

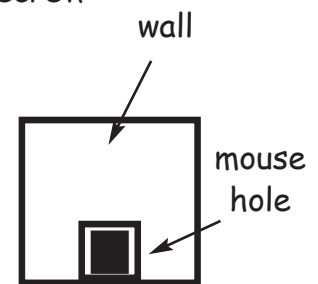
The Curious Little Mouse



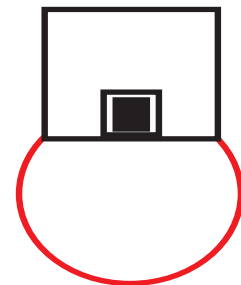
This is a draw and tell story! All you have to do is get a large piece of paper, (preferably a 12 x 18" piece of white construction paper,) and a black marker, and draw the picture as you tell the story. Sometimes, each object that you draw will be an object in the story, and other times the picture is the path that a character is walking along. It's best to try it out once before you try to tell it in front of an audience, though! And know that the picture at the end is supposed to be a SURPRISE- so tell the kids that if they guess what it is before the end of the story, they shouldn't shout out the answer, but keep it a secret!



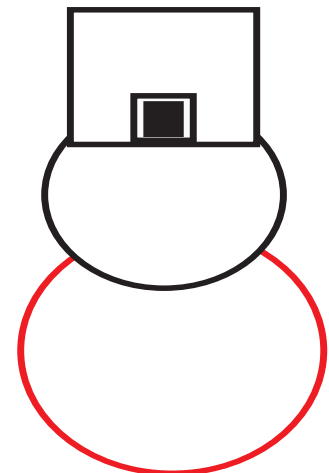
1. There once was a little mouse that lived in a little hole in a wall. He has a happy little mouse, but very curious! So one day, he decided to go out to see what he could see.



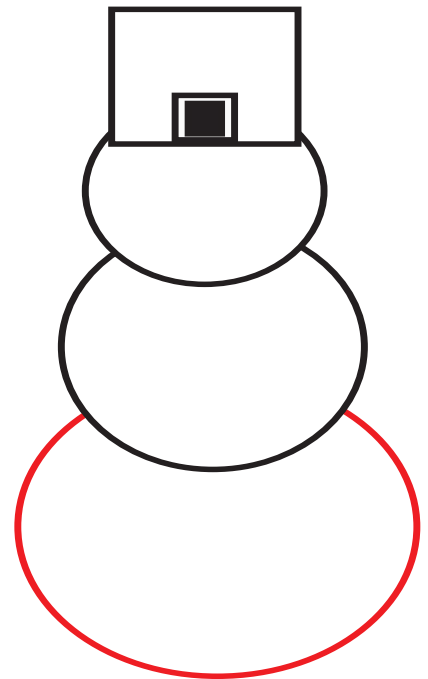
2. The first thing he did was leave his little hole and circle around the room just outside of his house, just to see if it was safe to explore. There might be cats about, so he didn't want to go too far! He didn't see any kitty cats, so he thought it might be safe to go just a little bit farther the next time.



3. So the next time he went out, he went down about halfway where he left off last time and started to circle around again. He made a bigger circle this time, always keeping watch for the family's cat or even their little dog Buster, who he knew also enjoyed chasing little mice, just for fun! His brother had gotten caught in that little dog's teeth once when he had strayed just a bit too far from their hole in the wall. He had gotten in a chasing game with Buster, and boy was their mom mad when he got home!



4. Well, the little mouse never saw the dog OR the cat! So he decided to try going outside next! So he followed the path where he had gone before until he could make a brand new circle path, even bigger than the one before! He went outside and circled around outside! Although he *had* looked out a window, he had never been outside before, and he was so amazed by the things he saw! He saw trees, and leaves, and rocks, and everything was covered with beautiful, white, sparkling SNOW! He played for a while in that beautiful snow, and then he decided that he should probably go on home because his mother might be worried.

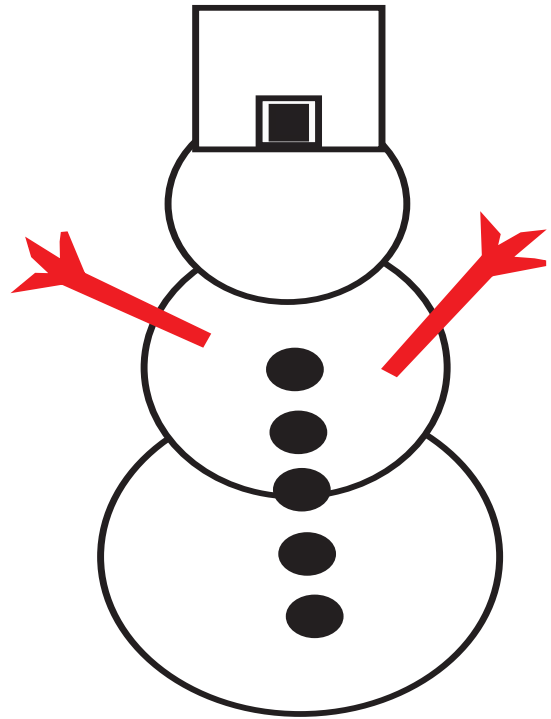


5. He decided to gather up some rocks and bring them home to show his mother, because they were so pretty. And he really wanted enough to give to his mother and his brothers! So he decided that he would try to bring home five of them. He also wanted to bring home some really neat sticks that he found. It would be alright as long as he didn't run into that pesky cat or that silly dog! He put a few more things into his pockets and then he was ready to go.

The problem was that all of that stuff was pretty heavy, and he was just a tiny little mousy! He started to carry them inside. And then- oh, NO! Along came the DOG! He was chasing him and nipping at his heels, and made him drop those pretty rocks, one right after another!



6. The mouse got away from the dog, but he was sad because he had lost all of those pretty rocks. But at least he still had those two sticks, plus the things in his pockets! So he kept going. He had to make it back to the safety of his mouse hole! So he crept along, and he crept along, tiptoe... tiptoe... tiptoe.... And then, out of nowhere, **OUT SPRANG THE CAT!** The mouse broke into a run as fast as his little legs would carry him! He ran and ran and ran. He tried and tried to hold on to those two sticks, but he just couldn't do it, and eventually he had to let them go, dropping one on either side of the room.



7. Soon he was within sight of his the mouse hole, and I can tell you that his little home never looked so good to him in all his life! He ran and ran, but as he ran, the cat scratched him and ripped his pockets right open! All of the rest of his treasured rocks and sticks fell right out, and oh, that little mouse was **SO SAD!**

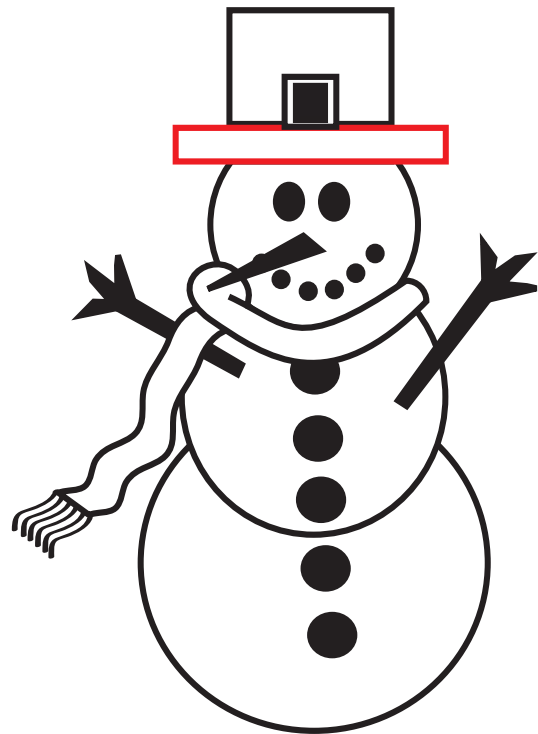


7. The little mouse just barely made it back inside before that cat got him - he was lucky! His mother was pretty mad at him when she found out what he had done- especially when she found out that he had gone outside because she knew that it was cold out there. She told him that next time he went out, he needed to wear his scarf...



8. ...and his hat.

The little mouse told her to look out the window, because he wanted her to see what he had made when he was out in the snow. Can you guess what it was?



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