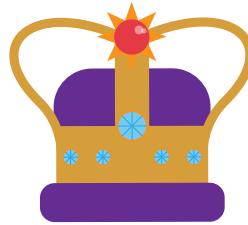


Lonely Planet Kids

YOU RULE!



**Do you ever wish you could be the one to make the rules?
Well, now's your chance!**

**Get ready to design your very own nation, completely from scratch.
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW, YOU RULE!**

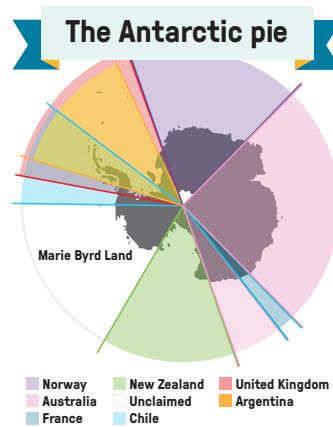
Throw on your robes, dust off your crown, and start nation-building!

Who needs land? Nation ahoy!

While unclaimed land might be hard to come by, sea platforms – solid structures anchored to the seabed – will do. In 1966, a former British soldier seized an abandoned military platform off the coast of South East England. He designed a flag, made up laws, penned a national anthem, and printed passports. Roy Bates died in 2012, but Sealand is still “ruled” by his son, Prince Michael.

Up for Grabs

The Norwegian sector of Antarctica has no defined southern boundary, so the part near the South Pole could be up for grabs!



Choose your place

First you have to decide where or what your country will be.

It can be in an existing country, one of your bedrooms or schools, this library, an island that's just popped up in the ocean thanks to a volcano, another planet, or even a place you dream up – stake your claim!

Write down your group's ideas:

Where/what has your group decided to claim?

What makes it a great place to establish a country?

Virtually yours

In the age of the internet, you don't need land at all – why not set up a country online? Established in 2008, Wirtland claims to be the world's first virtual nation. More than 4,000 people have become Witzens of Wirtland, or Wirtlanders.





Choose your government



VOTE TIME: Hands ready! Who wants to run your new country as:

A. An autocracy?

Tallies: _____

B. A monarchy or oligarchy?

Tallies: _____

C. A democracy?

Tallies: _____

Tally markers, circle the letter that had the most votes.

Losing the plot

Being an autocrat is all very well if your country is small. But if it starts to grow, it will become almost impossible to manage everything by yourself. You'll probably be exhausted, and a bit grumpy. If that happens, you could even start behaving like a tyrant – ordering people around, ticking them off constantly, and much, much worse!



Power sharing

A fair option is to involve all of your citizens in government. This is called 'democracy' and was first introduced in Greece in the 6th century BC. Today, most nations are democracies. It's easy to see why they are so popular. Citizens feel they have some influence on their government and, as a result, are usually happier about its decisions. But there is one thing that aspiring leaders should know: even in a democracy, you can't please everyone all of the time.



Choose your leader

If your group chose **A**, an autocracy, your leader could be called an **emperor** or **czar**.

If your group chose **B**, a monarchy or oligarchy, your leader could be called a **king** or **queen**.

If your group chose **C**, a democracy, your leader could be called a **president** or **prime minister**.

ATTENTION DEMOCRATIC NATIONS,

IT'S VOTE TIME: Hands ready! Who wants your leader to be:

Candidate #1 name:

Tallies: _____

Candidate #2 name:

Tallies: _____

Candidate #3 name:

Tallies: _____

Candidate #4 name:

Tallies: _____

Who won the most votes or asserted themselves as your leader?

What is his or her title?



Decide your values

What makes your country truly magnificent and attractive to potential citizens? What does your country believe are the most important things every human should have in his or her life?

Choose from the examples below, or brainstorm your own:

**freedom health fun happiness
tolerance individualism unity**

Our country values:

Circle the most important value.

Decide your rights

Many rights are based on the country's values. Rights are what your country believes every citizen should be allowed to have and cannot be taken away.

Some rights can be silly like "the right to stay up late." Some can be serious like "the right to choose what job you want." Brainstorm the rights you will grant to every citizen (see if you can base your rights on your chosen values):

All citizens should have the right to:

Circle your most important right.

Decide your name

We hereby announce our nation to be called

Here are some ideas for naming your country:

- Include a word that describes the place like Iceland did. Or describe it in a way that will make people want to go there, like Greenland did.
- Use adjectives such as "great," "grand," "magnificent," or "most powerful."
- Use a word that describes your country's government, such as "kingdom," "republic," or "empire."



If your group needs help deciding, use a die to help. Fill the blanks in column 2, then roll the die three times and record the result each time.

1 First roll is for column 1 of the name box. If you roll a five, circle the fifth line in column one.

Result: _____

2 Second roll is for column 2. Circle the line that matches the result of your second roll.

Result: _____

3 Do the same for the third roll and column 3.

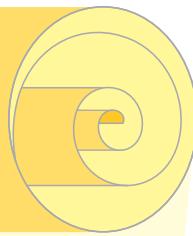
Result: _____

Roll 1	Roll 2	Roll 3
1 Grand	Place description: _____	-land
2 Great	Leader's first name: _____	-landia
3 Magnificent	An important value: _____	-istan
4 Most Noble	Type of government: _____	-ania
5 Immortal	A favorable description: _____	-topia
6 Sovereign	Any word you just really like: _____	-ica

Combine the three circled words to create one official-sounding country name:

Roll 1

Roll 2 + Roll 3



Declaration of Independence

We, the former citizens of

(write country/state/city the new nation is breaking from)

declare the birth of a new nation.

(write country name)

..... is now officially

a separate and independent country. We declare our
independence because

..... . We believe in the values of

This will be a, and

(write type of government)

..... will be the

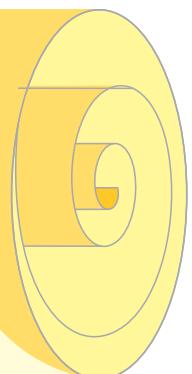
(write leader's name)

..... . Every citizen will be
(write what type of leader he/she will be)

granted the right to

Official law decrees that all citizens shall

Signed by



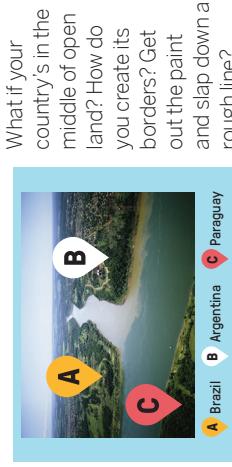


Establish your borders

If your country is a bedroom, the boundaries are clear. If it's a backyard, a fence or wall may act as a border. If it's an island, the job is done for you by the sea.

In South America, the Paraná and Iguazu rivers separate three nations: Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. You can stand on a river bank and wave to people in two other countries.

Are there natural features that mark the edge of your country?



Usually lines are marked on the ground with posts or pillars. If your country is small, you could use string and pegs or stakes to mark out its boundaries, or even mark it with a mower!



Assessing the threats:

Answer these questions to find out what level of protection your country requires.

Who are your neighbors?

1. A few nice families.
 2. Annoying brothers/sisters/neighbor's kids.
 3. Lots of people we don't even know.
- Have you had disagreements with them in the past?**
1. No, we get along well with everyone.
 2. Hmm, we have a few upset neighbors.
 3. They're out to sabotage our country!

Do they look friendly?

1. Yes, somebody even waved.
2. Sort of, but we don't trust them.
3. No, and we've been getting some really dirty looks.

How did you score?

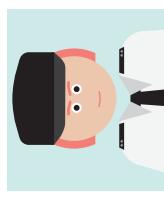
Add up the numbers of your answers, so if you picked option '1', score one point, and so on. Design your borders according to your total score:

3-4: No one's likely to bother you. Have a few 'Welcome!' signs at strategic points.

5-6: Best to have a fence. Place checkpoints on all access routes. A checkpoint can be a simple gate where people have to ask permission to enter.

7-9: Start building a wall, and build it tall. Get a big dog.

BORDER SECURITY



Mark your territory

On the back of this sheet, sketch a visual of what your country will look like, where your country's boundaries and checkpoints will be, and what cities, roads, buildings, tourist attractions, or landmarks (or furniture!) will be within your borders.

Then as a group, draw your final map on the poster. (If you haven't already done so, don't forget to draw at the top of the poster a banner with your country's name first.)

On the grid

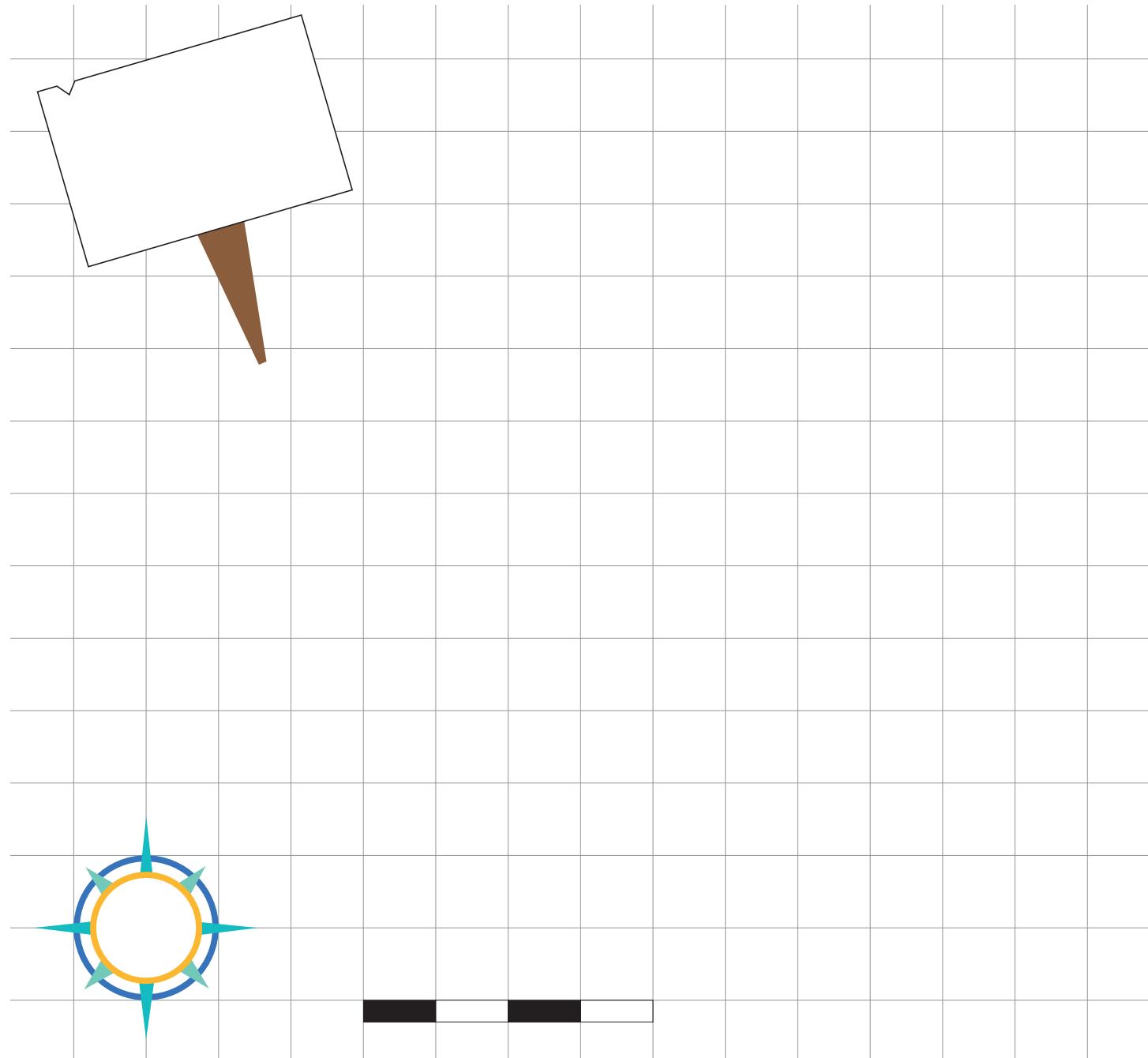
The grid on the back is made up of 1cm squares. If you decide a 1 cm square on the map equals 1 mi on the earth, then if two cities are 2 mi apart on the ground, then you would make sure there are two squares between the dots representing the cities on your map (1 cm square = 1 mi, so 2 cm squares = 2 mi). This is called scaling, because your map cannot be as big as your actual country!

On most maps the scale is shown as a bar, like this:



This helps the map reader to understand the actual distances between places when looking at the map. In this example, if 4 cm = 40 km, so 1 cm = 10 km.

Your grid has sixteen 1-cm squares across and thirteen 1-cm squares down. If your country is 160 mi wide and 130 mi long, then 1 cm could represent 10 mi. If your country is going to be 16 ft by 13 ft, then 1 cm could represent 1 ft. If your country is going to be 1600 km by 1300 km, 1 cm could then represent 100 km.



Key:



Often, maps show physical features with different colors or symbols, for example pale yellow for deserts, blue for waterways, dashed lines for roads, or triangles for mountains.

Use colored pencils to code the physical features of your country on the map, using the key to explain each color or symbol.



Write your national anthem

There's nothing better than a song or national anthem proclaiming what a wonderful nation you live in to get people all emotional and misty-eyed. So, compose a catchy tune with inspiring lyrics about how terrific your country is and get everybody singing along. Be bold: urge people to celebrate the country's values and the rights it protects. Praise its leader and noble beginnings.

Take note from a fellow micronation:

The Hutt River Province in Australia had famous musicians pen its national anthem:

*It's a hard land but it's our own land
Built with love and dedication
Self-assured is our small nation
One man's dream of independence
God bless the Prince of The Hutt River Province
God bless the man whose dream has come true*

Lend me your anthem

Music not your thing? Borrow a tune and match your lyrics to it. Some micronational anthems use the melody of God Save the Queen, the UK's national anthem. But you might like to use your favorite modern pop song.

If you're experiencing writer's block, borrow a few words from a familiar anthem, such as the US's anthem. Use the example below to help you get started.

Oh, say can you see,

What so proudly we hail,

This glorious land of _____

Whose bold flag of _____

Now gallantly flies

Above _____ lands

Representing _____

And the trumpets will call,

The drums will beat in time,

Stirring pride in us all,

That our country's still here.

Oh, say does that _____

Banner yet wave

Over the land of the _____

And the home of the _____



If you're musical, you could compose a tune to the lyrics you write below. Remember: it needs to be grand and stirring, with some big, bombastic sounds, like trumpet fanfares and drum rolls, but it's also got to be easy to sing along to.

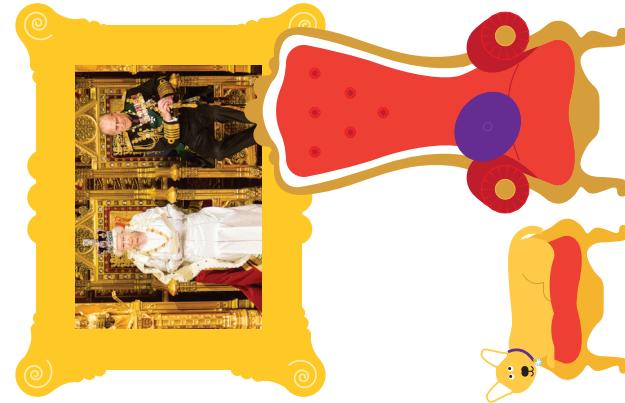
Brainstorm your ideas here, then as a group, on the poster write your final lyrics large enough to be seen from afar. (If you haven't already done so, don't forget to draw at the top of the poster a banner with your country's name first.)

Write your pledge

You want loyal citizens in your country. Write a pledge that they can recite, declaring their pride in their country and responsibility to help make it a great country.

Take note from another country:

I swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen



Now it's time to write an oath that gets your citizens' hearts beating. Be sure to reference the great things about your country that citizens should want to protect. Use words like "beloved homeland" to remind them that this is a special place.

Again, brainstorm your ideas here, then as a group, write in large letters your final verses onto the poster.

Lend me your pledge

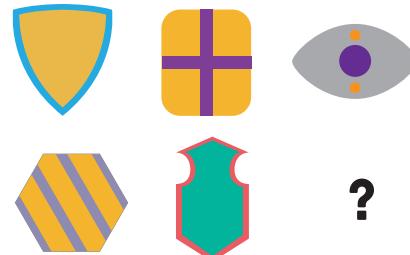
Again, nothing wrong with having writer's block. Borrow a few words from a familiar pledge of allegiance, such as the US's pledge. Use the example below to help you get started.

*I pledge allegiance, to the flag,
of _____, (republic/kingdom/
empire) for which it stands, one nation, indivisible,
with _____ (insert one of your values)
and _____ (insert one of your values) for all.*





Coat of arms



?

Badge of honor

In the Middle Ages, every wealthy family, city and state wanted its own stylish emblem (symbol), and strict rules for designing them were established and are still used today. A fancy coat of arms will give your proclamations a seriously official look.

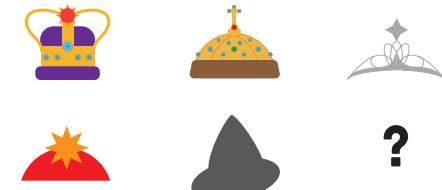
The supporters

Usually there's a banner bearing a motto, or short saying that is meant to sum up the values of your country. A motto could be something like 'Happy together.'

Herald a new nation

Sketch your ideas here, then as a group draw your final version on the poster.

Helm and crest



?

Above the shield is a helmet (helm) with a fancy feathery top (crest)—the fancier the better!

The supporters



?

Quite an achievement

Known also as an achievement, a heraldic symbol usually has a shield, or coat of arms, in the center. Use colors that represent your country's values or just pick your favorite colors. On either side of the shield are two identical animals. They look like they're holding the shield up, so they're called the supporters.

Emblem and motto



Ready to fly

The next thing you need is a flag. You'll need it for ceremonies, claiming new territories, rallying your troops, and for your citizens to stick on their car bumpers.

Keep it simple: choose a pattern you can confidently draw and can be easily copied by your subjects for their own homemade flags that they'll wave at you when you pass by.

Sketch out your ideas here, then together as a group, draw onto the poster your final design large enough to be seen by all. (If you haven't already done so, don't forget to draw a banner at the top of the poster with your country's name on it first.)

1. Most flags consist of blocks of color. You could use your favorite color or one that represents your country: blue for an island in a vast sea, red to represent power, or purple, the color of your bedroom walls!

2. You could opt for a two-color flag or the very popular tricolor (three colors) style favored by France and Italy. Just make sure it hasn't been done before (you'll need to check an atlas).

2. Decide which shapes to include. To stand out, avoid simple squares or rectangles and add a few curves and angles. You could include a circle, some stripes, maybe even a star or two. Or why not have your lines run diagonally, in all sorts of colors?



National flag of

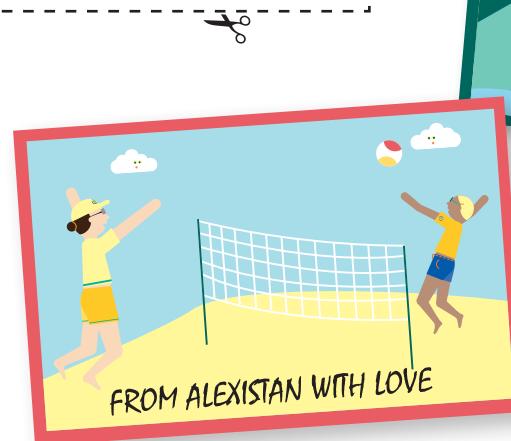
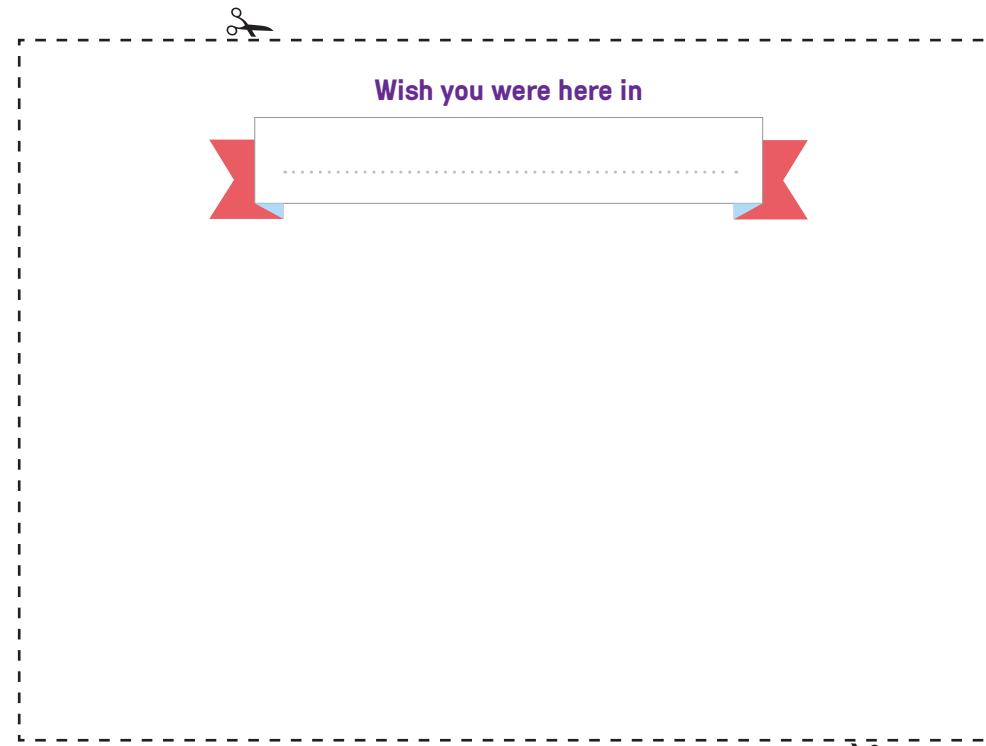


Bring a crowd

It'll never be much of a country if it doesn't have any people. If it's a cool place to be, word will soon spread and people will start turning up. Give it a few generations and you could have a proper population.

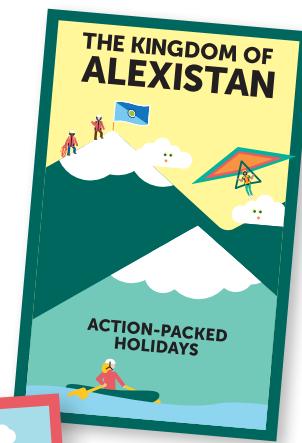
Make them jealous!

Design a postcard that depicts the beauty of your country or the fun activities you can do there as a tourist. Use phrases like "Wish you were here" and send it to friends and family to get them interested in checking it out. If they like it enough, they may just decide to come back permanently!



Join the jet set

You could draw some pictures of your country – only the nicest parts of course – and write a short article about its attractions. Could it be a popular vacation destination? Make a brochure. Ask your teachers if you can hand it out at school to get more interest from your classmates.





Get the money rolling in

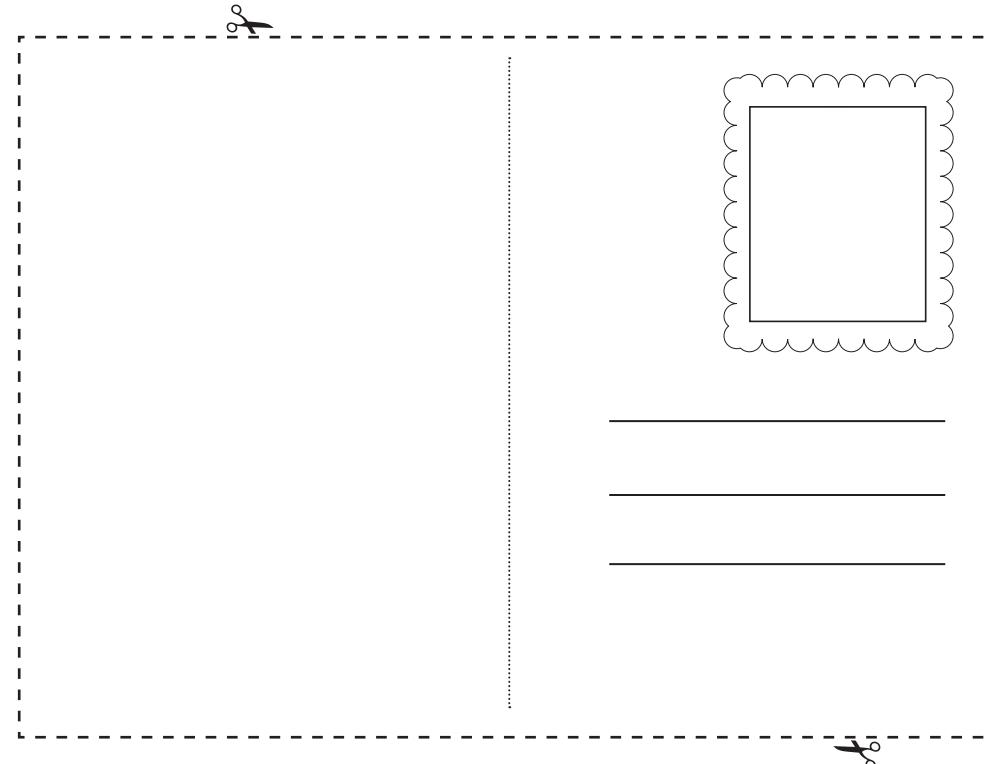
When it comes to making money, it's hard to beat tourism. Find ways to attract visitors and keep the tourist dollars rolling in.

Show off

Offer guided tours of your nation, including major landmarks and historic sites. People love hobnobbing with royalty, so they'll probably pay top dollar for a day with the nation's leader (yes, that's you).

Spread the news!

Cut this postcard out and make copies of it, so you can spread the news about the fun to be had in your country. After designing a stamp, write a message about the activities you have been doing and the sights you have been seeing.



Put your stamp on it!

It's wise to set up a national postal service. Selling stamps to citizens can be a good way to generate cash. Stamp designs often include national symbols or a portrait of the country's ruler, but can show landscapes or even wildlife.





Making the grade

Every new nation wants to gain official recognition, and be treated by other countries as an equal. However, it's so tricky that no micronation has yet managed it. But, hey, you like a challenge, right?

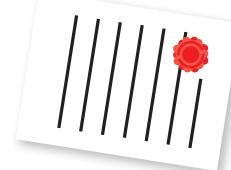
So, how do you get to be a real country? A famous treaty signed in 1933 in South America, the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States, set out the following four requirements:

- 1. Defined territory**
- 2. Permanent population**
- 3. Government**
- 4. Relationships with other countries**

Start swearing in the population

Start with family and friends. Hold an official ceremony, where they read out the pledge, their oath of loyalty, and are presented with their citizenship certificate.

Another thing you can offer to gain nods of approval from other nations is a passport – a document stating that the holder is a citizen of your nation and thereby has the freedom to come and go from your country and enter others. There are usually blank pages to be filled with fancy stamps as a citizen passes through different countries. Issuing passports is a hallmark of a serious nation and could help you to become official.



Make nice with other countries

Countries often sell their goods and services to each other and allow citizens to move freely between their countries. Nations also agree to help each other in the event of war. Do this and you'll end up with a bunch of friendly nations – otherwise known as allies. See if you can talk with some of the other new nations here at this library and form some alliances.



World stage

The next step is to apply for membership of the United Nations. Based in New York, almost all the world's real countries belong to this organization. It is where their representatives hang out, discuss problems, and agree on solutions, and it's the closest thing we have to a world government. Gain membership here and you're made! The trouble is, they're a bit fussy about who they let in. Even some real countries haven't been accepted.

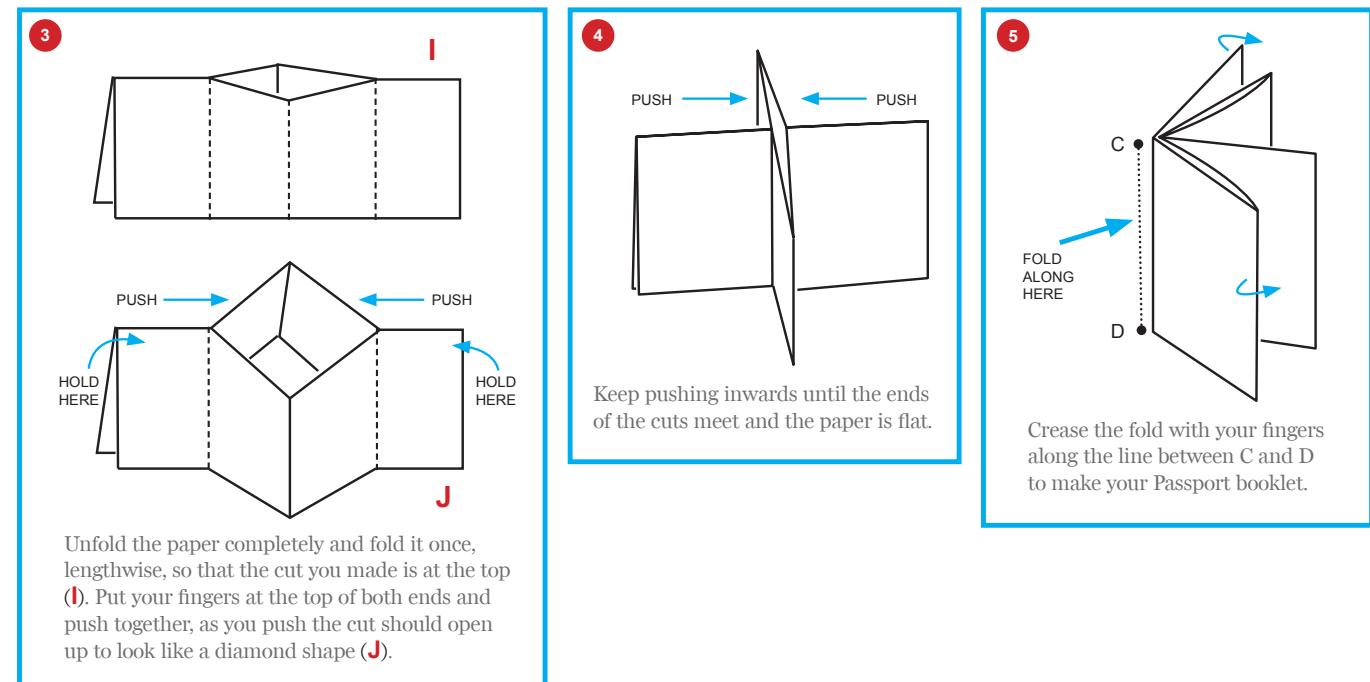
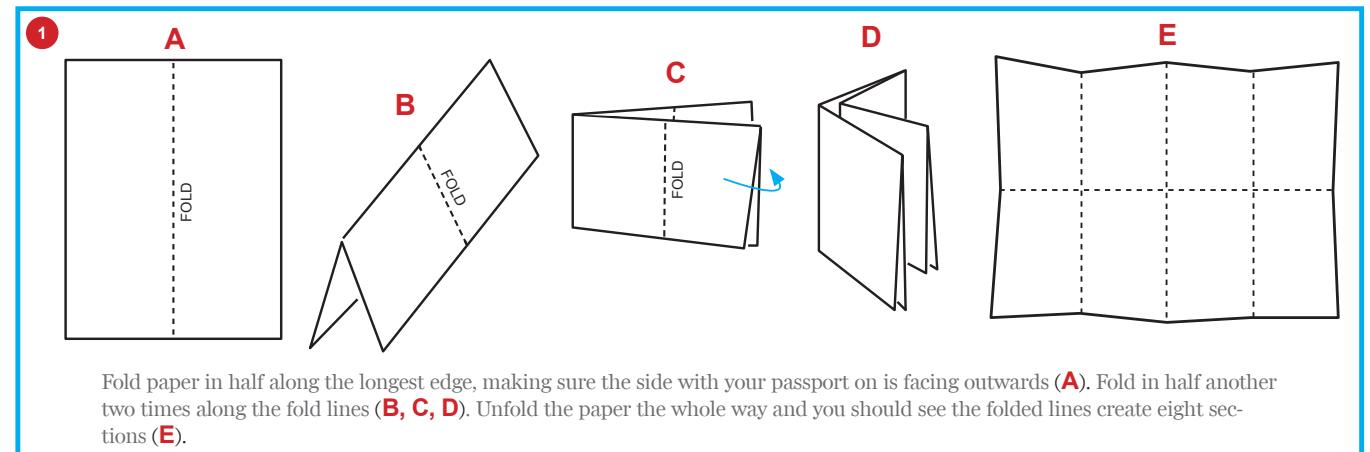
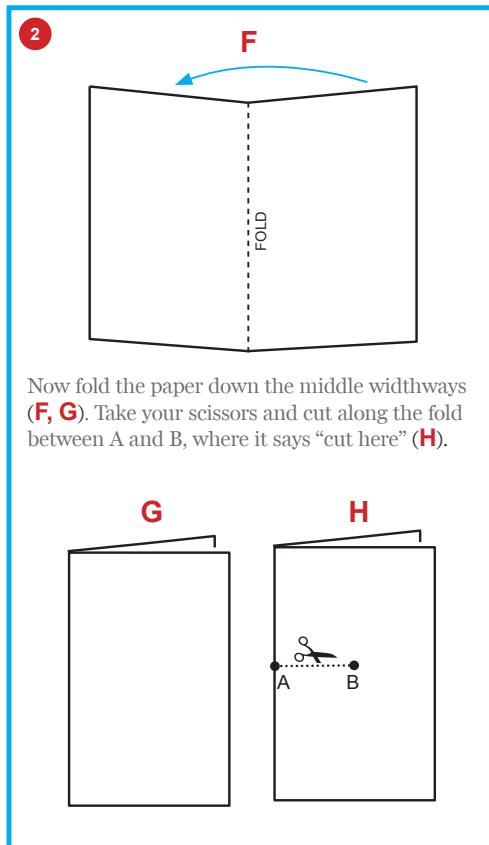
How to apply for UN membership

- 1.** Declare your country a "peace loving state."
- 2.** Write an application saying you accept all the rules of the UN.
- 3.** Gain the approval of at least nine of the UN's 15 Council members, and the approval of all five permanent members – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- 4.** Have your application approved by two-thirds of all UN members.
- 5.** Pay your annual fees.

Decorate, design and write your passport before you fold it!

Folding instructions

(You will need a pair of scissors, make sure you have adult supervision)



[your title as ruler], leader of
 [name of country], request all those
 whom it may concern to allow the bearer of this document to
 pass freely without hindrance, and to offer any assistance he
 or she may require.

[Add your signature to the line.]

PASSPORT

PASSPORT



Lastname _____	Firstname _____
Date of birth _____	Place of birth _____
Nationality _____	M/F _____
Date of issue _____	Date of expiration _____
Passport No.: _____	

Cut here from A to B

How to design a complete *YOU RULE!* new nation from scratch!

Choose where your nation is located, what it looks like, how many people live in it, what they do and how they travel. You can be king, queen, big chief, emperor, You decide, organize, govern and judge. Because right here, right now, **you rule!** president or dictator.

lonelyplanetkids.com

lonely planet kids

Fold along C and D

C

D

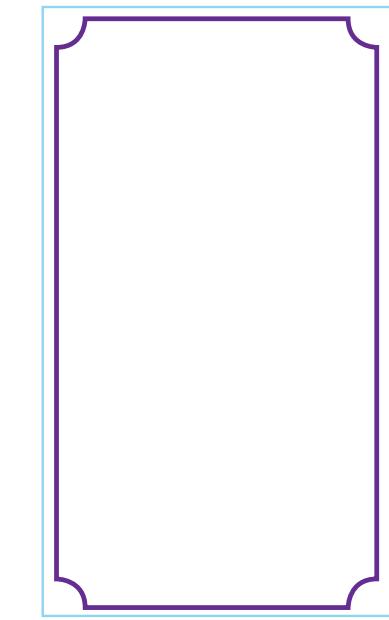
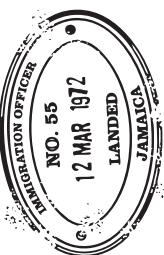
Cut here

A

With your passport in hand you can now travel the world. Go take a quick trip to another nation or draw stamps to add to their country. Ask them to draw here their official stamp to show you are allowed to visit their country.

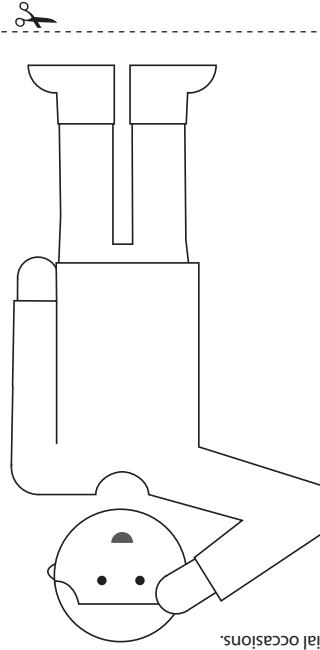
What is your major industry/export (the product that your country will be good at making that the rest of the world will want to buy)?

What is your national holiday?



Design a national costume of your country's leader or
 design a national statue of your country that your citizens will wear
 for special occasions.

Design an official currency.



OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME