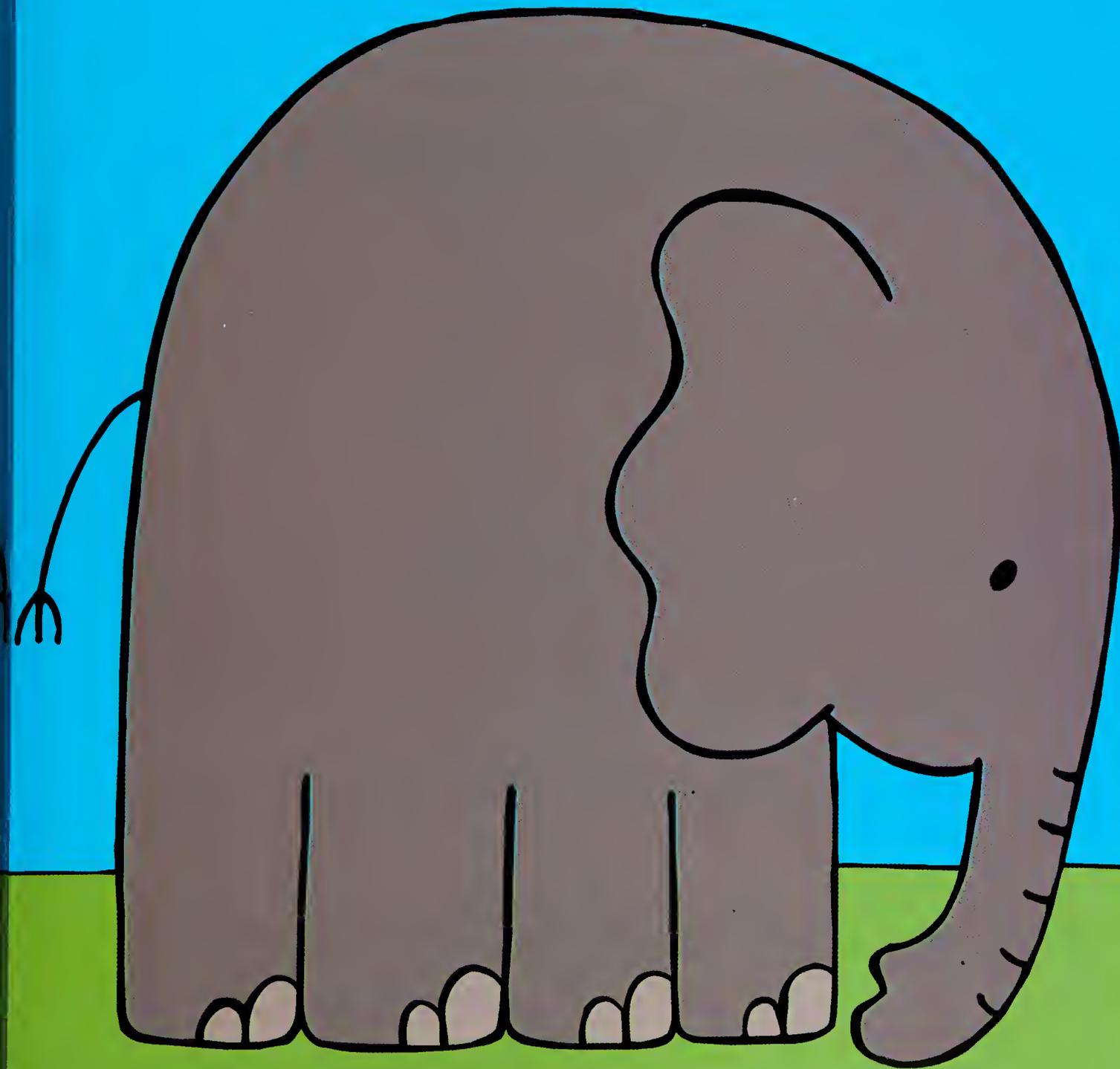




# Opposites



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ISBN 0-439-33237-0

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Printed in the U.S.A.

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First Scholastic printing, December 2001

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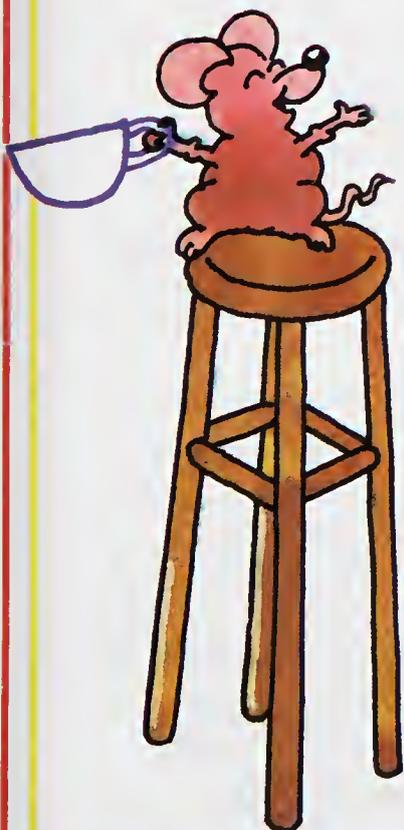
Jenny Tyler and Robyn Gee

Designed and illustrated by Graham Round

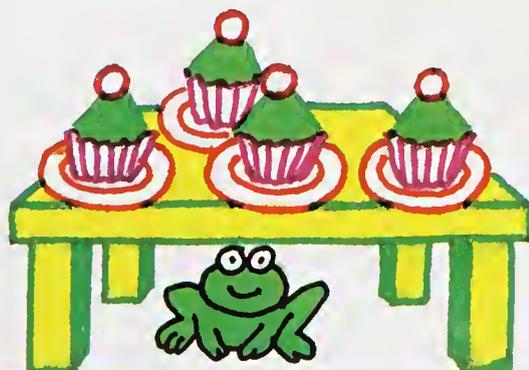
With consultant advice from John Newson and Gillian Hartley  
of the Child Development Research Unit at Nottingham University.

## About this book

This book is for an adult and child to use together. Its aim is to broaden a young child's understanding of a range of important ideas by presenting them in pairs of opposites. The words selected relate mainly to size, shape, amount, position and direction, which are all concepts which play an important part in a child's early mathematical thinking.



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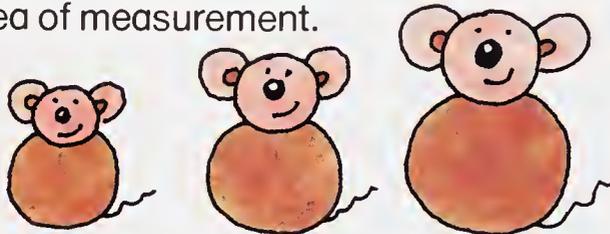
# Notes for parents

It is important to use this book when both you and your child are in the right mood to enjoy it and not to try to do too much at one time. Short, frequent sessions will allow the child's concentration to build up gradually. Leave any activities your child seems unready or unwilling to tackle and come back to them later.

Many of the words included in this book will probably be familiar to your child already. The activities provided and the discussion they will stimulate are intended to help consolidate and extend their understanding. Some of the questions invite verbal answers. These may be used as starting points for discussion.

Discussion of the size and amount opposites, in particular, can lead on to making comparisons and looking at relative sizes.

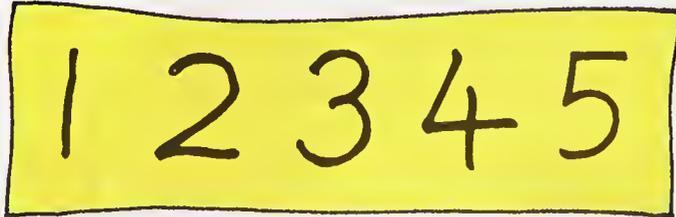
This in turn can lead on to introducing the idea of measurement.



This is big. This is bigger. This is biggest.

## Writing numbers

To answer some of the questions, the child needs to be able to count and write the numbers up to five. If your child is not very confident with numbers yet, it would be a good idea to write them out on a strip of paper so she has a model to follow when attempting to write them. Alternatively you could write the number 5 faintly or in small dots in the appropriate box on the page for your child to write over.



## Pens and pencils

There are plenty of coloring opportunities in this book and your child will need a set of crayons or felt pens for these. Coloring

is not only a very satisfying activity but is also a valuable way of helping develop good pencil control. Before you start, check your child is holding the pen or pencil correctly. It is easy to develop bad writing habits with the wrong grip.

Pens and pencils should be held lightly between the thumb and first two fingers, about 1in from the point.



## Same and different

It is important for children to grasp the idea of same and different. There are many different criteria that can be relevant in judging whether things are the same or different. The pages on same and different in this book relate specifically to size and shape.

## Left and right

It takes most children a lot of practice to distinguish confidently between left and right and this book does no more than introduce the idea in two of the contexts in which they might encounter it. Constant practice when putting on gloves, shoes and boots and when you are turning corners on a walk or drive will help to reinforce the idea. If a child is quite strongly left or right handed it can help to associate the appropriate word with "the hand you hold your spoon in". Action songs and games such as "Hokey Pokey" and "Simon says" are also good ways of practicing.

## Follow-up activities

You could follow up any of the pages in this book with practical activities, such as asking your child to find big and little things, sort things into long and short and so on. You could also play games in which the child remembers and follows a series of instructions such as, "Walk in front of the chair, jump over the cushion, crawl under the table and hide behind the curtain".



big

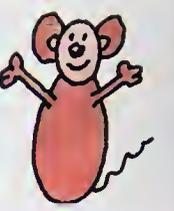
little



- Color the big clown's shoes red.
- Color the little bucket blue.
- How many balls are there?
- How many little balls are there?  
Color them green.
- How many big balls are there?  
Color them yellow.
- Color the little clown's nose red.
- Who is wearing the big hat?  
Make this square the same color as the flower on the big hat.
- Draw dots on the big clown's trousers.



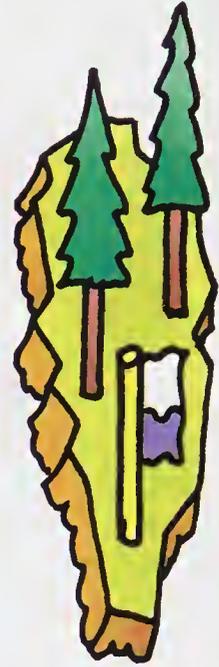
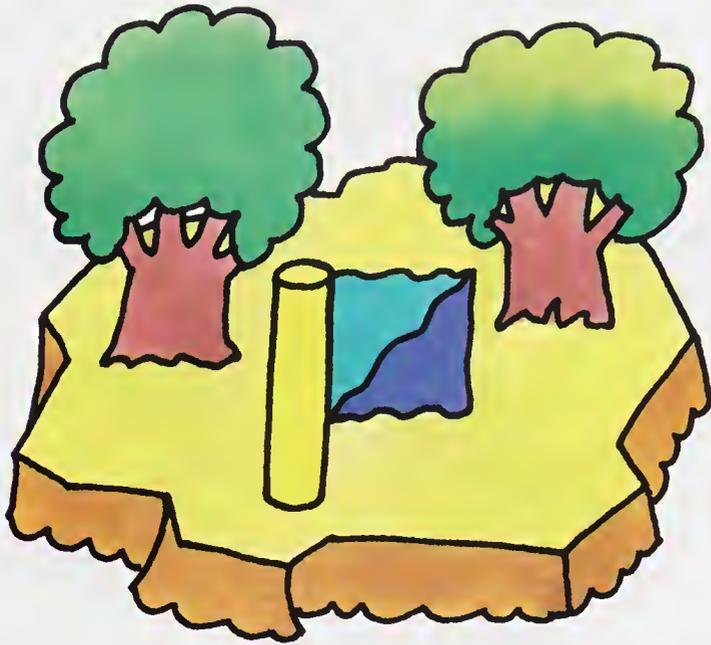
fat



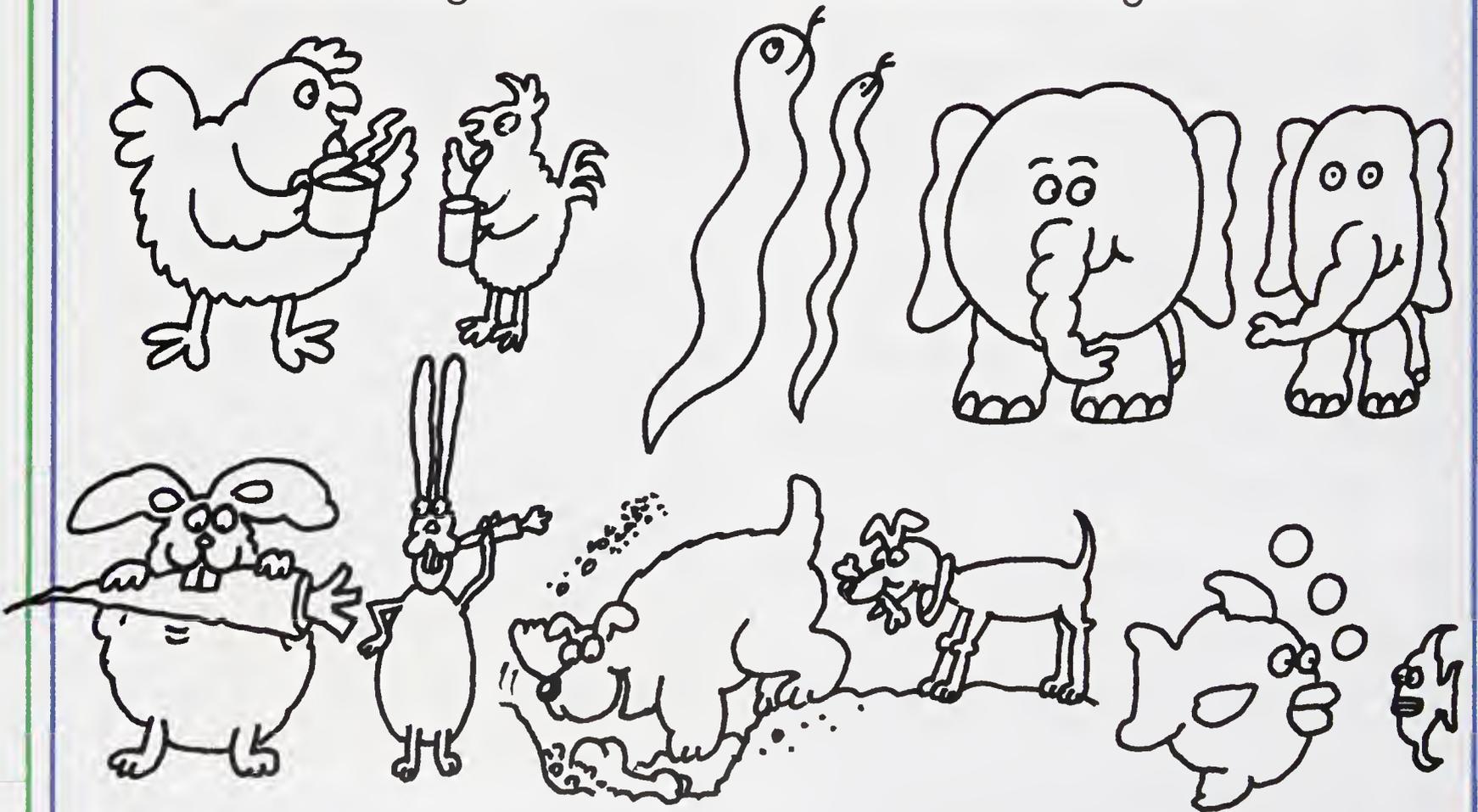
thin

This island is called Fat Island.  
Everything that lives here is fat.

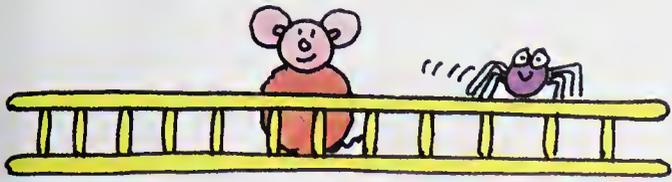
This island is called Thin Island.  
Everything that lives here is thin.



- Color all the things that live on Fat Island red and yellow.



- Color all the things that live on Thin Island blue and green.



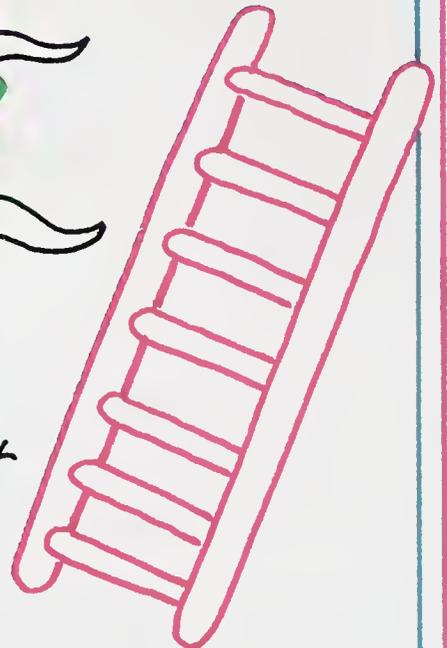
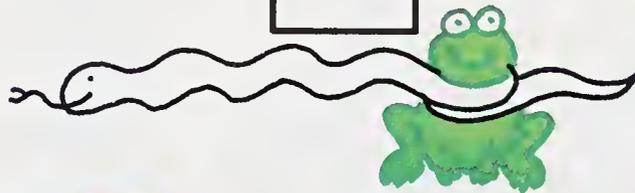
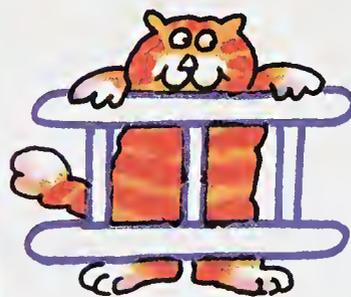
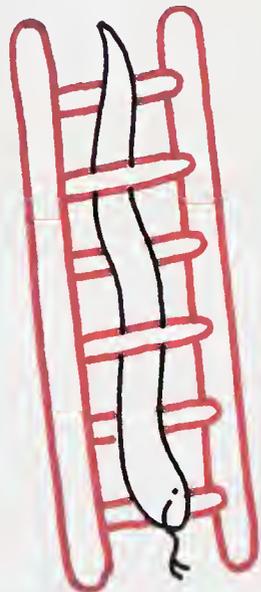
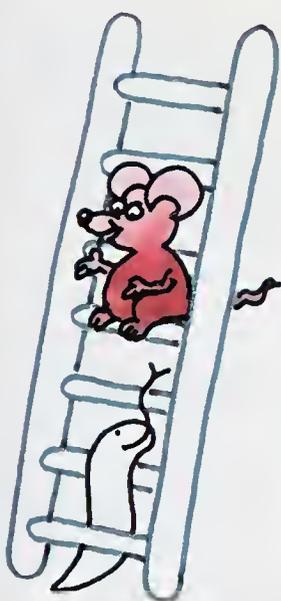
long

short



• How many clowns have short legs?  
Color their hats red.

• How many clowns have long legs?  
Color their hats blue.

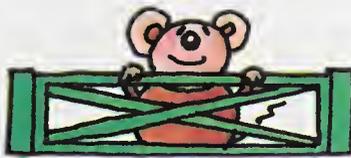


• Color the short snakes yellow.

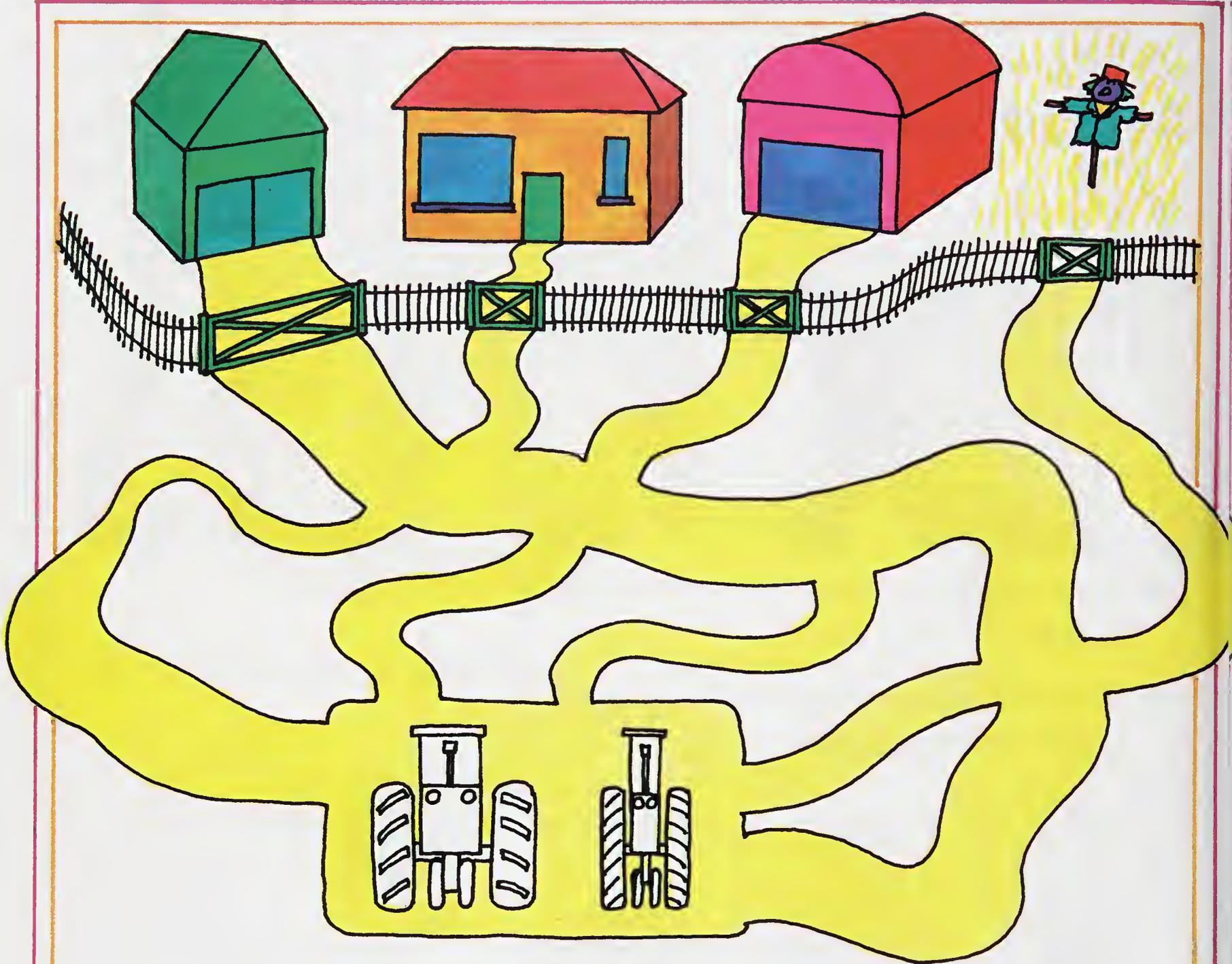
• How many long snakes can you see?

• Draw stripes on the long snakes.

• How many short ladders are there? Color them.

 wide

narrow 



- Color the tractor with wide wheels red.
- Color the tractor with narrow wheels green.
- Which gate is wide enough for the wide-wheeled tractor to go through?  
Draw a line to show the wide-wheeled tractor the way to the wide gate.

● How many narrow gates are there?



high

low



● Color the cups on the low shelf.

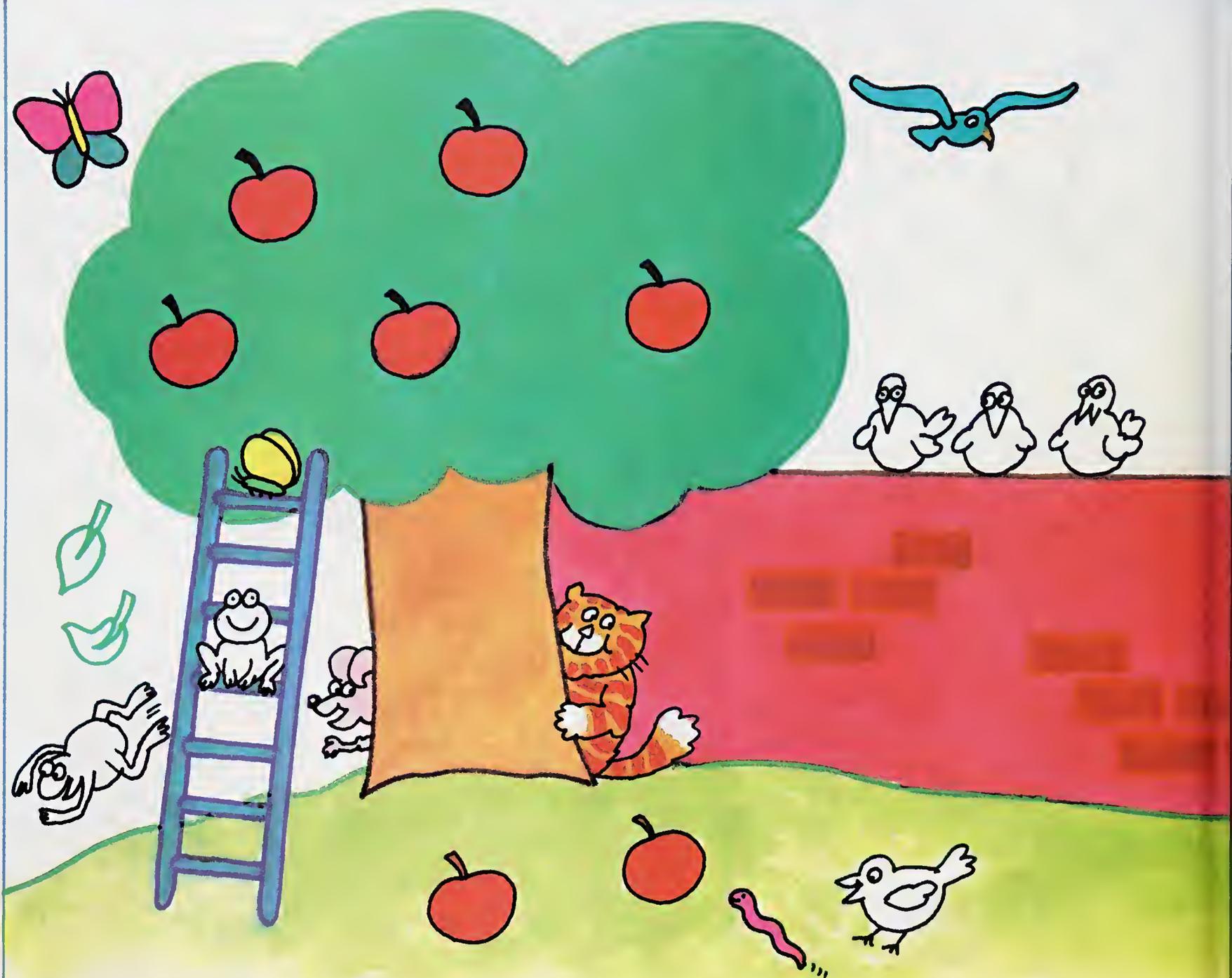
● How many cups are on the high shelf?

● Who is sitting on the low stool?  
Draw a circle round one of these pictures.

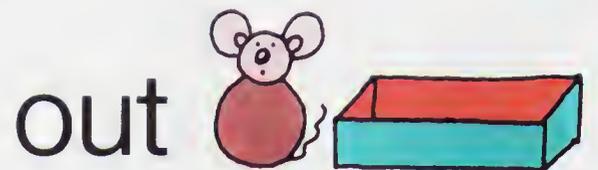


● How many cupcakes are on the high table?

● Color the picture that is hanging high up on the wall.



- How many red apples are on the tree?
- Color the frog sitting on the ladder green.
- How many red apples have fallen off the tree?
- Color the frog jumping off the ladder yellow.
- How many birds are sitting on the wall? Color them.
- Can you see some leaves falling off the tree? Color them green.



- How many eggs are in the nest?
- Color the apples in the basket green.
- How many eggs have fallen out of the nest?
- Color the spider crawling out of the bucket.
- How many apples have fallen out of the basket?
- Color the birds sitting in the trees.

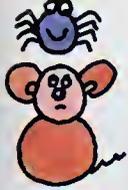


up

down



- How many balloons are up in the air?
- 2 airplanes are going up. Color them yellow.
- How many airplanes are down on the ground?
- Which airplanes are coming down? Color them blue.
- Whose kite has fallen down?



above

below

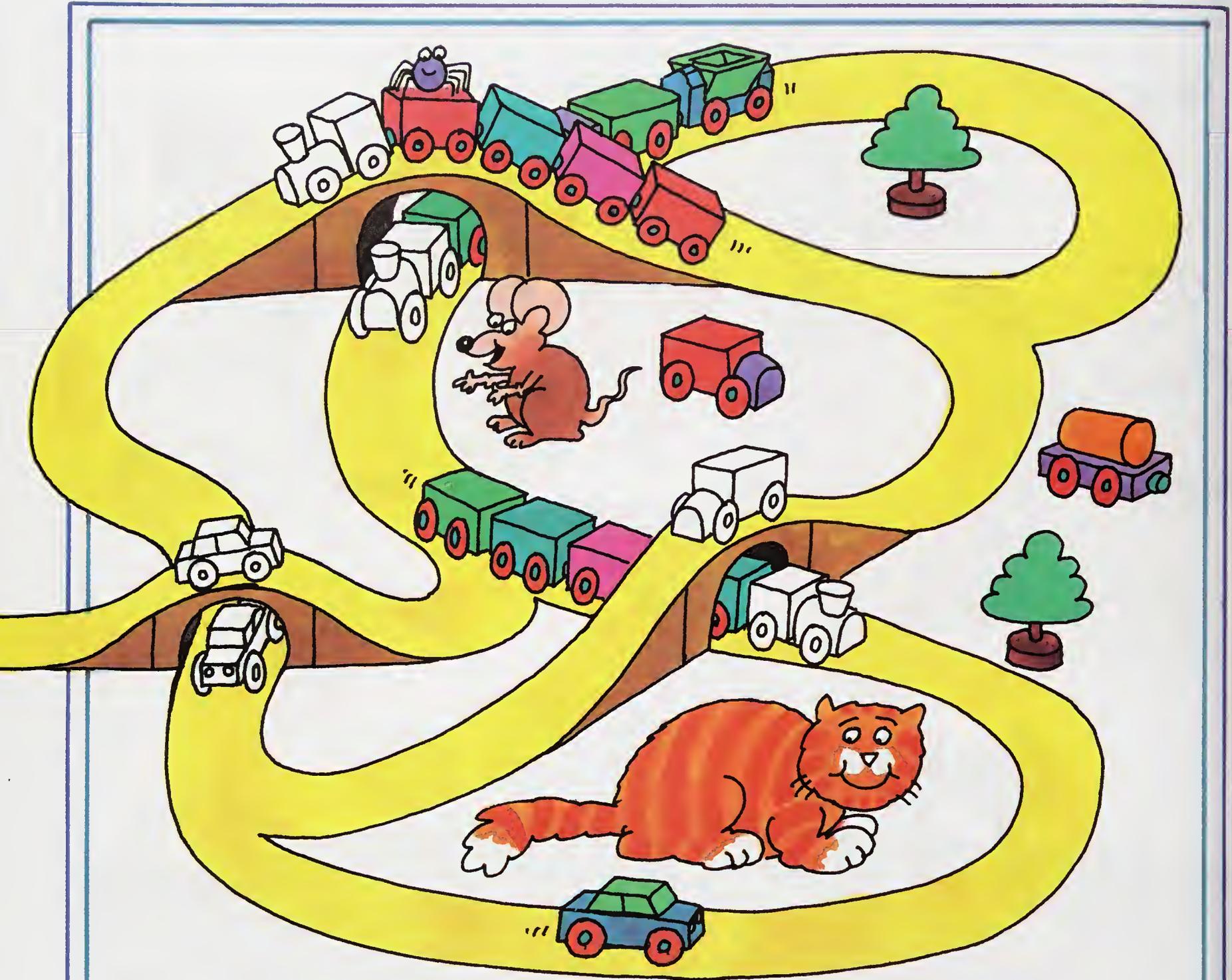


- Color the airplane flying above the balloons.
- Color the bird that is below the red and yellow balloon.
- Whose kite is flying above the clouds?  
Draw a circle round it.
- Draw a bird above the pink cloud.



over

under



● How many trains are going under bridges?  
Color their engines red.

● How many trains are going over bridges?  
Color their engines blue.

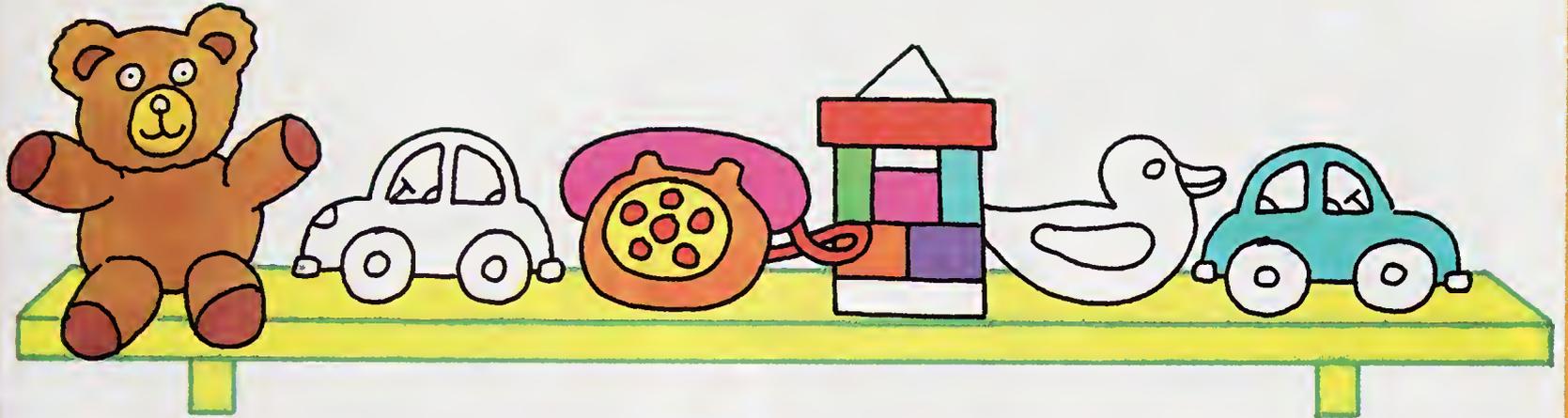
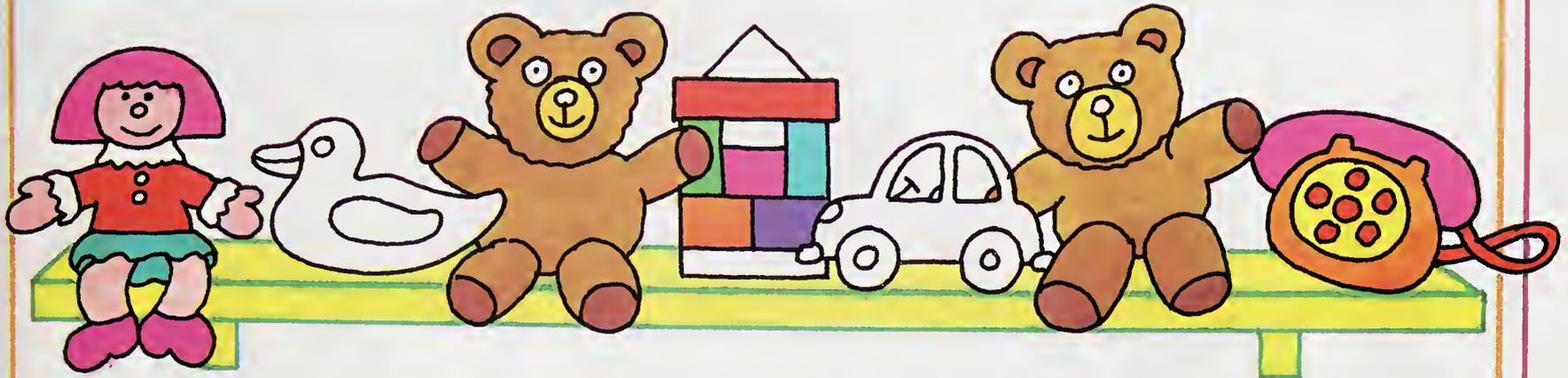
● Color the truck going over a bridge.

● Color the car going under a bridge.



top

bottom



- Color the car on the top shelf red.
- Color the car on the bottom shelf yellow.
- How many teddy bears are on the top shelf?
- How many teddy bears are on the bottom shelf?
- Color the bottom brick on the top shelf.
- Is the mouse sitting on the bottom shelf?



open

closed

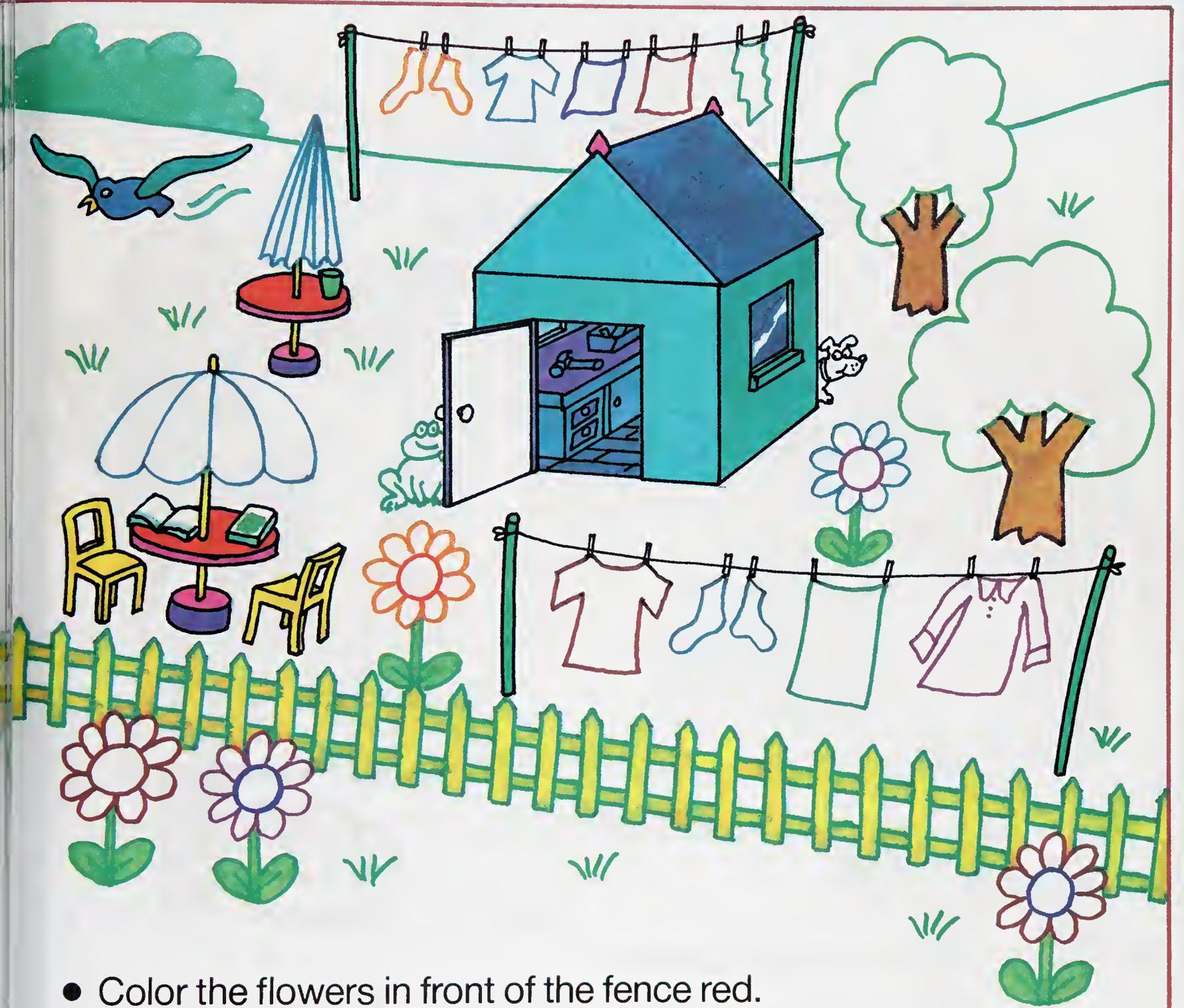
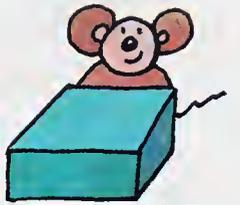


- Find a closed door and color it blue.
- Find 2 open doors and color them red.
- How many more open doors can you find?
- Which room has open windows? Color the things in it.
- How many gates are closed?
- Color the open shade yellow.



in front of

behind



- Color the flowers in front of the fence red.
- Who is hiding behind the shed? Color him in.
- Who is hiding behind the shed door? Color him in too.
- Color the washing on the line in front of the shed.
- Draw a flower in front of the house.
- How many trees are there behind the shed?
- Color the path in front of the house.





full

empty



- Whose glass is empty? Color it.
- How many jars are full?
- Color the empty jars to match the fruit on their labels.
- Who is holding the empty potato chip bag? Color it blue.
- Color the full potato chip bag red.
- Color the empty bottles.



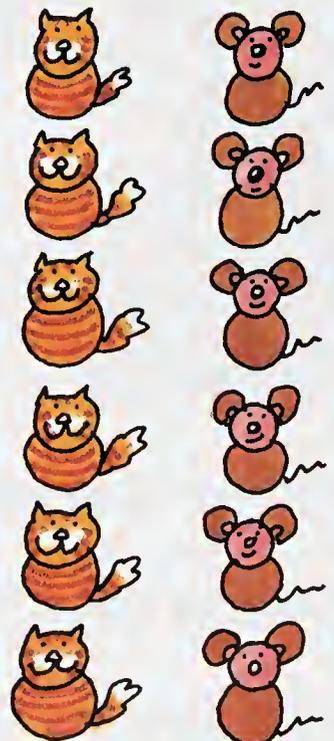
more

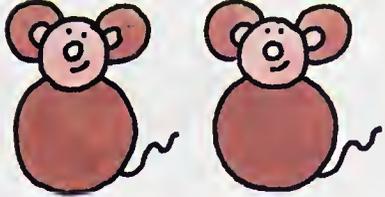
less



Draw circles round the pictures to answer the questions.

- Who has more paint brushes?
- Who has less paint in his paint pot?
- Whose jar has more water in it?
- Who has painted more of his picture?
- Whose apron has less paint on it?
- Who has put less paint on his picture?



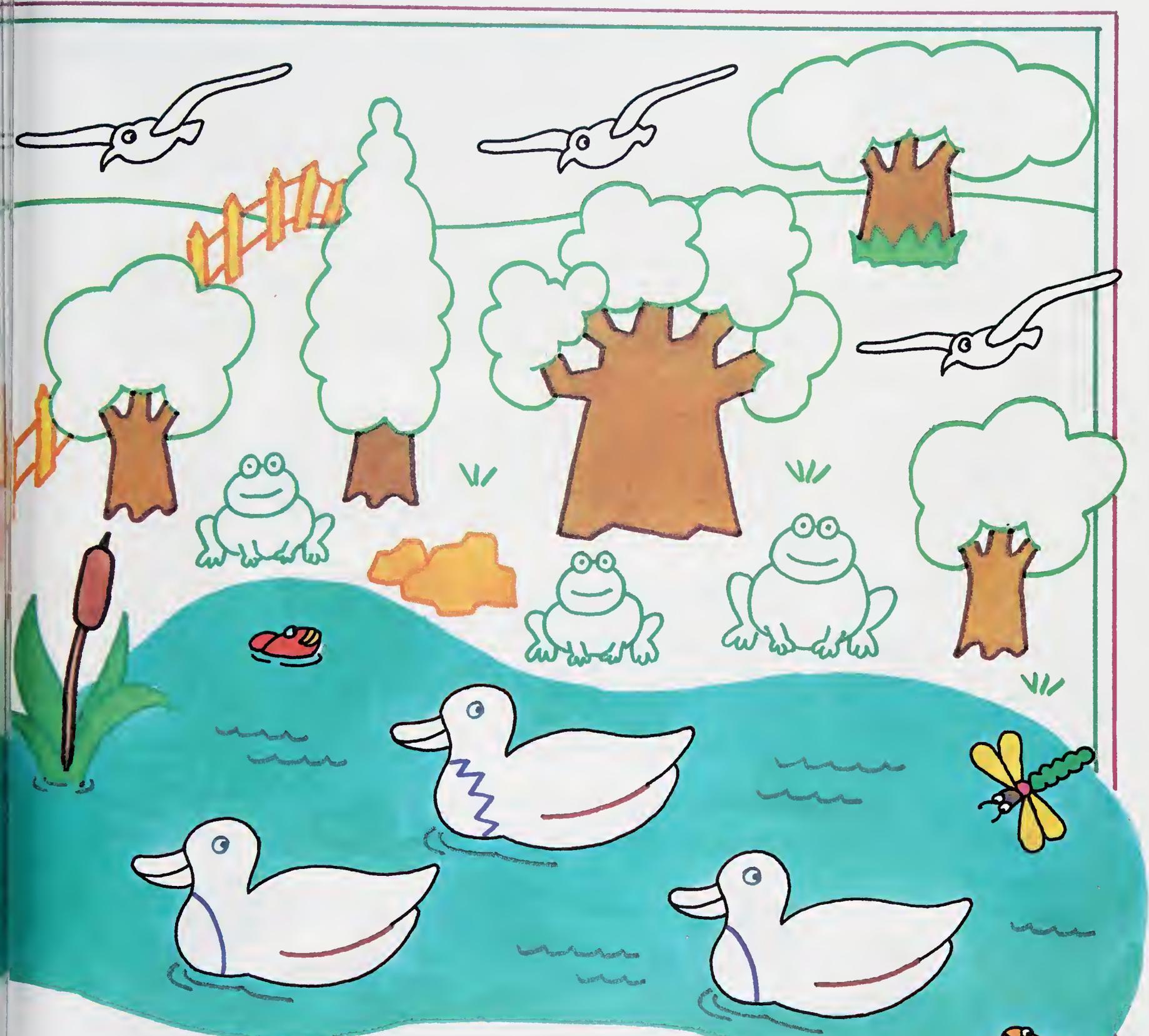


same

different



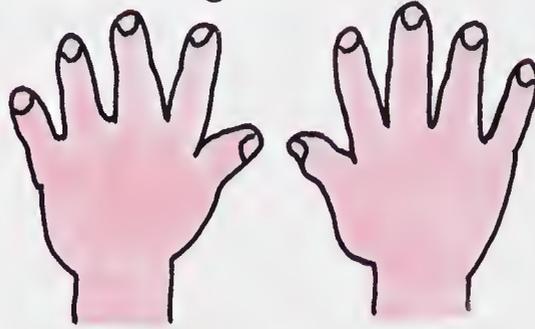
- Which car is different? Color it.
- Which house is different? Color its door red.
- Which 2 dogs are the same? Color them.
- Are all the flowers the same? Color the one that is different.
- 2 of the clouds are the same shape. Find them and color them.



- Which 2 frogs are the same size? Color them.
- Which duck is different? Color it.
- Which 2 trees are the same? Color them.
- Do all the birds look the same? Color them each a different color.

- Put your hands on the table so your thumbs are next to each other.

This is your  
left hand.



This is your  
right hand.

- Color all the gloves that fit a left hand red.
- Color all the gloves that fit a right hand yellow.
- Draw lines to join them into pairs.



- How many bears are holding out their right arms?
- How many bears are holding umbrellas in their left hands?



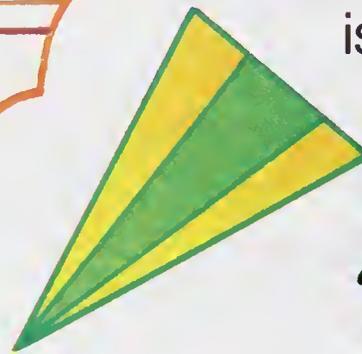
# Draw some opposites

This is a big ball.

- Draw a little ball here.

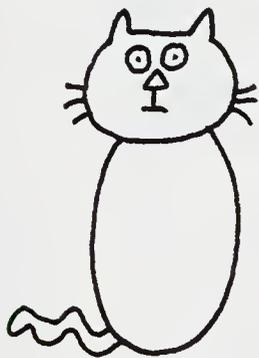


- Mouse's plane is going down.



This cat has a thin body.

- Draw a fat body on this cat.



- Draw a plane that is going up for cat.

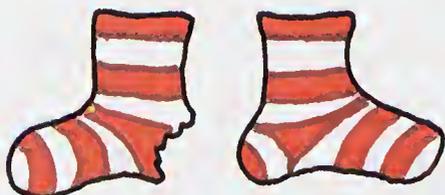
- Draw long stems on these flowers.



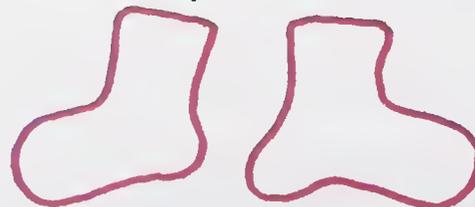
These flowers have short stems.



The left sock of this pair has a hole in it.



- Color the right sock of this pair.

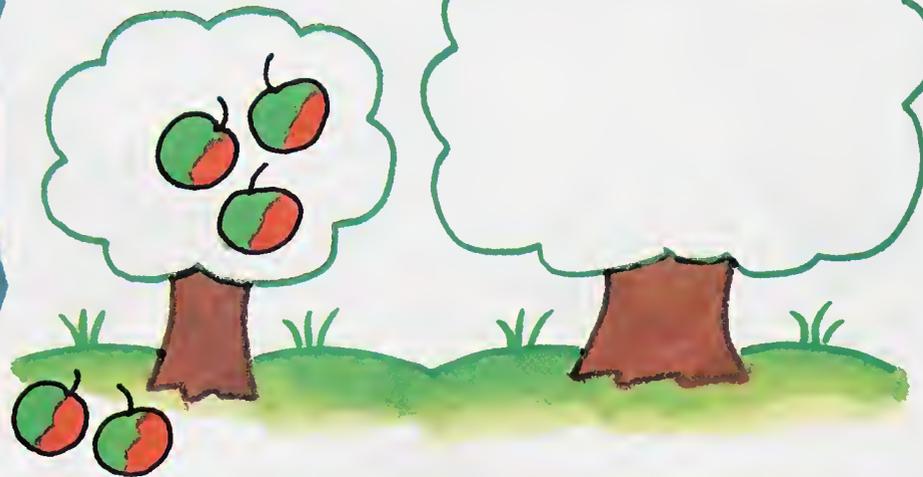


This glass is empty.



- Draw a full glass here.

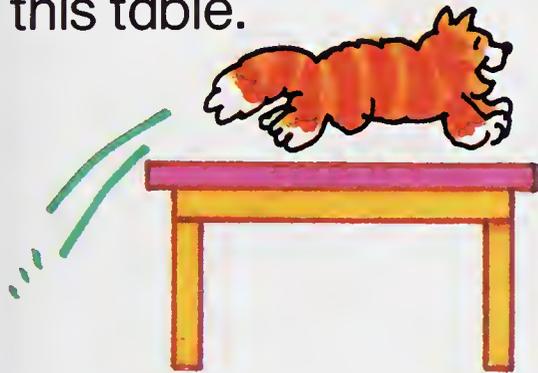
2 apples have fallen off this tree.



- How many apples are still on it?



The cat is jumping over this table.



- Draw a turtle under this table.



This bird is below the cloud.



- Draw some birds above this cloud.



This car is going along a narrow road.

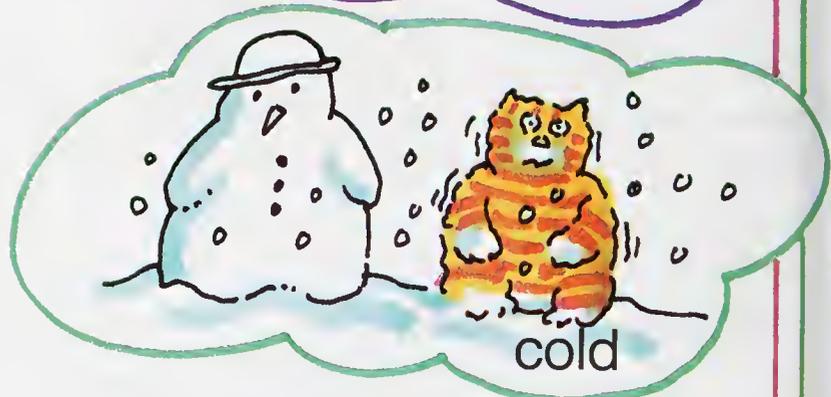
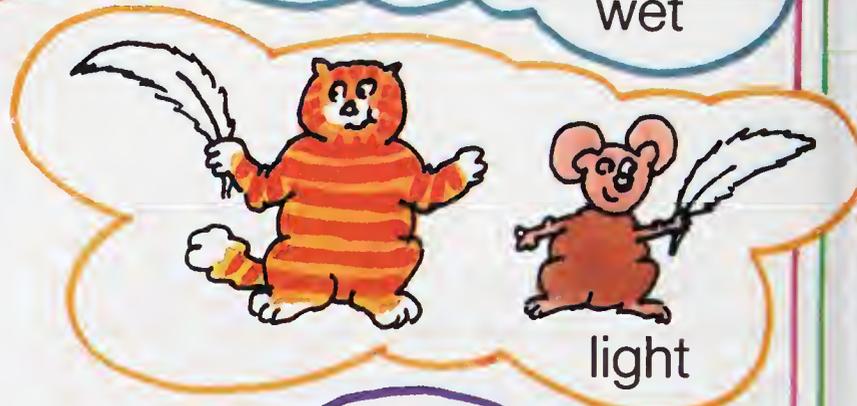
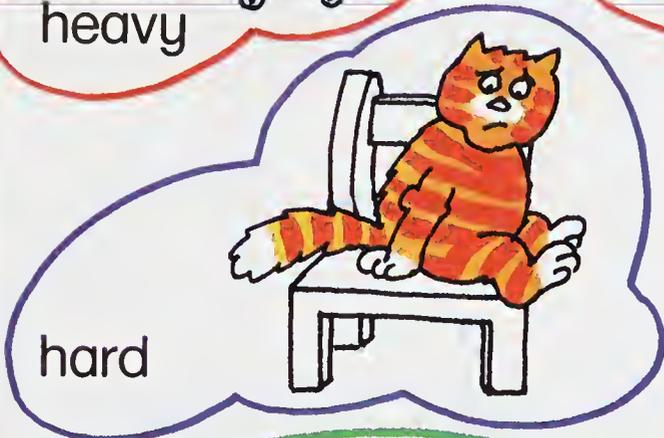
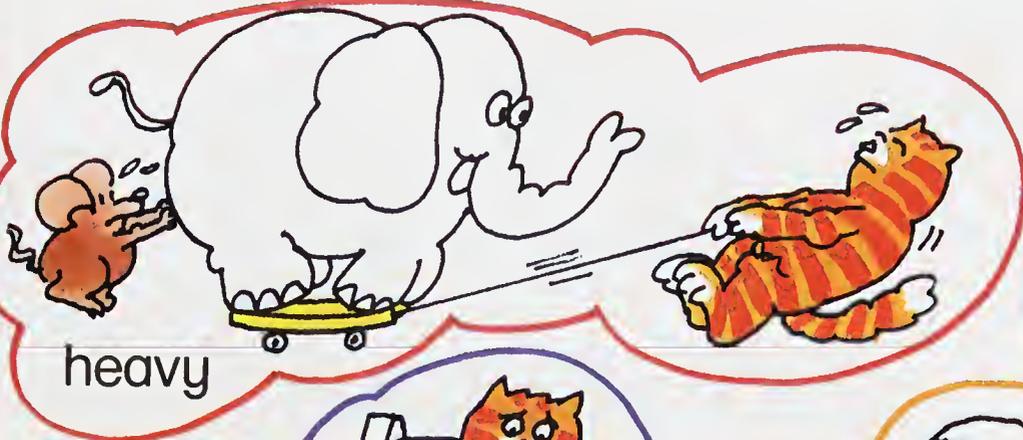


- Draw a wide road for this car to go along.



# Find the opposites

- Find each pair of opposites and draw a line to join them.



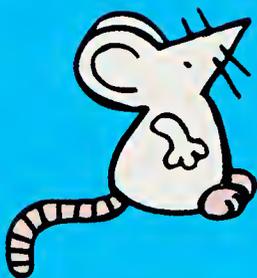
- Finish coloring the pictures.





# Opposites

Given a handful of felt-tip pens or crayons no young child could resist these colorful activity books. Designed to be used with an adult's guidance, they are carefully planned and graded to develop basic math, writing and reading skills. The series provides children with hours of fun while developing vital skills such as concentration, hand control and visual awareness.



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