



## Welcome to your Barbican Play Pack!

We are very excited to share this issue with you. If you'd like to explore the activities and prompts from the first eight packs created between 2020-2022, you can find these online at [barbican.org.uk/families](http://barbican.org.uk/families). For this Play Pack, we were inspired by the work of artist Francis Alÿs and the idea that 'Play is Everywhere' in this world so we can find ways to play in everything.

We've worked with artists, community groups and designers to create playful activities for the body and the mind that can be enjoyed both inside and outside. The activities celebrate different cultures and explore connections between generations.

You won't need much to get stuck in and we've included a few bits and pieces to get you inspired and on your way.

"Our Street": Barbican Curve Gallery  
Throughout August we invite you to a playful environment where the whole family can unleash their creative side and join in with the fun and games. We invite you to hang out with us in a London neighbourhood with a difference. A place to meet new friends, join in, or take some time to watch the world go by. Everyone is welcome.

In the folder, you will find your invitation. Don't forget to bring it with you for special access – we look forward to seeing you there!

This pack includes contributions from: Accumulate, Explorers Club Studio, Sarah Marsh and St Luke's Community Centre.

We would also like to thank Dan Cottrell ([www.dcottrell.com](http://www.dcottrell.com)) who designed the original eight Play Packs for Culture Mile, and all the original contributors and passionate players of the Play Packs produced between 2020-2022.

Inside



Outside



# Wishing Tree

## You will need:

- Sticks you have collected from outside
- Container for holding the sticks (an old bottle, vase, plastic drink cup)
- Paper
- Pens
- String
- Scissors



## How to play

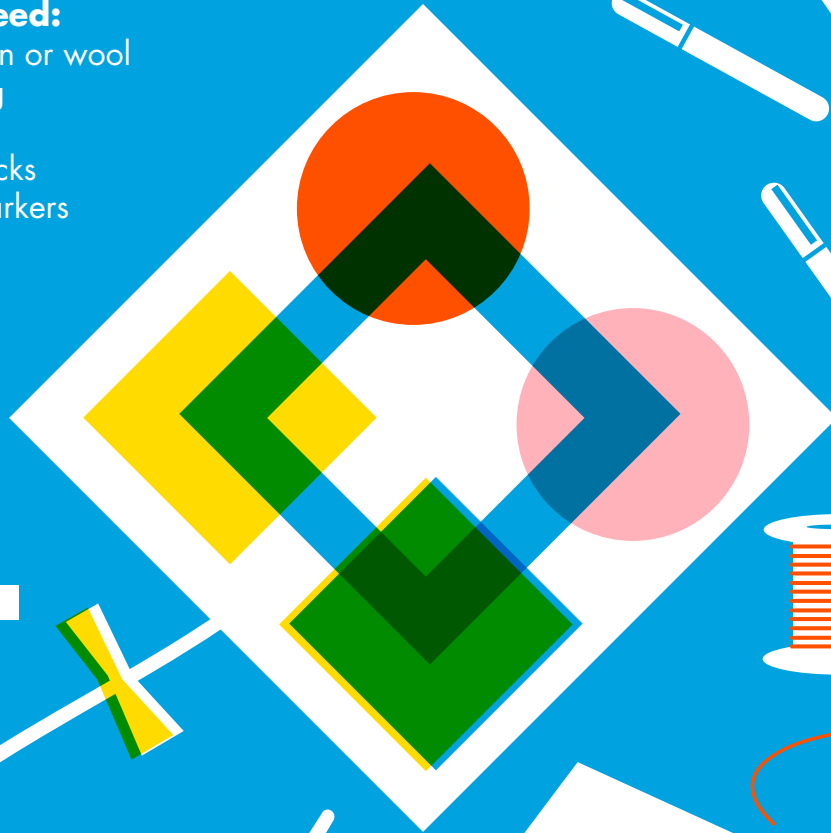
- Start by standing your sticks in the container.
- Cut your paper into small strips. (Tip – make sure they are not too small as you will write your wish on the strip)
- Use a pencil to make a hole at the end of each piece of paper. Thread the string through the hole and tie the ends together to make a loop.
- Write or draw your wish on the paper and hang it on the tree.
- You can give one piece of paper to your family and friends, so the tree will hold many wishes!



# Recycled Kite

## You will need:

- String or yarn or wool
- 1 Plastic bag
- Strong tape
- 2 straight sticks
- Colourful markers
- Scissors



## How to make it

- Find an old plastic bag! Flatten it on the floor and draw a triangle onto the folded edge of the plastic bag. You will discover a diamond shape once you cut it out and unfold it.
- If you have some markers, draw on your kite.
- For the frame of your kite, use straight sticks and the help of an adult. You will place them on a cross shape and bind them together tightly with string. Measure the kite and may need to cut the sticks to fit.
- Then tape and stick four ends to the corners of the kite.
- Last bit! Tie one end of a long piece of string tightly around the place where the sticks cross; you will be holding the other end when the kite flies.

## Interesting fact

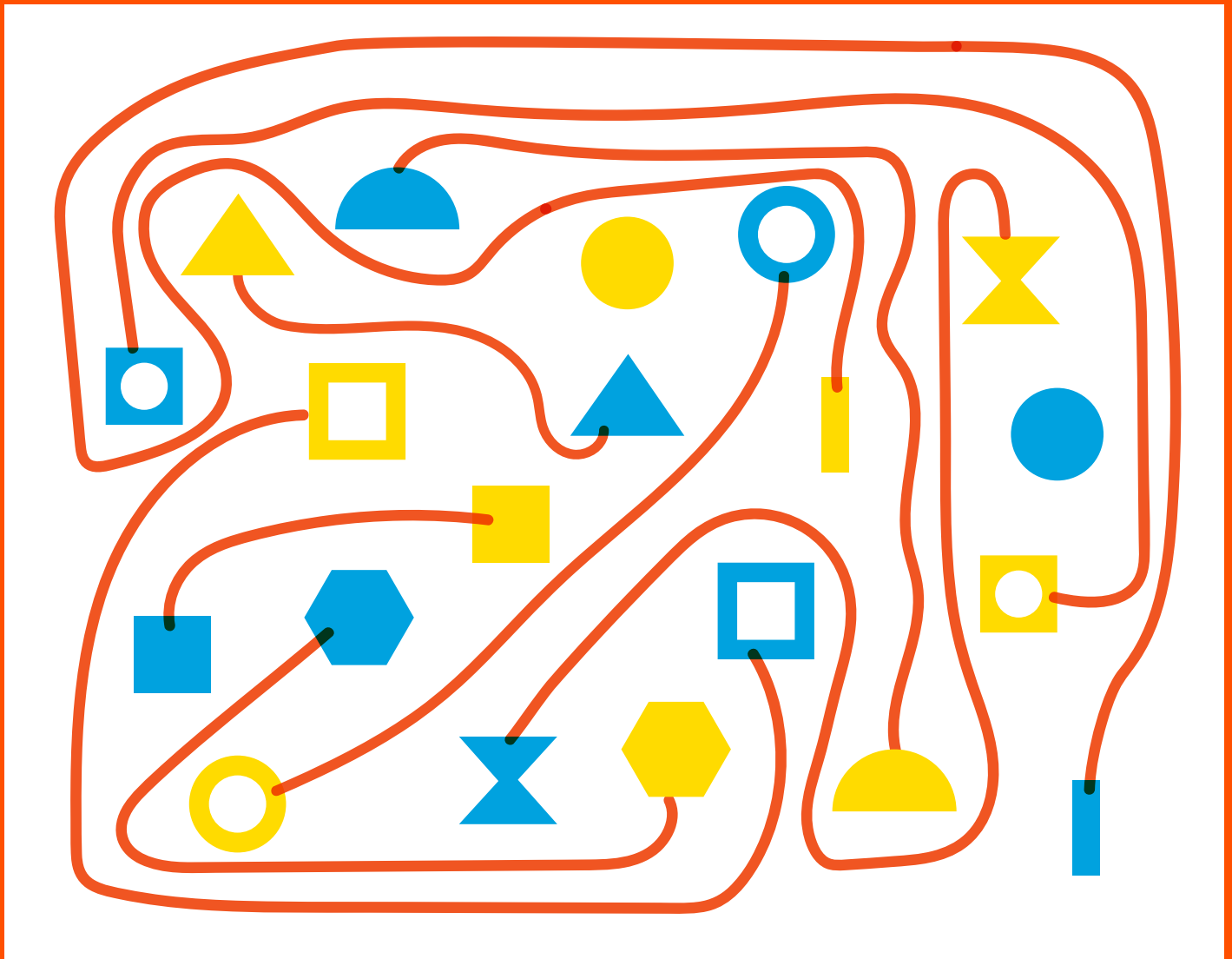
Kites hold a special place in the hearts of children. There are festivals and competitions that celebrate kites across many countries and cultures.



# Cat Guts / Tripas de Gato

## You will need:

Pen  
Paper



## How to play

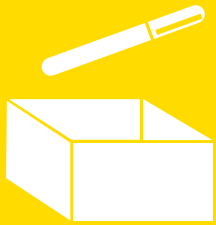
- On one piece of paper, write numbers 1 to 10 and spread them out randomly across the page.
- Repeat this so that there are two of each number.
- You can add shapes, words, or simple drawings; the important thing is that you have a set of two each across the page.
- Now try to connect the pairs without crossing or touching the other lines.

## Interesting fact

Tripas de gato is a traditional game that kids play in Mexico; in the traditional version, players take turns drawing lines between pairs of numbers (1 to 1, 2 to 2) without crossing or touching any other lines. This gets harder as the lines form a maze.

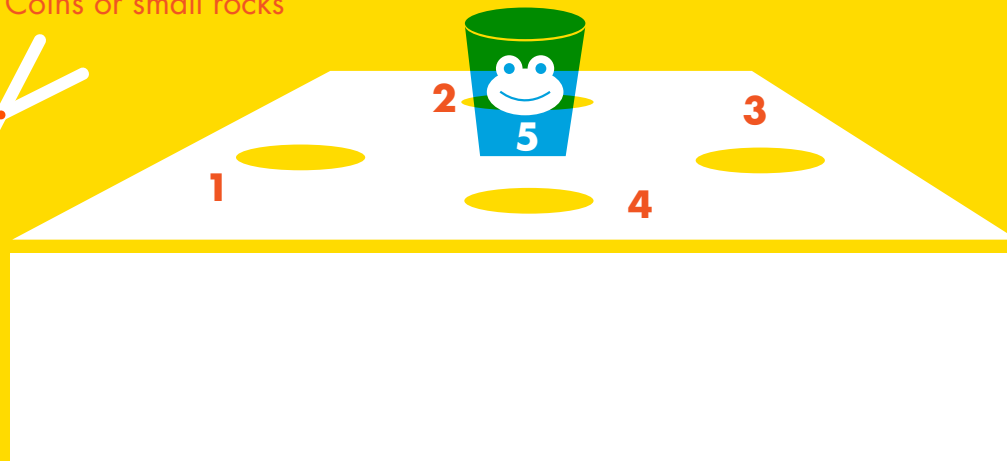


# Sapo / Frog



## You will need:

- A shoebox
- 1 Paper cup
- Scissors
- Tape
- Coins or small rocks



## How to play

- Place your paper cup in the middle of the upturned shoe box.
- Draw 4 holes spaced apart from each other on your shoe box; the holes need to be bigger than the coins or small rocks (Hint - use the image above for a visual clue)
- With the help of an adult cut the 4 holes out.
- Number the holes from 1-4 and your cup 5. Draw a frog in/on your paper cup.
- You can play this game inside the house (using coins) by putting the box on a low table or outside (using small rocks) by putting the box on the floor.

## How to win points

- Each player gets 5 coins or small rocks per turn. Players take turns tossing their coins, one at a time.
- The number next to the hole lets you know how many points it's worth.
- If your coin lands in the frog you must shout Sapo (frog in Spanish) to get your points.
- The first player to reach 10 points wins!

## Interesting facts

This game is present in several countries of Latin America. An ancient legend tells that in the Inca's sacred lake, the Titicaca, a mystical game evolved into a festival. "El Sapo" (the frog) was the main character in the exciting game, in which the Inca, son of the sun, would throw luck to his court.

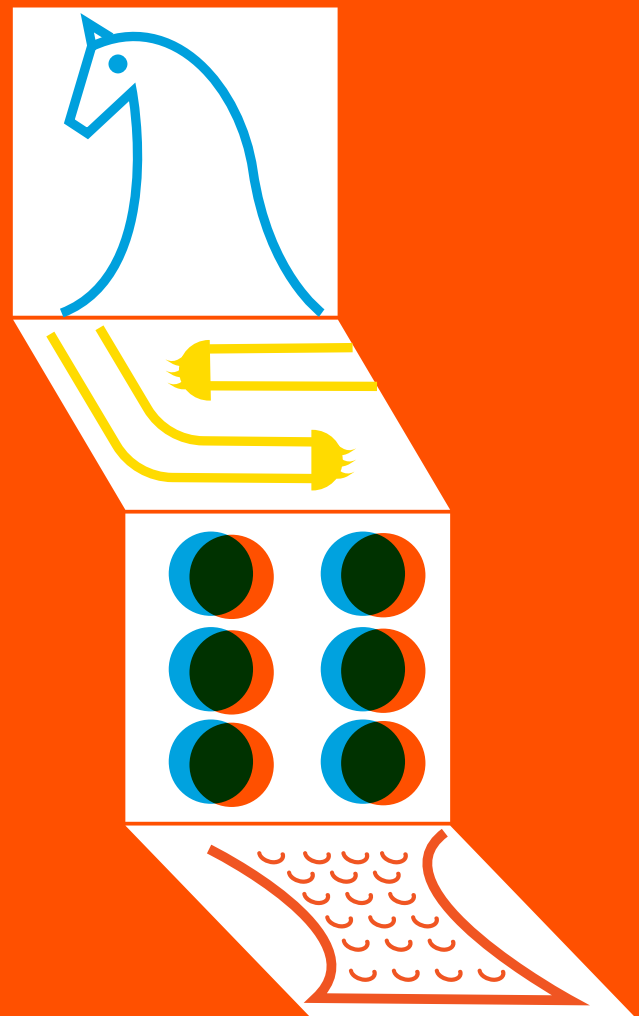
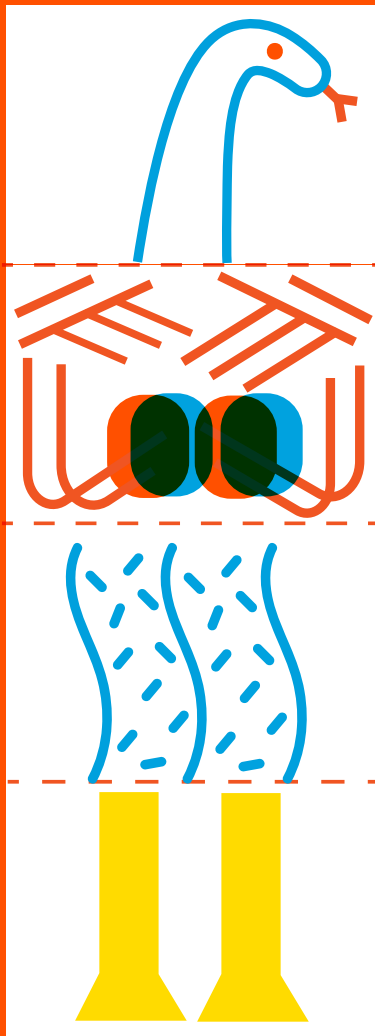
In those times, the royal family would throw gold pieces in the lake, hoping to catch the attention of some frogs known for their magical powers. If a frog came to the surface and took in his mouth a gold piece, instantly, the player was awarded a wish, and the frog turned into solid gold.



# The Exquisite Corpse

## You will need:

Pen  
Paper



## How to play

- Place your piece of paper in front of you in portrait mode (with the short edge at the bottom).
- Fold your piece of paper in half towards you.
- Now fold it in half towards you again.
- Unfold the paper and you should see 4 equal parts.
- In the top section, draw a head or write a sentence.
- Fold this section behind the sheet so the next person doesn't see it and pass the paper to someone else.
- The next person will write another sentence or draw another section, fold the paper, and pass it to another person or back to you.
- At the end, read the whole story or discover the final picture!

## Interesting fact

The exquisite corpse is a collaborative drawing approach first used by surrealist artists in France to create bizarre and intuitive drawings.



# Whirligig

## You will need:

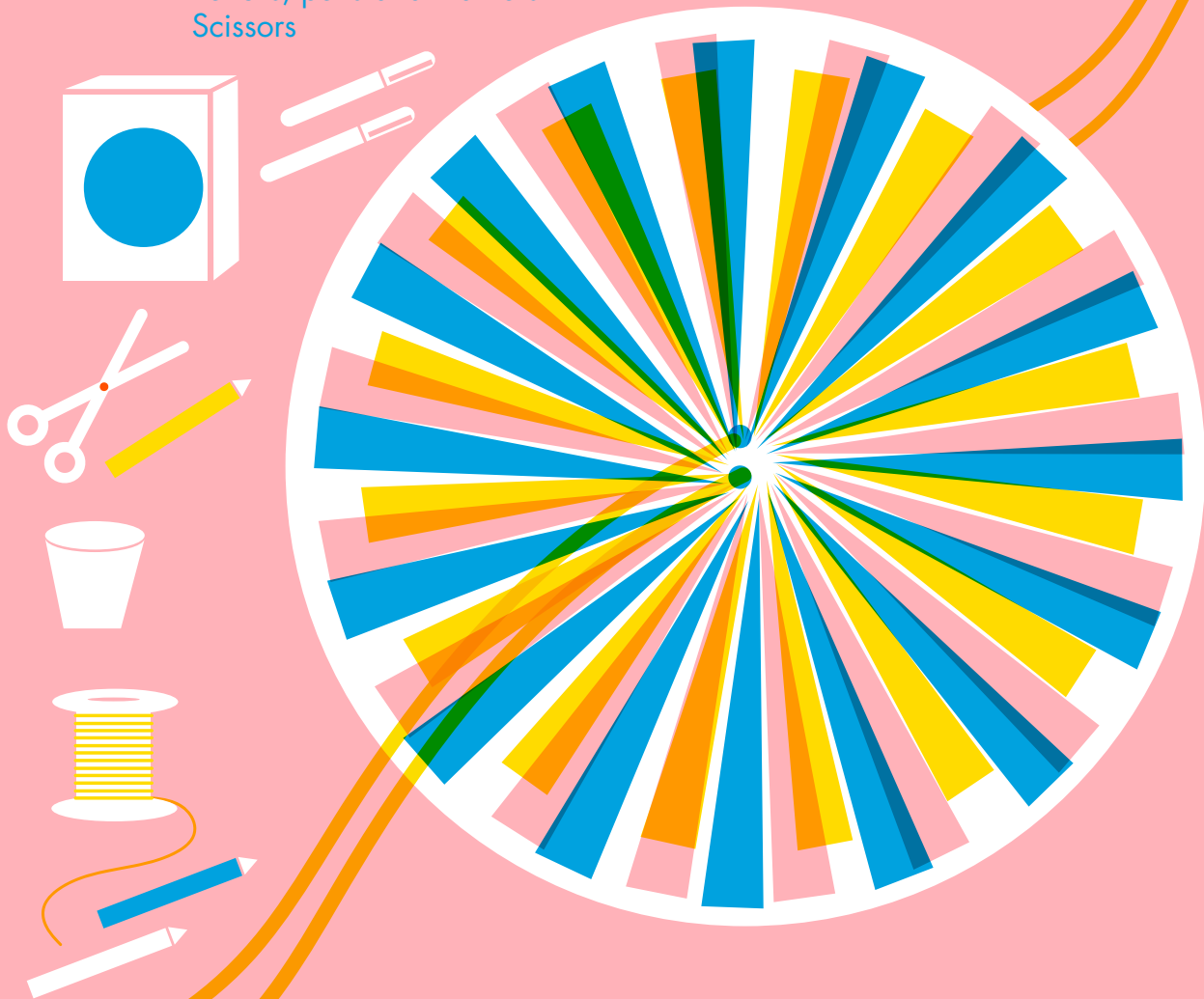
A cup or glass

String or yarn or wool

An old box of cereal or any piece of cardboard you can find in the kitchen (ask an adult for help)

Pencils, pens and markers

Scissors



## How to make it

- Draw a circle on a piece of cardboard using a glass or a cup.
- Using up the entire circle draw a flower, star or pattern in bright colours.
- Use the pencil to punch two small holes 2/3 cm apart in the middle of your circle.
- Then, thread string or yarn through the holes. Tie both ends of the string together in a knot to make a loop.
- Hold one end of the loop in each hand to spin the whirligig.
- Now, twist the string! Tug on both ends of the string to unwind the string and spin the disc.



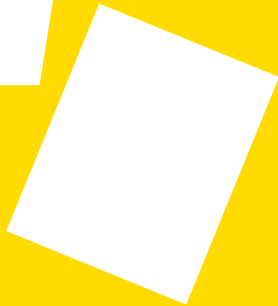


# Surprise Stories



## You will need:

- Recycled cups
- Colour pencil
- Glue
- Paper



## How to play

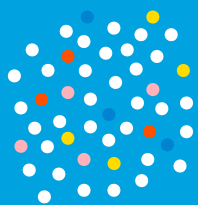
- Think about your favourite story, and draw the different characters on a piece of paper, for example: Goldilocks and the three bears.
- Remember, these drawings need to be small enough to fit on the cups!
- Ask an adult to help you cut each character out and glue each to one cup.
- You can then pull the cups from inside each other to start telling your story. You can make up your own story to surprise your family and friends.

## Interesting fact

This activity was inspired by traditional Russian Dolls; have you seen one before?

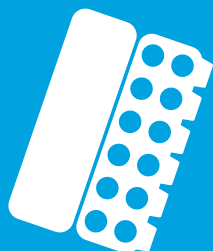


# Mancala

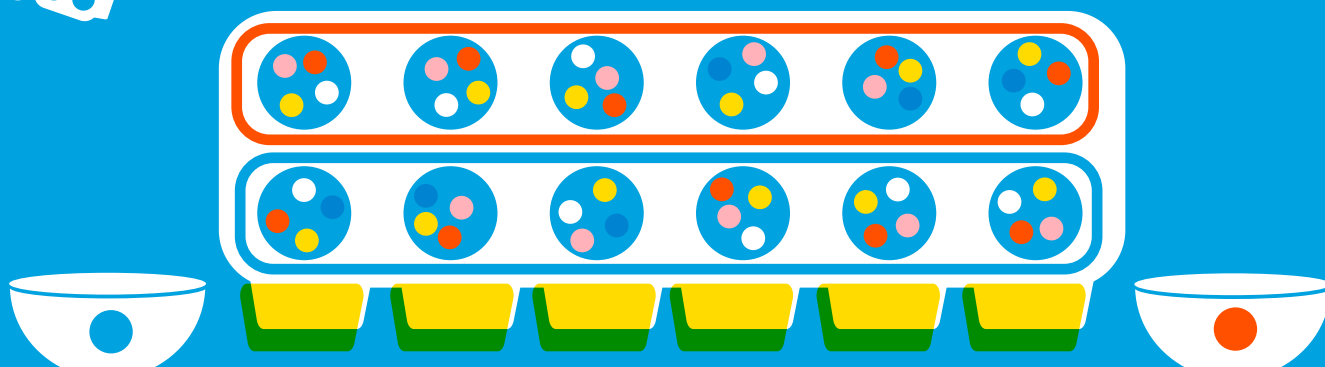


## You will need:

An empty 12-hole egg carton  
48 small stones, coins, beans or dry lentils  
2 small bowls  
Colour pencils



The egg carton is your game tray.  
Colour the left half of the egg carton holes in one colour and the right half in the other colour.  
You are ready to play!



## How to play

Set up

- Put four stones in each of the twelve holes.
- Place a small bowl at each end of the game tray. Players choose the left or right side of the carton and one of the bowls as their store.

Playtime

- Pick up all the stones from any hole on your side. Moving counterclockwise, drop one stone from your hand into each hole, starting with the hole right after the one you removed the stones from.
- When you get to it, drop a stone in your own store (bowl), which counts as a hole, but always skip your friend's store. Continue until your hand is empty. If the last stone you drop falls in your store, you get to go again.

Now it is your friend's turn to do the same.

- The game is over when one player has no stones left in the holes on their side. That player takes the remaining stones on the board for their store (bowl). Whoever has the highest number of stones in their store wins!

## Interesting fact

Mancala comes from the Arabic word Manqalah. Although more than 800 names of traditional mancala games are known, some names denote the same game, while others are used for more than one game.



# Worry Dolls / Muñeca Quitapena

## You will need:

Paper  
Clothes peg  
Fabric scraps, ask an adult if there are any clothes that can be recycled for this activity  
Yarn/ wool  
Glue  
Scissor  
Tape  
Marker



## How to make it

- Cut the paper into 3 strips.
- You can use old clothes peg for the body
- Or you can cut a strip of paper or fold an A4 sheet into three parts and roll them into a tight cylinder to create the doll's body.
- At one end, draw the doll's face and use the fabric to create a dress.
- Wrap the small piece around the body and tie it with yarn.

## Interesting fact

In the dolls' original Guatemalan tradition, a local legend about the origin of the Muñeca quitapena refers to a Mayan princess named Ixmucane. The princess received a special gift from the sun god, which would allow her to solve any problem a human could worry about. In traditional and modern times, worry dolls are given to children if they are feeling anxious. They tell their doll about their sorrows, fears, and worries, then hide it under their pillow before going to sleep at night. The next day, the children will feel much better.



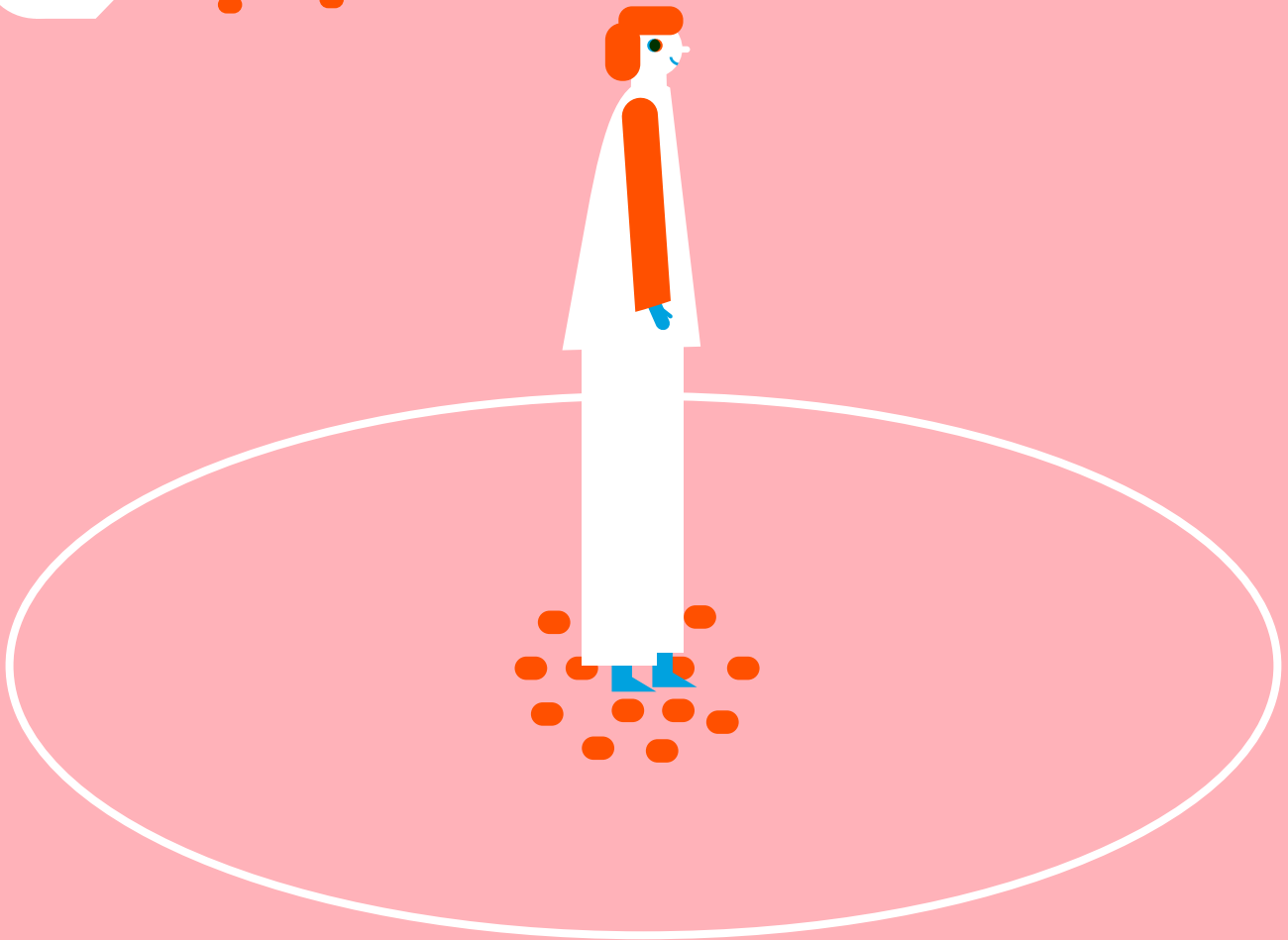
# Protect Your Eggs



## You will need:

Chalk or masking tape

Small stones



## How to play

- Draw a circle with chalk or masking tape.
- Put the rocks (eggs) in the middle of the circle.
- A player (the Crow) will need to guard the rocks.
- The other players will try to take the eggs without the Crow catching them.
- Once all the eggs have been taken, the crow closes its eyes while other players hide the eggs.
- When it is ready, the Crow opens its eyes and goes in search of the eggs.
- Whoever hid the first eggs to be found by the Crow will take over the role of the Crow.

## Interesting fact

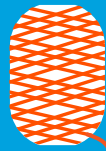
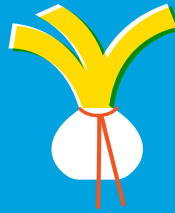
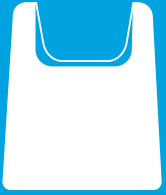
In Thailand, this game is called Crow Sits on the Eggs. (E-Gar Fuk Khai)



# Jegichagi

## You will need:

Paper  
Plastic bag  
Coins or dry beans  
String or yarn  
Scissors



## How to play

- This is an outdoor traditional Korean game, in which players kick a paper jegi (plaything) into the air and attempt to keep it aloft.
- Ask an adult to help you cut two squares (bigger than a plate) using paper or a plastic bag.
- Add the coins in the centre of the square, gather up the sides, and tie them with a piece of string or yarn just above the coins.
- Cut some strips from the rest of the paper or plastic, and you are ready to play.
- You play this game by kicking the jegi with the inside of your foot; the goal is to keep it from touching the ground. You can play this with your family and friends and count how many times you can kick it before it touches the ground.

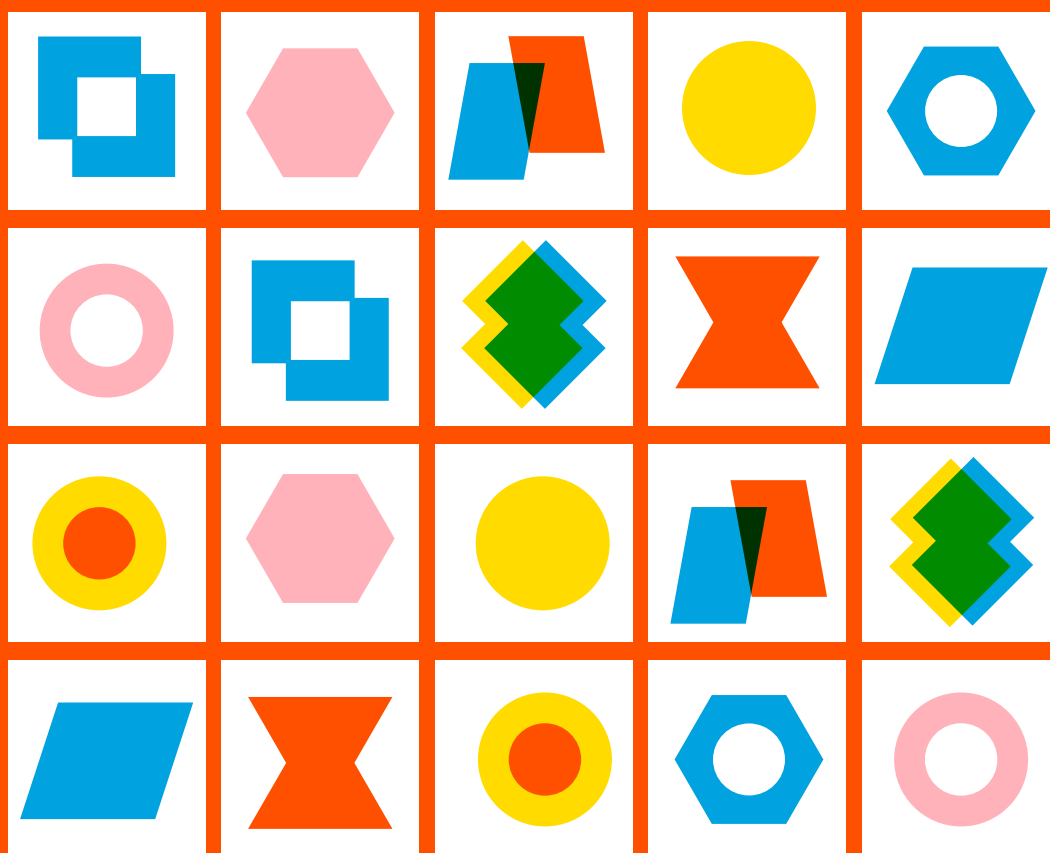


# Memory Cards

## You will need:

- Card paper
- Pencils and coloured pencils
- Ruler or scissors

With the help of an adult, decide what size you want your cards to be.  
Draw 10 different contrasting images on 10 cards.  
Repeat this on the second 10.



## How to play

- Lay the cards face down on a surface.
- The object of the game is to turn over pairs of matching cards.
- Players choose 2 cards and turn them over. If they match, that player wins the pair and plays again.
- If they don't match, they are turned face down again and play passes to the next player.
- The game ends when the last pair has been picked up. The winner is the person with the most pairs.

## Interesting fact

This game is played at Richard Cloudesley School, a neighbour of the Barbican.

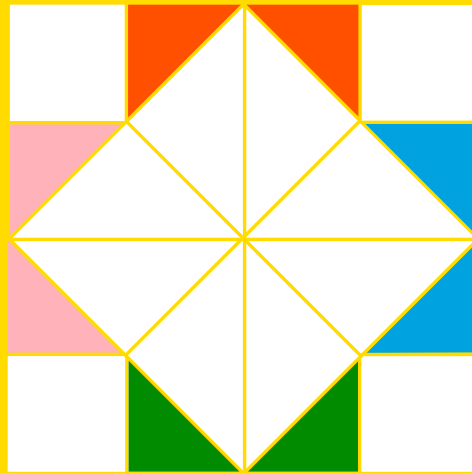


# Cootie Catchers / Fortune Tellers



## You will need:

- Paper
- Colour pencils
- Scissors
- Ruler



You can use this template to master the folding and to make more cootie catchers with different themes.



## Instructions

- Cut out the square.
- Flip the square over and fold it from the top to the bottom in half.
- Unfold.
- Then, fold the square from the right to the left and unfold it again.
- Now, fold each corner of the square towards the centre, as shown below.
- Turn the paper over and bring each corner to the centre.
- Fold the square in half, crease firmly, and unfold it.

It's time to fill in your cootie catcher:

- On top of the flaps, write a number.
- Then, open each flap and write a fortune or prediction.
- On the outside flaps, write the name of a colour.

Finally, slip your thumbs and pointer fingers into the four flaps at the bottom to start playing.



## How to play

1. Find someone to play with and ask them to pick a colour from the top flaps.
2. Spell out the colour, opening and closing the cootie catcher along with the letters. Stop at the last letter to reveal some of the numbers on the flaps. Make them pick one.
3. Open and close the Cootie Catcher while counting out the number picked in step 2.
4. Once you finish, get the other player to pick another number from the panels,
5. Flip it up, and read the fortune.

You can write 8 answers from the following list:

- |                    |                   |                       |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes                | Definitely        | Without a doubt       |
| Most likely        | is certain        | You'll be lucky       |
| As I see it, yes   | Maybe             | Reply hazy, try again |
| You may rely on it | Ask again later   | Cannot predict now    |
| Signs point to yes | My sources say no | Very doubtful         |



# Immediate Collage & Sculpture



## You will need:

From the beach, if you're near one e.g. shells, stones,  
Wet or dry sand  
In the home, e.g. books, cushions, tins, kitchen utensils  
In the park, e.g. leaves, grass, sticks, stones, feathers



## How to make it

Anything anywhere can be turned into a collage or sculpture.  
It can be left in place for the next person who comes along to enjoy.  
Just make sure they are in a safe place where people won't step on  
them or trip and fall.

- Pile your art ingredients, spread them out and make marks on them to create your own unique artwork. If you are with friends or family, how many ways can you arrange the same materials?

Activity created by members of Accumulate



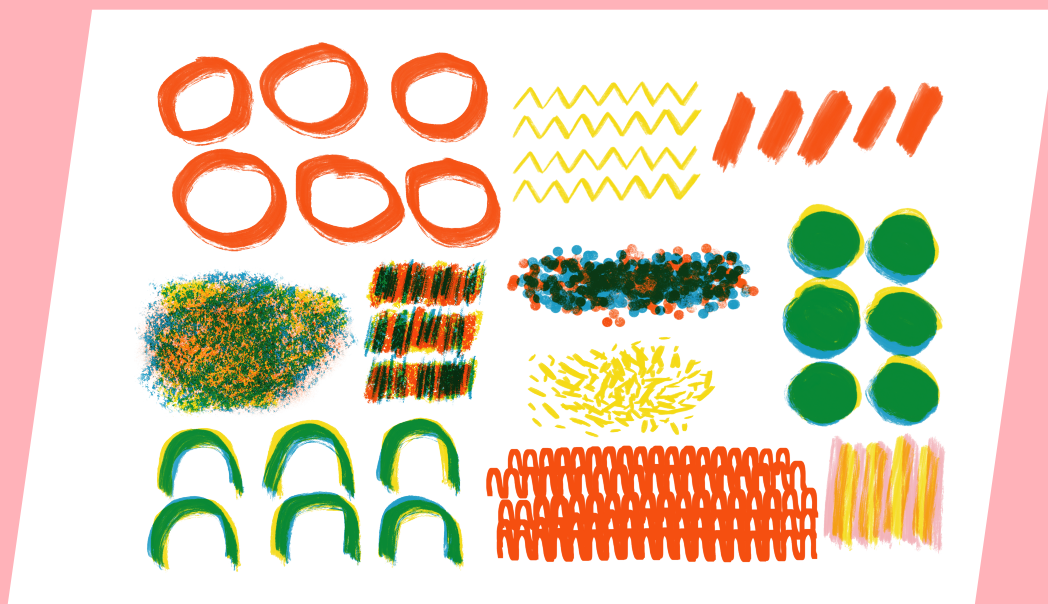
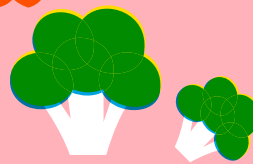
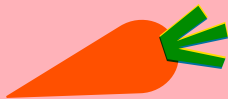
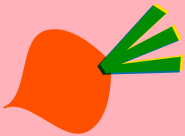


# Kitchen (Scrap) Paint



## You will need:

- Used tea bags
- Ground coffee
- Lemon
- Beetroot
- Carrot
- Broccoli
- Red peppers
- Paint brush or your fingers
- Water



## How to play

- Many different plant materials have been used throughout history to create paints and dyes. You can explore the unique colours and effects you can achieve. By using kitchen scraps, there is less waste.
- Dampen a piece of paper and sprinkle it with a few instant coffee granules or coffee grounds. See what patterns emerge as it dries. Or paint a picture with leftovers.
- Paint with used tea bags - black, green and herbal teas. Cover an entire sheet of paper, let it dry, then try making marks with lemon juice and leave it in the sun.
- Smoosh vegetable peelings with a little water. Try beetroot, carrot, potato, broccoli and red peppers.

Activity created by members of Accumulate

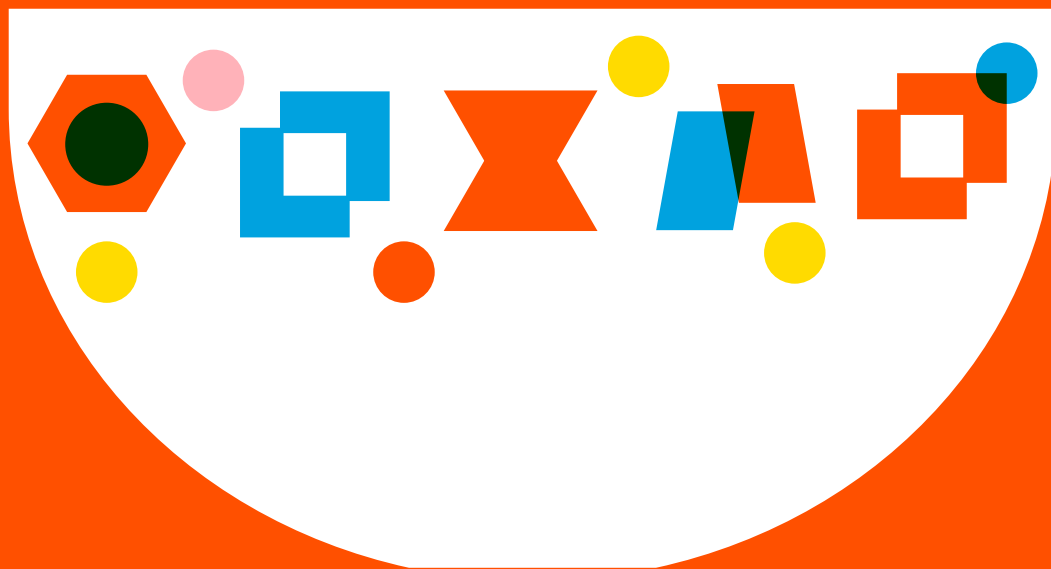


# Toilet Paper Art



## You will need:

Toilet paper  
Water



Toilet paper likes to stick to itself using just water, so you can make all kinds of models, sculptures and art that can be painted and embellished afterwards. Cheap 2-ply paper works well, and you don't need a lot. The less you use, the quicker it dries.

## How to make it

Here are some instructions to make a bracelet or a bowl:

- Roll it up tightly, dip it into water, squeeze it, and form it into a bracelet/hoop shape.
- Add dry sheets over the top to seal the joint.

Make sure it's big enough to go over your hand, as it may shrink as it dries!

- Lay wet, overlapping sheets into a plate or bowl.
- Press them flat, pour off any excess water and leave to dry. The toilet paper will shrink away from the surface, making it easy to remove.

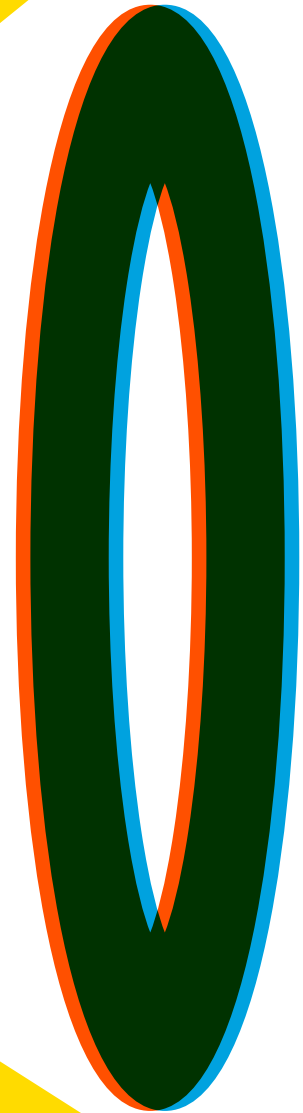
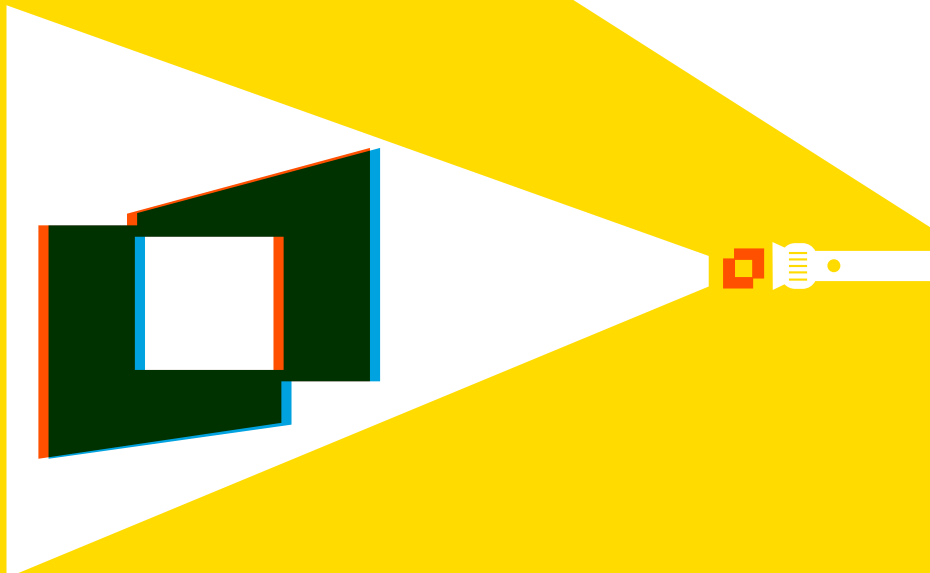
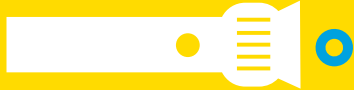
Activity created by members of Accumulate



# Shadow Drawing

## You will need:

- A torch or lamp
- Different objects like toys, cars, and shapes.
- Paper
- Pencils



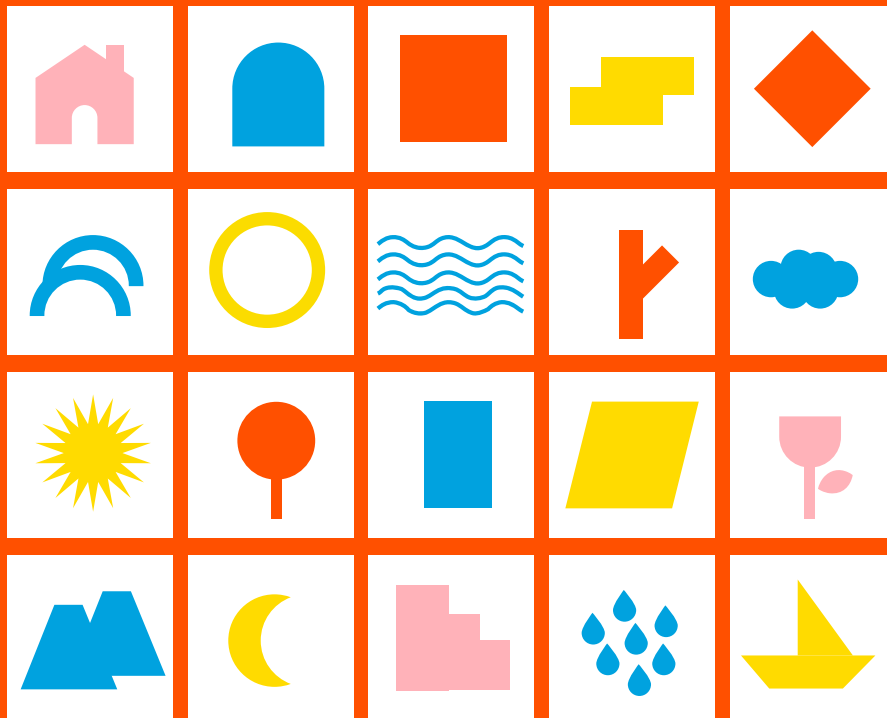


# La Loteria

A fun game from Mexico, similar to Bingo, to play with family and friends at parties and gatherings.

## You will need:

- Recycled cardboard
- Paper
- Ruler
- Pencils and coloured pencils
- Glue
- Dry beans or pennies
- A bowl



## Make your pieces

- Divide your paper into small equal squares. In each square, draw a simple object, thing or shape, like the sun, the moon, a star, etc. You can do this with family and friends. You should have about 20 pictures.
- On another piece of paper, divide your paper into small squares, but this time write the name of each of the pictures you've drawn on your first piece of paper; for example, if you drew a moon in your first square, write the word moon on a square on the second piece of paper.
- Cut out all the squares with words on them and put them in a bowl
- Cut out all the squares with pictures on them and distribute them amongst the players. Each player should have the same number of drawings which they will stick onto a piece of cardboard.

## How to play

- Decide who should be the caller who will pull a square out of the ball. If the word matches a picture on your card, put a bean or coin on that picture. The first person to fill the whole card wins!

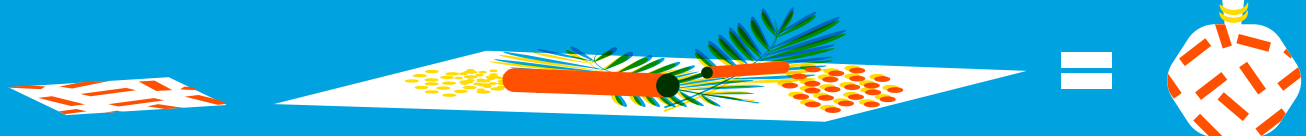
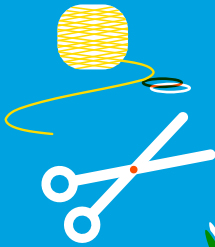


# Sensorial Dumpling



## You will need:

- 1 old t-shirt or a small pillowcase
- Scissors
- Dry lentils or beans
- Spices like cinnamon
- Romero leaves
- String or a rubber band



## How to make it

- Create a sensory dumpling with foraged fillings using a piece of an old t-shirt. Use a piece of fabric about 30cm by 30 cm (ask a grown-up to help with this bit).
- Put a small heap of each filling in the middle of the square, use something to squeeze or scrunch like dry lentils or rice and something to smell, like cloves or rosemary. See what you can find in your kitchen or outside.
- Take each corner of the fabric and hold it together, making a small pouch of filling. Use some string or a rubber band to hold the corners together.
- Take your dumpling around with you to squeeze or smell during the day.

Activity created by artist Sara Marsh



# Mini Piñata

## You will need:

- Paper cups – you could also use an empty cereal box
- Colourful napkins, tissue paper, or crepe paper streamers, for the fringe
- Scissors
- Tape or white glue
- Ribbon, string or yarn
- Sweets and small toys to fill the piñatas
- Pencil
- Rubber band



## How to make it

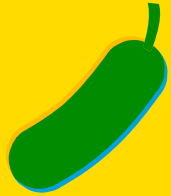
- Prepare the Cup: Poke a small hole in the bottom of the cup. Thread ribbon, string, or yarn through the hole and tie a knot to keep it from slipping out.
- Cut Tissue Paper: Trace the cup on tissue paper, then cut a circle about an inch larger than the traced shape.
- Fill and Cover: Fill the cup with sweets and small toys. Cover the cup with the tissue paper circle and secure it with a rubber band.
- Make Fringe: Measure the tissue paper strips to fit around the cup. Cut a rectangle (length needed x 3 inches). Fold it in half and cut slits to create fringe.
- Attach Fringe: Wrap the fringe around the cup, securing it with tape or glue. Ensure the middle of the strips is taped to the cup.
- Add Pull Ribbon: Attach a piece of ribbon to the bottom of the piñata over the tissue paper.
- Finish: When ready, pull the ribbon to rip the tissue paper and release the goodies!

## Interesting fact

A piñata is a container, often made of papier-mache, pottery or cloth, that is decorated, filled with little surprises like sweets, and broken as part of a celebration. Piñatas are commonly associated with Latin America.

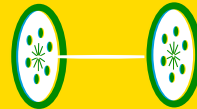


# Pepper Cars



## You will need:

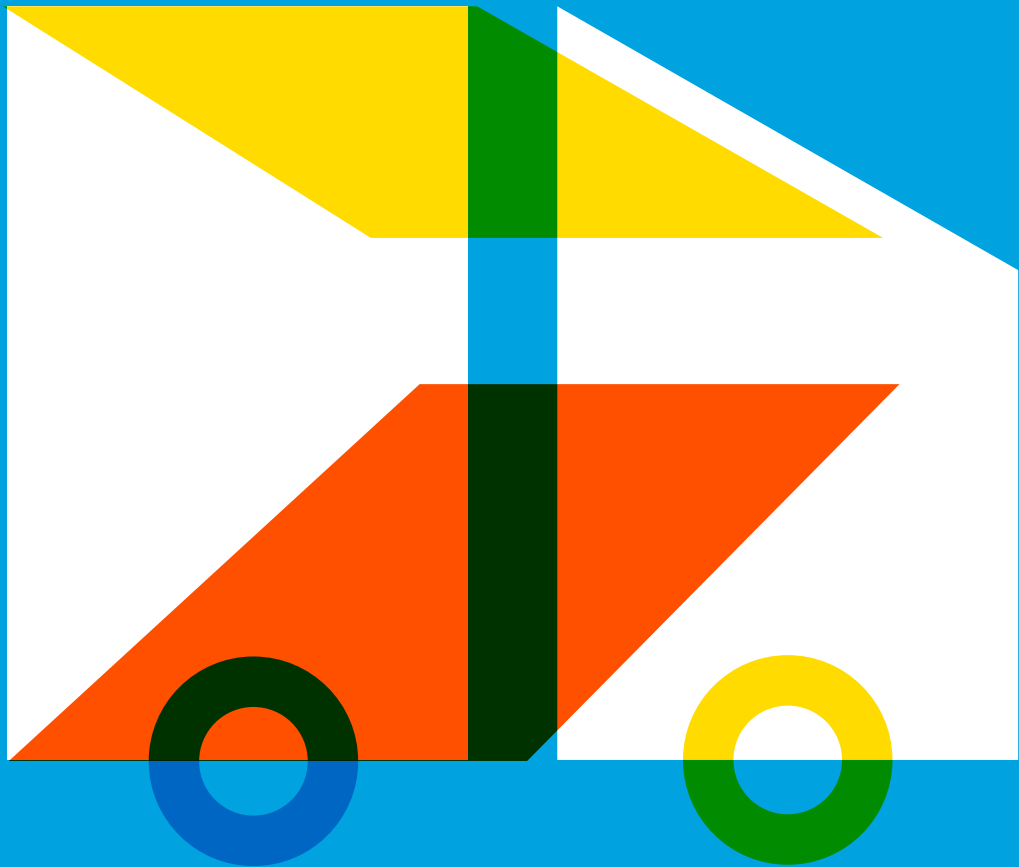
- Bell peppers
- Cucumber
- Carrots
- Knife
- Cocktail sticks



## How to play

- Choose a bell pepper and remove the top, as in the picture
  - Slice the pepper's top into slices, then the cucumber and carrot.
  - Slice four pieces of cucumber and attach them to cocktail sticks as wheels for the pepper car.
  - Add the dip to the bottom of the pepper car and add all the vegetables.
- Enjoy!

Activity created by members of St. Luke's Community Centre



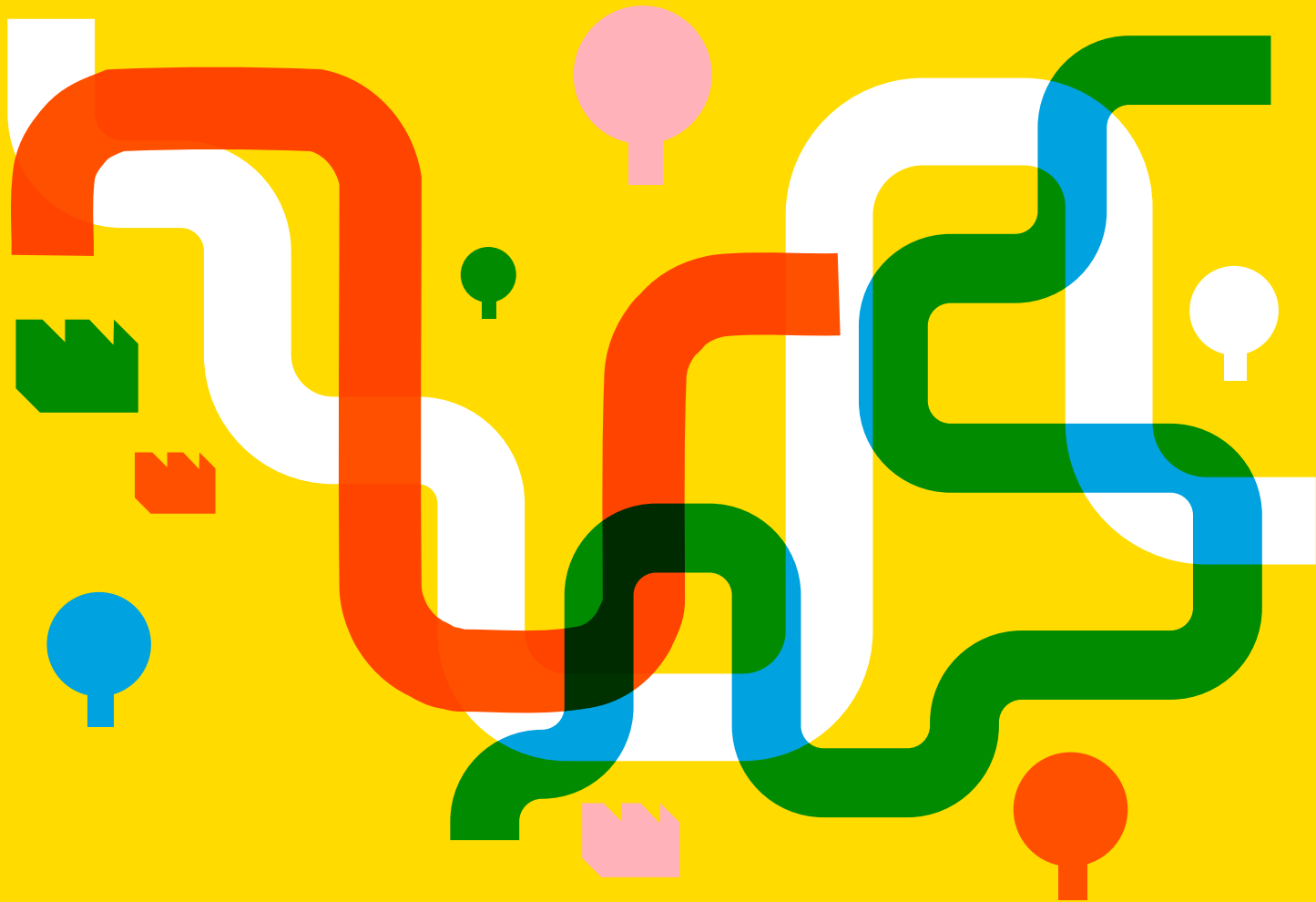


## **Blue Car, Yellow Car**

While walking or watching out the window, look for different coloured cars.

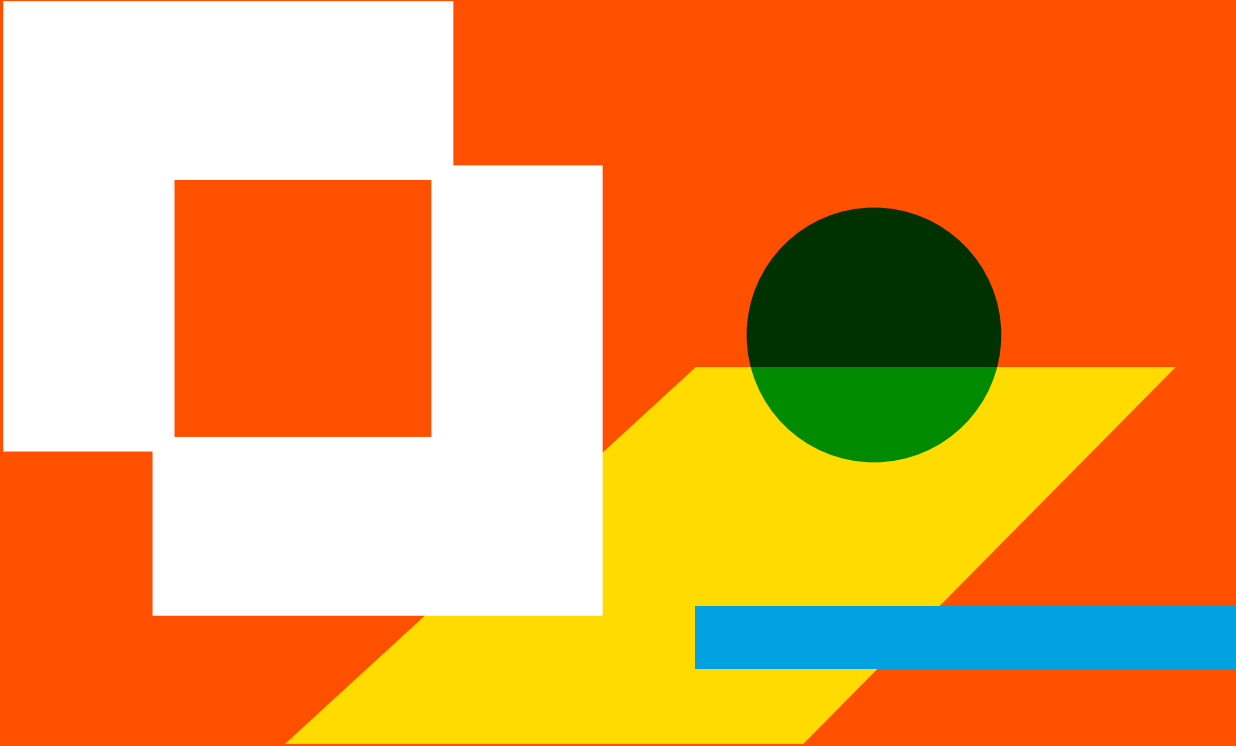
Each colour has a different action that you do when you spot one.

Example: when you see a yellow car, you do a dance. When you see a blue car you do a funny wave, when you see a red car you sing a silly song.



## **Barbican Treasure Map**

How will you create your own DIY treasure hunt map with clues and hidden surprises for family members to follow around the Barbican Centre?

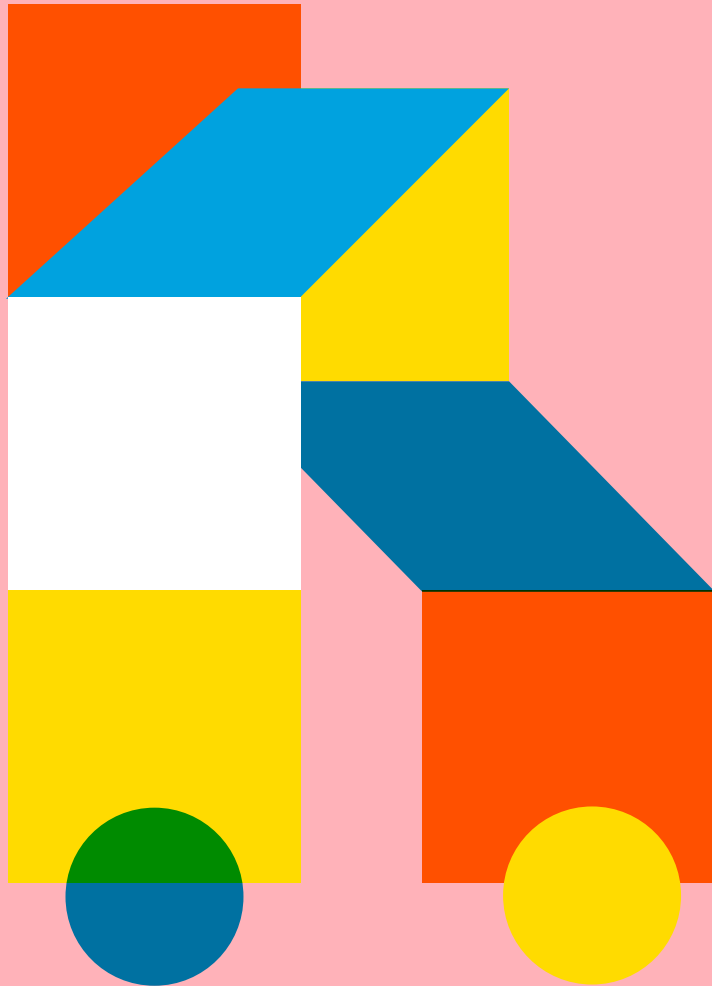


## **Story Objects**

Place three objects on a table, such as a cup, a pencil, and a teddy.

Think of a story linking the items together.

You can keep the story to yourself, tell it, or draw it like a cartoon.



## Car Registration

Make watching passing traffic fun while on the bus or in a car.

Use the three letters together on a car registration to have a little fun with words.

BD51 SMR = Sing More Rhymes

WY22 DEW = Don't Eat Water





## **Story Puppets**

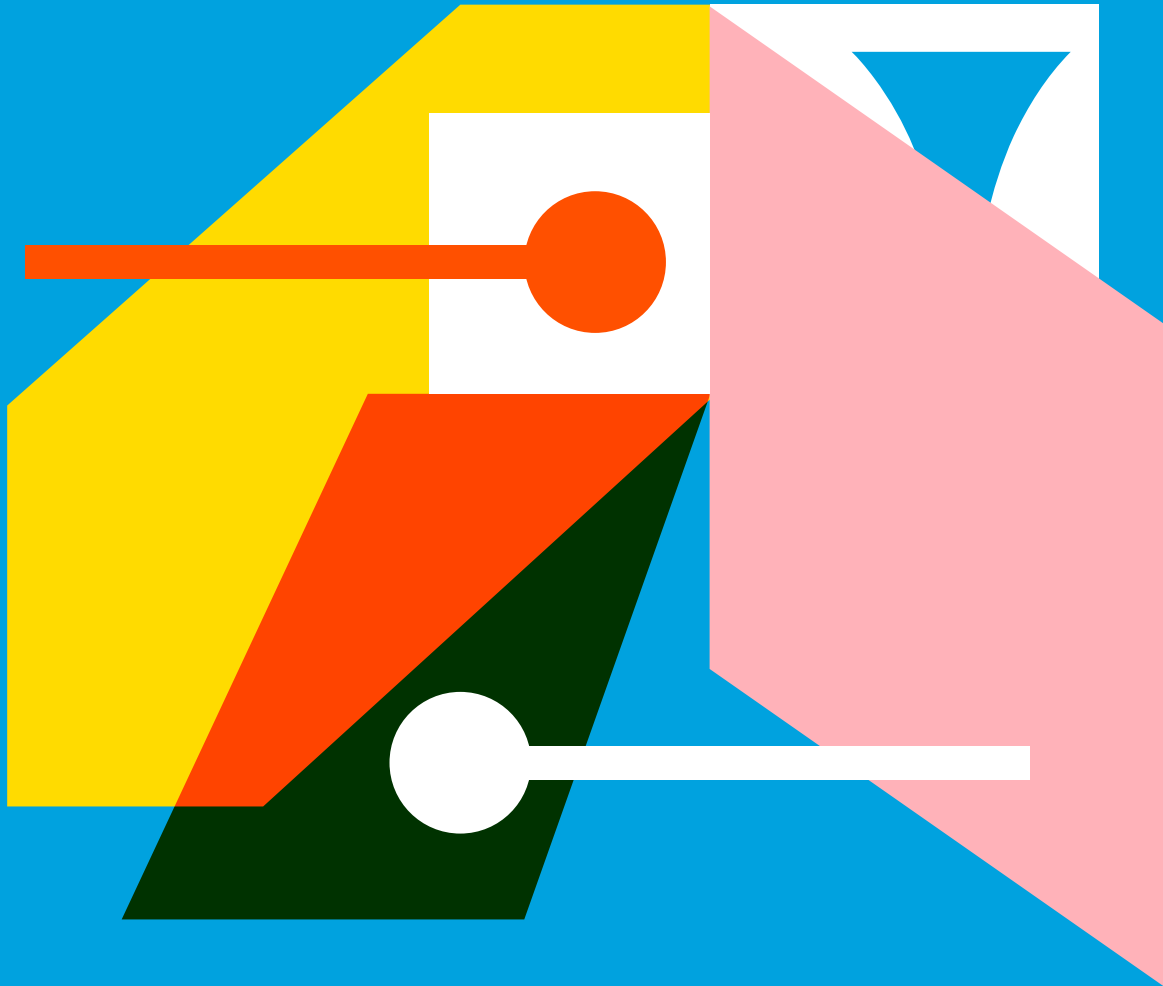
Can you tell a story using shadow puppets inspired by folktales from different cultures in the local area?



## **Cosy Spot**

On a sunny day, notice where those slivers of light spill onto your sofa, wall or floor. Add your favourite cushion or blanket to this area and curl up like a cat for a moment.

On a rainy day, follow the playful flow of a raindrop as it wiggles its way down the windowpane, joining other trickles or forming droplets that catch the light.



## **Imaginary Orchestra**

You can be a soloist in your own imaginary orchestra.  
You can be an imaginary conductor with big arms or play a fantastical imaginary instrument... Others can join in, too.



## **The Grounded Walk**

Walk on the soles of your feet and palms of your hands on a large open grass space. Feel the grass between your fingers and toes. Imagine you're holding a big ball and exploring the different ways of moving; forward or backward, sideways!

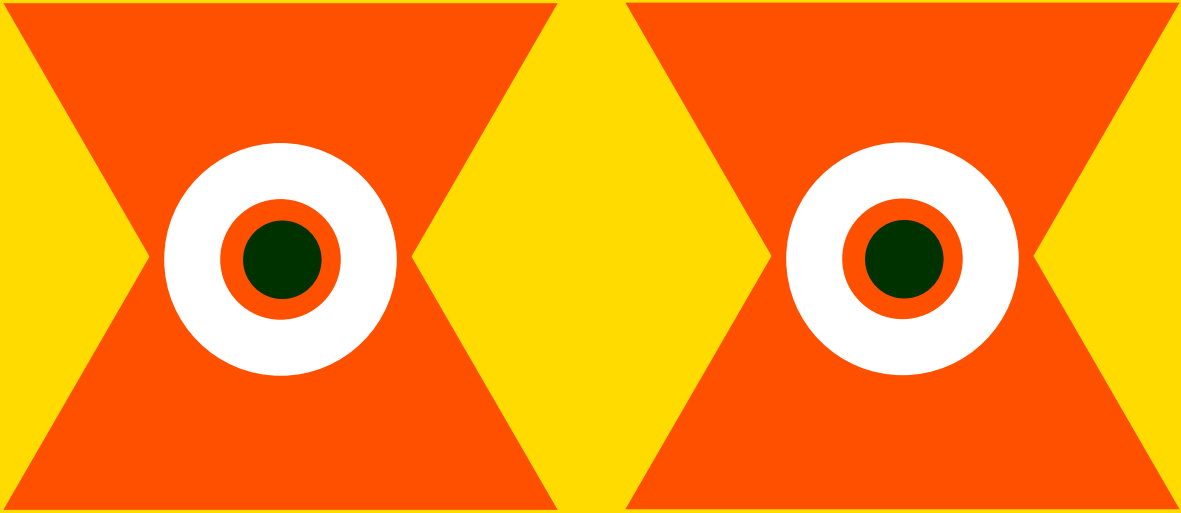
Slowly and quickly, hands and feet,  
left side or right side, opposite hands or feet.





## **Creative Collage**

What materials will you use to create a collage representing your community's diversity, incorporating elements from various cultures?





## **Never-Ending Story**

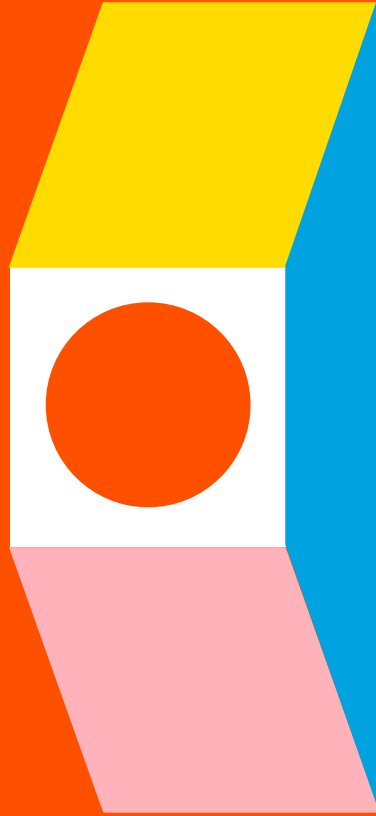
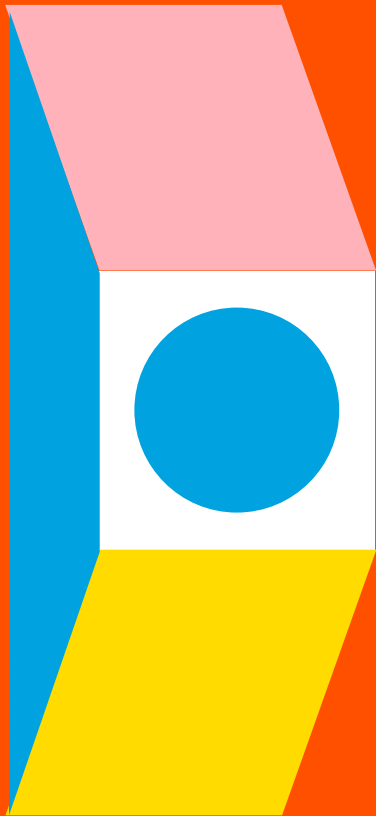
All you need to start is one random sentence.

It could be silly or serious, fact or fiction.

For example: 'The cat miaowed loudly,' or, 'I decided to wear my wellingtons in the swimming pool.' Each person continues by adding one sentence to take the story anywhere they choose, but it must only follow on from the previous sentence

## I Spy Draw

Wherever you are, indoors or outside, I Spy is a great game to play. In this version, instead of giving the starting letter, you are going to draw the object on someone's back. If there are two of you, you take turns to guess what is drawn on your back by the other person. In groups, one person draws on another's back so everyone else can see. The person being drawn on tries to guess but can ask for help from others by asking yes/no questions such as, 'Can I eat it?' or 'Is it blue?' etc., to help them find the answer. When they guess correctly, they become the drawer, a member of the group becomes the drawer, and the previous drawer joins the group.



## **Show Time**

Can you organise a family talent show where each member shares a special skill or performance?





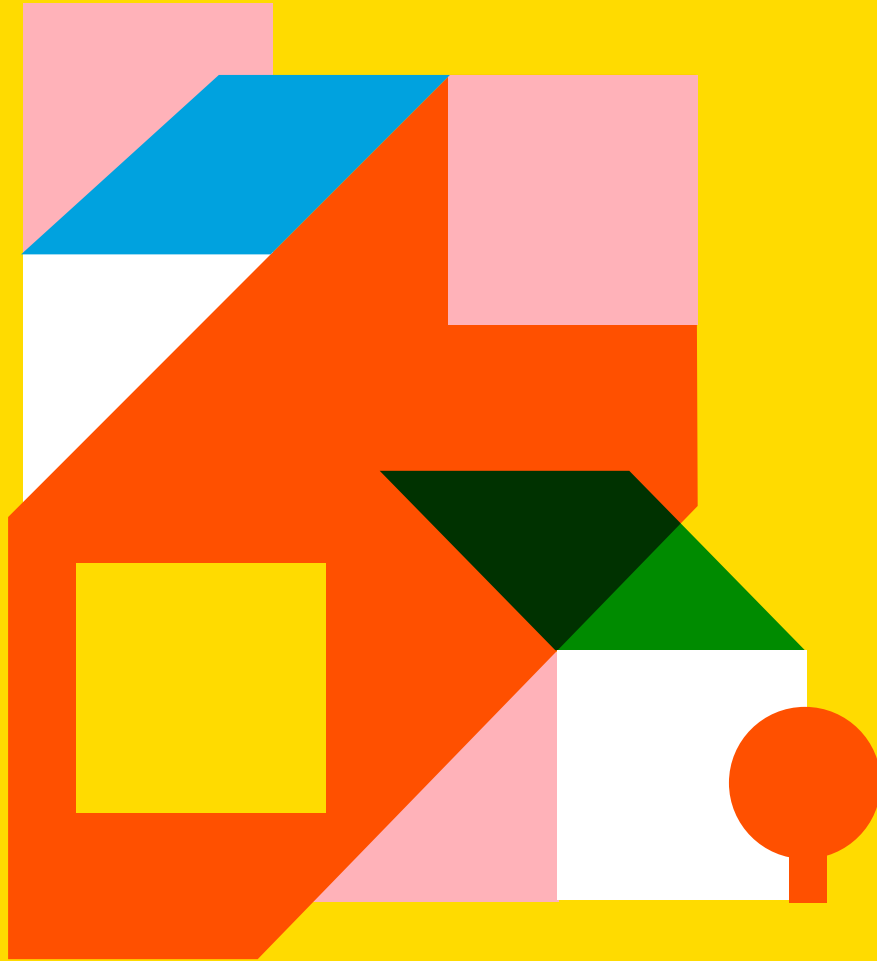
## Hand Tracing

In a game of hand tracing, how many different shapes and patterns can you create using just your fingers and a piece of paper?



## **Your Body Is An Instrument**

How can you mimic the sounds of nature you find around you using your body or makeshift instruments?



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Dates 1-23 August 2024  
The Curve, Barbican Centre  
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