

Getting Ready for Spring (Week 1)

Suggested Books:

Spring is Here by Lois Lenski
Everything Spring by Jill Esbaum
How Robin Saved Spring by Debbie Ouellet
Spring is Here, Corduroy! By Don Freeman
Robins: Songbirds of Spring by Mia Posada
It's Spring by Linda Glaser
Splish, Splash, Spring by Jan Carr
Flower Fairies of the Spring by Cicely Mary Barker
Spring: An Alphabet Acrostic by Steven Schnur

Vocabulary Words:

Cloud, wind, breeze, earth, mud, thaw, frozen, rain, showers, bud, blossom, pussy willow, seed, leaf

Songs and Fingerplays:

Pussy Willow song

I know a little pussy (Start squatting down on your heels)
His coat is silver gray (slowly rise, just a bit)
He lives down in the meadow (rise a bit more... etc)
Not so very far away.
Although he is a pussy,
He'll never be a cat,
'cause he's a pussy willow
Now what do you think of that! (Standing tall now)
Meow, meow, meow, meow... (Squat back down on each meow)
SCAT! (Jump up and shout)

Yellow, Yellow is the Sun (Sung to "twinkle, twinkle")

Yellow, yellow is the sun
Shining down on everyone.
Y-E-L-L-O then W, Y-E-L-L-O-then W
Yellow, yellow is the sun
Shining down on everyone.

Six Little Ducks that I once knew

Six little ducks that I once knew,
Fat ones, skinny ones, cute ones too!
But the one little duck with the feather on his back
He ruled the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Quack, quack, quack, Quack quack, quack!

He ruled the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Down to the river they all go
Wibble, wobble, wibble, wobble, to and fro,
But the one little duck with the feather on his back,
He ruled the others with his quack, quack, quack!

Brown Bear Action Poem

Brown Bear, Brown Bear turn around.
Brown Bear, Brown Bear touch the ground.
Brown Bear, Brown Bear reach up high.
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, touch the sky.

Materials to Gather:

Tempra paint, construction paper, paint brushes, cupcake papers, glue, popsicle sticks, small pompoms, pussy willow branches, small amount of "Easter" grass, 12 oz. bag chocolate chips, peanut butter, chow mein noodles, wax paper, M&M candies or small Easter egg candies, potting soil (optional), large and medium size yellow pompoms, googly eyes, orange fun foam feet, orange felt scrap for beak, objects that start with a B sound like bottle caps, butterfly stickers, Buttons, dried beans, etc., Easter egg dye kit, craft feathers, hard boiled eggs, marshmallows, cinnamon hot candies, bananas, chopped nuts or cococut, teddy bear graham crackers, a kite to fly, drinking straws

Dramatic Play:

Remove any winter articles from dramatic play area, replace with spring things – light weight coats, umbrellas, rain boots, plastic flowers and baskets for flower baskets. Put a yellow table cloth on toy table, and kitchen table

Blocks:

Set out toy chicks, ducks, rabbits – suggest making pens, hutches, and fences with blocks. Include sets with mother and baby animals. Add small plastic flowers stuffed into Styrofoam, to decorate the farm.

Music:

Saint-Saens: Carnival of the Animals
 Thunderstorm, a Surround Sound Experience
 100 Singalong Songs for Kids
 Elmo's World – Springtime Fun

Projects:

Paint Clouds – white tempera paint, sky blue construction paper, large brushes, or try using cotton balls for “paint brushes”. Paint swirly, fluffy clouds on paper. Either use large sheets 12x18, or use several regular sheets 9x12 and put them together to make a larger sky for this afternoon's flowers collage.

Flowers collage – need cupcake papers in variety of colors. Popsicle sticks painted green, leaf shapes cut from green paper, tissue paper, rickrack scraps, small pompoms. Glue leaves to Popsicle sticks, glue a cupcake paper to the end, decorate the cupcake flower with scraps of rickrack, tissue paper, or pompoms. Glue flower to sky blue paper and clouds. Add a narrow green strip to the bottom for grass, or could glue some bits of shredded green “Easter” grass. Make at least 6 flowers (the number this week) and count them. Make more if interest holds.

Bird Nest Cookies – 12 oz. chocolate chips, M&M candies or small bird's egg Easter candies, 5 oz can of chow mein noodles, and 1/3 cup peanut butter. Melt chips and peanut butter in microwave (or top of double boiler). Stir in noodles. Drop by rounded spoonfuls onto wax paper. Nestle several candy eggs into nest, then refrigerate until firm. (Child will probably want to eat a few right away.) If eggs are very small (mini M&Ms) you could put six eggs in each nest, and have child count them with you.

Baby Duckies- Make one duckie ahead of time, so child can see the finished project. Then help him to make one or more baby duckies on his own. Glue a large pompom to feet cut from fun foam. Glue a medium pompom to the large, and glue googly eyes

to the medium pompom. Add a small orange beak cut from felt, and let dry.

Letter B collage – cut a large B shape from blue or black paper. Child glues things to the B that start with a B sound – like buttons, bottle caps, butterfly stickers, dried beans, or band-aides. Post the B collage when it's dry in the calendar area.

Beautiful Butterflies – Fold a sheet of white paper in half. Drop several spots of pastel colored paint onto one half. Fold paper and press. Open to see the interesting designs! Let dry, then cut picture into a large butterfly shape.

Easter Egg Window display- cut large egg shape from black construction paper. Crush colored egg shells into smaller pieces, and glue to the egg shape in pretty designs. Add bits of lace or rickrack to the egg. Make several eggs, then display in window or on a wall.

Marshmallow Bunny decorations – large marshmallow for body. Glue on small marshmallow for a tail, red cinnamon hot candies for eyes, pink paper ears. These are not to be eaten, but child can eat some of the supplies.

Banana Pops – stick half a banana on a clean popsicle stick. Roll in melted chocolate or butterscotch chips, then in chopped nuts or coconut or crushed cereal. Freeze, then serve.

Field Trip – visit a greenhouse to see Easter lilies and other spring blossoming plants, or visit a local farm to see newborn animals, or visit a small pond to look for tadpoles, frogs, crawfish and minnows.

Air Painting – put large sheet of white paper in a cake pan. Drop spots of tempera paint around, then blow on them through a drinking straw cut in half. Observe how our breath – like the wind – can move things. Blow the colors together. Can you blow it to shape a triangle? Dry, then display finished painting.

Week: Monday

Date: _____

Concepts: B b, 6, yellow, triangle

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity: Practice vocabulary words. Teach Pussy Willow song.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: do some puzzles. Choose a spring- themed puzzle if possible.
8:15	Free Play: Set out props in dramatic play, blocks, music, books areas.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack: Serve “cloud” dollops of whip cream on top of jello.
10:15	Outside time: Clouds. Take out a tarp and a blanket if it’s still cold. Lay down, cover up and snuggle and enjoy the clouds! Watch them float along. Then, child can play until time to go in.
11:15	Project: Paint Clouds. Use white paint on sky blue paper. Make several pictures to put together for a “bulletin board” display. Might paint a small bird or two in the sky.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: Dip broccoli branches in a bean dip – discuss the “b” sound.
3:30	Outside time: Know ahead of time where Pussy Willows grow. Go for a nature hike and cut a branch or two to bring home and put in a jar of water. (Get permission from neighbor or park attendant) Bring along magnifying glass to examine signs of spring.
4:30	Table Time: B worksheet #1. Can extend table time to review alphabet or other skills
4:45	Project: Flowers collage. Use cupcake papers, popsicle sticks, glue, etc.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Spring! Tuesday

Date: _____

Concepts: B b, 6, yellow, triangle

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Teach Six Little Ducks, review other songs.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: String beads. Could use pastel-colored pastas to make spring jewelry.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Project: Make Bird Nest Cookies
10:15	Snack: eat cookies
11:15	Outside play: Ride Tricycle
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: Serve berry tarts or berry milkshakes – berry starts with the “bu” sound of B.
3:30	Outside time: Dig in the mud. See if ground is still frozen, if so, talk about how it will soon thaw. Could put some potting soil and water in a box to play in.
4:30	Table Time: Yellow Triangle Worksheet from Kidzone
4:45	Project: Baby Ducks from pompoms
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together (Can you find six duckies for the bath?)
8:00	Bed.

Spring! Wednesday

Date: _____

Concepts: B,b, 6, yellow, triangle

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary words, teach Brown Bear poem.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough. Use blue playdough, and shape the letter B.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack: serve a "B" snack. Bananas or biscuits or berries, etc.
10:15	Outside time. Can you move like a butterfly? Bug? Bear? Can you walk backwards?
11:15	Project: Letter B collage
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time: bounce balls. Blow bubbles.
4:30	Table Time: Count Six worksheet
4:45	Project: Beautiful Butterflies
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Spring! Thursday

Date: _____

Concepts: B, b, 6, yellow, triangle

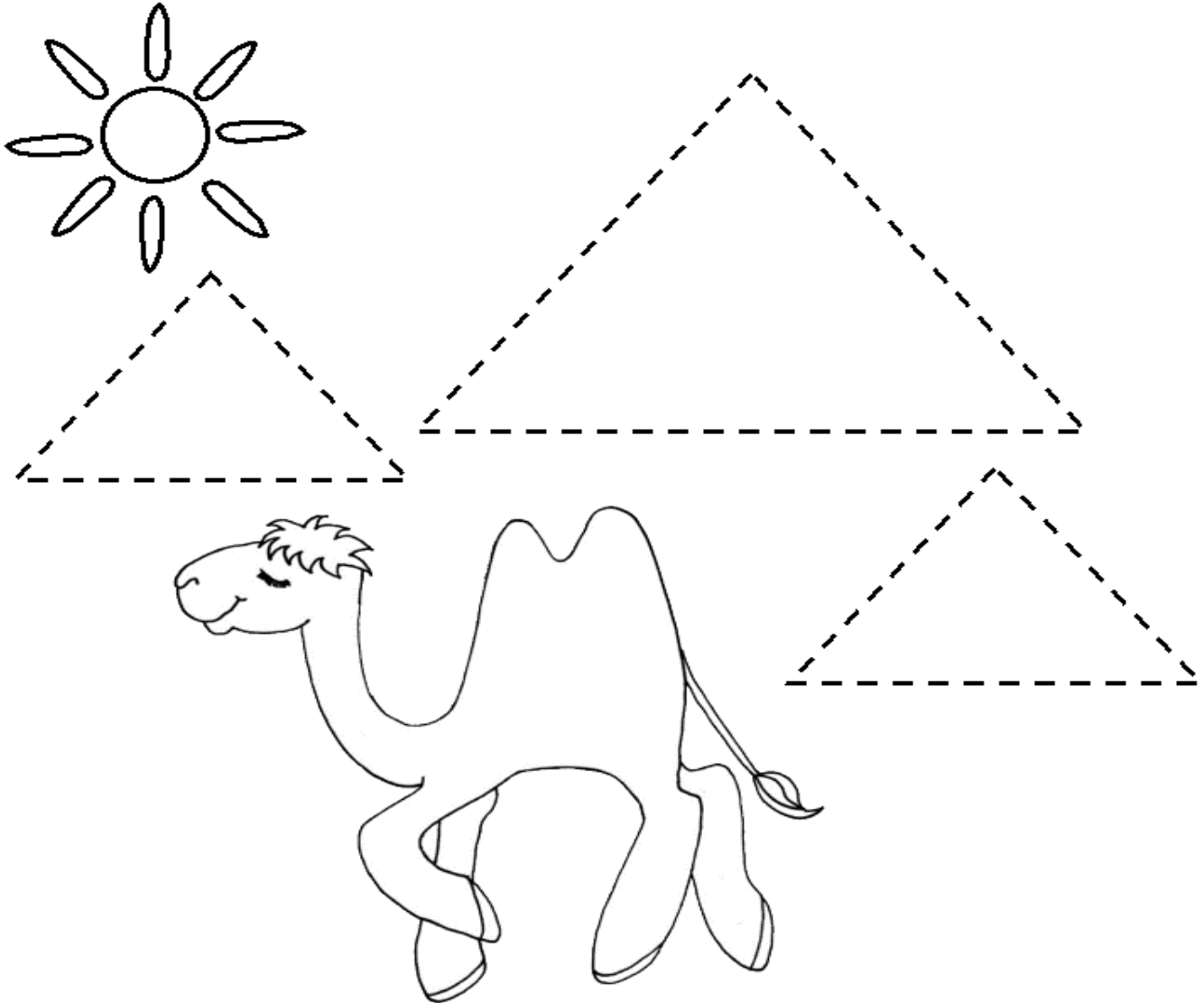
7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary, review songs, teach "Yellow Sun". Count to six.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Lacing cards, or Memory game
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack: Hard Boiled colored eggs. (You dye them the night before, save the shells from snack)
10:15	Outside time: Toss a few craft feathers in the air on a windy day to watch them blow around. Play with balloons.
11:15	Project: Easter Eggs Window or wall display. Cut a large egg shape from black construction paper. Glue bits of colored egg shells to egg shape. Add rickrack or lace scraps as needed.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Sandbox time. Dig and shovel. Could bring out farm animal toys to build a farm. Use sticks for fences, small tractors to plow fields.
4:30	Table Time: Triangle Itsy-Bitsy Book from Kidzone
4:45	Project: Bunny decoration from marshmallows.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Spring! Friday

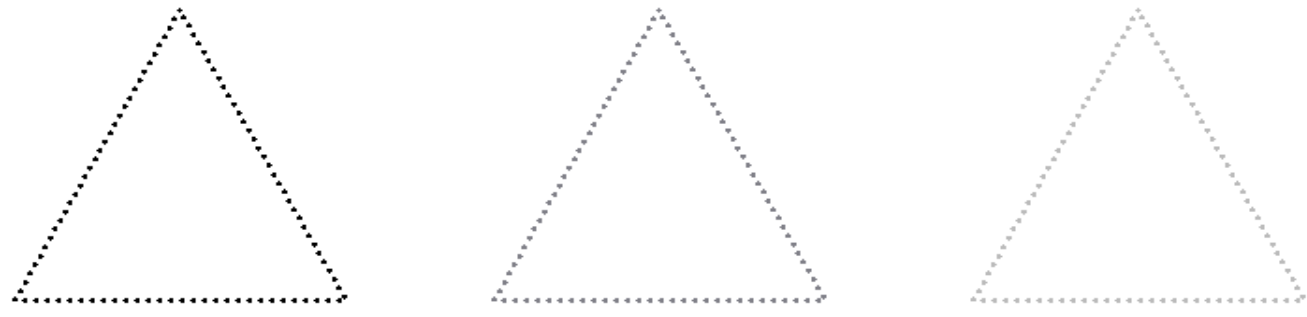
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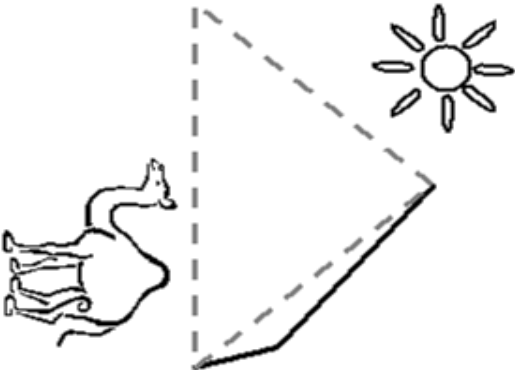
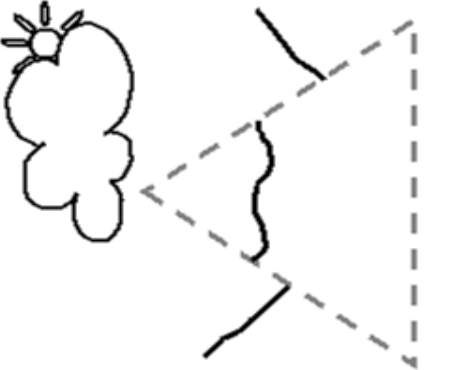
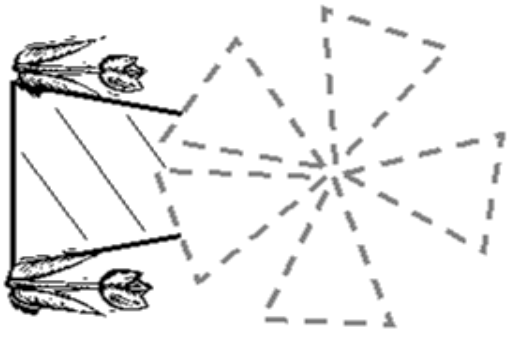
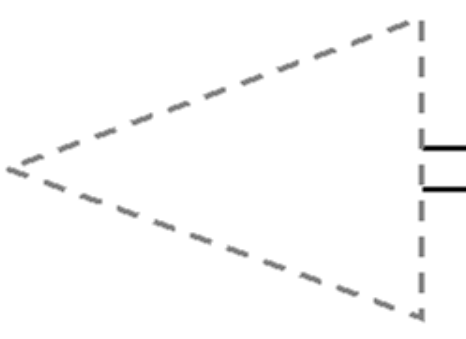
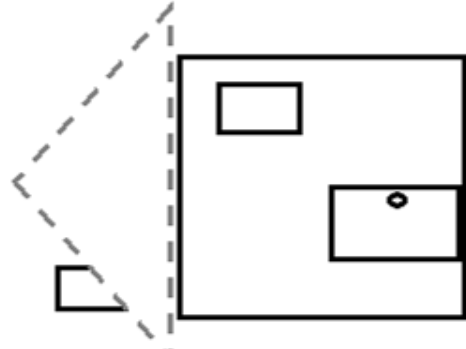
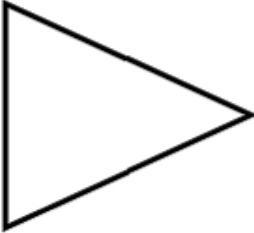
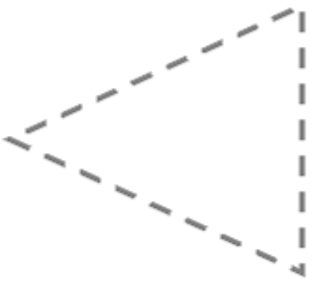
Concepts: B, b, 6, yellow, triangle

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Review songs, letter B and number 6.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Make banana pops with mom
8:15	Free Play.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack: eat banana pops
10:15	Outside time. Field Trip, one of three options – greenhouse, farm, or small pond.
11:15	(Field Trip)
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: could serve “bear” graham crackers
3:30	Outside time: fly a kite, or water-paint the cement walk with large brushes and buckets of water
4:30	Table Time: Horizontal lines pre-printing practice worksheet from Kidzone
4:45	Project: Air Painting. Place sheet of paper in cake pan. Drop paint colors and blow around with half of a straw.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.



Shapes and Colors: Trace the triangles  and color them **yellow**.

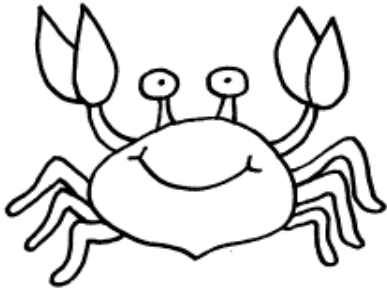
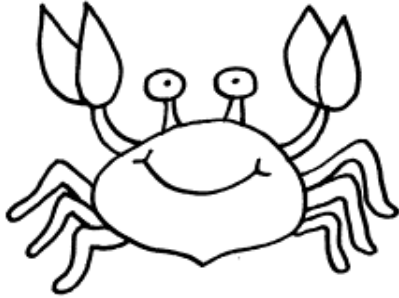


<p>Trace the triangle in the pyramid.</p> 	<p>Trace the triangle in the mountains.</p> 
<p>Trace the triangles in the windmill.</p> 	<p>Trace the triangle in the tree.</p> 
<p>Free printables from: http://www.kidzone.ws</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Itsy Bitsy Books</p> </div>	<p>Trace the triangle in the house.</p> 
<p>Name: _____</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>My Itsy Bitsy Triangles Book</p> </div>	<p>Trace the triangle. There are triangles everywhere!</p> 

Itty book from Kidzone: http://www.kidzone.ws/prek_wrksht/shapes/ib-book-triangles.htm

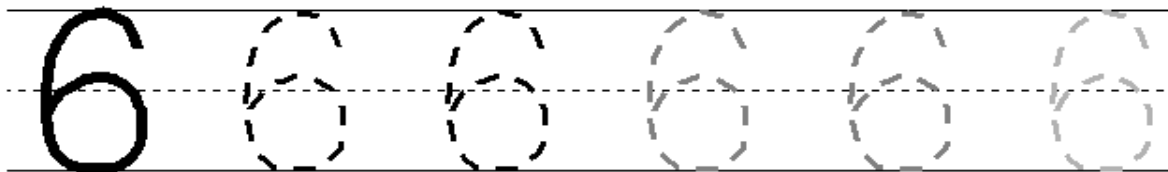
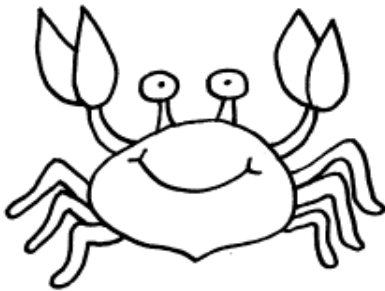
For directions in folding book, visit here: http://www.kidzone.ws/prek_wrksht/shapes/ib-books-photos.htm

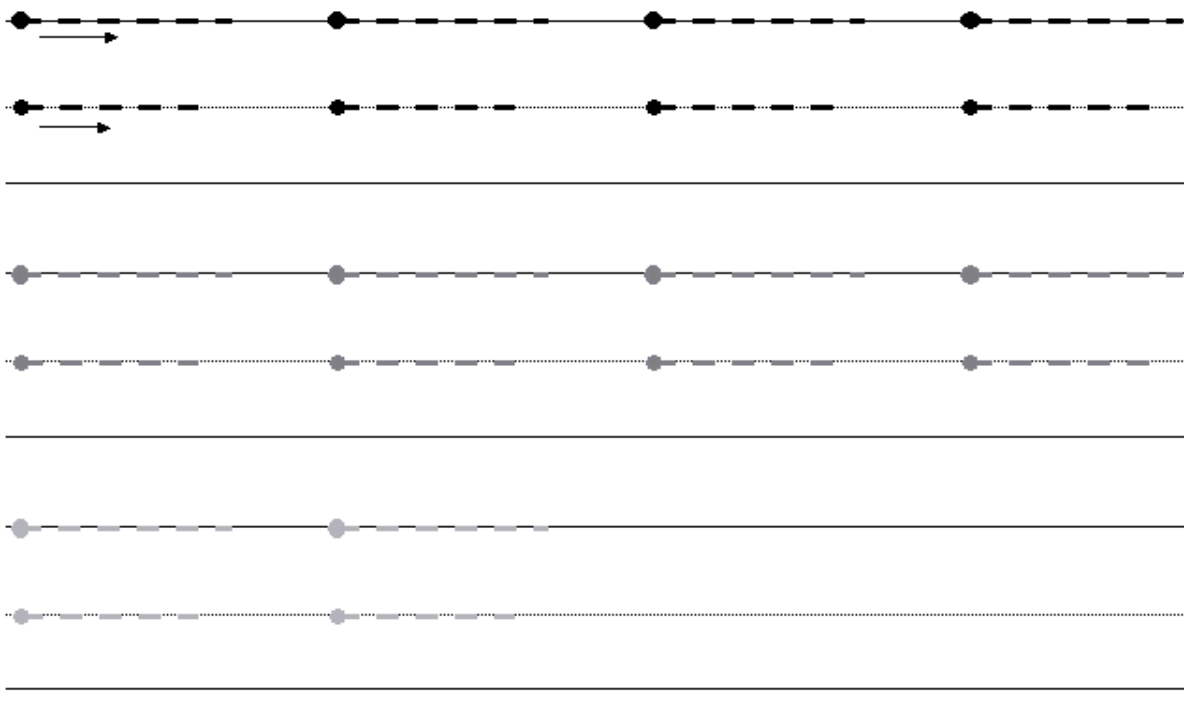
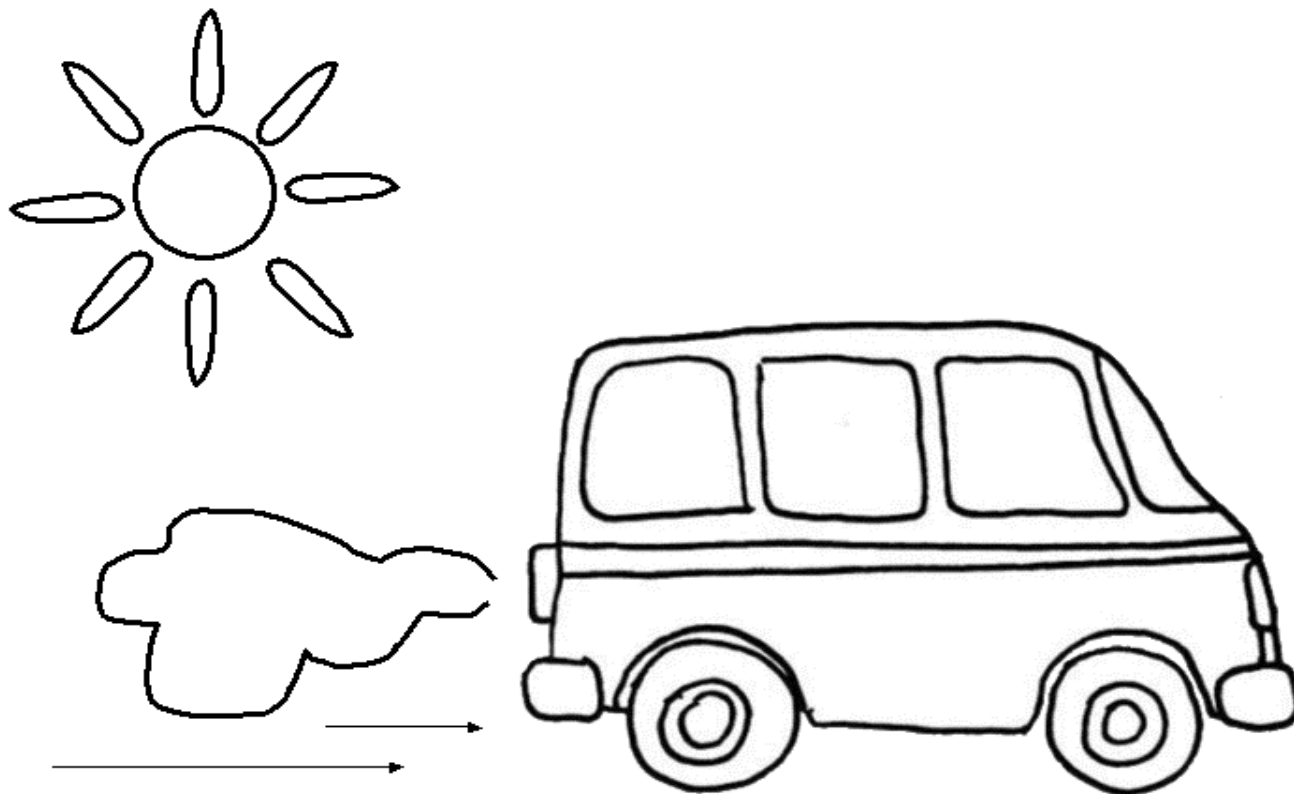
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Crabs





Pre-printing Practice: Trace the dotted lines from left to right.