

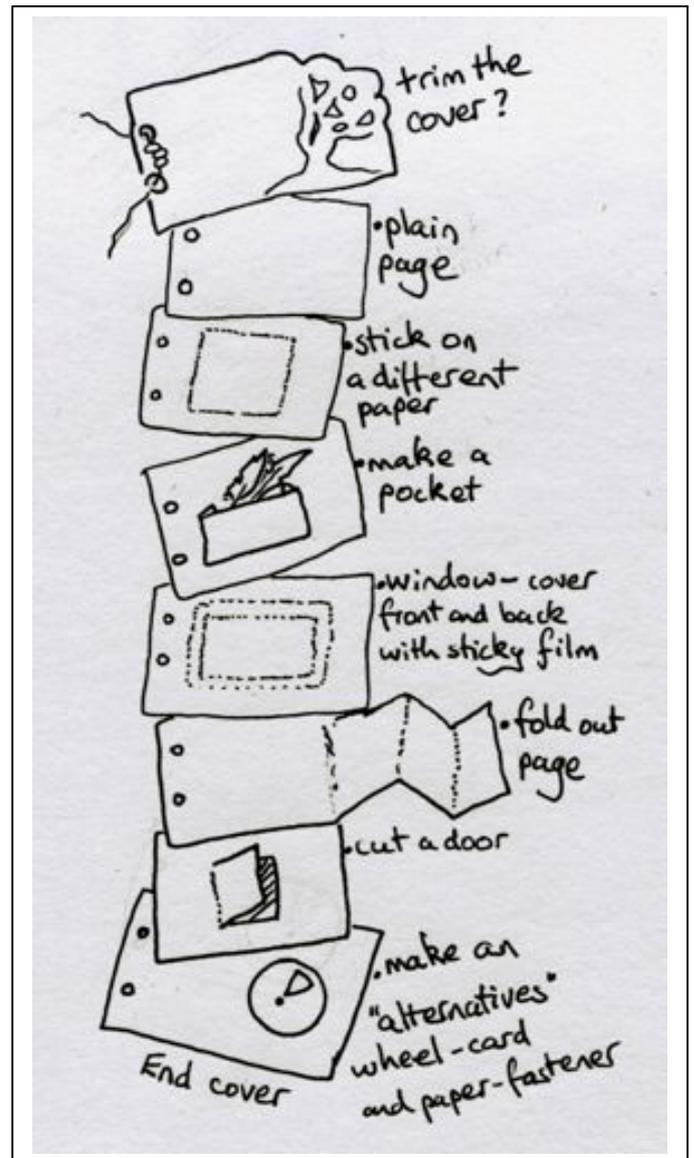
WORKSHEET 5: LACE-UP BOOKS

How to make your book

The individual pages of these books are easy and obvious. The things to consider are the variety and perhaps the question that inspires each page, looking for different sorts of questions, different responses to invite and different sorts of pages to record those responses on

Example 1: Bog books

These were built in layers with different colours and textures of paper giving us different layers of a bog. Pages of coloured acetate were especially good for a sense of murky translucence. Our group were explorers braving the uncharted wastelands of a country park and the whole experiences gave us pages on: crossing the park (drawing a map), first sighting of the pond/bog (descriptive writing), under the water (the view through

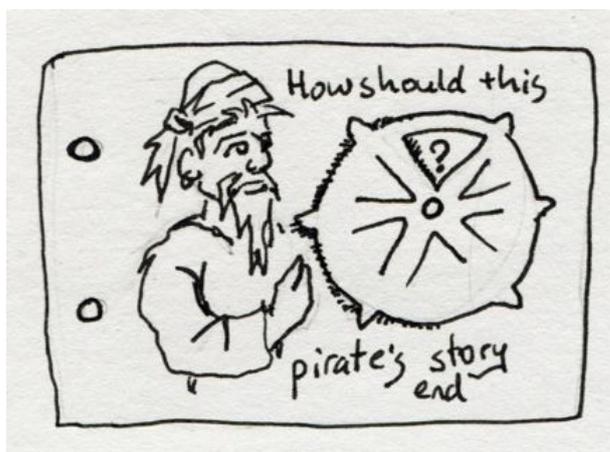


transparent bottomed buckets and margarine tubs). After some straightforward pond-dipping we got habitat pages (long fold-out annotated drawings) my special discovery (choosing, drawing and writing about a chosen animal), at the bottom of the bog (moving away from experiential fieldwork into storytelling) - the terrible fate of at least one of the expedition members - or the ancient preserved body we found in the depths of our bog when one of us fell in!

Example 2: Manor House book

In a similar style, exploring a museum in a large local manor gave us pages on artefacts (drawing and writing), previous inhabitants (copying painted portraits), treasures (pocket pages with treasure

slipped into chest pockets), inside the wardrobe (door pages), escaping: maps of secret tunnels and priestholes



Alternative choices pages

A popular feature for a back cover. Make a small circle (or wheel) with one segment cut out. Fix in place with a paper-fastener and insert a set of choices for the final moments of this book's story

Printing photos

Portable photo printers that print onto small sticky labels can be great for these sessions. They will print straight from your camera and will allow a group in the middle of a field to instantly incorporate photos into their books adding a strong sense of "a real expedition journal". They are however rather slow and you need to start printing as soon as possible within a workshop: OK for a group based mostly in one place (eg the bog book group above) but trickier for a large group moving around: less opportunity to stop and start the printing cycle.

Materials

For each book

2 A5 cards for front and back covers
maybe 6 A5 or A6 pages
1 longer narrow page for folding
1 large page to fold up as a map

For the group

Treasury tags (or wool or book rings)
Pencils
Crayons
a small bundle of assorted scrap papers
glue or gluesticks
scissors
craft knife and board
hole punches

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NOTES

Introduction

This is a good technique for collecting ideas and experiences gradually, perhaps over the course of a workshop or several workshops. It is ideal for collating a series of activities, each one generating a different page and invites us as leaders to plan pages rather than worksheets in exploring a site or a building. It also allows easy movement between recording discoveries and wild storytelling and leaving room for both and perhaps allowing book-builders to work in the way that suits them best so that while some members of a group are off speculating wildly others are working just as hard and with as much satisfaction on a much more formal study of the site. Depending upon how you join pages together, it is easy to add more pages later and let books continue to grow

Helpful hints

- look at different but simple ideas for a number of pages
- consider best lacing techniques: wool (with beads?) probably looks most interesting, book-rings look very smart but can be costly, treasury tags are the most functional and easiest to fit (but maybe least exciting!)
- prepare a set of pages - put in envelopes for ease of carriage and minimal fumbling
- hole-punches: avoid trying to punch card covers and all the pages - easy way to break punches
- single-hole punches can be very helpful

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

