

All For Fun...  
And Fun For All!



FREE

# A TO Z ANIMAL MASKS

Print Them Out  
Cut Them Out  
Wear Them Out





Over  
**400**  
Masks!

All For Fun...  
And Fun For All!

# Masketeers<sup>®</sup>

Your A-Z animal masks are from Masketeers.com the biggest collection of printable masks on the internet! Whatever mask you're after – from Aardvarks and Zebras to Aliens and Zombies – you're sure to find them here. But if you can't find the mask you're looking for we even do requests! So you'll never be stuck for masks again.

They're perfect for school plays, birthday parties or fun making and playing days and will save you hours of preparation time. All the animal masks come with a '5 Fun Facts' sheet you can use to teach kids about their creations!

So if you're a busy parent or teacher and you need some more masks quickly, check us out! By the way – feel free to share this freebie mask book with anyone you think might find it useful.





**Hey! Here's a quick run through for making perfect masks.**

Making the masks is really easy, all you're going to need is a printer, some sticky tape and a pair of scissors or craft knife. If you're going to be coloring and creating the template masks though, we recommend you get in some more supplies to make it a real fun day!

Apart from the obvious paint, crayons and pens and pencils, you could get in some sequins, beads, buttons, glitter, pasta shapes, colored tissue papers, tin foil and very important – some glue! Using the masks as a base, kids can make some works of art to really be proud of.

Ok, once you've got your set up all ready, here's a quick run through of how to make the perfect mask.

1. When printing out a mask select fit to page in the printer control panel, this will make sure none of the mask gets cropped off. Printer friendly card is ideal for making the masks, so get a load of this in. If you haven't got any card handy, you can just print them out onto normal paper and stick them onto some card.

2. Once you've printed out the mask cut it out carefully. Some are a bit trickier than others, but that's the nature of the beast!

3. To make the eye holes you can just jab a pen through and carefully trim the edges. Or if you're a bit more of a perfectionist, cut out little circles with a craft knife. You don't need to cut out around all the black pupil bit, roughly measure where the eyes are and cut out a 2cm circle within the black.

4. Now for fixing the mask to the head we recommend you print out some of the arms at the back of the book. They're better and easier than using a rubber band and won't stretch the mask over the face – making a more comfortable fit as they'll rest on the ears like a pair of specs.

Simply fold down around 2cm and sticky tape it to the back on each side about 2cm from each eye hole, then wrap around the head, cut to size and fix in place with some more tape. Or alternatively, you can just glue the masks on a stick.

5. That's it you're done. Now enjoy the fun!

**Aardwolf** Aardvark was too obvious, So here's the Aardwolf instead!

**Bison** Big ol' bouncing Bison!

**Chimpanzee** The cheeky, chatty, chimp!

**Donkey** The dependable Donkey, always there for you!

**Elephant** Couldn't forget the Elephant!

**Fox** The wiley old fox sneaked his way in!

**Giraffe** The majestic Giraffe has gotta be in too!

**Hippo** Hungry for the Hippo!

**Iguana** Chillin' out and catching rays, the Iguana's always a hit!

**Jackal** Clever, curious, and full of mischief - that's our Jackal!

**Koala Bear** The Cutesy Koala, everyone loves these!

**Lion** King of the jungle - can't be missed out!

**Moose** Mr Moose, he's gotta be in - he's the Masketeers logo!

**Narwhal** These guys are amazing, and they're real unlike the Unicorn ;)

**Orangutan** Right turn Clyde! (Google is your friend if you don't know!)

**Panda** Everybody was Kung-Fu fighting!

**Quokka** Bet you haven't heard of this little critter before!

**Razorback** Tough, spiky, and impossible to ignore - the Razorback rocks!

**Shark** Sink your teeth into fun with our fin-tastic Shark!

**Tiger** They're Grrreat!

**Unicorn** We know, we know - but she's one of our most popular masks!

**Vulture** Picks up the slack from the lack of birds in the A-Z list!

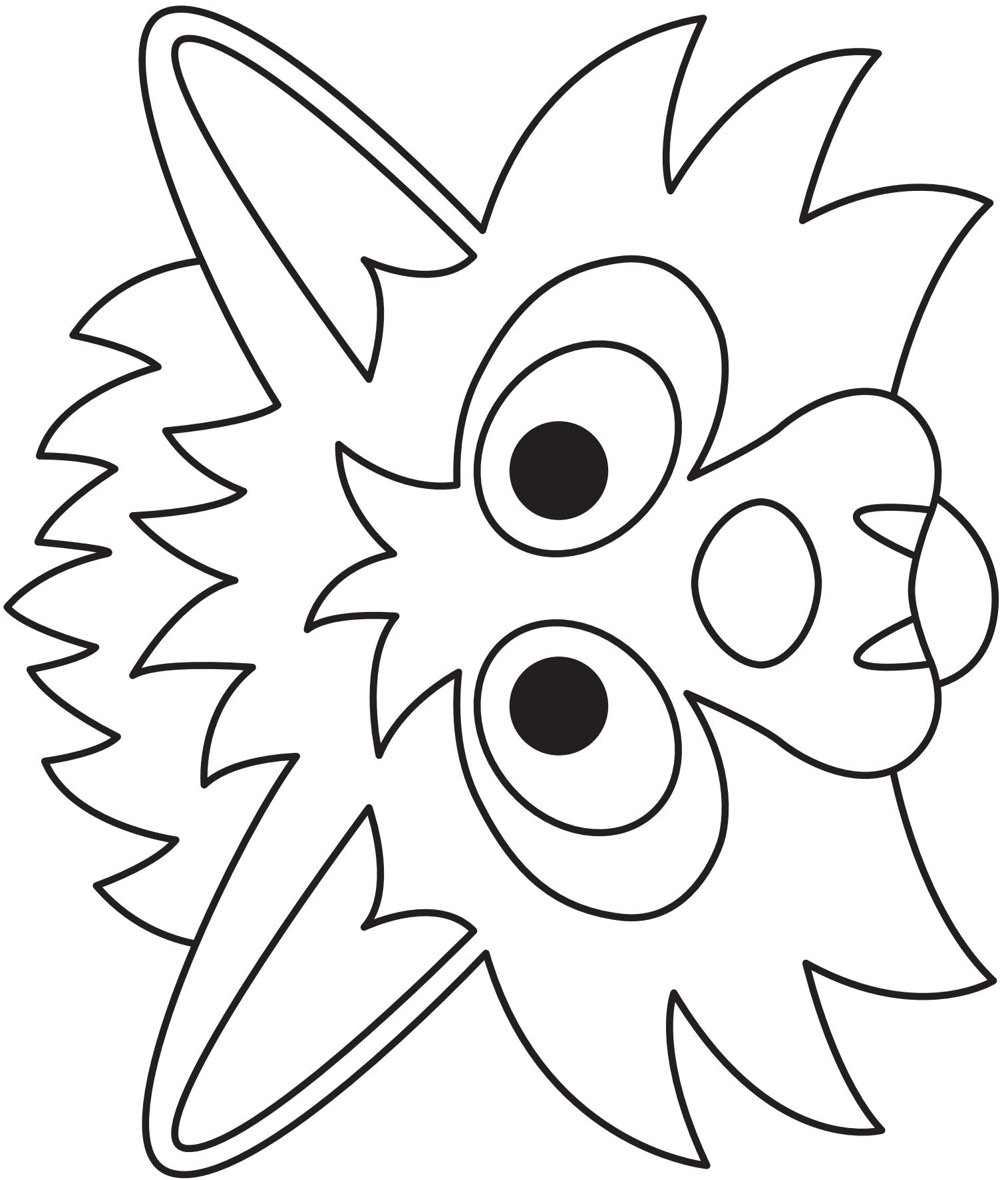
**Whale** Have a whale of a time!

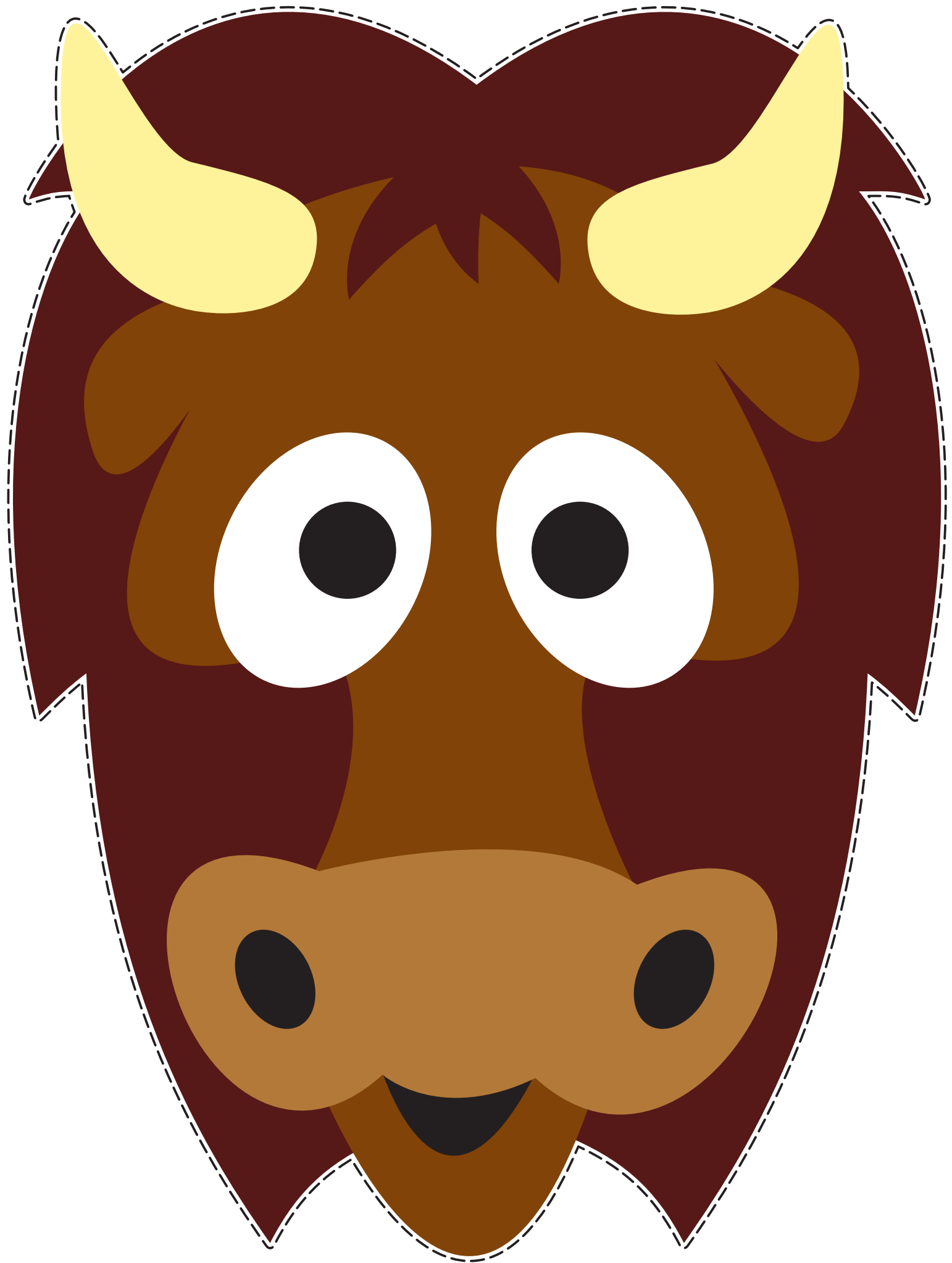
**X-Ray Fish** Mr X the classic for the letter X!

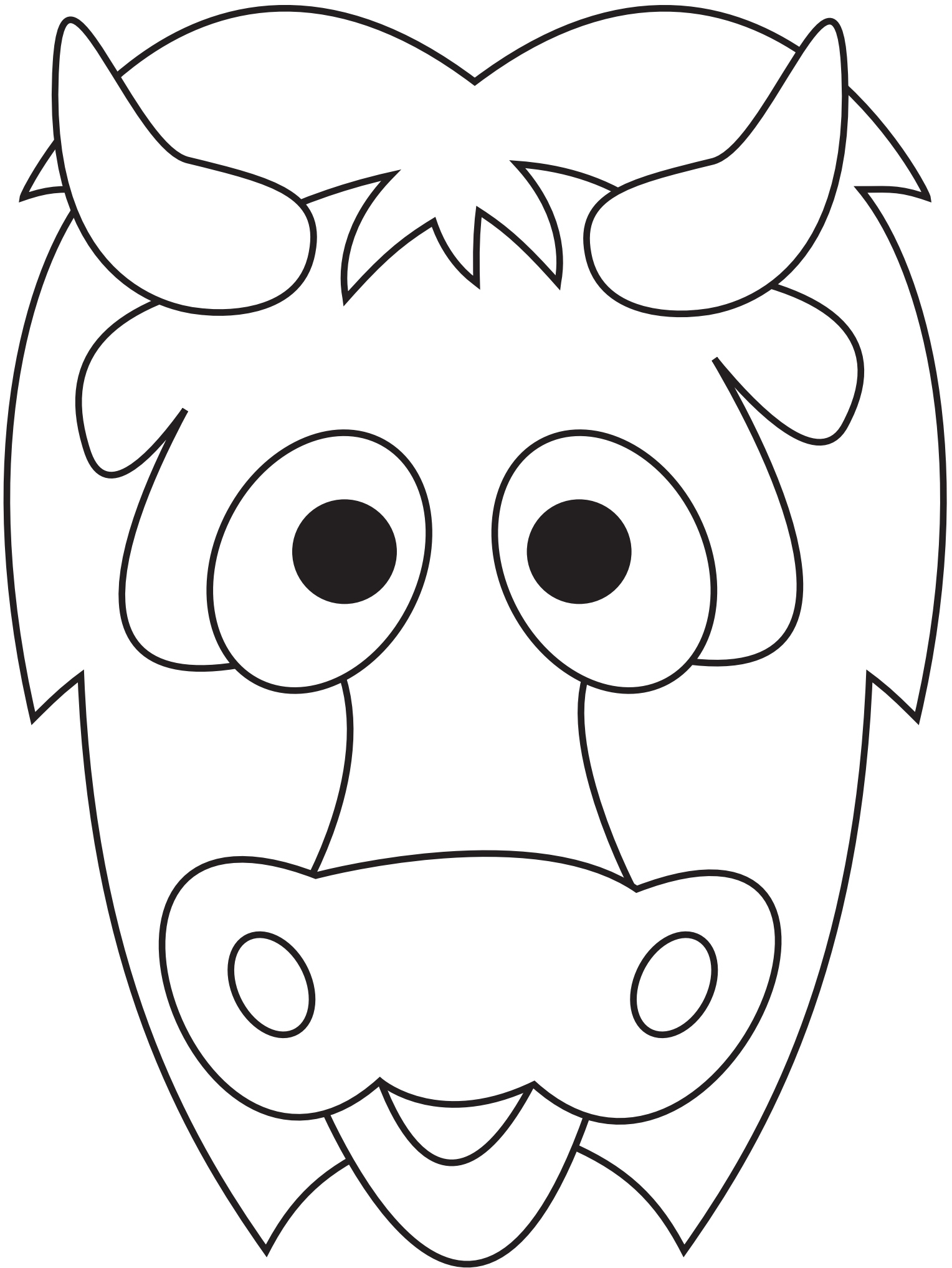
**Yak** The Yak is cool, and there's not that many animals beginning with Y!

**Zebra** It's gotta end with the Zebra!

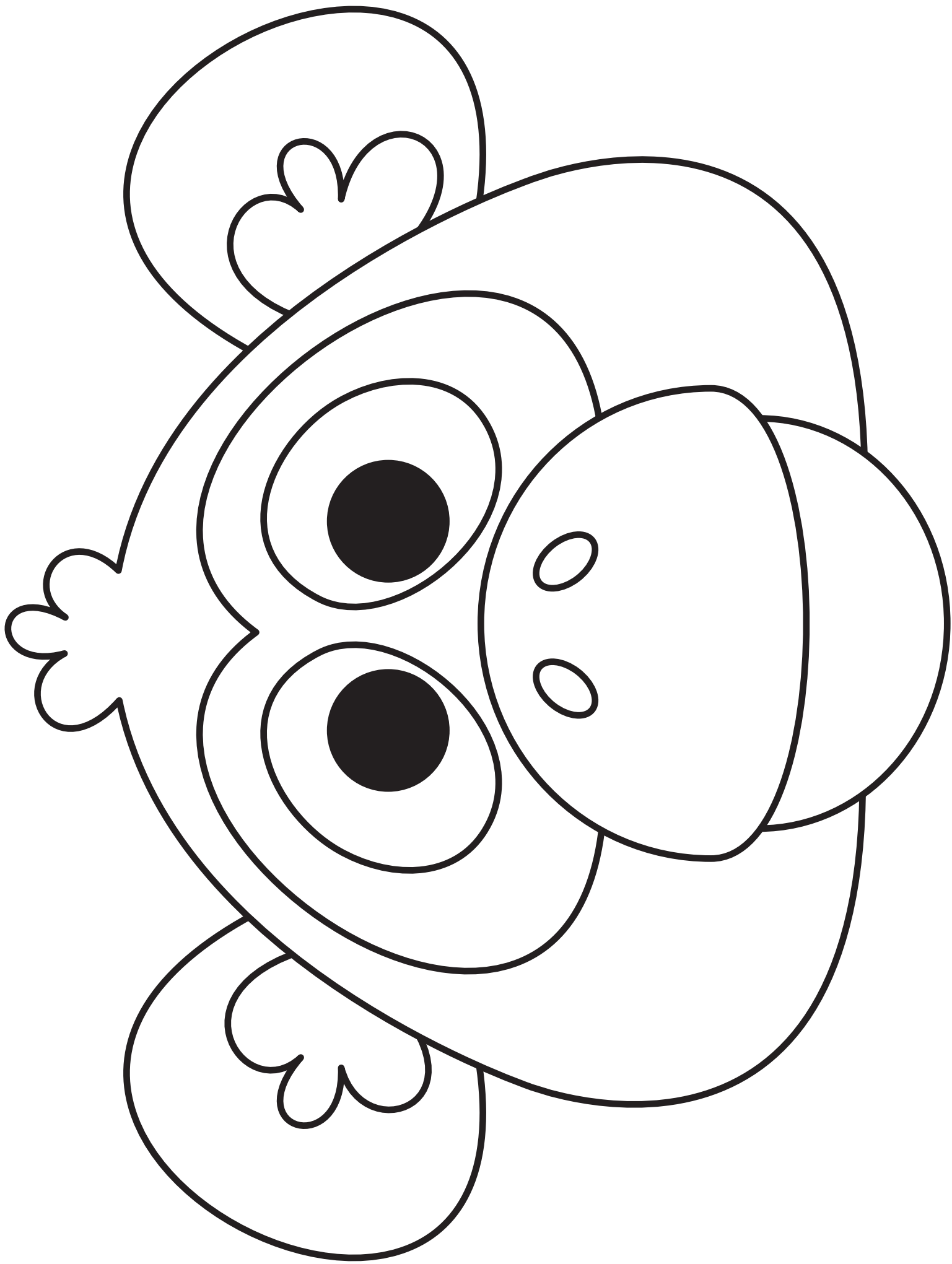




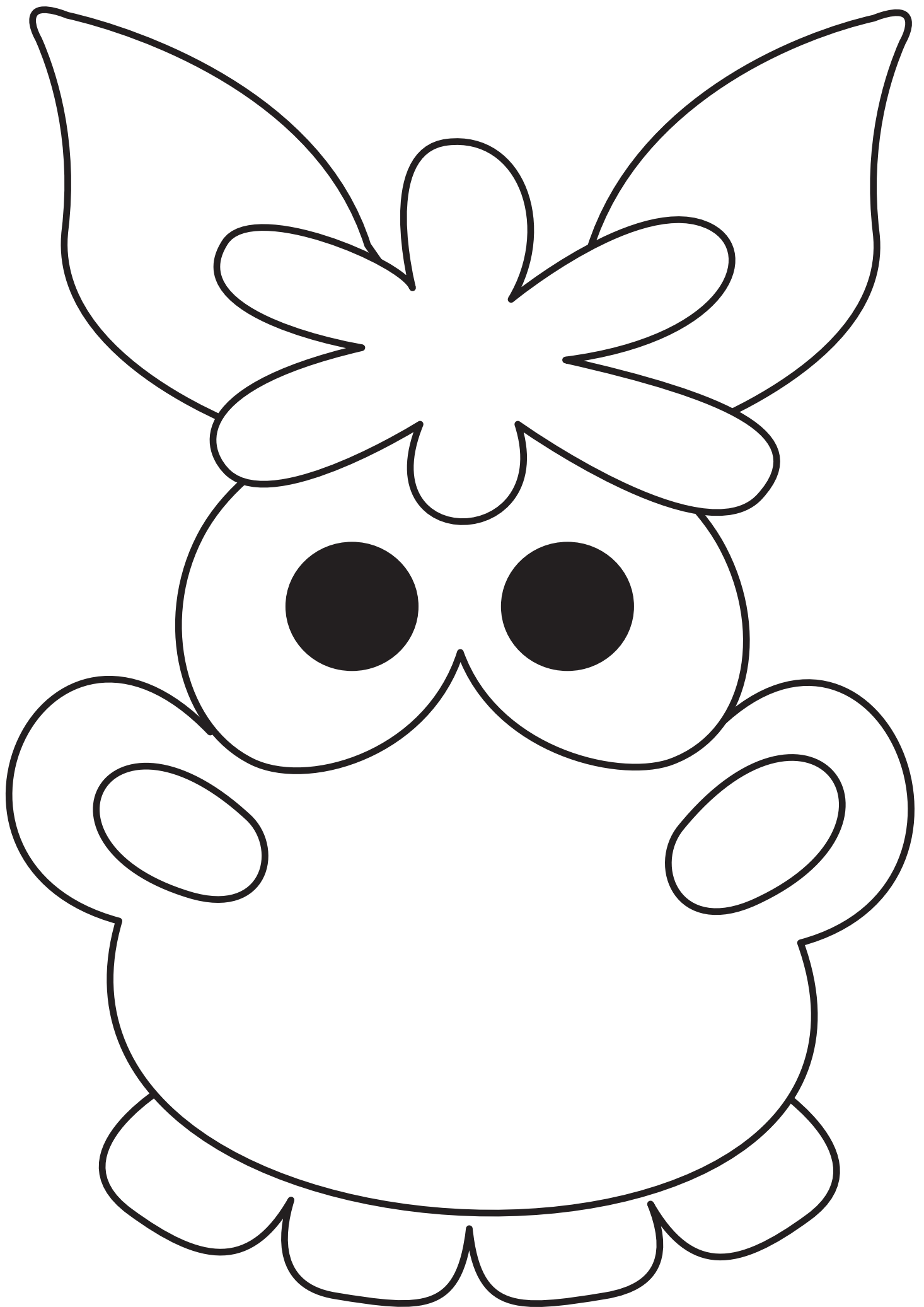


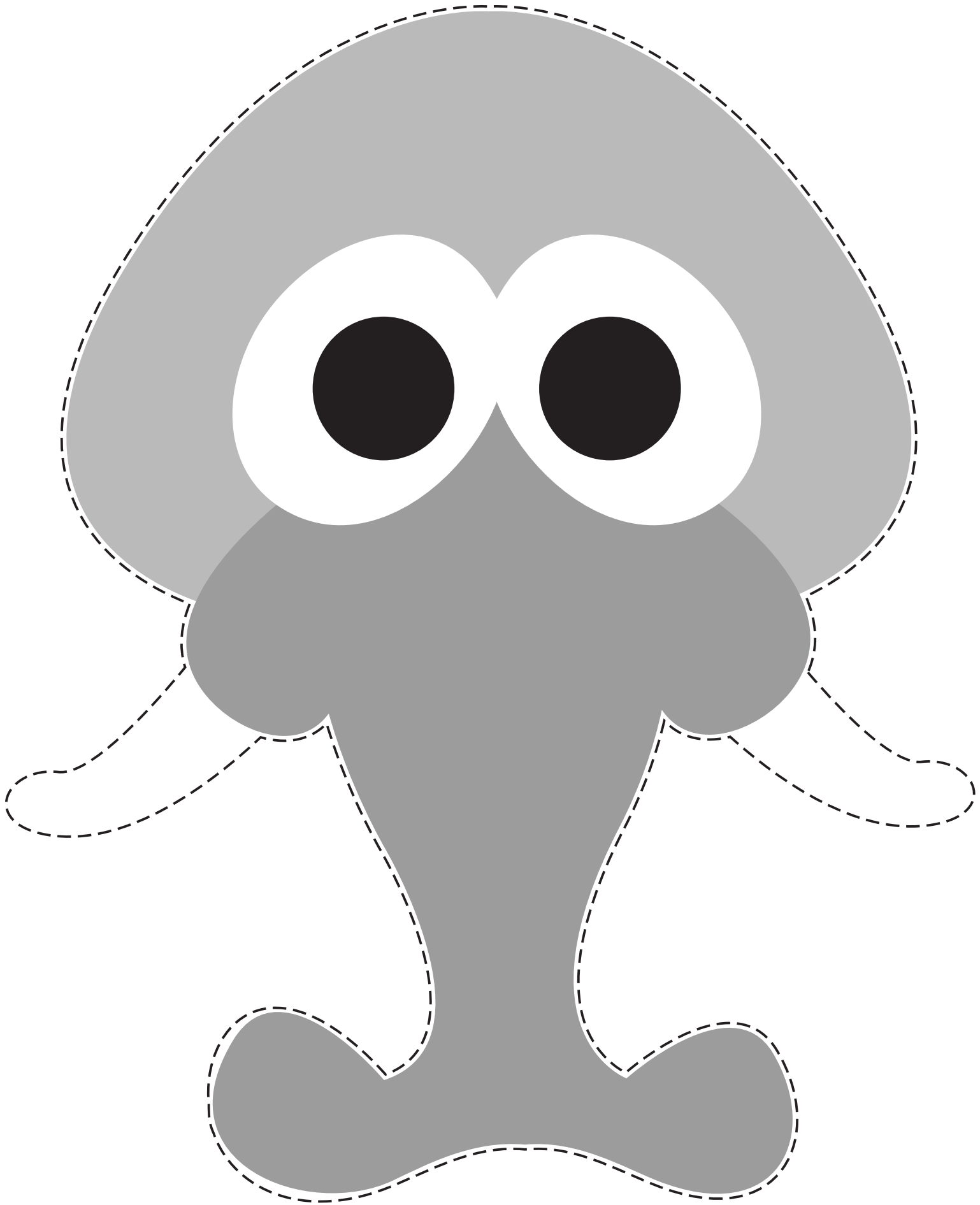


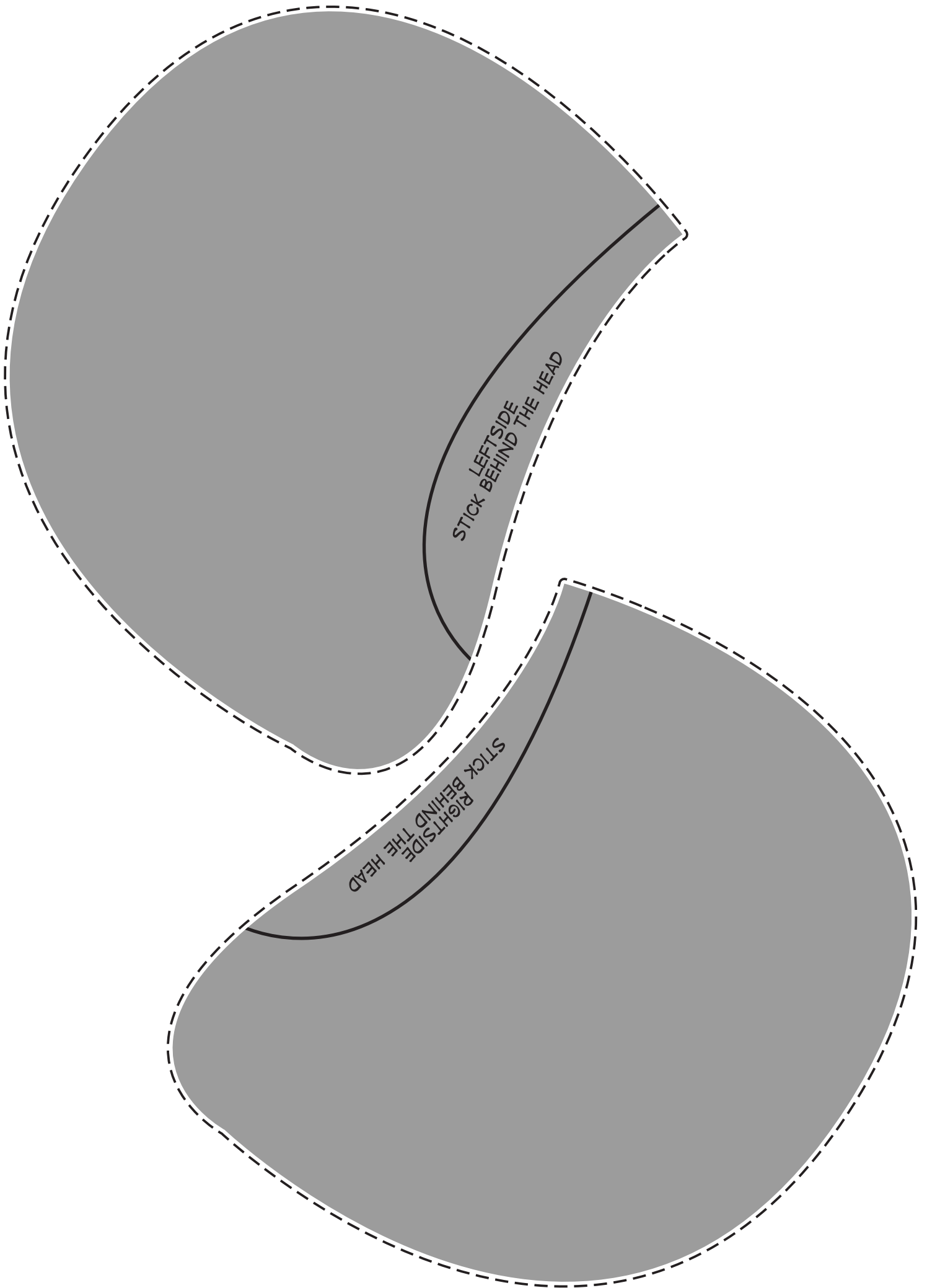


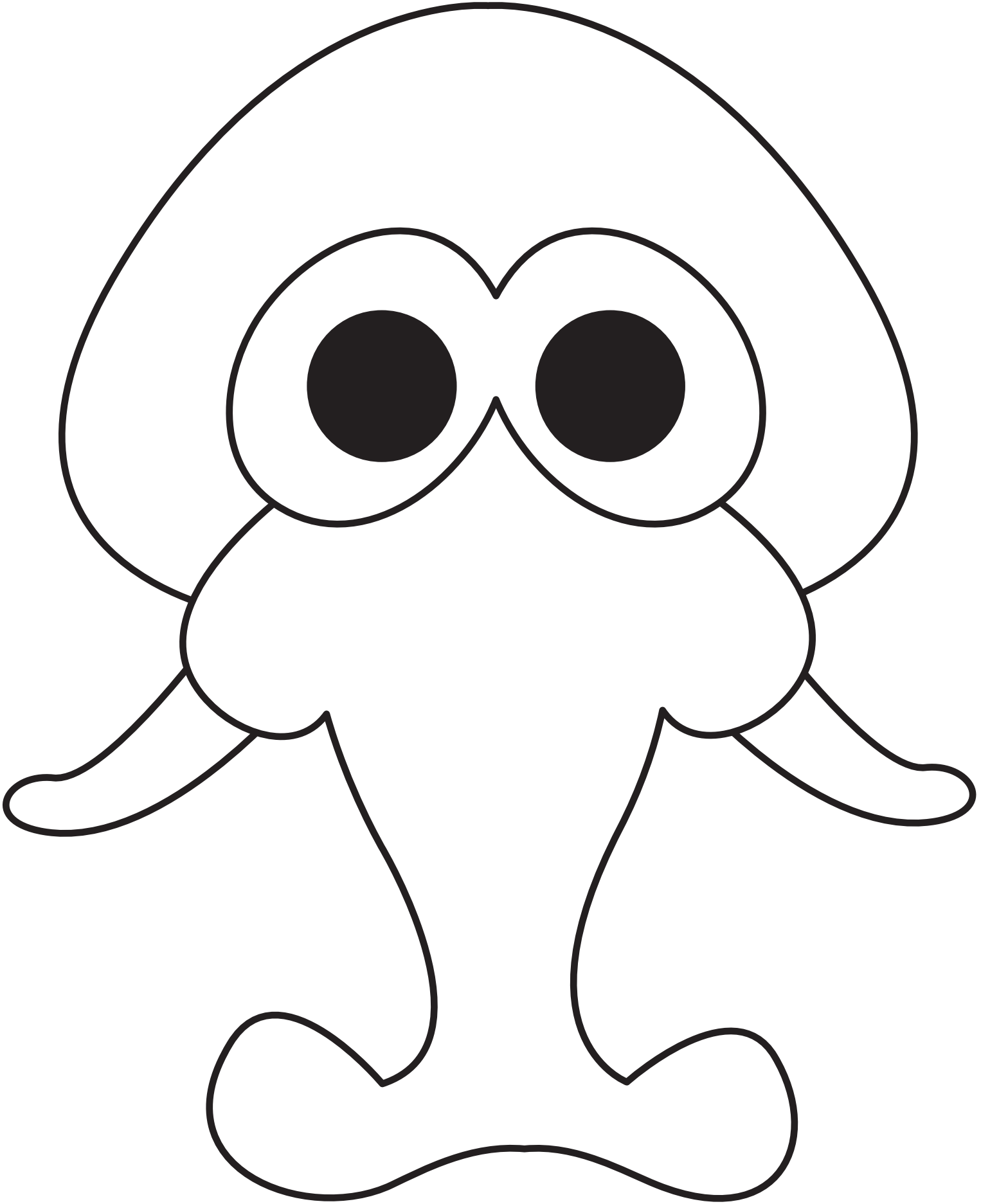


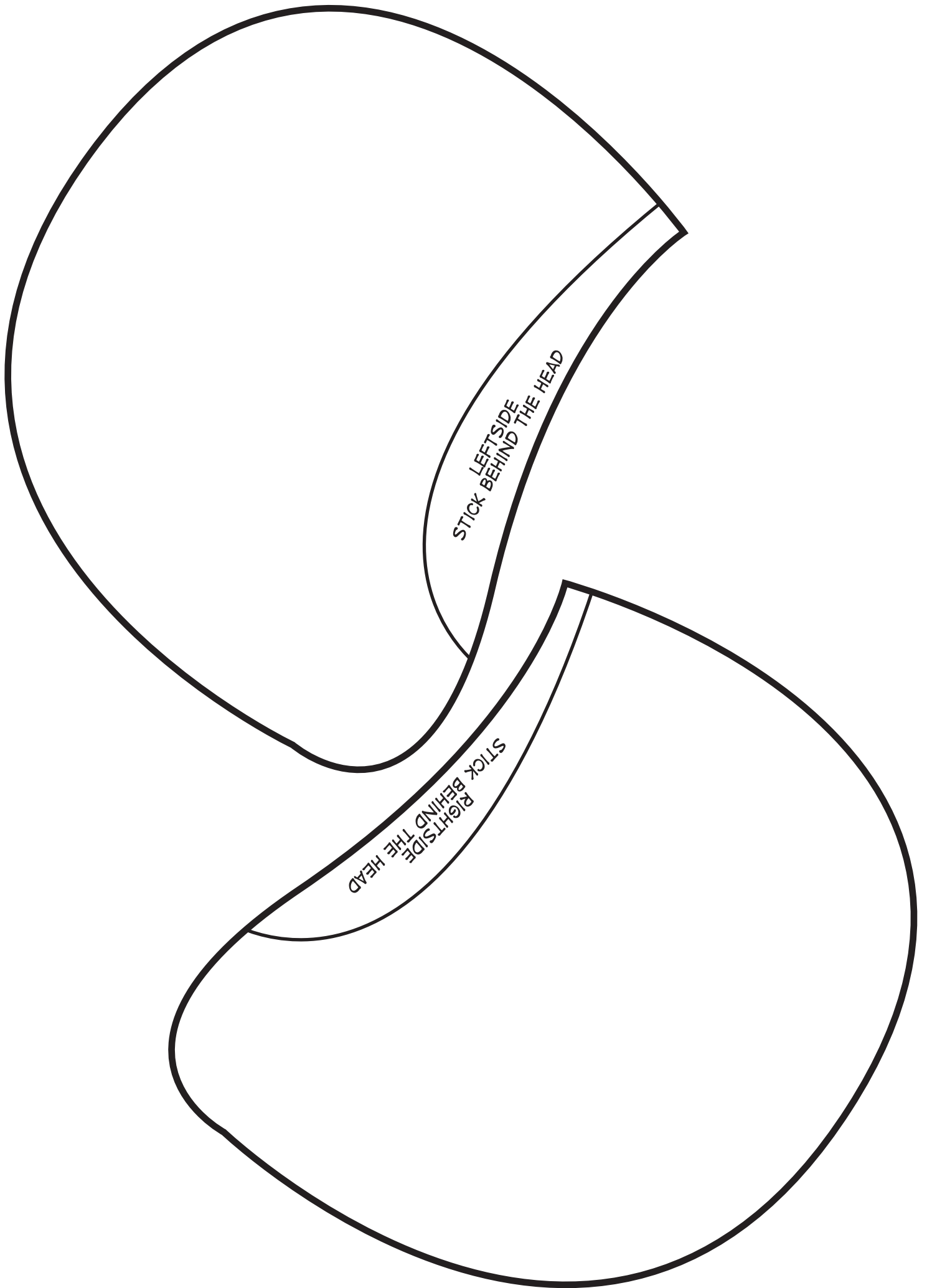


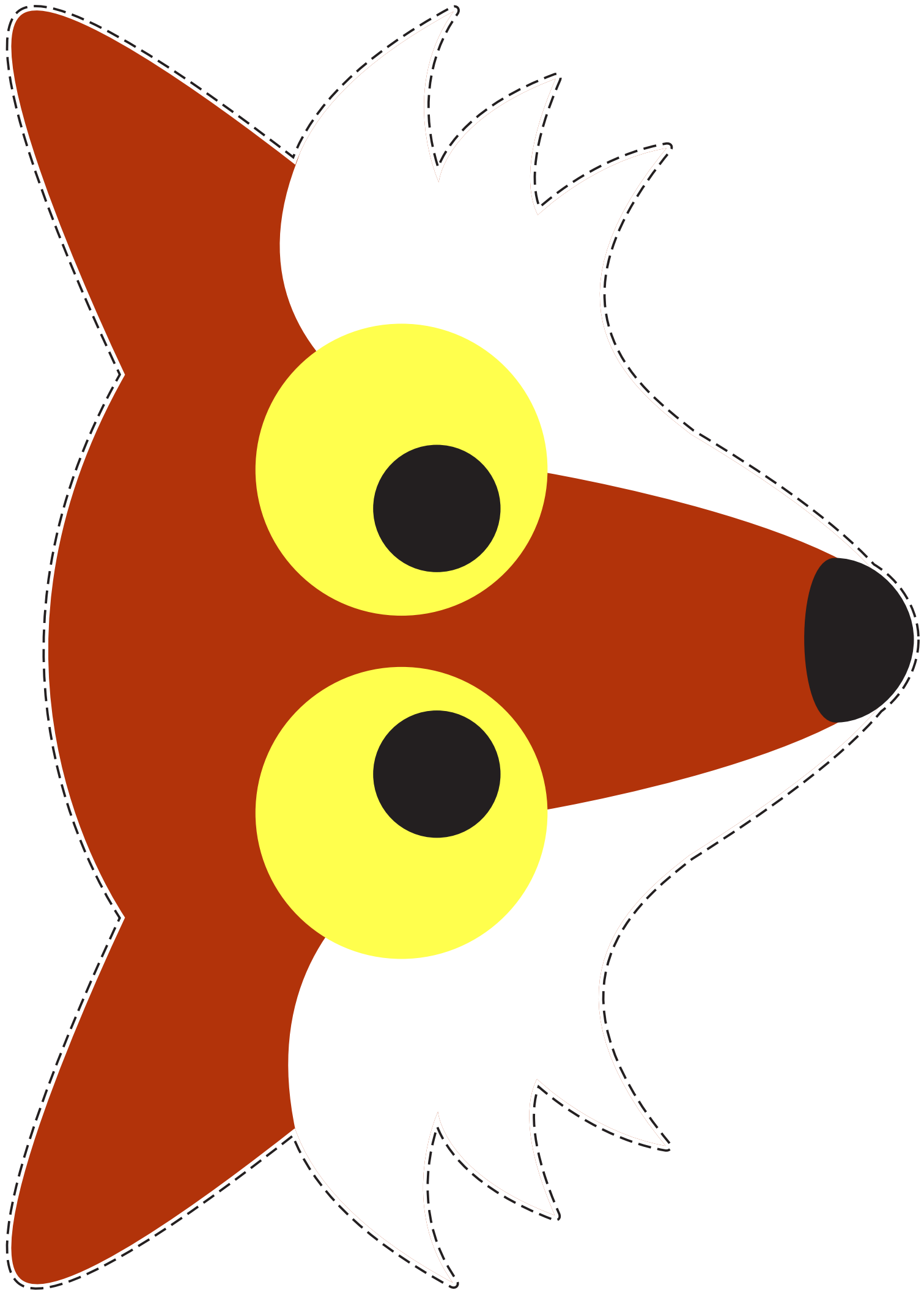


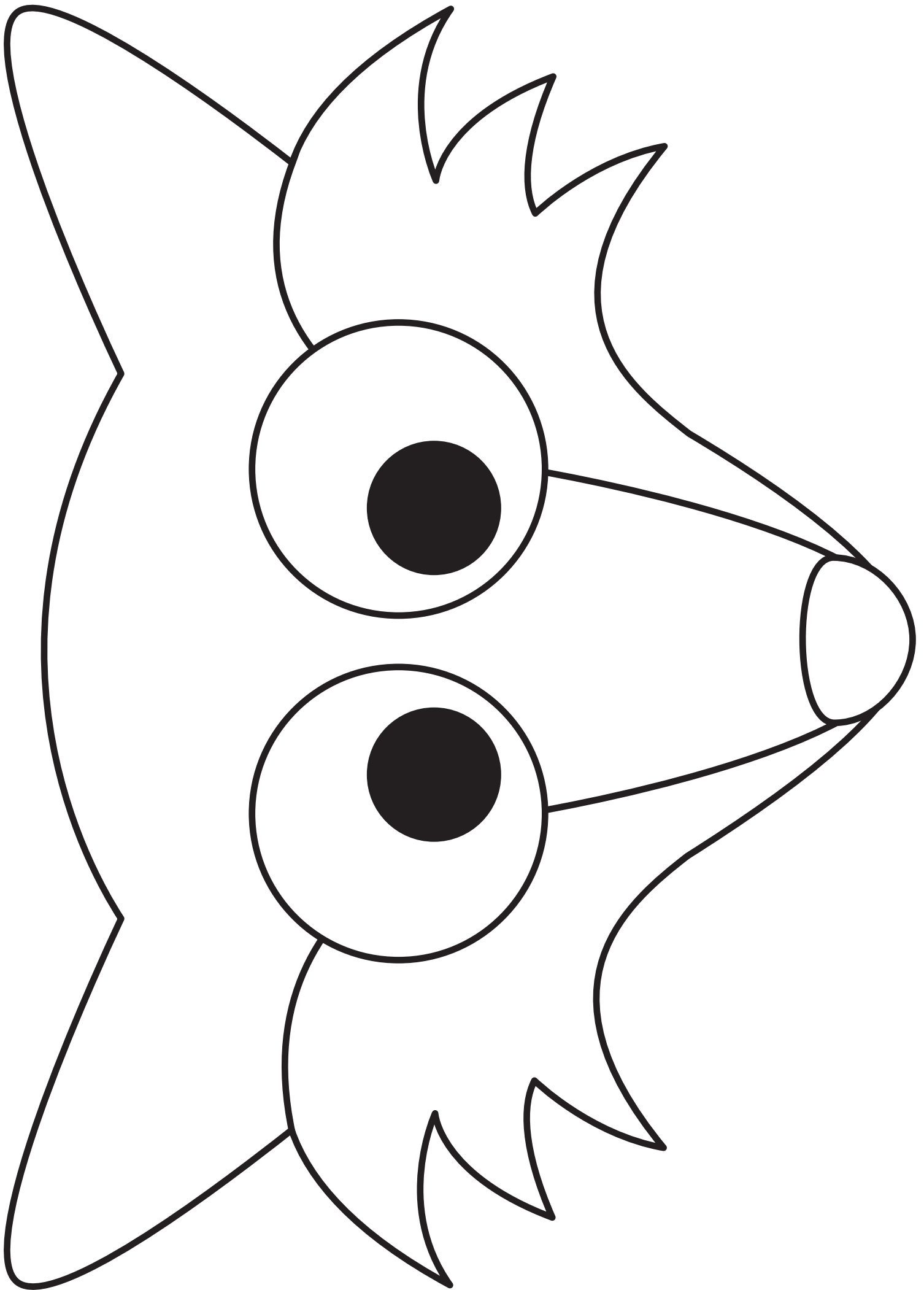


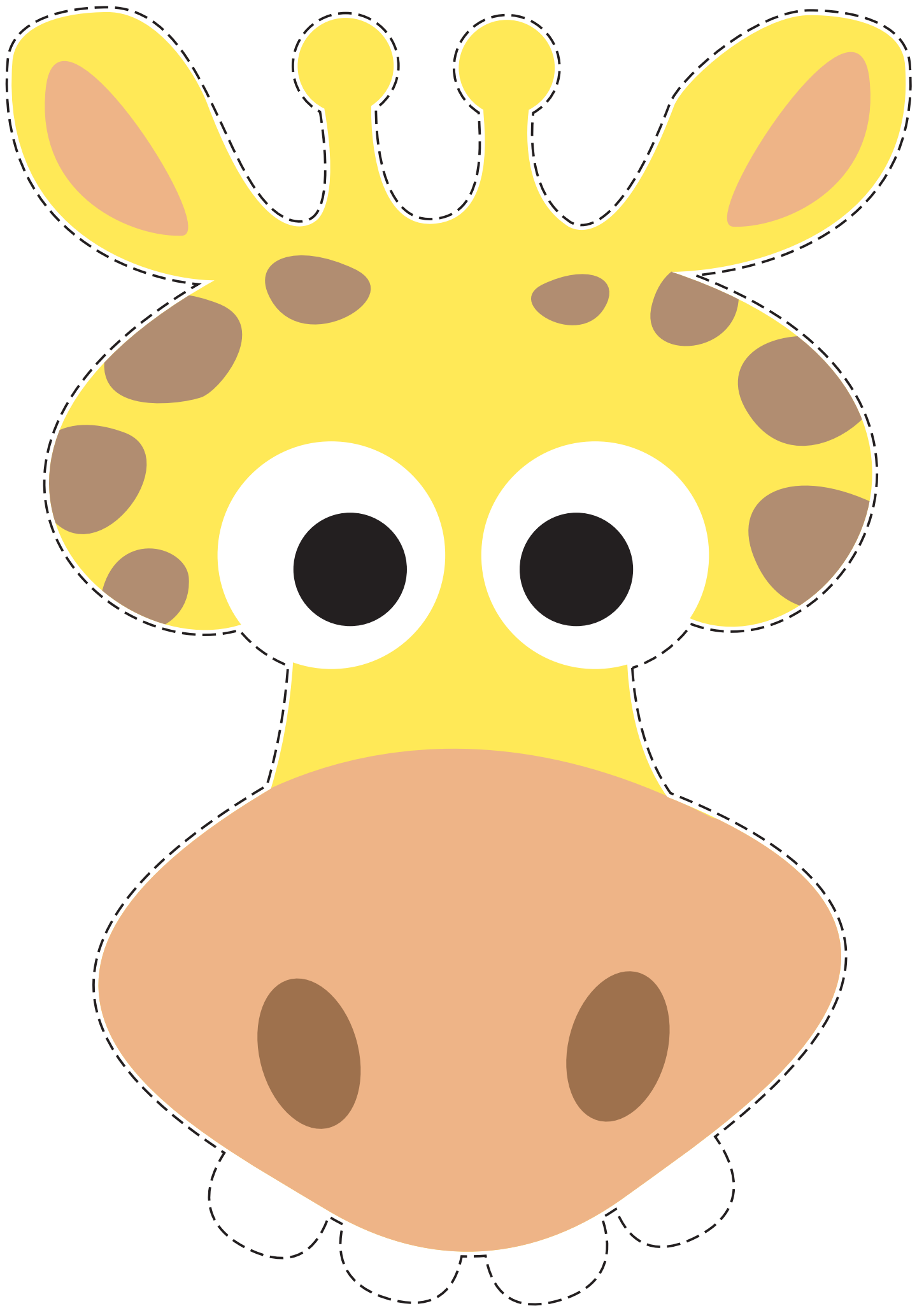


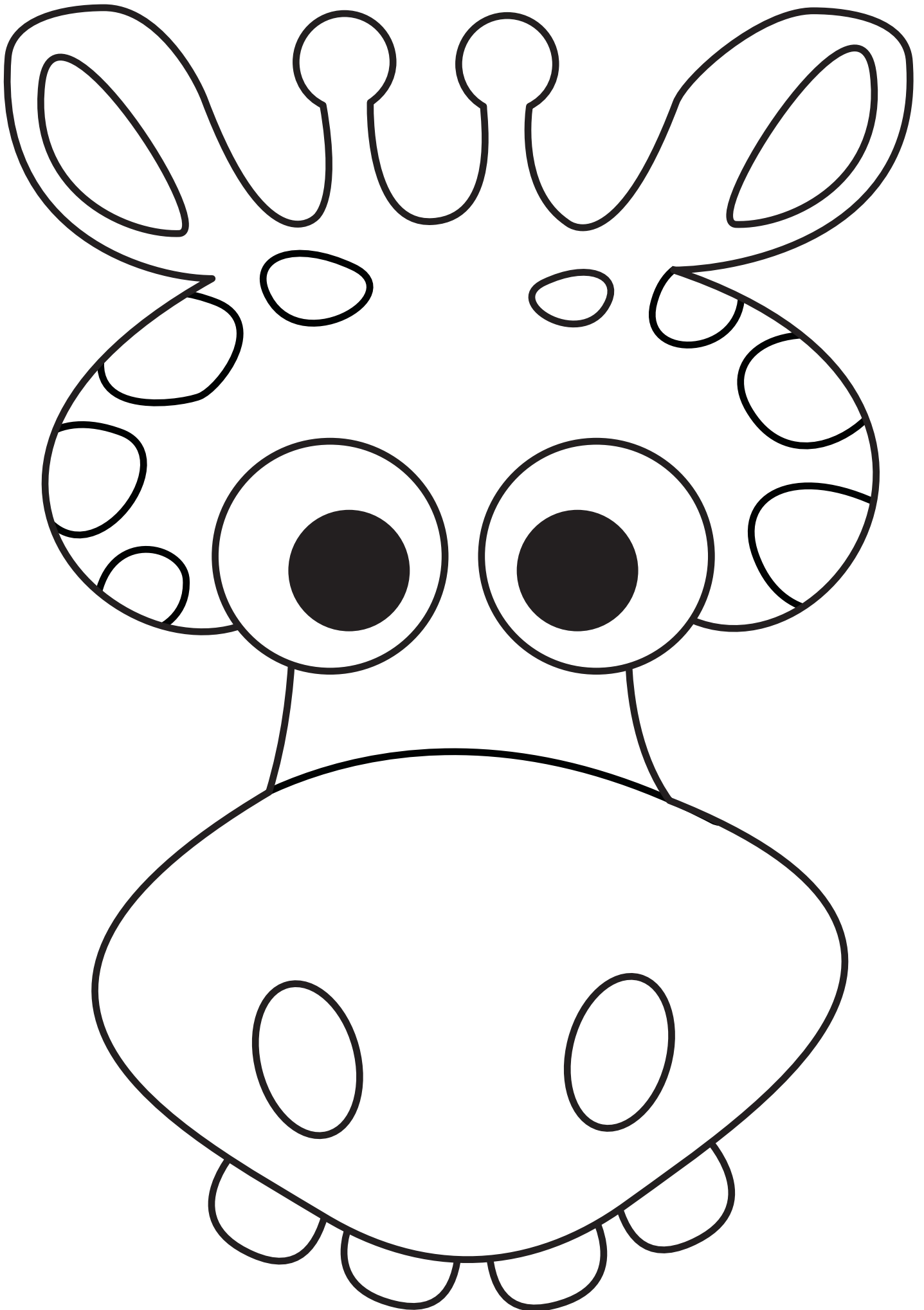


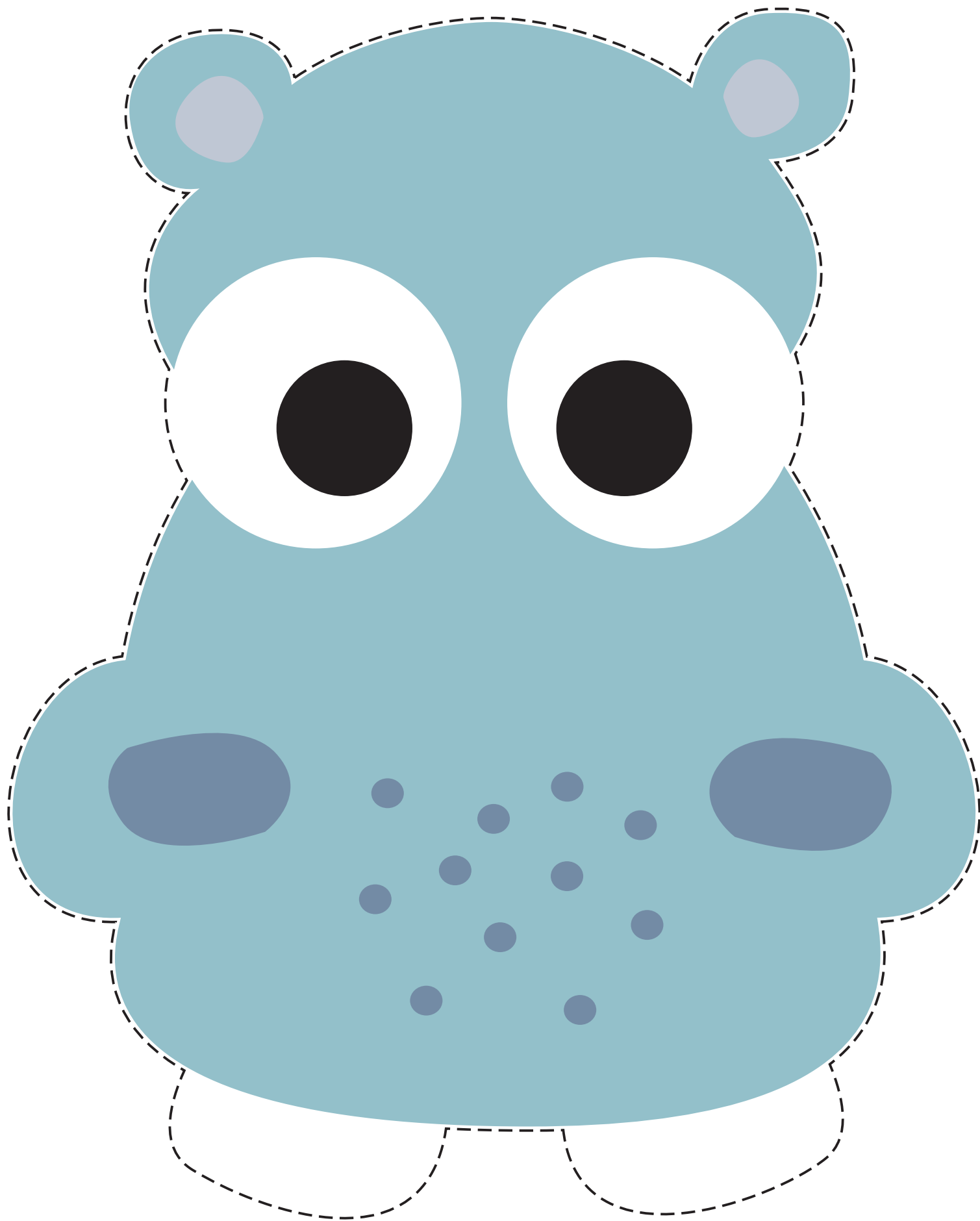


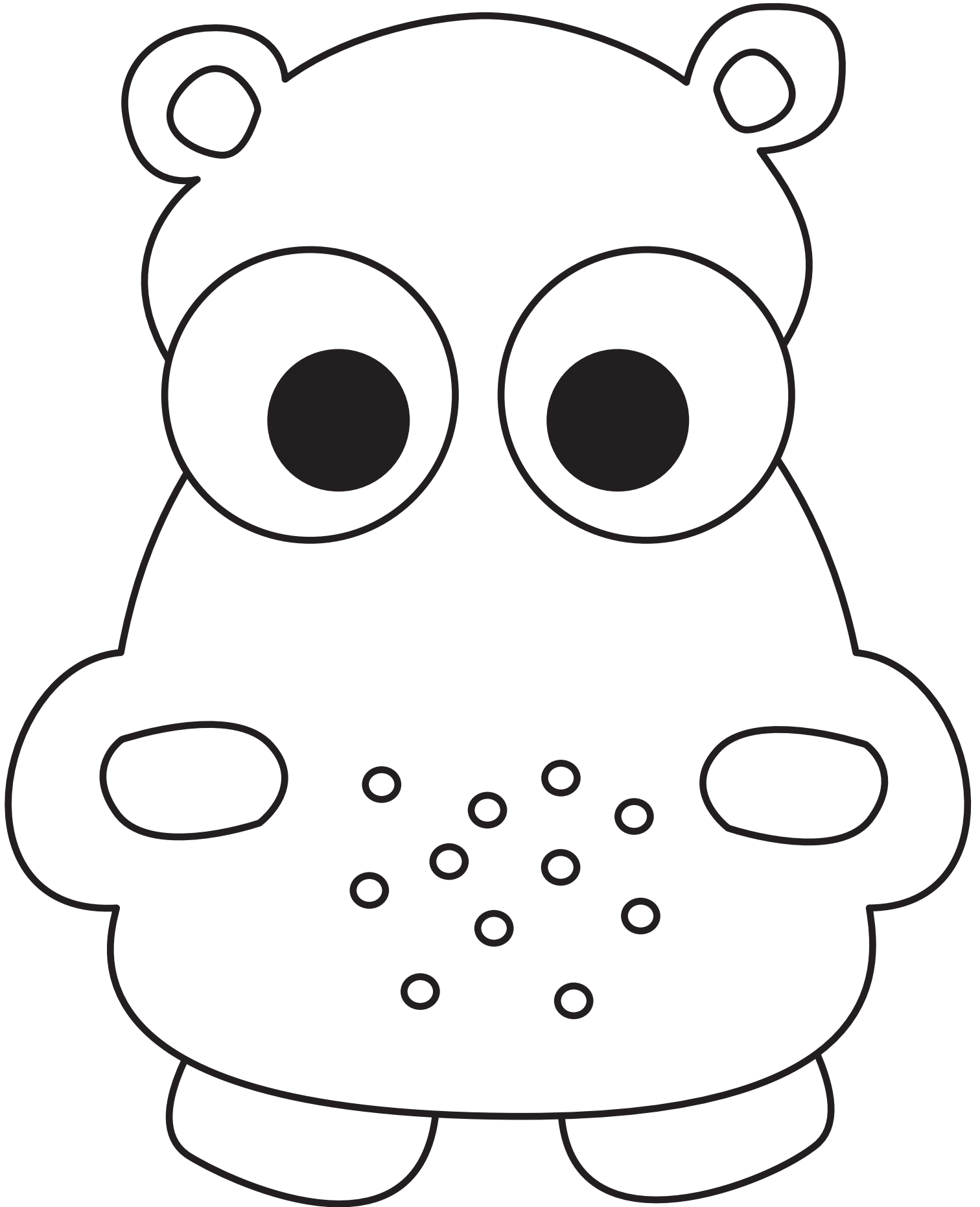


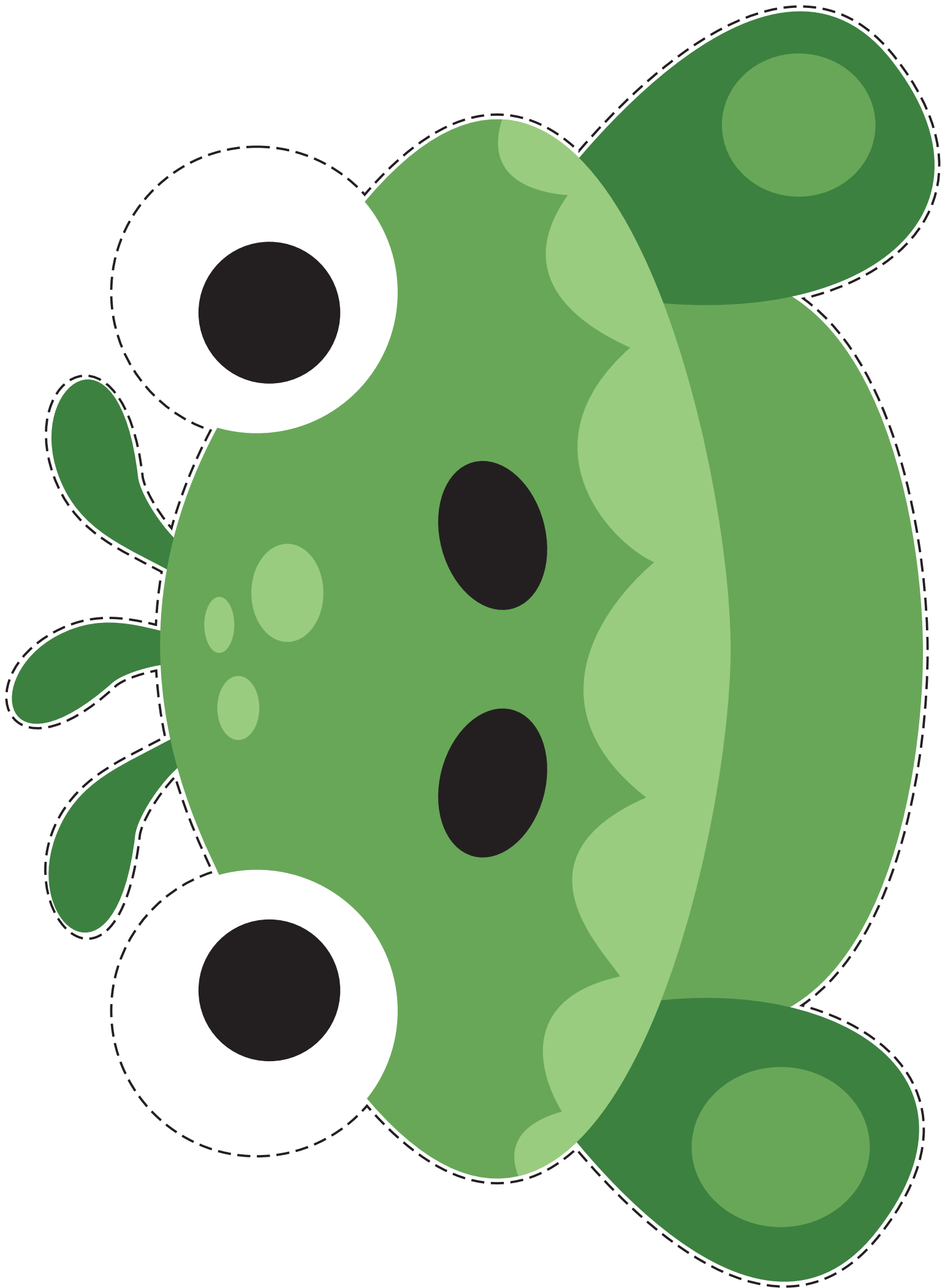


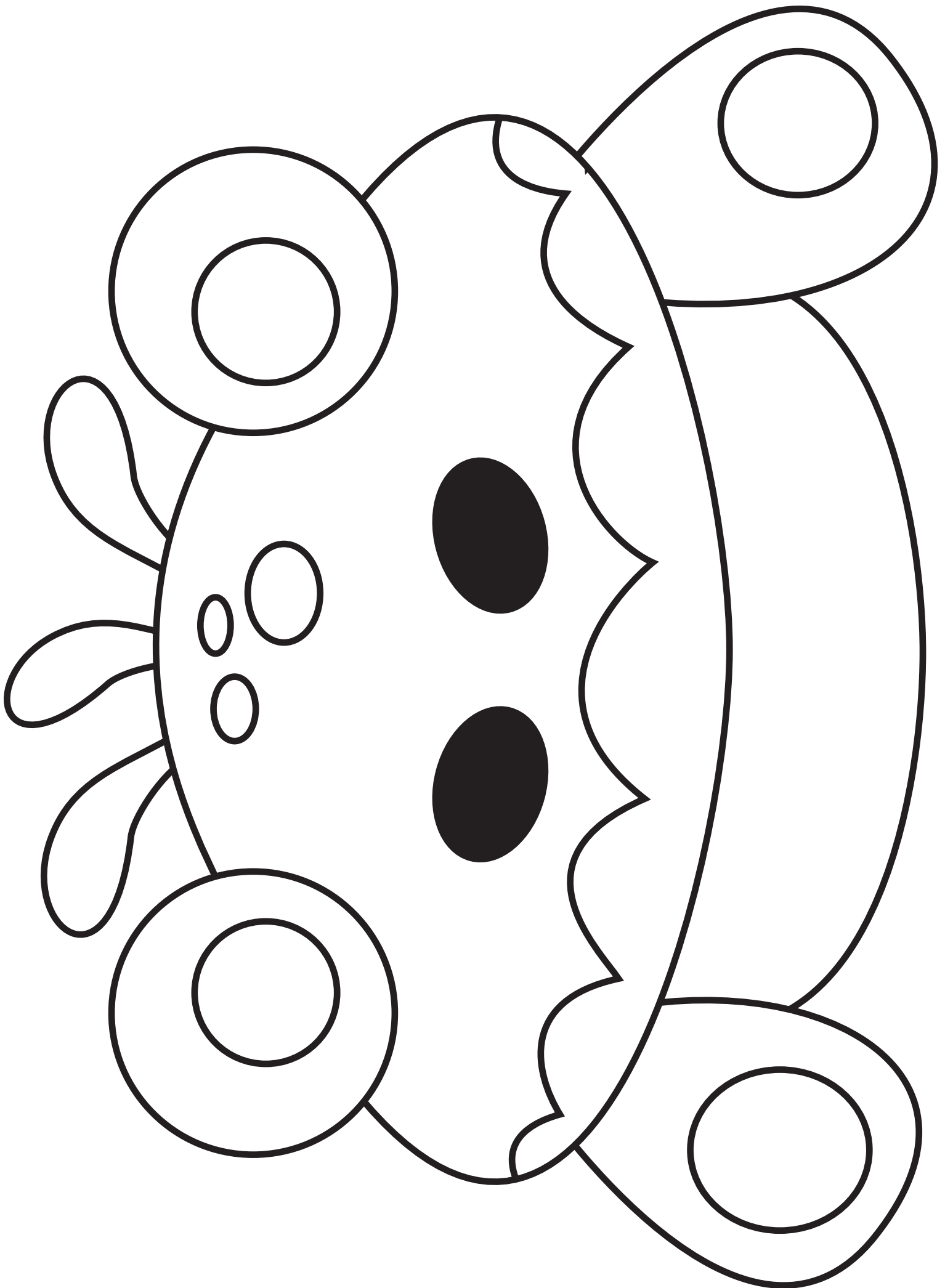




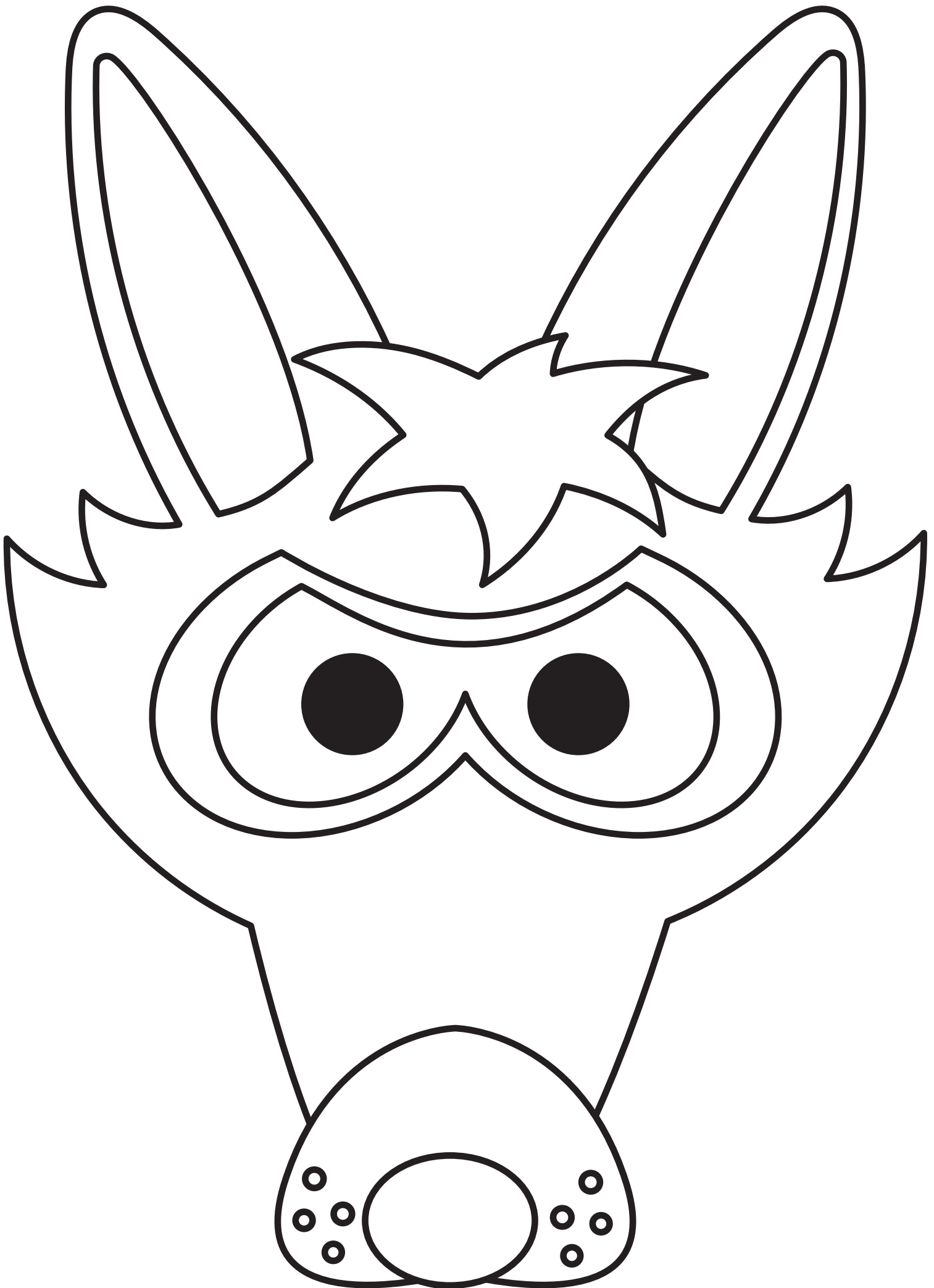


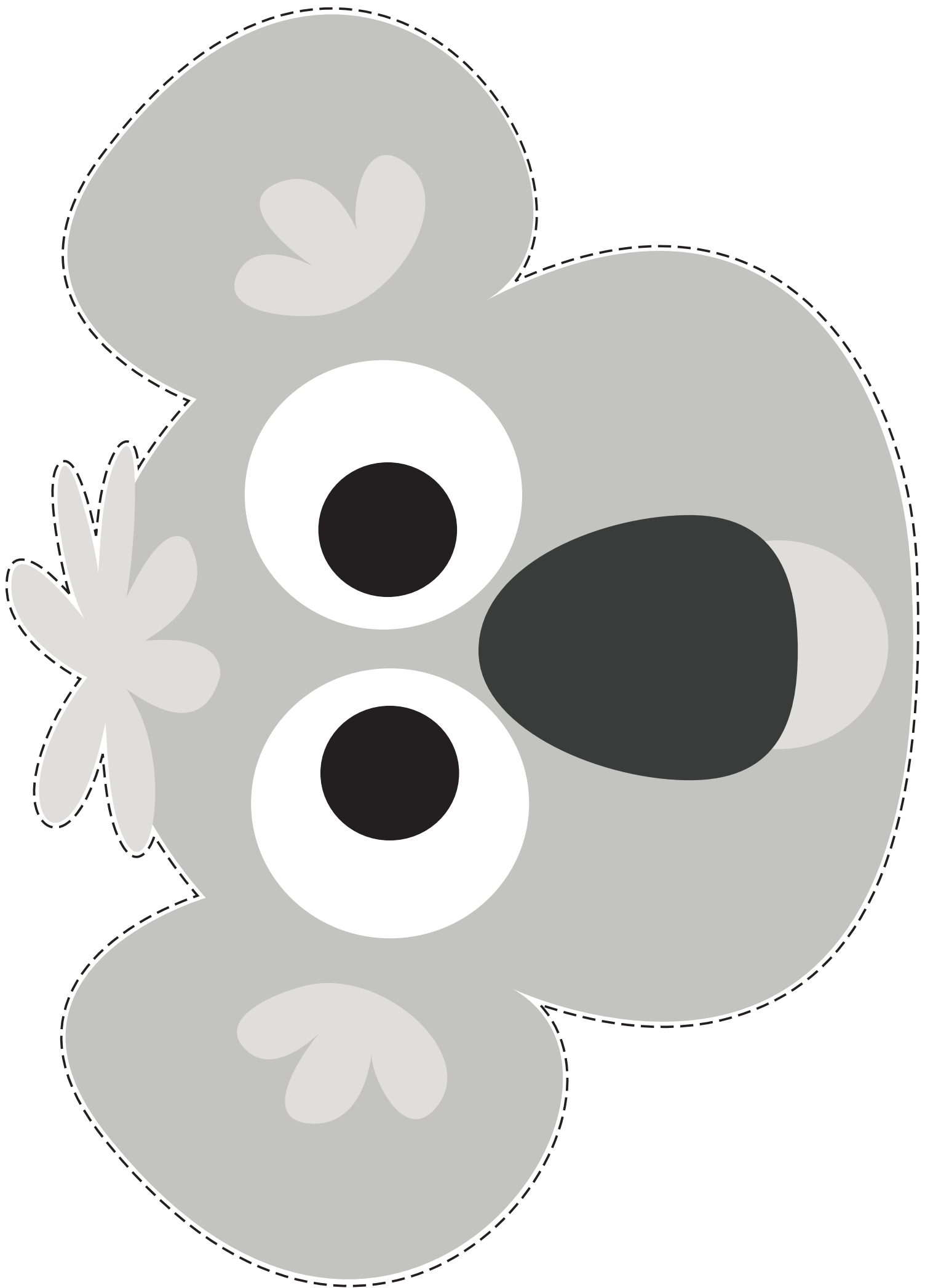


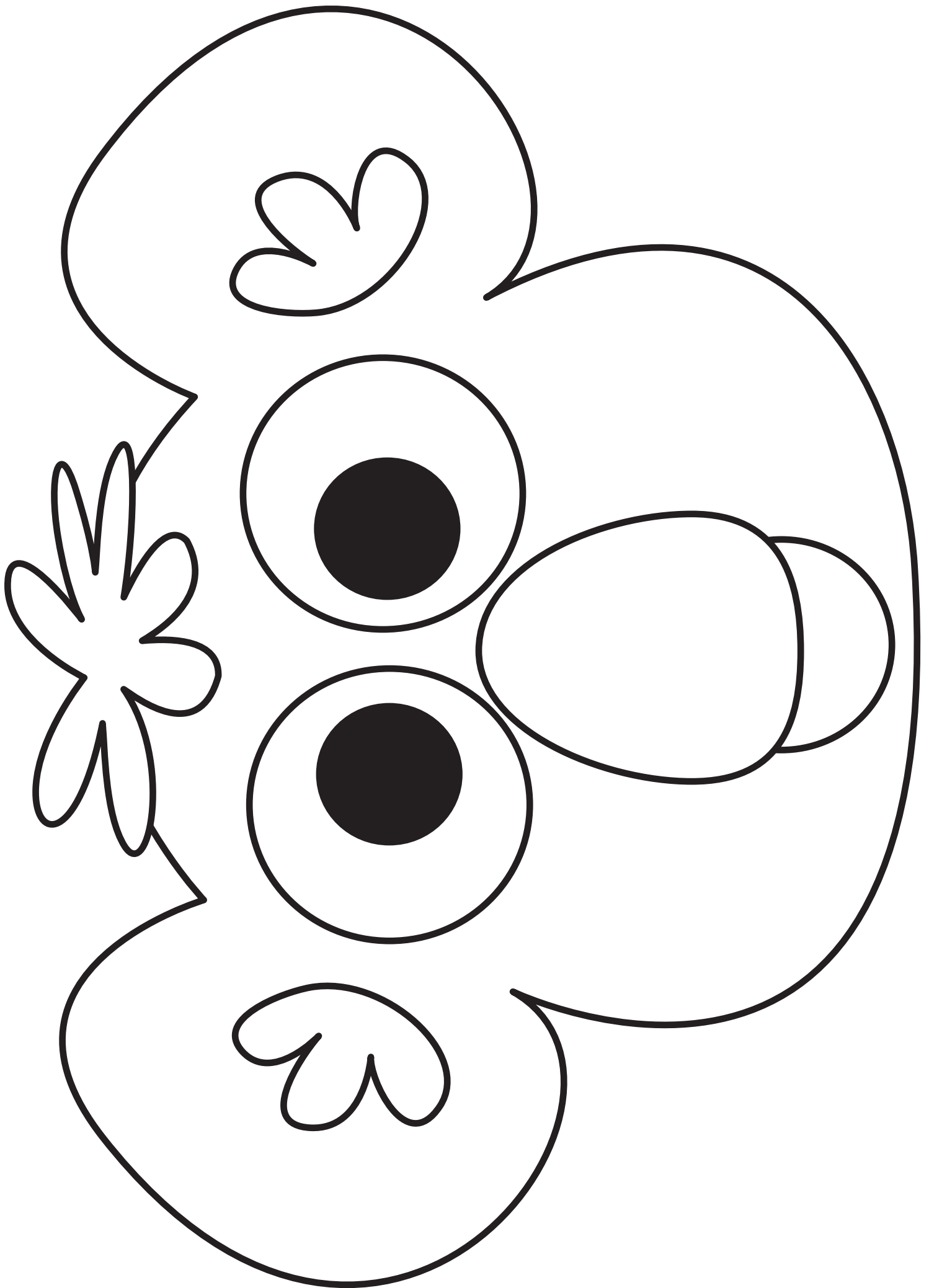


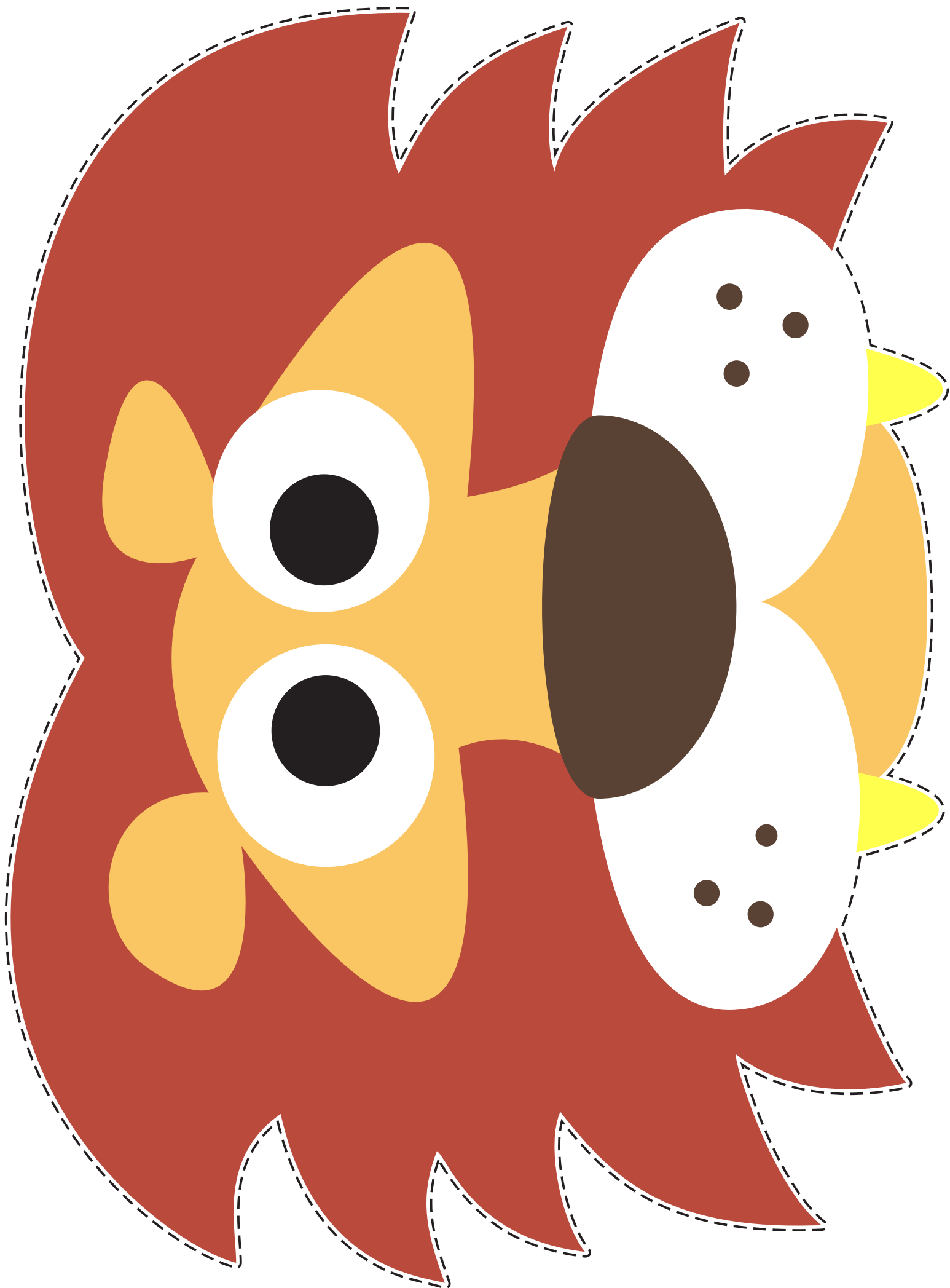


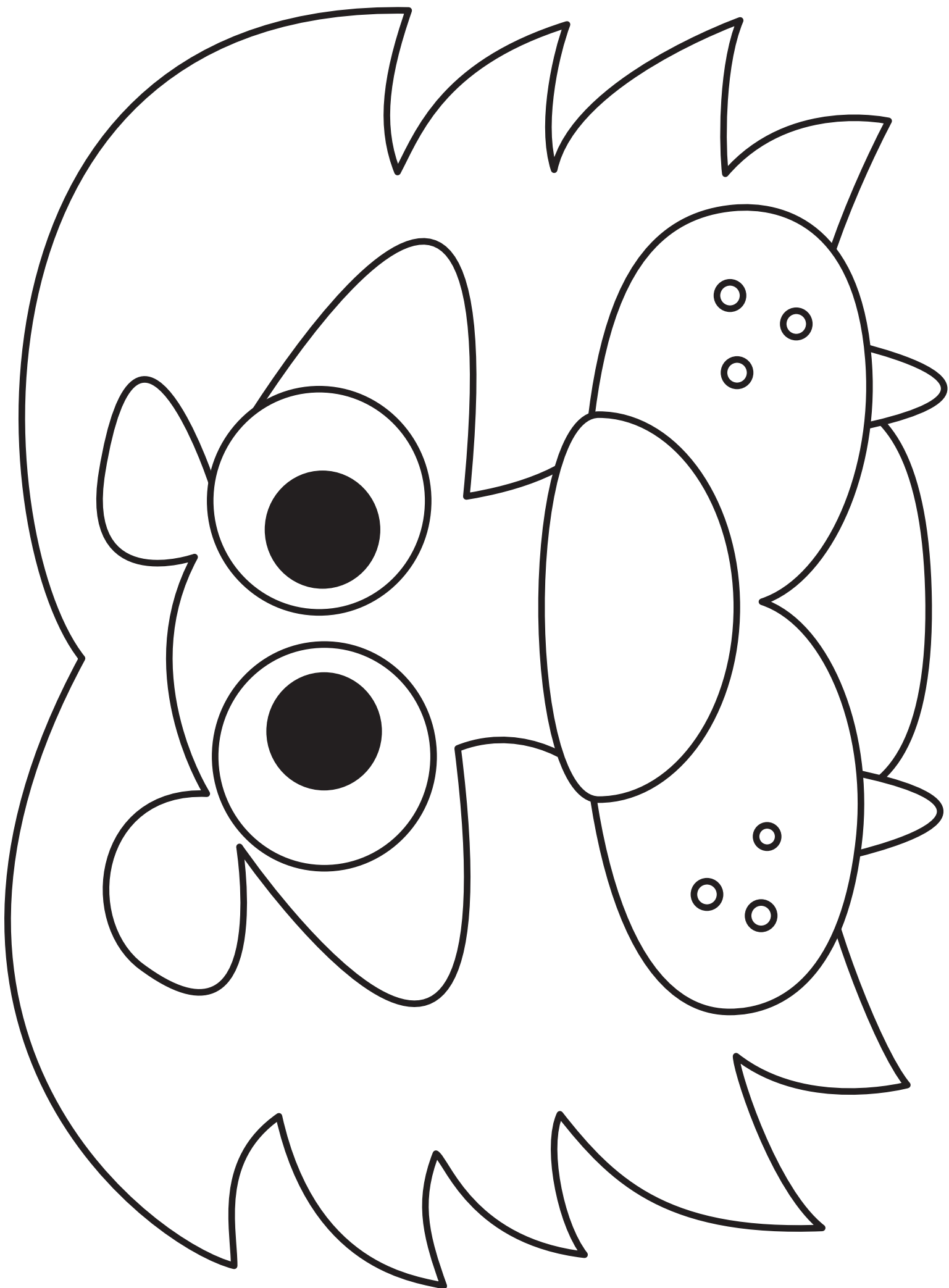


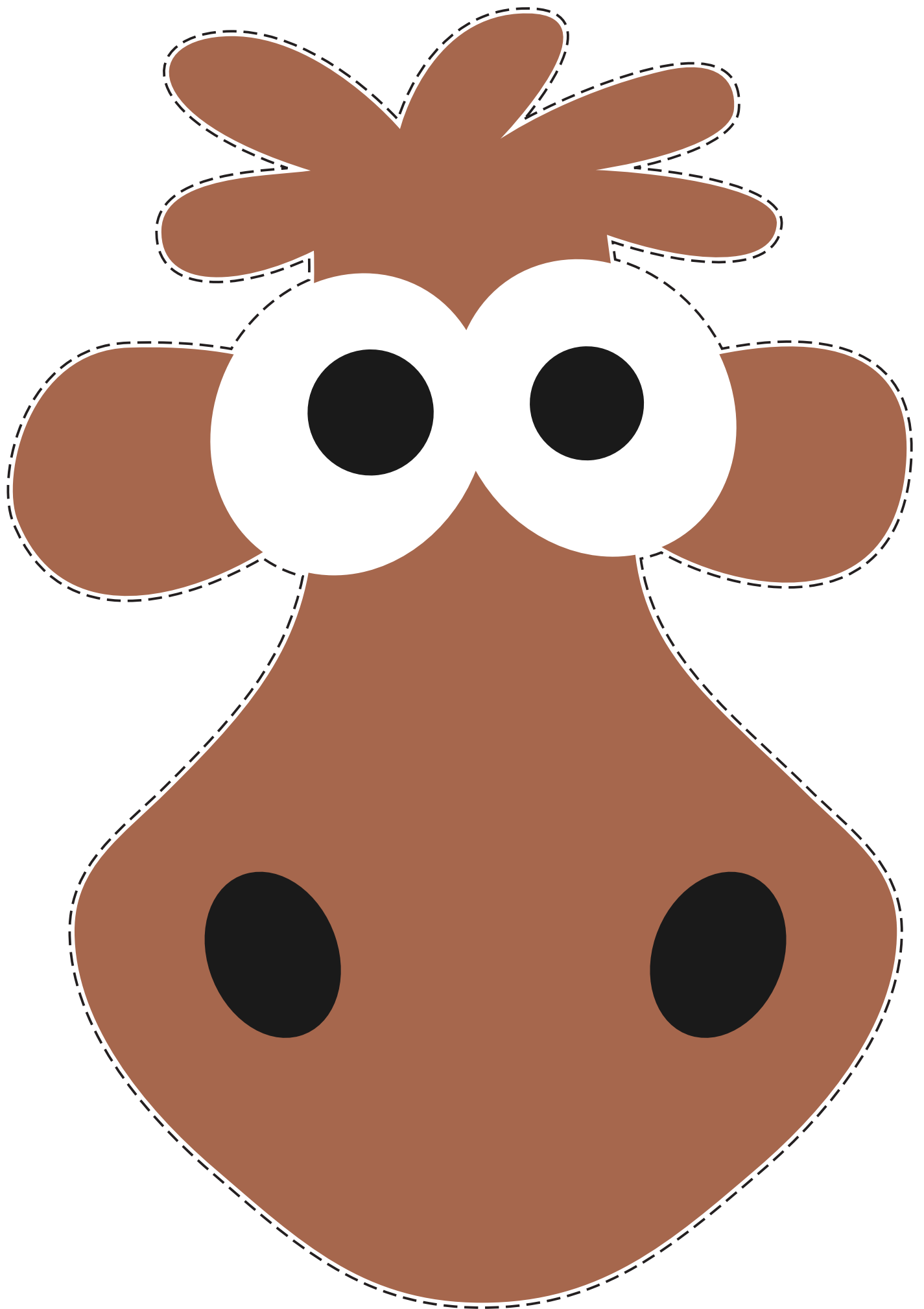


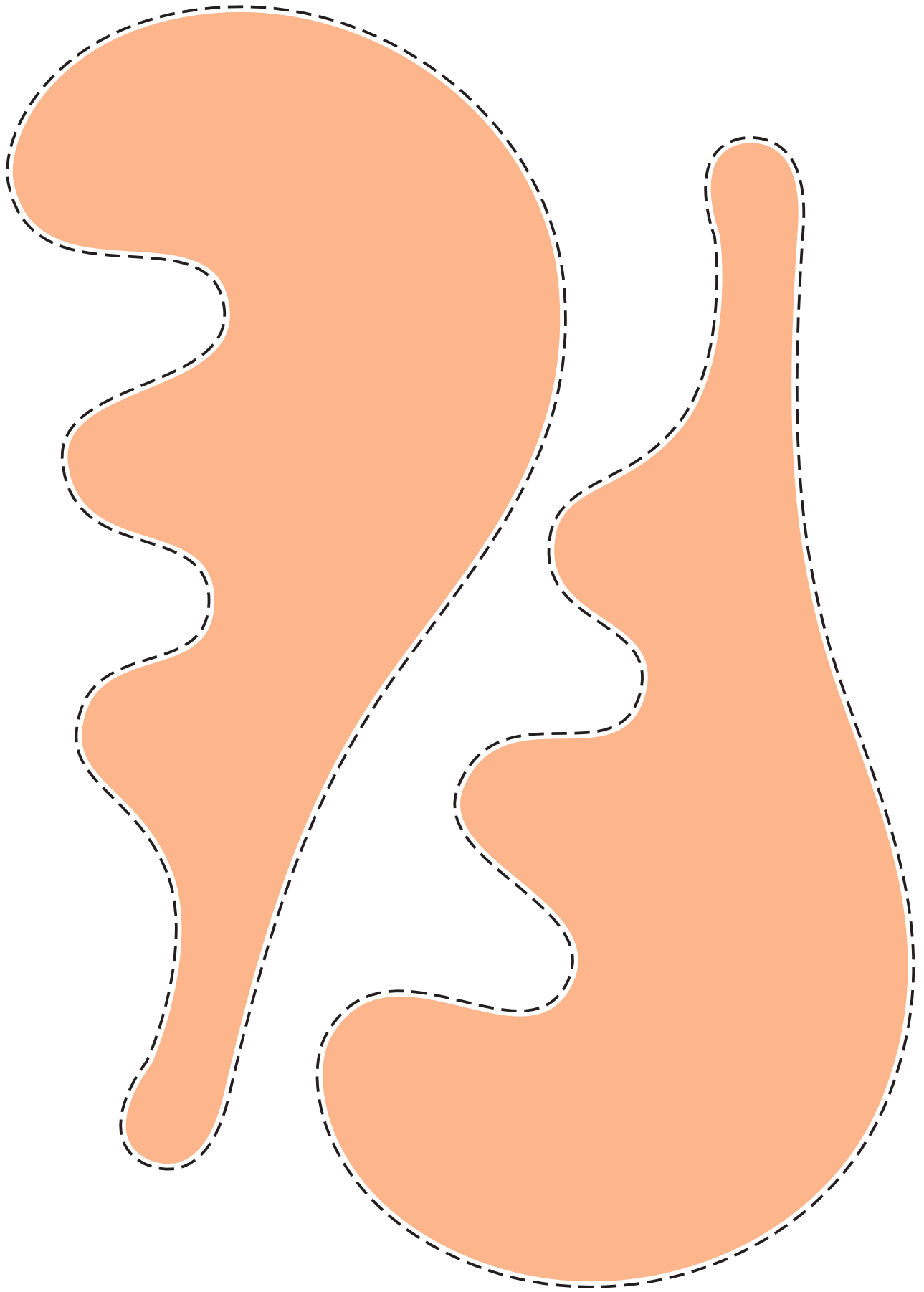


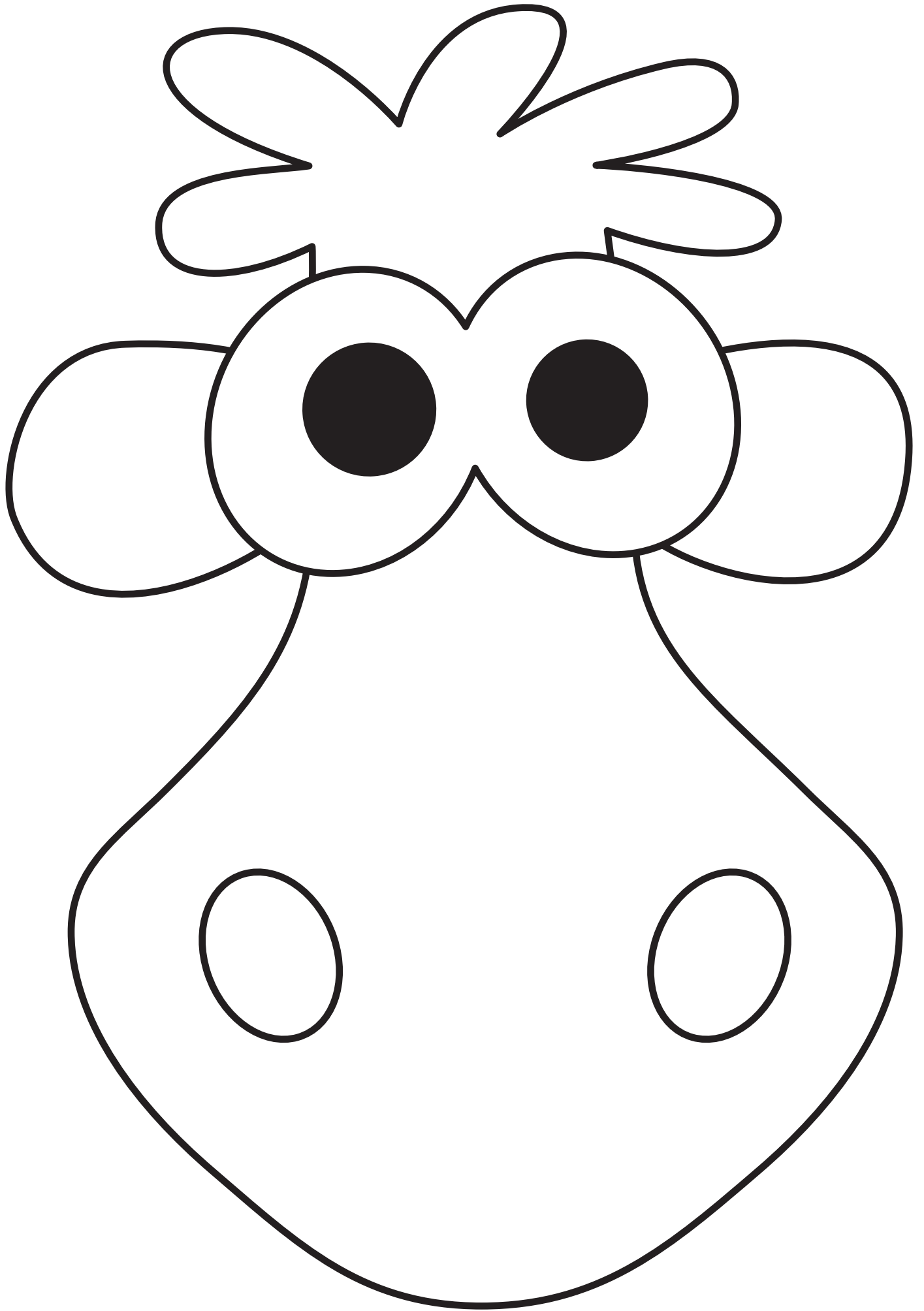


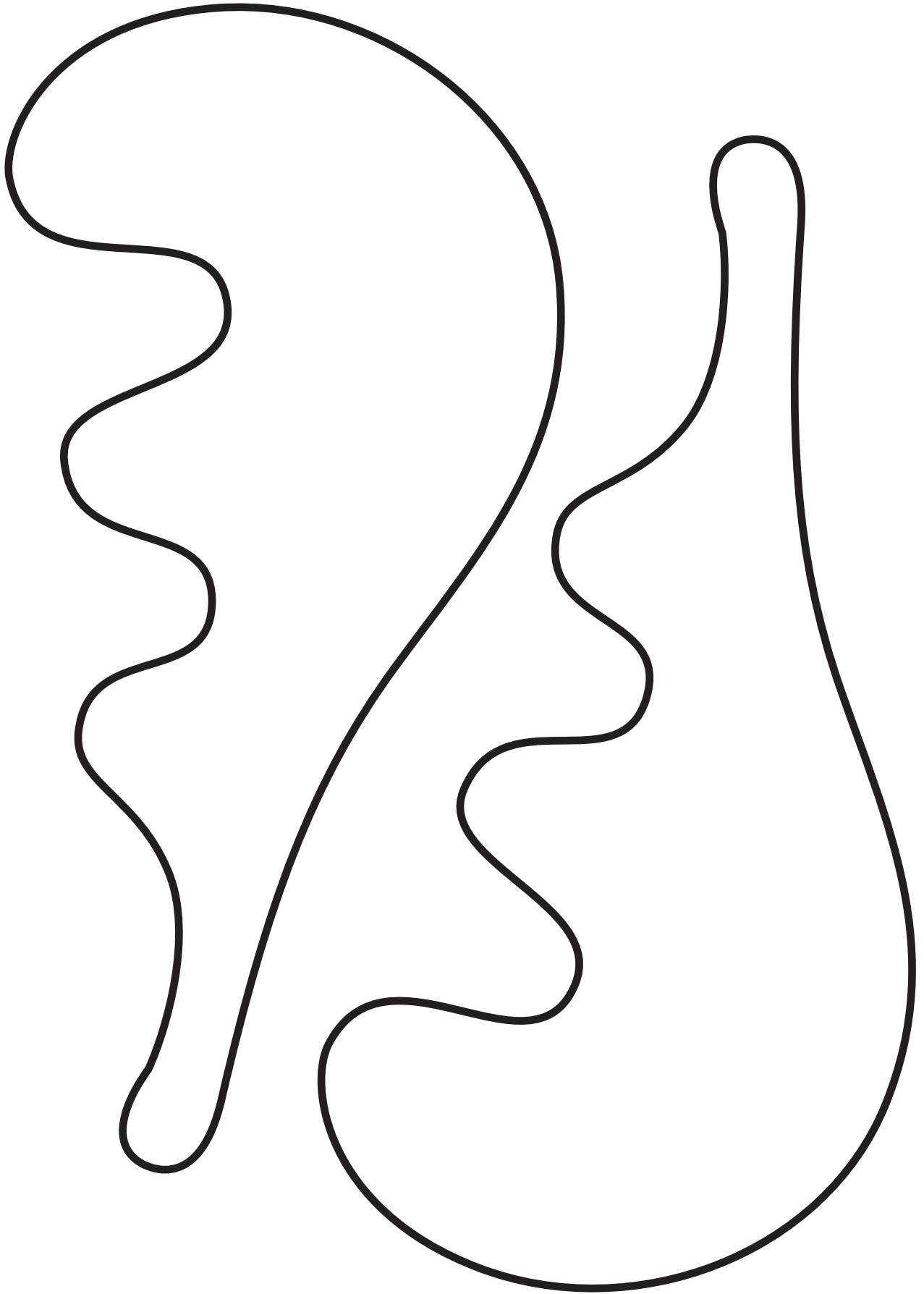


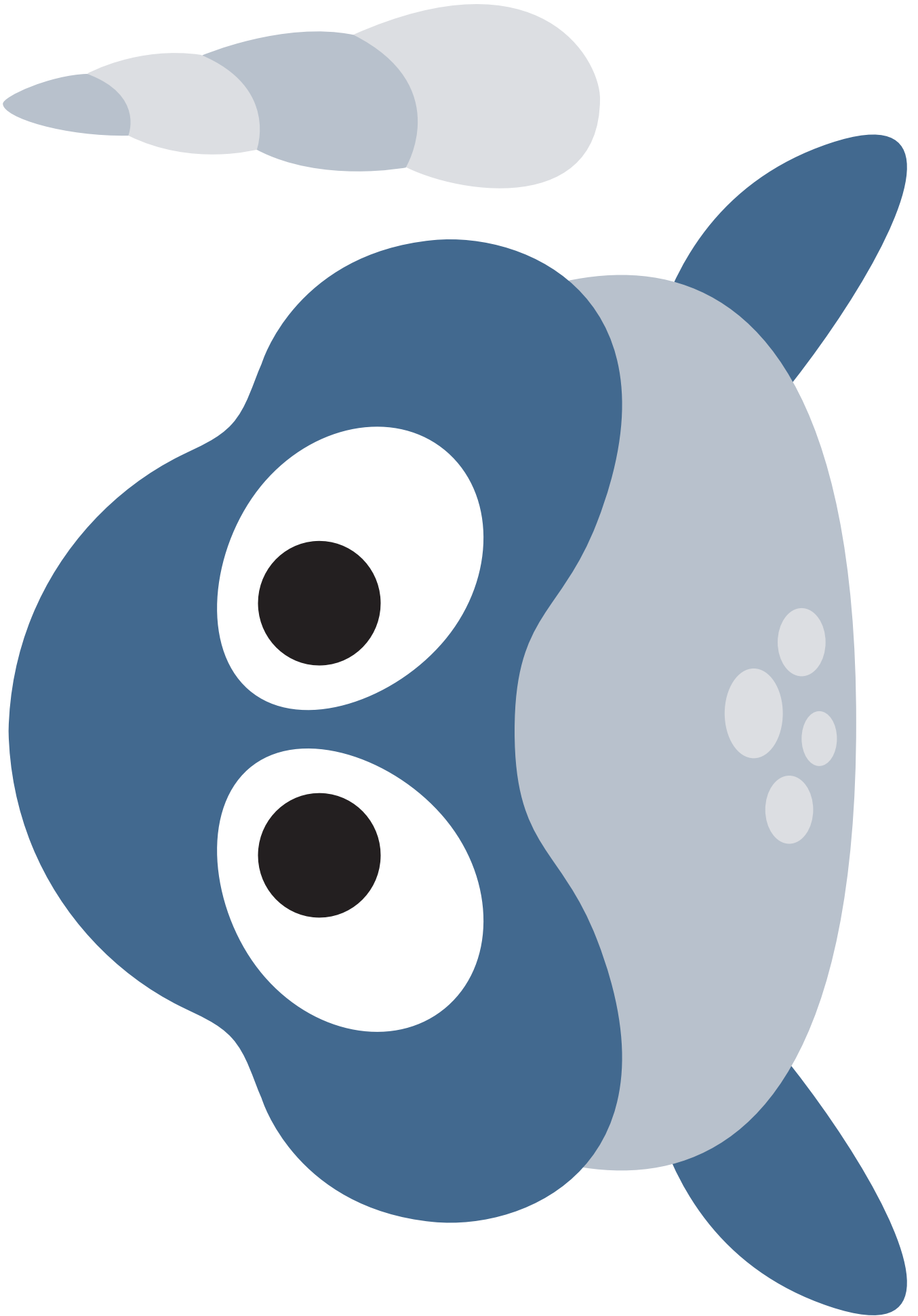


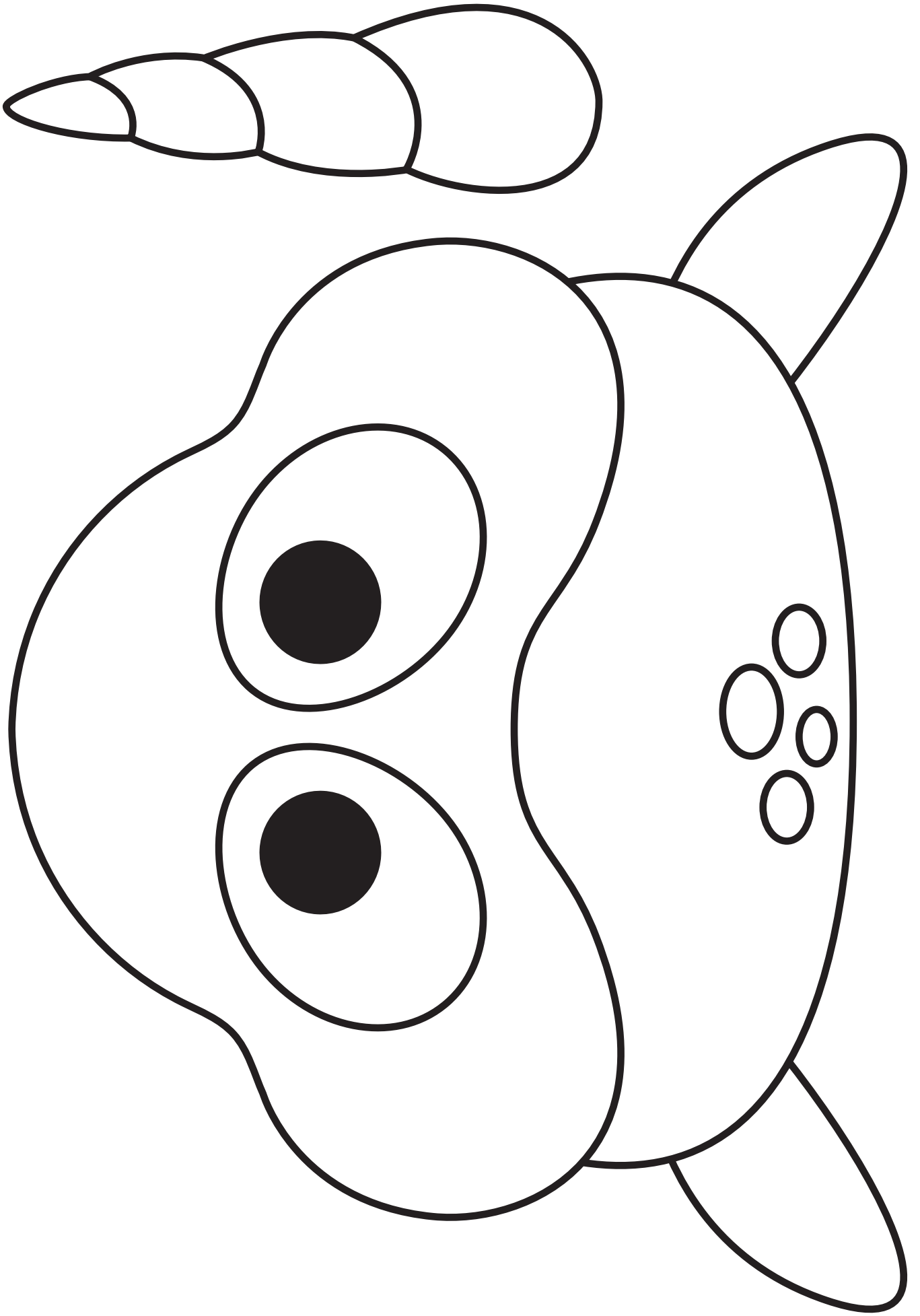


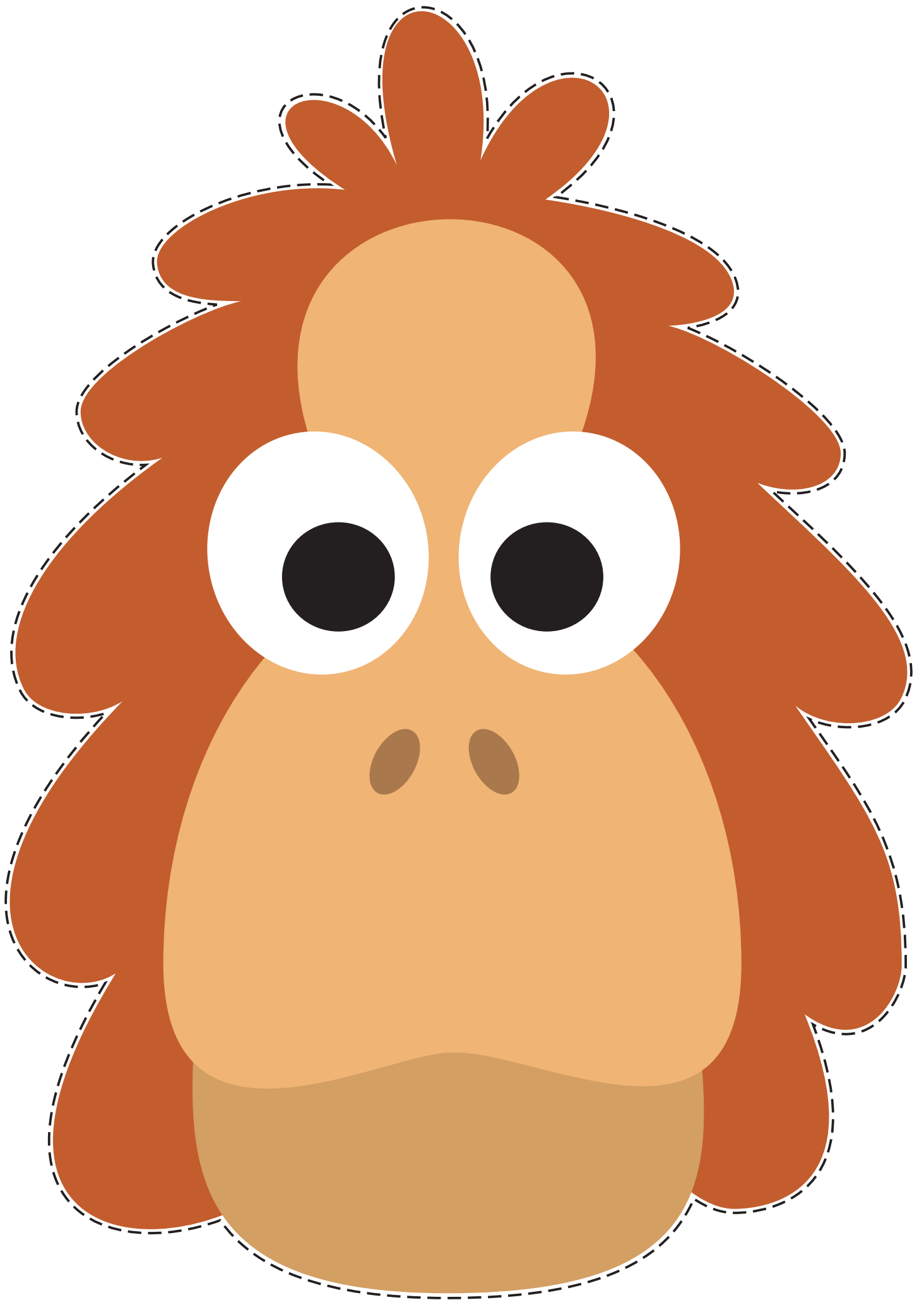


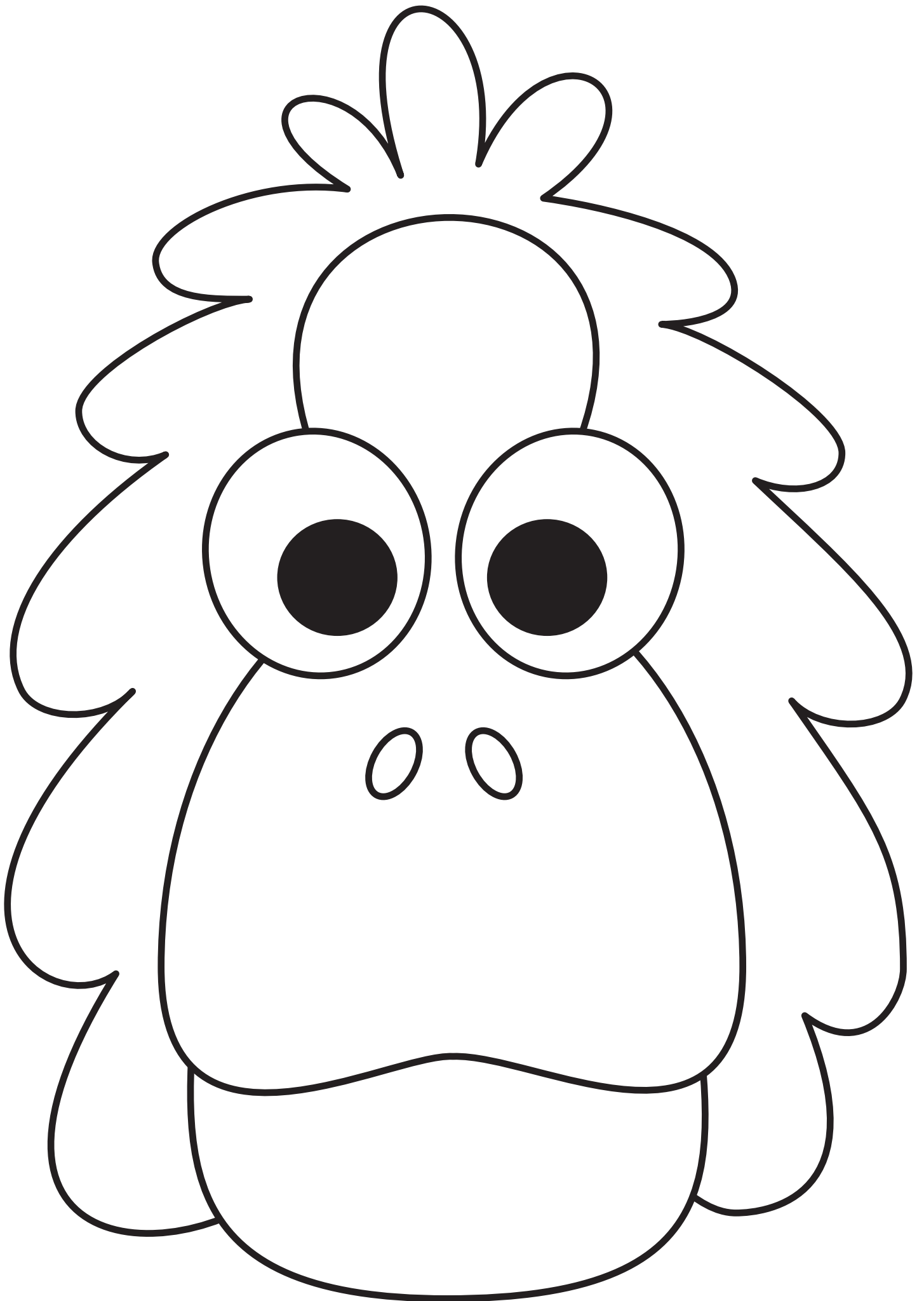


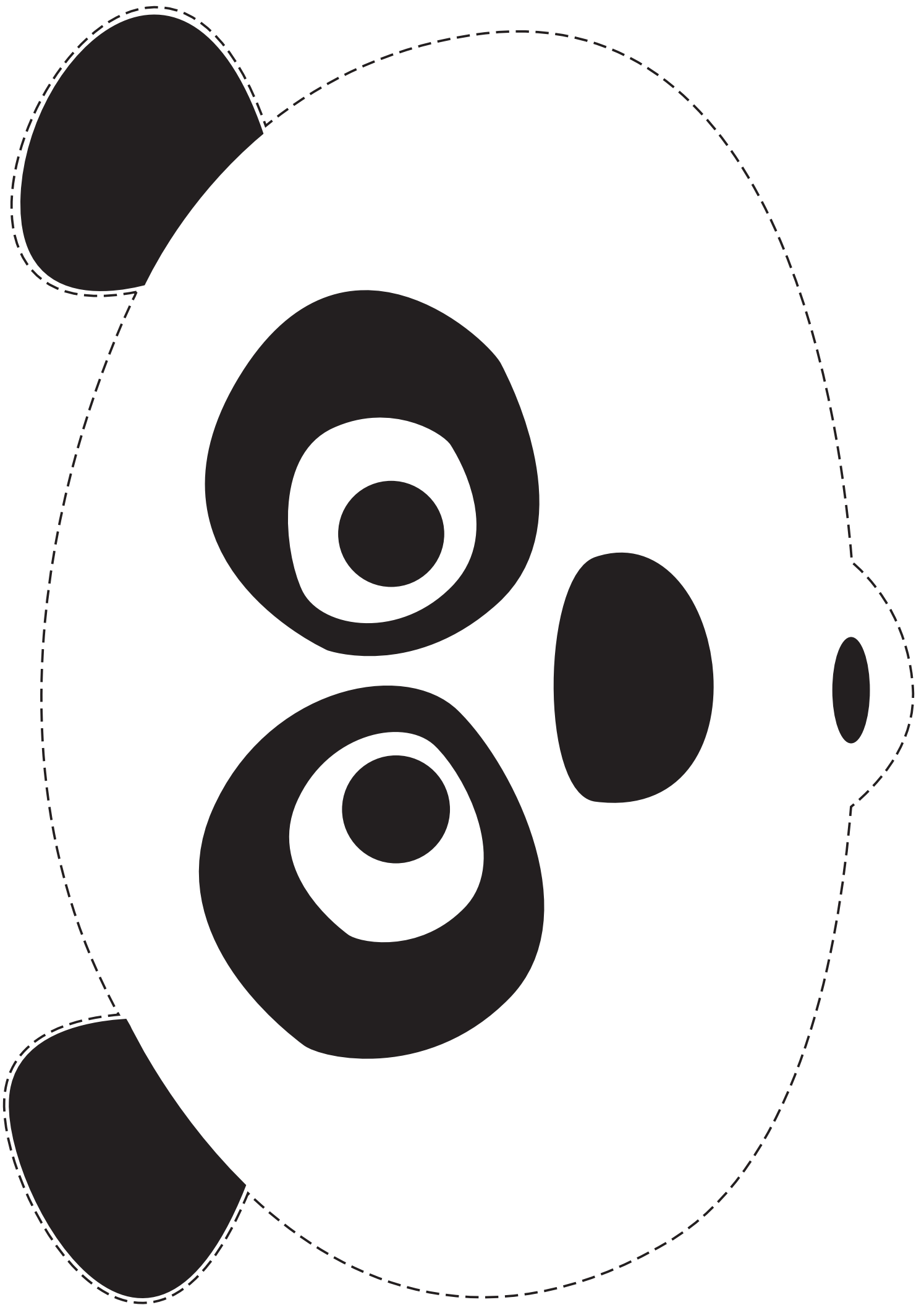


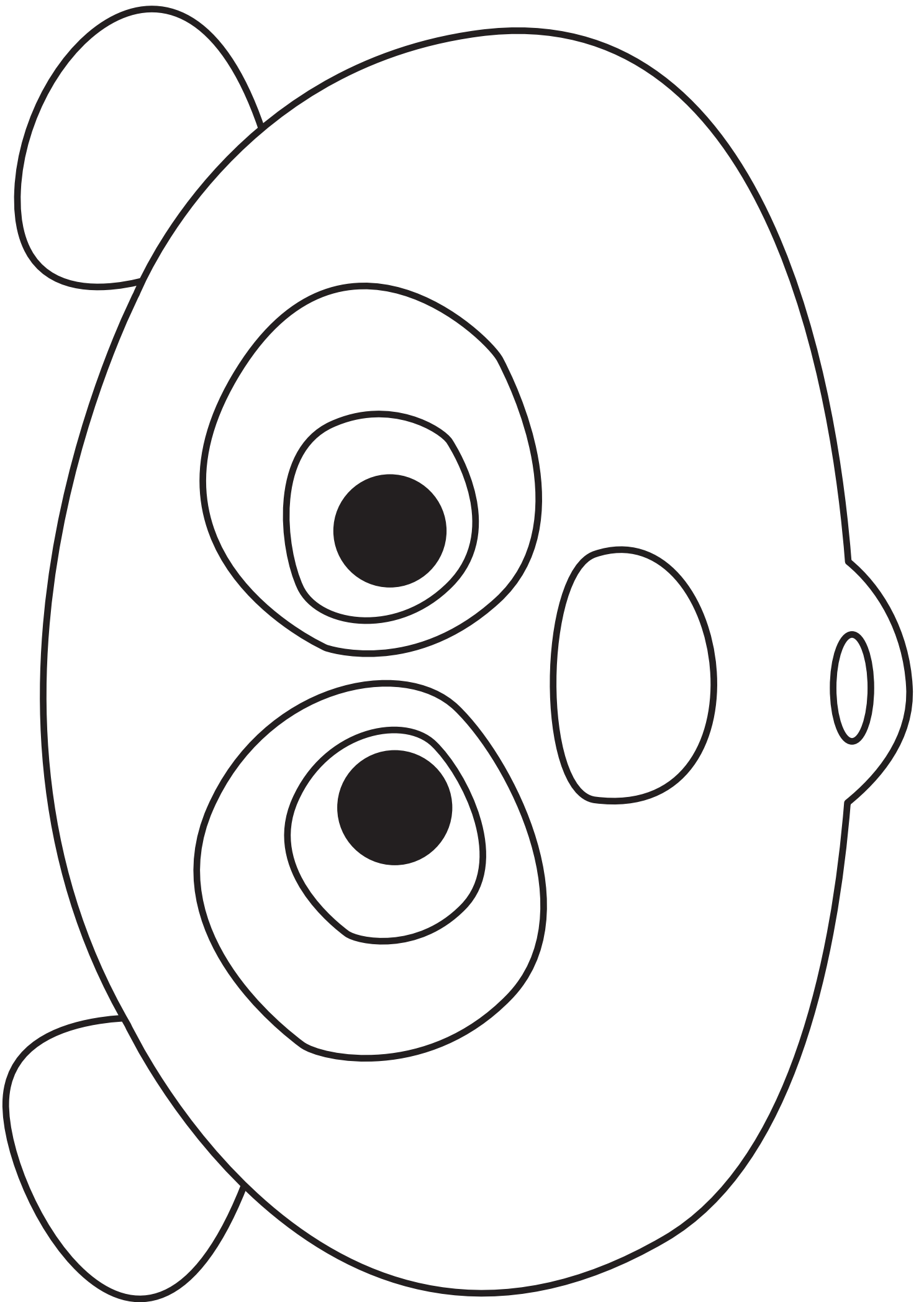




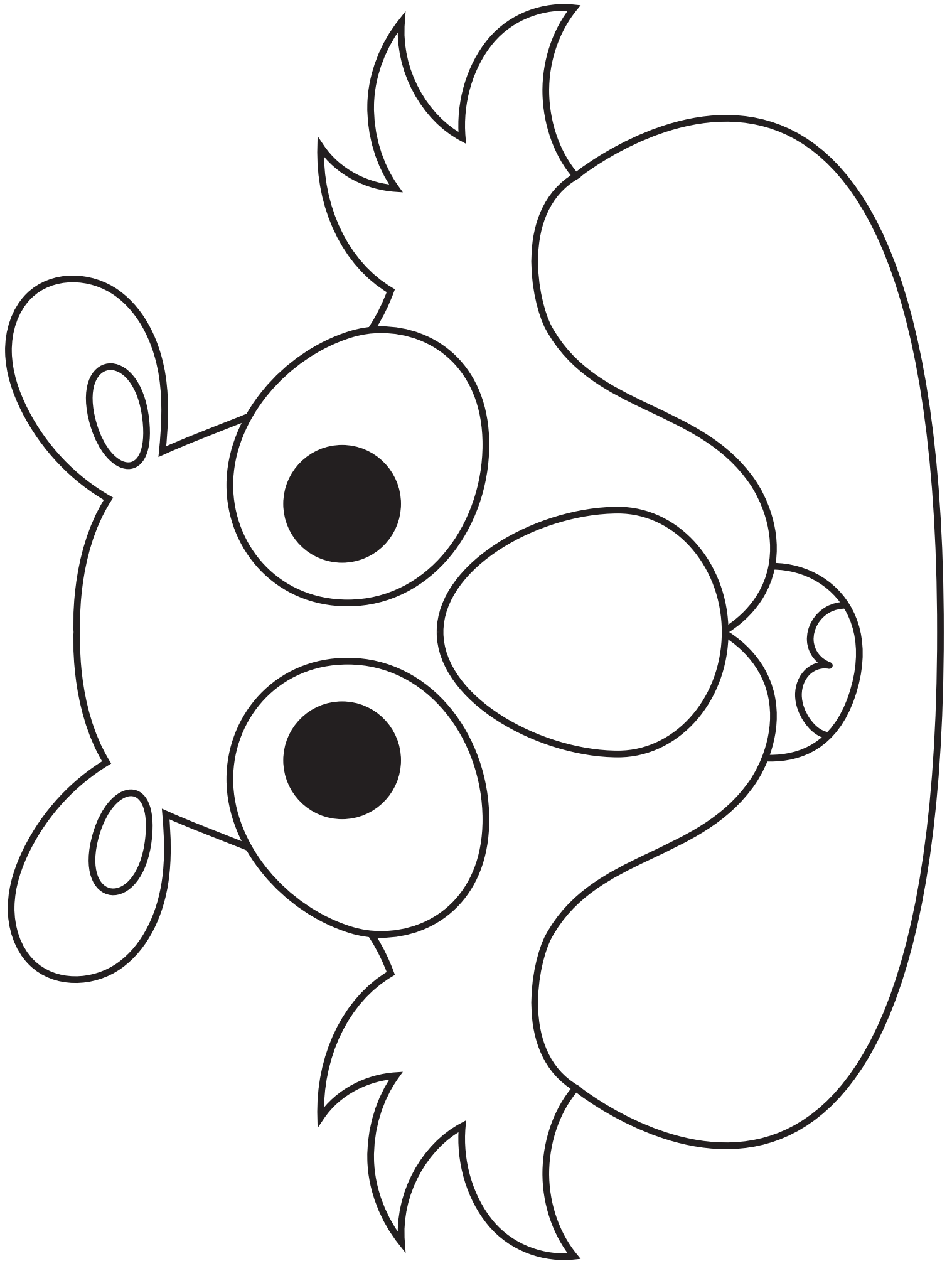




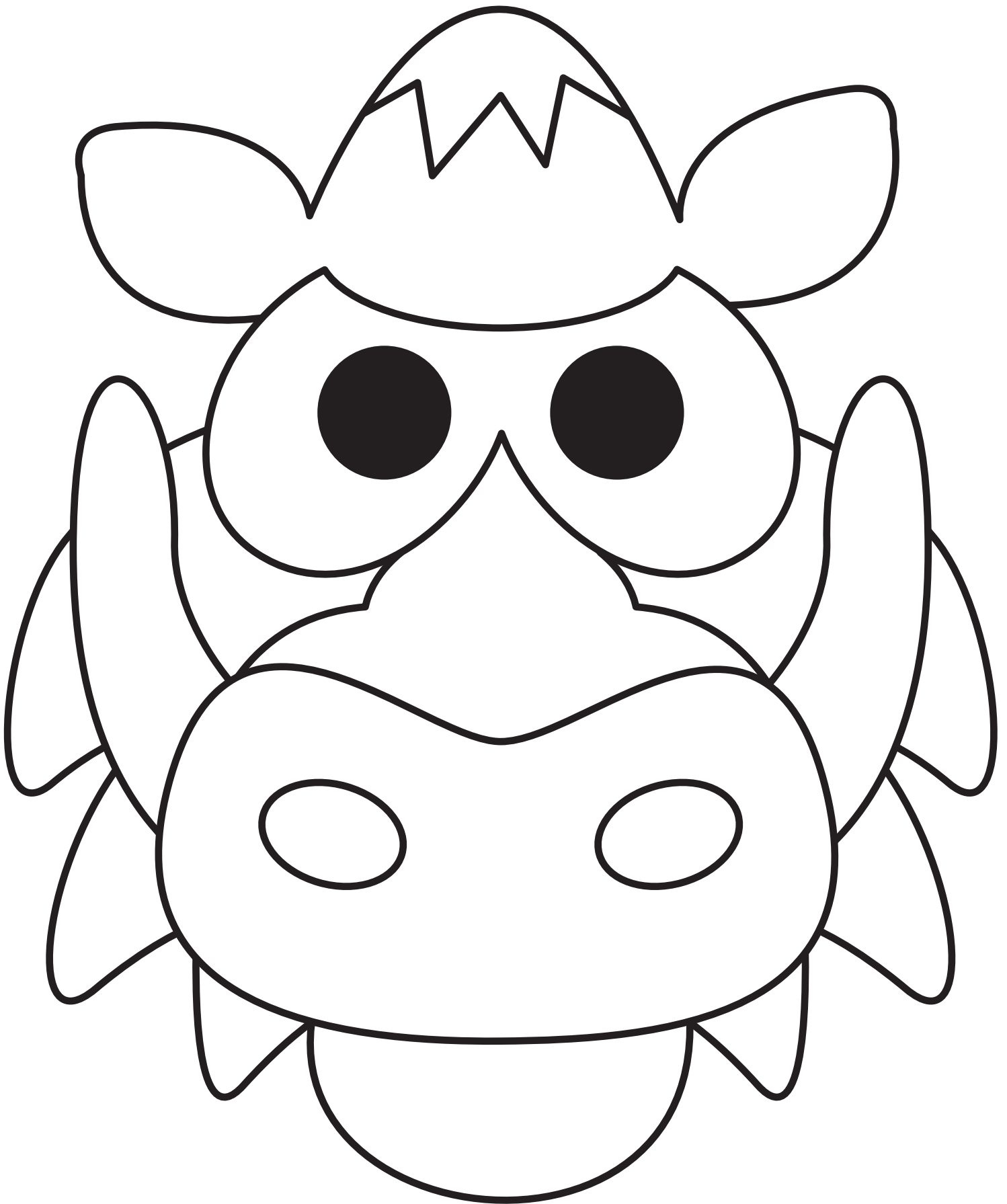


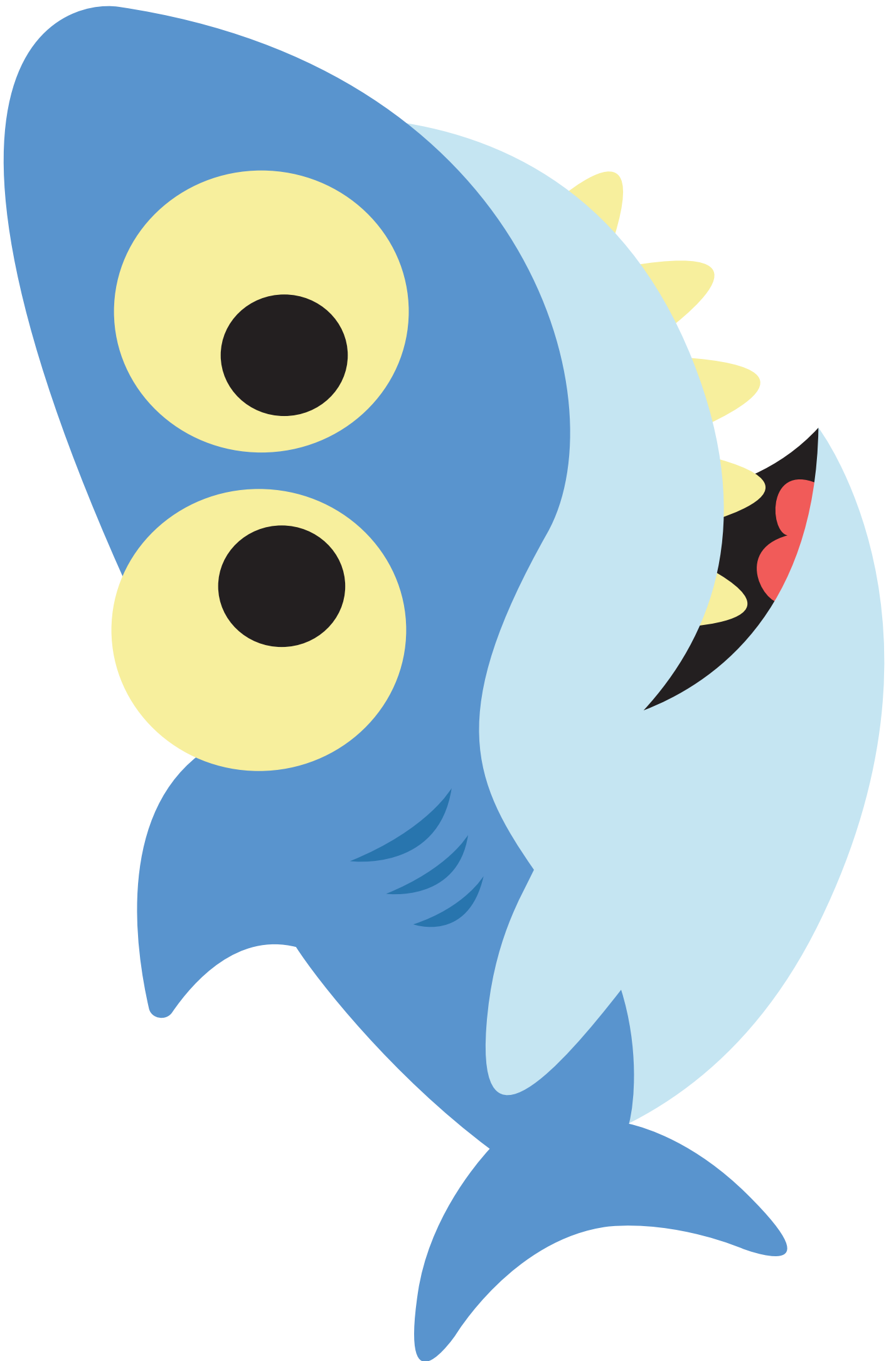


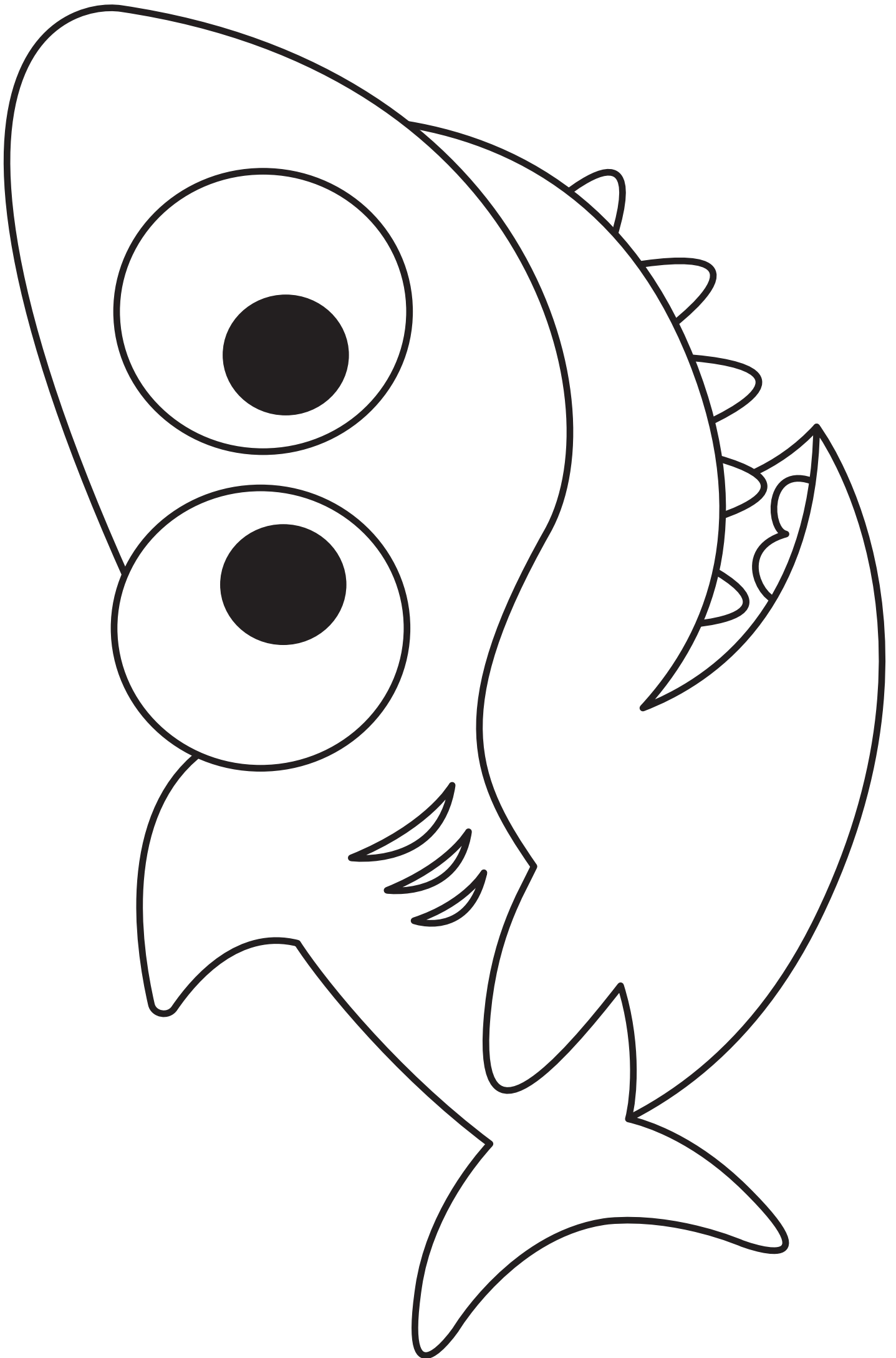


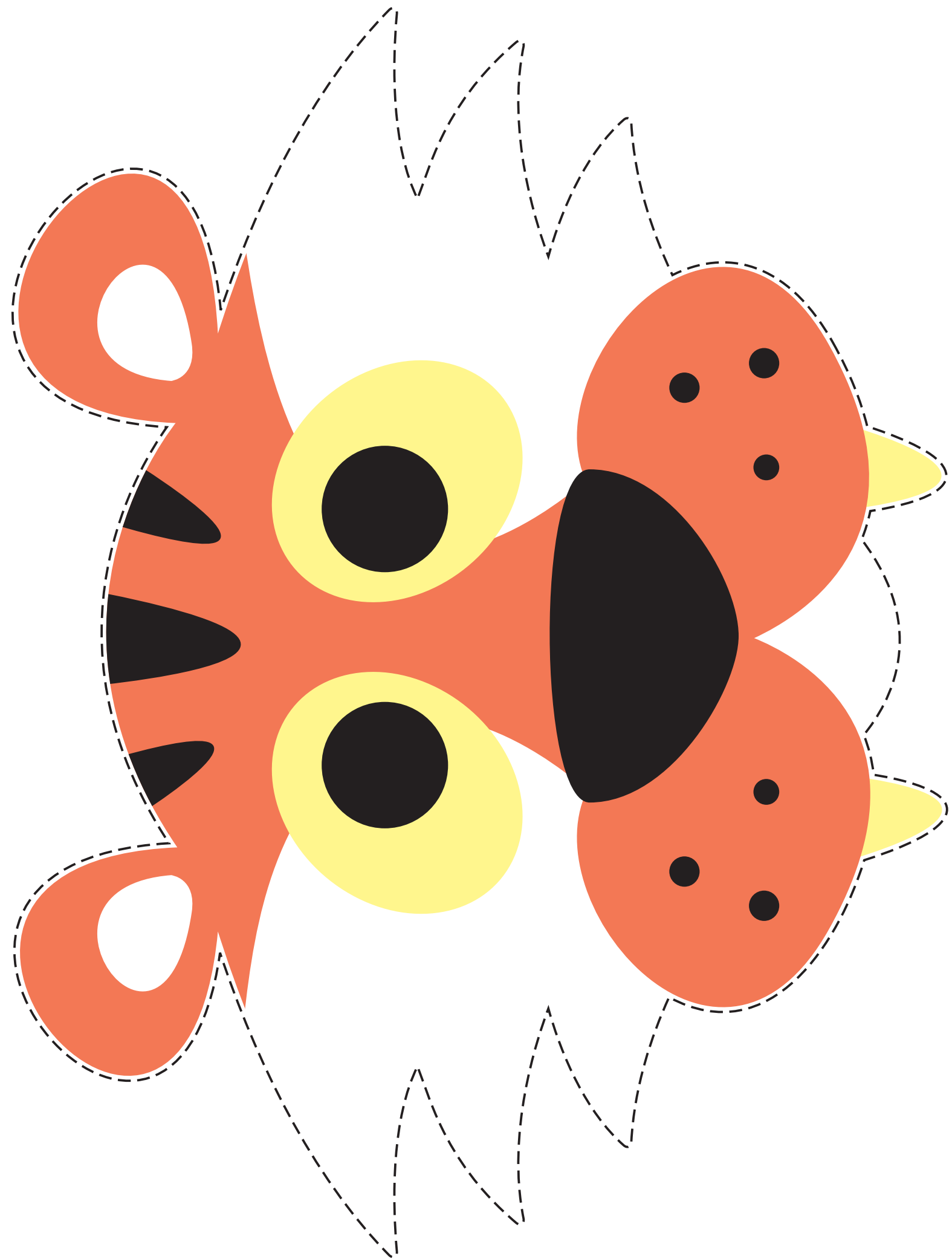


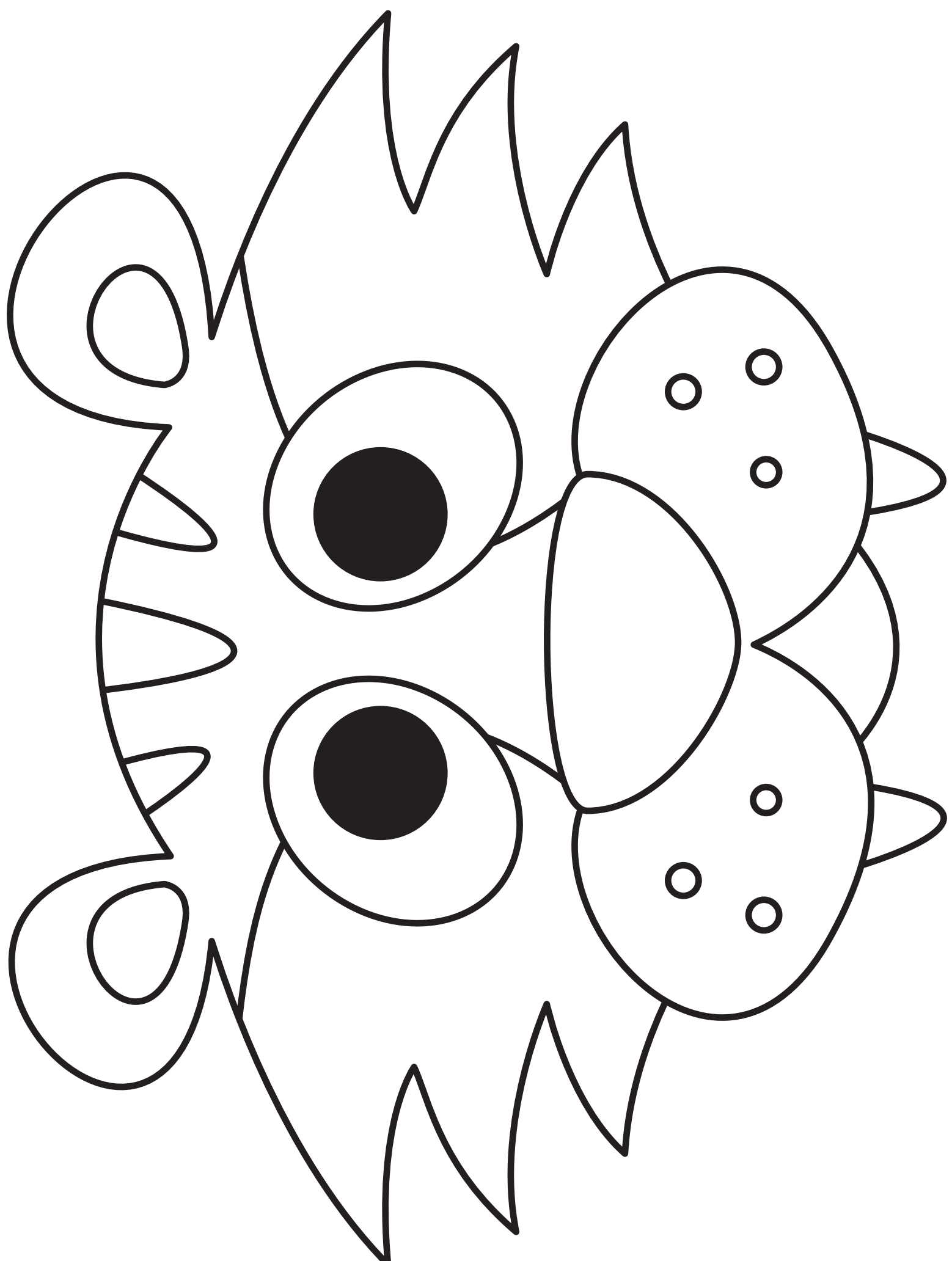




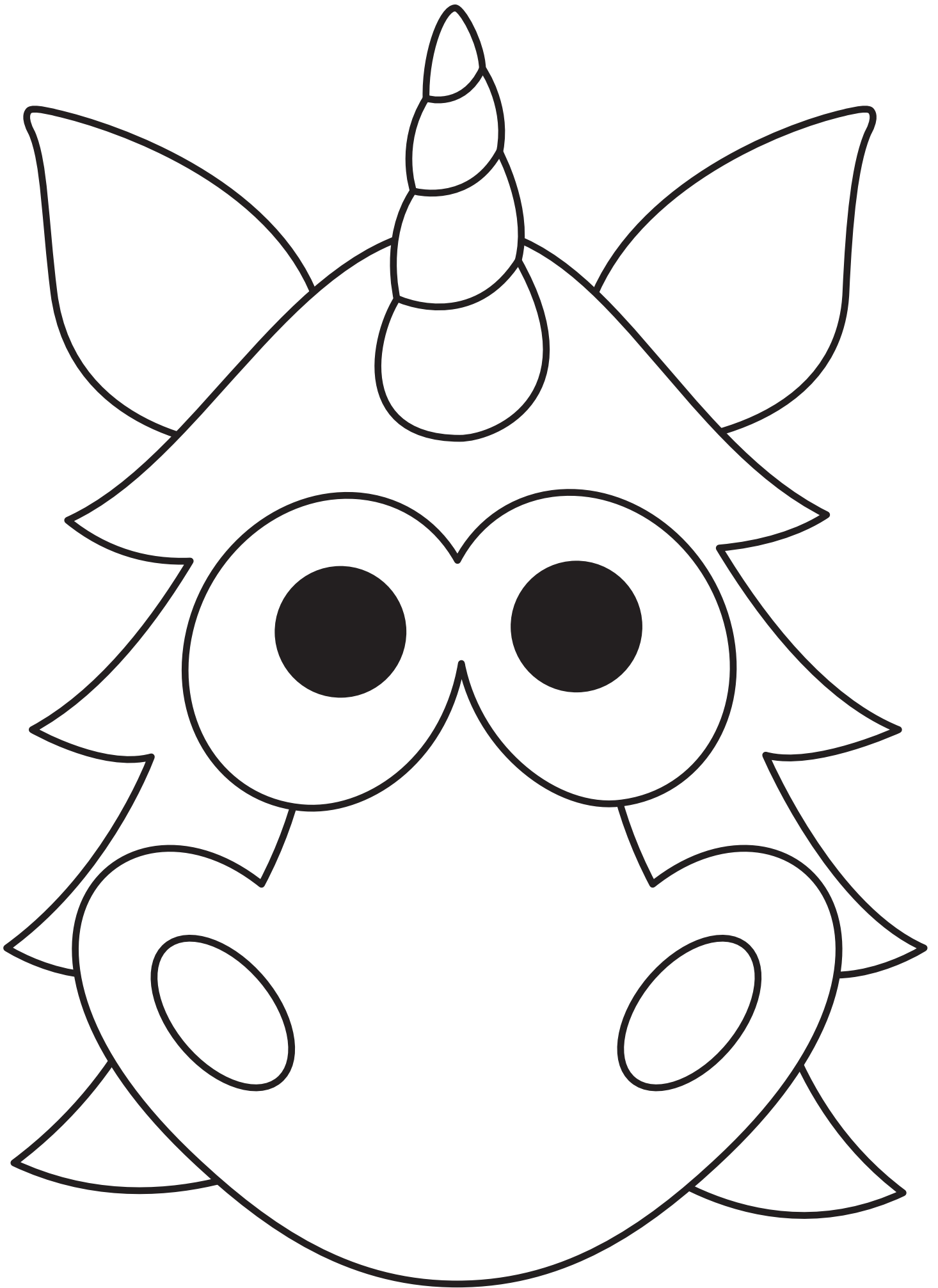


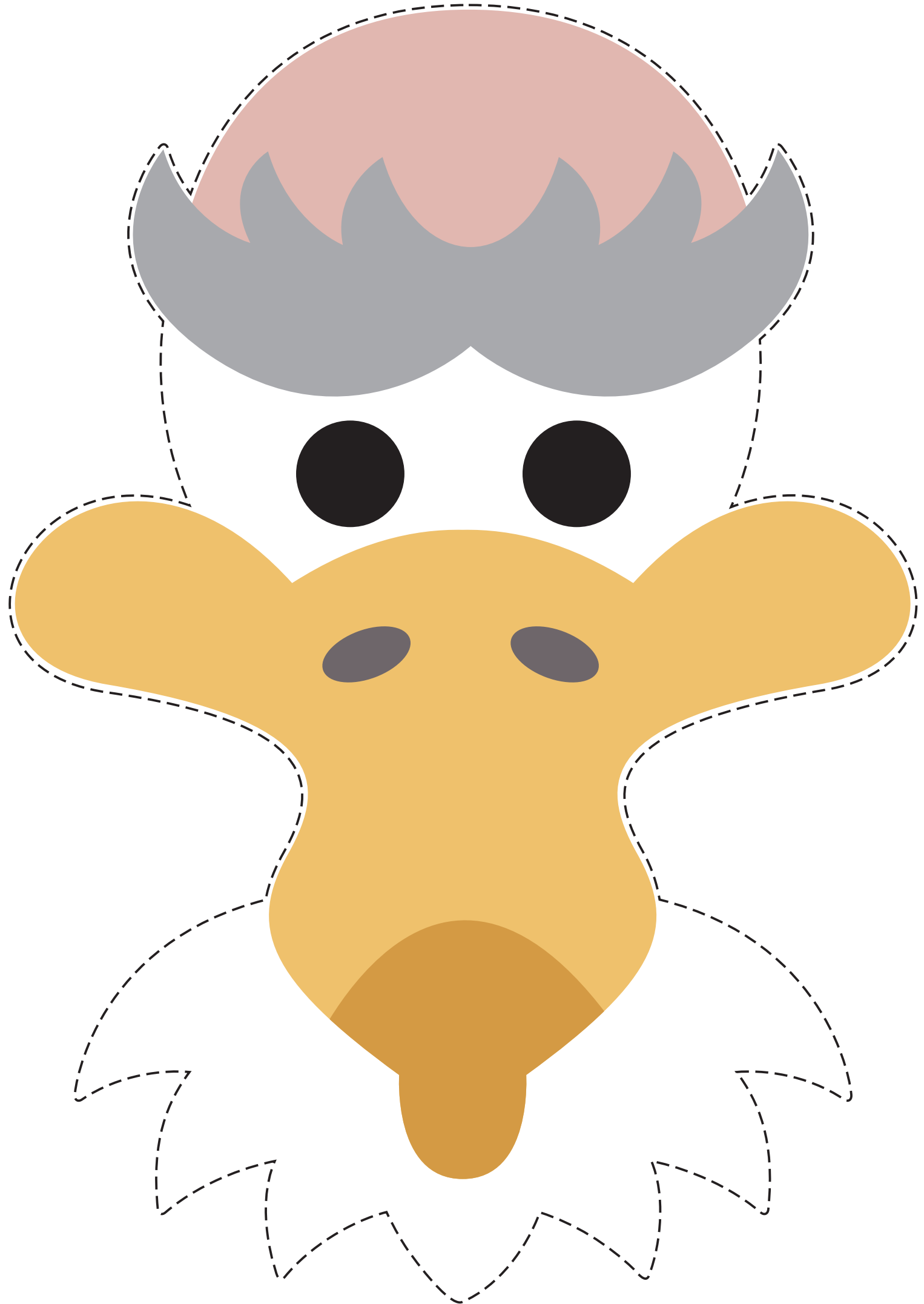


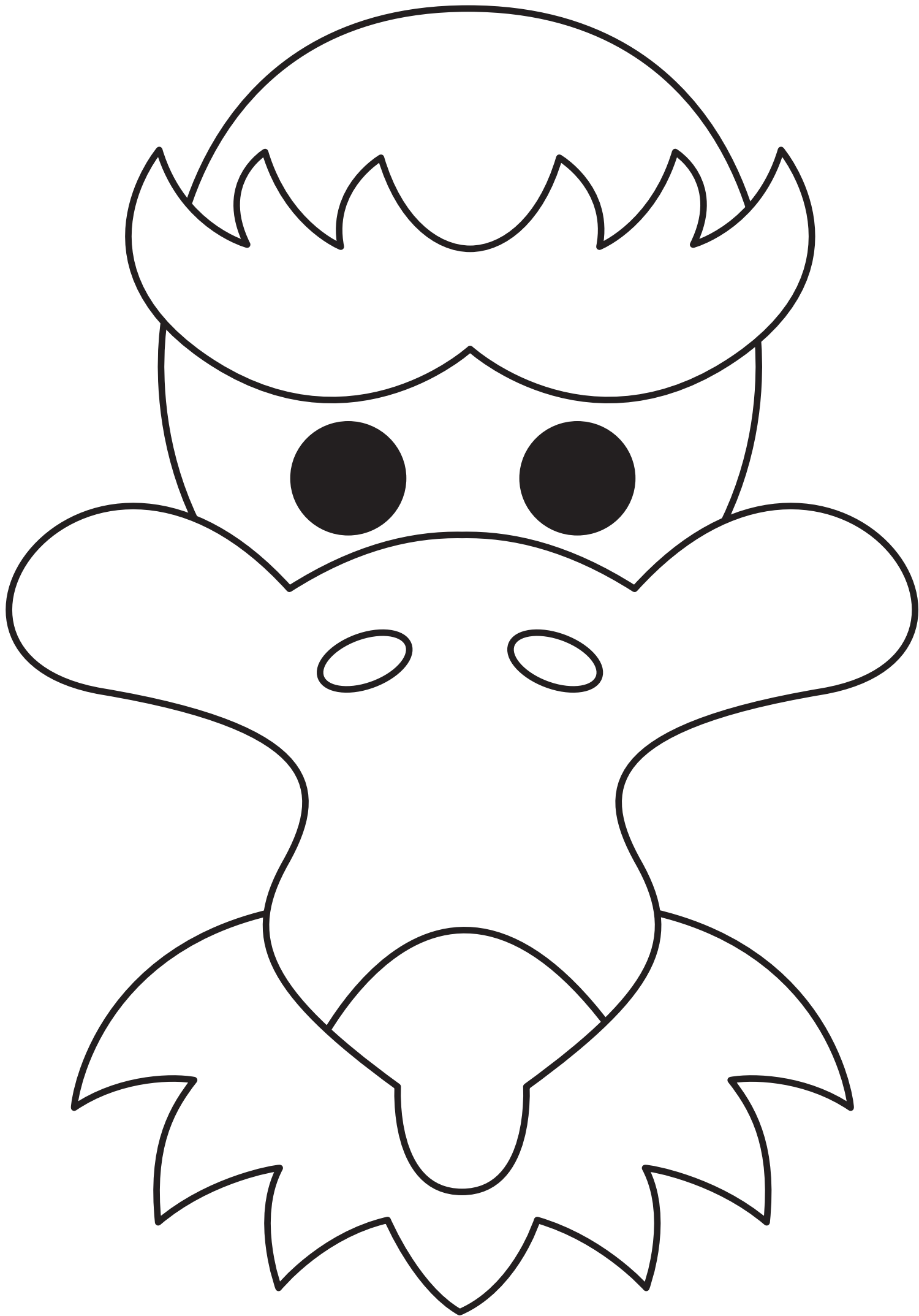


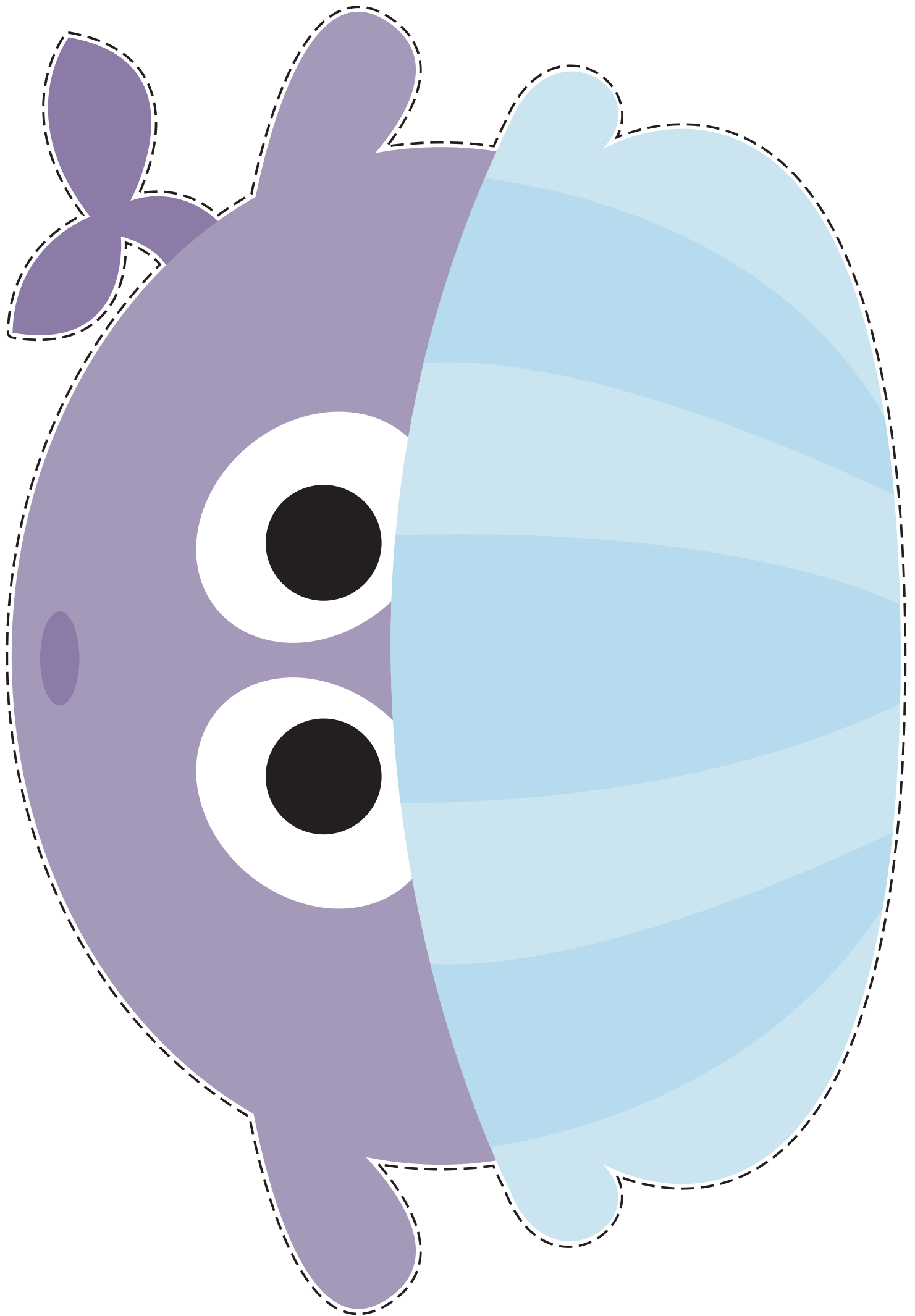


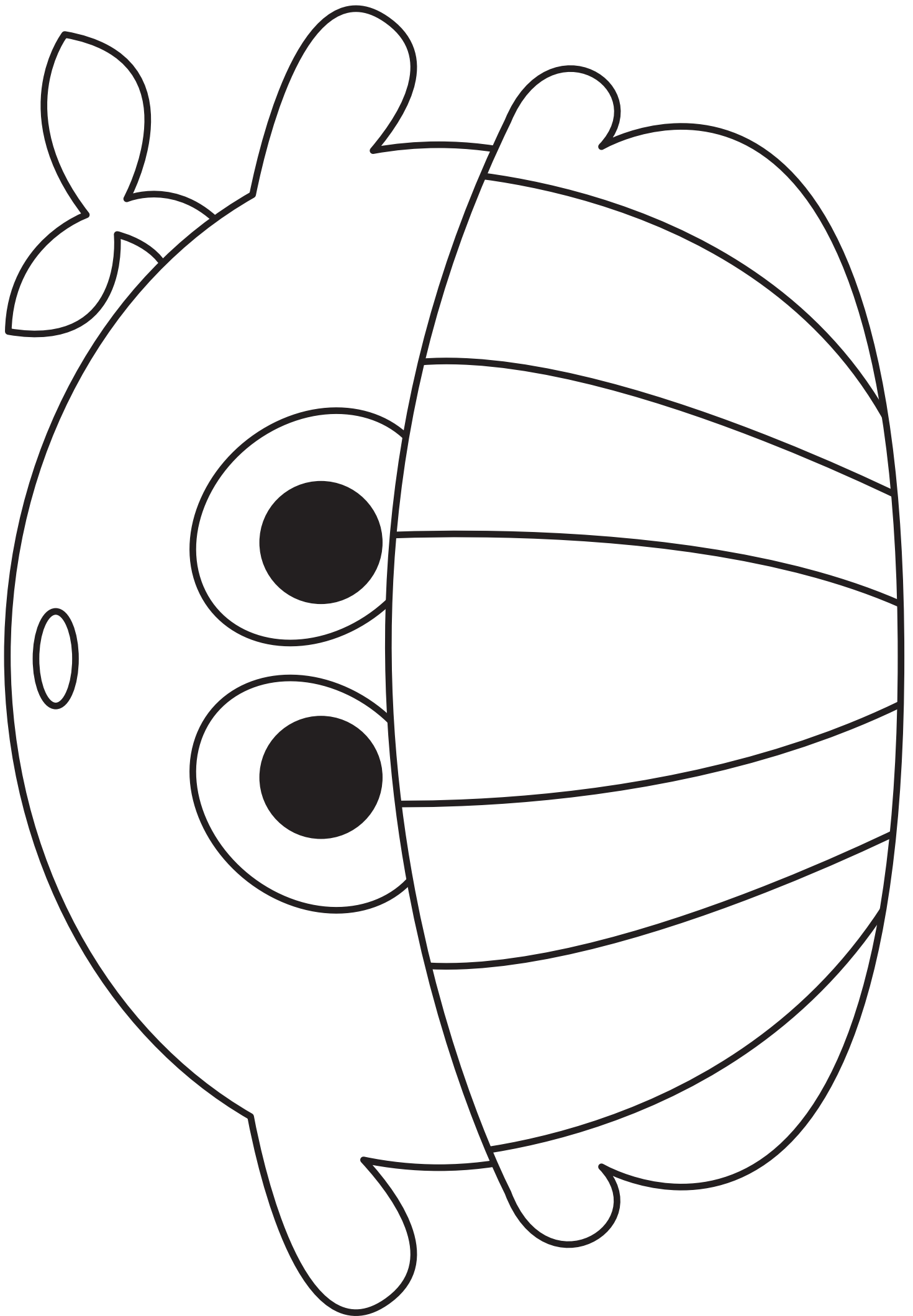


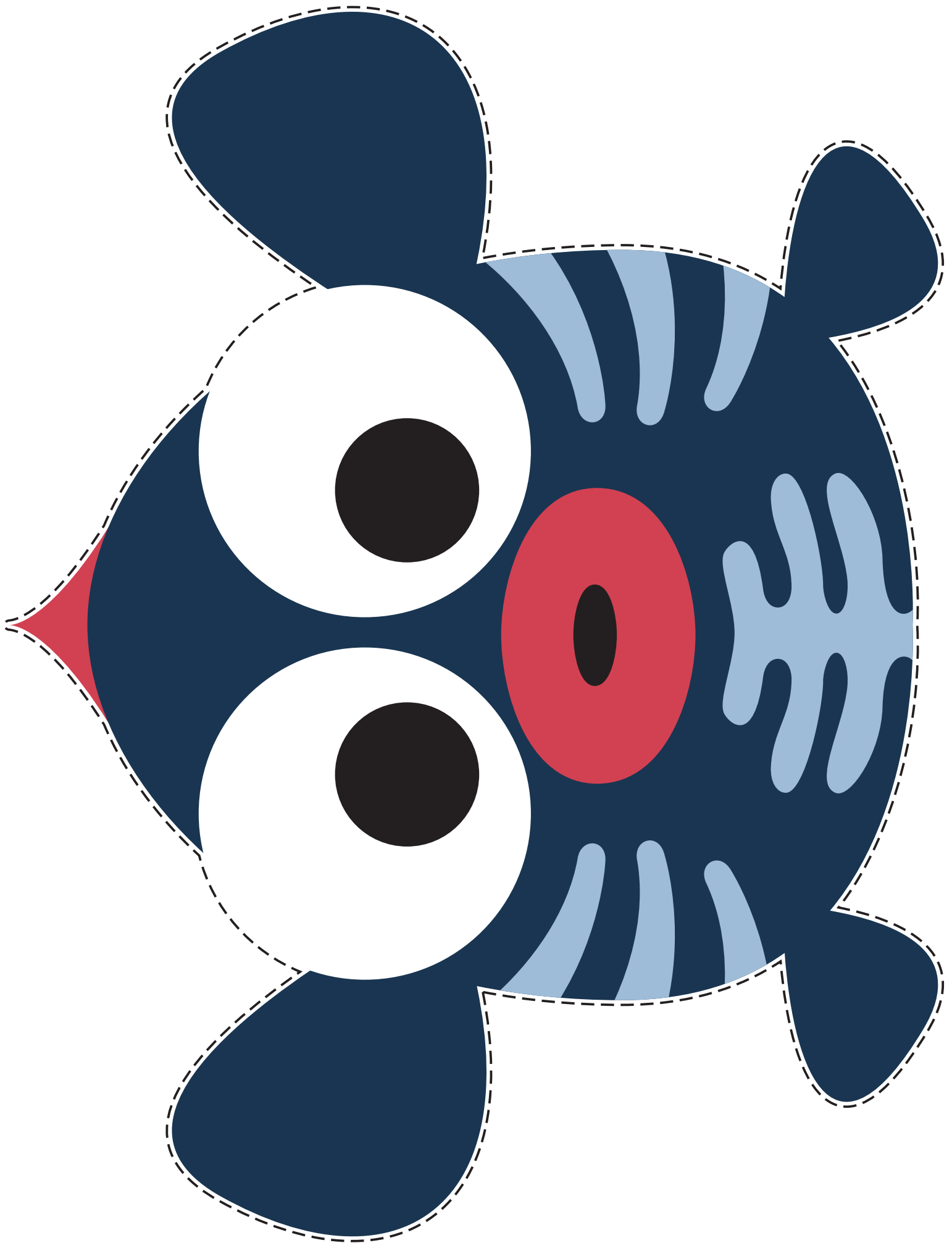


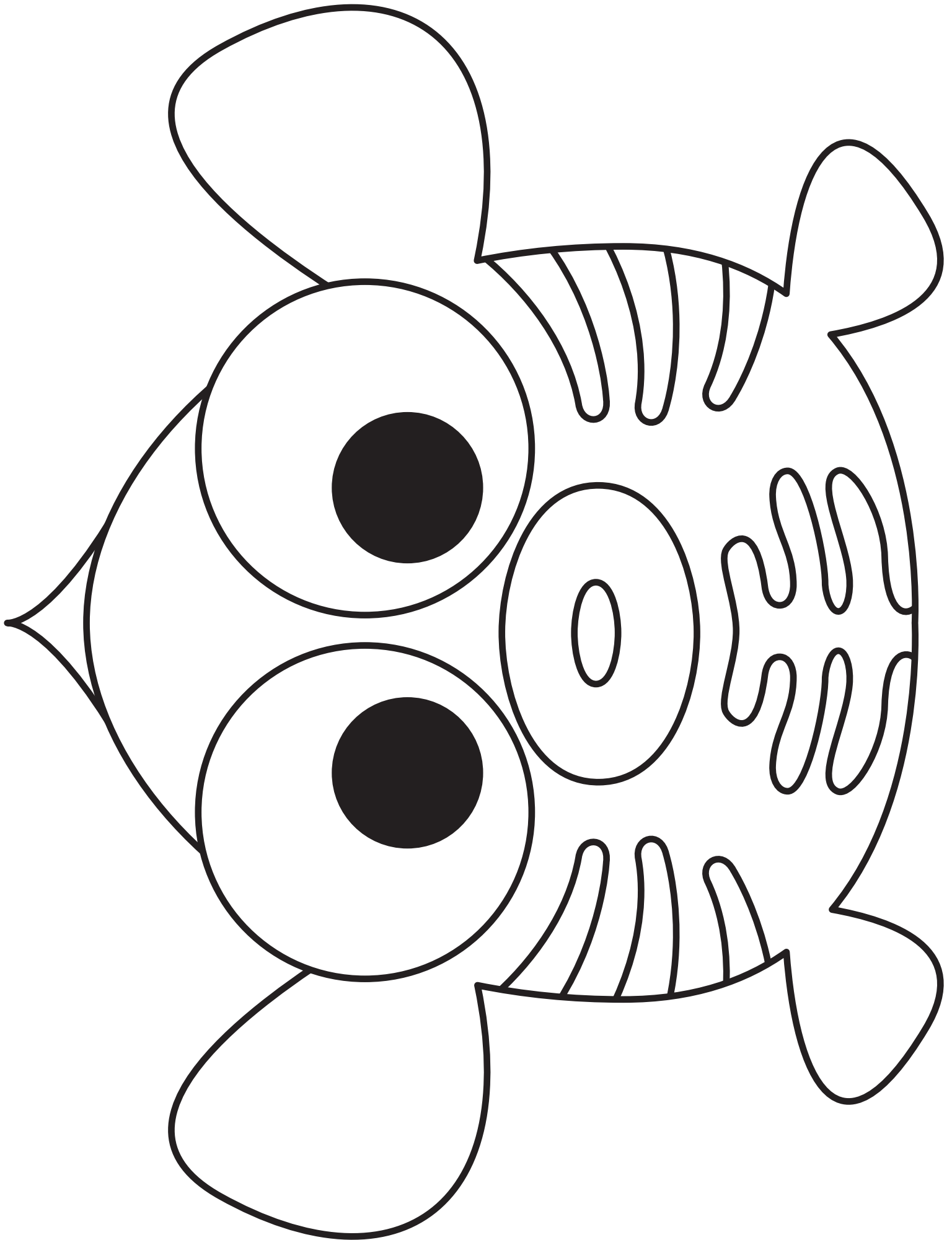


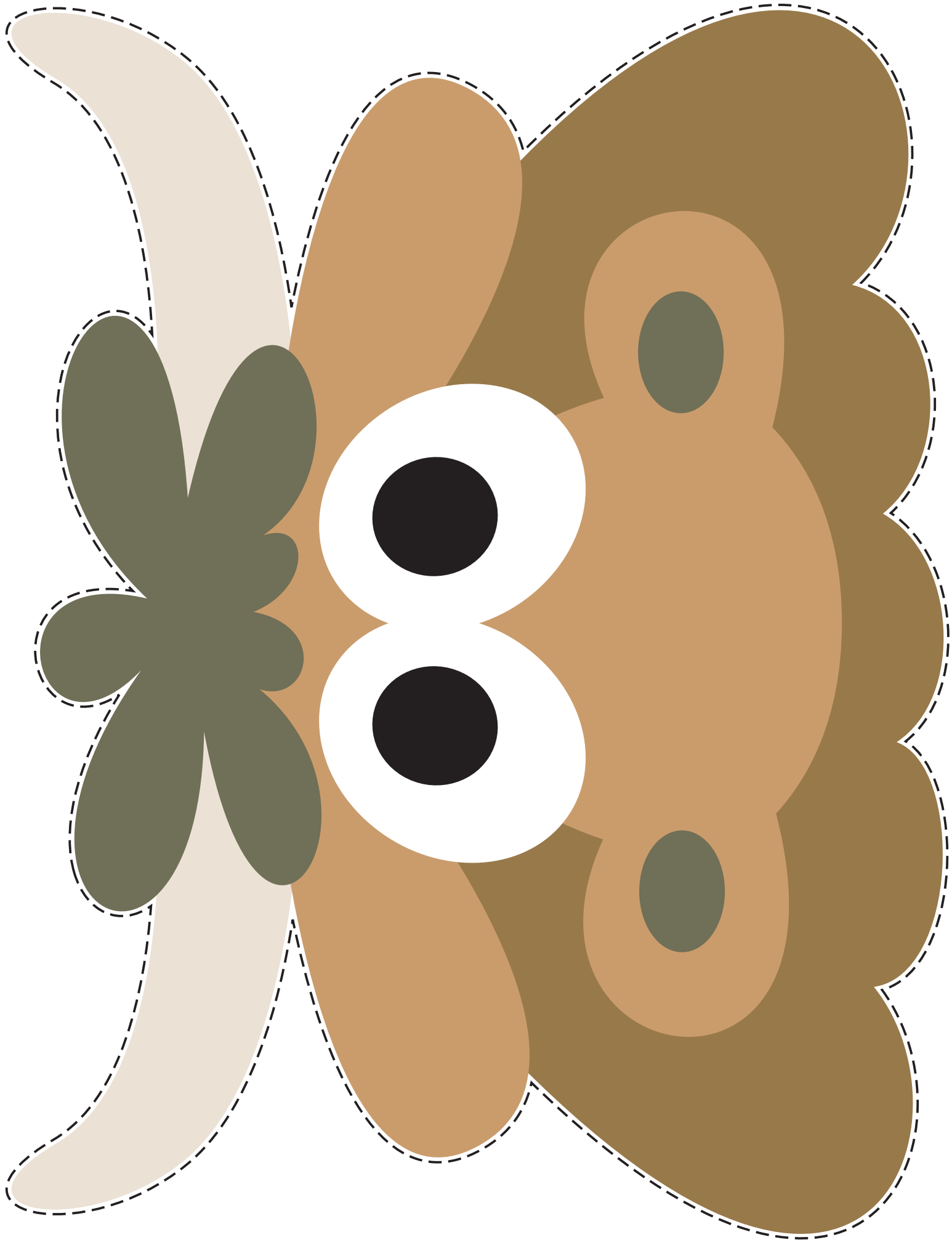


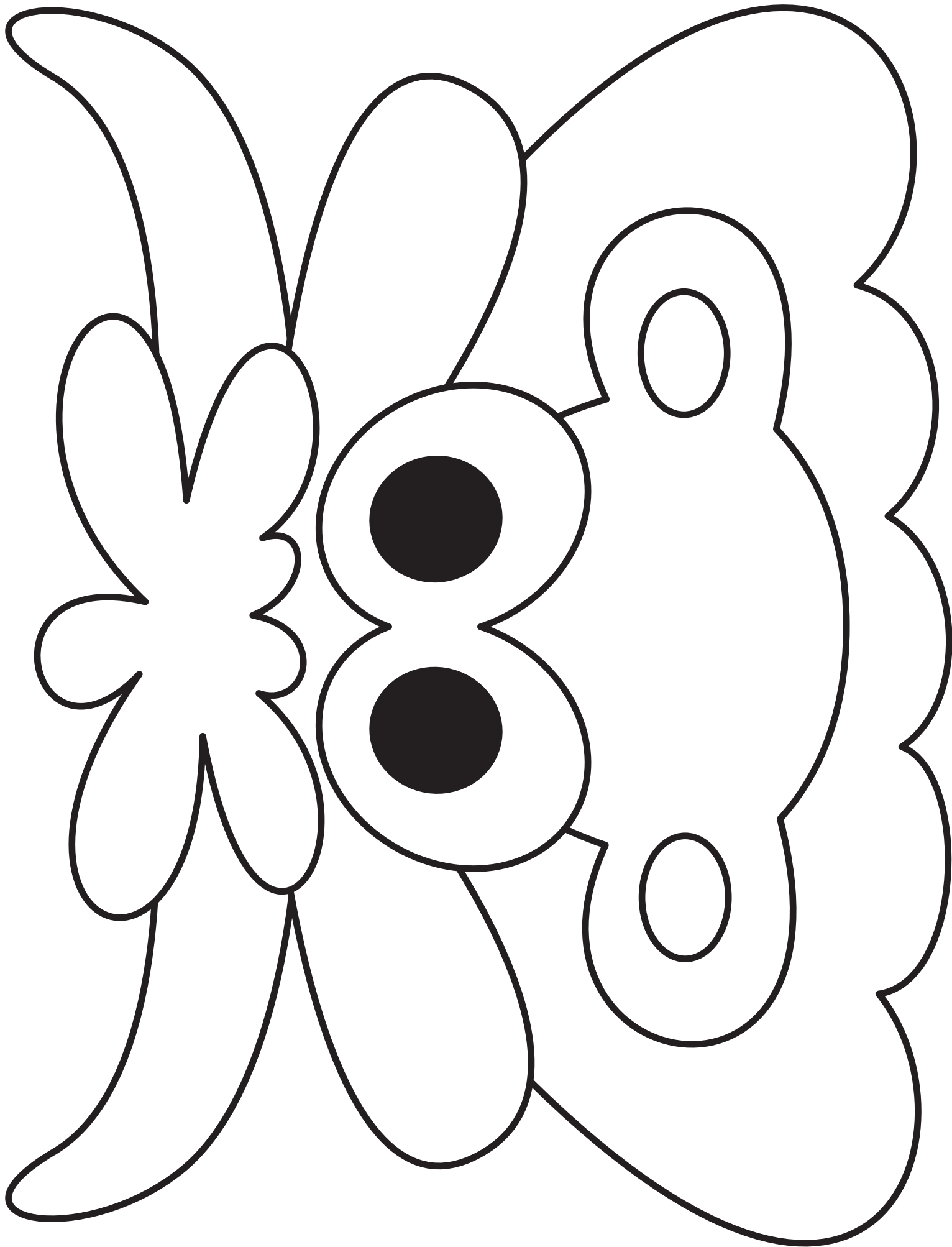




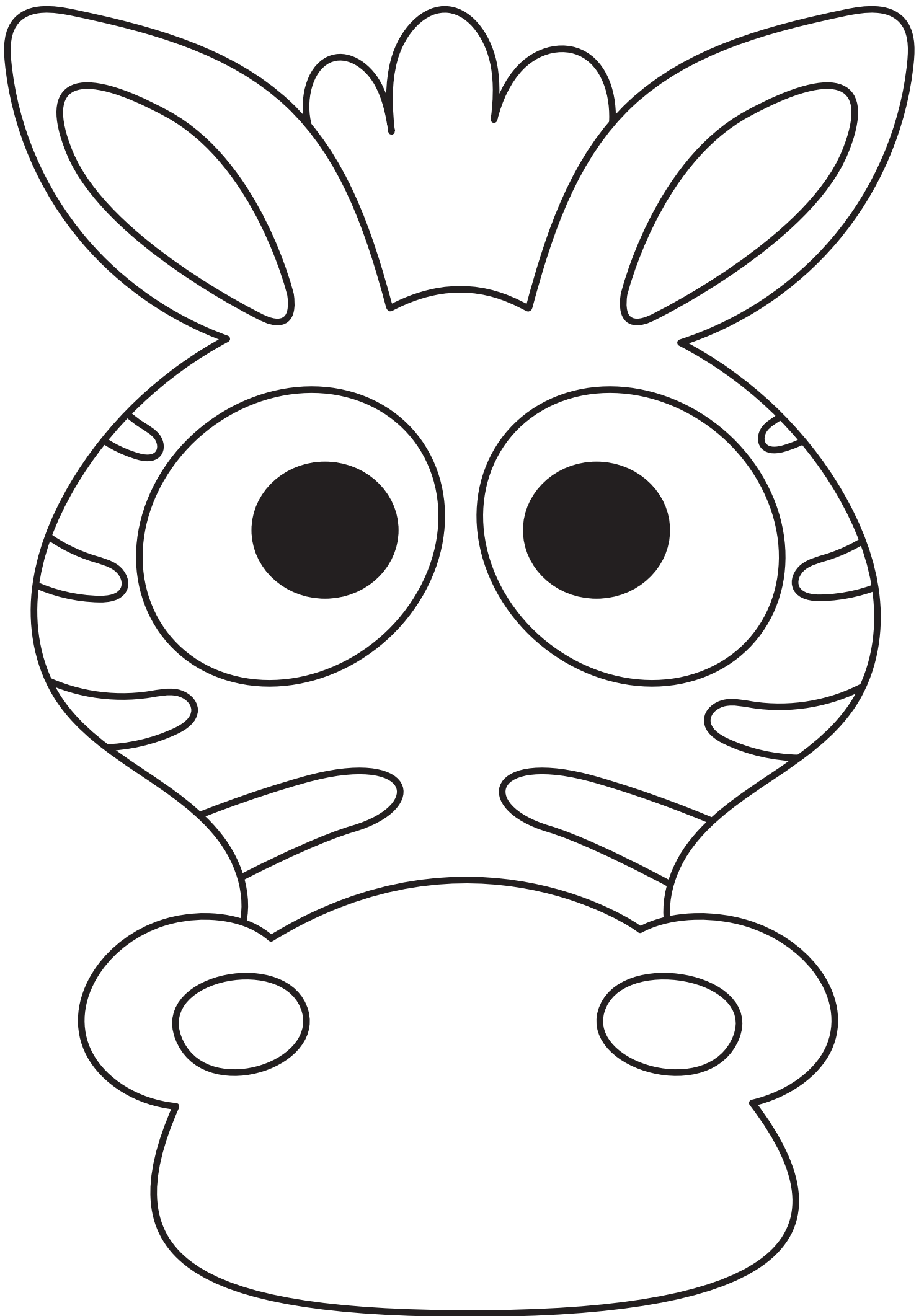














## Printable Aardwolf Mask

1. Despite its name, an aardwolf is not related to wolves at all — it's actually a member of the hyena family!
2. Aardwolves eat termites almost exclusively and can gobble up an astonishing 300,000 termites in a single night.
3. Unlike most of their hyena cousins, aardwolves are completely harmless — they don't hunt or eat other animals.
4. Aardwolves have a special sticky, wide tongue designed perfectly for lapping up insects without disturbing the mound too much, so the termites keep coming back!
5. They live in abandoned burrows dug by aardvarks — so they're basically squatting in their neighbour's house!

## Printable Bison Mask

1. American bison are the largest land animals in North America — males can weigh up to 900kg, which is about the same as a small car!
2. Despite their enormous size, bison are surprisingly fast — they can run at up to 35mph and can jump over fences nearly 2 metres high.
3. In the 1800s, around 60 million bison roamed North America. By the late 1800s, hunting had reduced that number to just a few hundred — one of history's most dramatic near-extinctions.
4. Bison roll around in the dirt in wallowing spots — this helps get rid of insects, shed old fur, and leave their scent as a territorial marker.
5. Baby bison (called calves) are born bright orange-red and are nicknamed 'red dogs' — they gradually turn brown like their parents over the first few months of life.

## Printable Chimpanzee Mask

1. Chimpanzees share approximately 98.7% of their DNA with humans — making them our closest living relatives on Earth.
2. They're one of the very few animals known to make and use tools — they strip leaves from twigs to fish termites from mounds, and use stones as hammers to crack nuts.
3. Chimps have individual fingerprints, just like humans — and researchers can tell them apart by their faces alone, just as we recognise each other.
4. They communicate using a rich combination of facial expressions, body postures, gestures and vocalisations — researchers have identified over 60 distinct gestures used intentionally.
5. Chimpanzees can learn sign language and have been shown to teach it to their offspring — passing learned communication to the next generation entirely on their own.

## Printable Donkey Mask

1. Donkeys have an extraordinary memory — they can remember places and other donkeys they haven't seen for up to 25 years, which is better recall than most humans manage.
2. A donkey's bray can be heard up to 3km away — those enormous ears aren't just for show, they help donkeys communicate across vast distances in their natural desert habitat.
3. Despite their reputation for stubbornness, donkeys are actually very cautious — they simply refuse to do things they perceive as dangerous, which is sensible rather than obstinate.
4. Donkeys are hardier than horses and can survive on much poorer quality food — they originally evolved in desert environments and are experts at making the most of sparse resources.
5. There are more donkeys in the world than you might think — around 40 million domesticated donkeys worldwide, plus a significant wild population, making them one of the most numerous large animals on Earth.

## Printable Elephant Mask

1. Elephants are one of the few animals that mourn their dead — they will return to the bones of deceased family members, gently touching them with their trunks and standing in silence for extended periods.
2. An elephant's trunk contains over 40,000 muscles — it can uproot trees, pick up a single blade of grass, spray water, smell water sources from 20km away, and produce sounds ranging from rumbles to trumpets.
3. They communicate using infrasound — low-frequency rumbles below the range of human hearing that can travel up to 10km through the ground, felt by other elephants through their feet.
4. Elephants are pregnant for 22 months — the longest gestation period of any land mammal. Calves are born weighing around 120kg and can stand within hours.
5. They are one of the only animals besides humans known to recognise themselves in a mirror, use tools, show empathy, and demonstrate what appears to be a sense of humour.

## Printable Fox Mask

1. Foxes use the Earth's magnetic field to hunt — they can sense the direction and angle of the magnetic field through their eyes, and use it to judge distances when pouncing on prey under snow or long grass.
2. A fox's bushy tail (called a brush) is used for balance, warmth (they wrap it around themselves when sleeping), and communication — different tail positions signal different moods.
3. Urban foxes have developed significantly different behaviour to rural foxes — they're bolder, more active during the day, and have adapted to exploit human food sources in ways their country cousins haven't.
4. Fox cubs are born blind and deaf, and are entirely dependent on their parents for the first few weeks — both parents, and sometimes older siblings from the previous year, help raise the litter.
5. Foxes make an extraordinary range of sounds — over 40 different vocalisations including the eerie screaming call that terrifies people who hear it in the night for the first time.

## Printable Giraffe Mask

1. Giraffes have the same number of neck vertebrae as humans — just seven bones, but each one can be over 25cm long. Their necks alone can be up to 1.8 metres in length.
2. They have a 45cm blue-black tongue, which they use to strip leaves from thorny acacia branches — the dark colour is thought to protect it from sunburn during long hours of feeding.
3. Giraffes only need between 10 minutes and 2 hours of sleep per day — they usually sleep standing up and only lie down for short deep sleep periods, as getting back up is slow and leaves them vulnerable.
4. A giraffe's heart weighs around 11kg and generates twice the blood pressure of other large mammals — necessary to pump blood all the way up that extraordinary neck to the brain.
5. Baby giraffes drop nearly 2 metres to the ground at birth — and are standing and walking within hours. Within weeks they can outrun most predators.

## Printable Hippo Mask

1. Hippos are considered the most dangerous large land animal in Africa — they're responsible for an estimated 500 human deaths per year, far more than lions or crocodiles.
2. They're surprisingly fast on land — despite weighing up to 4,500kg, hippos can run at up to 30km/h over short distances, faster than most humans.
3. Hippos secrete a natural sunscreen from their skin — a red oily fluid sometimes called 'blood sweat' that moisturises their skin, acts as a sunblock and has antimicrobial properties.
4. Despite spending most of their time in water, hippos can't swim — they walk or bounce along the bottom of rivers and lakes, surfacing to breathe every 3–5 minutes, even while sleeping.
5. Hippos are more closely related to whales and dolphins than to any land animal — they share a common ancestor that took to the water around 55 million years ago.

## Printable Iguana Mask

1. Iguanas have a photoreceptive organ on the top of their head called a parietal eye — sometimes called a 'third eye', it detects changes in light and shadow and helps warn of predators approaching from above.
2. They can drop their tail to escape a predator — the detached tail keeps wriggling to distract the attacker while the iguana escapes, and a new tail gradually regrows over several months.
3. Marine iguanas of the Galápagos Islands are the only lizards in the world that feed in the sea — they dive to eat algae from underwater rocks, holding their breath for up to 30 minutes.
4. Iguanas sneeze more than almost any other reptile — they have salt-excreting glands in their nasal passages and regularly sneeze out excess salt absorbed from their plant-heavy diet.
5. Despite being herbivores as adults, baby iguanas eat insects and small animals for their first year of life — they need the extra protein to fuel their rapid early growth.

## Printable Jackal Mask

1. In ancient Egyptian mythology, the jackal-headed god Anubis was the guardian of the dead and the guide of souls to the afterlife — making the jackal one of the most culturally significant animals in human history.
2. Jackals mate for life and are devoted parents — both parents hunt together and share equally in raising their pups, with older siblings from previous litters often helping too.
3. They're remarkably vocal — the black-backed jackal produces an eerie, wailing call that carries for kilometres across the savannah, used to maintain contact between family members.
4. Jackals are true omnivores and will eat almost anything — fruit, insects, small mammals, reptiles, carrion and even rubbish near human settlements — making them supremely adaptable.
5. Despite their modest size, jackals regularly drive much larger animals away from kills — their persistence and intelligence often allows them to claim food from animals three or four times their own size.

## Printable Koala Mask

1. Koalas sleep for up to 22 hours a day — their diet of eucalyptus leaves is so low in nutrition and so toxic that they need to conserve enormous amounts of energy just to process it.
2. Despite looking like bears, koalas are marsupials and more closely related to wombats and kangaroos — the 'koala bear' name is a misnomer that has stuck despite being scientifically wrong.
3. Koalas have fingerprints almost indistinguishable from human fingerprints — even under a microscope, it's extremely difficult to tell them apart, making them the only non-primate with this feature.
4. Baby koalas (joeys) eat a special substance called pap produced by their mother — essentially a softened, pre-digested form of eucalyptus that introduces the gut bacteria needed to tolerate the toxic leaves.
5. Koalas have two opposable thumbs on each front paw — giving them an extraordinary grip on branches and the ability to climb smooth, vertical eucalyptus trunks with ease.

## Printable Lion Mask

1. Lions are the only cats that live in groups — called a pride. A pride can have up to 40 lions!
2. A lion's roar can be heard up to 8 kilometres (5 miles) away. That's seriously loud!
3. Female lions (lionesses) do most of the hunting, while the males guard the pride's territory.
4. Lion cubs are born with spots, which fade as they grow up. Baby lions look very different to adults!
5. Lions sleep up to 20 hours a day. They save their energy for hunting and protecting the pride.

## Printable Moose Mask

1. Moose are the largest members of the deer family — a full-grown bull can stand 2.1 metres at the shoulder and weigh over 700kg, making them genuinely enormous animals.
2. Male moose grow an entirely new set of antlers every single year — the largest antlers on record spanned over 2 metres from tip to tip and can weigh up to 20kg, all grown in just 3–4 months.
3. Moose are surprisingly fast in water — they can swim at up to 10km/h and have been known to cross lakes several kilometres wide. Their large, hollow hairs also provide buoyancy.
4. Their distinctive drooping nose isn't just for show — the large, flexible nostrils can close completely when diving to feed on aquatic plants, and the long snout helps warm cold Arctic air before it reaches the lungs.
5. Despite their size, moose can move almost silently through dense forest — their long, splayed hooves allow them to place each foot precisely, making them remarkably stealthy for such enormous animals.

## Printable Narwhal Mask

1. The narwhal's tusk is actually an enormously elongated tooth — it grows through the upper lip of males and can reach up to 3 metres long, spiralling in a left-handed helix. Occasionally females grow one too.
2. Medieval traders sold narwhal tusks as genuine unicorn horns for extraordinary sums — the powder was believed to cure poisoning, and Queen Elizabeth I paid the equivalent of a small castle for a single tusk.
3. The tusk contains up to 10 million nerve endings and is sensitive to temperature, pressure and salinity — it's thought to be a sophisticated environmental sensor rather than primarily a weapon.
4. Narwhals are among the deepest-diving whales — they regularly dive to over 1,500 metres, spending up to 25 minutes at a time in near-total darkness at crushing pressure.
5. Despite living in some of the most extreme conditions on Earth, narwhals are remarkably sensitive to disturbance — they're one of the few whale species that has not adapted well to human activity in the Arctic.

## Printable Orangutan Mask

1. Orangutans share approximately 97% of their DNA with humans — making them our third closest relatives after chimpanzees and bonobos.
2. They are the largest arboreal mammals on Earth — spending almost their entire lives in the forest canopy, building a new sleeping nest from branches and leaves every single night.
3. Orangutans have the longest childhood of any animal after humans — young orangutans stay with their mothers for up to 8 years, the longest period of maternal dependency in the animal kingdom.
4. They are remarkably creative problem solvers — wild orangutans have been observed using leaves as umbrellas, fashioning tools to extract insects from bark, and even using leaves to amplify their calls.
5. Male orangutans develop large cheek pads called flanges as they mature — these distinctive face pads signal dominant status and are accompanied by a deep, booming 'long call' that can be heard over a kilometre away.

## Printable Panda Mask

1. Giant pandas eat for up to 16 hours a day — they need to consume 12–38kg of bamboo daily to meet their nutritional needs, because bamboo is so low in nutrients that most of it passes straight through.
2. Despite eating almost nothing but bamboo, pandas are classified as carnivores — their digestive system is that of a meat-eater, which is why bamboo is so nutritionally inefficient for them.
3. Pandas have a 'false thumb' — an enlarged wrist bone that acts as an opposable thumb, allowing them to grip bamboo stems with remarkable precision despite having no true opposable thumb.
4. Baby pandas are born extraordinarily small — at birth they weigh only about 100g, roughly the size of a stick of butter, and are pink, blind and helpless. They grow to over 100kg as adults.
5. The wild panda population has recovered from around 1,000 in the 1980s to over 1,800 today — a genuine conservation success driven by habitat protection and an ambitious breeding programme.

## Printable Quokka Mask

1. Quokkas have been described as the world's happiest animal — their upturned mouth and relaxed facial muscles give them a permanent expression of contentment that is genuinely adorable and entirely unposed.
2. They are found mainly on Rottnest Island off Perth in Western Australia — the island's name comes from Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh, who mistook the quokkas for large rats and called it 'Rotte nest' (rat nest) in 1696.
3. Quokkas are nocturnal marsupials that graze on grasses and leaves — they can survive for long periods without fresh water by extracting moisture from their food, an impressive adaptation for island life.
4. Baby quokkas (joeys) spend around six months in the mother's pouch — they then emerge but continue to return to the pouch for comfort and safety for several more weeks.
5. Quokkas have remarkably little fear of humans on Rottnest Island — centuries of island living with no natural predators has made them unusually bold and approachable, though feeding them is now illegal to protect their health.

## Printable Razorback Mask

1. Razorbacks get their name from the distinctive ridge of bristles along their spine that stands erect when the animal is alarmed or aggressive — like a built-in warning signal.
2. They are descendants of domestic pigs that escaped or were released — within a few generations of living wild, they revert to a leaner, more muscular build with longer legs and a more prominent snout.
3. Razorback tusks can reach 23cm in males — used both for digging up roots and tubers and for fighting other males during the breeding season. They continue growing throughout the animal's life.
4. In Australia, feral pigs (razorbacks) are considered a serious invasive pest — they cause extensive damage to crops, native vegetation and wetlands, and their population is estimated at over 24 million.
5. They are remarkably intelligent and highly adaptable — razorbacks have been shown to problem-solve, remember solutions to puzzles, and adjust their behaviour to exploit new food sources within days of encountering them.

## Printable Shark Mask

1. Sharks have been on Earth for over 450 million years — they predate the dinosaurs by 200 million years and survived all five mass extinction events, making them one of the most enduring successful predators in history.
2. They have electroreceptors called the ampullae of Lorenzini — tiny jelly-filled pores on their snout that can detect the minute electrical fields generated by muscle movement, allowing them to find hidden prey.
3. Sharks never run out of teeth — they grow in rows and move forward like a conveyor belt. A single shark may produce over 30,000 teeth in a lifetime, replacing each lost tooth within days.
4. More people are killed by vending machines each year than by sharks — the average annual global shark fatality count is around 5–10 people, while approximately 100 million sharks are killed by humans every year.
5. Sharks must keep moving to breathe — most species need to swim continuously to force water over their gills. If they stop, they suffocate, which is why they can never truly rest the way land animals do.

## Printable Tiger Mask

1. No two tigers have the same stripe pattern — each is as unique as a human fingerprint, and researchers use photographs of stripe patterns to identify and track individual tigers in the wild.
2. Tigers are the only big cats with striped fur — lions, leopards and jaguars all have spotted or plain coats. The stripes aren't just on the fur either; if you shaved a tiger, the skin underneath would be striped too.
3. They are powerful swimmers and actually enjoy water — unlike most cats, tigers will wade, swim and even play in rivers and lakes, cooling off in the heat and occasionally catching fish.
4. A tiger's roar can be heard up to 3km away — and it contains infrasound frequencies below the range of human hearing that can temporarily paralyse prey and predators alike.
5. Tigers are solitary and maintain large territories — a male's range can cover up to 100 square kilometres, which he marks by spraying urine, leaving scratch marks on trees and depositing scent from glands in his paws.

## Printable Unicorn Mask

1. Scotland's national animal is the unicorn — adopted as a symbol of purity and power in the 12th century, it appears on the Royal Coat of Arms of Scotland alongside the lion, and remains an official national emblem to this day.
2. Ancient Greeks believed unicorns were real animals — Greek historian Ctesias described them as wild donkeys with a single horn on the forehead, probably based on travellers' accounts of the Indian rhinoceros seen from the side.
3. The narwhal's spiralling tusk was sold as genuine unicorn horn throughout the Middle Ages — called alicorn, it was believed to have magical and medicinal properties and commanded prices that could buy a small castle.
4. The unicorn has been a symbol of the British monarchy since 1603 — when James VI of Scotland became James I of England, the Scottish unicorn joined the English lion on the Royal Coat of Arms, where both remain today.
5. In heraldry, the unicorn is always depicted with a chain — representing its great power and the need to keep it restrained. A free unicorn was considered too dangerous even to be depicted.

## Printable Vulture Mask

1. Vultures have stomach acid with a pH close to zero — more acidic than almost any other vertebrate, strong enough to destroy anthrax, botulism and cholera bacteria that would kill most other animals. They are living disease-prevention systems.
2. Their bald heads are a hygiene adaptation — feathers around the head would become matted with blood and bacteria when plunging inside carcasses, so bare skin is far more hygienic and easier to clean.
3. New World vultures (Americas) and Old World vultures (Africa, Europe, Asia) are not closely related — they're a remarkable example of convergent evolution, where unrelated animals independently evolved almost identical forms and lifestyles.
4. A group of vultures circling in the air is called a kettle — they use thermal air currents to soar with minimal wing effort, sometimes travelling hundreds of kilometres in a single day without a single wingbeat.
5. The decline of vultures in Asia caused a public health catastrophe — when vulture populations crashed by 99% due to a veterinary drug (diclofenac) in the 1990s, dog populations exploded feeding on unprocessed carcasses, leading to a massive increase in rabies cases.

## Printable Whale Mask

1. The blue whale is the largest animal ever known to have lived — reaching up to 33 metres long and weighing up to 190 tonnes, it's larger than any dinosaur. Its heart alone is the size of a small car.
2. Whales sing — blue whale songs are the loudest produced by any animal, reaching 188 decibels, and can travel thousands of kilometres through the ocean. Each population has its own dialect that evolves gradually over generations.
3. They evolved from land mammals — whale ancestors walked on four legs around 50 million years ago. Vestigial hind leg bones are still present inside the bodies of modern whales, a remnant of their terrestrial past.
4. Humpback whales are the acrobats of the whale world — they breach (leap clear of the water) despite weighing up to 36 tonnes, for reasons scientists still debate, possibly communication, parasite removal or sheer exuberance.
5. Whales play a crucial role in ocean nutrient cycles — their faeces are rich in iron and nitrogen and float near the surface, fertilising phytoplankton blooms that support entire food chains and absorb vast amounts of carbon.

## Printable X-Ray Fish Mask

1. The x-ray fish's transparency is a form of camouflage — in the dark, tannin-stained rivers of South America, a transparent body casts no shadow and has no outline, making the fish almost invisible to predators looking from below.
2. Their internal organs are not transparent — the silvery sheen visible in the body cavity comes from a layer of reflective crystals that hide the digestive organs, which would otherwise show as a dark mass and give the fish away.
3. They are popular aquarium fish worldwide — the x-ray tetra (*Pristella maxillaris*) is one of the hardiest and most adaptable freshwater aquarium fish, tolerating a wide range of water conditions and living peacefully with other species.
4. Transparency is surprisingly rare in large animals — it's common in small marine invertebrates and some fish larvae, but the x-ray tetra is one of very few adult fish to maintain full-body transparency throughout its life.
5. Several entirely unrelated species are called x-ray fish — the name is applied to any fish with notable transparency, including the Indian glassy fish and several species of ghost goby, all of which have independently evolved the same remarkable appearance.

## Printable Yak Mask

1. Yaks can live at altitudes above 6,000 metres — higher than almost any other large mammal. Their blood contains three times more red blood cells than lowland cattle, allowing them to absorb oxygen efficiently in the thin Himalayan air.
2. Their thick coat has three layers — a coarse outer layer that sheds water and snow, a middle layer of matted fibres for insulation, and an ultra-fine inner layer that is softer than cashmere and highly prized for textiles.
3. Wild yaks can weigh up to a tonne — making them one of the largest bovids in the world. Domestic yaks are significantly smaller, bred over centuries for manageability rather than size.
4. Yaks communicate with grunts rather than moos — unlike domestic cattle, yaks produce low grunts and are sometimes called grunting oxen. The scientific name *Bos grunniens* means 'grunting ox'.
5. They are central to Tibetan culture and survival — providing milk, butter, meat, wool, leather and dung (used as fuel), yaks have sustained Tibetan communities at extreme altitude for thousands of years and are considered sacred animals.

## Printable Zebra Mask

1. No two zebras have the same stripe pattern — each individual's stripes are as unique as a human fingerprint, and zebras recognise each other by their stripe patterns just as we recognise faces.
2. The stripe debate has a new answer — for decades scientists argued about whether zebras were black with white stripes or white with black stripes. The skin underneath is black, making them technically black with white stripes.
3. Stripes appear to deter biting flies — research has shown that horseflies and tsetse flies struggle to land on striped surfaces. The pattern disrupts their visual system during approach, providing genuine protection against disease-carrying insects.
4. Zebras sleep standing up for most of their rest — like horses, they can lock their legs and doze upright. They only lie down for deep REM sleep, and always with other zebras standing guard.
5. A group of zebras is called a dazzle — a collective noun that perfectly captures the visual effect of multiple striped animals moving together, which genuinely confuses predators trying to isolate a single target.