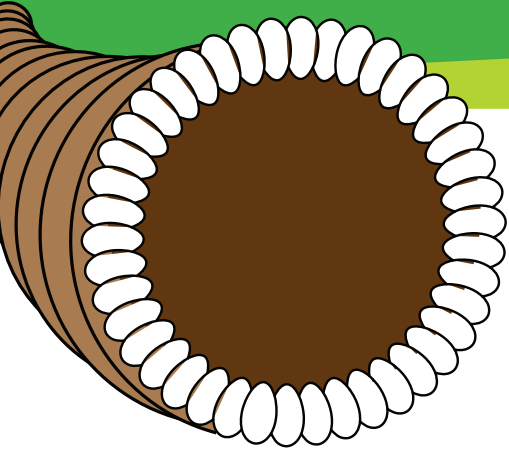
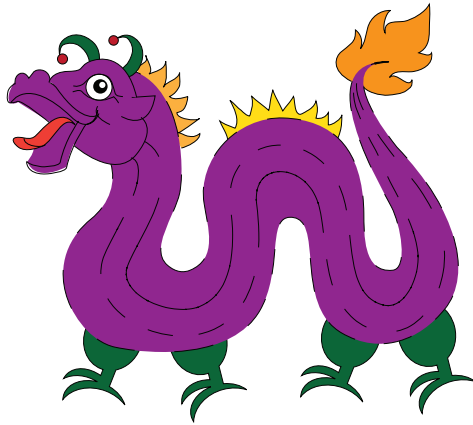


# Celebrations A-Z

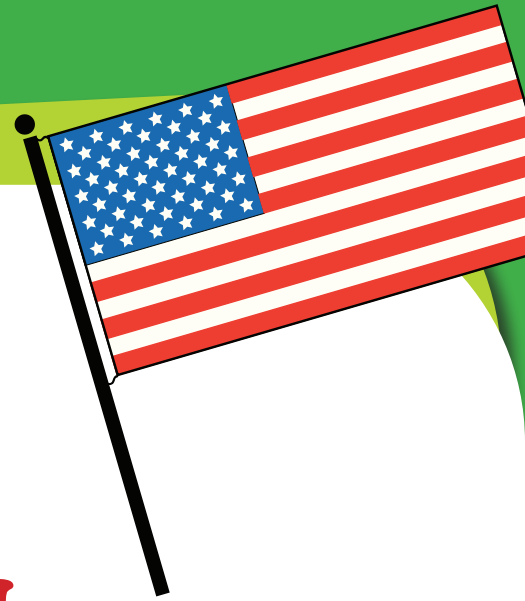
P  
Preschool



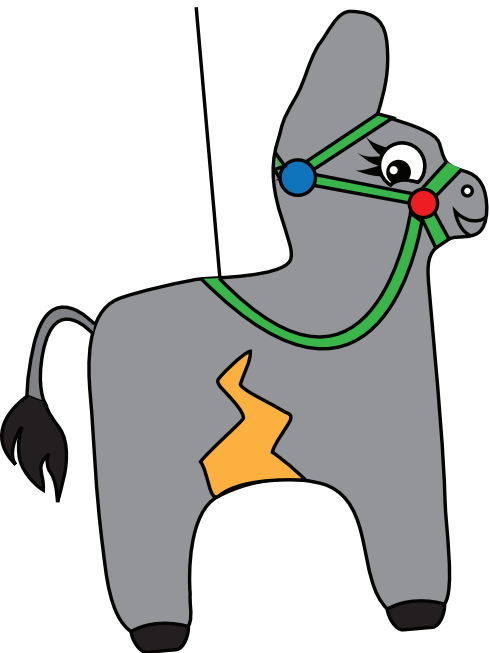
**C** is for Cornucopia



**D** is for Dragon



**I** is for Independence

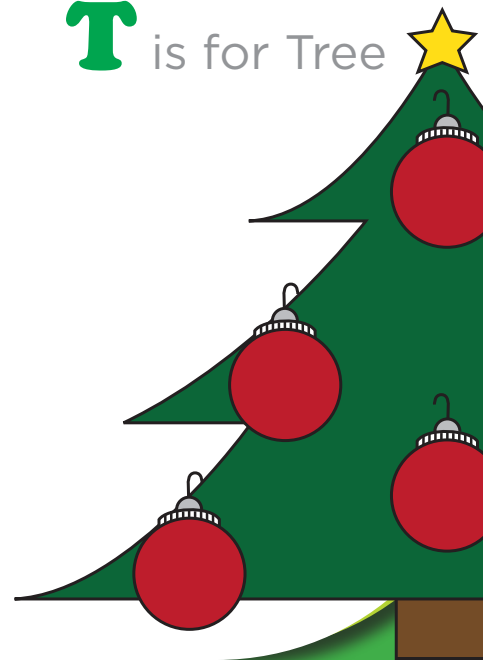


**P** is for Piñata

**S** is for Shamrock



**T** is for Tree



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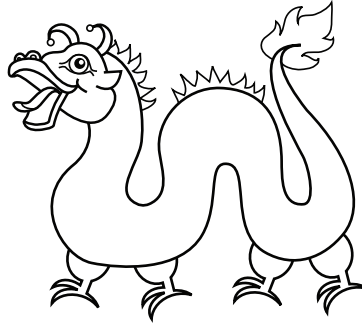
Y is for You

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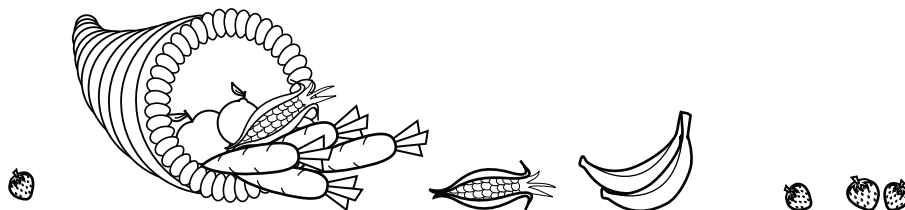
# Welcome to Celebrations A - Z!



This is a read-together workbook that's fun for kids and grown-ups alike. Read the text out loud, then help your little learner complete the activity.

You'll need crayons, safety scissors, glue or tape, and a sense of adventure! Together, you'll take a trip around the world, meeting new cultures and learning new words. You'll discover new holidays and new celebrations for holidays you may already know.

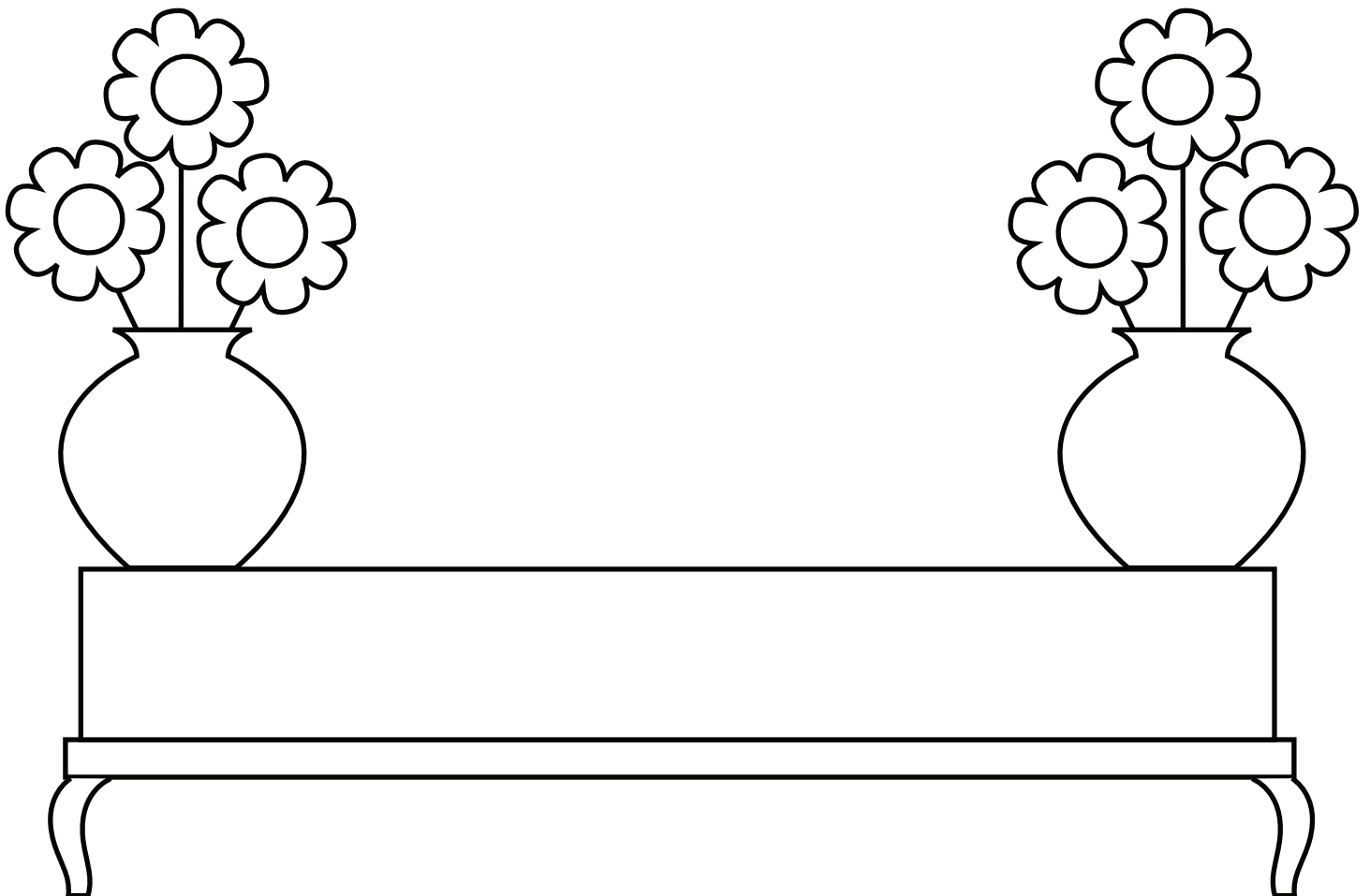
## Enjoy your journey!



# A is for Altar

An **altar** is like a table where you put special things. In Mexico, people celebrate their ancestors on Dia de los Muertos. They fill altars with their favorite foods, flowers, and sculptures made of sugar.

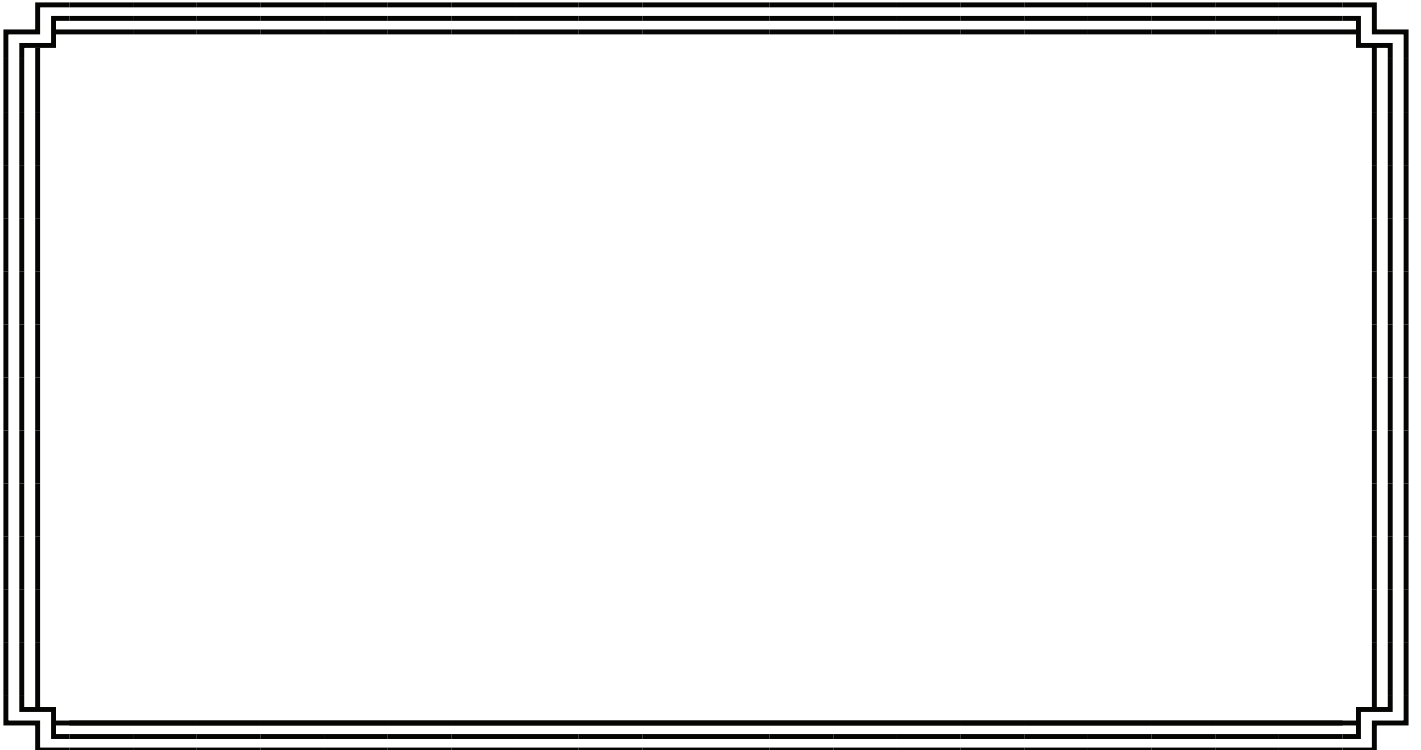
What would you put on an altar honoring your ancestors? Draw it on the altar below! Optional: Set up a space in your room where you can put your most special things.



# B is for B'nai Mitzvah

A **b'nai mitzvah** is the Jewish celebration of growing up. A boy has his bar mitzvah when he turns 13. A girl has a bat mitzvah when she turns 12. They read special stories in front of family and friends. Then, they have a party where everyone eats, sings, and dances!

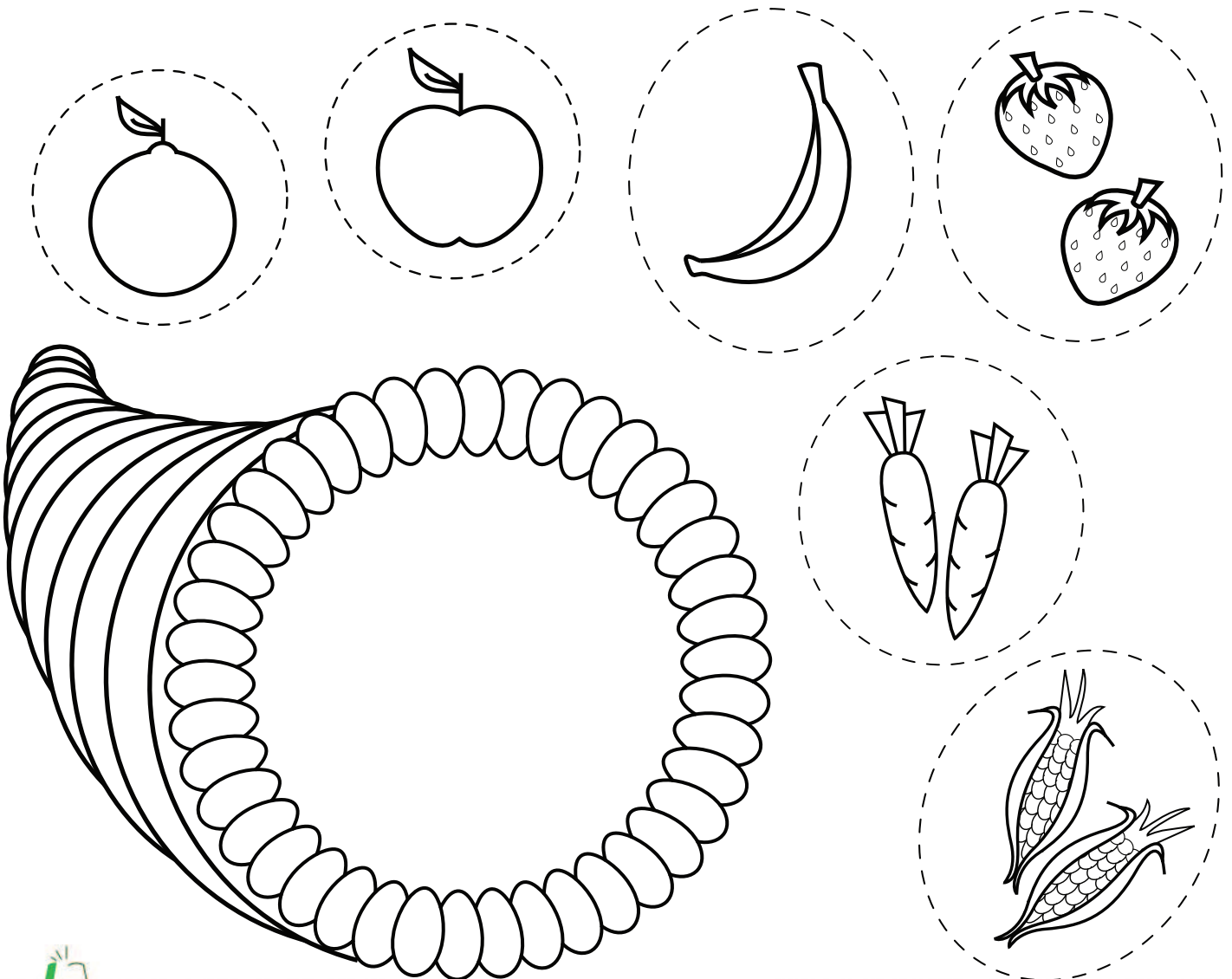
What does growing up mean to you? Are there things you'll be able to do that you can't do now? What about things you do now that you don't think you'll do anymore when you get older? Draw a picture of yourself grown up!



# C is for Cornucopia

A **cornucopia** is a big basket shaped like a goat's horn. Inside are fruits, vegetables, and other good food. It's a part of Thanksgiving, when we are thankful for all the good food we get to eat.

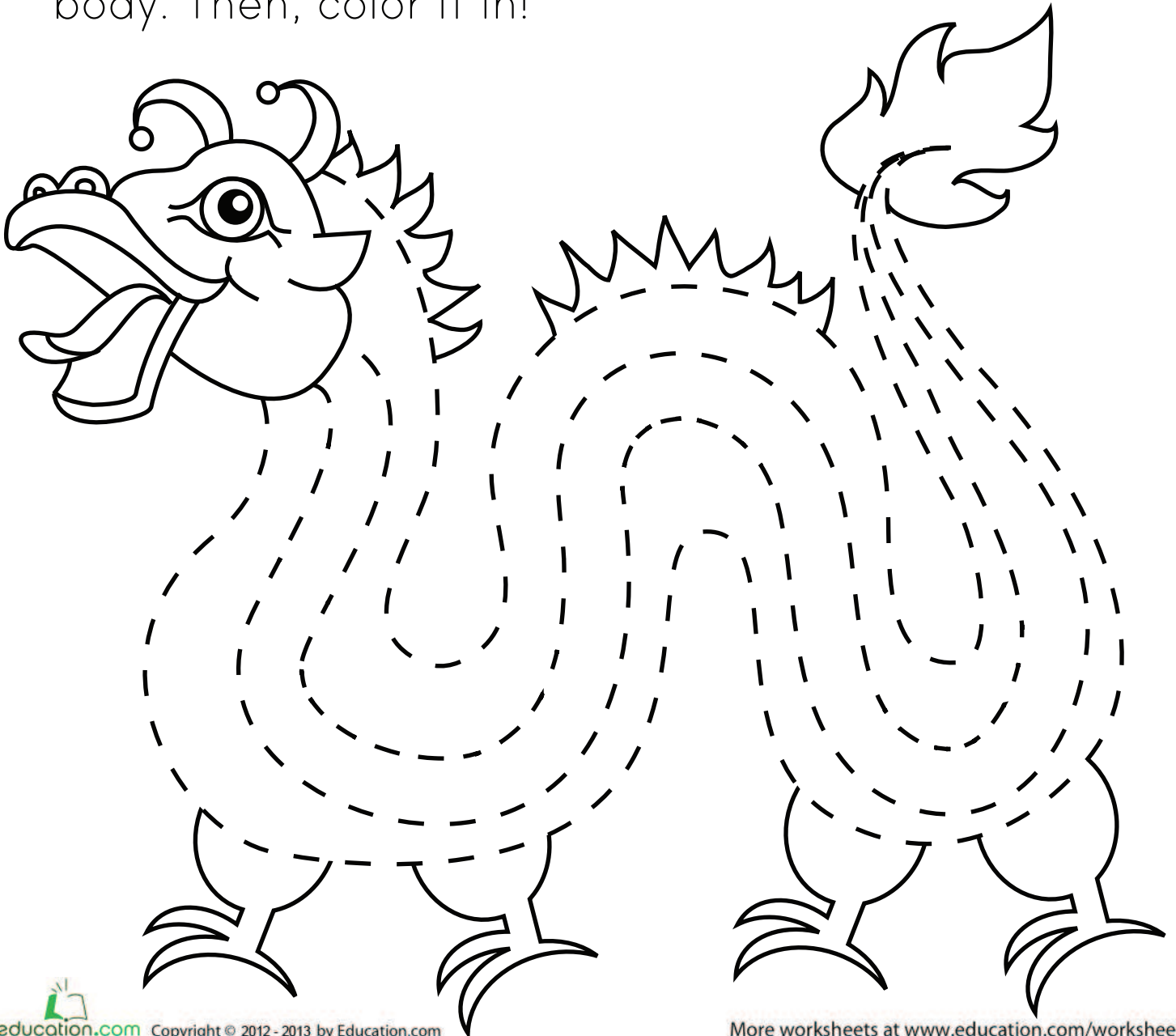
Which fruits and vegetables do you like? Cut them out and paste them into the cornucopia below! Don't see your favorites? You can draw them in.



# D is for Dragon

The **Dragon Dance** is a Chinese New Year tradition. A parade of people put on a giant dragon costume and dance down the road. What kind of dance do you think a dragon would do? Make up your own dragon dance!

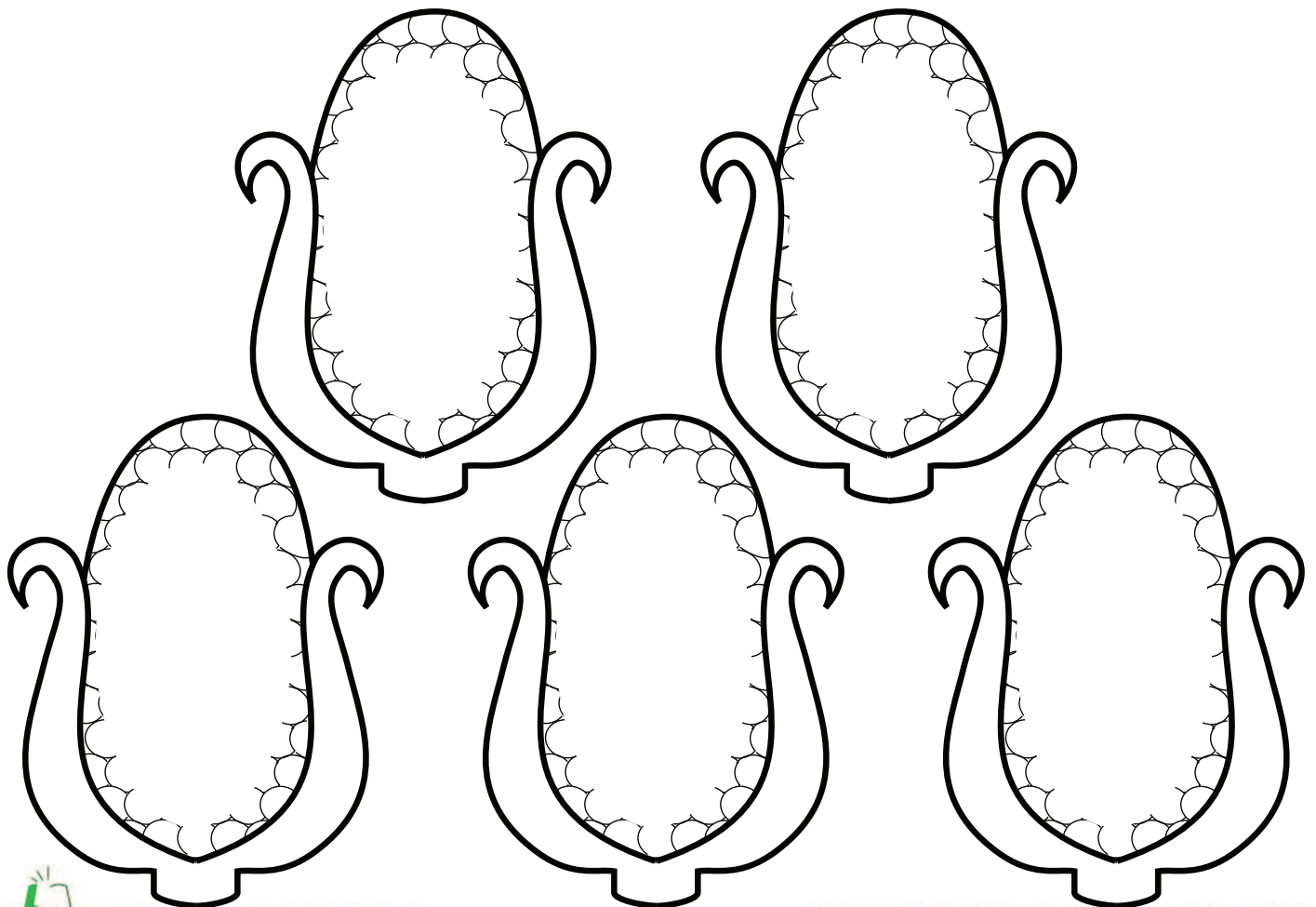
Trace the dotted lines to make the dragon's body. Then, color it in!



# E is for Ears of Corn

**Kwanzaa** is an African-American holiday. Friends and family meet to light candles, eat special food, and celebrate togetherness. Special things are placed on a table, including ears of corn. The corn stands for children, and it's placed there so everyone will remember how important kids are.

How many kids are there in your family? Draw each one on an ear of corn below. Don't forget to draw yourself!

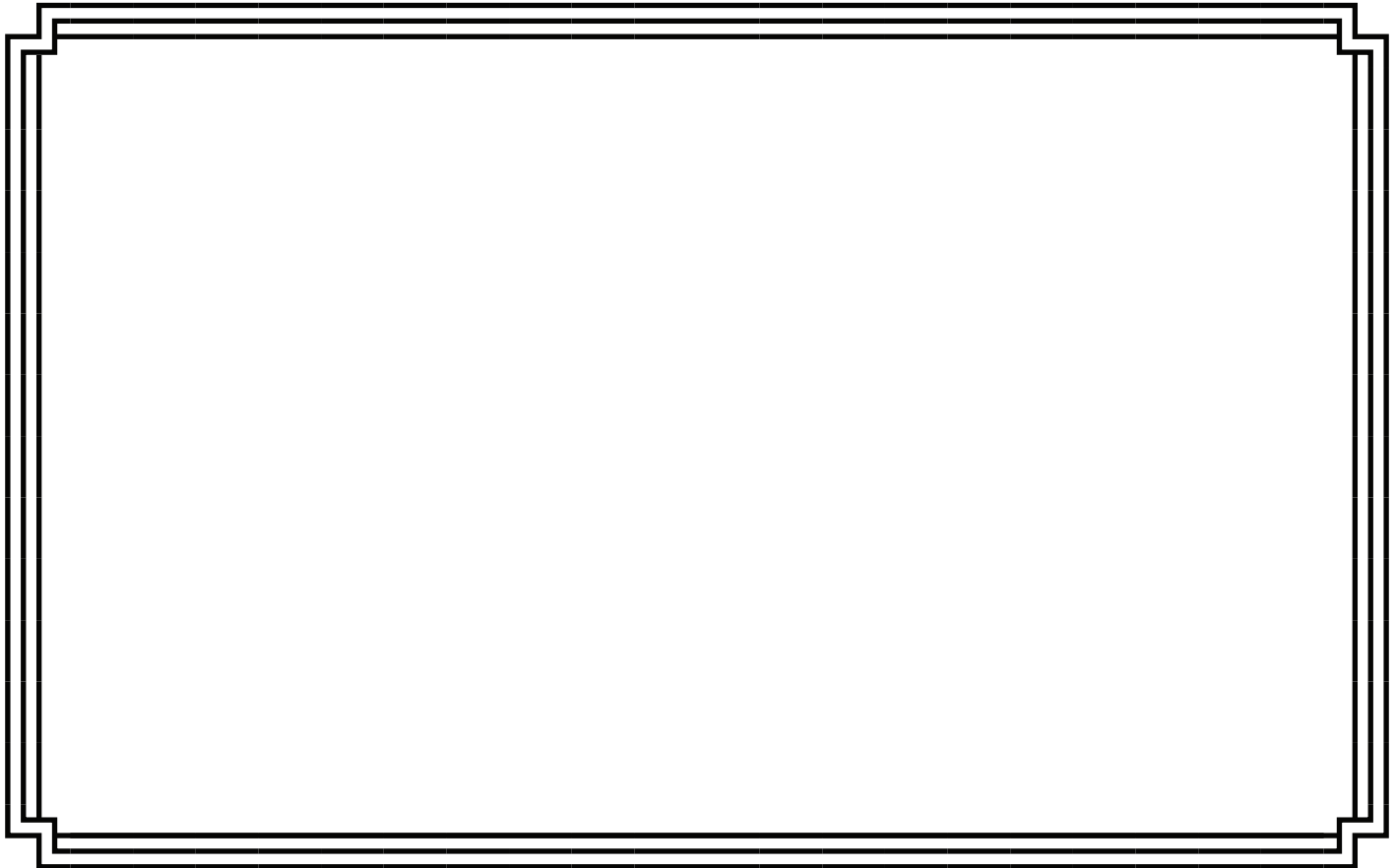




# F is for Freedom

There was a time when African-Americans were not allowed to go places other Americans were free to go. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. knew that was not fair. He was part of the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King helped African-Americans win the right to go wherever they chose. That's why Americans celebrate his birthday as a holiday on the third Monday of every January.

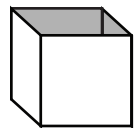
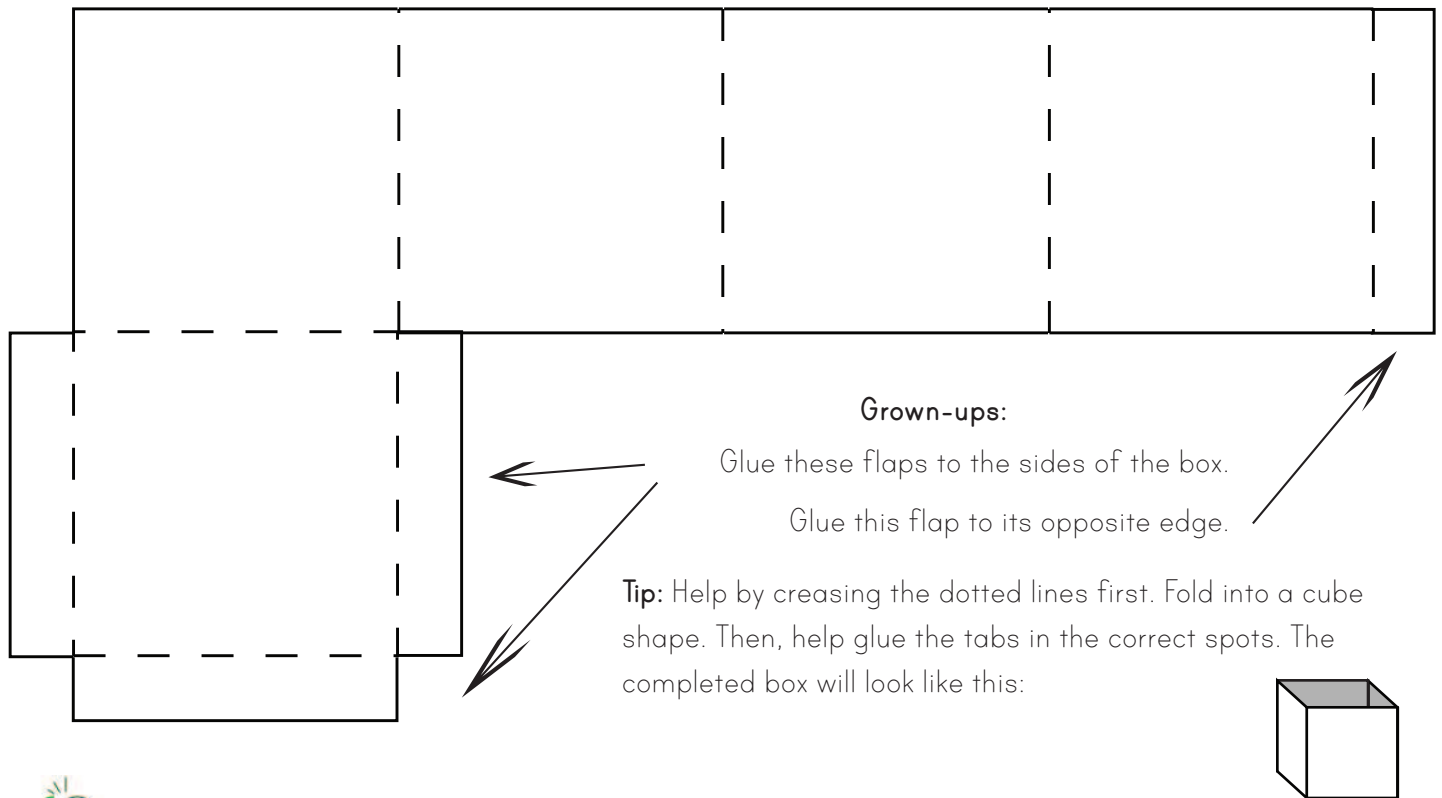
What does freedom mean to you? Draw a picture of what makes you feel free!



# G is for Giving

Many holidays around the world include giving to those in need. The needy might be people, or even animals, or nature. Before Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, kids put coins into a **tzedakah** box. That's a special box where you keep money for charity. After the holiday, kids choose a charity for their donation.

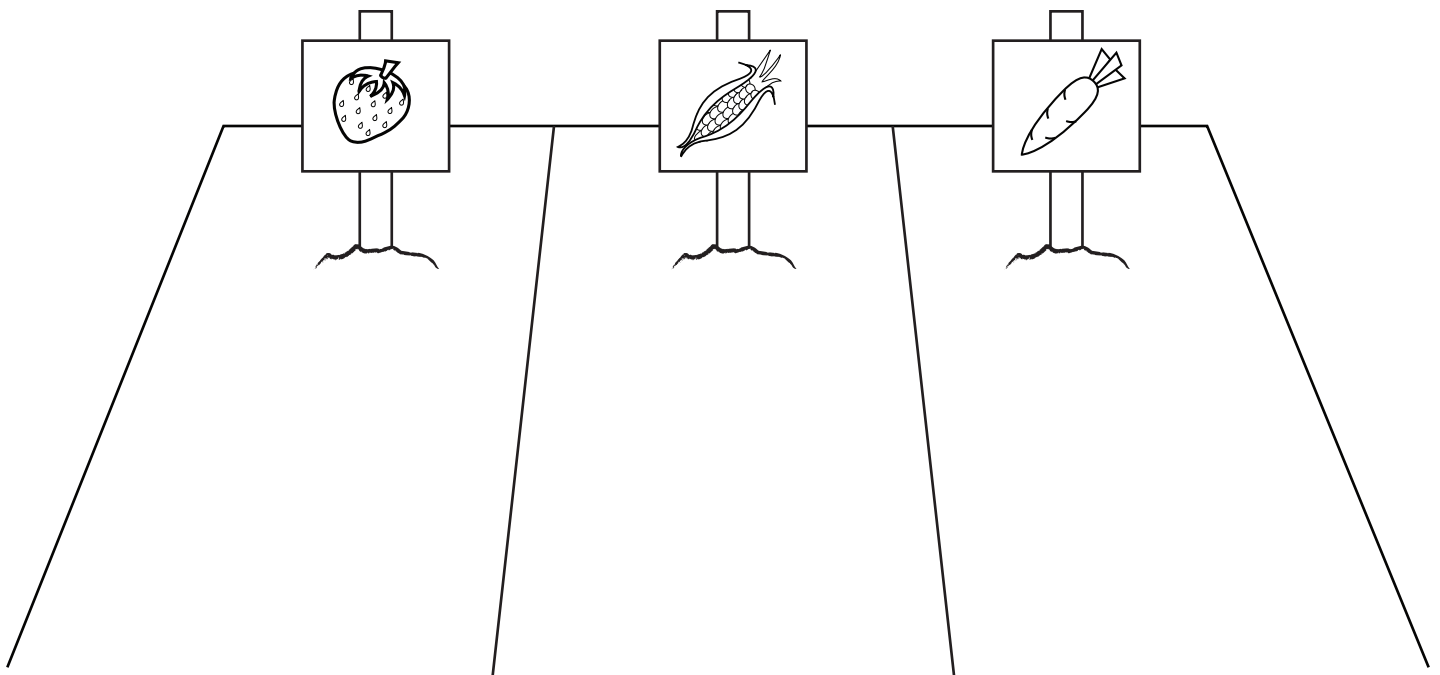
You can make your own charity box! Cut out the pattern along the solid lines. Fold along the dotted lines and glue the tabs. If you're not sure how, ask a grown-up for help.



# H is for Harvest

A **harvest festival** is a celebration that gives thanks for crops and food. The harvest is the fruits, vegetables, and other foods picked by farmers once they're ripe. In countries where most people are still farmers, the harvest festival is cause for a big celebration. Thanksgiving, celebrated in the United States and in Canada, started as a harvest festival hundreds of years ago.

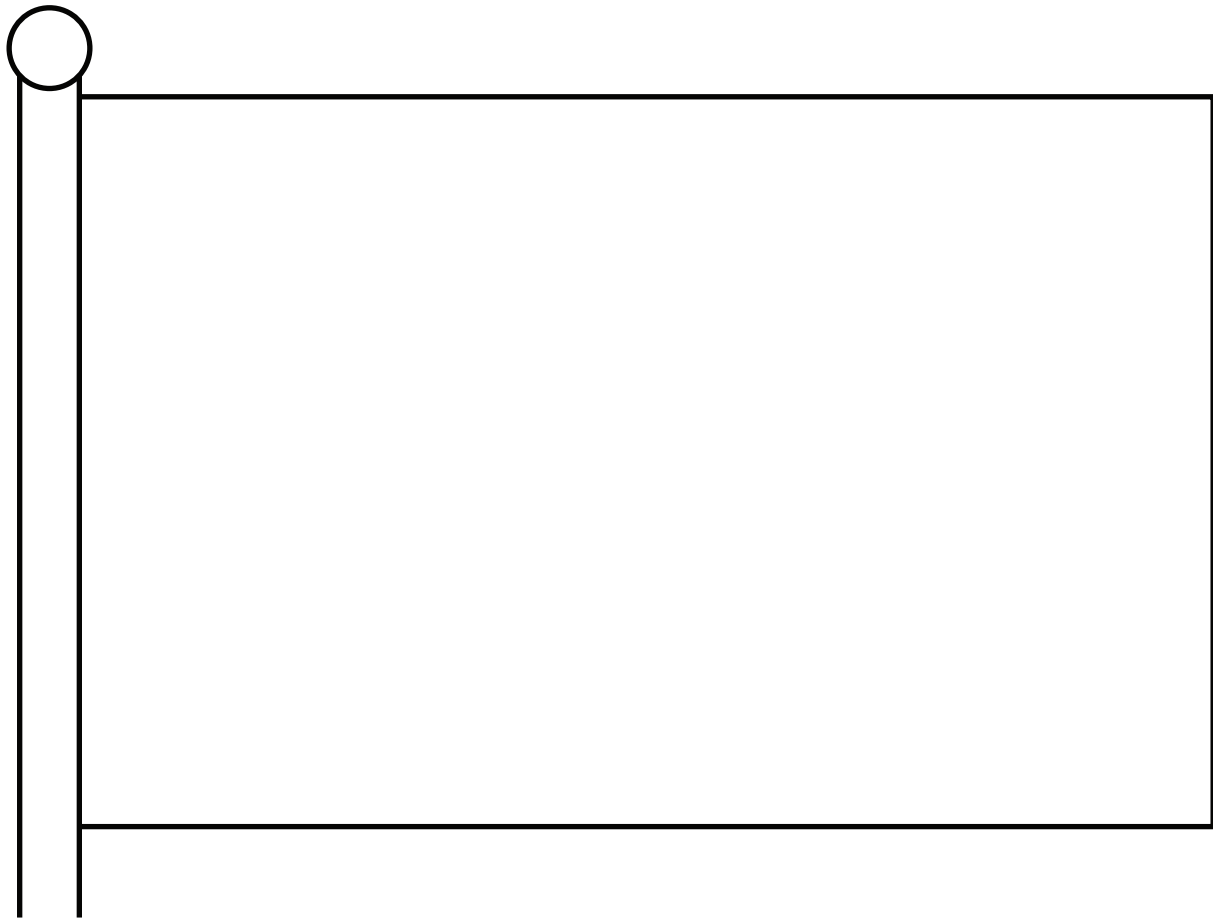
Plant some seeds in the garden! Draw yellow seeds in the row for corn, red seeds for strawberries, and orange for carrots.



# I is for Independence

Many countries around the world celebrate an Independence Day. It can be the day a country was made or the day the country became independent from another country. Almost every country in the world celebrates the day it was created or became independent. In the United States, that day is the Fourth of July.

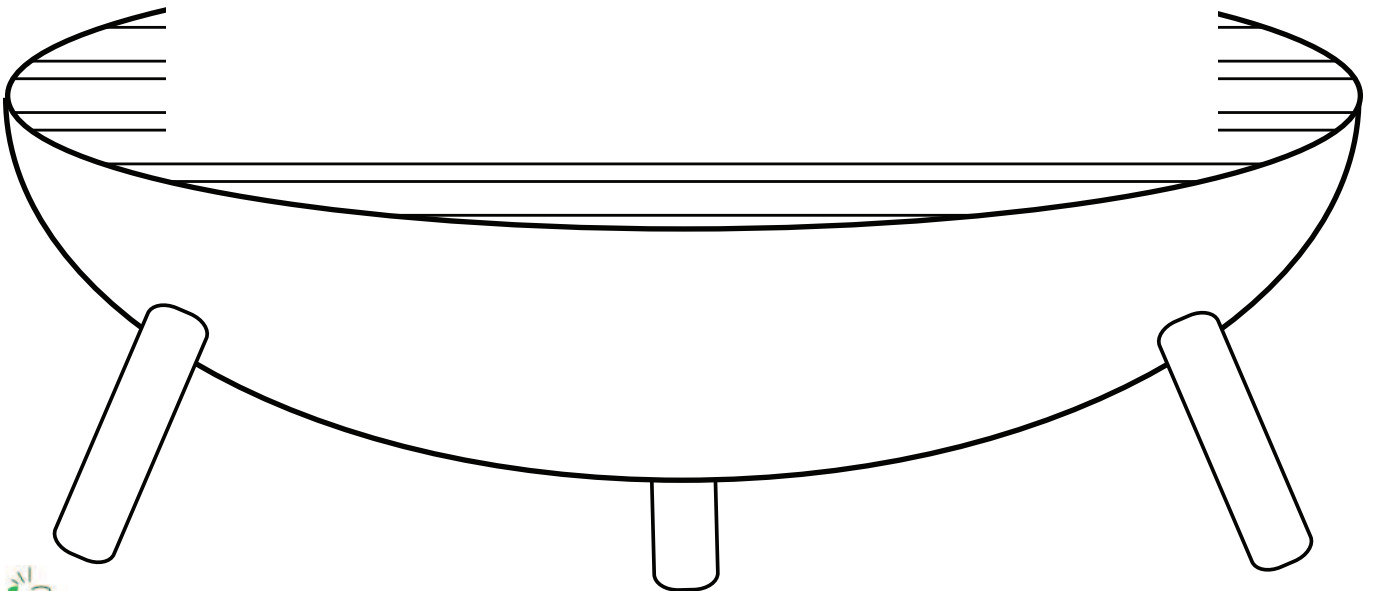
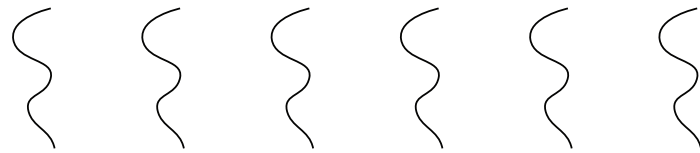
Independent countries have their own flags. If you could make your own flag, what would you put on it? Create your own flag below!



# J is for Juneteenth

**Juneteenth** celebrates the end of slavery in America. It began as an African-American holiday of feasting, dancing, and singing. Today, many different people celebrate Juneteenth, with activities as different as fishing, baseball games, and barbecues.

Feasting is usually a part of the Juneteenth celebration. What foods would you like to see on the barbecue? Draw them on the grill below!



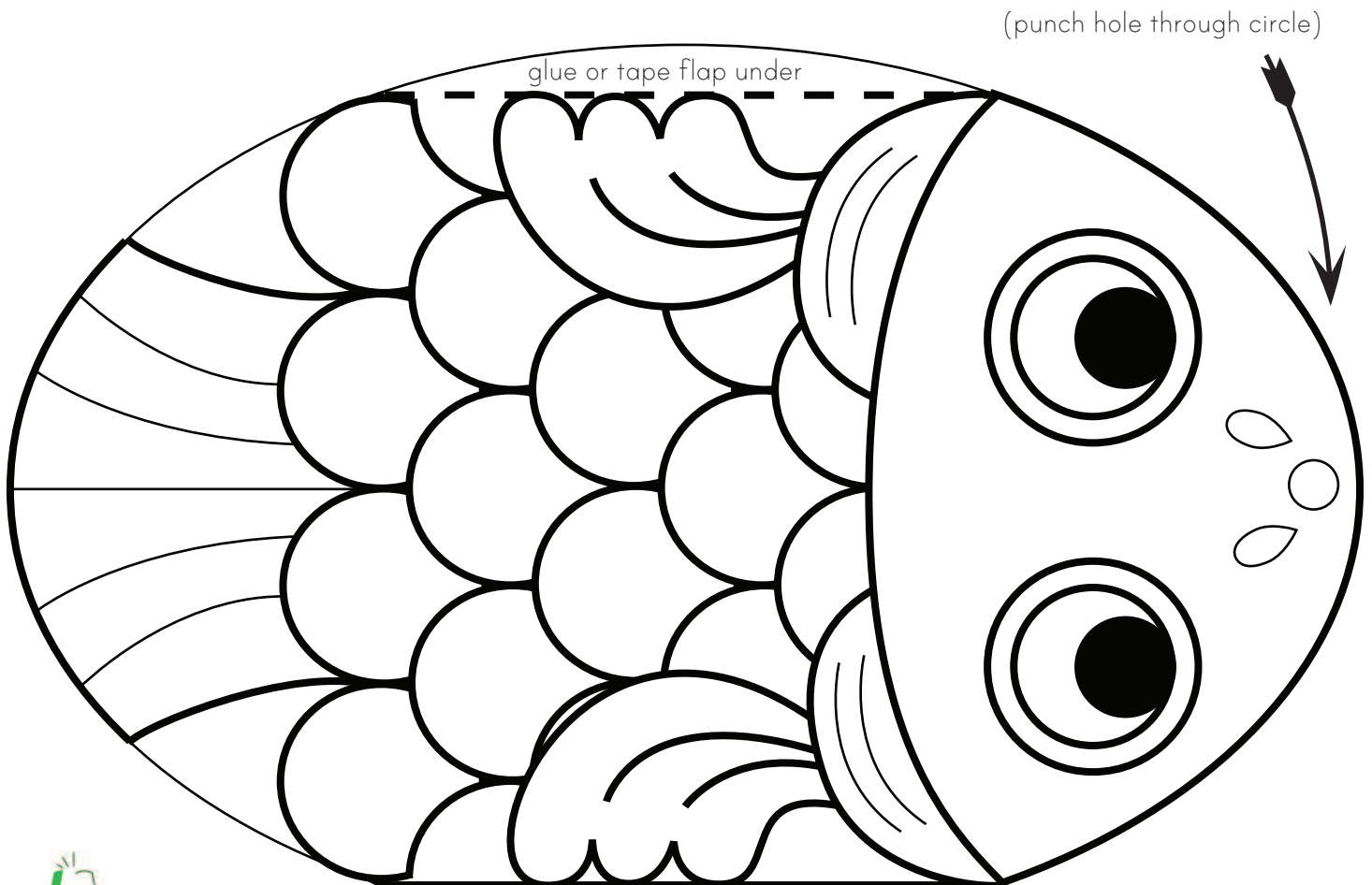
# K is for Koinobori

**Koinobori** are fish-shaped flags flown in Japan on Children's Day. Children's Day is a holiday just for kids! Every kid is special, and on Children's Day, Japan celebrates the happiness of kids.

You can make your own koinobori! Color the pattern, cut it out, and follow the directions below.

**Grown-ups, here's how you can help:**

1. Cut out the whole shape along outside line.
2. Punch hole in the circle at the tip of the fish head.
3. Curl into a cylinder shape, and attach flap to underside to hold in place.
4. Tie string through hole, and attach to stick, pencil, or other object.

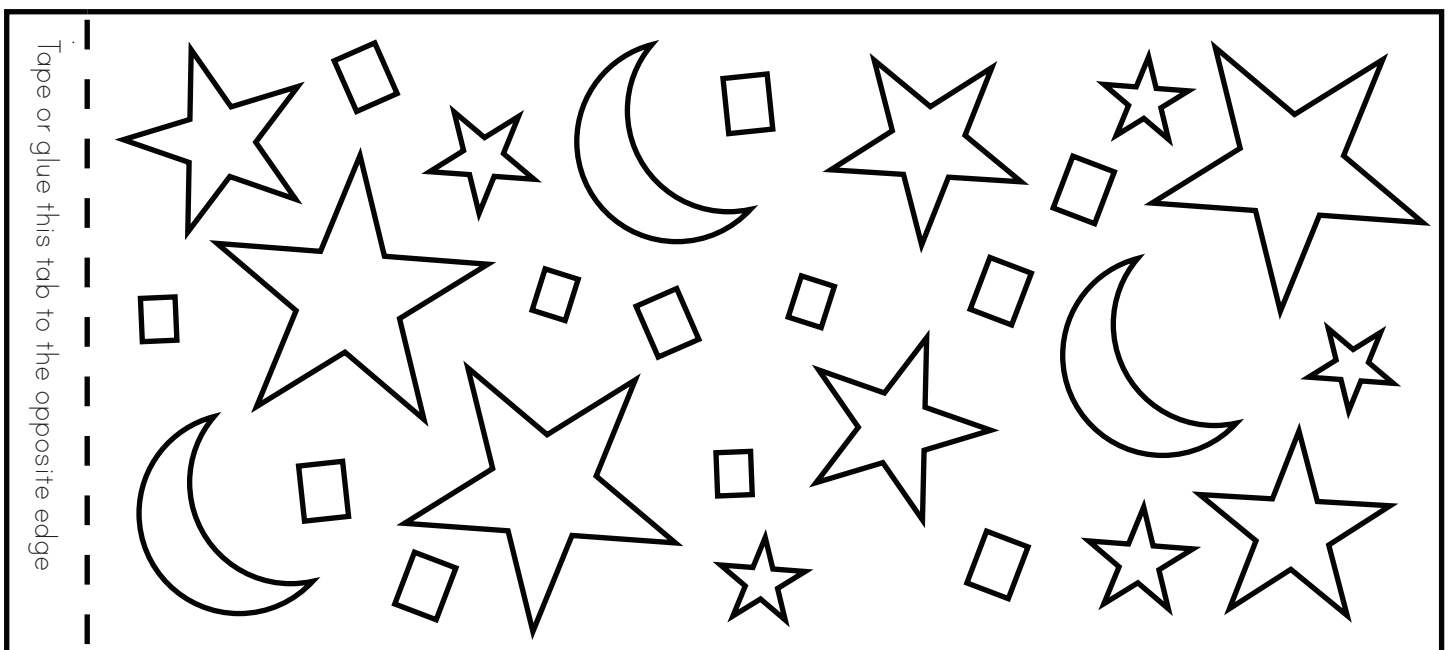


# L is for Lantern

A **lantern** is a kind of lamp you can carry around. Some are lit with light bulbs, but most hold candles, and the light shines out through little windows of paper or glass. China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong all have a holiday called the Lantern Festival. On that night, children go out walking, carrying brightly lit lanterns.

It's easy to make your own lantern! Color and cut out the pattern below. Shine a flashlight inside to make it glow like a real lantern!

**Grown-ups:** When the lantern is colored and cut out, bend it into a cylinder shape, decoration facing out. Help attach the tab to the opposite edge. Shine a flashlight into the finished lantern to make it light up! **Optional:** Punch two holes on opposite sides of the top edge and tie a string through to hang the lantern anywhere you like!

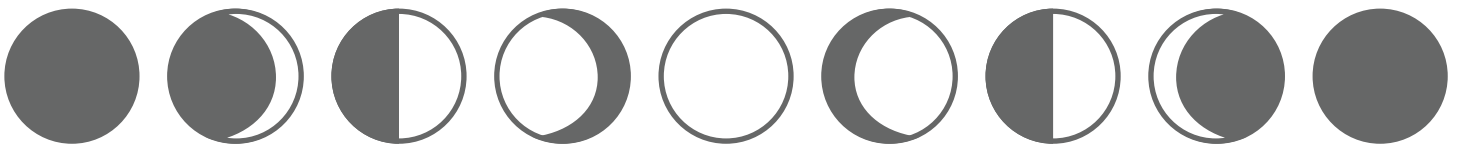


# M is for Moon

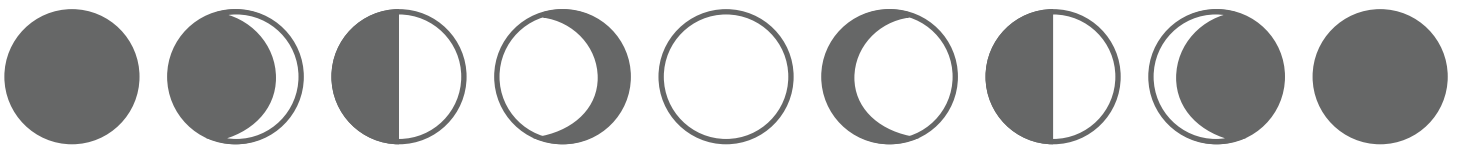
The **Moon Festival** is an important holiday in China. It began as a harvest festival thousands of years ago. Today, people celebrate with dragon dances, brightly lit lanterns, and special desserts called moon cakes.

Go outside tonight and look up at the moon. What does it look like? Circle the shape below. Go outside again over the next two nights. How is it different? What shape is it now? Circle the shape each night.

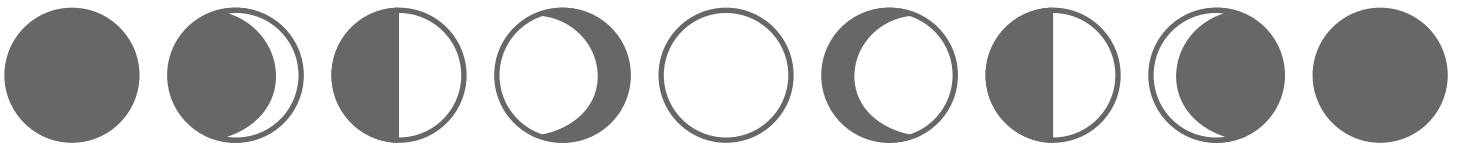
First night:



Second night:



Third night:





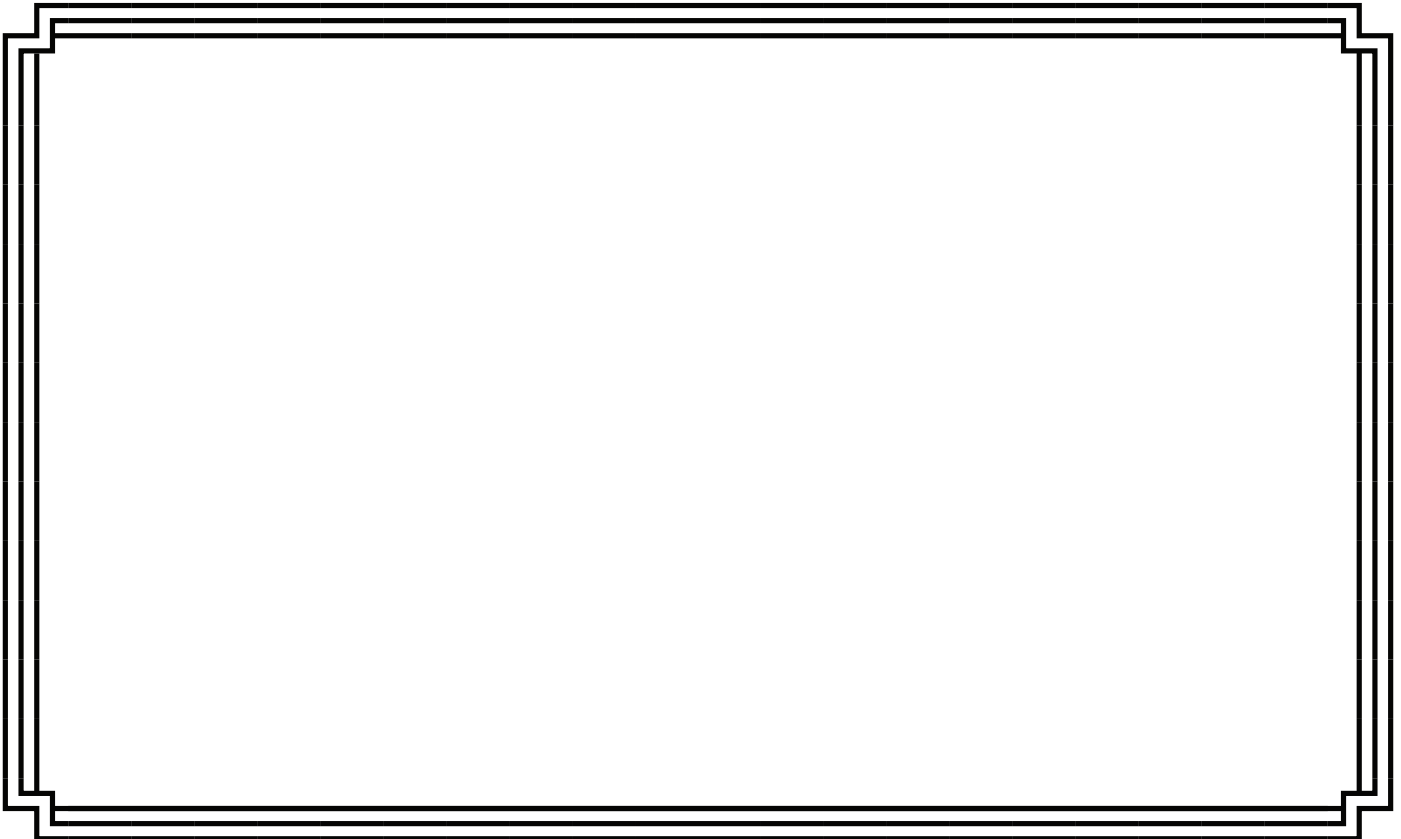
# N is for Name

A **Name Day** is like a birthday celebration for your name! In many countries, there's a name that goes with every day on the calendar.

When Name Day first began, the names on the calendar belonged to Catholic saints. Today, people of any religion, or no religion at all, can celebrate their Name Day!

What's your name? Write it in the box below! Ask for help if you're not sure how.

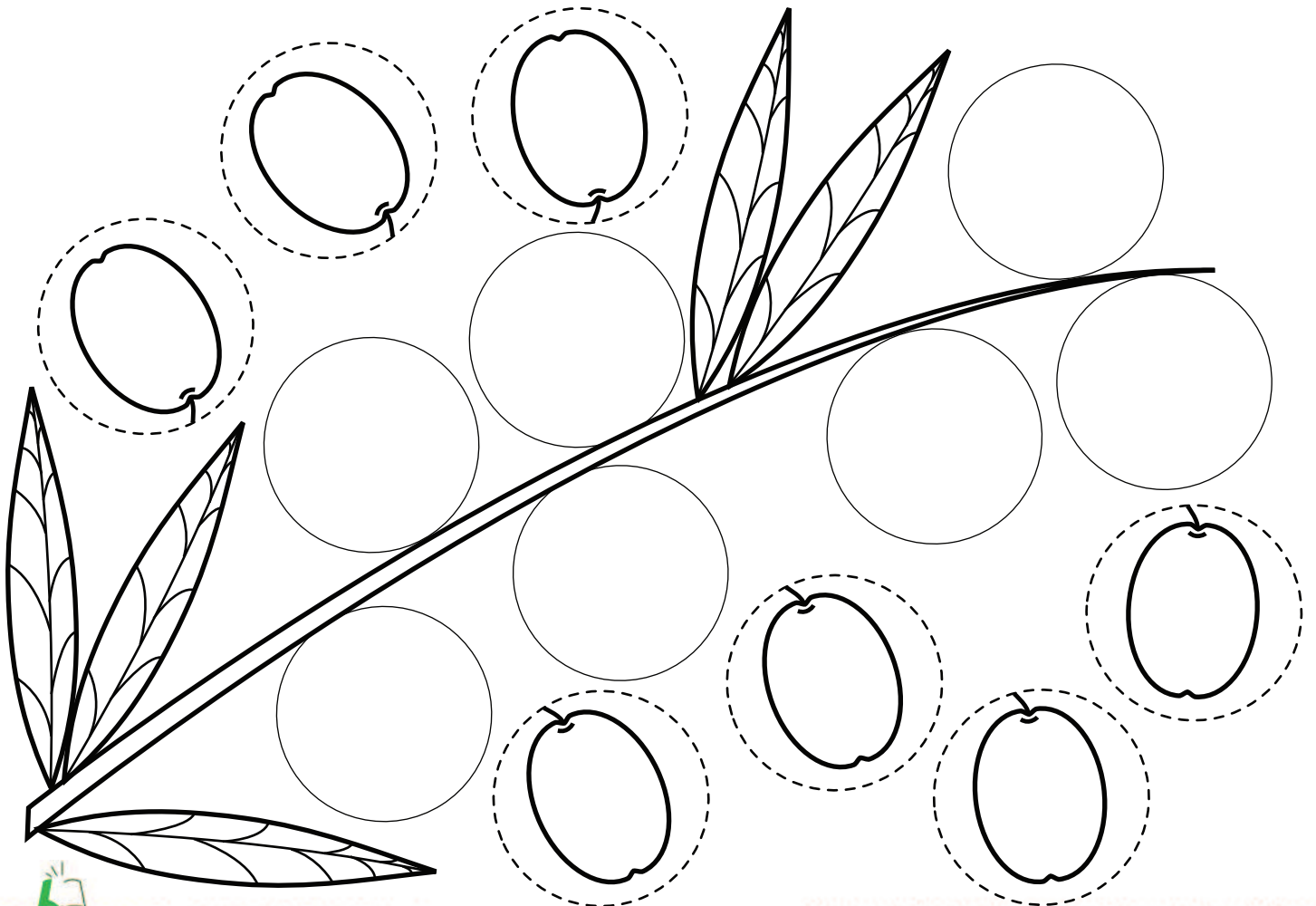
**My name is:**



# O is for Olive Branch

Did you know that olives grow on trees? The **olive tree branch** is a symbol for peace all around the world. On September 21st, people all over the world celebrate International Day of Peace. It's a day to think of ways we can solve problems without fighting. Can you think of a way?

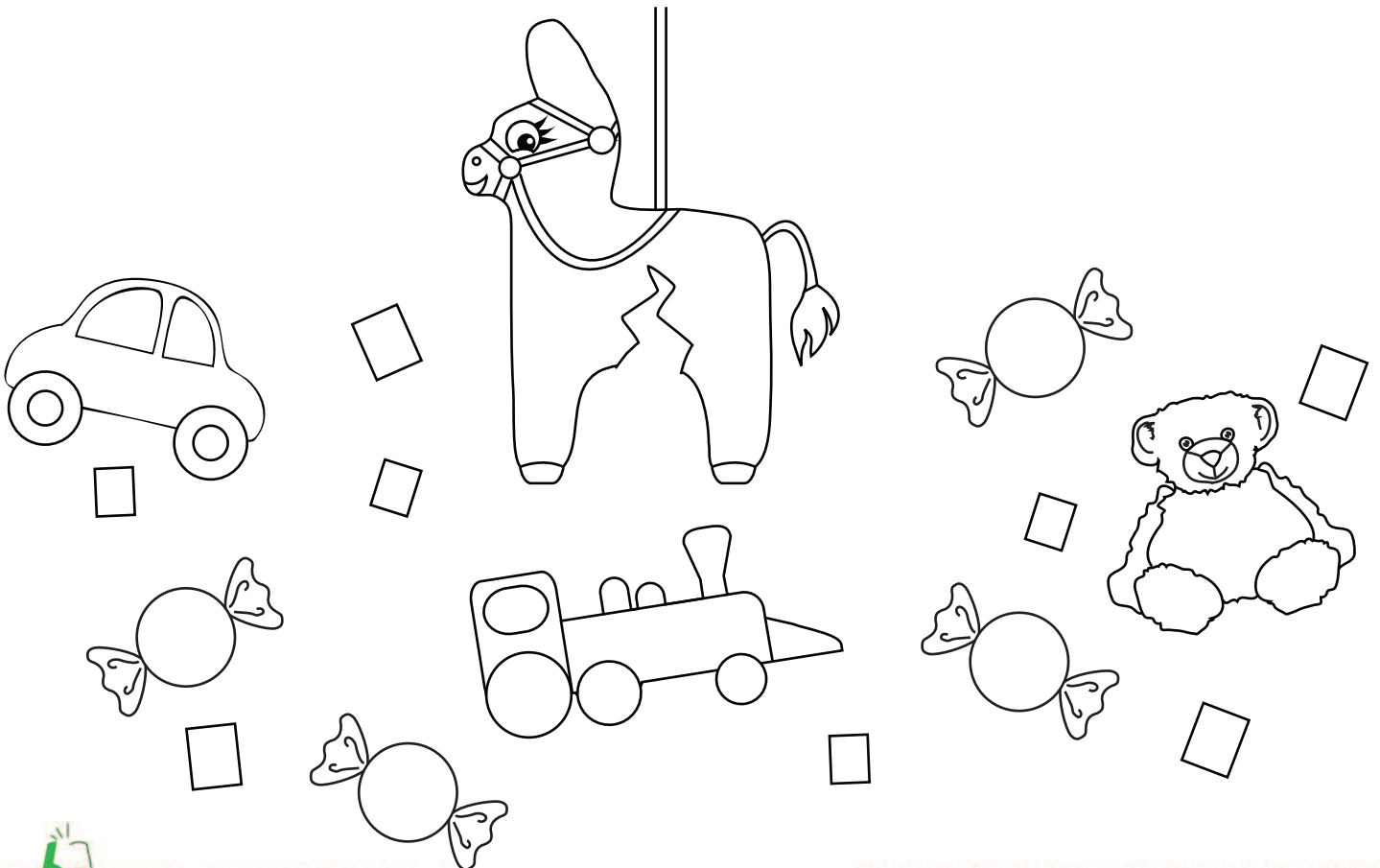
Cut out the olives along the dotted lines. (It's okay if they're not perfect!) Paste them into the circles on the branch. Then, count the olives!



# P is for Piñata

A **piñata** is made of cardboard and paper and is filled with candy or toys. A piñata can be made in almost any shape you like, from animals to cartoon characters. Kids take turns trying to break the piñata open with a bat or stick. When it opens up, all the treats come out! You might see a piñata at a birthday party or on other holidays like Mexican Independence Day.

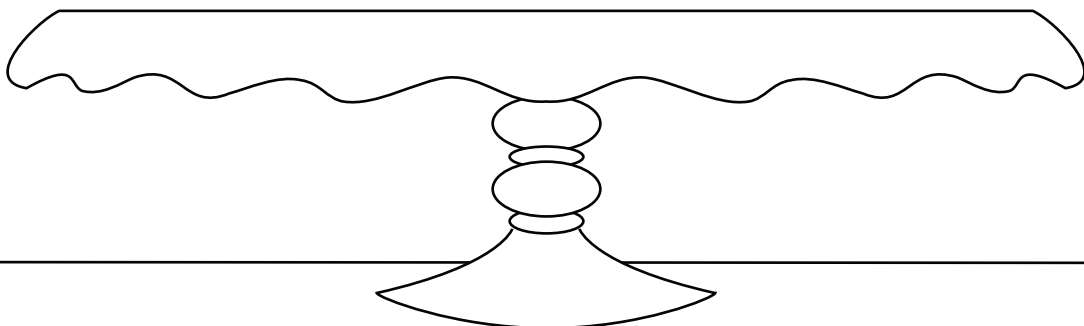
There are treasures falling from the piñata! Color the candy blue, the toys green, and the confetti red.



# Q is for Quinceañera

A **quinceañera** is a special ceremony for a girl who is turning 15 years old. It's a celebration of growing up and getting older. Mexico, Argentina, and many other places in Central and South America celebrate the quinceañera. The ceremony is a little different in each country. The birthday girl wears a fancy dress, and there's music, dancing, and a feast.







Cake is a fun part of the quinceañera feast. If you could make any kind of cake you like, what would it look like? Draw it on the platter below.



# R is for Rain

Before sprinklers and hoses, farmers needed rain to grow their crops. Plants can't grow without water, so without rain, people sometimes did not have enough food to eat. Many believe that rain dances and ceremonies could help bring the rain. The Tonga people of Zambia have a holiday called Lwiindi, a celebration of rain.

## How to make a rain stick

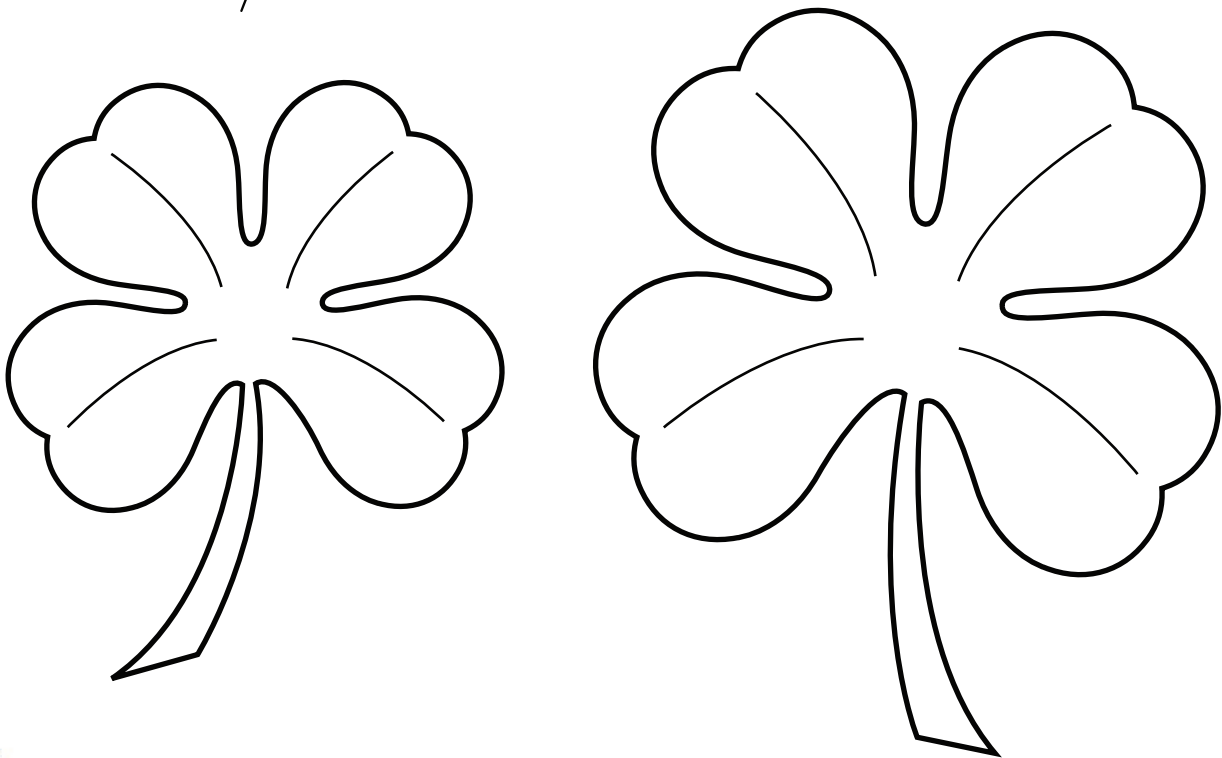
-  Use masking tape to seal off one end of a cardboard tube, like the one inside a roll of paper towels.
-  Crumple up a few pieces of aluminum foil and put them into the tube. Keep crumpling until the tube is loosely full of foil from end to end.
-  Pour in 1/2 cup of rice.
-  Seal the open end with masking tape.
-  Decorate the outside of the tube with paint, paper, or anything you like.
-  Shake or turn your stick and listen to it rain!



# S is for Shamrock

A **shamrock** is a kind of clover that grows in Ireland. The holiday of St. Patrick's Day started there. Some people believe that St. Patrick was able to do magical things. They say he sent all the snakes out of Ireland. They say he had a walking stick that sprouted and grew branches like a tree. Even people who don't believe in these stories can celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

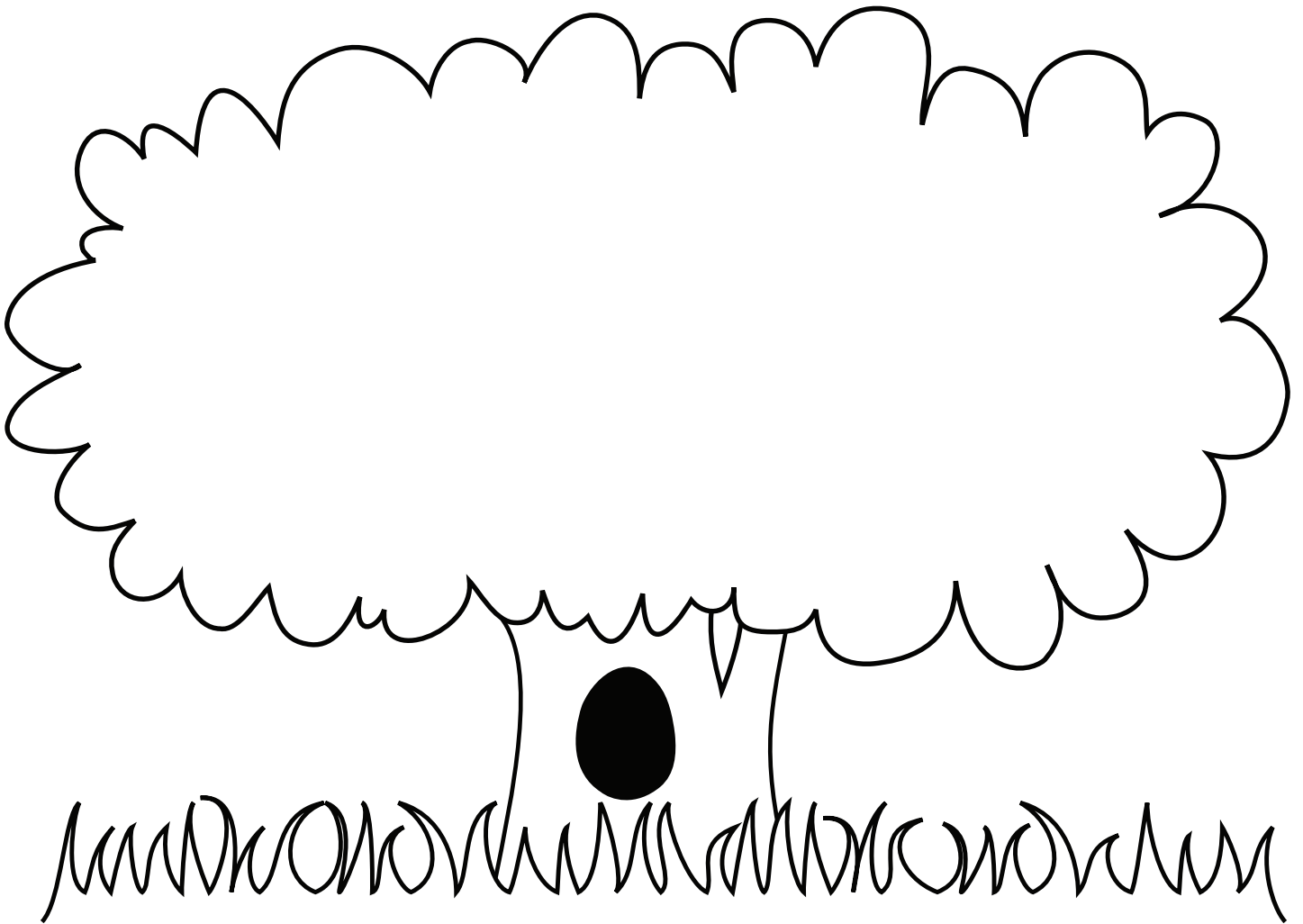
Some people like to wear green clothes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Don't have anything green? That's okay! Color the shamrocks green. You can tape or pin them to your clothes on St. Patrick's Day.



# T is for Tree

Many countries and cultures celebrate trees. The Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shevat is like a birthday party for trees that sprouted or were planted that year. People eat fruit and plant trees to celebrate.

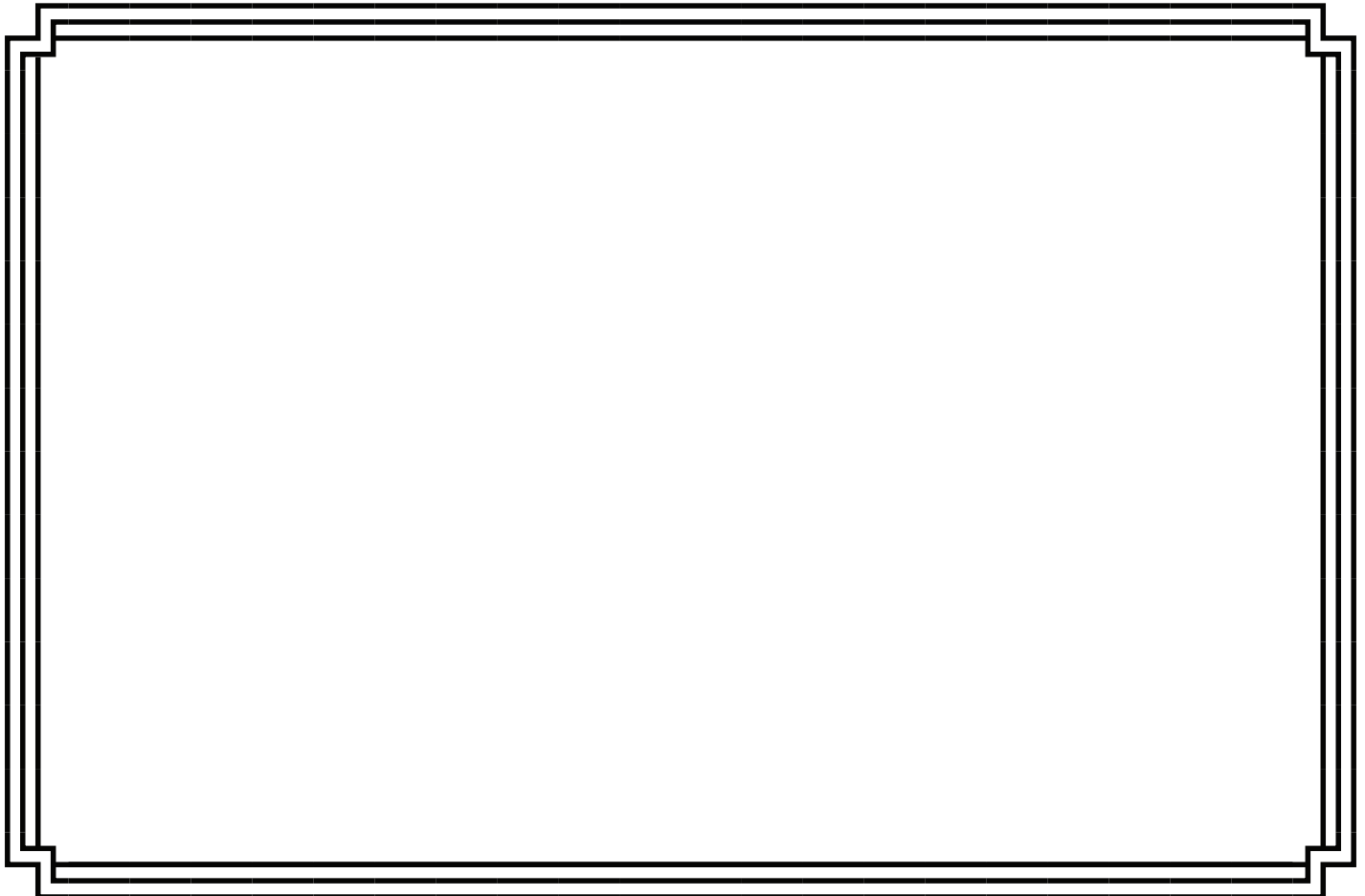
Trees can grow fruit, pinecones, and even flowers. If you could plant a tree that grew anything you wanted, what would it be? Draw it on the tree below.



# U is for Uusikaupunki

The town of Uusikaupunki in Finland has a Strawberry Festival every year. Lots of Finnish farms grow strawberries. At the Strawberry Festival, people listen to bands play as they eat freshly picked strawberries and foods made from strawberries. Yum!

There are celebrations for almost every kind of food there is! What's your favorite food? Draw it here!

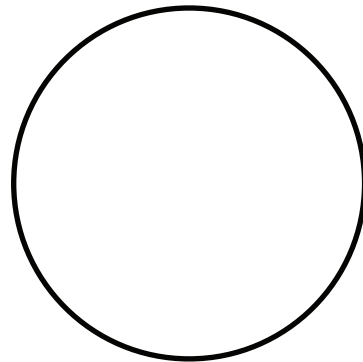
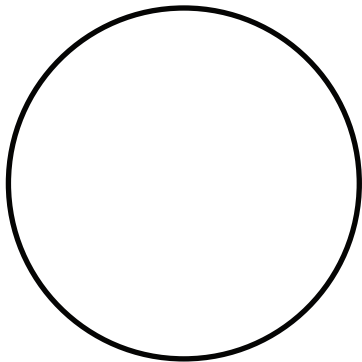




# V is for Vote

Voting Day, also called Election Day, is the day people get to vote for their leaders and laws. In most countries, votes are made on a piece of paper called a ballot. In some countries, though, voting is a lot like it was when it began, thousands of years ago. In the African country of Gambia, people vote by placing a pebble in a bucket. In Appenzell, Switzerland, people gather in the center of town and raise their hands to vote!

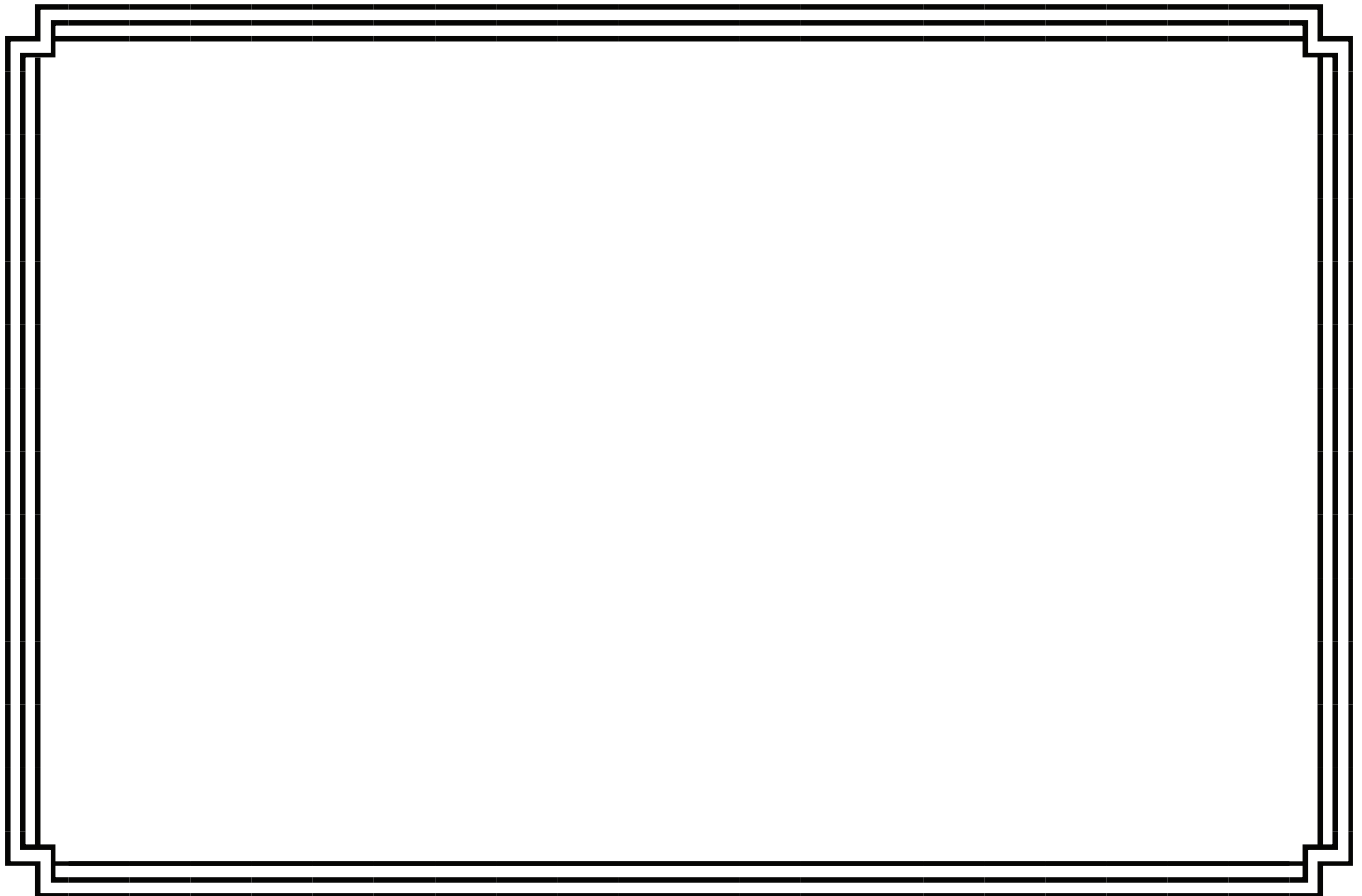
Gather your friends or family together to take a vote. The question can be anything you like. For example, which color do you like best, blue or green? You might color one of the circles below green, and one blue. Have everyone place a bean in the circle they choose. Then, count the beans to see which side won! To make it like a real election, don't peek when others cast their votes.



# W is for Worker

International Workers' Day is a celebration of workers of all kinds. It's a national holiday in more than 80 countries around the world. In the United States and Canada, the holiday is called Labor Day, because "labor" is another word for work.

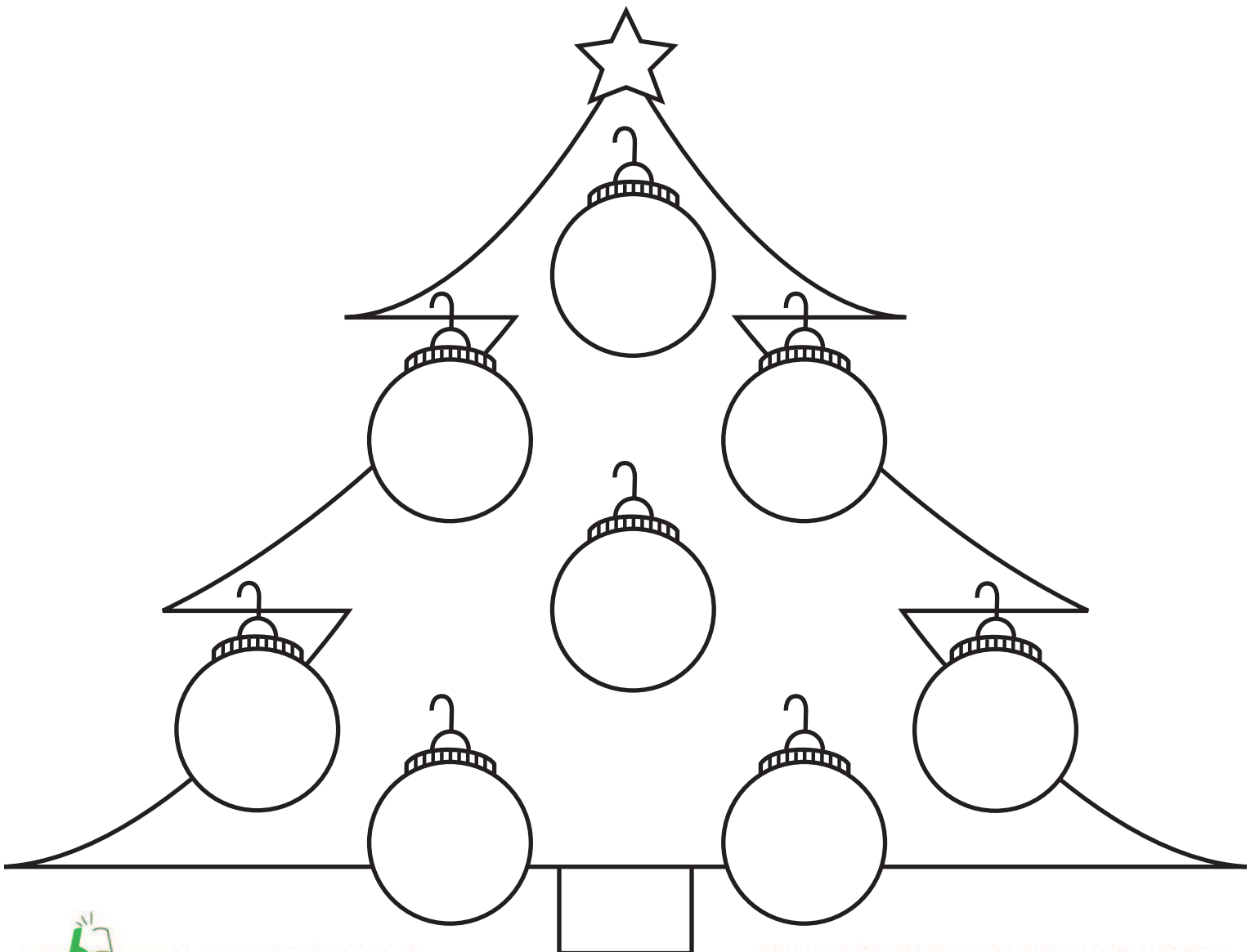
What kind of work would you like to do when you grow up? Draw a picture of it here!



# X is for Xmas

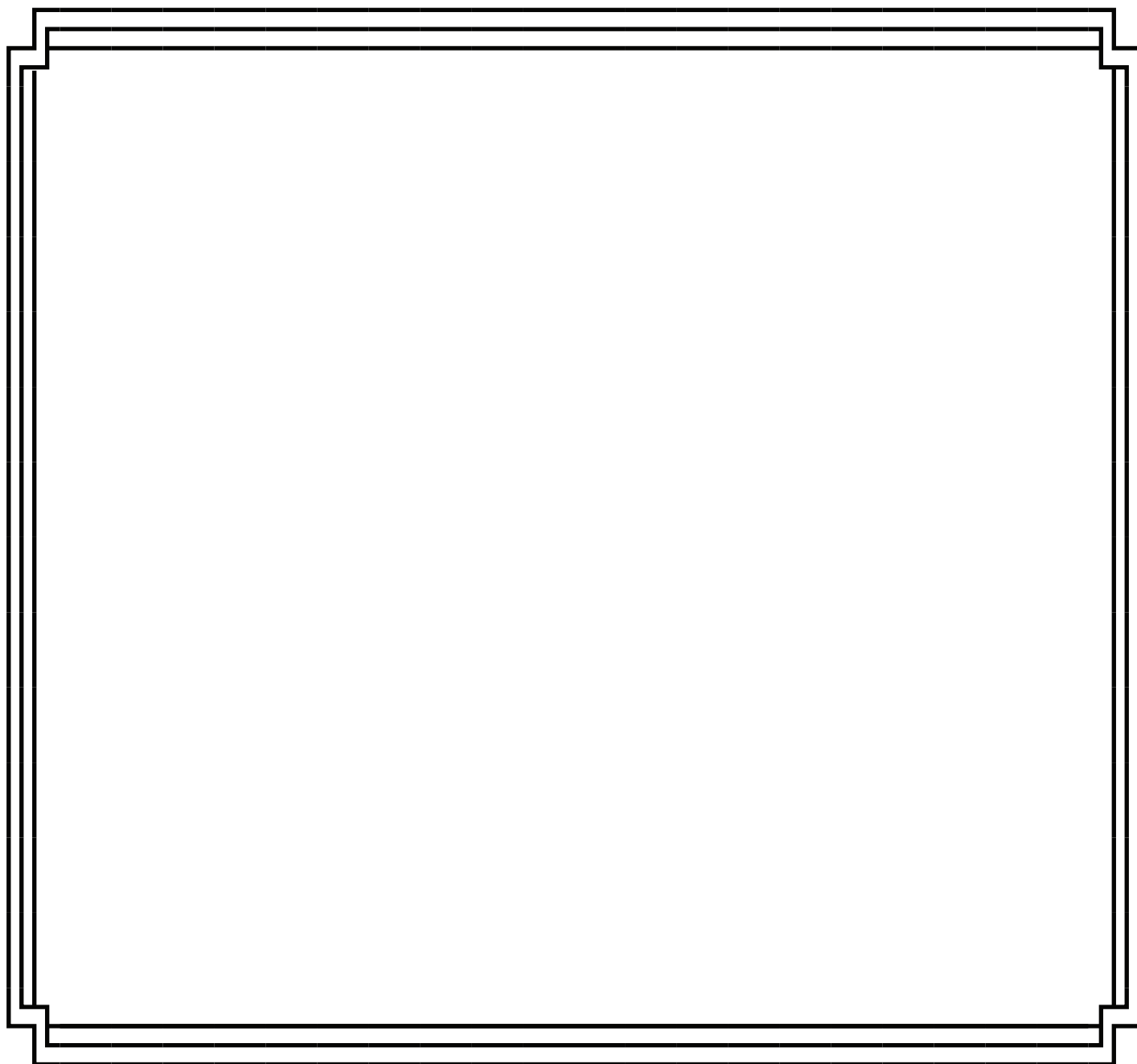
Xmas is short for the word Christmas. That's partly because X is the way you write the Greek letter **chi**. Chi is used to abbreviate the names "Christ" and "Chris." For example, the name Christina was once written as "Xtina."

How many ornaments are hanging on the tree?  
Count them, then color them in!



# Y is for You

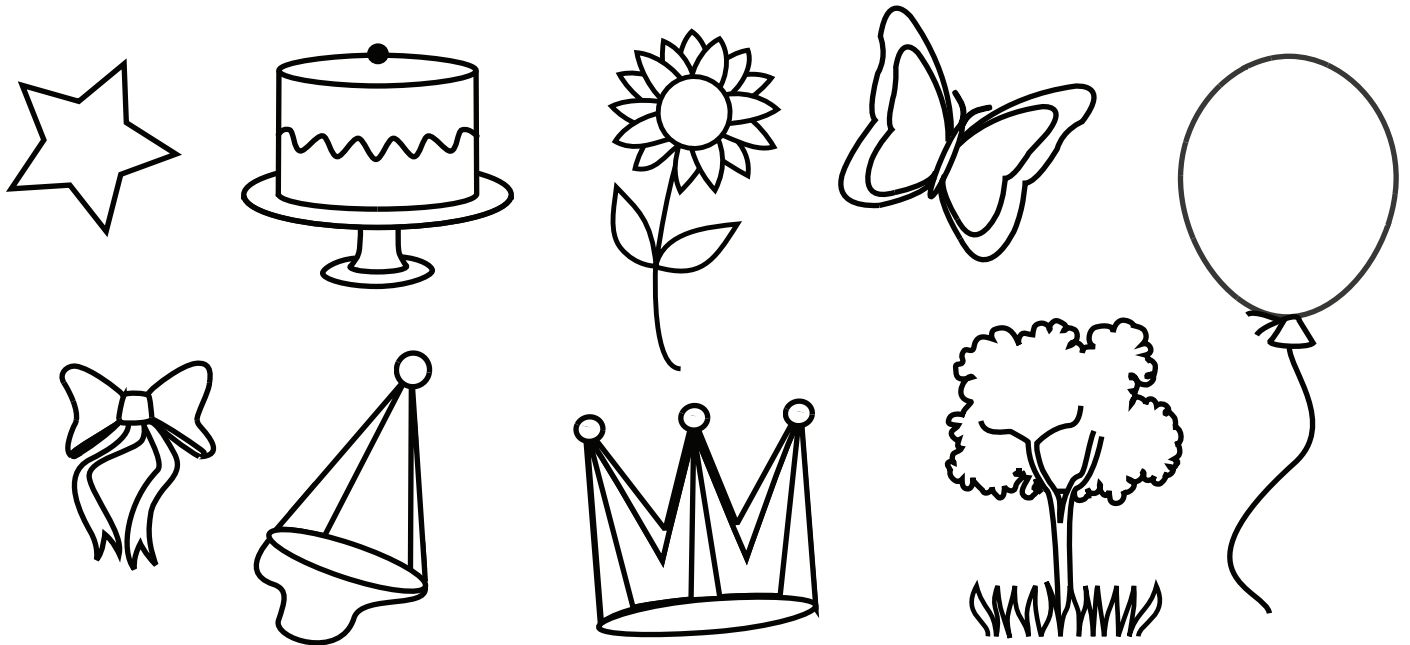
If you could make your own holiday, how would you celebrate? Make up a holiday that celebrates you! What would the celebration be like? Draw it below.



# Z is for Zany

**Zany** means silly and fun, and a lot of holidays are zany! Fastnacht Day is a day for eating fastnacht, which means “doughnut” in German. It’s celebrated in Switzerland and parts of the United States. Marmot Day, a holiday in the state of Alaska, is a celebration of marmots. A marmot is like a big squirrel.

Make up the zaniest holiday you can! Use the pictures below to invent your holiday. Then, tell the story of your holiday. What is it about? How do you celebrate? What’s the name of your holiday?



My holiday is called : \_\_\_\_\_



# Great job!

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