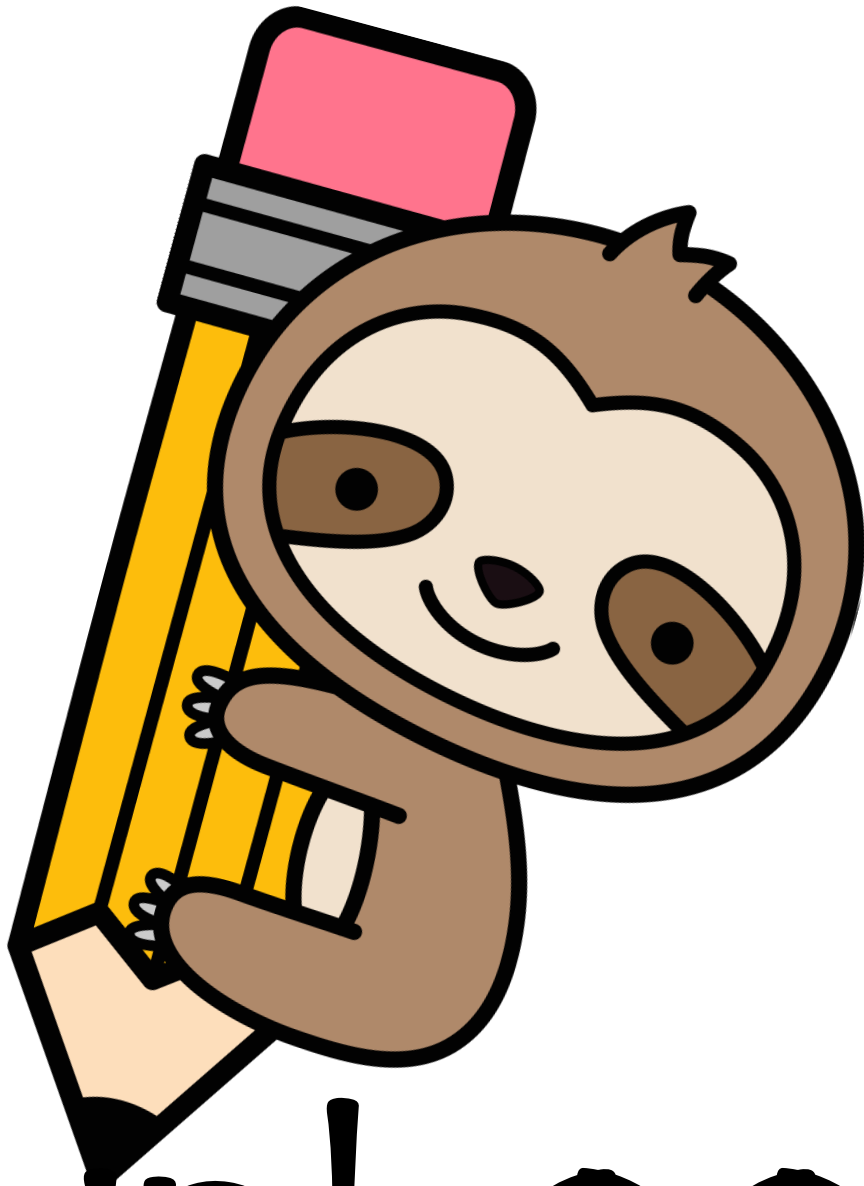


# SLOTH



# Lapbook

## Terms of Use

This product may be used for your own classroom or personal use. It may not be shared as a pdf file, on the web, or in any other way. © [www.homeschoolshare.com](http://www.homeschoolshare.com)

## Clipart Credit



---

## Sloth Animal Study Research & Lessons

---

### *Pronunciation:*

When referring to the animal, *sloth* is pronounced with a long **o** as in oath.

---

### *Vocabulary:*

Arboreal: tree living (animals who live in trees)

Vertebrae: bones or segments that make up the spine

Nocturnal: active at night

Herbivore: an animal that eats vegetation

→ Complete Vocabulary Simple Folds

---

### *Classification:*

Scientists divide sloths into two families, the two-toed sloth and the three-toed sloth. Both have three claws on their hind legs. It is on the front legs that the number of claws differs. Within each, there are several different species.

---

### *Physical Characteristics:*

Both males and females are the same in appearance.

They are 21-29 inches long and weigh 9-19 pounds.

Sloths have round, flat faces, small ears and big eyes. Their nose is flat and round, resembling a pig's snout.

There are 2 curved claws on the front legs of the two-toed sloth and 3 on the front legs of the three-toed Sloth. Both two and three- toed sloths have 3 claws on their hind legs. Their claws are 3-4 inches in length and are used to grasp tree limbs as they climb. The legs of the three-toed sloth are longer than the rear ones. The legs of the two-toed sloth are more similarly sized. The front limbs are very strong.

Three-toed sloths have a small tail. The two-toed sloth does not have a tail at all.

Sloths have dense, shaggy hair. Unlike the hair of other mammals that grows from the back down towards the belly, the sloth's hair grows from the belly towards the back. This is uniquely suited to their upside down lifestyle and allows the rain water to run off. This top layer of hair is long, very coarse, and grooved. It is brown or gray in color. During the rainy season, they turn a greenish color due to algae living in the groove of their hair. Beneath this top layer of coarse hair is a layer of downy hair that helps to protect the sloth from insects.

Sloths make a long, high-pitched sound. It sounds like aaaaa-eeeeee.

→ Complete Compare/Contrast Matchbook

→ Complete Sloth Facts Layer Book

---

### ***Anatomy:***

The sloth has a long tongue, large peg-like teeth and hard, tough lips. It uses its tongue to tug on food and pull it to their mouth. It then tears the food with its lips and grinds it with its teeth.

The sloth's body temperature is the lowest of all mammals, at 93 degrees. It fluctuates with the temperature of its environment like that of a cold-blooded creature such as a snake. Its body temperature can fluctuate as much as 10 degrees in one day. If our temperature fluctuates even just 5 degrees, it is life threatening.

The stomach of a sloth is compartmentalized, like that of a cow. (See Diet for more information).

Vertebrae are the bones that form the spine. The three-toed sloth has nine neck vertebrae while the two-toed sloth only has six or seven. Most mammals have seven. The extra neck vertebrae of the three-toed sloth allow it to turn its head farther to the right and left than any other mammal.

Sloths are extremely slow due to the anatomy of their limbs. They are unable to stand on their rear legs and walk like most mammals. When on the ground, they must pull themselves slowly along with their front limbs. They are strong climbers and swimmers. When swimming, they use an overarm stroke with their strong front limbs.

Because sloths are so inactive, their muscle mass is much less than that of other mammals. This explains their lower weight and also makes it easier for them to climb on thin branches in the canopy where they can hide more easily.

→ Complete Anatomy Envelope Fold

---

### ***Reproduction and Life Cycle:***

Sloths mate and give birth while hanging upside down in the tree. A female sloth gives birth to one offspring each year after 11 months of pregnancy. The baby sloth is born headfirst and uses its claws to cling to its mother. Once its legs are free, it wraps its legs around its mother and begins to nurse. The average baby weighs 12 ounces and is 10 inches long. The baby clings to its mother for about five weeks. It is fully mature at 3-5 years.

Sloths live 12- 20 years in the wild and as much as 30 years in captivity.

→ Complete Sloth Babies Shutterflap Book

---

### ***Adaptations:***

Sloths are almost entirely nocturnal and arboreal. They eat, sleep, mate and give birth while in the trees (hanging upside down!). They sleep or remain still during the day and eat at night.

---

### ***Range and Habitat:***

Sloths live in the canopy layer of the rainforests of central and northern South America from Nicaragua and south through Venezuela, Brazil and Peru. The rainforest biome a tropical, wet climate and is made up of four layers. The canopy layer is the primary layer that is home to birds, reptiles and mammals. The trees in the canopy grow 60-130 feet and create an umbrella or roof over the other two layers. This is where the sloth makes its home. The sloth is able to get all that it needs in the trees and only goes to the forest floor once a week to defecate.

The other three layers of the rainforest include the emergent layer with trees that break through the canopy and can grow to be 240 feet high. This is home to birds and insects. The understory is the layer beneath the canopy. The canopy blocks light and this layer is dark and humid. Monkeys, birds, snakes, bats, frogs and butterflies make their home here. The forest floor is very dark and home to many insects and the largest animals of the rainforest.

→ Complete Rainforest Layer Book

---

### ***Diet, Digestion and Waste:***

Sloths are herbivores. The two-toed sloth will eat leaves, buds, stems and fruits from many varieties of trees. The three-toed sloth eats just leaves, and only from a few trees. They get water from the juicy leaves and from the dew that collects on them. Occasionally, the sloth will eat some of the algae from its coat.

The sloth's metabolic rate is slower than that of other similarly sized mammals. It sleeps up to 16 hours a day. It can take up to a month for some of the vegetation it eats to completely digest. The sloth's stomach contains cellulose (a type of bacteria) to aid in digestion.

This slow digestion process causes the sloth to need to defecate only once a week. It will leave the tree and move to the ground to deposit its droppings, unlike monkeys and other arboreal animals that defecate from up in the trees. This is one of the few times that a sloth will leave the tree. They urinate from the trees, but only when the rain can mask their urine stream.

→ Complete Dinner Wheel

---

### ***Predators:***

The main predators of the sloth are carnivores (flesh eating animals) such as ocelots, jaguars and raptors (birds of prey) such as the harpy eagle. They are also prey to tree snakes. Humans also hunt the sloth for their meat and coat.

→ Complete Predators Book

---

### ***Defenses:***

Because they move so slowly, the sloth's main defense is camouflage. As long as the sloth remains still and quiet, they are very difficult to detect. Their brown/gray coloration helps them to blend in their environment. They sleep curled up in a tight ball. This closely resembles a termite nest and allows them to go undetected by raptors and other predators. During the rainy season, when the trees are green, algae forms on their hair, giving them a greenish color allowing them to blend successfully with the trees. When on the ground (which is not often), the sloth can defend itself if necessary by slashing at a predator with its long claws.

→ Complete Camouflage Book

---

***Bible Application:***

We can see God's wisdom in how perfectly the sloth was created for its habitat. Consider with your child how wonderfully made the sloth is.

The Bible uses the term slothful in many places. We are to be diligent and hardworking, not slothful and lazy. Read the following verses with your child and discuss how being slothful is contrary to God's will for His children:

Judges 18:9

Proverbs 12:24, 12:27, 15:19, 18:9, 19:24, 21:25, 22:13, 24:30, 26:13-15,

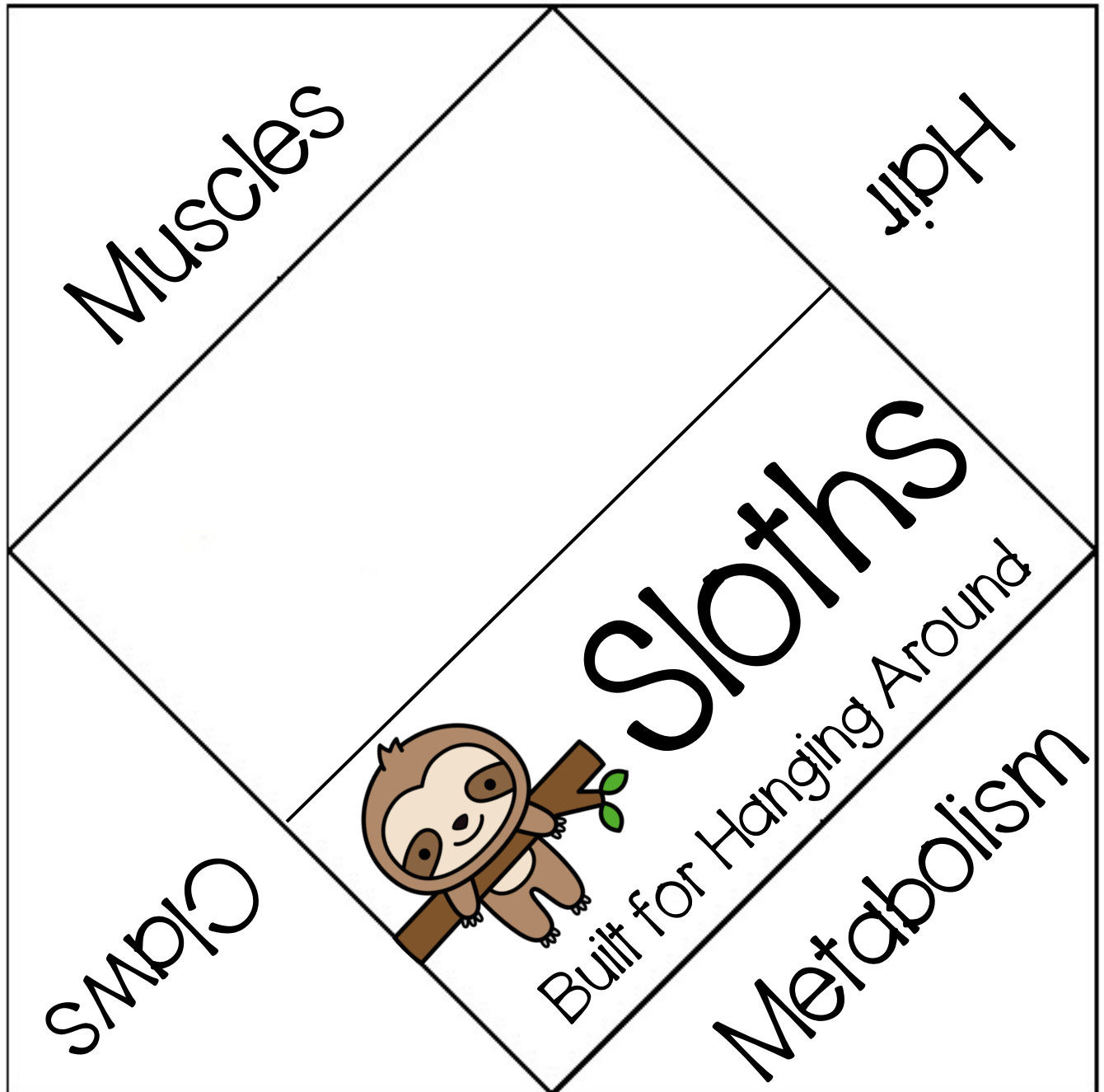
Matthew 25:26

Romans 12:11

Hebrews 6:12

→ Complete Copywork

**Directions:** Cut book out as one piece. Fold each triangle under. Turn over. Lift and write a description of each part of a sloth's unique anatomy. Use center area to draw a picture of a Sloth or to provide additional information about the Sloth. When you are finished, fold in half on center line so that cover shows. Glue into lapbook.



Materials and information may be used for your own personal and school use.  
Material may not be used for resale or shared electronically. © Homeschool Share



**Directions:** Cut book out. Fold on lines (matchbook style). After visiting a sloth at the zoo, let your child use the space provided to describe or illustrate his visit.

# Sloths in the Zoo



Materials and information may be used for your own personal and school use.  
Material may not be used for resale or shared electronically. © Homeschool Share

# Sloth Facts



How slow can you go?

Upside down!?

Can you  
twist like this?

title
one
two
three

Splash! Splash!

Cut out the 5 rectangles. Stack together with the smallest on top and the largest on the bottom.  
Staple at the top. Use spaces provided to record interesting facts about the Sloth.

**If desired, use the text on this page for the Sloth Facts Layer Book.**

The stiff fur grows from the belly toward the back so that rainwater will run off.

Sloths are the slowest moving mammal.

The muscles in their shoulders and necks are very strong!

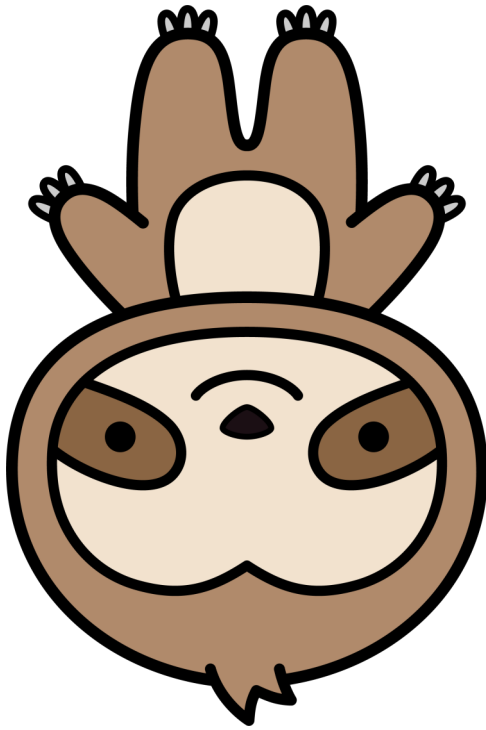
Three-toed sloths have an extra neck bone. They can twist their heads farther than any other mammal!

The sloth saves energy and requires less food because it has a low body temperature. A sloth sleeps the day away.

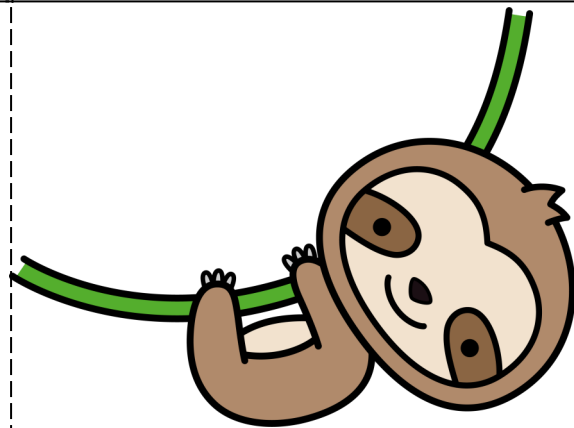
The sloth eats, sleeps, and even gives birth while upside down!

Their hands and feet are leathery and have long claws that help them hang from tree branches.

Sloths are very good swimmers!



**Directions:** Cut out the three rectangles as ONE piece. Using the black line as your guide, fold the top rectangle down and to the back. Fold the right rectangle over (again, using the black line as your guide). The title should be on top when you are finished folding. Write the answers or cut and paste images under the flap with the sloth picture.



Predators  
of the  
SLOTH

**Directions:** Cut on solid lines. Fold on dotted.

# Sloth Babies

How many  
babies does  
a sloth have  
each year?

How much  
does the  
average  
baby sloth  
weigh?

How long  
does a baby  
sloth cling  
to its  
mother?

How long  
is a sloth  
pregnant?

How long is  
the average  
baby sloth?

How long  
does it take  
for a baby  
sloth to  
mature?

**Directions:** Cut book out as one piece. Fold left side in. Fold right side in. Fold top down. Use Termite nest and sloth photos as desired.  
*Termite nest photo is courtesy of Elie Hogeveen. To see more rainforest images, visit her website at <http://www.magma.ca/%7Eelliehh>*



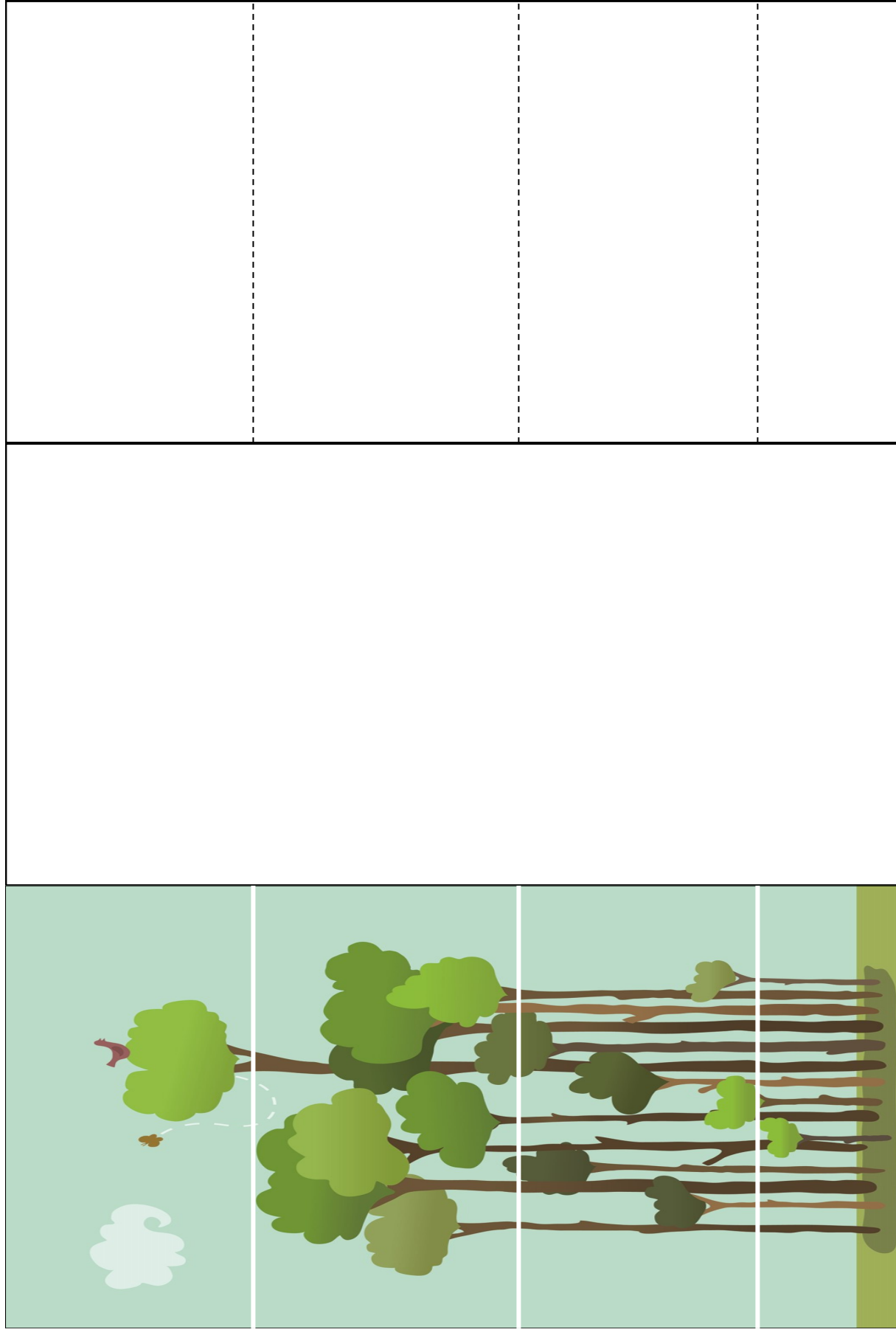


**Directions:** Cut out the compare/contrast book as one piece and fold matchbook style. Use the inside of the book to compare and contrast the two toed sloth and the three toed sloth.

Two-toed Sloth

Three-toed Sloth



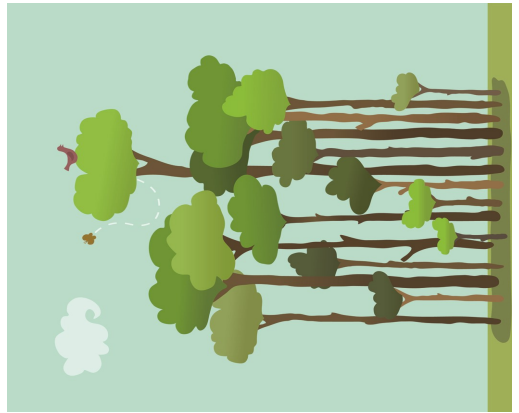


Cut out book as one piece. .Fold left and right sides towards middle. Open and cut flaps on dotted lines. Re-fold. When folded, the flaps should be closest to the center panel. Cut title and labels from page two. Glue title onto folded cover. Glue labels onto folded tabs and descriptions onto the middle section (under flaps).



**Directions:** Cut out title, labels, and descriptions on dotted lines. Glue onto finished folded book.

# Layers of the Rainforest



Giant trees that are higher than those of the average canopy height. This is home to many birds and insects.
The "roof" layer teeming with life and home to birds, reptiles, and mammals, including the sloth.
Dark, humid environment that is home to animals such as monkeys, birds, snakes, butterflies, frogs and bats.
The part of the rainforest that is very dark and home to many insects and the largest animals of the rainforest.

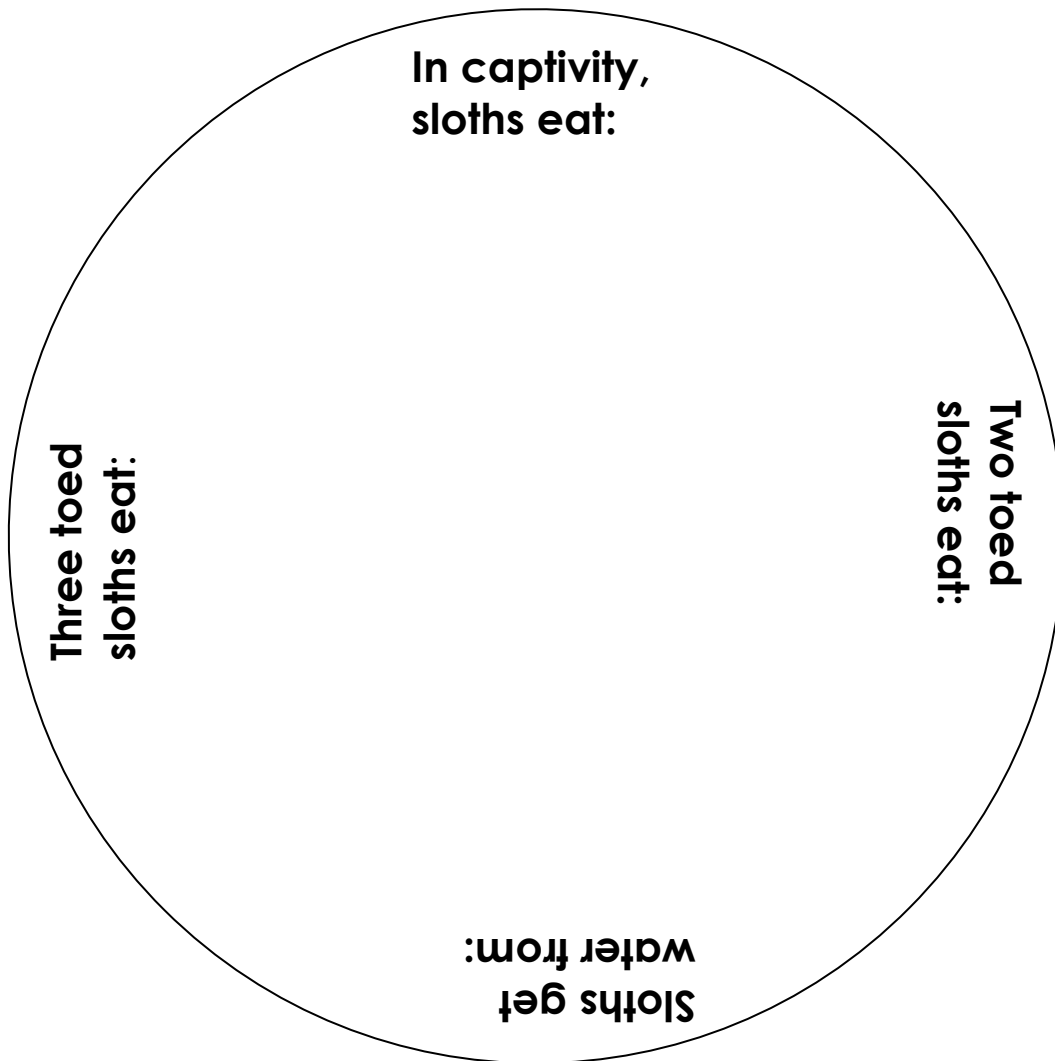
Emergent Layer
Canopy Layer
Forest Floor
Understory Layer

# Print on Cardstock

**Directions:** Cut out wheels. Cut away the extra area on the cover wheel (where indicated). On the second wheel, have student fill in information about the diet of the sloth. Fasten wheels together with a brad.

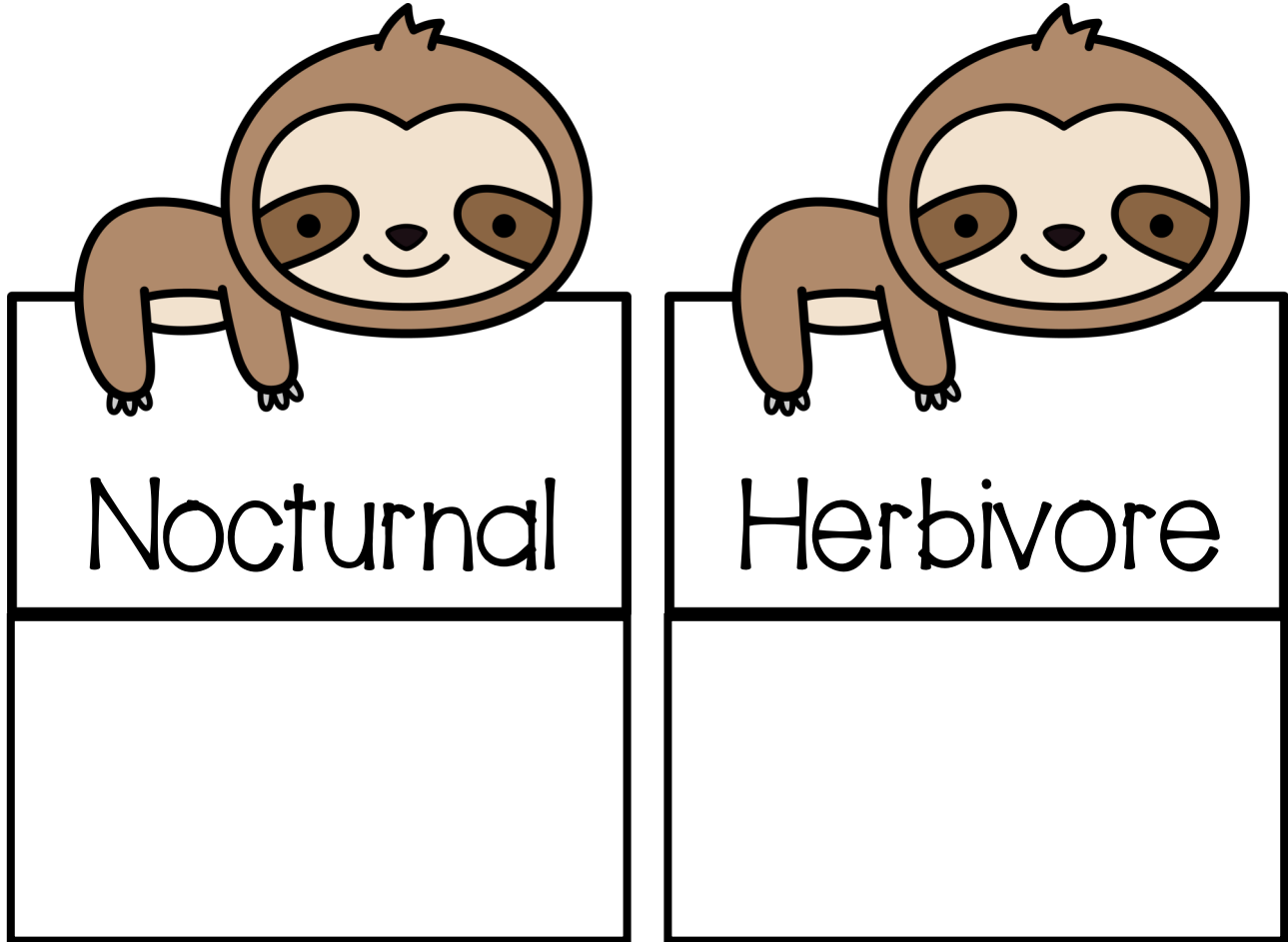


Materials and information may be used for your own personal and school use. Material may not be used for resale or shared electronically. © Homeschool Share



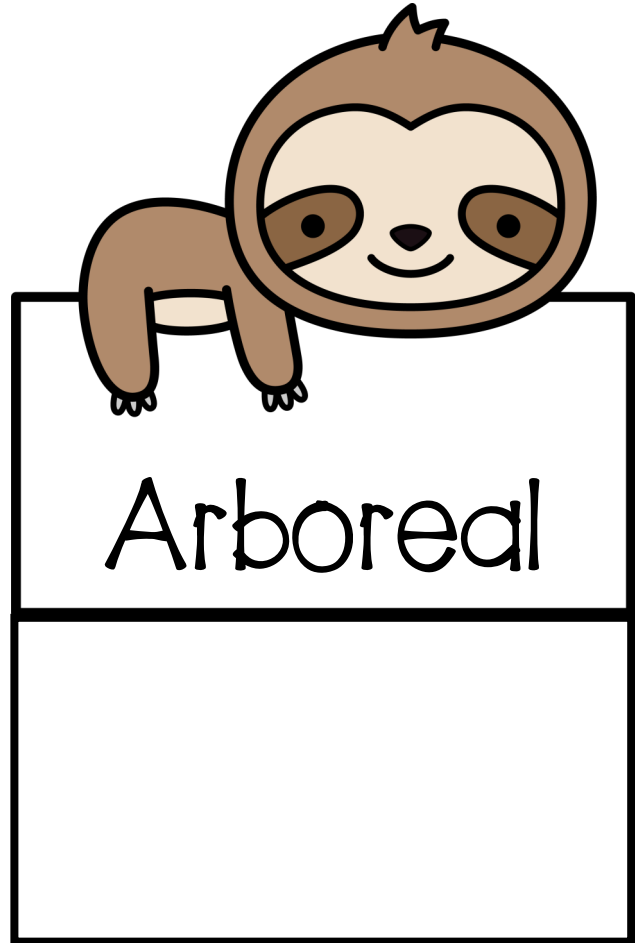
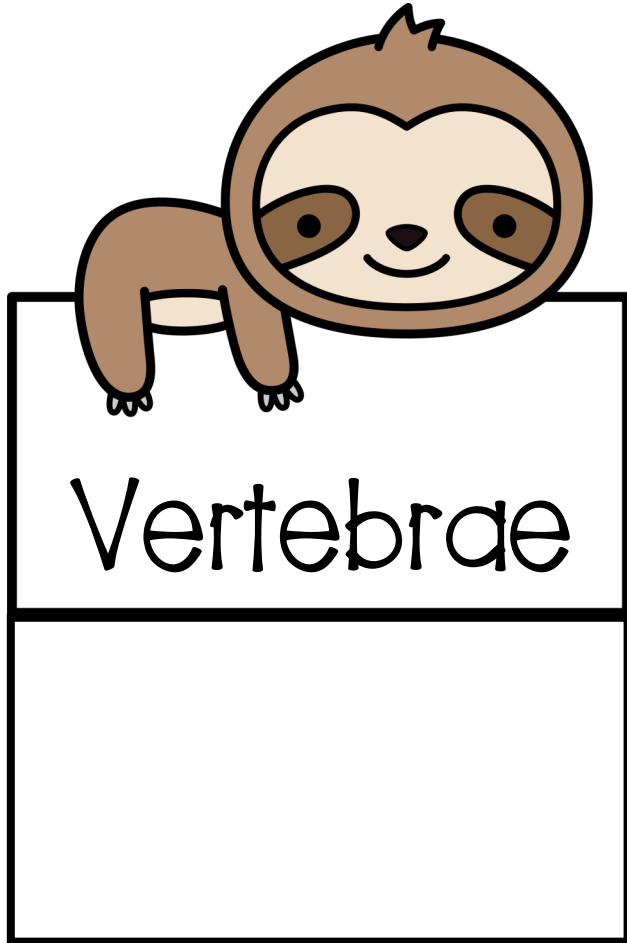
## Vocabulary Simple Folds

**Directions:** Cut out books and fold in half. Write definitions inside.



## Vocabulary Simple Folds

**Directions:** Cut out books and fold in half. Write definitions inside.



**Directions:** Cut books out on solid lines; fold on dotted lines.



What Is a Sloth's  
Life Expectancy?



How Big Is a Sloth?

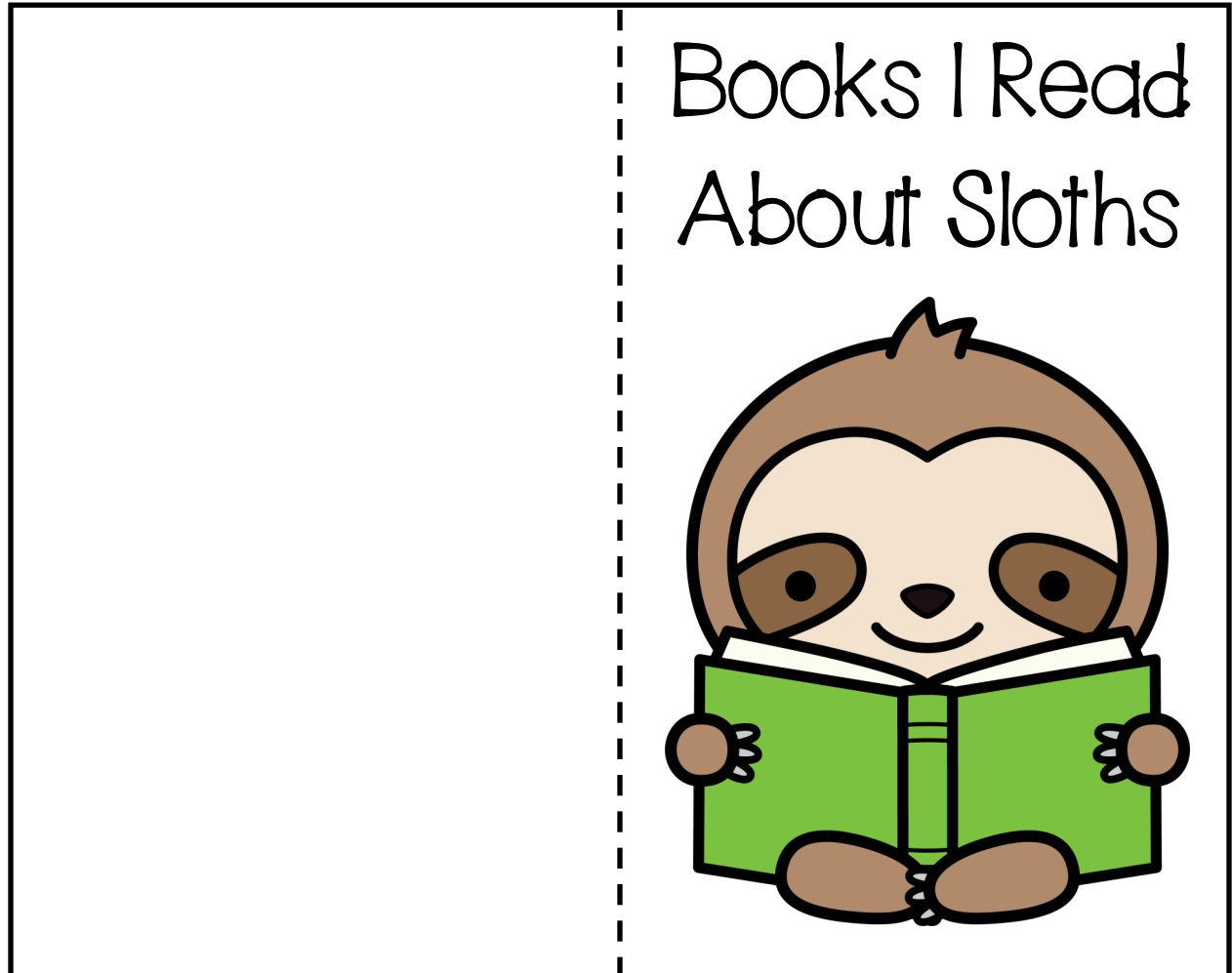


How Long Does  
a Sloth Sleep  
Each Day?



What Is a Sloth's  
Average Body  
Temperature?

**Directions:** Cut out book and fold in half. Record book titles inside.



Materials and information may be used for your own personal and school use.  
Material may not be used for resale or shared electronically. © Homeschool Share

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Proverbs 19:15

The diagram illustrates a sequence of horizontal lines with points marked above and below them. The points are represented by small circles, some open and some filled. The lines are horizontal and parallel, with the points generally moving closer to a central line as the sequence progresses. The points are arranged in a way that suggests a process of approximation or convergence.

The image displays five horizontal lines, each with a series of small circles (dots) positioned above and below them, resembling a musical staff with notes. The dots are arranged in a way that suggests a sequence of notes across the staves. The first staff has dots above the line and below the line. The second staff has dots above the line and below the line. The third staff has dots above the line and below the line. The fourth staff has dots above the line and below the line. The fifth staff has dots above the line and below the line.