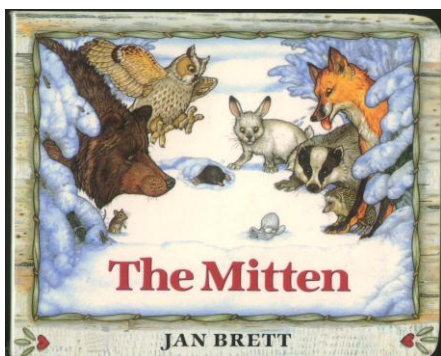


The Mitten



The Mitten

unit by Ginger A.
printables by Ami Brainerd

Language Arts

Story Sequence

After reading *The Mitten* color the mitten and animal pages [cut out the animals]. Practice story sequencing by placing the animals onto the mitten in the correct order. Don't glue these down yet, so that this can be practiced and reinforced during the unit study. At the end of the unit glue the animals to the mitten.

Drama

Use the masks to put on a play or skit of *The Mitten*. An older child could write character names to be taped to the actors' t-shirts.

Genre: Folktale

This is a retelling of a Ukrainian Folktale. What does retelling mean? What is a folktale? Is this an original story? You may want to include reading another variation of this tale, *The Mitten* by Alvin Tresselt.

Discussion

Did grandmother give Nicki good advice? Why do you think Baba made the white mittens for Nicki?

Sayings

What happens after all the animals crawl into the mitten? Have you ever heard anyone use the phrase "the straw that broke the camel's back"? How is this saying similar to the story of *The Mitten*?

From GoEnglish.com -- The straw that broke the camel's back is the last thing you are willing to accept after which you will not put up with any more.

Example: "You broke a lot of rules and we tried to ignore it. But stealing money from us was the straw that broke the camel's back. We're sending you home to your parents."

You are *at the last straw* when you are just about to lose your patience. *The straw that broke the camel's back* is the last thing that that happened that finally made you upset. Example: "He came to work late every day that week. Then on Friday, he didn't show up at all." Reply: "That was the straw that broke the camel's back."

There is a limit to how much straw (long yellow grass) a camel can carry on its back. If you keep putting more straw on top, it will finally break the camel's back. When you are *at the last straw* you are finally angry and will not take any more. Example: "You have been rude to me all day. I've had it. That's the last straw!"

Computer Skills

Type a letter to your grandmother using this [special mitten greeting card and envelope](#).

Social Studies

Read more about Ukraine then tell your student the information he would find interesting.

Where does this story take place? What language is spoken there? What does *Baba* mean? What do you call your grandmother?

Recipes from other cultures are always fun to try. This Ukrainian recipe (from Ukrainian Daughter's Cookbook) for sweet nothings sounds good.

Khrustyky (Sweet Nothings)

Ingredients

6 egg yolks

1 cup flour

1 tsp. vinegar

1 tsp. sugar
pinch of salt

- Beat the egg yolks well, add sugar, vinegar and flour.
- Mix well, then knead dough until smooth, on a lightly floured board. Cover with a warm bowl, let stand 10-15 minutes, and **no longer** (I once let the dough sit for a time, and they didn't turn out well at all).
- Roll the dough out **paper thin** and cut, diagonally, in 1" wide strips. Then, cut these strips into diamond pieces about 2" long (See **Figure 1**).

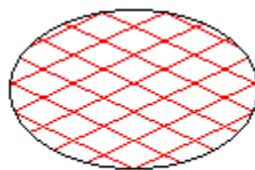
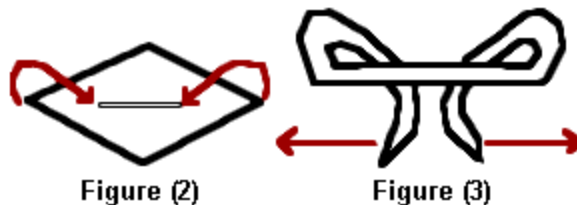


Figure (1)

Slit each piece in the centre. Take two of the corners, bring them up and pass them both through the slit (Figure 2). Pull the corners tightly through (Figure 3 - a **side** view) until the corners are back at their original position. This is hard to describe, but you'll know it's right when the bow doesn't pop back out of position, it should stay as is when its done right. Alan Granofsky says his Lithuanian family only tuck one corner into the slit and pull firmly through, so you can try that too!



Fry in deep fat, 350° until very lightly brown. Drain and sprinkle with icing sugar.

Math

Counting

Count the number of animals that are inside the mitten.

Compare

Look at a real mitten. Compare the size of the mitten to the animals pictured in the book. Which animals could really fit into a mitten?

Observe a mitten and a glove. How are they alike? Different?

Matching

Work on matching skills. Gather all the mittens [and gloves] in your home. [or cut out several pairs of paper mittens] Mix them up and let your child match the pairs. How many is a pair?

Size

Put the mitten pairs [used above] in order from smallest to largest.

Measurement

Discuss the word *stretch*. The mitten in the story stretched a lot. Name some items that can stretch. [tee-shirts, socks, pony tail holders, etc.] Measure a rubber band and record its length. Now stretch the rubber band and measure it again. Compare the numbers. What happened?

Science

Predictions

Make a prediction. Gather some small plastic or stuffed animals. Predict how many will fit into the mitten. Count the number of animals that fit. Compare the number that fit into the mitten to your prediction. Are the numbers close?

Animal Tracks

Study the animal tracks in the story. Which animal made the tracks? Paint some animal tracks onto dark colored construction paper using white paint. Explore outside, try to find animal tracks. Pour a little Plaster of Paris into a track and make a mold of the track. [You can also make a track with your own footprint if animal tracks aren't found].

Camouflage

Talk about camouflage. Name some animals that are protected in winter due to their white fur. Why was the mitten so hard to see? It blended in with the snow. Why are animals with white fur hard to see in the winter? They blend in with the snow. Try this game to learn more about camouflage.

Cover a table with a white sheet. Put a variety of solid white items on the table. Let your child study the table for a minute or two then leave the room. How many items does he remember? Repeat the game but this time put a variety of brightly colored objects on the table. Which was easier to remember? Cut out a mitten and a rabbit from white construction paper and glue to a piece of white paper. Your child can write or trace the word camouflage at the top of the paper.

Fibers

Introduce the term *fiber* to your student [show him different materials]. What type of fiber do you think was used to make these mittens? [wool] Go to a craft store or fabric center and look at some skeins of wool. [not all craft stores have wool so call and ask before you go.] Does the wool feel the same as cotton and synthetic fibers?

Animals in the Story

The Mole

A mole is characterized by a pointed snout; thick, soft fur; short legs; and long, powerful claws on the front pair of legs. They dig underground for food (mostly earthworms and animal larvae). They also dig tunnels to live in several chambers underground like a house with many rooms.

In *The Mitten*, the mole is characterized as “the mole was tunneling along....”

Snowshoe Rabbit

In winter the rabbit is pure white except for the tips of his ears-they are black. It weighs only 3 ounces at birth but it grows so quickly that it can crawl when it is only 2 days old and hop after it is 3 days old. They usually eat plants, but an adult will occasionally eat small mice.

In *The Mitten* the rabbit is described as having “big kickers.”

Hedgehog

They are characterized by spiny fur that covers their body. When they feel threatened, they will curl themselves up into a ball and this makes all the spines poke out. They eat insects, worms, frogs, snakes, mice, and birds' eggs. Some of these species hibernate (sleep in the winter).

In *The Mitten* the hedgehog is described as being “covered with prickles.”

Owl

Owls have little eye movement to see and so they are able to rotate their long flexible neck 270 degrees! They are nocturnal (awake at night) and eat small living creatures from insects to small mammals like mice and rabbits. They also have sharp talons to grab their food.

In *The Mitten* the owl is described as having “glinty talons.”

Badgers

Badgers are strong short animals that also like to burrow underground are primarily nocturnal. They have a very distinct face that has a white stripe on it. (jut like a skunk, they have white on their face and have a stinky smell too) It has really long front claws to dig with. Depending on where it lives, the badger eats anything from plants and roots to bird eggs and small animals.

In *The Mitten*, the badger is described as having “diggers.”

Fox

The fox is the smallest member of the dog family. They are characterized by short pointy ears, thick fur, and long bushy tails. They like to jump and pounce on their prey (mice, rabbits, birds, eggs, and even fruit.) They also like to hunt and live in packs.

In *The Mitten*, the fox is described as having “shiny teeth.”

Bear

Bears have huge paws-each front paw has five claws to help it dig. Bears hibernate in the winter, but they aren’t considered “true” hibernators. They eat fish, berries and small animal. The brown bear can weigh from 200lbs-1,760 lbs!

In *The Mitten*, the bear is described as “a great bear-who would argue with a bear?”

Meadow mouse

Mice are characterized by their long tail, sharp pointy teeth,. The constant gnawing keeps their teeth sharp. These animals are very small and will eat just about anything. It grows to only 6 1/2 inches long and that is including its tail.

In *The Mitten*, the field mouse is described as being “tiny enough to fit on the bear’s nose.”

Art

[Let your student design his own mitten](#)

Purchase some iron on transfer paper and print the transfers for this story.

[Decorate a book bag or sweatshirt following the directions at Jan Brett’s site.](#)

Cut out mitten shapes from white felt. Purchase a length of polar fleece [any color but white] and make a no-sew scarf. Hand sew the mittens on each end of the scarf [you can add pony beads to the fringe]. Hancock’s Sewing center and Hobby Lobby have free instructions for lots of no-sew fleece items.

Printables from Other Sites

[Animal Masks](#)

[Mitten Pattern and Animals](#) - you can use this for a story sequencing activity with your student

[Design Your Own Mitten](#)

Animals in Winter

Cut out rectangle as one piece. Cut dotted lines. Fold outside flaps in (on grey lines). You will have four different sections.

**Who
hibernates?**

**Who
gathers
and saves
food ahead
of time?**

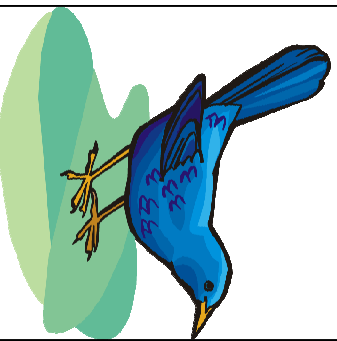
**Who hunts
for food
through
the winter?**

**Who
migrates?**

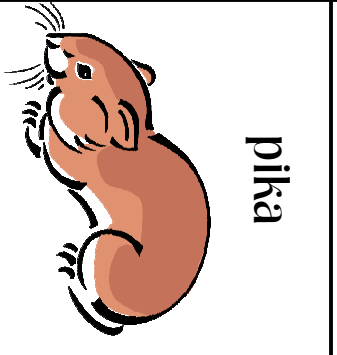


monarch

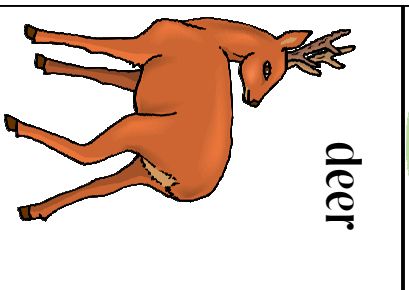
bluebird



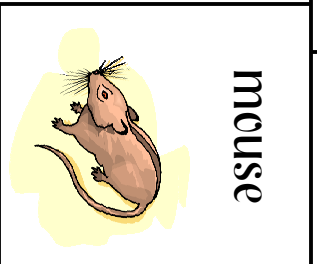
woodchuck



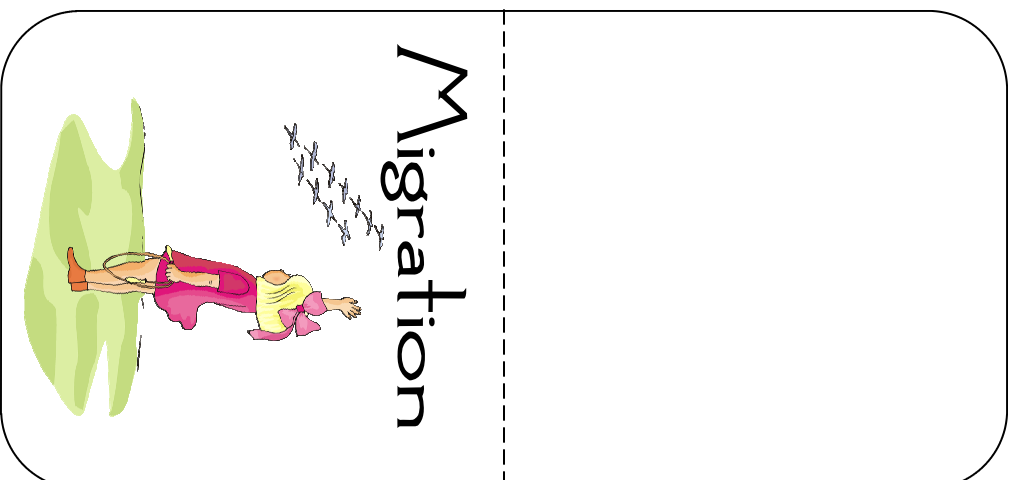
pika



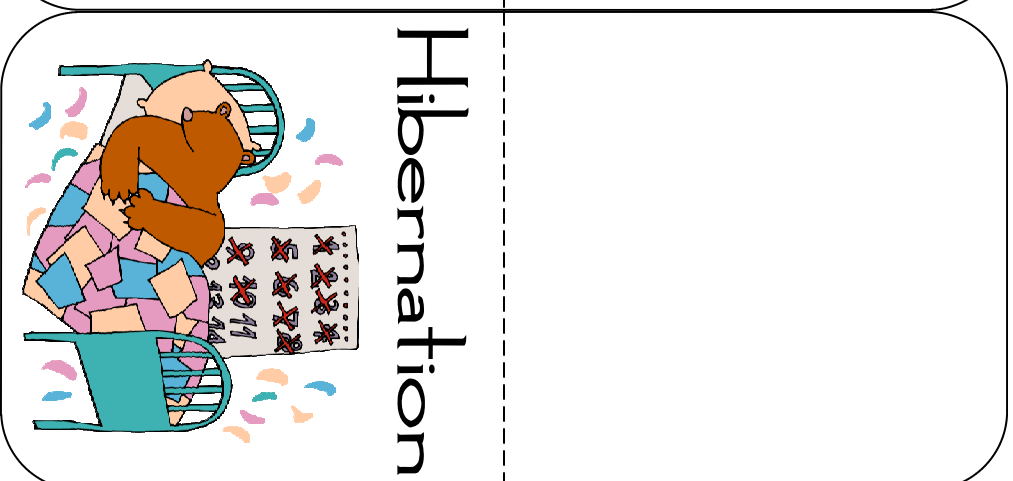
deer



mouse

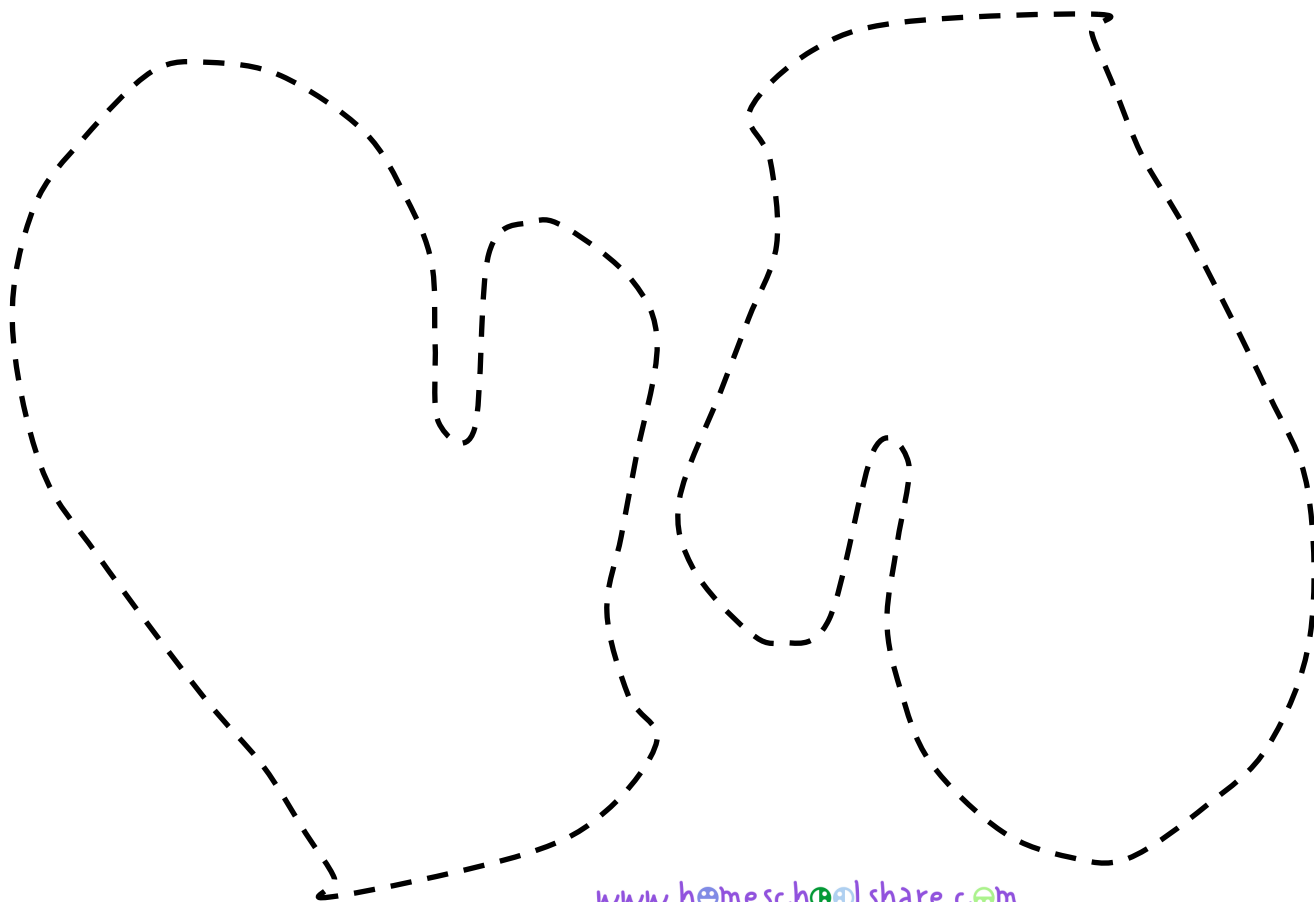


Migration

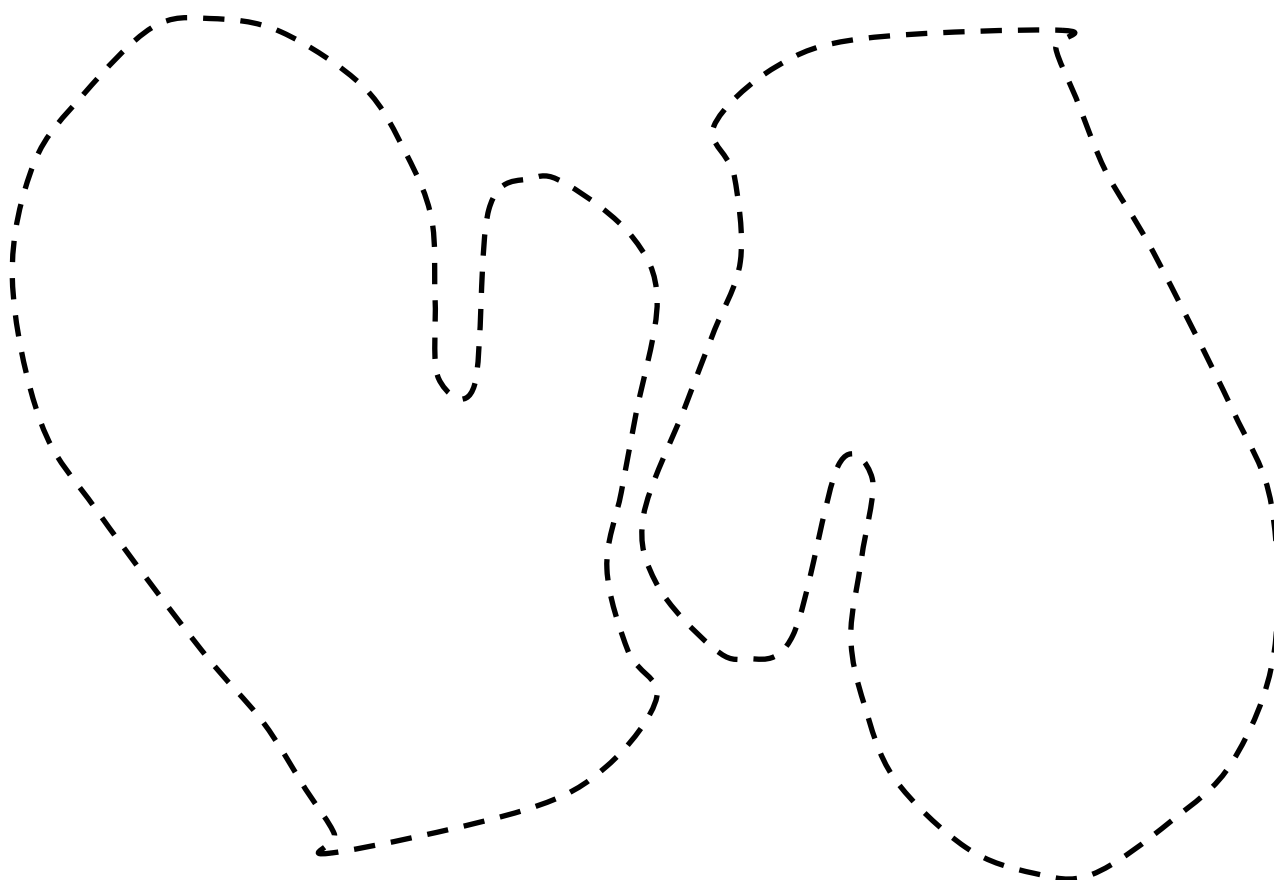


Hibernation

Cut out each book as one piece and fold in half. Write a short definition in each book.



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Cut out mitten shapes. Stack together and staple or secure with a brad (only use a brad if you printed on CARDSTOCK). Use book as desired.

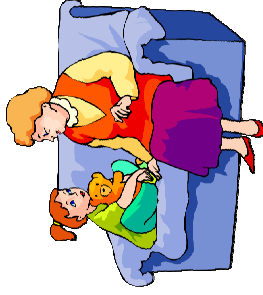
You are looking at the inside of the book. Cut out as one piece. Fold left side in. Fold right side in. Fold top down. Paste cover piece on top.

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Examples of Folktales

What is a Folktales?

A folktale is a story
that was passed
down orally.



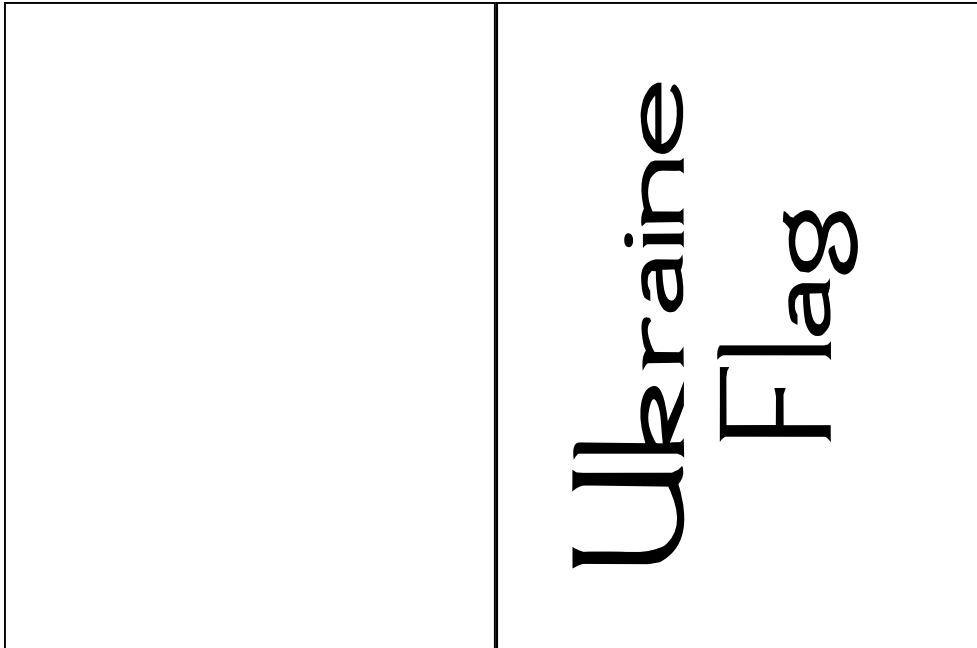
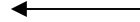
It was heard and
remembered and
retold. They were
passed from one
generation to the
next.

Folktales usually teach
a moral (a lesson).

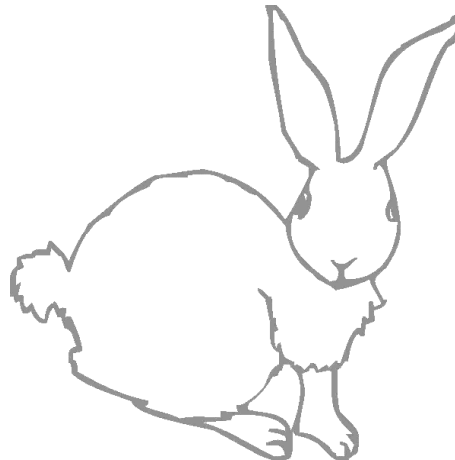
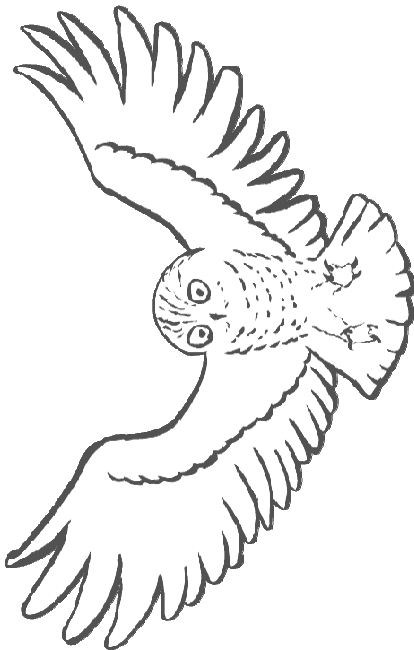




Ukraine flag-the top is bright blue and the bottom is yellow.



Make a snowy picture.
Paste these animals to the
page. Use along with the
camouflage lesson.



Cut books out. Fold on lines
(matchbook style). Write what Baba
means in the book on the left
(Grandma—write what you call your
grandma). Color the Ukraine on the
map. Paste it in the matchbook on
the right.



Baba means...



Ukraine?

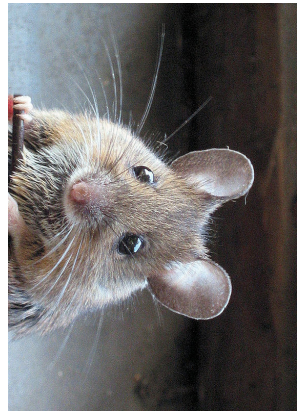
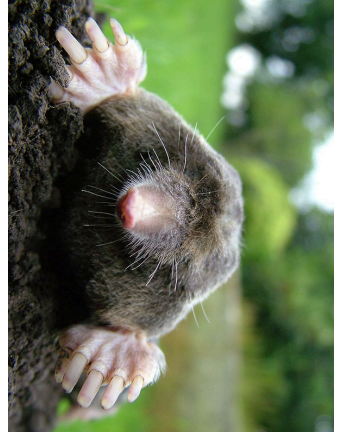


Cut on solid black lines. Fold books matchbook style. Paste animal pictures inside the matchbooks.

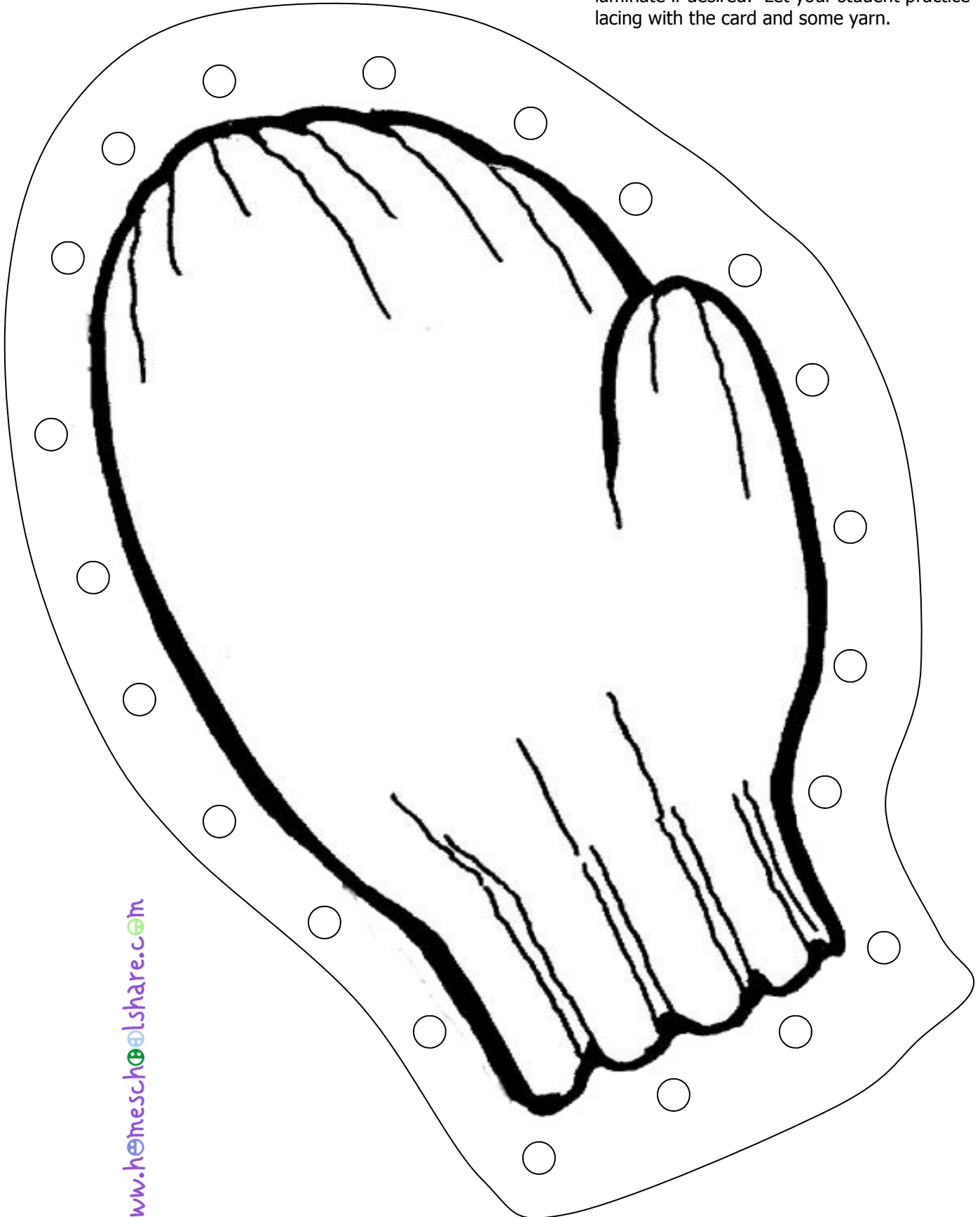
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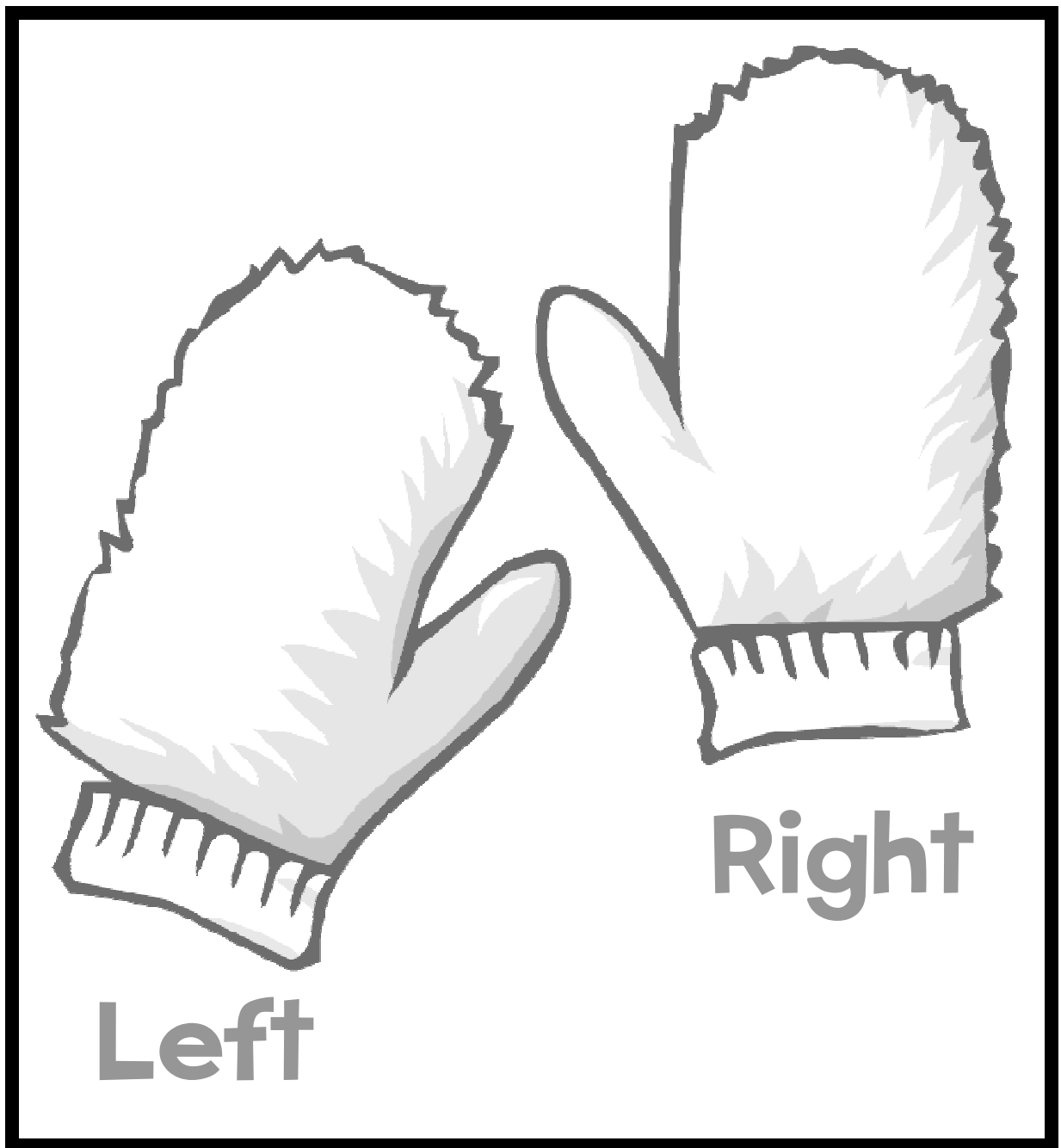
I am the animal that tunnels along.	I have big kickers!	I am covered with prickles.	Watch out! I have shiny teeth.

I have diggers.	Watch out! I have glinty talons.	I am tiny enough to fit on bear's nose.	No one would argue with me!

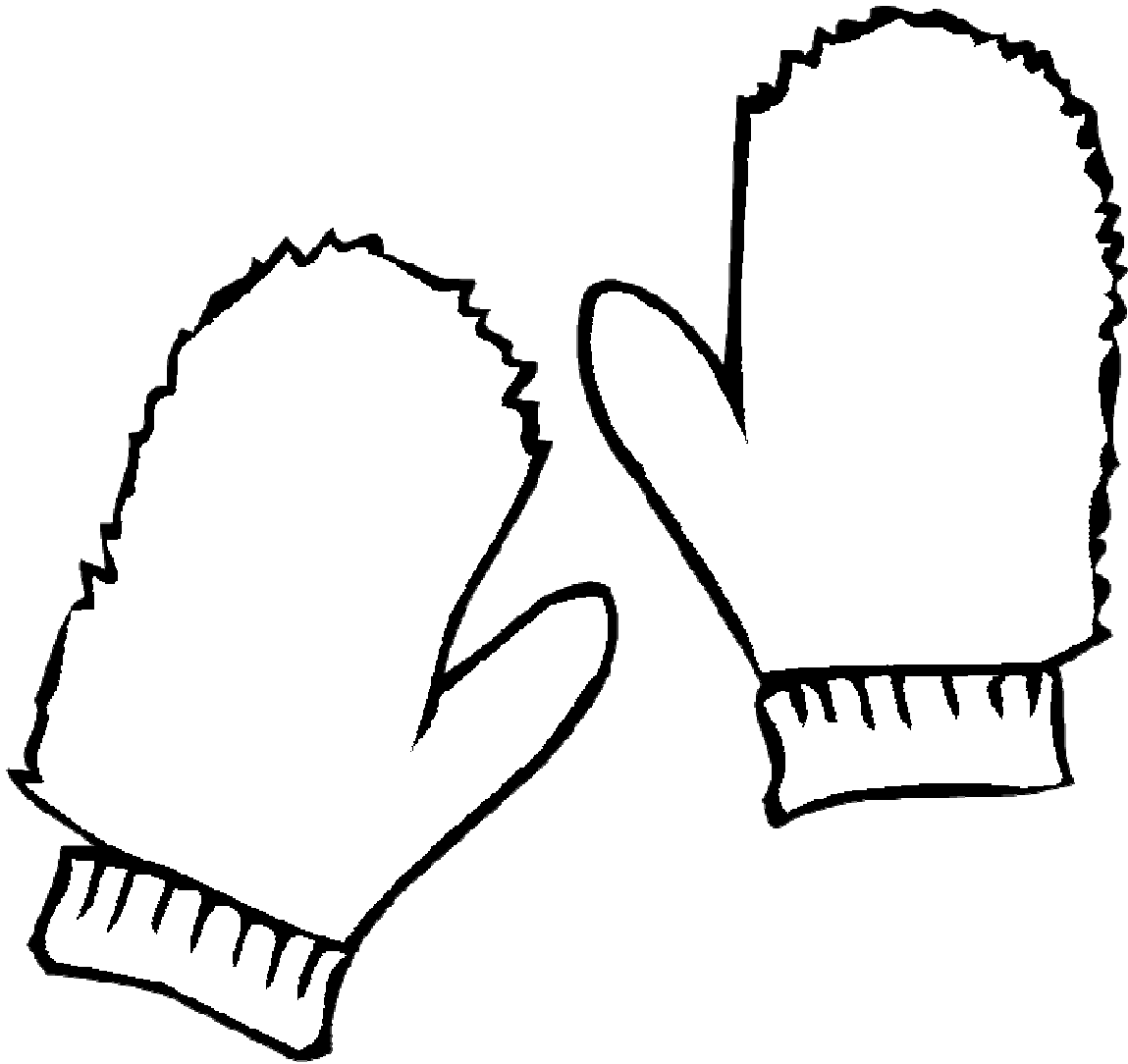


Print on cardstock. Color, cut out, and laminate if desired. Let your student practice lacing with the card and some yarn.



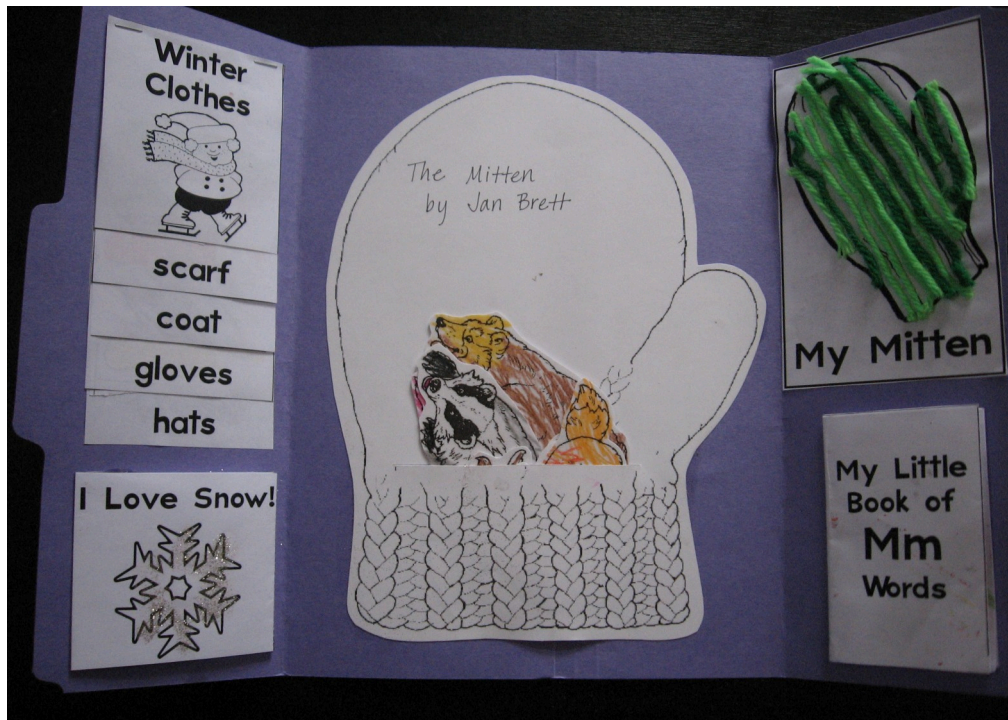


Left
Right

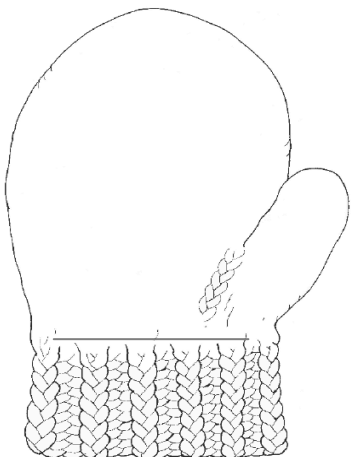


Print on cardstock to make patterns. Trace the patterns on to fleecy or furry material (you could even use felt). Cut out and glue on to mittens on previous page.

The Mitten Preschool Lapbook



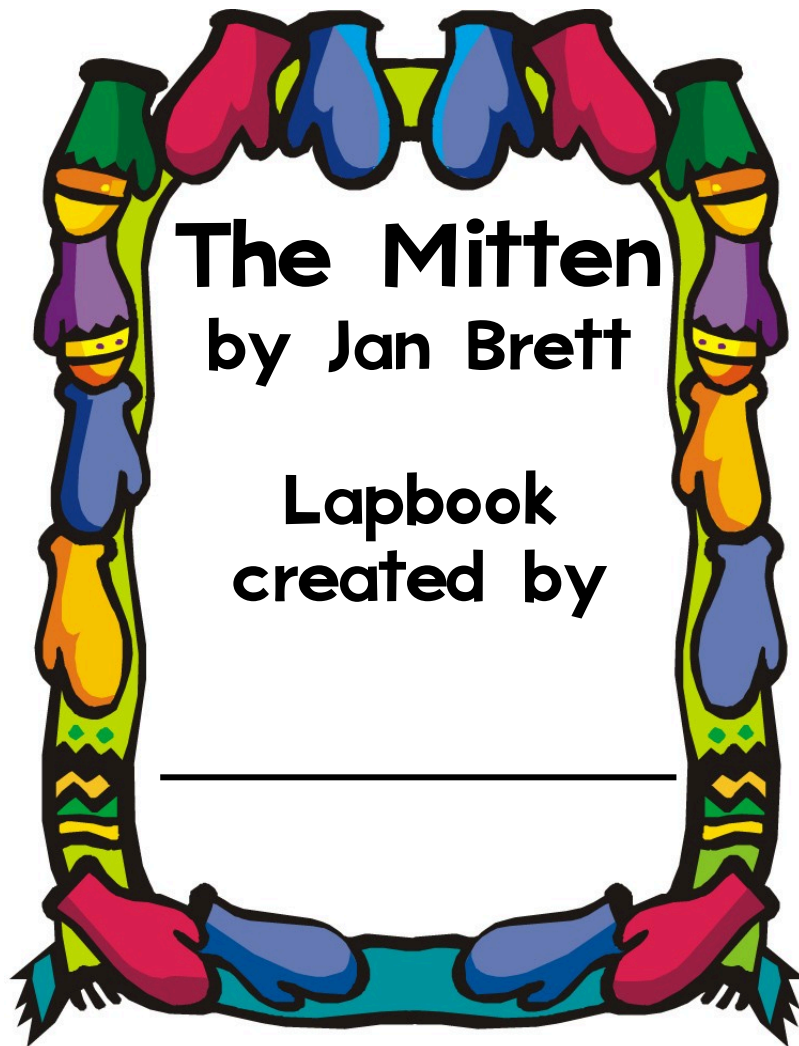
This gives you an idea for a lay-out.



Using the [mitten pattern](#) at Jan Brett's website, make a large pocket for the center of your lapbook. Print it on cardstock and cut a slit in the mitten. Glue around the outer edges and paste it to your lapbook.

Print the animals and let your student color them. Store them in the mitten pocket. Use them for sequencing and storytelling.

The four other mini books found in this file can be glued to the sides of your lapbook.



Cover piece

Winter Clothes



scarf

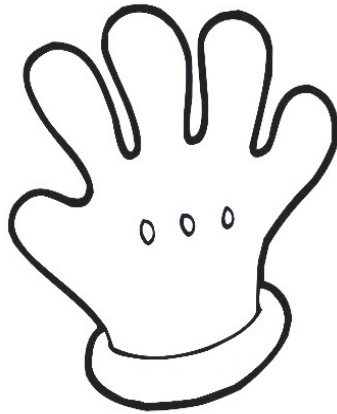
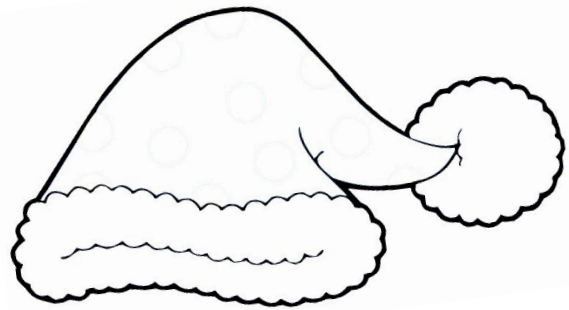
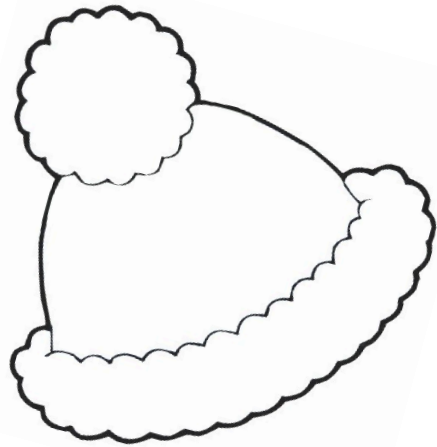
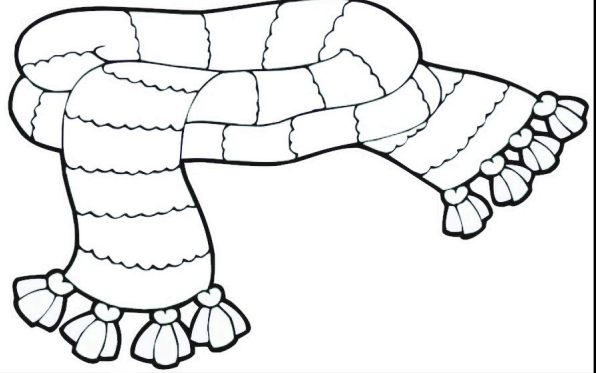
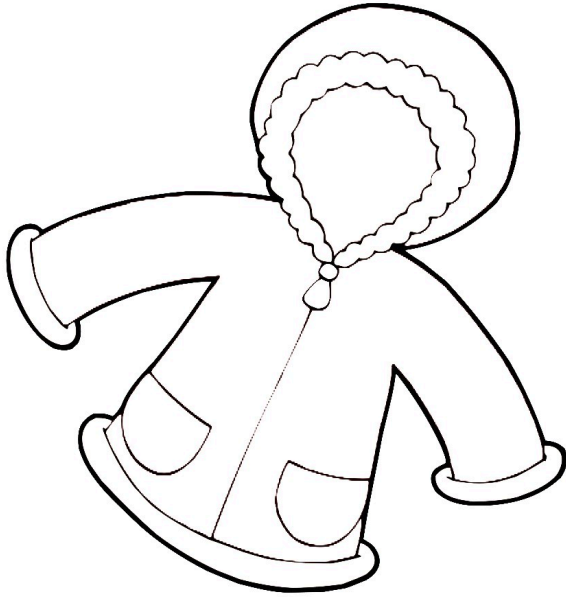
gloves

coat

hats

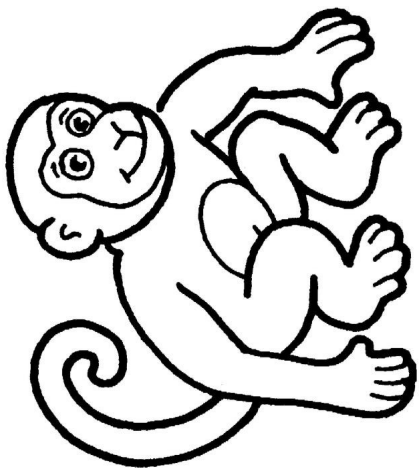
Cut out layer book pieces. Stack together with cover on top and staple.

Let your student color the images on the next page and cut them apart.
Let your student paste them to the appropriate spots on the layer book.



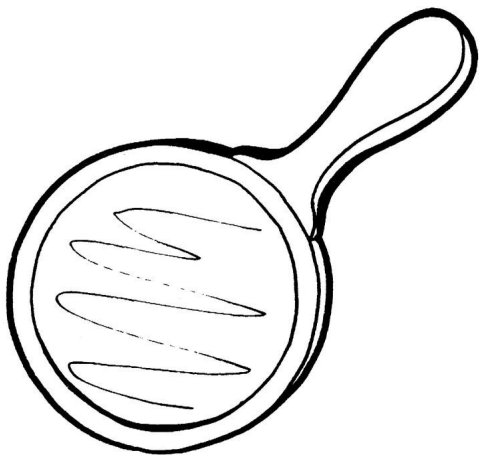
Complete this hotdog book by following [these instructions](#).

monkey



**My Little
Book of
Mm
Words**

mirror



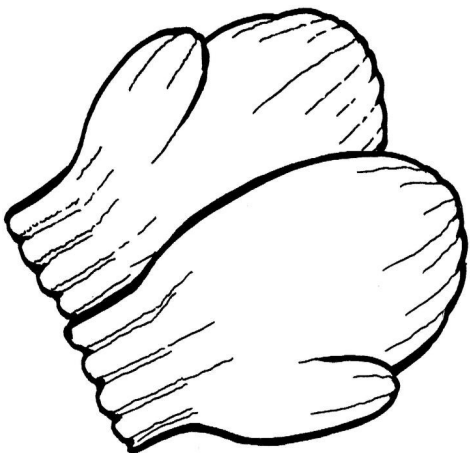
mouse



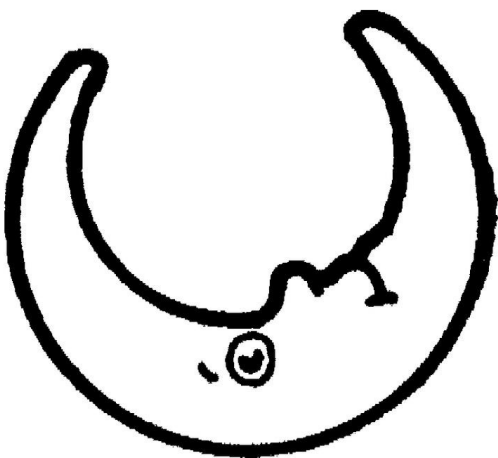
mole



mitten



moon



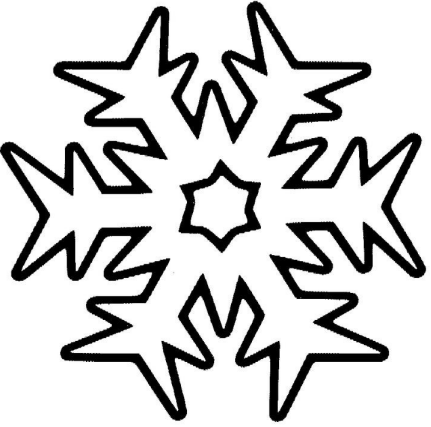
Cut book out as one piece. Accordion fold so that cover ("I Love Snow!") is on top.

Decorate the snowflake by adding glitter, glitter glue, or sequins to it.

Have fun singing the song with your student!

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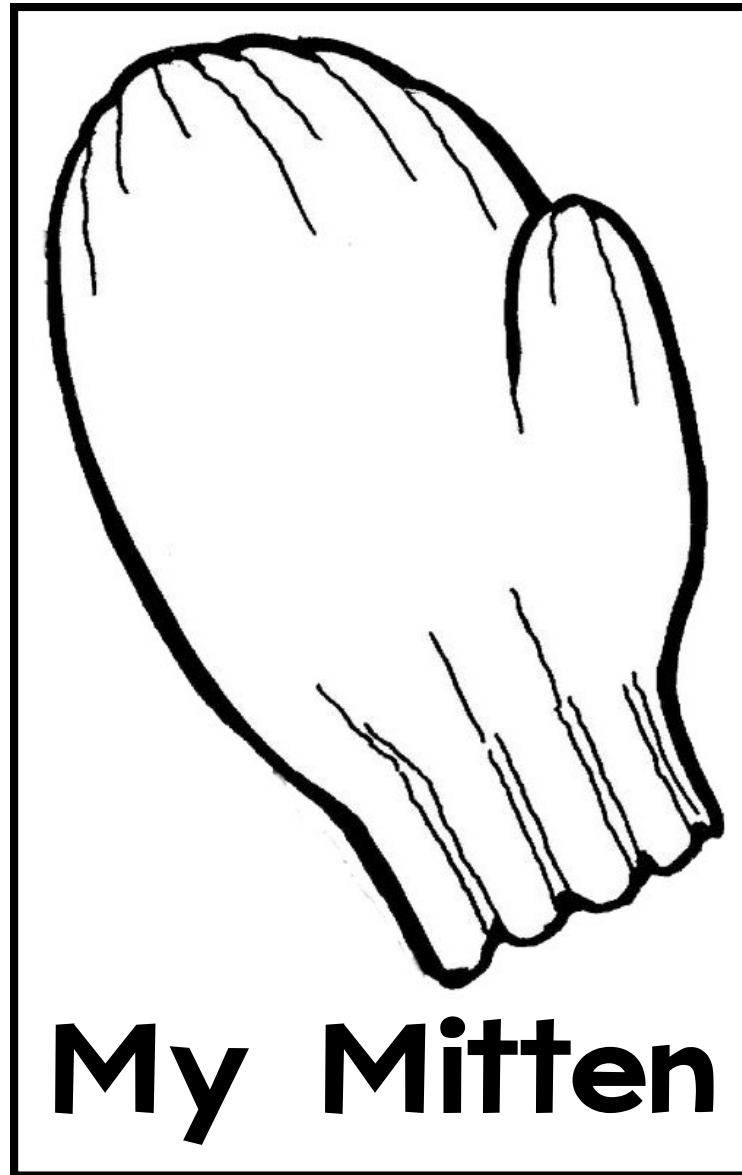
I Love Snow!



I love snow,
I love snow.
Soft white snow,
soft white snow.
It falls on the ground
so soft and white.

Sometimes it falls
all through the night.
Did you ever see such
a beautiful sight,
as soft white snow?

Tune: "Three Blind Mice"



Cut out as one piece. Let your student decorate the mitten by pasting cotton balls, yarn, or fuzzy felt pieces to it.

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