

KINGS LANDING

PIN PRICK

DRAWING LESSON



FOR ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILDREN



## OBJECTIVES

- Aid in developing fine motor skills, independence, concentration, and coordination
- Learn about an historic art form

## GRADE LEVEL(S)

- This lesson is intended for Elementary aged-children, but creative students of all ages may enjoy the activity.
- This is dependent on your student as some children have very fine motor skills at a young age and others have a natural interest in art and history. Please fully read this lesson and adapt it to the child's level.
- If adapting to K-2, you may want to focus on the fine motor skills and use larger push pin or nails for the activity part of the lesson.
- If adapting to 3-5, you may want to add more emphasis on the history lesson, use finer tools and try adding embroidery.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Paper (white or colour) for pricking your picture or design. Thicker card stock works best and may be made into a greeting card
- A regular piece of printer paper that you can use to transfer your design
- Some people like to use an existing picture as a template
- Foam board, carpet or a similar surface that you can push pins into without causing damage
- Pencil
- Tape
- Different sized pins, push pins and/or nails for making the holes

## OPTIONAL MATERIALS

- Watercolour paint and paintbrush
- Colourful embroidery thread and an embroidery needle



# LESSON

The popularity of pin prick pictures throughout history was dependant on when and where you look. It seems like they became popular in Europe in the 1600s and slowly moved west to North America. However, their history may be much older than this! When you visit Kings Landing, you go back in time to the 1800s. This is when pin prick pictures were most popular in North America. This art form became less popular at the end of the 19th century.

Not a lot was written in history about pin prick pictures but there are many examples of them in museums across North America and in Europe. Some are very simple and others are very complex. The simpler ones are usually no more than pin pricks on paper usually created by pricking the front of the image. Skilled artists figured out that pricks from the back of the image could create shading. Seemingly simple works can be deceivingly complex. Take a look at this example in the Victoria & Albert Museum Collection to see how this shading technique looks:



Pencil and oil pin prick picture of Mary Griswold (1833-1866). Pin prick pictures and greeting cards were a popular craft during the 1800s. Both men and women made them. Image courtesy of the Worthington Historical Society, Worthington, Ohio.

Most pin prick pictures started with a sketch on the back of a piece of paper. On the opposite side of the paper, the artist would follow the sketch and poke holes with a pin along the outline to create their design. Some artists experimented by embellishing their designs with colourful, embroidery thread. Others added watercolour or oil paint. Some museums describe the paint as being the first step in creating the picture and others describe it as the last. Whether the pricks or the paint came first depended on the artist and their process.

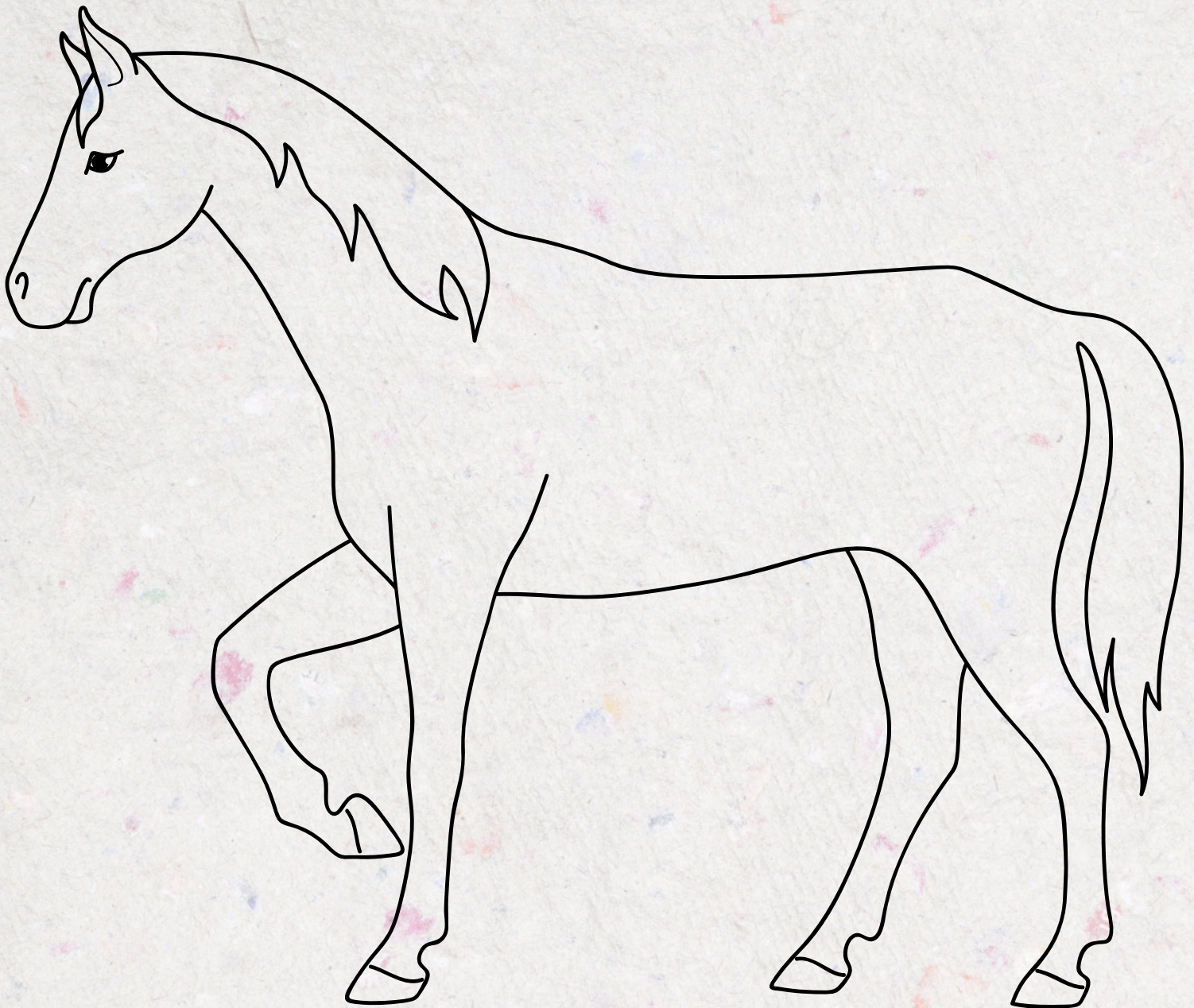
Pin prick pictures were made by all genders. However, they were mostly associated with young ladies who had time to dedicate to the arts. Having time to pin prick implied that the ladies came from wealthy families.

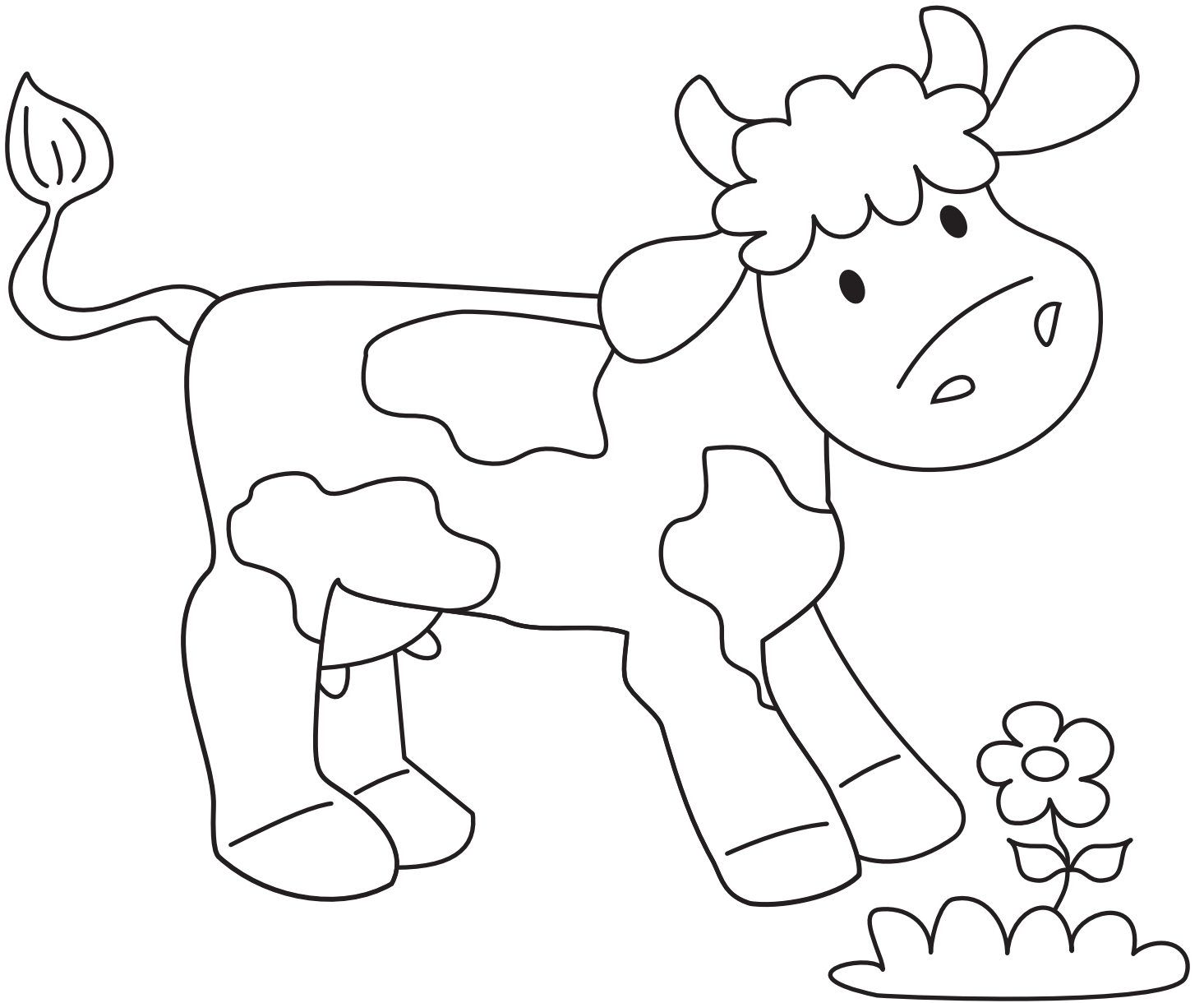
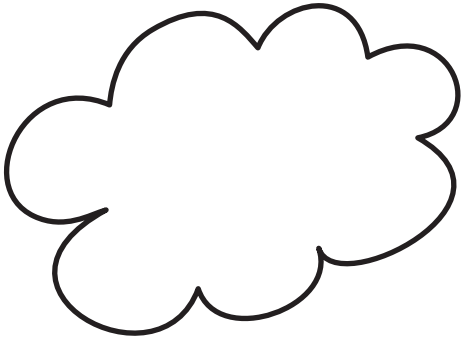
Image to the left:  
Pin-prick picture of a gentleman  
Victoria and Albert Museum



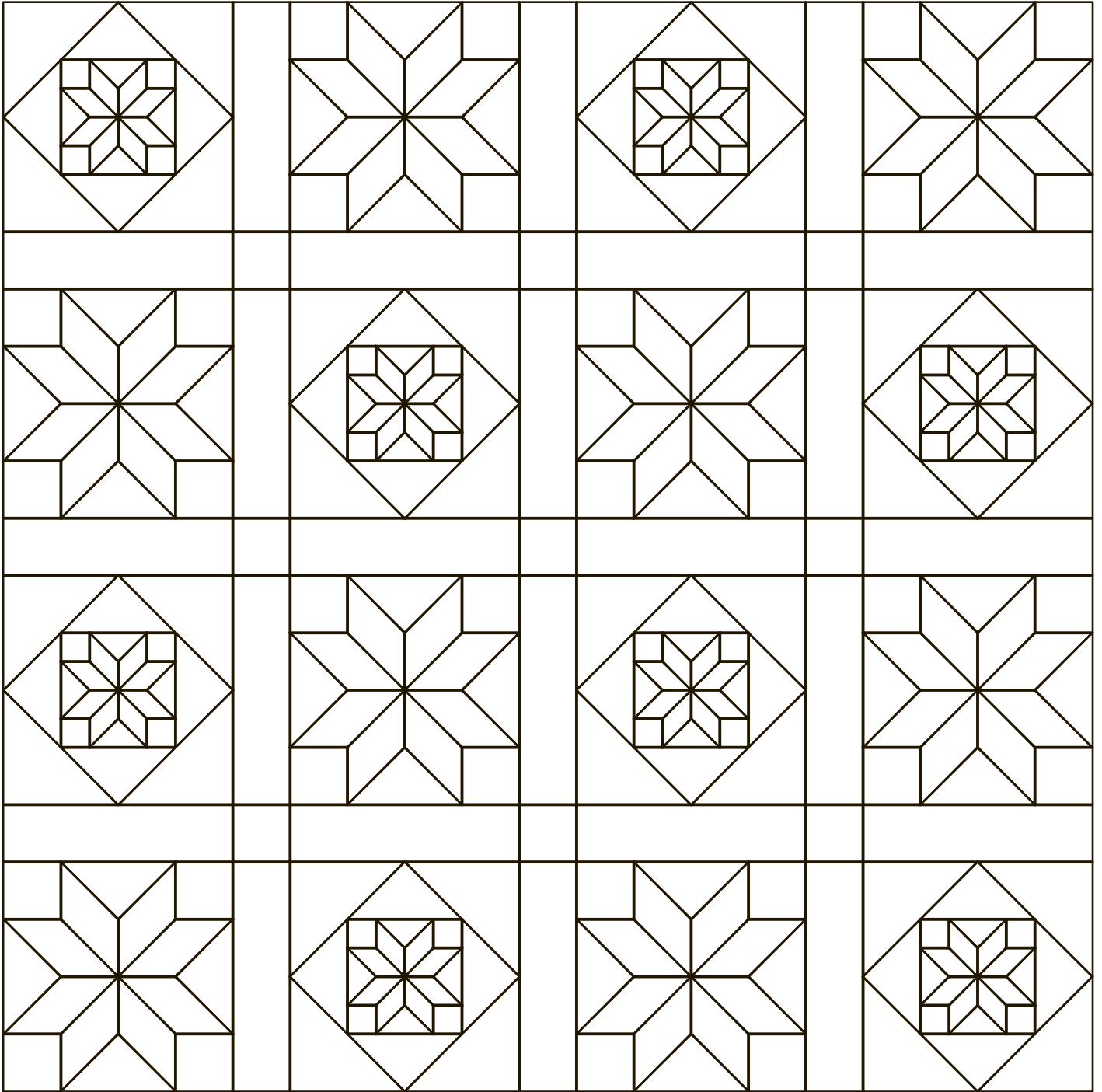
# ACTIVITY

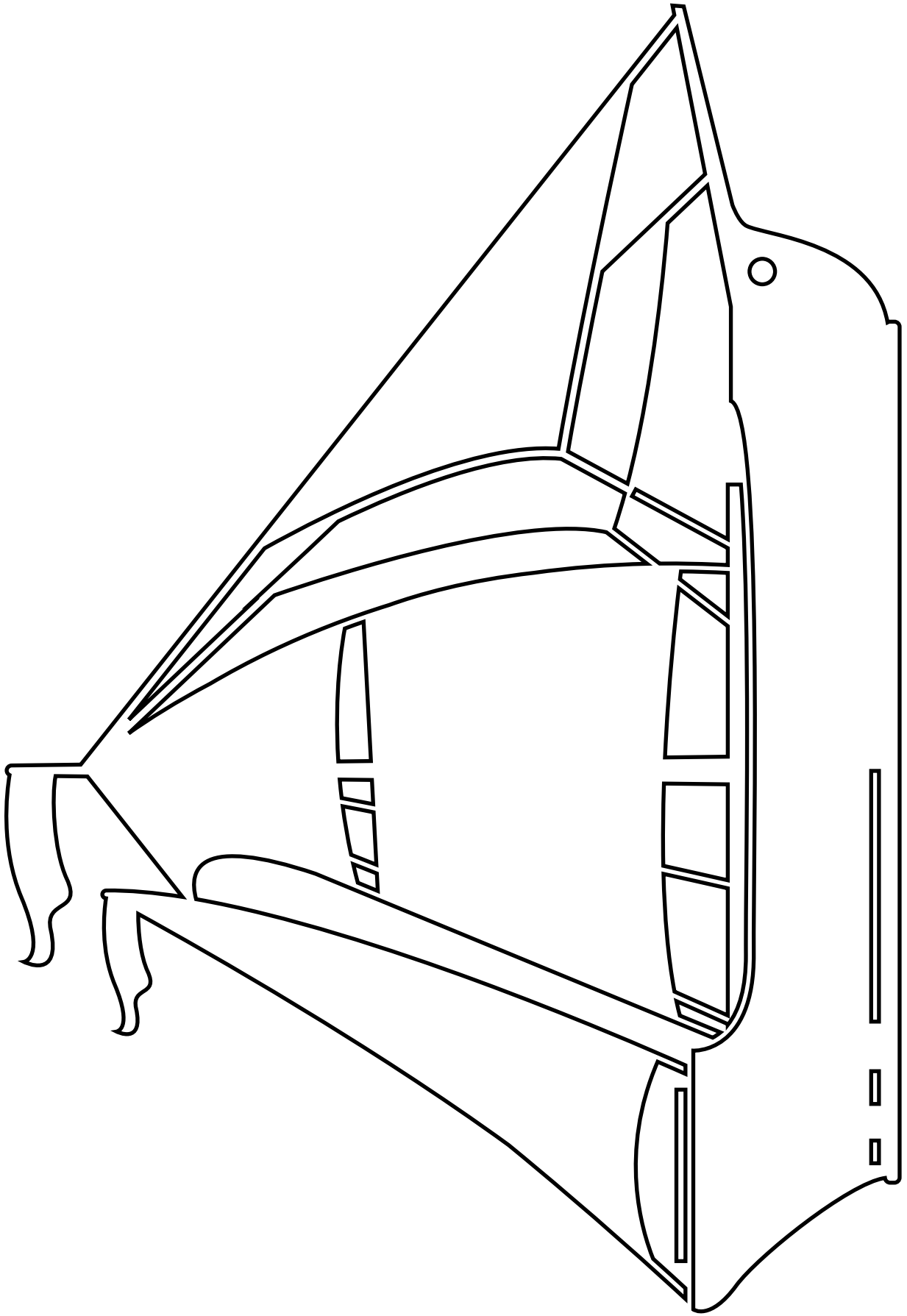
1. Draw or trace a picture or design onto plain paper. You can also use one of the designs below or on the following pages or a design from one of your colouring books.
2. Find a surface that you can prick on without damaging; a piece of foam or a carpet works well.
3. Now, you can either prick your picture or design by following the lines or place your picture or design on top of a piece of blank paper and prick through both to transfer the image.
4. If you are transferring your image from one piece of paper to another, a piece of tape that peels off easily will help you keep the work lined up.
5. Follow the lines of your picture or design and experiment with spacing and different sized pins or nails.

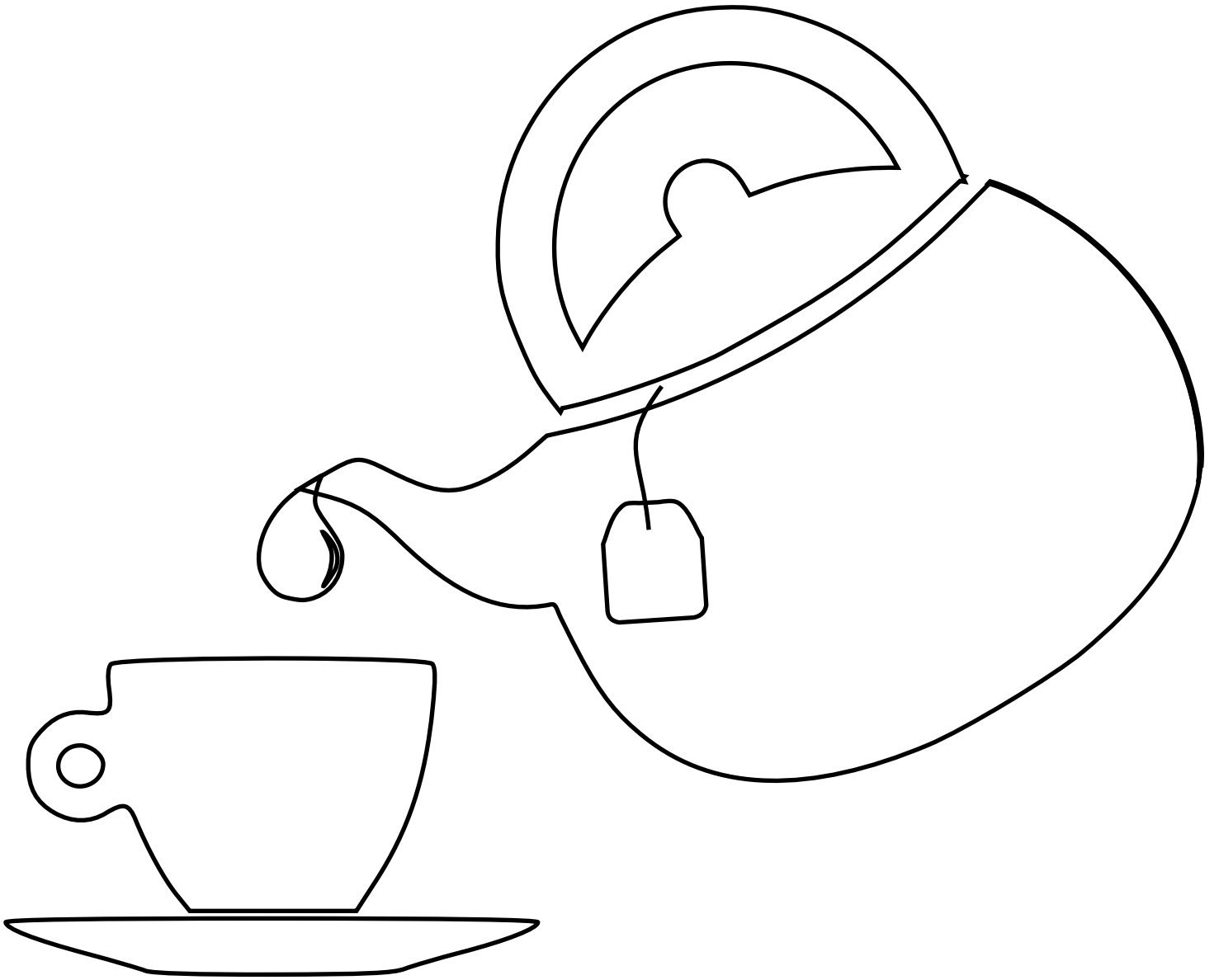




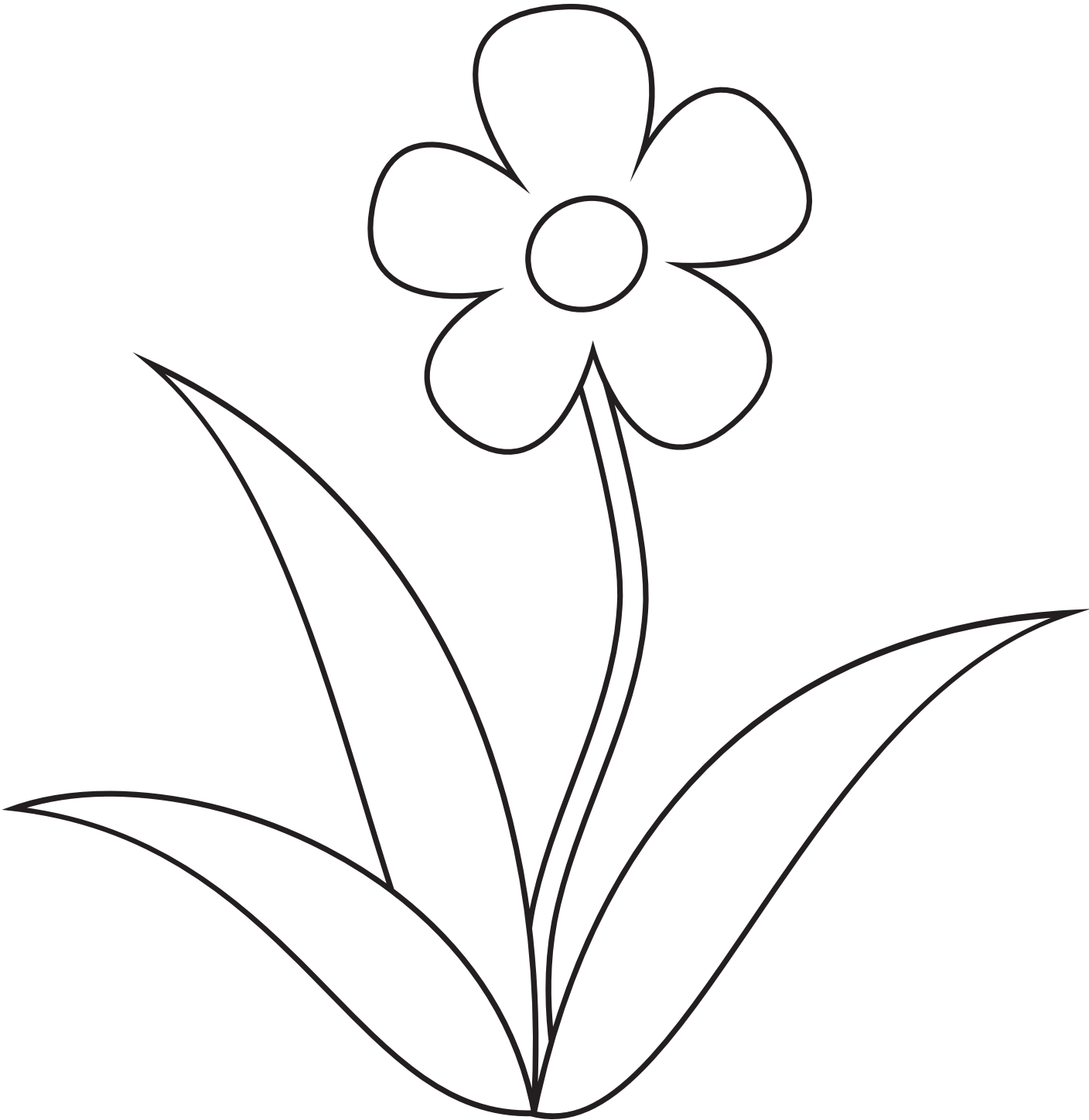


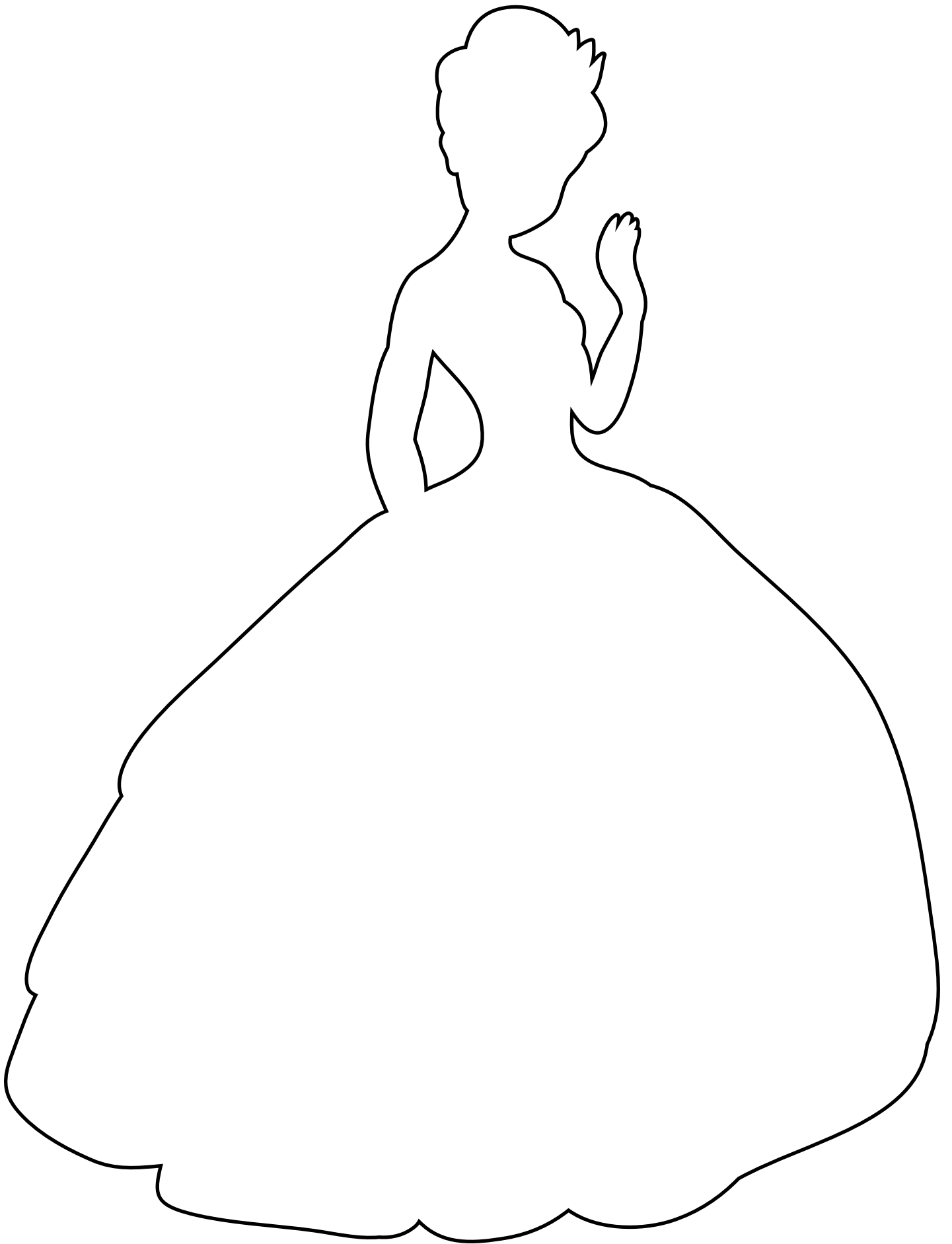














## Sources

- Laney, James D. "19th Century American and British Folk Art: Workshop and Home Tour 1 / 74." 19th Century American and British Folk Art: Workshop and Home Tour. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University of North Texas, 2019. <https://olli.unt.edu/>.
- "Pin Prick Picture." Worthington Memory. Worthington Historical Society, 2001. [www.worthingtonmemory.org](http://www.worthingtonmemory.org).
- "Pin Prick Pictures with Watercolour." galleryELL. galleryELL & john ros, 2016. <https://galleryell.com/>.
- The image of the Pin Prick Picture is from the collections of the Worthington Historical Society (WHS) and may be used for educational purposes as long as it is not altered in any way and proper credit is given: "Courtesy of the Worthington Historical Society, Worthington, OH." Prior written permission of the WHS is required for any other use of Pin Prick Picture. Contact WHS at [info@worthingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@worthingtonhistory.org) to request permission.
- The image "Pin-prick picture of a gentleman" is from the Victoria and Albert Museum, Department of Prints and Drawings and Department of Paintings, Accessions 1949, London: HMSO, 1961.