



Festivals

Halloween

- The following cultural notes describe both the origins and the current traditions of this festival. Explain as much as you feel is relevant to the class.
- Halloween is celebrated on 31 October in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries around the world. It is not a public holiday in the United Kingdom. However, it is a very important celebration for children. The word 'Halloween' originally came from *All Hallow's Eve*, which means the evening before the Day of the Holy Ones or All Saints Day, 1 November. The tradition goes that on this night, spirits, ghosts and witches wander the earth. People used to make lanterns out of pumpkins and place them in the window to scare away these frightening creatures.
- Nowadays, on the night of Halloween, children get dressed up as witches, ghosts, vampires and other scary monsters and have a fancy dress party. Items that are traditionally associated with Halloween are pumpkin lanterns, bats, spiders and black cats. Children often play a traditional game called apple bobbing. They have to bite an apple that is floating in water or hanging on a string. Typical party food is cakes and pizza decorated with horrible faces!
- At Halloween, children love to play *Trick or Treat*. They knock on neighbours' doors and ask *Trick or Treat?* If the neighbour chooses a treat he/she must offer the children sweets or chocolate. If not, the children will play a naughty trick, like using a water pistol! It's always a good idea to have treats ready for visitors at Halloween!

Halloween worksheet 1

- Pupils read the sentences about bats and decide whether they are true or false. Pupils work in groups. They compare their answers and decide on a group answer. Give marks to each group for correct answers.
 - Pupils need scissors and elastic. NB. It is a good idea to photocopy the template onto card. Alternatively it could be glued or stapled to a strip of card.
 - Pupils colour the bat black and cut along the dotted line to make a mask. They then thread elastic through the holes.
- Key:** 1 F, 2 F, 3 F (bats and mice belong to different families), 4 T, 5 F (they have one every year), 6 F (70 percent are insectivores; the rest eat pollen and fruit. The vampire bats of Latin America eat blood – you can decide whether or not to tell the pupils about the blood!).
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Pupils all wear their masks and stand in a row. One pupil takes off his/her mask and stands apart. Point to a masked pupil and ask *Who is it?* The pupil without the mask names him/her.

Halloween worksheet 2

- Pupils look at the spell, count how many of each item the witch has and then write how many she needs to buy. They invent a reason for the spell.
- Key:** 2 frogs, 3 lizards, 2 spiders, 5 eyes, 4 snakes.
Suggested reasons for spell: To make her cat green. To be young and beautiful.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Pupils invent new spells and what they are for. They can draw the ingredients.

Christmas

- The following cultural notes describe both the origins and the current traditions of this festival. Explain as much as you feel is relevant to the class.
- Christmas Day is celebrated in countries around the world on 25 December, to commemorate the birth of Jesus. In the weeks before Christmas, people decorate a Christmas tree with ornaments. They usually put a star on the top to remind them of the story of the birth of Jesus and the Three Wise Men. People also like to send each other Christmas cards with typical Christmas scenes and a Christmas message. Younger children write a letter to Father Christmas, or Santa Claus as he is sometimes called, to tell him what they would like for Christmas. On Christmas Eve, 24 December, they hang a Christmas stocking at the end of their bed or by the fireplace, if they have one. Traditionally Father Christmas arrives in his sleigh pulled by reindeer. He flies through the air, lands on the roofs of children's houses and delivers the presents by climbing down the chimneys with a huge sack of presents!
- On Christmas Day, families come together to eat a traditional midday meal. This consists of roast turkey, with vegetables. Dessert is a rich fruit pudding served with a brandy sauce that is set alight! The table is decorated with candles and brightly coloured crackers. Everyone pulls the crackers, which make a loud bang. Children love to look inside the crackers to find a colourful paper Christmas hat, a small toy and a Christmas joke.

Christmas worksheet 1

- Pupils need brown, grey and red pens or pencils, scissors, a straw and glue.
- Pupils follow the instructions to make a Christmas robin decoration.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Tell the class the legend about the robin's red breast. In the old days, robins were only brown and white. When Jesus was born, he was very cold. The fire was going out and the Virgin Mary was too tired to blow on the embers. She asked the oxen but they said no. She asked the ass but he said no. A robin came into the stable. The robin started flapping his wings to make some heat for the baby. A spark from the fire landed on the robin's breast and turned it red. Jesus was warm so the Virgin Mary said that, from then on, robins could always have red breasts.

Ask the pupils if they know any legends about other animals.

Christmas worksheet 2

- Pupils need three cardboard toilet roll cylinders, crepe or tissue paper, thread, stickers, sticky tape and scissors.
- Pupils follow the instructions to make a Christmas cracker. Help them to understand the joke ('rain, dear' sounds like 'reindeer', the animal that pulls Father Christmas's sleigh. 'Dear' is a term of endearment often used by older people).
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Pupils tell Christmas jokes. Help them to say them in English. Suggestions for Christmas jokes: What falls in the North Pole, but never gets hurt? Snow! What do monkeys sing at Christmas? Jungle Bells!

Easter

- The following cultural notes describe both the origins and current traditions of this festival. Explain as much as you feel is relevant to the class.

- Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus in the Christian religion. Easter Sunday always falls in spring. However, the date is fixed according to the lunar calendar and therefore differs slightly every year. In the weeks before Easter, people send Easter cards to friends and family, and they buy chocolate Easter eggs and Easter bunnies for the children. Many children like to boil real eggs and then paint them with bright colours. Children often have egg rolling competitions or hold Easter egg hunts with the colourful eggs. Easter baskets are associated with Easter. People fill them with Easter eggs and spring flowers to decorate their houses.
- In the United Kingdom, people like to eat hot cross buns with lots of butter at Easter. These pastries are marked with a cross, which represents the Christian cross, and were traditionally eaten during Lent. In the Middle Ages, bakers would sell these buns in the streets. Of course, Easter is a time when a lot of people like to go to church. It is an important time of the year and Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays.

Easter worksheet 1

- Pupils need green and yellow pens or pencils, scissors, glue and a yellow egg carton section. NB. It is a good idea to photocopy the template onto card and to enlarge it, if possible.
- Pupils follow the instructions to make an Easter card.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Tell the pupils that the daffodil is the national flower of Wales. Show them where Wales is on a map. You could use the map on page 70.

Easter worksheet 2

- Pupils need an egg, felt tips, some kitchen roll and cotton wool, mustard and cress seeds. NB. If appropriate, send a note to parents so that pupils crack, wash and dry the egg at home.
- Pupils follow the instructions to make an egg head.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Pupils keep a diary about the growth of the seeds, or 'hair'. Help them with this. For example:
Week/day 1. I water the seeds.
Week/day 2. The seeds are growing.
Week/day 3. I can see the plant. It looks like hair!



Halloween worksheet 1

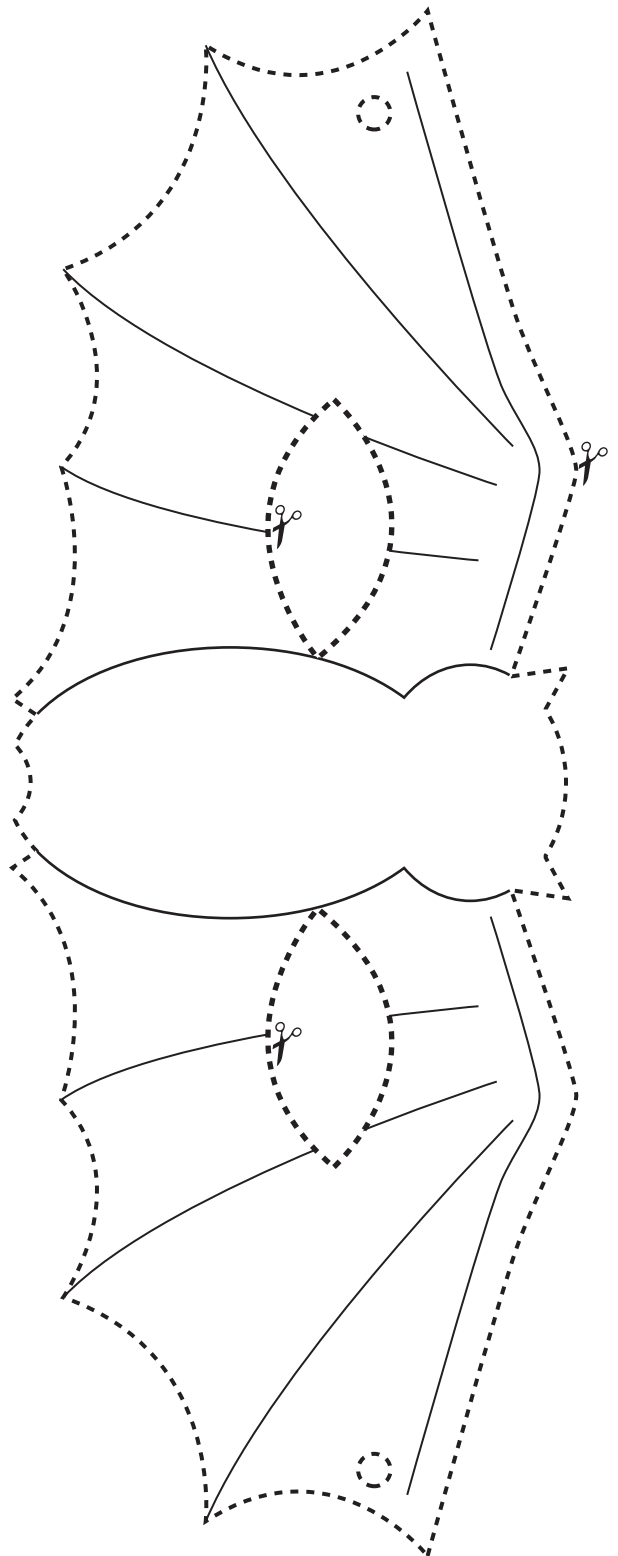


Read and think. Tick true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Bats can't see. T F
- 2 Bats can't hear. T F
- 3 Bats are flying mice. T F
- 4 Bats can live more than 20 years. T F
- 5 Mother bats usually have five babies every year. T F
- 6 Thirty percent of bats eat insects. T F

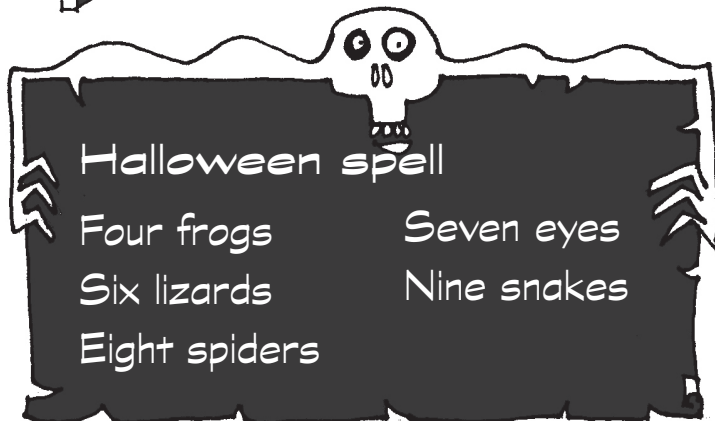
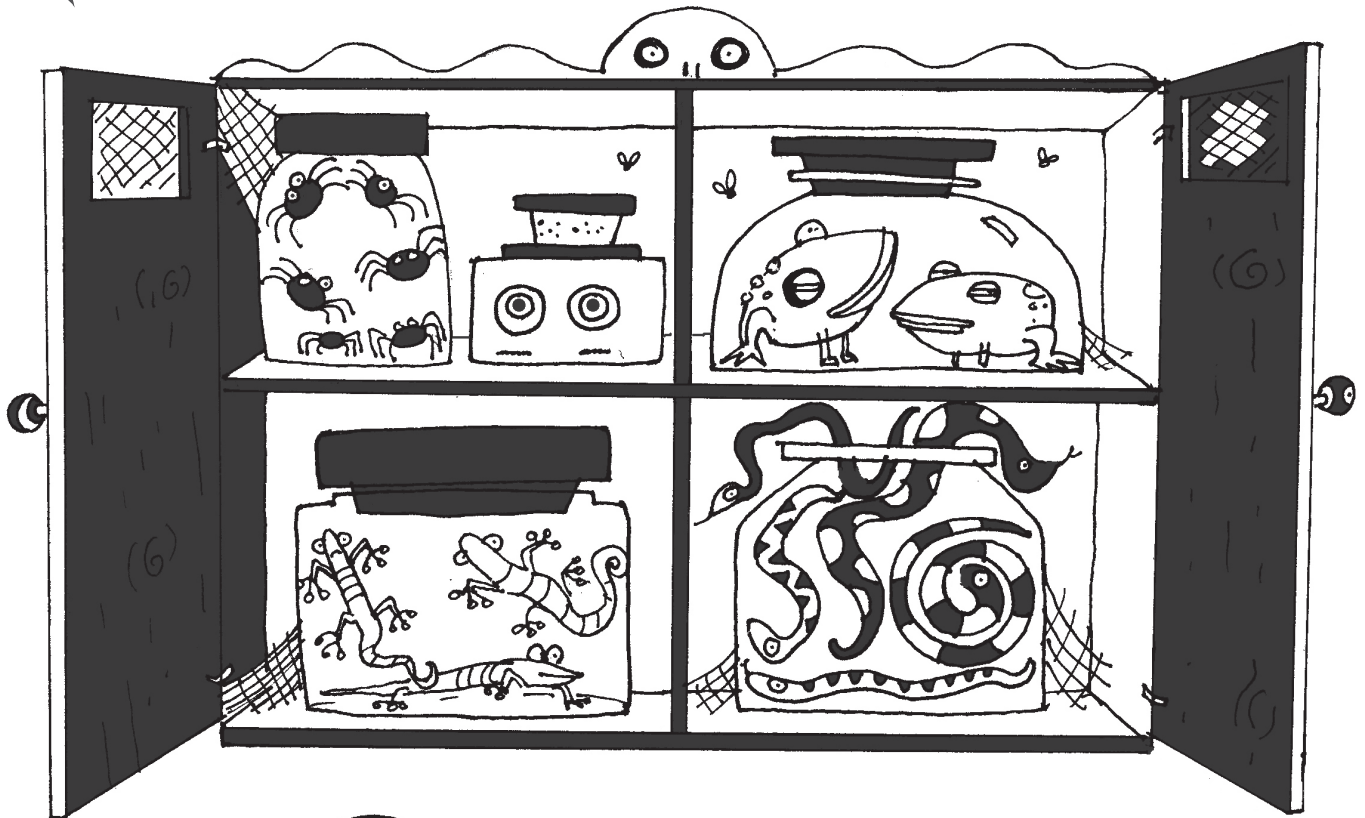


Make a bat mask.



Halloween worksheet 2

Count and write.



What does the witch need to buy for her spell? She needs to buy

.....*Two*..... frogs eyes
 lizards snakes
 spiders

What is the spell for?

To

.....



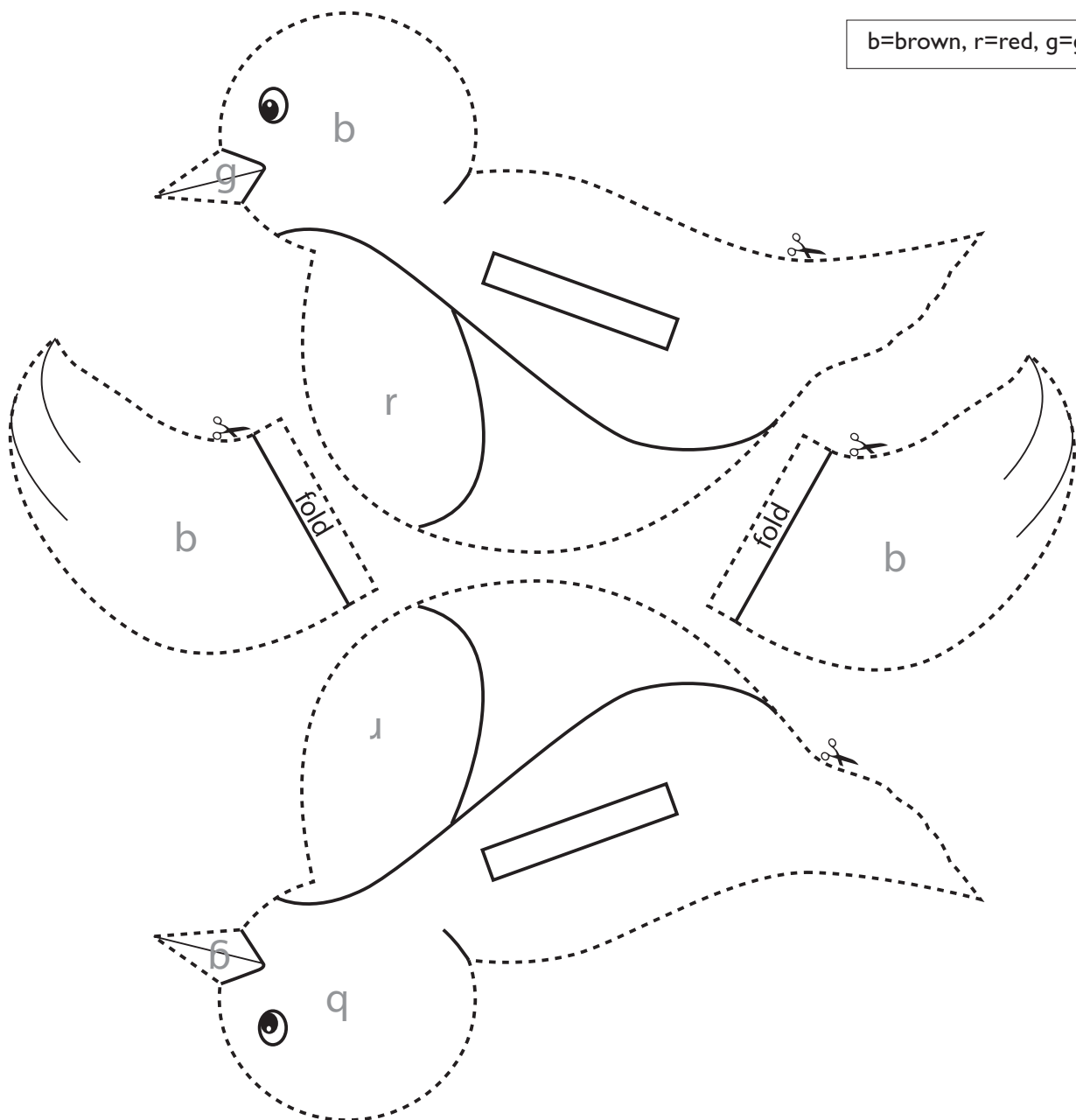
Christmas worksheet 1



Read and make.

A Christmas decoration

- Colour the robins.
- Cut along the dotted lines.
- Glue the two halves together, inserting a straw between the two halves.
- Fold the top of the wings and glue them to the robin.



b=brown, r=red, g=grey

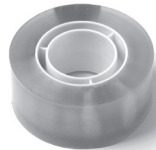


Christmas worksheet 2

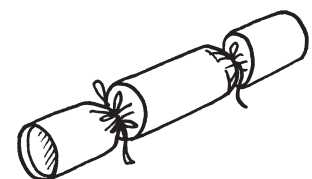
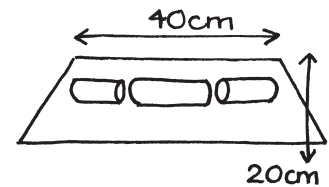
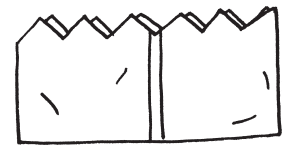


Read and make.

A Christmas cracker



- Make a paper hat with crepe or tissue paper.
- Cut out the joke.
- Put the hat and the joke inside a cardboard cylinder.
- Place another cylinder on each side of this one.
- Cut a piece of crepe or tissue paper 40cm x 20cm.
- Roll the crepe or tissue paper around the three cylinders.
- Tie thread between the cylinders.
- Take out the two end cylinders.
- Decorate the cracker with stickers.
- Pull it!



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



Father Christmas: *What's the weather like?*
 Mother Christmas: *It looks like rain, dear.*



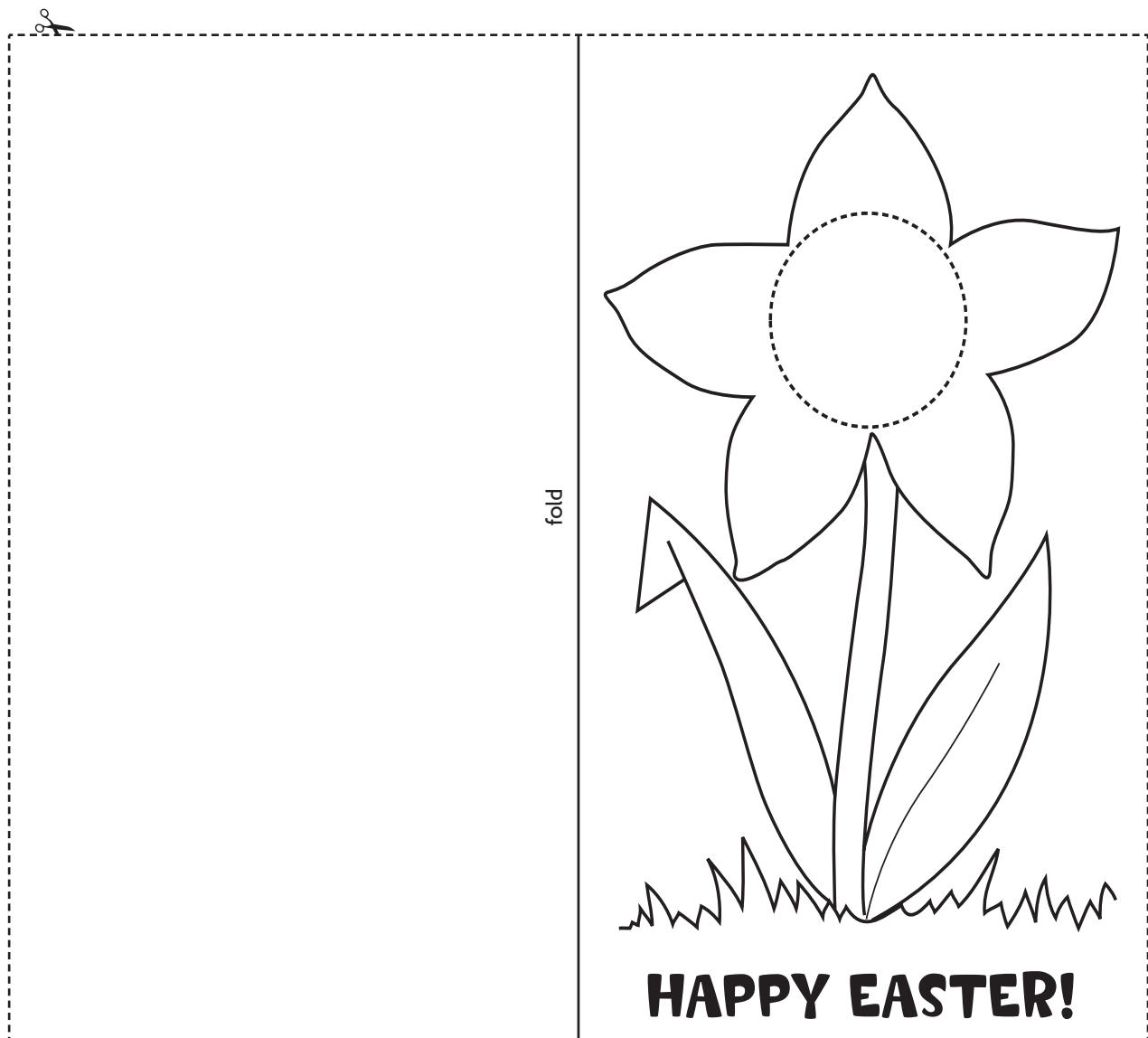
Easter worksheet 1



Read and make.

An Easter card

- Colour the grass, stem and leaves green.
- Colour the daffodil flower yellow.
- Cut along the dotted line, then fold the card in half.
- Cut out a yellow egg carton section. If it's another colour, colour it yellow.
- Stick it in the middle of the flower to make the trumpet.





Easter worksheet 2



Read and make.



At Easter, people give Easter eggs. You can make one with hair!

- Crack an egg near the top.
- Wash it and dry it.
- Use felt tips to draw a face.
- Put wet kitchen roll and then wet cotton wool in the egg.
- Put mustard and cress seeds on the cotton wool.
- Put the egg in a warm light place.
- Wait a few days or a week. Keep the cotton wool damp.
- The seeds will grow and look like hair!

