

PSE

Art

Science

English



The Name Game

Elizabeth Laird
Olivia Holden



Teacher Resources



Hello Teachers!

Welcome to *The Name Game* Teacher Resources!

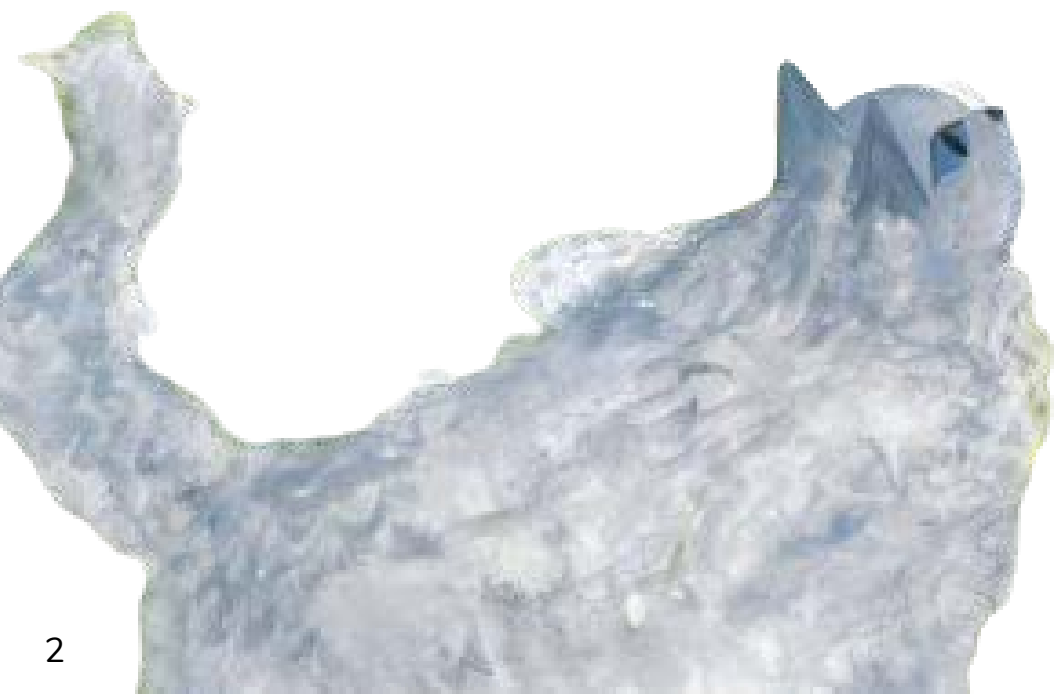
The Name Game is a charming new picture book from acclaimed author Elizabeth Laird, and fantastic illustrator Olivia Holden. This whimsical tale is all about the fun of imagination, and appreciating the natural world around you! The thought-provoking story inspires children to be innovative and creative, and encourages them to use their imagination to have fun with words.

These teacher resources cover a range of subjects suitable for KS1 students, running through English, PSE, Science and Art. Each section contains fun activities and discussion inspired directly by pages from the book.

Let's dive in!



Watch the book trailer for *The Name Game*!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth Laird is the multi-award winning author of many successful picture books, young fiction and YA novels. Her travels across the world have influenced her style of writing and choice of topics. She is well-known for tackling a wide range of global issues through her work.

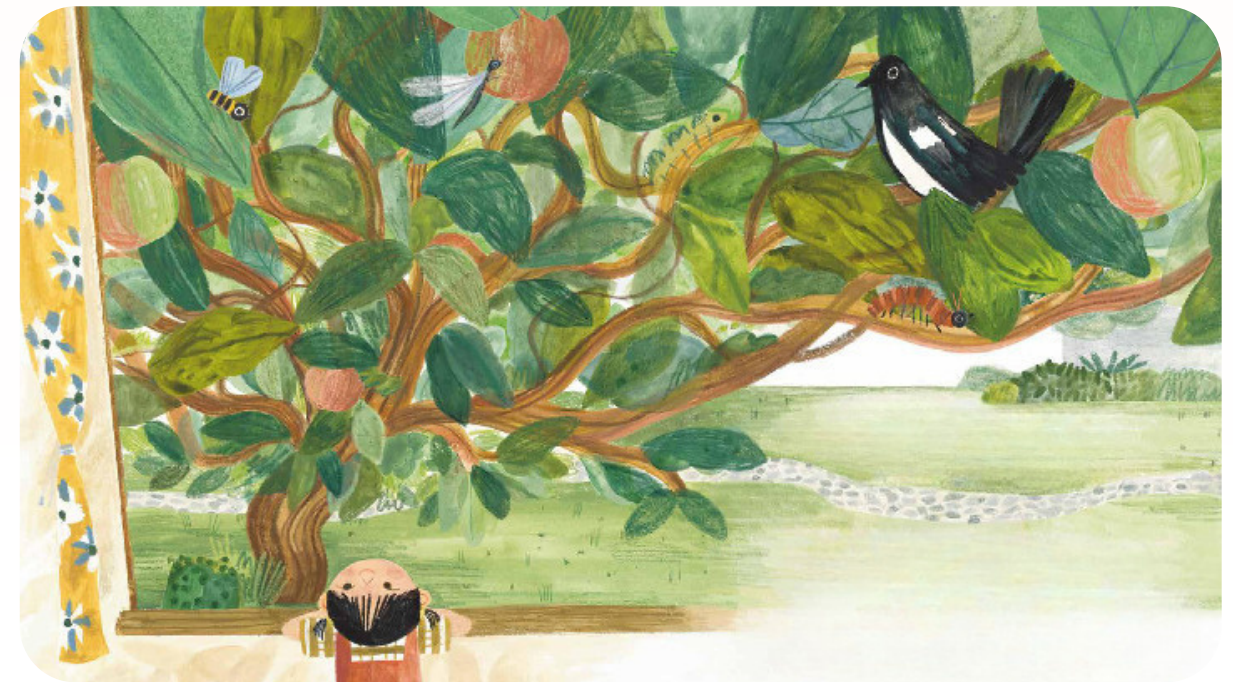
<http://www.elizabethlaird.co.uk/>



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Olivia has always been interested in art – as a child she would draw in sketchbooks while she went on adventures. Olivia pursued art and design as an adult and studied Fine Art, Textiles and English Literature, obtaining a degree in Fashion and Textile Design at the University of Huddersfield. She has worked on many wonderful projects including 'Little People Big Dreams' and 'Five Minute Really True Stories'

<https://www.oliviaholden.com/>



▲ Illustration by Olivia Holden from *The Name Game* of the little girl speaking to the grand tree.

Contents

Within this series of lesson plans we explore the fun children can have with their imagination, as well as the gorgeous nature and creatures in the world around them!

The Name Game considers themes of isolation, caring for nature and appreciating the beauty of the world and its creatures. It is an absolutely essential picture book in teaching children to describe the world around them. Particularly special are Olivia Holden's whimsical illustrations, in pastel candy colours, really highlighting the wonders of the world that the little girl discovers just outside her door.

Each lesson in these resources focuses on a particular curriculum area, while also highlighting opportunities to link with other curriculum areas.

Find out more about The Name Game [here](#).

[Click here](#) to watch a short video about The Name Game!



Lesson 1: The Story (Curriculum Focus: English).....	6
Lesson 2: All About Imagination (Curriculum Focus: PSE).....	16
Lesson 3: Flowers and Nature (Curriculum Focus: Science).....	22
Lesson 4: Get Creative (Curriculum Focus: Art).....	26
Enquiries & Further Reading.....	32



▲ Illustration by Olivia Holden of the little girl meeting a butterfly.

More about Tiny Owl

Tiny Owl is an independent publishing company committed to producing beautiful, original books for children.

Established in 2015, our energy and passion stems from our belief that stories act as bridges – providing pathways to new experiences whilst connecting us to here and there. Our stories are visually rich and conceptually meaningful. They give children unique perspectives on universal themes such as love, friendship and freedom and a greater awareness of the diverse and colourful world we live in.

We have a range of books from Tales from Rumi, to fairytale retellings and books about mental health.

We have developed a programme of intercultural projects, pairing authors and illustrators from around the globe. including A Bottle of Happiness with UK author Pippa Goodhart and Iranian illustrator Ehsan Abdollahi.

Our books have been critically acclaimed and were the subject of a feature on the Guardian website introduced by Hans Andersen Award winner David Almond.

Our extensive resources include teacher resources, posters, activity packs, bookmarks, crafts, author/illustrator interviews, read alongs and lots more!

Visit us at www.tinyowl.co.uk

More information about Tiny Owl Publishing:

: info@tinyowl.co.uk

: <http://tinyowl.co.uk/>

F: <https://bit.ly/3xcmEd2>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/TinyOwl_Books

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3pAnqhb>

TikTok: [@tinyowlpublishing](https://www.tiktok.com/@tinyowlpublishing)

Sign up to our [newsletter](#)



Lesson 1: The Story

Curriculum focus:
English

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To learn about names and their meanings
- To learn about and use literary techniques like alliteration, description and rhyme
- To test vocabulary and knowledge with a crossword puzzle

The Story

This lesson plan serves as an introduction to The Name Game. Children will learn about the importance of names, and use alliteration, rhyming and description and test their knowledge.

INTRO: Names

What is in a name? What do names mean? The Name Game is all about names and their meanings! Sit in a circle, and invite children to answer the following,

Do they know:

- Why they were called their name?
- What their name means?
- If anyone else in their family has their name?

Explain that names are very special, as they give someone or something an identity. Explain that you will be learning a lot about giving things names with The Name Game!

WARM UP: Alliteration

Have children noticed all of the alliterative words throughout The Name Game? Ask them to take another look through the book and see if they can spot them all!

Use the attached worksheet, ask little ones to come up with their own alliterative sentences! This could be about animals, nature, imaginative games or the book itself! We think 'The Nutty Name Game' would make a great alliterative title!

Download here

Alliteration

Diamond Dodger Can you identify any other opportunities for alliteration in The Name Game? Write them here!

Grand and grumpy

I'd better not breathe too hard incase I blow him away

Bright black

Sparkle in the sun

Activity 1

DESCRIPTION



Let's get describing! A huge portion of The Name Game revolves around the little girl describing the nature and creatures around her. Why don't the children give this a go themselves?

What adjectives would they use to describe the cheeky magpie, the majestic tree, the statley butterfly and the magnificent cat? Use the template on the next page to write the animal's new titles!

[Download template here.](#)



Activity 2

RHYMING



One of our favourite parts of The Name Game is the wonderful little poem on the last page, when the girl celebrates the fabulous day she's had using her imagination!

Invite children to write their own poem based on the story. This could be about nature, or their favourite creature. Ask them to think particularly about sights, smells and sounds. Most importantly, make sure the end of each sentence rhymes!

Afterwards, invite children to read their poems aloud to the class!

[See an example on the next pages!](#)

Fun fact!

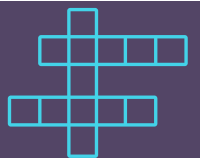
Did you know that author Elizabeth Laird was inspired by lockdown to write The Name Game?

Much like the little girl in the book, Elizabeth found great comfort and company in her stunning garden during the quiet months, and decided to start giving names to the plants and animals she encountered!

She hopes this book will remind children that nature and creatures are friends and should be appreciated!

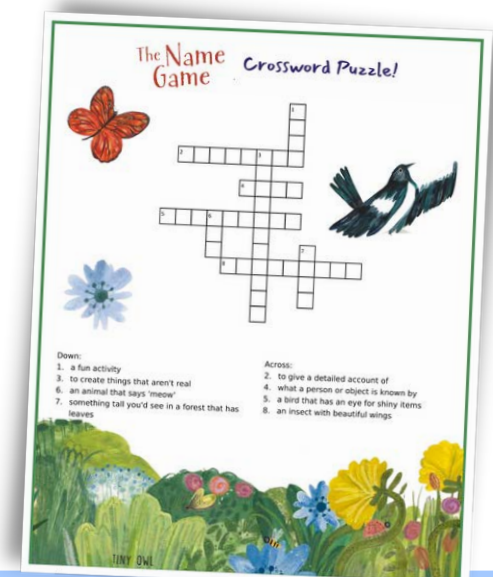
Activity 3

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



Using the new additions to their vocabulary, ask children to complete this fun crossword inspired by The Name Game!

[Download here](#)



Extension Activity: Etymology

If there is time at the end of the lesson, invite children to form small groups, and look up the etymology of the following words on the computers: blackbird, tree, butterfly and cat. Discuss as a class.

Alliteration

Diamond Dodger

Can you identify any other opportunities
for alliteration in The Name Game?

Write them here!

Grand and grumpy

**I'd better not breathe
too hard in case I
blow him away**

Bright black

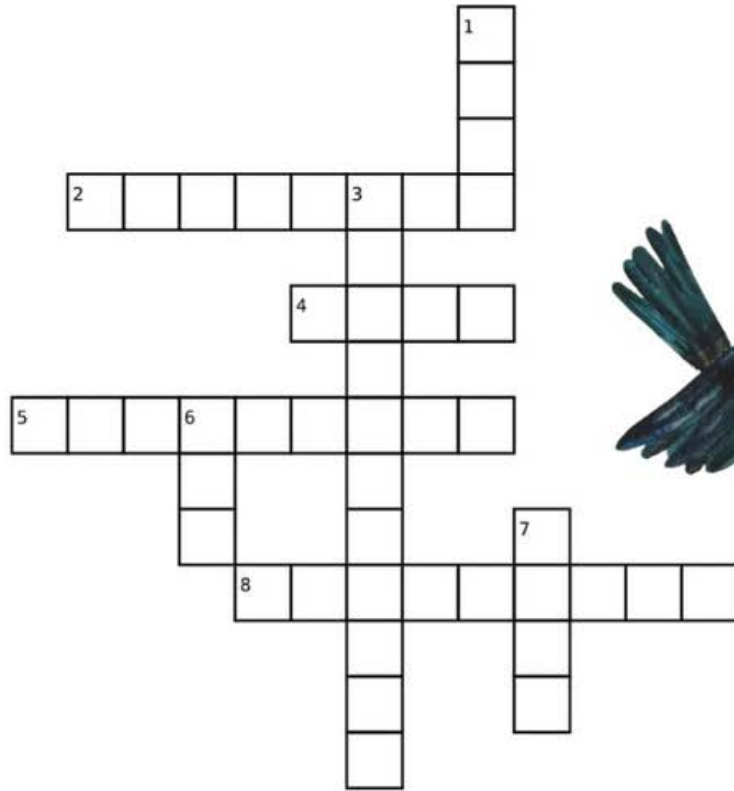
Sparkle in the sun



Example poem

**Today I saw a wiggly worm,
He likes to lie in the dirt and squirm!
Soil is the space he loves to call home!
A homely home!
A snuggly home!
A perfectly earthy, wormy home!**

The Name Game Crossword Puzzle!



Down:

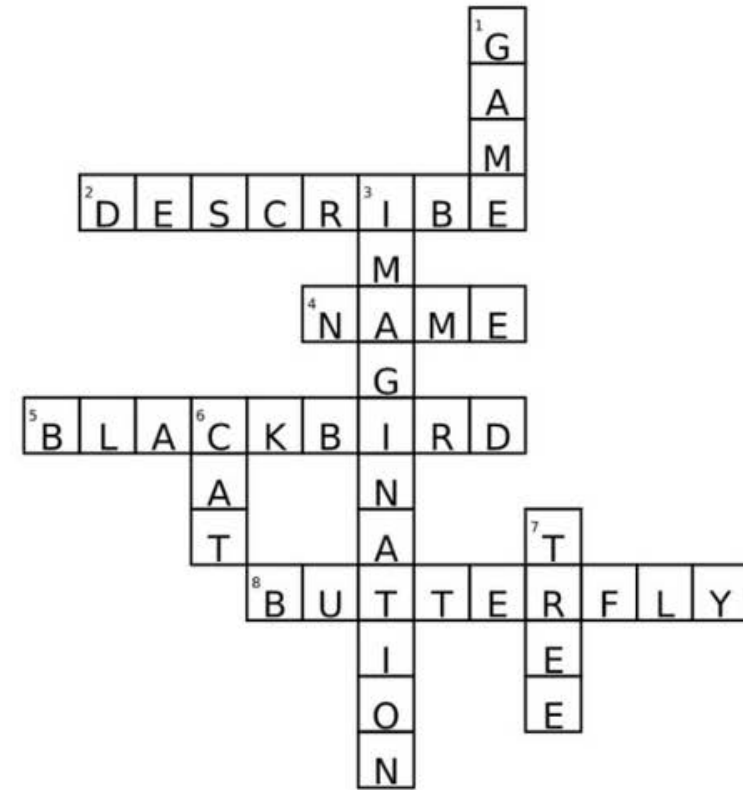
1. a fun activity
3. to create things that aren't real
6. an animal that says 'meow'
7. something tall you'd see in a forest that has leaves

Across:

2. to give a detailed account of
4. what a person or object is known by
5. a bird that has an eye for shiny items
8. an insect with beautiful wings

TINY OWL

The Name Game Crossword Puzzle!



Down:

1. a fun activity
3. to create things that aren't real
6. an animal that says 'meow'
7. something tall you'd see in a forest that has leaves

Across:

2. to give a detailed account of
4. what a person or object is known by
5. a bird that has an eye for shiny items
8. an insect with beautiful wings

TINY OWL

Lesson 2: All About Imagination

Curriculum focus:
PSE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To learn about imagination and how we use it
- To see and describe the outside world
- To create new scenarios and character interactions based off a source material

All About Imagination!



In this lesson plan focused on imagination, students will explore their surroundings, use description, and come up with new and creative concepts based on The Name Game!

INTRO: Imagination

What does imagination mean? How can we use our imagination? Explain to the children that using your imagination means being able to form a picture in your mind of something - this could be something mundane like a bus, or something out there, like a tower made of ice-cream!

Invite the children to sit quietly for five minutes, close their eyes, and practice using their imagination. Share as a class afterwards what each child imagined!

WARM UP: Listen and Watch

Watch the following interview of author Elizabeth Laird chatting about The Name Game:
<https://youtu.be/ZCqCNXZbZXQ>

- What inspired her?
- How did she use her imagination?
- What imaginary games did she like playing as a child?



Activity 1

GO OUTSIDE!



Let's go outside and see what amazing creatures and nature we can find!

Go on a short walk as a class around the school grounds, asking children to note down anything they see that, using their imagination, could be super fun! This could be a ladybird, a bush, or even a stick!

Once you're back in your classroom, invite children to come up with fun names for the items they've written down, using their imagination! There could be a super stick, a brilliant bush or a lovely ladybird!

Activity 2

CREATING!



We've seen plenty of fabulous creatures in The Name Game, but how about a creature no one has thought of before?!

Invite little ones to imagine a creature they could play with: will it have big ears, a bushy tail, or can it fly?! Ask them to draw their creature in their sketchbooks!

Activity 3

COLOURING TIME!



Invite children to colour in the picture on the next page from The Name Game! What colours will they choose? Will they create any patterns? Ask them to use their imagination to make the image different from the original!

[Download here](#)



Activity 4

PUPPETS



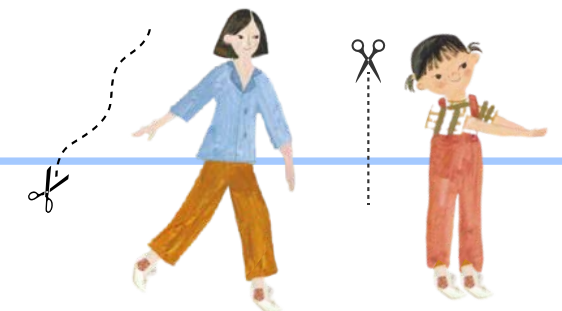
Puppet play introduces children to creative play and enhances the abilities required for communication and expression. This leads them to explore, discover different possibilities and become the storyteller themselves!

1. Print and cut out the character templates on the next page
2. Use glue to stick them to lollypop sticks
3. Create a 'stage'
4. Have the children create a puppet show using these characters as the puppets. You'll be amazed at how creative they get!

Ask them to initially follow the story from The Name Game, with the little girl being bored at home, but as the narrative goes on, they can use their imagination to take the story anywhere they like!

Will the little girl meet lots of new friends? Maybe she goes on an adventure with the proud cat! Maybe mum will come along too!

[Download here](#)

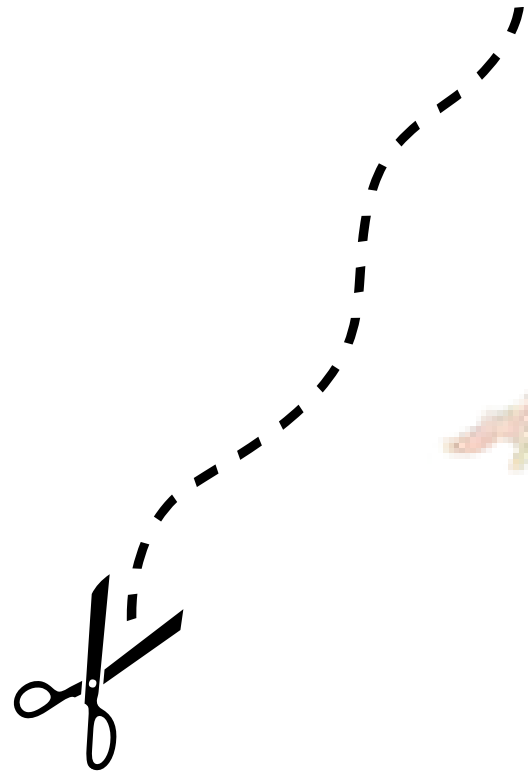
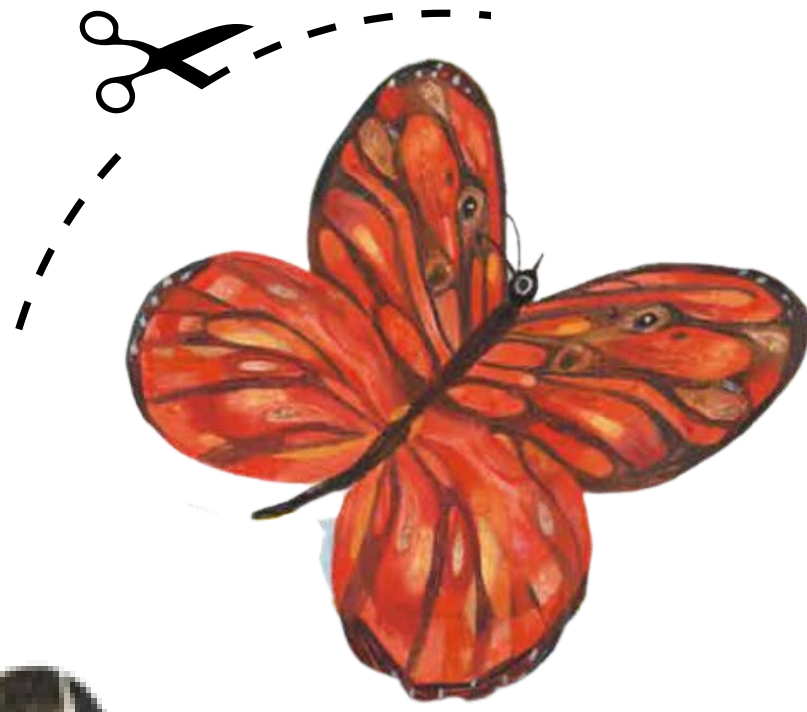


Want more?

A reminder to use your imagination and have fun! Download a free poster for your walls with gorgeous artwork from The Name Game!

[Download here.](#)





Lesson 3: Flowers & Nature

Curriculum focus:
Science

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To learn more about our surroundings
- To identify plants and flowers and their habitats
- To explore and learn more about ecosystems

Flowers and Nature!



In this lesson plan focused on nature, students will explore their surroundings, get in touch with their senses, learn how to identify different kinds of flowers and more, based on the message about having fun with your surroundings in The Name Game!

INTRO: Appreciating Nature

Time to have some fun outside like the little girl in The Name Game! Invite children to go outside in small groups, and find:

- Five different kinds plants
- Three different kinds of flowers
- Can they tell the difference between the two?

Think about the colors of the leaves or petals, the shapes of the branches or stems, and how tall or short they are. Can they find an item that's a circle, a triangle, or another shape?



WARM UP: Flower Pressing

After completing the introduction, children can immediately follow on with this warm up involving flower pressing!

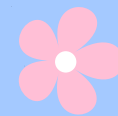
Watch the following video on flower pressing, and ask the children to preserve the flowers they picked in their sketch books to remind them of the beautiful nature around them!

Extra points if they are able to identify the name of the flower (or create their own name for it!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPnq9Xfv0XY>

Activity 1

RESEARCH



Time for a little research! Form small groups and ask the children to use the computers to research the flowers from The Name Game on the next page! Ask them to think particularly about:

- The name of the flower
- What time of year it grows

Label the flowers on the next page with this information.

Download here



Activity 2

SHAKE A TREE!



Let's explore our stunning surroundings! Take the children outside, and lay down a plain white piece of paper under a tree. Lightly shake the branches, and see what exciting elements of nature appear!

- Are there bugs?
- Are there seeds?
- Are there leaves?
- Is there anything that appeared in the tree after you shook the branch?

Like the little girl in The Name Game, this activity will get children excited and inquisitive about their environment!

Activity 3

ECOSYSTEMS



Have you heard of a microhike? This is where kids have the opportunity to explore an ecosystem up close and personal, just like in The Name Game!

An ecosystem is a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. If there is a grassy area in your playground or yard, finding an ecosystem will be pretty easy!

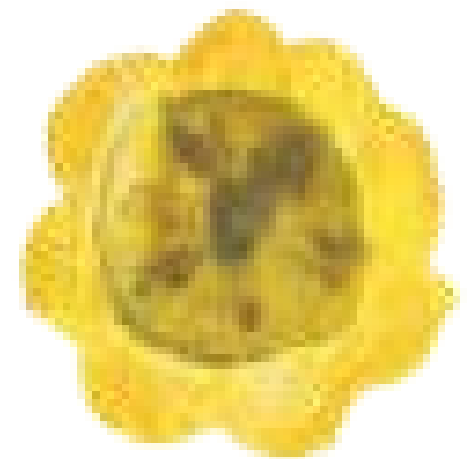
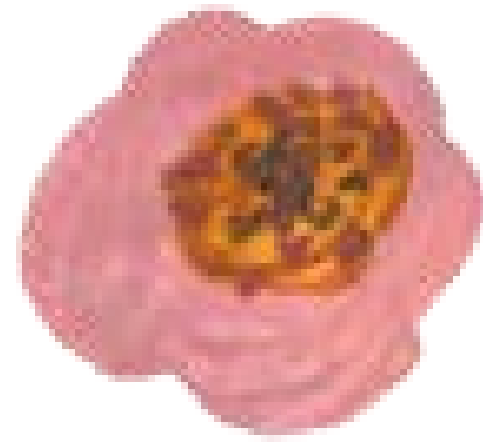
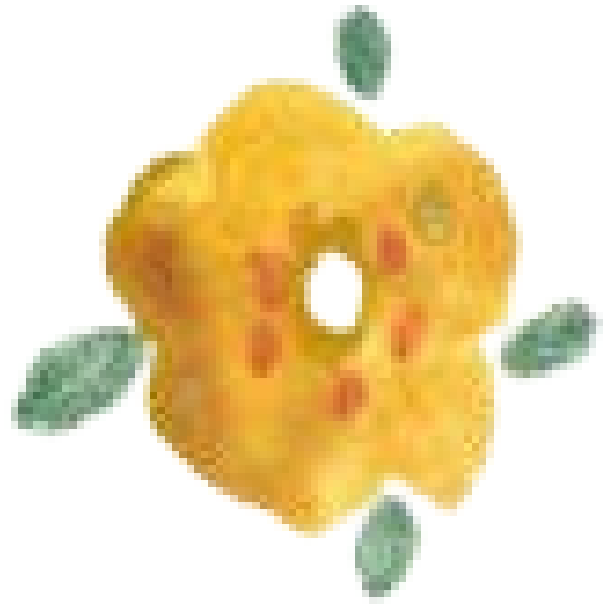
1. Create a circular habitat somewhere in the grass - we suggest using string.
2. Allow the system to develop and form overnight. The next morning, invite the children to take a close look at the micro-ecosystem and point out everything they see.

As an extension activity, have the children use their imagination to shrink down really small and get close to the ground to explore!

Senses are important when observing the ecosystem:

- What can you smell?
- What creatures do you see?
- What does the environment feel like to touch?
- What can you hear when you're in this environment?





Lesson 4: Get Creative!

Curriculum focus:
Art

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To be able to create their own illustrative style
- To be inspired to make creative crafts based on a source material

Get Creative!



Featuring detailed sketches from artist Olivia Holden, The Name Game's whimsical illustrations reflect its exciting message about imagination and creativity! Throughout this lesson plan, children will create new sketches, make fun crafts and lots more!

INTRO: Watch and learn

Watch the following **interview** with illustrator Olivia Holden on her drawings and illustrative process in creating The Name Game.

- What techniques did she use?
- What was her inspiration?
- Did the art change from start to finish?



WARM UP: Endpapers

Invite the children to take a look at the front and back endpapers. What do you think illustrator Olivia is trying to convey about this story with her use of colour and creatures?

Do the children think this is a good depiction of the story? How would they have changed the design of the endpapers? Discuss as a class.



▲ The endpapers from The Name Game

Activity 1

REARRANGE THE STORY!



The little girl had an exciting day in The Name Game - let's shake it up! Cut out the template on the following page and invite children to rearrange the story in anyway they want! What friends will the little girl meet first? How will her day end? It's totally up to them!

Download here.



Activity 2

CONCEPT SKETCHES



Watch the following short video with artist Olivia Holden about her early concept sketches for The Name Game. Check out how many outfits and designs she had for the little girl alone!

Invite the children to create their own cover for The Name Game, putting their own artistic spin on it! Ask them to draw this as an initial pencil sketch, and then afterwards, draw in full colour. Did the drawing change at all or did it stay the same? What elements did they think were important to put on the cover? See Olivia's concept sketches on the next pages!

<https://youtu.be/TswTf3XnfBw>

Activity 3

CRAFT TIME!



Remember the gorgeous tree from The Name Game, otherwise know as the Emerald Queen? Let's give her a makeover!

Cut out some 'tree trunks' out of brown craft paper and stick into sketchbooks. Then ask children to collect leaves, small flowers and twigs to decorate their Emerald Queen!

Once collected, use PVA glue to attach your decorations and create the gorgeous, bushy leaves for the tree!

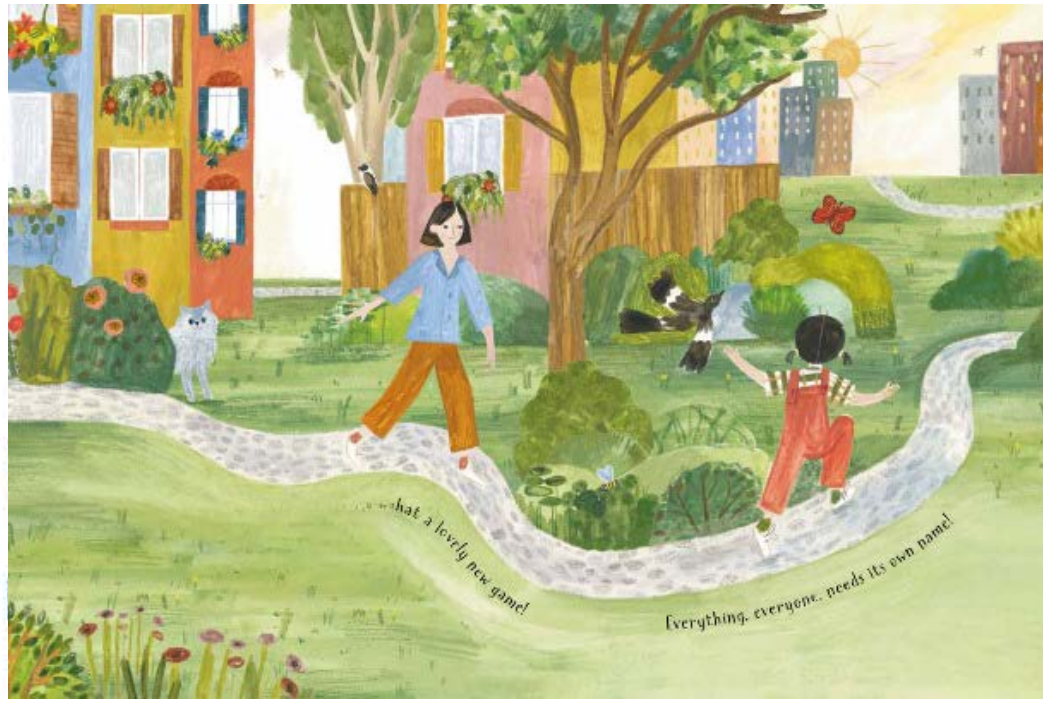
See an example below!



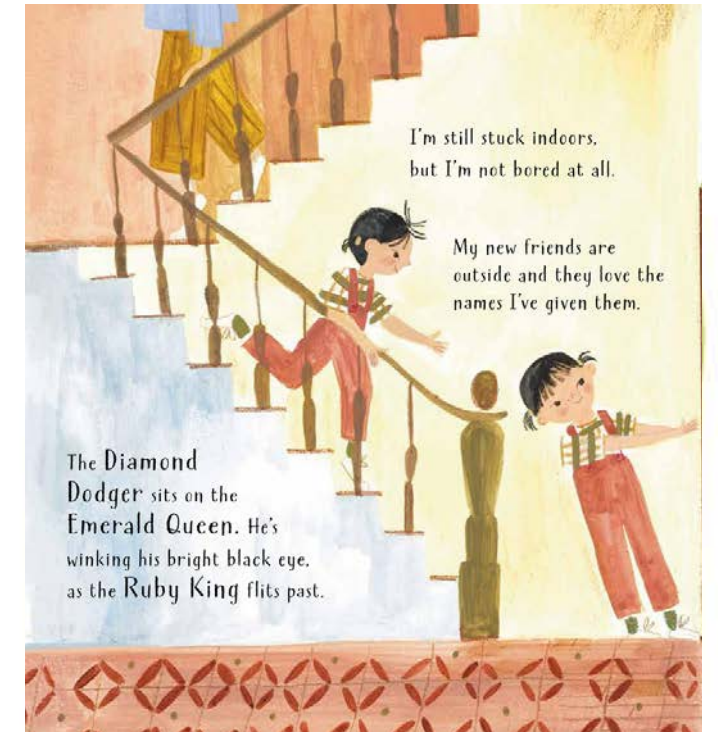
Did you know?!

Artist Olivia Holden's favourite spread to draw was the little girl meeting the butterfly, aka the Ruby King!

As her other spreads in The Name Game are so busy, this quiet moment of bonding between the little girl and the butterfly is truly unique.



...that a lovely new game!
Everything, everyone, needs its own name!



I'm still stuck indoors,
but I'm not bored at all.
My new friends are
outside and they love the
names I've given them.

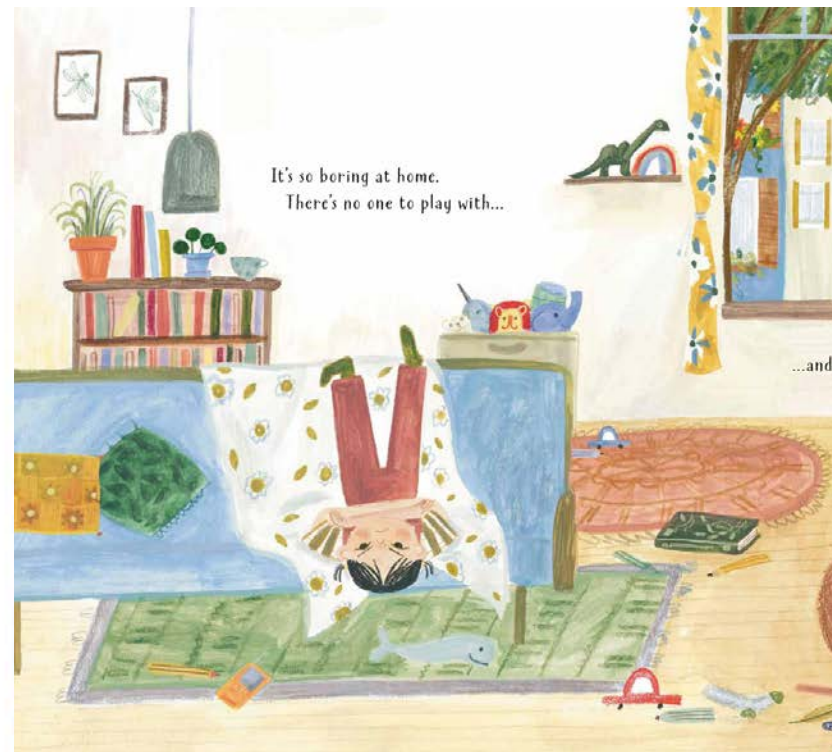
The Diamond
Dodger sits on the
Emerald Queen. He's
winking his bright black eye,
as the Ruby King flits past.



"Don't worry! I'll give you a
name you'll really like.
You're elegant and proud, and
your eyes are as blue as the sky.

I know what!
You're the
Sapphire Princess!"

She's too posh to
admit it, but she likes
her name. I can tell,
because she lifts her
noble paw and gives it
a graceful lick.



It's so boring at home.
There's no one to play with...

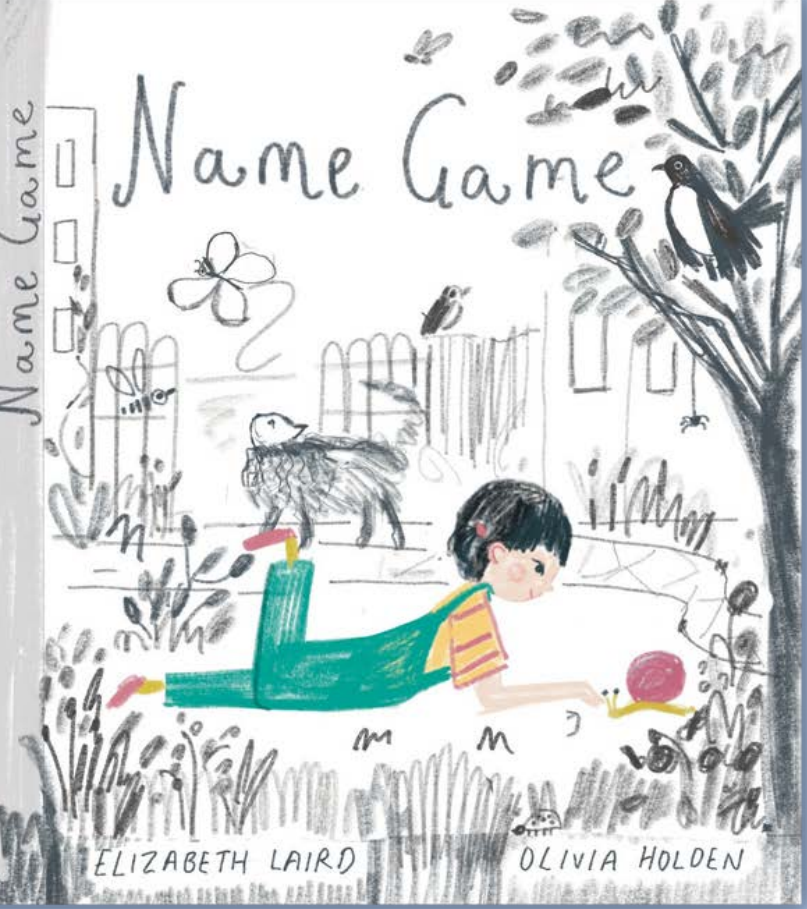
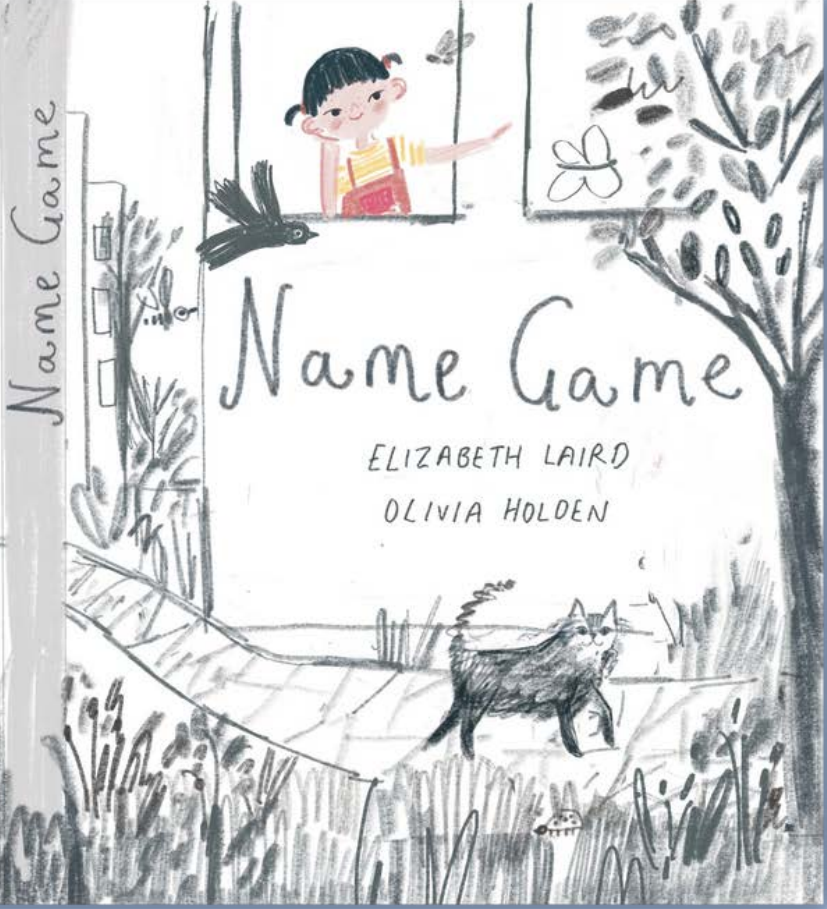
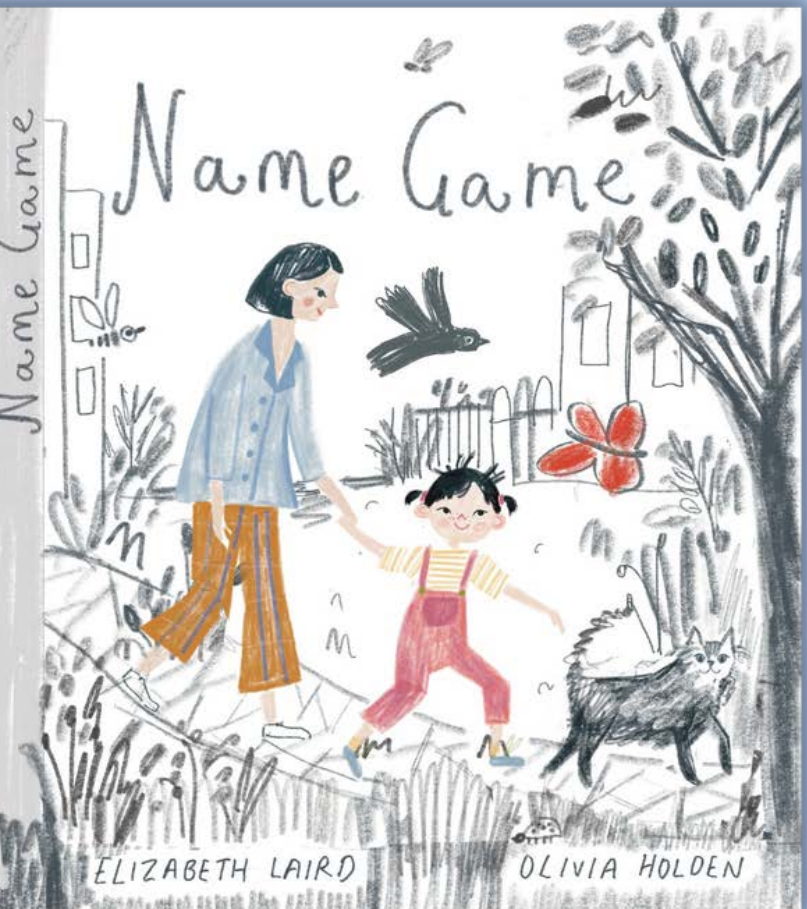
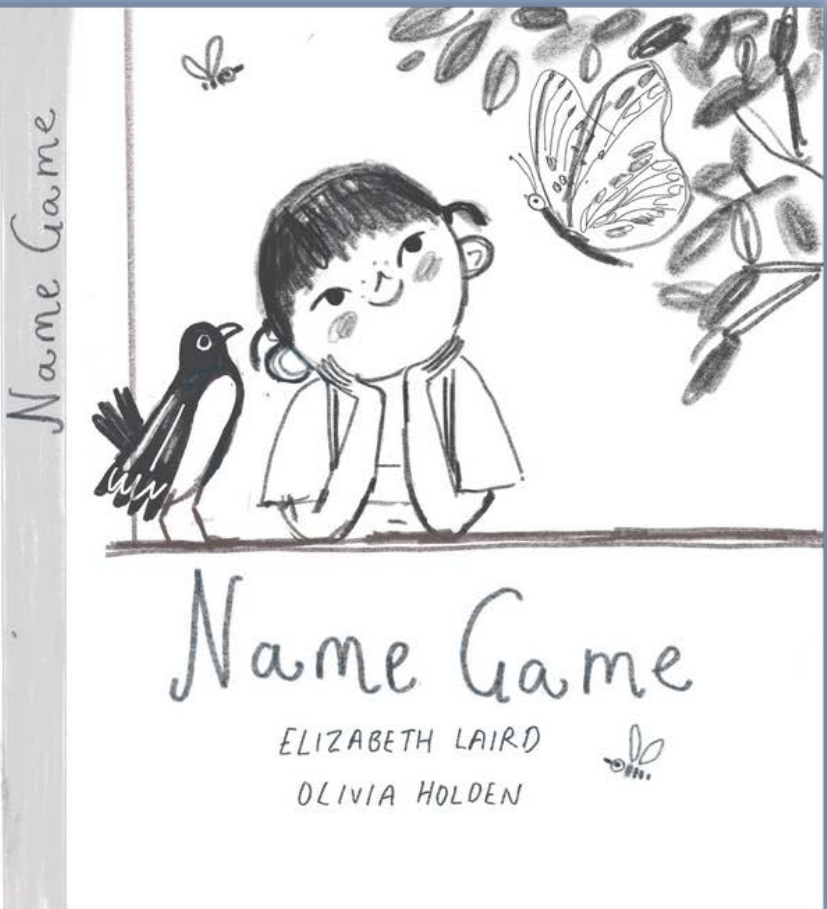
...and n



"You're bright black and white,
and your feathers sparkle in the sun.
I know what!

You're the
Diamond Dodger!"

I know he likes his name because he flaps his wings
and cackles before he flies away to perch in a tree.





For enquiries, please contact:

Tiny Owl Publishing Ltd
366 Woodstock Road
Oxford, OX2 8AE

info@tinyowl.co.uk

Sales Office (UK)
Thames & Hudson Ltd
Head Office
181a High Holborn
London
WC1V 7QX

020 7845 5000
sales@thameshudson.co.uk

Trade Orders
Hely Hutchinson Centre (HHC)
Milton Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire
Didcot OX11 7HH

01235 759 555
hukdcustomerservices@hachette.co.uk



For School Visits or Events

Tiny Owl Publishing: info@tinyowl.co.uk



More Tiny Owl Books:

