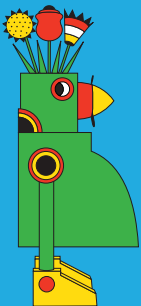




Brooklyn Children's Museum
Activity Kit

Brooklyn is Home

Designed for Children
Ages 4 and Up



**BROOKLYN
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM**

Home means different things to different people. It can be tied to a place or a feeling. You might move to a new place and miss your old home. You may have special feelings about your home because of the people who live with you and things you do together there.

If you live in Brooklyn now you are connected to generations of people from all over the world who have lived here before you and called our borough home. Try the activities in this guide, and tell your own Brooklyn story!

*SHARE YOUR CREATIONS
WITH US BY TAGGING @BCMKIDS
AND #BROOKLYNCHILDRENSMUSEUM
ON INSTAGRAM.*



ACTIVITY 1

What's Beneath Your Feet?

The ground beneath us can tell us a lot about the animals, people, and plants who came before us. If you dig down into the ground, you might find the remains of things left behind—fossils, bones, and other clues that tell the stories of long ago.

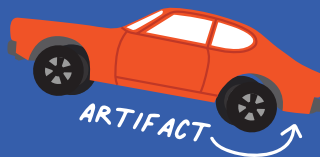
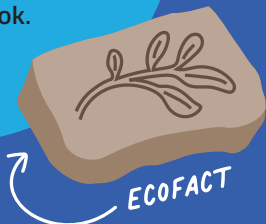
YOUR TURN

What do you think you'd find buried below the ground?

Draw a picture of each one.

The one furthest down would be the oldest. The one in the middle would be old and the one near the top would be the newest.

You might find ecofacts and artifacts. **Ecofacts** are objects made by nature, such as plants, rocks, and fossils. **Artifacts** are objects made by people, such as toys or a book.



ACTIVITY 2

Where Is Your Family From?

Some people were born in Brooklyn, others moved here as children or grown-ups, and some of these people had to leave their homes in other places. All of us have a story to tell about where we came from.

YOUR TURN

On the map of the world, mark where your family's journey began.

Draw a line from where it began to where you are now.

Draw a line to where you want to go in the future!



ACTIVITY 3

Where's Your Brooklyn?

YOUR TURN

What makes Brooklyn your home?

Look at the map of Brooklyn and mark the places that are important to you with a star.

Those places could include your home, your school, your corner bodega, your local library, your favorite playground, or any other place that is important to you.

Draw some things you see every day.

★ SPECIAL PLACE #1

★ SPECIAL PLACE #2

★ SPECIAL PLACE #3



ACTIVITY 4

How the Streets Got Their Names

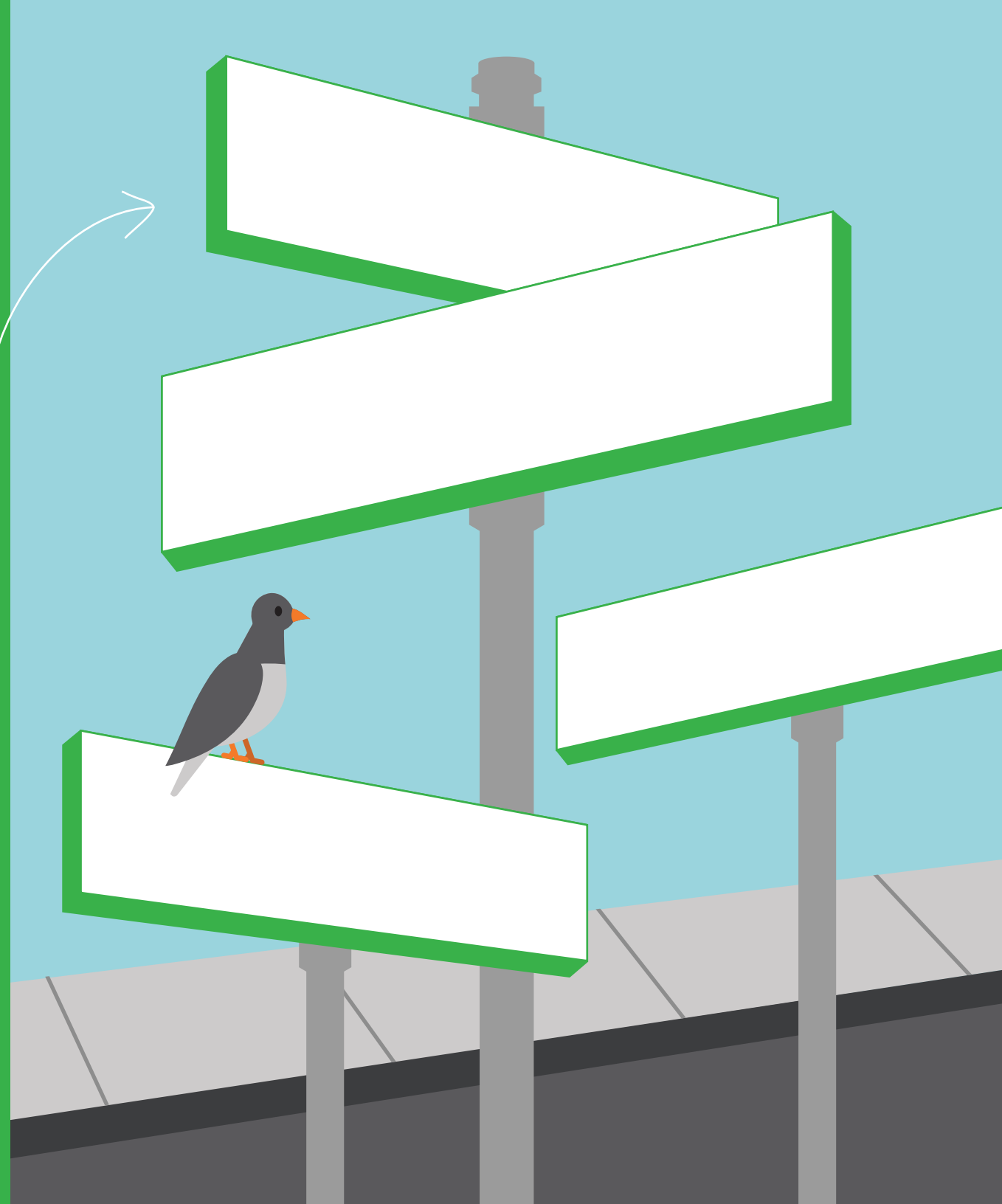
Some of the names of Brooklyn's streets and neighborhoods come from the first inhabitants of the land, the Lenape people.

The Lenape people called our borough *Lenapehoking* or "in the land of the Lenape." For example, Gowanus comes from the Canarsee sachem, or chief, named Gouwane. Canarsie is an adapted word from the Lenape language, meaning "fenced land" or "fort." *Rockaway* comes from the word *leekuwahkuy*, meaning "sandy place."

YOUR TURN

How would you name a street?

- *After an important person in your life*
- *After an important landmark in your neighborhood*
- *After a natural feature in your neighborhood, like a tree or hill*
- *After people who lived in your neighborhood before you*



ACTIVITY 5

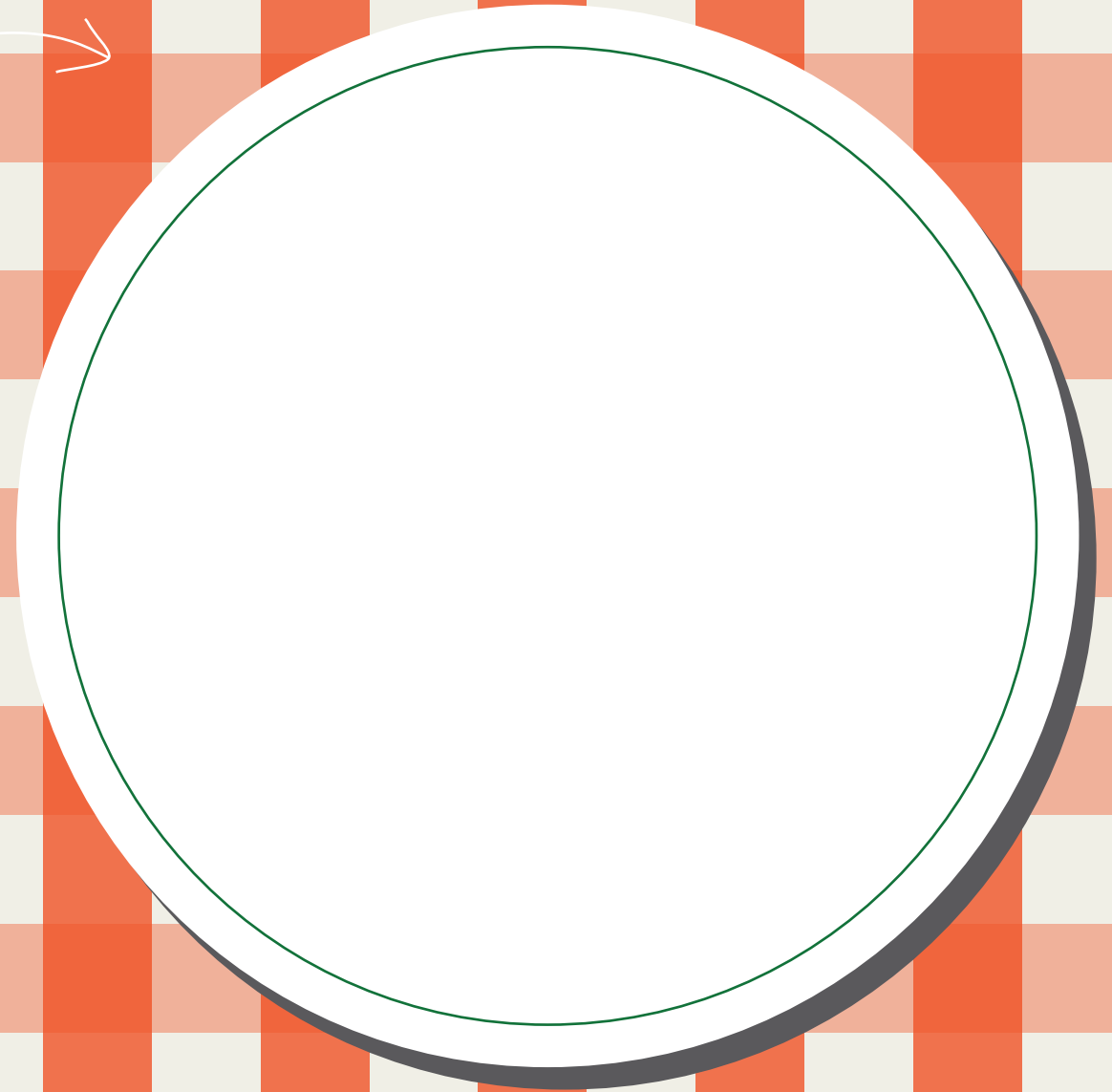
What's Cookin'?

What is a favorite meal at your house? Every family has its own recipes, food traditions, and ways to celebrate.

YOUR TURN

Draw or write down your favorite food memory. This might be a holiday, an annual celebration, or an unforgettable moment of making or eating food with others.

FAMILY RECIPE



ACTIVITY 6

Portraits of Your People

Who are the people you consider family? Create a portrait of the people you love and call your family. Do they have characteristics in common? Draw a time when you had fun together.



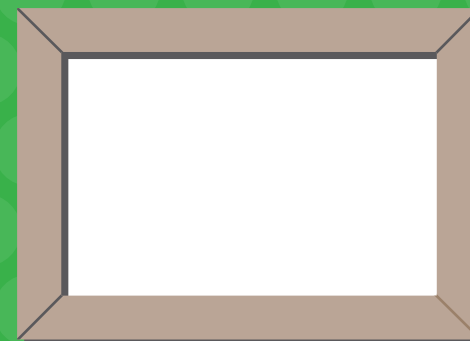
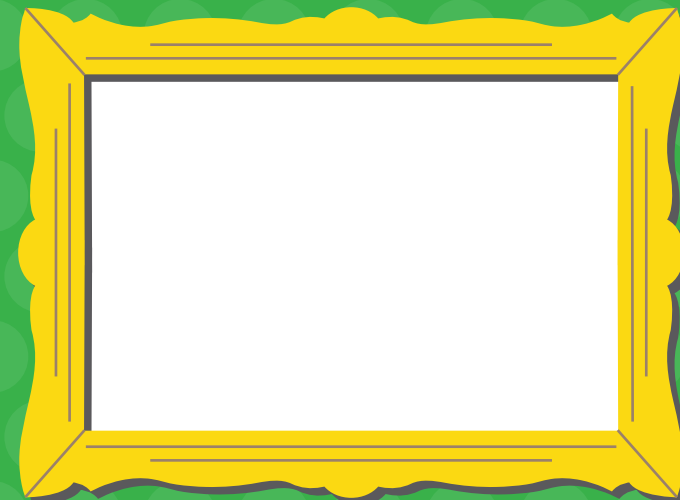
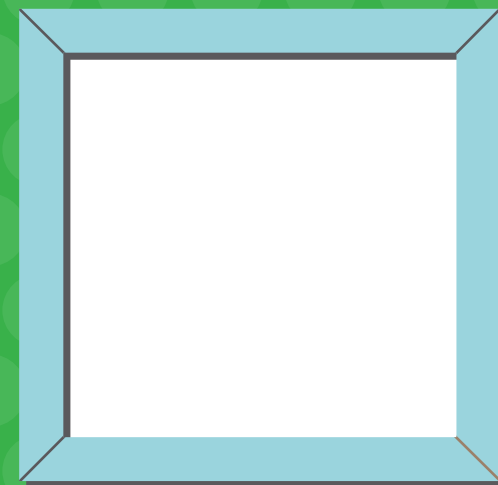
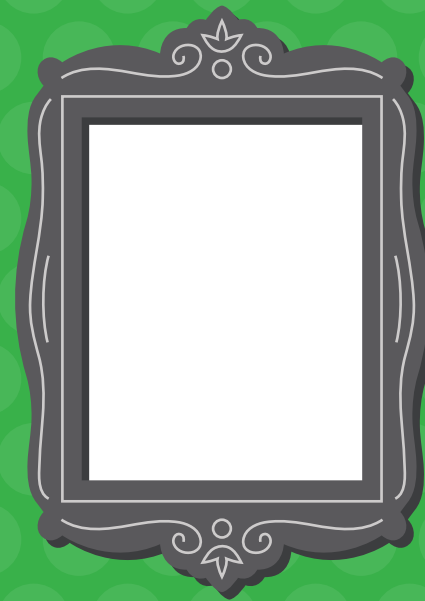
YOUR TURN

Who are the people you call family?

Create a portrait of the people you love and call your family.

Are there common characteristics that stand out?

Draw a memory of a time when you had fun together.



ACTIVITY 7

Listen Up!

When a community needs help, people rally around to fix the problem. You can add your voice to the discussion. The first step is figuring out what you want to say.



YOUR TURN

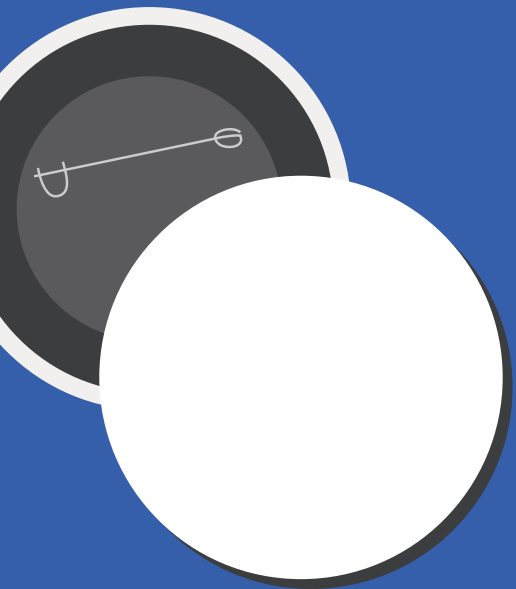
Think about something you believe in, and design a poster and a button to show everyone what matters to you. You can use words and pictures.

Where would you hang your poster?

Where will you wear your button?

How will you take action?

Would you participate in a march, write a letter to a council member or the mayor, or volunteer to support a cause that is important to you?



ACTIVITY 8

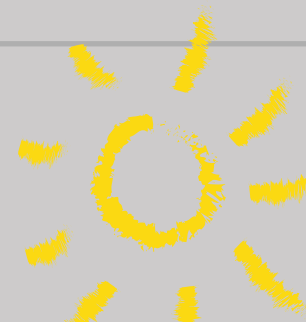
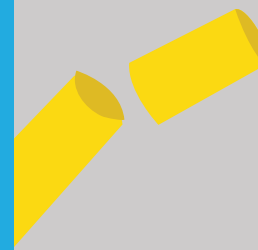
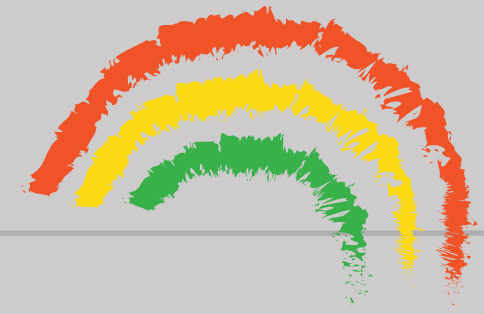
Spread the Word

What would you like to say to people in your community?

YOUR TURN

*Write or draw a message or question
on the sidewalk for your neighbors.*

*Then try doing this with actual chalk
outside.*



ACTIVITY 9

Poetry for Your People

For a block party, a street is closed off to cars, and neighbors gather to celebrate. Have you ever been to a block party?



YOUR TURN

Draw your own block party.

- *What does your celebration look like?*
- *How would you decorate for your own block party?*
- *What activities would you include?*



ACTIVITY 10

Beautiful You!

What object do you love? Everyone has things that are special to them, such as a favorite doll, toy, book, or piece of clothing.



YOUR TURN

*Draw a picture of one of your favorite things.
What does this object say about you?*

A white rectangular box with rounded corners and five horizontal blue lines for writing.

ACTIVITY II

Sounds Like Home

Each home has its own sounds, which reflect the interests of the people who live there.

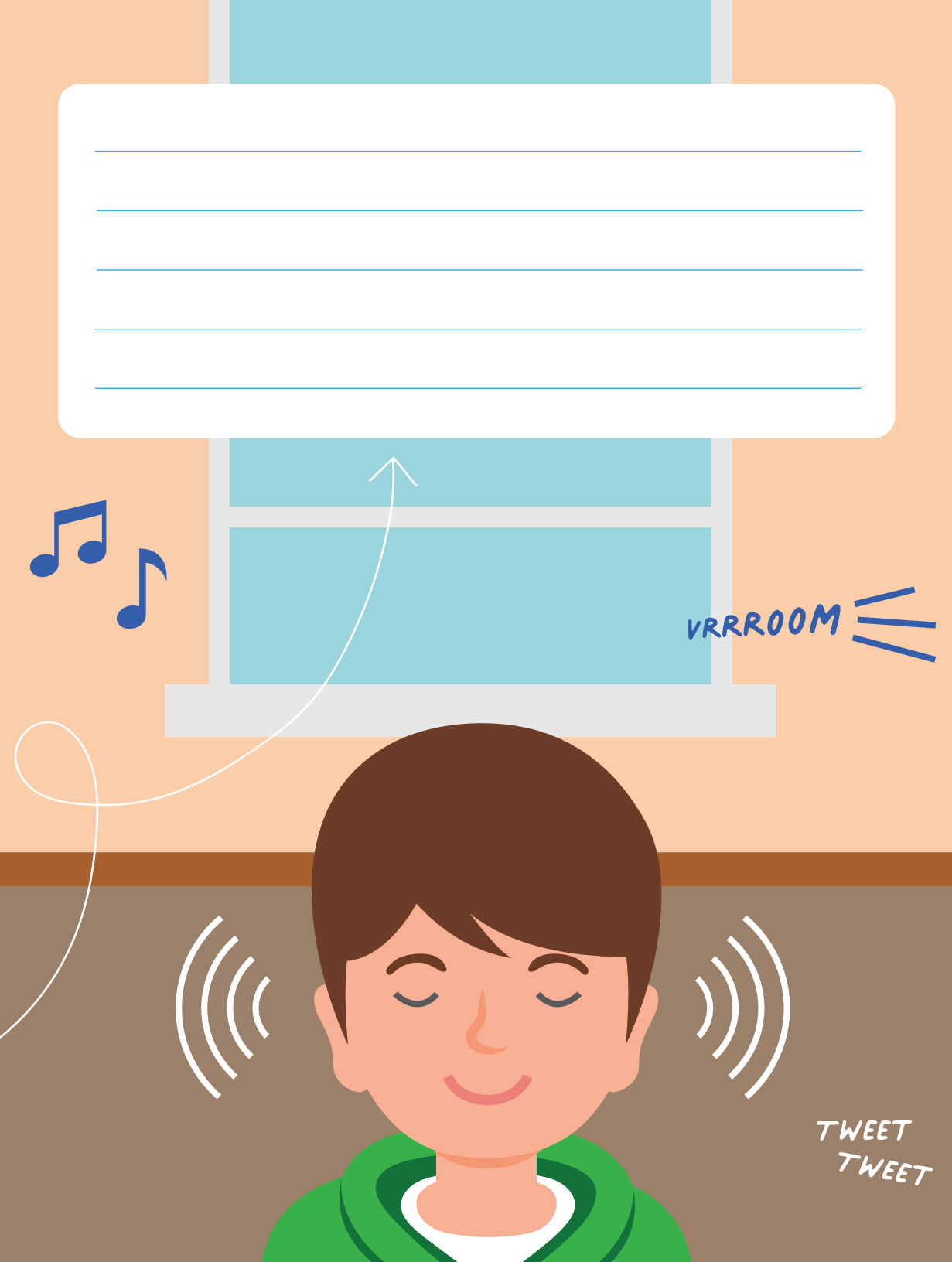
YOUR TURN

Close your eyes and listen to the sounds in your home or on your street.

What do you hear?

Do you hear people talking? A TV? Music? Are there sounds from the outside that you hear? Whose voices do you hear?

Write down five sound words that you hear.



Thank You

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ABOUT BCM

Founded in 1899 as the world's first children's museum, Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) is New York City's largest cultural institution designed especially for families. Based in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, BCM serves 300,000 people annually with exhibits and programs highlighting visual arts, music, performance, natural science, and world cultures.

WHERE WE ARE

Brooklyn Children's Museum
145 Brooklyn Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213

HOURS

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Free hours on Thursdays, 2:00 pm–5:00 pm, sponsored by **amazon**

BCM'S EDUCATION STAFF

Kate Mirand Calleri, Director of Education

Atiba T. Edwards, Executive Vice President & COO

Hana Elwell, Vice President of Exhibits and Education

Allison Huttick, Education Coordinator

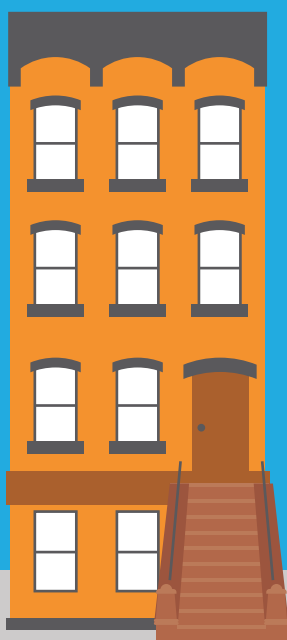
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