Old MacDonald's Farm

MATERIALS

FOR STUDENT: (one per student unless otherwise noted)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Blocks, cut from large Foam Block (see "FOR TEACHER" below) to the size needed for the animal
- Paper animals (See "FOR TEACHER" below)
- Toothpick
- Glue stick
- Paper plate

FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Blocks, two 15/16" x 11 15/16 x 17 15/16" (can make barn, base and one set of animals as shown)
- FloraCraft® Design It:® Wire Cutter
- Spray paint, red and grass green
- Cardstock, 8 1/2" x 11" white (for barn trim)
- Copy paper, two sheets per set of animals
- Sheet of white address labels
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Serrated knife
- Paper cutter
- Small, pointed scissors
- Cutting mat or stack of old newspapers
- Large cardboard box (for spraying)
- Computer / printer / Internet
- Photocopier
- Paper towels

LANGUAGE ARTS
GRADE LEVEL
EARLY CHILDHOOD – PRE K

COMPLETION TIME
- 20 minutes

OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- The words to a popular children's song
- The sounds various animals make
- To listen and follow step-by-step instructions
- To use fine motor skills and afterwards, play

STANDARDS

- Identify and sort common objects, pictures and words
- Recite songs, poems and stories with repeated rhyme
- Classify by size and sort color and shape
- Listen with comprehension and follow two-step directions

TEACHER PREPARATION

Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! Decide which students will assemble which animals so that you know how many blocks will be needed. It is recommended that you make one set of animal blocks first, before preparing the materials for the others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare.

[1] Cut out the barn pattern. Use small scissors to cut out and discard the rectangular opening. Align the pattern with two edges of the first foam block and trace with a pencil. Also trace the inside rectangle. On the same foam block, use a ruler and a pencil to measure and make small marks as ruler guides for the 9" x 12" base in the remainder of the foam. Then, on a cutting mat, use a serrated knife against the edge of a ruler to cut the foam along the pencil lines with several passes of the knife for each cut. To cut inside the rectangle, hold the knife very vertically and cut along the pencil lines, removing rectangle.

[2] In a well-ventilated, newspaper-covered area (outside, inside the cardboard box) spray all sides of the barn red and the base green. Apply a second coat as needed and let dry.

Photocopy the barn trim patterns onto white cardstock. Use the paper cutter and small scissors to cut them out. When the barn is dry, glue the trim strips along the roof line (with the top strips overlapping the bottom ones) and the door trim to the center front, aligned with the bottom.

[3] With the second foam block, measure and mark the following sizes for one set of animals:

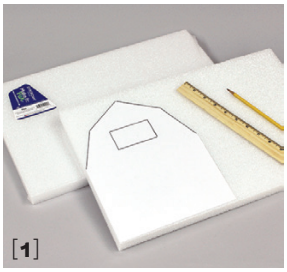
Horse 5" x 6"; Cow 5" square; Sheep 3 3/4" square; Dog 3 3/4" x 3"; Rooster 3 3/4" x 3 1/4"; Pig 3 1/4" x 3 3/4"; Rabbit 2 1/2" x 3 1/2"; Bird 2 1/2" x 2"; and Duck 2" square. Then, on a cutting mat, use a serrated knife against the edge of the ruler to cut the foam along the pencil lines, making several passes of the knife for each cut.

Print the animals on copy paper and use a paper cutter to cut them apart along the light lines. (Note: Papers should be slightly smaller that the foam blocks). Use the wire cutters to cut the toothpicks in half, two halves per animal block. Write each student's name (or print with a computer/printer) on a label and cut them apart.

[4] On a paper plate for each student, set: Foam block, appropriate paper animal, two toothpick halves, glue stick and name label.

LESSON INTRODUCTION

- Show students the barn you've made and discuss farm life, relating it to a field trip or other activity if one is planned. Identify the animal images you have printed with the animal names and discuss the sounds they make (explaining that there are different sound possibilities). Sing the song with the students.
- Explain that they should follow along, one step at a time and that each student will be making an animal block to go on the grass next to the barn, but that you will all do it together.


[1]

[2]

[3]

[4]

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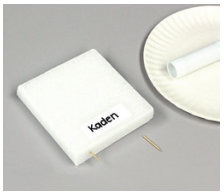
INSTRUCTIONS

[1] Optional – to have smooth edges to the foam: Demonstrate and have the students place the foam block on its edge on the table and press down, rocking it back and forth to compress. Then rotate the cube to the next edge, pressing it down and rocking. Continue rotating until all four edges have been compressed. Turn the cube and compress those four edges, as well. Last, turn the cube again and compress the last four small edges, without rounding the corners (for a total of twelve edges.) Make the cube edges slightly rounded but don't press so hard that their flat surfaces become rounded and then won't set flat on the base.

[2] Demonstrate and have the students use one hand to hold the foam block on the table, while holding the glue stick with the other hand. Have them press the glue stick onto the foam surface. Encourage them to press fairly hard so that glue goes into the porous foam and then builds up on the surface. Remind them to be sure that the glue goes all the way out to the outside of the block but doesn't get on the block sides.

[3] Instruct the students to set their animal paper onto the foam block, with the edges "aligned". The students can smooth the top surface, being careful not to drag any glue onto their animal picture. Have paper towels ready for any messy blocks or fingers.

[4] Ask the students to peel the name label from the backing and attach it to the back of their foam block. Then, they should check where the bottom of their animal is and insert the cut end of the toothpick halves into either side of the bottom edge.



[5] Students can take turns setting their animals down onto the green base in front of the barn, gently pressing the toothpick points into the base.

MODIFICATIONS

To simplify project:

- Use acrylic paint instead of spray paint for the barn and base – or use the barn pattern to trace and cut red cardstock paper to attach to the foam barn shape, using a glue stick.
- Work in small groups with a helper in each group. Have a group of three students take turns gluing so that one can hold the foam while another applies the glue and a third sets paper pieces in place.

To expand project:

- Have students find pictures of other animals that could be added. (Spray another block of foam green and add onto the existing base by connecting with toothpicks.)
- Students can draw their own animals and mount onto foam blocks.

For multiple ages:

- Older students can make the barn instead of you.
- Have older students research on line for more animals and design blocks that younger students can make.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Compare large and small animals to discuss relative size.
- Play a game by singing the song, having someone say the animal name and the students take turns finding the animal and saying the first letter of the name.
- Use for a science unit to study animals.
- Design other themes (songs, nursery rhymes, etc.) using the foam blocks on foam base concept. For more animal and children patterns go to Blackleaf Studios www.shopblackleaf.com

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TIPS

- If desired, for greater durability, before cutting apart any animal paper pieces, laminate the fronts (only). (If you laminate the back, the students won't be able to glue them to the blocks.
- When drawing animal blocks on the foam, position the same measurements in a line for ease in cutting.
- Keep the serrated knife blade perpendicular to the table so that the foam edges are straight. Score the foam lightly first and then press more firmly to cut deeper with several passes of the knife.
- For safety in cutting toothpicks, cut them inside a large paper bag, to catch any flying pieces.
- Print and cut extras of animals, just in case one becomes glue-damaged.
- When cutting triangular openings in the door trim, use the point of the scissors to make an approx. 1" diameter hole in each triangle area. This gives the scissors room to move as you cut along the triangle lines.
- For storage, don't glue the barn or the animal blocks to the base. For a permanent display, use the glue stick (or glue gun) on the bottom of the barn to attach it. But it's suggested not to glue the animal blocks so that they can still be movable.
- If the name labels come off, apply glue stick directly onto the foam and press the label back in place.

REFERENCES

Old MacDonald Had A Farm by Salina Yoon
Farmyard Beat by Lindsey Craig
E-I-E-I-O! How Old MacDonald Got His Farm With A Little Help From A Hen by Judy Sierra
A Visit To A Farm by D. M. Rice

PATTERN

BARN

Print at 165% enlargement

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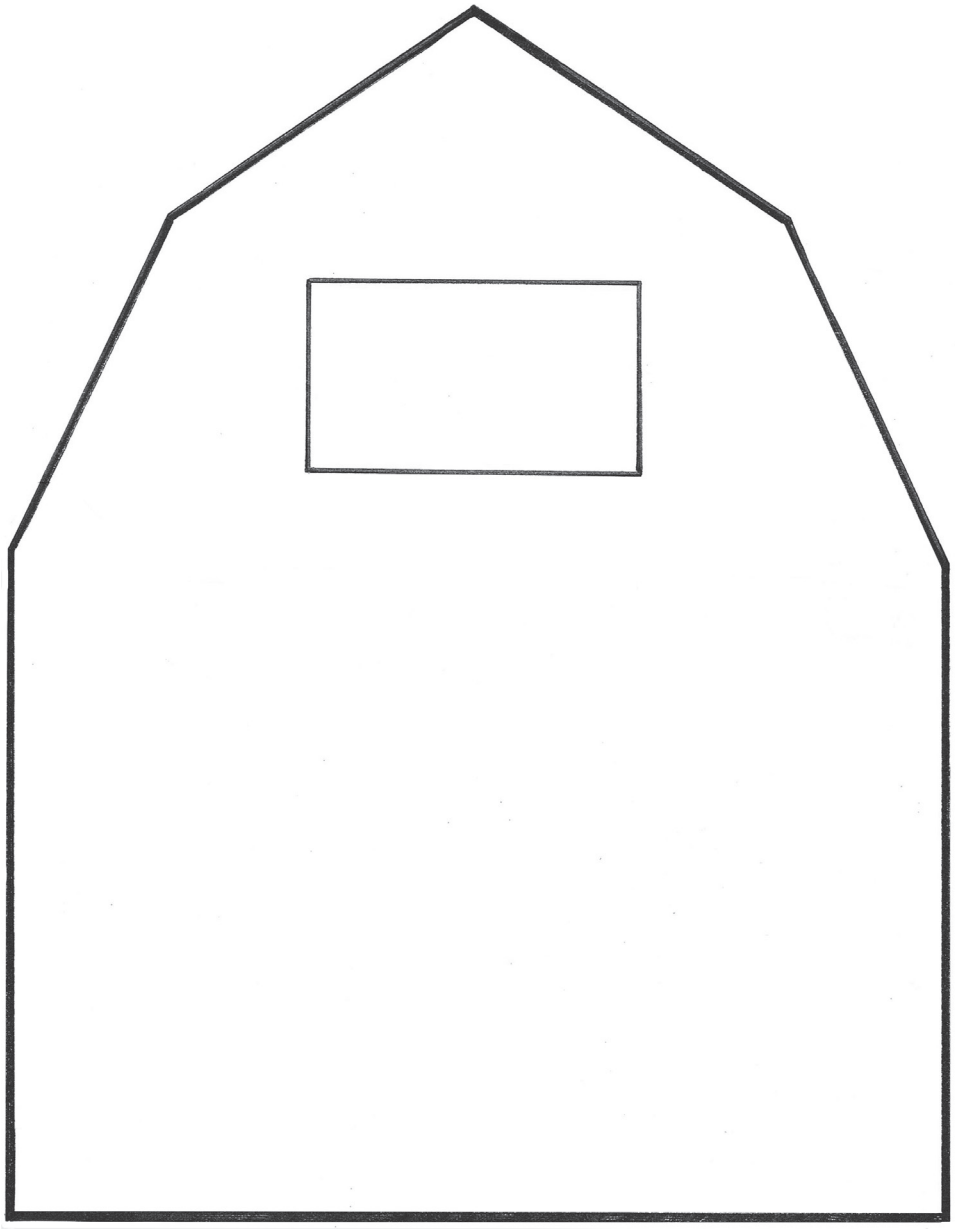

PATTERN

DOOR AND ROOF TRIM

Print at 100%

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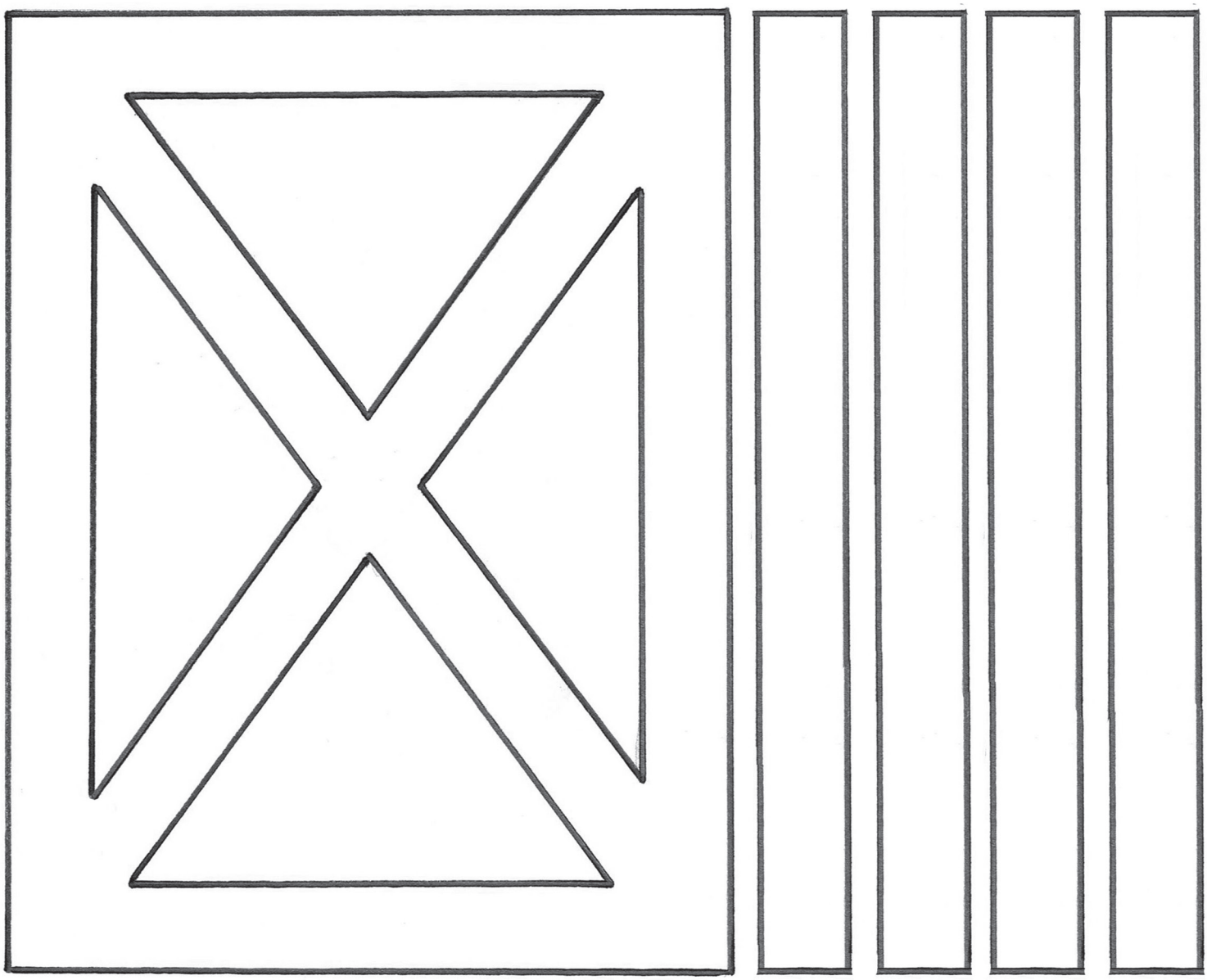

PATTERN

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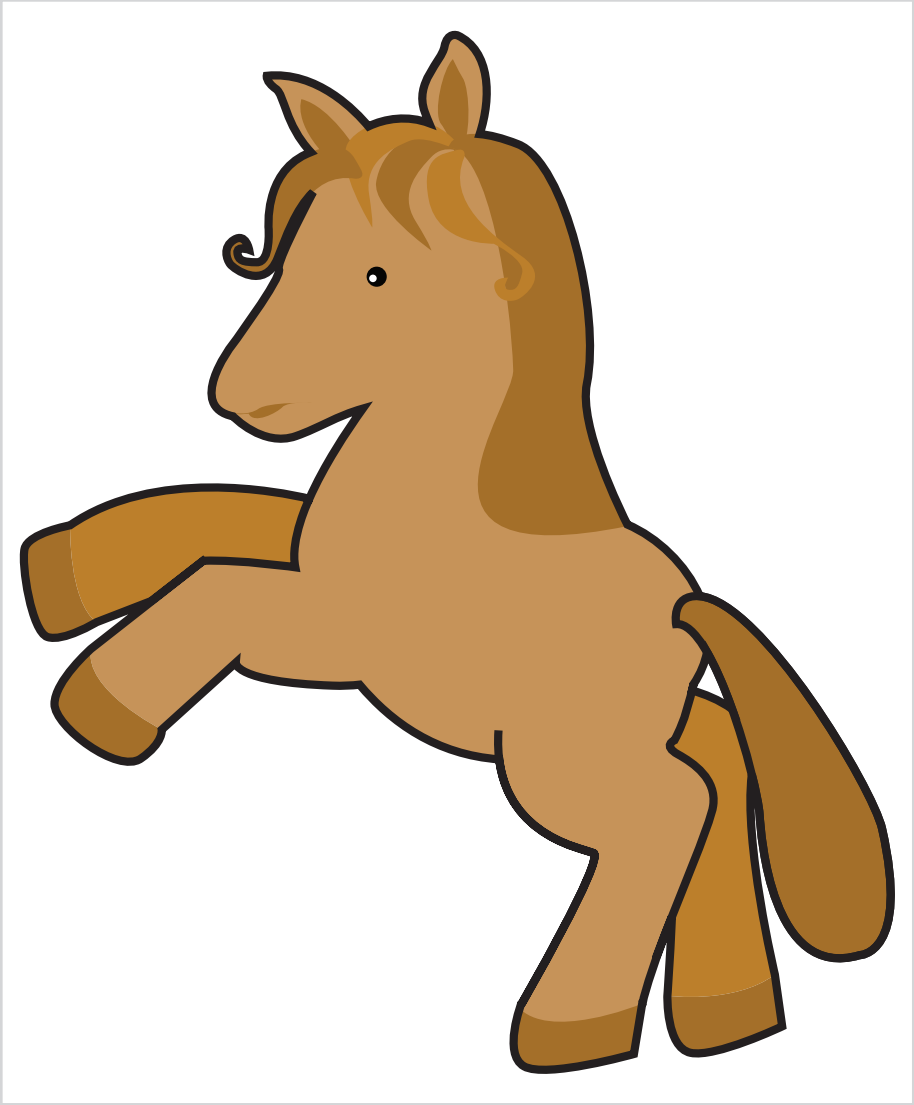

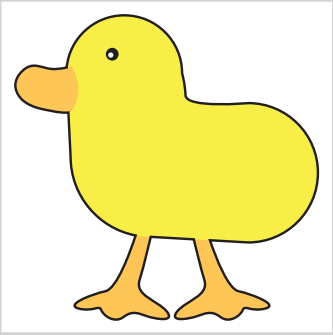

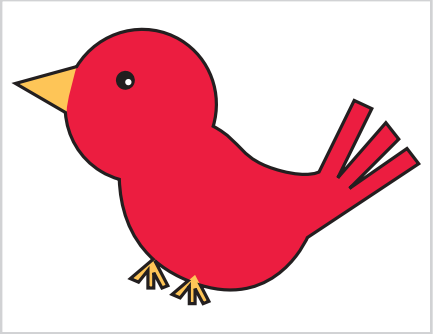

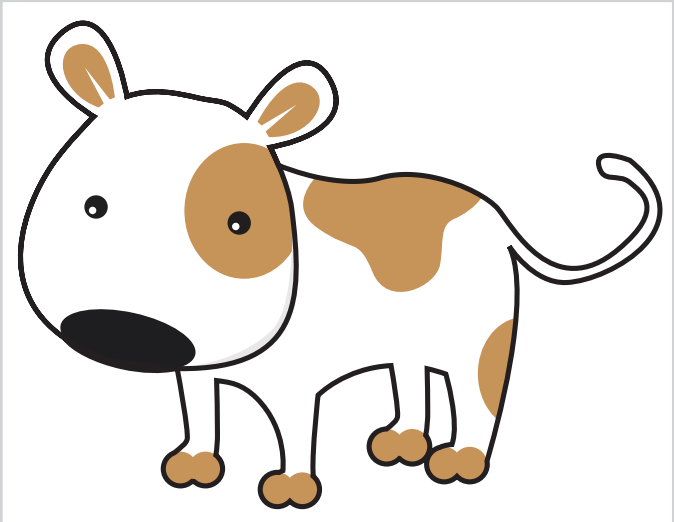

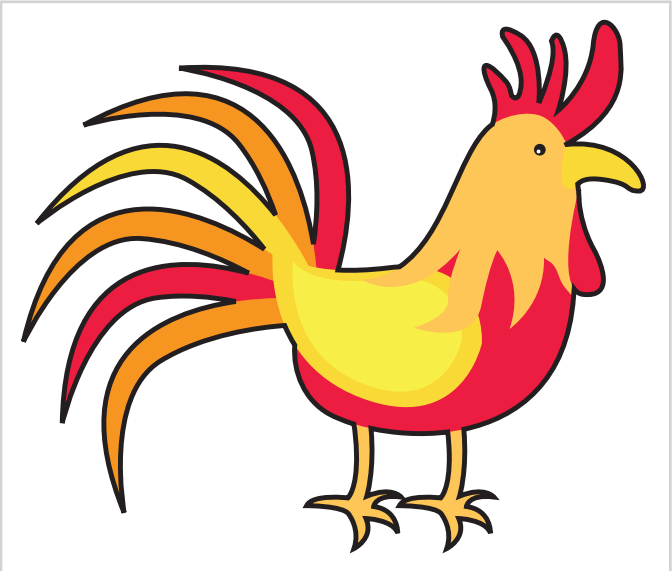

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PATTERN

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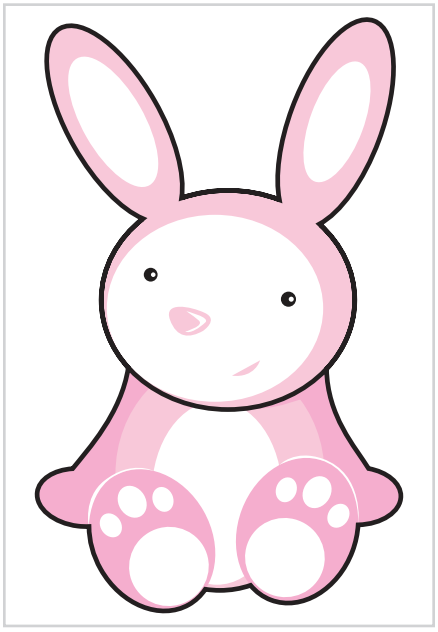

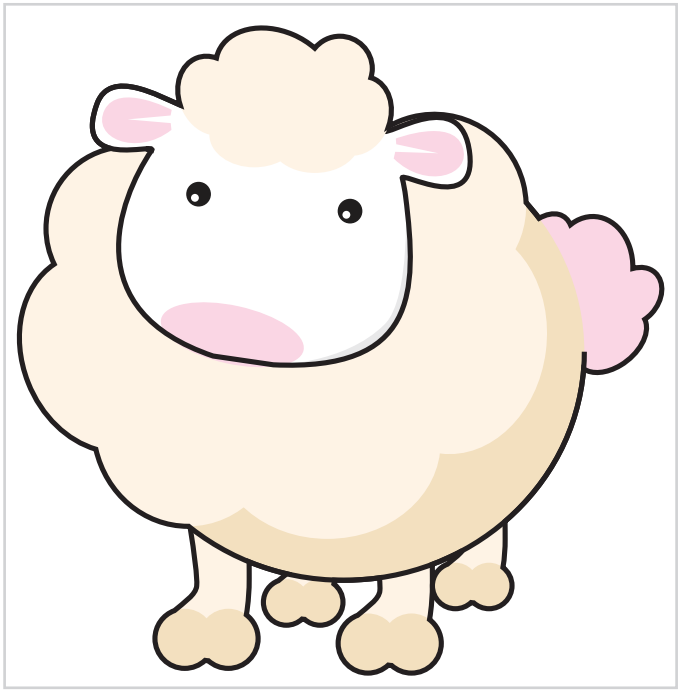

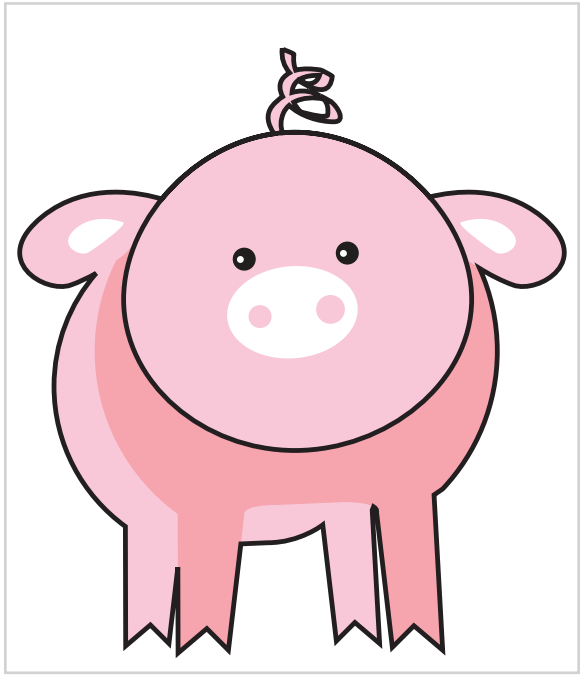

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