

# EARLY MIDDLE AGES

## Handwritten Book

In the early Middle Ages, books were handwritten by the monks and nuns of the monasteries. Copying a book by hand could take a very long time. In fact, it took over a year to copy the bible.

The books were made of handmade parchment paper. Latin words were copied onto the paper. The book was illustrated and illuminated with gold or silver leaf. When the pages were dry, they were stitched together to bind the book.

### MAKE A HANDWRITTEN BOOK

To get an idea of how books were made in the Middle Ages, you are going to copy a story called, "The Pied Piper of Hamelin." You can use borders, fancy letters, and illustrations on the pages of your book.

This page is the book cover. Fold it in half, write the title, and decorate the front of the book.

You'll need 2 blank sheets of paper for the inside pages. Fold them in half so they fit inside this cover page. Use a paper punch to punch holes along the folded edge.

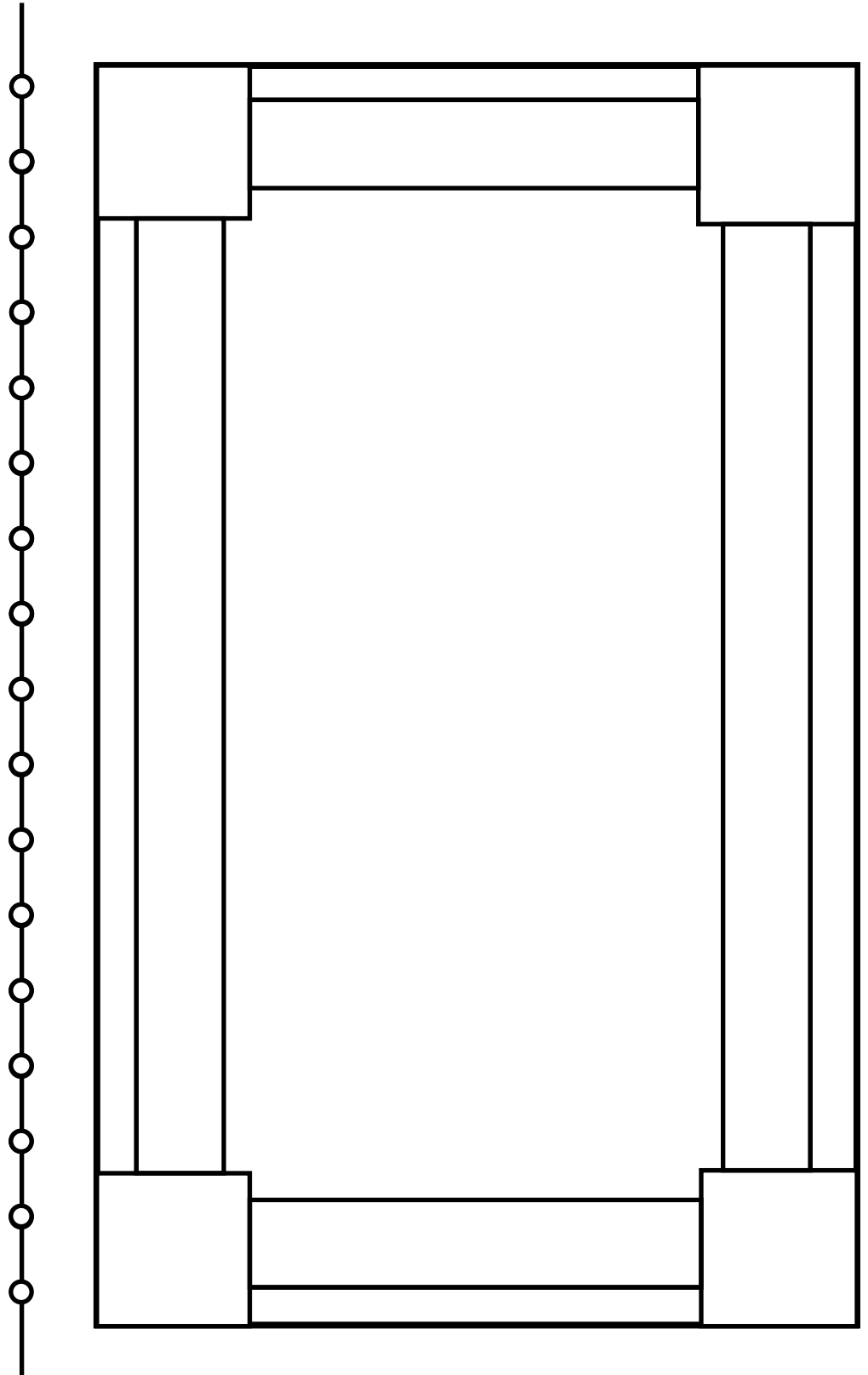
Page 2 of this activity, includes the story you'll be copying and some decorations you can use on the pages of your book: borders and squares for fancy letters. You can color them, cut them out, and glue them to each page. You can draw illustrations on each page.

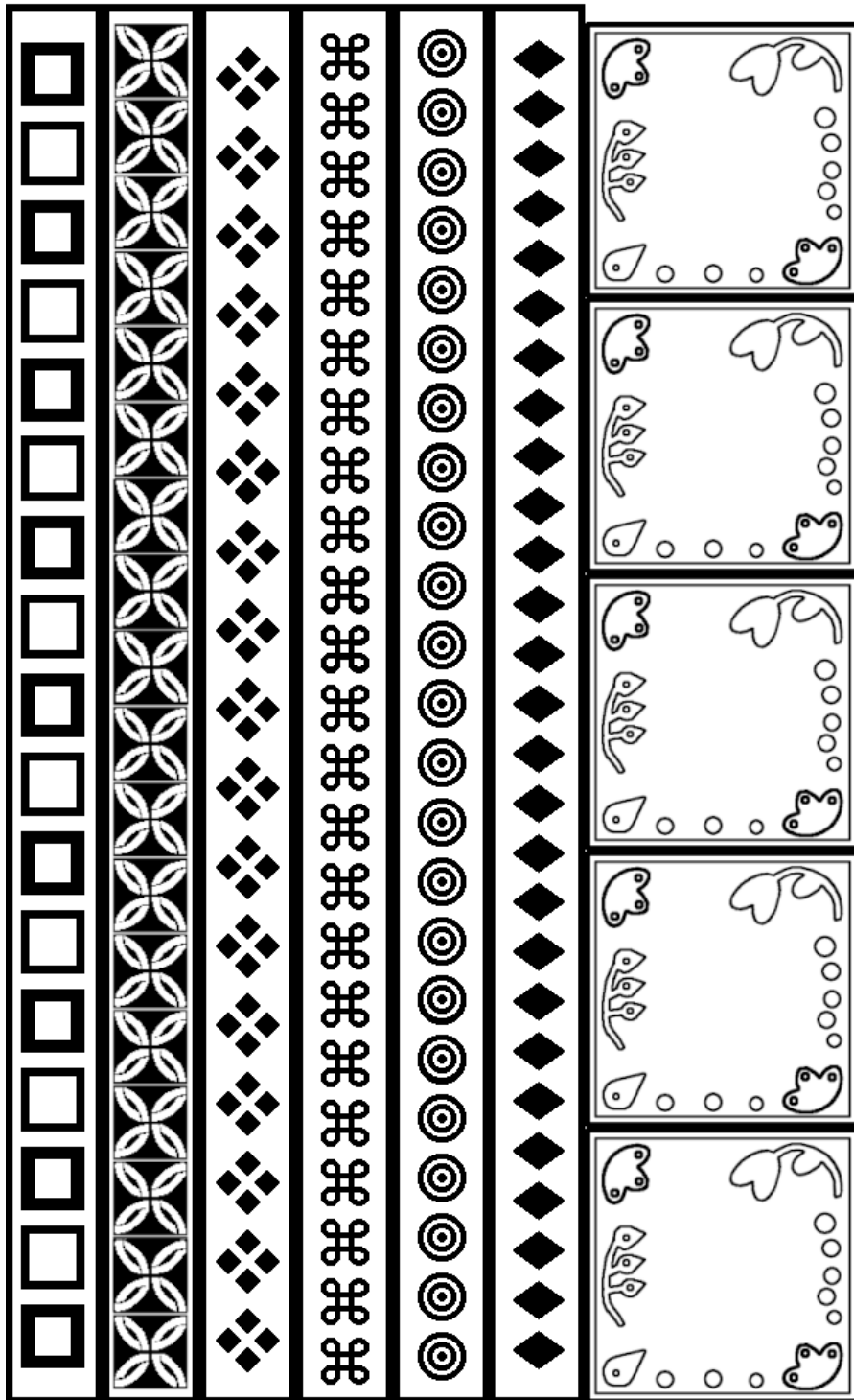
Use gold or silver paints or markers to illuminate the decorations and illustrations.

When your book cover and pages are dry, stack them in order, and use yarn to stitch the pages together. \*Wrap tape around one end of the yarn to make a needle for stitching. Tie the yarn on the inside of the book to hold it in place.

THIS BOOK HANDWRITTEN BY:

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## THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

Long ago in a small town called Hamelin, there was a big problem. The problem was rats. They were everywhere! Rats in the houses. Rats in the streets. Rats in the stores. The people of the town were mad. They wanted to get rid of the rats, but no one knew how.

The mayor of Hamelin decided to get help. He sent out a message promising to give ten bags of gold to anyone who could rid his town of rats.

Soon a man with colorful clothing and a musical pipe arrived in Hamelin. He began to play a strange tune. The rats loved the music. They followed the piper as he led them out of town.

Later, the piper came back to Hamelin to collect the gold. The mayor claimed he never offered any reward and refused to pay the piper.

The piper put his pipe to his lips and began to play another eerie song. The children of Hamelin loved the tune. They followed the piper as he led them out of town.

The moral of this story is...always pay the piper!

