



COMMUNITY AS  
A SUPERPOWER



A DAY OF  
WELCOME



### CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Playground games from around  
the world





# Delivery guidance

This resource was designed for Key Stage 2 but could also be used or adapted for Key Stage 1 or 3.

Some of the slides have notes to support the delivery of the learning and activities.



If you want to customise this lesson...



We have **editable PowerPoint versions** of all of our lessons that you can [download from Google Drive via our website.](#)

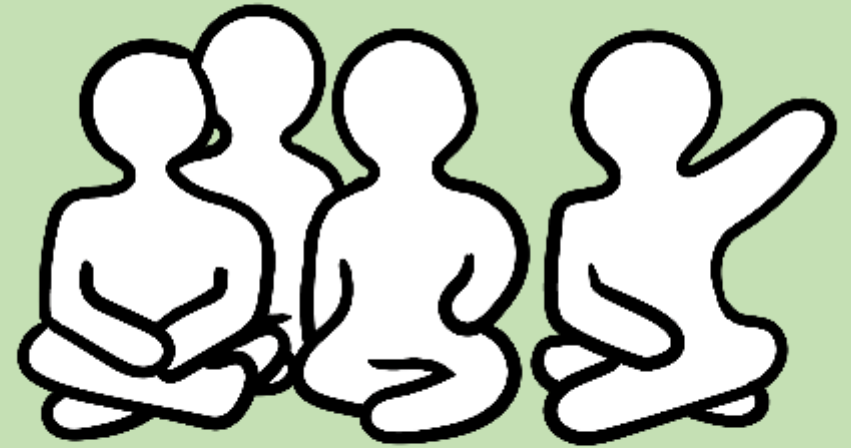
**Password:** Welcome4All

The PowerPoint versions include **higher resolution images, slide notes to support delivery and embedded videos.**

# If you have refugee pupils in your class...

It is essential to be mindful of the needs of any children whose family have a refugee or asylum-seeking background before delivering this lesson.

If this applies to any of your children, it's important to talk to them in advance of the activity and plan accordingly. .



Please read and consider this guidance before delivering the lesson.



Today we are joining with schools across the country for A Day of Welcome.

It will show how our community can be a powerful and welcoming place.

***"Migration is the story of the human race."***

Michael Rosen

It will help us to understand and share stories of migration, especially those journeys made by refugees.

A Day of Welcome *marks the start of:*



# Who are refugees?

*Refugees are ordinary people who live through extraordinary times*

They are people forced to leave their country to flee danger and who cannot return or be returned to their homeland.







**1 in every 67**

**people on earth have  
been forced to flee  
their homes**

*Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in  
other countries asylum from persecution*

Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights



# A DAY OF WELCOME

What do all children around  
the world have in common?



Children around the world are all unique but one thing they all have in common is the desire to **play.**



What **challenges** would children playing in a  
**war zone** or **refugee camp** face?



We are going to explore playground games from a range of different countries.

If you were to move to another country, which games, customs and traditions would you bring with you to introduce to your new friends?

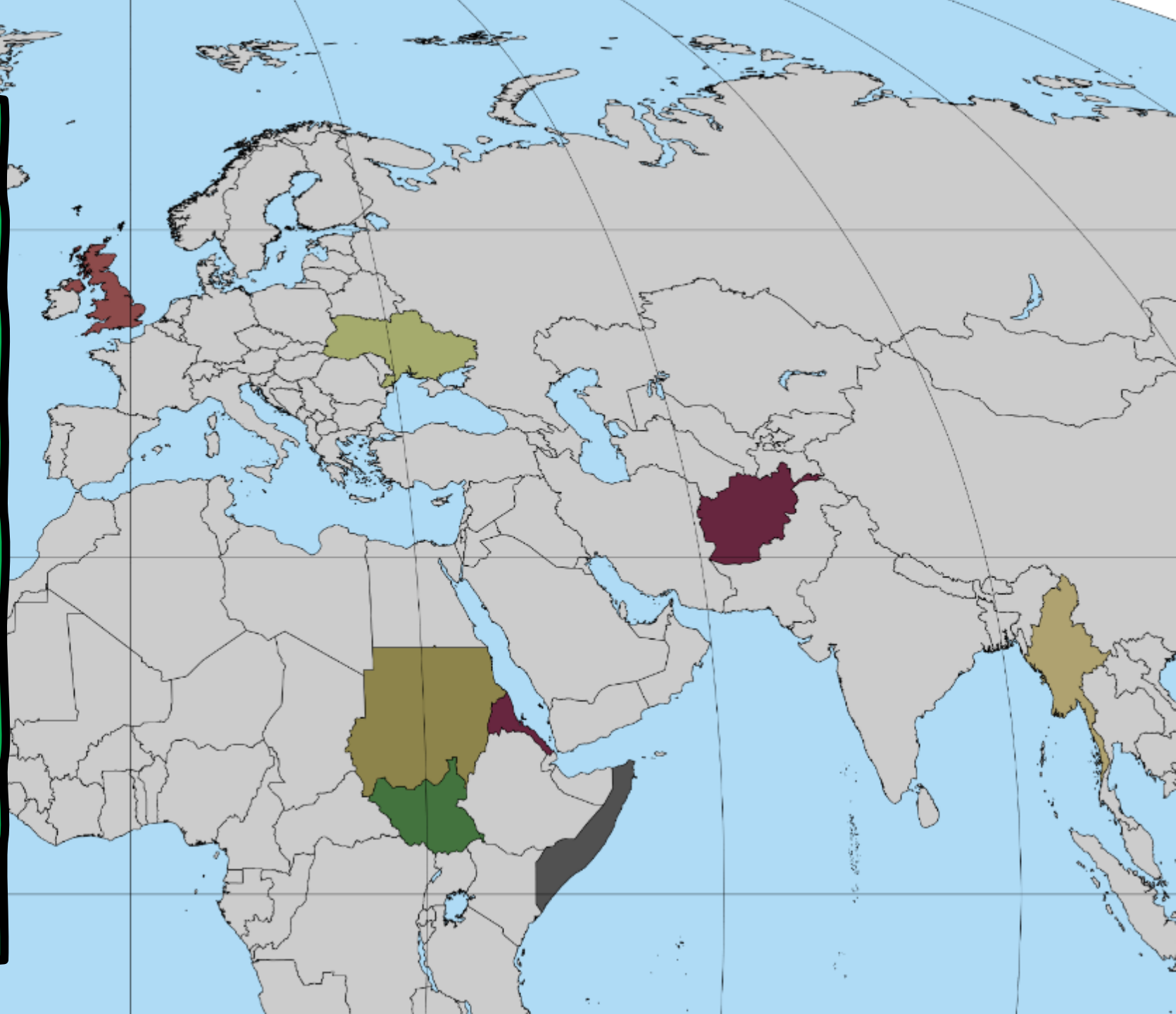


What would be the first things that you would like to experience or try if you moved to another country?

This resource contains some  
playground games from the  
following countries:

**Myanmar**  
**Ukraine**  
**Sudan**  
**South Sudan**  
**Somalia**  
**Eritrea**  
**Afghanistan**  
**England**

All but England, are countries  
from which a significant  
number of people have been  
displaced in recent years

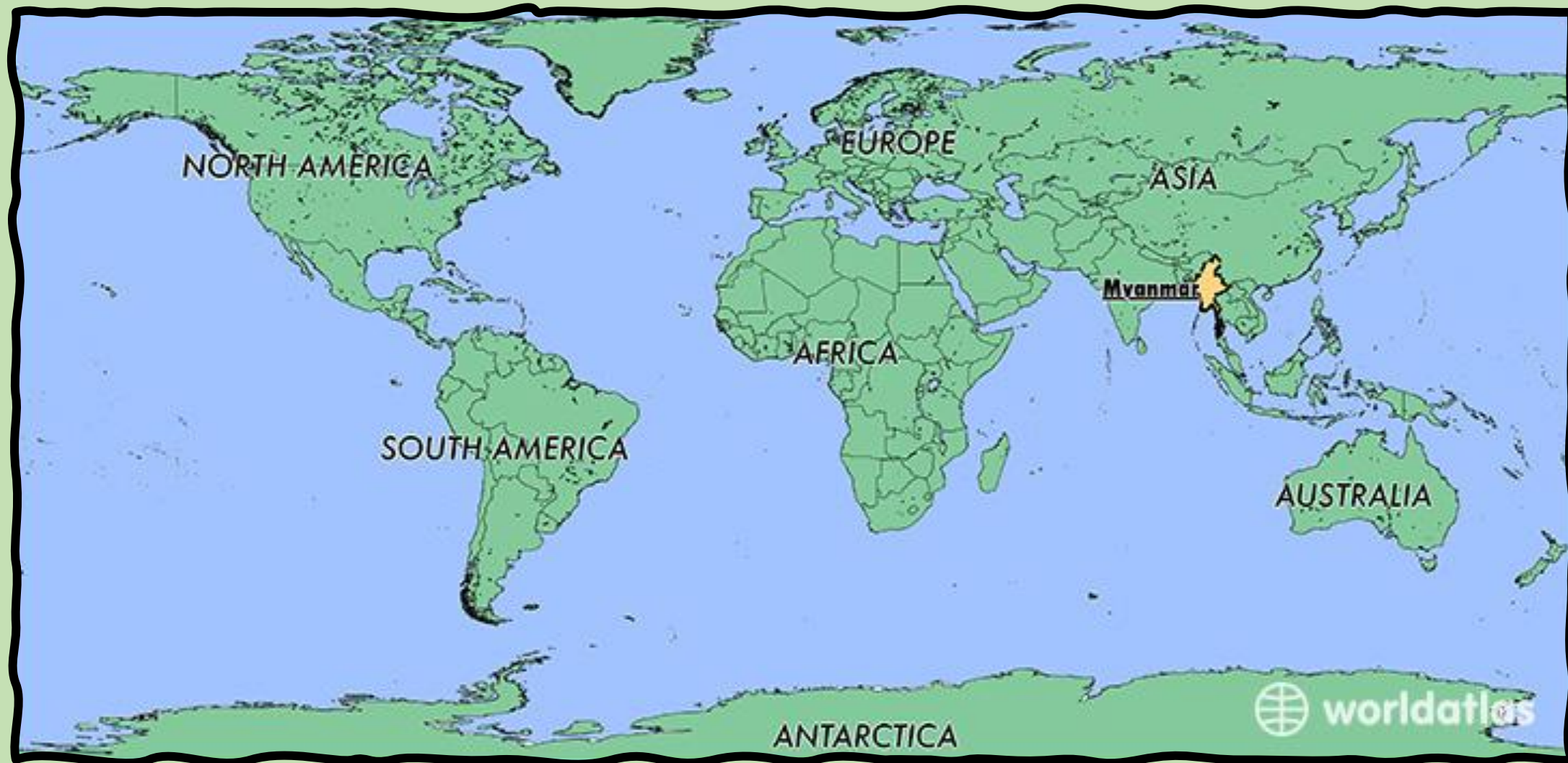


Can you locate Myanmar on the map?





Can you locate Myanmar on the map?







## Playground Games From Myanmar



In Myanmar, children enjoy a variety of exciting playground games that not only entertain them but also help to develop their social skills and physical fitness. One popular game is called "Chinlone."

To play Chinlone, players form a circle and pass a rattan ball among themselves using their feet, knees, and heads without letting it touch the ground. The aim is to keep the ball airborne for as long as possible, showcasing incredible coordination and teamwork. As they play, children encourage each other and cheer, fostering a sense of community and friendship.

Another beloved game in Myanmar is "Oon," which is similar to the game of Duck, Duck, Goose. To start Oon, players sit in a circle while one player walks around the outside, tapping each participant on the head and saying "Oon" at each tap. When they decide to choose someone, they shout "Oon!" and that player must quickly get up and chase the chooser around the circle. If they manage to tag them before they return to their spot, they take their place; otherwise, the chased player continues to run. This game brings lots of laughter and excitement, as it requires both speed and quick thinking.



### YOUR CHALLENGE



Take a photo of you playing these games and stick it here. Alternatively, draw a picture of the games being played to create a special book which can be used at your school during lunch times and play times

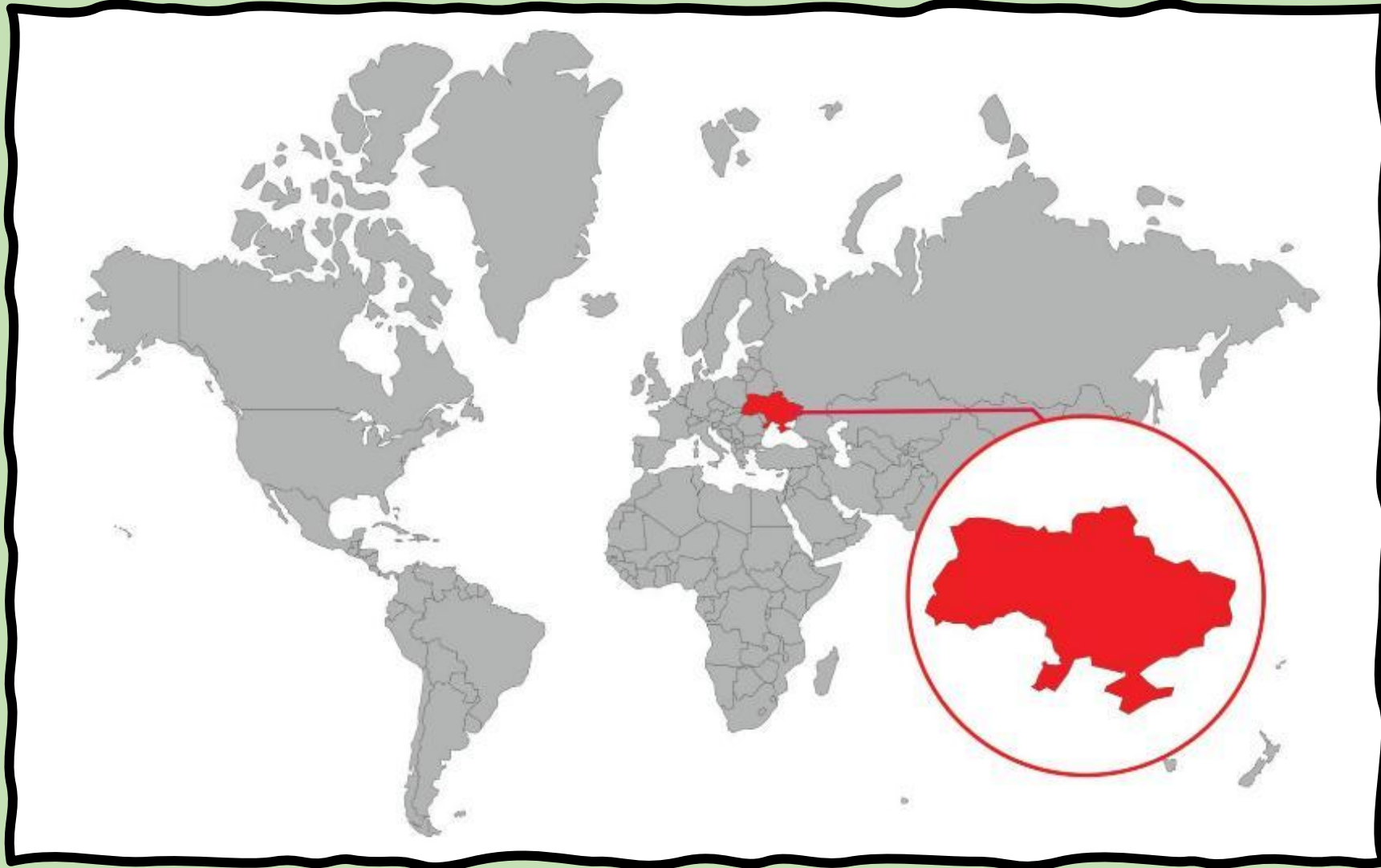
### EXTENSION

Can you teach a younger child to play one of these games today?

Can you locate Ukraine on the map?



Can you locate Ukraine on the map?





# Playground Games from Ukraine



In Ukraine, playgrounds are vibrant places filled with laughter and excitement, where children enjoy a variety of games during their break times at school.

One of the most popular traditional playground games is "Kozak," a classic variation of tag. In this game, one child is chosen as the 'Kozak' or 'Cossack,' and their job is to catch the other players. If tagged, the player must freeze until a teammate rescues them by crawling under their legs, encouraging teamwork and strategy.

## Cossack

*A member of a people of Ukraine and southern Russia, noted for their exceptional horsemanship and military skill.*



### YOUR CHALLENGE



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### EXTENSION

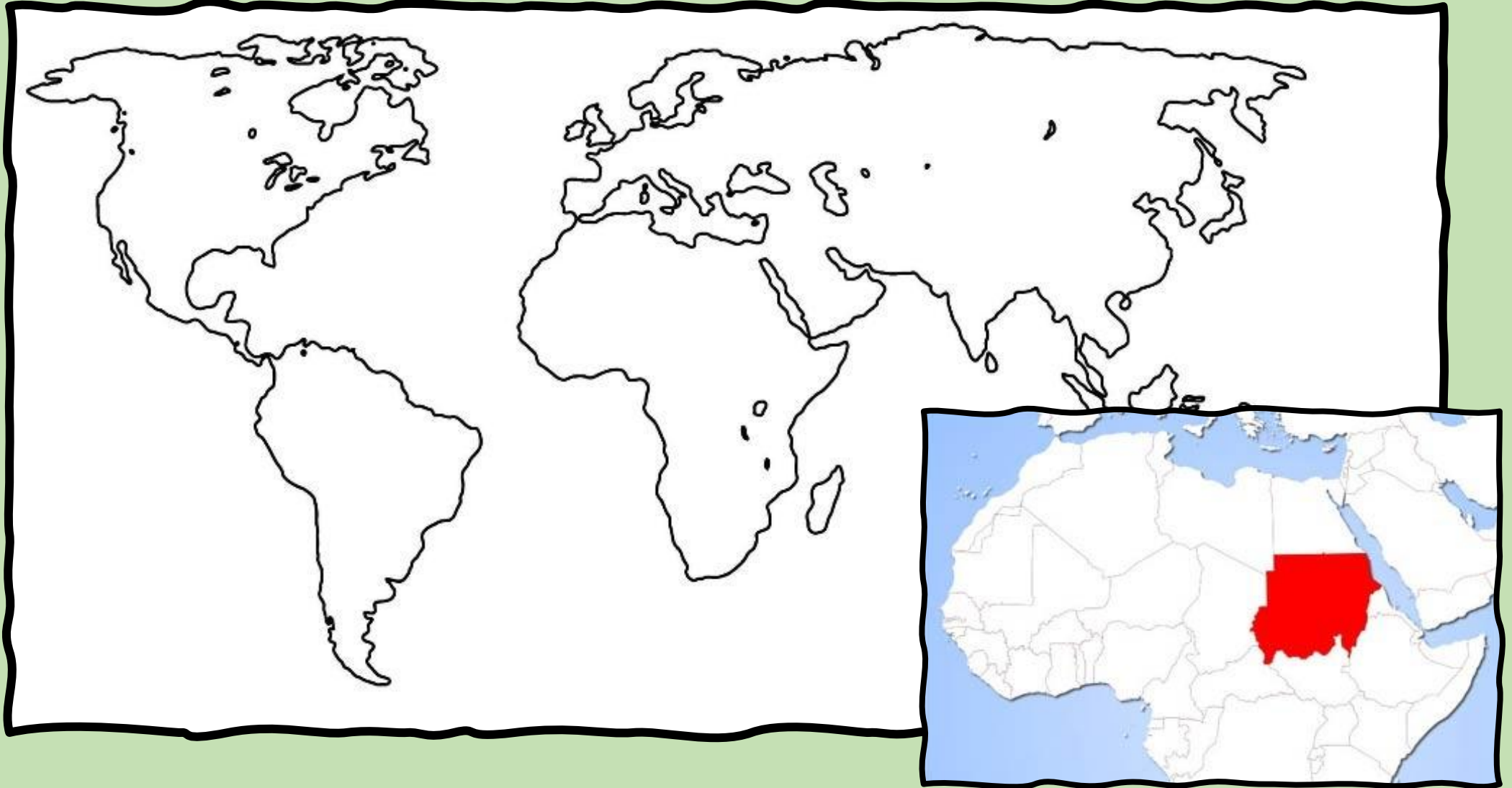
Can you teach a younger child to play one of these games today?



Can you locate Sudan on the map?



Can you locate Sudan on the map?





## Playground Games from Sudan



In Sudan, playground games are an essential part of childhood, much like in many other countries. Traditional games have been played for generations. One particularly popular game is 'Tama', which is played by forming two equal teams. The objective of the game is to knock over the opposing team's players by throwing a ball at them. Once you are hit, you must leave the playing area, creating an exciting and competitive atmosphere that encourages teamwork and strategy.

Another widely enjoyed game in Sudan is 'Al-Masara,' a tag-like game where players chase each other in a designated area marked by their schoolyard. This game often involves a lot of laughter and joy, as players dart around trying to avoid being tagged while also attempting to tag others, testing their speed and agility. The beauty of games like Al-Masara is that they require no special equipment, making them accessible to all children.



### YOUR CHALLENGE

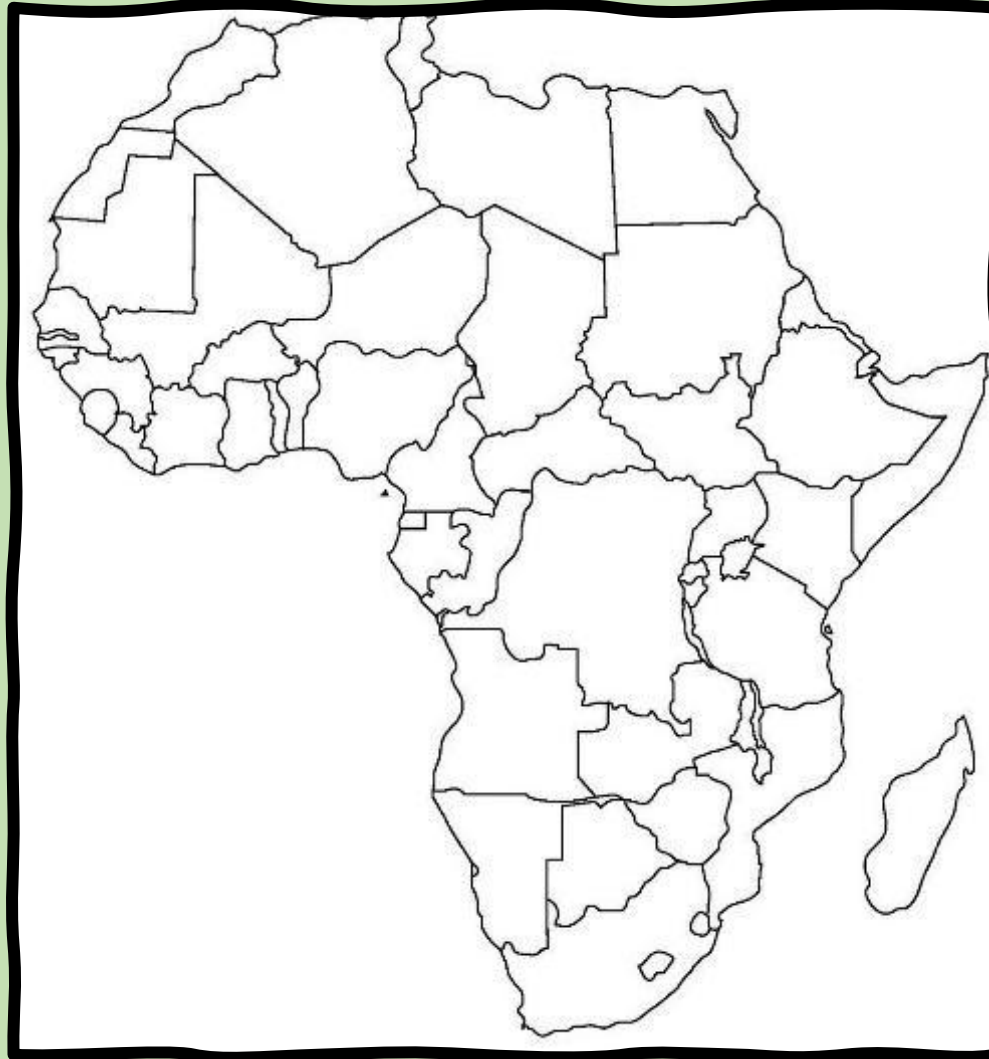


Take a photo of you playing these games and stick it here. Alternatively, draw a picture of the games being played to create a special book which can be used at your school during lunch times and play times

### EXTENSION

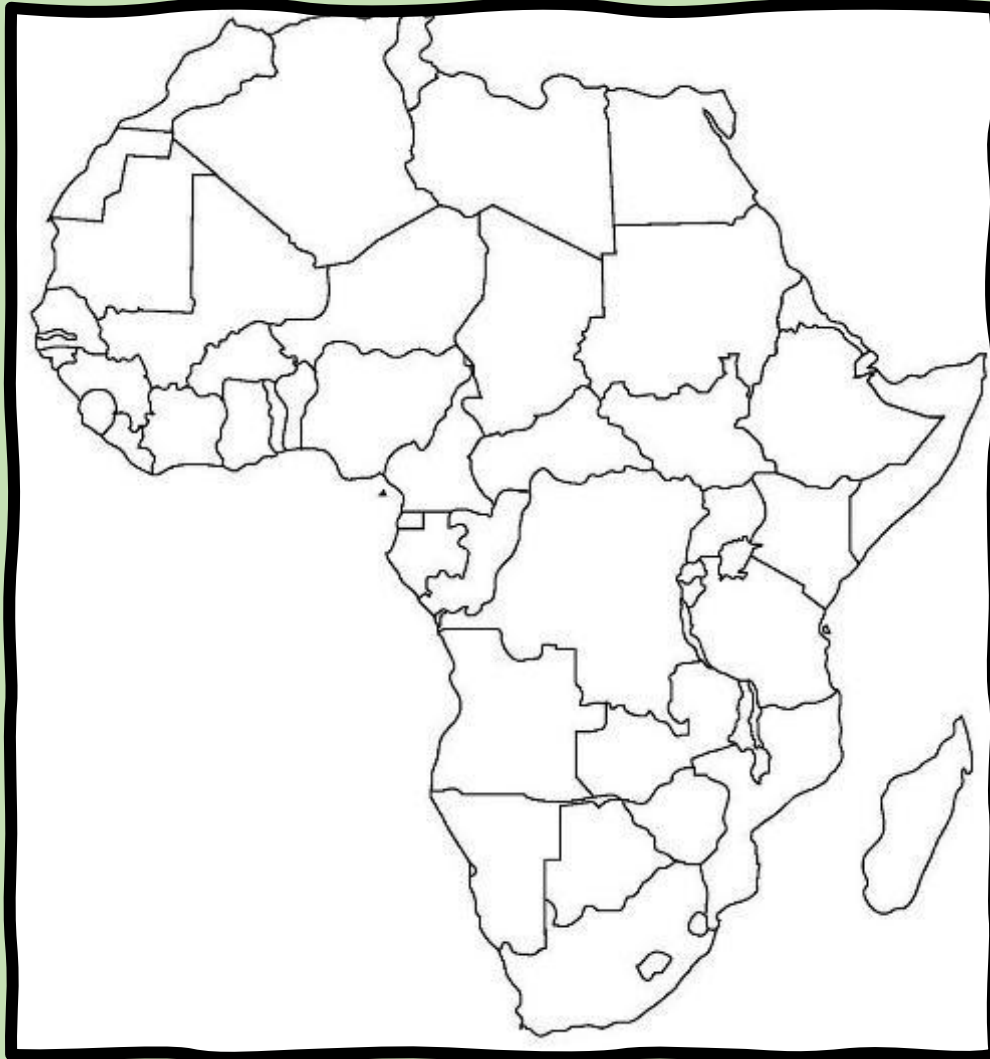
Can you teach a younger child to play one of these games today?

Can you locate South Sudan on the map?



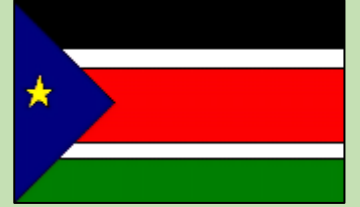


Can you locate South Sudan on the map?





## Playground Games from South Sudan



In South Sudan, children love to play a variety of exciting games during their breaks from school. These games not only provide enjoyment but also bring friends and family together, creating a sense of community. One of the most popular games is known as "Koma," a traditional game that is very similar to tag. In Koma, one player is chosen to be 'the tagger' and must chase the other players around the playground, trying to touch them. If a player is tagged, they become the new tagger. This game is loved for its simplicity and allows children to develop their running skills while enjoying the thrill of the chase.

Another traditional game played in South Sudan is called "Boli." This game requires a soft ball made of cloth and is played in teams. The objective is to throw the ball over a line, and the opposing team must try to catch it. If they fail, the team that threw the ball earns points. Boli develops teamwork and co-ordination, as it requires players to communicate effectively and work together to succeed.



### YOUR CHALLENGE

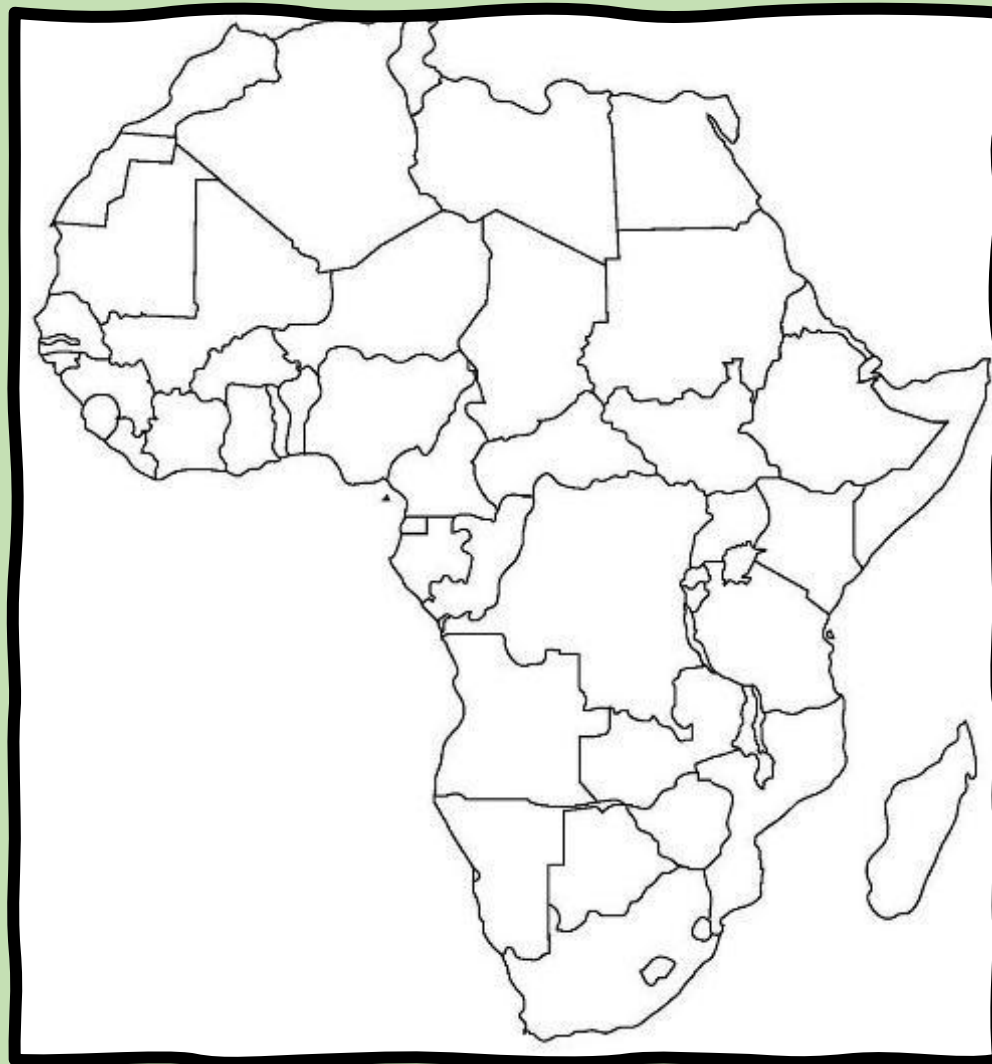


Take a photo of you playing these games and stick it here. Alternatively, draw a picture of the games being played to create a special book which can be used at your school during lunch times and play times

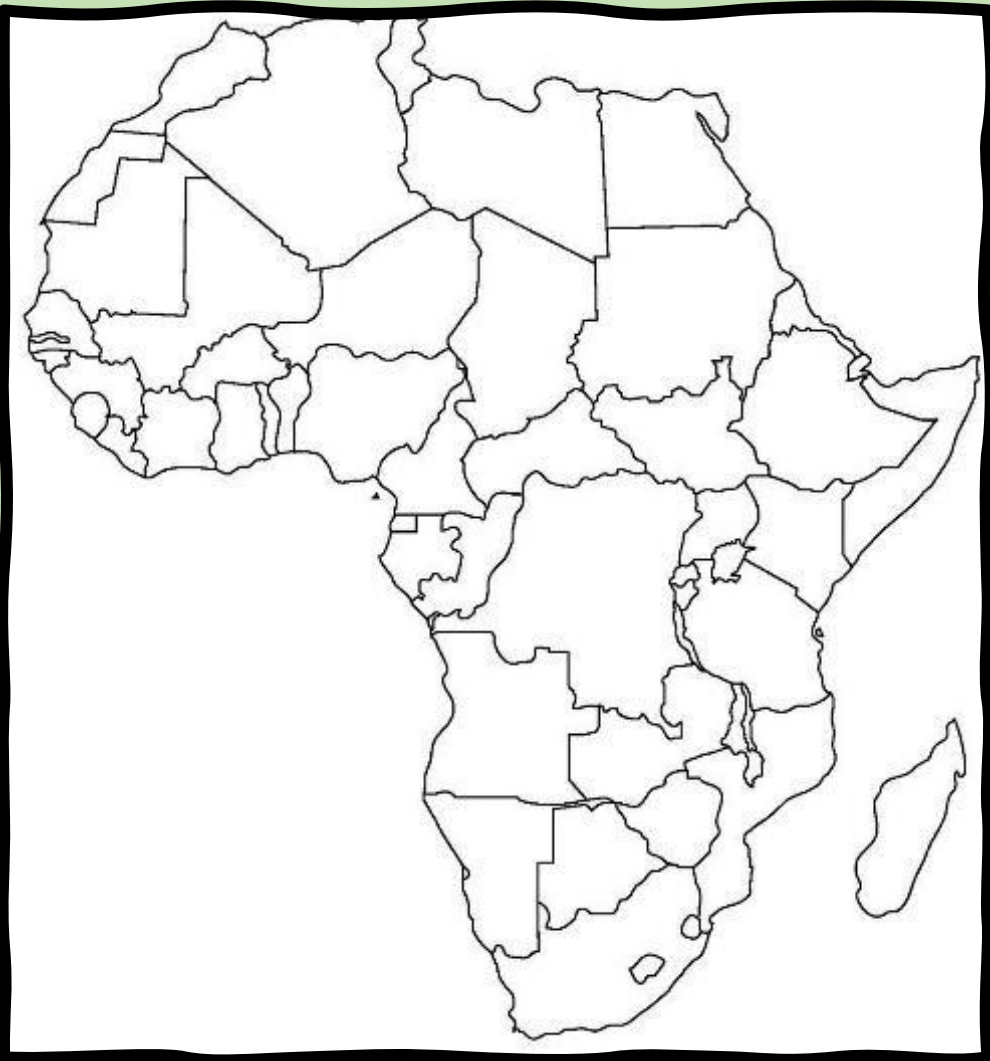
### EXTENSION

Can you teach a younger child to play one of these games today?

Can you locate Somalia on the map?



Can you locate Somalia on the map?







## Playground Games from Somalia



A popular playground game in Somalia is "Ciyaar," which can be loosely translated to 'play' in English. Ciyaar is similar to tag and is often played in large groups. Children chase each other around designated playground areas, trying to "tag" one another by touching them. The excitement builds as the players race around, dodging and weaving to avoid being caught. This game promotes physical fitness and agility, making it a favourite during breaks at school.

In addition to these games, many children in Somalia enjoy "Ludo," a game originally from India, which has gained popularity worldwide, including in Somali schools. Ludo is played on a colourful board with dice and tokens, where players race to get their pieces from the start to the finish. Children learn about counting, patience, and taking turns, which are essential skills both in and out of the classroom.



### YOUR CHALLENGE

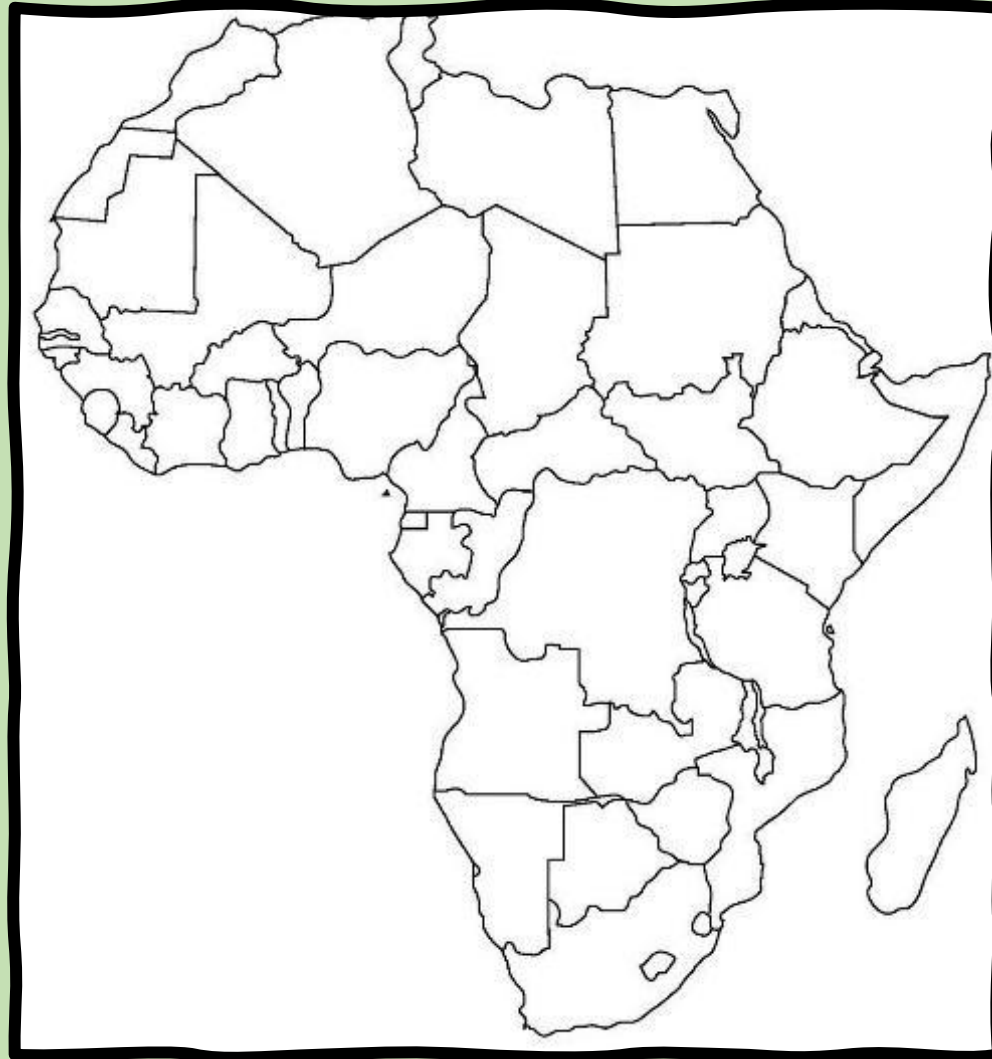


Take a photo of you playing these games and stick it here. Alternatively, draw a picture of the games being played to create a special book which can be used at your school during lunch times and play times

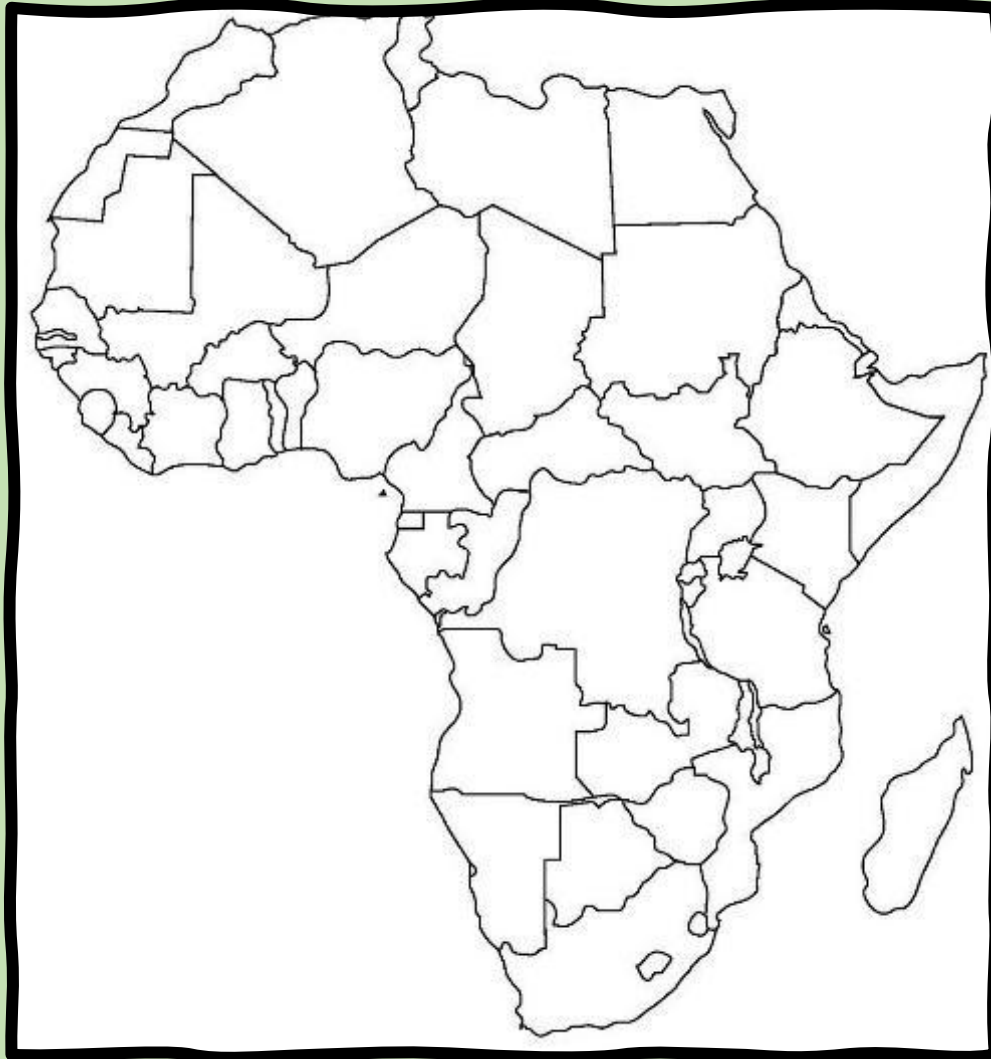
### EXTENSION

Can you teach a younger child to play one of these games today?

Can you locate Eritrea on the map?



Can you locate Eritrea on the map?





## Playground Games from Eritrea



Eritrea is a country in East Africa. One popular game there is called "Tigrinya Keren," which is often played by a large group of children. To play this game, you first need to choose a player to be 'it.' This person stands in the centre of a circle formed by the other players. The players then take turns to chant a playful rhyme while hopping around in unison. The child who is 'it' tries to tag anyone who steps outside the circle while also keeping steady as everyone hops. If a player gets tagged, they must join the 'it' in the centre and help them, making the game even more exciting.

Another common game is "Gubella," which is similar to the British game of tag but with a twist. In Gubella, players use small pebbles. One player holds a pebble and tries to tag others by touching them lightly with it. If you get tapped, you must freeze, and another player has the chance to free you by crawling through your legs. The game continues until everyone is caught or has had their turn as the one holding the pebble.

**Can you think about how we can adapt this game for our school environment?  
What could we use instead of pebbles?**



### YOUR CHALLENGE

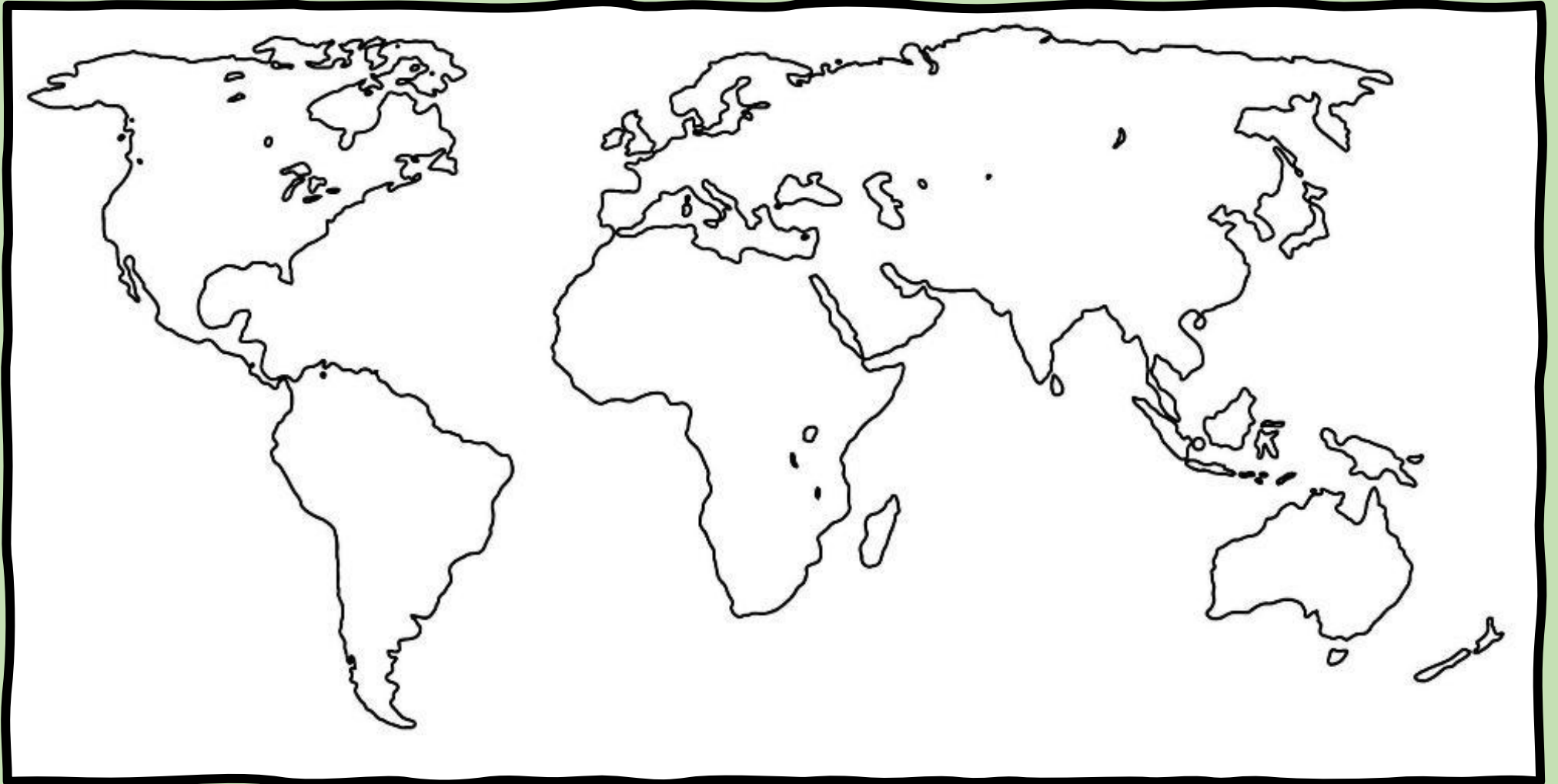


Take a photo of you playing these games and stick it here. Alternatively, draw a picture of the games being played to create a special book which can be used at your school during lunch times and play times

### EXTENSION

Can you teach a younger child to play one of these games today?

Can you locate Afghanistan on the map?





Can you locate Afghanistan on the map?

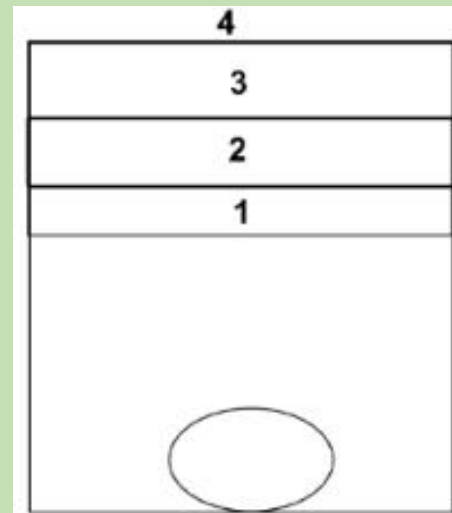




# Playground Games from Afghanistan



On Afghan playgrounds, a game called 'jozbazzi' is played. This game requires players to draw a template on the floor with chalk. The first player should stand in a circle and throw a pebble to the first section. They will then need to hop to the number one without putting their other foot on the floor. When the player achieves this, they can aim for the second zone and so on. To make the game harder, a very large grid can be drawn!



## YOUR CHALLENGE



Take a photo of you playing these games and stick it here. Alternatively, draw a picture of the games being played to create a special book which can be used at your school during lunch times and play times

## EXTENSION

Can you teach a younger child to play one of these games today?

Can you locate England on the map?



Can you locate England on the map?







## Playground Games from England



Among the traditional English games, "Hopscotch" holds a special place in many children's hearts. This game involves drawing a numbered grid on the ground and throwing a stone onto a number, then hopping on one foot to retrieve it. Whether hopping gingerly or leaping with confidence, this game strengthens balance and co-ordination.

Similarly, "Duck, Duck, Goose" is a fun game that involves children sitting in a circle while one child walks around tapping others on the head, saying "duck" until they choose someone as the "goose," who must then chase them around the circle. This game emphasises quick thinking and agility.



**Can you think of any other traditional English games?**



### YOUR CHALLENGE



Take a photo of you playing these games and stick it here. Alternatively, draw a picture of the games being played to create a special book which can be used at your school during lunch times and play times

### EXTENSION

Can you teach a younger child to play one of these games today?



# A DAY OF WELCOME

It's up to you what you do with this learning but here are a few ideas!

## GET PLAYING!

Can you and your friends play as many of these games as possible. When you have found a game that you like, can you teach it to someone else?

## MAKE A DISPLAY

Take photos or draw pictures of you and your friends playing some of these games. Print them alongside slides from this PowerPoint to create a display sharing playground games from different cultures.

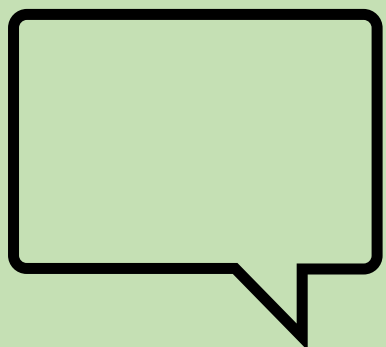
## CREATE A BOOK OF GAMES

Compile all the information from this resource into a reference book that children can use at playtimes.

## INVOLVING FAMILIES AT HOME

Can you ask your school community about the favourite games? I wonder if your grown ups at home have any suggestions of games which they enjoyed playing when they were younger.





## A chance to share

If you have a question, thought or feeling about this lesson that you would like to share, now is your chance to write or draw it and give it to your teacher.

*Don't forget to include your name, if you'd like your teacher to know who it is from.*



**A DAY OF  
WELCOME**



Other schools would love to see what your class produce. Please share it with the Day of Welcome family!

You could post it on X to [@DayOfWelcome](#) with the hashtag [#DayOfWelcome](#) [#RefugeeWeek](#) and [#SchoolofSanctuary](#)





# A DAY OF WELCOME



## Refugee Week

A great way to kick-off Refugee Week in your school

A Day of Welcome is an annual day of solidarity and learning in schools that aims to build a culture of welcome and understanding for people seeking sanctuary.

Build a culture of welcome, belonging and solidarity in your school for those seeking sanctuary

Share stories of refugee migration, local and global, past and present, with your pupils

Better educate and support your refugee pupils and their families

Organised by:



Key partners:



VNET EDUCATION CIC

### ASYLUM SPEAKERS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 



With support from:



The World of Languages  
and Languages of the World



National Centre  
for Writing







# Is your school a School of Sanctuary?



*A School of Sanctuary aims to be a safe and welcoming place for everyone.*

Find out more [here](#)

*Schools of Sanctuary is a UK-wide network of 1000+ primary and secondary schools, nurseries and sixth forms all committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum.*

## A School of Sanctuary:

*Raises awareness of forced displacement and migration*

*Ensures school practice effectively supports and welcomes new arrivals*

*Advocates for our vision of welcome and compassion*

**We are building a movement of welcome!**



REFUGEE WEEK 2025  
**COMMUNITY**  
*AS*  
**A SUPERPOWER**

**16-22 June**

**Next week is Refugee Week!**

There are loads of family-friendly activities and events across the country, many of which are free.

Signpost some of the Refugee Week activities locally to your staff and the families of your pupils.

[Find out more here](#)



**Refugee  
Week**



## A DAY OF WELCOME

We have so much more to offer you!

## REFUGEE EDUCATION

Improving provision for any pupils or families who have experienced forced displacement is so important! We signpost and share the best and latest refugee education resources, guidance and CPD from partners such as UNHCR, The Bell Foundation and City of Sanctuary - essential for educators who work with refugees or asylum seekers.

[Access our Refugee Education page](#)

## DAY OF WELCOME ARCHIVE

Over the years we have produced many resources to support schools to build a culture of welcome for refugees and asylum seekers. Feel free to explore our archive and choose from the dozens of teaching resources for Key Stages 1-4. There are ready-made assemblies, and lessons which introduce refugee migration, explain key concepts, explore refugee histories and much more!

[Access the Day of Welcome archive](#)



## LOCAL RESOURCES

In some parts of the country, we have created and curated opportunities, organisations, resources and support that you can call upon as you build your culture of welcome for refugees and asylum seekers.

- Norfolk
- Suffolk
- Wales
- Essex
- Cambridgeshire
- West Midlands
- Greater Manchester
- Merseyside
- West Yorkshire
- Tyne & Wear

[Access our local resources](#)



*Join our movement to  
make every day A Day  
of Welcome for people  
seeking sanctuary.*

Visit [our website](#)

Email us:

[dayofwelcome@uk.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:dayofwelcome@uk.cityofsanctuary.org)

