

Thank you for being an arts volunteer! We hope the Befriender's Arts Toolkit has provided meaningful ways to engage with your beneficiary. For more ideas, please visit www.nac.gov.sg/BAToolkit

Places and Voices of Our Neighbourhood

Mapping stories through the arts

Suggested Duration:
1 hour

Acknowledgements

Activity Designed By
Moses Sia

With Special Thanks To
Boon Lay Youth
Executive Committee

Filos Community
Services Limited

Life Community
Services Society

Lions Befrienders

NTUC Health
Co-operative Limited

Thye Hua Kwan
Moral Charities

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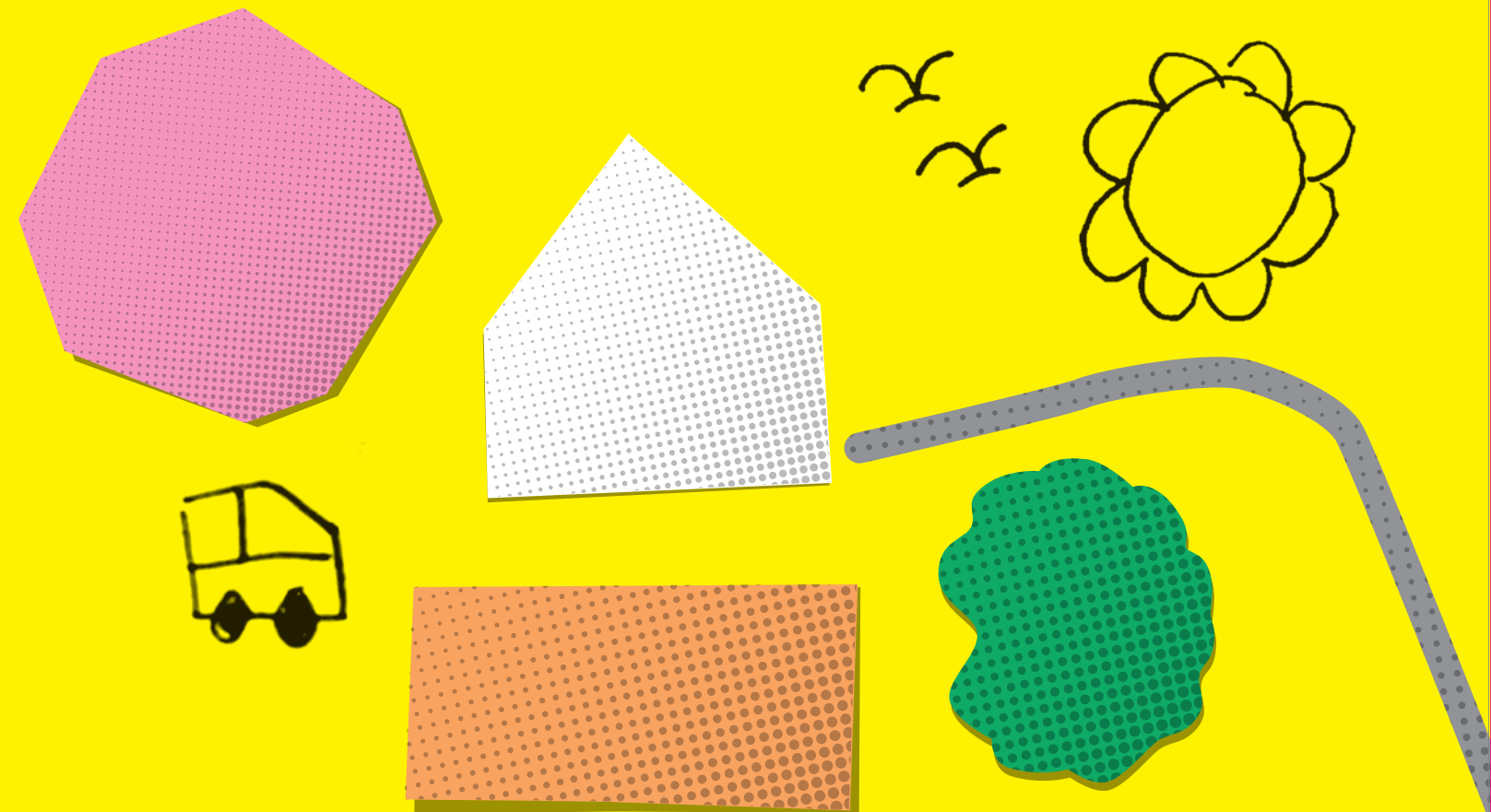
About the National Arts Council

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, our diverse and distinctive arts inspire our people, connect communities and profile Singapore internationally. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions as we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to and through the arts so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives. For more information on the Council's mission and plans, visit www.nac.gov.sg

Find us online
www.nac.gov.sg/BAToolkit



Hashtag us
Use #BAToolkit when you share images, connect with fellow befrienders, or do anything related to our activities!



Dear Befriender,
Engaging in arts-related activities provide opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to come together, share stories and experiences, and form social connections. This Befriender's Arts Toolkit provides befriender volunteers like yourself with simple ideas for art-making activities for home visits. We've designed it to be fun and easy to use, with or without a background in the arts – so that you can focus on engaging the beneficiaries!

—
"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."

- Plato

Places and spaces hold memories and connections that shape who we are, and the communities we belong to.

This activity provides opportunities for you to get to know another person better through the stories they tell as they create a map of their neighbourhoods.

The maps are then brought to life as you introduce digital elements like voice recordings. Throughout the process, remember that it is more important to have a good chat than to make a perfect map. Enjoy getting to know each other!

Key

Materials

You will need:

1. A3-sized coloured paper
2. Small origami paper (around 8cm squares)
3. Glue stick
4. Scissors
5. Markers (different colours)



6. Tablet device (iOS/Android)



7. Suggested app: TinyTap (free app)



Being prepared is the first step to creating a good experience!

Download and install the app on the tablet. An internet connection is not required for the activity, except to install the app and for online sharing.

Signing up for an account (which is free) is optional. However, only registered accounts can upload or share creations online. Remember to share responsibly!

Familiarise yourself with the app beforehand so that you can facilitate the technical steps, allowing the participant to focus on sharing their story.

To view the instructional video with step-by-step guides and tips, visit:

<https://artsforall.sg/resources/toolkit/befrienders-arts-toolkit.aspx>



Step

1

Start a conversation about your neighbourhood

Get to know each other by talking about the places that you frequent in your neighbourhood. Find common topics by asking about their daily activities. Try to remember what the participant shares. It will be helpful in the next steps.

Create a comfortable space for conversation. Find a steady surface in a well-lit spot to start creating your map.



Conversation Tips!

Ask open-ended questions and gently probe to get the conversation going.

Did you go out today (or yesterday)?
Where did you go?

How long have you lived here?

Tell me about the places or things you like.

Where do you usually go when you need to buy something?

Step

2

Select the background for the map

Invite them to create a map of their neighbourhood by offering a selection of coloured A3 paper and small origami paper. Offering choices encourages a sense of ownership.

Step

3

Create the first landmark – the home!

Home is where the heart is and where our stories begin. Guide participants in creating a shape that represents their home using small origami paper.

Show them how they might fold or cut it. Try not to do it for them, so that they get a sense of ownership of the work.

Observe their response to the activity (e.g. ability or physical challenges). If they struggle with using scissors, try to fold or tear the paper instead. Adjust so they can engage in the activity comfortably.



Tip!

Notice their choice of colours. You can chat about the colours they like and why they like them.

Step 4

Add landmarks and features

Fill out the map. Use origami paper to make shapes that represent other landmarks. It's easier to keep them interested if you keep to four landmarks or less, within 20 minutes.

Make the map more interesting by adding details like roads and paths using coloured markers.

Keep the conversation flowing. (Refer to Step 1)

Once you have finished mapping the landmarks, see if the participant is able and willing to continue. If they are tired or restless, you can start on the second half another time. Just be sure to capture a photo of the map before you go!



Tip!

Get creative!

Try different materials, for example use common everyday items like a hair clip to symbolise a hair salon or a toy bus to represent a bus stop.

Be focused!

Keep the tablet out of sight until it is required so they can stay focused on creating the map.

Step 5

Take a photo of the map

Get ready to take a photo of the map by starting the TinyTap app on the tablet.

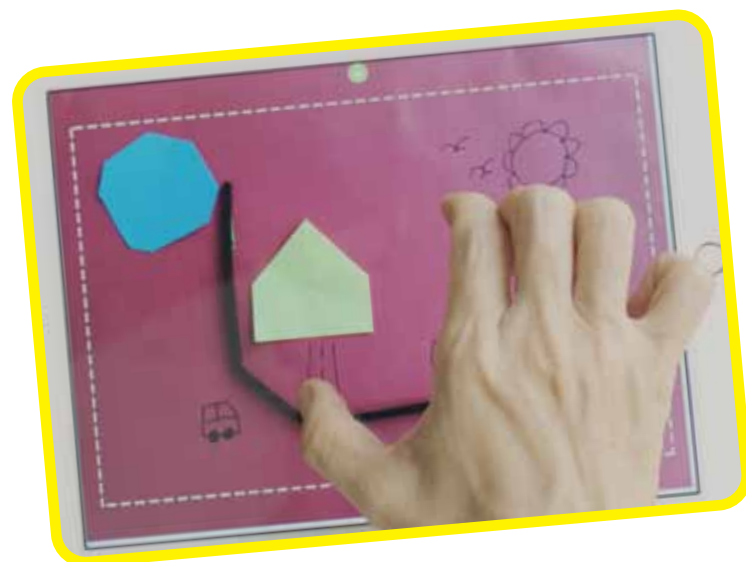
Tap on "Create" or "+" to begin.



Tap on the Camera icon:

- choose "Camera" to take a photo of the map, or
- choose "Albums" to search for the picture (if you had photographed the map previously).

Resize the photo (use two fingers) to fit the screen.



Conversation Tips!

Not sure what to say? Here are some questions to get things going:

Tell me more about this place.

What do you like about the place?

What can we see at this place?

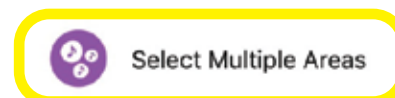
Why do you go to this place?

Who do you meet in this neighbourhood?

Step 6

Tell the story of your neighbourhood

Tap on "Select Multiple Areas" on the app to start recording audio stories of the places on the map.



Demonstrate the recording process starting with the home. Invite them to say something about their home. Even something simple like "This is my home" will do, in the language of their choice.

Once done with the first landmark, encourage them to pick the next. If they are willing, invite them to try circling and recording on their own.

Here's how you can record an audio story:

Use your finger to trace a circle around the landmark and tap on "+" to bring up the record button.



Tap on "Record Tip" to start recording.



When done, tap on "Play" to listen to the recording.

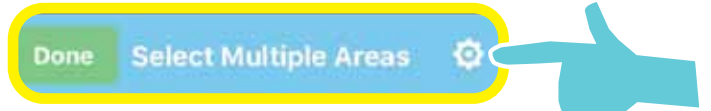


Re-record if need be, tap on "Clear Recording" and repeat steps to make a new recording.

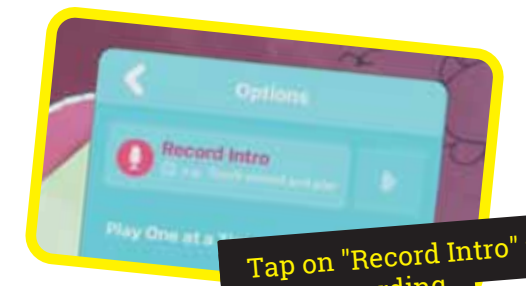
Step 7

Record an introduction

Now that all the landmarks are paired with an audio recording, it's time to wrap up the activity by recording an introduction (tap on the Cogwheel icon).



Ask your participant to introduce themselves and their neighbourhood. For example, "Hello, I am Mdm Lim and I live in Chai Chee." Or "Welcome to Bukit Batok. This is where I live." Once they are satisfied, tap "Done".



Tap on "Record Intro" to start recording.

Step 8

Masterpiece complete!

The interactive map is now ready! Invite the participant to experience their creation by tapping on the "Play" button to start. Congratulate them on a job well done and thank them for sharing their stories with you.



Tip!

Be thoughtful when you comment on how the map looks. Remember to praise and commend the effort and stories too.