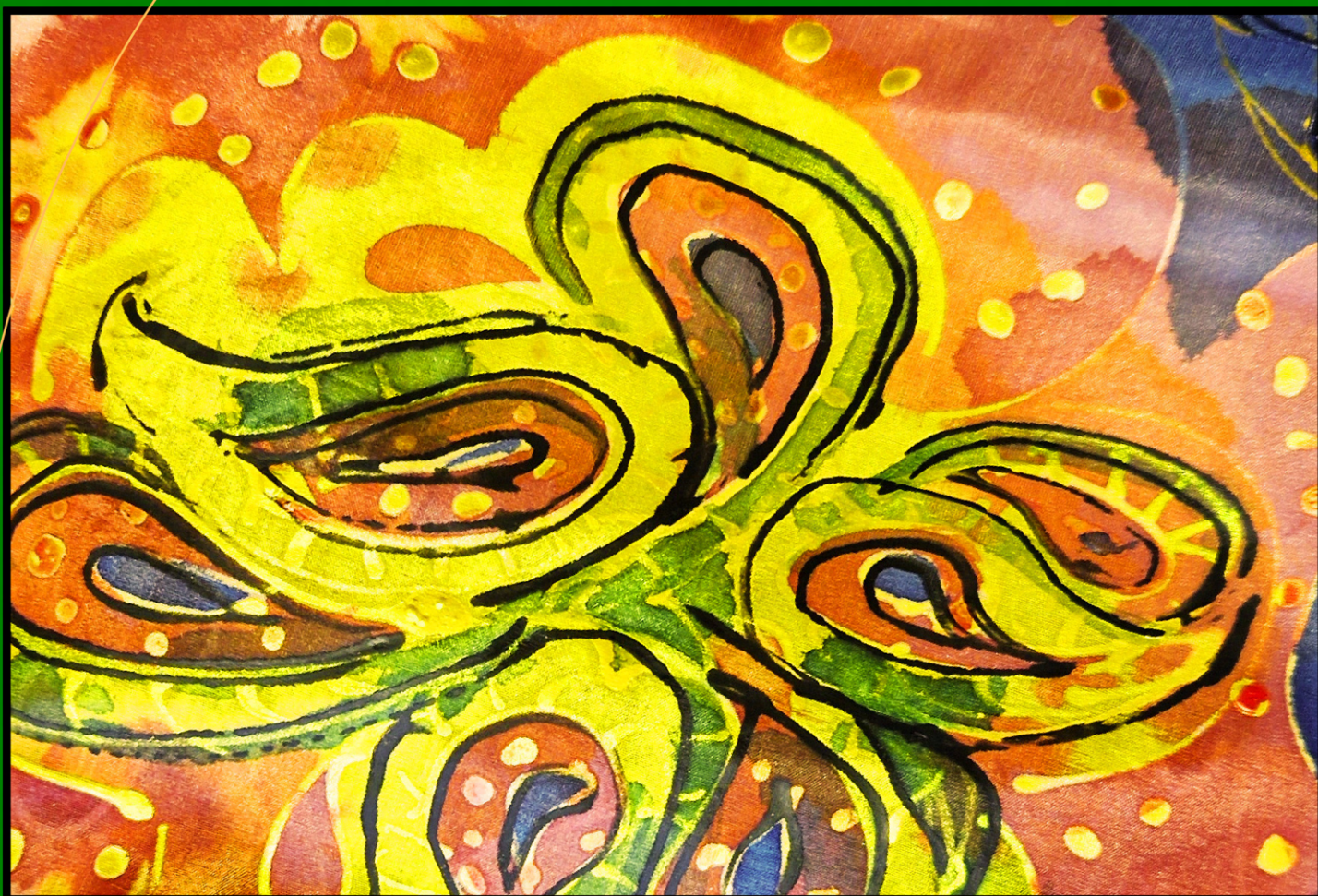




THE ROBERT DAWSON

# ROMANY COLLECTION

Educational Resource  
for Upper Primary & Lower Secondary



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**University of  
Reading**



# ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

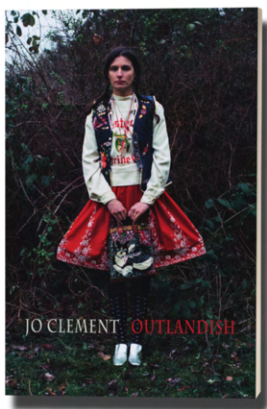
**Hello! My name is Jo Clement. I'm a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller poet and academic from the North East of England and I compiled this resource to help people learn more about the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community through the fantastic exhibitions and resources available at The MERL.**



Image: [www.joclement.co.uk](http://www.joclement.co.uk)

This educational pack has been produced as part of the Arts Council England's 'Untold' project. The MERL acquired an exciting new archive from the researcher, educator and long respected Gypsy, Roma and Traveller ally Robert Dawson. The archive is wonderful. It contains over two thousand pieces of literature and thirty-two boxes filled with fascinating, fun and informative objects and artwork that connect to the living cultures and share the living histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in England and beyond.

I was invited to select materials from this archive and incorporate it into 'The Long Road', a permanent exhibition which you can find in The MERL's 'Making Rural England' gallery. This newly redesigned space is a community-led project which has included object selection and interpretation, rewriting labels and the creation of new information panels. There are new contributions to the 'Voices and Views' exhibition and much, much more, including the brilliant new acquisition of a tradition bow top waggon. I write about these waggons in my first book of poems, *Outlandish*. To find out more, read more my blog 'The Power to Tell It for Ourselves'.



Within this resource you'll find lots of information about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history, archive and artwork spotlights and learning activities.

I hope you enjoy it and can visit the exhibition to explore all these materials and other holdings at The MERL which can teach us so much about rural life in England and my community's part in it.

Dr Jo Clement

Image: *Outlandish* by Jo Clement from the Museum of English Rural Life: Library Collections

# ROBERT (BOB) DAWSON



Images: [www.robertdawson.co.uk](http://www.robertdawson.co.uk)  
Museum of English Rural Life: Library Collections

**Robert (Bob) Michael Dawson has spent over 50 years researching and writing about Britain's Traditional Travellers – Gypsies (Romanies), Scottish Travellers and Irish Travellers. He has written over 50 books and booklets about histories, languages, ways of living, traditions, cultures, folk lore and family histories, some under his pen name, Stanley Wallcliffe Tarno.**

Dawson is the President of the Romany & Traveller Family History Society, (R&TFHS), former Treasurer of the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, a member of the National Association of Teachers of Travellers, an honorary member of the Romani Association of Australia, and a member of Romany Roots and other related organisations.

The Robert Dawson Romany Collection was donated by Dawson to the R&TFHS in 1998, the Society deposited the Collection at The MERL to make it easily accessible to R&TFHS members and other researchers.



# WHAT'S INSIDE?

**The Robert Dawson collection includes papers relating to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history and culture including research and writings by Dawson, press cuttings, material concerning Gypsy Societies and Gypsies and government legislation, teaching packs, publications including reports and academic papers, sheet music, illustrative material including photographs, drawings, posters, postcards and cigarette cards and plans of caravans.**



Find a specially curated selection of these materials within The Long Road exhibition in The MERL's Making Rural England gallery.

The Robert Dawson collection contains over 2000 books and pamphlets, a sizable number of periodical titles and a good selection of published audio-visual materials. Robert Dawson collected these over many years as he met and became friends with many Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families.

Dawson's library includes classical historical works, such as George Borrow's *Dictionary of the Gypsy language* (Romano lavo-lil, 1907) and Walter Simon's *A History of the Gipsies* (1865); some particularly rare titles, e.g. *The Gypsies* by Samuel Roberts (1836) and *Études sur les Tchinghianés, ou, Bohémiens de l'Empire Ottoman* by A. Paspatis (1870); and general reference books, e.g. *A Gypsy Bibliography* by George F. Black. (1971 reprint) and Dennis Binn's *A Gypsy Bibliography* (1982-89).

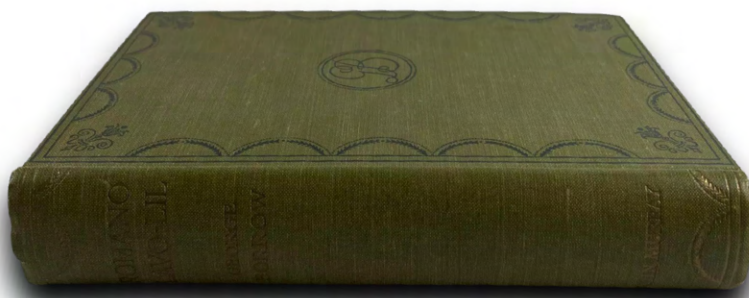


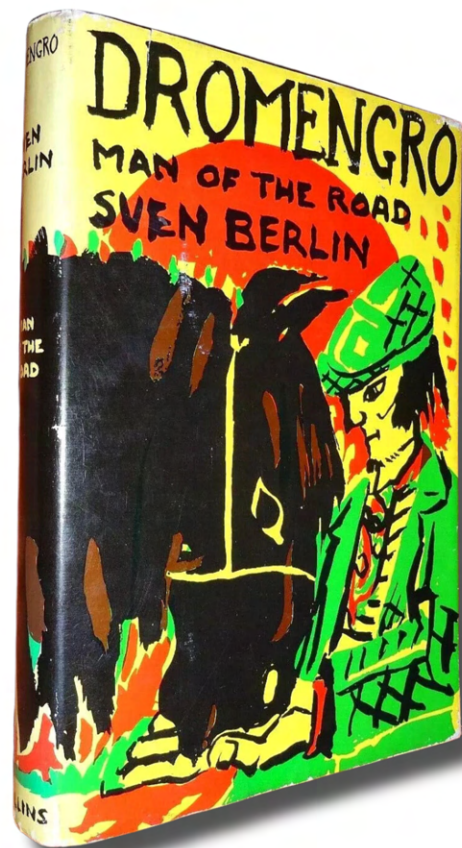
Image: George Borrow's *Dictionary of the Gypsy Language* (Romano lavo-lil, 1907) from The Robert Dawson Collection in The MERL library.



The Robert Dawson Collection library spans over two thousand books. It includes children's illustrated stories to short memoirs and literary collections by lesser-known Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) authors; from biographies of famous GRT people and history books on the Romani Holocaust to EU reports and local authorities' booklets dealing with the issues of discrimination, education, health and site provision for Travellers.

It also extends to religious themes, particularly the translation of biblical texts into Romani languages; genealogy and family history; the origins of the Roma people and their customs with special emphasis on horse fairs in England, Travellers' crafts and wagon building; traditional activities such as boxing, herbal remedies and fortune telling; and Gypsy folklore.

Image: Sven Berlin's *Dromengro, Man of the Road* (1971) from The Robert Dawson Collection in The MERL library.



Robert Dawson's own writings and his publications are included. He started a publishing business after his retirement as Headteacher. The periodical collection is representative of his wide involvement in various GRT associations both in the UK and abroad.

His subscriptions ranged from titles such as *Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society* and *The Romany* magazine, to lesser-known and short-lived magazines, including newsletters of local associations and charities. There are also single issues of mainstream periodicals featuring articles on GRT-related topics and materials aimed at teachers and school-age children.



Image: *Moving Stories: Traveller Women Write* (1992) from The Robert Dawson Collection in The MERL library.



# WHAT DOES 'GRT' STAND FOR?

**Gypsy, Roma and Travellers are much maligned, marginalized and multi-faceted groups of people who are an integral part of 21st century UK society. 'GRT' is an umbrella term that attempts to join people from distinct ethnic groups. This helps us identify shared experiences; however, it is less effective in speaking to the experiences of specific GRT ethnic groups and individuals, who each face unique circumstances and challenges.**

GRT people have lived in socio-historic margins for centuries. 'Gypsy' is widely accepted as an ethnonym. Many consider it a slur in equal measure, depending on who uses the word and in what context. Please use this word with caution, sensitivity, and respect. 'Gypsy' is a misnomer based on skin colour. It suggests Egyptian origins, however, the diasporic Romany Gypsies emerged from India. Within this ethnic grouping, there are many people. Not all share Indian origins. In the UK alone, alongside the English Romanichal and Roma (who should not to be confused with Romanians, although Romanian-Roma do exist) there are also Irish, Scottish and Welsh Travellers. Many GRT people are multiracial.

Showmen and Boaters are another distinct but connected group, many of whom are also ethnically - or identify as - GRT. Individuals have a wide range of religious, racial, cultural, and geographic backgrounds. Alongside this diverse outlook on life, they often share a deep connection to peripatetic or nomadic living, amongst other historical and continued cultural practices.

Diaspora, employment and pleasure are just three reasons GRT people live on the road. Today, many GRT families must switch between living on the road and in houses because councils do not provide enough sites or stopping places.



Image: Decorative Plate, Robert Dawson Archive



# TIMELINE

This brief timeline outlines some key dates for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, Showmen and Boaters.

400  
AD



## India

Groups of craftspeople and entertainers live nomadically.

1000s

## Greece and Turkey

Romany Gypsies reach Byzantine Empire.

1100s

## Ireland

Travellers are first recorded.

1505

## Henry VII and Scotland

First Scottish record of Gypsies.

1514



## England

First record of Gypsies in England.

1530

## King Henry VIII

Henry passes a law to forbid transportation of Gypsies to England.

1547

## King Edward VI

Edward passes a law to physically brand and enslave Gypsies in England.

1554



## Queen Mary I

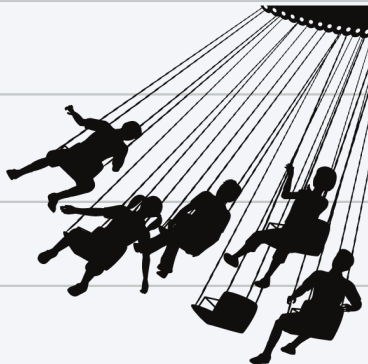
Mary passes a law forbidding Gypsies to enter or be found in England.

1562

## Queen Elizabeth I

Elizabeth passes a law condemning Gypsies to the death penalty.

<b>1579</b>	<b>Wales</b> First recorded Gypsies.
<b>1650s</b>	<b>Cromwell</b> Last known execution of a Gypsy in Suffolk, England. Banishment of Gypsies to America.
<b>1768</b>	<b>London's First Circus</b>
<b>1780 onwards</b>	<b>Repeal of English Gypsy Laws</b>
<b>1800s</b>	<b>First rides appear in fairs</b>
<b>1820s</b>	<b>First tents used in circuses</b>
<b>1830s</b>	<b>First vardos appear in England</b>
<b>1889</b>	<b>Showmen's Guild established</b>
<b>1930s onwards</b>	<b>Roma arrive in Britain</b>
<b>1939 - 45</b>	<b>World War II</b> The UK Government builds caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers who are engaged in farm labour or the army.
	<b>The Holocaust</b> Genocide: the organised killing of millions of people, including Gypsies and Sinti.
<b>1968</b>	<b>Caravan Sites Act</b>
<b>1982</b>	<b>Germany officially recognises the Roma and Sinti genocide.</b>
<b>1989</b>	<b>Romany Gypsies legally recognised as ethnic group</b>
<b>1994</b>	<b>Caravan Sites Act Abolished</b> Thousands of Gypsy and Traveller families are without a legal home.





2000

**Irish Travellers legally recognised as ethnic group**

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2003

**Murder of 15 year old Irish Traveller Johnny Delaney.**

---

2005

**‘Stamp on the Camps’ campaign features in The Sun newspaper targeting Gypsies and Travellers.**

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2008

**Scottish Travellers legally recognised as ethnic group.**

**Institution of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month.**

---

2022

**Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act**

**Part 4 of the Act directly affects people who live roadside including arrest, fines, removal of vehicles and children.**



# THE LONG ROAD



EXHIBITION  
SPOTLIGHTS





Images: Chrysanthemum Flowers (above) Knives (left) and Basket (below) from The Robert Dawson Archive.

# Wooden Flowers

The three wooden flowers above were made by Hughie Steele in 1989. He made them from low branches likely cut from a hazel tree using special tools. This is called 'pruning' and keeps the tree healthy.

Skilled craftspeople like Hughie carve wooden flowers from the branches with a special knife. Petals are created by pulling the knife slowly down the branch. Soon, the stick is transformed into a beautiful chrysanthemum flower with petals that can be coloured with bright dyes.

Did you know that hazelnuts come from hazel trees?

When a tree is well pruned, it will live longer and the delicious harvest, gathered in baskets like this one, will be much greater.

**THE LONG  
ROAD**







Image: A box of charms from The Robert Dawson Archive.

# Jewellery & Charms

Charms are small, treasured decorative accessories that can be attached to necklaces or bracelets to create a piece of jewellery or token kept in a safe place.

They can be made from many materials: metal, glass, ceramics, gemstone, or bead. A charms can take any shape. They are meaningful to the person who owns it. Sometimes, objects become charms because a special person gave it as a gift on a special day such as a birthday or wedding. Often, they remind the owner of this person.

Some charms are believed to bring their owners good luck and are kept near to them, are worn or held in a purse or pocket. When a person dies, they might pass their lucky charm onto someone special.

Do you have a special object  
or a lucky charm?



**THE LONG  
ROAD**





# Teasel Toys

Images: Teasel (above) and Teasel Toys from The Robert Dawson Archive.



Teasels are wildflowers. Each one grows as a tall as a very tall grown up! When they first flower in late Summer, they have rings of sweet purple petals. Bees and birds love to feed on them.

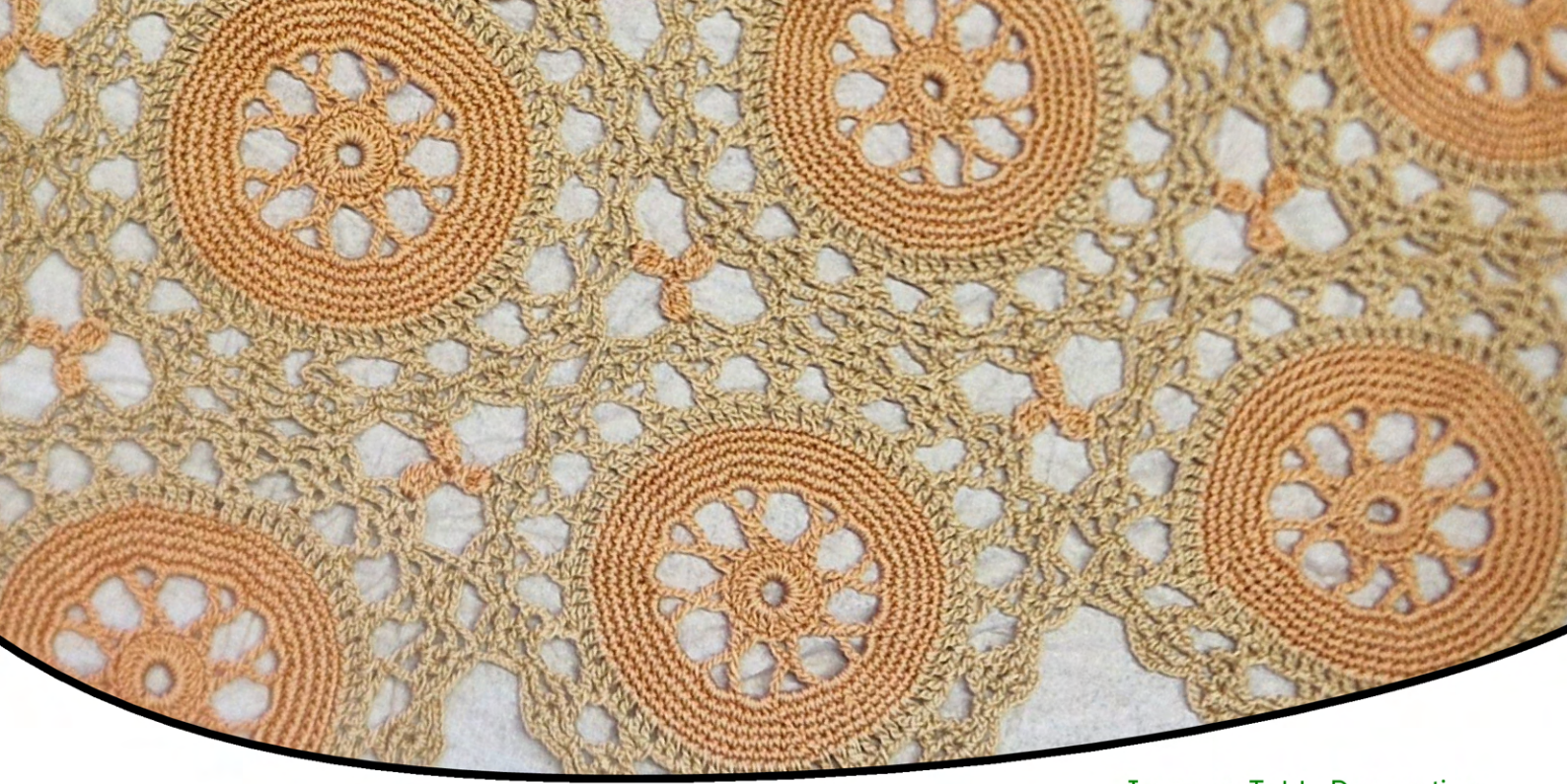
By Winter, the petals fall off. The spiky head is traditionally used to make lots of different things such as medicine, flower arrangements and dyes. Here, the teasels are transformed into small toys.

We don't know who made them but the mother wears a warm woollen cape. Perhaps because teasels were traditional tools to make wool and give a smoother look to wooly fabrics.



**THE LONG  
ROAD**





Images: Table Decoration (above) and Lace with hearts (below) from The Robert Dawson Archive.

# Crochet & Lace

This intricate decoration above was made by Lorraine Taylor for Robert Dawson. It was crocheted by hand using a special hook and very long pieces of yarn. To crochet, one hand holds the hook and the other makes a loop. Chains of these loops stitch together to make a fabric.

The shapes in this design look like cartwheels which help the wagons that some Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people live in. This shape is also in the centre of the Romany flag, below. The flag is similar to the flag of India, which is where the Romany diaspora began.



Delicate and decorative lace, like the example with hearts to the left, adds a unique trim to items of clothing such as baby's baskets, special outfits and even window dressings.

Traditionally, lace can be made from linen, silk, wool or even hair, using a bobbins or fine needles.



**THE LONG  
ROAD**





Images:: Peg and Flower Knives  
(above) and Pegs (below) from  
The Robert Dawson Archive.

# Peg Making



Peg making is a very old craft.

The knives, above, are special tools made by a man called Tom McCready for Robert Dawson in 1995. The straight bladed knife is for making pegs, like the ones to the left. The curved knife is for making wooden flowers.

Pegs, like wooden flowers, were traditionally sold by some Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. Hazel or willow branches are shaved down to make a 'V' shape. As you can see, there are strips of metal wound around and gently hammered into the peg to strengthen it. The wood is then split up to this metal joint and a new peg is cut.



**THE LONG  
ROAD**





Images: Mixed Media, Paper and Wooden Waggons (above) and Sylvanian Families 'Caravan Roulotte' from The Robert Dawson Archive.

# Model Waggons

Model waggons are miniature versions of the traditional bow top 'living wagon' known to some Romany people as a *vardo*.

Thanks to Robert Dawson, we have lots of different examples of these little waggons at The MERL. He used to display these waggons to teach young people about how some Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people live.

Some of the waggons are made of paper and were built from special kits sold in craft shops. Others are unique designs, carved from wood likely to teach younger people how to make a full sized.

More recent examples are made from plastic, like the Sylvanian Families 'Caravan Roulotte' first sold in 2004.



**THE LONG  
ROAD**







Image:  
2011/6 Rural Life Painting by  
Unknown Artist (1958 - 1960)  
from The MERL Collections.

# Unfinished Painting

The painting was commissioned between 1958-1960 by Dr Michael Stack-Dunne and depicts a group of Gypsy, Roma and Travellers people with their horses, dogs and traditional wooden waggons. The ethnicity of the people, perhaps a family, is unknown.

It was donated to The MERL in 2011. Stack-Dunne commissioned the painting and asked for it to depict 'Real Life'. Stack-Dunne couldn't cover the costs for further work on the piece and it remains as we see it here today.

We don't know who painted it or who is in the painting. But we do know that it was painted by a woman but worked at the Medical Research Council Laboratories at Holly Hill in Hampstead and that the woman knew the people she painted. It was hoped that whilst on display at the museum, either the artist or the sitters would recognise the image and shed light on to the story behind it.

If you know anything about the painter  
or the painting, please get in touch!



**THE LONG  
ROAD**



# Vardo



Images: (above) vardo visitors at The MERL's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Day 2024.. Vardo close up (right) by Jo Clement.

Bow-top waggons became popular in England from the 1850s. Romany people call this kind of bow-top vehicle a 'vardo'. In Romanes this means 'living waggon' because it is a compact home on wheels. Some GRT people spell wagon this way to distinguish it from the kinds of agricultural wagons that you can find along The MERL's brilliant Wagon Walk.

Romany vardos are handmade and today, are rare finds because they were historically burned upon the death of the owner, along with their belongings.

The MERL's vardo was donated by collector and folklorist Jeremy Harte. Jeremy bought the waggon in 2015 at a New Age Traveller fair in 2015. The New Age Traveller bought it from Jake Bowers, a Romany blacksmith.

It was built in the 1930s but its earlier history is unknown. This example was made from a modified nineteenth-century vehicle called a dray, which is a truck or cart without any sides that is used to deliver heavy loads like beer barrels or hay bales.



# LEARNING & ACTIVITY PAGES

Educational Resource  
for Upper Primary & Lower Secondary





# ABOUT

The activities in this educational resource are designed for learners at Upper Primary and Lower Secondary levels.

They were developed by Dr Jo Clement in a collaboration between The MERL and workshops with students and staff at Garland Junior School, and with thanks to West Berkshire Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service.

West Berkshire Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) provides specialist advice and guidance to vulnerable learners in schools, Black Minority Ethnic pupils, pupils speaking English as an additional language (EAL), and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils. EMTAS work in partnership with schools to raise attainment and fulfil their duty to promote equality and diversity.

With many thanks to all our participants and supporters.

Image: Open Archive Drawings by workshop participants







Image:: 2017/1 Jigsaw by G. J. Hayter & Co. Ltd. from The Robert Dawson Collection.

# UNDERSTANDING MARGINALISED GROUPS & BUILDING EMPATHY

**What is it like for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) people who live on 'the road'?**

**Some GRT families and individuals live in permanent housing. Many switch between this and travelling on the road in mobile housing. Sometimes this is a personal choice but more often, it is unavoidable, particularly for those who want to travel permanently. This is because councils do not provide enough sites for GRT people to temporarily and safely stop.**

Through this activity your class will be able to explore the lives of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people who live on the road. Some have good experiences, whereas others face prejudice. During this activity, students will have the opportunity to find out what peripatetic living involves today and create their own stories based on what they have discovered.

## THEMES AND TOPICS

- Challenges of Britain,
- wider World 1901 to
- present day.
- Local history study.
- Modern world history.

## LINKS WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES

This activity could also be used in conjunction with the 'What was it like to be a child in the countryside?' resource.



# LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the activities students will:



- have increased knowledge of living Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories and cultures in the UK
- be able to empathetically describe and explain mobile living in rural environments, as well as care for elders
- develop skills in reading, imaginative writing and interpreting information

## PRE-VISIT TASK

Before your visit ask your students if they have ever been camping. Ask them to imagine spending a whole week in their garden, local park or countryside.

Wouldn't that be fun?

Your students are about to embark on a journey into the life of a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller child who lives on the road and occasionally, in a house. Below is a statement that your students can read, reflect on and use to come up with questions about their new imagined journey on the road.



# STORY ACTIVITY: MEET BOBBY-JO



**Bobby-Jo** is a child who lives in a big 'Lunar Venus' caravan with their mammy and daddy. It is 2023. They have three sisters and three brothers. Bobby-Jo is the second oldest. Their twin brothers were born this year. The family caravan is parked on a nice leafy site with trees between their Uncle Toby's caravan and Granny Pat's. Uncle Toby and his wife, Aunt Pearl have three daughters, these are Bobby Jo's cousins. Granny Pat lives on her own and can't get around as much as she used to. Every week Bobby-Jo helps her with cleaning and shopping, washes her hair, and walks Granny Pat's dogs called Dolly and Shelley. Next door to Granny Pat's caravan is her beautifully painted wooden bow-top vardo and tethered next to that is Pearl, Bobby-Jo's black and white horse.

***What questions would you like to ask Bobby-Jo about their life?***

Tomorrow, Bobby-Jo's family need to travel on the road for many, many miles up North. It's important because their cousin Jon is getting married to his fiancée Coral. The whole family are travelling to celebrate this special day with a big party.

***Have you ever been on a very long journey? What was it like?***

***Can you think of what Bobby-Jo and her family might need to do to get ready?***

***Have you ever been to a wedding? What happens?***







# ACTIVITY

**What do  
Gypsy, Roma  
and Traveller  
homes look  
like?**

**Write down the  
names of three  
objects in the  
exhibition.**

**1**  
**2**  
**3**

**Can you name a  
Gypsy, Roma and  
Traveller person  
and their job?**

**Tip: look at the People Stories!**

# WHAT IS GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER LIFE ON THE ROAD LIKE TODAY?

The Making Rural England gallery in The MERL gallery invites you to reconsider popular images of the countryside through exploring the diversity of rural people, workers' rights and the countryside past and present.

Within this gallery, The Long Road exhibition gives information about diverse Gypsy, Roma and Traveller culture and traditions, as a mobile part of these rural communities. *To learn more, look at the objects and materials in the The Long Road exhibition, read their labels and watch the films on the Voices and Views interactive.*

Key themes to discuss and research are:

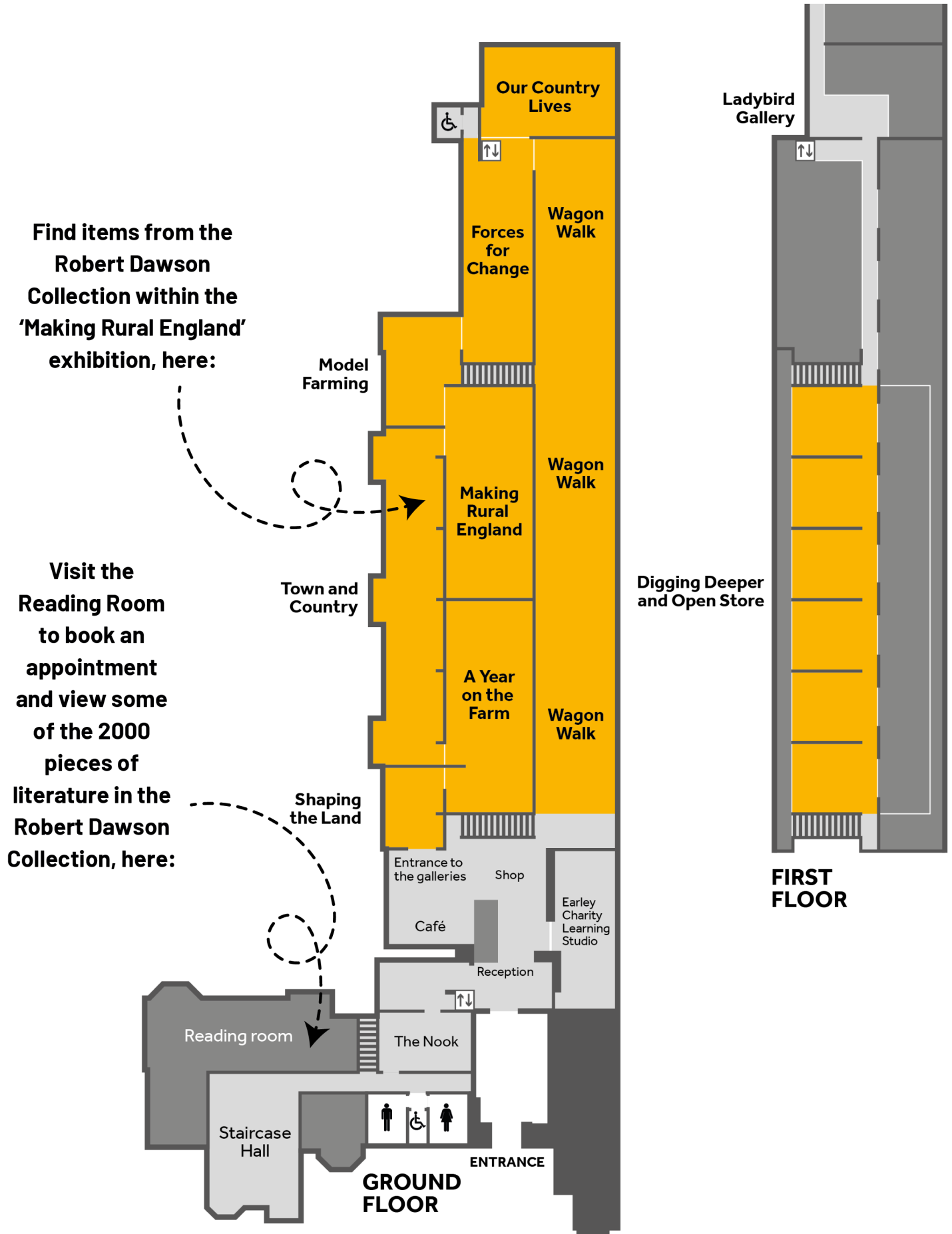
- art
- clothes
- crafts
- environment
- family
- food
- home
- nature
- pets
- play
- transport
- work



Image: 2011/6 Rural Life Painting  
by Unknown Artist (1958 - 1960)  
from The MERL Collections.



# THE MERL MAP



# MORE INFORMATION



## Videos

This website links to 'Roads from the Past' a short animated history of Gypsy, Roma and Travellers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bhBbMrF8Z0>

Crystal's Vardo Trailer

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



## Blog

This website links to Jo Clement's blog for The MERL: 'The Power to Speak for Ourselves'

<https://merl.reading.ac.uk/blog/2024/04/the-power-to-tell-it-for-ourselves/>



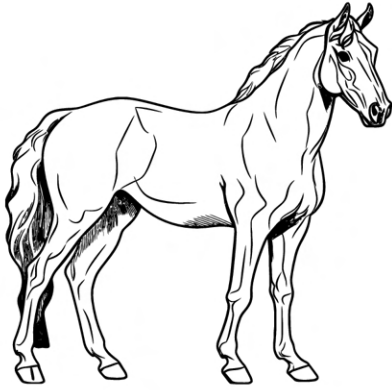
## Additional

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History and Culture – includes helpful definitions

<https://travellermovement.org.uk/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-history-and-culture>



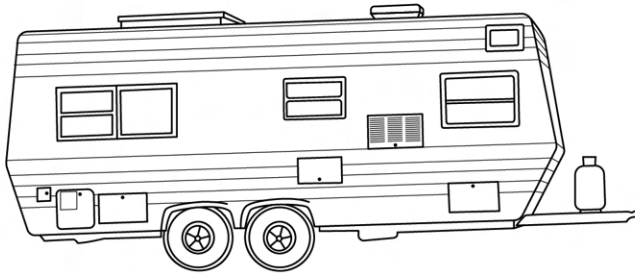
# Find the Vowels



**h\_rs\_**



**b\_sk\_t**



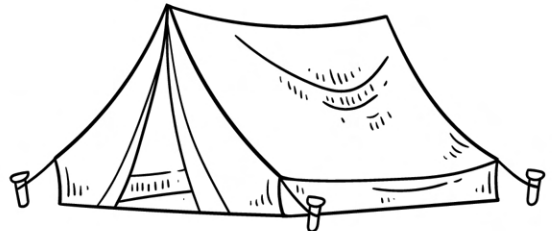
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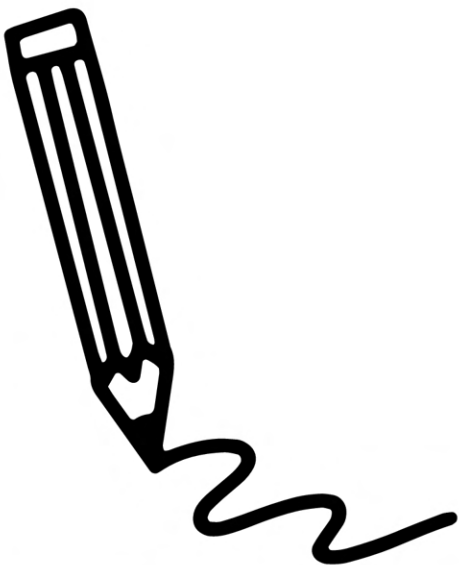


**ch\_ck\_n**



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# My Favourite Object





# Object Facts

**Tell us all about your favourite object!**

**My favourite object is a...**



**Who used it?**



**What for?**



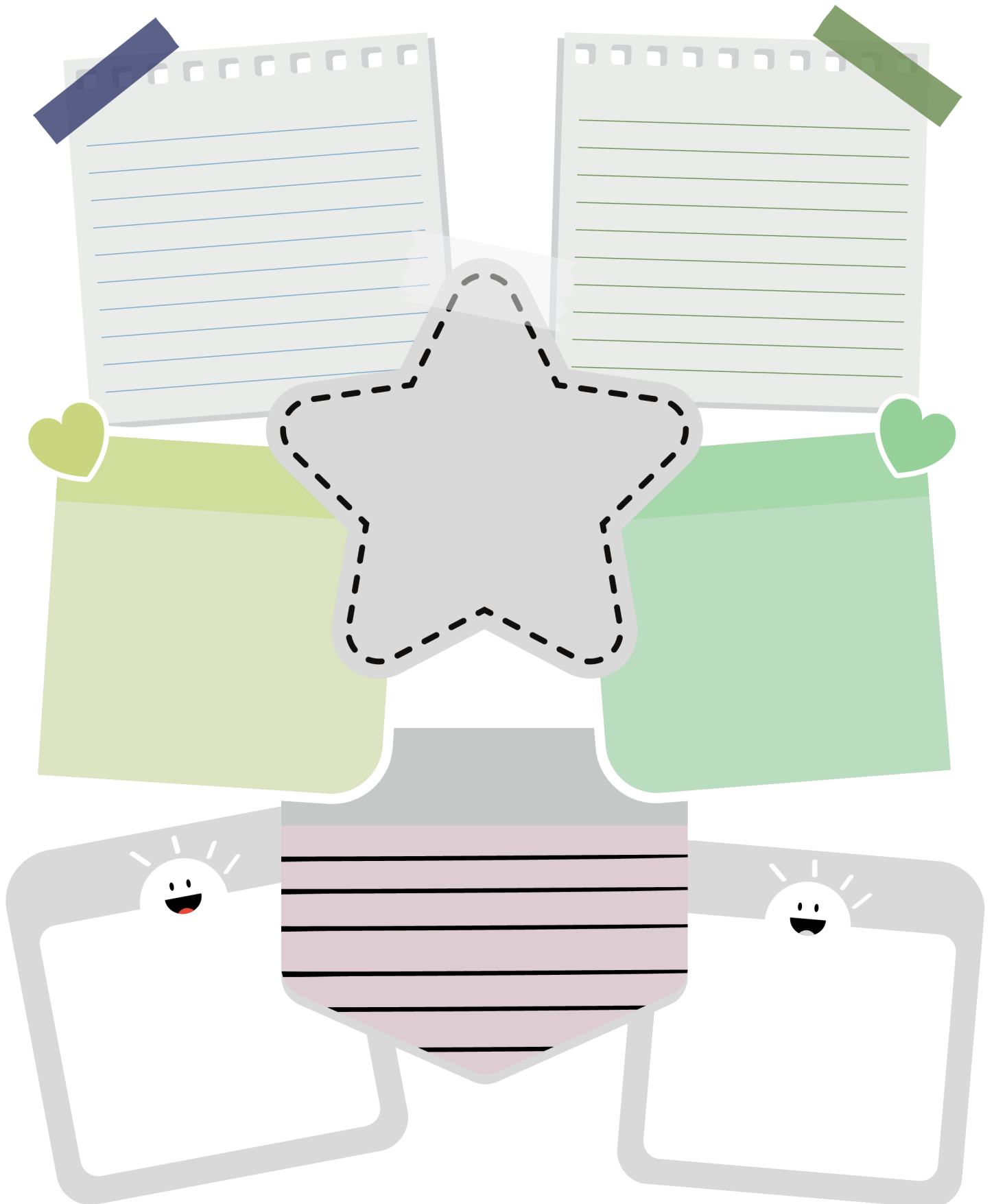
# Story Time

**Imagine you find your favourite object one day under your bed. Write a story about this!**

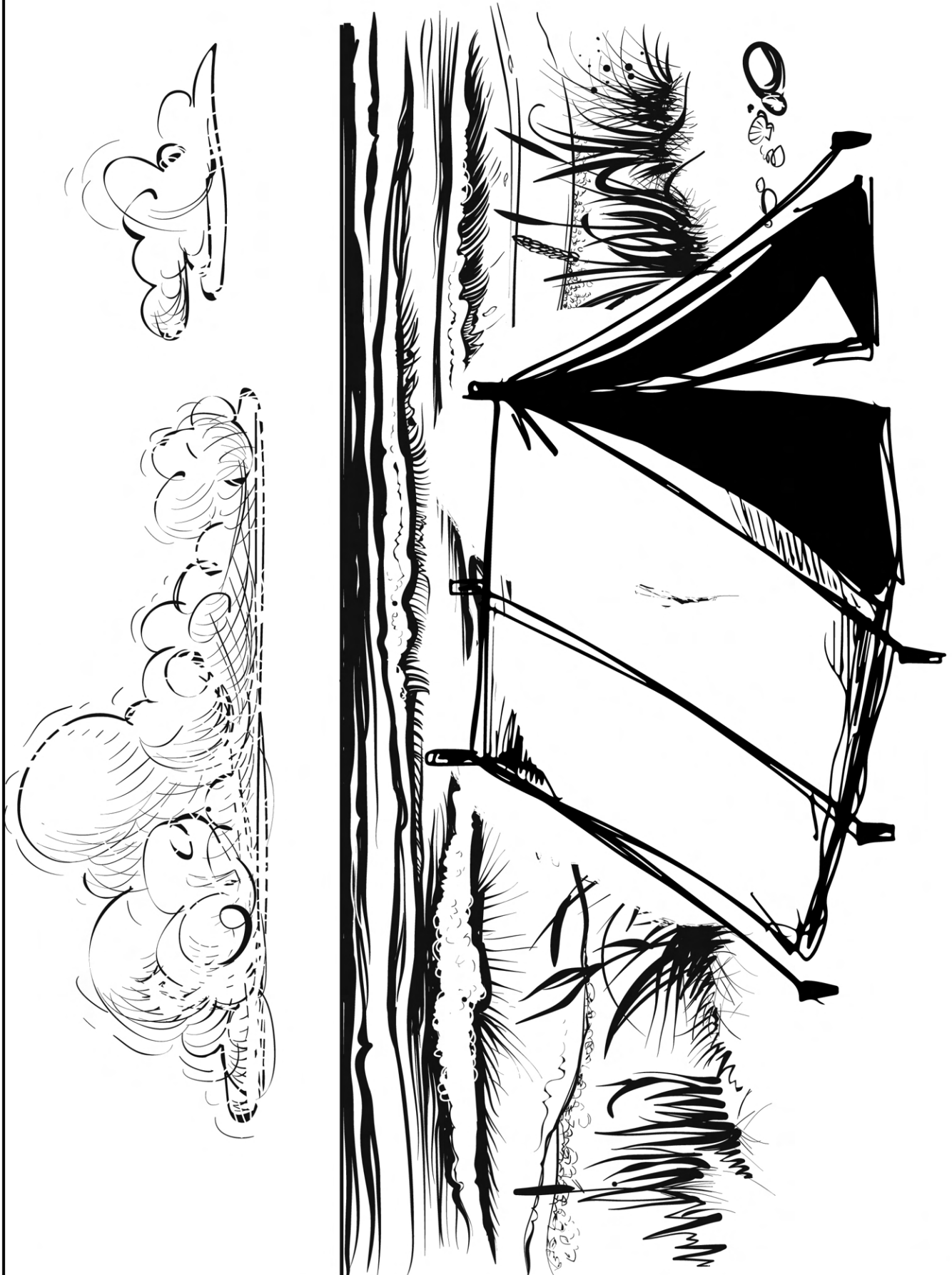
This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# The MERL Explorer Notes



# Colour Me: Tent

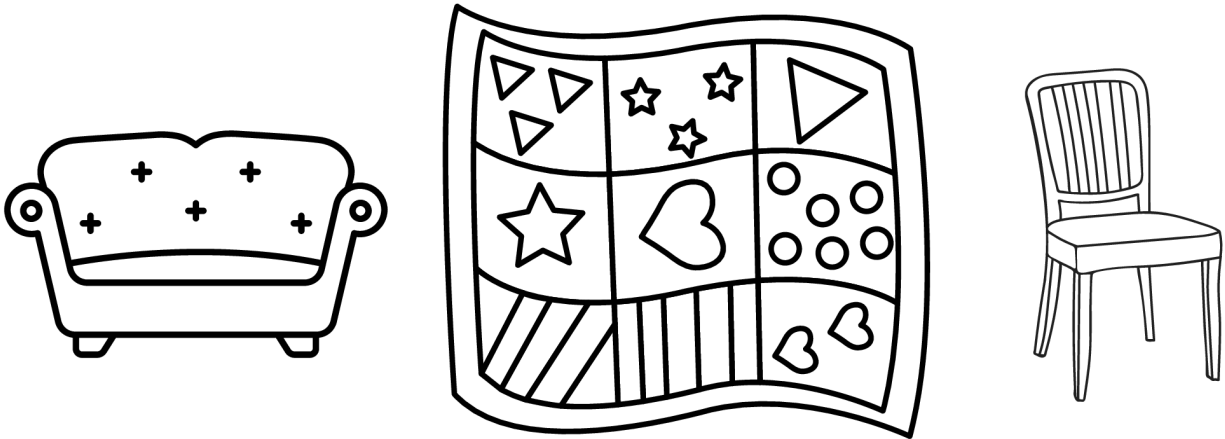




# Build a Tent

**You can make a tent using fabrics you'll find at home.  
Ask an adult to help make yours safely.**

**Put a duvet cover or throw over two chairs or couch.  
Tents create great places to read or tell stories.**



**Write your diary: The day we made a tent...**

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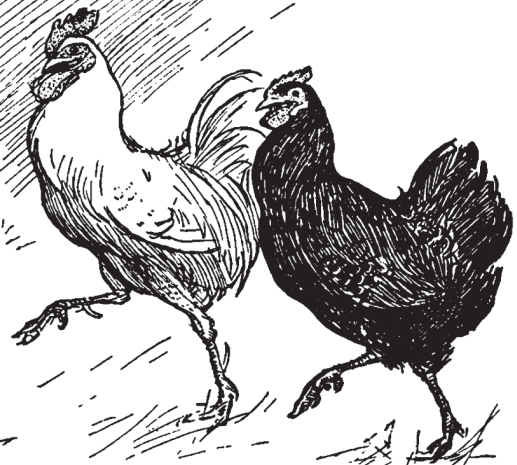
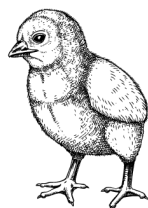
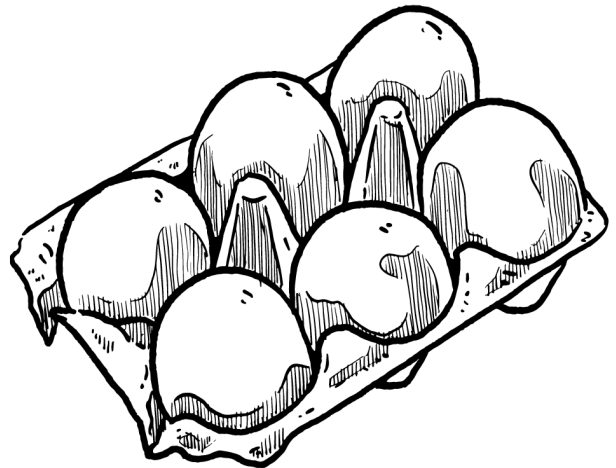
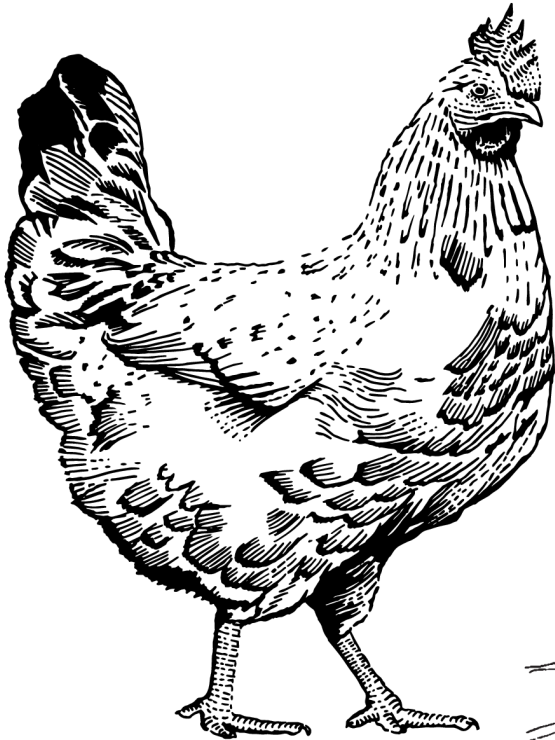
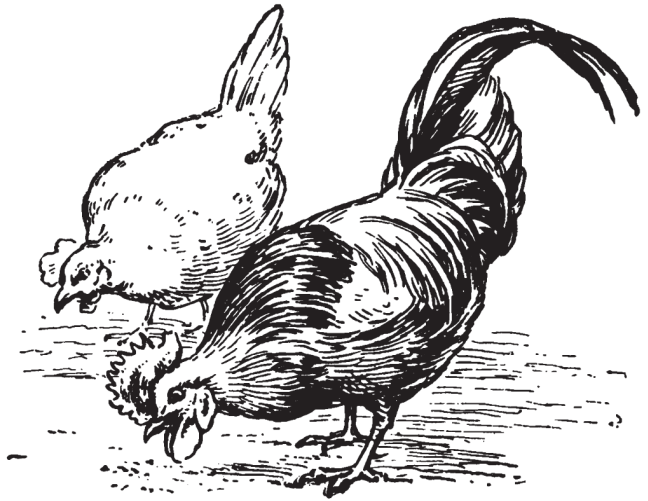
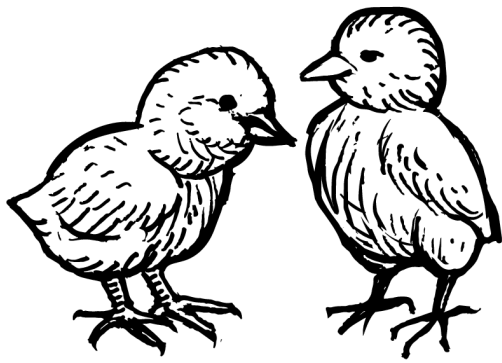
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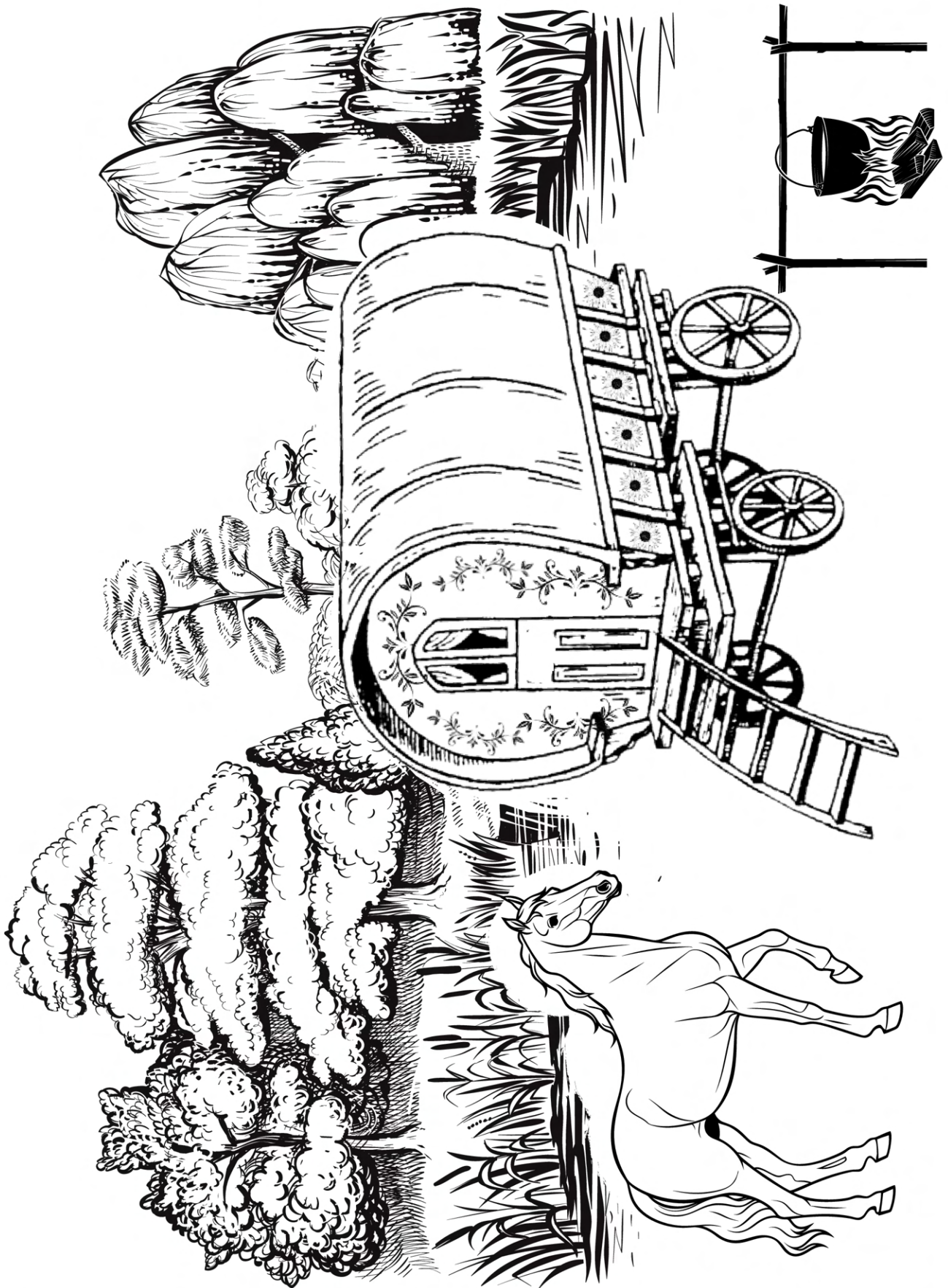
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# Colour Me: Chickens

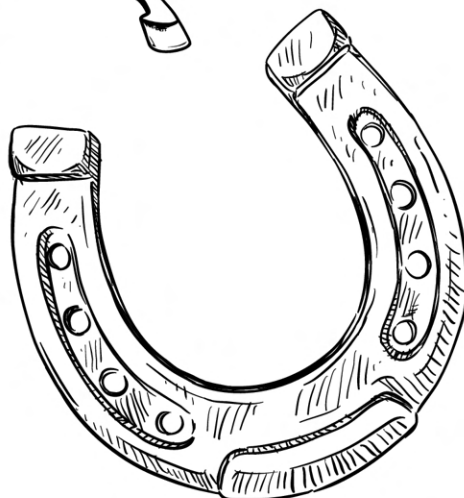
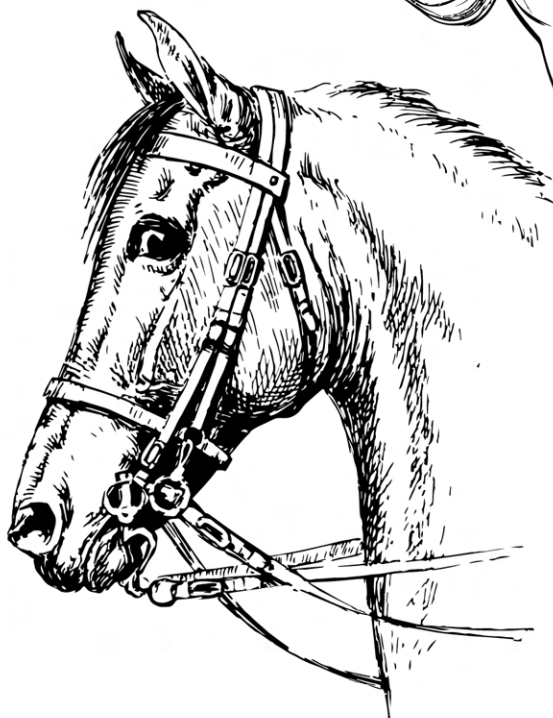
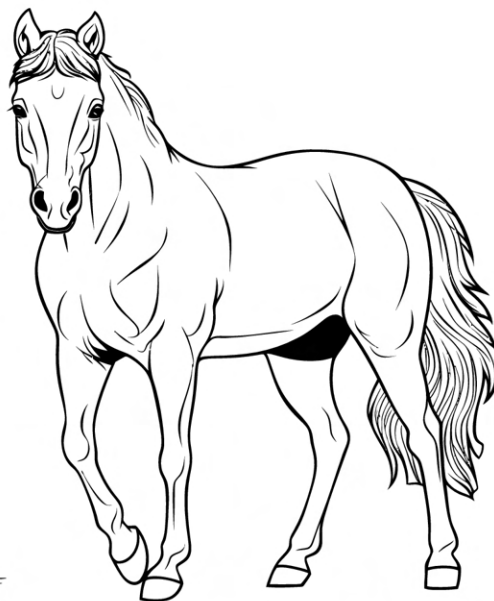




# Colour Me: Waggon

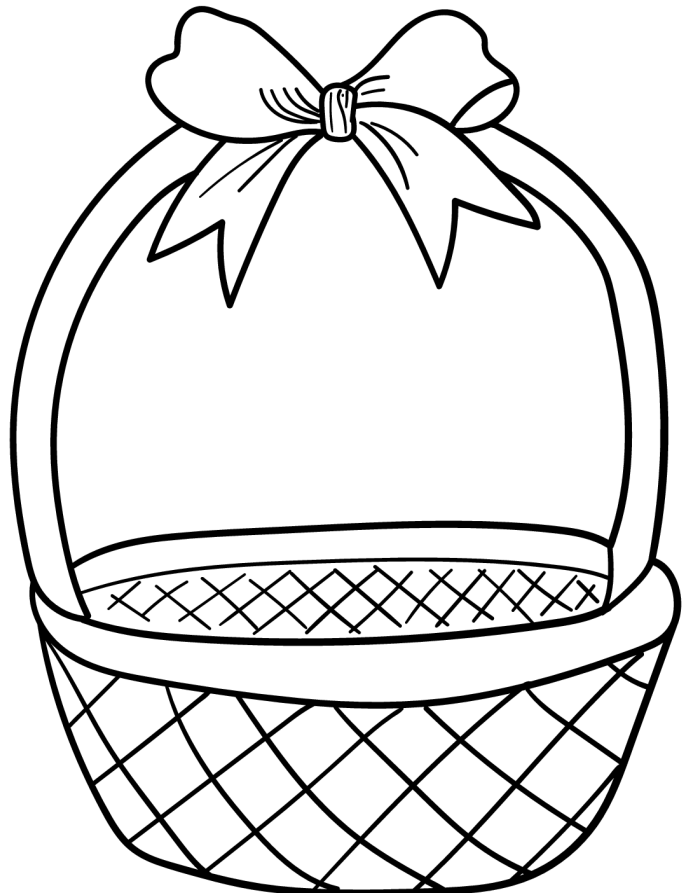


# Colour Me: Horses



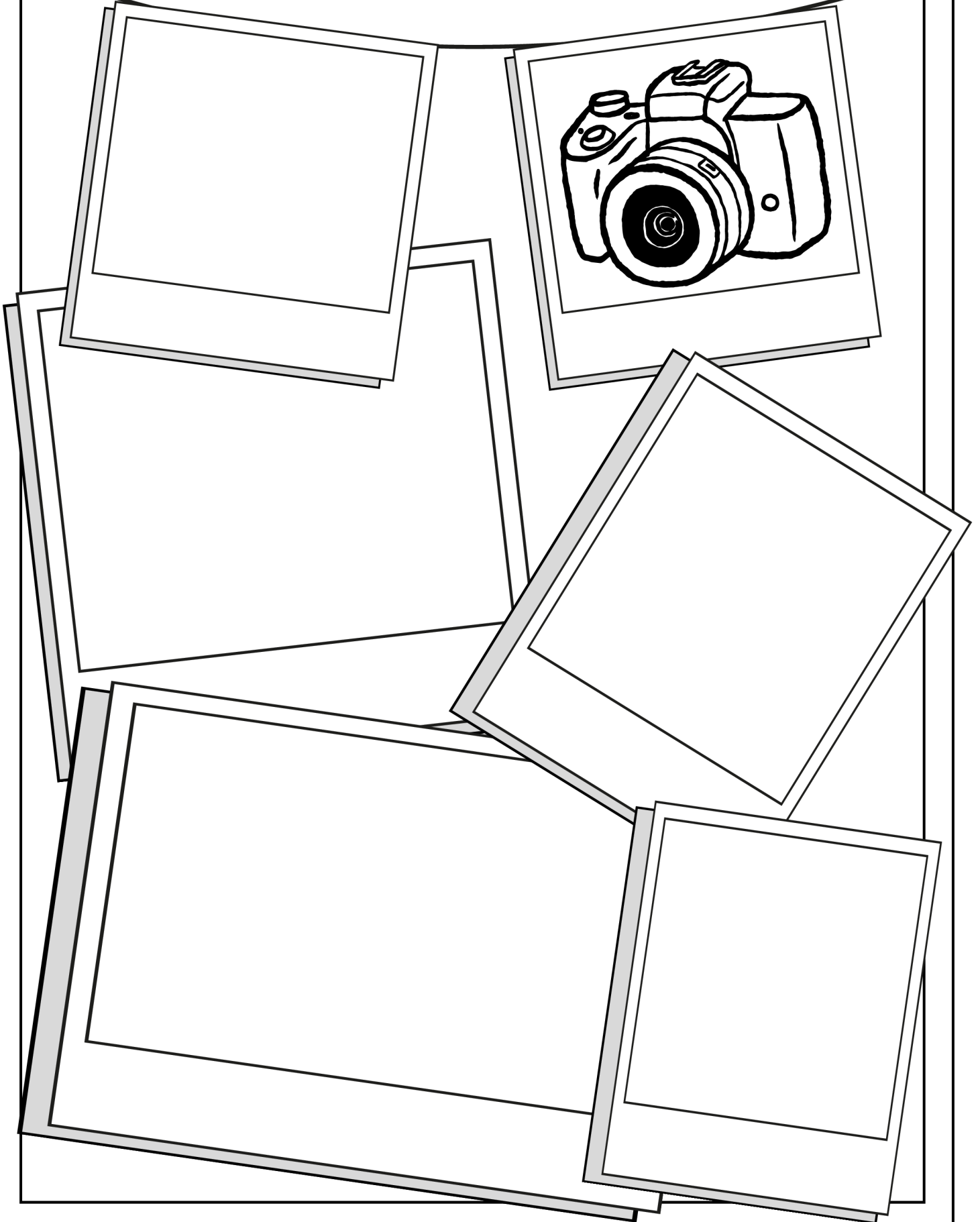
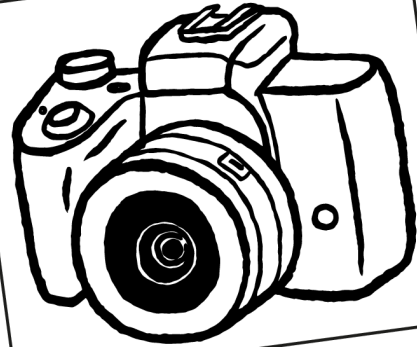


# Colour Me: Baskets



# The MERL Selfies

Draw your visit to the museum





# Word Search

F	F	A	N	D	E	T	G	T	L	T	N	F	D
A	N	I	Y	N	A	M	O	R	N	O	I	R	A
I	P	E	R	E	A	O	A	E	Y	G	R	S	F
R	A	C	K	F	E	E	T	F	E	O	E	I	N
I	A	A	A	C	C	I	S	R	G	A	T	G	O
G	R	T	V	R	I	H	T	I	R	O	E	N	G
N	C	O	R	C	T	H	S	E	Y	G	W	I	A
I	E	M	N	A	K	T	C	N	A	A	B	P	W
V	I	P	G	R	E	T	E	D	T	E	A	P	I
O	E	V	A	A	L	N	V	S	A	W	S	O	V
M	H	O	T	V	T	C	N	K	P	I	K	H	R
I	E	M	N	A	T	D	A	O	R	T	E	T	B
O	O	M	F	N	E	E	A	H	D	T	T	R	O
H	O	R	S	E	K	A	F	I	R	E	E	R	T

**Romany**

**horse**

**hopping**

**friends**

**fire**

**iron**

**caravan**

**chicken**

**fair**

**wagon**

**cart**

**basket**

**tent**

**moving**

**brass**

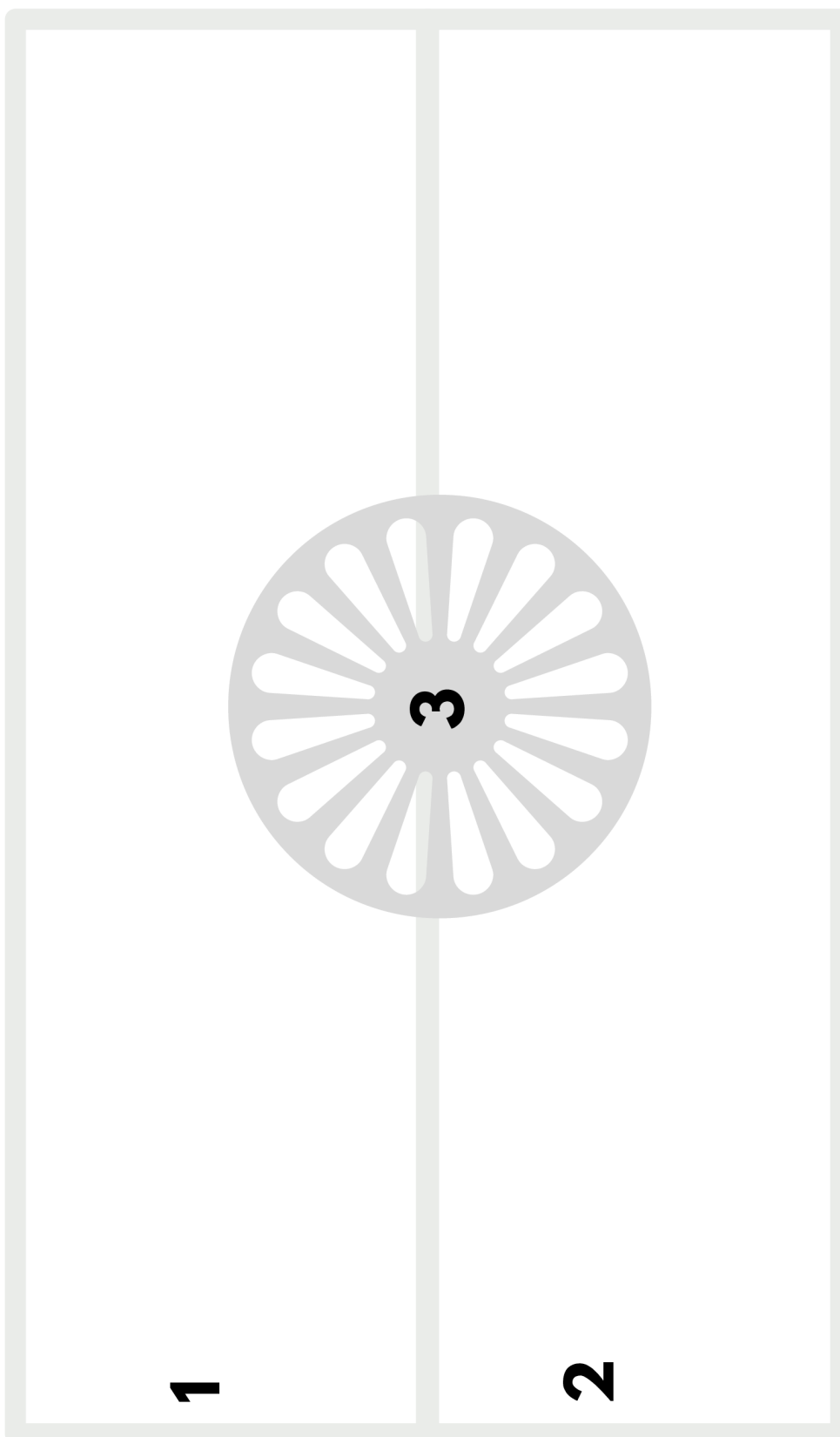
**kettle**

**road**



# Colour by Number

Find the numbers in the Romany flag below.  
Colour in using the key!



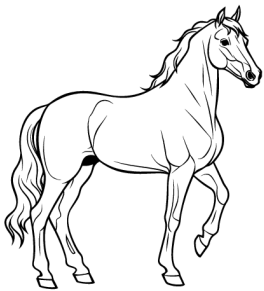


# Explorer Game 1

**How many horses  
can you find in  
The MERL?**



**What are their jobs?**



**How many baskets  
can you find in  
The MERL?**



**What are they  
made from?**

# Explorer Game 2



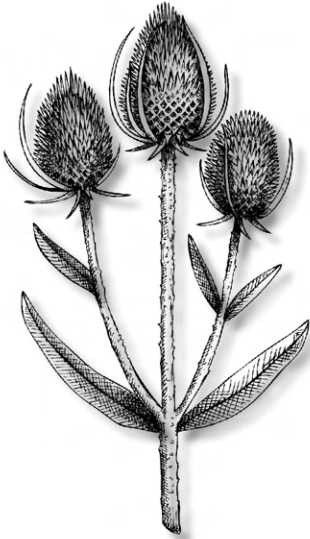
**Write down some  
jobs or work that  
happens in the  
countryside.**



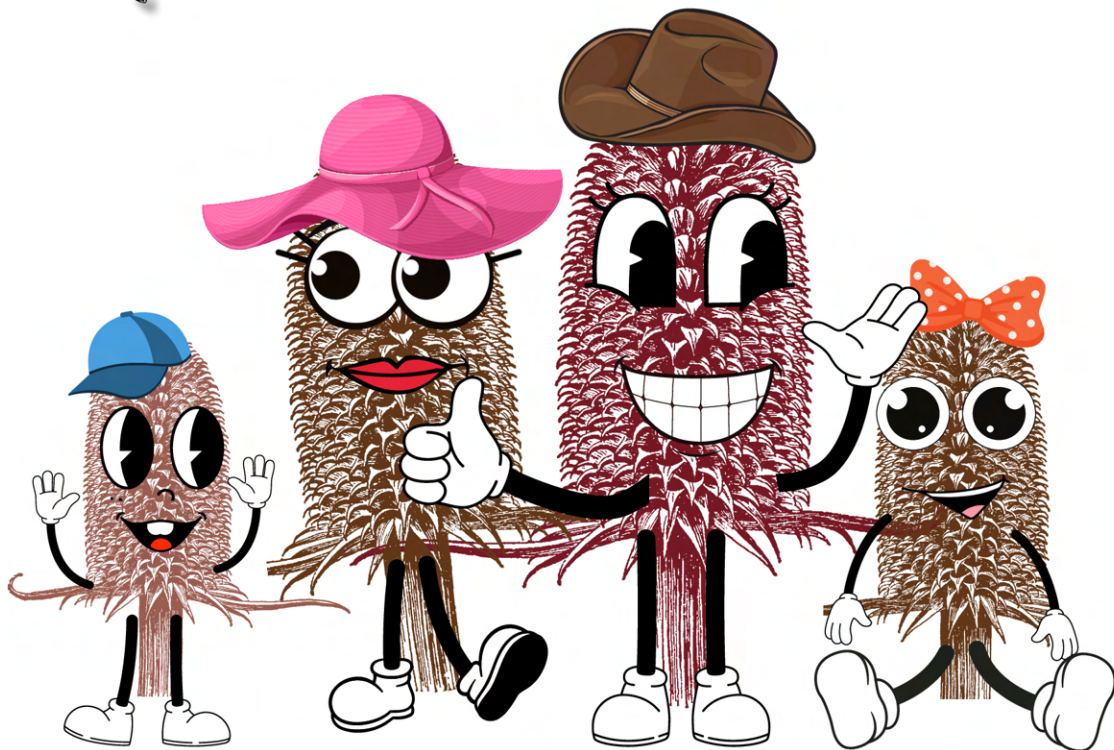
**Find something  
made by hand in  
the exhibition.**

**How was it made?**

# Make a Teasel Person



**Teasels are plants that grow as tall as a very tall grown up! You can use their flowerheads to make a teasel person. If you can't find a real teasel, you can use a pine cone.**



**Can you find out what else teasels are used for?**

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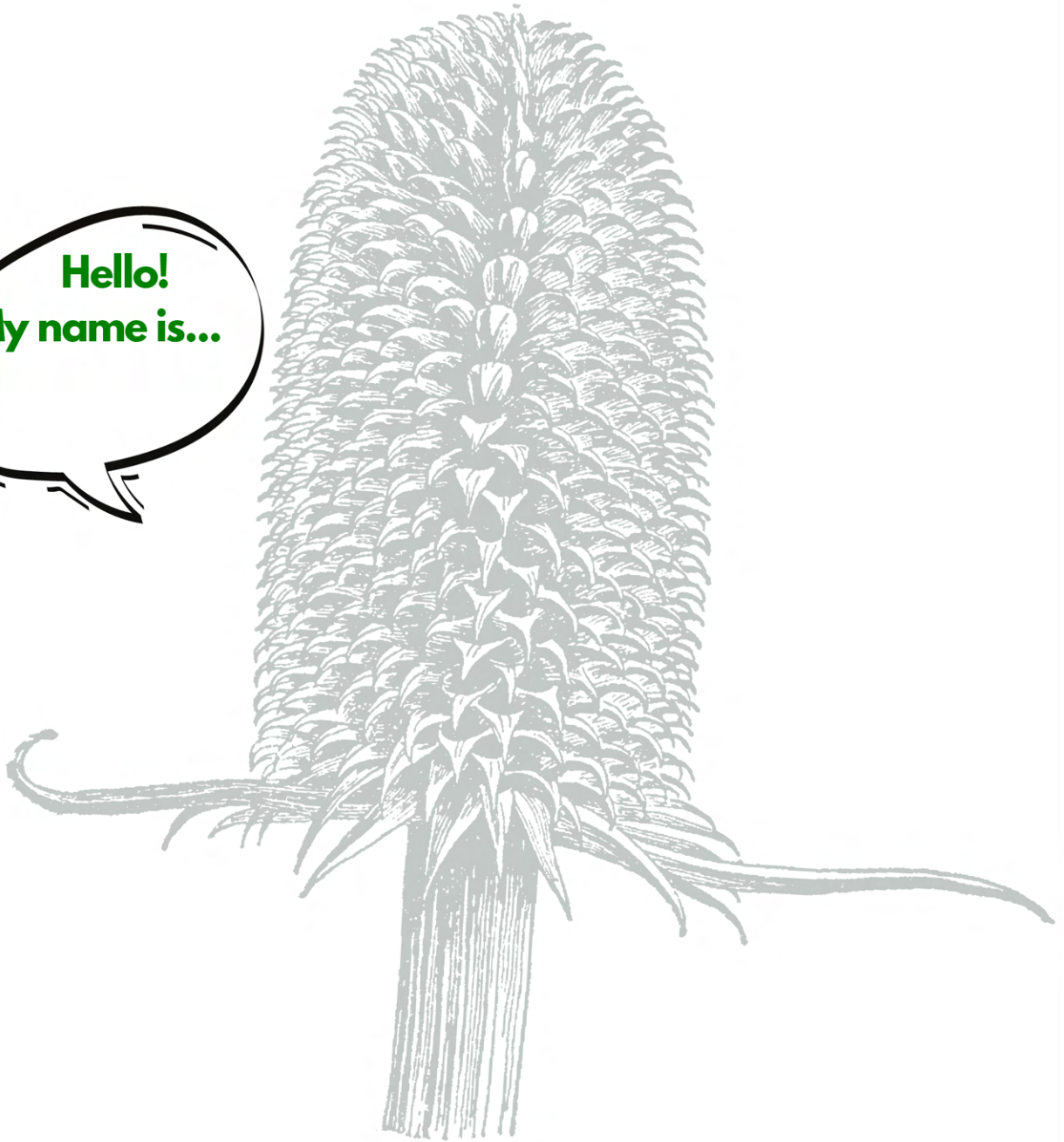
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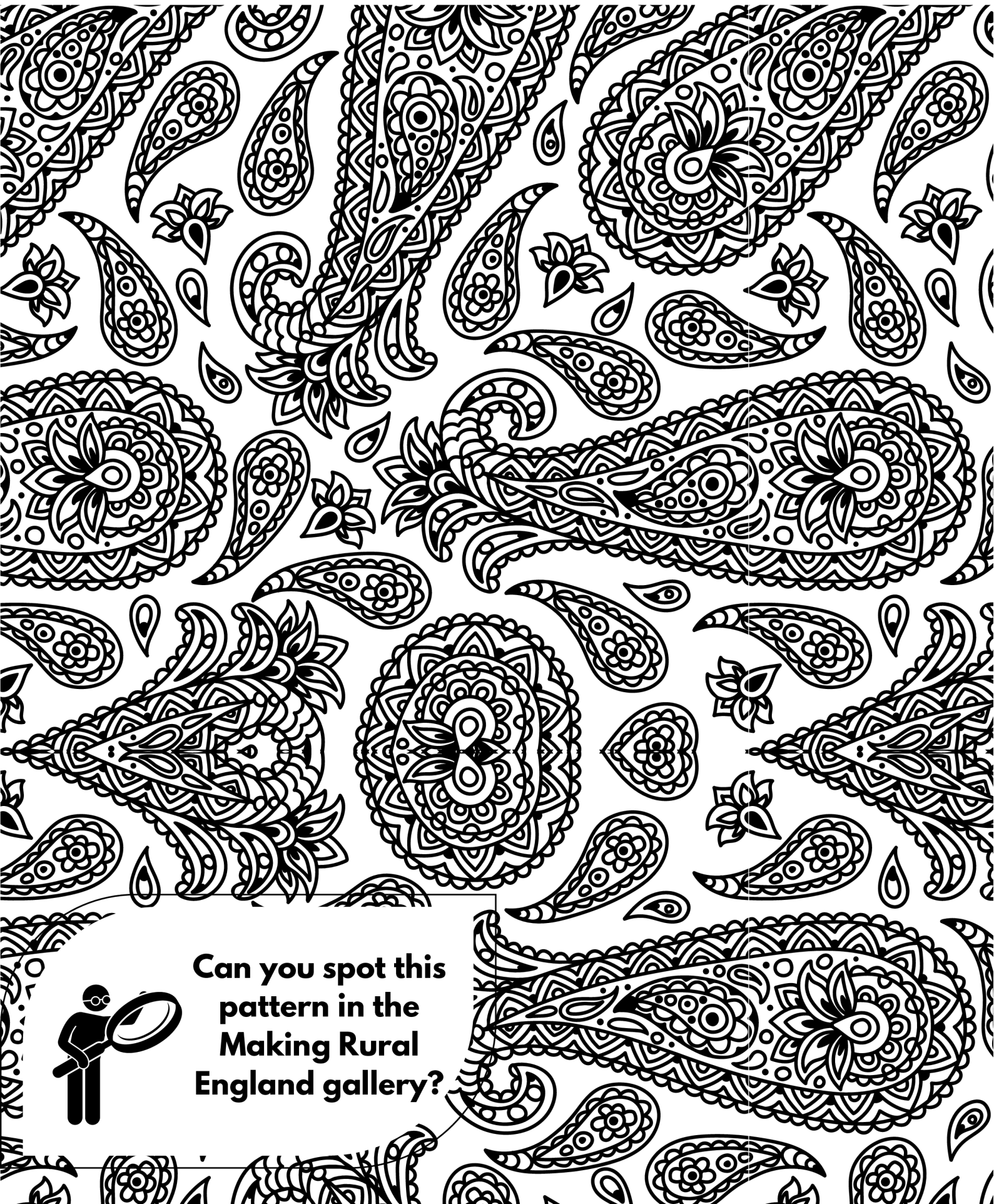
# My Teasel Person

Hello!  
My name is...



Paisley Pattern

# Colour Your Way



Can you spot this  
pattern in the  
Making Rural  
England gallery?



# Design a Dikhlo



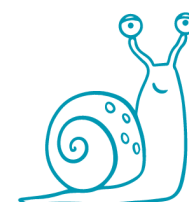
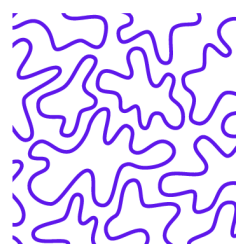
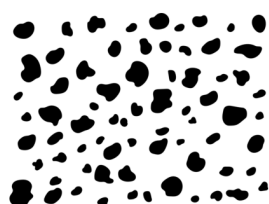
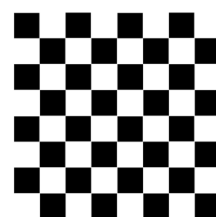
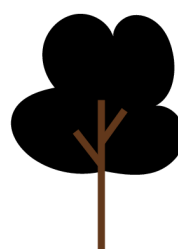
**Dikhlos are brightly colourful,  
patterned silk scarves that some  
Romany people wear.**

**Can you find a dikhlo in The MERL?**

**Make your own scarf with a  
square of blank fabric around  
35cm x 35cm and special pens,  
paint or felt tips**



**Dikhlos often feature repeating patterns. What  
colour and design will yours have?  
Here are some ideas!**





# Spotting Game



Can you find these things in the painting?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>apron</u>       | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>grass</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>smock</u>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>atchin' tan</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>hand</u>    | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>steps</u>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>boot</u>        | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>hoof</u>    | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>tail</u>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>cap</u>         | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>horse</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>waggon</u>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>chimney</u>     | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>lurcher</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>waistcoat</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>cooking pot</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>man</u>     | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>wheel</u>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>dihklo</u>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>mane</u>    | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>window</u>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>door</u>        | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>ribbon</u>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>woman</u>     |



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Reading**



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