

IN BRIEF

The Firefox is about a little boy who spots a mythical fox in the wilderness. This pack is full of cool facts and activities – inside, you will find out about amazing foxes of all kinds!



1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- Learning new words is fun and useful. A new word is like an interesting new tool that you can use to talk about the world around you! The **Storytime Glossary** is full of new vocabulary from this month's stories. What is your favourite new word that you discovered in this issue?
- The **Class Discussion Sheet** has all sorts of questions about foxes – where they live, how they survive, and how they manage to get along with humans. Have *you* ever seen a fox in real life?
- The extract from this month's story on the **Reading Comprehension Sheet** contains a *preposition*, an *alliteration* and even an *onomatopoeia*. Can you find them all? (Those words might sound big and scary, but don't worry – we'll tell you what they mean!)
- Stories don't make a lot of sense if you jumble up the order that things occur in – and that's exactly what's happened on the **Story Sequencing Sheet**! It's up to you to sort it out... all you have to do is number the different sections to show what order they *should* be read in!
- How well do you know Onni's story? See if you can retell his tale in your own words on the **Storyboard** page. Remember, you can go back and re-read the story if you don't remember something and need to refresh your memory.
- In this pack, we normally ask you to answer some questions about the main character in a story. However, on the **Fox Description Sheet**, you will write about the awesome creatures known as foxes. How would you describe them?

Continued on page 2...

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- It can be fun to play with words – and that’s what you’ll be doing on the **Fox Poems and Rhymes** page. First, see how many words you can come up with that rhyme with ‘fox’. It can help if you try out different words by saying them out loud. Then, create a cool fox poem by inventing different *similes* about what they are like. (A *simile* is where you describe something as being like something else.) Give it a go – you can get really creative with it!
- Now it’s time for you to write about foxes and what they are like. The **Describing Foxes!** page has a list of adjectives that can be used to talk about these animals. How many can you put in your writing? You get a point for each one you include!
- Foxes are very popular characters in stories, and we have included many of them in **Storytime!** The **Fox Tale Reviews** page lists different tales and the issues you can find them in. Read at least three of these stories and then give each one a rating, from one to six stars. You could even write a short (five-sentence) review of each one...

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- There is more to foxes than meets the eye! Check out the **Fast and Fun Fox Facts!** to learn more about these incredible creatures. You’re sure to learn something new! There is also a space to write in another fact that you have discovered. Go to the library or do a web search to find out more about foxes!
- There are lots of different kinds of foxes in the world, and you can learn all about them on the **Which Fox is It?** sheet. See if you can match the pictures with their descriptions! Can you think of ways in which the different foxes have adapted to the environments they live in?

Continued on page 3...

3. GEOGRAPHY LESSON IDEA

- After learning about different foxes on the **Which Fox is It?** sheet, try to work out which places they live in on the **Foxes Around the World** page. (Hint: there are clues in the profiles of the different foxes...)

4. ART LESSON IDEAS

- Cut out the three fox masks in this pack – there are **Red Fox, Arctic Fox and Fennec Fox** masks you can try on! Put elastic through the holes so you can wear them. Why not make up a play about the different foxes and act it out with your friends?
- The Northern Lights are a magical sight – the glowing colours can sometimes be seen in the far north at certain times of year. As you found out in this month's story, a Finnish myth tells us that they are created by a fabulous beast called the Firefox. On the **Northern Lights Colouring** page, colour in the fox... and then draw in the colours that he spreads across the skies. Look up pictures of the northern lights to get inspiration for your art!
- The Firefox in the story had an amazing tail that glowed in many wonderful colours. Colour in the picture of this mythical beast on the **Draw My Tail!** page – and add a big and colourful brush on his bottom, too!

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

Learn new words from this month's stories!

The Boastful Bird (Page 6)

- ▷ **Chirped** – said in a high-pitched voice
- ▷ **Shiver** – slight shake
- ▷ **Preened** – tidied
- ▷ **His equal** – as good as him
- ▷ **Triumph** – victory
- ▷ **Fashionable** – trendy or stylish
- ▷ **Cacophony** – loud, unpleasant noise
- ▷ **Honked** – said in a loud, echoey voice
- ▷ **Flock** – group
- ▷ **Talons** – claws
- ▷ **Plummeted** – went down quickly
- ▷ **Caw** – make harsh crow noises
- ▷ **Unfortunate** – unlucky

Floorboard Fairies (Page 9)

- ▷ **Dryads** – tree spirits
- ▷ **Wisps** – glowing magical creatures
- ▷ **Foamy** – covered with bubbles
- ▷ **Delicacies** – rare and tasty treats
- ▷ **Gossiped** – talked about other people
- ▷ **Dwelling** – living
- ▷ **Daft** – silly
- ▷ **Contents** – things in it
- ▷ **Glances** – looks
- ▷ **Unimpressed** – not excited
- ▷ **Disbelief** – feeling of not believing
- ▷ **Genuinely** – truthfully
- ▷ **Dragonling** – baby dragon
- ▷ **Jostling** – bumping
- ▷ **Gawping** – staring while open-mouthed
- ▷ **In unison** – together

Tootles Gets Lost (Page 14)

- ▷ **Mooched** – walked slowly and lazily
- ▷ **Rascally** – naughty
- ▷ **Mischief** – tricks or trouble
- ▷ **Flamingos** – pink long-legged birds
- ▷ **Whine** – high-pitched noise

Young, Gifted and Black (Page 16)

- ▷ **Hymns** – songs sung at church
- ▷ **Harmonica** – small wind instrument
- ▷ **Hauled** – pulled
- ▷ **Preach** – give religious talks
- ▷ **Twang** – high-pitched, vibrating sound
- ▷ **Soulful** – full of emotion
- ▷ **Jangled** – made loud, ringing sounds
- ▷ **Anxious** – worried
- ▷ **Felt dwarfed** – was made to feel small
- ▷ **Donations** – money given for a cause
- ▷ **Recital** – kind of performance
- ▷ **Bossing them about** – giving them orders
- ▷ **Compromise** – give up on

The Firefox (Page 22)

- ▷ **Snug** – small and cosy
- ▷ **Long johns** – long underwear
- ▷ **Parka** – warm waterproof jacket
- ▷ **Sturdy** – tough and well-made
- ▷ **Supplies** – food and other equipment
- ▷ **Hissed** – made a noise like 'hiss'
- ▷ **Musty** – damp-smelling
- ▷ **Stove** – device for cooking on
- ▷ **Ventured** – went

Continued on page 2...

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

- ▷ **Intent** – focused
- ▷ **Cascaded** – fell gracefully
- ▷ **Treasure** – value

Snowdrop (Page 29)

- ▷ **Comfort** – thing that made him feel better
- ▷ **Possession** – thing she owned
- ▷ **Fairest** – most beautiful
- ▷ **Rapped** – knocked
- ▷ **Shelter** – somewhere to stay
- ▷ **Bobbins** – reels that hold thread
- ▷ **Braided** – woven together
- ▷ **Gruffly** – in a grumpy way
- ▷ **Spick and span** – very tidy
- ▷ **Cauldron** – large round pot
- ▷ **Ragged** – rough and worn
- ▷ **Cautious** – careful
- ▷ **Cackled** – laughed harshly
- ▷ **Pimply** – covered with spots

A Hungry Cat (Page 36)

- ▷ **Appetite** – hunger
- ▷ **Mush** – porridge
- ▷ **Gulp** – swallow
- ▷ **Cud** – food chewed by cow
- ▷ **Rumbled** – said in a low, vibrating voice
- ▷ **Overhead** – above him
- ▷ **Butted** – hit with his head
- ▷ **Furball** – ball of fur coughed up by a cat

Where the Frost Comes From

(Page 40)

- ▷ **Roaming** – travelling
- ▷ **Icicles** – pointy spikes of ice
- ▷ **Sparkling** – shining
- ▷ **The bush** – the wilderness of Australia
- ▷ **Chores** – jobs around the home
- ▷ **Constellation** – group of stars
- ▷ **Bark** – skin of tree
- ▷ **Blessed** – given something special

CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT... **foxes!** These colourful and clever creatures can be found in many places – and have even made themselves at home in our cities. What do you know about them?

1. What type of animal are foxes? Do you know which group of animals they belong to?

2. Foxes can be found all around the world. Have you ever seen a fox? Where and when did you spot it?

3. Many animals don't like to live in human cities – but foxes have become used to living around us. Where do they make their homes in cities and suburbs?

4. What do foxes do to get food in cities? What would they eat in the wilderness? Where do you think it's easier for them to live?

5. What are some signs that there might be foxes in your neighbourhood? Think of sights, sounds and smells that you might recognise. If you saw one, how would you recognize it?

FAVOURITE FOXES!

Now let's talk about *fictional* foxes (ones from made-up stories!) They are very common characters in various tales – particularly fairy stories and folk tales. Are they usually heroes, villains or somewhere in between? Talk about your favourite fox characters!

READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

This excerpt from the tale of the Firefox has a *preposition*, an *onomatopoeia* and even some *alliteration* – can you find them?

“

Onni began running after the creature, his boots thudding in the snow. Ahead, he could see where the Firefox was leading him: back to his grandfather's little cabin in the woods!

Then, the fiery-furred fox leaped high into the air and whipped its tail in a great arc.

”

1. An *onomatopoeia* is a word that resembles the sound of what it is describing. Can you spot a verb (doing word) in the first sentence that is an onomatopoeia?

2. A *preposition* is a word that tells you where something is, compared to something else. Can you find a preposition beginning with 'a' in the second sentence?

3. *Alliteration* is when two or more words begin with the same letter or sound. What is the alliteration in the last sentence?

PREPOSITION PUZZLE!

Do you know which two words are NOT *prepositions* (words that tell you where something is?) Tick them both!

<input type="checkbox"/> Above	<input type="checkbox"/> Behind
<input type="checkbox"/> Below	<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy
<input type="checkbox"/> Quickly	<input type="checkbox"/> In

Answers: 1. Thudding. 2. Ahead. 3. Fiery-furred fox..
Preposition Puzzle: Heavy and Quickly.

STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Do you know what order the events of the story should go in?

Put a '1' after the first part, a '2' after the second one, and so on.

The boy carefully packed his cold-weather gear for the journey.
His grandfather brought a sled, carrying more supplies.

Onni was glad to have shared this experience with his grandfather.
He would treasure this special memory!

When Onni turned ten, his grandfather told him he was old enough
to come on a skiing trip in the Finnish wilderness.

Onni went out to get more firewood – but then he heard a noise in
the forest. He decided to investigate!

While their meal was cooking, Grandad told Onni about all of the
different animals that lived in the woods.

After skiing through the forest for a long time, they arrived at a tiny
cabin. Grandad used to come there with his brothers!

The Firefox vanished. Onni called for his grandfather, and they stared
at the beauty of the Northern Lights.

Onni loved spending time with his grandfather. In winter, he would
go to his apartment and they would drink cocoa together!

The boy spotted a fox whose fur flickered like flame – the Firefox!
It leaped into the air, making the Northern Lights glow in the sky.

Onni collected some firewood, and grandad lit a fire in the cabin's
stove. He then began frying sausages for their dinner!

He said the rarest of all was the *tulikettu*, or Firefox. It was supposed
to create the amazing Northern Lights with sparks from its tail.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

STORYBOARD

What happened to Onni and his grandfather on their trip?
Write about their adventure under the pictures below!

1



2



3



4



NAME _____

CLASS _____

FOX DESCRIPTION SHEET

Can you answer these questions about foxes? If you need help, you could find a book about them in the library, look up facts about foxes online, or ask your fellow pupils!

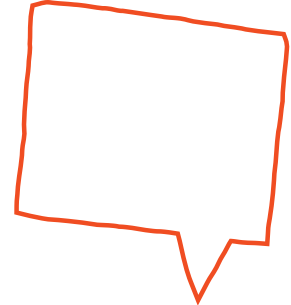


Which three adjectives would you use to describe a fox?

What do foxes like to eat?

Where do foxes live?

Draw a picture of a fox and imagine what would it say if it could talk!



Which animals would be their friends?

What is a fact about foxes that you have found out?

FOX POEMS AND RHYMES

It's time to get creative! First, see how many words you can think of that rhyme with 'fox'. Then, create a cool fox poem by coming up with *similes* about what foxes are like. (A *simile* is when you describe something as being like something else...)



My words that rhyme with FOX:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Complete the poem below by inventing clever similes to describe what the animal is like!

A FOX IS ...



As cunning as _____

As fast as _____

As furry as _____

As orange as _____

NAME _____

CLASS _____

HAVE FUN WITH FOXES!

Now you know a lot about these animals, write a short essay about why you think foxes are interesting creatures. See how many of the adjectives in the list below you can use in your description – you get one point for each word!



















SLY BUSHY FAST SHARP ORANGE
FURRY HUNGRY FLUFFY SLIM
GREEDY TIMID RESOURCEFUL POINTY SHY

NAME _____ CLASS _____

FOX TALE REVIEWS

Foxes are great characters, and lots of **Storytime** tales have featured them! Why not read them all, and then give them a star rating?

Title	Fox	Story Plot	Review it!
The Crow and the Fox Issue 05		Mrs Crow finds a tasty piece of cheese – but will the clever fox be able to trick her out of it?	
The Greedy Fox Issue 15		It's winter! The hungry animal gobbles up a huge meal and gets stuck in a tree!	
The Fantastic Fox Issue 23		In this amazing fairy tale, a young prince gets help from a fox with magical powers!	
The Sly Fox Issue 37		A hungry fox uses a cunning trick to capture a hen – but can she outsmart him in the end?	
The Fox Tail Issue 59		A greedy little fox will do anything to get its big bushy tail back from a grumpy grandma!	
The War of the Fox and the Wolf Issue 69		The fox has to fight a wolf – but he gets some help from an elderly cat and dog!	
The High Life Issue 71		The tale of Romeo, who finds a new home on top of a skyscraper!	
The Firefox Issue 101		A little boy named Onni spots the mythical animal that causes the wonderful Northern Lights!	

NAME _____

CLASS _____

10 FAST AND FUN FOX FACTS!

Here are some things that you might not know about our furry friends.
Can you add a cool fact of your own at the bottom, too?

1

Foxes are very quick!

They can run at up to 67 kilometres per hour...

2

Their eyes have slit-like vertical pupils that help them to **see well in the dark.** Useful for hunting!

3

Foxes prefer to **hunt alone** – unlike dogs or wolves, which usually hunt in packs.

4

A group of foxes is called a **'skulk'** or **'leash'**. Most of them are made up of a mother fox and 1-6 young.

5

Foxes are very agile! They can jump up to **1 metre high** and scramble over tall fences!

6

They often dig **underground homes** for themselves called 'earths' or 'dens'.

9

Foxes aren't fussy! **They eat almost anything** – insects, worms, small animals, fruit, and fast food scraps. But they don't like the taste of moles!

7

A male fox is a 'tod', a female is a 'vixen', and young foxes are called **'kits'**.

8

There are **12 species of 'true' foxes** – but there are also 25 more related species that we also call 'foxes'. These include several South American types.

10

They **mark their territory** with pee to warn other foxes to keep away!

MY UNIQUE FOX FACT IS...

NAME _____

CLASS _____

WHICH FOX IS IT?

Here are six different foxes that can be found around the world.

Can you match each type with the pictures at the bottom of the page?

ARCTIC FOX

☐

Where does it live? In the Arctic

Look out for... its small ears and thick white fur!

Fun fact: They dig large, maze-like tunnel systems for shelter!

CAPE FOX

☐

Where does it live?

Southern Africa

Look out for... its large wide ears, silvery fur and black-tipped tail!

Fun fact: It spits at attackers!

FENNEC FOX

☐

Where does it live?

The Sahara Desert

Look out for... its big pointy ears and small size!

Fun fact: It's the smallest fox!

GRAY FOX

☐

Where does it live?

North and Central America

Look out for... its deep grey fur and the black stripe down its tail

Fun fact: It is the only relative of the dog that can climb trees!

RED FOX

☐

Where does it live? Europe, Asia, North America and Australia

Look out for... its fine red fur and skinny lean body!

Fun fact: This is the most common type of fox!

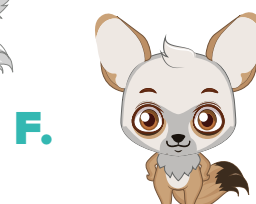
TIBETAN FOX

☐

Where does it live? The Tibetan Plateau in Asia

Look out for... the grey fur on its sides and its narrow eyes!

Fun fact: This fox lives at the highest altitude of any type!

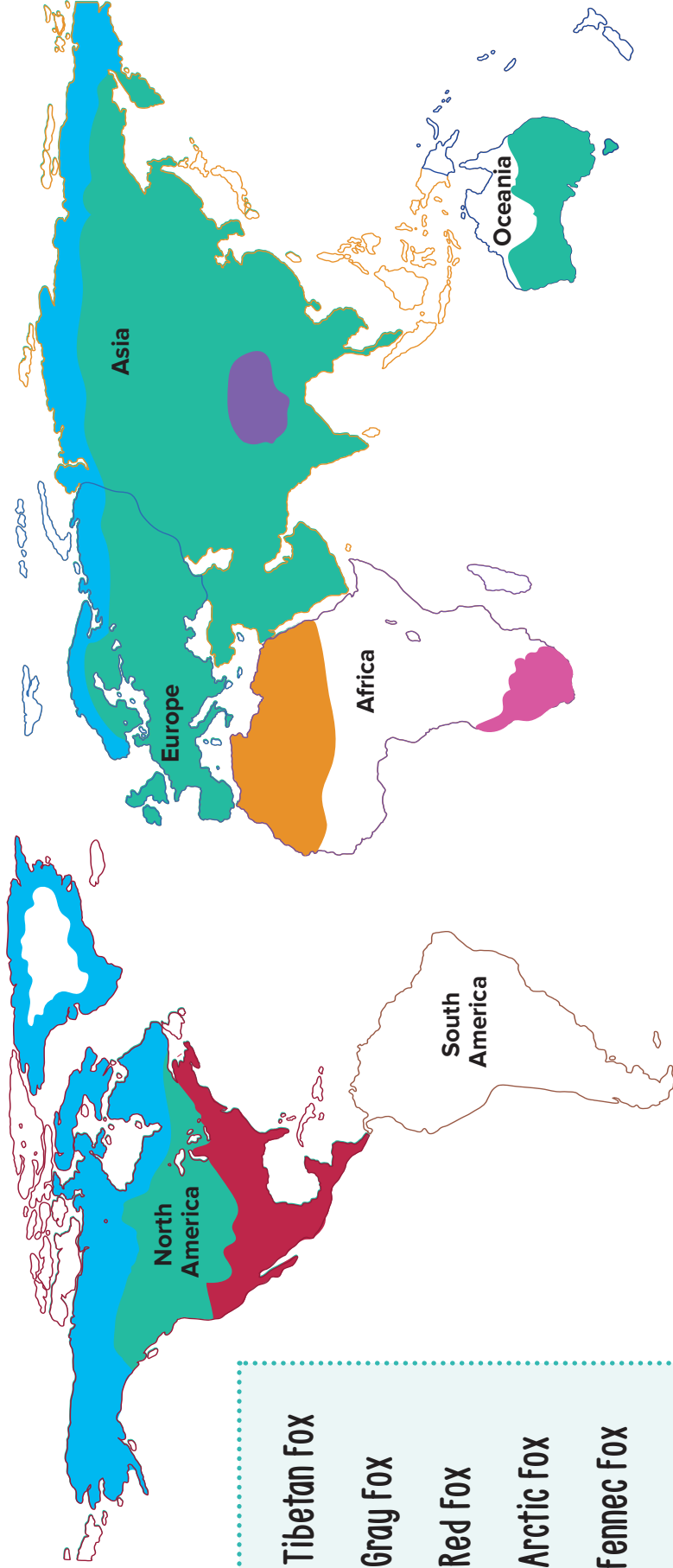


NAME _____

CLASS _____

FOXES AROUND THE WORLD

Do you know which parts of the world are inhabited by which kind of fox? Colour in the box next to each fox's name with the colour of the area on the map where they live!



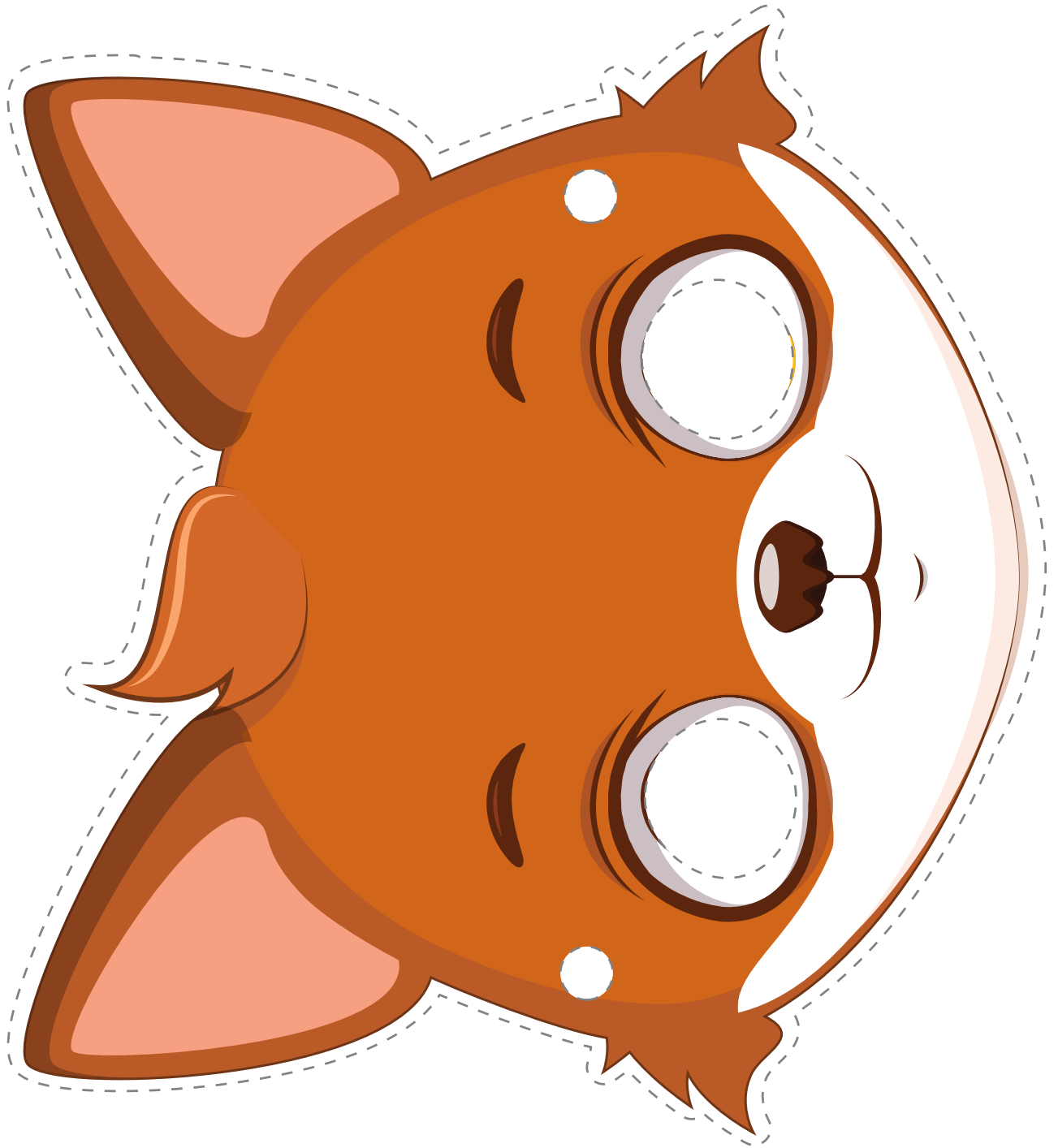
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A. Tibetan fox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B. Gray Fox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | C. Red fox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | D. Arctic fox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | E. Fennec fox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F. Cape Fox |

ANSWERS: A. purple, B. red, C green, D. blue, E pink and F yellow.

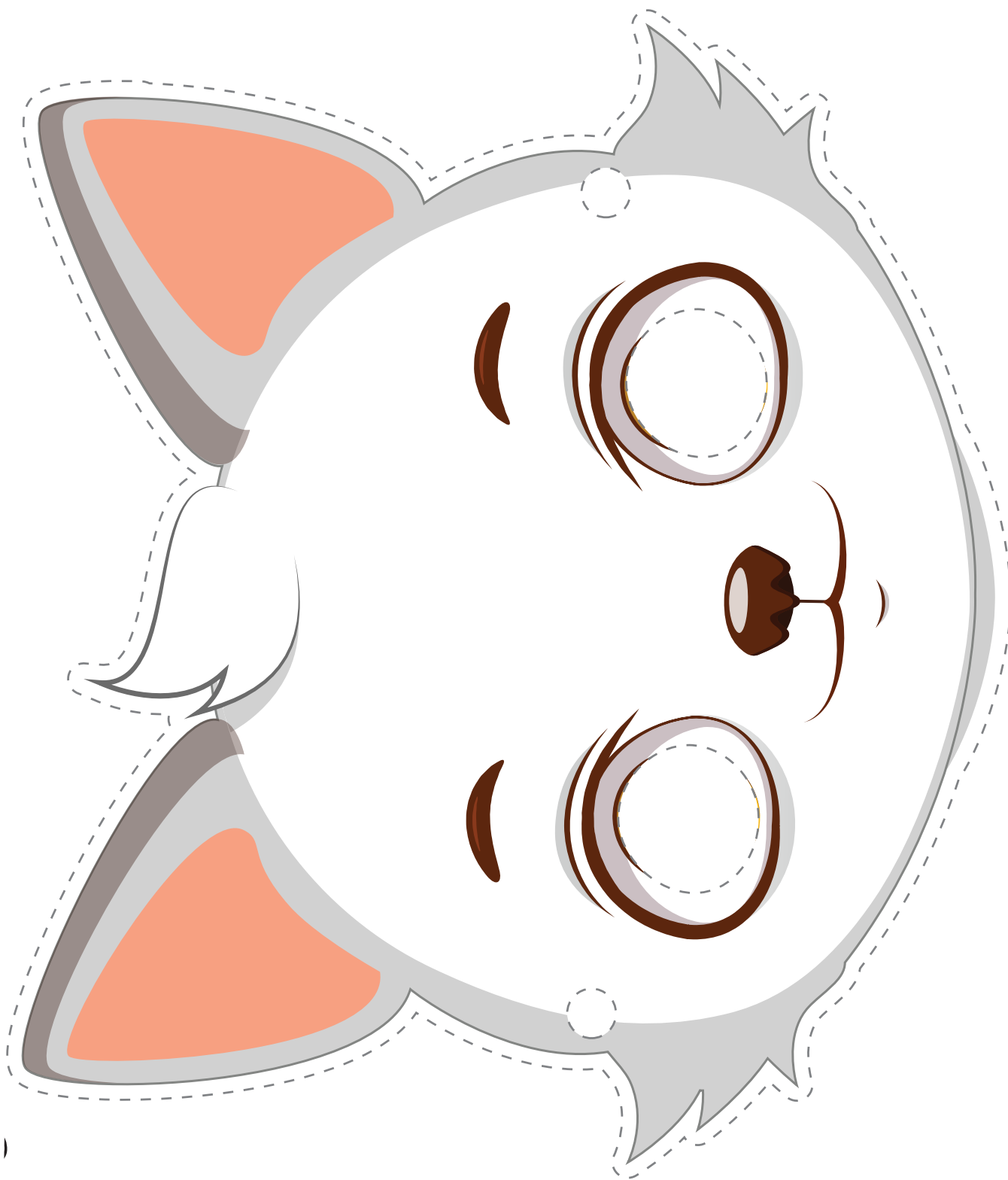
NAME _____

CLASS _____

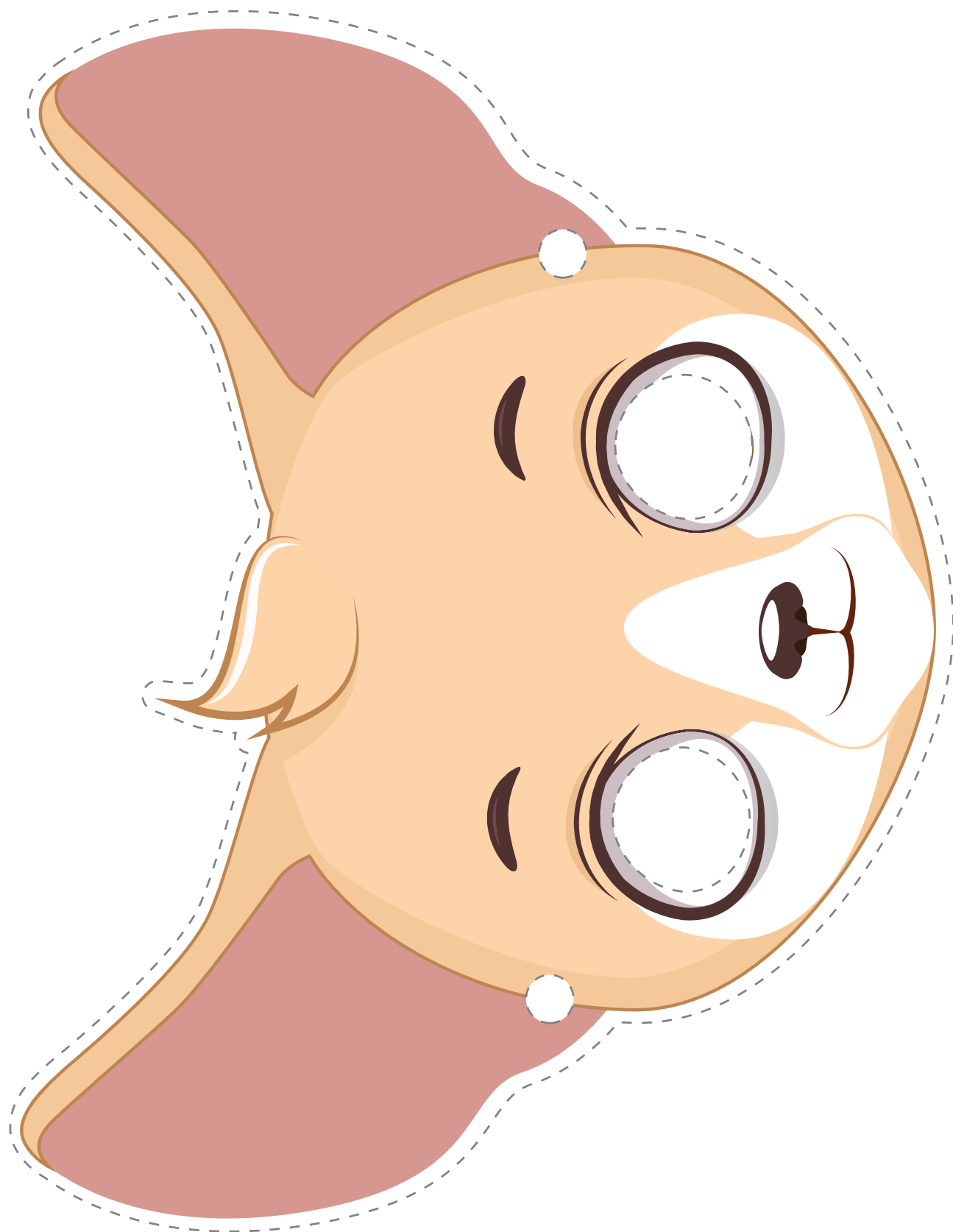
RED FOX MASK



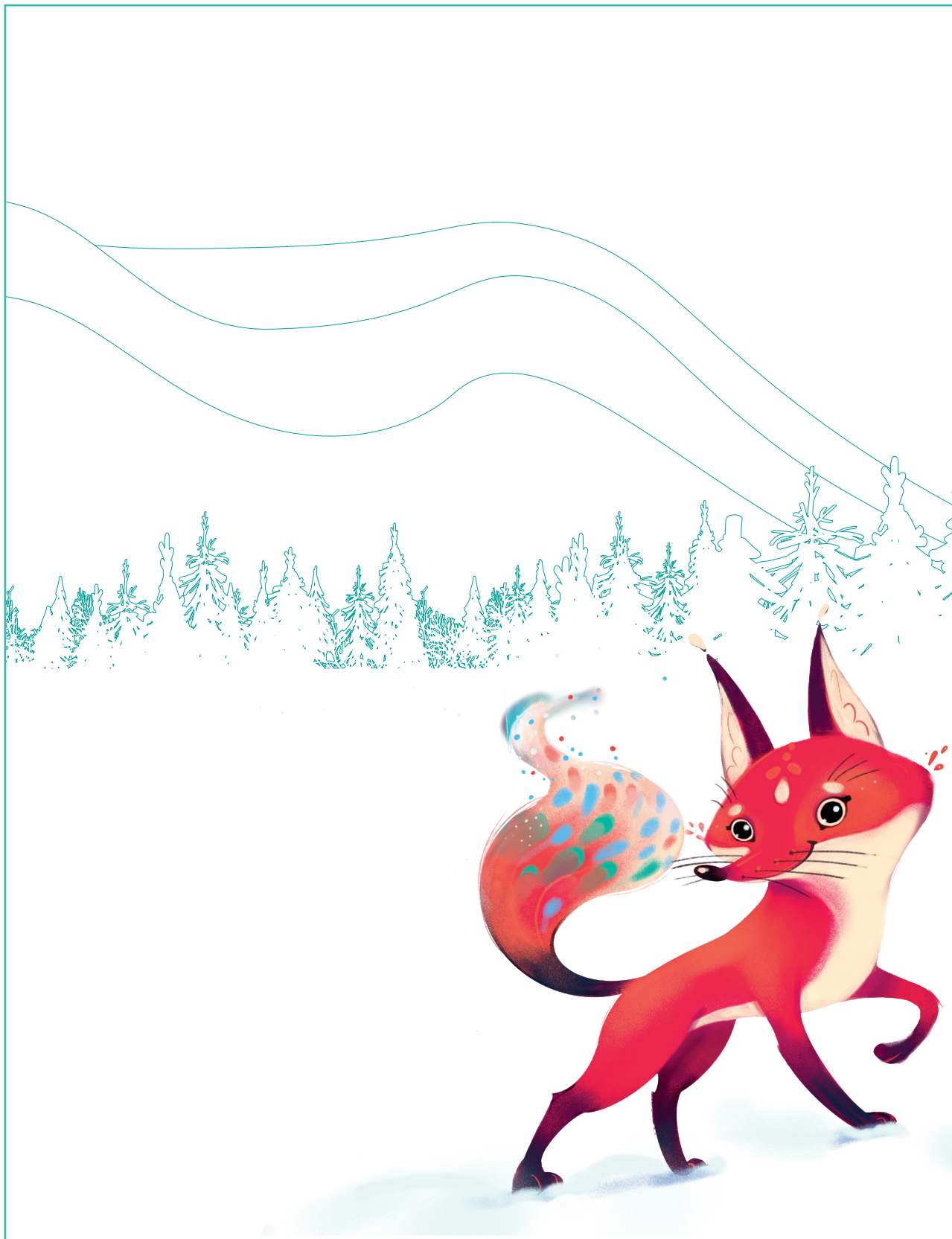
ARCTIC FOX MASK



FENNEC FOX MASK



NORTHERN LIGHTS COLOURING!



DRAW MY TAIL!

