

Culture Club

A primary resource exploring the cultural heritage and traditions of refugees living in the UK



Optional activities

These optional activities supplement the main Culture Club activity pack which you can download here:

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/culture-club/>

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Supported by



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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
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circle

Teachers' notes

The following curriculum-linked activities provide opportunities to learn more cultural traditions and crafts inspired by refugees from a variety of countries now living in London and coming together at weekly creative workshops.

A link is provided to instructions for each activity, some of which can be found in the [Creating Communities book](#).

1 Natural dyeing fabric

Legend suggests that the magical powers in the flying carpet originated in the plants used to dye the wool in the carpet. There is evidence of natural dyeing in many ancient cultures from textile fragments dating around 2,500 BC found in Pakistan and the remains of fabrics found in the tombs of Egypt. Plants we learnt about from the Hanging Gardens of Babylon (Lesson 5), such as pomegranates, myrtles, olives, quinces, figs, grapes, and the spice turmeric can all be used to dye fabric. The following link gives simple instructions for dyeing with pomegranates, onion skins, turmeric, coffee, tea, or seasonal plants local to you.



https://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/documents/932/Natural_dyeing.pdf

2

Paper marbling - Ebru in Turkey

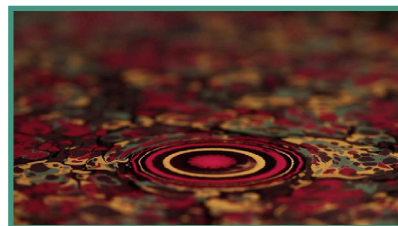
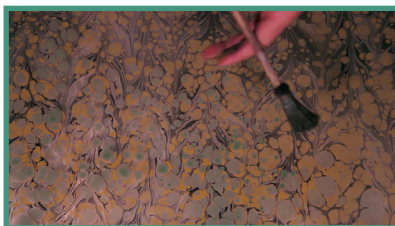
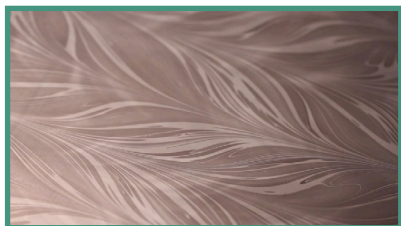
Ebru is the Turkish art of paper marbling. Dating back to the 13th century, the Ottoman and Islamic art involves dropping paint onto a thick liquid called 'size', which results in a pattern of floating colour that can be transferred onto paper. The word 'ebre' in Eastern Turkish means 'variegated', reminding us of variegated coloured patterns in leaves.

Watch mesmerising creations by the famous Turkish Ebru artist, Seyit Uygur, whose family have passed down the art through generations:

<https://vimeo.com/24709888>

Teacher tip

You will need to make the liquid size the day before and the paper needs to be soaked in mordant for 20 minutes then hung to dry before marbling.



Clear instructions by children in this video 'Getting started with Ebru marbling':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EFpJ2ZL71c>

See instructions in the paper marbling section of the [Creating Communities book](#).

'We felt the colours were more clear and impressive. It made us feel peaceful and relaxed.'

- Baris and Tulay,
Turkey

3 Planting and growing from scraps

Growing food is an important tradition for refugees living in London as it reminds them of particular foods and flavours from their country. It is easy to grow many of the foods we learnt about that grew in the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. You can even use leftovers to grow more food!



You can find more information in the urban food growing section of the [Creating Communities book](#).

"With the garden you do not need to buy vegetables outside. You can grow them organically and benefit from your own garden and save money" – Aamira

4 Puppet making

Pupils can make puppets to perform the story, 'The Merchant, the Parrot and the Flying Carpet', make a puppet theatre and video the performance. There are different types of puppets that can be chosen according to each key stage: a finger puppet; a rod puppet made from a wooden spoon; a string puppet made from a wooden spoon, sticks and string; a glove puppet sewn from felt; or a shadow puppet made from card. Pupils learn the key skills needed such as how to cut, shape, join and finish dowel, rod and fabric, and learn how the puppets are controlled. They research, design, plan, make, and evaluate their puppets. Pupils can write playscripts in a literacy lesson.



Puppetry is a very ancient form of theatre which was first recorded in the 5th century BC in Ancient Greece and the tradition spread throughout India, Asia and the Middle East.

Watch this video where Syrian refugee children now living in a Lebanese refugee camp enjoy a puppet show about their cultural heritage:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QleladpcHrE&feature=emb_logo

Instructions on puppet-making can be found here:

<https://littleangeltheatre.com/schools-and-community/schools-and-teachers/education-packs/>

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/puppet-making-6389967>

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/puppets>

5 Musical instruments from recycled materials

Discover how refugees living in the UK enjoy celebrating their cultural heritage, playing and listening to traditional instruments. Learn about instruments from a 4,000-year-old silver lyre from Mesopotamia (modern-day southern Iraq) to a 3,000-year-old Egyptian harp and the Arabian oud:

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/a-history-of-world-music-in-15-instruments/>

The guitar we know today was inspired by the oud (or lute). The word 'lute' originally comes from the Arabic al-oud meaning 'the oud' pronounced 'lood' similar to 'lute'.

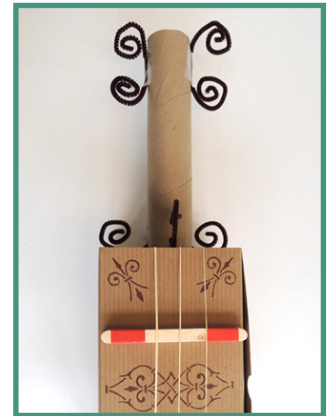
Listen to the Oud's beautiful sounds here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrSxShVRydU>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Lute>

How to make a lute using recycled materials:

<https://popgoesthepage.princeton.edu/love-that-lute/>



6 Songs

Refugees enjoy singing songs from their countries which remind them of home. Learn about singing together with refugees:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=132&v=MY6V8bkgXO0&feature=emb_logo

Susima, a Sri Lankan refugee living in London, shared a traditional children's song from Sri Lanka called 'Hinchi Pinchi Hawa'. The video shows subtitles of the lyrics which pupils can sing in Sinhalese:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8L4piqSaTk&feature=youtu.be>



It is about the story of 'The Hare and the Tortoise' from 'Aesop's Fables':

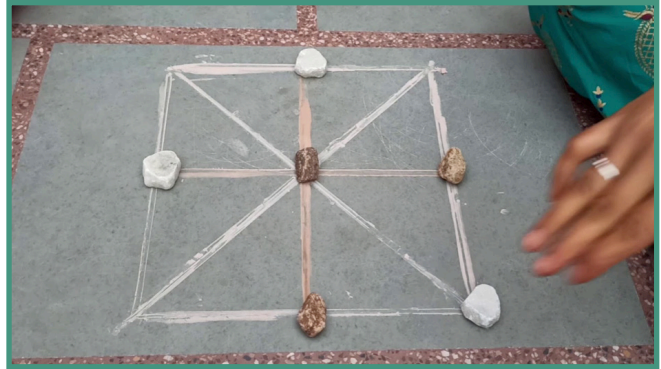
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/audio-stories-the-hare-and-the-tortoise/zfggy9q>

7 Games

Did you know that the game hopscotch originated during the Roman Empire, and playing marbles started in Egypt?

Susima, a Sri Lankan refugee living in London, played 'Batta' as a child – a hopscotch game popular in Sri Lanka and India. Here you can learn Zaid's tricks and tips how to play Batta (Hopscotch):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uZYapSVpjQ&feature=youtu.be>



A traditional Congolese game called 'Nzango' involves leaping about while singing nursery rhymes. Learn how to play with this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vraBfH4l1Y>

Five stones from India

'Straight Line Stone' is a traditional Indian game (similar to noughts and crosses but more difficult). Learn how to play here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMezgXllgCE>

Child refugees from Liberia show you their clapping games and explain the words. See if you can keep up!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtnTFj9xjKw>

Tell us what you're up to!

We would love to hear about your work
and share it with the refugees
we work with.

So, please share your work and feedback by
contacting us at:

schools@groundwork.org.uk

and your class will receive a Culture Club
certificate.