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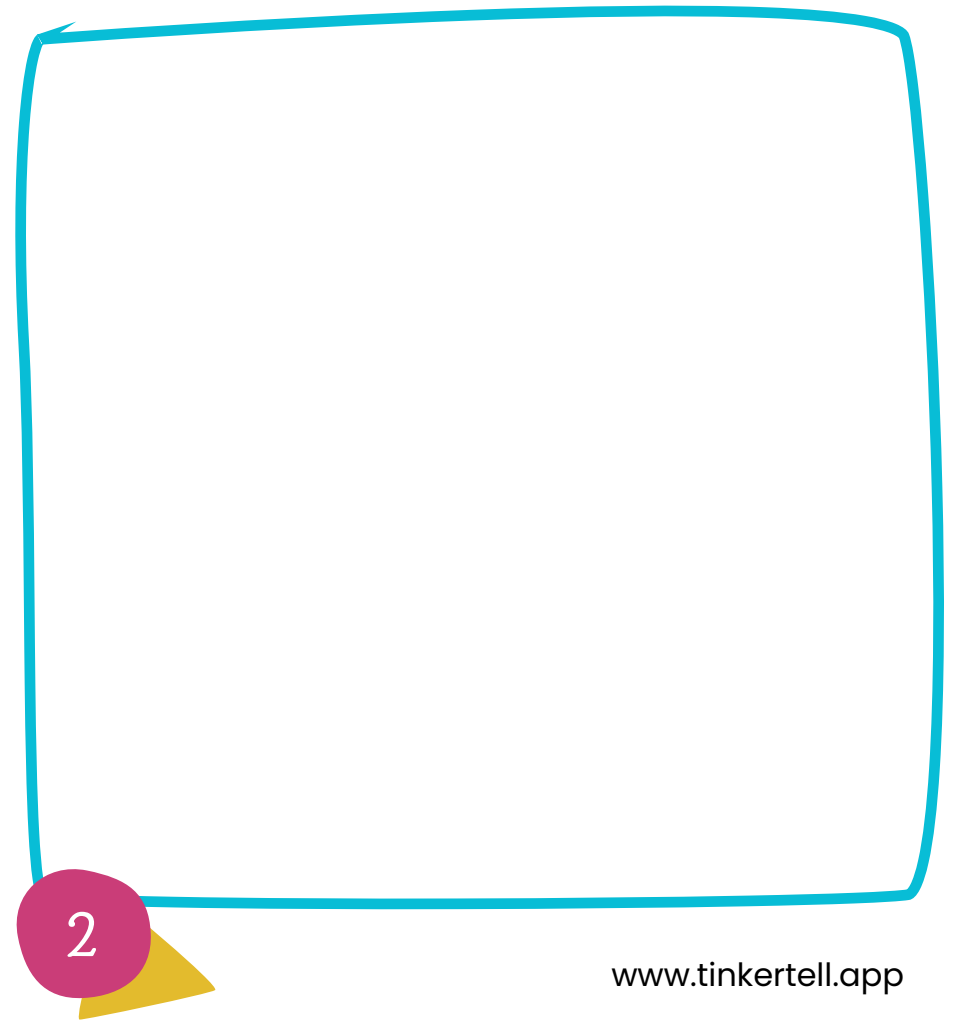
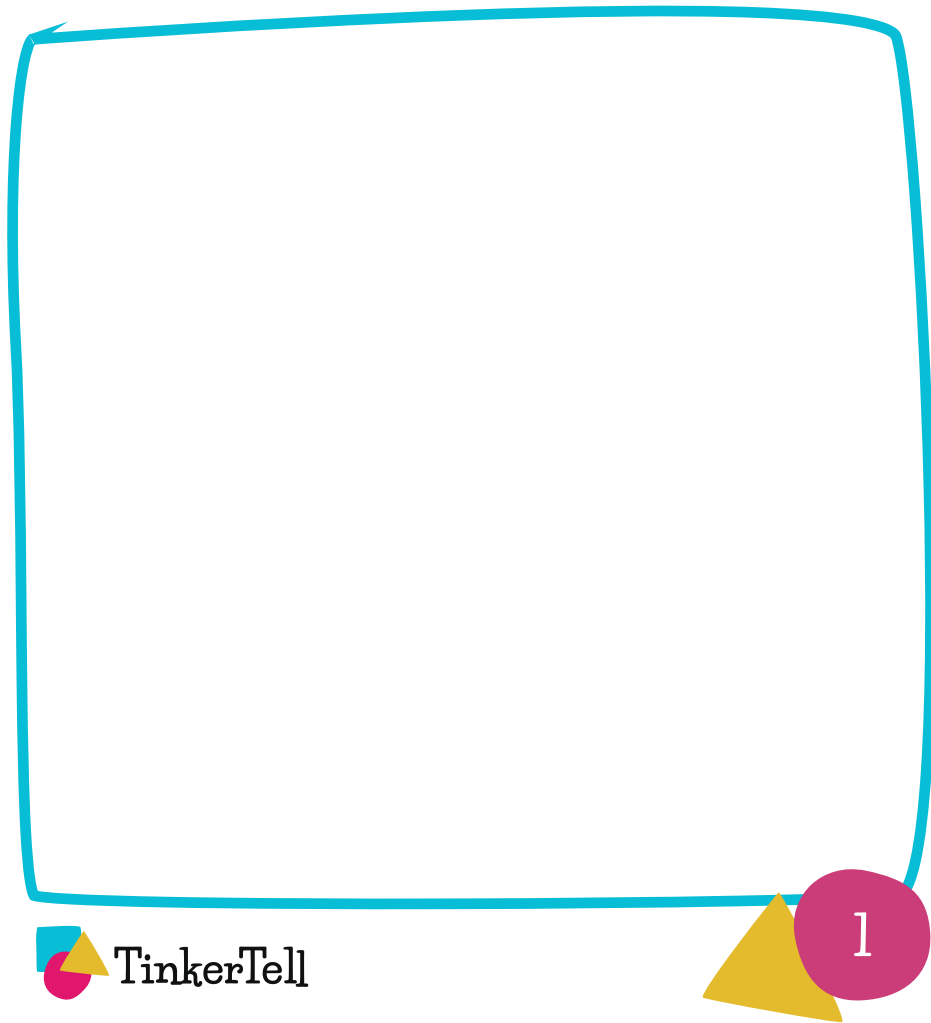


"The Kindergarten Snake: A Lunar New Year Tale of Kindness"

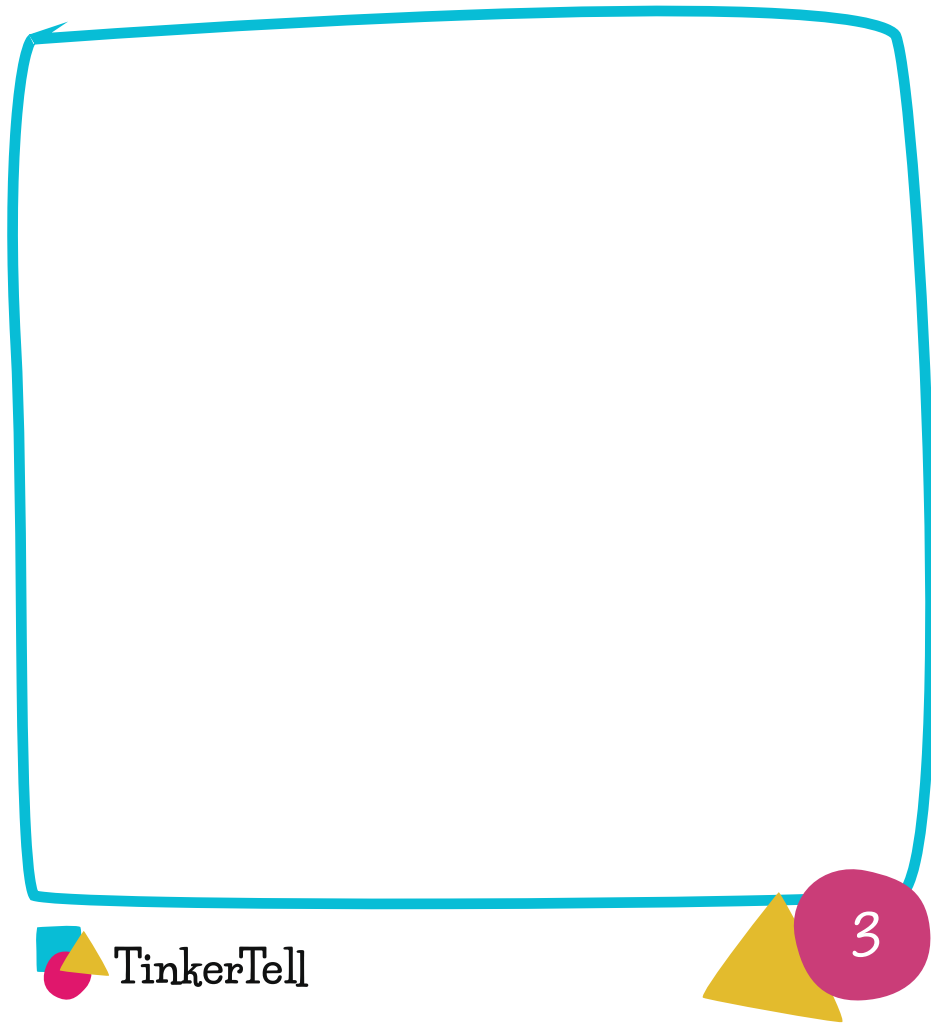


"Once upon a time, in the lively East Village of Manhattan, there lived a dedicated kindergarten teacher named Ms. Wong. Ms. Wong taught her little students the wonders of the world, the beauty of their cultures, and the importance of kindness and compassion.

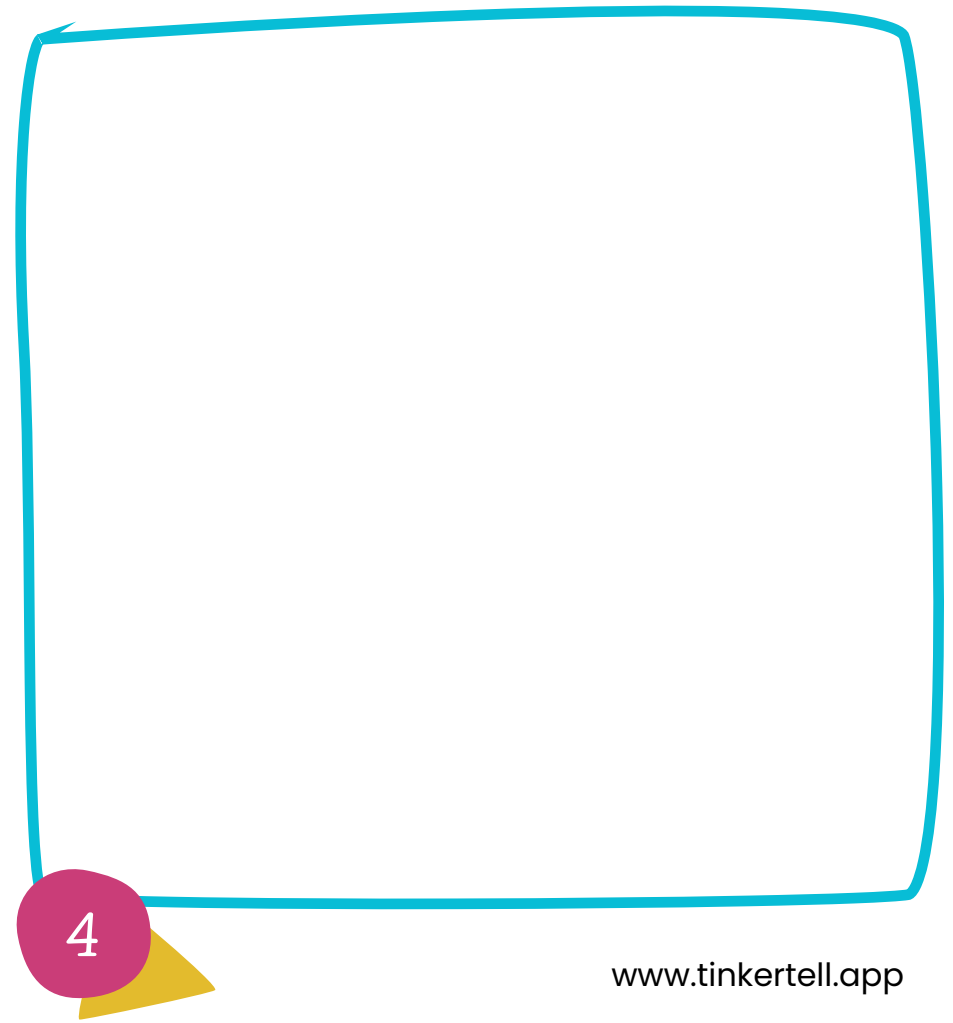
As the Lunar New Year approached, Ms. Wong shared with her students the significance of the holiday. She explained how every year is represented by one of the twelve animals in the Chinese zodiac, and this particular year was the Year of the Snake. To celebrate, she decided to teach her class how to craft paper snakes.



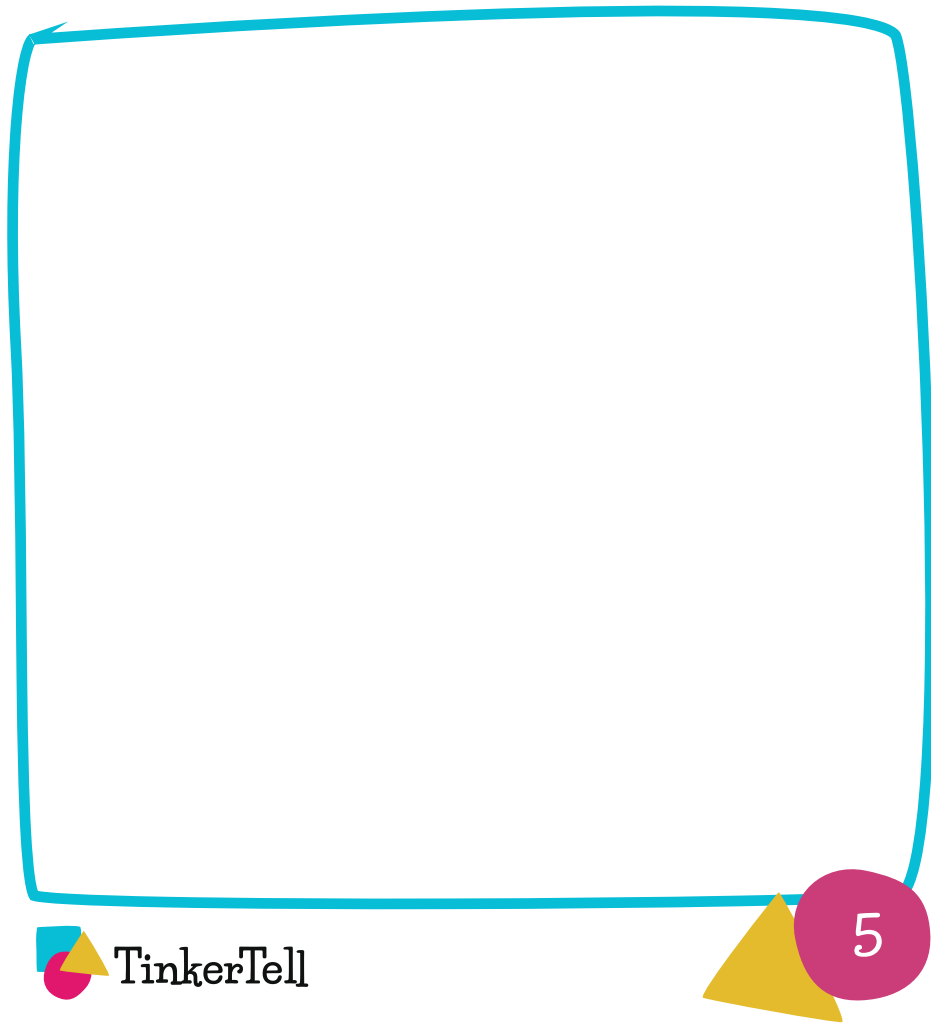
One little boy named Tommy was struggling to make his paper snake. He was trying very hard, but his hands weren't working as fast as his mind. Seeing this, another student, Lily, who came from a Vietnamese background, decided to help him.



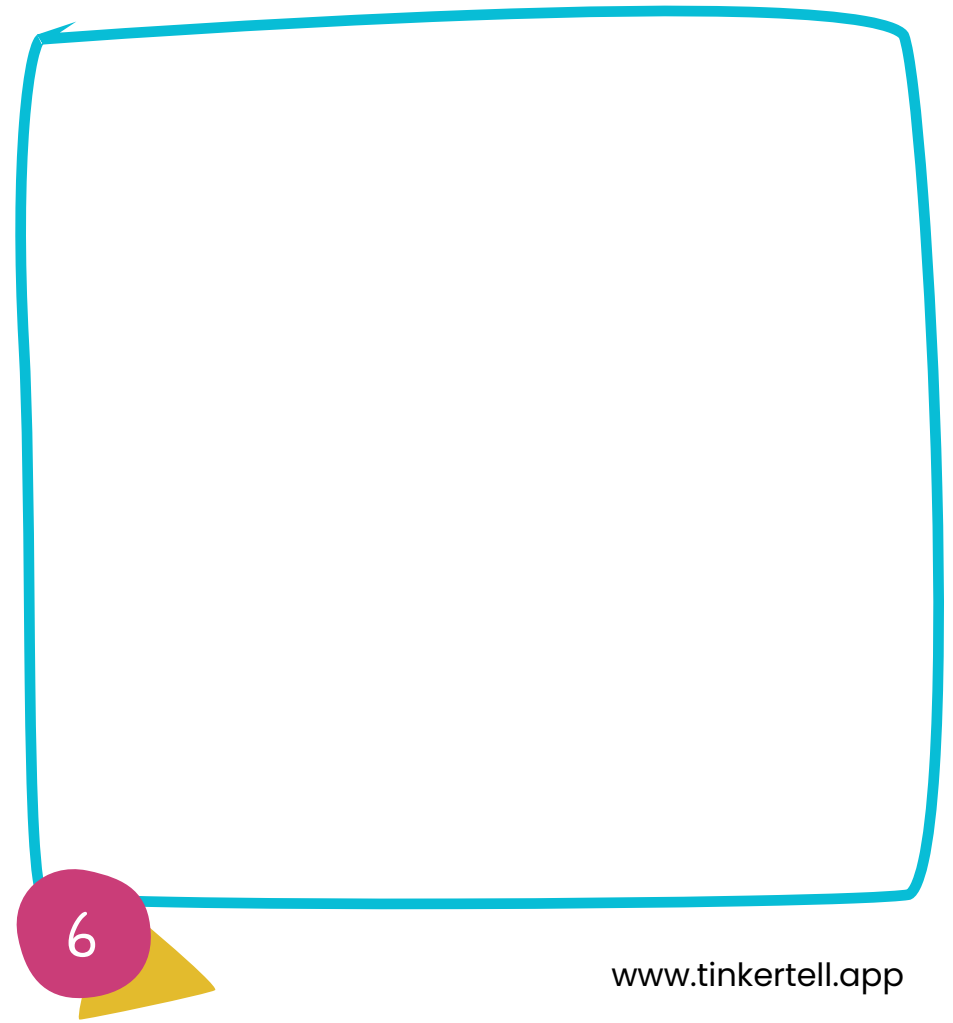
Lily patiently demonstrated each step in both English for Tommy and in Vietnamese for some of her peers who recently arrived from Vietnam. She showed him how to fold the paper just right so it would form the body of the snake and where to place the eyes so they would stick out. Tommy watched her closely, his brow furrowed in concentration.



After some time, with Lily's guidance, Tommy was able to make his own paper snake. He looked at Lily and smiled, "Thank you for helping me."



Lily beamed back at him and said, "You're welcome! Let's play together with our snakes during recess."



When Ms. Wong saw what had happened, her heart filled with joy. She knew that this was the real lesson she wanted her students to learn. It wasn't about making perfect paper snakes or even about celebrating the Lunar New Year. It was about kindness, compassion, and helping one another.

So as the Year of the Snake began, not only did the children have their paper snakes to celebrate with, but they also had a newfound understanding of kindness. And that, Ms. Wong thought, was an even greater gift."