

## ***Elephant Buttons* by Noriko Ueno**

This story with props is based on a wordless picture book, now out of print. *Elephant Buttons* begins with a picture of an elephant, but the elephant has buttons on his tummy; on the next page we realize that this is not actually an elephant, but a lion dressed up as an elephant. But wait! The lion has buttons too. Who is it in the lion costume? And so, each page reveals yet another animal in a costume with buttons in order after the lion there is a horse, then a duck, and then a mouse all with buttons. When we open the buttons of the mouse, there is an elephant with no buttons.

To prepare the props, you will need to fold the elephant with no buttons and put it inside the mouse, then fold the mouse and put it inside the duck, fold the duck and put it inside the horse, fold the horse and put it inside the lion, and fold the lion and put it inside the very thick elephant with buttons.

Each piece is cut out of fabric twice and sewn together with an opening to allow the previous costumed animals to come out. You may need to experiment with the best place to put the opening.

Begin by holding up the elephant piece that has buttons on his tummy.

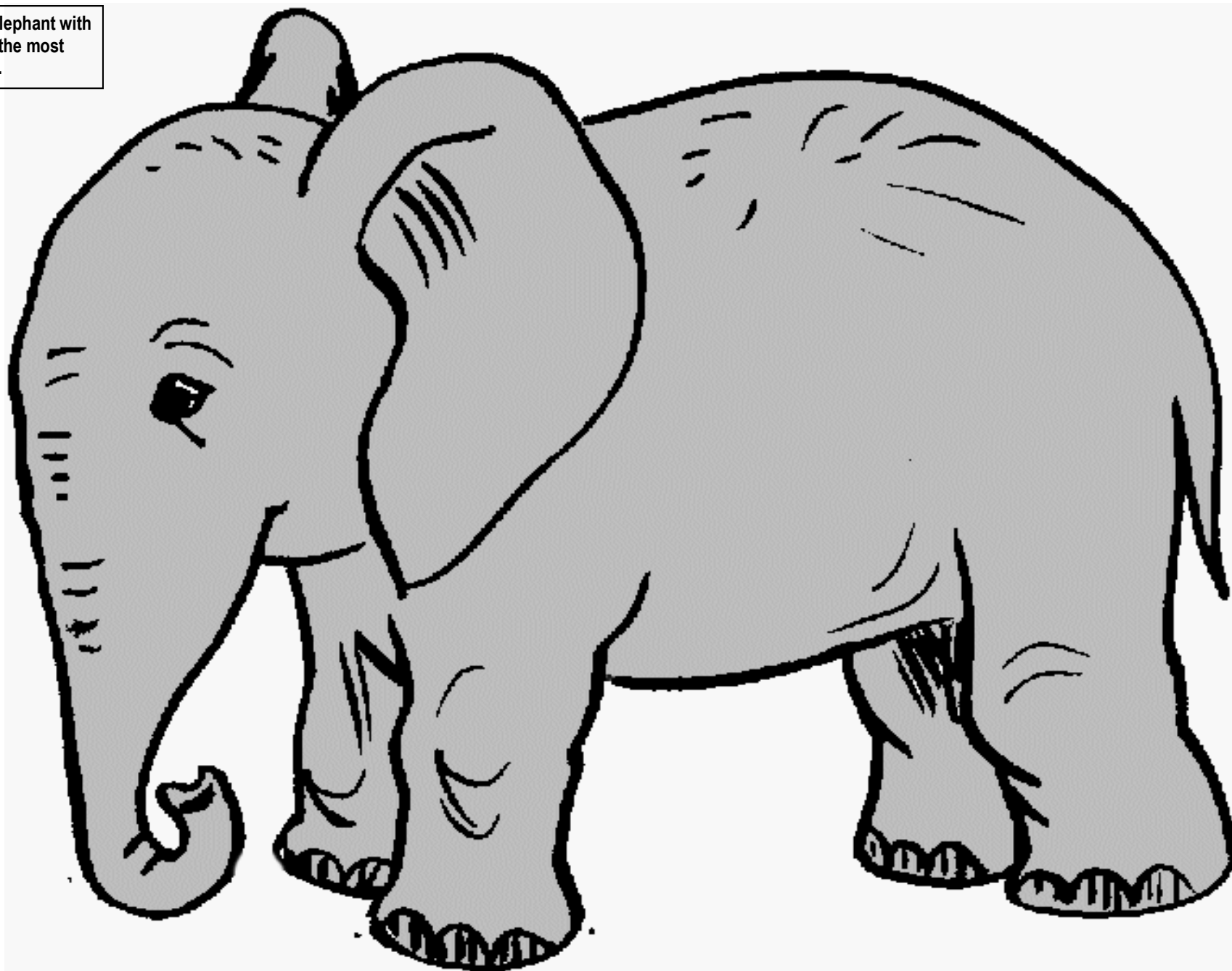
What's this? An elephant? Right! But what's this on his tummy? Buttons? Do elephants have buttons on their tummies? No? What do you think will happen if we unbutton the buttons?

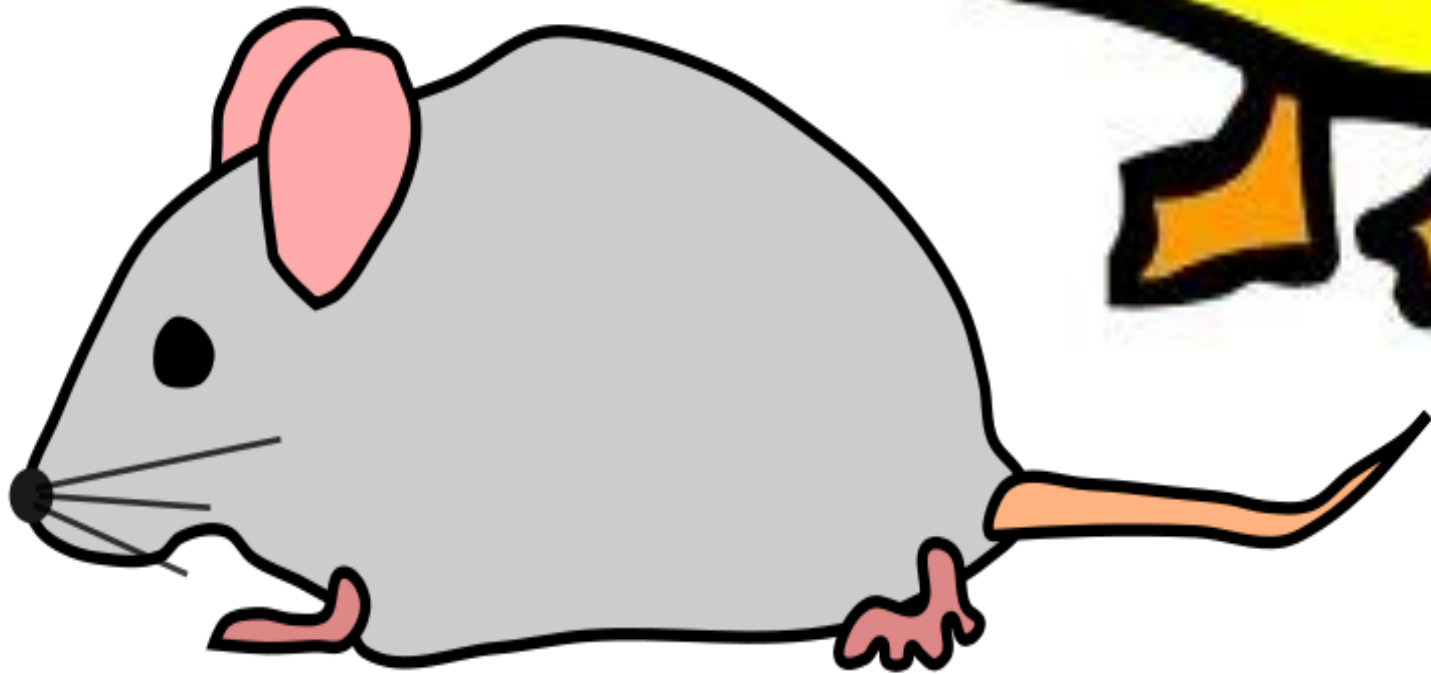
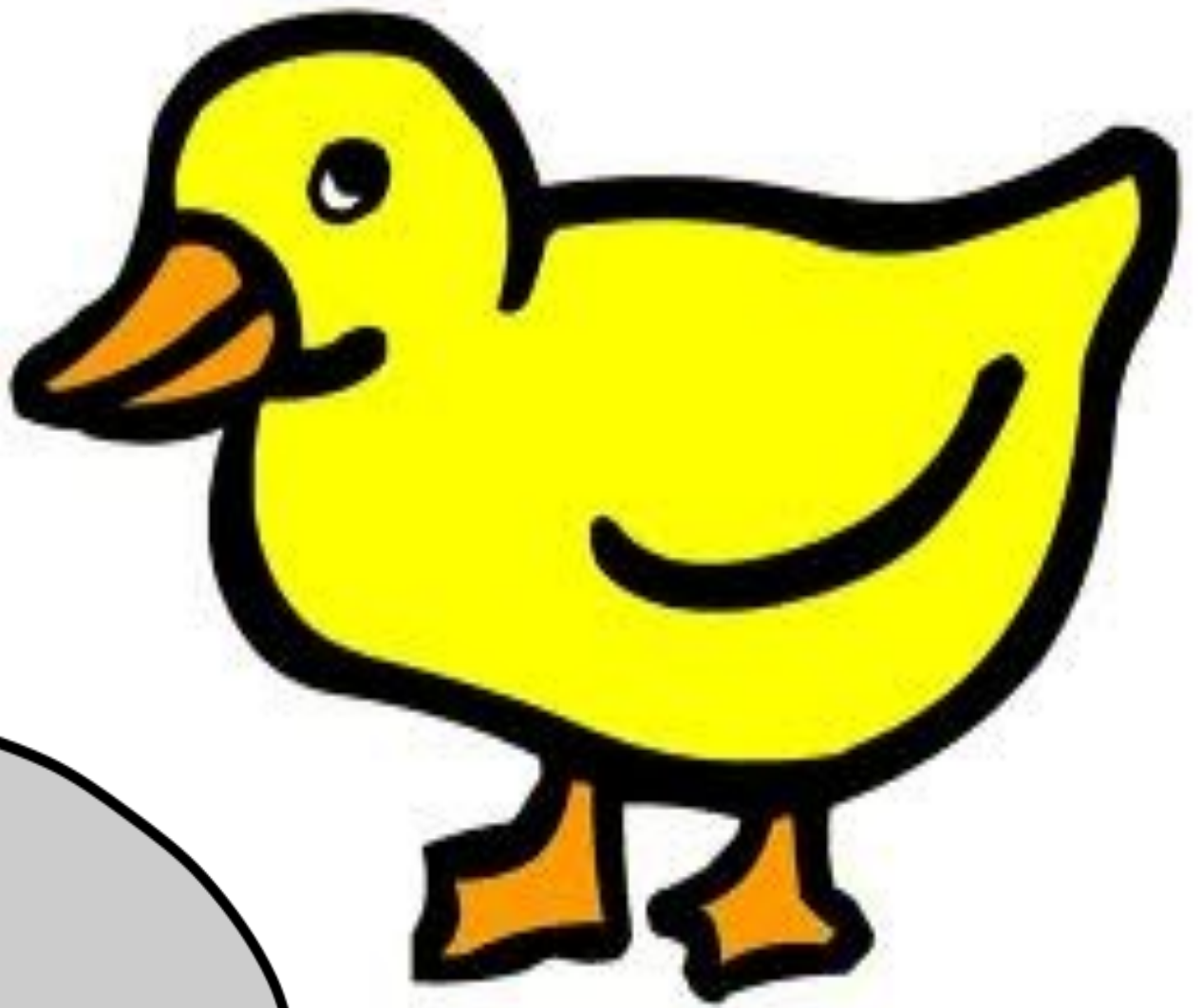
Unbutton the buttons and reach inside and pull out a lion, with buttons on his tummy. And the questions continue. Proceed with a horse, a duck, and a mouse, all with buttons on their tummies. Unbuttoning the mouse reveals a big elephant with no buttons on his tummy! If the elephant is too big to actually fold into the mouse, then hold it hidden in the palm of your hand and pull it out at the appropriate time. Discuss why an elephant would dress up in a mouse costume inside a duck costume inside a horse costume, and so on.

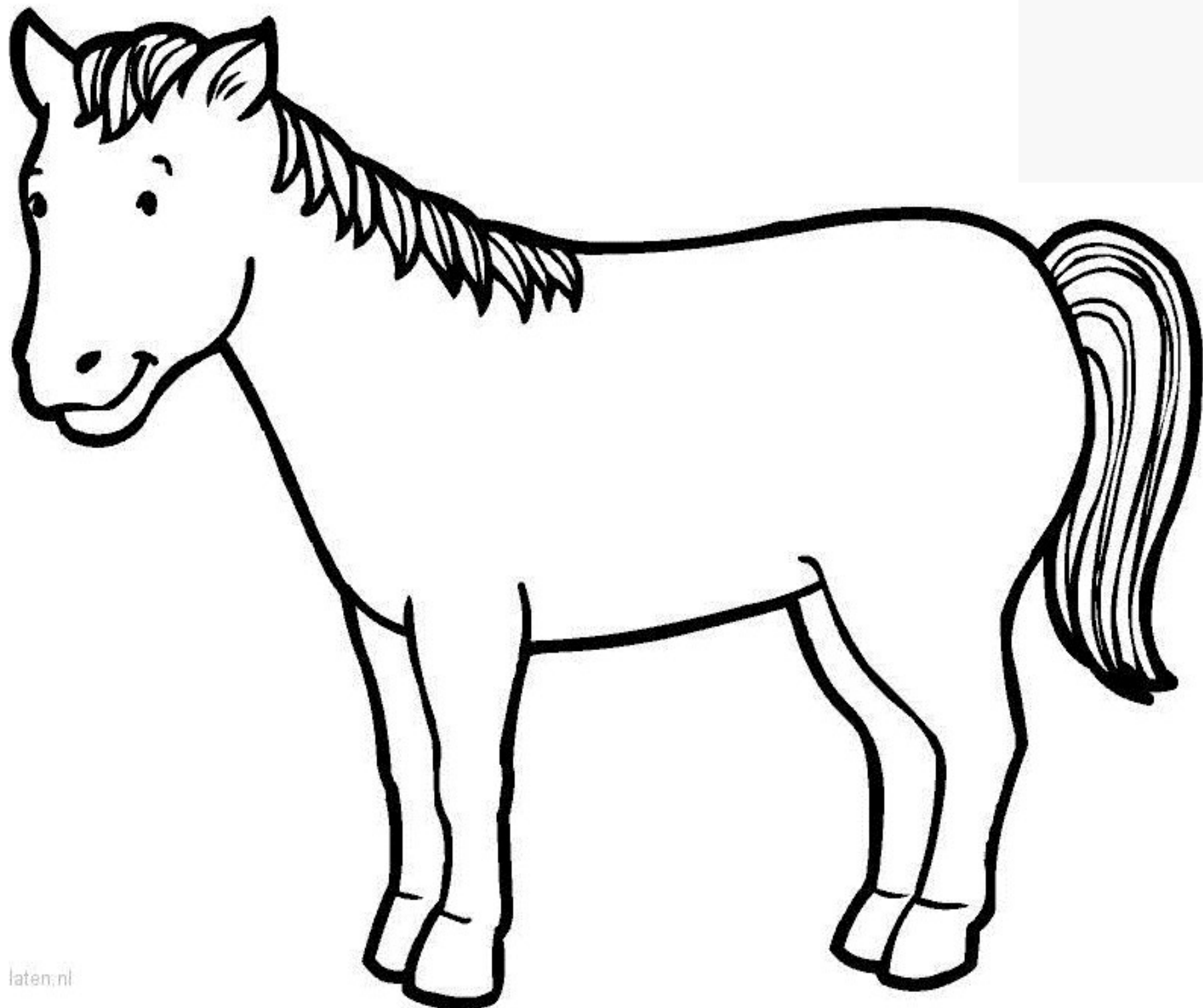
**Order of the pieces from  
outside to inside:**

- Elephant with buttons
- Lion
- Horse
- Duck
- Mouse
- Elephant without buttons

This is the elephant with  
no buttons, the most  
inside piece.









This is the elephant with buttons,  
the first piece they see, the most  
outside piece.

