

Fun activities to keep children busy at home



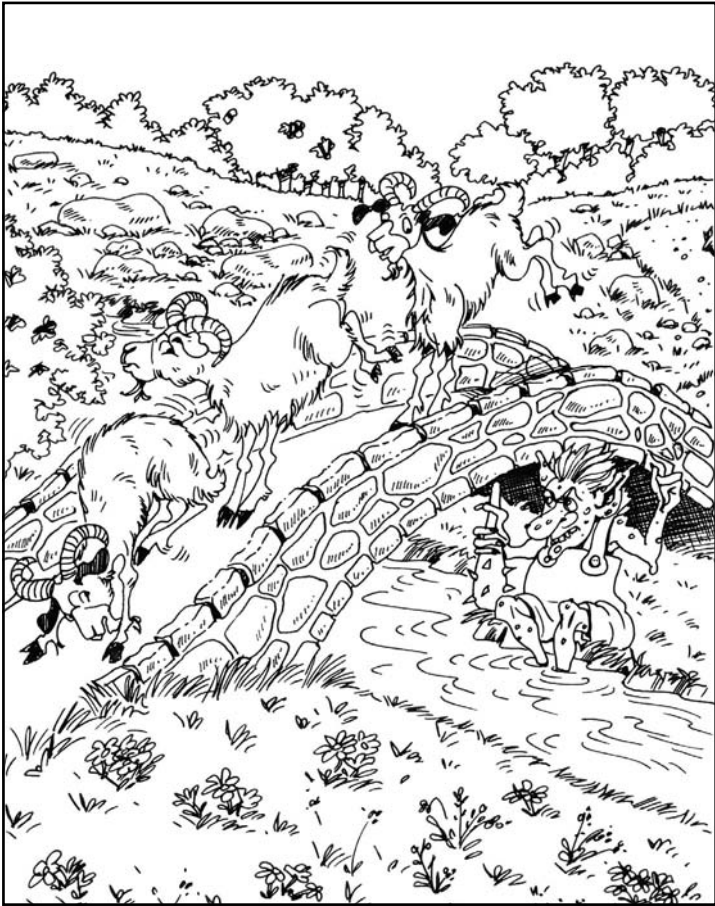
Hopscotch



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Name _____

Three Billy Goats Gruff



Can you see grass?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you see three goats?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you see a car?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you see a bridge?


Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you see a troll?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you see an elephant?

Yes ☐ No ☐

 What else can you see?

I can see

 Draw:

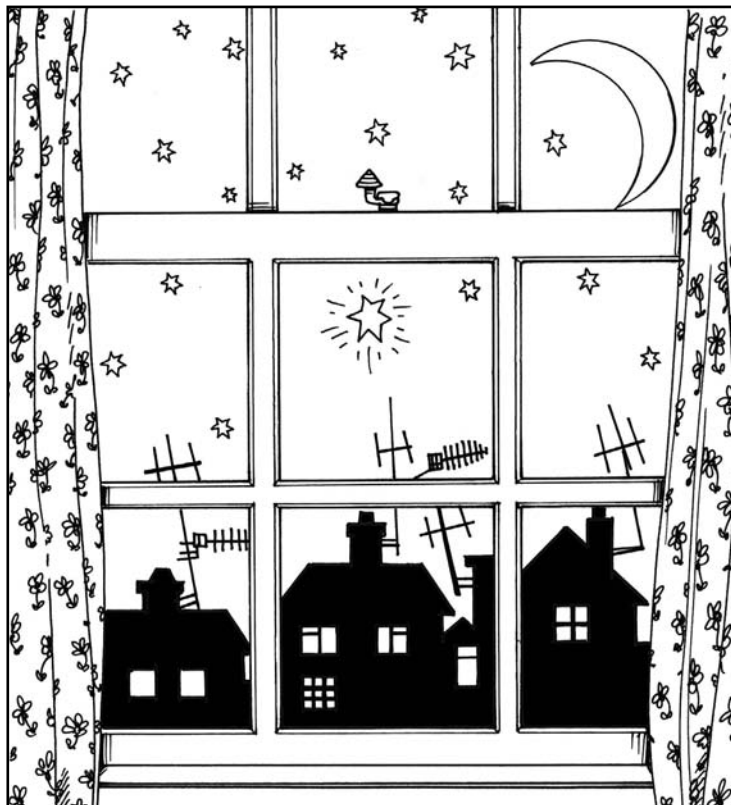
Three goats

A bridge

A troll

Name _____

Twinkle, twinkle, little star



Can you see the window?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you see the sky?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you see the moon?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you see the twinkling star?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you see Father Christmas on his sleigh?

Yes ☐ No ☐

What else can you see?

I can see

Draw:

Five little stars

One big twinkling star

The moon

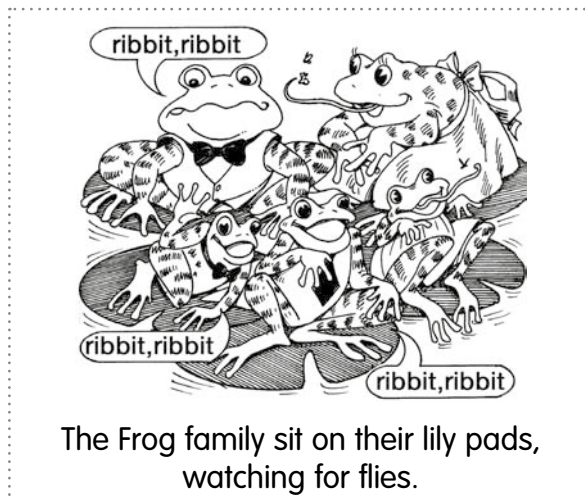
- Say the nursery rhyme. Think about the pattern. Can you tap it out?

Name _____

Frogs ahoy!

Here are the Frog family. Mum, Dad, Big Brother, Little Brother and Baby Sister. They love to spend the day sitting in the sunshine, dipping in and out of the pond. Every time a fly goes past, one of the frogs flicks out a tongue to catch it. Snap!

‘It’s a good life,’ says Mum. ‘Lots of sun. Plenty of flies. And all my family around me.’



1) Fill in the missing words:

This story is about a f _____ of frogs.

The frogs sit in the s _____ all day.

The frogs c _____ flies.

The noise they make is S _____ !

2) Look at the picture and read the caption. What do you think a lily pad is?

I think a lily pad is _____

3) What sound do the frogs make? How do you know? _____

4) What does ‘dipping in and out of the pond’ mean? _____

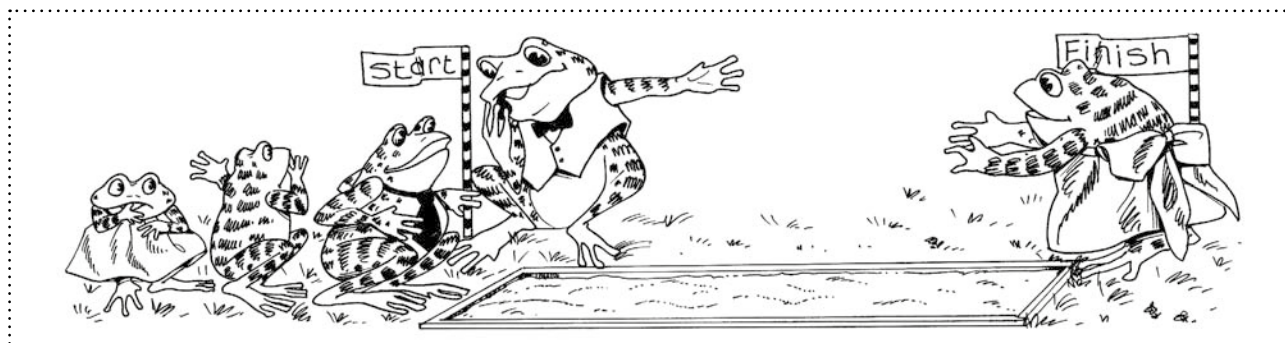
5) What do you think the frogs do with the flies?

I think _____

6) Why does Mum say it is a good life? _____

Name _____

The fantastic frog-jumping contest



The Frog children are ready for a frog-jumping contest. They are going to see which of them can jump the highest and the furthest.

Big Brother Frog is sure he will win. He thinks he is the best jumper. He puffs out his chest.

Little Brother Frog thinks he might lose. He hasn't had much practice.

Baby Frog doesn't know if she can jump at all.

The Frogs are going to jump one at a time. Big Brother first. Little Brother second. Baby Frog last.

Dad is at the start, ready to shout 'Go!'

Mum is at the other end, hoping that Baby Frog will jump right into her arms and win.

1) What is a contest? Put a ✓

a race ☐

a game ☐

a competition ☐

a joke ☐

2) Which words tell you that Big Brother is proud of himself?

3) Why does Little Brother think he might lose? Is it because:

he is smaller? ☐

his legs aren't so strong? ☐

he is tired? ☐

4) What does Baby Frog think?

5) Which words tell you that the frogs are not going to jump all at the same time?

6) Who will jump second?

7) Think of an end to the story. Write it on another sheet of paper.

Name _____

Highway danger

The wind blew silently across the dark field and the clock struck once. There was no one to be seen apart from a shadowy figure wrapped in a black cloak on horseback. He called quietly to the horse and started to gallop across the field and into a dark lane. He had only gone a little way when suddenly from out of the bushes appeared three men on horseback carrying lanterns and holding pistols. They were shouting at him at the tops of their voices. They were highwaymen and they wanted his money. He luckily had his own gun and fired it once in the air. All of the horses neighed with fright and the man began to gallop away from the highwaymen as fast as he could, with them following close behind.



- ☐ Read the story extract above and then answer the questions below. Write your answers on another sheet of paper.

1. Where is the story set? Did you find it an interesting story setting? Would it make you want to read the rest of the story? Explain why/why not.
2. What do you think are the three most exciting phrases used in this story?
3. Write some words and phrases of your own that describe the scene.
4. Look at the words below that appear in this text. Write some words that could replace them.

shadowy _____

pistols _____

started _____

shouting _____

5. What do you think might happen after this opening scene of the story? List five possible events in the story.

Name _____

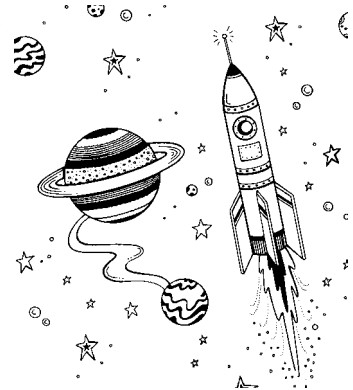
Martian meeting

One evening Mr Gothic was on his way home from work when he says he saw a flying spaceship land in a paint factory car park. He told a local newspaper reporter that what he thought must have been a Martian came out of the spacecraft and tried to talk to him.

Here is Mr Gothic's description of what happened. It describes the scene at the start of the story:

I saw him at about 7pm on the way home from work. I had to contact the newspaper - I didn't do it for the money. I only asked for two hundred pounds and they gave me a hundred.

The Martian was definitely green. Green from head to foot. I mean feet. He had four feet and on each foot there were seven toes. He had these two huge heads. One had two eyes and the other one only had one eye. On the head with one eye he was wearing a pink baseball cap that said 'Hockey Team'.



Instead of hands he had these three sort of long flipper things, about twice the size of a human arm. At the end of each one of these flippers were these two stumpy fat fingers, each one with a very long blue nail at the end. His green body was covered in these weird scales, a bit like a fish.

I was really scared after I'd seen him. It must have been about 6.30pm by then and I drove home really quickly to tell my wife about the experience.

1. Why do you think Mr Gothic went to his local paper with the story?
2. From Mr Gothic's description, what do you think are the three key phrases he uses to describe the Martian? Underline them.
3. What in Mr Gothic's description suggests that he was possibly making the whole story up?
4. Draw a picture of the martian as described by Mr Gothic.

Name _____

The den

Every gang has to have a hideout or den for their meeting place. The three children decided to use the old, deserted garden shed among trees and dense undergrowth at the bottom of the garden.

The shed was square in shape and was made from wooden slats. The roof sloped slightly towards the back and had been covered in light green felt to make it waterproof.

The door, fastened with a metal latch and held on by three hinges, was at the front on the right-hand side. To the left of the door was a large rectangular window made up of twelve small panes of glass. Four of these were broken and the flower-patterned curtains inside could be seen flapping in the breeze.

An old rusty bicycle with one wheel missing and no saddle was propped up against the right-hand side of the shed near the door. On the other side a small oak tree had begun to sprout.

In an effort to brighten up its appearance the gang members had painted the shed. The door was bright red and the rest of the outside had been coloured light brown. Over the door hung a notice on which was written the words KEEP OUT MEMBERS ONLY in green capital letters on a white background but some of the paint had run and this gave the letters a rather streaky look.

- ☐ Read the description of the den. Draw an accurate picture of the den and its surroundings. Remember to use the correct colours where they are given.

Name _____

Thor's challenge

- ☐ This is a famous legend about the Viking god, Thor. The paragraphs are in the wrong order. Number them to show the correct order.

Thor chose a drinking contest. The servants of the giants brought in a large drinking horn apparently full of beer. It was not wide but it was long and narrow and the point at the end disappeared into the shadows at the side of the Great Hall. Thor raised the horn to his lips and began to drink.

When they saw the result of Thor's labours, the giants fell about laughing. One of them grabbed the horn and shouted, 'You may think you are a mighty god but you are obviously not much of a drinker. We have won the contest easily.'

Amid noisy gulps and swallows and with some coughing and spluttering, Thor drank down as much as he could. He was determined to finish off the liquid in the horn but when he eventually stopped to take breath he realised the level of the beer had hardly gone down at all.

Thor was in a good mood. There was nothing he liked better than a new challenge. He was fed up with fighting only dragons and serpents and now he was off to try his luck with the giants in the Great Hall.

Thor growled with anger and immediately snatched the horn back again to make another attempt. This time he swallowed longer and harder and held his breath for so long that he began to feel quite faint. When he set the horn down again the level had hardly changed, and to make matters worse there was a strong salty taste in his mouth like seawater.

As the door to the Great Hall was already open, Thor marched boldly in and announced his arrival. 'I am the famous Thor of Asgard,' he said, 'and I have come to challenge you to a trial of endurance and strength.' To Thor's anger the giants just laughed. 'What!' one of them shouted. 'A little squirt like you. This will be a poor contest but you choose first.'

It took over a month of hard travelling to find the place where the giants lived. The impressive walls of the Great Hall stood in front of Thor - as tall and as solid as a mountain range. For a moment he seemed nervous and apprehensive. But he composed himself, gripped his hammer tightly and said aloud, 'No more waiting about. It is time to get down to business.'

- ☐ Now draw a cartoon style storyboard to show the main events and the order in which they happened.

Name _____

The dare

Jennifer waded through the long grass and weeds and stood in front of the house. It was like something out of an old black and white movie. It was an ugly grey wooden house with a wide front verandah and four sharp turrets, one at each corner of the house. It certainly *looked* like it was haunted. The room on the far right had been the girl's bedroom. It was the only unbroken window of the four facing the street and standing up at that window was a large and odd-looking doll wearing a tatty, old-fashioned white frock with torn lace frills. Jennifer forced herself to look straight at its one eye. It didn't wink at her. She was so relieved! It still looked spooky though. Why did it have just one eye and hair on only half of its head? Perhaps the house wasn't haunted after all. There were no lights flashing on and off either.

She quickly went up to the huge panelled front door, opened it and took a few steps backwards. The door creaked and groaned. A strong old, musty smell made her gasp and a strange cold feeling enveloped her. So far, so good, she tried to tell herself. She listened carefully... no strange sounds like a ball bouncing, a drum being hit or a wind-up toy clicking and whirring. As she peered in at the hallway a light breeze swept some dust along the floor. She looked up the stairs and saw cobwebs at the corners of the handrail. She talked aloud, "It's just an old house. There's nothing to worry about!" She didn't really believe her own words. She did not want to go in but she had to get the one-eyed doll. She had to show Jaz she wasn't a "feeble, frightened little girlie". This boast had definitely been one of her worst ideas yet though. There must be a better way to prove her point. Jennifer decided not to put it off any longer. Thinking about it made it worse. She quickly ran through the door and up the stairs... CRASH! The front door slammed. Jennifer froze on the stairs too frightened even to scream. Seconds later she became aware of some strange sounds... whirring, clicking and banging.





1. Jennifer didn't want to go to the house. Why exactly was she there?
2. What strange phenomena had people said happened at the house?
3. What evidence is there in the text that the house hadn't been occupied for a long time?
4. Draw the outside of the house with the doll in the window.

Name _____

Wrong time, wrong place

- ❑ Below is the opening scene from a film. Read it carefully and then draw a storyboard to show the sequence of events as Murali experienced them.



Murali ran for his life back through the warehouse doors and up the alley. He needed to get to the main street. He could lose himself there. He glanced over his shoulder. The rain stung his eyes and the alley was dimly lit but he could see the four men were just 200 yards behind him. "Help me!" he screamed. There was no one to hear. Where was the main street? Right? Keep running. Another backward glance told him one of the men was closing fast - only 100 yards now. Left? Yes. He could see the main street. He shouted to the few people who were walking in the street but they just looked at him like he was crazy. He ran through the nearest open door. It was a theatre. Where now? No time to think. He ran to the cloakroom and jumped over the counter, to the astonishment of the attendant. Murali could hardly talk he was so out of breath.

"They're... going to... kill me," he managed as he wriggled behind some long coats on a rack. The attendant seemed to compose herself as she hurriedly wiped the counter, sat down, and picked up the magazine she had dropped. Murali's heart felt like it was coming out of his chest. His breathing seemed so loud. He fought to slow it down. He realised he was trembling. He tried to control that too!

Minutes passed. This was all so crazy. How had he got himself into this mess? His biggest problem earlier had only been a slight headache. If only he had got a taxi back to the hotel from the club or let one of his friends take him home as they had suggested. He cursed his sense of direction. It had never been good. He had only wanted to ask for directions. What were they doing in there anyway? He had only seen the two men and the suitcases ... and the gun in one man's jacket. This was one holiday he would never forget! Then the chilling thought hit him that he may not live to remember it! It was all so unbelievable and so horribly real!

Name _____

Stripey's room

Of course my room isn't always perfect, though I think it's pretty tidy, but it is ORGANISED! The trouble is not everybody else sees it that way.

I fancy myself as a bit of an interior designer, creating new layouts like they do on 'Changing Rooms'. I decided to brighten up my room and started by moving the bed so that it was underneath the window; that way when I wake up I don't actually have to get out of bed to draw open the curtains, I can just reach up and tug them apart. This means I can read my books and magazines, which I keep on a shelf also by the window, in the morning light and stay all cosy. Heaving the bed across the room I completely forgot that all of the toys, games and clothes I'd stashed away underneath would be revealed, along with an inch of dust.



Next, I had a great idea to cover up that 'yukky' baby wallpaper with a load of cool posters that I'd torn from magazines. I couldn't wait to get them up. In my rush to find something to stand on, I accidentally knocked a pile of freshly ironed and folded clothes all over the floor. I should have picked them up immediately but somehow they ended up strewn across the patterned carpet.

Borrowing the portable television from the kitchen was the best idea! Nobody was around so I guessed they wouldn't mind. Having struggled to carry it upstairs, I lifted it on to my yellow drawer unit and plugged it in. Perfect for watching in bed! My room looked SUPERB! Jumping into bed, I settled down to watch television.

Unfortunately the socket was on the far wall, which meant that the cable stretched across the door. This I realised when the door was suddenly sprung open, the cable pinged, the television flashed off and I heard an outraged yell from outside. Something told me that all was not well.

1. Draw a detailed picture of Stripey's room.
2. Highlight any words or phrases in the text that give us clues as to who the writer is and what he or she is like.
3. What kind of character is Stripey? How old? Tidy or messy? Draw a picture of how you think Stripey looks.
4. Compare your picture with others in your class. Are they similar or completely different?

Name _____

Life's not fair!

For two whole weeks now Alex had been sunning herself in the back garden. Richard had gone on a history trip to France with his school and she was confined to spending her time either at her friends' houses or at home. She had longed to go to Italy on the school trip but instead she would be spending the last two weeks of the holiday in Wales staying with Auntie Tracey. "It's not fair," Alex had whined, although she secretly liked the idea of travelling to Wales on the train on her own; it was exciting to undertake the journey independently and made her feel grown-up. "This is Richard's last chance to go away with his friends. He has important exams next year," her mother soothed. "It'll be your turn next time." Alex stomped back to her shady spot under the apple tree, pulling on her fleece, and began to read her book.



- Where would Alex be spending her holiday?

- Who do you think Richard is? Is he younger or older than Alex?

- Find two verbs that show that Alex was upset about missing the trip to Italy.

- How do you think Alex's mum felt when Alex complained?

- Do you think Alex enjoyed her holiday? Write a postcard to her mum from Wales.

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- Now write her diary entry for that day, explaining what had happened and how she felt (150+ words).