

Animals of NYC

Physical Distancing Activity Book

The background of the page is a line drawing of various anthropomorphic animals in New York City. At the top, a bird is on the left, and a dog wearing a backpack and a hat is on the right. In the middle, a person's legs and feet are visible, walking. At the bottom, two cats are shown from the chest up, looking forward. The entire scene is rendered in a simple, sketchy line-art style.

Welcome to The Animals of New York City!

You've seen us! Scampering across the sidewalks and up the trees, roaming around the dog runs in the park, lounging in your neighborhood bodega, sitting on your windowsill, or flying by on a spring day. We are the animals of NYC!

Some things in life are on PAUSE, but you may need to go outside to stretch your wings or get food to eat. We animals do, too! Can you come along with us to learn how to play it safe on our sidewalks, streets or in our subways and parks.

The Department of City Planning is sharing this activity book for all New Yorkers to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and recognize all the animals in our city! Some we love and others we love less, they are all a part of what makes NYC the best! So while we are at home and playing it safe, let's have some fun and create, and learn about measuring the relative size of buildings, sidewalks and streets compared to us and each other.

Squirrels of NYC — The Enthusiastic Tree Climbers

Water tower

Tree canopy

Hi, I'm a squirrel! They counted us back in 2019, over 2,300 in Central Park* it seems! While our parks and playgrounds are divine, I also find street trees to be equally sublime! Darting this way and that way we get things quite fast. We physically distance but can still pause for a chat! I like acorns. What do you like to eat? Remember, be safe on sidewalks and streets!

Bridge

Ferry

NYC
PLANNING

Street

Sidewalk bump

Sidewalk

Crosswalk

Dogs of NYC —The Loyal Sidewalk Fans

Street tree
planting

Water
tower

Residential
building

Hi, I'm a dog! A dachshund to be precise and I also know how to chase after mice! Hot dog or wiener dog, please choose my moniker. One day I hope to be as famous as one Coney Islander! Just like my friends, I like to maintain a safe distance. How many dachshunds are needed to do this?

Sidewalk

Stoop

Tree
pit

Fire
hydrant

Stormwater drain

Cats of NYC — The Proud Nap Lovers

Fire escape

Hi, I'm a cool cat! While hanging outside is so very nice, right now when I'm out my mask must be on tight! I wear a bandana as you can see, I am a bodega cat if you don't recognize me! We cats vary in size but I'm about 18 inches long. Please don't get too close to me or else I'll be GONE! Back to the store to have a nice nap. Life is purrrfect being a bodega cat!

Storefront

NYC
PLANNING

Outdoor fruit stand

Grocery
store

Sidewalk

Pigeons of NYC— The Opportunistic Observers



Hi, I'm a pigeon! I hang out on buildings, sidewalks and streets. I walk in the park to find something to eat! Find a nice bench because I have a hunch that you'll drop your sandwich and I'll have my lunch! I measure 2 feet with my wings stretched out wide! Yes, I can fly but why should I try?

Commercial building

Food truck

Statue

Outdoor seatings

Building entrance

Street mailbox

Public plaza

Manhole cover

Street

Warblers of NYC — The Hasty Commuters

Building Facade

Elevated train

Arcade

Hi, I'm a warbler! I'm here in New York on this spring occasion. I commute as part of my seasonal migration! I'm just passing through in search of a worm or two and love being here in the city! Flying to the beach or the marsh, to the park or the yard, the natural areas here are so pretty! And now I am off to build my nest. NYC you're simply the best! Uh... which way is uptown again?

Bus

Bus shelter

Subway entrance

Sidewalk

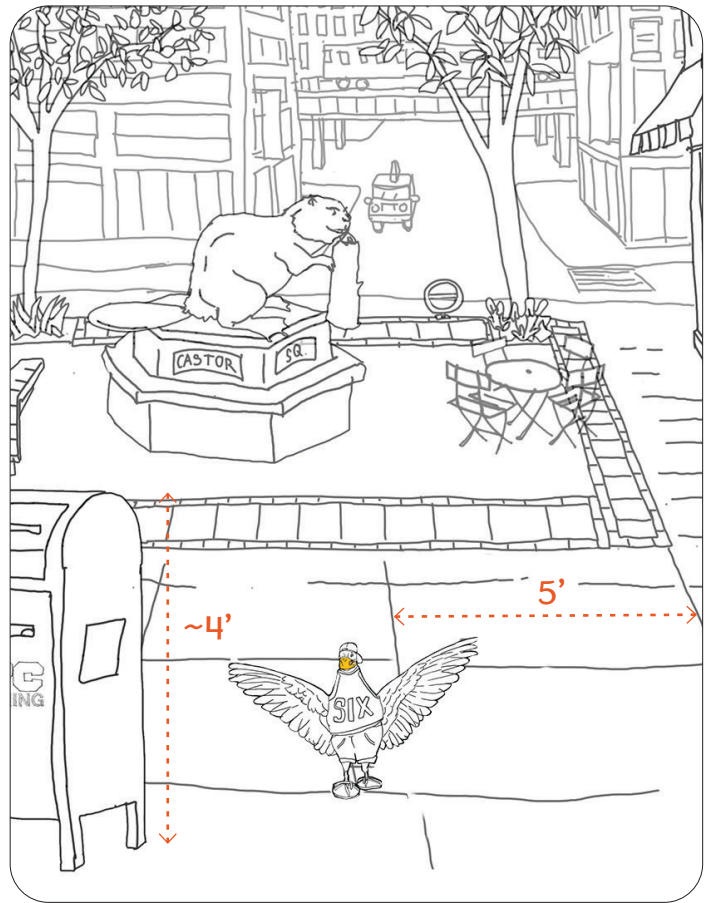
Crosswalk

Size Comparison — Learning About Scale

Scale is a tool we use to compare the relative sizes of things to each other, especially when we can't draw them to life-size dimensions.

Quiz: in which picture is the pigeon drawn to scale?
Which element in the picture do you use to compare with the size of the pigeon?

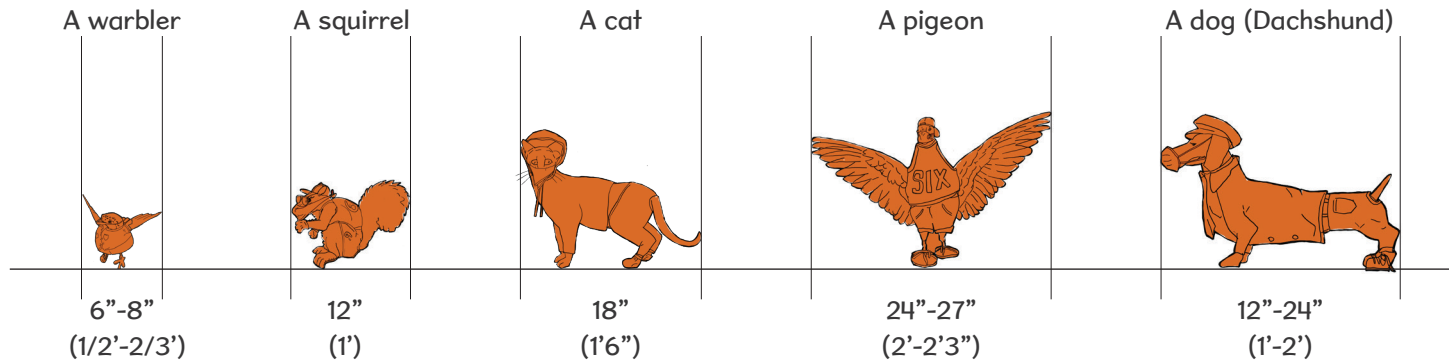
Check the box with the correct answer.

☐☐

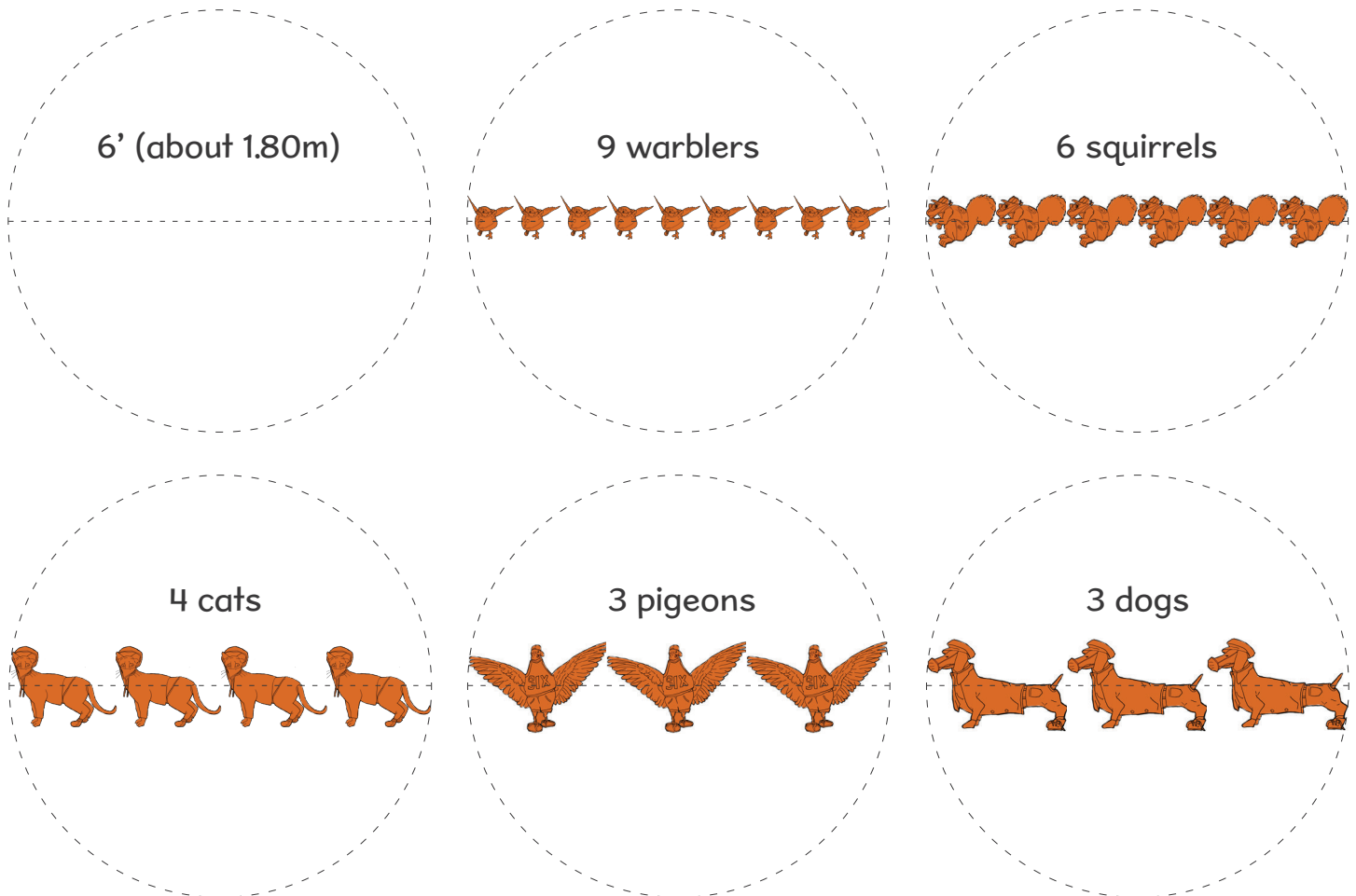
Animals — Size Comparison

How big do you think the animals are?

Here is a comparison of the typical sizes of the 5 animals:



If you line them up, how many can fit in a six-feet-long line?

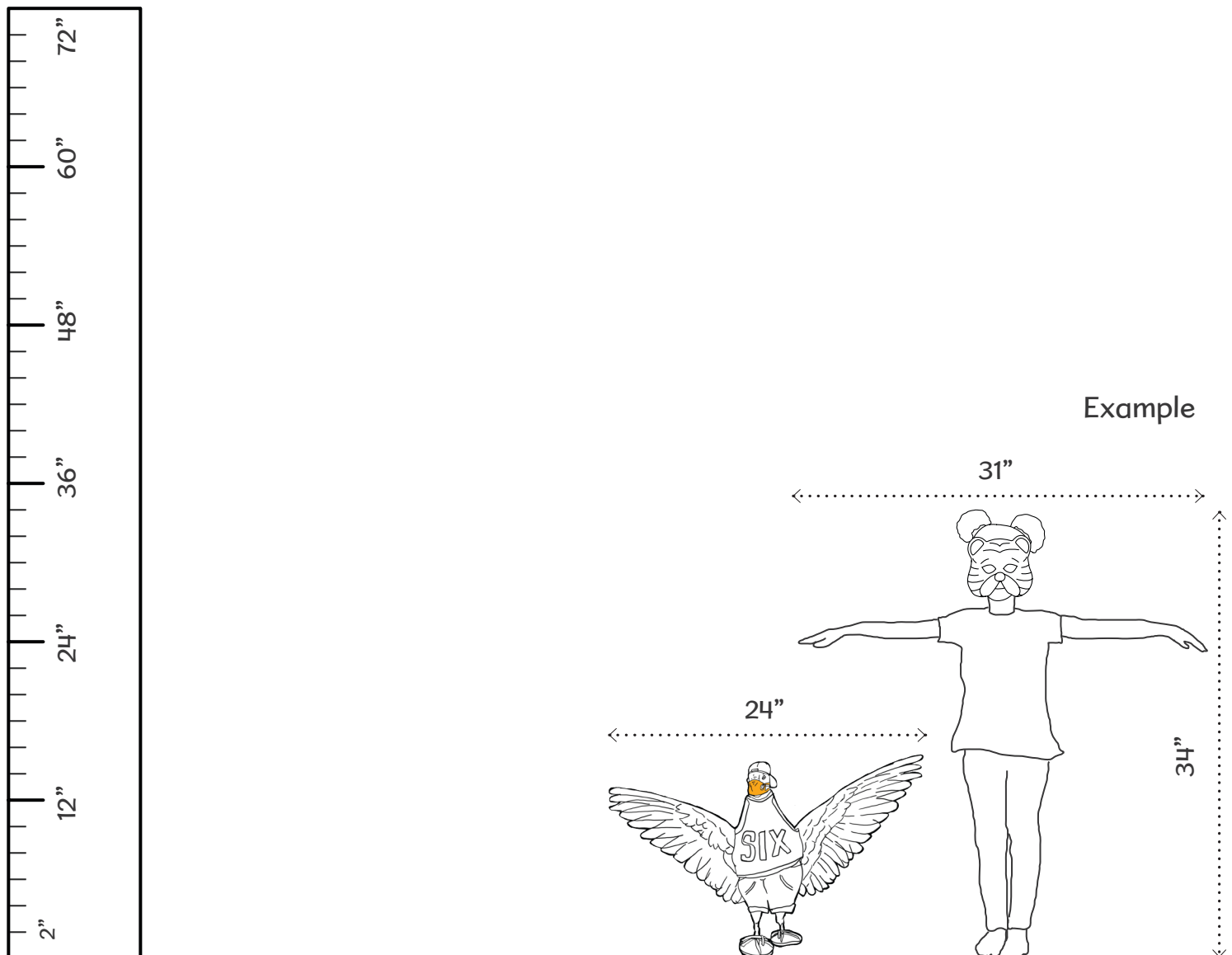


Your Size Compared to The Animals

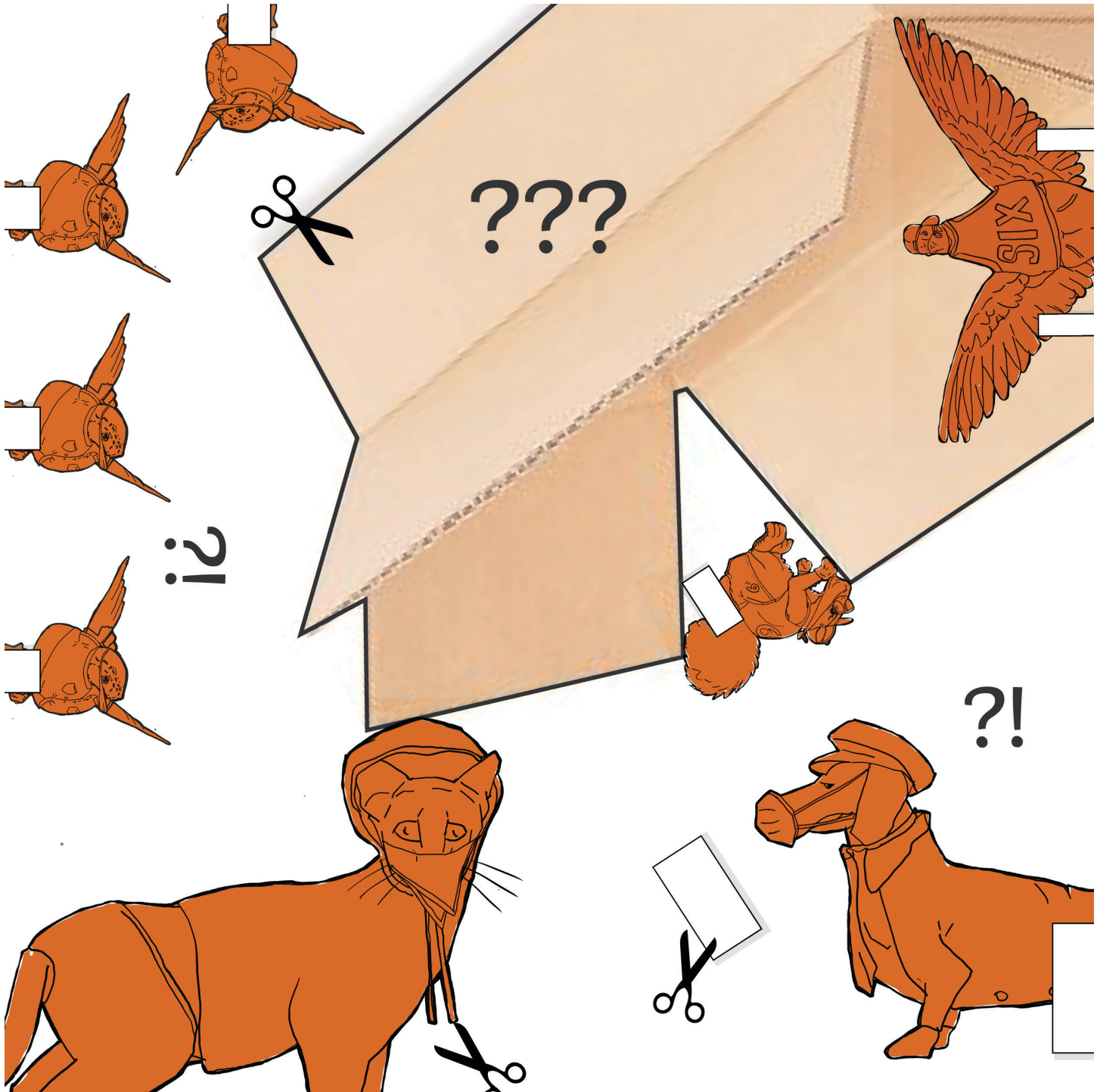
Are you curious about how big you are compared to the animals?
Measure and draw yourself in the space below to find out!

1. Measure your height
2. Measure your wingspan by stretching out your arms
3. Draw your height and wingspan in the space below
4. Cut out the figure you just drew and compare to the animals on page 21

Scale: 1" = 12" (That means: if you are 36" in real life, you are 3" on this page)



NYC ANIMAL DIORAMA



How to Make a Diorama Box for NYC Animals

NYC Animals Diorama

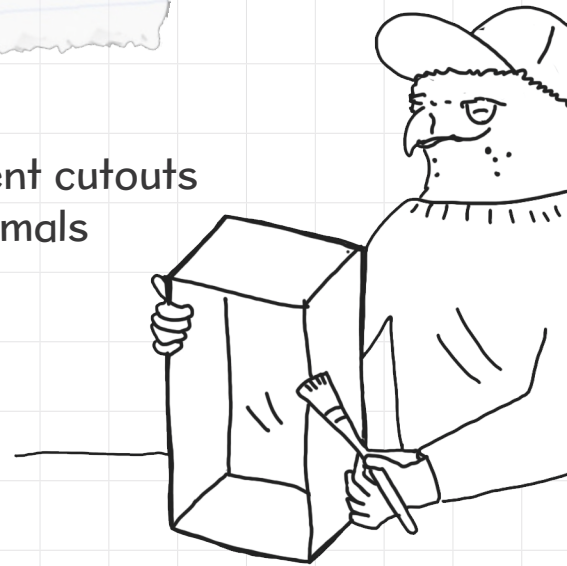
Use the animals and their environment cutouts
to create a habitat for NYC animals

What you'll need

- ☐ A cardboard box
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue or Tape
- ☐ Printed pages (pg.16-21)

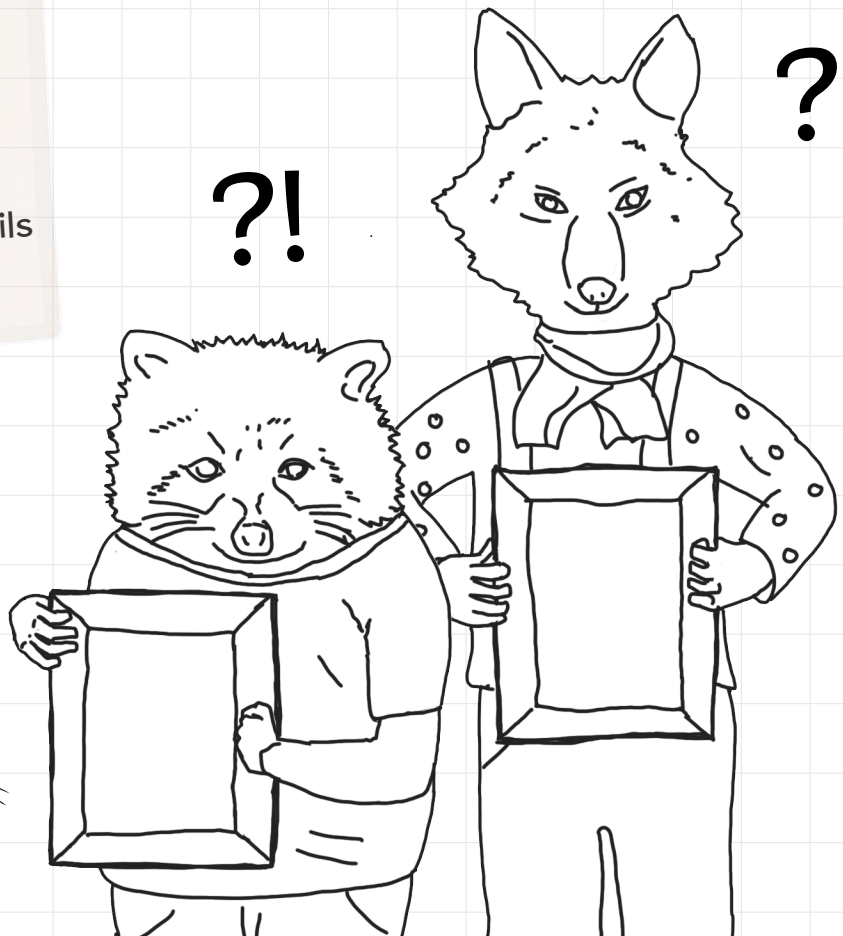
Optional:

- ☐ Crayons or Colored pencils
- ☐ Paintbrush



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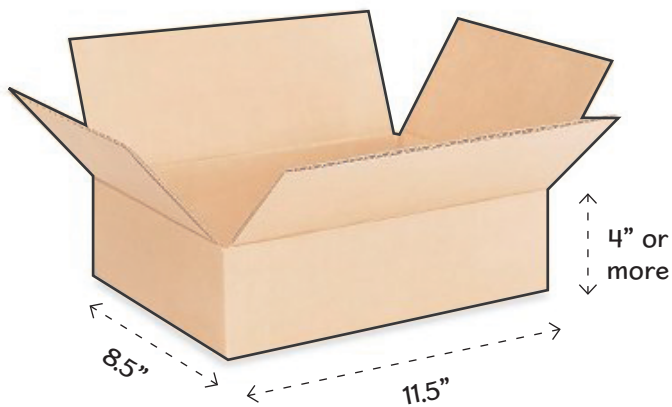
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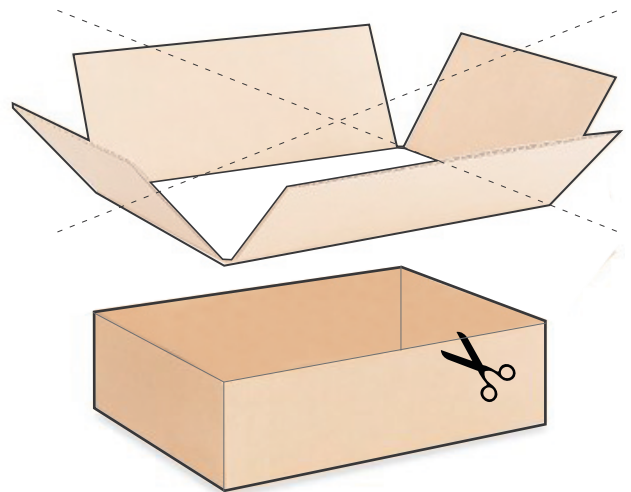
How to Make a Diorama Box for NYC Animals

Here's How...

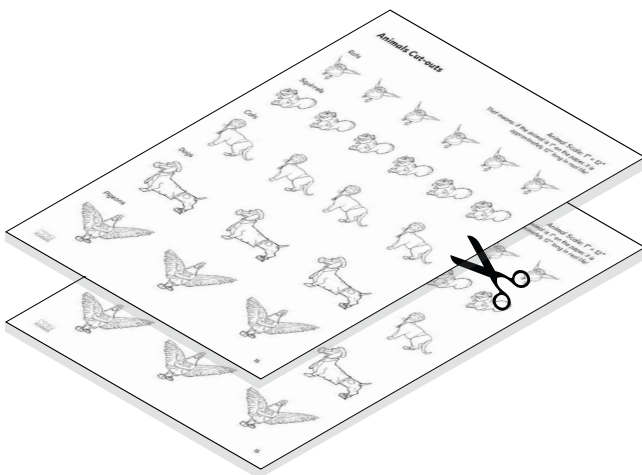
- 1 Get one cardboard box (any small box will do, here we use a box sized 11"x8.5"x4.25")



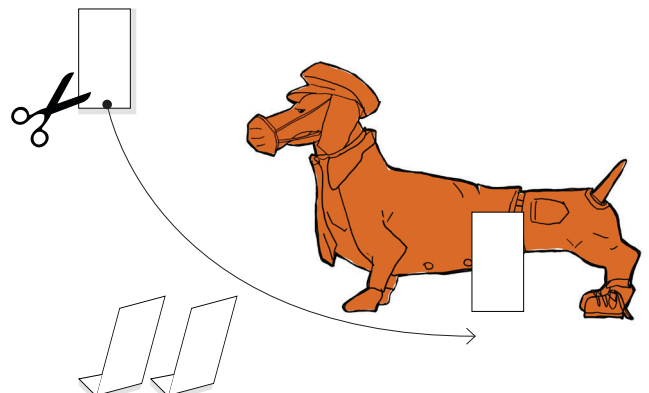
- 2 Cut out the top faces of the box



- 3 Cut out the animals on page 16 & 17



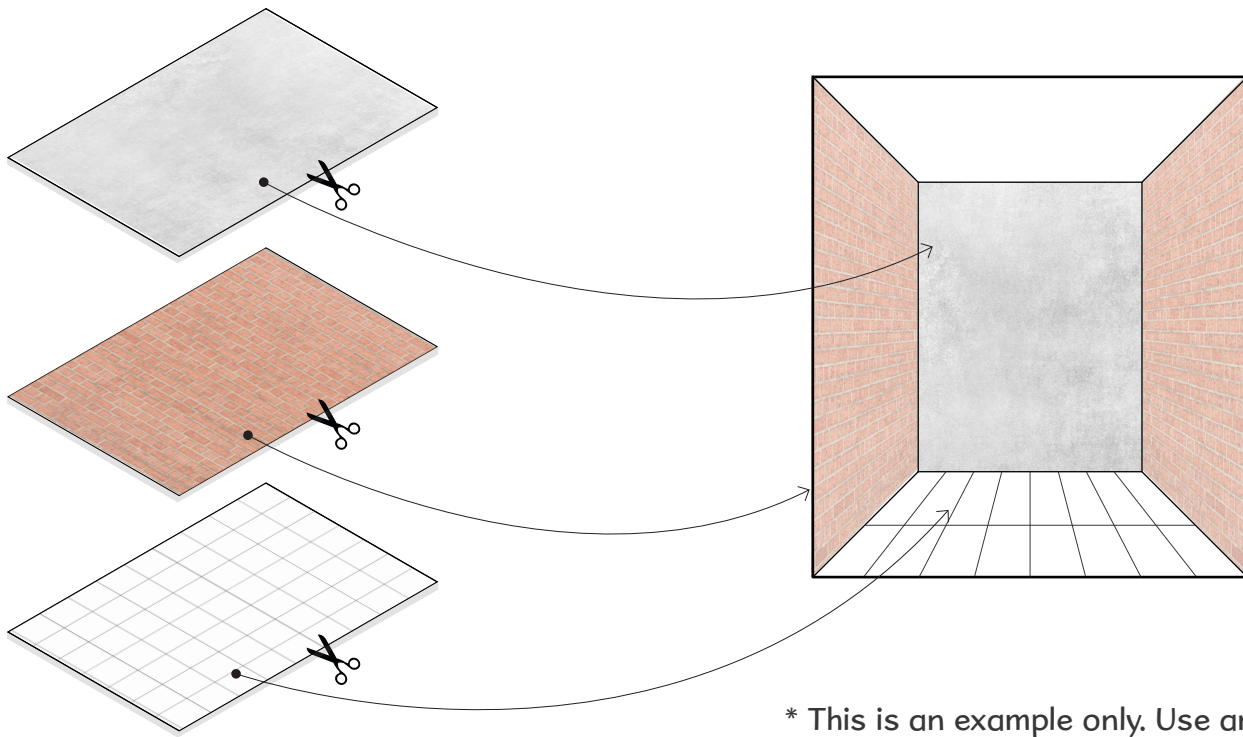
- 4 Cut out the tabs to make supports for the animals



How to Make a Diorama Box for NYC Animals

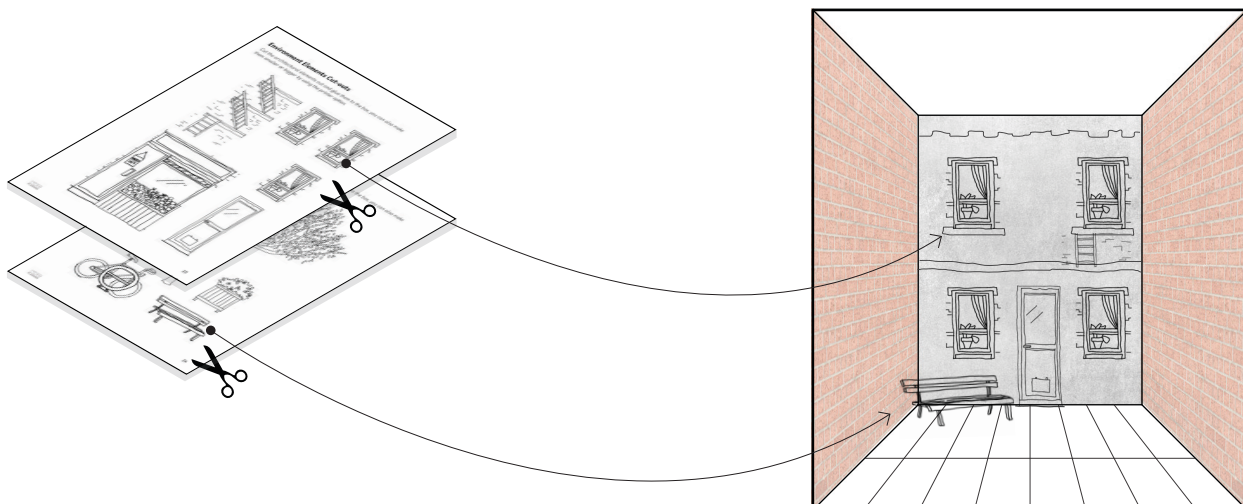
Here's How...

- 5** Optional step: Cut out your favorite background texture such as newspaper or wrapping paper and glue to the sides of the box. Follow for all faces.



* This is an example only. Use any texture, pattern or cool background you have!

- 6** Cut out the elements on pages 18-21 and glue them on the faces.

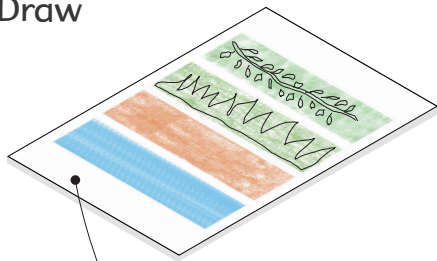


How to Make a Diorama Box for NYC Animals

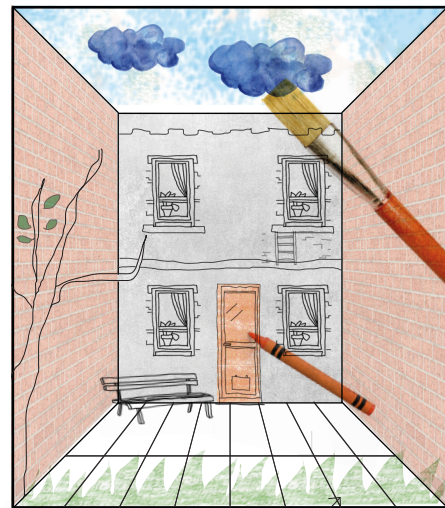
Here's How...

- Optional step: Decorate with colored pencils, crayons, paint, or draw and create your own cut-outs.

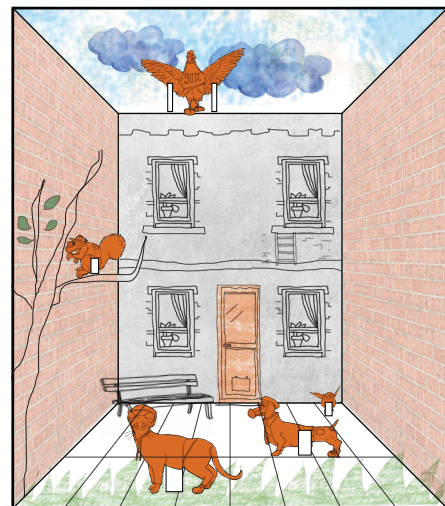
Draw



Cut



- Color and put the animals in the box.



How to Make a Diorama Box for NYC Animals

Here's How...

1. Get one cardboard box (any small box will do, here we use a box sized 11"x8.5"x4.25"). Wipe the box clean with disinfected wipes.
2. Cut out the top faces of the box.
3. Cut out the animals from pages 16 and 17. Pick your favorite animals or all five if you'd like.

Note: the animals are relatively sized to each other. They are scaled at 1"=12". That means, if the animal is 1" on the paper, it is 12" long in real life!

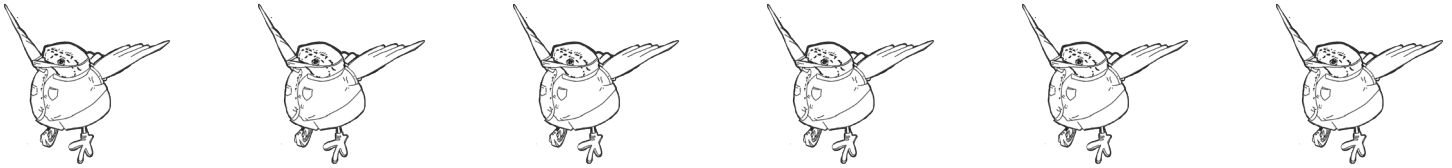
4. Cut out tabs and glue to the animals to make support
Quiz: how many dogs does it take to make 6' (about 1.80m) in real life?
5. Optional step: Cut out your favorite background texture and glue to the sides of the box. Follow for all faces of the box.
6. Cut out the elements provided inside pages 18-21 and glue them to the faces of the box.
7. Optional step: Decorate with colored pencils, crayons, paint, or draw and create your own cut-outs.
8. Color and put the animals in the box.
There you go, you have made a habitat for NYC animals to live in!

Animals Cut-outs

Animal Scale: 1" = 12"

That means: if the animal is 1" on the paper, it is approximately 12" long in real life!

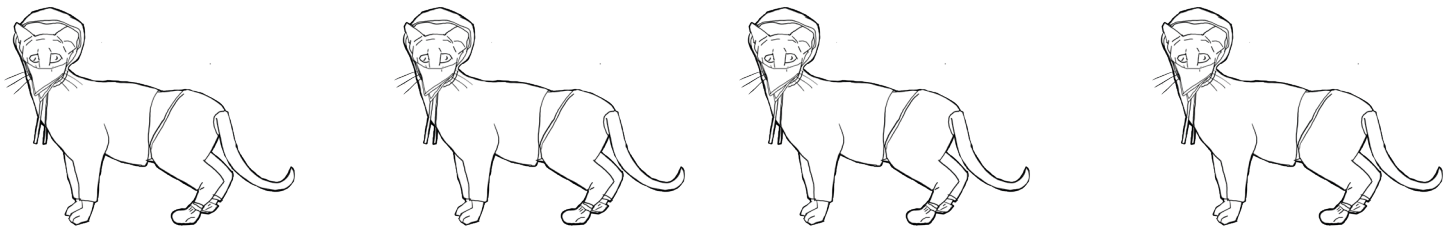
Warblers



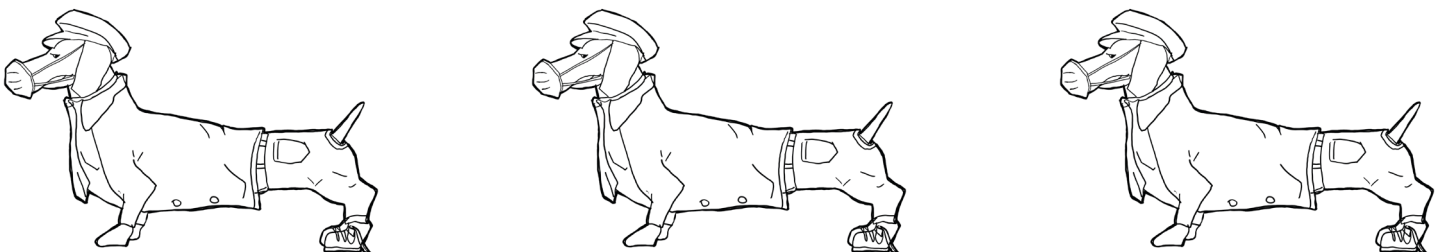
Squirrels



Cats



Dogs



Pigeons

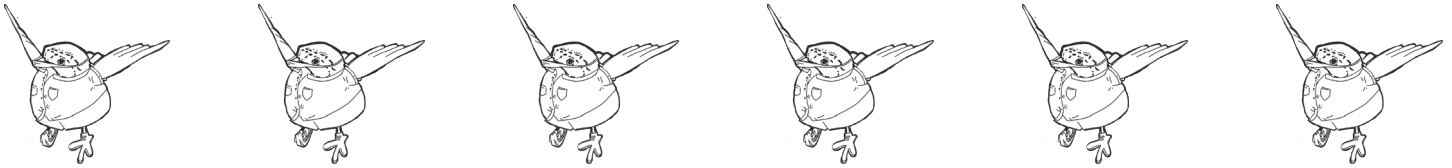


Animals Cut-outs

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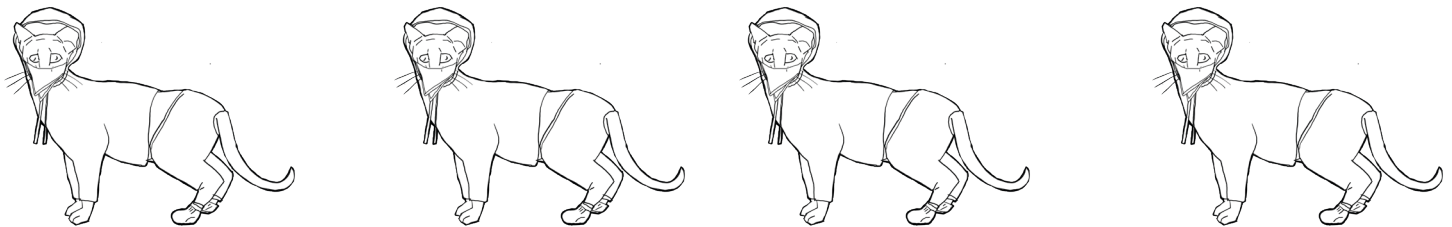
Warblers



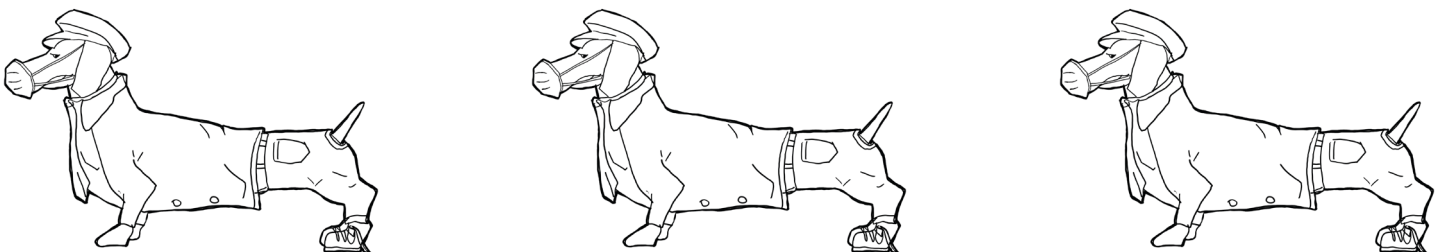
Squirrels



Cats



Dogs

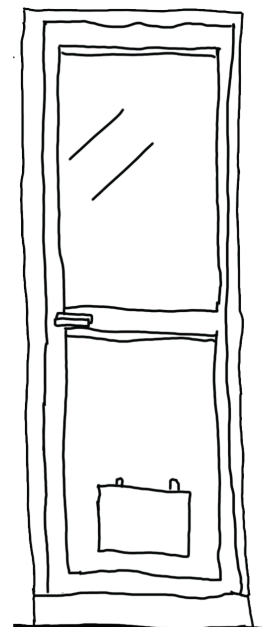
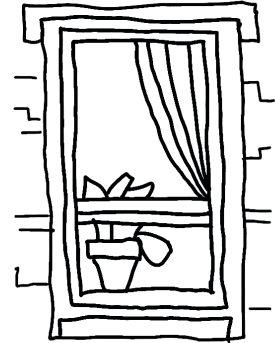
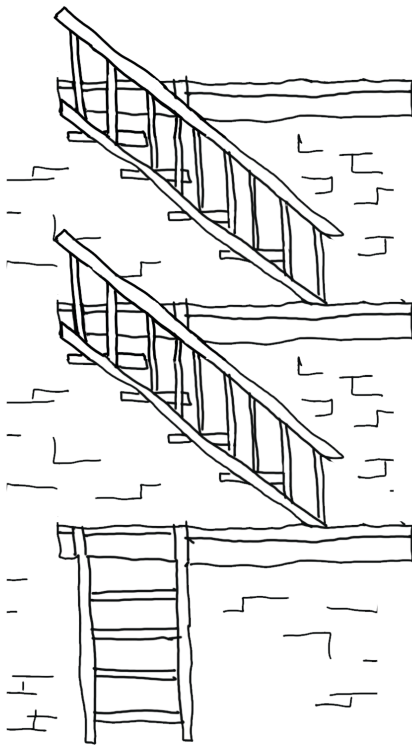


Pigeons



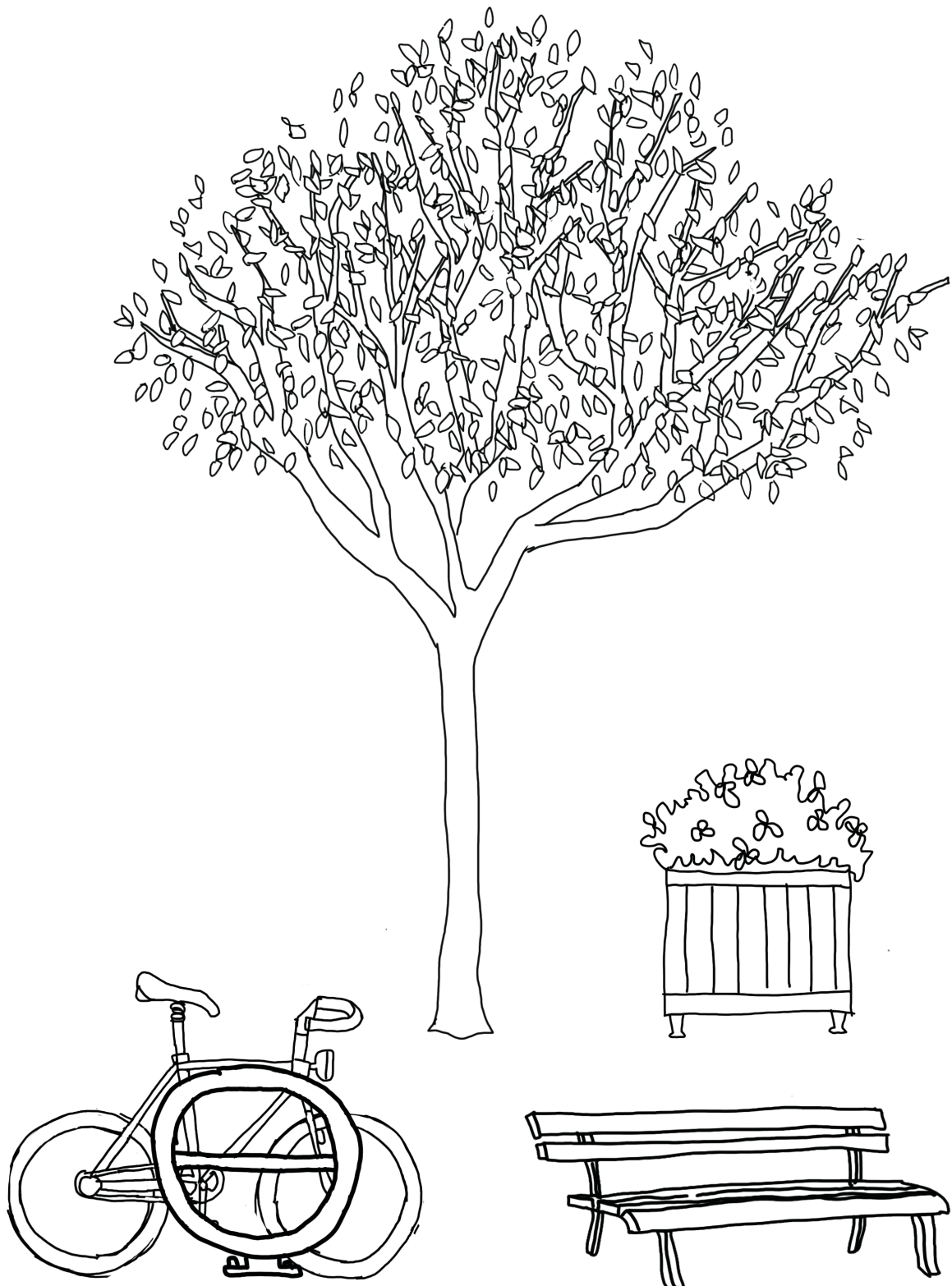
Elements Cut-outs

Cut out the elements and glue them to the box. You can also make them smaller or bigger by using the printer option.



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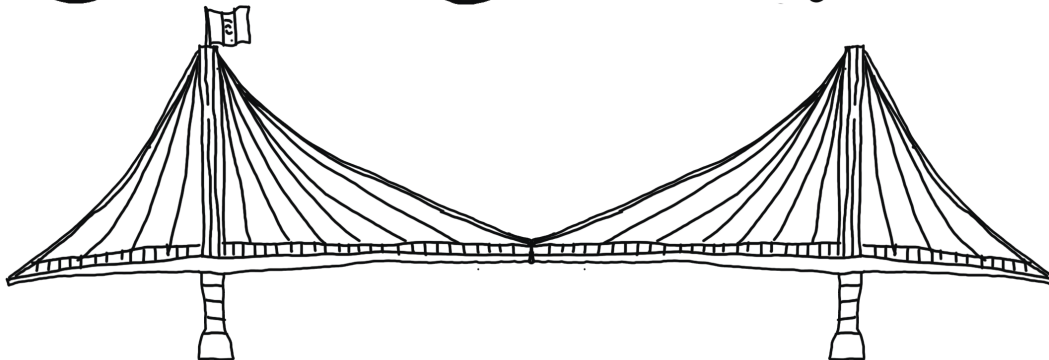
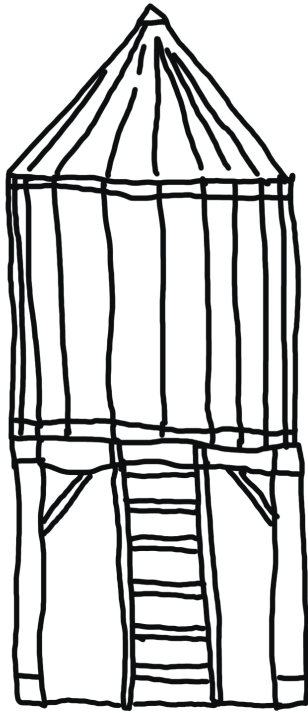
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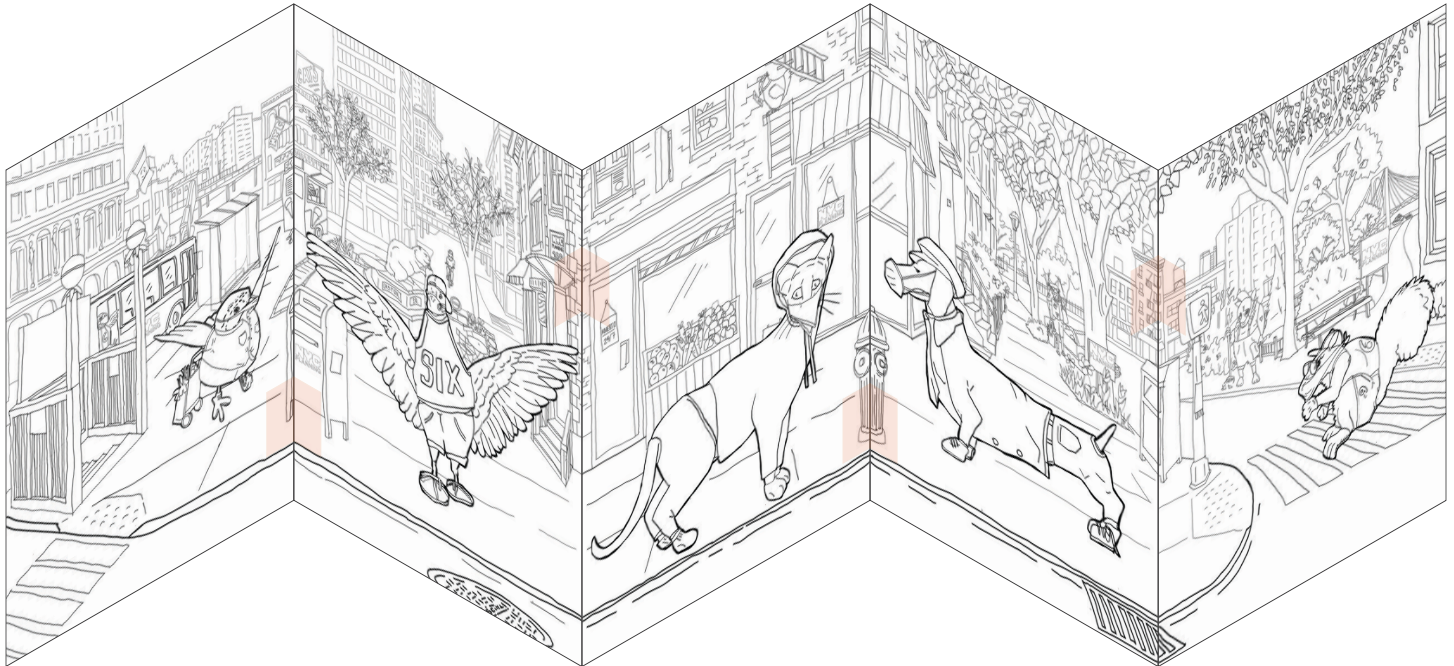
Elements Cut-outs

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Additional Resources & Tips

Tip: Cut out the animal coloring pages within the margins on pages 23-27 and tape them together to see how the animals stand next to each other in the environment.



Warbler

Pigeon

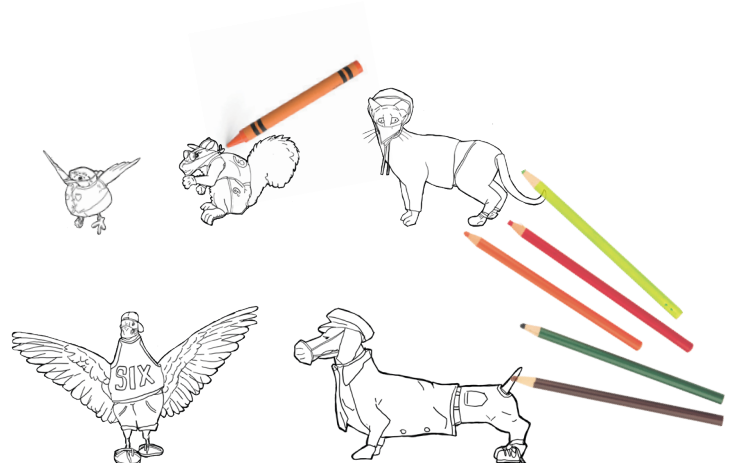
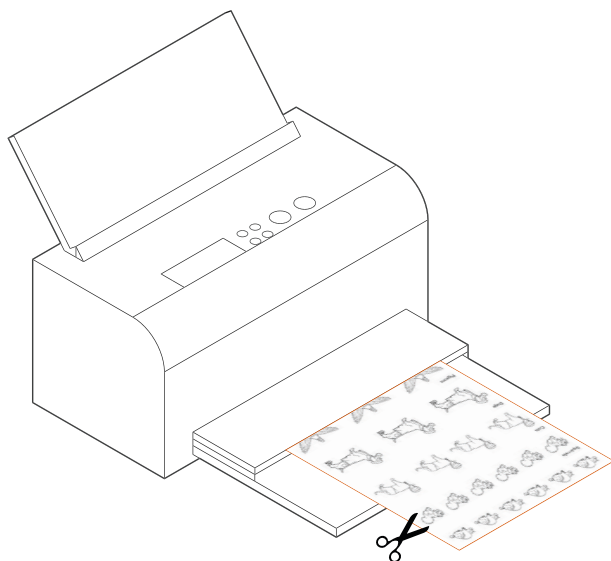
Cat

Dog

Squirrel

Another tip:

Print the animals on pages 16 and 17 on sticker papers to make your own NYC animal stickers.



Squirrels of NYC — The Enthusiastic Tree Climbers



Dogs of NYC — The Loyal Sidewalk Fans



Cats of NYC — The Proud Nap Lovers



Pigeons of NYC— The Opportunistic Observers



Warblers of NYC — The Hasty Commuters

