

## Kids' Activity Guide

Down by the barn, early in the morning, a farmer drives his tractor, stopping along the way to pick up a calf, then a chick, then a pig. The group of animals grows and grows until at last they reach their destination...and find a surprise.

*Down by the Barn* will take your child on a charming journey to the farm. The farmer's tractor puffs, clicks, and clanks all around the farm as it picks up farm animals for a special event. Adorable new farm friends join the farmer and add their voices to the story. The following activities will allow your child to explore the farm and the farm animals.

### Pre-reading Questions

1. What is a farm?
2. Have you ever visited a farm?
3. What animals live on a farm?
4. What is your favorite farm animal?
5. Why are baby animals called by different names than their parents?
6. What is a tractor?
7. What is your favorite animal sound?
8. What do farmers do?

These questions will prepare your child for reading *Down by the Barn* and for completing the following activities.

### My Farm Brainstorming/Story Activity:

Your child will make a picture story about the farm. Give your child two sheets of paper, one for free drawing and one for their story. On the first sheet, let him/her draw pictures of their farm and the farm animals using crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers. Help your child brainstorm for things from the farm to draw. Fold the second sheet in half, both vertically and horizontally, making creases each way. Have your child draw a line on each of the crease marks. Help your child come up with and draw a comic-style story of their farm using the four squares. If your child wants to make it a longer story, simply fold another sheet of paper. Feel free to help your child write captions for their story.

## Make a Shoebox Tractor:

### Materials:

Empty shoe box  
Construction paper  
1 nickel  
Glue  
4 milk jug caps  
Straw  
Crayons, markers, and colored pencils

### Directions

1. Remove the lid of the shoe box and set aside. Turn the box upside down.
2. Cover the box with construction paper using glue.
3. With the box upside down, glue two milk jug caps on each side at the top of box for wheels.
4. Trace and cut out two circles on white or yellow construction paper using a nickel as a stencil. Glue the circles to the front end of the box for headlights.
5. Poke a small hole in the front top of the tractor and insert a straw for the exhaust. Cut the straw down to size using scissors.
6. Decorate the rest of the tractor with markers, paint, or stickers, and add the farm animals created in the next activity or baby animal cut outs (on page 7) to fill up the shoe box tractor with animals.

## Create a Farm Animal Activity:

In *Down by the Barn*, the farmer meets a variety of farm animals. You and your child will make craft farm animals using cups and popsicle sticks. Follow the directions below to assist your child in creating as many animals as you would like.

### Materials:

Popsicle sticks  
Construction paper  
A large plastic cup  
Crayons, markers, and colored pencils  
Cotton balls  
Glue  
Additional craft supplies for decoration

## Building an animal:

1. Trace two circles using a plastic cup. The bottom of the cup for the head of the animal and the top for the body of the animal.
2. Attach the circles to a popsicle stick using glue.
3. Decorate the animal using the art supplies and cotton balls. Cut out shapes with the construction paper to form eyes, ears and tails. Place the animal in a safe place to let the glue dry.
4. Repeat for each animal you want to create!

## Butterscotch Haystacks Snack:

Traveling around the farm is very tiring. Help your child cook these tasty snacks that look like he or she belongs on the farm.

### Ingredients:

1 cup milk chocolate morsels  
1 cup butterscotch morsels  
2-2½ cups of chow mein noodles

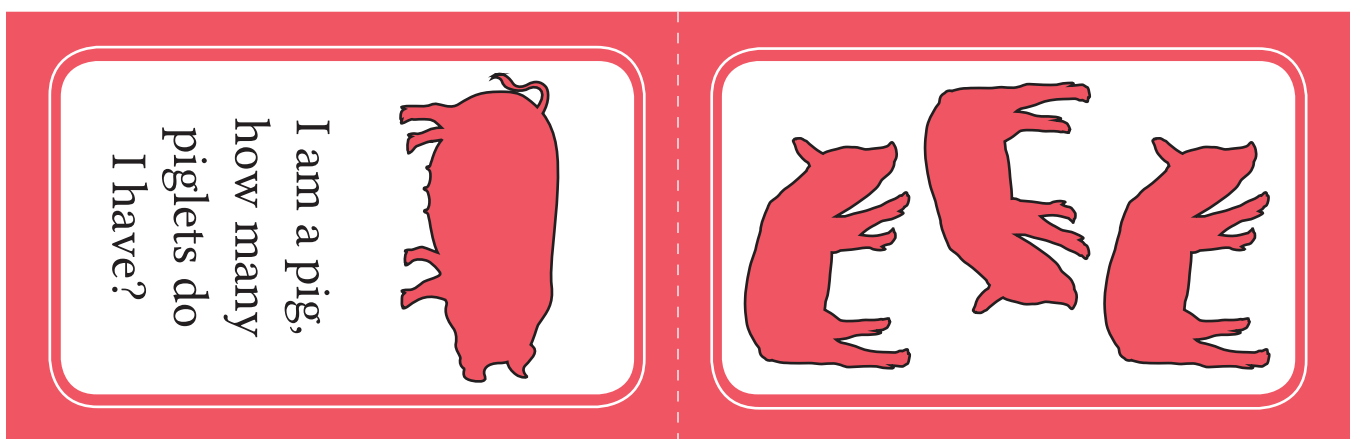
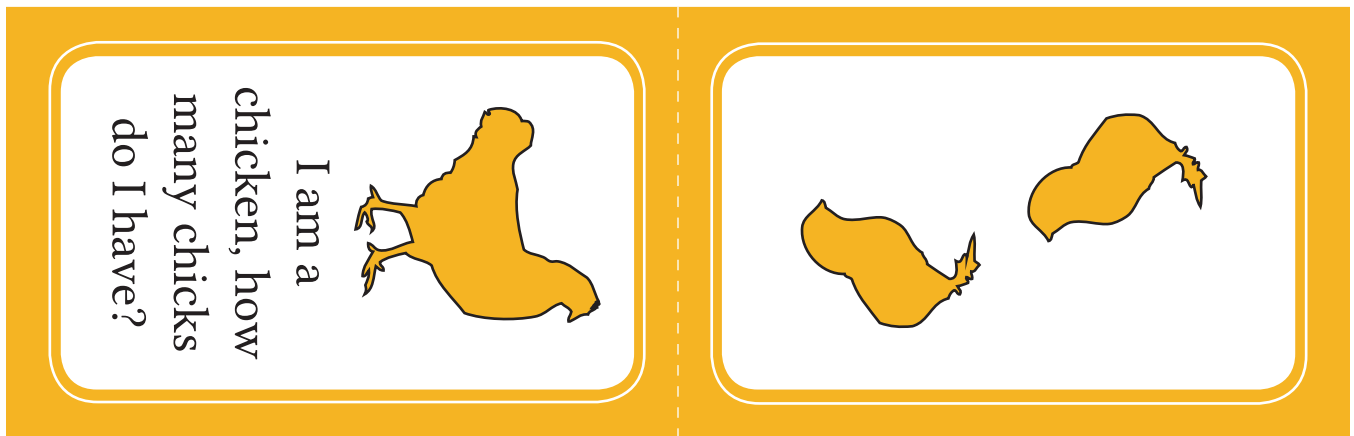
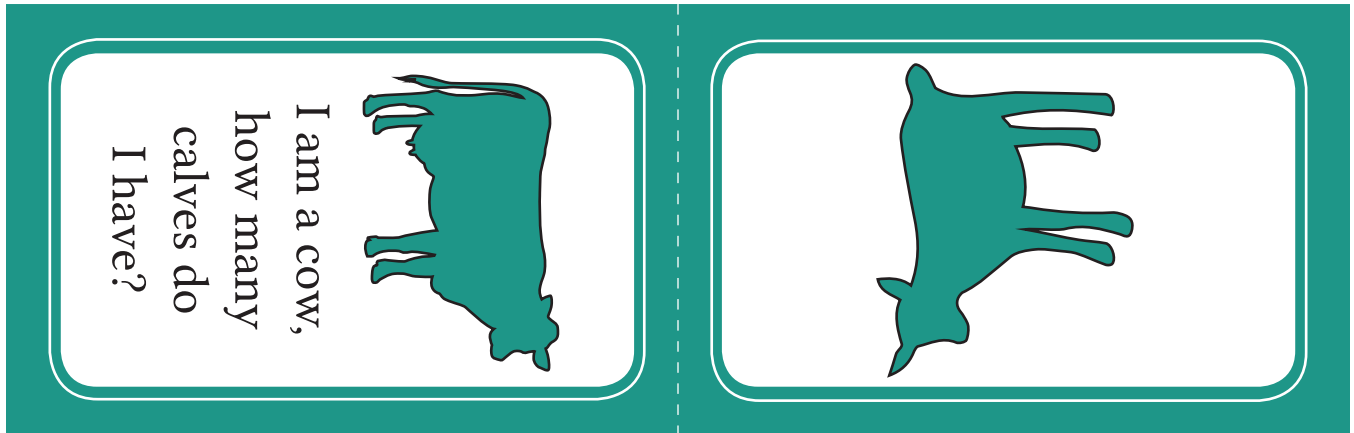
### Directions:

1. Place the morsels in a large microwave safe bowl.
2. Heat the bowl in the microwave for two to three minutes, or until almost melted.
3. Stir with a fork until smooth.
4. Gently fold in noodles.
5. Stir until well coated.
6. Spoon mixture onto wax paper, and refrigerate for 1 hour.
7. Enjoy!



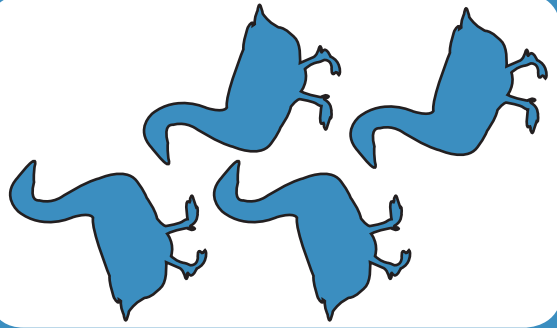
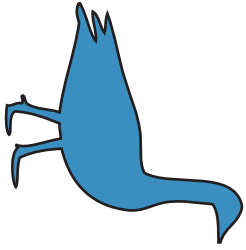
## Baby Animal Counting Cards:

*Down by the Barn* introduces your child to many different farm animals and their babies. Cut out and use these cards to help your child with counting.

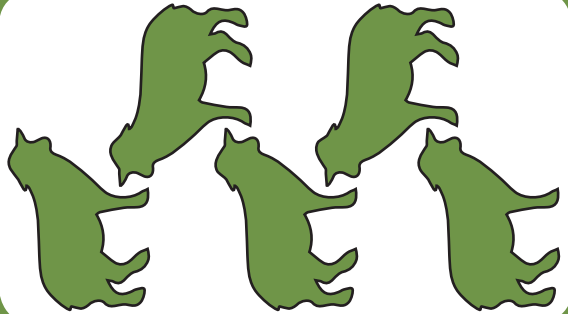
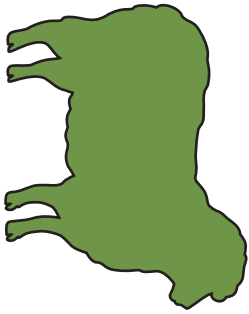




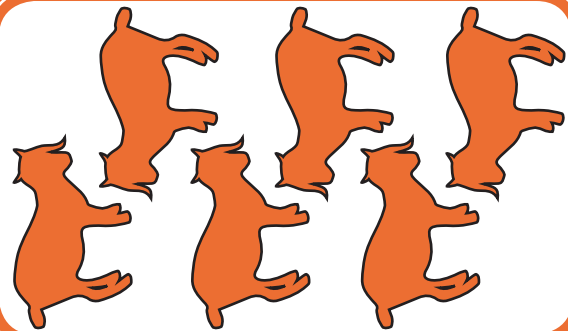
I am a goose,  
how many  
goslings do  
I have?



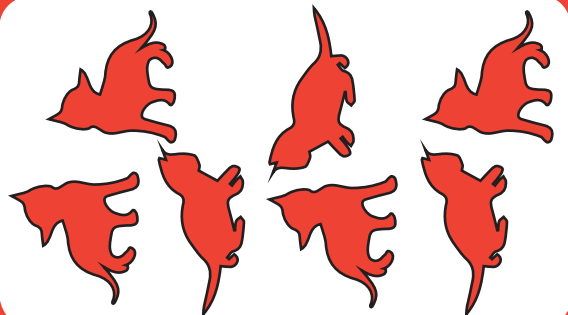
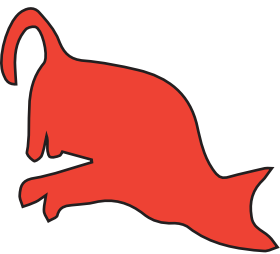
I am a sheep,  
how many  
lambs do  
I have?



I am a goat,  
how many  
kids do  
I have?

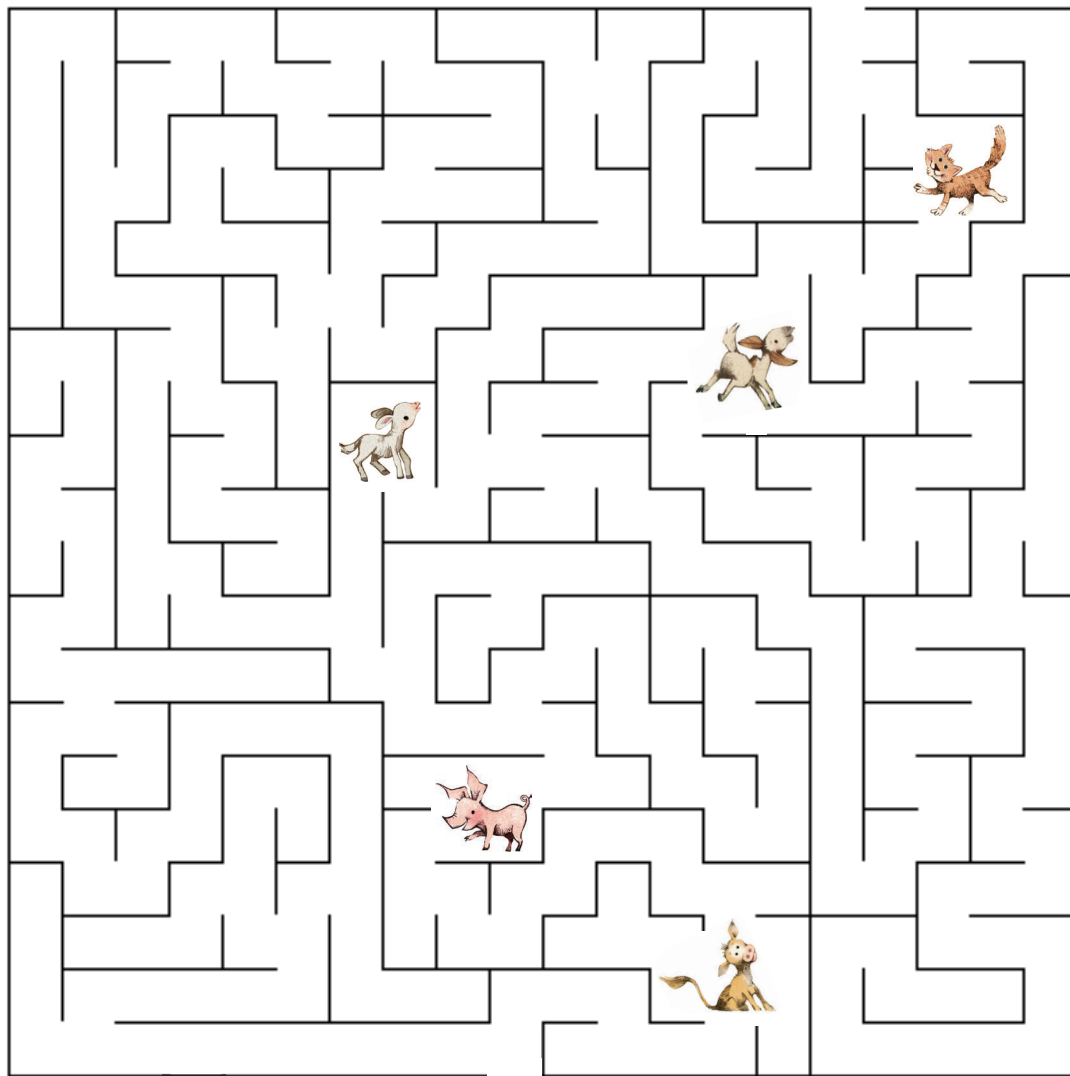


I am a cat,  
how many  
kittens do  
I have?



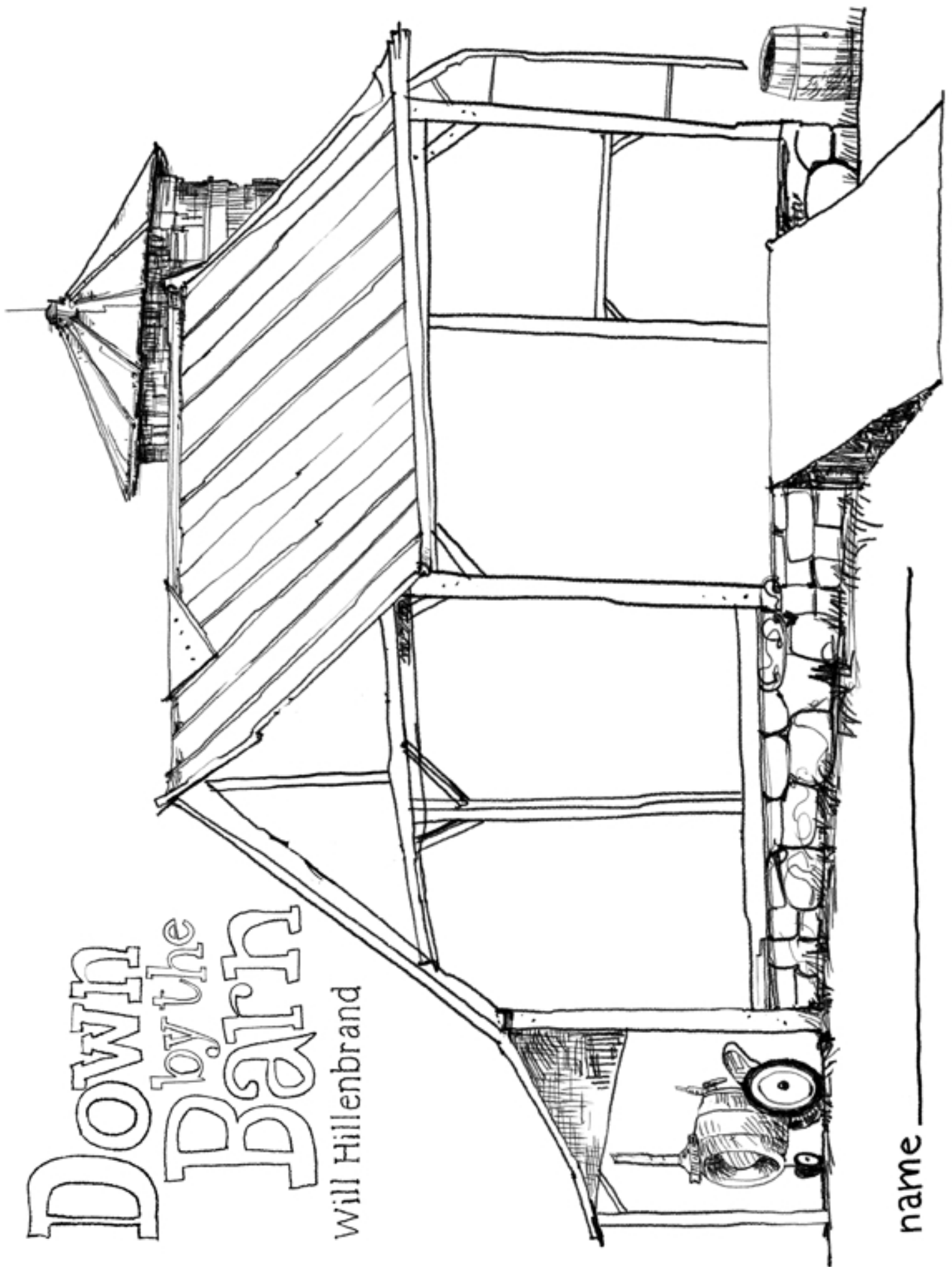
### *Down by the Barn Maze:*

Help the tractor pick up the baby farm animals on the way to the tree house to learn.

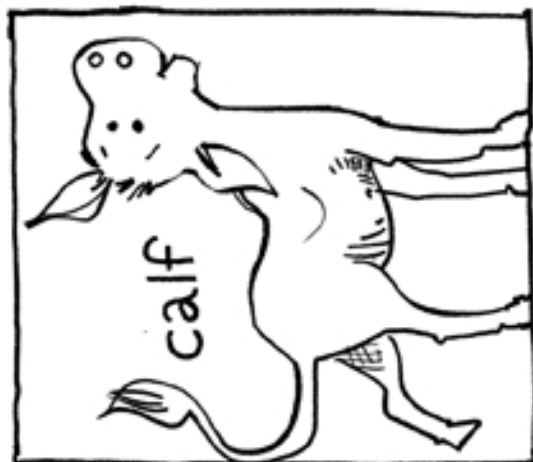
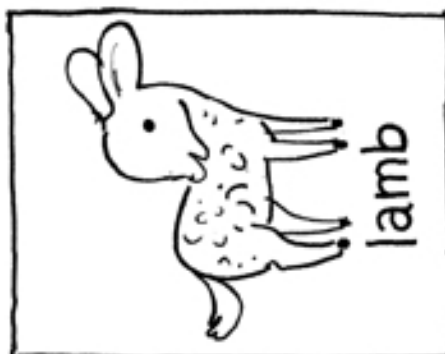
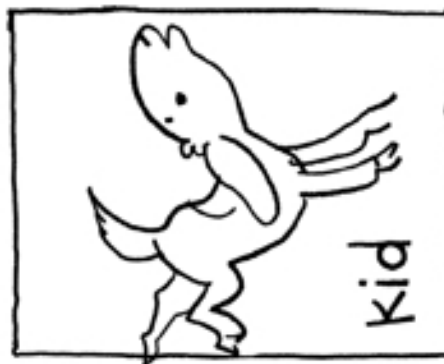
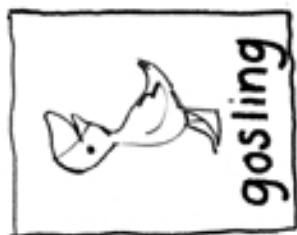


# Down by the Barn

Will Hillenbrand



name \_\_\_\_\_

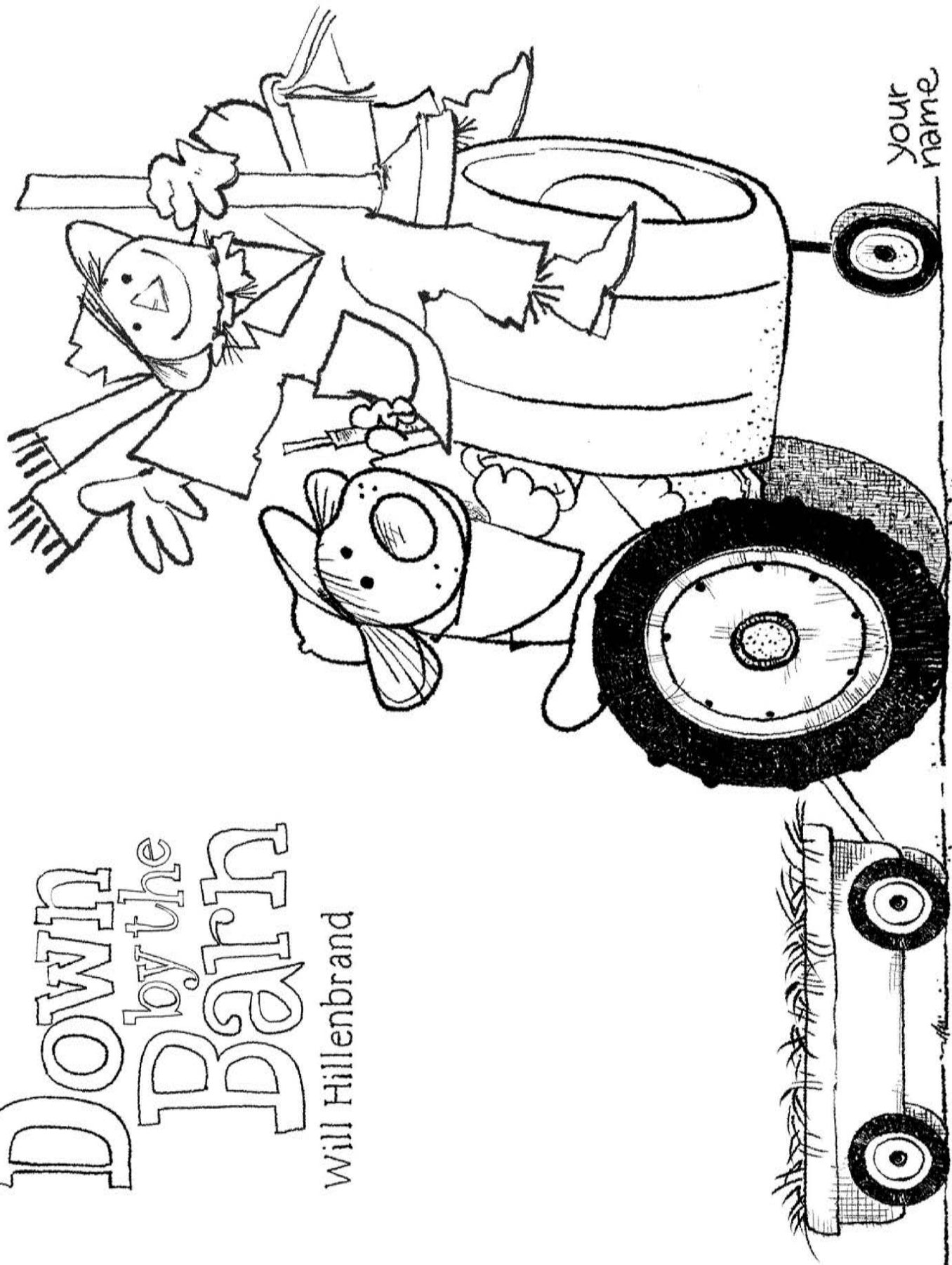


Color the farm animals,  
then cut them out and  
put them into the barn.



# Down by the Barn

Will Hillenbrand

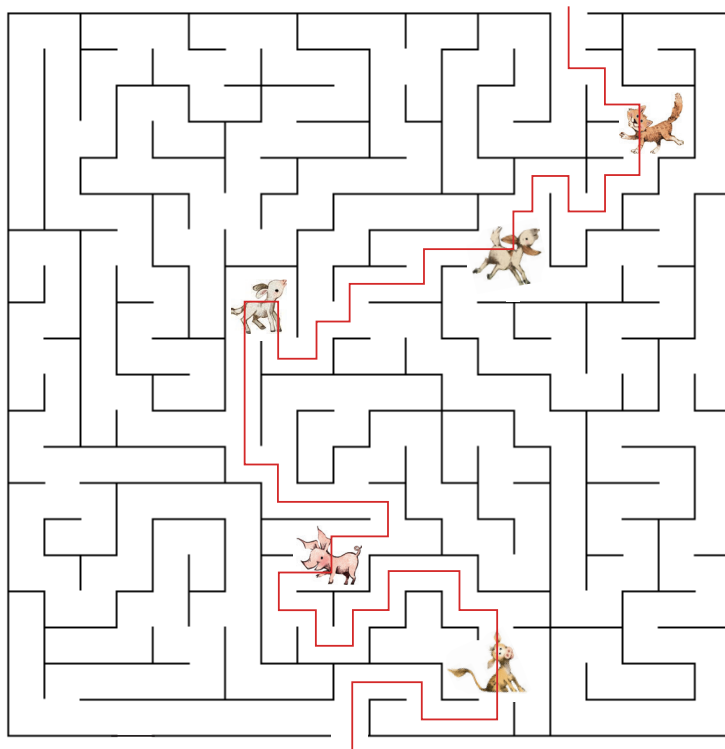


your  
name

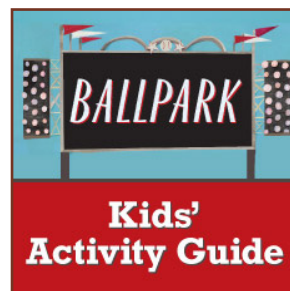
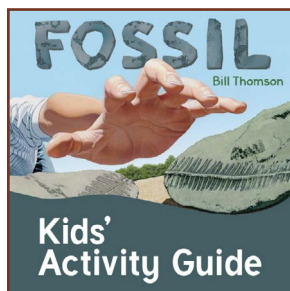
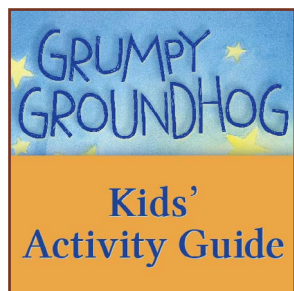
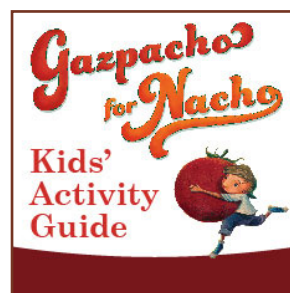
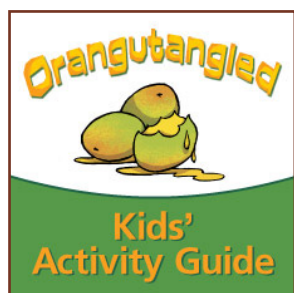
Draw your favorite animal to ride in the wagon.



*Down by the Barn* Maze Key:



**Click on the Kids' Activity Guides Below for More Fun!**



*This guide was created by Chris Valcarcel, educational consultant, Will Hillenbrand, author and illustrator, and Jennifer Messinger, graphic designer.*

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