

ELMER

Create a Celebration!

Elmer Picture Book Series

2019 will mark the 30th anniversary of Elmer, the first book published about the patchwork elephant. Written and illustrated by David McKee and published by Andersen Press UK (distributed in the US by Lerner Publishing), the series features more than 30 picture books and has sold more than 8 million copies in 50 languages worldwide.

Elmer Day

In the very first book about this beloved character, the patchwork elephant tries to hide his vibrant patterns. Elmer's friends reassure him that they love him because of his unique qualities, and not in spite of them. In celebration of Elmer's appearance, the other elephants paint themselves with colors and patterns and hold a parade. **This parade marked the very first Elmer Day.**

Libraries, schools, bookstores, and community groups all over the world celebrate Elmer Day with patchwork crafts, games, and, of course, parades. **Follow international events under the hashtag #ElmerDay.**

The release of David McKee's **Elmer's Special Day** revisits Elmer Day. This time, Elmer realizes that the other jungle animals have been left out of the celebration. Elmer declares, **"everyone means everyone"** when it comes to Elmer Day. The message invites children to consider who they might be including and not including in their own play and friendships.

Create an Elmer Day Celebration

Honoring the themes of kindness, diversity, inclusion, and friendship, explore these event and classroom materials! Visit <http://bit.ly/ElmerDayUS> for free downloads of:

Event Materials

- Event Tips
- Press Release
- Event Poster
- Display Poster
- Event Pennants

Classroom Activities

- Kindness Celebration
- Celebratory Assembly
- Lesson Plans

Craft Projects

- Coloring Sheets
- Elephant Mask
- Elmer Ears
- Elephant Garland
- Milk Bottle Elmer
- Paper Plate Elmer

Games

- Dice Game
- Hide & Seek Game
- Pin the Trunk on Elmer



"everyone means everyone"

—Elmer's Special Day



ELMER

Discover More Stories!

Featured Hardcover

Elmer's Special Day

9780761351542

Perfect for Elmer Day celebrations and classroom conversations about inclusion. Elmer invites all of the animals in the jungle to express their creativity and join the parade with the declaration that, "everyone means everyone."

Elmer and Aunt Zelda

9781512439458

Elmer and the Birthday Quake

9781467711173

Consider these picture books for intergenerational and grandparent events and classroom explorations. In the jungle, Elmer and the elephants always honor their elders.

Elmer and the Race

9781512416244

Is your classroom getting too competitive or worried about outcomes? Explore how any child can "win" the race with this read aloud. Consider creating special awards for every child in your classroom just like Elmer does.

Elmer and the Monster

9781467742009

A silly read aloud for story hour or for any child who might be a little afraid of monsters. The monster? It's just Bloo-Bloo, and he will teach your readers how to ROAR!

Elmer and the Tune

9781512481242

This a fun read aloud for an Elmer-themed birthday party as it ends with a round of the "Happy Birthday" song! Use the crafts and games available at bit.ly/ElmerDayUS to create a birthday party that an elephant (or child) will not forget.

Elmer and the Whales

9781467734530

This picture book offers an opportunity for a treasure hunt through a bookstore or library. Can your readers go on a journey to find the non-fiction whale books just as Elmer journeys down the river to the sea to encounter whales?

Other Great Elmer Hardcover

Elmer and Butterfly

9781467763264

Elmer and Grandpa Eldo

9781512405699

Elmer and Rose

9780761354932

Elmer and Snake

9781467720335

Elmer and Super El

9780761389897

Elmer and the Big Bird

9781467703192

Elmer and the Flood

9781467793124

Elmer and the Hippos

9780761364429

Elmer and the Rainbow

9780761374107

Elmer's Christmas

9780761380887

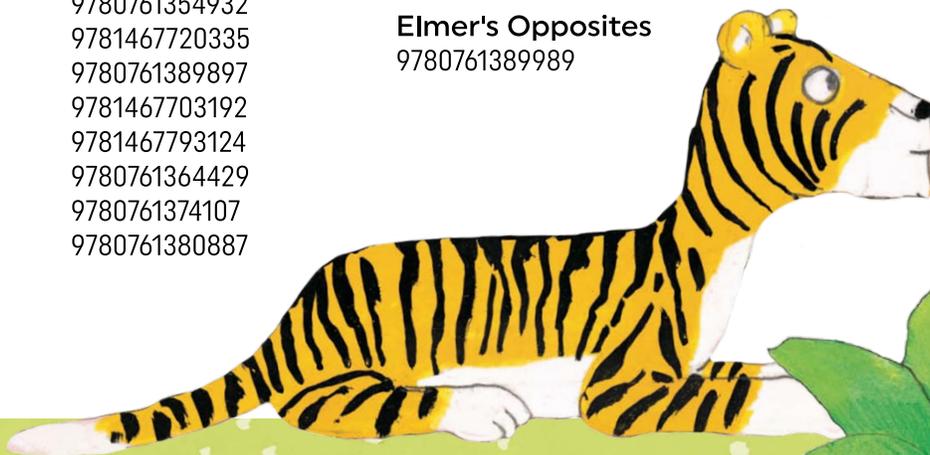
Board Books

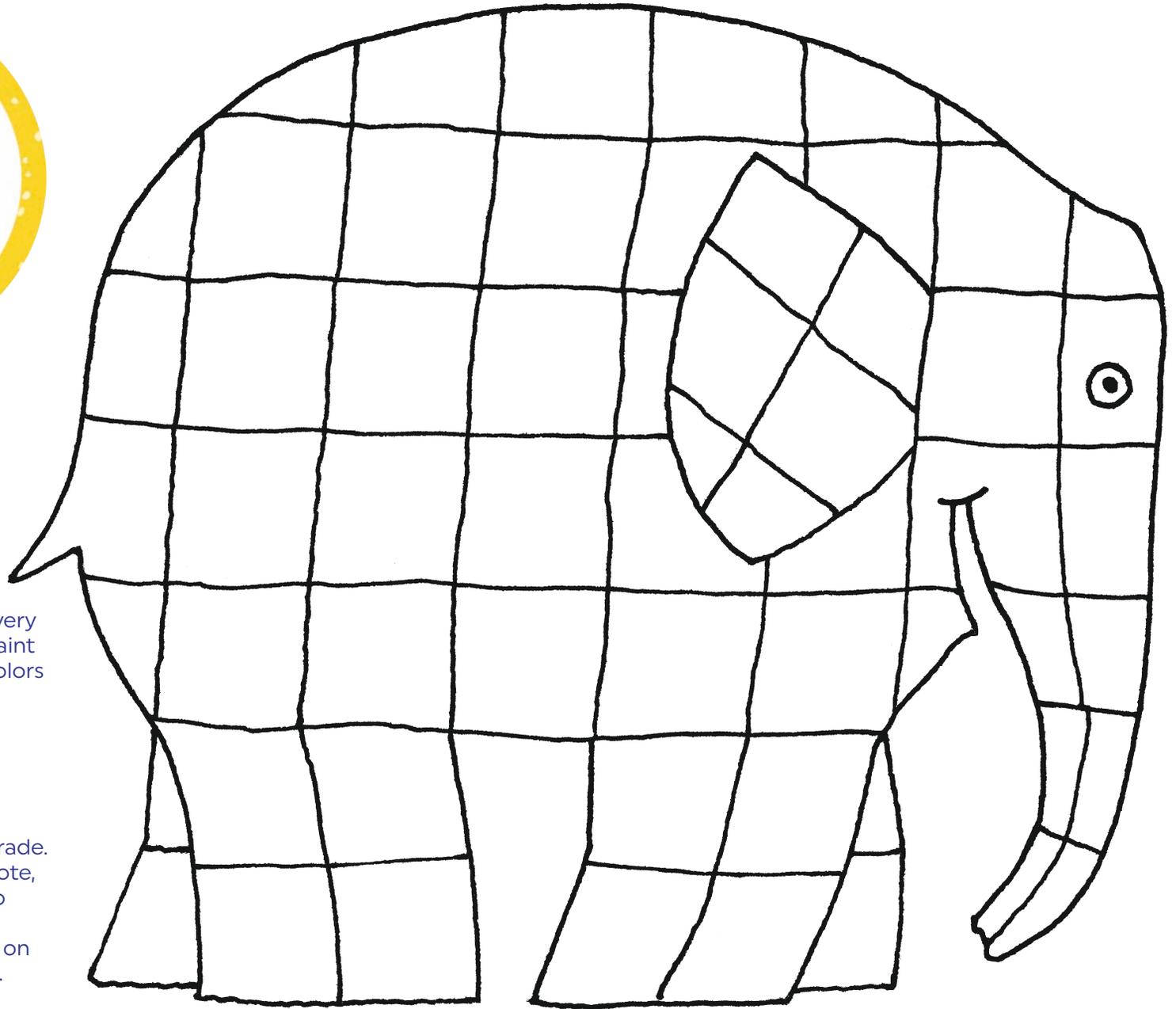
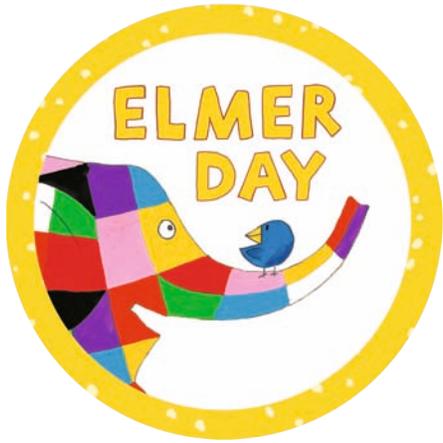
Elmer's First Counting Book

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Elmer's Opposites

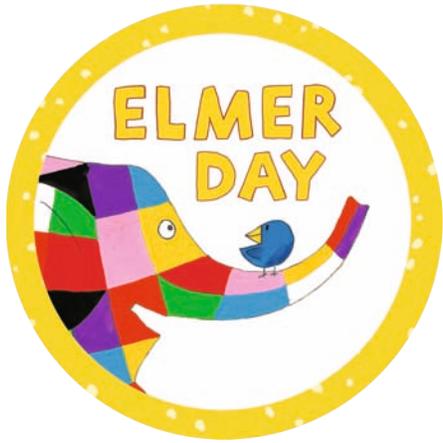
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In **Elmer's Special Day** and on every annual Elmer Day, the animals paint themselves with the brightest colors and parade through the jungle.

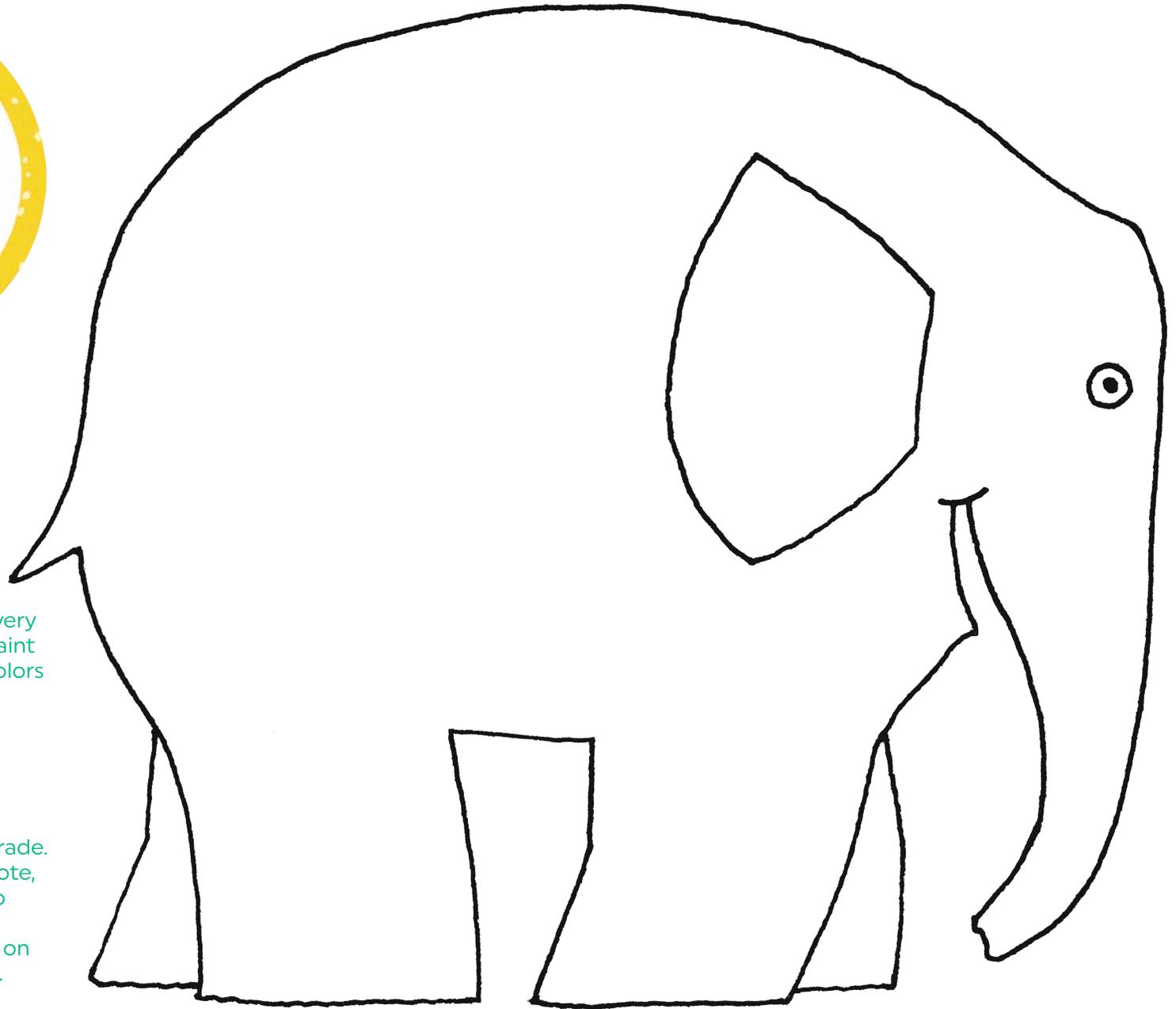
- Decorate Elmer or the other elephants with paint, colored pencils, or crayons.
- Cut out the elephants.
- Display the elephants like a parade.
- Consider adding the Elmer quote, "Everyone means everyone" to your display.
- Share a picture of your parade on social media using #ElmerDay.



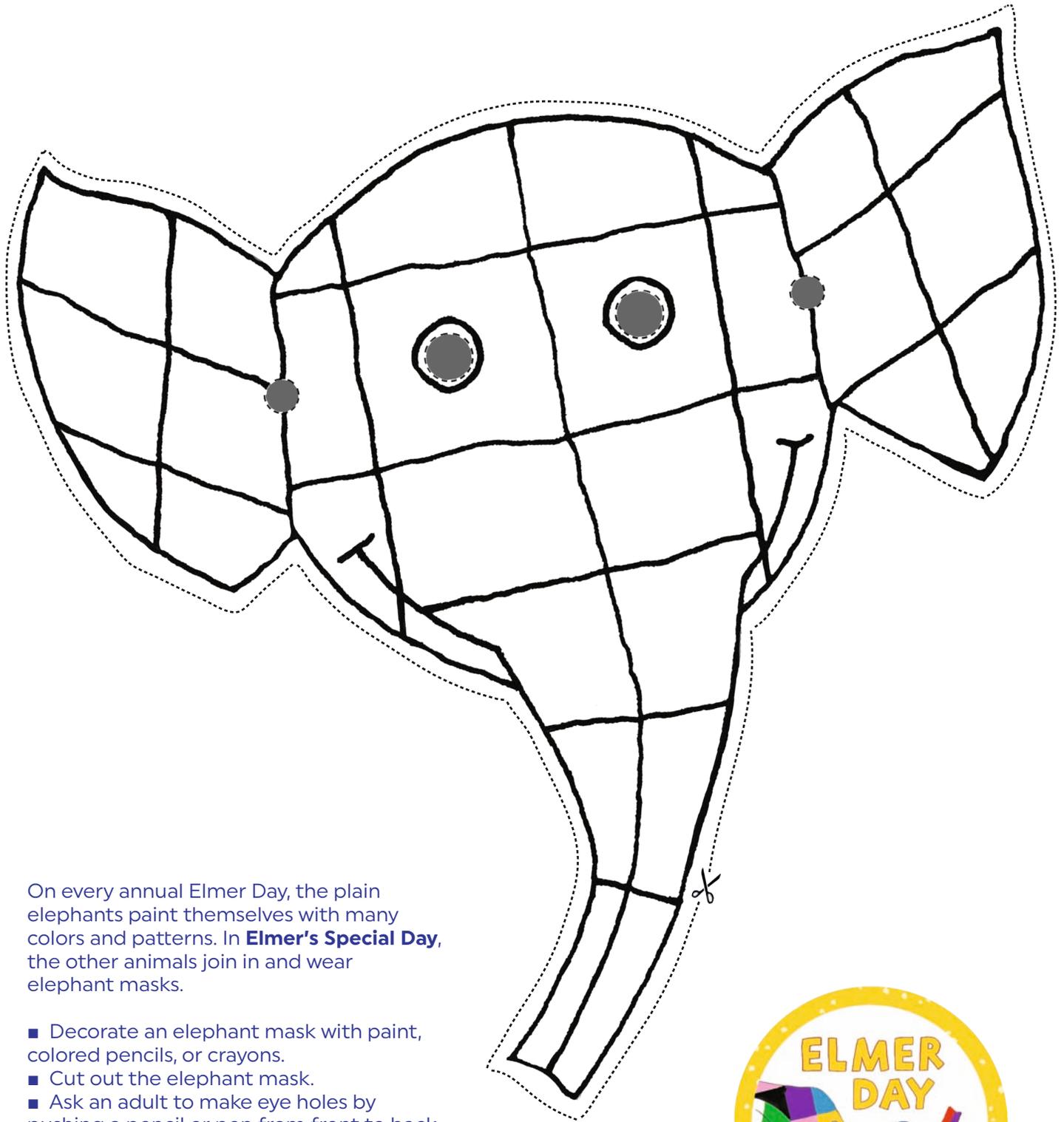
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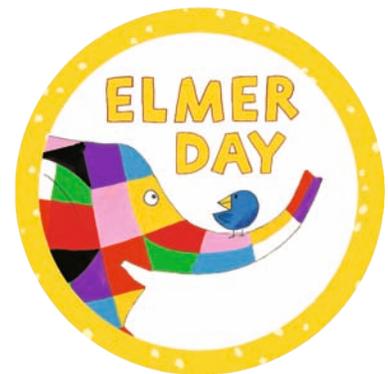


Make your own **ELMER** mask!

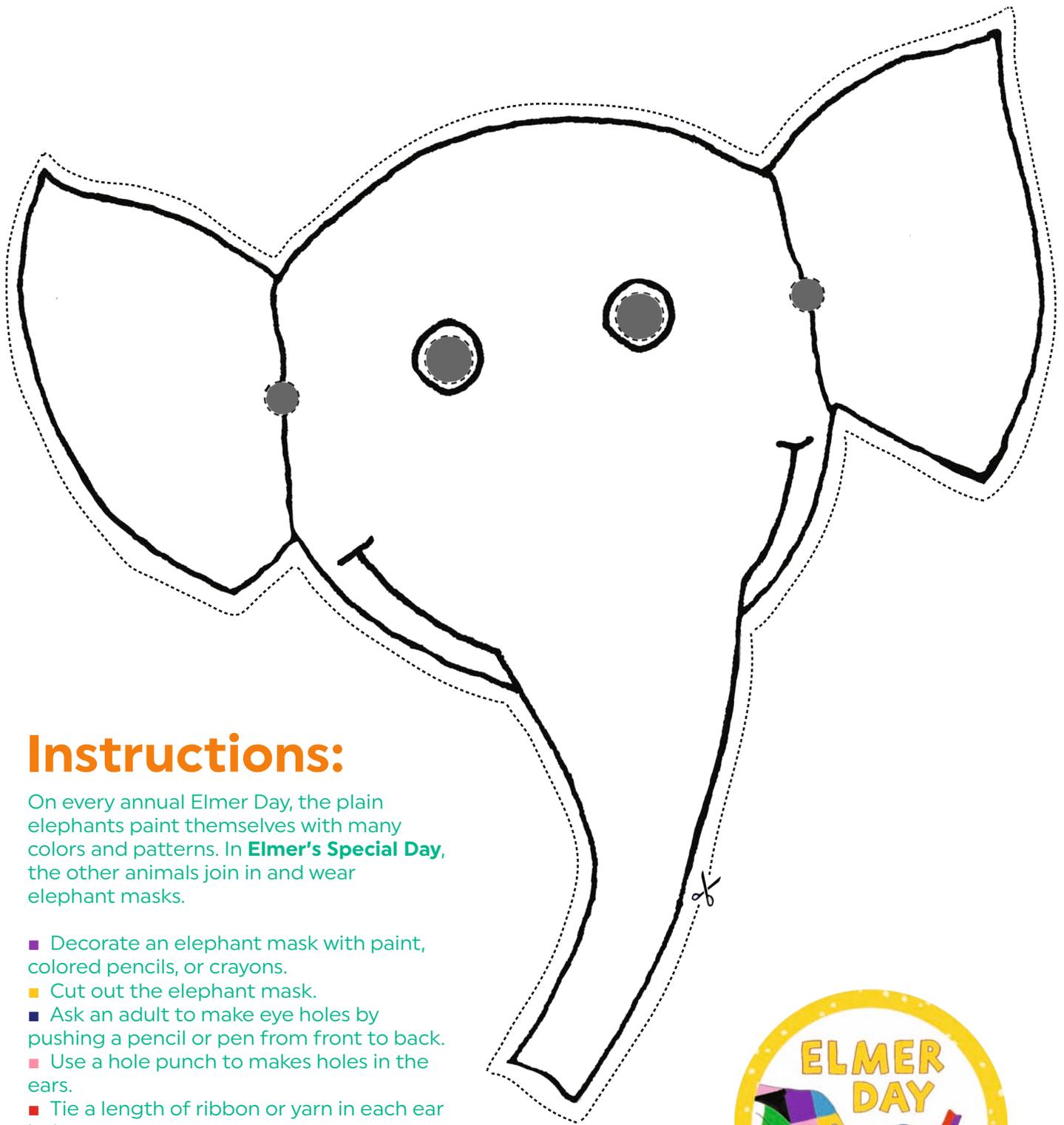


On every annual Elmer Day, the plain elephants paint themselves with many colors and patterns. In **Elmer's Special Day**, the other animals join in and wear elephant masks.

- Decorate an elephant mask with paint, colored pencils, or crayons.
- Cut out the elephant mask.
- Ask an adult to make eye holes by pushing a pencil or pen from front to back.
- Use a hole punch to make holes in the ears.
- Tie a length of ribbon or yarn in each ear hole.
- Tie on your mask and have an Elmer Day Parade.
- Share a picture of your parade on social media using #ElmerDay.



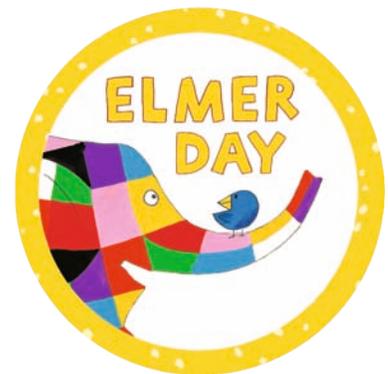
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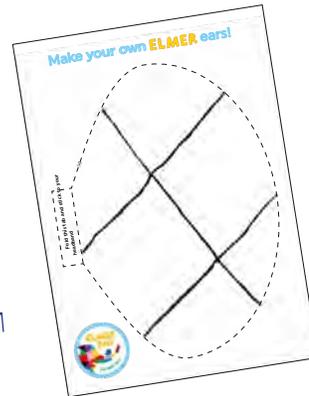


Make your own **ELMER** ears!

You can be just like Elmer with these colorful, patchwork ears!

You will need:

- Card stock
- A pencil
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Glue or clear tape
- Scissors (We recommend a grown-up does the cutting out!)
- Elmer ear template



Instructions:

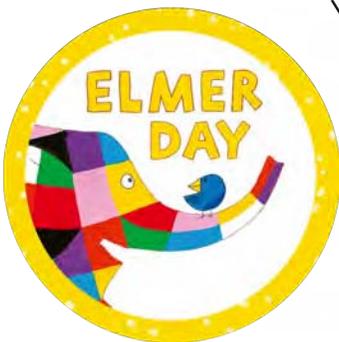
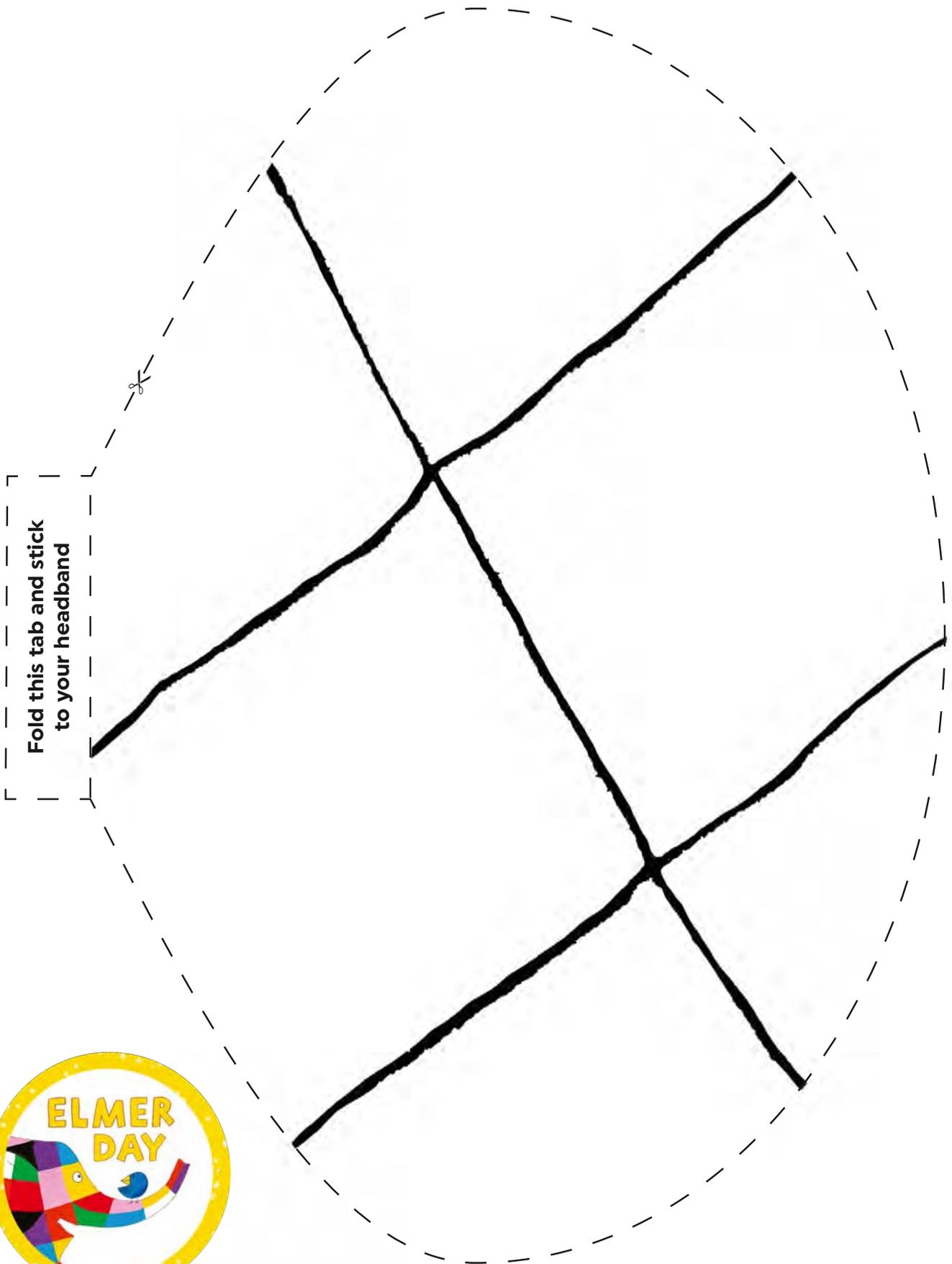
- Cut a strip of card stock to wrap around your head and sit like a crown. Stick the ends of your headband together.
- Cut out the ear template (enclosed in this pack) and draw around it twice onto card stock, then cut out the two ears.
- Draw patches onto the ears and color them in using bright colors.
- Fold the tab on the ears and apply glue or clear tape.
- Stick the ears to either side of the headband.
- Share pictures of your patchwork creation on Twitter and Facebook using #ElmerDay.

Top Tip:

You could try using colored tissue paper for the patches!

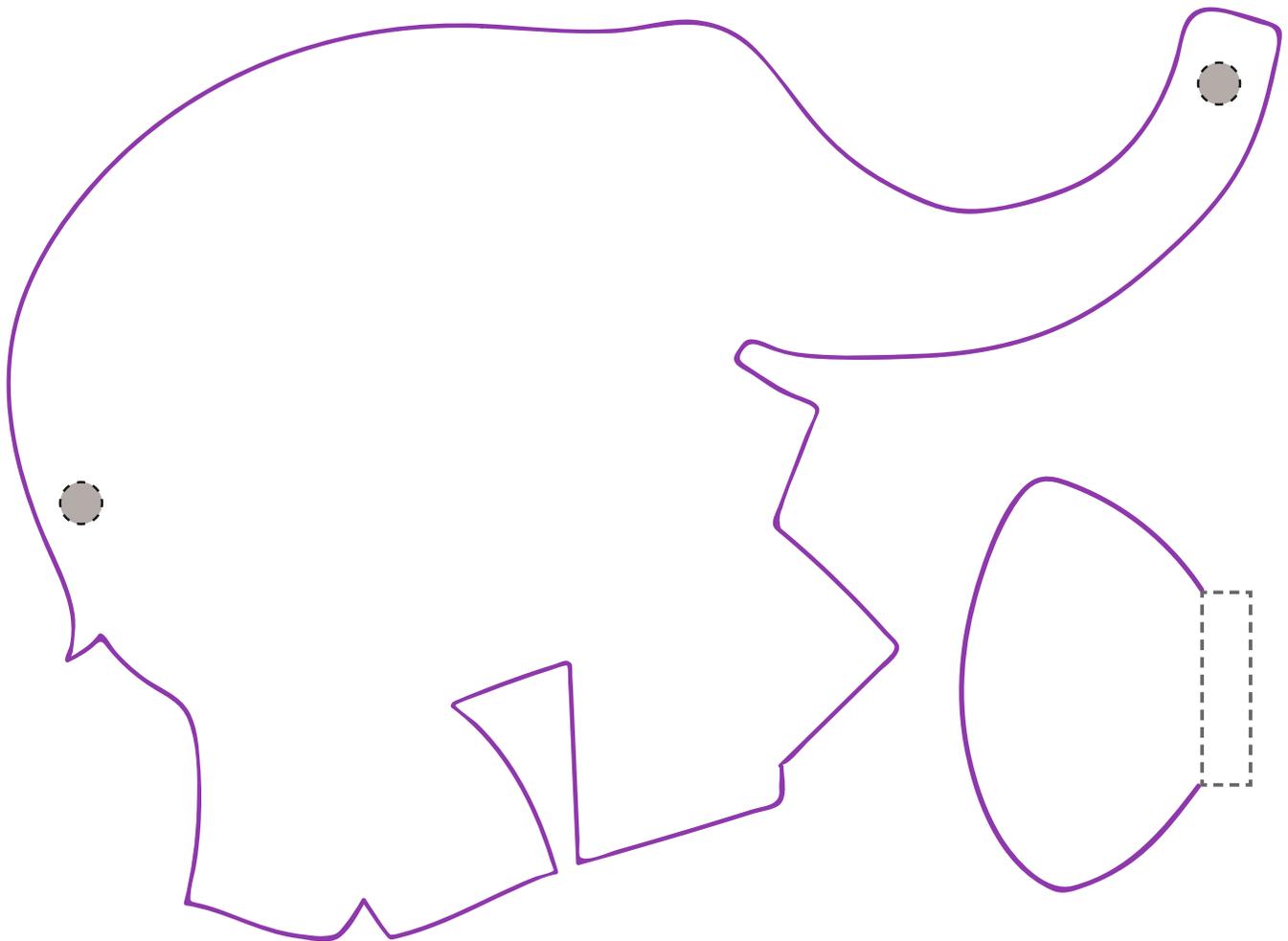
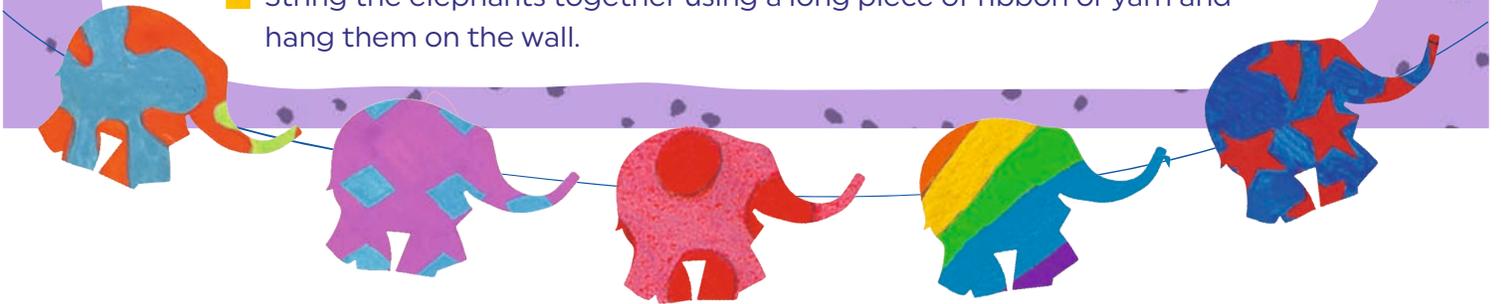


Make your own **ELMER** ears!



Make an elephant parade garland

- Copy this activity sheet multiple times onto card stock and cut out the elephant and ear templates.
- Punch holes where indicated.
- Decorate your elephant and ear cut-out using paint, colored pencils, or crayons. Try making your designs as colorful as possible; you can find inspiration in **Elmer's Special Day**.
- Fold the ears along the tab and glue onto each elephant shape.
- String the elephants together using a long piece of ribbon or yarn and hang them on the wall.

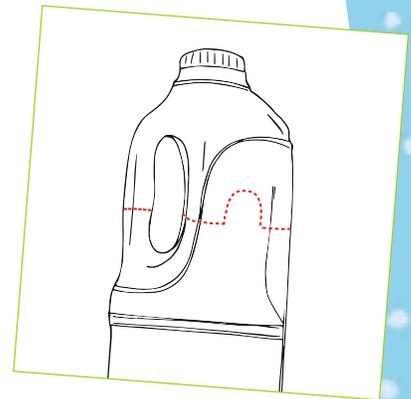


Make a milk bottle **ELMER!**

Create a whole herd of Elmers out of plastic milk bottles...

You will need:

- A plastic milk bottle (remove the lid and label and wash out the inside)
- Lots of colorful tissue paper cut into squares
- White glue
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Card stock
- A grown-up
- Elmer Ear template

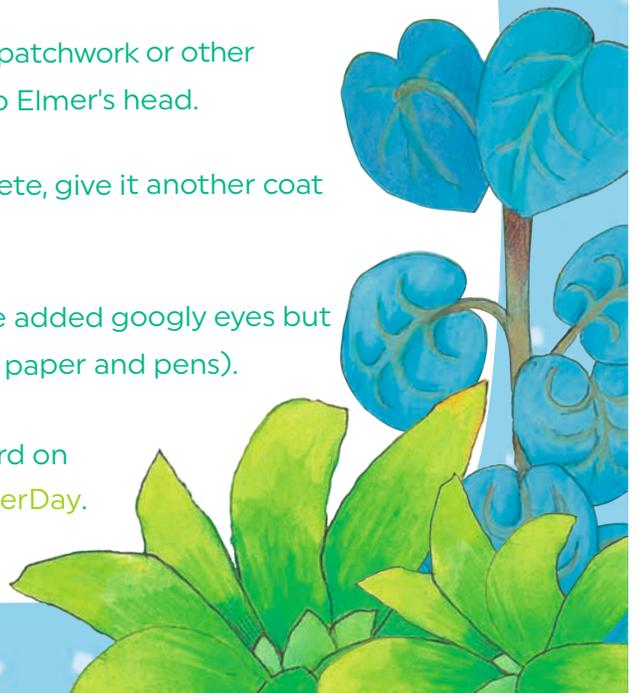


Top Tip:

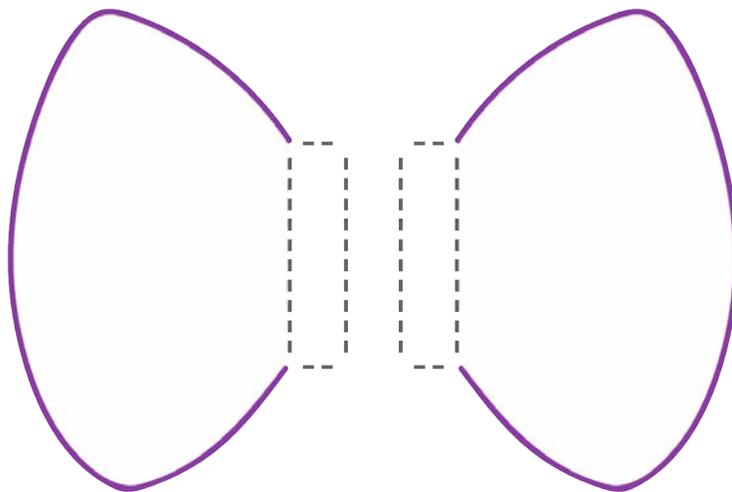
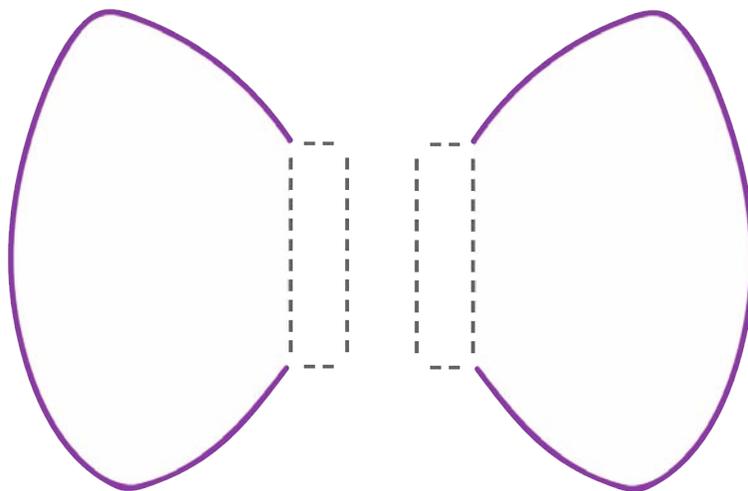
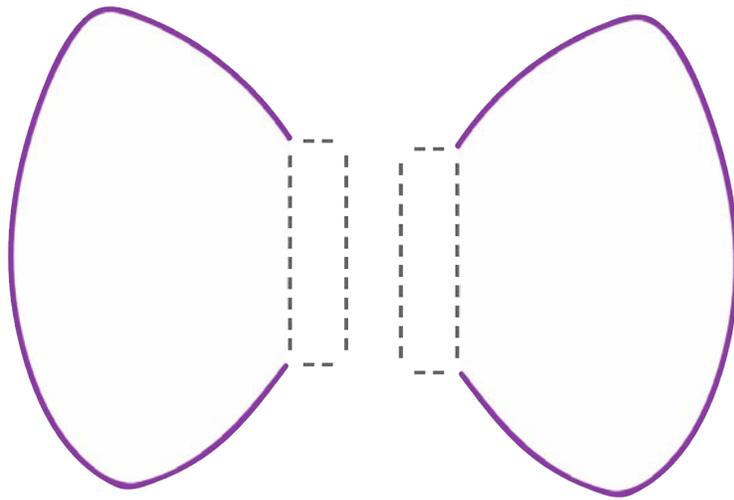
To use paint on your elephant, mix white glue with ready mix paint.

Instructions:

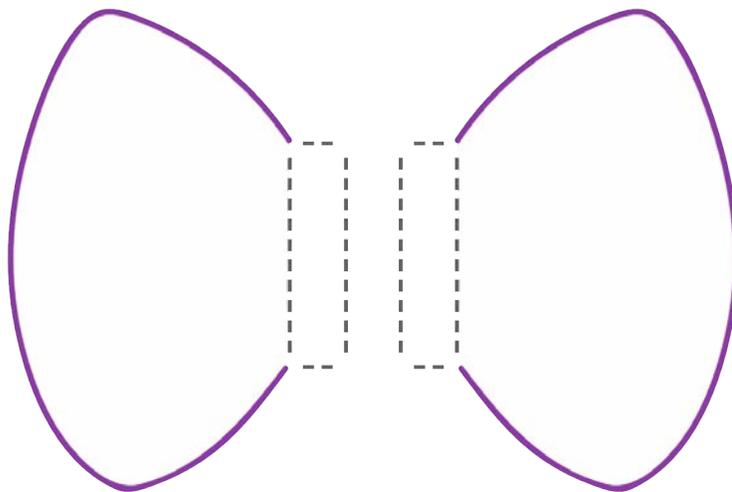
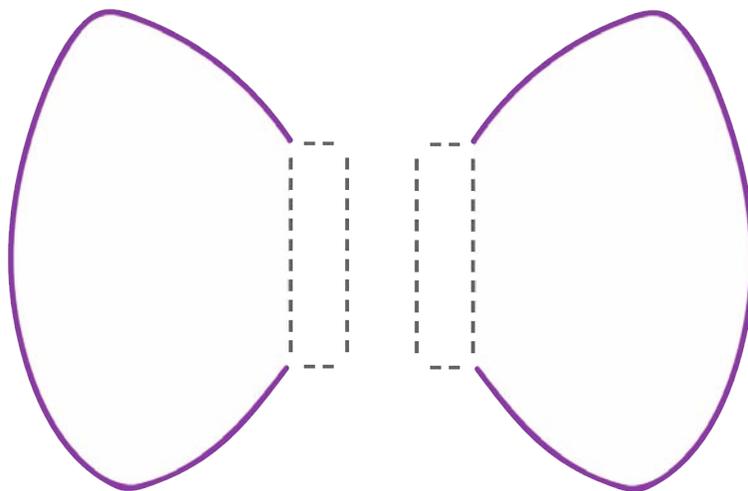
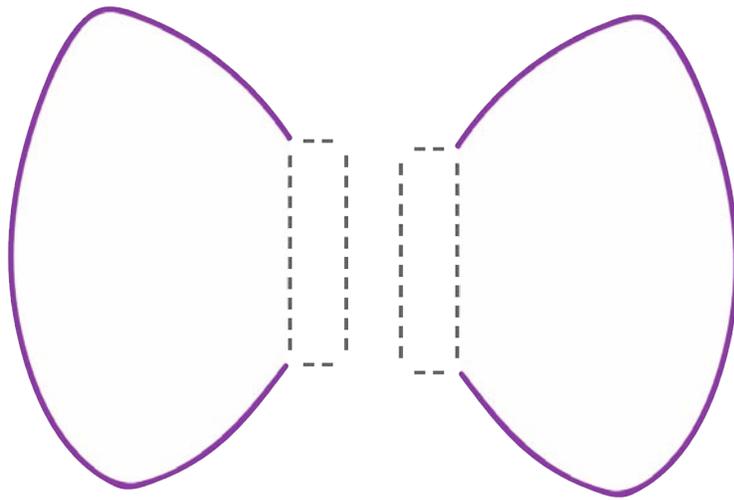
- Ask a grown-up to cut off the bottom of the bottle to create Elmer's legs and trunk, and cut out Elmer's ears using ear templates from the next page on card stock.
- Cover the surface of the bottle with white glue and then stick tissue paper squares all over the elephant in an Elmer patchwork style.
- Cover the ear templates with patchwork or other designs and attach the ear to Elmer's head.
- Once your elephant is complete, give it another coat of white glue or varnish.
- Finally, add some eyes (we've added googly eyes but you can make your own with paper and pens).
- Share a picture of your herd on social media using [#ElmerDay](#).



Make a milk bottle **ELMER!**



Make a milk bottle **ELMER!**



Make an **ELMER** paper plate mask!

Make this Elmer mask for your Elmer Day parade or wall display.

You will need:

- 2 paper plates
- White card stock
- Squares of colored tissue paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Googly eyes



Instructions:

- Cut one paper plate in half and stick the two pieces onto another plate to make Elmer's ears.
- Cut out a trunk shape from the white card stock and stick it onto Elmer's face.
- Decorate your mask by sticking colorful tissue paper squares in a patchwork pattern, or an Elmer's Day pattern of your own design.
- Add Elmer's eyes to the mask (we've used googly eyes, but you could make your own with paper and pens).
- Share a picture of your mask on social media using #ElmerDay.

Top Tip:

You could make Elmer's trunk by decorating toilet paper tubes with tissue paper squares and stringing them together.

