

KidSparkz!

preschool curriculum



playing to learn,
loving to learn!

Welcome to the KidSparkz Preschool Curriculum, designed for children aged 2.6 through 6 years old.

- Everything you need for a creative learning program: Over 2100 pages on an organized CD, or as a download; 10 full months plus a summer program. Each daily plan contains themed and developmentally appropriate suggestions for Creative Art, Discovery and Exploration, Group (or Individual) Discussion, Story, games, Music, and a specific Spark! Activity to focus curiosity and interest. Each monthly set of lesson plans includes between 130 and 200 creative activity pages.
- Save valuable prep time: use the clickable calendar for each month, INSTANTLY linking to daily lesson plans and the coordinating activity pages.
- The original activity pages are creative and challenging, and can be used in different ways depending on the needs and creativity of the teacher. They are NOT just for "coloring"!!!
- Includes a collection of over 100 teaching charts and posters for letters, numbers, shapes and colors.
- Includes a collection of hands-on learning games - letters, opposites, rhymes, go-togethers, etc.
- The files are all in Adobe PDF format - print as many pages as you want, at any time.
- It is not necessary to follow the suggested themed monthly plan - use whatever activities or printables that suit your particular situation - print only what you need.
- NEW! Two stand-alone comprehensive curriculums for learning letters/alphabet, and numbers/counting. The activities from these programs can easily be integrated into daily plans, according to the children's needs.



- **Childcare providers** love this program, because they have an instant, professionally designed learning program for their mixed age group, and they can show the parents that the children are not "just playing" all day
- **Preschool teachers** love this program, because they can use it "as is", or use it as an inspiration to add to their own personally designed classroom program, whether child-initiated, Project Approach, or Head Start focused. All National Standards are addressed.
- **Parents** working with their children at home love this program, since they do not have to have an ECE educational background to use it. Everything is described simply and clearly, step by step, and learning happens!!!!



Also included in the curriculum is a list of basic art and activity supplies, and equipment and furniture, that would benefit your program. Each month has a list of additional books, art projects and songs that would be useful to incorporate into the basic curriculum to extend the themes and the learning.

Here are the monthly themes:

<p>The <u>September</u> themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Am Special Emotions and Feelings Our Hands The Five Senses Living Things Health and Nutrition Healthy Teeth 	<p>The <u>October</u> themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firefighters and Safety Friends and Caring Leaves and Weather Apples, Squirrels and Nuts Corn Pumpkins and Spiders 	<p>The <u>November</u> themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families Babies Pets Homes Thanksgiving
<p>The themes for <u>December</u> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shiny Sparkles Lights in the Darkness Rudolf and Reindeer The Nutcracker Ballet Gingerbread Toys Christmas Hanukkah 	<p>Themes for <u>January</u> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Happy New Year Seasonal Changes Rain Snow Animals in Winter Warmth and Coziness Martin Luther King Day Winnie the Pooh Day Bubbles and Rainbows Action Heroes and Costumes Magic Just for Fun 	<p>Themes for <u>February</u> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundhog Day Chinese/Lunar New Year Valentines Red/Pink Communication Vehicles and Transportation: On the Road Trains On Water Air Travel Space Discoveries
<p>The themes for <u>March</u> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science Discovery: Wind and Air Science Discovery: Water Science Discovery: Tools and Machines Science Discovery: Magnets St. Patrick's Day Forest Animals Arrival of Spring 	<p>The themes for <u>April</u> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frogs Snakes Insects: Butterflies and Moths Insects: Bees Insects: Ladybugs Farms Farm Animals Dairy Farms and Cows Chickens Earth Day: Appreciating Our Planet 	<p>The themes for <u>May</u> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May Day Flowers Cinco de Mayo Mother's Day Dinosaurs Ocean Animals Strawberries Watermelon

	Arbor Day:Trees	
<p>The themes for <u>June</u> are:</p> <p>Birds Rainforests All Kinds of Food What and Why We Eat Food Production Fruit Vegetables Father's Day</p>	<p>The themes for Summer include:</p> <p>Bubbles Day Magic Day Rainbows Let's Build Camping Out The Beach July 4th Sticky Day Exploration: Africa</p>	<p>Exploration:</p> <p>Australia Pizza Day Prehistoric Adventure Carnivals Ice Cream Day Our Golden Sun Blueberries Day Let's Get Wet Watermelon Day Happy Summer!</p>

The types of activity sheets for each month include:

matching and concentration picture games
dot to dots
all kinds of theme-related puppets
sight word flashcards with pictures
one to one correspondence
matching
numerals to sets
sorting
ordering
patterning
memory activities
booklets
mazes
picture talk discussions
story narration and writing
"predictable" lists
which is different?
sequence stories

initial sounds
song cards/rebus rhymes
arts and crafts
letter and number posters
colors and shapes posters

Preschool teachers, home daycare owners, and parents of preschoolers have found that the daily program is:

- **EASY** to understand, follow and use,
- **SUCCESSFUL** -- the children really enjoy the activities and games, and while they are having fun, they are learning
- **INEXPENSIVE** and simple to prepare the daily activities, since the program makes use of items normally found in a home or a school, and the list of extra supplies needed(included in the curriculum) is very short.
- **FLEXIBLE**, because although each daily integrated sequence of activities is self contained, and **CAN** be completed within 3 hours, it can be creatively extended for days, as long as interest in the topic lasts
- **IDEAL** for all levels of experience. For those just beginning, the activity ideas can be followed exactly to provide lots of fun and learning experiences for the children. For those with more experience, the ideas provide a springboard to spread the wings of creativity, and a reminder of songs, stories and activities they may have used successfully in the past.
- **AUTHENTIC**, because it is based on proven and longstanding educational theory and practice (Vygotsky, Piaget), and complementing the latest findings in early education (Project Approach, Theme-based)

In this sample of the curriculum you will find

- A statement of our philosophy
- A sample of 3 days of lesson plans from the April curriculum.
- The linked activity pages for these 3 days.

Our Philosophy...

Have you noticed how eager you are to learn more about the subjects that capture your interest? It's exactly the same with children—whenever something sparks their interest, they soak up everything they can find out about it, quickly, deeply and intensely, learning that will last forever. As teachers and caregivers, we carefully listen for their WOW! of discovery, and then get to work, setting the stage, creating the mood, subtly encouraging the children to follow their inspiration.

Books of all kinds are made available, writing and drawing materials, blocks and construction equipment, dramatic play accessories, music of the world and our hearts, and all kinds of math and science discovery materials. The children ask and measure, and listen, and think, and consider, and conclude, and perform, and disagree, and create, and take apart, and dance, and their imaginations fly. The spark is kindled, and the fires of learning are ignited.

The KidSparkz! Curriculum....

- is a developmentally appropriate program fulfilling the needs and appreciating the differences of individual children. Most activities can be enjoyed by children aged three to five.
- Provides a balance of child initiated and teacher-focused activities; active and quiet activities; and group and individual activities
- Combines aspects of the Project Approach, Reggio Emilia emergent curriculum, and theme-based curricula to create a hands-on, active program where children interact with each other and materials, co-operating and collaborating.
- Builds upon what the children already know and are able to do, to enable them to connect new concepts and skills
- Encourages parents to be partners in learning

The KidSparkz! Curriculum is flexible. Each daily module is integrated, so that each activity complements the others and builds layers of learning and discovery opportunities. The daily program can be used alone, sequentially, seasonally, or as an interest emerges amongst the children. Although building on an interest that has developed naturally during the day is ideal, every day in the KidSparkz! Curriculum begins with a SPARK activity guaranteed to ignite a sense of curiosity and a desire to explore further. Because the interest in the topic and the excitement of discovery will not take a particular path, more ideas for activities, songs and books are added to each unit, so that one day's projects may extend to a week, a month, or even longer.

The daily modules may be used to inspire, extend, illuminate, provoke and reinforce, but improvise and affirm with your own ideas and imagination to fully support the nascent joy of learning in your preschoolers.

In addition to a SPARK activity, each day presents suggestions for a Community Learning Circle, Creative Art, Music and Movement, Child-Centered Discovery, Games, and a Story. The Creative Art projects are all imagined and completed by the child, perhaps with inspiration from a song, or a story, or the art materials themselves. The Community Learning Circle presents ideas for conversation, language development and learning games. The daily calendar is not emphasized, since it is not yet relevant to the young child's experience of the world.

Letters and numbers appear throughout the Curriculum in games, art projects and stories, always with a relationship to the current activity so that the child can link the letter or number to a concrete concept. There are many activities that extend the concepts of literacy and numeracy, such as sequencing, classifying, and developing memory. Stories are chosen for their beautiful illustrations, excellent writing, and their relevance to the children's experience. Favorites can be read over and over again, stimulating conversations about the characters, the pictures, and what might happen next.

The intricate complexity of the people and cultures of our world is interwoven daily in the KidSparkz! Curriculum. The children are introduced to and surrounded by music, songs, stories, art methods and objects, customs and foods from various aspects of human experience and history. Relevant cultural holidays are joyfully celebrated, and every child and family can feel included and respected.

The KidSparkz! Curriculum can be used with any number of children, with minimal preparation, and requiring only basic and easily obtainable materials and supplies. It can be carried out in most environments, from a small Family Childcare home in one room, to a large center designed with defined interest areas. The activities appeal in different ways to children in the age range of 30 months to five years in mixed age grouping, and can also be successfully used in a same-age classroom, or for a parent creating a learning program for their preschooler at home.



Susan Portman





April



Farm, Insects, Frogs and Snakes

<u>Day 1</u> Amphibians	<u>Day 2</u> Frogs	<u>Day 3</u> Reptiles	<u>Day 4</u> Snakes	<u>Day 5</u> Crocodiles & Alligators
<u>Day 6</u> Insects (General)	<u>Day 7</u> Insects 2 (General)	<u>Day 8</u> Butterflies and Moths 1	<u>Day 9</u> Butterflies and Moths 2	<u>Day 10</u> Ladybugs
<u>Day 11</u> Bees	<u>Day 12</u> Farms (General)	<u>Day 13</u> Farms 2 (General)	<u>Day 14</u> Farms 3 (General)	<u>Day 15</u> Dairy Farms and Cows
<u>Day 16</u> Chickens	<u>Day 17</u> Orchards & Vegetable Farms	<u>Day 18</u> Earth Day 1	<u>Day 19</u> Earth Day 2	<u>Day 20</u> Arbor Day: Trees
			More Books Songs and Art	Activity Pages

DAY 1

Amphibians

SPARK!

Show picture of a frog, toad, salamander, newt "These animals are amphibians". Point out the strong back legs, and show the children how frogs and toads use their back legs to hop long distances. "How far can you hop"? (click for printable)

LEARNING CIRCLE

Amphibian animals include frogs, toads, newts and salamanders. Amphibians live part of their life in water and part on land. They have moist skin, with no hair or feathers. Even those species that lay eggs on land start life in a fluid-filled egg, breathing through gills. They develop lungs as they get older. Like reptiles, they have no internal heat, and take warmth from their environment. They are meat eaters. **(Click for printable)**

DISCOVERY

- Frog life cycle sequence cards **(Click for printable)**
- Frog dot to dot **(Click for printable)**
- Frog number sequencing cards **(Click for printable)**

CREATIVE ART

Use various art media to decorate outlines of frog, toad, salamander. **(Click for printable)**
(Watercolor may make the outline ink run).

MUSIC

Song: Tune - I'm a Little Teapot

See the little frog

On the lily pad

Trying to catch flies

She's getting sad.

When she catches one,

She'll gobble it up

Back in the water

She'll go KERPLOP!

STORY

[Frogs, Toads, Lizards, and Salamanders](#) by Nancy Winslow Parker

[An Extraordinary Egg](#) by Leo Lionni

GAME

Make some lily pads out of green construction paper, and tape on floor. Children are frogs or toads and hop from one to the next across the room.

DAY 2

Frogs

SPARK!

Ideally, the spark for this topic would be to go down to the creek to check out some real frogs. However, since most of us don't have that choice, have a conversation with the children using the frog stick puppet. **(Click for printable)**

LEARNING CIRCLE

Discussion using lots of models and pictures of frogs. **(Click for printable)**

Talk about the life cycle, compare with other animals that lay eggs, and with mammals. **(Click for printable)** Emphasize the term "amphibian". Toads have bumpier and drier skin than frogs, often are bigger, and spend more time out of the water. Frogs and toads are meat eaters, and enjoy insects and worms. They have long sticky tongues that can zip insects out of the air.

DISCOVERY

- Decorate green frog hat and wear it during discovery time. This could be a green headband with spots, with two big round eyes at the top. **(Click for printable)**
- Model frogs, lily pads, real rocks etc in water play.
- Making sets of counting objects, from one to ten, on paper lily pads. **(Click for printable)**
- Story starter: Tyrone the Tadpole **(Click for printable)**

CREATIVE ART

Give the children a paper with an irregular oval drawn on it. Create a pond with blue and green watercolors. Add paper lily pads, frogs, tadpoles etc

MUSIC

Song:

Glub glub said the little green frog one day,	But we all know frogs go lah da di ah di ay,
Glub, glub said the little green frog	Lah da di dah di ay, lah da di ah di ay,
Glub, glub said the little green frog one day,	We all know frogs go lah da di ah di ay,
And his tongue went slurp, slurp, slurp!	They don't go slurp, slurp, slurp!

STORY

[From Tadpole to Frog \(Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 1\)](#) by Wendy Pfeffer

[The Wide-Mouthed Frog](#) by Rex Schneider

GAME

Leapfrog

DAY 3

Reptiles

SPARK!

Show a picture or a model of a snake, a lizard, a croc, an alligator, an iguana, a turtle. Talk about them, name them, and explain they are all reptiles. **(Click for printable)**

LEARNING CIRCLE

Animals that are reptiles include snakes, lizards, turtles, tortoises, crocodiles and alligators. Reptiles have scaly, thick, waterproof skin that is dry to the touch; they do not have any warmth in their body, and take heat from their environment; they breathe through lungs; most are meat-eaters, and most lay eggs. Reptiles can be found in most parts of the world, except in very cold areas. **(Click for printable)**

DISCOVERY

- Turtle dot to dot **(Click for printable)**
- Match animals that are the same kind **(Click for printable)**
- Emergent reader - "I am a Reptile" **(Click for printable)**

CREATIVE ART

Make a lifelike model of a snake with clay (or playdoh), decorate it with markers, and create a surrounding habitat with grass and pebbles on a paper plate. OR make a turtle with a paper bowl. Tape on construction paper legs, head, tail. Decorate "shell" with markers.

MUSIC

Song: "I'm a Turtle" Tune - I've Been Working on the Railroad

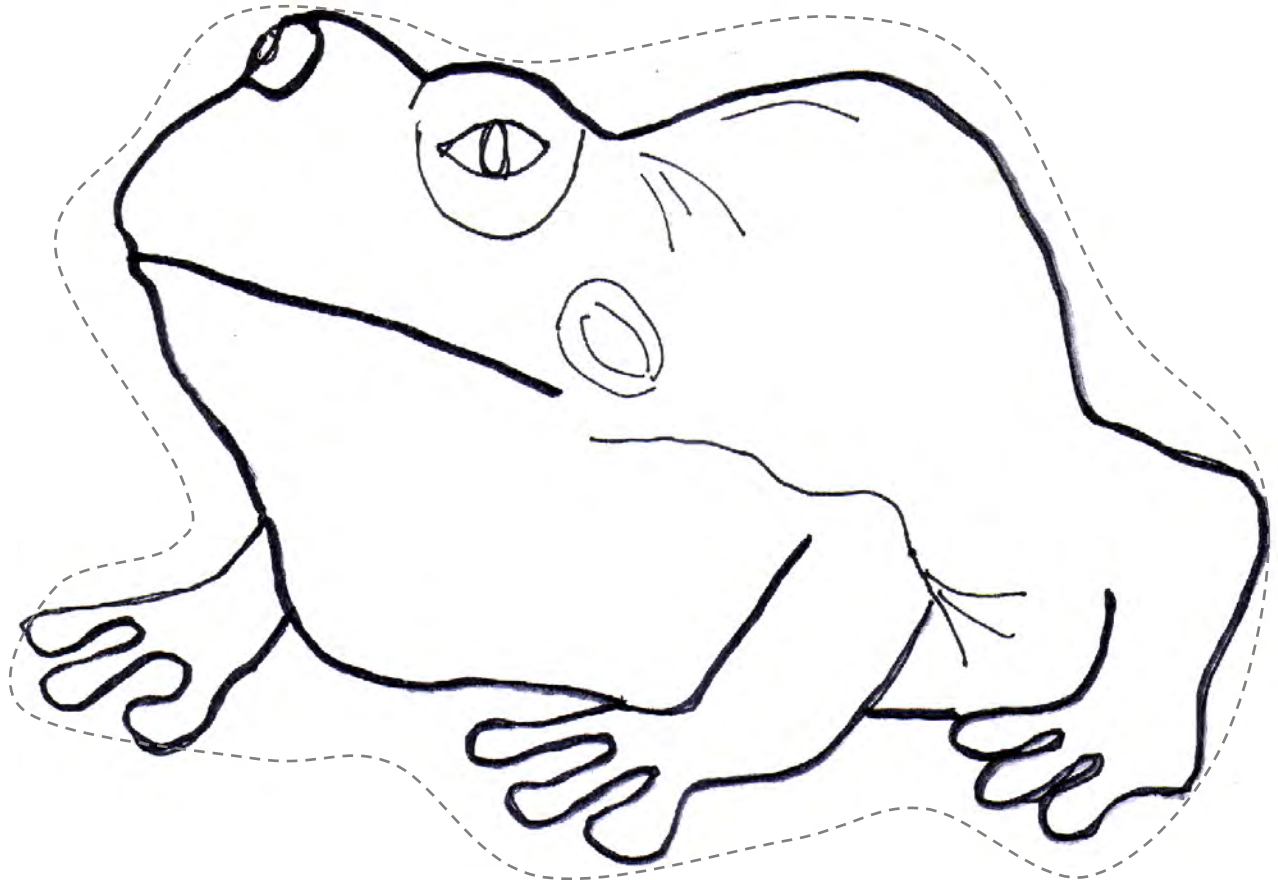
I've been crawling through the mud,	Oh, my house is getting heavy,
All the whole day long.	My legs are tired and sore.(sing slower)
I've been crawling through the mud,	I am moving very slowly.(even slower)
Just listen to my song.	I can't sing any more. (go to sleep)

STORY

[About Reptiles: A Guide for Children](#) by Cathryn P. Sill

GAME

Follow the leader: slither like snakes, crawl on forearms like crocodiles etc. Swim, hide, lie still, slither quickly etc.





toad



newt

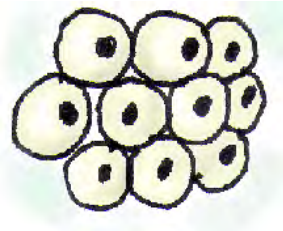


frog

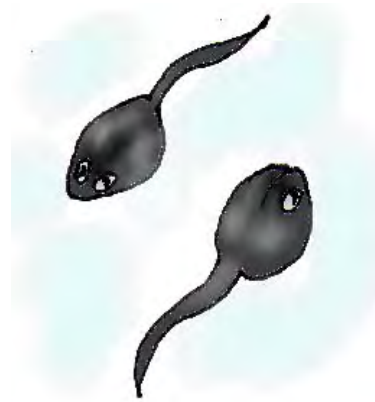


salamander

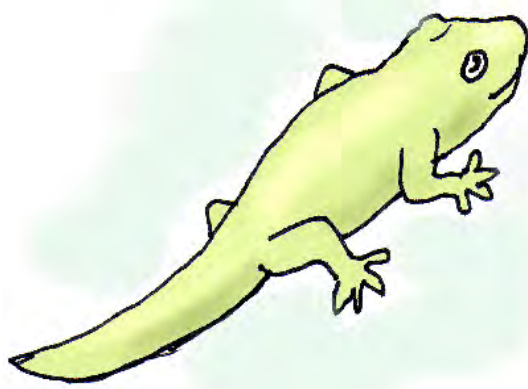
Cut out and arrange in sequence.



eggs



tadpoles



tadpole with legs



adult frog

These animals lay eggs.



frog



bee



Snake
(most)



bird



butterfly



fish



penguin



spider

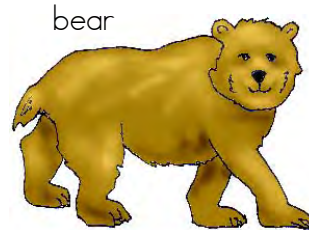
These animals have live babies.



fox



sheep



bear



rabbit



dog



cat



whale



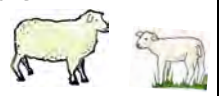
human

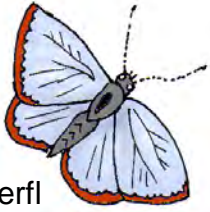
Cut out the animals on the next page and categorize them.

These animals lay eggs.



These animals have live babies.





butterfl



dog



spider



cat



rabbit



frog



whale



fish



bee

bear



human



bird



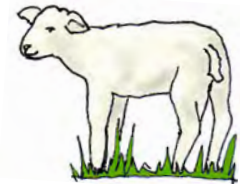
pengui



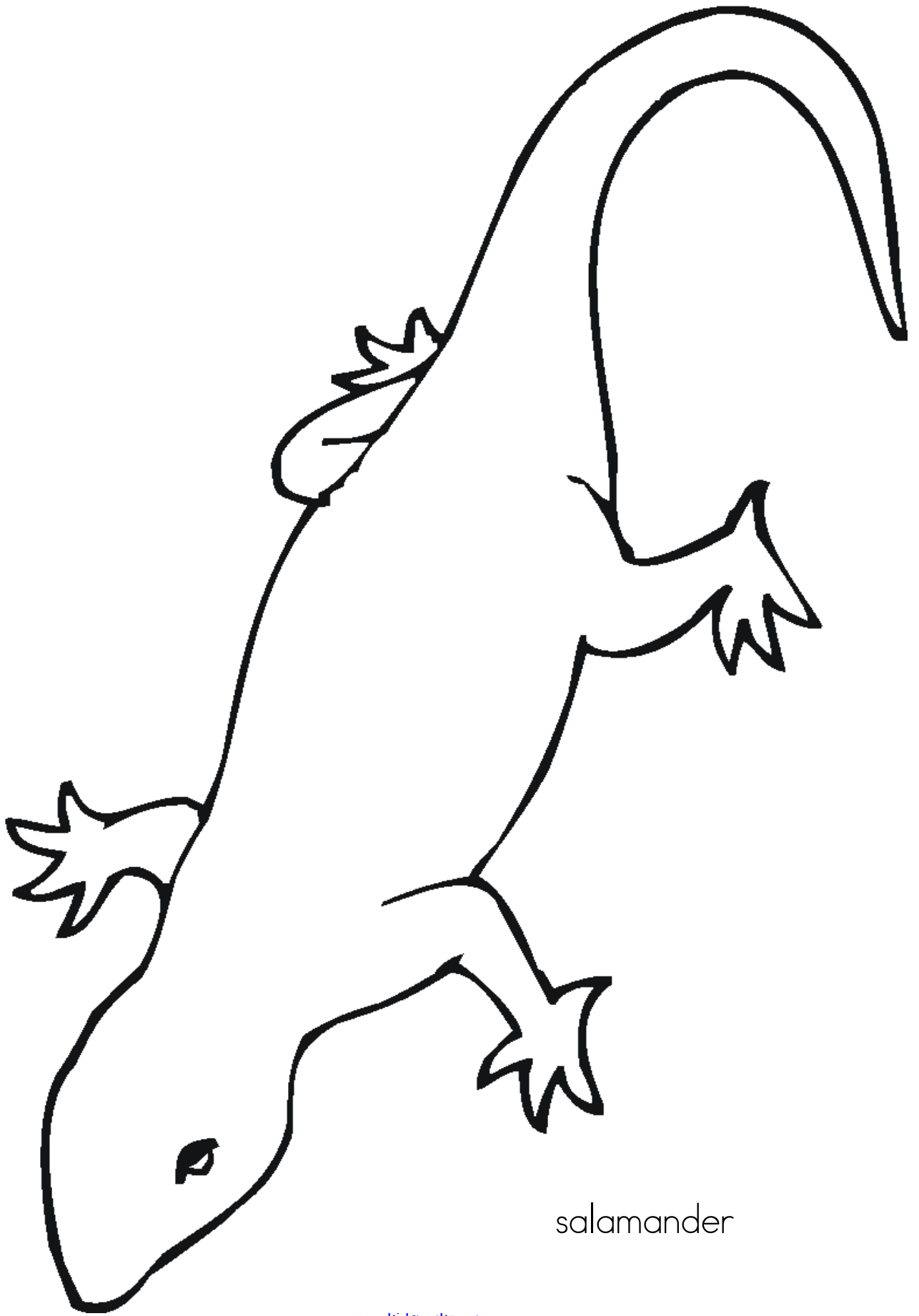
fox



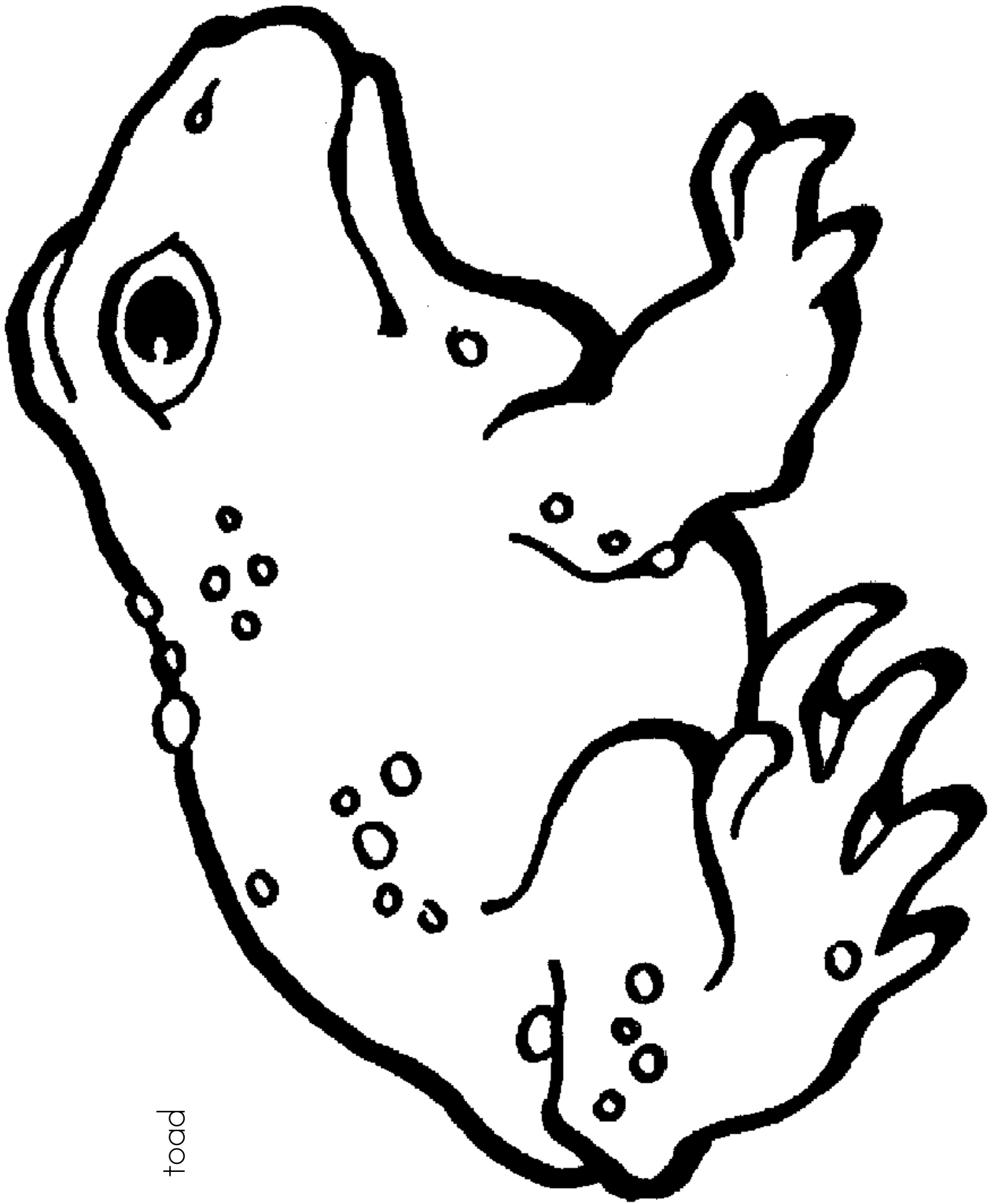
Snake
(most)



sheep

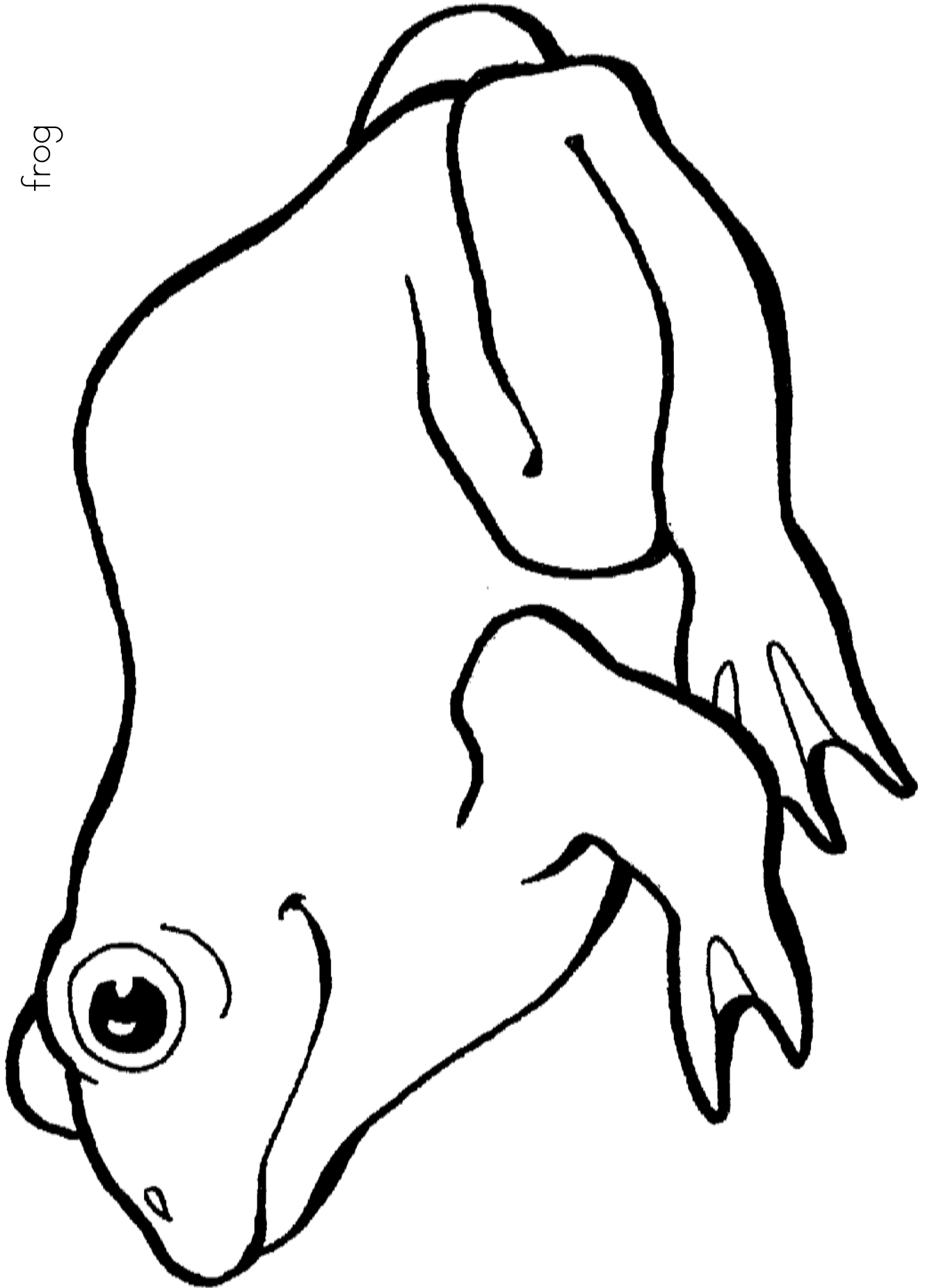


salamander

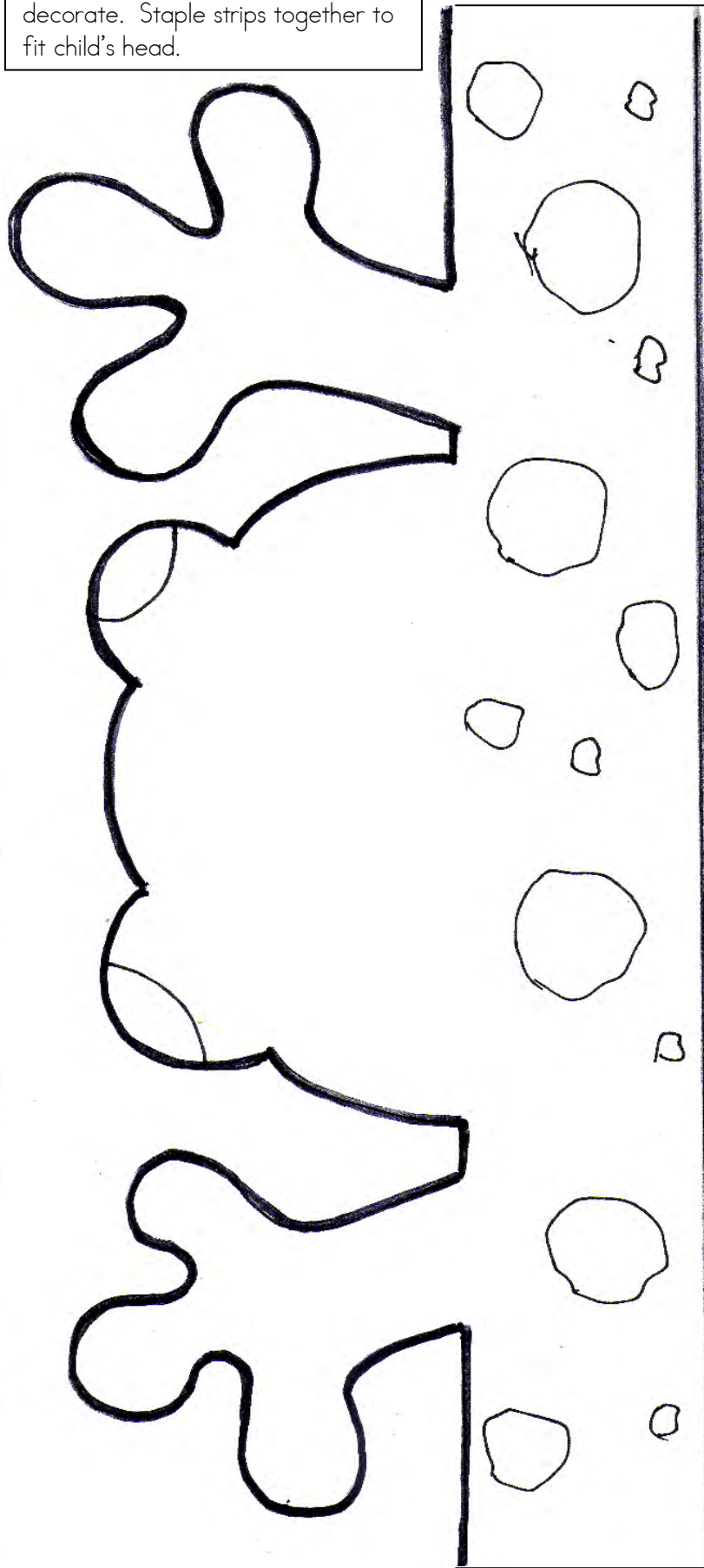
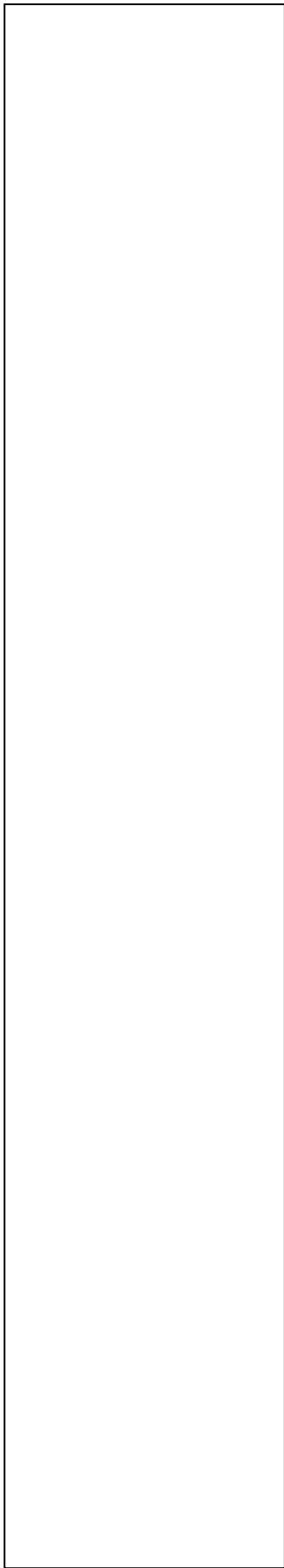


toad

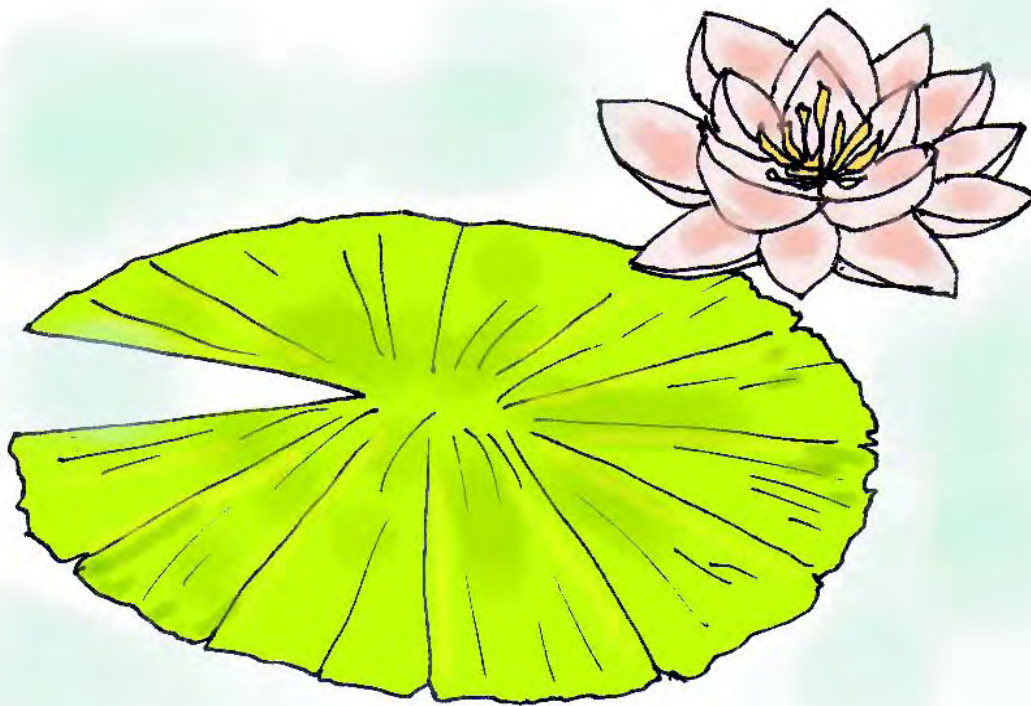
frog



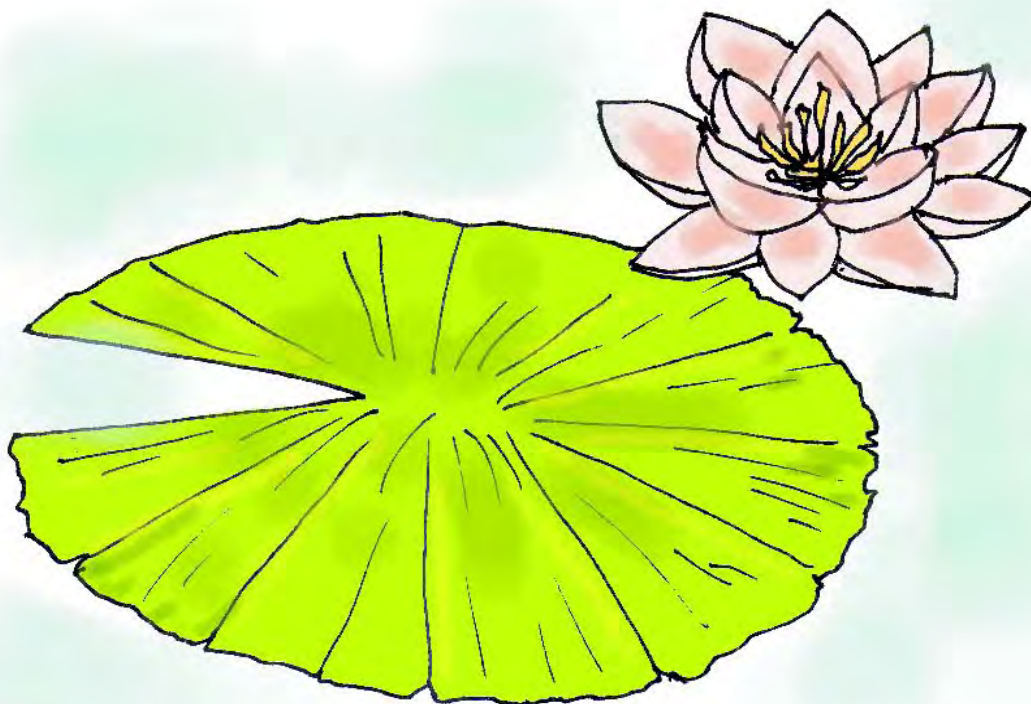
Print this froggy hat on green construction paper, cut out and decorate. Staple strips together to fit child's head.



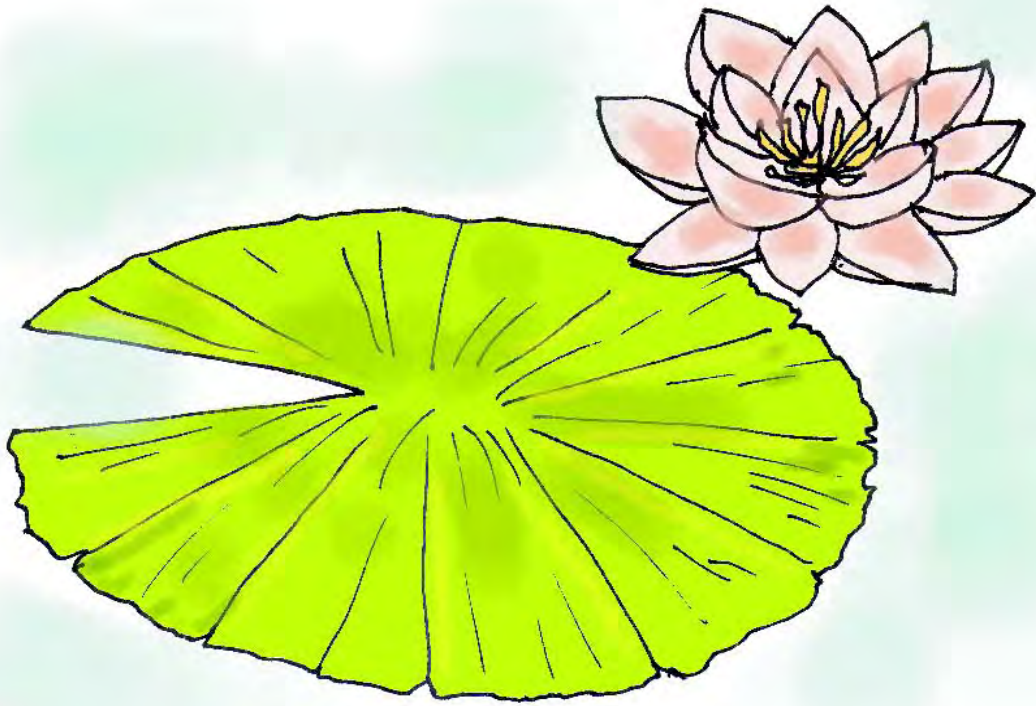
Math Mats – cut out the cards and the frogs. Place correct sets of frogs on lily pads.



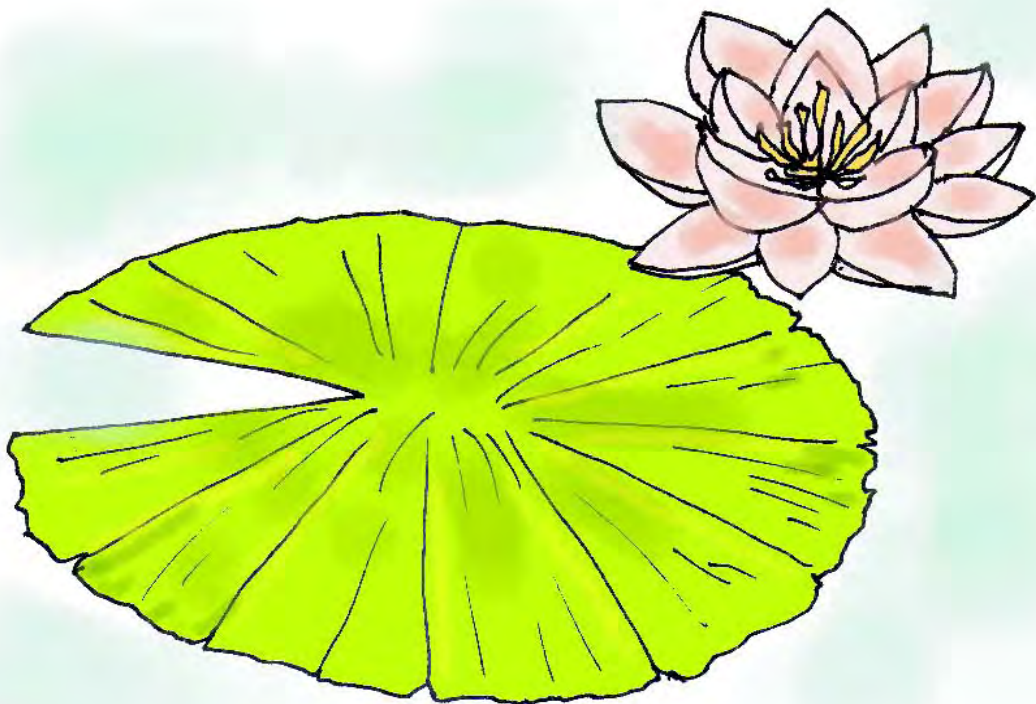
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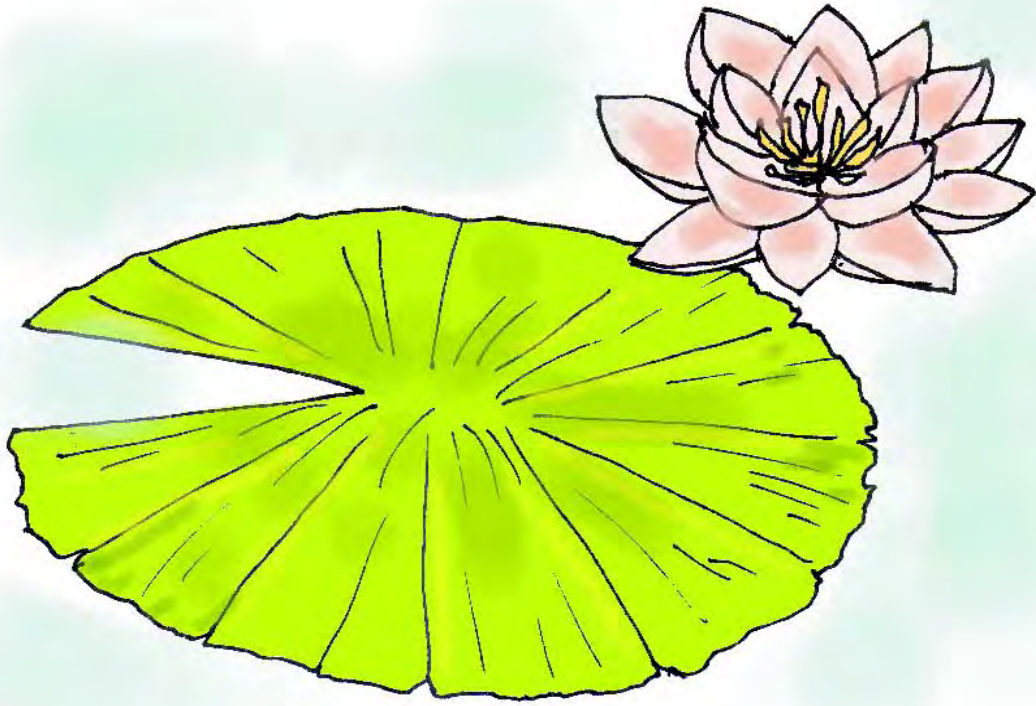
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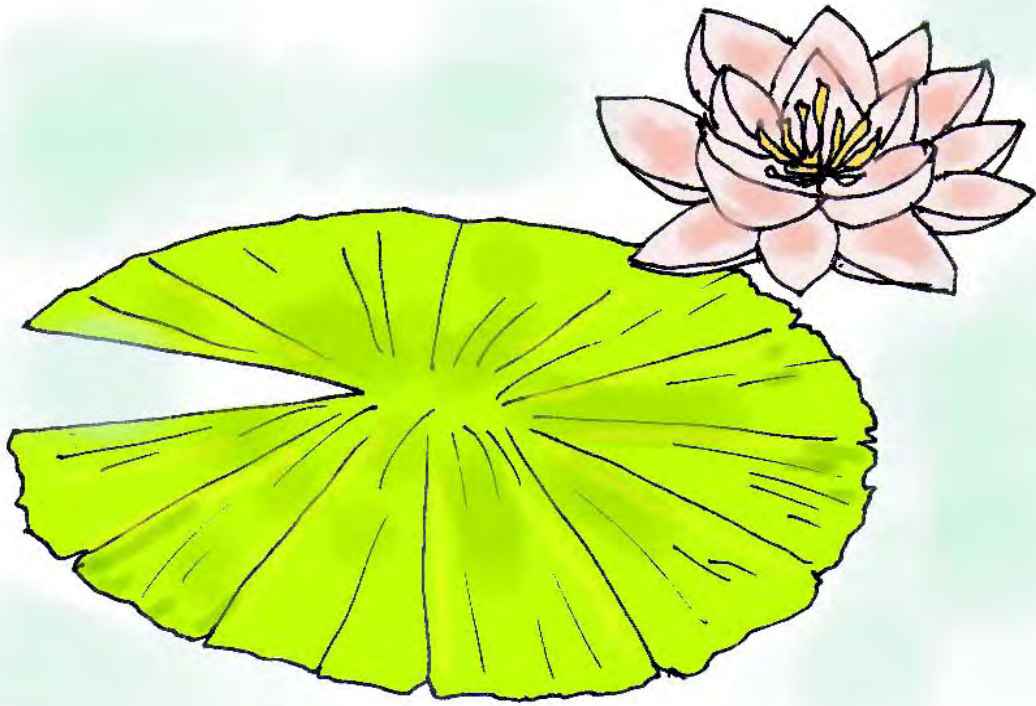
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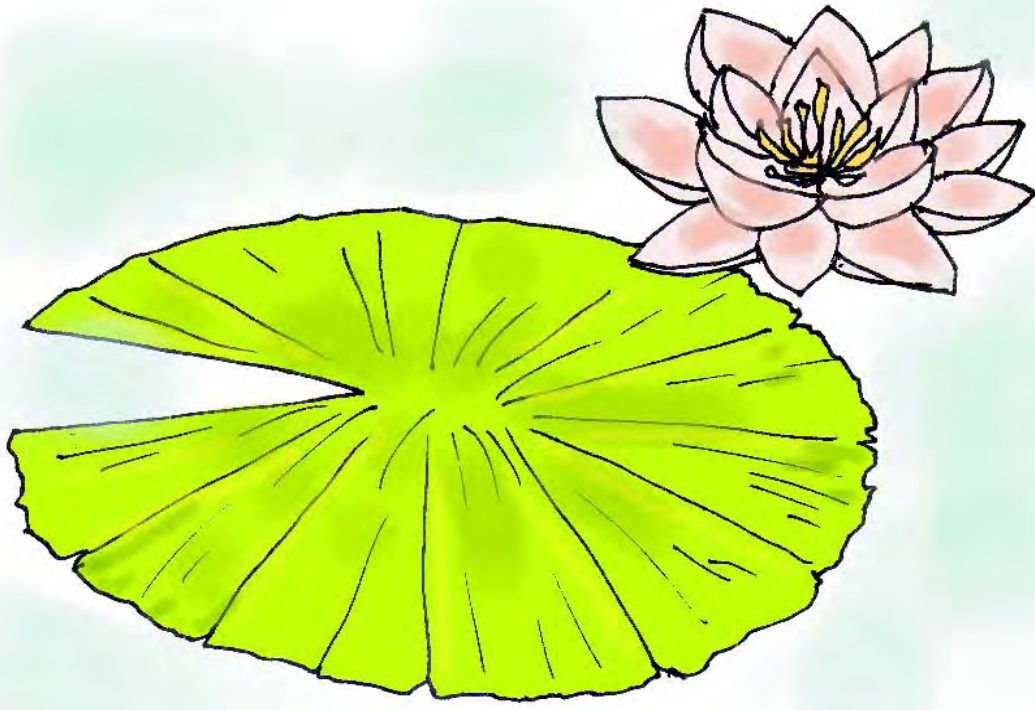
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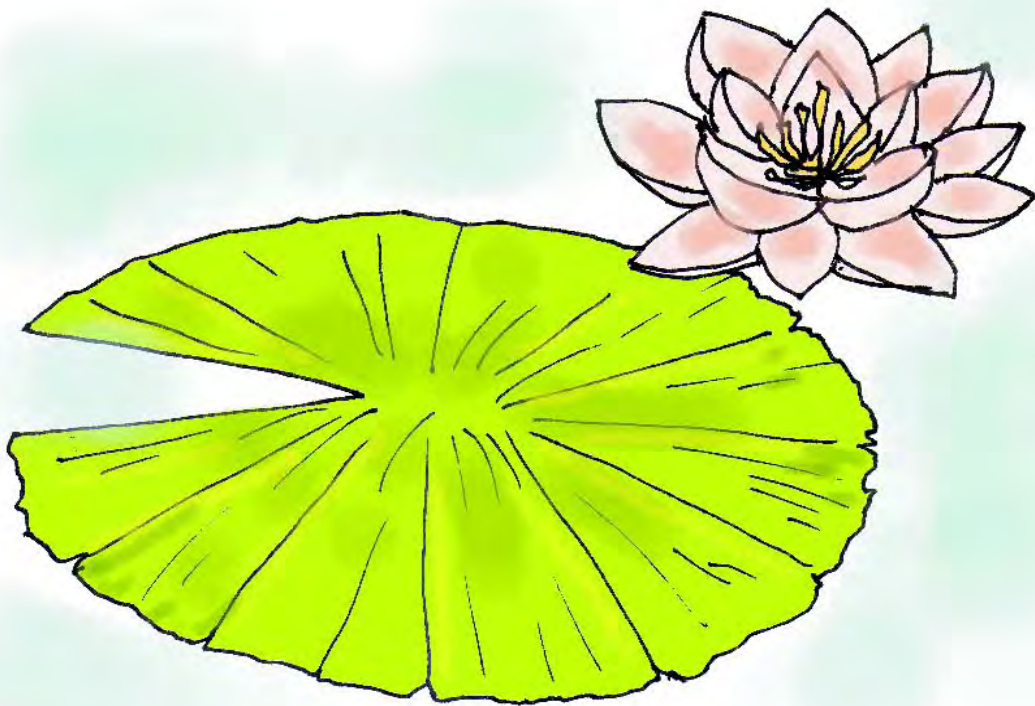
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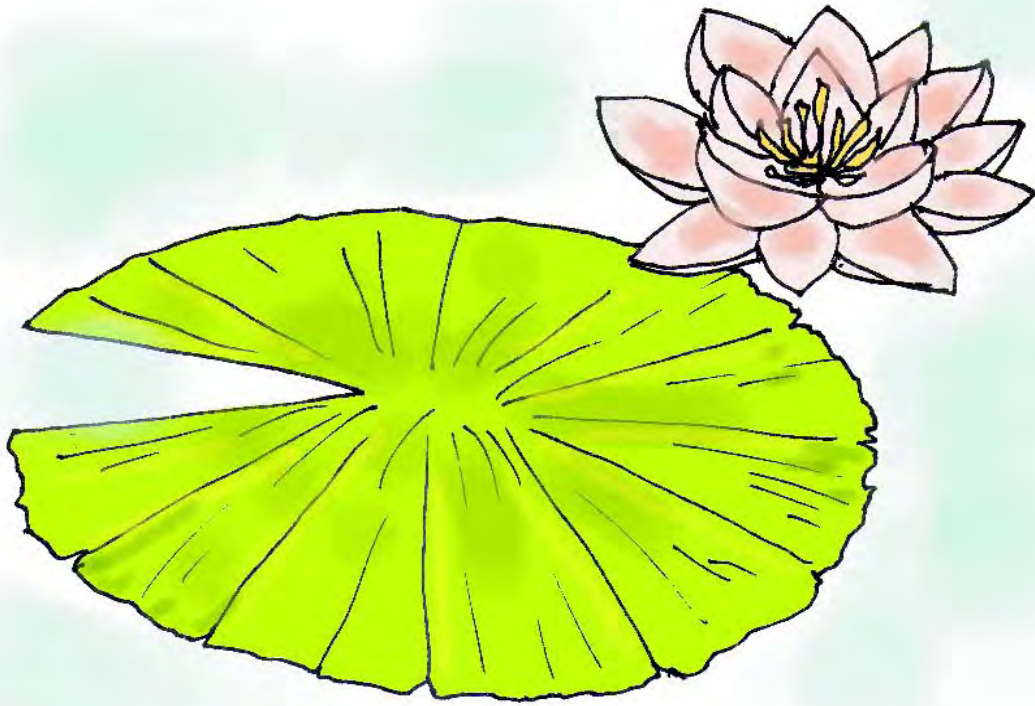
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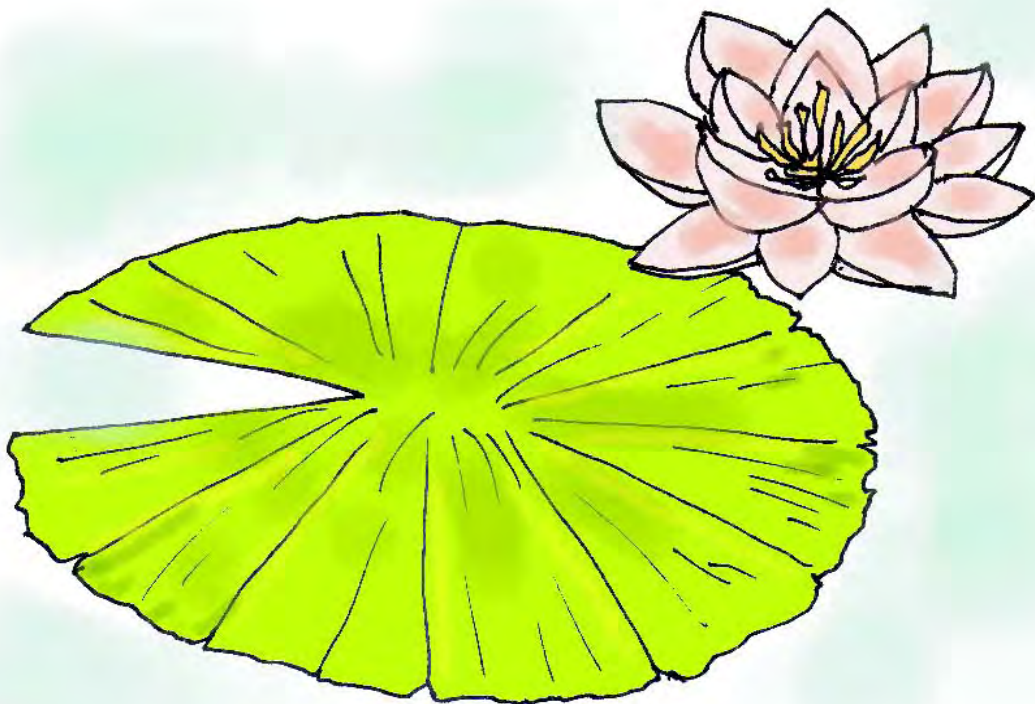
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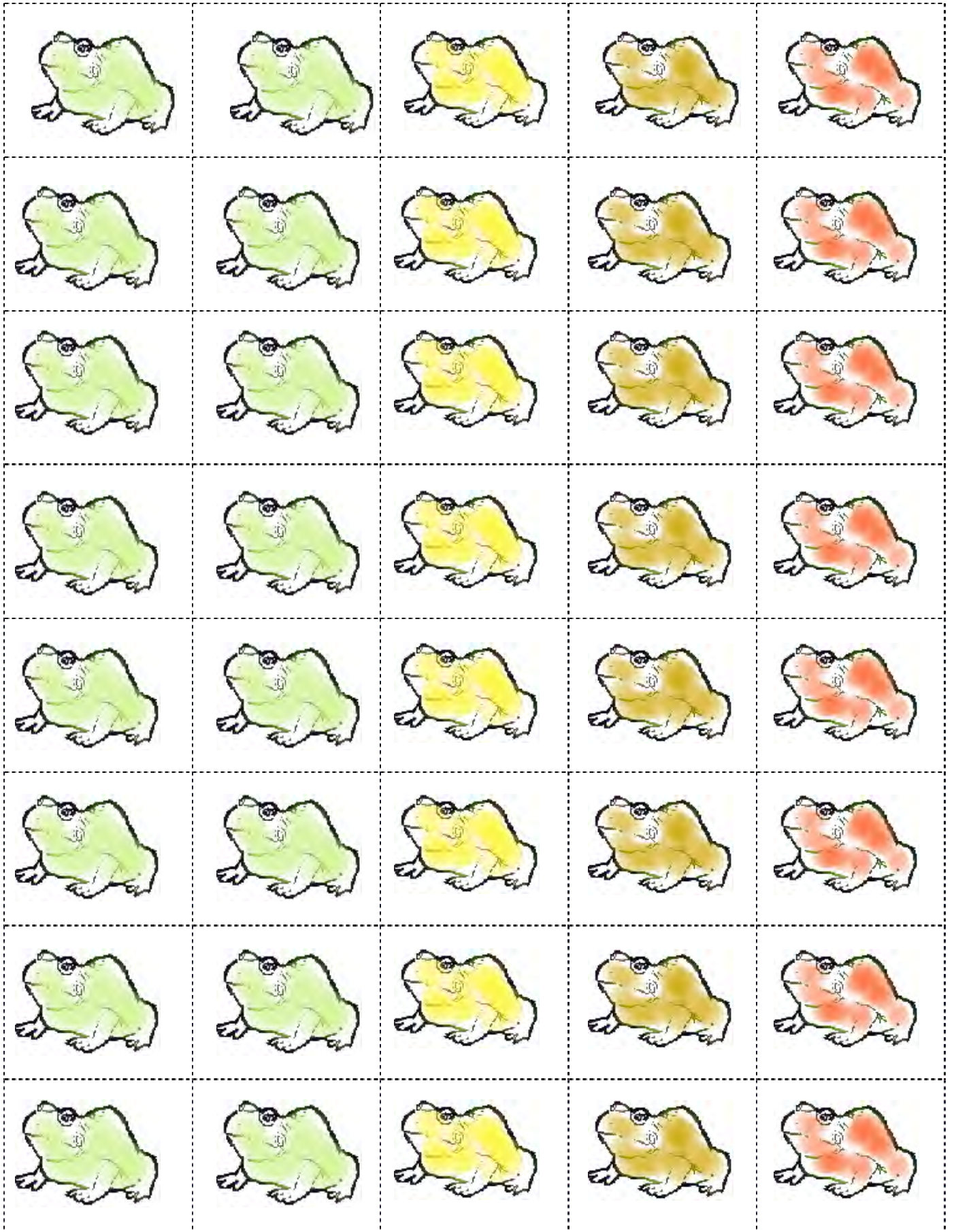
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9



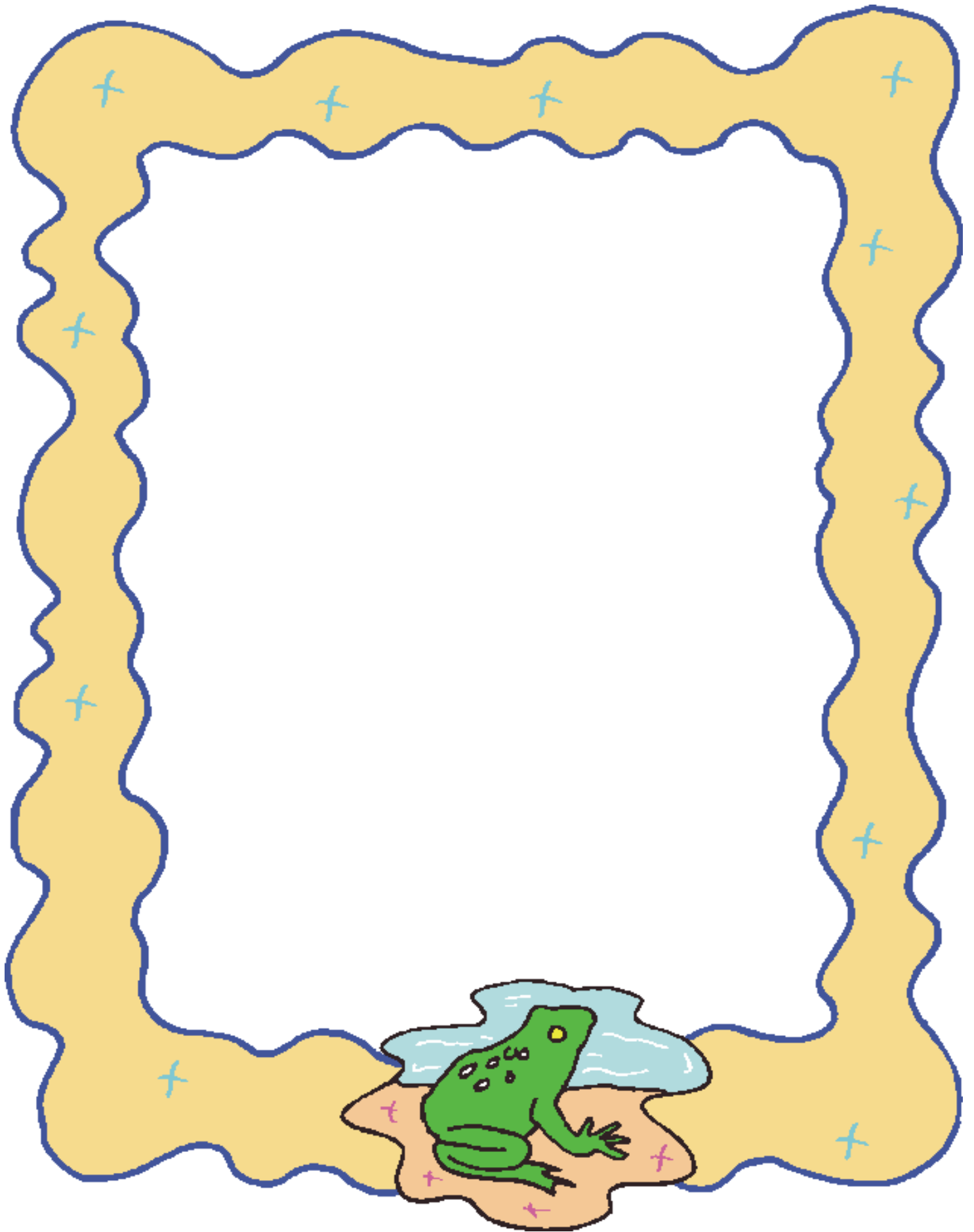
10



Finish the story, and draw an illustration.

Once upon a time there was a little tadpole called Tyrone. He lived with all his brothers and sisters in a creek in a forest. He was very curious about the world on the other side of the creek.

“Oh well”, he sighed. “I suppose I will never find out what is up there on the bank. Tadpoles just have to spend their whole lives swimming around in the creek”. Well, Tyrone was in for a VERY big surprise. Can you guess what happened to him? And what he did after that?







Frogs



Frogs come in many colors and sizes. They are all amphibian, which means they live in the water and breathe through gills when they are young, and live on both water and land and breathe through lungs when they are an adult. There are more than 400 different species!

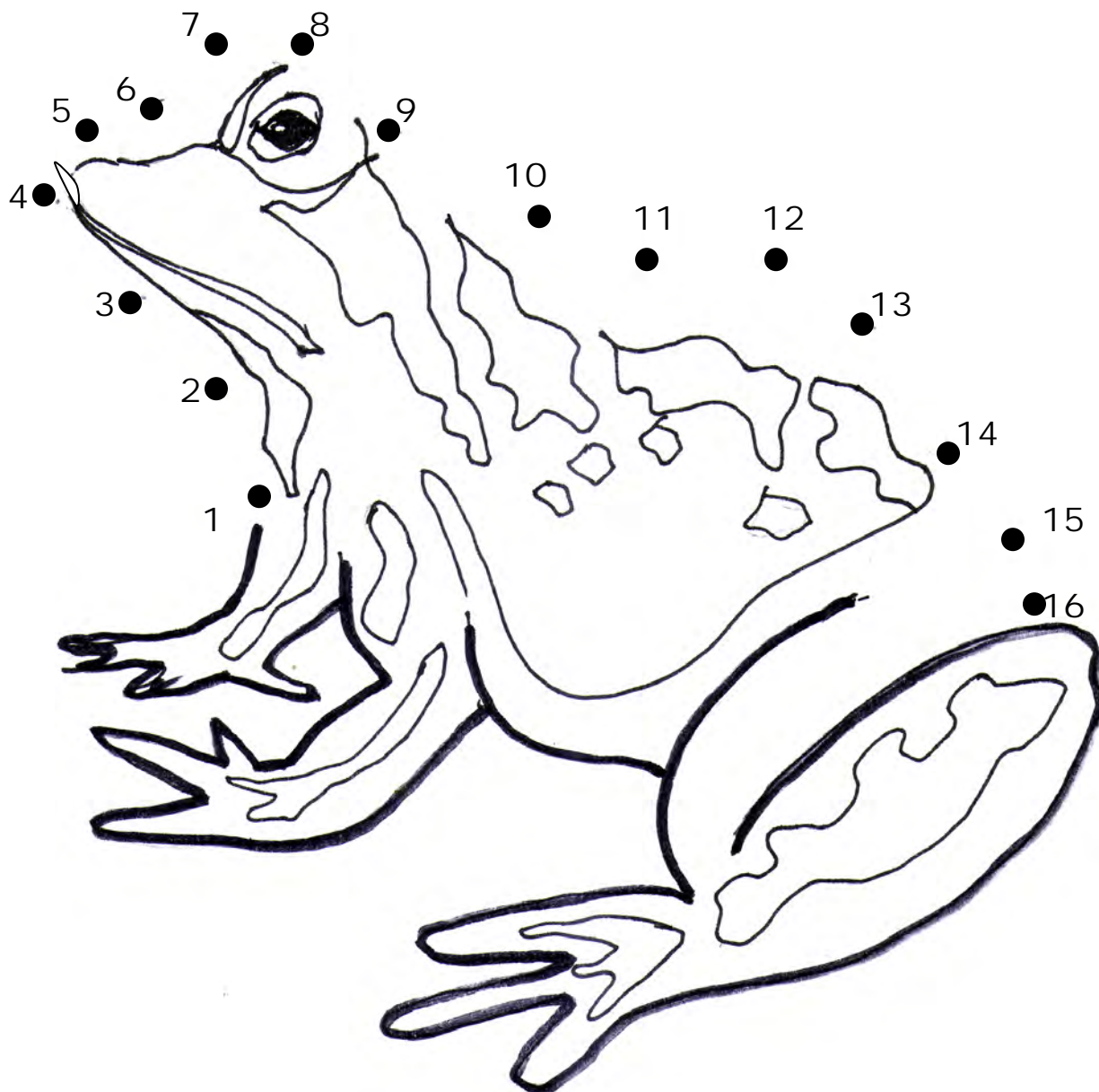
They are cold-blooded, and do not have scales on their skin. Their skin is special, because they “drink” water through it, and even breathe some air through it (in addition to using their lungs). They need to keep their skin wet, and if you touch them, they might feel slimy because of that.

They have large strong back legs and webbed feet, which they use to jump long distances and swim through water.

Small eggs are laid in groups, or clusters, usually in, or very close to, a pond or creek. They are transparent, so the little tadpoles developing inside each egg are visible. After they hatch, they develop through several stages – tadpole (long tail, no legs); tadpole with legs (still has a long tail); froglet (bigger stronger legs, short tail); and the adult frog (no tail).

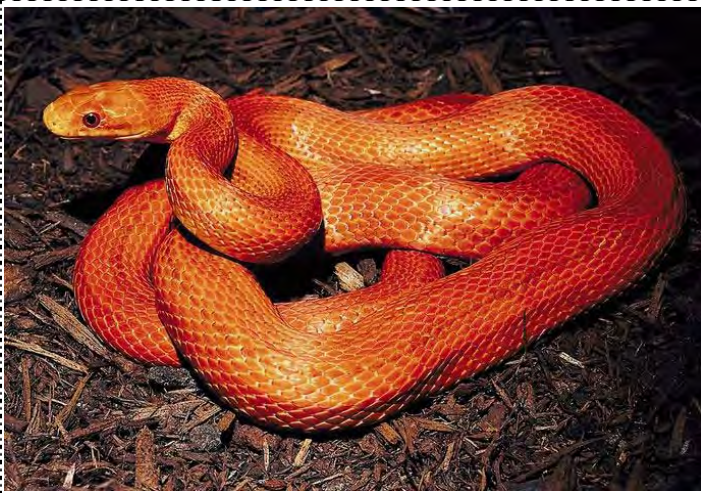
Frogs are found all over the world (many in rainforests), except Antarctica. Frogs have some enemies, such as birds and lizards that like to eat them. One of the biggest enemies of frogs is air and water pollution.

Connect the dots and complete the picture. Color it with shades of green.

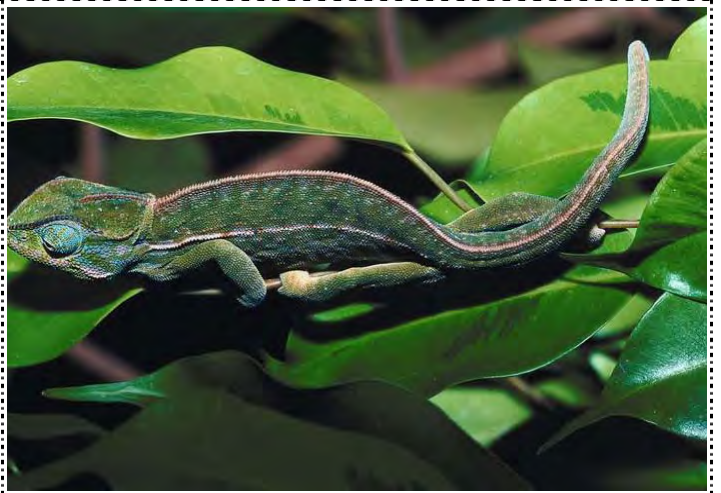


This is a green _ _ _ _ .

Reptiles



snake



lizard



crocodile



alligator

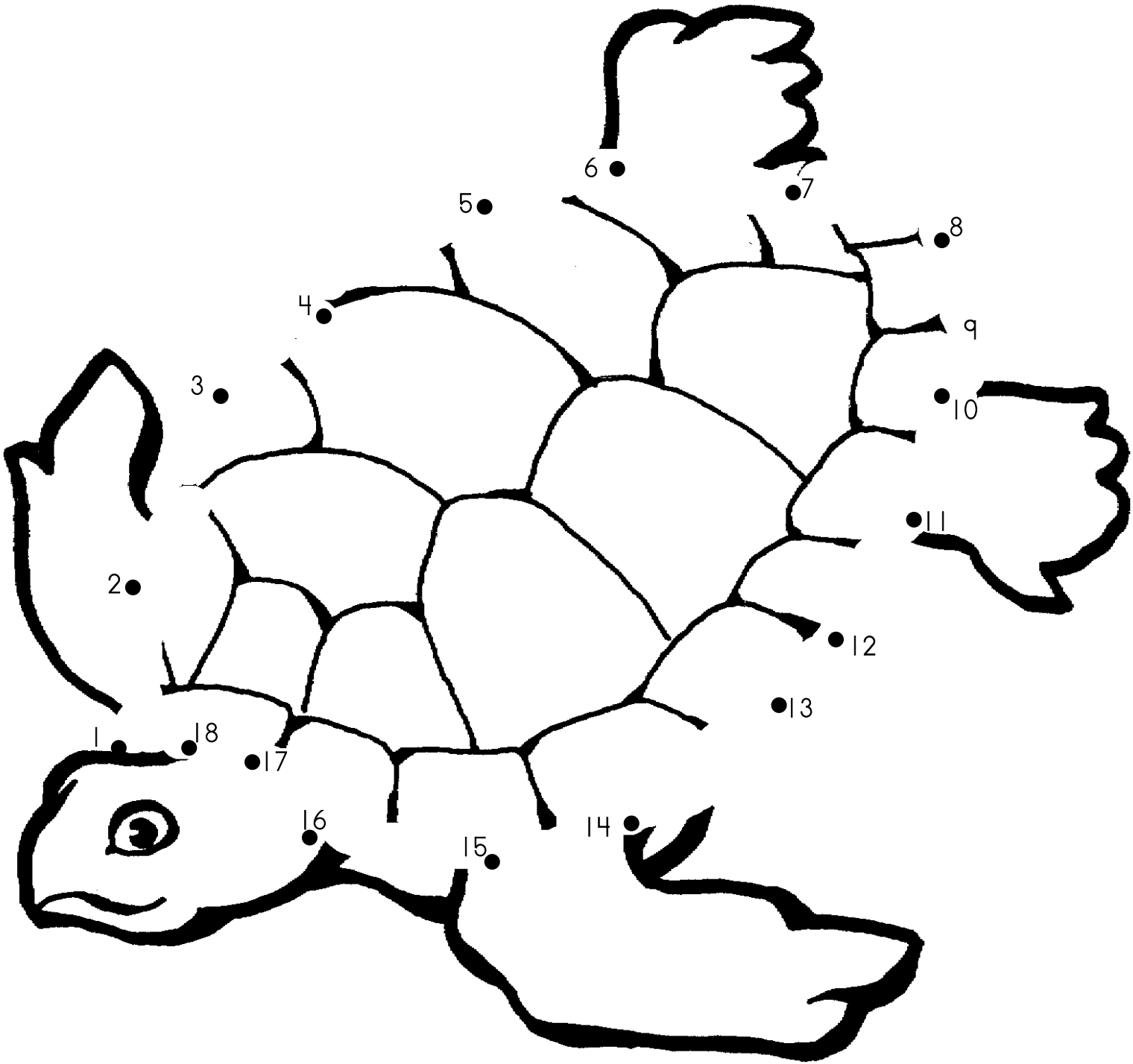


iguana



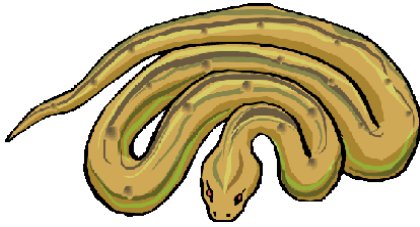
turtle

Connect the dots beside the numbers, and add more things to the picture.



turtle
www.kidsparkz.com

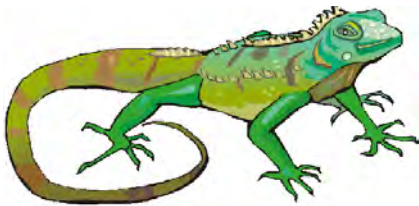
Cut out the pictures on the right, and paste next to a similar animal..



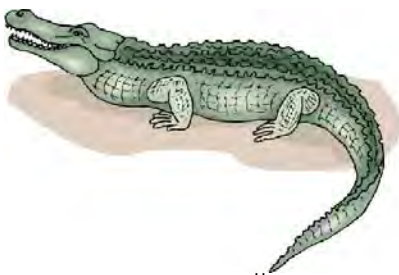
Find another snake.



Find another turtle.



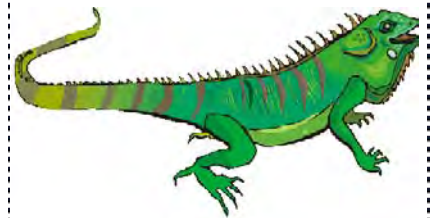
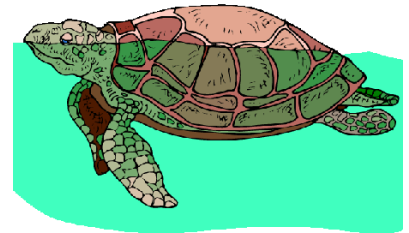
Find another iguana.



Find another alligator.



Find another small lizard.



I am a Reptile

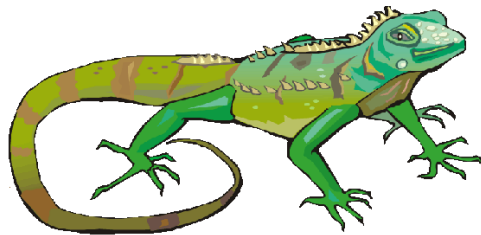
Name: _____



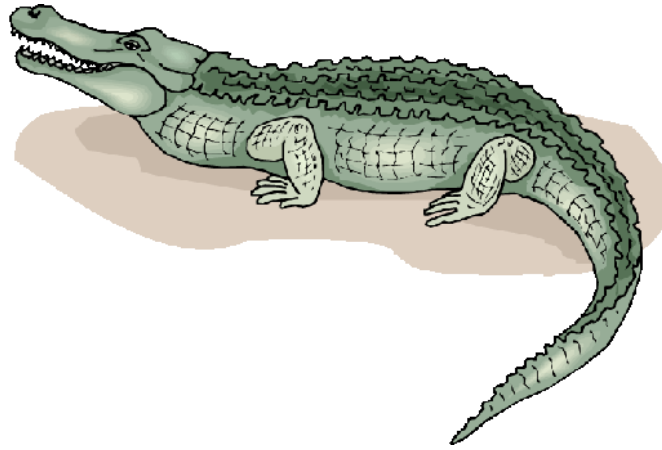
I am a snake.
I am a reptile.



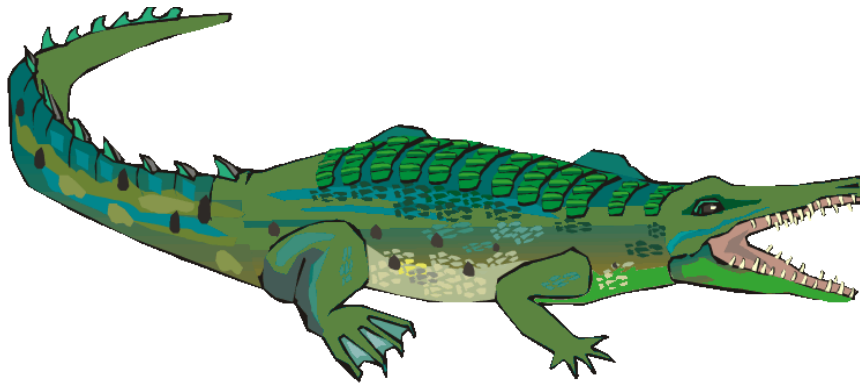
I am a turtle.
I am a reptile.



I am an iguana
I am a reptile.



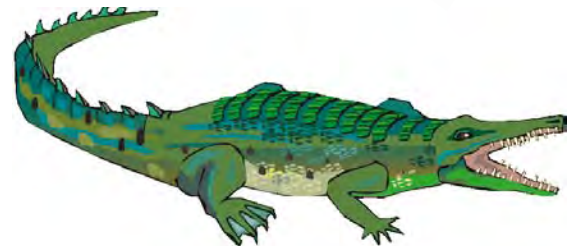
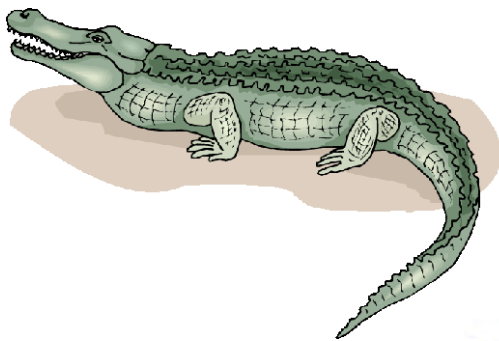
I am an alligator
I am a reptile.



I am a crocodile.
I am a reptile.



I am a lizard.
I am a reptile.



We are all reptiles.

What are Reptiles?

Animals that are reptiles include snakes, lizards, turtles, tortoises, crocodiles and alligators. Reptiles have scaly, thick, waterproof skin that is dry to the touch; they do not have any warmth in their body, and take heat from their environment; they breathe through lungs; most are meat-eaters, and most lay eggs. Reptiles can be found in most parts of the world, except in very cold areas



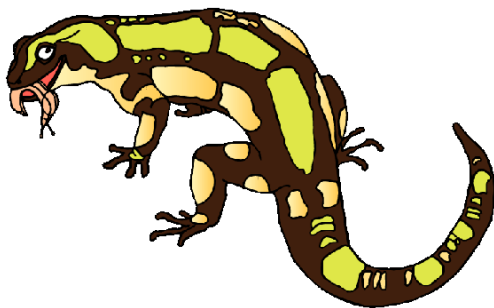
Reptiles have scaly, thick, waterproof skin that is dry to the touch



Most reptiles lay eggs.



Reptiles do not have any warmth in their body, and take heat from their environment



Reptiles are meat eaters.



Reptiles breathe air through lungs.

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