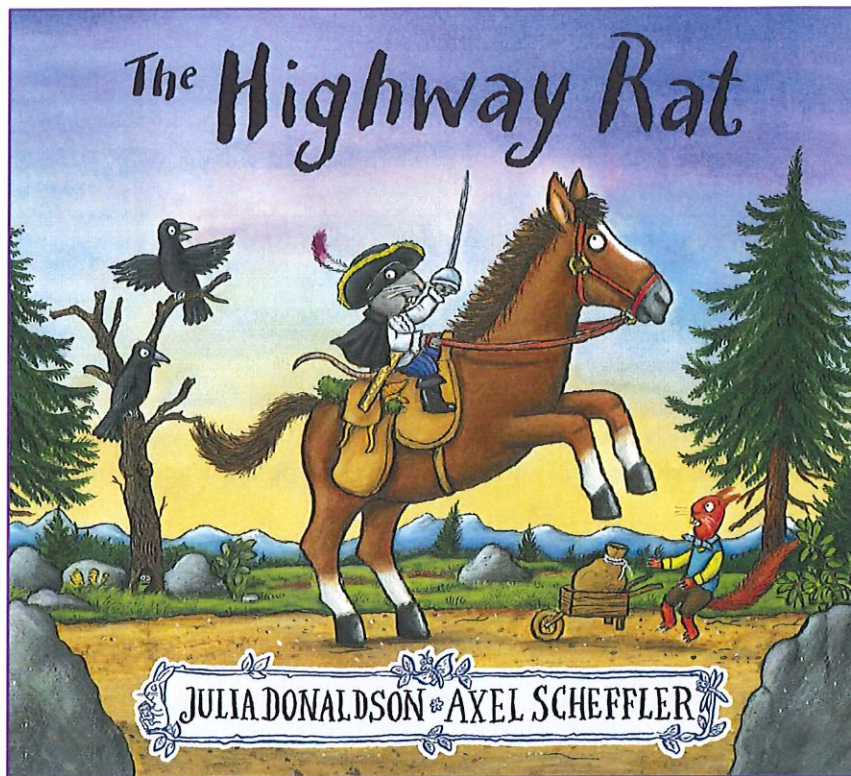




3-5 Years Home Learning Pack

Echo, echo

Objectives

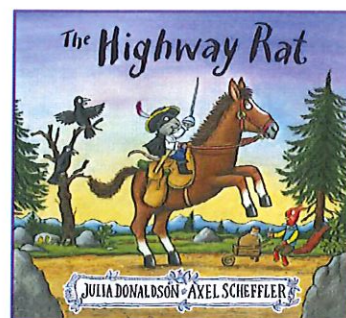
- To follow a simple set of instructions
- To test different objects to make echoes
- To talk about their findings

Resources

- *The Highway Rat* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
- *Resource Sheet 1: Cup echoes*
- *Resource Sheet 2: Making echoes*
- *Resource Sheet 3: My echoes*
- Different size cups or mugs
- Cotton wool or toilet roll
- A range of 'junk' including tubes and boxes
- Soft toys, plastic bowl, woollen hats/gloves, etc.
- Making materials such as play dough and building bricks

Echo, echo

3-5 Years Home Learning Pack



Outcomes

- Children will follow a simple set of instructions to experiment with echoes
- Children will try out different places, objects and materials to find echoes
- Children will talk about what they have found out

Introduction

Share the story *The Highway Rat* with your child. Encourage them to join in with the repeated lines that begin "For I am the Rat of the Highway...". After reading the book, ask your child what they enjoyed about the story.

Look back at the part of the book where the duck brings the rat to the cave. Ask your child why the characters can hear a voice in the cave, if there's no-one really in there. Discuss if or where they have heard echoes before. Has your child ever heard any echoes whilst walking under bridges, visiting caves, etc? Is there anything in the home environment that could make echoes? Try a few options – encourage your child to call or shout under a table, into a sink, behind a curtain, etc.

Play an echo game with your child by saying a word or phrase for them to repeat back to you. Now switch around and ask your child to say a word or phrase for you to copy. Repeat it back to them several times, with a quieter voice until it fades out like an echo.

Main task

Invite your child to speak into the cup in different ways. Can they hear an echoey sound? Show your child the pictures and instructions on *Resource Sheet 1: Cup echoes*. Encourage them to follow the instructions on the sheet and colour in the tick or cross to show if they heard an echo with each try. What do they notice about the sounds they are making? Which did they like the best?

Explain how the cotton wool (or toilet paper) stops the echo – sounds bounce off hard surfaces but soft surfaces *absorb* sound.

Extension

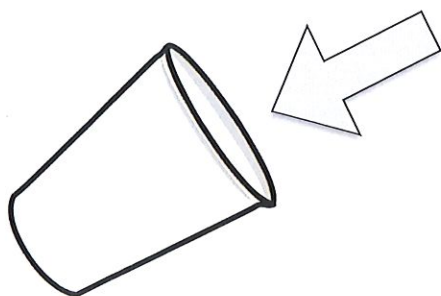
Your child can experiment with different objects around the home, talking into them in the same way as they did with the plastic/paper cup. They could try cardboard or plastic tubes, boxes, bowls, models made with building bricks or play dough, encourage them to move into different rooms of different sizes. Do they notice a difference in making echoes in the bathroom, discuss why this might be? Most bathrooms have many hard surfaces (and less soft furnishings to absorb sounds).

On *Resource Sheet 2: Making echoes*, your child can draw a tick or a cross next to the objects they tried. An alternative would be to use *Resource Sheet 3: My echoes*, where they can draw a picture or write the object they tried, again showing with a tick or a cross if it made an echoey sound.

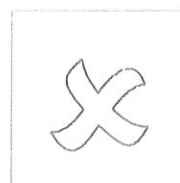
Echo, echo

Resource Sheet 1: Cup echoes

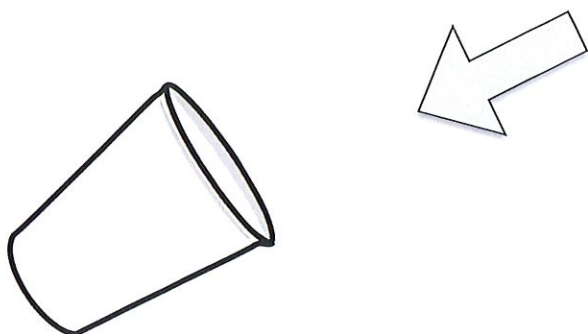
1. Talk into the **wide** end of the cup. Place your mouth **close** to the cup.



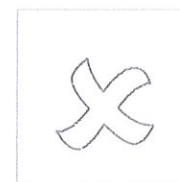
Can you hear an echo?



2. Talk into the **wide** end of the cup. Place your mouth **far** from the cup.

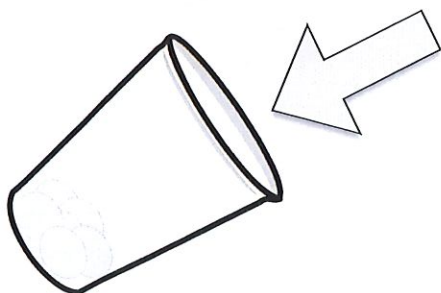


Can you hear an echo?

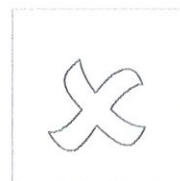


3. Place a ball of cotton wool in the cup.

Talk into the **wide** end. Place your mouth **close** to the cup.



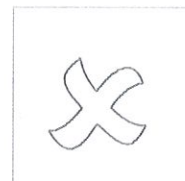
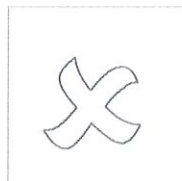
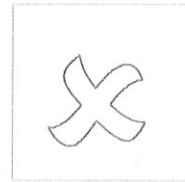
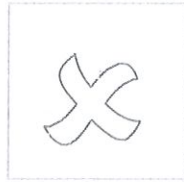
Can you hear an echo?



Echo, echo

Resource Sheet 2: Making echoes

What makes an echo? Colour in the tick or the cross for each object.



Echo, echo

Resource Sheet 3: My echoes

What makes an echo? Draw an object in each box. If it makes an echo, colour in a tick. If it doesn't make an echo, colour in a cross.

Echo, echo

Curriculum links

Early Years Communication and language

- Children listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions.
- Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.
- They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Early Years Personal, social and emotional development

- Children are confident about trying new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others.
- They are confident speaking in a familiar group, will talk about their ideas, and will choose the resources they need for their chosen activities.
- They say when they do or don't need help.

Early Years Understanding the world

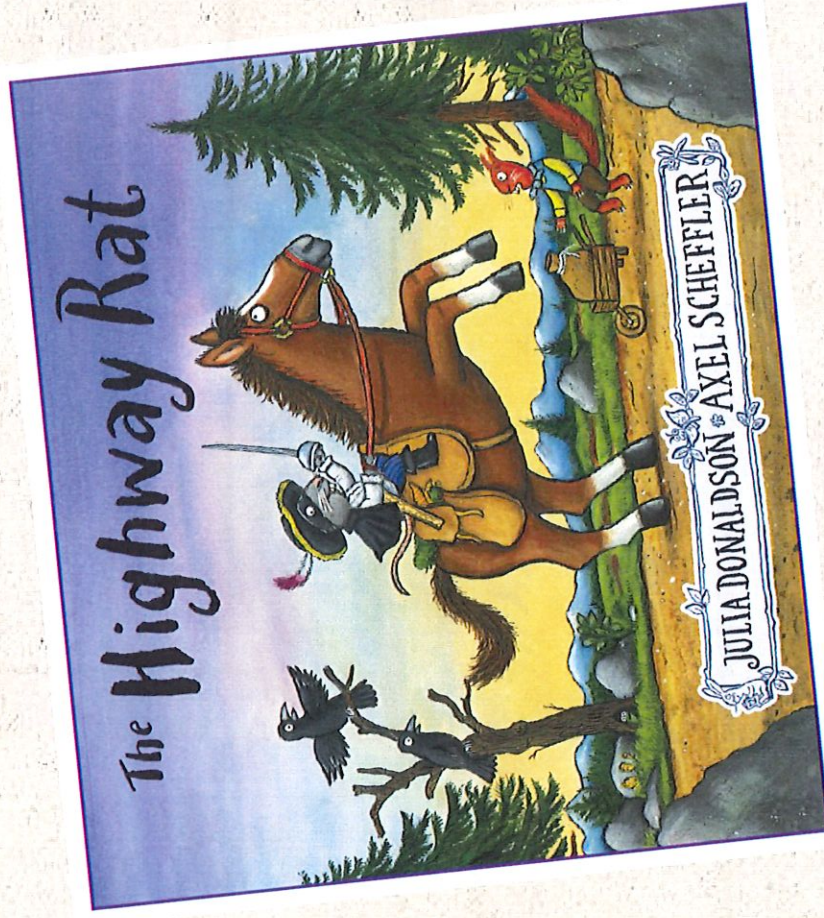
- Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.
- They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.

Early Years Literacy

- They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

Here are some ideas to do with your children over the next week.

The theme this week is 'Highway Rat' by Julia Donaldson.



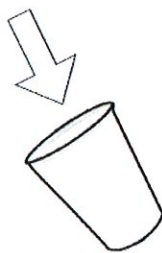
Echo Game:

After reading or watching the animation speak with your child about why the rat hears voices in the cave? Discuss if and where they have heard echoes before—maybe whilst walking under a bridge. Is there anything in at home that may make an echo? Try a few suggestions encouraging your child to call or shout under a table, in a sink etc. Play an echo game with your child by saying a word or a phrase for them to repeat back to you. Now switch round.

Echo, echo

Resource Sheet 1: Cup echoes

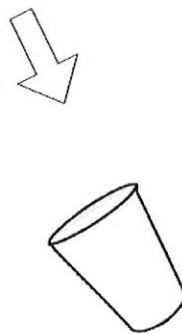
1. Talk into the wide end of the cup. Place your mouth close to the cup.



Can you hear an echo?



2. Talk into the wide end of the cup. Place your mouth far from the cup.

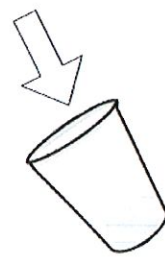


Can you hear an echo?



3. Place a ball of cotton wool in the cup.

Talk into the wide end. Place your mouth close to the cup.



Can you hear an echo?



Echo, echo

Resource Sheet 2: Making echoes

What makes an echo? Colour in the tick or the cross for each object.



Main task

Invite your child to speak into the cup in different ways. Can they hear an echoey sound? Show your child the pictures and instructions on *Resource Sheet 1: Cup echoes*. Encourage them to follow the instructions on the sheet and colour in the tick or cross to show if they heard an echo with each try. What do they notice about the sounds they are making? Which did they like the best?

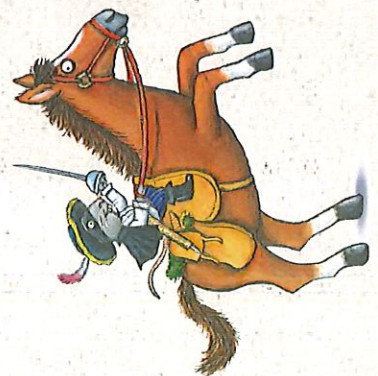
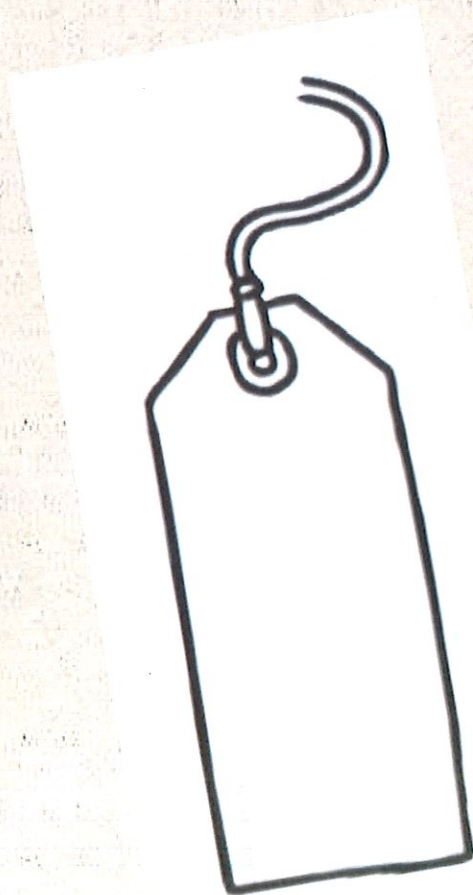
Explain how the cotton wool (or toilet paper) stops the echo – sounds bounce off hard surfaces but soft surfaces *absorb* sound.

Extension

Your child can experiment with different objects around the home, talking into them in the same way as they did with the plastic/paper cup. They could try cardboard or plastic tubes, boxes, bowls, models made with building bricks or play dough, encourage them to move into different rooms of different sizes. Do they notice a difference in making echoes in the bathroom, discuss why this might be? Most bathrooms have many hard surfaces (and less soft furnishings to absorb sounds).

On *Resource Sheet 2: Making echoes*, your child can draw a tick or a cross next to the objects they

The Highway Rat steals lots of things in the story. Can you remember who he steals from? Draw a picture of the animal and write a label for what needs to be returned to them.



Can you remember who the Highway Rat stole these items from? Write their names on the name tags, so the items can be returned to their owner.



Clover

Return to: _____



Nuts

Return to: _____



Leaf

Return to: _____

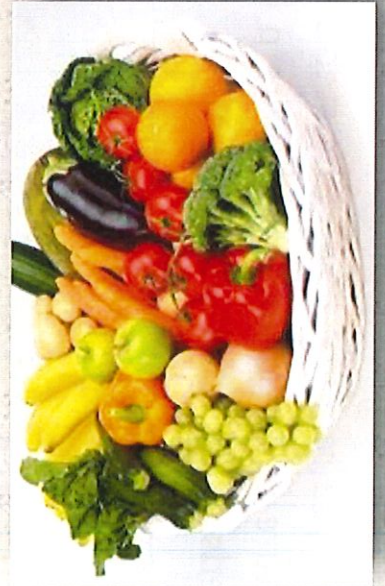
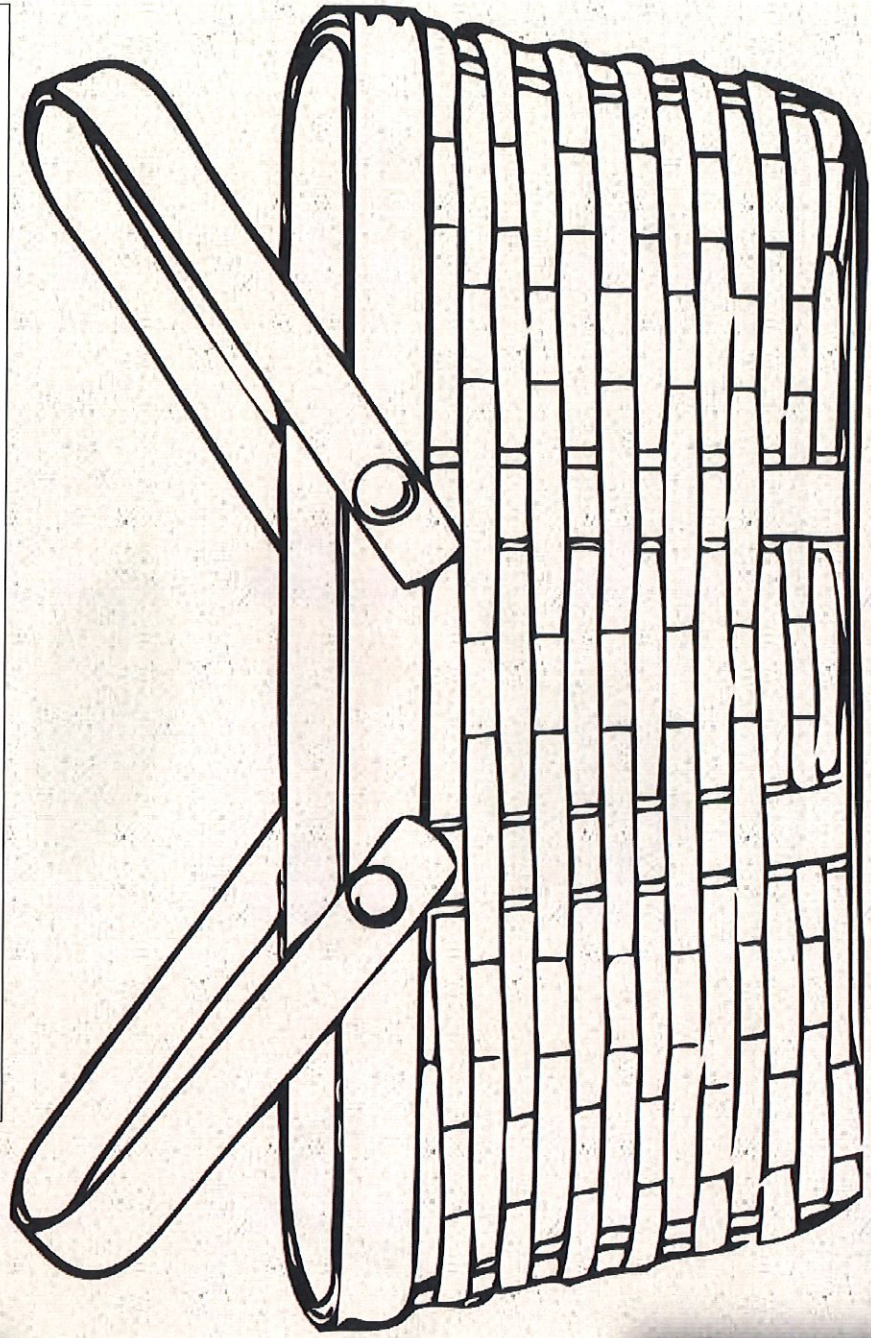


Hay

Return to: _____

Make a picnic:

In the story the highway rat has a picnic on the back of his horse. Can you design a healthy picnic to have in your back garden? What foods would you include? You could use your shopping list from your Literacy tasks to help you.



Make a hat and bobby horse:

Follow the instructions to make your very own Highway Rat hat and hobby horse. Can you rein act some of the story?

The Highway Rat Activity sheets

Make the Highway Rat's hat

No bandit would be complete without their disguise!

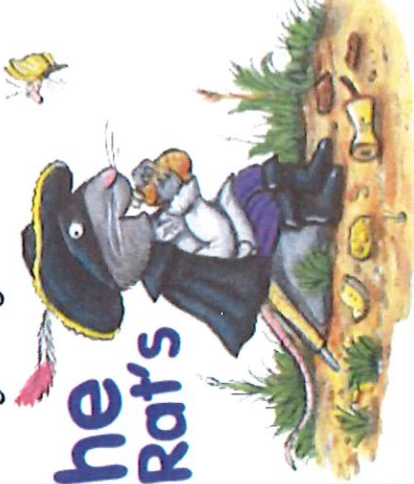
Materials:

- Black card
- Scissors
- Tape
- Feather

Steps:

- Take one piece of card and cut it into a large oval
- Then, cut out a hole about the size of your head from the middle of the same piece of card and set aside. The large oval will become the rim of your hat and the smaller oval will be the top!
- Take another piece of card and cut off one long strip
- Tape the strip around the head shaped hole of the large oval
- Next, put the card that you set aside on top of the circular strip and tape it in place
- Add a feather found on your forest adventures to finish the look!

To complete your disguise, make a cowboy hat from an old t-shirt or sheet!




The Highway Rat Activity sheets

Hobby horse

Can you neigh & gallop like a horse?

What you'll need:

- An old sock (we like colourful ones!)
- Felt
- Ribbon
- Two buttons for eyes
- Wool (optional)
- Sturdy stick the height of your child
- Stuffing (this could be scrunched up newspaper)
- Needle and thread
- Scissors

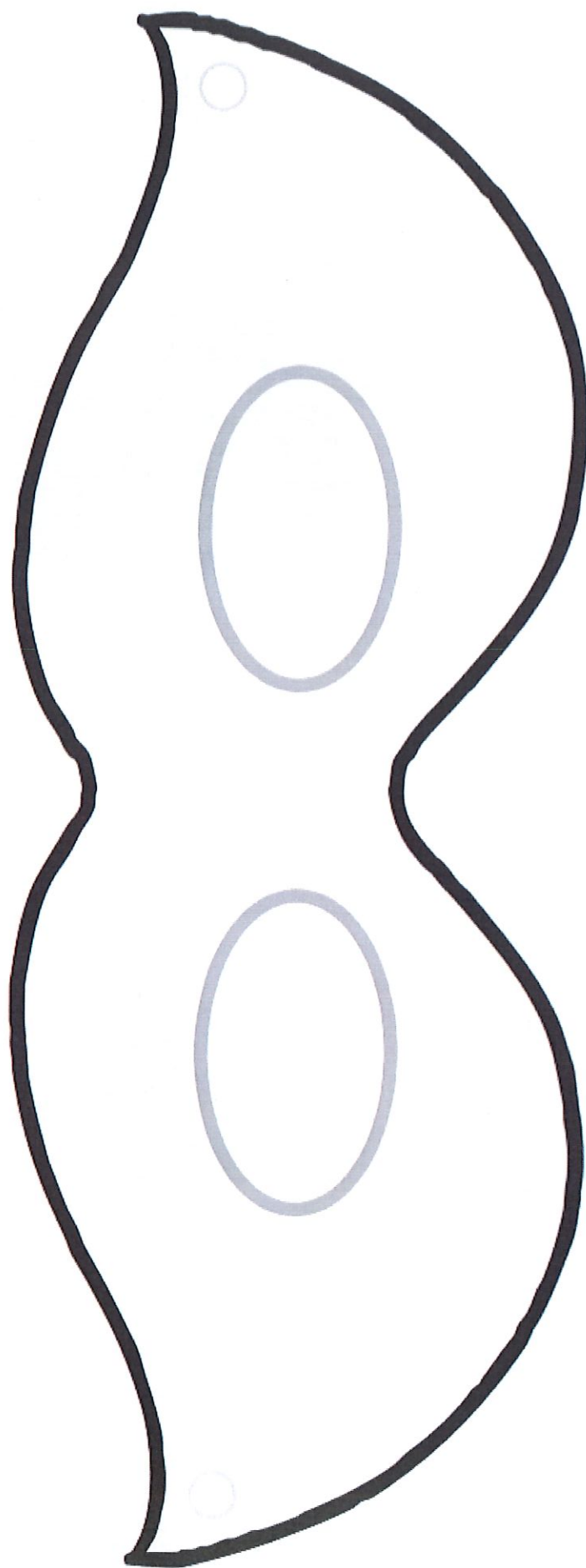
Steps:

- Break off any branches along your stick to make it safe to hold
- Stuff the sock with your filling to make the horse's head
- Place the stick inside the sock and secure at the end with a piece of string
- Cut out two felt ear shapes and sew these onto the horse's head
- Sew on the eyes
- Add your halter (and wool mane if you wish!)



Make a mask:

Can you design your very own Highway Rat mask? What colours and craft resources could you use?



Spy Glass:

The highway Rat uses a spy glass to see what food he can steal next. Make yourself a soy glass and see what you can see?

What you need

- Plastic wrap
- Scissors
- Paper towel or gift wrapping tube
- Tape
- Black and yellow craft paper

Activity

Cut a small square of plastic wrap and cover one end of the paper tube.

Secure the plastic wrap in place with tape.

Using the black craft paper, cover the outside of the tube.

Cut a strip of yellow craft paper and tape it over the edges of the plastic on the tube.



Make Biscuits:

The Highway Rat loved to eat cakes and biscuits. Follow our simple recipe and make some yummy biscuits. How will you decorate them?



Ingredients

- 200g unsalted butter, softened
- 200g golden caster sugar
- 1 large egg
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla extract
- 400g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

Method

1. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6 and line a baking sheet with baking parchment. Put the butter in a bowl and beat it with electric beaters until soft and creamy. Beat in the sugar, then the egg and vanilla, and finally the flour to make a dough. If the dough feels a bit sticky, add a little bit more flour and knead it in.
2. Pull pieces off the dough and roll them out to about the thickness of two £1 coins on a floured surface. The easiest way to do this with small children is to roll the mixture out on a baking mat. Cut out shapes using a 9cm biscuit cutter, or a use the rim of a small glass and peel away the leftover dough around the edges. Press some clean toys gently into the biscuits, making sure you make enough of a mark without going all the way through. Re-roll off-cuts and repeat.
3. Transfer the whole mat or the individual biscuits to the baking sheet and bake for 8-10 mins or until the edges are just brown. Leave to cool for 5 mins, then serve. Will keep for three days in a biscuit tin.

Find the rhyme

All the words below are from a well known story by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, each word can be paired with another on the page that it rhymes with. Match the pairs of words and then try to figure out which story they come from!

We've done the first one to get you started.

brave

wire

fiery

Dad

fist

Mouse

snored

snake

strong

wood

piled

fire

snow

bored

cave

wiry

exist

bad

cake

house

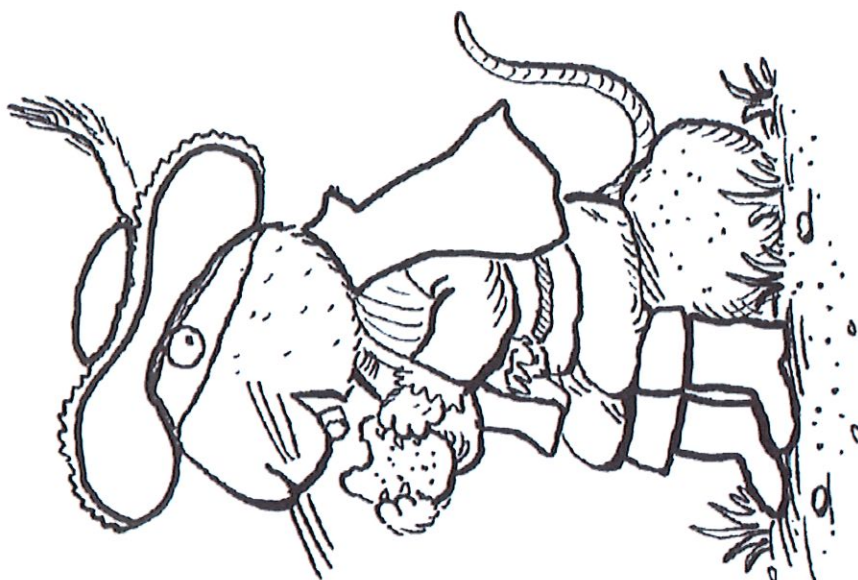
long

should

go

JULIA DONALDSON  AXEL SCHEFFLER

The Highway Rat



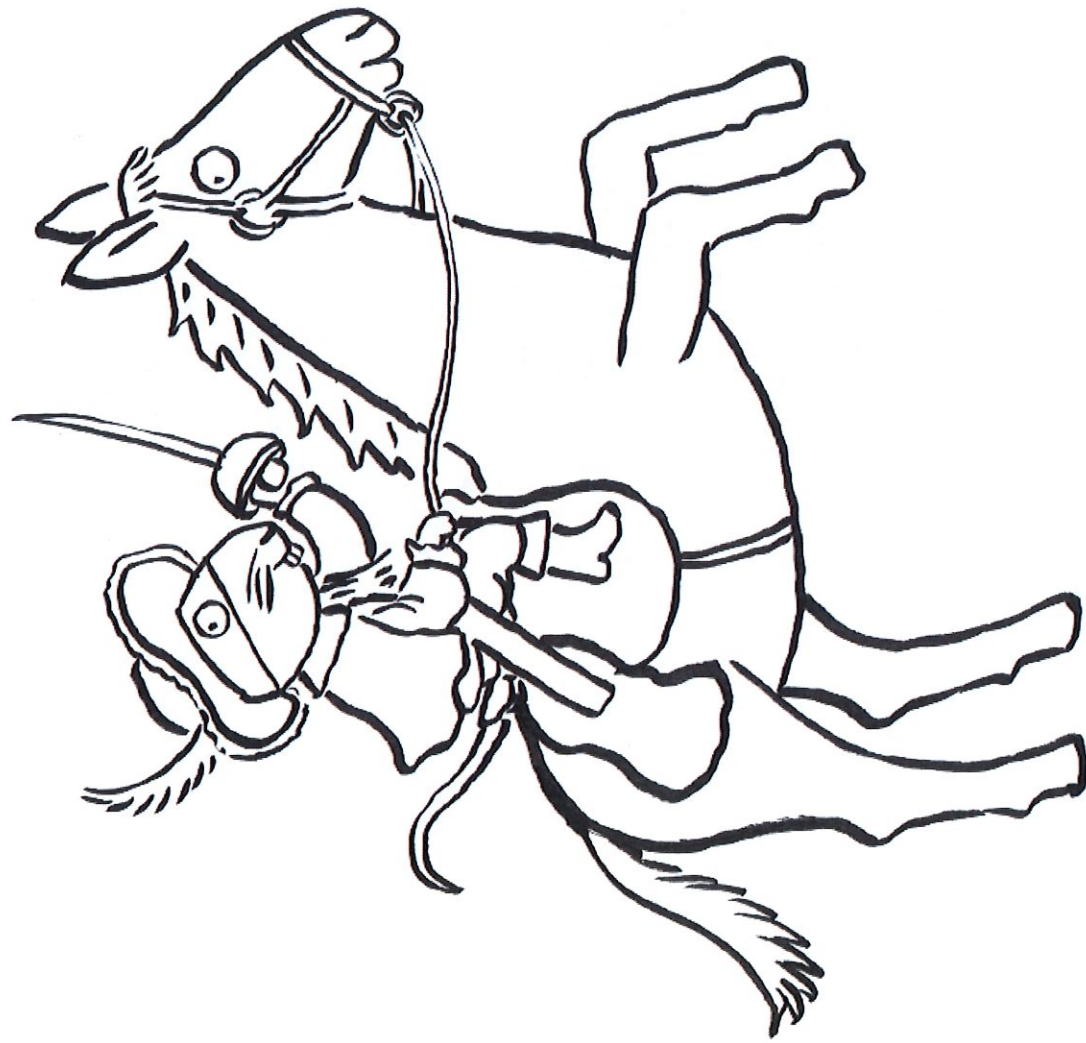
Can you colour in this picture of
the Highway Rat?



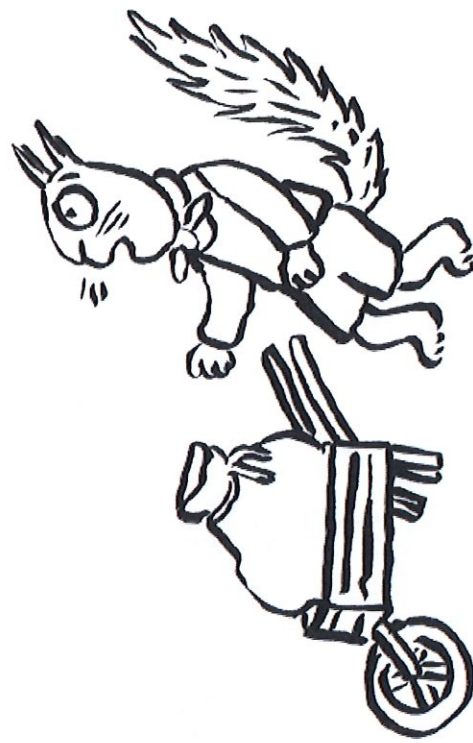
 SCHOLASTIC

www.gruffalo.com

Colour me in!



I am the Rat of
the Highway



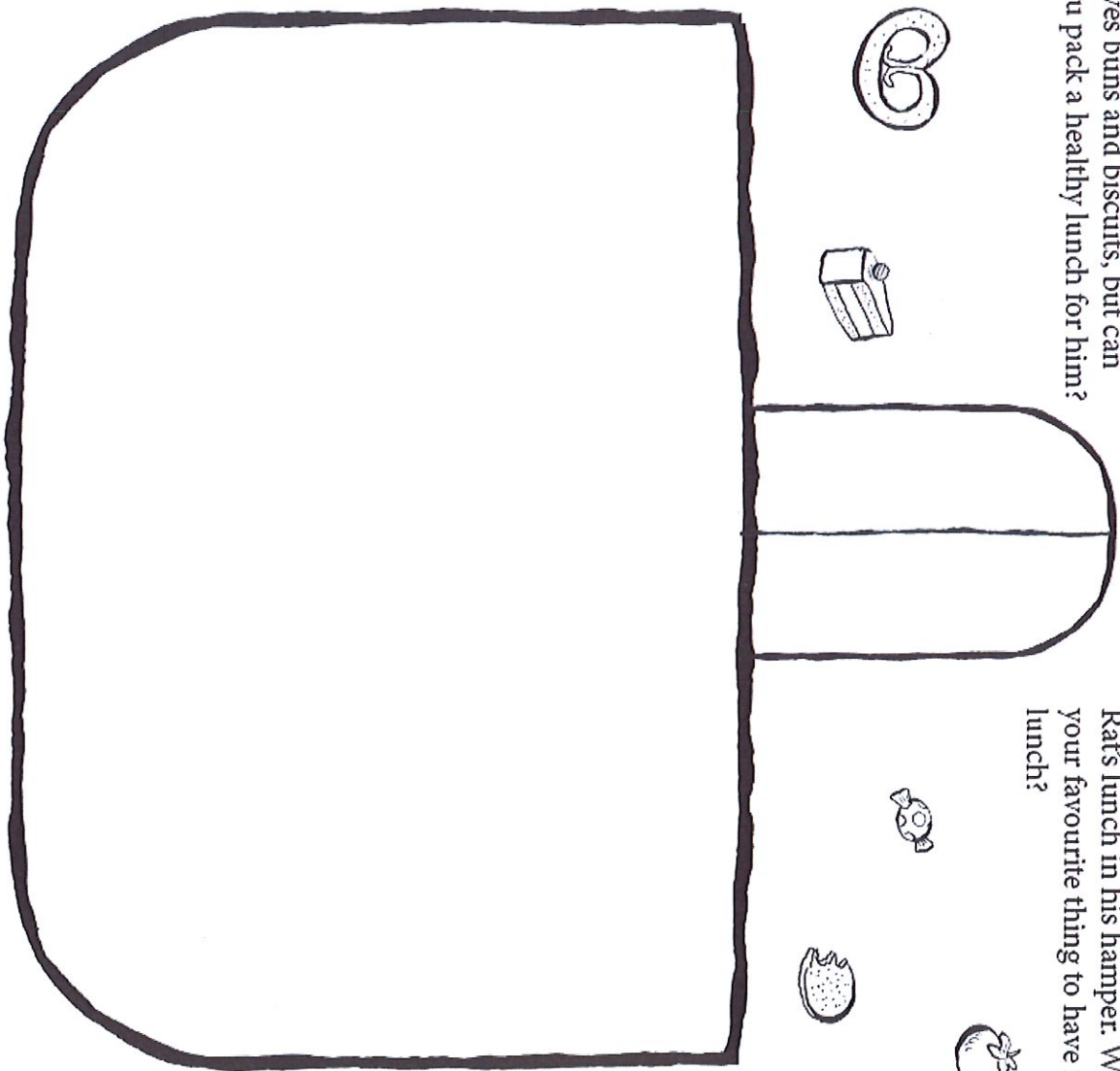
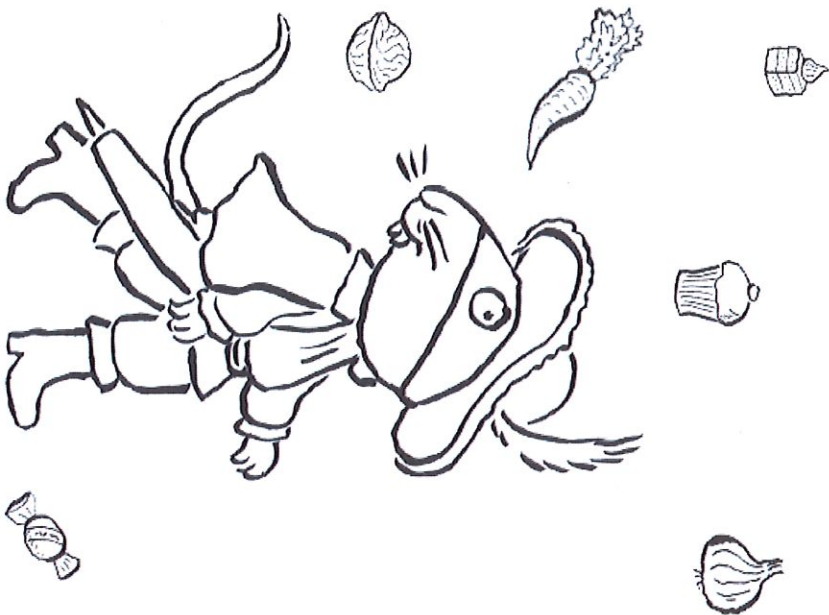


*I am the Rat of
the Highway*

The Highway Rat™

We know that the Highway Rat loves buns and biscuits, but can you pack a healthy lunch for him?

Draw and colour the Highway Rat's lunch in his hamper. What's your favourite thing to have for lunch?



Date:

L.O/I can:

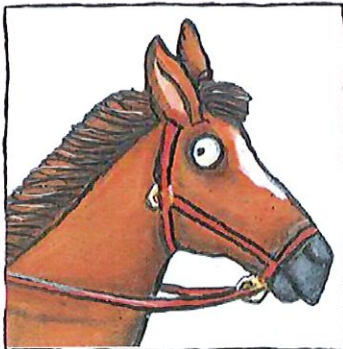
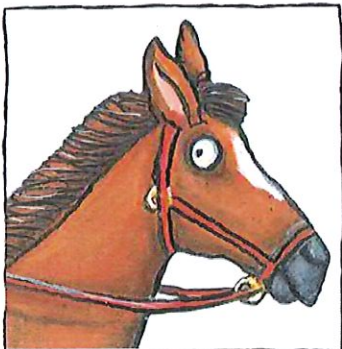
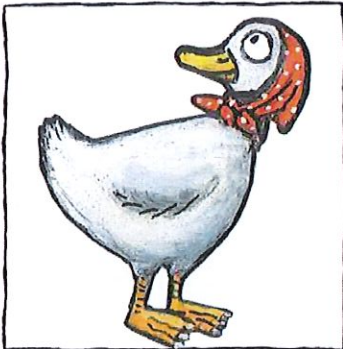
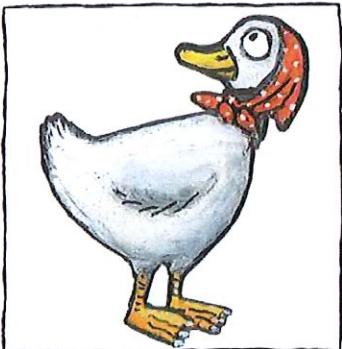
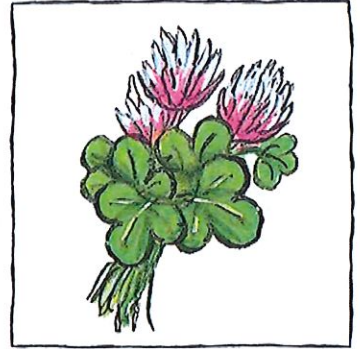
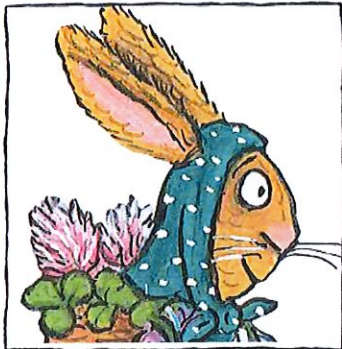
Look at the images below from *The Highway Rat*. Can you fill in the thought bubbles for each character?





Highway Rat Pairs Game

Print out these two sheets of pairs and cut out the squares. Stick the squares on bits of card to make them last longer. Turn all the cards face down on a table and take it in turn to select two cards until you have collected all the pairs in the game! Whoever has the most pairs wins!



Always ask an adult to help you when using scissors.

Always ask an adult to help you when using scissors.



For more fun and games check out www.stickmanofficial.com



See how many of these
different foods you can
find and colour them
as you count them.

PRETZELS



CROISSANTS



CARROTS



SWEETS



APPLES



WALNUTS



ONIONS



