

ABC Playdough Mats

a letter recognition activity



by
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ALL ABOUT Reading

ABC Playdough Mats

These ABC Playdough Mats are colorful guides that help your child shape each letter with playdough. We've included mats for uppercase and lowercase letters along with tips for using them, so you can jump right in and get started!



There are three easy steps:

1. Prepare Your Letter Mats

- Print the letter mats (pages 4-29).
- Cut each sheet in half between the two letters.
- Laminate the cards to protect the paper from the playdough.

2. Prepare Some Playdough

If you don't have playdough on hand, you can follow this simple recipe for soft, pliable, long-lasting dough. [Click here](#) for a short instructional video.

- Place 1 cup flour, 1/2 cup salt, 1 cup water, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, and 1 tablespoon oil in a pot.
- Add drops of food coloring until desired color is achieved. Combine ingredients thoroughly.
- Stir constantly over low heat until mixture leaves the side of the pot.
- Knead the dough for 1-2 minutes until the color and consistency are uniform.
- Store in a plastic baggie or covered container.

3. Create the Alphabet

Now the fun begins! Form "ropes" by rolling the playdough on the table with your hands. Show your child how to place the ropes on the laminated mats to create the letters.

If your child's first attempts aren't perfect, that's okay! The ultimate goal is to create an enjoyable atmosphere as your child masters the alphabet.



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Other Variations

1. **Reduce the size.** Create smaller-scale versions of the letters using playdough, and then use them to spell simple words or your child's name.
2. **Join the fun.** Enjoy the experience with your child by creating each pair of letters together. Take turns so your child can practice both uppercase and lowercase letters.
3. **Skip the ropes.** If your child doesn't have the manual dexterity to create ropes, she can pat the playdough into shape, like Karista is doing in the photo.

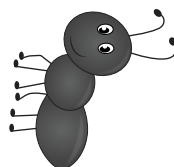
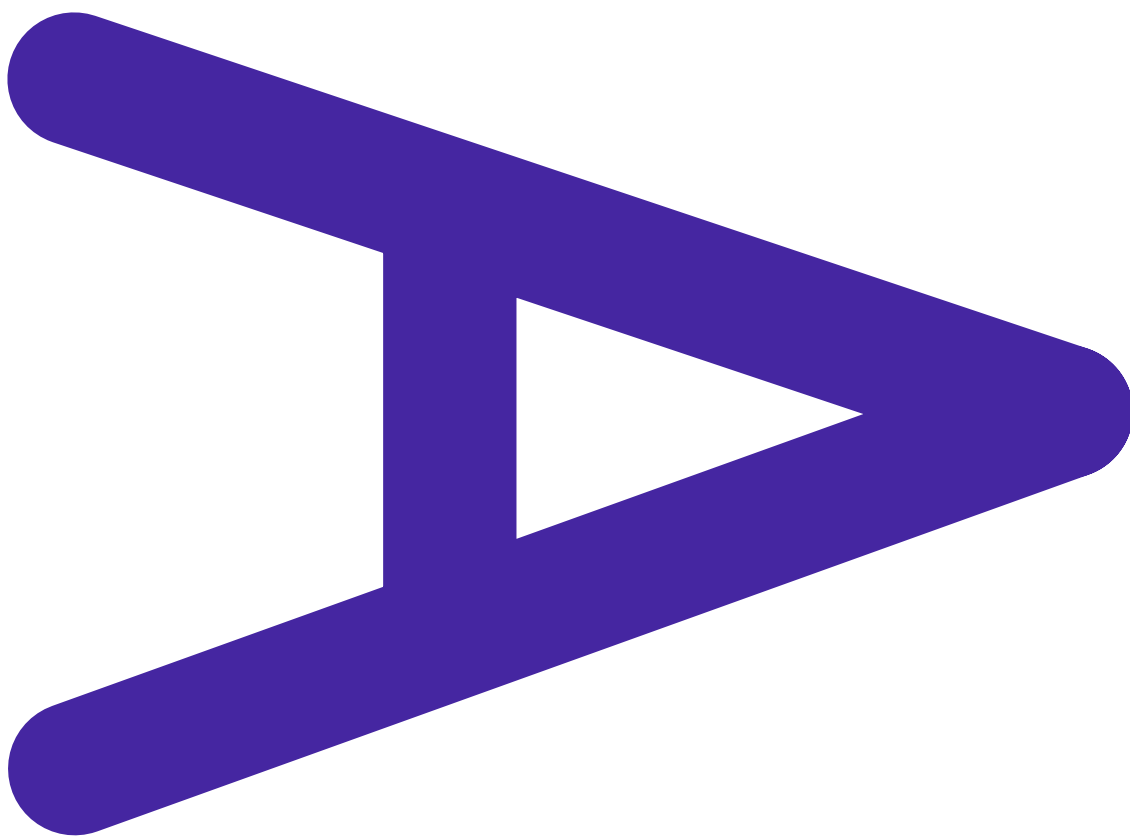
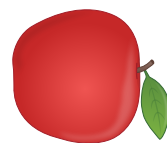


If Your Child Is Ready for Letter Sounds

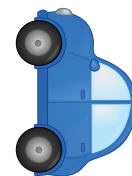
In the upper right corner of each letter mat, you'll find a small illustration. These illustrations are perfect for introducing your child to the letter sounds.

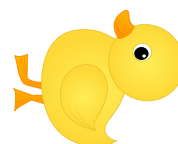
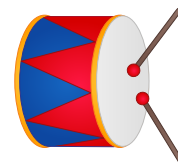
As you are working with the letter mats, you can casually mention that A says /ă/ as in *apple*, B says /b/ as in *ball*, and so on. If this is a first introduction to this idea, keep it light and playful. Your child may even want to build some of the illustrated items with playdough.

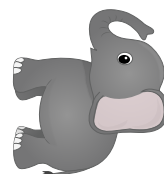
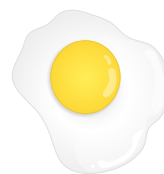
The only oddball letter in this activity is X. The most common sound of X is /ks/, which is only found at the end of words. To illustrate the letter X, therefore, we chose *fox* and *box*. When you get to those cards, you may wish to say "X says /ks/, like the last sound in *fox*."

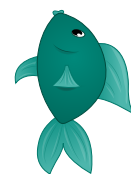


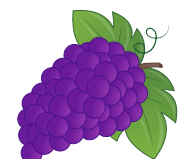


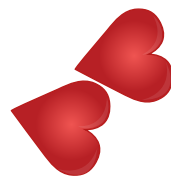


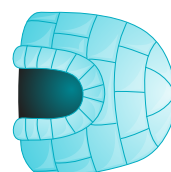


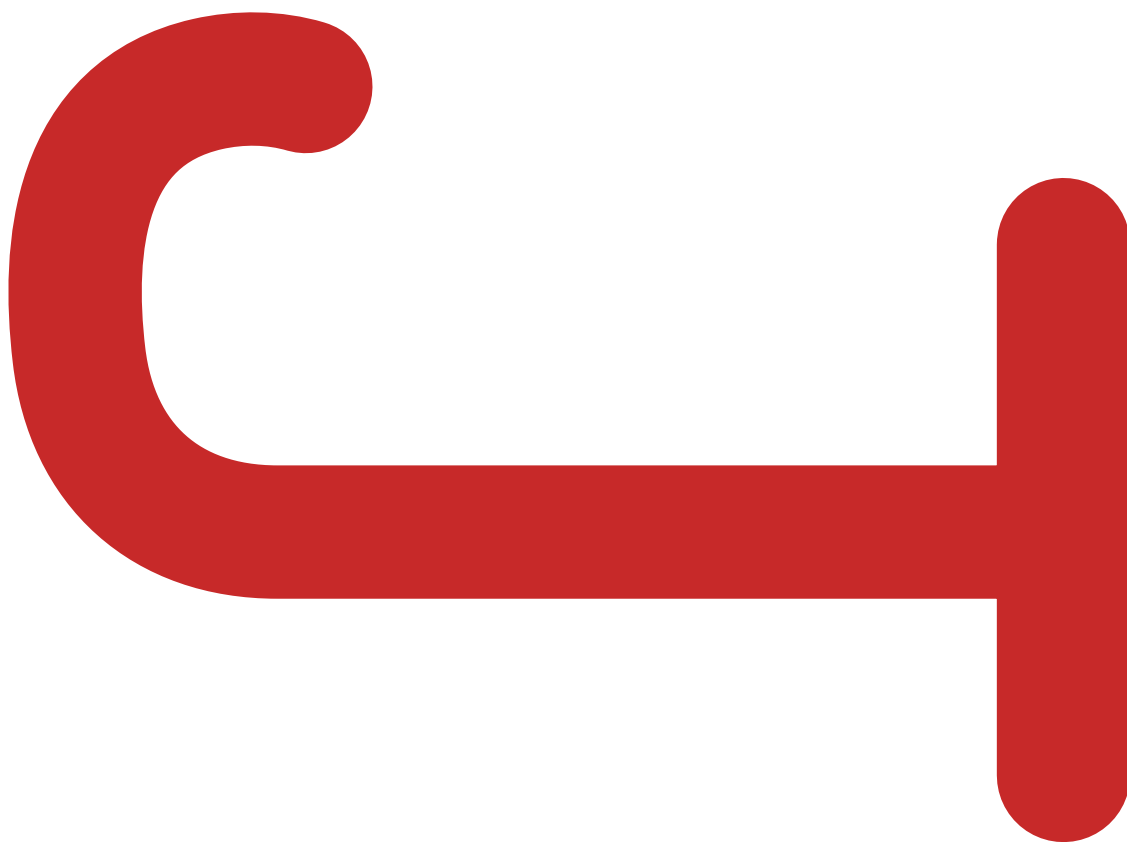




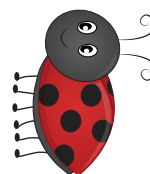


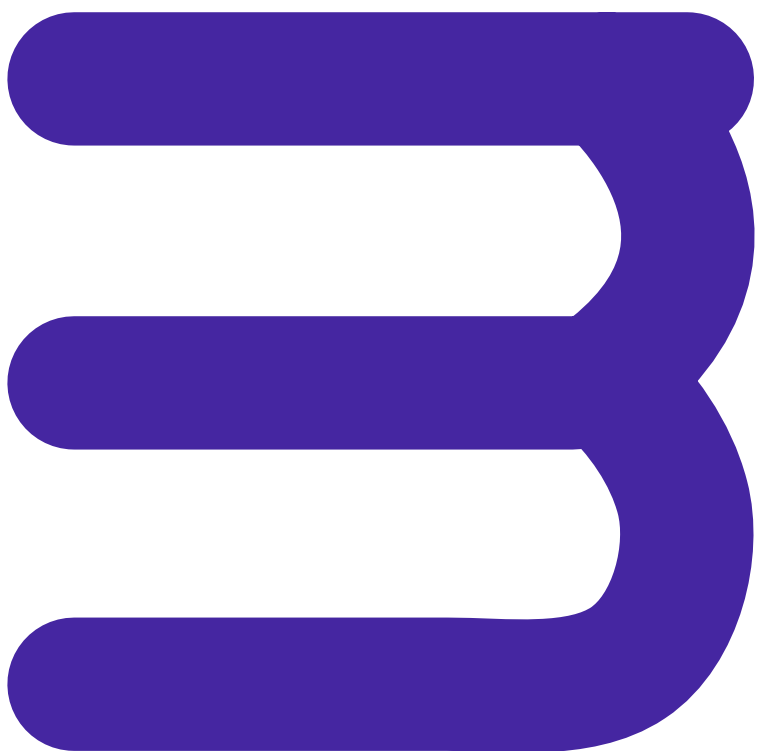
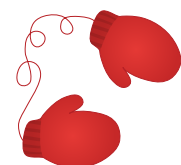
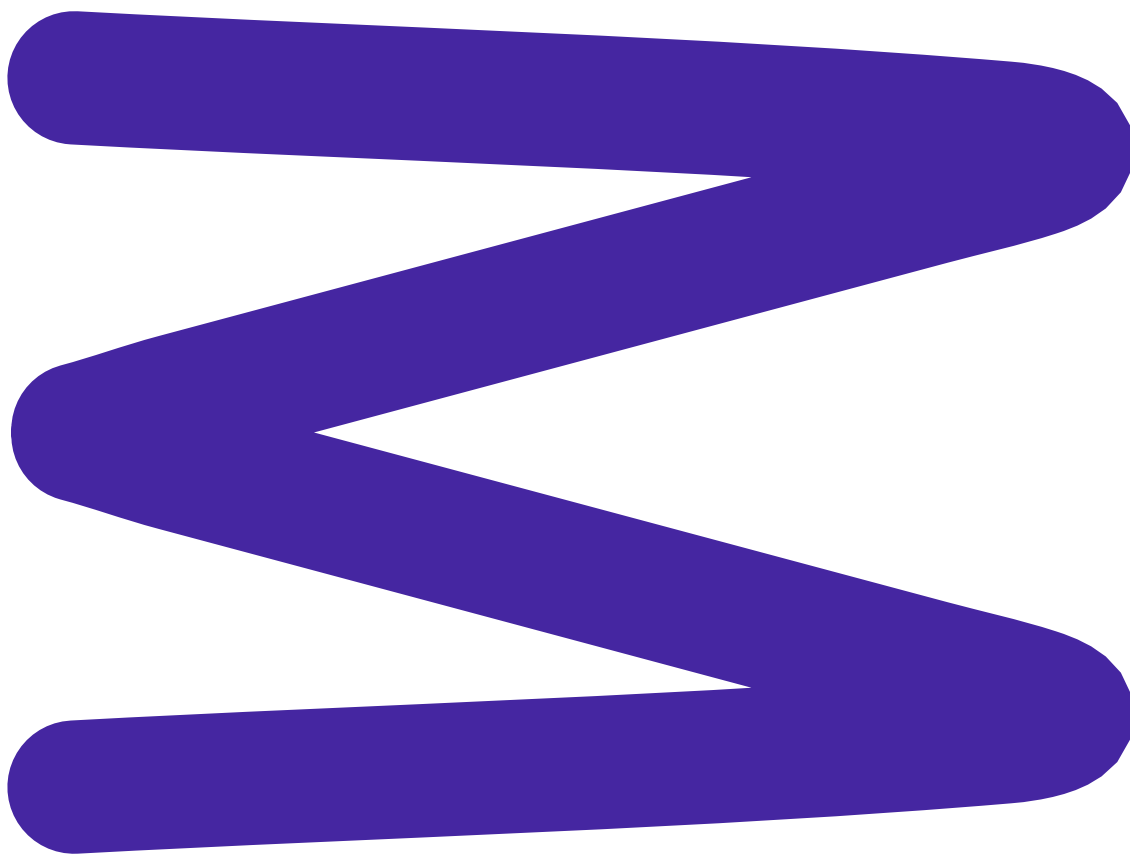


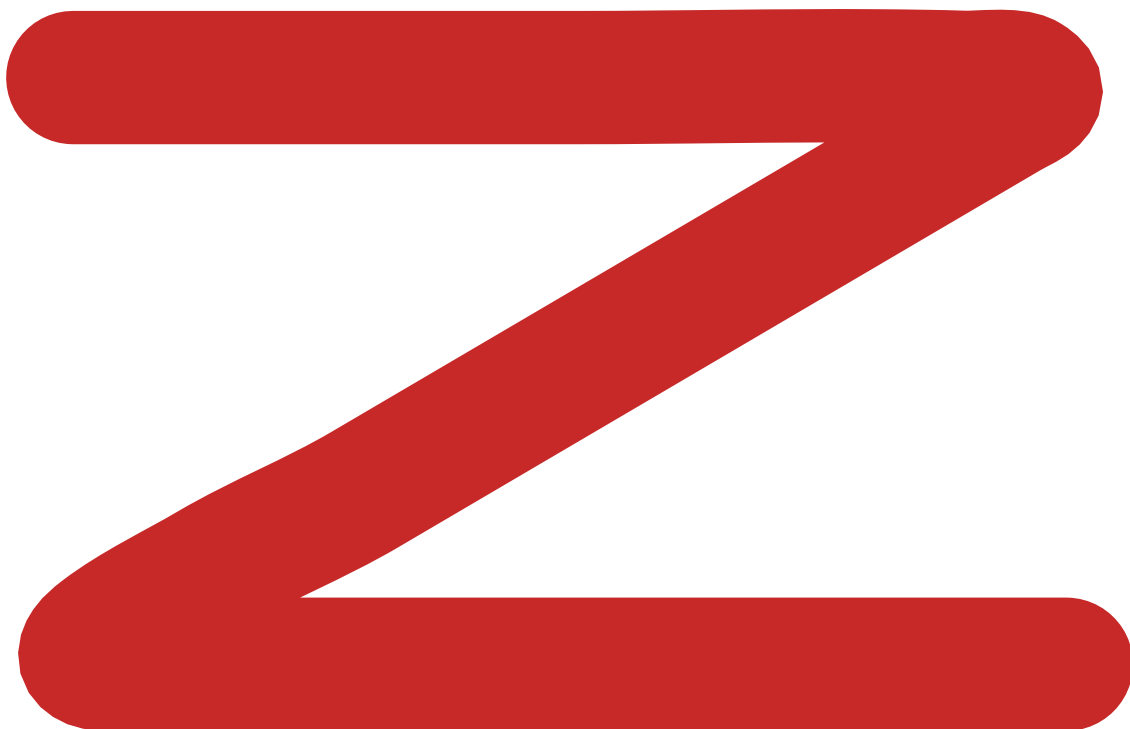
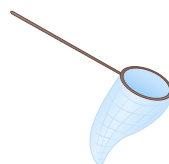


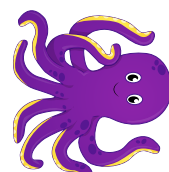




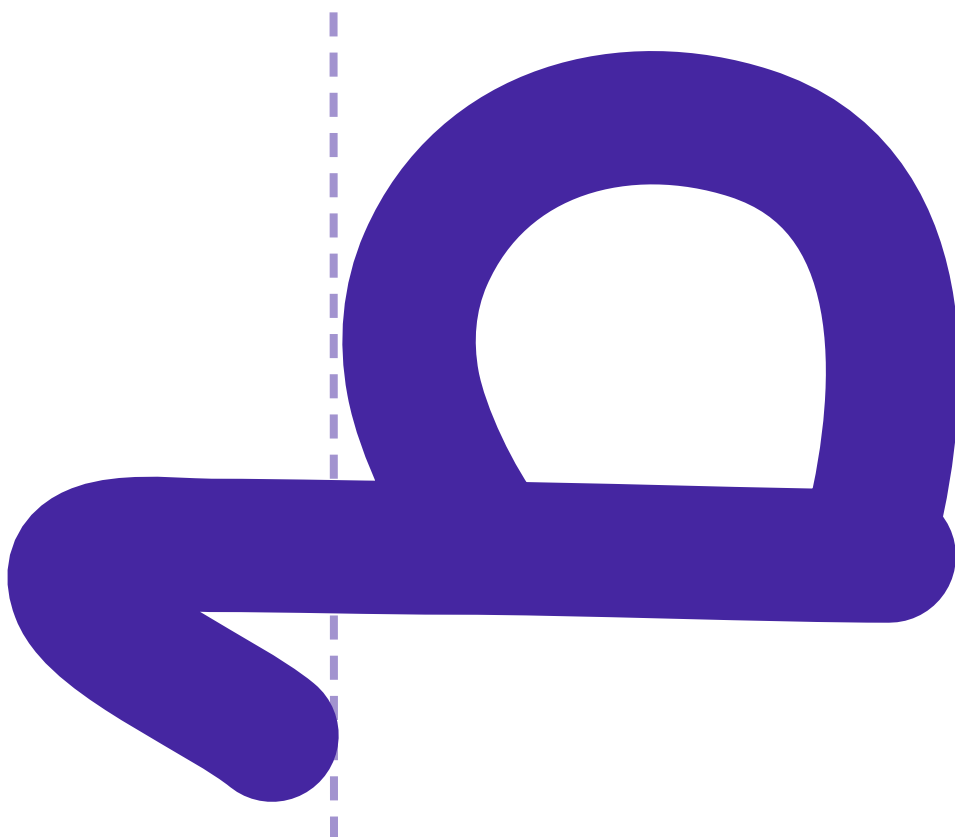
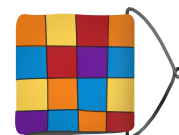
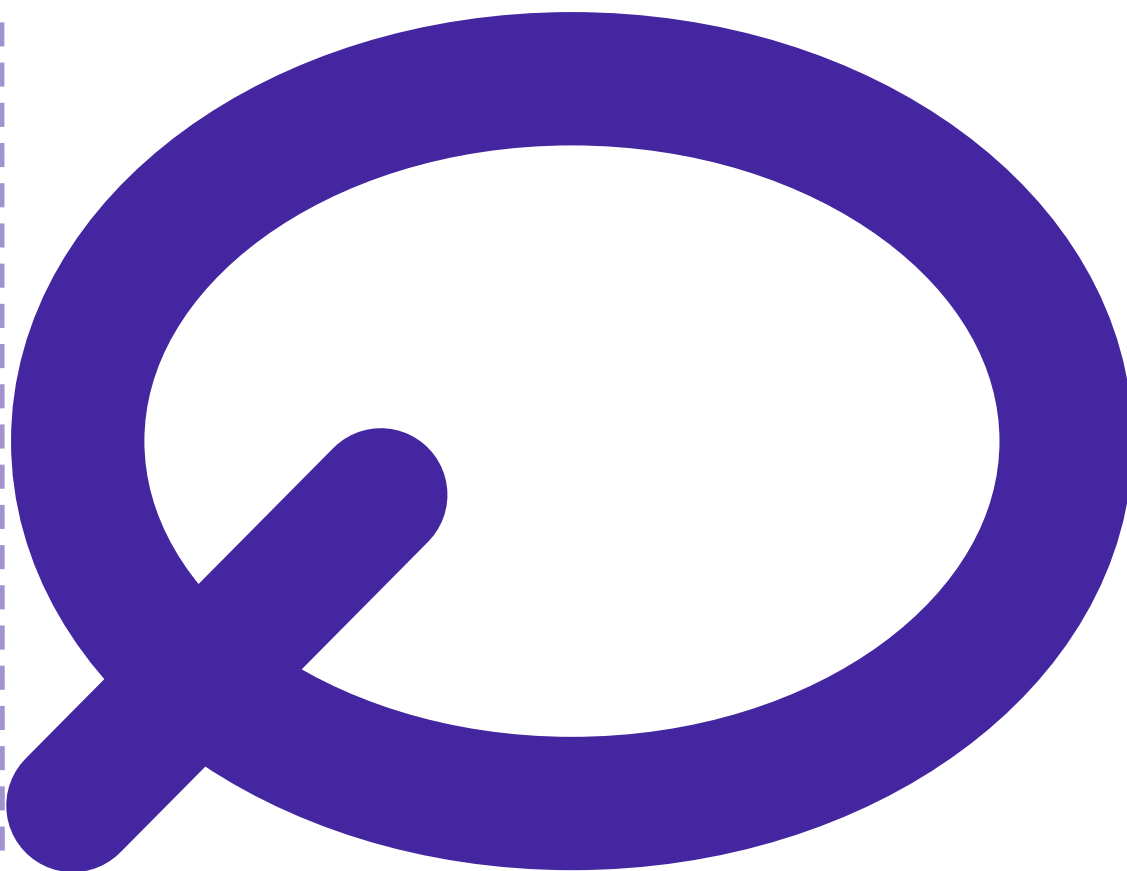
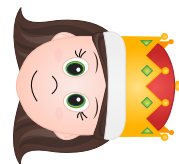


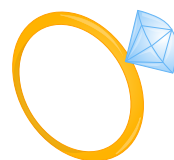


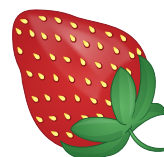


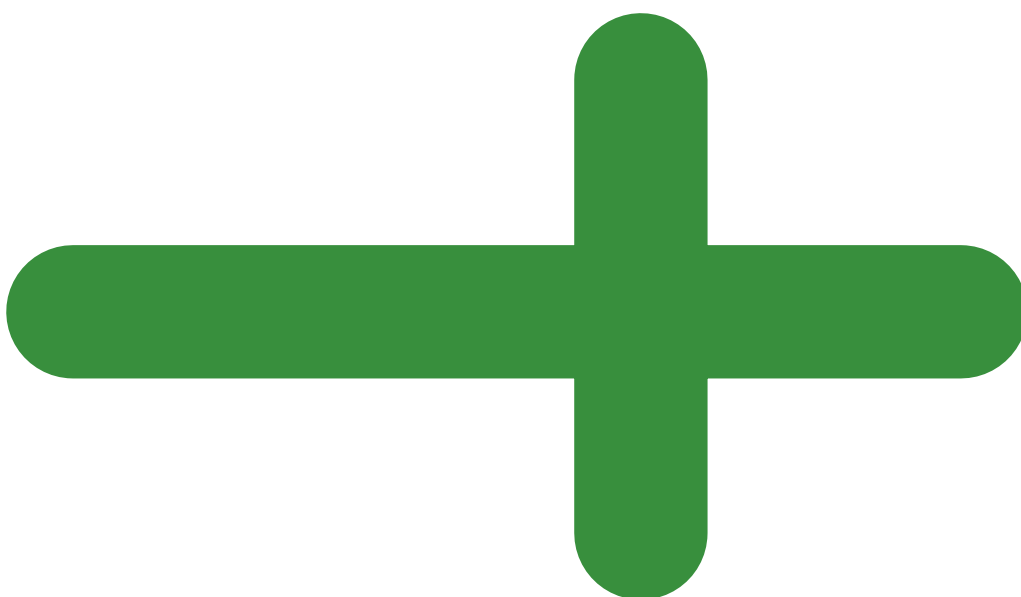
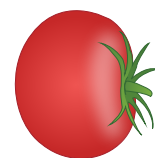




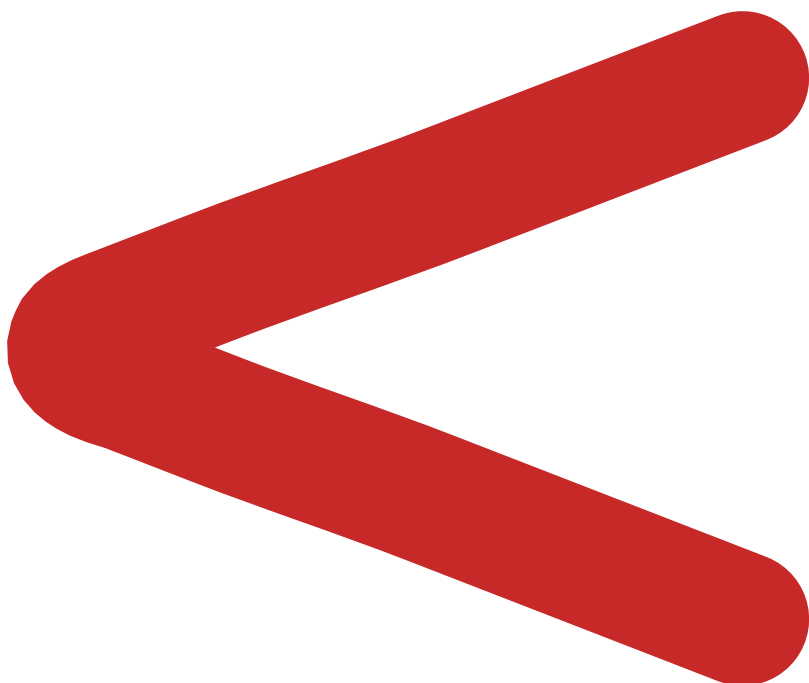
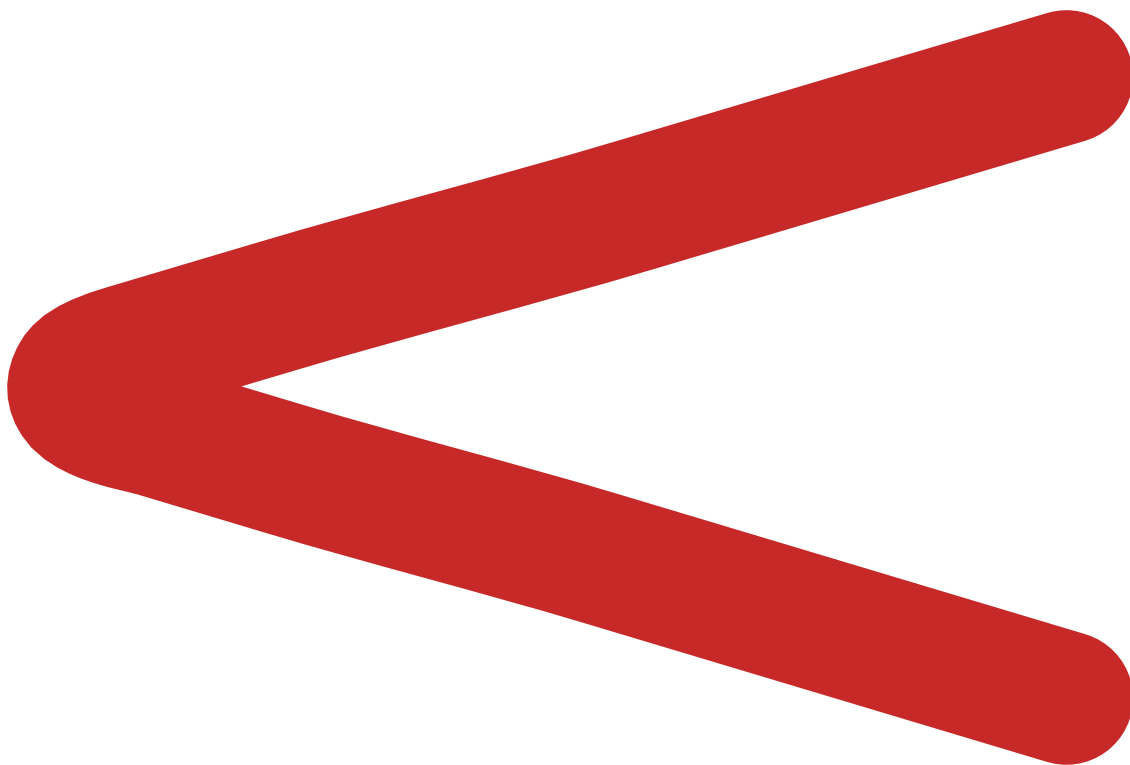
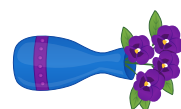


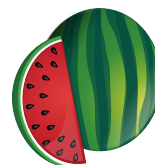
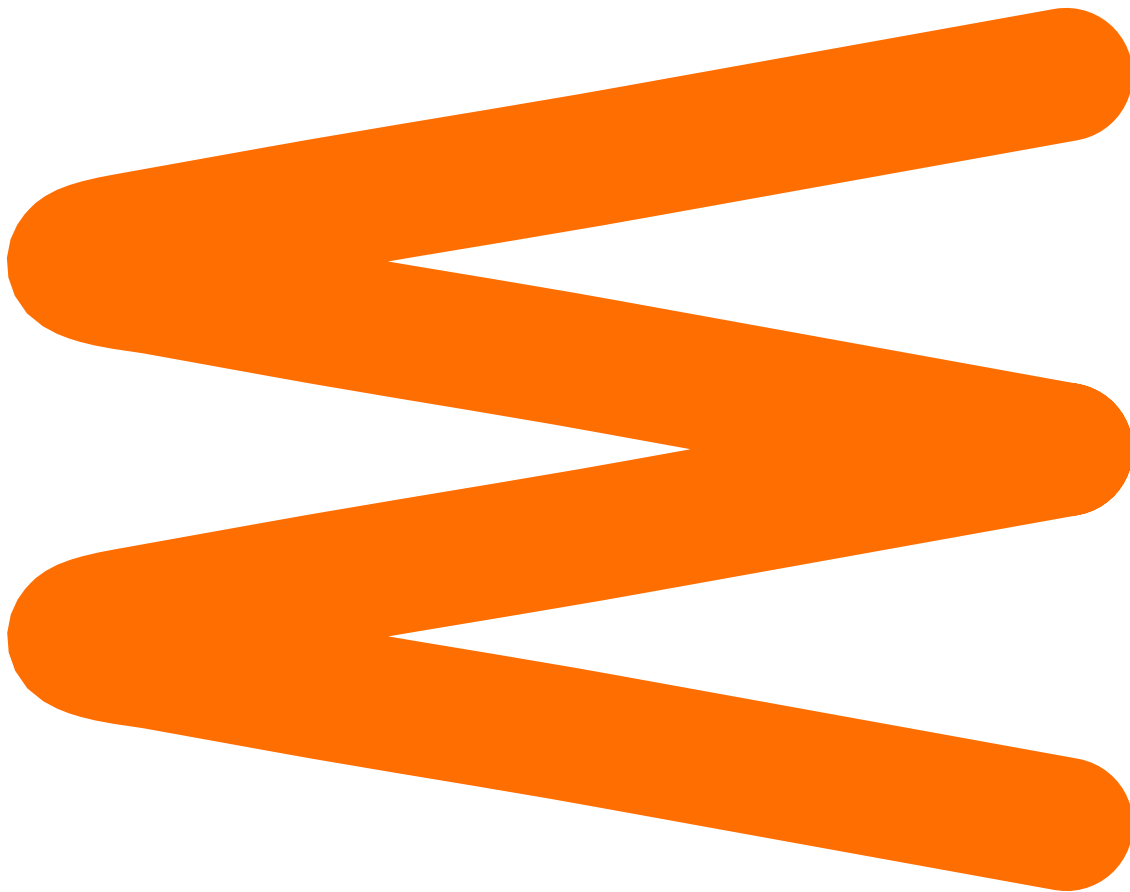


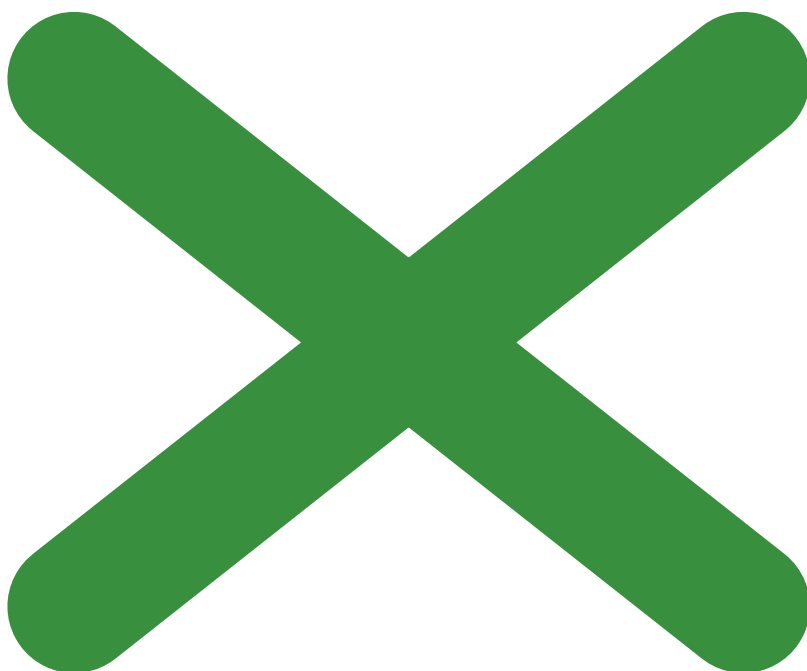
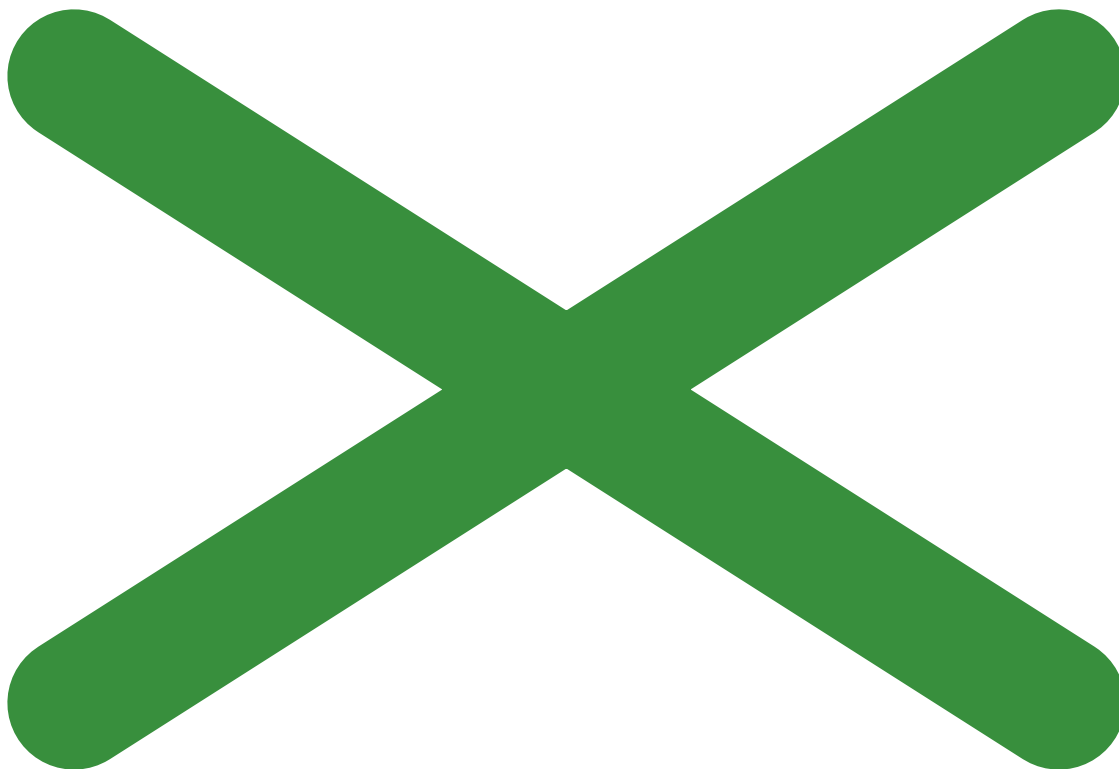
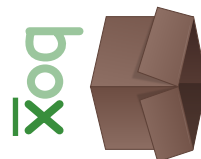


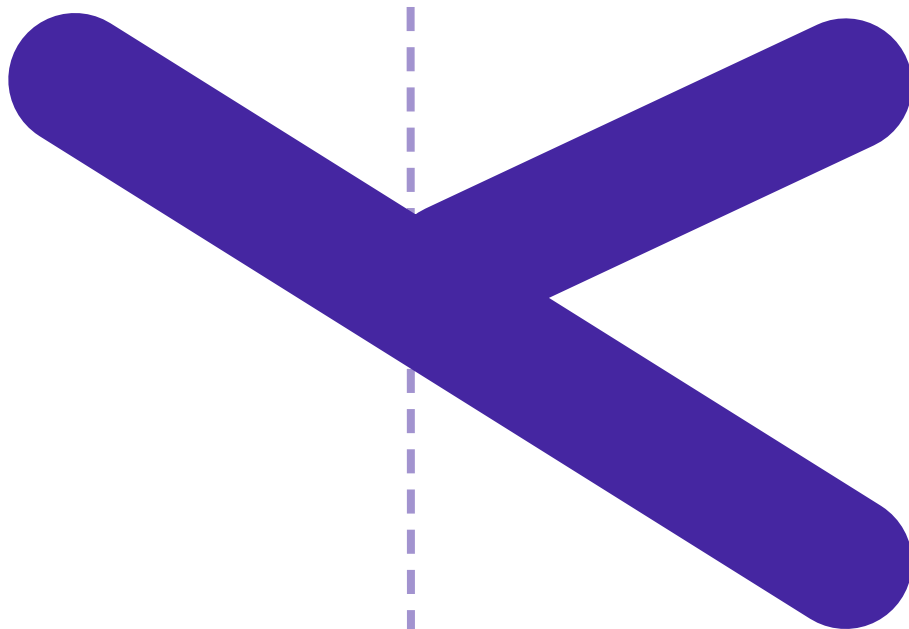
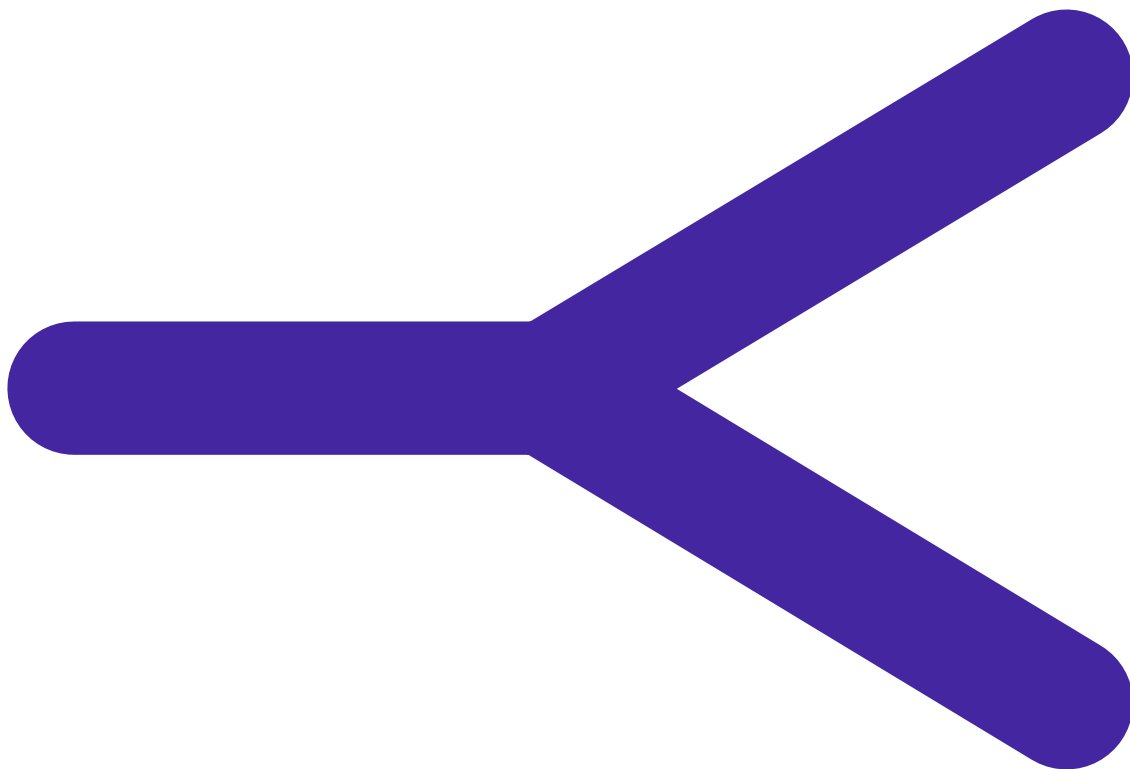


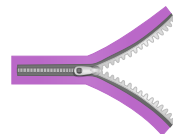












A large red uppercase letter 'N' is centered on a white background. A vertical dashed red line is on the left side of the letter. The entire scene is enclosed in a red rounded rectangular border.

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