

NYPL After School

# Activity Guides

*Kindergarten–3rd Grade*



**REFLECT – EXPLORE – INVESTIGATE**



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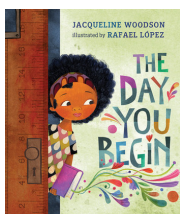
# NYPL After School REFLECT



On the next few pages you'll find tips, books we love, and activities all about how to reflect. Reflecting means thinking deeply or carefully about something. We hope you'll reflect on how unique and special you are.

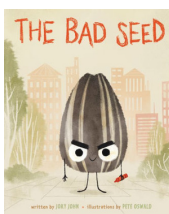
## BOOKS WE LOVE

These books are some of our favorites that help us think about how to reflect. To check them out, place a hold online at [nypl.org](https://nypl.org) or call Ask NYPL (917-275-6975). If you are at a branch, ask a librarian how to place a hold. Books marked with a  are available as e-books.



### **The Day You Begin**

by Jacqueline Woodson,  
illus. by Rafael López



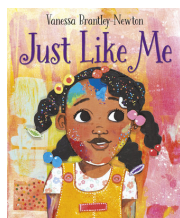
### **The Bad Seed**

by Jory John, illus. by  
Pete Oswald



### **Firebird**

by Misty Copeland, illus.  
by Christopher Myers



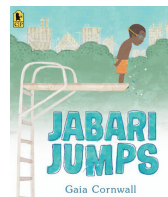
### **Just Like Me**

by Vanessa Brantley-  
Newton



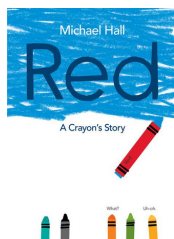
### **The Proudest Blue**

by Ibtihaj Muhammad  
with S.K. Ali, illus. by  
Hatem Aly



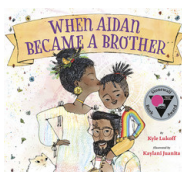
### **Jabari Jumps**

by Gaia Cornwall



### **Red: A Crayon's Story**

by Michael Hall



### **When Aidan Became a Brother**

by Kyle Lukoff, illus. by  
Kaylani Juanita



### **Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You**

by Sonia Sotomayor, illus.  
by Rafael López

## QUICK TIPS

- Keep a feelings journal every day or set a special time (like dinner) to talk about your day.
- Try taking a deep breath in and then slowly letting it out. How do you feel?
- While reading, think about the emotions of the characters. Are they the same as yours?

## REFLECT USING A FORTUNE-TELLER

Cut out the square below. Turn the square over so that the pictures are down. Fold the square corner to corner on both sides. Reopen. Fold in each corner to the center. Flip that smaller square over and fold each corner to the center into an even smaller square. Fold that square in half and insert your fingers into the flaps on both sides. Open your fortune-teller!

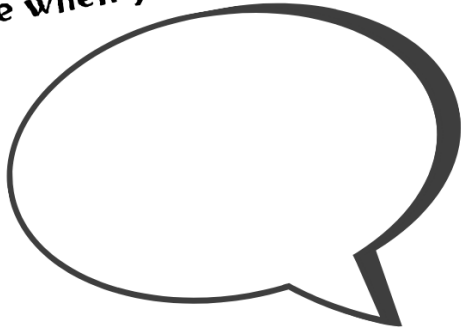
To start, choose a shape or color then move the flaps back and forth as you spell out that shape or color (or count the corners on the shapes). Once you stop, open that flap. Then choose an animal. Answer the question under that flap!



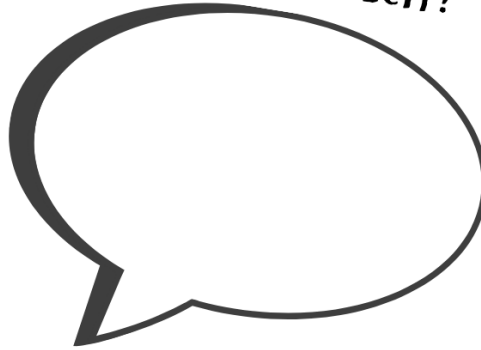
## REFLECT ON WHO YOU ARE

Show us who you are! Draw and color in your face, hair, and clothes. Then, answer the questions by either writing or drawing. Remember, you're awesome!

What do you want to be when you grow up?



What is one thing you love about yourself?



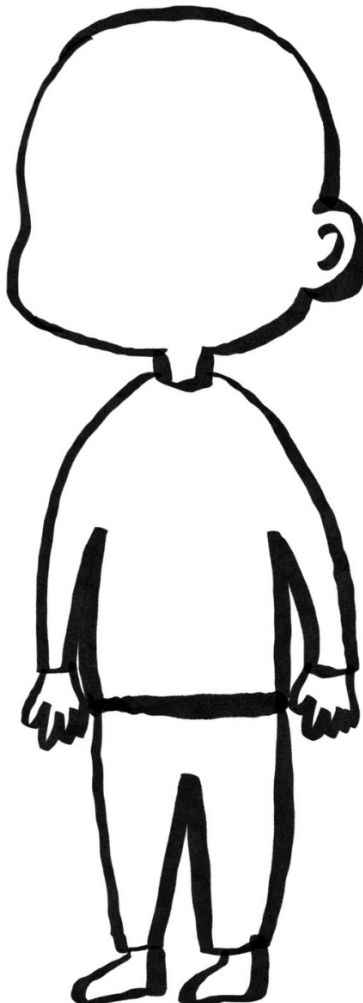
What is your favorite food or color?



What is your favorite book or movie?



What is something that makes you happy?



## REFLECT USING A FEELINGS JOURNAL

**EMOTIONS YOU FELT TODAY**



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**PICK ONE. WHY DID YOU FEEL THIS WAY?**

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**DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR DAY.**

# NYPL After School EXPLORE



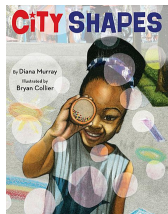
On the next few pages you'll find tips, books we love, and activities all about how to explore. Exploring is a journey of discovery to new places and to find new information.


## BOOKS WE LOVE

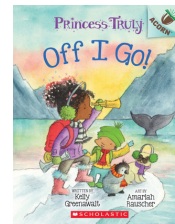
These books are some of our favorites about exploring close to home and further away. To check them out, place a hold online at [nypl.org](https://www.nypl.org) or call Ask NYPL (917-275-6975). If you are at a branch, ask a librarian how to place a hold. Books marked with a  are available as e-books.



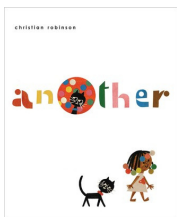
**Hike**  
by Pete Oswald




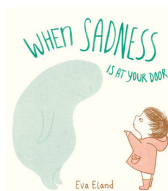
**City Shapes**  
by Diana Murray, illus. by  
Bryan Collier  




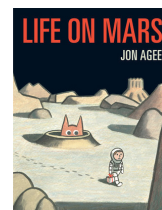
**Off I Go! (Princess Truly series)**  
by Kelly Greenawalt, illus.  
by Amariah Rauscher  

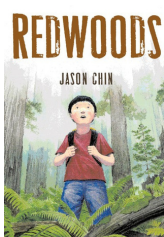
**Another**  
by Christian Robinson  




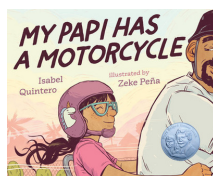
**When Sadness Is at Your Door**  
by Eva Eland  





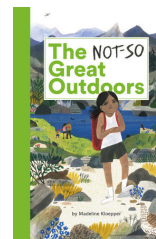
**Life on Mars**  
by Jon Agee



**Redwoods**  
by Jason Chin  

**My Papi Has a Motorcycle**  
by Isabel Quintero, illus.  
by Zeke Peña  




**The Not-So Great Outdoors**  
by Madeline Kloepper  

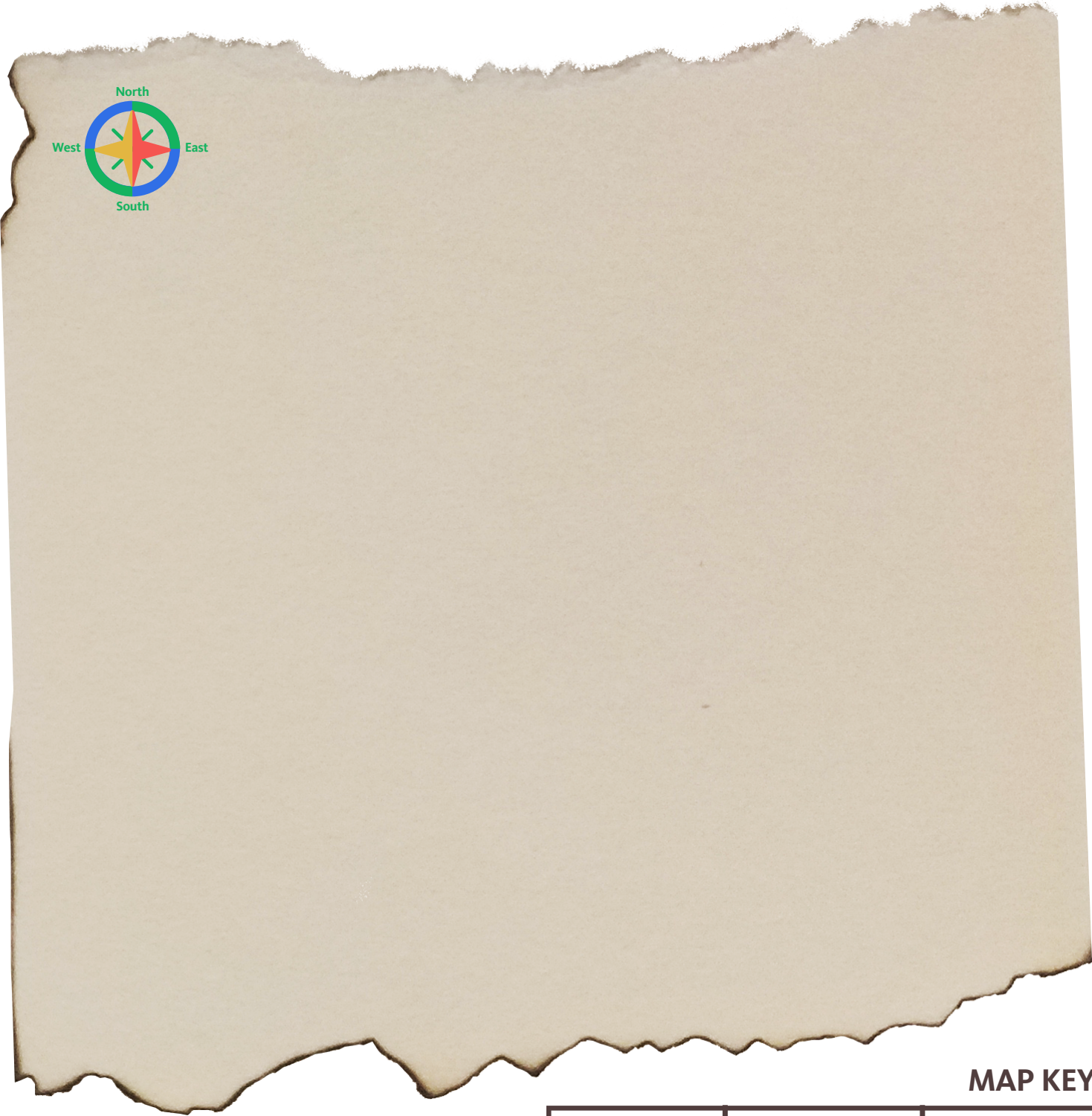

## QUICK TIPS

- When taking a walk, instead of looking straight ahead, look up, down, or side to side. What do you see that you wouldn't normally notice?
- With your family, take a trip to a neighborhood that you have never visited before!
- Use your five senses to explore the world. Find objects that feel soft, fuzzy, or smooth. Taste foods that are sweet, sour, or salty. Listen for different sounds outside your window.



# EXPLORE BY DRAWING A MAP

Draw a map below! You can draw a map of a made-up world or you can draw a map of your neighborhood. Your map key should include pictures or symbols that show important places or details on your map. For example, triangles on your map could mean mountains.



MAP KEY

PICTURE OR  
SYMBOL

WHAT IT  
MEANS




## EXPLORE BY TAKING A MINDFUL WALK IN THE PARK

Moving slowly through nature can teach us new things about our environment and our senses. EXPLORE your neighborhood park with your family, and see what leaves of different shapes and colors you can collect and take home.

**Trace one of the leaves here.**

### CHALLENGE

Can you sort your leaves by size? Can you sort your leaves by color?

Leaves come in all colors! Fill in the boxes below with all the colors you see.

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What does your leaf feel like? Check the boxes.

<input type="checkbox"/> Smooth	<input type="checkbox"/> Crunchy
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough	<input type="checkbox"/> Soft

What other words would you use to describe your leaves? Write on the lines below.

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### LOOK CLOSER

Compare the traced leaf and the rubbing. How are they the same? How are they different?



## EXPLORE BY GOING ON A SCAVENGER HUNT

Take this scavenger hunt on your next walk to school or trip around your neighborhood! How many can you find? See if you can complete an entire vertical, horizontal, or diagonal row.

Pigeon 	Fire Hydrant 	Mailbox 	Apartment 	Pizza Place 
Playground 	Squirrel 	Fire Truck 	Bus Stop 	Food Truck 
Skateboard 	Garbage Truck 	Free Space! 	Bicycle 	Leaves 
Dog 	Library 	Train Station 	Basketball 	Statue 
Fountain 	Tall Tree 	Bridge 	Taxi 	Traffic Light 

**What were you surprised to see on your scavenger hunt today?**

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# NYPL After School

# INVESTIGATE



On the next few pages you'll find tips, books we love, and activities all about investigating. Investigating means looking closely at something in order to learn something new, solve a problem, or answer a question.

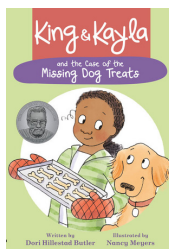
## BOOKS WE LOVE

These books are some of our favorites about investigations and investigating. To check them out, place a hold online at [nypl.org](https://nypl.org) or call Ask NYPL (917-275-6975). If you are at a branch, ask a librarian how to place a hold. Books marked with a  are available as e-books.



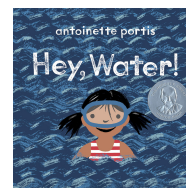
### **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind**

by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer, illus. by Elizabeth Zunon



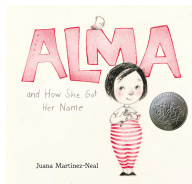
### **King & Kayla and the Case of the Missing Dog Treats**

by Dori Hillestad Butler, illus. by Nancy Meyers



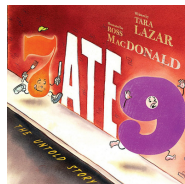
### **Hey, Water!**

by Antoinette Portis



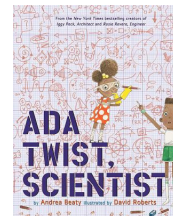
### **Alma and How She Got Her Name**

by Juana Martinez-Neal



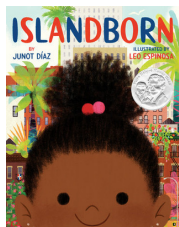
### **7 Ate 9: The Untold Story**

by Tara Lazar, illus. by Ross MacDonald



### **Ada Twist, Scientist**

by Andrea Beaty, illus. by David Roberts



### **Islandborn**

by Junot Díaz, illus. by Leo Espinosa



### **Over and Under the Pond**

by Kate Messner, illus. by Christopher Silas Neal



### **InvestiGATORS**

by John Patrick Green



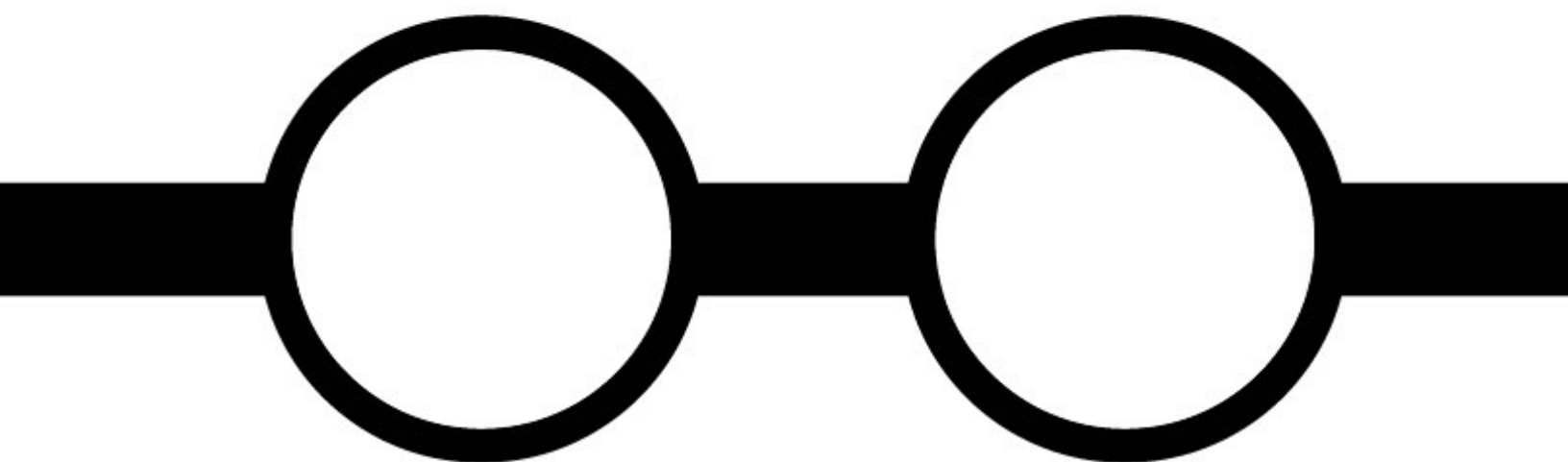
## QUICK TIPS

- Caregivers: Help your child investigate by prompting them to observe the world around them. Ask questions such as “What do you notice?” and “What are you wondering?”
- Use materials around you to conduct simple experiments. Here are two ideas: 1) How long does it take a banana to ripen? What if it's in the refrigerator? 2) Test out different household objects in your sink to see if they sink or float.

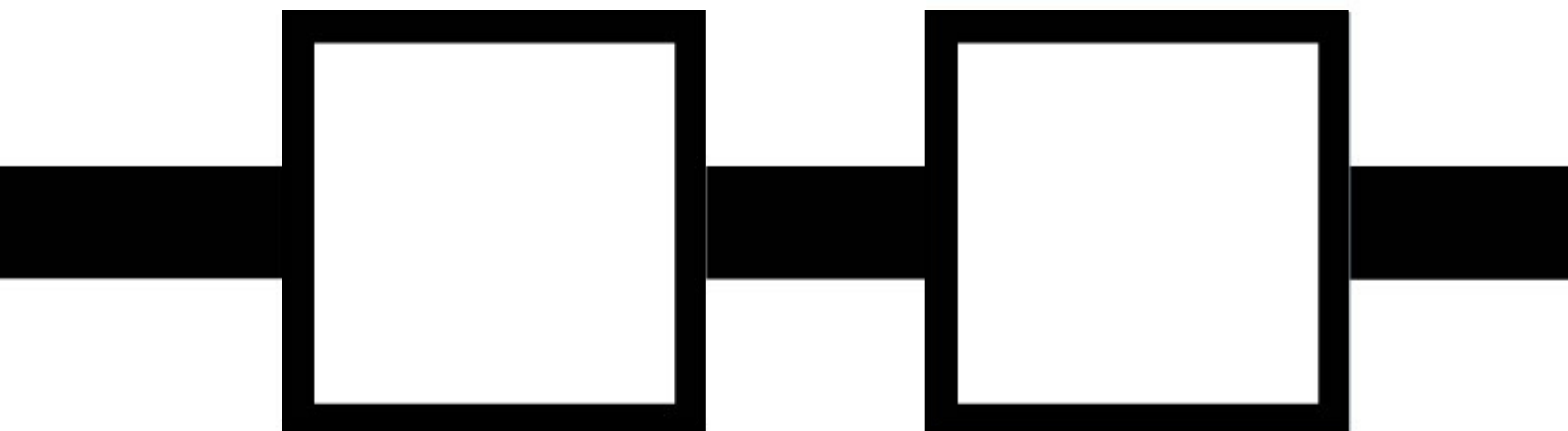
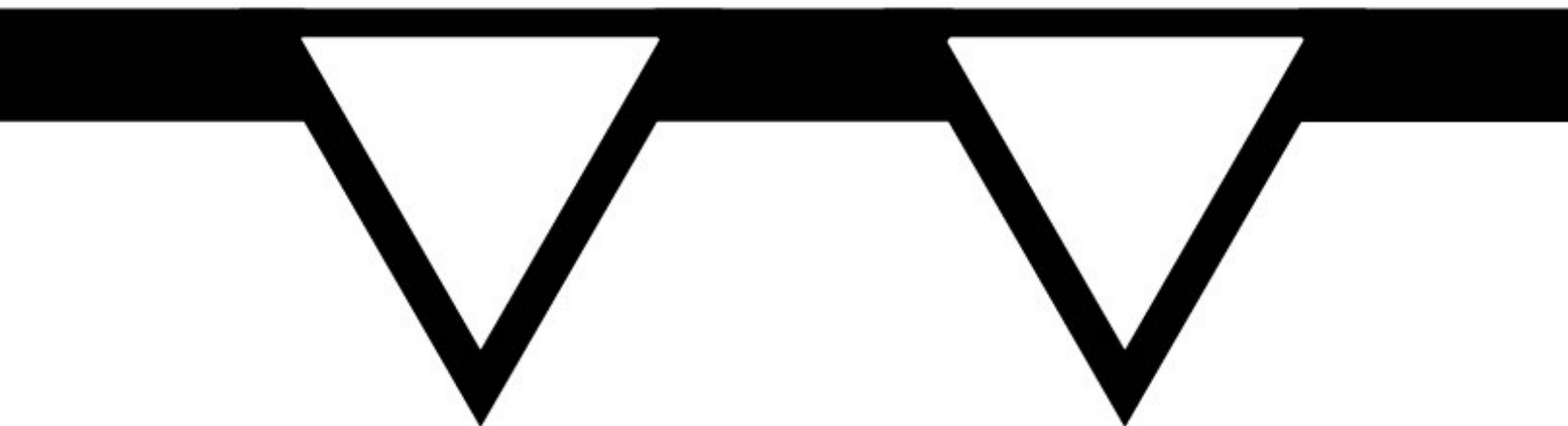
## INVESTIGATE SHAPES AS A SHAPE DETECTIVE

Everything around us is made of shapes! Sometimes shapes are easy to see and sometimes they aren't—good thing NYPL has provided you with your very own investigator glasses!

Cut out the investigator glasses and the arms on the next page. Glue the arms to the frames and then fold the glasses' arms so that they sit on your ears. (Note: glue or tape popsicle sticks or unsharpened pencils to the arms for a sturdier frame.)



Cut out each of the frames following the black lines. Remember to cut the inside of the frames out. You may need an adult to help you!





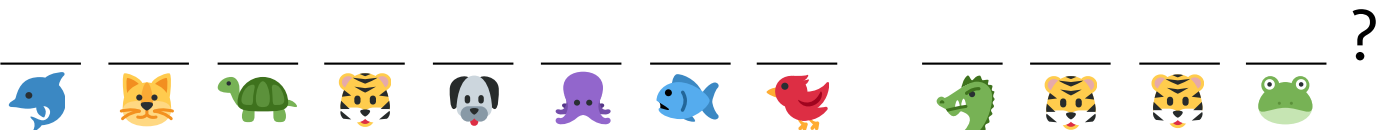
Look for objects inside or outside your house that match your glasses. How many objects of each shape can you find? Once you have found and collected your shapes, it is time to sort them. Try sorting by color, weight, big to small, or small to big.

Take it to the next level by identifying your objects as either polygons (shapes made up of straight lines only) or non-polygons. Then try recreating some of the shapes you found using household materials. For example, you can use straws or toothpicks for the edges and marshmallows for the vertices (or corners).

## INVESTIGATE AND SOLVE A SECRET CODE

Use the code key below to help you solve the mystery question. Then answer the question!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



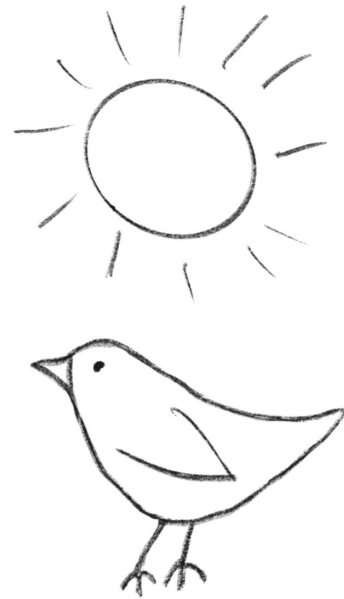
Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus Activity!** Get another sheet of paper and come up with your own secret code. Then write messages to your friends and family!

## INVESTIGATE LIVING AND NONLIVING THINGS

Look all around you. What is living or nonliving in your world? You can tell if something is alive by asking yourself a few questions: Does it need food or water? Does it breathe? Can it move by itself? Does it grow or change? Does it reproduce? If yes, it's alive!

 **Color in the examples of living things in green. Color the nonliving examples in red.**



 **Now it's your turn. Find your own examples and put them in this chart.**

ITEM	LIVING OR NONLIVING?	HOW DO YOU KNOW?

 **Bonus Activity! Tell or write a story where something that's nonliving comes to life.**







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