



PLACED  
ACADEMY

# Creative Activity Prompts

# Guerilla Gardening

**Make seed bombs using the materials supplied in the box.**

1. mix together the seeds with the compost and the clay powder
2. slowly mix in water with your hands until things start to stick together
3. roll the mixture into little balls
4. leave to dry in a sunny spot

**Find a place to plant your seed bombs.**

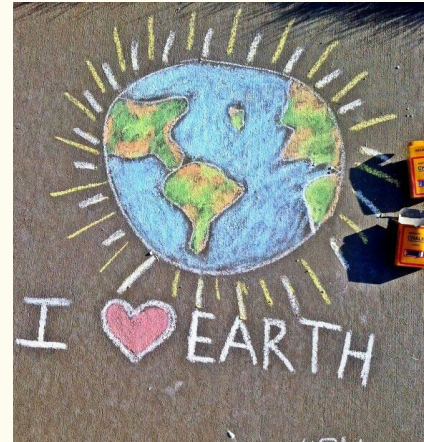
Use the reflection pages at the back of the booklet to think about your motives. What made you choose this place? How did it make you feel when you planted it? What other guerilla gardening projects could be attempted in your neighbourhood in the future?



# Guerilla Artwork

Think of an important environmental message or slogan and write it in the box below:

**CHALLENGE:** Use your chalk to write it in a place where someone will see it. Which place did you choose? How did it make you feel?



# Model-Making

Consider what a house, shop, or school of the future might look like. What features might it have? What might people need these buildings to do in the future that they don't do in the present? What might they require to cope with future needs? List some key features or design ideas opposite:

**Now make your model out of recycled materials or your material packs.**

If your building was to be built in real life, how could they be built in a sustainable way that is good for both people and the environment? Use the reflection pages at the back of the booklet.



# Upcycle

Find an old, unused object to up-cycle. Have you kept its original use or have you transformed it into something else? How did you come up with your idea? Could it be repeated with other similar objects?



# Land Art

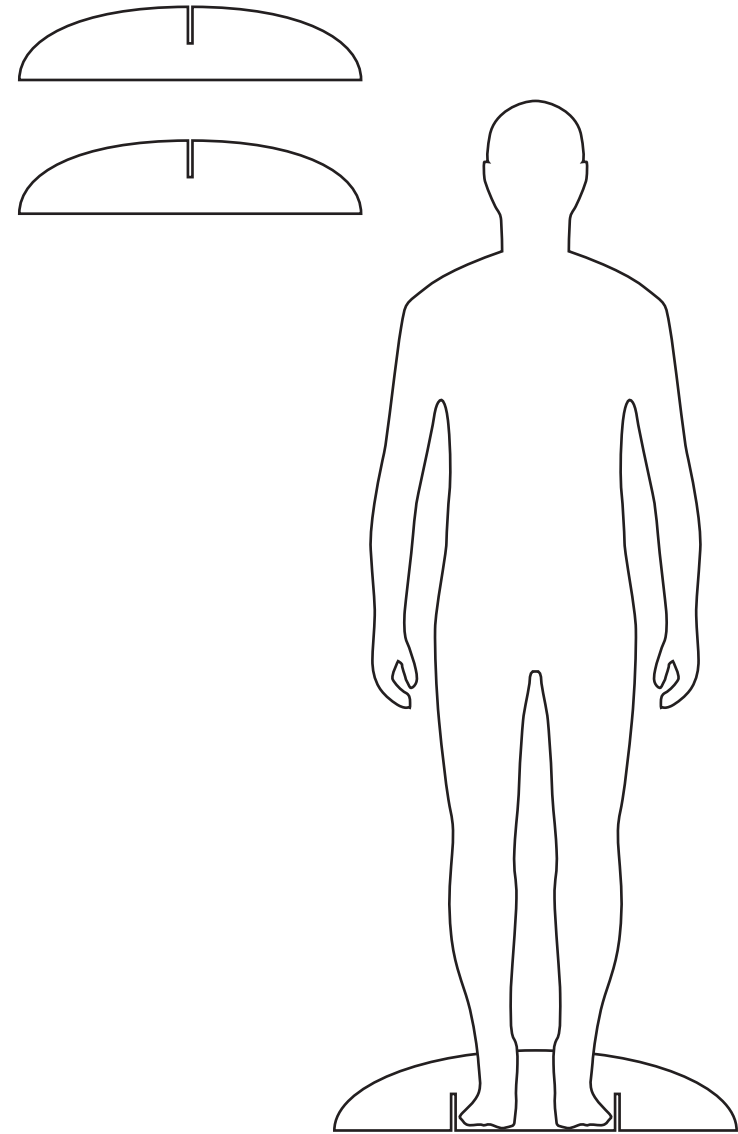
Land art is art made from natural materials. Look at the works of Andy Goldsworthy or Robert Smithson. Make a piece of land art from materials in your garden or park. Photograph it. Is there something you were trying to bring to our attention through your artwork?





# Paper Dolls

- Cut-out and give your little figure a personality. The small pieces slot into the base to make a stand.
- Take a photo of your figure in an unpleasant environment from your local area.
- Then take a photo of them in a pleasant environment in your local area.
- Compare the two photos. What's different about them? Are you noticing differences in the environments that you haven't before? Write a list of how you could improve the environment in the reflection pages at the back of the booklet.
- What would your figure think about the area? Could you make them a speech bubble to express this?



## Automatic Writing

Find a space in the environment. Write for 10 minutes about what you see, smell, hear and experience here. You are not allowed to cross out or edit any of your writing in this 10 minutes. This is about letting go of perfection.

Write faster than you can think, this is a writing sprint challenge! If you get stuck with what to say, keep writing the last word you wrote until new words come.

Give yourself an hour off and then return to and read it later. What do you think of what you wrote?



## Automatic Drawing

Draw something interesting in your local environment without taking your pen off the paper. Just one single line from start to finish.

Now you've studied the object you're drawing, close your eyes and draw it from memory.

Now draw it again but only using your opposite hand.

Which of the drawings is your favourite? Reflect upon this in the pages at the back of the booklet.



## Metaphorical Me: Building

Complete the sentences below:

If I was a building, my surroundings would be:

My style and/or age would be:

I would be made of:

To get to me, you'd have to walk past:

To one side of me would be:

To the other side would be:

From the front door, you'd be able to see:

I would often be visited by:

Look back at your answers. Could you draw this building made of you?

## Metaphorical Me: Landscape

Complete the sentences below:

If I was a landscape, the main feature would be:

In front of me there would be:

This many people would live in me:

You would be able to hear:

The weather would always be:

In the air, you would be able to smell:

In the distance, you could see:

At night, you'd be able to see:

Look back at your answers. Could you draw this landscape made of you?

## Sense of Place

Think of somewhere you've been that's made an impression of you like a train station, home, park, or similar. You could have been there many times or only once.

Write lists of specific details of that place: sights, sounds, tastes, feels, memories. Be descriptive, evocative, and expressive.

Take your lists and structure them into a piece of free verse or a non-rhyming poem.

**CHALLENGE:** read or send your poem to someone else who knows that place. Did they agree with what you remembered?



## Only the Essentials

Find a view or an interesting object that you'd be happy to draw, and spend half an hour drawing it.

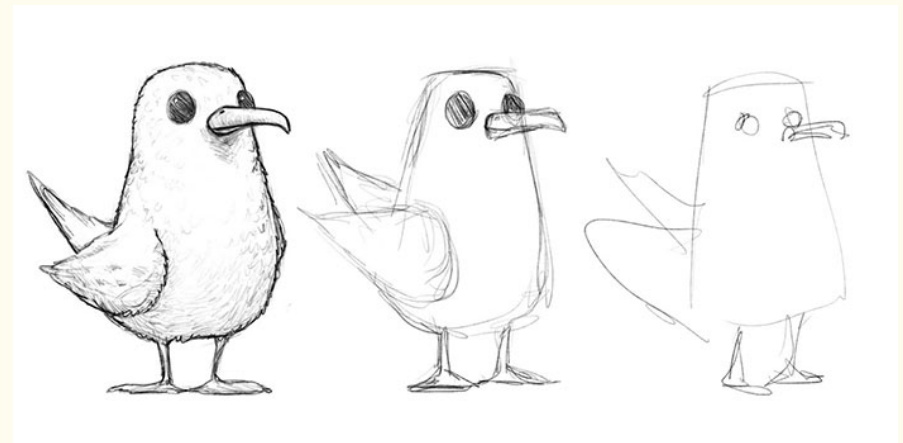
Now give yourself a break.

Then draw the same view or object, but only give yourself ten minutes.

Then do the same again but only giving yourself one minute.

Then just ten seconds. Be strict with yourself!

Which lines did you focus on when your time was limited? How did you decide which information was essential? Use the reflection pages at the back of the booklet to compare your drawings.





# Skywriter

Think of an important environmental message or slogan that you could get a plane to write in the sky and write it in the box below:



**CHALLENGE:** How could you make a version of this somehow? Write with tippex on a photograph? Take a picture of some letters stuck on a window?



# Seat Design

Sketch a design for a seating area made of recycled materials.

Who do you imagine the users would be? What would the seat be made of? Would the seat be for a specific location or could it be anywhere?

What conversations would you be encouraging to happen? Use the reflection pages at the back of the booklet.



## Filling in the Collage

Cut or rip some pictures out of magazines or newspapers and stick them down onto paper. Try to cut around objects rather than just cutting the whole rectangular photograph out.

Look at the composition you've made and look at the white space between the images you've stuck down.

Now use those images as starting points, and imagine what would be happening between them. Do drawings that extend from the collage images to fill in the gaps and complete the scene.

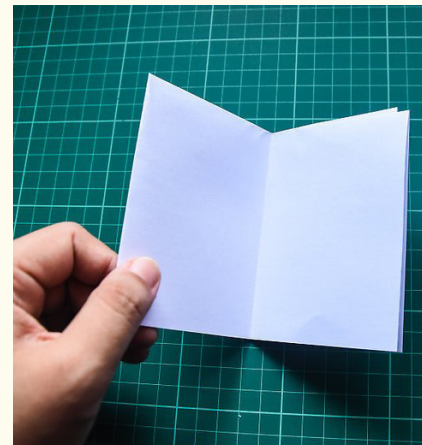


## Booklet: Preparation

In the central page of this document you will find a template and instructions for how to make a booklet out of an A4 piece of paper.

We've provided guides so that the central page itself can be made into one of these booklets if you wish, but you may find it more useful to follow the instructions with another piece of paper, or to photocopy the original so you can make as many booklets as you want.

There are lots of great activities and tasks you can do with one of these booklets, as you will see over the next few pages...



# Booklet: Zine

A zine is a small magazine created by one person or a group of collaborators. They can be about anything or nothing, and they benefit from the 'do-it-yourself' approach.

## Make a zine!

Take the zine template from this booklet and cut and fold it following the instructions. Use writing and drawing to create your zine.

You could hand write or draw it, print out text and images and stick in, or use materials from newspapers or magazines. Search for methods for zine making to try.

Once you've made one zine you could then photocopy it to make more. Congratulations, you're now a self-publisher!



**CHALLENGE:** Is there a local library or friendly shop that would be happy to keep your zines on the counter for you? Or would you distribute them selectively?

If you're struggling for a topic to do your zine about, don't worry! They can be about anything you want. Most of the other creative prompts in this booklet would work as zine topics, and all of the writing prompts on the next page definitely would. The choice is yours!

They don't have to be perfect, they just have to be made by you.





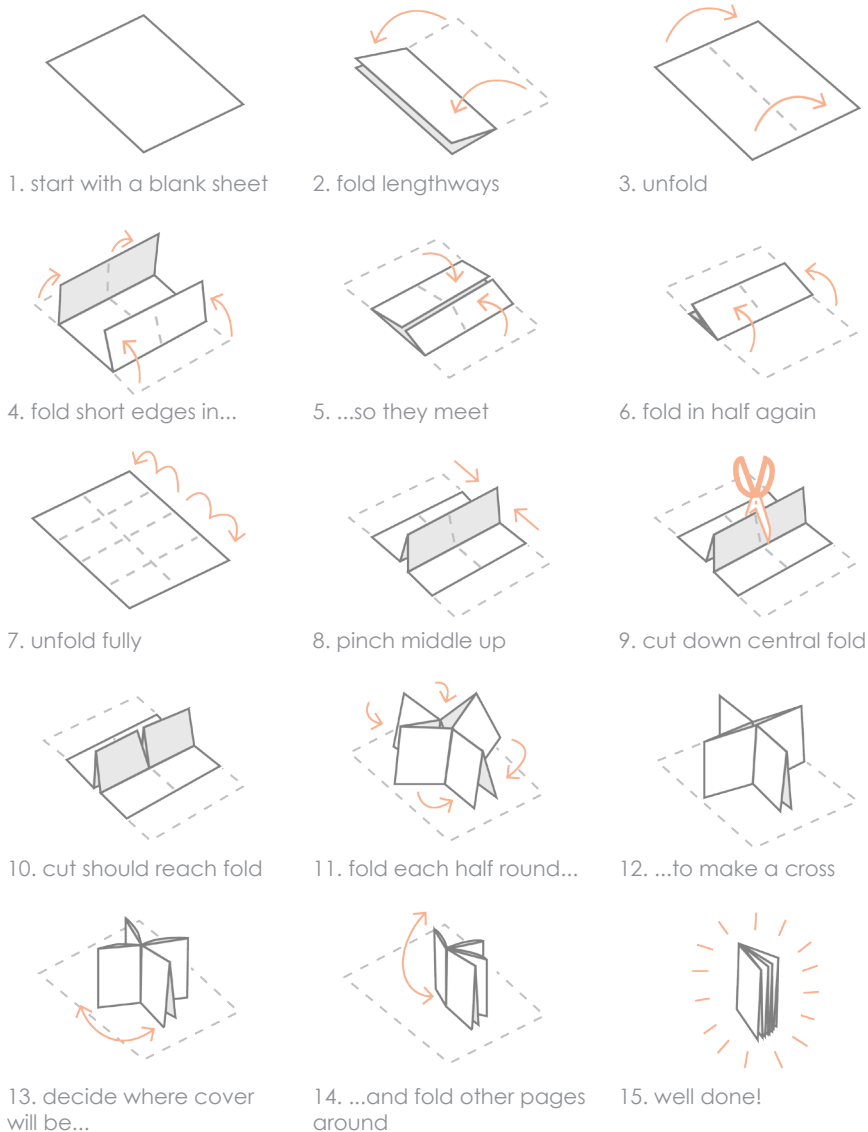
# Booklet: Writing Prompts

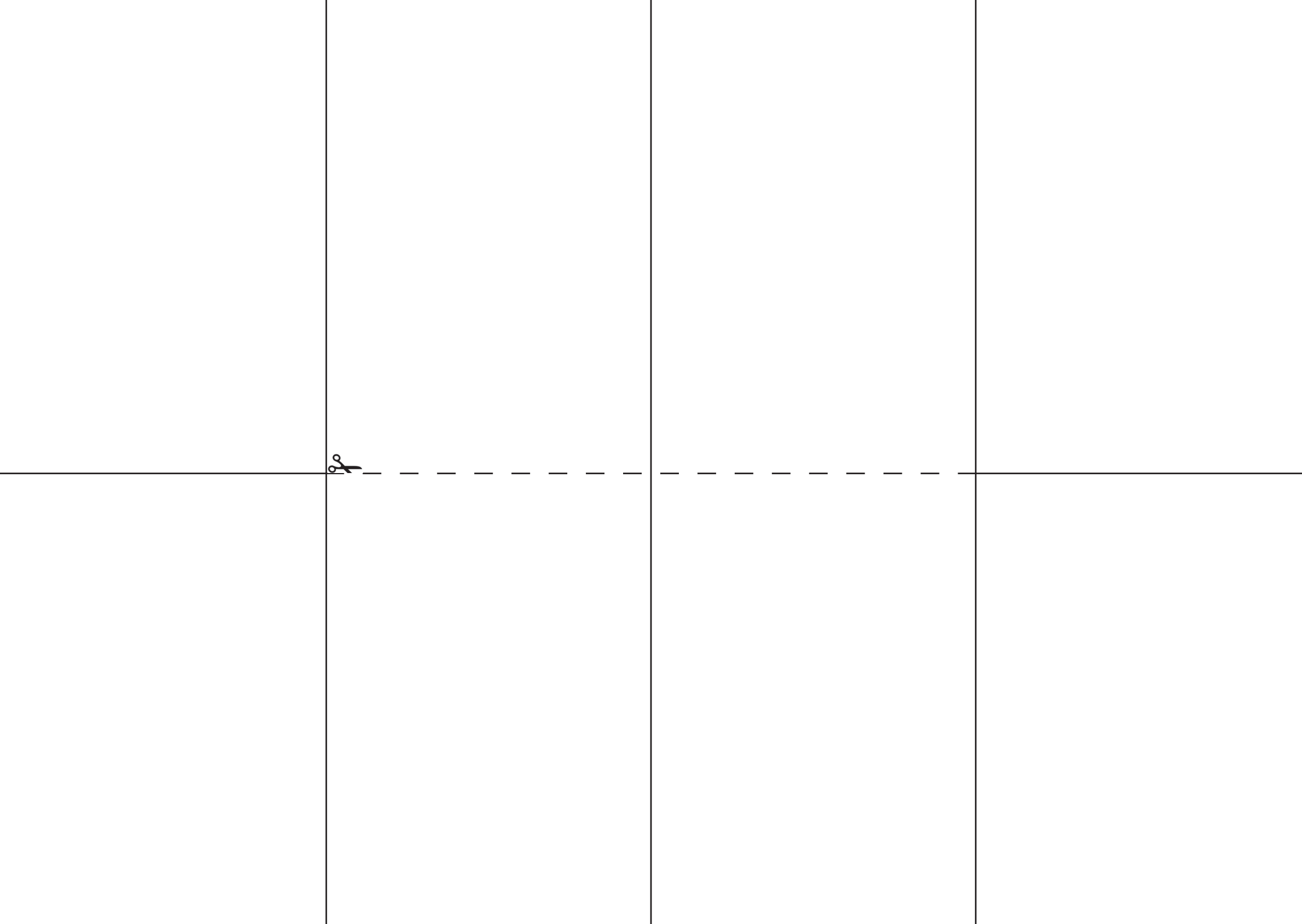
If you're struggling to think of some zine topics, here are some ideas and prompts about the environment that might help you kick things off:

- pretend to be someone else seeing this planet for the first time
- cut seven sentences out of newspapers and write a story about the environment where each page starts with one of them
- make a field guide to your local area
- what is your personal environmental manifesto?
- imagine your penpal from the other side of the world comes to visit and they are **very** keen on their environmental causes - what do you do with them for a week?
- research something new to you and record it as you discover new things
- bee-boosting ideas
- introduce someone to some new facts and ideas
- re-mix the contents of a previous booklet you've made
- get people to ask you questions
- document a conversation
- challenge a response from someone important about the environment
- set someone a challenge to improve their environment
- calls to action
- curate your own environmental exhibition from scratch
- give yourself an hour - no more, no less - to fill the book front to back with as many environmental tips and small changes as you can.

# Booklet: Folding Instructions

Follow the instructions below to make your mini-booklet. There is a template in the centre page for you pull out and use if you want.







If you fold the piece of paper according to the instructions on the previous two pages, you should get a neat little booklet. Try it on a scrap piece of paper first if you feel like you need to practise.

If you wanted to create your booklet whilst the page is still flat and then fold it afterwards, the format for which page goes where can be seen below, though be careful - if you fold the four 'quarters' in a different direction at Step 8 then you'll get a slightly different layout.

Page 4	Page 3	Page 2	Page 1
Page 5	Page 6	Back Cover	Front Cover

## Place Based Writing Task

Go to or think about a place you already know. Write a short piece of **fiction** that happens in that location.

It doesn't have to have a beginning, middle and end, or even have anything resolved by the end of the story. It could just be one scene.

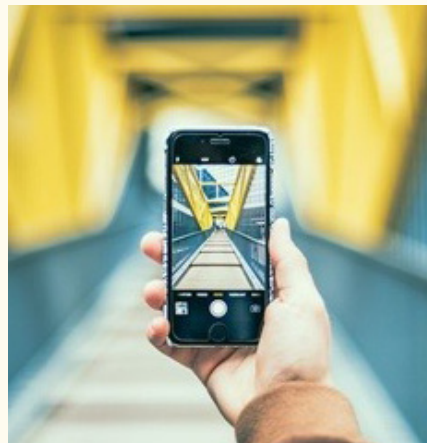
Reflect on what you wrote about in the pages at the end of the booklet. What do you think this says about the location you chose? Was it more likely to contain 'nice' or 'horrible' events?

## Photo a Day

Take one photograph every day. Each photograph has to be taken no more than ten steps from your front door that shows the following:

- Day 1 - green
- Day 2 - space
- Day 3 - building
- Day 4 - texture
- Day 5 - water
- Day 6 - earth
- Day 7 - conversation

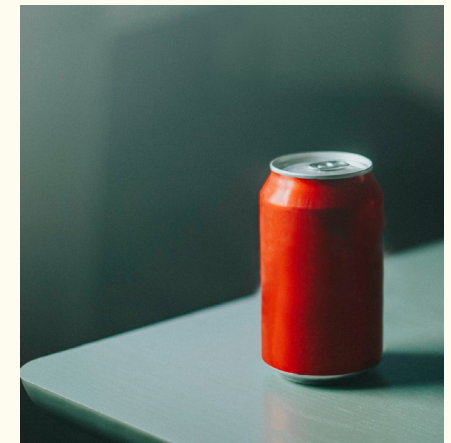
Look back at your photos. Have they revealed something about your area to you that you hadn't noticed before? Use the reflection pages in the back of the booklet.



## Different Perspectives

Choose an object and photograph it from as many different angles as possible. How could you make it look unrecognisable? High up? Low down? Close up? Zoomed out?

What object did you choose and why? Does this object seem different to you now you've seen it from different angles? Has viewing it from these angles changed how you perceive it?



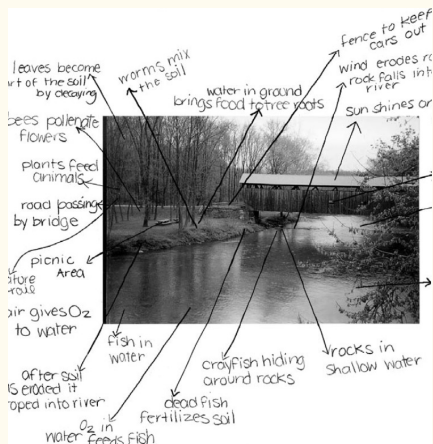
# Improvements

Photograph a 'bad' environment. Annotate onto it what makes it bad.

Photograph a 'good' environment. Annotate onto it what makes it good.

Re-design and draw over the top of the 'bad' environment your ideas on how to improve it. You could do this with pen and paper, or digitally if you would prefer.

What did you find out? Use the pages at the back of the booklet to reflect.



# Audio/Visual Documentary

Make a video of your favourite local environment. Could you give a tour? What if you took different clips at different times of the day? What might you discover?

Alternatively, do the same but just with audio recordings. Soundscapes can be even more powerful than videos. Listen to some radio documentaries for inspiration. What did you find out?



# Car Parking Spaces

Think back to the site analysis task you did in week 1. Now do one for a car park space. Use writing, images and photographs to think about this place and it's surroundings. What are the opportunities and barriers?

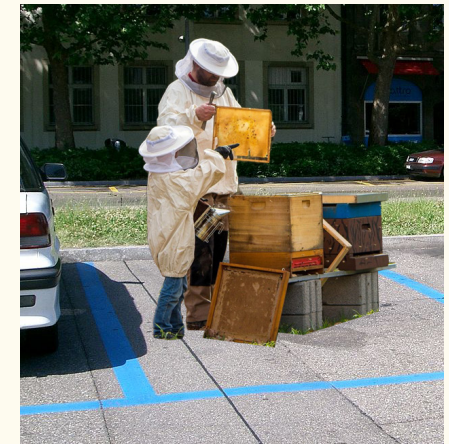
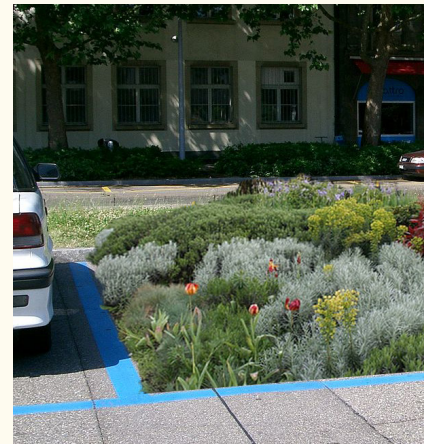
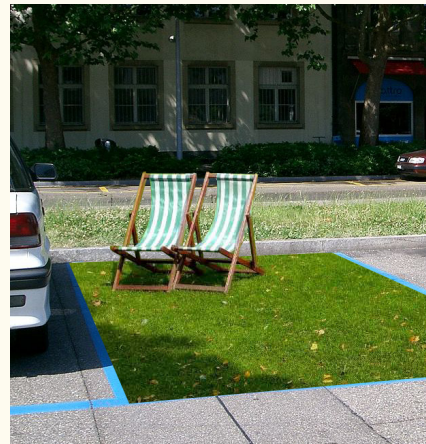
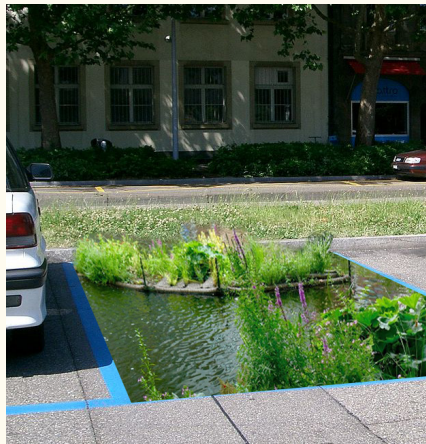
Now imagine that the council have gifted you this parking bay to do what you want with. What might you do with it? Some ideas are on the next page to get you started. Think of it like a mini-design challenge.

Draw your plans. Could you draw them over the photo you took earlier?

**CHALLENGE:** Could you model your ideas?

Could you:

- dig it all up and turn it into a grassy hill to sit on?
- create seating?
- design a bee sanctuary?
- create a community herb garden? Or a proper allotment space?
- dig it all up and make an urban pond?
- let the community use it? What could happen?



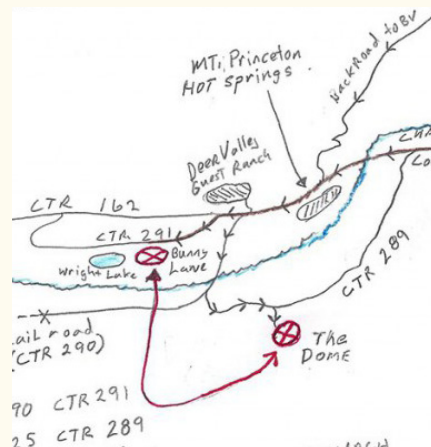
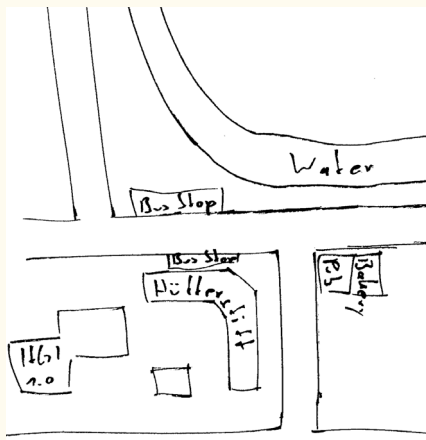
# Mapmaking

Without looking, imagine the journey from your front door to a shop, green area, or place of interest near your house. Somewhere around a ten minute walk away would be ideal.

Draw a simple map and write a guide so someone new could get there and follow that journey. Think about what landmarks or other features you need to highlight.

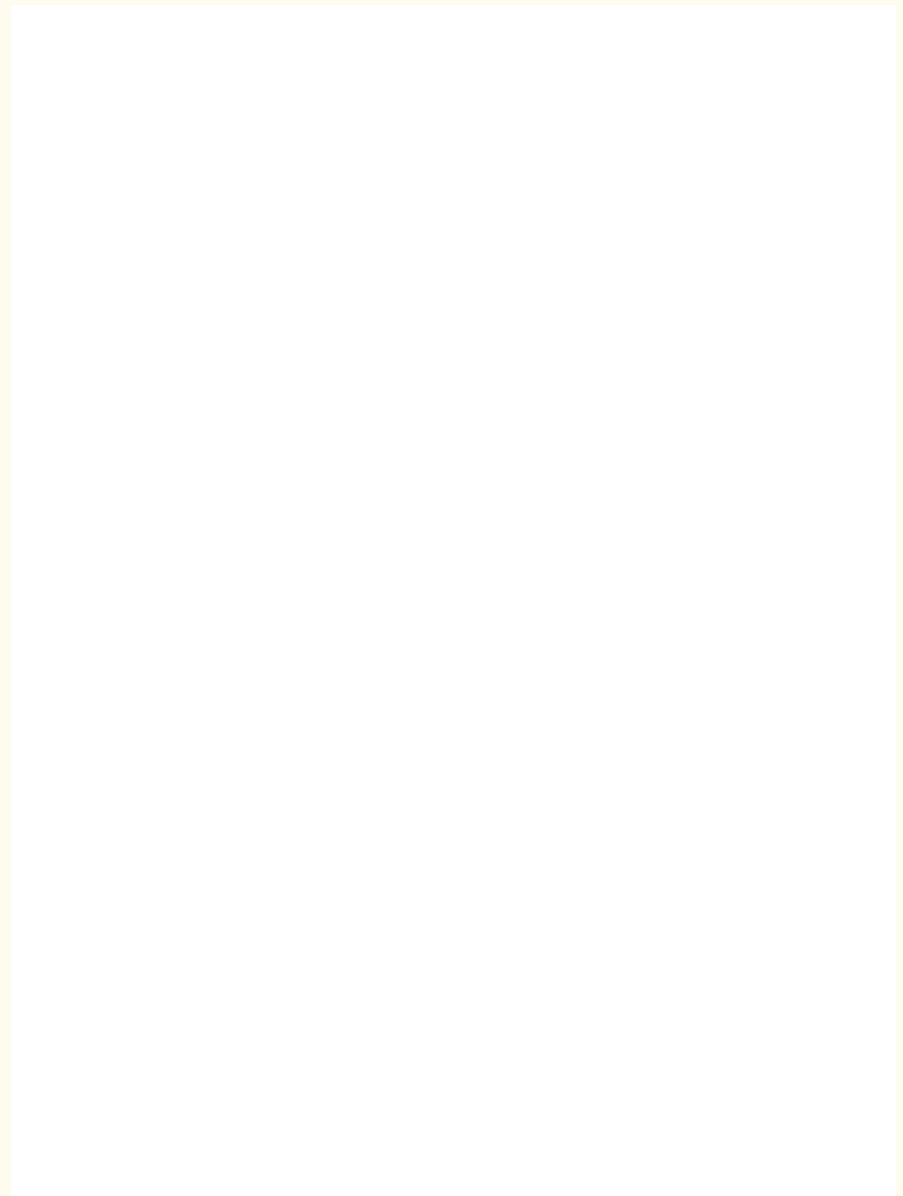
Look back at your map – what do you think the landmarks you chose say about the area you live? Why are they landmarks? What makes them easy to distinguish? Size? Visibility? Or rarity?

**CHALLENGE:** give your map to someone and see if it they can make it to your destination.



# Reflections on Engagement

How would you describe what engagement is?

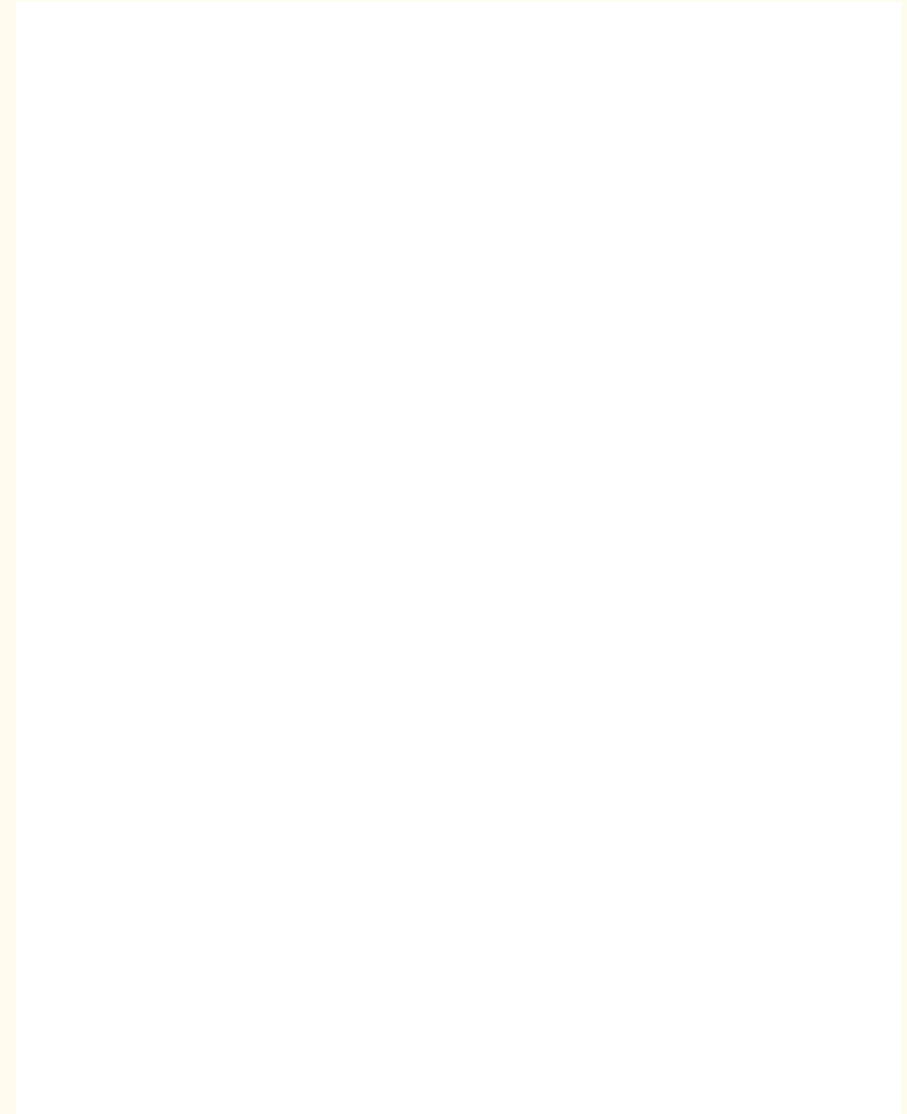




What do you think some of the challenges are with engagement?



What are the types of ways you would engage with an idea? For example, speaking to someone, doing a survey online, going to an event, or something else.



# Reflections

Use the remaining pages in this booklet to write down your reflections on the tasks and prompts elsewhere in this booklet. Remember to write down which task your reflections refer to so you can make sense of them at a later date.

