



Jane Goodall's
roots&shoots

TWINNING: INSTRUCTABLES

In this activity, students are tasked with picking an item to make, that conveys some information about their home country. Perhaps a model of an animal that is common in that country, or a box decorated with meaningful designs.

Once students are happy with their designs, they write a set of instructions and send it to their twinning school. Each school then follows the instructions to make the item, photographs it and sends back the results. This activity is particularly good for encouraging younger students to consider effective communication skills.

In this activity you and your students will:

- ▶ Think about their own country's culture, heritage and wildlife
- ▶ Design and create a simple model with a set of instructions.
- ▶ Interact with their twinned school to create each other's models and learn about the other country.

Objectives

Carrying out this activity will help students learn more about their own country as well as the country of their twinned school. They will also learn about communicating a simple craft project.

What do I need to make it work?

The item you will need for this project will depend on the ideas your students come up with. But having a good supply of craft materials such as paper or card, pens, glue and decorative materials will help.

What things will my students create?

- ▶ A mood board of ideas that show different ways your country could be represented.
- ▶ A design for a makeable object that incorporates one of these ideas.
- ▶ The object itself along with a set of instructions to give to your twinned school.
- ▶ They will also make the object the twinned school sends them.

CREATE A MOOD BOARD

Firstly, let's get the ideas flowing! A mood board is basically a sheet of images or words you have found that help you think about an idea. So, your mood board is going to be pictures and words that help you think about your country.

Things you might need:

- ▶ Magazines or newspapers that have images of your country, famous buildings, culture, style, wildlife or patterns etc.
- ▶ A large sheet of paper, scissors and glue.

Creating your mood board

Mood boards can be whatever you want them to be. This picture shows a moodboard of images of things students at Jordan Hill school like.

1. Firstly, you need to look through magazines and newspapers. Undertake an image search on the internet or even go out and take some pictures yourself.
2. Once you have collected images and words that you feel represent your country well, lay them out and stick them onto your large sheet of paper.



Jordanhill School D&T Dept <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

It doesn't have to be neat and tidy, but it does need to contain images and words that remind you of your country or culture. You might find it helpful to split your mood board into different sections – perhaps a section for patterns, or landmark buildings, or wildlife. Or maybe it's more your style to mix it all up and see what stands out for you at the end. The idea is to use this mood board for inspiration for your model designs.

DESIGN, (CREATE AND EXPLAIN YOUR MODEL

Now that you have a load of inspiration on your moodboard, you can start to design your instructable model.

Some examples

Here are some great example of an instructable object that are decorated with a theme:



- ▶ Pen pots www.instructables.com/id/Ghibli-Organizers – maybe you could theme them to show off your country’s animals, art or famous buildings?
- ▶ Jumping frog: www.instructables.com/id/Jumping-Frog – can you work out how to make simple models of animals from your country?
- ▶ Tea box light: www.instructables.com/id/Tea-box-to-Tea-light – can you use styles and shapes of buildings from your country to design your own tea box light?

Design – get sketching!

1. Using your moodboard for inspiration, choose one object that you think you’ll be able to make a model of. Perhaps a famous landmark from cereal packets, or an animal from a stuffed sock and fabric, or maybe you could use plasticine or lego - whatever you find easy to work with.
2. The next step is to draw how you will make the model. This should be a basic sketch with all the parts and materials you need labelled. Try to use some of the patterns and colours that you have on your moodboard to emphasise the representation of your country.

Create – get making!

3. Now you need to do a test run of making your model. As you make it, you may decide to simplify the design or use different materials to make it easier to create. During this stage you can also begin to write down what you are doing to make the model at each point.
4. Finally, make the finished version of your model, but this time as you create it, you’ll need to take photos of each step to use in your set of instructions to send to your twinned school.

Explain – write the instructions!

5. By this stage, you should have a design, a complete model and photos of each step along with some notes about what you did to make it. Now you need to put these together as a step by step instruction sheet – one or two photos with a short explanation of what to do for each step would work well.

This may be easiest in a document on your computer, but you can also do it with pen and paper, sticking in the images and then photograph it at the end if you prefer.

SHARE YOUR INSTRUCTABLE

You've found inspiration, designed, created and explained your model. Now it's time to send your instructable to your twinned school to see if they can follow your instructions and make a model that reminds them of you and your country!

Make contact

Get in touch with your twinned school and explain what you've been up to with your mood boards, designs and models. If you arrange a video call you can show them the models you've made and set them the challenge of following your instructions.

Ask for an instructable from them

Twinning is a two way thing, so you'll want to ask for some instructables from them so that you can learn a bit about their country and culture as well, and have fun making their models to decorate your classroom (or home!).

TELL US HOW YOU GOT ON IN THE UAE!

We would love to see what you created for this activity, and hear about how it went! If you already have an account you can upload a story with images to Roots & Shoots UAE (uae.rootsandshoots.community). If you don't already have an account then use the form on your the website to contact us and we will get you set up.

Keep up to date with Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots in the UAE

As well as the website at uae.rootsandshoots.community you can also find us on Facebook at fb.com/RootsnShoots.ae or on Twitter as [@JaneGoodallUAE](https://twitter.com/JaneGoodallUAE).

WANT TO HELP IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY?

This activity is a living document! Please help us by editing this activity to make it as good as possible. You can edit it by using this short link (just type it into your web browser's address bar): bit.ly/375qxUA - full instructions are provided. Any edits that can make this resource easier to use are very welcome, so please follow the link and make your contribution!