Tardigrade in the moss

6 inch (15 cm) hoop, 4.7 × 4.4 in (11.9 × 11.2 cm)



Colors by number: page 2.

What you need

A 6 inch (15 cm) hoop.

A 9 inch (23 cm) square of white or light cotton or linen.

An embroidery needle, size 9.

20 colors of floss (page 2): one skein of each color (an estimate from the drawing's lines and shapes).

A water-soluble pen, and small scissors.

Onto the fabric

Fabric you can see through: page 3 taped to a sunny window, the fabric over it; trace.

Other fabric: dressmaker's carbon paper, colored side down, page 3 on top; trace with a ballpoint.

Iron-on pen: go over page 4, the mirrored page, and press it ink side down as the pen's packet says. The lines stay.

Then hoop it, inner ring under, tight as a drum.

How to read it

Floss has six strands: cut 18 inches (45 cm), pull out the number named one at a time, and lay them together.

Start a filling with tiny stitches, a line with a small knot; end under stitches on the back.

Every stitch in pictures: flossfield.com/embroidery/stitches.

New to this: flossfield.com/embroidery/guides/how-to-start.

Stitch in this order

Where a stitch page says otherwise, follow this list.

1. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Spore stems

2. **Long and short stitch**
   2 strands: moss ground
   1 strand: far legs, body rings, head, mouth tube, near legs, dewdrop



3. **Satin stitch**, 2 strands
   Capsule lids, spore capsules, mouth, eye, drop highlight, claws



4. **Stem stitch**, 2 strands
   Capsule rings

5. **Split stitch**, 1 strand
   Ring folds, leg edges

6. **Straight stitch**, 1 strand
   Eye highlight



7. **Fern stitch**, 2 strands
   Moss fronds



8. **Turkey work**, 2 strands
   Moss tufts



9. **French knot**
   2 strands, two wraps
   Knots of the capsule lids, moss knots, knots of the drop highlight



Take out lines that still show, press face down, finish the hoop.

In a 6 inch hoop the French knots are drawn smaller than about 2 mm (a little over 1/16 in). Use one strand of floss for them there, or choose a larger hoop.

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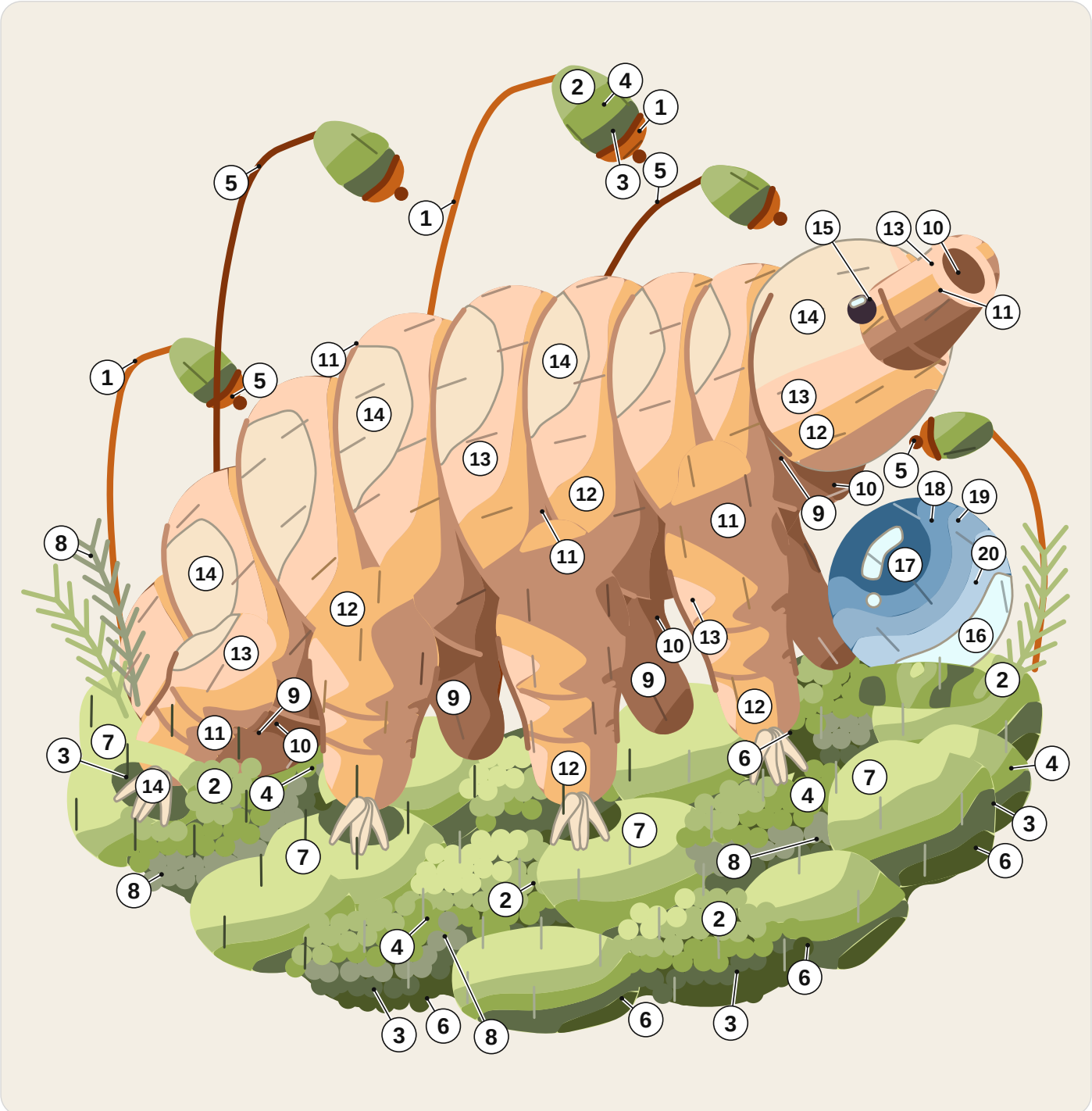
Tardigrade in the moss

6 inch hoop

A number is a color of the list. Fine lines show which way the stitches lie: do not stitch them.



1	DMC 921 Copper	8	DMC 522 Fern Green	15	DMC 3371 Black Brown
2	DMC 471 Very Light Avocado Green	9	DMC 3772 Very Dark Desert Sand	16	DMC 747 Very Light Sky Blue
3	DMC 3362 Dark Pine Green	10	DMC 632 Ultra Very Dark Desert Sand	17	DMC 312 Very Dark Baby Blue
4	DMC 470 Light Avocado Green	11	DMC 3064 Desert Sand	18	DMC 334 Medium Baby Blue
5	DMC 918 Dark Red Copper	12	DMC 3827 Pale Golden Brown	19	DMC 3755 Baby Blue
6	DMC 936 Very Dark Avocado Green	13	DMC 3856 Ultra Very Light Mahogany	20	DMC 3325 Light Baby Blue
7	DMC 472 Ultra Light Avocado Green	14	DMC 739 Ultra Very Light Tan		

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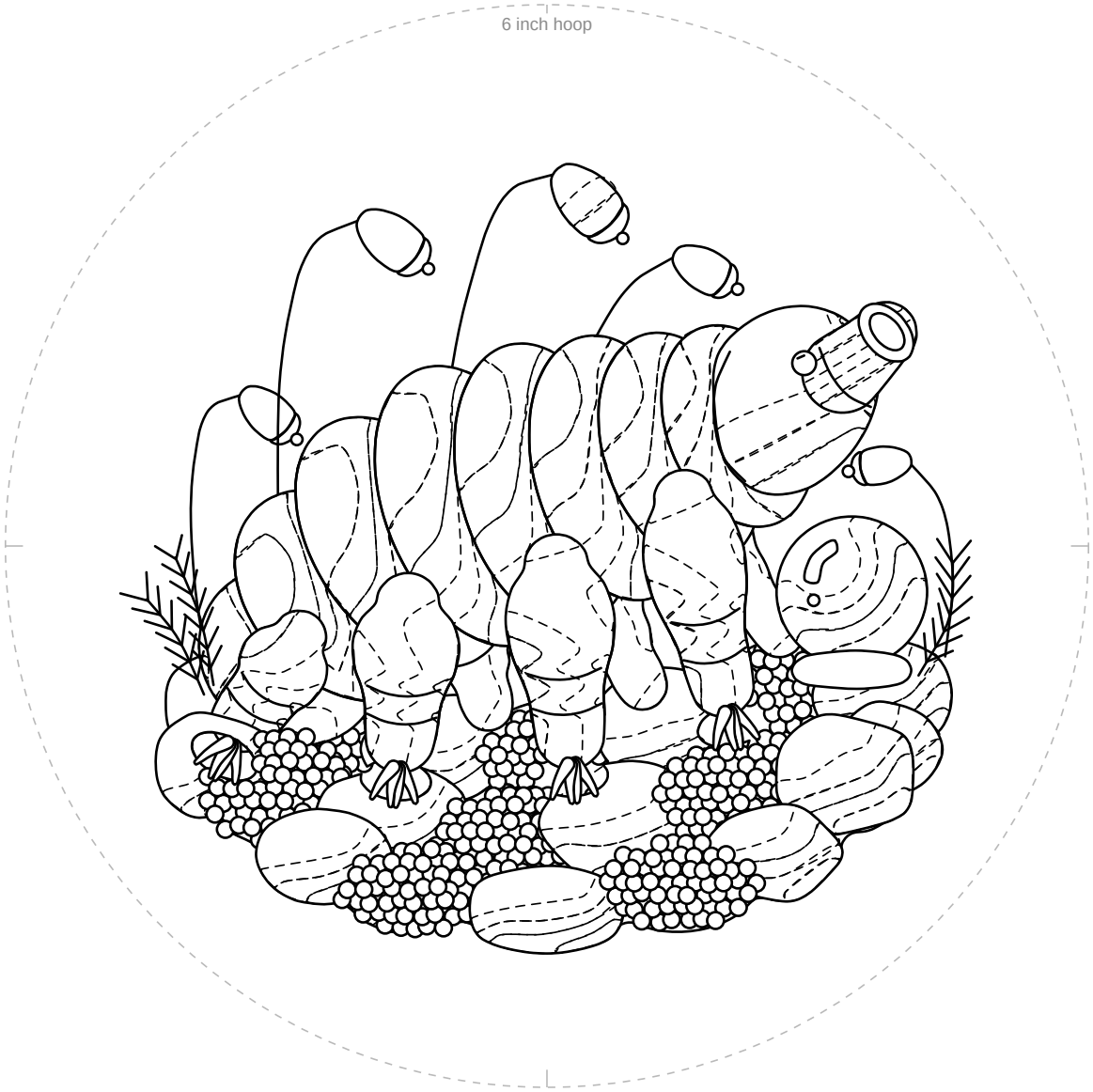
6 inch hoop

Print at 100% and measure the square. Trace the black lines only. The gray ring is the hoop: fold the fabric in four and lay the folds on its ticks.

On the drawing a ring is one French knot: mark a dot; a broken line inside a shape is where two shades meet: trace it, do not stitch it.



1 in
25.4 mm

Not 1 inch (25.4 mm)? Print again at 100%.

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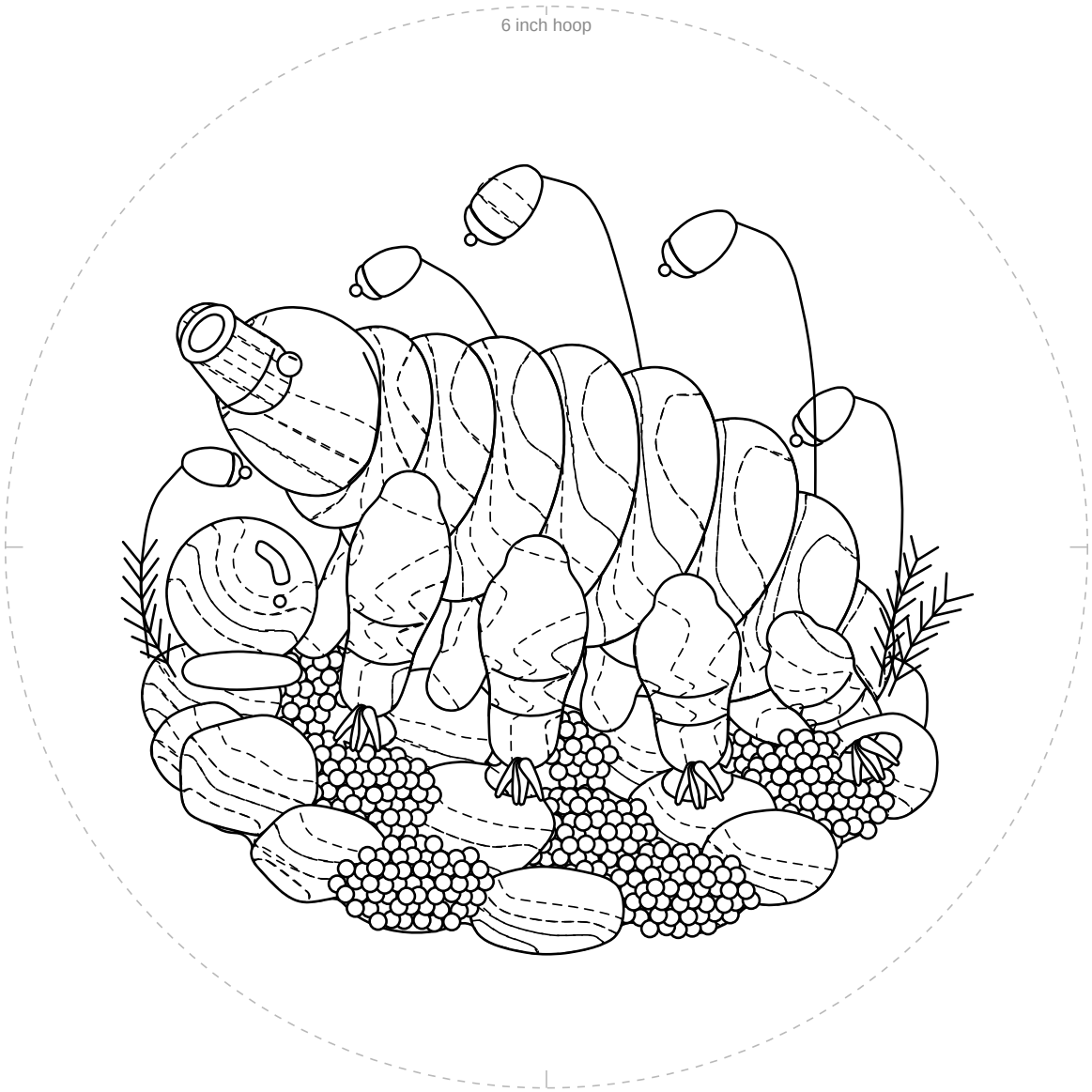
Tardigrade in the moss

6 inch hoop

For an iron-on pen only. Go over the lines, press ink side down.



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