

Prop Me Up!

Rachel and Rebekah Goodman

Why add Props to stories

- 1/3 of children have a television in their bedroom.
- 1/4 of children have a VCR or DVD in their bedroom.
- 1/10 of children have a video-game player in their bedroom.
- Seven percent have a computer in their bedroom.¹
- And these statistics are for children from newborn to age six!

Computer games, television programs, and downloads! All this and more compete for children's attention. It becomes a battle and you feel like the overbearing sergeant at boot camp, yelling at your "troops" to attention... at least just for a while, please!

- Recent research at the National Institute of Mental Health conducted by Peter Jensen concluded, "Extensive exposure to television and video games may promote development of brain systems that scan and shift attention at the expense of those that focus attention."
- Secondly, the earlier children acquire a passive TV habit, the more likely attention span will not develop normally.
- Since the images change rapidly so does the shift of the child's attention.(Vincent Ruggerio, A Guide to Critical Thinking)
- The average TV commercial changes the camera angle (and therefore the focus of the viewer) 15-30 times in 30 seconds.
- Students today are conditioned to expect changes in their viewing focus.

Visual Aids or Props

Become "I" minded

Visual aids add: impact, interest, involvement and increase understanding

- In many studies, experimental psychologists and educators have found that retention of information three days after a meeting or other event is six times greater when information is presented by visual and oral means than when the information is presented by the spoken word alone.
- Studies by educational researchers suggest that approximately 83% of human learning occurs visually, and the remaining 17% through the other senses - 11% through hearing, 3.5% through smell, 1% through taste, and 1.5% through touch.

¹ Victoria Rideout, Elizabeth Vanderwater, and Ellen Wartella, *Zero to Six: Electronic Media in the Lives of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers: A Kaiser Foundation Report* (Washington, DC: Henry Kaiser Family Foundation, 2003).

- The studies suggest that three days after an event, people retain 10% of what they heard from an oral presentation, 35% from a visual presentation, and 65% from a visual and oral presentation.

<http://www.osha.gov/doc/outreachtraining/htmlfiles/traintec.html>

Selection:

Chose books, stories, or poems that can be easily reworked into a different medium. Not many characters, one main character, Can be stored and used multiple times. Use the internet to get ideas on which books to use, see what someone else did, then make it your own. Use clip art images to create the characters in the story.

Websites:

<http://www.kizclub.com> (flannel board characters for different books)

<http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com> (book ideas)

<http://susanmdailey.com> (story ideas, draw and tell, cut and tell)

<http://schoolagereadalouds.blogspot.com> (good read aloud stories)

Mediums:

Flannel Board type characters

Puppets

Overhead

Draw and Tell stories

Cut and Tell/Fold and Tell

String stories

Props

Interaction props for the kids

Participation stories

Examples:

Participation Stories:

Chickens to the Rescue by John Himmelman

How I Became a Pirate by Melinda Long

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin

Flannel Board/Magnet Board Stories:

I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin

Mouse Paint by Ellen Stoll Walsh (with a few props)

All You Need for a Beach by Alice Shertle

Nail Soup Folk Story

Prop Stories:

All You Need for a Beach by Alice Shertle

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle (patterns included)

I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed ...

a pie by Allison Jackson
a fly Folk Story/song

Fold and Tell Story:

The Paper Hat (story and fold pattern included)

Examples from March 2007:

Books:

All You Need for a Snowman by Alice Shertle (Prop story)
Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle (Prop Story)
Napping House by Audrey Wood (Flannel board - Manila folder Story)
Go Away Big Green Monster by Ed Emberly (Flannel board)
Under the Bed by Paul Bright (Prop Story)
Caterpillar and Polliwog by Jack Kent (Puppet/ Prop)
Popcorn Dragon by Jane Thayer (Puppet)
In the Driver's Seat by Max Haynes (Overhead transparency story)

Poems:

Four and Twenty Blackbirds (prop story)
I'm being eaten by a boa constrictor (prop story)

THE PAPER HAT, A FOLDING STORY

Once upon a time there was a little girl, who wanted to play outside, but she couldn't because it was raining.

So she sat watching the raindrops and feeling sad until she made herself a rain hat and went outside anyway.

While she was walking outside in the rain, she saw a house on fire.

She made herself a fire chief's hat and put out the fire,

But what she really wanted to do was go sailing,

So she made herself an admiral's hat

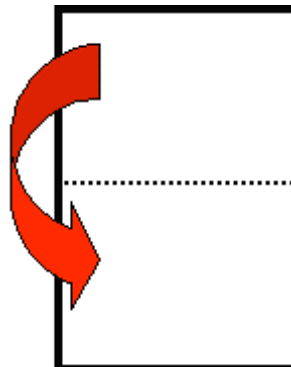
And then she made herself a boat and went sailing up and down, up and down, until a storm began tossing her boat on the rocks.

It crashed and made such big holes in the boat that it sank,

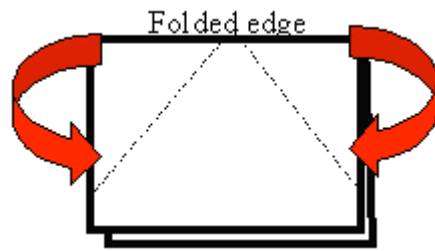
But she was safe because she had remembered to wear her life jacket.

Fold the paper while telling the story. As you get to each hat open it up so the kids can see it looks like a hat.

Fold the paper (or the 1/2 sheet of newspaper) in half

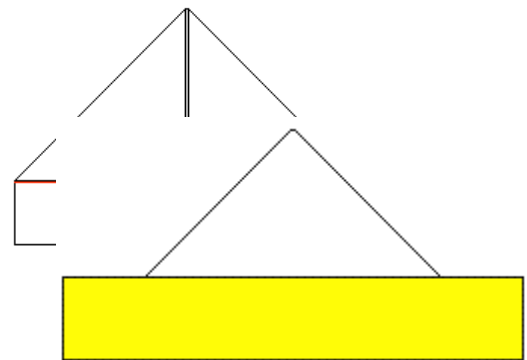


Fold down each side to make triangles



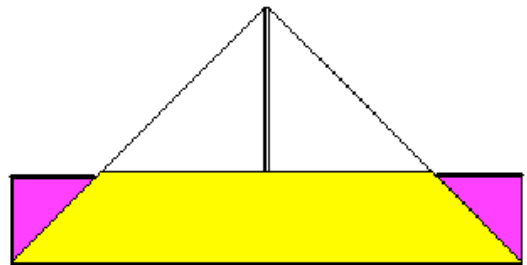
At the bottom fold the top strip upward on the red line

Turn the paper over and fold the other lower strip upwards. You have formed the well known paper hat. (if you're finding the origami too challenging with a group of kids, you can always just stop here and wear your hats as sailor hats!!)

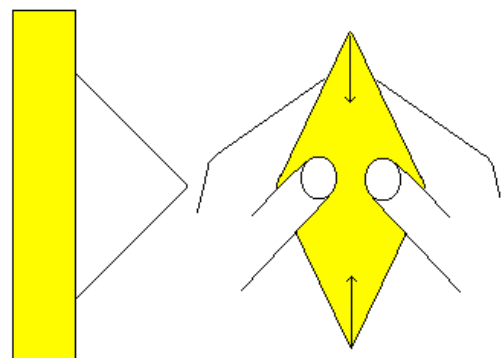


Rain Hat

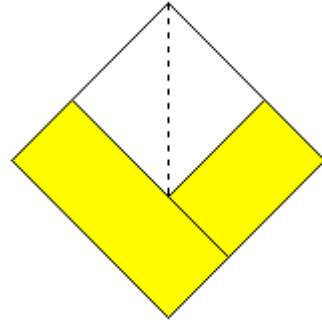
Fold the two small triangles on the left and on the right backwards to make them disappear.



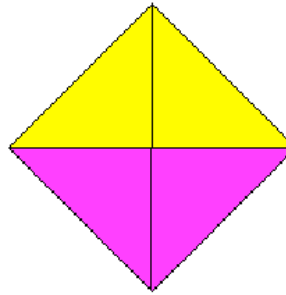
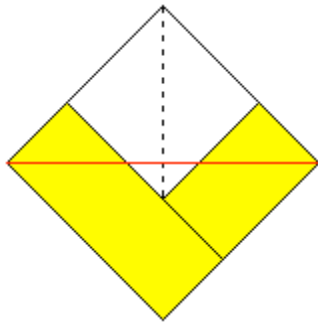
Turn the hat 90 degrees and open it so you're looking inside the part you would wear on your head. The thumbs must be inside.



Lay the upper and the lower parts on each other so it looks like a diamond (see the image to the right).

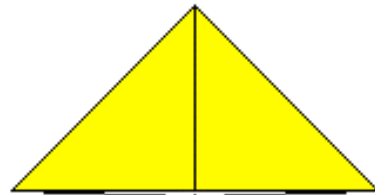


the lower front triangle upwards on the red line.

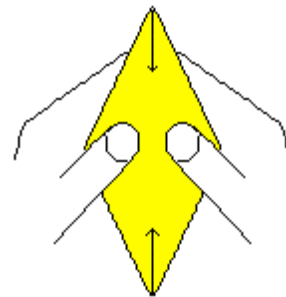


Firefighters Hat

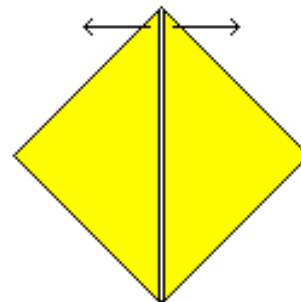
Turn the paper over and fold the other triangle up. It basically looks like the hat without the brim this time



Open the hat again and put the upper part on the lower one to make a diamond shape again

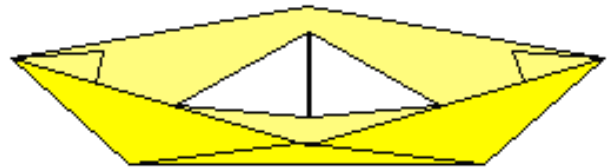


Pull the upper corners of the triangles in direction of the arrows. As you pull these corners you'll see the boat forming before your eyes.

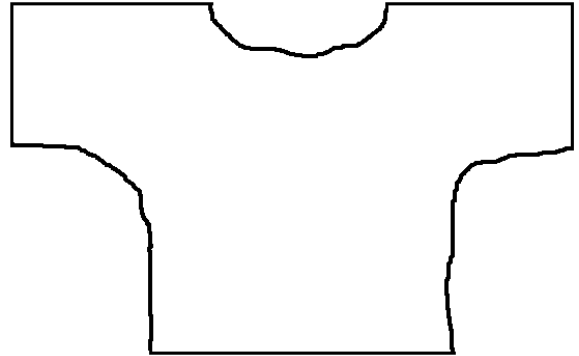


Admiral's Hat

Stretch the boat both to the right and left, and then separate it slightly from underneath so it can float



Tear off the top and both sides as the boat hits the rocks. Open it up and you have the life jacket

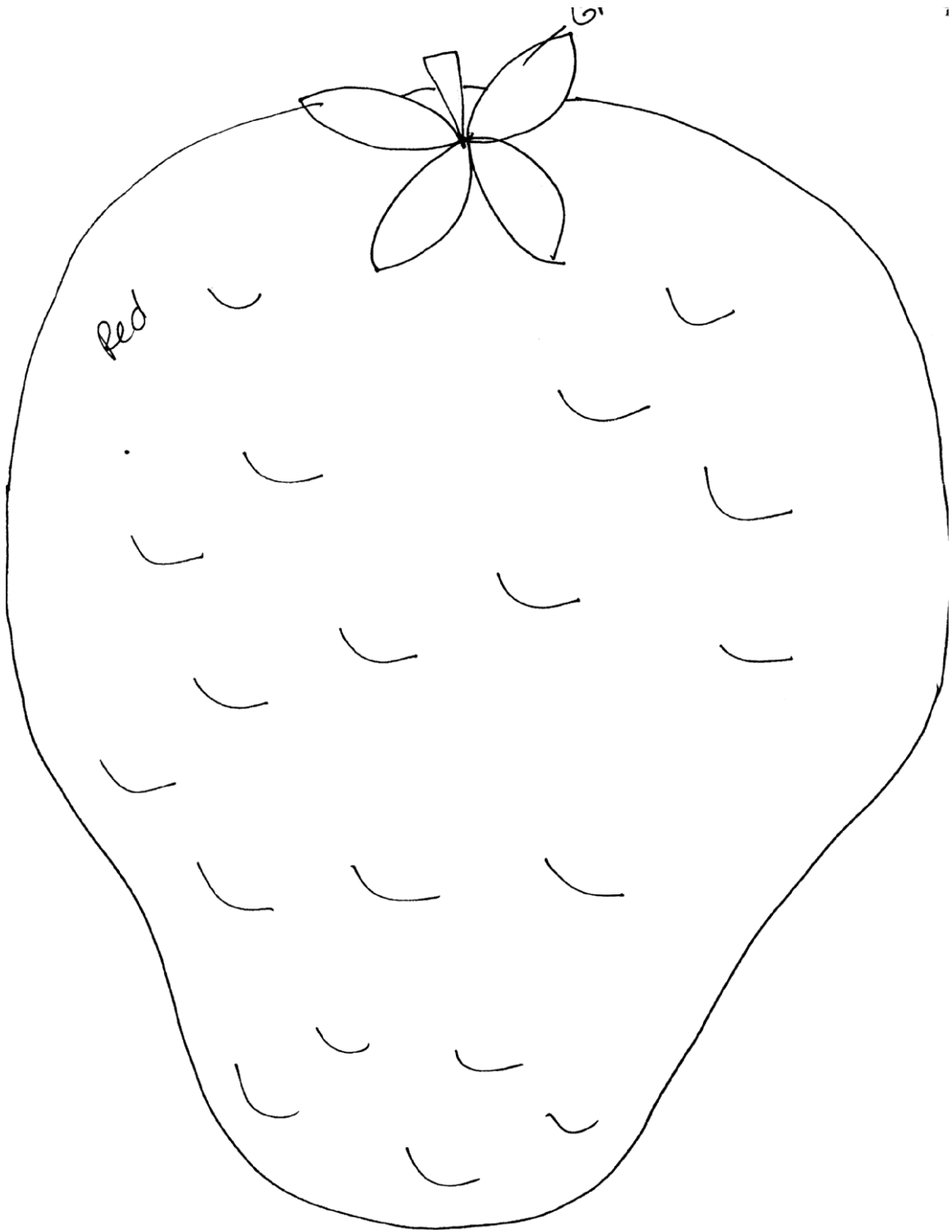


Very Hungry Caterpillar

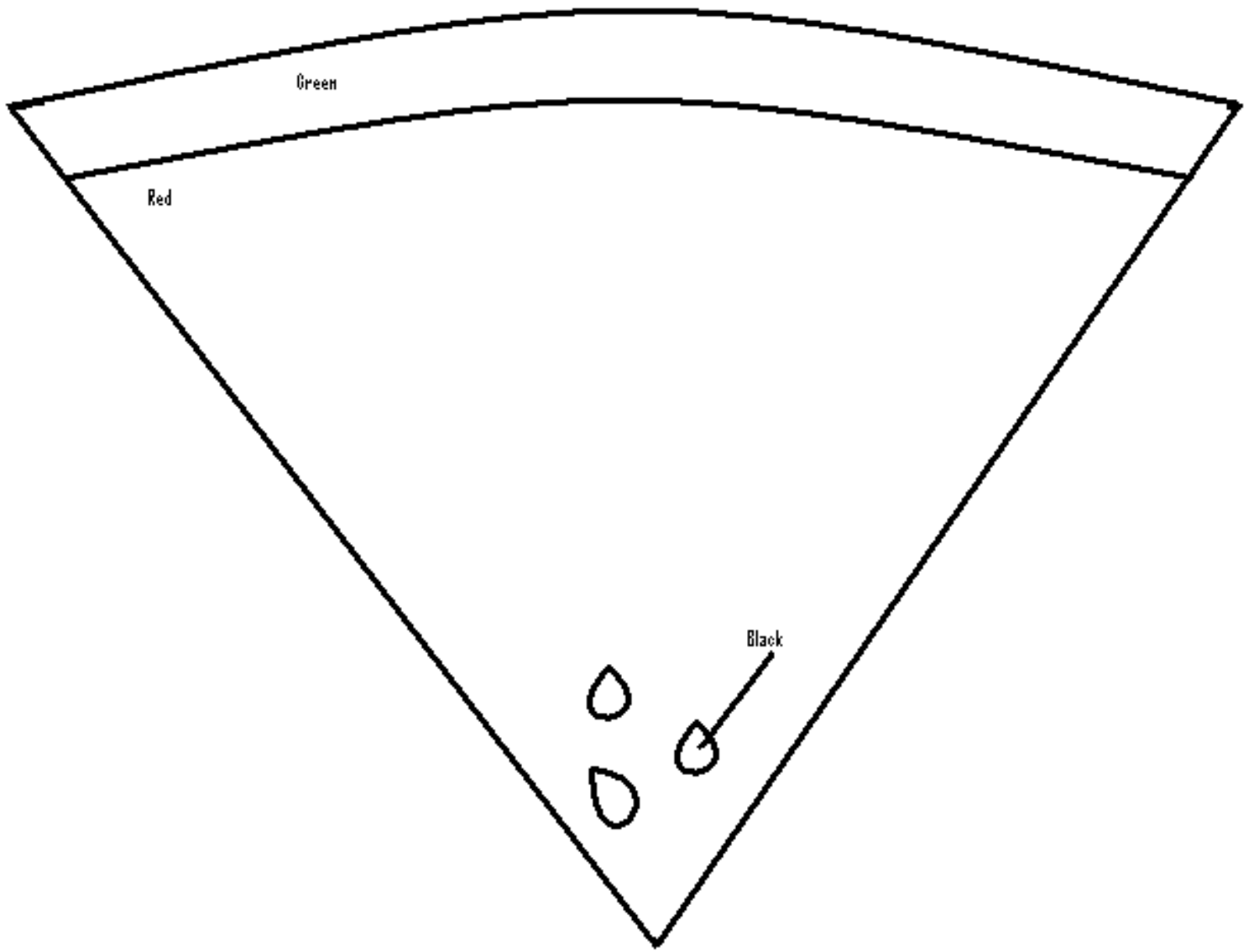
All patterns will need to be enlarged to just a bit bigger than a sheet of paper. Make as big as need to accommodate hole in center for hand and puppet.

Cut a hole in the center of each that will fit your hand and puppet. If it's a sock puppet the hole should be just a bit bigger than your hand, if it's a puppet and your hand make sure that both fit through the hole.

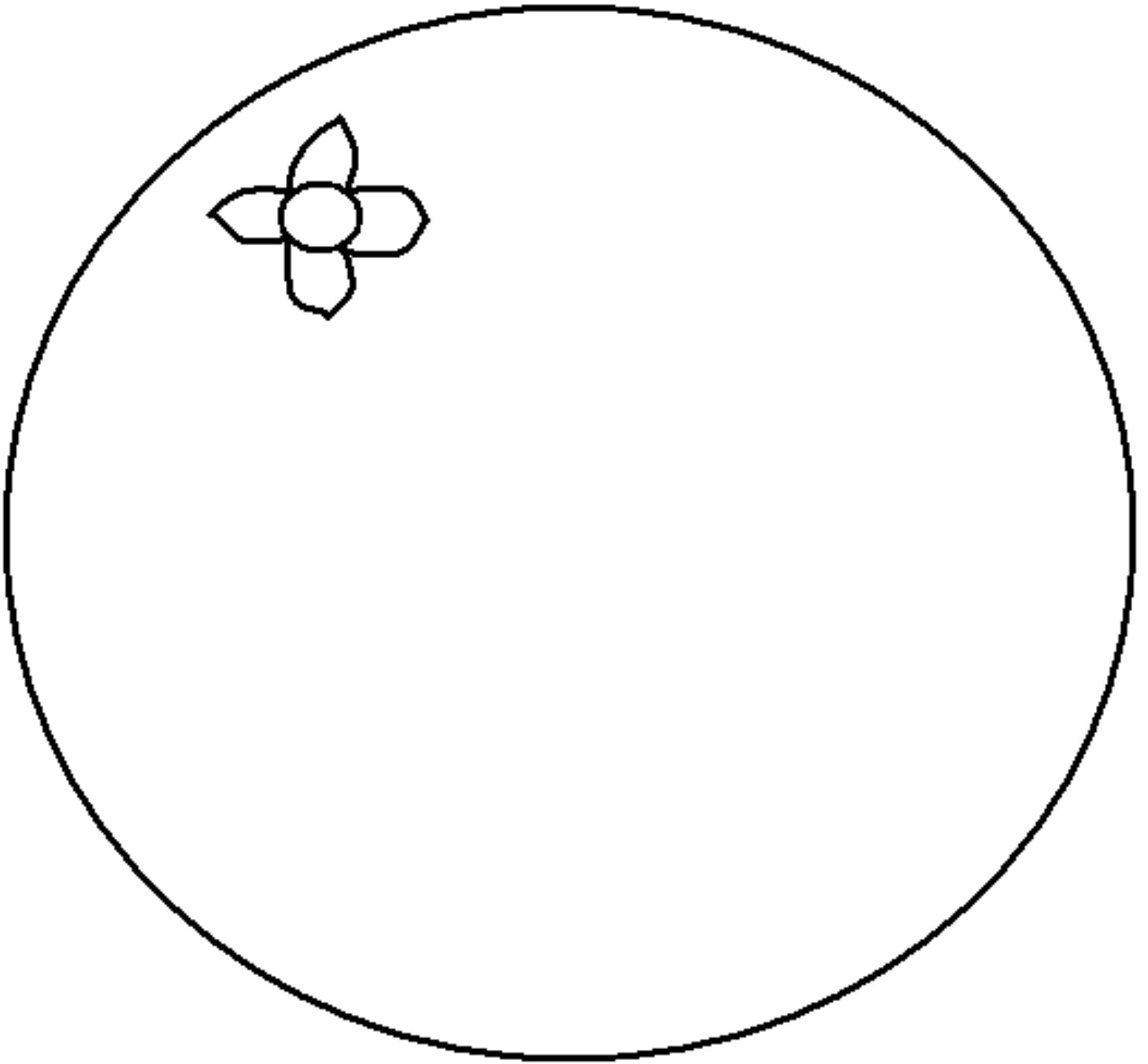
Put on felt or craft foam.



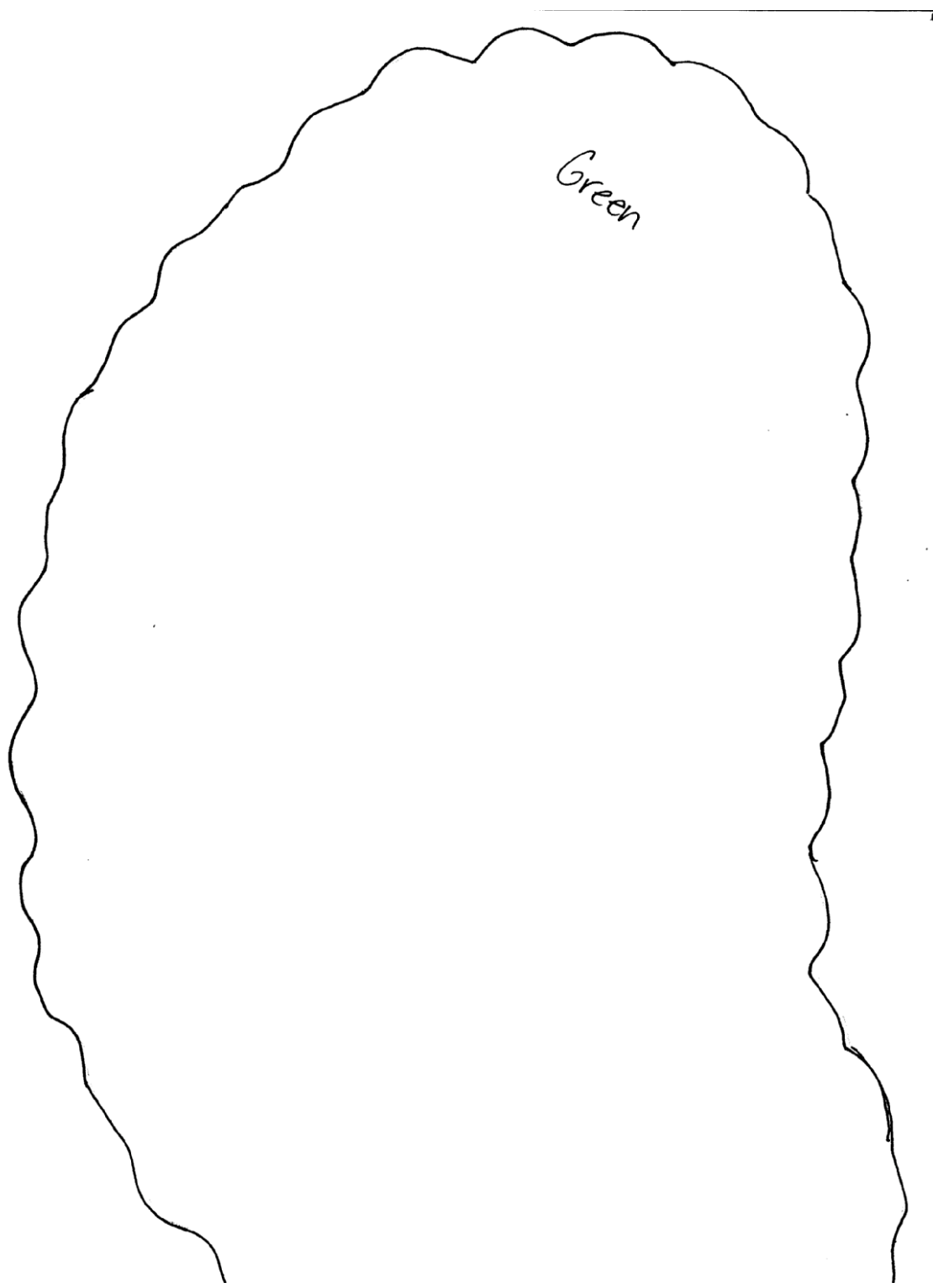
4 Strawberries



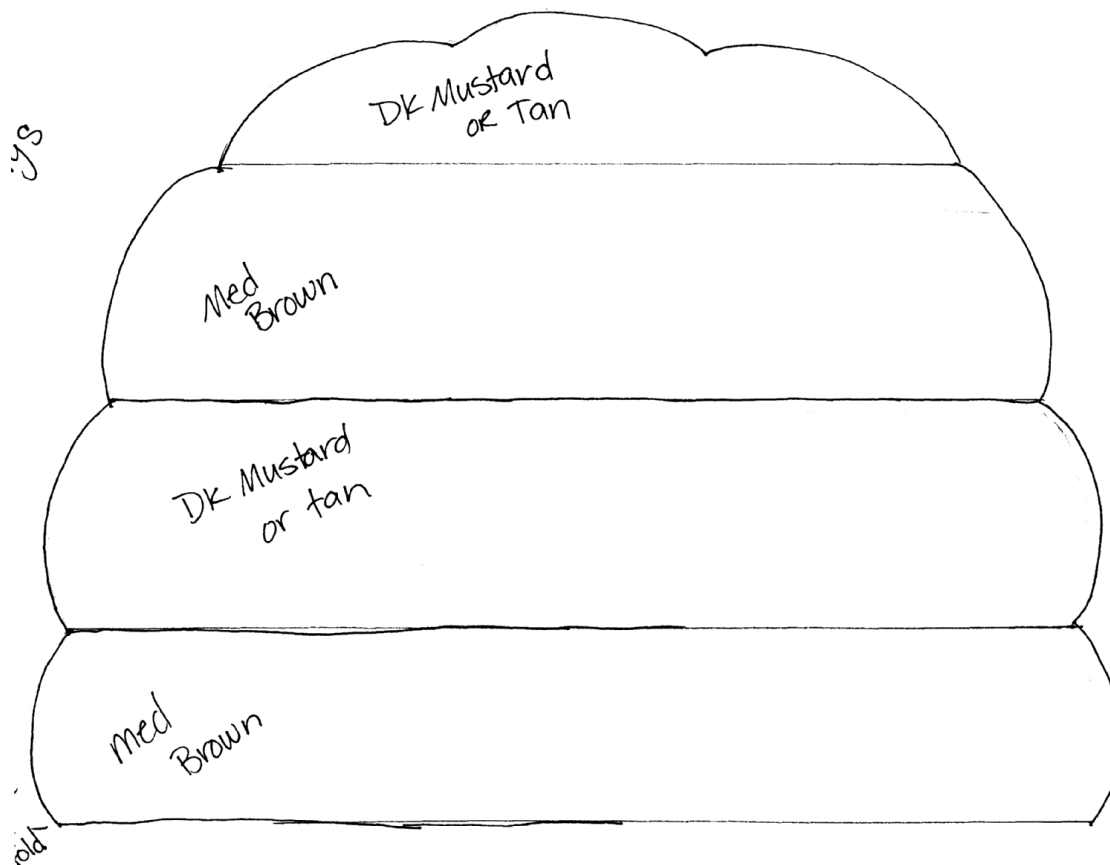
1 Watermelon



5 Oranges

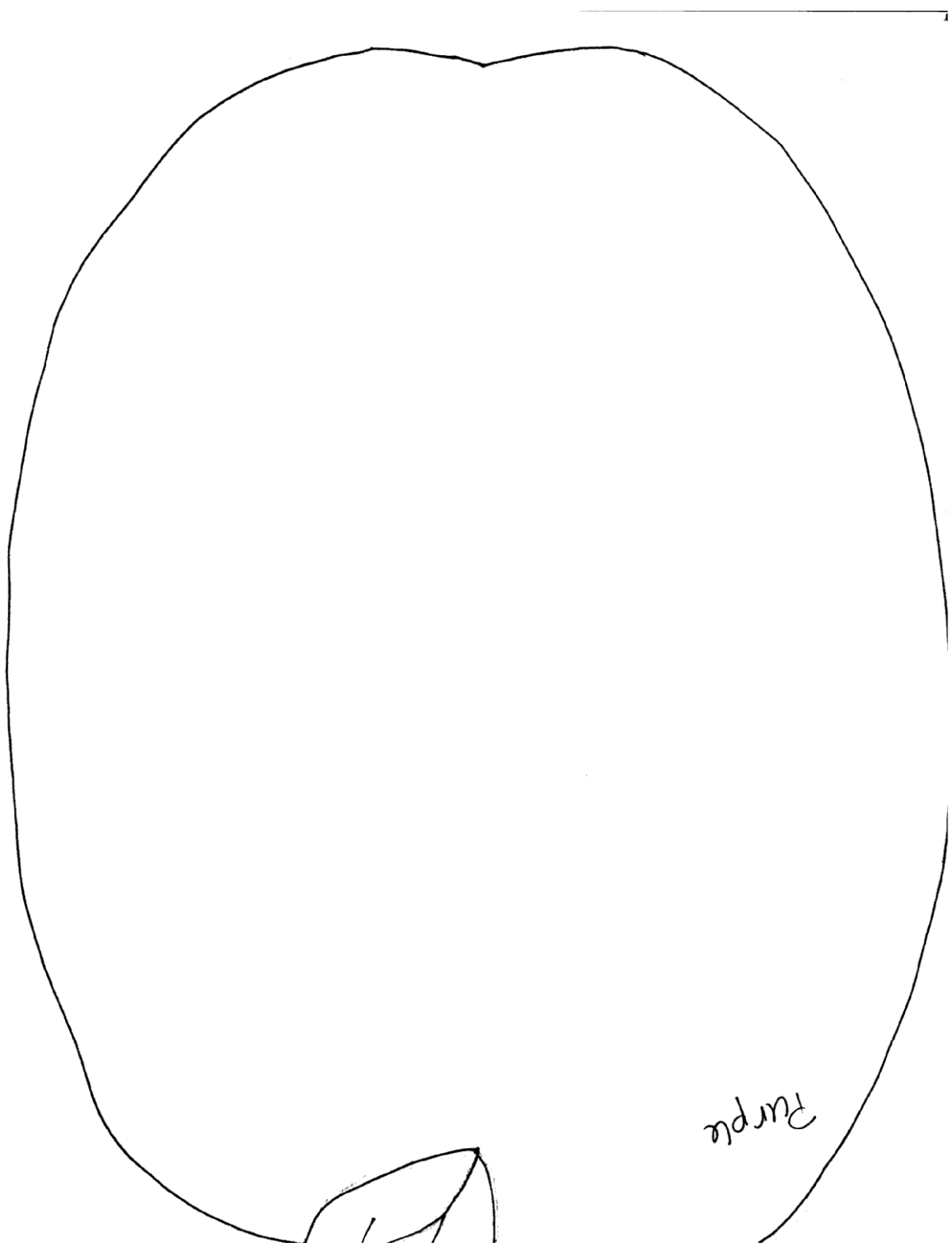


1 Pickle

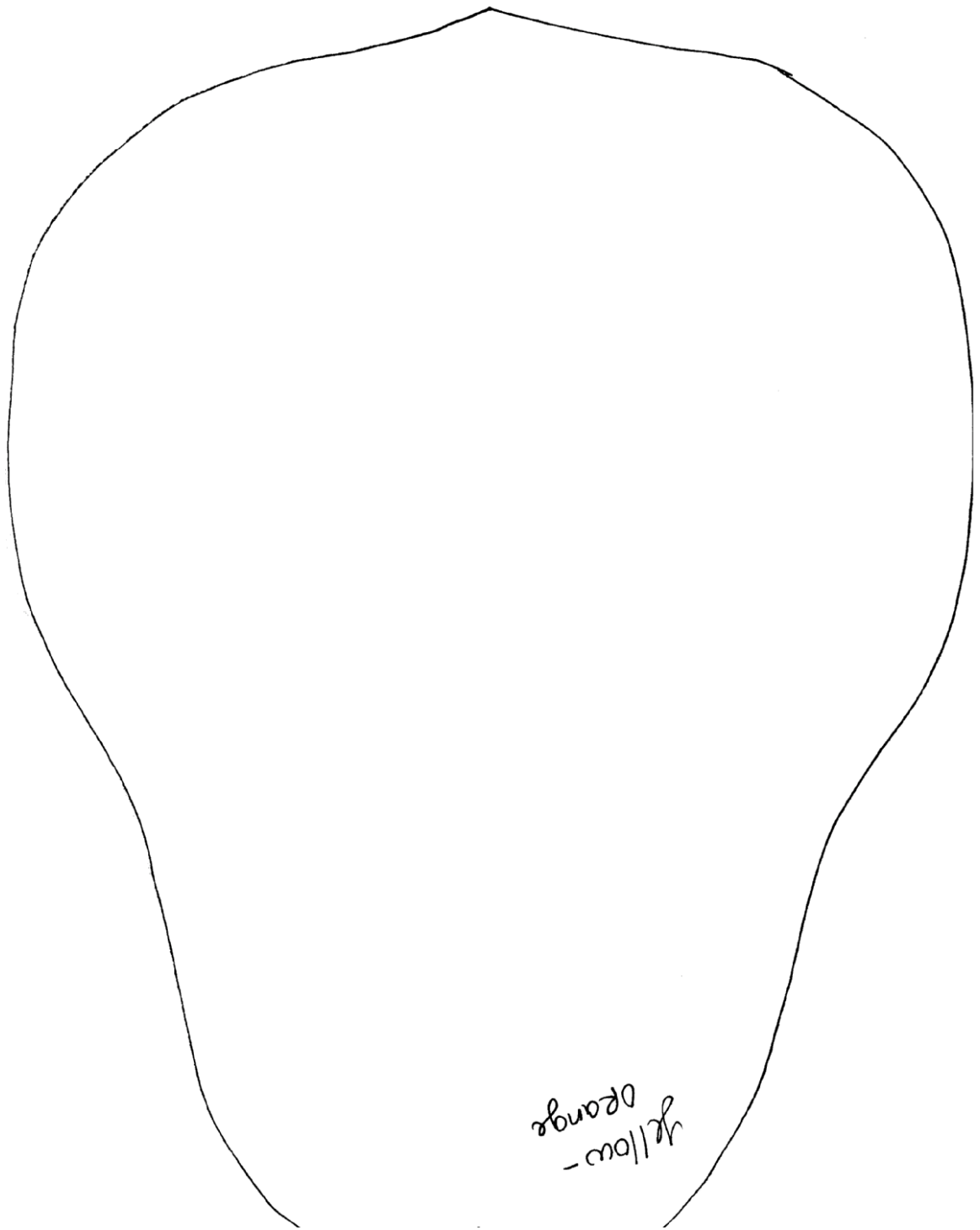


1 chrysalis

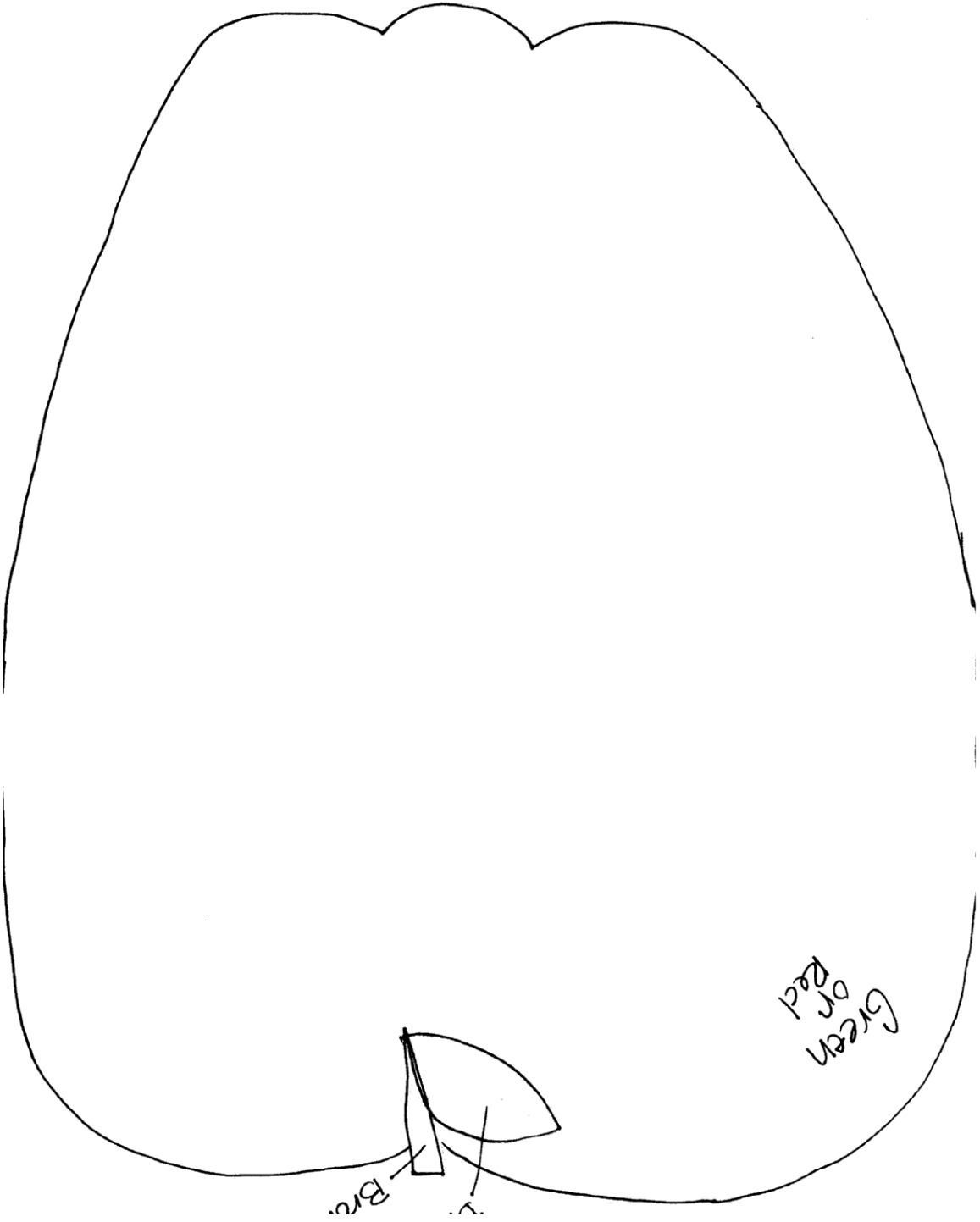
Place straight line on fold this is only half the chrysalis



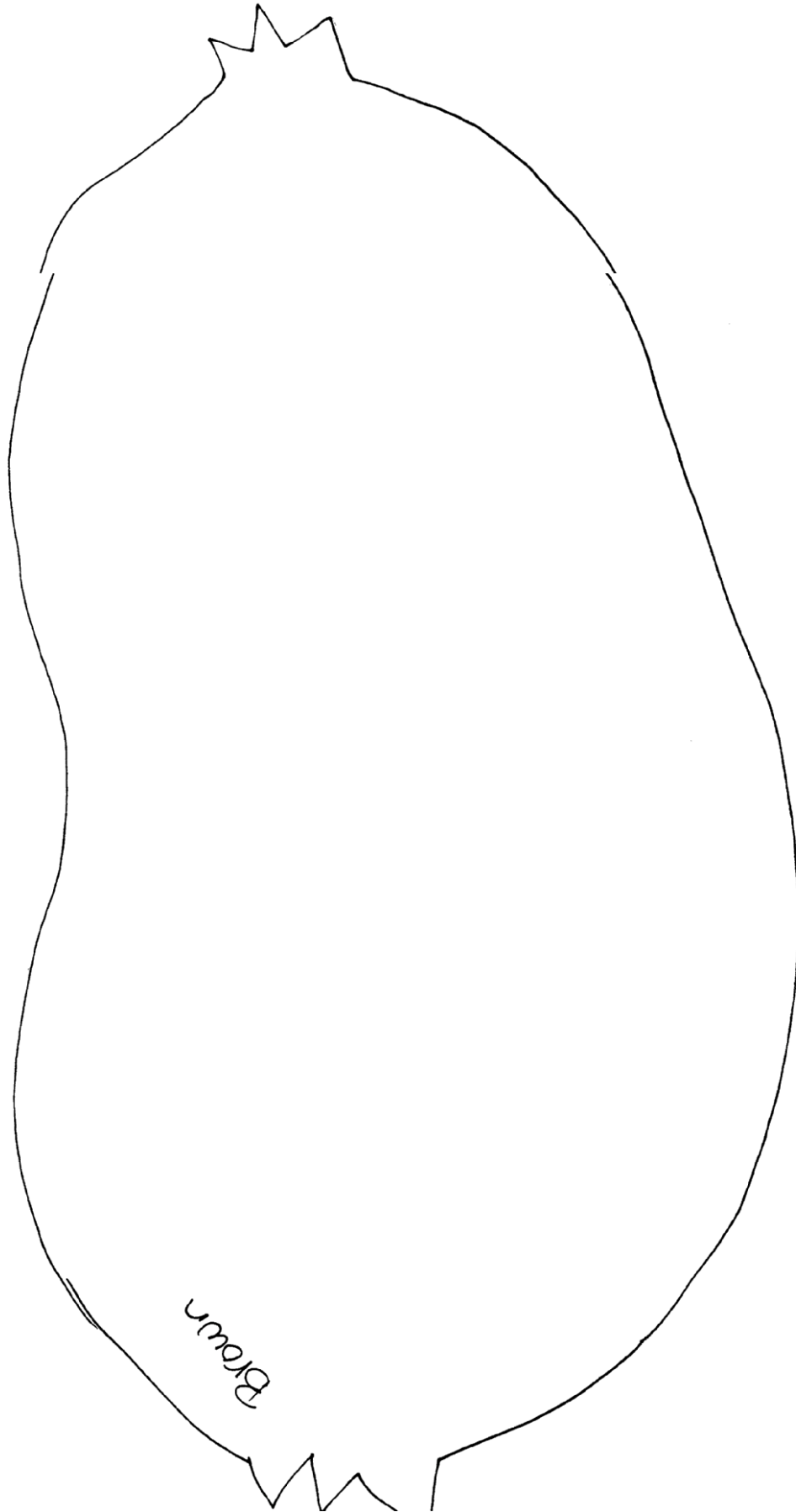
3 plums



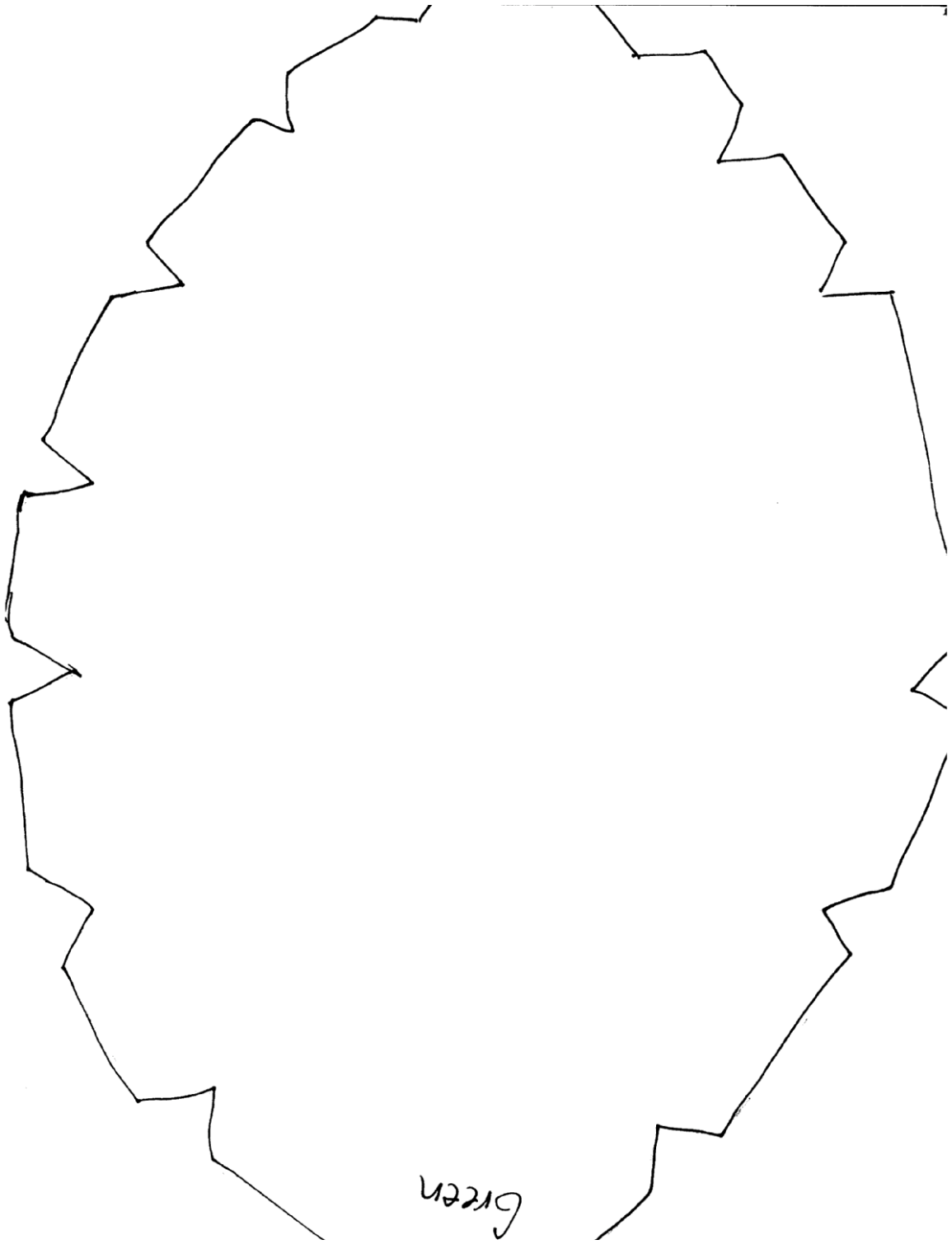
2 pears



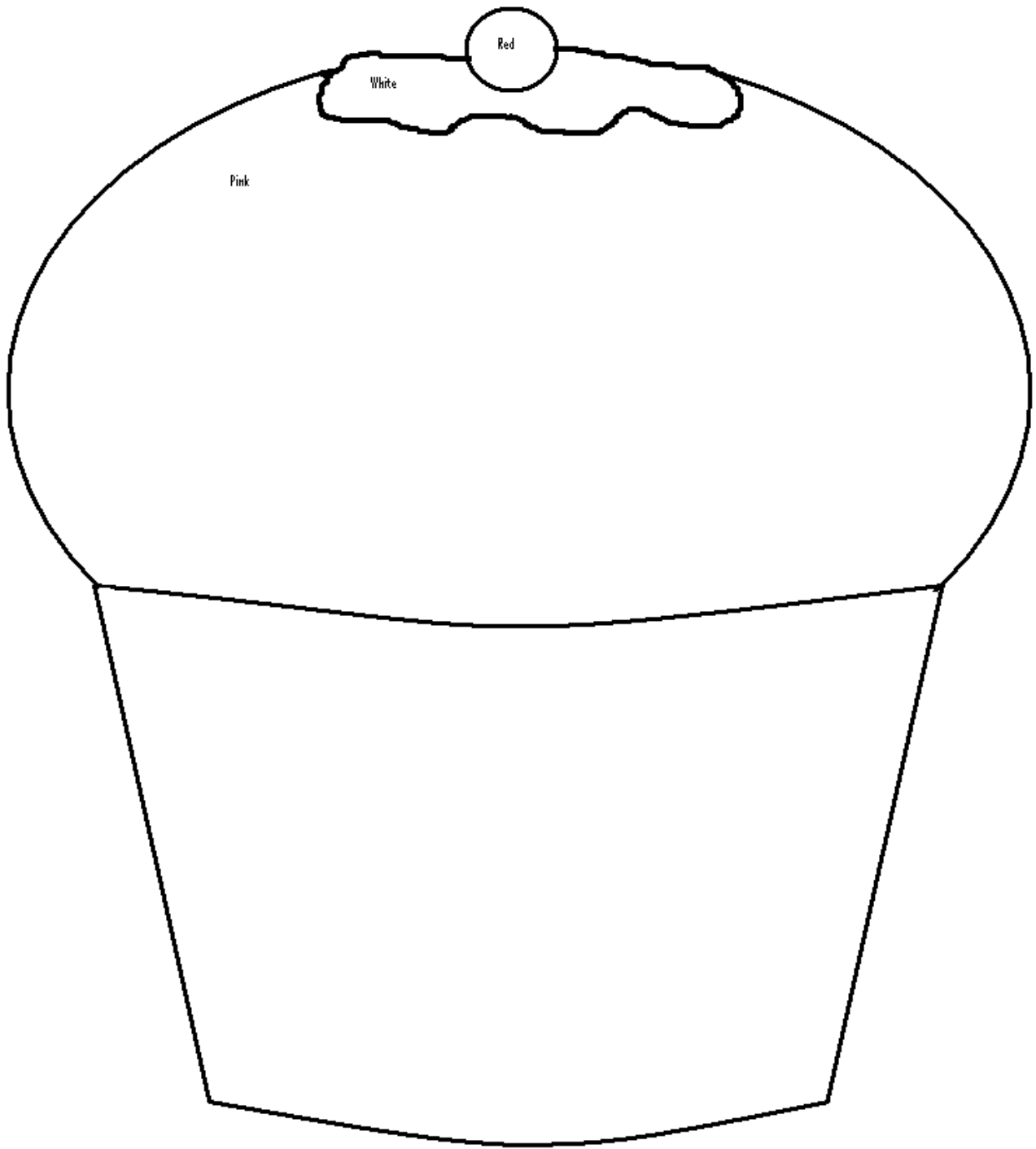
1 apple



1 Sausage

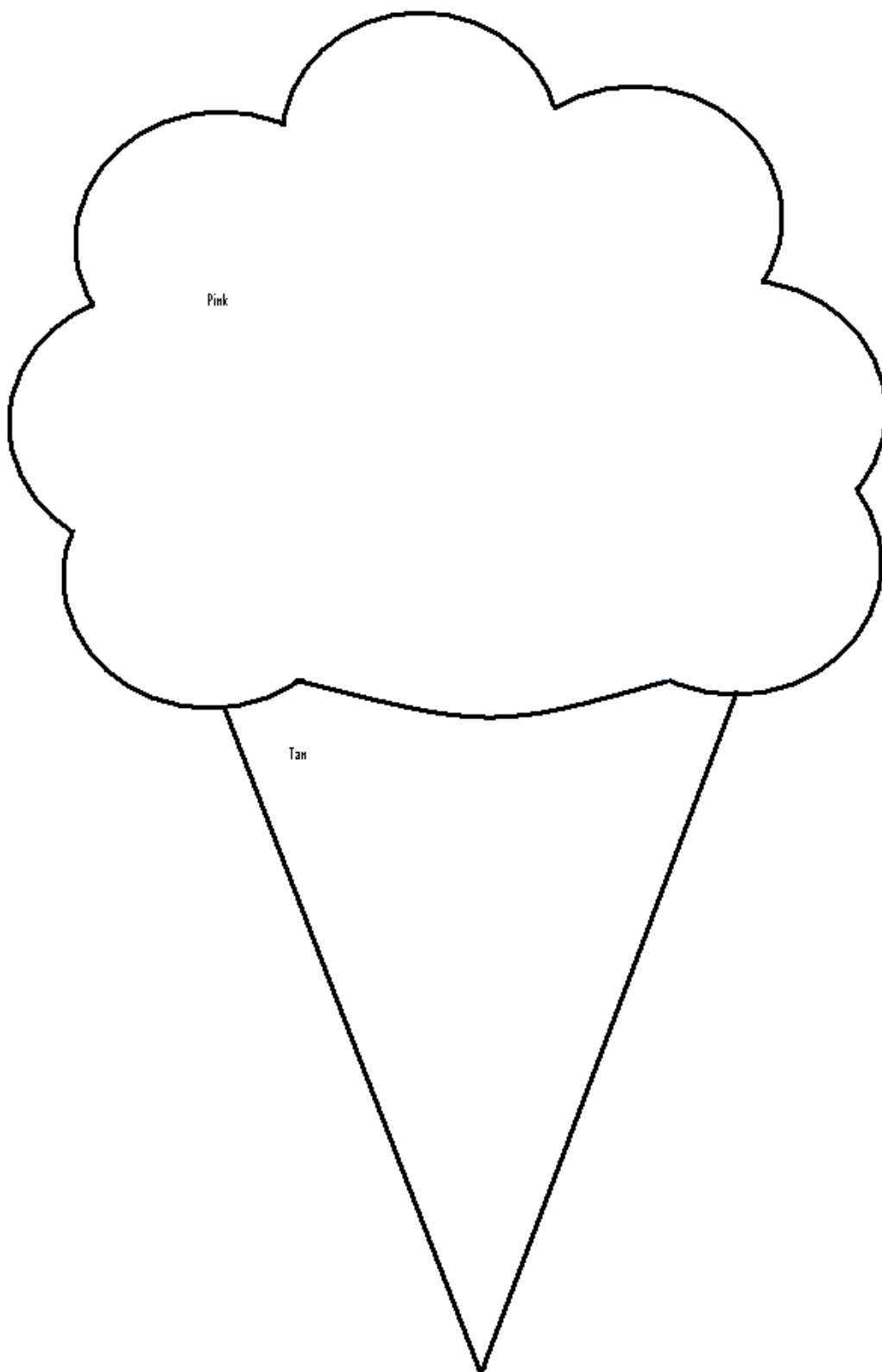


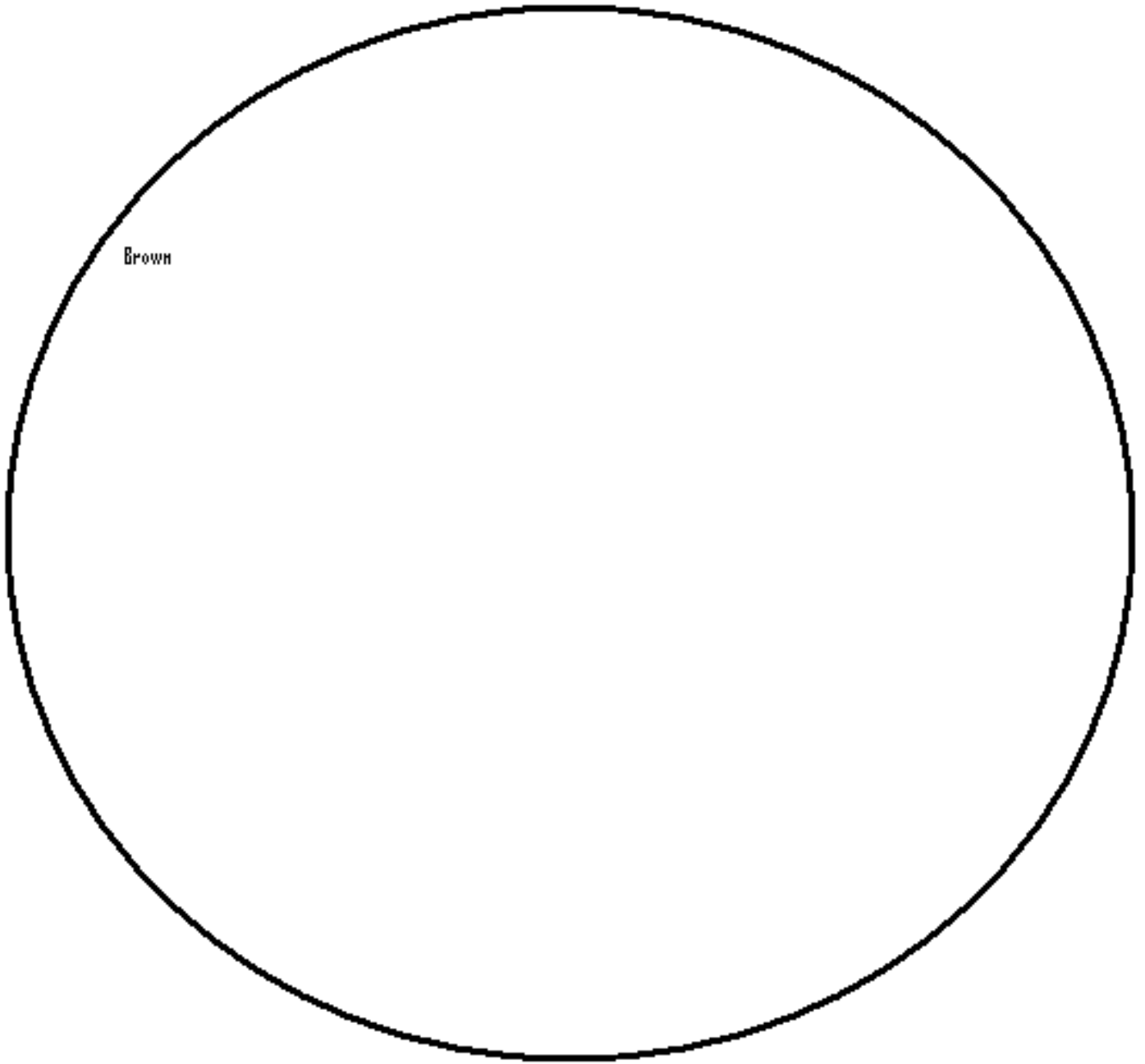
1 or 2 leaves



1 cupcake

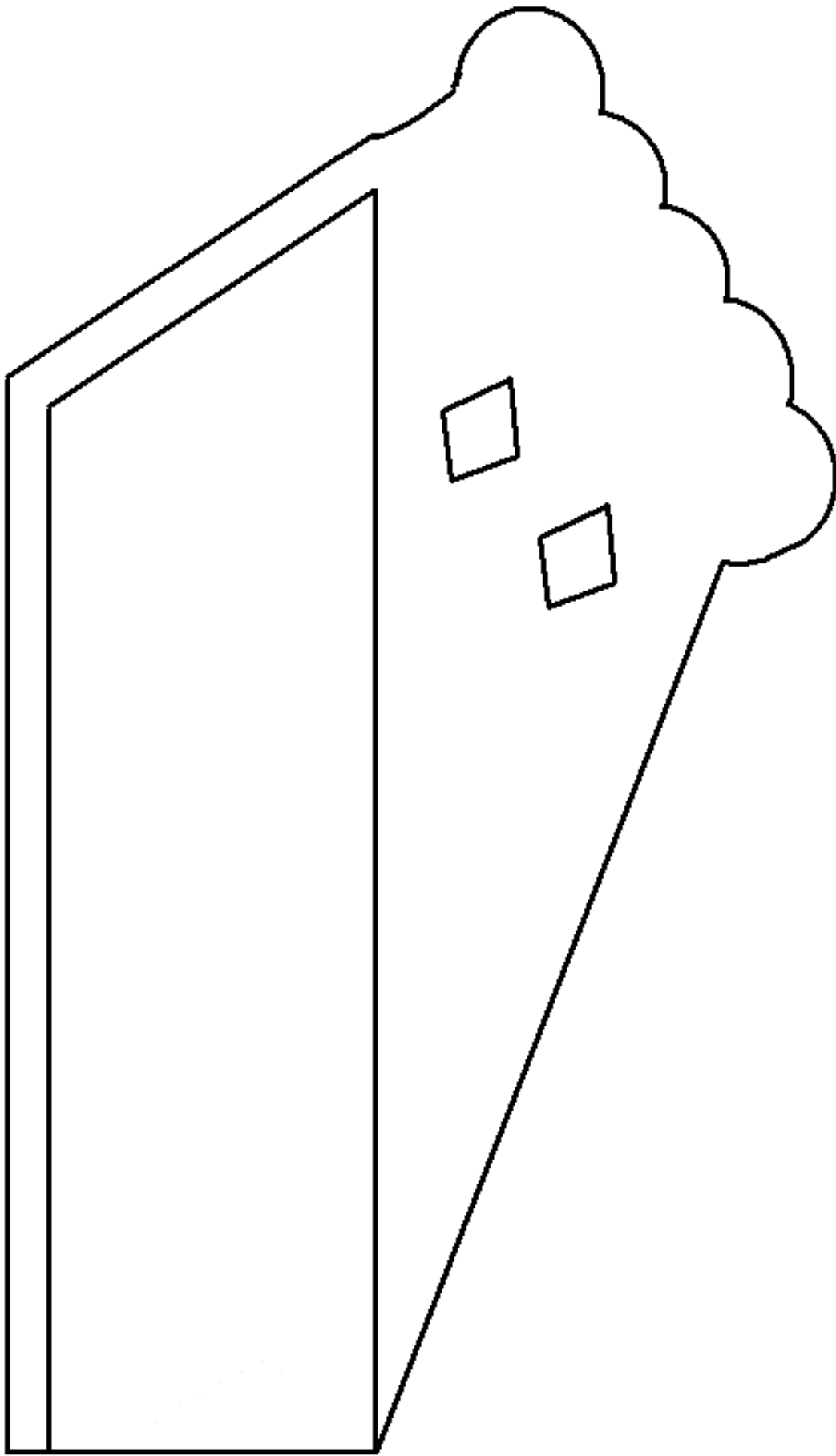
1 Ice
cream



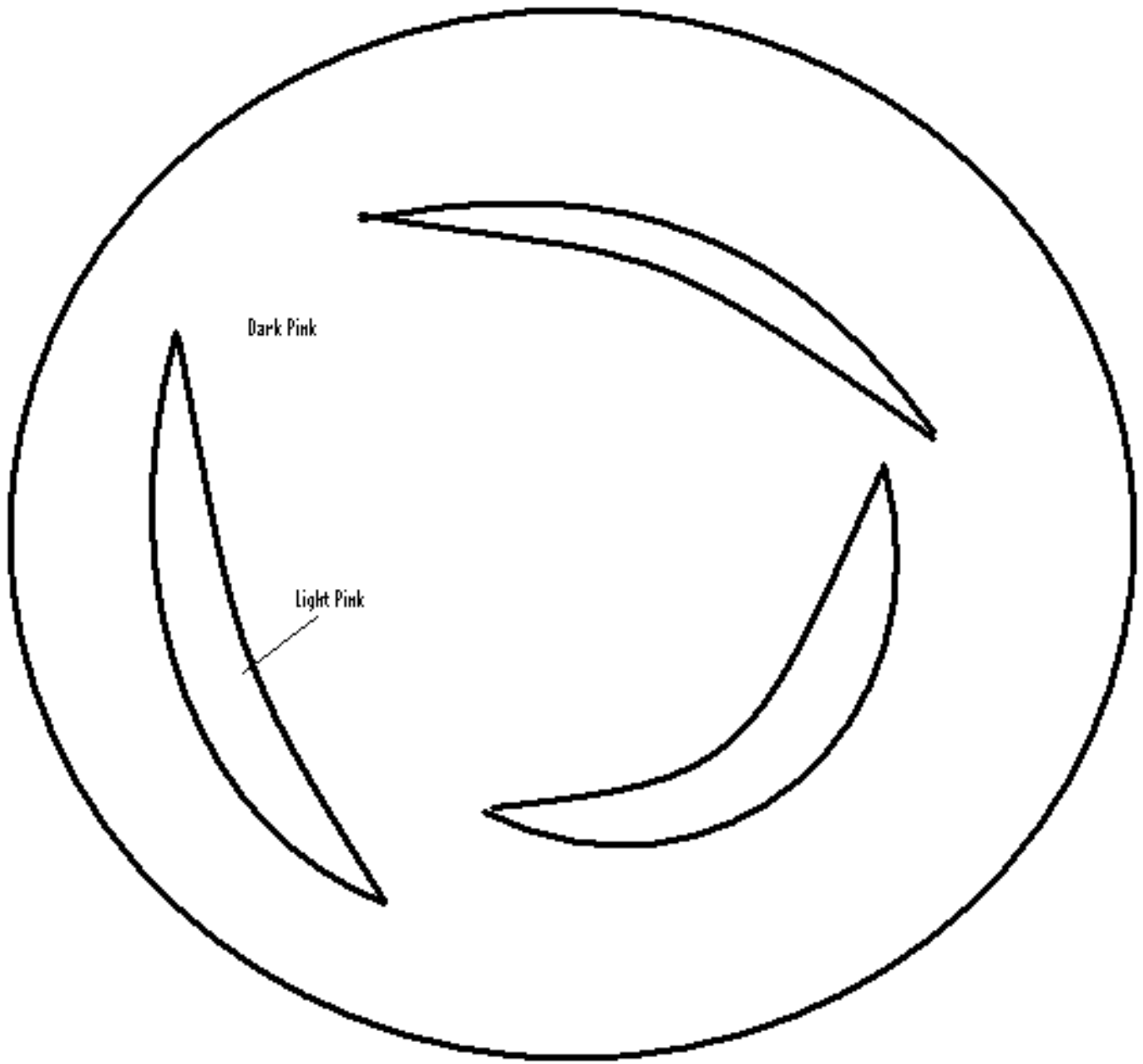


Brown

1 Slice of Salami

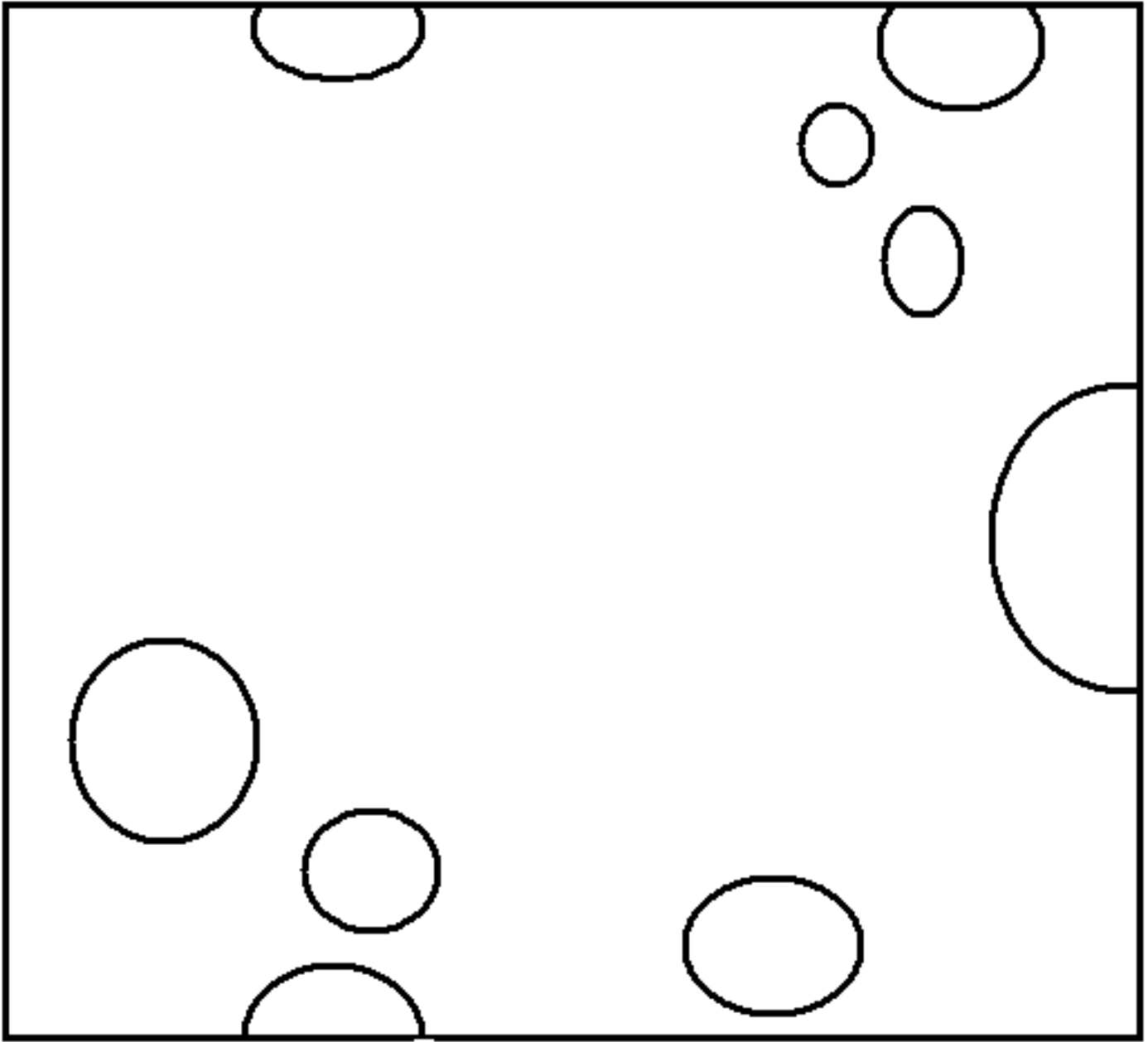


1 cherry pie

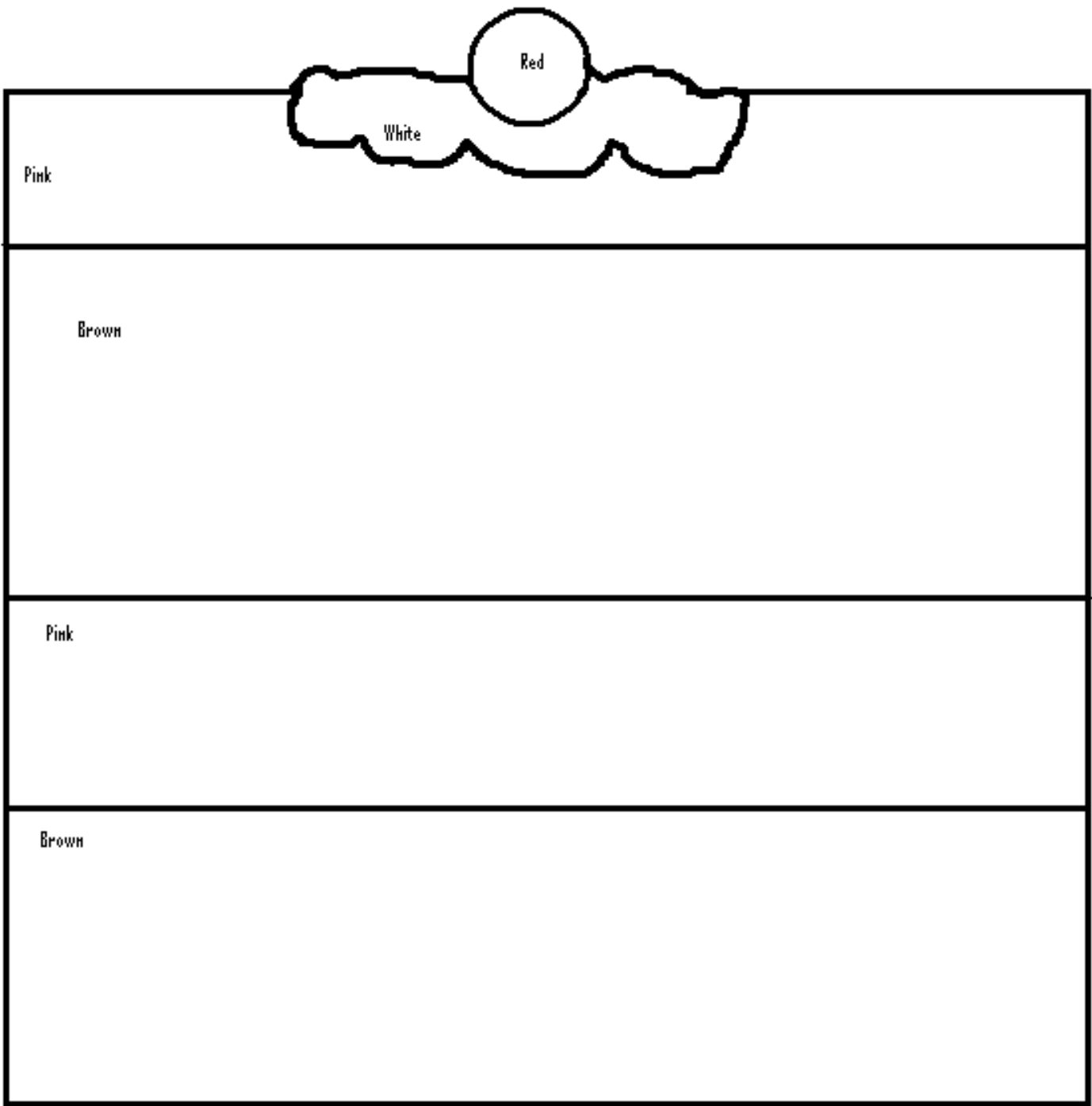


1 lollipop

Add a black or brown stick with felt or craft foam



1 slice of Swiss Cheese



1 piece of chocolate cake