

Modifying Behavior In December



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How To Get Your Students to Behave In December

Are your students a bit squirrely after the November break? Mine are always a little more crazy and I think it's because they are consumed with all of the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Here's Ho-Ho-Ho-ping you have a great December with your students; and to help you along, I've designed some really fun things that will help you, help your students put their best foot forward so you can get down to the business of teaching instead of preaching the rules.



Behavior Modification Ideas: I get a lot of mileage out of the phrase: **"Santa's watching!"** Any adults who happen to pop in my room will also remind us of this. It's one of the benefits of teaching young children. I enlist the help of the janitors, the office staff and anyone else I know is sometimes out and about in the halls. When Christmas decorations go on sale for ridiculous prices I buy those strips of sleigh bells and jingle bracelets and pass them out to the educational staff asking them to "jingle" as they go by. Thanks to the **Polar Express** everyone knows that if you truly **believe** in Christmas you can hear Santa's bells. Those elves are watching and so is Santa! **"He's making a list and checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty and nice..."** so you sure don't want to be found in the Time Out chair or making an unwise choice in the month of December when those elves are peeking in.

It really cracks me up when my students actually freeze when they hear an innocent little jingle through out our day and explain that they heard Santa's helpers spying on us! Uh oh we better be on our best behavior.



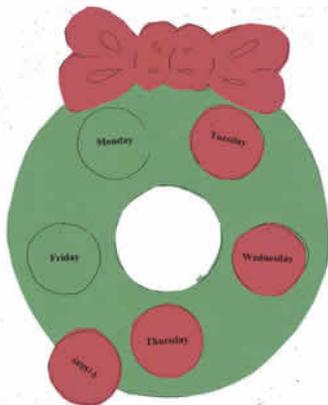
The List: As I catch children being good I add them to our **"Santa's Watching!"** good boy and girl list. Click on the link to print one. Use this as a topper on your white board. Just because your name has been added, does not mean if you make a poor choice it can't be erased, then you have to try and be caught again.... I've also

included a fun Santa's List **"Find your name"** skill sheet.



Letter From Santa: To get the good-behavior ball rolling I send a letter to each of my students from Santa. I print them on Christmas paper that you can buy at The Dollar store and tuck them in a Christmas card. I sign "Love Santa" with green and red markers on the inside of the card and stamp the envelopes with several stamps. One is Santa making a list, the other is Santa on his sleigh. I add Santa's address label (from the North Pole of course) and a sticker that says: "A letter from Santa". My school has everyone's address in a data base so our secretary is kind enough to print out a sheet of labels; because this is a student activity, my school provides the postage.

I also buy those ultra tiny Ziploc Baggies and put a teaspoon of oatmeal mixed with glitter in them. This is a sweet treat for Rudolph and his crew. The child sprinkles it on the lawn on Christmas Eve. Rudolph smells the oats and sees the glitter sparkling on the snow and knows just where each child lives! It adds to the fun. My students are so excited to tell me they received a letter from Santa! It's amazing how their behavior improves as well! You can make some for your children too.



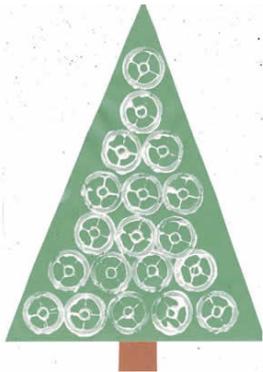
I Need A Little Incentive Today! I've also made some **incentive charts** for you to use. Choose one to use as a whole-group so that children learn the life skill of working together. I have a year-long theme of TEAM. It's an acronym for Together Everyone Achieves More. Use this incentive plan to get children to transition quickly, line up and

stay quiet in line, get things cleaned up and put away etc. They are also a great way for your students to learn the days of the week.

Choose one for children to work on their individual behavior as well. December is that time of year when little ones have gotten over their shyness. They've also made friends and are now more than chatty. They feel comfortable and are treating each other like siblings so reacting in an inappropriate way when someone pushes them or takes a toy away is not uncommon. A little incentive chart is just what you may be needing right now.

There are several to choose from, or use one each week. How they work: Put up the Christmas tree poster. If everyone behaves, gets their work done (whatever you have as a goal) then they get the Monday ornament put on the tree or colored in, the same thing for Tuesday etc. When they have earned all of the ornaments they receive whatever prize you decided upon. (free recess, new center to play at, trip to the treasure box, candy treat, game time etc.) I also have stripe a candy cane, (I buy flavored canes for this one and at the end of the week each child gets a candy cane.

I don't buy peppermint ones because I've discovered that quite a few of my students don't like peppermint! I do bring in some peppermint canes and we do that as a graphing activity.) I also have a wreath that you put berries on. Run the master off on green paper as well as red then cut the pieces out. The 4th one is a gingerbread man where you color in the buttons. I have also made a blank set with more circles, if you'd like to run them off and make them into individual behavior sheets or choose one of these as your group activity and then pick the Tree-mendous tree or Santa's Beard below as your individual behavior program.



Tree-mendous Behavior! Save an empty spool of thread or buy one at The Dollar Store and stamp your way into some tree-mendous behavior. Run off a class set of trees on green construction paper. Have your students cut them out. Add a brown rectangle for a trunk and a yellow star at the top where they write their name. Now wait 'til you catch them being good, or accomplish a task and reward them by allowing them to stamp their tree. A full tree deserves a special reward don't you think?



Santa's Beard Needs Some Fluff! This is the same concept as above only using Santa's help. There are a specific number of circles on Santa's beard and they need a "good-behavior-cotton ball" glued to them to help fill up Santa's beard! You can hang your Santa's on the wall and use glue dots so everyone, including Santa's spying elves, can see them! Whose Santa has the fullest beard? You can send a note about the Santa's in your newsletter asking parents to ask their child how their Santa is doing, and how many cotton balls they received that day. That should be a nice motivator!



Punch Me Please: I don't know about your students, but mine love using my paper punch + it's a great fine motor skill that strengthens their hand muscles. I thought how can I incorporate this more; and designed this activity. Run off the trees on green construction paper and have your class cut them out and add a brown construction paper trunk and write their name on it. Hang the trees on a class room bulletin board or wall. Keep strips of various colored "garland" handy in an envelope. Each child gets to choose their first one and keeps it taped to the side of their desk or at their table by their name card. Each time the teacher catches them being good, or they accomplish their Table Top lessons, or hand in their homework (whatever you decide on) they get to use the paper punch and punch a hole in their garland. When they get 10 punches they glue the garland on their tree.

Home Schooling Parental Tip: One mom came to me and confided that her child was an absolute terror. She was so naughty that she felt like she should give her coal for Christmas, and asked if I had any ideas. This child was a real "girlie girl princess". She loved our dress up trunk and the jewelry case. I suggested going to the Dollar Store and picking out some make up things, nail polish, a crown, dress up high heels, perfume, etc. Each time she was caught behaving she could pick something out of the treasure box and put it in her stocking. If she misbehaved she had to take something out of her stocking. Her mom said it worked so well that she was going to do it with the presents under the tree! She had a stash that was for "anyone". If she behaved she got to put her name on one. If she didn't she had to take it off and put it back in the pile!



Shall I Freeze Or Should I Melt? To

help get the wiggles out so that I don't have behavior problems, I allow my students to FREEZE and MELT! I have them dance and prance around the carpet area as quickly as they can, watching me out of the corner of their eye, to see if I'll hold up a snowflake or sun. If they see Mr. Snowflake they quickly FREEZE in whatever position they are in. If they see Mr. Sunshine they slowly plop to the floor melting as they go; falling like the Wicked Witch of the West!

I made my Freeze and Melt signs from a huge snowflake cut out that I purchased at a party store. The sun I made from a piece of yellow tag board. I laminated both pieces. I made a set of clip art posters for you, if you don't want to start from scratch.

I Ho Ho Ho-pe these ideas will help fill your bag of tricks for the holiday season and help your children behave so things run smoothly!



Santa's List!



Santa's List

Directions: This is a timed test. You have 15 seconds. Find your name below and circle it. The 1st one to find their name gets a sticker!

Merry Christmas



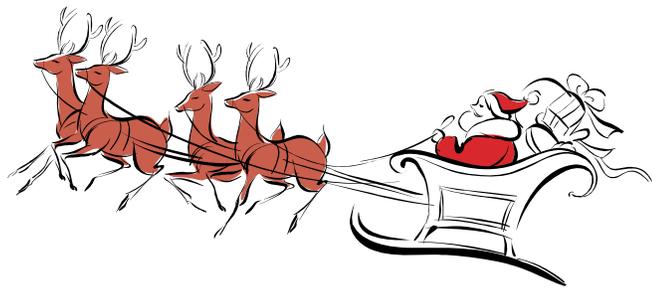
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A Letter From Santa

Background...

- I wondered if getting a personal letter from Santa would help improve my students' wild December behavior (they are soooo excited!) and add to the wonder of Christmas.
- So one afternoon 10 years ago, I decided to sit down and become Santa for an hour and I composed a letter for a boy and one for a girl, then I put each of my student's names in, put some Christmas- printed paper in my copier and within 10 minutes I had 38 personal letters from Santa!
- Then I designed some adorable North Pole address labels, + a sticker that said: A Letter From SANTA
- Xeroxed off a coloring page,
- Tucked in a sticker and took it a step farther.
- I bought a box of Quaker Oats at the grocery store and a big bottle of blue glitter and I made up an enticing batch of "reindeer food" for Rudolph and the gang.
- Craft stores sell the little clear Ziploc bags in packs of 100 for \$1.49, so with spoon in hand I was in business scooping 1 spoon of oats and ½ teaspoon of glitter into a tiny bag. (And then shake it up.)
- A Christmas Stamp printed in green on the envelope was the finishing touch.
- I wrote everything with a green and red marker and tucked in a note explaining about the bag of glitter oats.
- Anything we send to students our school pays the postage for, so my total investment was around \$7.00.
- When cards go on sale for as much as 80% off, I watch for ones with Santa in his sleigh, or ones with Rudolph with him.

- I also buy Christmas stickers on sale so I can tuck that inside as well.
- A coloring page did NOT add to the postage, so I tuck that in too, and found an adorable one of Santa and his sleigh. Just watch for those Christmas coloring books that also go on sale, as well as a nice Christmas Print paper to copy the letter on.
- My students are thrilled. They get the cards in a day and some of them even bring them in to share with me. The looks of excitement and the sparkle in their eyes make the extra time and effort definitely worth it!
- The thing that's amazing is that each year in the 10 years that I've done this is that right after the children receive their cards their behavior IMPROVES!
- One year I had a mom ask if she could have a copy to run off for the rest of her children. I don't know why I hadn't thought of that! So now I keep that available for parents who request it.
- I have a girl and a boy version for you. Simply write your students names in and put the Christmas paper face down in your copy machine, or face up depending on your copier.
- Print my Santa address labels by putting my master in your printer with a sheet of 30-count Avery labels in the paper tray (one sheet at a time.) My HP printer has the labels face down. Follow the directions for yours.
- I don't mention the cards in my newsletter. I guess I want my parents to wonder who on earth Santa is too. ☺ I still hear the bell. Do you?



12/2010

Dear ,

I have heard from your family, and your teacher that you are trying to be a very good boy this year; so I thought I'd send you a letter to tell you to keep up the good work!

I hope you know that "I'm making a list and checking it twice. I'm going to find out who's naughty and nice." Because pretty soon I'll be coming to town! I just love that Christmas song!

I thought I'd include a little packet of glitter and oats for you to sprinkle around on your lawn Christmas Eve. The glitter will catch my eye as it sparkles under the stars, and Rudolph will smell the oats; so we'll both know we're at your house!

Until then, take care and continue to be a very good boy. Always try to do your best. My elves will be popping in to check up on you and all the other children. They're pretty careful that no one ever sees them. But if you're especially quiet, you may hear the jingle of their bells. (I have them wear bells on their shoes & hats so I know they're about. And of course, my reindeer all have bells on their harnesses too.) I wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Love, Santa

12/2010

Dear,

I have heard from your family, & teacher that you are trying to be a very good girl this year; so I thought I'd send you a letter to tell you to keep up the good work!

I hope you know that "I'm making a list and checking it twice. I'm going to find out who's naughty and nice." Because pretty soon I'll be coming to town! I just love that Christmas song!

I thought I'd include a little packet of glitter and oats for you to sprinkle around on your lawn Christmas Eve. The glitter will catch my eye as it sparkles under the stars, and Rudolph will smell the oats; so we'll both know we're at your house!

Until then, take care and continue to be a very good girl, especially at school. Always try to do your best. My elves will be popping in to check up on you and all the other children. They're pretty careful that no one ever sees them. But if you're especially quiet, you may hear the jingle of their bells. (I have them wear bells on their shoes and hats so I know they're about. And of course, my reindeer all have bells on their harnesses too.)

I wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Love, Santa



A card from SANTA!



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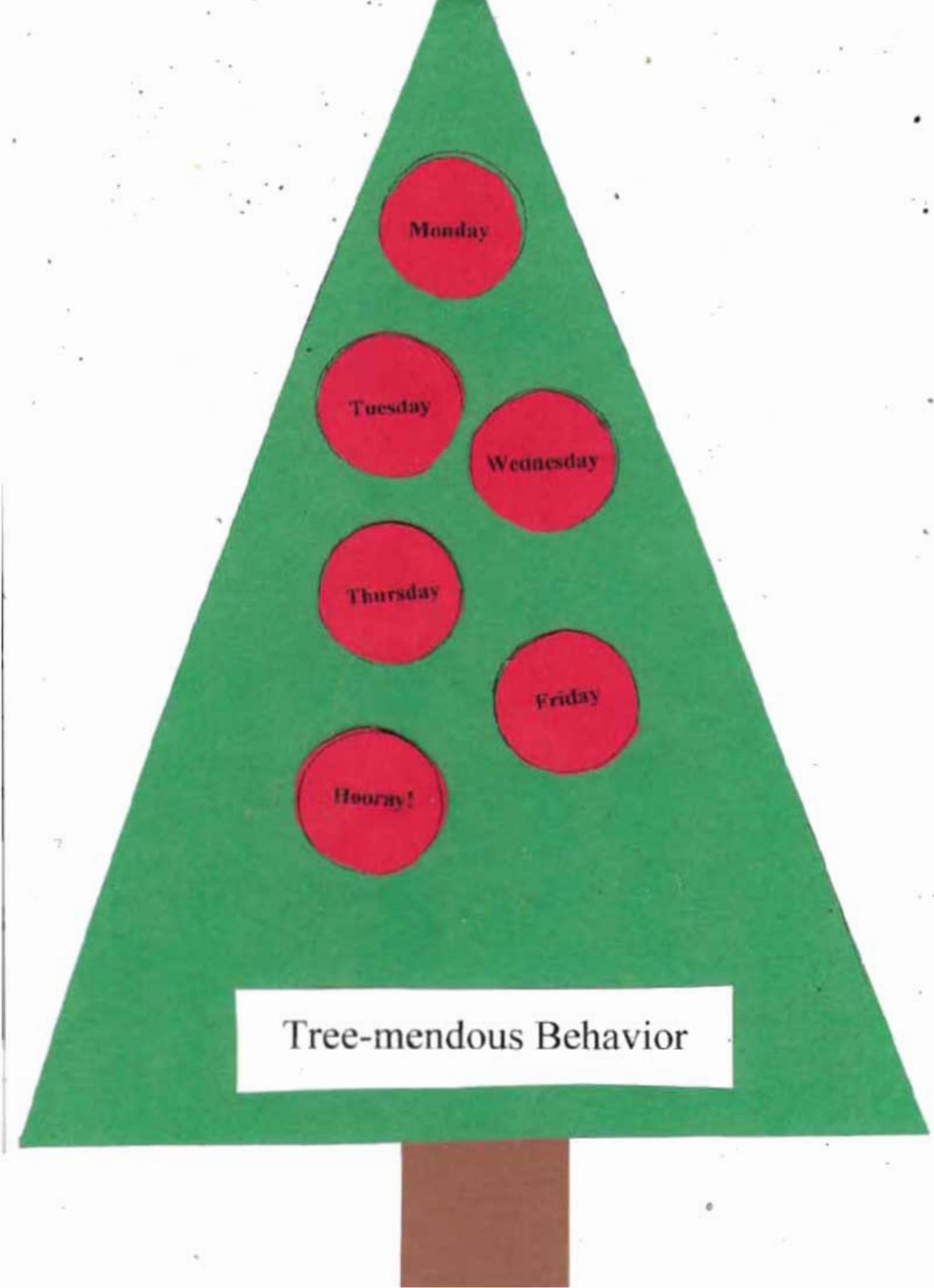
A card from SANTA!



A card from SANTA!



A card from SANTA!



Monday

Tuesday

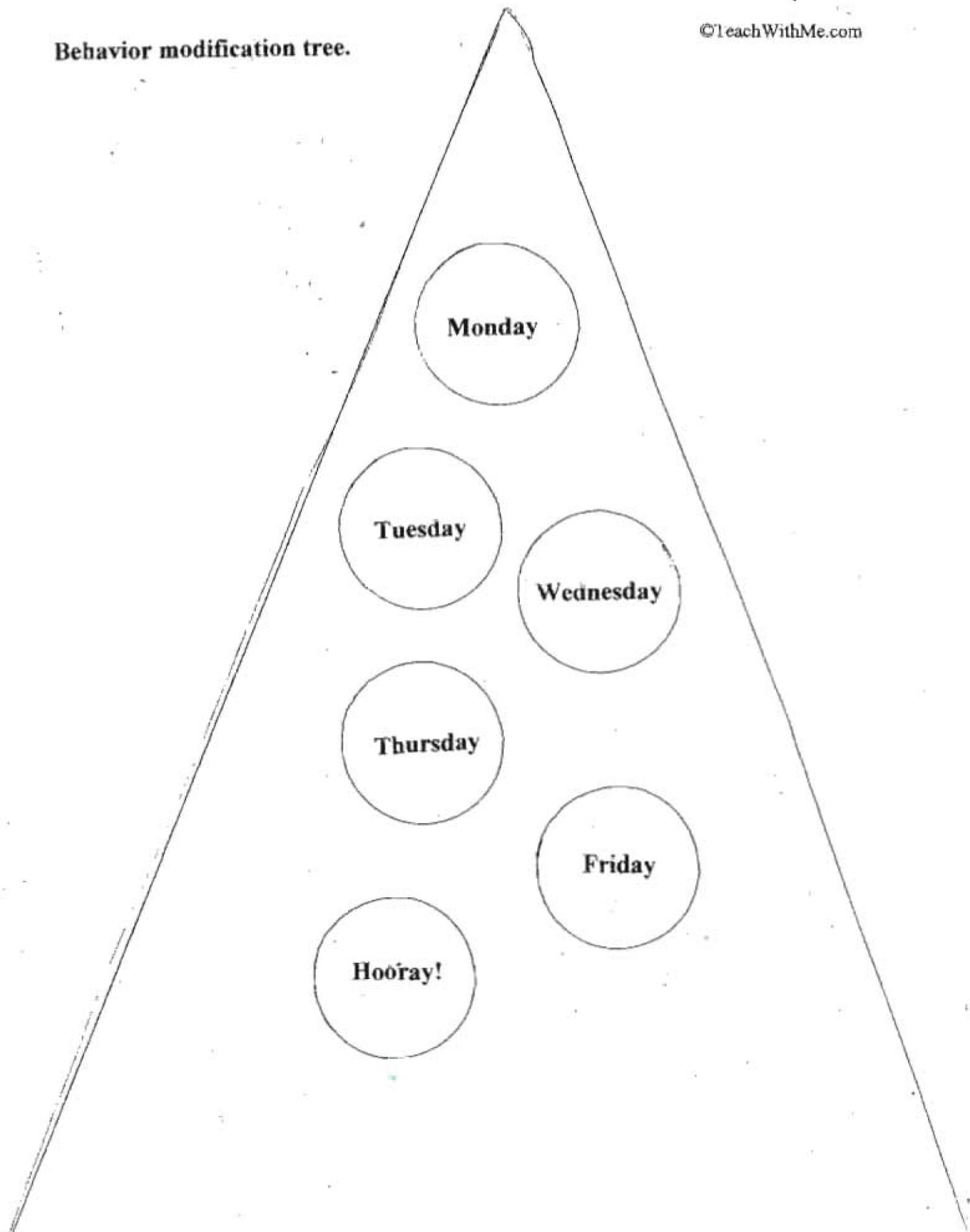
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Hooray!

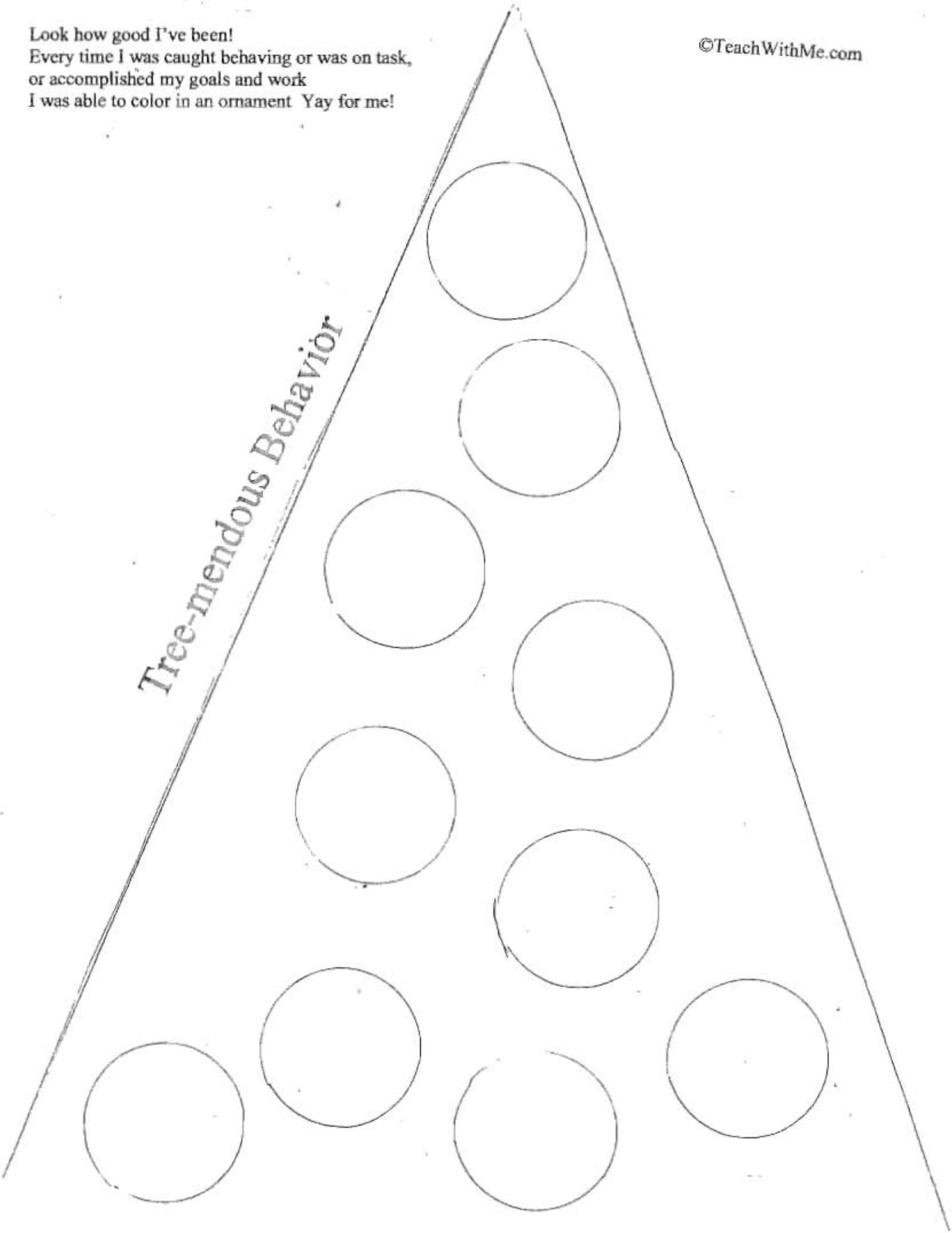
Tree-mendous Behavior



Tree-mendous Behavior

Look how good I've been!
Every time I was caught behaving or was on task,
or accomplished my goals and work
I was able to color in an ornament Yay for me!

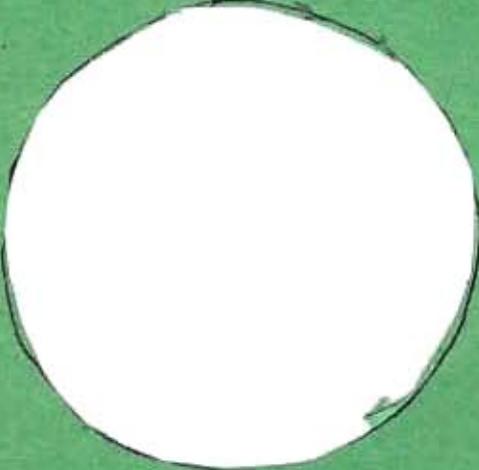
Tree-mendous Behavior





Monday

Tuesday

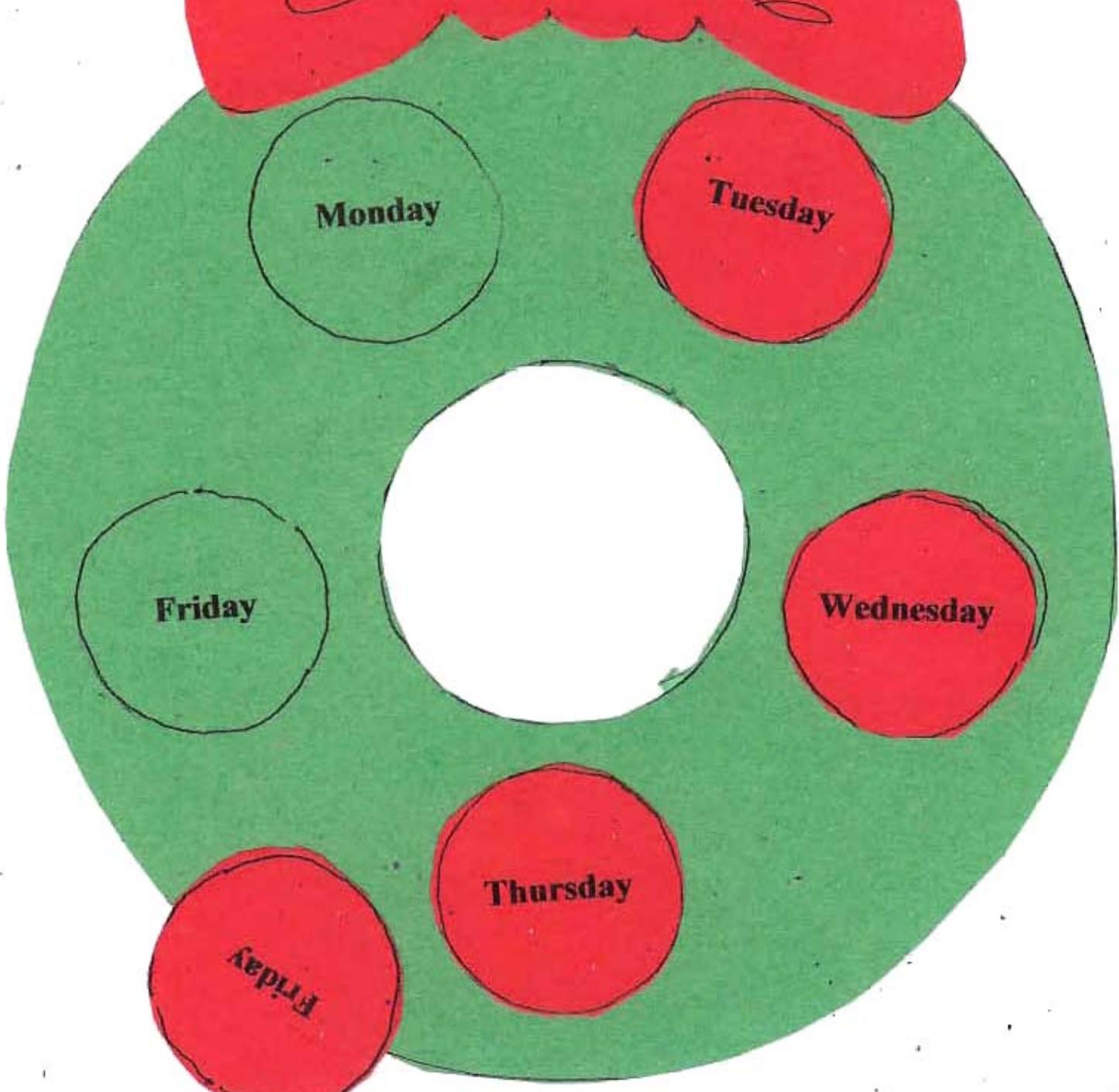


Friday

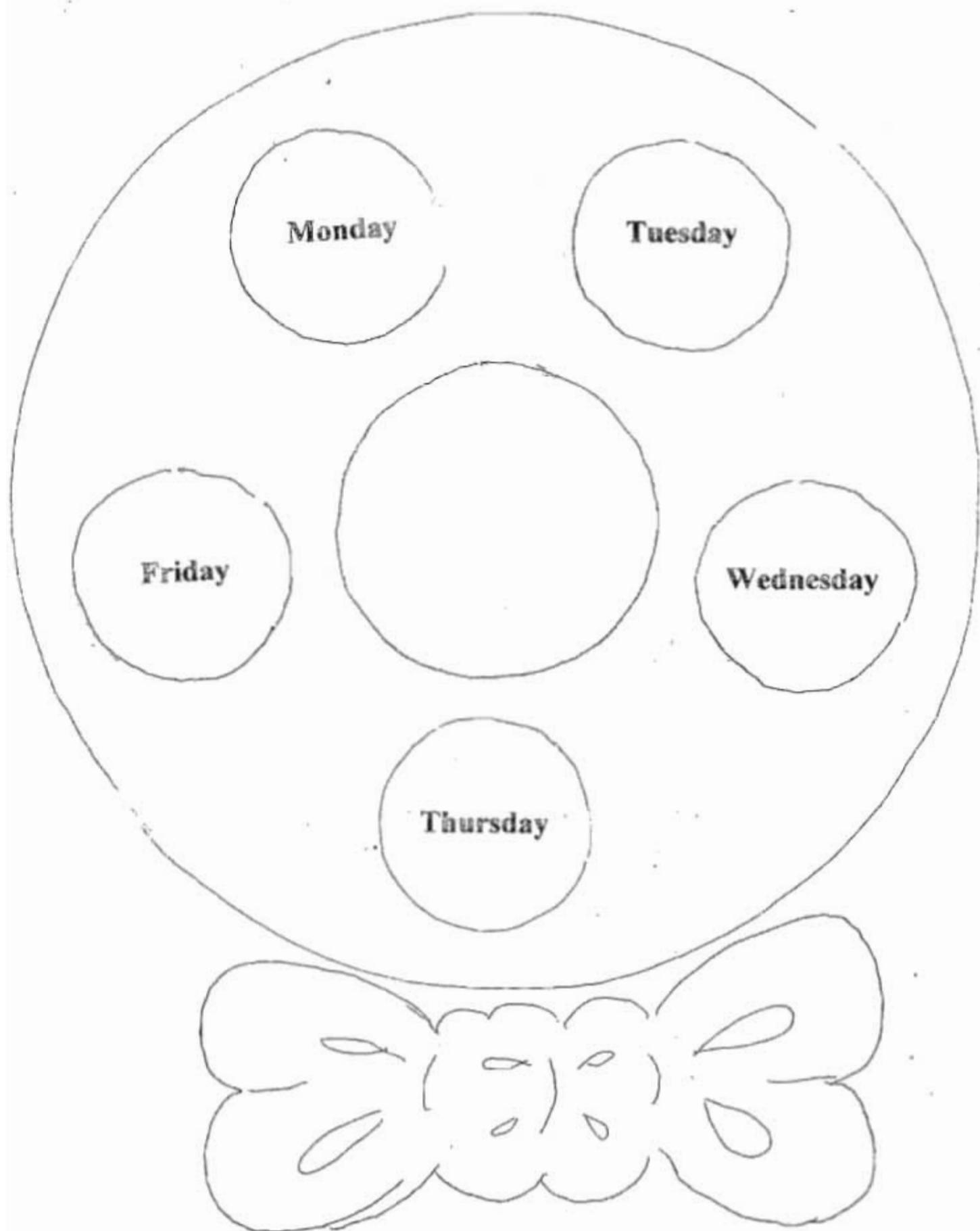
Wednesday

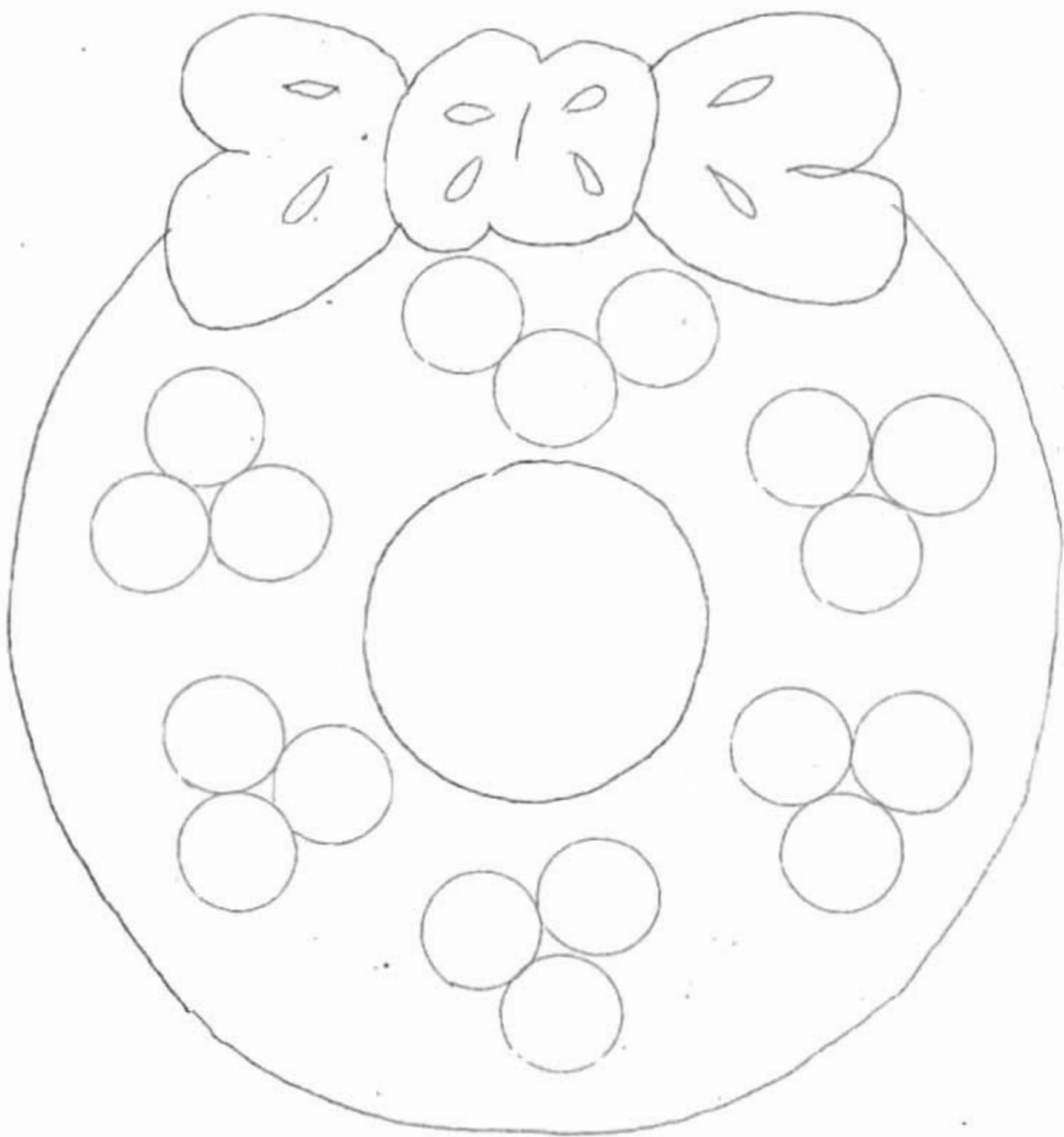
Thursday

Friday



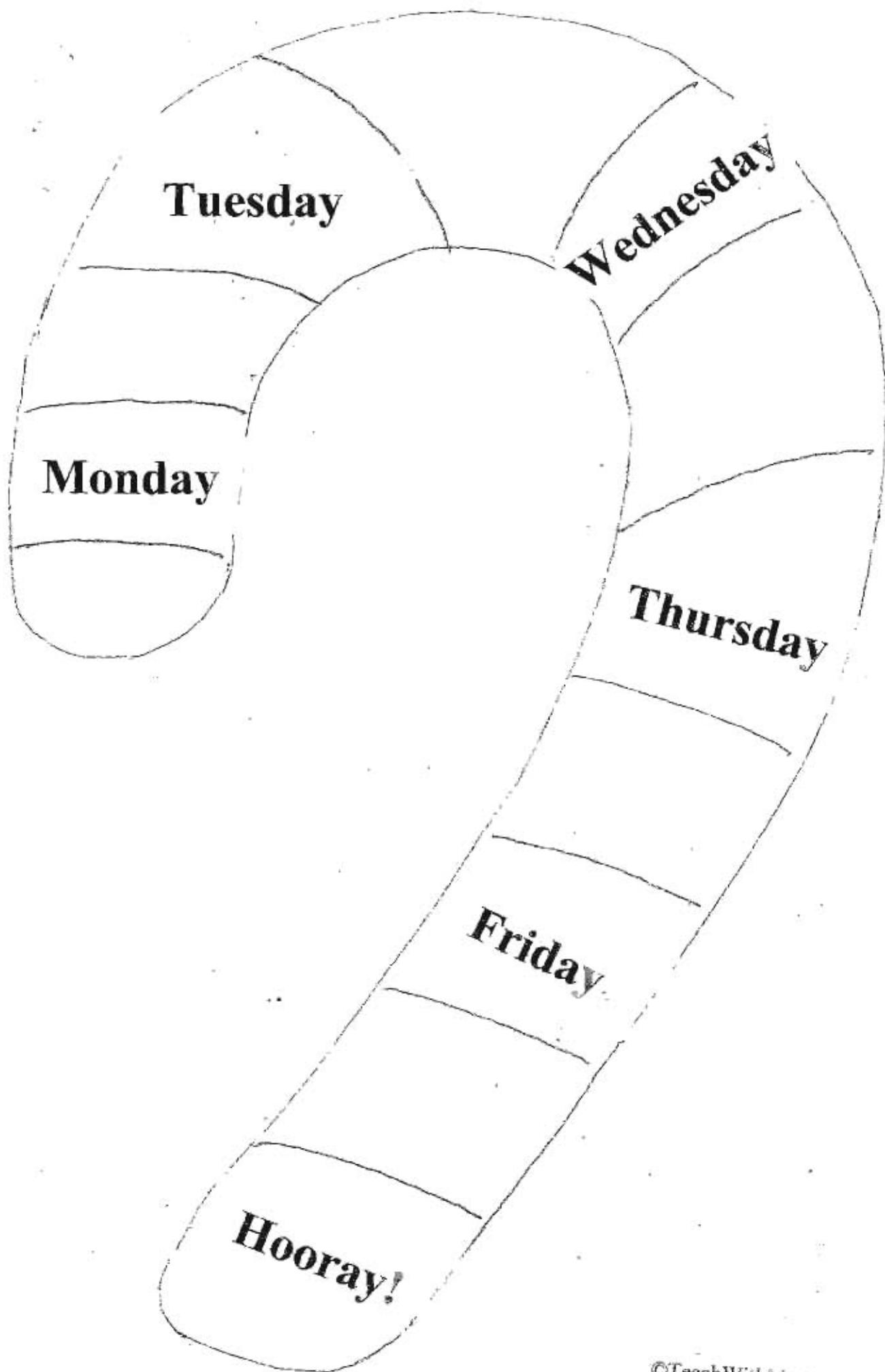
Behavior Modification Wreath





Look how good I've been!
Every time I was caught behaving or was on task,
or accomplished my goals and work
I was able to color in a berry! Yay for me!

Behavior Modification Wreath



Tuesday

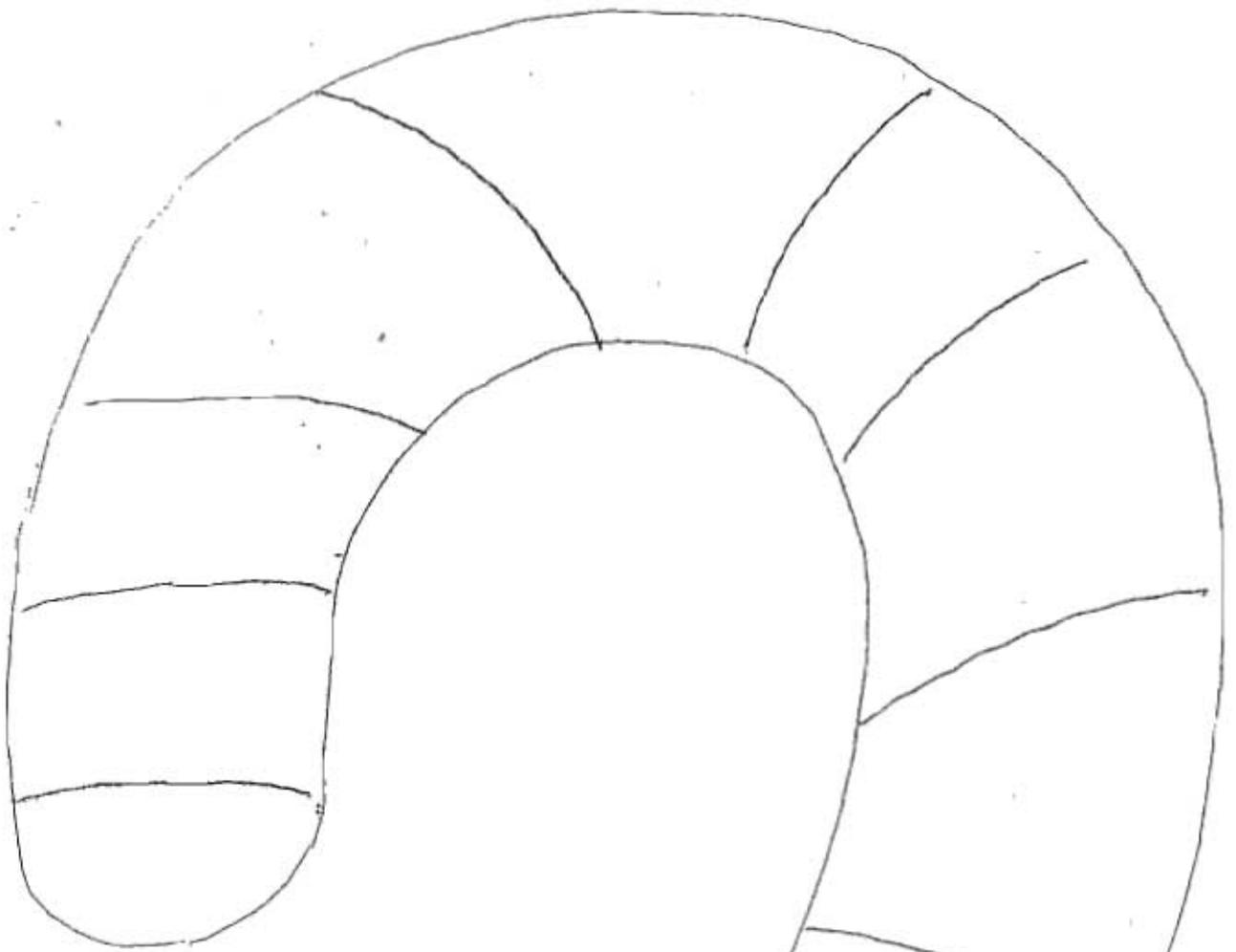
Wednesday

Monday

Thursday

Friday

Hooray!

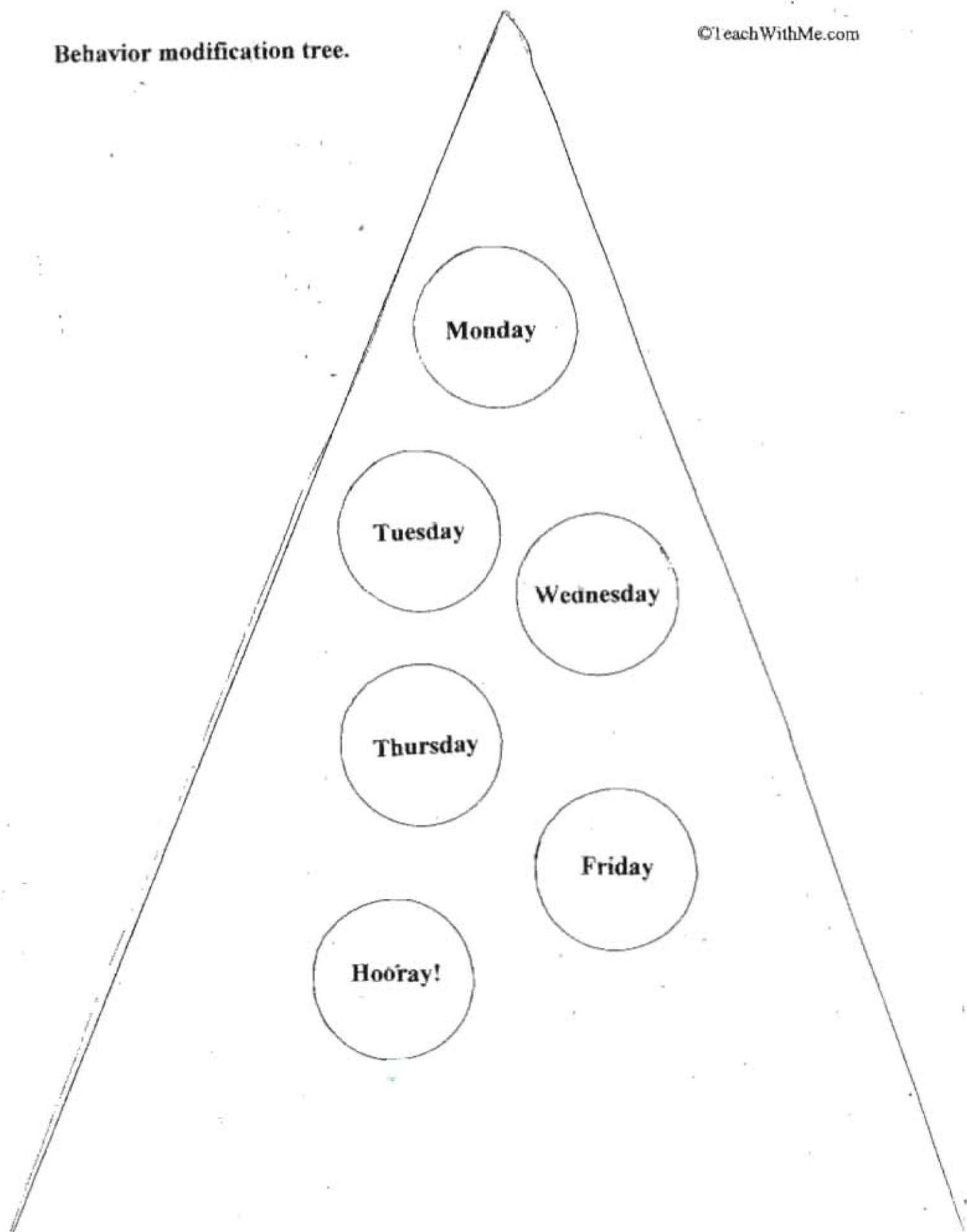


Look how well I behaved today!

Each time I was caught being good,
or accomplished my task,
I got to color in a stripe on my candy cane!



 Total:	 Total:

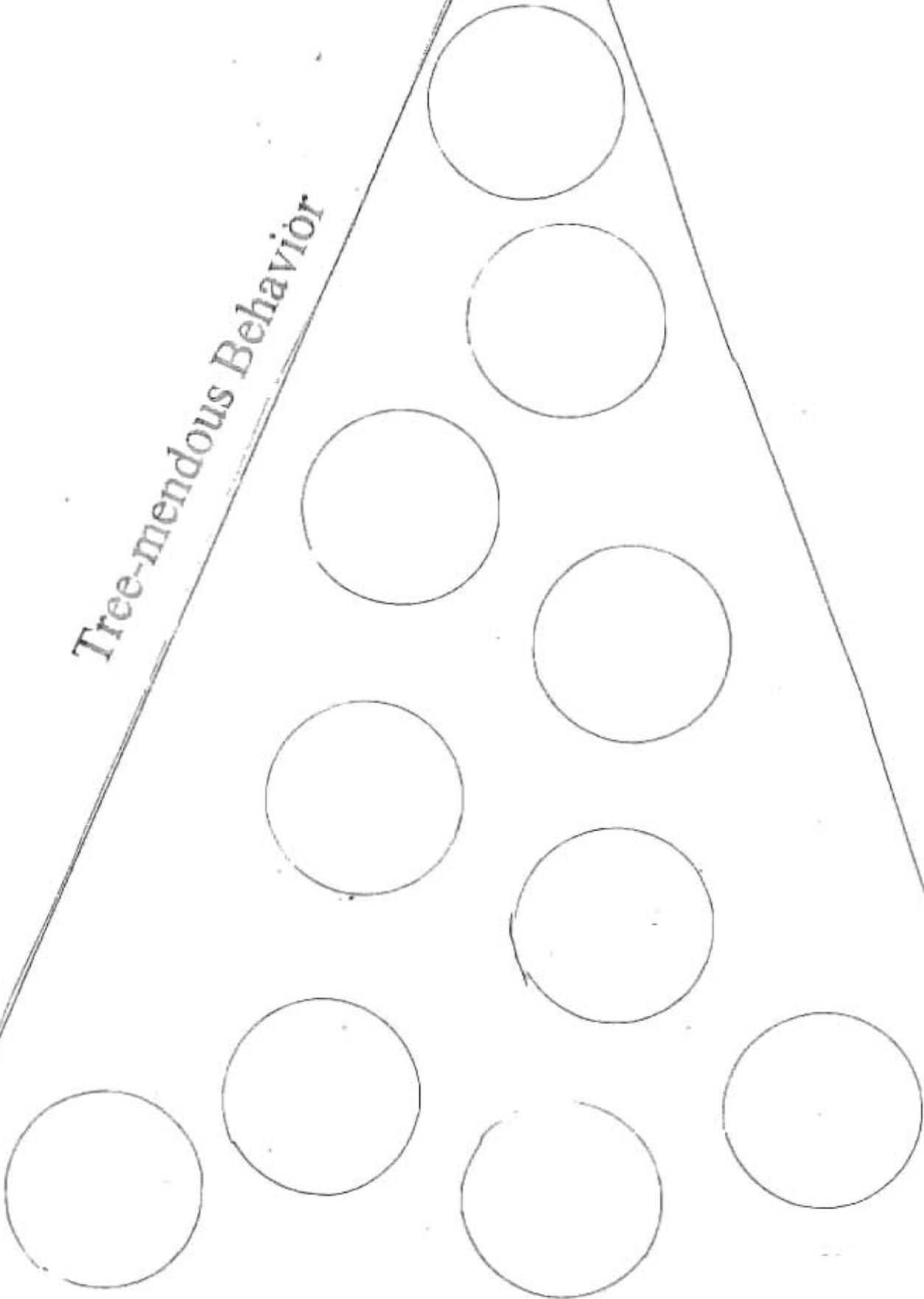


Tree-mendous Behavior

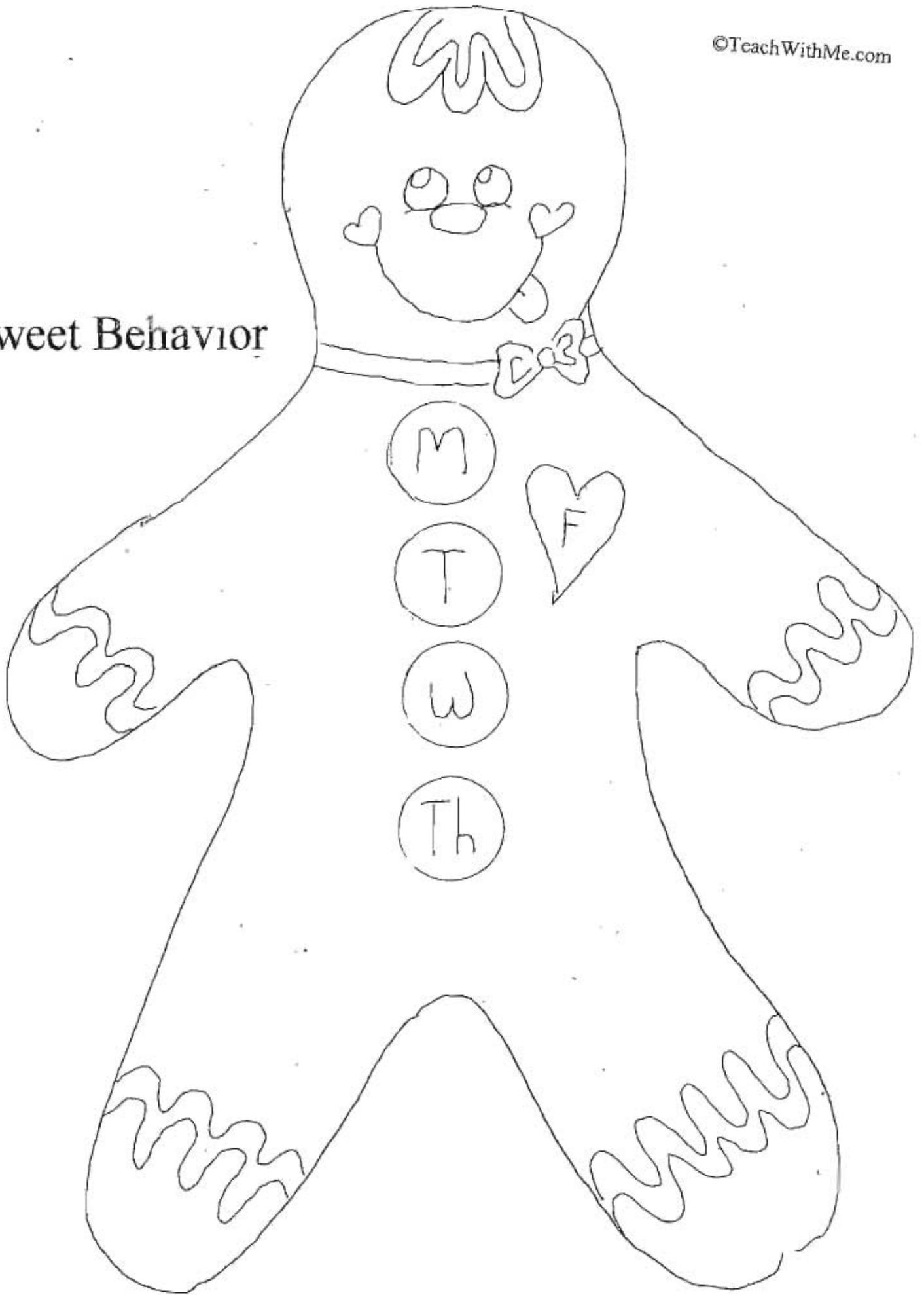
Look how good I've been!
Every time I was caught behaving or was on task,
or accomplished my goals and work
I was able to color in an ornament Yay for me!

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Tree-mendous Behavior

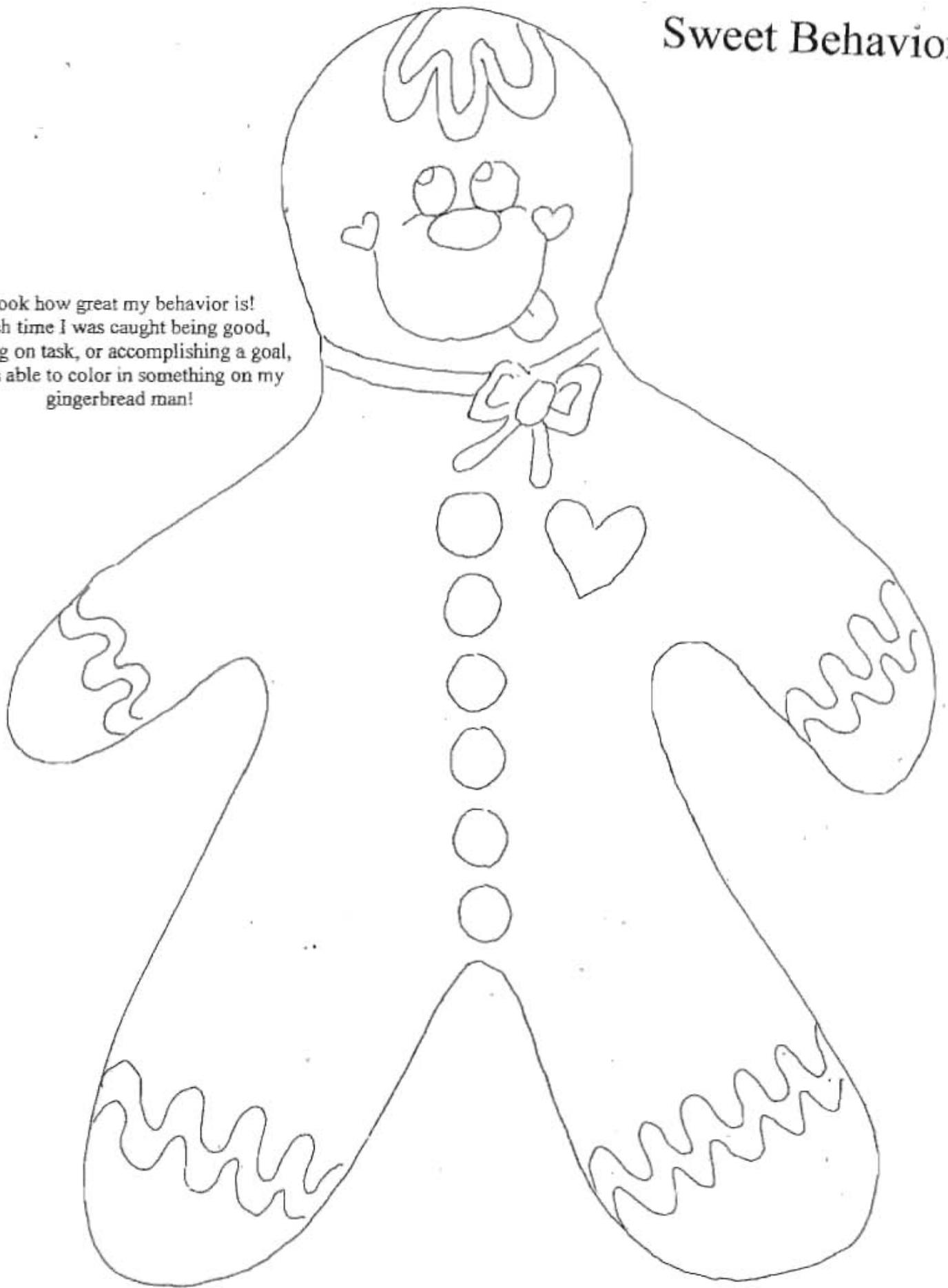


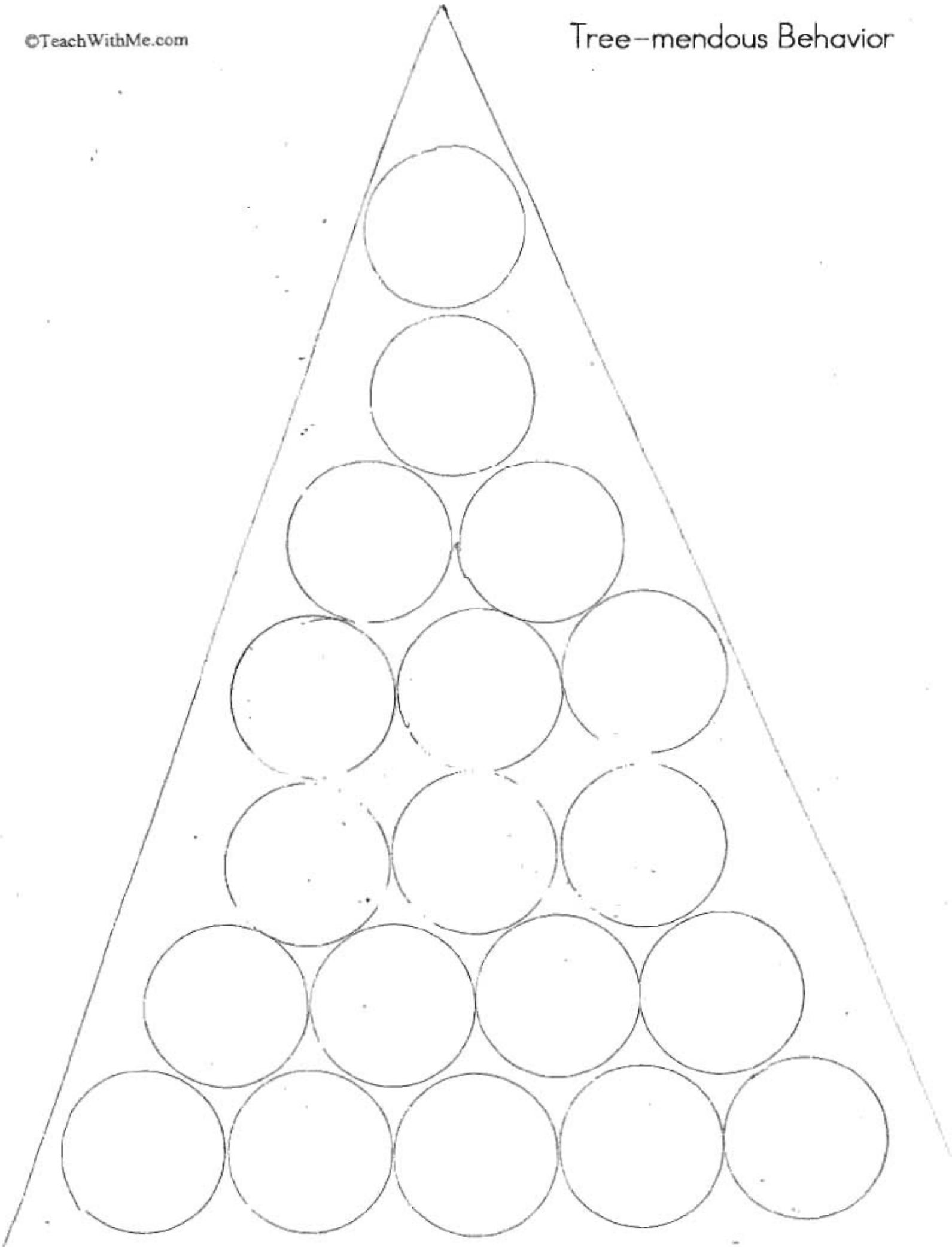
Sweet Behavior

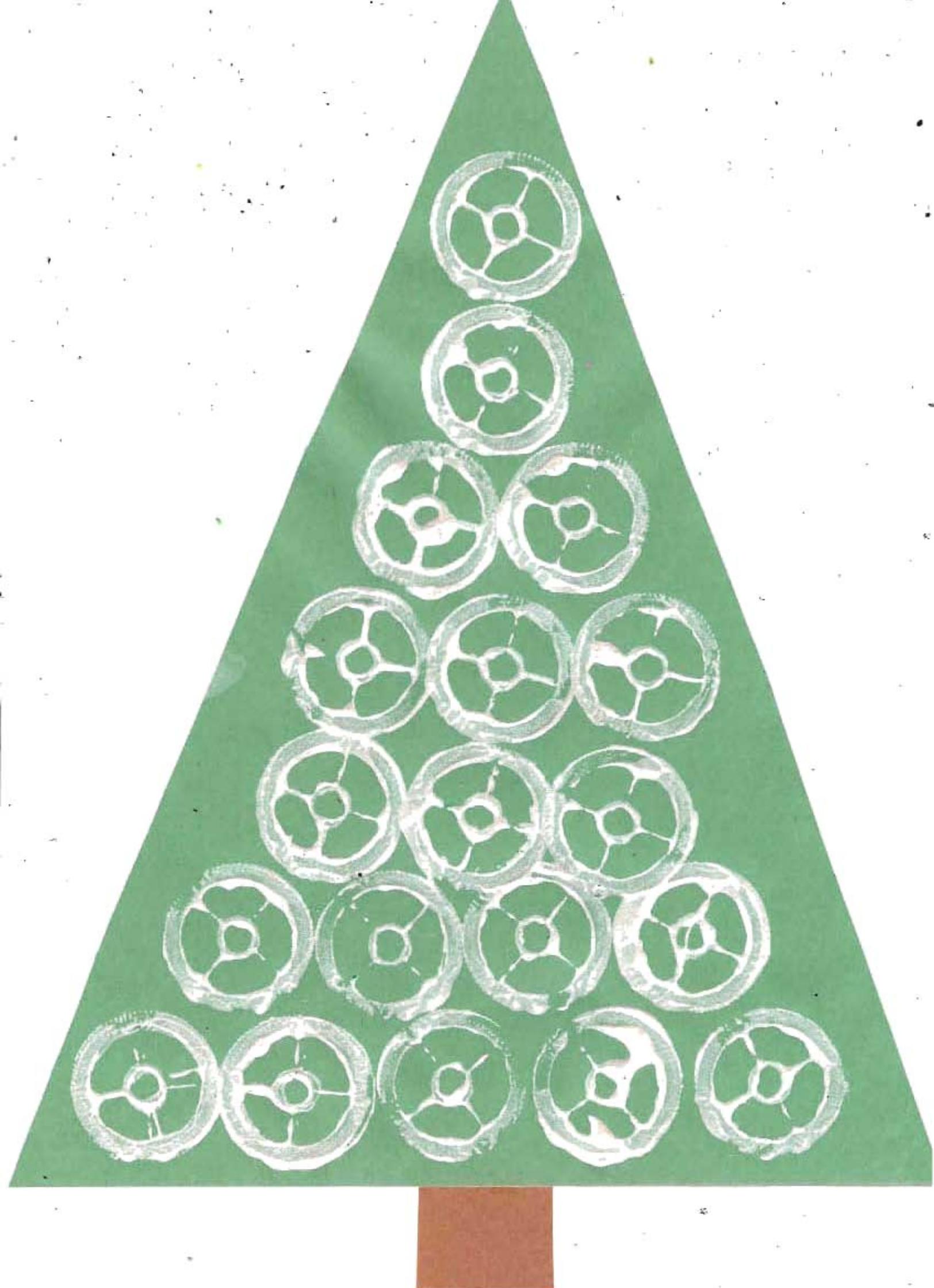


Sweet Behavior

Look how great my behavior is!
Each time I was caught being good,
staying on task, or accomplishing a goal,
I was able to color in something on my
gingerbread man!







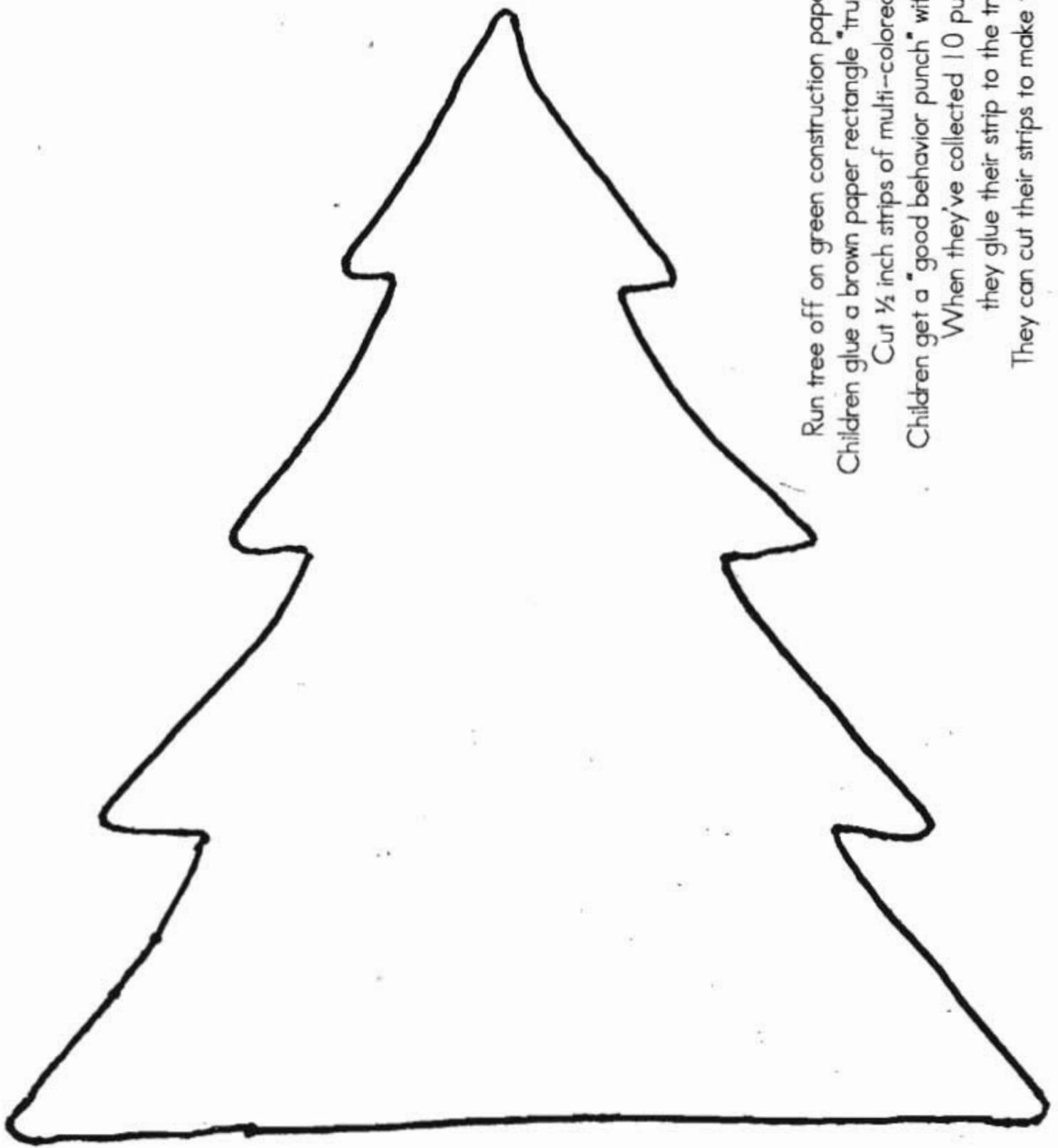
Good Behavior Beard



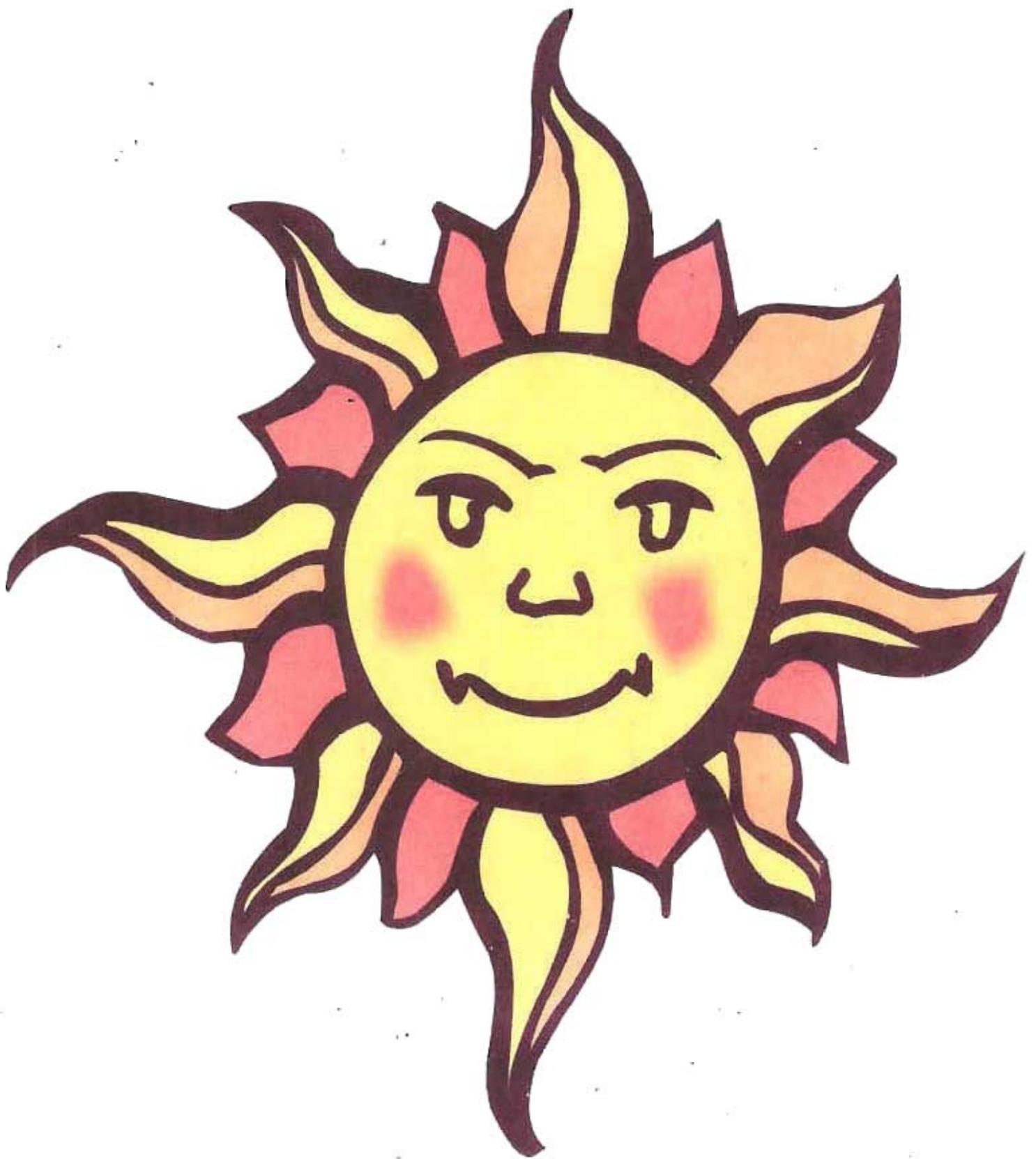


Diane

Punch Me Please! Good Behavior Garland



Run tree off on green construction paper and cut out.
Children glue a brown paper rectangle "trunk" to the bottom.
Cut 1/2 inch strips of multi-colored paper.
Children get a "good behavior punch" with a hole punch.
When they've collected 10 punches
they glue their strip to the tree.
They can cut their strips to make them fit.



Melt!



Freeze!



Freeze!