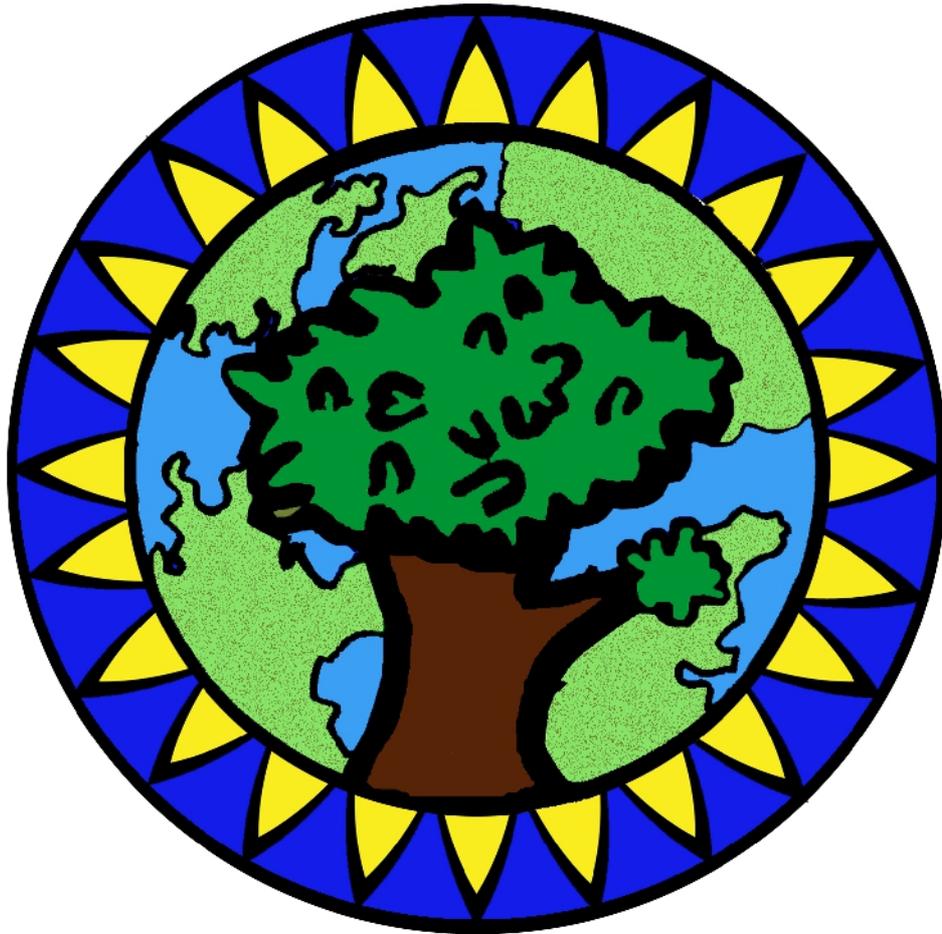


Branch Out World



Picture Book Explorers
Series 1 – The British Isles
The Mousehole Cat

The **Picture Book Explorers** 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 9 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 because it is merely a shorter and easier way to write this material. It is in no way 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.

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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 other families will enjoy the learning journey that the picture book inspires.

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Branch Out World's '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 - hopefully, 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 by activities chosen from a suggested selection. There are five different sections of activities, one for each day 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 as long as you make sure you keep a copy of this file.

A word of warning - from personal experience, keep up the momentum as best 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 briefly revisiting any of the sections you have completed.

Before you start Series 1

- 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 etc.

How to record your child's work

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

- If your explorations are mainly discussion-based, you can keep a diary/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 complete series, 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 rather than for the daily sections. You will also need page protectors, hole re-enforcers and A4 card.
 - 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 or posters or just be used as a reminder for your child.
- 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 punctuation as necessary. 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 first 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 covering different subject areas.

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

This section focuses on history and geography, as well as looking at the themes presented in the book.

- **Day 2 - *Exploring the Words***

This section looks at literary devices and sometimes 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 intended to bring a fun ending to your exploration journey.

Day 5 -Exploring Maths, Crafts and More

Weighing

When Mowzer goes to visit one of her daughters, she is trodden on by the shop owner who is weighing out vegetables.

Get out some weighing scales and a selection of fruit and vegetables to weigh. Talk about kilograms and grams, pounds and ounces. Can your child guess how many potatoes are in a kilo/pound? Discuss why some things are weighed in kilos/pounds and why others are measured in grams/ounces.

If you have some balance scales you can compare the weights of different vegetables i.e. how many runner beans weigh the same as one potato.

Play guessing games as to which item will be the heaviest or lightest.

Days of the Week

In the story, Mowzer knows what he is going to eat every day of the week.

Help your child to learn the order of the days of the week.

If you have certain meals on set days, or do a regular weekly activity on a set day, you can make a list similar to the one shown in the book or make a simple weekly organiser to put on the wall. Encourage your child to use this as it will make learning the days of the week more relevant to him.

Plan a Weekly Menu

Ask your child what their ideal weekly menu would be.

Look at the page in the book where Mowzer's weekly menu is mentioned.

The menu part of the text is laid out differently to the rest of the story. The text is placed in the centre of the page just as items on a restaurant menu are very often laid out.

Have your child design and create a weekly menu card using his suggestions, or, to make it a more practical and relevant activity, plan a week's menu together and then follow it.

Introduction To Tessellation

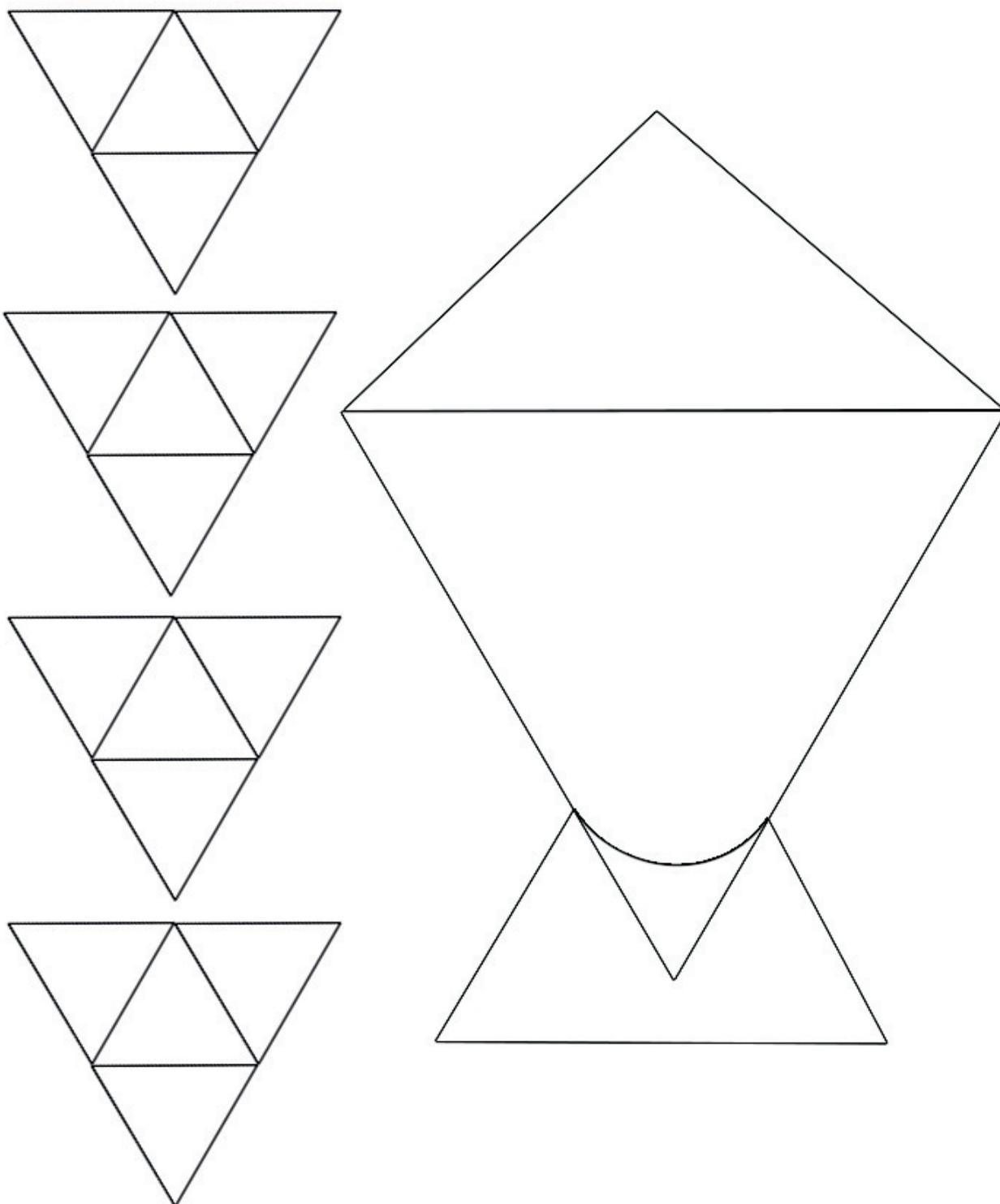
Tessellation is a mathematical term for the fitting together of polygons (2D shapes) without overlapping them or leaving any gaps in between them. The pattern they create must be able to be infinitely repeated.

As this is only an introduction to the topic, the suggested activities below involve single regular shapes to create regular tessellations. Not all regular polygons tessellate into single shaped patterns, only the ones where the sum of the interior angles is a factor of 360° - equilateral triangles, squares and regular hexagons. (The interior angle is the angle inside a corner/vertex.)

More in-depth teaching of tessellation requires children to have greater knowledge of angles which is beyond the scope of this particular exploration. To build on this introduction, if you have some pattern blocks your child can experiment with these to explore how different combinations of polygons fit together.

Also, look out for more tessellations when you are out and about with your

Templates For Fish Mobile



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 along 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

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