



Magic Carpet Activity Guide



Magic carpet panel images © Jo Hanley 2012.

Welcome to the Flying Magic Carpet!

The magic carpet is a new resource for under 5s from National Museums Scotland. It uses songs, rhymes, activities and objects to help children discover a fantastic world of objects and themes, based on those found at the National Museum of Scotland.

This magic carpet was created by three family learning groups from Gracemount, Broomhouse and The Royal Mile primary and nursery schools, in partnership with the National Museums Scotland community engagement team and City of Edinburgh Council family learning workers.

Inspiration for the carpet was taken from the magic carpet sessions for under 5s at the National Museum of Scotland, and objects and themes from its newly redeveloped galleries.

Each square was created by a parent, based on a drawing or idea chosen by their child. The parents also helped to develop ideas for the objects, songs, poems and books which are suggested materials for running a magic carpet session.

The magic carpet is free to loan by any group. We ask that it is returned to: Information and Learning Resources, 2 Peffer Place, Edinburgh, EH16 4BB after a six week period, and the feedback questions answered and returned with the resource.

The following is a guide to running a magic carpet session around 30–45 minutes long using the resources. This is only a suggested approach, so please feel free to adapt this to suit your own needs.



How to run a magic carpet session

Welcome your group to the magic carpet. Tell them the magic carpet can take you anywhere you want, travelling around the world and beyond to discover new things, places and people. All you need is your imagination....

1. Get everyone to settle on the carpet and ring a bell or shake the tambourine to get their attention.
2. Sing the magic carpet song to warm them up (*to the tune of twinkle twinkle little star*).

*Magic carpet fly with me,
Let us see what we can see
Zooming up above the sky
Let us wonder why oh why?
Magic carpet fly with me
Let us see what we can see*

3. Ask them to imagine they are flying up high on the carpet above the earth. Is it a bit of a bumpy ride? What can you see down below?
4. Tell them they are going on a journey of discovery. Choosing a magic square will decide where they go and what they see.
5. Choose (*or ask someone to choose*) a square. Can they guess what it is/where they are going? For a 30 minute session you may only need to choose 4 squares, depending on how long you spend on each.
6. With each square imagine you are zooming back down to earth. Reveal (*or ask someone to reveal*) the object for each square at this point. You might want to tell them where they are first, or get them to guess (*some squares will be easier to do this with than others*).
7. At the end of the session talk about where you've been and what you've discovered. Mention that many of the real objects can be found in the Museum.
8. If you are going to run a craft activity this is a good point to do this.
9. Sing the goodbye magic carpet song....

*Magic carpet say goodbye,
Another time we'll see you fly
Zooming up above the sky
Let us wonder why oh why?
Magic carpet say goodbye,
Another time we'll see you fly*

10. Give them a round of applause and say goodbye to everyone.

Ensure all objects are returned at the end of the session.



Please note: Many of the objects are not toys and may be unsuitable for under 3s to handle. Please supervise all objects carefully if passing round and ensure that young children do not put them in their mouths.



Top Tips:

- Plan how many objects you are going to look at and have them easy to access before you start.
- Decide which craft activity you are going to do before you start and gather together all the materials you will need for this. This square will have to be chosen by you. Practise making it first and make sure you have enough materials for your entire group.
- If it is only a small group it's fun to actually 'fly' the magic carpet by lifting it up off the ground. This means everyone has to come off the carpet, so will not be practical with a larger group
- If something isn't working – try something different! There are no rules to running the session, just go with the flow and see what they are enjoying.
- Changing pace from a noisy activity to a quiet one by softening your voice can help to quieten down an excitable group.
- End with the art activity. This is a good way to calm the group down and give them something to take away with them.
- Have fun! If you enjoy it the group will too!



Bus by Gillian and Kyle

"This is the number 35 bus you can take to get from the Royal Mile Nursery to the Museum."

Bus

Where are you?

On a bus

Objects

Bus and other wooden transport vehicles



Talk about...

Going on long or short journeys and where people have been to.

Has anyone been to a different country?

What was it like? How did they travel there?

Songs

A big red bus

A big red bus

A mini mini mini and a big red bus

A big red bus

A big red bus

A mini mini mini and a big red bus

Ferrari

Ferrari

A mini mini mini and a big red bus

A jumbo jet

A jumbo jet

A little helicopter and a jumbo jet

A jumbo jet

A jumbo jet

A little helicopter and a jumbo jet

A rocket

A rocket

A little helicopter and a jumbo jet

Activity

Make your own school bus.

<http://www.momto2poshlildivas.com/2012/04/earth-day-fun-12-recycled-crafts.html>





Dinosaurs by Tasha and Brandon

Dinosaur

Where are you?

Prehistoric Earth

Object

Model Tyrannosaurus Rex



Talk about...

How long ago did this dinosaur live?

(about 65 million years ago).

How do we know about them?

(from fossil remains).

How do you think a T. Rex sounded and walked?

Song

(to the tune Incy Wincy Spider)

Little baby dinosaur climbed up to the top

Of the volcano that was ready to go pop

Out came the lava so very very hot

And little baby dinosaur ran home without a stop!

Books

Tyrannosaurus Drip by Julia Donaldson. (ISBN 0230015506)

See if they can spot different things on the pages.

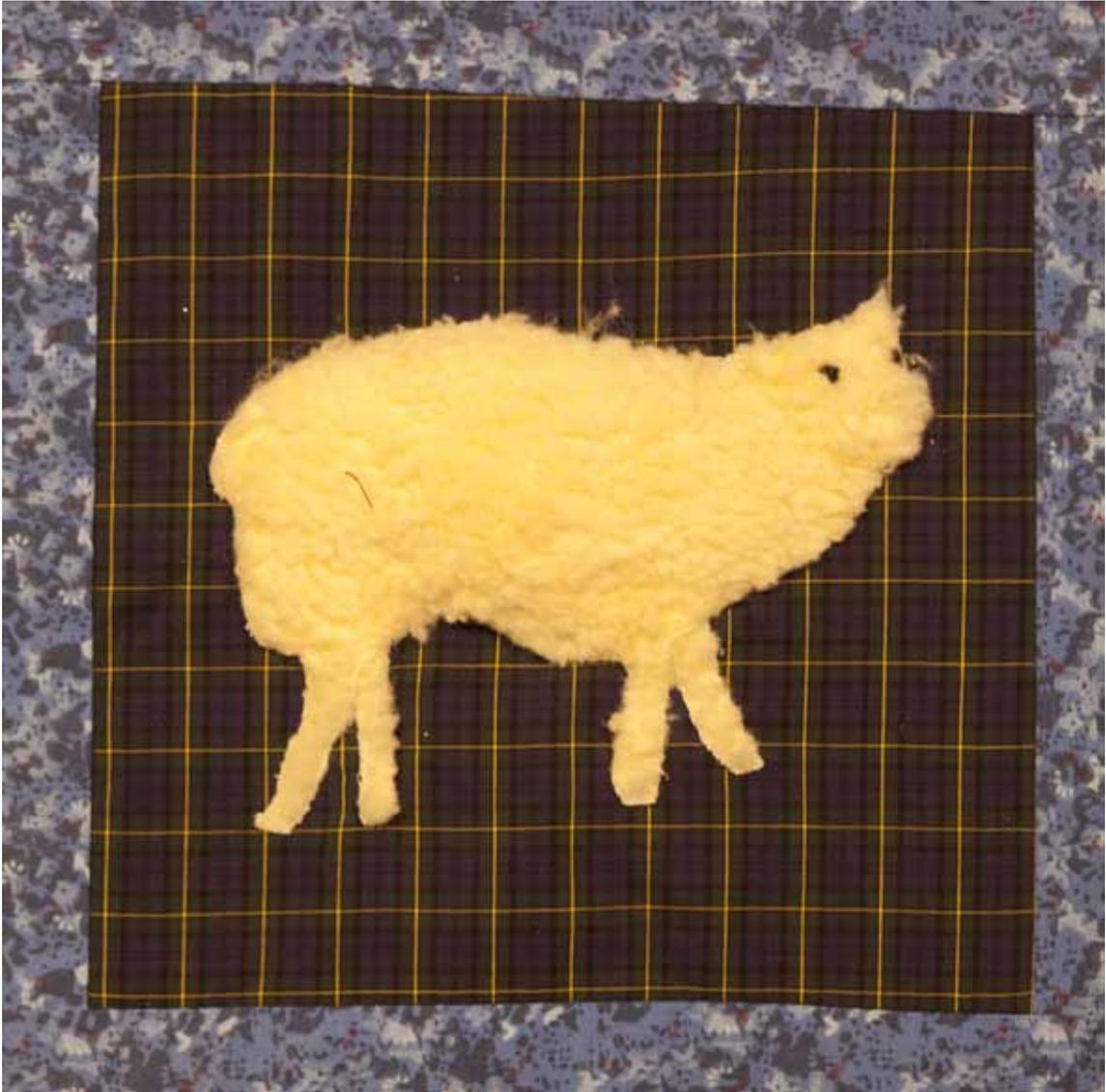
That's not my dinosaur by Fiona Watt and Rachel Wells (ISBN 0746048149)

Activity

Make your own T. Rex mask or colour in a T. Rex print out

http://www.nms.ac.uk/kids/things_to_make.aspx

<http://www.nms.ac.uk/pdf/National%20Museum%20of%20Scotland%20colouring%20sheets.pdf>



Dolly the Sheep by Jane

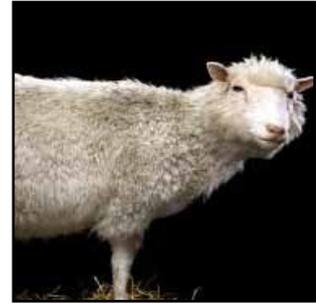
Dolly the Sheep

Where are you?

On a farm

Objects

Sheep's fleeces of different colours and textures



Talk about...

Who Dolly the sheep is and why she's so special.
(*Dolly was the first mammal cloned from an adult cell.*
She was born at the Roslin Institute just outside Edinburgh on 5 July 1996)

What do sheep give us?
What can we make out of this?
What do other animals on the farm provide us with?

Songs

*Baa baa black sheep have you any wool
Yes sir yes sir three bags full
One for my master, one for my dame
And one for the little boy who lives down the lane*

*Baa baa white sheep have you any spots
Yes sir yes sir lots and lots
Some on my fingers and some on my toes
And one on the end of my little pink nose*

*Old MacDonald had a farm
Eeey eeey ooh
And on that farm he had a sheep
Eeey eeey ooh
With a baa baa here and a baa baa there
Here a baa there a baa everywhere a baa baa
Old MacDonald had a farm
Eeey eeey ooh*

*And on that farm he had a cow
And on that farm he had a pig
And on that farm he had a chicken*

Activity

Make mini farm animal finger puppets
<http://www.kizclub.com/craft/fingerpuppets/fingerpuppet1.pdf>



Dragon by Mike, Ashley and Lorna
"Ashley chose the dragon to do for her children Cole and Isla, and Mike helped."

Dragon

Where are you?

China

Objects

Dragon puppet



Talk about...

Are Dragons real or imaginary?

How do they make you feel – scared, excited?

In China they are thought to be lucky, and are danced during Chinese New Year celebrations.

Song

Puff, the magic dragon, lived by the sea

And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honalee.

Little Jackie Paper loved that rascal Puff

And brought him strings and sealing wax and other fancy stuff, oh

Puff, the magic dragon, lived by the sea

And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honalee.

Puff, the magic dragon, lived by the sea

And frolicked in the autumn mist in a land called Honalee.

Activity

Make a mini Chinese Dragon

<http://www.craftjr.com/dragon-paper-craft/>





Egyptian mummy by Michelle and Scott

"I did the mummy as I found it intriguing how they wrapped them up and what they looked like inside."

Egyptian Mummy

Where are you?

Ancient Egypt

Object

Replica shabti
Scarab beetles



Talk about...

What else did the Egyptians make?
What do you know about Ancient Egypt?

Song

(to the tune of 'Them bones them bones')

*Alice the Camel has 5 humps
Alice the Camel has 5 humps
Alice the Camel has 5 humps
So go Alice go!*

(Repeat counting down to none)

*Alice the Camel has no humps
Alice the Camel has no humps
Alice the Camel has no humps
So Alice is a horse!*

Activity

Make an Egyptian headdress
http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/pharaohs_headdress.htm





Elephant by Karen and Bethany

"We did the elephant because my granddaughter loved that they were big and she liked their ears. She chose the colours because they are her favourite and she said they go together."

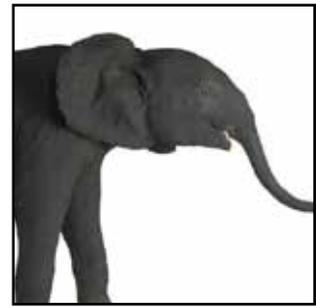
Elephant

Where are you?

India

Objects

Elephant puppet
Piece of elephant skin



Talk about...

Pass round the elephant skin and try to guess what it is. Ask:

What does it feel like?

What can you see on it?

Why do you think it's so thick?

In India the weather can be very hot. What do you think the elephant uses his big ears for?
(flapping to help cool it down)

What is the difference between an African and an Indian elephant?
(an African elephant's ears are bigger)

Poem

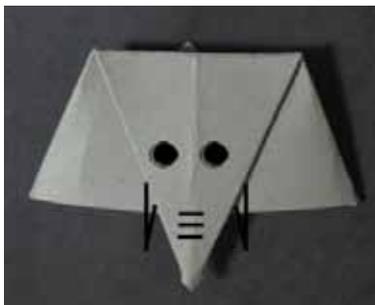
with actions

An elephant goes like this and that (tap hands on knees)
He's terribly big (reach up high)
And terribly fat (arms out wide)
He has no fingers (fisted hands, hiding fingers)
He has no toes (wiggle toes)
But goodness gracious, what a nose! (elbow to nose to make a trunk)

Activity

Make an origami elephant head.

<http://howto-origami.com/instruction/tag/origami-elephant/>





Fountain sun-print by Rachel and Christina

Fountain

Where are you?

Next to a fountain in a park with running, soothing water

Objects

Musical instruments and fabrics



Talk about...

All the different watery sounds you can make.

Swishing of the waves, tinkling of running water, gushing of a stream.

Try to make the noises of the water.

Song

Row row row your boat

Gently down the stream

Merrily merrily merrily merrily life is but a dream

Activity

Get into an imaginary boat together and row across the sea. Some children can be the waves with the fabric and some can make watery noises using the musical instruments. Tell them to watch out for the storm up ahead and be careful not to fall in, especially when the boat rocks from side to side! Can you see the birds circling overhead, or any flying fish, dolphins or whales? What can everyone else see? When the storm dies down row everyone safely back to dry land.



Frogs and Lily pads by the Gracemount Primary group

Frogs and Lily pads



Where are you?

Pond or river

Object

Frog puppet

Talk about...

Where do frogs live?

Can you make the noise a frog makes or hop like a one?

What other creatures live by rivers and ponds?

Song

*Five little speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating the most delicious bugs,
Yum, yum
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were four more speckled frogs.
Four little speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating the most delicious bugs,
Yum, yum
One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were three more speckled frogs.*

(Repeat, working your way down to one)

Activity

Make an origami frog puppet

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwdV9gMcOck>





Keys by Gillian and Kyle

"I have always been fascinated by keys, which keep us safe and also unlock secrets".

Keys

Where are you?

On a pirate ship!

Object

Treasure box and key

Talk about...

What do we use keys for?

What precious things would you want to keep safe?

What were pirates looking for?

Song

When I was 1 I ate a bun (mime action)

The day I went to sea

I jumped aboard a pirate ship (cover one eye with hand)

And the Captain said to me (salute)

We're going this way, that way (sway from side to side)

Forwards and backwards (sway forwards and backwards)

Over the Irish Sea (use hand to make wave actions)

A bottle of rum (mime drinking)

To fill my tum (rub tummy)

And that's the life for me (thumbs up)

Oy! (slap thigh like pantomime principal boy)

When I was 2 I buckled my shoe (mime action)

When I was 3 I banged my knee (mime)

When I was 4 I slammed the door (mime)

When I was 5 I learnt to dive (mime)

When I was 6 I learnt some tricks (!)

When I was 7 I sailed from Devon (mime 'look-out')

When I was 8 I jumped the gate (mime)

When I was 9 I crossed the line (!)

When I was 10 did it again...

Activity

Make a mini treasure box for your small precious things

<http://www.adventurestage.org/filebin/learningguides-asc/treasure%20chest%20template.jpg>





Leopard by Nicki

Leopard

Where are you?

The African savanna or plains

Object

Leopard fur and puppet



Talk about....

What does the fur feel like? Why does a leopard have spots?
(to camouflage them in trees as they look like dappled light).
What other creatures live on the African plains?

Poem with actions

We're going on safari
One two three (beat hands on floor)
We're going on safari
What do we see?

We see a leopard prowling silently (prowl along the floor)
We see an elephant stomping (stomp around)
We see an antelope jumping (jump up and down)
We see a snake slithering across the floor (slither on the ground)
We see a crocodile snapping (snap hands together)

Song

Down in the jungle
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zxcGKIMcOs&feature=related>

Book

We all went on Safari by Laurie Krebs and Julia Cairns (ISBN 978-1841484570).
Stop at each page to find and count out all the animals.

Activity

Take out the African drum and let everyone have a go. Make little cup drums using paper cups with their tops covered in masking tape. Decorate them with crayons. Then let everyone have a go at drumming.

Or

Make a leopard mask
http://www.nwf.org/Kids/Wild-Animal-Baby/Fun/Crafts-and-Activities/-/link.aspx?_id=F6A967F97B2540F6B8DDC5DC4987C17E&_z=z





Mask (pocket) by Lorna and Robert

"I was inspired to make a mask after seeing pictures of masks in the museum. I decided to make it a pocket so that something could be hidden. My children Zoe and Robert are peeping out."



Mask by Christina and Isabel

Masks

Where are you?

Mexico

Objects

Mexican day of the Dead masks



Talk about...

What are the masks for? (*Mexican Day of the Dead Festival*)

What do they celebrate during this? (*family and friends who have passed away*)

How does wearing a mask make you feel?

Songs

Eyes, nose, cheeky cheeky chin

Cheeky cheeky chin nose eyes

Poem

The expression on my face

Is like an open book

You can read how I am feeling

Just by the way I look

Show me a happy face

Show me a sad face

Show me a cross face

Show me a tired face

Show me a scared face

(Children do the actions)

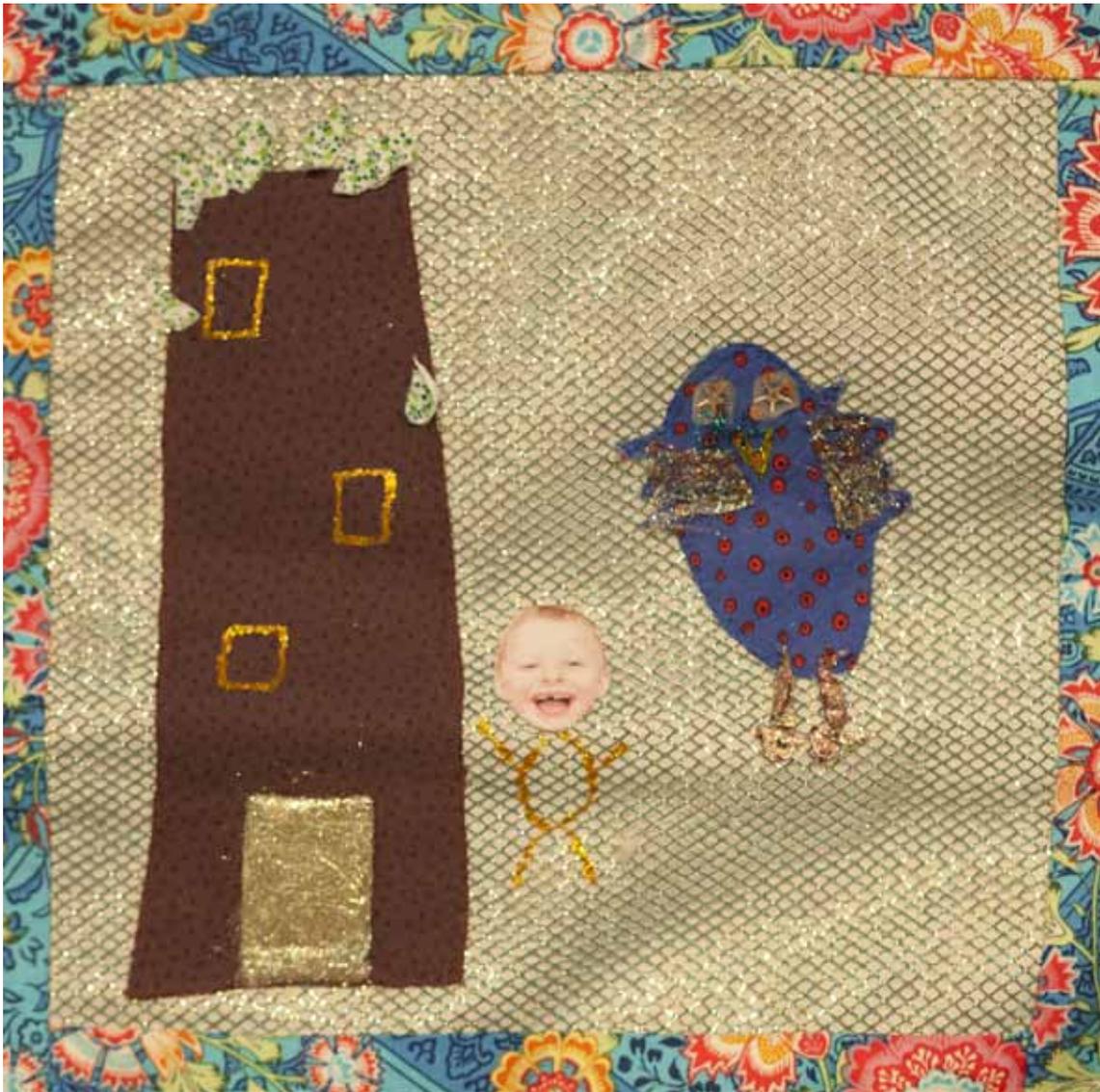
Activity

Cover your face with your hands and then make a funny face behind your them.

Get everyone to do the same and see what strange faces people pull.

Make a scary or funny mask using a blank mask template.

http://www.nms.ac.uk/kids/things_to_make.aspx



Owl by Michelle and Scott

"We picked the owl as me and my son love them as they are very interesting, and the tree at the museum was good fun to play in".

Owl

Where are you?

A forest at night

Object

Owl puppet



Talk about...

When do owls hunt? (*at night*)

How do they see so well in the dark? (*large eyes help to let in light*).

What noise do they make? (*all make noise*)

What other animals hunt at night?

Poems

*Once there was an owl
Who lived in a tree
And was looking for something yummy for his tea*

*He looked all around
And guess what he found?
A mouse who he took in his house.
And both had a cheese sandwich.*
Poem written by Scott and Michelle Wallace

*There's a Big Eyed Owl,
With a pointed nose.
Two pointed ears and claws for his toes.
He sits in the tree,
And he looks at you.
He flaps his wings,
And says TOOWIT-TOOWOOOOOO*
(Do actions for each line and repeat)

Book

Owl babies by Patrick Benson (ISBN 9780744531671)

Activity

Make a simple owl mask or an owl on a stick.

<http://thestorytimelady.wordpress.com/2012/03/31/summer-reading-2012-storytime-brainstorming/>





Panda by Nicky and Leah

Panda

Where are you?

China

Object

Panda puppet



Talk about.....

Where do pandas live? (*In the mountain forests of China*).

What do they eat? (*bamboo shoots*)

Pretend to munch on a bamboo shoot like a panda.

Songs

(to the tune of teddy bear)

Panda panda, turn around

Panda panda, touch the ground

Panda panda, reach up high,

Panda panda wink one eye,

Panda panda slap your knees,

Panda panda sit down please.

(To the tune of did you ever see a lassie)

Did you ever see a Panda bear, panda bear, panda bear,

Did you ever see a panda bear chewing on bamboo,

He chews this way and that way and that way and this way

Did you ever see a panda bear chewing on bamboo.

Repeat with:

Polar bear – enjoying a swim

Grizzly bear – catching fish

Teddy bear – having a nap

Activity

Make a Chinese lantern

http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese_lantern_chain.htm





Racing car by Christina and Caleb

Racing Car

Where are you?

On a racing track

Object

Model racing car



Talk about...

Different kinds of transport you can name

Which is the fastest?

What makes them move?

Songs

(to the tune of twinkle twinkle little star)

Twinkle Twinkle Chocolate bar

My Dad has a motor car

Push the button, pull the choke

Off we go in a puff of smoke,

Twinkle Twinkle Chocolate bar

My Dad has a motor car

Activity

Get everyone to imagine they are going to race cars together.

Start your engines, broom on the accelerator and zoom off at high speed!

Screech round the corners and slow down for the hills.

Go through a tunnel and come out into the sunshine.

Come to an abrupt halt at the finish line – who won? *(Choose someone)*

Or colour in a formula 1 racing car you can find in the National Museum of Scotland

http://www.nms.ac.uk/kids/things_to_make.aspx



Russian dolls by Sarah and Madison

"Sarah chose the Russian dolls to show the faces of all the children, Madison, Alfie, Leah and Bethany".

Russian dolls

Where are you?

Russia

Objects

Russian dolls



Talk about...

What colours and patterns can you see on the dolls?

What happens to the pattern when it gets smaller?

How many are there? (*count them together*)

Songs

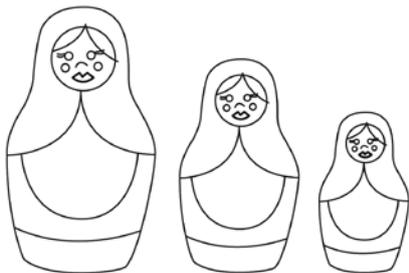
*Miss Polly had a dolly who was sick sick sick
So she called for the doctor to come quick quick quick
The doctor came with her bag and her hat and she knocked on the door
with a rat-a-tat-tat*

*She looked at the dolly and she shook her head and she said Miss Polly
put her straight to bed
She wrote on the paper for a pill pill pill
I'll be back in the morning with my bill bill bill*

Activity

Decorate a dolly template

<http://www.beadsandbeyondmagazine.com/trapletimages/Russian%20Dolls%20Template.jpg>





Giant spider crab by Nicki

Spider Crab

Where are you?

The seashore and coast (Japan)

Object

Shells

Plastic and puppet sea creatures



Talk about...

What does the crab use its pincers for?

What other sea creatures would you find along the sea shore?

Did you know the Japanese spider crab can live up to 100 years old?

Songs

(to the tune of the wheels on the bus)

The crabs at the beach go, snap, snap, snap; snap, snap, snap; snap, snap, snap

The crabs at the beach go snap snap snap, all day long

The waves at the beach go up and down, up and down, up and down,

The waves at the beach go up and down, all day long.

The clams at the beach will open and shut, open and shut, open and shut,

The clams at the beach will open and shut, all day long.

The jelly fish go wobble, wobble, wobble; wobble, wobble, wobble; wobble, wobble, wobble,

The jelly fish go wobble, wobble, wobble, all day long.

Activity

Make a paper plate crab: <http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mcrab.html>





Stars by Kerry and Matthew

Stars

Where are you?

Up in space!

Objects

Star puppets
Orrery



Talk about...

What is in space and how big it is.
Which planet we are on and how it spins around the sun.
How the sun gives us heat and life.
How beautiful space is.

Songs

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are,
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.*

Tell them they're going on a rocket ship.
They will need to put on their boots, helmet, space suit and breathing apparatus first (*mime actions*).

*Zoom zoom zoom, we're going to the Moon
Zoom zoom zoom
We'll get there very soon
If you want to join our trip
Climb aboard my rocket ship
Zoom zoom zoom
We're going to the Moon*

(to the tune of London bridge is falling down)

*The planets spin around the sun, around the sun, around the sun,
The planets spin around the sun. We live on Earth
The sun is found in the middle, in the middle, in the middle.
The sun is found in the middle. It keeps us warm.
The stars are twinkling far away, far away, far away.
The stars are twinkling far away,
Now make a wish*

Book

Zoo in the Sky by Jacqueline Mitton and Christina Balit (ISBN 0-7112-1319-4)

Activity

Make a mini constellation using black paper, sticky stars and gold and silver pens. Join the dots to make a shape or an animal.



Steam train by Rachel and Louis

"I asked my son Louis to draw a picture of one of his favourite things in the museum. He chose a steam train from the Scottish gallery. Together we picked out coloured fabrics. I then traced his image onto the fabric, and cut it out piece by piece. I fixed it together and then added details in fabric paint and heat fused fibres."

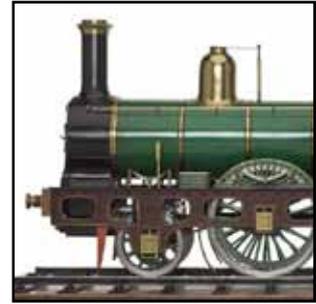
Steam Train

Where are you?

On a steam train

Object

Model steam train



Talk about...

When were steam trains used?
How were they powered?
Would you like to have gone on one?

Song

(to the tune of the wheels on the bus)
The wheels on the train go round and round
Round and round
Round and round
The wheels on the train go round and round
All day long

The driver on the train goes shovel shovel shovel
The horn on the train go toot toot toot...
The passengers on the train move side to side...
The inspector on the train says tickets please...
The children run up and down...
The parents on the train say 'what a lovely view' ...
The steam on the train goes puff puff puff...
The wheels on the train...

Activity

Gather everyone in a line on the carpet to go on a train journey together. Get everyone to make train noises and move their arms round like the wheels on a train. Pull the chain to make a 'whoop whoop' noise. What can you see out of the window on the way? Where are you going? What will you do when you get there?

Or colour in the Ellesmere steam engine you can find in the National Museum of Scotland
http://www.nms.ac.uk/kids/things_to_make.aspx



Teapot by Alison and Yesenia

“We decided to design a square with a teapot and teacups, because during a previous visit to the museum, the children really enjoyed playing with the teapot set. We also liked the idea of personalising the square by putting some photos of the faces of the children of the mums who attend the group. The children are Cole, Isla, Jose and Yesenia.”

Teapot

Where are you?

Japan



Objects

Play teaset

Different types of teas to smell

Talk about....

Japanese tea ceremonies and what they mean (*a time for calm, sharing and peacefulness*).
When do we also share out food and drink?

Songs

*I'm a little teapot short and stout
Here's my handle hears my spout
When you see me steam up hear me shout
Tip me up and pour me out*

*Polly put the kettle on
Polly put the kettle on
Polly put the kettle on
We'll all have some tea
Suki take it off again
Suki take it off again
Suki take it off again
They've all gone away*

Activity

Have a pretend tea party. Give everybody an imaginary cup of tea and pour out tea from the teapot.
Cut everyone a piece of cake. Ask how sharing makes them feel?

Decorate a teapot using this template

<http://www.underfives.co.uk/teapot2.html>



Gracemount Primary School badge by Pauline and Rebecca

Inventory

Magic carpet

Magic carpet bags x 2

Treasure box and key with padlock plus jewels

(necklaces x 4, money x 20, rings x 4, earrings x 2, bracelets x 3)

Frog puppet

Owl puppet

Panda puppet

Shells x 13

Plastic sea creatures x 5 *(Octopus x 2, starfish, lobster, cuttlefish)*

Puppet sea creatures x 5 *(sea snail, seal, fish, seahorse, lobster)*

Shark puppet

Leopard fur

Leopard puppet

Model T. Rex

Star puppets x 5

Orrery

Dragon puppet

Russian dolls x 7

Play tea-set with basket

(4 x cups, 4 x saucers, teapot and lid, sugar bowl and lid, jug)

Tea sachets

Replica shabti

Replica scarab beetles x 2

Model racing car

Fabrics

Tambourine

Wooden rattle with bells

Rainmaker rattle

Castanets x 2

Harmonica

Recorder

Shakers x 10

Model steam train

Mexican day of the dead masks x 2

Sheep fleeces

Wooden transport vehicles x 7

(bus, ambulance, fire engine, police car, racing car, taxi)

Elephant puppet

Elephant skin

Feedback

We would love to hear what you thought of the magic carpet resource, and if you would like to see anything changed for future users.

We would therefore be very grateful if you could leave any comments with Information and Learning Resources when you return the carpet, if possible answering the following questions:

- How many people used the carpet and how many separate sessions did you run?
- Who used the carpet i.e. different named groups and their ages?
- How did you rate the carpet and objects from 1–5: 1 is poor and 5 is excellent?
- How did you rate the accompanying activity guide: 1 is poor and 5 is excellent?
- Is there anything you would like to see changed or added to the resource?
- Would you or your groups be keen to visit the Museum to see the real objects as a result of using the carpet?

Many thanks and we hope you enjoyed using it!