



IF YOU WANT TO KNIT SOME MITTENS

By Laura Purdie Salas

Illustrated by Angela Matteson

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Color the Mitten Pairs!

Use markers, colored pencils, crayons, or paint pens to color the patterned mitten pairs.

Which mitten does not have a pattern match?



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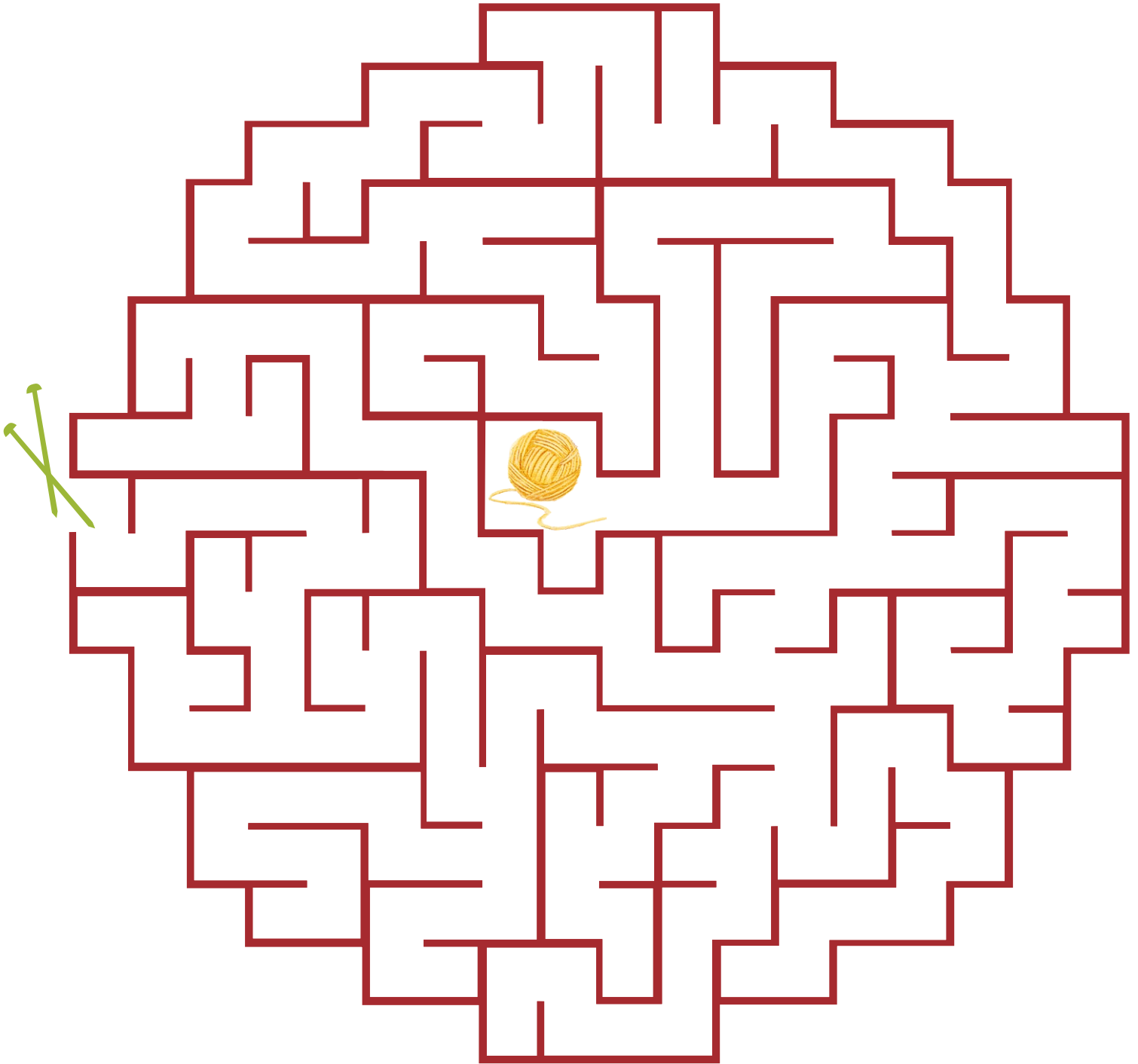
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Yarn Maze!

Find the path from the knitting needles to the yarn.



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How-to or Procedural Writing

How-to writing shows a reader how to do something.
If You Want to Knit Some Mittens is a funny piece of how-to writing that shows how to go from a sheep to a pair of wool mittens.

These steps will guide you in writing your own how-to.

- 1 First, think of something you can teach others to do. Think small, like How to Plant a Seed instead of How to Be a Gardener. (The girl in the book says she will never choose something with 18 steps again!)

Here are a few ideas:

How to Hit a Baseball

How to Have a Staring Contest

How to Do an Underdog

How to Find a Unicorn

How to Have a Good Dream

How to Make a Friend

- 2 Second, brainstorm the steps to your topic. (Add as many steps as you need.)

- 3 Third, put the steps in order. Imagine if the girl in the book tried to spin yarn before she even got Sheep!



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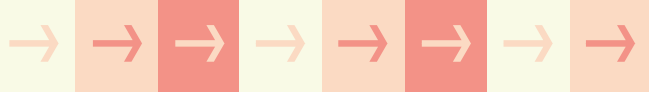
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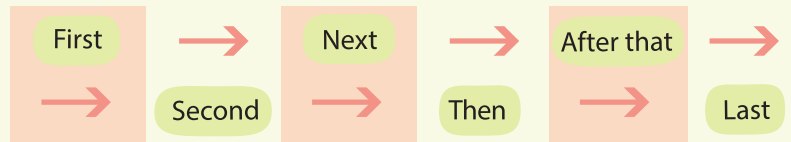
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4 Next, add details. For example, revise “Soak the fleece in water” to “Soak the dirty fleece in soapy water.” That tells a reader why to soak the wool.

5 After that, add transition words or phrases. “Then spread your yarn out to dry.”





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6 Now write a final draft of your how-to steps, and add illustrations to help clarify your procedure.



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Drawing Fun!

What would you like to knit?

Mittens? A hat? A sweater? socks? A dinosaur? An ice cream cone?

Use your imagination to draw your idea here.



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Do You Know That Saying...?

Here are some phrases related to knitting, sewing, sheep, and yarn making.
Can you figure out what each one means?

For extra exploration, research how one phrase (or idiom) got started.
Then make a mini-poster illustrating the phrase's origin and/or meaning.

1. ___ spinning a yarn
 2. ___ close-knit
 3. ___ in stitches
 4. ___ thread the needle
 5. ___ a wolf in sheep's clothing
 6. ___ gentle as a lamb
 7. ___ two shakes of a lamb's tail
 8. ___ dyed-in-the-wool
 9. ___ A stitch in time saves nine.
 10. ___ March comes in like a lion
and goes out like a lamb.
- A. laughing uncontrollably
 - B. In northern climates, weather is often fierce at the beginning of March and gentler by the end.
 - C. caring and calm
 - D. someone pretending to be a good person
 - E. bound together by having things in common
 - F. It's better to spend time now dealing with a problem. If you put it off, you'll probably have to spend even more time on it.
 - G. telling a made-up or exaggerated story
 - H. to find the path between obstacles
 - I. unchanging
 - J. very quickly



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Answer Key

1. **G** spinning a yarn - telling a made-up or exaggerated story
“I think you’re spinning a yarn about the bicycle trick you did.”
2. **E** close-knit - bound together by having things in common
“My sisters and I have a close-knit relationship.”
3. **A** in stitches - laughing uncontrollably
“That funny video had me in stitches!”
4. **H** thread the needle - to find the path between obstacles
“That quarterback sure threads the needle with his passes.”
5. **D** a wolf in sheep’s clothing - someone pretending to be a good person
“I liked him at first, but he turned out to be a wolf in sheep’s clothing.”
6. **C** gentle as a lamb - caring and calm
“My dog looks tough, but he’s gentle as a lamb.”
7. **J** two shakes of a lamb’s tail - very quickly
“I’ll be there in two shakes of a lamb’s tail.”
8. **I** dyed-in-the-wool - unchanging
“All winter, she eats lunch outside. She’s a dyed-in-the-wool nature lover.”
9. **F** A stitch in time saves nine. - It’s better to spend time now dealing with a problem.
If you put it off, you’ll probably have to spend even more time on it.
10. **B** March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. - In northern climates,
weather is often fierce at the beginning of March and gentler by the end.



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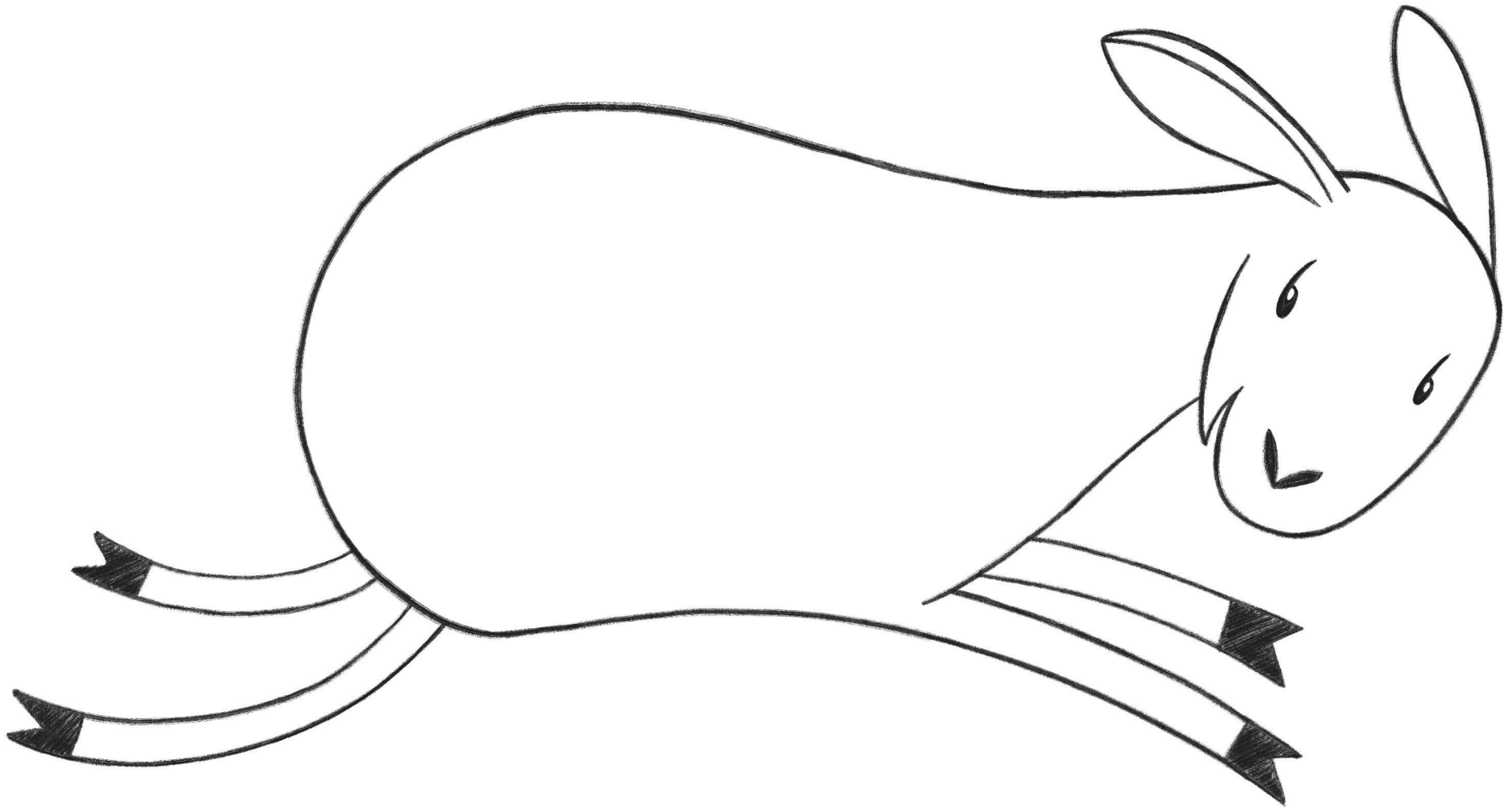


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Give Sheep Some Wool!

Glue on cottonballs, yarn, or puffy 2" tissue paper squares to give Sheep a nice fluffy coat.

To apply the tissue paper to the paper, place the pencil in the center of a tissue paper square and wrap the paper square up and around the pencil. Then dip the base of the pencil (covered by the tissue paper square) gently into some craft glue and place on Sheep. Remove the pencil and repeat. Place the tissue papers as closely as possible to create a full and fluffy texture.



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