

Aim: To learn about leaf rubbing with different leaves

Equipment:

- A selection of poster paints and brushes
- White paper, coloured crayons, pencils or felt tip pens
- Thin white card
- Thick wax crayons
- Wax candles
- Child friendly scissors
- A selection of leaves – larger leaves work better and are easier for the boys to use

Leaf Rubbing:

Place a leaf under the paper with the veins uppermost next to the paper. Carefully holding the leaf still, rub over the leaf (outline first) with a thick wax crayon.

Patterned Leaf:

Draw around your leaf on white thin card and cut it out (some adult help may be required for the younger boys). Using crayons or felt tip pens in appropriate colours start on the outside of the leaf and follow the outline. Change colour as you work towards the centre of the leaf.

Wax Leaf Print:

Put the leaf under the paper and use a white candle to make a leaf rubbing. Once completed use water based paint to wash over the wax rubbing. The wax will resist the paint leaving the leaf outline.

A Leaf Print:

Paint the underside of the leaf with poster paint. Set the painted side down onto paper and press firmly, holding for a few seconds. Carefully lift off leaf. This could be done with the boys using one large sheet of paper to make a collage of the leaf prints.

Additional Activity:

This activity could be combined with a visit to a local park to collect leaves.



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision



15 minutes.



Additional supervision may be required if you take the boys to the park to collect the leaves



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



15-20 minutes

Sowing and Growing

Aim: To create a miniature garden that will help the children learn about nature

Equipment:

- Margarine or yoghurt tubs
- Soil or compost
- Gravel
- Cress or mustard seeds/bulbs or flower seeds
- Aprons

Instructions:

- Ensure that the tub you are using is clean.
- Fill the tub that you are using half full with gravel; this allows for water to drain through.
- Then proceed to fill the rest of the tub to almost the top with soil or compost.
- If you have chosen small seeds they must be placed just underneath the surface or for bigger bulbs ensure that only the tip is showing above the soil.
- Plant the chosen seeds or bulbs, generally cress or mustard seeds. Dried whole beans also work well but they must be soaked overnight.

Upkeep and Additional Activities:

Regardless of what has been planted, daily watering is essential. It is also important that the plant is in an area where it will catch the sun. In the case of bulbs, it is very possible that if they are looked after well they may grow too big for their original tub; this will mean transplanting them into a larger plant pot or into the ground. This presents a follow up exercise for the children to look forward to.

The Birds in Your Garden

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me and my world



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



30 minutes

Aim: To produce a feeder for the birds, allowing the boys to see them feeding

Equipment:

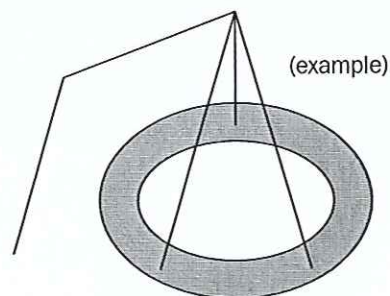
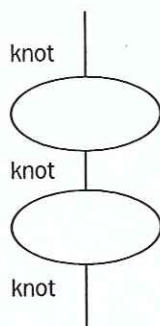
- 2 plastic or cardboard (heavy duty) plates
- 1 metre of plastic-covered washing line or strong garden cord.
- Bird seed

Instructions:

Talk to the children about the birds in winter. Try and get across the idea that we need to feed them throughout the winter as there is not much on the ground for them. Show them some pictures of the common birds in your area that they are likely to see.

Make a Bird feeder

- Cut cord into 3 lengths for each boy (approx 20cm).
- Make 3 holes evenly spaced around edge of each plate.
- Thread the cord through each hole in the plate and tie a knot on the underside. Underneath the first plate, thread on the second plate and tie another knot underneath.
- You now have the ideal bird feed to hang on the branch of a tree, on which you can put bird seed, titbits etc.



Additional Activity:

Boys could draw or colour in pictures of birds.



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



2 x 20 minute sessions

Aim: To give the children an understanding of the different jobs involved within the church

Equipment:

- Template
- Card and paper of matching size
- Colouring pens/pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions:

- Copy the template onto card.
- Colour in the church.
- Cut around the doors and windows so they are held on by one side and can be easily opened. This might require adult supervision, depending on the ability of the child.
- Place a piece of paper directly behind the card and mark in pencil around where the windows and doors are.
- Remove the card and in each of the window spaces draw in a picture of someone who is involved within the church. E.g. the Minister, the Organist, the BB Captain, Sunday School teacher and so on.
- Then glue together the piece of card and paper, so that the pictures and the windows match up.

Time Constraints and Additional Ideas:

The project will take too long to do in one go. It is therefore recommended that you complete the task in small sessions. If it is possible then you could replace the drawings of people who work in the church with photos; this will add more realism and help the children put names to faces in the church.



This craft requires the use
of scissors and glue.
Leaders should exercise
appropriate caution.

Aim: To understand the importance of clean water and appreciate that many children do not have clean water

Equipment:

- Flip chart/chalk board etc. for brainstorming ideas
- 2 transparent jugs or glasses
- Water

Introduction:

- Brainstorm as many ideas as possible for how water is used. E.g. drinking, cooking, swimming, washing, etc.
- For which of these activities does water have to be clean? Why is clean water important? Explain that the water that comes into our homes is clean and safe to drink, but that in many parts of the world this is not the case.
- Have a clear glass or jug of clean water and a clear glass or jug of dirty water. Which would they drink?

To emphasise the differences for some parts of the world, ask two boys to fill 15 cups of water. One can use the tap whilst the other has to go a large distance to collect water in a container to bring back. Explain that some children in the world have to do this every morning.

Game (an alternative activity)

Equipment:

- Containers (ice cream tubs or washing up bowls)
- Water
- Plastic cups

Instructions:

- Boys divided into 2 teams.
- Container of water for each team at opposite end of hall to boys, and an empty container at other end.
- Containers have a mark inside.
- Each boy has a cup and they have to transfer all the water from one container to the other, run as a relay.
- First team to fill container to the mark made is the winner.



Teams for relay game



10 minutes for
Introduction

5 minutes for Relay Game





No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



Varies with activities

Aim: To help boys appreciate the different types of weather in the UK

Weather Chart

Equipment:

- Template
- Pens
- Paper
- Pictures of different cloud types (possibly)

Instructions:

Start by splitting the boys into two (or more) groups and have a competition to see who can come up with the most different weather types.

You could ask the boys if they'd noticed the different types of clouds there are. Show some pictures of different cloud types, explaining that some clouds are found higher in the sky than others. If possible, go outside and see what clouds are in the sky.

Included is a template of a weather chart that boys can use to keep track of the weather over a week. Boys draw a picture in the spaces provided of the type of weather conditions.

Dressing up Relay

Equipment:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| • Template of weather types | • Wellington boots |
| • Boots | • Sunglasses |
| • Sun hat | • Shorts |
| • Coat | • Woolly hat |
| • Scarf | |

Instructions:

- Split the boys into 2 or more teams and line them up.
- The first boy runs to the first card and turns it over. The card will have a type weather condition on the back.
- The boy has to then run to the pile of clothing and puts on the appropriate clothing over the top of the clothes he is wearing and runs back to his team.

Rain – coat, Wellington boots

Sun – sunglasses, shorts, sun hat

Snow – hat, scarf, boots, woolly hat

Cloud – coat

- The next boy then goes etc. until all the boys have had a turn and are dressed up.

Weather Game

The boys have to do the corresponding actions to the commands called out by the leader.

- The four sides of the hall are labelled north, east, south and west. When one is called the boys have to run to that wall/corner.
- If 'sun' is called the boys have to lay down and pretend to sunbathe.
- For 'rain' they have to cover their head.
- If 'snow' is called the boys must freeze.

Other kinds of weather: windy (bent over), thunder, lightning.





No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



10 minutes per activity

Where I Live

Aim: To help the boys understand something of the area in which they live

Equipment:

- CD/tape player and appropriate music
- Photographs of local area/features
- Map of local area

Game:

Label the 4 corners of hall with items from the local area e.g. school, park, doctor's surgery, church. When the music plays boys move around hall and go to their chosen corner when the music stops. The leader (who is not looking) calls out a particular feature e.g. shops and boys in that corner are out (or lose a point). Play until only 1 boy is left who is the winner.

Photographs:

Have photographs of local places. Can the boys recognise them?

Maps:

Have a large map of local area. Ask boys to identify where they live. Could put photographs from previous game on map. Also place on map photographs of the local places such as school, church, shops, etc.

Can the boys describe how they get to BB?

Helping at Home



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



Depends on activities
undertaken

Aim: To encourage the boys to help in a specific task at home

Equipment:

- Chart to fill in/sign off for each boy, see sample template.

Instructions:

Discuss a list of jobs, which they might help with at home, e.g. tidy room, washing up, looking after pets, etc.

A chart is given to boys to take home and have signed for a 3-week period of time. The period of time could differ depending on the age of boys within the group.





No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



10-15 minutes

Aim: To enable the boys to identify an emergency situation and to make a 999 call

Equipment:

- Telephone (unconnected)

Instructions:

- Talk the boys through what to do when they have to make an emergency call.
- Emphasise the need to know what service is required, Police, Fire, Ambulance.
- Emphasise what details the boys will need to know about the emergency.
- Practise using (unconnected) telephones.

When you dial 999 you need to ask for the service required (police, fire, ambulance), you will then be connected to the requested service operator.

They will ask:

- Your name and address
- Telephone number (the one that you are calling from)
- The number you can be contacted from
- What you are calling about
- Where is the incident you are reporting?
- Is anybody involved?
- Did you see it happen, or did somebody else ask you to call?

If you are still watching the incident you are calling about, you might be asked to stay on the line so you can tell them what is happening, as long as you won't be putting yourself in danger by doing so.

Emphasise that hoax or prank calls to the emergency services can waste time and mean that people who need help may not get it.

World Restaurant



Boys in small groups



15 minutes

Aim: To appreciate the culture of other countries and find out a little about them

Equipment:

- Food (listed below)
- Large world map
- Flags or posters representing countries (listed below)

Boys in small groups move around 4 bases to try different foods – adult recommended at each base.

E.G.

Italy – Pizza

China – Noodles

Mexico – Chilli (very mild)

USA – Burger

It may be possible to think of some activities connected with the countries.

At the end draw the food on a paper plate and place onto the world map.

Additional activity

Another activity perhaps for the older boys is to bring in a variety of foods from around the world. Ask boys to locate country of origin by looking on tin, label, etc. take off label and place on map. With older boys it is possible to discuss why some food can only be grown in certain parts of the world.

NB. Be aware of any boys who may have food allergies.



Leaders should be aware of any food allergies the boys might have



No maximum number
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supervision



Chat - 10-15 minutes
Visit - 30 minutes-1 hour

Aim: To help boys appreciate their pets

Ask the boys to chat about their pets, get them to tell the rest of the group:

- What they are
- What they call them (name)
- How they look after them and so on. (feeding, cleaning, etc)

You could ask boys to bring in a picture of their pet(s), or draw one.

Visit:

This could be followed up with a visit to a local Zoo or wildlife park. Or it may be possible to arrange a visit from the RSPCA or a vet.

Tip:

You may need to be aware of any recent tragedies- the death of a pet could be quite traumatic for a boy. Be on the look out for anyone feeling fragile during the chat/visit.

Postal Communication

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No maximum number
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supervision



10 minutes per activity

Aim: To learn about how to send a postcard

Equipment:

- Postcards
- Stamps
- Pens/pencils
- Post box maze template
- Card

Instructions:

Send a postcard:

Boys in pairs write a postcard to each other. They will need to be taught where to put the address and place the stamp. Boys should write (copy) their address onto the postcard. If there is a post-box within walking distance go there and allow boys to post their cards. Ask boys to bring the one they receive the following week. (This can be adapted to write to other BB companies either in the UK/Republic of Ireland or overseas. (Check the BBUK website www.boys-brigade.org.uk for contact details.)

Post Box Relay:

- Line boys up in teams at one end of hall with a pile of post cards.
- At opposite end have a 'post box' with slit in it.
- First boy runs, posts a card and then runs back and tags next boy, and so on.

Post Box Maze:

- Copy the template onto card, one per boy.
- Which card reaches the post box?



No maximum number
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supervision



15-20 minutes

Community Visitors

Aim: To help the boys learn about the local community workers

There are often members of the community who are able and willing to come and talk to the boys. Ensure they have a brief of what you want them to talk about.

Possibilities:

- Police officer
- Fire fighter
- Lollipop/crossing patrol person
- Guide dogs for the blind
- Paramedic/Doctor

A visitor might be part of a more specific topic. Such as hygiene, dental care, etc.

There may be appropriate people from within your church congregation.

Aim: To find out about the trees in the local area

Equipment:

- Blindfolds
- Sugar paper or flipchart paper
- Thick wax crayons
- Paint colour chart from DIY shop
- Shoeboxes

These activities can be done in the church grounds if appropriate or during a visit to the park.

Blindfold Game: (Develop sense of touch)

One boy is blindfolded and led by a partner to an unknown tree. Feels size, smoothness, etc. and taken back to start and blindfold removed. Can he identify the tree to which he was taken?

Bark rubbing:

Choose a tree with well defined bark. Place sugar paper on bark and use brightly coloured thick wax crayons to rub vigorously to produce the pattern. These can be cut out later and mounted to form a display.

Rainbow Chips:

Cut up the colours from a colour chart. Boys randomly select one and have to find something from nature in the grounds that match the colour. Care needs to be taken in selecting colours to use as some will be more difficult than others.

Opposite Boxes:

Divide a store box into two halves. Label with a pair of opposites e.g. smooth/rough, etc. Boys have to find two natural objects which they can place in the two sections of the box.



No maximum number
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supervision



Varies with activities



Adult supervision is
required for all activities
and the area must be
carefully checked for any
dangers. If taking boys
away from church, parents
must give permission



No maximum number
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Varies with activities

Conservation 2 (Litter)

Aim: To think about litter and encourage the boys always to put their litter in a bin

Equipment:

- Plastic gloves
- Waste paper bins
- Recycling boxes if your area uses them
- Plastic sheeting

What's in the Bin?

Bring in a bin and empty contents onto a plastic sheet. Identify the materials in the bin (these may be pre-selected.) Why are they thrown away?

Could certain items be recycled?

A lot will be packaging materials. Explain to boys how all of the waste material costs money to produce and then disposed of.

Recycling: (Dependent on your area)

- Some local authorities provide households with recycling bins. Show these and sort out materials that could go in.
- Arrange a visit from the recycling officer.
- Explain how recycling helps the environment.

Litter Collection:

Equipment:

- Black sacks or bags
- Disposable gloves
- Litter picker (option)
- Large sheets of paper, colouring pencils/pens, glue

Instructions:

- Look at your church grounds. Can you see litter? What sort of litter is it? Where did it come from?
- If safe and appropriate, have a litter collection to tidy up the grounds.
- It may be possible to have a walk in the church area identifying where litter is a problem. Can they identify why this is?
- Design a group poster to stop people from dropping litter. These could be displayed in the church or could be more effective if displayed in local shops, public notice boards, etc.



Ensure that any litter
collected is not
dangerous, parental
permission has been
sought and that boys are
adequately supervised

Fairness

Aim: To show that in the world some people are treated unfairly, but that God treats everyone equally

Equipment:

- Coloured Stickers
- Chocolate Biscuits

Instructions:

As the boys arrive give every 3rd boy a coloured sticker to wear. At an appropriate time give every boy with a sticker a chocolate biscuit.

Is this fair? – Why not?

Explain that in the world, some people have food or no food just because of where they live. (Ensure everyone has a chocolate biscuit later.)

Game:

- Play a game you usually play but make it unfair. Change the rules regarding numbers on one team, or who is allowed to score, etc.
- Talk about why it is important to be fair and emphasise how Jesus said everyone was equally special to God.



No maximum number
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supervision



Activity – 10 minutes
Game – 5 minutes





No maximum number
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supervision

Help A Charity

This could be done in conjunction with your church or another section or organisation.

Aim: To inform the boys about the needs of others and provide a sense of achievement by giving opportunities to help

The leaders to decide upon the charity that it is to benefit. Often a local need can provide a more relevant opportunity than a national charity.

Ways in which the boys could help

Fundraising:

- Sponsored event e.g. silence, potted sports, walk, etc.
- Donation card – collect donations to colour in anchor (re template).
- Smarties tubes – give each boy a tube of smarties to take home, challenge them to bring them back full of coins, e.g. you can fit £13 worth of twenty pence pieces into a tube.
- A line of pennies – boys collect pennies and arrange to make a line of them in a public place, perhaps on a Saturday morning, when you might get members of the public involved. Coins collected to be donated to a chosen charity.

For maximum benefit arrange for the boys to visit the charity or have a representative from the charity to come and receive the money. This is a good opportunity for publicity.

Aim: To enable boys to spot possible dangers at home

Equipment:

- Copies of 'spot the dangers' template
- Coloured pencils/pens

Instructions:

- Discuss with boys the dangerous things in the home? You could list different rooms and ask boys to highlight possible dangers. Which is the most dangerous room?
- Use the 'spot the dangers' sheet to highlight dangers in the kitchen.
- There are 13 dangers in the picture. See how many the boys can find. Leaders can help the boys with any still to be discovered.

Dangers:

1. Hot water pouring over edge of sink.
2. Water boiling over in pan on cooker.
3. Toast on fire.
4. Electric heater on floor – standing in water and cover broken.
5. Iron left switched on, steaming.
6. Ironing board (trip hazard).
7. Smashed plate on floor.
8. Mat under table (trip hazard).
9. Matches on table.
10. Skipping rope round table leg (trip hazard).
11. Knife on edge of cupboard.
12. Kettle left boiling.
13. Tumbler on edge of table.

Boys could colour in their "spot the dangers" templates.



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



10 minutes





No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



10 minutes for each
activity

The Green Cross Code

Aim: To learn how to cross the road safely

Equipment:

- Template of Green Cross Code street scene
- A selection of coloured cards in red, orange and green (enough for each boy to have one set each)

Talk

What is the purpose of the Green Cross Code? To get us safely across the road. It tells us to:

- STOP
- LOOK
- LISTEN

Activity 1:

The following are safe ways at crossing the road.

Fill the gaps with the words below.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. _____ crossing | (zebra) |
| 2. With the _____ man or lady. | (lollipop) |
| 3. A _____ way. | (sub) |
| 4. Traffic _____. | (lights) |
| 5. With the _____. | (policeman) |

POLICEMAN

LIGHTS

DENTIST

LOLLIPOP

SUB

ZEBRA

MOTOR

LEVEL

Activity 2:

- Photocopy the 'spot the dangers' template.
- Highlight the dangers on the template. Boys could also colour in the picture.
- There are 13 dangers in the picture.

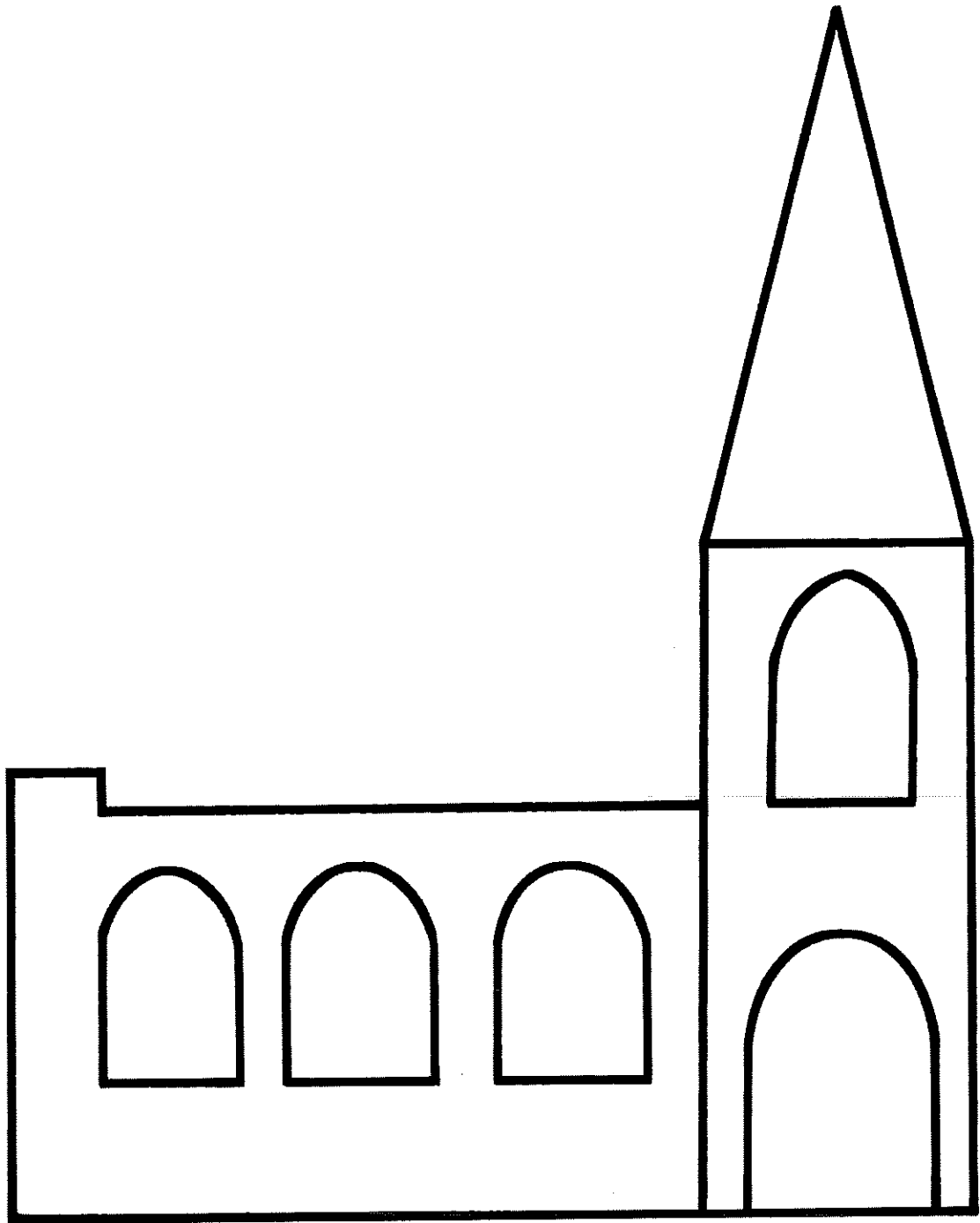
Dangers:

1. Boy crossing road without looking.
2. Boy playing football in the road.
3. Van door open.
4. Wooden planks resting against side of van.
5. Cyclist waving to a friend.
6. Car on zebra crossing while boy is crossing.
7. Man driving car, taking hands off wheel.
8. Dog not on a lead.
9. Broken garden wall.
10. Man walking straight in front of lorry.
11. Boy walking behind lollipop man.
12. Man unloading van in the middle of the road.
13. Man walking across road reading newspaper.



Template C-4

The Church



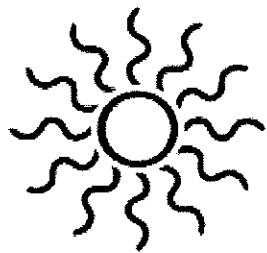
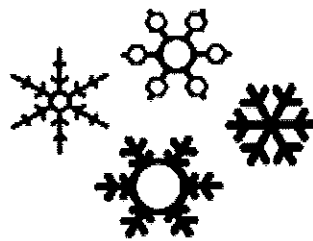
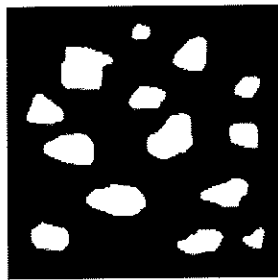
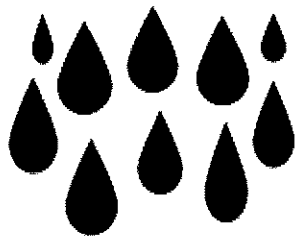
Template C-6

Weather Chart

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

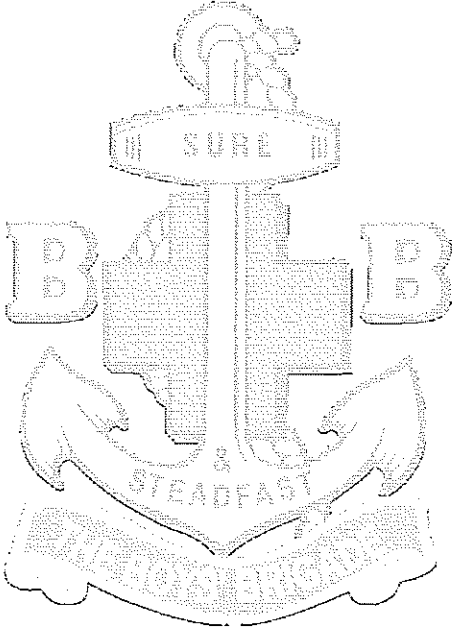
Template C-6

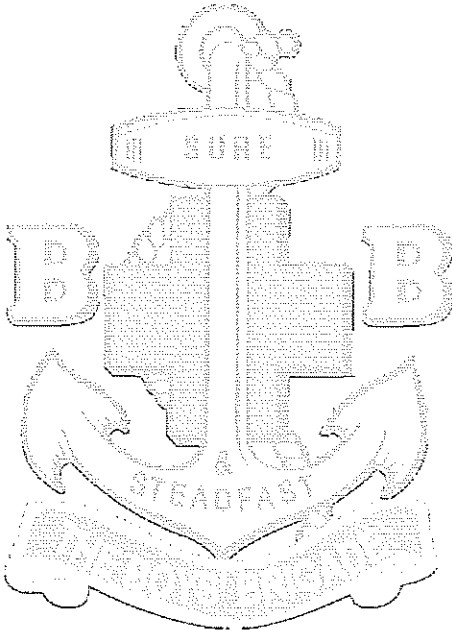
Dressing up Relay



Template C-8

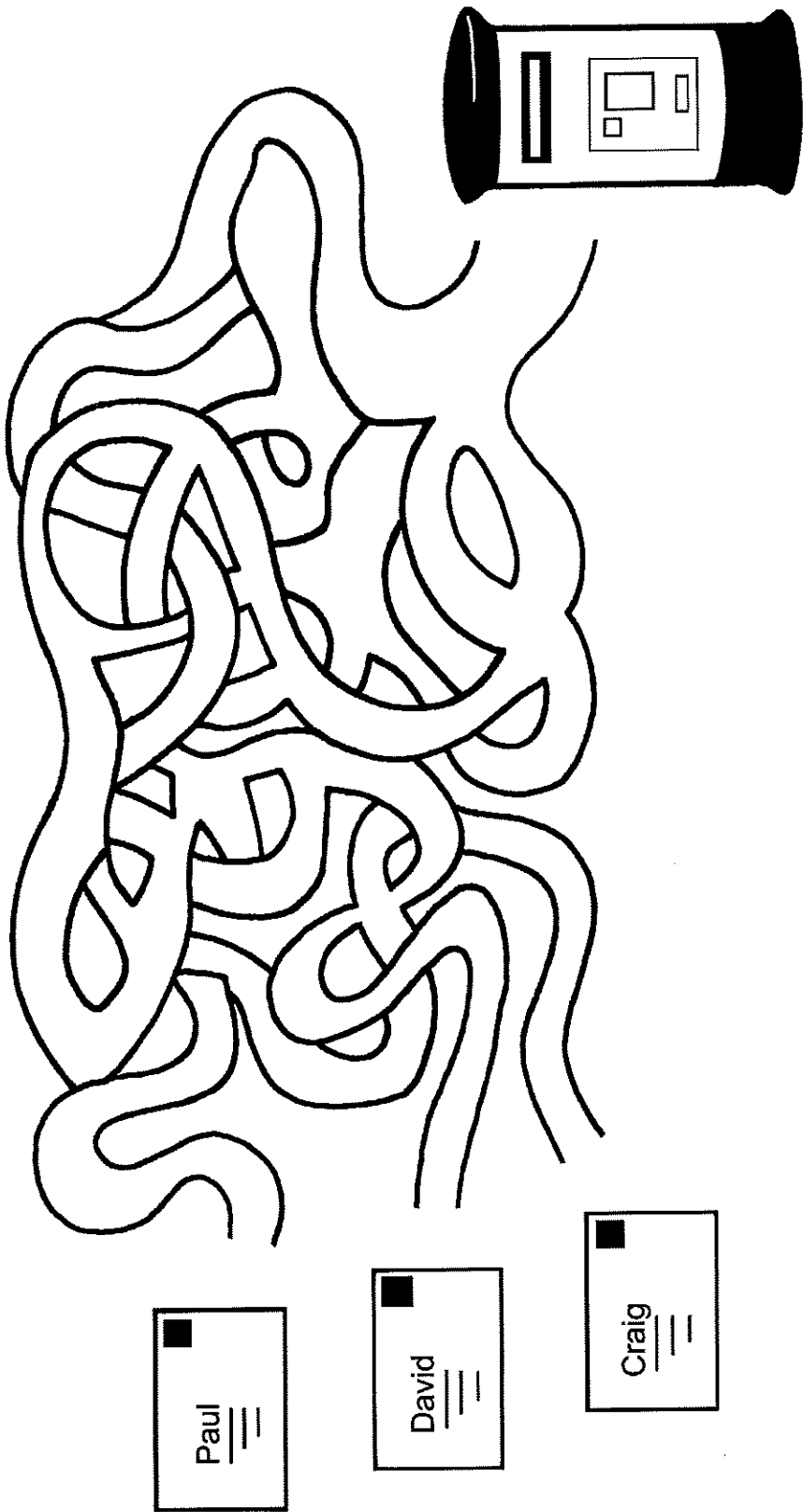
Helping at Home

The Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys Help at Home Record		
Date	Job	Signature
		

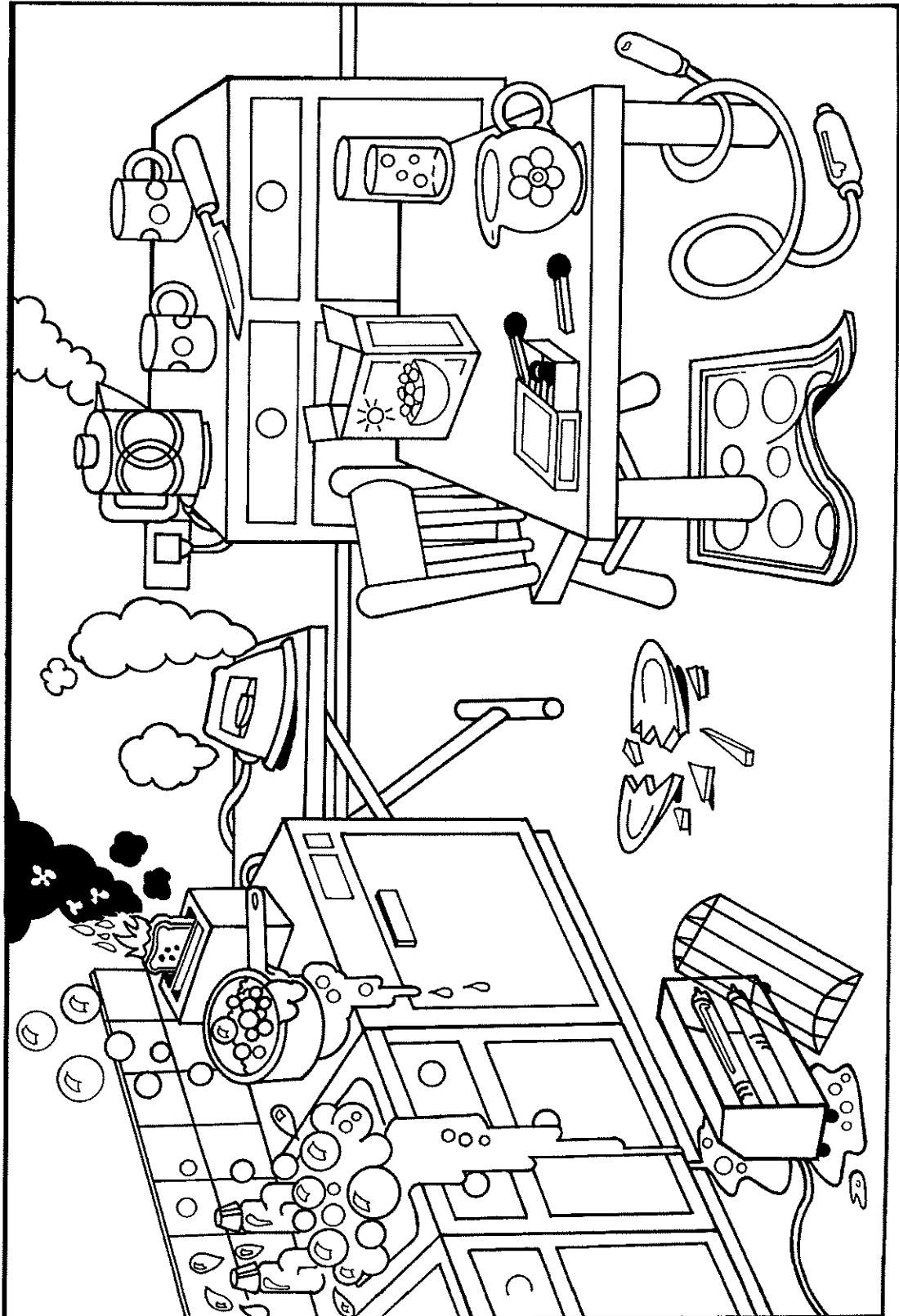
The Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys Help at Home Record		
Date	Job	Signature
		

Template C-12

Post Box Maze



Home Safety



Template C-19

The Green Cross Code

