

Heron

Long neck and legs,
and a bill like a spear,
It creeps slowly to a frog that is near,
Then it strikes out its neck
to stab its prey,
But this frog was lucky - it hopped away!

Talking about the picture: **H is for heron**

Hérons have long, long legs. Can you point to them?

What other parts of the heron are long?

(Its bill and its neck)

Hérons like to eat fish. Do you know how they catch the fish? *(They stand in the water watching for a fish to swim near them. When they see a fish, they catch it with their long bill.)*

How many toes the heron has on each foot? _____

How many toes do you have on each foot? _____

The picture shows a kind of heron called a Great Egret. It's white with black legs and a yellow bill.

Color the bill yellow.

Hh



H is for heron.

Be a heron watcher

When: all seasons

Where: the edges of ponds, marshes, bays

What to do: look for tall birds with long necks, long bills, and long legs.

There are different kinds of herons.

There is a big white one called a Great Egret (pronounced EE gret). This is the one in your picture. Why do you think it is called Great? (*It is called Great because it is big.*)

There is a small white heron called a Snowy Egret. Can you guess why it's called Snowy? (*It is white like snow.*)

There is a big bluish grey one called a Great Blue Heron. Why is it called that? (*It is called Great Blue because it is big and it is bluish.*)

Some of you may remember the heron in your marsh book and on your activity sheets. Do you remember two things herons like to eat? (*fish and fiddler crabs*)

Parents: Make sure your child understands the meaning of the new words; use them often.

Inchworm

Inchworm, Dear Inchworm,

how strangely you walk!

Something I wonder, and wish you could talk:

With each step you arch your back to the sky,

Other caterpillars don't;

tell me why.

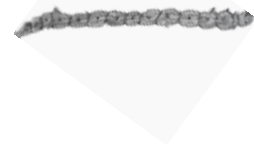
Talking about "I is for inchworm"

Can you find an inchworm on the leaf stem? It looks like this:



What is it eating? (*A leaf*)

There is another inchworm in the picture. Can you find it? Look carefully. It is holding itself straight out like this:



It looks like a twig (a small tree branch).

Why do you think it might be a good thing for the inchworm to look like a twig? (Hint: If you were a bird, would you eat a twig?) Where is the head of this inchworm? (*away from the twig*) What is it using to hold onto the twig? (*hind legs*)

What other animal in your alphabet book looks most like the inchworm? (Sparky thinks it's the caterpillar. Do you think he's right?)

He is, because he knows that an inchworm is really a kind of caterpillar. There are many kinds of caterpillars. Some caterpillars turn into butterflies. Some, like inchworms, turn into moths.

I i



I is for inchworm

Be an inchworm walker

What! An inchworm walker?

YES! Here's how:

Look at the inches marked off along the sides of this page.

Put your pointing finger and your thumb together on START.

Move your pointing finger onto the 1.

Now move your thumb together again with your pointing finger.

Next move your pointing finger onto the 2 and move your thumb up.

Keep going like this until you reach 6.

Good! You just walked 6 inches like an inchworm.

Why do you think inchworms move like this? Look at the picture again.

(Inchworms only have legs in the front and the back. Because no legs are in the middle, they have to "inch" their way along.)

Try having an inchworm race with someone else. Each of you put your fingers on START. Follow the inching rules above. See who gets to inch 6 first. Good luck inchworms!

Don't forget to look for inchworms outside in the spring and summer. Watch to see how they "inch" along. Can you find any that look like twigs?



Jellyfish

An umbrella like jelly with lots of hanging strings,
That trail through the water with their many poison
stings,

To catch small fish and any other tasty thing,

Then up to the jellyfish mouth,

the food the tentacles bring

Talking about the picture:
J is for jellyfish

Jellyfish live in water, but they are not really fish.

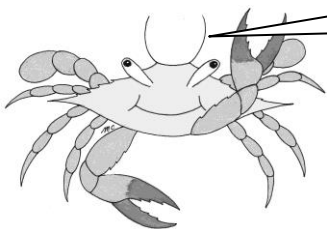
Do you know what jelly is? ____ Do you like to eat jelly? _____
The body of the jellyfish is like jelly. That is why it has the name jellyfish.

Some jellyfish are called "stinging nettles".

Can you guess how they got the name stinging nettles?
(*They can sting with their tentacles.*)

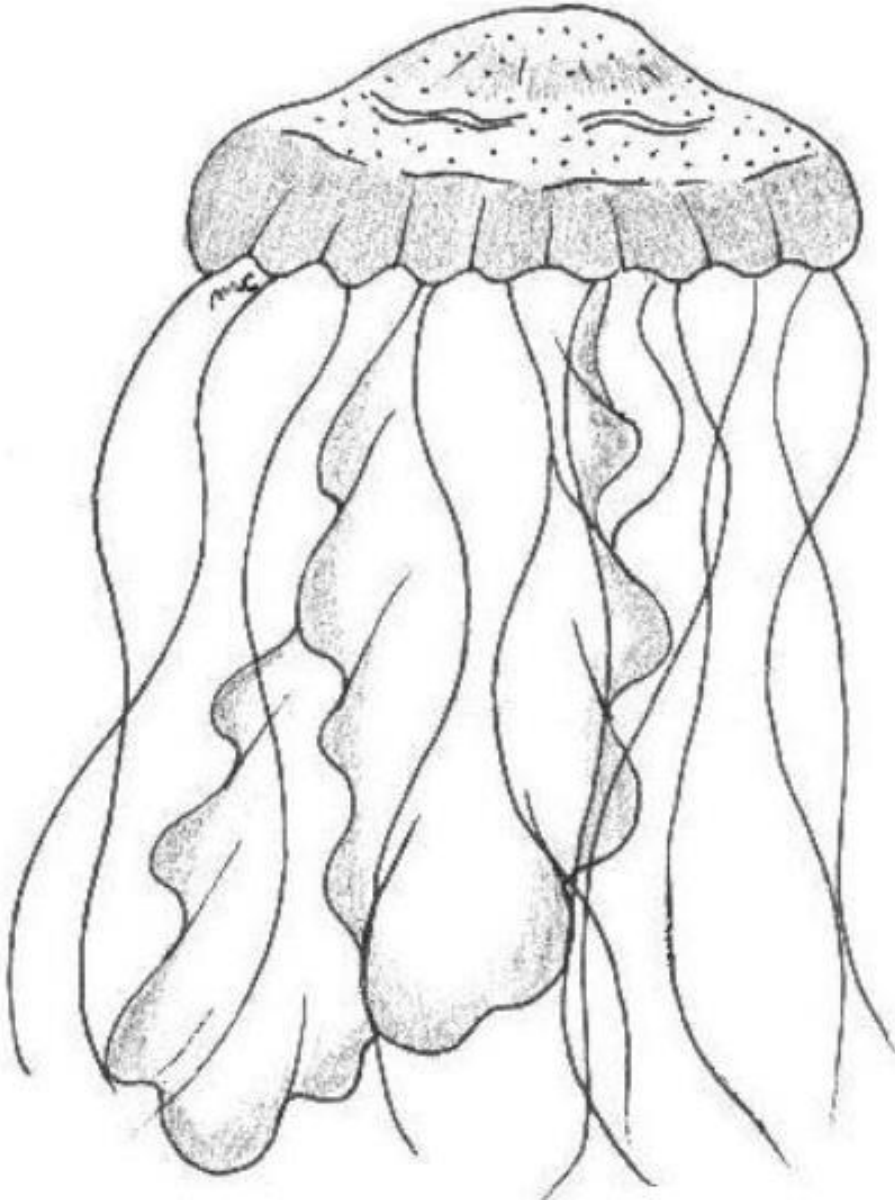
The tentacles look like strings. Can you point to them? _____
Find the body of the jellyfish. It is the shape of an umbrella.

Do you have an umbrella? _____ The jellyfish swims by slowly opening and closing its umbrella. Find your umbrella and show how you can imitate a swimming jellyfish.



Jellyfish come in many colors. Color the jellyfish any color you like!

Jj



J is for JELLYFISH

Be a jellyfish watcher

When: June - September; especially in August

Where: the salt water of bays, creeks and the ocean

What to do: look down into the water from a boat or from a dock.

There are nice docks in Saxis, Chincoteague, Wachapreague, Gargatha, and at Kiptopeke State Park.

Children enjoy spending time on a dock. There are often interesting things for them to see in the water below. You do have to be careful they don't fall off the dock, but it is worth your effort to give them this good learning experience.

Watch how the jellyfish swim. Can you see how they slowly open and close their umbrella (the top part of their body)? _____
Can you see their long tentacles? _____

Be careful to stay away from the tentacles of a jellyfish. They sting.

Do you think a jellyfish has bones? (*No*)

Kingfisher

From up above, a rattling cry is heard --
A medium size, white and bluish-grey bird!
While flying or sitting up high, it searches
For nice fat minnows or small, tasty perches.

Talking about the picture:

K is for kingfisher

What does the kingfisher have in its bill? _____

Why do you think it is called a kingfisher?

(because it is good at catching fish)

Point to the bird's head? Do you see how the feathers on its head stick up? That is called a crest.

What is the kingfisher sitting on?

(the branch of a tree)

Does the tree branch have any leaves?

(no)

Why?

(maybe it is winter or maybe the branch is dead)

Color the lower band on the kingfisher's breast orange. Color the rest of the shaded area blue.

Kk



K is for Kingfisher

Be a kingfisher watcher

When: all seasons; best in spring and summer

Where: near the water of ponds, creeks and bays

What to do: look for a medium sized bird sitting on a bare tree branch near the water.

Keep watching. It will soon dive down into the water to catch a fish.

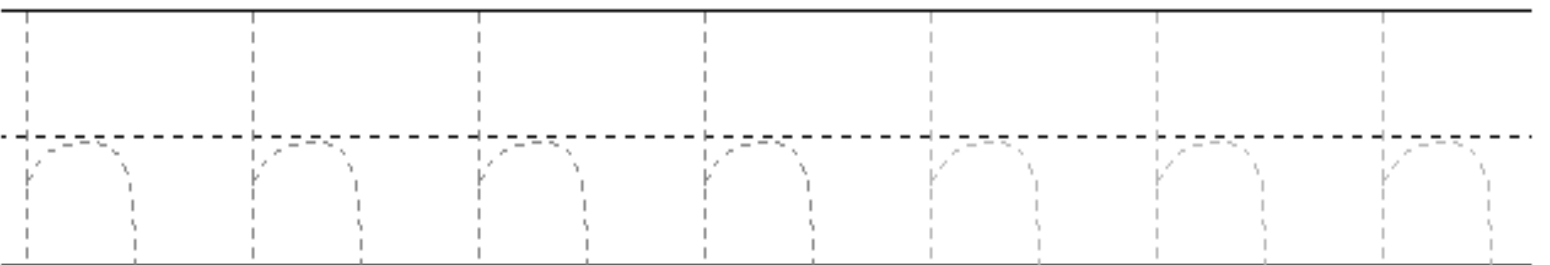
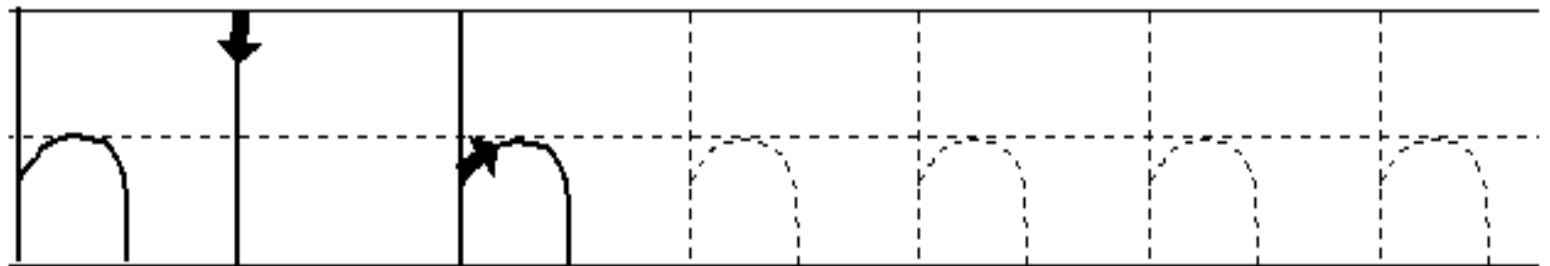
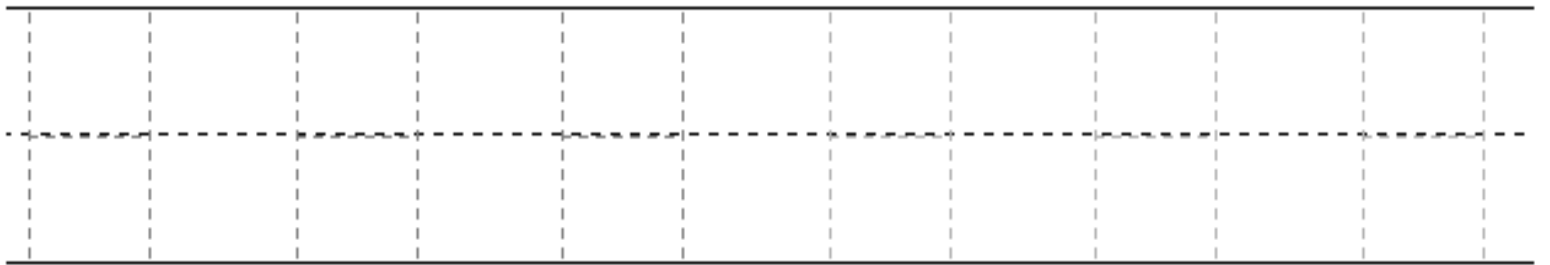
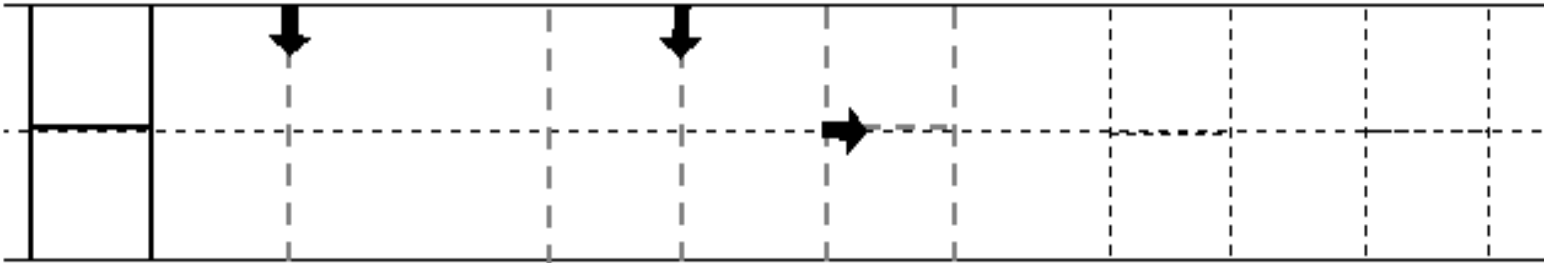
Did it get a fish? _____

Listen and you may hear the loud chattering noise kingfishers make. Did you hear it? _____

When you see a kingfisher, be sure to make a check on your list of alphabet animals you see!

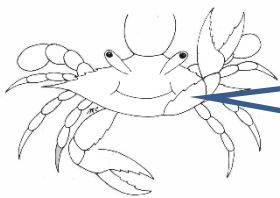
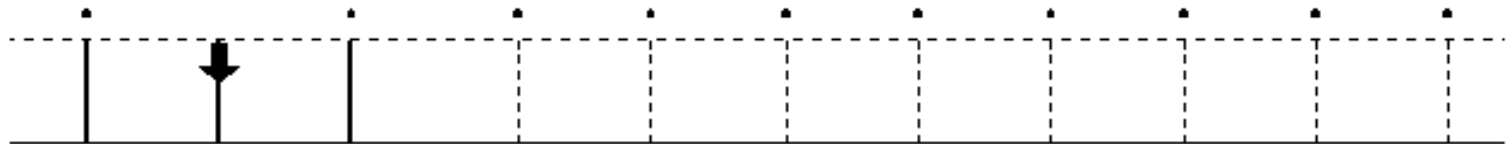
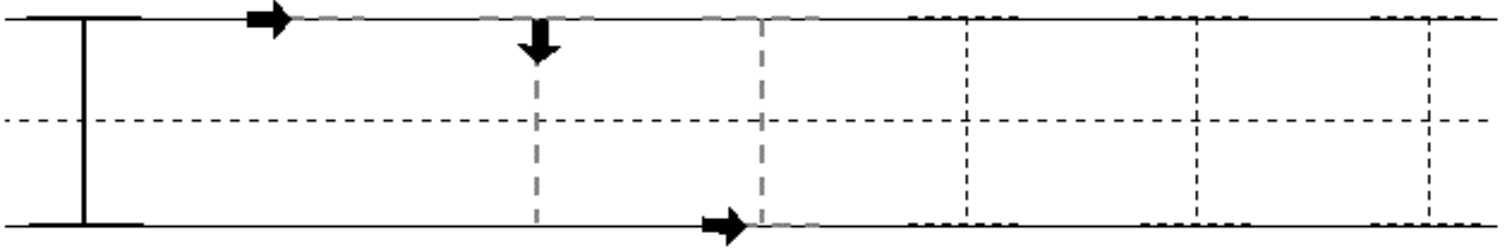
Name _____

Can you trace this letter?



Name: _____

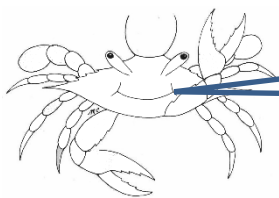
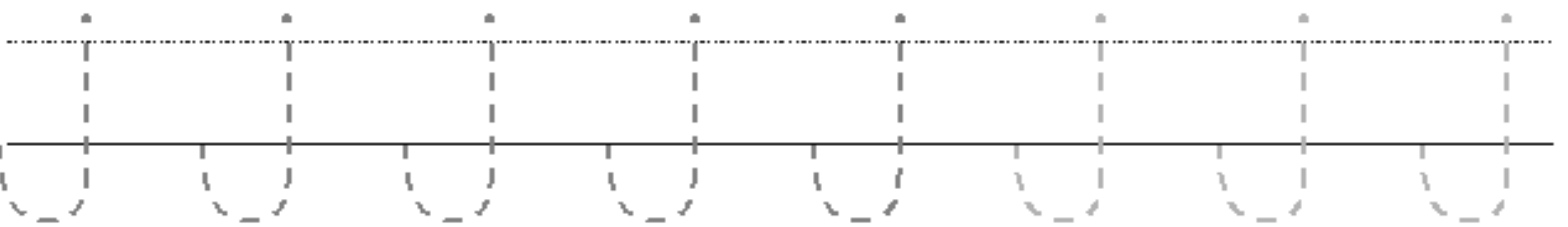
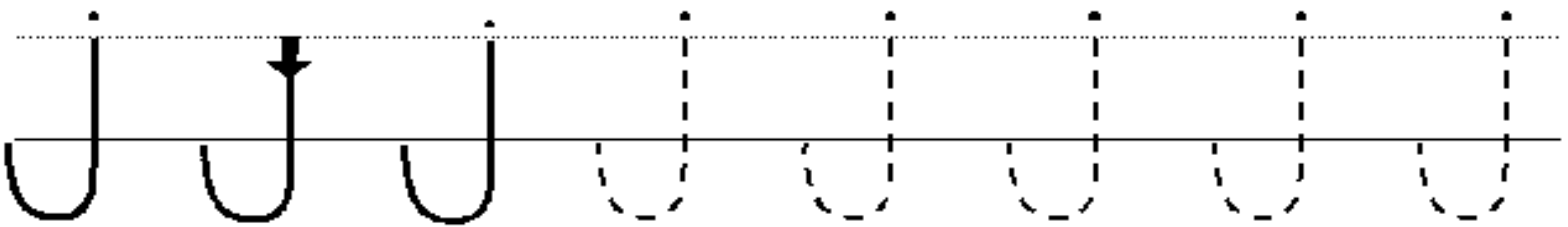
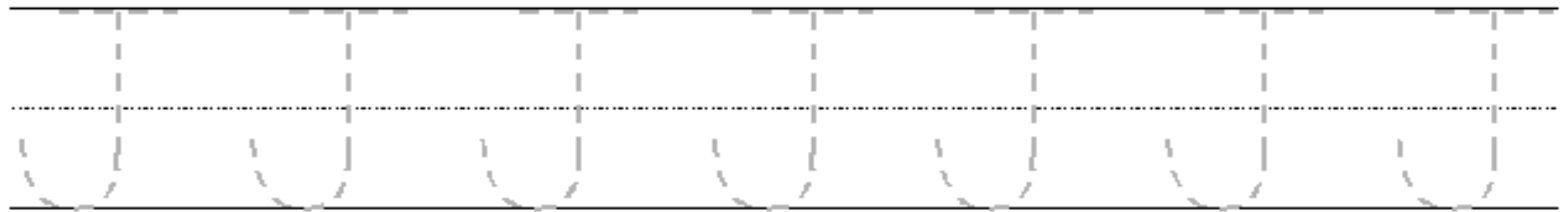
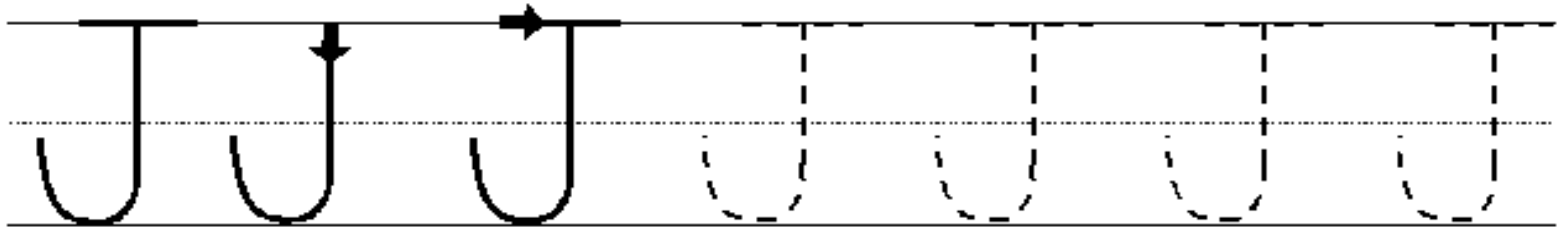
Can you trace this letter?



Guess what! "I" is a letter that is sometimes a whole word.

Name _____

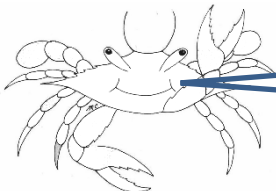
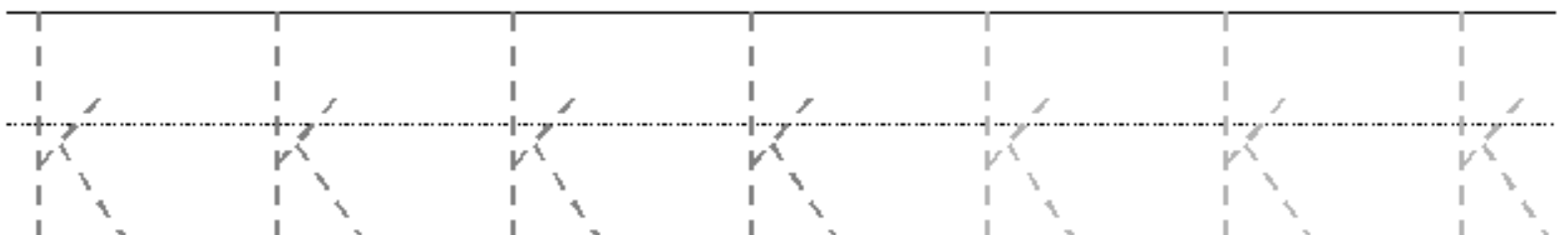
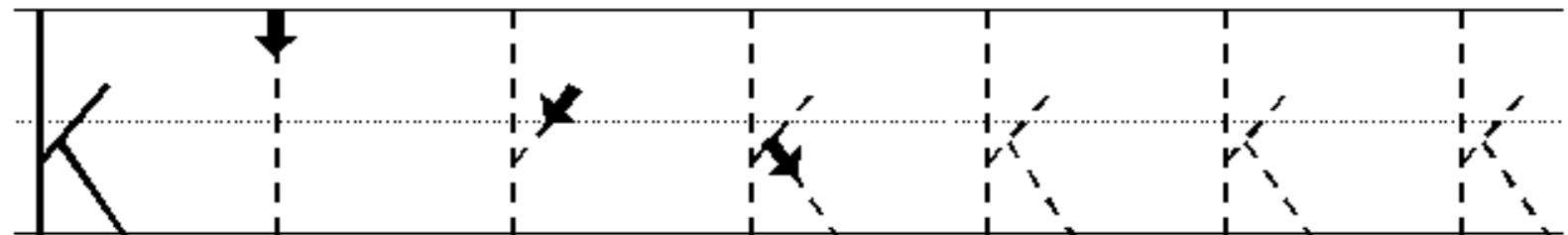
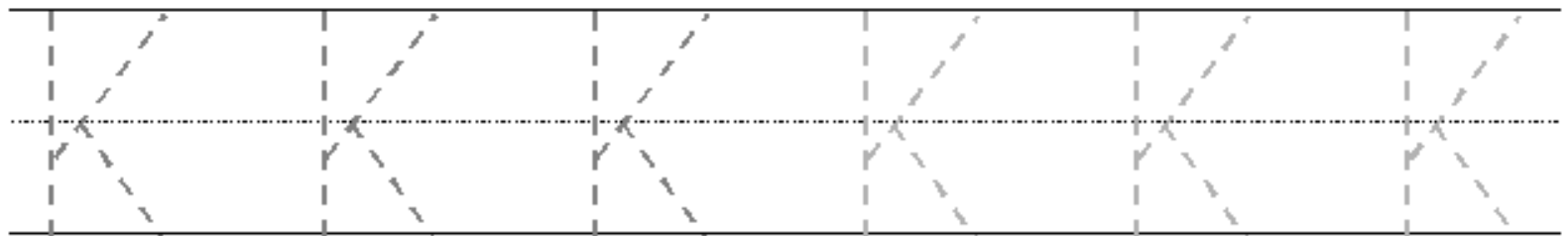
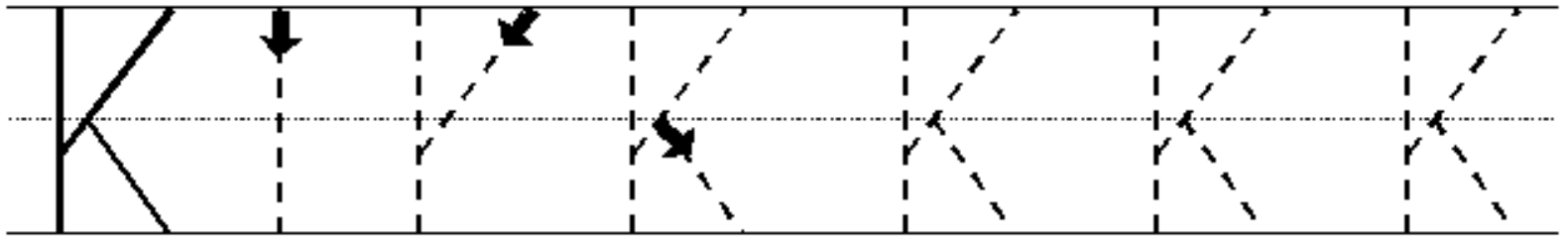
Can you trace this letter?



Count how many "Js" you wrote

Name _____

Can you trace the letter?



Put a circle around the "K" in my name, Sparky.