

# CREATIVE MIND



ACTIVITY BOOK  
OF

-----

-----



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# MANNEKEN-PIS

SUMMARY: The city of Brussels is under siege. After a long battle, the enemies pretend to retreat, while two of them, hiding under the cover of darkness, try to set fire to the walls. A boy discovers their plans and saves the city by peeing on the gunpowder.

ORIGINAL TITLE: MANNEKEN-PIS

KEYWORDS: BOY; SIEGE; PEE; GUNPOWDER

GENRE: LEGEND

AGE: 5–6 YEARS

## MANNEKEN PIS

Long ago, the city of Brussels was under siege.

The foreign troops, armed to the teeth, surrounded the solid walls guarded by the King's soldiers.

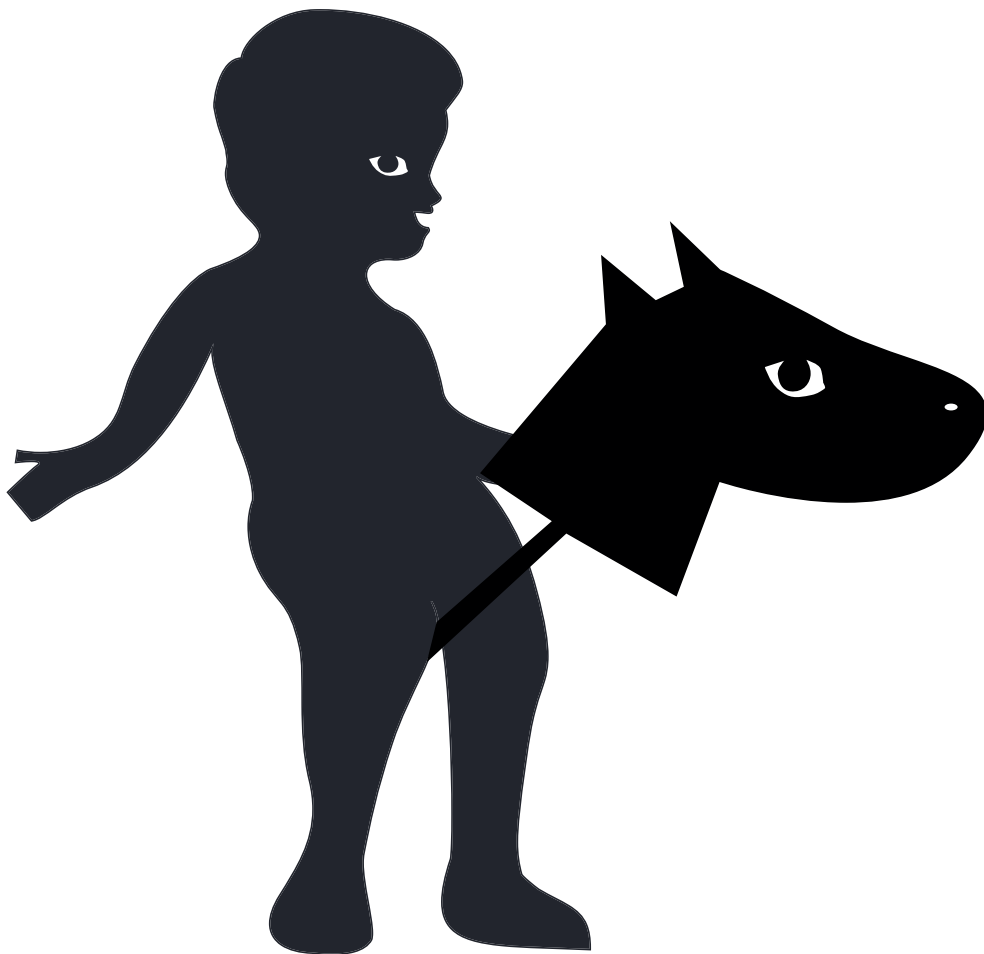
The inhabitants hid in their houses, their ears pricked up listening to the hisses and bangs of the cannons and weapons.

The sky darkened as the enemy shelled at full blast.

Awakened by all this noise, a small boy came out of his cradle and climbed onto the window sill to watch the battle raging.



With his wide eyes, he followed the direction of the bullets and cannonballs, and with every burst, he felt his heart jump. As he watched the battle outside his window, a desire to do something grew in him. When he played war, he always won. There was no dragon or witch that could outdo him in courage nor cunning. Now, as he watched the battle going on in his city, he realised it was no game. He looked around his room for an object, perhaps a pot or a ladle to throw at his enemies' heads.



He was already imagining himself becoming a hero with his actions in battle when, suddenly, there was an incredible silence. The cannons stopped bombarding and the weapons stopped spitting bullets. The boy looked out the window again and saw the King's soldiers peering through the slits at the enemy soldiers when – lo and behold – they started retreating on their horses! The King's soldiers started jumping and singing:

“We won! Victory is ours!” they shouted from the walls, and all the inhabitants, attracted by these shouts and festive voices, went out into the streets and celebrated. “Hooray!” said the boy, joining in the crowd’s joy. “Hooray!” he repeated, stifling a yawn while clapping his hands.

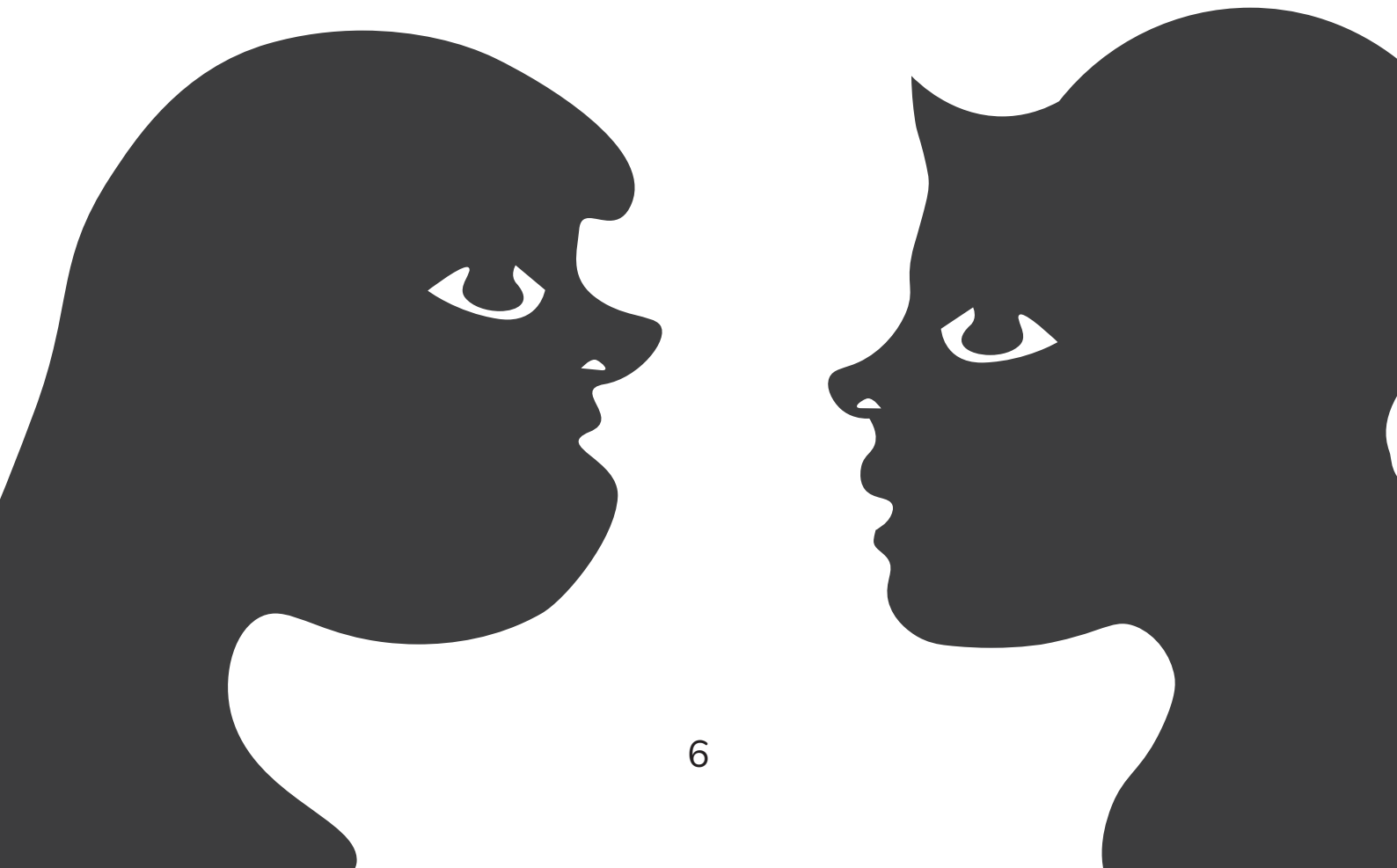
The frenzy of the battle and the excitement of the inhabitants’ victory celebrations had made him tired and sleepy, so he was about to climb down from the window, when a strange movement attracted his attention.

Two enemy soldiers, hiding in the branches of a large bush, were waiting for nightfall.

“What fools!” one soldier said to the other.

“They think we have surrendered, but as soon as it is dark, we will set fire to the city walls!”

“Then our army will come back and conquer the whole city until there’s nothing left to eat. They’ll have no choice but to surrender!” the second soldier said, snickering evilly. The image of his city in flames made the little boy jump with fright.



Although he was tired and needed sleep very badly, the boy realised that he still had a mission to save his city. He considered crying out to attract the attention of the nanny or his mother, but how would he explain what he had seen and heard?

He decided to stay well-hidden behind his window as he watched every move made by the two soldiers. Just as the sun went down and the sky first turned pink and then quickly from purple to black, the two soldiers came forward as they had talked about. They created a long trail of gunpowder which reached the city walls, after which they ran fast into the thick forest to escape the planned destruction.

A sudden, lightning-fast glow lit up and it began to spread and devour everything it came across like a ferocious beast.

With its tongues of fire, it came frighteningly close to the walls and the boy.







Thinking quickly and cunningly, the naked boy opened his window which overlooked the fire and began to pee like a fountain.

He spurted and splashed, gushing on the fire, which began to lessen in intensity until dying out under that jet, giving off a grey cloud of smoke. The smoke signalled that the walls were safe and, with them, the city and its inhabitants. Tired from his efforts but proud that his city was safe once more, the boy finally fell asleep.

His fearless act, however, had not gone unnoticed: on the other side of the city, from his own window, the King had been awoken by the city being ravaged by the fire and had witnessed the boy putting out the flames. A fountain was constructed dedicated to the boy and his brave and heroic act of peeing!

Many centuries have passed since then, yet the fountain created in the name of the peeing boy still stands today.

The inhabitants of the city continue to honour him and his memory. One way in which they do so is by dressing the statue in beautiful clothes fit for a hero – a hero that managed to save the city of Brussels with just his quick thinking and bladder.

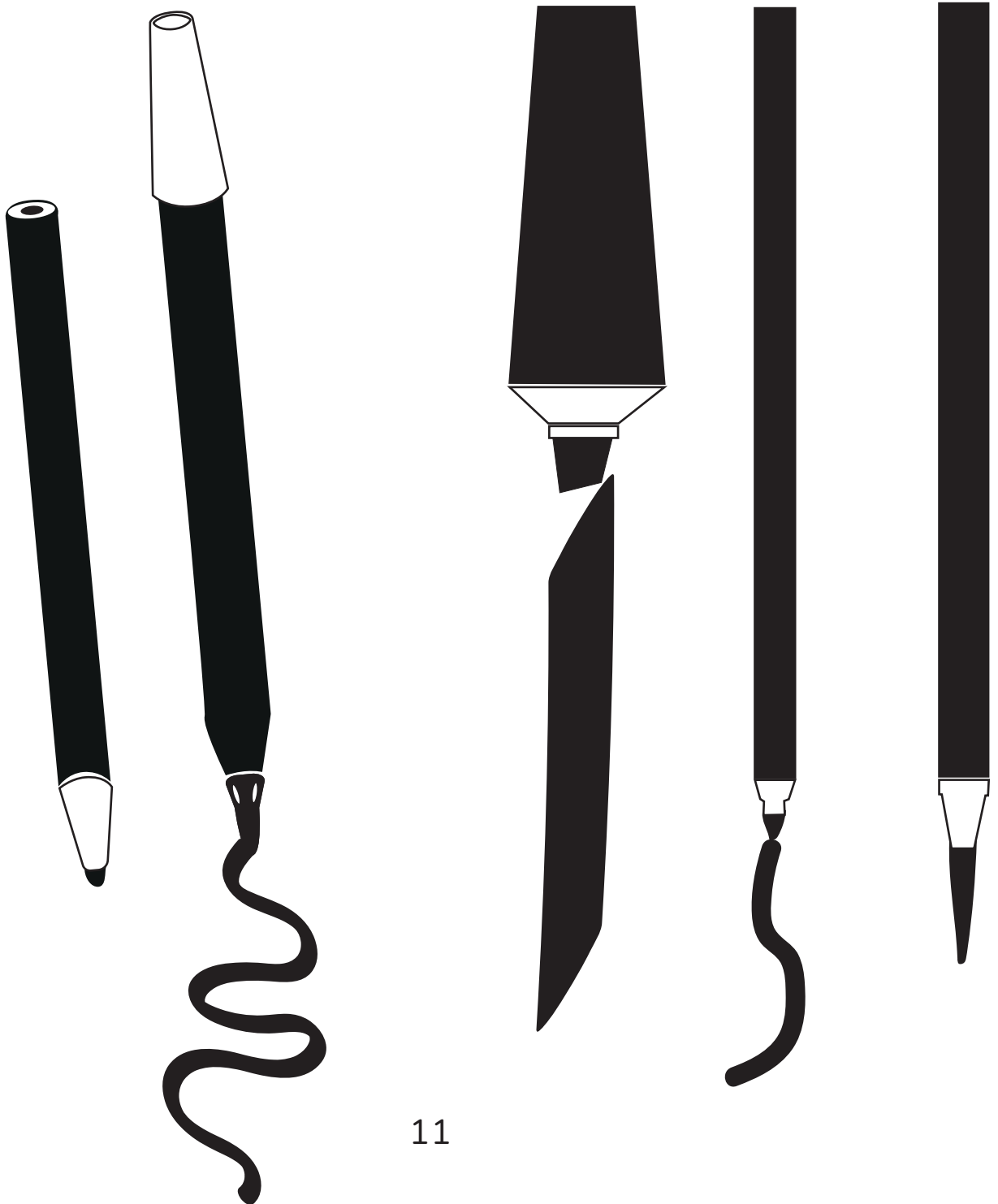
# ACTIVITIES

The tools we draw with are important.

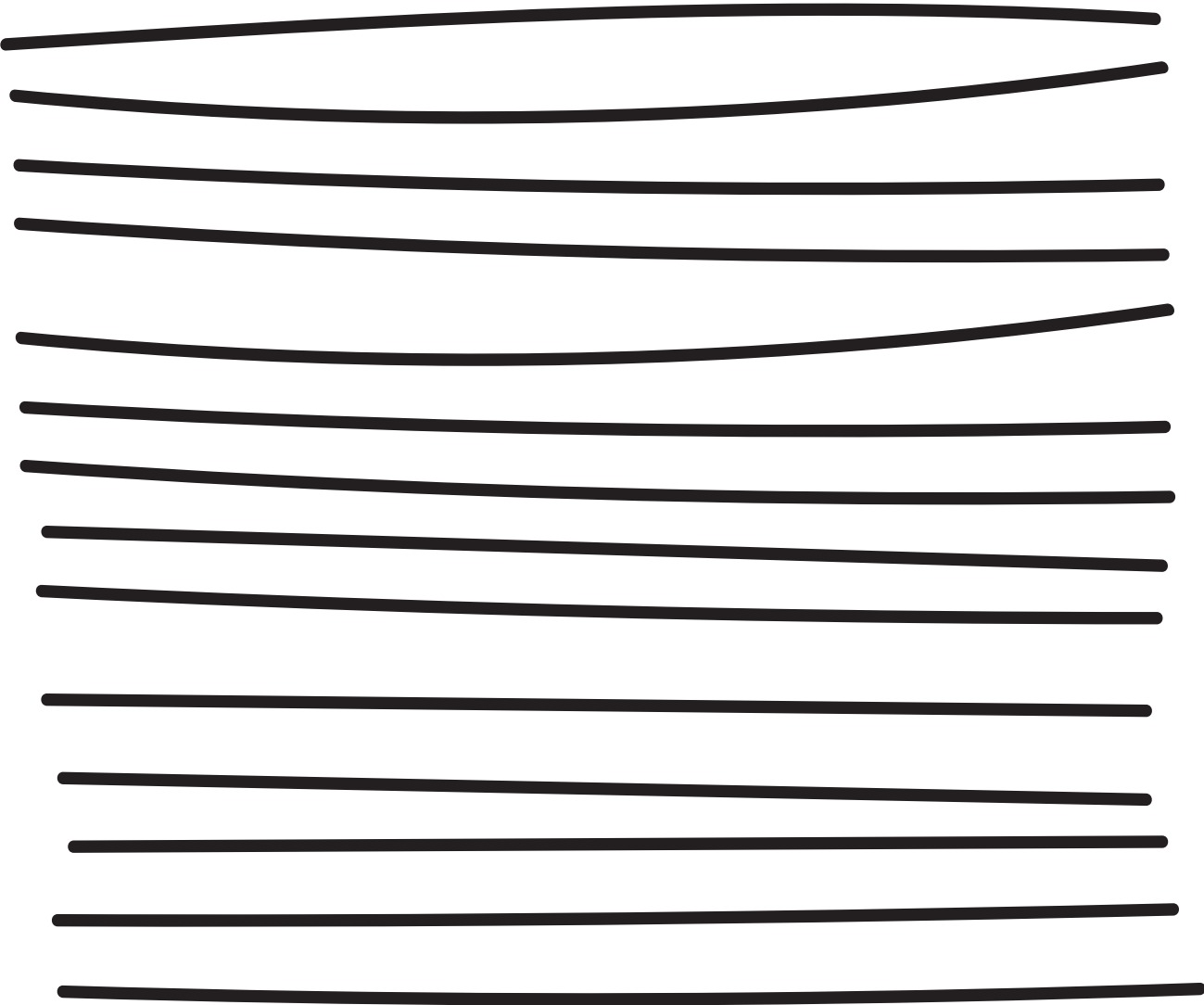
Get markers with different tips flat, round, brush.

Also get some brushes and tempera paints.

You can choose black or any other colour you like.

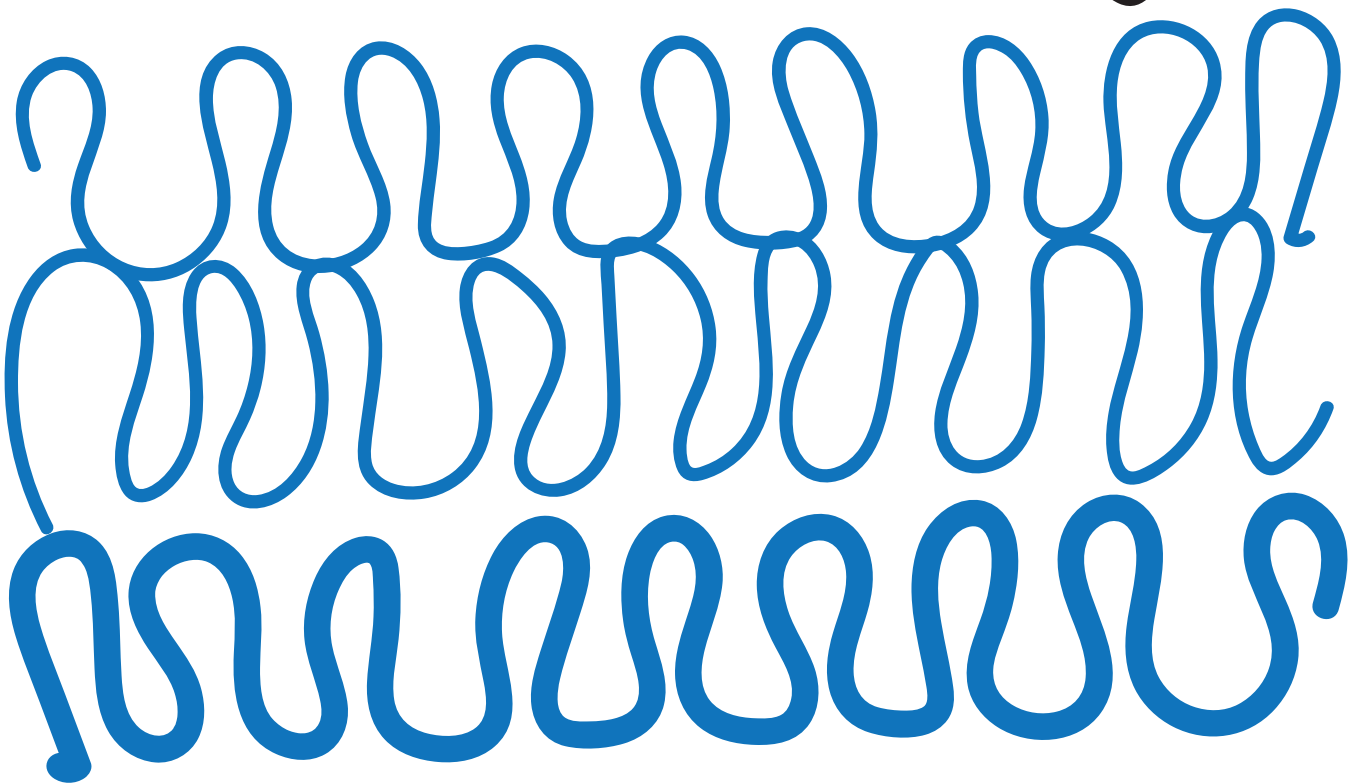
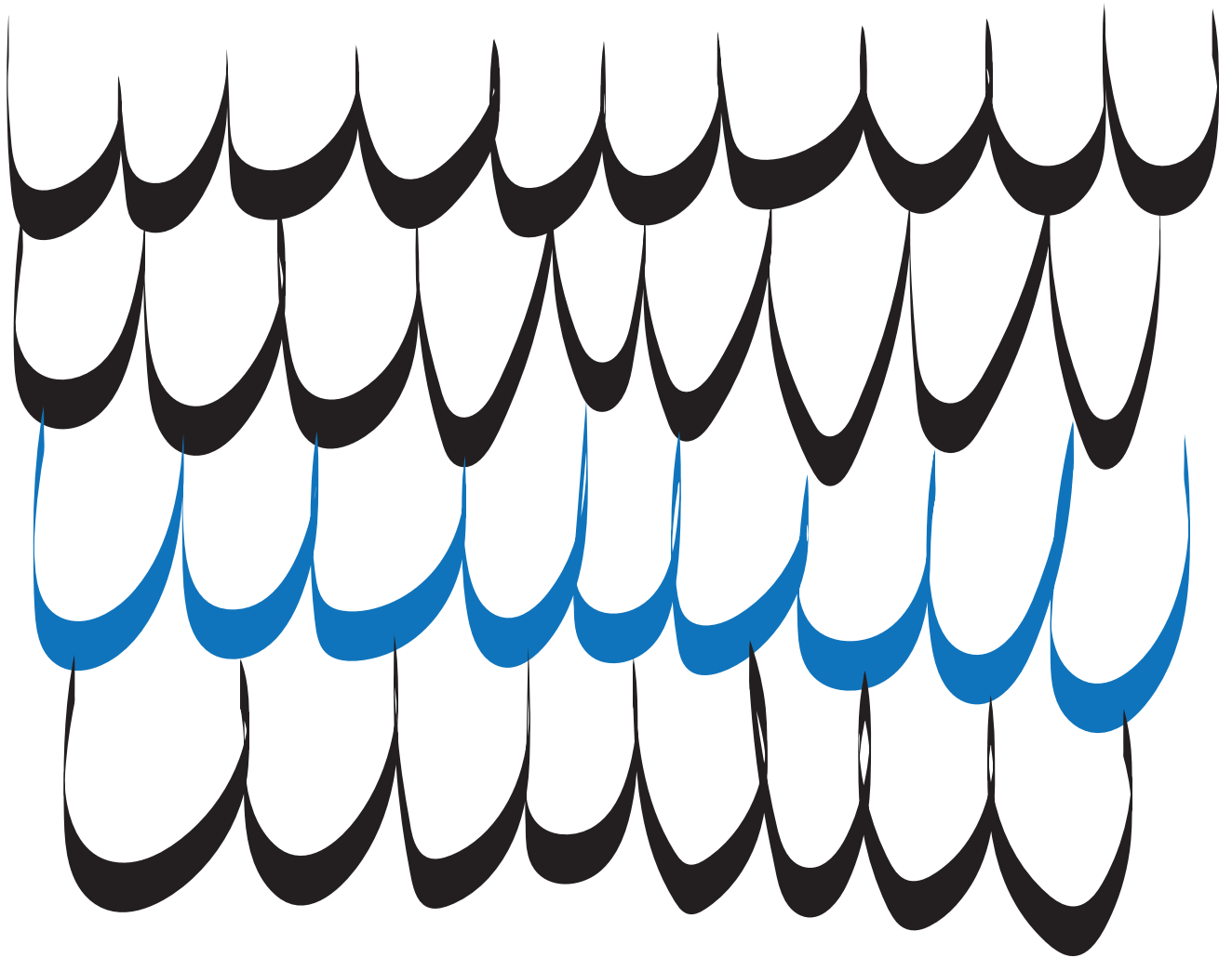


Draw a series of lines on your scrapbook using a pencil or a felt-tip pen or alternating between them. Draw straight lines, crossed lines, wavy, dotted and sinuous lines or zigzag. Follow the examples.

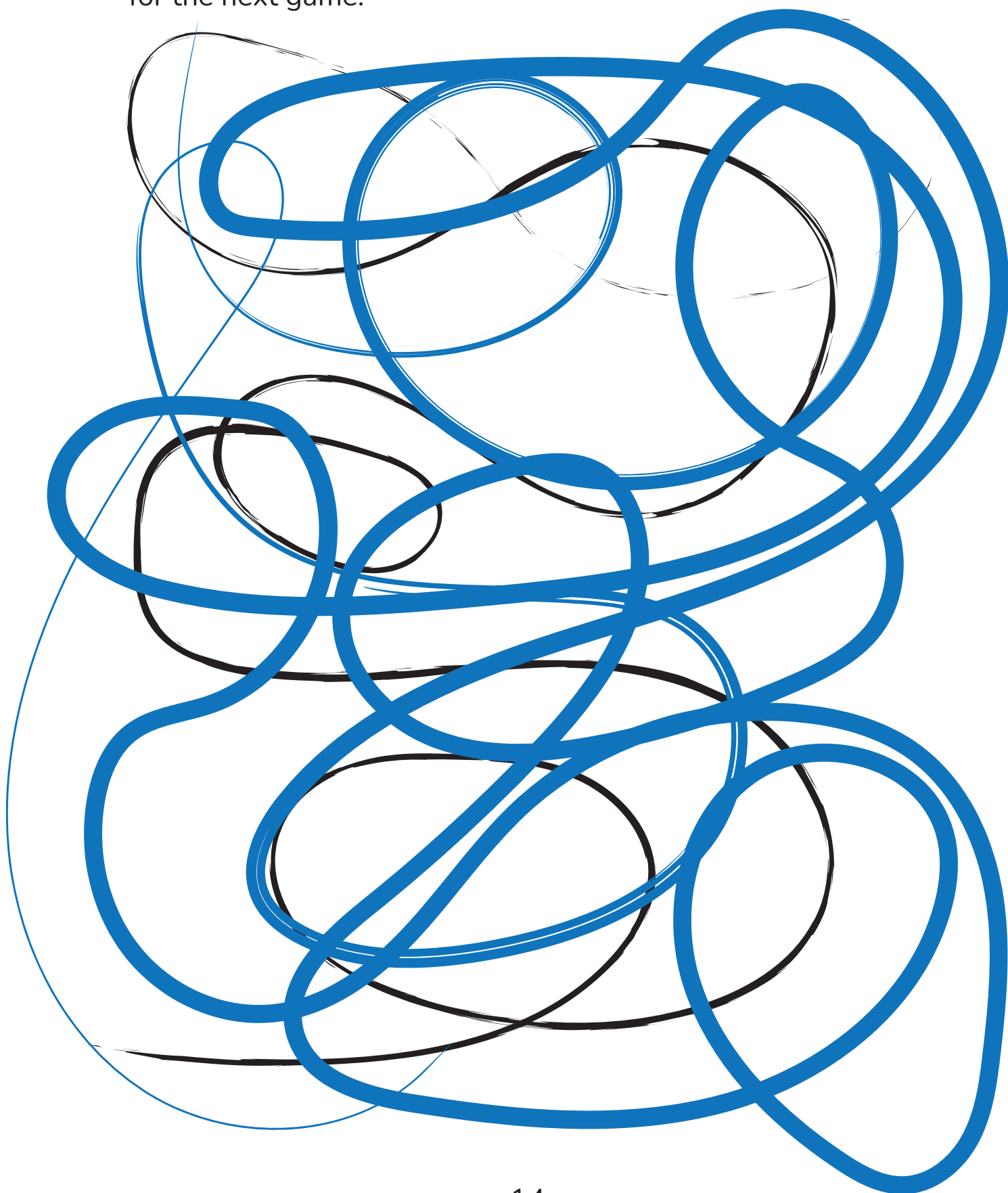


Make a single set of lines on each sheet.

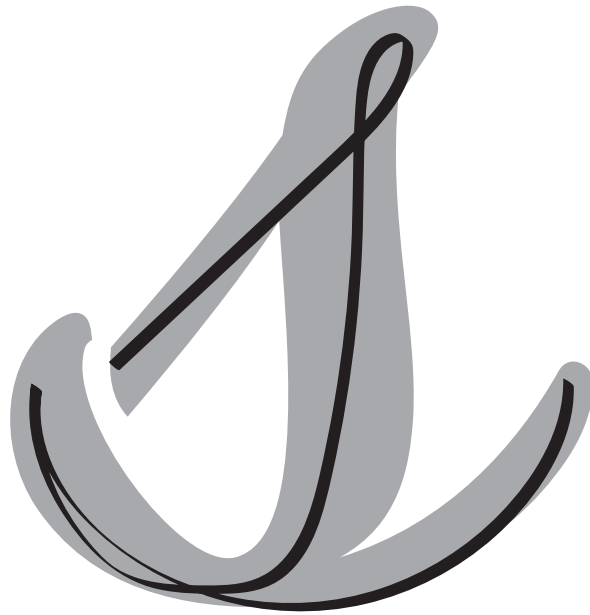
Change the type of tool and alternate colours if you wish.



Draw sinuous lines in your scrapbook, alternate the tools and colours. Do it calmly and carefully, without removing your hand from the paper. You will need this gesture for the next game.

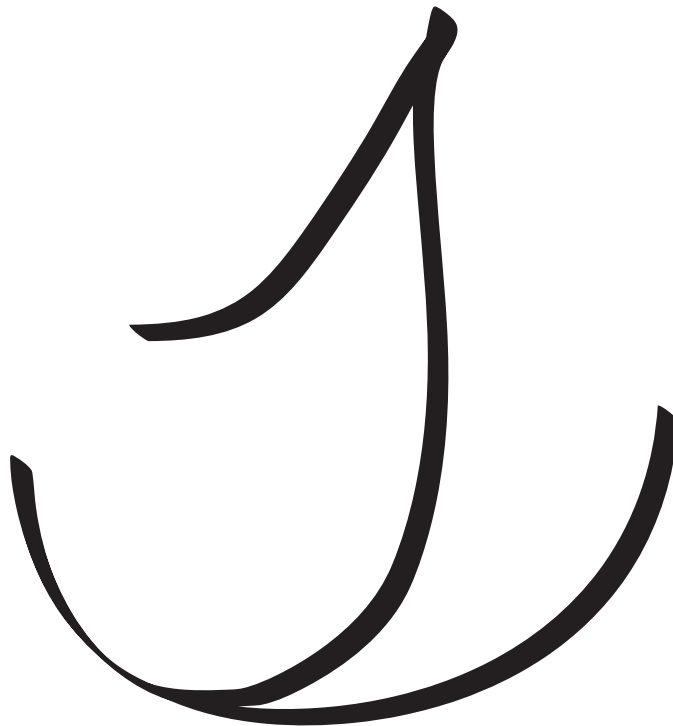
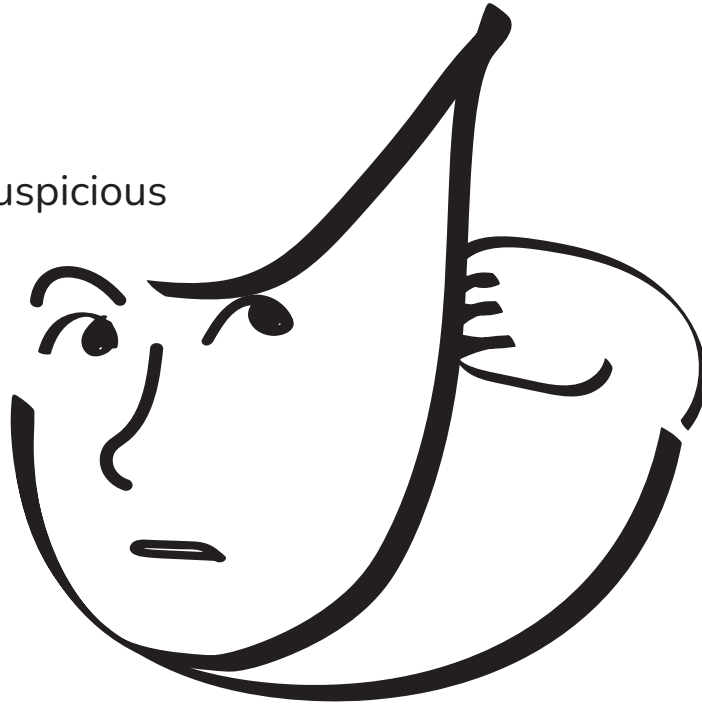


# ALPHABET



Draw the "S" without removing your hand.

suspicious



Draw a "sad" expression



Using the letters that compose the keyword “sieve” try to invent characters in your album.

For each letter, look for an object or animal that starts with that letter.



squirrel

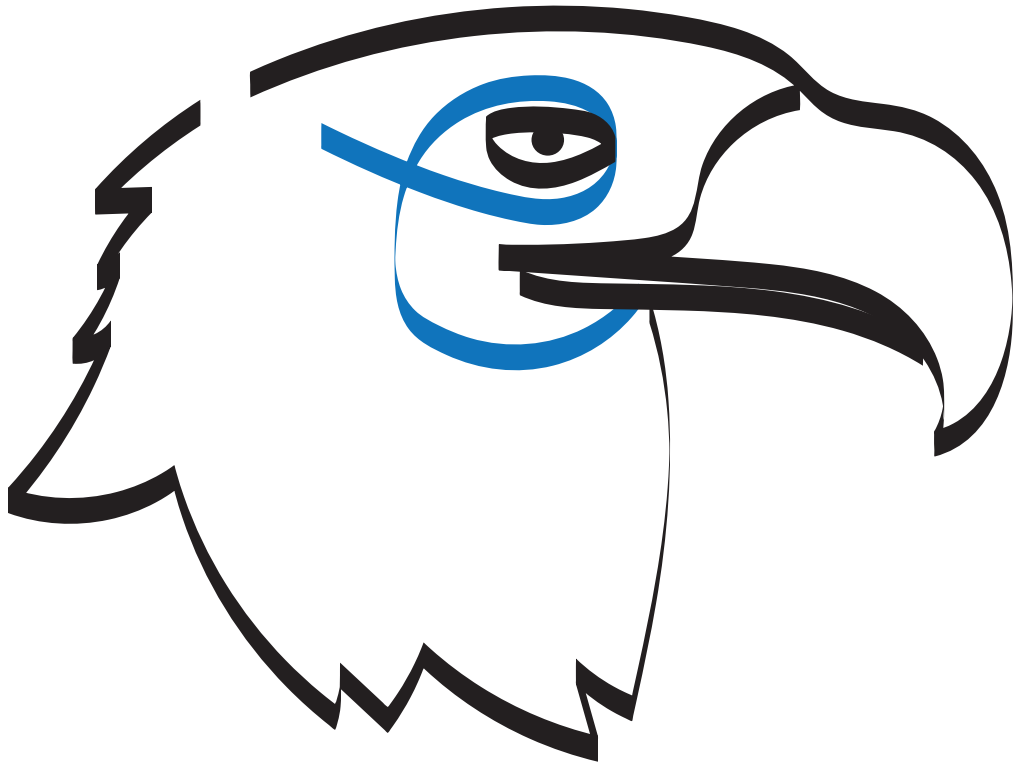
Ss

ii



iguana

Ee



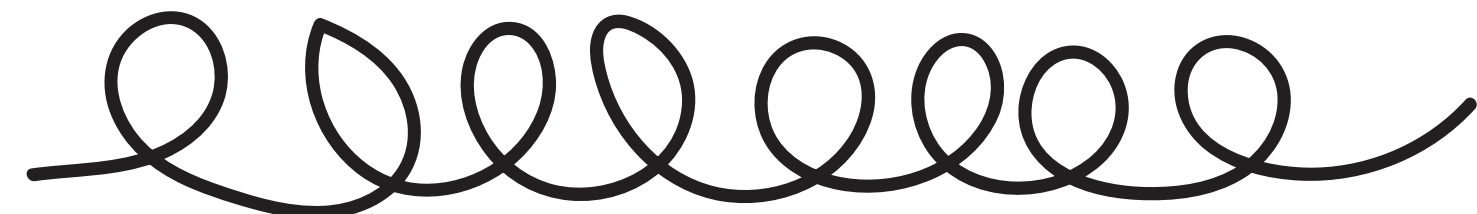
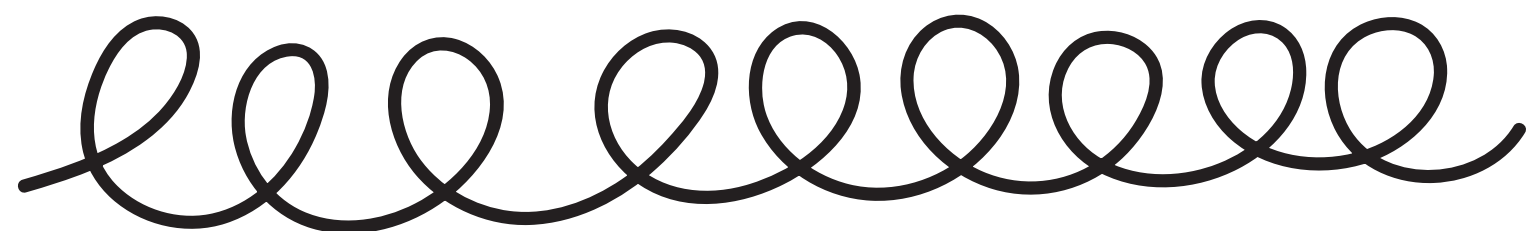
eagle

# Gg

gorilla



Now it's your turn to continue.



On your album, draw the letters all connected.  
Use different colours and tools.

Siege

Connect the dots

Siege Si

With a pencil or felt-tip pen write inside the letters

Siege

Now try writing the word as if the letters were all units

niege

With a transparent paper, trace the word.  
Do this several times.  
Now draw the whole word yourself.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

All content is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

The STORIAS project is co-financed by the ERASMUS+ programme of the EU. Its content reflects the views of the authors, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information therein.

(Project code: 2021-1-FR01-KA220-SCH-000029483)