

#the WORLD is in YOUR HANDS

AN EARTH DAY UNIT



THANKS!

Thank you so much for purchasing this unit! I created this unit as a fun way for students to learn about Earth Day.

If you have any questions about this resource, please feel free to e-mail me at

lyndseykuster@gmail.com.

TRUE or FALSE

activity

This is a great activity that gets students' thinking! I suggest doing this activity as a motivator before learning about ways to care for the Earth!

I used this activity as part of an observation lesson last year, which is why it is broken down word-for-word!

TRUE or FALSE activity

Let's Get Moving! - Quickly introduce students to true/false terms using posters. Display PowerPoint of true/false situations. Tell students to move to the "true" side of the classroom (where the "true" poster is displayed) if they think the statement on the screen/poster is real or actual. Tell students to move to the "false" side of the classroom (where the "false" poster is displayed) if they think the statement on the screen is unreal or fake.

Read the following true/false statements on the screen to the class:

Teacher: True or False: With the garbage we produce in America, we could form a line of filled-up garbage trucks and reach the moon.

Anticipated Response: Students will move to the "false" side of the classroom. Explain that this fact is actually TRUE. Display the visual on the screen. Teacher will say, "Can you believe it? That is a lot of trash!"

TRUE or FALSE activity

Teacher: True or False: We use about 20 trees worth of paper in our lifetime.

Anticipated Response: Students will move to the “true” side of the classroom. Explain that this statement is FALSE. Say, “The average American will use 465 trees for paper in their lifetime! Wow, sounds like a whole forest! If we recycled that paper, all those trees wouldn’t need to be cut down!”

Teacher: True or False: Plastic is the only thing we can recycle.

Anticipated Response: Students will move to the “false” side of the classroom. Explain that this statement is FALSE. Teacher will say, “We can recycle a lot of different materials. Can anyone name one?” Students respond with, “paper,” “glass,” “metal,” “clothes,” (Answers will vary depending on the students’ background knowledge.) Teacher will say, “Excellent thinking! You all did a great job playing our true/false game. Now, let’s come on down to the carpet to take a closer look at ways we can care for the Earth.”

TRUE or FALSE activity

Teacher: True or False: We use about 20 trees worth of paper in our lifetime.

Anticipated Response: Students will move to the “true” side of the classroom. Explain that this statement is FALSE. Say, “The average American will use 465 trees for paper in their lifetime! Wow, sounds like a whole forest! If we recycled that paper, all those trees wouldn’t need to be cut down!”

Teacher: True or False: Americans use enough plastic cups, forks, and spoons in one year to circle the Earth 300 times.

Anticipated Response: Students will move to the “false” side of the classroom. Explain that this fact is actually TRUE. Display the visual on the screen. Teacher will say, “How sad! This problem could be solved if people chose to use silverware instead of plastic!”

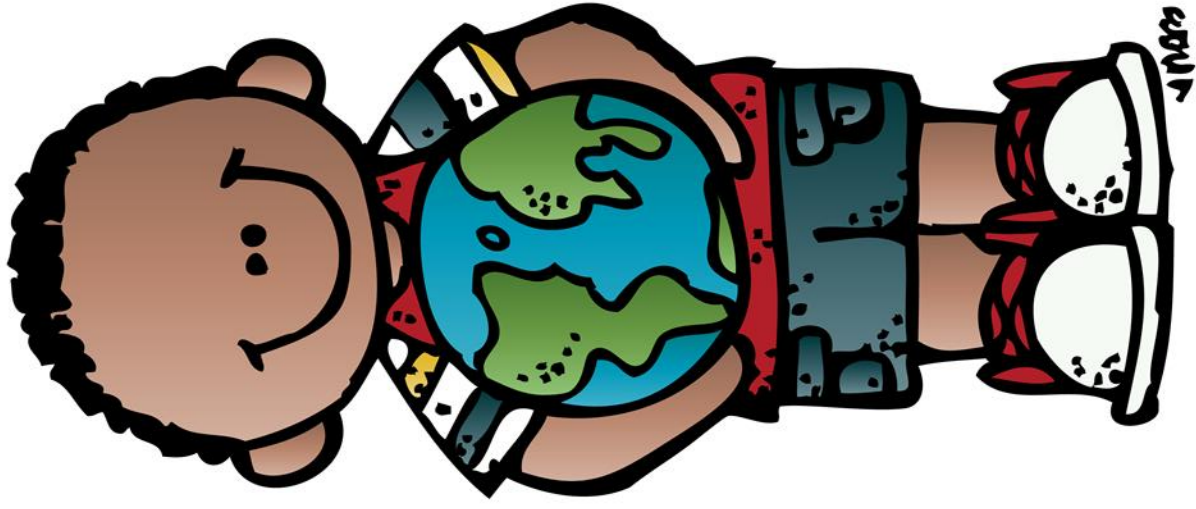
TRUE or FALSE **activity**

Teacher: True or False: Every year, Americans waste enough food to fill an entire football stadium.

Anticipated Response: Students will move to the “false” side of the classroom (thinking that a lot less is wasted). Explain that this statement is FALSE. Say, “Not every YEAR, but every DAY Americans waste enough food to fill an entire football stadium. It’s important to take only the amount of food you plan on eating.”

TRUE

something
that is REAL.



FALSE

**something
that is
NOT REAL.**



What Do
YOU
think?

**True
—OR—
False?**



With the garbage we produce in America, we could form a line of filled-up garbage trucks and reach the moon.

What Do
YOU
think?

**True
—OR—
False?**

Americans use enough plastic cups, forks, and spoons in one year to circle the Earth 300 times.

What do
YOU
think?

**True
—OR—
False?**



We use about 20
trees worth of
paper in our lifetime.

What Do
YOU
think?

**True
—OR—
False?**



Every year, Americans waste enough food to fill an entire football stadium.

What DO
YOU
think?

True
—OR—
False?



Plastic bottles are
the only things we
can recycle.

vocab

**Display these
vocabulary cards
in your classroom.
Refer to these
posters as you
are teaching your
students all about
ways to care for
the Earth!**

REDUCE

**means to use less
and not waste**

**Turn off the
water while
you are
washing
dishes or
brushing
your teeth.**



REUSE

**means to use
something over and
over again**

**Use a
glass cup
instead
of a
plastic
cup.**



RECYCLE

**means to use
materials from
old items to make
something new**



**Recycled
newspaper
can be
turned into
egg cartons!**

CONSERVE

to save
and use
carefully



POLLUTION

when gases,
smoke, and
trash make the
air, water, and
land dirty



PROTECT

to keep
safe from
harm



HABITAT

the home of
a plant or
animal



Name: _____

Date: _____

Earth day WORDS!

WORD

DRAWING

WHAT IT MEANS?

WORD

DRAWING

WHAT IT MEANS?

LITTER MONSTER

story

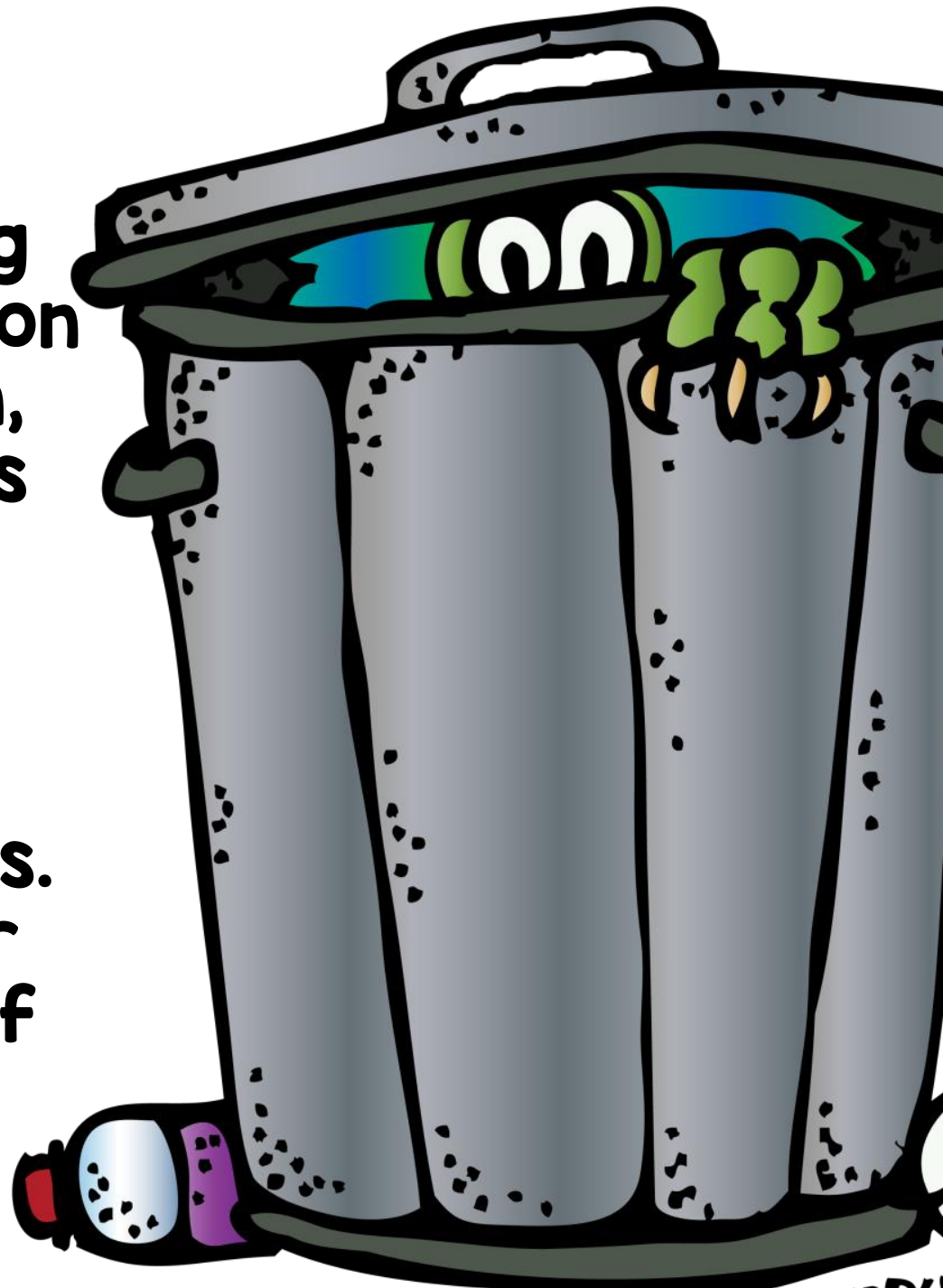
This fun story all about the Litter Monster will help your students understand why it's important to care for the Earth. After reading, have your students make a "litter monster" out of reusable/recyclable materials.



DON'T Be a LITTER MONSTER

BY: LINDSEY KUSTER

**This is the
Litter Monster.
He eats everything
in sight. He thrives on
trash and pollution,
and he never turns
off the light.
He would rather
drive than walk,
and he buys way
more than he needs.
The Litter Monster
thinks it is a way of
life, but really it's
just greed.**





**“Excuse me,” I say,
“Why is it that you don’t
care? Don’t you see what
you’re doing down here
and up there? You see,
Litter Monster, I used to
be just like you. I used to
be wasteful and want
everything brand new.
Until one day all of the
pollution caused a cough
that would not go away.
I tried to take medicine,
but I still coughed night
and day.”**

“It all changed when I learned about three very special R’s. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. They’re really not that hard.

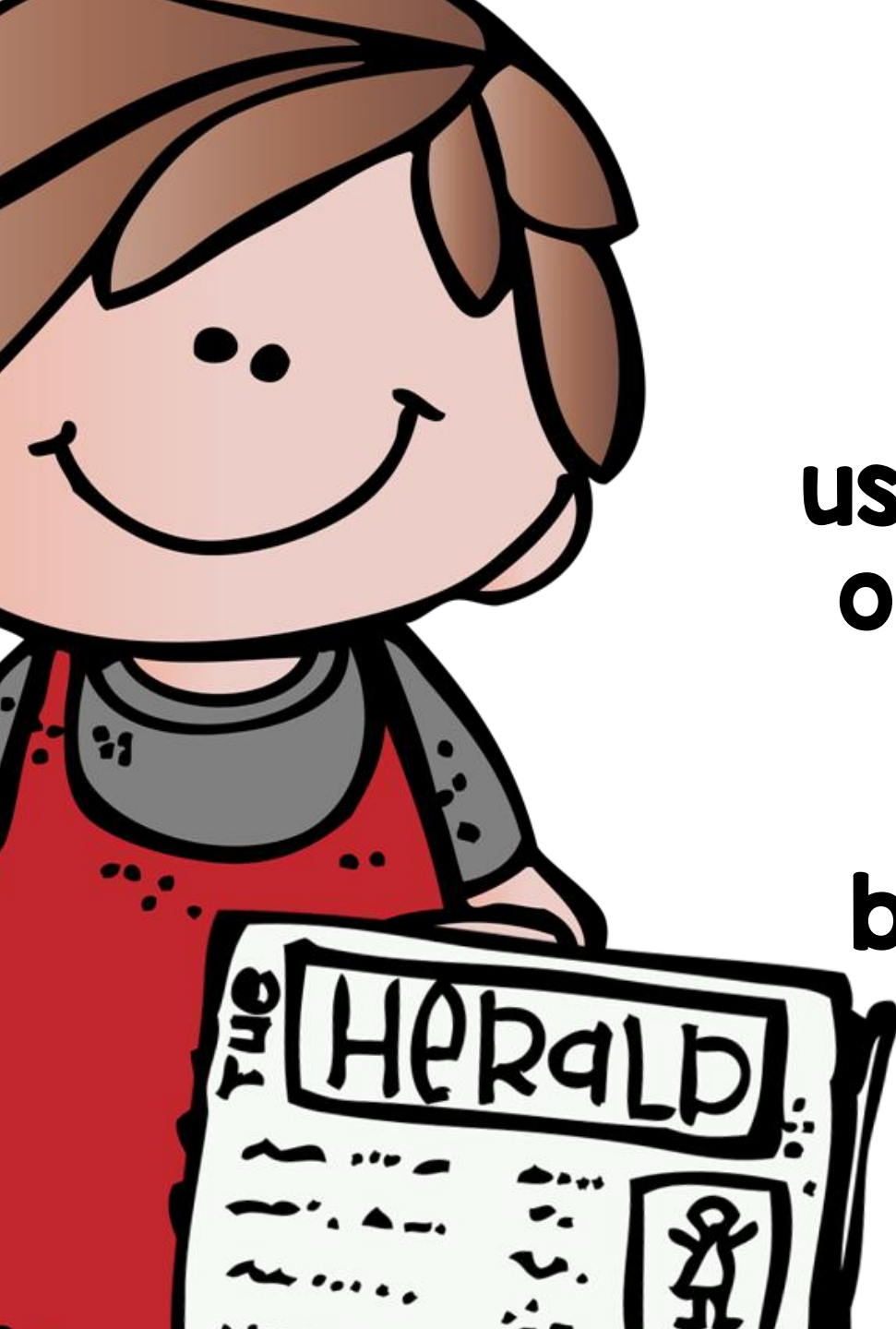
The first R is **REDUCE**, which means to use less and not waste.

Like turning off the water after you’ve squirted out your toothpaste.”





“The second R is **REUSE**, which means to use something over and over, rather than throw it out. Reusing items will make the Earth a cleaner place without a doubt!”



“The third R is **RECYCLE**, which means to use materials from old items to make something new. Like recycling bottles, cans, and newspaper... it’s very easy to do.”

The little girl begged, “Will you please, Litter Monster, give those three special R’s a try? With your help there will be less pollution in the sky.”

The Litter Monster sat and listened to what the little girl had to say. Then he stood and shouted, “I will change my ways TODAY!”

After that, the little girl and the Litter Monster became dear friends. They’ll follow the three R’s until the very, very end!

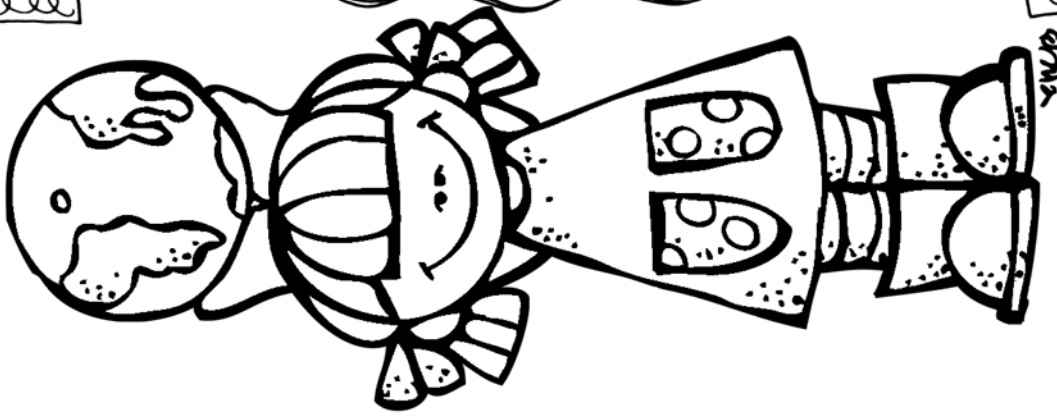


Earth Day activities

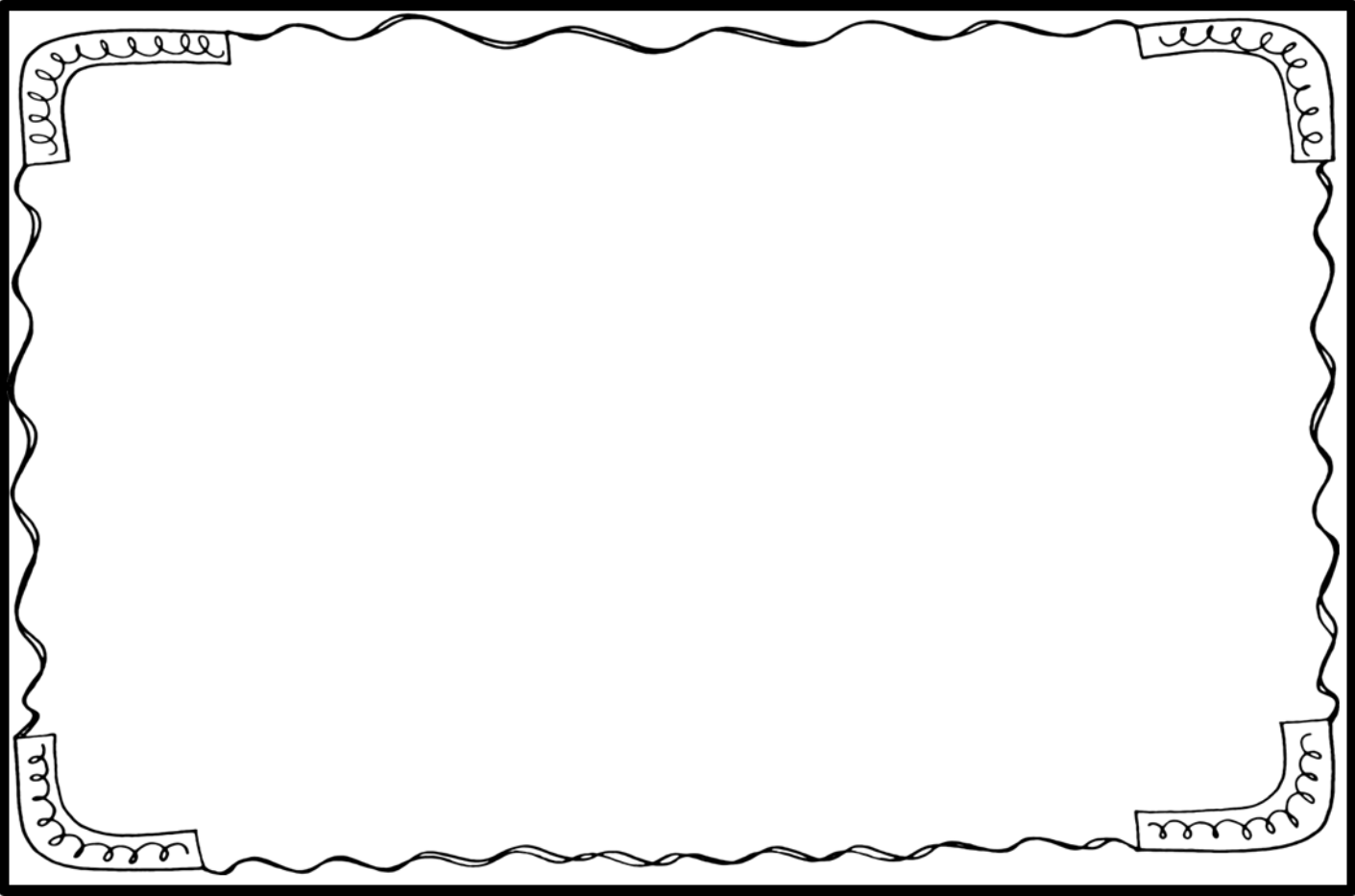
**The following activities can be completed after reading all about The Litter Monster and the 3 R's.
ENJOY!**

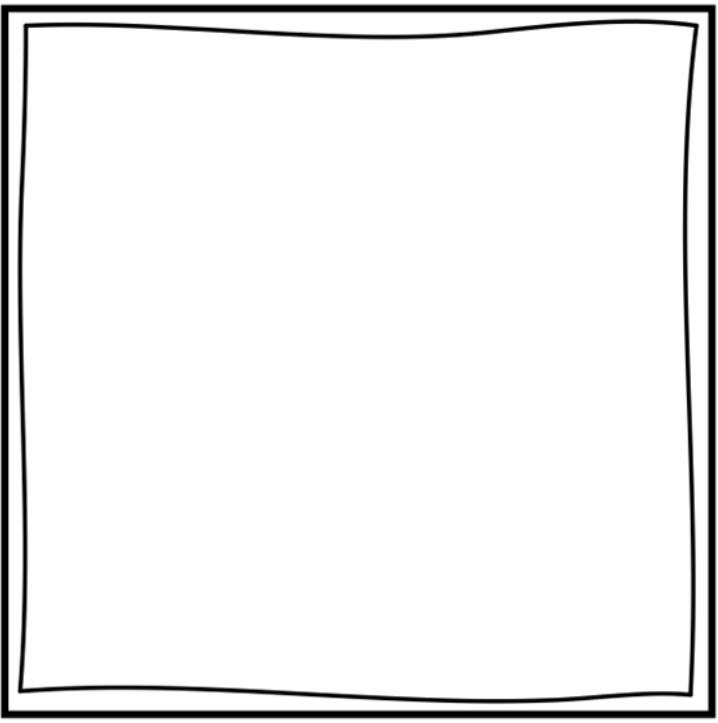
You can do the Helpful/Harmful sorting activity as a whole group or in small groups. You could even break your class into little bundles of three or four and give them time to discuss how the characters who made harmful choices could improve.

FYI: For the 3 R's book, students can draw pictures for the words on each page. To print the book, print and copy front/back. Copy pages 29 and 30 front/back and pages 31 and 32 front/back. Then, staple the book together.

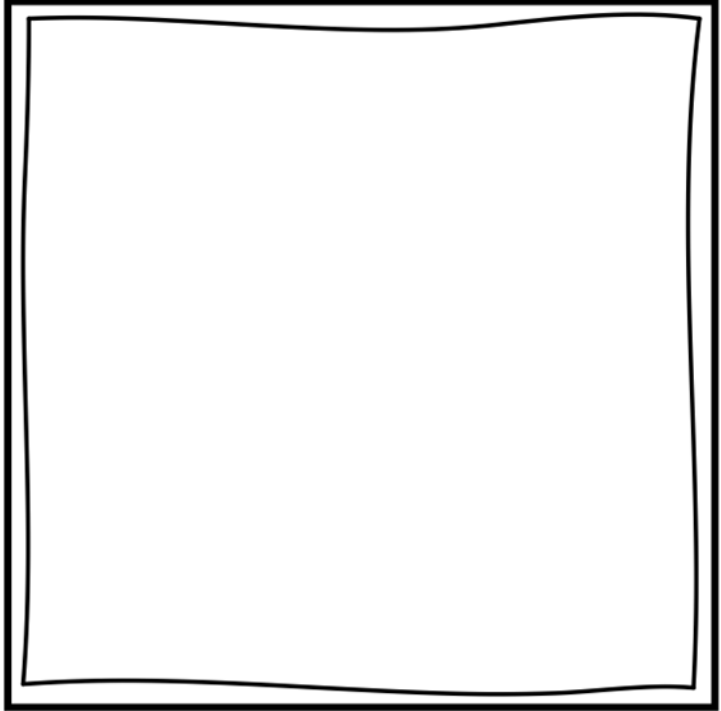


ALL ABOUT THE THREE R'S

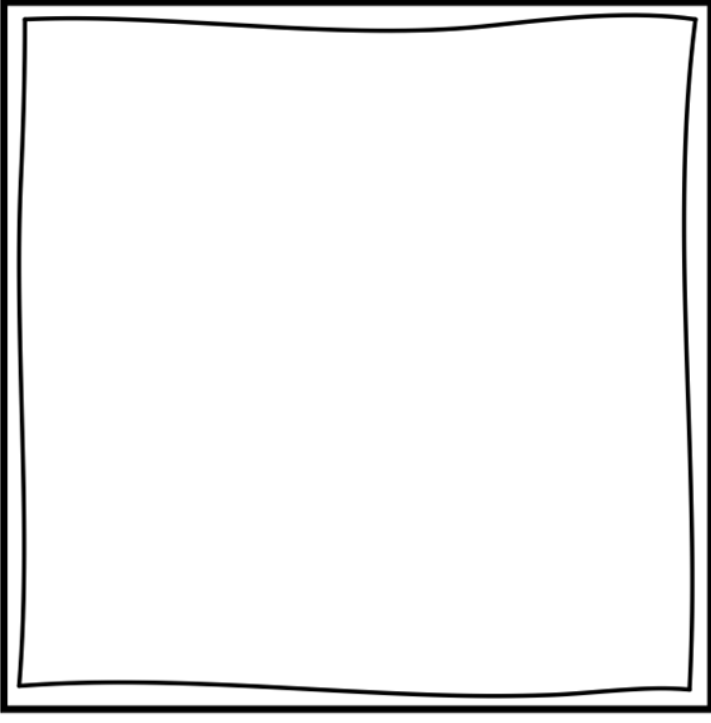




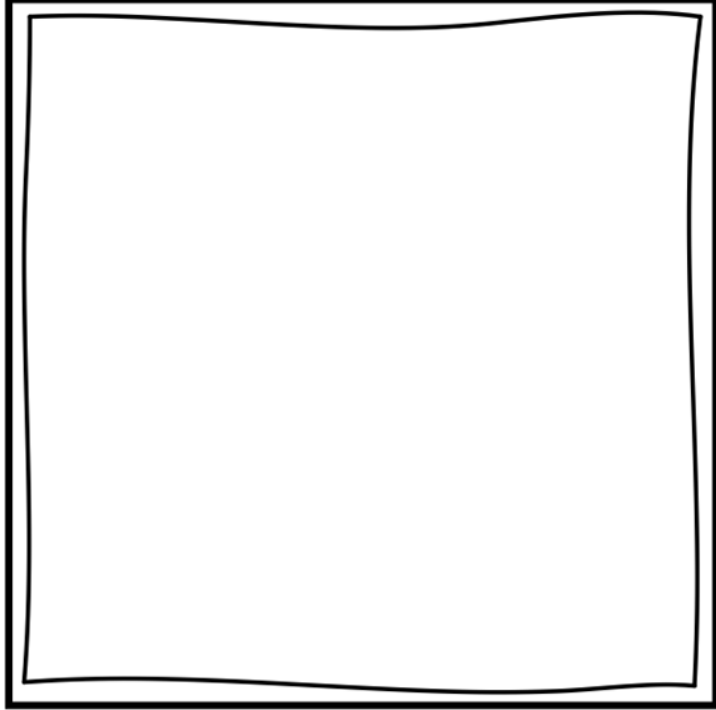
Can you think of some
things you can do
today to help care for
the Earth?



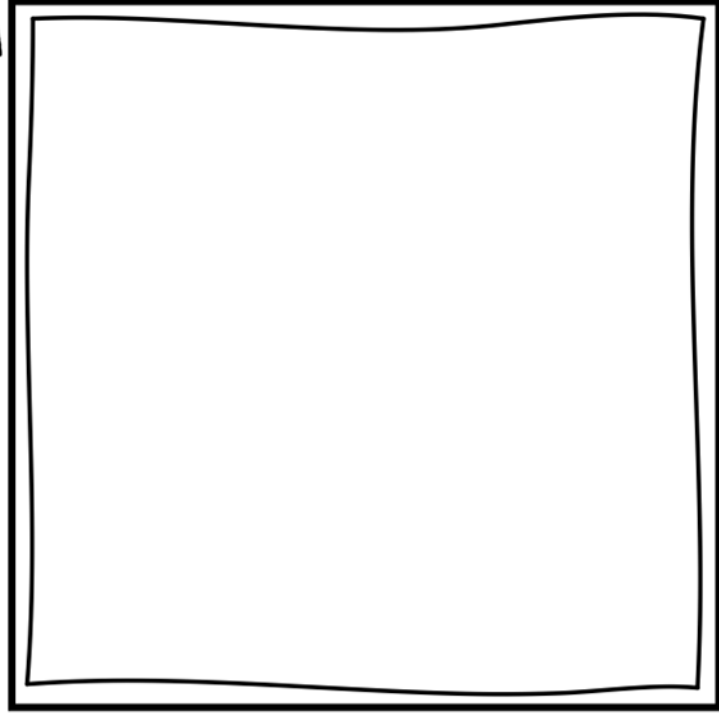
Did you know that one
person throws away over
1,000 pounds of trash a
year? Americans throw
away enough waste to
form a line of filled-up
garbage trucks and reach
the moon.



Everyone can help make the Earth a cleaner and healthier place just by making a few small changes in their lives.

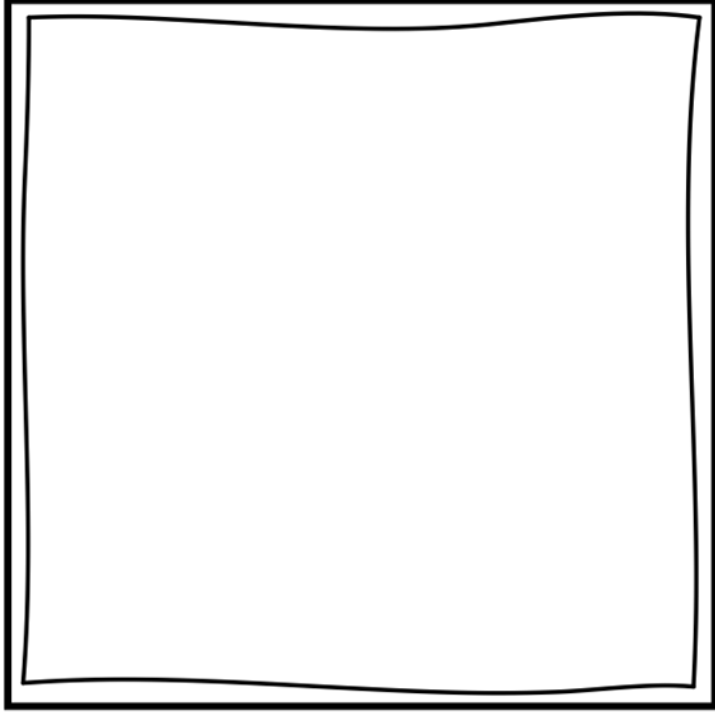


How Can We Recycle?
When you recycle, you use materials from old items to make new items. You can recycle glass, paper, cans, plastic, and even electronics. Did you know that the plastic bottles you recycle could one day be used to make a playground?



How Can We Reduce Waste?

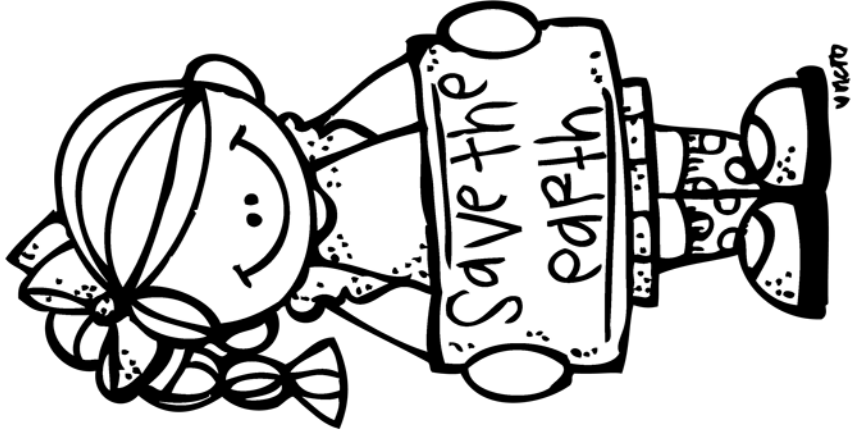
We can reduce waste by using less of things we don't need. For example, turn off the water and the lights when you are not using them.



How Can We Reuse Items?

Many items can be reused, rather than thrown away. Reused means to use over and over again. Instead of throwing away a glass jar, you can wash it out and use it again for another purpose.

CARING for the EARTH

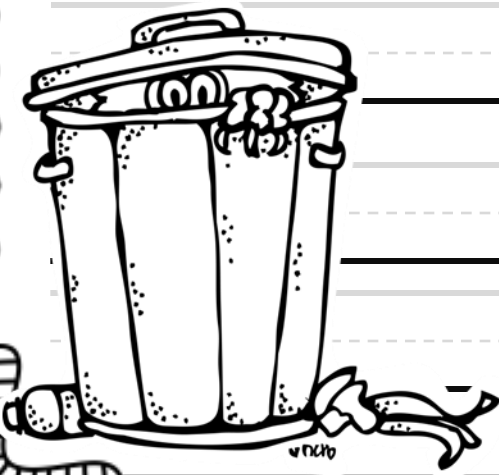


REDUCE

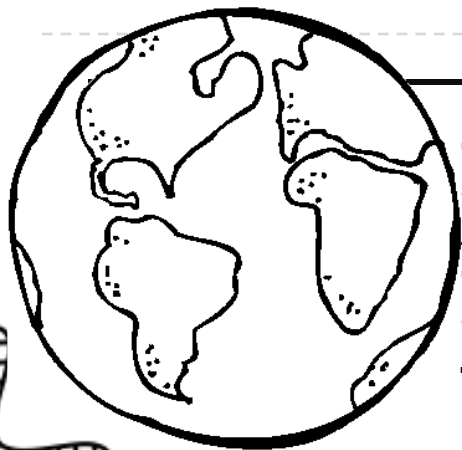
REUSE

RECYCLE

Dear Litter Monster,



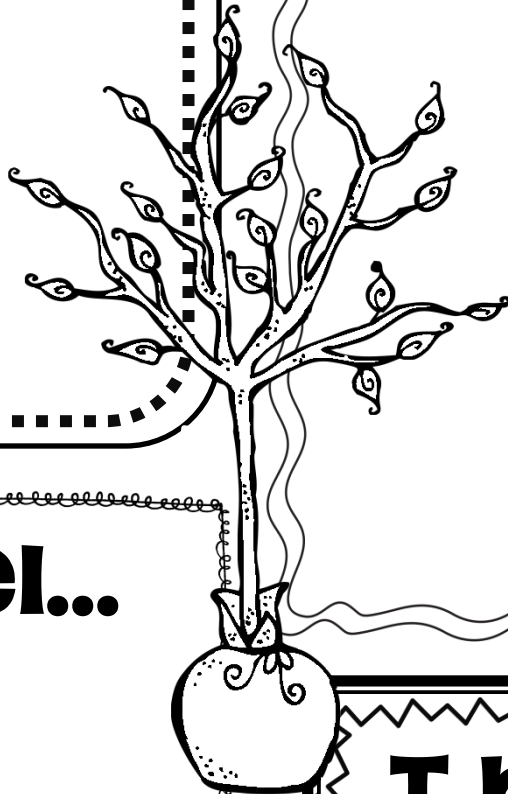
Dear Mother Earth,



OUR NATURE WALK!

I see...

I smell...



I feel...

I hear...

Earth FACTS



Four horizontal lines for writing, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, a solid bottom line, and a solid bottom-most line.



Four horizontal lines for writing, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, a solid bottom line, and a solid bottom-most line.

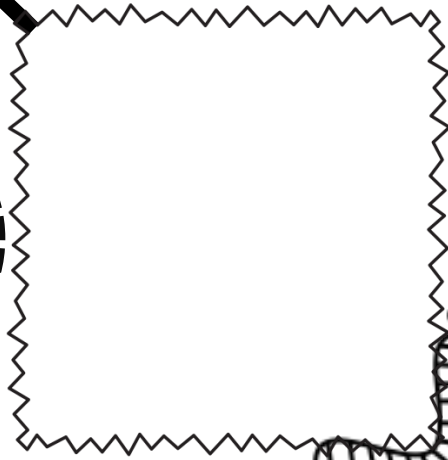
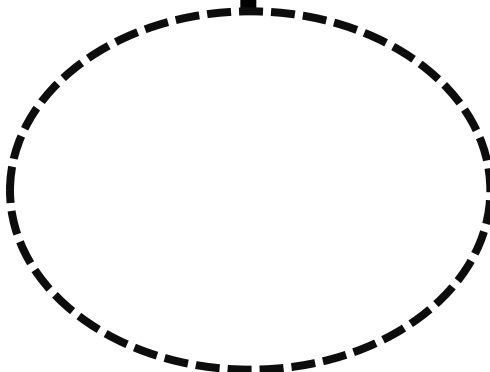
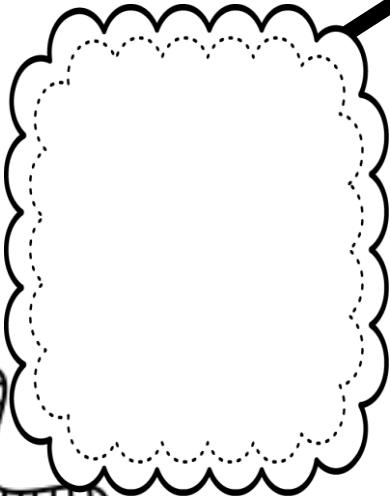
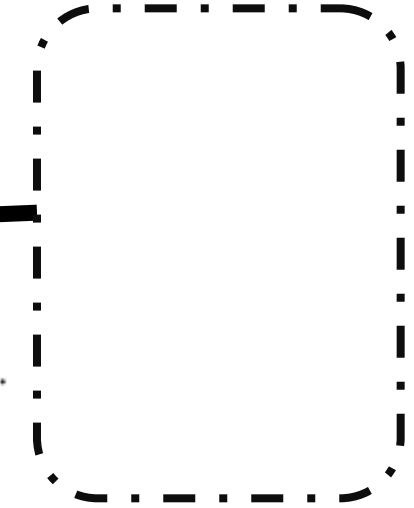
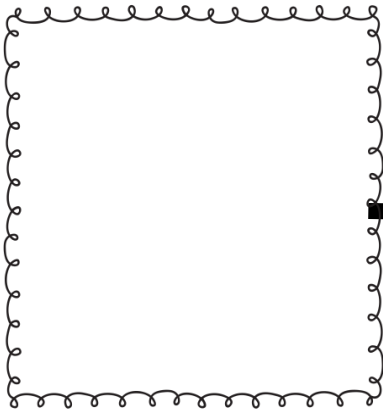
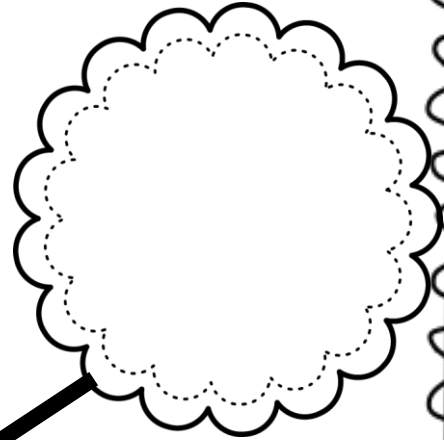
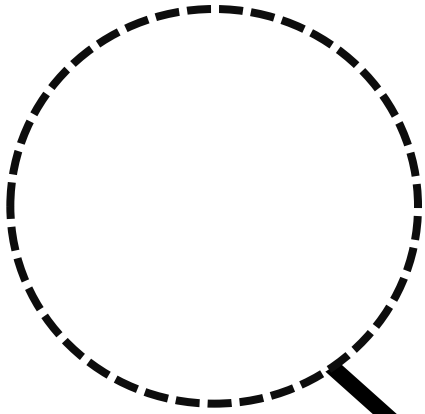


Four horizontal lines for writing, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, a solid bottom line, and a solid bottom-most line.

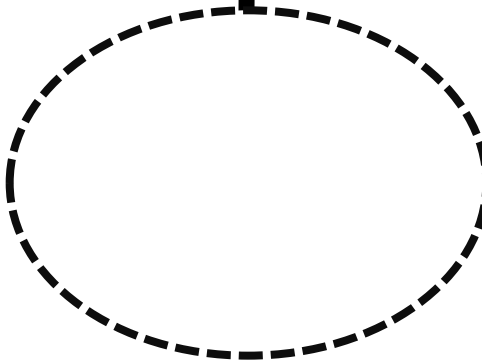
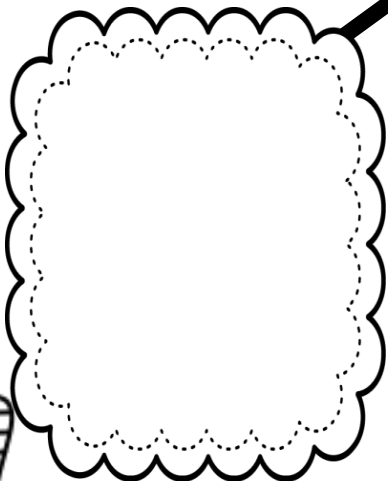
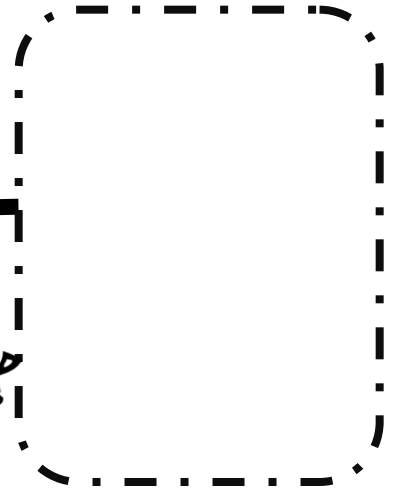
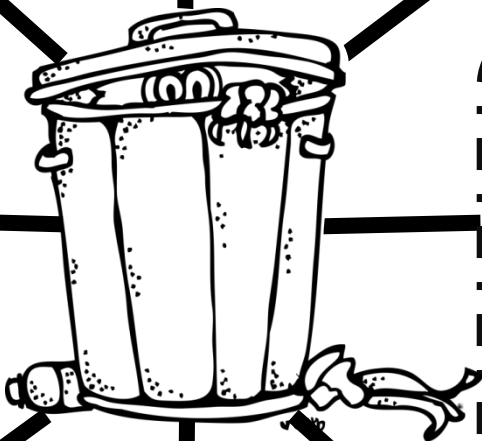
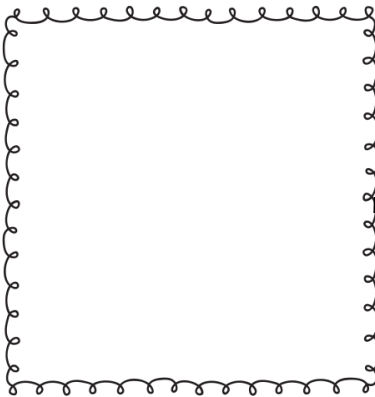
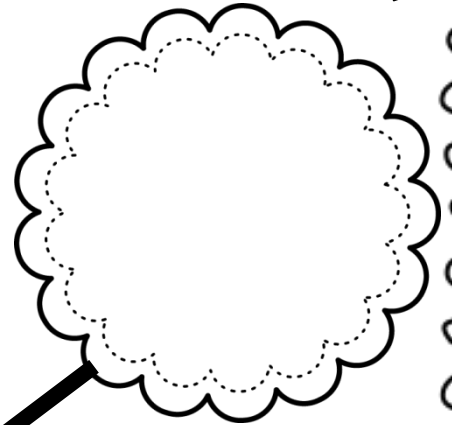
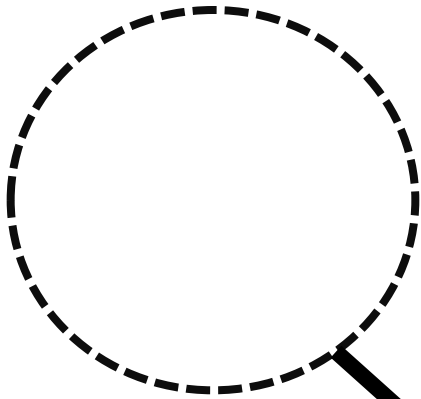


OUR Earth!

Directions: Write words that describe what the Earth means to you.



How to NOT be a... **LITTER MONSTER**



Name: _____

HELPFUL or HARMFUL?

Decide if each situation will help or hurt the Earth. Sort it in the correct column.

helpful

harmful

Pick up trash at a park.

Leave the water running while washing dishes.

Pour chemicals down the drain.

Plant a tree.

Donate toys.

Leave the lights on when you leave your house.

Recycle cans and bottles.

Dump waste into the ocean.

Take shorter showers.

Drink from reusable bottles.

Drive to the store instead of walk.

Throw trash out of the window.

OUR EARTH

E

A

R

T

H

Name : _____ Date : _____

EARTH DAY!

Draw one way you can help the Earth!

Write 3 things you can recycle.



I'm thankful for the Earth because...

How can you keep the Earth clean?

Name: _____



HOORAY FOR EARTH DAY!

Earth
reuse
reduce

recycle
litter
green

plastic
paper
glass

r	e	u	s	e	g	p	l	l	l
e	s	u	n	f	r	h	r	m	i
d	g	p	a	p	e	r	a	u	t
u	l	i	n	o	e	a	i	m	t
c	a	r	c	s	n	r	n	z	e
e	s	i	l	e	a	r	t	h	r
c	s	s	p	l	a	s	t	i	c
k	r	e	c	y	c	l	e	k	h

The three R'S



Handwriting practice lines for the 'Reduce' section, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



Handwriting practice lines for the 'Reuse' section, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



Handwriting practice lines for the 'Recycle' section, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



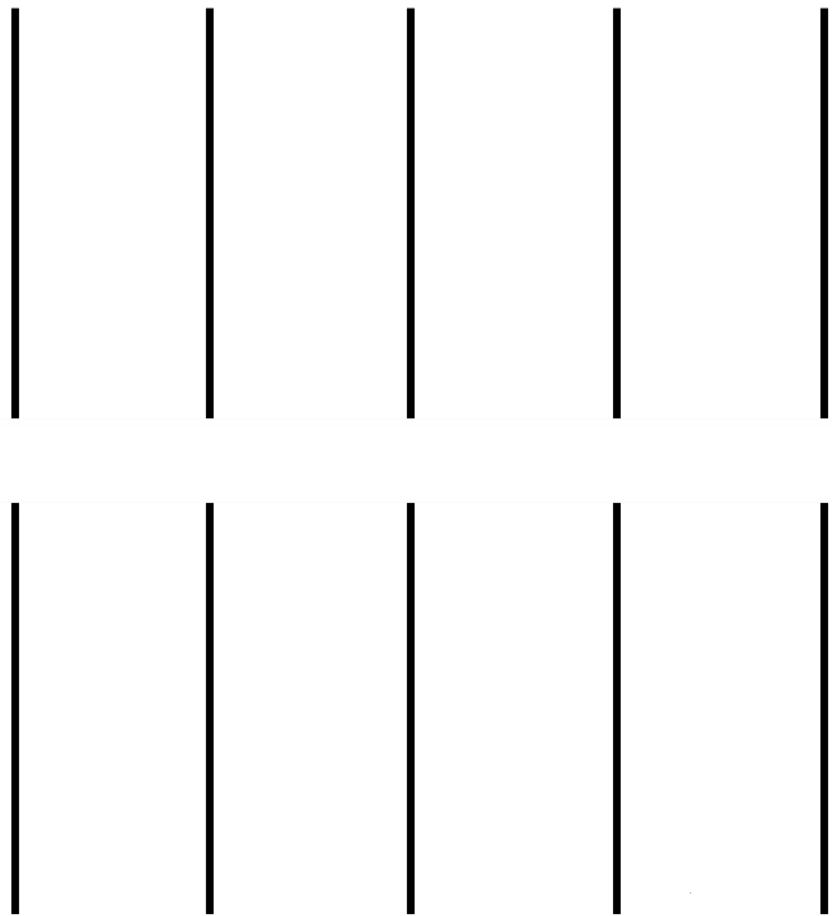
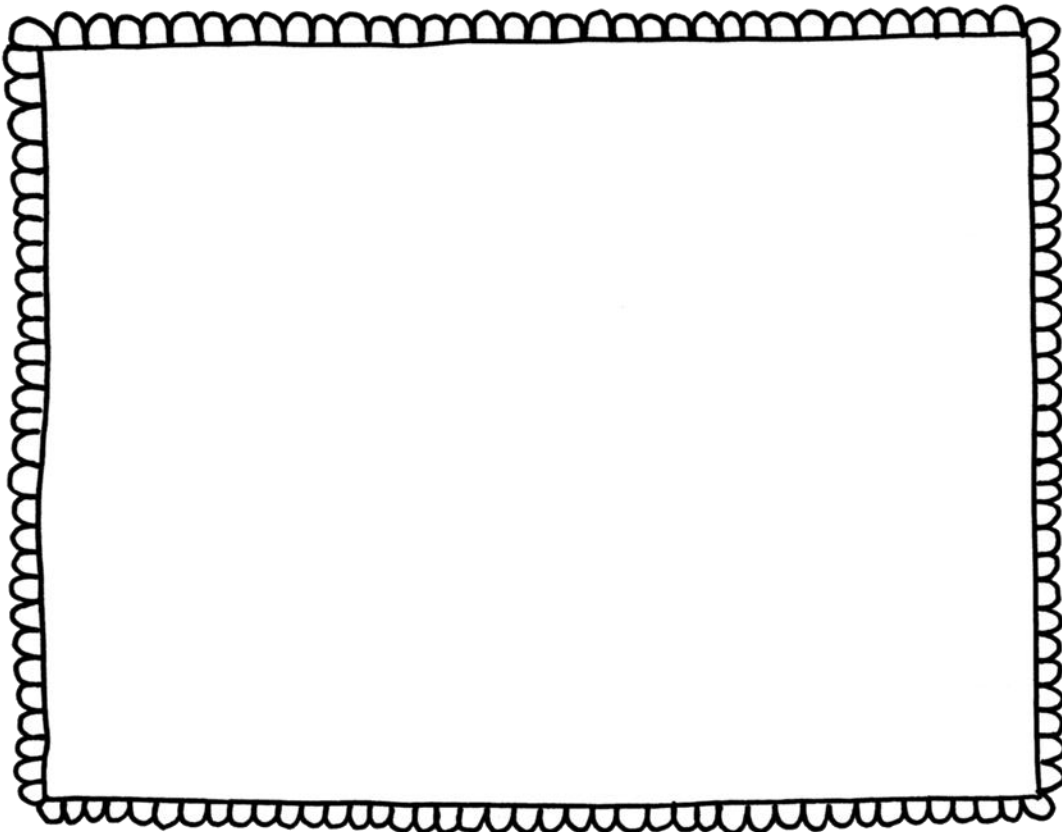
It's Recycle!

Make a list of items you can recycle.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Let's Reuse!

Make a list of items you can reuse.





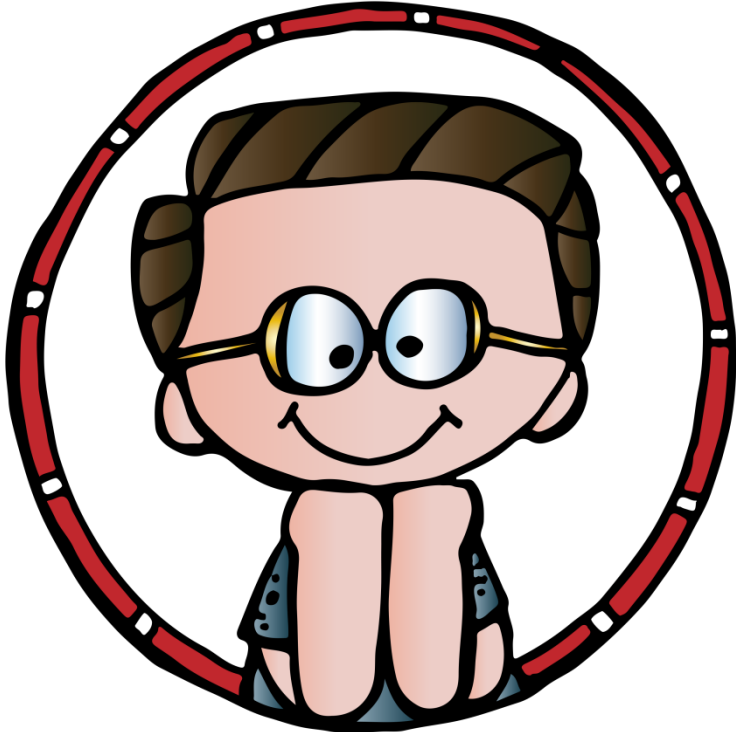
Let's Recycle!

What could you do to reduce the amount of waste you make?

HELPFUL

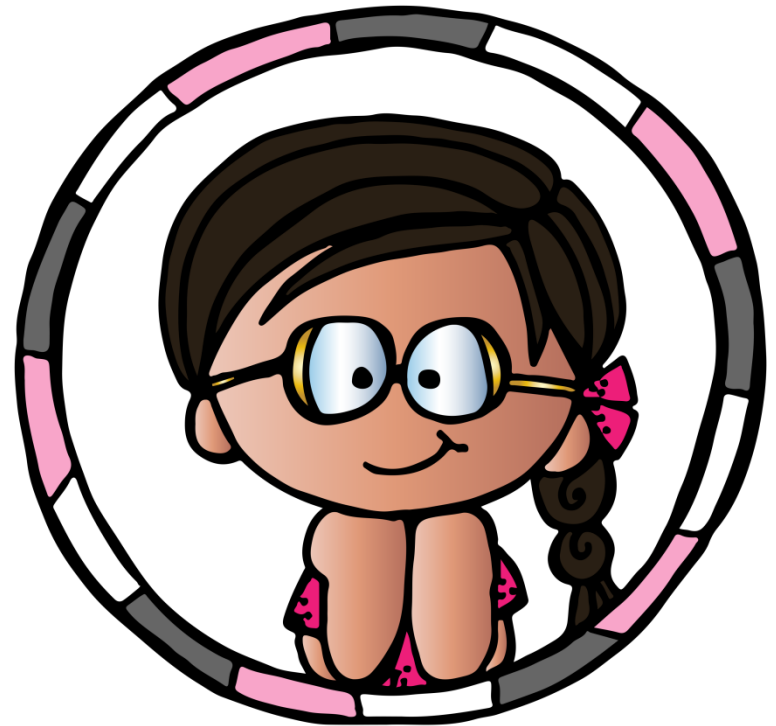
HARMFUL

Meet Pat



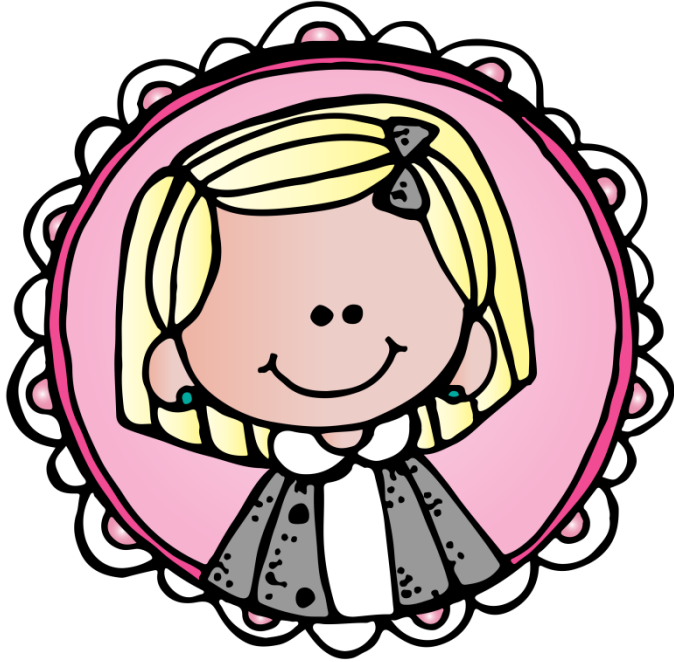
Pat eats a candy bar and then throws his plastic wrapper on the ground, even though the trashcan is only a few feet away.

Meet Ava



Ava turns off the water while brushing her teeth. "I don't want to waste any water," Ava says.

Meet Ella



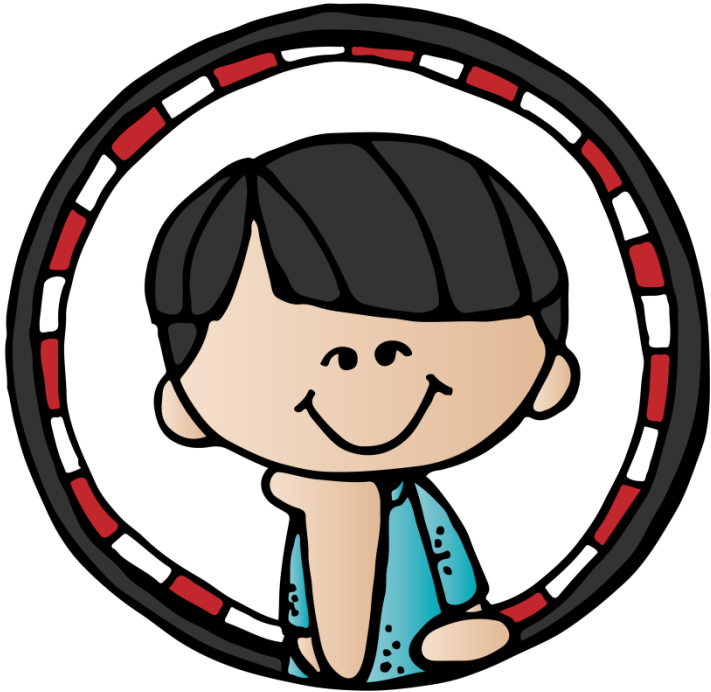
Ella washes her hands and then dries them with 15 paper towel sheets. "Paper towels don't come from trees. Who cares if I'm wasteful!" Ella says.

Meet Jon



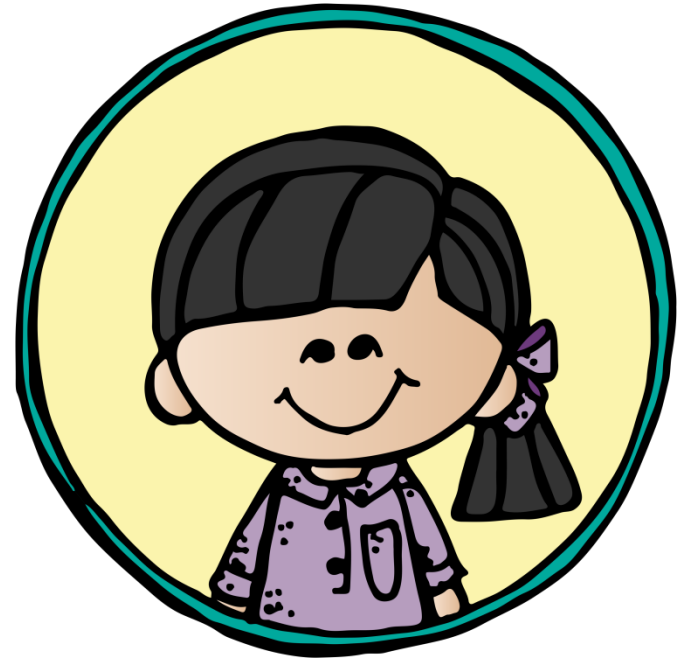
Jon uses both the front and back of his paper. He doesn't want any paper to go to waste!

Meet Neil



Neil refills his water bottle when it's empty instead of throwing it away.

Meet Mia



Mia puts her plastic bottles and cans from her lunchbox in the recycling bin.

Meet Greg



Greg leaves all of the lights on in his house.

Meet Bri



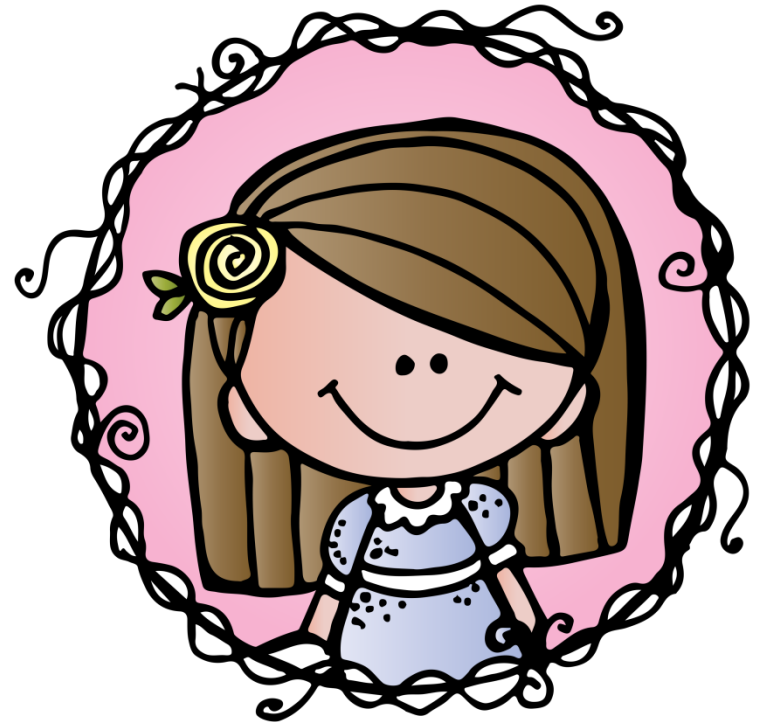
Bri goes around and picks up trash that she finds on the ground.

Meet Wes



Wes rides his bike with his family to the park instead of driving.

Meet Tara



Tara always throws paper, bottles, and cans into the trashcan, even though there is a recycling bin close by.

EARTH DAY craft



This craft is the perfect way to celebrate Earth Day. Have your students write about a promise they'd like to make to the Earth on the banner or have them write what they would do if they had the whole world in their hands. This craft makes a cute bulletin board!

Materials:

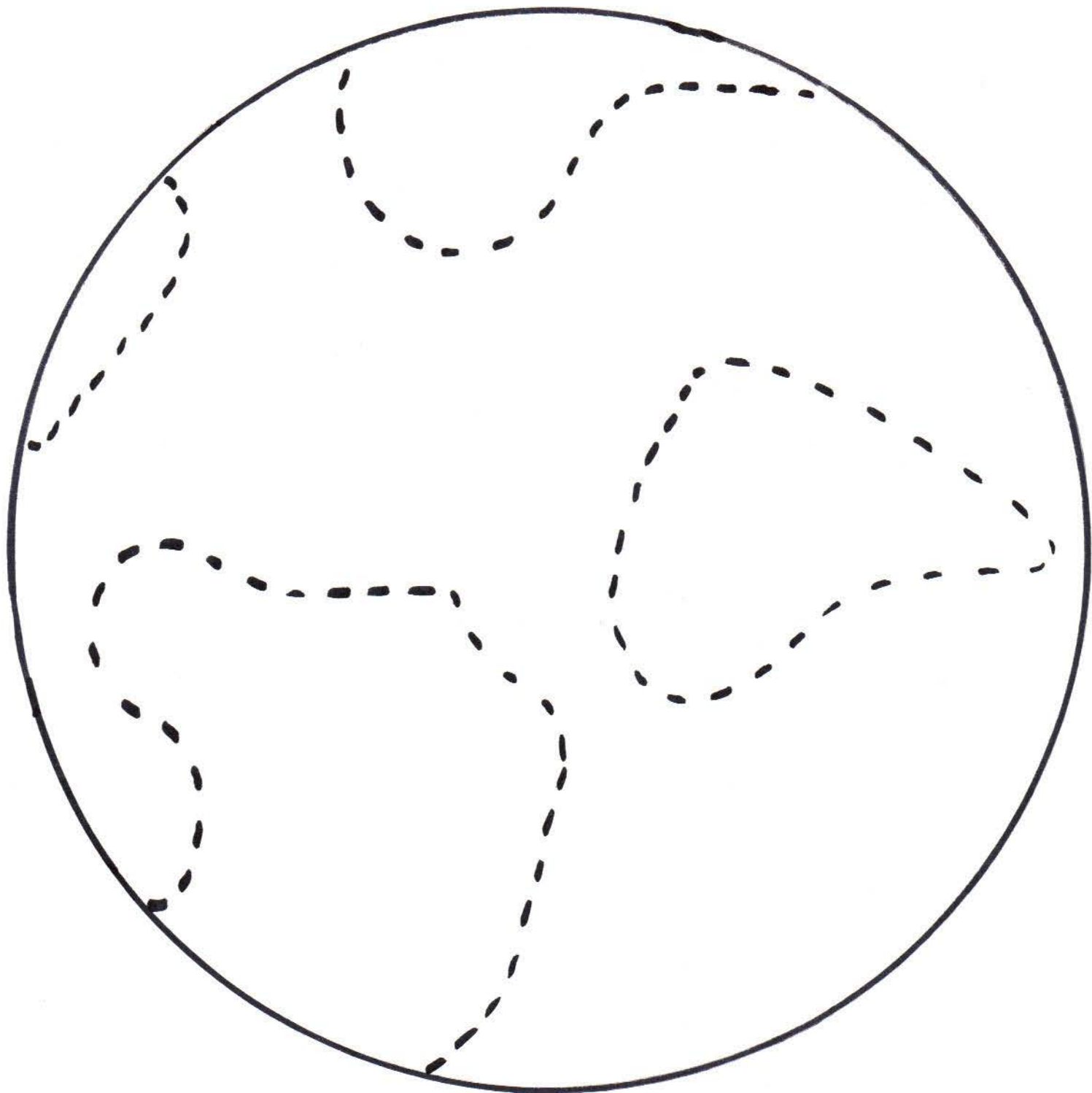
- Earth Day templates (supplied)
- writing utensils
- crayons
- cardstock or construction paper
- glue stick

Directions:

This is a pretty straight-forward art project. I like to prepare most of the materials for my students, but it is up to you. You can either have them color their own pieces or you can print each piece on any color of construction paper/cardstock.. Your students can personalize them however they'd like. See examples above.

I highly recommend using glue sticks, rather than glue bottles.

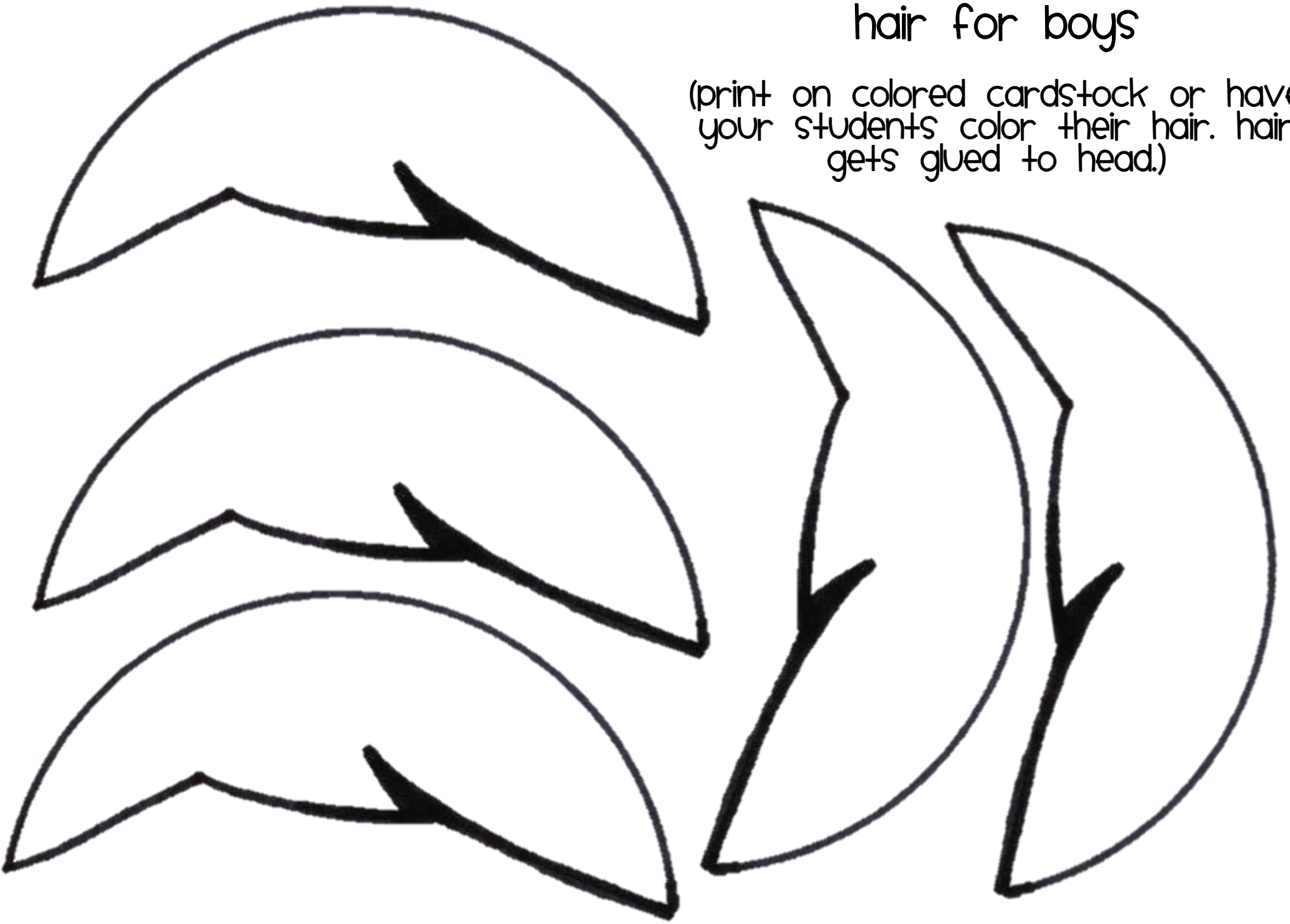
Note: The writing activity gets glued on top of the Earth, and the hands get glued on top of the writing activity.



print on cardstock or have your students color. then, glue continents on dotted lines.

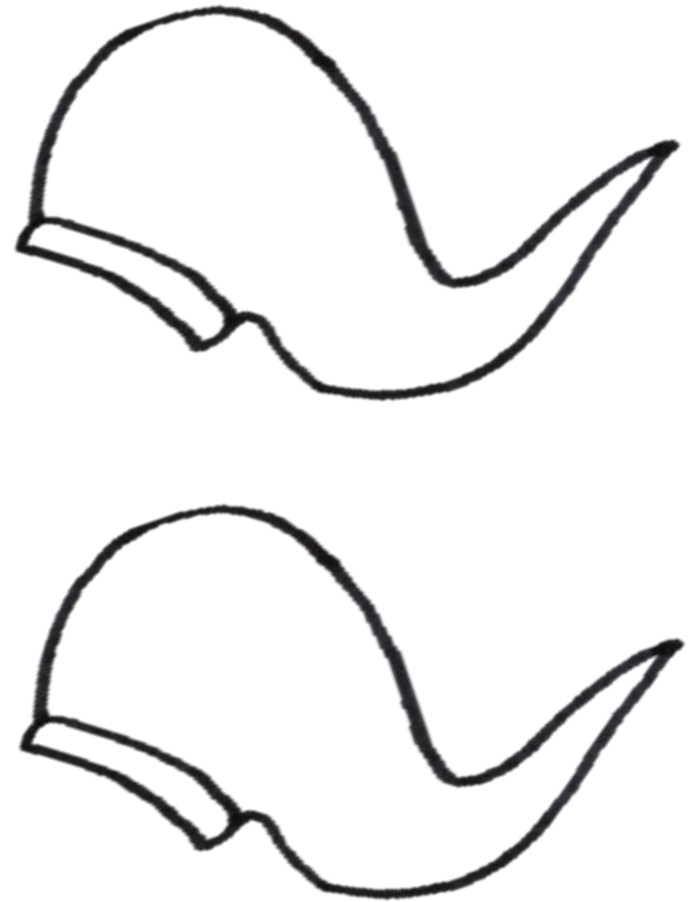
hair for boys

(print on colored cardstock or have your students color their hair. hair gets glued to head.)



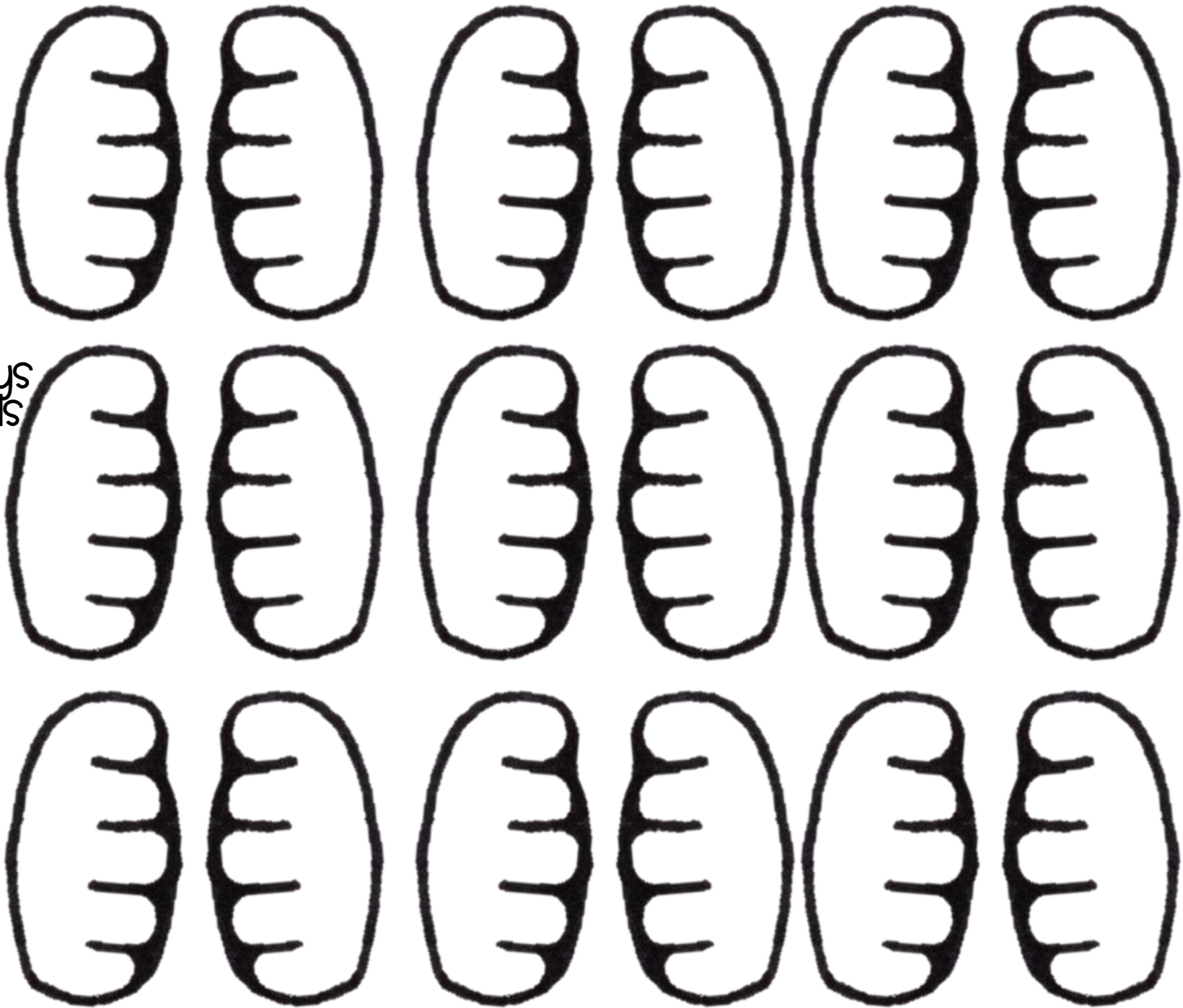
hair for girls

(print on colored cardstock or have your students color their hair. the ponytail gets glued on top of hair. the hair gets glued to the head)



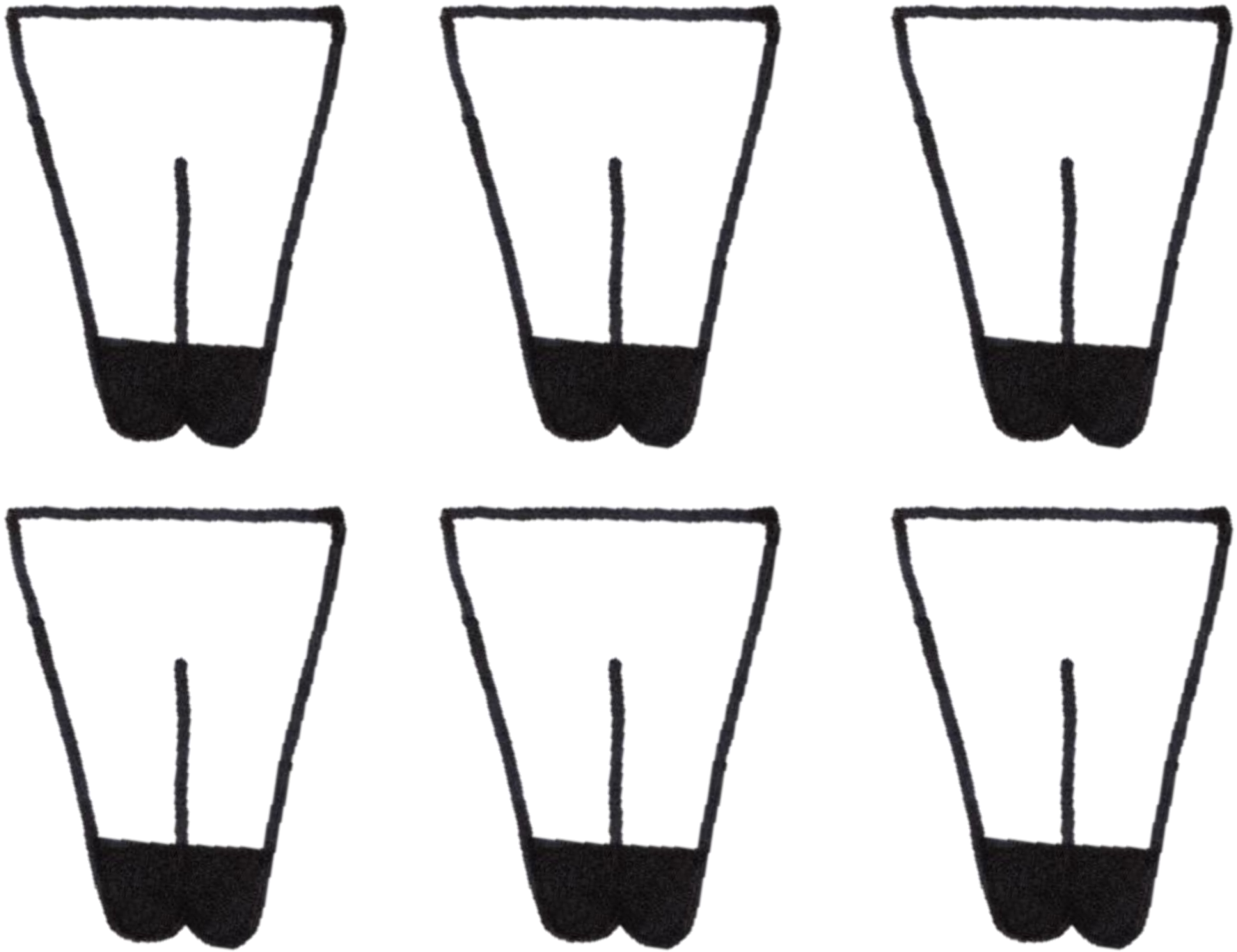
boy and girl head
(print on cardstock
and have your
students illustrate
their own face. head
gets glued to back
of earth)

print on cardstock or have your
students color. then, glue continents
on dotted lines.

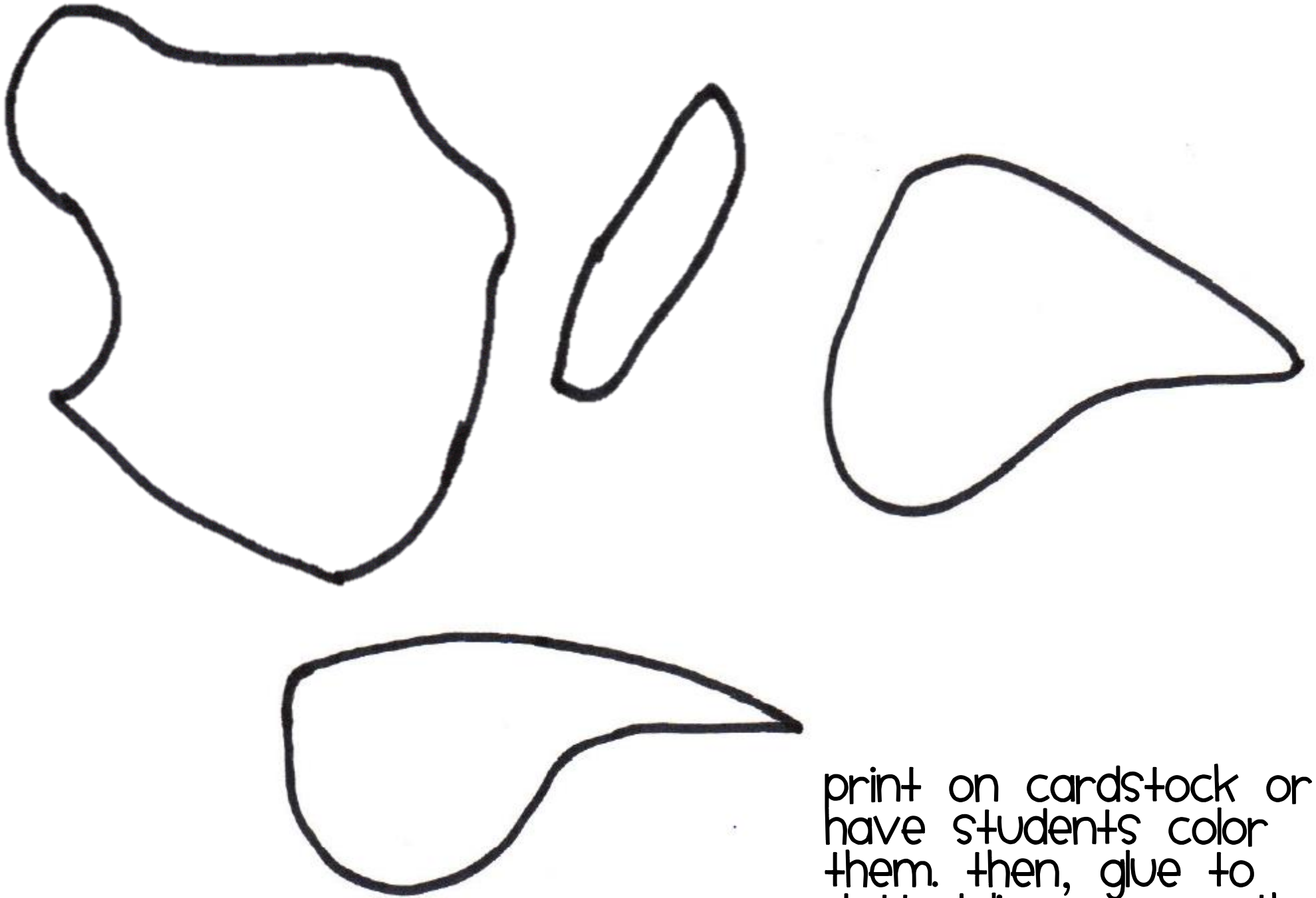


hands
for boys
and girls

print on cardstock or have your students color in the hands
hands get glued on top of writing activity (banner)



print on cardstock or have your students color in the legs
legs get glued to back of earth



print on cardstock or
have students color
them. then, glue to
dotted lines on earth

My Promise to the Earth

by: _____

My Promise to the Earth

by: _____

writing activity (banner) gets glued to middle of earth)

if i had the whole
world in my hands...

by: _____

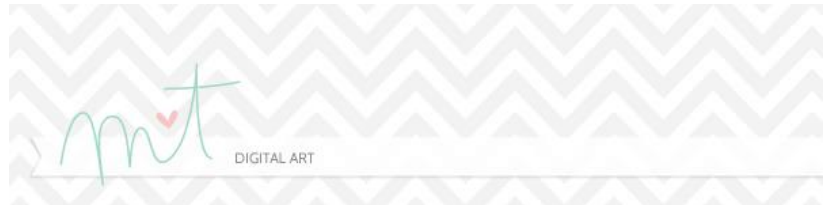
if i had the whole
world in my hands...

by: _____

writing activity (banner) gets glued to middle of earth)

bravo!

Please check out the following sites where my graphics and fonts came from. They are amazing. Thank you!



Fonts by Cara Carroll



Teaching in a small town

a big thanks

Thank you so much for downloading this packet! I will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you have regarding this packet.

Please e-mail me at
lyndseykuster@gmail.com

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