

ACTIVITY BOOK

Activities to carry out with children in anticipation of the show, *Where I Live*, or to reflect back on their experience of the show.

THE SHOW

Téqui (“Who-Are-You”) and Téoù (“Where-Are-You”) fold and refold paper and cardboard, play with sound and lights to create small scenes in a delightful ritual to help them understand each other and explore the boundaries and pathways from the Self to the Other. Téqui likes the earth and what grows in it; Téoù prefers space and what floats in it; and as they play their games, their feet become cars, their heads houses, their arms pathways, and their voices cities.

Where I Live explores “the state of inhabiting”: inhabiting one’s body, one’s house, one’s village and one’s planet. In an easy and simple manner, the young audience members are invited to consider these big questions with us.

PAPER

Paper symbolizes the transience of life and the brevity of our time on earth.

During the early stage-design research, we deliberately used this fragile material. It is easy to work with, making it possible to quickly create all sorts of worlds that can be set up and taken down in minutes. Children everywhere build paper houses, hiding places that separate them from the outside world and define their personal territory.

It is therefore paradoxical that while the paper house is symbolically linked to secrecy or hiding, paper is also closely tied to the idea of transmission. Children use paper for their first drawings and their first attempts at writing: in other words, the first messages conveyed to the Other in a public way.

THE HOUSE

The house symbolizes the centre of the Universe.

In the show, Téoù and Téqui explain that their body is like a house that grows bigger with them and that their arms are like the corridors that connect one room to another, or the paths that connect the Self to the Other.

Making a little house

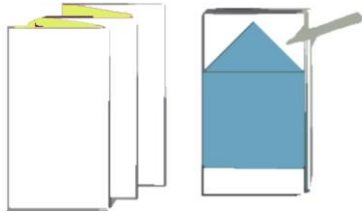
Using cardboard, make a square, add doors and windows, add a roof and a chimney, draw a path.



FAMILY, FRIENDS AND THE VILLAGE

The village symbolizes the encounter with the Other.

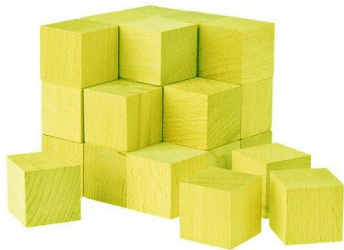
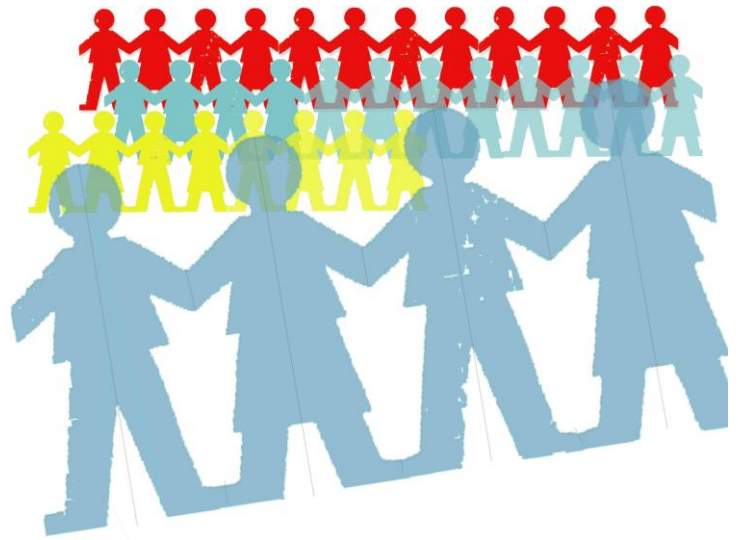
A small town of wooden blocks gets built during the show. It is inhabited by a collection of small rudimentary puppets that gradually appear. Through the multiple and diverse realities of its inhabitants, the village conveys the idea of being open to the world and all its possibilities.



Make your row of paper dolls

Material: paper, scissors, pencils

Cut out a strip of paper. Fold it into an accordion-like shape. Draw the shape of half a person on one end of the strip. Make sure that the head and feet touch the edges and that the hand touches the fold. Cut out the outline of the person. When you unfold the paper, you now have a chain of people. If you would like to, you can make each person unique by adding colours or patterns to their faces, hair and clothes. You can also trace and cut out the shape of a house.



Making a village

Using blocks, pile up different shapes in order to make small houses, create villages and imagine different possible neighbourhoods.

THE JOURNEY

The journey symbolizes the search for and discovery of self.

During the show, several trips and journeys are talked about and portrayed. They illustrate the discovery of the world around us and help us to grow and get to know ourselves better.

Follow the guide

Use [Google Maps](#) with your child to locate the place where he or she lives.



EARTH AND OUTER SPACE

The universe and the solar system symbolize the infinitely big.

In the show, a large mobile made of potatoes is a reminder that the infinitely big meets the infinitely small through the connection between Earth and outer space. Following this line of thought, a child's drawing — depicting a figure showing another figure in its belly (a mother and her child?) — is projected on a huge topographic map and gets moved around.



Going into outer space!

Introduce a few astronomical notions to your child by roaming this [3D navigation site of our solar system](#) with him or her. It shows different perspectives of planets or stars.

WORDS

The overriding theme that guided the research for *Where I Live* is that of children learning to use communication tools. We believe that toddlers experience great hardships and great miracles every day, as they develop their language skills and learn life's various social behaviour codes. Day by day, they get to know every sign, every word, every communication code, as a material that can be touched, smelled, seen, heard and explored.

Translating, making word associations

Ask your child to translate the following words into another language or to make word associations with them:

House, outside, family, father, village, friend, inside, stars, shelter, mother, travel, sky, city, adventure.



The children astounded us with their inventiveness.

Des mots d'la dynamite would like to warmly thank Long Island Children's Museum's management for inspiring some of the ideas in this activity book.

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