

# ART STATION

## STATION FOCUS

God loves all people and will forgive them when they repent. We, like Jonah, are called to tell others about God.

## SCRIPTURES

The Book of Jonah

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## STATION OBJECTIVES

Children will have the opportunity to

- become familiar with the story of Jonah;
- explore ways to tell others about God, as Jonah did.

## STATION SETUP

Note: Posters can be ordered online from such sites as [www.fishposters.com](http://www.fishposters.com) or [www.junglewalk.com](http://www.junglewalk.com). Fish prints can be ordered from [www.chartingnature.com](http://www.chartingnature.com).

Decorate the room with posters of fish.

Photocopy the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Background, Shepherd Tips, and Check Your Facts for each leader and shepherd. (See pages 3–6.)

## WANT TO DO MORE?

Continue the nautical theme by displaying fishing gear.

### Resources

pages 3–6  
Bible

### Supplies

posters of large fish  
and whales

### Supplies

fishing gear

# SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Check for allergies to any materials being used.
- Encourage the children to handle art supplies and tools sensibly.

## BIBLE STORY (5–10 minutes)

Read the story, or tell it in your own words, with as much animation as possible. The directions in parentheses ( ) are for use with younger children.

Many, many years ago there was a prophet named Jonah. Jonah was in a big hurry. *(Show me how you look when you're in a hurry.)* Who can tell me why Jonah was in a hurry? God had asked Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach to the people there. Jonah didn't want to do it! *(How do you look when you don't want to do something?)*

Jonah decided that instead of going to Nineveh, he'd go in the opposite direction. Jonah hurried and bought a ticket on a ship going to Tarshish, which was in Spain and as far away from Nineveh as he could get. When he got on the ship, he went inside. *(Do you think it's possible to hide from God?)*

The ship sailed away. *(Rock back and forth, and encourage the children to rock too.)* Jonah fell asleep, down in his hiding place. While he was sleeping, a storm blew up! *(Rock harder. Encourage the children to make sound effects.)*

The sailors were afraid! *(Show me how their faces looked.)* They thought their ship was sinking. They started throwing things overboard *(pantomime throwing objects)*, hoping the boat would be safer if it was lighter. But the storm got worse, and waves were splashing into the boat!

The sailors were superstitious. They threw lots *(throw the dice)* to find out who was responsible for the storm. It was Jonah! They woke Jonah up *(pantomime waking someone up)*, and asked him to pray *(pantomime praying)*. Finally, Jonah said, "Throw me overboard!" They didn't want to do it *(shake your head to indicate "no")*, but the storm was getting worse.

I was almost  
drowned ...but, you,  
LORD God, rescued me.  
(Jonah 2:5-6, CEV)

### Check Your Facts

- Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria.
- Assyria was an enemy of Israel.
- Jonah was a contemporary of the prophets Amos and Hosea.

Jonah took a deep breath (*hold your nose*) as they threw him into the water. Who knows what happened next? God sent a big fish to rescue Jonah. The fish swallowed Jonah, and Jonah was in its belly for three days! (*What do you think he could see?*)

Jonah prayed to God (*pantomime praying*). He thanked God for saving his life. Then the fish spit Jonah up on the shore. (*Show me how Jonah's face looked when he was back on dry land.*)

Jonah was ready to obey God now. He went to Nineveh and told the people about God.

In another station, you'll hear more about what happened in Nineveh. Today, we're going to concentrate on Jonah's adventures on the ocean.

## ACTIVITY OPTIONS

(45–50 minutes)

Choose from the suggested activities as your time and the children's interest allow.

For All Ages

## Scenes From The Travels of Jonah

**Note:** A Joseph Mallord William (J.W.M.) Turner poster can be found at [www.globalgallery.com](http://www.globalgallery.com). Search for it using Joseph M. W. Turner.

In your own words, share the information below with the children. Together, look at posters of Turner's art and speculate how he created the effects of weather and light.

**Say:** By the time J.M.W. Turner (1775–1851) was 13, he was already exhibiting and selling his paintings. He particularly loved to paint the ocean and ships at sea and is regarded as one of the founders of English watercolor landscape painting. Turner showed different types of weather in his pictures, using such techniques as scratching lines into his painting, adding more water, or adding dots of white paint. Wherever Turner went, he took a sketchbook with him. He made over 19,000 sketches during his lifetime, showing all the places he traveled.

Jonah also traveled many miles across sea and land. He ran away from God on a ship, got caught in a storm at sea, was swallowed by a fish, was vomited up on a beach, traveled over land, and took God's message to Nineveh. Along the way, he saw all kinds of things and traveled through all kinds of weather.

### Note

Resources and websites are constantly changing. Check [www.powerxpress.com](http://www.powerxpress.com) for updates that may help you in planning.

### Supplies

posters of the landscape art of Joseph Mallord William Turner  
newspaper  
watercolor paper  
watercolor paints  
containers for water  
water  
paintbrushes  
paint shirts

## Talk Tips

Play with the idea of accompanying Jonah on his travels. Imagine what kind of person Jonah was. Did he get mad often? Was he fun to be with, or difficult? Why do you think God picked Jonah to go to Nineveh?

## Resources

page 23

## Supplies

square sheets of origami paper or tissue paper  
scissors  
Optional:  
fish line and dowel rods

## Check Your Facts

Spain was in the opposite direction from Nineveh.

Encourage the children to imagine that they are Jonah's traveling companion, and have brought along a sketchbook to paint the places, people, and things that they see. Review the major episodes in Jonah's story.

Instruct each child to paint one scene. Have them use watercolors in the style of J.M.W. Turner. Encourage them to experiment, and to try to show what the weather was like. They can add more water to blur colors and white paint to create light.

Save the completed paintings to assemble into a book during Reflection Week.

## For All Ages Origami Whale

**Note:** Origami paper is available at craft stores.

### Prepare

Photocopy the diagram (page 23). Practice making an origami whale.

### With the Children

**Say:** When God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh, Jonah tried to run away from God. Jonah got on a ship sailing to Spain. God sent a terrible storm. The sailors threw Jonah overboard to stop the storm. Who knows what happened next? (*God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. Jonah 1:17*) Even though the Bible says "fish," people often say a whale swallowed Jonah. Today, we're going to make an origami whale. Our whales will remind us that God continued to take care of Jonah even after Jonah disobeyed God.

**Say:** Origami is a Japanese art form. The word origami comes from two Japanese words: *oru* means "to fold," and *kami* means "paper."

Distribute copies of the folding diagram. Let the children choose a piece of origami paper. Some children will prefer following the printed directions while others will do better following verbal directions from you, one step at a time.

Have the children make several origami whales. Let them keep one to take home. Attach the others to dowel rods with fish line and hang in your classroom. (*Trivia: A small group of whales is called a pod.*) Older children can create mobiles of whales.

**Option:** Older children may be interested in the relationship of origami and math. Their whales are both pieces of art and geometric figures. Have each child carefully unfold an origami whale. Even though they are simple models, each piece of paper has a complex geometric pattern.

**Ask:** What angles do you see? What shapes? How did those angles and shapes get there? Did you know that you were folding those angles or shapes during the folding itself?

## For Younger Children

# Eric Carle Style Whales

**Note:** Use this activity as an alternative to making origami whales.

### Prepare

Photocopy the whale (page 24) for each child.

Make up a mixture of two parts glue and one part water. Place it in plastic dishes with airtight lids to keep it from drying out. (You may need to mix a fresh batch for each week of the unit.)

### With the Children

**Say:** When God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh, Jonah tried to run away from God. Jonah got on a ship sailing to Spain. God sent a terrible storm. Jonah was thrown overboard by the sailors in an attempt to stop the storm. Who knows what happened next? (*God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights – Jonah 1:17.*) Even though the Bible says “fish,” people often say a whale swallowed Jonah. We’re going to make a whale. Our whales will remind us that God continued to take care of Jonah even after Jonah disobeyed God.

1. Show the children some animal pictures in the Eric Carle books. Tell them they will make a whale using the technique Carle used in these pictures.
2. Give the children a piece of construction paper, a pencil, and photocopies of page 24.
3. Tell the children to carefully trace around their templates with the pencils.
4. Have each child select three or four sheets of tissue paper. Each should be a different color.
5. Have the children cut their tissue paper into small pieces. (They can be any shape and should be around two to four inches.)

### Talk Tips

God sent the big fish to save Jonah from drowning. Have you ever thought God was protecting you from danger?

### Resources

several Eric Carle books with animals page 24

### Supplies

white construction paper  
pencils  
tissue paper in shades of blue, white, and gray  
scissors  
white school glue  
water  
black felt-tip markers  
shallow plastic dishes (with airtight lids)  
large flat paintbrushes  
paint shirts

### Check Your Facts

- The Bible tells us that Jonah was swallowed by a big fish.

Option: Precut the tissue paper.

6. Tell the children to paint their whales with a thin layer of the glue mixture.
7. Place pieces of tissue paper on top of the layer of glue.
8. Rinse the brushes in water. Then, paint another thin layer of the glue mixture over the tissue paper.
9. Add another layer of tissue paper pieces.
10. Rinse the brushes in water again, and paint a final very thin layer of glue.
11. Set the whales aside to dry.
12. After ten or fifteen minutes, have them outline their whales with black marker. A mouth, eyes, and a blow hole may be added.

Option: Have the children cut out their whales and glue them to another piece of white paper.

## Resources

page 25  
tessellation examples  
by M.C. Escher

## Supplies

white 11 x 17 paper  
cardstock  
scissors  
tape  
pencils  
paints  
black felt-tip markers  
checkerboard  
Optional:  
white 8½ x 11  
paper

## For All Ages

# Tessellating Doves

## For Younger Children

**Note:** Escher's tessellations may be ordered from the website [www.WorldofEscher.com](http://www.WorldofEscher.com). Bookmarks are the most economical item on the website.

## Prepare

Photocopy template 2 (page 25) onto cardstock. Cut out each template. Make one template for each child.

## With the Children

This activity is the same as the one for older children, with one exception. Children will be working with a ready-to-use template rather than making their own. See the instructions for older children.

## For Older Children

**Note:** The tessellations may be ordered from the website [www.WorldofEscher.com](http://www.WorldofEscher.com).

## Prepare

Look up the meaning of your name.

Photocopy template 1 (page 25) on cardstock. You will need one for each child, and a few extras in case of mistakes.

**Option:** When making copies of template 1, reduce the size to 50 percent so that the children can trace more doves on the paper. Let the children use 8½ x 11 paper since the doves will be smaller.

## With the Children

**Ask:** Do you know the meaning of your name? (*Tell the meaning of your name.*) Do you know the meaning of the name Jonah? (*dove*)

**Say:** In this activity you will create a tessellation. Do you know what a tessellation is? A tessellation is the repeating of a pattern.

Show the children the checkerboard, which is a simple tessellation. Show samples of Escher's work. Have the children look closely at the patterns. Point out that the shapes are identical and fit together perfectly.

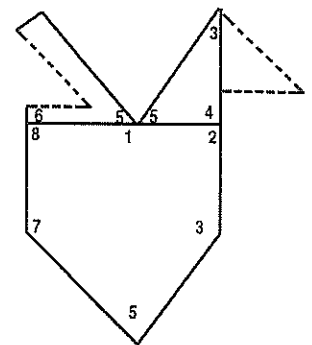
**Say:** This kind of art was created by M.C. Escher, a Dutch graphic artist (1898–1972). Escher's world was appreciated by mathematicians and scientists as well as by artists.

Give each child a copy of template 1, a pair of scissors, cellophane tape, a pencil, and a piece of paper. Give these instructions, one step at a time, for making a dove template:

1. Cut along line 3-5.
2. Attach edge 4-5 to edge 1-2 with a piece of tape.
3. Cut along line 5-7.
4. Attach edge 5-6 to 8-1 with a piece of tape.
5. Cut out the small triangle which is inside triangle 5-6-7. Tape the shortest side to the top of 3-4. (The completed template should look exactly like template 2, page 25.)
6. Place your template anywhere on the paper. Lightly trace around the template with a pencil.
7. Move the template so that the beak fits under the wing of the dove you just traced. Continue drawing around the shape, building a pattern of doves which fits into each other on all sides.
8. When your paper is covered with doves, paint the doves a variety of colors.
9. When the paint is dry, outline each dove with a black felt tip marker. At the bottom of the page write "The sign of the prophet Jonah."

### Talk Tips

The dove is a sign of peace. Do you think *dove* is a good meaning for the name Jonah? If so, why? If not, what other meaning would you give?



Complete Dove Template

## Resources

pictures of scrimshaw

## Supplies

clean, dry soup bones  
sharp nails  
charcoal or markers  
soft cloth

## Talk Tips

Ask children to continue to imagine they are sailors on board the ship with Jonah. If they could say something to Jonah after they threw him overboard, what would it be? Do you think the sailors saw the fish swallow Jonah? If so, what do you think they would have said to each other?

# For Older Children Scrimshaw

**Note:** Use an Internet search engine to find scrimshaw pictures.

Scrimshaw is the art of carving intricate designs on whalebone or whale teeth. In the early 1800s, crew members on whaling ships helped pass the time by making scrimshaw. They used what they had on hand: whale bone and teeth. Their designs often showed ships, whales, and the birds found along the seacoast.

Share the above information with the children in your own words. Show them pictures of scrimshaw.

Ask the children to imagine that they are crew members on the ship Jonah took to Spain.

**Say:** You helped throw Jonah overboard. You didn't want to, but it seemed like the only way to save the ship and your own life. Imagine that you and the other crew members like to make scrimshaw. You'd like to make a scrimshaw picture of Jonah, and one of the events that happened while he was on your ship.

Tell the children that you're out of whale teeth. Give each of them a clean, dry soup bone and a nail. They will use the nail to scratch a picture into the bone.

Next, have them rub charcoal or markers into their scratches. Rub away the excess with a soft cloth.

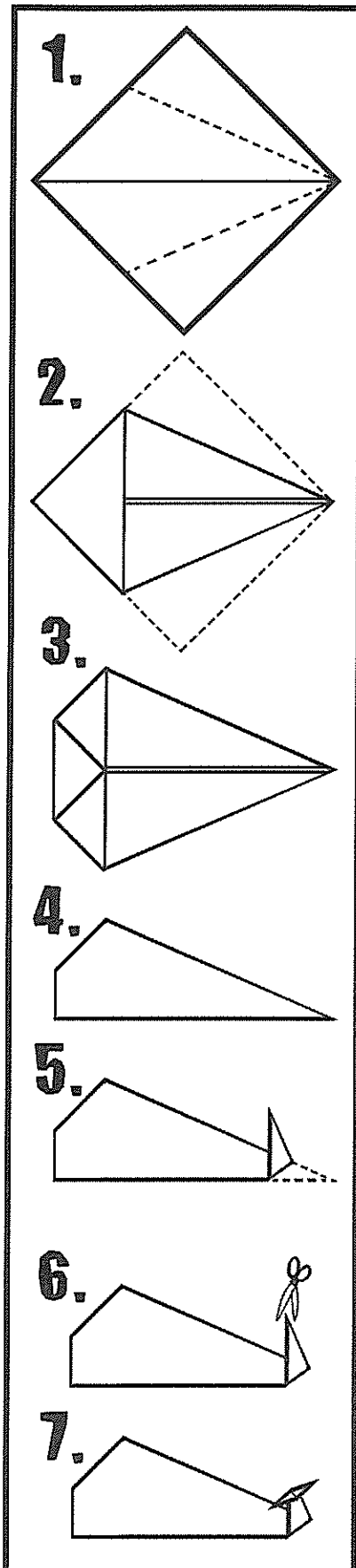
The children may continue in this manner, using as many colors as they wish.

## CLOSING (5 minutes)

Ask the children to show the artwork they have created. Then set aside the art. Ask the children to get comfortable and to close their eyes.

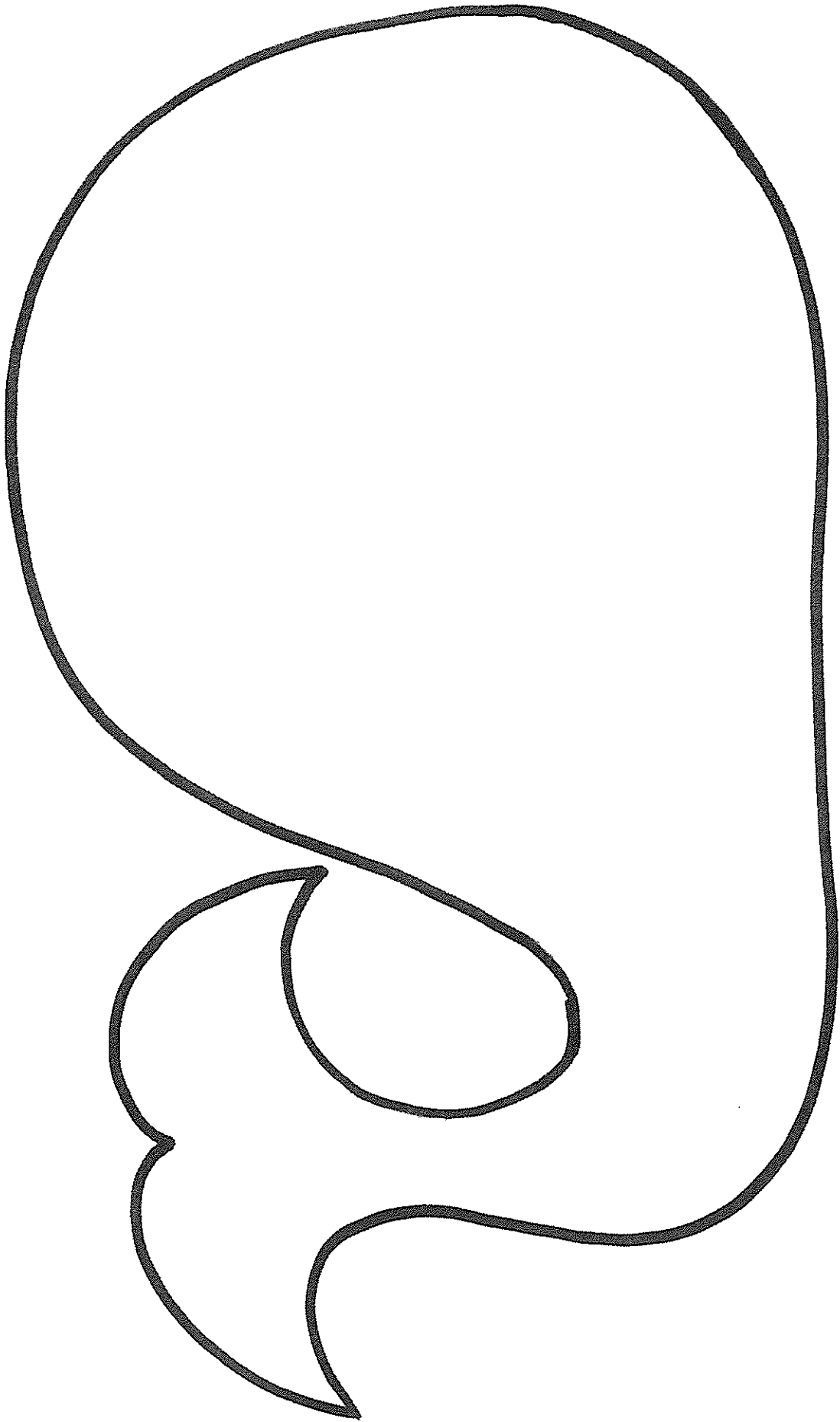
**Say:** Imagine you've been trying to run away from God. *(Pause)* You were on a ship when a storm came up. Imagine the storm. *(Pause)* The sailors on the ship threw you overboard, hoping the storm would stop. Imagine how frightening that would be. *(Pause)* You didn't drown. A big fish swallowed you. Imagine being in the belly of the fish, in total darkness. *(Pause)* You know that God sent the fish to save your life. What do you want to say to God? *(Pause)* God takes care of you, just like God took care of Jonah. When you are ready, open your eyes.

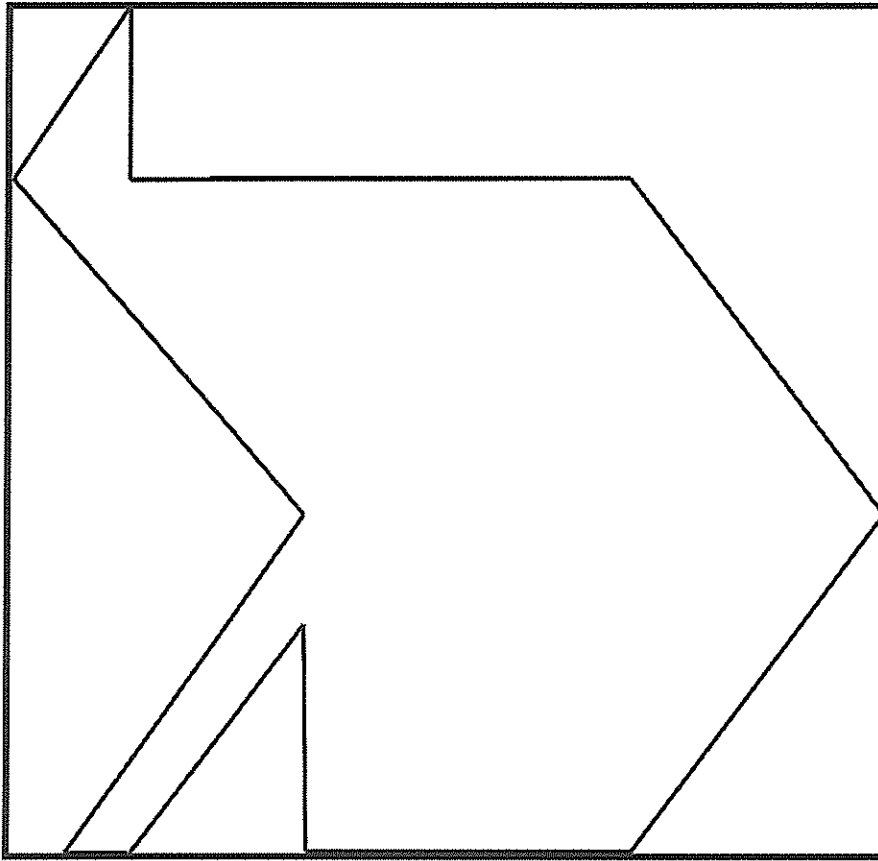




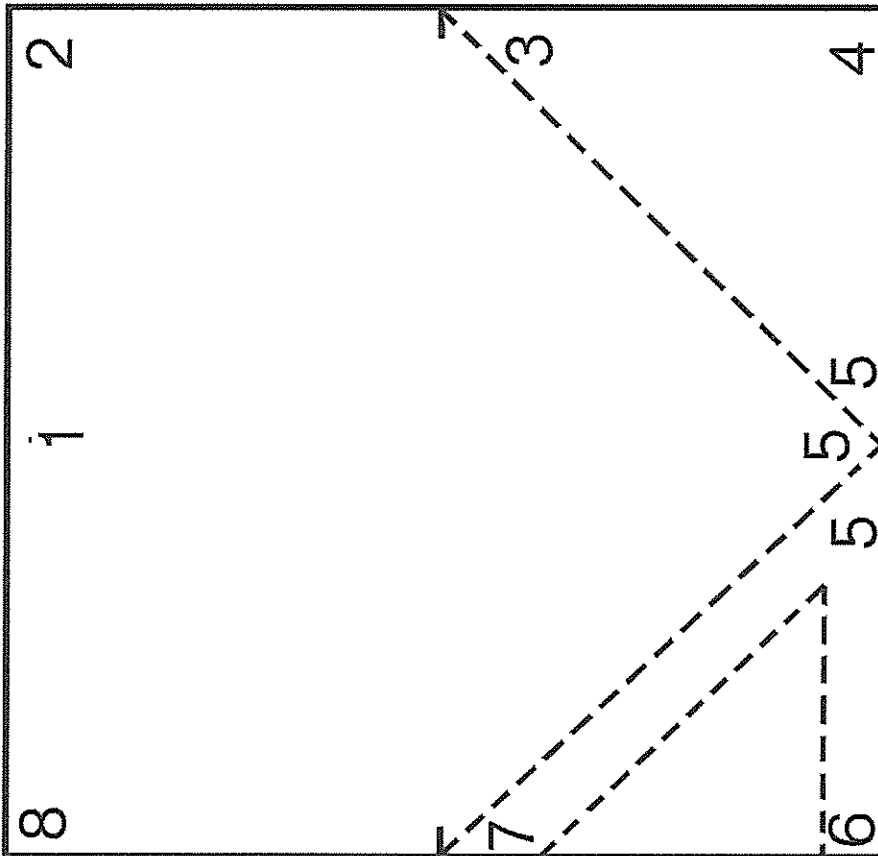
Art: Paige Easter  
© 2004 Abingdon Press

1. Fold a square piece of paper in half, forming two triangles. Open the paper again.
2. Fold the two opposite sides over and let them meet at the fold.
3. Fold the tip over to meet the other folds.
4. Fold in half along the central axis.
5. Fold the tail up.
6. Make a short cut through the end of the fold in the tail.
7. Fold the tail up.





Template 2



Template 1