

Murray County Museum

Take Home History

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Instructions for parents/guardians:

- This packet includes five days of lessons all connected to local history.
 1. Pioneers
 2. The Lakes
 3. The Railroad
 4. Farming
 5. Pets
- For each lesson, there is an introductory paragraph for you to read to your child, photos from the Murray County Historical Society collection, a journal or draw section, and at least two activities/crafts.
- We would love to hear feedback about this packet! Let us know what you thought about it by emailing the Murray County Museum at Museum@co.murray.mn.us.
- Have fun!

Instructions for Educators

- Codes for the Minnesota Education Standards met by the lesson in the Social Studies category have been listed under the title of each lesson. More standards have been met, but are not listed, in the ELA and Arts categories.

Lesson 1: Pioneers

Educations standards: History: 0.4.1.1.1, 2.4.1.2.1, 1.4.1.2.2, 1.4.2.4.1, 1.4.2.4.2, 2.4.1.2.1

What is a pioneer? (prompt your child to answer). A pioneer is someone who is one of the first people to do something—a space explorer is a pioneer and an inventor is a pioneer. Today we are going to learn about a group of pioneers who came to Murray County. From 1492 through today, many people from other parts of the world come to America to find a new home. In the 1800s people moved from the eastern coast toward the middle of the country. These people were called pioneers because they were the first people from Europe to move to this land. Before the pioneers came, who lived in Murray County? (prompt your child to answer). Native Americans! They had lived in this region for over 5,000 years!

The pioneers in Murray County lived very differently from how we do today. They lived in dug outs, houses dug into the side of a hill, or log cabins. They had to grow or gather their own food. They had to sew their own clothes. They had to make their own toys. Pioneers lived without electricity or running water. They did not have cars, cellphones, or televisions. Many of the pioneers came to Murray County to farm. They used horses and oxen to pull their wagons and farm tools.




Koch Cabin



Wornson Cabin

Journal or Draw

Draw a picture or write about how your life would be different if you were a pioneer.

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It contains four identical sets of horizontal lines, each set consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

Activity 1 – Hide the Thimble

This is a game similar to a scavenger hunt played by pioneer children.

What you will need: a thimble or other small object.

Instructions: Gather everyone who is going to participate into one room. Choose the player who gets to hide the thimble first. All other players leave the room while the chosen player hides the thimble somewhere in the room. Once the thimble is hidden, all the other players come back into the room and must try to find the thimble. Whoever finds the thimble first is the winner. The game then starts over, and the winner gets to hide the thimble next.

Activity 2 – Old and New

Instructions: For each pair, circle the furniture that you think would be inside of a pioneer's log cabin.

1.

Trunk

or

Storage Bin



2.

Gaming Chair

or

Rocking Chair



3.

Lamp

or

Lantern



4.

Fireplace

or

Oven



Lesson 2: The Lakes

Educations standards: Geography: 0.3.2.3.1, History: 0.4.1.1.1, 1.4.1.2.1, 2.4.1.2.1

Introduction Paragraph-Read to your child.

What is a lake? (prompt your child to answer) A lake is a body of water that is surrounded by land on all sides. Did you know that there are 48 named lakes in Murray County? These lakes were created by glaciers many, many years ago. Do you know what a glacier is? (Prompt your child to answer) A glacier is slow moving large mass of ice. Some glaciers were a mile thick! By slowly moving over the land, these large masses of ice dug out the areas that are now our lakes! Does your family ever go to the lake? (prompt your child to answer) What does your family do there? (prompt your child to answer) Some things you can do at a lake include boating, swimming, fishing, and hunting. Lakes are home to many animals such as fish, ducks, geese, frogs, and plenty of bugs!



Etta May on Lake Shetek



People on the shore of a Murray County Lake

Journal or Draw

Draw a picture or write about what you like to do, or would like to do, at a lake.

Date	Time	Location	Weather	Notes
10/10/2023	08:00	Forest	Clear	Start of hike
10/10/2023	09:00	Forest	Clear	Reached trailhead
10/10/2023	10:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	11:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	12:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	13:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	14:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	15:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	16:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	17:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	18:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	19:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	20:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	21:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	22:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	23:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	24:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	25:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	26:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	27:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	28:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	29:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	30:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	31:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	32:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	33:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit
10/10/2023	34:00	Forest	Clear	Reached summit

[illegible]

Activity 1 – Goldfish Pond

What you will need: Goldfish crackers (or a similar type of cracker), cream cheese, blue food coloring, a plate, and a spoon.

Instructions:

With help from a grownup, put a tablespoon of cream cheese onto your plate. Squeeze 1-3 drops of blue food coloring onto the cheese. Mix thoroughly with your spoon. Spread the cheese on the plate into a circular shape to make a pond. Add a few Goldfish crackers onto the top of the pond. Take a few photos then enjoy your crackers dipped in cheese as a snack!

Activity 2 -- Frog Jump

It's time to pretend to be frogs! A frog themed take on Simon Says. Have your child squat down like a frog with their hands on the ground in front of them. Next, giving certain instructions, have them jump around like frogs. Examples of instructions include taking small jumps, large jumps, jump fast, jump slow, or jump a certain amount of times in a row.

Activity 3 – Fish Hand Puppets

What you will need: paper, markers or crayons, safety scissors, glue, and a popsicle stick.

Help your child trace their hand on a piece of paper. Help your child cut their handprint out. Color your fish whatever color you would like, be sure to add an eye onto the palm! Cut out a small heart shaped piece of paper for the fish's lips. Help your child glue the lips on the fish where the wrist would be and then glue the decorated fish onto a popsicle stick. Now it's time to create a play or simply swim around the house!



Example

Lesson 3 – The Railroad

Education standards: Geography: 1.3.1.1.2, History 0.4.1.1.1, 1.4.1.2.1, 1.4.1.2.2, 1.4.2.4.2, 2.4.1.2.1

Introduction Paragraph-Read to your child.

Have you seen a train rolling down the tracks? (prompt your child to answer) Was it loud? Was it going fast? Unlike cars that drive on roads, trains run on tracks. Tracks are made of heavy metal bars called rails laid on top of large square wooden posts called ties. The first trains reached Murray County in 1879, about 150 years ago. When the trains came to Murray County, there were no cars around. How do you think people travelled before the trains came? (prompt your child to answer) People would ride horses, in wagons pulled by horses, or walk. It would take a long time to get from one place to the other, especially if the people were bringing a lot of stuff with them like farmers bringing crops into town. When the trains came to Murray County, it meant that people could travel much faster and further. Train travel was popular in Murray County for about 50 years. That is when many families began to buy cars to drive around. The last time a train ran in Murray County was in the 1980s, about 40 years ago!




Train in Dovray



Train in Slayton

Journal or Draw

Draw a picture or write about what you think you would see looking outside the window of a train.

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It contains four identical sets of horizontal lines, each set consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

Activity 1 – Trace the lines to help these trains get to their next stop!



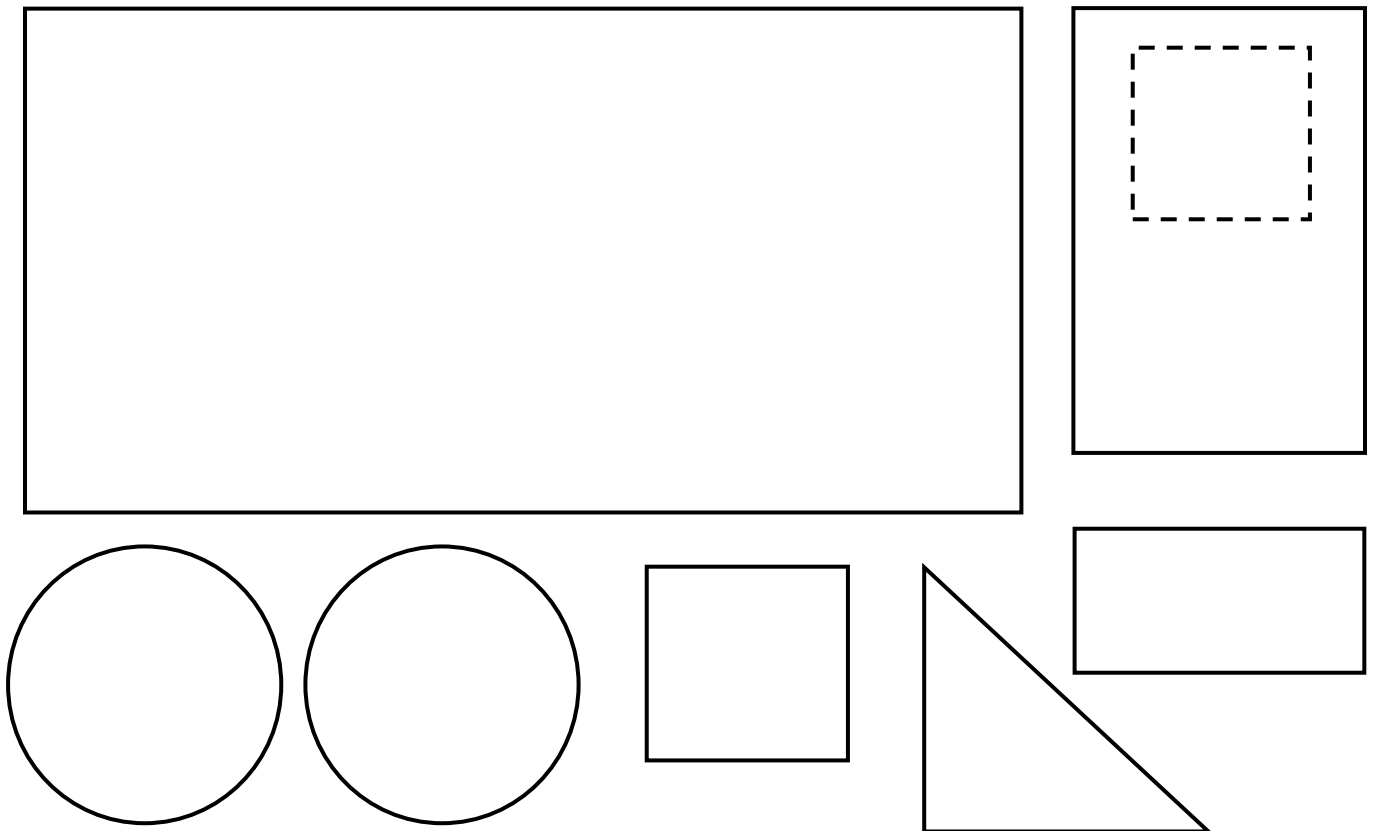
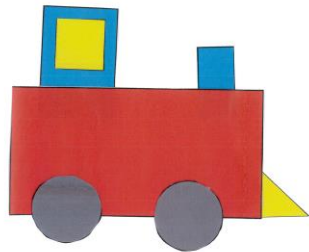
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Activity 2 – Make Your Own Train

What you will need: The pattern below, a safety scissors, markers or crayons, and glue.

Instructions: Color one side of the shapes—any color you would like! With an adult’s help, cut out the shapes on the solid lines. With help from an adult, glue the square onto the medium rectangle where there is a dashed line square. Glue the medium and small rectangles to the top of the large rectangle on the side that is not colored. Glue the two circles on the bottom of the large rectangle on the side that is colored. Glue the triangle to the large rectangle on the side that is not colored. You have your very own train!

Example:



Lesson 4 – Farming

Education Standards: History 0.4.1.1.1, 1.4.1.2.2, 1.4.2.4.2, Geography: 2.3.4.9.1

Introduction Paragraph-Read to your child.

Have you ever seen a tractor? Or a grain bin? Or a cow? Or a chicken? All of these have to do with farming! Most of the food we eat is raised on a farm. Do you or someone you know live on a farm? (prompt your child to answer) Many people in Murray County make their living by farming! Farming in Murray County has changed a lot over the years. Early farmers used equipment powered by animals. Oxen or horses would pull large plows to help farmers get the soil ready to plant. At harvest they pulled wagons to gather the crops. As time went on tractors replaced much of the animal power. Today, large combines do a lot of harvest work in the fields! The equipment used by farmers today makes farming much faster than a long time ago. Farmers can have much larger fields. Changes in farming also include how cows, pigs, and chickens are raised. For example, new equipment makes it much easier for farmers to milk cows. In the past, cows were milked by hand. Today, cows are milked by a machine!



Horses pulling farm machinery in Murray County



Farm in Murray County

Journal or Draw

Draw a picture or write about what you would like to raise on your own farm.

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It contains four identical sets of horizontal lines, each set consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. These lines are designed to help children learn the correct height and placement of letters. The sets are arranged vertically down the page, providing ample space for practicing letter formation and writing.

Activity 1 – Gather the eggs.

What you will need: Colorful plastic eggs and a container of any kind.

Instructions: An adult will hide the eggs around the house or yard. Now it's your turn to go and gather all the eggs!

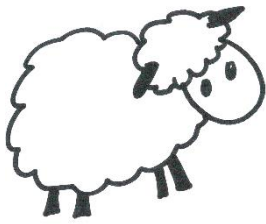
Activity 2 -- Count the sheep!

What you will need: Cotton balls, a container of any kind, and a dice.

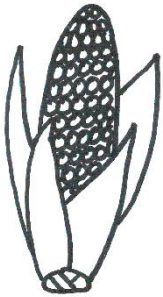
Instructions: put many cotton ball "sheep" on the floor or table (wherever you are playing). Roll the dice. Pick up the number of sheep you rolled on the dice and place them in the container. Continue rolling until all the sheep are gathered in your container!

Activity 3 – Matching farm products

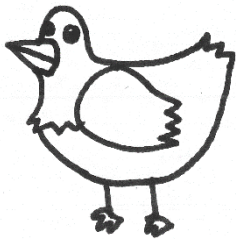
Instructions: Draw a line matching the animal or crop to what they produce!



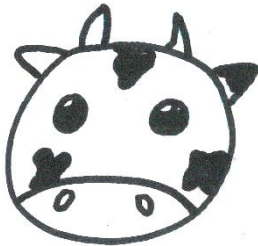
Sheep



Corn



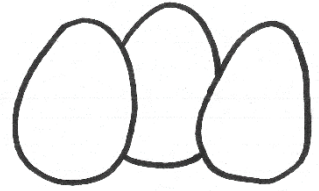
Chicken



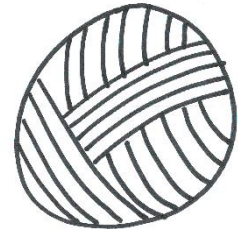
Cow



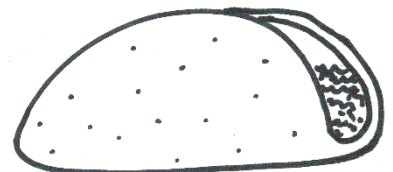
Wheat



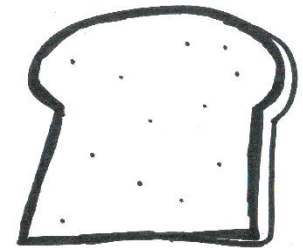
Eggs



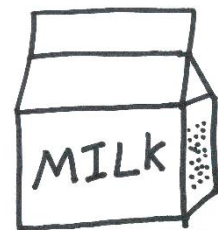
Wool Yarn



Taco Shell



Bread

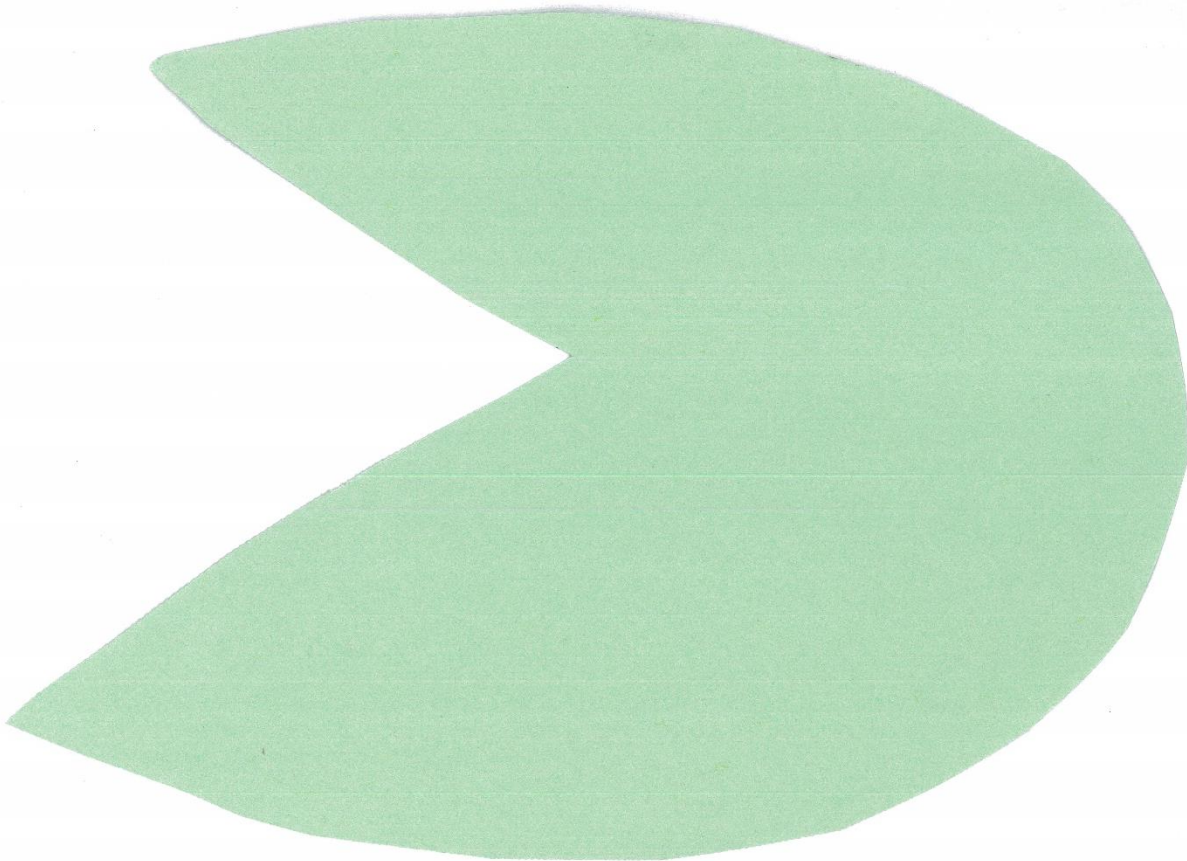
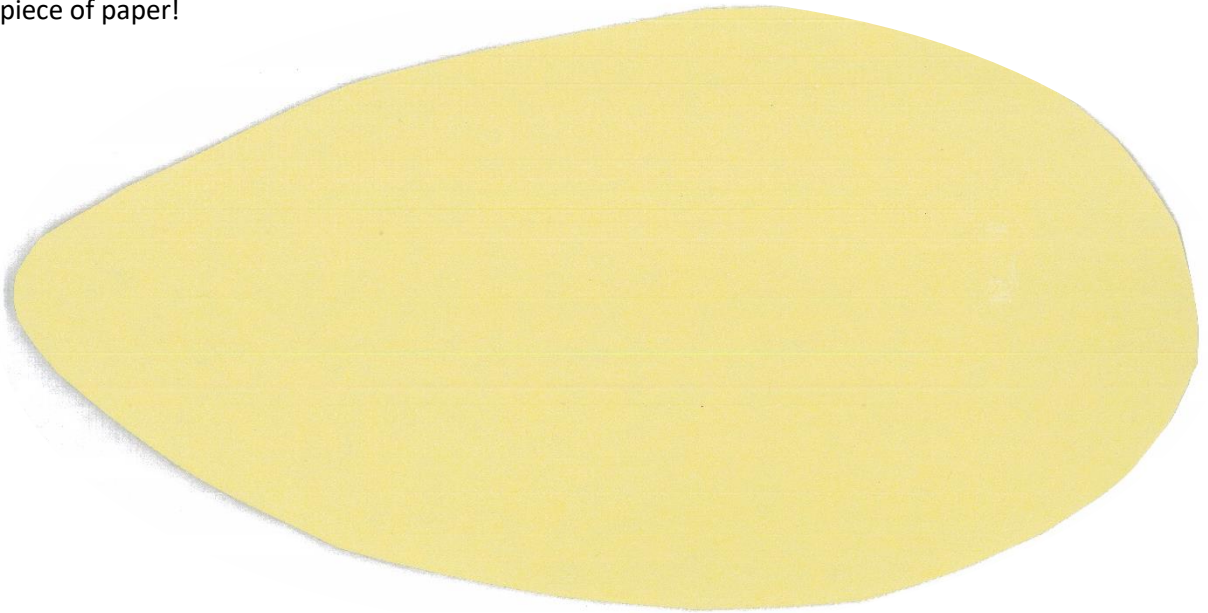


Milk

Activity 4 – Corn on the Cob

What you will need: The template below, safety scissors, glue, and Cheerios (or any loop shaped cereal).

Instructions: With an adult's help, cut out the template. Glue the yellow piece on top of the green piece—you have an ear of corn! Now it is time to add the pieces of corn. Glue your Cheerios onto the yellow piece of paper!

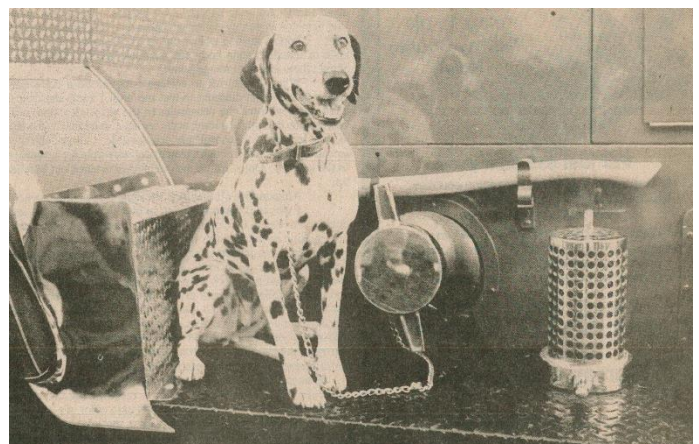


Lesson 5 – Pets (Fun Topic Friday)

Education Standards: History 0.4.1.1.1, 1.4.2.4.1, 1.4.1.2.2, 2.4.1.2.1

Introduction Paragraph-Read to your child.

Do you have any pets? (prompt your child to answer). Having a pet is not a new idea. People have had pets for thousands of years! At the Murray County Museum, we have a lot of examples of pictures showing people with their pets throughout the years (take a look at the photos below). Having a pet is a lot of responsibility. You have to feed and water it. You have to make sure it is healthy and that it gets enough exercise. What kinds of animals do you think of when you think of a pet? (prompt your child to answer). You could have a dog, cat, bird, fish, hamster, snake, frog, horse, and many more! Pets make great companions, or friends. You can read to them, play with them, and they can cheer you up when you are feeling down. Some pets have important jobs. There are dogs that are trained to work with police officers or to help blind people. There are horses and dogs that help with farm work. There are cats that keep mice out of homes and farm buildings. Take a look at the picture of the dog below who once worked with the Slayton Fire Department!



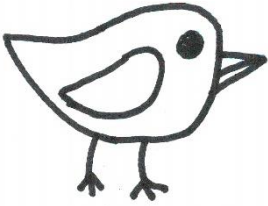
Journal or Draw

Draw a picture or write about your pet or a make-believe animal you would like to have as a pet.

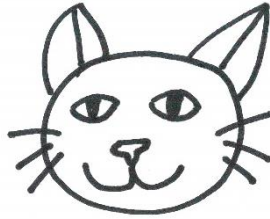
This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features four identical sets of horizontal guidelines arranged vertically. Each set includes three lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a structured space for practicing letter formation and alignment.

Activity 1 – Fill in the Letter!

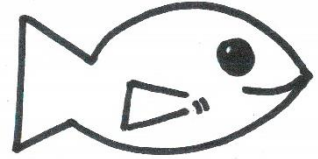
Instructions: These pet names are missing their first letter! Fill in the blank to complete the names!



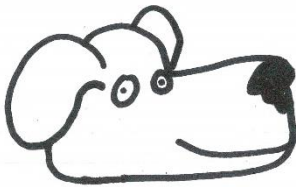
___IRD



___AT



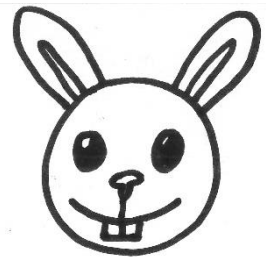
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___OG



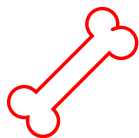
___NAKE



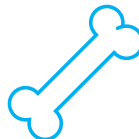
___ABBIT

Activity 2 – Dog bone color match.

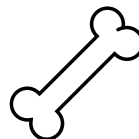
Instructions: Draw a line matching the colored dog bone to the correct color.



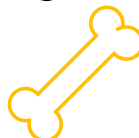
Blue



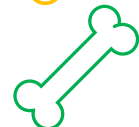
Red



Green



Black



Yellow

Activity 3 – Cat Mask

What you will need: the template below, a safety scissors, crayons or markers, yarn.

Instructions: With the help of an adult, cut out the mask template—be sure to cut out the eye holes.

Color the cat any color you want! Poke holes on the sides of the mask and add a piece of yarn to tie it on

to your face.

Alternatively,
glue or staple

a strip of
paper to slide
the mask over

your head.
Now it's time
to act like a
cat!

