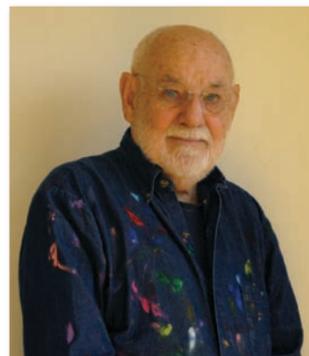


### About the book

In this book a child paints a blue horse. Then, with growing confidence, the young artist joyfully paints a series of other animals in bold, unrealistic colors and forms. From celebrated author and illustrator Eric Carle, this is a book to give all children confidence in their own creativity.

### The inspiration behind the book

This book was inspired by Franz Marc, an expressionist artist born in Munich, Germany in 1880. Like the young artist in this book, he loved to paint animals in bright colors. He created a series of animal paintings, stylized in form and unconventional in color. At the time, some traditional critics objected to his paintings and new ideas, but now his paintings are highly prized by museums and collectors all over the world. His paintings of blue horses are particularly famous.



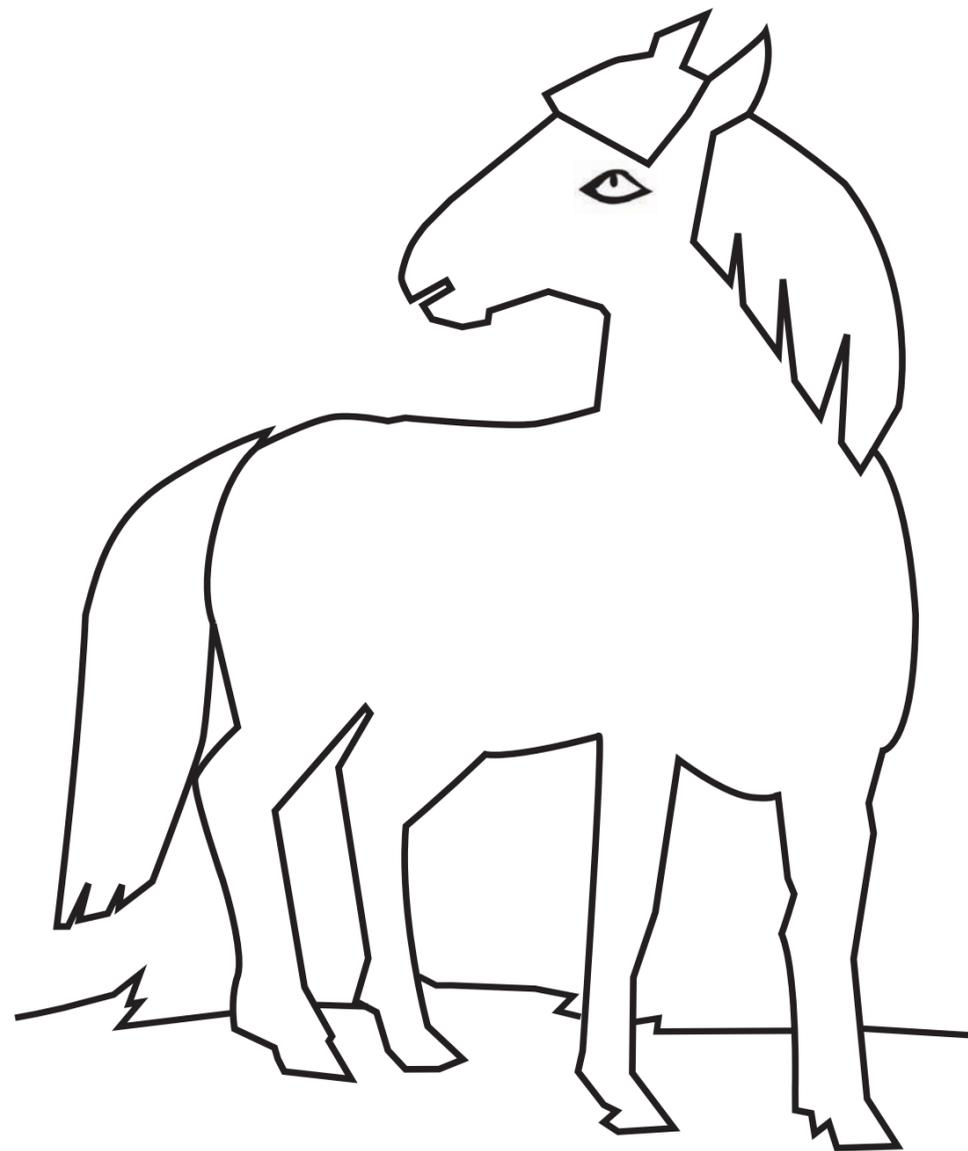
### About the author

Eric Carle was born in the United States but grew up in Germany, where he spent his boyhood during World War II. There, his high school art teacher secretly showed him works by the so-called “degenerate artists.” These artists, banned by the Nazi regime, were actually the leading masters of modern and abstract art. Among them was Franz Marc. This early experience convinced Eric Carle that children ought not be inhibited by conventional rules but, instead, should be encouraged to express their natural talents freely and joyfully.



### Use your imagination and create your own horse!

In *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse*, the artist paints animals in all different colors. Decorate your own horse below with whatever you choose—crayons, markers, collage papers, or even glitter!

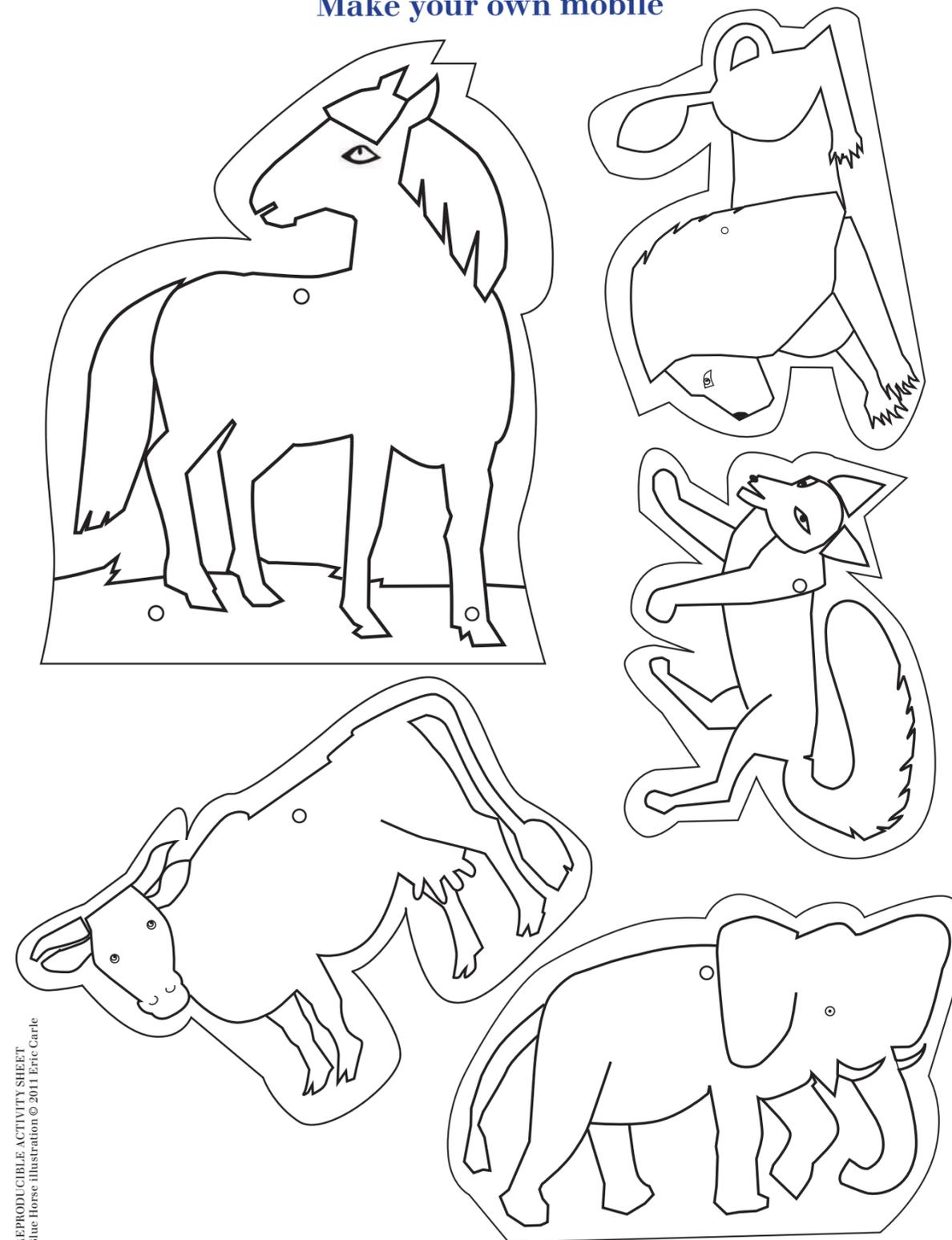


REPRODUCIBLE ACTIVITY SHEET  
Blue Horse Illustration © 2011 Eric Carle

Show Eric Carle your creativity!

Send your finished picture by December 31, 2012 to:  
Penguin Young Readers Group, Attn: Marketing – Eric Carle Blue Horse  
345 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014  
And we will pass the pictures along to Eric!

### Make your own mobile



REPRODUCIBLE ACTIVITY SHEET  
Blue Horse Illustration © 2011 Eric Carle

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Use the following suggestions to help you explore art and imagination in your classroom with *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse* and other Eric Carle favorites!

### Guided Reading:

- **Language:** Early language development creates the foundation for strong literacy skills. Explore animal sounds and vocabulary and incorporate each animal into alphabet units.
- **Math:** Math, numbers, and problem solving skills begin developing in the preschool years. Discuss the patterns and shapes of the artist's animals.
- **Creative Play:** Creative play underlies all learning development areas by engaging their imagination and self-expression. Celebrate imagination and the artist within by encouraging students to role play and become the animals they see on the page.
- **Discovery:** Discovery of nature and the world around them provides children with a better understanding of their surroundings. Encourage curiosity, exploration and observation by learning about the habitats of each animal featured in *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse*.
- **Sensory Play:** Help develop sensory awareness by discussing animal textures such as fur and scales. Then use the activity below, "Experiment with Textures," to have students experiment on their own!

### Learning the Color Wheel:

- Access a visual image of the color wheel at <http://tinyurl.com/penguincolorwheel>
- Bring in a large piece of cardboard covered in white paper that you can use as your color wheel.
- Paint red, blue, and yellow.
- Explain primary and secondary colors.
- Ask your students to select two colors on opposite sides of the color wheel and guess which color they will make. Mix the two colors together.
- Keep doing this until all the secondary colors are created.
- Ask your students what would happen if all the colors were mixed together and show them the outcome.

### Make Your Own Mobile:

- Cut out the mobile parts included in this brochure and paste them onto thick cardboard. Make two copies of every item so your mobile looks the same from both sides.
- Punch holes in the designs where the circles indicate and use string to tie the hanging parts to the larger blue horse. Students can also add their own creations.
- Attach the topmost portion of the mobile to a hanger or S hook and hang from a ceiling board, or tie thick string into the hole and tape the string to your ceiling.

### Experiment with Textures:

- Encourage your students to paste different objects onto one of the mobile parts, such as tissue paper and glitter, or natural items like grass and flowers. You may even use items to help simulate real animal fur, skin and scales.
- Ask them to describe the way the three-dimensional mobile pieces feel.
- Explore how an artist may use different textures to create the illusion of real animals.

### Independent Reading:

- Fill your classroom library with more of the books on the back cover of this brochure.
- Remember to celebrate Very Hungry Caterpillar Day on March 20th!

## THE ARTIST WHO PAINTED MANY BOOKS!

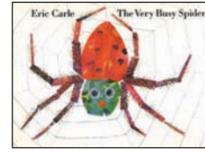
Have you read all of these Eric Carle classics?



*The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse*  
HC: 978-0-599-25715-1  
\$17.99 (\$21.00 CAN)  
Ages 5-6 • PreS-Grade 1



*El artista que pintó un caballo azul*  
(Spanish ed.)  
HC: 978-0-599-25755-5  
\$17.99 (\$21.00 CAN)  
Ages 5-6 • PreS-Grade 1



*The Very Busy Spider*  
HC: 978-0-599-21166-9  
\$21.99 (\$24.00 CAN)  
BB: 978-0-599-22919-0  
\$11.99 (\$16.50 CAN)  
Ages 1-6 • PreS-Grade 1



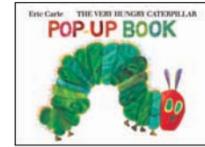
*La araña muy ocupada*  
HC: 978-0-599-24241-0  
\$21.99 (\$26.50 CAN)  
BB: 978-0-599-25065-1  
\$10.99 (\$12.00 CAN)  
Ages 1-6 • PreS-Grade 1



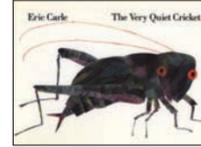
*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*  
HC: 978-0-599-2855-9  
\$21.99 (\$24.00 CAN)  
BB: 978-0-599-22690-8  
\$10.99 (\$15.50 CAN)  
Ages 1-6 • PreS-Grade 1



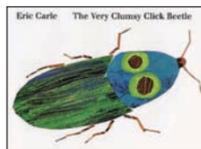
*La oruga muy hambrienta* (Spanish Ed.)  
HC: 978-0-599-22780-6  
\$21.99 (\$24.00 CAN)  
BB: 978-0-599-23960-1  
\$10.99 (\$15.50 CAN)  
Ages 1-6 • PreS-Grade 1



*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*  
*Pop-Up Book*  
978-0-599-25059-2  
\$29.99 (NCR)  
Ages 5 up • PreS up



*The Very Quiet Cricket*  
HC: 978-0-599-21885-9  
\$22.99 (\$26.50 CAN)  
BB: 978-0-599-22684-7  
\$12.99 (\$15.00 CAN)  
Ages 1-6 • PreS-Grade 1



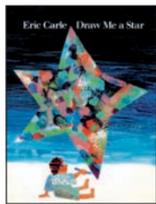
*The Very Clumsy Click Beetle*  
HC: 978-0-599-23201-5  
\$22.99 (\$29.00 CAN)  
Ages 1-6 • PreS-Grade 1



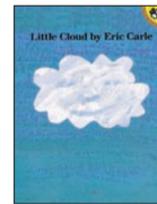
*The Very Lonely Firefly*  
HC: 978-0-599-22774-5  
\$22.99 (\$26.50 CAN)  
BB: 978-0-599-23427-9  
\$11.99 (\$16.50 CAN)  
Ages 1-6 • PreS-Grade 1



*Mister Seahorse*  
HC: 978-0-599-24269-4  
\$17.99 (\$25.00 CAN)  
BB: 978-0-599-25490-1  
\$8.99 (\$10.99 CAN)  
Age 0-5 • PreS



*Draw Me A Star*  
HC: 978-0-599-21877-4  
\$17.99 (\$24.99 CAN)  
Ages 4-8 • PreS-Grade 5



*Little Cloud*  
HC: 978-0-599-25054-9  
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BB: 978-0-599-23191-9  
\$6.99 (\$9.99 CAN)  
Ages 5-6 • PreS-Grade 1



*1, 2, 3 To The Zoo: A Counting Book*  
HC: 978-0-599-61172-8  
\$16.99 (\$25.50 CAN)  
BB: 978-0-599-23015-4  
\$6.99 (\$10.99 CAN)  
Ages 2-6 • PreS-Grade 1



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# Celebrate IMAGINATION and the Artist Within You!



THE ARTIST WHO PAINTED A BLUE HORSE

## Classroom Guide

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