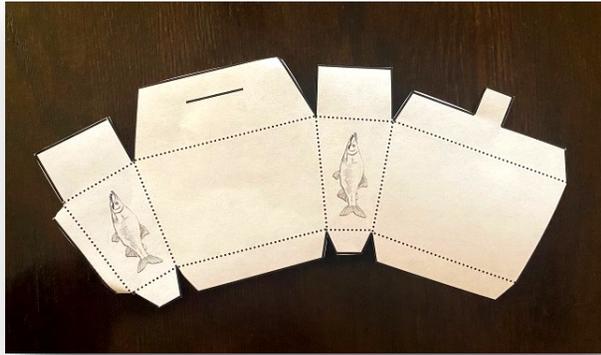


Salmon as a Keystone Species

A keystone species is one on which other species in an ecosystem largely depend, meaning that if it were removed, the ecosystem would change drastically.

1. Cut along all solid lines.

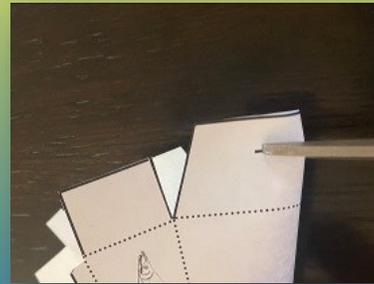


2. Fold along all dotted lines.



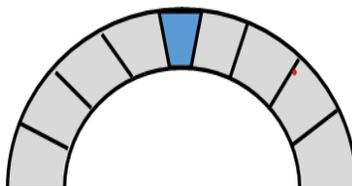
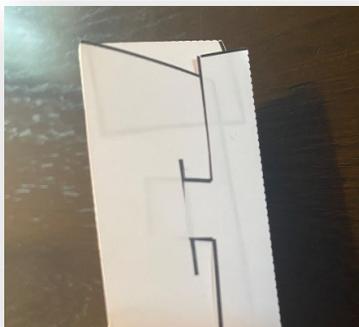
TIP!

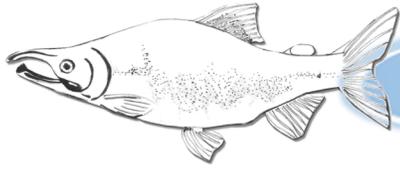
To cut the line on the top flap, gently fold the paper in half and make a small cut with your scissors.



3. Fold together box and secure with flap.

4. Repeat with all 9 boxes. Now you are ready to make your arch! Stack the boxes and see if you can create an arch with your salmon as the Keystone block!





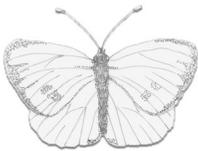
Salmon as a Keystone Species



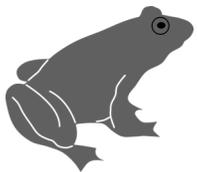
Trees: Salmon and trees have an important and foundational relationship. Salmon support trees by bringing them nutrients from thousands of miles away! Salmon get nutrients from all their food they eat while in the ocean. When they return home to rivers, they leave those nutrients on stream banks and sometimes miles into forests! By depositing those hard-earned nutrients into the soil, salmon feed the trees. The trees give back to the salmon by stabilizing river banks and keeping water clear, providing habitat for insects that are food for young salmon, as well as providing shade, protection, carbon sequestration (taking carbon out of the air) and when the trees fall



Ferns: Much like trees, ferns need healthy soils to thrive. When the bodies of salmon decompose, they provide nutrient-rich soil for ferns, and all other plant life (such as fruit



Insects: Young salmon feed on insects, but insects also need the salmon! When the salmon support plant-life, they provide food and habitat for the insects.



Frogs: Frogs rely on insect populations to survive. Without salmon, frogs may not have the insects they need to eat! Frogs also eat salmon eggs and fry.



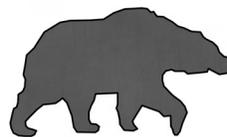
Eagles: Eagles can be found by the hundreds, flocking to salmon-filled rivers each season to feed. The eagle is culturally significant as the United States National bird, and has been held sacred by many indigenous tribes for



Otters: River otters are top predators, eating a variety of animals including shellfish, frogs, and salmon. River otters have a strange habit that helps to spread the nutrients they eat into the forest. Though they live in the water, these otters will only poop on land! This means they bring nutrients outside of the water and help create healthy soils.

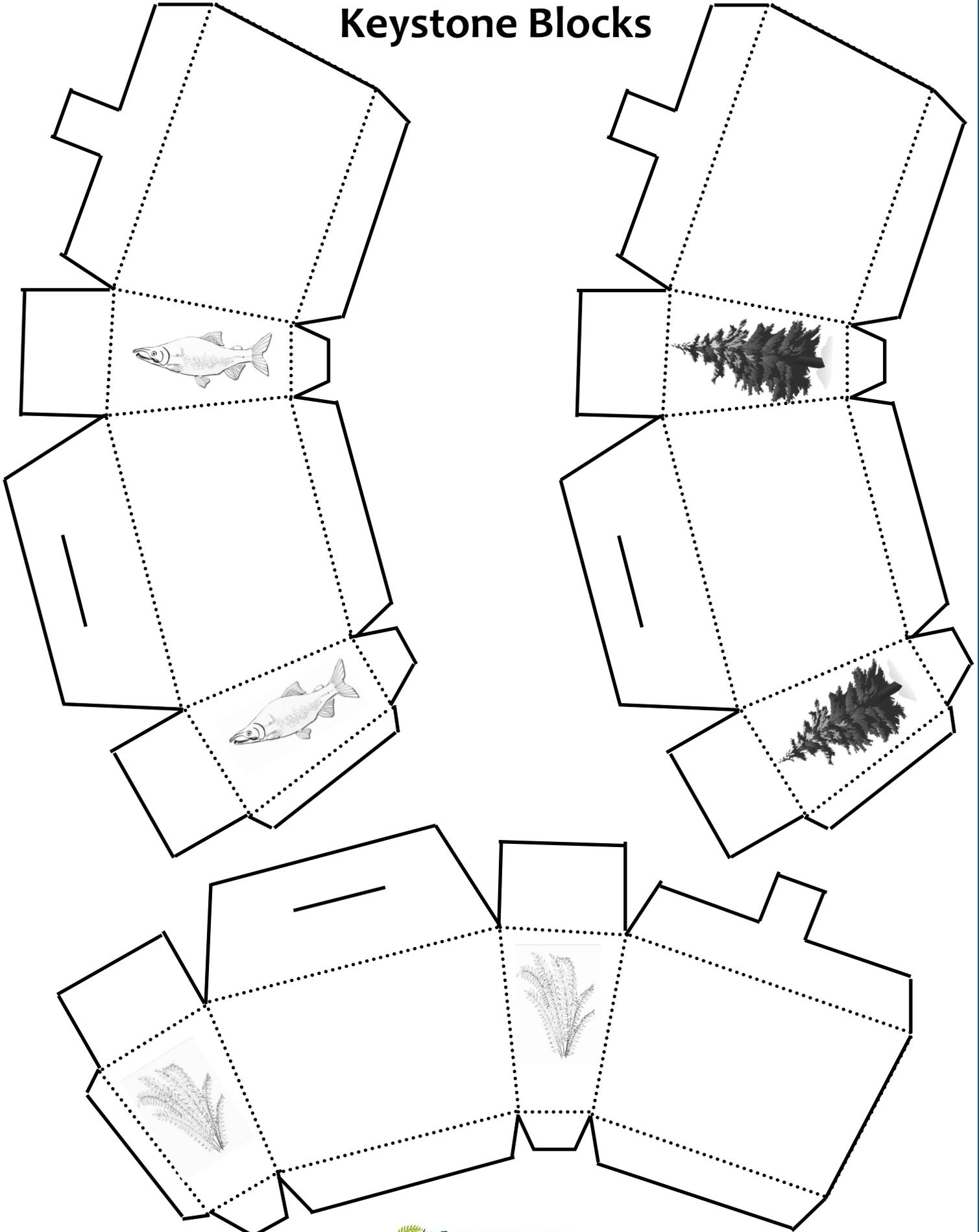


Herons: Herons are a unique bird. Standing on two long, slender legs, with a strong, sharp beak, the heron is carnivorous, eating nothing but meat. Herons love to eat frogs, smaller birds, and most

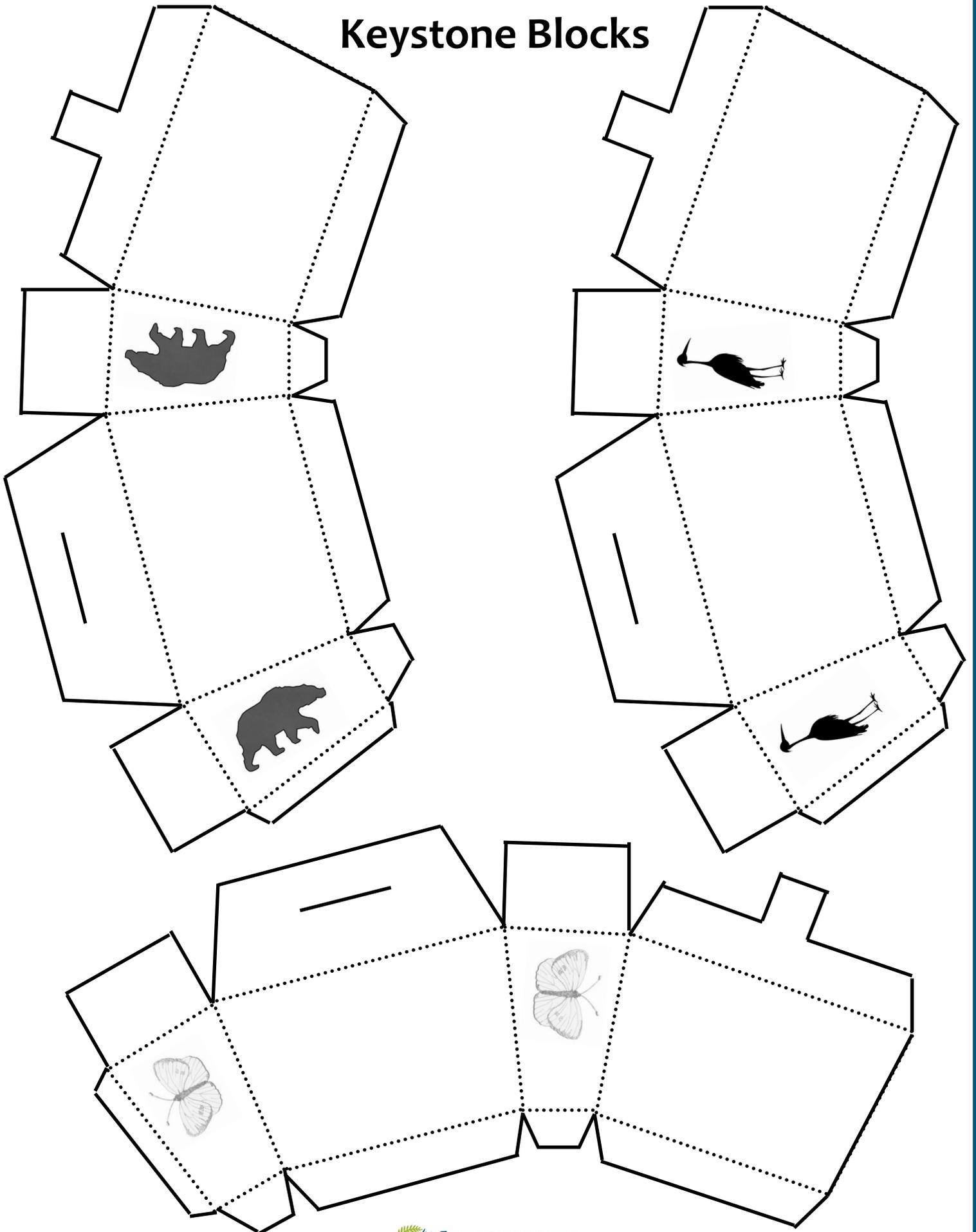


Bears: Bears love to eat salmon! Bears also transport the nutrients from eating salmon deep into forests, helping to maintain healthy trees!

Keystone Blocks



Keystone Blocks



Keystone Blocks

