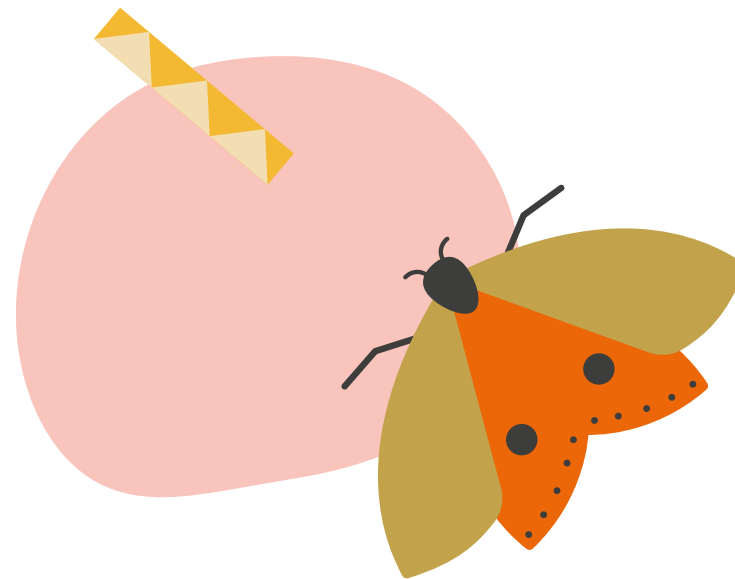
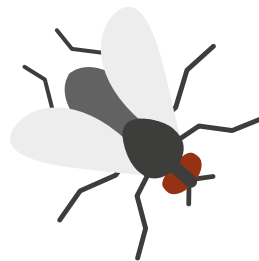
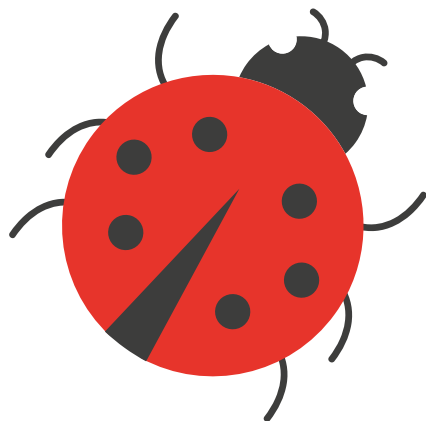
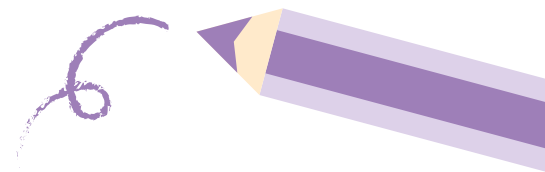


10 Indoor
Activites



for Kids

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Paint Like Picasso

Pablo Picasso was a famous artist from Spain. He didn't try to paint things exactly as they looked in real life (he found this quite boring). Instead, he liked to experiment by painting them in as many different ways he could think of.

Pick a person or object (maybe one of your parents or siblings, or a piece of furniture in your room). Try to think of different ways you can draw them/it.

- Can you draw them/it using only one colour?
- Can you draw them/it out of shapes (like cubes, circles or triangles)?
- Can you draw them in the weirdest way you can think of?



Indoor Entomology

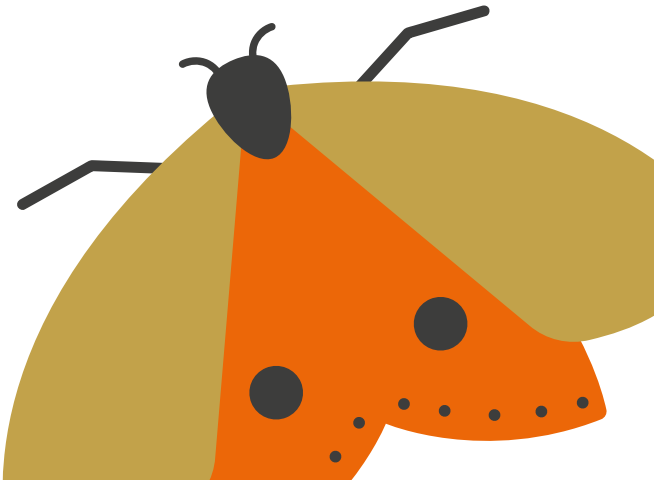
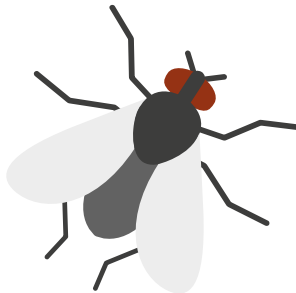
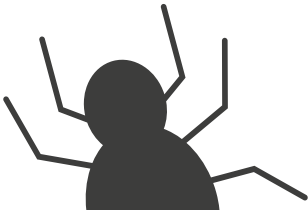


Some people get paid to look at bugs all day. They are called *entomologists*. They know that the closer you pay attention to things, the more interesting they become.

There are a surprising number of bugs living alongside you in your home. Here are a few different types:

Name	Size	Colour	No. of Legs	Can be found...
Spider	5 - 15mm	Black or brown	8	In the bath
House Fly	6 - 8mm	Black or grey	6	Ceilings, walls, lampshades
Wasp	10 - 20mm	Yellow & black	6	Kitchens, brick walls
Moths	8mm	Grey & brown	6	Cupboards, wardrobes
Daddy Long-Legs	30mm	Brown & grey	6	Walls, windows
Ladybird	3 - 7mm	Red with black spots	6	Carpets

See how many different types you find in the house, and make a note of your findings with a pen and paper.



Cut-Up Technique

During the last century, some famous experimental writers – like Tristan Tzara and William Burroughs – began making up poems by cutting out words or sentences from newspapers or magazines and arranging them to make new sentences. They called this ‘cut-up technique’.

Find an old newspaper and, with some scissors, cut out a number of words or phrases. Once you’ve done so, jumble up all the clippings on a table (or in a hat, if you can find one).

Then pick different clippings at random and arrange them into sentences. Don’t worry if they don’t make sense – it’s more important that they sound unusual or exciting.



Memory Capsule

Memory is a surprisingly fickle thing. You probably won't remember what you did today in a months time. In a years time, you probably won't remember most of what you did this month...and in ten years time, you probably won't remember anything that happened this year. It therefore helps if you can keep a record.

First, find a sturdy container, like a biscuit tin, or a shoebox. Then, start filling it up with objects that mean something to you at this point in your life. Things like...

- A painting you've done at school
- A piece of homework you're proud of
- A photo of you and your friends
- An object you use as part of a favourite hobby, such as a bootlace (for football) or a shuttlecock (for badminton)

When you've filled the container, bury it somewhere in the garden (trying not to dig up any plants or flowers). Then, when you're five or so years older, you can dig it up – and rediscover the person you were at your current age.



My Chimera

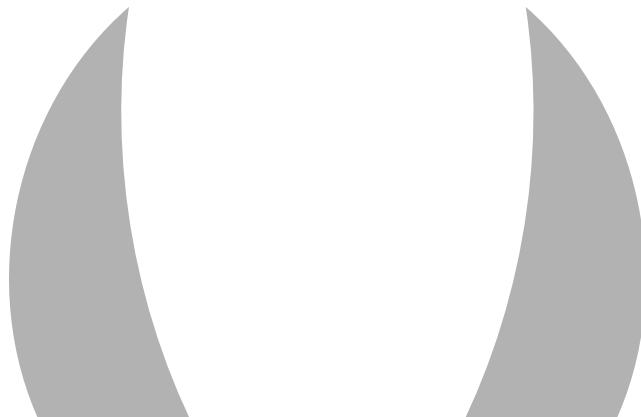
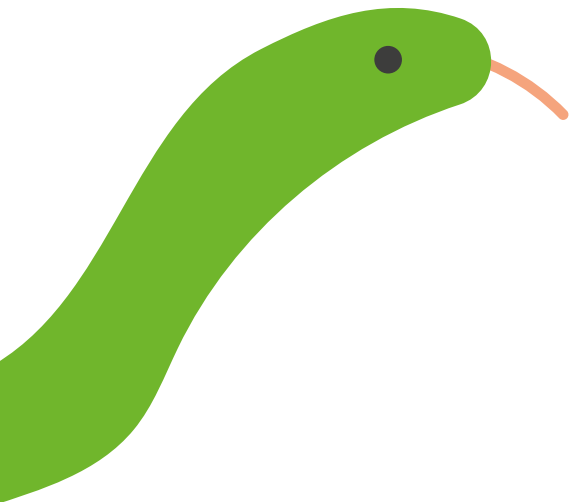


Animals come in lots of different shapes and sizes – some of them very strange indeed. If you use your imagination, you can come up with an animal that's even stranger than one those that already exists.

A chimera is a mythical beast that is made up from bits of other animals.

You could have a chimera with the head of a canary, the body of a horse, the feet of a panther and the tail of a fish. Or one with the head of a monkey, the horns of a goat, the body of a walrus and the tail of a peacock.

Make up a chimera of your own – either by using your imagination and drawing one, or by cutting out parts of different animals from a nature magazines and sticking them together on a piece of paper.



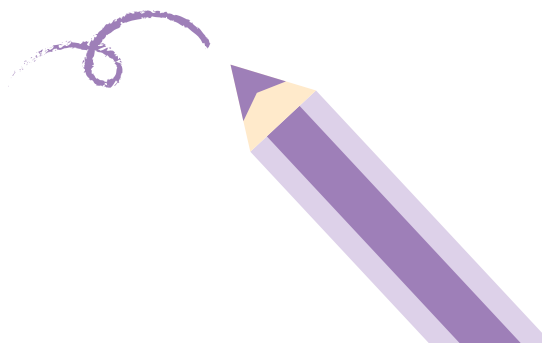
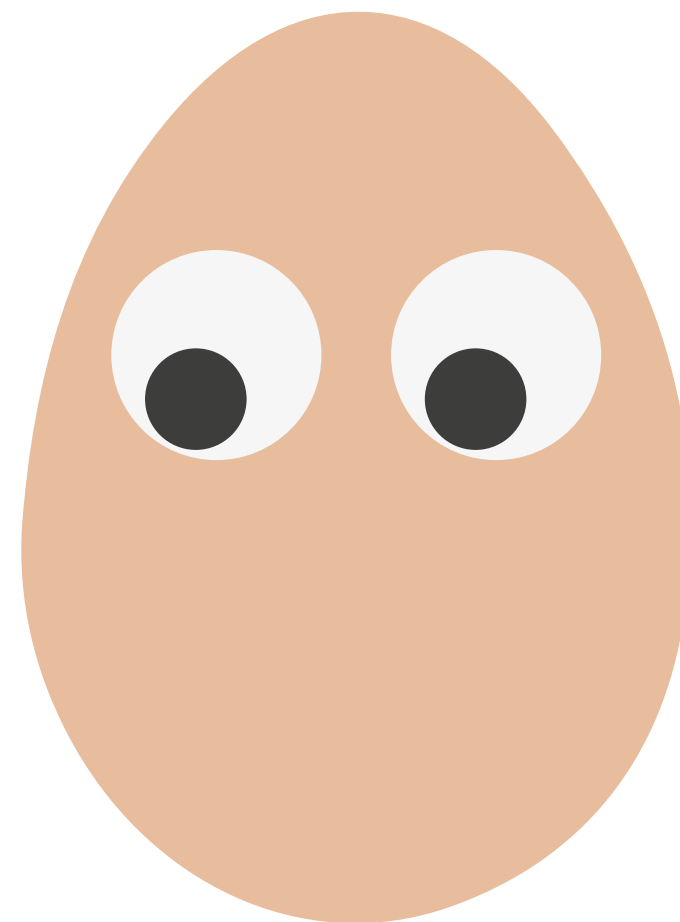
Egg Family

Parents are rather keen on family portraits – you’ve probably been made to sit for a group photograph (and maybe more than one). You can make a different kind of family portrait.

First, find some eggs – one for each member of your family. You might want to get a grown up to hard-boil them for you to make things easier.

Then, using pens (or ideally some paints and a brush), decorate the eggs to look like members of your family.

Display them in egg cups (if you have them) – and give them to your parents as a present.



Stand and Deliver

A Highwayman was a kind of robber who lived in the 1700s. They wore disguises and carried masks. They would wait by the roadside at night and surprise travellers, holding them at gunpoint until they handed over their money and valuables.

You can try being a highwayman at home. Make yourself a disguise (an eyemask or an old teatowel will do), find a weapon, and lie in wait in a room off the corridor in your house. When a member of your family comes along, stop them and make them

a) give you any valuables they have.

b) ask them to tell you – in detail – why you shouldn't kill them

Let them pass if they do well (and give them back their valuables).



Putting Things In Order

There's something strangely pleasurable about putting things in order. So much of life lies outside of our control – whether the weather will be nice enough to play outside, whether our parents will be in a good enough mood to drive us over to a friend's house – that when there's a part of it that we can govern and bring order to, we feel a sense of pride and calm.

Find a place in your home that's in a bit of a jumble, and bring some much-needed order to bear. You might try...

- Arranging the books on your bookshelves into alphabetical order (or by colour)
- Sorting the shoes by the door in order of size (smallest to largest)
- Organising the contents of the kitchen cupboards into categories (all the jars on the left, all the packets in the middle, all the cans on the right)
- Stacking all the pans in the kitchen draws properly (largest on the bottom, smallest on the top)
- Placing all the cushions on the sofa into a neat arrangement.

Ask your parents if there's anything around the house you can bring order to – you'll find they'll be extremely grateful for your efforts!



Good News

Most of the news is either dull, confusing or miserable (and sometimes all three at once). This is because it's usually about things that have gone wrong – like floods, diseases or wars.

But news that focuses only what's wrong is ridiculous, given how much goes right every day.

Here is a chance for you to redraw the balance. Using a pen and paper, make your own newspaper. Only this time, you choose the headlines. Instead of recording things that have gone wrong, your newspaper should focus on things that have gone right. Start with the life around you.

YOUNG GIRL LEARNS TO TIE SHOELACES

BOY GETS GOOD PRETTY GOOD MARK ON SCIENCE HOMEWORK

DAD LEARNS NOT TO SWEAR SO MUCH WHEN HE LOSES KEYS

It's good to develop the art of reminding yourself of things that are going well in life. Any old idiot can find the bad news; only really clever people are good at hunting out, and keeping in mind, the good news.



Interview Your Grandma

Grown ups are usually very busy. But older grown ups – like your grandma* – are usually retired, which means they have much less to do. This can be quite boring (and a little lonely sometimes).

Why not give your grandma a call? Find out her number from your parents and ring her up. But this time, rather than just chatting about what you've been up to, do a little bit of investigation. Your grandmother is likely to be just as interesting as an alien might be:

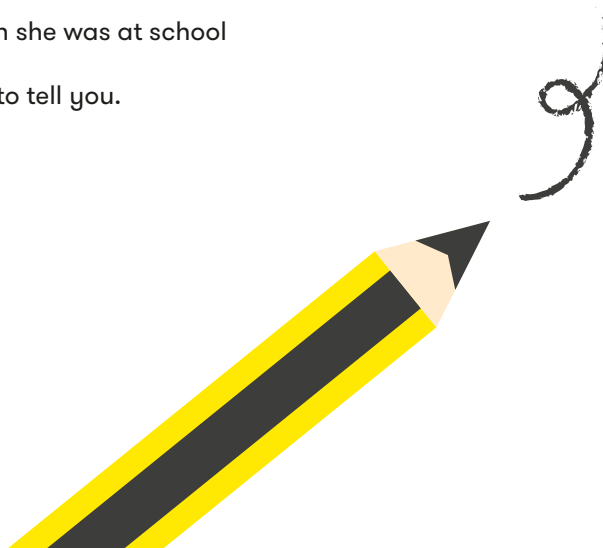
- Ask her what her own childhood was like
- Ask her what your mum or dad was like when they were little
- Ask her what she does all day now she's retired
- Ask her what important historical events she lived through (and what it was like)
- Ask her if she ever had an interesting love affair before she met your grand-dad
- Ask her who her worst enemy was when she was at school

She probably has lots of interesting things to tell you.

* or another elderly person you know



Notes



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