

Branch Out World



Picture Book Explorers

Black Dog

The *Picture Book Explores* series is written primarily for use by Home Educating families but it will be useful for any parent who wishes to support their child's learning whether they attend school or not. The intended age range is approximately 5 to 10 years but can easily be adapted for older or younger siblings accordingly. This helps to keep Home Education a truly family experience.

This PDF file refers to a single male child throughout. I use this convention merely because it is a shorter and easier way to write this material. It by no means is meant to imply that this material is aimed at boys only, or at one child families. It's not. It's equally as relevant to girls as to boys and can be used in family groups of siblings of mixed ages and abilities with differing interests.

copyright © **Branch Out World**

The purchaser has permission to print enough copies for personal use only. If used in schools, a teacher may print a copy for use in their own classroom. Permission is not granted for school-wide use. Please contact branchoutworld@hotmail.co.uk if you wish to make a bulk purchase. This material is not to be shared digitally. Thank you.
All rights reserved. Not for resale.

This material is not endorsed either by the author or the publisher of the picture book being explored. This unit is put together in the hope that your family will enjoy the learning journey that the picture book inspires.

Table of Contents

<u>Introduction-----</u>	<u>4</u>
Before You Start	
How to Record Your Child's Work	
Daily sections	
Extra supplies you Might Need	
<u>Day 1 - Exploring the Setting-----</u>	<u>8</u>
Planting the Explorers flag	
Map work and flag	
Make a tourist poster of Somerset	
Find out about the Quantock Hills	
Timeline	
<u>Day 2 - Exploring the Words-----</u>	<u>10</u>
About the author	
Themes	
Narration	
Rhyme Game	
Explore Folk Lore	
<u>Day 3 - Exploring the Pictures-----</u>	<u>12</u>
About the artist	
Picture study	
Egg tempera	
Principles of design - contrast in art	
<u>Day 4 - Exploring Science-----</u>	<u>13</u>
British garden birds	
Snow science	
<u>Day 5 - Exploring Maths, Crafts & More-----</u>	<u>15</u>
Snowflake Symmetry	
Exploring Shrinkage	
Regional Recipes	
More Ideas	
Places to visit	
Bibliography	
<u>Appendix-----</u>	<u>19</u>
Maps	
Flags	
Timeline Fact	
Sheets Activity	
Sheets	

Picture Book Explorers are designed to encourage the love of learning in children by making use of one of the most treasured family times - sharing a book. Reading aloud to children brings a closeness between parent and child that helps to enhance the learning experience, making children more receptive and eager to learn. Learning then becomes something to look forward to and enjoy - a time of making beautiful memories for the future.

The premise is a simple one. A particular picture book is read every day for five days and then followed up with activities chosen from the suggested selection. There are five different sections of activities, one for each day that you read the book. Preferably, this will take place on five consecutive days, but, if this is not possible, your child will still remain familiar with the story and get to know it in more depth because you read the book every time you sit down to explore together. You may find you have to extend the time frame for some reason, perhaps because of family commitments, or perhaps because your child has shown a particular interest in one, or more, aspects of the exploration. If this is the case, you may want to take a break from the book for a day or two while you look at certain topics in more detail, or, alternatively, you can make a note of your child's interests so that when you have finished the five sections, you and your child can **Branch Out** into further explorations of your own.

For a young child, one activity in each section may be enough, or if you have more than one child, they may each want to complete a different activity. An older child may want to do all the suggested activities in a section. Follow your child's lead in this, don't try to force him to do everything in each section if he doesn't want to. Remember, the aim is to maintain a love of learning.

Don't worry if you don't do all the activities in your five days of reading the book, you can explore each book again and again, just make sure you keep a copy of this file.

A word of warning - from personal experience, keep up the momentum as best as you can. Too long a break during an exploration can result in your child's loss of interest in that particular book. If this happens, it may be best to leave it for a few weeks then come back to it, starting by reviewing briefly any of the completed sections again.

Before you start

- Get a library ticket
- Buy/print a map of the British Isles
- Collect magazine/newspaper photos of places of interest in the UK (travel brochures are good for this)
- Decide how you want to preserve a record of your child's written/art work and buy the appropriate stationery (see below)
- Start collecting modelling & art materials, glue, paint, plasticine etc

How to record your child's work

You may want to keep a record of your child's learning journey with this pack. This can be done in a number of ways, depending on how you use *Picture Book Explorers*

- If your explorations are mainly discussion-based, you can keep a diary or blog of the topics you've discussed and the activities you've done together
- If you are only going to use *Picture Book Explorers* as a one-off, or very occasionally, a lapbook may be a fun way for your child to keep a log of individual exploration journeys.
- Poster-making is another effective way of recording explorations. You can add to this as part of your daily activities, or assemble the poster at the end of the exploration.
- If you are going to work your way through a number of units, it may be worth keeping a Logbook of your explorations in a scrapbook or
- on A4 paper kept in a ring-binder, either with 5 subject dividers (one for each day), or with dividers for each book you explore. You will also need page protectors, hole re-enforcers and card-stock.
- An older child may like a spiral-bound notebook to use as a Logbook, with five colour-coded subject sections, again, one for each day. (I've bought these in pound-shops and at Lidl).
- Take PLENTY of photos, these can be added to any of the above Logbooks
- Be your child's scribe when necessary. If the activities call for written work, let your child dictate his answers to you, ensuring that you insert the appropriate punctuation. For younger children, or those not yet writing independently, this can be put straight into his logbook. Your older child may want to copy it out again for himself, either by hand or using a computer, before putting it in his Logbook. If older children are doing their own writing, encourage them to write their answers out in rough so that they can concentrate more on the content first, spelling and punctuation later. Again, they can also use a computer or handwrite their final copy.

Before you start exploring

- Read through the weeks suggested activities
- Decide which activities you want to do with your child and gather all the necessary materials
- Collect together any go-along books/CDs/DVDs
- Gather together any toys/games/go-alongs which may be relevant to the story and put them in a container that is kept just for explorations.

The Daily Sections

Each exploration is divided into five sections, each section covers different subject areas.

- *Day 1 - Exploring the Setting* - when and where

This section focuses on history and geography of the setting.

- *Day 2 - Exploring the Words*

This section looks at themes, literary devices and grammar, as well as providing opportunities for creative writing.

- *Day 3 - Exploring the Pictures*

This section looks at the illustrations in more detail and suggests ways for your child to create their own artwork.

- *Day 4 - Exploring Science*

This section looks at scientific topics that come up in the book - from animal studies to hands-on experiments.

- *Day 5 - Exploring Maths, Crafts and More*

Finally, in this section, your child will lightly touch on maths activities in a way that relates to the story, when applicable. Maths will also often come into the suggested craft activities and recipes that are intended to bring a fun ending to your exploration journey.

Day 1 -Exploring the Setting

Planting the Flag

The story is based on a Somerset legend. Somerset is a county in the south-west of England. On a globe or world map, help your child find England. On your map of the British Isles, help your child find Somerset and stick the Explorer's flag on the county with blu-tack (see [p. 22](#))The county is known for its strong cider, beautiful countryside, Glastonbury festival and its links to King Arthur.

Map work and Flags

Print out the county flag on [p. 22](#) and choose a map from [pp 19 - 21](#). Colour in the flag as indicated. Mark the Quantock Hills in green. Colour the sea and rivers blue. Outline the county in orange. The map can either go straight into the Logbook or your child may want to use it for the next activity.

Make a tourist poster of Somerset

Get a travel brochure of Somerset. Let your child choose pictures in the brochure to cut out and stick onto a larger piece of paper to make a poster about the county. Try and include the Quantock Hills, the coastline and some historic places of interest. What does your child think would interest visitors to the county?

Either stick the poster into the Logbook or photograph it and add the picture instead.

Find out about the Quantock Hills

Older children can research a few facts about the Quantock Hills to add to his poster or Logbook.

There is a short fact sheet on [p. 25](#) to use as a starting point.

When did the story take place?

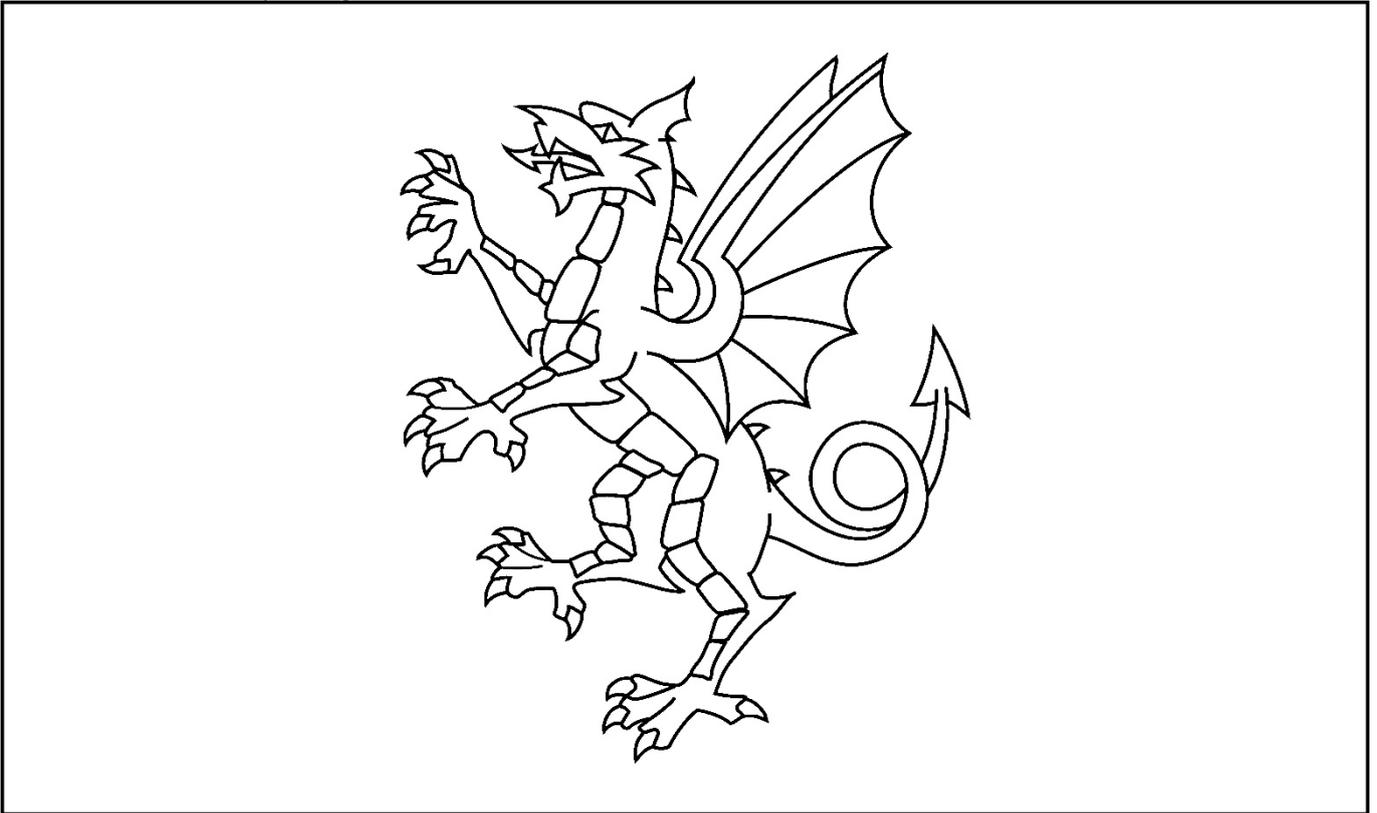
The story isn't set in any specific time-period, although the illustrations suggest a relatively modern setting in a quirky family home.

The arrival of the Black Dog would be a significant event for the Hope Family. Use the timeline to record significant events for your family. The timeline on [p. 23](#) has been left undated so that you can choose the dates range. Use the space provided to write your family name.

There is also space to add British and world events. This is a good opportunity for your older child to do some research.

Flags

Somerset county flag to colour



Explorer's Flag

Cut out and stick on map of British Isles to mark Somerset.



Thank you for purchasing this

Picture Book Explorers

unit by

Branch Out World

I hope you and your child have enjoyed your exploration and learnt a few things on the way.

I am always looking to improve my products to give customers more of what they want. Your feedback is always welcome. My aim is to help you facilitate your child's learning journey in a fun and positive way whilst creating happy memories together.

If you have any questions, or suggestions for future units, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at branchoutworld@hotmail.co.uk

Find us on

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Pinterest](#)

Join other Picture Book Explorers families on [Facebook](#)