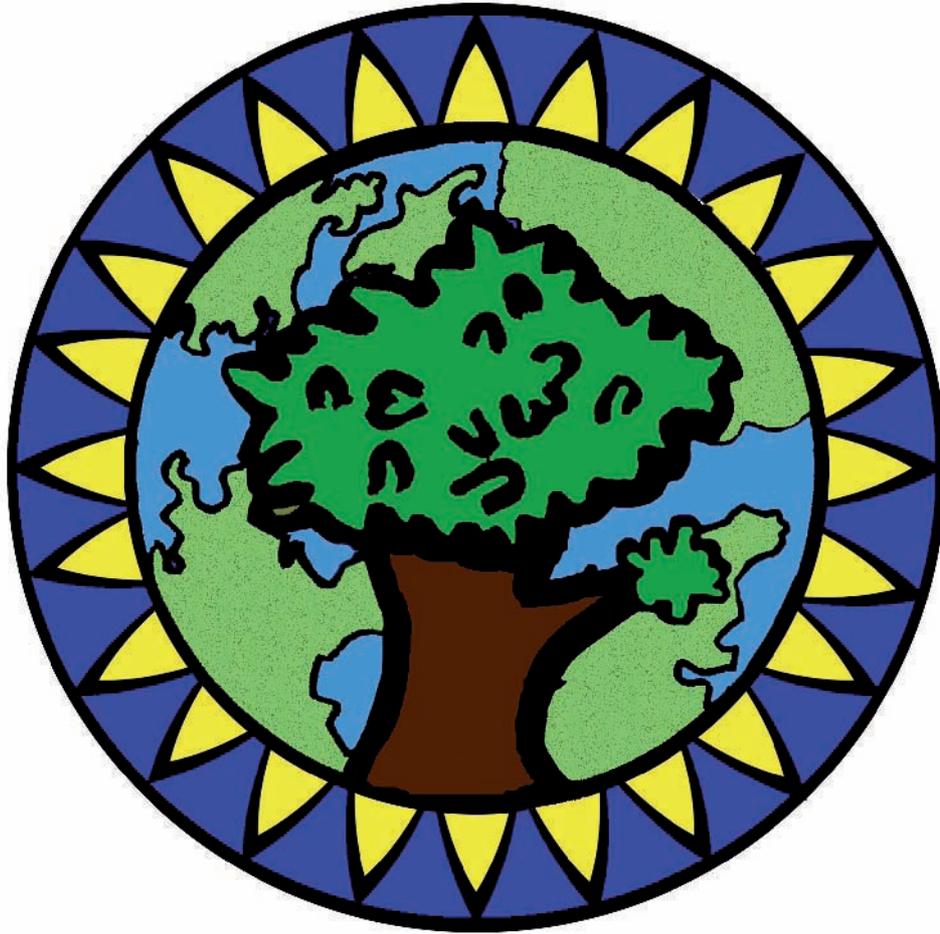


# Branch Out World



## Picture Book Explorers Stone Girl, Bone Girl

The **Picture Book Explorers** series is written primarily for use by Home Educating families but it can be used by 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 because it is just 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.

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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 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 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 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 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.

### Make a Snakestone Necklace.

Many ammonites were found in places like Whitby where people thought they were the remains of petrified snake. Some fossil finders would carve the end of the ammonite to make it look as though it had a snake's head.

It is easy to make a fake snakestone necklace using Fimo or air-drying clay.

Start by making a small disc of clay for the back of the pendant.

Make a hole at the top of the disc to put a length of chord through.

Roll a piece of clay into a long sausage shape.

Form this into a flat spiral and press onto the pendant back. A contrasting colour of Fimo can be used to make the snakestone more visible.

Use a cocktail stick to make a snake head and put shell markings on your snakestone.

Follow the Fimo manufacturer's instructions when hardening the pendant.

### Make a Cabinet of Curiosities

A simple cabinet of curiosities can be made from a shallow box with a transparent lid. Line the box with cottonwool and carefully arrange the curiosities in it. If you prefer a compartmentalised cabinet as in the story, or you don't have a box with a transparent lid, follow the instructions below.

#### **Materials Needed:**

Shallow cardboard box - a shoebox lid will do

Strips of cardboard cut in widths equal to depth of box

Piece of transparent plastic taken from used packaging

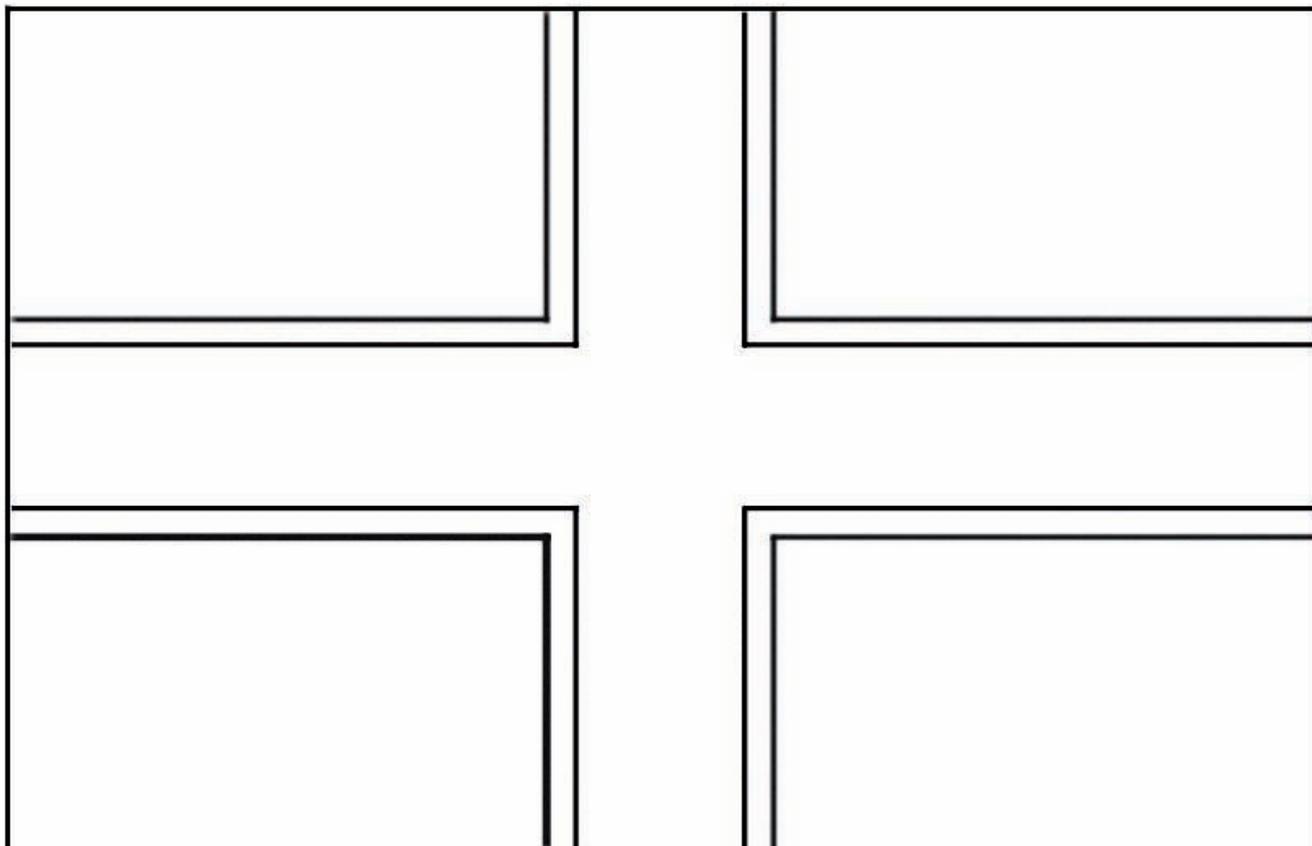
Cotton wool or tissue paper

Sticky tape

Scissors

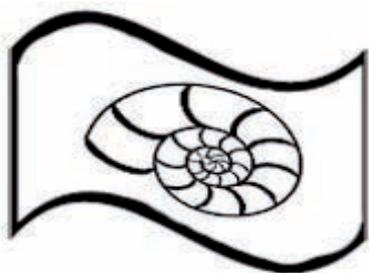


## Flag of Dorset



The flag consists of a white cross, outlined in red, on a bright yellow background.

## Plant the Flag



Thank you for purchasing this unit of **Branch Out World's  
Picture Book Explorers** studies.

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 what they want. Your feedback is most  
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](mailto:branchoutworld@hotmail.co.uk)

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Picture Book Explorers

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