

Ages **2** and Up

KUMON

Kumon First Steps Workbooks

Let's Color!



Your child will develop fine motor control skills while having fun scribbling and coloring with crayons.

Kumon First Steps Workbooks help children develop fine motor skills as preparation for writing letters and numbers.

Special features of this book

1. This book's simple design can help children as young as two learn important basic skills while having fun.
2. This book allows parents and children to share meaningful playtime together.
3. This book is structured so that your child will develop fine motor control skills while acquiring new vocabulary.

The aims and purpose of this book

■ Develop fine motor skills

Your child will improve finger strength and dexterity. This will help your child hold and use a pencil correctly, which is an important skill for more advanced learning.

■ Gaining basic pencil control

If your child can manipulate a pencil or crayon at will, or color firmly with a strong writing pressure, then he or she has acquired basic pencil control. In general, young children usually develop writing skills in the following order:

1. Scribbling.
2. Coloring an area.
3. Coloring an area with strokes going in the same direction.

4. Drawing lines.

5. Writing letters and numbers.

This book aims at developing the first three skills. As children complete the coloring exercises step by step, they will learn to color neatly with crayons and will build a foundation for future writing skills.

■ Nurturing a sense of color

While coloring framed areas or adding more colors to the vibrant pictures, children will experience how different color combinations can create contrast and how the colored areas can join to form various shapes. These fun exercises will enhance your child's sense of color and shape-recognition skills.

How to use this book

1. To make the exercises easier for your child, please cut out the illustrated portion of each page for him or her. Please also allow your child to use the backs of the pages to scribble or draw on as he or she pleases.

2. This book is designed for use with eight basic crayon colors, but if you do not have the same colors, you can use similar colors or any colors of your choice. If your child's grip is not firm enough, he or she can use

water-based markers instead of crayons.

3. When your child has completed each page, please offer him or her lots of praise.

4. Please refer to the "To parents" notes in this book, which provide more comments and advice on how to help your child enjoy and learn from this book.

5. Try to limit the number of pages your child will complete in a day. It is best to end the day's work when your child still wants to do more.

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■ Interior illustrations by Yoshiko Murakami ■ Photographs by H. Kamiizumi

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How to use this book



Relax and enjoy!

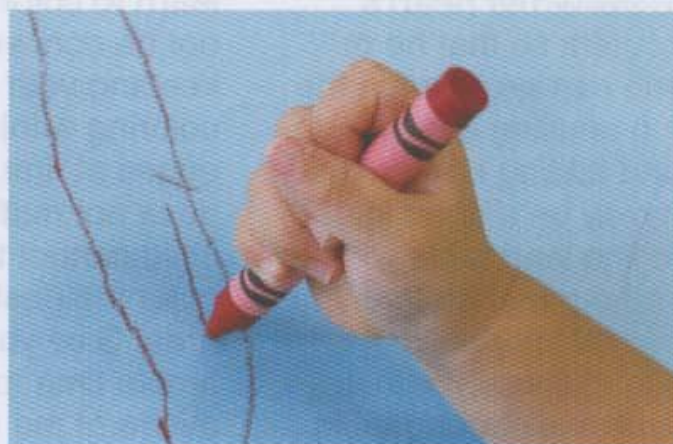
Kumon's First Steps Workbooks are designed so that children and parents can learn and have fun together. Children learn best from active and participatory parents, so please help your child with the activities in this book. By helping your child, you are encouraging him or her to develop a desire to learn, as well as laying the foundation for your child to become a self-motivated learner.

How to choose the right color crayon

The exercises in this book require eight colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet (purple), brown, and black. However, your child can use any color crayon that he or she prefers. First and foremost, please help your child experience the fun of coloring. Eventually, your child will be able to choose the correct color.

How to hold a crayon

It is okay for your child to hold the crayon in his or her fist at first, but you should gradually teach your child to hold the crayon correctly.



▲ At first, it is okay to grip the crayon in a fist.

The best way to hold a crayon is to grip the bottom half so that it will not break. In the beginning, do not worry too much about breaking the crayon or teaching your child to hold the crayon properly. Observe your child's progress, and encourage him or her to move forward one step at a time.



▲ This child is holding the crayon well, but not perfectly. After your child has gotten used to drawing with crayons, you can show him or her the proper way to hold it.

How to use this book

2



How to color

Your child will probably find it difficult to completely color a designated area at first. Young children with a weak grip will find it hard to control a crayon, especially if they have never used a writing tool before.

At first your child will start with simple scribbling exercises. Then your child will practice coloring in a white area. Because each white area is surrounded by color, it will not look too messy if the coloring runs over the edges. It does not matter if your child cannot color the white area neatly—he or she can scribble over the area instead. As your child gets used to drawing with crayons, he or she will naturally learn to draw more firmly and color more neatly.

Have your child scribble to his or her heart's content so that he or she can experience the fun of using a crayon and adding new colors. It may be a good idea to line your table with scrap paper so that you can let your child scribble freely without worrying about getting any marks on the table.



▲ An example of scribbling.

Children will gradually learn to color neatly. Do not be concerned about keeping your child's coloring within the edges at first. It also does not matter if your child cannot thoroughly color the designated area. Give your child ample time to become aware of the edges of the coloring area, and to start trying to color it neatly and thoroughly.



▲ An early stage of coloring.

Here is a tip you can give your child: Try coloring from the inside edges of the white space and then slowly move towards the middle.



▲ An example of a child that is getting more confident with coloring.

1

Breakfast Time!

To parents

Your child will practice scribbling first. Even if he or she is using a crayon other than red, allow him or her to proceed. Praise your child when he or she has completed the exercise. Then, say "omelet" aloud while pointing to the word.

Example



red



Draw some ketchup on the omelet.

omelet



2

Bring on the Pasta

To parents

It may be a good idea to show your child the actual objects represented by the illustrations in this book. The next time you eat spaghetti, mention the drawing that your child made here.

Example



orange

spaghetti

Draw the spaghetti.



3

I Need Some Hair!

To parents

When your child has finished coloring, say "hair" aloud while pointing to the word.

Example



black



Draw some hair for the boy.

hair





Water Fun

To parents

Encourage your child to scribble from the tip of the hose. When he or she is finished, offer lots of praise and talk about playing in the water during the hot summer.

Example



blue



Draw lots of water.

water





It Looks Like Rain

To parents

Say something like, "Here comes the rain," or "Look, the snails have little umbrellas," while your child is drawing the rain.

Example

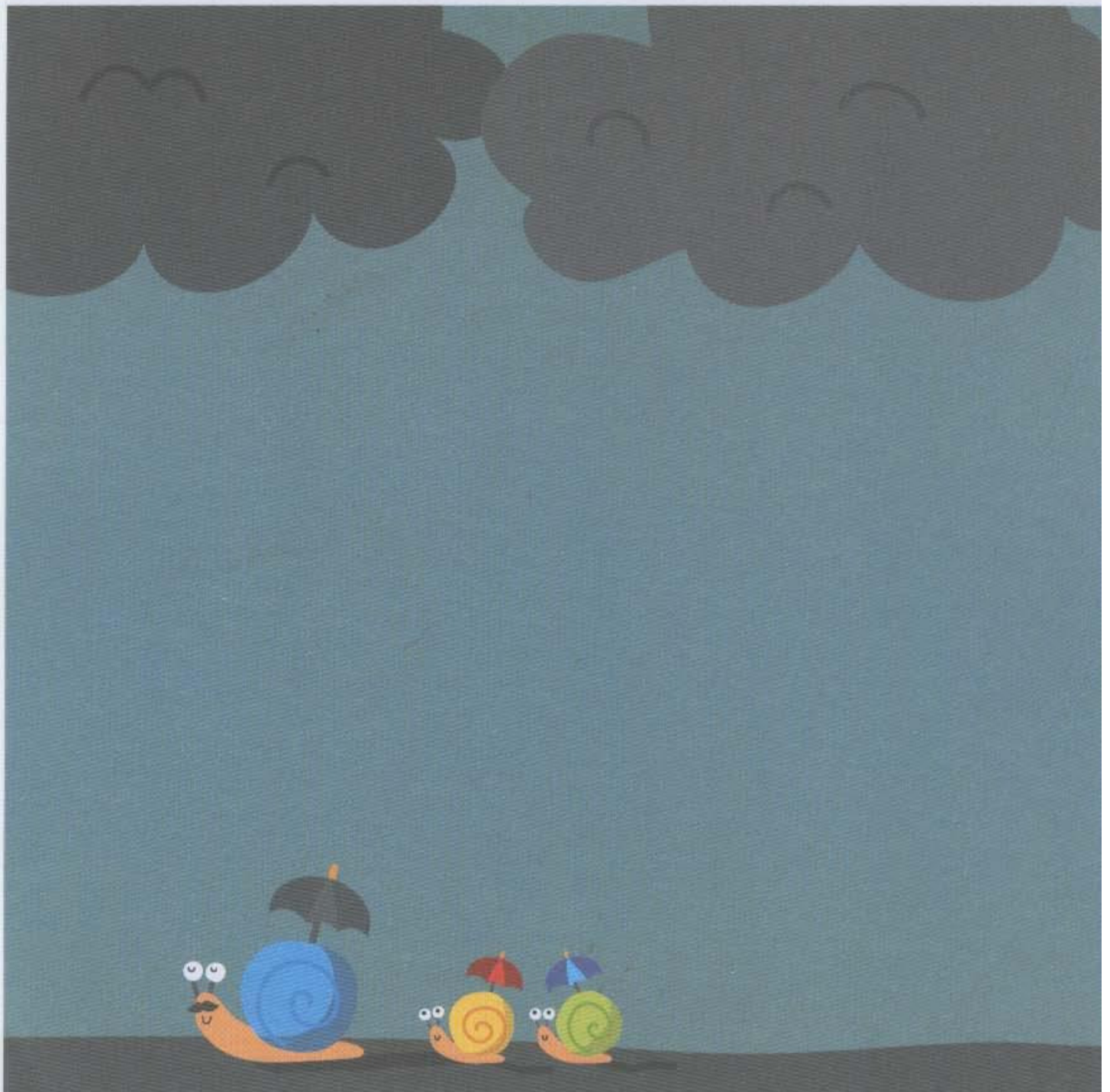


blue



Draw lots of raindrops.

rain



6


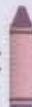
Holiday Party

To parents

From this page, your child will practice short strokes. If it is too hard for your child to draw short lines, he or she can draw the same strokes as on the previous pages. When your child has finished coloring, offer praise and talk about holiday parties.

Example



red  violet (purple) 

Draw lots of confetti.

party popper





Yummy!

To parents

Encourage your child to draw using different colors if he or she seems to be able to do so. Do not be concerned about running off the edges.

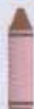
Example

orange



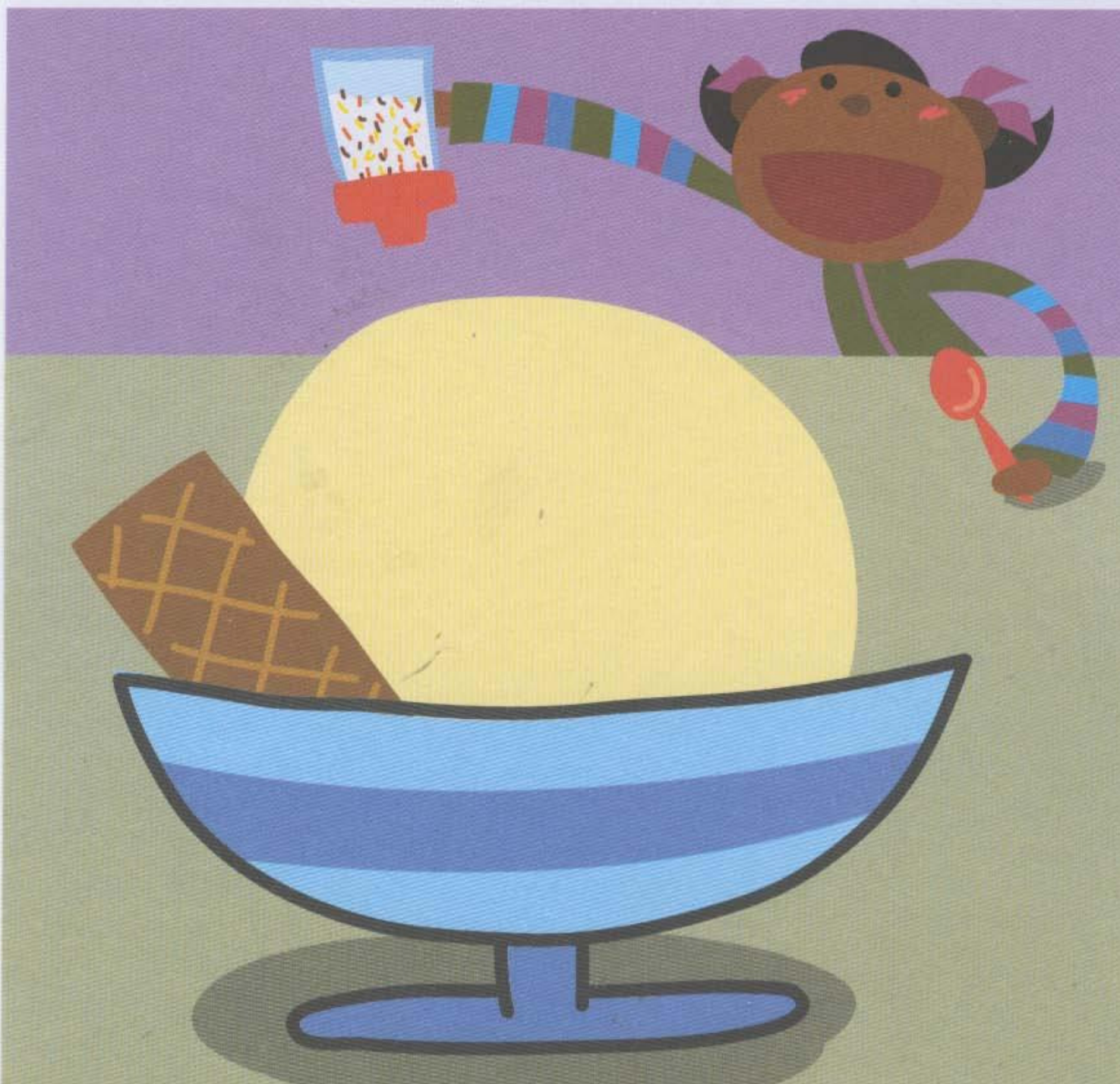
yellow

brown



Draw lots of candy sprinkles on
the ice cream.

ice cream



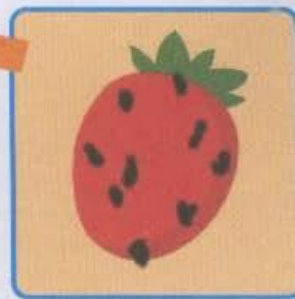
8

A Berry Good Time

To parents

The black spots on the surface of strawberries are not seeds. These spots are actually little fruits with even smaller seeds inside! When your child has finished drawing the dots, say "strawberry" aloud while pointing to the word.

Example

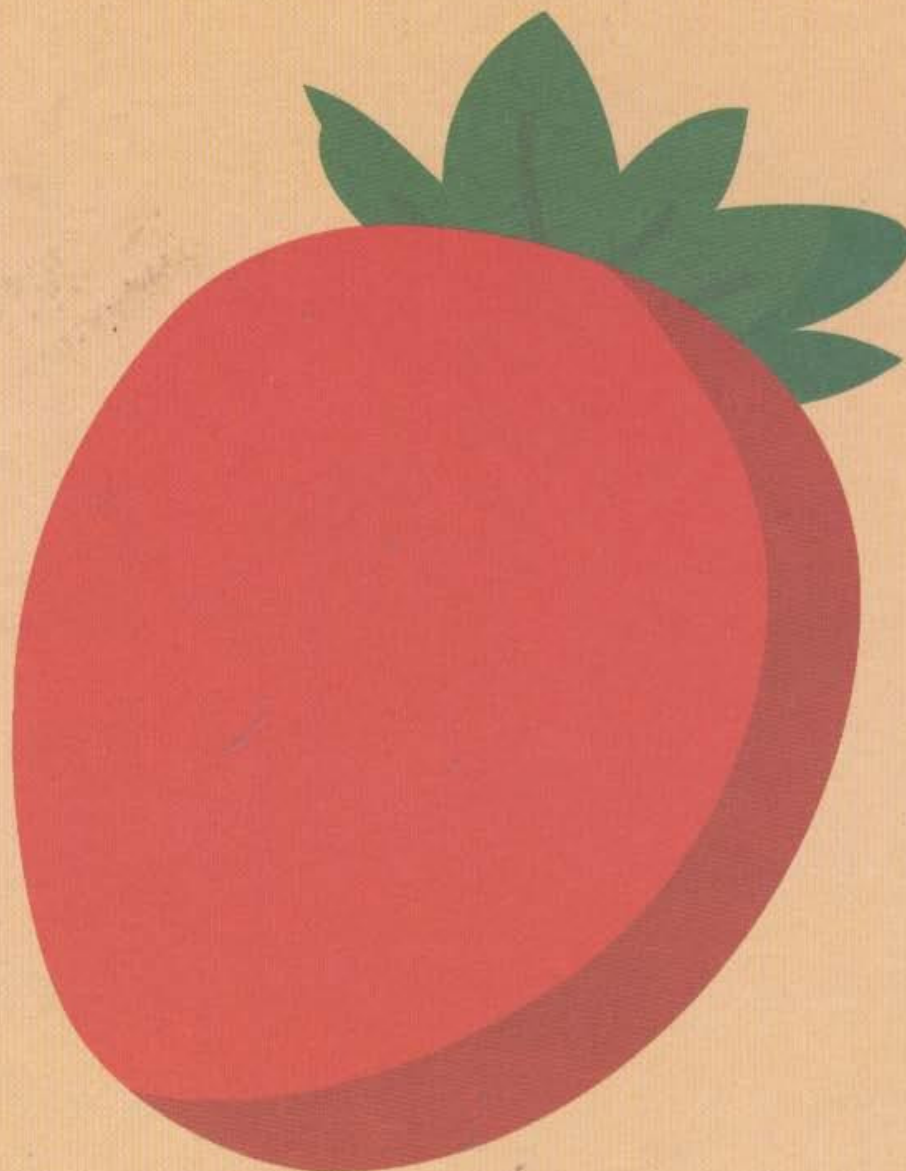


black



Draw black dots on the strawberry.

strawberry



9

Sweet Tomato

To parents

From this page on, your child will practice filling in a white area. The color of the sample crayon is just a reference. If you do not have the same color, it is okay to use a similar color or any color your child likes. When your child has finished coloring, say "tomato" aloud while pointing to the word.

Example

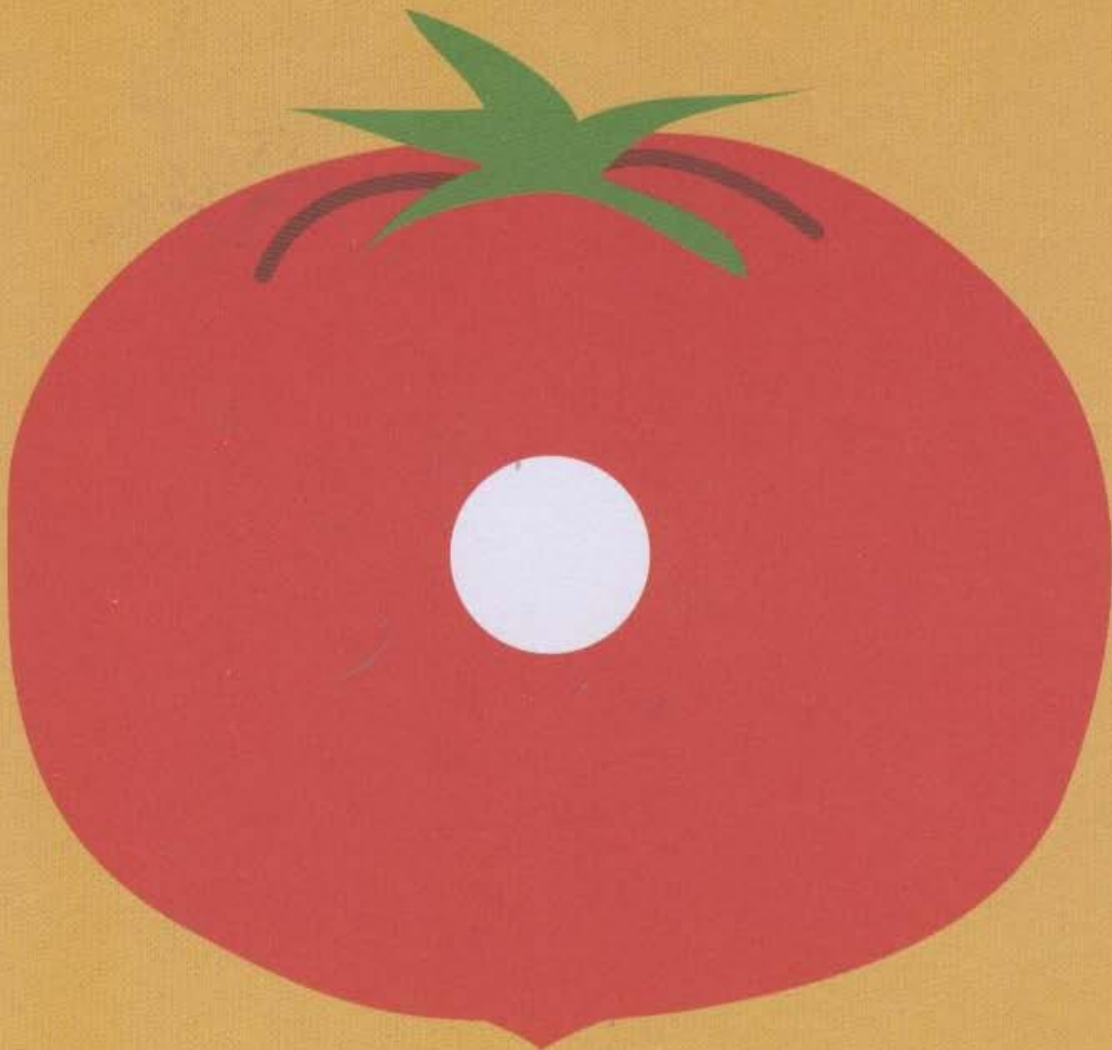


red



Color the white area.

tomato





Lemony

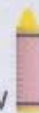
To parents

It is okay if your child cannot color the entire white spot neatly. And do not be concerned if he or she colors outside of the lines. When your child is finished, offer praise such as, "What a beautiful lemon," and say "lemon" aloud while pointing to the word.

Example



yellow



Color the white area.

lemon



11

Do You Like Green Peppers?

To parents

When your child has finished coloring, offer praise and say "green pepper" aloud while pointing to the words.

Example

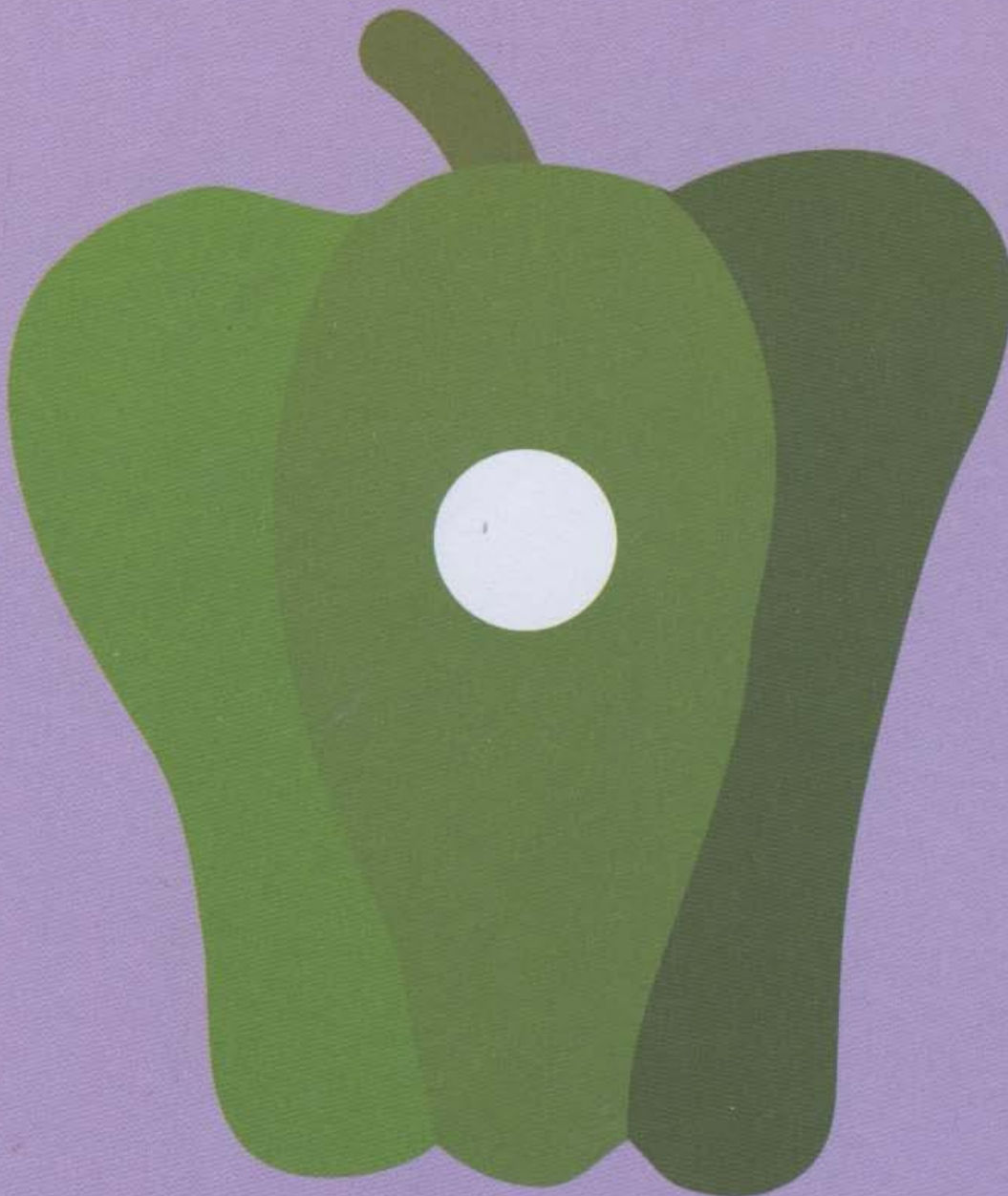


green



Color the white area.

green pepper



12

Eggplant Anyone?

To parents

Compare this page with your child's previous work. Has your child made some progress? If you notice any change, offer lots of praise, such as, "Look at you! You're getting really good!"

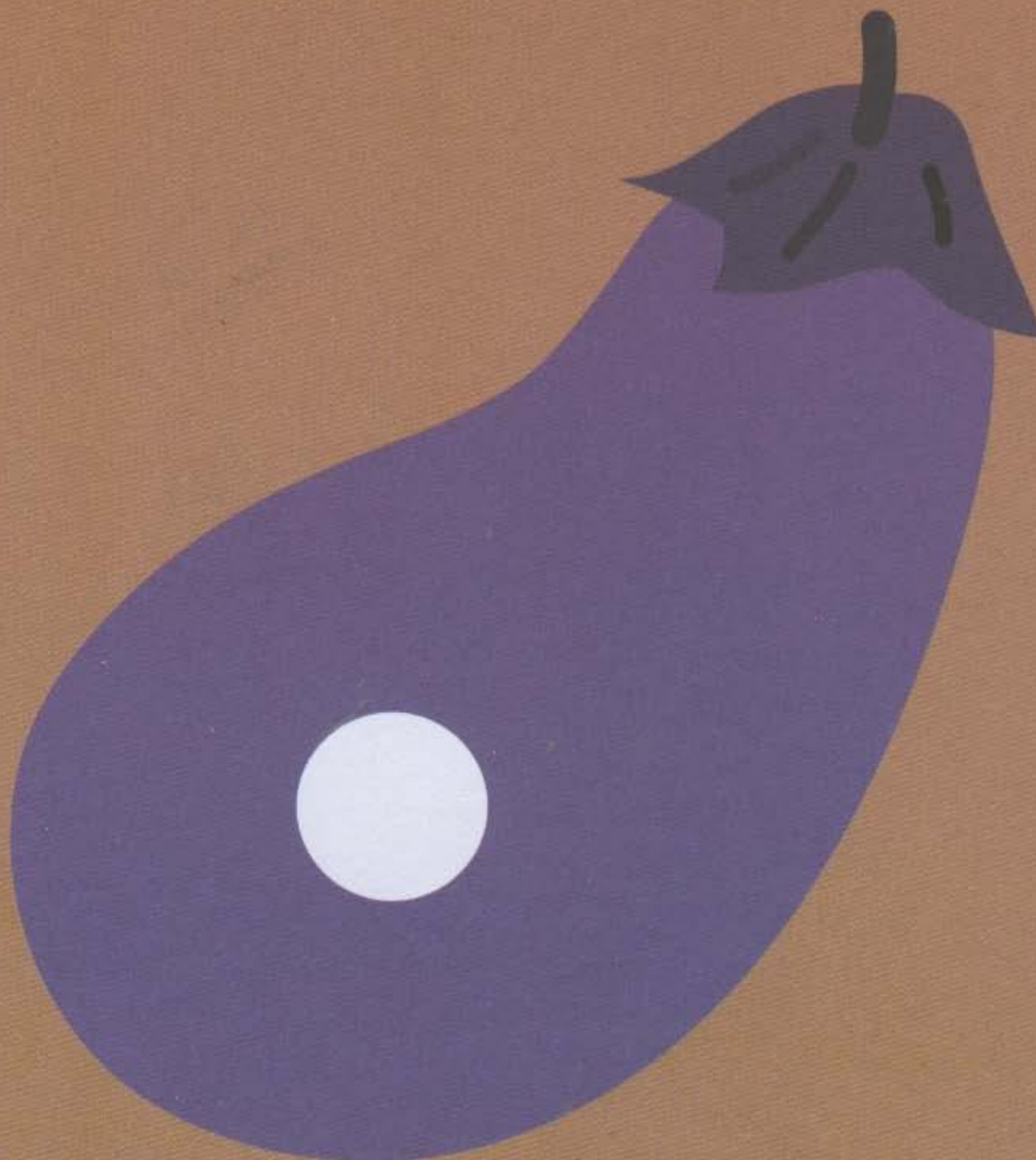
Example



violet
(purple)

eggplant

Color the white area.



13

Yummy!

To parents

The white area in this exercise is bigger than ones on the previous pages. Now that your child is getting more confident in his or her coloring ability, he or she will begin to color larger areas.

Example



orange



Color the white area.

ice cream



14

Dessert

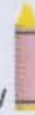
To parents

Do not be concerned if your child colors outside of the lines. When your child has completed the exercise, say something like, "The pudding looks so yummy!"

Example



yellow



Color the white area.

pudding



15

So Refreshing

To parents

Say something fun like, "We drink orange juice to keep us healthy and strong." When your child is finished, say "orange juice" aloud while pointing to the words.

Example



orange



Color the white area.

orange juice



16

Steamed Up

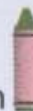
To parents

Do not be concerned about running off the edges. When your child is finished, offer praise and say "pot" aloud while pointing to the word.

Example



green



Color the white area.

pot



17

Rain, Rain Go Away!

To parents

The white square is designed to draw your child's attention to the shape of the umbrella. Encourage your child to color along the inside edges of the white square first, and then fill in the middle area.

Example



blue

umbrella

Color the white area.



18

Watering the Garden

Example



blue

To parents

Talk about watering flowers in the garden while your child is coloring. The next time you go outside, point out all the different colored flowers.

Color the white area.

watering pot



19

There's a Snail on My Boots!

To parents

When your child is finished, say something about the illustration, such as, "Look, there's a little snail on the yellow boots!" Please also say "rain boots" aloud while pointing to the words.

Example

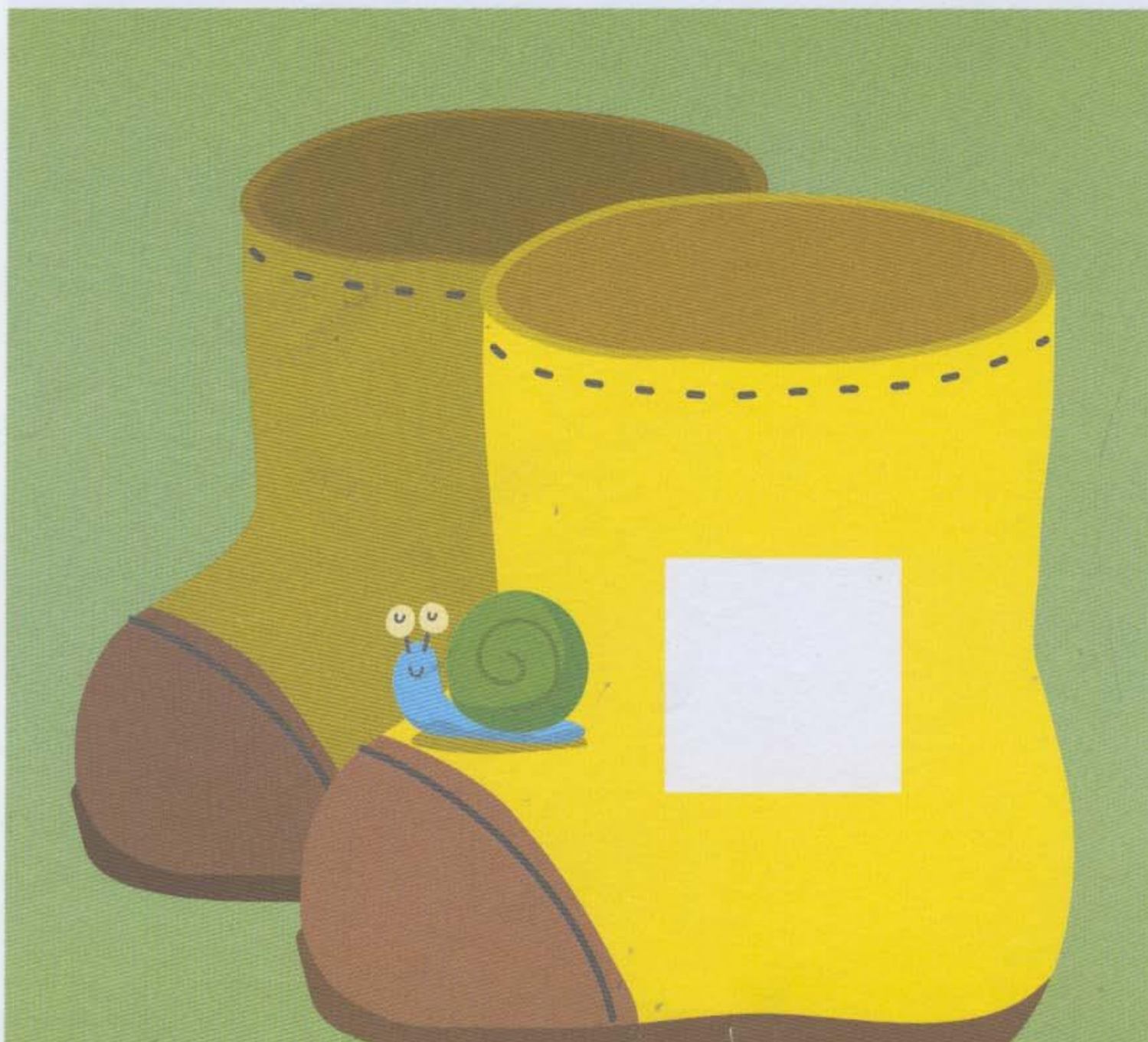


yellow



Color the white area.

rain boots



20

My Hat

To parents

Show your child how to color inside the edges of the white section first and then move to the middle. If he or she seems to be having difficulty, show him or her what to do.

Example

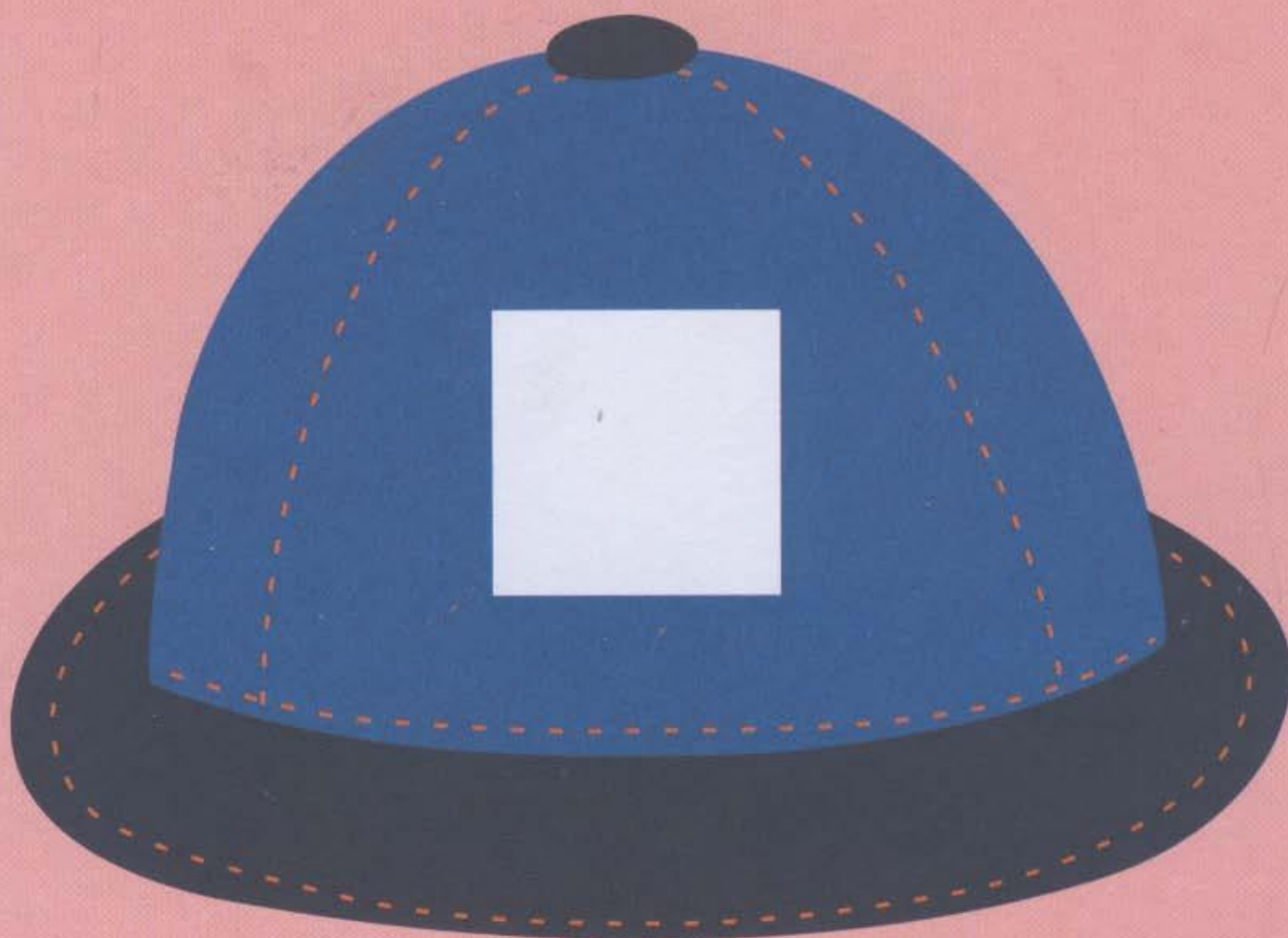


blue



Color the white area.

hat



21

Froggy!

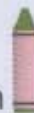
To parents

From this page on, your child will practice coloring a triangular area. Have your child color the inside edges of the white triangle first, and then complete the middle portion.

Example

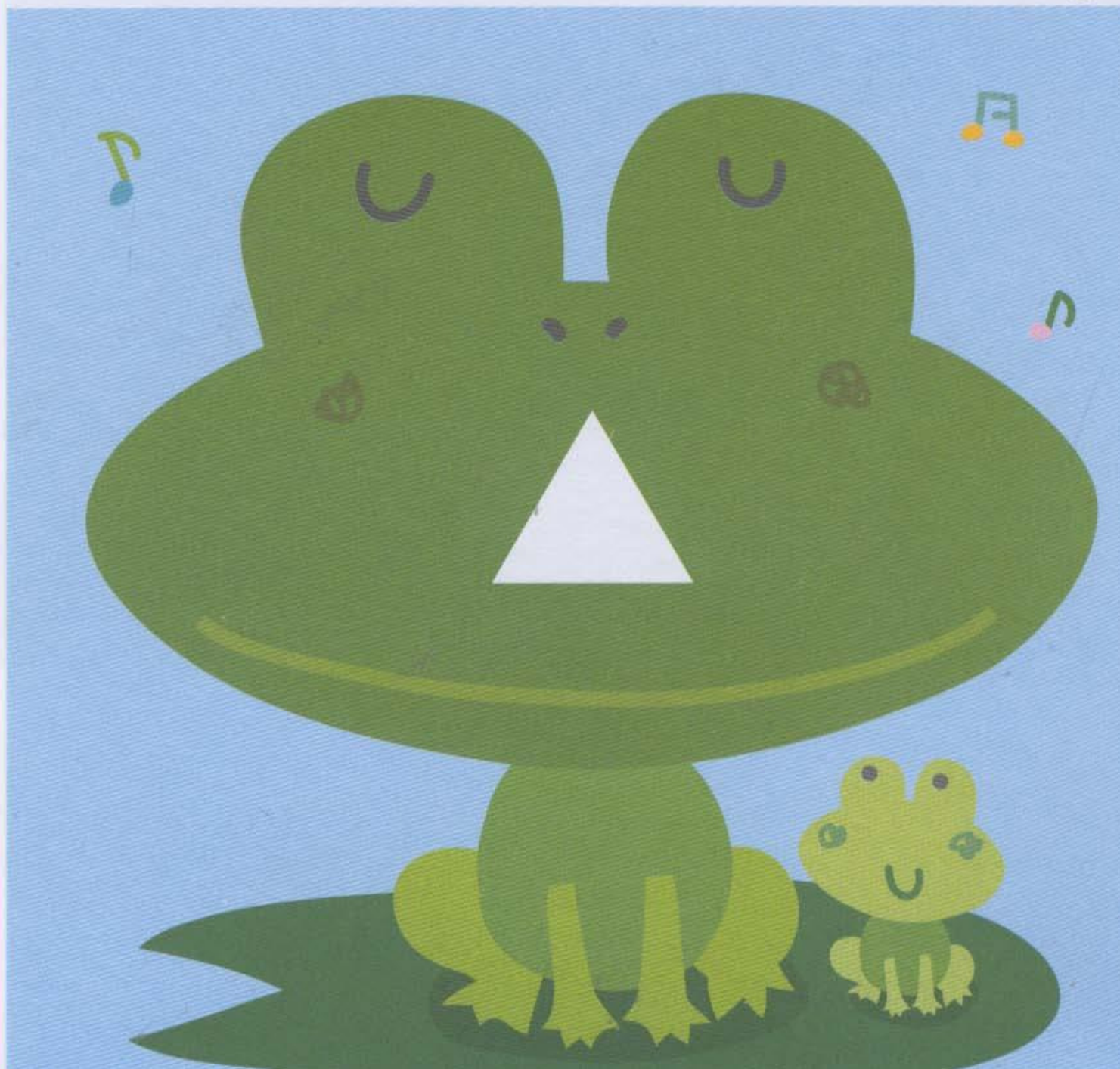


green



Color the white area.

frog



22

Horse Play

To parents

Do not be concerned about running off the edges. What is most important is for your child to enjoy coloring.

Example

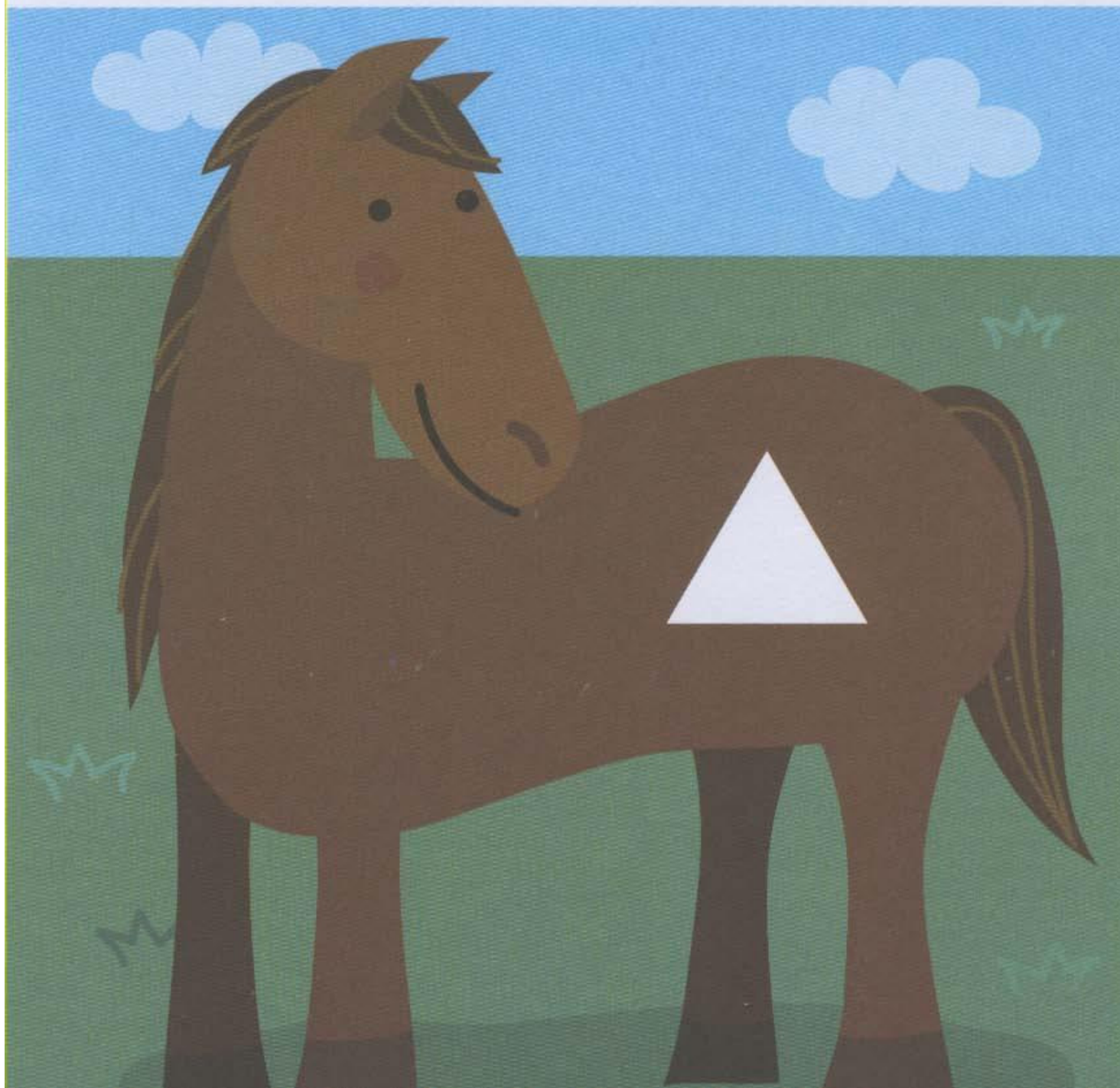


brown



Color the white area.

horse



23

Song Bird

To parents

When your child is finished, you can say something like,
"Look, there is a very cute bird!"

Example



yellow



Color the white area.

bird



24

Splish Splash in the Bath

To parents

When your child has finished this page, compare it with his or her previous work. If you notice any progress, offer lots of praise, such as, "You're really getting good!"

Example



orange

Color the white area.

bath towel



25

Places to Go

To parents

Over the next five pages, your child will practice coloring several areas on each page. On this page, there are two blank areas. Encourage your child to color both areas.

Example



black



brown



hat
bag

Color the white areas.

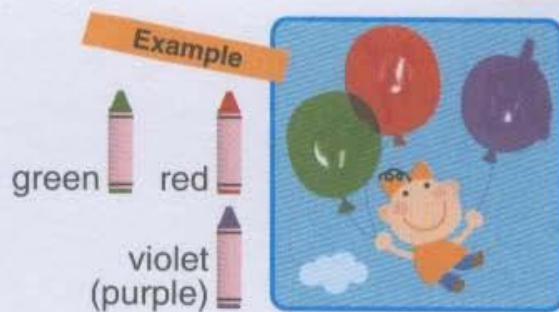


26

Up, Up and Away...

To parents

On this page, your child will use three colors. If he or she seems to be having difficulty, you can help choose the crayons by asking what color each balloon is.



Color the white areas.

balloons



27

Fun in the Sun

To parents

Talk with your child about a day at the beach. Do not forget to constantly encourage your child. When he or she has completed this page, say "beach ball" aloud while pointing to the words.

Example



green



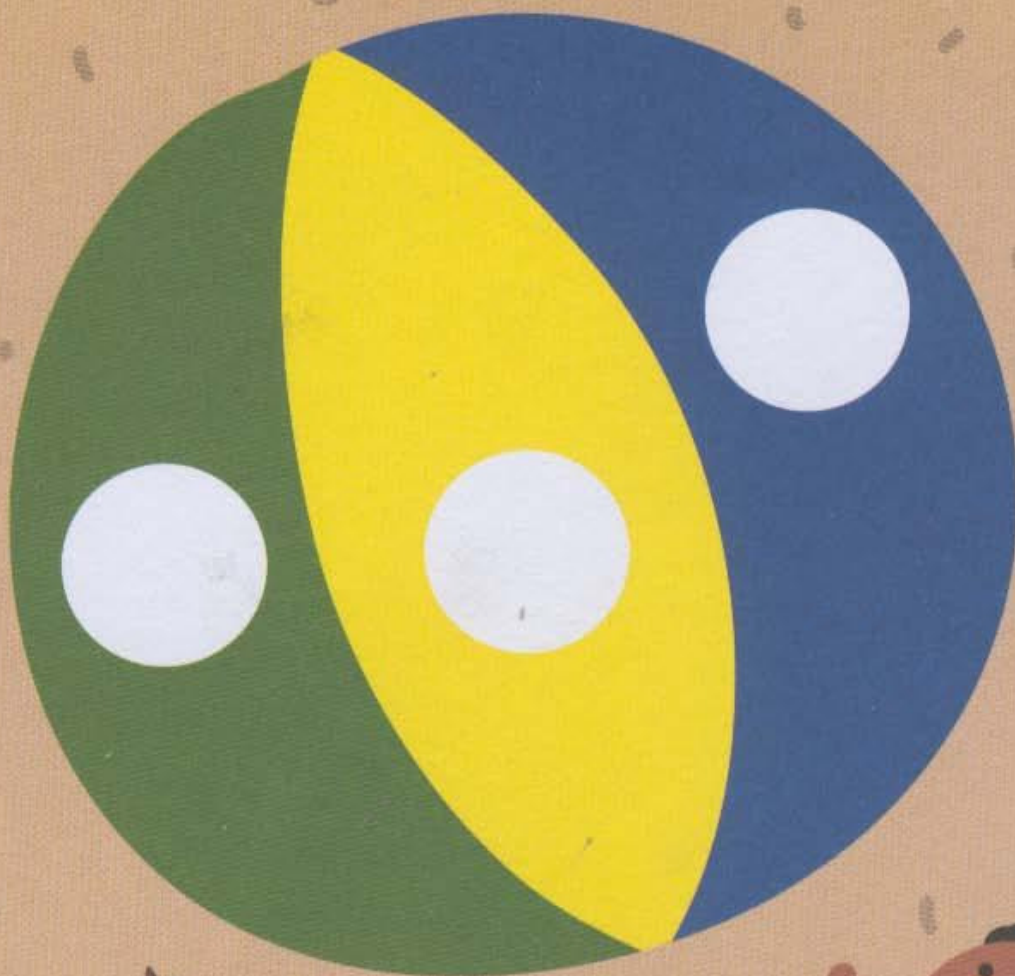
yellow

blue



Color the white areas.

beach ball



28

Rides!

To parents

If you have been to an amusement park or fair together, talk about the fun time you had while your child colors the picture.

Example

red

blue

green



Color the white areas.

amusement park

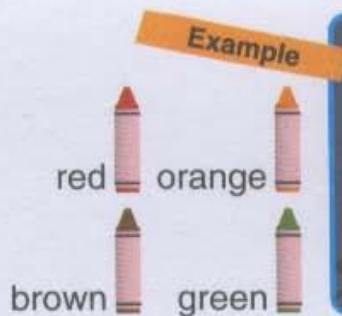


29

Choo Choo

To parents

There are four blank areas to be colored on this page. Have your child choose which four different colors he or she wants to use. It is okay if the colors your child chooses are different than the colors in the example.



Color the white areas.

train



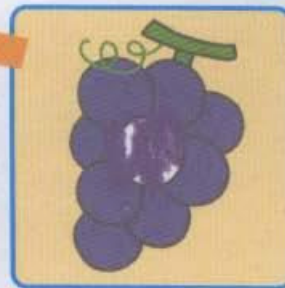
30

Bunches and Bunches

To parents

From this page on, each exercise will require more careful coloring. On this page, your child will color only one part. When your child has completed the activity, talk about his or her favorite fruit.

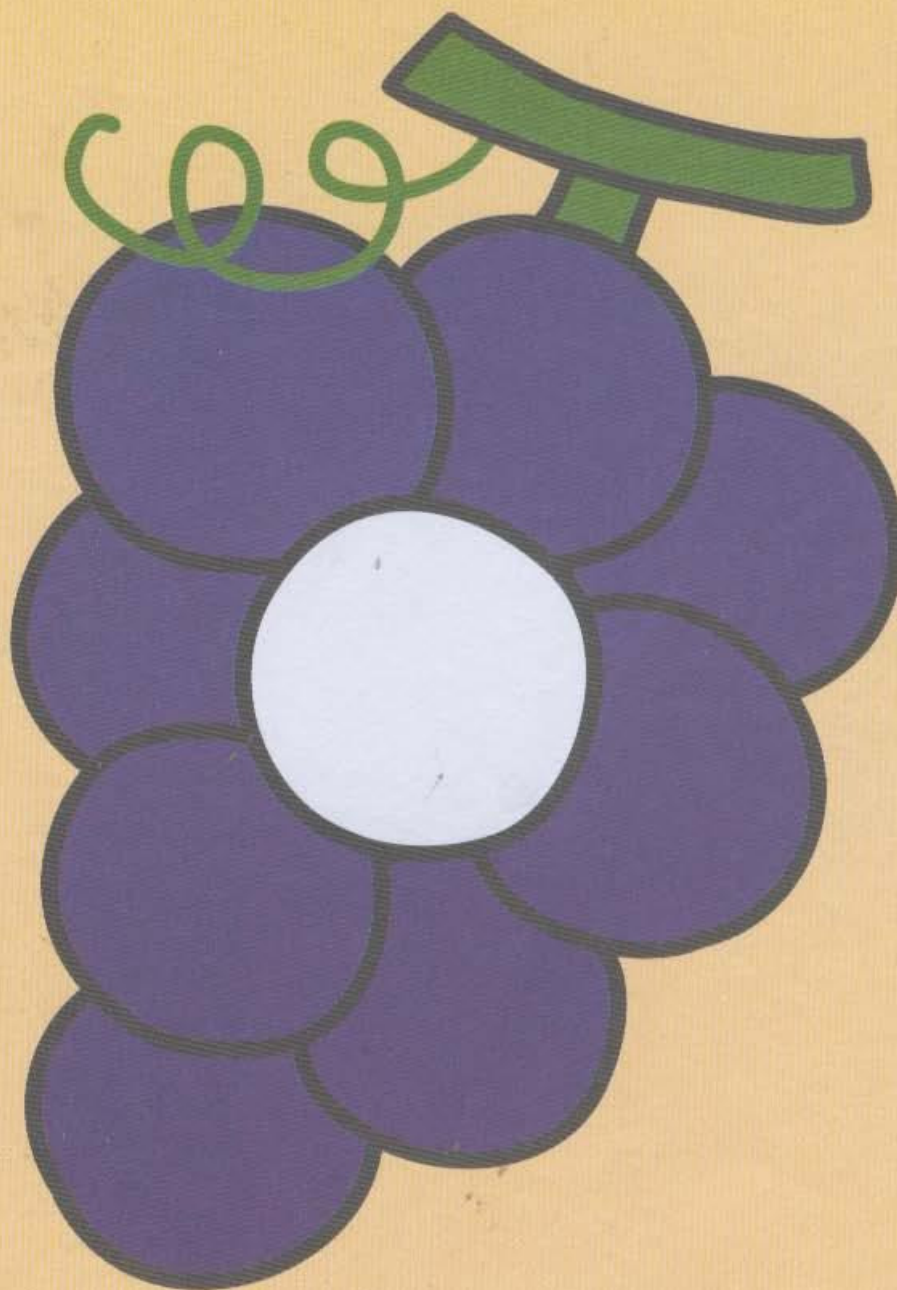
Example



violet
(purple)

Color the grape.

grapes



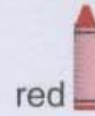
31

Driving Along

To parents

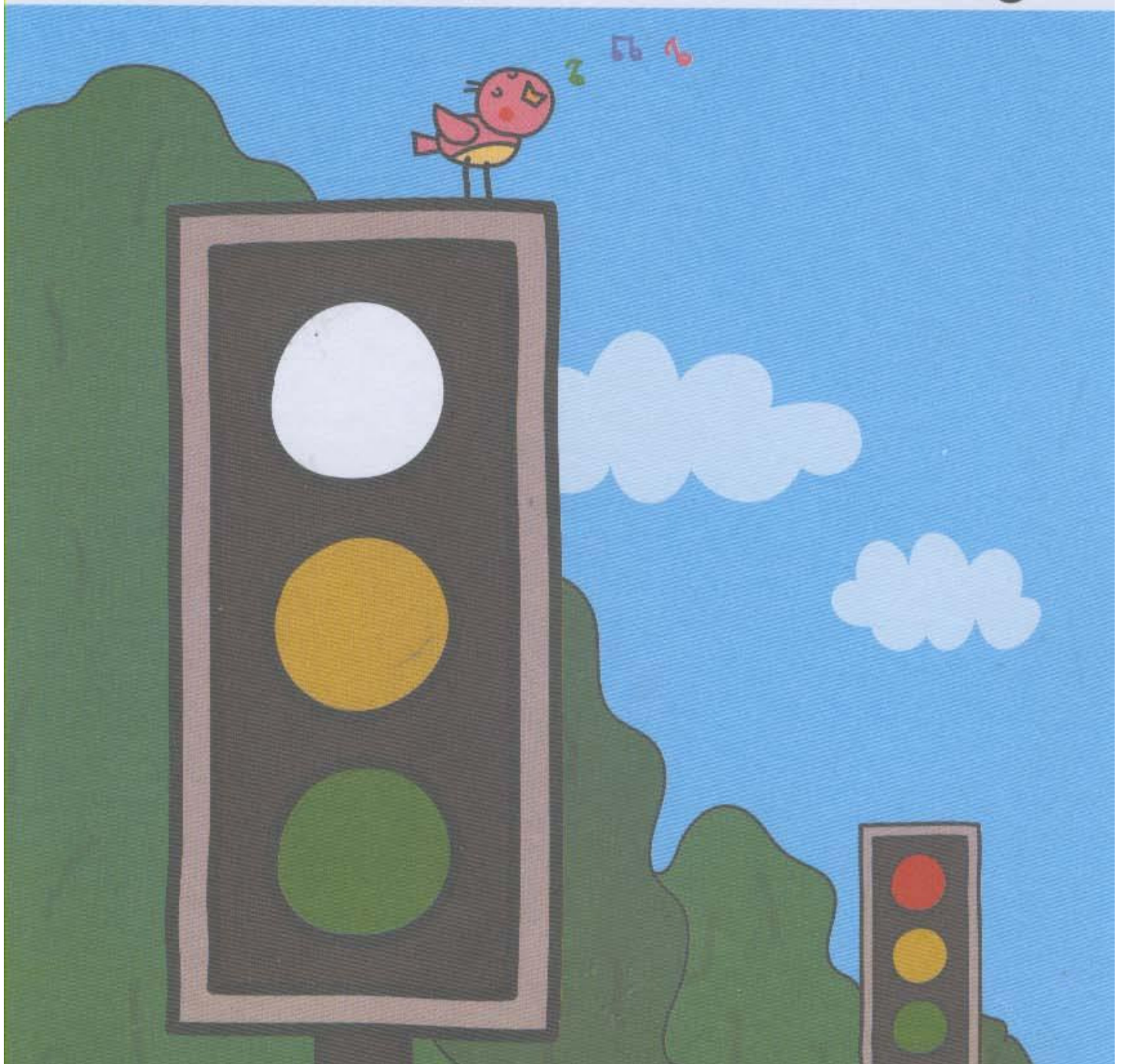
Your child will color the top traffic light red. When he or she has completed the page, say "traffic light" aloud while pointing to the words.

Example



Color the traffic light.

traffic light



32

Police Chase

To parents

Your child will color the light on top of the car blue. When your child is finished, say "police car" aloud while pointing to the words.

Example

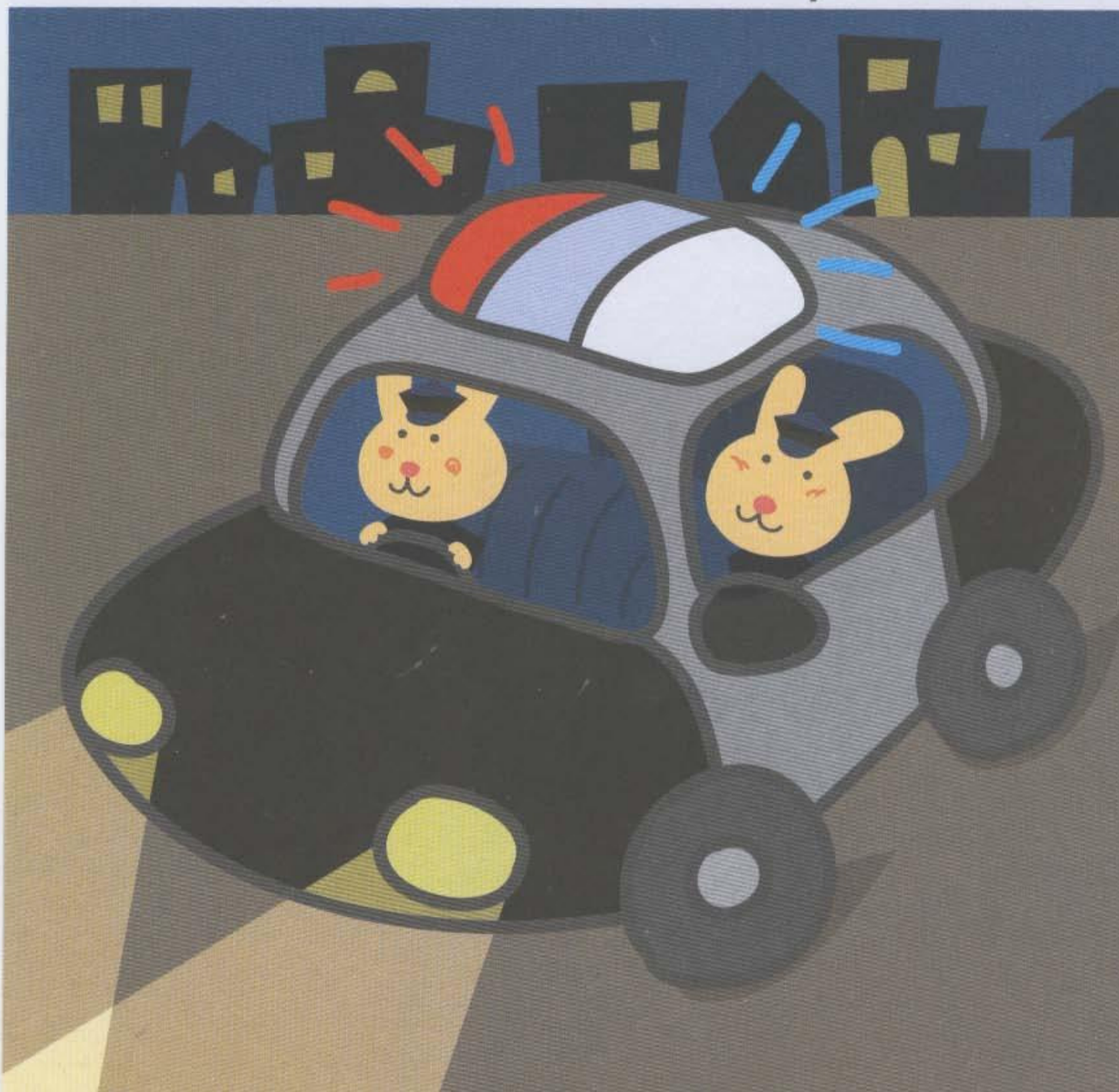


blue



Color the light of the police car.

police car



33

Over Easy

To parents

Your child will color the egg yolk yellow. When he or she has completed the page, say "fried eggs" aloud while pointing to the words.

Example

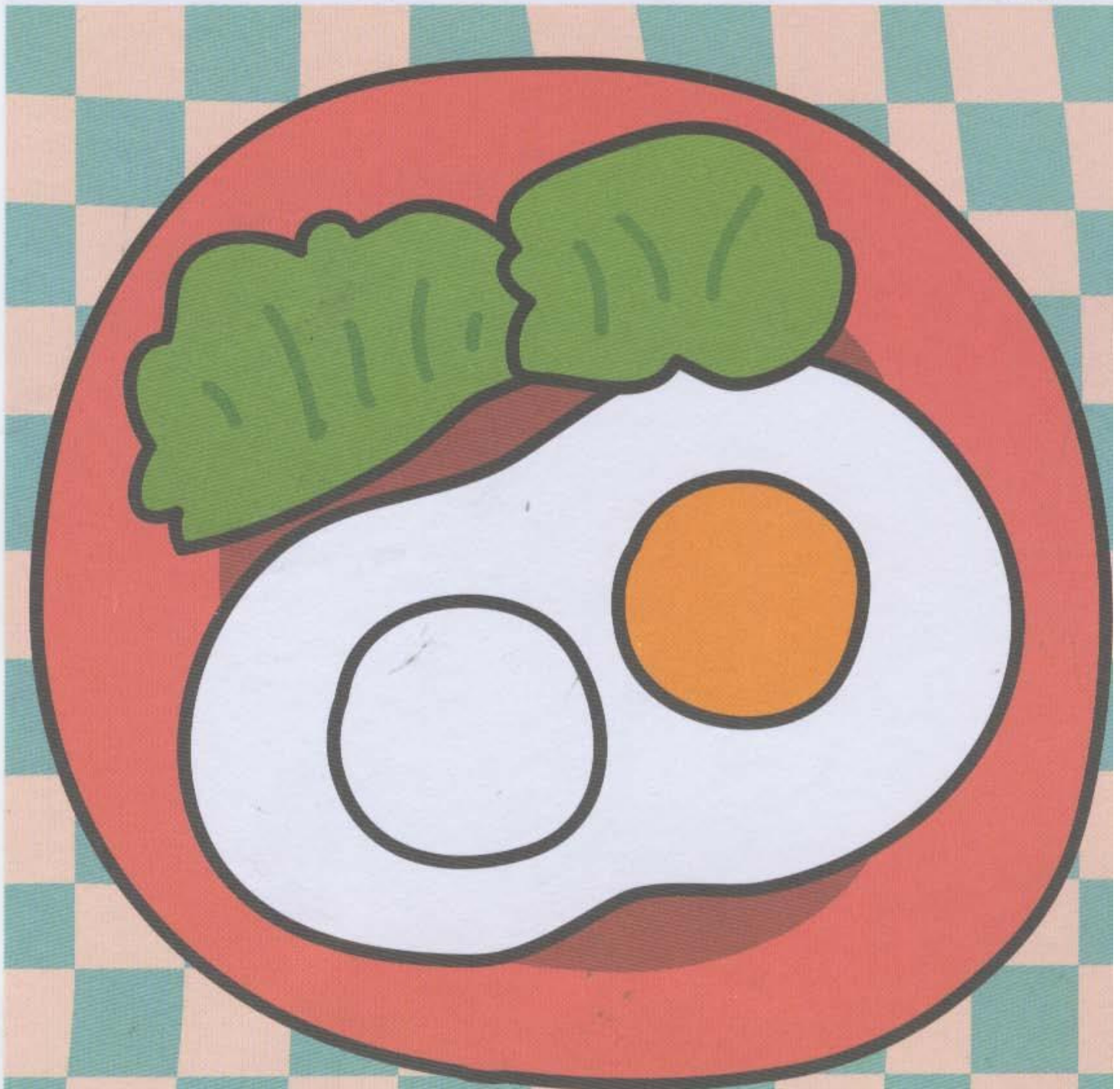


yellow



Color the fried egg.

fried eggs



34

Yellow Bananas

To parents

When your child is finished, offer him or her praise, such as "Good job!" and talk about his or her favorite fruit. Say "bananas" aloud while pointing to the word.

Example



yellow

bananas

Color the banana.



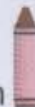
To parents

When your child has completed this page, share your impression of the illustration by saying something like, "This lion looks strong!" Say "lion" aloud while pointing to the word.

Example



brown



Color the lion's mane.

lion



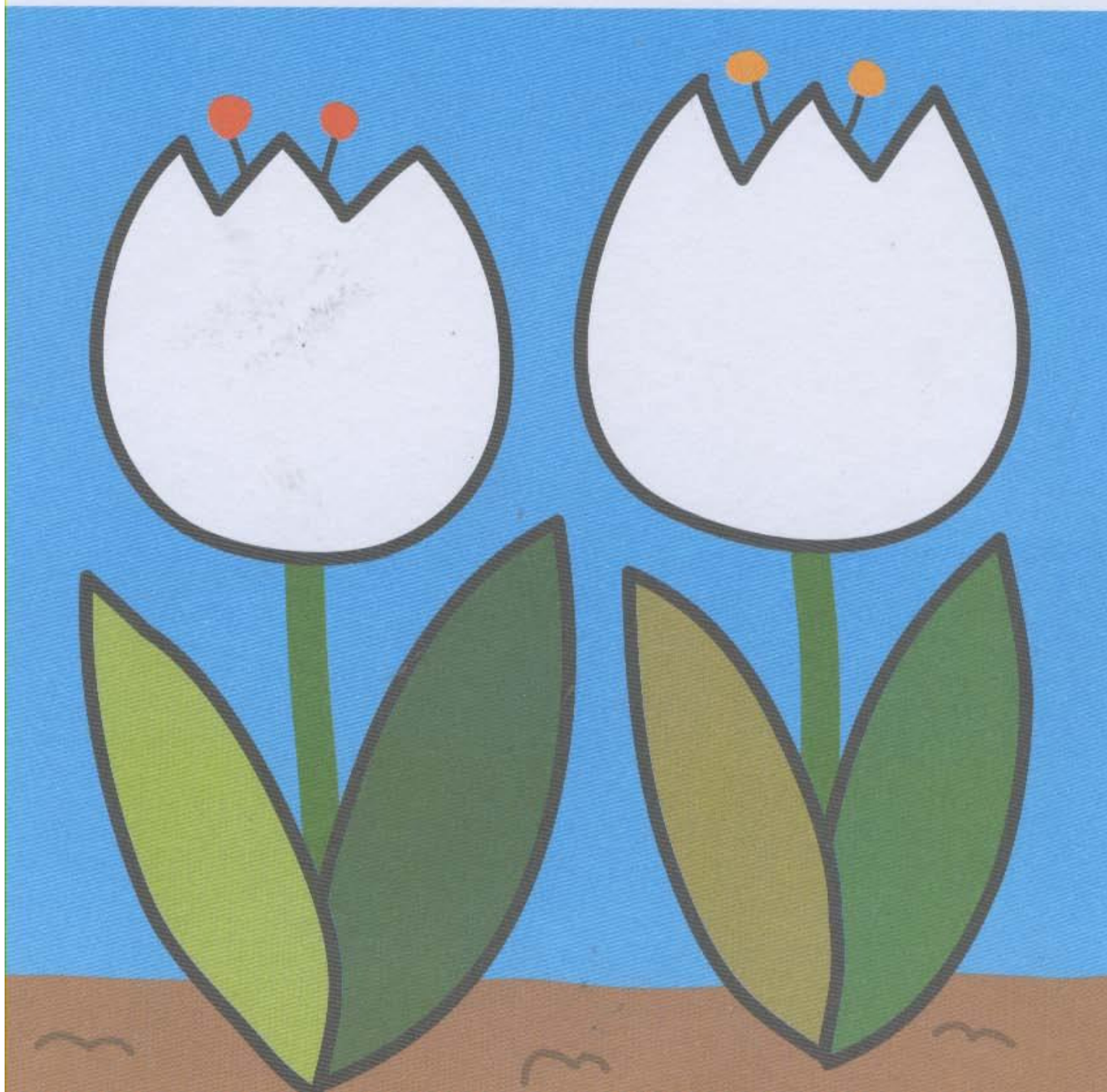
To parents

From this page on, have your child choose any colors he or she likes. It is also okay to use a single color. Encourage your child to color independently until he or she finishes and then talk about flowers together.

Example



Color the flowers with your favorite colors. flowers



37

Quack

To parents

Do not be concerned if your child is coloring outside of the lines. Let your child be creative with the colors he or she uses.

Example



Color the duck with your favorite colors.

duck



To parents

If your child seems to be having difficulty deciding which colors to use, please give him or her a hint by asking, "What color do you want to use for his overalls?"

Example



Color the clown with your favorite colors.

clown



39

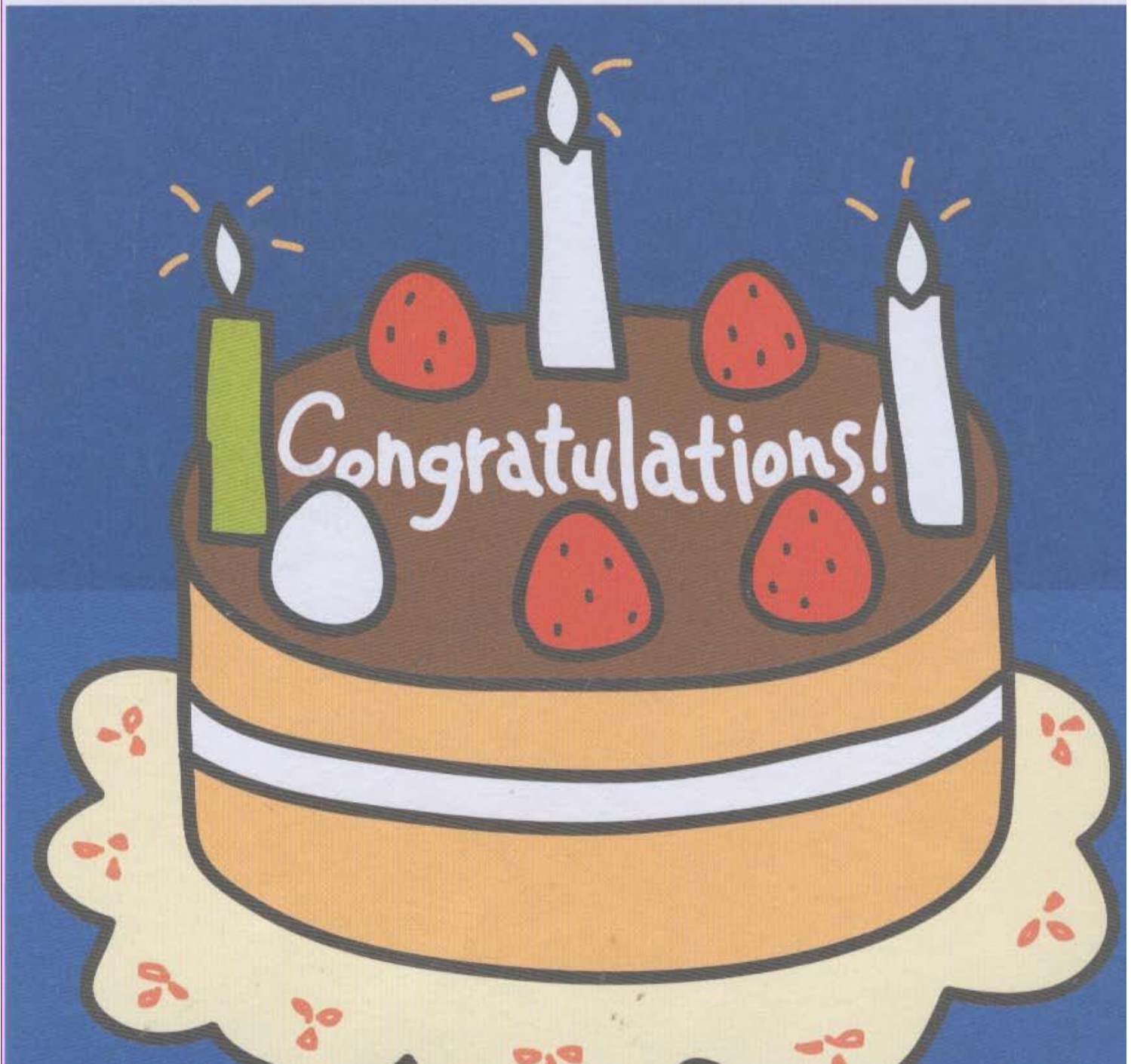
Happy Birthday to You!!!

Example**To parents**

This is the last exercise of the book. When your child is finished, compare this page with his or her previous work. You will see much progress in your child's ability to control the crayon, choose the correct colors, and color evenly. Point to the word "Congratulations!" as you celebrate your child's achievement and praise the effort he or she has made. It may be a good idea to keep this workbook as a record of your child's growth and development.

Color the cake with your favorite colors.

cake



KUMON

Certificate of Achievement

_____ is hereby congratulated on completing

Let's Color!

Presented on _____, 20____



Parent or Guardian

Let's Color!



DRAWING BOARD KUMON

To parents

This is a reusable drawing board—excellent for scribbling, drawing, and writing messages. Please use a water-based marker and erase with a damp cloth.

