

# My Adventure in God's World



## Home Leave Project Book Primary School Students

Claudia Smith



## Welcome to the Home Leave Project Book



Dear Parent

*Home leave brings mixed expectations and emotions. It can be a wonderful time to see family and friends and an opportunity to visit and talk to your supporters (and supporting churches). You can do things can't usually do and eat food you don't usually eat. There can be time for spiritual refreshment (attending church services in your mother tongue and perhaps attending a retreat or Christian conference) and there may even be time for a holiday ☺*

*However, home leave with children can prove to be quite a challenge! It can mean several months living out of a suitcase, travelling from one place to another, sleeping in different places and seeing many different people. Children, though adaptable are often people of habit, so having their routine thrown in the air can be tough for them, as well as you as parents.*

*Communication, a positive attitude and keeping some familiar routines can all help to make home leave a positive experience for everyone. It's good prior to take off, to make some time to explain to your child what the plan is: Who they'll be visiting; where they'll be going and what they'll be doing. Depending on the age of your child, will depend on how much information they can understand, how much is helpful for them to know and even how much information they want. Some children will have lots of questions: when? why? who? what? Others may be happy to just go with the flow - you know your child, so you can pitch your chat accordingly.*

*As you do talk to your child about home leave, be aware of how you are feeling. It may be you're feeling very excited and looking forward to the whole experience. However home leave may mean facing some difficult situations or you may not relish so much travelling around. You may feel anxious and apprehensive. It is helpful to be optimistic and to focus on the positive, as children can often pick up on negative feelings and it can affect how they cope with home leave. If you're happy and take things in your stride, your child is more likely to do the same - so when challenges come, try to face them with a smile ☺ This can be easier said than done, especially if you yourself are tired, so do seek support if home leave is becoming more of a hindrance than a help.*

*Before you set off, do have a think about how you might keep some things familiar e.g. where ever you are, try to do bedtime in the same way - story time and teddy too or a bedtime drink and a cuddle! Or you could perhaps think about how you can make home leave a bit of an adventure. Prepare a rucksack with home leave goodies in - special toothbrush & toothpaste and wash things; a new nightie or PJ's and of course their own 'Home Leave Project Book' with coloured pencils/crayons; glue; stickers etc. You could also buy or borrow an inflatable 'Ready Bed' (an inflatable bed and sleeping bag all in one), so wherever you sleep, your child will always have the same bed.*



*This Home Leave Project Book is written for your child to do as you travel around your passport country/countries on home leave. For younger children they'll need help and supervision with cutting and sticking and general encouragement as to what to do. Older children that can read and write will need less supervision and you can probably just explain what they need to do.*

*It can be useful to let those who you are visiting and, or are looking after your child, that they are doing a project. People can have pictures and other interesting things to give to your child to add to their project book. Supporters often wonder how they can help missionary families and find it encouraging to be able to help and support in such a practical way - so don't be afraid to ask.*

*The Home Leave Project Book is designed to be printed and then more pages added - so the project can be as big or small as you want. The most important thing is that it's something that your child enjoys doing and helps to make home leave a bit of an Adventure in God's World!*

*God Bless you and your family as you take your home leave.*

*Claudia Smith*



**Photo needed:** *You need photos to stick in for this activity*



**Colouring Time:** *You'll need either crayons or coloured pencils for this activity.*



**Cutting and Sticking:** *You'll need scissors and glue for this activity. It maybe helpful to cut out pictures you child wants to use, before you start..*



**Notes for Parents:** *Some extra guidelines for parents or those helping with the activity.*





# God Made Me.

My name is.....

I live in.....

I am going to visit.....



[www.theodora.com/maps](http://www.theodora.com/maps)

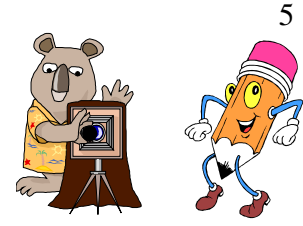


Help your child to mark on the map where you live (mission country) and where you are going to visit (passport country). Some mission families will split home leave between two passport countries, so mark both on.





# God Made My Family and Friends.



Stick photos or draw pictures of family and friends that you visit.



Older and younger children can draw pictures and or stick photos of family and friends they visit. Before you arrive on home leave, ask friends and family to prepare a photo they can give to your child to put in their project book.

Remember it might take some time for your child to warm to relatives you know and love - they may feel more like strangers to them at first. Don't worry if your child is not keen on having hugs and kisses from granny - you can always have a little chat with granny if Little Johnny wriggles free of her and runs off to play afterwards.





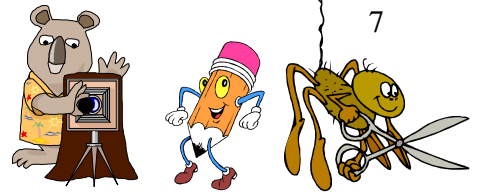
# God Made My Family and Friends.

More space for photos and pictures.





# God Made the World.



Write, draw pictures and stick things in about the country you're visiting.



Older children can write information about their passport country. Both younger and older children can draw pictures and collect pictures to stick into their project book. Things to include e.g. drawing/picture of the country's flag; national anthem; name of the capital city; names/pictures of famous places and people; traditions; special events; weather and what language is spoken!





# God Made the World.

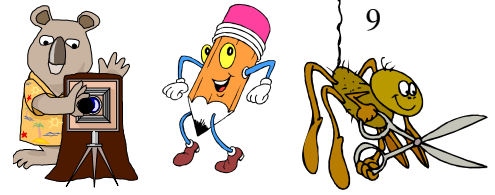
More space to write, draw pictures and stick things in about the country you're visiting.







# God Made Funtimes!

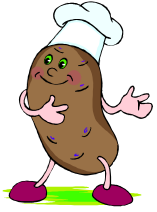


Write and draw pictures about the places you visited, the things you did and what you enjoyed doing best. Stick in photos; postcards; tickets and anything else you want to collect as you visit different places.



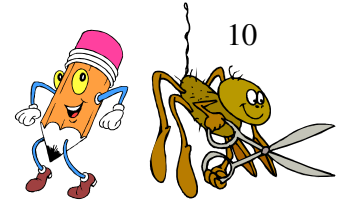
Older children can write about the places they visited: what they did; places they visited and things they enjoyed. Younger children who can't write can draw pictures. They could also be encouraged to draw smiley faces next to the places they liked best. Both older and younger children can collect: postcards; leaflets; entry tickets; leaves and or flowers to stick in.





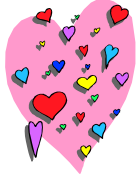
# God Made Food.

Write or draw pictures about the food you ate, especially your favourite food!



Both older and younger children can collect menus (takeaways usually have ones you can take for free) and cut pictures out of magazines showing pictures of the types of food available. Ask people to keep their old food/cooking magazines for your child to cut up for a sticking into their project book.





# God Loves Me.

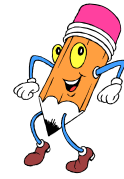
Write about or draw pictures of the best things you did on Home Leave.



Take some time at the end of home leave to talk about the time you've spent visiting your passport country. Ask your child what they've enjoyed most and perhaps the things that they didn't like so much. It's helpful to focus on the positive when on home leave, whilst acknowledging any negatives too.

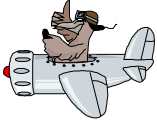
It can be useful, especially if you plan to permanently return in the future, to be able to remind your child about the things they enjoyed about being in their passport country. It's also useful to be aware of the things that your child missed back in the country you are a mission partner in, again for when you return permanently.





# Prayers to God.

Here are some prayers to pray on Home Leave. You can also write your own prayers or draw pictures to God on this page.



## Safety in travel

Dear God, Please keep us safe as we travel. Help us to get to all the different places we are going to visit. Thank you. Amen.



## Good times with family and friends

Dear God, Please help us to have a really good time with all our family and friends that we are going to visit. Thank you. Amen.



## Good Sleep.

Dear God, I'm going to be sleeping in lots of different places and lots of different beds. Please help me to have a good sleep well where ever I am. Thank you. Amen.



## Time to Say Goodbye

Dear God, We're going home soon. I'm feeling a bit sad to say goodbye to my family and friends. Help me not to feel so sad but to remember all the good things I've done. Thank you that you love me and look after me wherever I go God. Amen.



Older children can write their own prayers here before, during and on returning from home leave. Younger children can draw some picture prayers to God, again before, during and on returning from home leave. You could use the prayers as a family, as you travel together.





# Prayers to God.

More space for prayers



### Acknowledgements

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### Bibliography

Knell, Marion, *Families on the Move*,  
(Monarch Books, Michigan 2001)  
Jordan, Peter, *Re-Entry: Making the Transition from Missions to Life at Home*,  
(YWAM Publishing, Seattle 1992)

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