

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BECKONING CAT (Maneki-neko)

Before you make your cat, you may want to read a little bit of the history behind these cats. You can start with Wikipedia, then use key words “interesting facts about maneki neko beckoning cats.”

You will need:

- a copy of the box pattern page printed onto card stock
- a copy of one of the cat pattern pages (choosing whether you want to draw the face or not)
- a piece of gold or red trim or ribbon for the collar (about 8” or 20 cm)
- a bell (small jingle bells are easily found at any craft store, or in the craft department of stores like WalMart)
- a piece of paper or fabric for the bib
- some pennies
- a shishkabob stick or small dowel rod cut to a length of about 5” (13 cm)
- scissors
- X-Acto or sharp craft knife (for cutting slits)
- glue and/or tape
- your option of something to add color: colored pencils, watercolor paint, acrylic paint, crayons
- optional gold paper or gold paint for the coin (Instructions for this not included-- you decide what is best.)

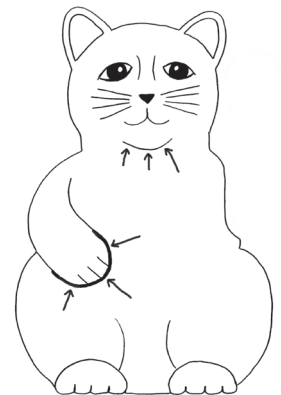


Cutting:

- 1) Decide whether you want to go to the trouble of making your cat’s arm move. Many waving cat figurines don’t have an arm that actually waves, and are just a non-moving statue. If you are short on time or have younger kids doing the project, this could be the better option.
- 2) If you want a non-moving arm, just cut around the cat, arm and all. If you want to make a moving arm, cut off the left arm after cutting out the cat.
- 3) Decide what you want your cat to hold-- the coin, the ball or the fish. Cut it out. (If you want to use more than one, you can figure out a way to do it. It’s your project.)
- 4) Cut out the bib pattern. Place the pattern onto whatever paper or fabric you are using for the bib. Trace pattern and then cut out bib.
- 5) Cut out the box. Follow assembly directions on the box page.

Things to do before assembly:

- 1) Do any coloring or painting. You can make the cat a traditional calico (use Internet image search to see calico waving cats) or you can add your own ideas. For the gold coin, if you happen to be able to get gold acrylic paint or gold paper, you might end up having to re-draw the black letters again. Use a permanent marker, such as a Sharpie pen.
- 2) Use a sharp knife (like an X-Acto knife) to cut three slits. There is a slit in the box pattern, plus two slits on the cat, as indicated by the arrows in the diagram on the right. (You can also punch tiny starter holes in the two circles on the box page.)



Assembly:

- 1) Assemble the box first. To make the folds easy, you can “score” along the lines using the tip of a nail or a compass or ballpoint pen. Don’t cut the lines, just press into them. You can fold without scoring, but if you do, make sure the folds are precise, right along the line. Sloppy folding will make the box harder to assemble. Follow assembly instructions at the bottom of the box page.

2) If you are making a waving arm, use the point of the sharp knife or nail to puncture the holes in the sides of the box. Don't enlarge the holes, just make a tiny "starter" hole.

3) Use a small piece of string or thread to tie the bell to the center of the collar strip. Don't tie it so tight that the ribbon gets bunched up. Allow the ribbon to lie flat.

4) Wrap the collar around the neck, tucking it under the chin flap, and secure on back with tape or glue.

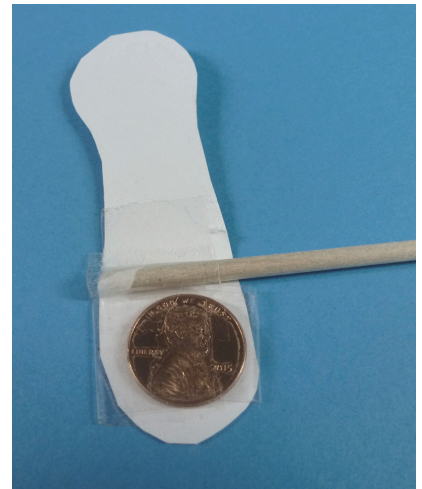
5) Glue the cat body onto the front of the box, making sure the words on the back are right side up.

6) Glue whatever object you have chosen to the cat, tucking the top of it under the right paw (where you cut the slit). If you are making a non-waving cat, you are finished.

7) For a waving cat, push the stick through the two tiny holes on the sides of the box.

8) Place the left arm on top of the stick and secure on the back with tape.

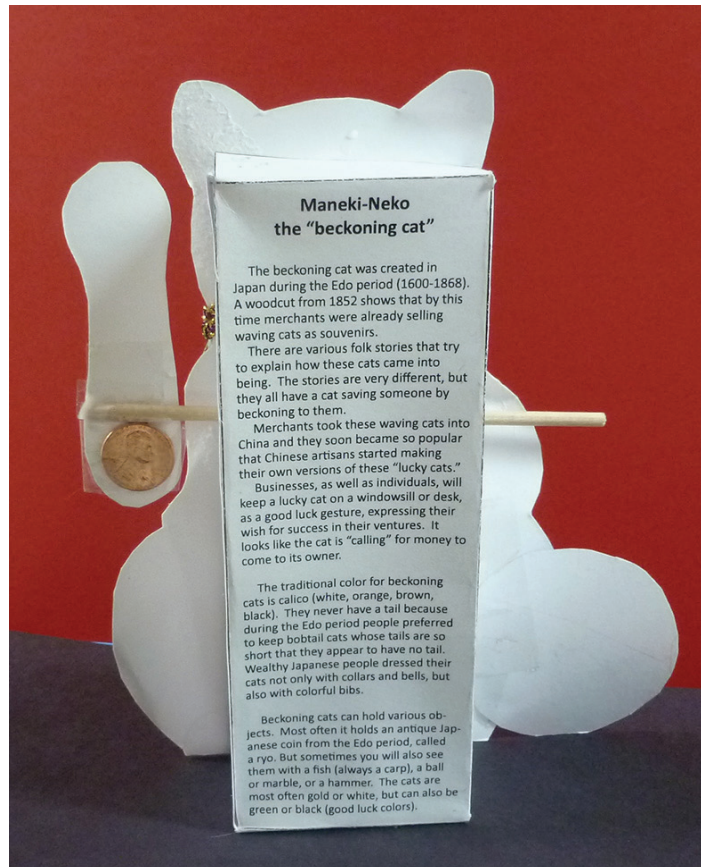
9) If the arm wants to flop down all the time, glue or tape a penny to the back of the arm underneath the stick. It will act as a weight on the bottom, keeping the bottom from flipping up.


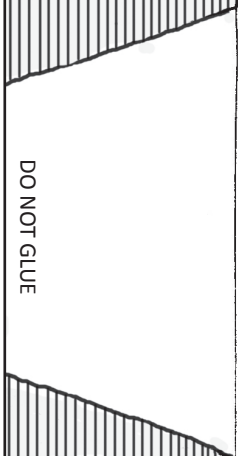




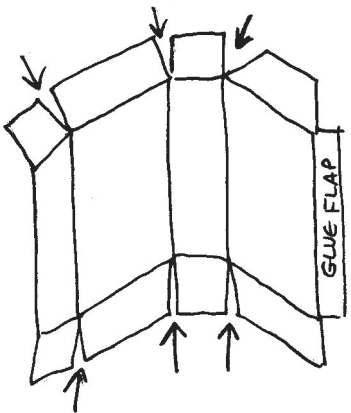
Put in some coins

1) The coins will make the cat less likely to tip over. Once coins start collecting, you will be able to wave the arm without tipping the cat. The box should be able to hold quite a few coins.

2) When you want to empty the coins from the box, just undo the flaps at the bottom.

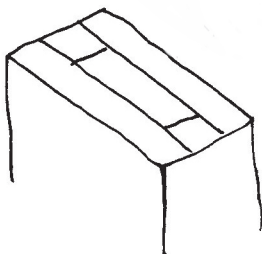


 	<div>GLUE FLAP</div> <div> <p>Maneki-Neko the "beckoning cat"</p> <p>The beckoning cat was created in Japan during the Edo period (1600-1868). A woodcut from 1852 shows that by this time merchants were already selling waving cats as souvenirs.</p> <p>There are various folk stories that try to explain how these cats came into being. The stories are very different, but they all have a cat saving someone by beckoning to them.</p> <p>Merchants took these waving cats into China and they soon became so popular that Chinese artisans started making their own versions of these "lucky cats."</p> <p>Businesses, as well as individuals, will keep a lucky cat on a windowsill or desk, as a good luck gesture, expressing their wish for success in their ventures. It looks like the cat is "calling" for money to come to its owner.</p> <p>The traditional color for beckoning cats is calico (white, orange, brown, black). They never have a tail because during the Edo period people preferred to keep bobtail cats whose tails are so short that they appear to have no tail. Wealthy Japanese people dressed their cats not only with collars and bells, but also with colorful bibs.</p> <p>Beckoning cats can hold various objects. Most often it holds an antique Japanese coin from the Edo period, called a ryo. But sometimes you will also see them with a fish (always a carp), a ball or marble, or a hammer. The cats are most often gold or white, but can also be green or black (good luck colors).</p> </div>	
		GLUE
 cut slit		GLUE
		GLUE 3m7g

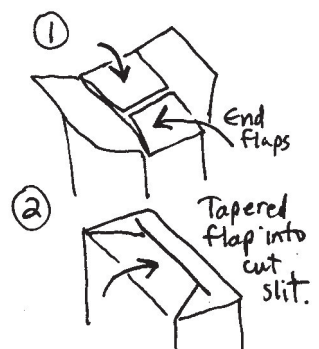


- 1) Cut around outside of box.
- 2) Cut out striped areas and discard them.
- 3) Snip in a arrows.
- 4) Cut the slit with a sharp knife.
- 5) Put glue on long glue flap and stick to other side to form rectangular box shape.
- 6) Make sure this seam is secure before moving on.

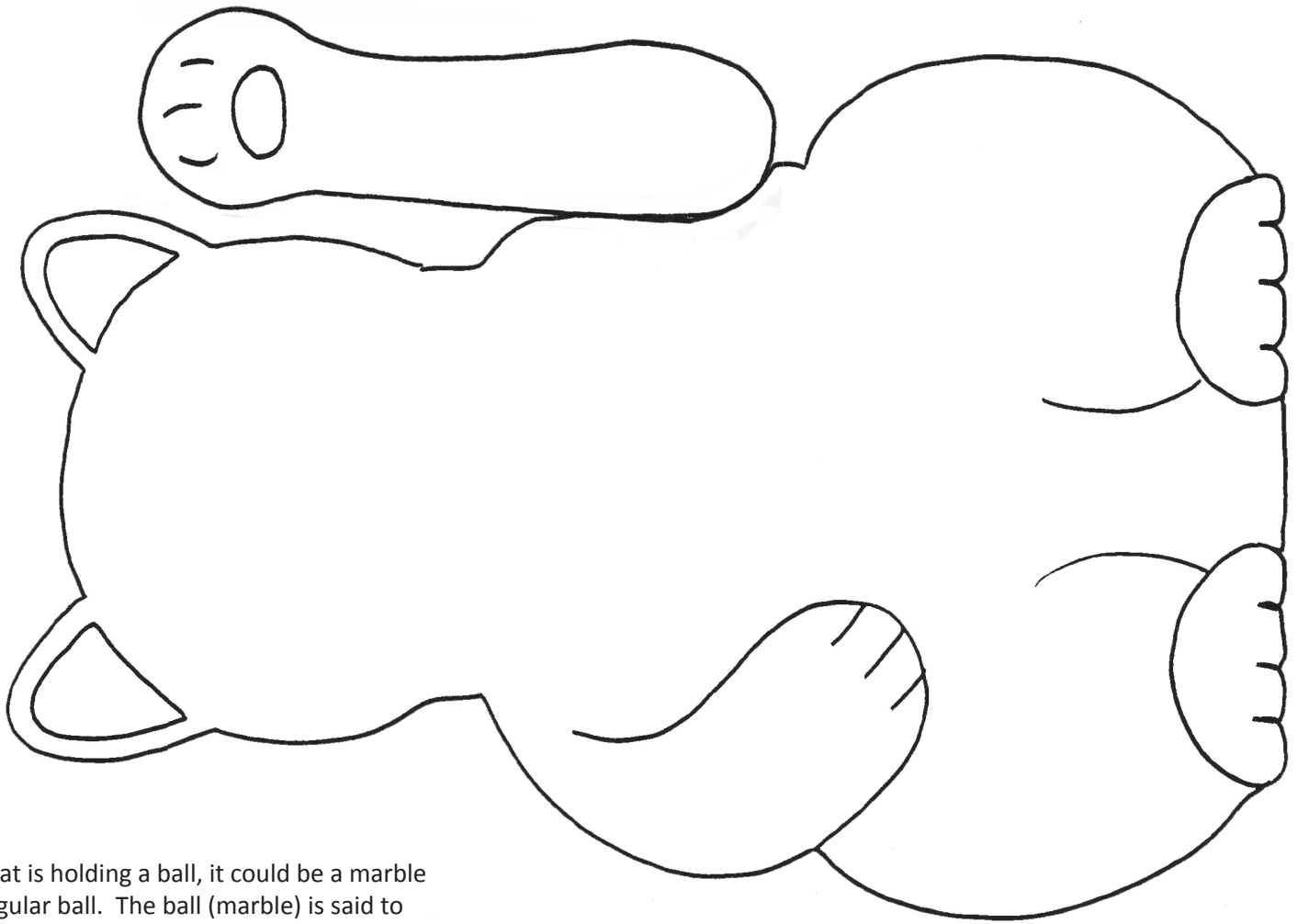
- 7) Fold over flaps at top of box and glue where indicated. You can stick a ruler or another long, flat object into the box and use it opposite your fingers to help press and hold the seams to make them stick.



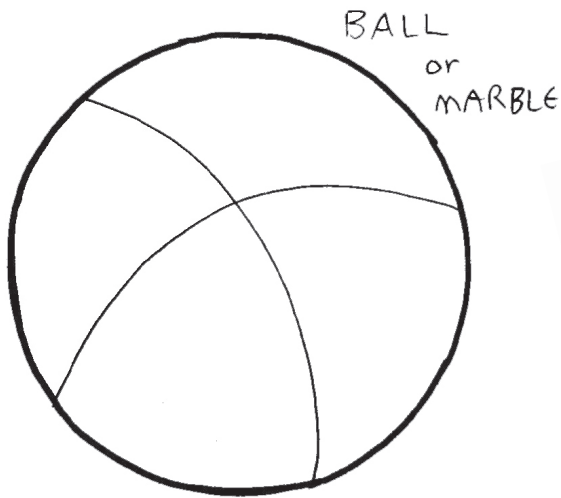
- 8) Fold the bottom. Tuck the tapered flap into the slit but DON'T glue, so that you can open the box to empty coins.



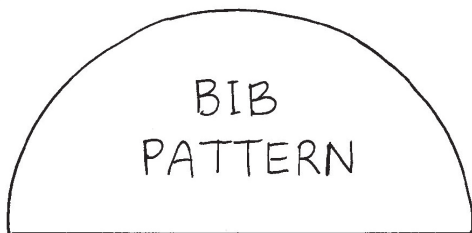
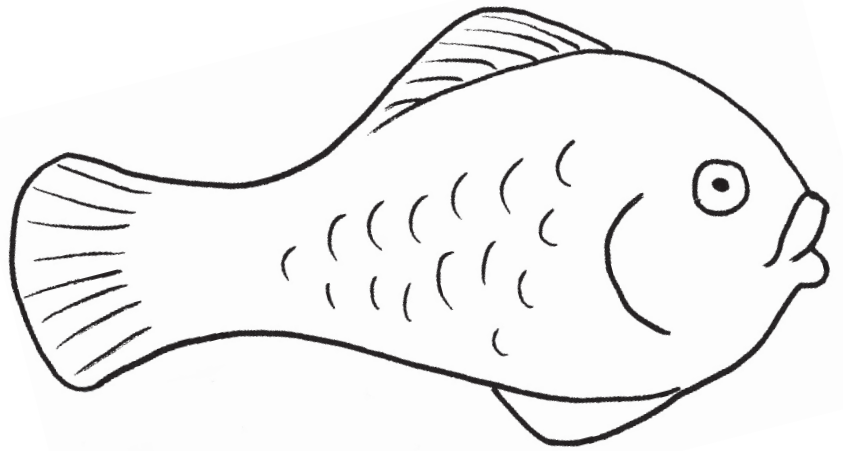
The cat does not have a tail because the original waving cats made in Japan 200 years ago were modeled after a breed of cat that had an extremely short tail (bobtail) making it look almost tail-less.



If the cat is holding a ball, it could be a marble or a regular ball. The ball (marble) is said to "roll in good fortune."



Lucky cats sometimes hold a carp, which is a symbol of good luck.

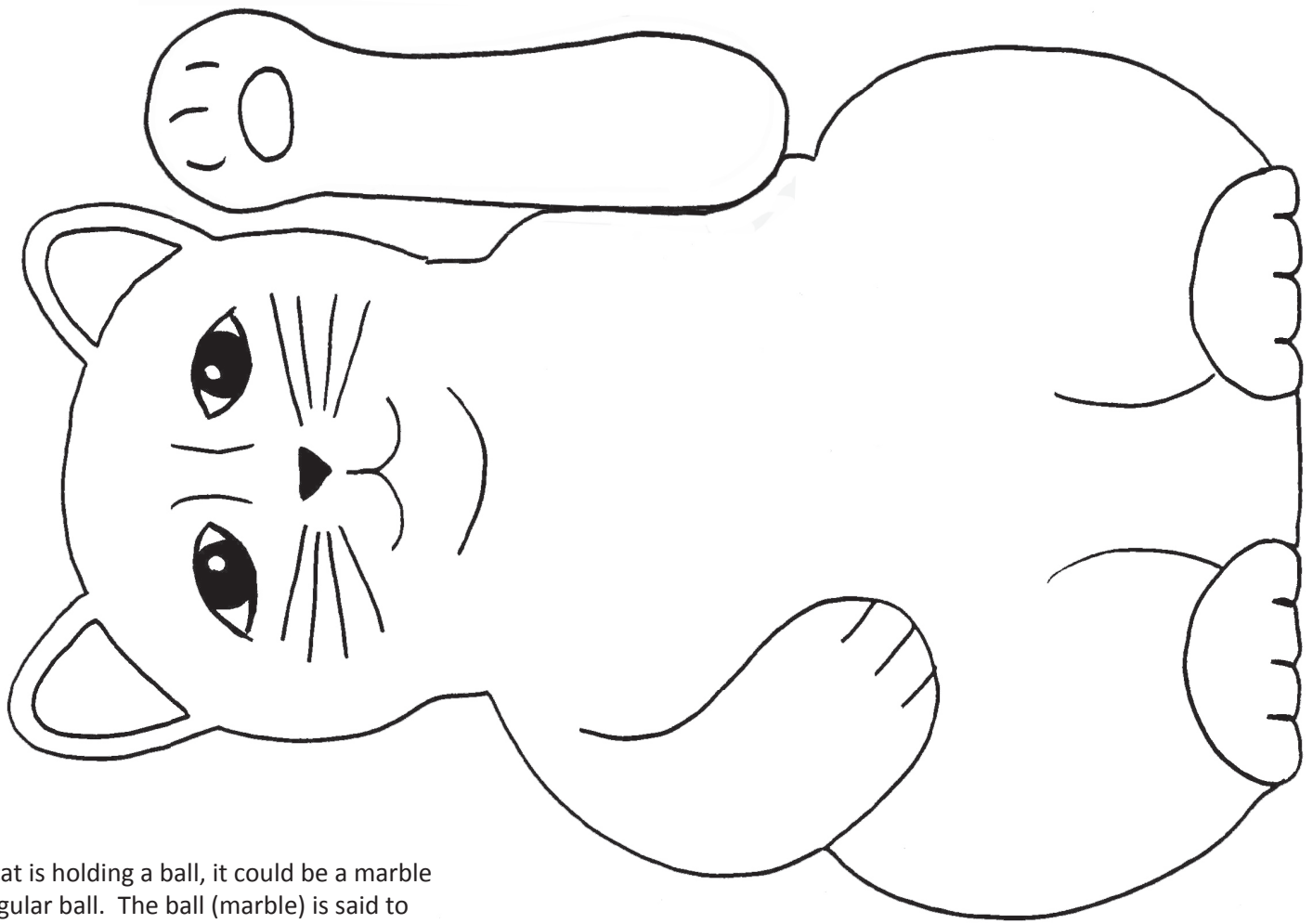


Wealthy people in Japan 200 years ago often dressed their cats in bibs attached to collars with bells. Green is a popular color for lucky cat bibs. Green symbolizes health.

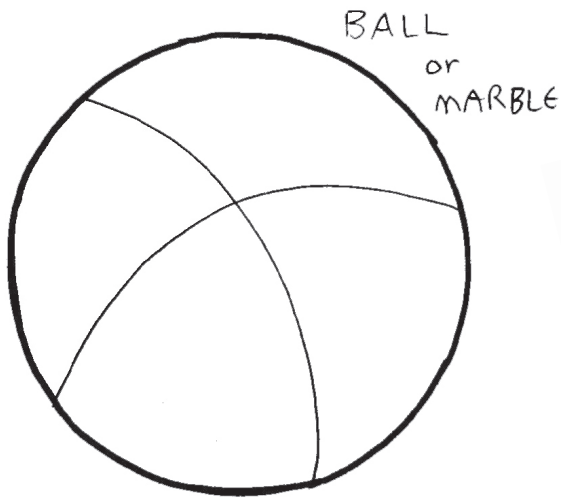


The cat might hold an antique gold coin from the Edo period in Japan (several hundred years ago). The coin is supposed to attract wealth. The writing says "sen man ryo" which translates to "10,000,000 dollars."

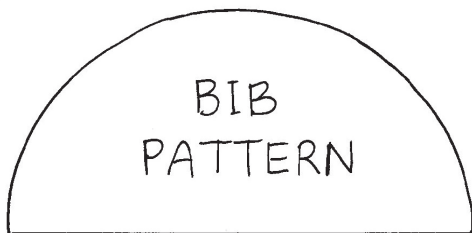
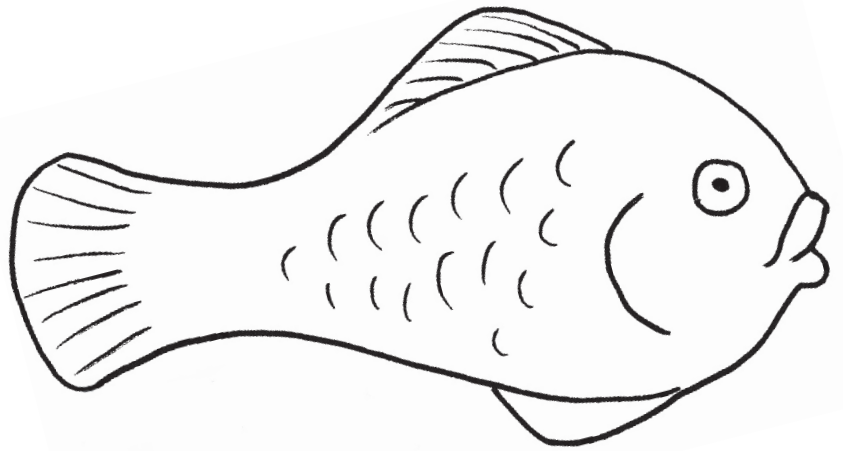
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