

**THE PARROT
TICO TANGO**

The Parrot Tico Tango

Book by Anna Witte

Unit study prepared by Michelle Light

LANGUAGE ARTS

Introducing Adjectives

This book uses various words to describe the fruits. Explain that an adjective describes a word. Examples: round and yellow are words that describe the mango; yellow describes the color of the lemon; the fig is described as purple, sweet, and big.

Can your student think of other words that would describe various fruits? Sour, long, yellow, green, crisp, etc.

Hold up one of the fruit picture cards (found in this file) and have your student describe the look of each fruit. Your student could also describe the taste.

Play a Guessing Game

Option 1: I'm Thinking Of . . .

I am thinking of a fruit: It is red and round, it has small seeds inside and is sweet, can you guess what I am thinking of? (Apple.) Continue describing fruits in this manner.

Option 2: It's in the Bag

Place a piece of fruit in a bag without your student seeing it. Have them reach in the bag and describe what they are touching. Is it rough, bumpy, smooth, round, or long? After she gives you a description, can she guess which fruit it is?

Introducing Synonyms

This can seem like a big word for little ones. I try to think of synonyms as being similar (perhaps the word *similar* since it sounds almost like synonym will help the term stick).

In the story some words are used throughout the book and they basically mean the same thing. In the description of how Tico took a fruit, different words are used.

Have your student listen to the story and see if he can pick out the different words the writer chose to use. This would be a good activity to assign prior to the story reading.

You could name a few of the words: took, grabbed, and seized, and then ask your student what other words were used in the story that meant the same thing (clutched, stole, snatched). Why do you think the writer changed the words instead of using the same word over and over?

With an older student, read the story using only one of the words (maybe took). Is the story as interesting?

Think of other synonyms together with your student.

Eat (munch, consume, nibble, devour).

Tiny (small, little)

Huge (giant, big, massive)

Quick (speedy, fast)

Your student may only be able to think of one word for each one at this age.

Rhyming and Repetition

Discuss the rhyming words in the story. To check for understanding, begin a story from the sentence and have your student end the sentence with a rhyming word.

Story Games

Using the pre-made cards, you can play games with your student.

Story Sequencing

Option 1: Set all the fruit cards out for your student. Have your student put the fruits in order based on the story starting with the mango.

Option 2: Set all the animal cards out for your student. Have your student put the animal cards in order based on the story starting with the parrot.

Option 3: Put the fruit and animal cards out. Let your student match the fruit card to the animal card and put them in order based on the story.

Silly Sentences

Put all the cards face down. Have your student choose one or two and make a sentence using the words. Take turns with this activity. Make your sentences silly and fun. Once your student masters two, tell him to try drawing three words to use in a sentence.

Alphabetical Order

Your older student can try putting the fruit or animal cards in alphabetical order.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography and Culture

Read the book dedication. This will help your student determine the setting of the story (Costa Rica).

Let your student draw a picture of a parrot on a small disk and place it on the map to indicate where Costa Rica is. Tell your student that Costa Ricans are Americans.

They live in Central America. *Tico* is a colloquial term for a native of Costa Rica. The plural form is *ticos*. Costa Ricans are usually referred to as *ticos* by themselves and persons of other Spanish-speaking countries.

The name Costa Rica means "Rich Coast" and it was named by Christopher Columbus in 1502. This could be a good time to read a short story about who Christopher Columbus was.

Language and Industry

People in this region speak Spanish. The most important crops are coffee and bananas. Costa Rica today has the greatest coffee productivity per acre in the world. Bananas are the number one fruit crop of Costa Rica. Costa Rica's banana industry is currently the country's number one earner of foreign currency.

Costa Rica Tourism

Costa Rica is the world's fastest-growing destination for adventure and nature travel.

[About the Rainforest](#)

This is an incredible, informative site with a Christian worldview. This is something you may want to look through daily with your student. It discusses the people, the animals and the rainforest in general. (See more in science.)

SCIENCE

Rainforest Facts

The Amazon Rainforest covers over a billion acres, encompassing areas in Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and the Eastern Andean region of Ecuador and Peru. If Amazonia were a country, it would be the ninth largest in the world. The rainforest is vital to man's survival. The plants it contains are used both for food and medicine. More importantly the earth's atmosphere is sustained by the oxygen and carbon dioxide exchange that takes place when plants convert sunlight into energy.

Rainforest Fruits

At least 3,000 fruits are found in the rainforests. Discuss the fruits mentioned in the story with your student. Which ones can he remember?

In the tropical rain forest, fruits are plentiful including avocados, coconuts, figs, oranges, lemons, grapefruit, bananas, guavas, pineapples, mangos and tomatoes; vegetables include corn, potatoes, rice, winter squash and yams; spices like black pepper, cayenne, chocolate, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, sugar cane, turmeric, coffee and vanilla and nuts including Brazil nuts and cashews. At least 80% of the developed world's diet originated in the tropical rainforest.

The Animals of the Rainforest

Option 1-You can pick one or more of the following animals to do a further study on.

Option 2-Show the animal card pictures to your student as you tell them a little about each animal. Then lay the cards face down (on a green piece of construction paper if you have one) and tell your student they are in the "jungle"; have your student pick a card and turn it over and give you a few facts back about that animal. If he is right let him keep the card.

Sloth

A sloth is a mammal with shaggy hair growing down its body. This helps the rain to

run off easily. A sloth hardly ever washes and a green slime grows on its hair. The green slime helps to camouflage the sloth.

[Sloth Lapbook at Homeschool Share](#)

Emerald Tree Boa

An emerald tree boa is a reptile. It can coil its body tightly around tree branches to keep itself steady. It also likes to hang from trees, ready to pounce on a tasty frog for a snack. After a big meal, the snake may not eat again for a year!

Iguana

An iguana is a reptile and a member of the lizard family. It is an omnivore; this means it eats plants and insects. You might be able to see an iguana at your local pet shop.

[Lizards Lapbook at Homeschool Share](#)

Jaguar

A jaguar is a mammal and a member of the large cat family. It is the largest and most powerful cat in the rain forest. A jaguar can climb trees and swim after crocodiles. It's spotted coat helps it to hide (camouflage) in the shady grass and in the trees.

Poison Dart Frog

A poison dart frog is an amphibian. It is also referred to as a poison arrow frog because their poison is used to smear on the tips of arrows. These arrows are used to hunt other animals.

There are 170 different species of poison dart frogs.

The appearance of these frog vary, but the colors are always bright (you will find them in neon colors including red, orange, yellow, green, and blue)

The Strawberry Poison Dart Frog is sometimes called the "blue jean frog" because it has a bright red or orange body with blue legs.

Parrot

Parrots are intelligent birds that can mimic the human voice. They have short,

hooked bills to help with cracking open seeds and nuts. There are 16 different kinds of parrots in Costa Rica. They can make loud screeching sounds while they fly.

Parrot Tico Tango looks like a macaw (one of the largest members of the parrot family).

[Parrot Lapbook at Homeschool Share](#)

Howler Monkey

Howler monkeys are mammals and members of the primate family. They are named and known for the loud howls they make. These howls can be up to three miles away.

Black howler monkeys are the largest monkey in Latin American rainforests; they grow to be about two to four feet tall and weigh from eight to twenty-two pounds. They have big necks and lower jaws, where their super-sized vocal cords are housed. They have long tails which they use to as an extra arm to hold onto branches.

Diet: Howlers eat mostly leaves, but occasionally supplement their diet with fruit and maggots.

Predators: Large birds of prey (like the harpy eagle) prey upon the howler monkey.

Health and Nutrition

Fruits are a very important part of a nutritious diet. The food pyramid suggests 2-4 servings of fruit per day. Fruit gives us fiber and antioxidants that help our bodies fight disease. Fiber keeps out intestines clean and helps us move waste out of our bodies. Fruits also provide us with many vitamins like A and C. Vitamin C is powerful for helping us fight colds and heal rapidly. Make a fruit chart with your student to track and see if she is getting her 2-4 servings each day.

Try some new fruits this week!

MATH

Counting, Addition, and Subtraction

Count any number of objects in the story, number of animals, fruits etc. How many fruits did he have in all? If you want, you can use the Fruit Cards as manipulatives. Here are a few sample problems:

Tico has three fruits, but he drops the fig. How many fruits does he have now?
Tico has one fruit and he steals two more. How many fruits does he have now?

Right and Left (and positional words)

Tico carried a lemon on his right and a fig on his left.
Set your book on the table (or use the printable parrot below). Give your student the fruit cards. Tell your student to put the fig on the left side of Tico. Continue with this type of instruction (put the lemon on the right side of Tico, etc.) You could even use this activity to help your student learn positional words (put the cherry over Tico, put the papaya under Tico, put the grapes on Tico, etc.).

Measuring

The Black Howler Monkey is said to grow to be about two to four feet tall (taller than many of your preschoolers). Using a measuring tape or yard stick measure two feet and then four feet. This is how big this monkey would be if it were standing next to you. How tall is your student? Is he shorter or taller than a two-foot Howler Monkey? Is he taller or shorter than a four-foot Howler Monkey?

ART

Collage

The artist developed her own style working with collage art that utilizes fabrics, acrylics, paper, ink, and pastels. Create a collage using various things like the illustrator did. Draw some of the fruits using simple shapes-- circles, ovals etc. If your student is able, discuss and work on shading and coloring as seen in the two different greens used in the grapes.

Shwoopie

Shwoopies are the curly things in the illustrations that look like pig tails or in some

cases spirals. The artist uses them in many of the pictures—for monkey's tail, the tree branches, background foliage, weeds. Let your student practice drawing them.

CHARACTER BUILDING AND BIBLE

Anna makes a statement here about her art. "I would like the reader to reflect on the story of these characters, to ask where they come from, what they will be doing next, and in what ways their journeys mirror those of the reader." You could discuss how Tico's journey is like our lives. What did Tico do and what did he learn?

This could be a good time to discuss Tico's greed and the lesson he learned. His friends had every reason to be upset with him, yet they forgave him. I wonder how his friends felt when he greedily snatched their food. How would you feel if someone did that to you? Have you ever snatched a toy from a friend or brother or sister?
How do you think it made them feel?

You can also discuss these traits with your student:

Greed

Luke 12:15

Read through this story. Jesus warns against every form of greed. Tico later exhibits humility in the fact that he accepts correction from his friends.

Humility

humbling ourselves and understanding who we are in relationship to God.

Accepting Correction

Proverbs 3: 12

Whom the Lord loves, he corrects. This is something that as parents we also must do if we are to show our student we love them.

Repentance

Tico Tango admits that he feels bad for what he has done wrong.

1 John 1:9 God says that if we will confess our sins and turn from them that he will forgive us! Luke 17:3 If your brother sins against you, rebuke (correct) him, and if

he repents (turns) forgive him.

Forgiveness

Tico's friends show him forgiveness. Matthew 18:21 How many times shall we forgive? Seventy times seven.

The Fruits of the Spirit

Key Verse: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)
Tie in story of the good vs. bad tree. Matthew 12:33 A tree is known by its fruit.
What does this mean?

Read through one or more traits each day.

Kindness: Be kind to one another. Ephesians 4:32

Love: Love must be sincere...Romans 12:9

Faithfulness: Well done, good and faithful servant! Matthew 25:21

Joy: Be Joyful always. 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Gentleness: Have a gentle and quiet spirit. 1 Peter 3:4

Patience: Be patient. Ephesians 4:2

Peace: Live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18

Goodness: we are created to do good works. Ephesians 2:10

Self-control: Be self-controlled. 1 Peter 1:13

JUST FOR FUN

Music/Dance

The tango is a popular dance in Spanish culture.

Cooking

Make a tropical fruit salad and try tasting some fruits you have never taste before.

Try making this [banana tree snack](#).

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Note: Two sets of printables have been provided for this unit. One set is in color and the other is black and white. Choose the set you want and print accordingly.

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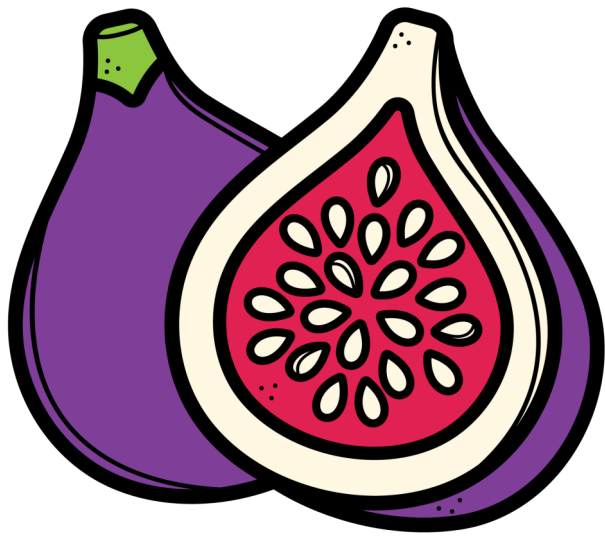
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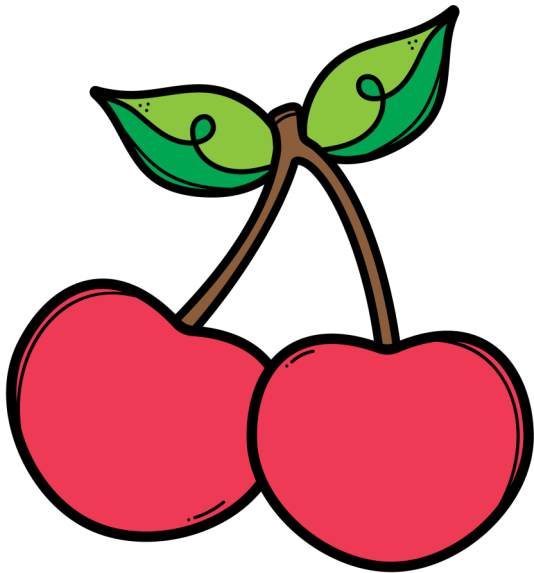
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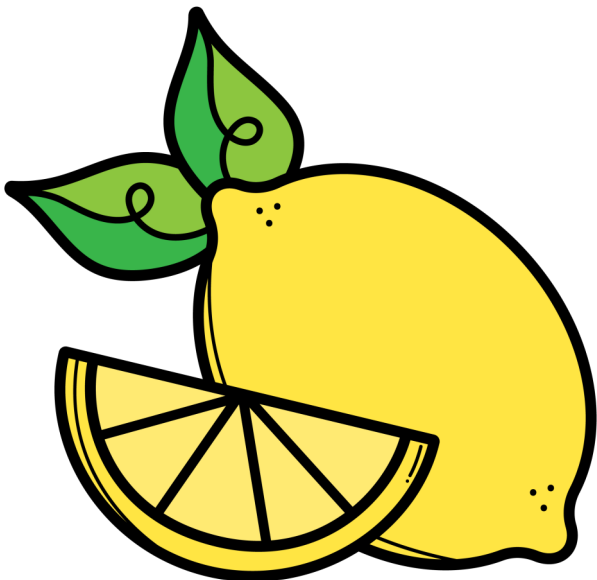
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fig



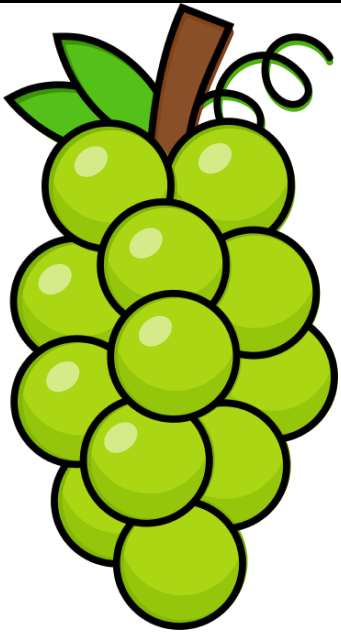
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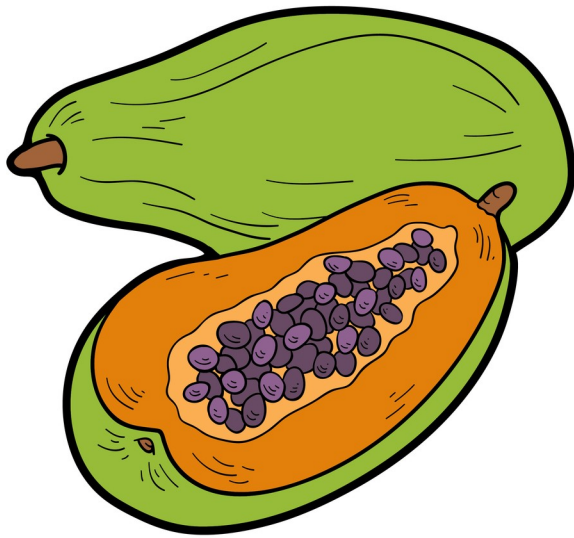
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lemon



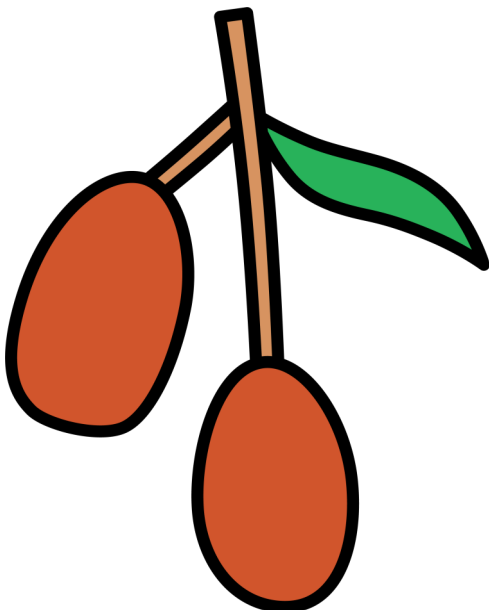
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grapes



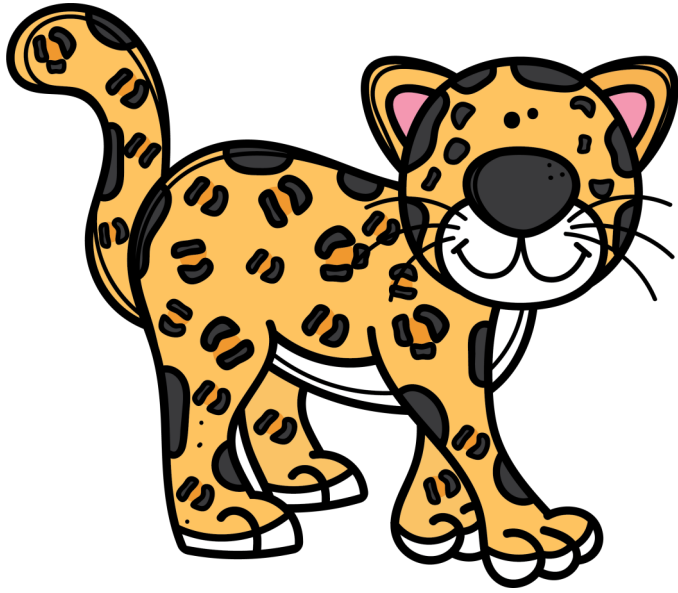
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papaya

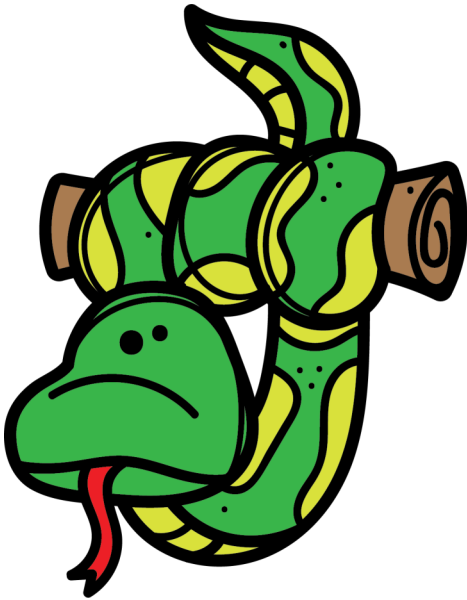


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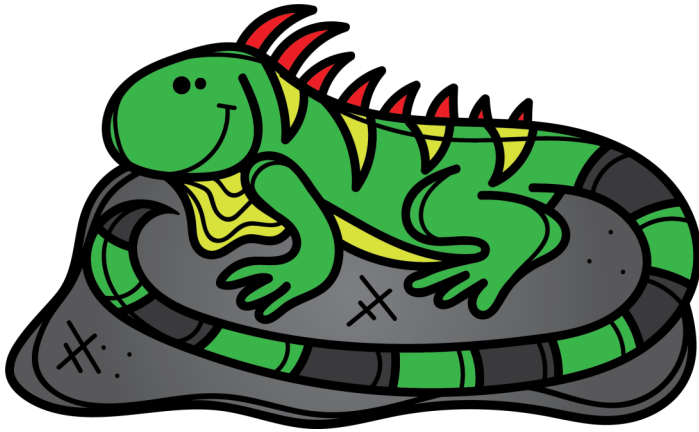
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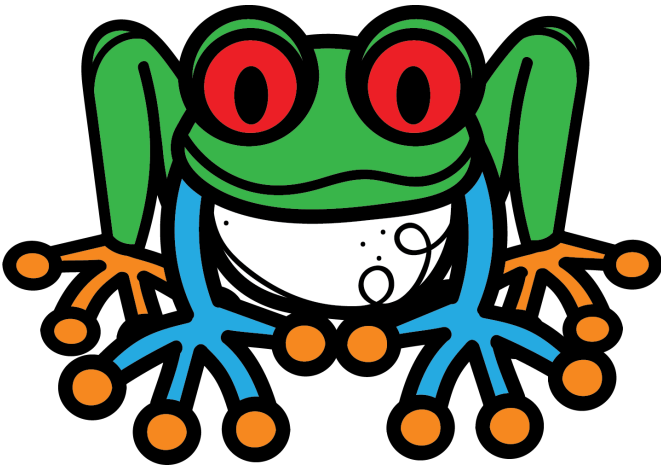
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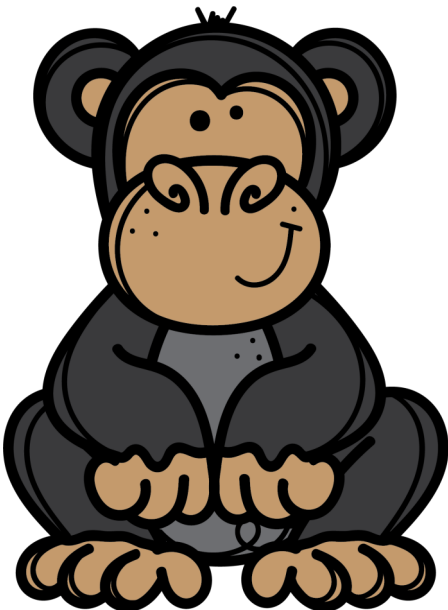
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iguana



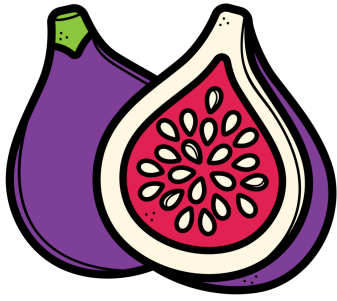
frog



monkey

Using Positional Words



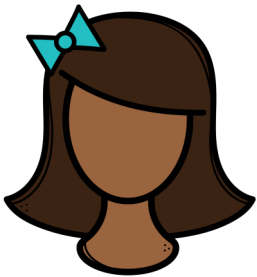


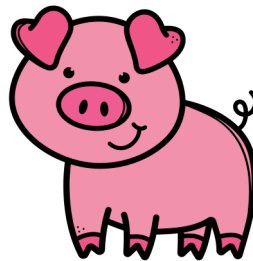
Words That Rhyme With FIG

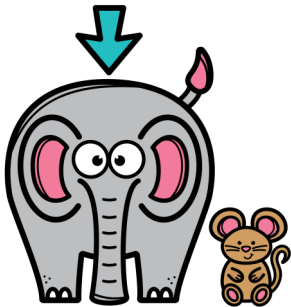
big	pig	jig
rig	dig	wig



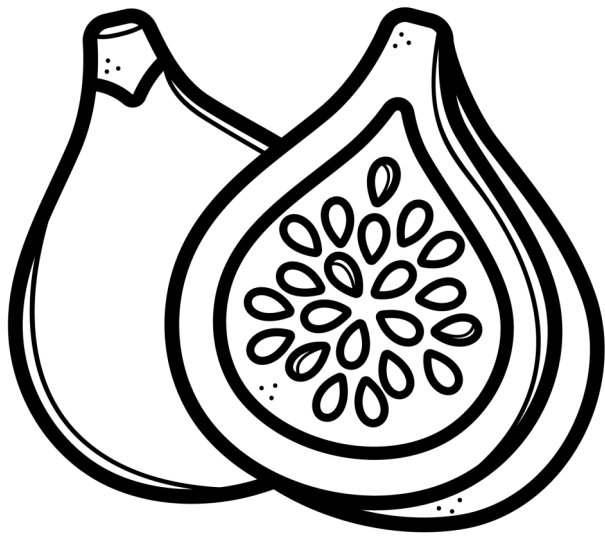






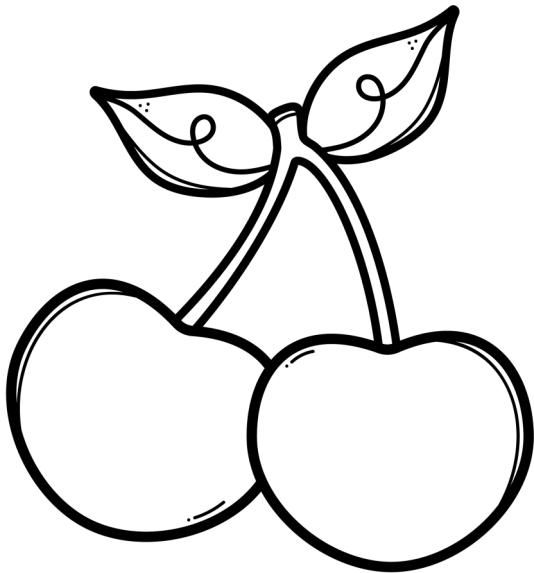






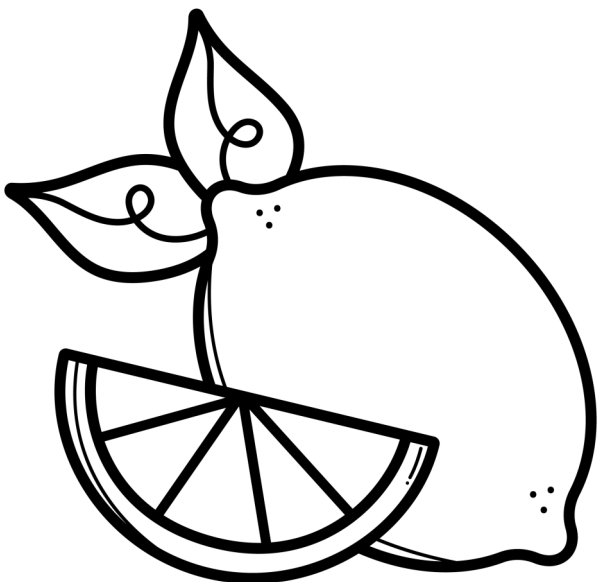
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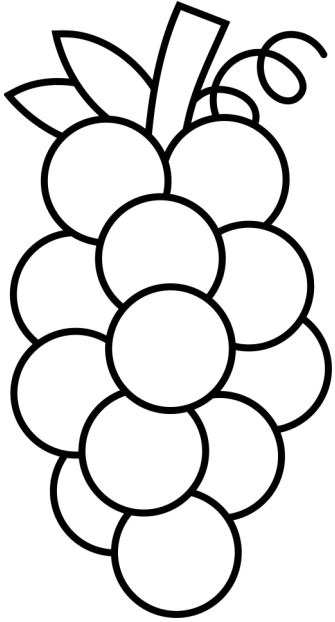
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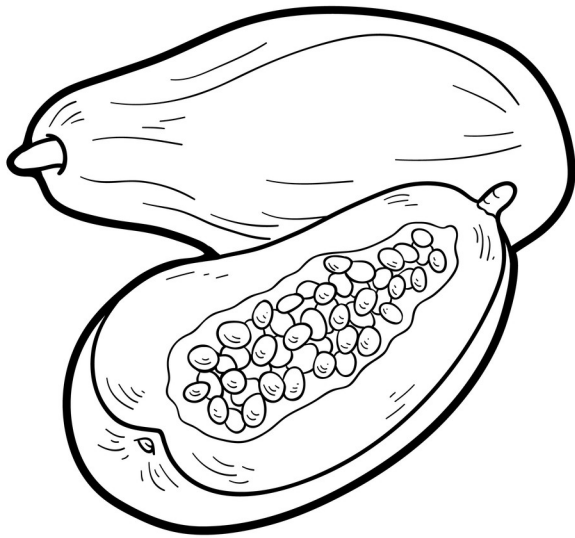
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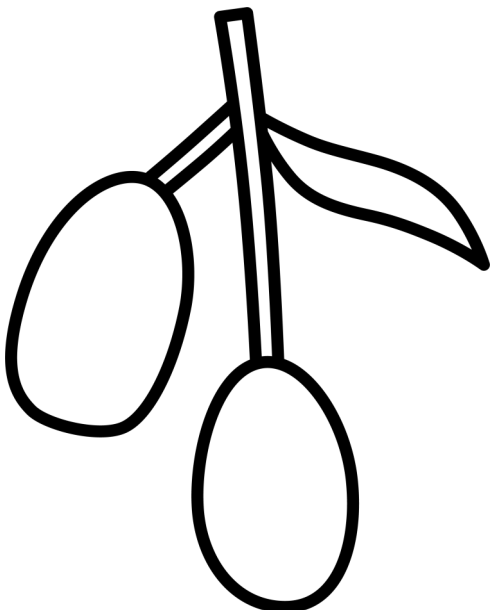
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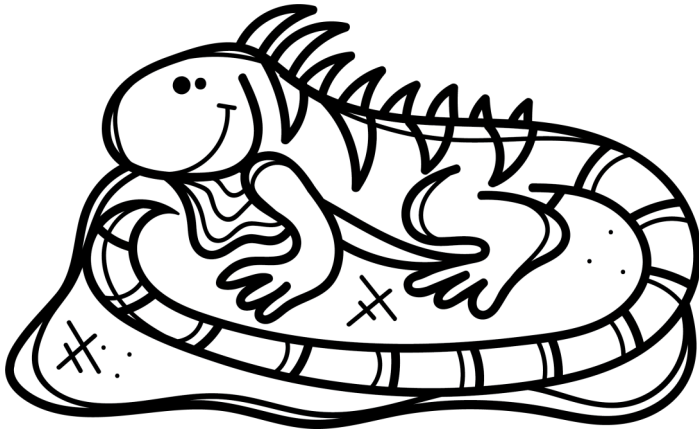
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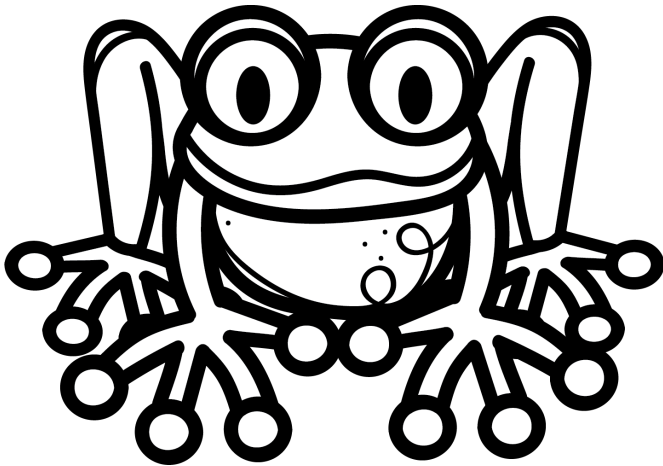


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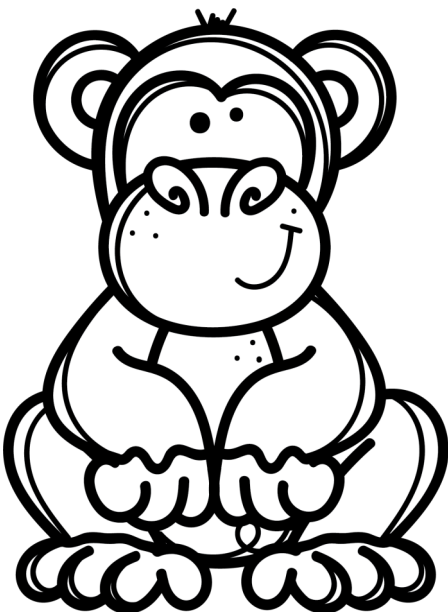
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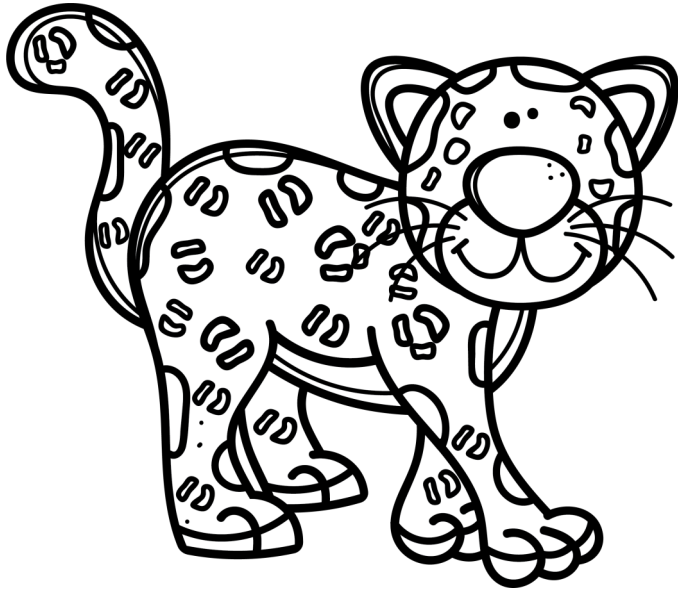
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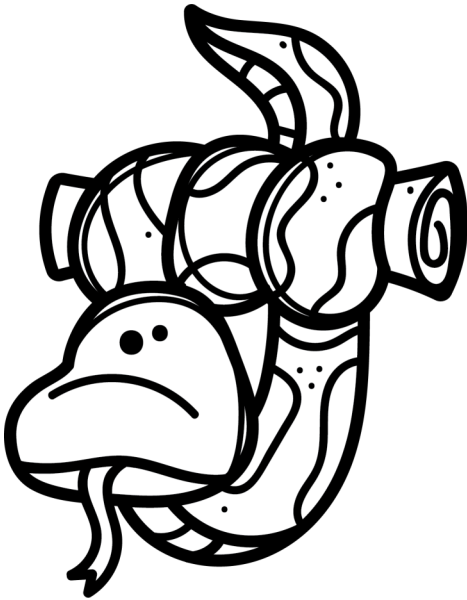
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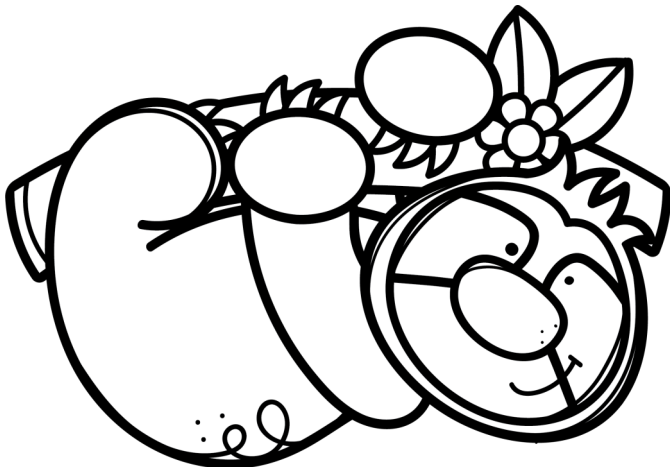
monkey



jaguar



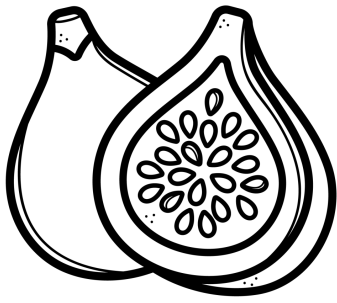
snake



sloth

Using Positional Words





Words That Rhyme With FIG

big	pig	jig
rig	dig	wig





