



Discover, Draw, and Build!



# DISCOVER SUMMER

from the Library and Our Partners

Hamilton County

cincinnati  
public  
library



ages 10-14

# Welcome!

We're so glad you picked up our second annual summer booklet. It's carefully designed with engaging activities to help middle school students and families enjoy summer to the fullest!

## New This Year

Many of the activities in this book are provided by our partner organizations in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. You may have visited some of these places in the past, and some may be new to you. This booklet is a great way to learn more about what's available right here in Greater Cincinnati.



Discover more ways to celebrate summer in Cincinnati and Hamilton County at [CincySummer.org](http://CincySummer.org)! This web page is meant to be a one-stop spot for you to find out about all kinds of fun learning opportunities happening this summer throughout the city and county.



*Paula Brehm-Heeger*

Paula Brehm-Heeger  
Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Library Director



p.s. Show us the activity you enjoyed the most by tagging [#cincysummer](https://twitter.com/cincysummer) on social media!

## Complete Activities, Earn Prizes!

Complete five of the activities in this book. Then, fill out an entry form at any Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library location or log your activities online at [CincinnatiLibrary.org/summer](http://CincinnatiLibrary.org/summer) for a chance to win a great prize! Prizes include gift cards, LEGO sets, art supplies and more.

Did you complete all eight activities in this booklet? You are eligible for a second entry in our prize drawing!

Winners will be drawn in August 2021.  
Entrants must be age 18 or younger.



## Visit [CincySummer.org](http://CincySummer.org)

Have a summer bucket list? You will! Find out about the coolest events for teens and families around Cincinnati and Hamilton County this summer!

## Discover It with a Discovery Pass

Enjoy free visits to our county's amazing arts, cultural, and recreational attractions with the Library's Discovery Pass program. Make an online reservation today!

[CinLib.org/discovery-pass](http://CinLib.org/discovery-pass)

## Free Meals for Kids and Teens at Select Libraries

The Library offers free meal boxes throughout the summer. This service is provided by UMC Food Ministry and made possible through federal funding, as part of the USDA's Child Nutrition Programs. Visit our website for times and locations.

[CinLib.org/meals](http://CinLib.org/meals)

## WiFi at the Library

Looking for a relaxing place to access the internet? Stop by the Downtown Main Library or our branch libraries.

[CinLib.org/wifi](http://CinLib.org/wifi)

41 locations · No late fees · 229+ databases · Millions of books, movies, music & more



Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library  
800 Vine St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
513-369-6900  
[CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://CincinnatiLibrary.org)



# Cincy Neighborhood Music

Compose music using the sounds you observe in your neighborhood!

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Pencil
- Map template (On opposite page)
- Inventory sheet (On opposite page)
- Paper
- Handful of markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- Friend to help with the third step of the activity

Sounds can describe something as effectively as seeing something. Long ago, before language and writing, people relied on sounds for survival.

## ACTIVITY

1. Take a slow walk through your neighborhood. Bring your inventory sheet, map template, and a pencil.
  - On your inventory sheet, write down descriptions of the sounds you hear.
  - On your map template, record the general direction of your walk. Add the source of each sound and the effect of the sound. (For instance, if it's windy, maybe there is someone running after their hat!) Add your home, important landmarks, green spaces, and other identifying features to the map template.
2. Now that your walk is over, it's time to get your friend involved. Together you will turn the sounds you have recorded on your inventory sheet and map template into music called a *duet*.
  - One person will recreate the sound of walking – steady, skipping, changing speeds, a stop to look at something. Play the pattern on your thighs, with snaps and claps, or sitting on a sturdy box and hitting it.
  - The other person will choose a variety of sounds found on the walk and make them using their body and voice as instruments, making sure the sounds are in the order they were heard. You don't need to read musical notation to compose your duet. Use shapes, words, and images as notations!

Consider performing your duet for others!



MAP

## INVENTORY

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This activity is provided by:



How has this activity affected how you listen?



## DISCOVER MORE



Did you like experimenting with sounds? Learn how to play an instrument at CCM Prep! [ccm.uc.edu/arts4all/prep.html](http://ccm.uc.edu/arts4all/prep.html)

Check out some old maps of Ohio and Kentucky from the 1800s and 1900s! [CinLib.org/old-maps](http://CinLib.org/old-maps)

# The Great, *NOT SO* Weird Floating Egg!

Change the density of water with a little something from your cupboard!

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Two clear drinking glasses, wide enough for an egg to fit inside
- About two cups of lukewarm water
- One tablespoon of salt
- One egg
- One teaspoon measuring spoon

## ACTIVITY

1. Fill both drinking glasses with equal amounts of water. Make sure the water is deep enough to cover the egg by an inch or two.
2. Drop the egg into one glass of water. Record/discuss what happens.
3. In the other drinking glass, add one teaspoon of salt and stir.
4. Remove the egg from the first drinking glass and place it in the second glass containing the saltwater. Record/discuss what happens.
5. Remove the egg from the glass of saltwater. Add one teaspoon of salt to the glass of saltwater and stir. Place the egg back inside the glass of saltwater.
6. Repeat step number five until the egg floats at the top of the water! How many of teaspoons of salt were mixed into the water before your egg began floating?

This activity is provided by:



*How might your results change if you use a different glass?*



Take pictures and share with us **#cincysummer** on social media

## DISCOVER MORE



Try more experiments from the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative!  
[CinLib.org/stem-resources](https://www.cinlib.org/stem-resources)



# Exhibit Detective

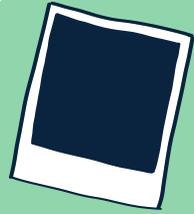
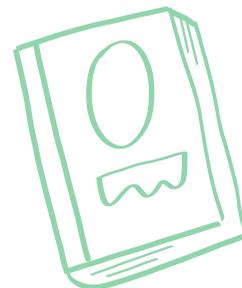
Develop your own exhibition with an object discovered inside your home.

## ACTIVITY

1. Identify an object in your home that you think has some family significance or historical significance. This could be an old photograph, an old book, a family bible, or even a piece of jewelry — or anything you think might have a story attached to it. Make sure you have permission to touch or borrow this object!
2. Ask the members of your family about this object and write down what you find out. These are the same questions historians use to find out about art and objects in museum collections. This history has a special name; it's called the *provenance* of an object.
  - Where did this object come from?
  - When did your family acquire this object?
  - Why did your family acquire this object?
  - Where was the object purchased, and what did it cost?
3. As part of the research, a photo or drawing is usually made of the object and added to a record or file. So, draw your object and keep the drawing with your notes.
4. Use all the information you've gathered about your object and write a 250-word (or less, but not more!) label summarizing the history of the object, and why it is important. Now your object is ready to display in your home museum. Use your best handwriting for the label, with no errors. After all, many people will be reading it!
5. Display your object and label. BOOM, that's an exhibition! Offer to give tours of your exhibition so you can explain your new-found knowledge with friends and family.
6. After completing this activity, you may see museums in a new way. Try going to an exhibition at the Cincinnati Art Museum, and see how your label compares to the ones the professionals create.

This activity is provided by:

cincinnati  art museum



Cut out the label below and use it for step 4 of the activity!



Share a photo of your completed exhibit:  
**#cincysummer** on social media

## DISCOVER MORE



Find out about upcoming exhibits at  
[CincinnatiArtMuseum.org](https://CincinnatiArtMuseum.org)!

Reserve a Discovery Pass from the Library for admission to special exhibits at the Cincinnati Art Museum!  
[CinLib.org/discovery-pass](https://CinLib.org/discovery-pass)





# Be an Upstander

Learn how to make change in your community by being an upstander.

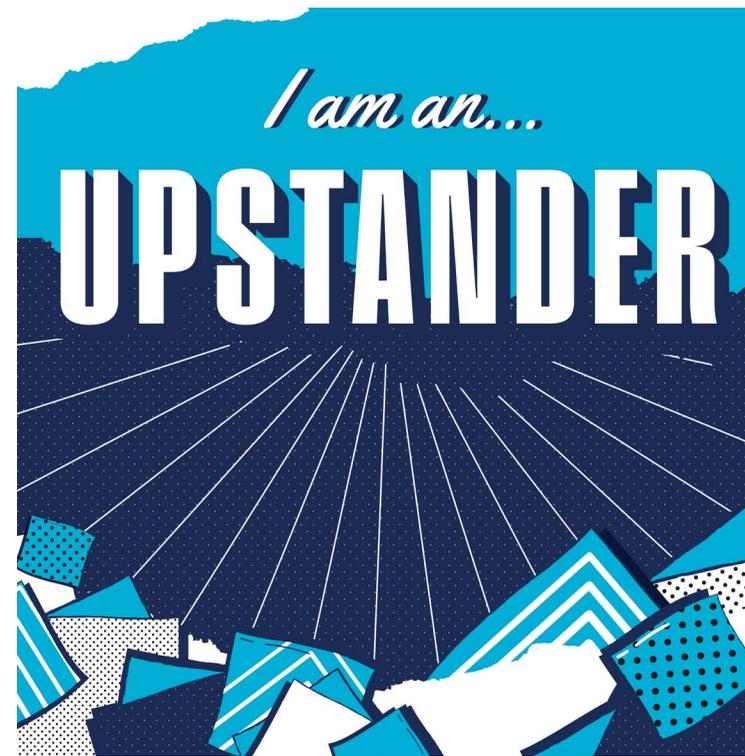
## WHAT YOU NEED

- Pencil or pen
- Several sheets of paper

## ACTIVITY

1. Think about one change that needs to be made in your school, neighborhood, or community. Using your paper and pen or pencil, write down answers to the following:
  - Why does this change need to be made?
  - What are some basic facts about the issue that are helpful for you to know?
  - What is the story of someone or something affected by this issue that you can highlight?
  - Why will the world be a better place if this change is made?
2. It's important to know how to share your own story in order to express why you are passionate about this issue. Use the questions on the opposite page along with the ones above help write a story that you can share with others.

This activity is provided by:



Make your mark by taking a stand for your rights or the rights of someone else.

Take the first steps by choosing and thinking about an issue that you want to act on!

## TELLING YOUR STORY

When did you first learn about the issue?

Have you had any personal experiences connected to the issue?

Explain why others should join you in acting on this issue.

Why are you passionate about this issue?

If you have already made an impact on this issue, share what you have done so far in your journey.

## DISCOVER MORE



Learn more about activating your character strengths.  
[holocaustandhumanity.org/upstander-activities](https://holocaustandhumanity.org/upstander-activities)



Learn more about the Cincy Upstander Project.  
[holocaustandhumanity.org/upstander-project/](https://holocaustandhumanity.org/upstander-project/)

# Use Binary Code to Solve Riddles

Have fun with riddles, code breaking, and friends!

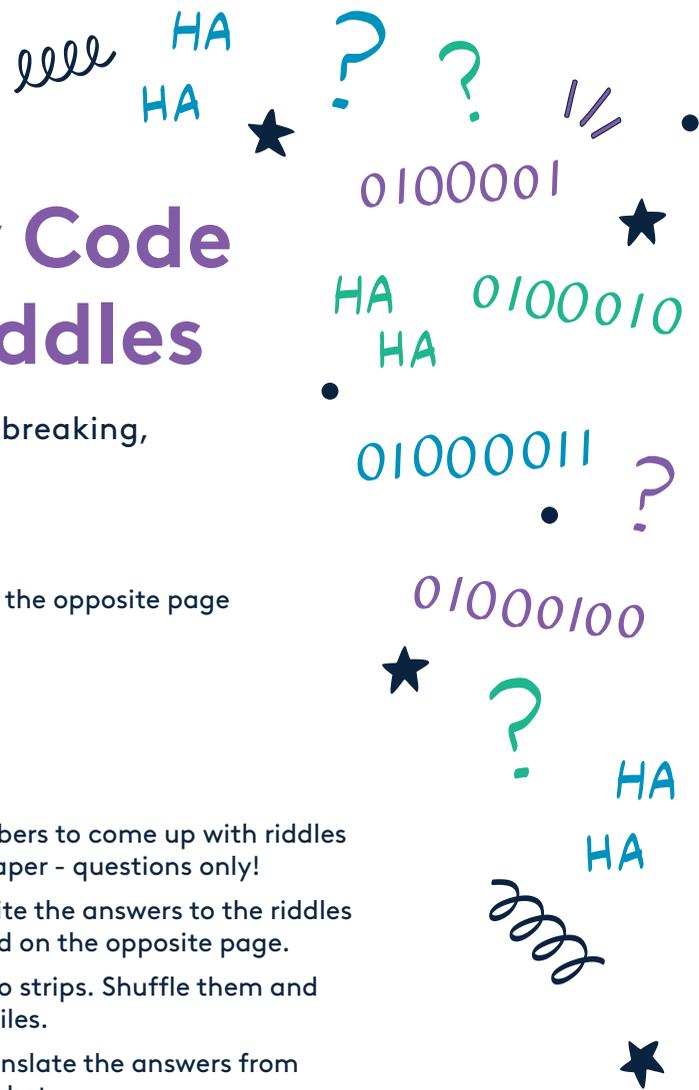
## WHAT YOU NEED

- Binary code alphabet, listed on the opposite page
- Pen or pencil
- Two pieces of paper

## ACTIVITY

1. Ask your friends or family members to come up with riddles and write them on a piece of paper - questions only!
2. On a second piece of paper, write the answers to the riddles in binary code. The code is listed on the opposite page.
3. Cut the riddles and answers into strips. Shuffle them and place them into two different piles.
4. Ask your friends or family to translate the answers from binary code back into the alphabet.
5. Finally, pick a riddle from the pile and read it and pick the decoded answer that fits best.

This activity is provided by:



- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| • A 01000001 | • a 01100001 |
| • B 01000010 | • b 01100010 |
| • C 01000011 | • c 01100011 |
| • D 01000100 | • d 01100100 |
| • E 01000101 | • e 01100101 |
| • F 01000110 | • f 01100110 |
| • G 01000111 | • g 01100111 |
| • H 01001000 | • h 01101000 |
| • I 01001001 | • i 01101001 |
| • J 01001010 | • j 01101010 |
| • K 01001011 | • k 01101011 |
| • L 01001100 | • l 01101100 |
| • M 01001101 | • m 01101101 |
| • N 01001110 | • n 01101110 |
| • O 01001111 | • o 01101111 |
| • P 01010000 | • p 01110000 |
| • Q 01010001 | • q 01110001 |
| • R 01010010 | • r 01110010 |
| • S 01010011 | • s 01110011 |
| • T 01010100 | • t 01110100 |
| • U 01010101 | • u 01110101 |
| • V 01010110 | • v 01110110 |
| • W 01010111 | • w 01110111 |
| • X 01011000 | • x 01111000 |
| • Y 01011001 | • y 01111001 |
| • Z 01011010 | • z 01111010 |



Do you notice a pattern in the binary code?



Having fun? Offer to write a friend's name in binary!

## DISCOVER MORE



Read more about code breaking!  
[CinLib.org/code-breaking](https://CinLib.org/code-breaking)



Explore more activities from the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative!  
[GreaterCincySTEM.org](https://GreaterCincySTEM.org)

# Custom Backyard Biosphere

Make a mini ecosystem that should last for years!

## WHAT YOU NEED

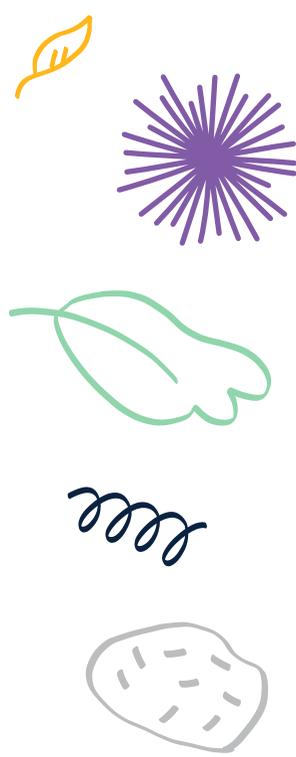
- Two 2-liter soda bottles, with caps screwed on
- One roll of duct tape or clear packing tape
- One piece of heavy cotton string, about six inches long
- Two liters of water that has sat in an open container for a day
- About two cups of planting soil
- A handful of small rocks
- A couple of small plants with the roots attached
- Pillbugs, worms, or a land snail (optional)
- Hammer and nail

Adult supervision is needed while cutting and preparing the 2-liter bottles!

## ACTIVITY

1. Collect a couple of small plants and small rocks outside. You may also collect some pillbugs, worms, or a land snail.
2. Cut one 2-liter soda bottle in half. Set aside both pieces.
3. Cut two inches off of the bottom off the second 2-liter bottle. Keep the top but throw away the bottom. Unscrew the bottle cap from this bottle.
4. Use the hammer and nail to put a small hole in the middle of the bottle cap. Thread the cotton string through the hole in the bottle cap. Knot the string on either side of the cap so it does not slide through. Put the cap with the hole and string back on the second bottle (the one that has the bottom cut off.)
5. Returning your attention to the first 2-liter bottle (the one that you cut in half,) dump your prepared water into the bottom half of the bottle. Set the remaining water aside. If you collected pillbugs, worms, or a land snail, set them inside.
6. Place the second capped bottle upside down into the first bottle with the water so the string dangles into the water. Tape the bottles together to close the system.
7. Pull the remainder of the string straight then lay the rocks into the upside-down bottle. Then layer the soil on top. It's best to make the string as tall as you can in the soil.
8. Plant your small plants into the soil. Pour the rest of the water into the soil. If you collected pillbugs, worms, or snails, set them free into your soil.
9. Place the capped top half of the first bottle on top of your system, closing it. Tape the bottle into place.

Make sure your plants get plenty of sunlight!



This activity is provided by:



# Create Your Own Vision Board

Make a colorful visual reminder of your goals for the future!

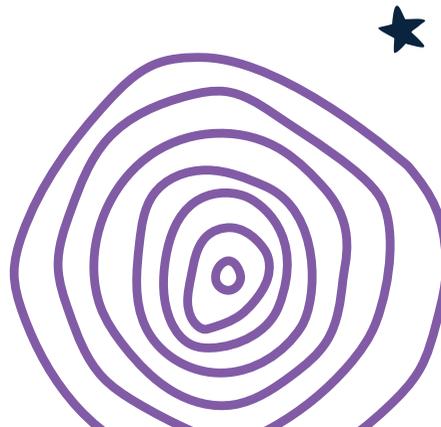
## WHAT YOU NEED

- Markers
- Large piece of paper
- One 8.5x11 piece of paper
- Old magazines or newspapers
- Scissors
- Glue

## ACTIVITY

1. Think about your biggest goals and dreams. On the 8.5x11 piece of paper, write down three or four words that describe qualities you will need to reach these goals. Use the words supplied on the opposite page at right for inspiration. Cut out these words and set them aside.
2. Using the magazines or newspapers, cut out pictures that represent your goals and dreams. Set them aside. If you cannot find images that represent your goals and dreams, that's okay. Draw pictures of whatever you are missing!
3. Arrange the words and pictures you have cut out or drawn on the large piece of paper. When you are satisfied with the placement of the words and images, glue them to your vision board.
4. Share your vision board with a friend or family member. Talk about your plans to meet these goals and how you will measure your progress.
5. Place your vision board in an area where you will see it regularly.

This activity is provided by:



To reach my goals, I will need:

Positive Attitude

CURIOSITY

FOCUS

self-confidence

Patience





This activity is provided by:



# Cincinnati Story Starters

Stuck in a rut with your writing? Spark your imagination using these writing prompts!

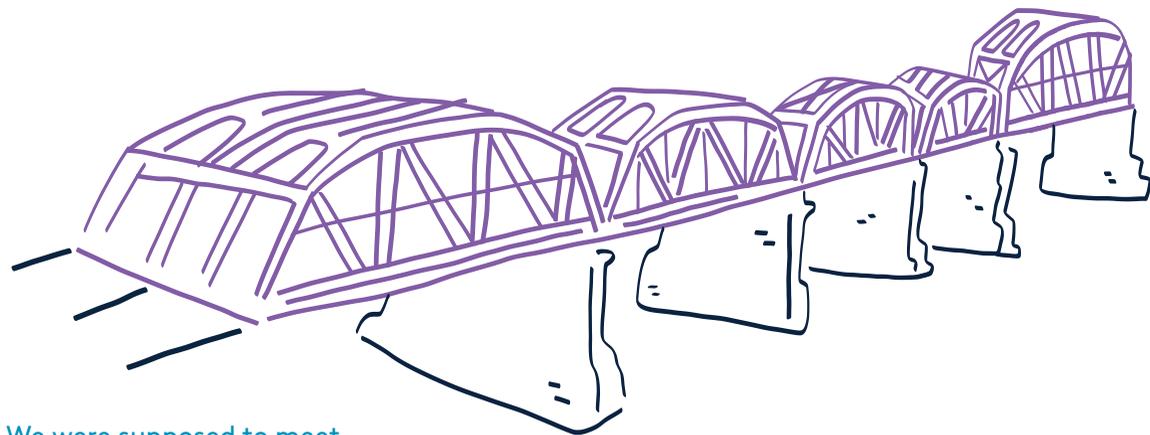
## WHAT YOU NEED

- Pen or pencil
- Paper, journal, or digital file for your story

## ACTIVITY

Use one of the story starter lines on these pages then finish the story! Story length is up to you, so keep going until you're finished.

Are you a plotter (you work from an outline) or a seat-of-your-pantser (you write without an outline)? Would working with or without an outline help you?



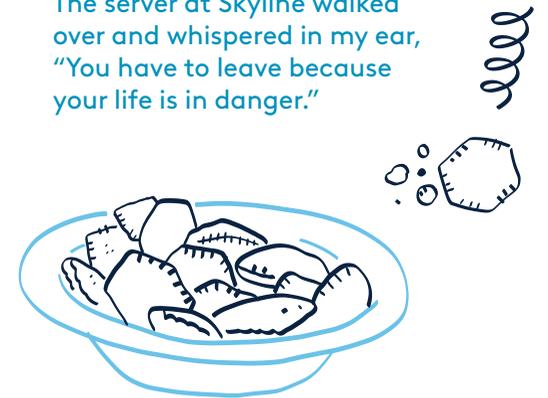
We were supposed to meet each other on the Purple People Bridge at midnight, but she/he never showed up...



It all started when I accidentally picked up the wrong suitcase at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport...



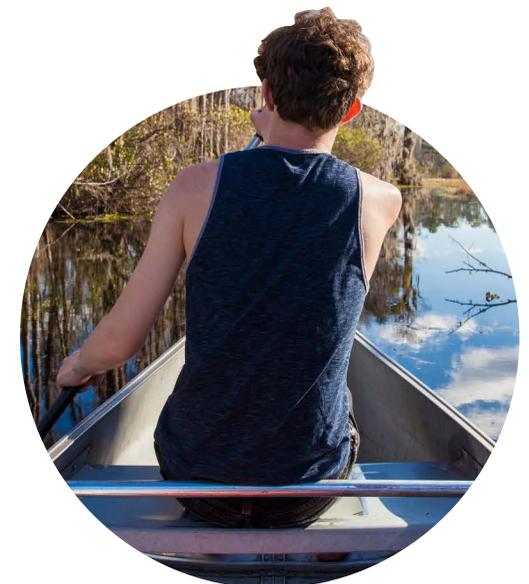
The server at Skyline walked over and whispered in my ear, "You have to leave because your life is in danger."



Time was running out. I had to run four more blocks to reach Music Hall.



We were canoeing at Sharon Woods when we noticed some unusual movement alongside the boat!







# A big thank you to our supporters!

The Discover Summer program is made possible  
through the support of these donors.



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of Cincinnati and  
Hamilton County



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