

STEM ACTIVITY PAGES FOR

Who Laid the Egg?

A Frog Life-Cycle (template)

Arrange them in a circle and glue them onto a
paper.

Egg-cellent Camouflage

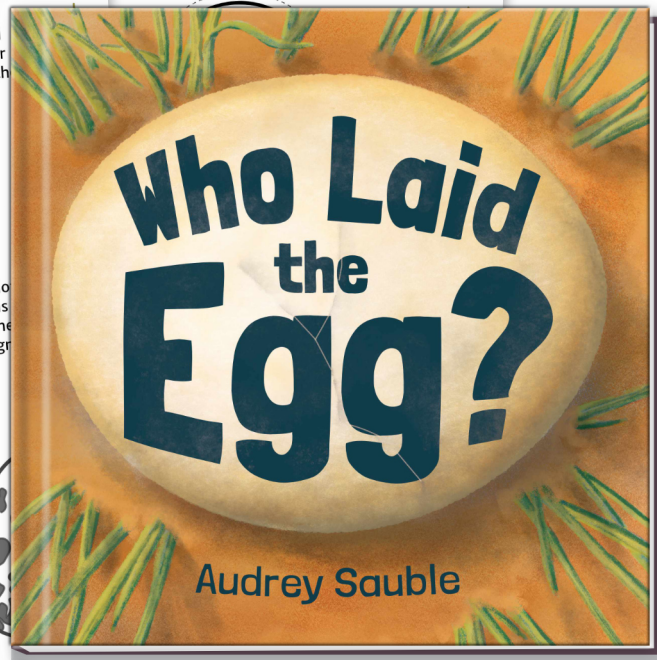
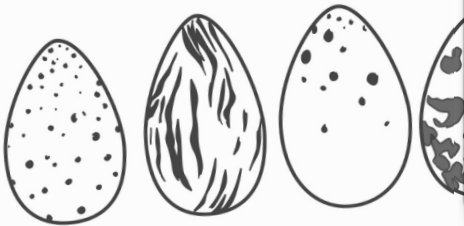
Some birds (robins) hide their nests in trees, so they don't need elaborate camouflage. Others (sand pipers and killdeer) lay their eggs on open. These eggs need splotches and speckles to help them hide.

For this project, students will look at different kinds of eggs, especially different colors of eggs.

Supplies:

- Paper, either blank the template from the next page
- Art supplies (crayons, markers, or watercolor paints)
- Images of bird eggs

Look at images of eggs and notices which ones have small splotches and which ones have large streaks. Think about where animals lay their eggs. In the grass? On a beach? On a rocky cliff? Then draw and color your own eggs, inspired by these natural designs.



Learn about birds, reptiles and other animals who lay eggs!

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Egg-cellent Camouflage

Some birds (robins) hide their nests in trees. These eggs don't need special colors to hide. Others (sandpipers and killdeer) lay their eggs on open ground. These eggs need splotches and speckles to help them hide.

For this project, students will look at different kinds of eggs, especially different colors of eggs to see how their patterns protect them from predators.

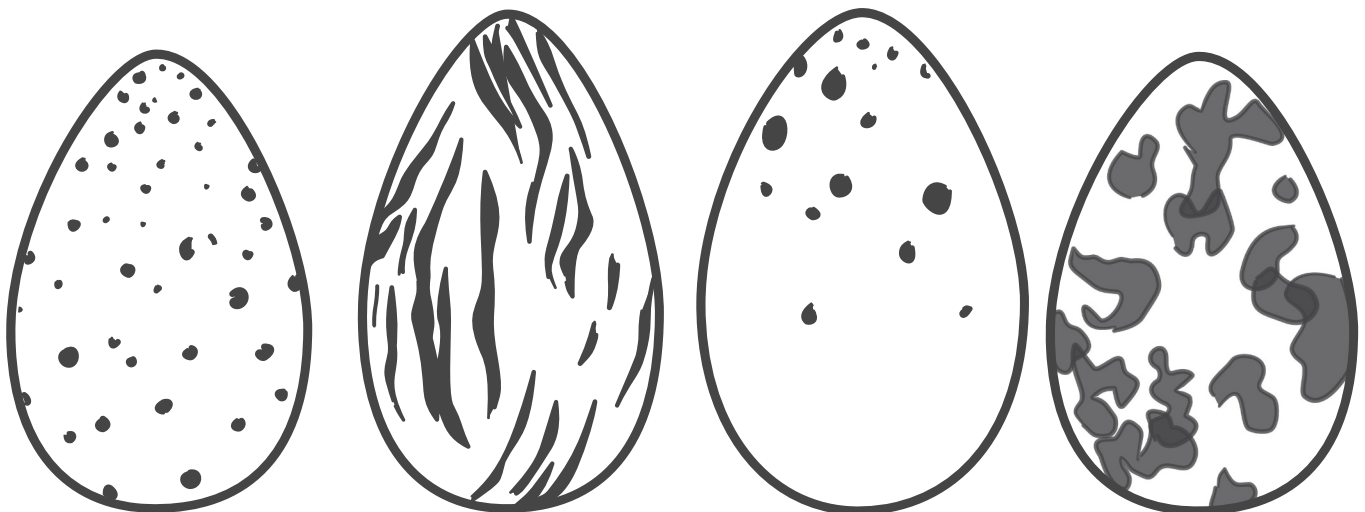
Supplies:

- Paper, either blank paper or the template from the next page
- Art supplies (crayons, markers, or watercolor paints)
- Images of bird eggs

First, look at images of eggs. Which ones have small splotches? Which ones have large streaks?

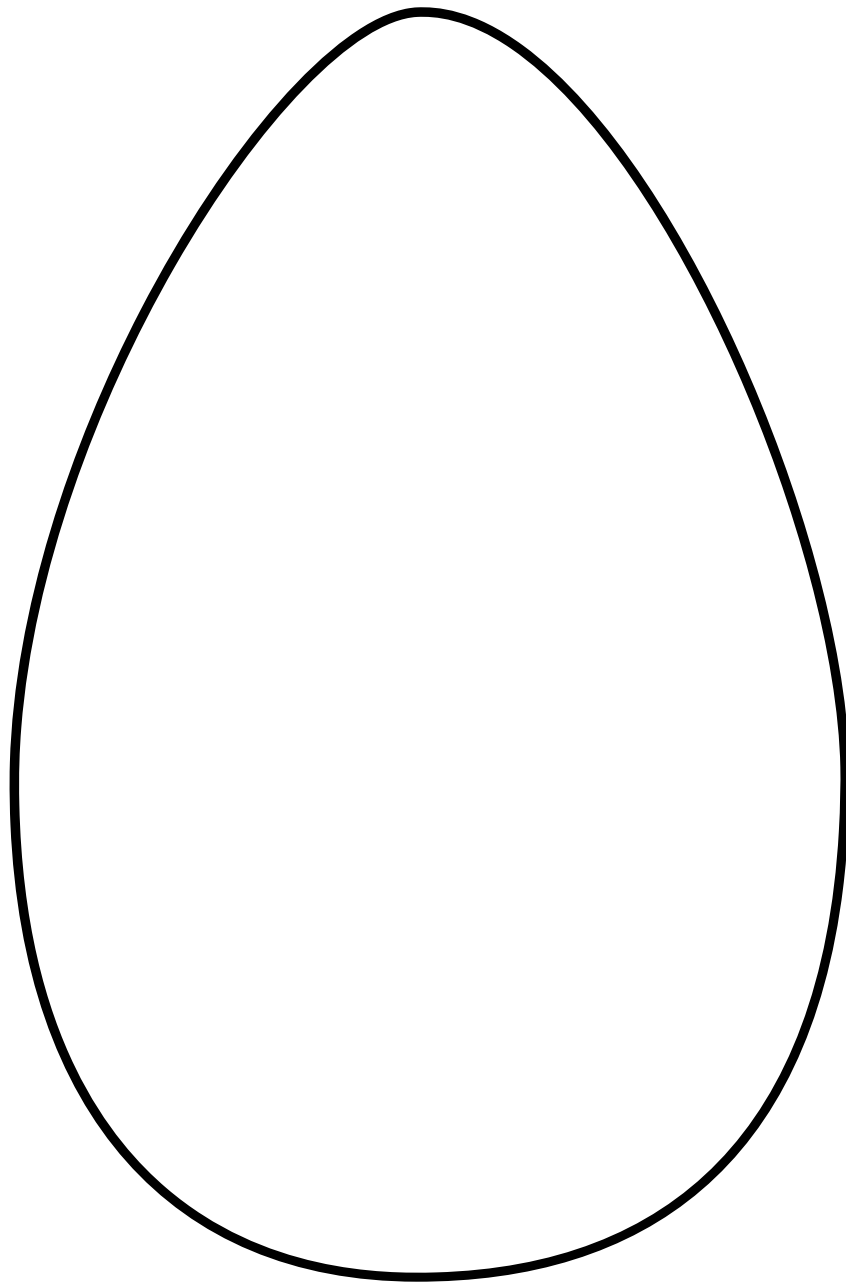
Next, think about where animals hide their eggs. In the grass? On a beach? On a rocky cliff? How do the eggs' colors help them hide?

Finally, create your own egg pattern! Where will it hide? What colors or patterns will help it hide?



Decorate An Egg (template)

Decorate this egg! Use, bright colors, draw a pattern, or follow the instructions for Egg-cellent Camouflage on the previous page.



Nature Journal Challenge

Next time you find a nest, study it closely. (If you can't find one, you can use a photo instead.) Who made it? How was it made? What else do you notice? Draw the nest below.

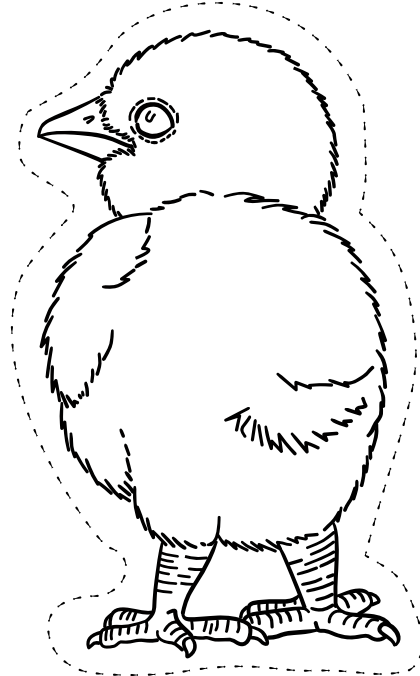
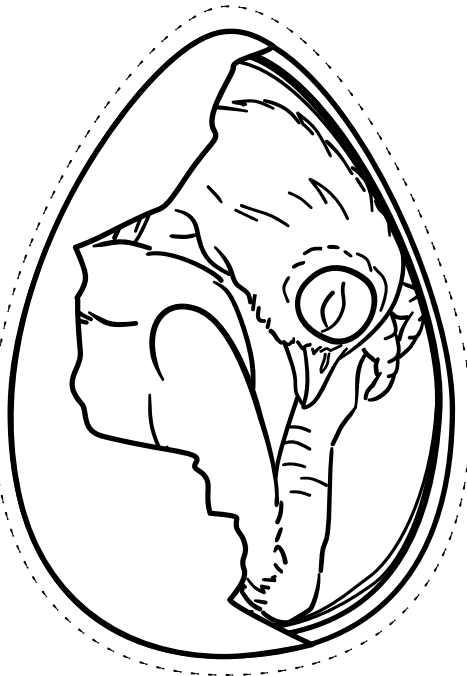
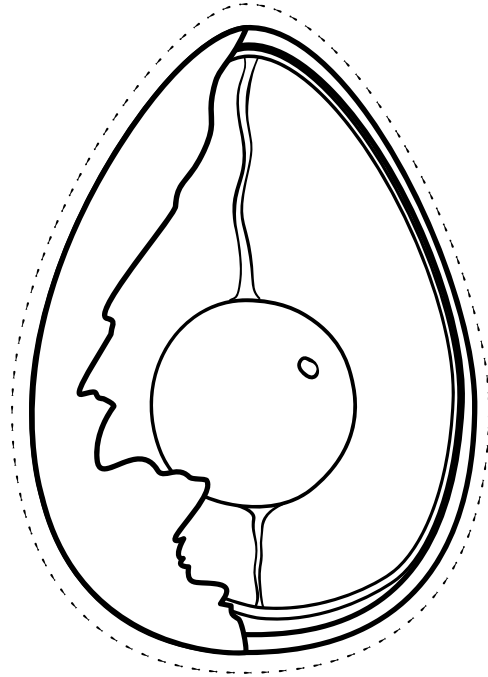
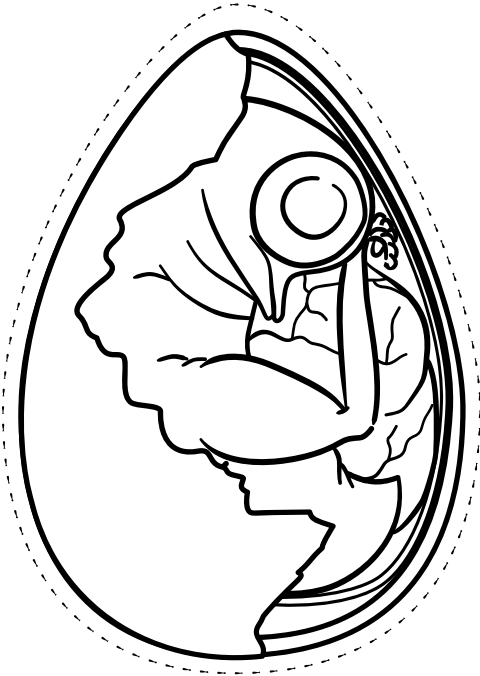
I drew a nest made by:_____.

This animal uses _____
_____ to build its nests.

I noticed:_____.

How Does An Egg Grow?

A chicken egg hatches about 21 days after it is laid. Color the pictures below. Then cut the squares out and line them up to see how a chicken grows.



Model a Frog's Life Cycle

Have you ever made a life-cycle page? This project is a fun chia-seed twist on the usual paper-and-scissors activity!

Supplies:

- Chia seeds, soaked in water overnight.
- Play dough and clay
- Images of frog eggs, tadpoles, froglets, and frogs.

Instructions:

Use the photos to study the different stages of a frog's life cycle: egg, tadpole, froglet, and adult. What do you notice about each stage?

Then use the play dough to create a tadpole, a froglet, and a frog.

Add a small scoop of chia seeds for the eggs.

Finally, arrange each stage in a circle. You can place the photos next to each stage or just focus on the play dough models.

For an extra challenge, create a small diorama and place your models in the diorama!

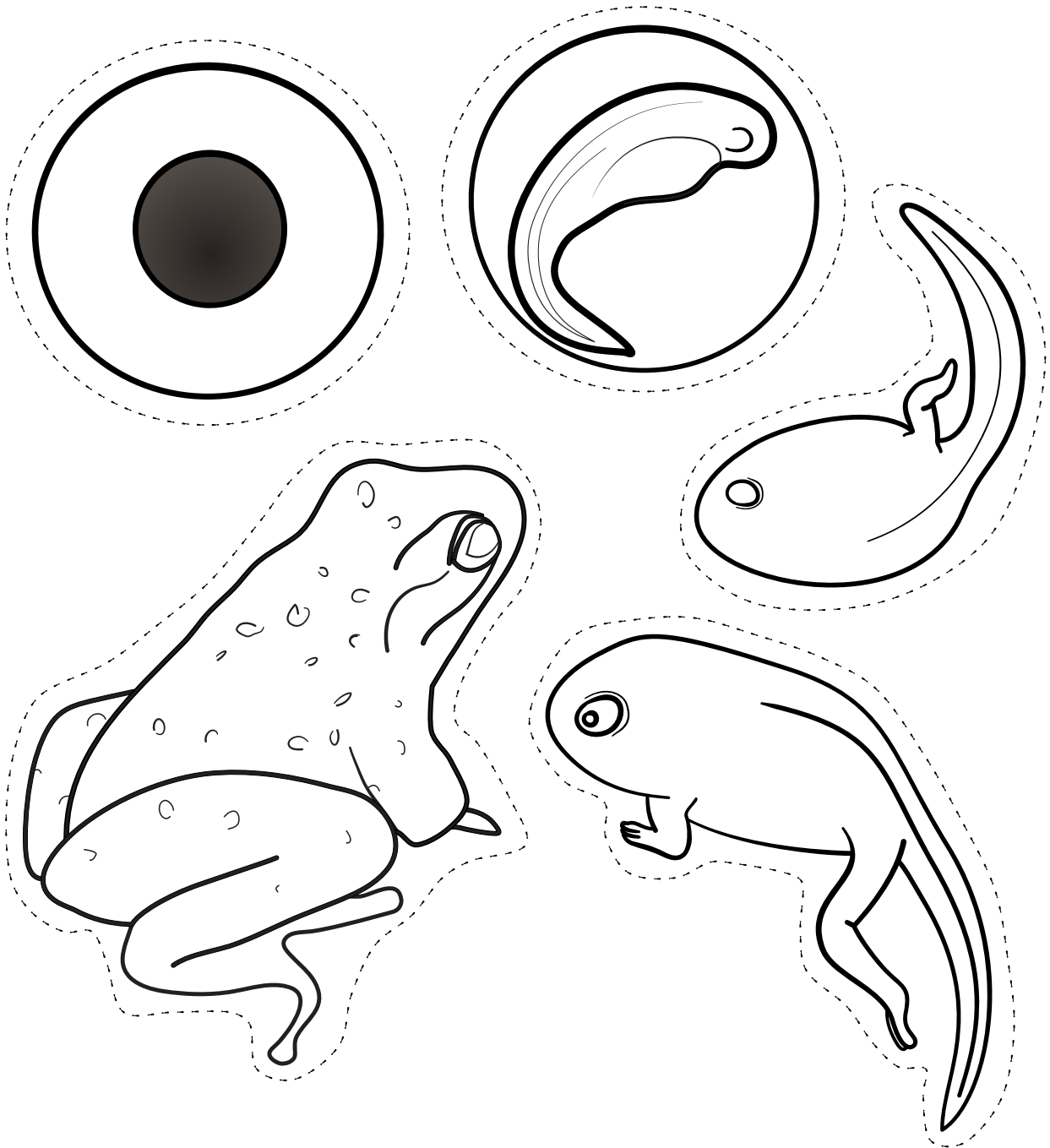
Classroom Notes:

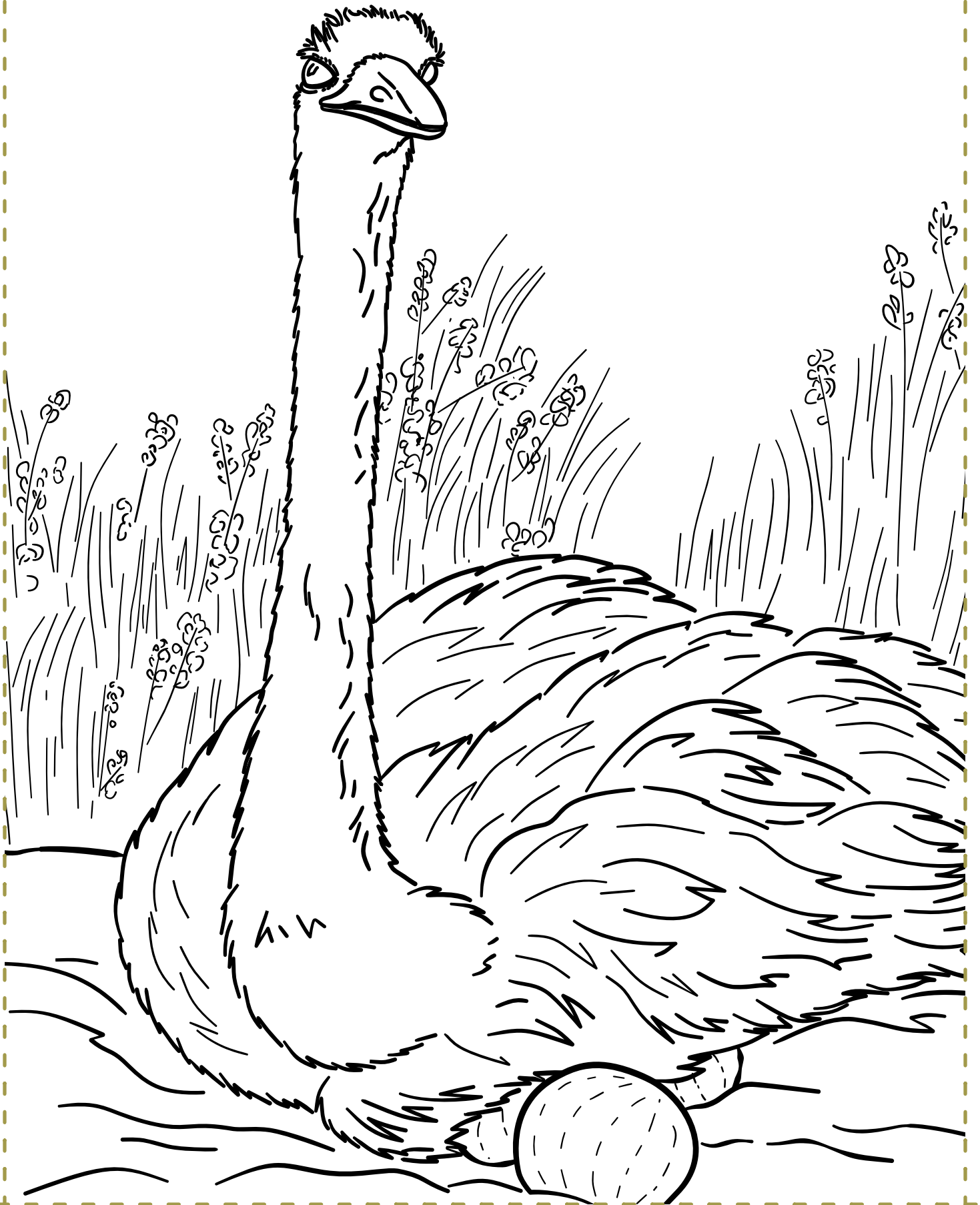
If you have a larger class, you may want to divide students into groups. You can also assign each stage to individual students or to pairs of students.

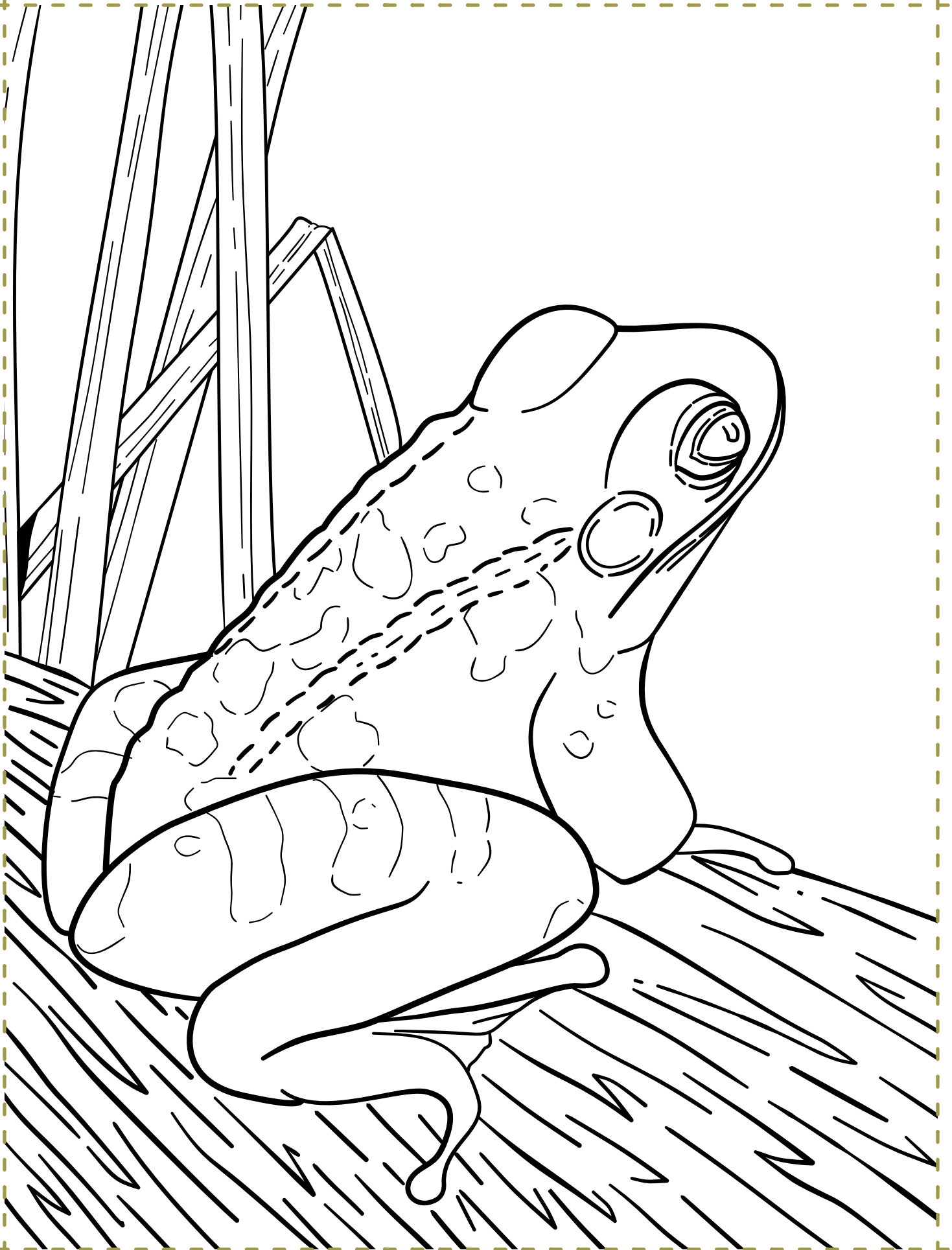
If you teach younger students, you may find it simpler to use the life-cycle template on the next page instead. Even if you use the template, I recommend making the chia seed 'eggs.' They're a great sensory element to add to this activity!

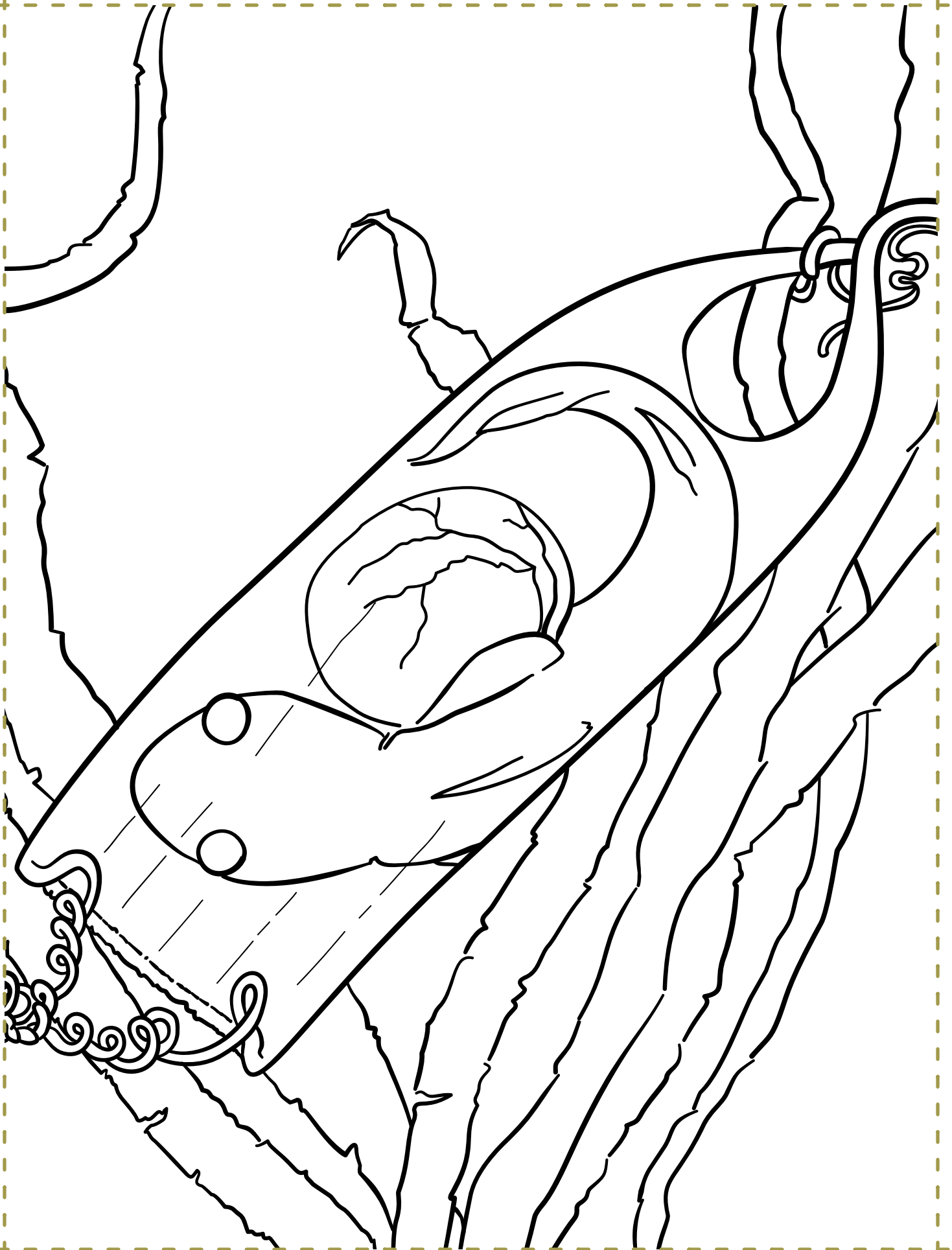
A Frog's Life Cycle (template)

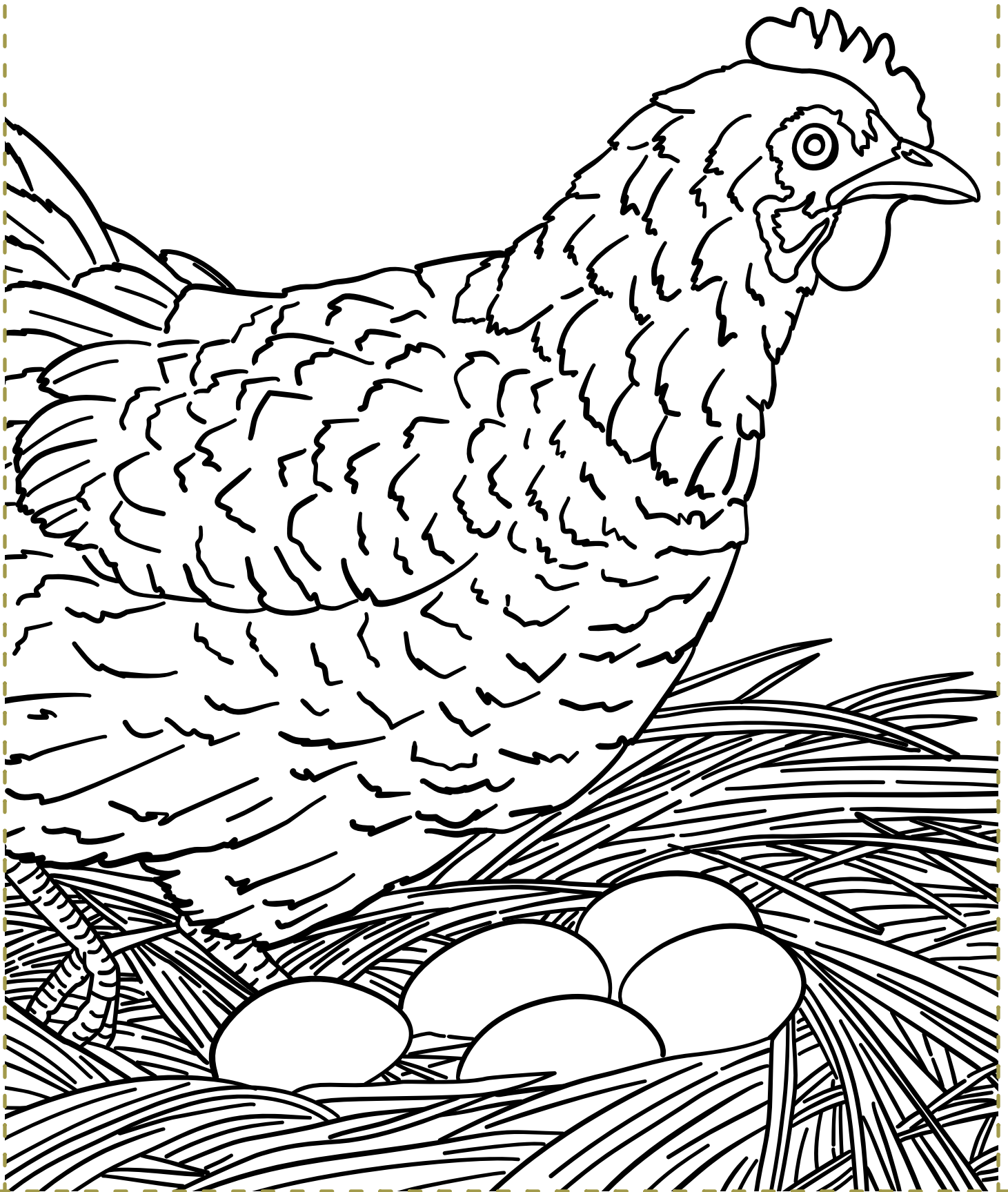
Cut out these images. Arrange them in a circle and glue them onto a sheet of construction paper.











What's Inside a Bird Egg?

An egg protects and feeds the baby bird until it is ready to hatch. It uses each of these parts for a special role.

Trace the dotted words below. Then color the picture.

Shell

The shell is a hard layer that protects the egg.

Membrane

This strengthens the shell and keeps the egg from drying out.

Albumen

The egg white is a clear liquid. It cushions the egg as the baby grows.

Yolk

The yolk is a food sac. It feeds the baby until the egg hatches.

Chalaza

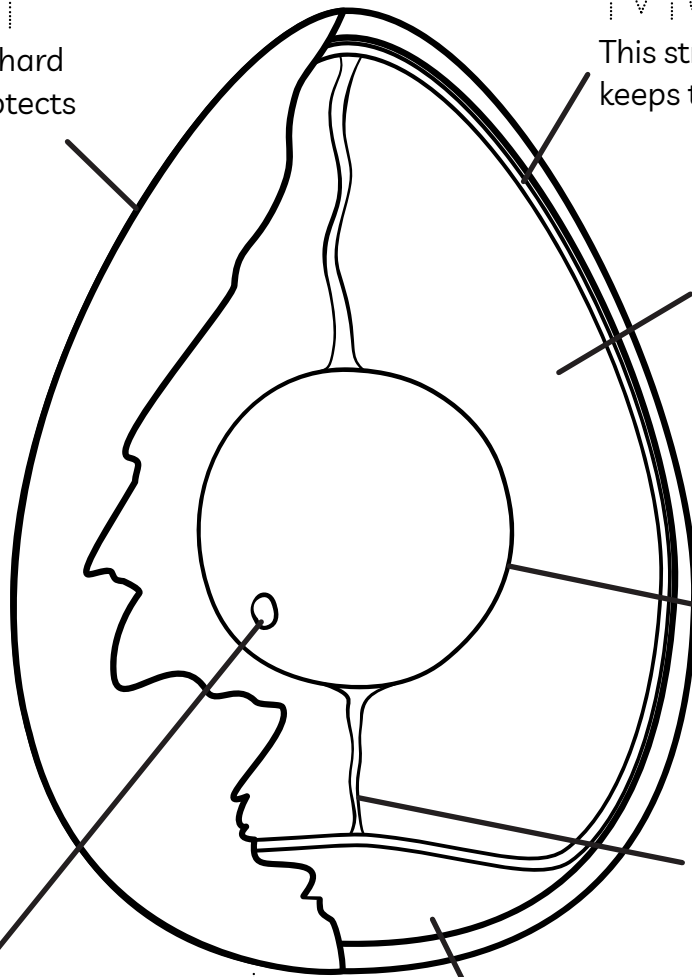
This cord anchors the yolk in the center of the egg.

Germinal disc

This is a small dark spot on the yolk. This is the part that grows into a baby bird.

Air bubble

A small space where the membrane peeled away from the shell.



Scrambled Letters

These animals are all mixed up! Can you unscramble the letters?

1. TIHOSRC

.....

2. NESICT

.....

3. KENCIHC

.....

4. RASHK

.....

5. NIOSRAUD

.....

6. RFGO

.....

7. TRLETU

.....

8. SIFH

.....

Engineer a Bird Nest

Challenge your students to design and construct a bird nest! Start by gathering a variety of materials for the nests.

Supplies:

- Sticks to add structure
- String or mud to hold the nest together
- Leaves, moss, and other soft materials to line the nest

Instructions:

Ask your students to look at photos of nests and compare different kinds of nests. Some small birds build simple grass nests with larger nests. Large birds, like eagles or an osprey nest use large branches to construct their massive nests.

Students can either layer the sticks on mud or practice weaving them together using string or grass. For an extra challenge, ask students to experiment with different kinds of nests, to see which is stronger. Once students have built the frame, line the nests with soft materials.

Reflect on this project! Ask students to think about how birds build nests without hands or lessons to guide them!

Helpful Links:

A simpler version using glue and string: www.greatstems.com/2016/01/how-to-engineer-a-birds-nest.html

Picture books about birds and eggs: www.aesauble.com/2024/01/learning-about-birds.html

Fun Eggs-periments

These are simple projects. They only require some household supplies and some cheap eggs from the store. (Families can add the first two into a baking project)

- Break a raw egg into a small bowl. Look for the egg white, yolk, germinal disc, and chalaza (see “What’s Inside a Bird Egg?”).
- Cook a hard-boiled egg. After it cools, break it open and look for the membrane, air bubble, and other parts of the egg.
- Place an egg into an empty glass. Fill the glass with vinegar and wait for the eggshell to dissolve. If you wait long enough, the shell will disappear, leaving only the membrane. Does the membrane expand when you leave the egg in the vinegar longer? What other changes do you notice?
- Remove the egg from the vinegar in the previous experiment. Place the glass in a sink or a tub. Add a scoop of baking soda to the vinegar. Watch the vinegar react. Pour a fresh glass of vinegar and add baking soda to that glass. How is this reaction different?
- Save an egg from an old batch and place it in a tub of water. Add a newer egg into the tub. Compare how they float. Why does one egg float better than the other?

About *Who Laid the Egg?*

The idea for this book hatched early one morning in November, while I was making breakfast. My oldest was helping me 'count' the eggs. We were practicing numbers:

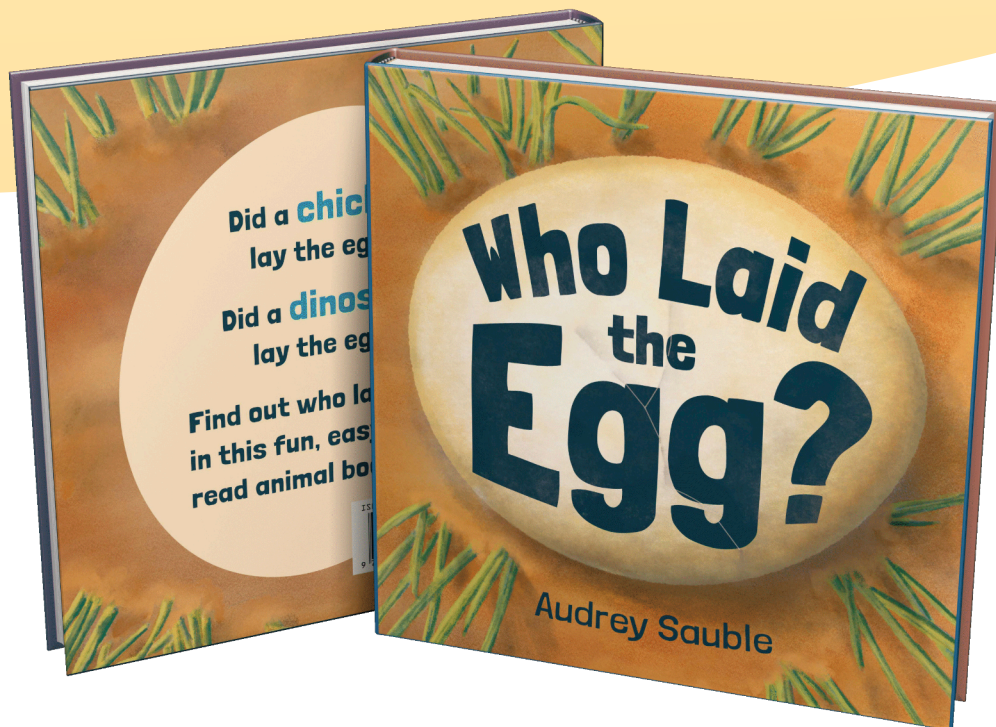
One egg, two, three. Where do eggs come from?

Well, the store, usually. Do you remember looking for eggs?

At Oma's?

Yes. Who laid those eggs?

And just like that, I decided to write a picture book!



Links:

Find more STEM activities on my blog: www.aesauble.com/blog

Find the paperback [on Amazon](#)