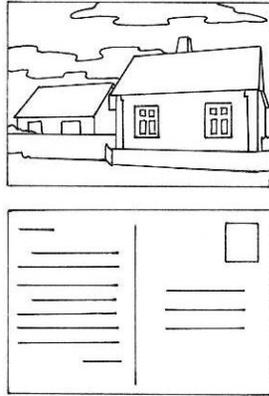


## Neighborhood Postcards

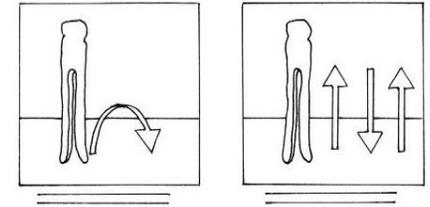
Take your family on a walk through your neighborhood to show them your favorite architecture. Point out what special features make the buildings unique. When you get home, create your very own **postcard** of the best spot in the neighborhood. Start with a heavy cardstock sized 4" x 6". On the front side of the card, make a drawing of your favorite place in the neighborhood. On the back side of the card, draw a line down the middle. Write a letter to a friend describing what makes your neighborhood special. On the other side of the line, put your friend's address and a stamp and put it in the mail!



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## Dance Storyboards

A **choreographer** (core-ee-OG-ruh-fur) is someone who plans the steps and movements a dancer will make. Now you will be a choreographer and create your own dance! First, pick a song that you like. Listen to the song a few times and think about how your dancer should move. Next, make a **storyboard** to show those movements. In a series of squares, make drawings of your dancer using arrows to show how they will move to each part of the song. Write the part of the song below. Finally, follow your storyboard to act out the dance for your family using either yourself or a figurine as the dancer.



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## Imaginary Journeys

One of the best ways to learn about different cultures is to visit new cities and countries. But even if you aren't able to travel to far off lands, you can visit them in your imagination. Pick a place far from home that you have never been to and use the library or the internet to find out what you might see if you went there. What would you eat? Who would you meet? Use what you find out to make an imaginary photo album of drawings from your trip.



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## Character Stories

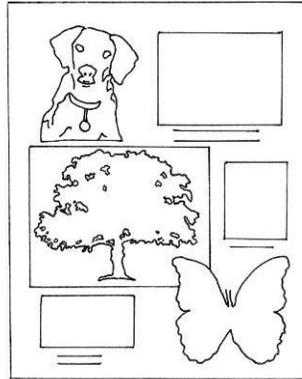
Do you have a favorite **character** from a story or a movie? Think about all the adventures that character has had, and what skills or **personality traits** helped them succeed. Now, think of a new adventure for your character, and write the story of what will happen. How will your character react to the challenges of the new adventure?



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## Photo Stories

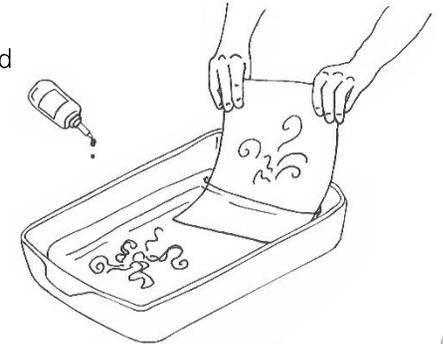
Some people say “a picture is worth a thousand words.” You can even tell a story entirely through pictures. Find a large sheet of paper or poster board. Have a family member help you look around your home for interesting photographs or pictures in magazines (be sure to get permission from an adult before you cut or glue any of these!). Arrange the pictures you find on the paper so that they tell a story. You can write a few words by each one, but try to let the images speak for themselves. Tell the story to your family!



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## Marbled Paper

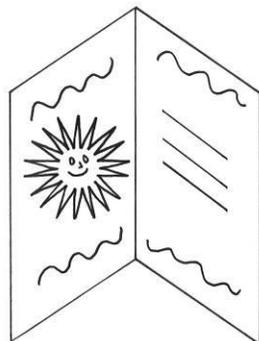
You can make your own **marbled** paper at home by following a simple **process**. First, fill a shallow, rectangular pan or casserole dish with water. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water. Don't stir it! Now, carefully lay a sheet of paper on top of the water and push down until it is underwater. Pull out the paper. When it is dry, you can use it to make greeting card or to decorate your room!



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## Good Mood Cards

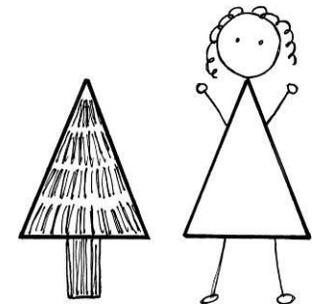
You can often improve someone's mood just by doing something nice for another person. Make a card that says something kind to share with a friend or family member. With any luck, your card will brighten that person's day and create some positive emotions!



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## Timed Drawings

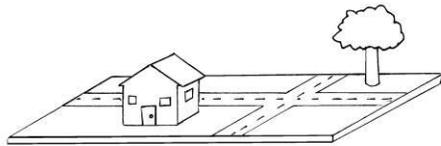
Ready! Get set! Go! Challenge your friends' and family's creativity with this simple game. First, give everyone a blank sheet of paper with the same shape drawn on it (you may want to start with a circle, square, or triangle). Next, tell everyone they have 5 minutes to secretly draw on and around their shape, turning it into whatever they can imagine. When time is up, share your creations with each other!



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### 3-D Neighborhood Maps

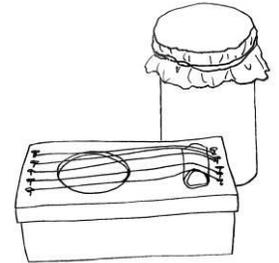
You can get a good sense of the space around you by making a map. To get an even better sense, try making a **three-dimensional** (3-D) map. Start by drawing a map of your neighborhood on a large sheet of paper or cardboard. Now, everywhere there is a house, tree, fence, or other 3-D object, make a model out of clay or cardstock to put on your map. You can use your map to show people directions, or even use it as a world for your toys to explore!



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### Homemade Band

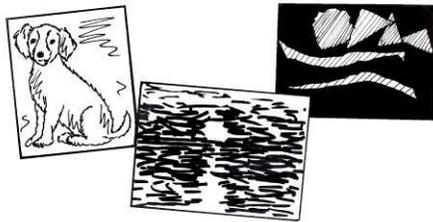
You can create great rhythms at home by making your own instruments out of things you find around the house. Try these suggestions for music making: place wax paper and a rubber band over the top of a round container to make a drum, or use an overturned pot, fill glasses with different amounts of water to make a xylophone you can play with a spoon; fill a plastic container with dried beans or nuts to create a shaker; run your fingers over the teeth of a comb to make an interesting sound. Use your imagination to come up with other instruments, then get a group together and see what kind of music you can make by repeating different rhythms and sounds!



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### Art Show

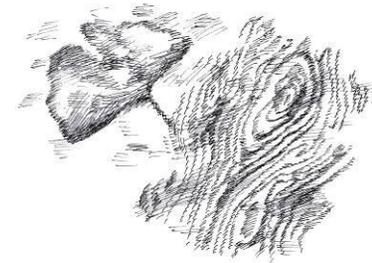
Turn your home into a pattern **gallery**. First, pick a room for your art show. Invite a group of friends to create three or more artworks that have unique patterns. Lay all of the artworks on the floor, and think about how you could even create an interesting pattern when you arrange the work. Hang the work and share everyone's work with friends and family members.



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### Texture Rubbings

One way to capture the detail of an object is to do a crayon rubbing. To start, find something with an interesting texture (you might start with a board or a sidewalk). Put a sheet of paper on the object, then use the side of an unwrapped crayon to rub over the paper and reveal the object's texture. Look closely to see what interesting details appear

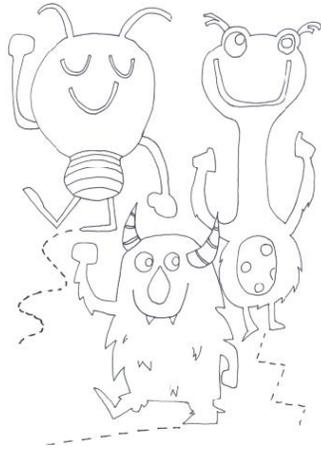


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## Line Dancing

(Cowboy boots not required.)

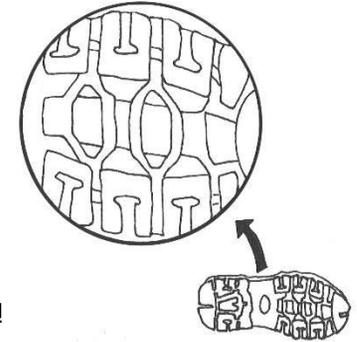
Learn about lines by having a dance-off with your friends or family. Start by drawing a line on a piece of paper. You could draw a straight line, a zig-zag, a curve, or a crazy, loopy line. Show your line to your friend, who must now create a dance that leads around the room in the shape of the line. What kind of music would you pair with each type of line?



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## Closer Look Challenge

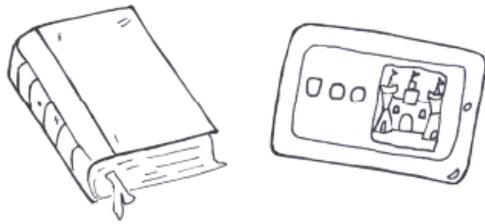
Play this guessing game with your family to see how closely they look everyday items. To play, each person will need one sheet of paper to draw on, and one sheet of paper with a small circular hole cut in it (trace around a quarter to make the circle). Send each person to a different room and have them make a large drawing of an everyday object on their sheet of paper. Once everyone is finished, have each person hold up their drawing with the second sheet of paper in front of it, so you can only see part of the drawing through the hole. See if you can guess what everyone drew just from the close-up!



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## Past and Future Technology

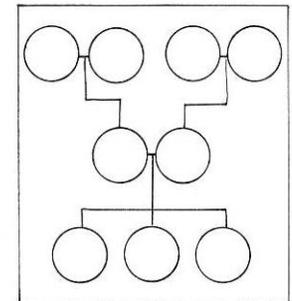
Look around your home with an adult to find the oldest piece of **technology** your family owns. It could be a phone, a kitchen appliance, or something completely unexpected! Next, look for the newest technology you own. Think about what is similar between the two items and what might have changed over time. Imagine what might replace the new item 20 years from now and create a drawing of your new invention.



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## Family Trees

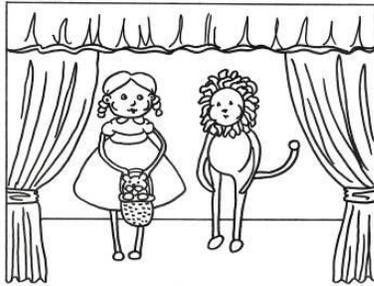
A **family tree** is a chart that shows who is in your family and how you are related to each other. Take a large sheet of paper and draw a circle at the bottom. Write your name underneath the circle. Next, draw additional circles next to yours for any brothers and sisters (or pets!) you have. Now, draw a line going up from these and make circles for your parents. Make lines going up from your parents' circles for their parents (your grandparents). Ask your family for ideas of who else to add and how to show how they are related to you. Once you've made your tree, fill in the circle with drawing or photo of every person in your family.



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## Clay Plays

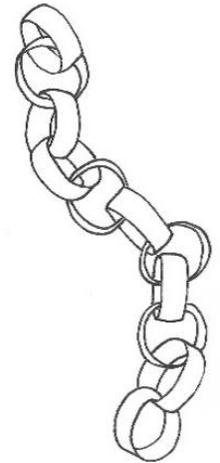
You can put on a miniature version of your favorite play or movie using modeling clay and paper. First, use paper to create a **backdrop** of where the story takes place. Then, make each **character** for the play using clay or dough. Once you are finished, you can act out your play using the figures you have made. If you like, you can even make a theater using an empty box that is open at the side!



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## Community Chains

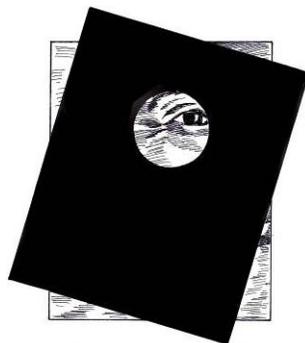
You and your family can build connections with your **community** by doing nice things for the people around you and helping those in need. Think about little things you could do together to make someone else's life better, like giving food to a food bank or even helping each other out at home. Keep track of your good deeds by writing each one on a strip of paper, then **linking** the strips to form a chain. As your chain grows, you'll know that each link is a connection you've made to someone that has made their life better!



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## Secret Detail Viewers

You can use pictures you find around the house to play a guessing game with your family. To start, find a sheet of heavy paper. Put a quarter in the center of the paper and trace around it with a pencil. Use scissors to cut out the circle you traced with the quarter, making a hole in the paper. This is your viewer. Now, find a large picture in a newspaper or magazine. Place the viewer over the picture, and have a friend or family guess what the whole picture is based on what they can see through the hole. Once they guess, have them find a picture for you to guess!



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## Value Scales

In art, **value** means how light or dark something is. You can make a value **scale** to show how things in your home compare to each other. Pick a color (you might try blue, grey or green) and look around to find objects that are that color. (Try to find at least 5.) Now, arrange the objects in a line from the lightest to the darkest. Use crayons to make a drawing of your value scale. Think about how hard you will need to press to make each **variation** of the color.



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## Design an Invention

Have you ever heard the expression “**necessity** is the mother of **invention**”? Many **inventors** come up with new ideas by thinking of something they need that does not yet exist. Think about your daily life. What inventions would be useful to you? It might help to think of an existing product and how you could make it better. Write a description of what your invention does and draw a picture of it. If it is something you can actually make, build it! Ask your family what they would invent.



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## Growing Towards My Goals Chart

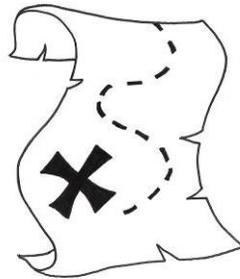
Has your family ever marked your height on a wall or a chart to show how much you've grown each year? Every day, you get a little bit bigger and get to experience new and exciting things. Create a height chart that shows your current height and also marks the things you want to do by the time you are 2 inches, 8 inches, or a full foot taller. The sky's the limit!



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## Mystery Maps

You can create a mystery for a friend or family member to solve. First, choose an object in or near your home to be the secret item. Then, draw a map that will lead someone to the object. Think of where you want your friend to start, then draw the path that they must take to find the secret item, adding pictures of things that they will pass along the way. Mark the **location** of the secret item with a large X and see how long it takes your friend to find it!



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## Opposite Day Stories

Imagine what would happen if today were “opposite day,” and everything you did was the **opposite** of what would normally happen. Would you start your day at night? Would you wear your clothes backwards? Would school come to your house? Write and illustrate a story describing the crazy things that might happen if opposite day came true!



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## Personality Photos

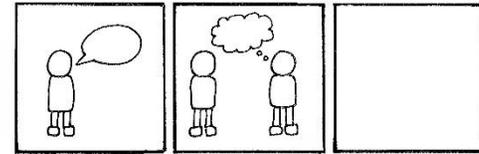
Sometimes you can guess a person's **personality** just by looking at them. Think about words that describe your own personality. Are you calm, or strong, or funny, or something else? Think of a way to show your personality in a photograph by using a **pose**, an **expression**, or **props**. Have someone take your picture. (If you don't have a camera, make a drawing of yourself instead.) You can take personality photos of your family too!



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## Collaboration Comics

You can **collaborate** with a friend or family member to make your own comics. First, draw the squares for your comic **panels** on a large sheet of paper. Draw the beginning of your comic in the first square, then have someone else fill in the next square of the story. Take turns until the comic is complete. You never know where your story might go!



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## Legacy Recipes

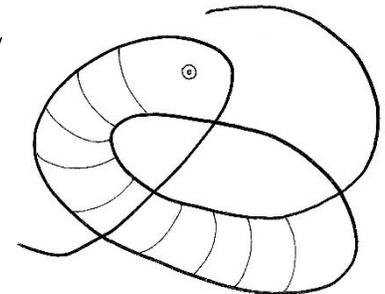
In many families, recipes for certain dishes are a **legacy** passed down from parents to children over many **generations**. Ask your parents or grandparents if they remember special foods from their childhoods, then create a notebook to write down each recipe. To complete your collection, work with your family to invent a new recipe you can enjoy for years to come!



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## Surrealist Creatures

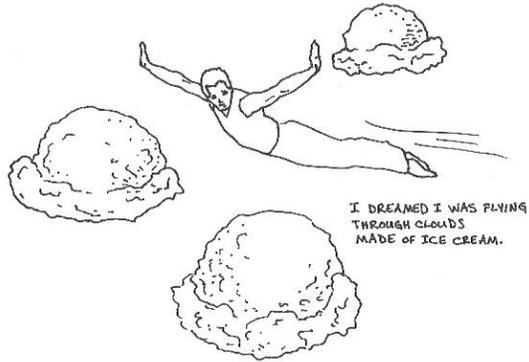
**Surrealist** artists used their imagination to see the world around them in new, creative ways. Try this game to stretch your own creativity: Holding on to one end, dip a string into a cup of watery paint. Pull the string out, lower it onto a sheet of paper, then pull it up. It will leave a swirly line behind. When the paper is dry, use crayons or markers to turn the made by the line into an imaginary creature. Be creative!



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## Dream Drawings

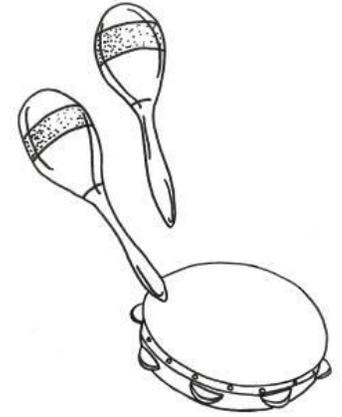
Do you remember the dreams you have at night? Many people keep a dream **journal** to help them remember what they dream. Find a notebook or staple paper together to make your own dream journal. When you wake up each morning, make a drawing and write a sentence to **record** what you dreamed. Your dreams might inspire you to write stories or make art!



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## Celebration Songs

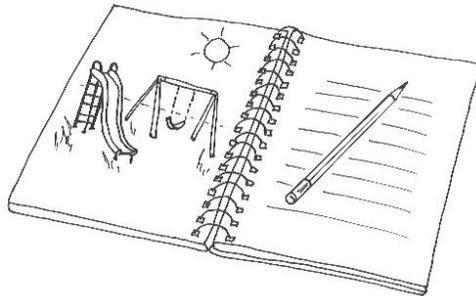
Use music to jazz up your family celebrations. Before the next birthday or holiday your family celebrates, think about what makes that day special. What will you see, hear, taste and feel? Write a song that expresses the spirit of the event, using your voice or musical instruments, then perform your new **composition** during the celebration. Ask your family to join in!



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## Experience Journals

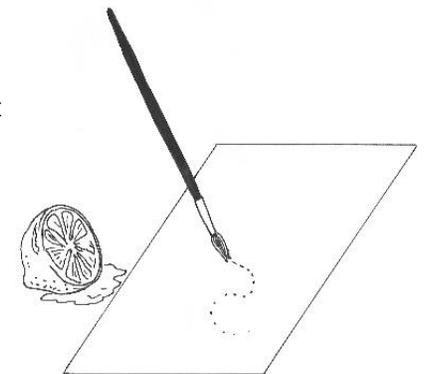
The **experiences** you have every day help to make you who you are. Keeping a **journal** can help you remember your favorite experiences in the future. Make a special notebook to use as your journal. Each time you do something that you want to remember, write a paragraph about what you did and include information about what you saw, heard, tasted or felt. Make a drawing to go with each experience. Now you have a **record** of your best memories!



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## Secret Messages

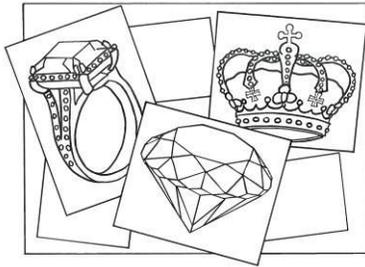
You can use everyday items to make an invisible message for a friend. First, fill a small dish with lemon juice. Dip a paintbrush into the juice and write your message. Be creative! You could even add a secret drawing or a treasure map. When the juice dries, your message will be invisible. To reveal it, your friend can run a hot iron over the paper. (Use the iron only under adult supervision!)



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## Dream Collection Collages

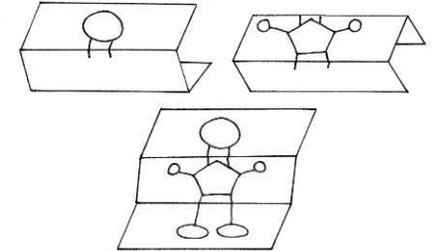
Sometimes, people show how much they like certain things by collecting them. One person may enjoy collecting coins or stamps while another collects trading cards or rocks. If you could collect anything in the world what would it be? Find pictures in newspapers and magazines, and (with an adult's permission) clip them out and glue them to paper to create a **collage** of your dream collection.



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## Surrealist Drawings

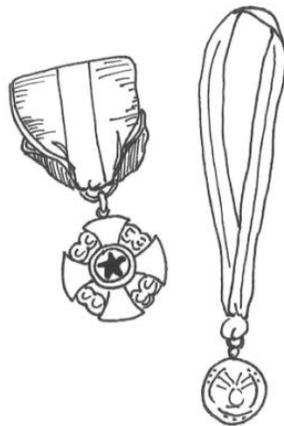
You'll need one or two friends or family members to help you create this drawing. First, fold a sheet of paper into thirds and draw the head of a person or creature on the top third, extending the lines of the neck slightly into the middle section. Make sure you fold it over so the others can't see what you drew on the top. Have the next person draw a body in the middle section, again extending the lines into the bottom section and folding it over so no one can see. The last person will create the legs and feet by drawing in the bottom fold. When that's finished, unfold the paper to see your strange creature!



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## Medals of Thanks

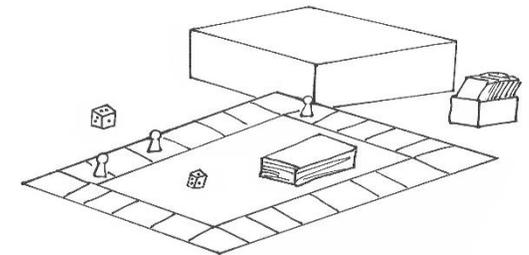
Let someone know that you **appreciate** what they do for you by making a **medal** for them. You can make your medal out of construction paper, or from buttons, ribbon, or other things you find at home. Think of someone special to give your medal to. Be sure to include a note telling them why you appreciate them!



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## Design a Board Game

With a little bit of imagination, you can create your own board game to play with your family! First, pick the **theme** of your game. Will it be about building a fortune or perhaps going on a journey as you move around the board? Next, you can look at your favorite games for ideas of what to put on your game board and what will happen when players land on the squares. Use a piece of posterboard to make your game board and find or make small objects to use as game pieces. Try out your game with your family and ask for ideas for how to make it even more fun.



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## Art Style Drawings

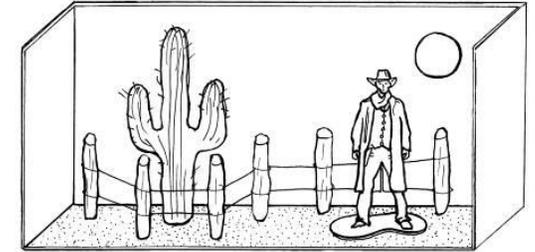
You can try out lots of different art styles to see what suits you best. First, make a simple line drawing. Trace your drawing onto several sheets of paper. On each sheet, fill in the outline in a different style (such as dots, lines, bright colors, scribbles, etc.). You can look online or in an art book to find styles of artists you like, or you can make up your own.



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## Scale Environments

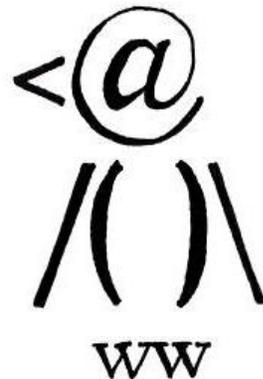
You can make a whole world that is built to the **scale** of your favorite toy with just a little bit of math. First, measure a doll or action figure you'd like to use. Have an adult help you figure out how big it is compared to an actual person. (This will be a **fraction**, such as  $\frac{1}{5}$  the size of a person.) Now use this fraction to figure out how big furniture, plants, buildings and other things would be in the world of the toy. Use a box to create a place where everything is the right scale for your toy and let your imagination run wild!



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## Type Symbol Drawings

Did you know that you can use the letters and symbols found on a keyboard to create art? Try out these two different ways to make type symbol art. 1) Look at a keyboard, and draw the symbols you want to use on a piece of paper, then arrange them to make a picture. 2) For a real challenge, use a computer and type the symbols into a word processing document to make your picture. You may have to be creative with the size and spacing of the symbols. Now those functional symbols have become art! :)



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## Neighborhood Ecosystems

Have you ever thought about how nature works in your own backyard? Find a small notebook to take along on a neighborhood nature walk. As you walk, make a small drawing of each new plant, animal, and insect you see. You might also make notes about how they **interact** with one another. You may be surprised by how many living things make up the **ecosystem** around your home!



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