

Unit study based on

GOOD NIGHT, GORILLA

book by Peggy Rathmann
unit study prepared by Ely Butuyan
printables created by Ami Brainerd

Animals

The story includes some animals very familiar to young children (elephant, giraffe, lion, gorilla, mouse) and some that might be new (armadillo, hyena). Begin a simple study of these animals. Include simple facts such as where does it live? What does it eat? Where does it sleep? Cut and paste facts to the backs of the animal classification cards, if desired (cards are included in the printables file at the top of the unit).

Playing with the Animal Cards

Use the animal cards and have your student show you

~two groups - animals with fur/animals without fur

~two groups- larger animals/smaller animals

~the smallest animal (mouse)

~the tallest animal (giraffe)

~the largest animal (elephant)

~the animals with spots (giraffe, hyena)

Preschool Skills

Left to Right: The zookeeper's house is to the left and zoo is to the right. Have your child follow with their fingers which direction the animals, zookeeper and his wife are going on each double-page spread.

Counting

On the double-page spread count the houses, the lampposts, or the people in the windows (notice how these increase on every double spread page).

Colors

Notice the colors on the cages and how the zookeeper's keys match the colors. Does the gorilla always use the correct key? (Yes! He's a very smart gorilla!)

Language

Point to the word ZOO in the story. Teach the "oo" sound. Mention how this sound is also in the word "goodnight". Have your child turn the pages of the story and try to spot the word "goodnight". What other words can you think of together that have the "oo" sound? (moo, boo, goose, book, look, too, etc.) Make a list. You may want to only teach one of the "oo" sounds.

Observations

~Spot the purple balloon throughout the book.

~Find the mouse. What is he doing? There's always something funny that he is doing!

~Observe what's inside the animal cages. The gorilla, elephant and lion cages give clues of what they like to eat. Notice also how there's stuffed animals inside the cages. What other things they have? (balls, toys) Why? It seems they are all baby animals!

Baby Animal Names

Does your child know the names for the baby animals? This might be a good opportunity to teach some or all of them.

Armadillo=pup

Elephant=calf

Gorilla=infant

Lion=cub

Giraffe=calf

Hyena=cub

Drama

Act out the story! You may want some props- flashlight, set of keys, and stuffed animals. Take turn being the zookeeper and the gorilla. Pretend to walk around a room, the zookeeper on tiptoes and holding a flashlight, and the gorilla following behind holding a set of keys.

Discussion

~Why is the zookeeper walking "tiptoes"?

~Why are the animals inside cages?

~Who do you think ate the banana at the end of the story?

Banana Dippers Snack

Ingredients:

1 banana

5 toothpicks

1/3 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

multi-colored candy bits

Directions:

Line a small cookie tray with wax paper. Peel banana and cut into five chunks. Place on cookie sheet and insert toothpick into the back of each piece. Place in freezer for 30 minutes or until frozen. After banana pieces are frozen, melt the chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl. Microwave for 60-90 seconds. Stir. Dip each frozen banana in the chocolate and sprinkle with candy pieces. Return chunks to wax paper-lined cookie sheet. Freeze until chocolate is firm.

Field Trip

Visit a zoo. See how many of the animals in the story you can spot. Bring a checklist. Can you spot a zookeeper? What is his job?

Library List

Little Gorilla by Ruth Bornstein

Feed the Animals by H.A. Rey

Curious George Visits the Zoo by H.A. Rey

Goodnight Gorilla...and More Great Sleepytime Stories (Scholastic Storybook Treasures) DVD

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Goodnight Gorilla Printables

Animal Cards (pages 6-7)

Use for sorting games as mentioned in the unit study.
If desired, add animal facts to the back of each card.

Z is for Zoo (page 8)

Learn the letter Z. Let your student color the picture. Paste into lapbook (you can fold and make it into a mini-book, if desired).

What does a zookeeper do? (page 8)

Write information in the mini-book.

Alphabet Animals or Animal Puppets (pages 9-10)

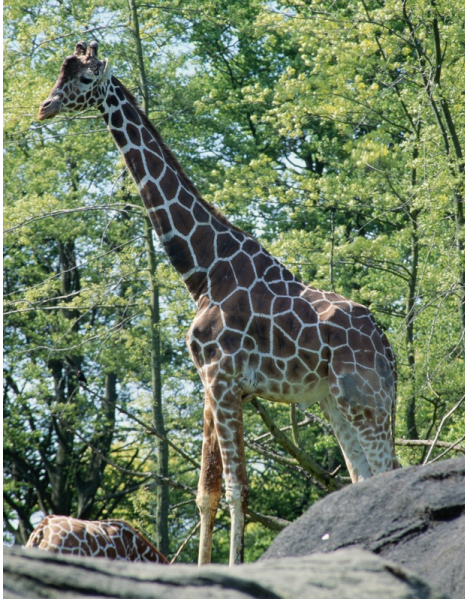
Print on cardstock. Let your student color the animals. Laminate, if desired. Add popsicle sticks to the backs of the animals and let your student act out the story. You can also use these for an alphabet sounds game. Ask your student to find the animal that starts with the ____ sound. If you don't want to make puppets, you can make folded books of alphabet animals (E is for Elephant on the cover with the picture of the elephant on the inside of the book).

Color Cages and Keys (pages 11-17)

Assemble cages and cut out keys. Laminate keys for durability and stick Velcro on the back of each one. Glue backs of cages to a lapbook or notebook and add a dot of Velcro under each cage. Cut the animals out (again, laminate for durability). Place one in each cage pocket (without your student seeing). Ask your student to help get the animals out of their cages by finding the right keys. As he places a key on the Velcro dot, reward him by letting him open the cage and take the animal out. There are lots of extra animals for this activity. This is on purpose so that you can surprise your student each time you play!

Zoo Guide (pages 18-19)

You can use these pieces as you wish (during or after a trip to the zoo). If your student saw the animal at the zoo write YES or NO (or let him make a big X or checkmark on the card). When finished, you can make this into a simple stapled book (you may want to back each piece with colored paper first) or into an accordion mini-book.



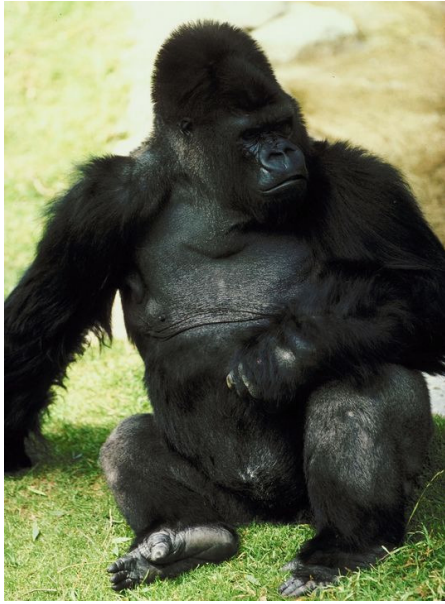
Giraffe



Armadillo



Mouse



Gorilla



Elephant



Lion



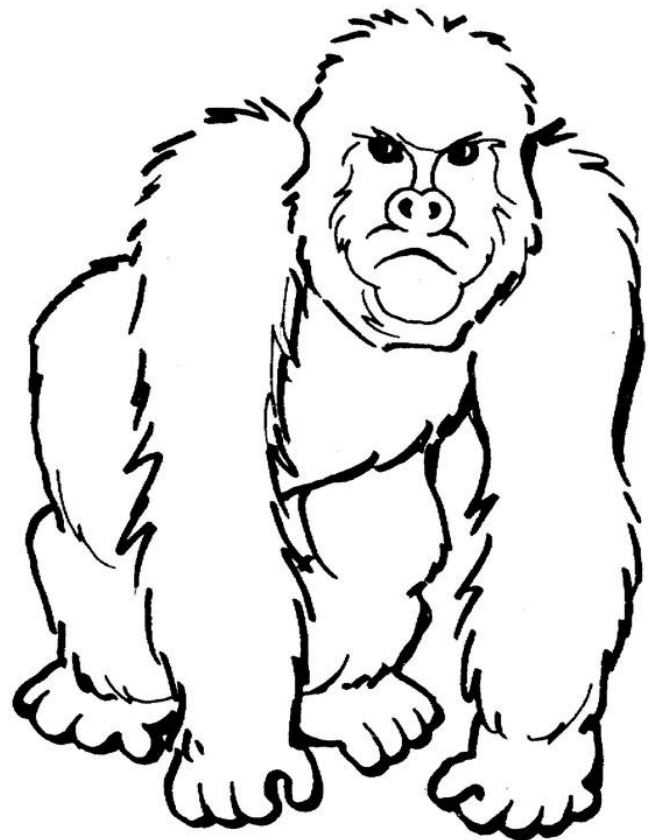
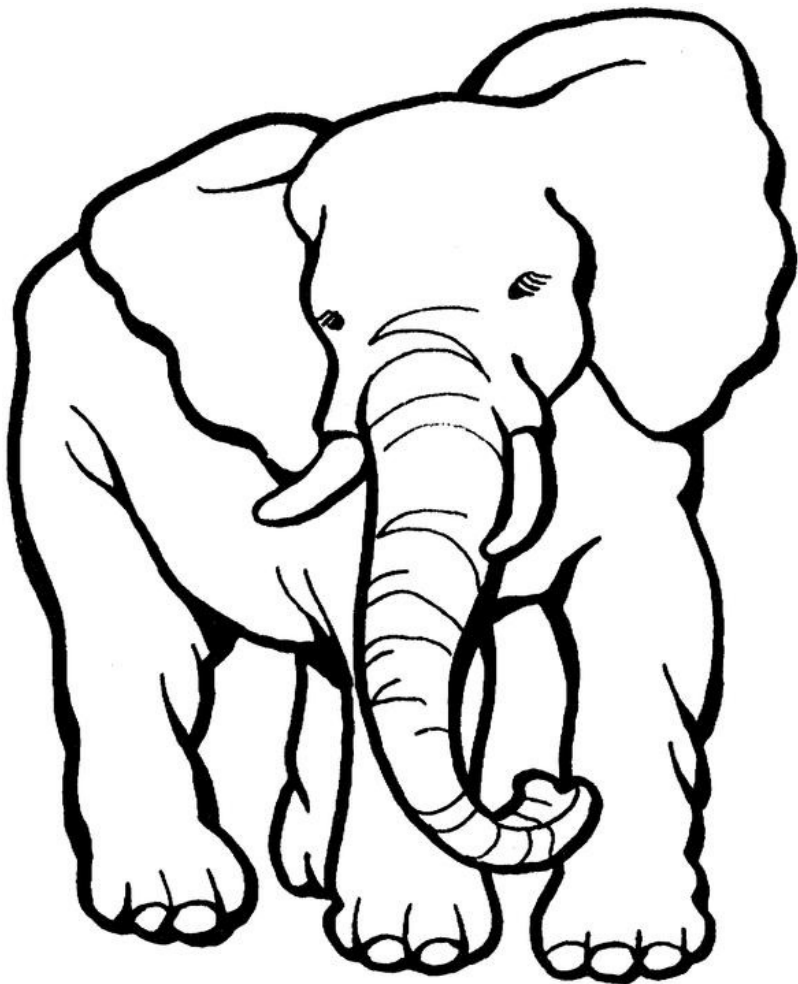
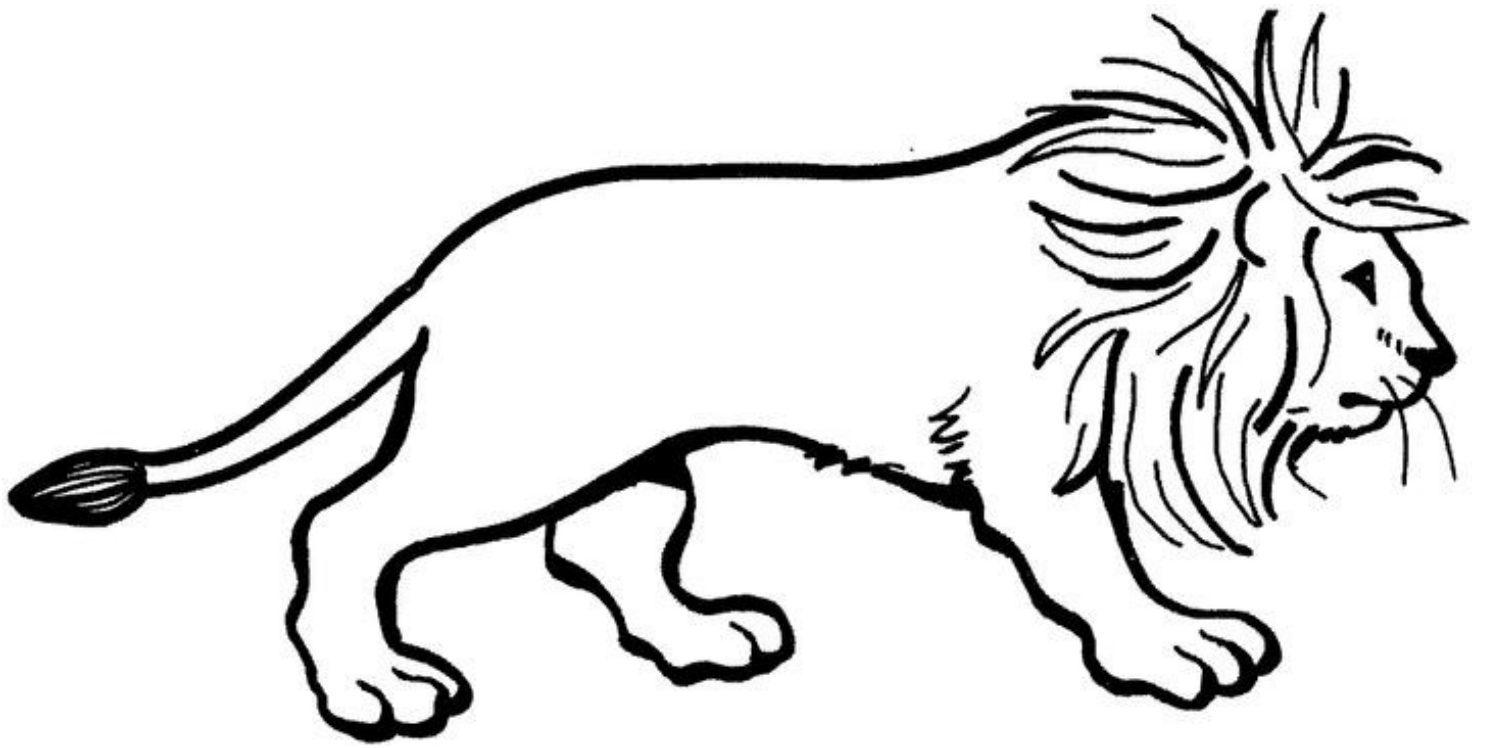
Hyena

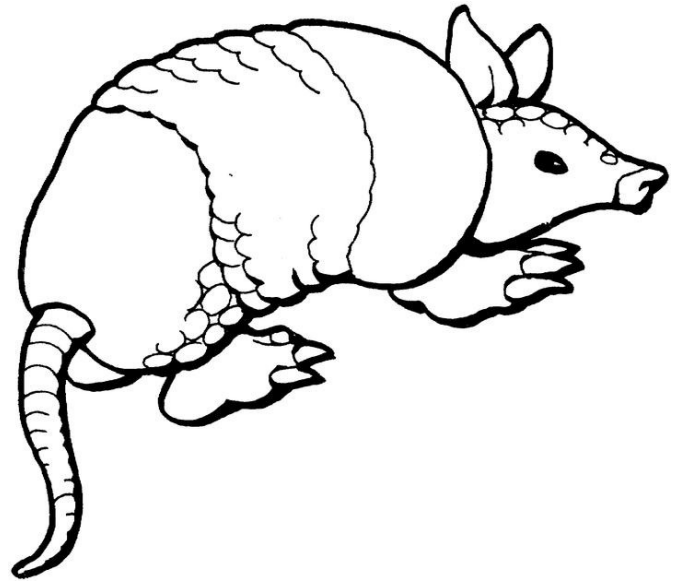
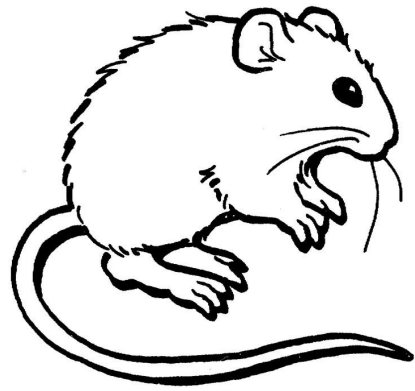
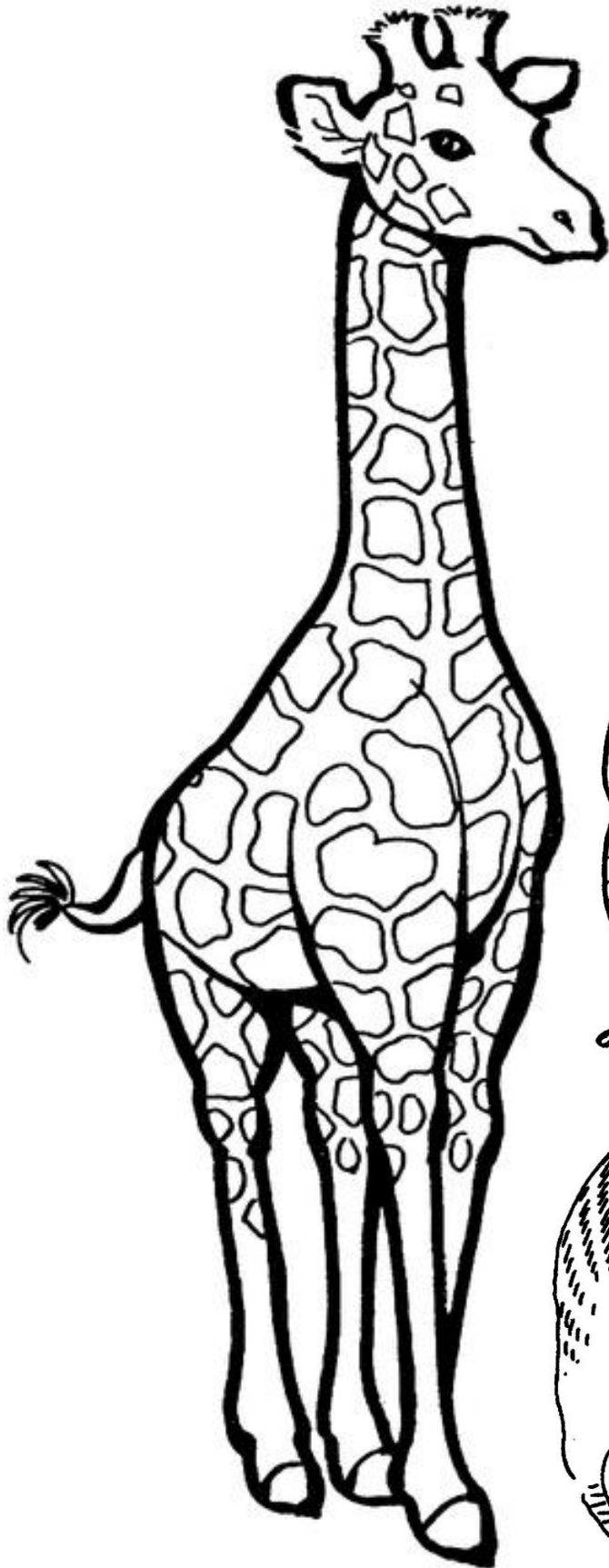
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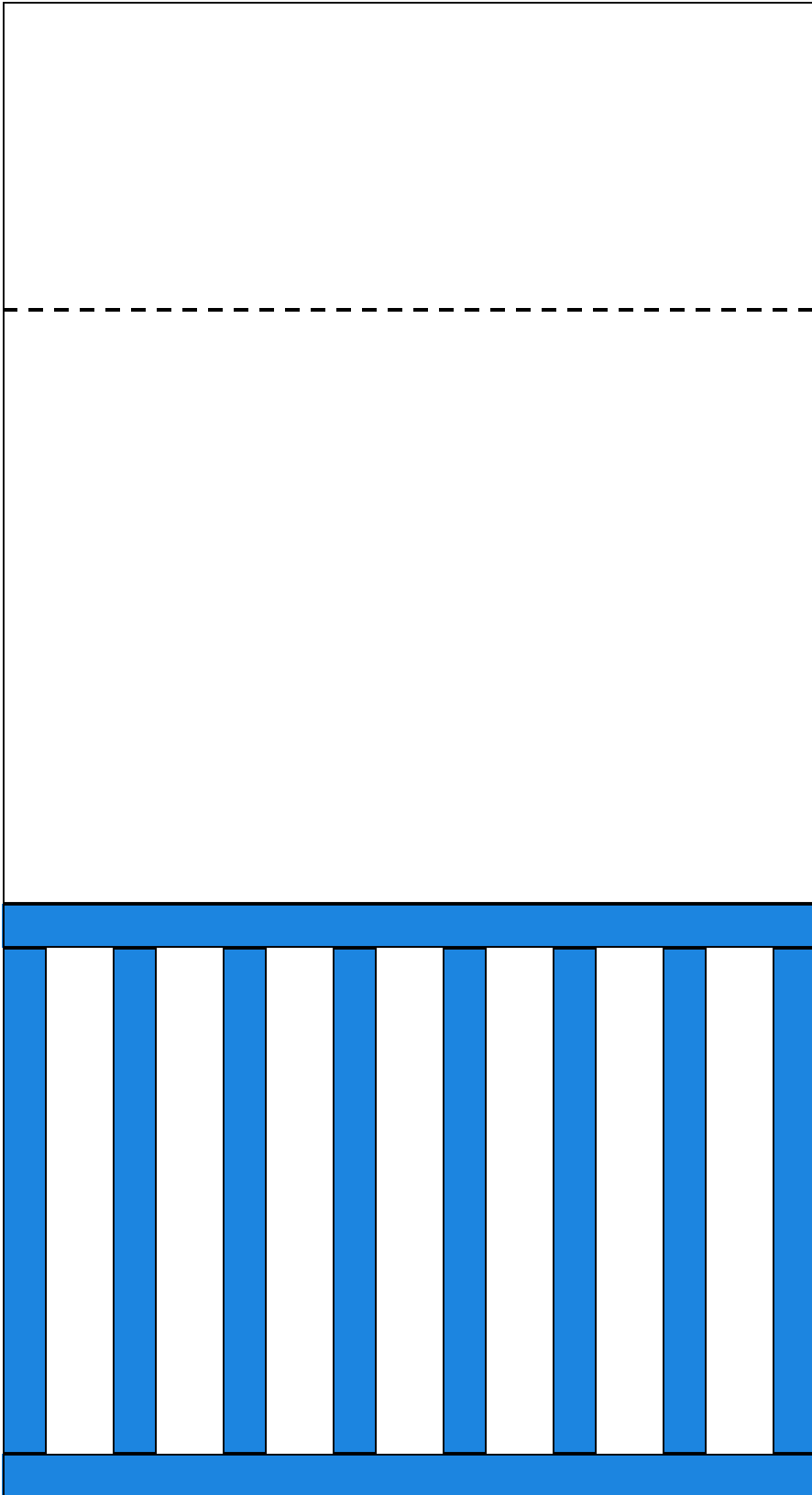
Z is for zoo







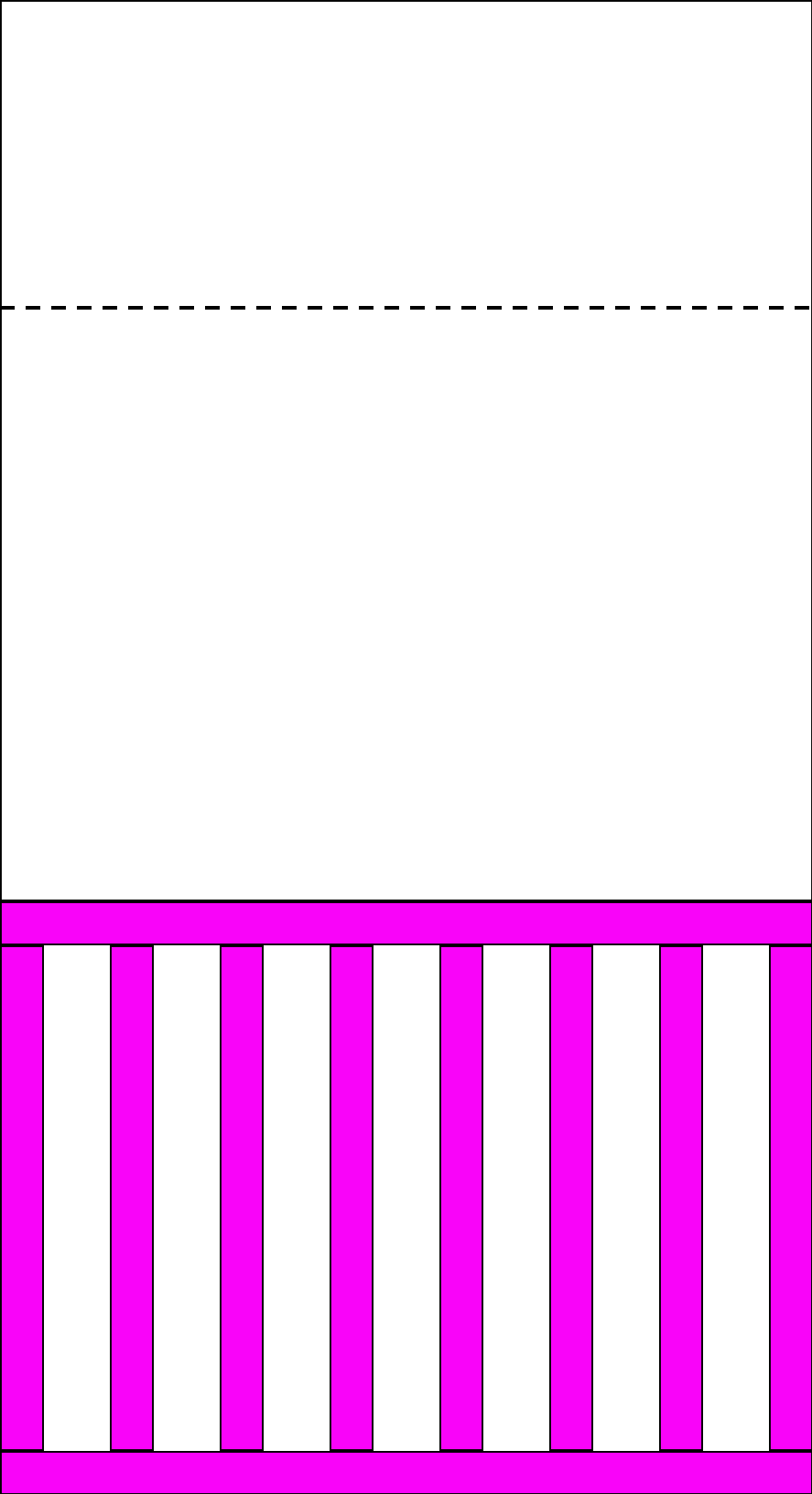
Cut book out as one piece. Make inside pocket. Let dry. Fold in half.



Add thin strip of glue on both edges. Make a valley fold and secure to form a pocket.



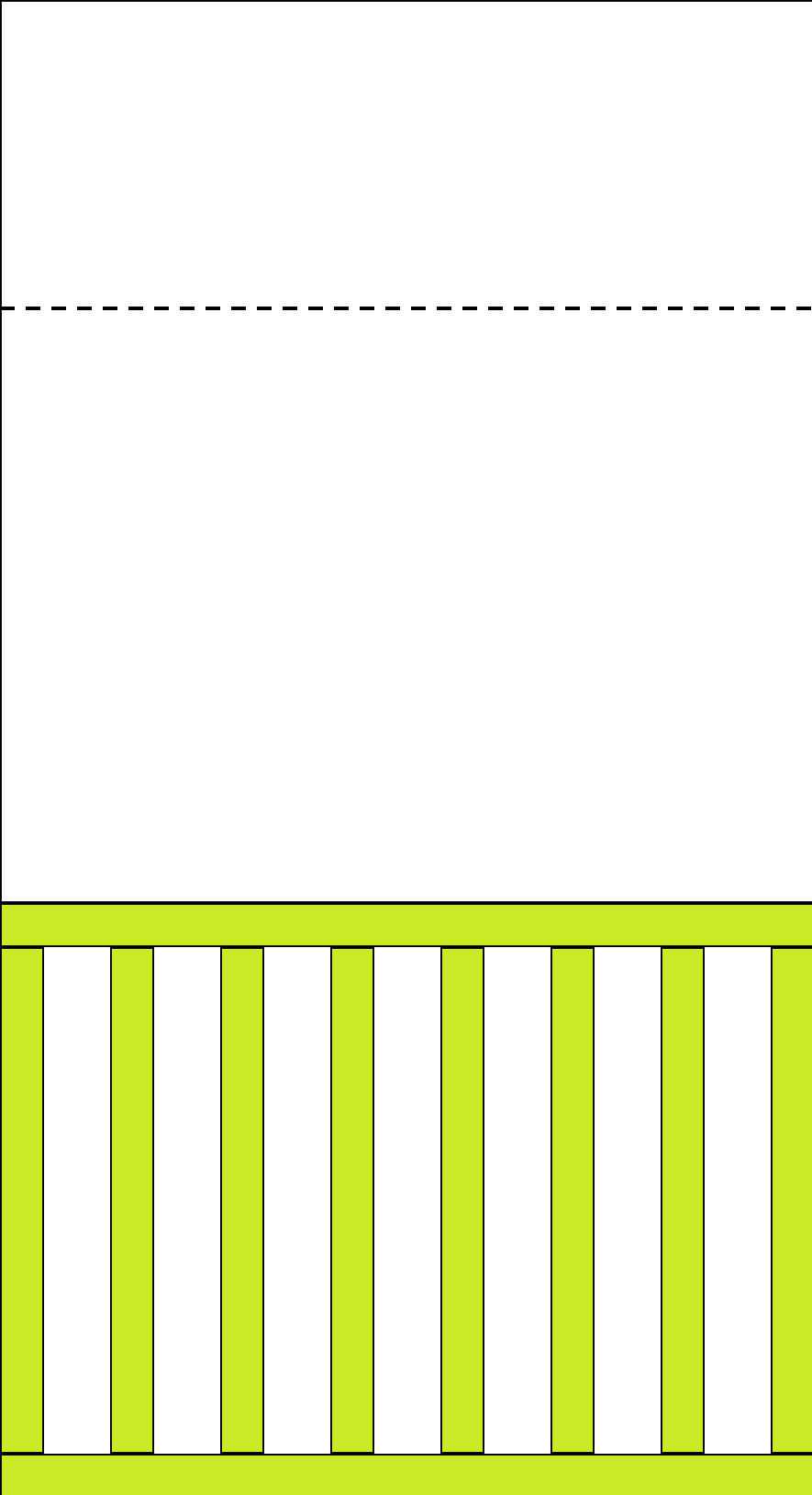
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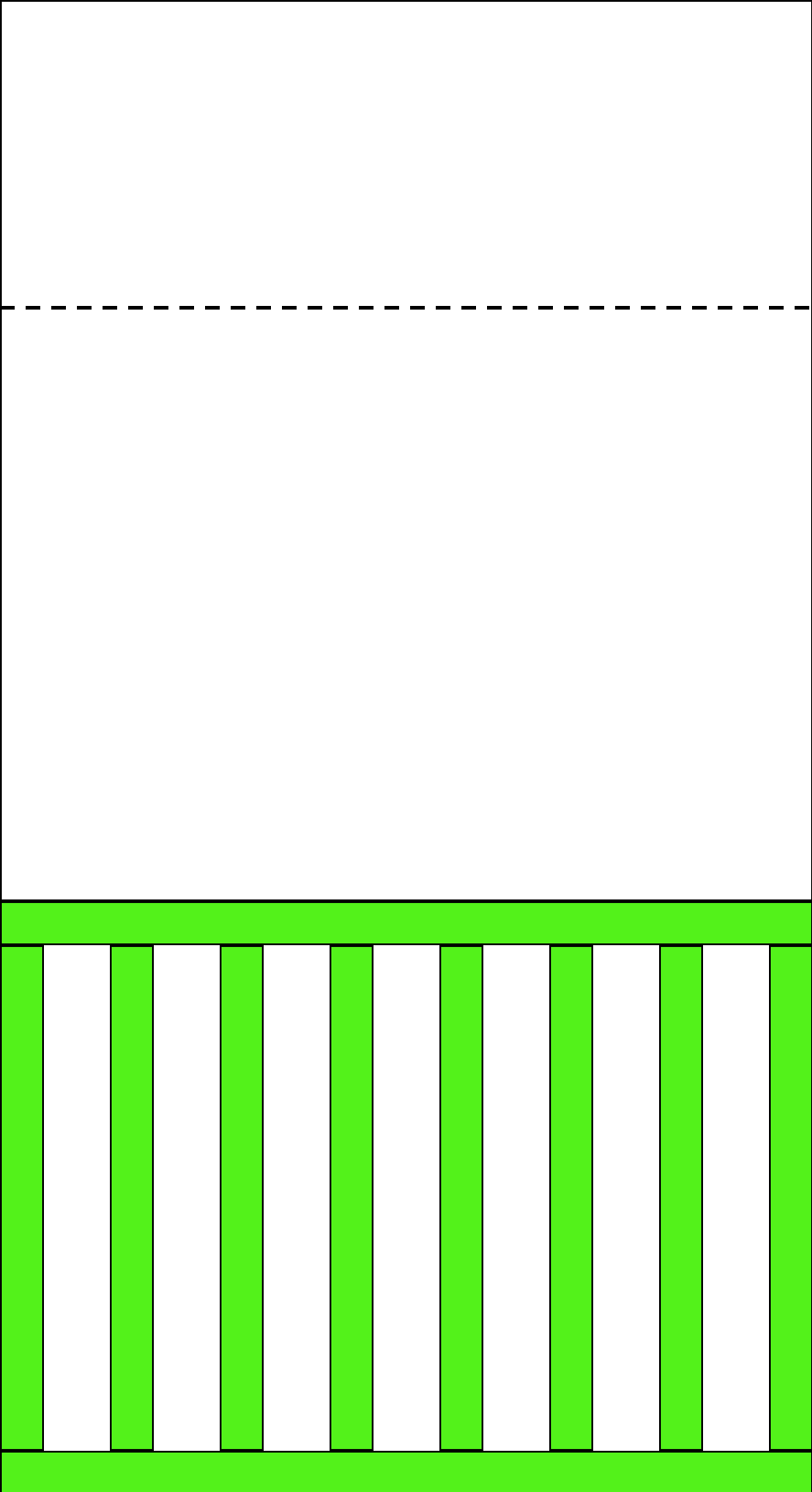
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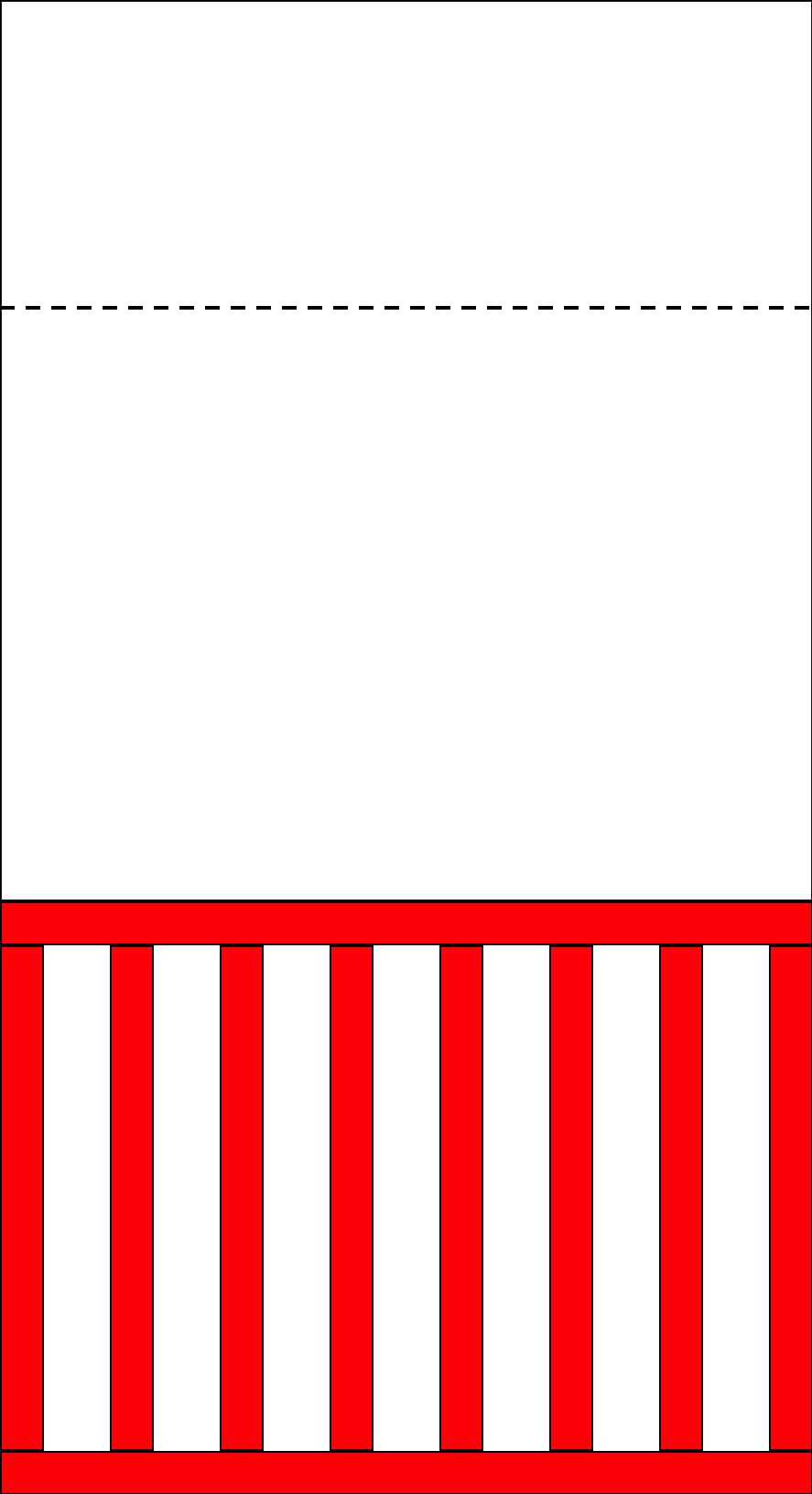
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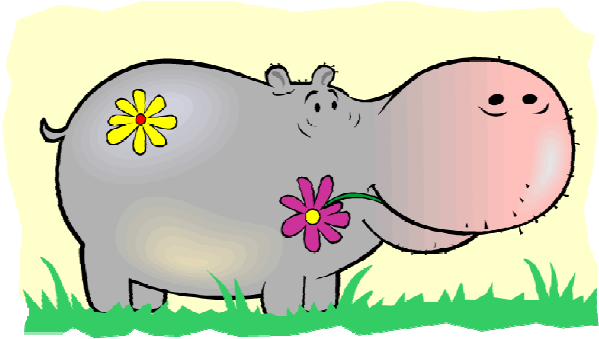
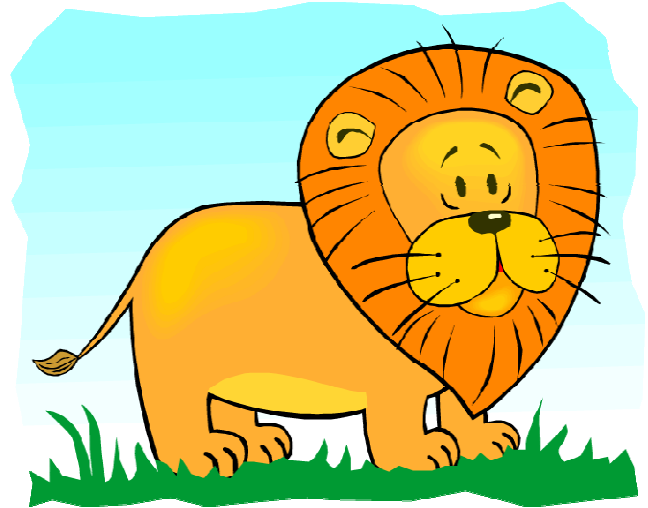
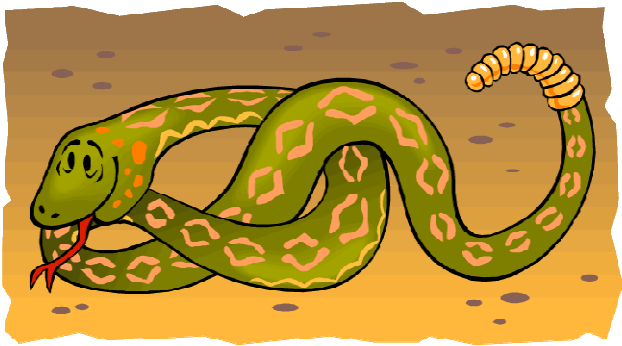
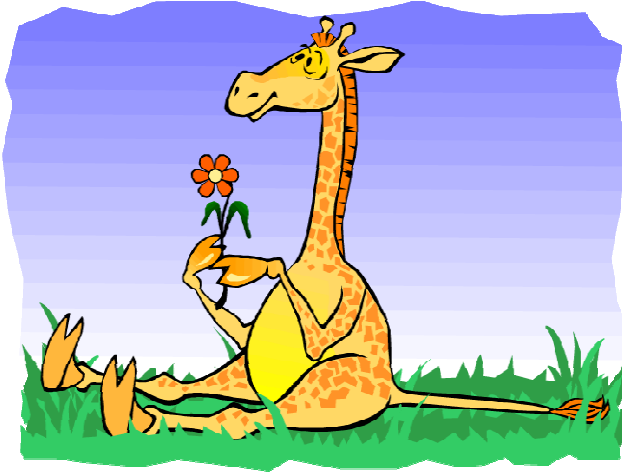


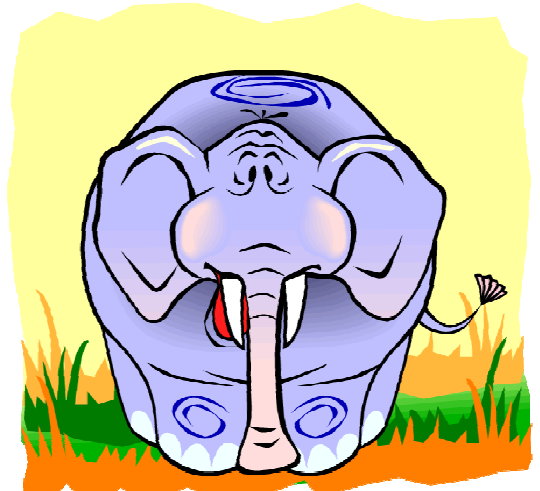
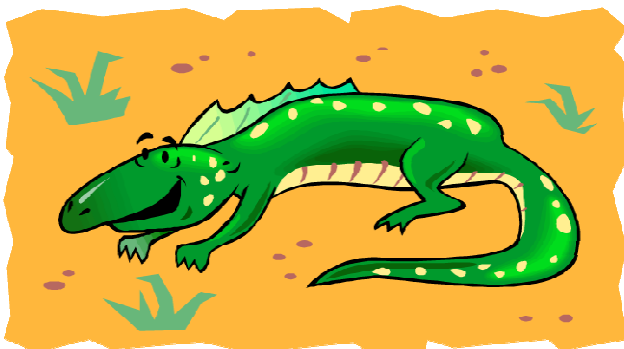
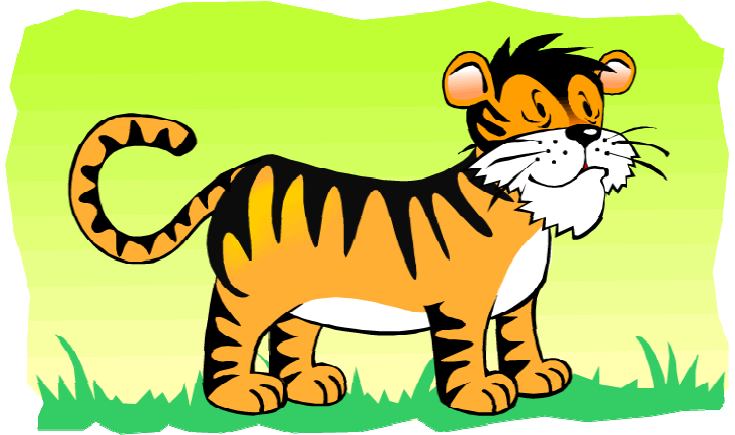
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I
Saw
You
at
the
Zoo!



My Favorite

