

ACTIVITY

The Legend of O Galo De Barcelos (The Portuguese Rooster)

Before Reading

Galo de Barcelos (The Rooster from Barcelos) is a well known symbol in Portugal.

Can you find Portugal on a map? Can you find Barcelos?

The Rooster symbolizes honesty, trust and even good luck.

What do each of these words mean?

Do you have something that brings you *good luck*?



A long time ago, there was a small village called Barcelos in the country of Portugal. It was a quiet village, but then one day a horrible thing happened. The people in the village were quite surprised with a terrible crime that someone had done, and even more surprising was that they couldn't figure out who had done the crime. One day a stranger came through the village who nobody recognized, and right away, everyone believed that he must be the one who did the crime.

So, the police in the village arrested the stranger. The poor man had no idea what was going on and kept telling everyone that he did not do anything wrong. He said that he was innocent! No one believed him though. The stranger said that he was on his way to a nearby town, called St. Tiago, to go to a church. Still, no one believed the stranger. So it was that the stranger was going to be put in a tall tower and locked up, for the rest of his life.

The poor stranger was very scared, and he thought that he must do something to try and save his life. What would he do in a tower for the rest of his life? Why was this happening to him? He had to somehow prove to the people that he was an innocent man. So, as a last resort, he asked to see the judge who had sentenced him to remain in that tower. The police agreed, and they took him to see the judge.

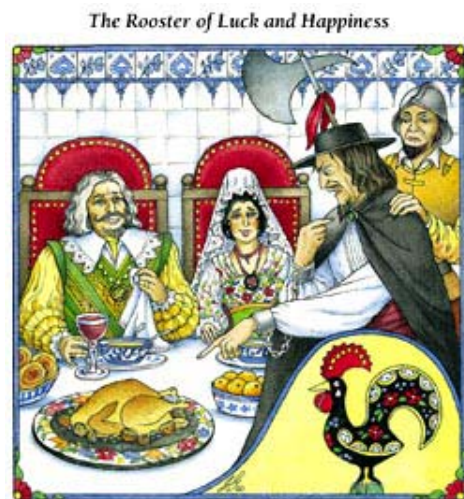
When they arrived at the judge's house, they quickly realized that the judge was having a great party. There, in front of the judge and all of the judge's guests, the stranger said again that he had not done anything wrong to deserve being thrown into a dark, cold tower for the rest of his life. The stranger then said something quite extraordinary.

In front of all of the guests and the judge, the stranger pointed to a roasted rooster on the table, and said: "If I am to go to that dark tower, that roasted rooster will crow!" Everyone sat in silence. Then, everybody laughed at him, but nobody dared to touch the rooster.

However what seemed impossible, did not turn out so. When the stranger was being taken to the tower where he was going to spend the rest of his life for a crime he did not commit, in that very moment the roasted rooster stood up on the table and began to crow three times: "Cocadoodle-doo! Cocadoodle-doo! Cocadoodle-doo!!!"

Everyone at the party stood silent. They were completely surprised, but now, everyone believed that the stranger was in fact innocent. They realized that they had made a great big mistake! All of them, led by the judge, hurried to the tower where the stranger was about to climb the long staircase to the top of the dark, cold tower. The judge screamed, "WAIT! Let him go! He did nothing wrong!"

And so, the stranger was set free, and went to St. Tiago. Back in the village of Barcelos, little clay roosters were being made and painted for everyone as a sign of honesty, trust and definitely, as a little sign of good luck!



Note: This legend has been told for many generations, but was taken from <http://www.vivaportugal.com/galo.htm>, and adapted for a younger audience.

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Legend of "O Galo de Barcelos" After Reading Activity (1)



Do you have a lucky object? Was there a time when you feel something lucky happened to you?

Write about what happened and draw a picture.

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Legend of "O Galo de Barcelos" After Reading Activity (2)



The main character
in this story is:

The main character
in this story feels:

The setting in this story is:

The main problem in this story is:

Name: _____

Date: _____



The Legend of "O Galo de Barcelos" After Reading Activity (3)

Remember the tall, dark and cold tower the stranger was going to have to live in for the rest of his life? Draw what you think the inside of the cold, dark tower looked like?

If the stranger had to live here, how do you think he would feel?

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Legend of O Galo de Barcelos After Reading Activity (4)

You are going to make 5 puppets so that you can retell this story.
Draw the characters and cut them out, then glue them to popsicle
sticks, and then you are ready to practice your show!



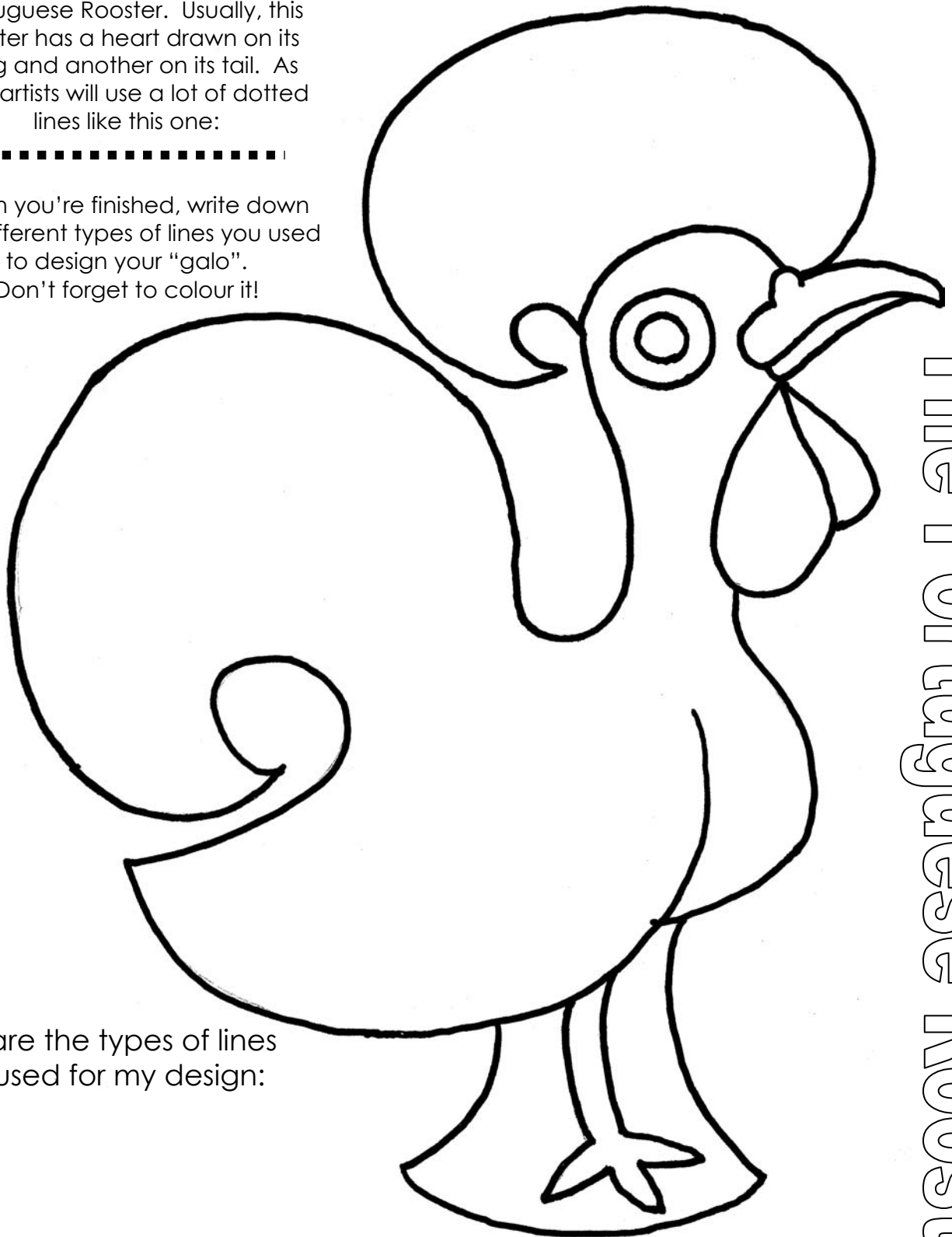
You need to draw: The Stranger, The Judge, A Police Officer, Villager and the Rooster
(you can use extra paper if you don't have enough space here)

"O Galo de Barcelos"

Now it's your turn to be an artist and design your own "galo", Portuguese Rooster. Usually, this rooster has a heart drawn on its wing and another on its tail. As well, artists will use a lot of dotted lines like this one:



When you're finished, write down the different types of lines you used to design your "galo". Don't forget to colour it!



The Portuguese Rooster

These are the types of lines that I used for my design: