

Ff is for Freddie Frog

Puppet Mascot

Make a simple frog puppet by cutting out the frog picture provided on page 98 and gluing it to a popsicle stick. If you would like a more elaborate puppet a great suggestion is to use the frog pattern in the book The Paper Tube Zoo by Jo Ellen Moore and Joy Evans or you can search the internet for puppet patterns. A great website is www.dltk-kids.com. They have a variety of easy to make animal crafts.

Introduce the children to Freddie Frog and explain that he is here to teach them the letter F. Show the children upper and lower case Ff (you can color the pattern from Worksheet #1 on page 88 or make your own). Have Freddie explain to the children that the letter F is his favorite letter of the alphabet because his name begins with F. Have him ask if anyone else has a name that begins with F. If so, hang their picture under the letter F on your alphabet display (see Alphabet Display on page 2).

Feeding Freddie some flies

To prepare for this activity copy the fly pattern on page 95. Label some flies with an upper case F, some with a lower case f, and some with other letters of the alphabet. You can also purchase a few Sticky Mix Grabbers to represent frog tongues. These are rubbery, sticky, slimy grabbing toys often found in gumball machines or Dollar Stores. They are long and thin on one end and have some sort of shape on the other end. Children hold the long, thin end and throw the shaped end toward a wall or object and it "grabs" it or sticks to it. Have Freddie Frog explain to the children that frogs like to eat flies and they catch them with their long, sticky tongues. You can put one of the Sticky Mix Grabbers into Freddie's mouth to represent his tongue and have him grab one of the paper flies with it. Have Freddie ask the children if they would like to help him catch some flies. Spread the flies on the floor and give a few children a Sticky Mix Grabber. Have them hold the long, thin end and throw the shaped end towards a fly. The shaped end will stick to the paper fly and spring back towards the child (it closely resembles how a real frog's tongue works). See if the children can catch a fly with an upper case F on it or a lower case f on it. When they catch one they can feed it to Freddie.

A version for older students is to glue picture cards (Letter F picture cards from page 97 as well as a few from other letters) on the flies and have them catch flies that have pictures beginning with F.

Lily pad jumping

Copy the lily pad pattern from page 95 onto green construction paper. Label each lily pad with either an upper case F, a lower case f, or another letter of the alphabet. Make sure you have an F lily pad for each student. Have Freddie Frog explain that frogs love to jump on lily pads. Have him ask the students if they know how to hop like a frog. Demonstrate this. Spread the lily pads out on the floor and explain to the children that this is a pretend pond and they are going to be pretend frogs. Put on some lively music and have the children hop around the pond like frogs. When the music stops they must hop onto a lily pad with an upper case F or a lower case f.

Another option would be to play this similar to musical chairs and take an F lily pad away each time. If a student can not find an F lily pad to hop on they are out.

Yet another option is to glue picture cards on the lily pads instead of letters. Use the letter Ff picture cards on page 97 as well as picture cards from other letters. When the music stops the children have to hop on a lily pad that has a picture of something that begins with F.

F is for frog

Teach a unit on frogs. Explain what they like to eat, where they live, the different types of frogs, etc. Read some books about frogs (see Suggested Books on page 86).

Sing the popular song "5 Green and Speckled Frogs":

5 green and speckled frogs sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious flies, yum, yum!
1 jumped into the pool where it was nice and cool
Now there are just 4 green, speckled frogs.
(continue singing until there are 0 green, speckled frogs)

Teach children about the life cycle of a frog (how it changes from a tadpole to a frog). There are a number of books on this subject suitable for children (see Suggested Books on page 86). Have the children make their own Tadpole to Frog book by cutting out the pictures on page 94 and putting them in order. Staple them together to form a book.

F is for fish

Make a letter recognition fishing game by copying the fish pattern on page 96. Label some with an upper case F, some with a lower case f, and some with other letters of the alphabet. Attach a large paper clip to each fish. Use sticks for fishing poles. Attach a piece of yarn to the stick and put a magnet or magnetic tape on the end for bait. Each child tries to catch a fish by dangling the magnet near the paper clip and "hooking" a fish. When a child catches a fish he/she must tell you the letter on the fish. Older children can also tell you the letter's sound and/or something that begins with that letter.

You can also make a counting and number recognition game by copying the fishbowl pattern on page 96. Write a number on each fishbowl. Give children a fishbowl along with some Goldfish crackers and have them put the appropriate number of fish in their fishbowl. If they are correct they can eat the Goldfish as a reward.

Have Goldfish crackers or Swedish licorice fish for snack. You can make a fishbowl snack by filling a glass bowl with blue gelatin and putting it in the refrigerator for about a half-hour or until it starts to mold. Push some Swedish licorice fish into the gelatin and put it back in the refrigerator to set.

F is for feet/footprints

Talk about different kinds of feet. Ask the children if your feet are the same as their feet. Ask the children if our feet are the same as an animal's feet. Read the book Whose Feet? by Jeannette Rowe. It is a flap book that shows only an animal's feet and the children have to guess the animal. Another good book is Let's Look at Feet by Simona Sideri. It compares our feet with animal feet.

Discuss the difference between running feet and walking feet and the appropriate times to use both of them.

Make crafts using the children's feet. You can make flowers, snowmen, and butterflies using their feet as a pattern.

Play a game of Follow the Footprints. To prepare, cut out a number of footprints (trace both your feet for patterns). Label some with an upper case F, some with a lower case f, and some with other letters of the alphabet. Put Freddie Frog in a location out of the children's view. It can be somewhere in your room or in another part of the building. Put some rewards beside him (stickers, candy, stamps, etc.) Lay the footprints on the floor in a path so it looks like someone was walking. Using only the Ff footprints make a path from the starting point to Freddie frog. This will be the main path that the children are supposed to follow. Using the footprints with other letters of the alphabet make alternate paths that veer off of the main one (like a Y in the road). Explain to the children that Freddie Frog is missing and they must find him. Ask if they see any clues. Tell them they must follow only the F footprints to find Freddie. Have the children follow the footprints to Freddie (as they are doing so you can tell them to use fast feet, slow feet, tiptoe feet, loud feet, soft feet, etc.). When they find Freddie have him give each child a reward.

For older students glue picture cards on the footprints and have the children follow the footprints that have pictures beginning with F.

F is for flower

Discuss the parts of a flower with the children (roots, stem, leaves, flower). Bring in a real flower and see if they can tell you the parts as you point to them. Make a flower puzzle by drawing a simple picture of a flower (with roots), labeling its parts, and cutting it apart (the roots are one piece, the stem another, the leaves another, and the flower another). Have children take turns putting it together. Plant some flowers with the children. Make flower art projects. Let the children paint a coffee filter, glue it to a piece of paper, and draw a stem and some leaves. You can also use cupcake papers for the flowers but do not let the children paint them. Instead decorate them with crayons, markers, glitter, etc. and glue the child's picture in the center.

F is for flag

Take this opportunity to teach the children about the American flag. Explain the colors used, that there are 50 stars (one for each state) and 13 stripes (these represent the original 13 colonies), that Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag (it only had 13 stars), when displaying or hanging the flag the stars always go in the upper left hand corner, etc. Have the children color their own American flags or use children's handprints to make one big class flag. Teach them the Pledge of Allegiance.

F is for fossils

Discuss fossils with the children and show them pictures of several different kinds.

There are several good books on this subject listed under Suggested Books on page 86. Make simple fossils with the children using clay and plastic dinosaurs. Give the children a handful of clay and have them press it flat like a pancake. Allow each child to choose a plastic dinosaur and make an impression of its footprint in the clay. The child may also make an impression of the side of the dinosaur's body or the side of its head. Allow the clay to harden overnight.

F is for friend/fireman

Discuss what it takes to be a good friend. Read some books about friendship. Some favorites are: Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister, Swimmy by Leo Lionni, It's Mine by Leo Lionni, and a series of Pooh Just Be Nice (...to Your Little Friends, ...and Let Everyone Play, ...and Not too Rough) books by Golden Books. Role play what to do in various situations (when someone is mean to you, when a friend doesn't want to do the same thing you do, when someone won't share, etc.).

Take this opportunity to explain that a fireman is a friend and not someone to be afraid of. Show a picture of what a fireman looks like when dressed in all his/her equipment. Tell the children that even though they may look a little scary with their mask on don't ever hide from a fireman, they are there to help you. Visit your local fire department or have a local fireman visit the class.

F is for fruit

Cut up a variety of fruit and serve it for snack. Make a graph of the children's favorites.

Games

Leapfrog – Have children get in a line. Have them get down on their knees and tuck their heads down. The last child in the line leaps over all the children. When they reach the front of the line they duck down and the last person in line leaps next. Continue until everyone has had a turn to leap.

What Time is it Mr. Fox? – One child is the fox and stands at one end of the playing field with his back to the class. The rest of the class stands at the other end of the playing field in a horizontal line. Have the class ask the fox, "What time is it Mr. Fox?" The fox can reply with a time (10 o'clock) or he can say "midnight". If he replies with a time, for example 10 o'clock, the children take that many steps towards him (10) and repeat the question again. If he replies "midnight" the fox must turn around and chase the rest of the class. The first person he touches becomes the new fox.

Freeze Tag – One person is "it" and chases the rest of the class. When he touches someone they must "freeze" in that spot and remain there until someone from the class touches them and "unfreezes" them.

Frisbee – Teach the children how to throw and catch a frisbee.

Go Fish – Teach the children how to play the popular card game, Go Fish.

Student Worksheets

There are several worksheets to choose from, all with different ability levels. Choose the appropriate worksheets for your students.

Worksheet #1 (page 88) – Have the children glue feathers or Goldfish crackers on their Fs, let them dip their finger in paint and put fingerprints on their Fs, or have them draw faces or flowers on their Fs.

Worksheet #2 (page 89) – Review upper and lower case Ff. Show the students the correct way to form upper and lower case F. Have them trace the Fs with their fingers using the correct format. Then have them do rainbow tracings of the letters. Using different colored crayons see how many times they can trace the Fs. Color the pictures.

Worksheet #3 (page 90) – Show the students the correct way to write upper and lower case F. Have them trace the letters with a pencil and try to write their own on the line provided. Color the pictures.

Worksheet #4 (page 91) – Show the students the correct way to write upper and lower case F using 3 lines. Have the students trace the letters with a pencil and try to write their own using the 3 lines. Color the pictures.

Worksheet #5 (page 92) – Have the students circle, trace, or color the upper and lower case Fs. If you are studying a particular color have them use a crayon of that color. If you are studying shapes have them put a circle, square, triangle, etc. around the upper and lower case Fs.

Worksheet #6 (page 93) – Review the letter F sound. Name the pictures on the bottom of the page (flag, snake, flower, fish, truck, frog). Have the students cut apart the pictures and only glue the pictures that begin with F onto the feet.

Reminder: You may also use the following activities in this letter unit.

Code Word (see page 2)

Necklace, Badge, or Magnet Reward (see page 2)

Letter Sound Game and Song (see page 3)

Alliteration Stories (see page 3)

We're Going On a Letter Hunt (see page 4)

Suggested Books

Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

This Is My Friend by Mercer Mayer

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss

Swimmy by Leo Lionni

Fish Is Fish by Leo Lionni

It's Mine by Leo Lionni

How Many Fish? by Caron Lee Cohen

A Fish Out of Water by Helen Palmer and P.D. Eastman

Five Silly Fisherman by Roberta Edwards

The Fish Book by Christopher Angelfish

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

The Wide-Mouthed Frog by Keith Faulkner

Any of the Froggy books by Jonathan London

Once There Was a Bull... (Frog) by Rick Walton

Jump, Frog, Jump by Robert Kalan

Where Do Frogs Come From? by Alex Vern

From Tadpole to Frog by Wendy Pfeffer

From Tadpole to Frog by Jan Kottke

From Tadpole to Frog by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

Tale of a Tadpole by Karen Wallace

Mysterious Tadpole by Steven Kellog

King of the Pond by Carl Sommer

I Wish That I Had Duck Feet by Theo LeSieg

Whose Feet? By Jeannette Rowe

The Foot Book by Dr. Seuss

Let's Look at Feet by Simona Sideri

Busy Feet by Elizabeth Elaine Watson

How Many Feet in the Bed? by Diane Johnston Hamm

My Feet by Alike

Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink by Diane de Groat

Fossils Tell of Long Ago by Alik

Digging Up Dinosaurs by Alik

Dinosaur Bones by Bob Barner

DK Pockets: Fossils by DK Publishing and Douglas Palmer

The Pooh Just Be Nice series by Golden Books

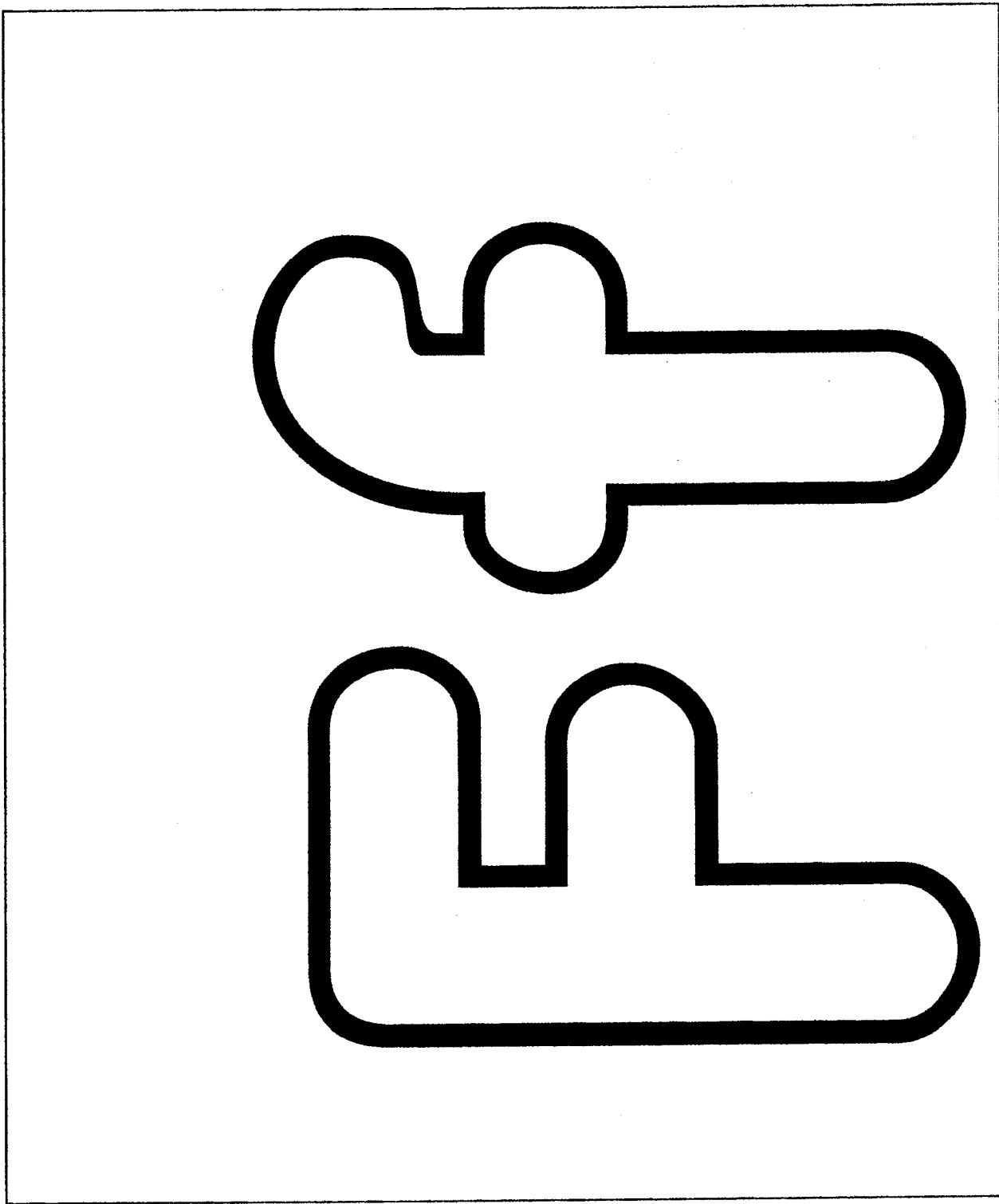
Fox in Socks by Dr. Seuss

No Matter What by Debi Gliori

Hattie and the Fox by Mem Fox

Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins

WORKSHEET #1



WORKSHEET #2

Name _____

Ff

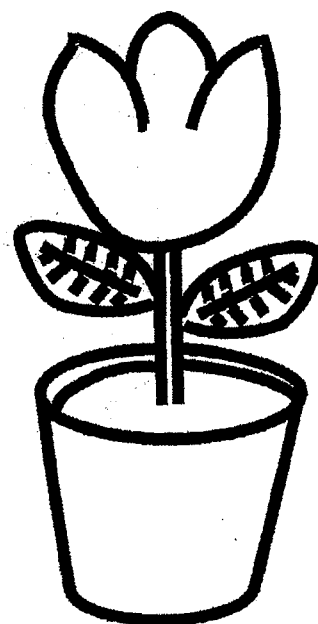
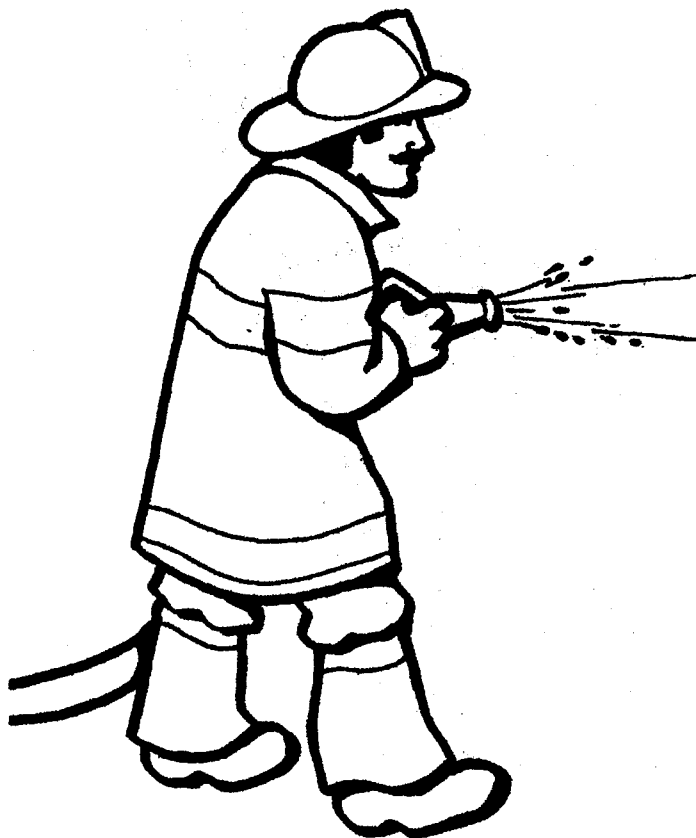


WORKSHEET #3

Name _____

F F

f f

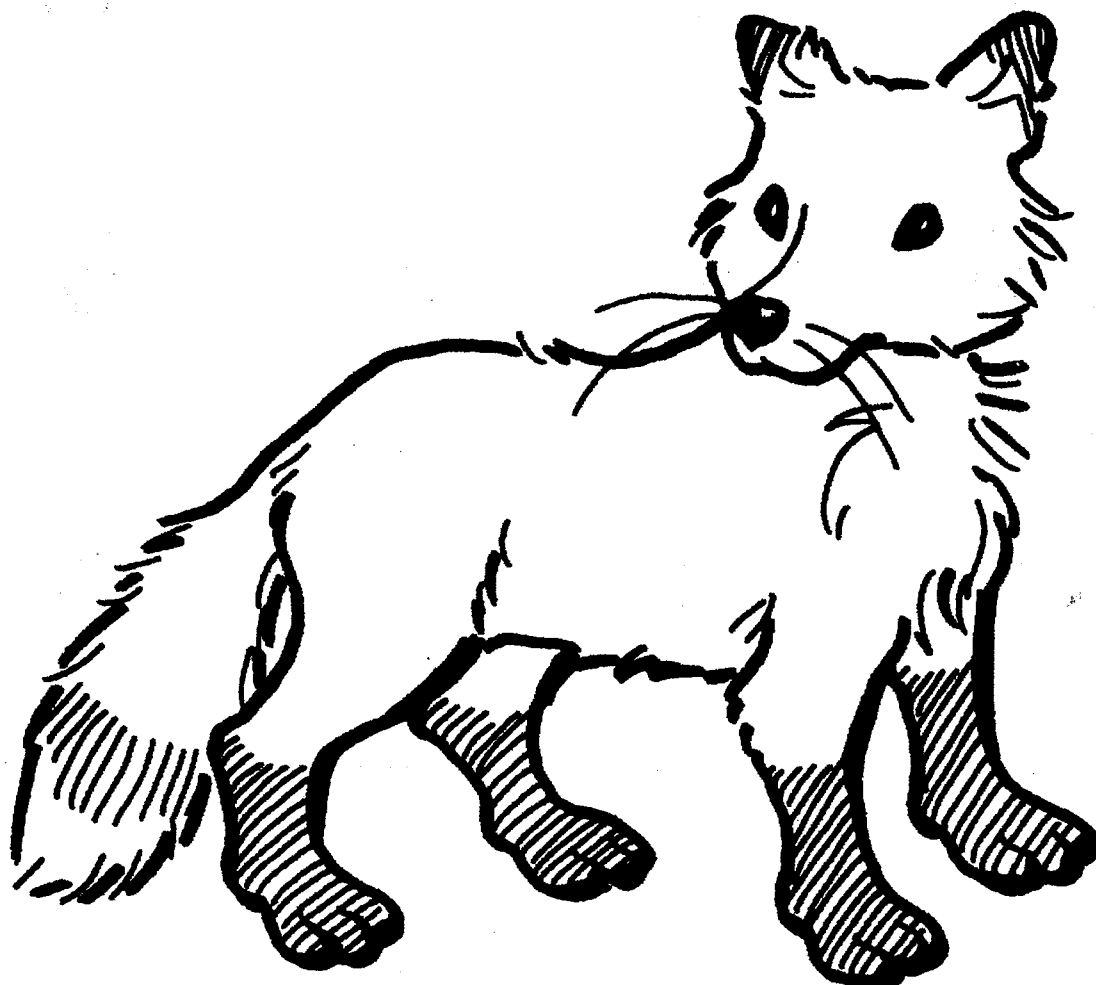


WORKSHEET #4

Name _____

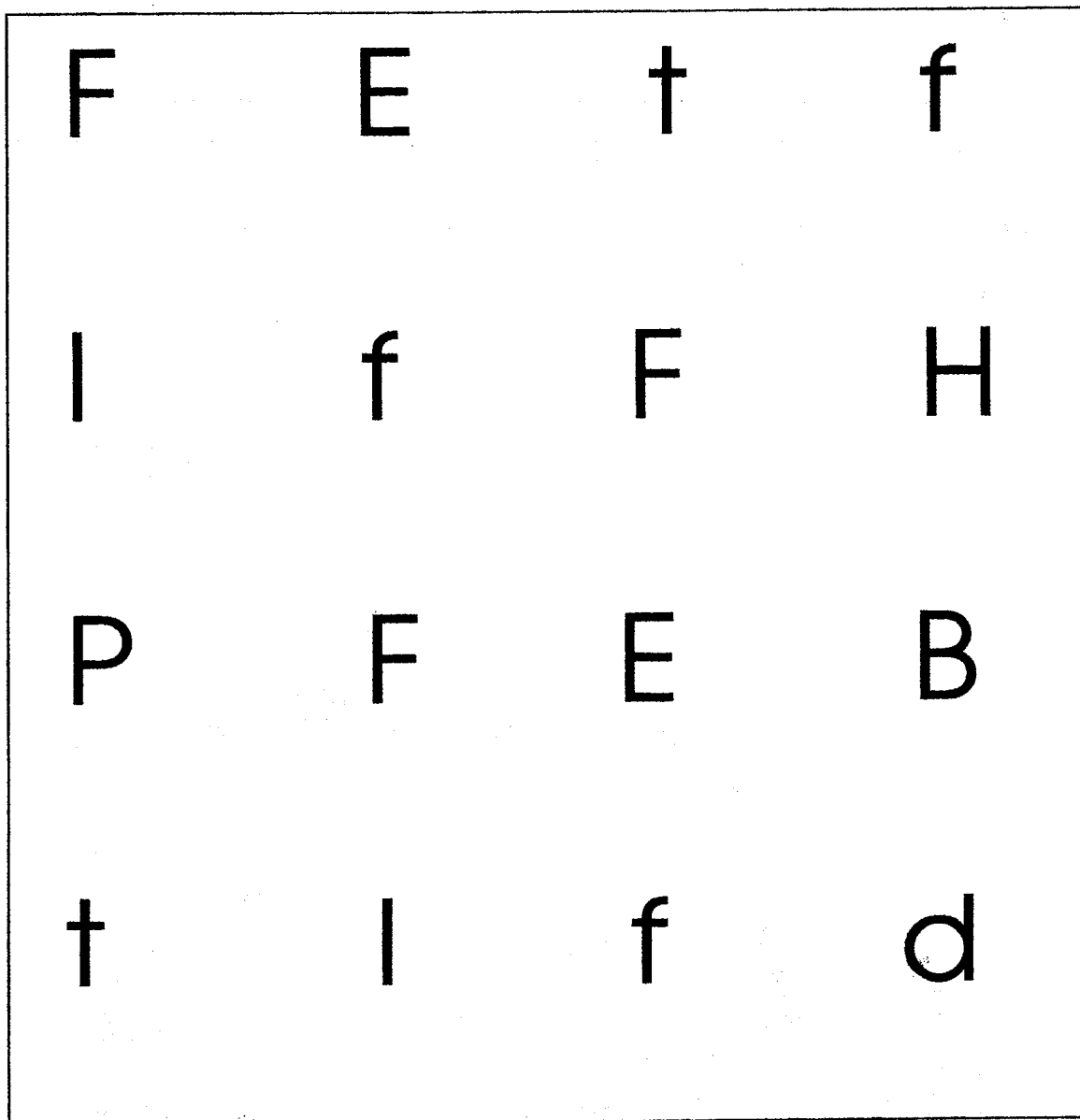
F F

f f



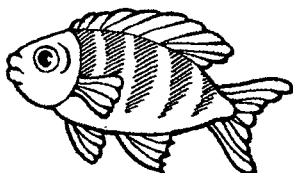
WORKSHEET #5

Name _____

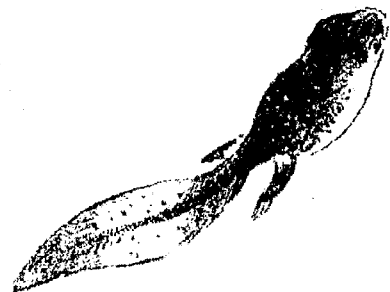
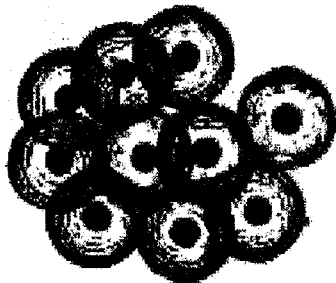
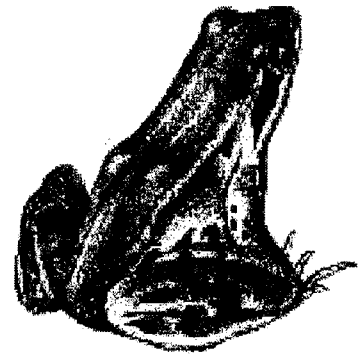
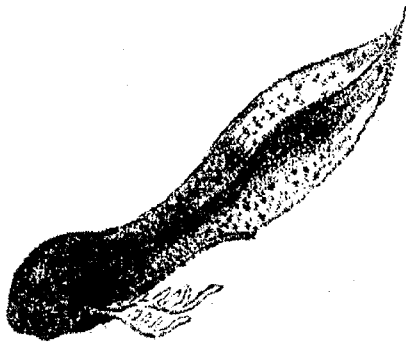


WORKSHEET #6

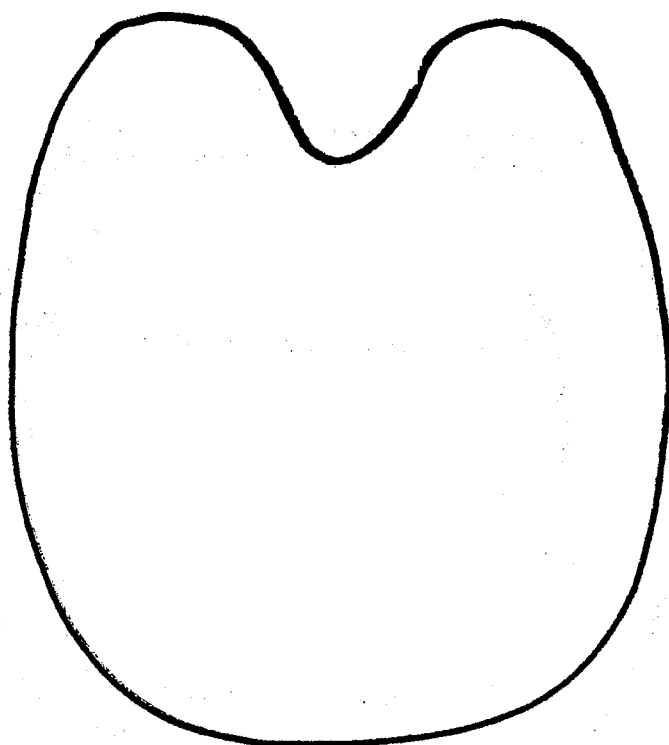
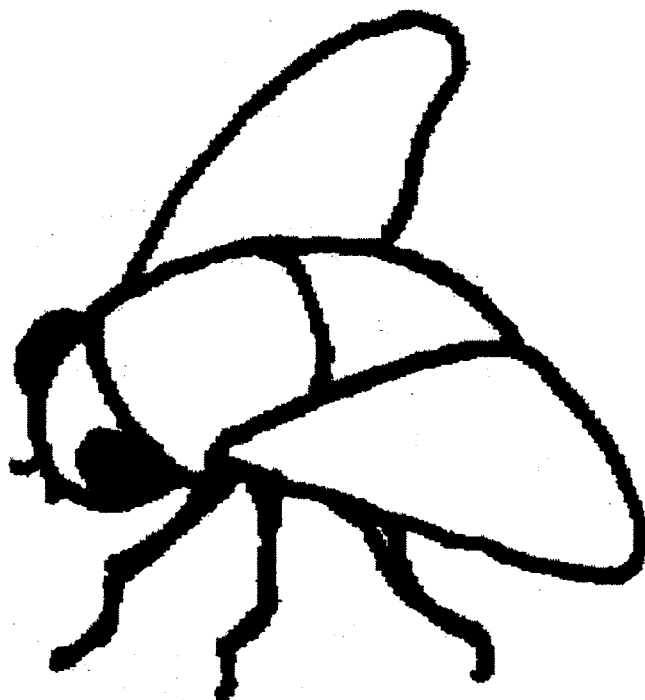
Name _____



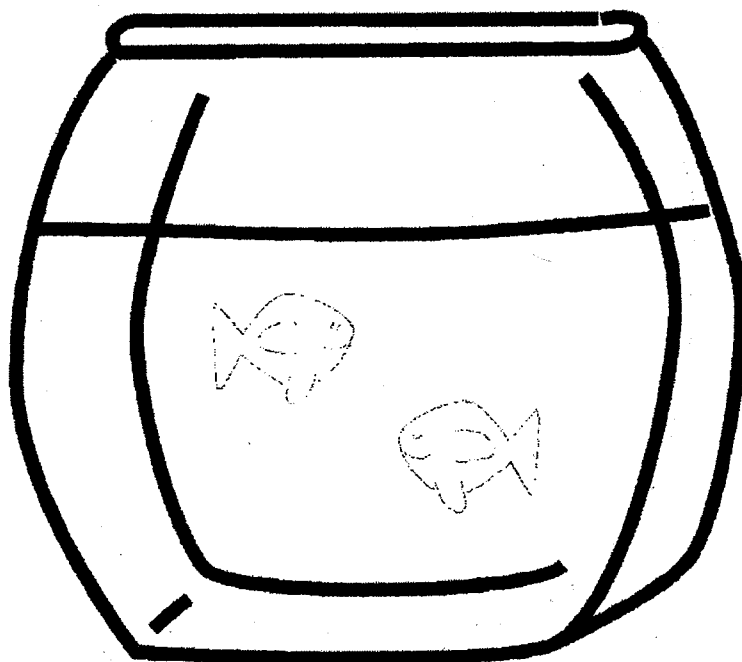
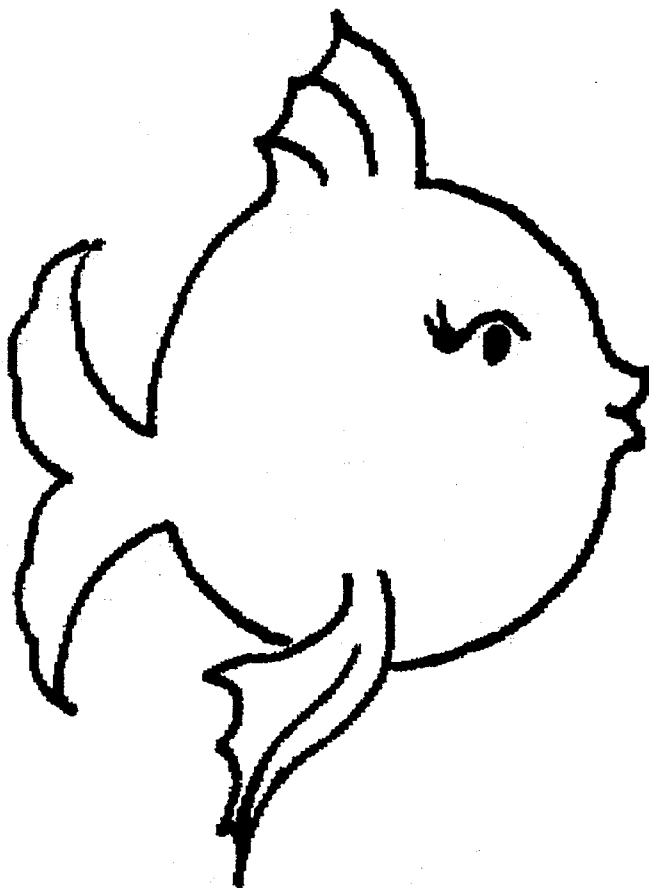
From Tadpole
To Frog
by



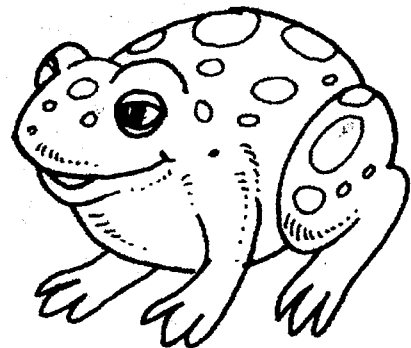
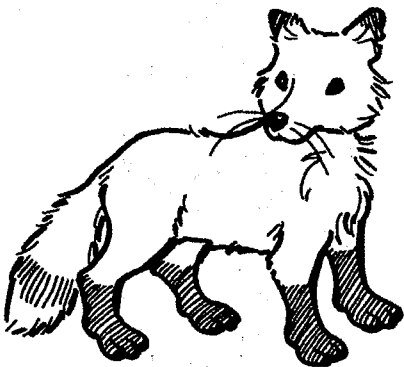
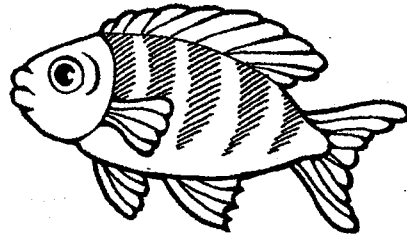
PATTERNS



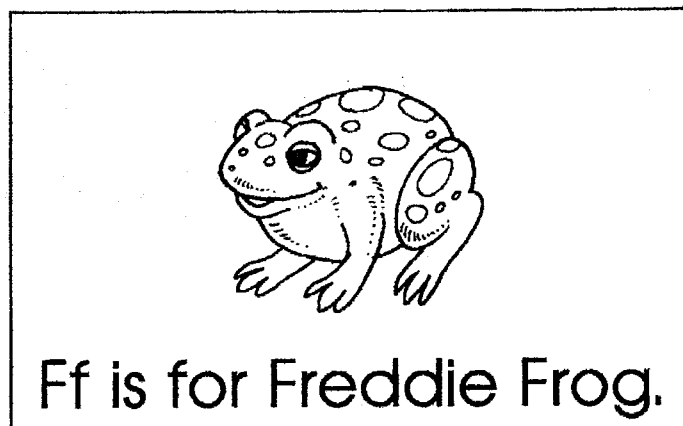
PATTERNS (cont'd)



PICTURE CARDS



LETTER Ff REWARD (see page 2)



PUPPET MASCOT PATTERN

