

Elgin's A Dairy Town

Did you know Elgin was once famous for milk? Not just milk, but butter too. Over 6,000 cows lived on hundreds of farms all around Elgin. Their milk was shipped by railroad to many cities, including Chicago. A lot of the milk was also used in factories in Elgin to make butter, condensed milk and cheese. Between 1880 and 1910 Elgin was the biggest dairy town in the Midwest.

Have you heard of Gail Borden? That's right! Elgin's public library is named after Gail Borden. He was a business owner in Elgin. Gail Borden invented a way to take fresh milk and put it in tin cans, making it last longer. He took most of the water out of the milk and replaced it with sugar. It is called condensed milk and you can still buy it at the grocery store. It is very thick and sweet and can be used in lots of delicious recipes like this one. Visit eaglebrand.com to see more.

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Chocolate Fondue

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Prep: 5 Min. Cook: 3 Min. Yield: 1 3/4 cups Calories: 390/serv

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Ingredients

- ☐ 1 (14 oz.) can Eagle Brand® Sweetened Condensed Milk
- ☐ 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ☐ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ☐ 1 to 2 teaspoon warm water, as needed
- ☐ Fresh fruit, small cookies or small pretzel twists

Instructions

- ☐ STIR sweetened condensed milk and chocolate chips in 1-quart microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH 2 minutes. Stir until blended. Microwave on HIGH an additional 1 minute. Stir in vanilla. If sauce becomes too thick for dipping, stir in warm water by teaspoonful until smooth.
- ☐ SERVE warm fresh fruit, small cookies or small pretzel twists.

Why did pioneer farmers make their extra milk into butter? Well, first of all, butter is delicious! But the real reason is that Pioneer farmers didn't have refrigerators. With no refrigerator, milk will spoil in a day or two. (Have you ever discovered a carton of milk at school that was left out of the refrigerator?!) But, if you turn that milk into butter, it will last for months without a refrigerator. Turning milk into butter is a way to use up extra milk.

- What do you call it when a cow jumps on a trampoline? - A Milkshake!
- How do farmers count their cows? - With a cow-curator!
- What time is it when a cow sits on your hat? - Time to get a new hat!
- What do you get when you cross a cow and a duck? - Milk and Quackers!
- Why did the cow cross Park Street? - To get to the Elgin History Mooooo-seum!
- What's a cow's favorite high school sports team? - The Elgin Marooooooons!

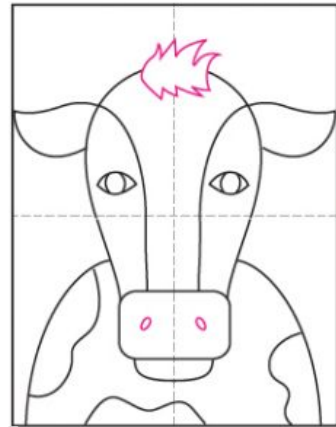
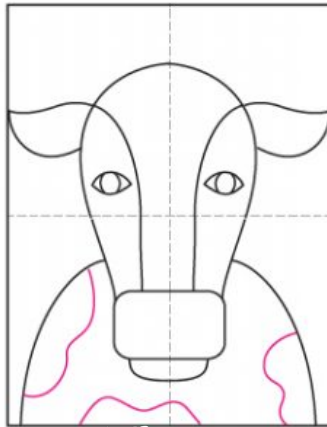
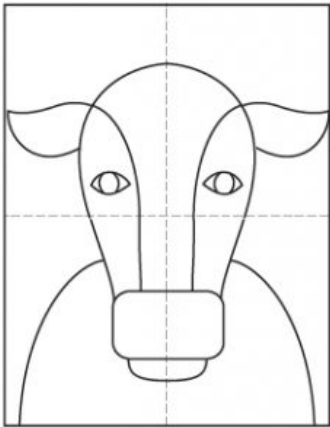
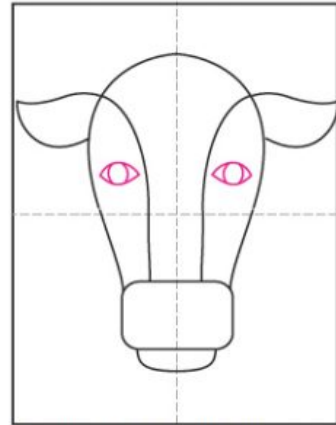
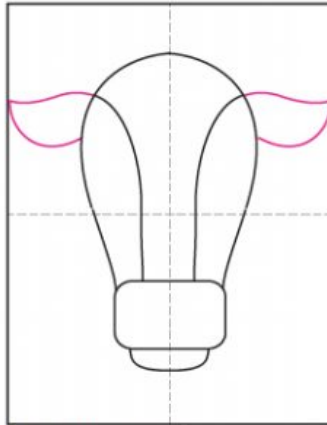
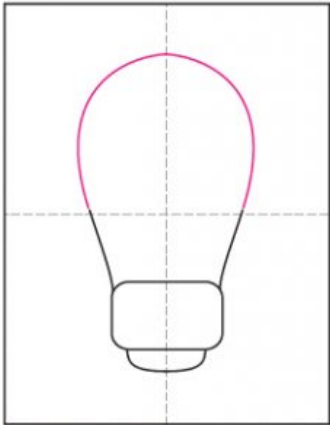
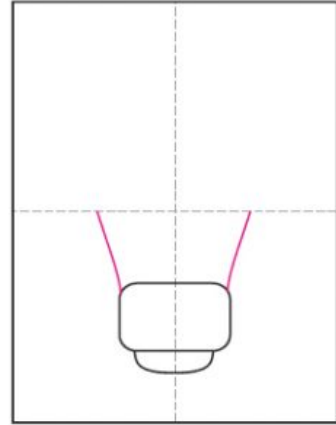
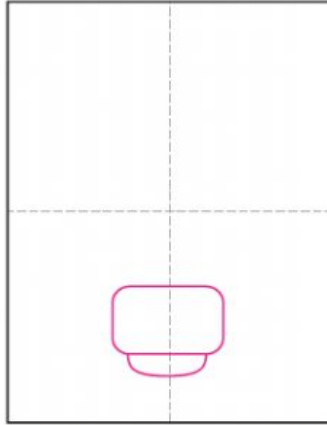


Let's Draw a Cow!

Use these instructions from artprojectsforkids.org to draw your own cow. Tag the Elgin History Museum on social media and show off your project. Let's make a whole herd of Elgin dairy cows!



Supplies: Markers, marker paper



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