NYPL After School
Activity Guide
4th–6th Grade

EXPLORE
In this packet you’ll find tips, books we love, and activities all about exploring. Exploring is a journey of discovery to new places and to find new information. If you create something you love, submit a picture of your work to our virtual gallery at nypl.org/afterschool.

BOOKS WE LOVE
These books are some of our favorites about exploring close to home and further away. To check them out, place a hold online at nypl.org or call Ask NYPL (917-275-6975). If you are at a branch, ask a librarian how to place a hold. Books marked with a 📚 are available as e-books.

The Gauntlet
Karuna Riazi

The Young Adventurer’s Guide to (Almost) Everything
Ben Hewitt

Dragon Pearl
Yoon Ha Lee

Other Words for Home
Jasmine Warga

Finding Langston
Lesa Cline-Ransome

The Witch Boy
Molly Knox Ostertag

Journey Across the Hidden Islands
Sarah Beth Durst

The Season of Styx
Malone Kekla Magoon

Jonathan W. Stokes

QUICK TIPS
• Challenge yourself to try something new like a different food or style of music.
• Read a book or watch a movie set in a different city or country than your own. What is similar to where you live? What is different?
• Notice when you’re curious about something! Stop and ask questions of an adult like a parent, teacher, or librarian—or dive deeper by doing research to answer your question.
It's a drawing method that helps you show how things get smaller as they get further away until they disappear at a single vanishing point in the distance.

Using this technique, you can draw parts of your neighborhood on a flat piece of paper but make them look 3D and realistic. You just need a pencil, paper, and ruler.

Think like an artist and create a rough draft using these squares and guidelines. Make sure all of your horizontal lines are pointed in towards your horizon point (highlighted here with a yellow star).

Once you've explored all of your options, let your imagination take over and try it on a bigger piece of paper.
EXPLORE BY CREATING YOUR OWN COUNTRY

Create your own country using your imagination! Write the name of your country below, then use the grid to sketch it out, just like a real map!

Name of Your Country:

Use the symbols on the map key to help describe the features of your country or add your own!

- ✽ Capital
- 🔷 Cities & towns
- ⚛ Rivers
- 🏔 Mountains
- 🌳 Forests
- ✈️ Airports
- 🔝 Roads
- ⚓️ Railroads
- 🔮 Deserts
- 🔵 Bridges

Design your flag here. What colors and symbols will you use?
EXPLORE BY CREATING YOUR OWN COUNTRY

My country's capital is ____________________________________________________________.

My country's official language(s) is (are) ____________________________________________.

The population of (number of people in) my country is ____________________________.

My country's national flower is ____________________________________________________.

My country's national animal is ____________________________________________________.

Some of my country’s national resources are __________________________________________.

Use the space below to write about what your country is like. What continent is your country on—or is it an island? What is it famous for? Are there any special products that your country makes and exports to other countries? What is the weather like? You could also write about the history of your country and why people should visit. It’s up to you. Have fun!