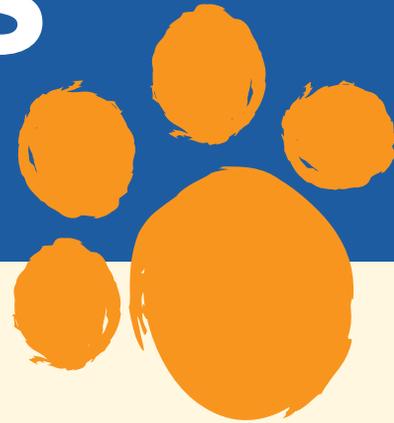


# Paw Prints

Volume 26  
Issue 1

January 2026  
cufatcats.org



## Be A Smart Shopper to Make Your Savings Last Longer

January is a time when many people set new goals for the year ahead. It's also a great time for you to set some new ones, too! Financial goals can include saving money, making a purchase you've been saving for, or learning how to be a smart shopper.

Being a smart shopper is just as important as being a smart saver. By making good spending choices when you shop, you can get what you've been saving for and help make your savings go further.

Smart shoppers look for good deals on the items they want to purchase. It might mean waiting for an item to go on sale at a lower price, comparing prices at different stores, or using your math skills to determine the best value.

### HELP FAT CAT FIND THE BEST VALUE

Arts and crafts are some of FAT CAT's favorite activities. FAT CAT has saved money for a set of colored pencils. At the store, FAT CAT finds two sets:

Set #1 has **10** pencils for **\$3.00**  
Set #2 has **20** pencils for **\$4.00**

Let's use our math skills to see which set is the best value.  
 $\$3.00 \div 10 \text{ pencils} = .30\text{¢}$  per pencil  
 $\$4.00 \div 20 \text{ pencils} = .20\text{¢}$  per pencil

The answer is Set #2 because even though it costs more than Set #1, FAT CAT pays less for each pencil.

Check out the "Help FAT CAT Find The Best Deal" activity to test your deal finding skills even more!

## Help FAT CAT® Find The Best Deal

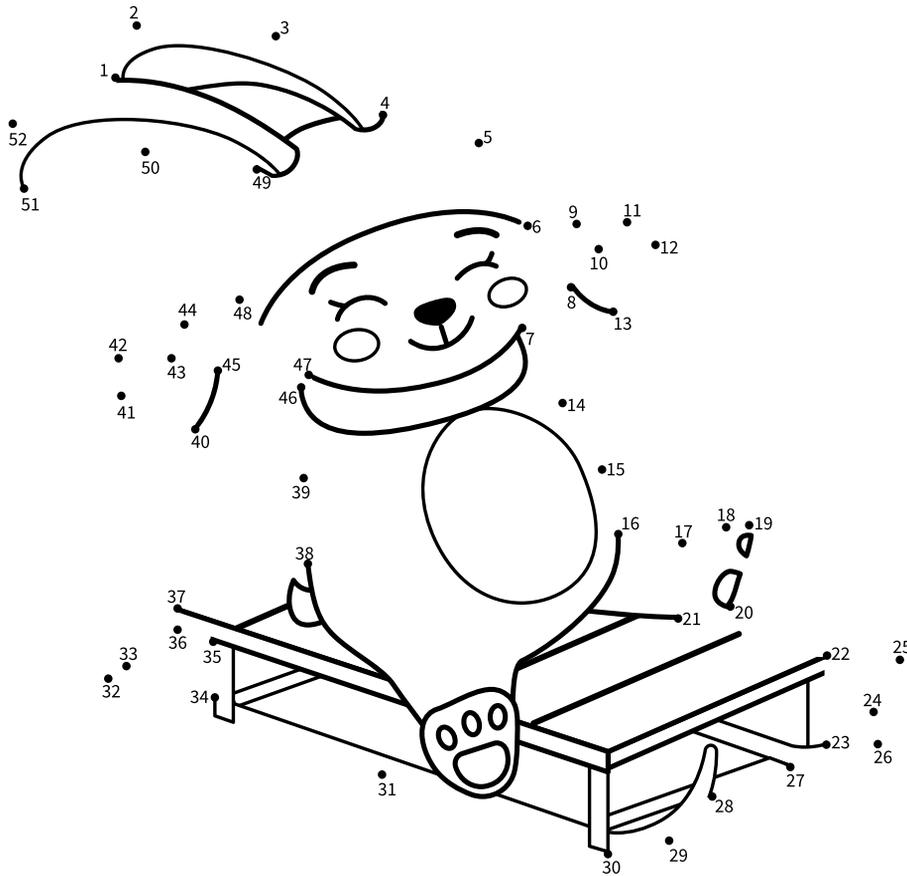
- 1. Where can FAT CAT pay less for the most apples?**
  - Store A sells 5 apples for \$3
  - Store B sells 5 apples for \$3 and gives 2 apples for free
- 2. Which store will FAT CAT pay less for a new winter hat?**
  - Store A sells a hat for \$10
  - Store B sells the same hat for \$12, and today it is on sale for \$3 off.
- 3. Which brand of hot chocolate is the best value for FAT CAT?**
  - Hot chocolate brand A has 20 packets for \$5
  - Hot chocolate brand B has 10 packets for \$4

**Answer #1:** Store B, because you get 2 extra apples for the same price.  
**Answer #2:** Store B, because \$12 hat - \$3 off = \$9 for the hat  
**Answer #3:** Hot chocolate brand A has the best value because you pay less per packet.  
 $\$5 \div 20 \text{ packets} = .25\text{¢}$  per packet  
 $\$4 \div 10 \text{ packets} = .40\text{¢}$  per packet

# Connect the dots & color!

View previous winners in FAT CAT's Art Gallery at [www.cufatcats.org](http://www.cufatcats.org)!

Send in your completed activity along with your full name, address, and age by **March 27, 2026** for the chance to win in a random drawing. Winners will receive a FAT CAT backpack!



## IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS:

If you are willing to have your child's submission published in the newsletter and/or on the [cufatcats.org](http://cufatcats.org) website, please complete, sign, and mail this form in along with your child's submission. We will not publish your child's last name or street address. Thank you!

Child's full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check each statement that applies. I give State Employees' Credit Union permission:

to publish my child's first name, age, and hometown in FAT CAT Paw Prints and/or on the [cufatcats.org](http://cufatcats.org) website.

to publish my child's artwork or story in FAT CAT Paw Prints and/or on the [cufatcats.org](http://cufatcats.org) website.

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email a photo of the coloring page to [marketing@ncsecu.org](mailto:marketing@ncsecu.org), or submit your entry at your local branch or by mail:  
FAT CAT - State Employees' Credit Union, PO Box 27948, Raleigh, NC 27611.