and beauty a snowy day can bring to a small child.

Bear Snores On (Karma Wilson) - On a cold winter night many animals gather to party in the cave of a sleeping bear, who then awakes and protests that he has missed the food and the fun.

Frederick (Leo Lionni) - Frederick, the poet mouse, stores up something special for the long cold winter. His stories and poems entertain his friends, and the collage art is just right for the story. (Times Best Illustrated Book, Caldecott Honor Book.)

Other titles to consider:

Dream Snow - Eric Carle

Clifford's First Snow Day - Norman Bridwell

The Snowman - Raymond Briggs

Thomas' Snowsuit - Robert Munsch

Gingerbread Baby - Jan Brett

Writing



Writing Exploration: Give your child different kinds of paper and different writing materials to scribble with. Coloring books are not needed. Crayons are good to begin with. Water-soluble felt-tipped marking pens are fun for your child to use because he/she doesn't have to use much pressure to get a bright color. Tape a large piece of butcher paper onto a tabletop and let your child scribble/draw/write to his/her heart's content!

Journal Writing: Let your child explore his or her imagination using crayons or markers. Have your child tell you what he/she knows about winter. Invite your child to talk about things he/she does in the winter. Make a list of winter family activities such as baking cookies, making hot chocolate, playing in the snow, making a snowperson, watching winter storms, and shopping at the mall. Ask your child to pick his/her favorite and add it to his/her journal.

In January, so many things are changing.

- Weather--Cold weather brings rain, frost and sometimes ice and snow. Daylight is short. Sometimes it is dark when we get up in the morning and dark when we get home.
- Plants and animals--All but the evergreen trees are bare. Many animals are gone, some flying south and hibernating.
- People--We wear heavier clothing, we take out our gloves, boots and hats. We play inside more. Many people have fires in their fireplaces.

After discussing the changes occurring in the weather this month, have your child draw a winter picture and help him/her add text to the picture.

Choose from these additional journal ideas for this month, or make up your own:

- Draw pictures or write words and make a list of "Things That Are Blue."
- Make a list of things your family does during the winter season.
- Start a story, and ask your child to add to it or finish it. Write his or her words as the story is told to you. When your child is done, read the story to him/ her. Here's a story starter you might use:

"One January day, I was sitting in the house talking with my family, (tell who you are talking with), when it began to snow. We grabbed our winter clothing (tell what clothing you needed to put on) and ventured outside.

The snow continued to fall all afternoon and my (tell who) begin to (what did he do) with the snow. Well, we played in the snow all afternoon and you'll never believe what happened." Ask your child to think of what might have happened. It could be real or imaginary. Ask your child to describe the family adventures, and tell more about what happened. When the story is done, ask your child to draw a picture.

Name Writing: On the "My Name Practice" page, write your child's name four times using the dot-to-dot method. Ask your child to connect the dots with crayons or markers to write his or her name. Practice saying the letters as you write them. When your child can write his or her first name, begin practicing last name.

Letter Practice G and H: Color and cut the big letters G and H. Talk with your child about the letters and refer to them often. Each month you will receive 3 or 4 more letters. Please save them and review each month.

Words That Begin With G and H: Find the page that says "G is for girl, goat, gorilla in my boat!" Read the words with your child and color the pictures. Practice over and over!

Find the page that says "H is for horse, hair, hippopotamus on my chair." Read the words with your child and color the pictures. Practice over and over!

Math and Science Fun

Shape of the Month-Circle

Find the paper titled "Circles of all sizes!" Have your child color the circles and then help cut them out. Sort the circles by size. When you are done sorting, glue them to a piece of paper to create a design/picture. Trace the circles with your fingers, count them and talk about the different sizes-which circle is the biggest?

Find the "Circles" page: Color the smiling circles. You might want to encourage your child to use a different color for each circle and work on doing his/her best work. Follow the directions to finish the page.

Fun with Cotton Balls

Counting Cotton Balls: Give your child a bag of cotton balls and five baggies with number labels on them. Number the bags with numerals such as 3, 5, and 7. Then have him/her fill the bags with that number of cotton balls.

Cotton Ball Painting: Pour a small amount of tempera paint on a plate. Let your child use a cotton ball like a paintbrush, dipping it in the paint and then brushing it onto a sheet of paper. Use one color of paint or try two colors that mix well, such as blue and yellow or red and yellow.

Cotton Ball Numbers and Letters: Give your child some cotton balls and put the cotton balls together to make numbers and letters.

Snowball Walk and Toss: Give your child a paper plate with three cotton ball "snowballs" on it and place a basket on the other side of the room. Have your child balance the snowballs on the plate while walking carefully over to the basket. Let your child toss the snowballs into the basket before returning for more.

Fun With Numbers

Talk about numbers and use number concepts in daily routines with your child. For example: "Let's divide the dough into two parts so we can bake some cookies now and put the rest of the dough in the freezer for cookies next week: "We're going to hang this picture six inches above the bookshelf in your room. Let's use this ruler to measure: "How many plates do we need on the table? Let's count: One for mommy, one for daddy and one for Jenny. How many plates does that make? Three"

Provide opportunities for your child to learn math as he/she plays. Playing with blocks can teach your child to classify objects by color and shape. Blocks can also help him/her to learn about depth, width, height and length.

Playing games that have scoring, such as throwing balls into a basket, requires your child to count. Introduce him to games that use dices or dominoes. Have him roll the dice and count the dots. Let him try to roll the dice and match the numbers.

Count favorite toys.

Charting the Weather

Find the sheet titled "January Weather Graph." Tell your child that each day you will color one box to show the weather that day. Ask your child to look outside. Then, point to each picture, asking, "Is it sunny, cloudy, rainy or snowy today?" Color in one box to record the weather that day.

"How many sunny days have we had this month?" "How many cloudy day?" "How many rainy day?"

"Have we had more sunny, rainy, or cloudy days this month?" "How do you know?" "What kind of day do you think tomorrow will be?" "Why do you think so?"

I'm An Artist!

Learning About Colors and More

I Spy Blue! Look for things in your home or take a neighborhood walk to find things that are blue. Say, "I spy blue!" and ask your child to guess what the object might be. Be sure to give your child a chance to spy blue, too!

Make Blue Playdoh:

1 cup flour	1 cup warm water
2 teaspoons cream of tartar	1 teaspoon oil
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt	blue food coloring

Mix the ingredients in a saucepan. Add the food coloring last. Stir over medium heat until smooth. Remove from the pan and knead for five minutes. Place in a plastic bag or air-tight container when cooled. The dough can be stored all year for a variety of projects. Just be sure to store it in a sealed container so it won't dry out.

Exploring with your play dough: Let your child use his or her hands to explore playdoh. Talk about the sorts of things you can do with just your hands. Talk about rolling, pounding, and stretching the dough. Then set out a few tools for your child to use, such as a small rolling pin, a table knife, and some cookie cutters.

Make Something Blue: Make a blue noodle necklace. You can dye pasta noodles by shaking them in a zip lock bag with a mix of rubbing alcohol and blue food dye. Let them dry on paper towels before using. When they are dry use blue yarn and string your noodles onto the yarn to make a blue necklace.

Other "blue" ideas:

- Point out blue clothing that your child is wearing
- Make a book filled with blue pictures cut or torn from magazines
- Paint or color a blue picture, or do a blue fingerpainting
- Make blueberry pancakes, or buy a blueberry pie

- Look for blue mailboxes!
- Read the story "Blueberries for Sal" by Robert McClosky to your child
- Make a blue paper collage

Creative Bird Snacks

Cookie Cutter Bird Treats

Materials:

Cookie cutters

Raisins, popcorn, cereal

Peanut Butter

Bread

Shoestring licorice



Directions:

1. Let your child use cookie cutters to cut shapes from bread slices.
2. Show your child how to lightly dip raisins, popcorn, and cereal in the peanut butter; then stick them on the bread shape to decorate it.
3. Help your child push a shoestring licorice piece through the top of the bread for a hangar.
4. Hang the bird treats in trees near your house so children can watch the birds eat them.

Cereal Wreath Bird Feeder

Materials:

Cheerios (or other circle cereal)

Shoestring licorice

Directions:

1. Show your child how to string cereal onto shoestring licorice.
2. When the shoestring licorice is filled with cereal tie the two ends together to make a wreath.
3. Hang the wreath in a tree or on a fence for birds.



Sequencing Fun

Use familiar activities and items to dramatize real-life events in the correct sequence. Begin by showing an item or group of items and explain what you are about to do ("I'm going to put on my sweater."). Then begin putting on the sweater incorrectly (button the sweater and attempt to put it on). Stop when your child says you are doing it wrong. Have him/her show the correct way to put it on. Follow the same procedure with other common activities: putting on shoes and socks (sock first, tie laces, then try to put shoe on foot), washing hands (put soap on hands, dry on towel, then put hands in water), setting the table for lunch (put plates on table, cover with tablecloth or placemat and put food on cloth instead of plate). When your child is successful at sequencing an activity using real objects, ask him/her to give oral directions telling how something is done.

Practice sequencing a picture: Find "The Snowman" page and talk about the pictures. Help your child to talk through what happens to the snowman. Cut out the pictures and paste them in the correct order.



Recipe Corner

Read the recipe with your child. Gather ingredients together to make these snow people snacks. While the cookies are baking have your child find and decorate the paper snow person. Glue it to heavier paper and cut it out. Then hole punch, string yarn and hang the snow person up for a winter decoration!

What You Need:

Biscuit dough
Chocolate chips
Raisins
Small candies



Instructions:

1. Wash hands.
2. Shape dough into three balls.
3. Decorate with chocolate chips, raisins, small candies (Skittles, M&M's etc.)
4. Follow baking directions on biscuit package.
5. Eat and enjoy!

Sound-Spelling Song Lyrics

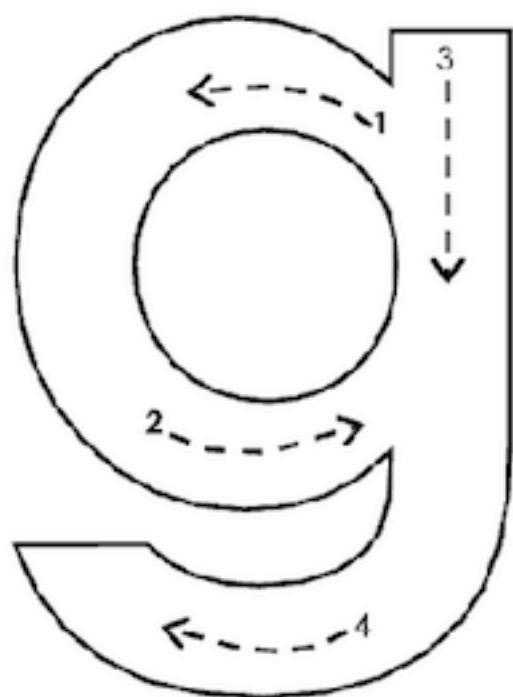
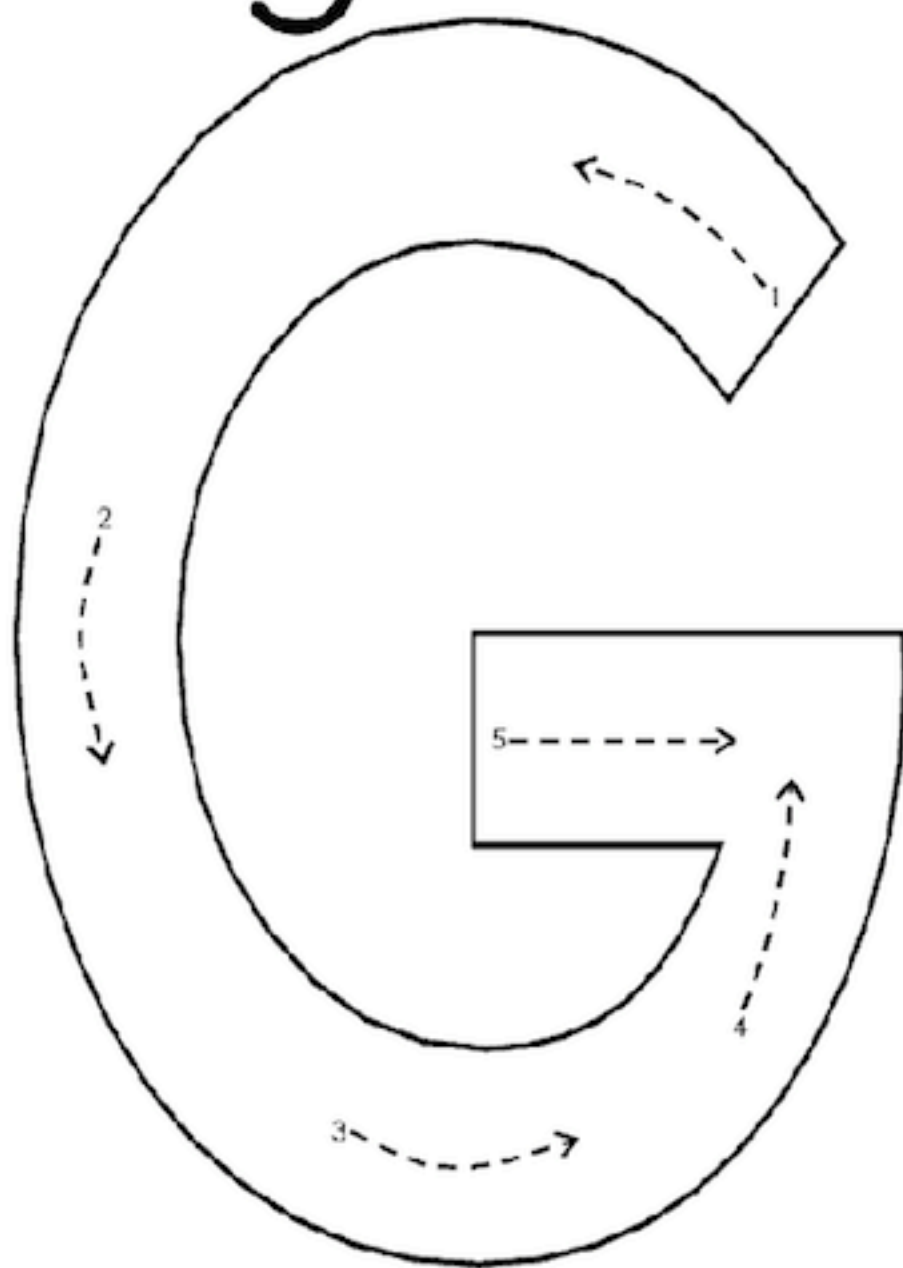
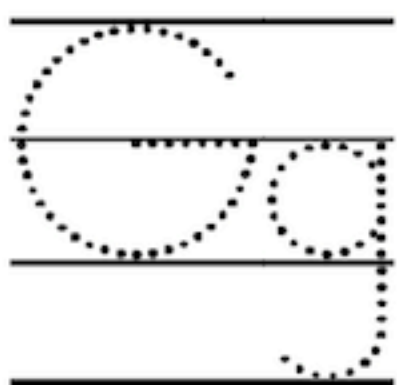
Get a Guitar

Get a guitar and you can sing a song.
Get a guitar and you can play it all day long.
Join the band and have some fun.
Sing and play till the day is done.
Get a guitar and you can sing a song.



Gg

(soft g)



gerbil



giraffe



gingerbread



gymnast

Sound-Spelling Song Lyrics

A Hippo in the House

There's a hippo in the house.

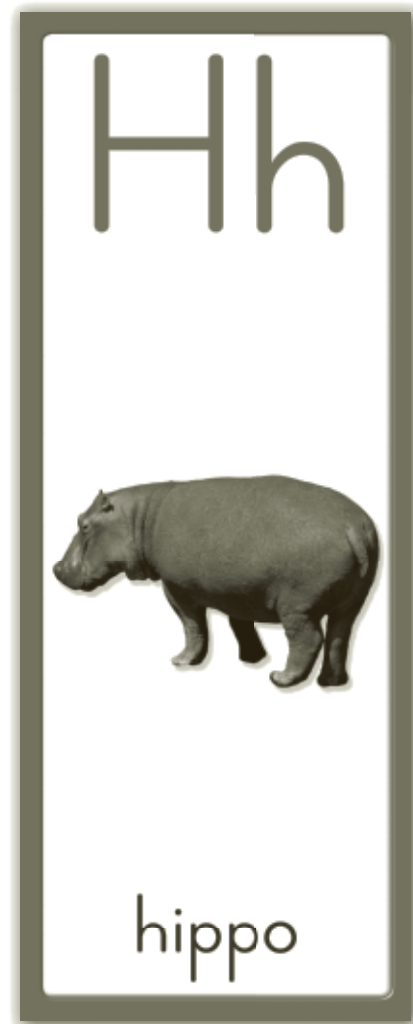
There's a hippo in the house.

Not a kitten or a whale,
not a hamster or a snail,
but a hippo in the house.

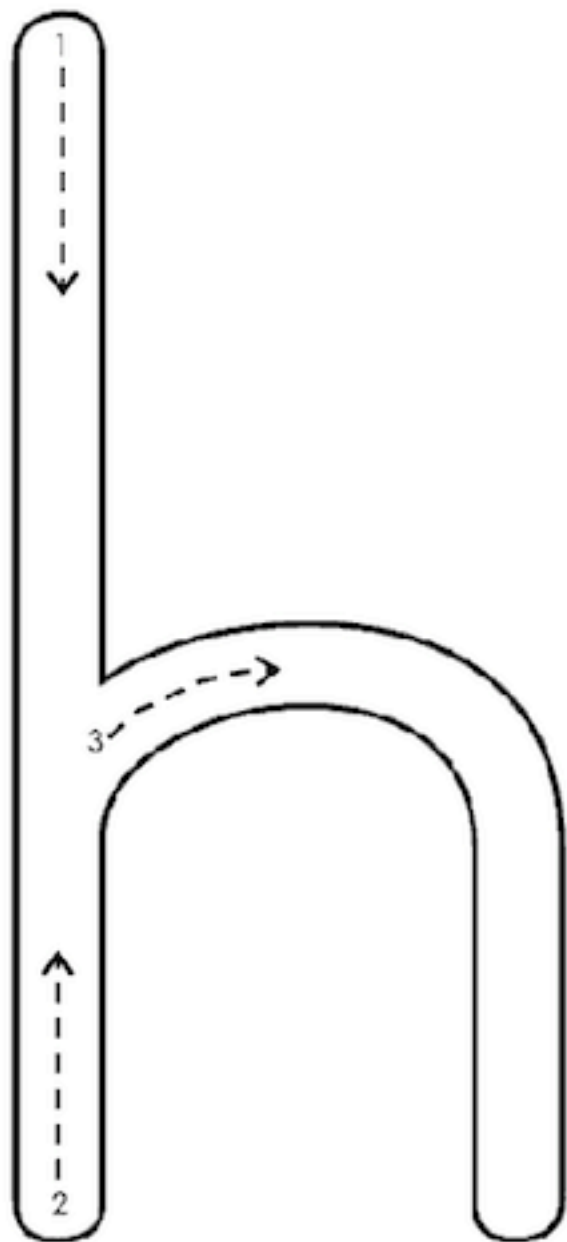
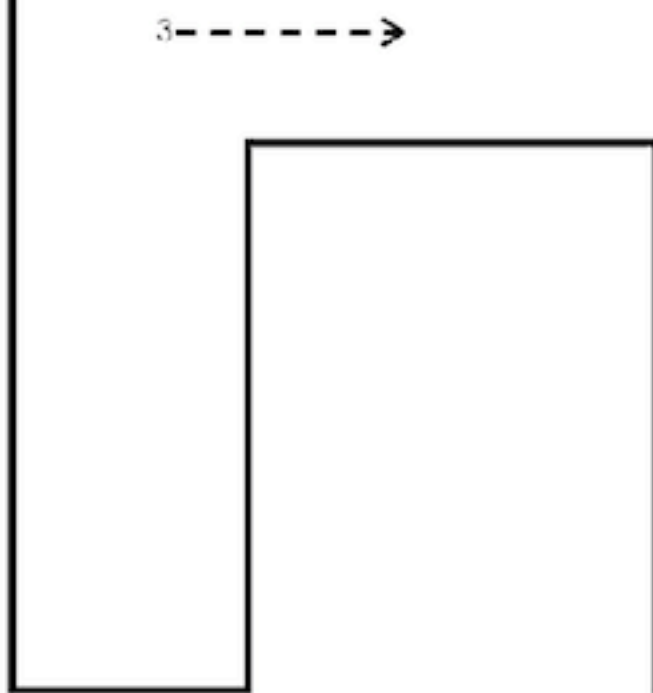
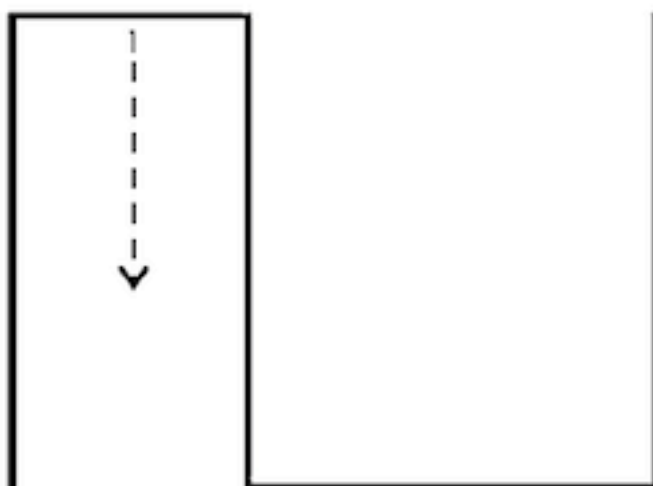
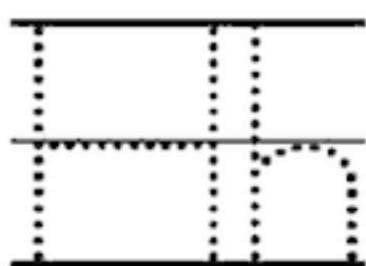
There's a hippo in the house.

There's a hippo in the house.

Not a penguin or a puppy,
not a hedgehog or a guppy,
but a hippo in the house.



Hh



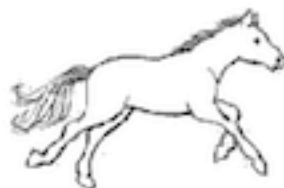
hare



house



hen



horse



hippopotamus

My Name Practice

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

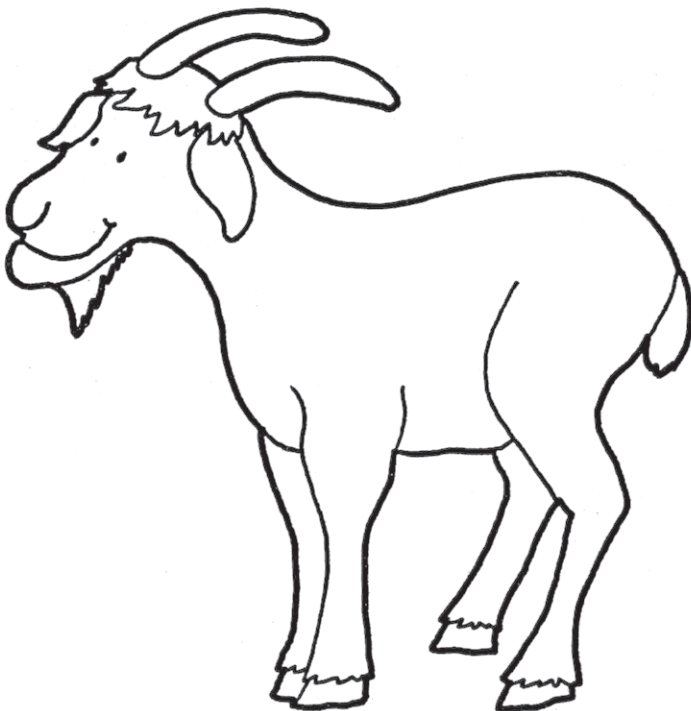
Handwriting practice lines consisting of four sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

Gg



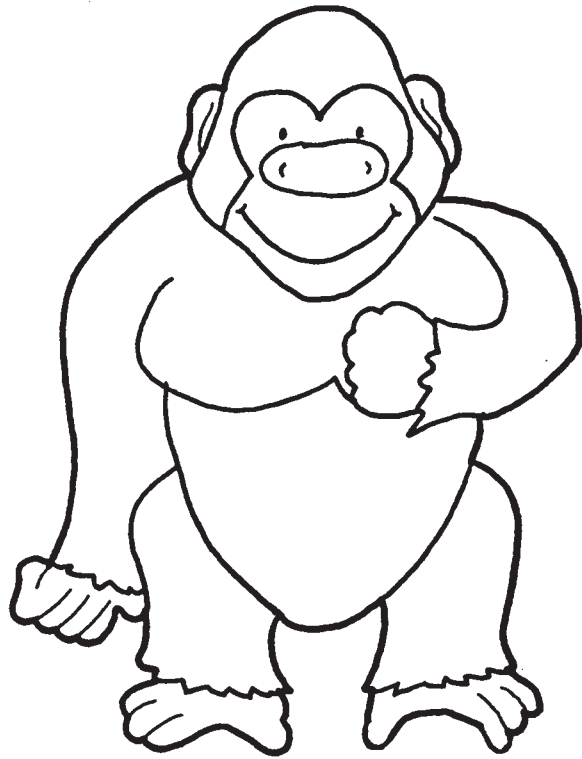
G is for girl.

Gg



G is for goat.

Gg



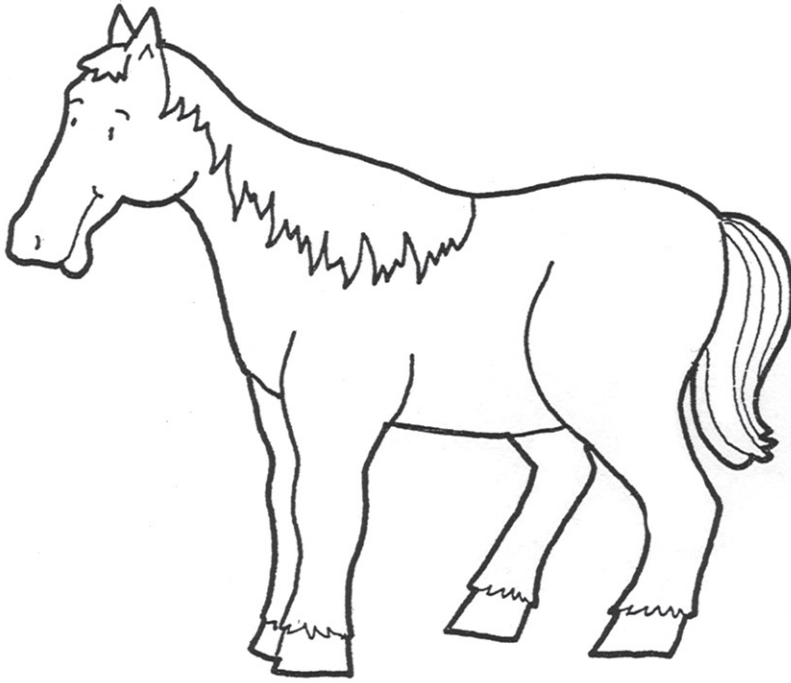
G is for gorilla

Gg



in my boat.

Hh



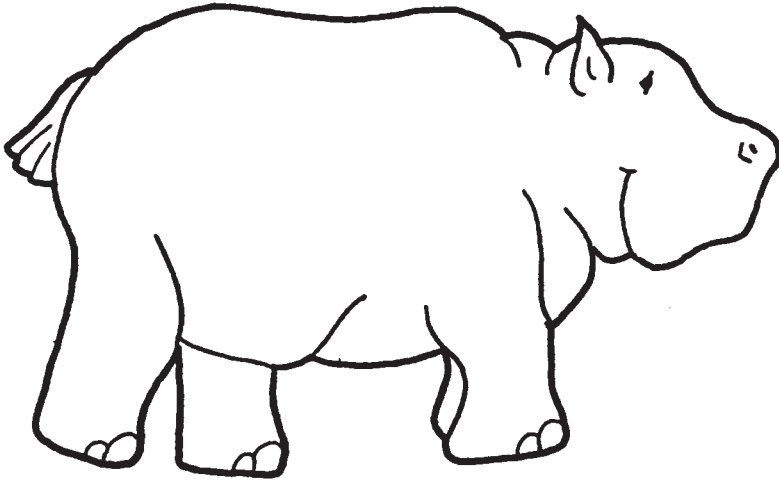
H is for horse.

Hh



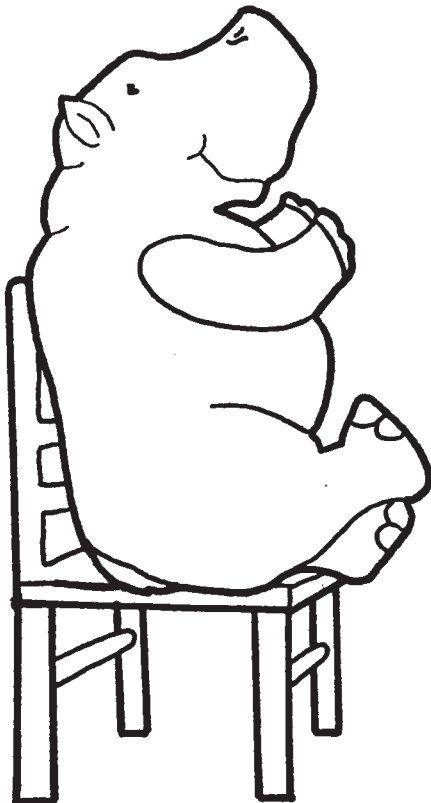
H is for hair.

Hh

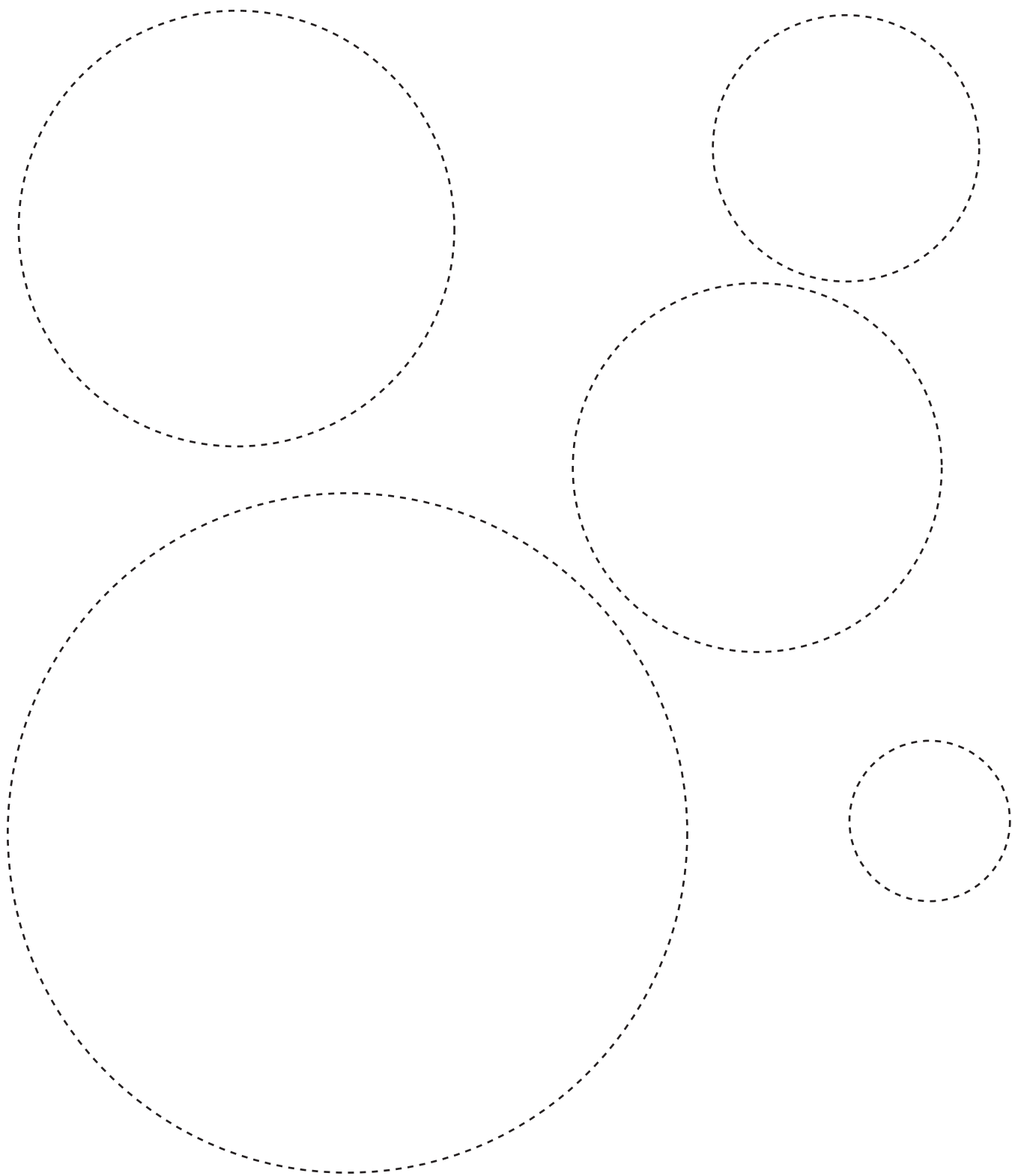


H is for hippopotamus

Hh



on my chair.



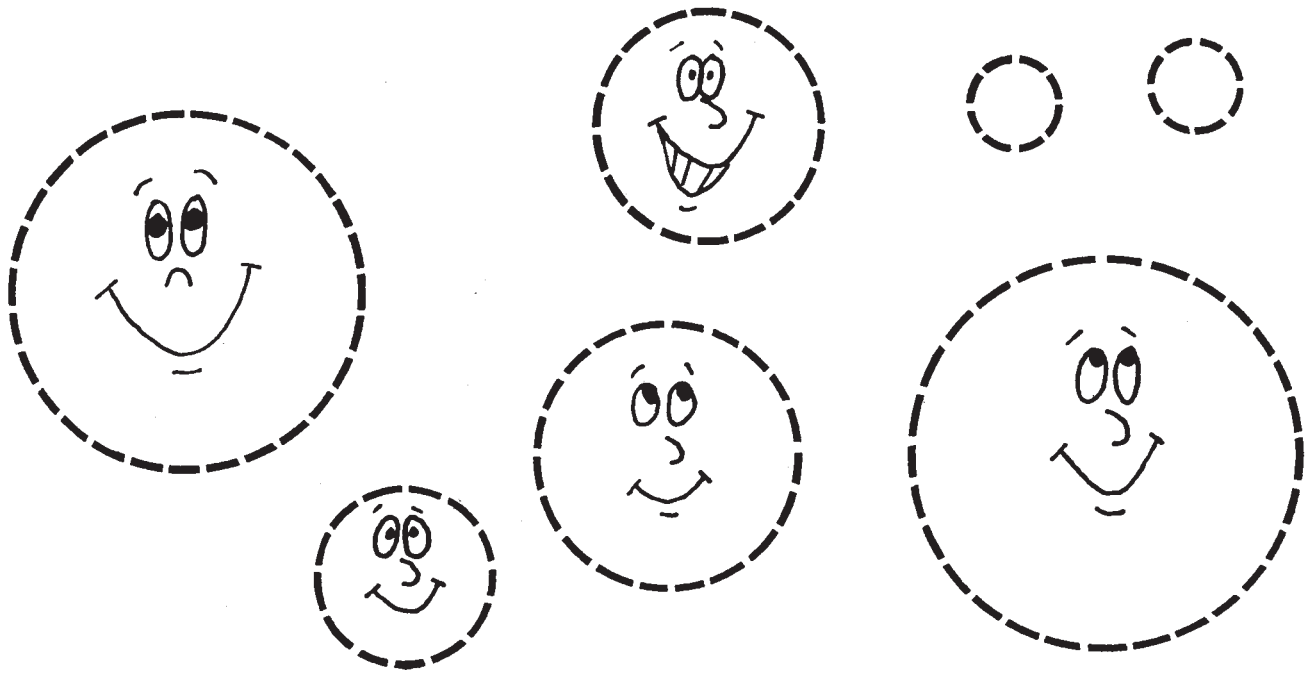
Circles of all Sizes

Color and cut out the circles. Place in order from smallest to largest.

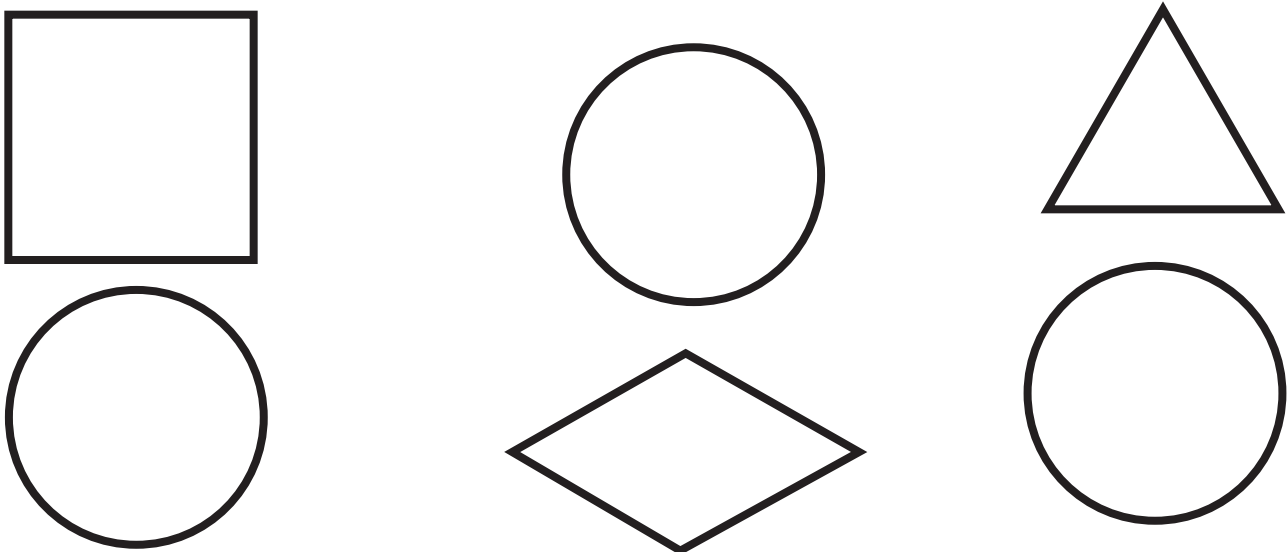
○ CIRCLES ○ Shapes

Name _____

These are circles.
Trace them and color them.



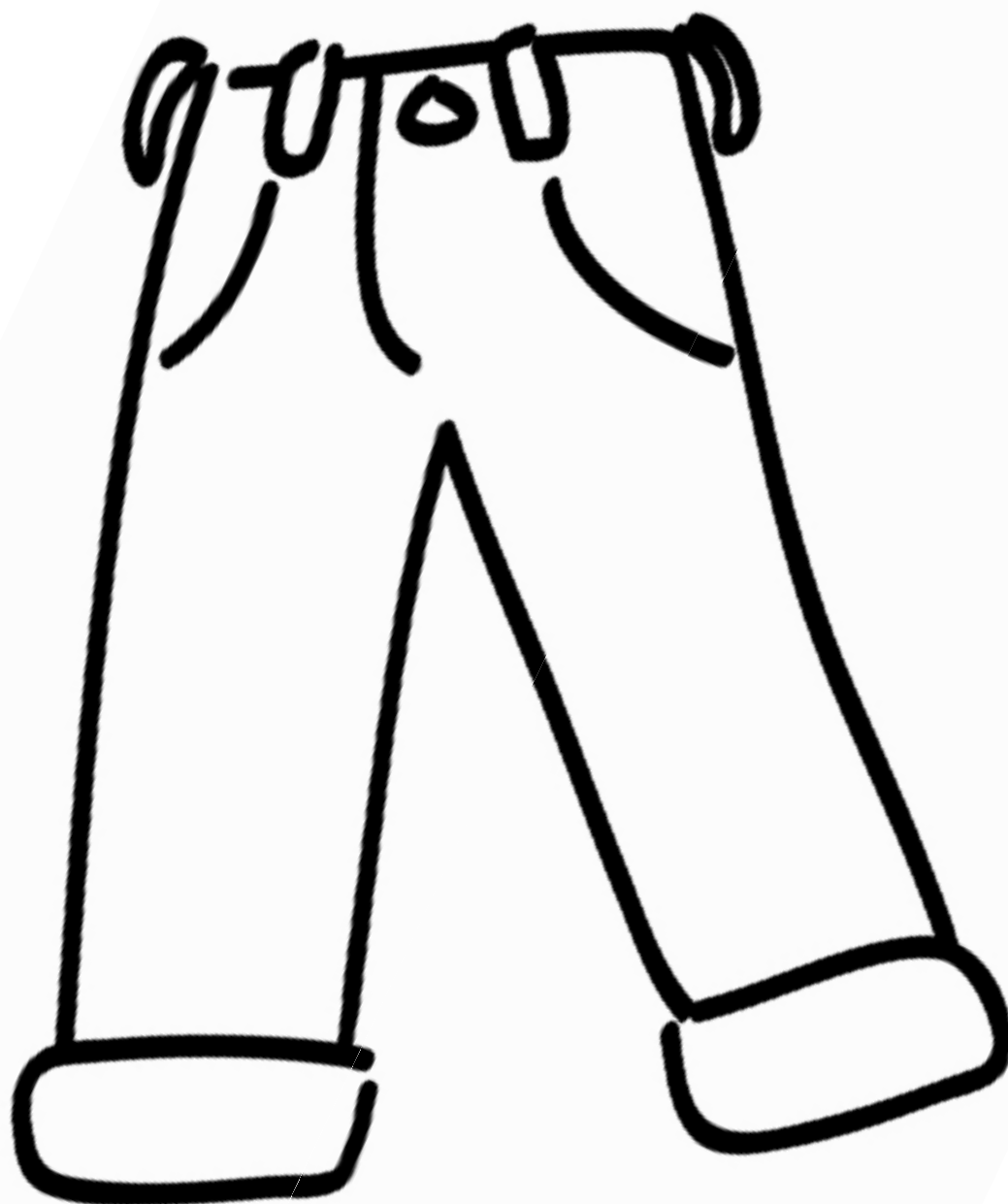
Color all the circles. ○





Name _____

Blue



Name _____

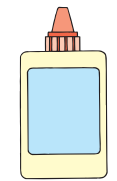
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Picture Stories

The Snowman



cut



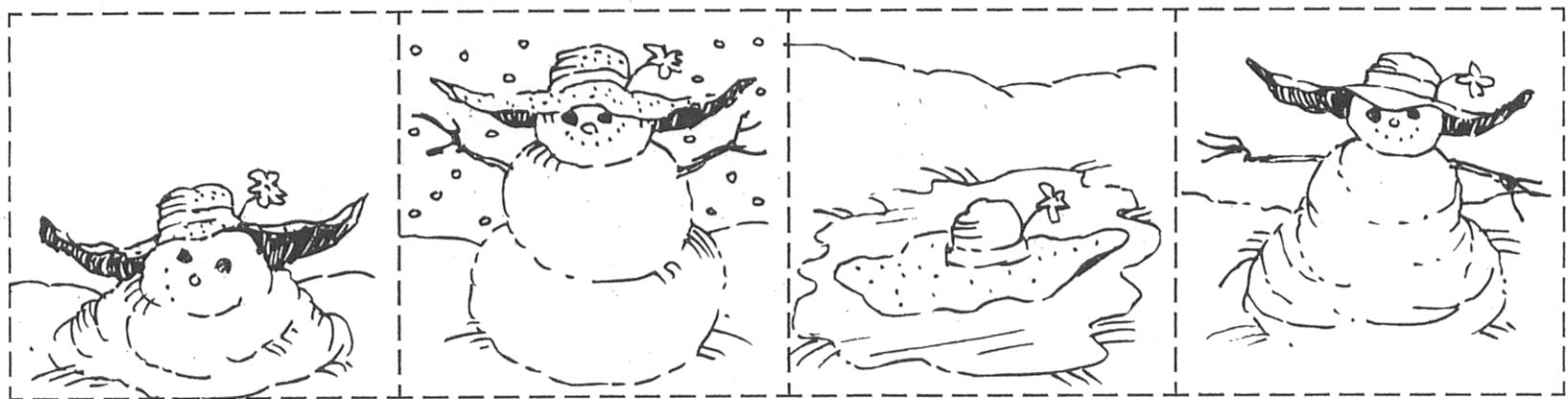
paste

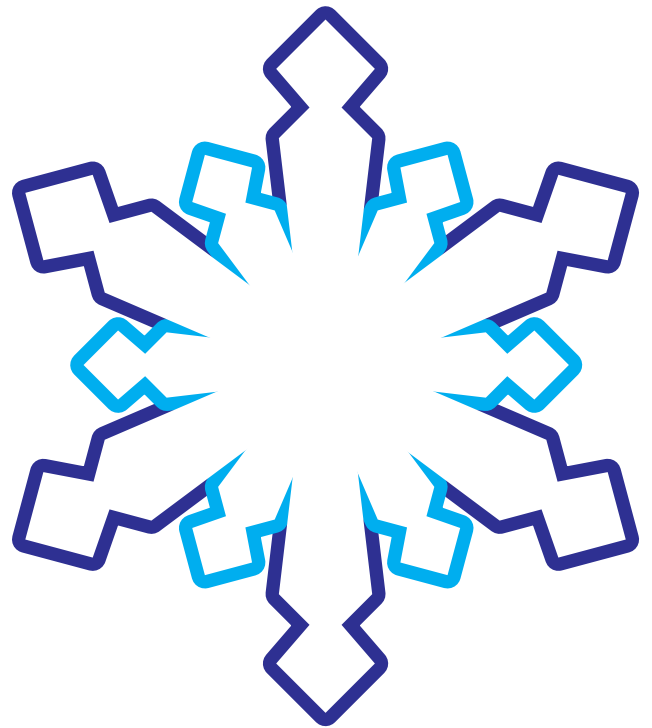
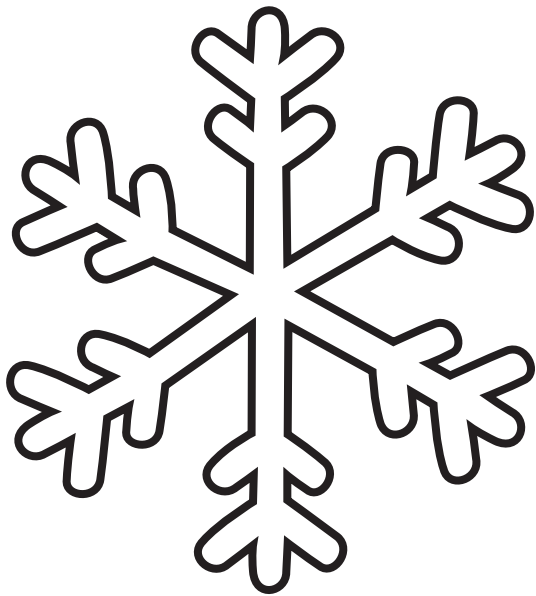
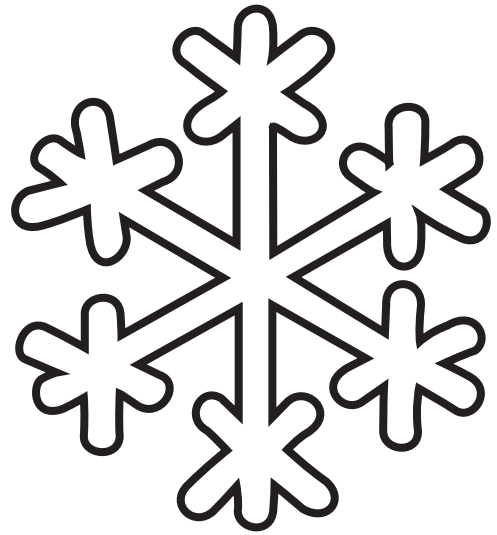
paste

paste

paste

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My January Journal

My name is _____

Five little snowmen—I hope they will stay,



But when the warm sun shines, they'll all melt away!



Five Little Snowmen

❄️❄️❄️ One little snowman looking at you



Along came another, and then there were two.



Two little snowmen, cute as they could be,

Along came another, and then there were three.



Three little snowmen, cute as they could be,
Along came another, and then there were four.



Four little snowmen, in the snow they dive,
Along came another, and then there were five.

