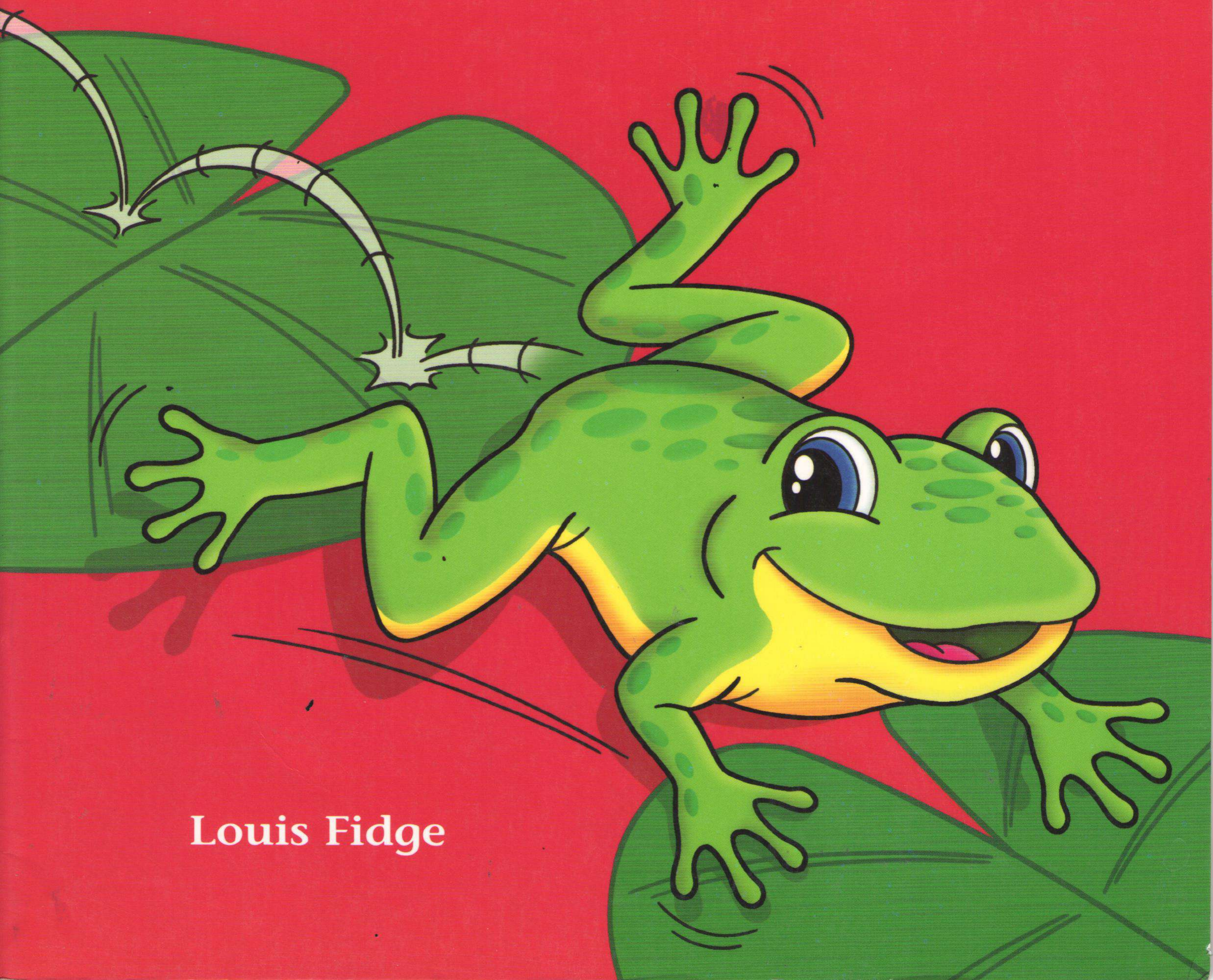


Macmillan **English** *Handwriting*

Little Writers

A



Louis Fidge

Check-up (for the beginning of the lesson)

Do these 'warm-up' activities with the class so they are ready to work better:

- Ask the children to stand up and wave their hands.
- Ask the children to move each hand in a circle to loosen the wrists.

Ask the children these questions before they begin:

- Are you sitting comfortably?
- Are both of your feet on the floor?
- Are you sitting up straight?
- Have you got enough room on your desk?
- Have you sloped your paper slightly so it is in the correct place to begin writing?
- Have you got a good pen or pencil to write with?
- Are you holding your pen or pencil in a comfortable way?
- Can you see what you are doing?

Check-up (for the end of the lesson)

Ask the children these questions at the end of each lesson:

- Are you pleased with what you have done?
- Have you tried hard?
- Is this your best work?
- Have you kept inside (or between) the lines?
- Is your work neat?
- Is there anything you can do better next time?

Macmillan English Handwriting

Little Writers A

Louis Fidge

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Introduction to the series

The Macmillan English Handwriting books will provide children with the skills necessary to begin writing, and will help them develop a fluent, legible style of handwriting. The books are carefully graded in difficulty. The style of handwriting and individual letter shapes taught in these books is similar to that used in UK schools.

Little Writers A	Contains valuable pre-writing skills. Helps children develop the skills necessary to begin writing.
Little Writers B	Introduces children to the correct formation of lower case letters (arranged according to the way they are formed) and capital letters.
Little Writers C	Practises what has been learnt in Little Writers B using unjoined letters, writing words, phrases and sentences.
Young Writers 1	Offers further practice using unjoined letters in a variety of contexts.
Young Writers 2	Introduces the essential joins and other skills required for joined-up writing.
Young Writers 3	Practises what has been learnt in Young Writers 2 using joined letters, writing words, phrases and sentences.

Essential pre-writing skills

These consist of:

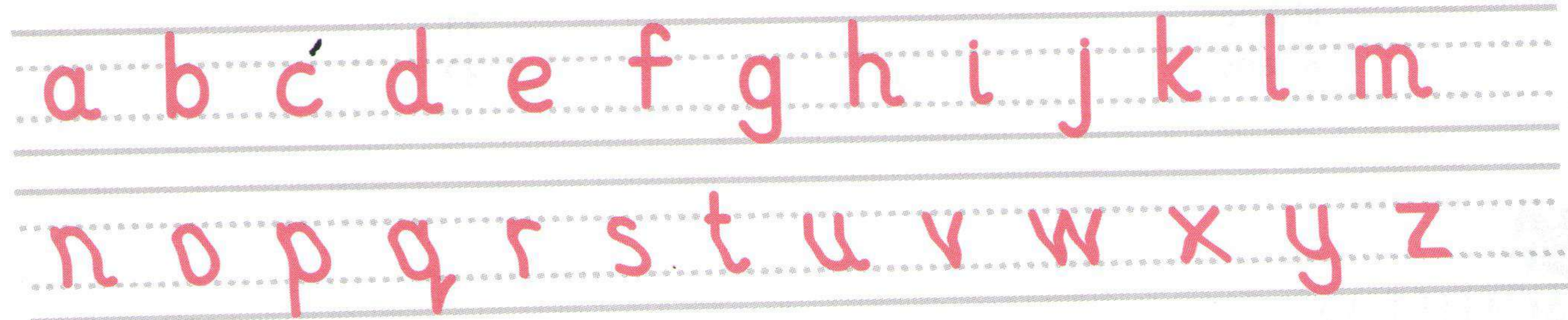
- holding a pen or pencil correctly
- good control of the pen or pencil
- hand-eye co-ordination
- left to right movement
- good visual skills

The activities in Little Writers A support the teaching of all the above skills.

Letter shapes

Lower case letter shapes

Here are the lower case letter shapes taught in these books:



Teaching order

The order of the letters in the alphabet is very useful for acquiring learning skills, but less useful when learning handwriting. This book adopts the method used in UK schools. The letters are taught according to their shape and the way they are formed. Here are the lower case letter shapes arranged in groups according to the way they are formed:

Set 1

i l t j f k u y

Set 2

r n h b m p

Set 3

c g a d o q s e

Set 4

v w z x

Some lower case letters have ascenders.

b d f h k l t

Some lower case letters have descenders.

g j p q y

Capital letter shapes

Here are the capital letter shapes taught in these books.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Here are the capital letter shapes arranged in groups according to the number of pencil strokes needed to form each letter.

Set 1 (These letters are formed with one pencil stroke.)

C G I J L O S U V W Z

Set 2 These letters are formed with two pencil strokes.

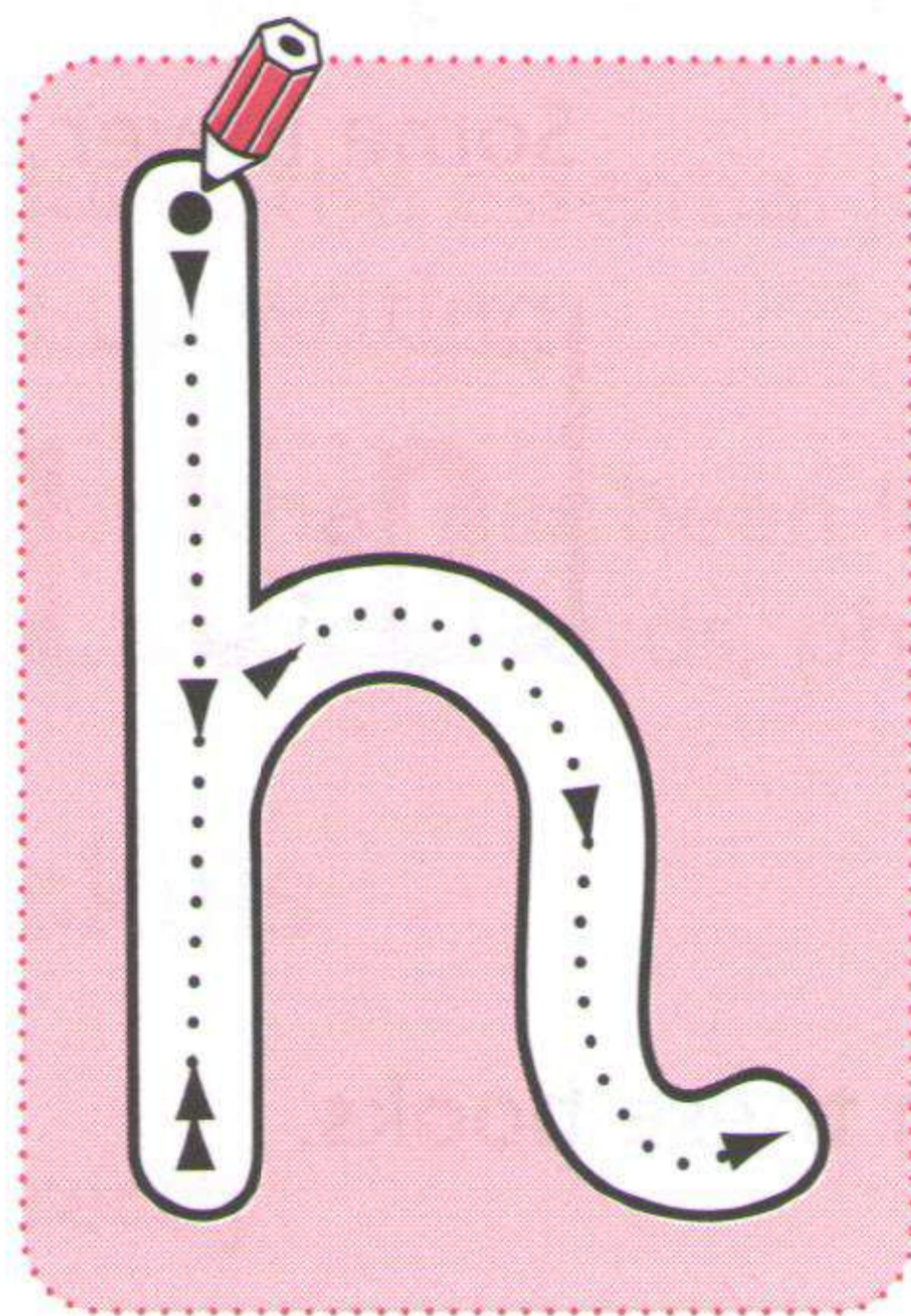
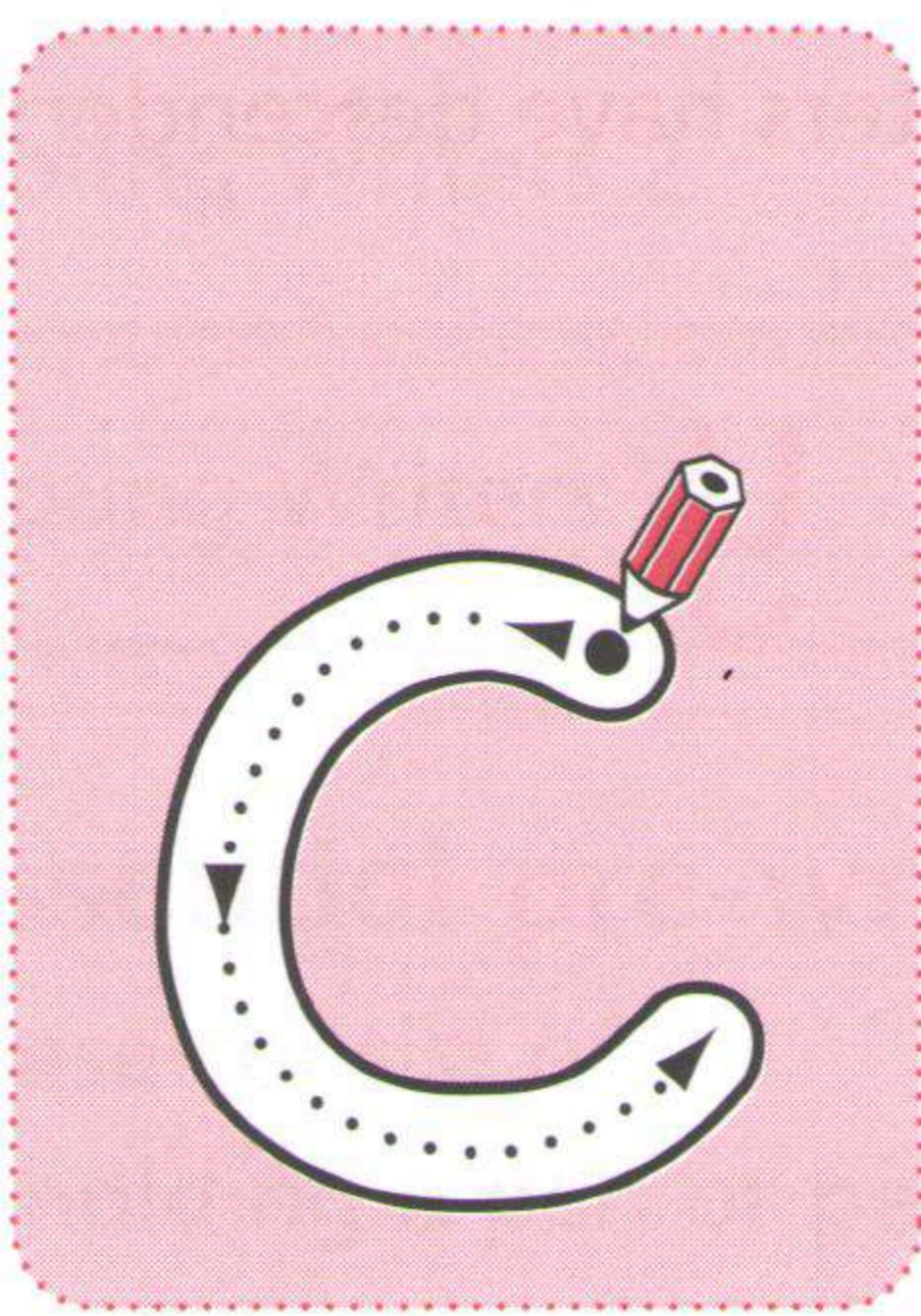
B D M N P Q R T X Y

Set 3 These letters are formed with three pencil strokes.

A E F H K

Letter formation

In order to help children form their letters correctly, they are given the starting point of a letter and arrows to show the direction in which to write.



Helpful hints on teaching pre-writing skills

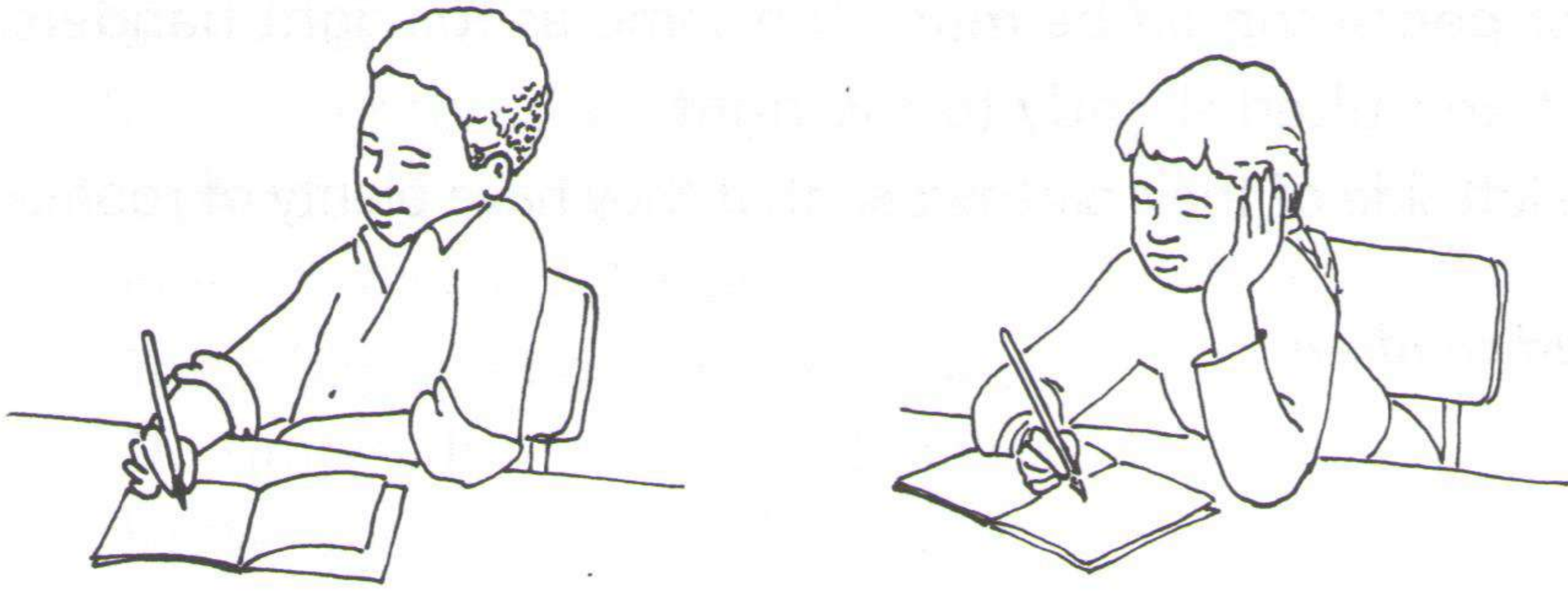
Furniture and seating

- If children are sitting at desks or tables, check that they are sitting comfortably and that the desk or writing surface is at the correct height. (Sometimes a slightly sloping surface is easier for writing on.)
- Check that children are sitting up straight.
- Make sure there is enough light to see what is being written.

- *This is a good writing position.*
- *The desk is at the correct height.*
- *The child's arms are comfortably supported on the desk top.*



These are bad writing positions.



Holding a pencil, pen or crayon

All children, especially left-handed children, will find a pencil, pen or crayon with a rounded, rather than a very sharp point, is best for writing.

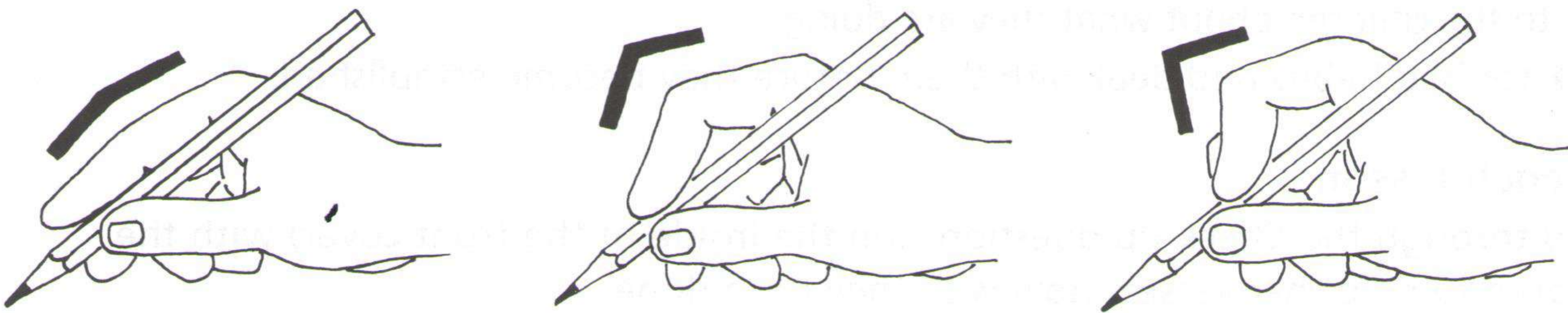
Left- or right-handed?

- When they are very young, most children decide which hand they prefer to use.
- Don't force them to use a particular hand.
- Let children choose which hand they prefer.

Right-handed children

- The most efficient way of holding a pencil (or pen or crayon), is when it is held lightly between thumb and forefinger. Hold it about 3cm from the point, with the middle finger providing the support.
- The paper should be placed to the right, tilted slightly to the left.
- The left hand should be used to steady the paper.

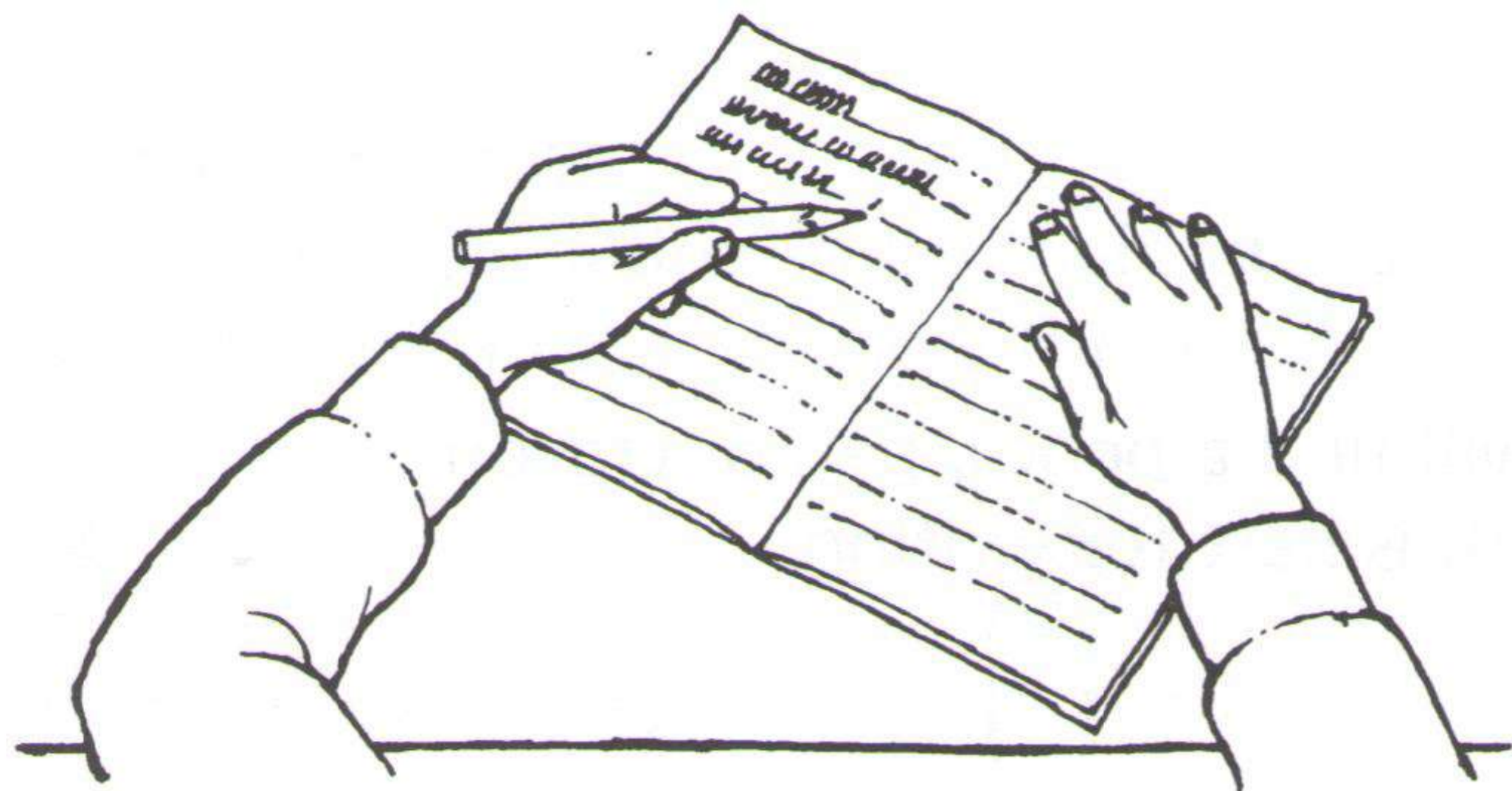
These are examples of the most comfortable and efficient ways of holding a pen or pencil.



Left-handed children

- Encourage left-handed children to hold their pens or pencils far enough from the point to allow them to see their writing.
- The method of holding the pen or pencil should be much the same as for right-handers.
- Paper should be placed to the left and tilted slightly to the right.
- Try to sit left-handed children on the left side of their partners so that they have plenty of room.

This is the best position for left-handed children.



Teaching the pages

- You will find it helpful to work through the book one activity at a time, in the given order.
- However, the book may be used flexibly by choosing activities to complement other work being done in class.

Before you start a lesson

- Read the Check-up questions (on the inside of the front cover) with the children to make sure they are ready to begin.

During a lesson

- Make sure the children understand what they have to do.
- Use language appropriate to the children.
- Talk to the children about what they are doing.
- Look for bad habits and deal with them before they become established.

After each lesson

- Read through the Check-up questions (on the inside of the front cover) with the children to help them assess how well they have done.

Extra practice

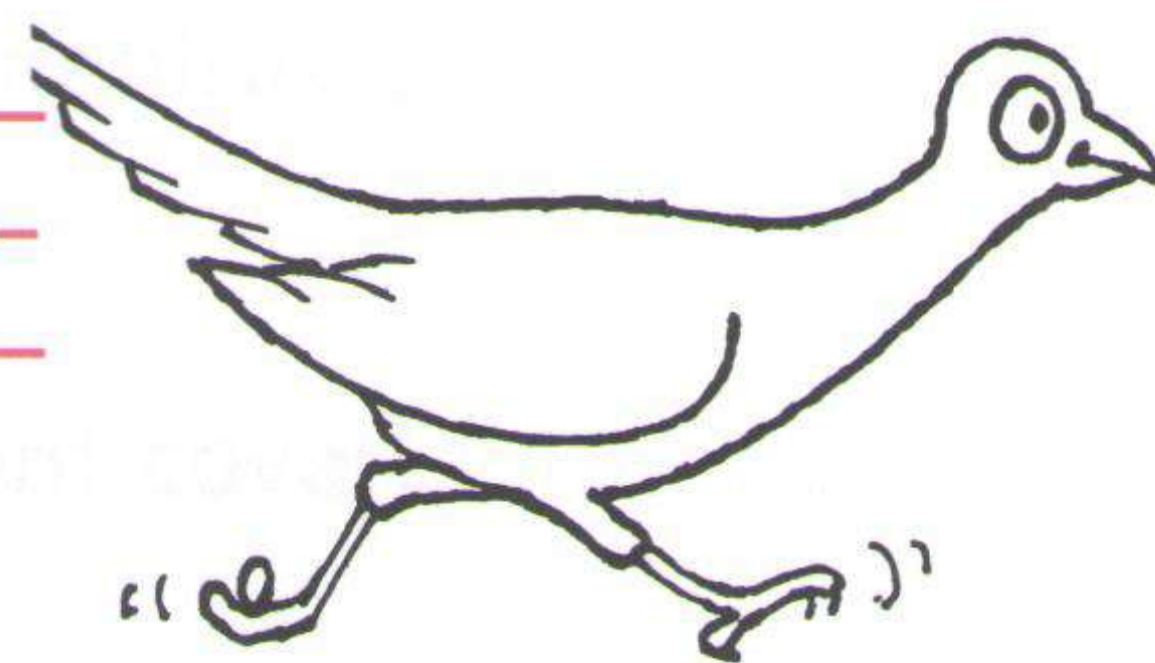
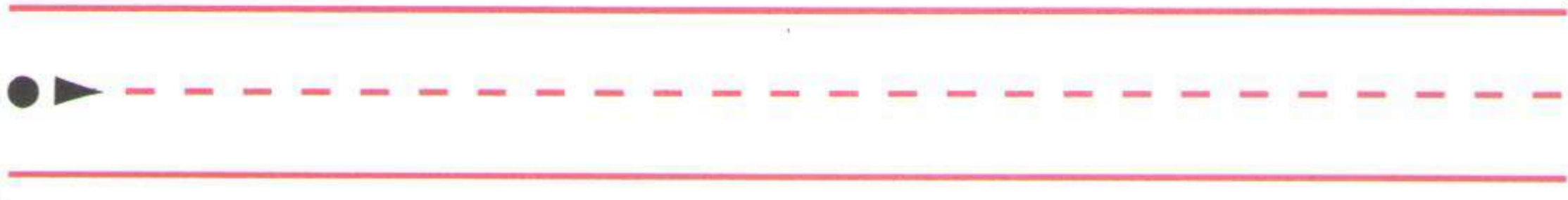
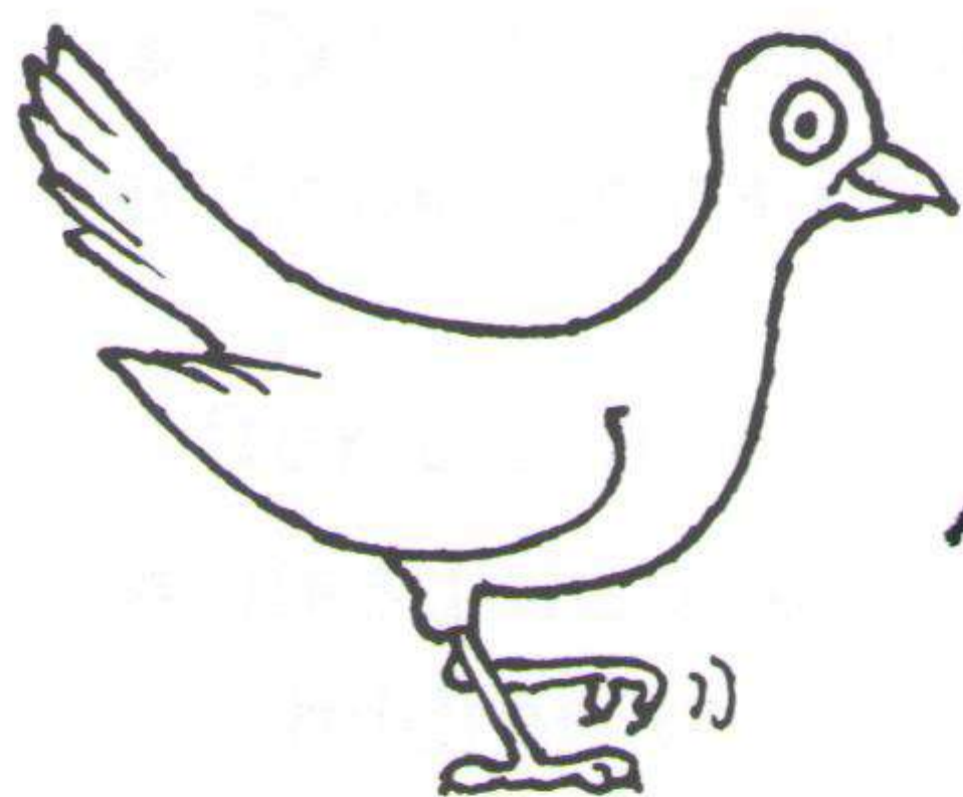
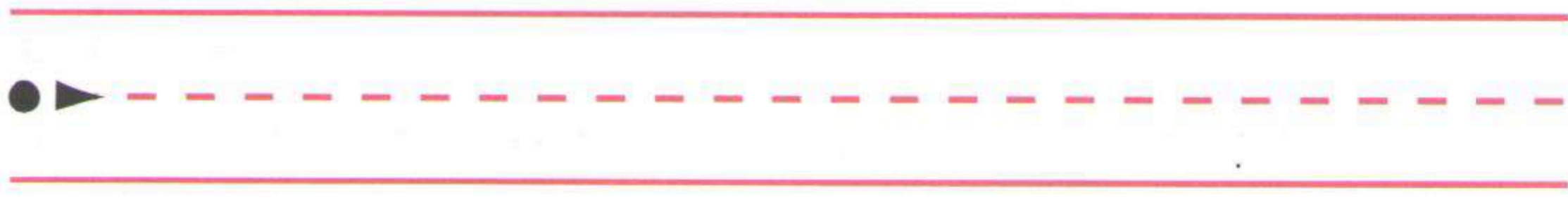
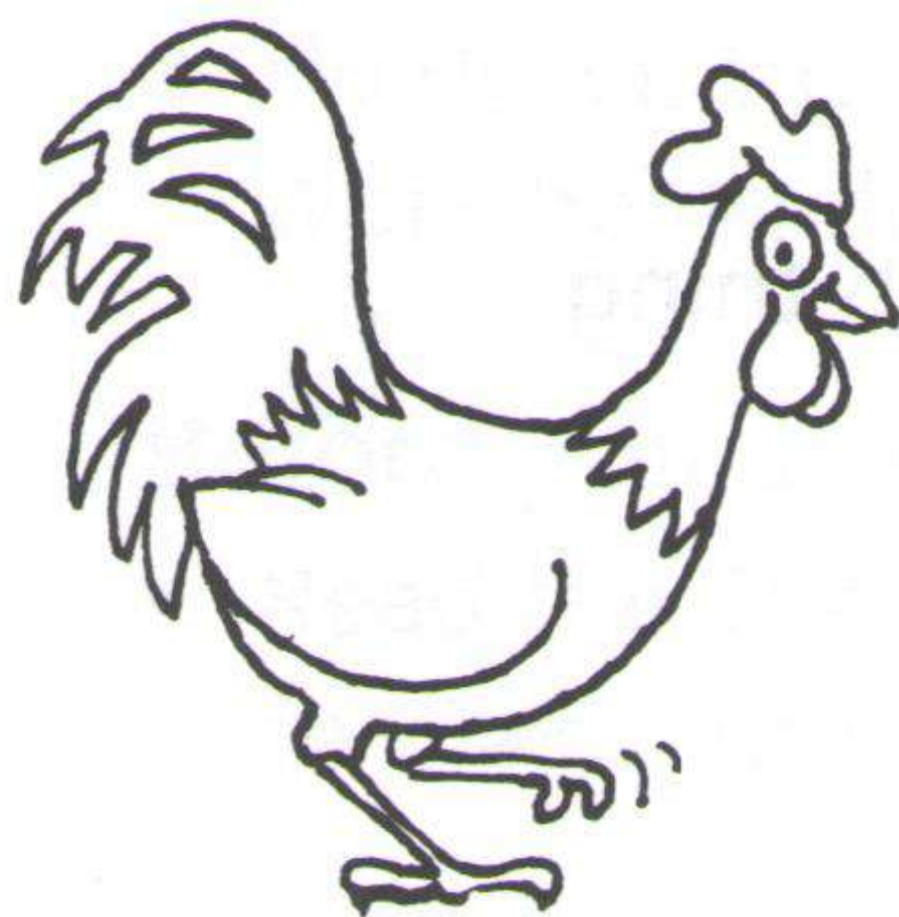
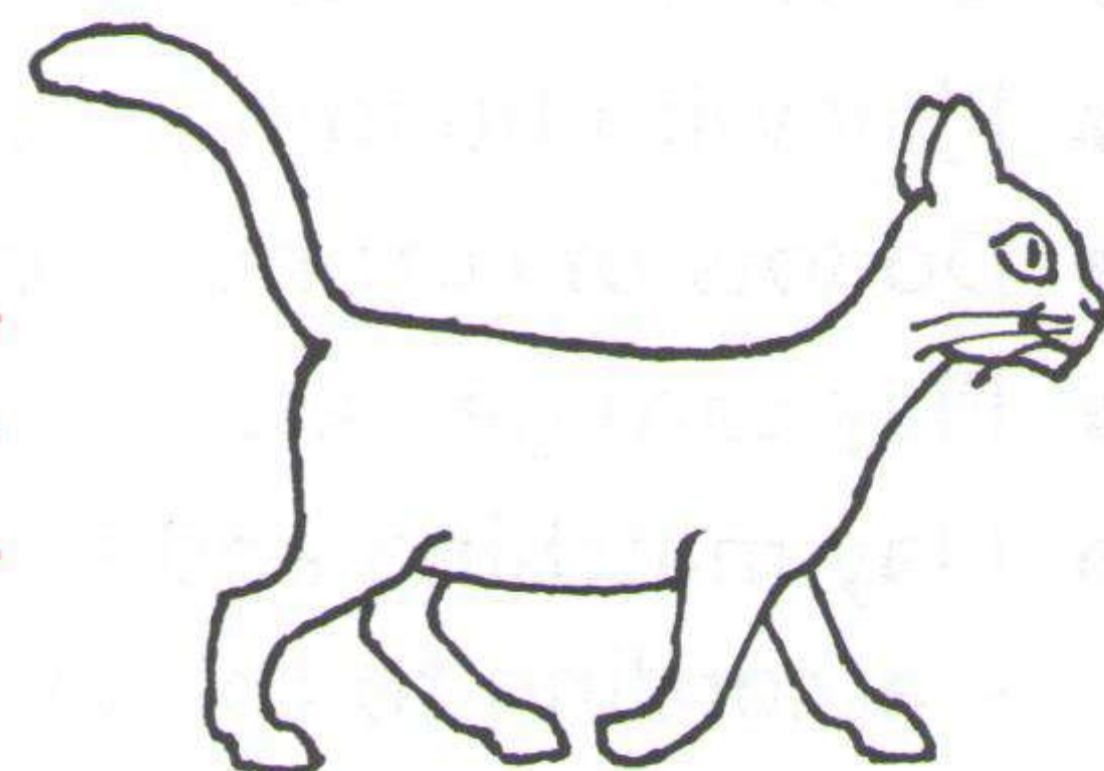
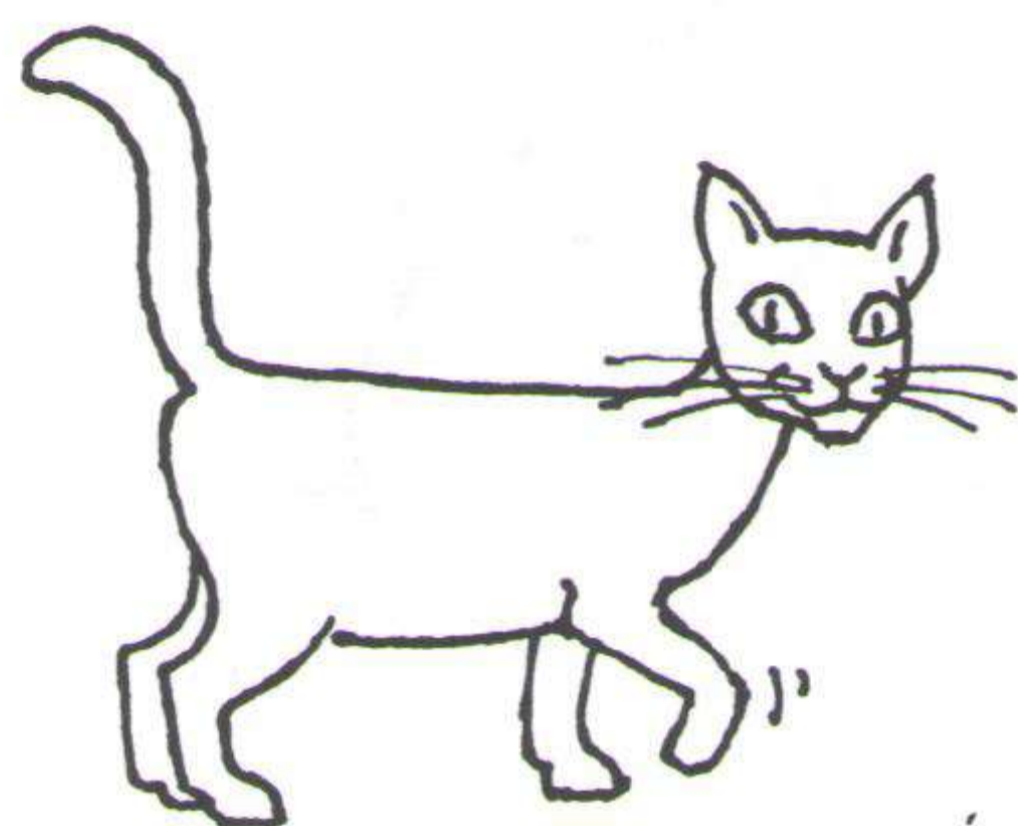
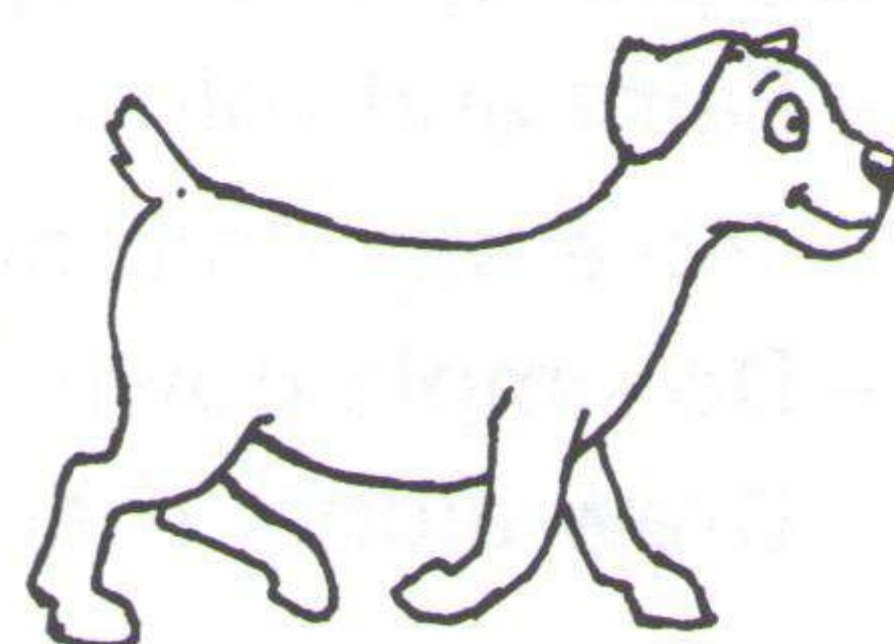
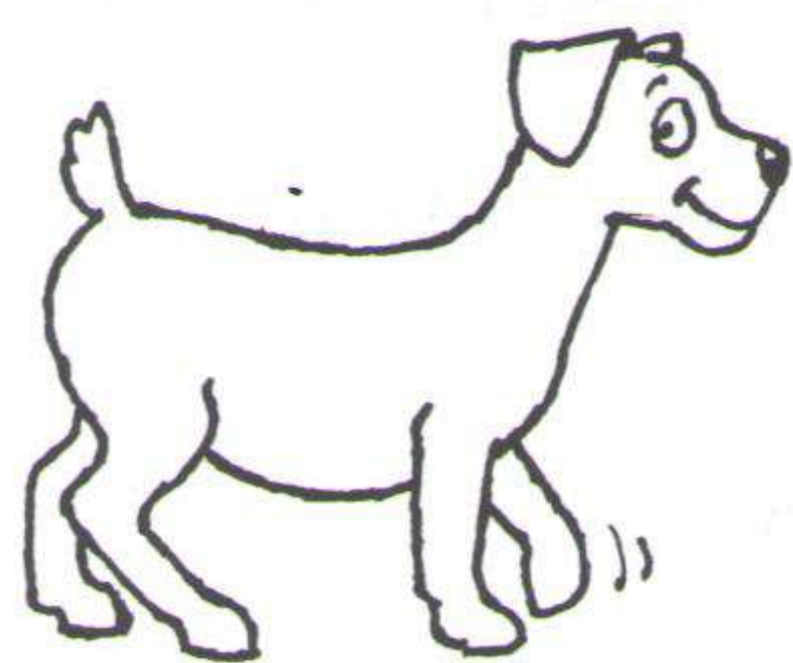
- The activities in this workbook will help children develop essential pre-writing skills.
- Give children lots of other opportunities for practice.
- Use a variety of different writing/drawing and painting tools (pencils, pens, crayons, chalks, paintbrushes) and types of paper.
- Do plenty of the following activities:
 - Paint and colour large pictures and patterns.
 - Trace big, bold outline pictures.
 - Do simple dot-to-dots and mazes
 - Draw along 'roads' or 'tracks' drawn on paper in a left to right direction.

Other activities that help develop pre-writing skills

- Make things with dough or clay.
- Do wooden puzzles.
- Play with building toys e.g. bricks.
- Do lots of cutting and sticking.
- Play card games.
- Play matching and sorting games:
 - according to colour – use buttons, crayons, clothes etc.
 - according to shape – use everyday objects like doors, windows etc.
 - according to size – use toys, clothes and bits of paper of varying sizes.
- Make patterns with beads, sticky coloured paper etc.
- Look for small things 'hiding' in larger pictures.
- Play 'odd one out games' e.g. line up three socks and a tie and ask which thing does not belong.

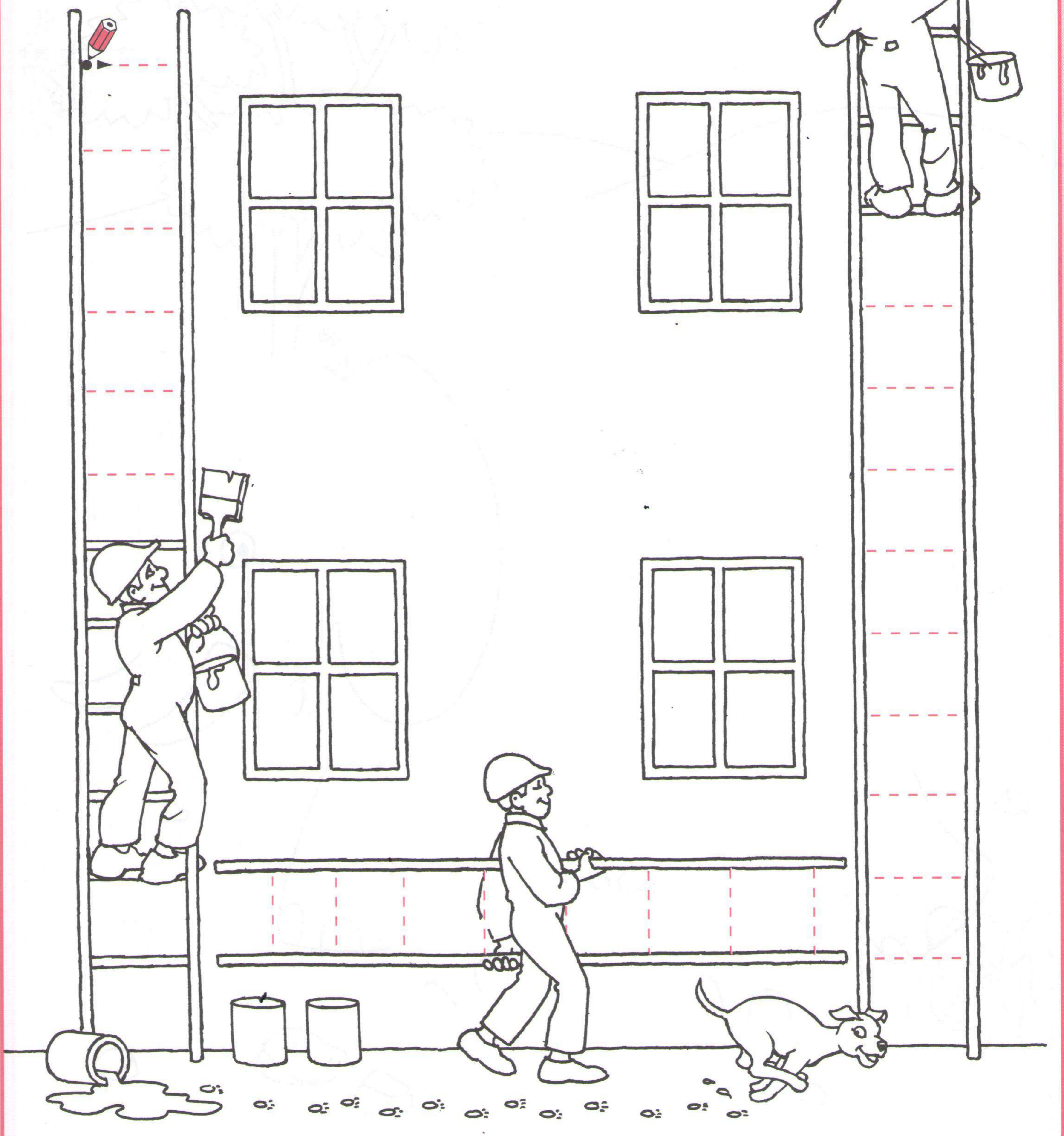
Animals

Join the same. Colour.



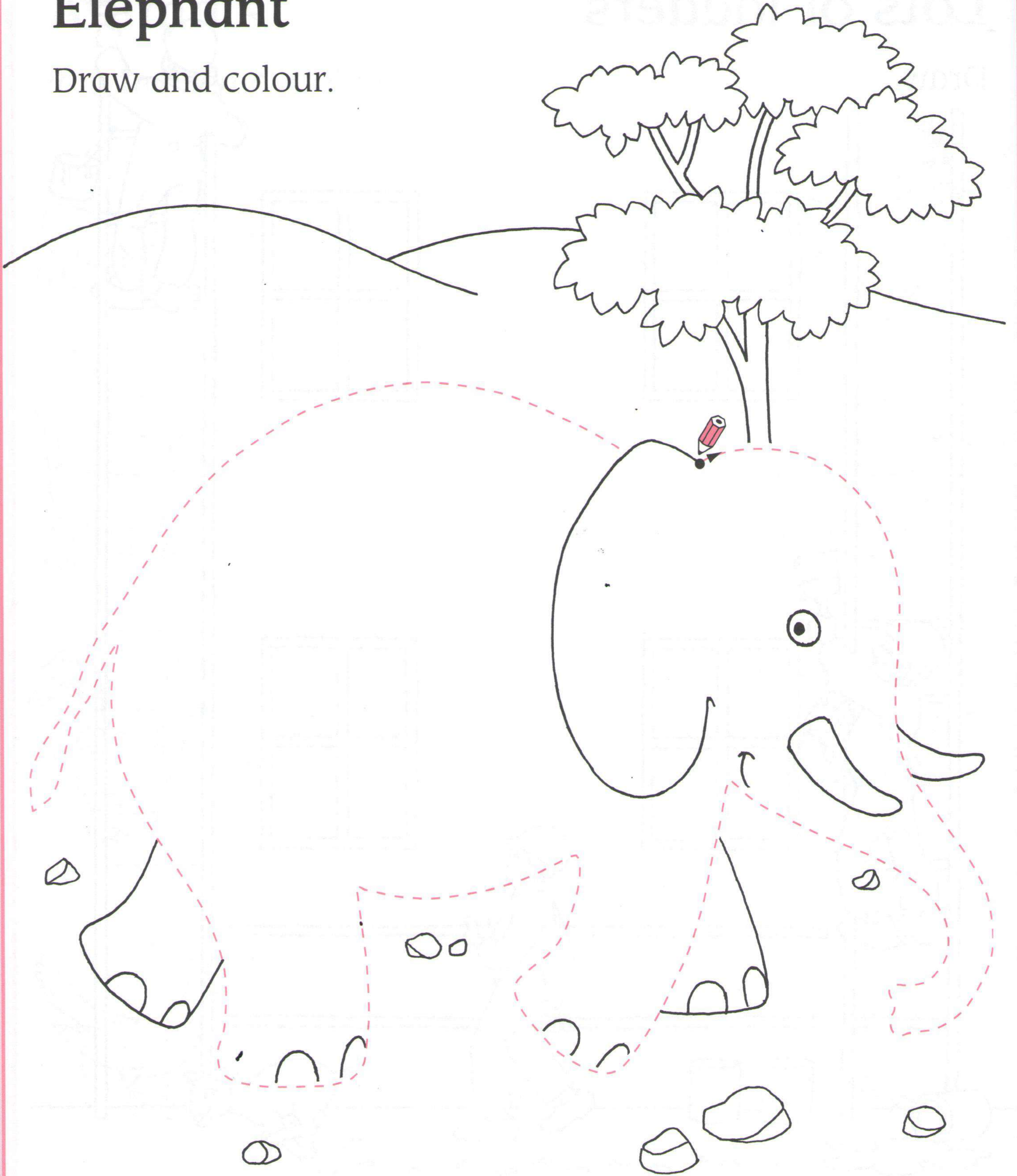
Lots of ladders

Draw.



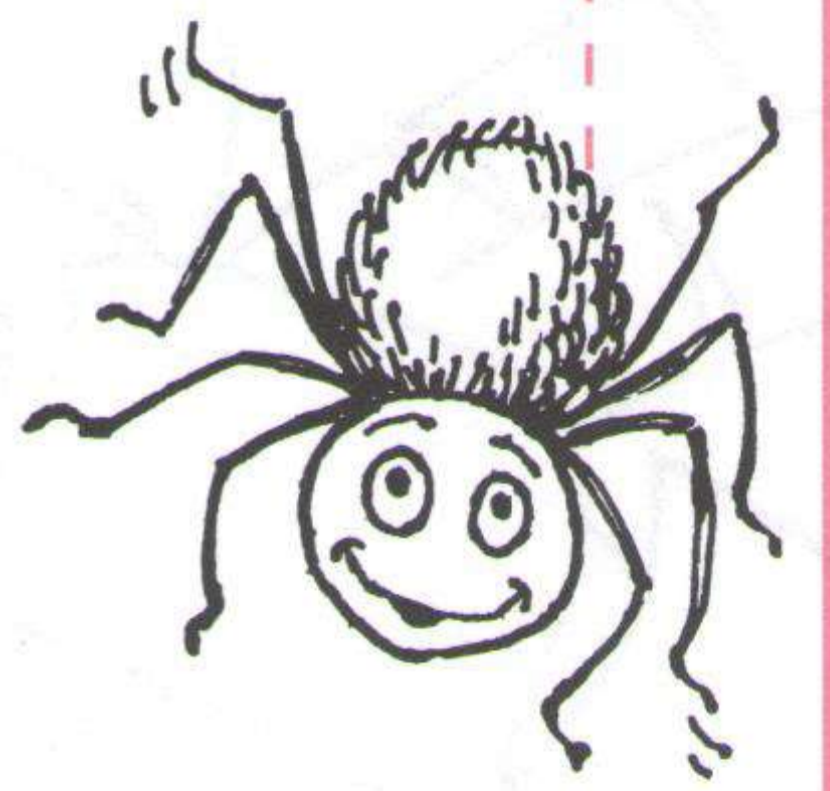
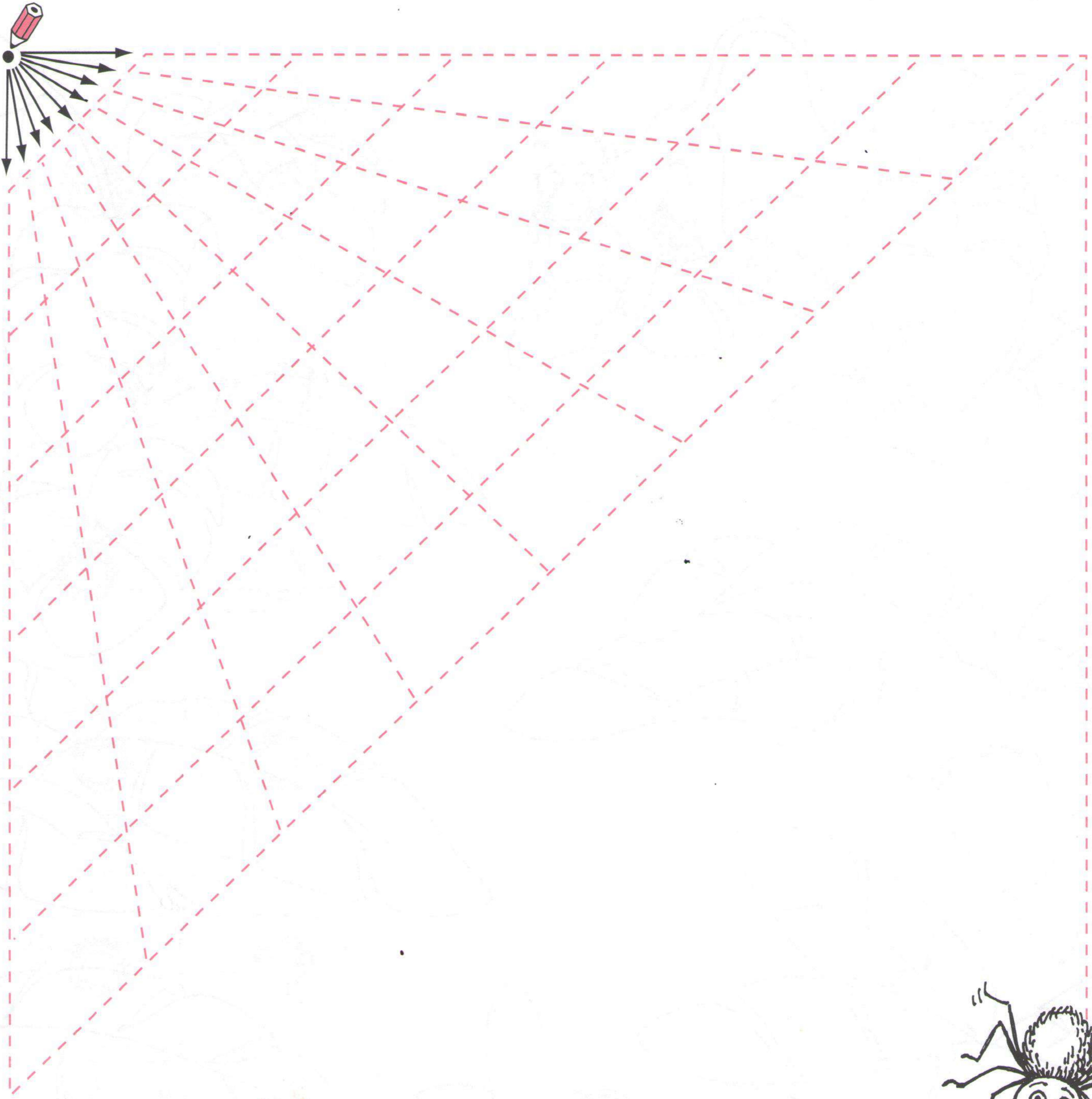
Elephant

Draw and colour.



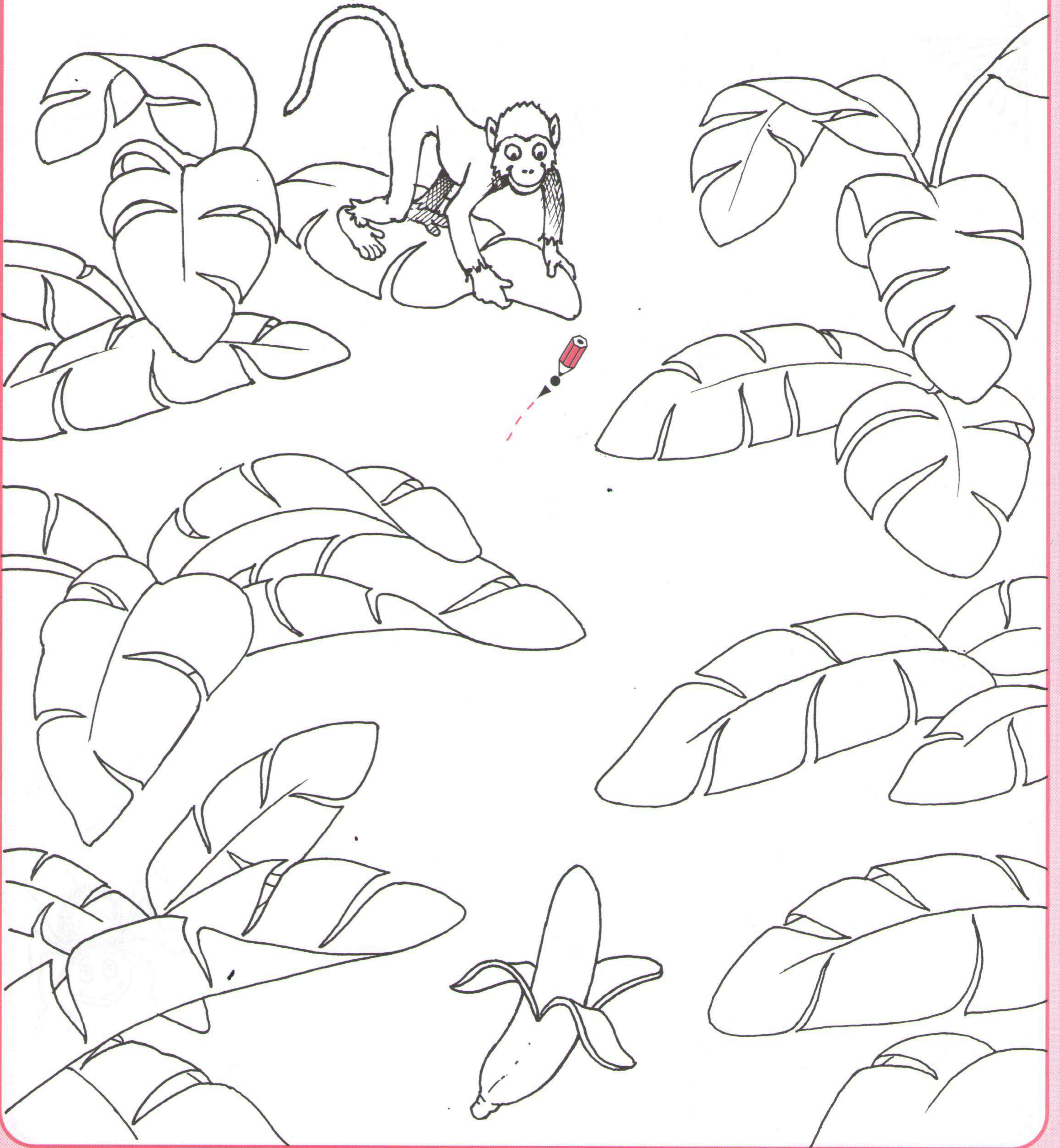
Spider

Draw.



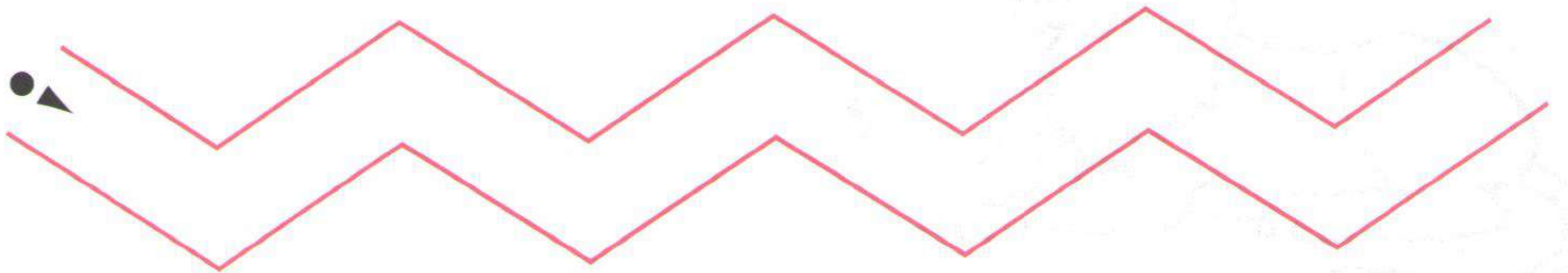
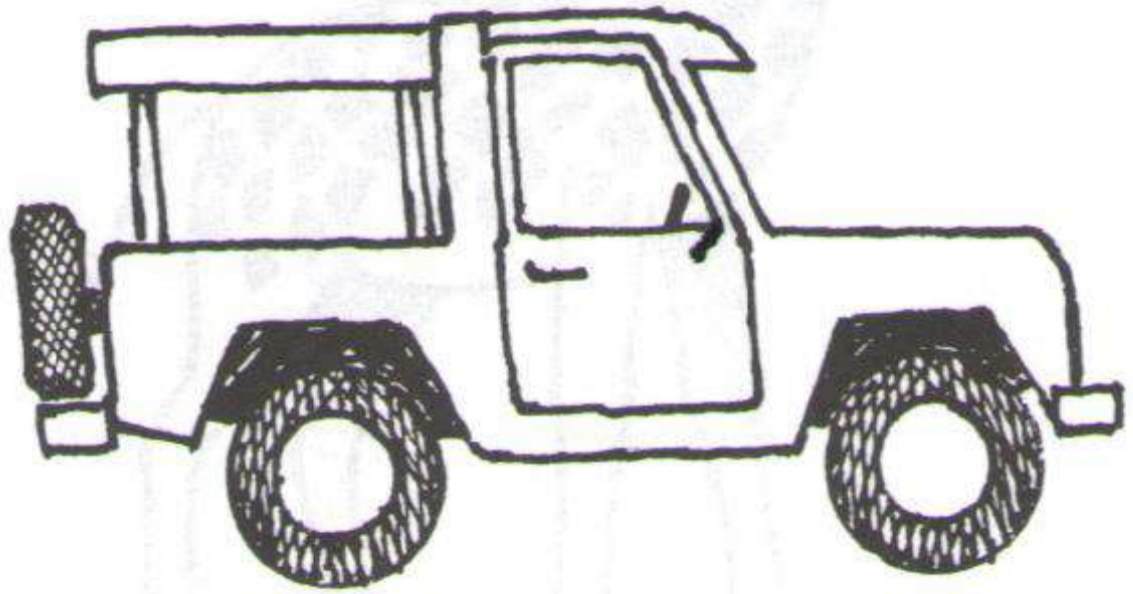
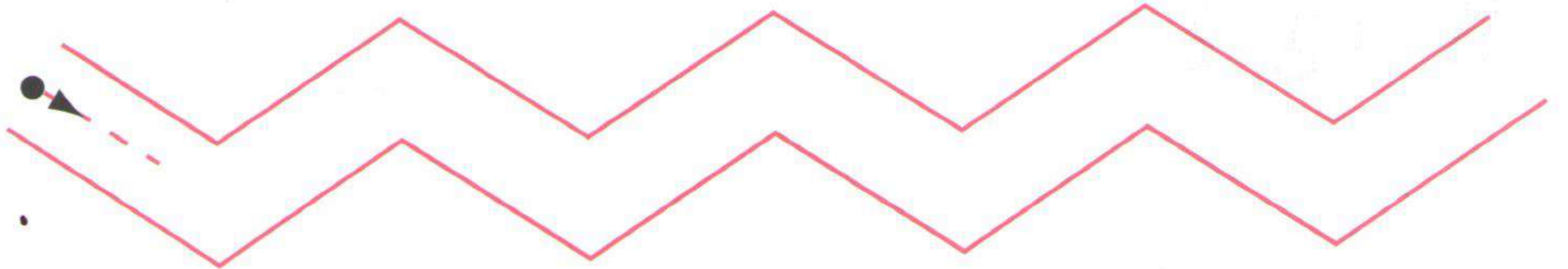
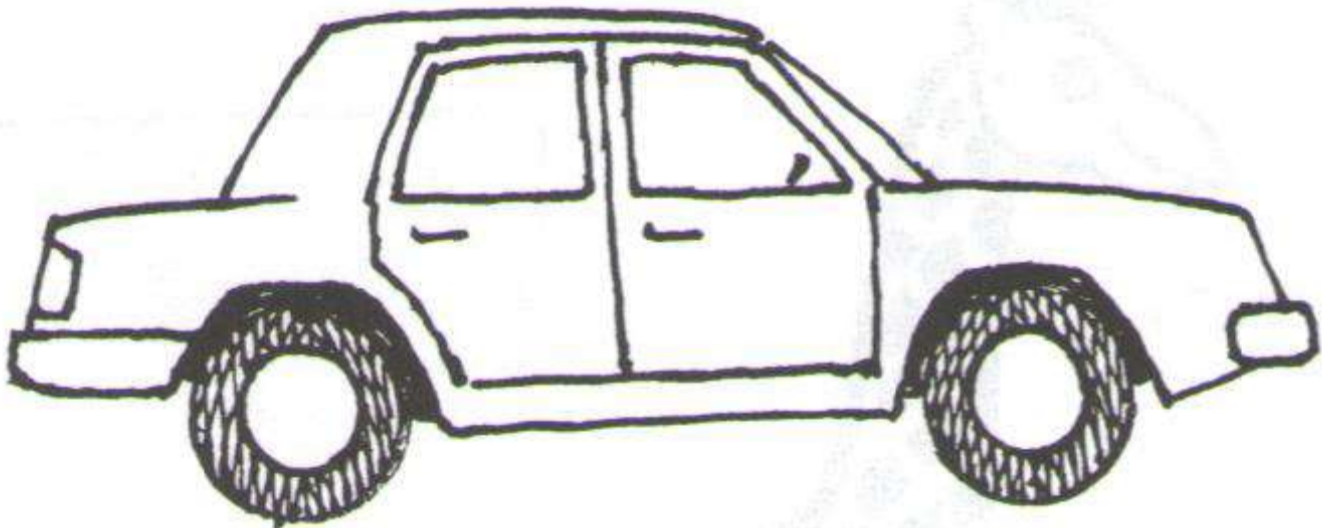
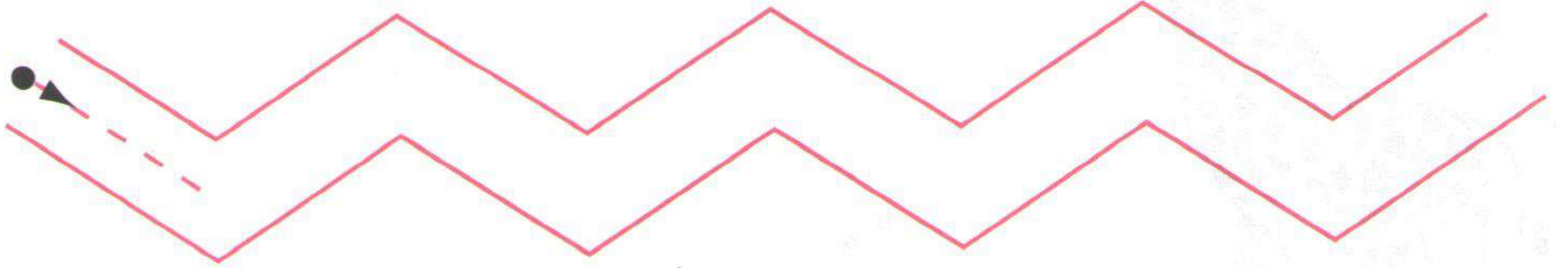
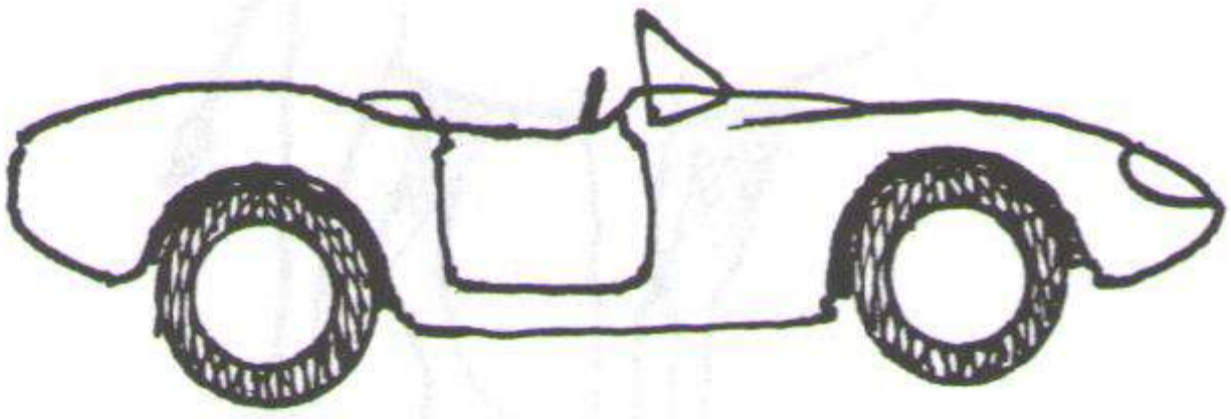
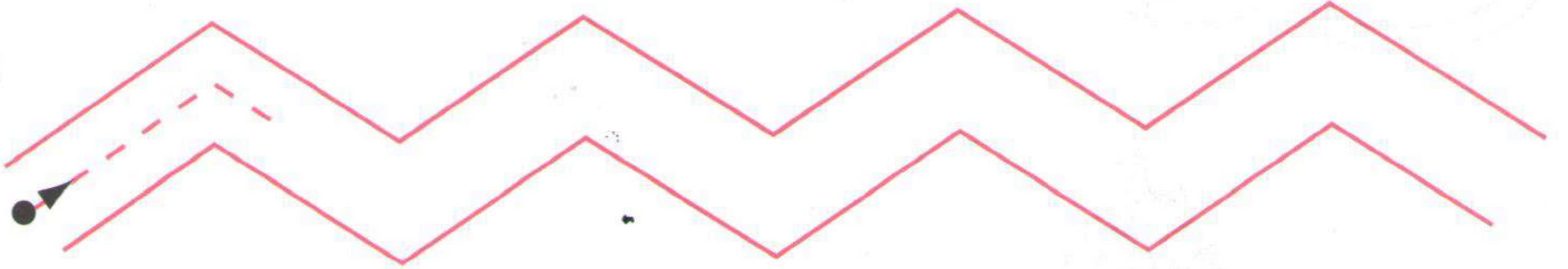
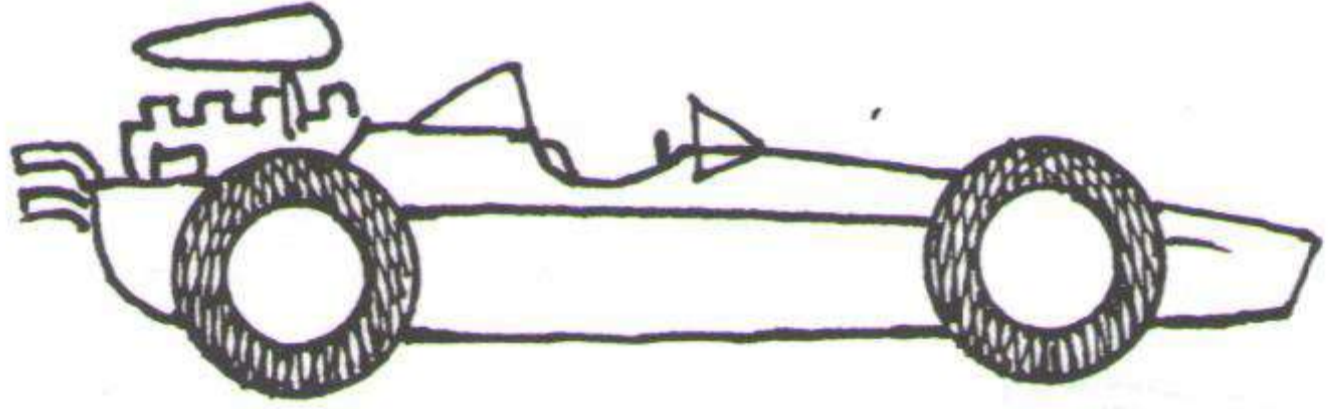
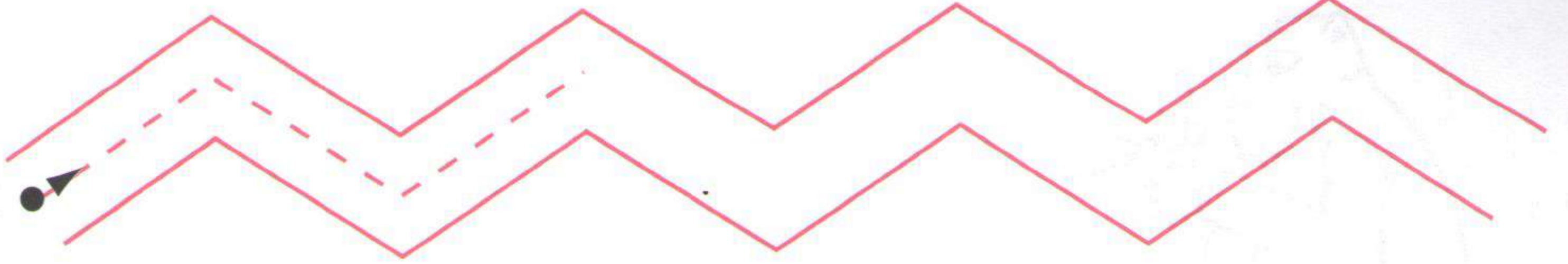
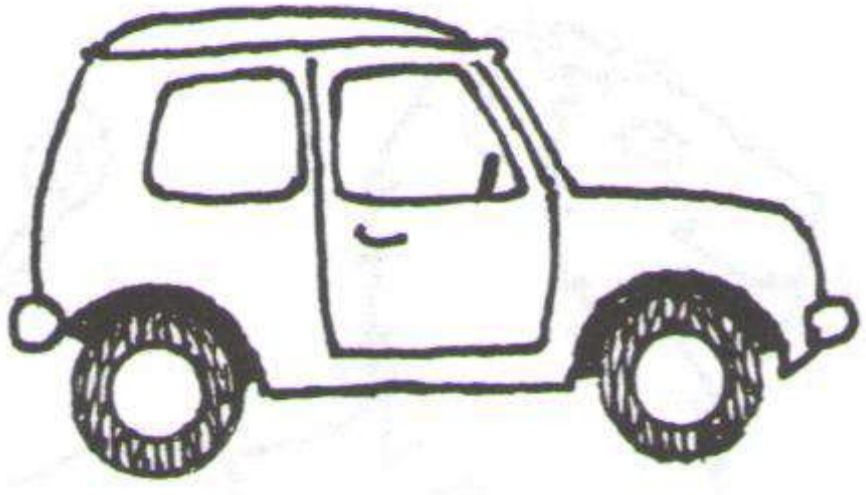
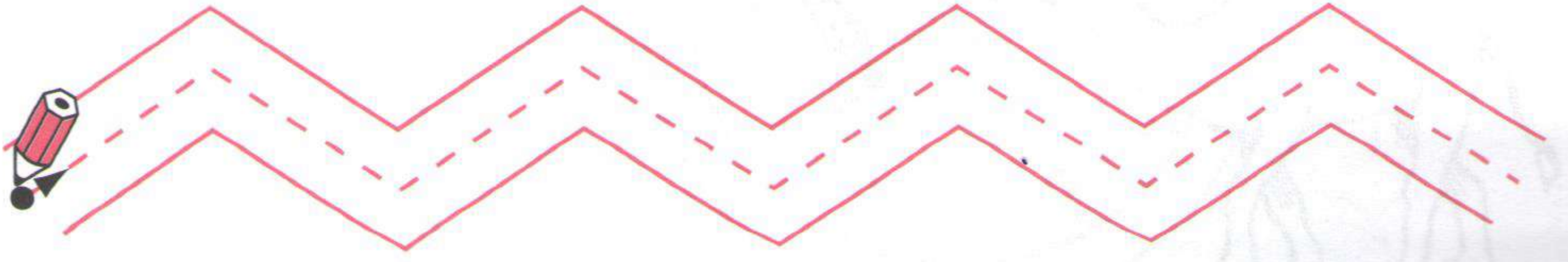
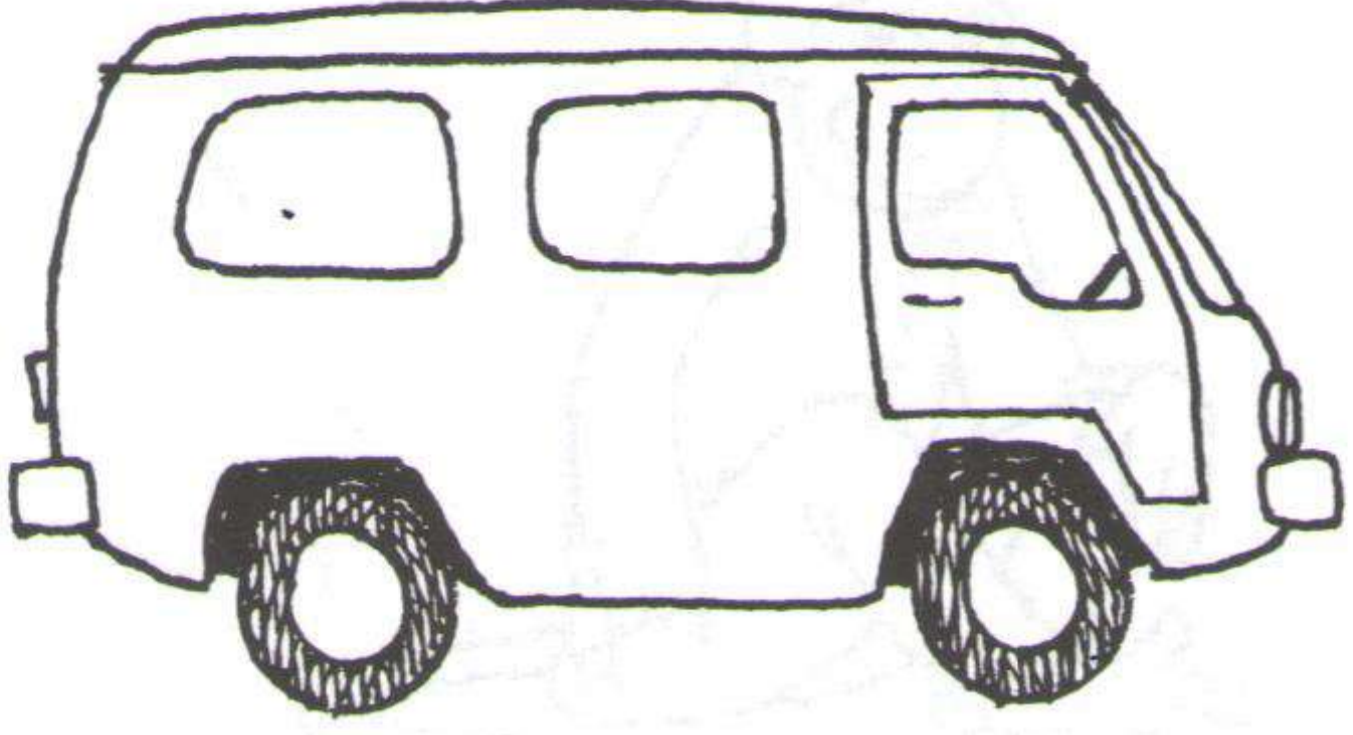
Monkey

Help monkey get the banana. Don't touch the leaves.



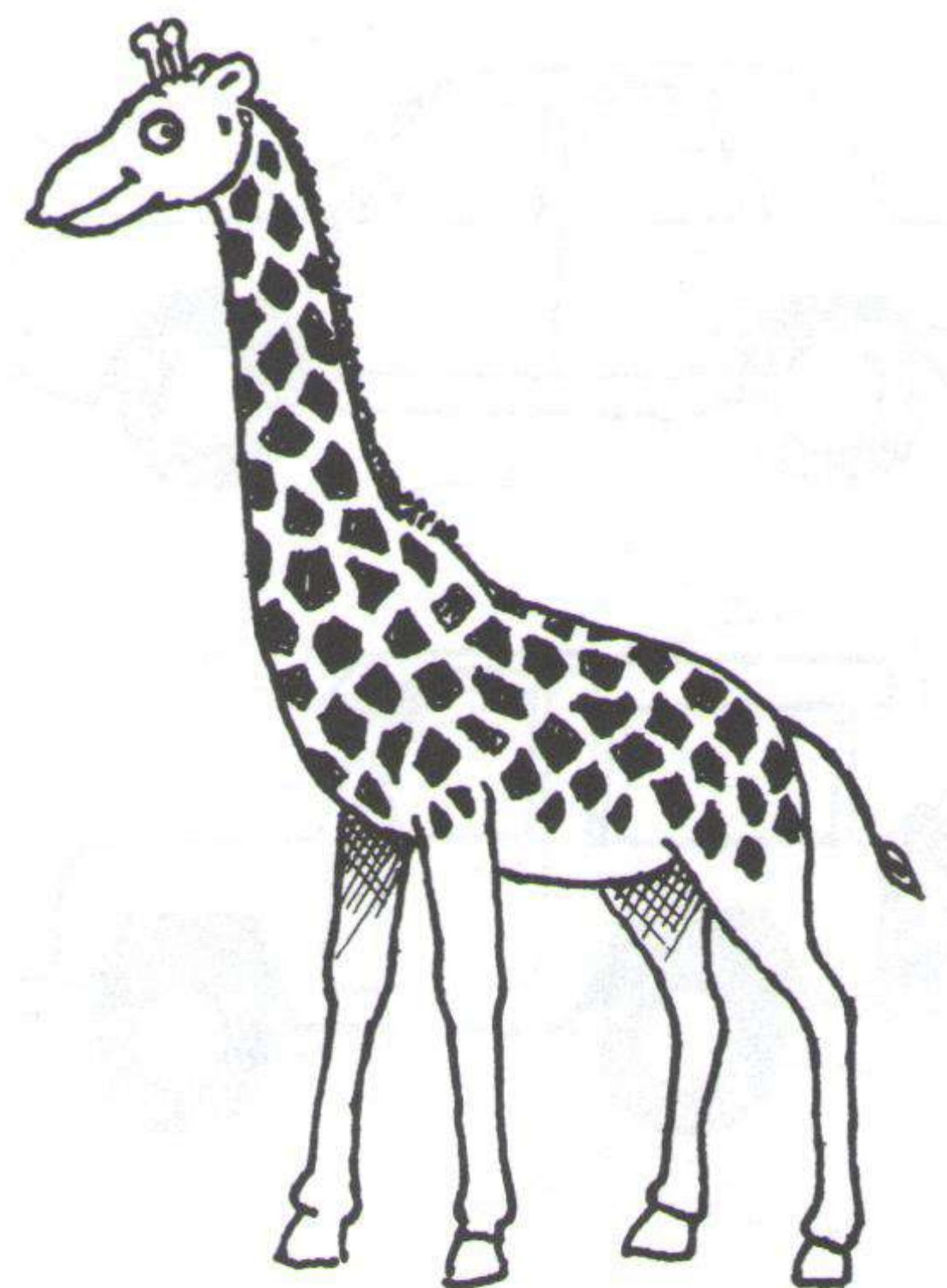
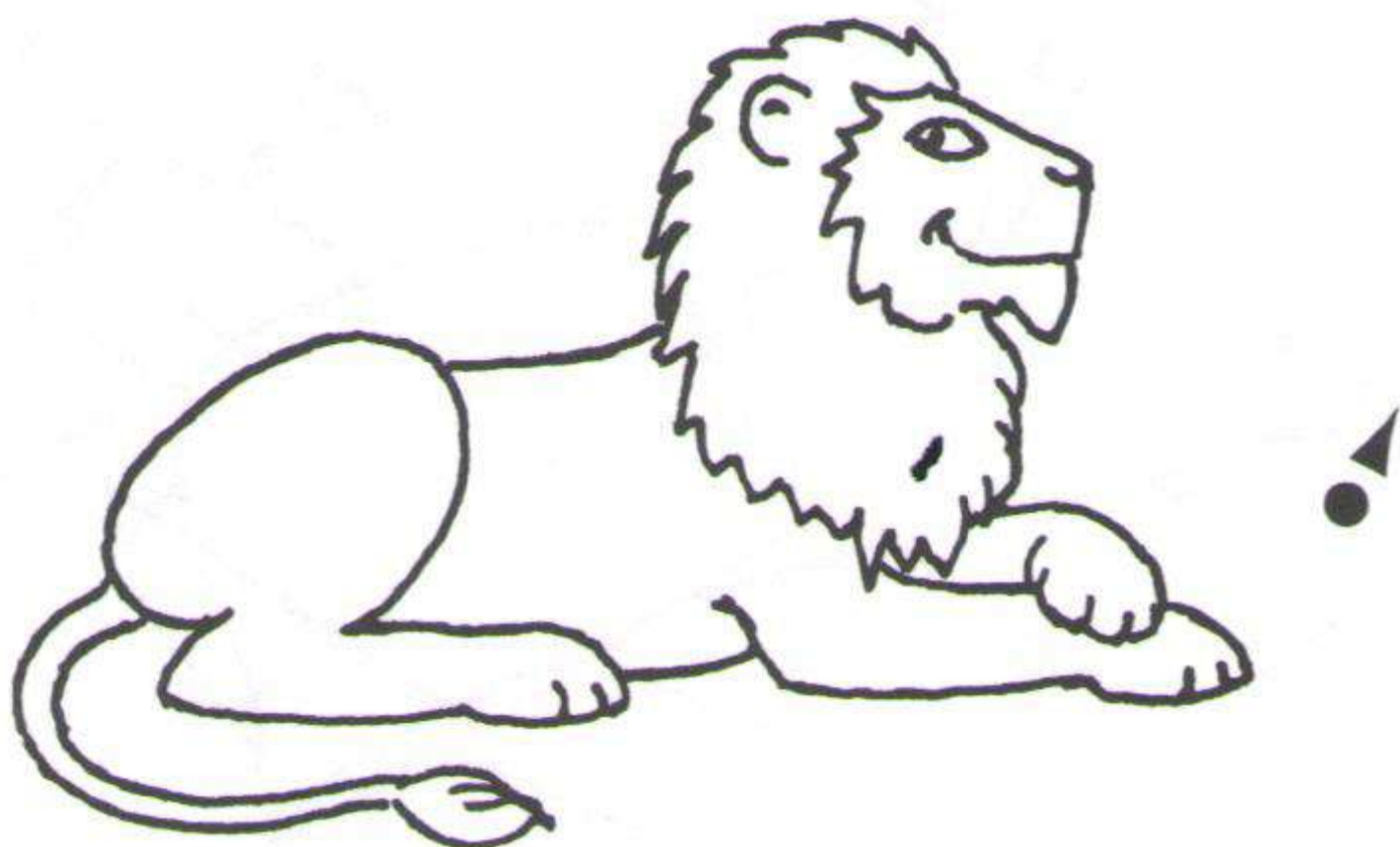
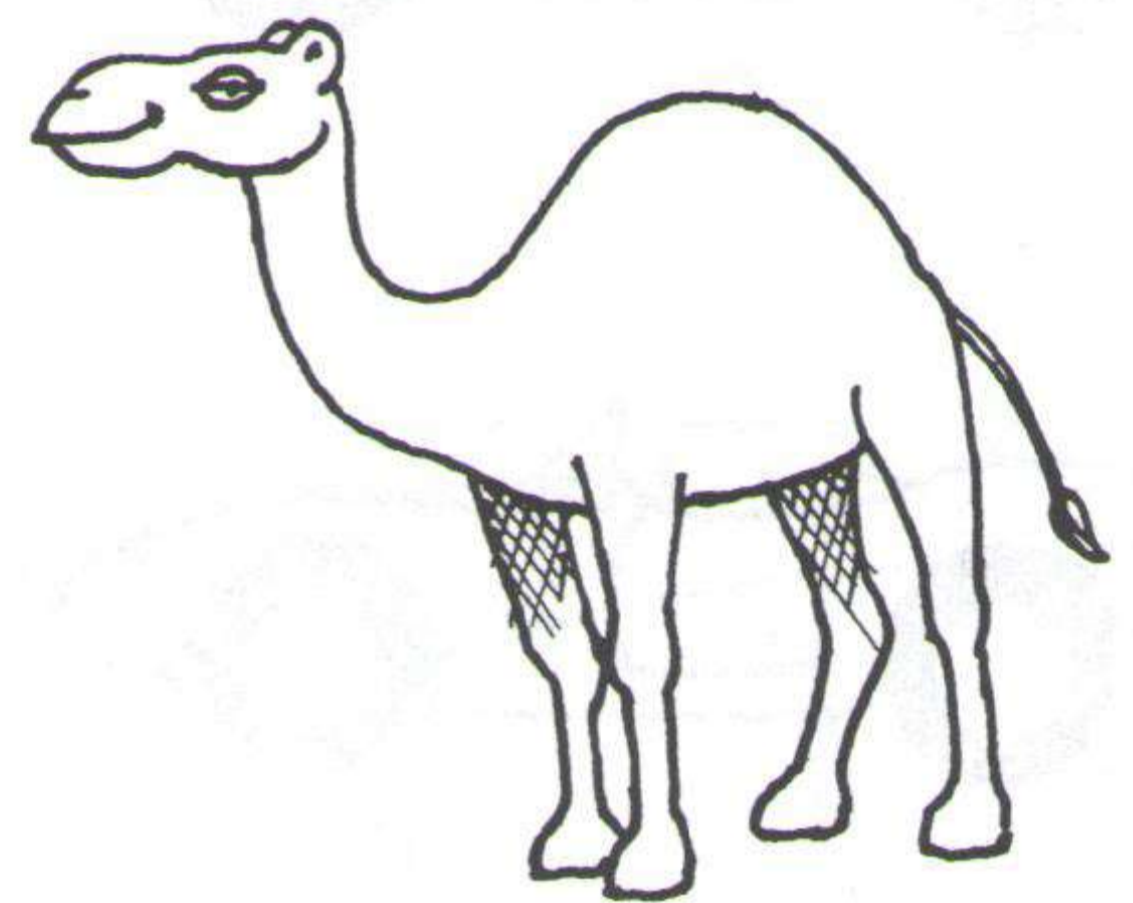
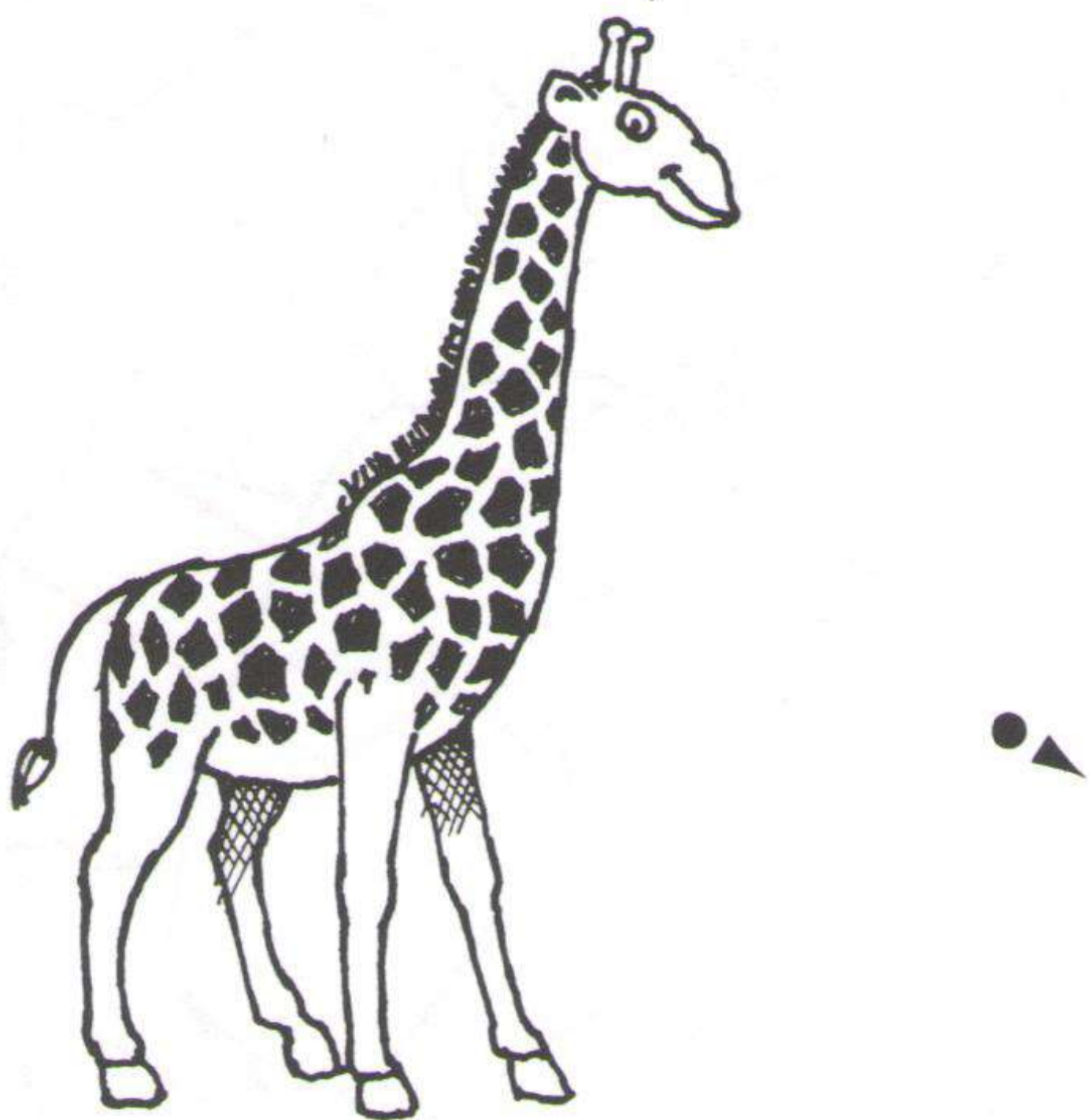
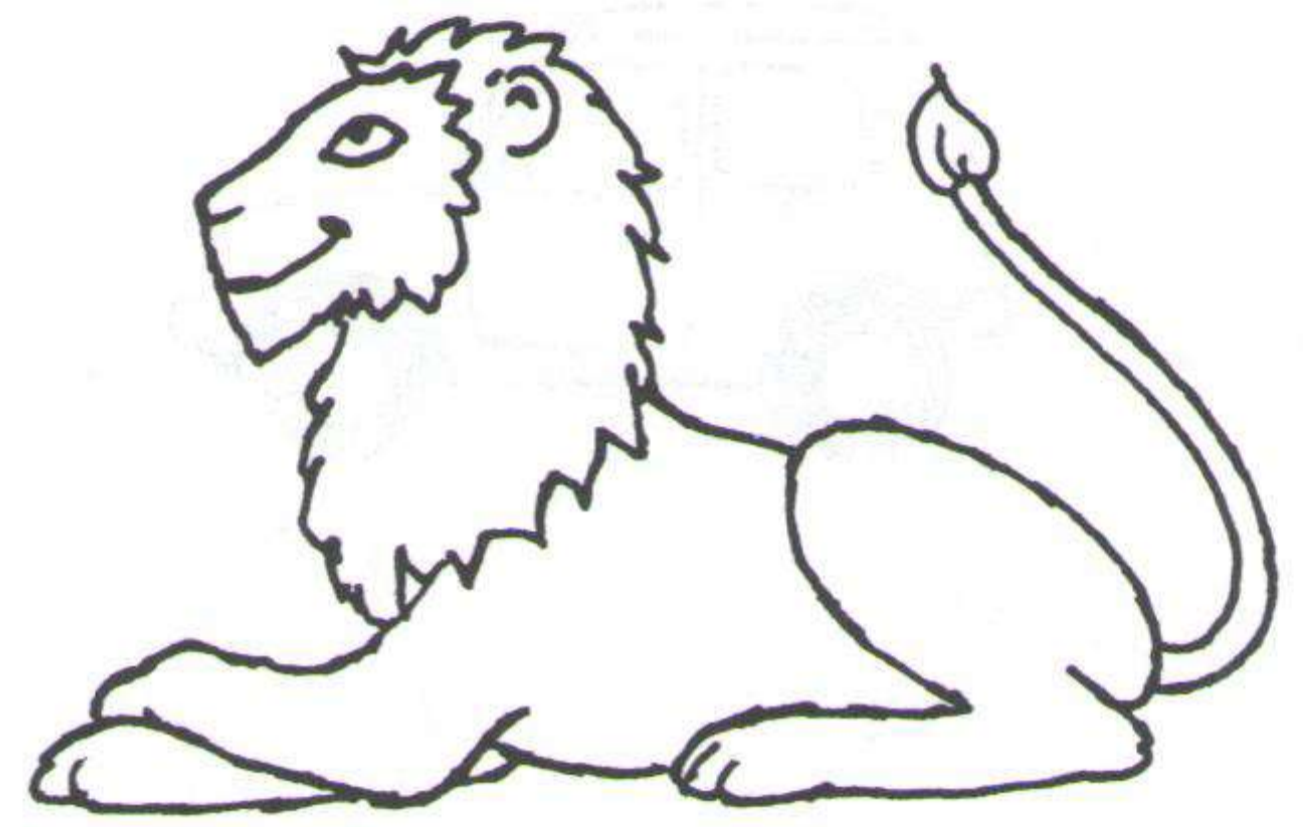
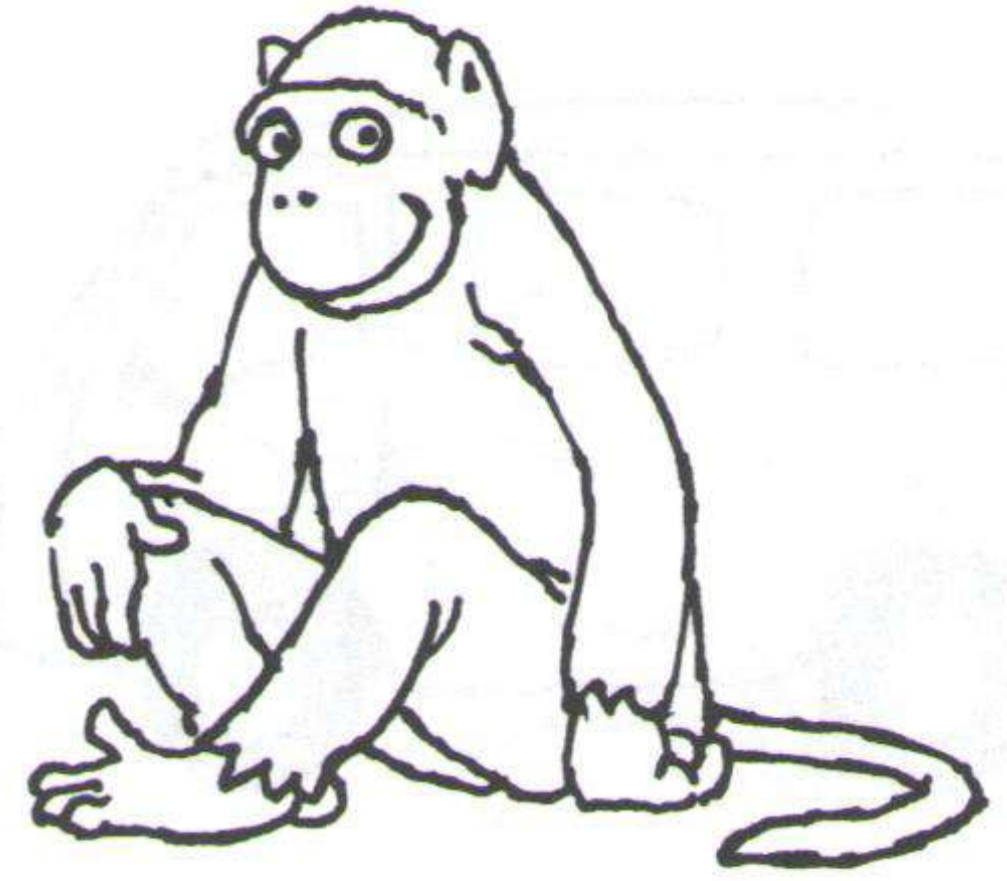
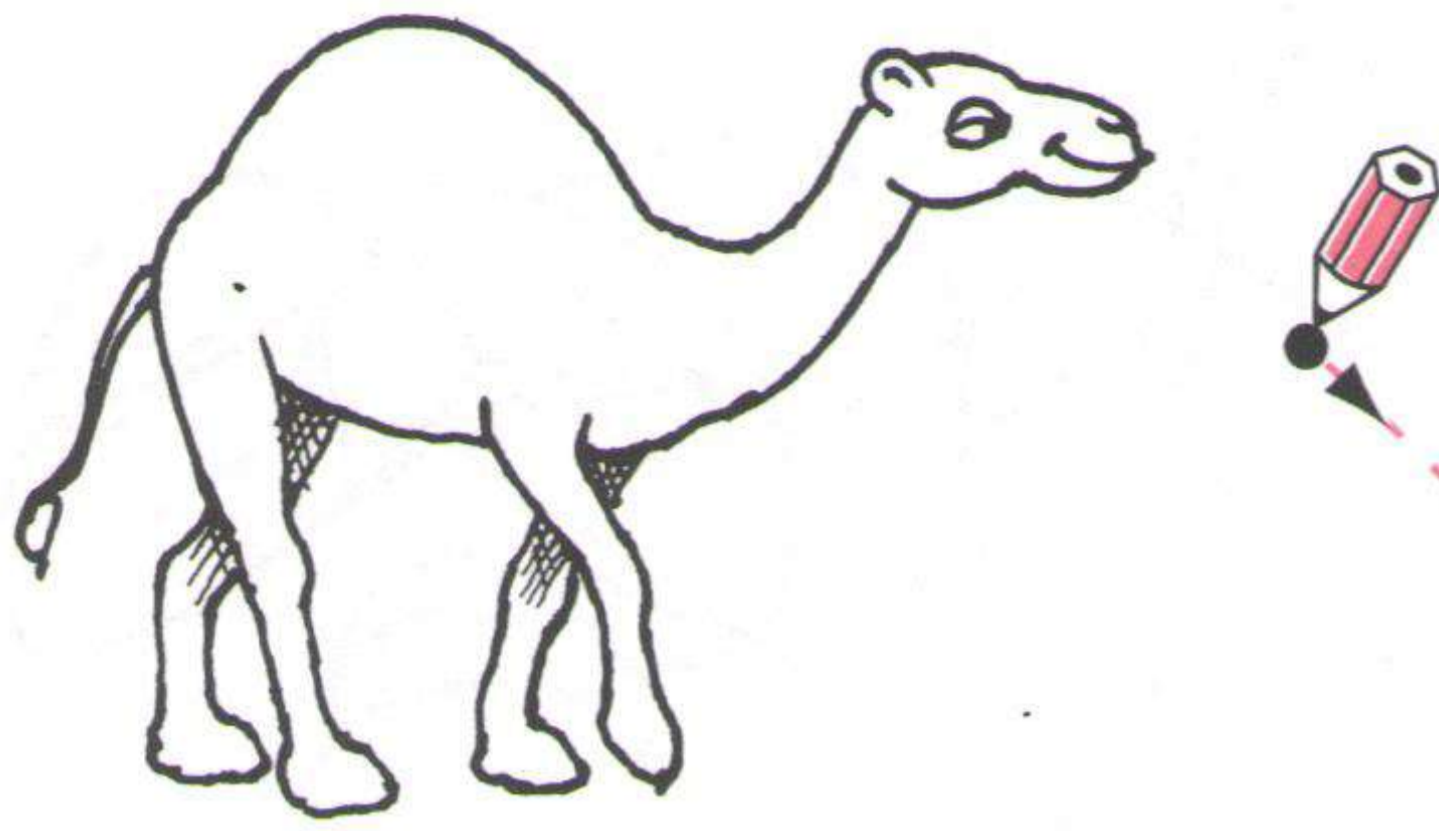
Cars

Drive the cars along the roads.



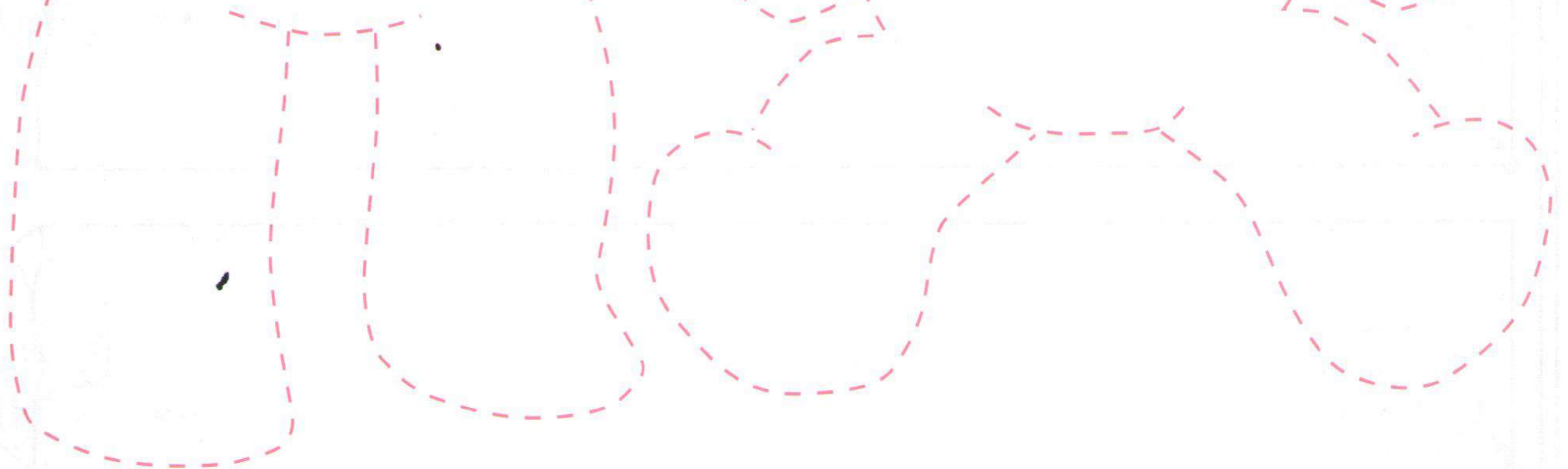
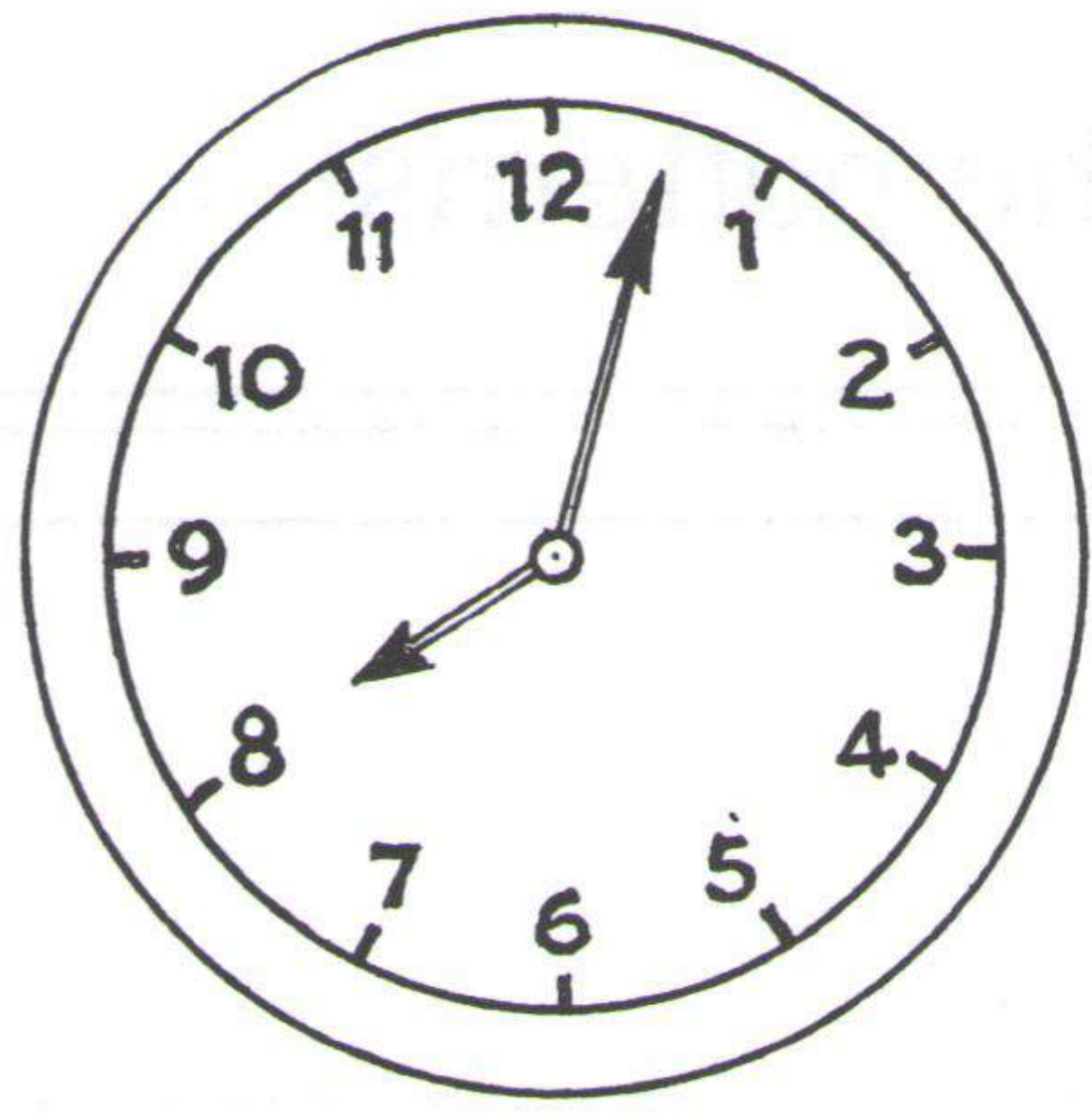
Wild animals

Join the same. Colour.



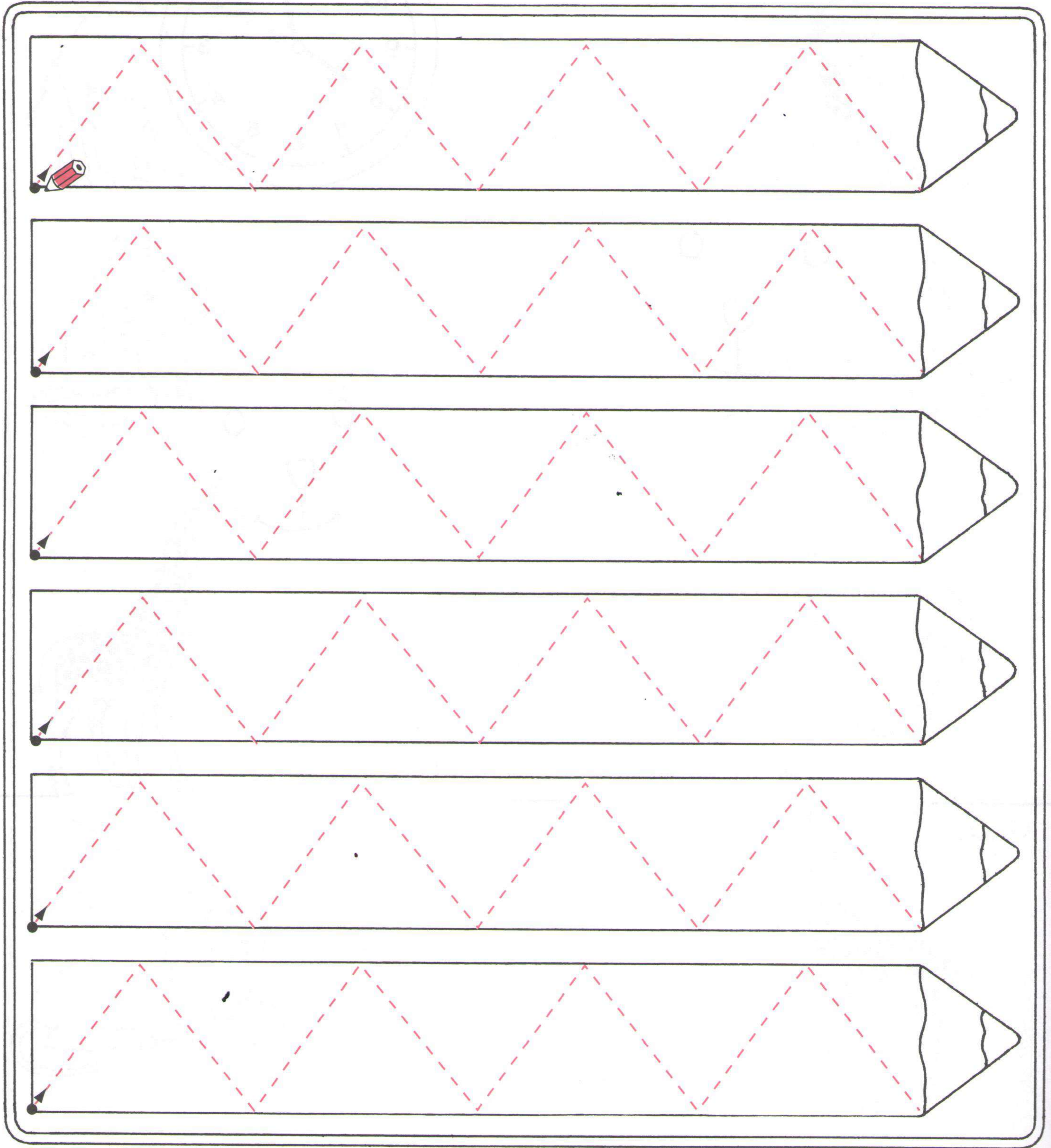
Two teddies

Draw.



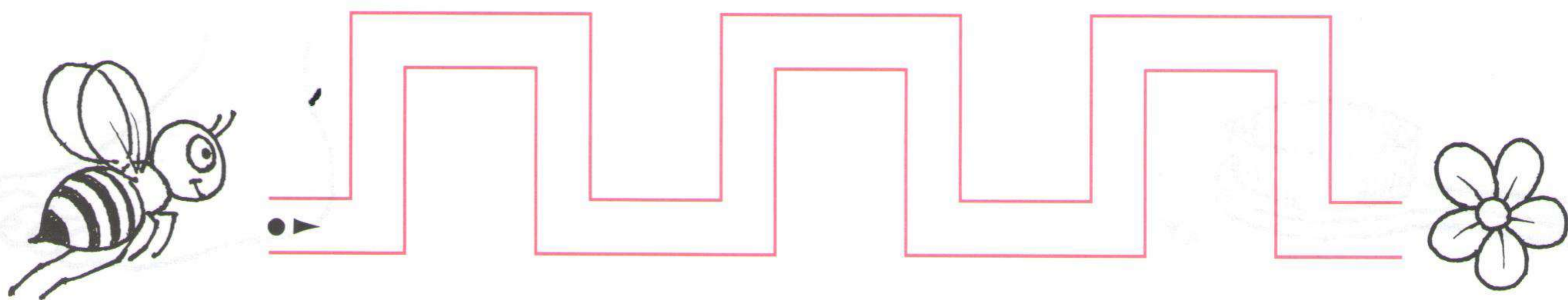
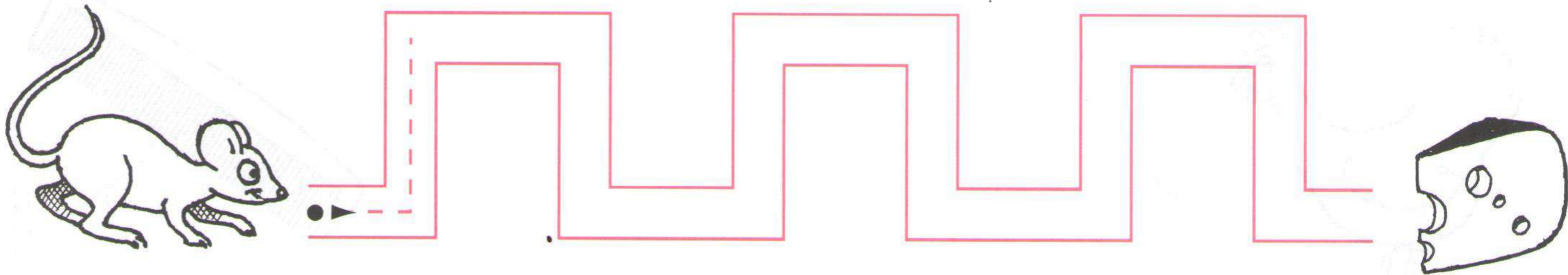
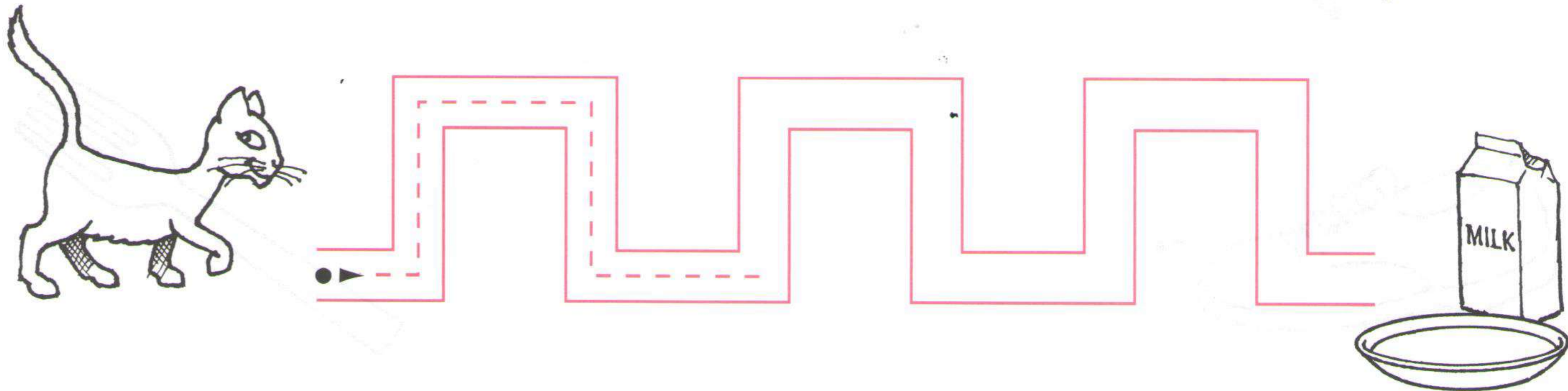
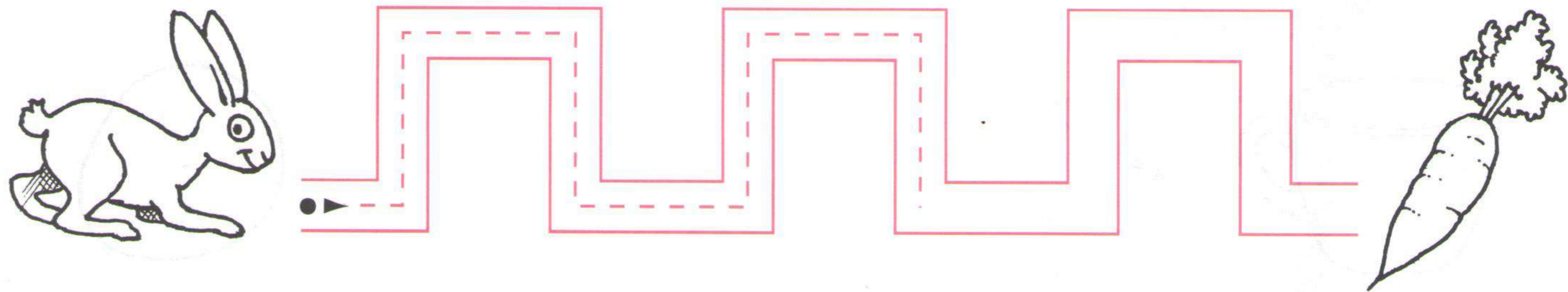
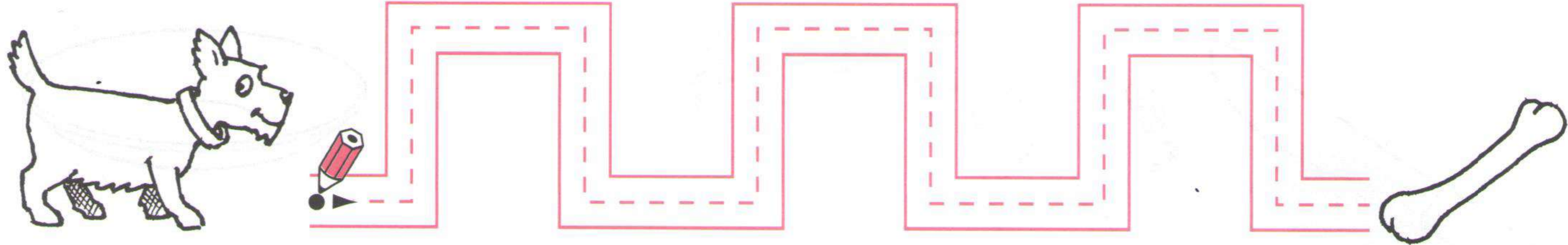
Pencils

Draw the patterns.



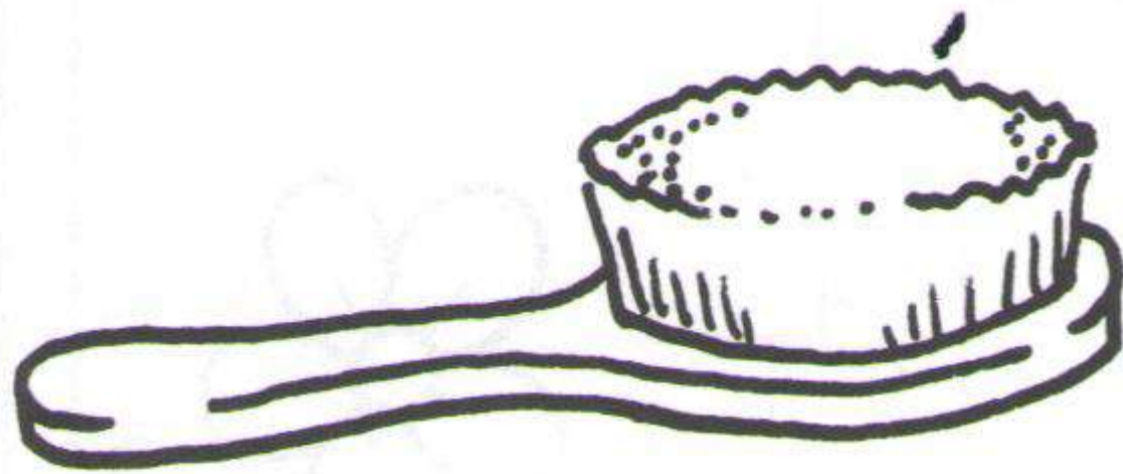
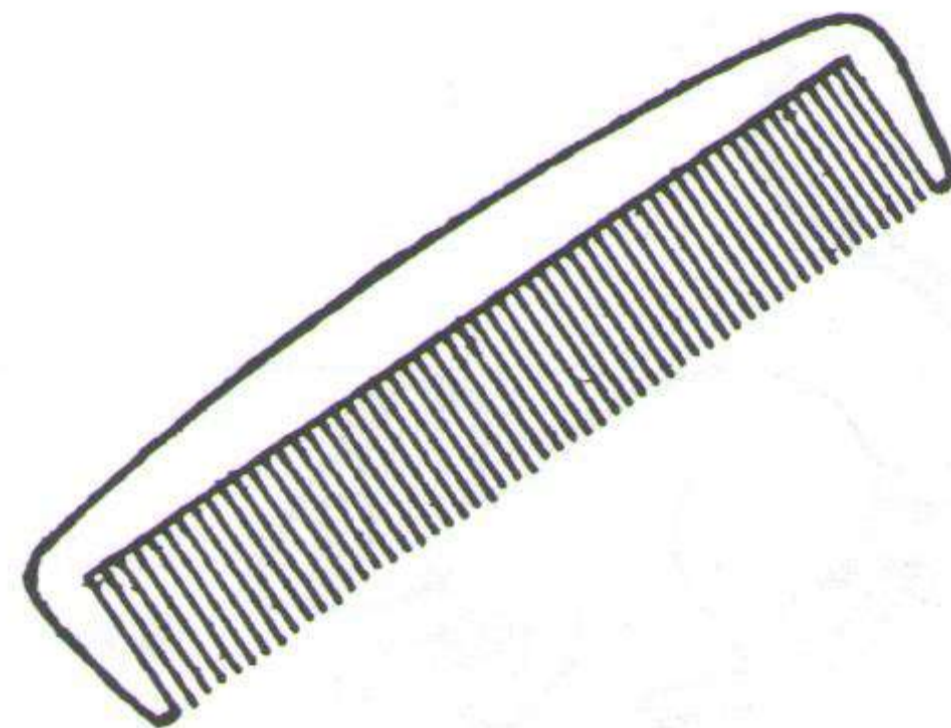
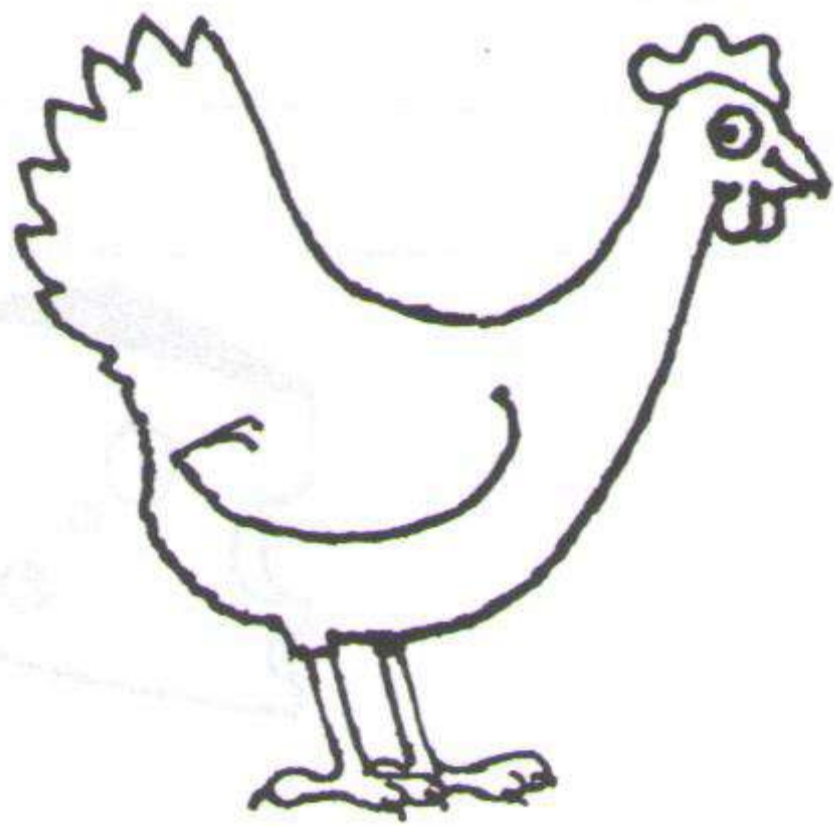
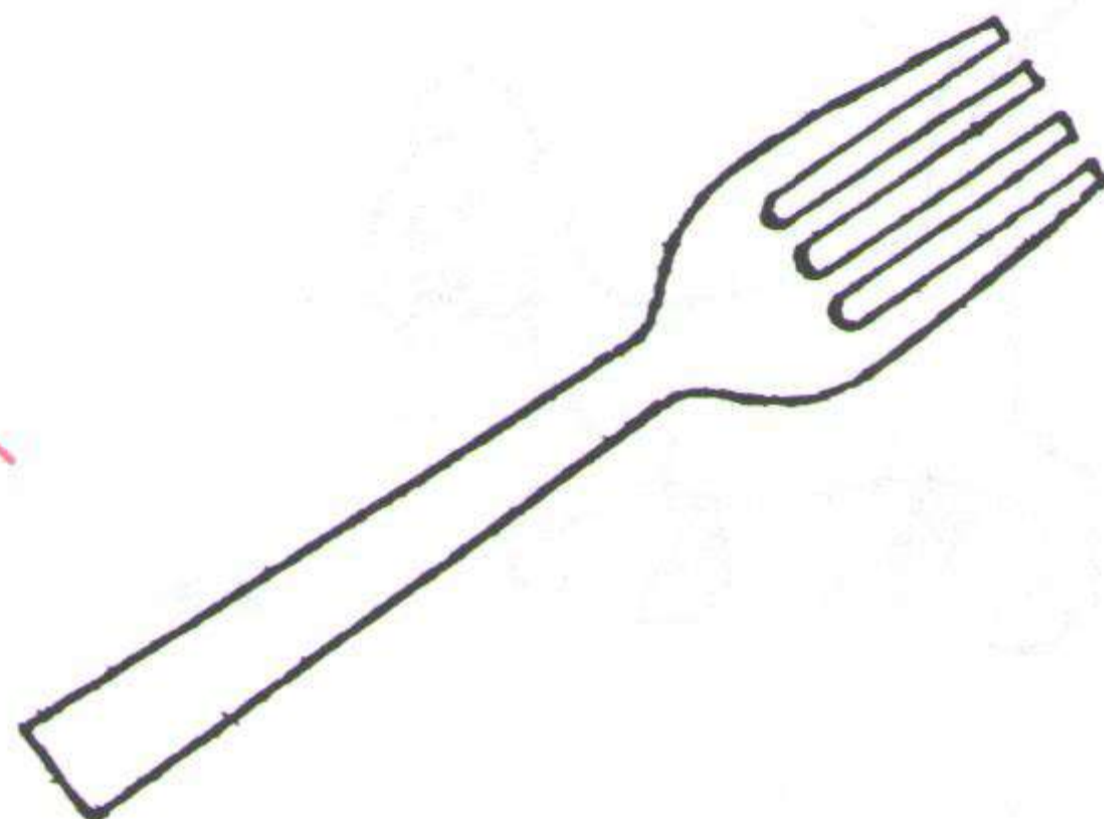
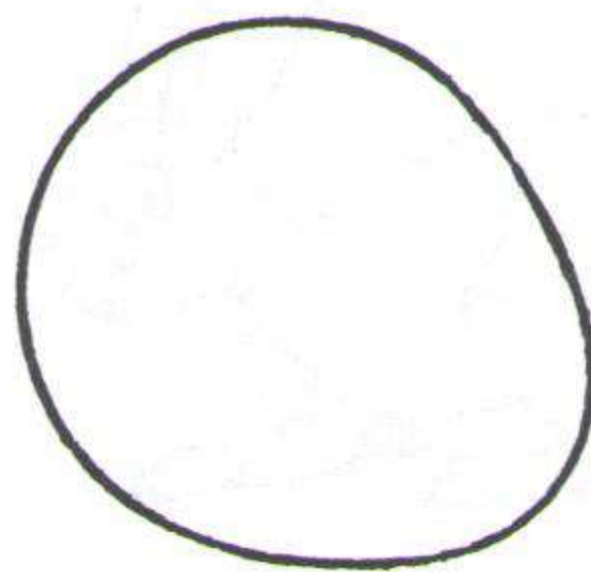
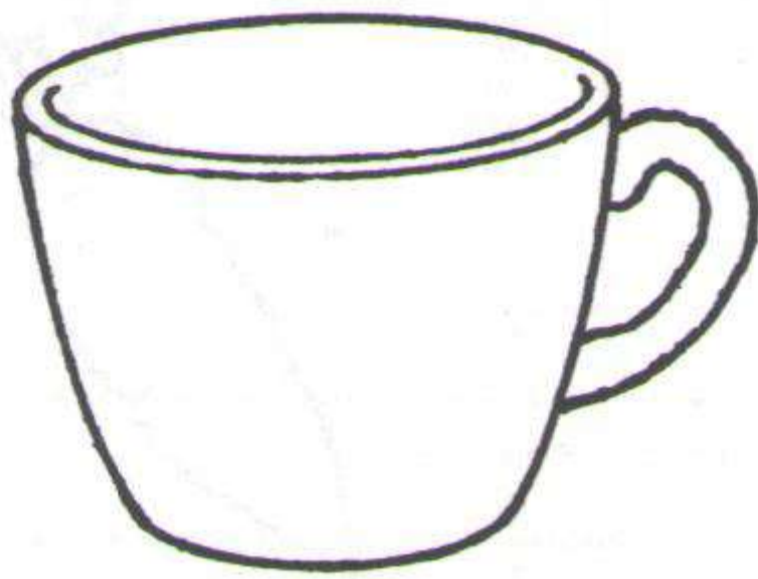
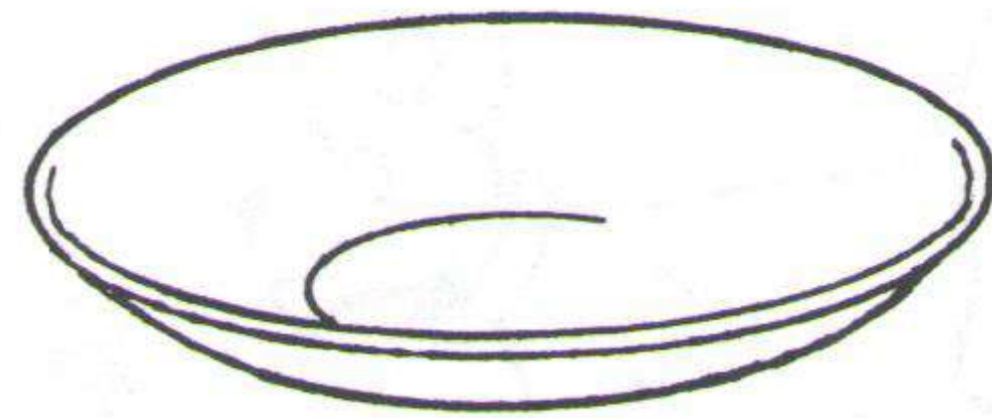
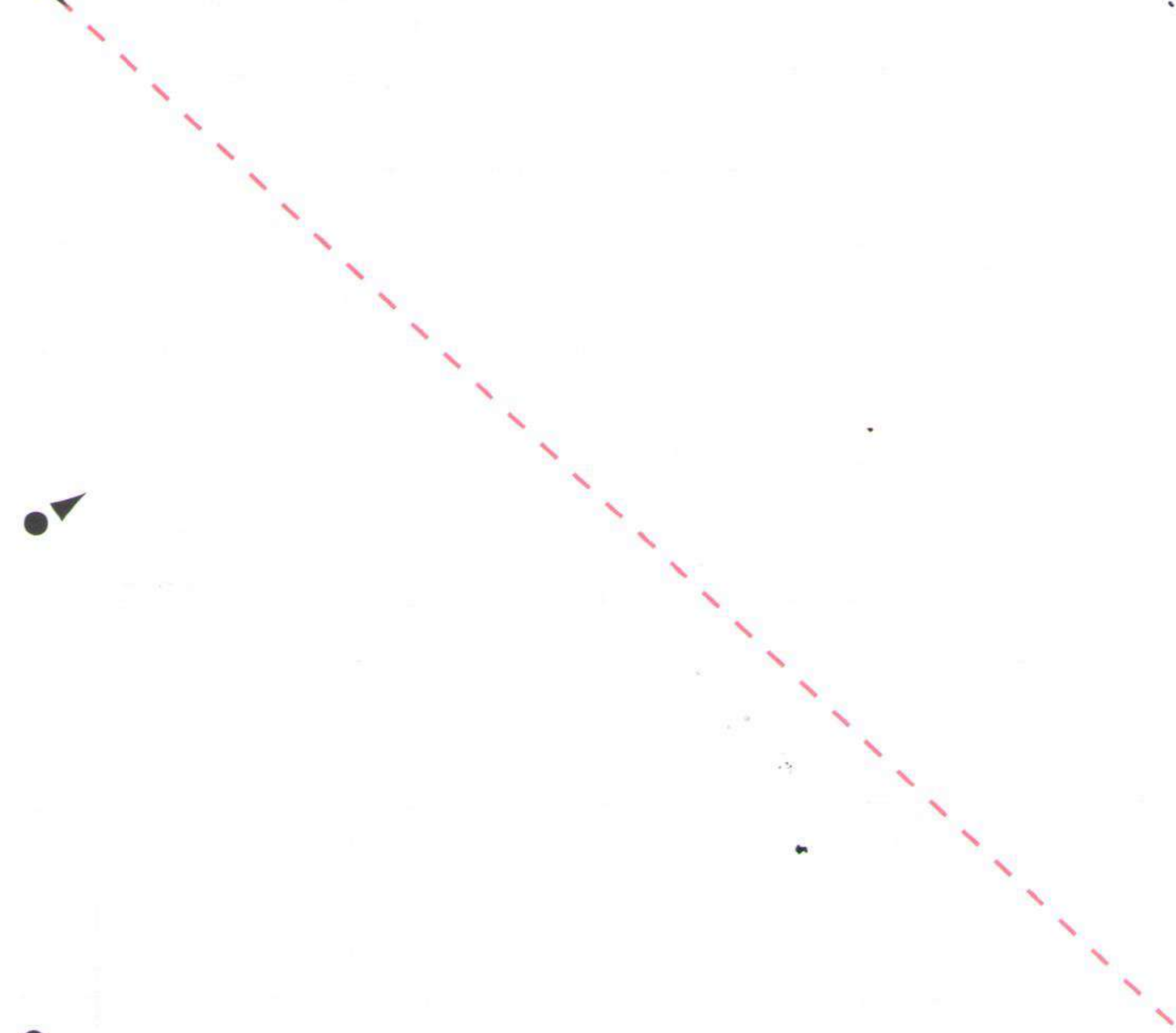
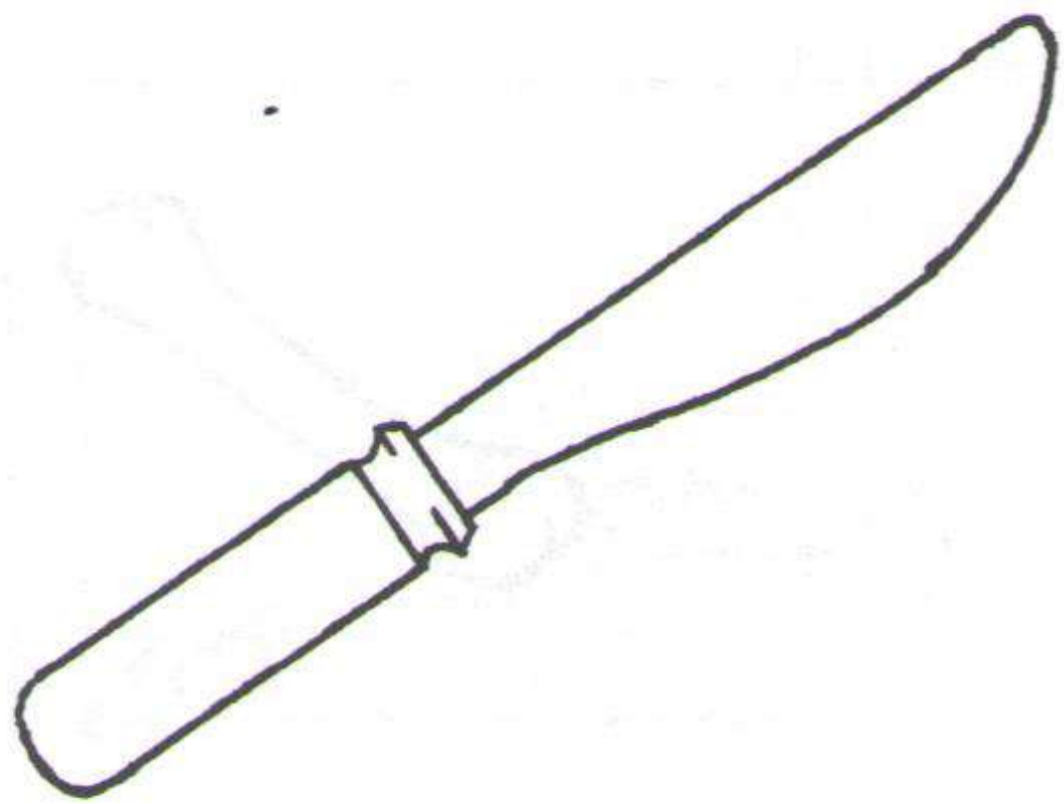
Food

Help the animals get their food.



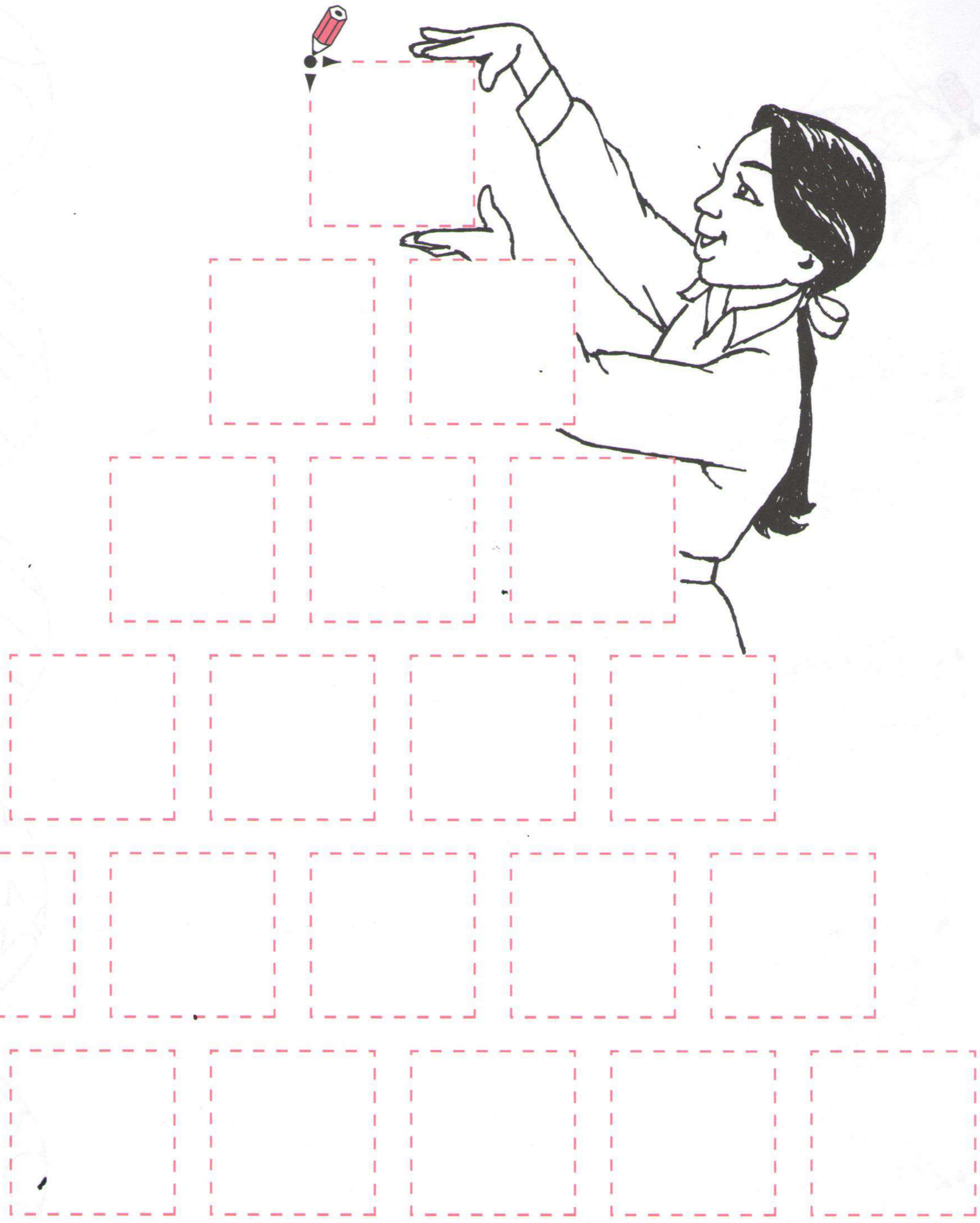
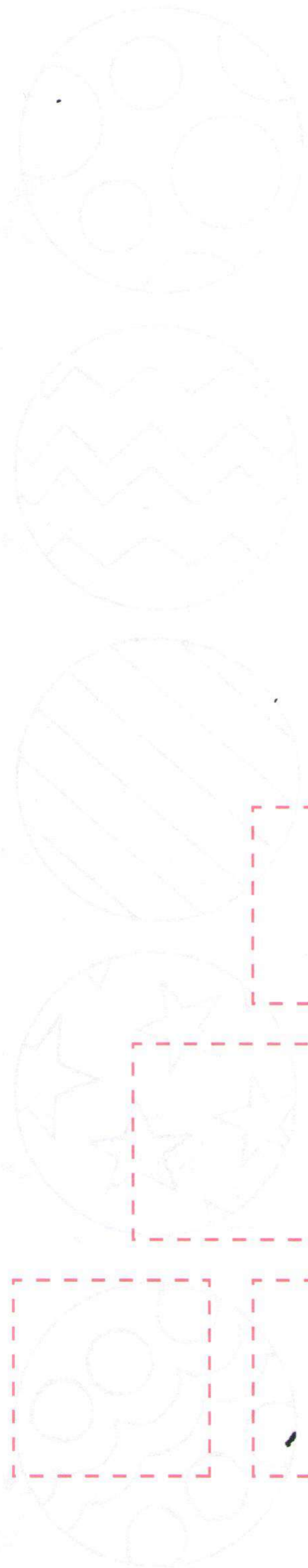
Pairs

Join the things that go together.



Building blocks

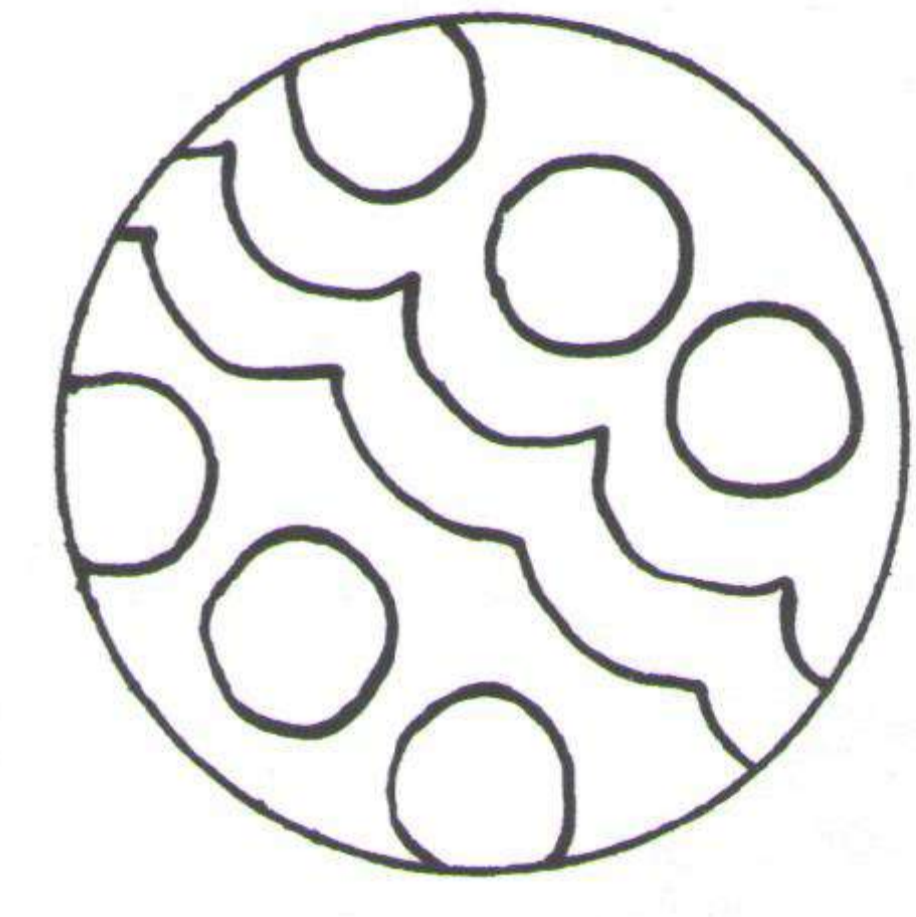
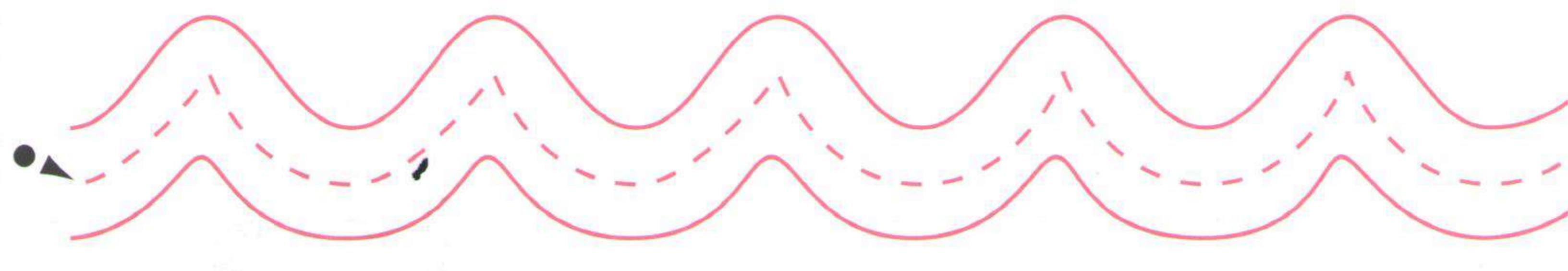
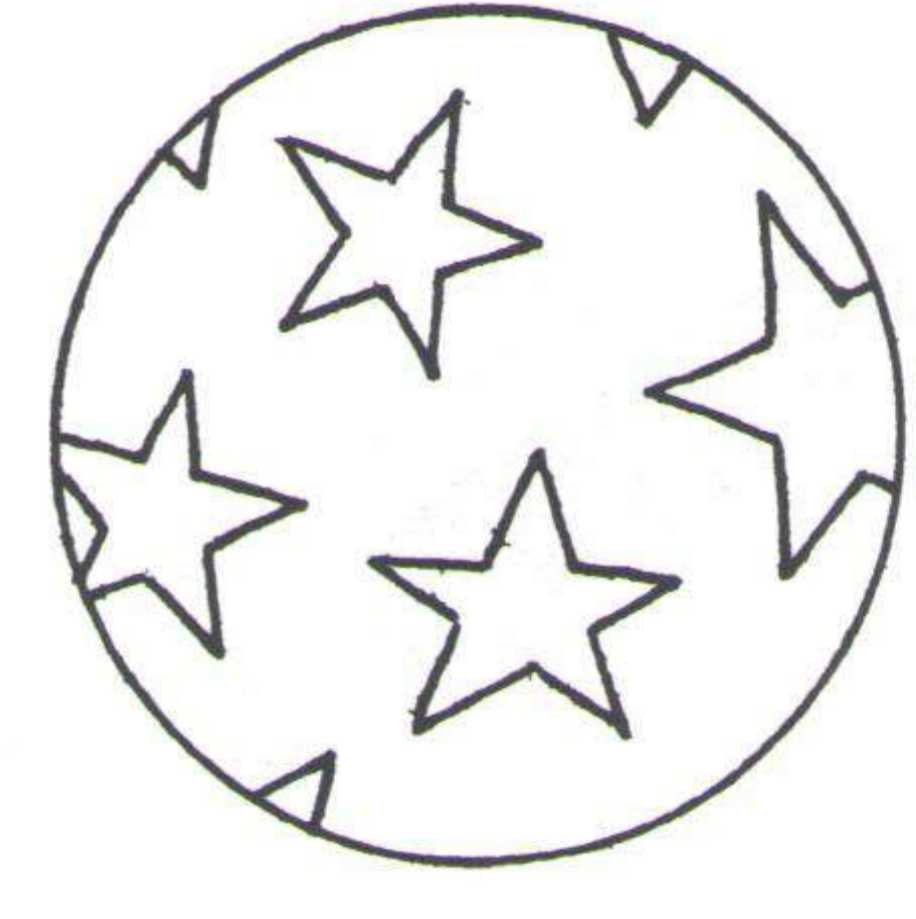
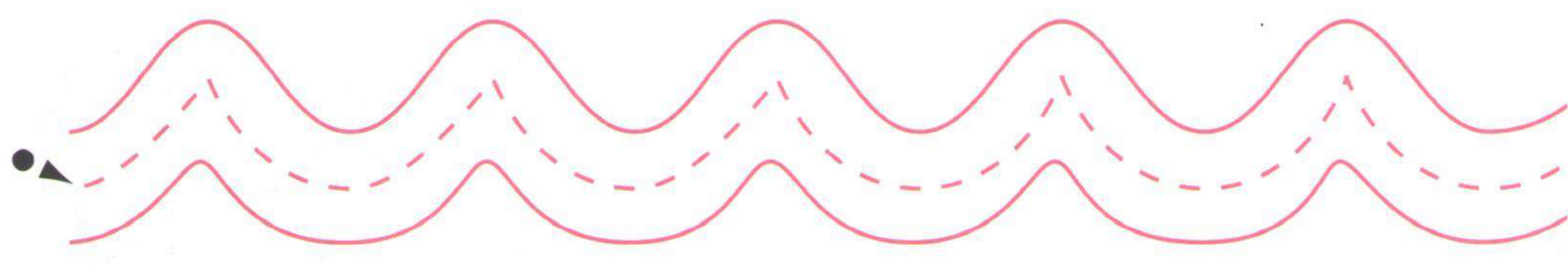
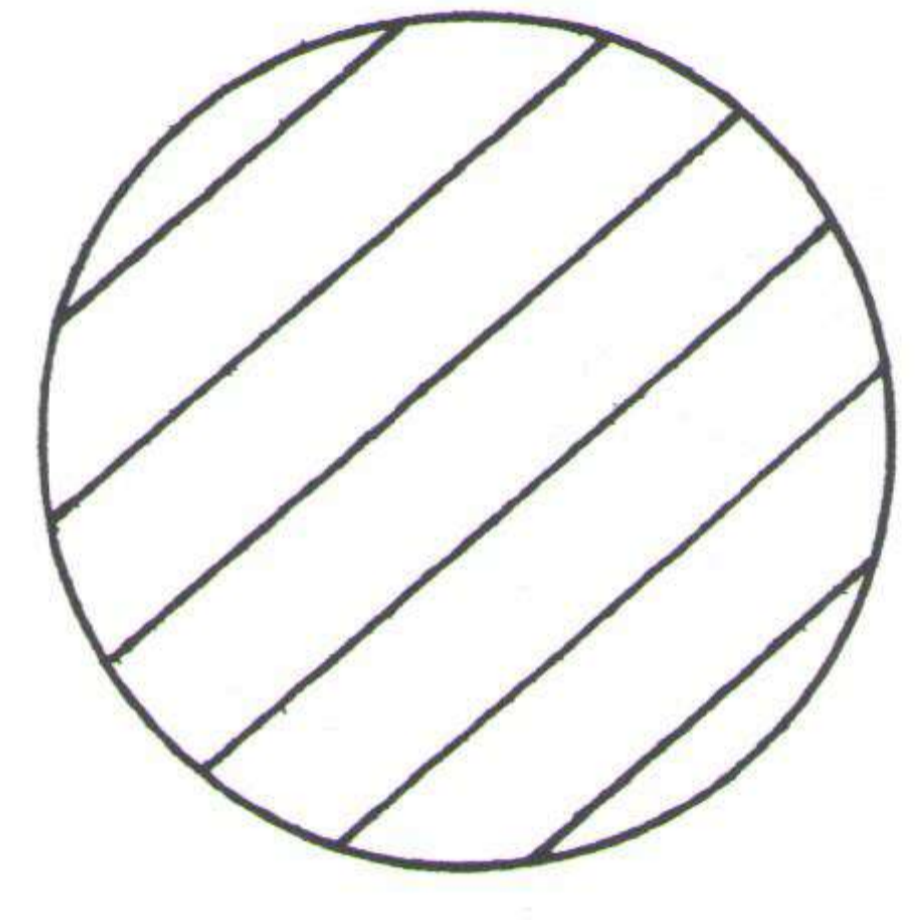
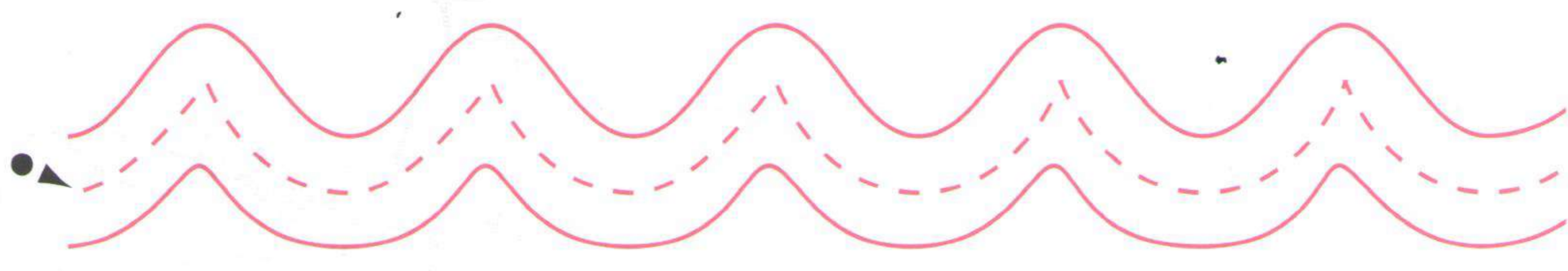
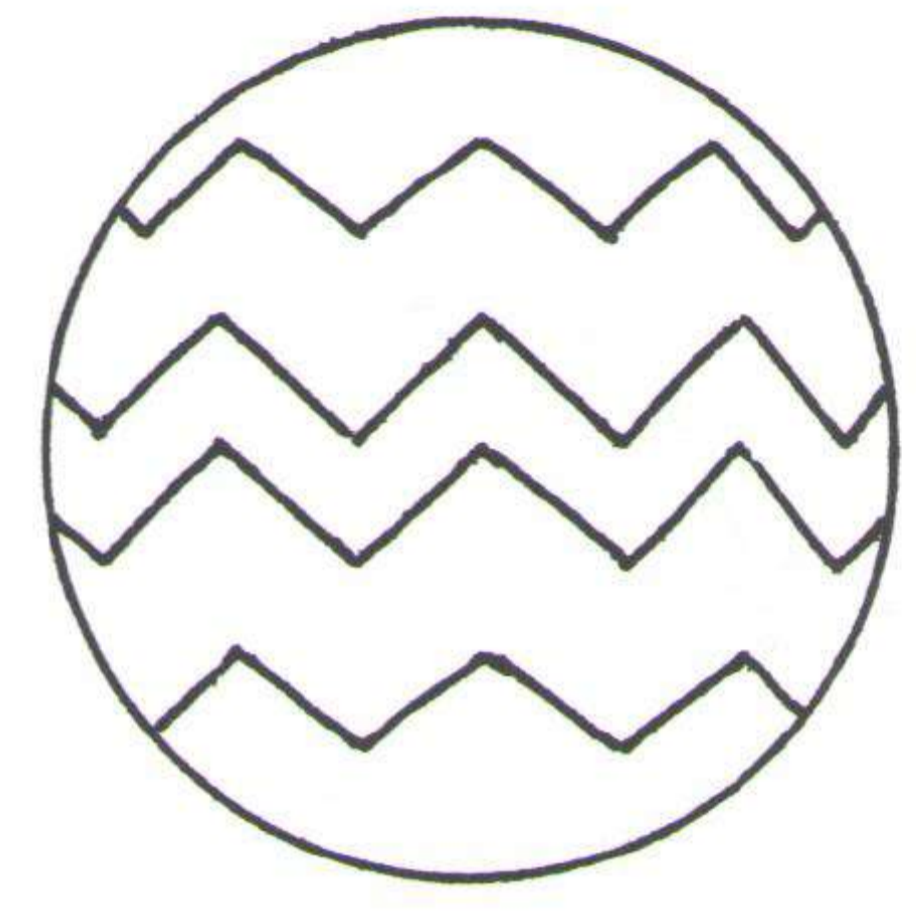
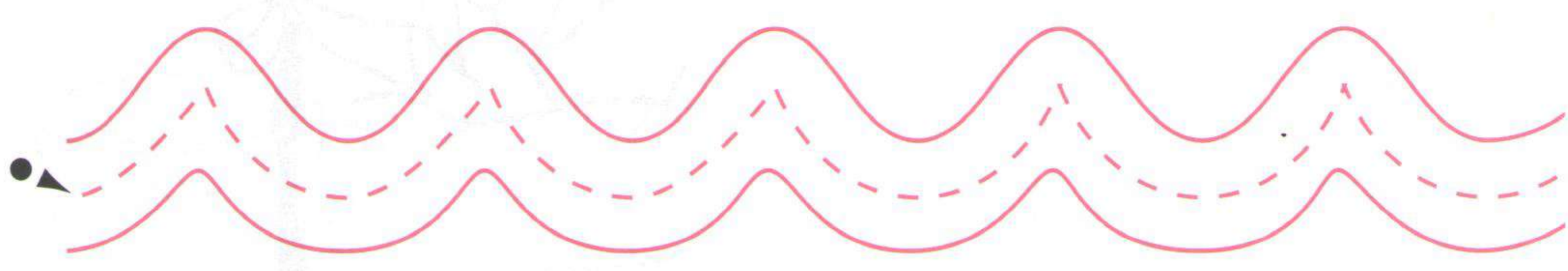
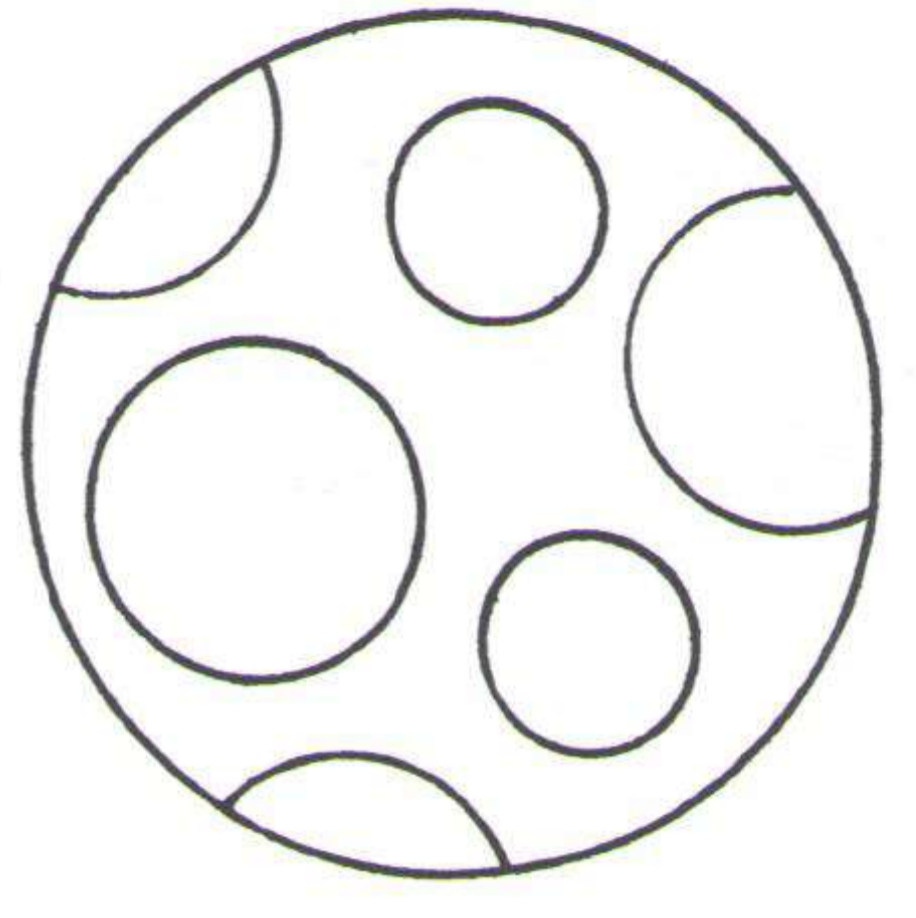
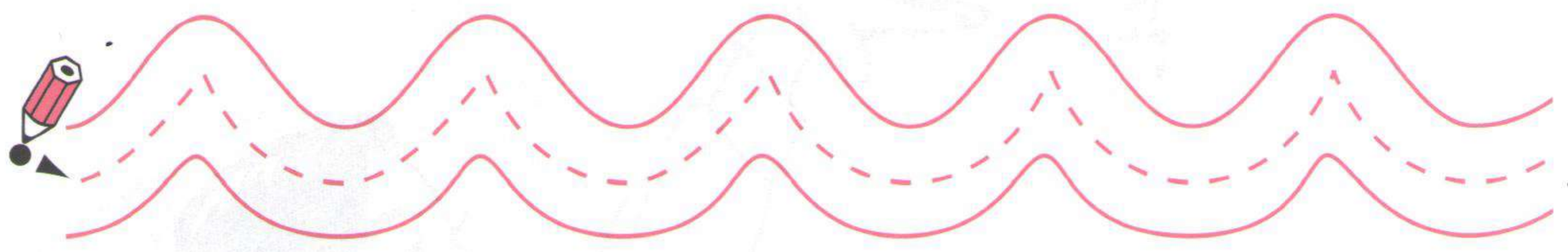
Draw.



Balls

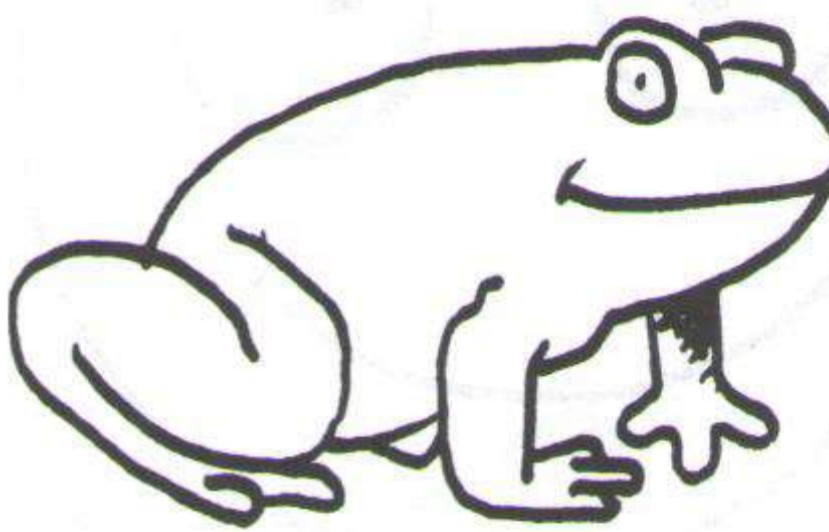
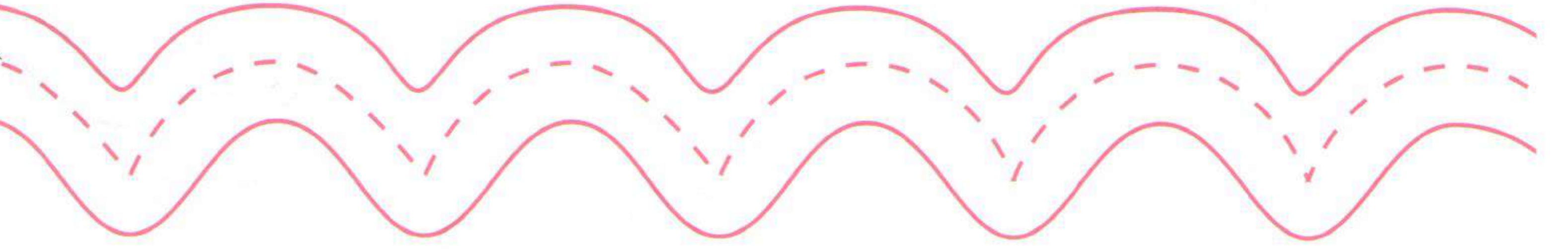
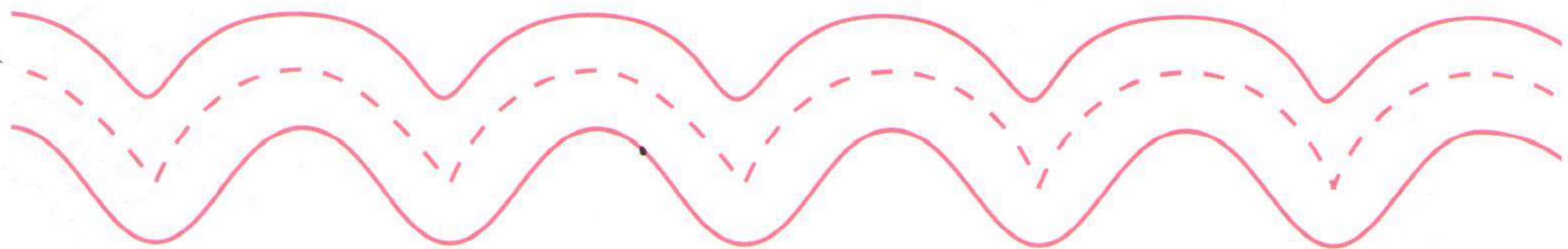
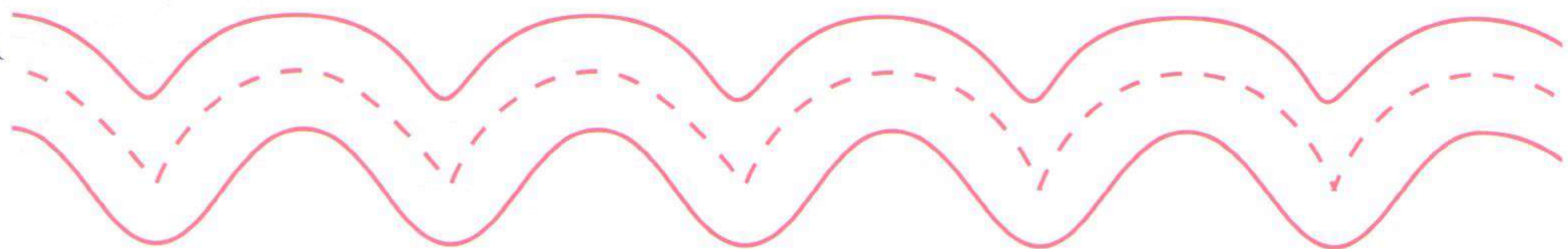
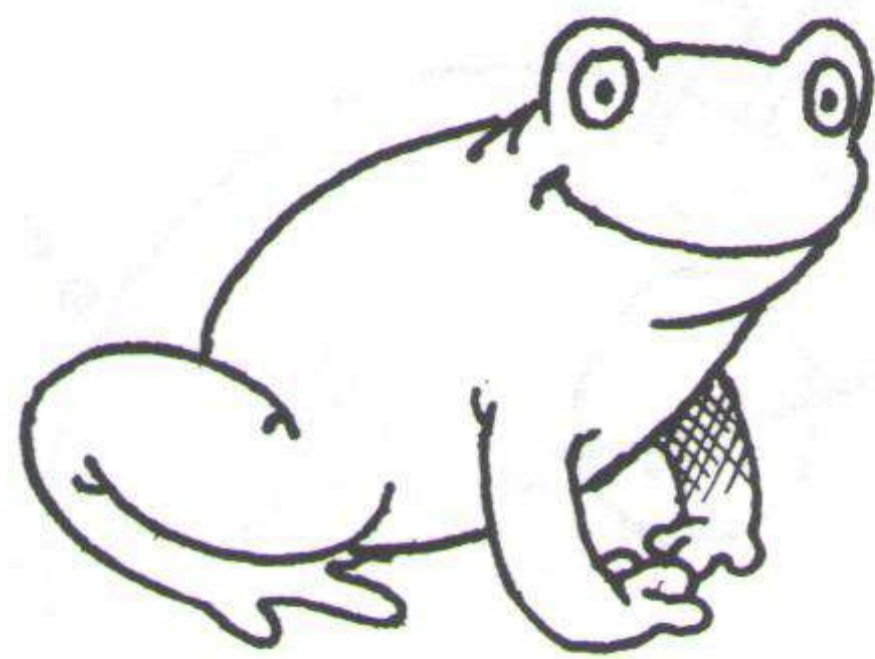
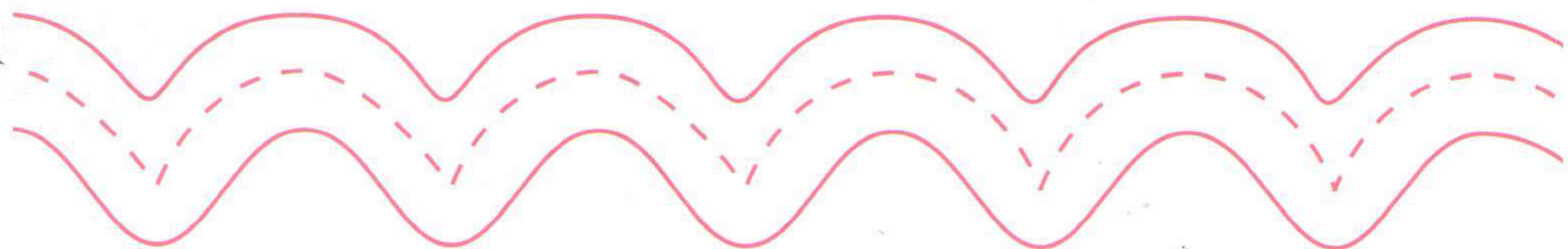
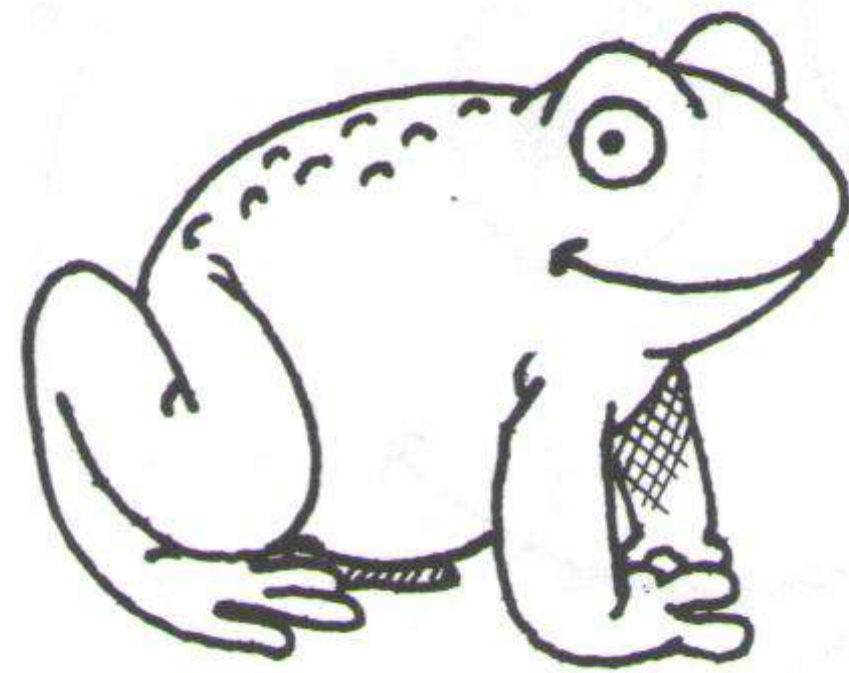
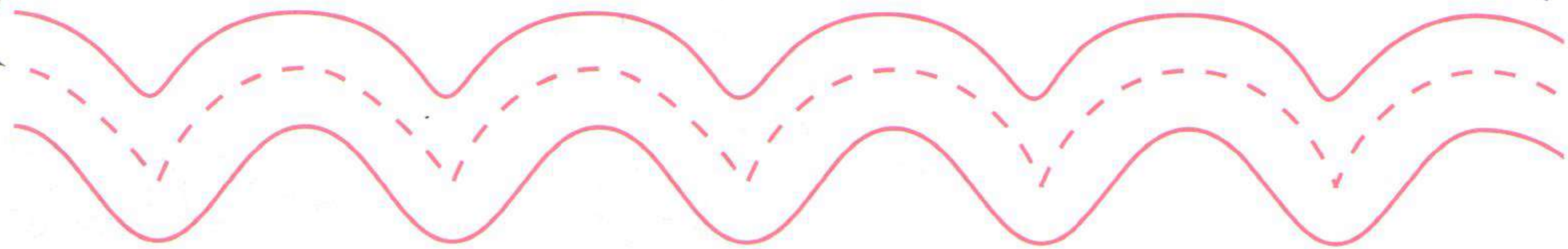
Building blocks

Draw.



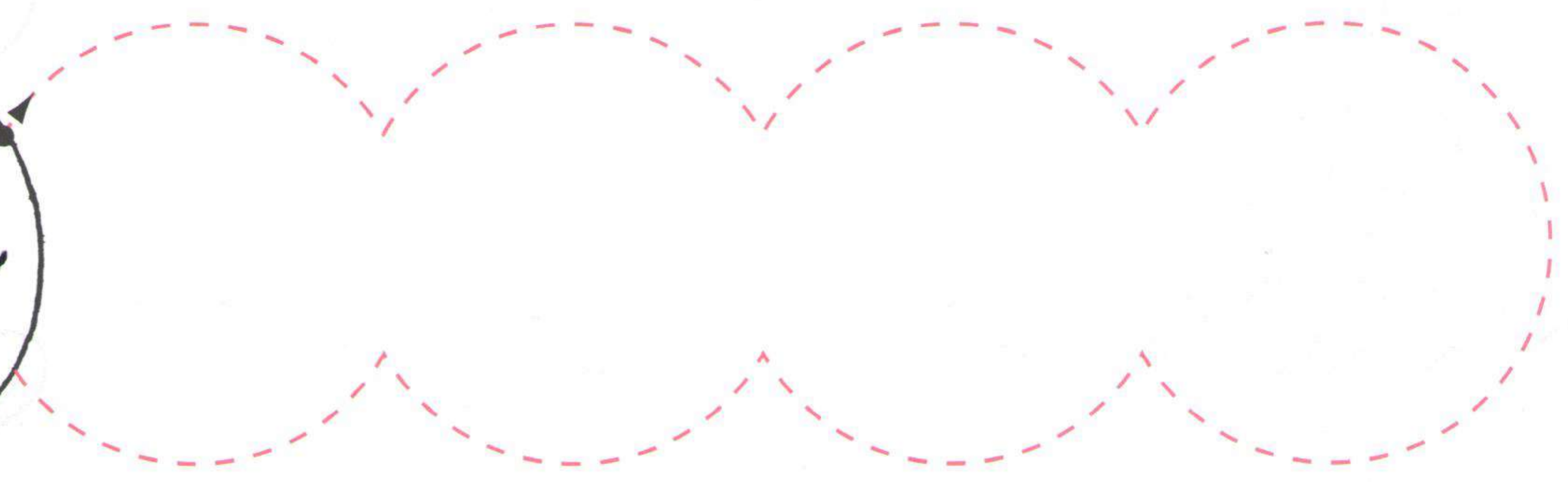
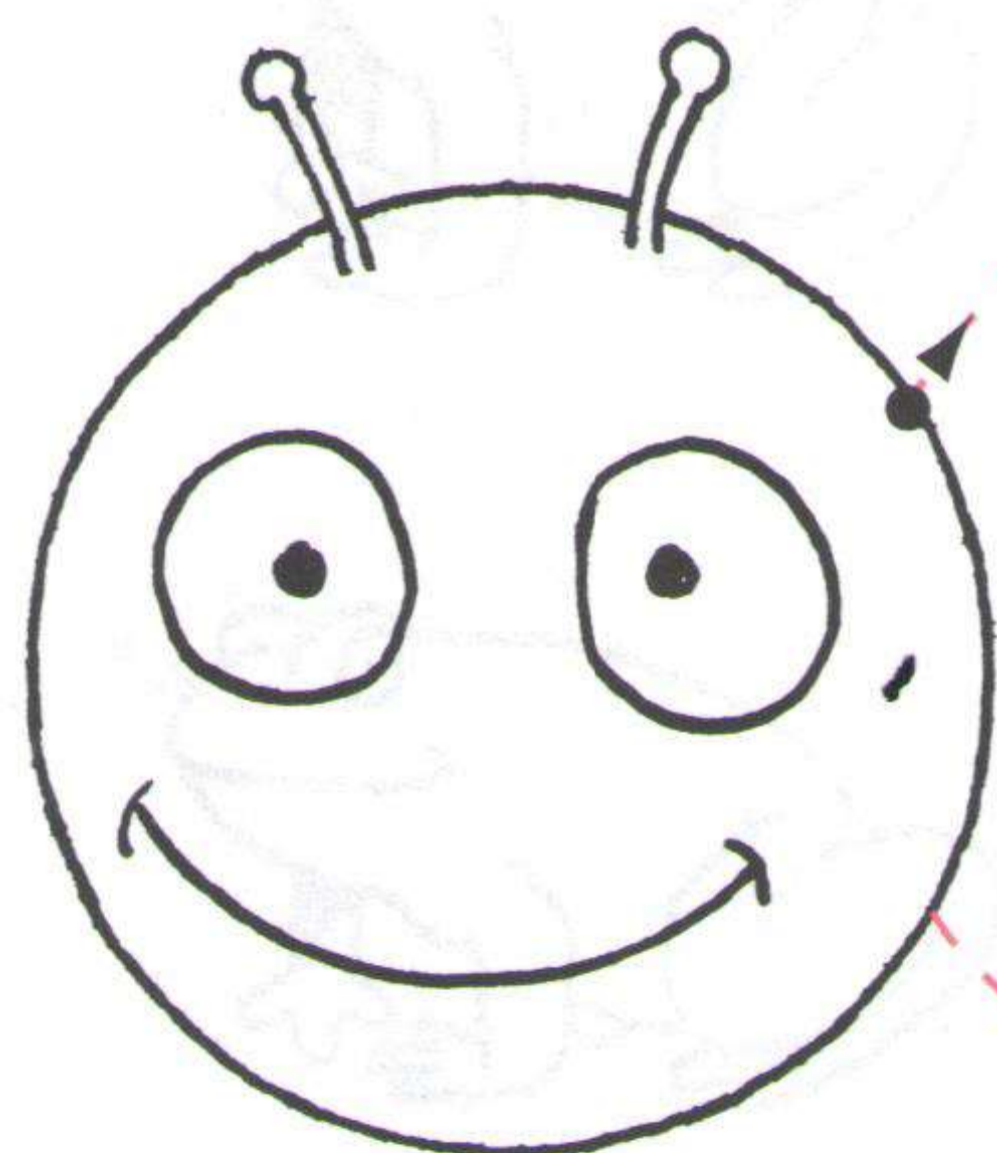
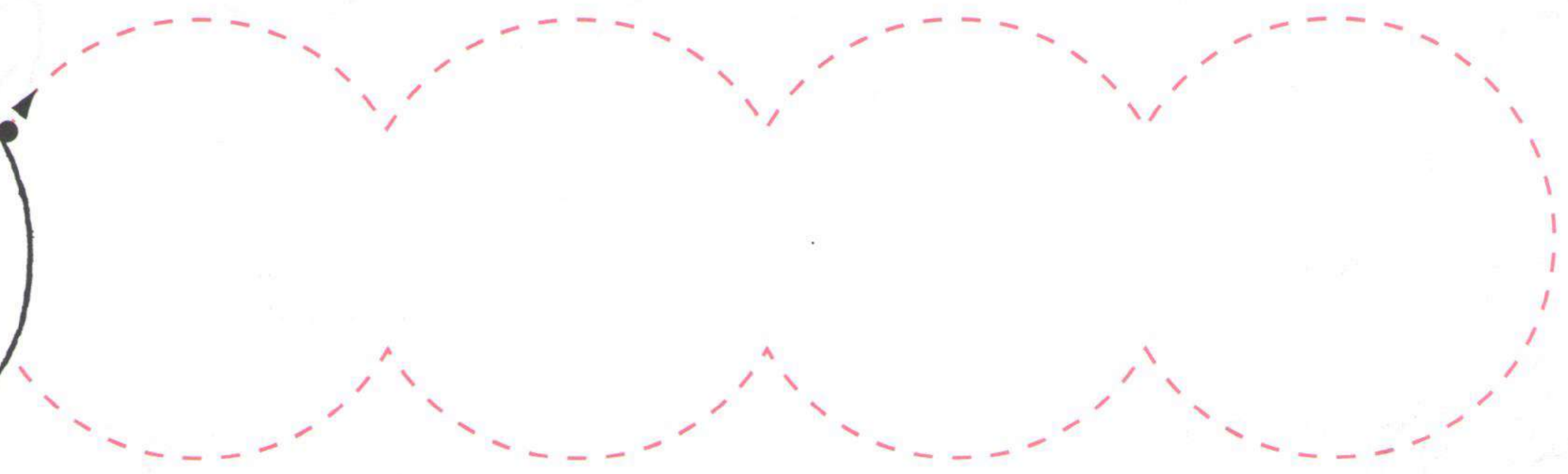
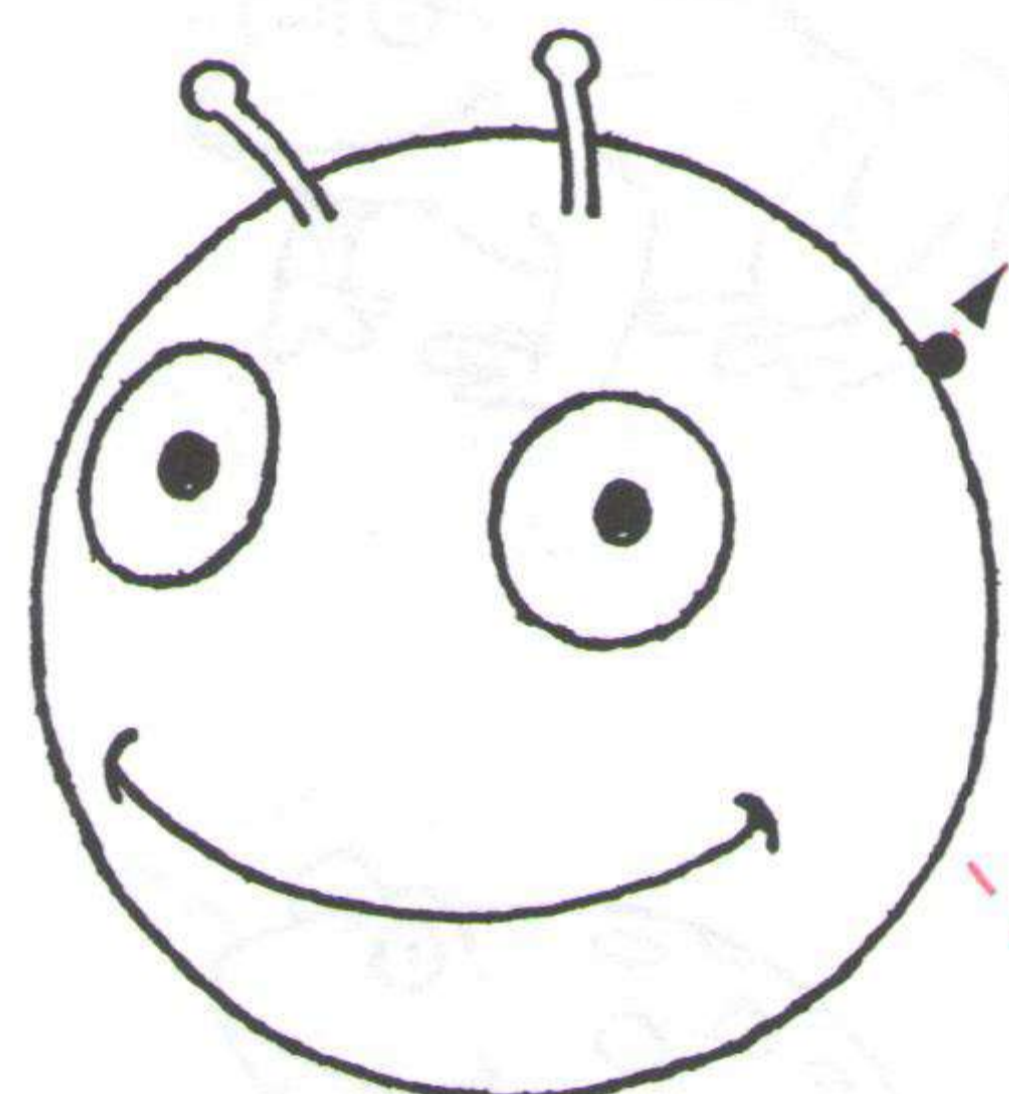
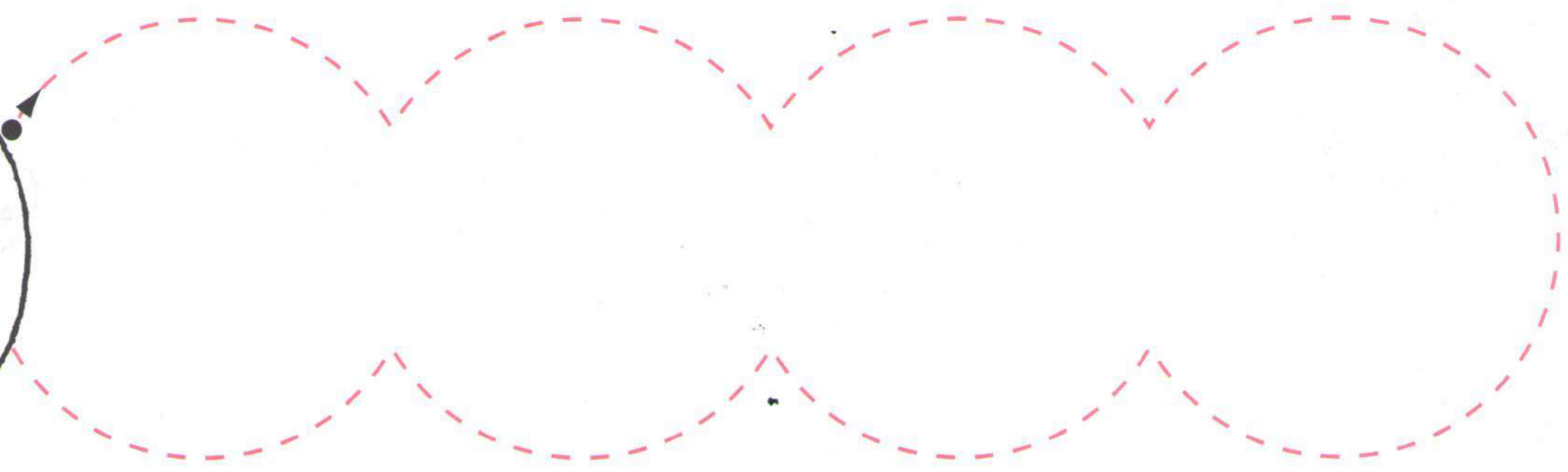
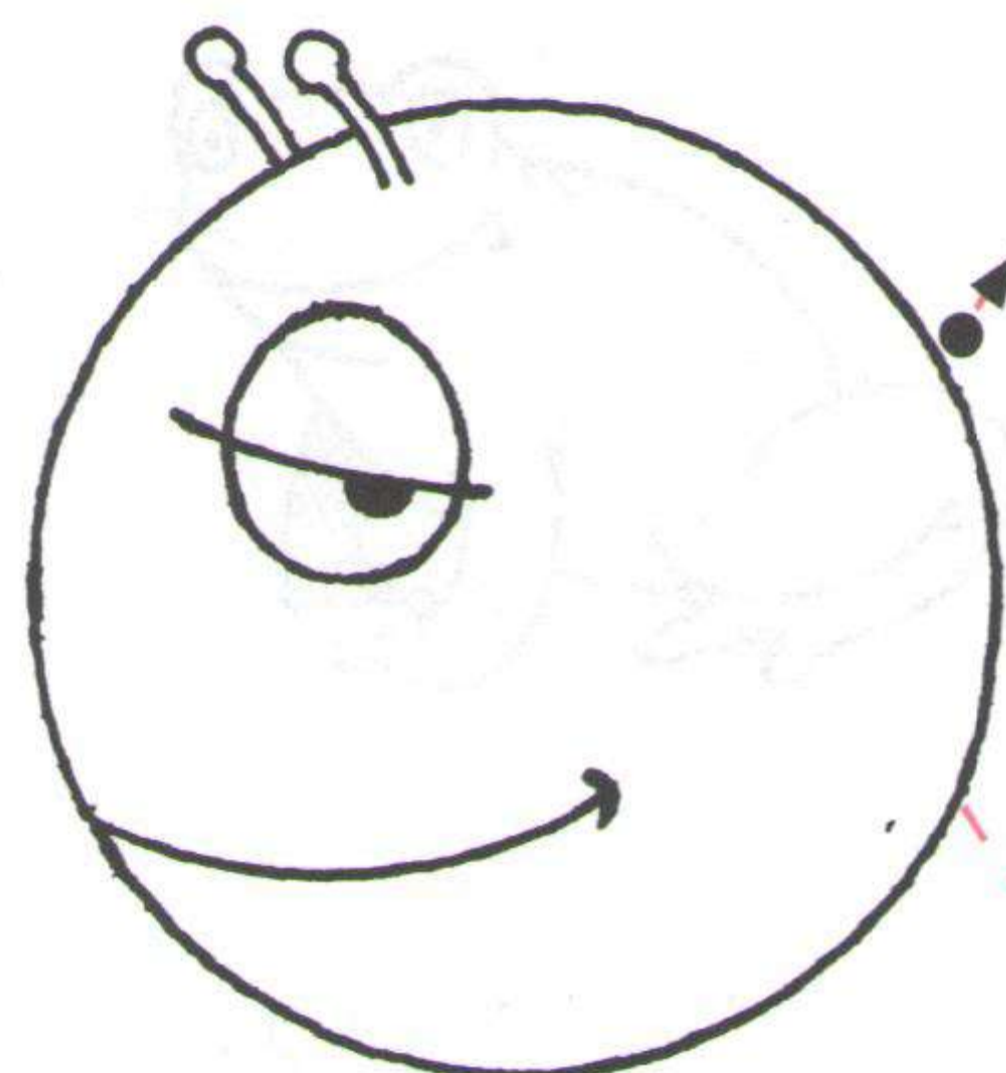
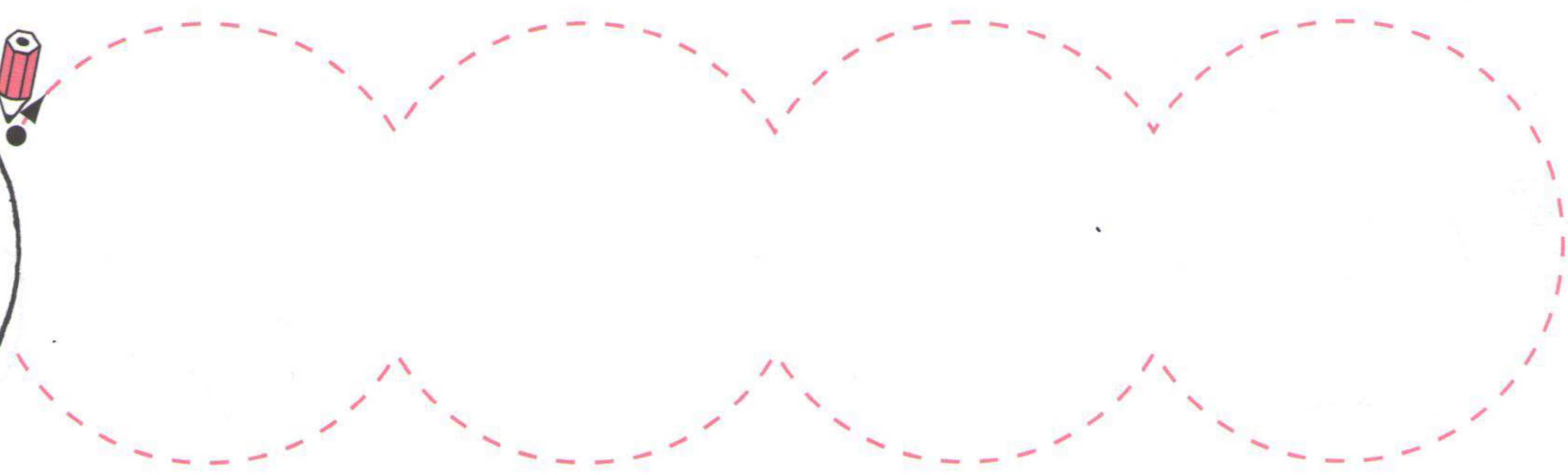
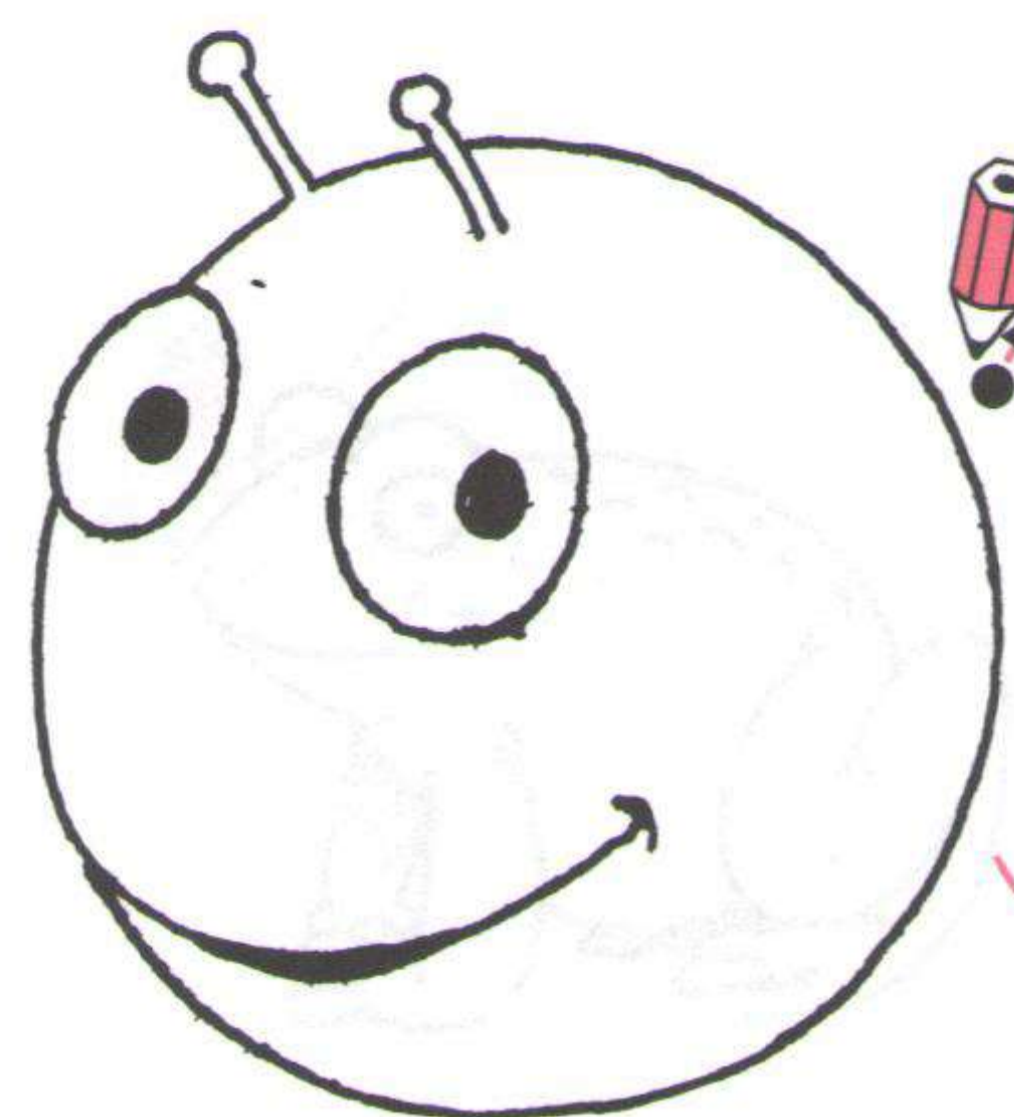
Frogs

Draw.



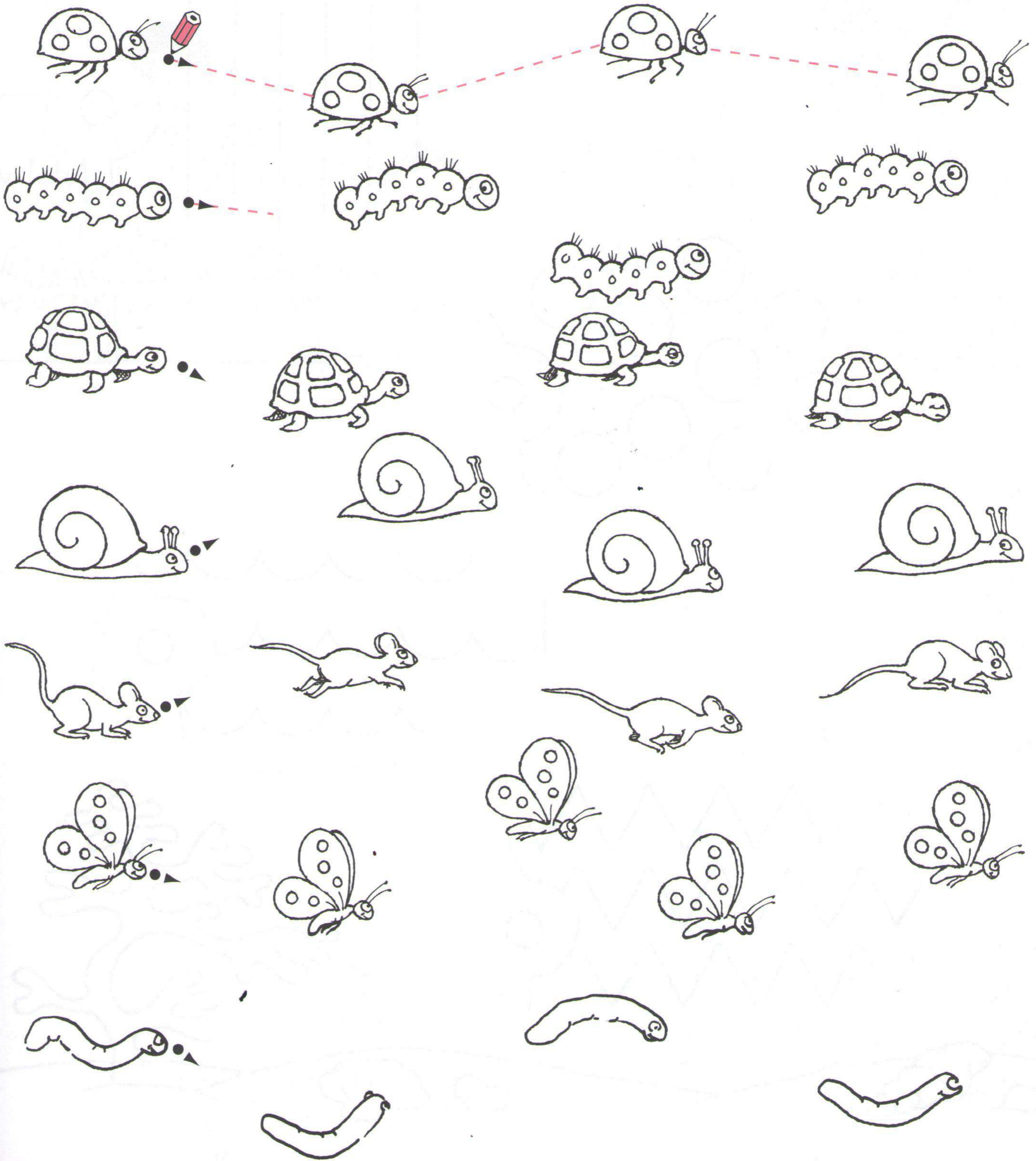
Caterpillars

Draw.



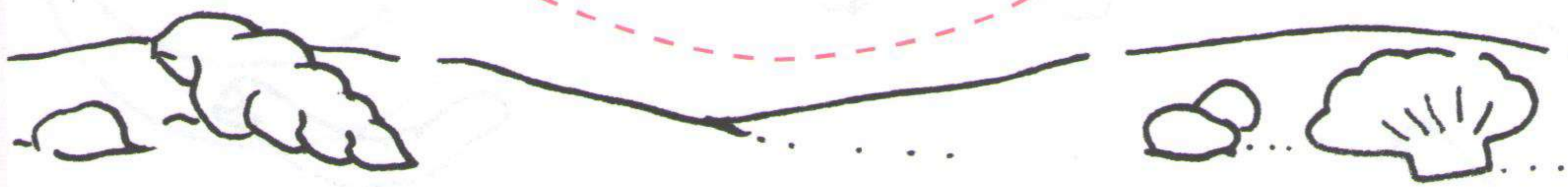
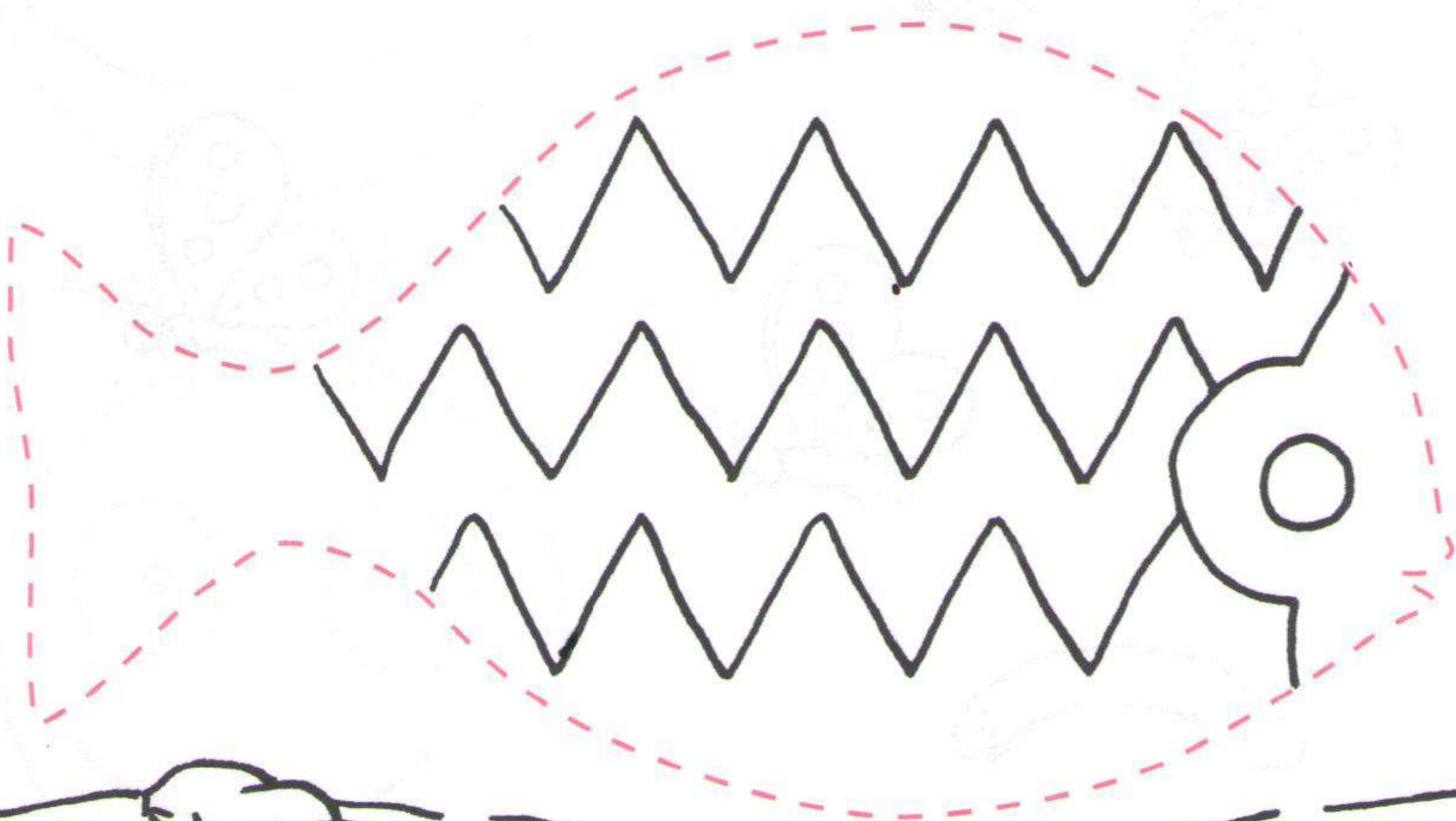
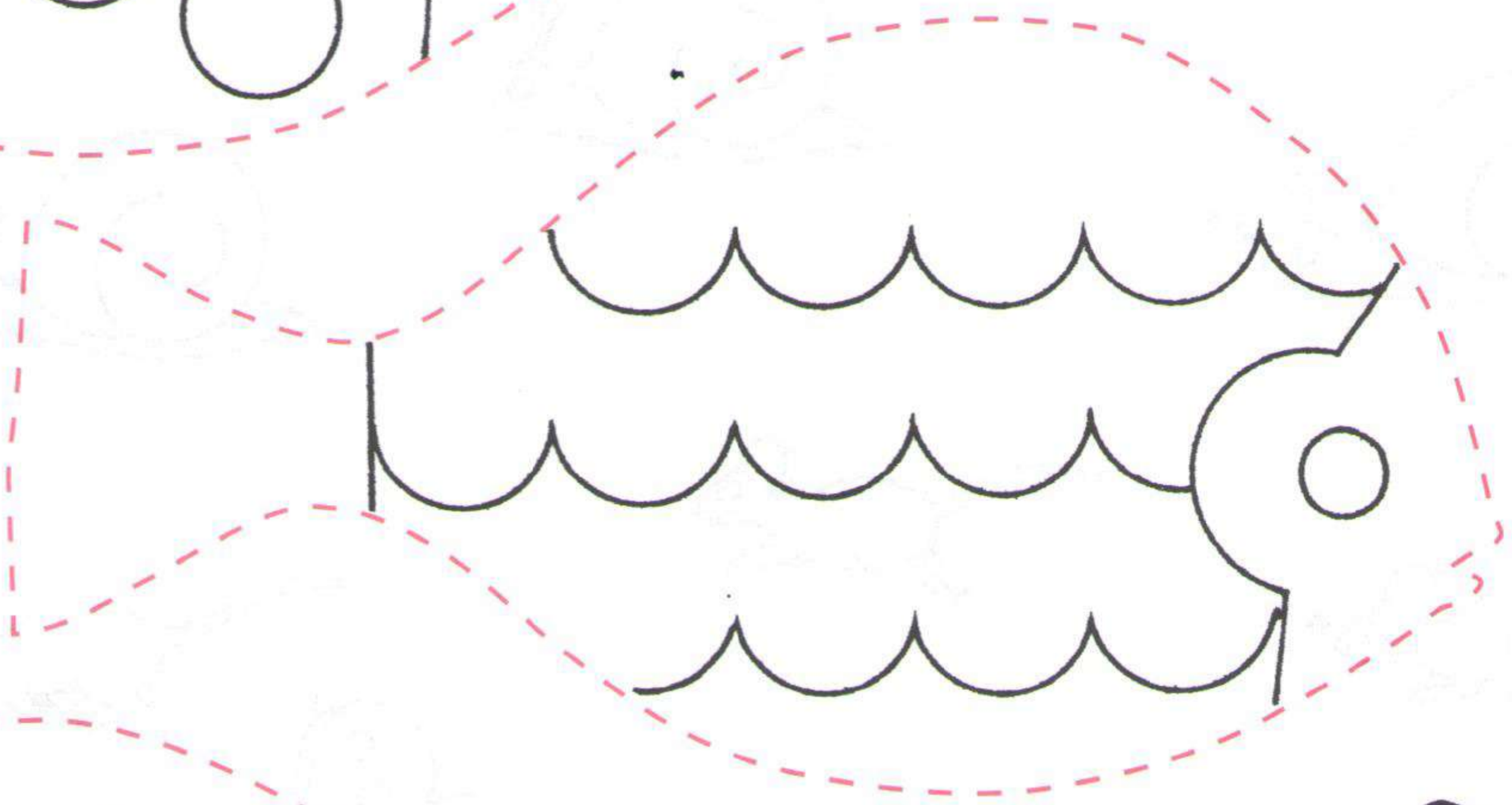
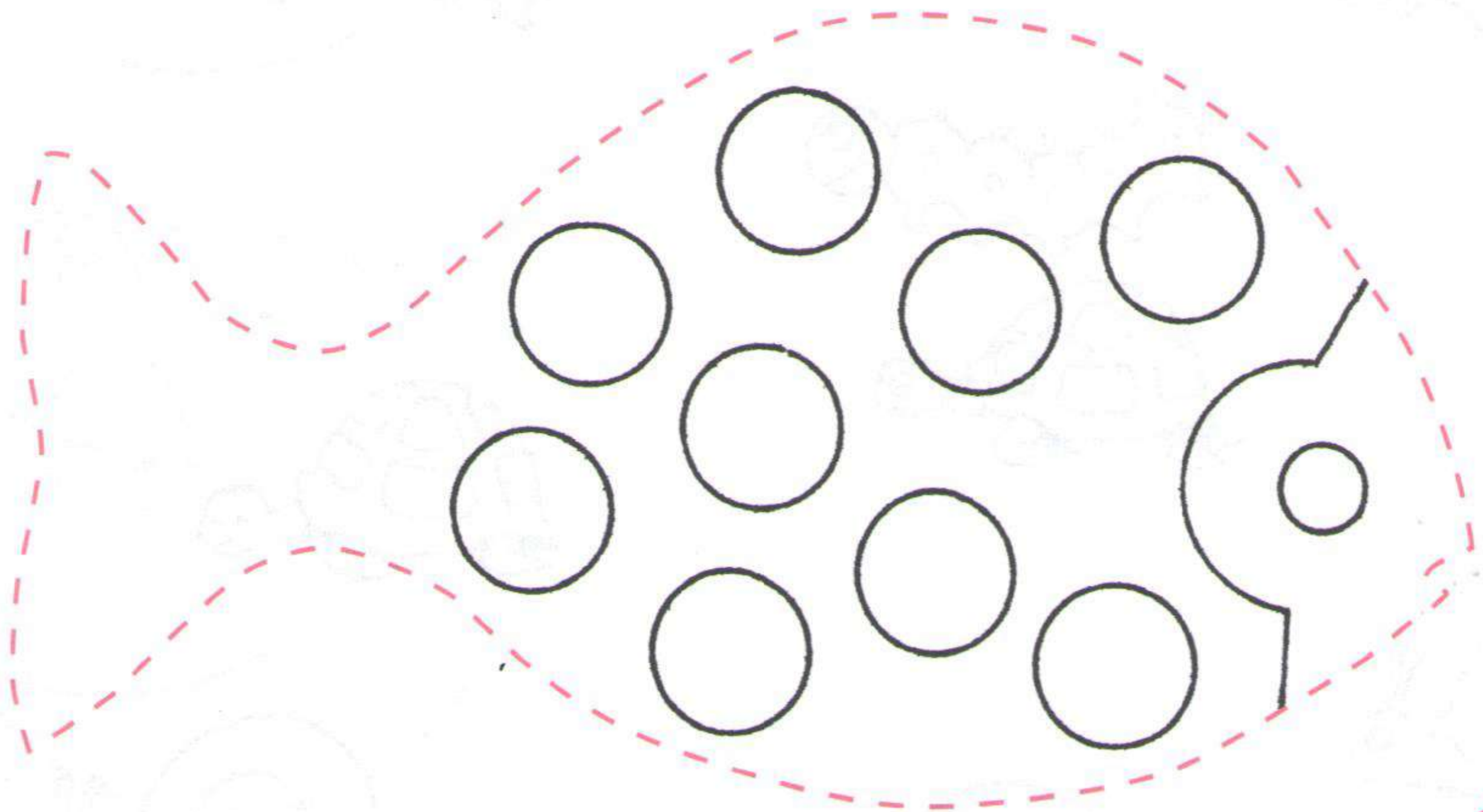
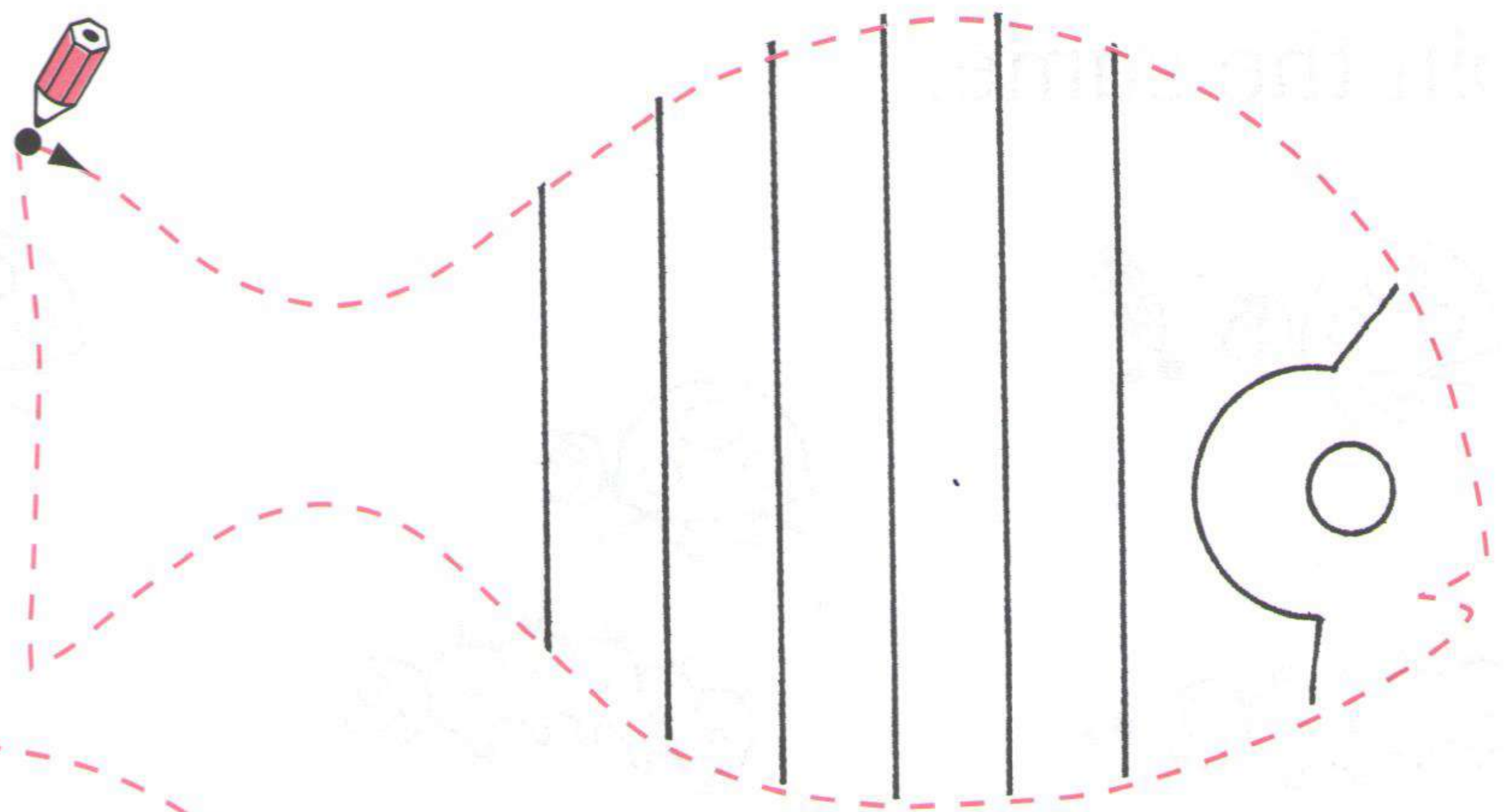
Insects and small animals

Join the same.



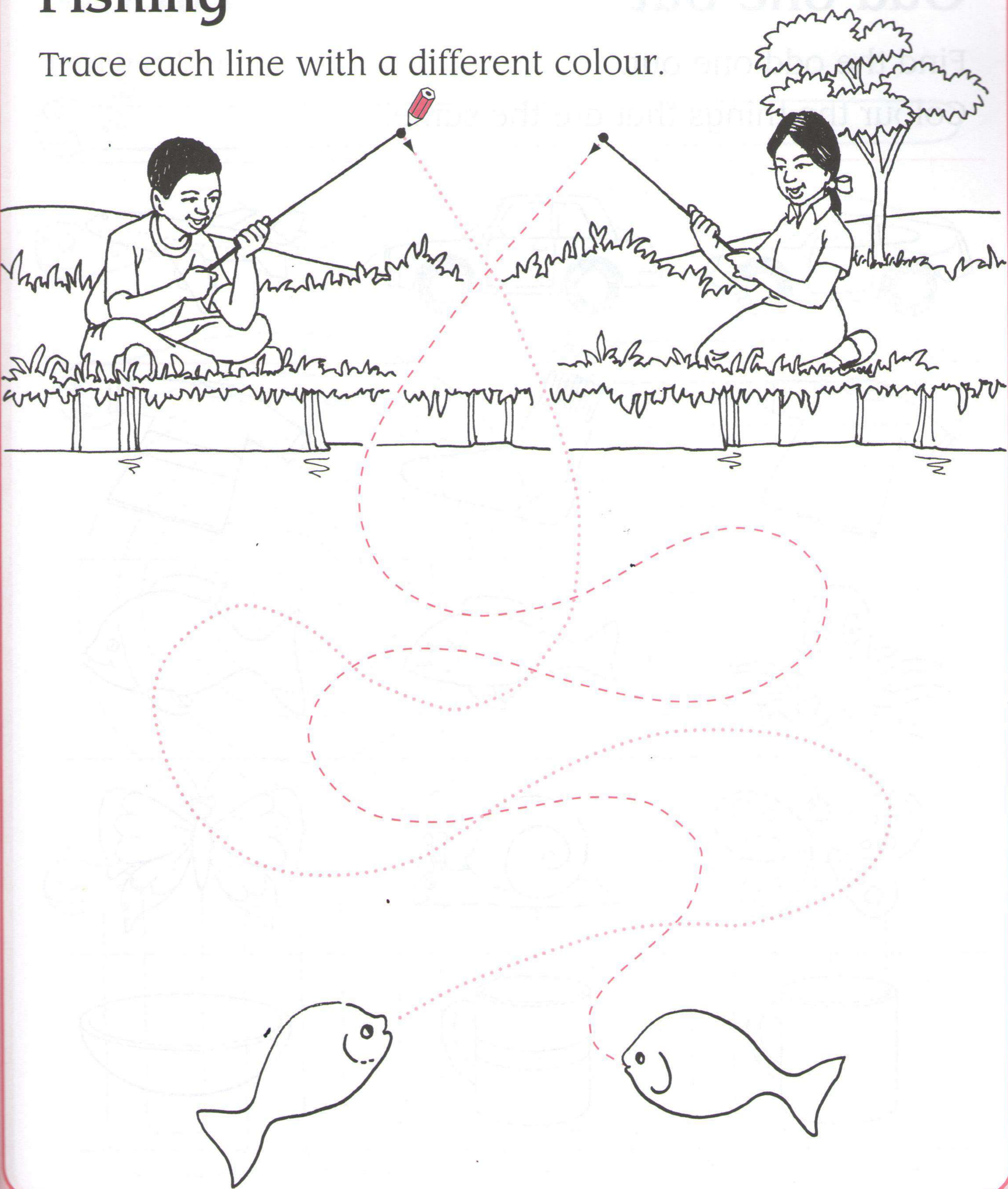
Four fish

Draw and colour.



Fishing

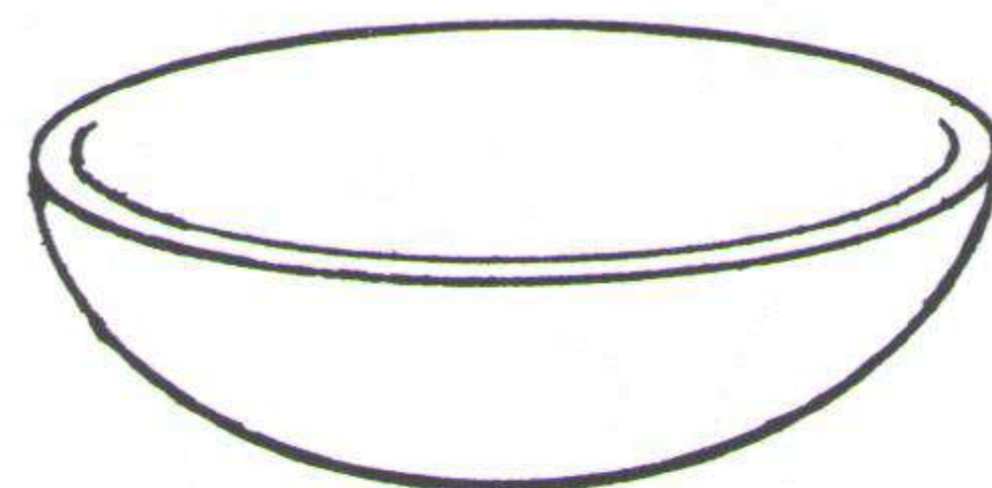
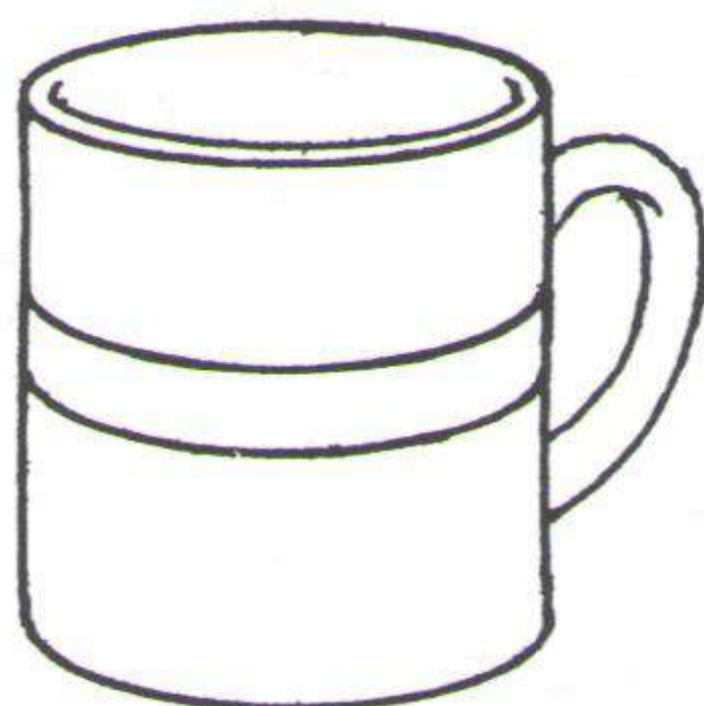
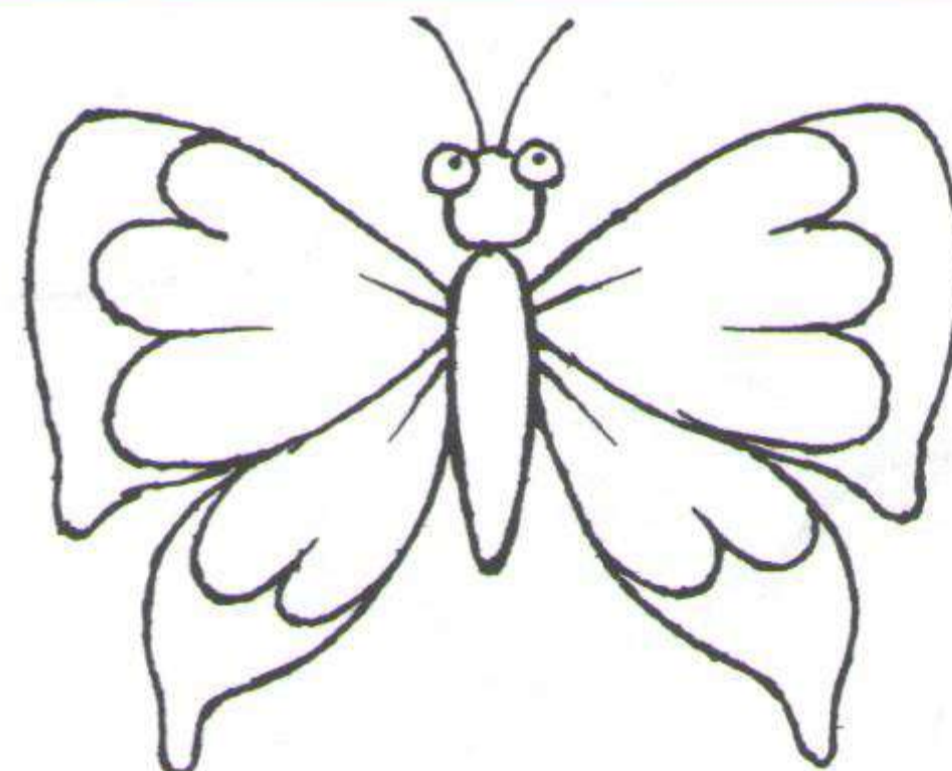
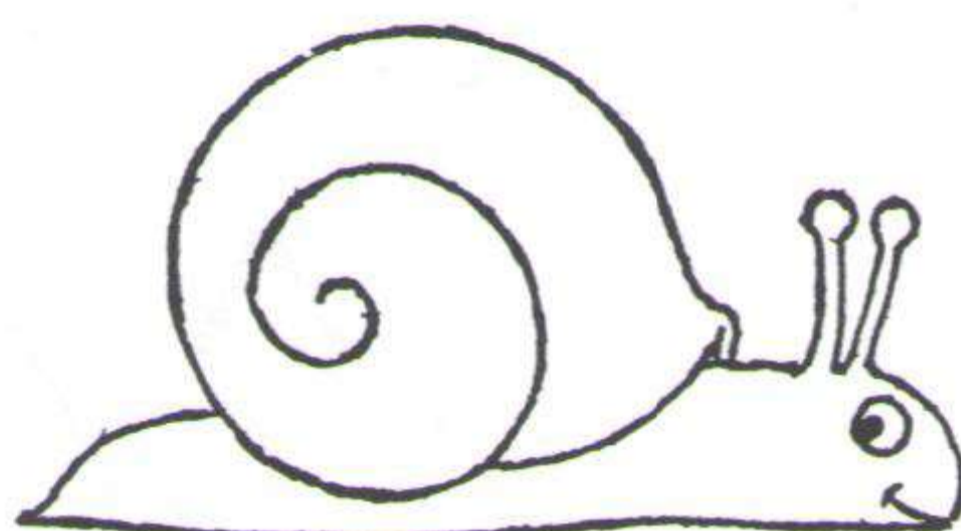
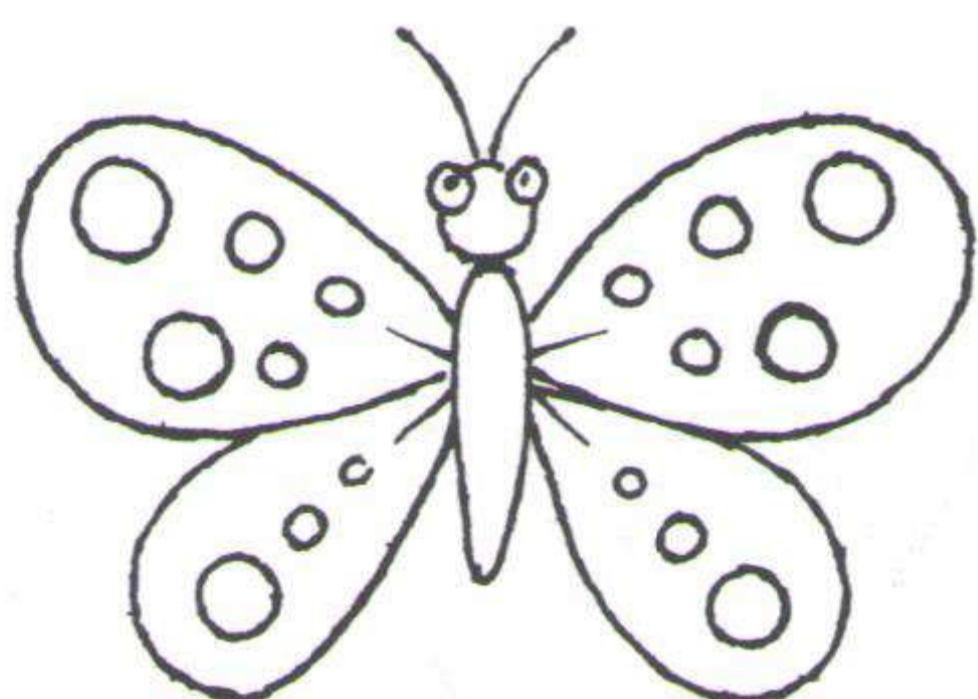
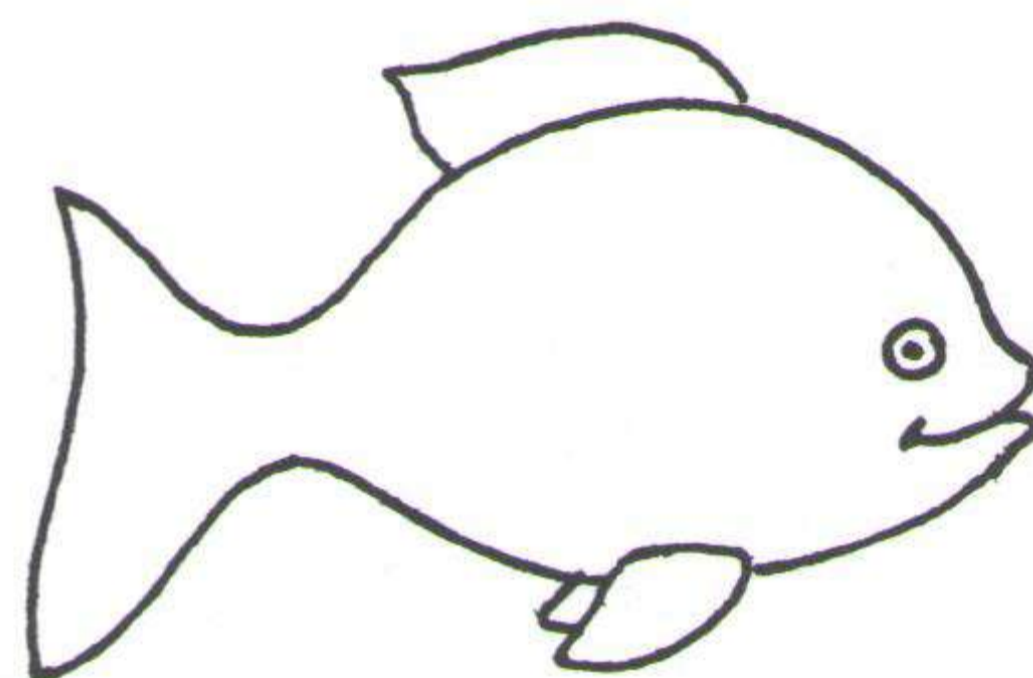
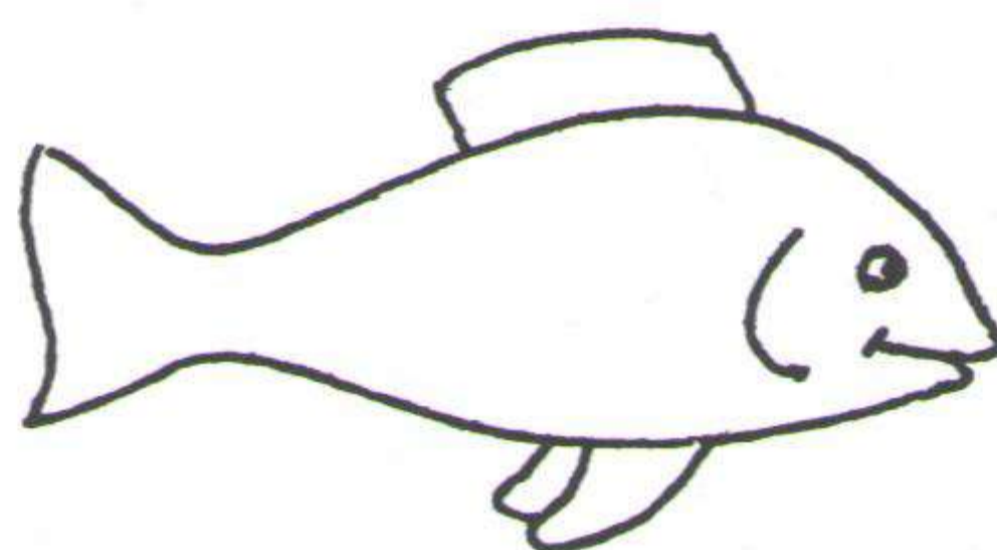
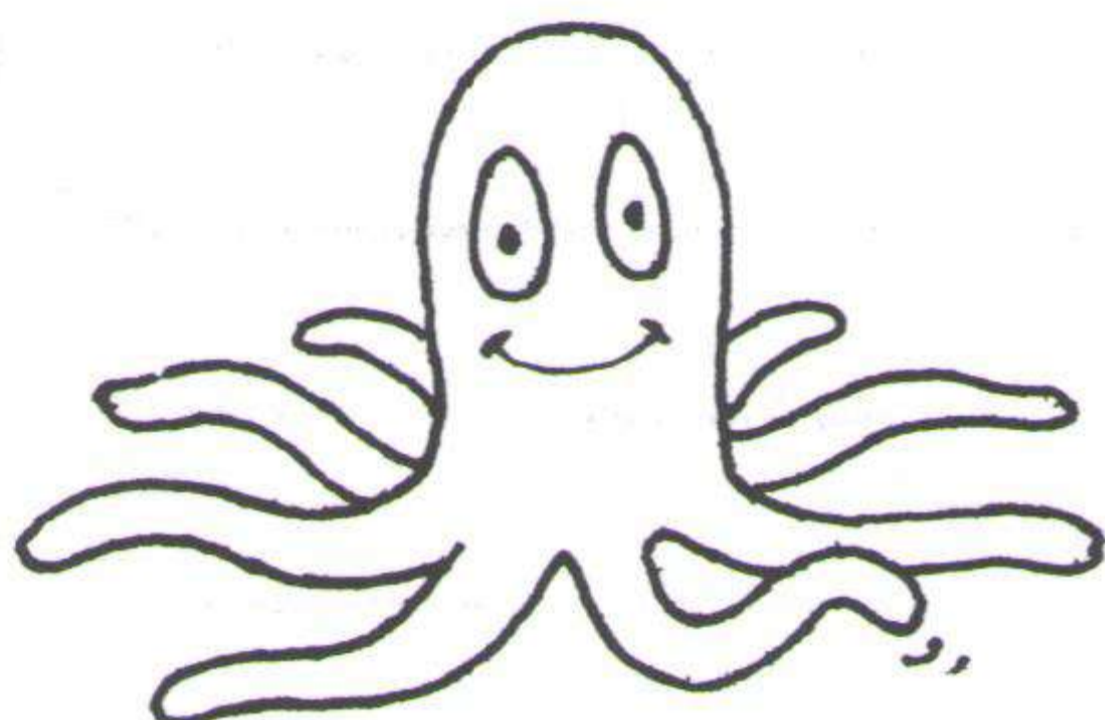
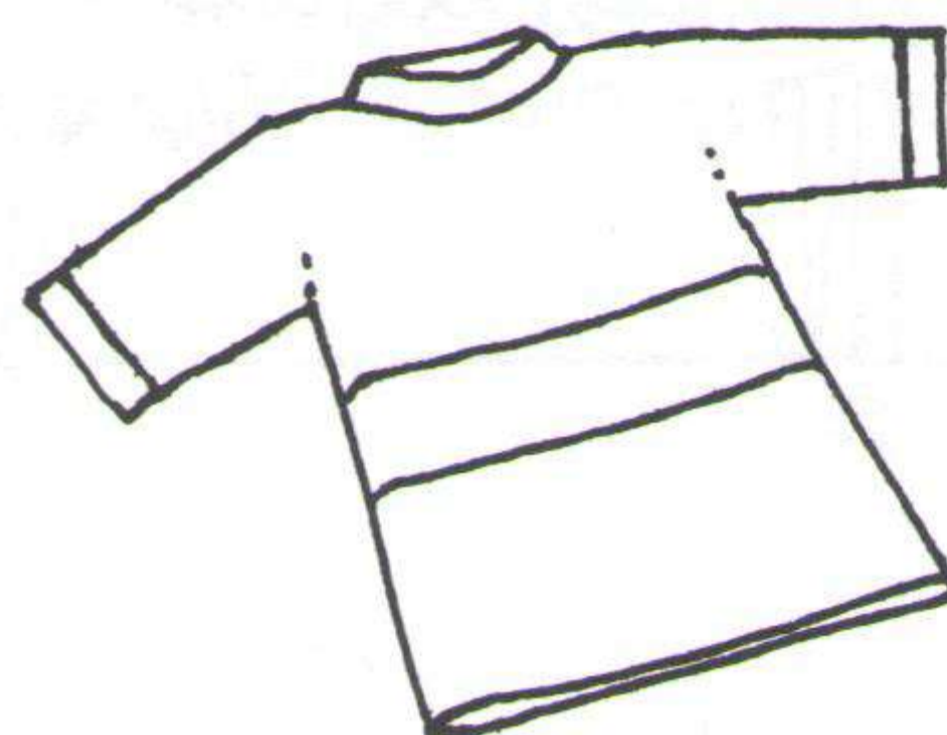
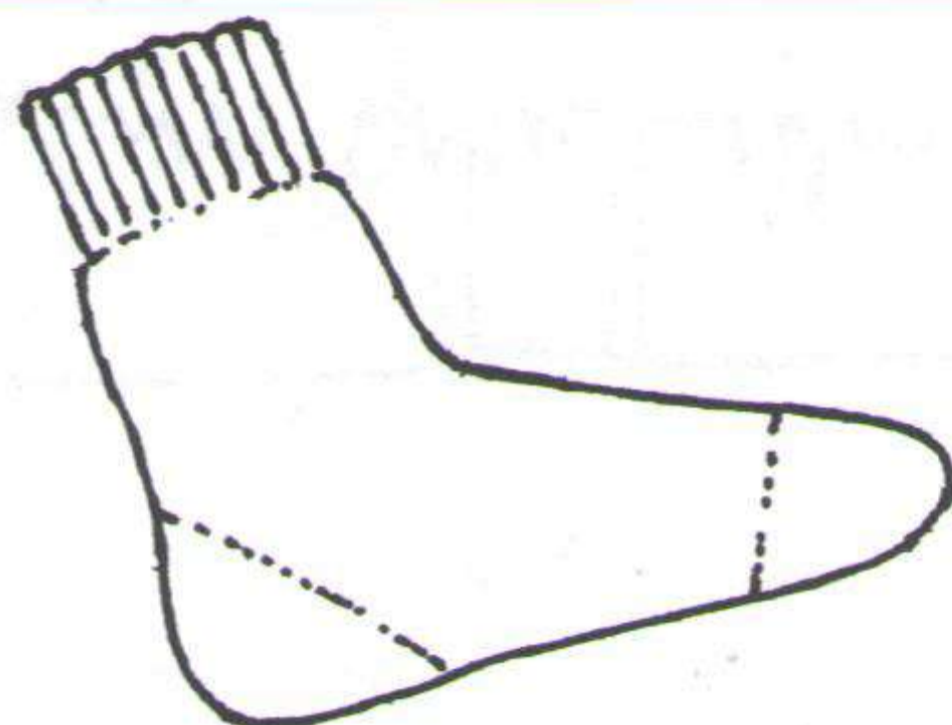
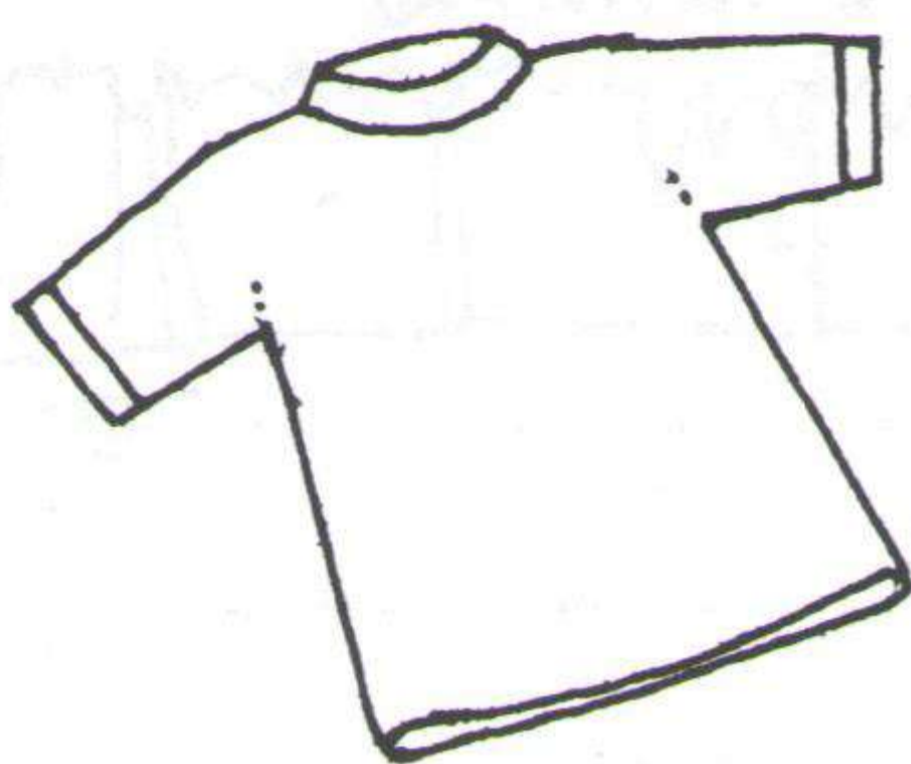
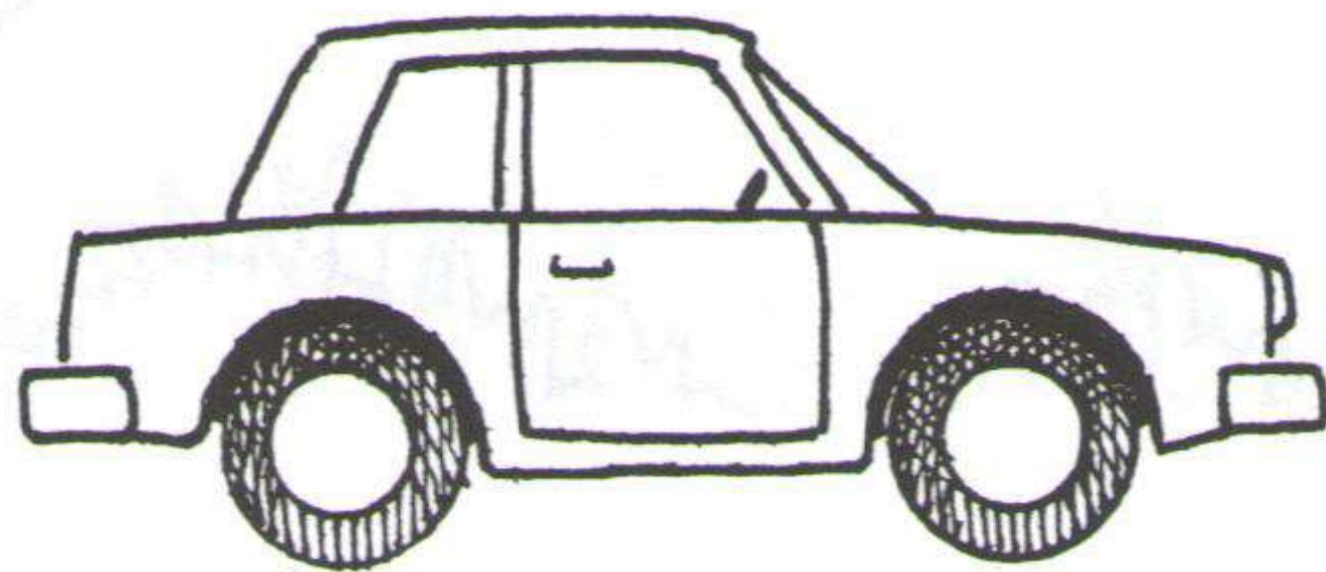
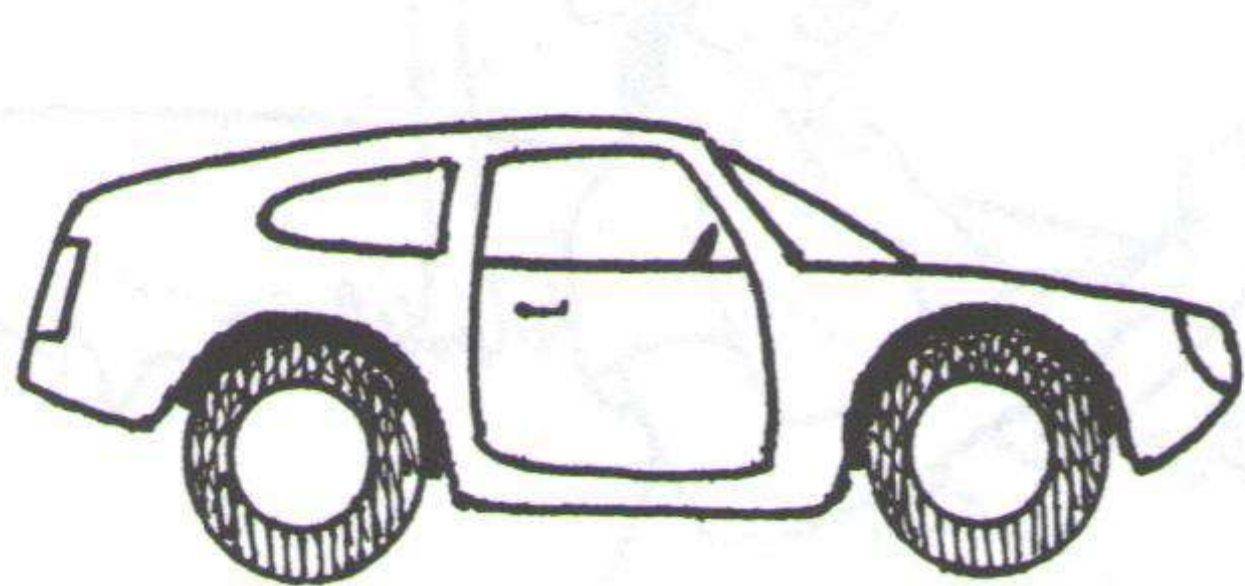
Trace each line with a different colour.



Odd one out

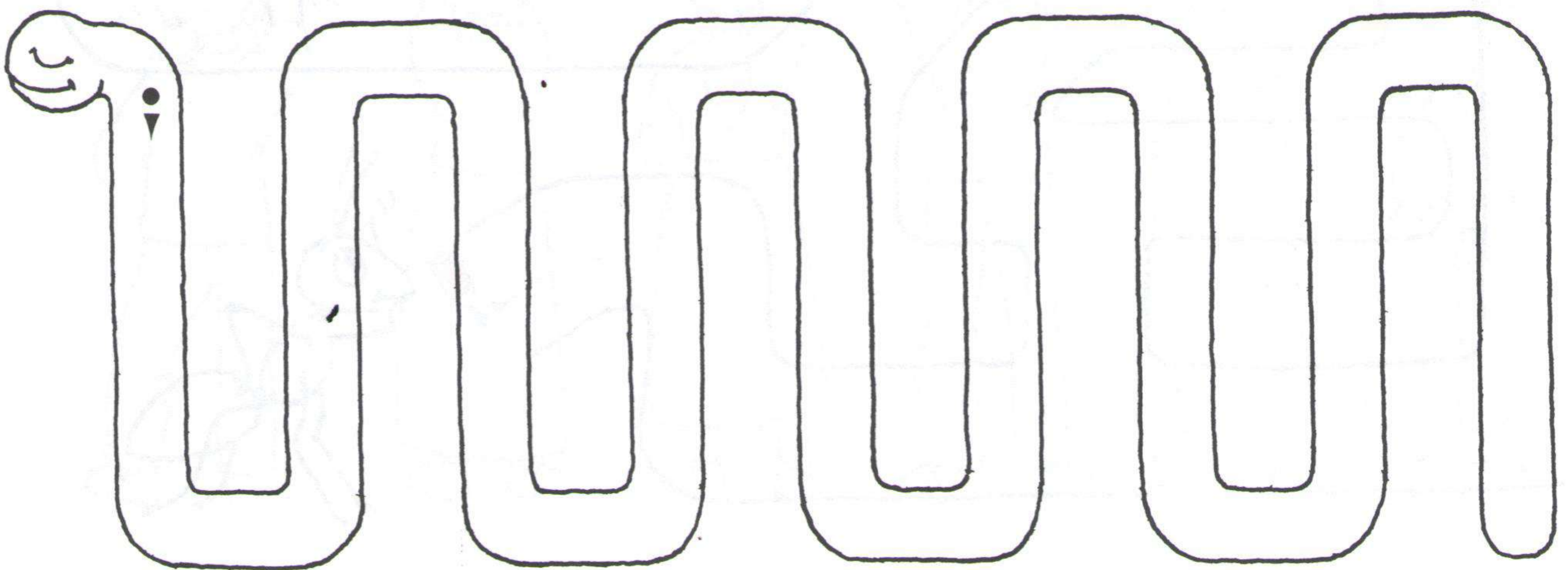
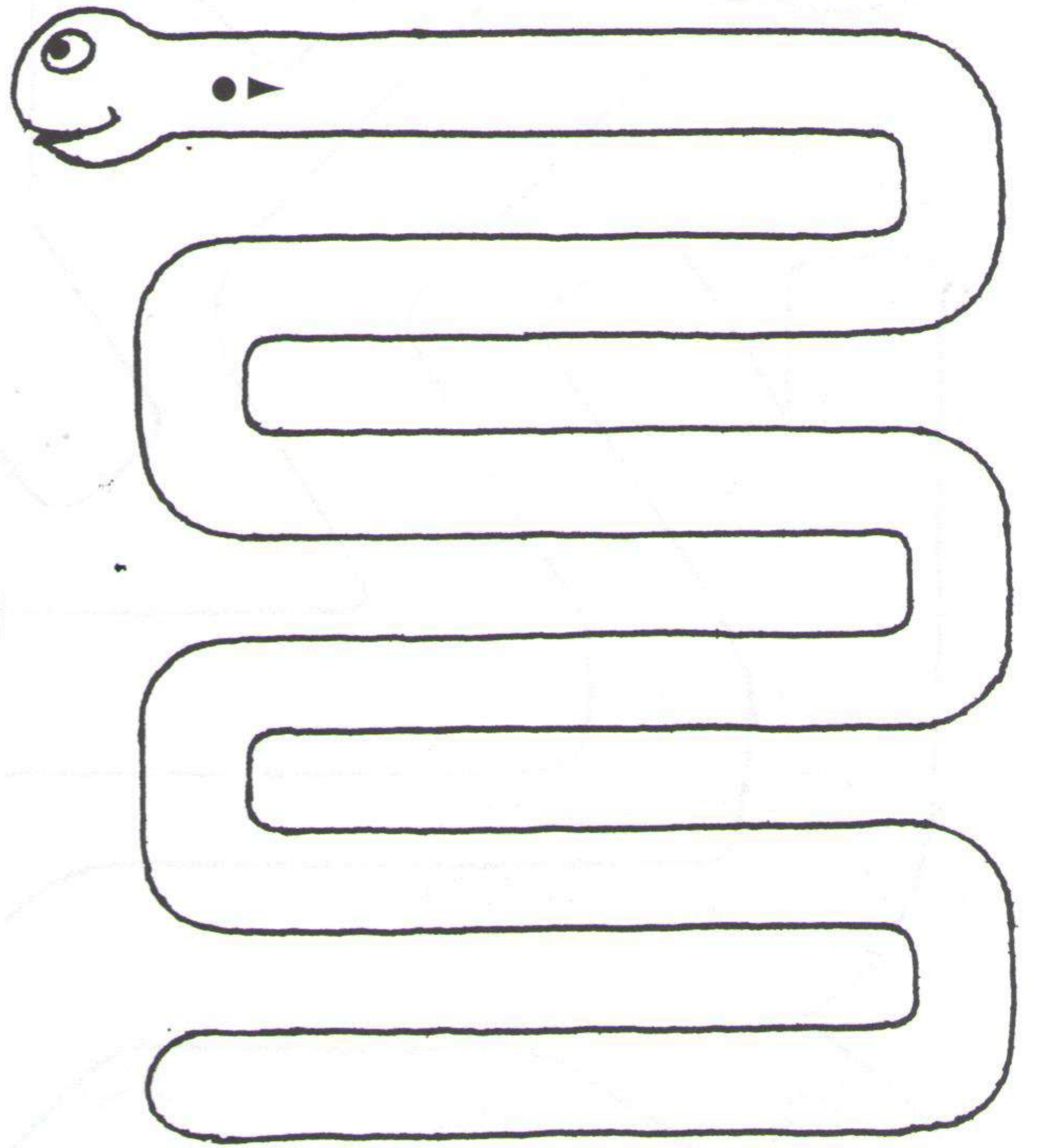
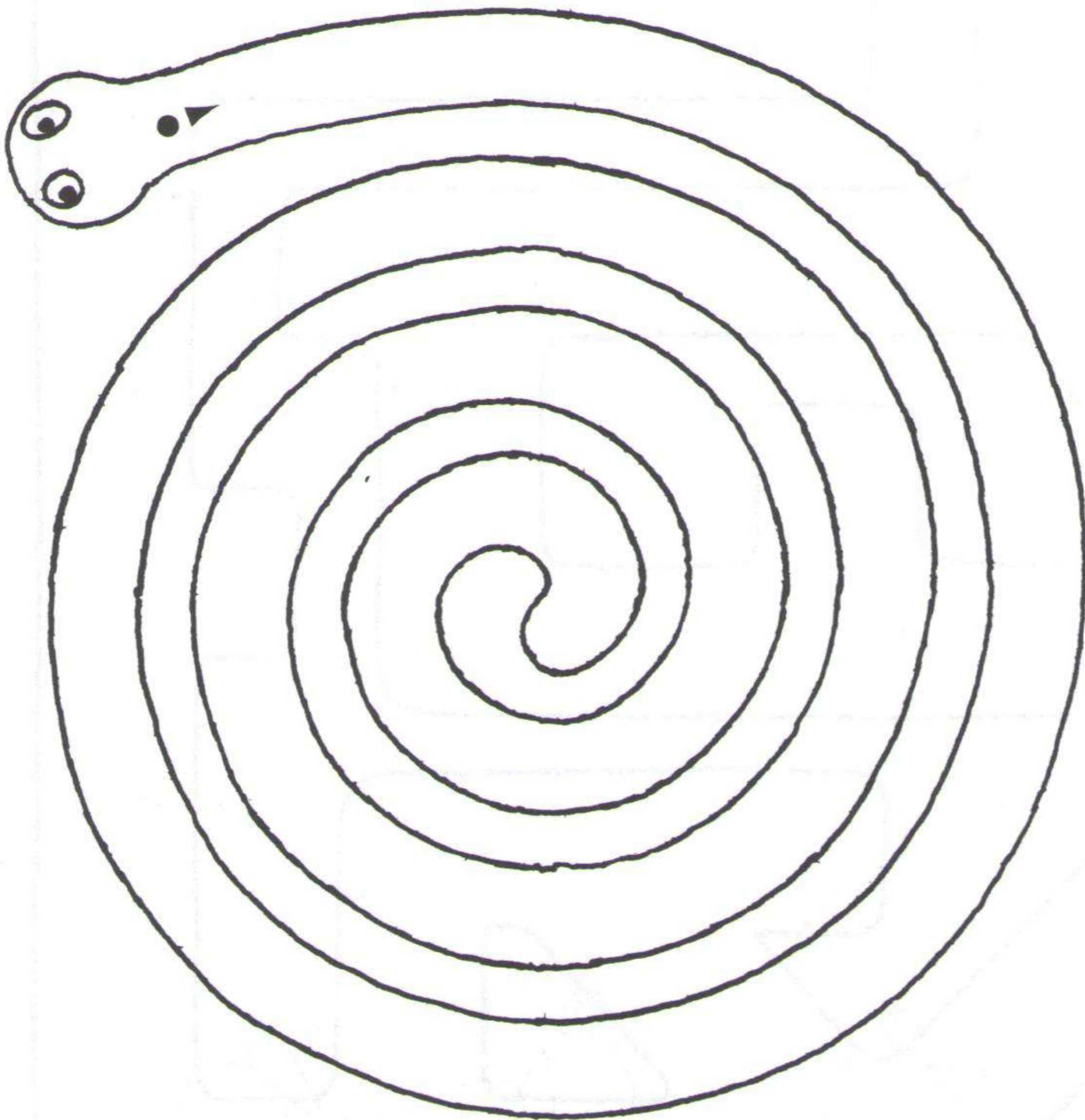
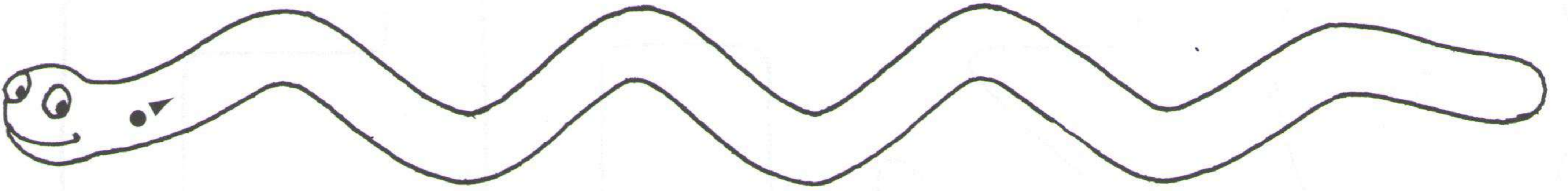
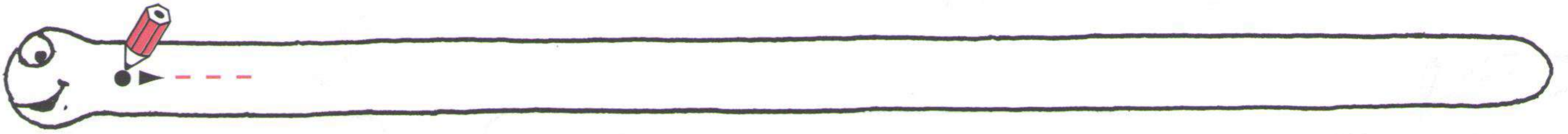
Find the odd one out.

Colour the things that are the same.



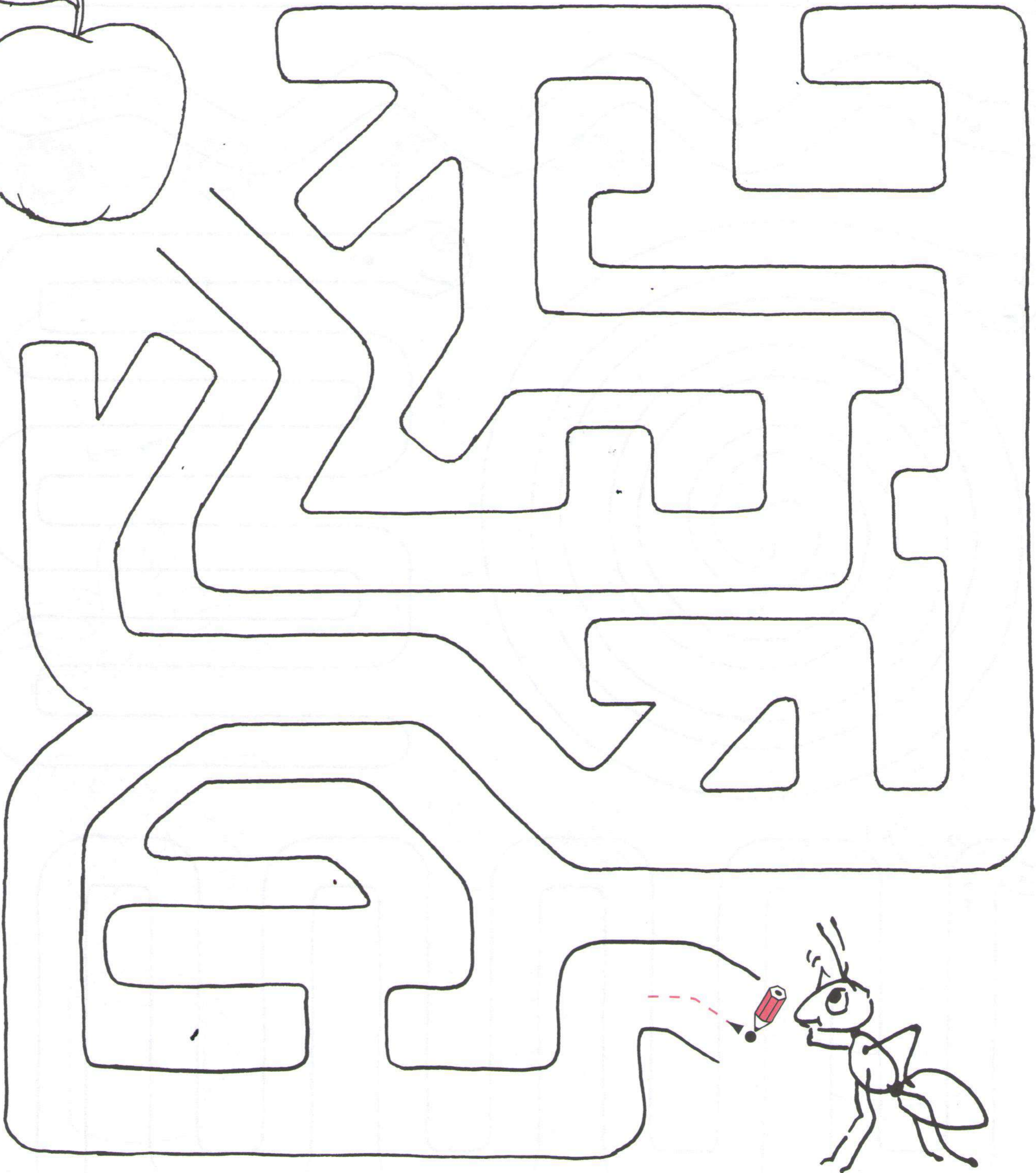
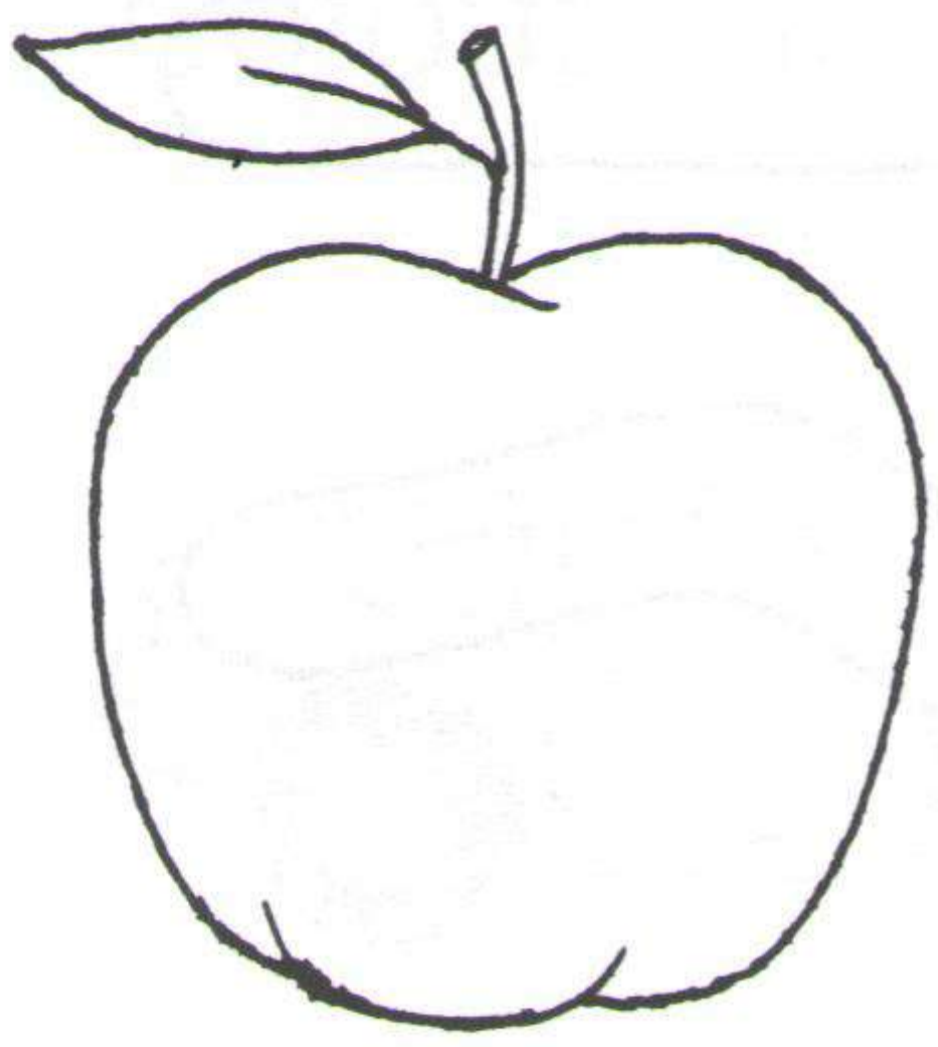
Worms

Draw a line.



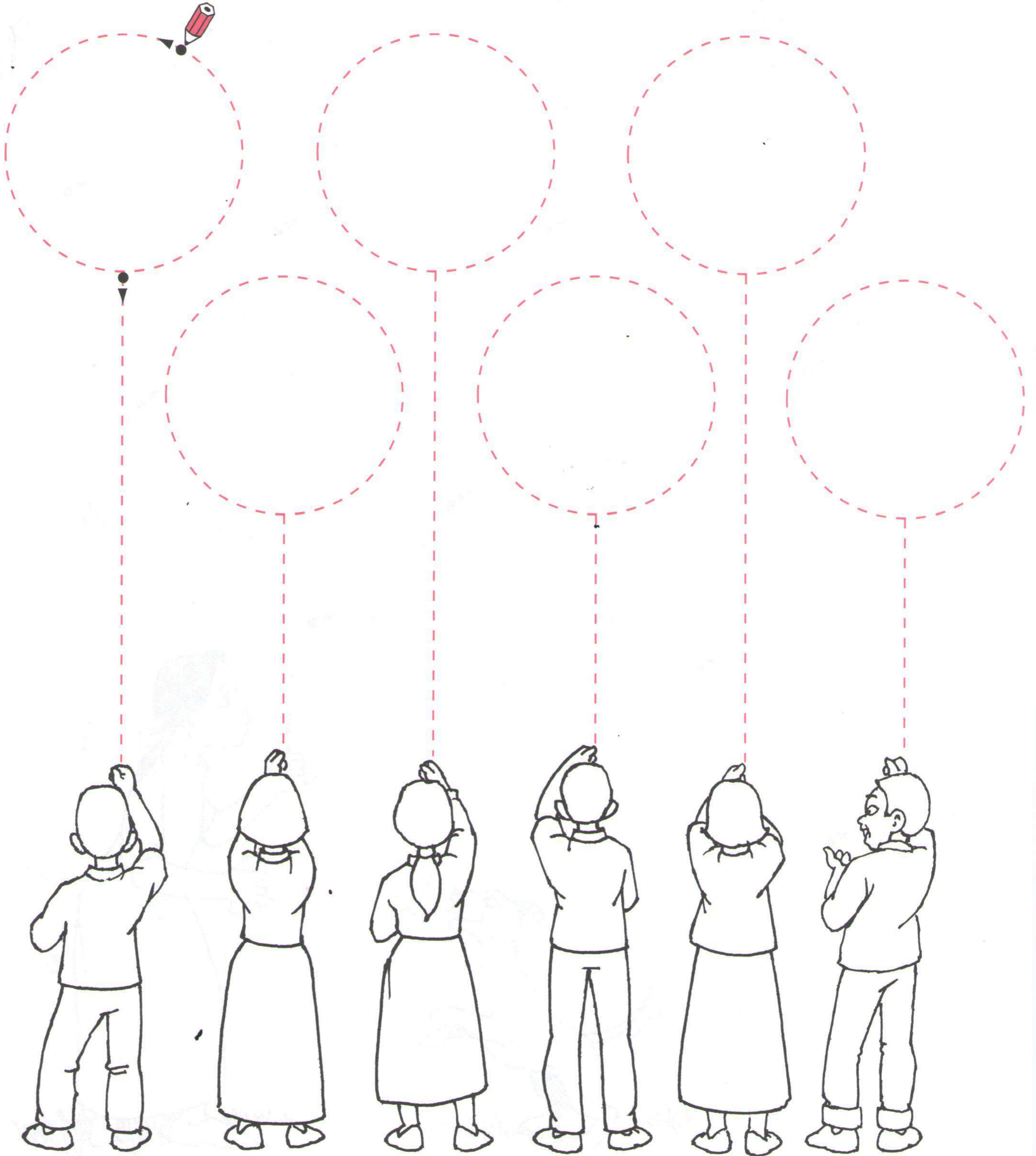
Help

Help the ant get the apple.



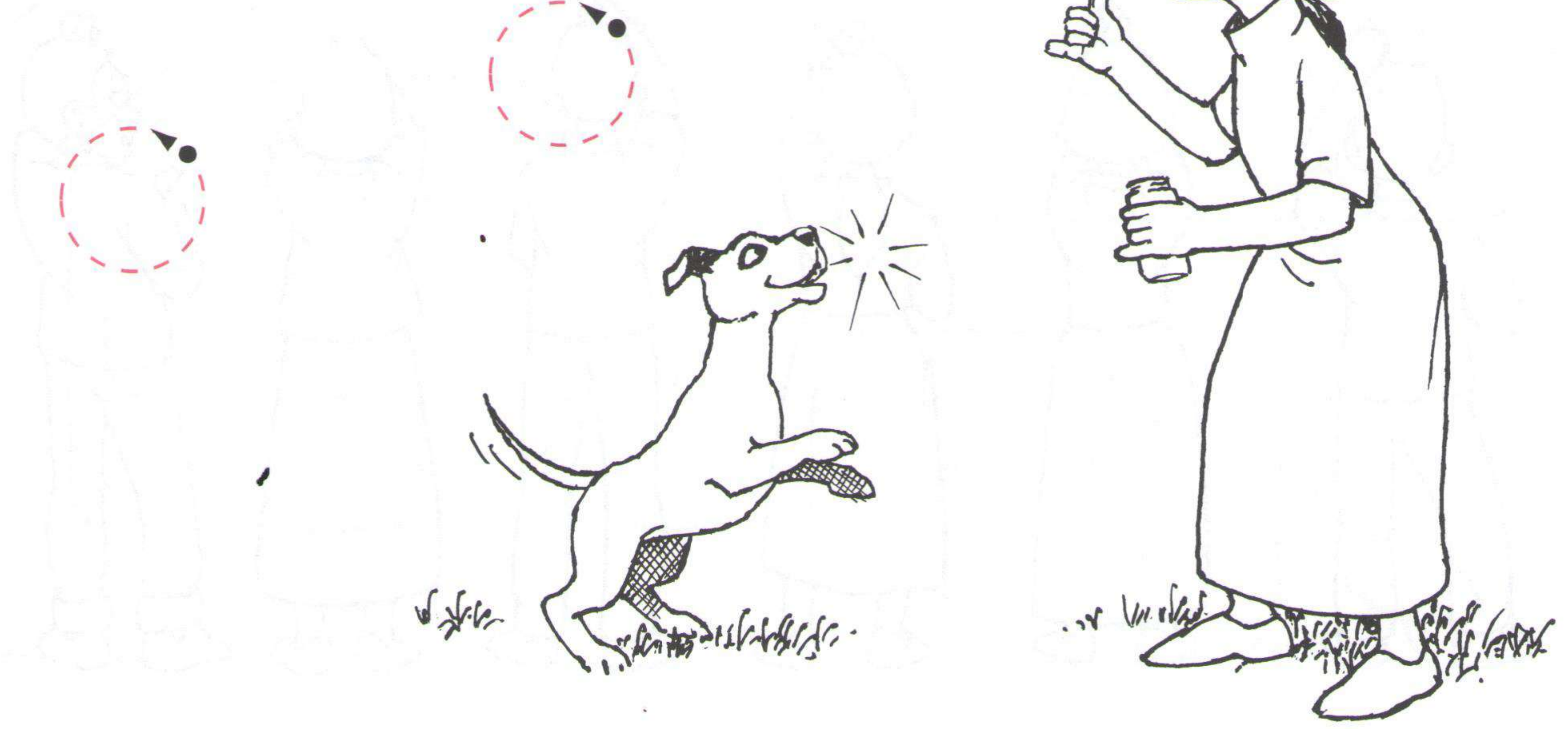
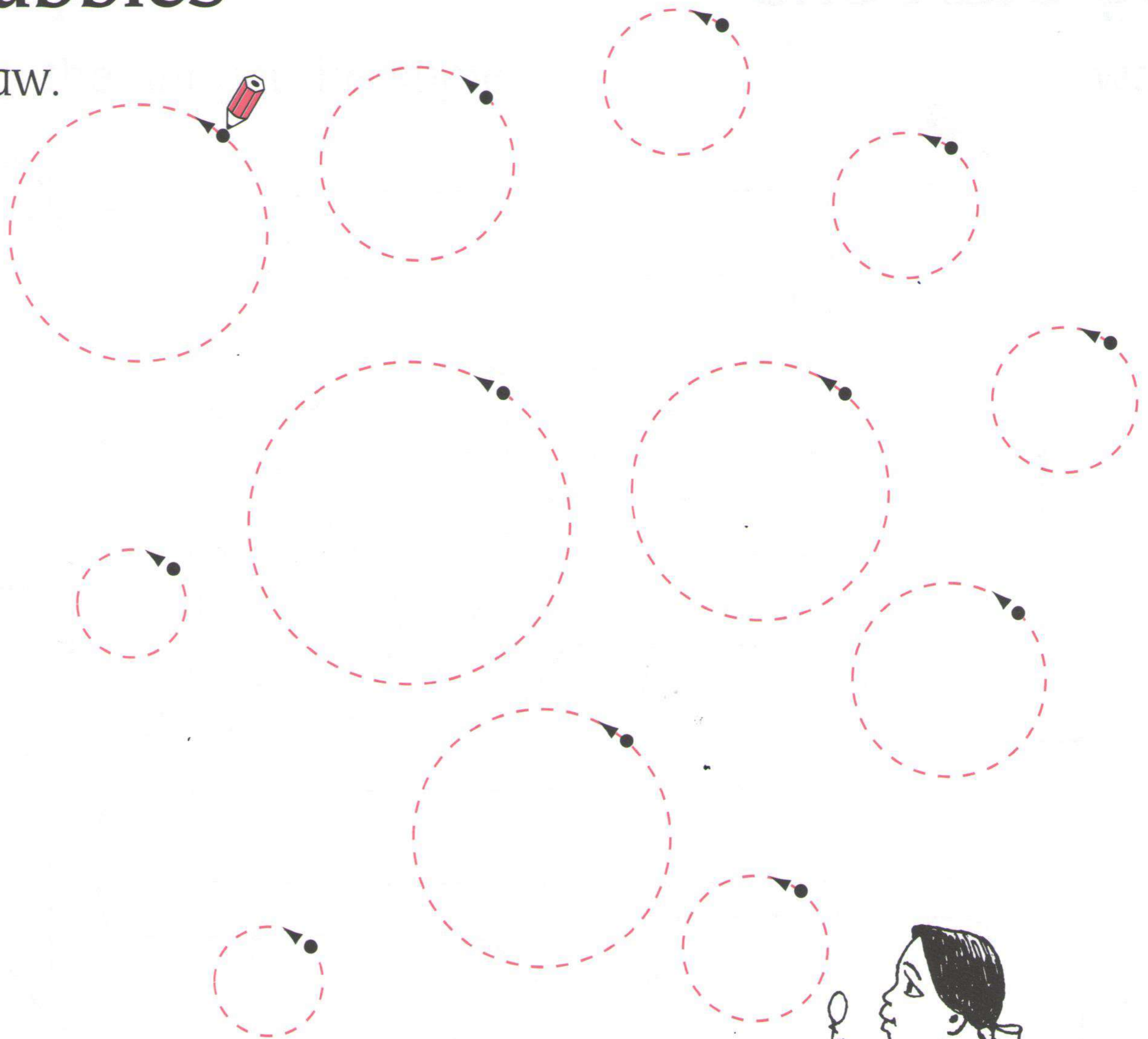
Big balloons

Draw.



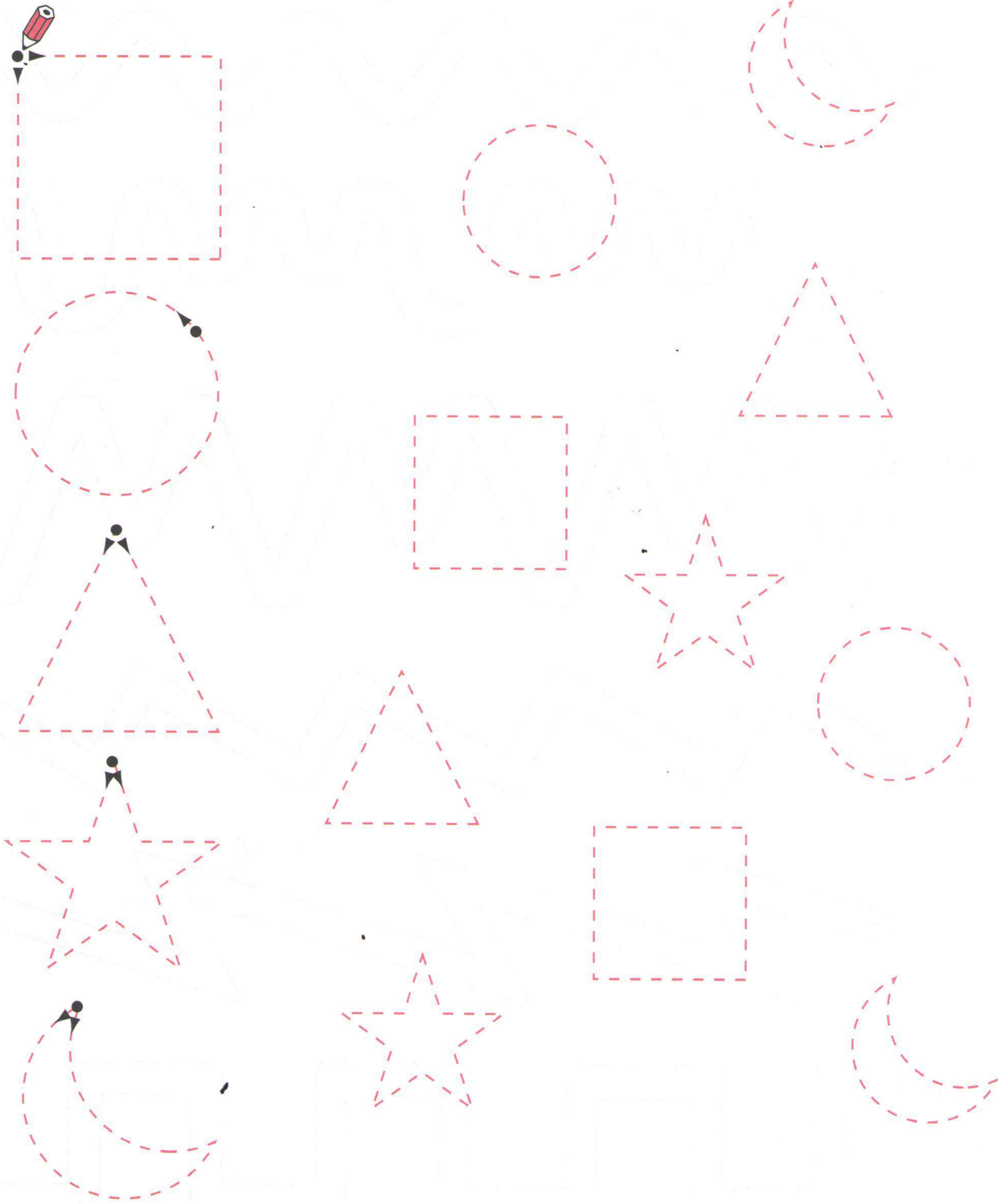
Bubbles

Draw.



Shapes

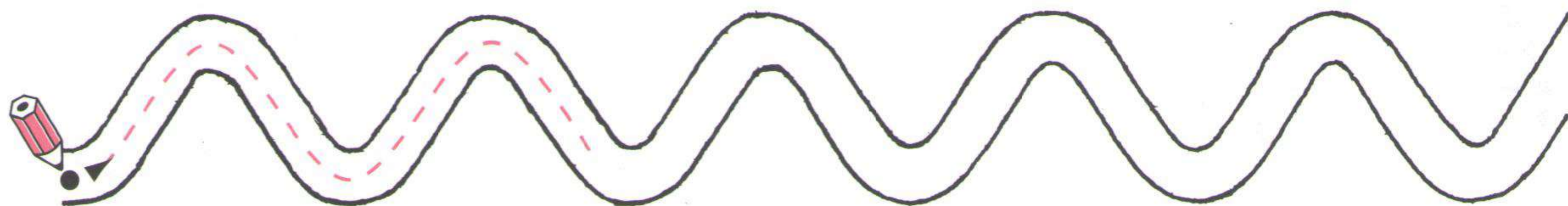
Colour the same shapes the same colour.



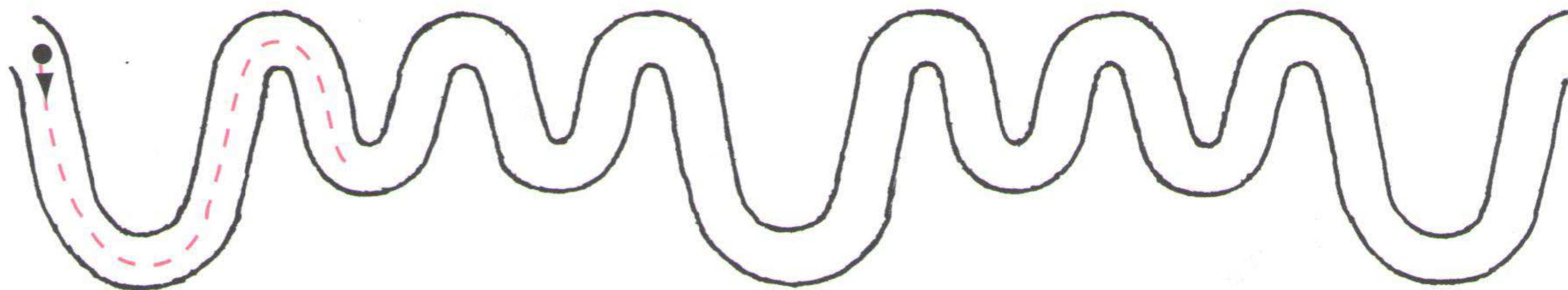
Roads

Follow each road.

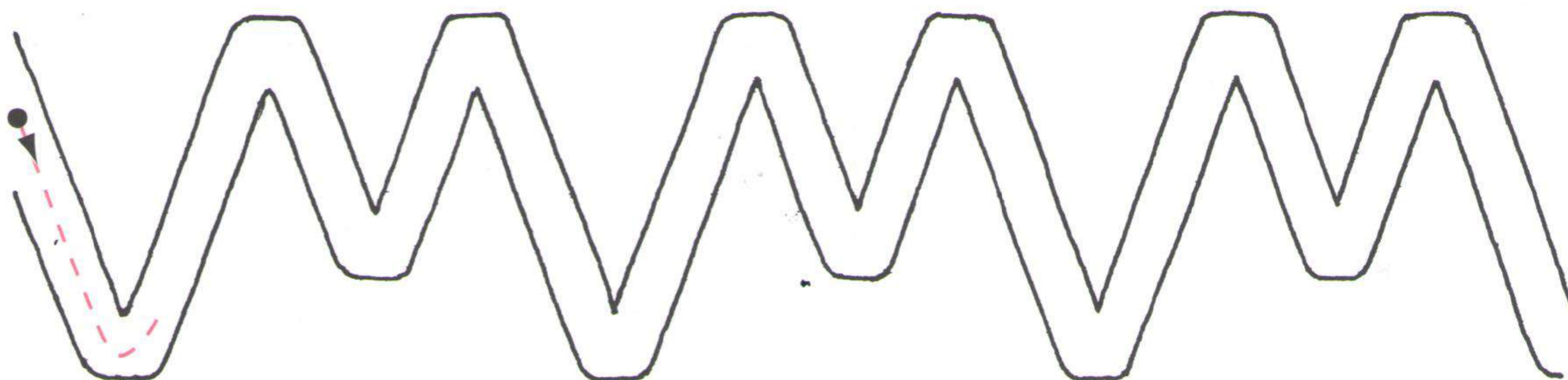
red



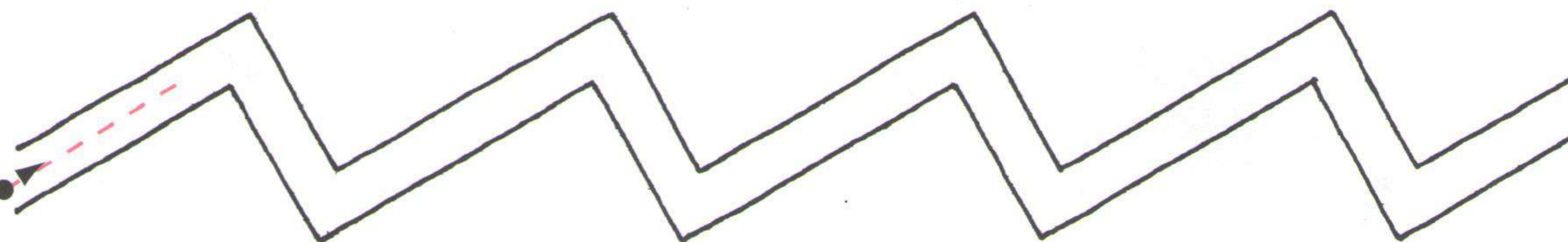
blue



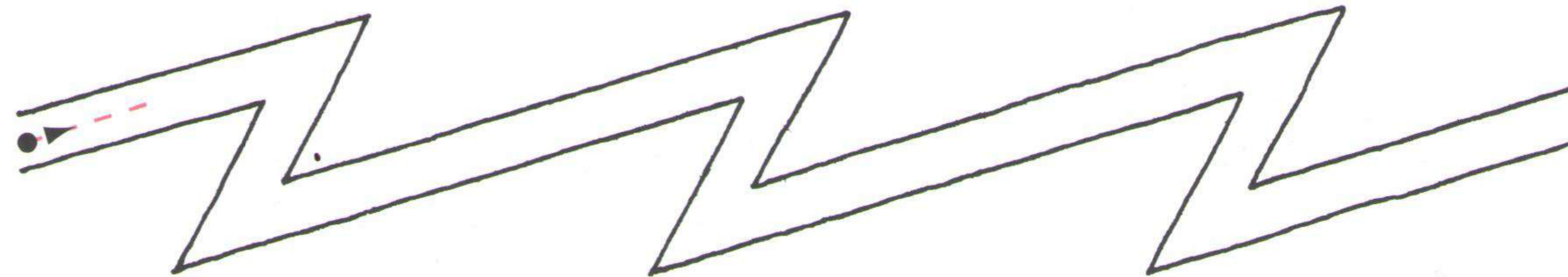
green



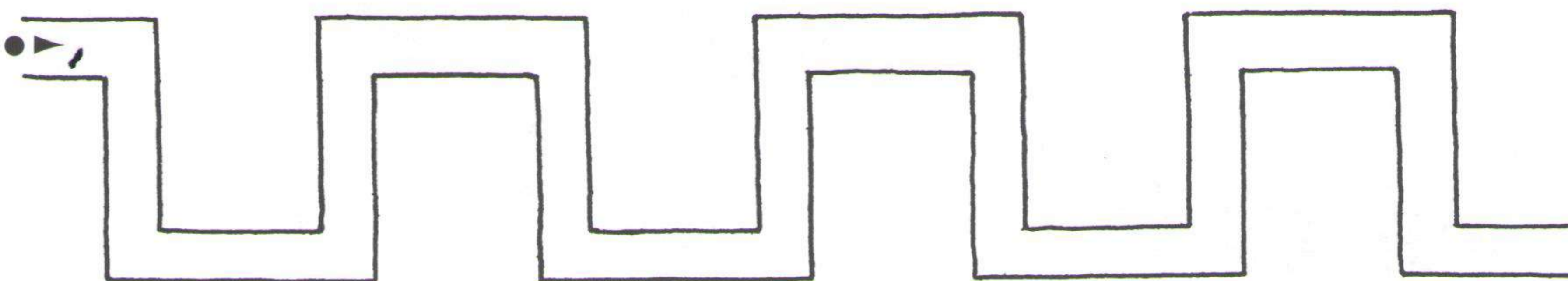
yellow



brown



orange






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