

MAX'S EXCITING EXPEDITION

ACTIVITY 1 PUZZLE TREES

In the book, *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, a boy named Max is sent to bed without supper after creating a lot of mischief. In his very own bedroom, Max begins a fantastic expedition to the land of the wild things. He lets his imagination run wild and soon finds his floor, walls and ceiling transforming into a magical forest.



In today's activity, you will begin your own expedition by transforming a cardboard box into a tree of balancing branches and loosely hanging leaves.

Did you know?

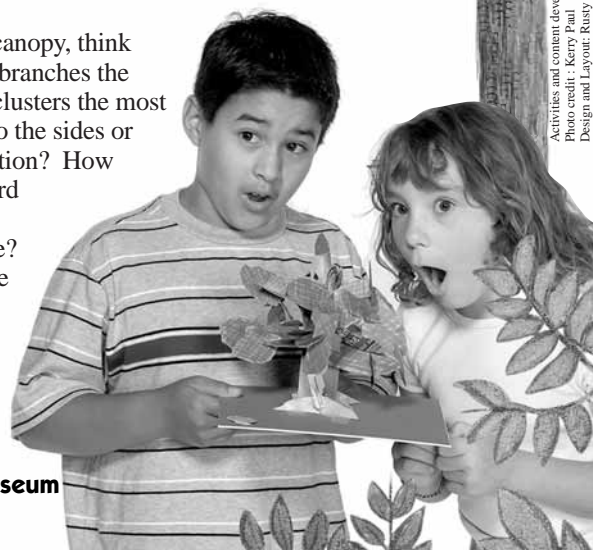
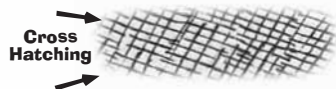
- ☞ One pound of newspapers can be recycled into six cereal boxes or egg cartons.
- ☞ Maurice Sendak uses an artistic technique called cross-hatching in many of his illustrations. Cross-hatching is a diamond pattern created by drawing lighter parallel lines at a 90° angle over darker parallel lines.
- ☞ In 1964, *Where the Wild Things Are* received the Caldecott Medal, which honors illustrators for their creative talents.

What you'll need:

- ☞ A thin cardboard box (from cereal, crackers, etc.)
- ☞ Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- ☞ A pen or pencil
- ☞ Scissors
- ☞ Clear tape
- ☞ 2 techniques:
 - ☞ **cross-hatching:** This technique is used to show shading by making a pattern that looks like a checkerboard or diamonds. First, color in a shape with a marker, crayon, or colored pencil. Using a pencil or a black pen, draw dark lines side by side down one side of your shape. Using the same pencil or pen, draw slightly lighter lines across the first set.
 - ☞ **slotting:** This is a technique used to make paper stand up. First cut out two shapes from a piece of cardboard. Cut a slit into the middle of one cardboard piece; keep cutting into the piece until you have almost reached the middle. Repeat this step with the second cardboard piece. Now join the two shapes by sliding both pieces together at the cuts. Use tape to make sure the pieces don't slide.

Try it!

- ☞ Have you ever made something flat stand up? In this puzzling activity, you'll put your balancing skills to the test when you turn a box into a tree.
- ☞ First, find a small box made from thin cardboard. Cut it open at the seams to make it flat.
- ☞ In order to build a tree, you need a trunk. Can you use a piece of the box to make a tree trunk that stands? Cut out one of the side panels of the box and color it using the cross-hatching technique. This piece will be your trunk.
- ☞ To make the trunk stand up, you might want to try the slotting technique described in the "What you'll need" section. Cut your colored side panel in half, so you have two shorter rectangles, and put a slot in each piece. Slide the two pieces together at the slots. Or, invent your own technique. When your trunk is steady, use tape to secure the pieces of cardboard in place. (Hint: You may need to trim the cardboard at the bottom of the trunk so it doesn't wobble.)
- ☞ After you've made your trunk, add some branches and leaves to your tree, using the rest of your box. Remember, this is a "wild" tree, so be adventurous with color, and try the cross-hatching technique that Sendak uses. Will your tree have long skinny leaves like a palm tree, short pointy leaves like an oak tree, or giant, hand-shaped leaves like a fig tree?
- ☞ Slowly add branches and leaf clusters to your tree by joining them together using the slotting technique. Don't forget to tape the pieces in place. Can you use the entire box to make your tree canopy? What helps to prevent the tree from tipping and tilting?
- ☞ As you add pieces to your tree canopy, think about real trees. Where are the branches the thickest and where are the leaf clusters the most dense? Do the branches grow to the sides or do they come out in every direction? How does the length of your cardboard branch or the size of your leaf cluster affect your tree's balance? How high or wide can you make your canopy?

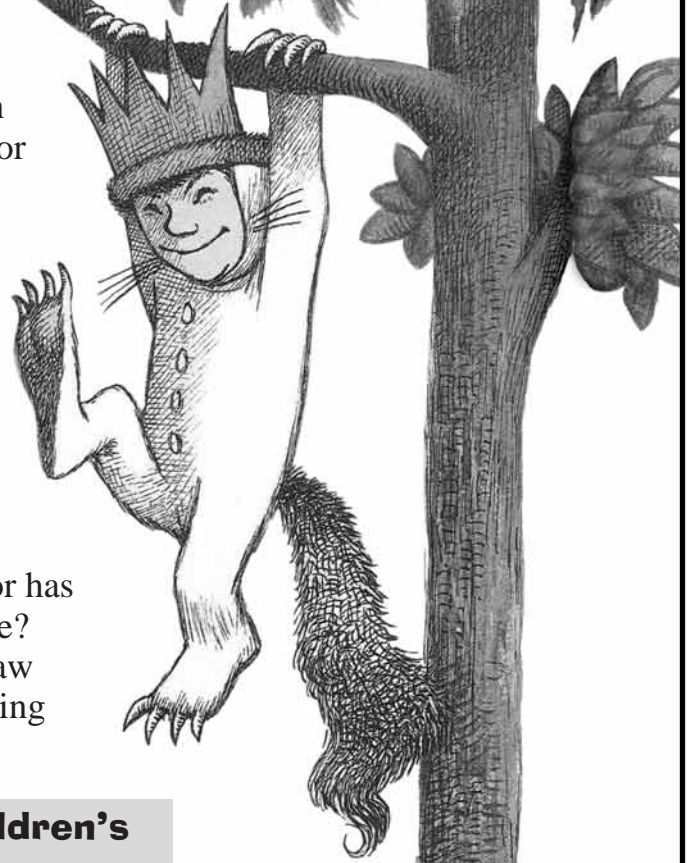


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 Design and Layout: Rusty Gaebehr

Tear into a magazine or newspaper

Create a small book or journal. Each week you can add another page to your story by completing one or both of the following activities:

1. To save paper, people used to write letters using the cross-hatch technique. Instead of drawing lines, they wrote over their sentences with more words. Find a picture or short article in the newspaper or magazine. Cut it out, turn it sideways, and write words or phrases across it to describe a wild place you might want to go.
2. Look through the newspaper to find the comic strips. Can you find a comic where the illustrator has used cross-hatching or another shading technique? Continue the story of the comic you found or draw your own comic strip. Try using the cross-hatching technique in your illustrations.



Journey over to Children's Discovery Museum

At Children's Discovery Museum through December, *Where the Wild Things Are: Maurice Sendak in His Own Words and Pictures* features original illustrations and text from many of this author/illustrator's books. Visitors can also dress up like a Wild Thing and dance in the wild forest. Join us for the rumpus!

Find out more...

Check out a cool book by Maurice Sendak, and then learn more about trees.

- ☞ *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- ☞ *The Great Kapok Tree, a Tale of the Amazon Rainforest* by Lynne Cherry
- ☞ *Trees* by R. Thompson



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