



# The NOCTURNALS

## Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Program for Use with *The Kooky Kinkajou* by Tracey Hecht

Help young readers and early elementary-aged students stretch their imaginations and practice Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills with these play-based activities

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- *The Kooky Kinkajou* by Tracey Hecht
- Blank paper (8.5 X 11)
- Large roll of brown/white paper or rocks/seashells
- Crayons, markers, or paints
- Scissors
- Tape, glue, or staples
- Wood craft stick or paper straws

### INTRODUCTION

#### READ THE BOOK ALOUD & DISCUSS THE STORY

- 1 After the group sits together, ask the children if they're going to be "ears" or "mouths" while they actively listen to the story. Reinforce the idea that "ears" have an important job: to listen! [Optional activity: Create listening ears based on the Nocturnal Brigade and Karina the kinkajou. We have also provided a Dawn the fox talking stick. Turn to page 5 for instructions.]
- 2 Ask students to describe Karina's point of view in *The Kooky Kinkajou*. How does she play pretend or use her imagination to create stories?
- 3 Introduce the idea of constellations: stars grouped into imagined shapes, including lots of animals. Ancient people created constellations to help them track their location, know the time of year, and create stories about the night sky. Show an image of a night sky with stars. (A good source is [In-The-Sky.org](http://In-The-Sky.org).) Then show an example of how humans have created constellations by using stars to create a picture, as with this image of the constellation Leo: <https://cdn.mos.cms.futurecdn.net/NpRgme6fU7qe9Rg8FTdnkH.jpg>. The International Astronomical Union is a good reference for a full list of constellations and their histories.

The Nocturnals SEL program for *The Nocturnals: The Kooky Kinkajou* was created by *The Nocturnals* author Tracey Hecht in collaboration with children's literature specialist Gillian Engberg.

#### STANDARDS & COMPETENCIES

**Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Competencies:** These interactive, play-based activities help children practice all six Social and Emotional (SEL) Core Competencies, as identified by CASEL: self-awareness (identifying emotions, accurate self-perception, recognizing strengths, self-confidence, self-efficacy); self-management (impulse control, stress management, self-discipline, self-motivation, goal setting); social awareness (perspective taking, empathy, appreciating diversity, respect for others); relationship skills (communication, social engagement, relationship building, teamwork); responsible decision making (identifying problems, analyzing situations, solving problems, evaluating, reflecting, ethical responsibility).

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## ACTIVITY #1

### IMAGINE YOUR OWN ANIMAL CONSTELLATIONS

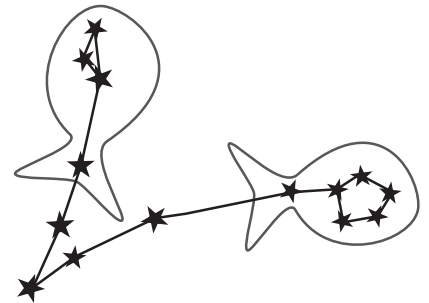
- Preparation: Have available blank paper and drawing materials for each child.
- Conduct the introductory reading and discussion.
- Distribute drawing materials and ask each child to mark eight to ten dots in any random order. (Star stickers could also be used if available.)
- Next, ask each child to pass their paper to the child on the left.
- When each child has received their neighbor's paper, ask them to imagine their own constellation and then use drawing materials to connect the "star" dots into a shape of their choice: one of the Nocturnal Brigade characters, an everyday object, a family member, or even themselves!
- If time allows, have the children present their constellations. Review the idea that those who aren't speaking are "ears."



## ACTIVITY #2

### ANIMAL CONSTELLATION CHARADES

- Preparation: Print and cut out the Constellation Charades cards located on page 3.
- Following step #3 in the introduction, tell the children that they are going to play animal constellation charades and divide the players into groups of two or three.
- Explain that each group will receive a card with the name of an animal, which has a real constellation named after it. They will then silently act out the movements of this animal while the other groups guess which animal they are trying to be.
- Each group will then draw an animal card from your basket. (Adults can assist children who may need help reading the card.)
- The players then act out their animal while the audience guesses.



## ACTIVITY #3

### IMAGINATION RIVER

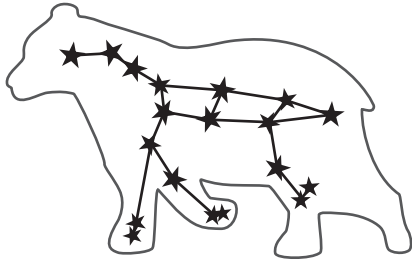
- Preparation: Have available drawing (or painting) materials and individual sheets of paper, a large roll of brown paper, rocks, or another available smooth surface to paint or draw on.
- Following step #3 in the introduction, revisit the scenes in Chapter 3 (page 24) in which Karina imagines that a bed of stones is a rushing river and invite the children to create an "imagination river" of their own.
- Distribute the art supplies and ask the children to draw (or paint) an image or word of their own choosing. (In keeping with the "bed of stones" theme from the book, you could draw stone shapes on the paper ahead of time for children to fill in.)
- Have each child place their image on the floor to create a "river," and, if time allows, allow each child to describe his or her "stone," reviewing the idea that those who aren't speaking are "ears."



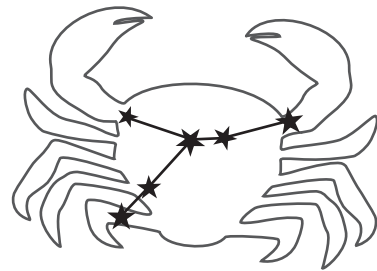
# Animal Constellation Charades



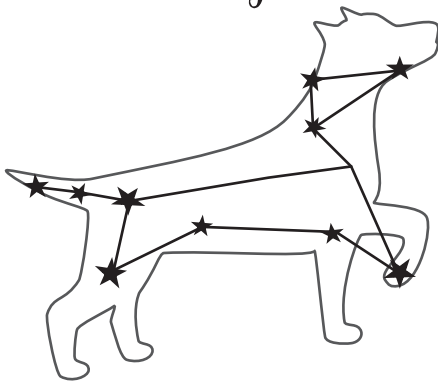
Bear



Crab



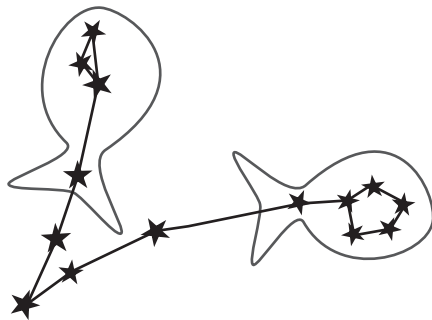
Dog



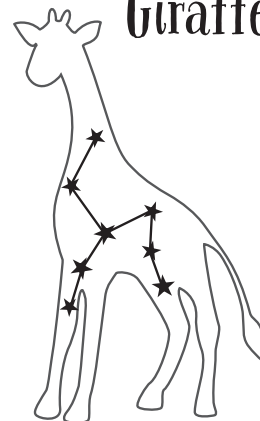
Dolphin



Fish



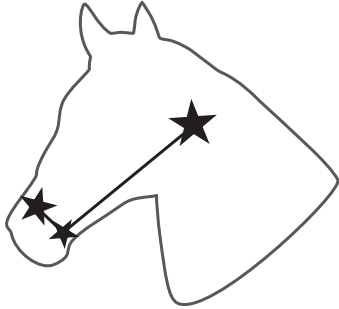
Giraffe



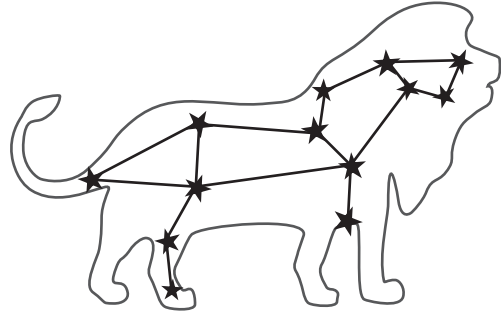
# Animal Constellation Charades



Horse



Lion



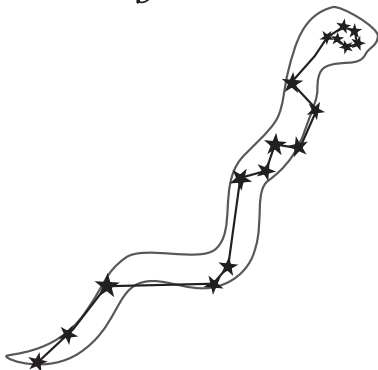
Lizard



Rabbit\*



Snake



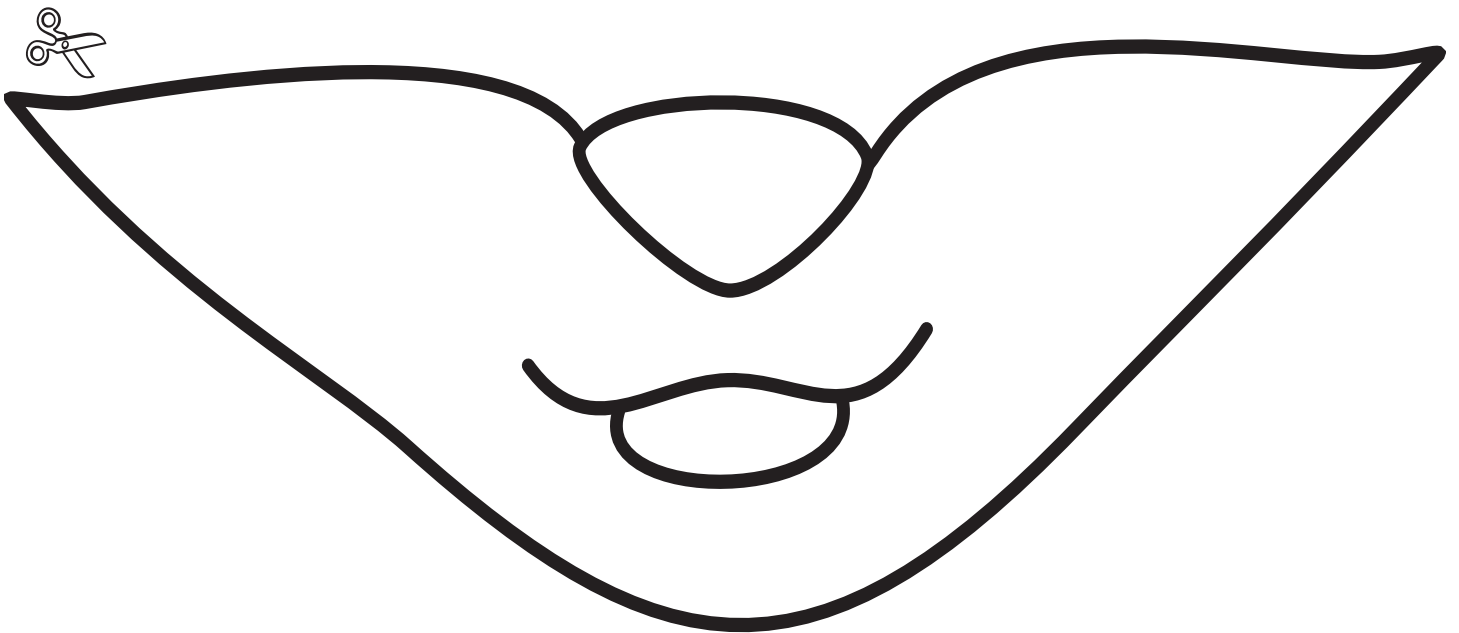
Wolf



# Make Your Own Talking Stick Dawn the Fox

## Materials and Instructions

1. Cut out mouth with scissors.
2. Color mouth with crayons.
3. Tape wood craft stick to the back.



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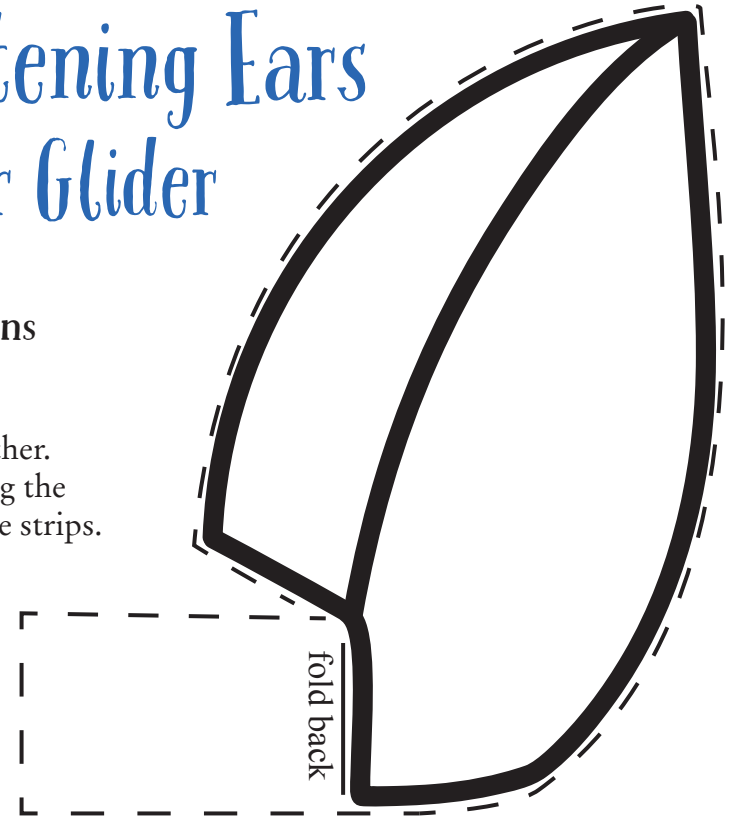
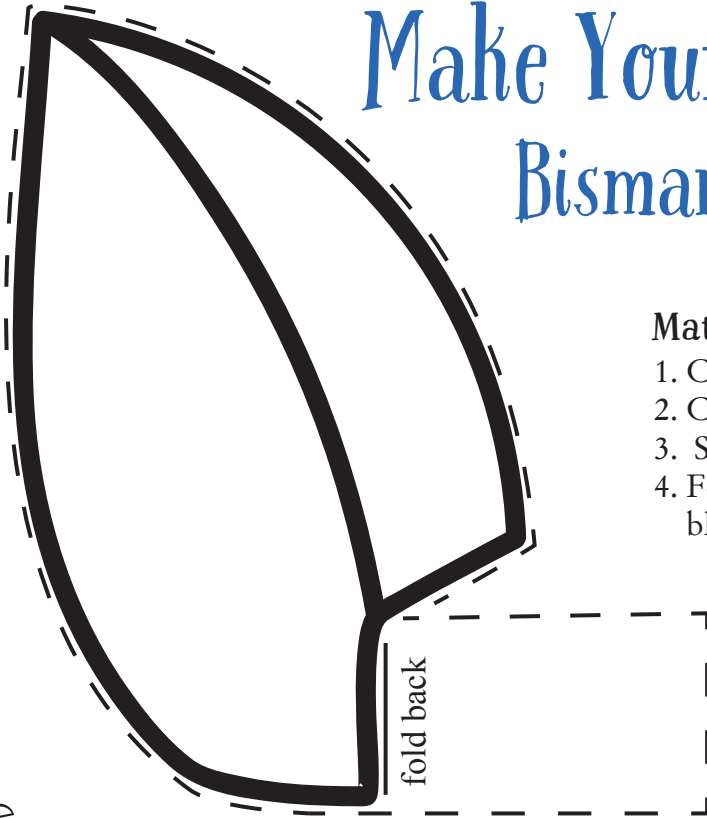
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# Make Your Own Listening Ears

## Bismark the Sugar Glider

### Materials and Instructions

1. Cut along the dotted lines.
2. Color ears with crayons.
3. Staple the base strips together.
4. Fold the ear tabs back along the black line and staple to base strips.



Base strip #1

Base strip #2

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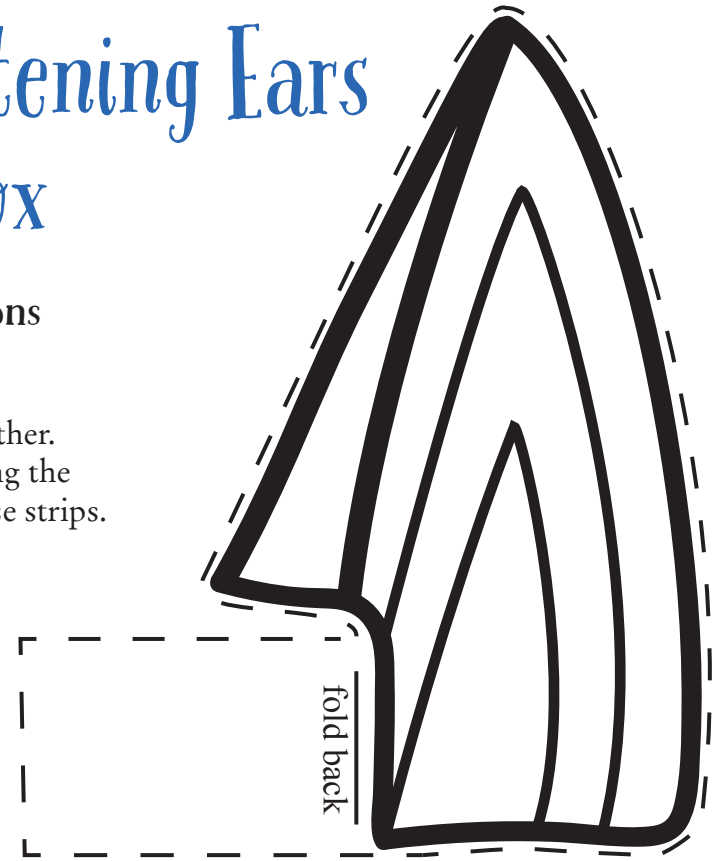
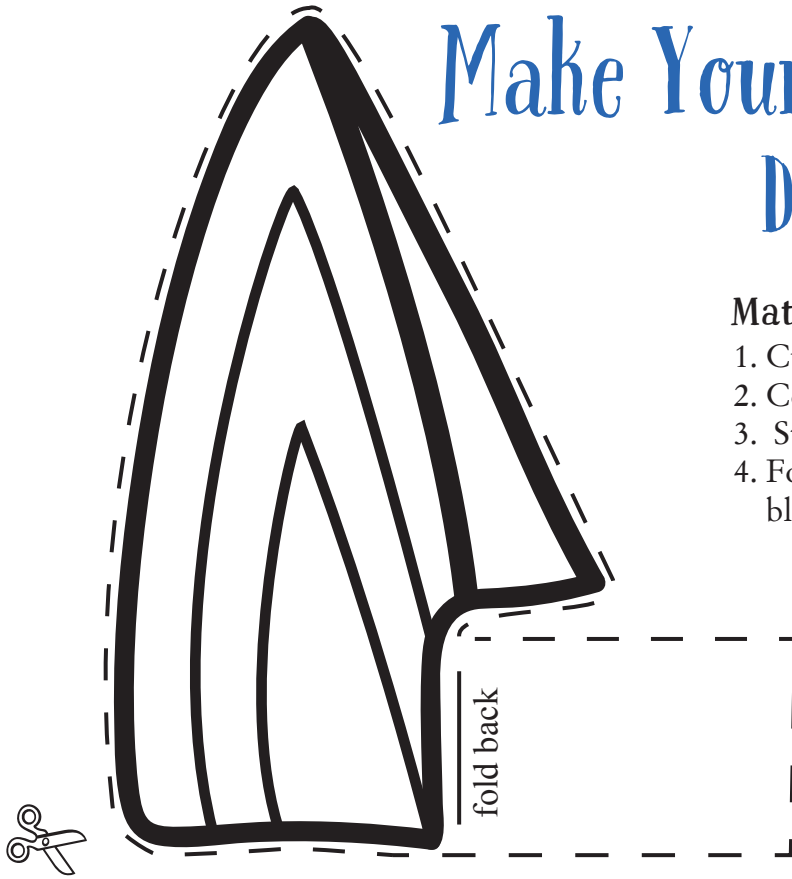
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# Make Your Own Listening Ears Dawn the Fox

## Materials and Instructions

1. Cut along the dotted lines.
2. Color ears with crayons.
3. Staple the base strips together.
4. Fold the ear tabs back along the black line and staple to base strips.



Base strip #1

Base strip #2

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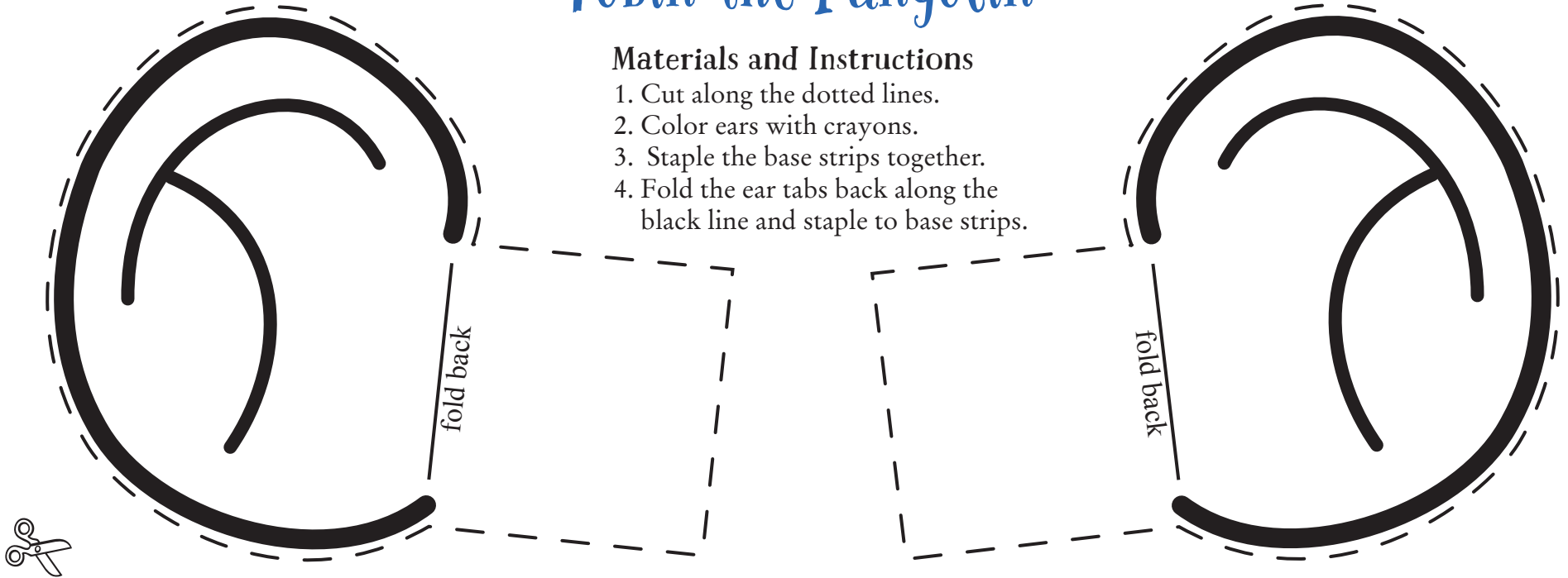
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# Make Your Own Listening Ears

## Tobin the Pangolin

### Materials and Instructions

1. Cut along the dotted lines.
2. Color ears with crayons.
3. Staple the base strips together.
4. Fold the ear tabs back along the black line and staple to base strips.



Base strip #1

Base strip #2

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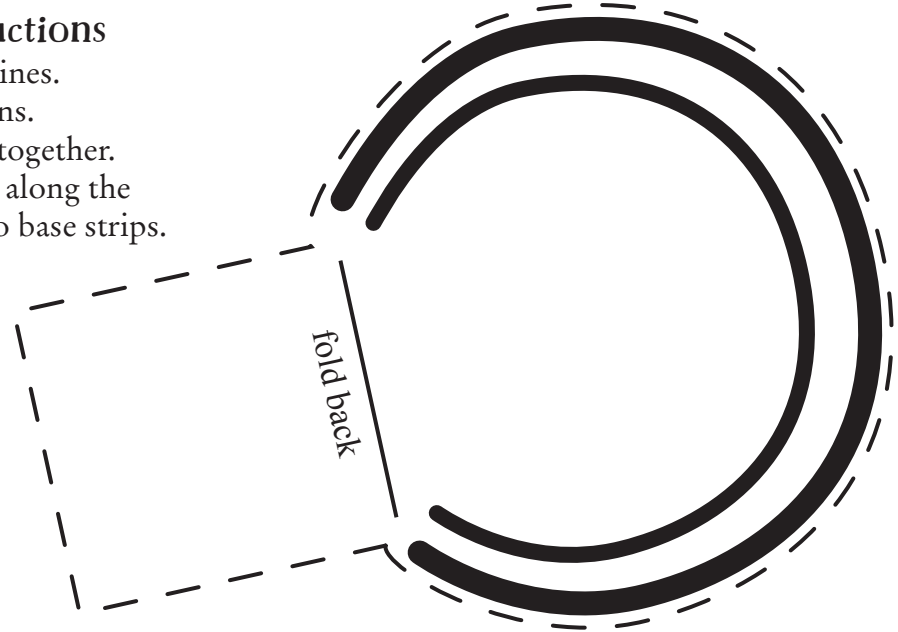
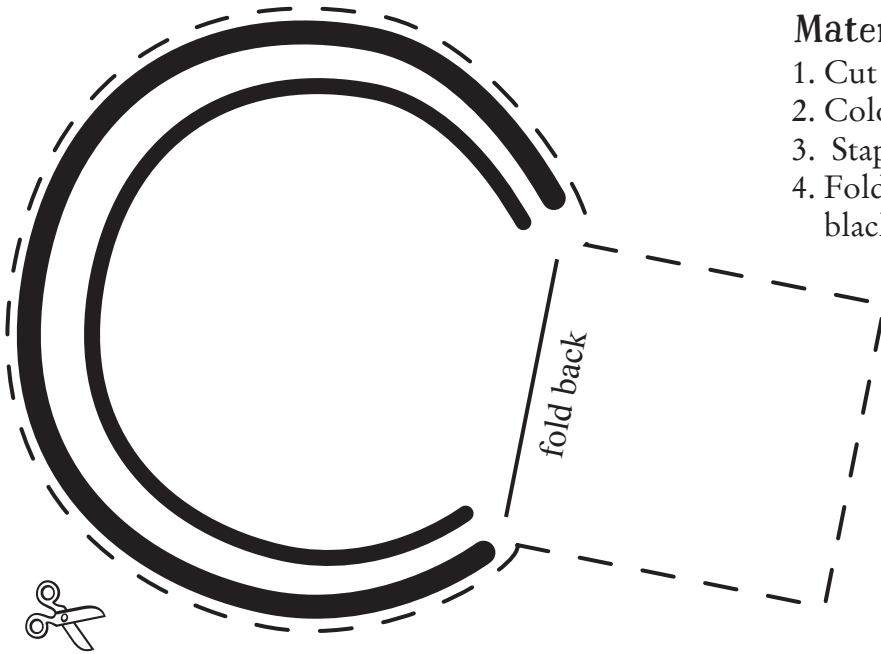


# Make Your Own Listening Ears

## Karina the Kinkajou

### Materials and Instructions

1. Cut along the dotted lines.
2. Color ears with crayons.
3. Staple the base strips together.
4. Fold the ear tabs back along the black line and staple to base strips.



Base strip #1

Base strip #2

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