



national-literacy-trust.org

# NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

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PARENT RESOURCES



# INTRODUCTION

Dear parent/carer,

The National Literacy Trust has created some easy to use resources to help support your children's reading and learning whilst at home. You'll find different activities in the pack, but all are aimed at providing support to you and your family during this time.

## Activities

### Book talk

Engaging your children with books through informal discussions.

### Games

Making reading more interactive with themed activities and games. Turning it into a fun, explorative activity at home using theatre and book-specific games to inspire creativity and engagement with texts.

### Crafts and resources

Using easy craft activities like bookmark making to bring books and reading to life.

## Incorporating books and stories

Alongside each of these activities, we would encourage you to take 15 minutes to read a book or tell a short story. Even this short amount of time reading and having book interactions will help to support your child's learning.

## Why use these activities now?

As schools are set to close, it is vital to we continue supporting children's learning. Engaging them in easy literacy and reading activities whilst out of school can be hugely impactful and will continue to develop their literacy skills whilst outside of the classroom.

We understand that finding inspiration and time to plan engaging activities at home can be difficult and stressful. We hope you find these activities useful and supportive.

## Brand new Family Zone

The National Literacy Trust has created a brand new Family Zone: [literacyfamilyzone.org.uk](https://literacyfamilyzone.org.uk) which is a direct response to school closures. It will be a one-stop-shop for parent/carer resources, full of brilliant videos, apps and more for those who want to continue supporting their child's learning at home.

Best wishes,

Young Readers Programme Team

## What is it?

Chatting informally about characters and stories engages children in books by making reading more sociable and enjoyable.

## How do I engage in book talk?

There are many ways to do this and you'll find much of it comes naturally. You won't need a script, but if you'd like some structure or support try the frameworks below. Each is based on asking your child specific questions to encourage them to think about books in more detail.

### Questioning/Visualising

Ask your child to think about what isn't described in the book. It can be anything from a character's shoes to the weather, try and make it fun if you can – get them to think about all the possibilities that go into making a story and how they can add their perspective to it.

*Things to say:*

- “Why did you choose [subject they are chose to talk about] this to talk about?”
- “Why do you think it should be that way?”

### Summarising

Getting your child to think about the story in a book helps their ability to understand sequenced events and how they interlink. It's also a great way to test their memory and oracy skills.

*Things to say:*

- “Can you tell me what's just happened on that page?”
- “What is the most important thing we found out in the last chapter?”

### Clarifying

If something feels vague, try to make them confirm it in their mind – double-check on specific details.

*Things to say:*

- “Why did the character do that?”
- “Which part of the book does that happen in?”

## Predicting

Encourage your child to think about the story and how it might develop. This will help with their understanding of plot and character development, but also create a general understanding of the sequencing of events.

*Things to say:*

- “What do you think might happen next?”
- “Do you think it’s going to be a happy or a sad ending?”

## Top Tips

- Prompt your child to think deeper about the book.
- Evaluate their response and engage with it.
- Expand their response by rephrasing or adding information to it.
- Repeat the prompt to help them learn from the expansion.

## What is it?

### A booknic is just a picnic with books!

It's a fun way to engage your child with books while they are at home. You'll find here a few top tips for a booknic, but you know your child best so can tailor it for maximum levels of fun!



## What does it involve?

### Environment

Spread a blanket or sheet on the floor, either inside or in a garden, if you have safe access to one. If you are indoors you could decorate the space with anything green you can find – clothing, sheets, houseplants, to imagine being in a green space!

### Snack

No picnic is complete without some food! Fruit, sandwiches, or biscuits are nice picnic foods, but it can be whatever you have to hand.

### Activity

Play a game or do a craft activity – there's a handy list below.

### Storytime

Spread out any books and comics you have. Ask your children to choose a story and read it to them. If they are a bit older they may prefer to read on their own, it's fine to allow them the opportunity to do so.

## Games

### Grandma's footsteps

Choose someone to play 'grandma', get them to turn away and then other player(s) must try to tag them without being seen moving! Remember, if they turn to look you have to freeze!

### Singalong

Choose a favourite song and everyone sing a sentence at a time. Add a fun forfeit if someone forgets the lyrics!

### Duck Duck Goose

If you have more than two people playing, sit in a circle and get someone to walk around calling each person 'duck'. When they finally call someone 'goose', the 'goose' must try to catch them!

## Playground Games

Ask your children to teach you a game they play at school and think about how it can be adapted for a smaller space. There is a lot of room to be creative!

## Treasure Hunt

Hide books around the house and whoever finds the most books gets to choose a story to be read to them.

## Snack ideas

If you have more time you could even make some book-themed snacks – how about the chocolate fudge cake from Matilda, or lashings of ginger-beer from the Famous Five? Or even Paddington’s marmalade sandwiches or Winnie the Pooh’s honey sandwiches.

## Creative Activities

Adding a creative element to your booknic will make it even more engaging, especially if that activity is related to books.

### Loo roll binoculars

Let your child jump into the shoes of any famous explorer – exploring new places and becoming a spy with these homemade binoculars.



You will need:

- 2 empty loo roll tubes
- Glue sticks or sticky tape
- Pens or pencils
- String or ribbon
- Decorations! Anything you have lying around, like stickers, paints, tin foil

Follow these 4 easy steps:



1. Line up the loo rolls next to each other and glue or tape them together.
2. Very carefully (with help from a grown-up) poke a hole through the top of each loo roll using a pen or pencil.
3. Thread one end of your string through one hole and tie a knot to secure. Do the same with the other hole.
4. Decorate however you like!

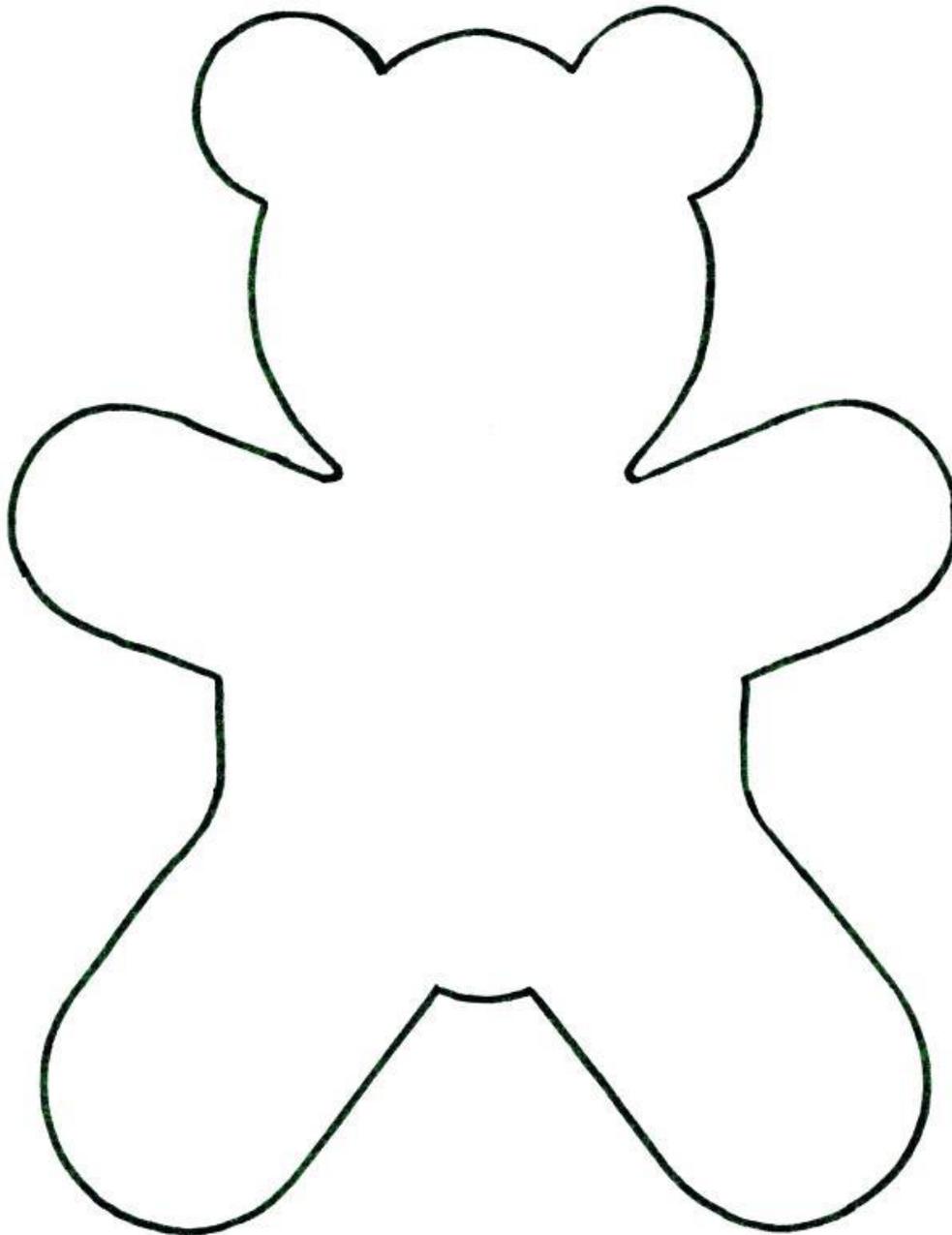
## Design a teddy bear's outfit

Be inventive and make some bear costumes. Will it look like Winne the Pooh or Paddington, or something completely different?

You will need:

- Colouring pencils/pens
- Glitter, sequins, or any other decorations you have lying around!
- Coloured paper or spare fabric

Use the template below so your child can draw in the bear's clothes!



## Make wearable animal ears

Let your child become their favourite animal or character!

You will need:

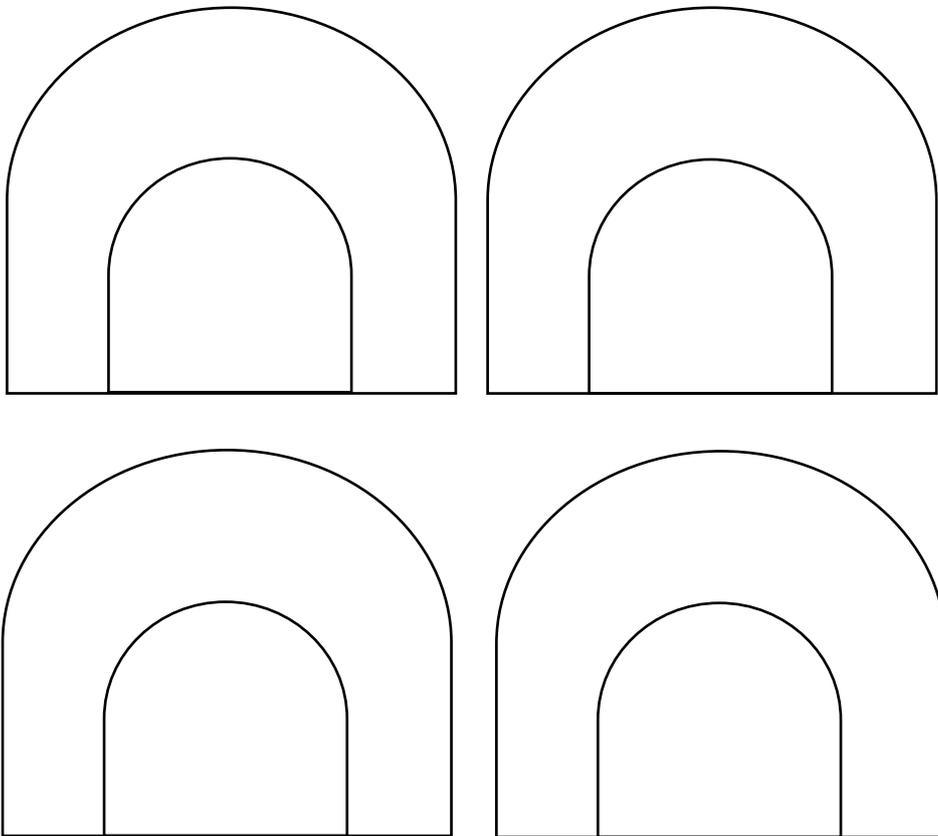
- Paper
- Glue sticks or sticky tape
- Scissors
- Print outs of animal ears



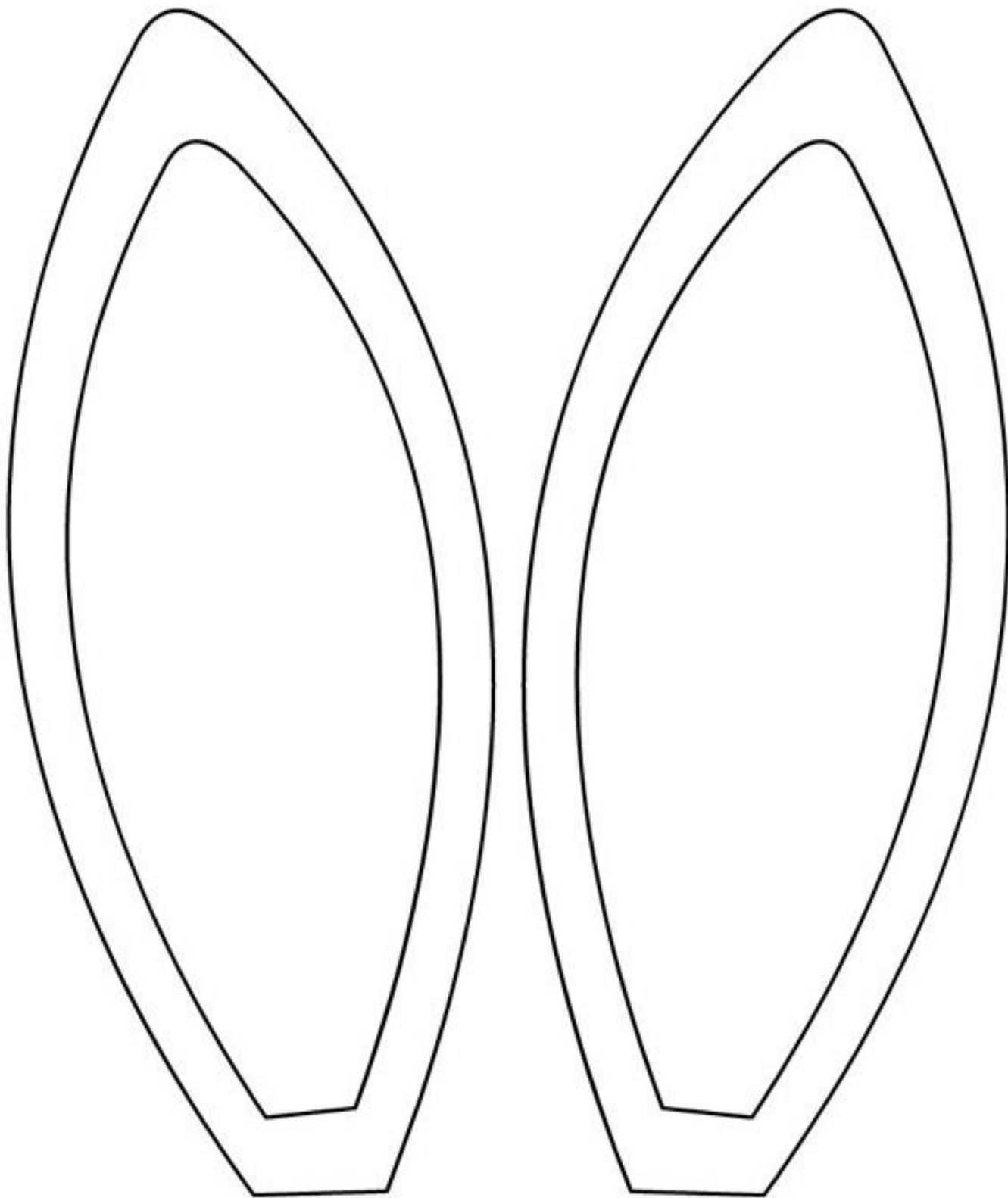
Your child can follow these 5 easy steps:

1. Cut out a strip of paper to fit around your head.
2. Cut out the ears.
3. Be creative and decorate the ears with any fun bits and pieces in the house, maybe glitter or even colourful string!
4. Glue the ears onto the strip of paper.
5. Glue the ends of the strip together to make a headband, remember to measure around your head before sticking the ends together!

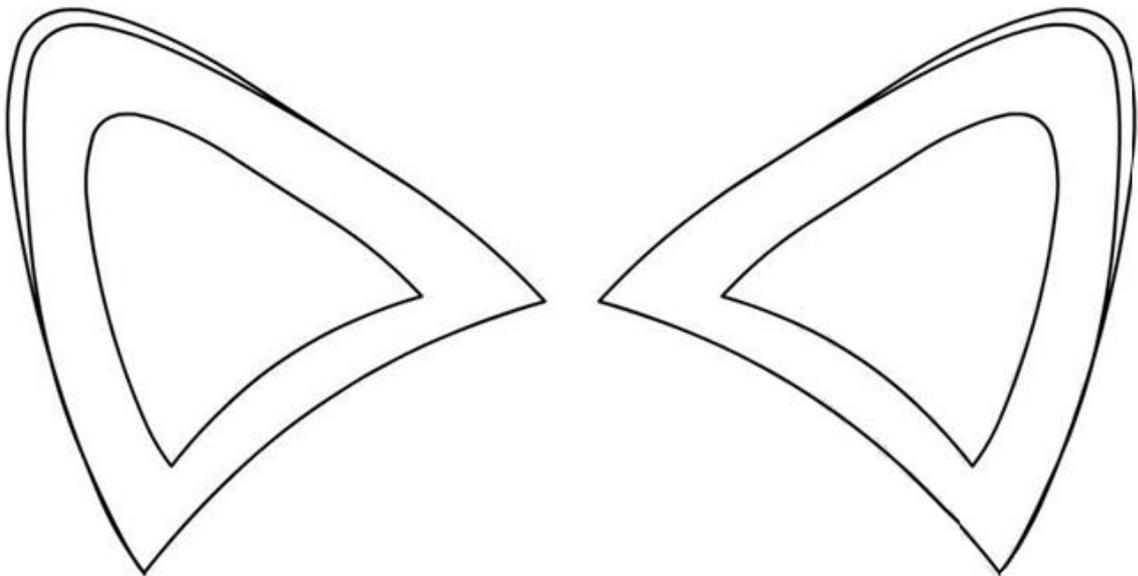
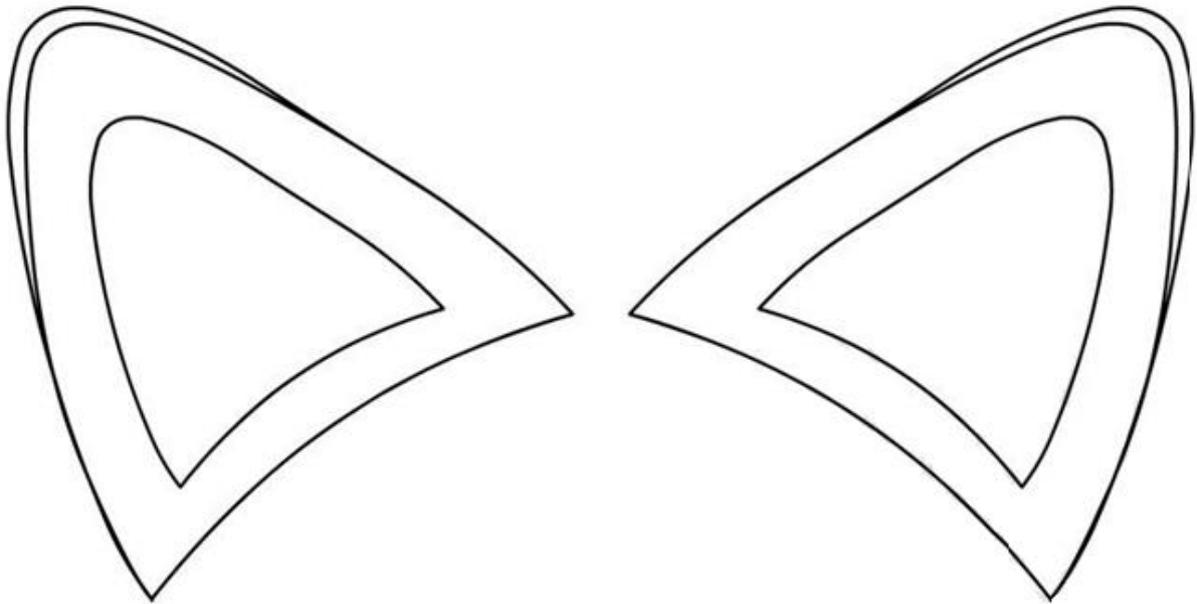
## Bear ears



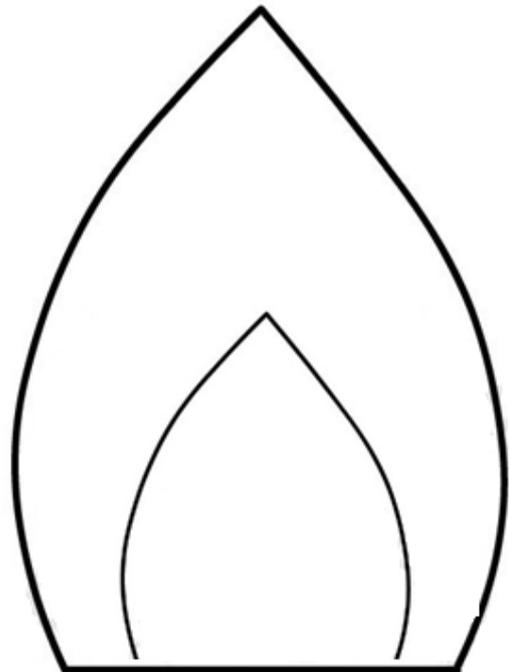
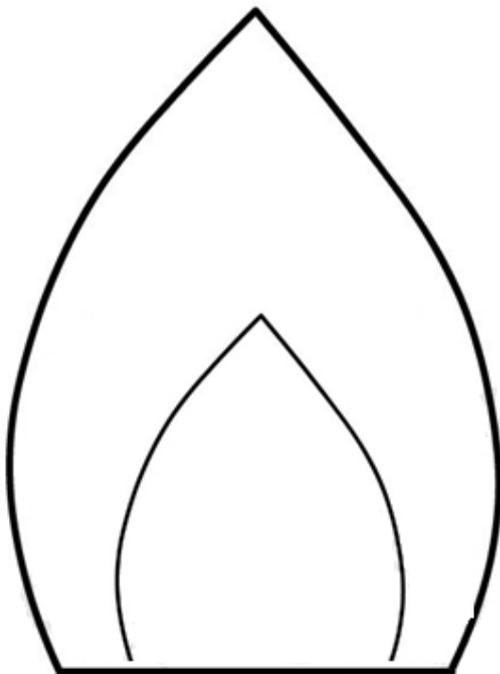
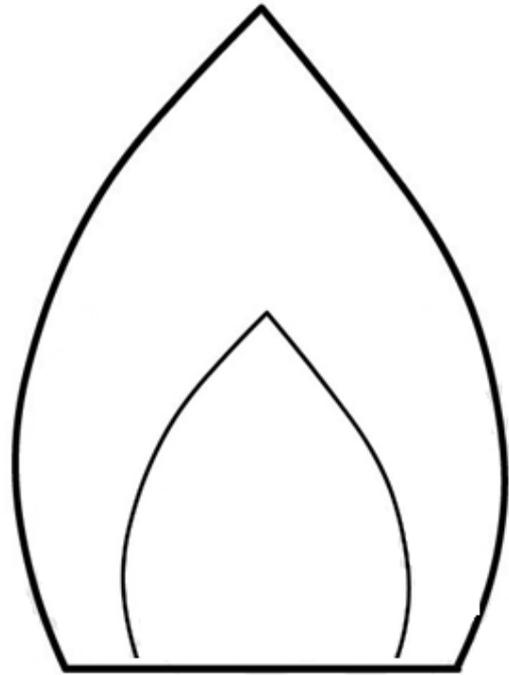
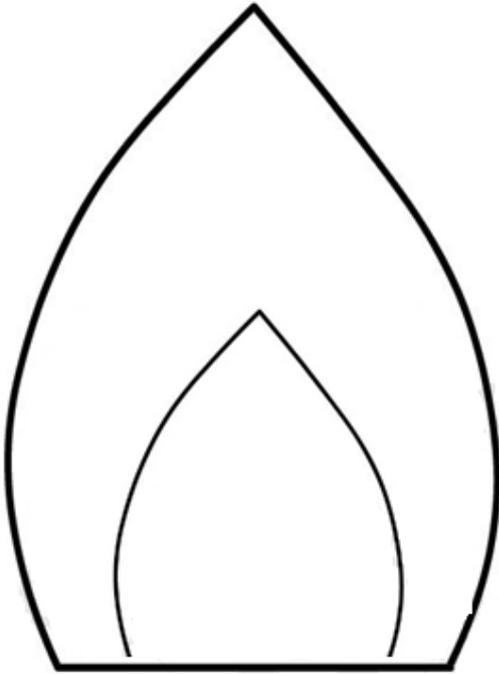
## Rabbit Ears



## Fox or cat ears



## Squirrel ears



# BOOK REVIEW

## Book Title

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## Reviewer Name

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## Star Rating

Colour in the stars to rate this book out of 5



## Word Review

Choose three words that best describe the book.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Fiction

Scary/Horror

Non-Fiction

Sports

Comic/Graphic novel

Adventure

Historical

Biography

Fairytale

Mystery

Funny/Comedy

Fantasy

**Favourite character** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why?**

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**Favourite moment** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why?**

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## Rating

What is your overall rating of the book? Only circle one.

**Thumbs Up**



**Thumbs Down**



## How can we explore indoors?

Exploring doesn't just have to be in great outdoors – though that is fun! It can be in the home too. Challenging your child to utilise the space they have can be an incredibly creative and exciting experience.

## What does this have to do with reading?

Turn reading a book into a game makes the activity more interesting. Maybe choose stories about exploring, hiding or discovery – act out exciting bits of the plot or even challenge each other to read in an unusual place.

## Where can we look?

It could be anywhere and everywhere in a home, from a cupboard to behind a door, or even under a table.



Want to have an additional element of fun? Make it into a game of hide and seek. Ask your child to find an unusual reading spot and other players try to find them. Do it in rounds to include everyone!

## Why should we do it?

It encourages children to associate reading with fun and gets everyone engaged with a book in an exciting and new way. Make it even more beneficial by talking about it after and engaging them in fun book talk.

- How did reading somewhere different made them feel
- Did it make the book feel more exciting or special?
- What did they think of the book they were reading?

## What is it?

A series of fun reading and book-related challenges celebrated with your very own Book Olympics medals! Throw on some sports clothes and parade around the room waving flags, maybe even have your very own opening ceremony for the Book Olympics.

## How can I make my prizes?

You will need:

- Cardboard – you can get this from old cereal boxes!
- Scissors
- Foil – kitchen foil or even inside out chocolate wrappers!
- Gluesticks or tape
- String or old fabric cut into strips
- Paper
- Lollipop sticks
- Colouring pens or pencils

Your child can follow these 3 easy steps to make a medal:

1. Cut a circle out of cardboard
2. Wrap it in foil or wrappers and glue it in place
3. Tape string or your strips of fabric to the back so you can hang it around your neck!

Your child can follow these 3 easy steps to make a flag:

1. Cut a triangle out of paper
2. Draw your flag – be inventive and make it whatever you want!
3. Use glue or tape to stick it to the top of a lollipop stick

## Book Olympic Sports

Remember that someone should keep a count of who wins – maybe even add some additional prizes for individual games.

### The Great Book Race

Place a book on your head and get racing! Whoever gets to one end of the room and back without their book falling off their head in the fastest time wins.

### The Weird Writing Challenge

Pick a sentence or two from one specially selected book – maybe hold a vote on what book to use. There are three steps to the challenge:

1. Write that sentence in the fastest possible time.
2. Write it out again... this time with the other hand.
3. Now try writing with a pen or pencil between your toes!

### Reading Obstacle Course

In different rooms of the house place a book and a challenge. Use each room as a different Book Olympics event space. Challenge everyone to read out loud from the book whilst performing each challenge. Be as inventive as you want with the challenges, but if you can't think of any here are some suggestions:

- 10 Star Jumps
- 2 Forward Rolls
- Crawl under a blanket
- Do an unusual dance for 30 seconds
- Strike an unusual pose for 30 seconds



Award points for each challenge based on both their performance of the task and for how well they read out loud.

### Book Olympics Ceremony

Have some fun with the medal ceremony. Can you offer any additional 'prizes'? Maybe if more than one person is playing create different coloured medals and award different traits, e.g. fastest reader, completed the most challenges.

## What is it?

A variety of fun theatre games to bring books to life!

## Games

### What happens next?

Once your child has finished a chapter of the book they are reading, ask them to act out what they think might happen next. They could do this in a few different ways:

- Play the different characters in the book
- Assign the different characters in the books to their toys, dolls or figurines
- Create paper cut-outs of the characters

Give them some time to think of what might happen next. Let them practise and then ask them to perform it, you can even film it on your phone. To make it a family activity, try to get involved and act out some of the characters!

After they've finished they can then read the next chapter to see if they were right.



### Character Interview

Ask your child to take on the role of one of the characters in the book they are reading. You or someone else can be the interviewer, asking the character questions about their life. Try and make them fun and interesting, ideally questions and answers that don't feature in the book. Some examples are:

- What do they like to eat for breakfast?
- What would they do with a million pounds?
- What would be their perfect day?

Also ask questions about the plot and the character, making sure they answer from the perspective of the character. For example:

- How do they feel about things that have happened in the story?
- Did they feel scared, sad or happy? Why did they feel that way?

If you've also read the book, switch round so that you can have a chance to be interviewed too.

*Bonus activity: before you begin, everyone make a costume for a character using items already in your home.*

## One Word Story

Using the title of a book that your child is yet to read, you both will work together to guess the plot. Together you'll create the story by thinking of the story off the top of your head one word at a time. For example:

**Person 1:** Once

**Person 2:** Upon

**Person 1:** A

**Person 2:** Time

**Person 1:** There

**Person 2:** Was

Then read the book to see if any parts of your made-up story happened in the real thing!

## Just A Minute

If you're reading a book with your child, after a chapter try and do a fun minute long activity! Challenge one another to use a minute to explain what's happened in a story without hesitating or repeating any (big) words, e.g. time-travel, scientist or rockets.

1. Set a timer for a minute
2. Person 1 starts to explain the story and other participants listen
3. When they repeat a big word Person 2 must call it out so Person 1 stops talking
4. Person 2 then has the chance to explain the story
5. This keeps happening and whoever is talking at the end of a minute wins!

# ORIGAMI BOOKMARK

## What is it?

A beautiful bookmark handcrafted at home. It can be personalised to match your child's favourite characters or books!



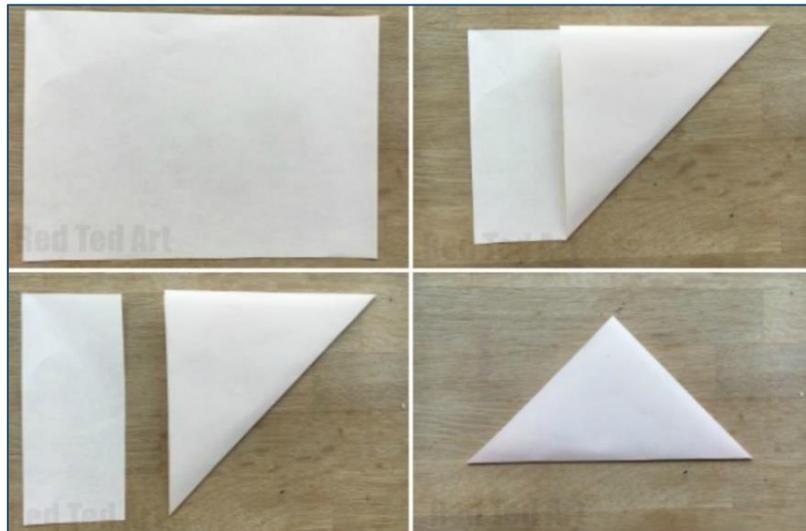
## How do I make it?

You will need:

- Paper
- Colouring pencils and pens
- Decorations – coloured card, sequins, glitter

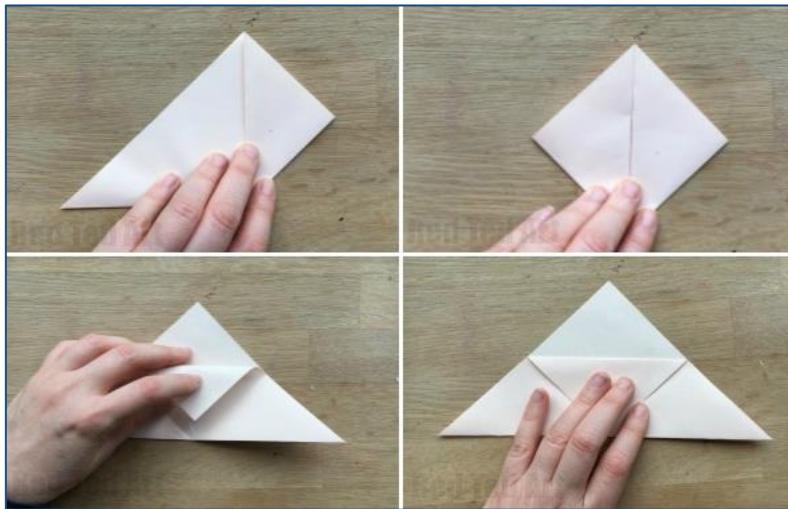
Follow these 12 steps:

1. First you must create a square using rectangular paper
2. Take your sheet of paper and fold over one corner to create a triangle
3. Cut off the excess and rotate your triangle so the long edge is at the bottom and the right angle faces up



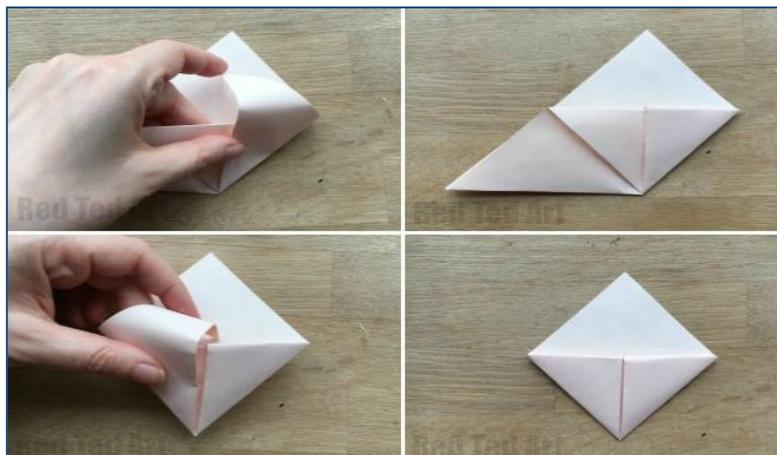
4. Take your A5 sheet of paper and fold over one corner to create a triangle
5. Fold the lower right corner up to meet the top right-angled corner
6. Repeat for the left side
7. Fold these two back open
8. Flip down ONE of the top sheets and crease

9. Now fold the flaps you created back up and tuck INTO your bookmark



10. Repeat for the other side

11. Congratulations, you have just created your basic Origami Corner Bookmark!



12. Now you can decorate it with whatever designs you would like



# BOOK SPECIFIC GAMES

## What is it?

A selection of fun, book-related games that you can adapt for the book you are currently reading with your child.

## Book Games

### Guess Who

Take it in turns to select characters to guess.

- Select a character from a book you're currently reading together
- Describe their appearance, a characteristic or relationship with another character
- Ask your child to guess the character

*Challenge: make this trickier by using one word to describe the character.*

### Find an object

Think about the characters in the book you're reading together.

- Put on a 2-minute timer
- You both find an object in the house that best represents a character of your choice
- Take it in turns to guess which character their object represents

*Challenge: make this trickier by saying the object must be in the room you're currently in.*

### Changing Title

Ask your child to pick some of their favourite books and invent new, made-up titles for them. Can you match the new titles with the originals?

### Picture It

If you're reading a picture book, choose a page with a detailed illustration.

- Give your child 90 seconds to look at the image and then cover it up
- Can they remember everything on the page?
- Talk about how the picture looks compared to how it is described in words.

### Dressing Up

Use whatever you have in the house to recreate scenes from your favourite book. The more imaginative the better!

# SUPERHEROES

## What is it?

A fun way to find out how your child can become a superhero!

## Find a superpower

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My superpower is: \_\_\_\_\_

TAKE THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR NAME AND SURNAME AND YOU CAN BE A HERO TOO!

### FIRST NAME

A - CAPTAIN	N - KINETIC
B - SUPER	O - BLACK
C - DOCTOR	P - THE GREAT
D - THE PHANTOM	Q - MAJOR
E - ULTRA	R - PROFESSOR
F - AMAZING	S - MIGHTY
G - LIGHTNING	T - CRIMSON
H - GIANT	U - TOUGH
I - RAZOR	V - IRON
J - STEEL	W - THUNDER
K - GHOST	X - THE FLYING
L - SECRET AGENT	Y - WONDER
M - AGENT	Z - SPACE

### LAST NAME

A - GEM	N - BLAZE
B - HORNET	O - FANG
C - WOLF	P - FALCON
D - STORM	Q - SOLDIER
E - MASTER	R - AVENGER
F - COBRA	S - WING
G - BRAIN	T - JUSTICE
H - KNIGHT	U - MACHINE
I - CLAW	V - GUARD
J - BEAST	W - NINJA
K - MASTER	X - ARROW
L - VIPER	Y - RANGER
M - EDGE	Z - IVY

## Activity

Create a picture of your superhero costume.

# PIRATE-THEMED ACTIVITIES

## What is it?

A selection of easy pirate themed activities to use at home. Alongside each of your activities, why not carve out 15 minutes to read a book together. If you don't have a pirate story ready make up some bedtime pirate tales with your child!

## Become a pirate

Raid your cupboard to find the perfect pirate costumes. Here are some ideas of what to use:

- Striped t-shirts and shorts
- Eyeliner, makeup or face paint to draw a beard and eye patch
- A scarf or piece of material to create a pirate headscarf
- A hook made of tin foil



## Pirate tales

Once your child has created their pirate costume you can use the below to help create up your pirate tales! Ask them to create a story with these prompts:

- Can you think of a pirate name?
- Are you on a pirate ship sailing to an unknown island searching for treasure? Ask them to think of names for the island and the treasure!
- Is there someone you need to save from the hands of an evil captain?
- Can you think of your action scene? Maybe you're surrounded by a crocodile infested ocean! How can you escape them?

Once you have a plot, use some of the games and craft activities below to add some real-life adventure to your tale!

## Games

### Tic Toc – Find the Crocodile!

You will need:

- A timer

Follow these 2 steps:

1. Hide an egg timer or ticking clock – you can even use your phone! – somewhere in the room

2. Challenge your child to find the ticking clock before the timer rings!

### **Walk the plank!**

You will need:

- Masking tape or string

Follow these 2 steps:

1. Using masking tape or a piece of string to mark a straight line across the room
2. Get your children to walk across the line without falling off it.

*Challenge: if this is too easy get them to try it blindfolded.*

### **Peg Leg relay**

You will need:

- String, rope or scrap material

Follow these 2 steps:

1. In pairs, tie two people's ankles together to form a peg leg
2. Set a distance to race
3. Run it like a three legged race. See how long it takes you to get from one side of the room/garden to the other!

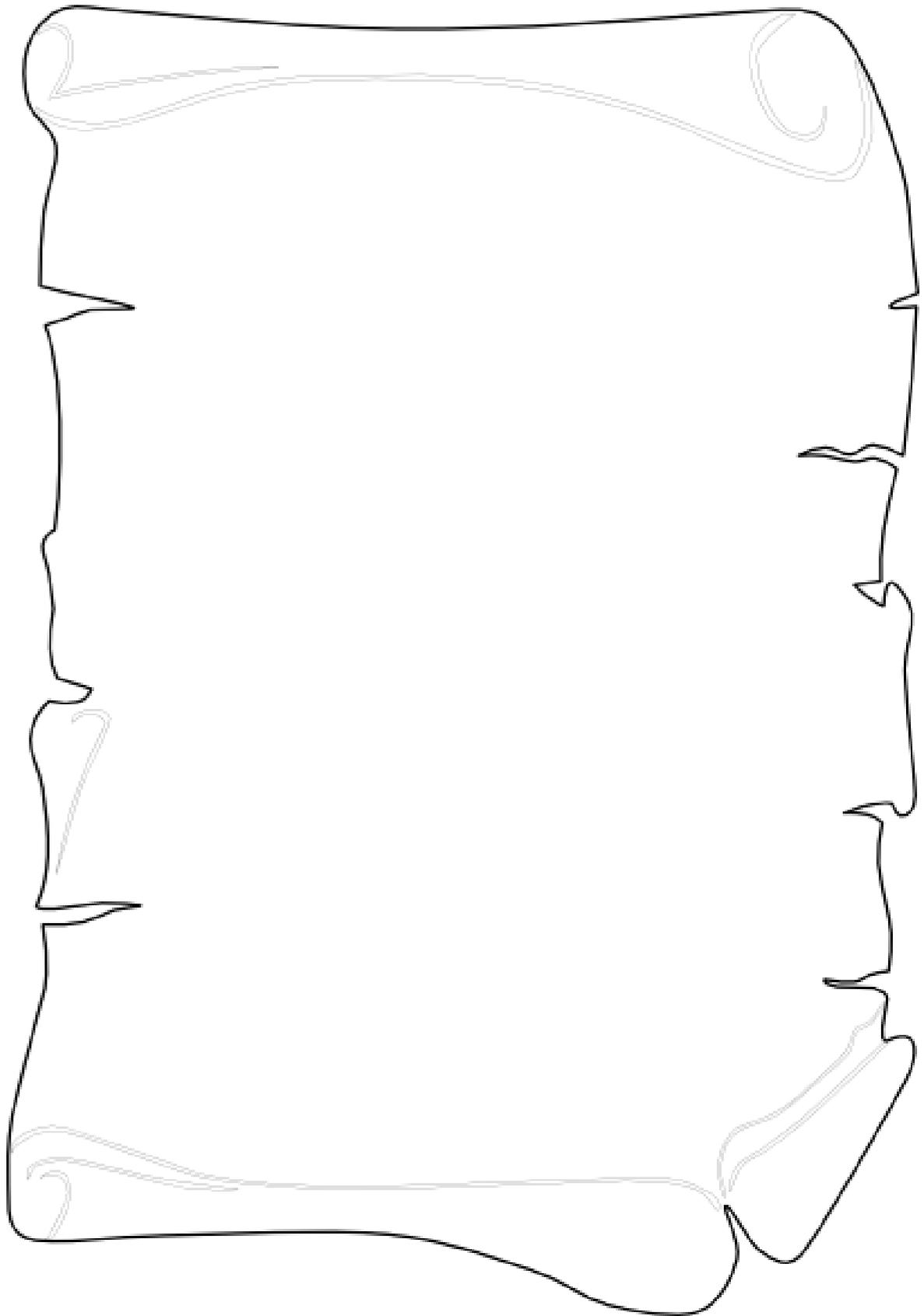
## **Treasure hunt**

Set out a challenge to your child! A pirate has left a treasure map on the doorstep and your child's job to retrieve it all. The game sequence is once they have collected all the smaller bits of treasure, they can look for the X on the map for the treasure chest.

- Treasure map: you can create this yourself
- Treasure: these will be jigsaw pieces that they have to put together or 'gold' coins
- X: a final location with a treat or reward for them to enjoy

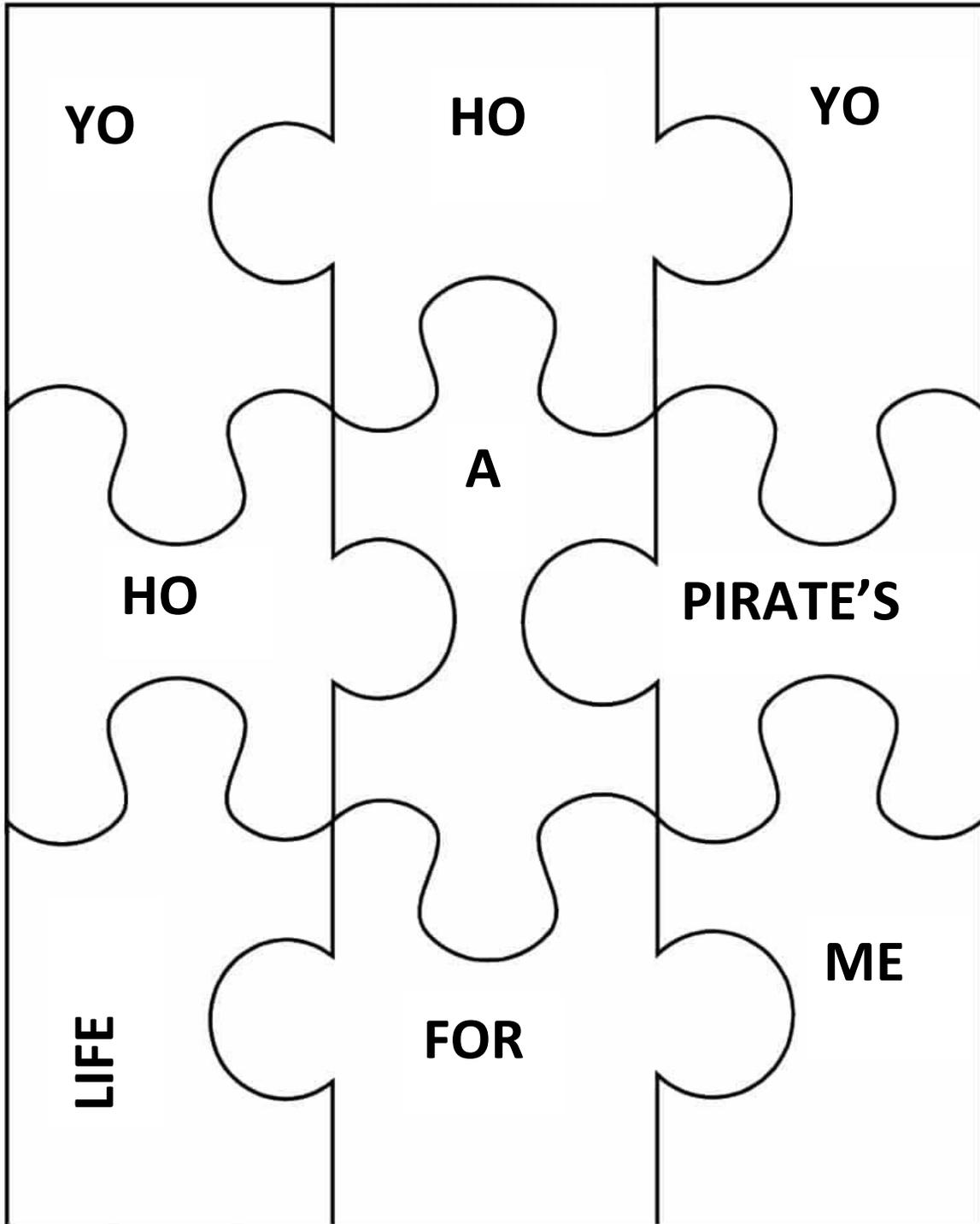
### **Creating the map**

- Draw a map of your home using the below template or draw your own
- Mark everywhere you'll place small bits of 'treasure'
- Also mark a final spot for the 'treasure chest' on the map with a large X



**Pirate treasure: jigsaw**

Use the below jigsaw, cut out the pieces and hide them around the house. When they find them all it will spell out a pirate catchphrase!

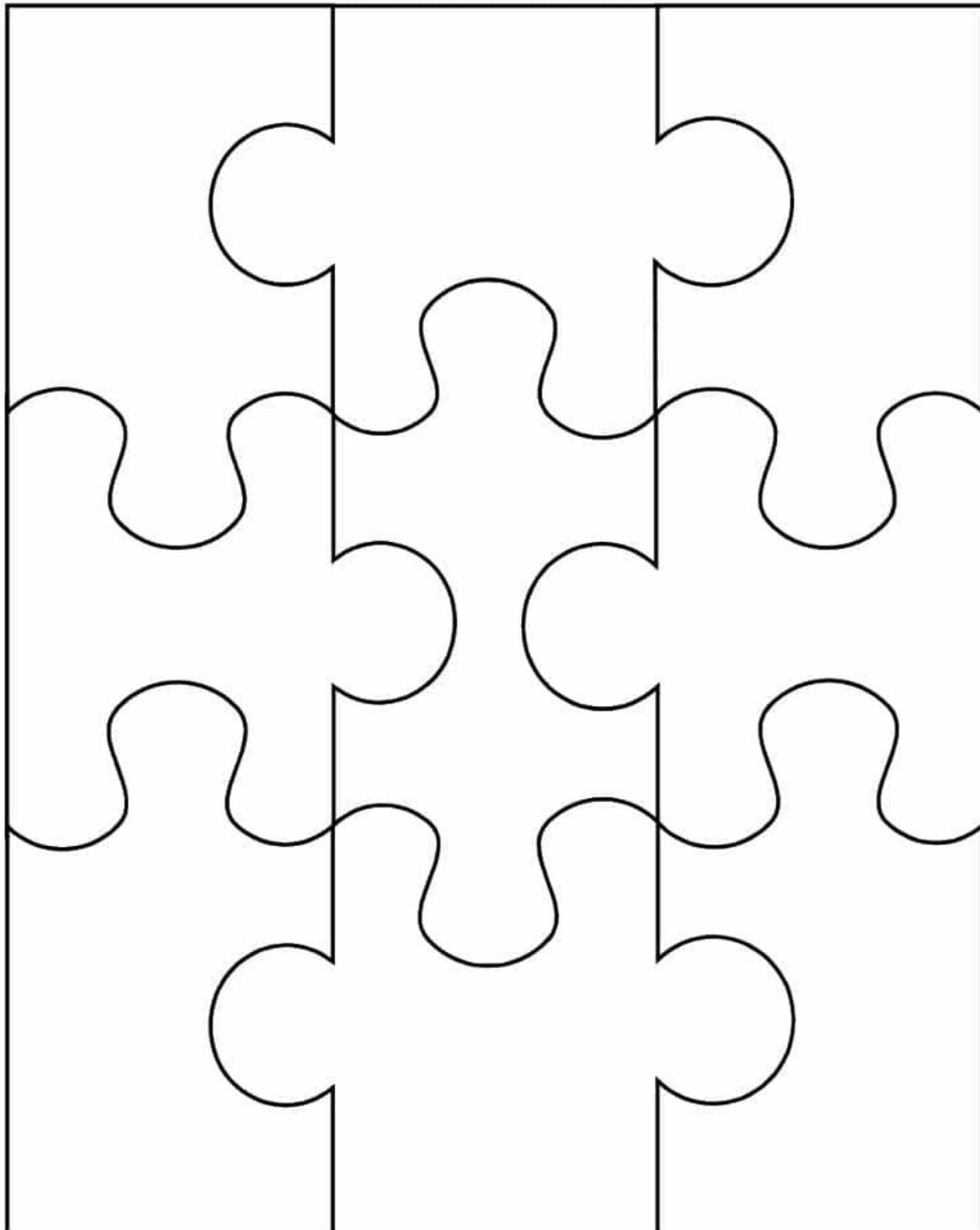


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### Pirate treasure: blank jigsaw

Create your own jigsaw!

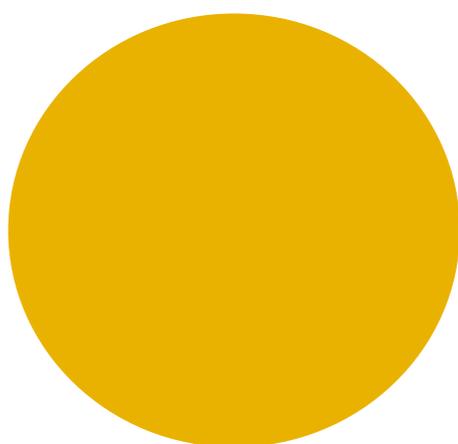
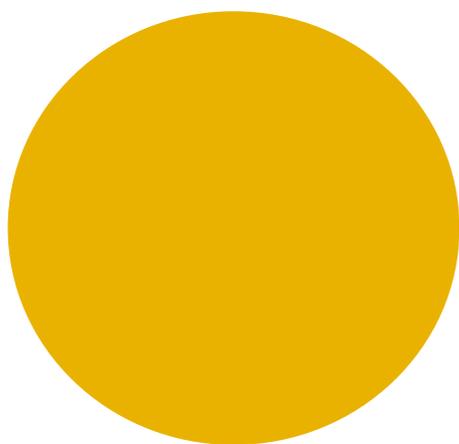
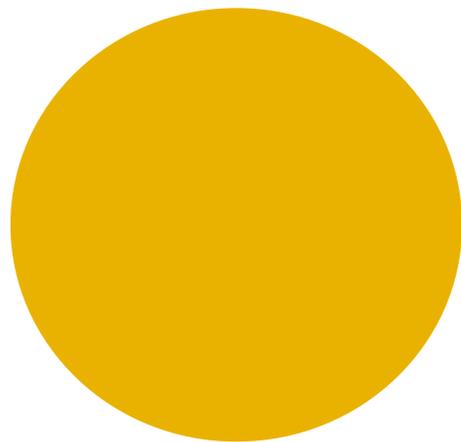
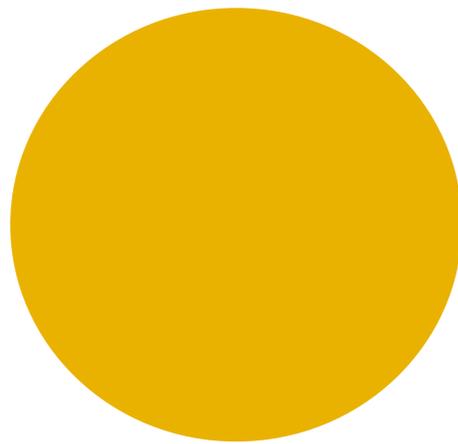
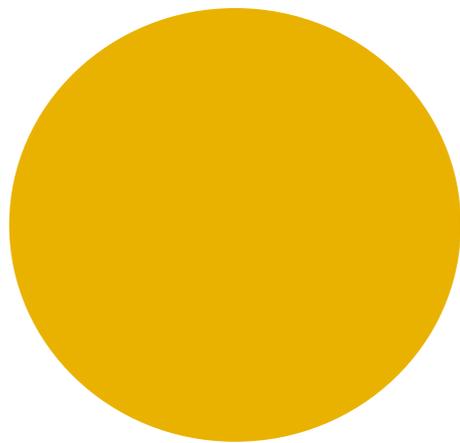
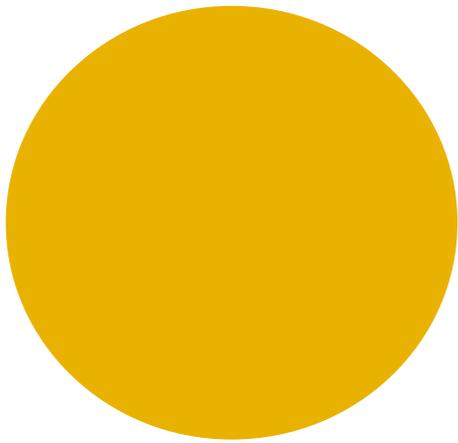
- Assign numbers or letters which your children must practice writing before they can move onto the next clue
- Tasks or challenges that they must complete before moving onto the next clue e.g. run up and down the stairs 5 times or do a handstand



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**Pirate treasure: gold coins**

Cut these out and hide these as treasure or personalise them to make special gold coins!



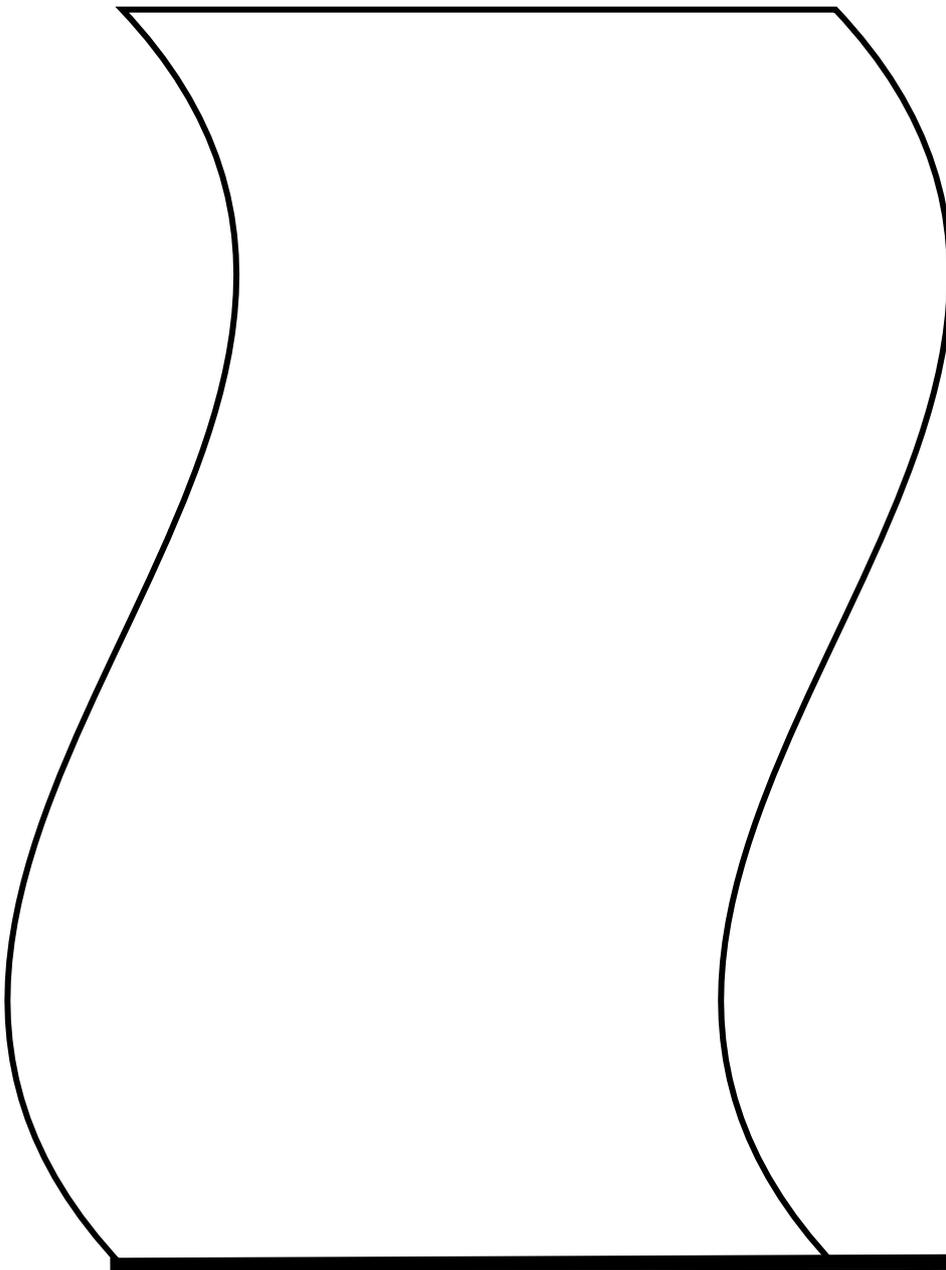
## Pirate flags

You will need:

- The below template
- A clean lollipop stick or similar
- Glue
- Colouring pens
- Decorations – anything you may have lying around!

Ask your child to follow these 3 steps:

1. Cut out the template
2. Glue to the stick to the 'pole' of the flag so you can wave it!
3. Decorate your flag any way you like!



## Make a pirate ship

You will need:

- Cardboard boxes
- Coloured paper or paint
- Paintbrushes or colouring pens
- Scissors

Ask your child to follow these 4 steps:

1. Set up your box and fold down any flaps or remove any lids
2. Decorate it with blue paper or paint so you can see the ocean under your ship
3. Use colouring pens or different shades of blue paint to make the ocean waves
4. Add flags and other things you might find in a pirate ship



## Make your own pirate telescope

You will need:

- Loo roll tubes
- Foil or chocolate wrappers
- Coloured cardboard
- Tape or glue
- Colouring pens or pencils

Ask your child to follow these 3 steps:

1. Wrap the loo roll in the foil or clean inside-out chocolate wrappers and secure with glue or tape
2. Wrap another section in the coloured cardboard and secure
3. Decorate with any pens and pencils!

