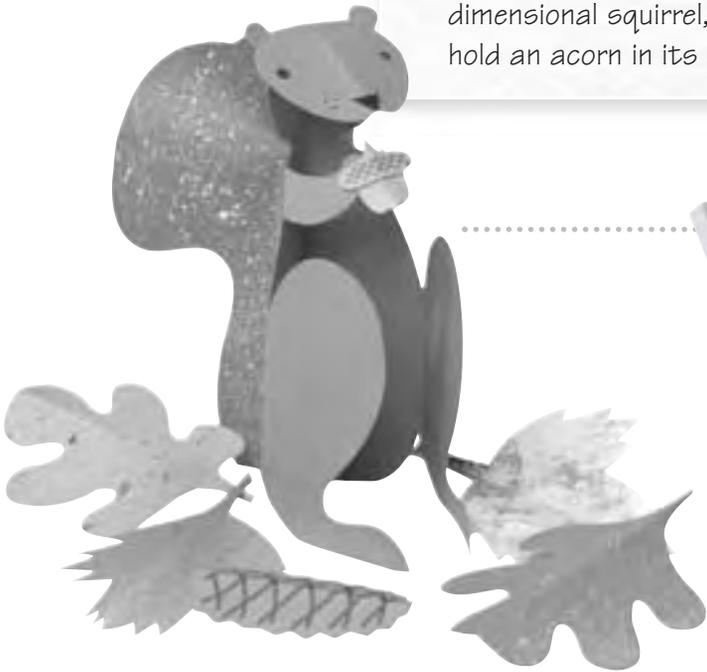


# Frisky Fall Squirrel

Squirrels are a common sight in the autumn as they scurry around gathering their nuts for the winter. This three-dimensional squirrel, perfect for an autumn art project, can even hold an acorn in its paws!



## Materials

*For each student:*

- ☉ squirrel patterns (pages 3-4)
- ☉ 2 pieces of 9- by 12-inch brown construction paper

*Other materials:*

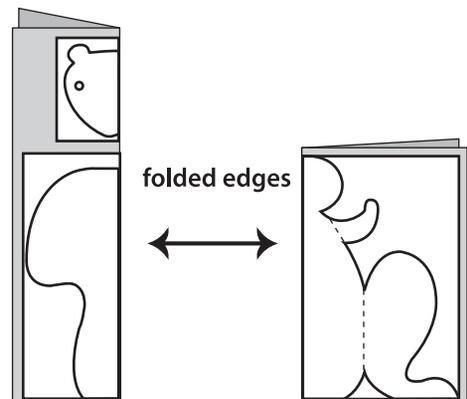
- ☉ tape
- ☉ scissors
- ☉ markers or crayons
- ☉ hole punch (optional)

Copy and hand out the squirrel pattern pages to each child. Have children cut out the boxes around the squirrel's body, tail, and head. Then show children how to do the following steps.

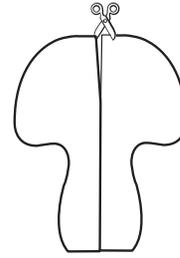
**1** Fold one piece of construction paper in half the long way. Fold the other piece in half the short way.

**2** Line up the pattern boxes along the folded side of the construction paper as shown, and tape them to the paper to hold them in place while cutting.

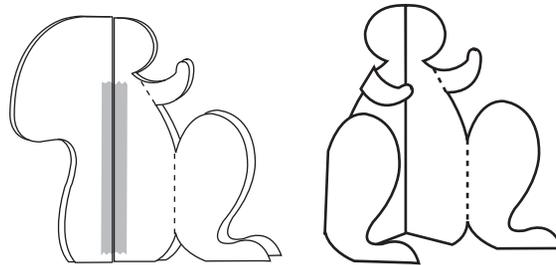
**3** Cut out the shapes of the body, tail, and head on the outer solid lines, cutting through all layers of the paper and tape. Then fold the ears, arms, and legs inward along the dotted lines. Remove the patterns.



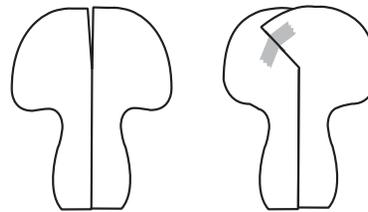
**4** Open up the tail. Starting at the top, cut down along the fold about 2 inches, then close up the tail again.



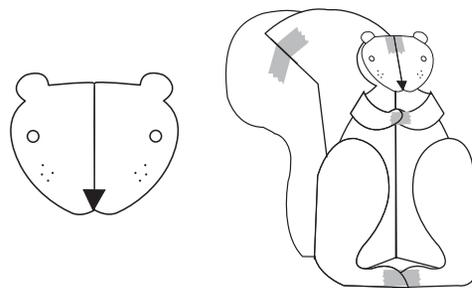
**5** Line up the folded side of the body with the folded side of the tail and tape them together as shown. Tape up to where the slit in the tail begins. Turn the squirrel over and tape the tail to the body on the other side. Open up the tail and body and adjust the squirrel until it stands up.



**6** Overlap the two sections of the tail at the slit to form a rounded tail shape. (This is called crimping.) Fasten with tape.



**7** Draw a nose, eyes, and whiskers on the squirrel's face. Use tape to attach the face to the squirrel's body, letting it flap open at the bottom. When you tap on the squirrel's nose, it will bob up and down in a very squirrelish way!



**8** Join together the feet with tape. Do the same thing with the arms.

## Tip

For a different effect, use a hole punch to make the squirrel's eyes instead of drawing them and glue on pieces of straw from a broom for whiskers! For a finishing touch, cut out two white construction paper teeth and tape them to the face from the back.

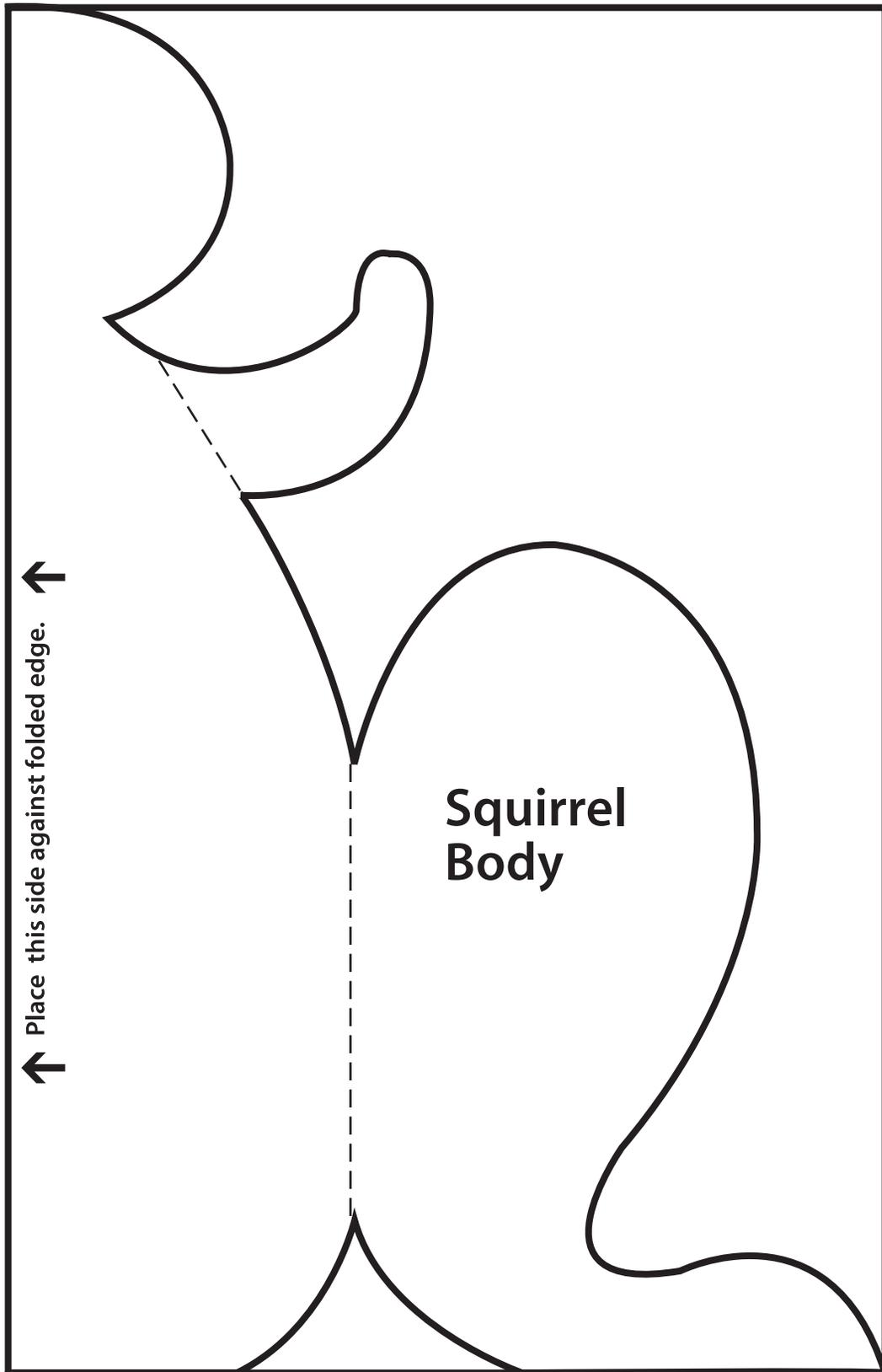
## Book Break

Children will be fascinated by the close-up photos of squirrels, birds, and other animals that live on and inside a maple tree in Bianca Lavies' *Tree Trunk Traffic* (Dutton, 1989).

## Variations

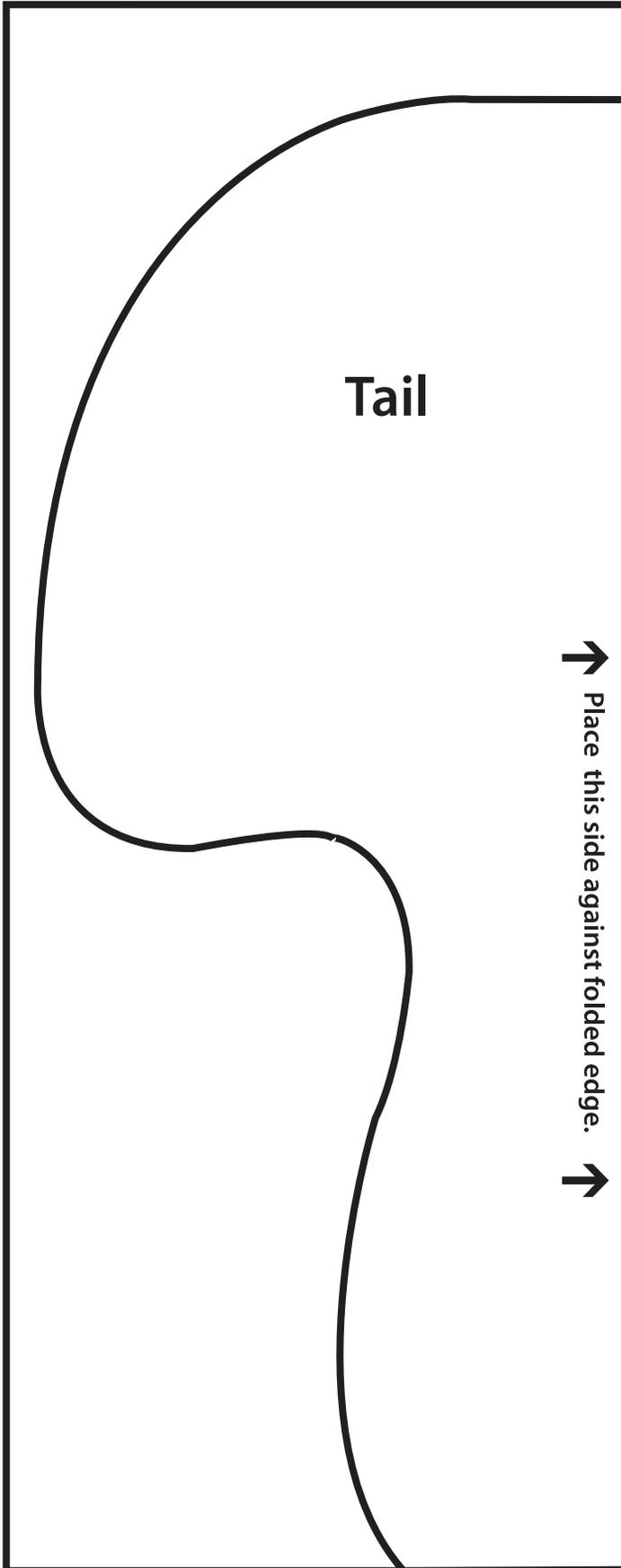
- ☉ The squirrel makes a nifty hand puppet. Have children slip a hand up through the feet and hook their fingers over the arms. Now they can make the squirrel nod its head, scurry, and hop!
- ☉ Instead of a squirrel, invite children to adapt the basic patterns to make other animals such as a rabbit, mouse, dog, or cat.

*Frisky Fall Squirrel • Body*



P A T T E R N   P A G E

*Frisky Fall Squirrel • Tail*



*Frisky Fall Squirrel • Head*

