

Inspiring Creativity in the Early Years

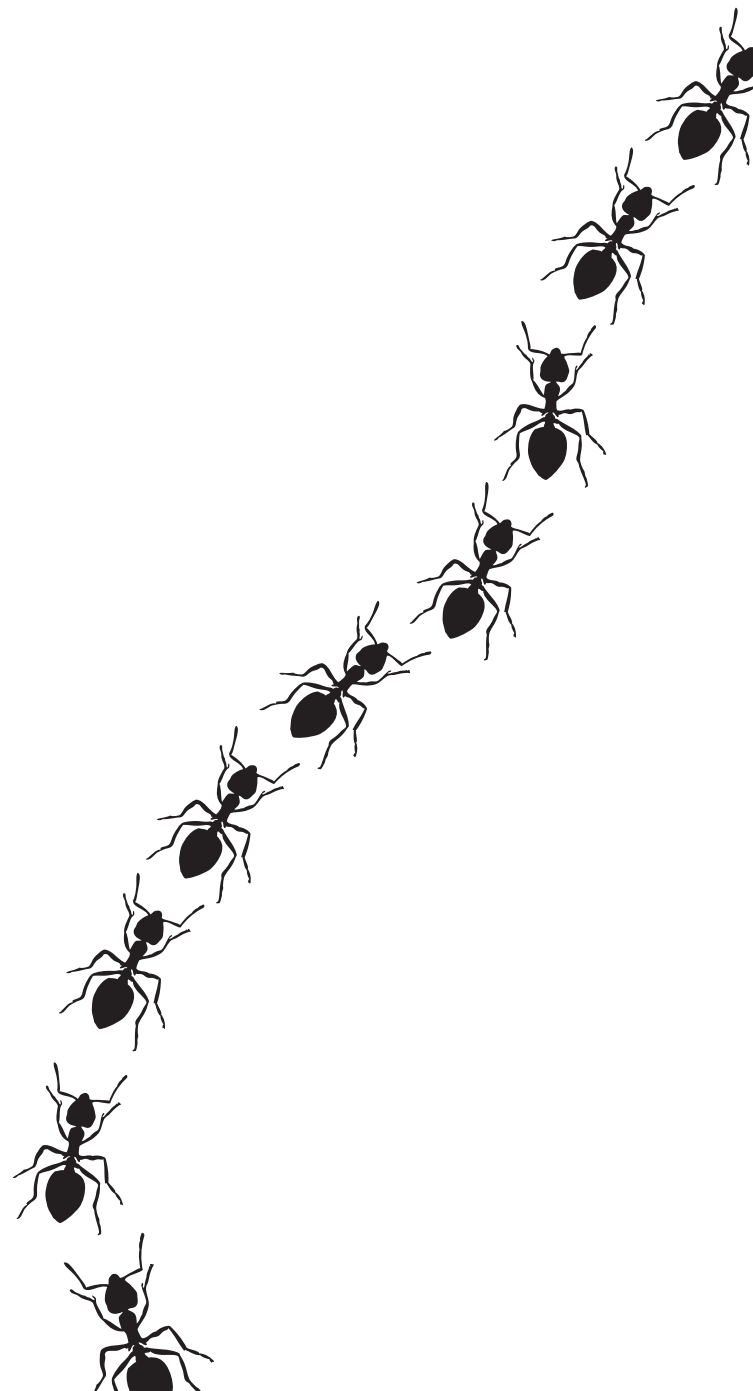


*Clever
Ducklings*

Mini Beasts

Home-Ed Activities Pack

First Edition - 2025



Thank you for choosing us!

About us:

Clever Ducklings creates play-based educational resources for children aged 3–7, blending Montessori and Waldorf principles with seasonal themes and hands-on activities. Designed by home-educating parents, each unit encourages creativity, connection to nature, and joyful learning.

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Printing & Usage Tips

Printing tip: For best results, print on heavy cardstock and laminate reusable pieces.

Always supervise young children during crafting or sensory play.

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Poem

TIP: Encourage children to act out the poem with actions like crawling, buzzing or waving their arms.

Mini Beasts Parade

(Source Unknown)

Creeping, crawling, buzzing by,
Mini beasts are never shy.
Ants all march in tidy lines,
Beetles glisten, dark and fine.

Ladybirds with spots so bright,
Flutter-wings take gentle flight.
Spiders weave their silver thread,
Snails glide slowly, leaves for bed.

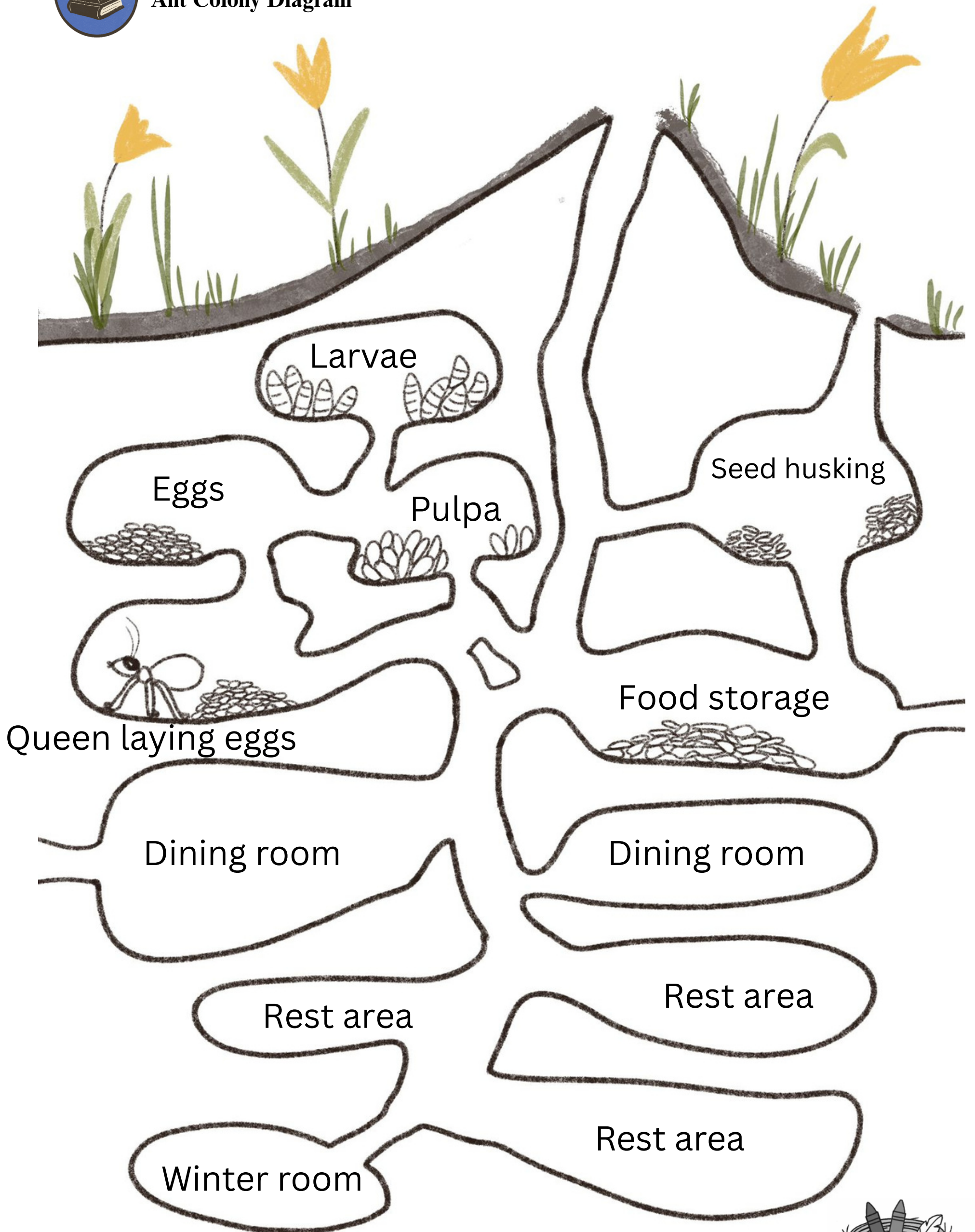
Worms wiggle deep where roots can drink,
Dragonflies shimmer, blue and pink.
Butterflies dance on blooms so neat,
Grasshoppers leap with springing feet.

Look around, the garden sings,
Full of tiny wondrous things.
Lift a leaf, and you may see,
A secret world of mystery!





Ant Colony Diagram





Nature Exploration: Action Cards

Children draw a card then act out the movement written for each mini beast, either inside or outside.



Wriggle like a Worm



Buzz like a Bee



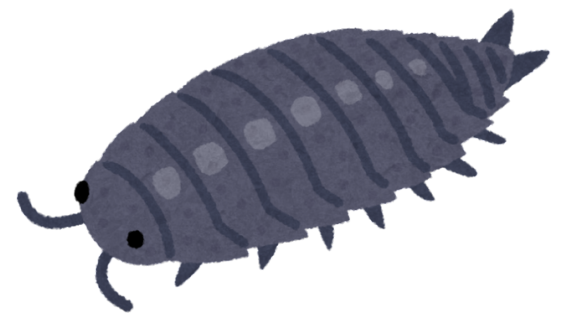
Crawl like a Spider



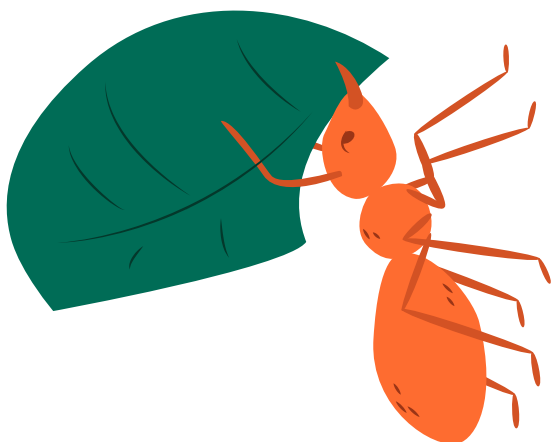
Flutter like a Butterfly



Slide like a Snail



Roll like a Woodlouse



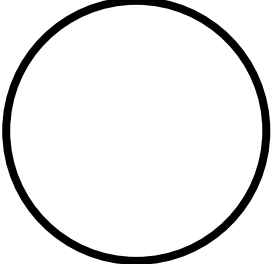
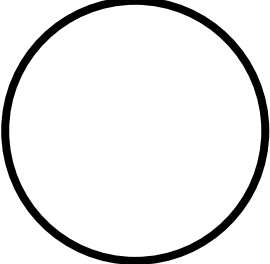
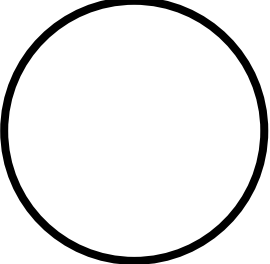
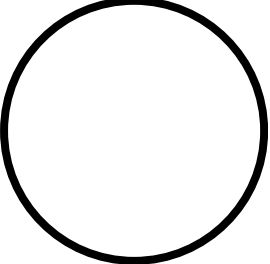
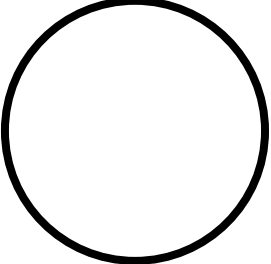
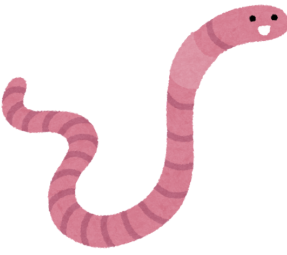
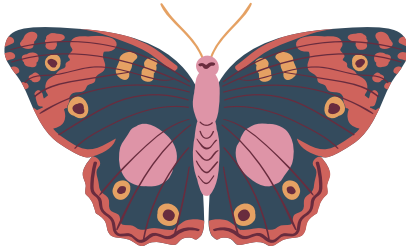
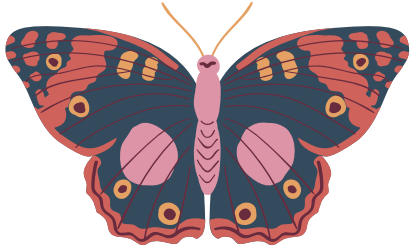
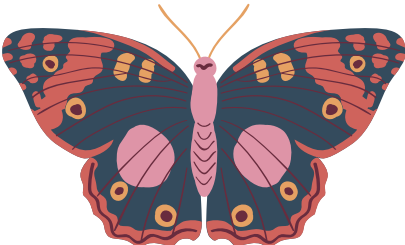
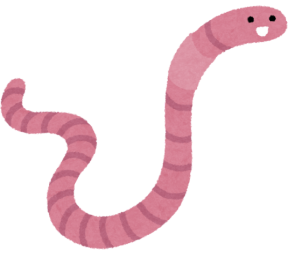
March like an Ant



Counting Activity



Count the mini beasts and write the numbers in the circles.

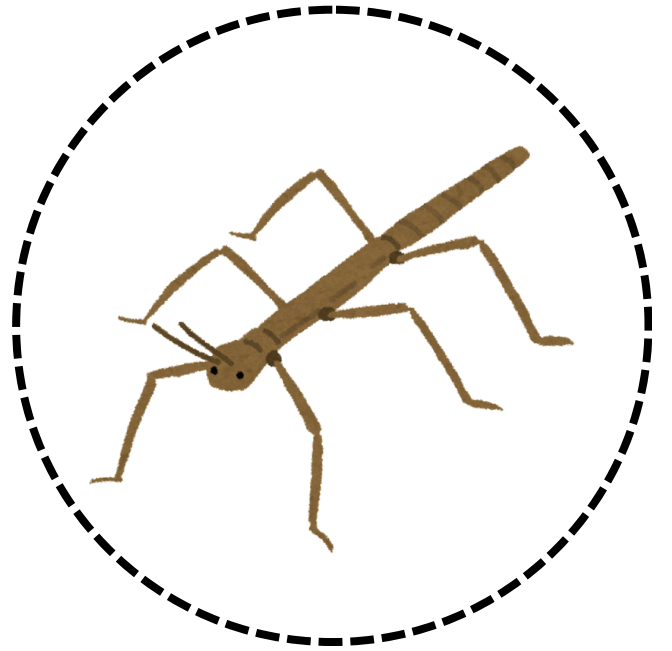
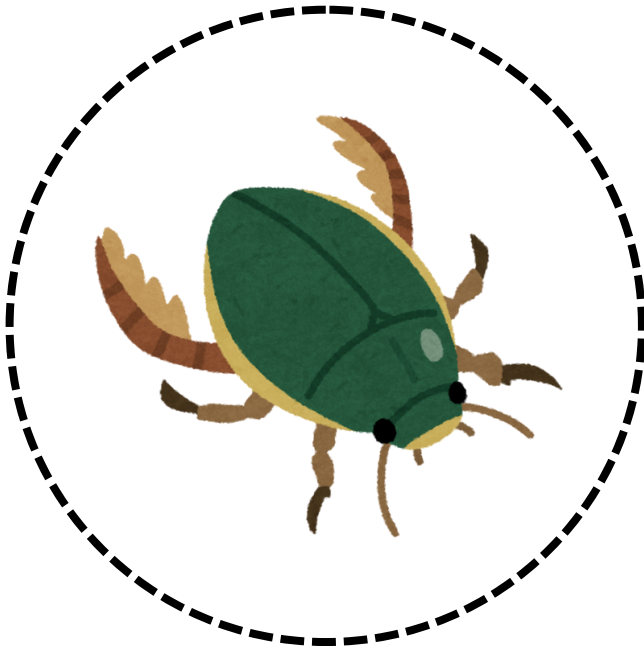
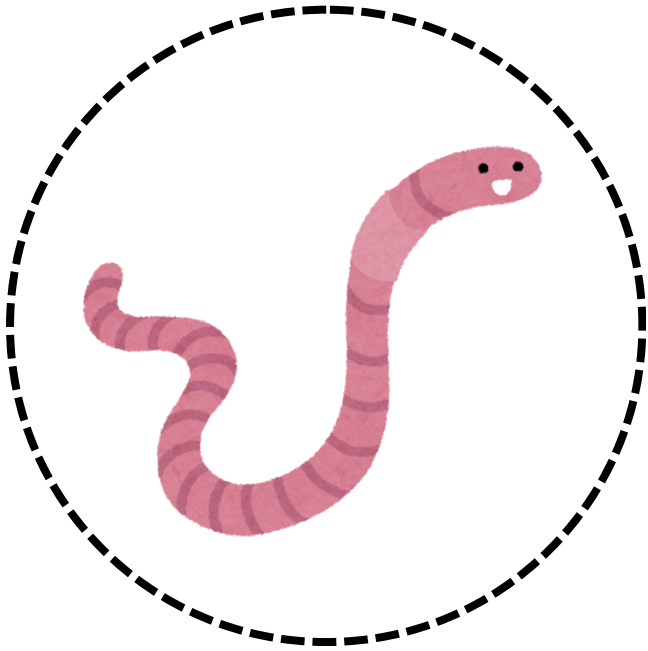
 	 	 	 	 
				
				
				
				
				
				



I Spy with my Little Eye...

For this sensory bin, I recommend using painted rocks as the minibeasts. If you don't have much time, simply print out this page instead. They work best on thicker paper, but you can also glue them onto the back of a piece of card (like a cereal box) before cutting them out. This makes them sturdier and easier for little hands to play with.

TIP: These also work brilliantly hidden around the house or garden for a scavenger hunt—perfect for extending play time!

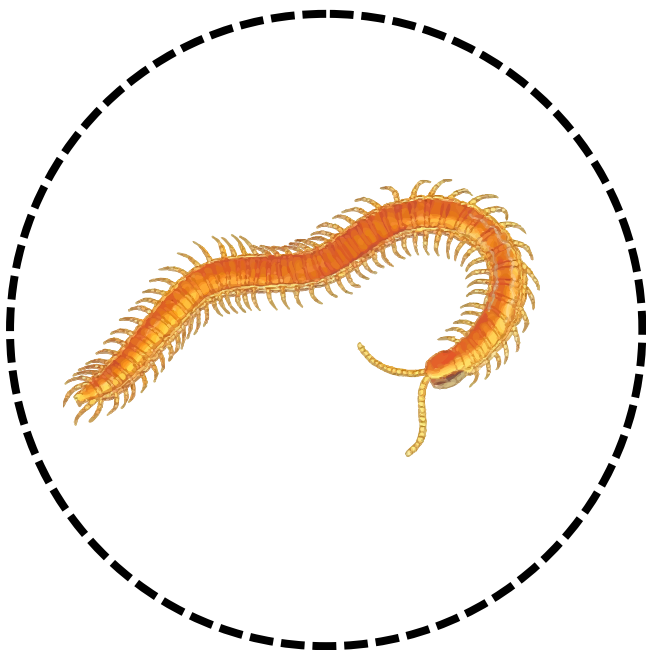
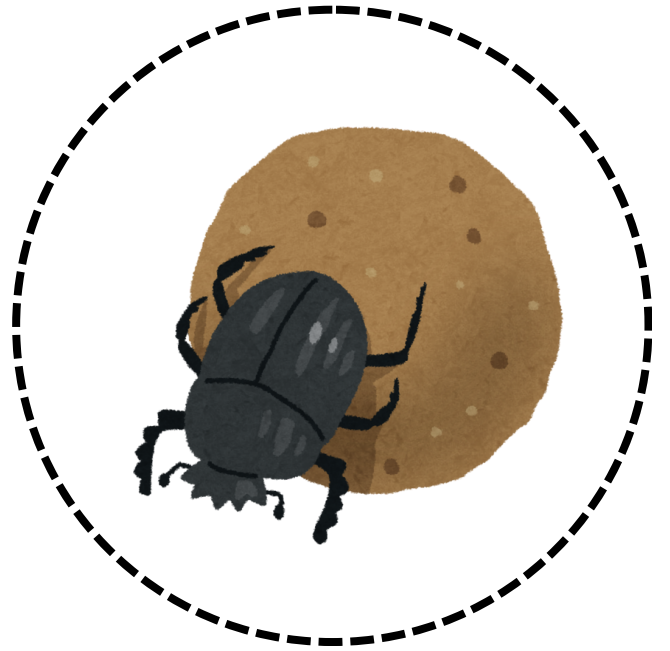
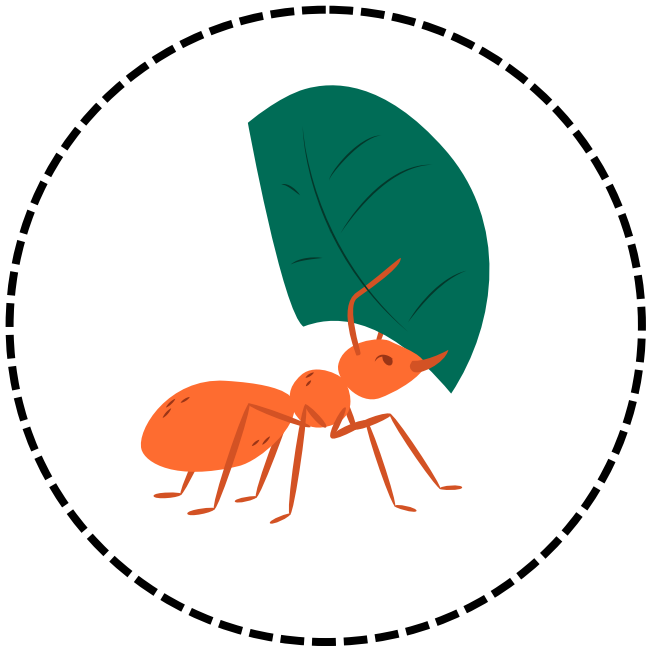
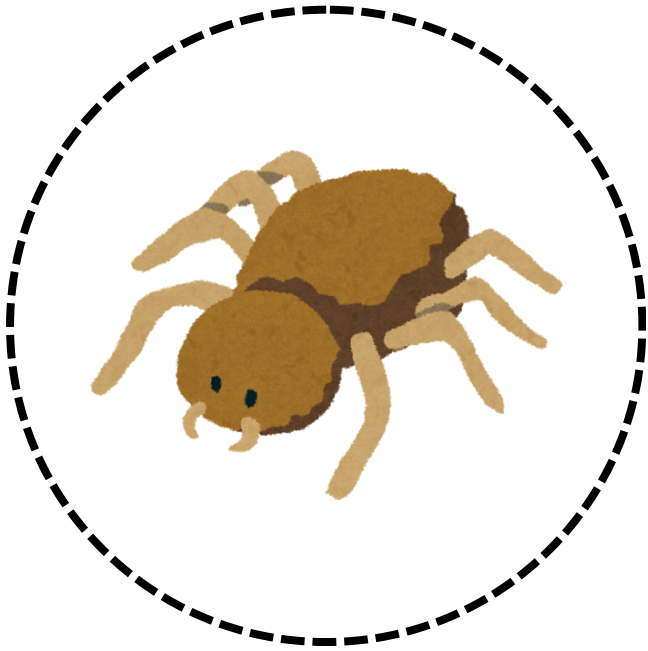




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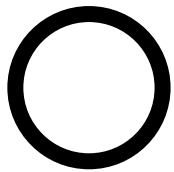
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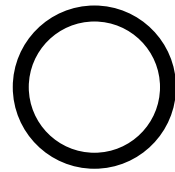


I Spy with my Little Eye...

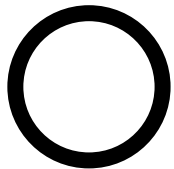
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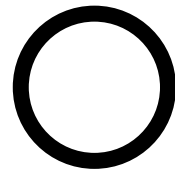
SPIDER



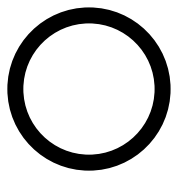
MILLIPEDE



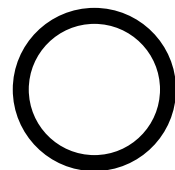
BEETLE



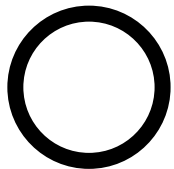
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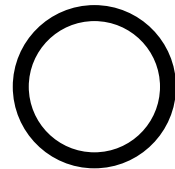
EARTHWORM



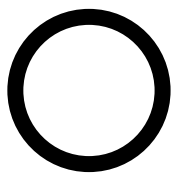
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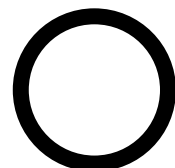
LADYBIRD



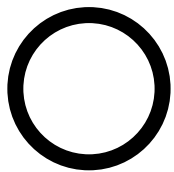
DUNG BEETLE



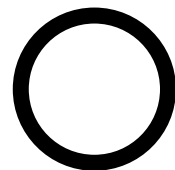
STAG BEETLE



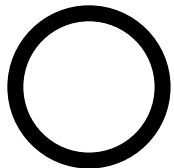
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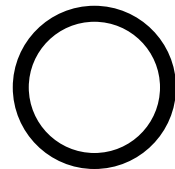
RHINOCEROS BEETLE



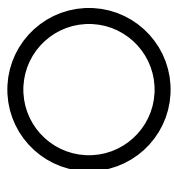
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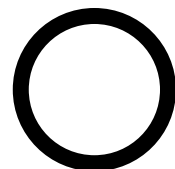
BUTTERFLY



WOODLOUSE



PRAYING MANTIS



STICK INSECT

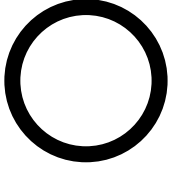




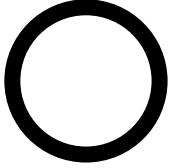
I Spy with my Little Eye...



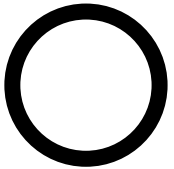
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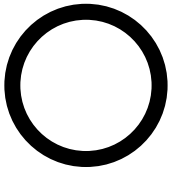
Find the largest creature



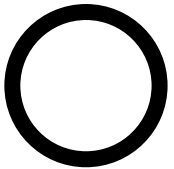
Find the tiniest creature



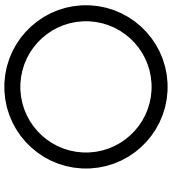
Find one with wings



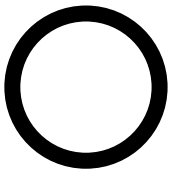
Find one with spots



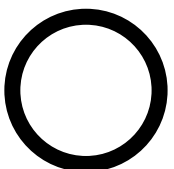
Find something that crawls



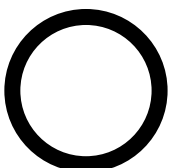
Find something that wriggles



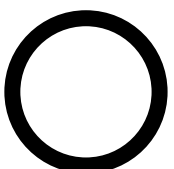
Find two of the same kind



Find something hiding at the bottom



Find something that would live in the soil

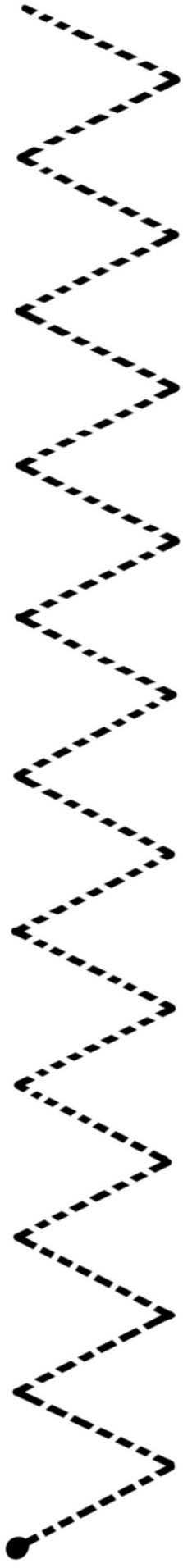


Find your favourite minibeast





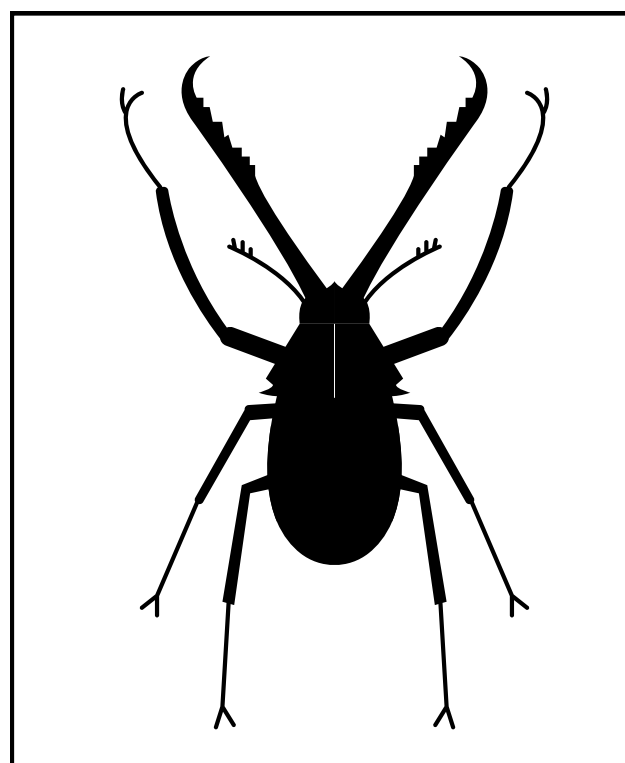
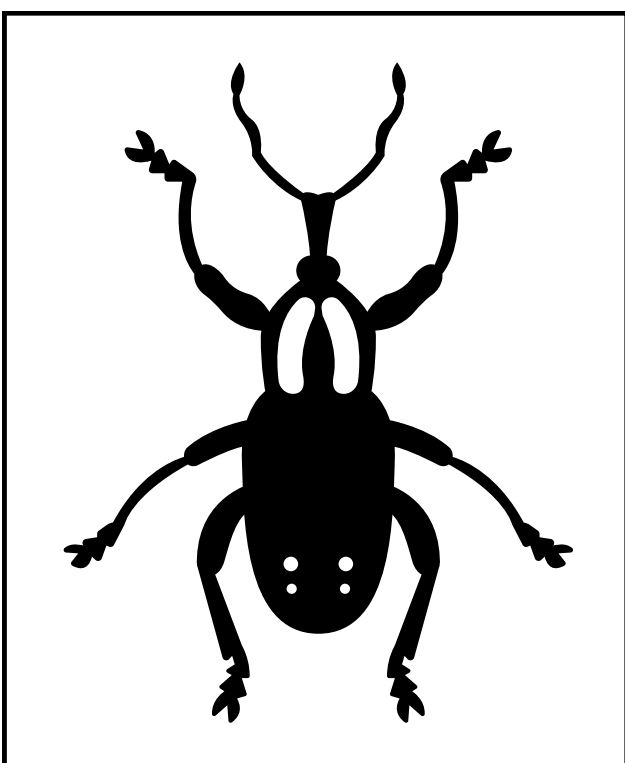
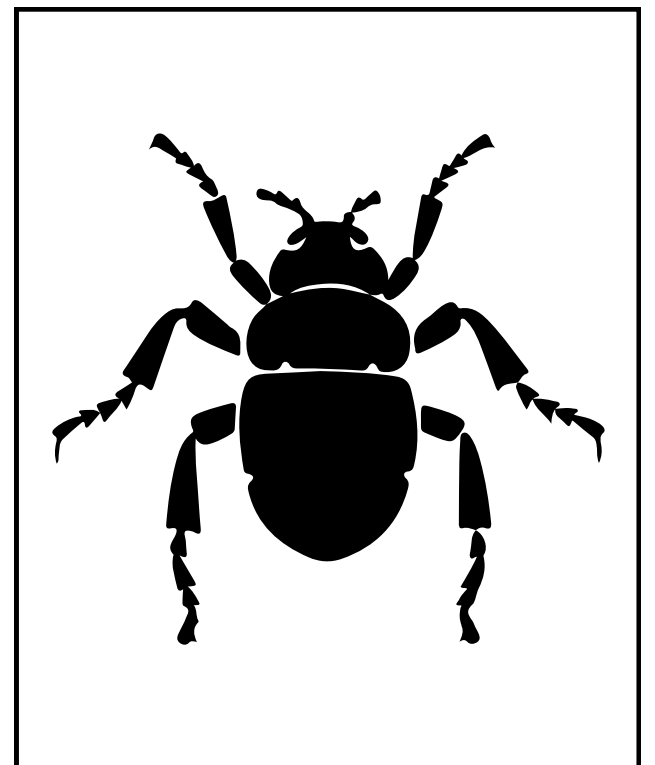
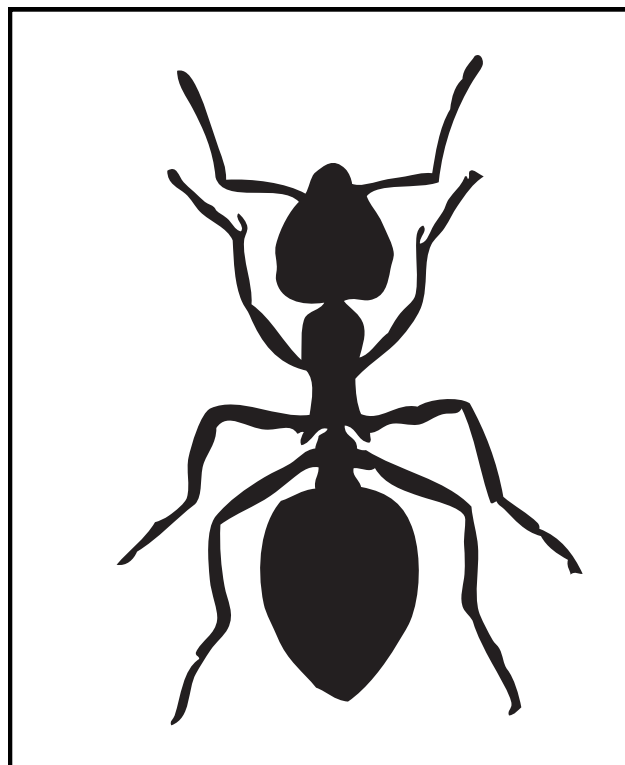
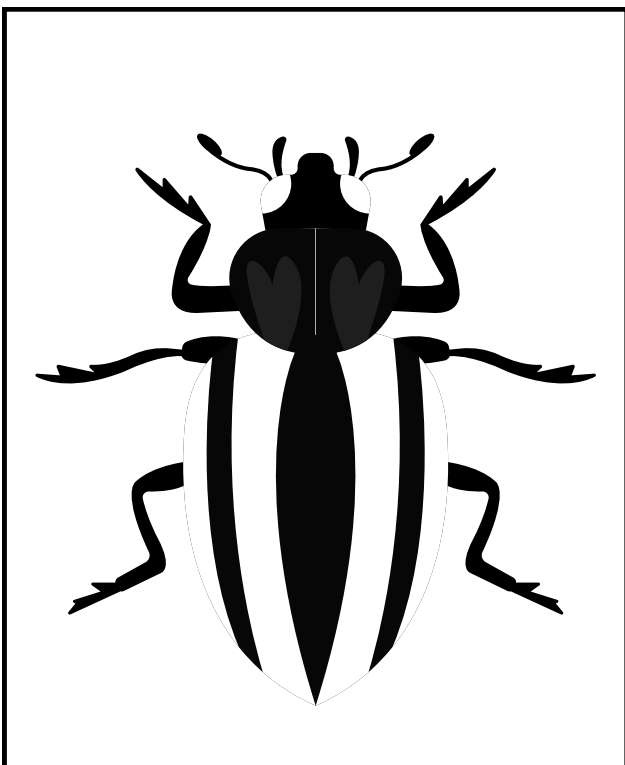
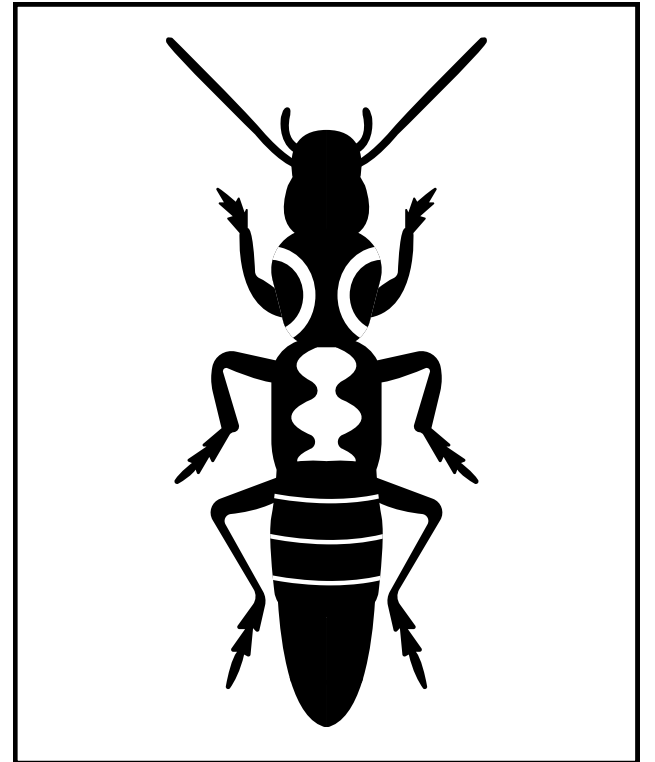
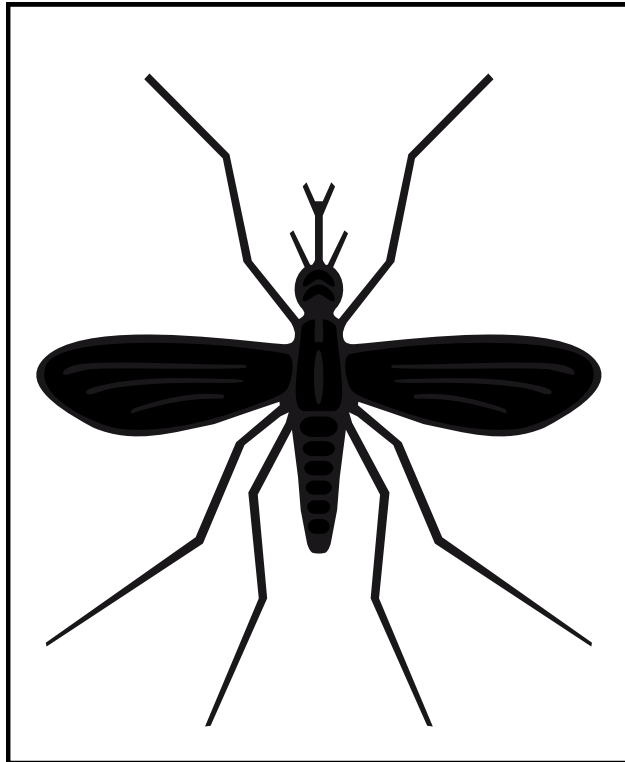
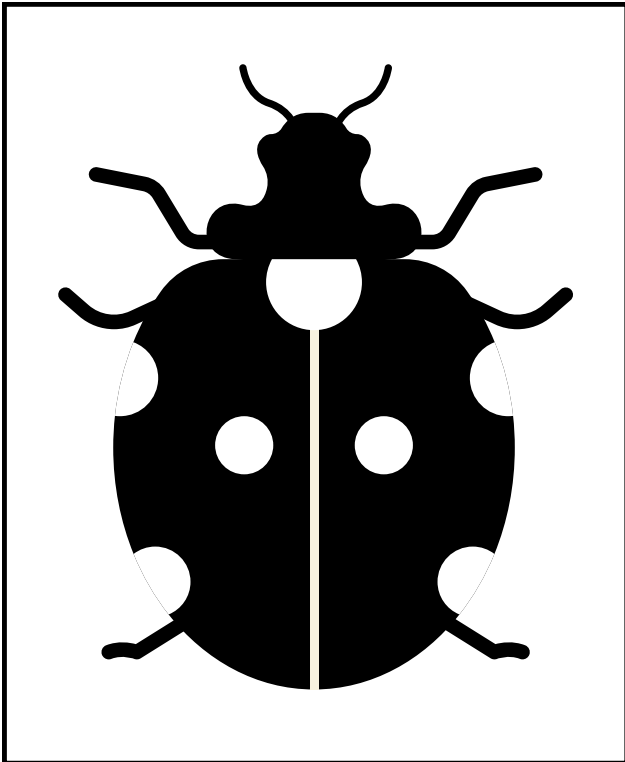
Pencil Control Practice





Mini Beasts Silhouettes

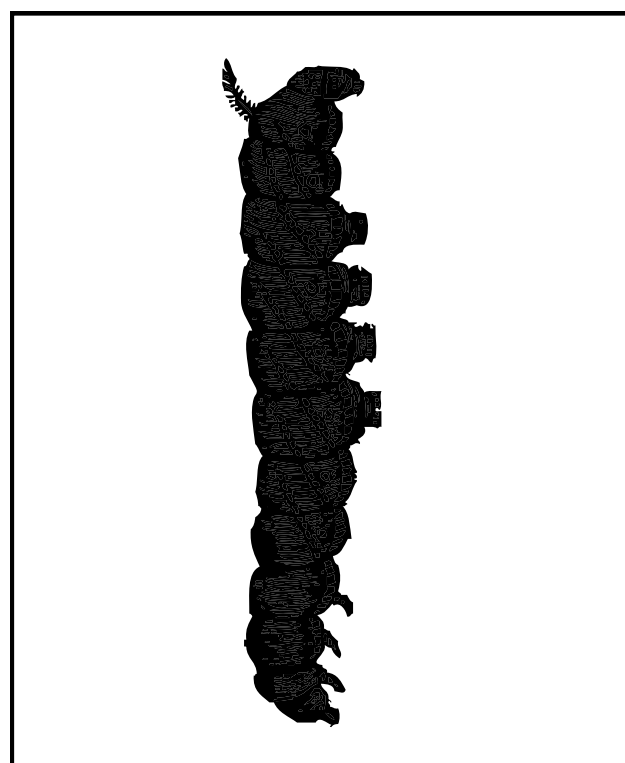
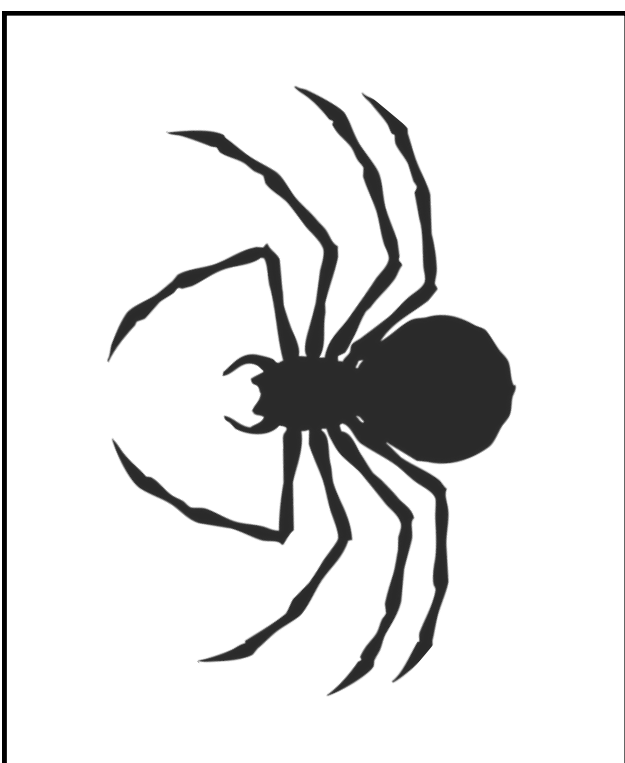
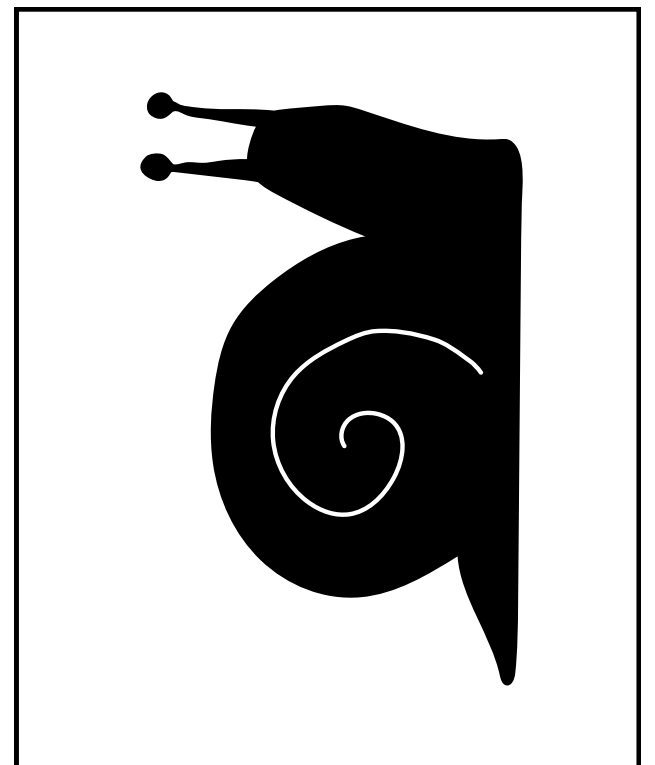
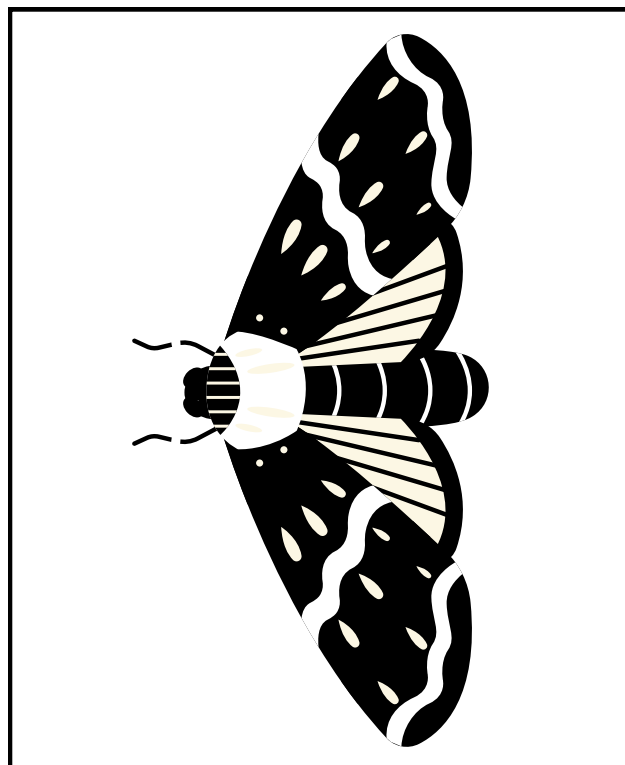
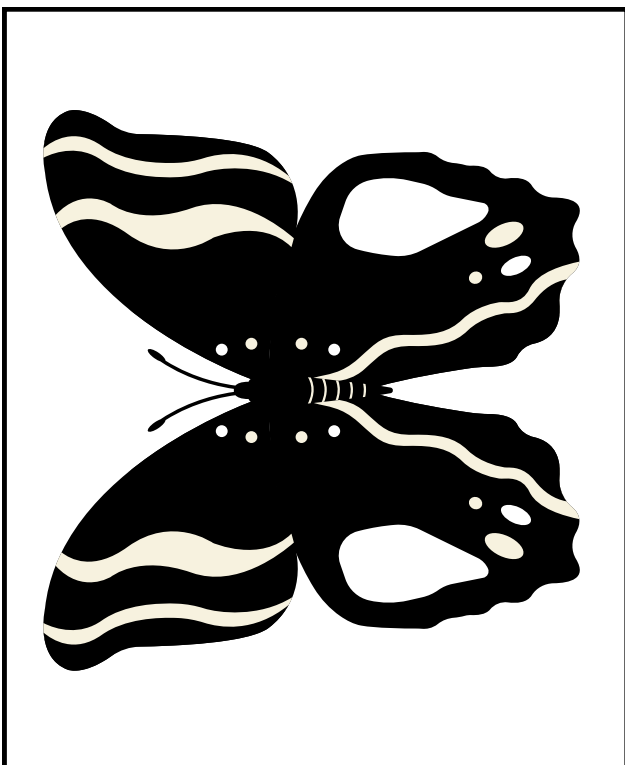
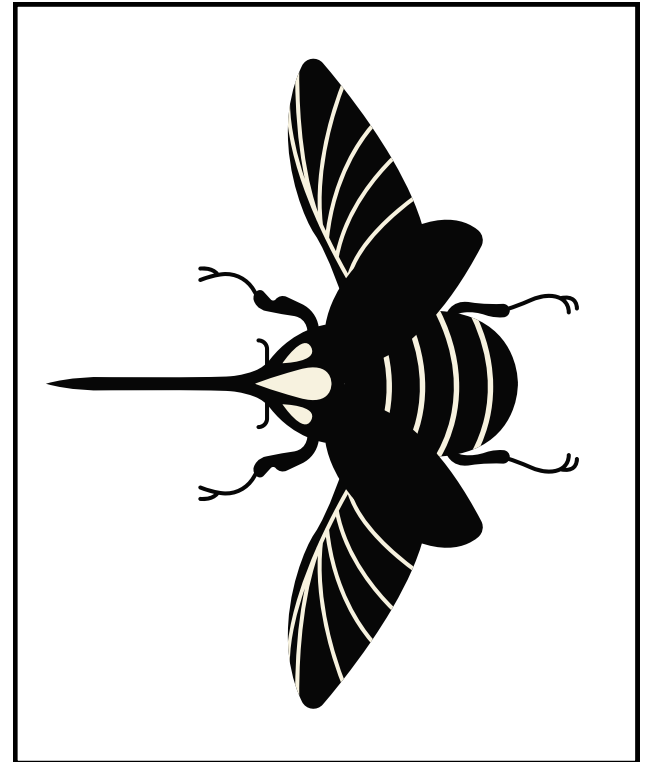
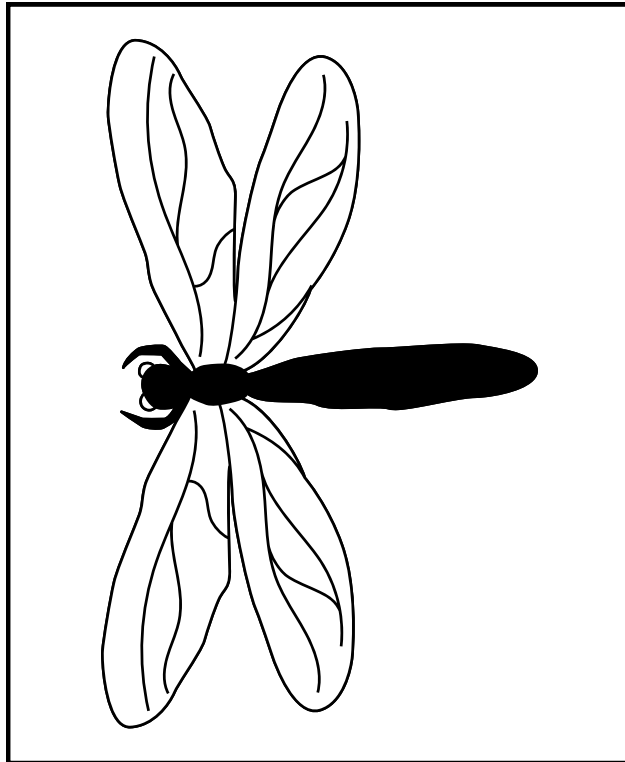
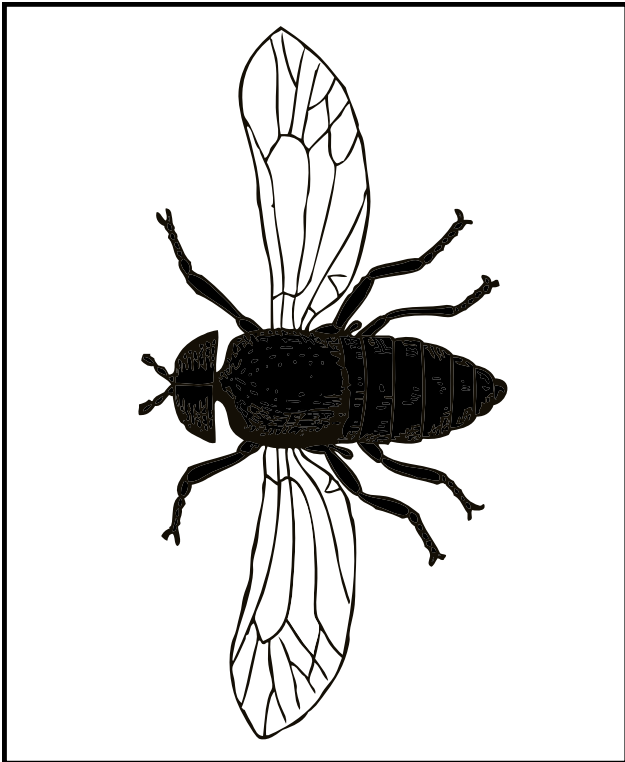
Use this sheet as reference to make bug models with natural materials. You can also print this twice for a matching game.





Mini Beasts Silhouettes

Use this sheet as reference to make bug models with natural materials. You can also print this twice for a matching game.





BEE

ANT

SNAIL





b e e

a n t

s n a i l





Writing Practice

CATERPILLAR

BUTTERFLY

WOODLOUSE





Writing Practice

caterpillar

butterfly

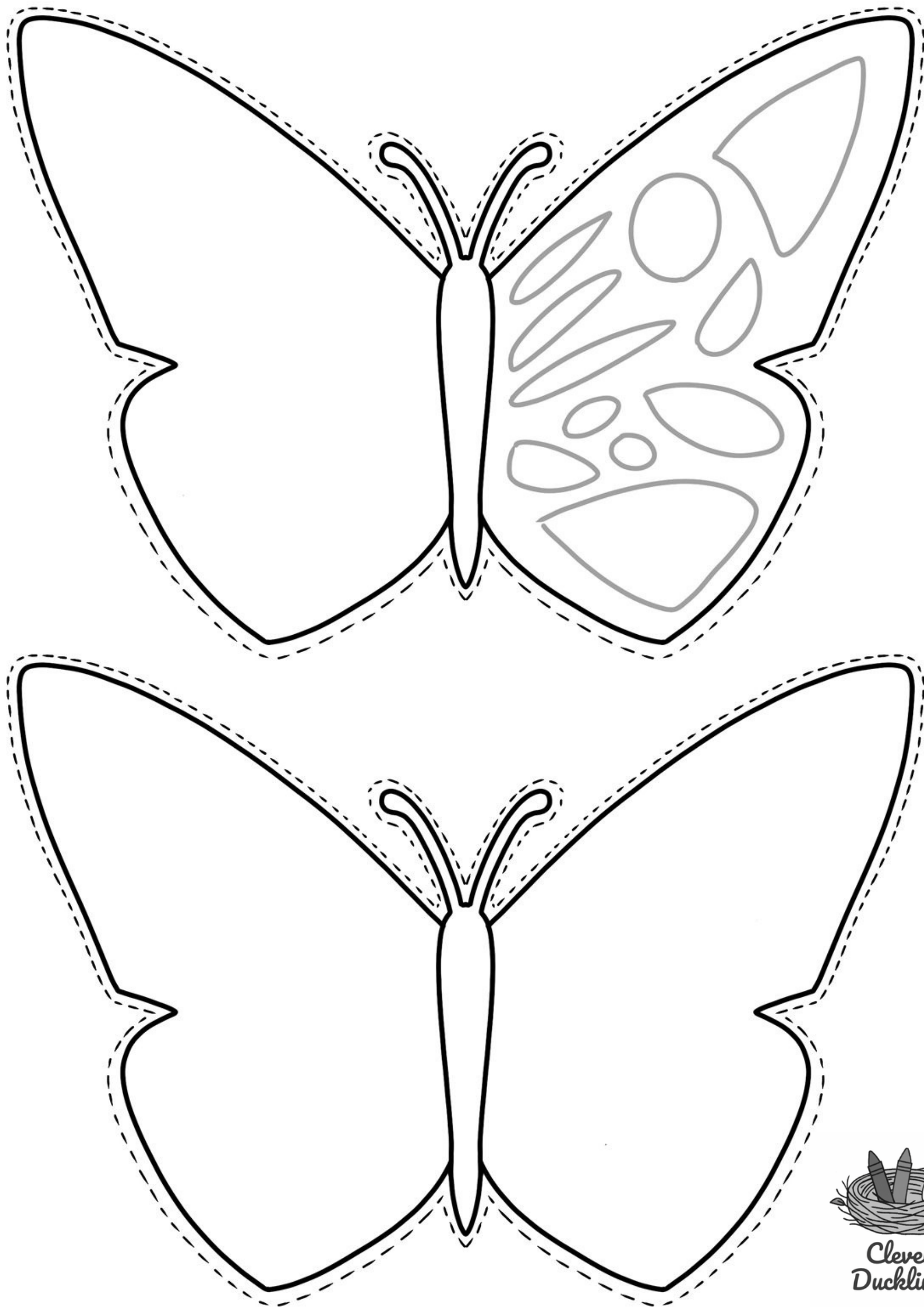
windows





Butterfly Blot Painting

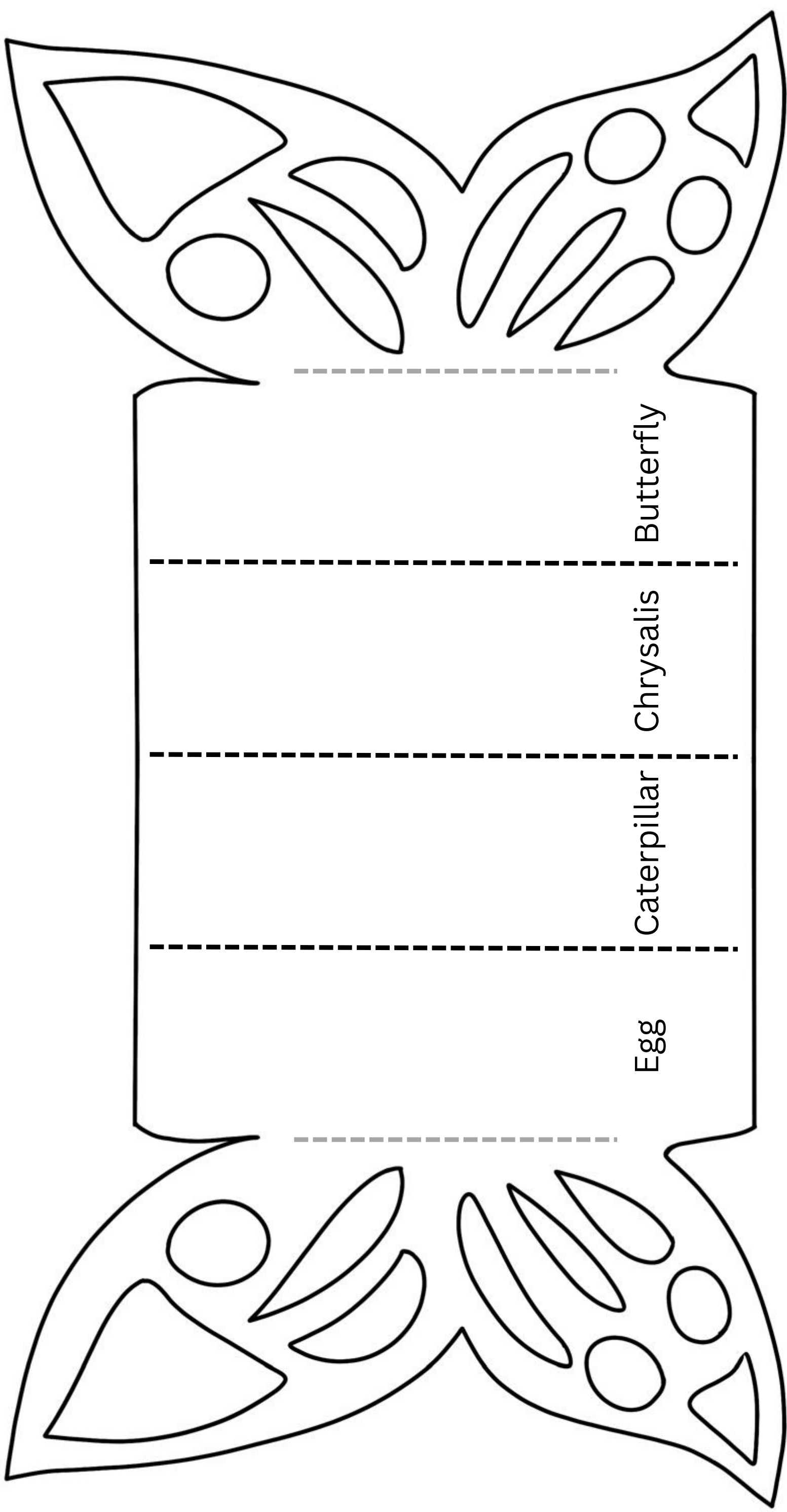
Print on thicker paper if possible, then cut along the dotted lines. Add paint to one side of the butterfly's wings, carefully fold it in half, press gently, and then open it up—the paint will transfer to the other wing, creating a mirrored design!





Folding Butterfly Life Cycle

Cut out the butterfly shape below and invite the children to draw their own versions of the stages of the butterfly's life cycle. Then fold along the dashed lines—alternating in and out—to create a concertina effect.





Recipe: Homemade Play Dough

What a fun way to help develop the muscles in little hands and prepare them for writing!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 cup water
- 1 cup table salt
- 3 tsp cream of tartar
- Food colouring of choice

Method:

Using a wooden spoon, combine all ingredients in a saucepan, and stir constantly over medium heat.

When the dough is firm, remove from heat and knead by hand.

Place in an airtight container or wrap it in cling film once it's cooled.

Try using natural colourings

Add 1/2 tsp - 2 tsp of your choice (depending on how pastel or bright you want)

Dark green: spirulina

Light green: matcha, spinach powder, wheatgrass powder

Yellow: turmeric

Pink: beetroot powder or rose powder

Orange: paprika

*Other powders should work too - as long as they're food-graded and safe for children.

*Before you move the pan to the hob, mix it all and you will see how the colour will look. Remember that you can add more if you wish, but you can't take it away.

TIP: Add a drop of lavender essential oils to make playing with the dough therapeutic! - It's a great way to help wild kids to calm down.

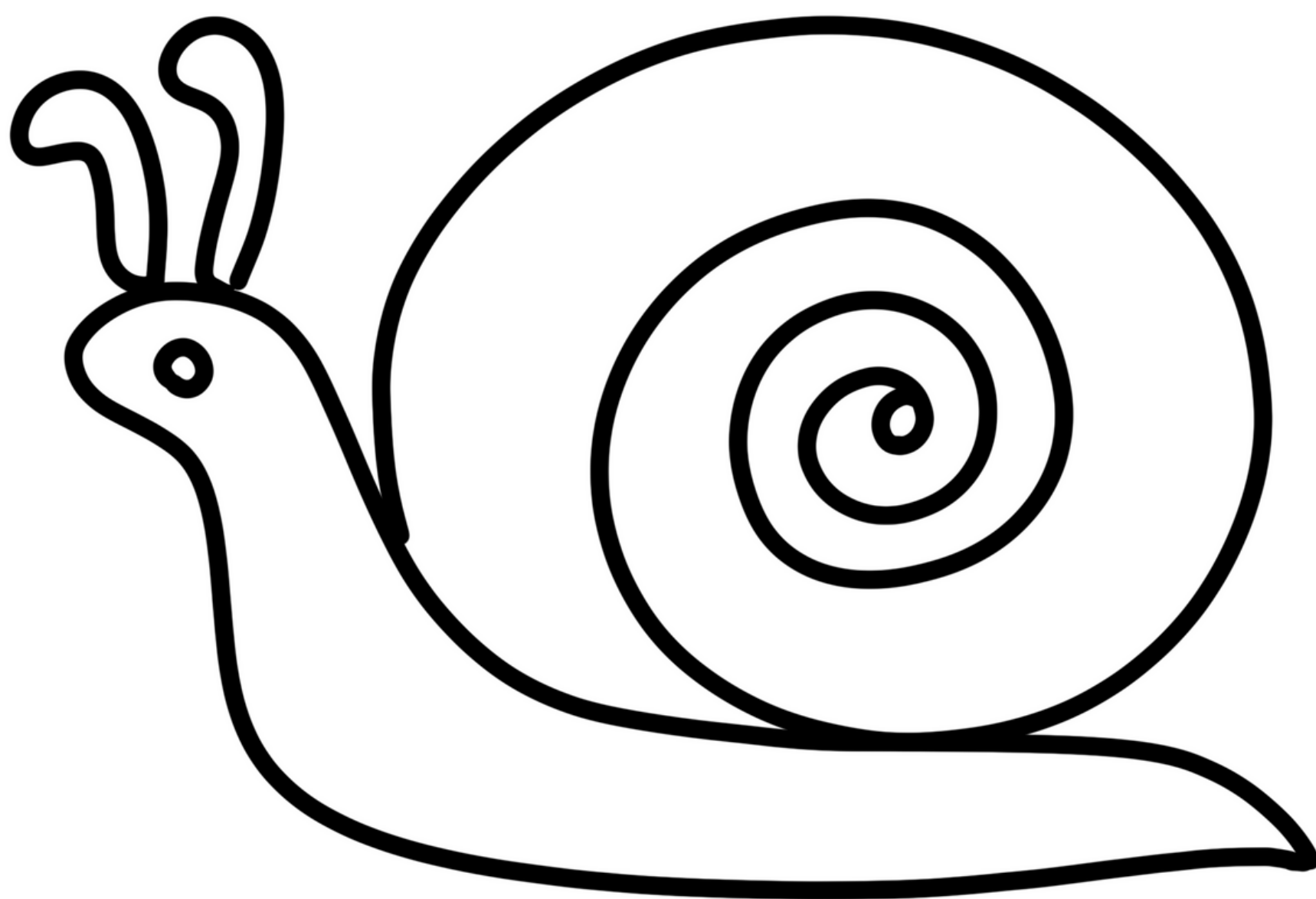




Activity: Playdough Mats



TIP: laminate this sheet to be used again and again. Roll out playdough and shape them on top of the mat, using the flower as a guide. Talk about the different parts of the flowers while doing so.



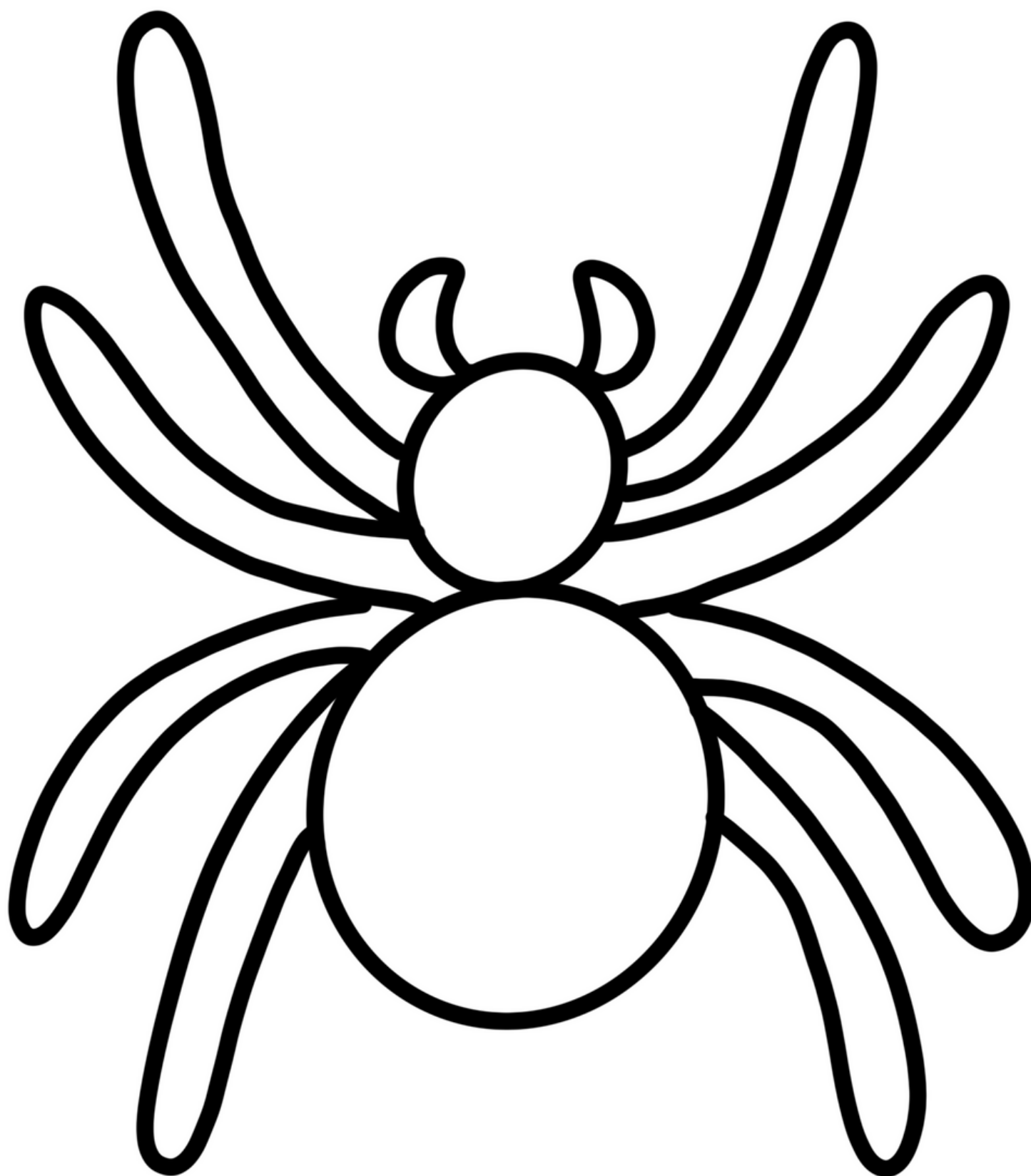
SNAIL



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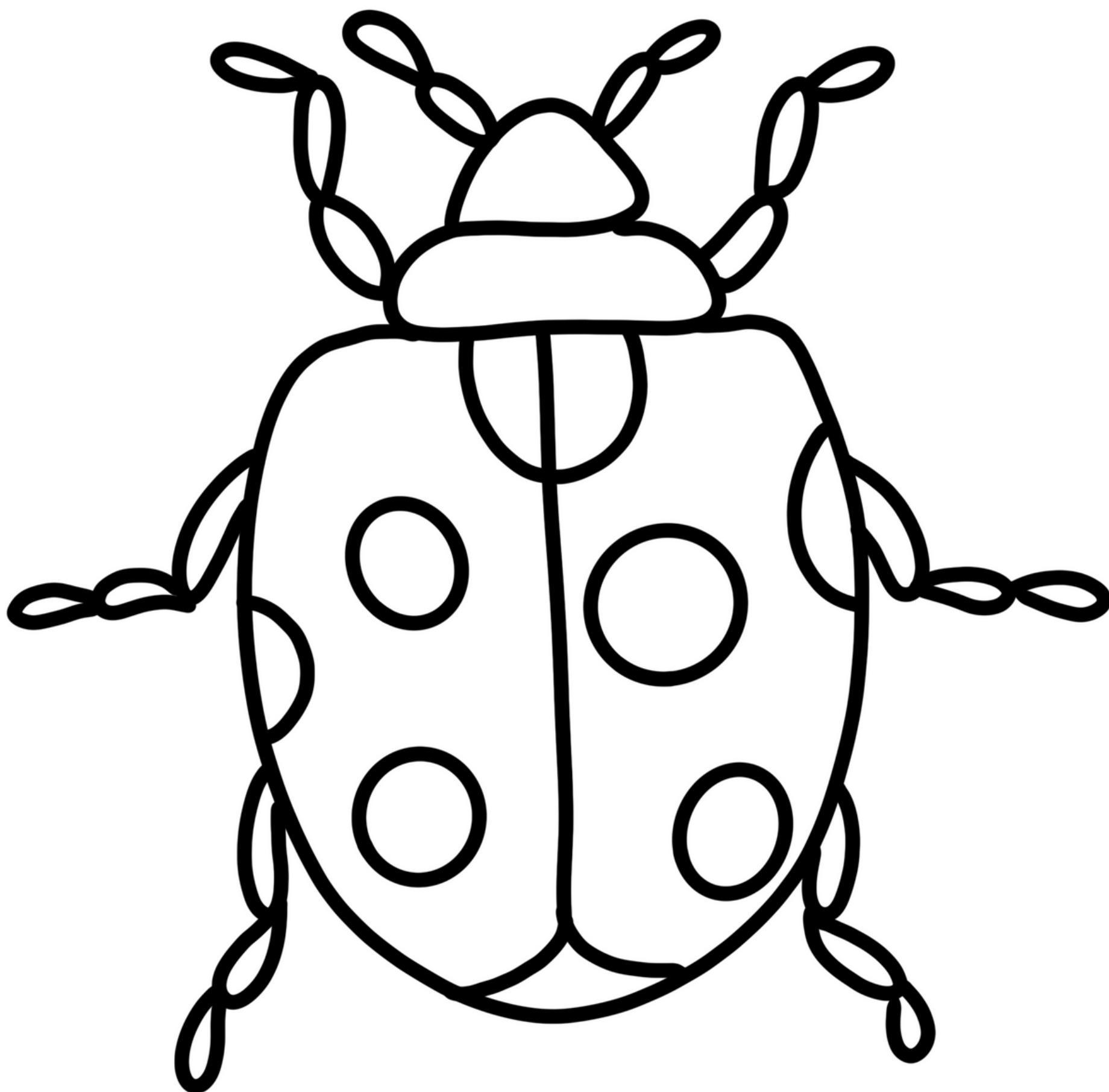
SPIIDER



Activity: Playdough Mats



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LADYBIRD