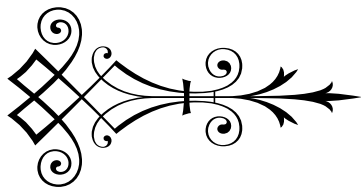


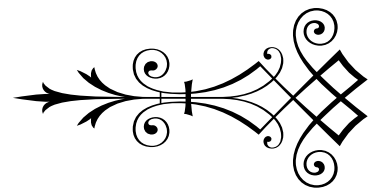
Exploring Fairy Tales

- Recommended children's books
- Writing activities
- Drawing, mask-making and other creative activities
- Ideas for sharing children's stories and writing
- Templates





Fairy Tales



A [fairy tale](#) is a make-believe story with magical elements like [spells](#), princes and princesses, dragons, trolls, fairy godmothers, talking animals, and witches. The characters may live in [enchanted](#) places.

A common theme is good versus evil. Often, there is a character who is good and kind but is mistreated by a [villain](#), such as a wicked stepmother. There is also a [heroic](#) character who saves the day by breaking a spell, tricking the villain, or performing a daring rescue.



Characters in fairy tales will often have unusual names, like Rumpelstiltskin or Rapunzel.

If the story begins with "*Once upon a time*," and ends with "... *happily ever after*," it is probably a fairy tale!

Fairy tales from around the world

Before they were written down, fairy tales were oral stories, told or performed dramatically, and handed down from generation to generation. Fairy tales come from all over the world!

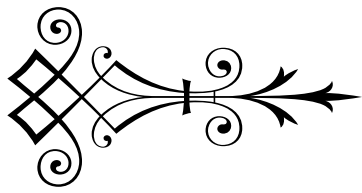


Over time, people started to write down these ancient stories. In the 17th century, the Frenchman Charles Perrault published the version of Cinderella we know today. In the 19th century, the [Brothers Grimm](#) collected German and European stories such as The Frog Prince, Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, Snow White, Rumpelstiltskin, and many others.

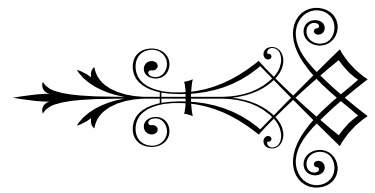
In the 19th century in Sweden, [Hans Christian Andersen](#) began to write original fairy tales, including The Little Mermaid, The Ugly Duckling, The Snow Queen, The Little Match Girl, The Steadfast Tin Soldier, and The Wild Swans.

[The Arabian Nights](#), magical tales from the Middle East were first collected more than 500 years ago! Familiar stories include Aladdin's Wonderful Lamp (originally a Chinese tale), Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves, and the Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor.





Fairy Tales



Introduce kids to some fairy tales that may not be as well known, such as Abiyoyo (South Africa), Strega Nona (Italy), Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk (Ireland), Baba Yaga (Russia), Yeh Shen (the original Cinderella from China), and Momotarō, the Peach Boy (Japan), and The Tiger and the Brahmin (India).

Discover more about fairy tales at Start with a Book, by browsing our booklists, kid-friendly websites, apps, and podcasts: [Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#).

Get kids thinking

- Ask kids which fairy tales and fairy tale characters they can think of. What do they remember about the story?
- Read some fairy tales together. See a selected list of books on the next page, or visit [Start with a Book: Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#) for more recommended books.
- Talk about the characteristics of fairy tales — fantasy or make-believe, an enchanted setting (castles, kingdoms, the forest), good versus evil, and magic, characters take on unusual forms (giants, witches, dwarfs, talking animals). There is usually a happy ending!
- Talk about the beginning, middle, and end of the fairy tales you read together.
- Try reading two different versions of the same story (like *Lon Po Po* and *Little Red Riding Hood*) and talk about what's the same and what's different.



Writing activities

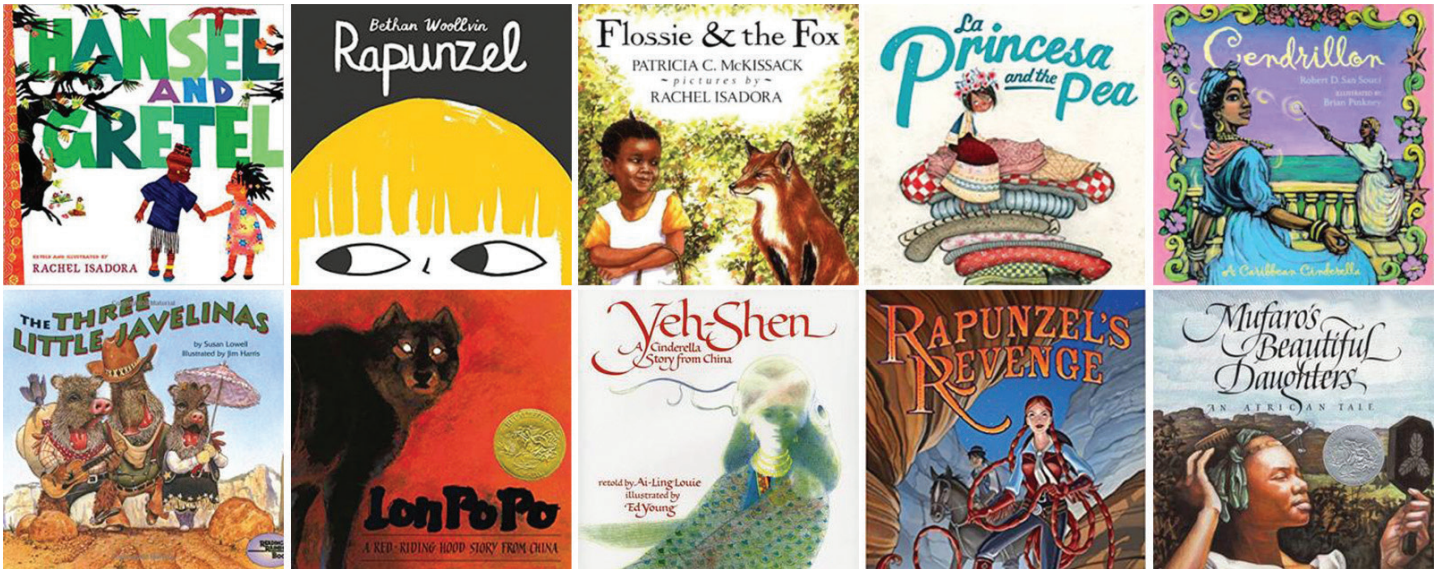
Here are three writing and creative activities to try after reading your fairy tales together:

- [Mapping My Fairy Tale](#) (see page 4)
- [Fairy Tale Timeline](#) (see page 10)
- [Fairy Tale Catalog](#) (see page 15)



Fairy Tales

Selected Children's Books



Little Red Riding Hood

- **Flossie and the Fox** by Patricia McKissack, illustrations by Rachel Isadora (African American)
- **Lon Po Po** by Ed Young (China)
- **Little Red Riding Hood: A Newfangled Prairie Tale** by Lisa Campbell Ernst (American Midwest)

The Princess and the Pea

- **La Princesa and the Pea** by Susan Middleton Elya (Latino)
- **Princess and the Peas** by Rachel Himes (South Carolina)

Cinderella

- **Cendrillon** by Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (Creole, Caribbean)
- **The Korean Cinderella** by Shirley Climo, illustrated by Ruth Heller (Korea)
- **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** by John Steptoe (Zimbabwe)
- **The Gift of the Crocodile** by Judy Siera, illustrated by Reynold Ruffins (Indonesia)
- **The Rough-Face Girl** by Rafe Martin, illustrated by David Shannon (Algonquin)
- **Yeh Shen** by Ai-Ling Louie, illustrated by Ed Young (China)

Hansel and Gretel

- **Hansel and Gretel** by Rachael Isadora (Africa)
- **Hansel and Gretel** by Bethan Woollvin (modern retelling)

Rapunzel

- **Rapunzel** by Rachael Isadora (Africa)
- **Rapunzel's Revenge** by Shannon Hale, illustrations by Nathan Hale (Wild West, graphic novel format)
- **Sugar Cane** by Patricia Storeace (Caribbean)



Fairy Tales

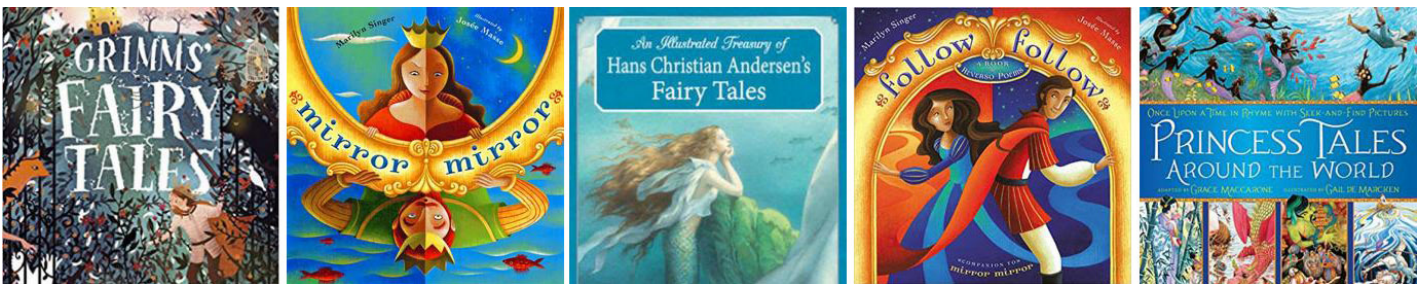
Selected Children's Books

More fairy tales from around the world



- **Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave** by Marianna Mayer, illustrated by Kinuko Y. Craft (Russia)
- **Peach Boy** by Florence Sakade, illustrated by Yoshisuke Kurosaki (Japan)
- **The Tiger and the Brahmin** by Bran Gleeson, illustrated by Kurt Vargo (India)
- **Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk** by Gerald McDermott (Ireland)
- **The Wild Swans** by Hans Christian Andersen, illustrated by Helen Crawford-White (Denmark)

Fairy tale anthologies



- **Grimm's Fairy Tales** by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (Germany)
- **Follow, Follow: A Book of Reverso Poems** by Marilyn Singer, illustrations by Josée Masse
- **An Illustrated Treasury of Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales** by Hans Christian Andersen, illustrated by Anastasiya Archipova (Denmark)
- **Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reverso Poems** by Marilyn Singer, illustrations by Josée Masse
- **Princess Tales from Around the World** by Grace Maccarone, illustrated by Gail de Marcken



Fairy Tales

Selected Children's Books

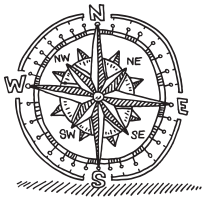
When the library is closed

Is your public library closed? See if your public library offers [OverDrive](#) where you can borrow and read free ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines on your phone or tablet. All you need is your library card to get access (and check out their [Libby app](#) for Android or iOS phones or tablets).

There are also a number of online services that offer high-quality audiobooks and ebooks: [Audible for Kids](#), [Tales2Go](#), and [Epic!](#).

Here are some ways to explore fairy tales online:

- [Folktales and Fairy Tales for All](#): audiobooks (Audible)
- [Annotated Fairy Tales](#): fairy tale texts with history, list of similar tales across cultures, bibliography, illustration gallery, book gallery, and list of modern interpretations. (Sur La Lune Fairy Tales)
- [The Emperor's New Clothes and Other Fairy Tales](#): animated videos (Geethanjali Kids)
- [Famous Fairy Tales](#): animated videos (Little Cozy Nook)
- [Fairy Tales from Around the World](#): historical and geographic adventure (Google Earth Voyager Story)



Mapping My Fairy Tale



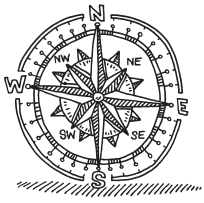
For this activity, kids will create an original full-color map based on a fairy tale you've read together.

Individual: each child chooses a fairy tale and works independently.

Small groups (2-3 kids): each group chooses a fairy tale and works collaboratively.

Supplies

- Pencils and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint. Colored construction paper (optional)
- Drawing paper or construction paper: 8-1/2 x 11 or larger. Or a roll of white paper or kraft paper
- Scotch tape, scissors
- School glue; masking tape or painters tape (optional)



Mapping My Fairy Tale

Get kids thinking

Talk about the [settings](#) in the fairy tales you read together. Use descriptive words like the “thick, dark woods” or the “shimmering castle”.

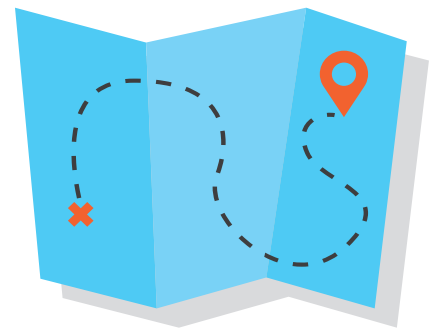
Have each child choose a favorite fairy tale that creates a vivid picture about the world where the story takes place. Give kids time to imagine what that world looks like in their minds.

Tell kids that they will be creating their own map that shows the fairy tale setting as they see it. Ask kids to think about the elements they will want to include in the map.

Let's get started

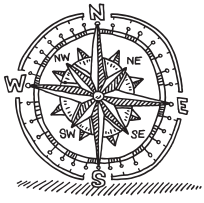
Tape together two or more 8-1/2 x 11 sheets of paper to create a large space for the map. If you have a roll of white paper or kraft paper, cut two feet or more for each map.

Here's a third option: create a "stand up" map by making a 3- or 4-panel an accordion fold with your sheet of paper — see the diagram on the right. This works best with heavier construction paper.

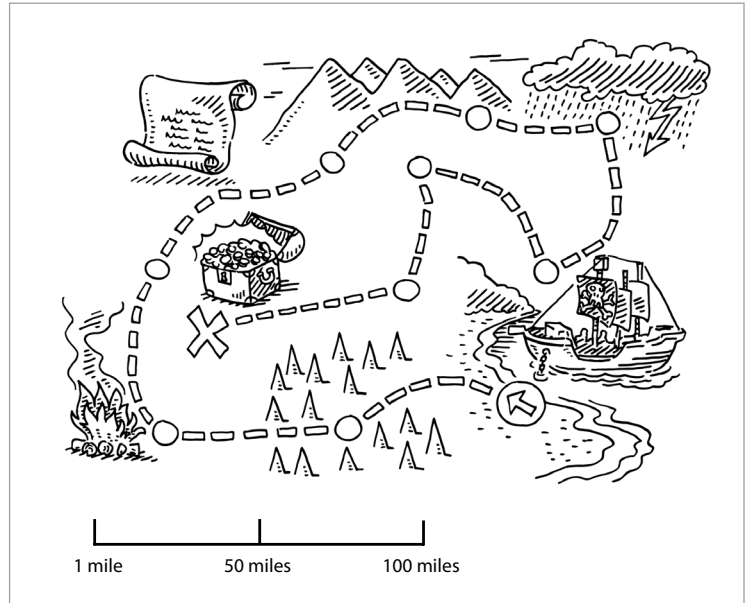


Although these fairy tale maps are imaginary, you can introduce kids to some of the [basic elements of a real map](#). Kids can include these elements in their maps if they like:

- [Title](#) tells the viewer what this a map of.
- [Compass Rose](#) indicates North, South, East and West. Draw your own compass rose or use one of the graphics on page 9.
- [Legend or key](#) explains what the symbols on that map represent. For example, on the adventure map on the next page, you can see symbols for town, village, and dungeon.
- [Scale](#): shows the relationship between a certain distance on the map and the actual distance. For example, one inch might represent one mile. See the pirate map on the next page.



Mapping My Fairy Tale



Tell the kids to sketch out their maps in pencil first, and then finish it in colored pencil, crayon, marker, or paint. Kids can also use cut paper to create some of the elements on their maps. Remind the kids to think about their descriptive words as they create the elements in their maps.

Sharing our work

When the maps are finished, tape them to the wall, and ask the kids to tell the fairy tale in their own words while pointing out important places on their maps.

Try this!

Chalk Drawing: Instead of drawing their maps on paper, kids can draw them with sidewalk chalk outdoors. Each child can give a "walking tour" of their fairy tale map. Take a picture of each child with their map so there's a record of their efforts!

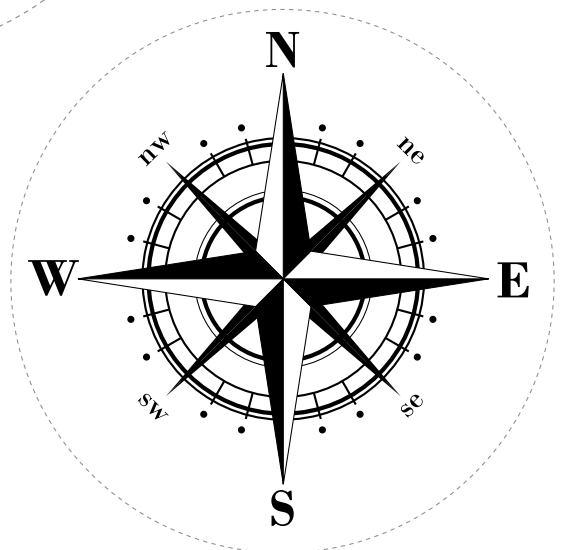
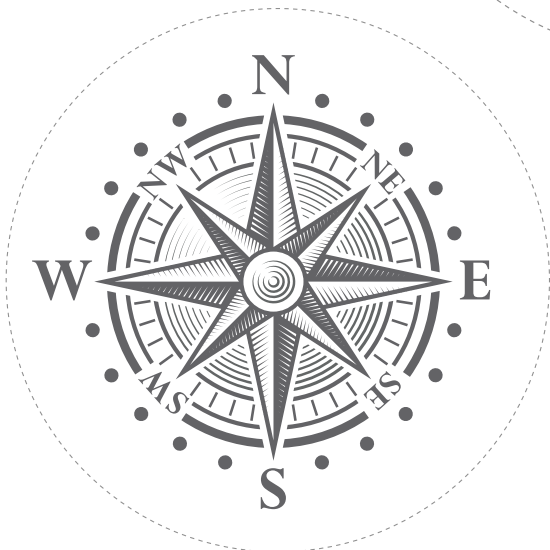
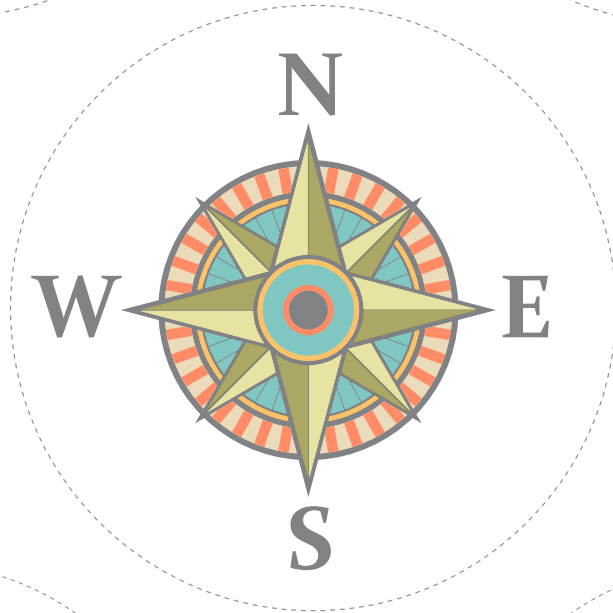
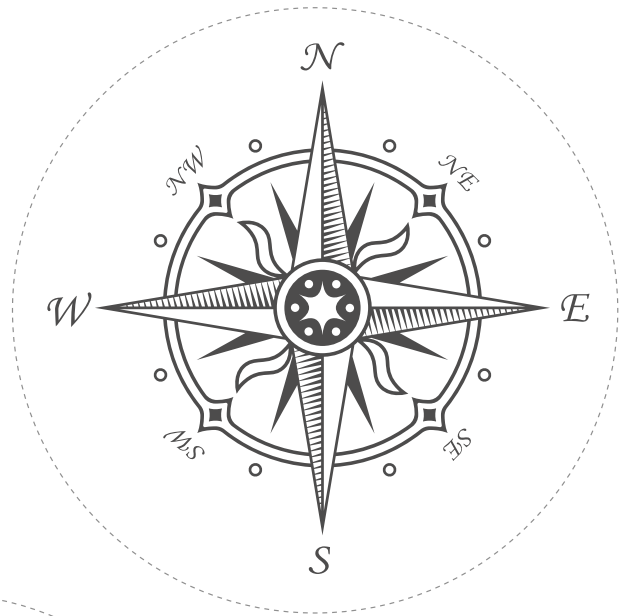
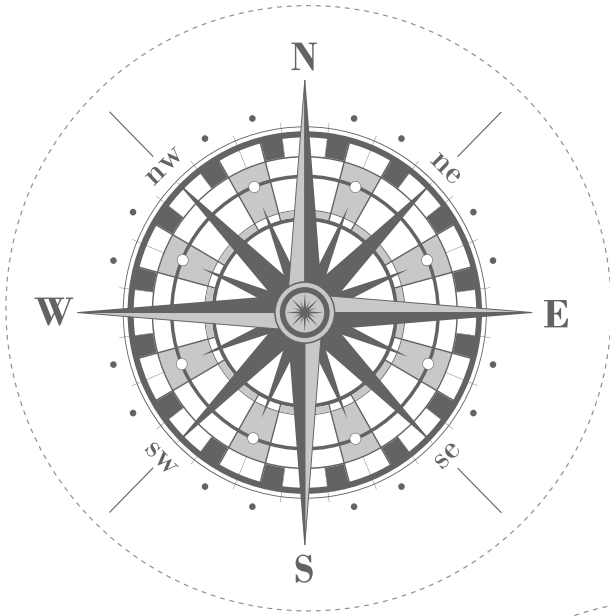
Kids could also act out the fairy tale outside, and use their environment as the make-believe setting — shrubs and other plants (the forest!) steps or porches (the castle!), the sidewalk, boxes, or wagons (the ship!) ...

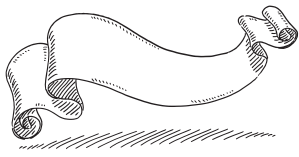
For more reading, writing, and learning resources, visit www.StartWithABook.org



The Compass Rose

Draw your own — or cut and glue one of these to your map





Fairy Tale Timeline

For this activity, kids will create a [beginning-middle-end](#) illustrated timeline based on a fairy tale you've read together.

Individual: each child chooses a fairy tale and works independently.

Small groups (2-3 kids): each group chooses a fairy tale and works collaboratively.

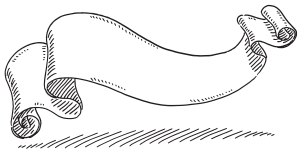
Supplies

- Pencils and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint. Colored construction paper (optional)
- **Option A:** drawing paper or heavier construction paper: 8-1/2 x 11 (3-9 sheets per timeline). Or a roll of white paper or kraft paper
- **Option B:** index cards: 6-9 per child or small group (or use the template on page 15). Yarn or string. Hole puncher or clothespins (optional)
- Scotch tape, scissors
- School glue; masking tape or painters tape (optional)
- Wooden dowels, 12-18 inches long (depending on the height of your paper) and 1/4-inch diameter, two per map (optional)

Get kids thinking

Talk about the fairy tale you read together. What happens in the beginning of the story? In the middle of the story? And what happens at the end? Give kids time to think about these three elements in each part of the story: the [characters](#), the [setting](#) (time and place), and the [action](#).

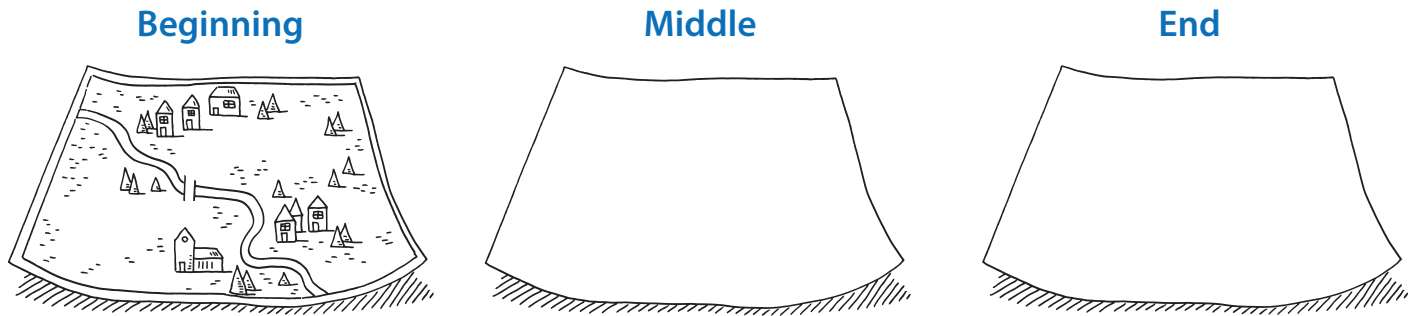
Tell kids that they will be creating their own illustrated timeline that tells the main parts of the story.



Fairy Tale Timeline

Let's get started

Option A: Give each child 3-9 sheets of paper depending on how detailed they want their timelines to be. For younger children, you can offer 3 sheets and suggest a basic beginning-middle-end timeline.



Older kids may want to fill in more details (especially for the middle section of the fairy tale) and will want 6 or more sheets of paper.

If you have a roll of white paper or kraft paper, cut 3-foot lengths or longer for children who want to make very detailed timelines.

Option B: Give each child 6-9 index cards (3 cards for younger kids). Tell kids to use the blank side of the card for their timeline, and to think of each card as an event on the timeline. Or, you can print and cutout the template cards from page 14.

Illustrating the timeline

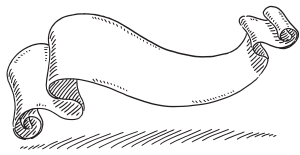
Have the kids think about the [characters](#), the [time and place](#), and the [action](#) for each section of their timeline.

The timeline should include words and pictures. The words can describe the time and place ("A long time ago ... in a kingdom by the Silver Sea" or "next Spring, out in the woods ...") or the characters ("The brave fisherman took his boat out to sea ...").

Now the kids can begin to work on their timeline. Suggest that they sketch out their drawings in pencil first, and then finish in colored pencil, crayon, marker, or paint. Kids can also use cut paper to create some of the elements on their timelines.

Assembling the timeline

Option A: Tape the pieces of the timeline together on the backside. Be sure to get the pieces in the correct order! You may suggest to the kids that they write the number of each page or index card on the back — 1, 2, 3, and so on.



Fairy Tale Timeline

Let's get started (continued)

Option B: Use the hole puncher to make a hole on the top right and left corners of the index card. Then cut a length of yarn or string and have the kids weave it through the holes to create a line of cards, like in the example below. You could alternatively use clothespins to attach the cards to the yarn or string.

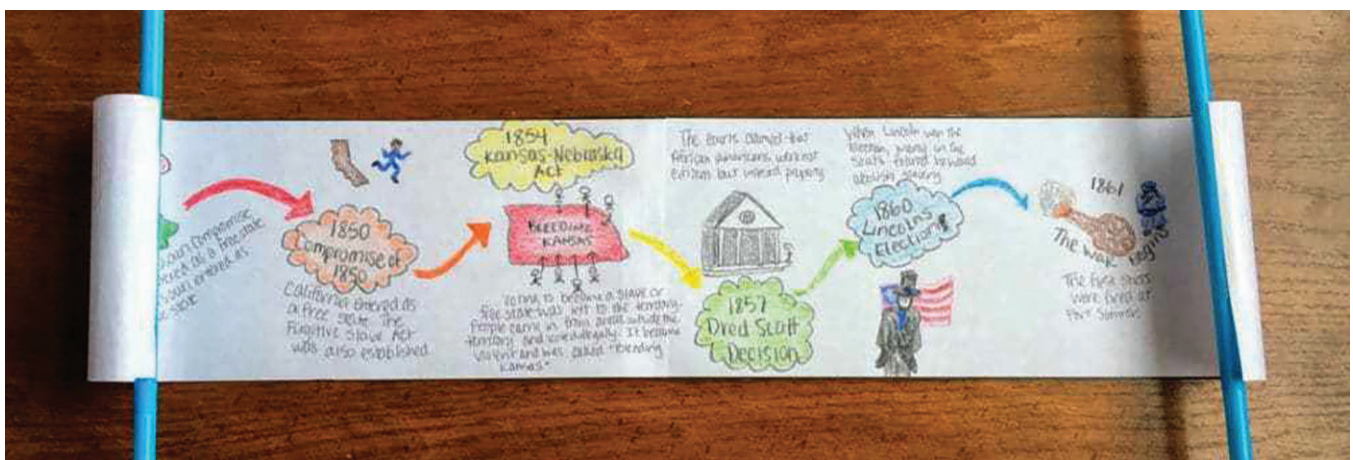


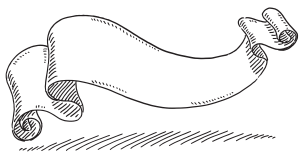
Copyright © The Owl Teacher

When the timelines are finished, tape them to the wall, and ask the kids to tell the fairy tale in their own words while pointing out important events and action on their timelines.

Try this!

Scroll Timeline: Cut the wooden dowels to the right length — about 4 inches taller than the height of each child's timeline. Have the kids attach the dowels to the right and left sides of the paper with glue or tape. Roll up the timeline into a cylinder, like a Torah or Japanese scroll. (If you use glue to attach the dowels, be sure it is dry before you roll the paper.) Kids can dramatically unroll their timeline to share with family and friends — you might even need a helper to hold one side of the timeline as you unroll.





Fairy Tale Timeline

Mask making

Storytellers and actors from all over the world have used masks for thousands of years to help tell their stories. Invite kids to make masks of the characters from their fairy tales. You can use ordinary household items or recyclable materials, or make one with papier maché. Find directions at the links below:

- [Milk jugs](#)
- [Cardboard](#)
- [Egg cartons](#)
- [Paper plates](#)
- [Paper bags](#)
- [Papier maché](#)



Photo © Warren King

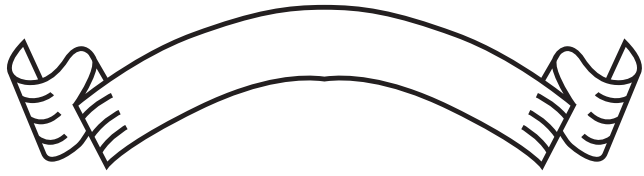
Sharing our work

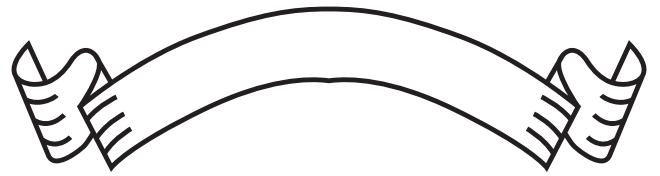
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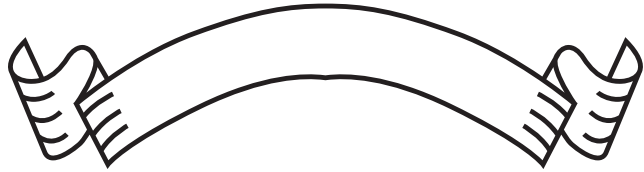
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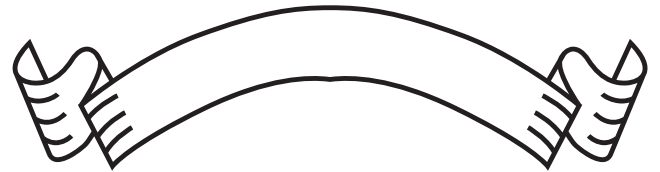


Fairy Tale Timeline Template











Fairy Tale Catalog

For this activity, kids will create an illustrated catalog of items from multicultural fairy tales you've read together.

Individual: each child creates his or her own fairy tale catalog.

Small groups: each group works collaboratively on their fairy tale catalog.

Supplies

- Pencils and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint.
 - Construction paper: white and colors
 - Decorative items: pom poms, glitter, gold leaf paper, sequins, buttons, etc. (optional)
 - School glue
 - Stapler
 - Hole puncher, yarn (optional)
-

Get kids thinking

If you can, read a variety of fairy tales from different parts of the world. See the list of recommended books on pages 3-4 for ideas. Talk about the stories you've read together.

Many of them are full of incredible objects with magical powers like an [enchanted](#) mirror. Other objects might not be magical but they have an important role in the fairy tale — think about Little Red Riding Hood's cape!

What if there was a catalog where you could browse many of the wondrous items you've heard about in fairy tales from around the world? If kids are not familiar with catalogs, adults can show examples of print catalogs or online stores.

Tell kids that they will be creating their own illustrated catalog of fairy tale objects. They will be practicing their [descriptive writing](#) skills. Descriptive writing helps readers create a clear picture in their minds of a person, place, thing, or event. Strong descriptive writing uses one or more of the 5 senses: [sight, smell, taste, touch, or sound](#).



Fairy Tale Catalog

Let's get started

Have the kids brainstorm ideas for the objects to include in their catalogs — it could be glass slippers, golden ball, magic harp, flying carpets, or seven-league boots, or ...?

Kids can do this independently and jot down ideas on their own sheet of paper, or an adult can lead the discussion and write all the ideas on a flip chart or poster paper. Be sure to identify which fairy tale the object comes from.

Ask the kids: do you see different kinds of objects in fairy tales that come from different cultures and different parts of the world? Be sure to include some of these in your fairy tale catalog.

Writing the descriptions

The next step is to get the kids writing [vivid](#) descriptions of the objects in their catalogs.

Ask the kids to select their fairy tale objects, and to use one sheet of paper (or a half-sheet) for each object in their catalogs.

Have the kids to write down their descriptions of each object in great detail, using colorful descriptive words. Younger kids who aren't yet writing can dictate their ideas to an adult. The following questions can help spark ideas:

- What does it feel like to touch? Smooth, rough, sharp, bumpy, squishy?
- Does it have a unique smell?
- What color or colors? Does it shine or sparkle?
- What materials is it made of? Cloth, jewels, bronze, iron, stone?
- Does it make a sound when you touch it? A clang, a rustle, musical notes?
- What is your object used for? How does it work?

Next, the kids will illustrate their objects, using crayons, colored pencils, or paint. If you have decorative materials on hand (such as pom poms, glitter, gold leaf paper, sequins, or buttons), children can glue these on to create a collage.

This is a project you can keep adding to until you're ready to bind your pages together!



Fairy Tale Catalog

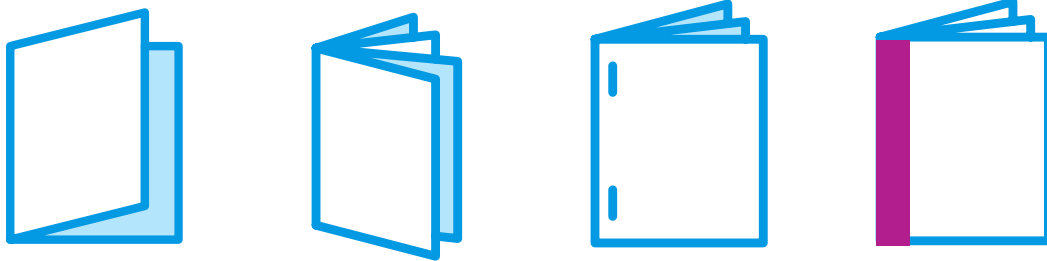
Let's get started (continued)

Assembling the catalogs

Once each child or group has finished all of their descriptive illustrated pages, it's time to add a cover and bind the pages into a booklet.

Catalog covers: Kids can create their own cover art, or use one of the decorative templates provided after page 18 in this packet.

Show the kids how to assemble their pages in the order they want and then insert the pages between the front and back cover. The simplest way to bind the catalogs is to staple along the left-hand side of the booklet.



To cover the staples, kids can place a piece of decorative tape along the stapled edge so that half of the tape is on the front of the booklet; press down on the tape, and then fold the other half of the tape towards the back and press down again.

For a fancier binding, show the kids how to punch holes through all layers of their booklets on the left-hand side. Then, demonstrate how to thread the yarn through the holes and tie it off. (Tip: roll a small piece of tape around one end of the yarn to make it easier to thread the holes.)



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Fairy Tale Catalog

Sharing our work

When the fairy tale catalogs are finished, gather the kids together in a circle and pass the booklet around. Give each child a chance to talk about their object and for the other kids to ask questions.

Try this!

That Will Cost You 10 Magic Beans: It's a catalog, so fairy tale characters might want to buy a new flying carpet or glass slipper. Have kids include in their catalogs the store where the customer can buy it (and who the store owner is) and the price for each item— 3 gold pieces, 10 magic beans, etc.

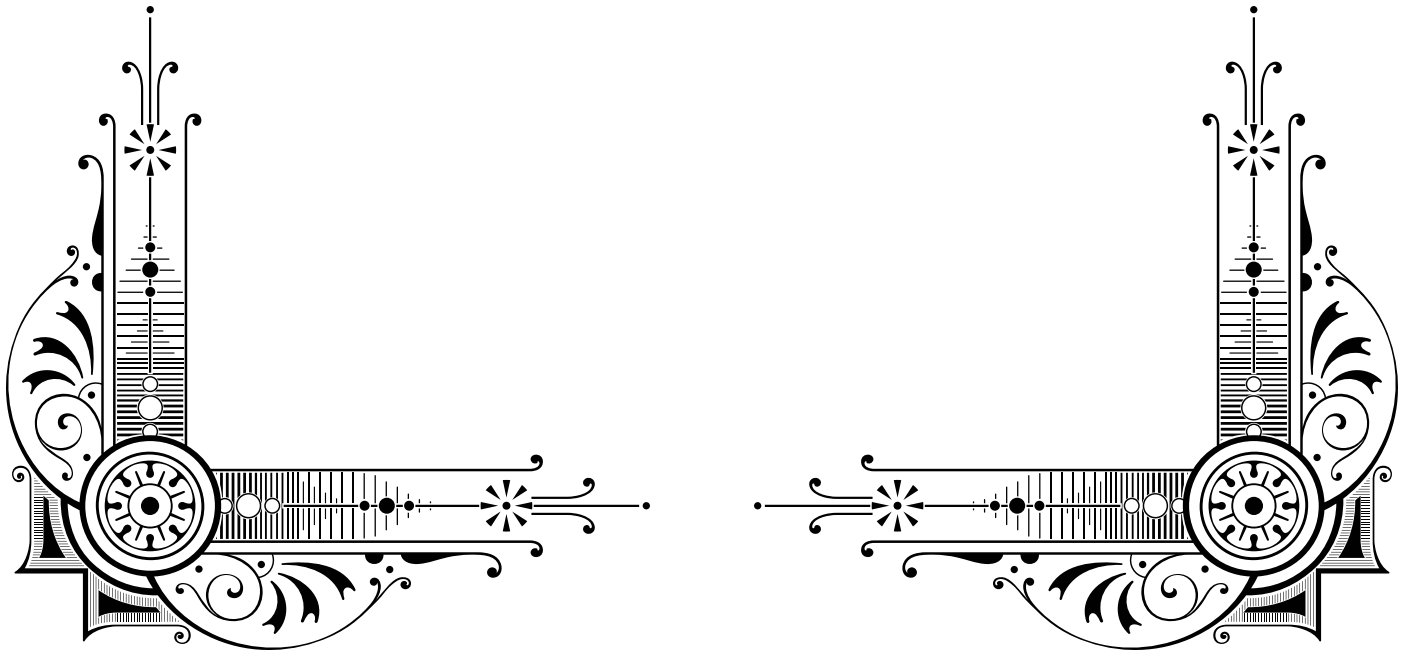
I Saw It on TV: Kids can make up television ads for the magical items they are selling and act out their sales pitch for friends and family. Older kids could work together to develop and perform episodes from The Fairy Tale Shopping Network.

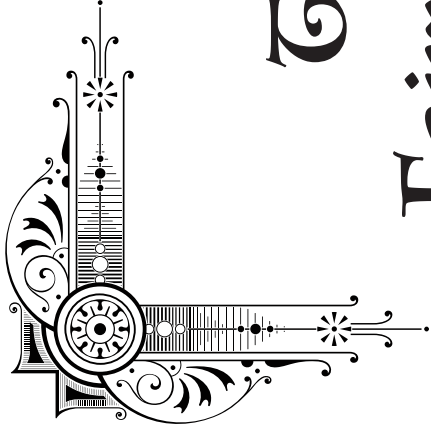
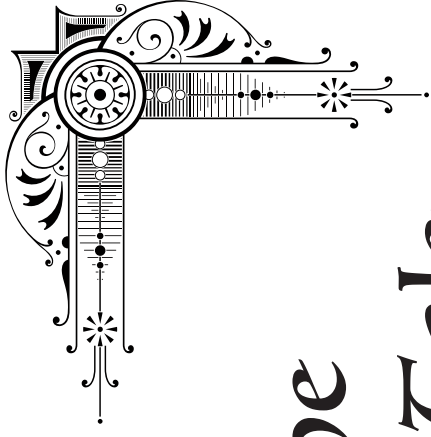




The Fairy Tale Catalog

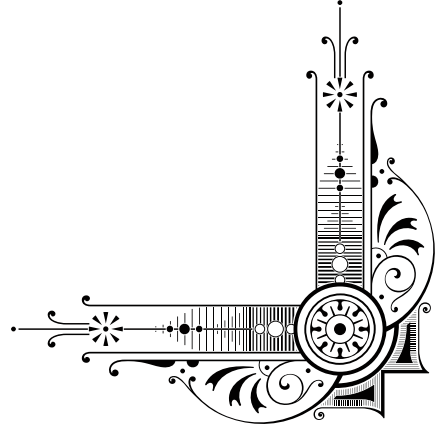
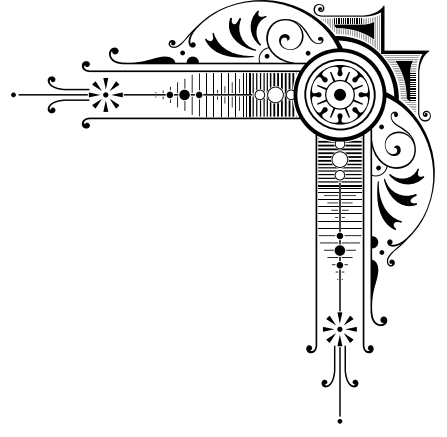
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The Fairy Tale Catalog

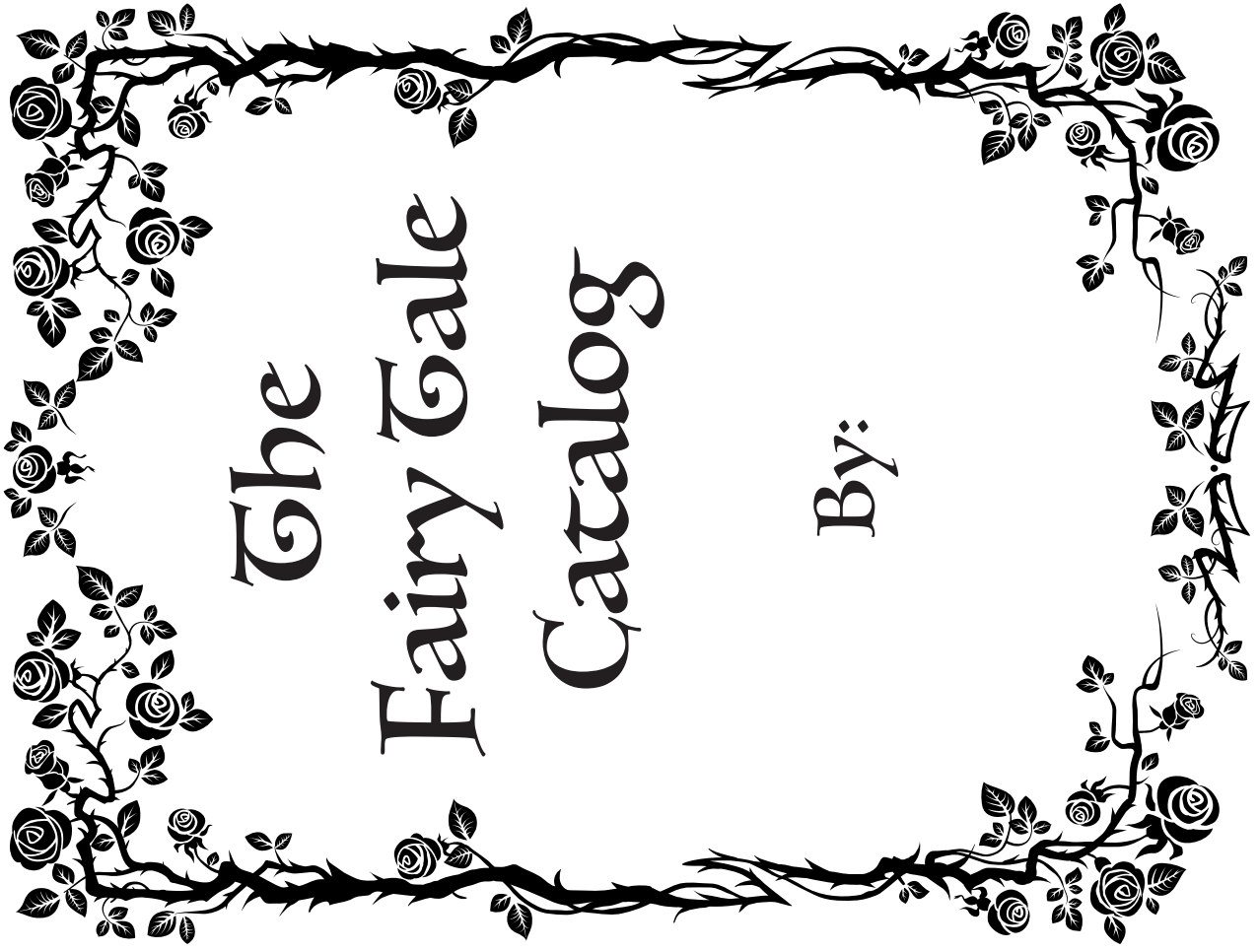
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The
Fairy Tale
Catalog

By:



The
Fairy Tale
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