

Lesson 6: Daily Life in Egypt (2 Days)

☐ Getting Started

In previous lessons, you learned a great deal about pharaohs and priests. But their lives were very different from the lives of everyday Egyptians. In this lesson, you'll learn more about the daily lives of Egyptian families.

Stuff You Need

- *Ancient Civilizations* by Joseph Fullman (DK Eyewitness)
- art materials
- colored pencils, crayons, or markers
- paper or cardstock
- scissors
- tape, glue stick, or glue

Ideas to Think About

- How did the environment (landforms, locations, natural resources, and climate) influence the ancient peoples of Mesopotamia and Egypt?
- How were the cultures of the ancient peoples of Mesopotamia and Egypt similar to or different from one another?

Things to Know

- The Nile was an important resource for the people of ancient Egypt, providing water for crops and an important means of transportation.
- Daily life for people in ancient Egypt depended greatly on the status of the individual or family. People in high-status positions, such as scribes or skilled craftsmen, were given greater respect and paid more for their work than laborers who worked in less-skilled positions.

☐ Reading and Questions

Re-read pp. 14-15 of *Ancient Civilizations* and then answer these questions.

1. Why was the Nile River so important to the lives of ancient Egyptians?

2. What is hieroglyphics?

3. What were the houses, food, and clothing for ordinary Egyptians like?

Activities

☐ Activity 1: The Nile

The Nile River was an important part of the everyday lives of Egyptians. It provided water, food, natural resources, and transportation. Use the "Nile River" activity page to record some of the ways in which Egyptians used the Nile for these purposes. You may either write your answers or draw pictures to show the Nile's many uses in Egyptian life. Include as many examples as you can think of for each category.



Nile

www.beyondthepage.com/link/8664/

If you'd like additional information, scroll down to the sections called "Importance to Egypt" and "Source of Life" on this web page for more information about the Nile River in Ancient Egypt.

☐ Activity 2: Hieroglyphics

The ancient Egyptians wrote hieroglyphics, which were painted or carved onto monuments. Page 14 in *Ancient Civilizations* shows an example. In this activity, you will create your own hieroglyphic writing.

Use your own paper and art supplies, and use a library book or one of the following web resources as a guide. You can write your own name or another word or phrase.

**Hieroglyphic Typewriter**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/8665/

Use the sounds in the word(s) as a guide to choosing the symbols you need.

**Write Like an Egyptian**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/8666/

Write your name or another word and then click the Inscribe button. Copy the resulting hieroglyphs.

Remember that hieroglyphics can be read from left to right, from right to left, or top to bottom. Choose whichever direction you wish for your own hieroglyphic writing. Use the images of hieroglyphic writing from today's reading as a model for the colors that you might use to decorate your writing. You can use crayons, colored pencils, markers, or watercolor paints.

Day 2☐ **Activity 3: Life and Work in Ancient Egypt**

In this activity, you will consider the lives and work of different groups of Egyptians outside of the royal family and religious life — the women, farmers, skilled craftsmen, laborers, servants/slaves, and scribes who did much of the necessary work in ancient Egypt. Refer to pages 14-15 of *Ancient Civilizations*, the web links provided, and library books or other resources as you fill in the tables on the "Life and Work in Ancient Egypt" pages to explain the kinds of work done by each group, the tools and natural resources they would use in their work, each group's status in Egyptian society, and what you might personally enjoy or dislike about each job.

**A Day in the Life**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/8659/

This PBS resource provides information about a typical day for an Egyptian woman, farmer, and craftsman.

**The Housemistress in New Kingdom Egypt**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/8660/

This page provides details about the life of a woman who died around 1473 BC.

**Scribes**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/8661/

This archived resource from The British Museum covers the scribes of ancient Egypt.

**Jobs in Ancient Egypt**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/8662/

Scroll down to "Pyramid Builders" to learn about the lives of laborers. Scroll down even further to learn about the life of servants.

☐ **Activity 4: Build a Model of an Egyptian Worker's House**

In this activity, you will have the chance to build a model of an Egyptian worker's home. You can learn more about the look and layout of workers' homes at the following web link.

**Ancient Egyptian Houses**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/8663/

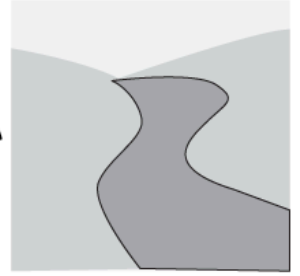
The activity pages provide a model for the house and some basic home furnishings. First color the parts of the home and its furnishings, and then cut them out and assemble them using tape or glue stick as needed for stability. You can use your own paper or card stock to fashion additional furnishings, residents for your house, or other objects based on your knowledge of life in ancient Egypt.

If you are not able to finish the model today, feel free to work on it in your spare time over the next several days. Assembling all of the pieces will take time, but the results will be worth your effort!

Wrapping Up

The daily lives of Egyptian people varied based on their status and the kinds of work that they did, but all Egyptians were dependent on the Nile River and the natural resources that it provided. To what extent are you dependent on the natural resources in your immediate area today? What kinds of changes have allowed people to live in areas less rich in natural resources than the Nile valley?

The Nile River



A Source of Water

A Source of Food

A Source of Natural Resources

A Transportation Route

LIFE AND WORK IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Instructions: Use the table below to record information about the lives of different workers in ancient Egypt. Pay special attention to the ways in which natural resources play a role in each group's work.

People Who Worked in Ancient Egypt	Examples of Work Done	Examples of Tools Used	Examples of Natural Resources Used	Status in Egyptian Society	What I Might Like About This Job	What I Might Dislike About this Job
Women						
Farmers						
Skilled Craftsmen						

LIFE AND WORK IN ANCIENT EGYPT

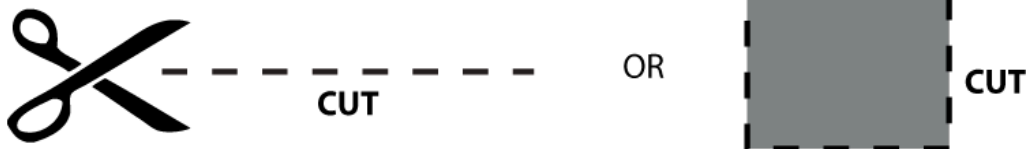
page 2

People Who Worked in Ancient Egypt	Examples of Work Done	Examples of Tools Used	Examples of Natural Resources Used	Status in Egyptian Society	What I Might Like About This Job	What I Might Dislike About this Job
Laborers						
Slaves/ servants						
Scribes						

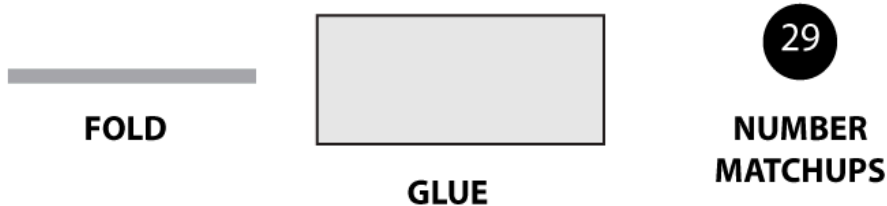
BUILD A MODEL OF AN EGYPTIAN WORKER'S HOUSE

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1) Cut out all 25 pages along the black dotted lines. You also need to cut out any dark grey spaces. There are different shades of gray, so be sure to only cut out areas that look like the areas and lines shown below. It is also important to cut out all window panes. For the doors, cut only on the dotted lines on the three sides. You will fold the fourth side so that your doors can swing open and shut.



STEP 2) Your Egyptian house will be made up of three separate rooms. You will build one room at a time. There are flaps and numbers in circles that will help you connect the right pieces to make your home. Thick gray lines (shown below) indicate that you will fold along that line. There are also arrows along each flap. The arrows indicate which directions to fold in. It is important to pay close attention to the arrows and fold accordingly. Areas shaded in light gray (shown below) will be glued down. White numbers in black circles will be used to indicate which pieces need to be glued together. For example, a wall with a flap labeled 29 will be glued to the roof on the side labeled 29. Now, fold all your pieces along the gray lines.



STEP 3) Now you will begin to assemble room 1. Take the first roof (labeled 2, 4, 5 and 7) and place it face town on a hard surface. Next, take the four walls that have flaps with corresponding numbers to the roof and glue them down one at a time. Be sure to glue the flaps on the plain white side of the roof, not the patterned side. Make sure your windows and front door are facing outward and the fourth wall with a place to glue the altar is facing inward. You will now need to glue the sides of the walls together. Now, if you flip the house over you should have your first completed room.

STEP 4) You will now assemble the base for the second room of your house. Egyptian homes in the village often had rooms at different elevations. Therefore, the second room of your Egyptian house will sit up higher than the other rooms. You will first build a base to elevate the second room on. The base will essentially be a large rectangular box that your second room will sit on top of. Take the floor image (labeled 17, 18, 19 and 20) and attach the four pieces with corresponding numbers. Glue the flaps on the plain white side, not the patterned one. The four pieces are octagons labeled 20 /24, 19/23, 18/22, and 17/21. You will now attach the final piece of the base using the image labeled, "Support floor base."

STEP 5) You will now assemble the second room. Like room 1, start with the roof (labeled 11, 12, 13 and 15) and build the rest of the room accordingly. It is important to make sure you are gluing on the walls facing the correct way indicated by the arrows. You can check to see if you are gluing them correctly based on whether or not the door from the first room lines up with the door from the second room. Align side 10 of room two with side 7 of room 1. Place room 2 on the base you created in Step 4. Now the door in room 2 and the door from room 1 will align perfectly.

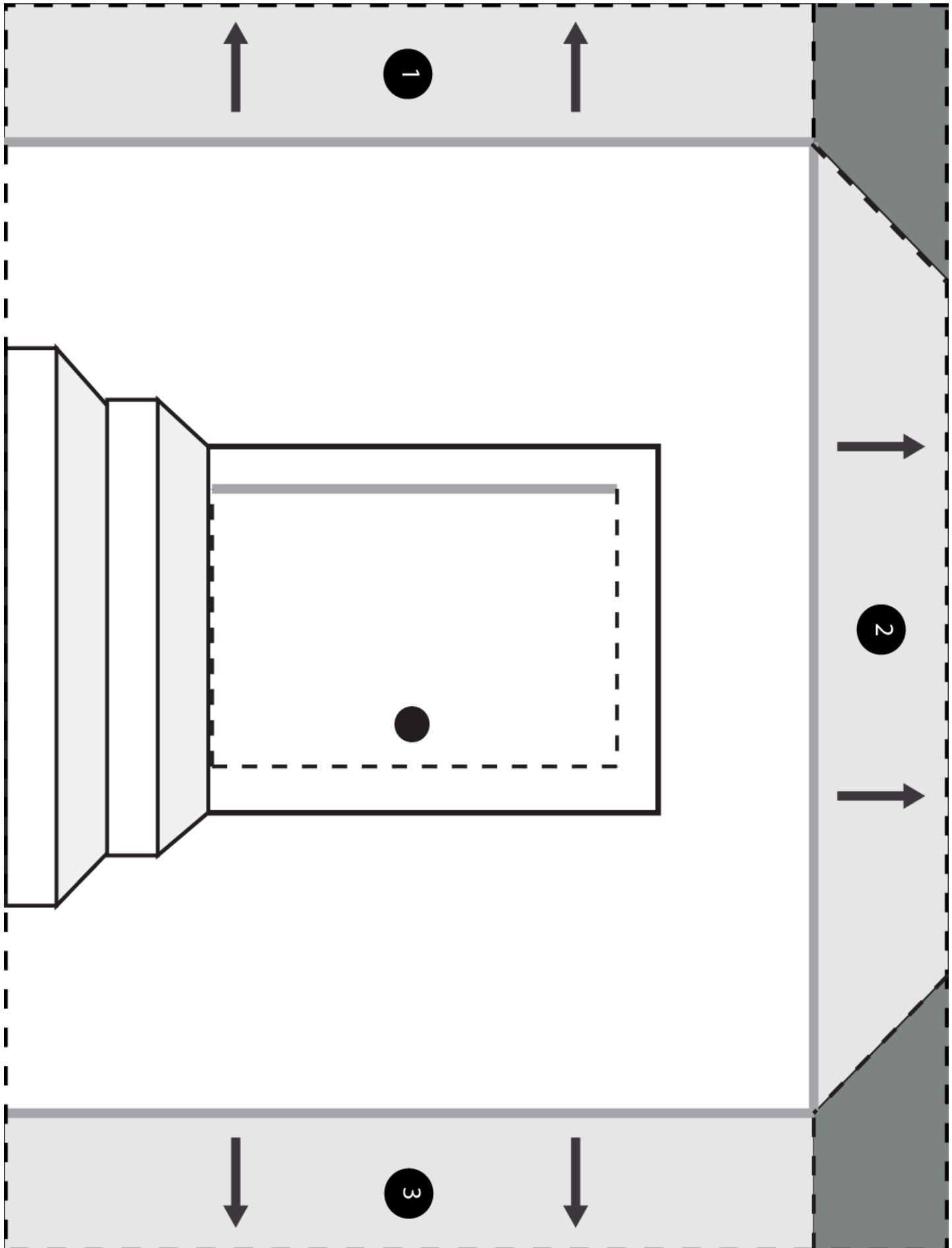
STEP 6) You will now assemble the third room. Like room 1 and 2, start with the roof (labeled 25, 27, 28 and 30) and build the rest of the room accordingly. Align side 25 of room 3 with side 15 of room 2.

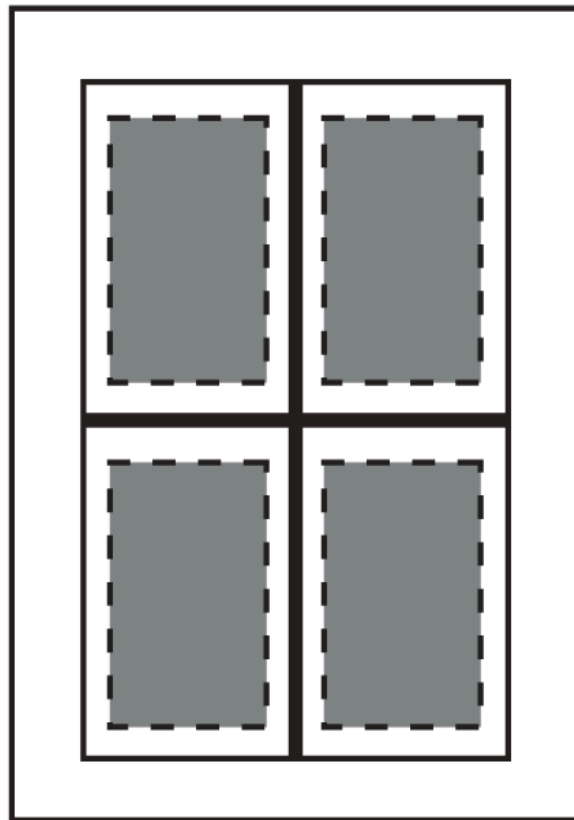
STEP 7) You will now assemble three different stairwells. Take the three stairwells you cut out and assemble them. If you fold along the dark grey lines according to the arrows, you will end up with a 3-stair stairwell. The two side wings fold in to make the sides of the stairs and all the small rectangles actually form the stairs. There will be one rectangle flap that will fold under on the bottom that can be used to glue down the stairs. You can now glue stairwell 1 and 3 to their proper places in rooms 1 and 3. You will be using stairwell 2 in the next step.

STEP 8) You will now assemble the altar that will go in room 1. Many Egyptian homes had altars that were used for religious practices in the first rooms. You will create an altar using the image with "Altar" on it. Fold the image accordingly and paste flap 32 on the interior wall in room 1 where it's labeled, "Place altar flap here." The altar will then be in the corner of the room with the actual altar facing the front door. You will then paste stairwell 2 on the altar.

STEP 9) You will now assemble the column for room 2. Many Egyptian homes had a column in the second room. You will make the column by first assembling the cube and then assembling the cylinder. The triangles on the cylinder need to be on the top and bottom of the column and they will be glued to the circles on the top and bottom. The long flap will be used to seal the column vertically. After you have made the cylinder and cube, you will then paste the cylinder on the top of the cube and glue the column into room 2.

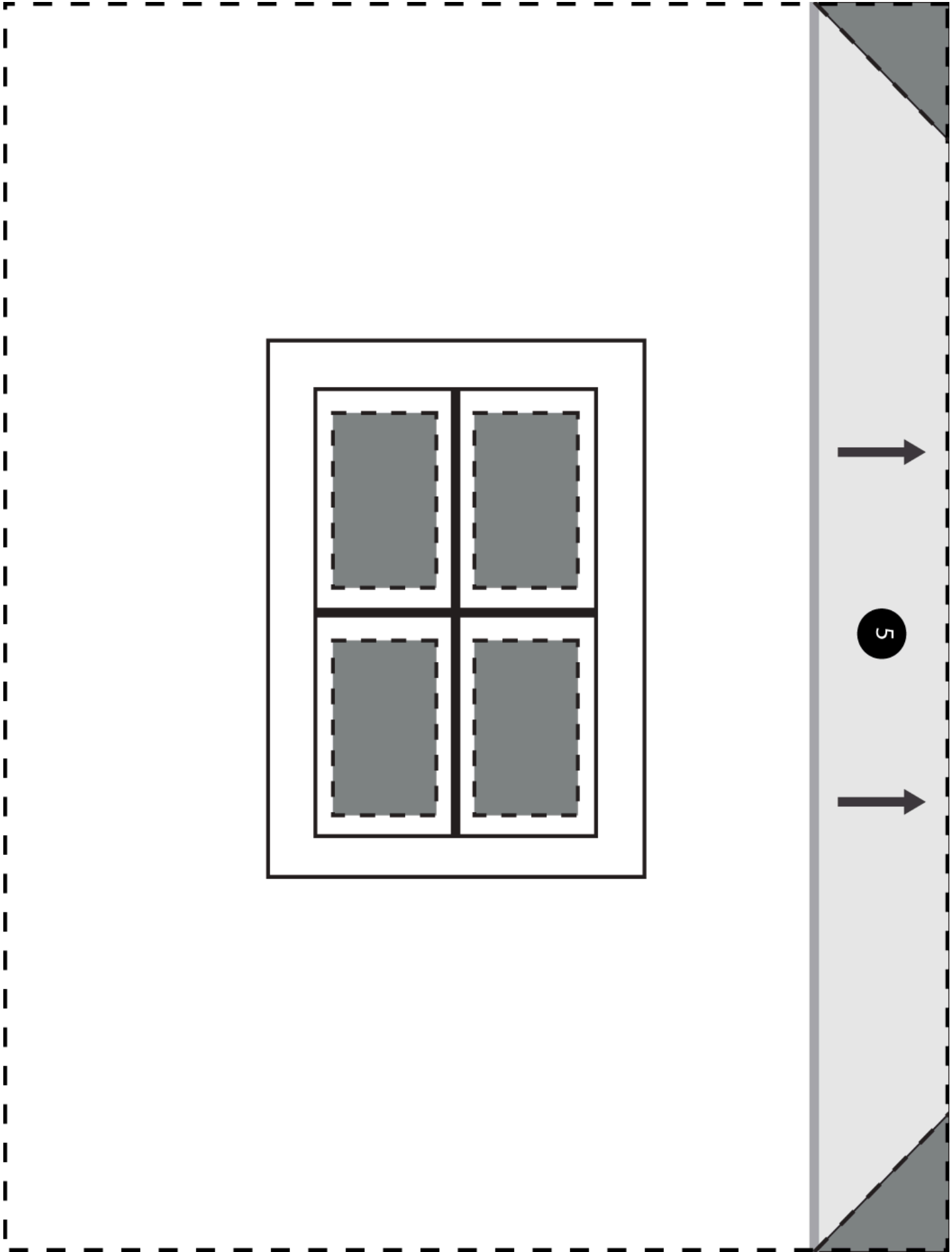
STEP 10) Now that you have assembled your home you can begin to decorate the house. The final page has several Egyptian paintings and wall art that you can color and use to decorate the interior of your home. You can also create other objects and decorations for the interior and exterior of your home.

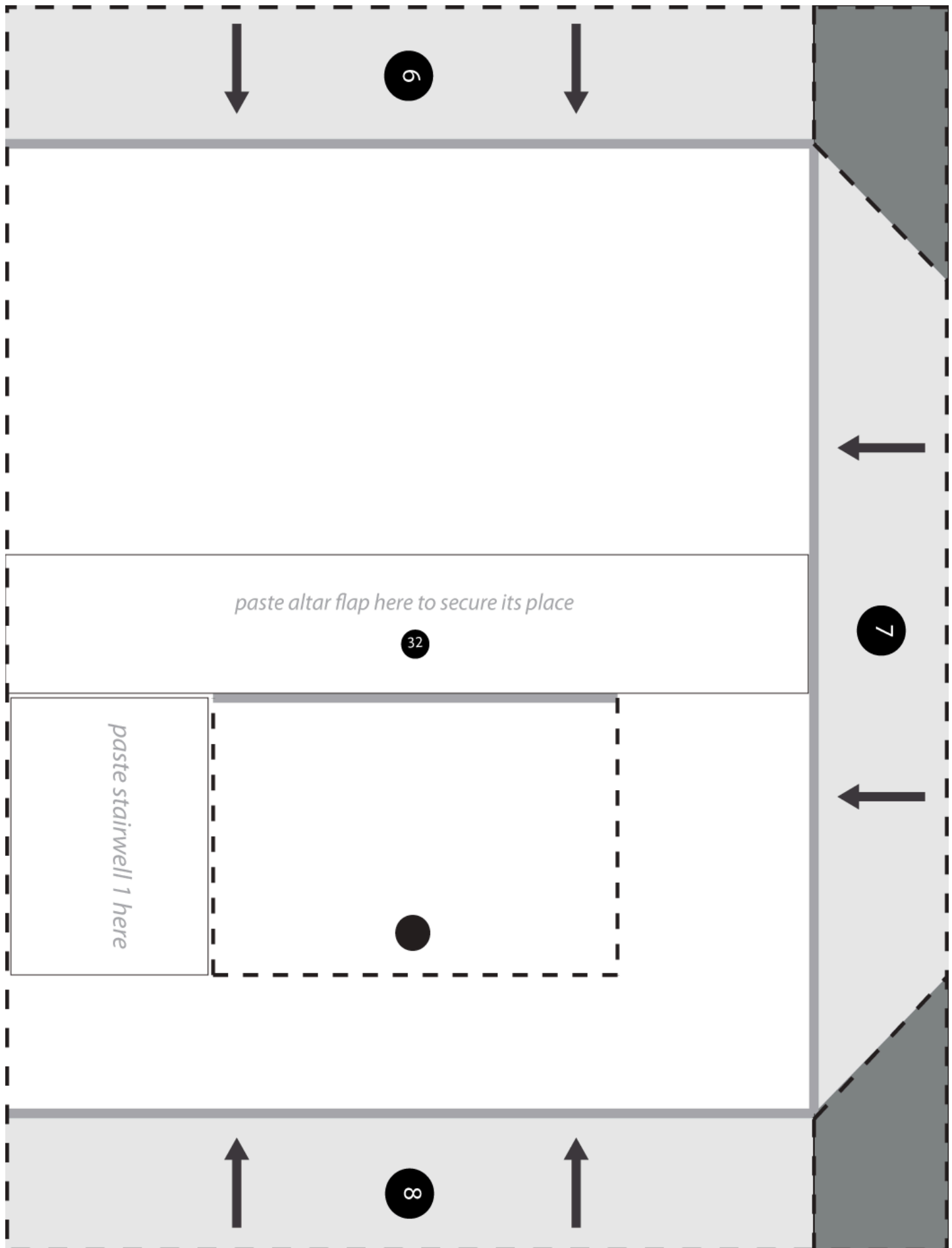


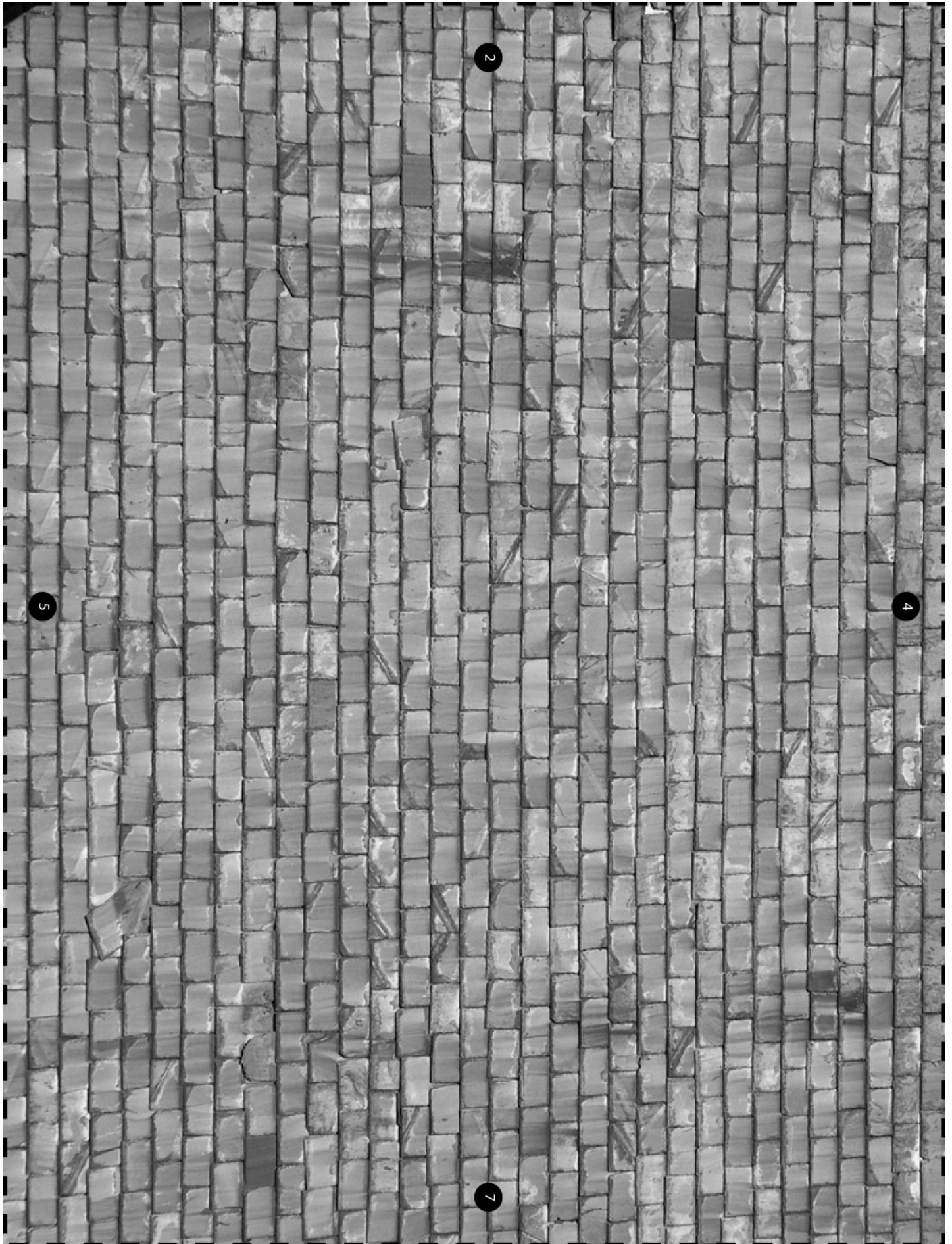


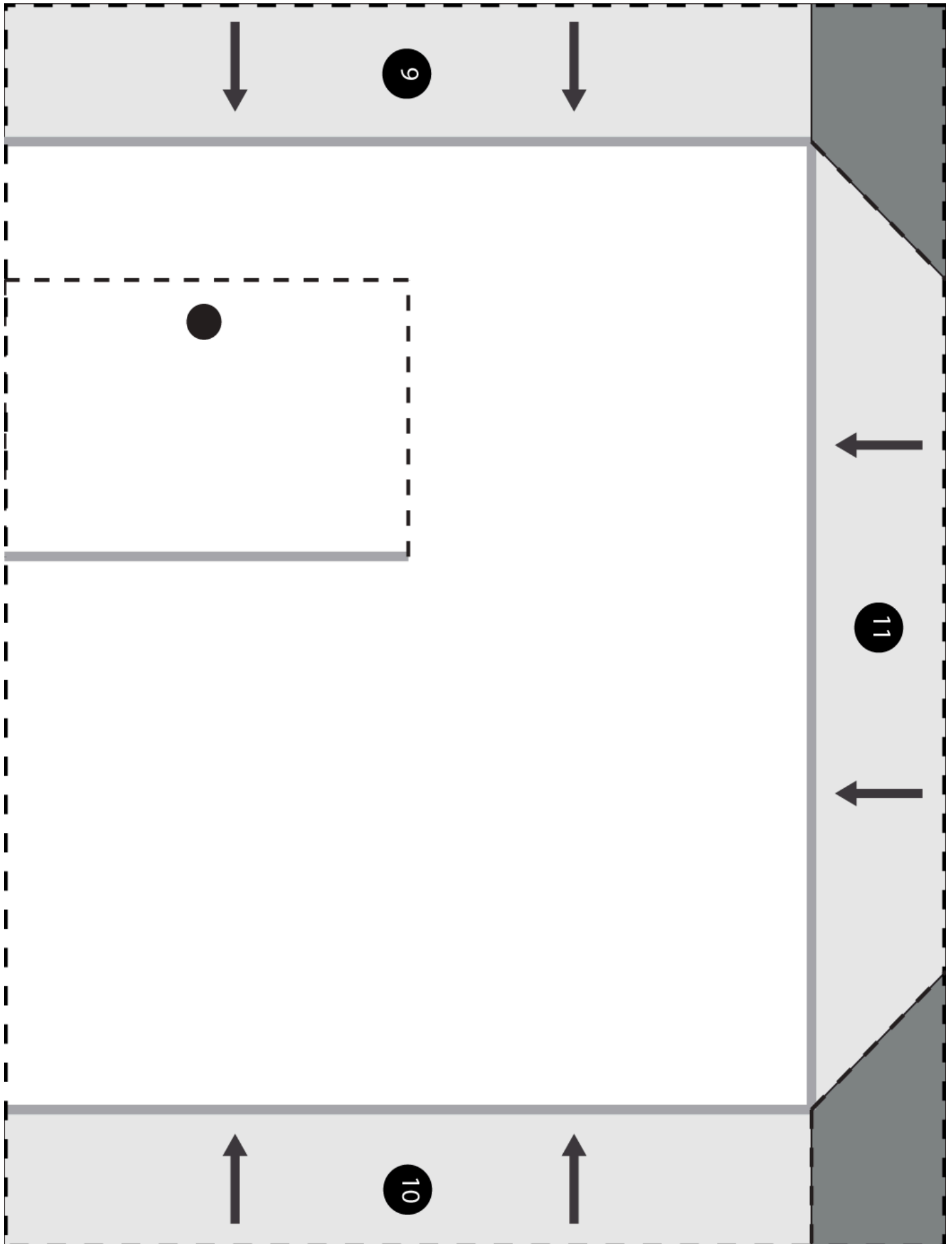
4

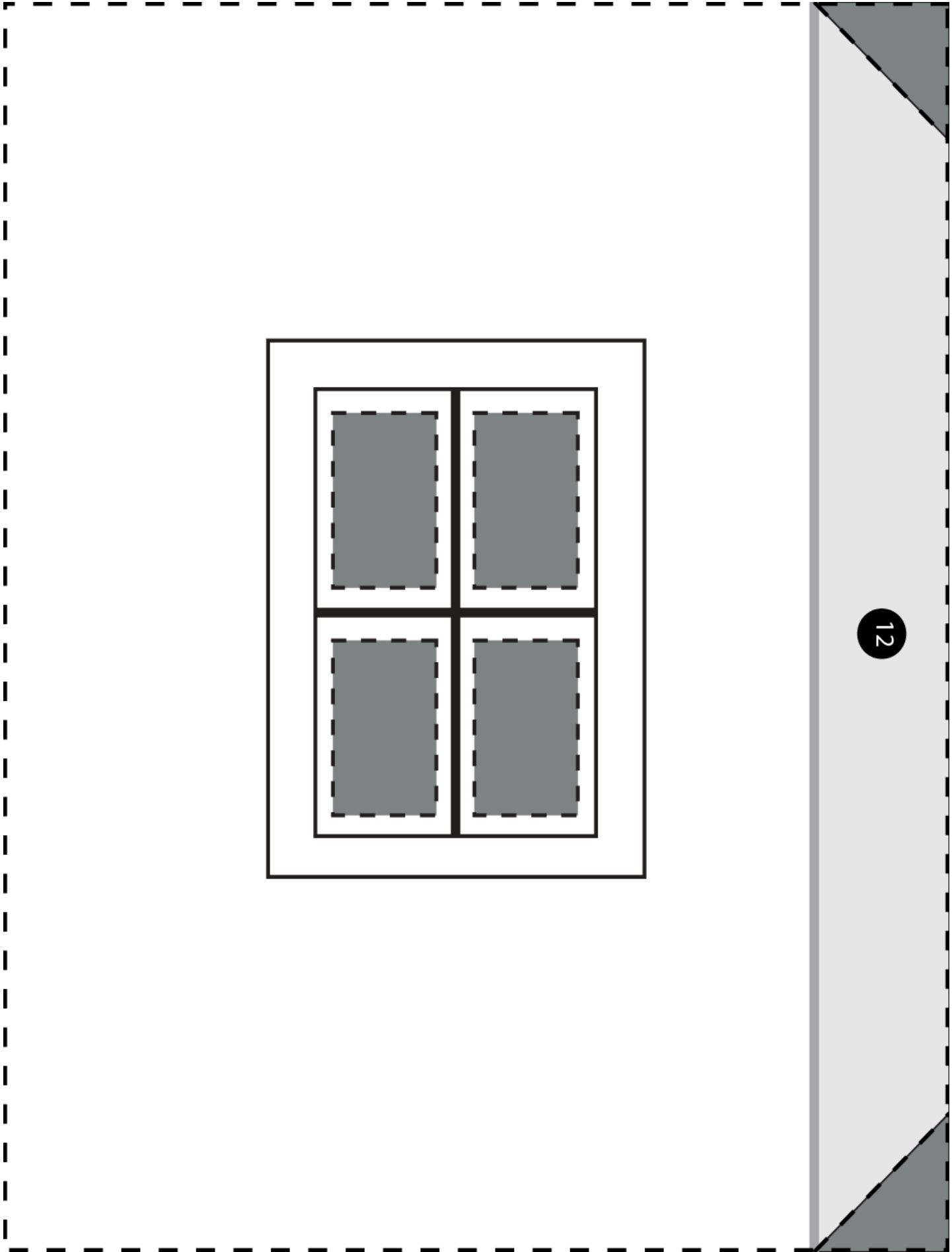


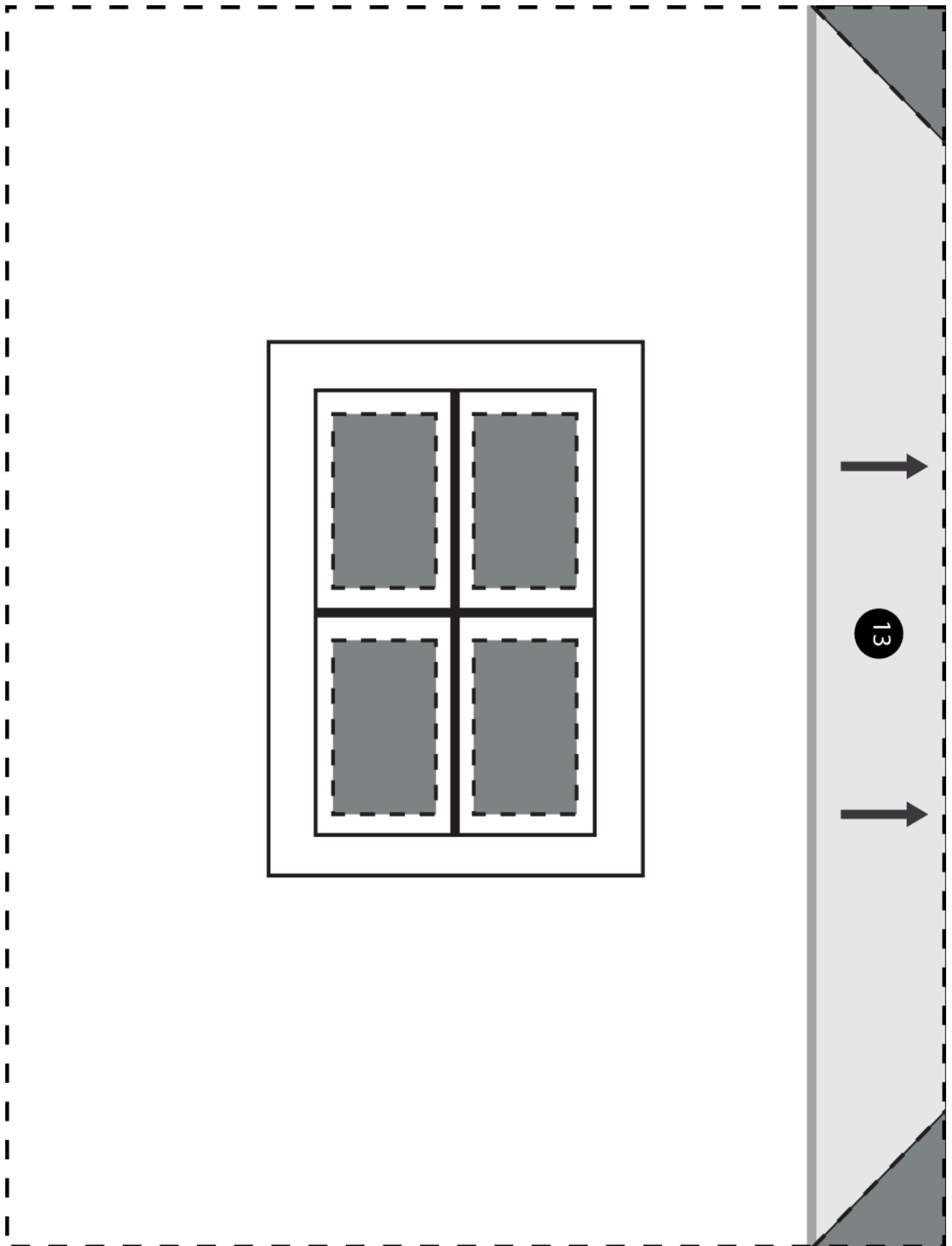


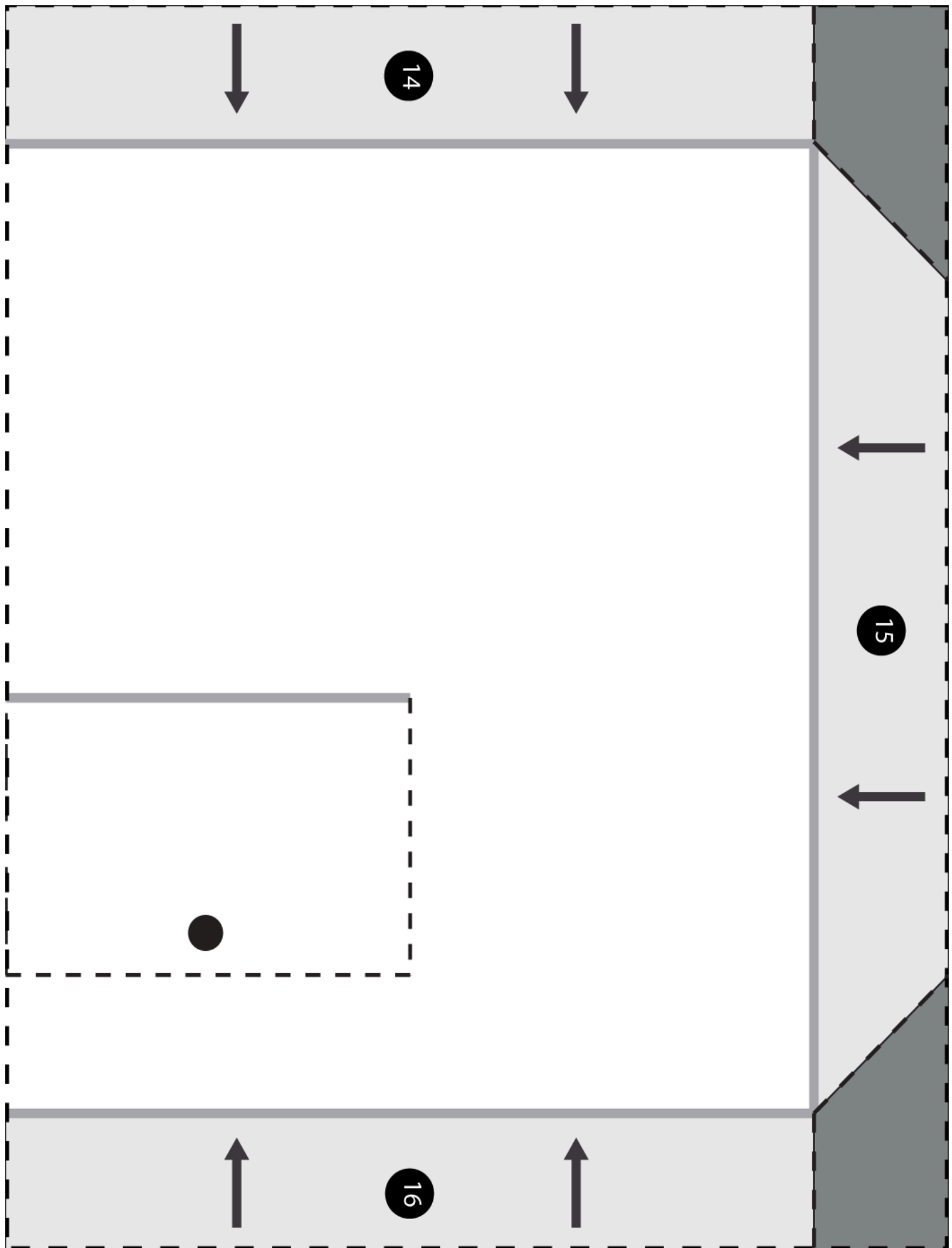


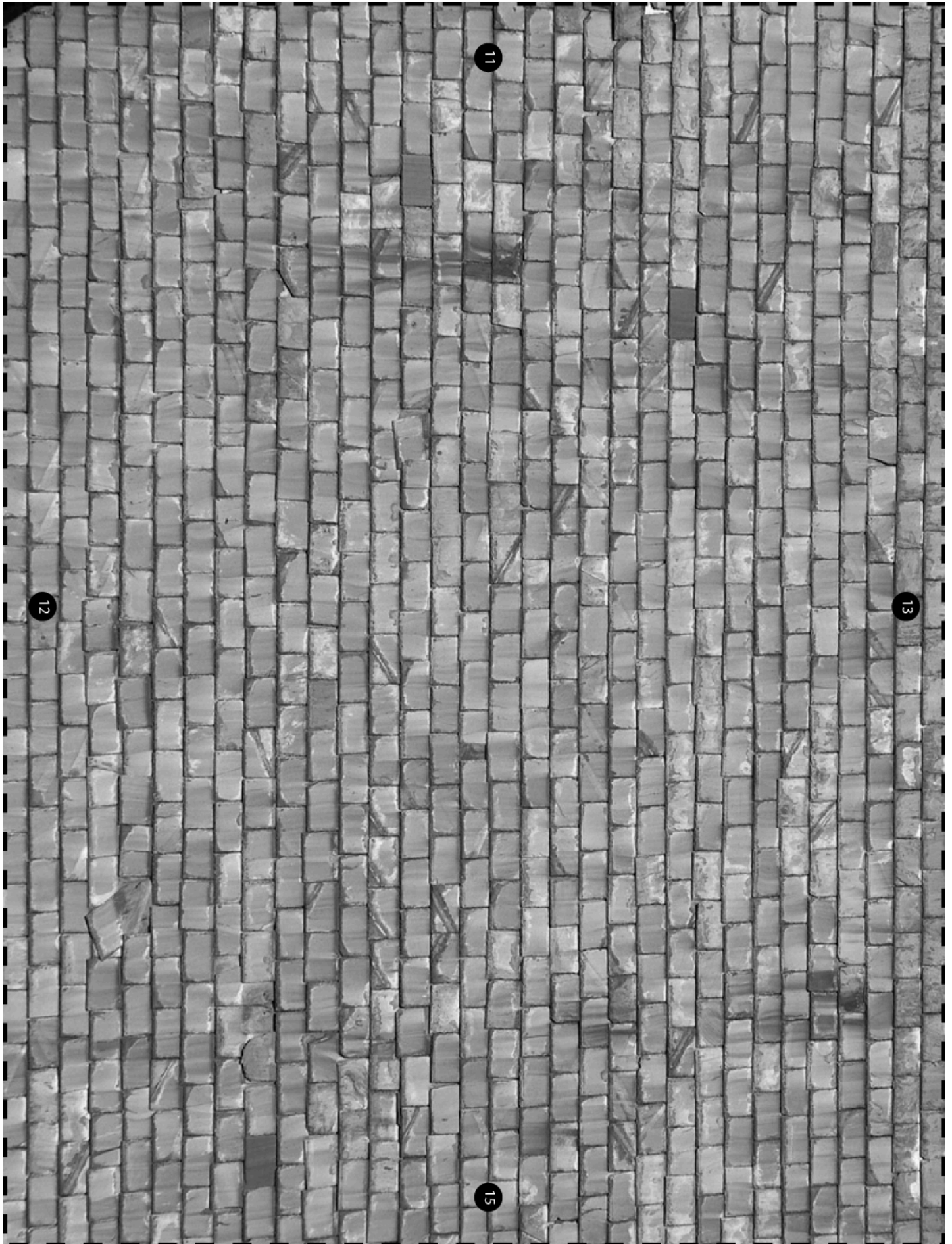












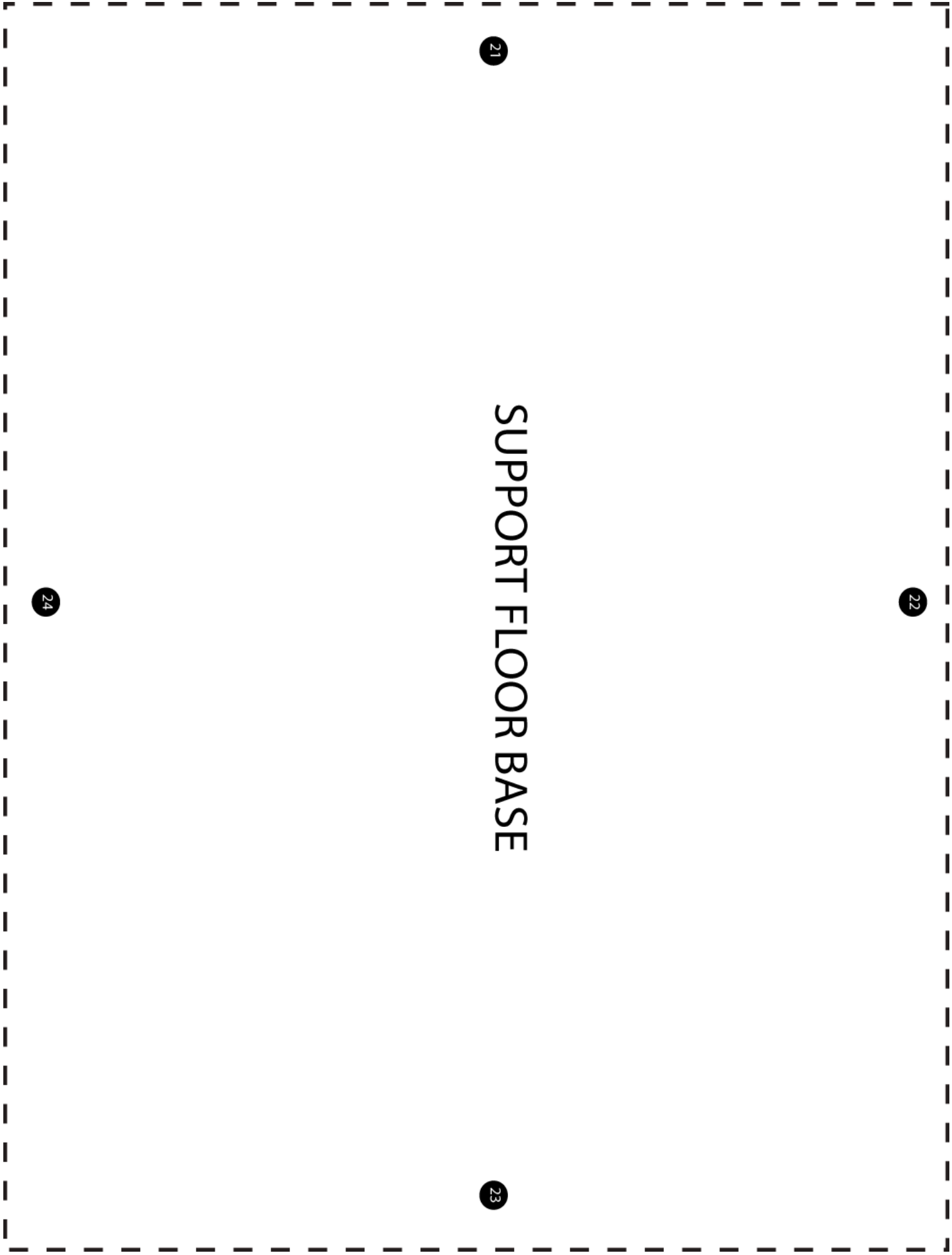
17

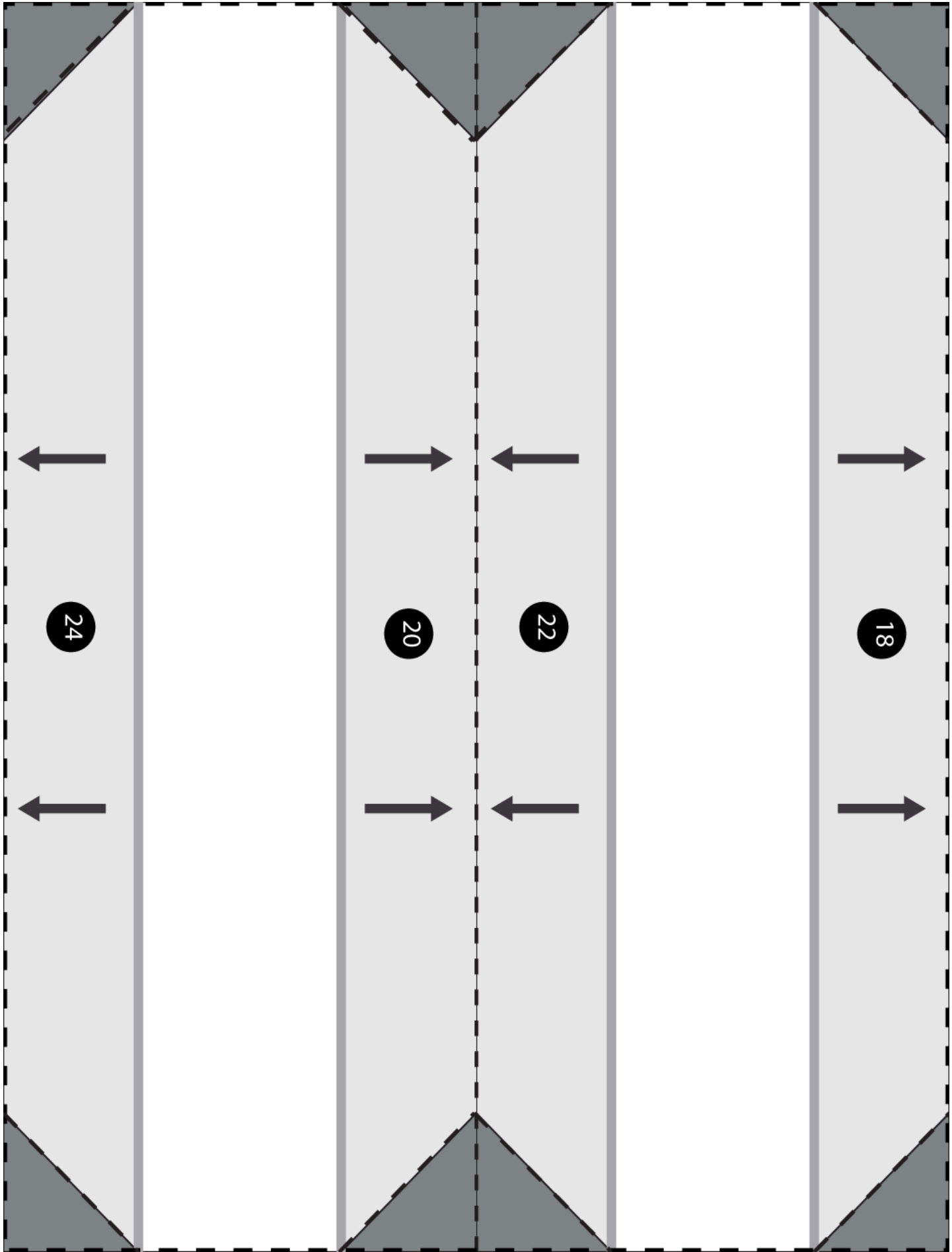
18

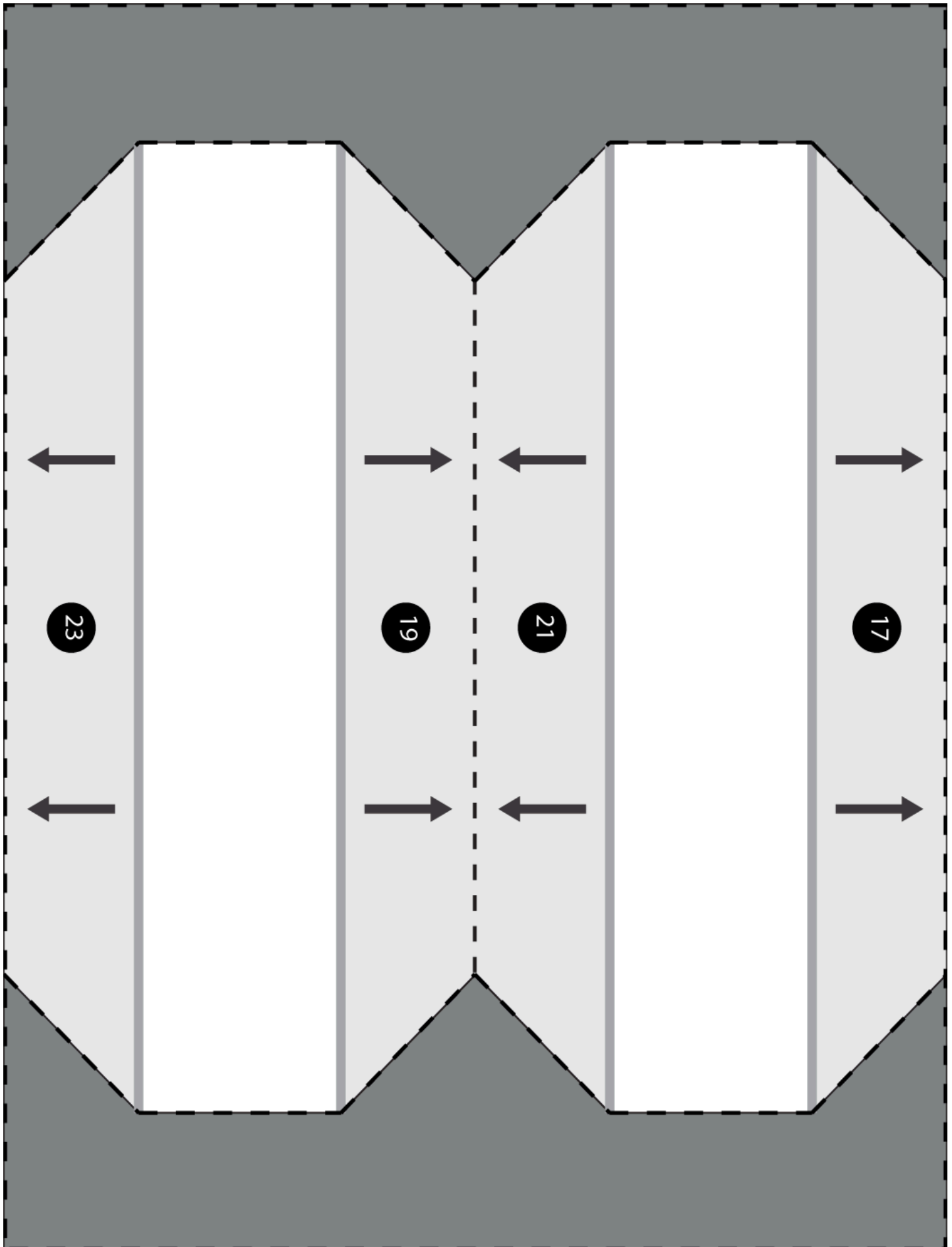
19

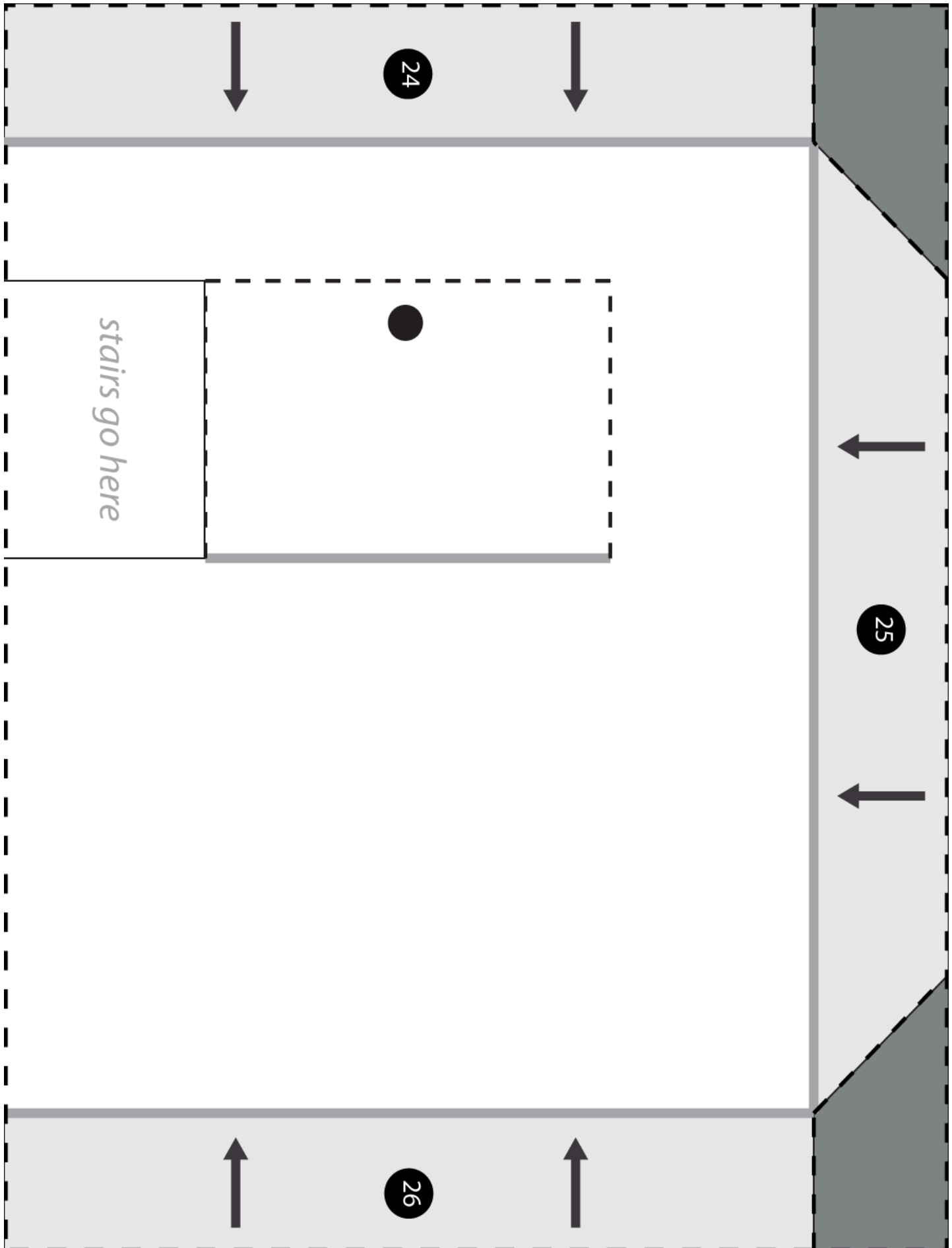
20

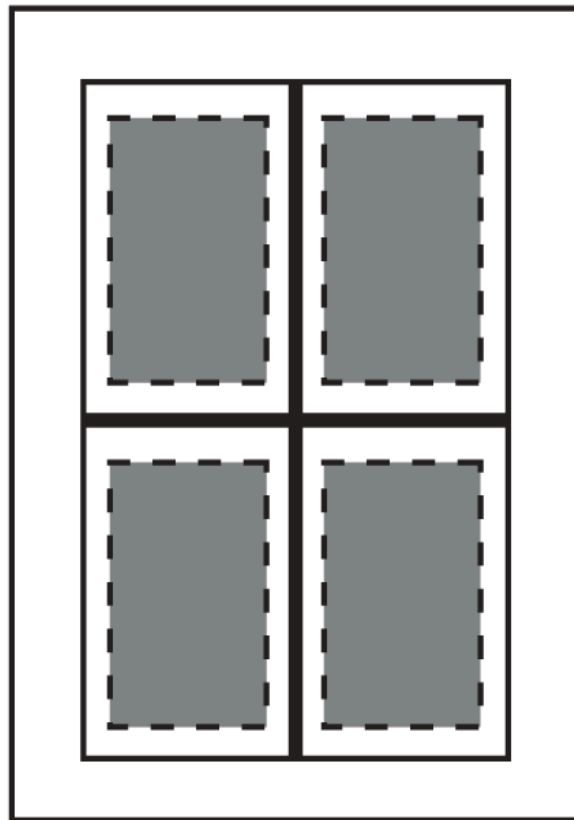
paste bottom
of column
here





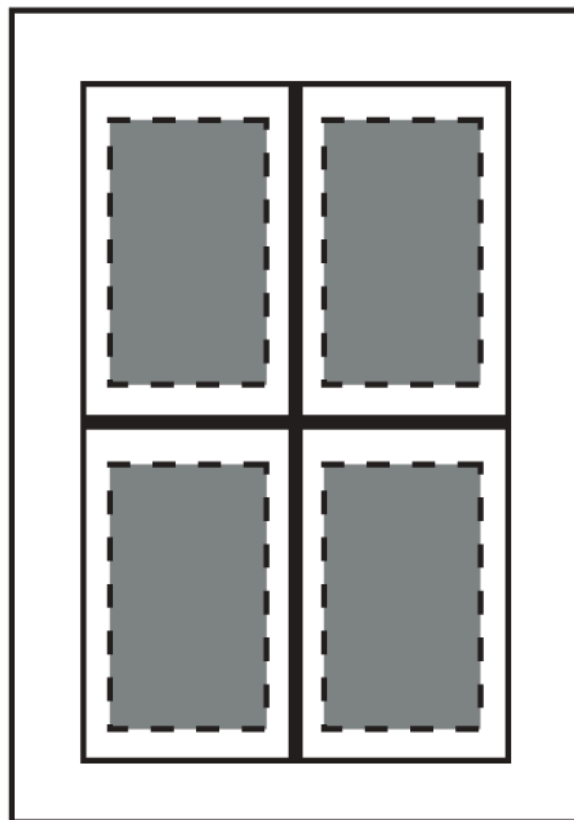


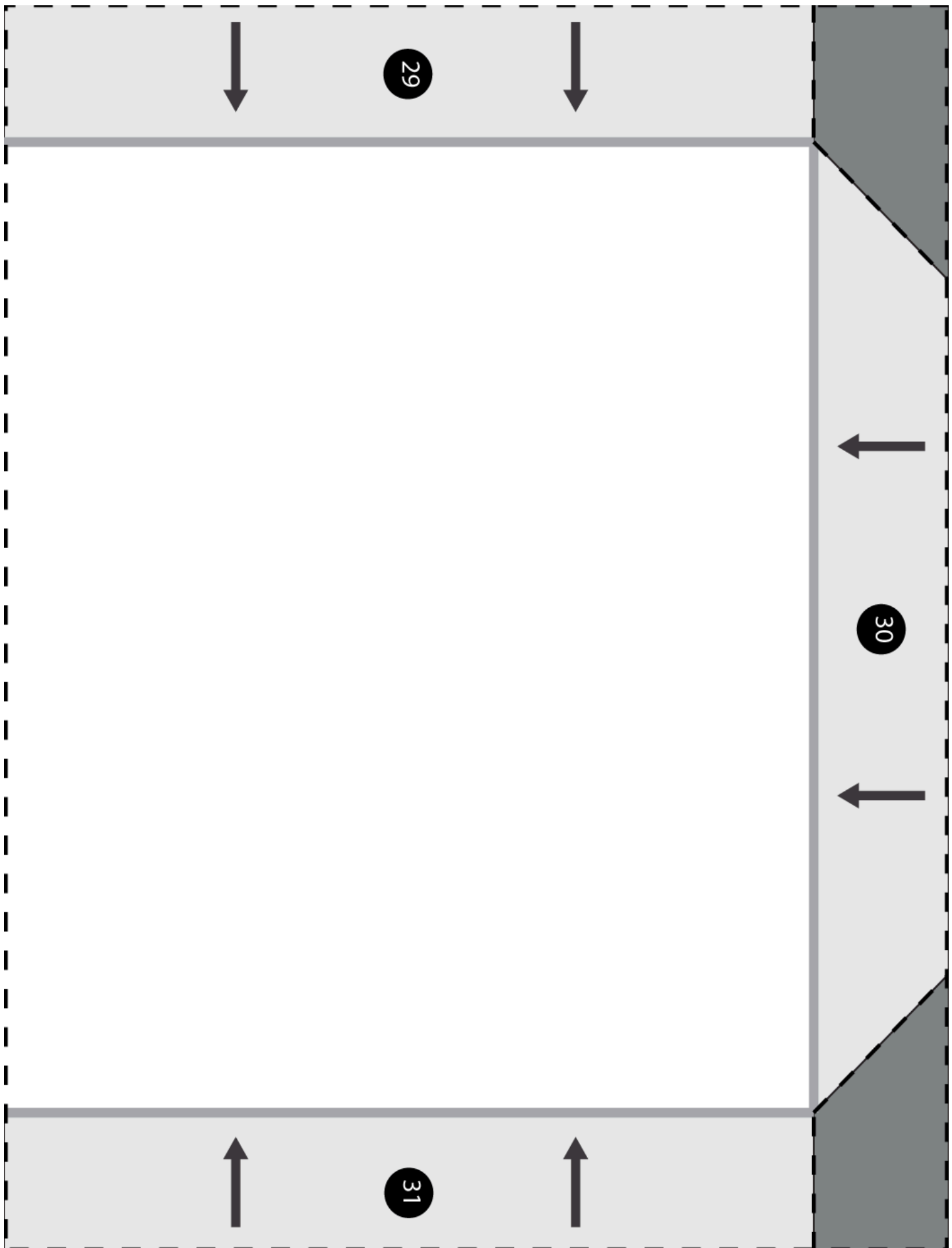


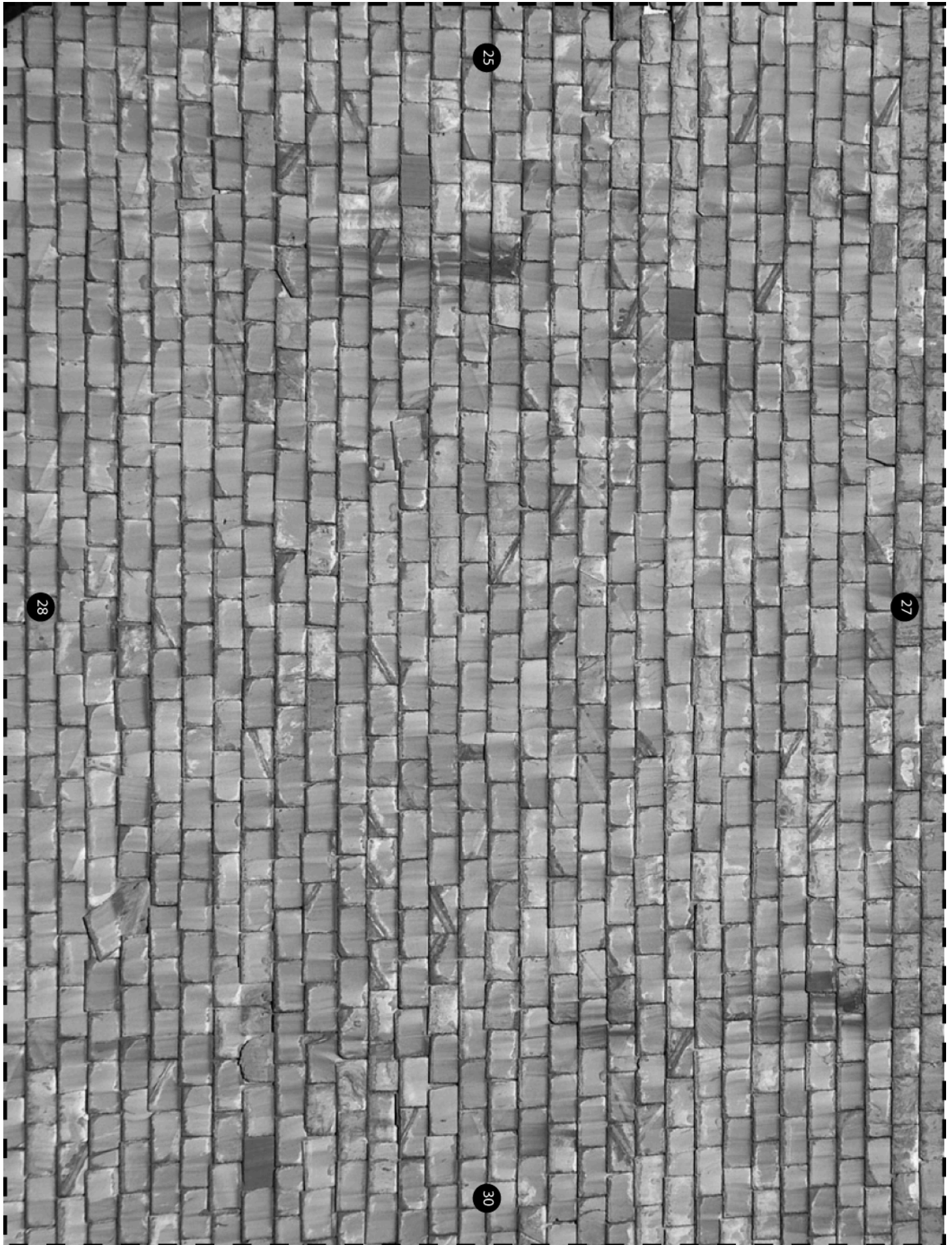


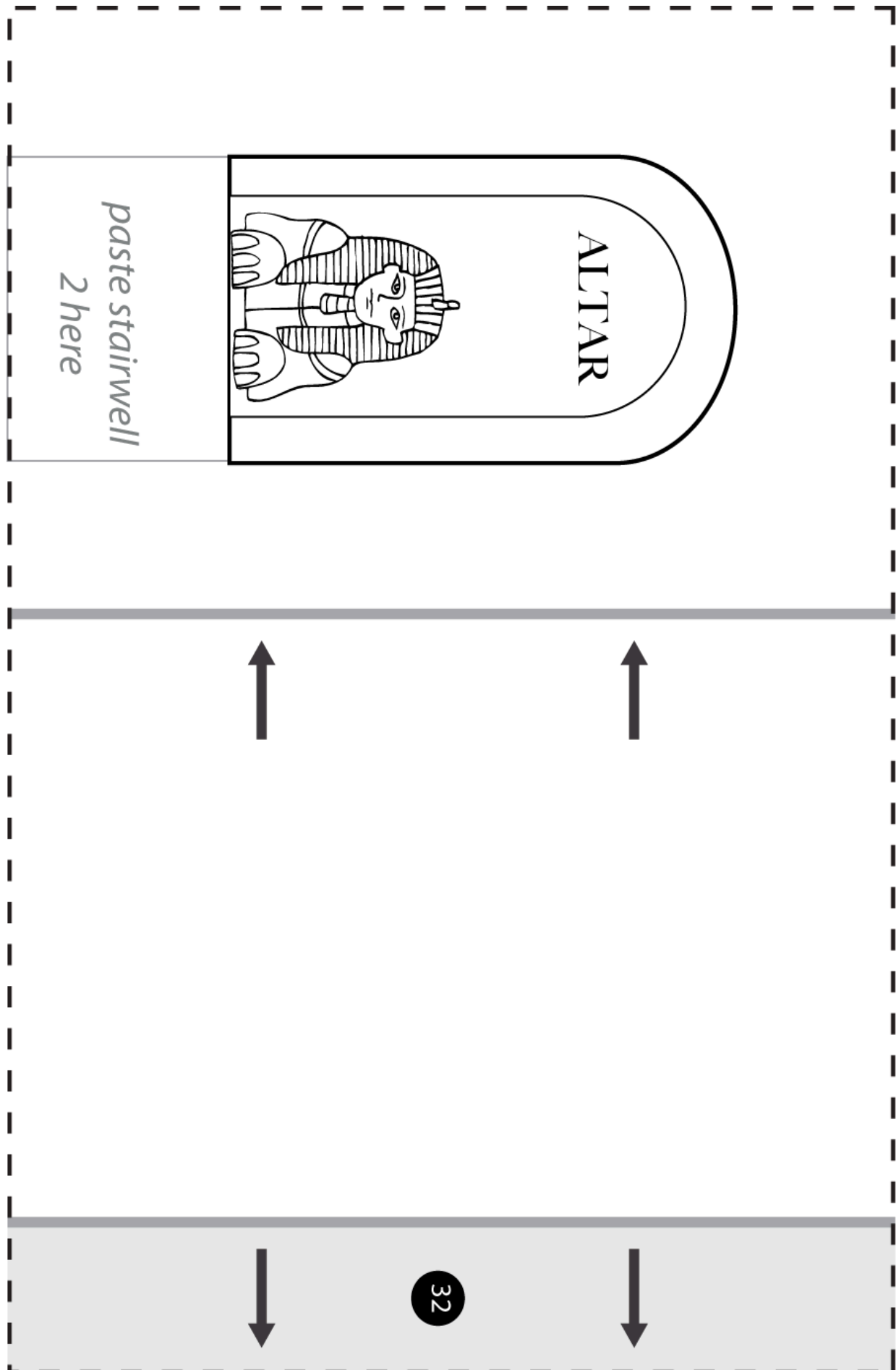
27

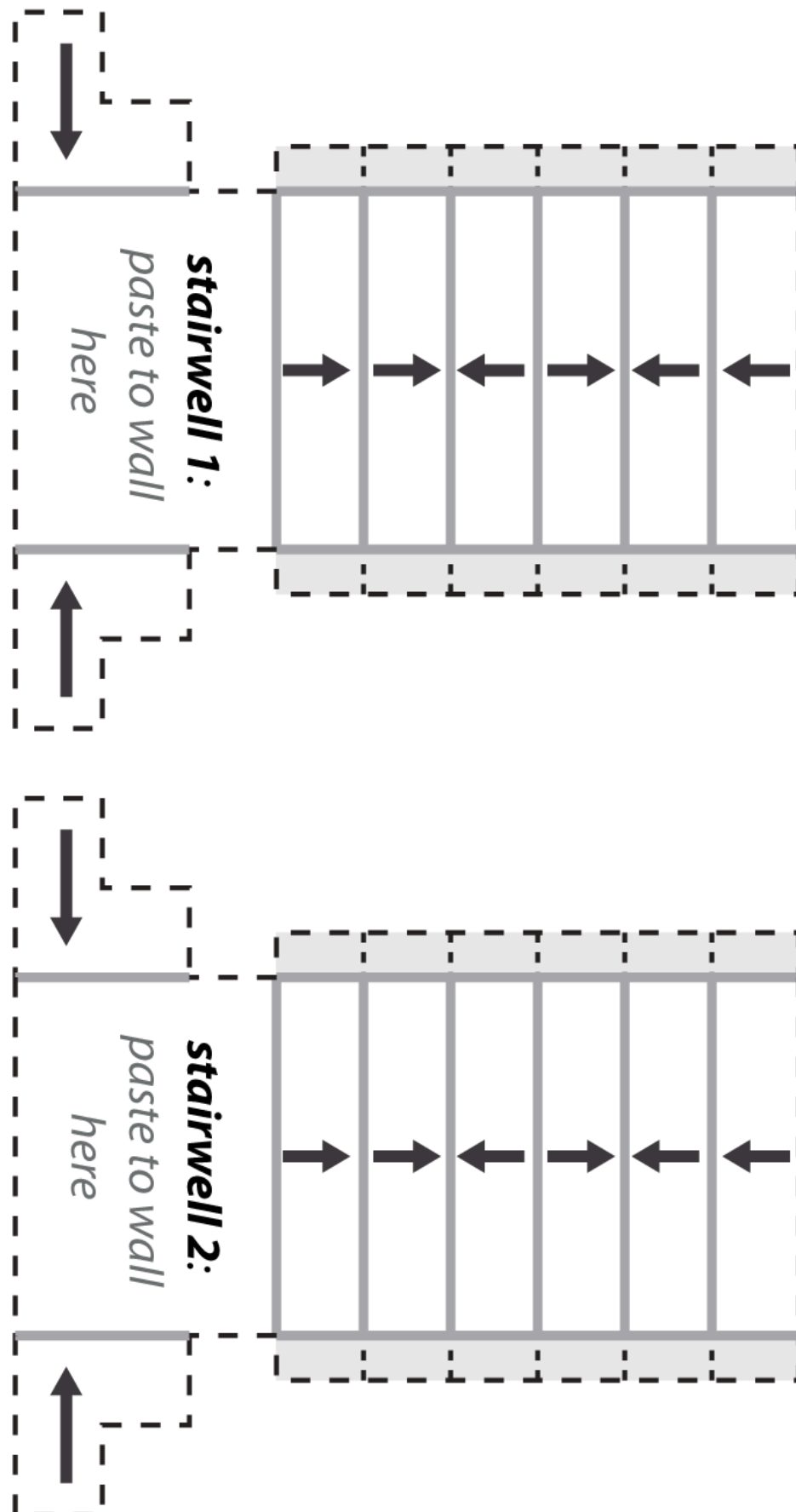


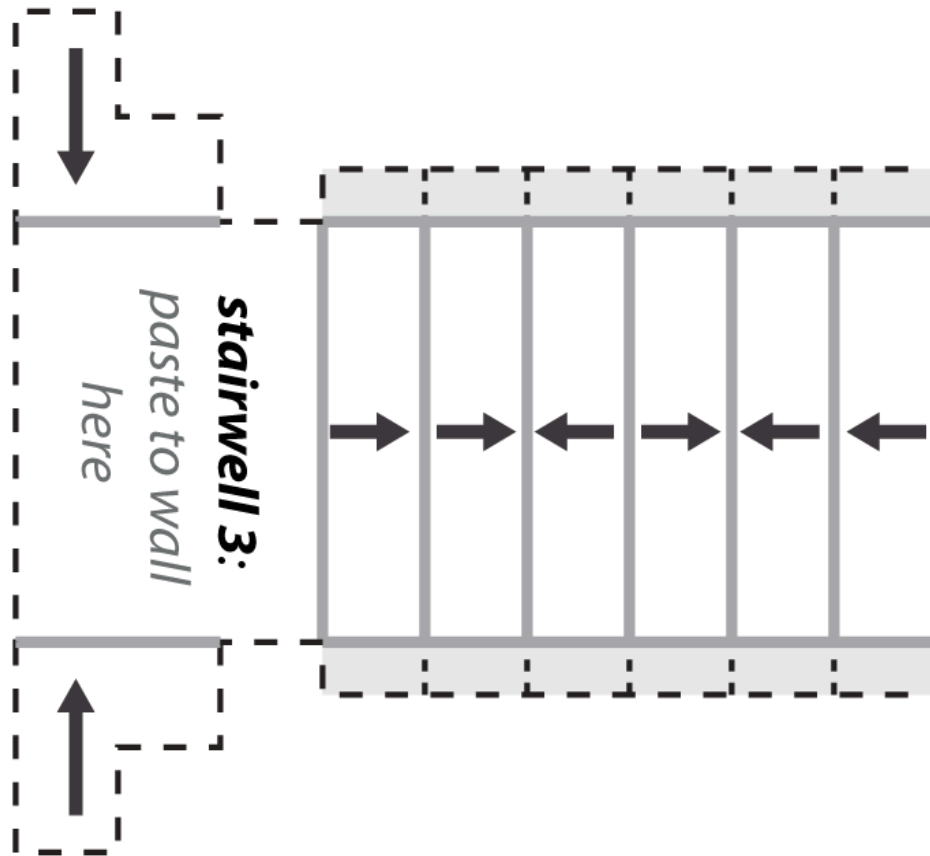




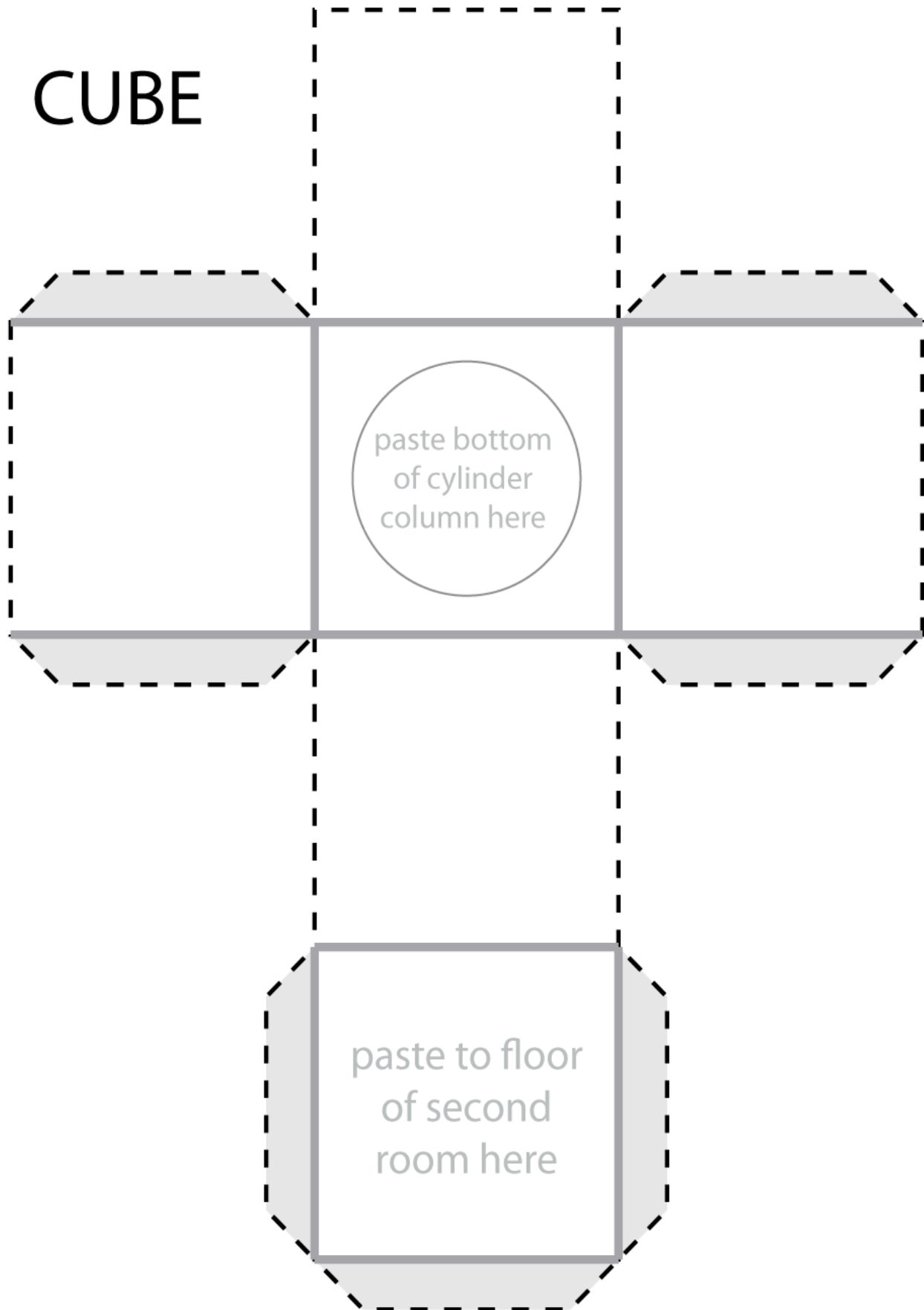


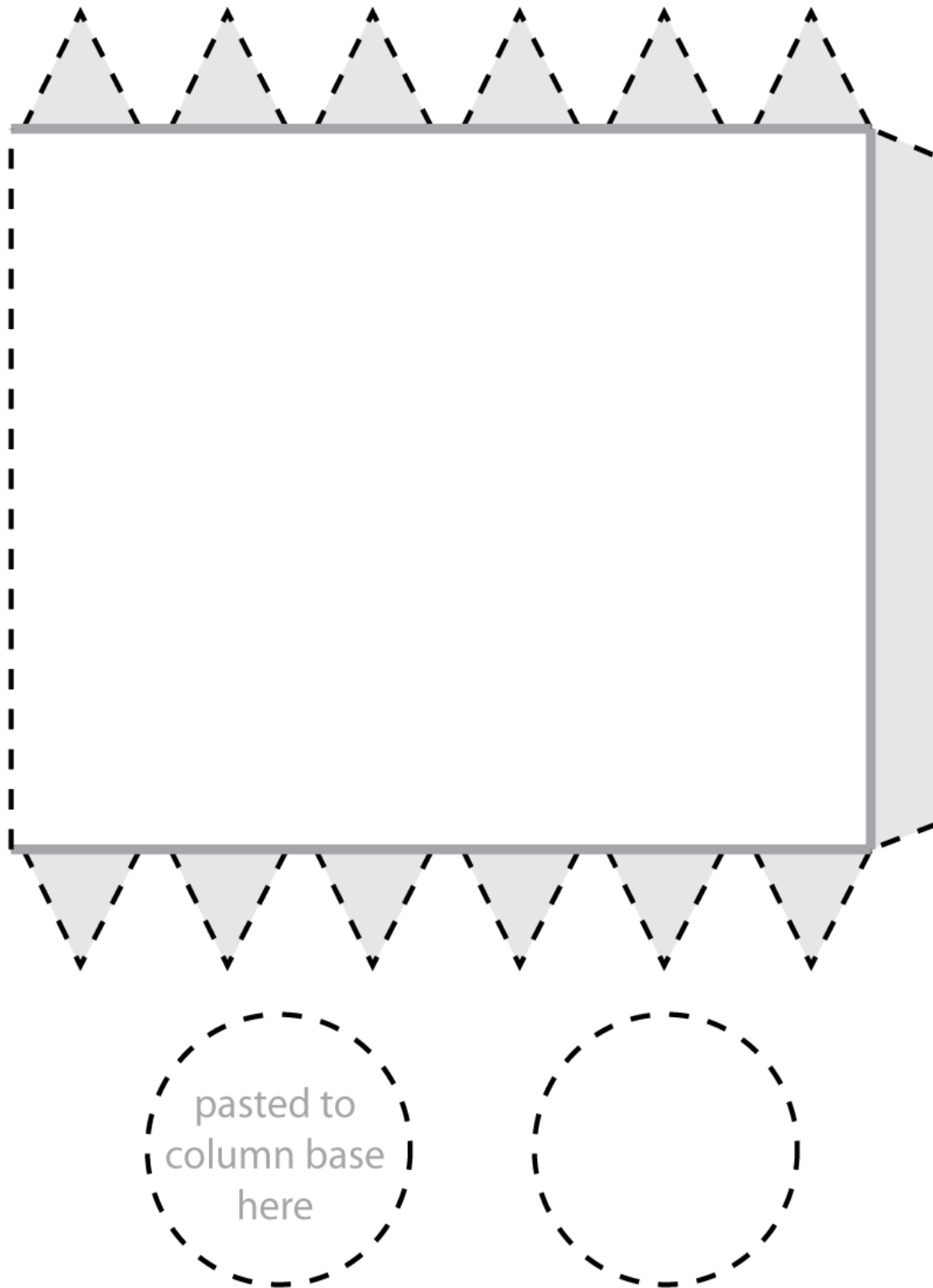


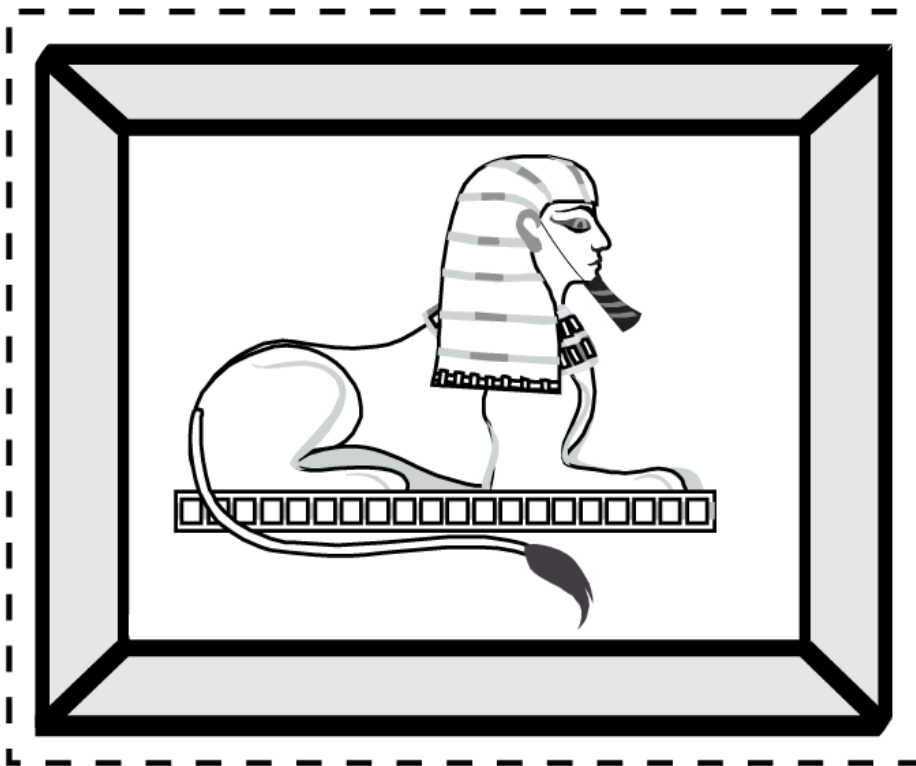
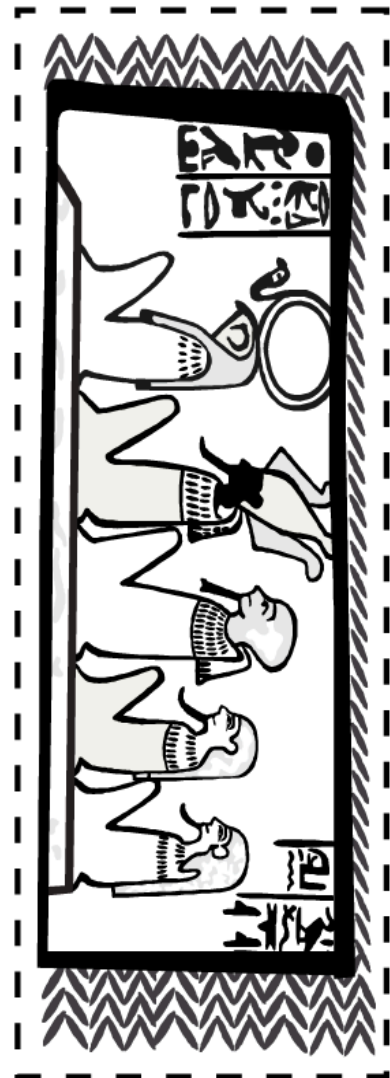




CUBE







Lesson 6: Daily Life in Egypt (2 Days)

Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How did the environment (landforms, locations, natural resources, and climate) influence the ancient peoples of Mesopotamia and Egypt?
- How were the cultures of the ancient peoples of Mesopotamia and Egypt similar to or different from one another?



Things to Know

- The Nile was an important resource for the people of ancient Egypt, providing water for crops and an important means of transportation.
- Daily life for people in ancient Egypt depended greatly on the status of the individual or family. People in high-status positions, such as scribes or skilled craftsmen, were given greater respect and paid more for their work than laborers who worked in less-skilled positions.

● Skills

- Analyze the development of early civilizations in Africa, c. 8000 BCE to 600 CE. (SS)
- Trace the development and assess the achievements in the arts, sciences, and technology of early river civilizations, including those around the Nile (Egypt) and Tigris-Euphrates (Mesopotamia) rivers. (SS)
- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt. (SS)
- Locate and describe the major river systems and discuss the physical settings that supported permanent settlement and early civilizations. (SS)
- Trace the development of agricultural techniques that permitted the production of economic surplus and the emergence of cities as centers of culture and power. (SS)
- Trace the evolution of language in its written forms. (SS)

Introducing the Lesson

In this lesson, your child will explore the daily lives of average ancient Egyptians — the scribes, craftsmen, farmers, laborers, and families who did the daily work that supplied the empire with its basic needs, built the temples and tombs ordered by rulers, and enabled the government to function.

Reading and Questions

1. Why was the Nile River so important to the lives of ancient Egyptians?

The river provided rich soil for farming and was used for fishing and transporting goods. Papyrus that grew on the banks of the river were used in many items, such as paper and mats, that Egyptians used in their everyday lives.

2. What is hieroglyphics?

Hieroglyphics is the writing system created by the Egyptians using pictures to represent words and sounds.

3. What were the houses, food, and clothing for ordinary Egyptians like?

They lived in houses made of mud bricks, ate bread and porridge, and dressed in linen clothing.

Activities**Activity 1: The Nile**

In this activity, your child will identify the ways in which the Nile was used as a source of water, food, and natural resources and as a means of transportation. Your child may choose to write or draw her examples. Her answers will vary, but the answer key provides some examples of what your child might include as uses for the Nile.

Answer Key:

- A Source of Water — for drinking, irrigation, washing
- A Source of Food — fish from the river and plants grown with the river's water
- A Source of Natural Resources — mud from the Nile helped people make bricks, papyrus from the banks was used to make many goods
- A Transportation Route — most travel was by boat

Activity 2: Hieroglyphics

For this activity, your child will try writing hieroglyphic script. She may choose to copy Egyptian hieroglyphics, figure out how to write her name or another word using a chart provided in a web link, or use a website to translate a word or phrase into hieroglyphics and then copy the resulting script.

Day 2**Activity 3: Life and Work in Ancient Egypt**

In this activity, your child will focus on the work done by Egyptian people in several different groups, filling in a table with details about the work done by each group, its status in society, and what your child might like or dislike about each kind of work. She can use information from the web links provided or library resources to find information that will help her fill in the table. With parental supervision, she can also use web searches to find out specific information, such as searching "tools ancient Egyptian craftsmen" to view images of typical tools. Your child's answers will vary depending on the resources used. Be sure that the tools and natural resources make sense with the types of jobs described and that your child gives thoughtful, reasoned answers for the last two columns.

Activity 4: Build a Model of an Egyptian Worker's House

In this activity, your child will cut out and assemble a model of a workman's house from ancient Egypt. Encourage your child to use creativity in decorating and furnishing the house.

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- What kind of job do you think you would want to have if you lived in ancient Egypt? Why?
- Why was the Nile important to ancient Egyptians? (It provided food, water, natural resources, and a means of transportation.)
- What is the most interesting thing you have learned about ancient Egypt from this unit so far?

Things to Review

Review your child's activity pages from this lesson — "The Nile" and "Life and Work in Ancient Egypt."