

The Hug



Easy Peasy and Fun

Gustav Klimt's The Kiss
Inspired Art Project

The Hug

Gustave Klimt's Kiss Inspired Art Project

Lesson overview

Grade Level: Kindergarten and older,
many differentiation options

Duration: 2-3 sessions (40-50 minutes
each, depending on media used)

Art Form:

Mixed Media

Artistic Focus:

Gustave Klimt (Austrian, 1862-1918)

Featured Artwork: The Kiss (1907-1908)



Supply list:

Textured paper - white or colored (such as watercolor paper, cardstock,
or construction paper)

For background: any media of your choice (paint sticks, tempera, watercolors,
chalk pastels)

Sponge cut into cubes for stamping and tempera paint

For penguins: black permanent marker, colored markers or permanent markers,
gold chalk marker and/or gold washi tape

Scissors, glue

Painter's tape or similar (optional)

Shirts or old shirts - To protect clothing during painting

Wet wipes or paper towels - For cleanup



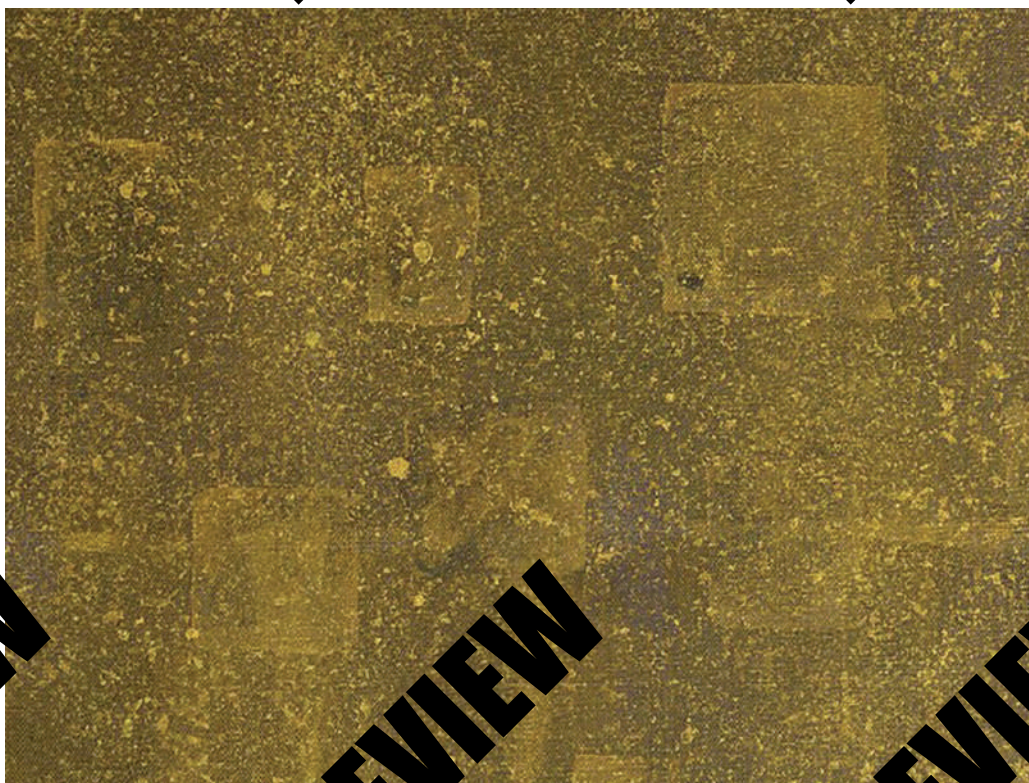
The Kiss By Gustav Klimt - Google Art Project, Public Domain

About the Artist:

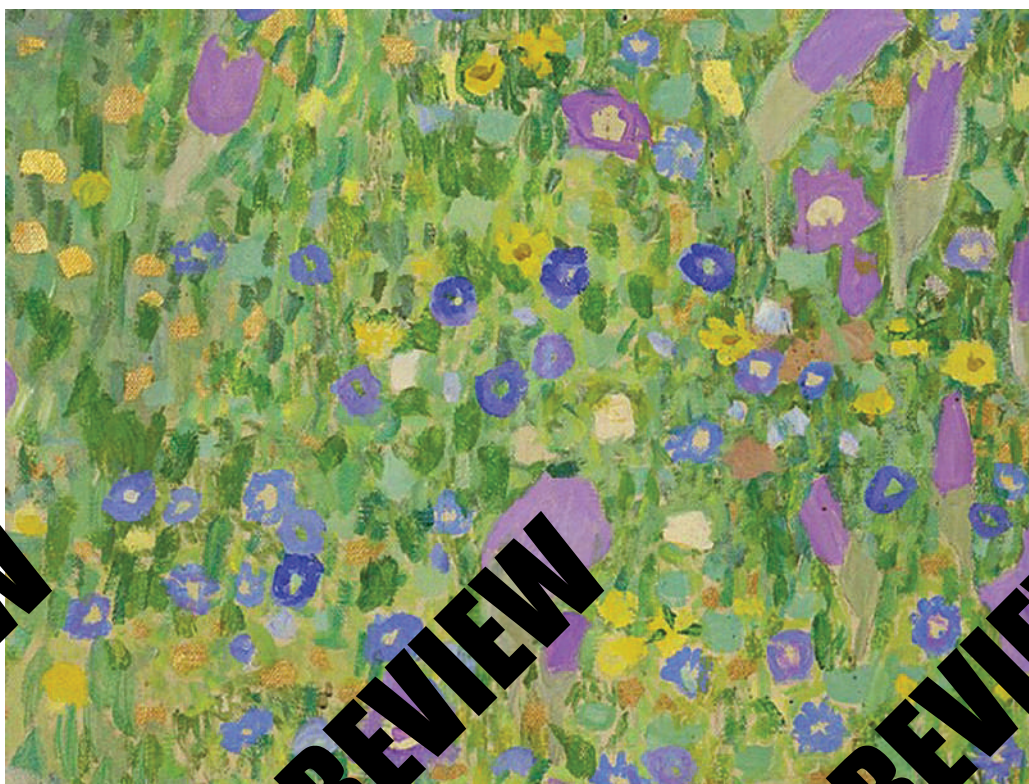
Gustav Klimt was an Austrian painter who lived in Vienna from 1862 to 1918. He is famous for his beautiful, decorative paintings that shimmer with gold and intricate patterns. Klimt was inspired by ancient Byzantine mosaics he saw during his travels to Italy, which led to his "Golden Period" where he incorporated real gold leaf into his paintings.

About The Kiss:

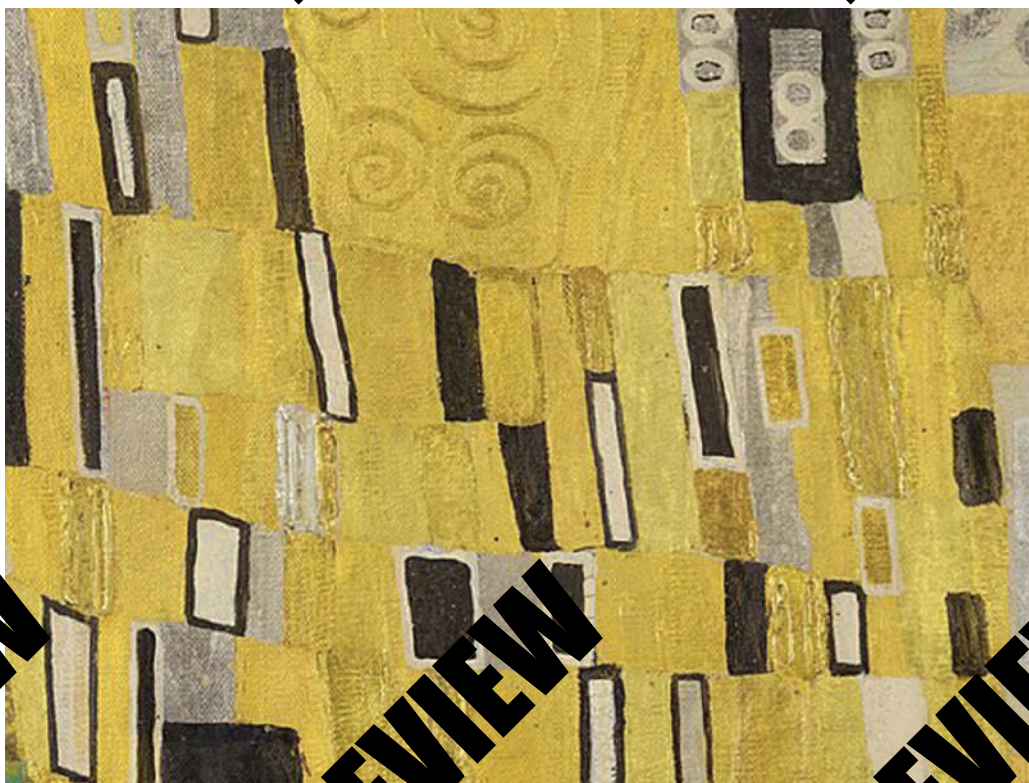
Created between 1907-1908, The Kiss shows two people embracing on a rocky meadow. The painting is covered in gold and patterns—the man's robe has angular shapes while the woman's robe features circles and swirls. The warm, glowing background and decorative patterns make this one of the most recognizable and beloved paintings in the world.



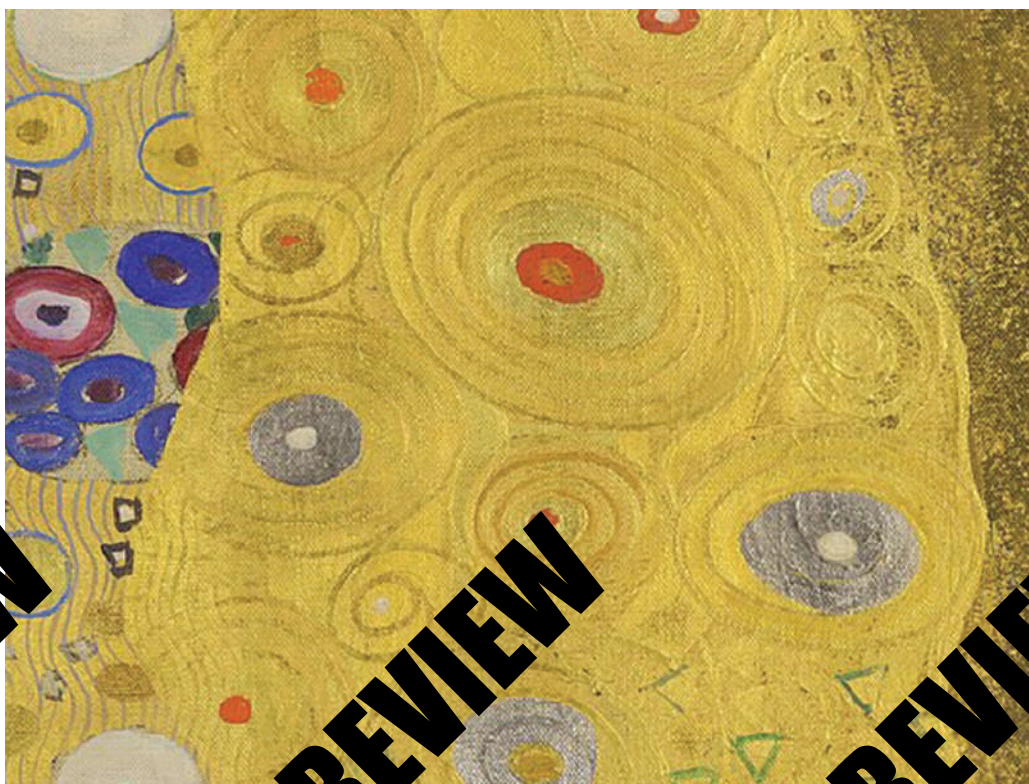
Klimt used real gold leaf to make his painting shimmer and shine.



The couple stands in a flowery meadow bursting with colorful blooms.



The man's golden robe is decorated with bold rectangular patterns.



The woman's robe features circles and spirals in beautiful colors.

Background Creation

Choose the level that best fits your students' abilities and available time:

Option 1: Simple Stamping (Easiest - Great for K)

Materials:

Colored cardstock + sponge squares + paint in similar color as the cardstock

Process:

Students stamp squares directly onto colored cardstock using paint that's the same or similar color to the paper

That's it! Quick, successful, and captures Klimt's geometric pattern style

Option 2: Pastel Chalk Texture + Stamping

Materials:

Colored cardstock + pastel chalks + sponge squares + paint

Process:

Students rub pastel chalk across the colored cardstock to create Klimt's grainy, layered texture
Add stamped squares on top using paint in similar warm tones

Tip: Have students blend 2-3 warm chalk colors for depth

Option 3: Paint Sticks/Crayons + Stamping (Most Control)

Materials: White or colored paper + tempera paint sticks OR crayons + sponge squares + paint

Process:

Students color their entire paper with paint sticks or crayons

Encourage layering and blending colors

Add stamped squares on top using paint

Why this works: Paint sticks give that thick, waxy texture similar to Klimt's layered gold

Adding Final Details (All Levels):

After coloring, students can enhance their backgrounds with:

Artistic markers: Add dots, spirals, or small shapes between stamped squares

Optional (but fun): Have the students use toothbrush spraying (running the bristles across the paint dipped toothbrush) or spray bottles to add fine dots to the background.

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Animal Creation & Assembly

Choose the level that best fits your students' abilities and available time:

Option 1: Printable Templates (Easiest - Great for K)

Materials: Printed animal templates + markers in various colors + black marker + gold marker (or washi tape) + scissors + glue

Process:

Coloring the Animals:

Students start by coloring the animals with a bright base color (example: yellow for penguins' bellies)

Add patterns using a black marker and another color (example: orange accents)

Finish with glimmering details using a gold marker

Creating the Cliff:

Color the cliff with a base color (blue for sea, green for grass...)

Decorate the cliff with patterns (dots, lines, shapes) or flowers

Option 2: Guided Drawing (More Advanced - Grades 1+)

Materials: Guided drawing tutorial handout + pencil + markers in various colors + black marker + gold marker (or washi tape) + scissors + glue

Process:

Drawing the Animals:

Follow the step-by-step guided drawing tutorial to create the hugging animal pair

Students also draw their own cliff shape

Coloring:

Color the animals starting with a bright base color

Add patterns using a black marker and another color

Finish with gold marker details

Color and decorate the cliff with patterns or flowers

Assembly (Both Options):

Materials needed: Scissors + glue stick

Steps:

Cut out the cliff and both animals carefully along the lines

Glue the cliff first - position it in the bottom left corner of your background

Glue the animals - place the hugging animal on top of the cliff so they overlap slightly



Color the penguin shapes solid yellow (or another bright color), using a yellow marker.



With a black marker draw rectangular and geometric shapes directly onto the yellow to create Klimt's mosaic pattern.



Fill in some of the geometric shapes with black marker to build up the mosaic pattern further.



Add orange geometric shapes to some of the remaining areas, then color in the beaks and feet with orange.



Add gold accents to the geometric pattern using a gold chalk marker and/or gold washi tape.



Color the bottom background piece and add patterns to it.



Glue the bottom background to the main background.

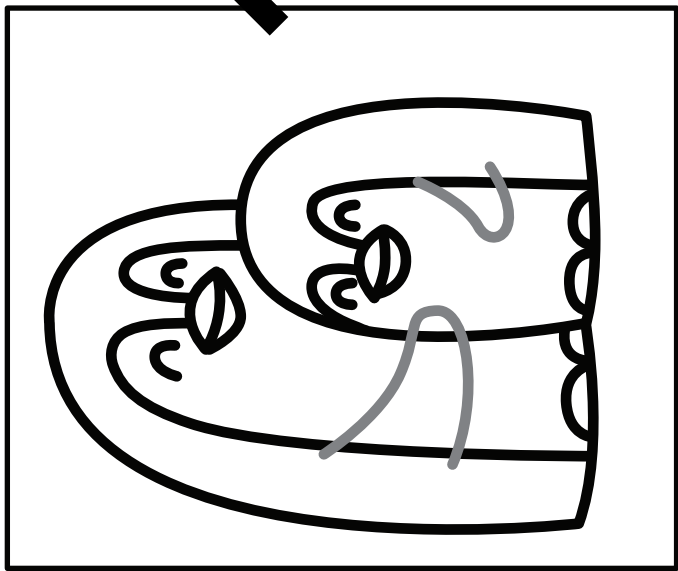
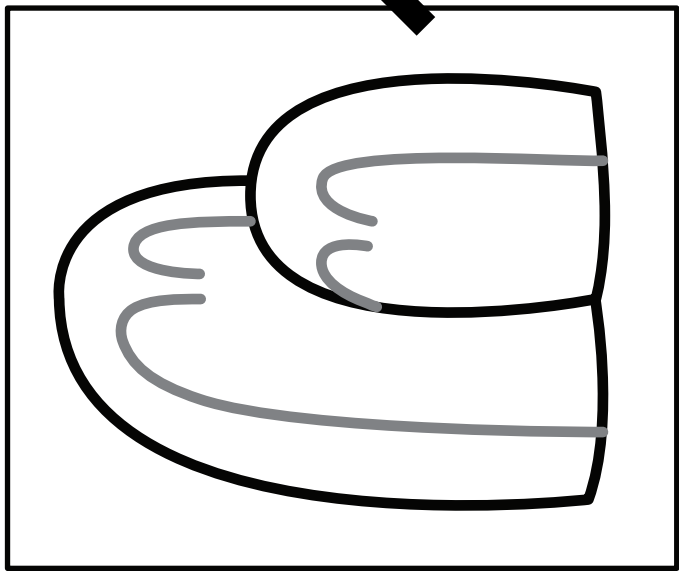


Glue the penguin piece onto the decorated background to complete the finished artwork.

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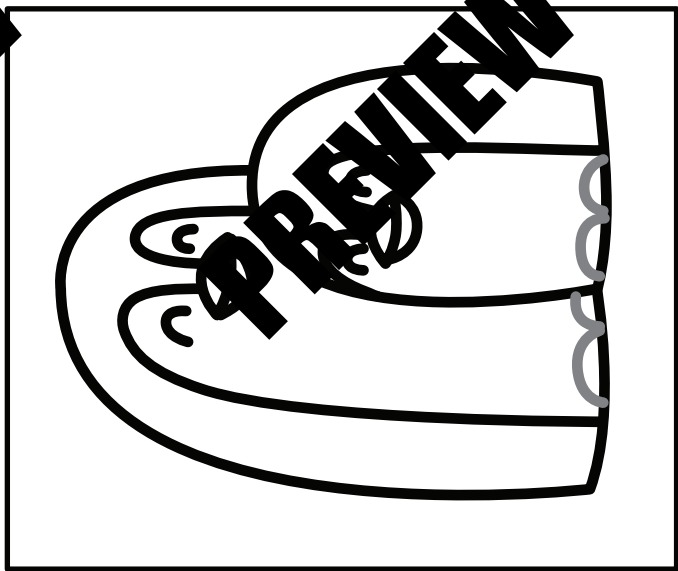
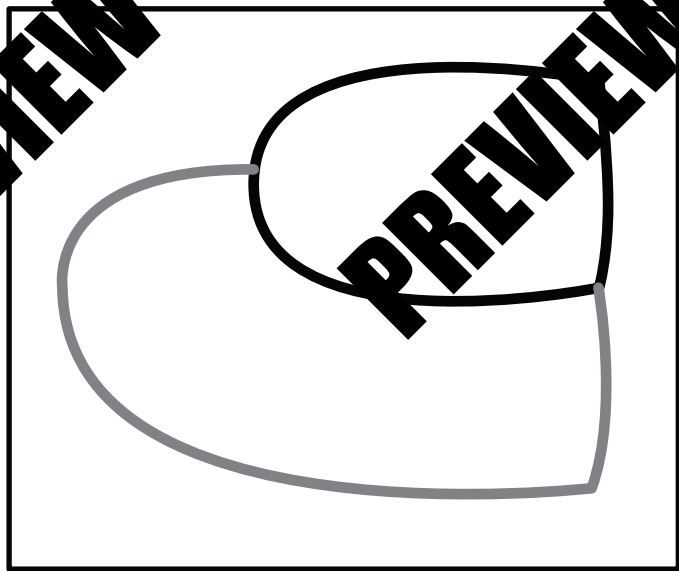
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Drawing Peas and Peas

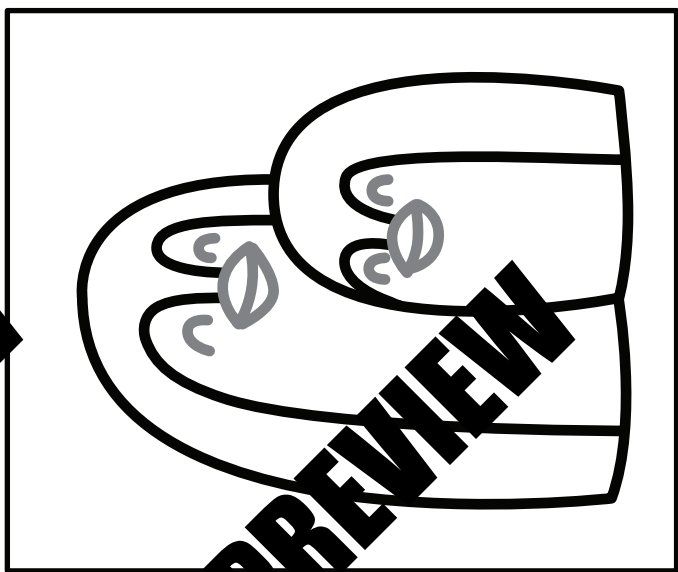
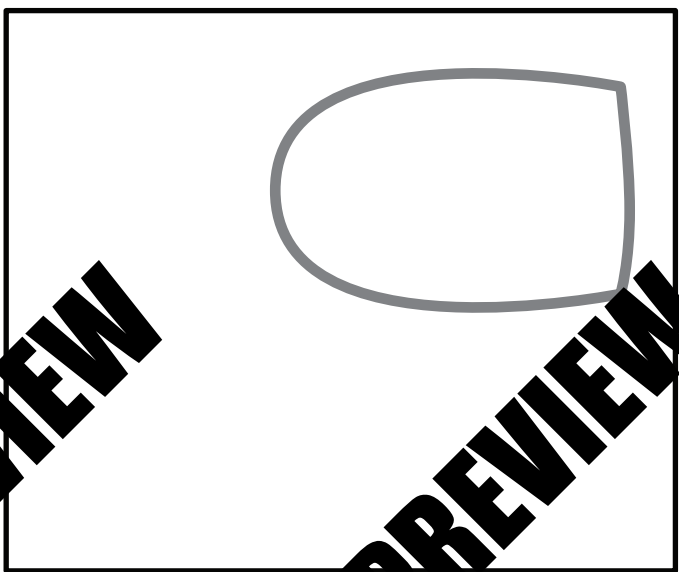
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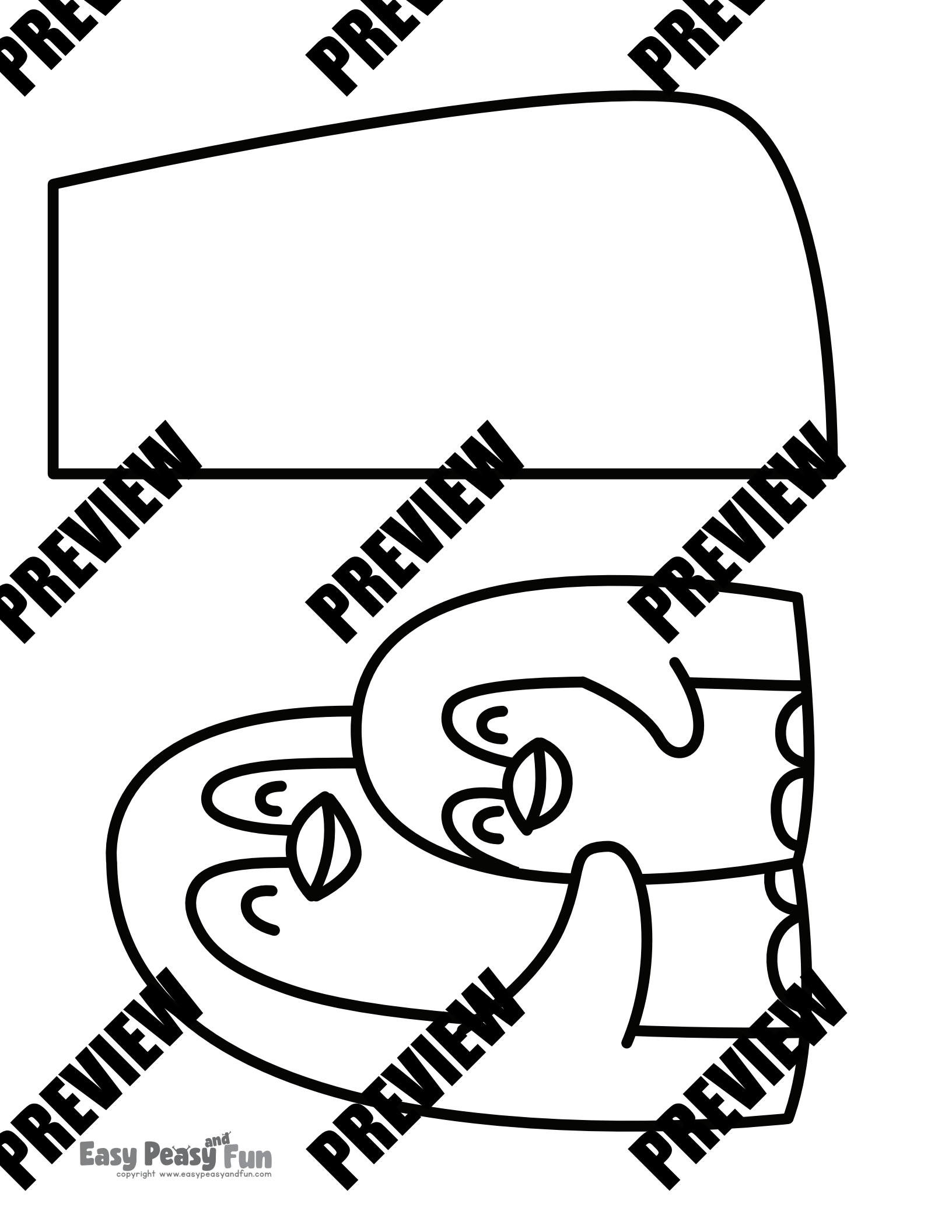
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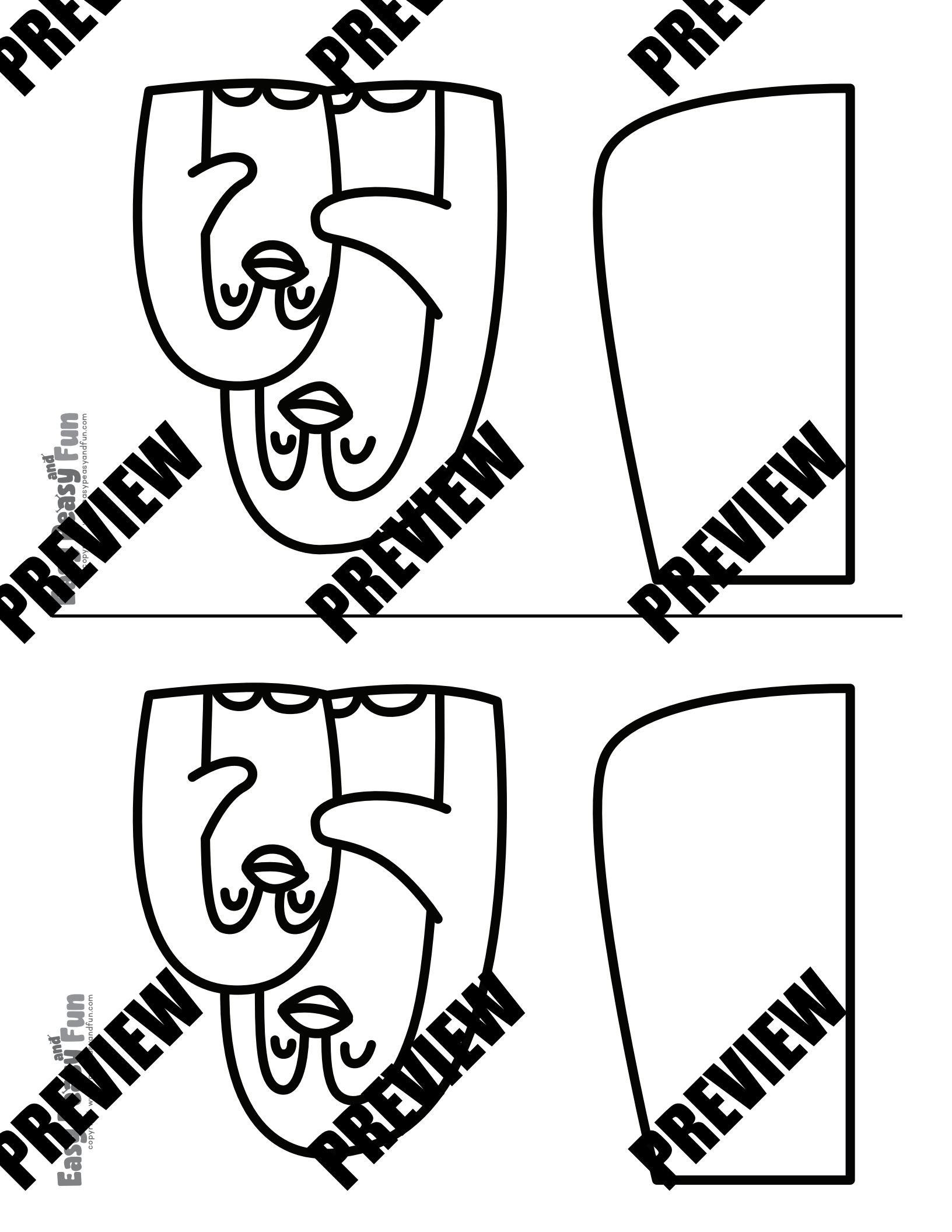
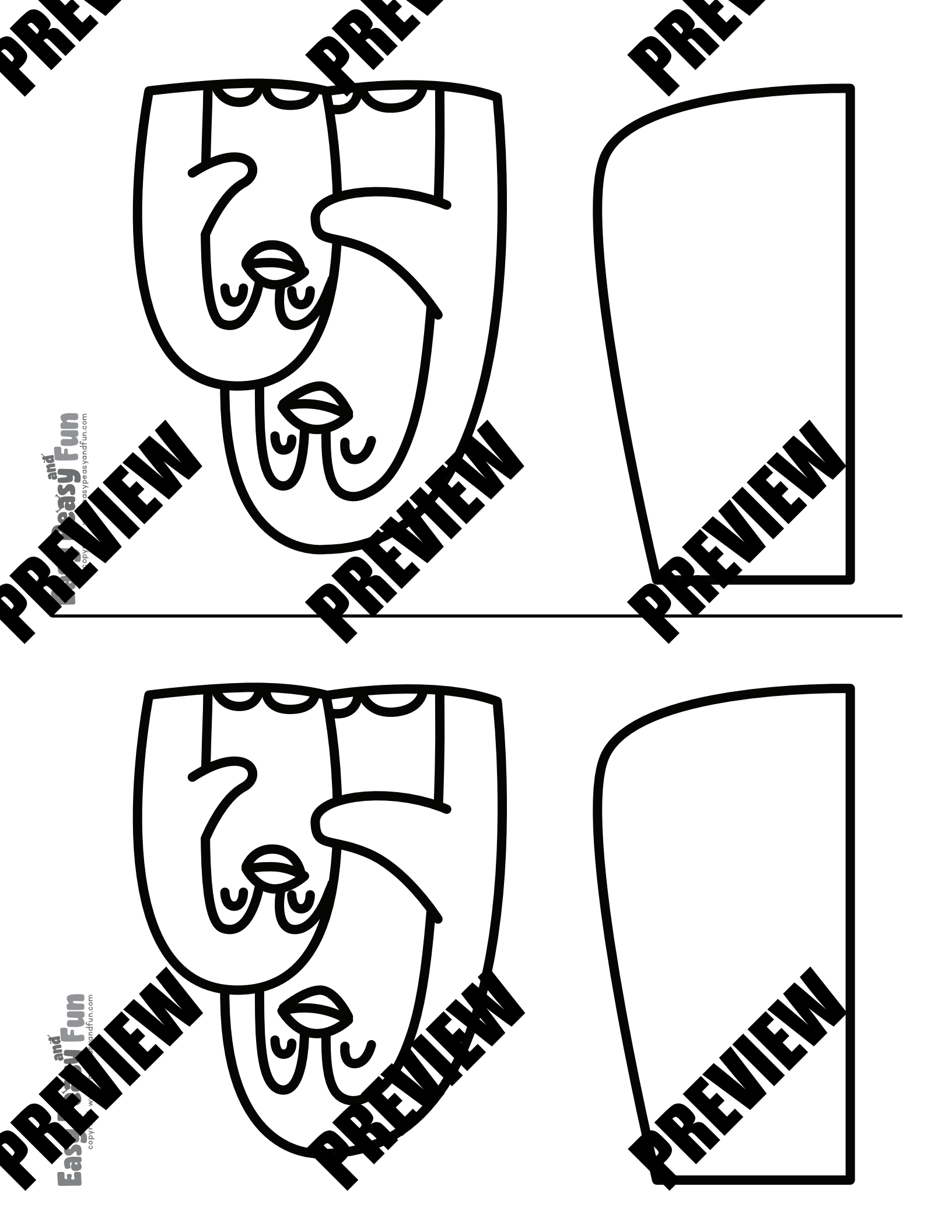
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