Make your own animal family portrait

Inspired by Joan Brown’s A Family Portrait.

This activity will get you thinking like an artist when you create your own family portrait with a twist. First, you will think of an animal to represent each person in your family. (Your family can include any one you choose). Next you will create an animal-person combination (drawing or collage) and assemble the animal people into a group. And finally, fill in the space around them with any colorful patterns and shapes that appeal to you.
1: Draw an animal head. Start by looking at a photo of the animal and notice the shape of its head.

2: Add more shapes to make facial features such as ears, nose, eyes and mouth.

3: Draw lines to connect the shapes and add personality.

4: Create detail with texture using line. Here are some examples: Fuzzy fur, whiskers, and shiny c-shaped fish scales.

5: Use color to add more texture and expression. Give us some clues to the identity of each family member by adding their body or favorite things.

6: Finish your family portrait by filling in the space around the figures (the negative space) with patterns. We have included some patterned sheets below to get you going.

Have Fun!