

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## PLAYING WITH FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE: **THE METAPHOR GAME**

Have you ever heard of a metaphor? Poets make metaphors all the time when they compare things that are very different from each other. The poet Emily Dickinson wrote a poem comparing hope to a little bird.

You can do this too. It is a fun way to think about the things around you and see them in new ways. Here is a game you can play to help you make your own metaphor and maybe even write a poem.

### **CREATE YOUR METAPHOR**

Cut out the noun word cards, so that you have nine small pieces of paper. Put these in a container or lay them face down. Close your eyes and choose a noun. List everything you can think of that the noun does. (For example, for a car you might write things like: It sits in our driveway. It moves forward. It takes us places. It spews exhaust and pollutes the air. It holds my whole family and makes us squeeze together.) Choose a second noun word card. This will be the subject of your metaphor. Write this noun at the top of your list to see how well your metaphor comes together.

### **LOOK AT YOUR METAPHOR**

If you followed the directions carefully you will have created something very interesting that begins with one thing but describes what a totally different thing does. You might think "Wow, I can see how a river does the same things as a pencil!"

If you like what you wrote, you might want to copy it over as a poem. You may want to cross out lines that just seem silly or don't fit in with what you want to say and replace them with other things that you have thought of.

### **TRY ANOTHER ONE!**

If you don't like the first one you wrote, try another. It may take a few tries before you make a metaphor that you like. Also, you can put any words in your container that you want. It's fun to try abstract nouns like hope, joy, and fear.

# WRITE IT OUT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Noun #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject of Metaphor: (noun #2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(choose after filling in the blanks below for Noun #1)

It

\_\_\_\_\_

It

\_\_\_\_\_

It also

\_\_\_\_\_

And sometimes it

\_\_\_\_\_

But most importantly, it

\_\_\_\_\_

Noun #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject of Metaphor: (noun #2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(choose after filling in the blanks below for Noun #1)

It

\_\_\_\_\_

It

\_\_\_\_\_

It also

\_\_\_\_\_

And sometimes it

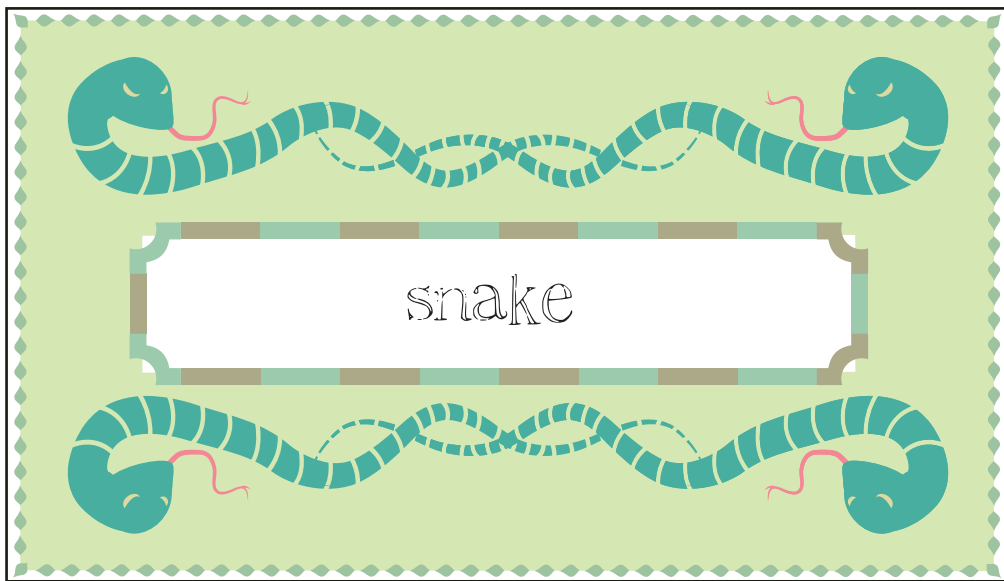
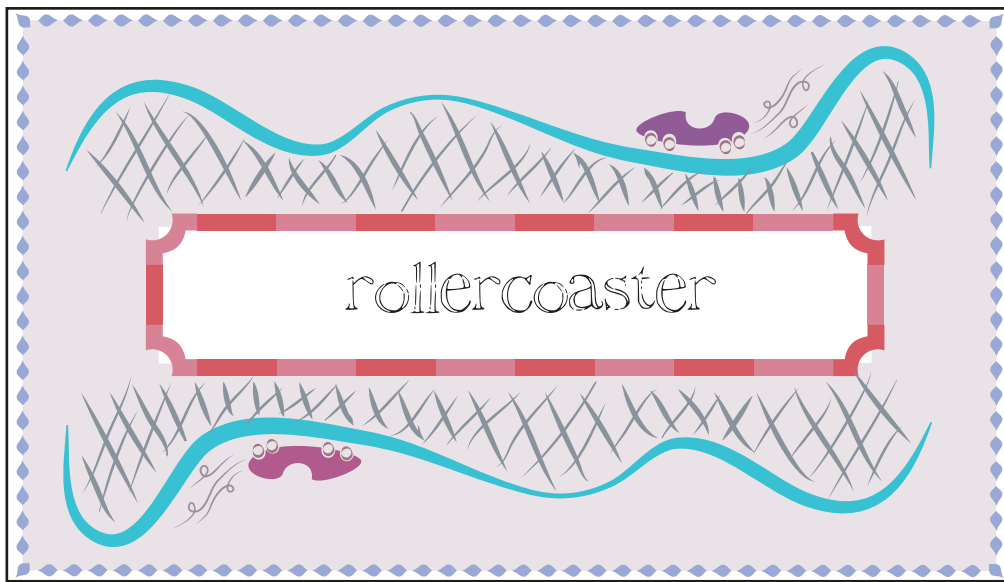
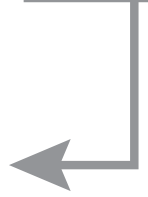
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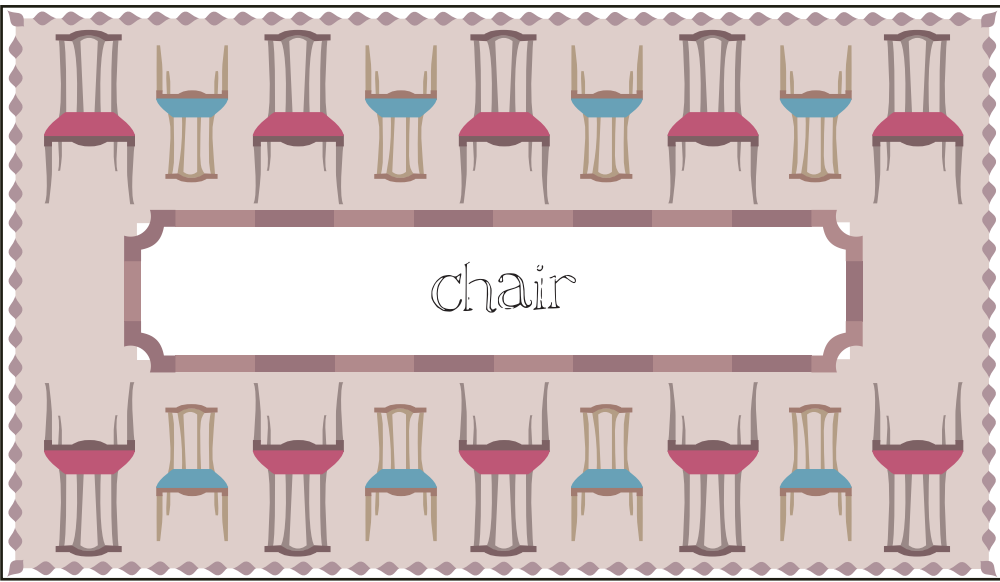
But most importantly, it

\_\_\_\_\_



Cut along  
dotted line



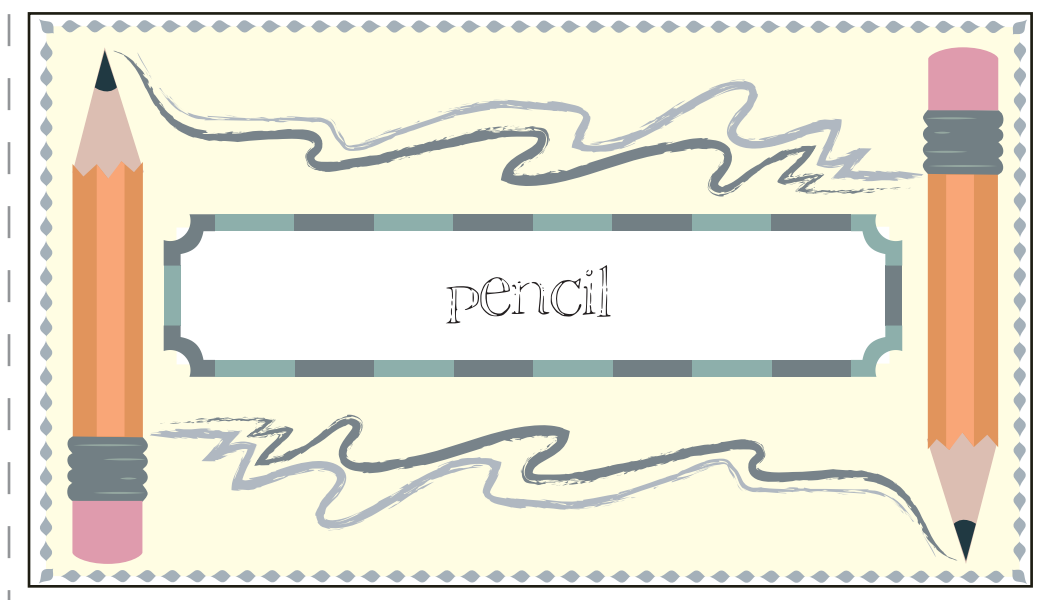


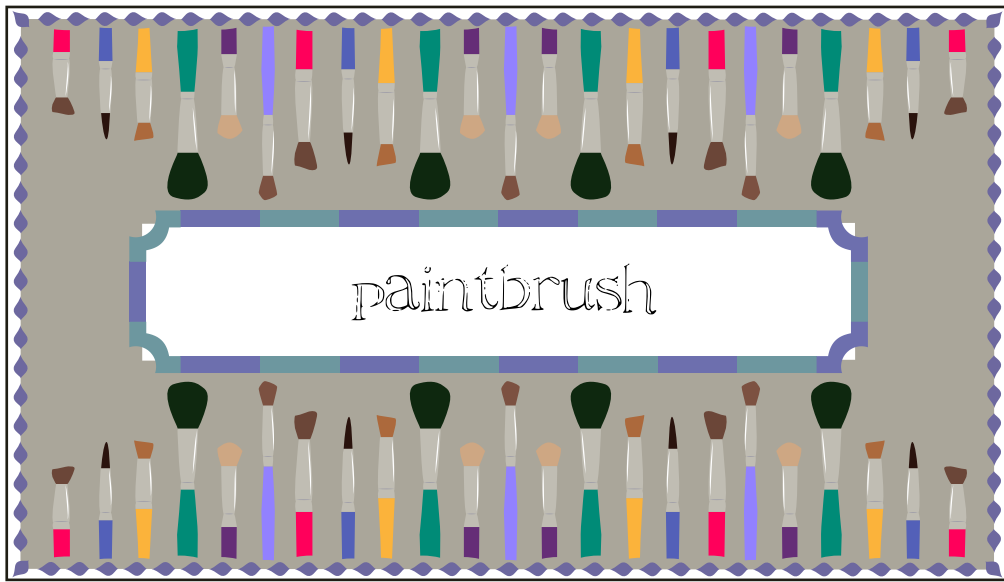
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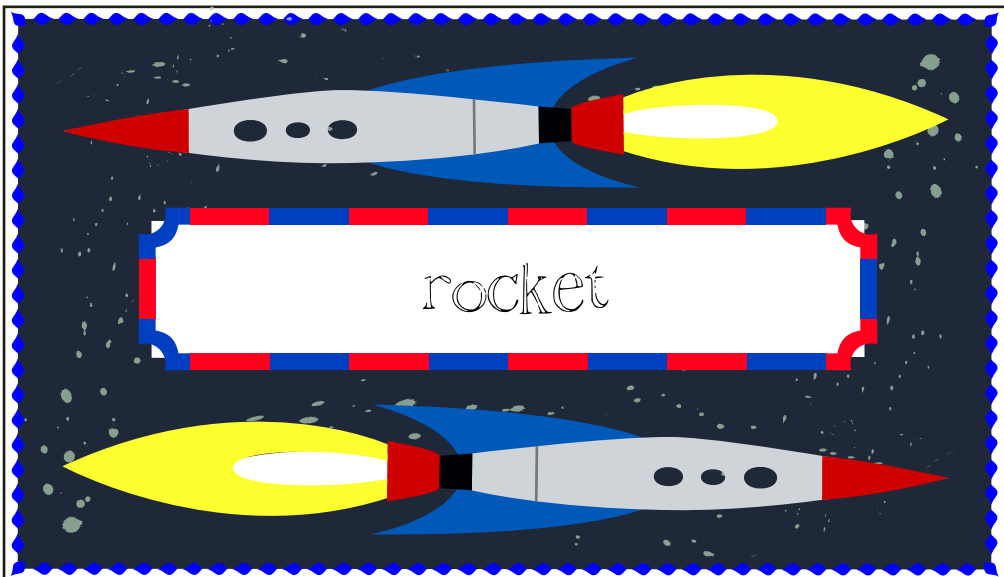
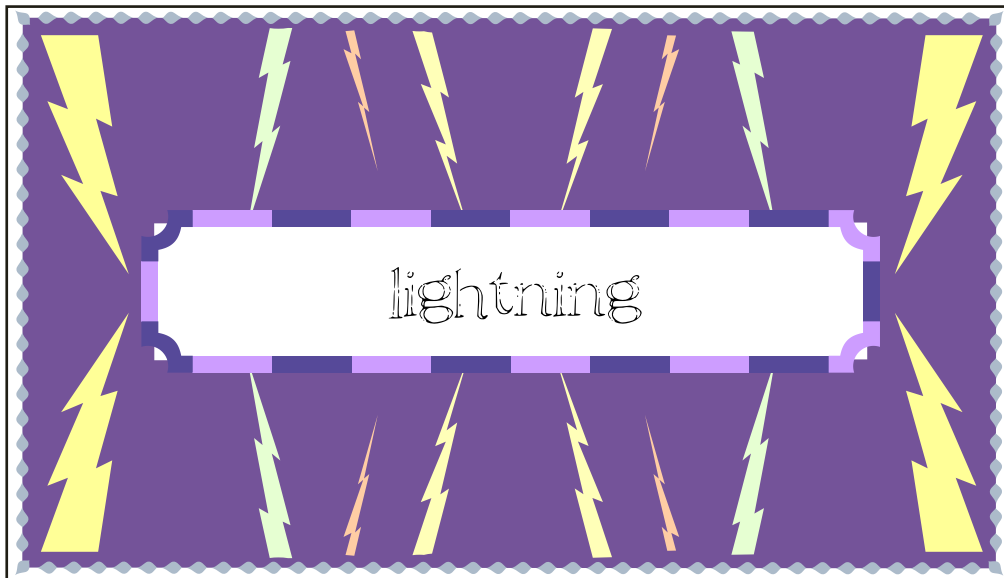
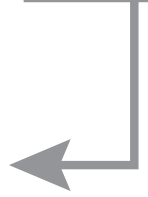


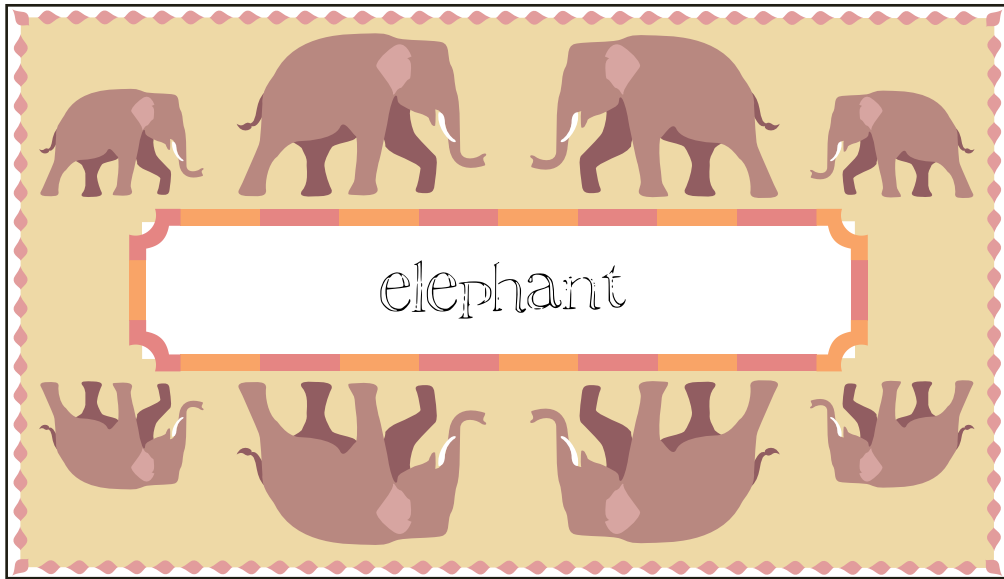
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