Pre-writing skills

Name _____

LetterSchool worksheet pack · free to print and share

Your child is not ready to write letters yet: lines wobble, circles do not close, or the pencil grip is still a fist. Every letter is built from a few basic strokes, and children who master those first find letters much easier.

How to use this pack

1. **Before you start: the nine shapes: Copy the nine pre-writing shapes in order: | — O + ☒ / \ X ☒ . Most children can copy all nine by about age 5.**
2. **Week 1: lines: Horizontal and vertical lines, from the green dot to the star.**
3. **Week 2: slants and curves: Slanted lines, hills, waves, zigzags and loops.**
4. **Week 3: first letters: The easiest capitals use only straight lines. Try L, then the straight line capitals.**

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Print the whole pack or only the pages you need. Every sheet is also on letterschool.com with tips and other handwriting styles.

Shape 1: line down

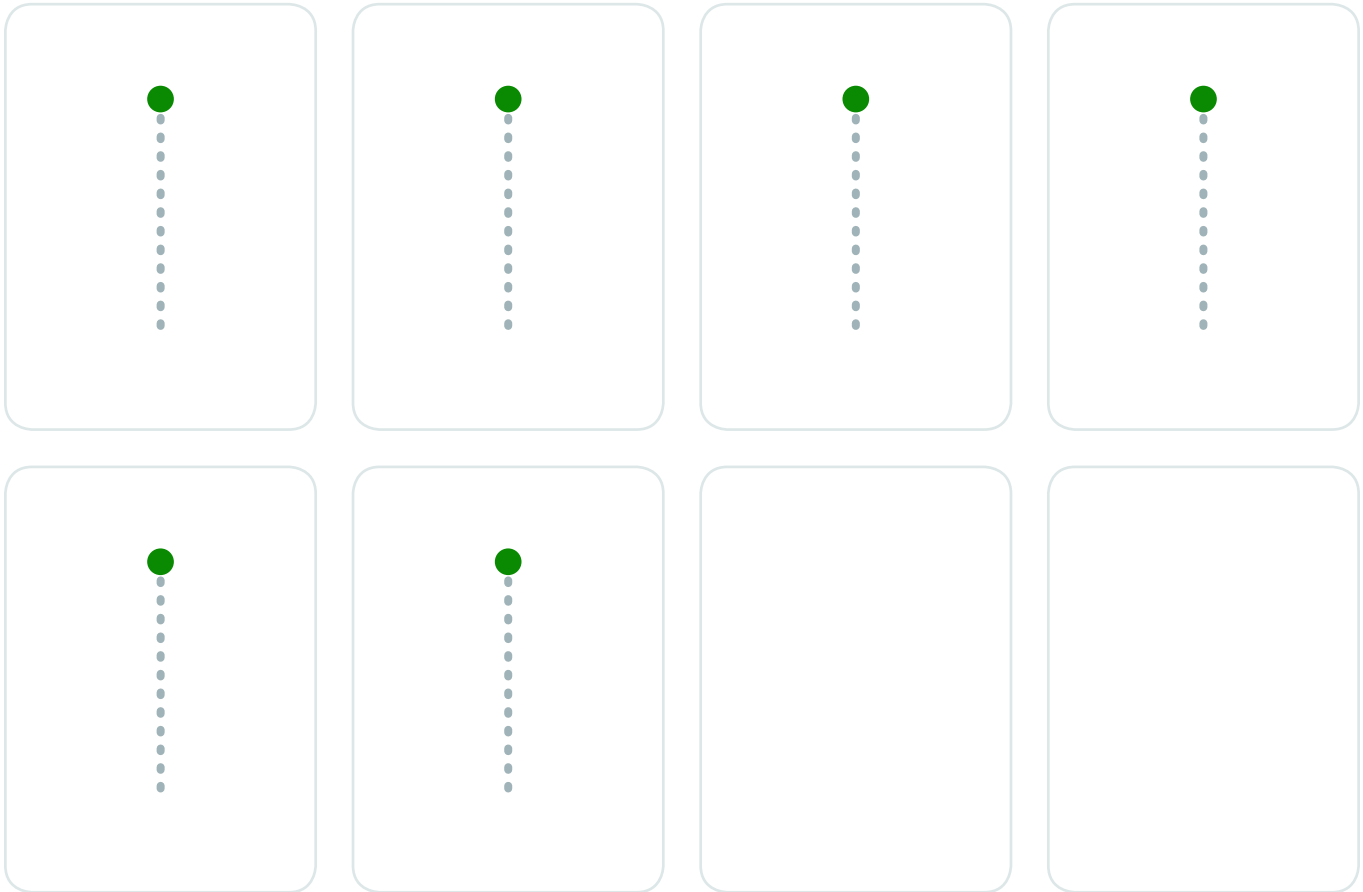
Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing shapes · Ages 2–5

1 **Trace the big line down with your finger, then with a crayon. Say: “from the top, straight down”.**



2 **Trace the shapes. Then draw your own in the empty boxes.**



Shape 2: line across

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing shapes · Ages 2–5

1 **Trace the big line across with your finger, then with a crayon. Say: “from left to right”.**



2 **Trace the shapes. Then draw your own in the empty boxes.**

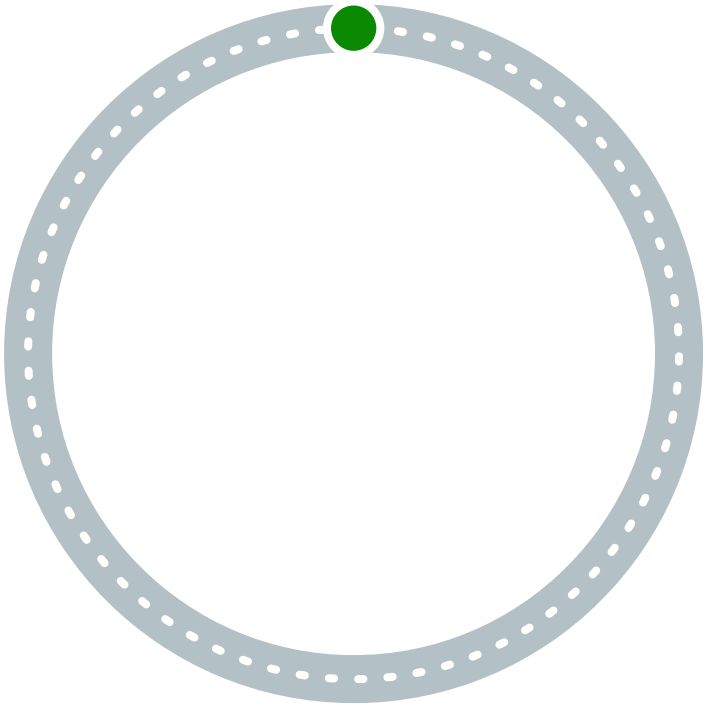


Shape 3: circle

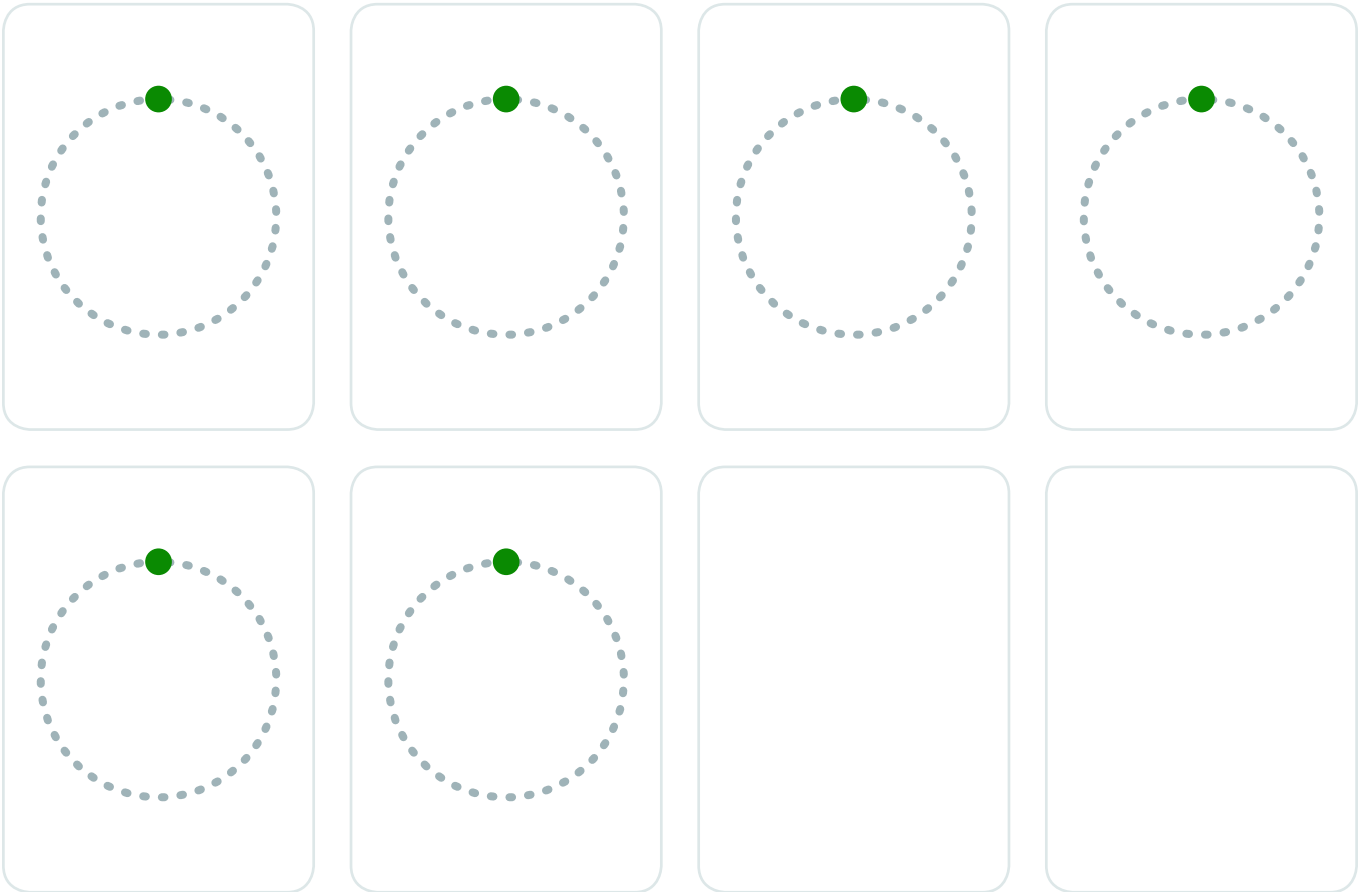
Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing shapes · Ages 2–5

1 **Trace the big circle with your finger, then with a crayon. Say: “start at the top and go around to the left”.**



2 **Trace the shapes. Then draw your own in the empty boxes.**

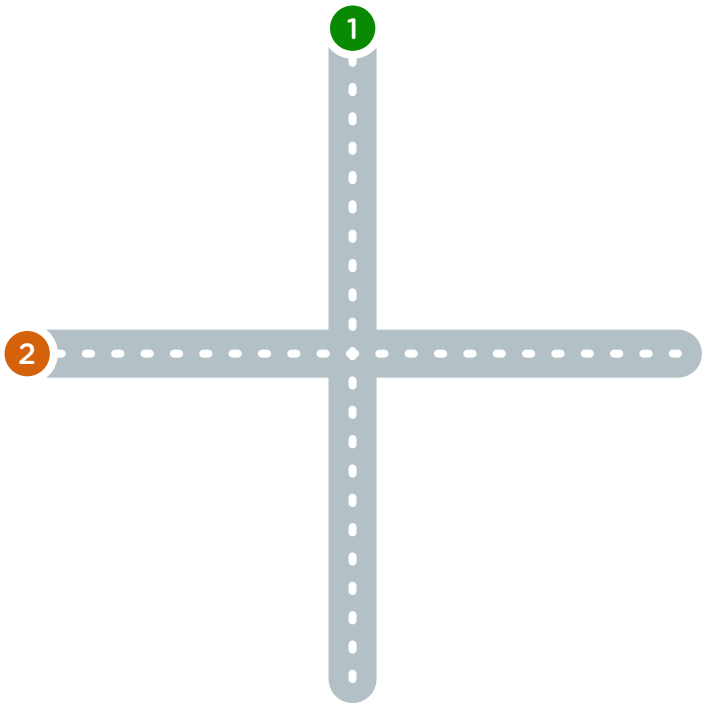


Shape 4: cross

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing shapes · Ages 2–5

1 **Trace the big cross with your finger, then with a crayon. Say: “line down, then line across”. Green dot first, then the orange dot.**



2 **Trace the shapes. Then draw your own in the empty boxes.**

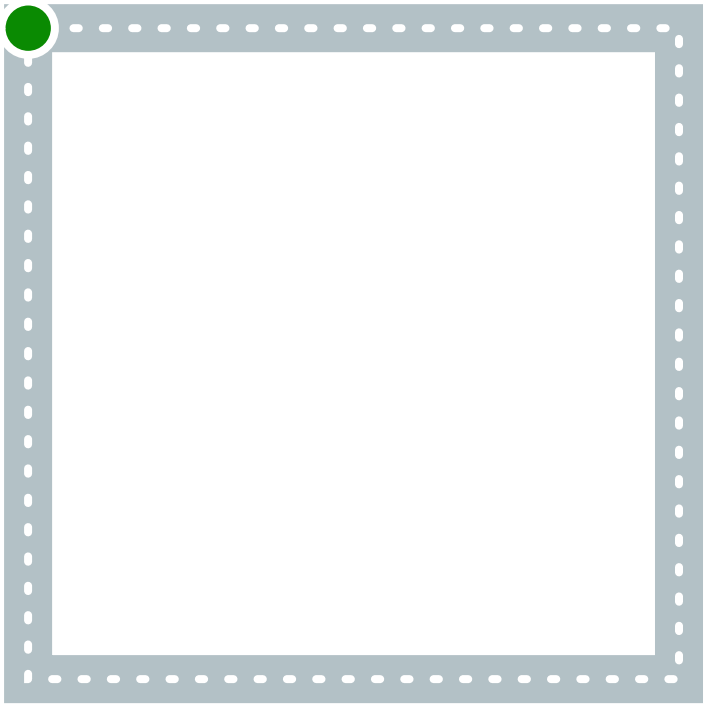


Shape 5: square

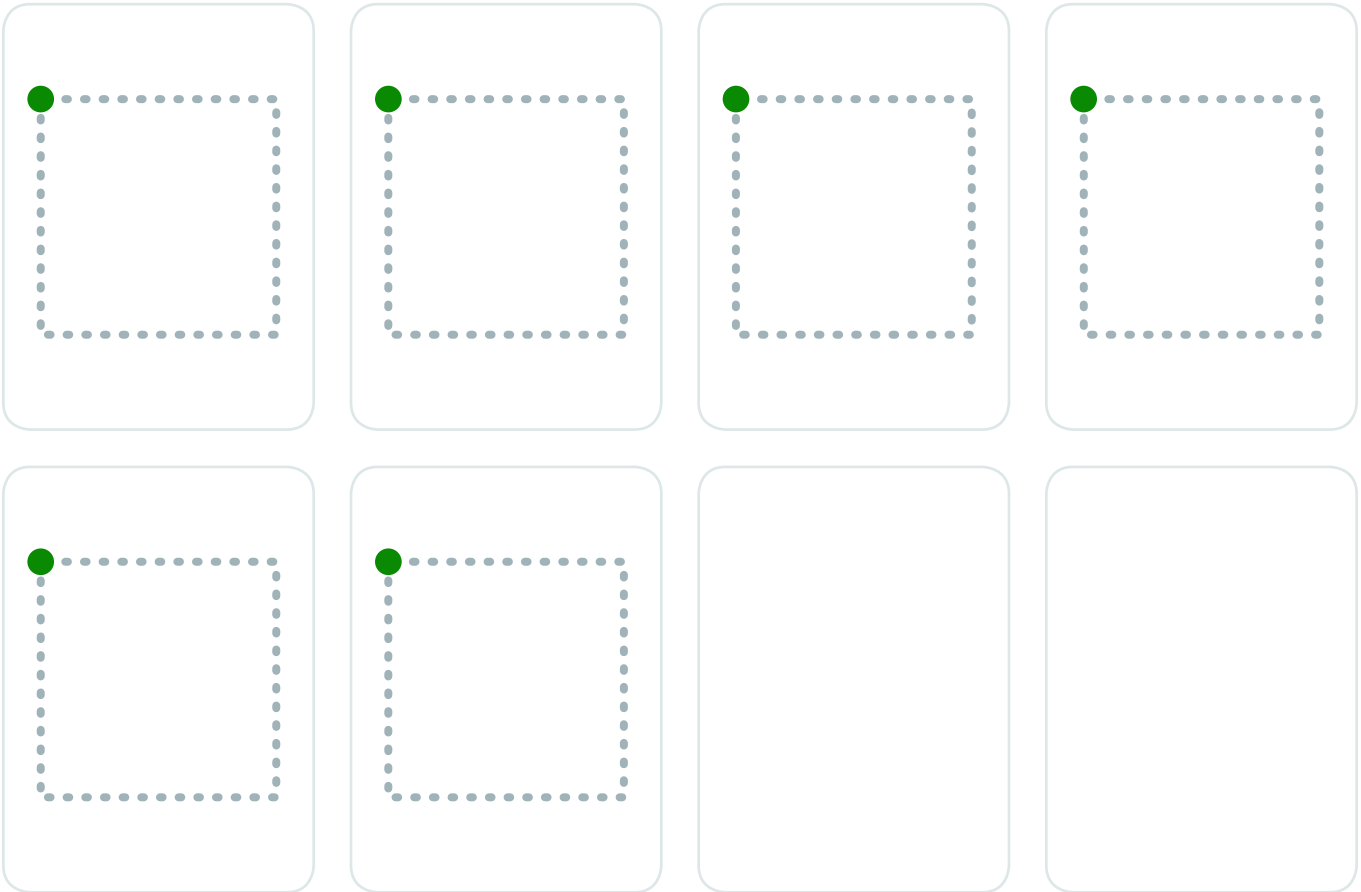
Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing shapes · Ages 2–5

1 **Trace the big square with your finger, then with a crayon. Say: “down, across, up and across”.**



2 **Trace the shapes. Then draw your own in the empty boxes.**

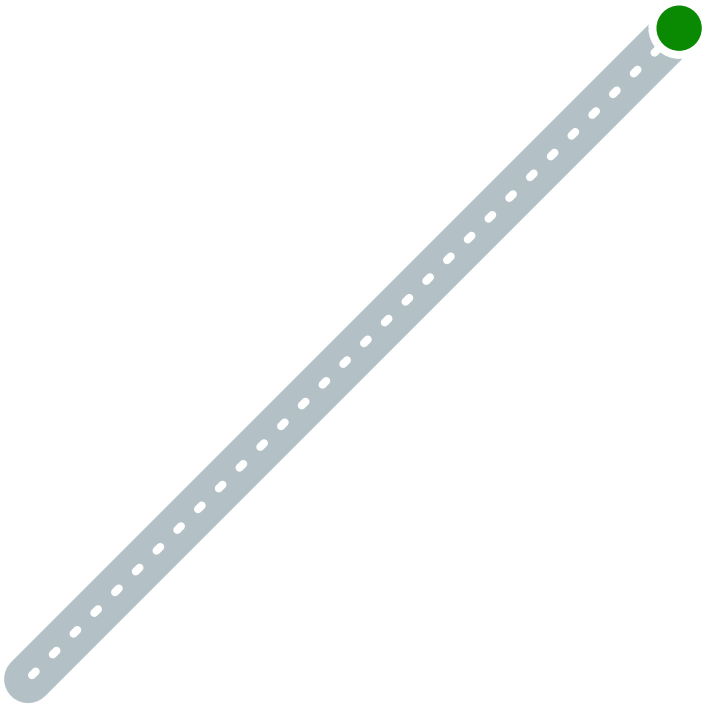


Shape 6: slanted line (/)

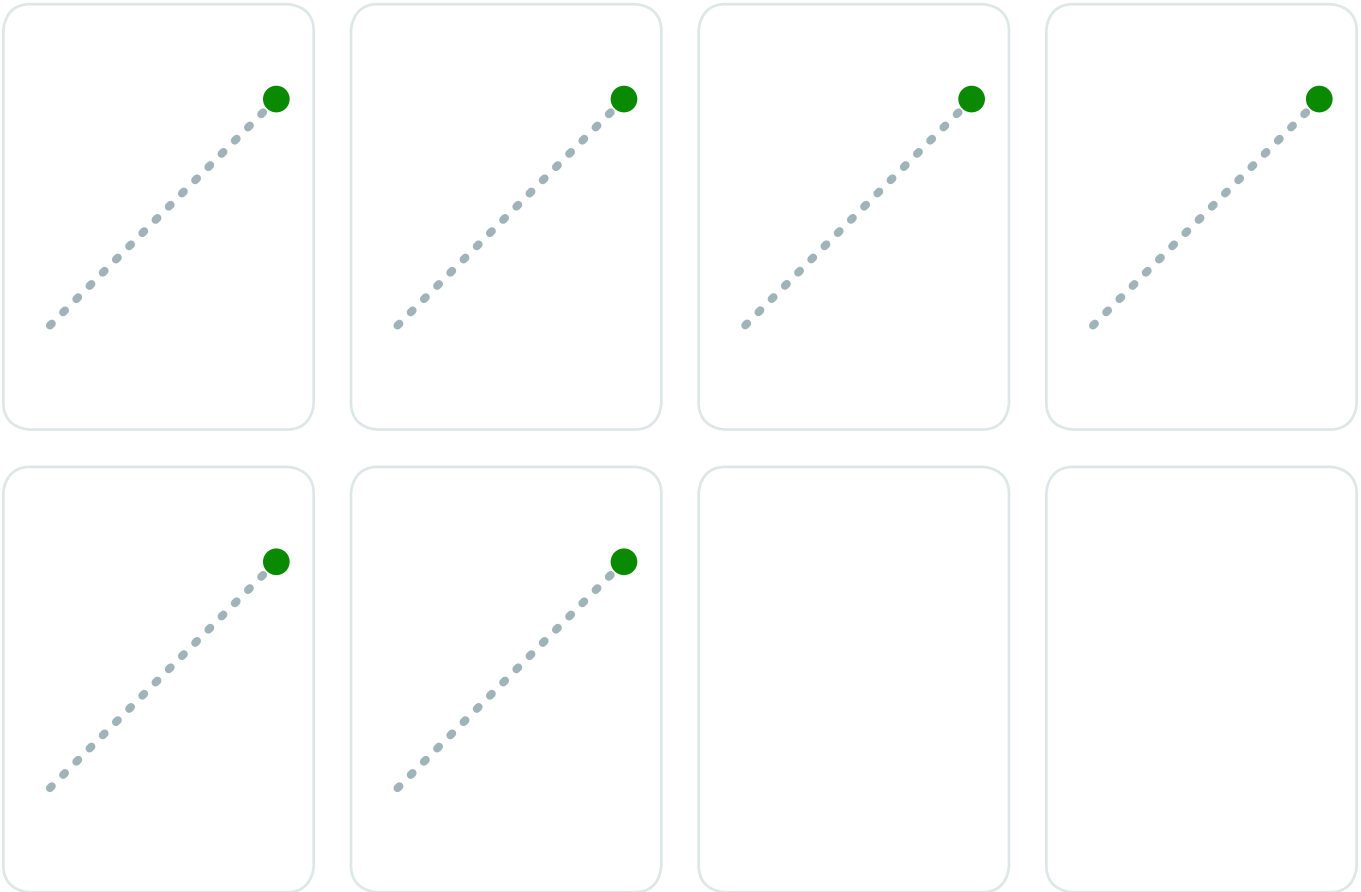
Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing shapes · Ages 2–5

1 **Trace the big slanted line (/) with your finger, then with a crayon. Say: “from the top right, slant down”.**



2 **Trace the shapes. Then draw your own in the empty boxes.**

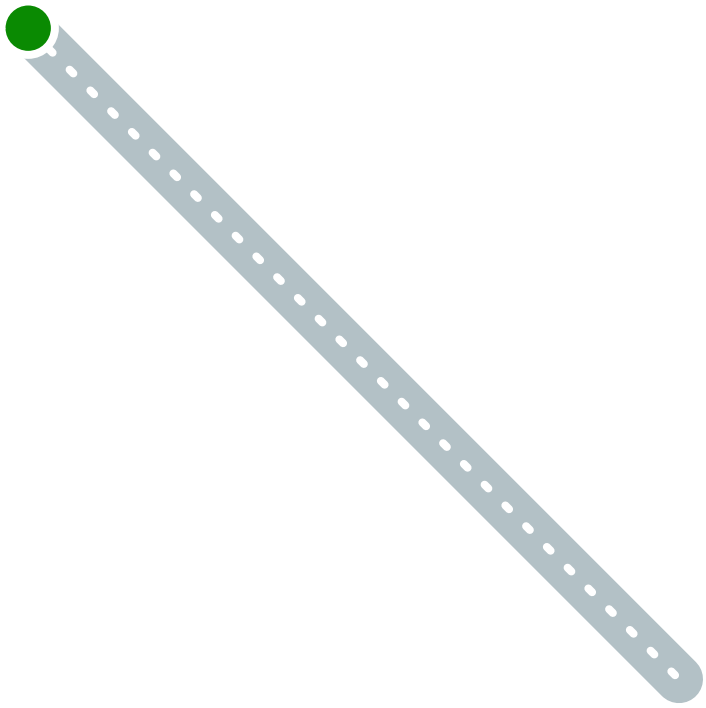


Shape 7: slanted line (\)

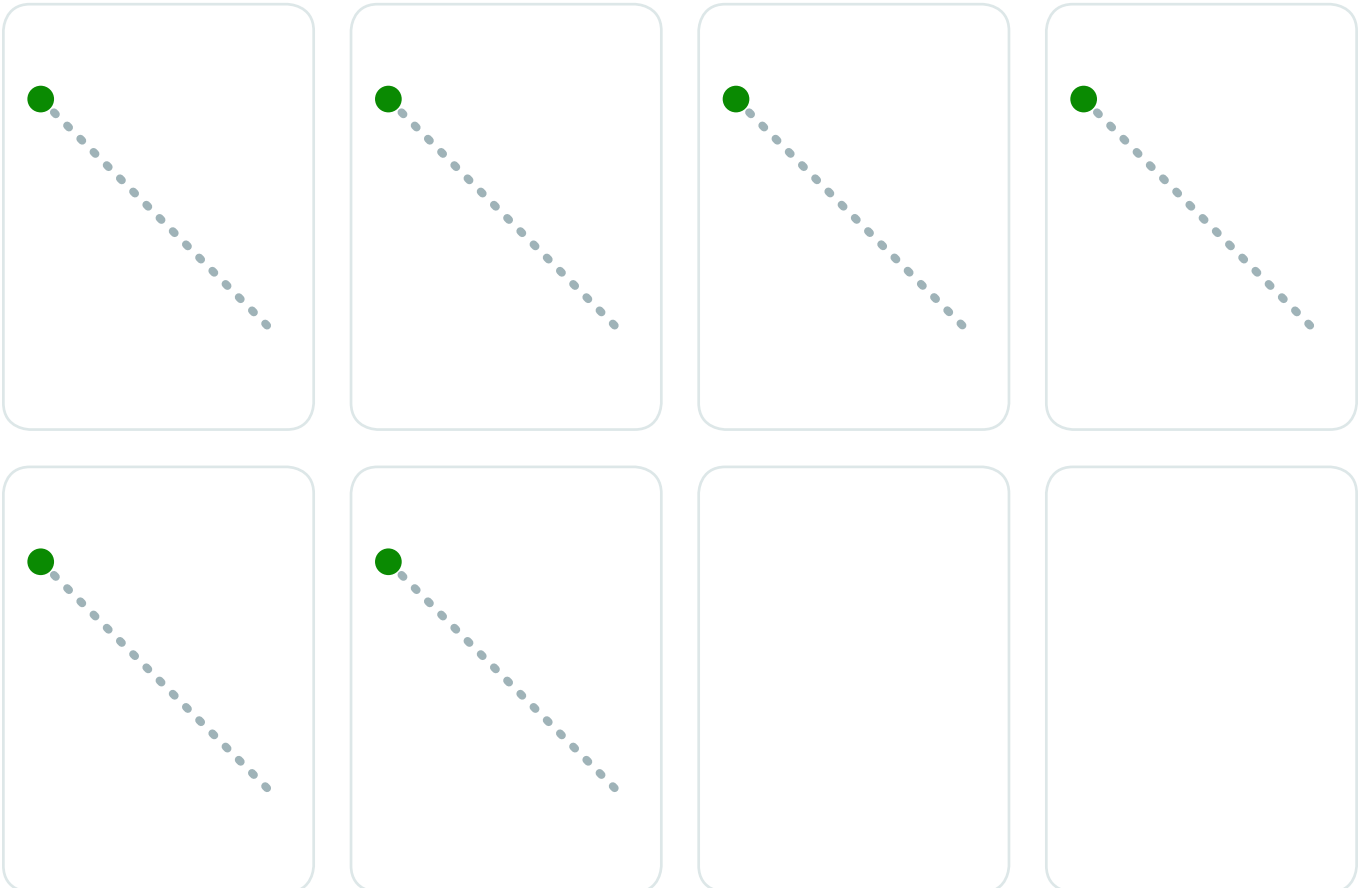
Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing shapes · Ages 2–5

1 **Trace the big slanted line (\) with your finger, then with a crayon. Say: “from the top left, slant down”.**



2 **Trace the shapes. Then draw your own in the empty boxes.**

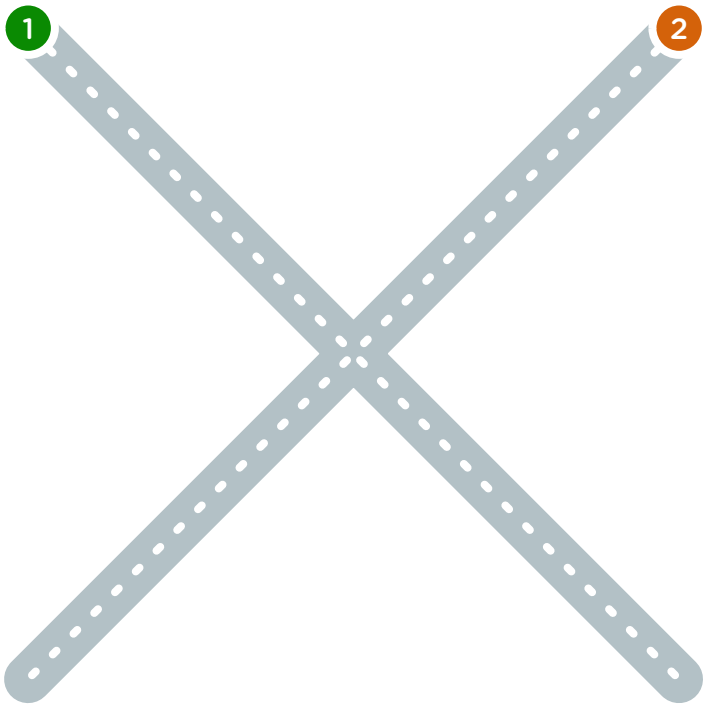


Shape 8: X

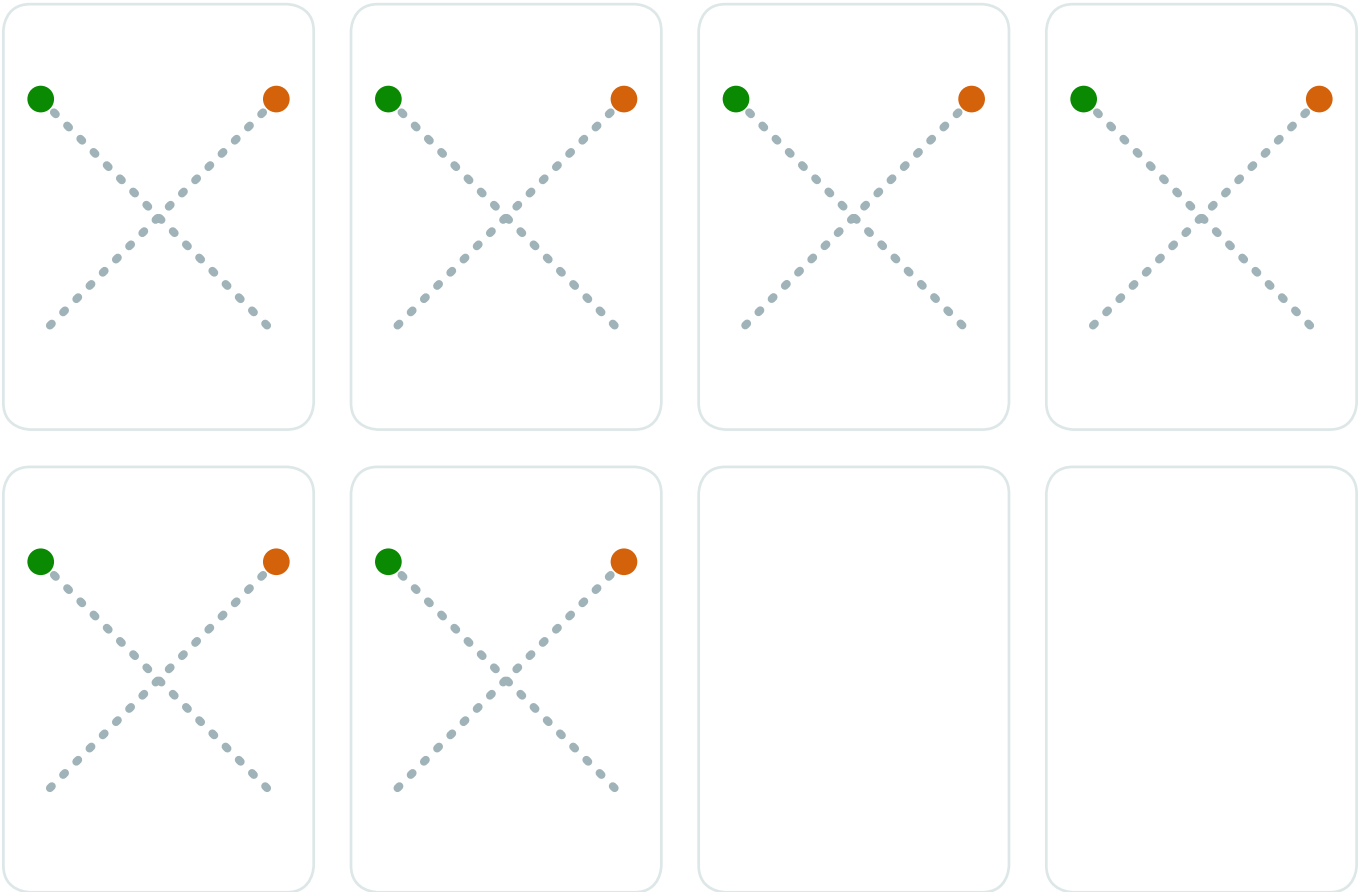
Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing shapes · Ages 2–5

1 **Trace the big X with your finger, then with a crayon. Say: “one slant, then the other”. Green dot first, then the orange dot.**



2 **Trace the shapes. Then draw your own in the empty boxes.**

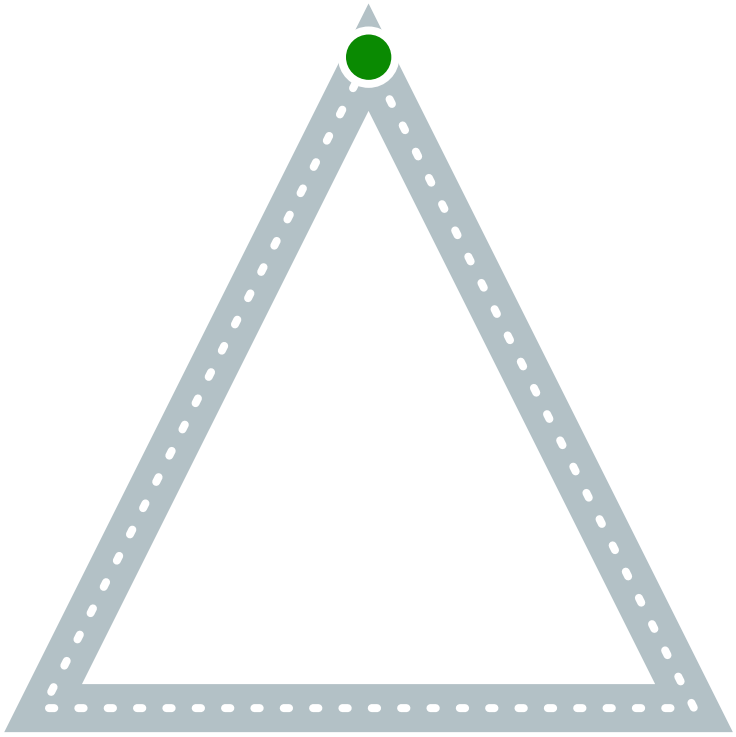


Shape 9: triangle

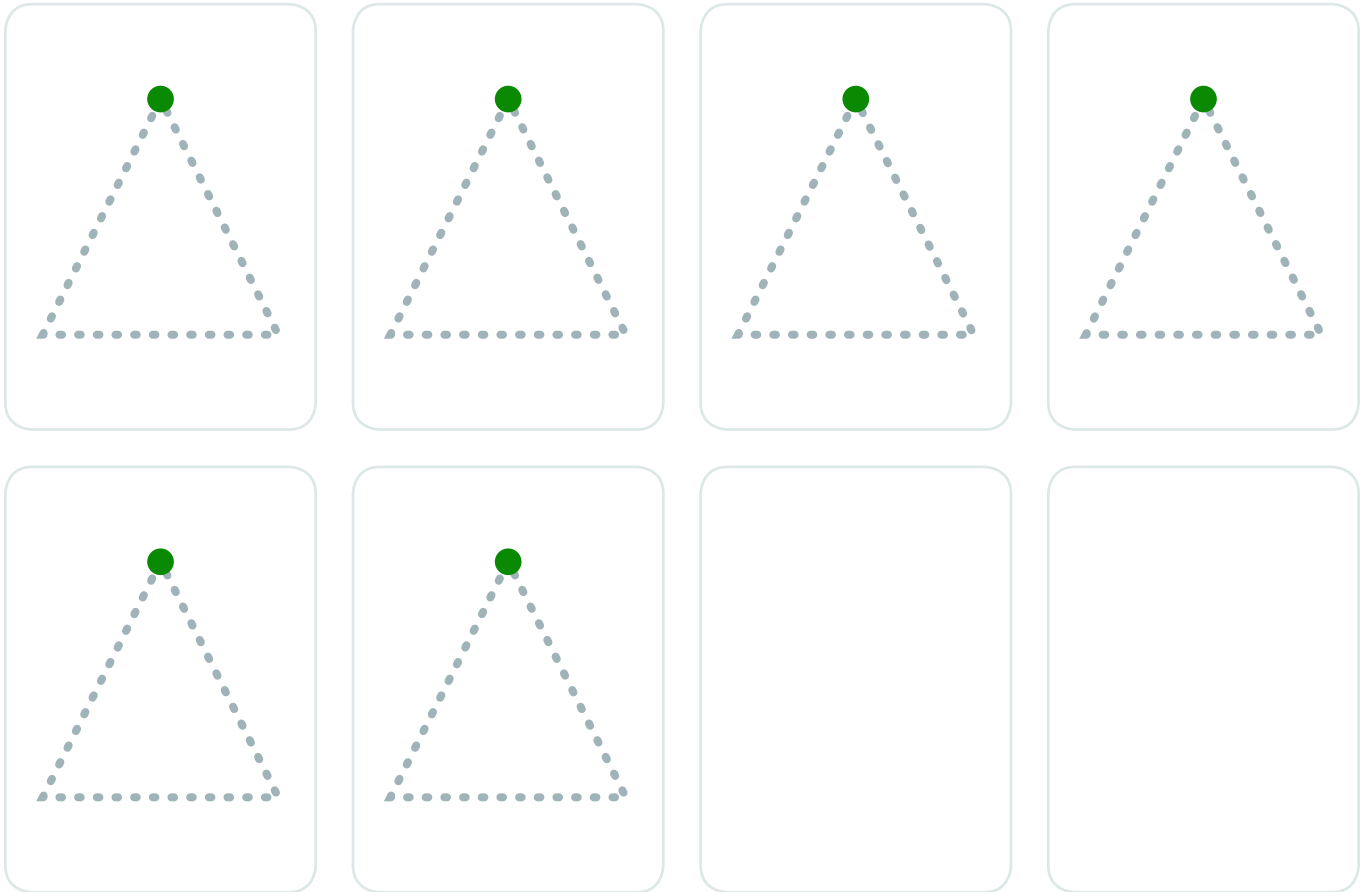
Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing shapes · Ages 2–5

1 **Trace the big triangle with your finger, then with a crayon. Say: “start at the top, slant down, across and back up”.**



2 **Trace the shapes. Then draw your own in the empty boxes.**

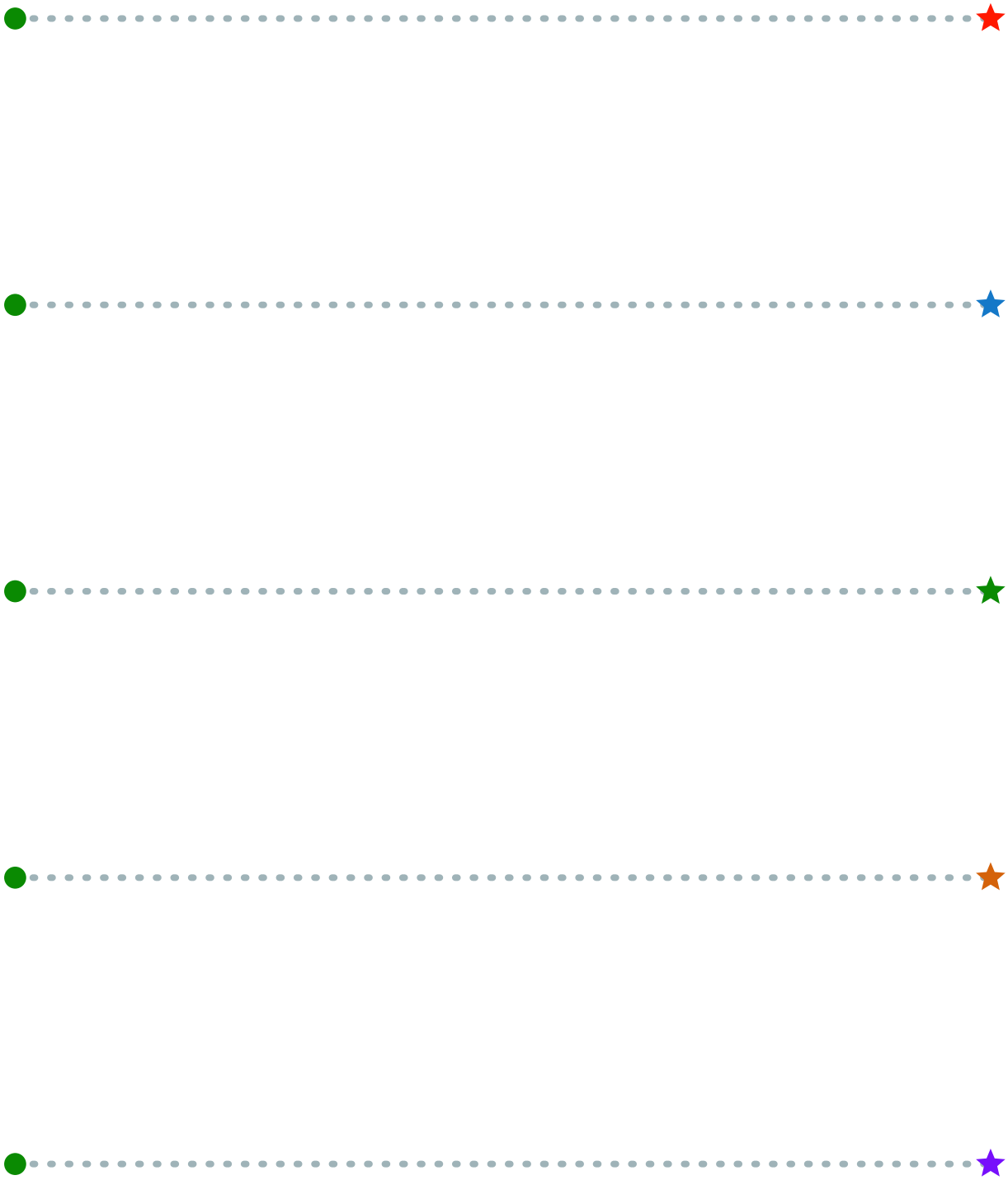


Horizontal lines

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

1 **Start at the green dot. Trace the line from left to right to the star.**

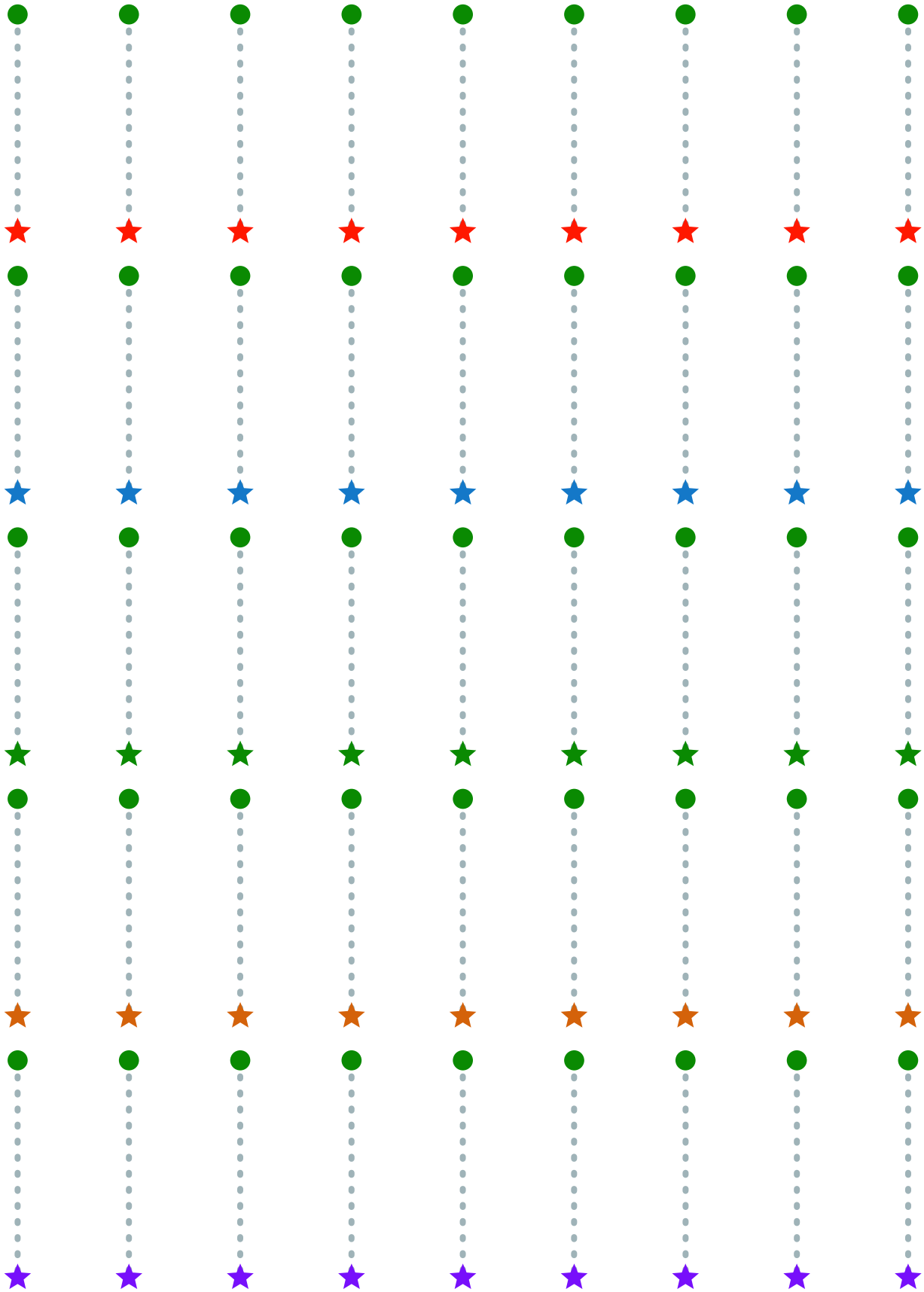


Vertical lines

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

1 **Start at the green dot at the top. Trace each line straight down.**

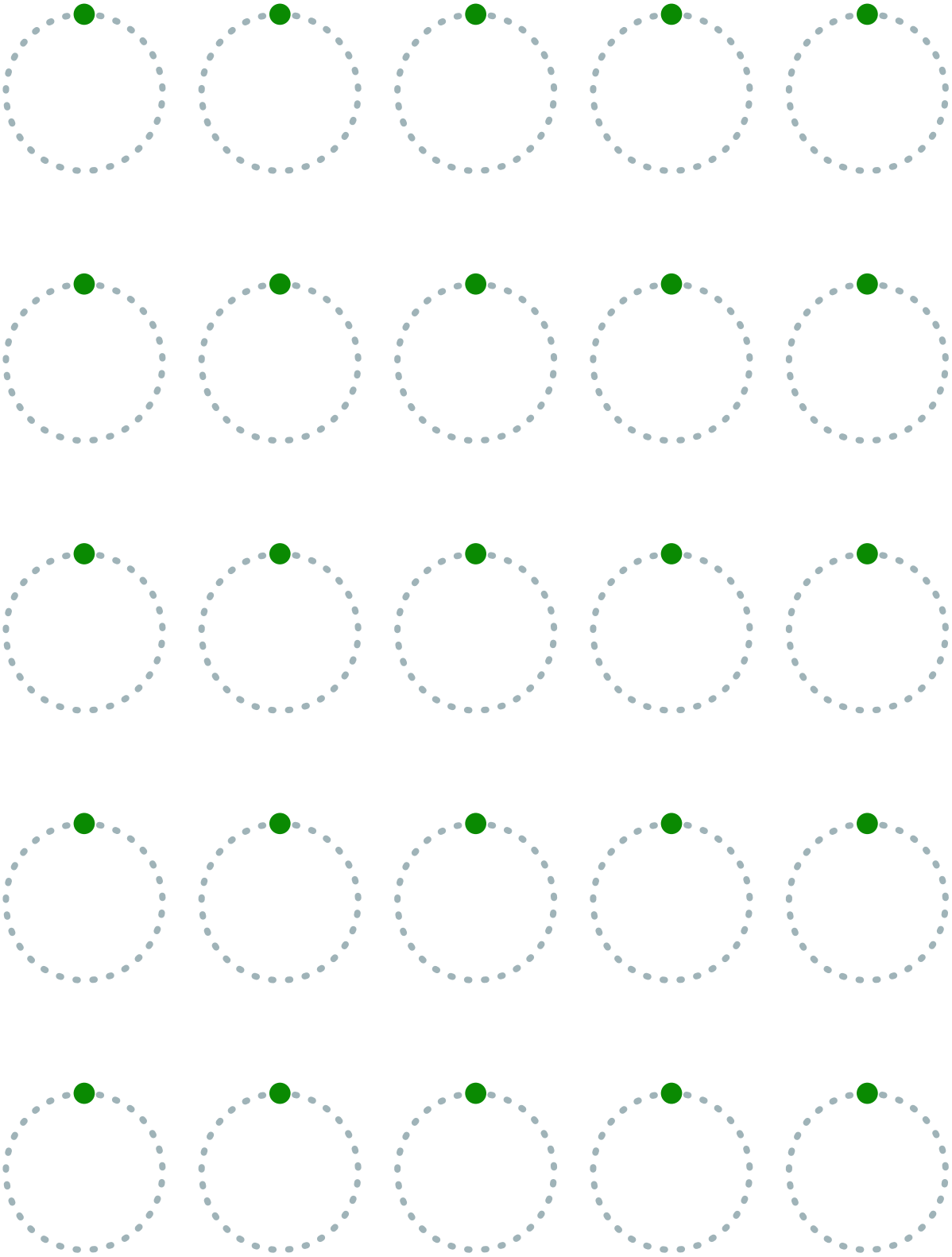


Circles

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

1 **Start at the green dot at the top. Go around to the left, the same way you start c, a and o.**

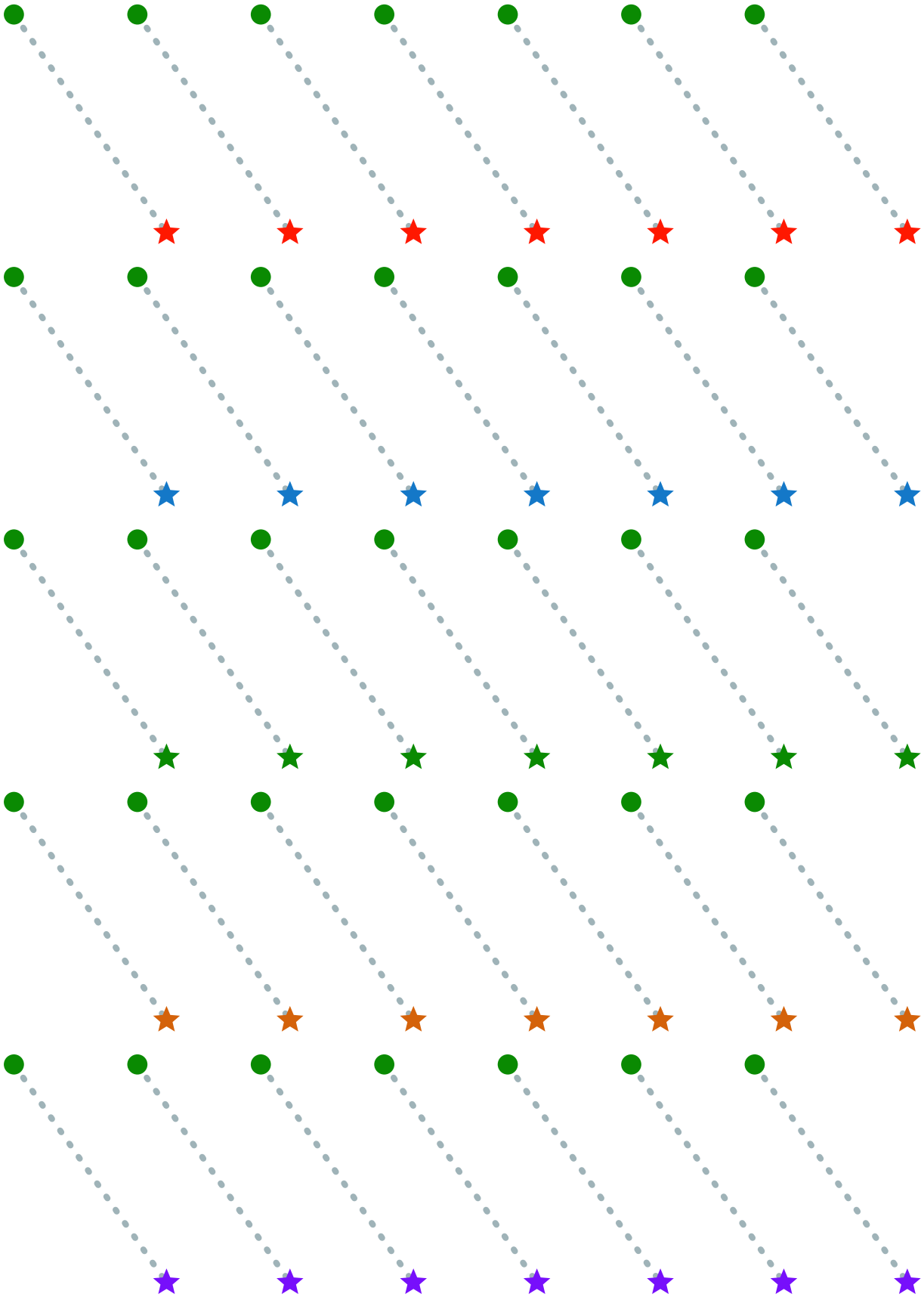


Slanted lines

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

1 **Start at the green dot. Trace each slanted line down to the bottom.**

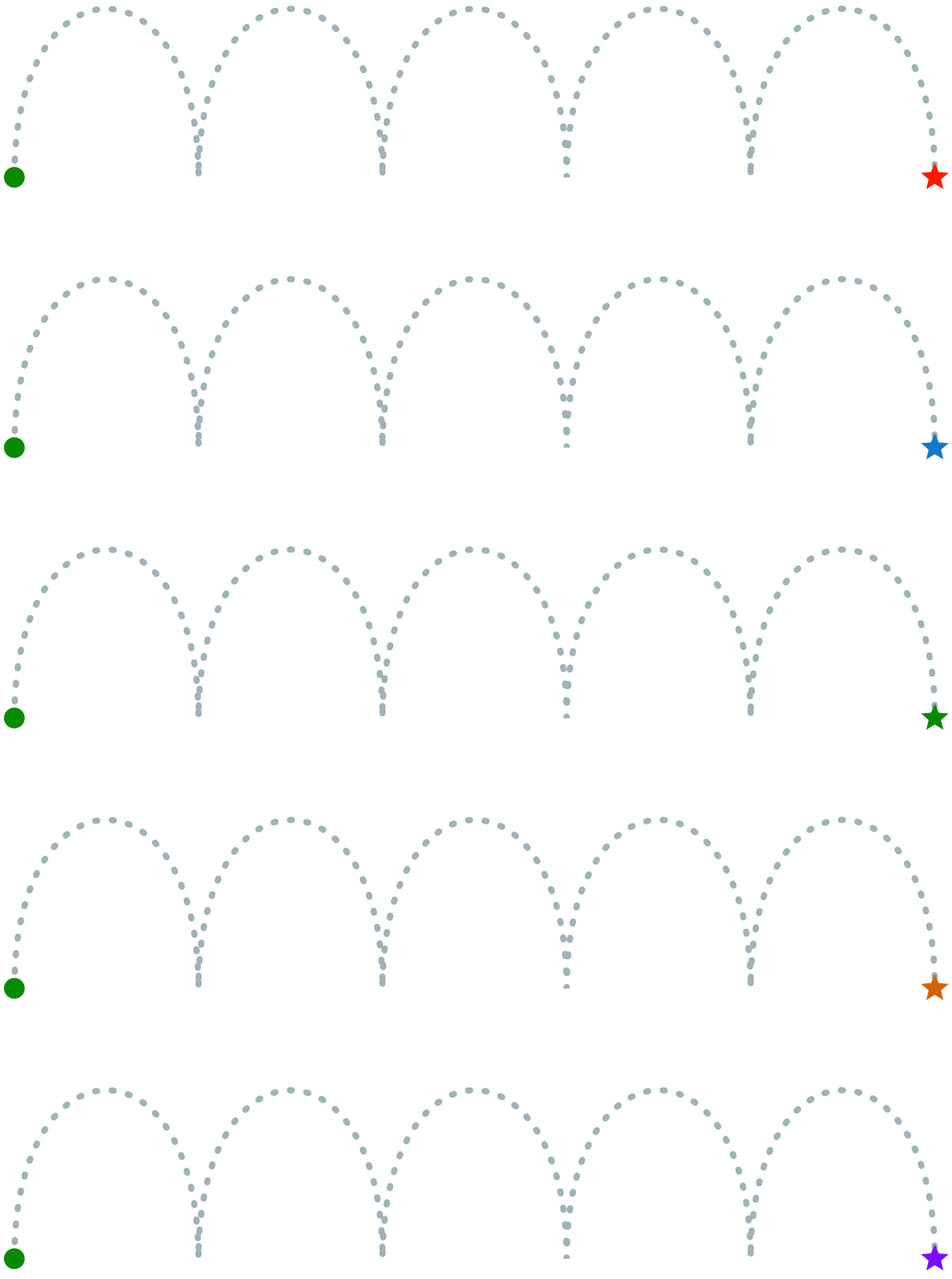


Curves (hills)

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

1 **Start at the green dot. Trace up and over each hill, like the top of an n.**

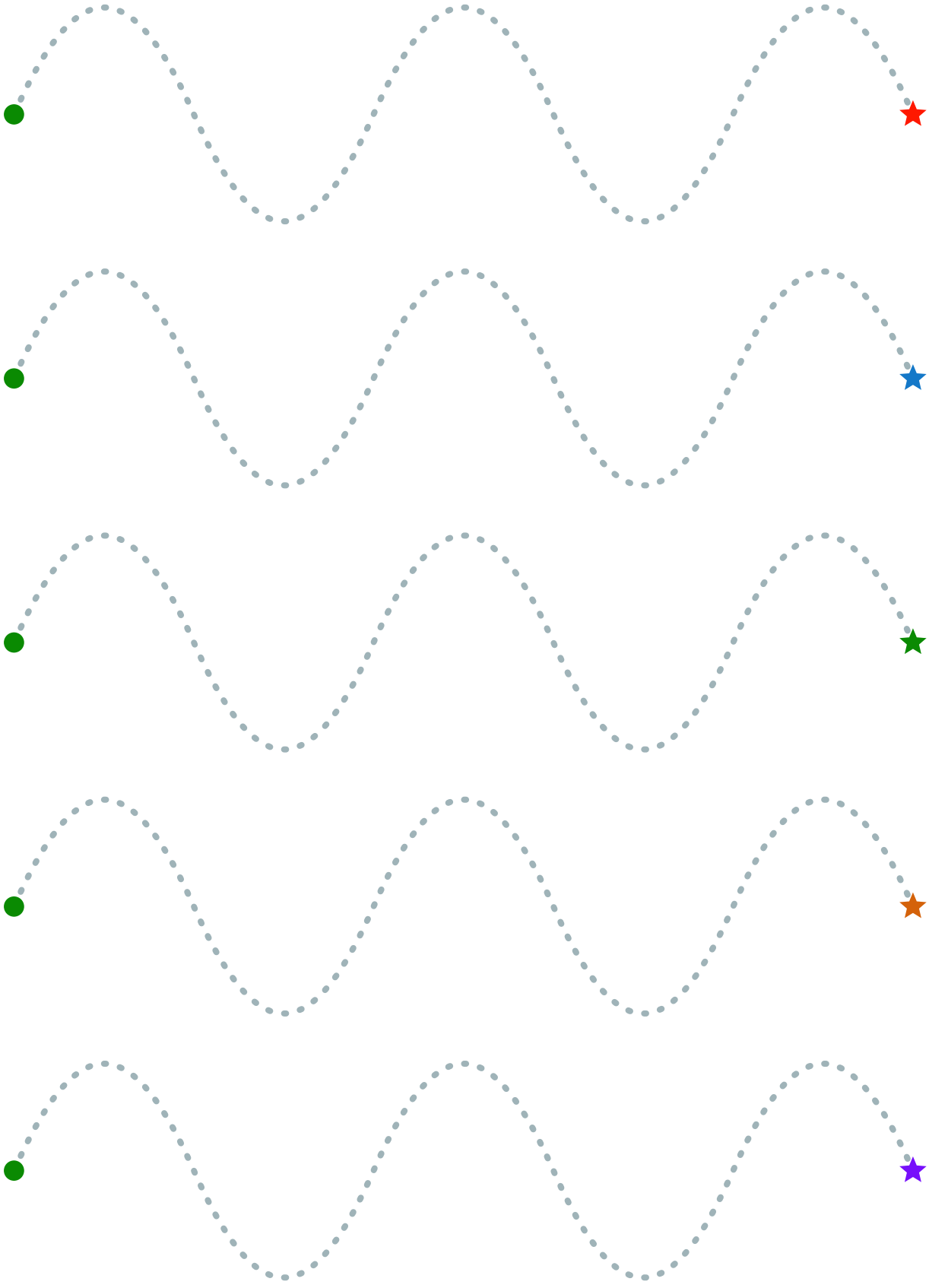


Wavy lines

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

1 **Start at the green dot. Trace the waves without lifting your pencil.**

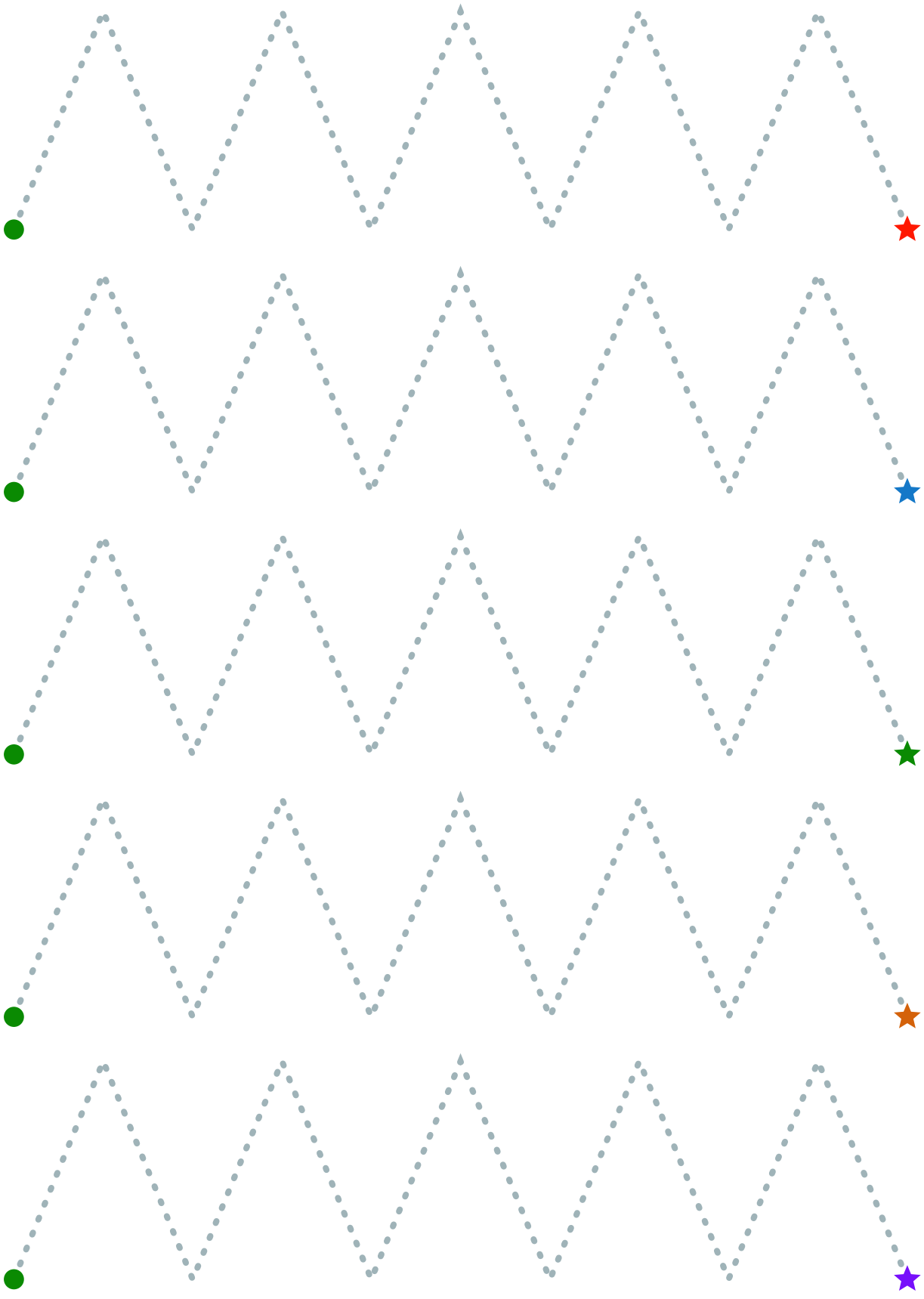


Zigzag lines

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

Name _____

1 **Start at the green dot. Trace up and down the zigzag, like the points of a w.**

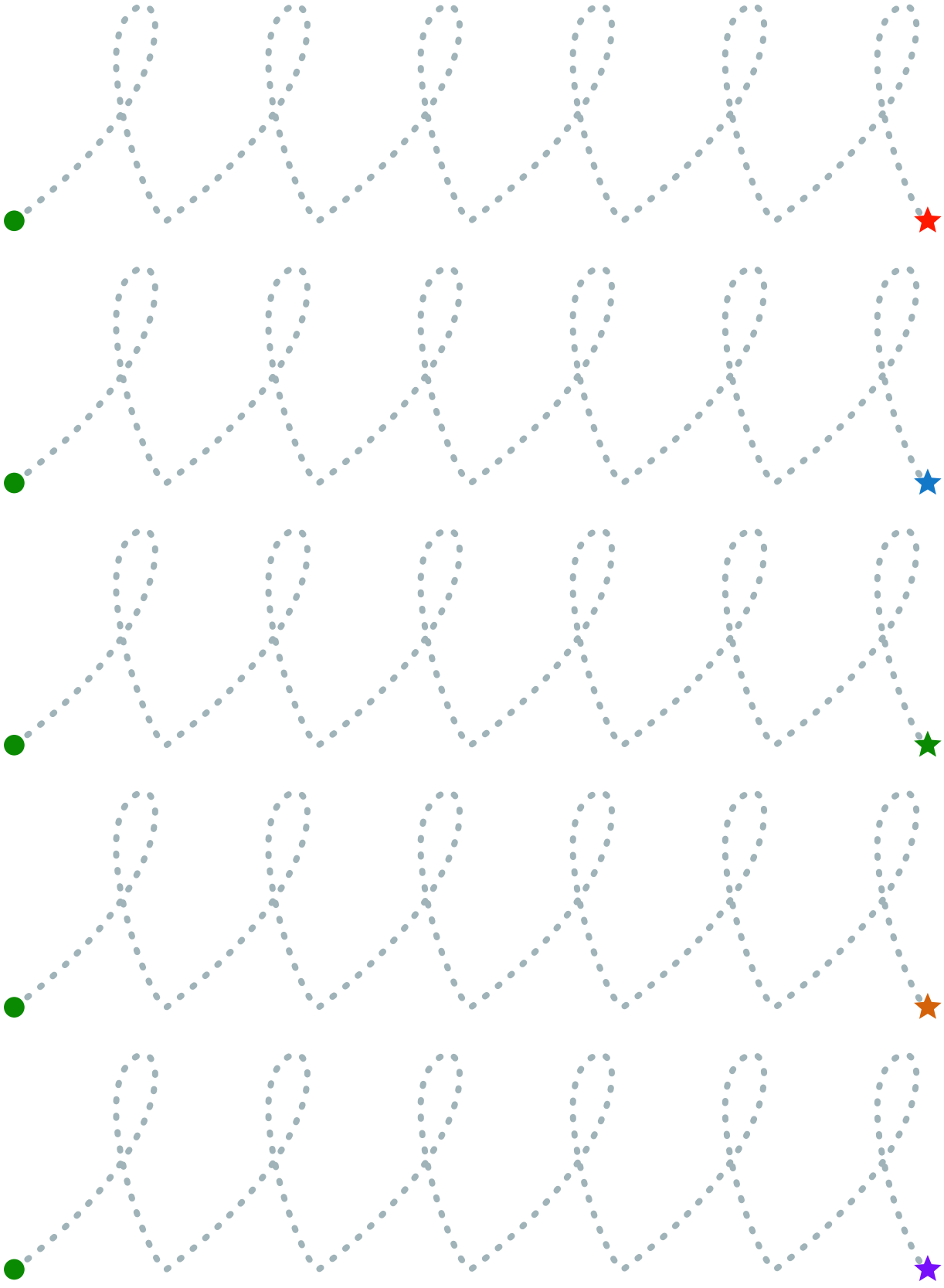


Loops

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

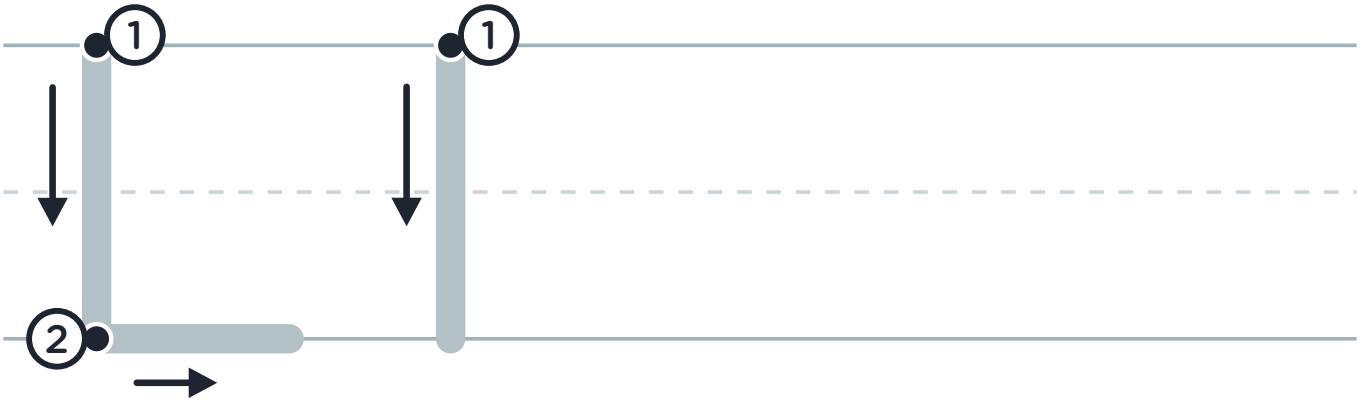
1 **Start at the green dot. Trace the loops without lifting your pencil. Loops get you ready for cursive.**



Letter Ll

Name _____

Zaner-Bloser style · Pre-K – Kindergarten



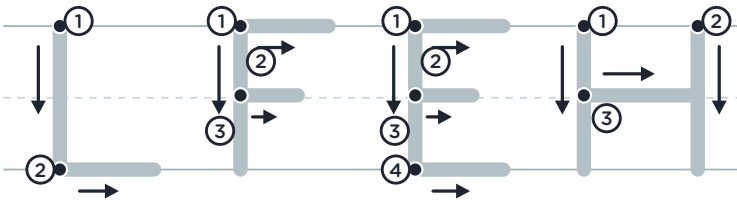
lion lion lion lion lion

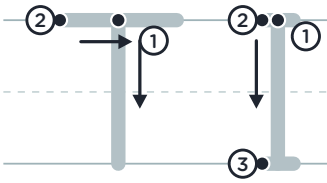
Straight line capitals

Name _____

Handwriting · Letter families · Zaner-Bloser style

1 Capitals made only of straight lines. Big line down first, then the short lines from left to right.





2 Trace each letter. Start every letter at the same place as in the examples.

L L L F F F E E E

H H H T T T I I I

3 Trace these words. They use letters from this family.

LIFT FELT HIT

LET TELL FILE

Uppercase alphabet

Name _____

Handwriting · Alphabet · Zaner-Bloser style

Say each letter. Trace the dotted letters, then write them on the empty line.

1 A B C D E F G



2 H I J K L M N



3 O P Q R S T U



4 V W X Y Z

