

Animals

Preschool

Lesson Plans

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Table of Contents

Terms of use	3
How to use these plans	4
Book list	5
Weekly plan	6
Skills checklist	7
Daily plans and centers	8
Editable lesson plans	15
Class book	19
Animal number cards	25
Science journal	34
Animal addition puzzles	49
Habitat sorting	70
Emergent reader	83
Word cards	96
Syllable sort	125
Find the animals	162
Read, build, write	165
Real animal photos	182

Thank you!

Thanks so much for downloading Preschool Teacher 101's lesson planning packet! We hope you find it useful in your preschool classroom.

From the creators of

[Fantastic Fun & Learning](#) | [Fun-A-Day](#) | [Preschool Teacher 101](#)

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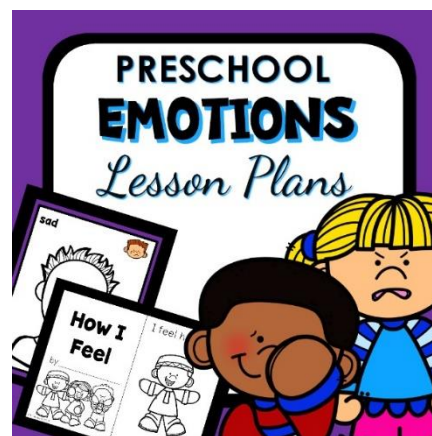
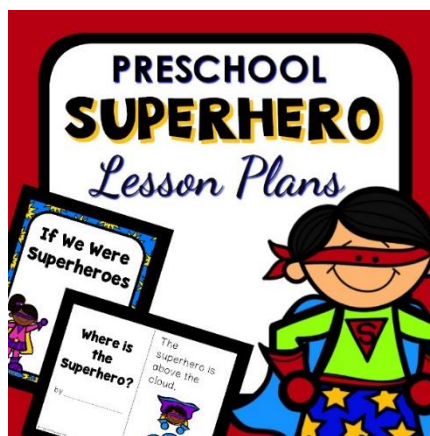
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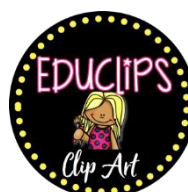
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How to use these lesson plans

This lesson plan packet contains the following:

- Book list
- 1-page weekly lesson plan grid
 - Alternate weekly grids for 4 day, 3 day, and 2 day programs
- 5 daily lesson plan sheets
- 2-page centers explanation
- Printables

Use the **Book List** to stock your classroom reading center and choose which books you'll read aloud during the apple theme.

The **1-page weekly lesson plan** has ideas for center activities, read alouds, whole group lessons, small group math lessons, small group science lessons, and small group literacy lessons.

The **alternate lesson plan sheets** are perfect for creating your own plans if you teach a 4-day, 3-day, or 2-day preschool program. Simply grab the items you'd like and arrange them to the calendar that's best suited for you. These sheets are editable – so you can type in the dates, days of the week, and activities. You can also just print the templates and handwrite your plans.

The **daily lesson plans** delve into the specifics of each lesson idea. Materials are included along the top of each daily plan. The days of the week and dates on these sheets are editable.

The **centers explanation** has more information about each center activity. There are 2 to 3 ideas for each center. Some teachers keep the same activities in each center for an entire week, while others like to change the activities a couple times a week.

You can pick and choose the activities that suit you and your classroom best. For example, maybe some of the small group ideas would be better done during your whole group time. You may decide to use some of the small group ideas during center time. Even though the plans are listed as one week, there are really enough activities to encompass an additional week or two if you incorporate non-themed activities.

Text highlighted in blue indicates a hyperlink. Click on the hyperlinked text to be taken to activities and ideas online.

P indicates a coordinating printable in the packet.

Animals Book List

Why Do Monkeys and Other Mammals Have Fur? by Holly Beaumont

Fur and Feathers by Janet Halfmann

What if You Had Animal Hair? by Sandra Markle

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins

Creature Features by Steve Jenkins

Life-Size Zoo by Teruyuki Komiya

Life-Size Aquarium by Teruyuki Komiya

I Want to Be a Zookeeper by Dan Liebman

I Want to Be a Vet by Dan Liebman

ABC Animals by American Museum of Natural History

Welcome Home, Bear: A Book of Animal Habitats by Il Sung Na

How Baby Animals Stay Safe by Mary Ann Fraser

Where in the Wild? Camouflaged Creatures Concealed... and Revealed by David M. Schwartz

Mice Squeak, We Speak by Arnold Shapiro

Quick as a Cricket by Audrey Wood

My Big Animal Book by Roger Priddy

Little Kids First Big Book of Animals by Catherine D. Hughes

Animals Lesson Plans

Dates: _____

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Read Aloud	<u>Fur and Feathers</u>	<u>What if You Had Animal Hair?</u>	<u>Life-Size Zoo</u>	<u>Welcome Home, Bear</u>	<u>Where in the Wild?</u>
Whole Group	Favorite animal chart	Animal charades	Animal sounds	Find the animal	Three clues
Literacy	Roaring rhyming words	Syllable sort P	Emergent reader P	Class book P	Animal pocket chart
Math	Animal patterns	Animal addition puzzles P	Counting legs	Put the stripes on the animal	Animal crackers
Science or Social Studies	List of animals P	Animal body coverings P	How animals move P	Animal needs P	Animal habitats P

CENTERS			
<u>Arts & Crafts</u> Animal painting Paper plate animals	<u>Science</u> Habitat sorting mats P Real animals P	<u>Pretend Play</u> Animal caretakers Animal dress up	<u>Literacy</u> Word cards P Read it, build it, write it P
<u>Math</u> Number cards P Animal shapes	<u>Sensory</u> Dual sensory tray Animal play dough invitation	<u>Building</u> Animal habitats Block animals	

NOTES:

Preschool Skills Checklist

		Roaring rhyming words	Syllable sort	Emergent reader	Class book	Animal pocket chart	Animal patterns	Animal addition puzzles	Counting legs	Put the stripes on the animal	Animal crackers	List of animals	Animal body coverings	How animals move	Animal needs	Animal habitats
Literacy	Print conveys meaning			X	X	X										
	Concept of a word			X	X	X										
	Letter knowledge			X	X	X										
	Left-to-right progression			X	X	X										
	Sight words			X	X	X										
	Oral language skills	X	X													
Math	One-to-one correspondence									X						
	Patterns and sorting						X		X		X					
	Shapes and colors															
	Numeral knowledge and counting							X	X	X	X					
	Graphing and measuring										X					
	Addition/Subtraction							X								
Science	Scientific observation and investigation															
	Force and motion															
	Describe physical properties of objects											X	X	X	X	X
	Chemical reactions															
	Engineering															
Other																

Materials

Pony beads; pipe cleaners

Read Aloud

Fur and Feathers

Whole Group Activity

Favorite animal chart

Create a favorite animal predictable chart with the children. Have the children tell you about their favorite animals in a predictable sentence structure. For example, "(Child) likes (animal)." or "My favorite animal is (animal)." Keep the chart up throughout the animal theme.

Small Group Literacy

Roaring rhyming words

Have the children pretend to be an animal (for example, lions). Say two words. If the words rhyme, the kids roar like lions. If the words don't rhyme, the children need to be silent.

Small Group Science

List of animals P

Brainstorm a list of animals with the children. Save this list and use it throughout the week as you discuss animal characteristics. Optional: Use index cards and have each child draw/label a different animal. Then use these kid-made cards for sorting activities throughout the week. Have the children complete the science journal page – draw and label an animal.

Small Group Math

Animal patterns

Have the children make patterns based upon their favorite animals using pony beads and pipe cleaners. For example, a tiger pattern could be made from orange and black beads. Encourage the children to attempt different types of animal-inspired patterns.

Materials

Small animal toys or loose parts

Read Aloud

What if You Had Animal Hair?

Whole Group Activity

Animal Charades

Tell the children that you're going to play a game of charades. This means the person leading the game will pretend to be an animal. The rest of the class will have to determine the name of that animal. Go first so you can model how to play. Then let the children take turns being the mystery animal. You can use the animal word or picture cards as prompts if you'd like.

Small Group Literacy

Syllable sort P

Model how to determine the number of syllables in a word. For example, you might clap for each syllable. Have the children sort the animal picture cards onto the correct mat depending on the number of syllables.

Small Group Science

Animal body coverings P

Discuss the different types of body coverings animals can have. Refer to books such as *Why Do Monkeys and Other Mammals Have Fur?* by Holly

Beaumont to supplement your discussion (there are multiple books in that series about animal body coverings). Have the children draw examples of animals with different body coverings in their science journals.

Small Group Math

Animal addition puzzles P

Have the children assemble the addition puzzles. Set out loose parts and/or small animal toys to determine the answers to each puzzle.

Materials

Small animal toys

Read Aloud

Life-Size Zoo

Whole Group Activity

Animal sounds

Talk to the children about some of the different sounds animals make. Encourage the children to share some of their favorite examples. Play an animal sound guessing game. Show the children an animal picture (but don't look at it yourself). Have the children make the animal noise. Guess the animal based on the noises the children are making.

Small Group Literacy

Emergent reader P

Read and complete the animal-themed emergent reader. Be sure to keep the books so the kids can read them together and individually throughout the theme.

Small Group Science

How animals move P

Discuss the different ways that animals move. Bring out real animal photos and/or the animal word cards. Have the children work together to sort the animals based upon how they move. The children can then complete the next page in their science journal by drawing animals for each movement.

Small Group Math

Counting legs

Place small animal toys on the math center table. You can also incorporate the real animal photos and/or the animal word cards for this activity. Have the children sort the animals based on how many legs they have.

Materials

White, orange, and black play dough; dice

Read Aloud

Welcome Home, Bear

Whole Group Activity

Find the animal P

Place an animal card behind a number on your calendar or hundreds chart. You could also hide the animal card behind a word on your word wall, a child's name in a pocket chart, or behind a letter on a letters chart. Give the children clues as to where to find the animal. If time permits, let the children take turns hiding the animal cards.

Small Group Literacy

Class book P

Have the children think about what animal they would like to be. Have each child make their own page and help them write in the animal of their choosing. Then have the children draw pictures of themselves as the animals. Once every child has made their page, bind the pages together to make a class book. Be sure to keep it in the class library for further reading.

Small Group Science

Animal needs P

Talk to the children about what animals need to live healthy lives. Bring out non-fiction books to reference as desired. Have the children complete the next page in their science journal by drawing/writing about animals' needs.

Small Group Math

Put the stripes on the animal

Place orange, white, and black play dough in a tray. Place a few dice near the tray. If possible, place tiger and zebra cookie cutters out too (cat and horse cookie cutters would do well in a pinch, too). Have the children make zebras out of white play dough or tigers out of orange play dough. Then the kids can roll a die (or multiple dice) to determine how many black stripes to add to their animals. Black pipe cleaners can work in place of black play dough for stripes.

Materials

Animal crackers

Read Aloud

Where in the Wild?

Whole Group Activity

Three clues

Give the children three clues about an animal that you've discussed this week. Have the kids guess which animal you are describing. As time permits, allow the kids to take turns sharing three clues.

Small Group Literacy

Animal pocket chart

Put together a pocket chart activity using your students' names. Write the kids' names on sentence strips. Write "sees a" on a few sentence strips. Use the animal word cards with this activity as well. Work with the children to create simple sentences using their names, "sees a", and the word cards. For example, a sentence might read "Richard sees a whale." Encourage the children to use pointers while reading the sentences together.

Small Group Science

Animal habitats P

Talk with the children about the different habitats animals live in. Refer to some of your non-fiction books during this time. Have the children complete the next page in their science journal by writing/drawing about animal habitats.

Small Group Math

Animal crackers

Bring out a box of animal crackers for math time. Have the children sort and count the crackers. If time permits, have the children use the animal crackers to work on patterning.

Centers

Arts & Crafts

Animal painting – The children can use paint (or other art materials) to create their favorite animals. Consider adding real animal pictures to the art center for inspiration.

Paper plate animals – Place paper plates and collage materials in the art center. The children can use the materials to make their own paper plate animals.

Science

Habitat sorting mats **P**– Have the children sort the animal cards onto their appropriate habitat mats.

Real animals **P** – Place real animal photos in the science center. Bring in other real animal artifacts that you can (snake skin, skeletons, real bugs in a bug hotel, etc.).

Pretend Play

Animal caretakers – Let the children vote and choose their favorite animal caretaker (zookeeper, farmer, vet, etc.). Set up the dramatic play center based upon the children's vote.

Animal dress up – Place animal dress up outfits in the pretend play center. Consider placing simple masks in the center.

Literacy

Word cards **P** – Place the animal word cards in the writing center, along with different kinds of paper and writing utensils. The children can write animal stories, draw and label animal pictures, etc. Consider placing a sensory writing tray in the center with the words as prompts.

Read it, build it, write it **P** – The children will explore sight words with word cards, alphabet manipulatives, and dry erase markers. You can also pair this activity with a sensory writing tray.

Centers

Math

Number cards P – Put the cards in numerical order, use pretend worms to explore one-to-one correspondence, etc.

Animal shapes – Place play dough and small animal toys in the math center. Have the children use the animals to create shapes in the play dough.

Sensory

Dual sensory tray – Create a two-sided sensory tray. Have animals that live on land on one side (with your favorite green or brown sensory filler). Put animals that live in the water on another side (you can use real water or your favorite blue sensory fillers).

Animal play dough invitation – Place various play dough colors, along with loose parts, in the sensory center. Encourage the children to make their own animals.

Building

Animal habitats – Build animal habitats. Add loose parts and stuffed animals for kids to add to their habitats.

Block animals – Use blocks to create various animals. Place real photos in the block center as inspiration.

Weekly Lesson Plans

Read Aloud				
Whole Group				
Literacy				
Math				
Science or Social Studies				

				CENTERS

Weekly Lesson Plans

Read Aloud

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Whole Group

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Literacy

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Math

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**Science or
Social Studies**

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CENTERS

Weekly Lesson Plans

Read Aloud

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Whole Group

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Literacy

--	--	--

Math

--	--	--

**Science or
Social Studies**

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CENTERS

Weekly Lesson Plans

Read Aloud		
Whole Group		
Literacy		
Math		
Science or Social Studies		

			CENTERS

Class Book

Print out the class book cover you would like to use, or make your own with construction paper. Add your class as the authors and then laminate the front cover. Laminate a piece of construction paper for the back cover.

Print out a response sheet for every child in your classroom. There are two options – one where the kids write their names and the animal, and one where the kids just write the name of the animal. Choose the version that works best for your class.

During literacy small group, talk to the children about what animal they would like to be.

Help the children fill in the response sheet with their names and the names of the animals they would like to be. Some children might be able to do most of this on their own, some will need to share the pen with you, and others will need to dictate their answers for you to write.

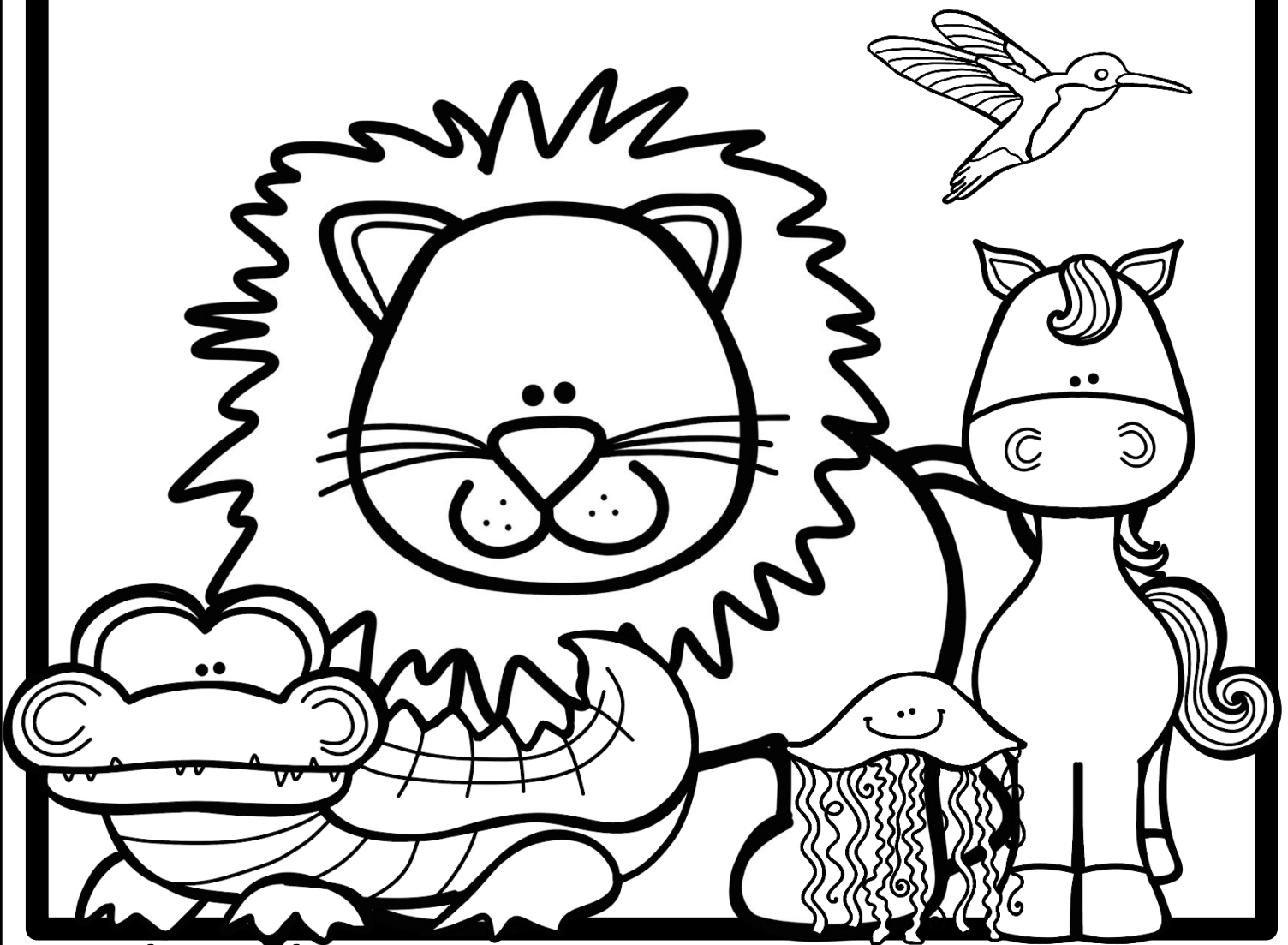
Once the words have been written, have the children draw a picture of themselves as the animals they've chosen.

Once every child has made a page, combine them all into a class book to read together over and over.

Preschool Animals



Preschool Animals



Preschool Animals

_____ would be a
_____.

If I could be any animal,
it would be

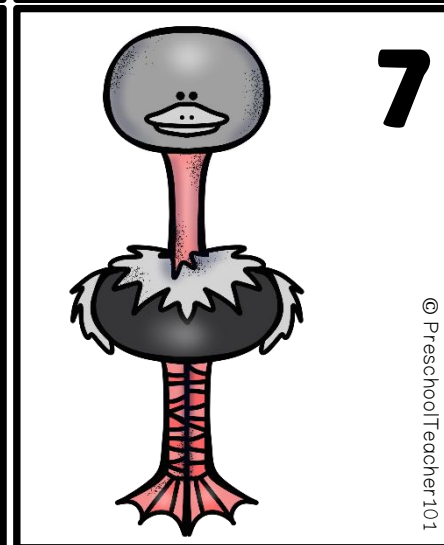
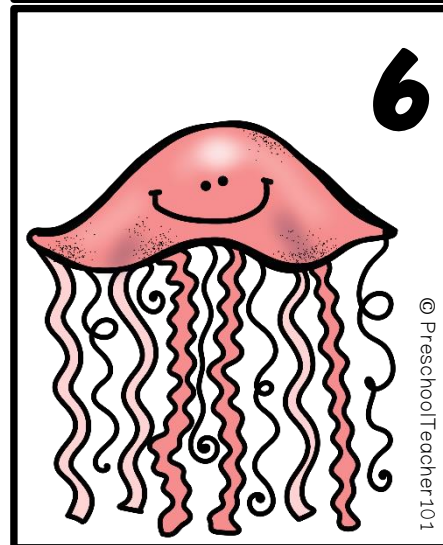
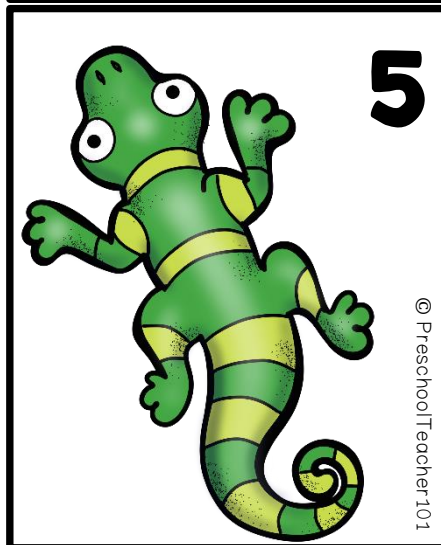
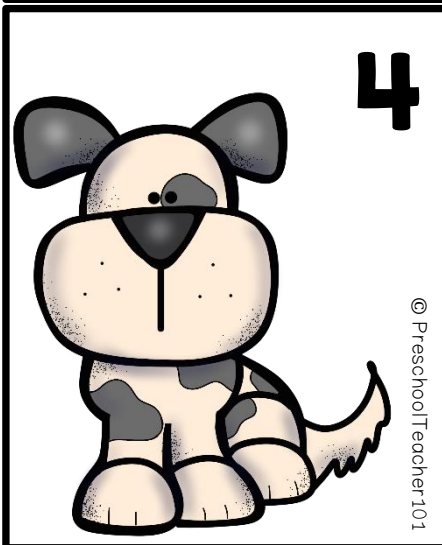
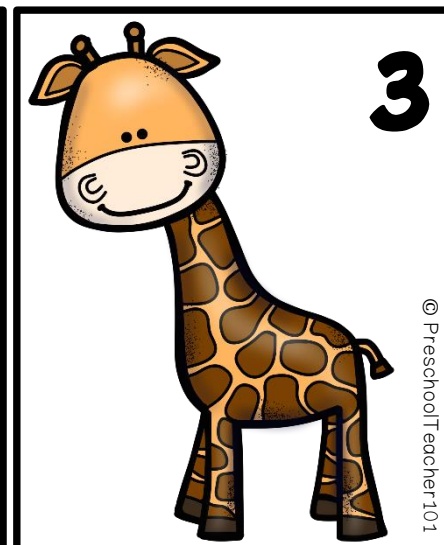
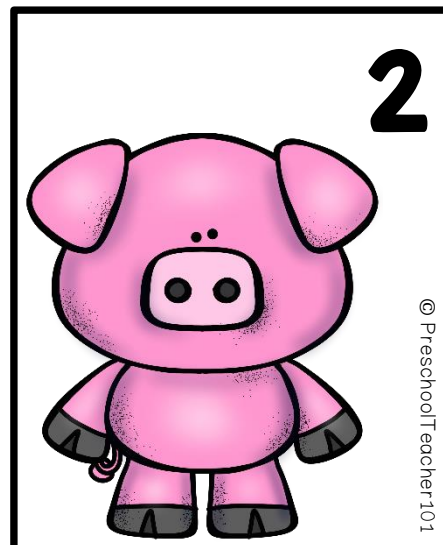
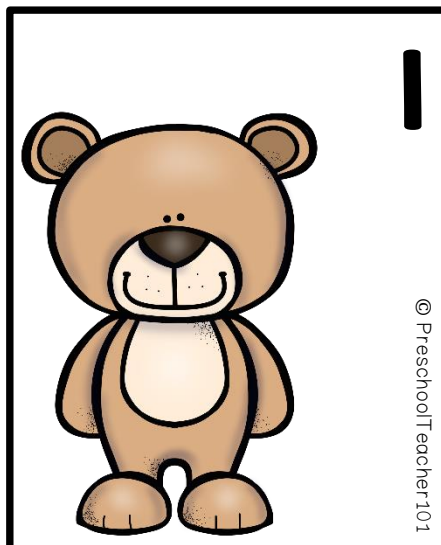
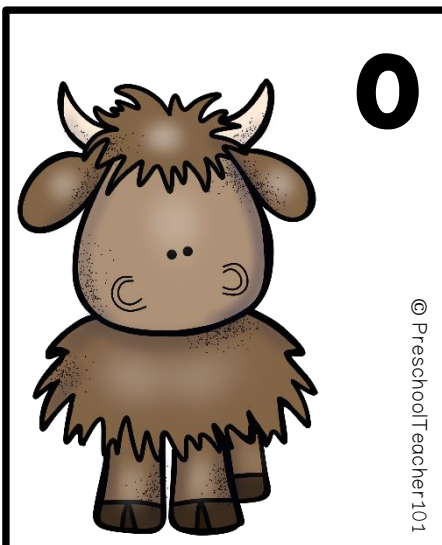
Animal Number Cards

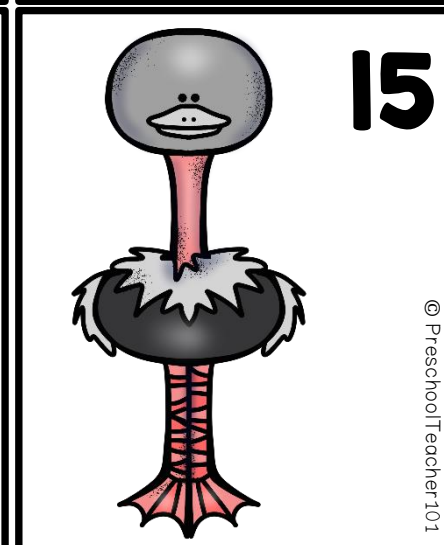
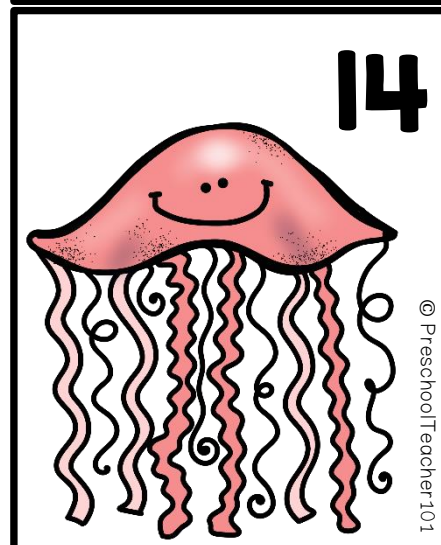
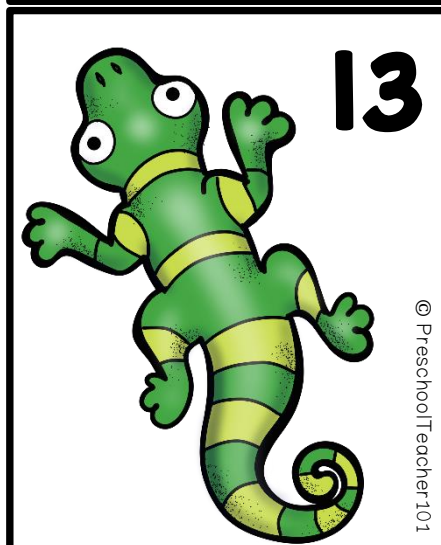
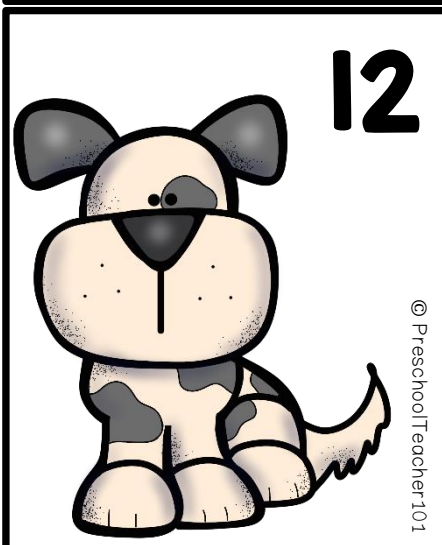
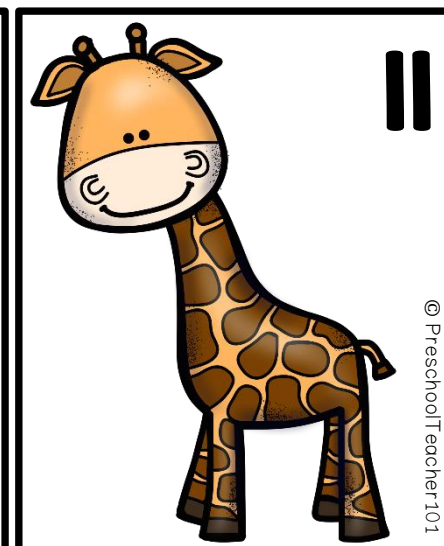
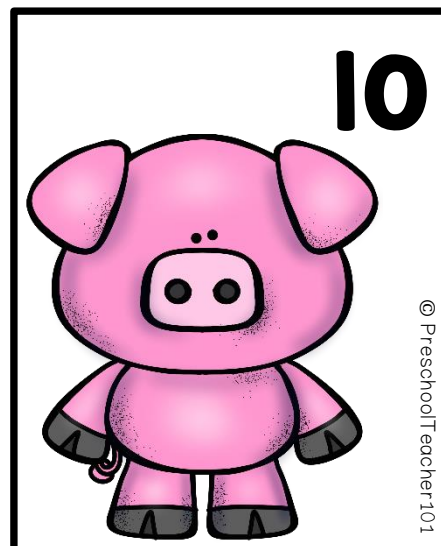
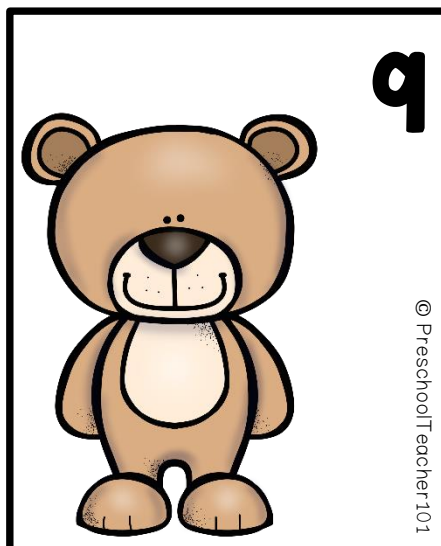
Print out the animal number cards. Cut them apart and laminate the cards for durability.

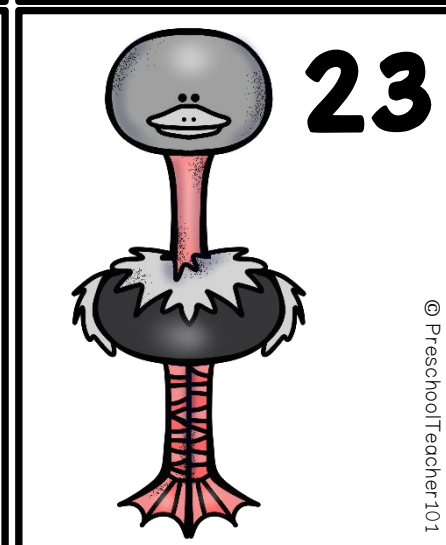
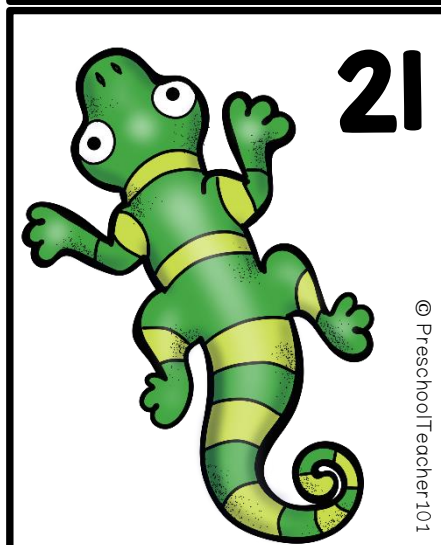
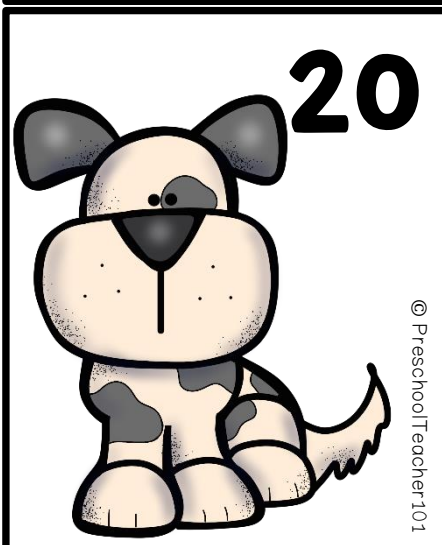
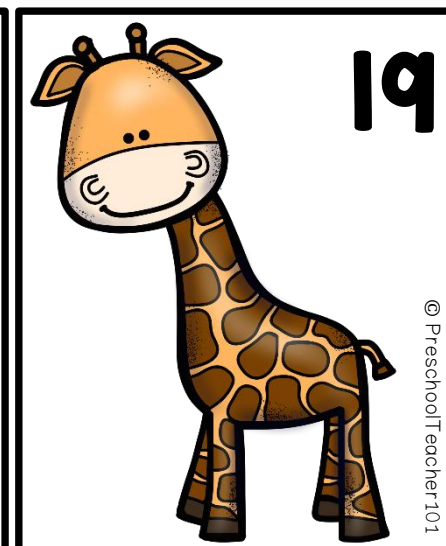
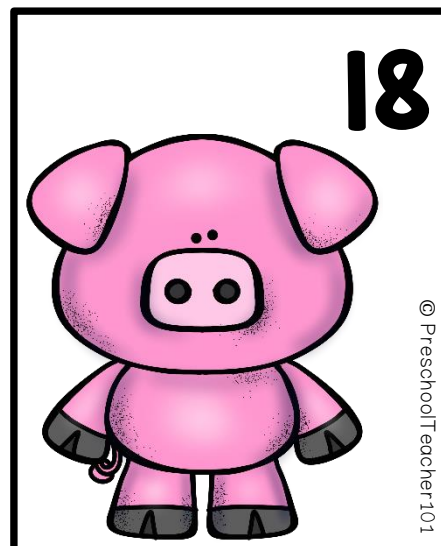
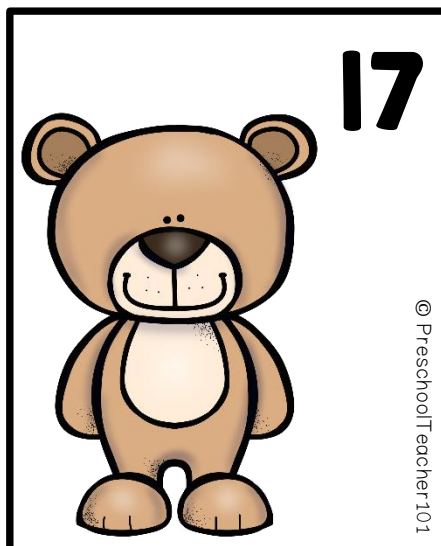
Place the number cards in the math center for children to explore independently. The cards can, of course, also be used during whole group or small group math activities too.

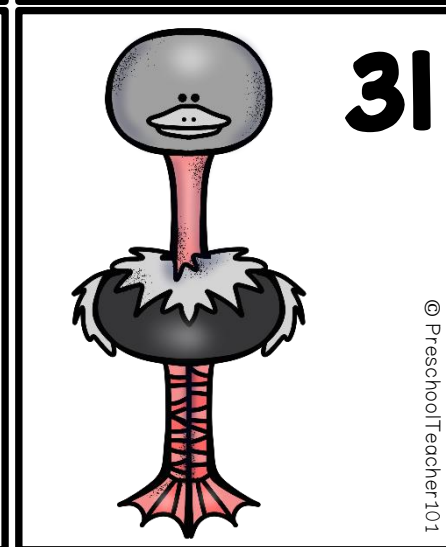
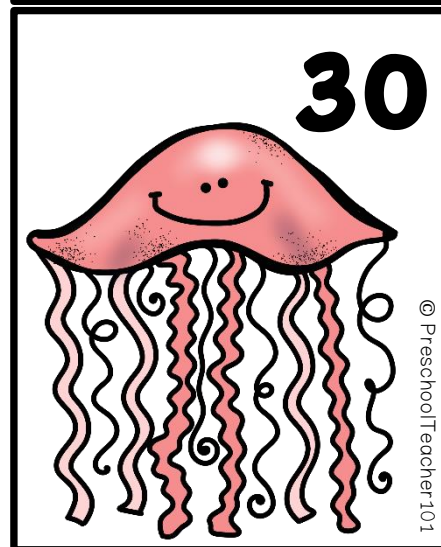
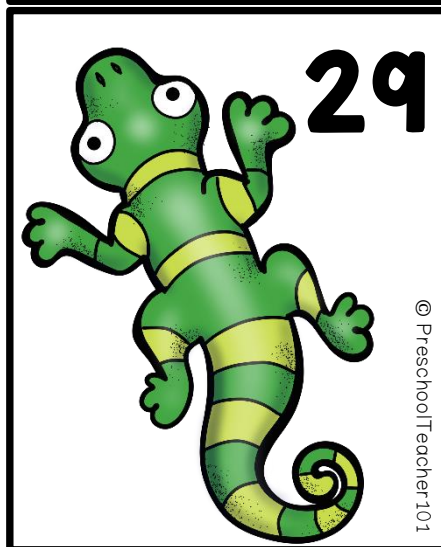
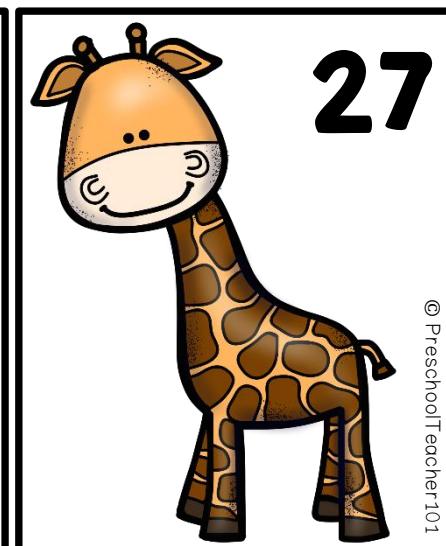
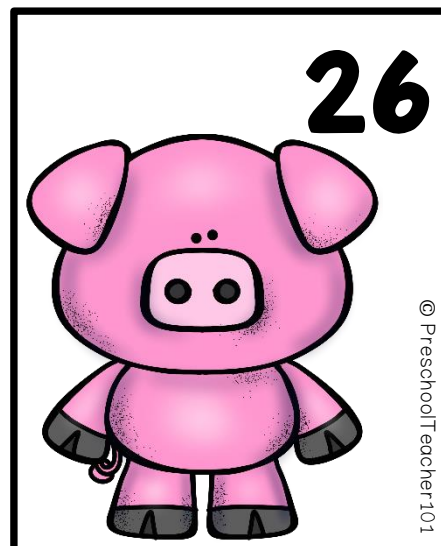
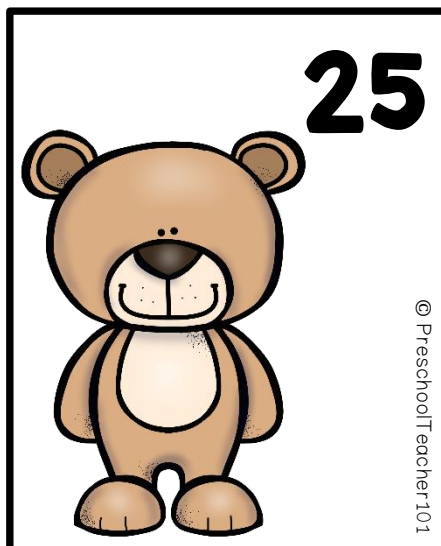
You can use these number cards in a wide variety of ways:

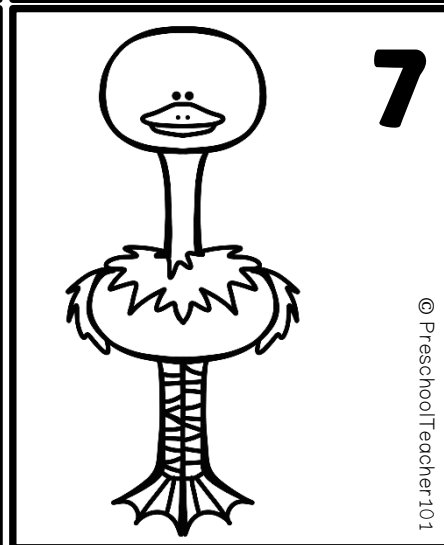
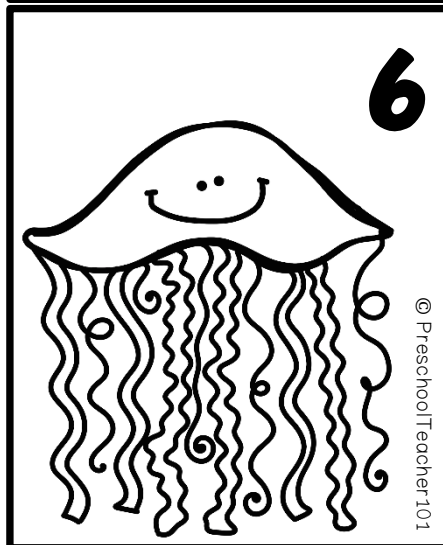
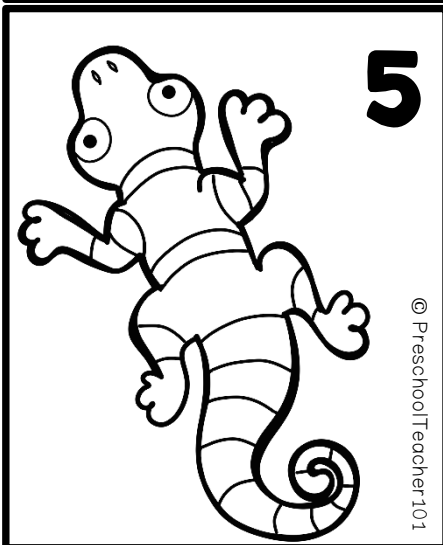
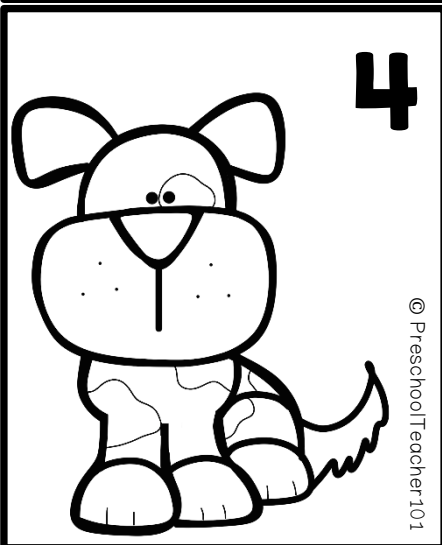
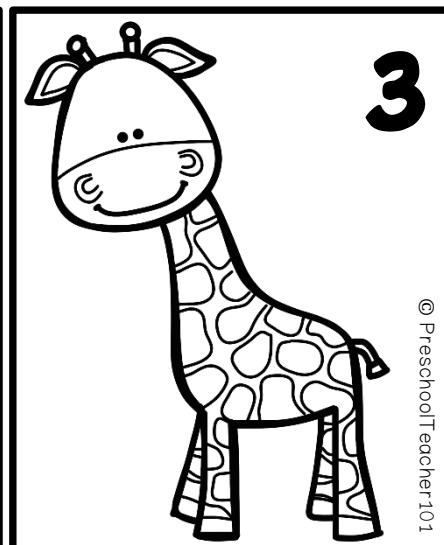
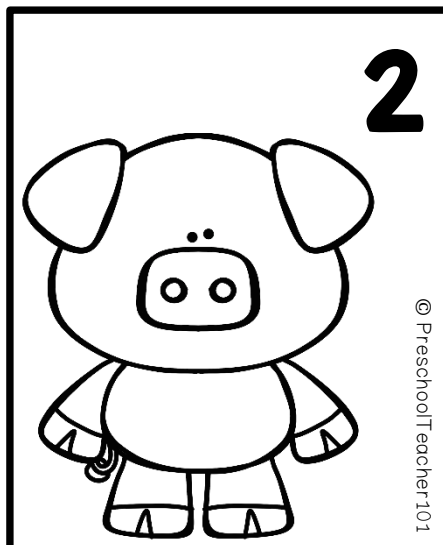
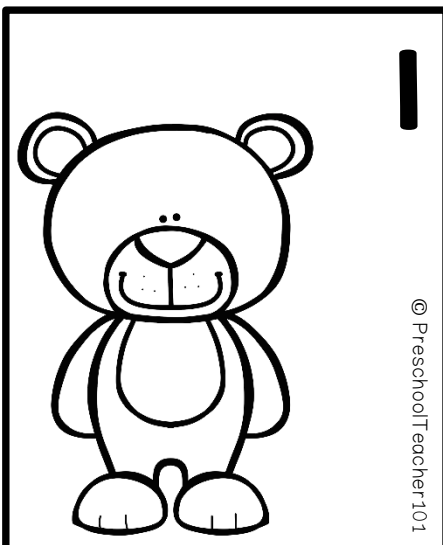
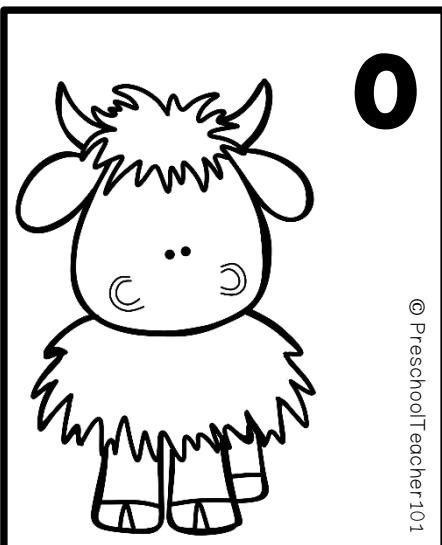
- Consider adding the number cards to an animal-themed sensory bin for an added element to the play and learning. Add animal toys to the sensory bin as well.
- Pair the number cards with small animal toys or loose parts. Have the kids work on [one-to-one correspondence](#) by adding the correct number of toys underneath each number.
- The children can work on numerical order by putting the numbers in order from 0 to 31.
- Make two sets of the numbers and have the kids match the numbers or play a number matching game.
- Make an animal-themed sensory writing tray. The children can use the number cards to prompt them which numbers to practice in the tray.

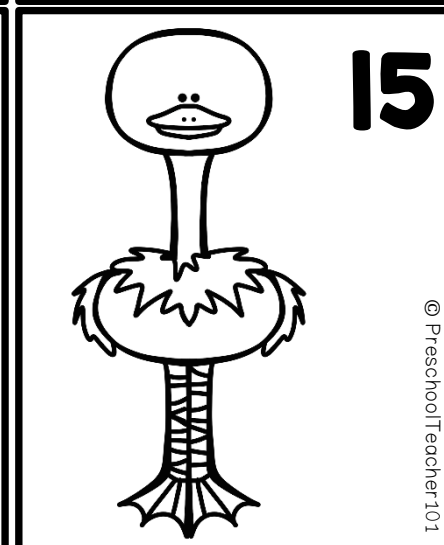
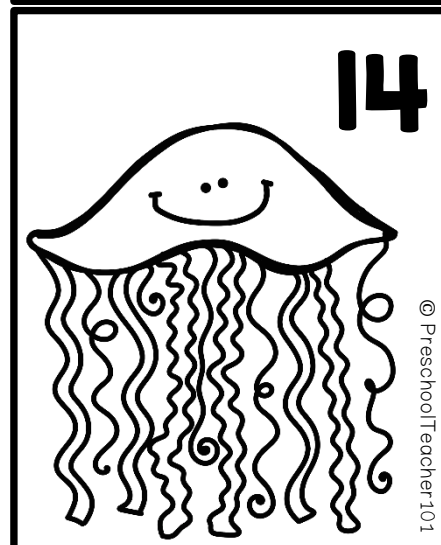
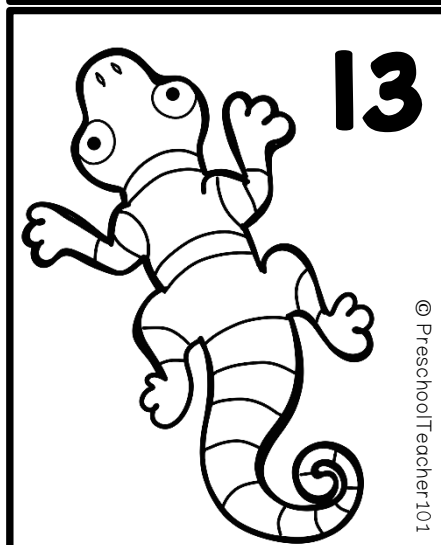
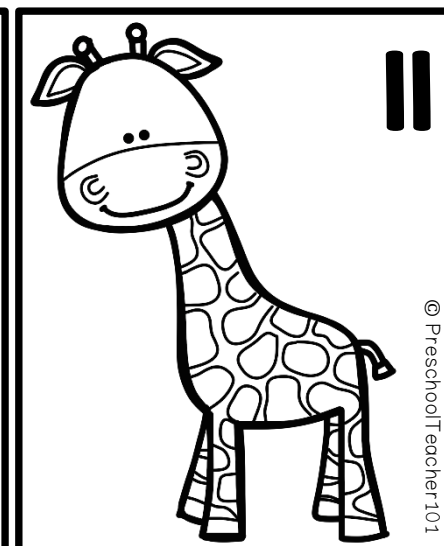
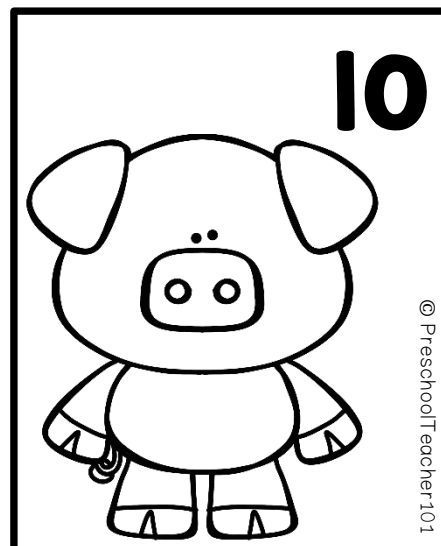
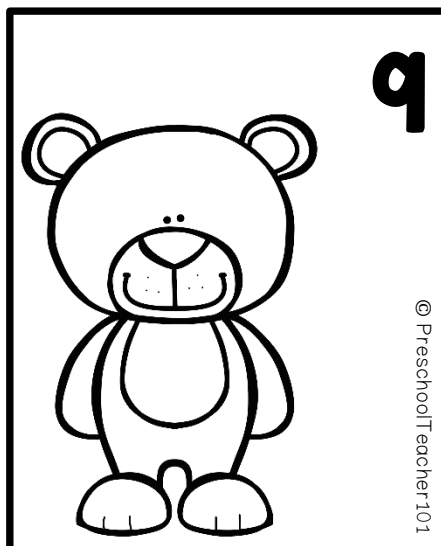


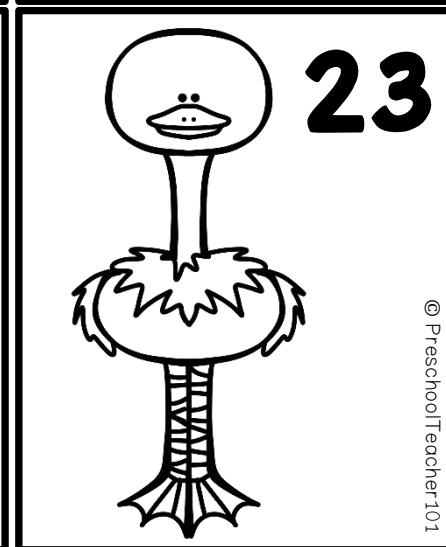
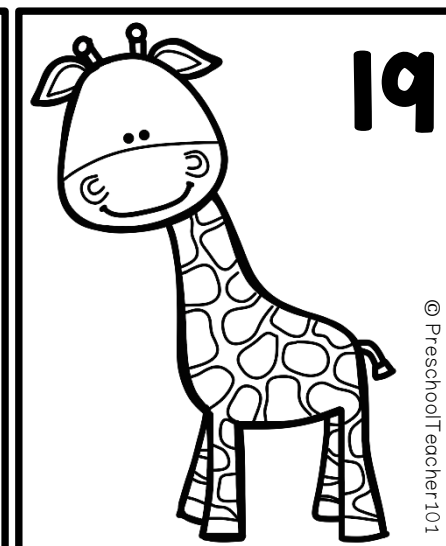
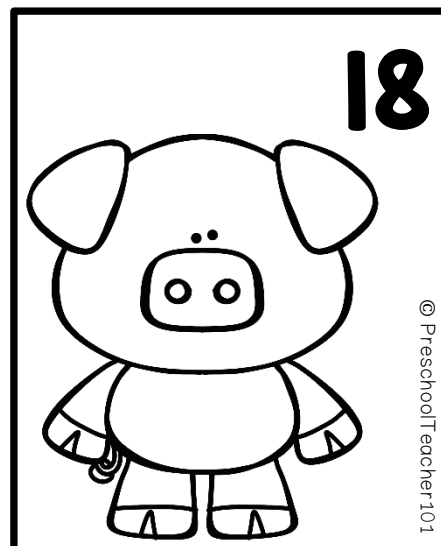
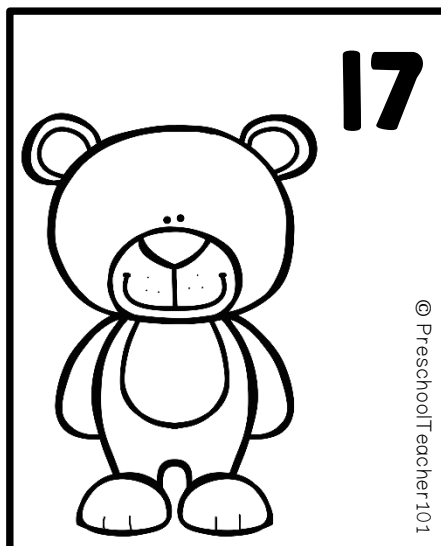


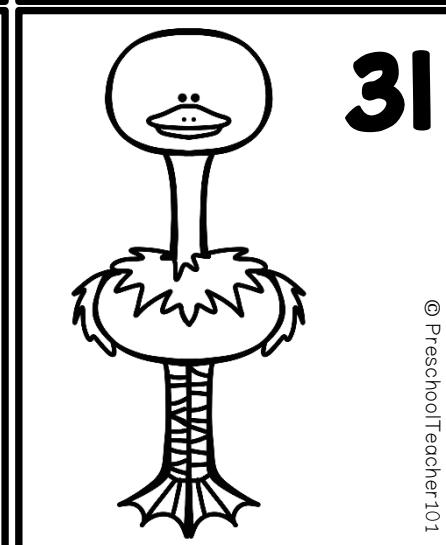
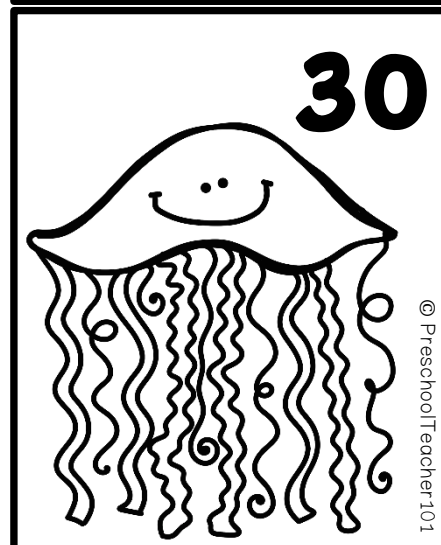
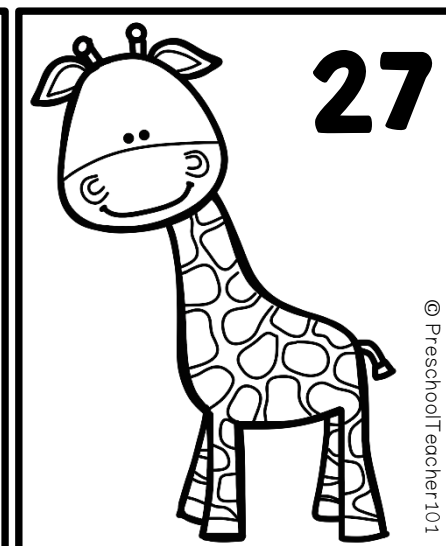












Science Journal

Print out the science journal cover and the pages you'd like to use with your students. Consider printing the front cover on colorful paper. Staple a journal pack together for every student in your class.

Have the children write their names on the front cover of the science journal.

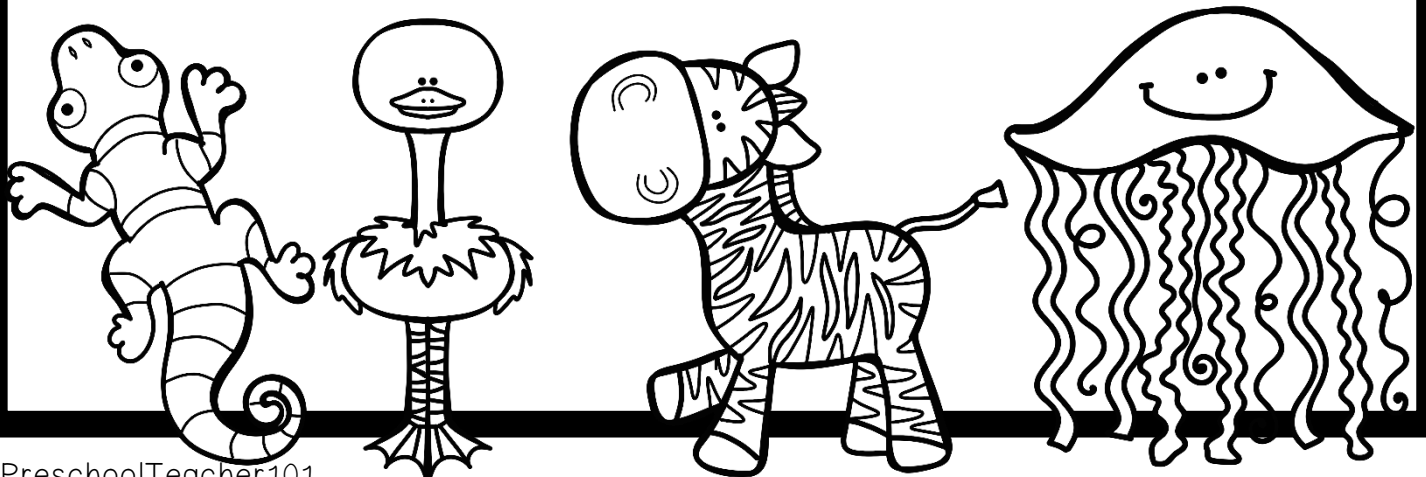
Your students will complete the science journal throughout the animals theme:

- On page 1, the kids can draw an animal. Encourage them to label their drawings with the name of the animals.
- On page 2, the children should draw a different animal in each of the boxes based upon body covering.
- On page 3, the kids will draw a different animal in each box based upon how the animals move.
- On page 4, the children will write and/or draw about animals' needs.
- On page 5, the kids will write and/or draw about animal habitats.
- On page 6, the children can write and/or draw about any other interesting animal facts they've learned about throughout the week.

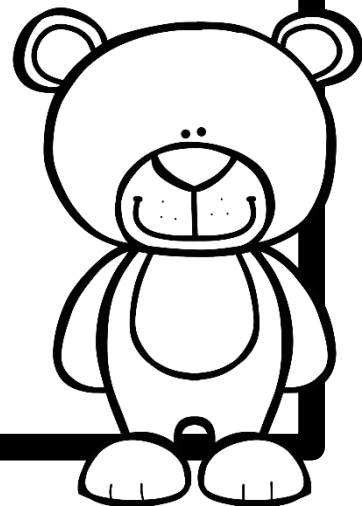
If your students aren't ready to use the science journal in small groups or independently, you can still use the journal. Turn it into a whole group activity, working on each page together as a class.

My Animal Journal

by _____



Draw and label an animal.



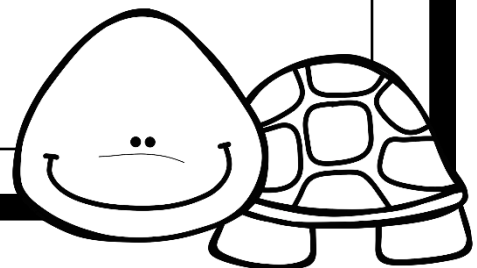
Draw an animal for each body covering.

feathers

fur

scales

shells



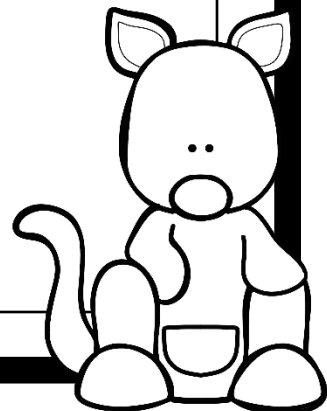
Draw an animal for each
movement.

walk

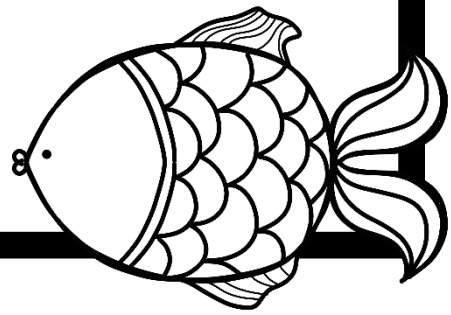
fly

swim

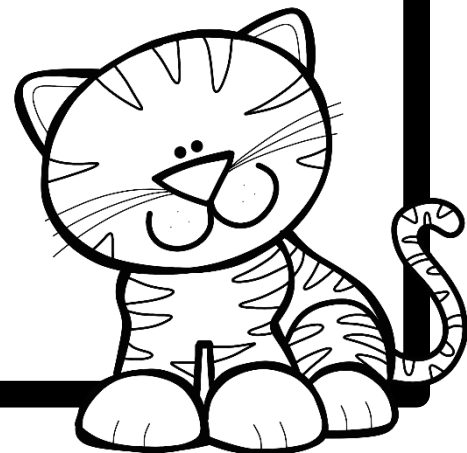
hop



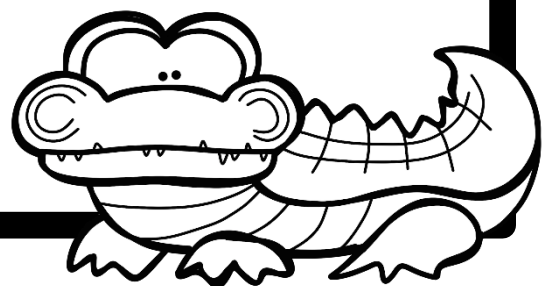
Animal Needs



Animal Habitats



More Animal Information



My Animal Journal

by _____

Draw and label an animal.

Draw an animal for each
body covering.

feathers

fur

scales

shells

Draw an animal for each
movement.

walk

fly

swim

hop

Animal Needs

Animal Habitats

More Animal Information

Animal Addition Puzzles

Print out the animal addition puzzles you'd like to use with your students. For children just beginning to explore addition, consider using the puzzles filled with clipart. For children who are more secure in the concept, consider using the puzzles that have no pictures by the answers.

Cut the puzzles apart and laminate them for durability. If desired, back the puzzles on construction paper before laminating them.

You can make the puzzles self-checking for the kids if you'd like. Place a sticker on the back of one side of the puzzle. Then place a second of that exact same sticker on the back of the answer piece.

Place the addition puzzles out on the table during math small group. Pair the puzzles with manipulatives (small animal toys, glass gems, small pictures of animals, etc.).

Have the children use the manipulatives to work through the addition puzzles. Then have the kids choose the final piece of the puzzle based on what they've determined.

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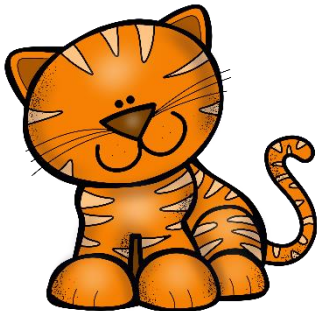
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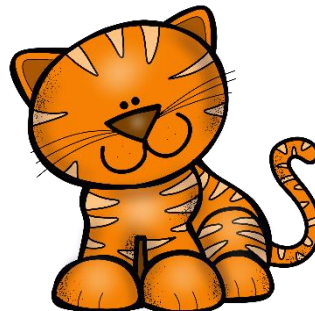
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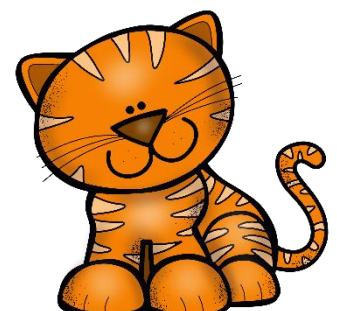
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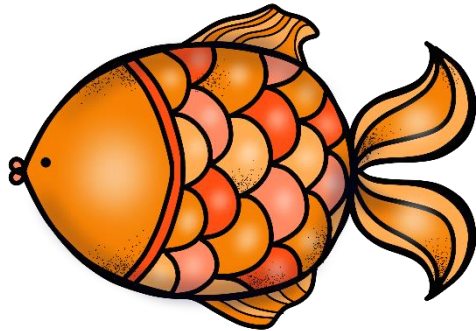
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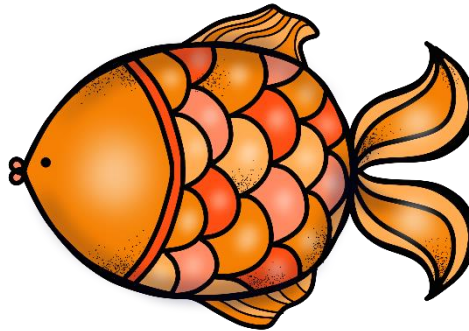
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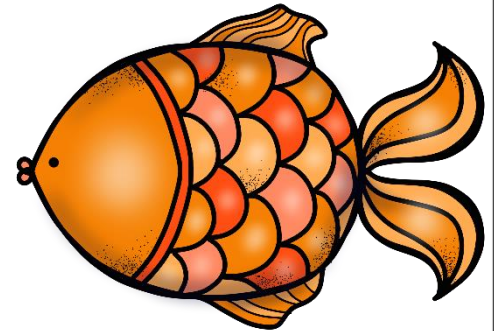
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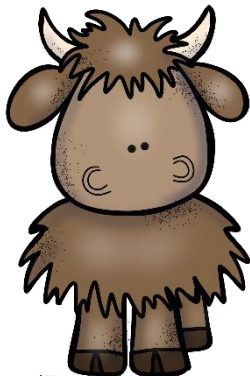
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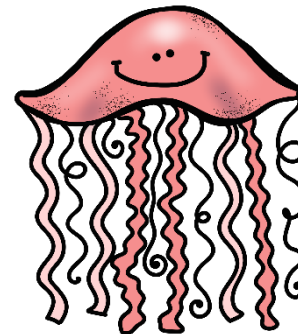
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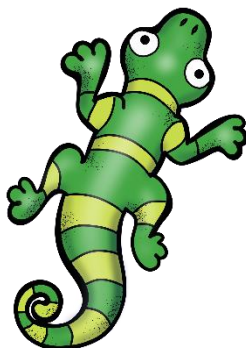
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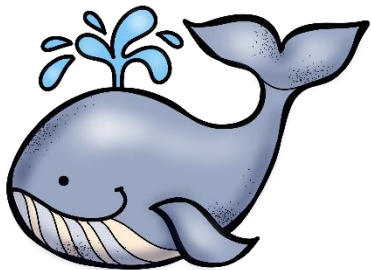
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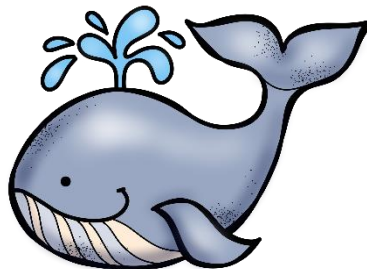
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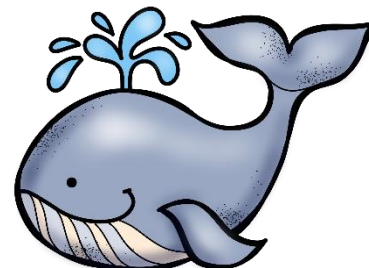
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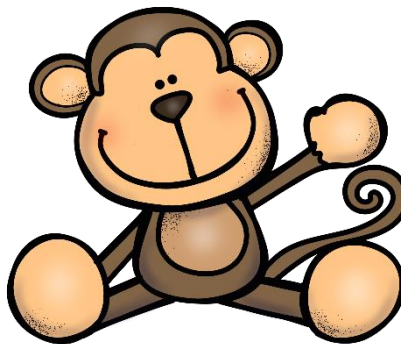
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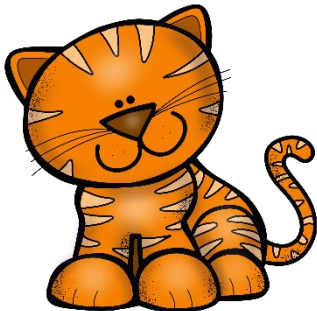


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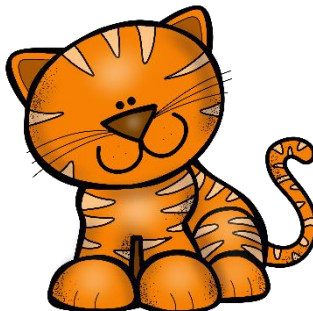
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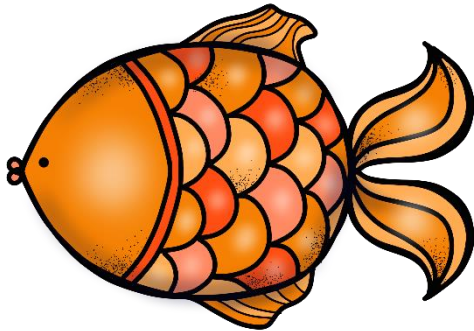
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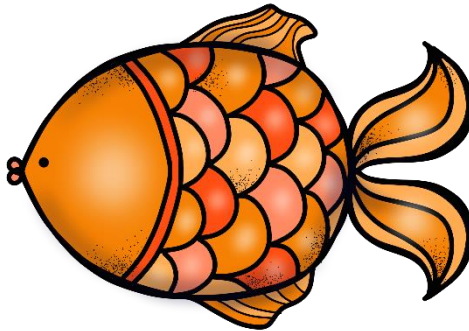
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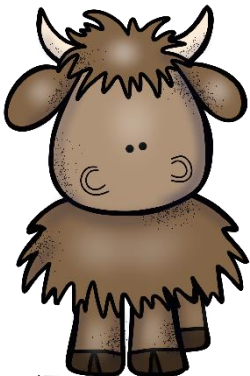
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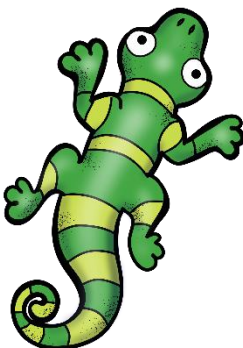
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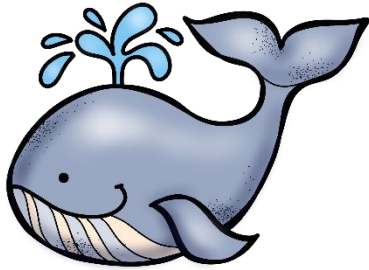


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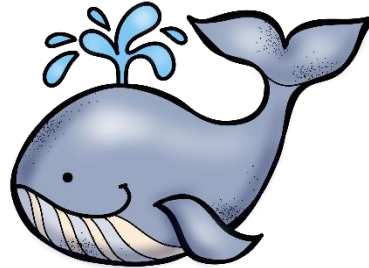
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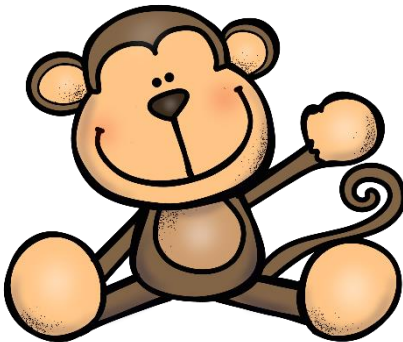


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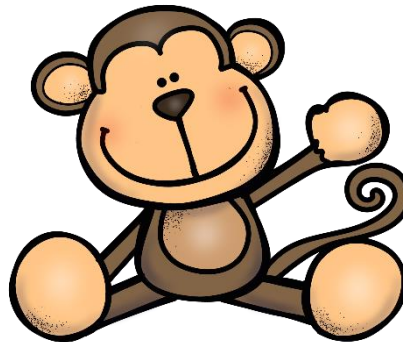
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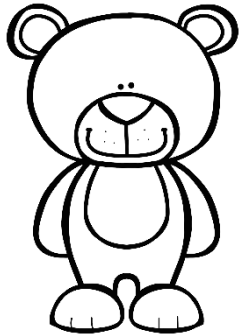


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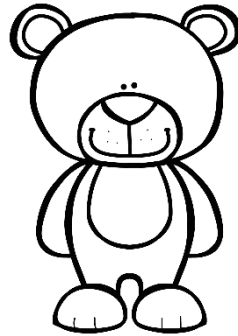
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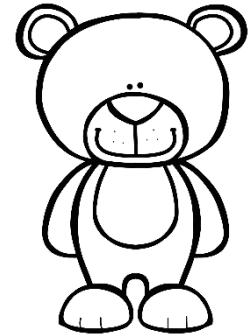
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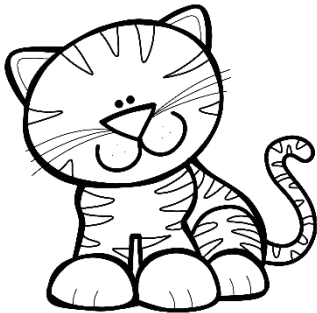
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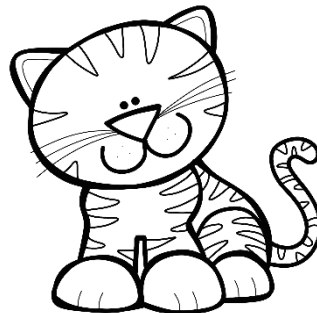
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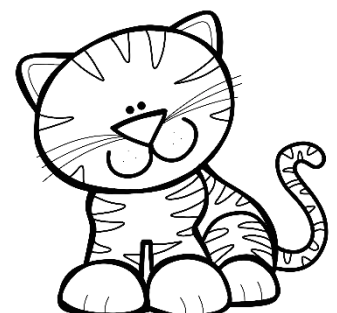
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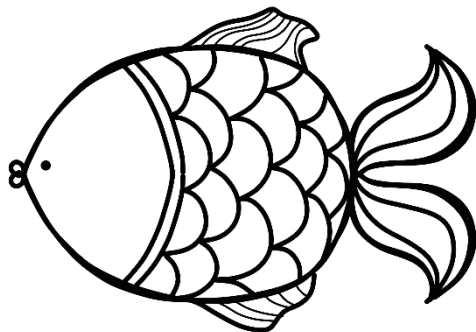
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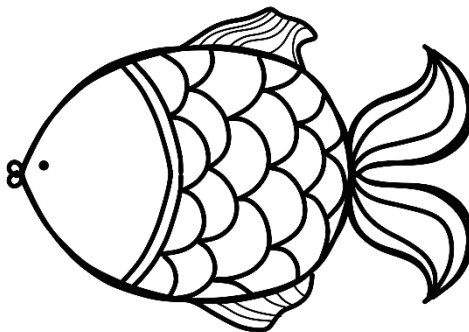
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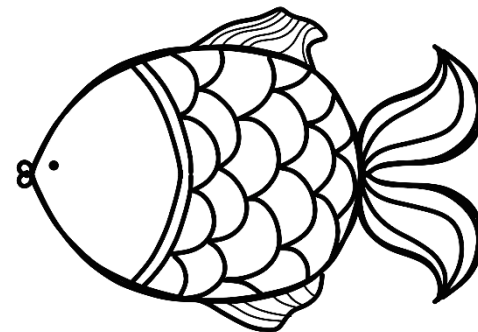
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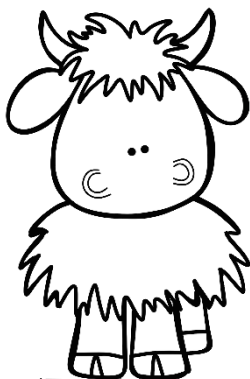
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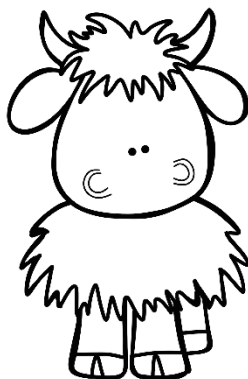
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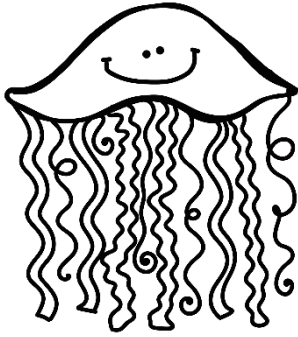
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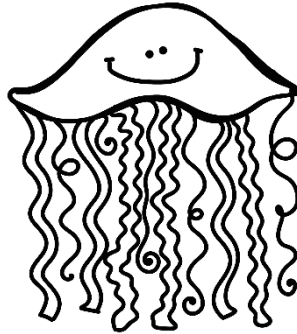
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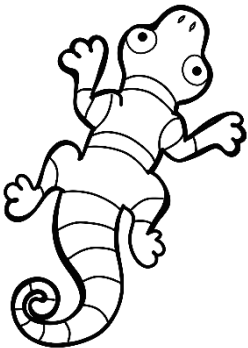
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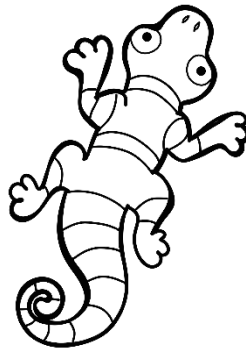
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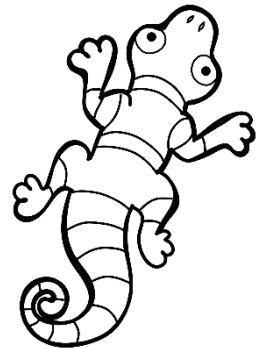
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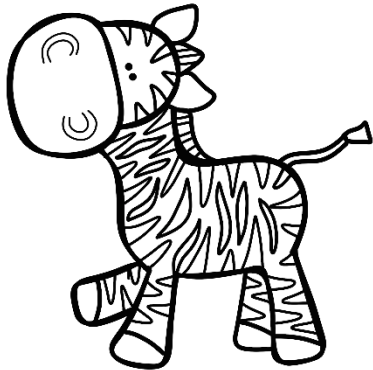
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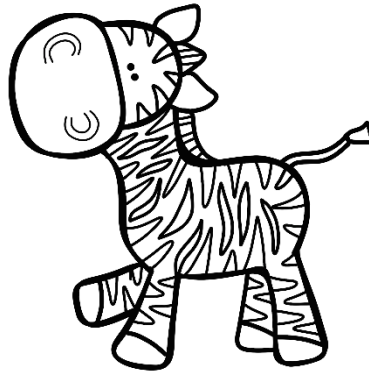
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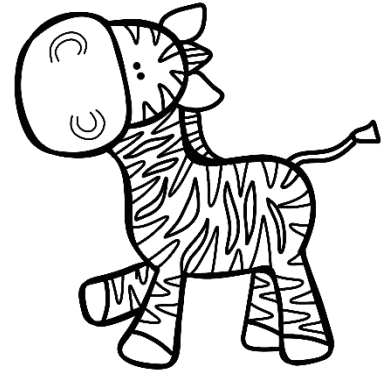
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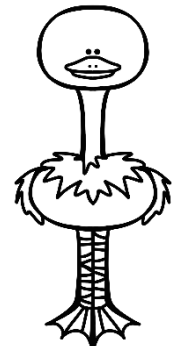
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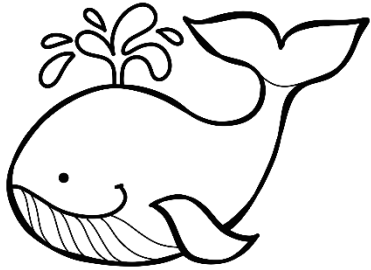
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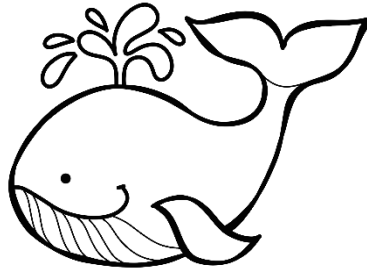
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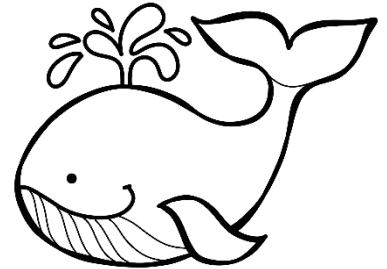
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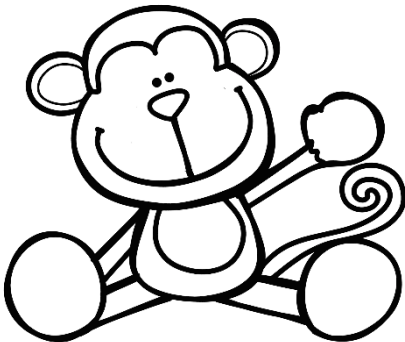
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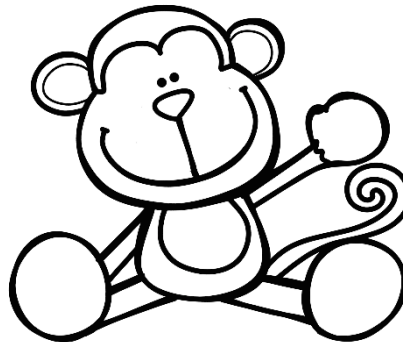
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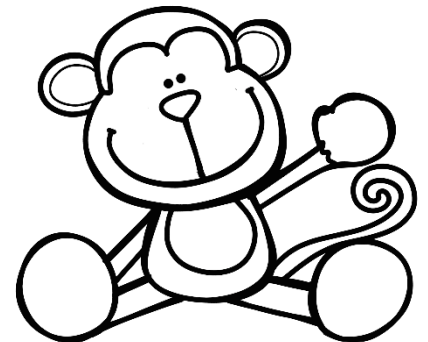
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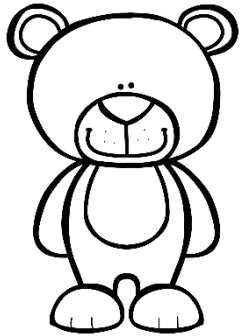
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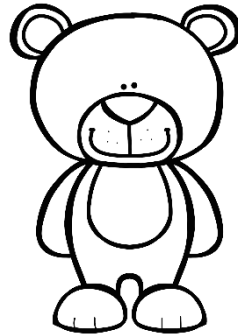
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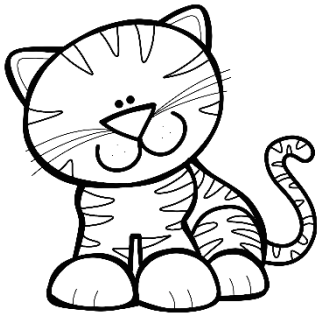


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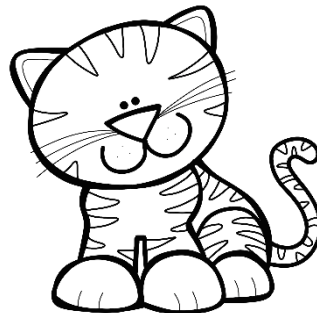
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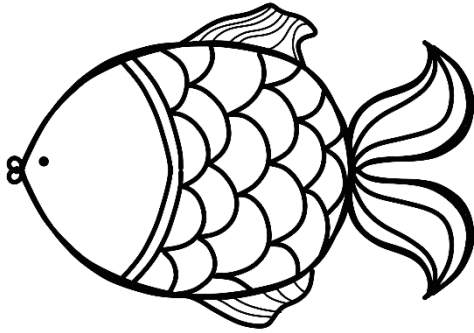
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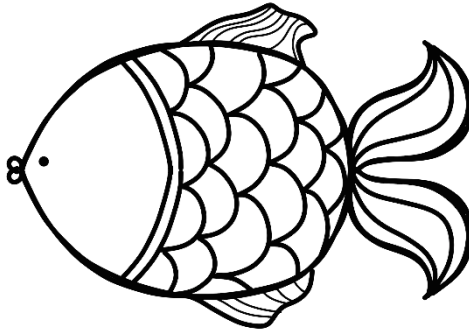
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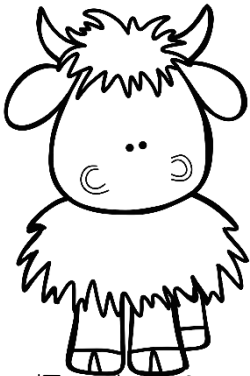
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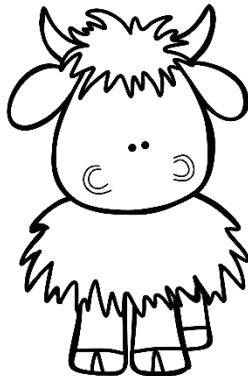
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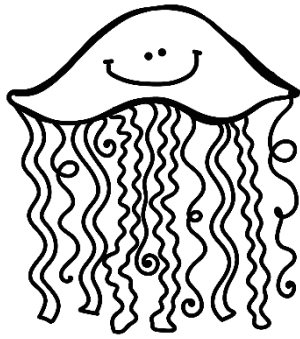
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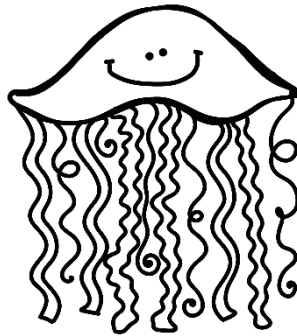
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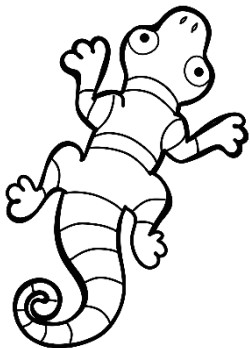


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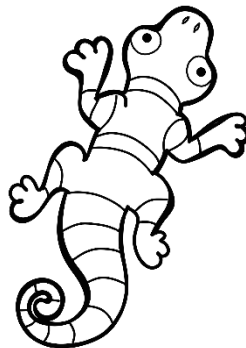
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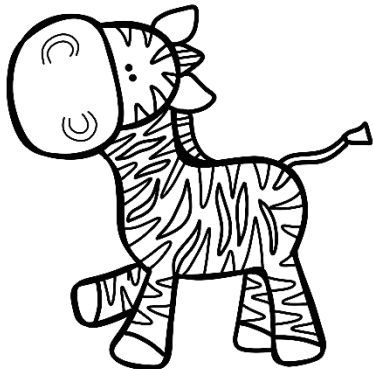


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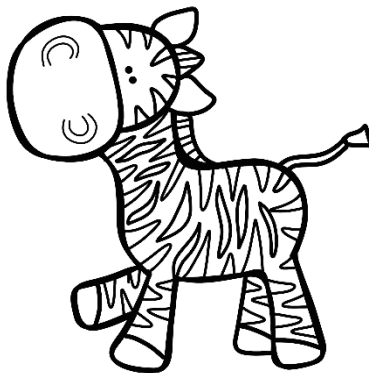
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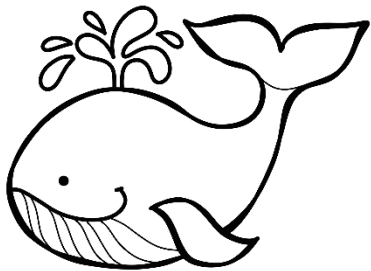


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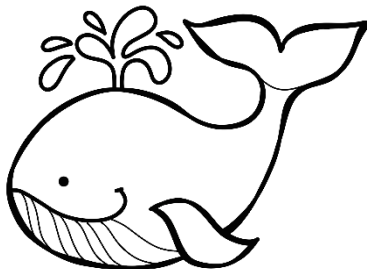
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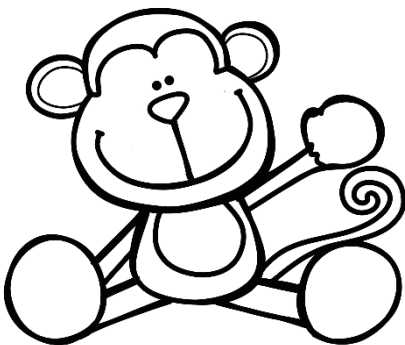


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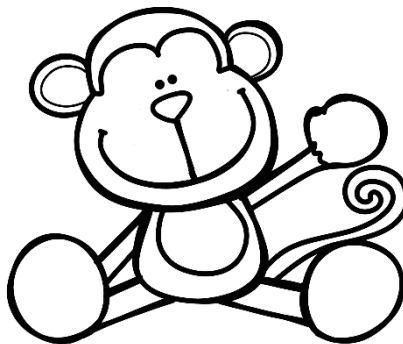
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Habitat Sorting

Print out the habitat sorting mats, as well as the animal cards. Place the sorting mats in dry erase pockets or laminate them. Cut the animal cards apart and laminate them, too.

Talk with the children about the different places animals live. Explain to the kids that they will be sorting the animal cards into three categories – Ocean, Savanna, and Arctic.

Place all of these items in the science center. Be sure to include books about each of the habitats if possible.

You can, of course, also use this activity during whole group or small group lessons.

Ocean – crab, dolphin, seahorse, shark, octopus

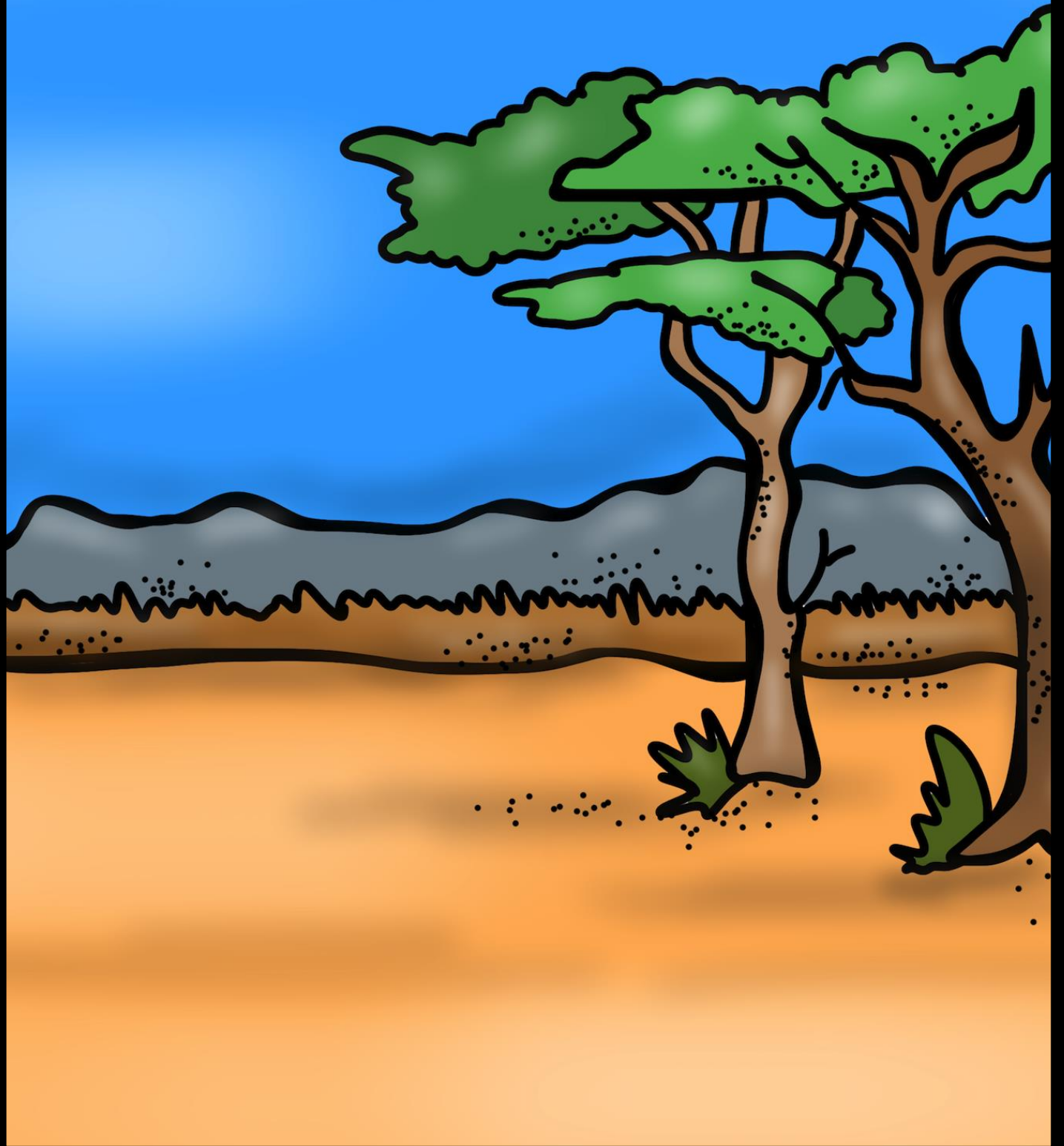
Savanna – elephant, zebra, gazelle, giraffe, lion

Arctic – Arctic fox, reindeer, snowy owl, polar bear, puffin

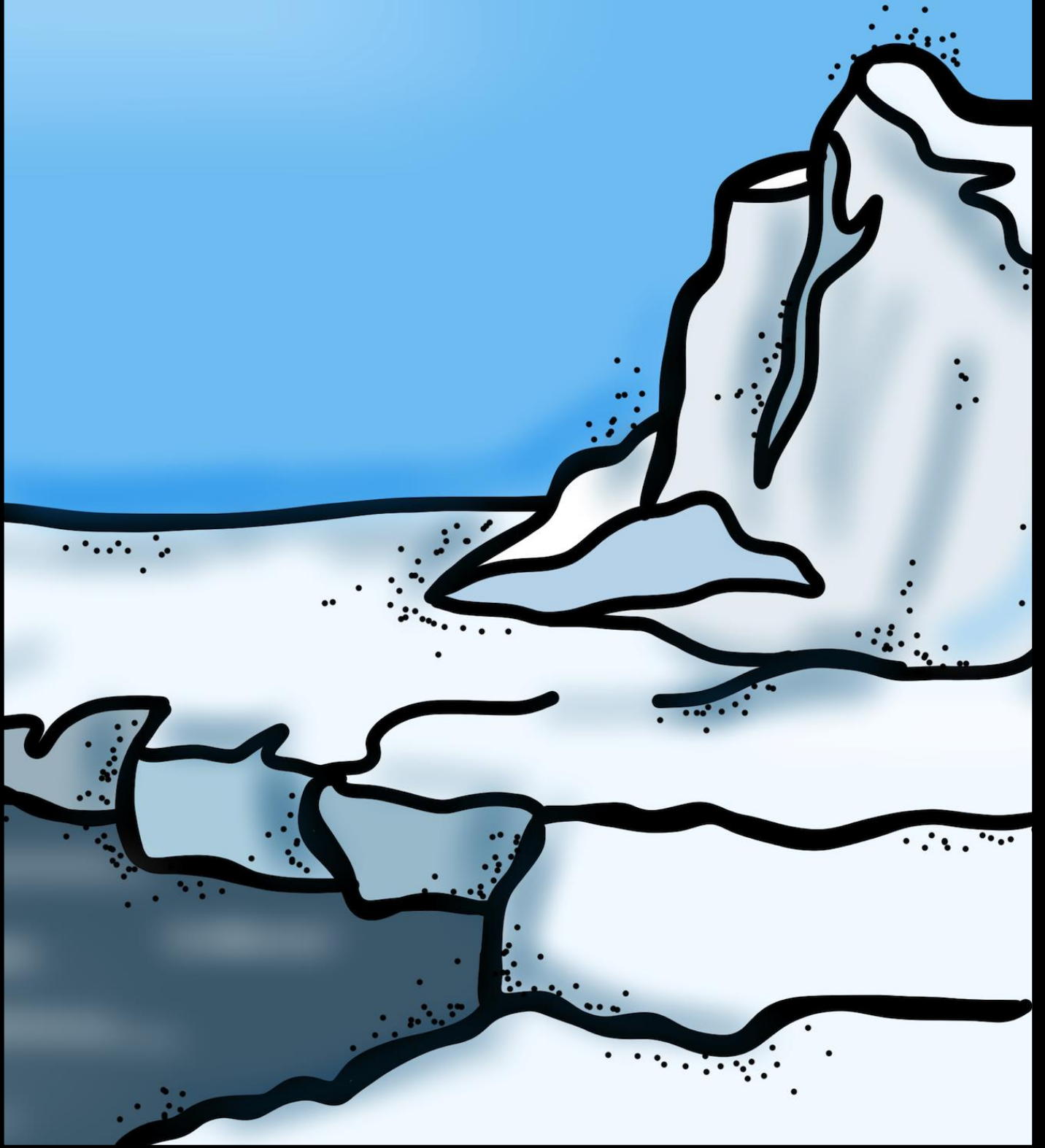
Ocean Animals



Savanna Animals



Arctic Animals





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Arctic fox



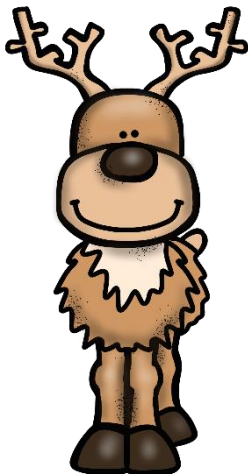
© PreschoolTeacher101

polar bear



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snowy owl



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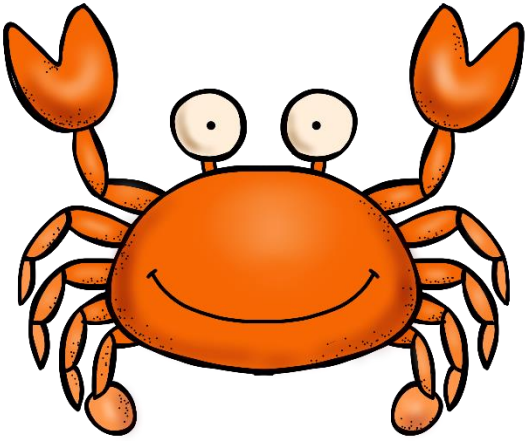
reindeer



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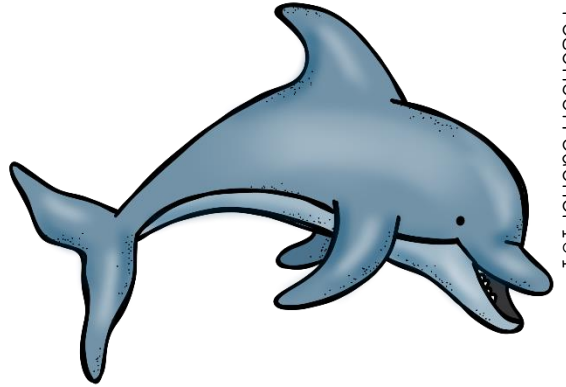
puffin

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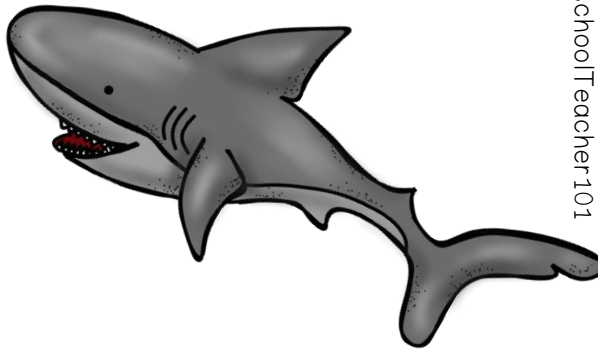
crab

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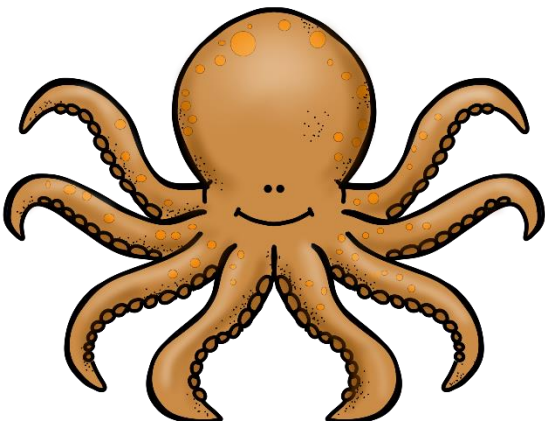
dolphin

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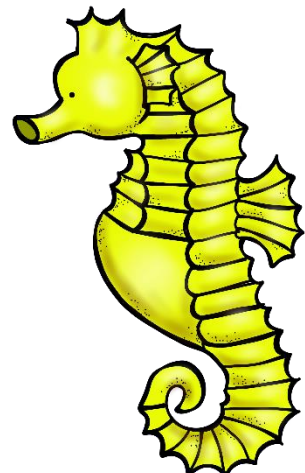
shark

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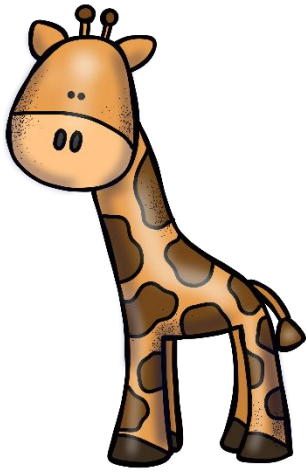


octopus

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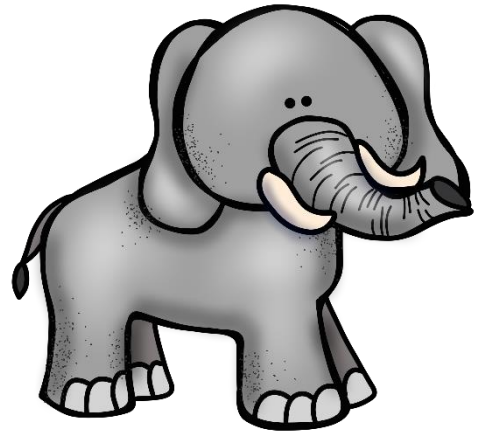


seahorse



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giraffe



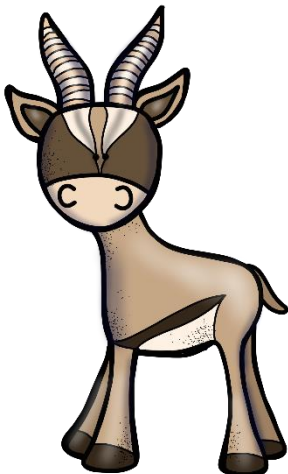
© PreschoolTeacher101

elephant



© PreschoolTeacher101

zebra



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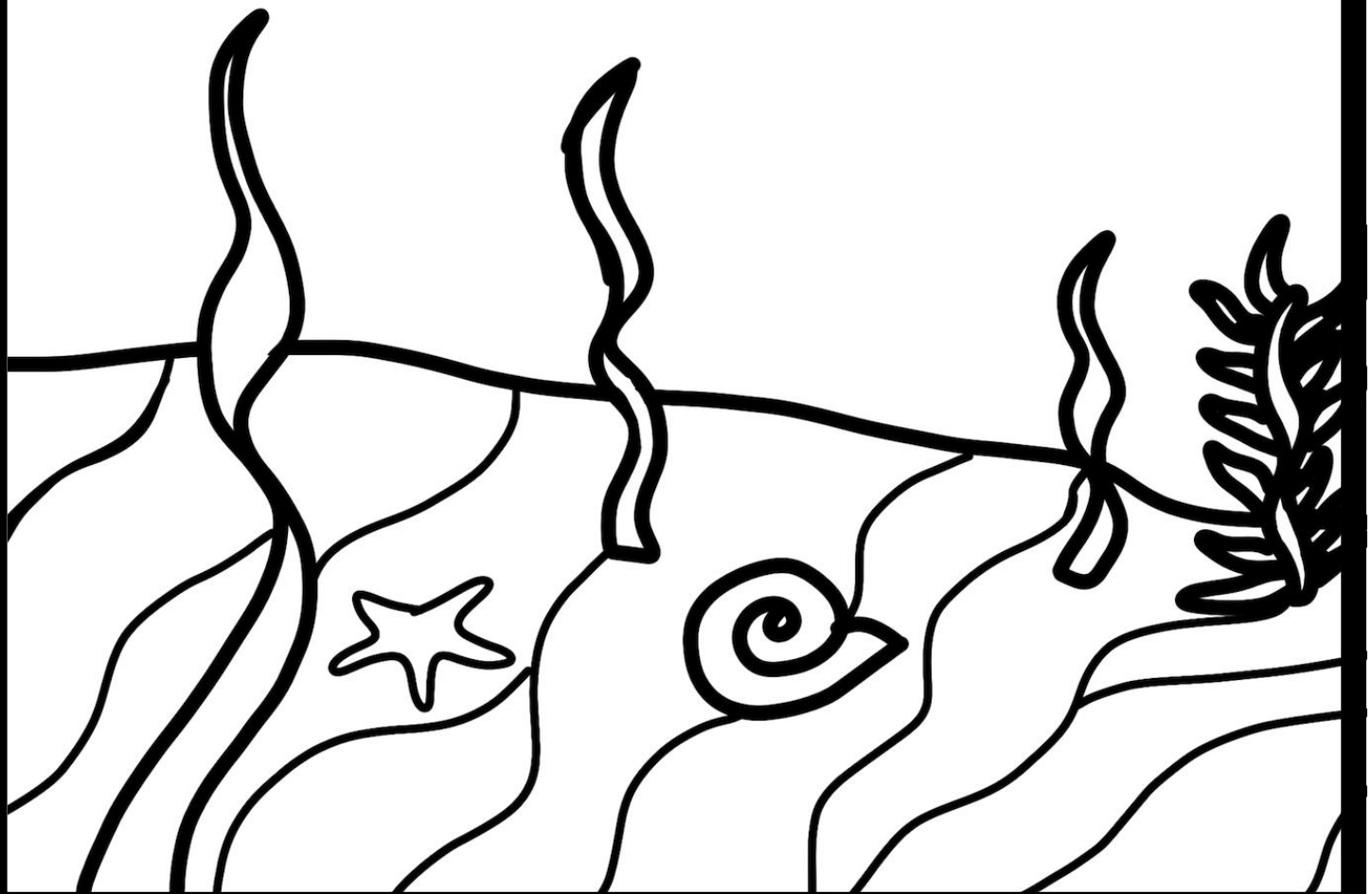
gazelle



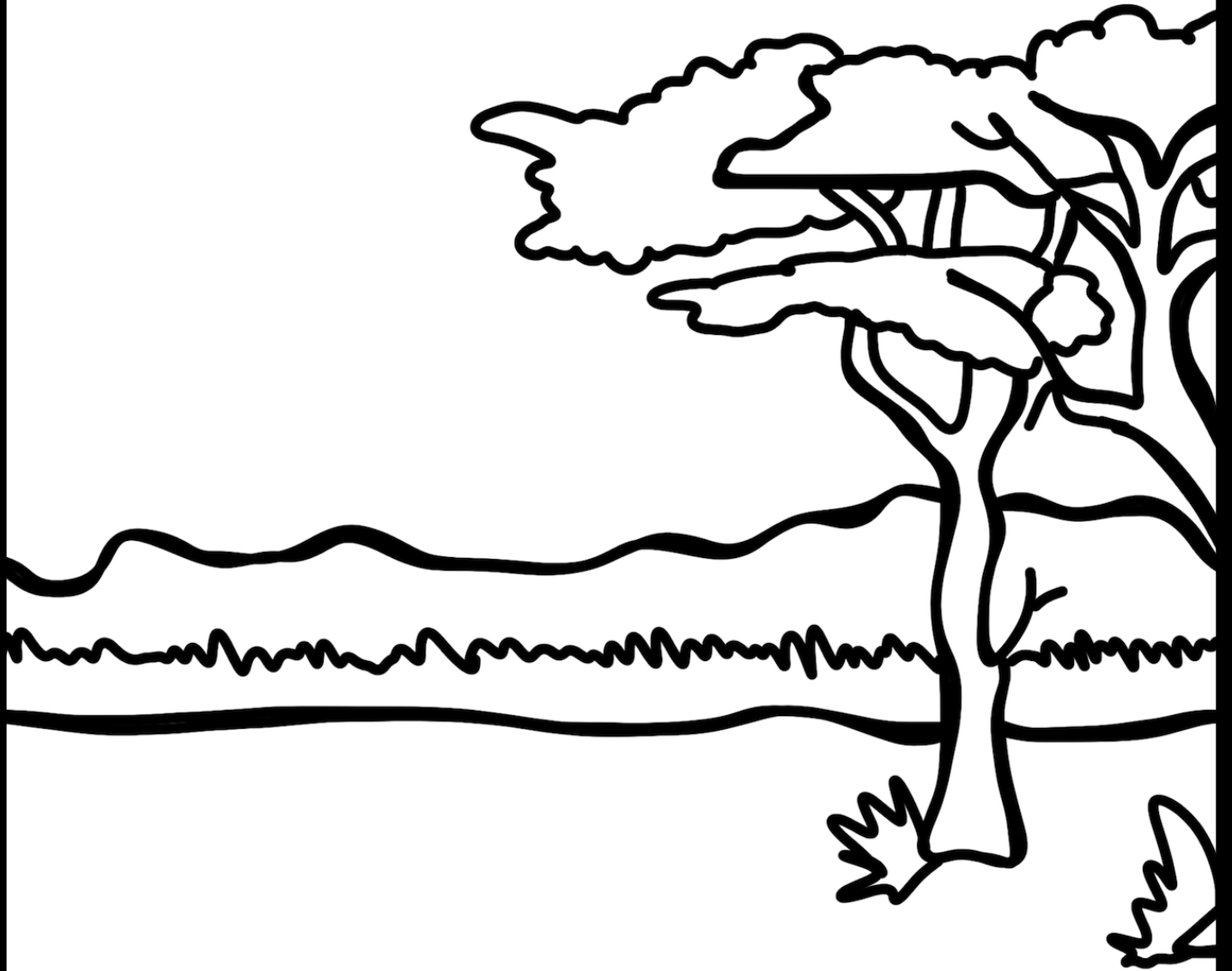
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lion

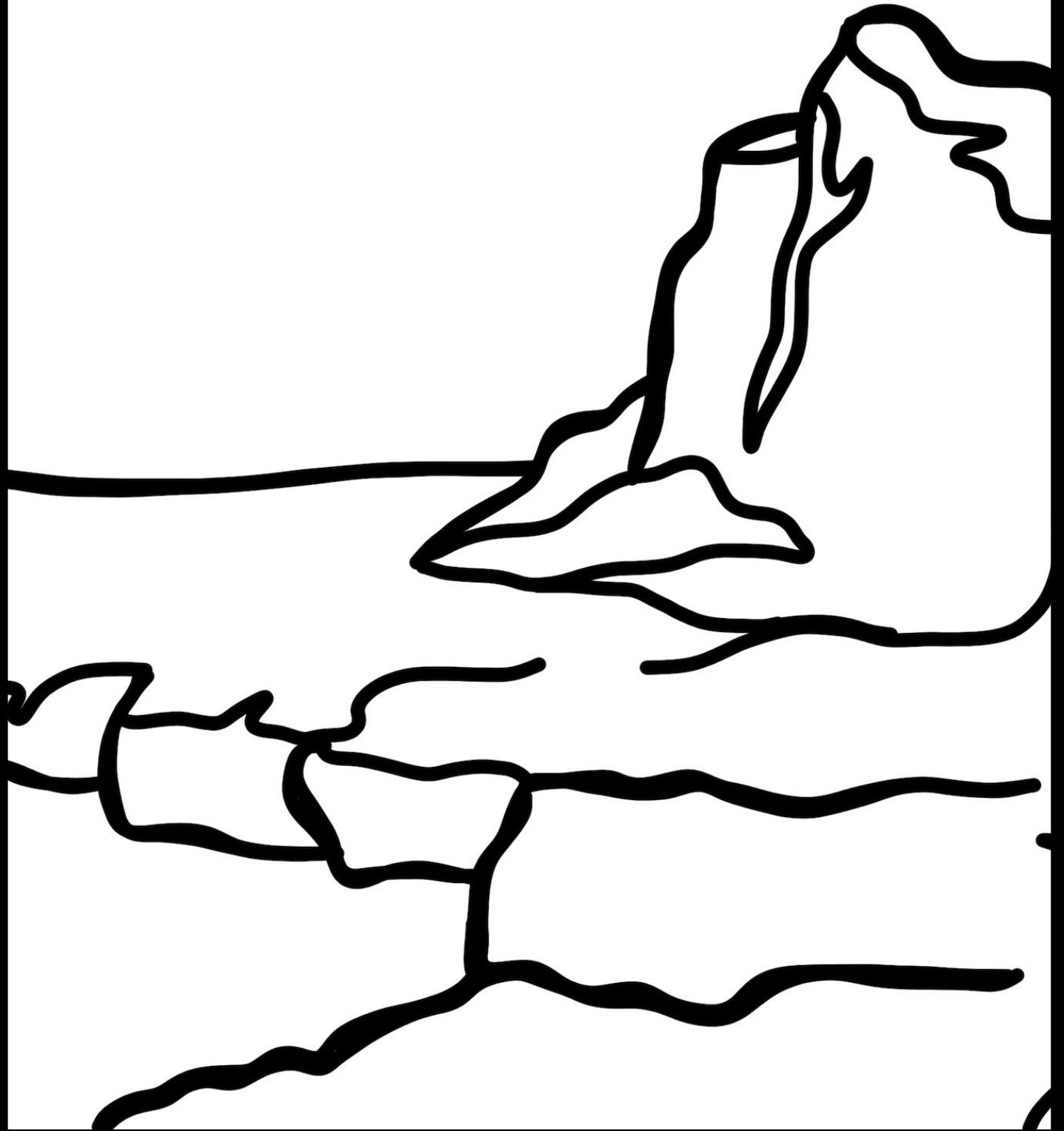
Ocean Animals

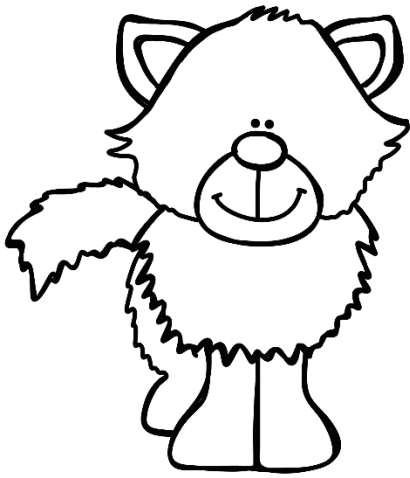


Savanna Animals



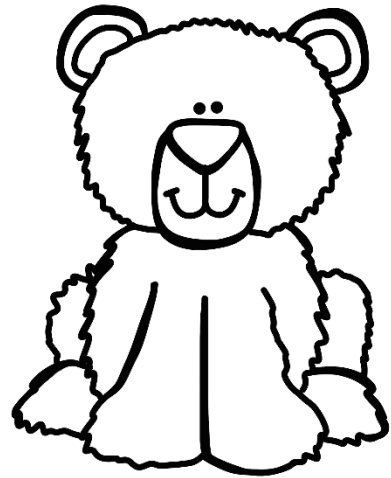
Arctic Animals





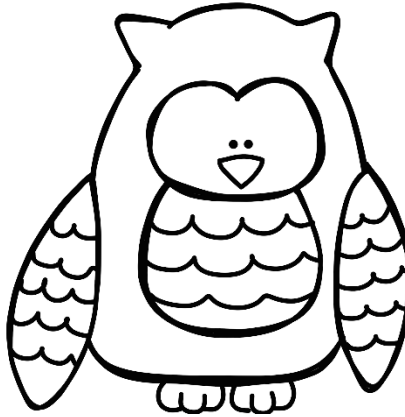
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Arctic fox



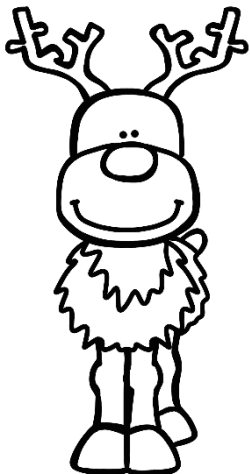
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polar bear



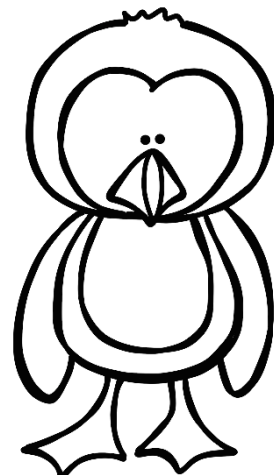
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snowy owl



© PreschoolTeacher101

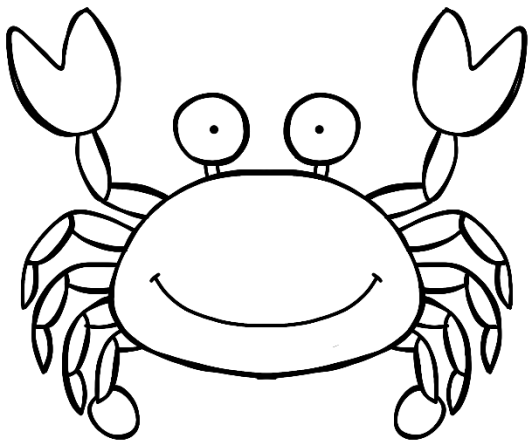
reindeer



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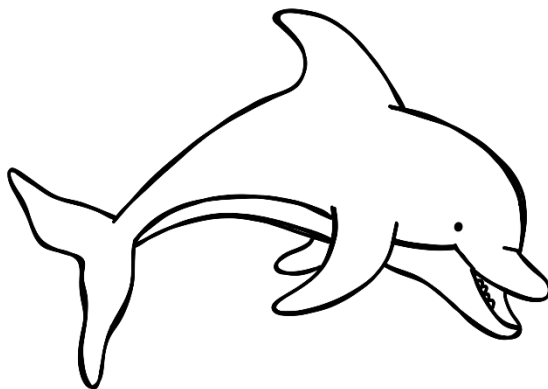
puffin

© PreschoolTeacher101



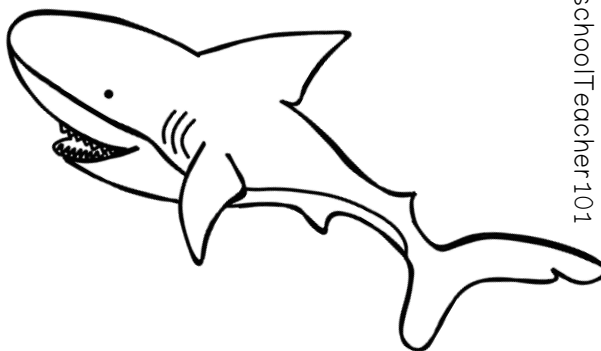
crab

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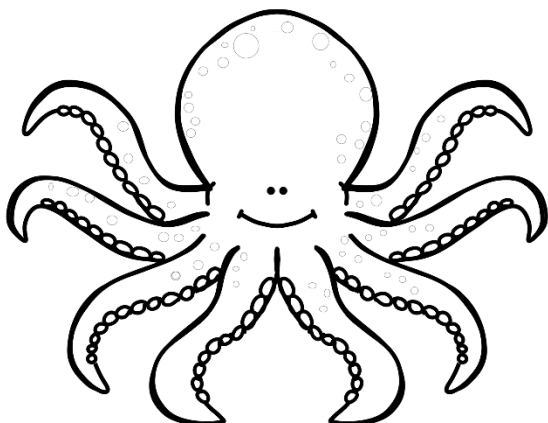
dolphin

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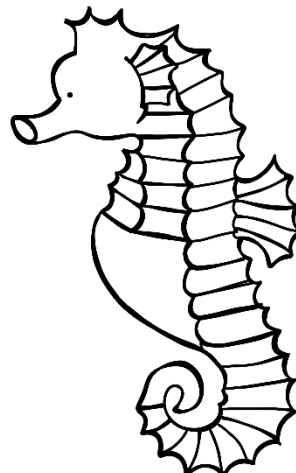
shark

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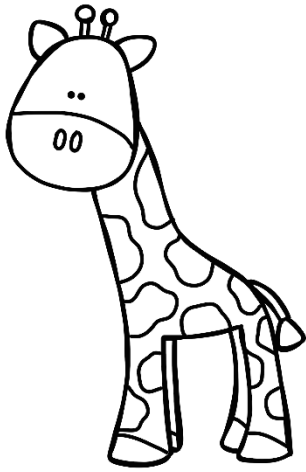


octopus

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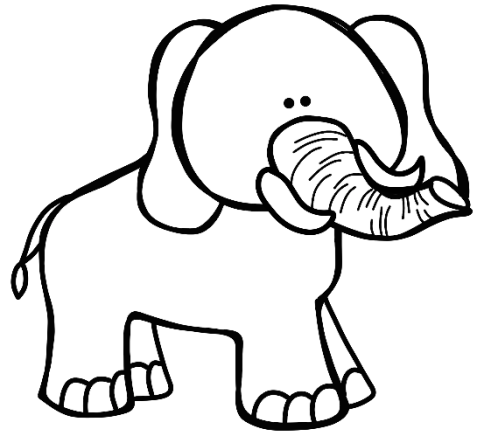


seahorse



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giraffe



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elephant



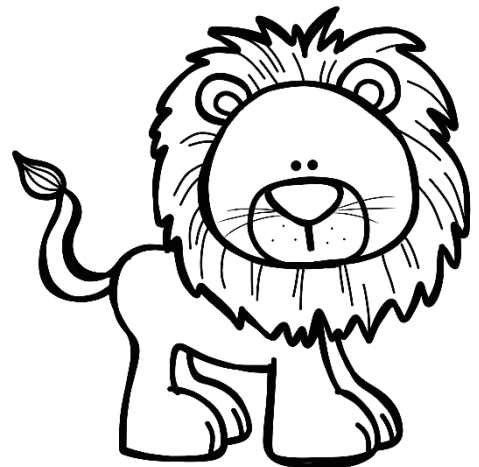
© PreschoolTeacher101

zebra



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gazelle



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lion

Emergent Reader

Print out the emergent reader you'd like to use with your students. There are three options available – one with color clipart, one with black-and-white clipart, and one with no clipart.

To assemble the reader without cutting, fold the pages in half with the print facing out. Arrange the pages in the correct order, and then staple along the left-hand side. You can see how this is done [here in this video](#).

The color version is great to use when you're introducing the book to your class. This can be done as a whole group or during small group. Take a picture walk through the book, showing the children each page. Talk about the different animals in the book, as well as the first letter and sound in the animal words. Point out the sight words on each page. Model how to bounce your finger under each word as you read, as well.

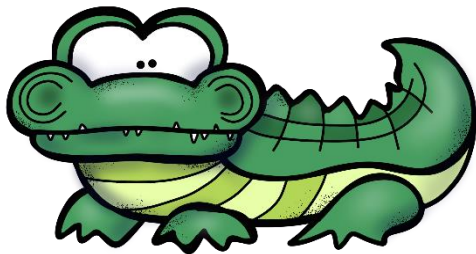
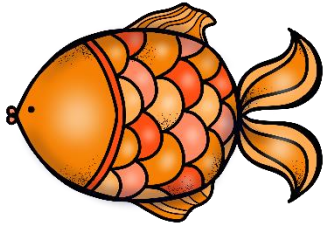
With the black-and-white version, the children can color in the illustrations after reading through each page.

The no clipart version allows the children to create their own illustrations for each page. This can be done with crayons, markers, colored pencils, paint, or mixed media.

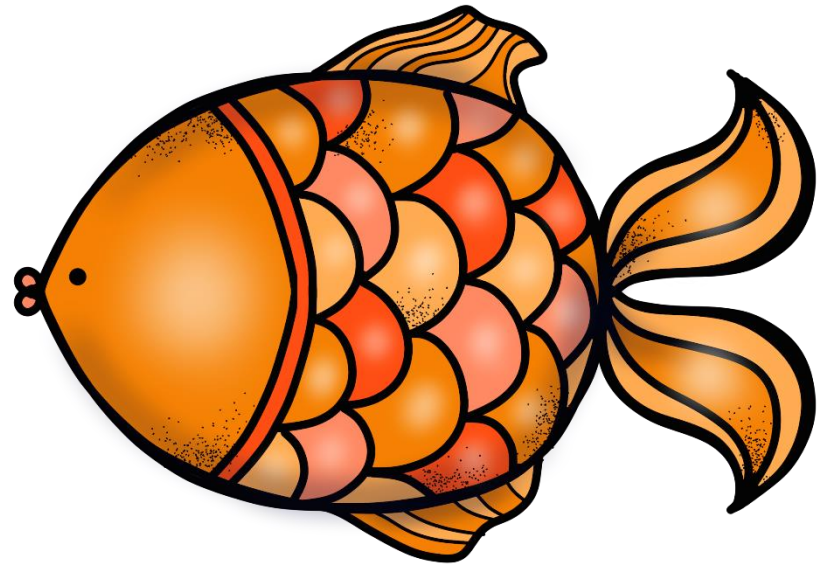
On the last page, the children can draw and/or write about their favorite animal.

Animals

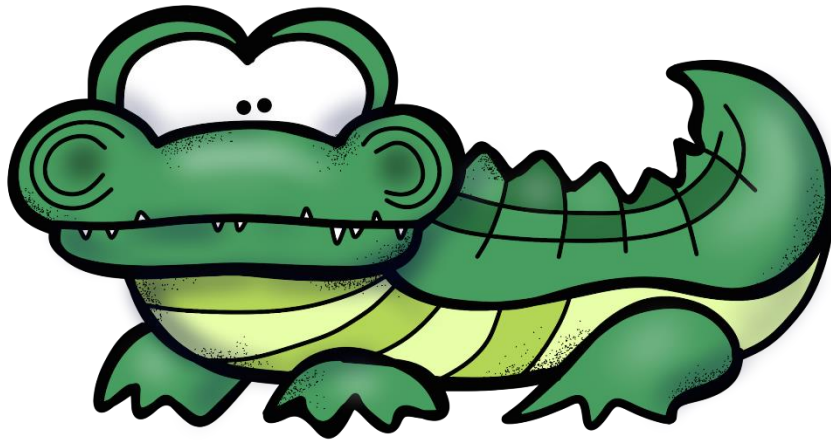
by _____



Here is the
fish.



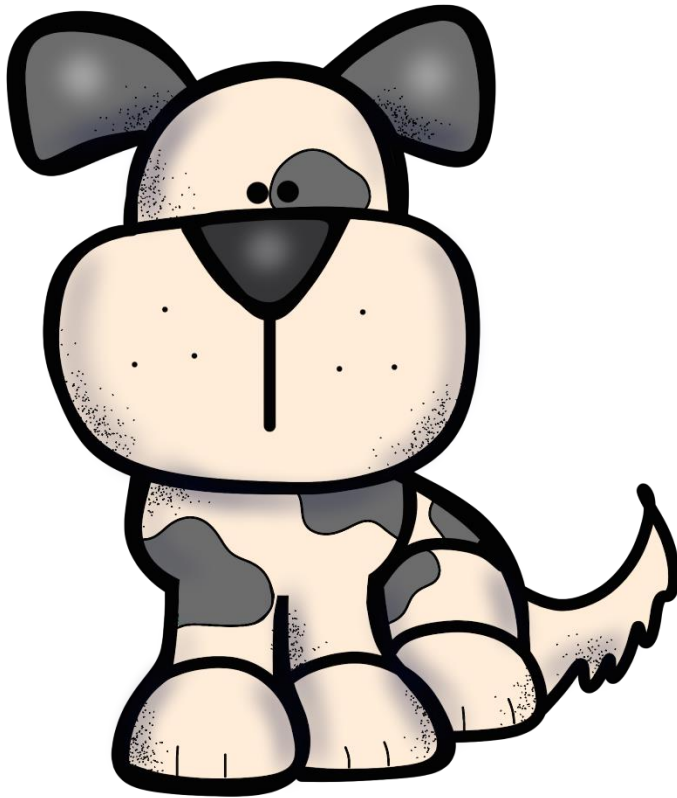
Here is the
alligator.



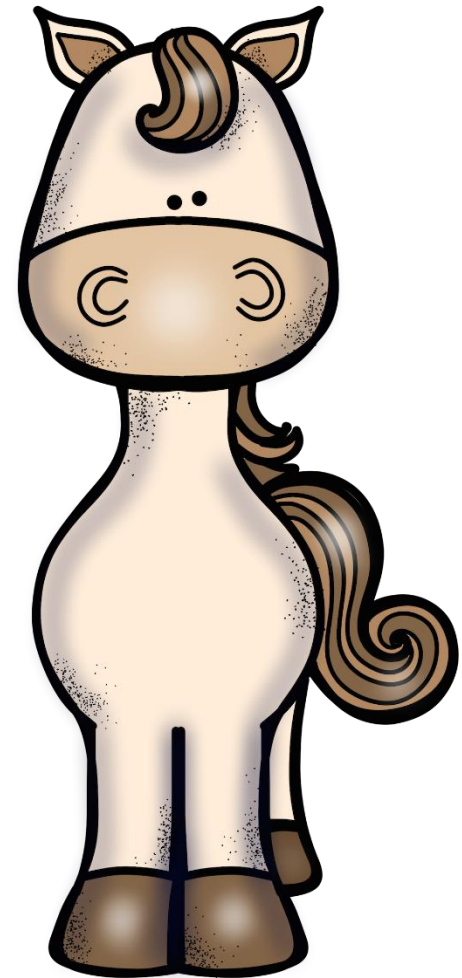
Here is the
hummingbird.



Here is the
dog.



Here is the
horse.



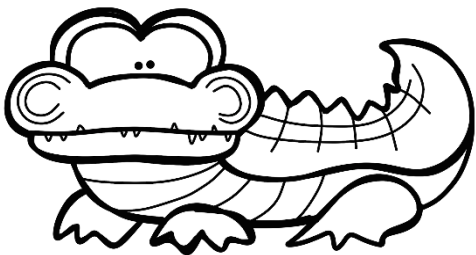
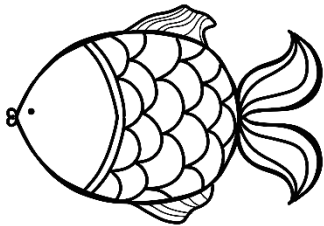
Here is the
polar bear.



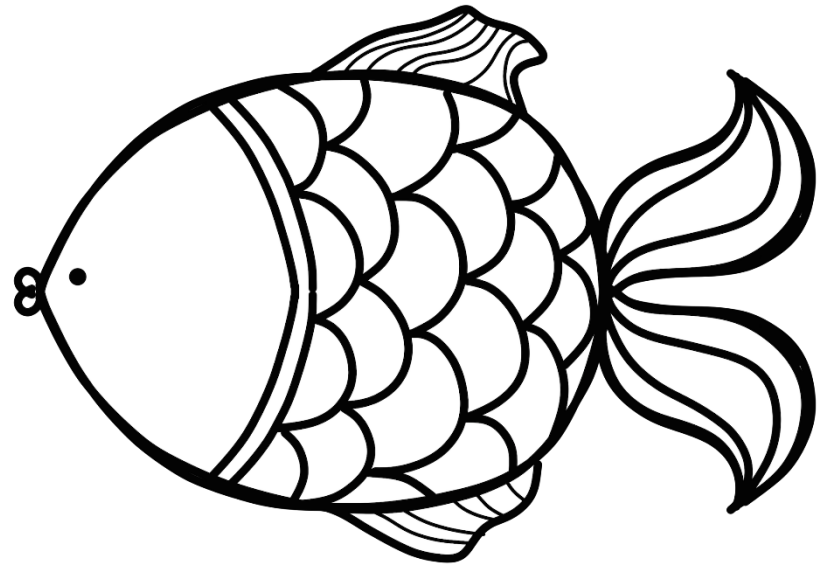
Here is my
favorite
animal.

Animals

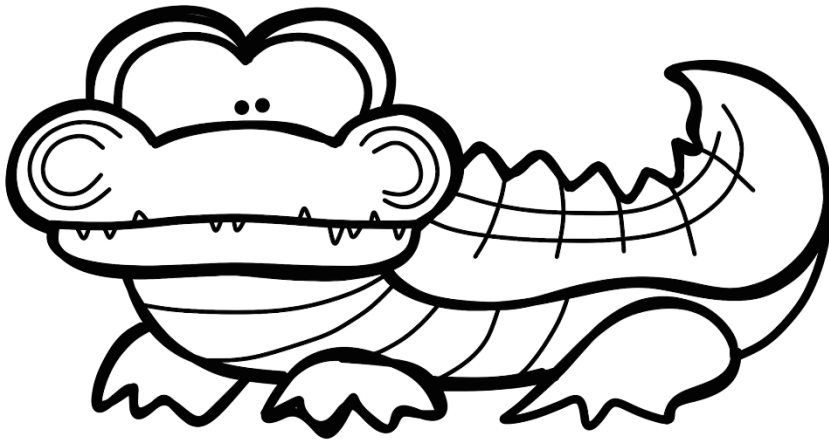
by _____



Here is the
fish.



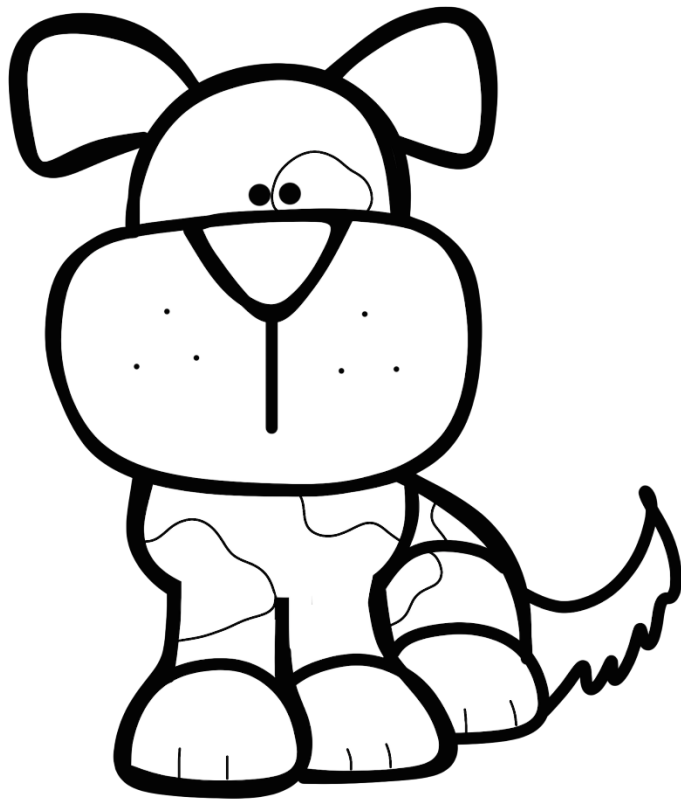
Here is the
alligator.



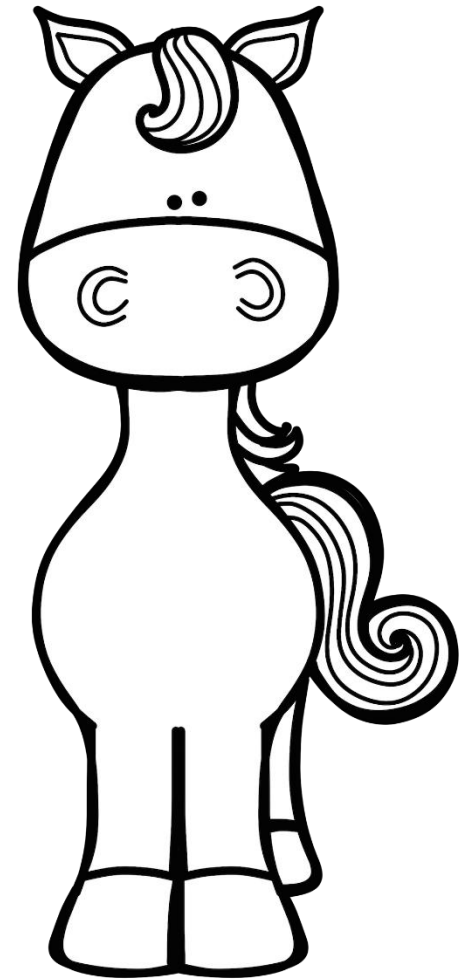
Here is the
hummingbird.



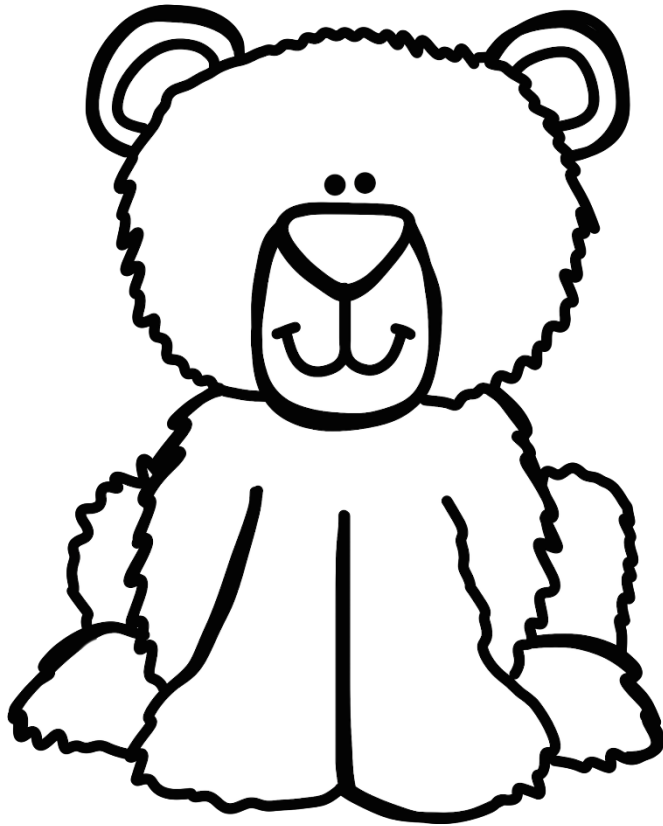
Here is the
dog.



Here is the
horse.



Here is the
polar bear.



Here is my
favorite
animal.

Animals

by _____

Here is the
fish.

Here is the
alligator.

Here is the
hummingbird.

Here is the
dog.

Here is the
horse.

Here is the
polar bear.

Here is my
favorite
animal.

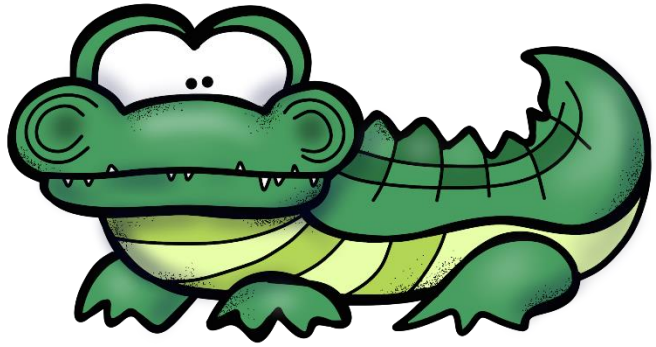
Word Cards

Print out the cards that you would like to use. Laminate the cards so they will last longer. Remember to adjust your printer settings if you want the cards to print as a different size.

Use the word cards as writing and drawing prompts. Children can draw their own pictures and then write the words. They can make up their own stories, using the words as a guide while they're writing.

The word cards can also be used with magnetic letters (or other alphabet manipulatives). Children can use the letters to make the various words. Use as part of a beginning sound sort or a syllable sort, too.

Add the word cards to your favorite sensory materials, along with magnetic letters. Don't forget the animal toys, too! Children can dig through the sensory materials to find the cards and their matching letters.



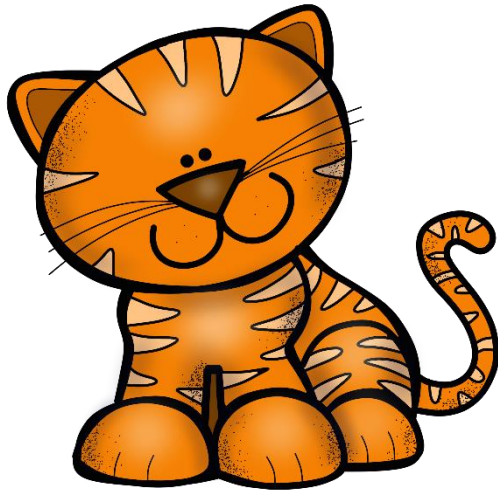
alligator

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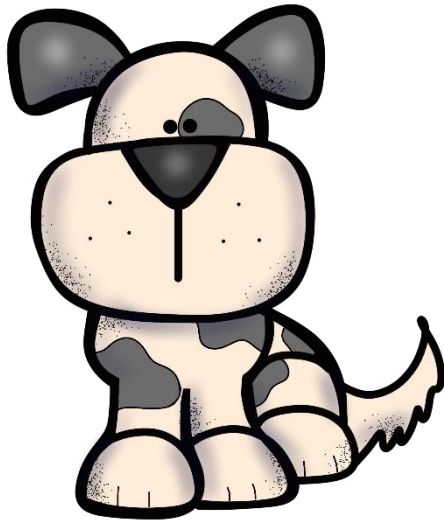
bear

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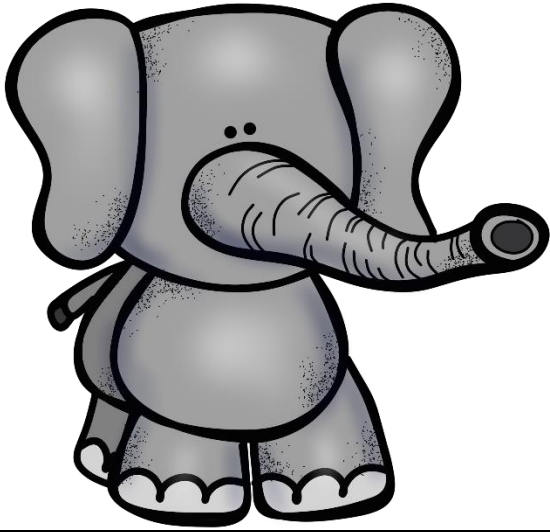
cat

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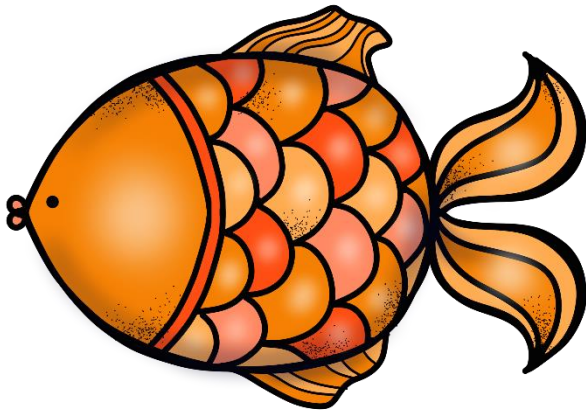
dog

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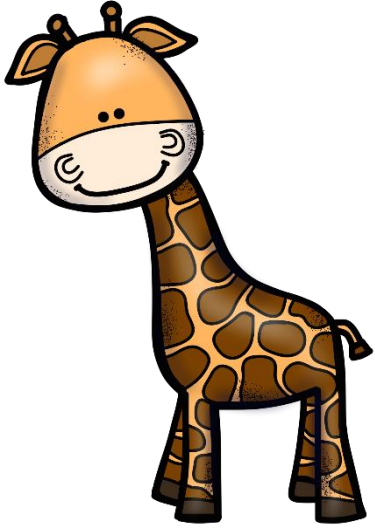
elephant

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fish

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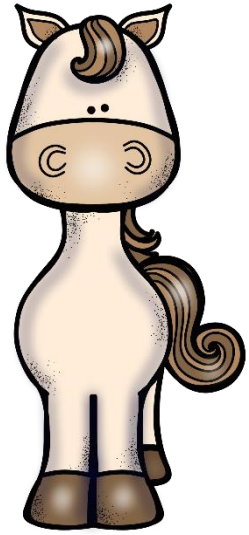
giraffe

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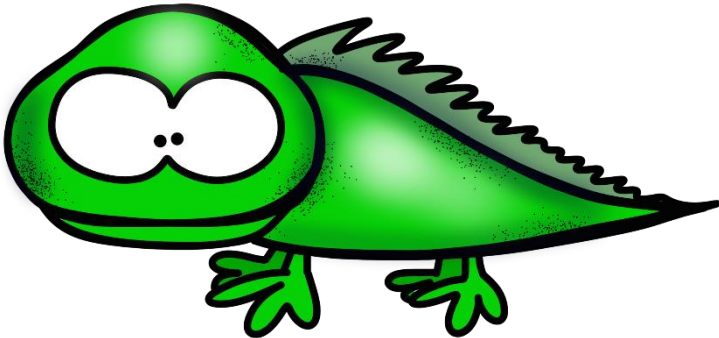
goat

© PreschoolTeacher101



horse

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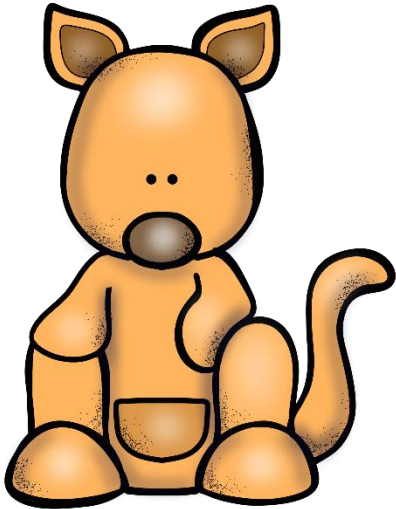
iguana

© PreschoolTeacher101



jellyfish

© PreschoolTeacher101



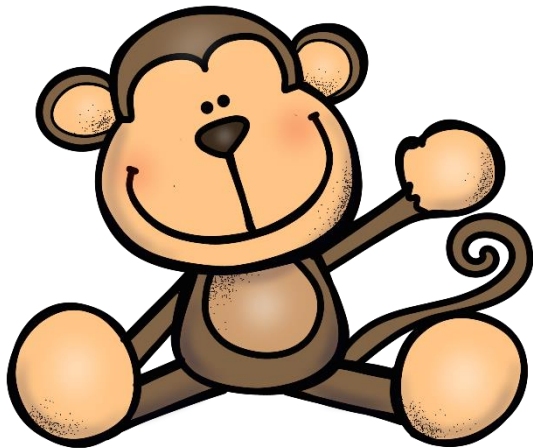
kangaroo

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lion

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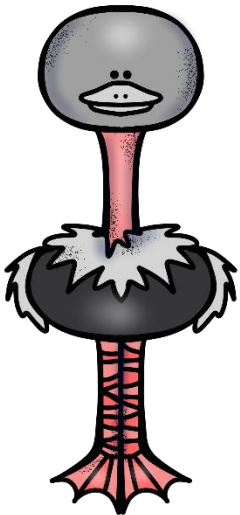
monkey

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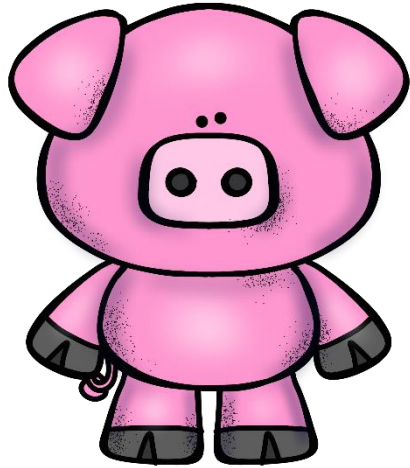
newt

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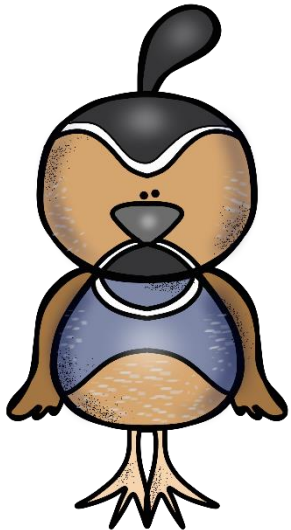
ostrich

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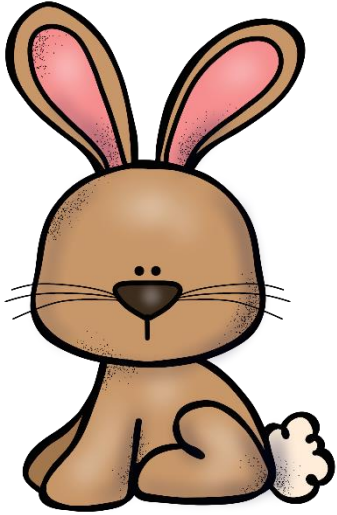
pig

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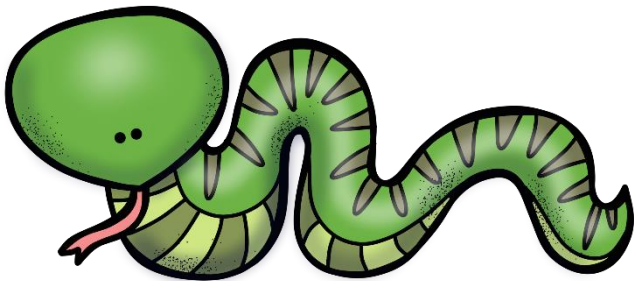
quail

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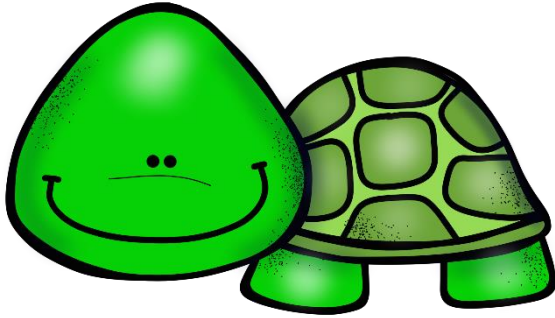
rabbit

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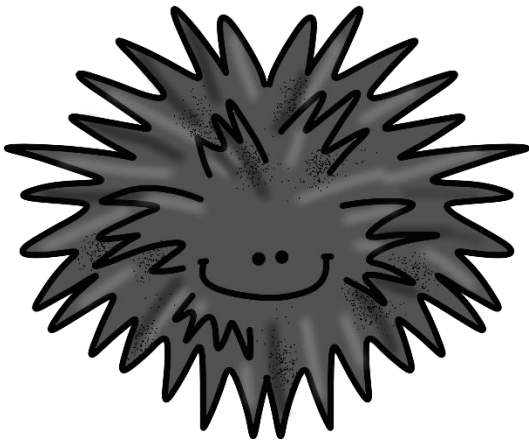
snake

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turtle

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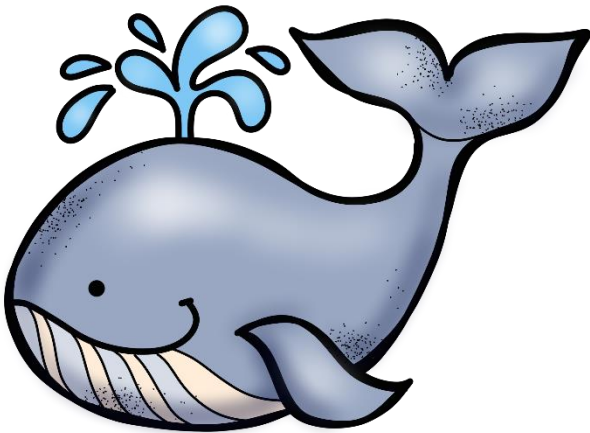
urchin

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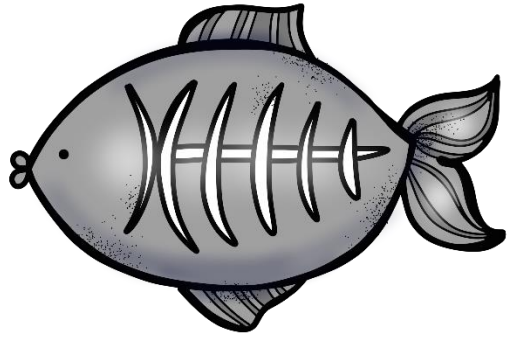
vulture

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whale

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x-ray fish

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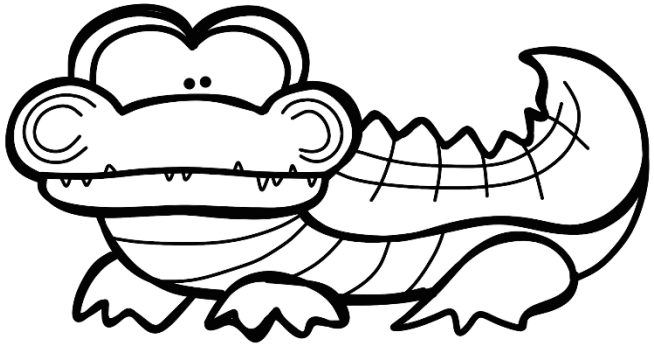


yak

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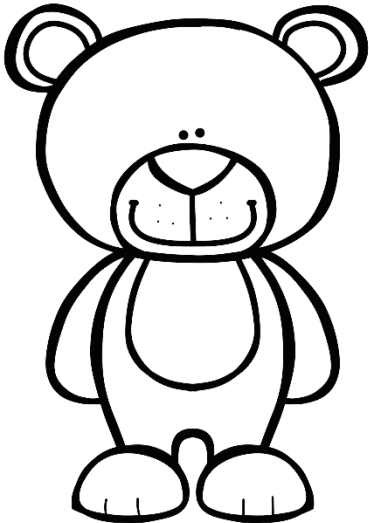


zebra



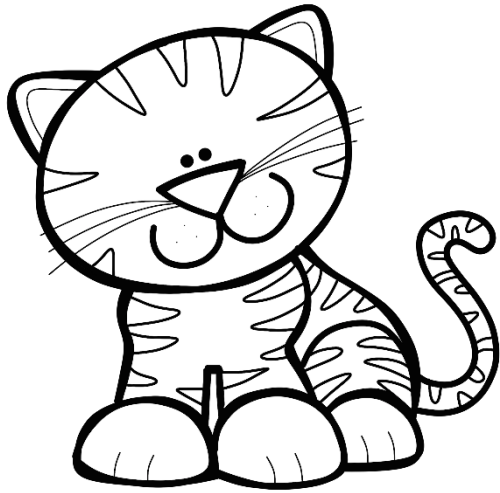
alligator

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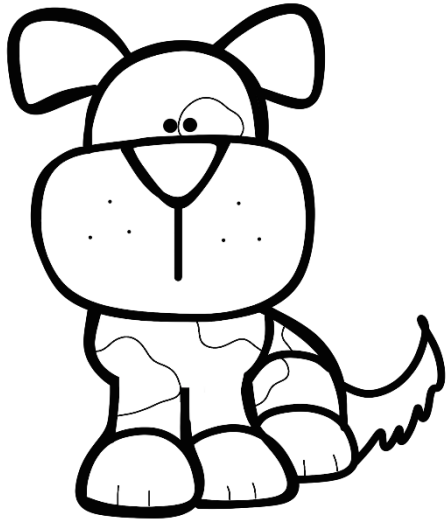
bear

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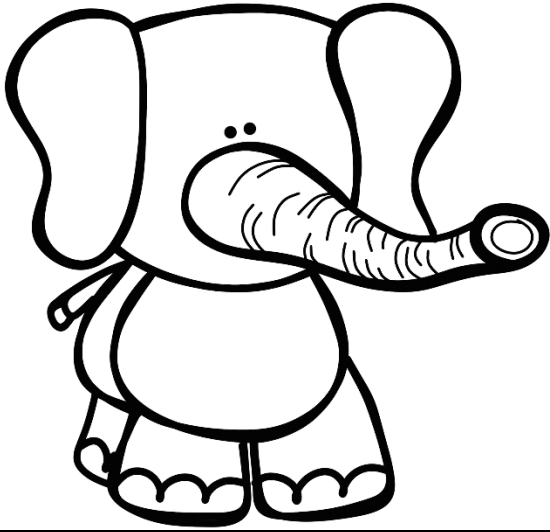
cat

© PreschoolTeacher101



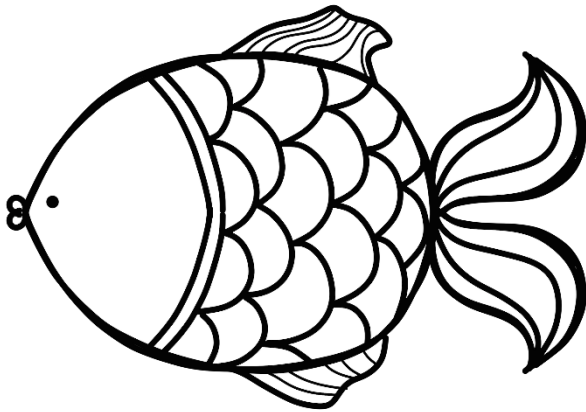
dog

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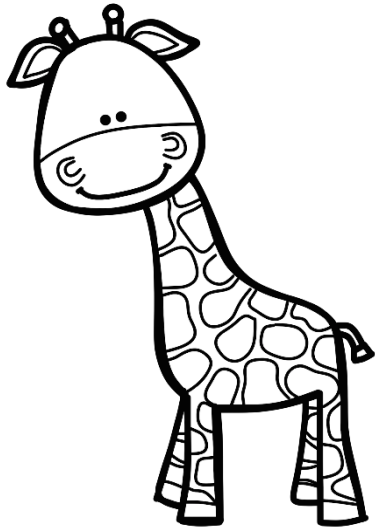
elephant

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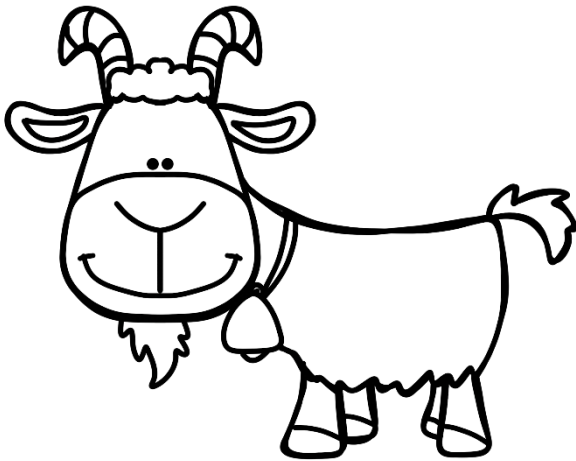
fish

© PreschoolTeacher101



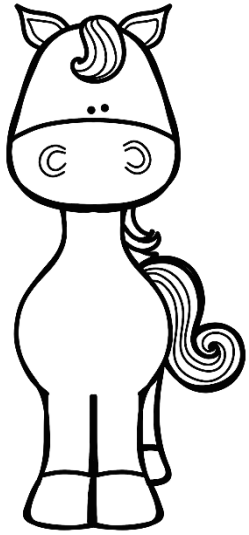
giraffe

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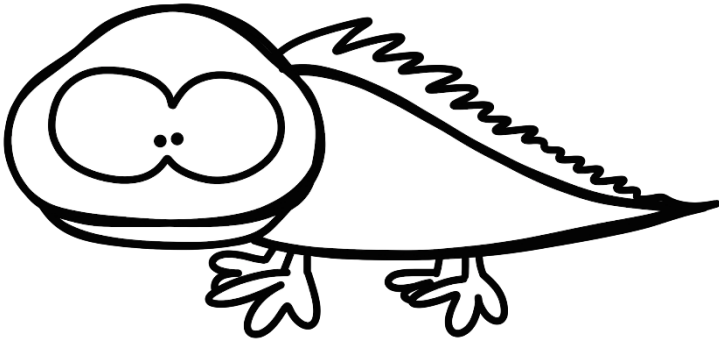
goat

© PreschoolTeacher101



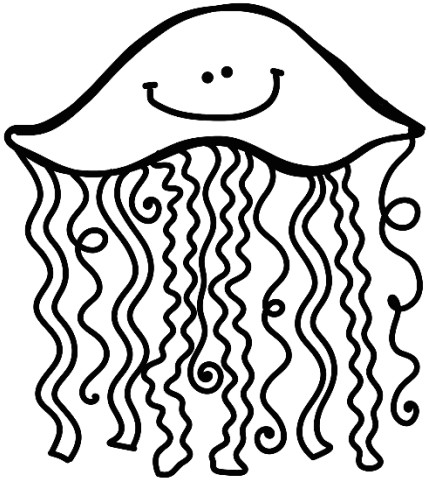
horse

© PreschoolTeacher101



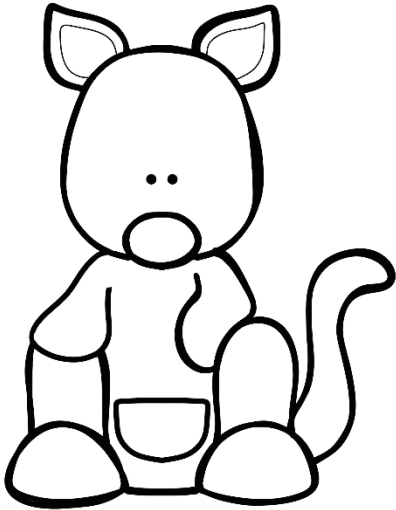
iguana

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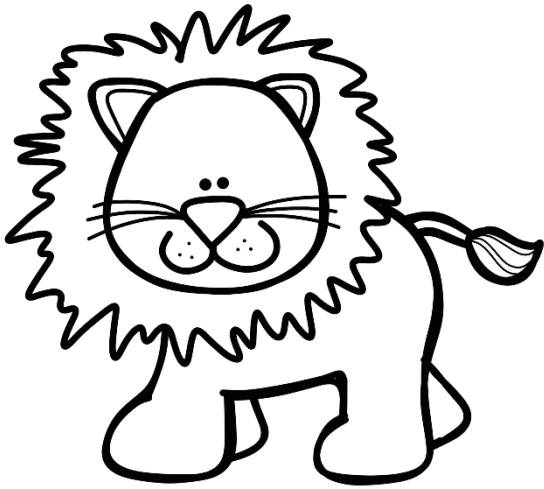
jellyfish

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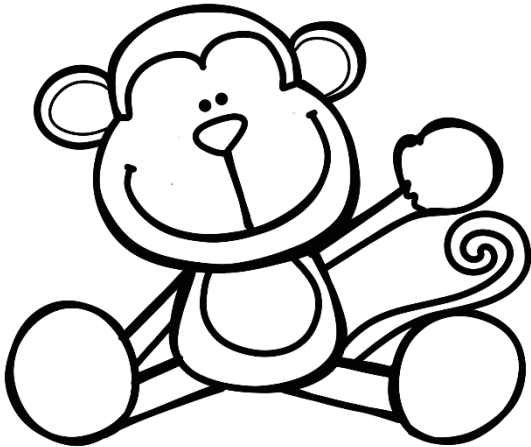
kangaroo

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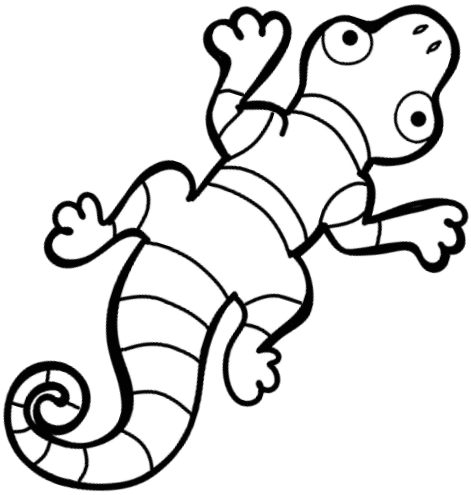
lion

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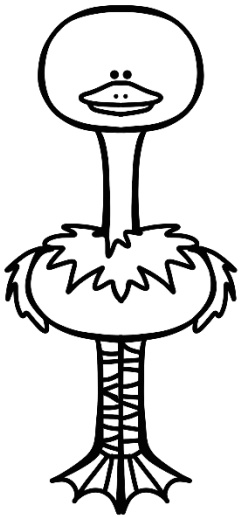
monkey

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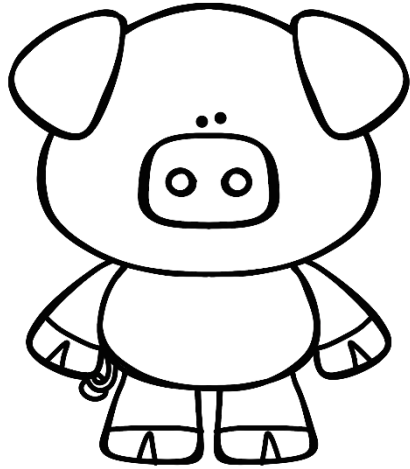
newt

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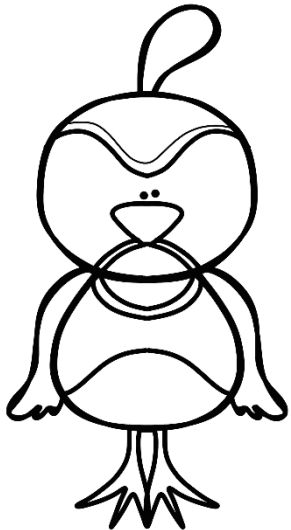
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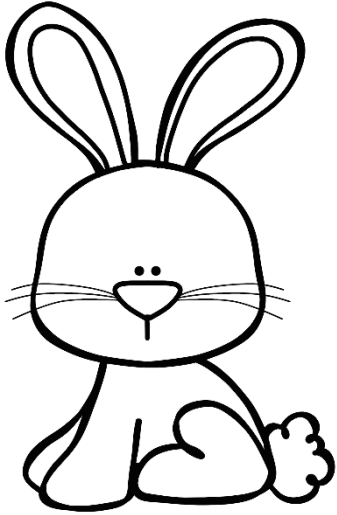
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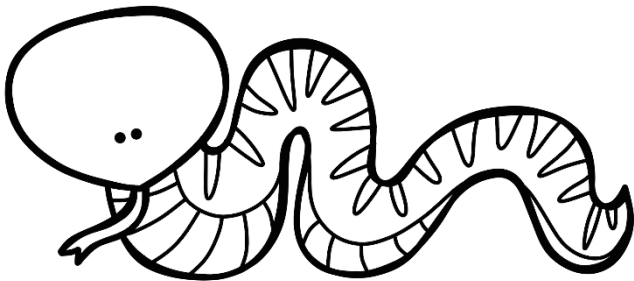
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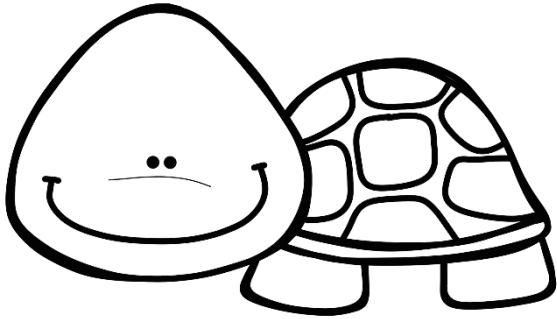
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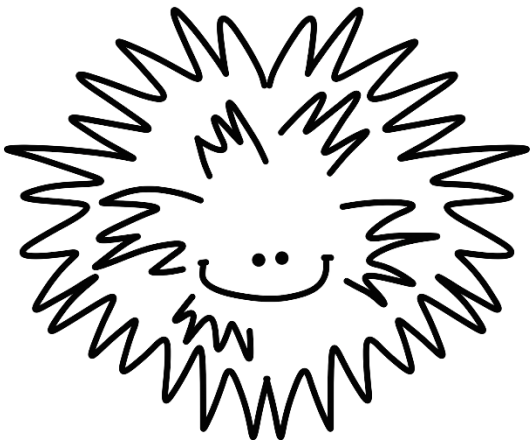
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turtle

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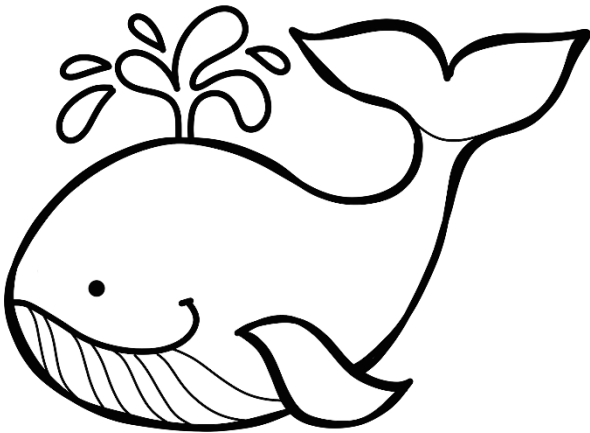
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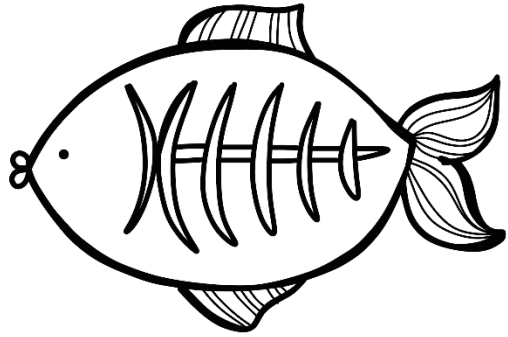
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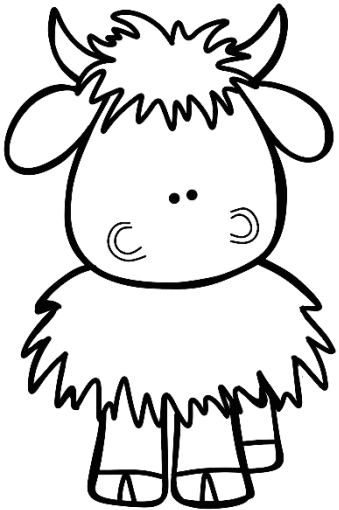
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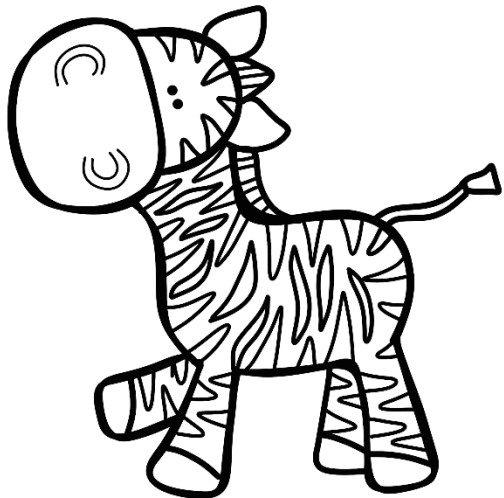
x-ray fish

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yak

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zebra

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Syllable Sort

Print out the syllable sorting mats. Laminate the mats or place them in dry erase pockets.

Pair the syllable sorting mats with the animal picture cards you would prefer. There are simple picture cards, as well as cards that have small dots under the pictures. The dots represent the syllables in each word.

Model your favorite way to determine how many syllables are in a spoken words. For example, you can teach the children to clap each syllable in a word. You can also model how to determine the number of syllables by placing their hands under their chins while saying the words out loud.

Chose an animal word card and say the word out loud. Have the kids help you determine the number of syllables in that word. Then ask the children which numbered mat the animal word card belongs on based on the answer. If you're using the cards with black dots, show the kids how to touch each dot when saying the individual syllables.

Next, allow the children to work together to sort the other animals onto the syllable mats. Start with a small handful of word cards so as not to overwhelm the children.

You can also pair the syllable sort with small animal toys or real photos of animals.

A cartoon illustration of a landscape. The sky is light blue with two white, fluffy clouds. The text "1 syllable" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font in the upper center. Below the sky is a dark green, wavy line representing a hill or bushes. Below that is a lighter green, wavy line representing a field. In the foreground, there are several white daisies with yellow centers and green grass blades. The entire scene is enclosed in a thick black border.

1 syllable

A cartoon illustration of a landscape. The sky is light blue with two white, fluffy clouds. The middle ground consists of rolling green hills with dark green, bushy areas. The foreground is a green field with several white daisies and some green grass blades. The text "2 syllables" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font in the upper right portion of the image.

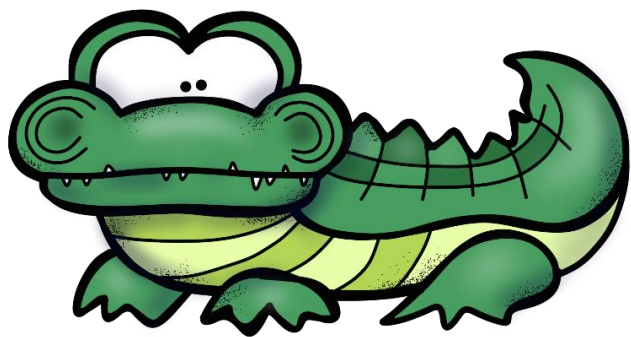
2 syllables

A cartoon illustration of a landscape. The sky is light blue with two white, fluffy clouds. The text "3 syllables" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font in the upper middle of the sky. Below the sky are rolling green hills. The foreground is a green field with several white daisies that have yellow centers. The entire scene is enclosed in a thick black border.

3 syllables

A cartoon illustration of a landscape. The sky is light blue with two white, fluffy clouds. The middle ground consists of rolling green hills with dark green, bushy areas. The foreground is a green field with several white daisies and some green grass blades. The text "4 syllables" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font in the upper right area of the image.

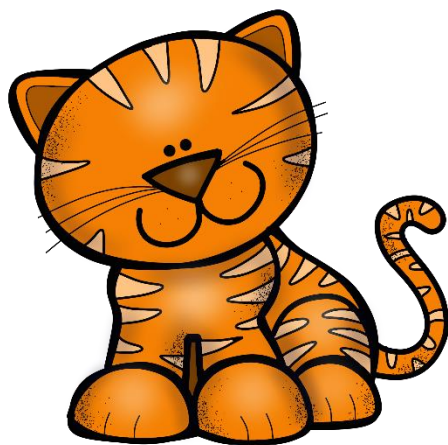
4 syllables



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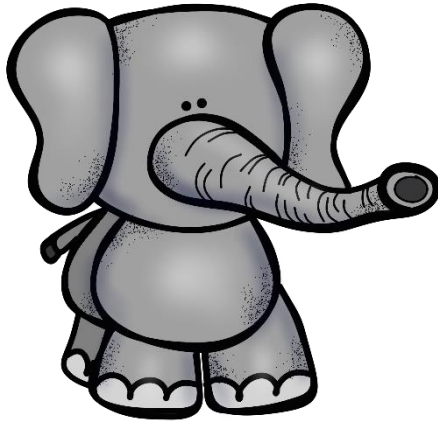
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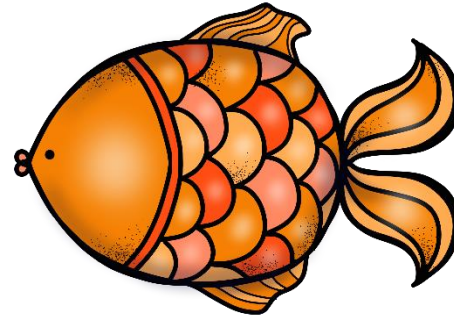
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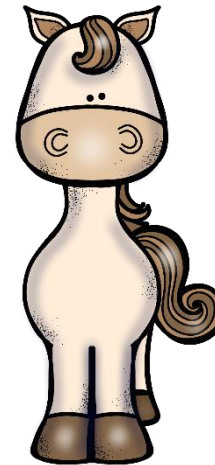
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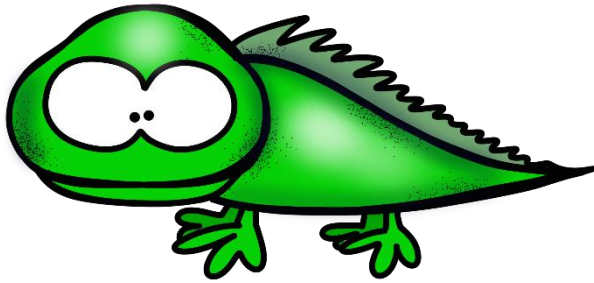
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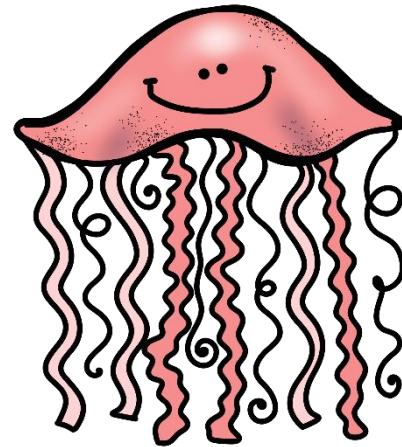
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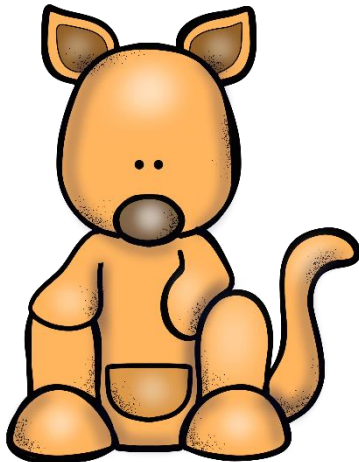
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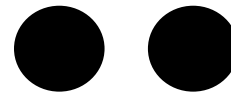
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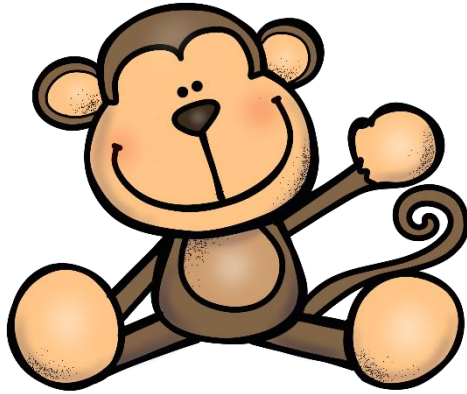
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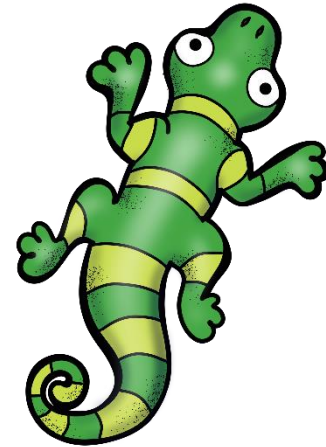
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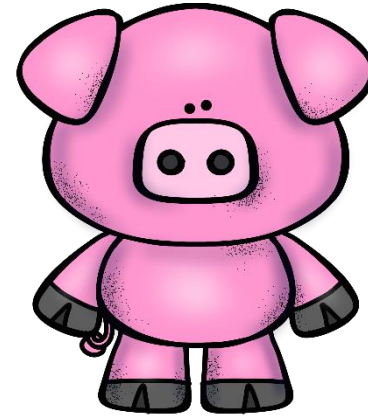
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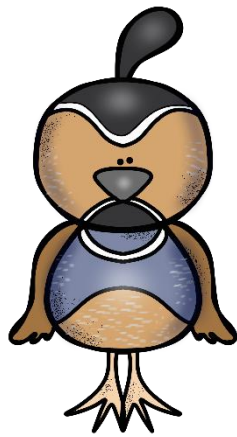
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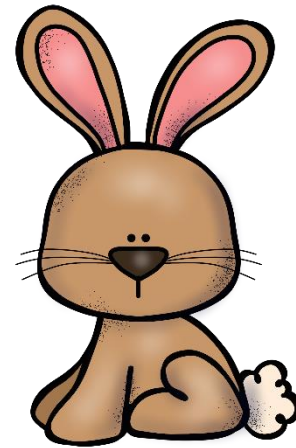
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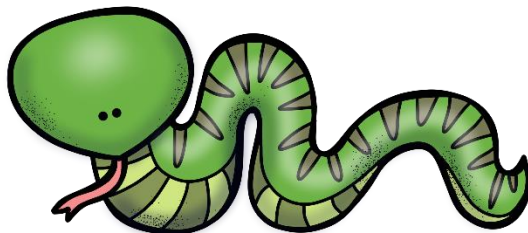
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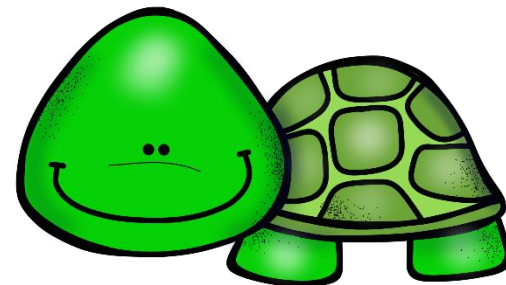
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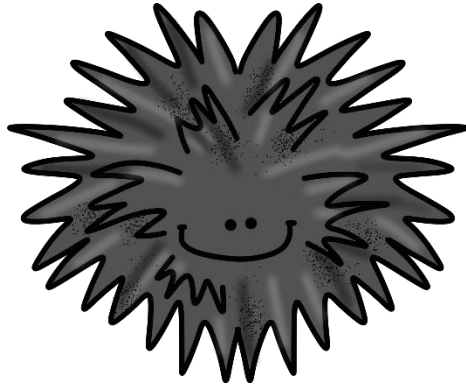
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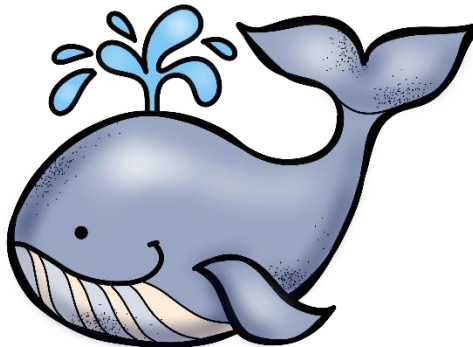
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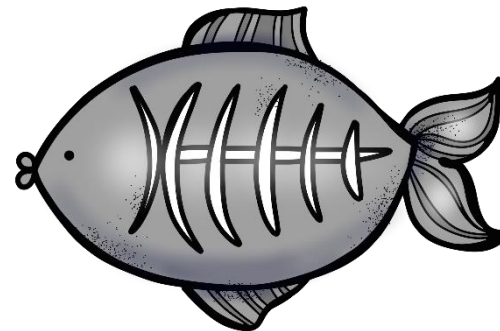
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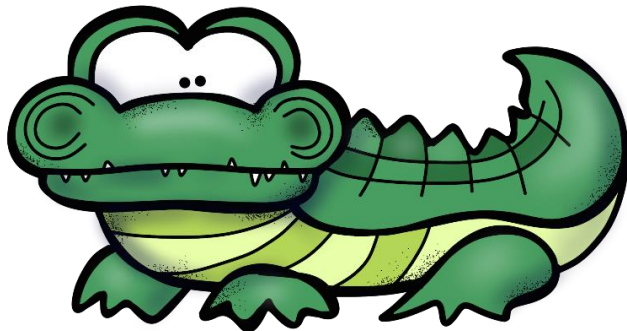
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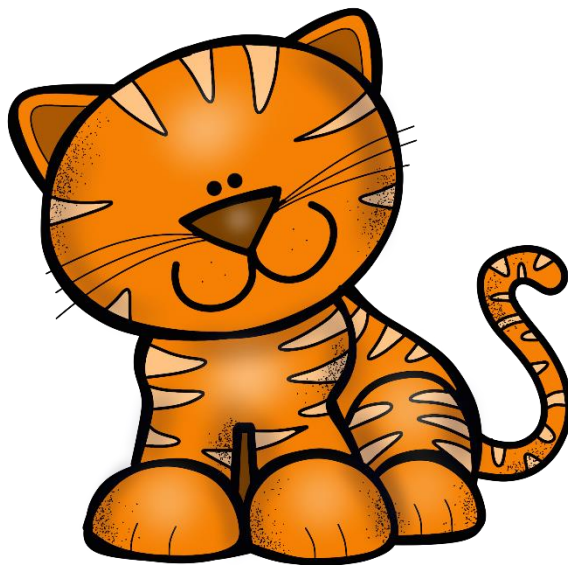
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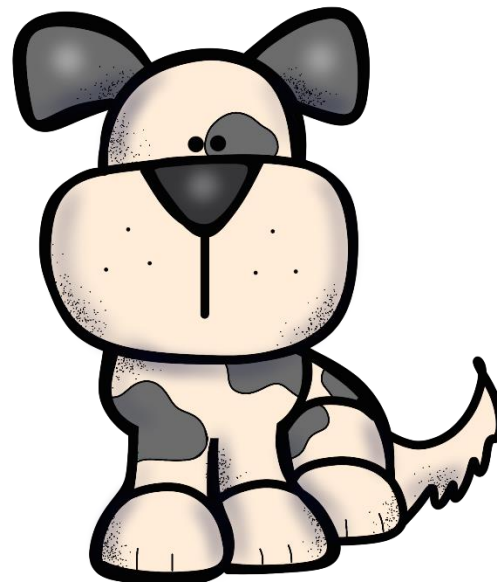
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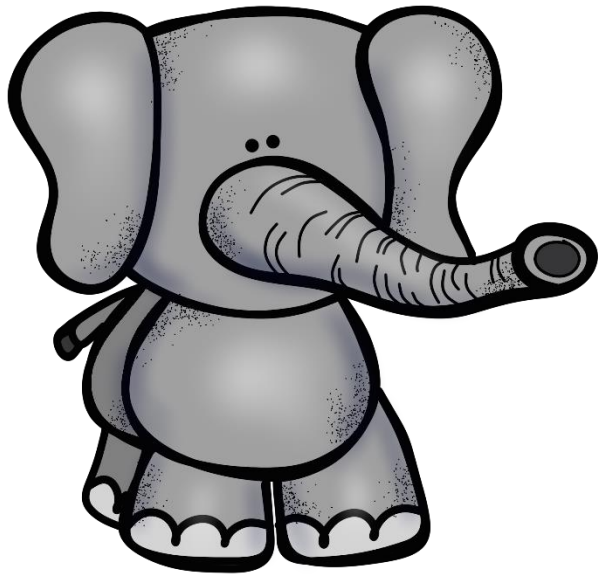
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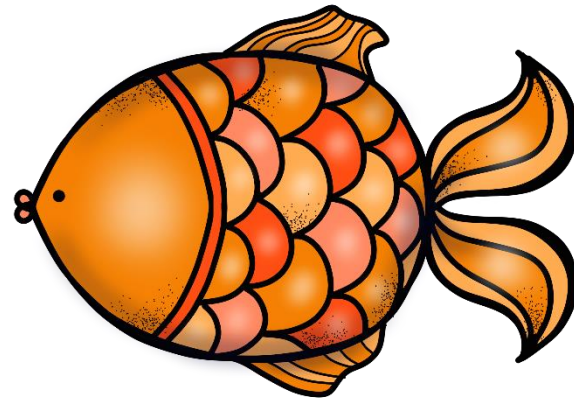
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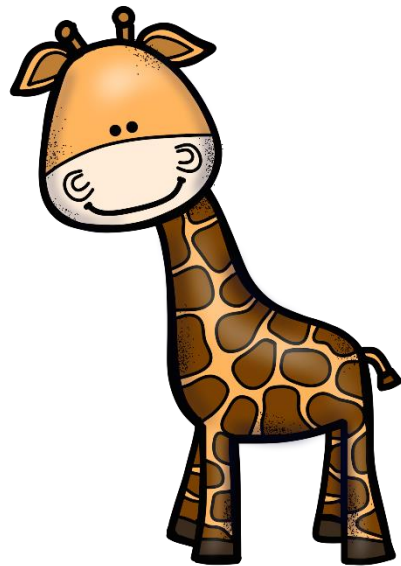
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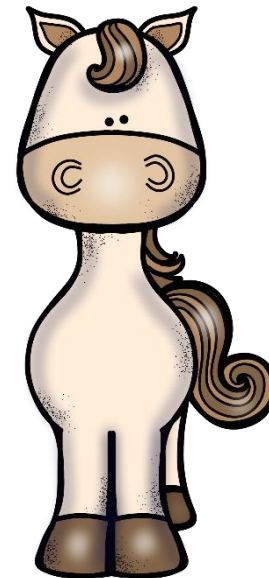
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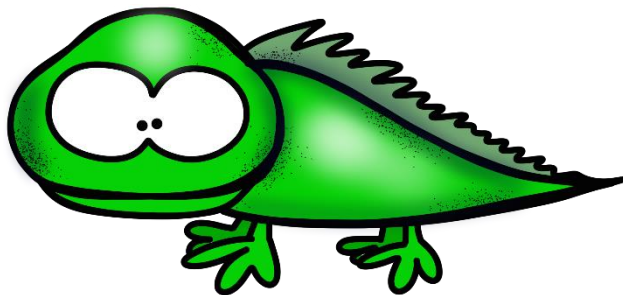
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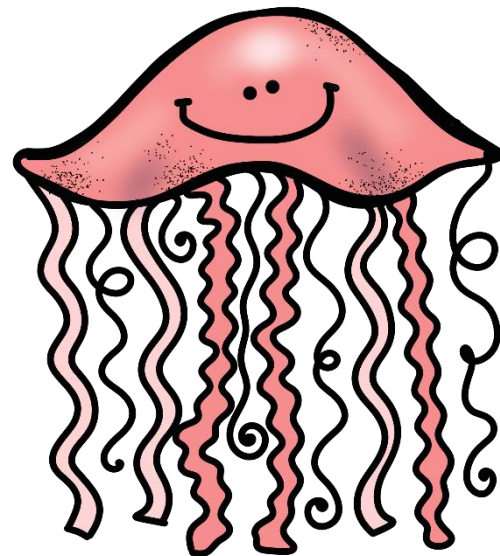
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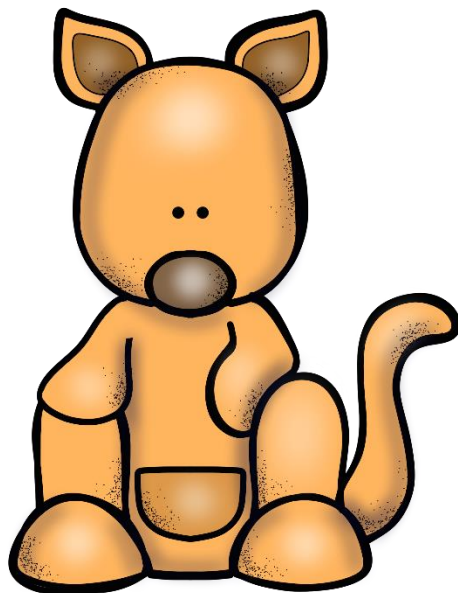
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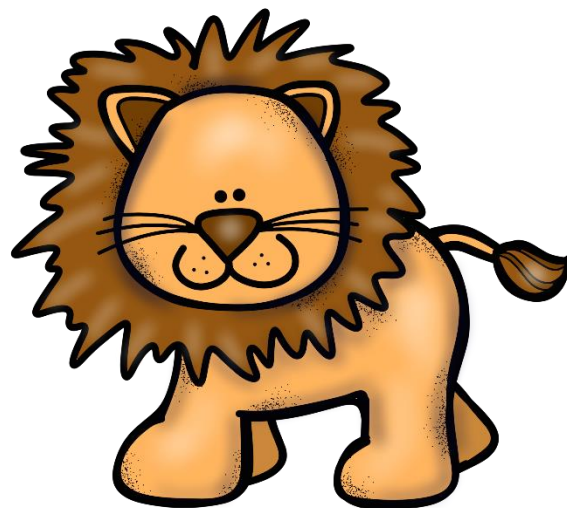
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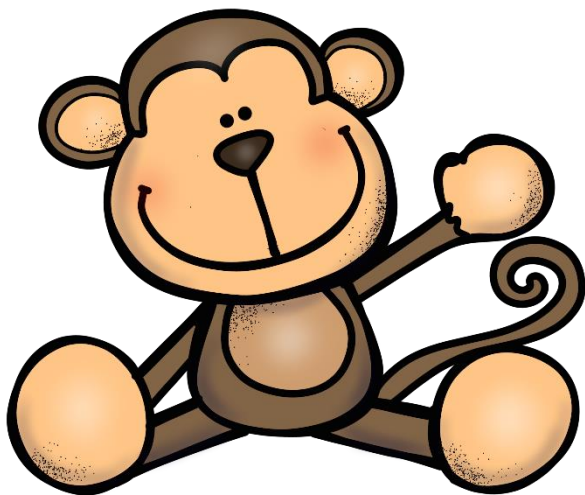
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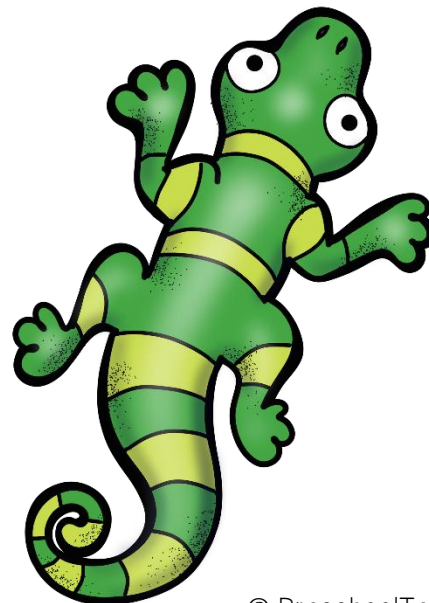
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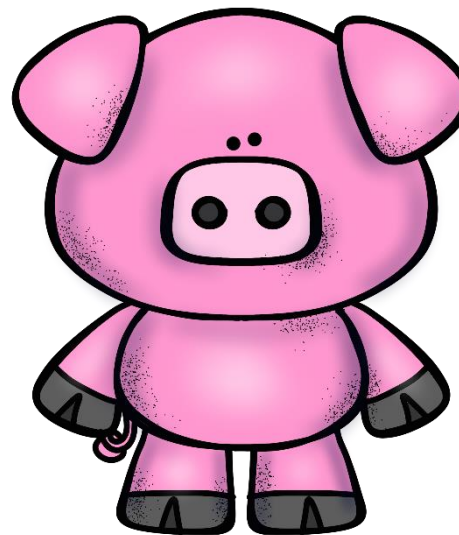
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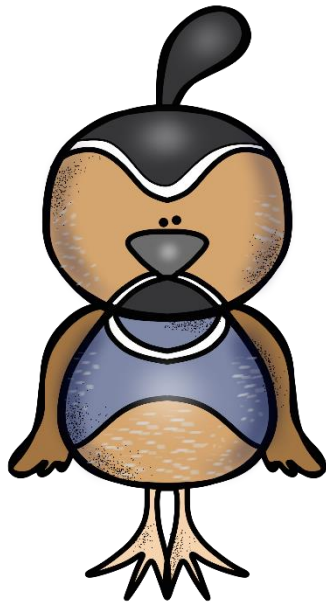
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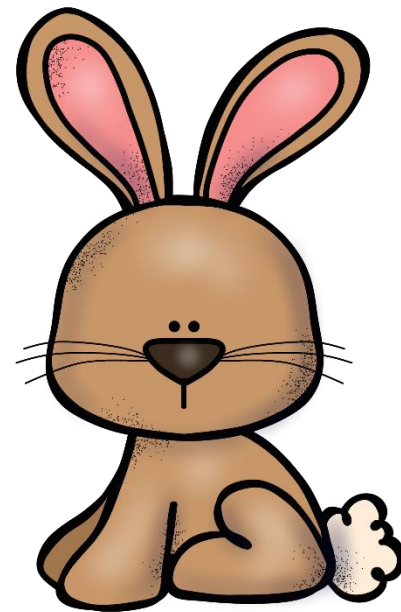
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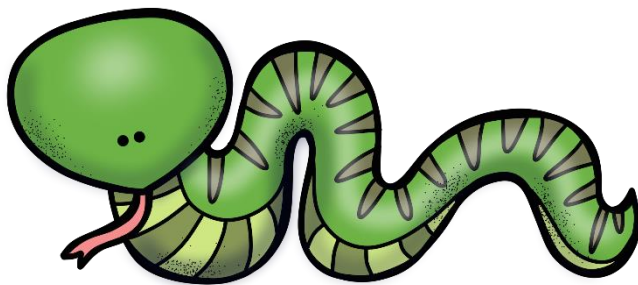
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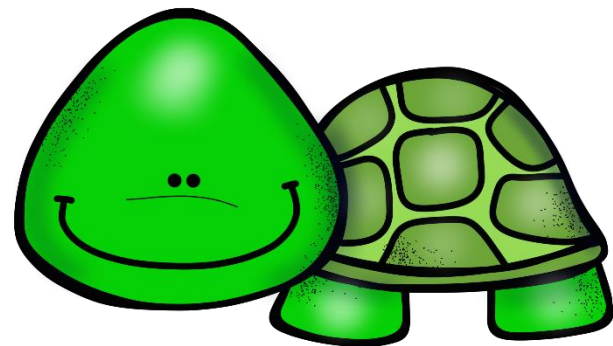
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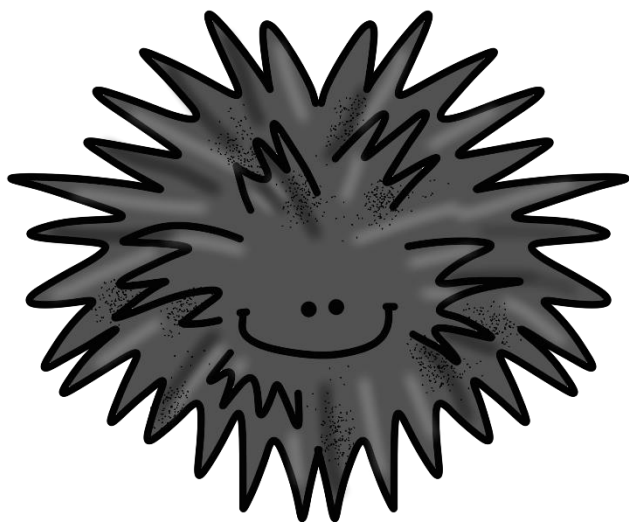
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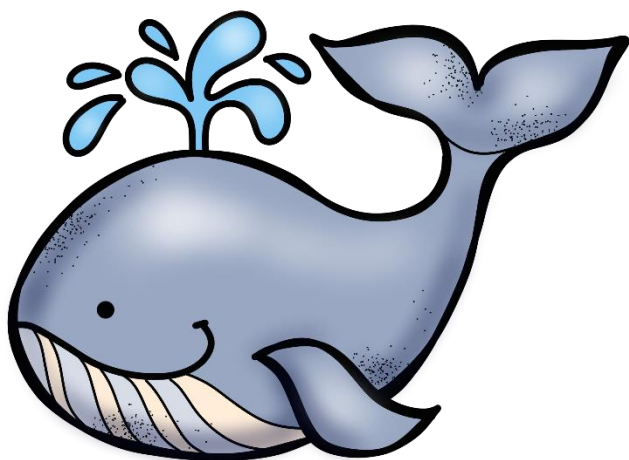
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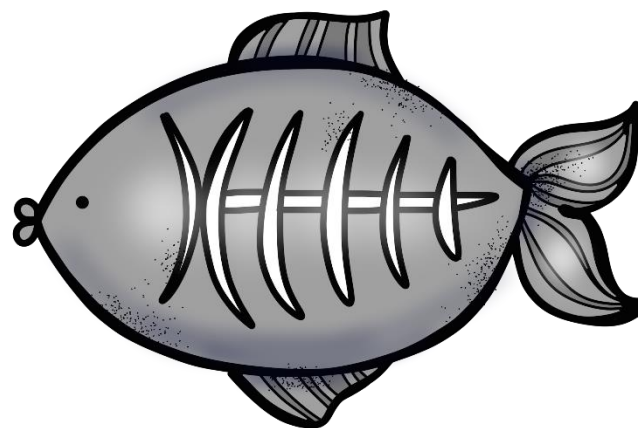
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A black and white line drawing of a landscape. The sky is filled with several clouds of different shapes. Below the sky are two wavy lines representing hills. The foreground is a flat area with several simple flowers and some grass-like lines. The text "1 syllable" is written in the upper middle part of the image.

1 syllable

A black and white line drawing of a landscape. The sky is filled with several clouds of different shapes. Below the sky are two wavy lines representing hills. The foreground is a flat area with several simple flowers and some grass-like lines. The text "2 syllables" is written in a bold, sans-serif font in the upper middle part of the image.

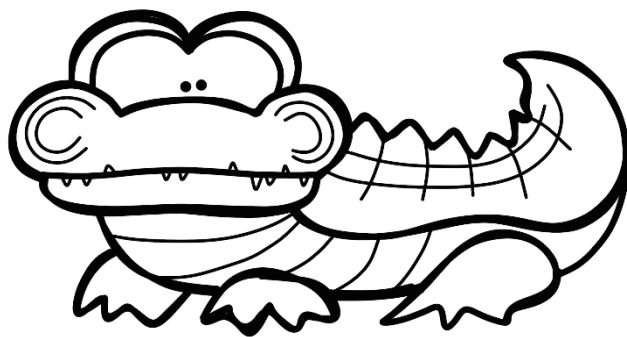
2 syllables

A black and white line drawing of a landscape. The sky is filled with several clouds of different shapes. Below the sky are two wavy lines representing hills. The foreground is a flat area with several simple flowers and some grass-like lines. The text "3 syllables" is written in a bold, sans-serif font in the upper middle part of the image.

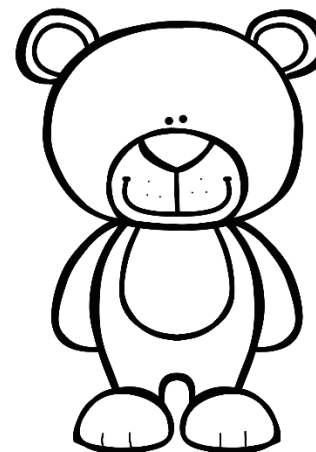
3 syllables

A black and white line drawing of a landscape. The sky is filled with several clouds of different shapes. Below the sky are two wavy lines representing hills. The foreground is a flat area with several small, five-petaled flowers. Some flowers are on the left, some in the center, and some on the right. The entire drawing is enclosed in a thick black rectangular border.

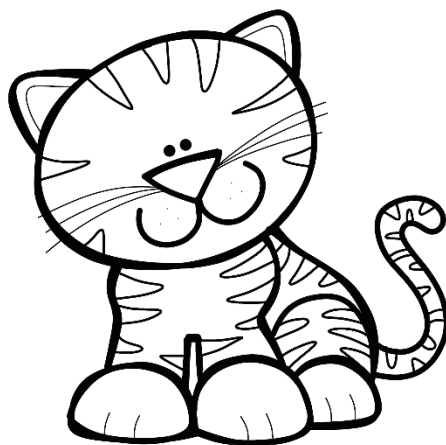
4 syllables



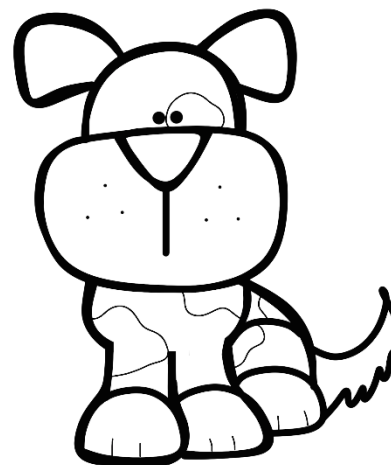
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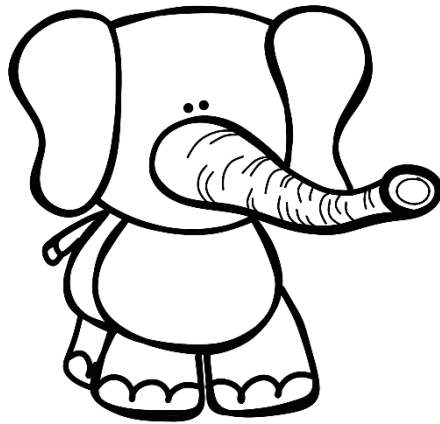
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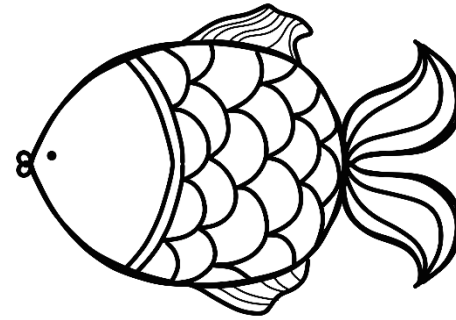
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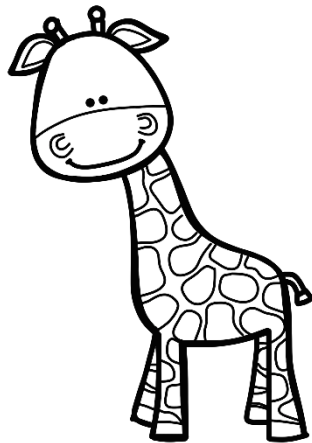
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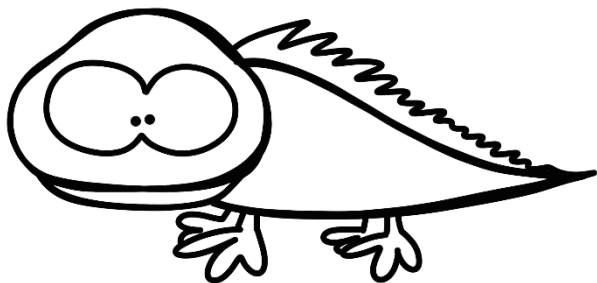
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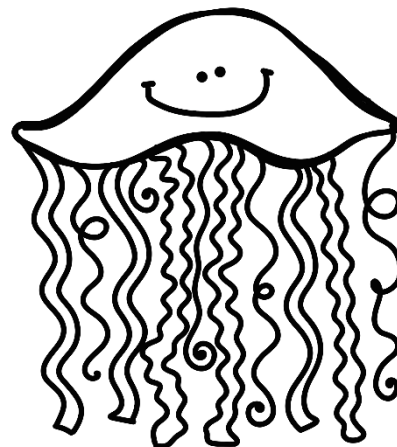
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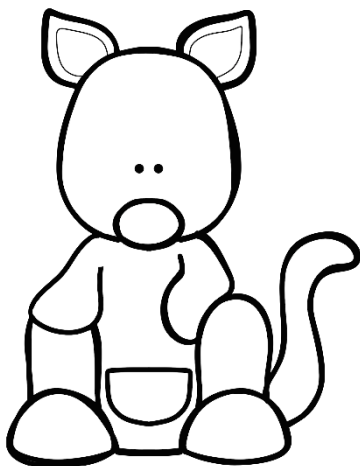
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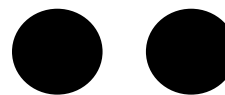
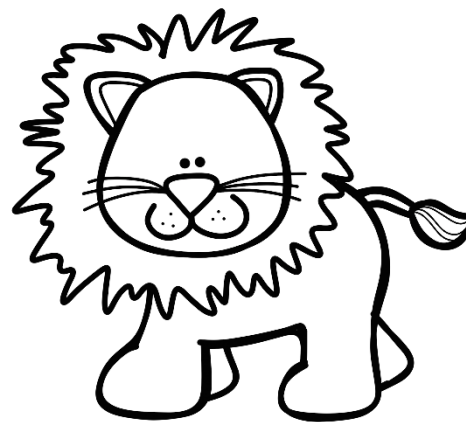
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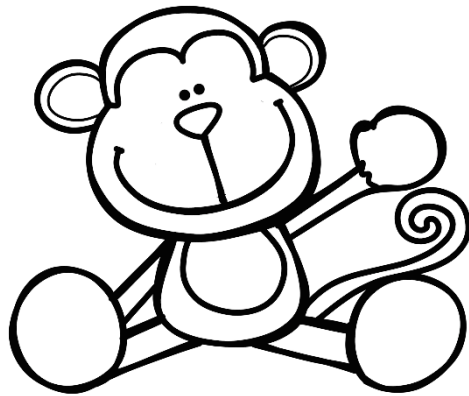
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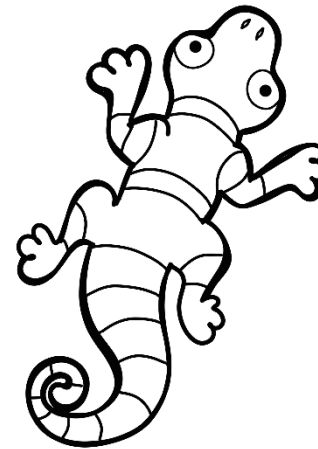
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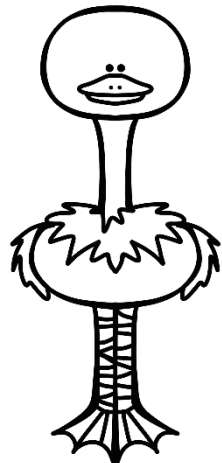
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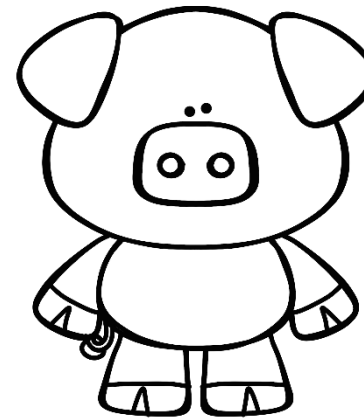
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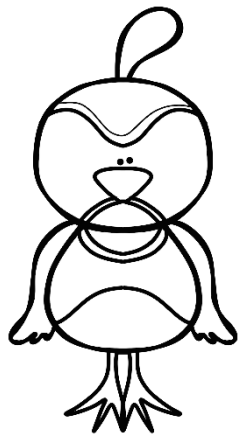
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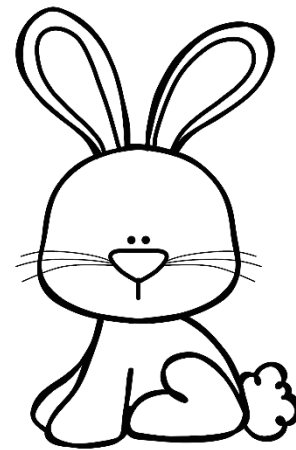
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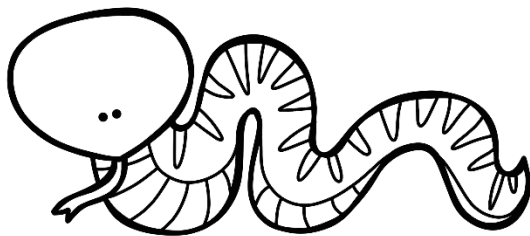
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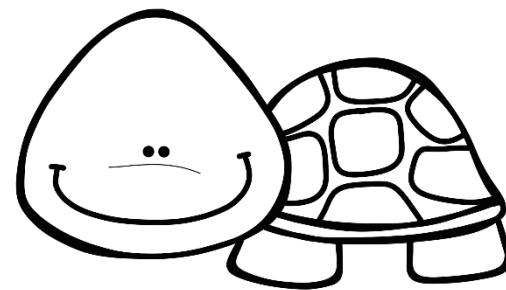
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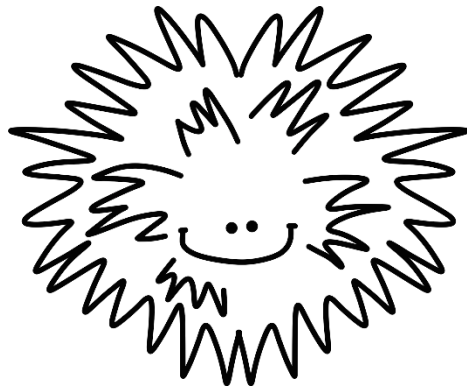
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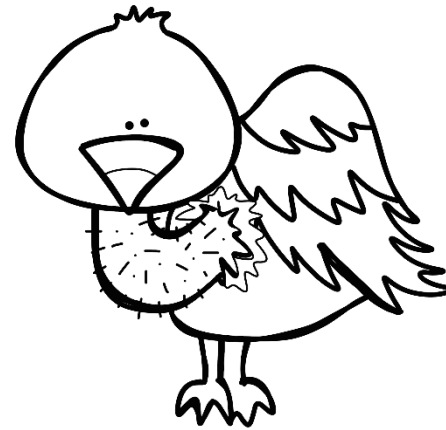
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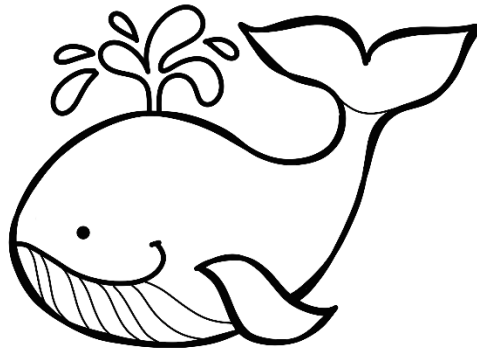
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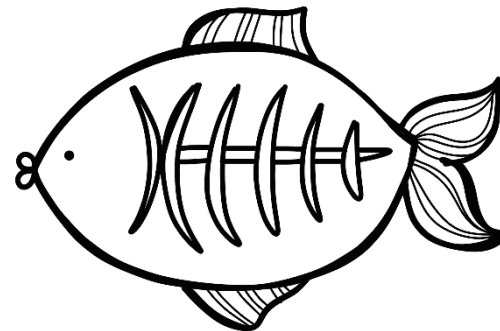
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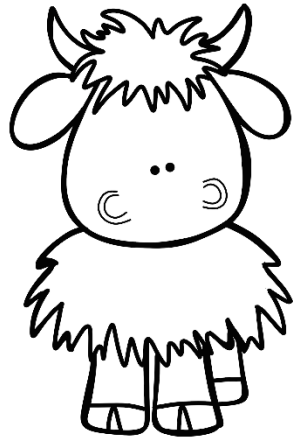
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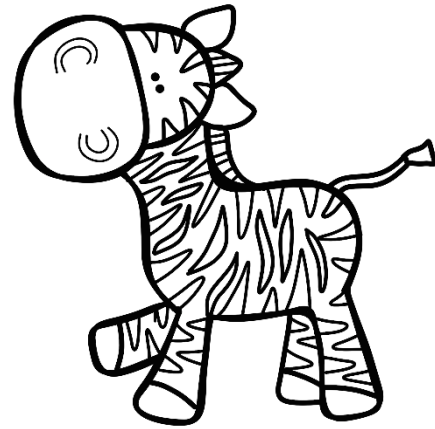
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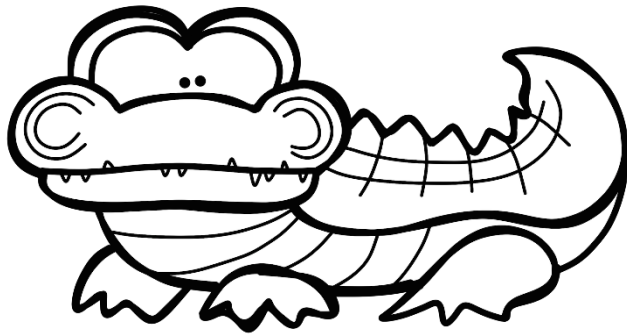
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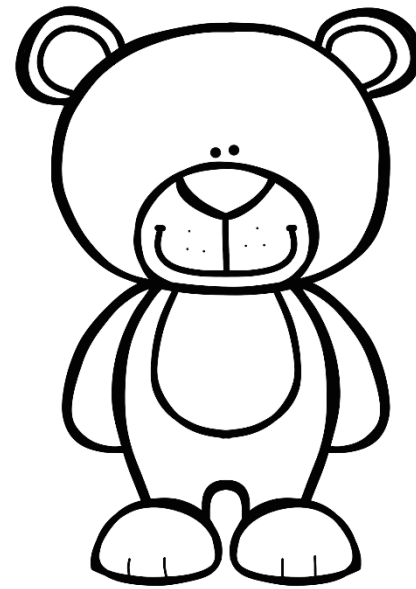
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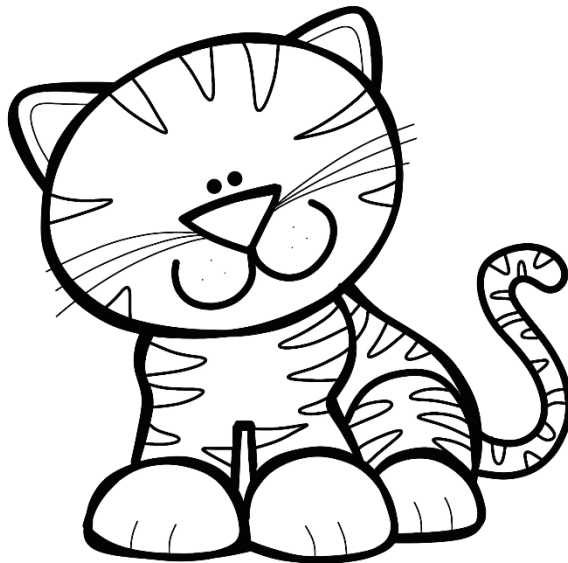
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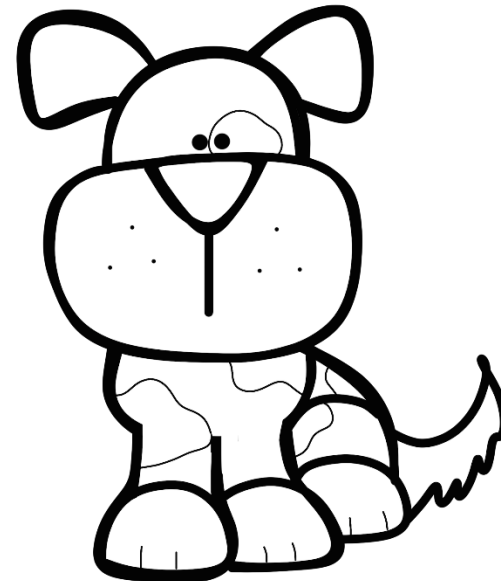
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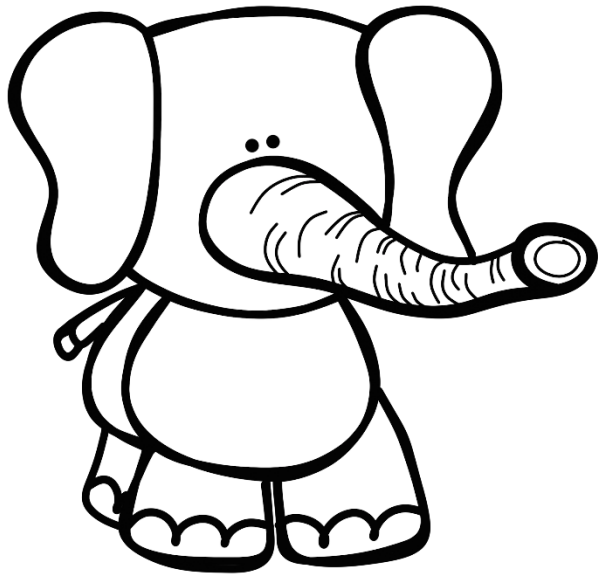
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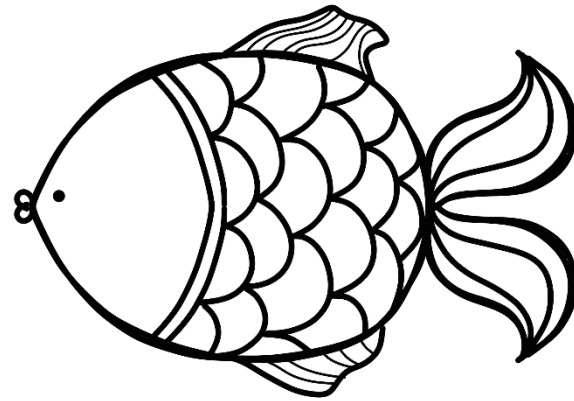
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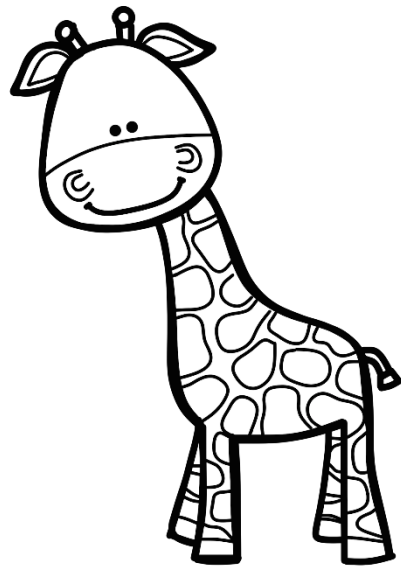
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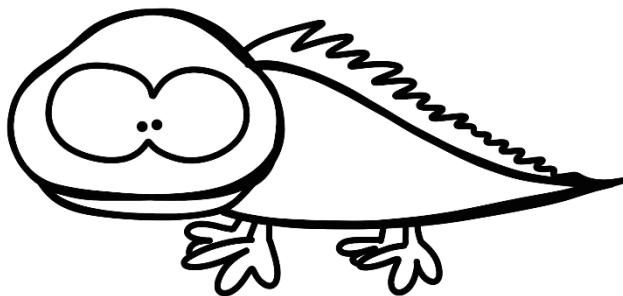
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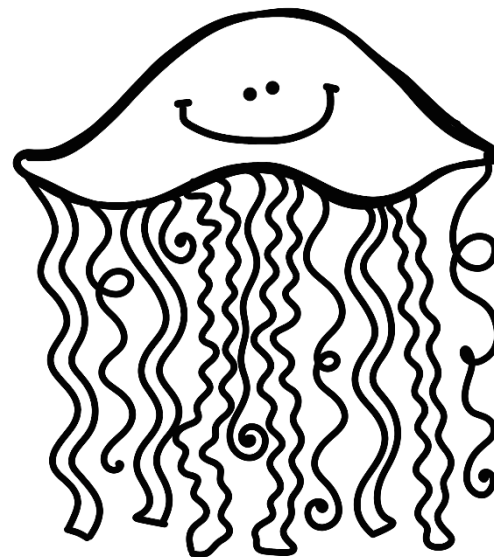
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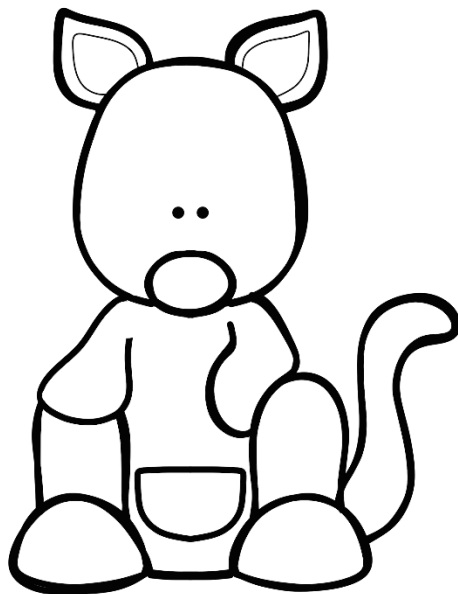
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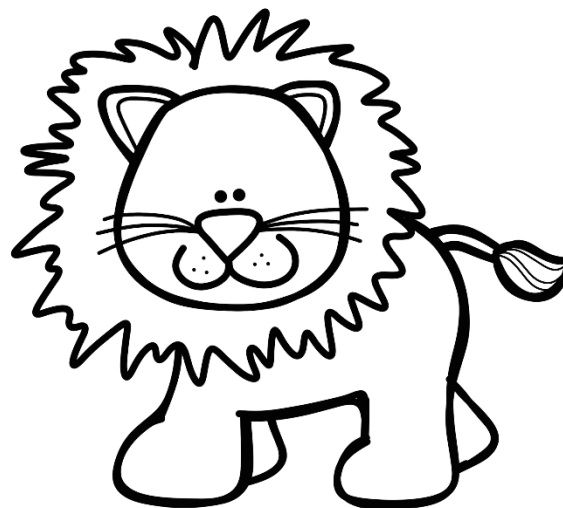
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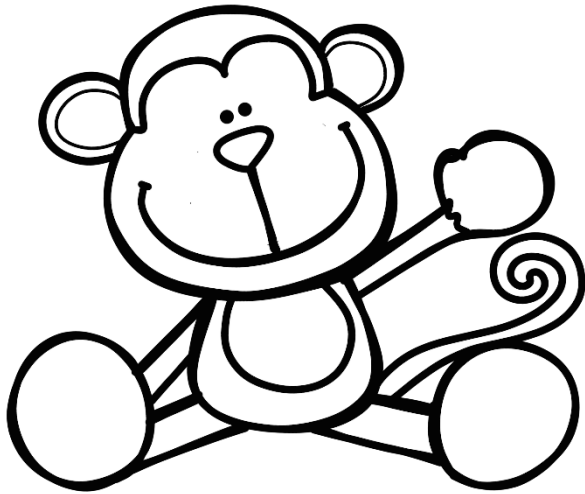
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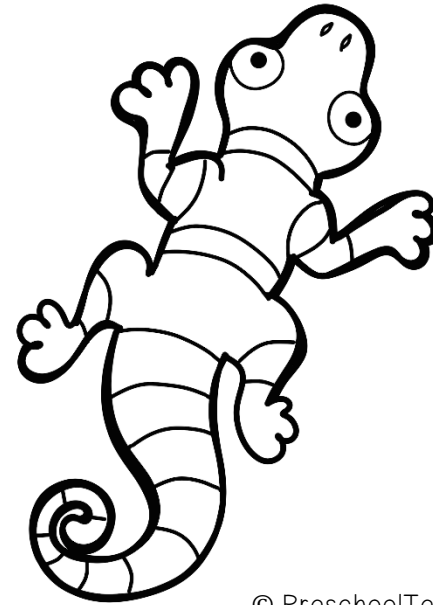
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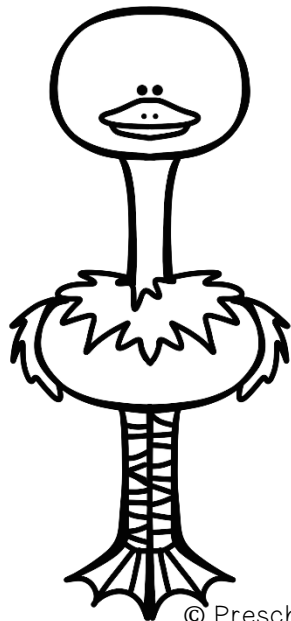
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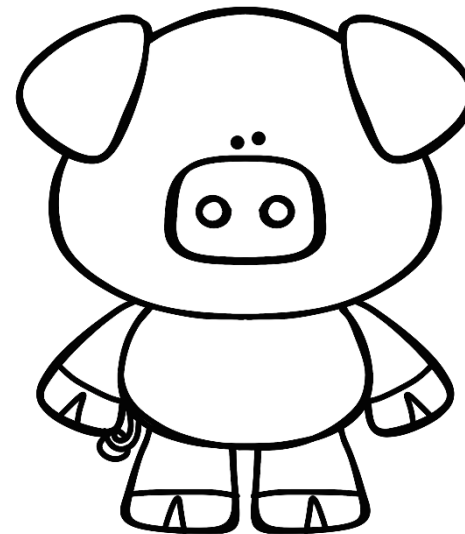
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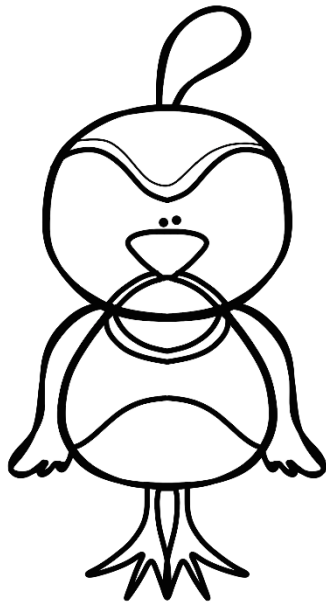
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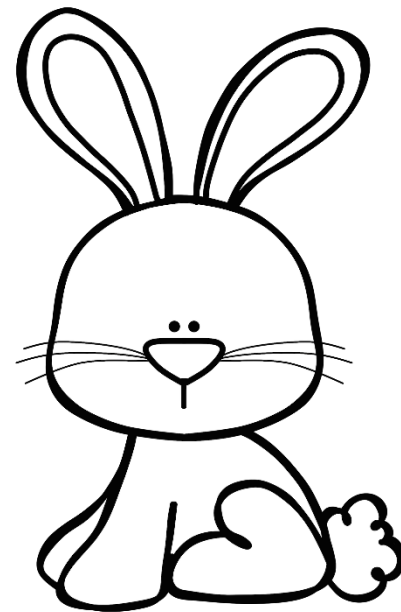
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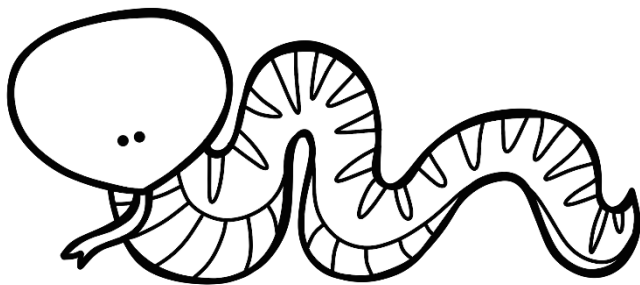
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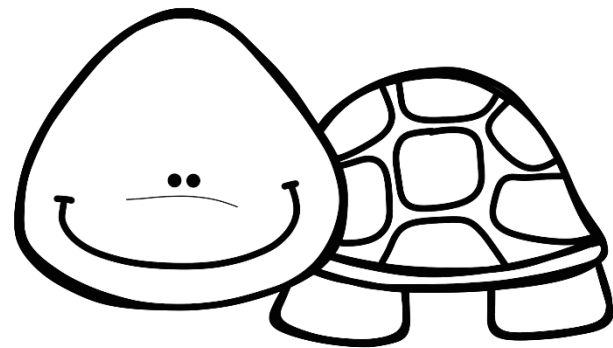
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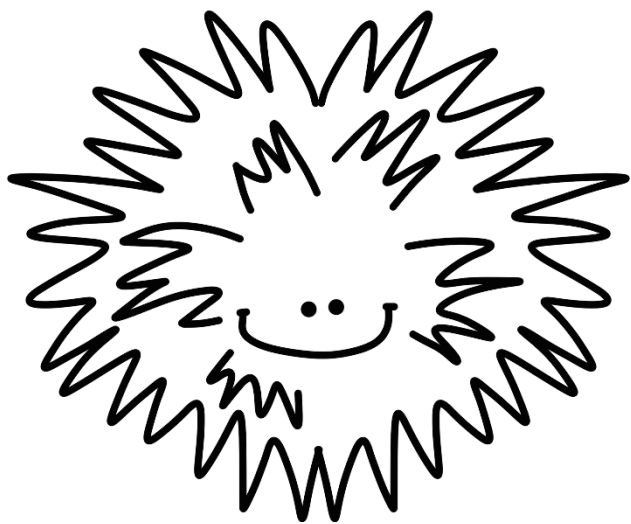
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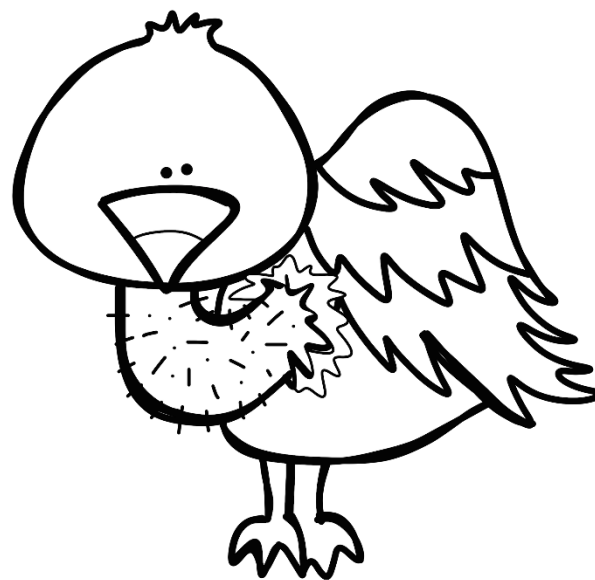
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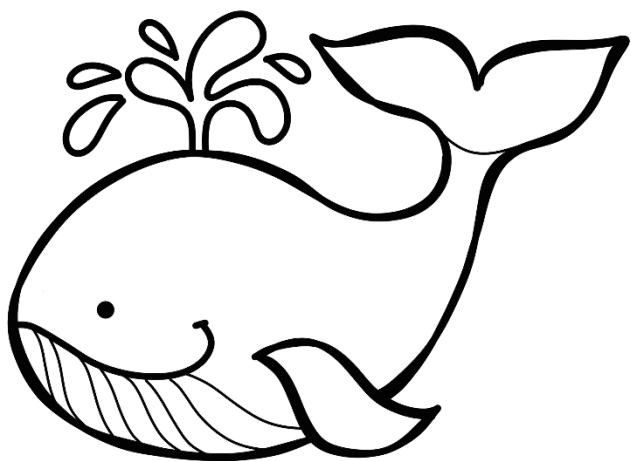
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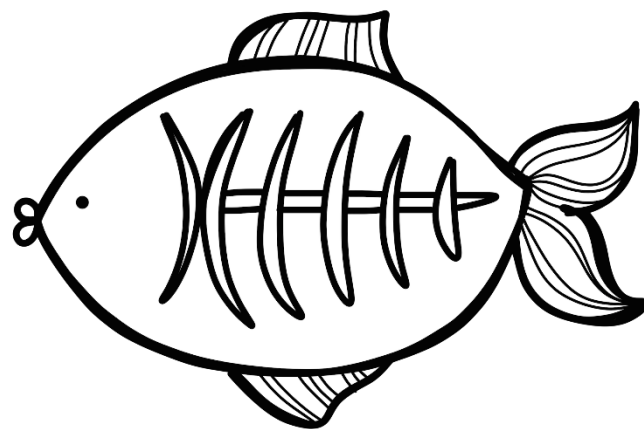
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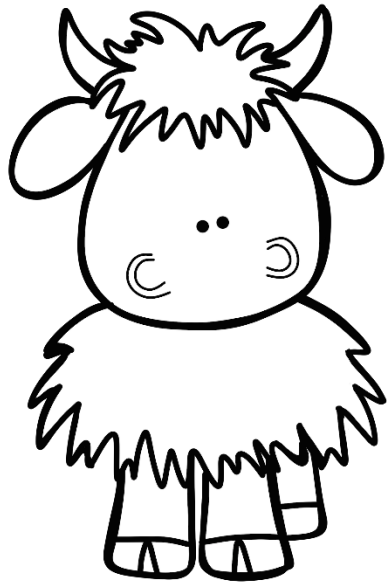
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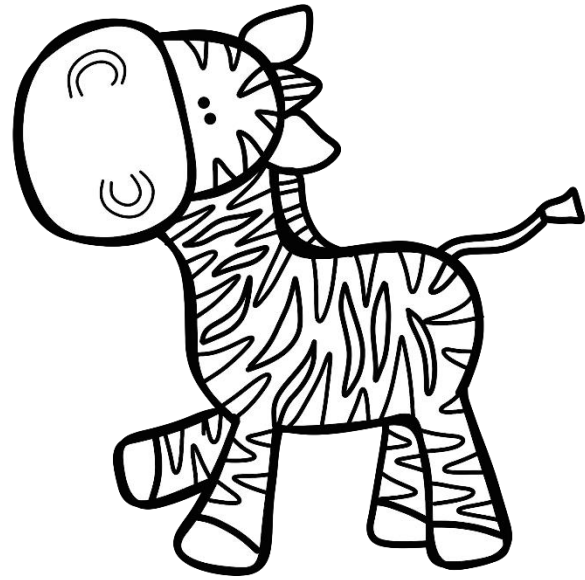
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Find the Animals

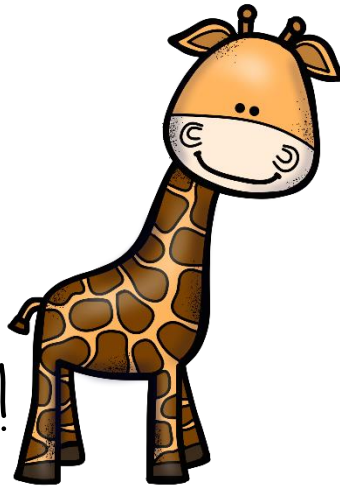
Print out the "find the animal" cards you'd like to use with your students. Cut them apart and laminate the cards.

Use the cards during whole group time. Hide one of the cards behind letters in an alphabet chart. You can also hide the card behind numbers in a hundreds chart or your calendar. Consider placing the cards behind the kids' names for a pocket chart activity.

Give the children clues as to where the card is hidden. Continue giving clues and allowing guesses until the card is found.

If time permits, let the children take turns hiding the cards.

You
found
the
giraffe!



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You
found
the
newt!



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You
found
the
zebra!



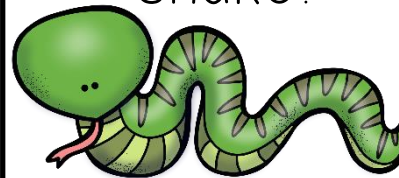
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You
found
the
ostrich!



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You found the
snake!



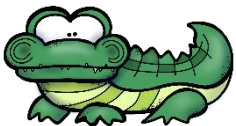
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You
found
the
horse!



© PreschoolTeacher101

You found the
alligator!



© PreschoolTeacher101

You
found
the
bear!



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You
found
the
jellyfish!



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You
found
the
lion!



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You
found
the
rabbit!



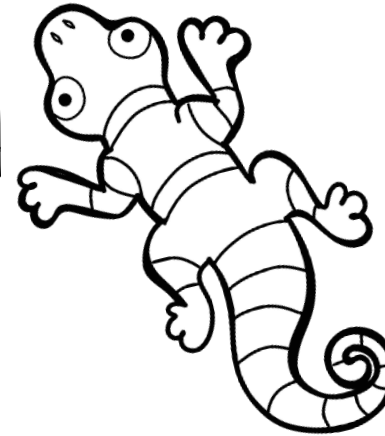
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You
found
the
giraffe!



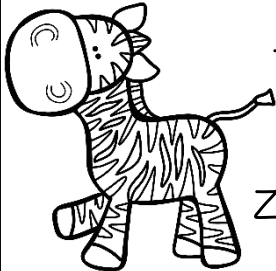
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You
found
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newt!



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You
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zebra!



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You
found
the
ostrich!



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You found the
snake!



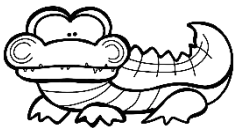
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You
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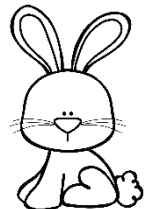
© PreschoolTeacher101

You
found
the
lion!



© PreschoolTeacher101

You
found
the
rabbit!



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Read, Build, Write

Print out the read, build, write mat that you'd like to use with your students. Be sure to print enough copies for a small group. Laminate the mats or place them in dry erase pockets.

Place the mats out on the table, along with magnetic letters (or other alphabet manipulatives), dry erase markers, and the printable sight word cards.

Explain and model how to use this activity. Take a word card and place it in the top rectangle. Say the word out loud, and encourage the children to say it with you.

Use magnetic letters to make the word in the middle rectangle. Model how to run your finger underneath the word to read it again.

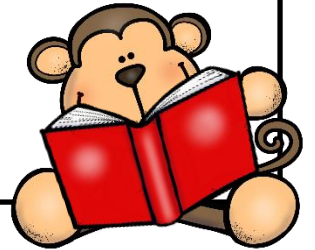
Write the word in the last rectangle, using a dry erase marker. Model reading the word one last time.

Model how you want the children to clean up the mats before moving onto a new word, too!

Then allow the children to work together or independently on their own mats. Provide assistance and encouragement as necessary.

Read, Build, Write

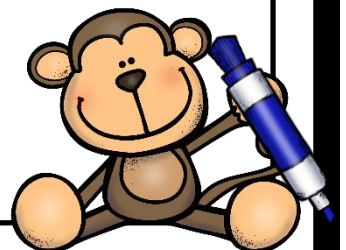
Read it.



Build it.



Write it.

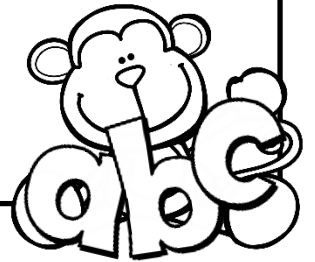


Read, Build, Write

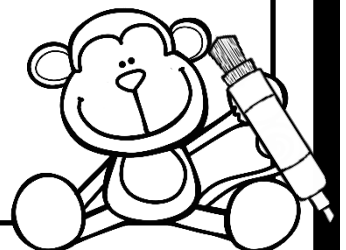
Read it.



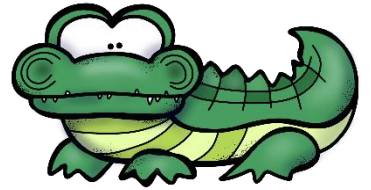
Build it.



Write it.

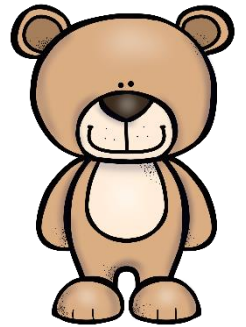


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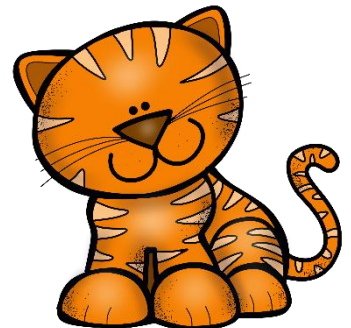
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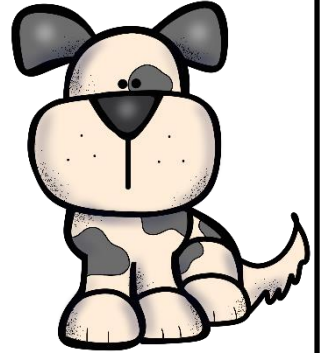
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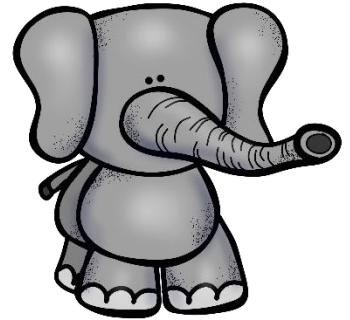
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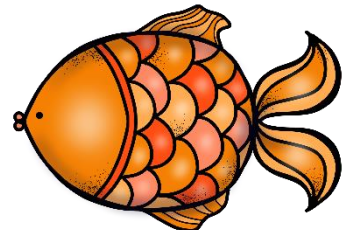
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dad



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for



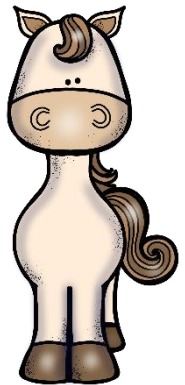
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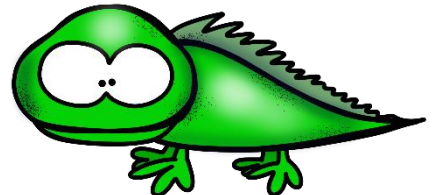
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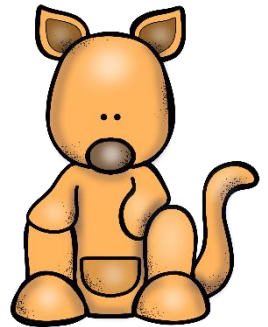
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like



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look



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mom



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no



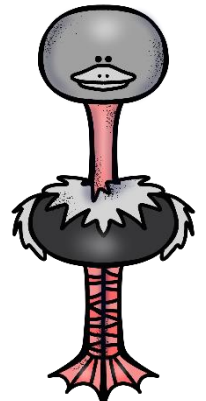
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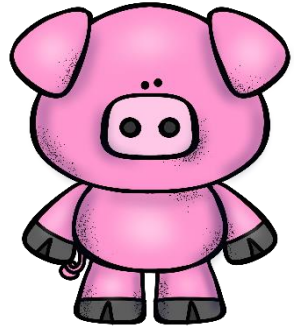
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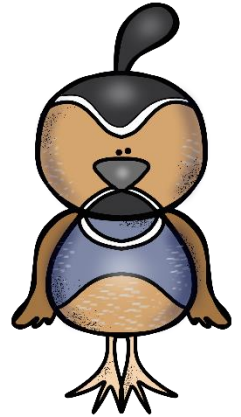
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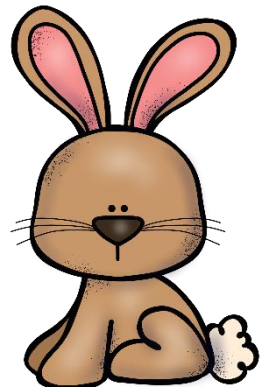
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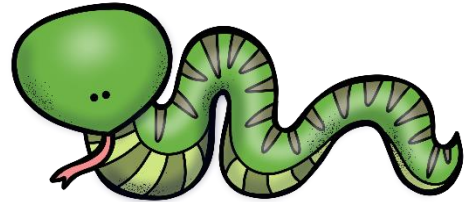
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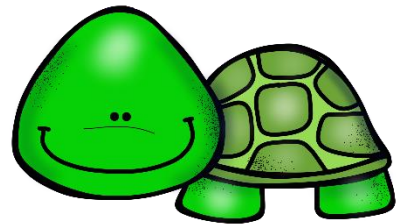
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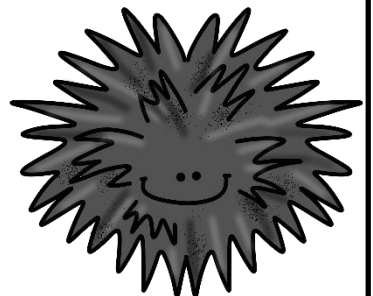
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up



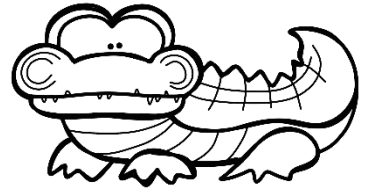
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you



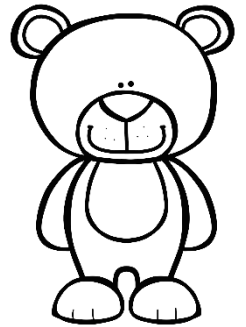
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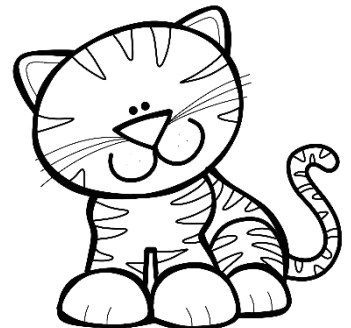
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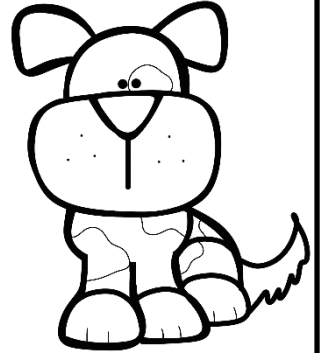
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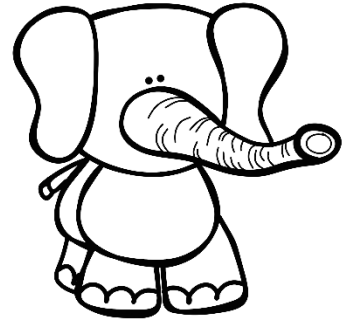
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can



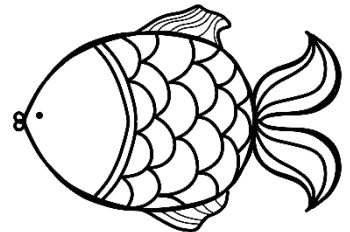
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dad



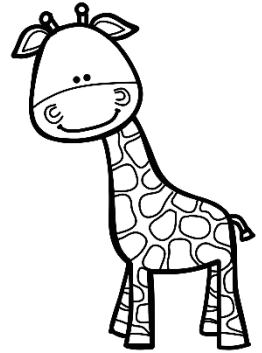
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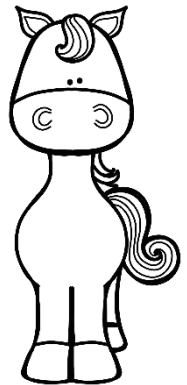
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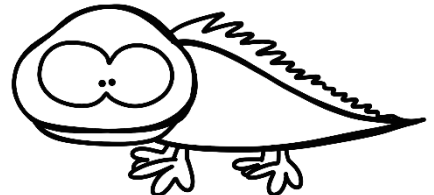
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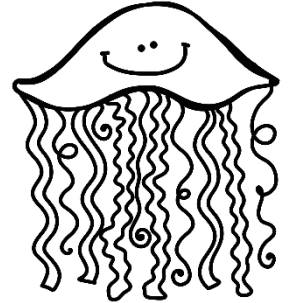
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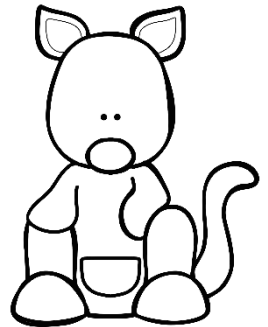
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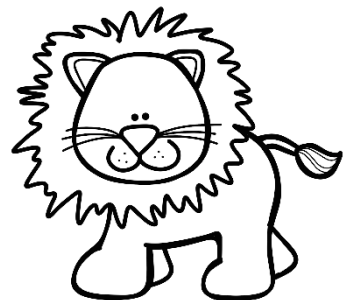
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look



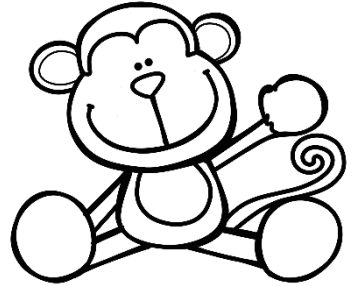
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mom



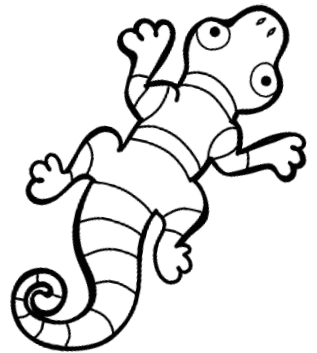
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no



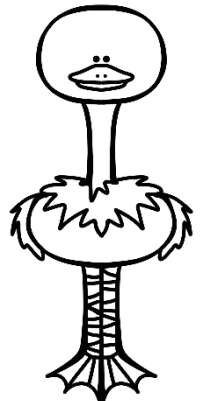
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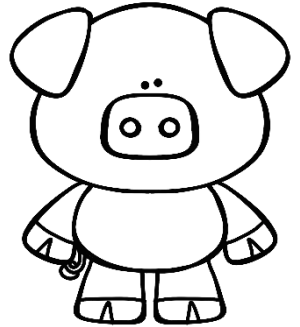
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see



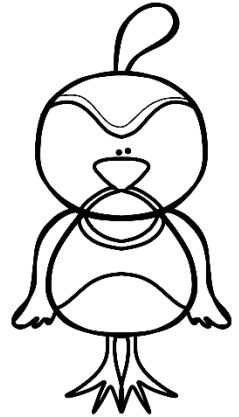
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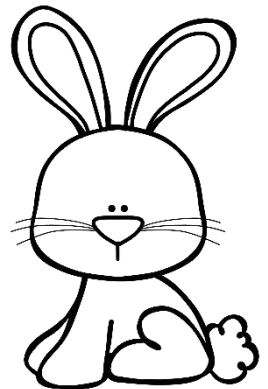
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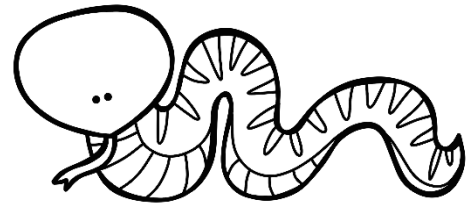
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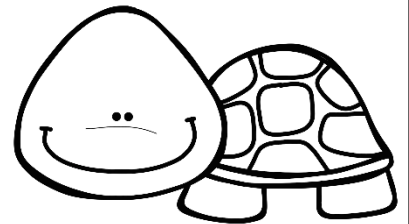
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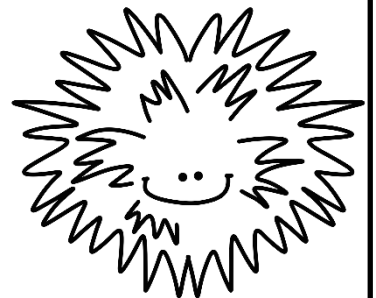
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up



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you



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Real Animal Photos

Print out the real animal photos. You can adjust your printer settings to print them smaller or larger. Laminate them for durability. There are two versions available – those labeled with the animal names and those without labels.

Use these photos during whole group time to introduce the animal theme. Encourage the children to compare and contrast the different animals and their characteristics.

Place the photos up in the science center and have the children make observations in a science journal.

The photos could also be put up in the art center to inspire the children to create their own animal masterpieces.

To connect the animal theme to your students even more, consider sending home a note the week before you start the theme. Ask students and their parents to send in pictures of their favorite animals (or even the animals they have at or near their home). Be sure to post those in the classroom too!



























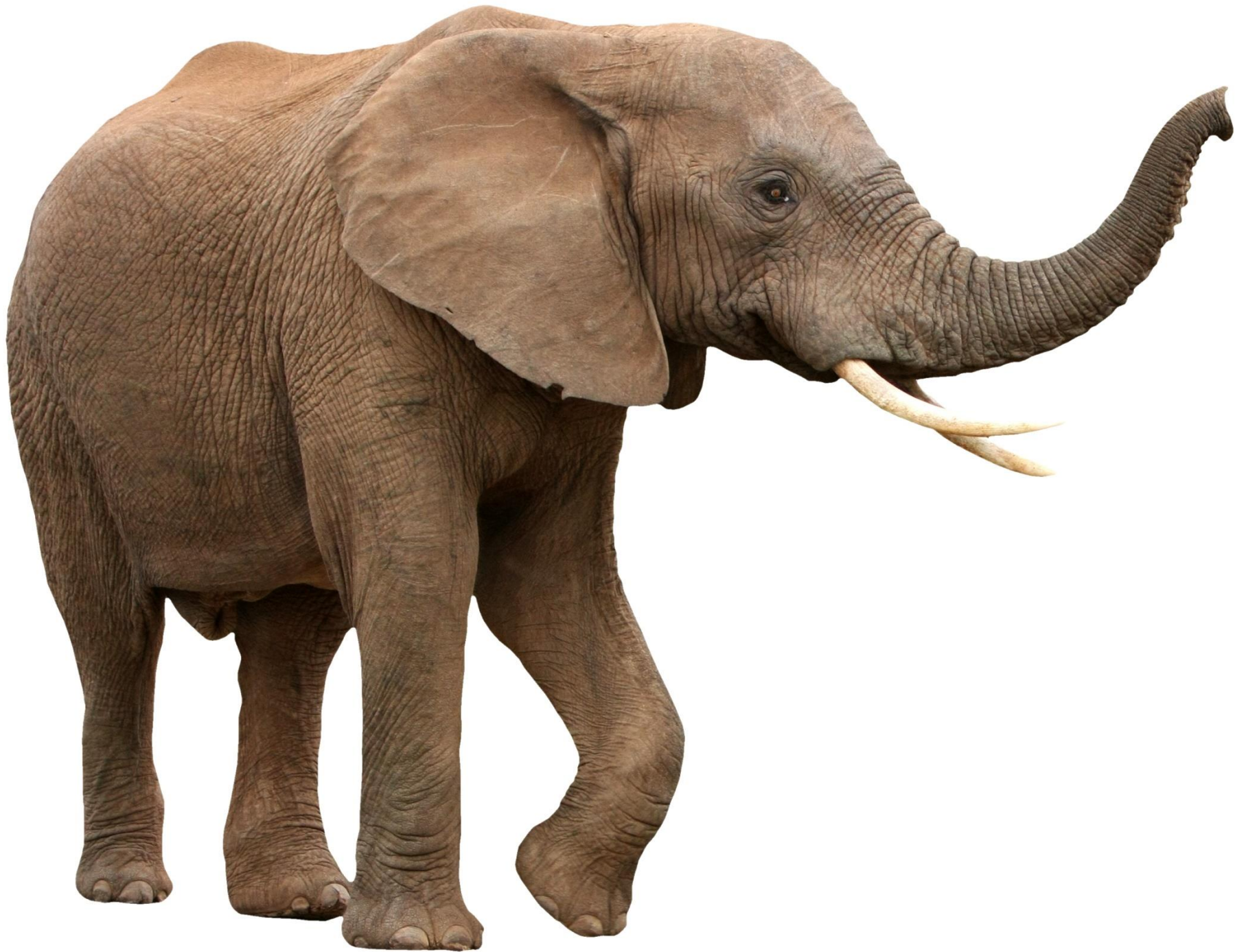






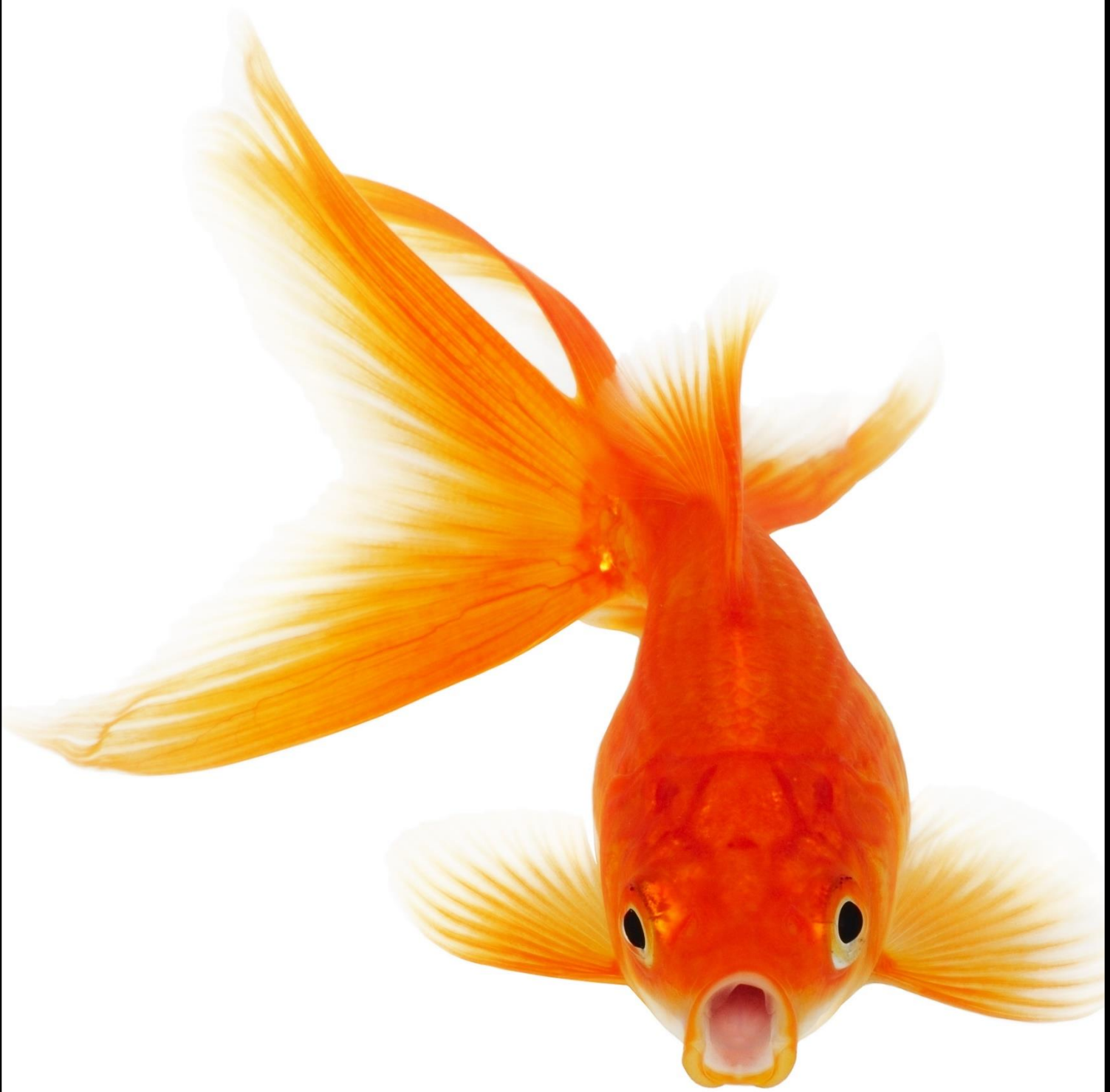






















quail



monkey



lion



newt



whale



kangaroo



snake



grasshopper



bear



yak



alligator



urchin



iguana



pig



bee



turtle



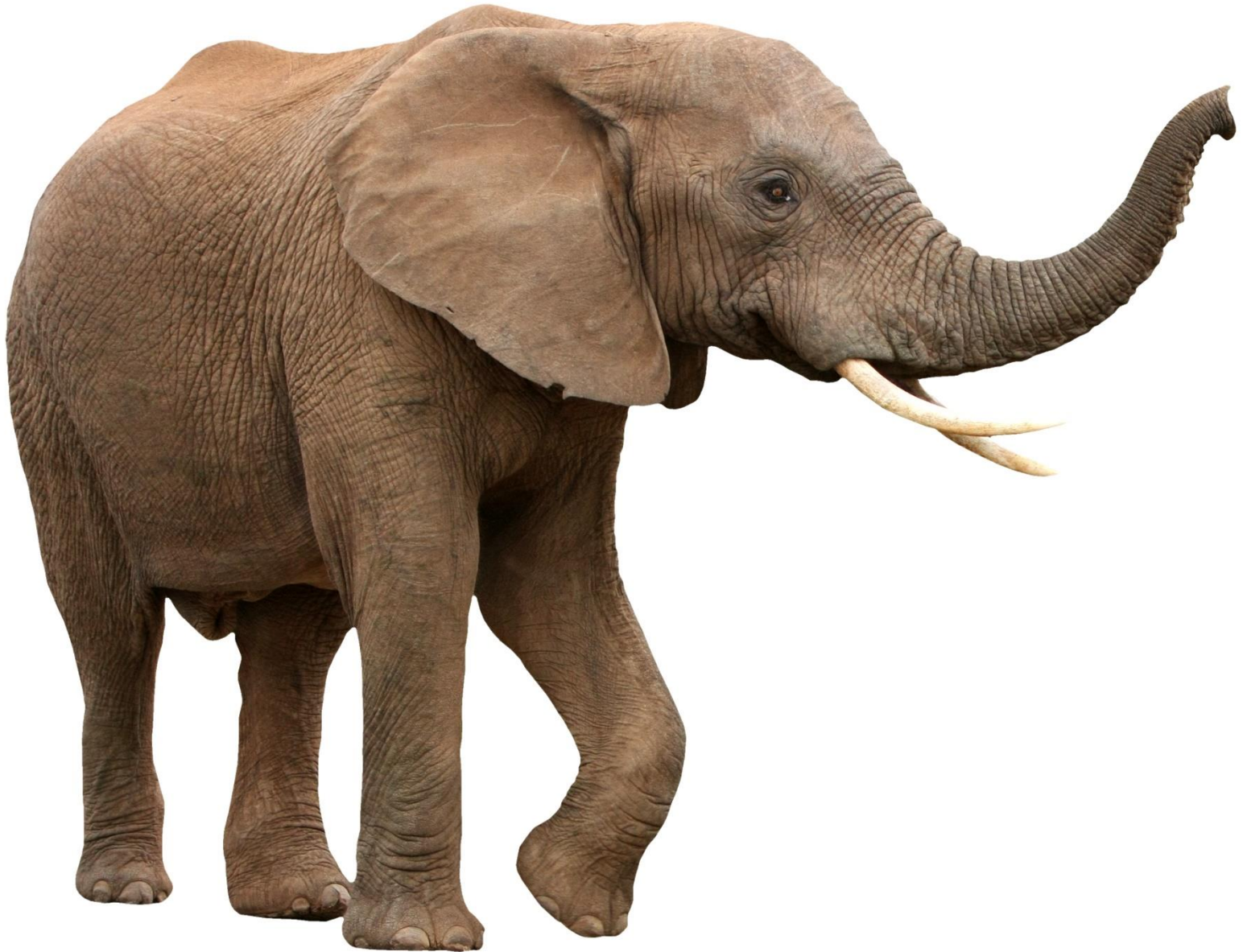
zebra



horse



elephant



jellyfish



giraffe



fish



rabbit



vulture



cat



ostrich



dog

