

ZEKE'S FUN AT HOME ACTIVITY CORNER

March 31, 2020

Dear Zoo-phonics Friends,

This week we are going to focus on the short vowels, “a, e, i, o, u.” Zoo-phonics calls them “The Hardest Workers.” The story below will show you why! Act it out! After the skit, we'll give you some fun activities to enjoy!



Remember, Zoo-phonics emphasizes letter sounds not letter names. Only letter sounds help teach a child to read and spell! Letter names actually hinder progress!

Read your child(ren) this funny story!

If you were to peek in the window of the brand-new Zoo-Alphabet Café before it opened to all the kids and their families, you'd see Allie Alligator, Ellie Elephant, Inny Inchworm, Olive Octopus and Umber Umbrella Bird busy cleaning and cooking up a storm in the Zoo-Alphabet Café.

Since Allie has all 4 feet low floor, she was cleaning and polishing the pretty black and white floor tiles. Thank goodness Ellie Elephant is tall! She cleaned all the lights in the ceilings making sure the glass light covers were sparkling. Olive Octopus was up to her tentacles in soap bubbles! She is washing all the dishes and pots and pans, getting ready to cook, cook, cook! Inny Inchworm sat in the silver drawer making sure all the forks, knives and spoons were spotless for their customers.

Seeing that they were getting close to opening time, Umber Umbrella Bird flew out to the crowds waiting to come in and spoke to them:

“¡Hola niños y padres! Estamos muy contentos de que vengan a cenar a nuestro maravilloso Zoo-Alphabet Café. Tenemos comida deliciosa y entretenimiento maravilloso planeado para ustedes hoy. ¡En sólo unos minutos, abriremos!” (Hello children and parents! We are so glad you are coming to dine at our wonderful Zoo-Alphabet Café. We have delicious food and wonderful entertainment planned for you today. In just a few minutes, we will open!)

Umber Umbrella Bird flew back inside with a scared look on his face. “How can we take care of all these people that are lined up to come to our Café? We do not have enough workers! Where are the other Zoo-phonics Animals?”

Allie, Ellie, Inny, and Olive stopped what they were doing and looked outside in their backyard. There was Bubba Bear and Deedee Deer tossing a ball. Catina Cat was curled up in the sun. Peewee Penguin and the rest of the Animals were swimming in the pool.

“Whaaaaaaat?” asked Ellie. She yelled out to them, “We are doing all the work and you guys are out here playing? Everybody inside! We need your help now, please!”

So, the playful Zoo-phonics Animals, realizing that they had not helped their best friends, and came inside to help. Yancy Yak said, “**You are truly the Hardest Workers!**” to Allie, Inny, Ellie, Olive and Umber. But we will help too! And so they did.

Act out this skit. Your children won't forget the “Vowels are the Hardest Workers” concept. Let each child try the various roles.

Fun and Physical Activities!

1. **Spend a Lot of Time with the Vowels.** Using only the “a, e, i, o, u” **vowel Merged Animal Letters**, spend time Signaling and sounding their **short sounds**, over and over, gaining muscle and auditory memory. We call the vowels, “**The Hardest Workers**” because there are so few of them (5) to do all the sound changes in words. [There are 21 consonants. They don't change their sounds so they don't work as hard!]

As you practice these Signals and sounds over and over, **develop a rhythm**. Get a little faster each time (while still doing clean Signals). See the Vowel Animal Letters below.

2. **Middle (Medial) Sounds in Words.** This activity will help you to discover the vowels in words (Use the word list below). Find the **middle sound** in each word and say its letter sound.

VC/CVC Word List

ad, dad, had, lad, mad, sad, tad; **an**, ban, can, fan, man, pan, ran, van; **at**, bat, cat, fat, mat, rat, sat, vat; **in**, bin, din, pin; it, bit, hit, kit, lit, pit, sit; **ops**, bop, cop, lop, mop, pop, stop; **up**, cup, pup, sup.

name: _____

allie alligator

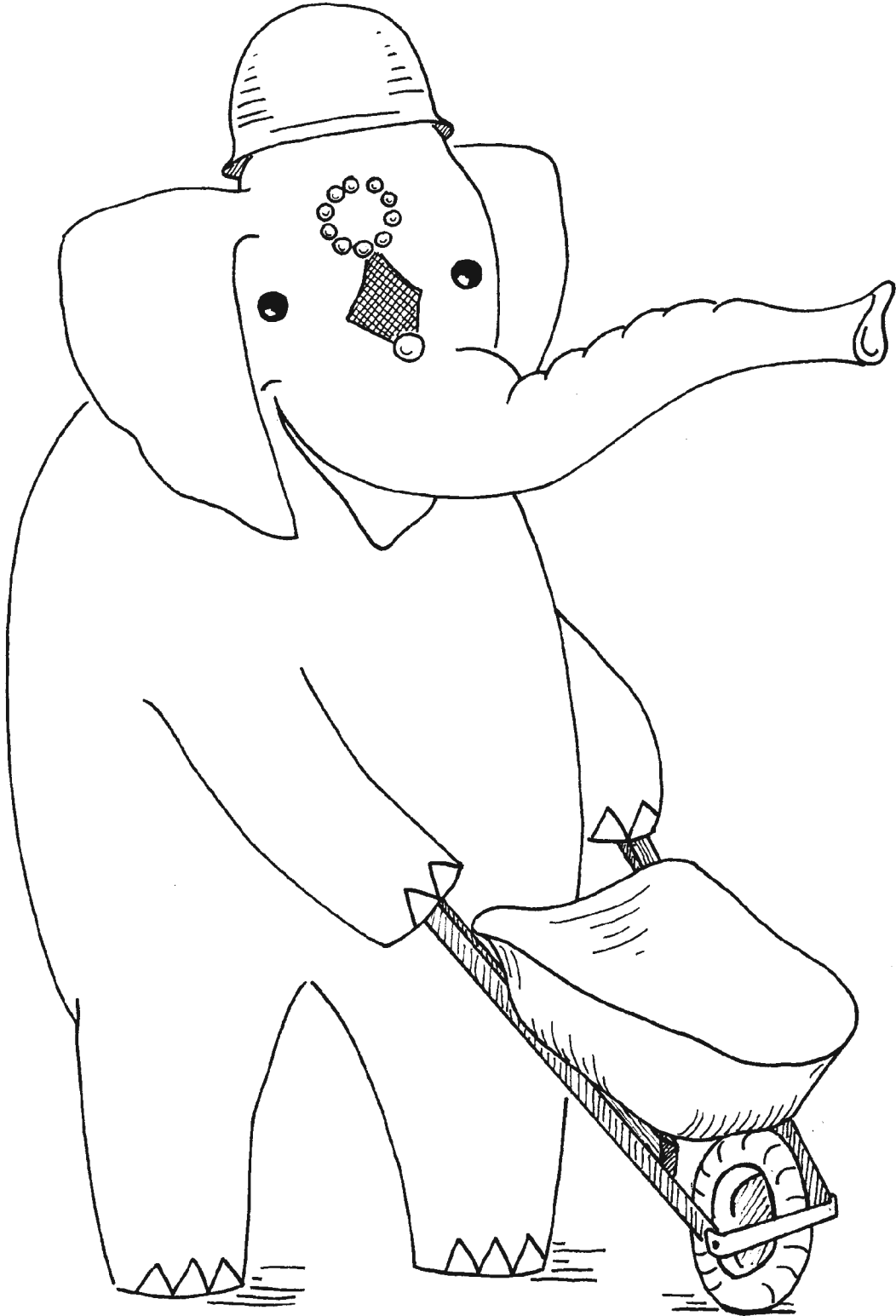
one of the hardest workers!



name: _____

ellie elephant

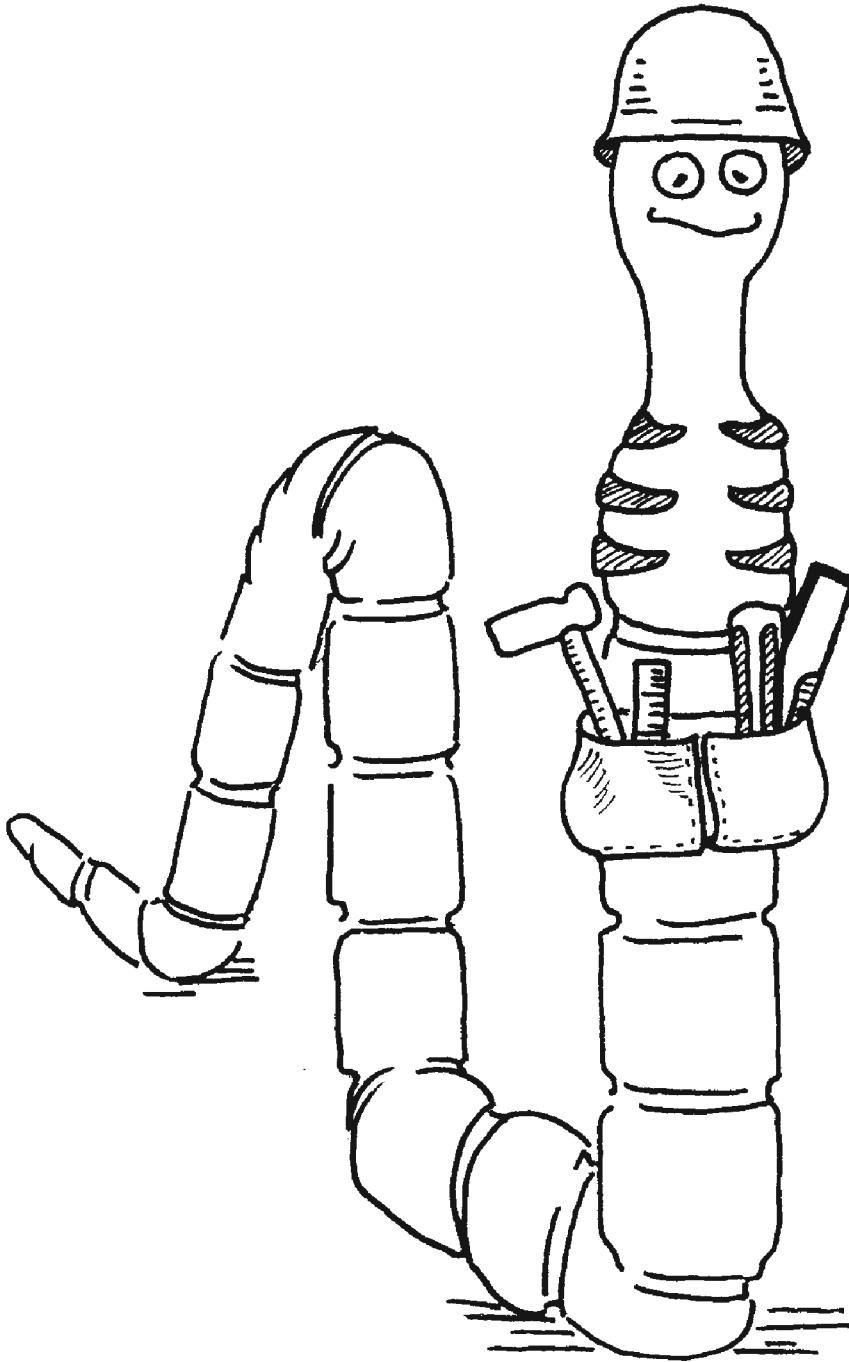
one of the hardest workers!



name: _____

inny inchworm

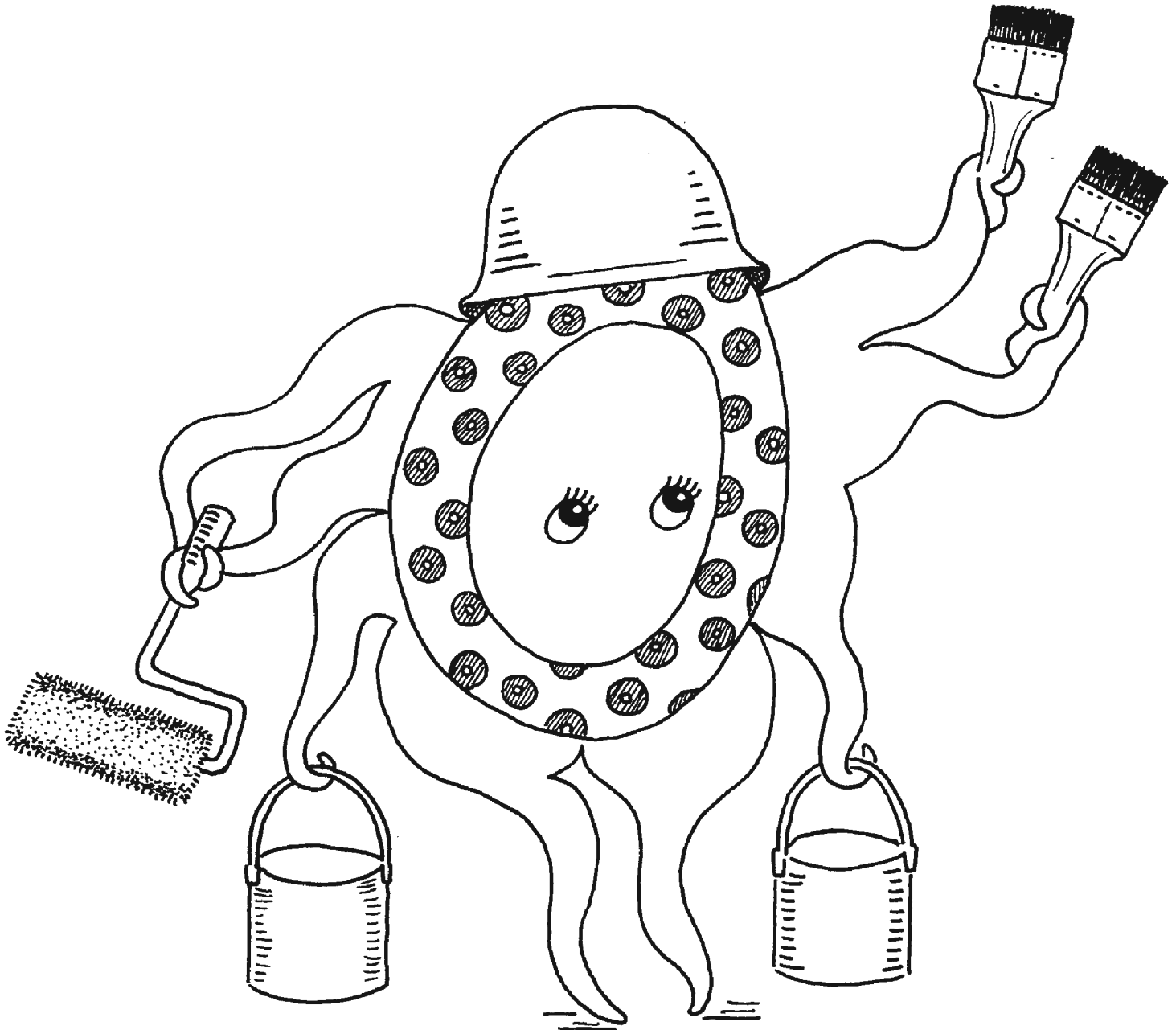
one of the hardest workers!



name: _____

live octopus

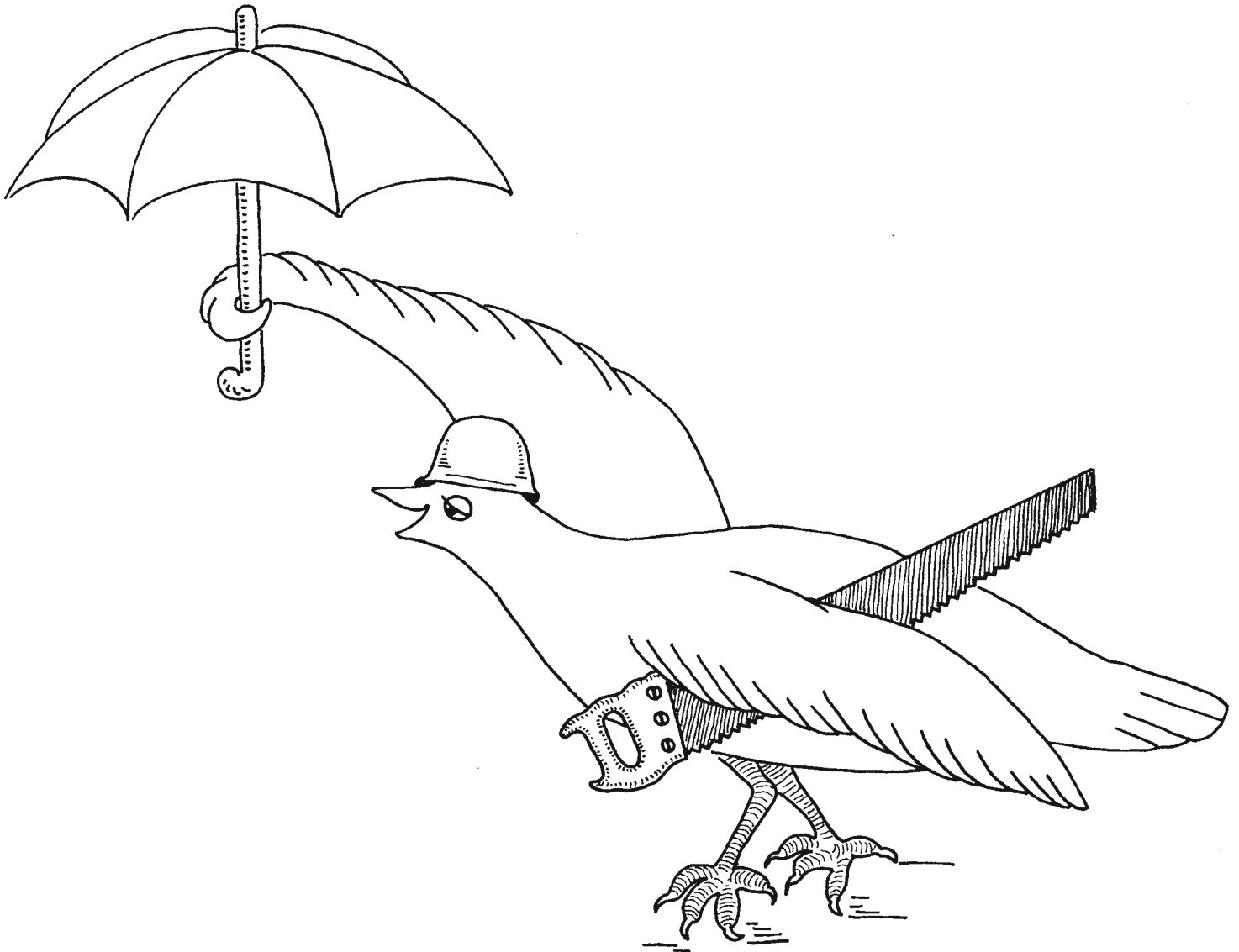
one of the hardest workers!

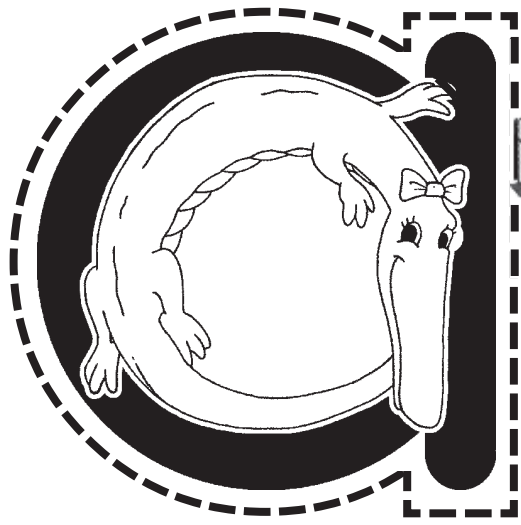


name: _____

umber umbrella bird

one of the hardest workers!





Cut around the letter, cutting off as much white space as possible.

