

KETTLE'S YARD



Making Conversations





Photograph: Claire Collison



This resource has been produced as part of the Max Reinhardt Literacy Awards (MRLA) in 2014. MRLA is a pilot programme developed by engage, the National Association for Gallery Education, and the National Association for Writers in Education (NAWE) to enable galleries, art museums and visual arts venues to support a dedicated programme of creative writing and literacy work with schools. The Awards are funded by the Max Reinhardt Charitable Trust.

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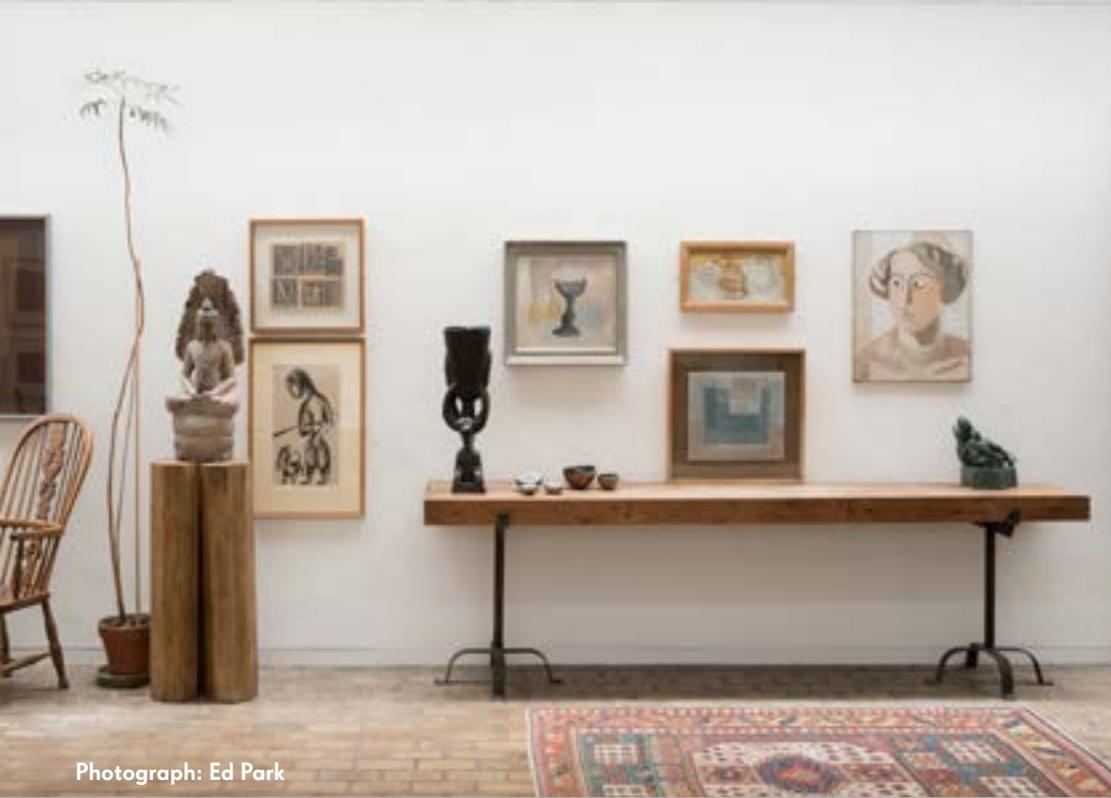
This activity guide has been inspired by **Making Conversations**, a project with writer **Claire Collison**, **The Grove Primary School** and **Kettle's Yard**.

The activities and ideas you will find here have been created with the help of **Year 3 pupils**.

The project is supported by **The Max Reinhardt Charitable Trust** with **NAWE** and **engage**.



Design: **Anna Betts**
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Photograph: Ed Park

Welcome to Kettle's Yard. Here are some activities specially designed to help you enjoy your visit and get creative. As well as a pencil, you'll need your powers of observation and your excellent imagination.

Parents and Teachers:

There are three activities in this booklet, and each can be done separately - one per visit, if you like.

There is also extra information online.

Look out for this symbol:

It means you'll find lots of ideas for developing



the activity into a longer project, plus ways of sharing what you have made on the Kettle's Yard website:

www.kettlesyard.co.uk/learn/resources

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1. Pebbles: Making Connections

In Kettle's Yard there are no labels and so each object, from a found feather to an oil painting to a grand piano, is enjoyed for what it is.

Between 1957 and 1973 Kettle's Yard was the home of Jim and Helen Ede. Jim had worked at the Tate Gallery in London. Jim supported his artist friends including Ben and Winifred Nicholson, Christopher Wood and David Jones by purchasing works early in their careers. Jim carefully positioned these artworks alongside furniture, glass, ceramics and natural objects in his home, with the aim of creating a harmonic whole.



Photograph: Jo Brown

This activity introduces you to Kettle's Yard and its collection.

You are invited to explore the house, and to investigate the collection, making connections however you choose.

You will need a pencil.

On the next page you will find 3
'pebbles' – In the top pebble,
write a word from the selection here:



Starter words:

| | |
|--------|---------|
| leaf | cup |
| hat | dog |
| music | horse |
| apple | gold |
| ball | elbow |
| flower | sun |
| moon | snow |
| nose | dancer |
| bowl | feather |
| lips | brush |
| cat | star |
| eye | cloud |

Working in pairs or on your own, explore Kettle's Yard and track down your 'pebble word'. It might be in a painting, or sculpture, or any other kind of artwork, or it could be in a natural or a 'found' object.

Make sure you have a good look around in all the rooms, upstairs and downstairs.

(You might find your word more than once, and if you do, then pick which one you like best.)

Now you have found your first 'pebble word', look around you –

What can you find that connects to your first pebble?

(You can connect your words in any way you choose - there is no 'wrong' with this activity!)

Write down the connection that you find on your second pebble.

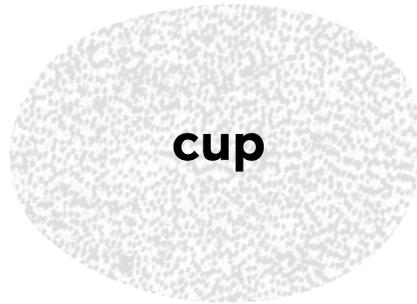
And finally, find something that connects to your second pebble. This can be a brand new connection. When you find it, write the word down on your third pebble.



Example:



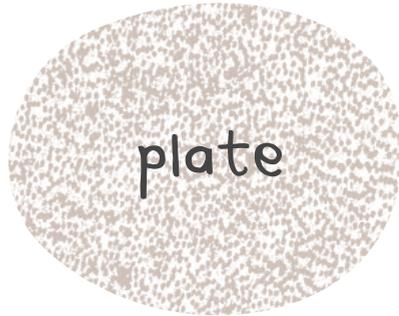
Ben Nicholson, 1944 (three mugs), Oil and graphite on board, 17 x 21cm



cup



Photograph: Karen Harvey



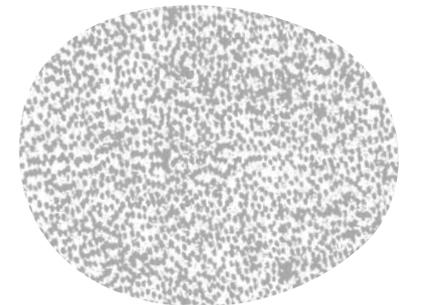
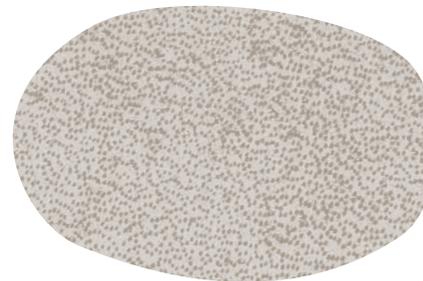
plate

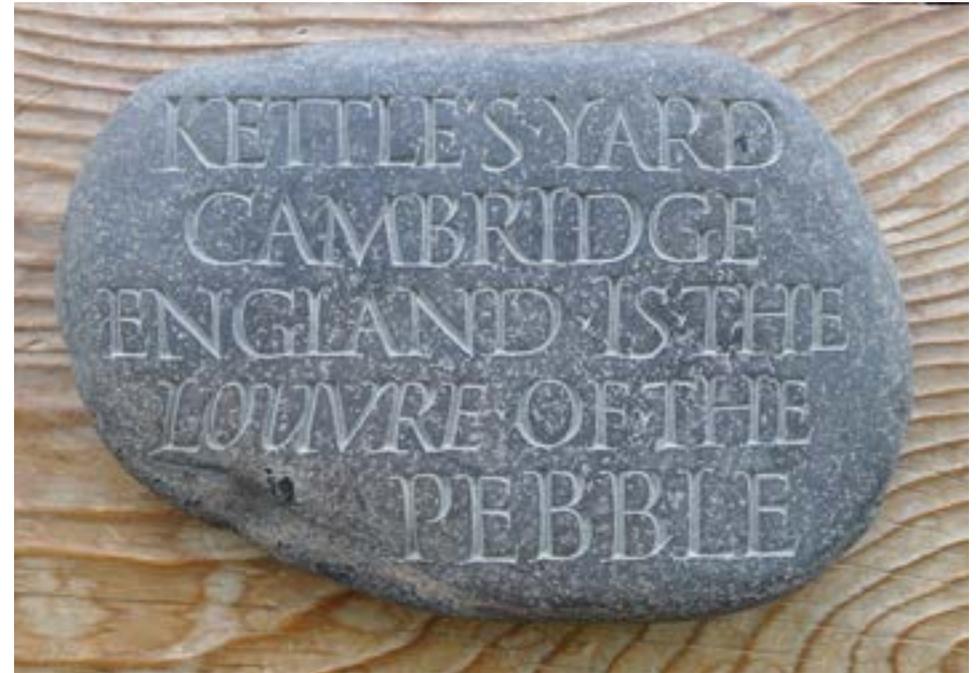
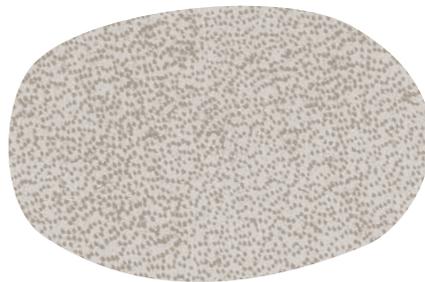
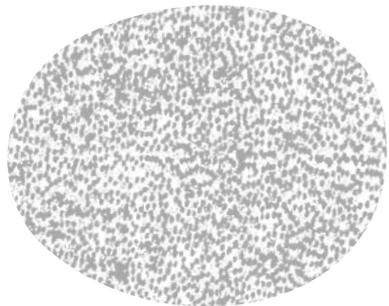
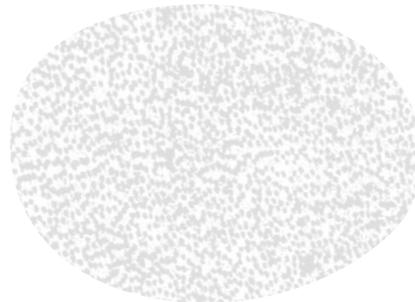


Photograph: Karen Harvey



bottle





Ian Hamilton Finlay

Pebble inscribed "Kettle's Yard Cambridge England is the Louvre of the Pebble"

1995

2. Ships and Sea Adventures



Kettle's Yard has a wonderful collection of seaside and maritime-themed artworks to inspire some fantastic creative writing.

This activity takes you on a journey, but first of all you need get your imagination tank full to the brim.

Use these paintings to inspire you!

Alfred Wallis
Land, fish and motor vessel
1932 – 37
Oil on card, 37.5 x 37.4cm

There is a great collection of Alfred Wallis paintings at Kettle's Yard, many can be found in the first floor of the extension near the library, so pick out your favourite.

Christopher Wood
Le Phare
1929
Oil on board, 53.5 x 79cm

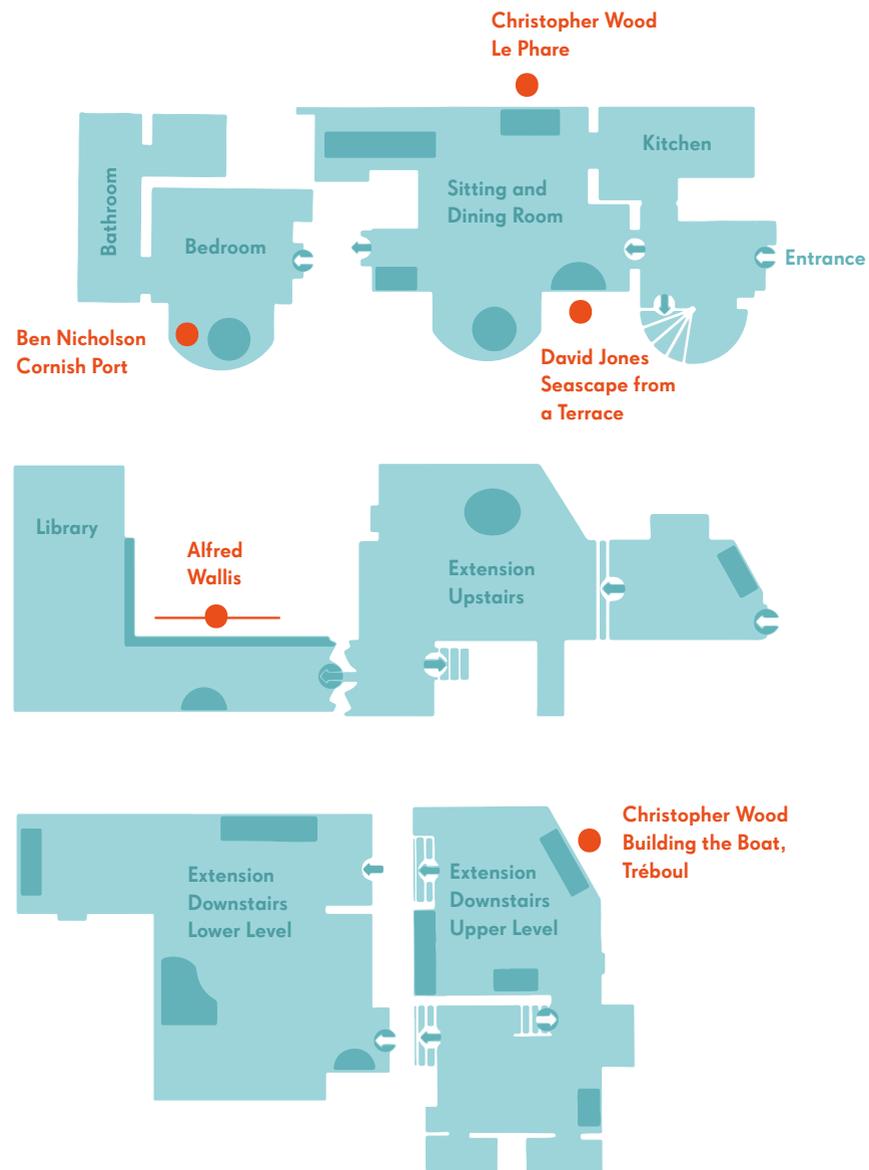
Christopher Wood
Building the Boat, Tréboul
1930
Oil on board, 56 x 81cm

Ben Nicholson
1928 (Cornish port)
Oil on Card 21.5 x 35cm

David Jones
Seascape from a Terrace
1929
Watercolour on paper, 49 x 63cm



Here's a map to help you track down these paintings -



Use these questions to fill your imagination tank

Imagine we are in the painting, and ask:

There's so much to experience at Kettle's Yard, so go ahead and feast your senses!

Don't worry about taking notes, just have a good look at the paintings. Talk about them with your family or friends and share your ideas.

Are we in this country, or if not, where are we?

How did we get here?

What is happening?
Why are we here?
Are we on holiday, or do we live here?
Or are we on our way to somewhere else?

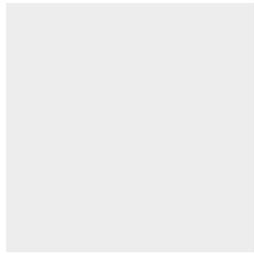
Are we in olden times or now?
(How would we know?)

If we could put ourselves in the picture, who (or what) would we be? Give yourself a new name.

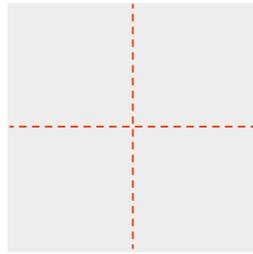
Can you make up your own title for the painting?

If we were in this place, how would it smell?
How would it feel on the face?
Is it hot or cold?
(How can we tell?)
What might we hear?
Would we like being here?
(Why?)

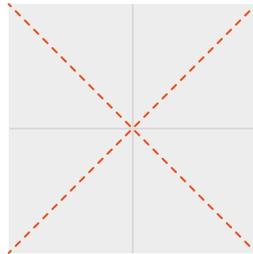
How to make an origami boat



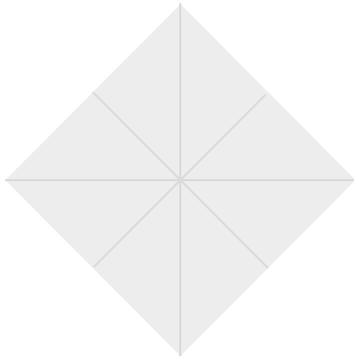
Start with a square of origami paper...



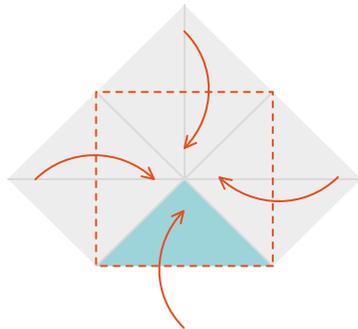
Fold in half horizontally and vertically, opening the paper up after each fold.



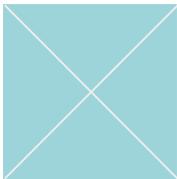
Do the same with the diagonal folds.



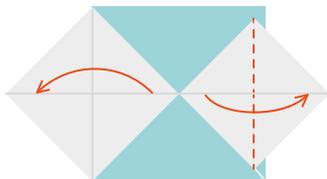
You now have a 'square base'. Turn it around 45° so it is pointing up, like this.



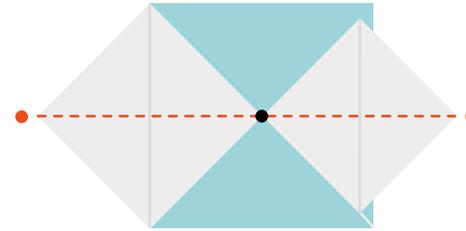
Fold the corners into the centre point.



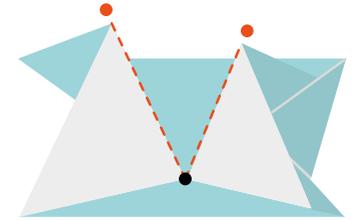
All corners are now folded into the centre.



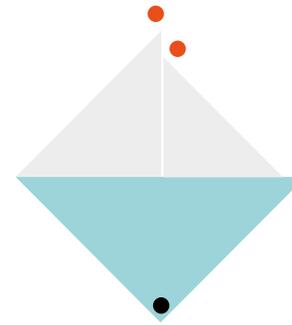
Unfold one corner. This will make one of the boat's sails. With the opposite flap, make a new fold to make a shorter sail, like this.



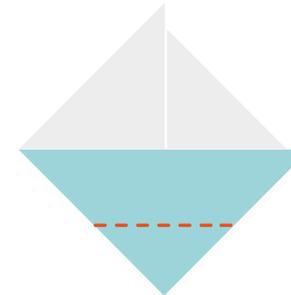
Make a fold along the length...



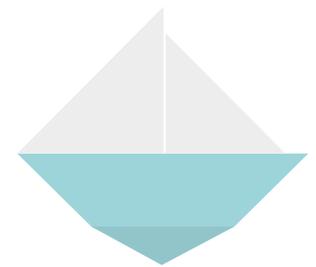
and bring the two points of your sails together by depressing the centre point



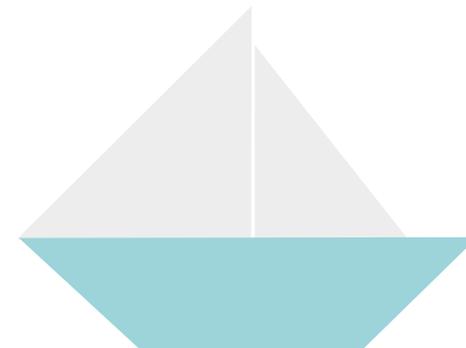
Pressed flat the boat should look like this.



Make a fold across the bottom of the boat.



It now has a flat foot to sit on.



Ta da! Your boat is now complete!

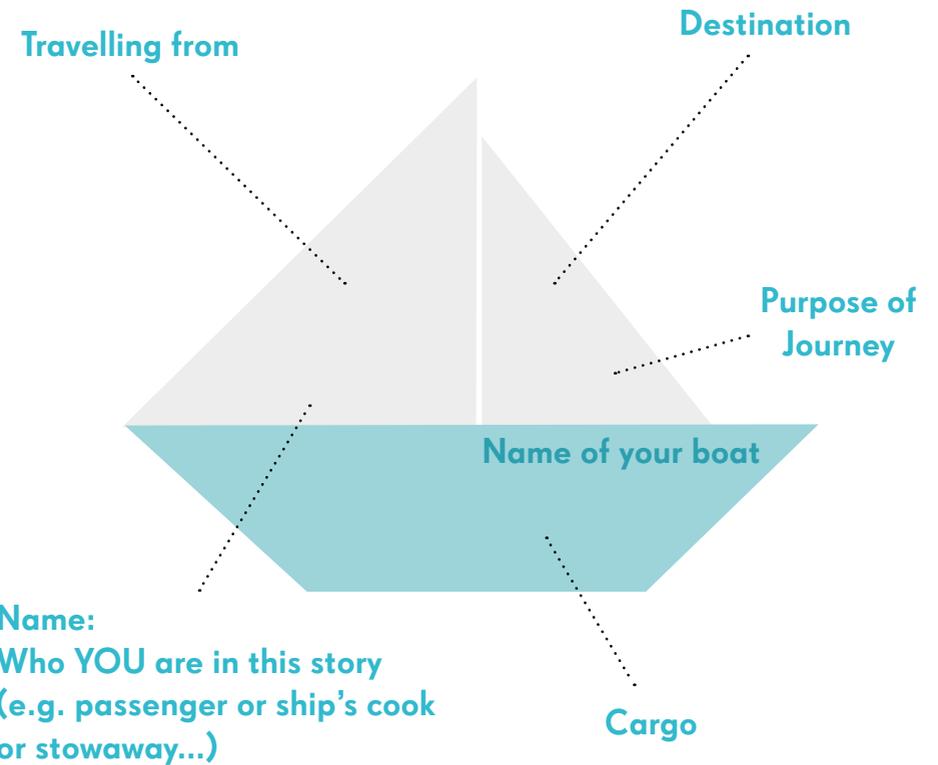
Imagine your own sea adventure

Now you have filled up your imagination tank, you're all set for your very own sea adventure, so you will need to decide on some details.

- Where are you going to (your destination)?
- And where are you coming from?
- What is the purpose of your journey?
(Maybe you are on a world cruise, or off to discover a new land, or to examine jellyfish, or to meet long-lost family...)
- What cargo are you carrying (and why)?
- Is your journey taking place now, or in the past, or the future?
- Who are you going to be? (You might be the captain of the boat, or you might be the ship's cat. You could be a stowaway, or cabin crew...)
- What is the name of your boat?

Once you have got lots of ideas about your journey, you can write the key words on your own origami boat.

Hint: You won't have much room, so you will have to choose the words you write on it quite carefully.



Oh No!

That journey you were about to take? Well, bad news, I'm afraid: it doesn't look like you will be reaching your destination after all, because something happened, and now you are shipwrecked. You are marooned on an island, and the only way you can make contact with the rest of the world is by writing a message and putting it in a bottle that has washed up onto the beach.



Alfred Wallis, Shipwreck 1 – The Wreck of the Alba 1938 – 40
Oil on card (orange), 26.5 x 33.5cm

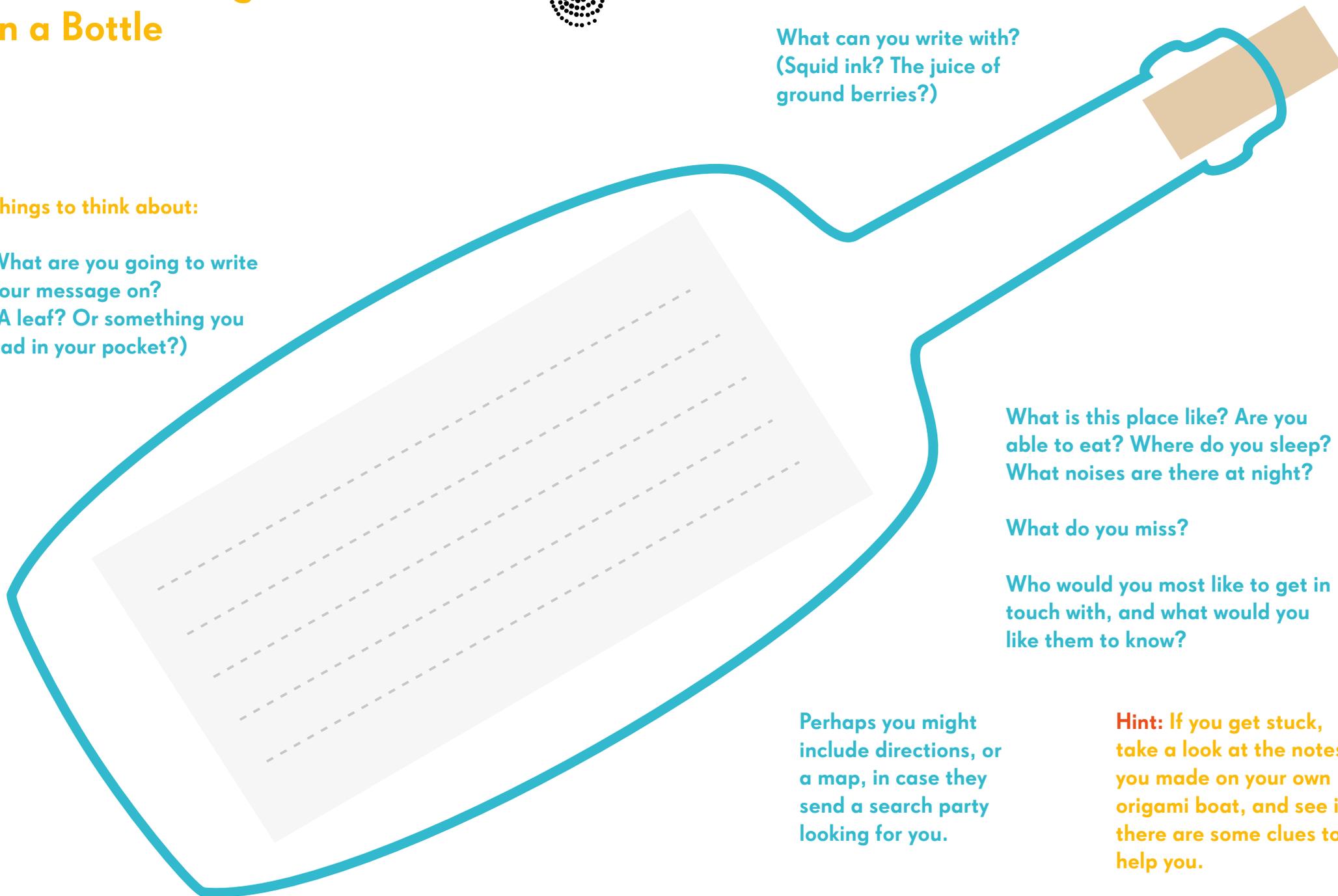
Write a Message in a Bottle



What can you write with?
(Squid ink? The juice of
ground berries?)

Things to think about:

What are you going to write
your message on?
(A leaf? Or something you
had in your pocket?)



What is this place like? Are you
able to eat? Where do you sleep?
What noises are there at night?

What do you miss?

Who would you most like to get in
touch with, and what would you
like them to know?

Perhaps you might
include directions, or
a map, in case they
send a search party
looking for you.

Hint: If you get stuck,
take a look at the notes
you made on your own
origami boat, and see if
there are some clues to
help you.

3. Dear Jim and Helen: Kettle's Yard SwapShop



Jim built up his collection partly by swapping artworks.

He lent artworks to students to have in their rooms!

To this day, Kettle's Yard lends artwork to students at the University.

Imagine having anything you liked from Kettle's Yard to borrow –
What would you choose?
Where would you put it?
And what would you do with it?

Now, have a look around the rooms and think about what you would like to lend Kettle's Yard.
Choose something you could not buy in a shop.
It could be something you have made, or something natural.
It could be something you have found, or something you have always had in your home.
Think about why this would be a good thing to lend Kettle's Yard.

Once you have decided what to borrow and what to lend, why not complete this letter to Jim and Helen?



Dear Jim and Helen,

Please may I borrow

from your house at Kettle's Yard.

I would like to borrow it because



I would like to lend you

because

Here is a picture of what I would like to lend you

From

SwapShop

You can share photos of the objects you would like to lend to the Kettle's Yard Instagram page (www.instagram.com/kettlesyard). Just include [#KettlesYardSwapShop](https://www.instagram.com/kettlesyard) in your post.

Have a look at what the children from The Grove School chose to lend and borrow:

