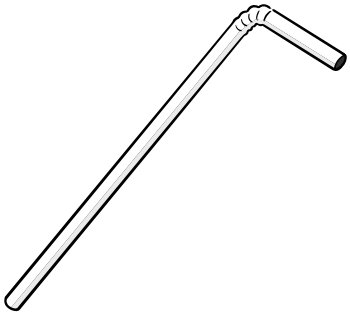
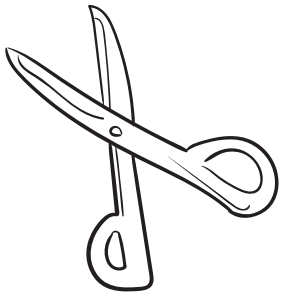
Woodpecker Toy

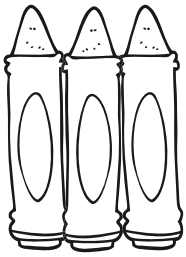
Cuban Green Woodpeckers have feet and tails specially designed to climb and move all along trees; they can inspect branches, for insects to peck with their pointy beaks, while moving up and down. In this craft activity we will explore this pecking while moving up and down movement.

You will need an adult to help you find and use the following:

- Download and print woodpecker template
- Cereal box or card sheet
- A plastic straw
- Rubber band
- Coloring pencils, crayons or markers
- Glue
- Scissors

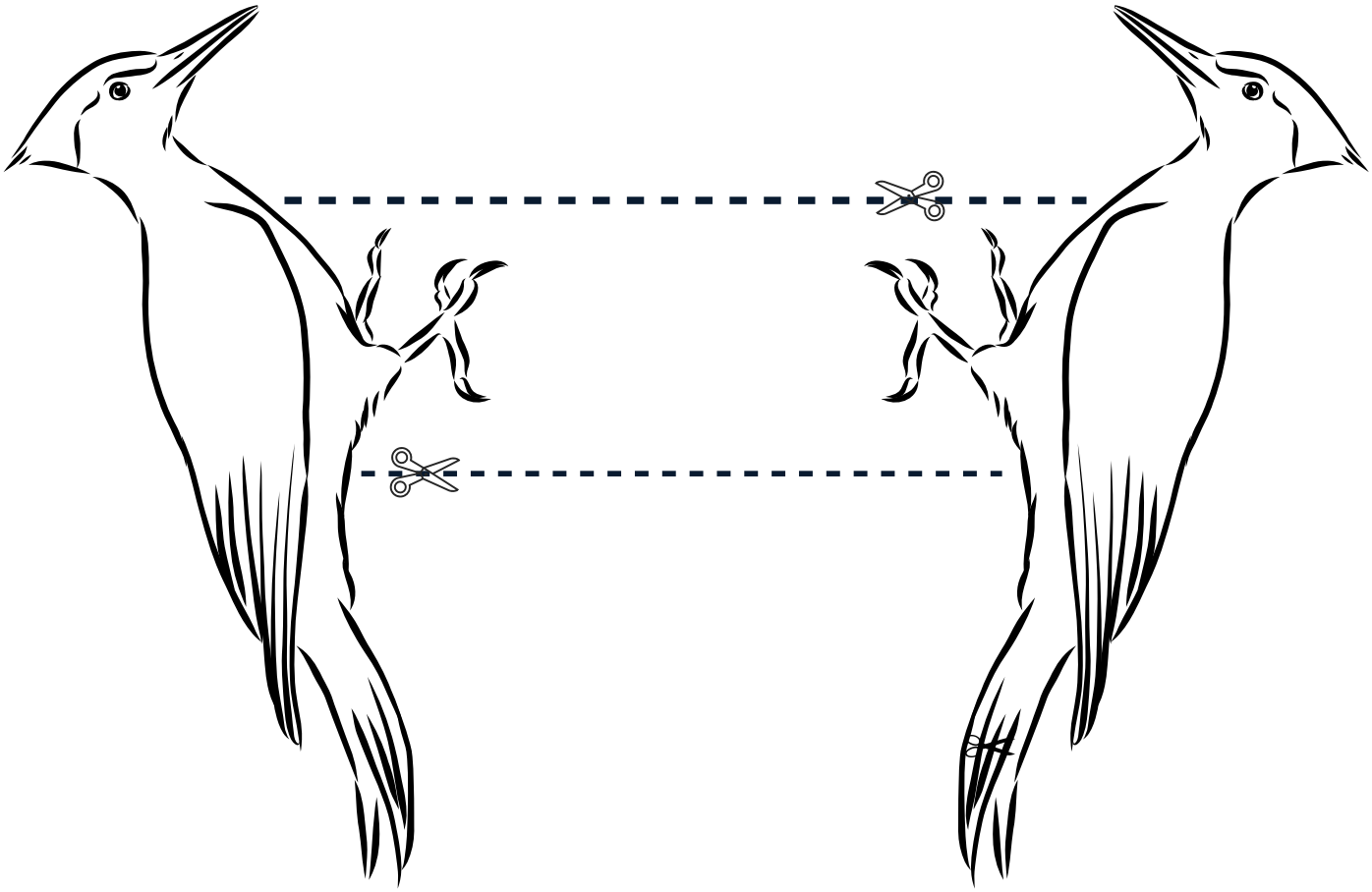






Cuban Green Woodpecker (male).

Woodpecker Template



Instructions

1. Color the woodpecker template. Remember the Cuban Green Woodpecker has olive-green upperparts, yellow-green underparts streaked black, a black line behind the eye, a red throat, and a flashy bright red crown. If you want your woodpecker to represent a female be sure to color the front half of the crown black.
2. Stick the colored woodpecker template on to the cereal box or card sheet.
3. Cut out the bird shape and along the dotted line.
4. Fold into half so that the birds overlap.
5. Cut a piece of straw about 2 cm long.
6. Turn over your bird (colored side down) and apply glue all over the white side.
7. Put the piece of straw in the middle of the fold line.
8. Fold the halves over and stick together so the edges are aligned.
9. Allow glue to dry.
10. Cut the rubber and create two loops- one at each end of the rubber band.
11. Thread the rubber band through the straw and pull the ends apart.

Time for your woodpecker to "find some insects to munch on."

1. Hold one end up
2. *Is the woodpecker pecking on his way down?*
3. Keep the rubber band tight and rotate your arms so your opposite hand is at the top
4. *Is the woodpecker pecking the "tree trunk" on his way down again?*

When the woodpecker is positioned at the top of the rubber band it wants to fall but the weight of the woodpecker causes the straw to touch the rubber band which creates friction that stops it from falling.
The rubber band then bounces the woodpecker back.
In between, there is no friction and the woodpecker drops a little.
And the process starts over again.

Additional experiments with the woodpecker toy:

- What happens if you change the angle of the rubber band?
- What happens if you attach paperclips to the woodpecker?
- Do you think the woodpecker will move faster or slower? Why?