



MAX'S EXCITING EXPEDITION ACTIVITY 5 FANTASTIC VOYAGE

After having a great time with the wild things and making a wild rumpus, Max sends the crazy creatures to bed without their supper, in Maurice's Sendak's story of *Where the Wild Things Are*. Max leaves the land of the wild things to return home, traveling through years, weeks, and days, to find his warm dinner waiting for him in his bedroom.

In this activity, you will re-live your journey to the land of wild things by making a rotating map.

Did you know?

- ☞ The hardest spot on the earth to get to is Bovet Island, located in the South Atlantic Ocean between the tip of Africa and Antarctica.
- ☞ *Where the Wild Things Are* has been translated into fifteen languages and has sold over two million copies. It is one of the most sold picture books of all time.
- ☞ In addition to writing and illustrating books, Sendak has also produced plays and operas,

Try it!

What you'll need:

- ☞ Two paper plates
- ☞ A pencil
- ☞ Scissors
- ☞ Paper
- ☞ Markers
- ☞ Tape

- ☞ Have you ever looked at a map of a famous explorer's route? In this activity, you'll be making a unique map of your own expedition to the land of the wild things. This is no ordinary map; it will rotate to uncover each unusual piece of your voyage.
- ☞ On the second plate, draw and color a design inspired by Max's adventure. You could draw plants, a night sky, an ocean...try something simple, but colorful. Make sure to cover the entire plate.

- ☞ To make your map, you'll need to find the center of one paper plate. To do this, fold a plate in half.

Open it and fold it in half again, creating another fold. The center point is the place where the two folds cross. Use your pencil to trace one of the folds from the outer edge of the plate to the center point.

- ☞ Place the other plate under the plate you were just working with. Holding both plates together, cut along the line you drew with the pencil.
- ☞ On one plate, draw your special map that tells the story of your journey to the wild things. You might want to divide your plate into four to six pie pieces to make sure you have space for different drawings.
- ☞ On the first slice of the pie, begin your map with the place where your adventure started. Did you begin in your bedroom like Max, or out in the park, or maybe in your kitchen?
- ☞ Turn your plate to the next blank space. Where did your imagination take you? Did you sail across the sea, drive across land, or both? On the next couple of pie slices, draw what you saw on your voyage. As you come to the last pie slice, illustrate your own land of wild things and some of the crazy creatures that live there. You might even include a drawing of the wild thing you created a couple of weeks ago.
- ☞ Place the patterned plate on top of the map you drew and line up the cuts in both plates. Slowly turn the top plate slightly to the right, weaving the patterned plate underneath the map as you turn. You should begin to see a pie-shaped piece of your map appear. As you continue to turn the top plate, you will see more of your voyage.
- ☞ Once you have reached the land of the wild things on your map, how might you return home?



Children's Discovery Museum
of San Jose

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Tear into a magazine or newspaper

1. Max returns home because he smells his hot dinner waiting for him. Find words and pictures in a magazine or newspaper that might bring you back home after a wild expedition. Cut them out and create a “home, sweet home” collage.
2. Scan the newspaper for a map and cut it out. Draw Max’s sailing adventure on it, marking where he would be after a day, a month, and a year. You might need to add a special island of wild things to the map. Below the map, give a short description that helps you to navigate the map.

This is the final activity for your wild journal. If you’ve completed at least one activity per week from this section, your journal should reflect Max’s adventure.

Journey over to Children’s Discovery Museum

Create your own masterpiece while listening to classical music in *Where the Wild Things Are: Maurice Sendak In His Own Words and Pictures*. The exhibition, at Children’s Discovery Museum through December, highlights Sendak’s love of music, his opera and ballet productions, costume and set design, and his children’s theater group, *The Night Kitchen*.

Find out more...

Check out these cool books to learn more about Maurice Sendak and mapmaking.

☪ *Chicken Soup with Rice* by Maurice Sendak

☪ *There’s a Map in My Lap!* by Tish Rabe

☪ *Me on The Map* by Joan Sweeney