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.**

In this pack

Pre-writing shape 1: line down	page 2
Pre-writing shape 2: line across	page 3
Pre-writing shape 3: circle	page 4
Pre-writing shape 4: cross	page 5
Pre-writing shape 5: square	page 6
Pre-writing shape 6: slanted line (/)	page 7
Pre-writing shape 7: slanted line (\)	page 8
Pre-writing shape 8: X	page 9
Pre-writing shape 9: triangle	page 10
Pre-writing tracing: horizontal lines	page 11
Pre-writing tracing: vertical lines	page 12
Pre-writing tracing: circles	page 13
Pre-writing tracing: slanted lines	page 14
Pre-writing tracing: curves (hills)	page 15
Pre-writing tracing: wavy lines	page 16
Pre-writing tracing: zigzag lines	page 17
Pre-writing tracing: loops	page 18
Letter L tracing worksheet	page 19
Straight line capitals: L F E H T I	page 20
Uppercase alphabet tracing A–Z	page 21

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

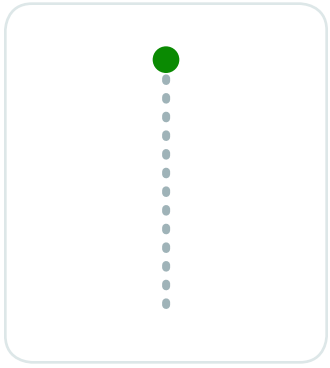
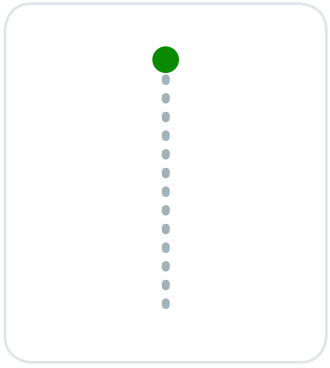
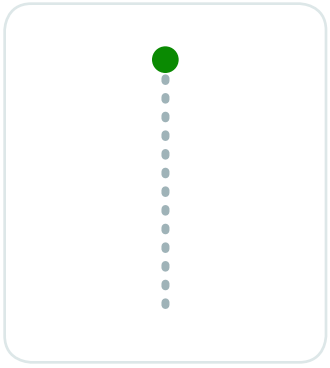
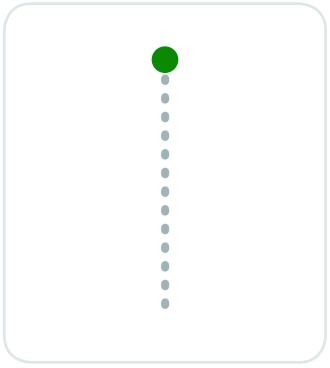
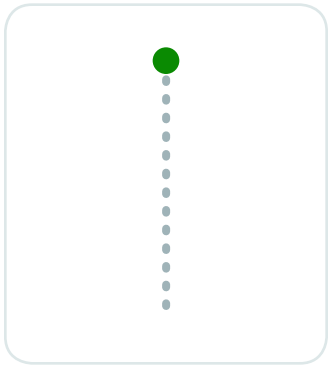
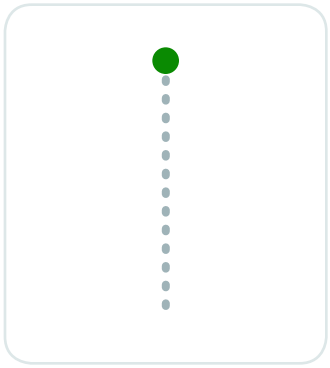
Name _____

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

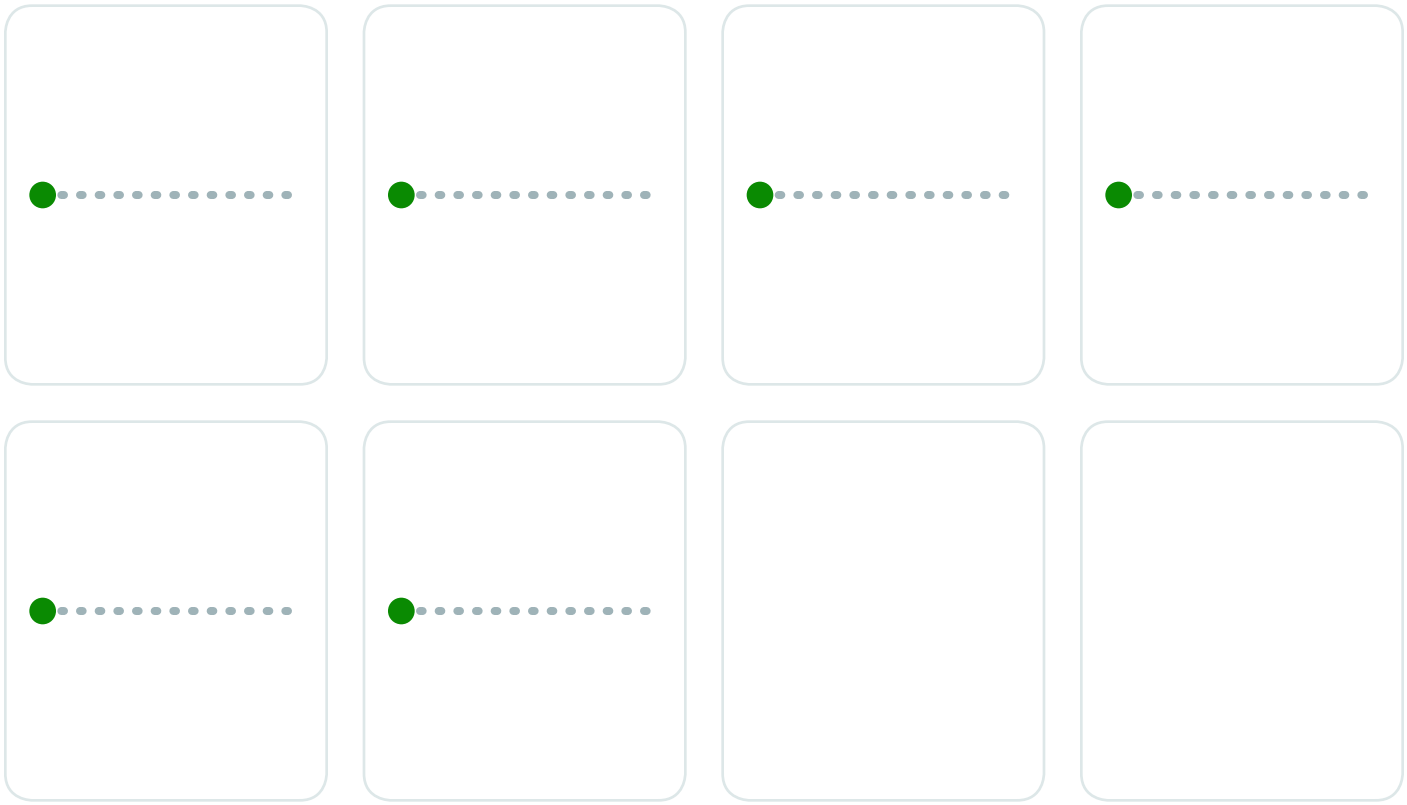
Name _____

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.

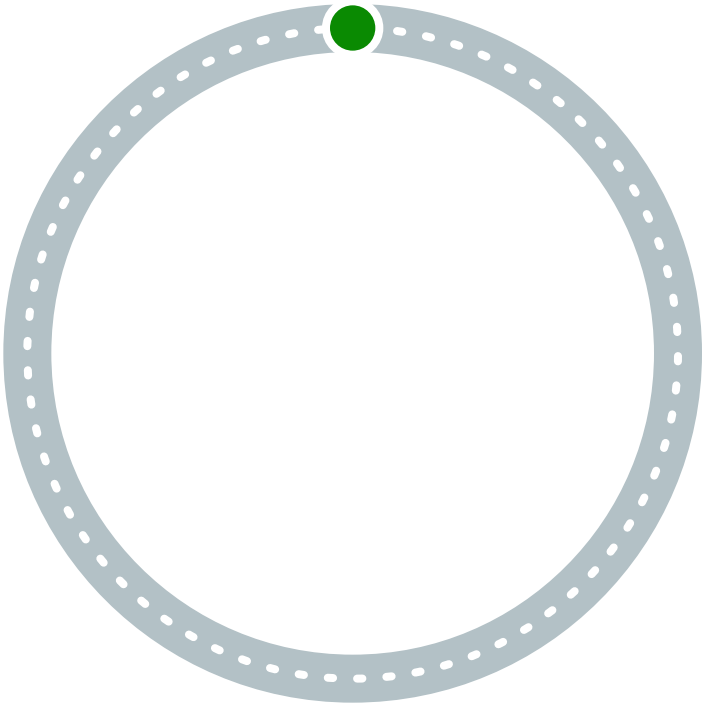


Shape 3: circle

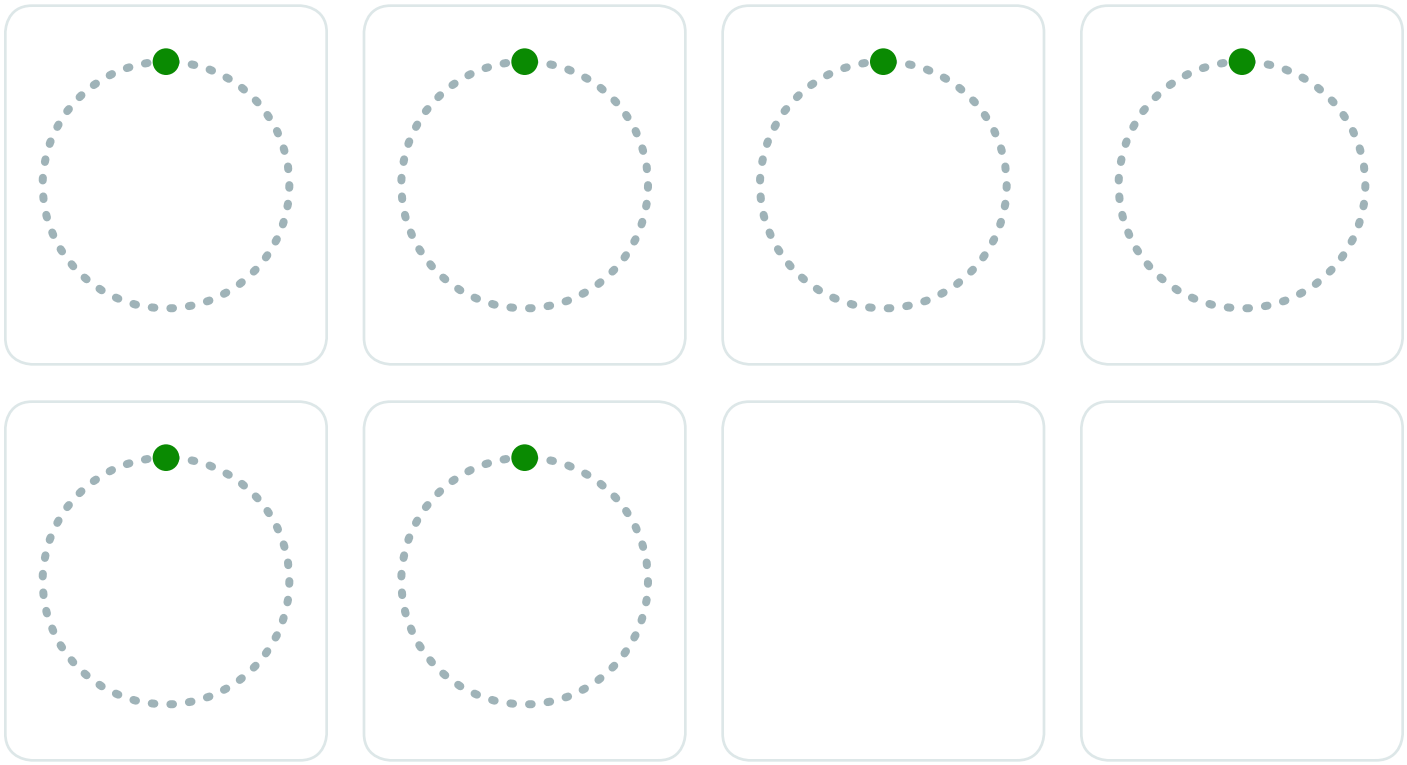
Name _____

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.**

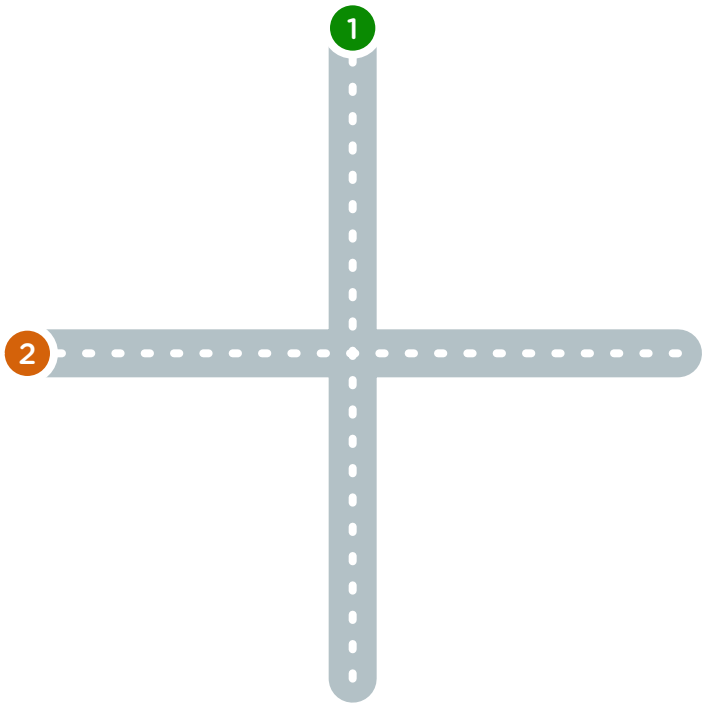


Shape 4: cross

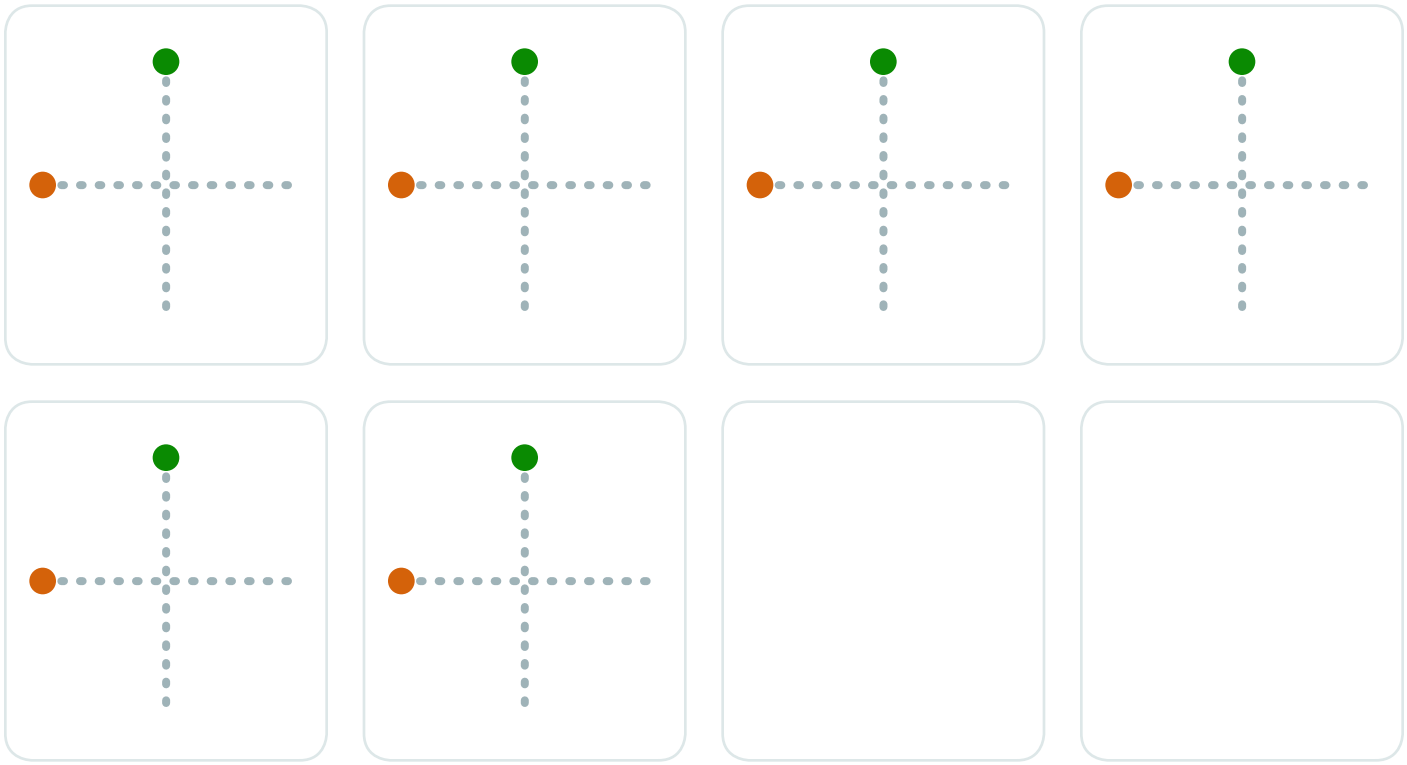
Name _____

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.**

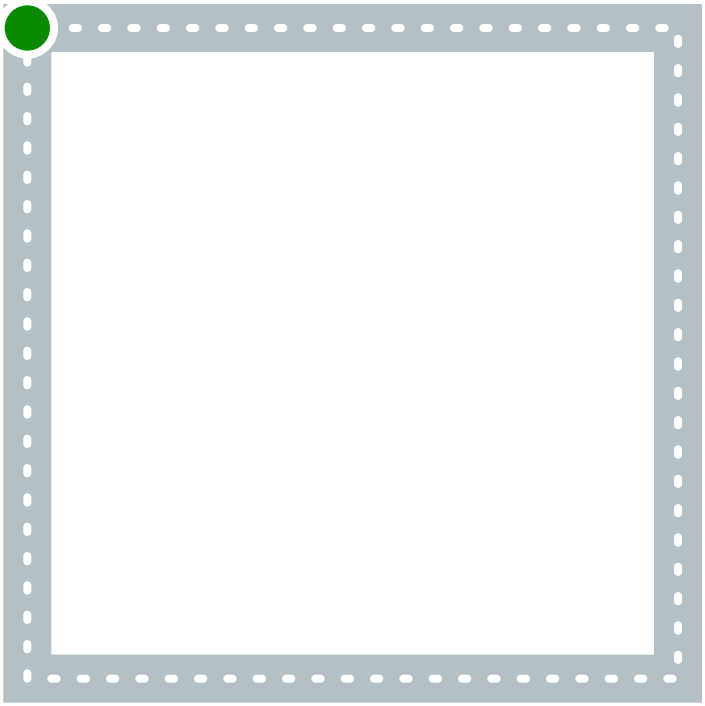


Shape 5: square

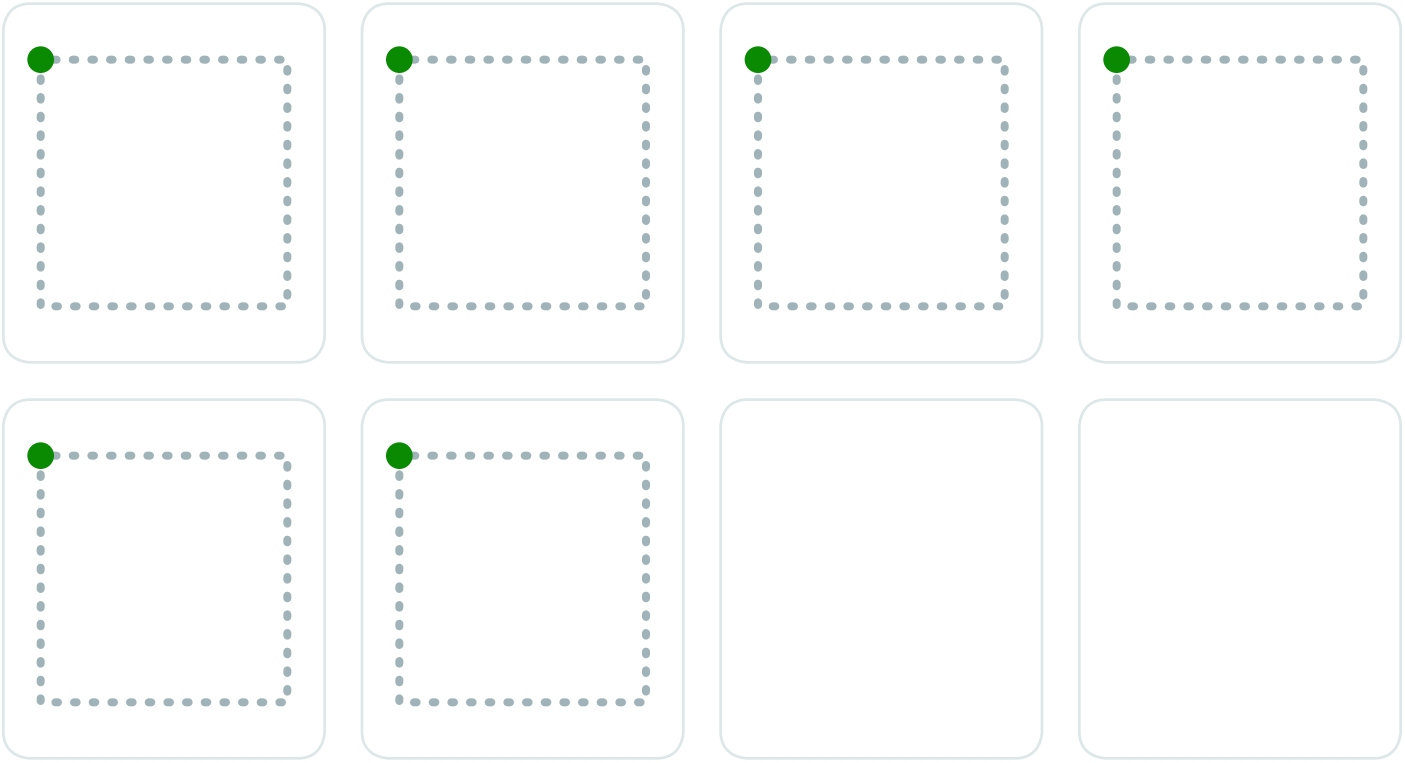
Name _____

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.**

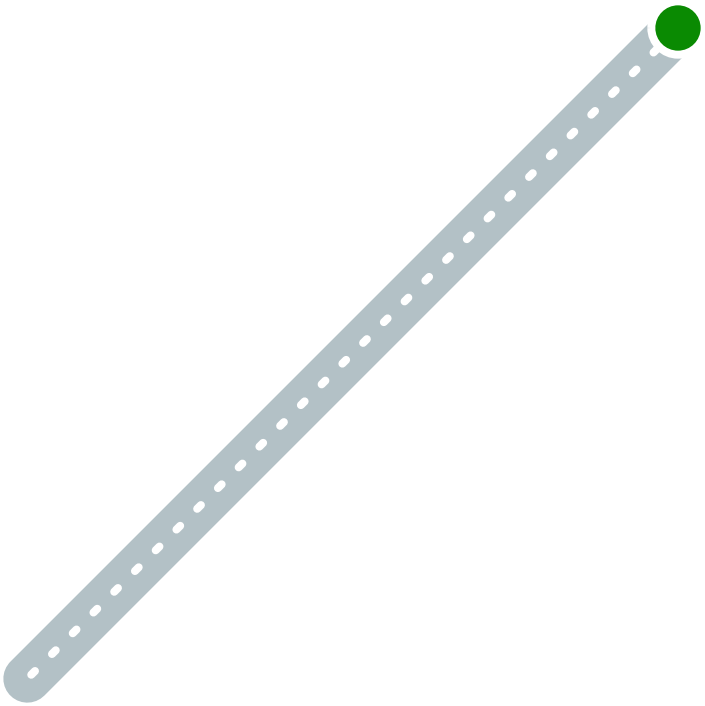


Shape 6: slanted line (/)

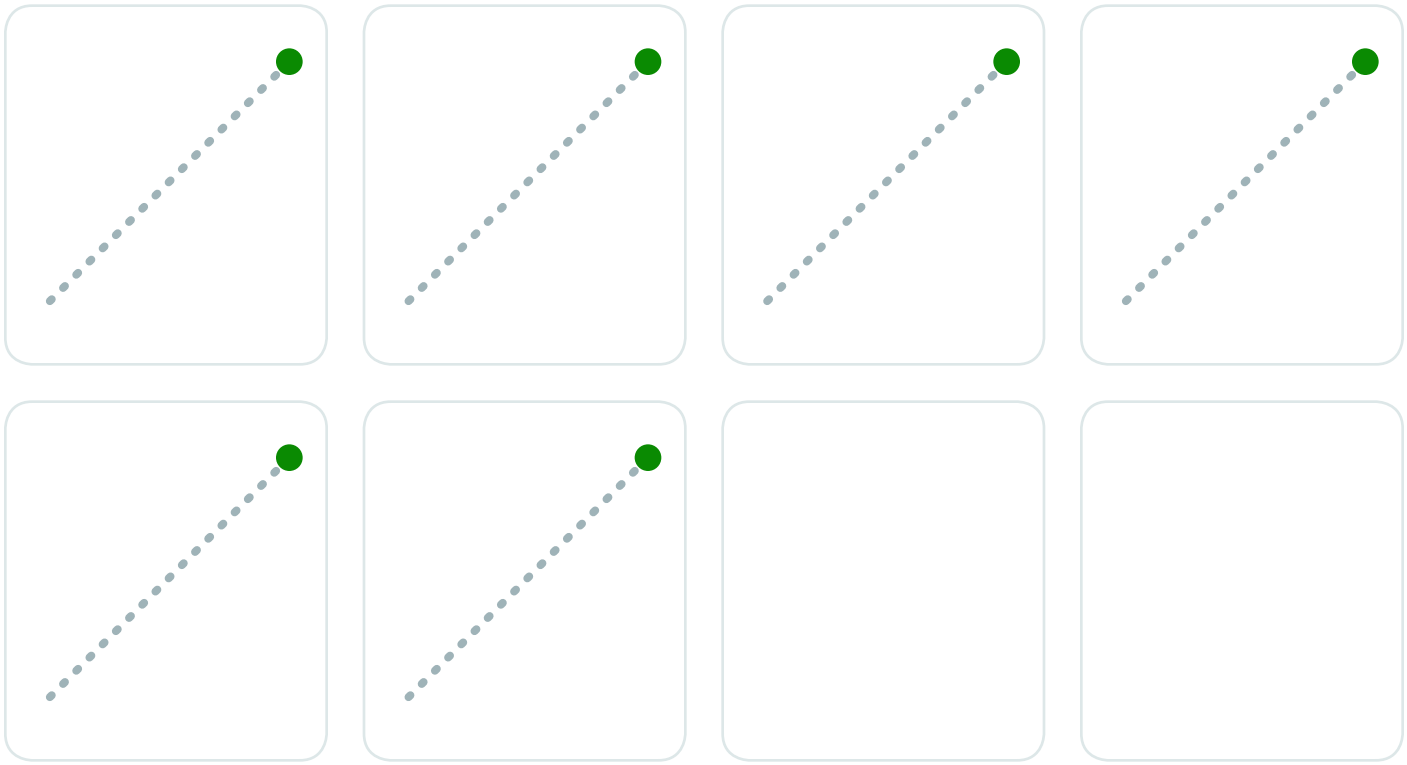
Name _____

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.**

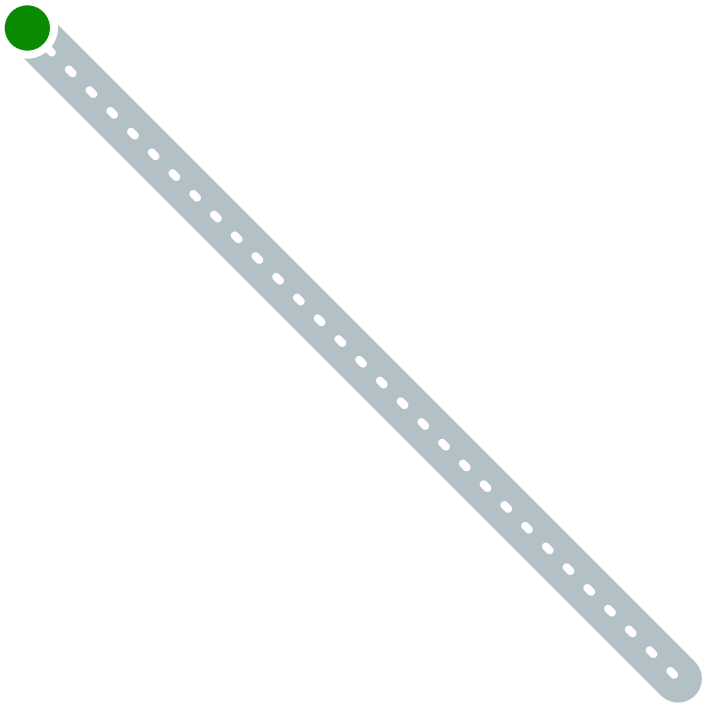


Shape 7: slanted line (\)

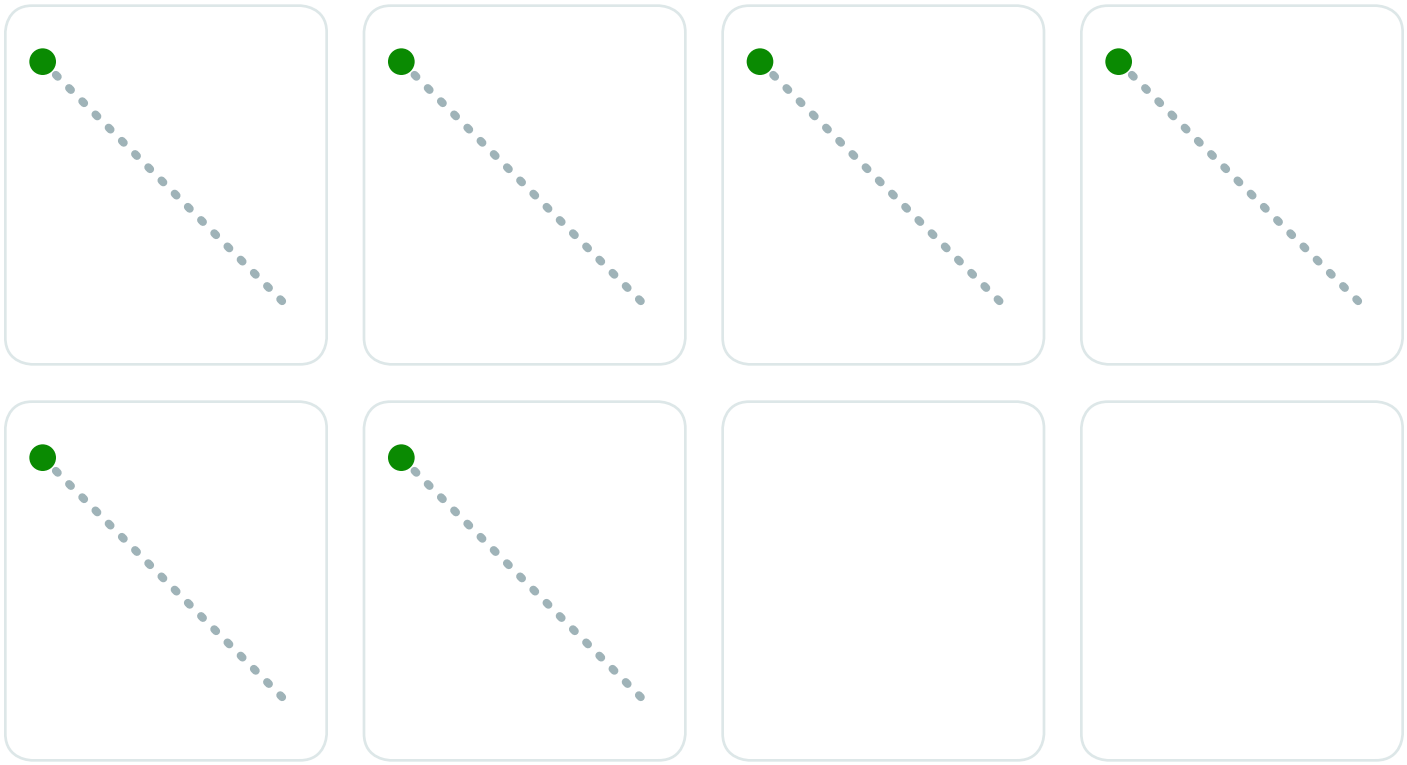
Name _____

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.**

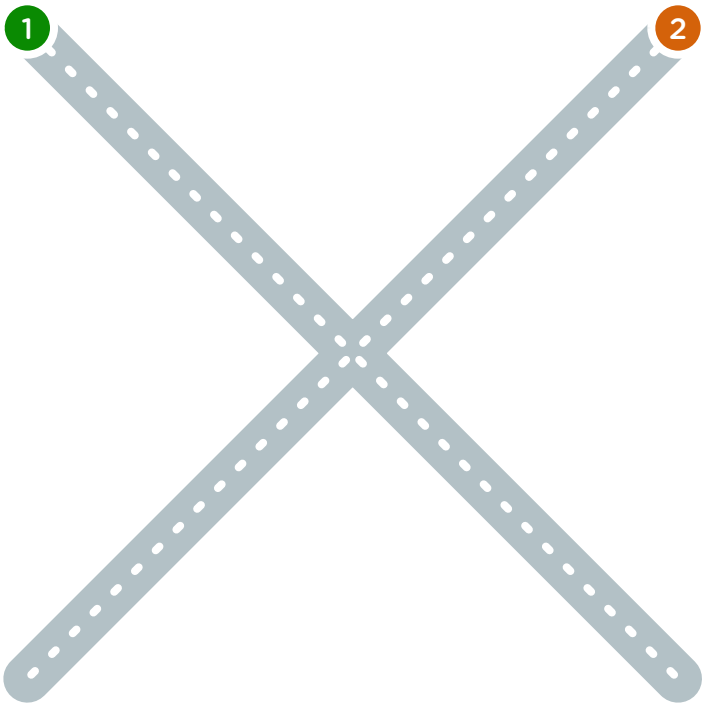


Shape 8: X

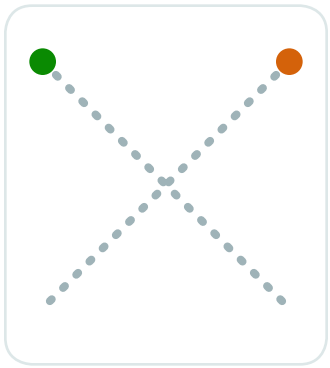
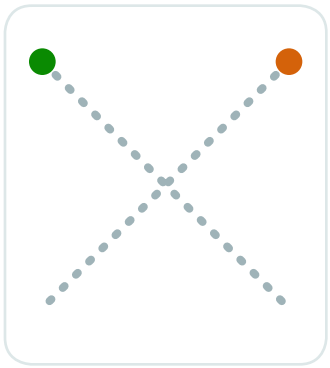
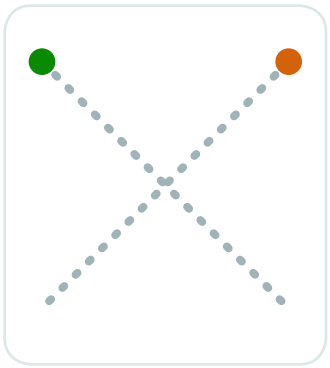
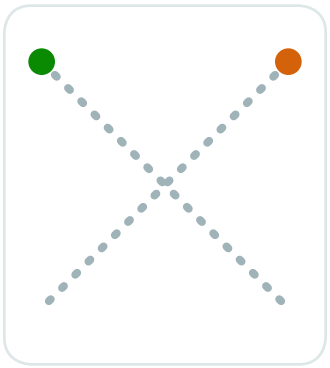
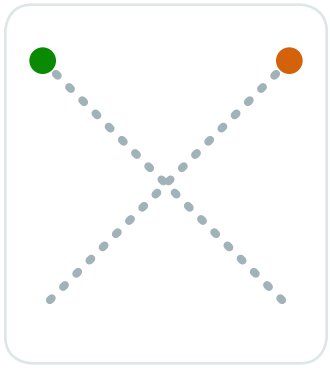
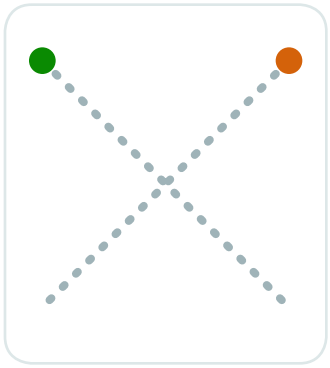
Name _____

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.**

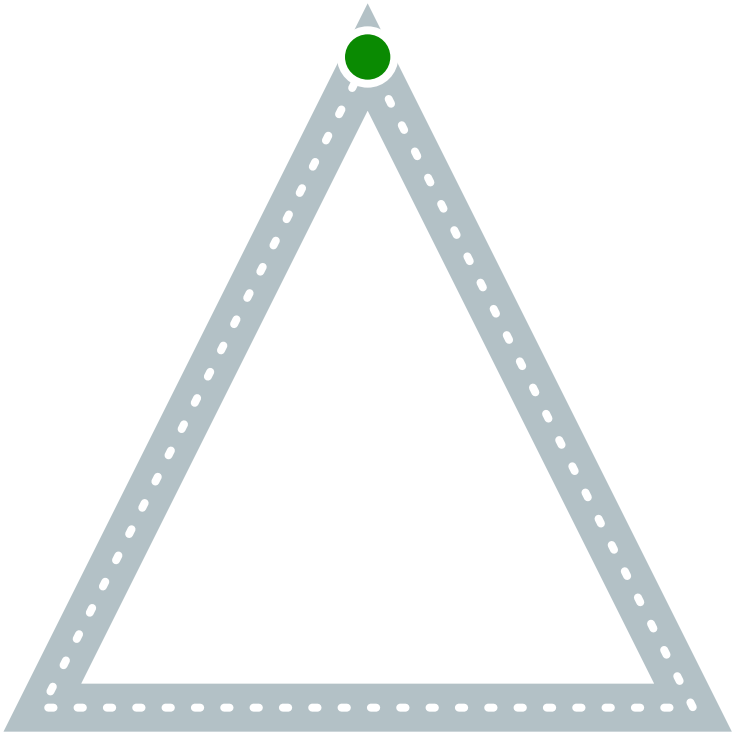







Shape 9: triangle

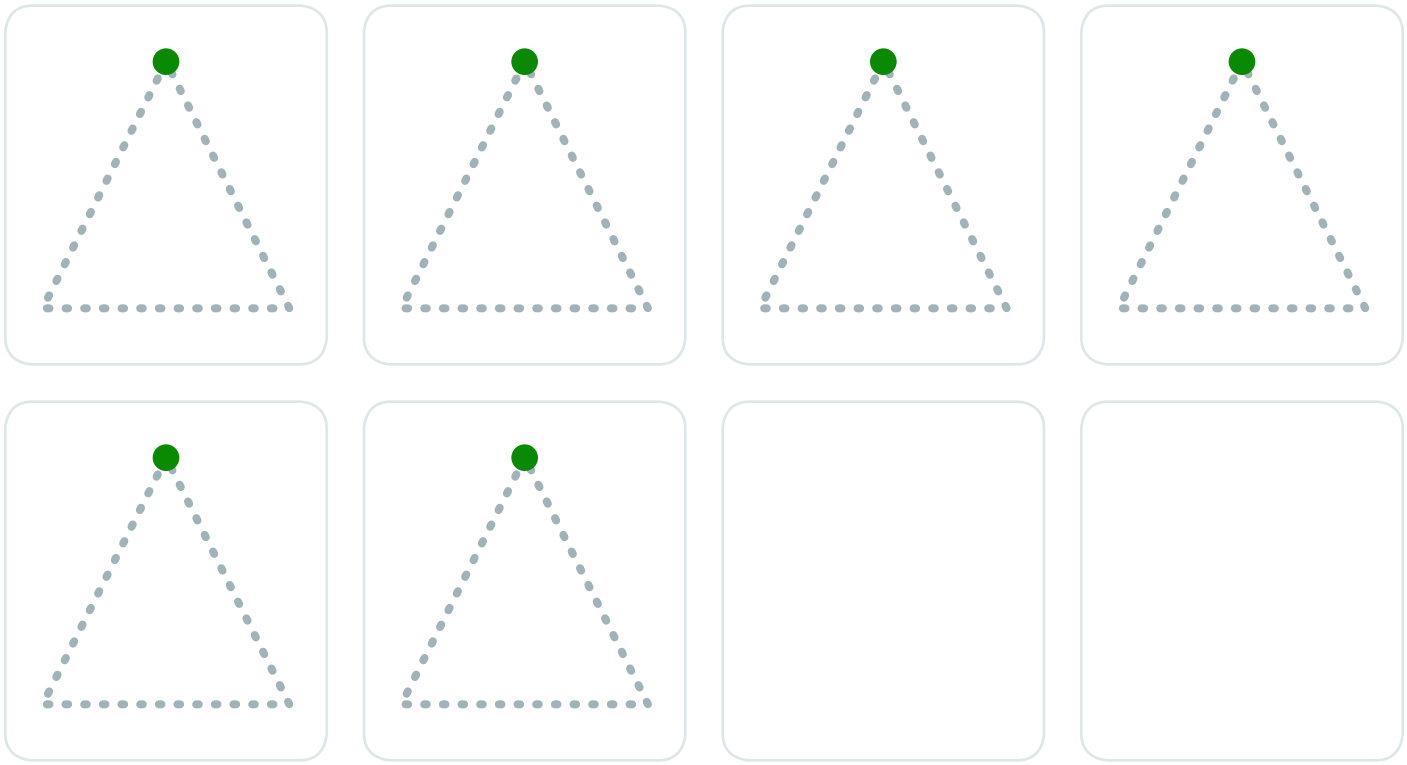
Name _____

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

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

Name _____

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

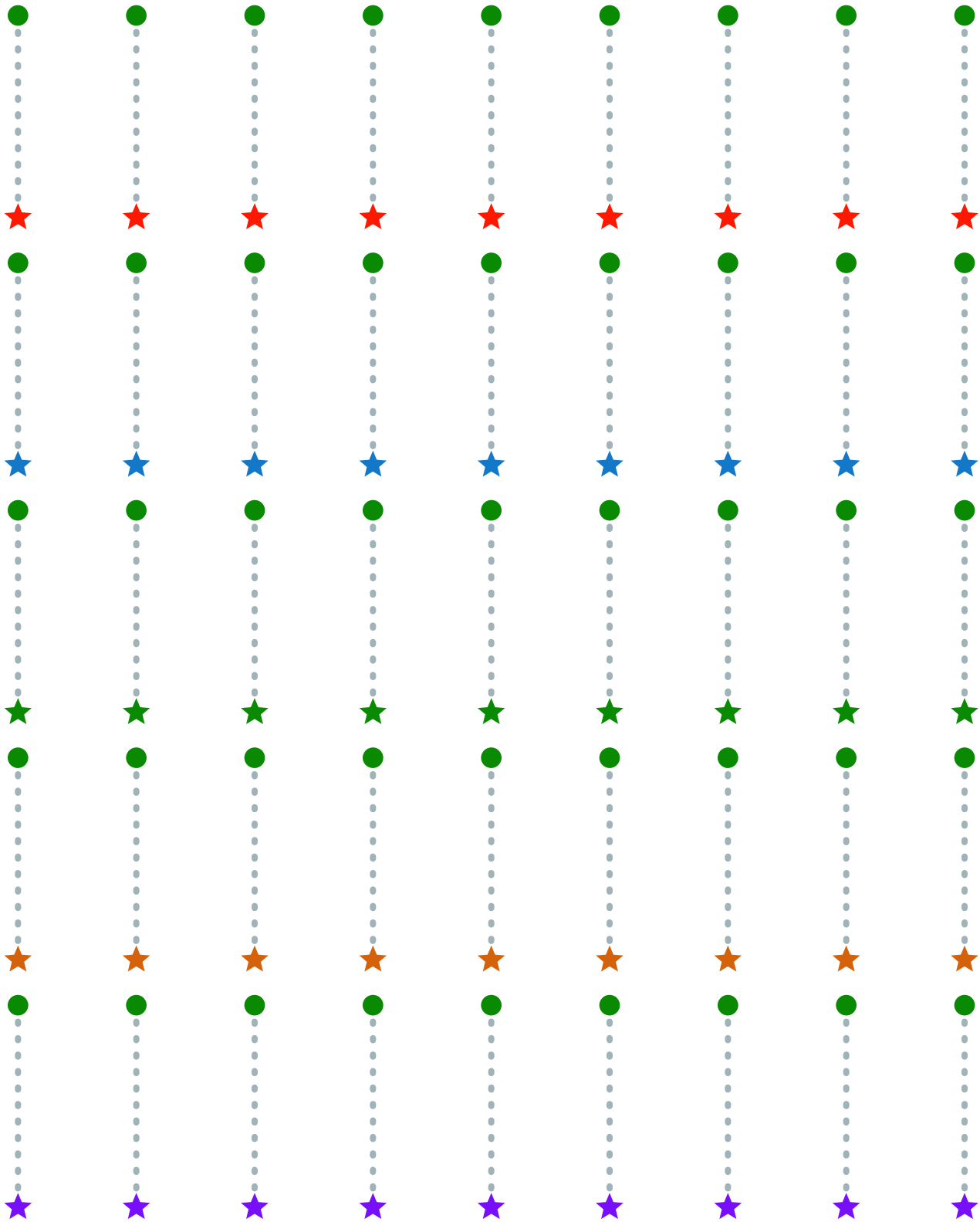


Vertical lines

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

Name _____

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

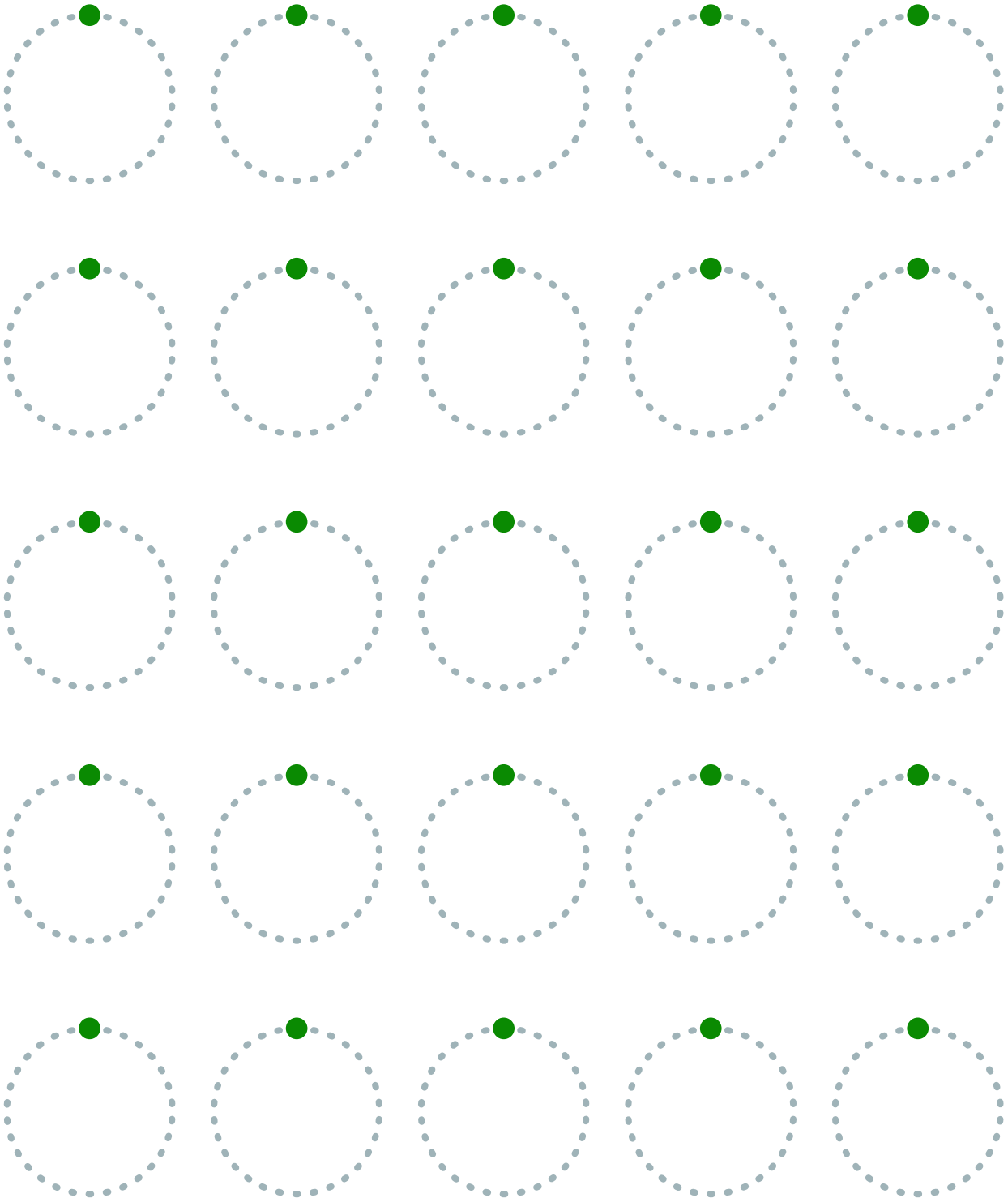


Circles

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.**

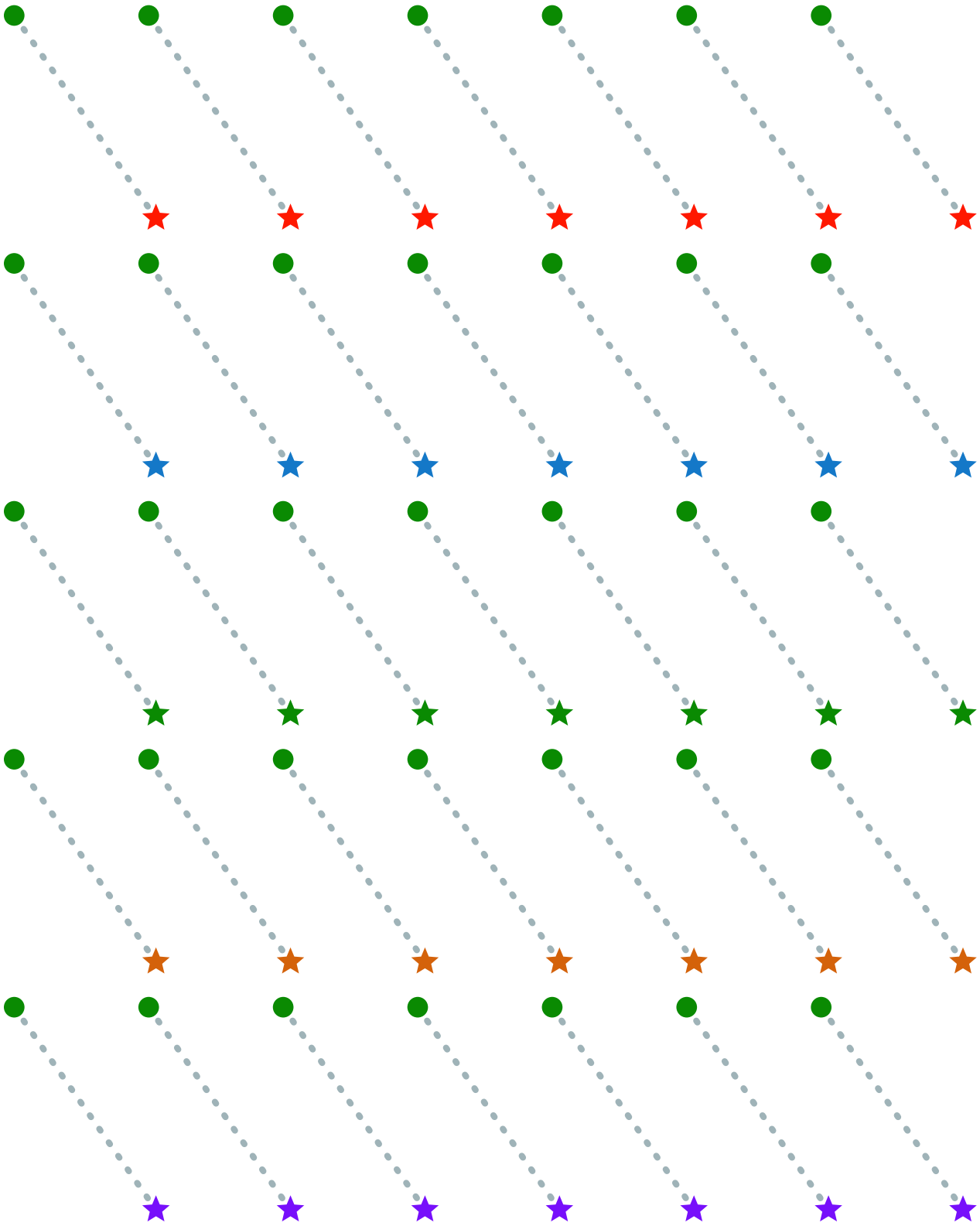


Slanted lines

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

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

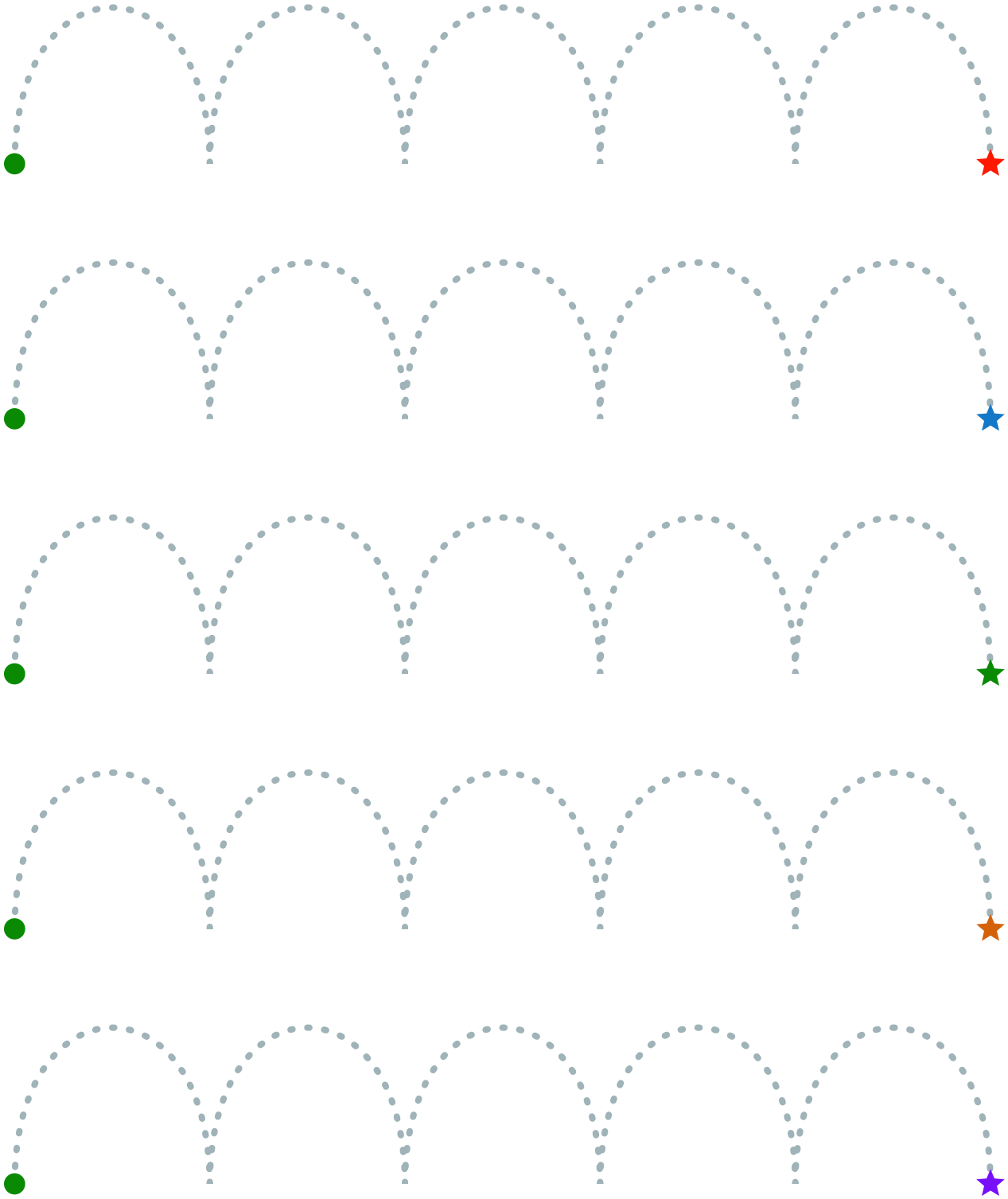


Curves (hills)

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

Name _____

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

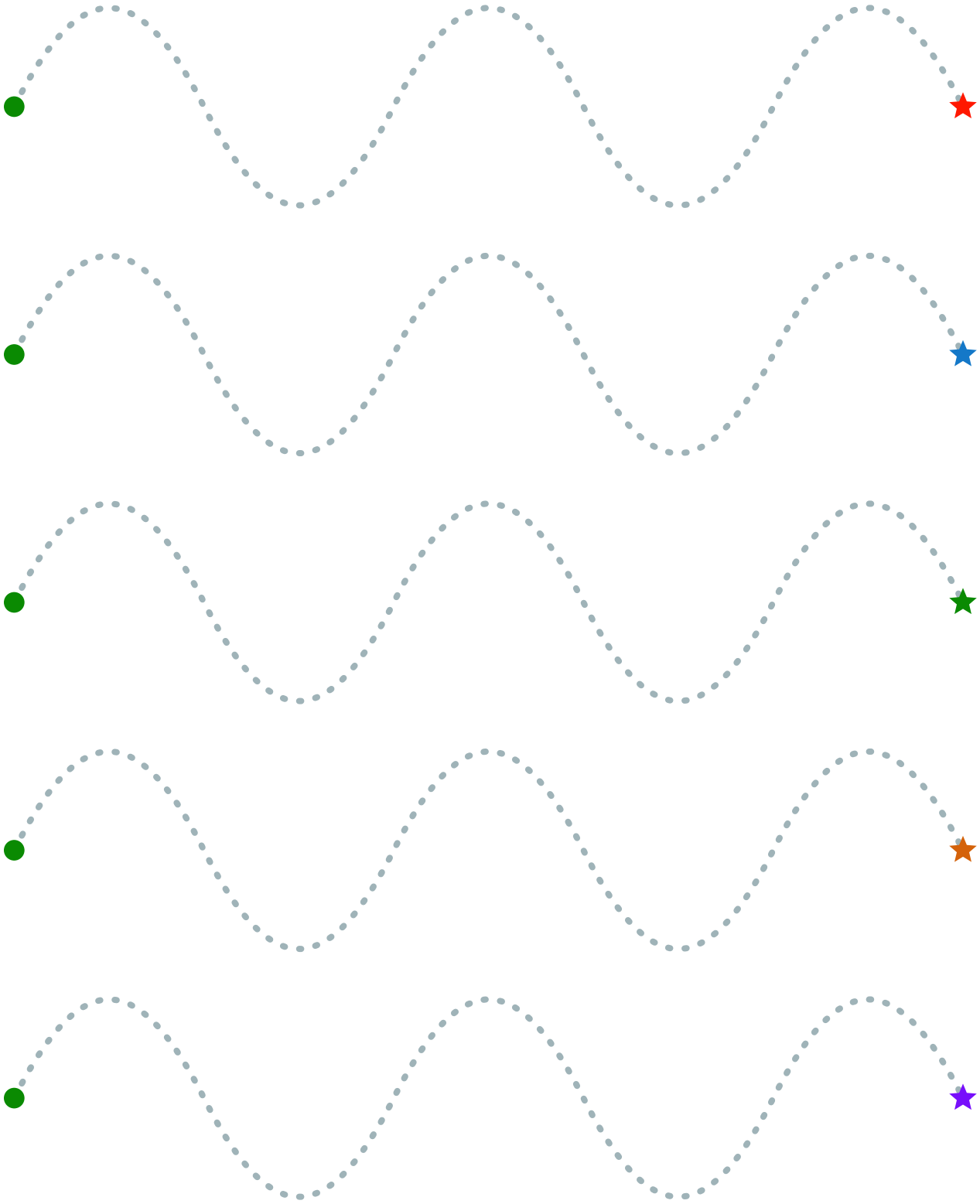


Wavy lines

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

Name _____

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

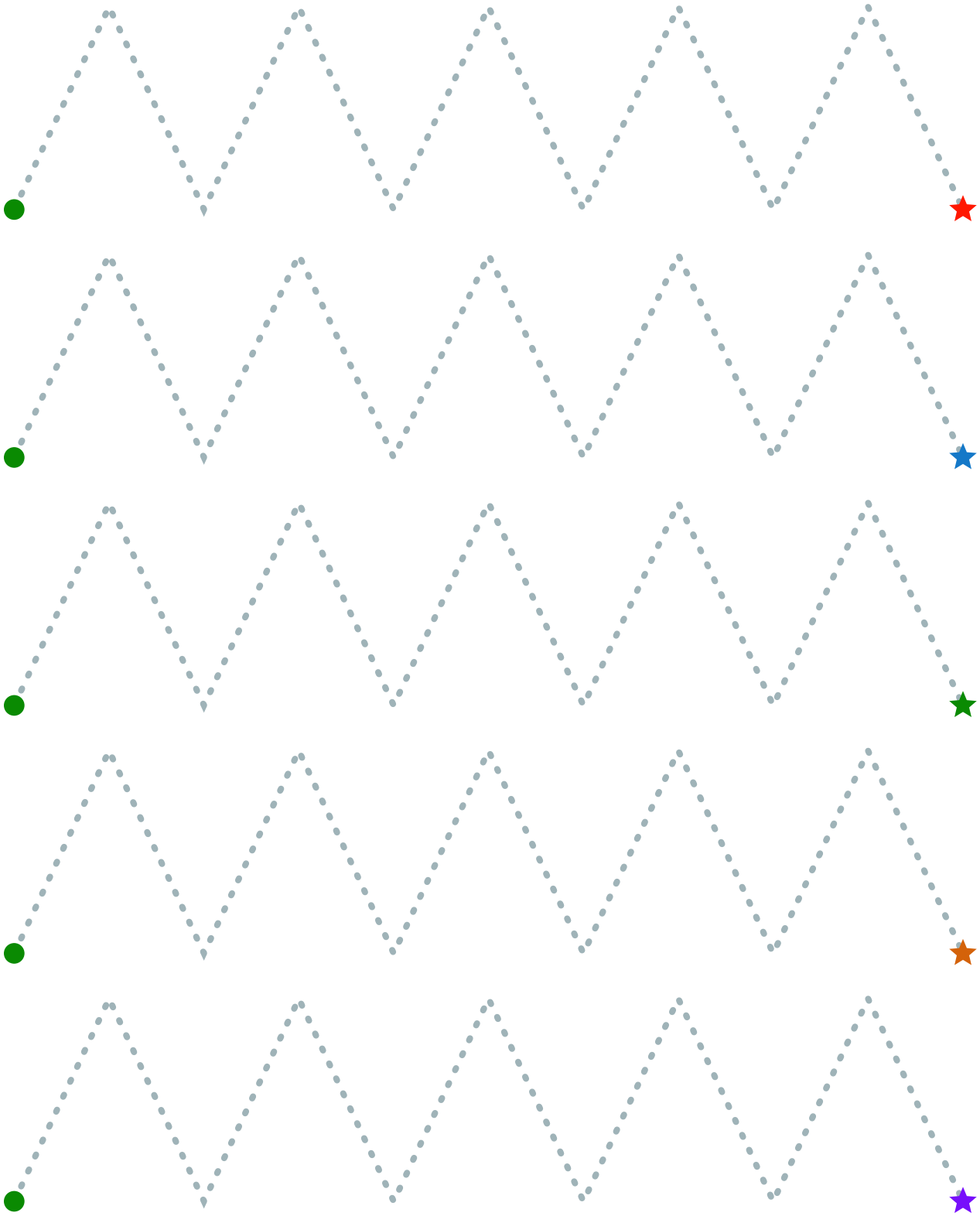


Zigzag lines

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

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

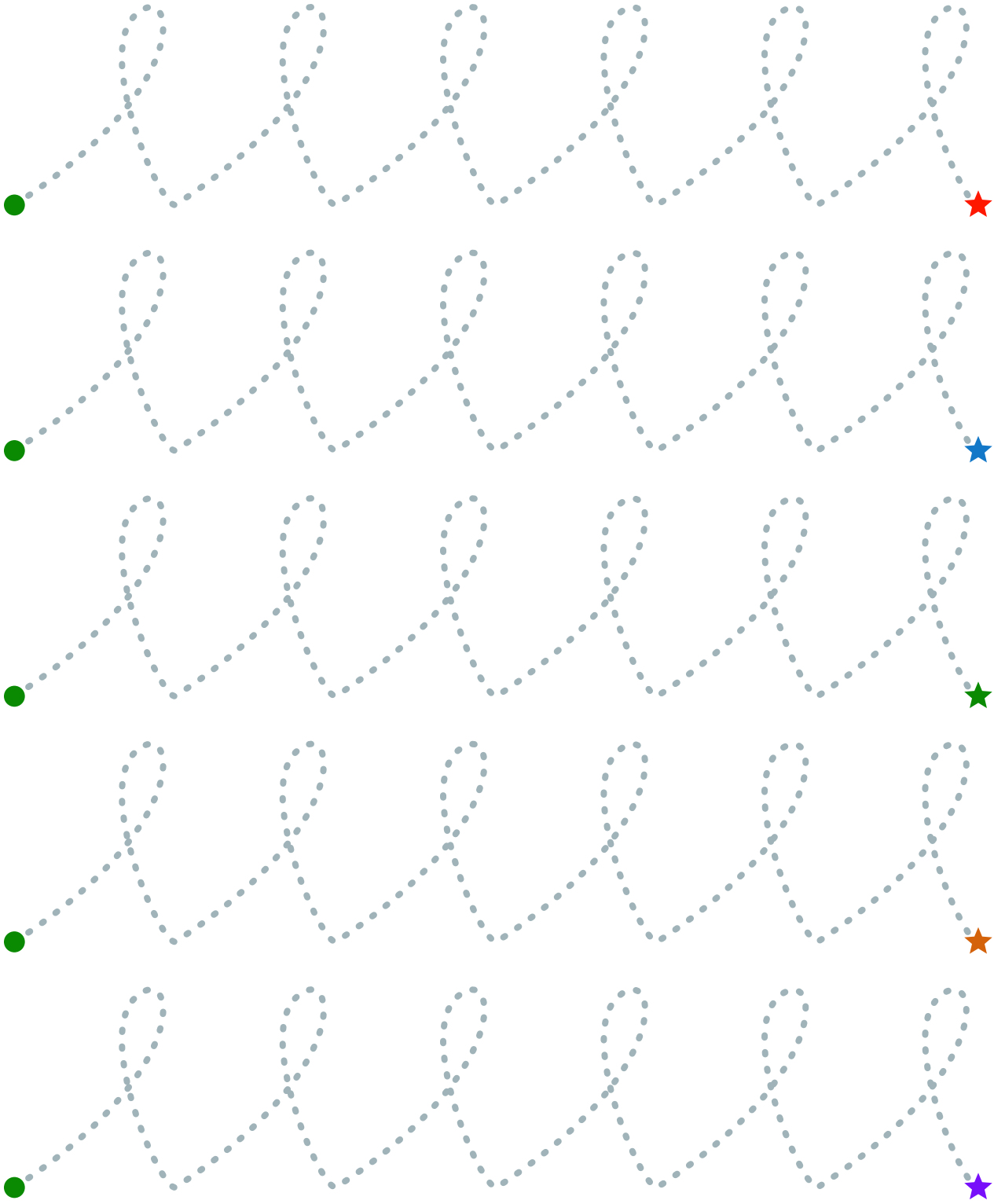


Loops

Name _____

Handwriting · Pre-writing · Pre-K

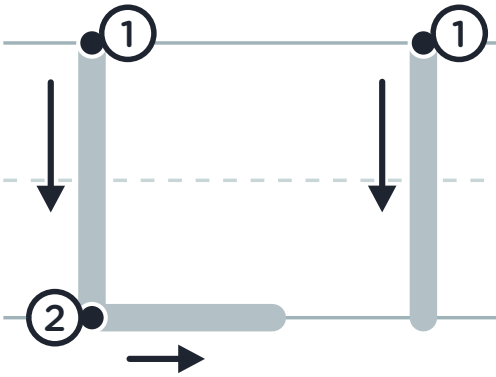
1 **Start at the green dot. Trace the loops without lifting your pencil. Loops get you ready for cursive.**



Letter Ll

Name _____

Zaner-Bloser style · Pre-K – Kindergarten



L L L L L L L L L L

L L L L L L L L L L

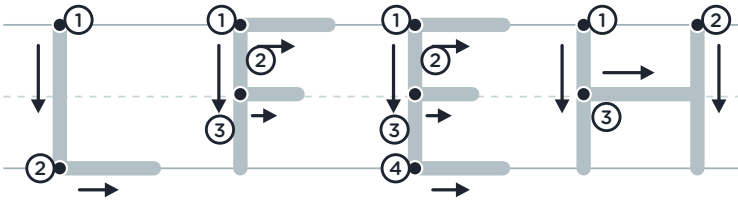
lion lion lion lion lion lion

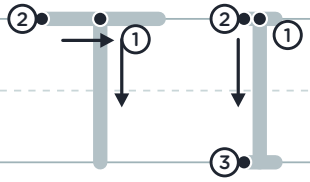
Straight line capitals

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 _____

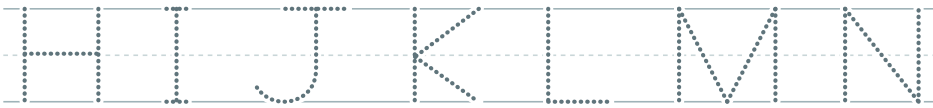
Handwriting · Alphabet · Zaner-Bloser style

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

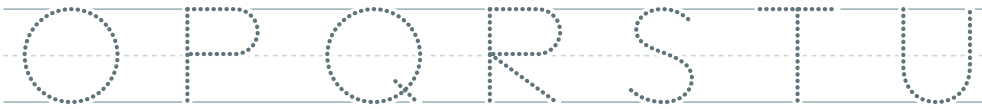
1 A B C D E F G



2 H I J K L M N



3 O P Q R S T U



4 V W X Y Z

