

Architecture & Design Activity: Create your very own safe space

Who's it for?

Key Stage 1 & 2 (11 yrs and under)

What's it about?

Key words and themes in this activity include: architecture/ design/ refuge/ seeking sanctuary/ leaving home in a hurry/ what would you take with you?/ personal space/ protection/ safety/ support

You will need

Paper / pencils/ pens/ imagination!



Above: Refuge Wear, Lucy Orta 1992-1993

What do you think this is an image of? What does it make you think of?

This makeshift tent also looks like a protective jacket. It was created by Lucy Orta who is a fashion designer and visual artist.

What do you think the artist could be thinking about in the work?

“Refuge Wear...allows the wearer to isolate himself from the world and create a place of refuge and meditation; a closed, four-dimensional universe. It is similar to a mountain refuge, that is to say a temporary shelter providing a basic comfort where he can stop off before continuing on his way. Refuge Wear can help him rebuild an inner strength.”

~ Studio Orta

'Refuge Wear' explores our relationship to space. The artist and designer Lucy Orta represents the human body as a building and thinks about the minimum amount of personal space we might need. Sometimes we might like to have some personal space. We might even like the idea of having a shell around us which protects us or, like a snail, lets us take our home with us wherever we might like to go. As a tent, 'Refuge Wear' is lightweight and can be packed away and taken with the user. As a jacket it can be worn and carried with the wearer.

If you had to leave suddenly and could only take one thing with you, what might it be?

Think about what it might look like and how it would help you stay safe. Take a piece of paper and draw out your design. Have fun with it! Like 'Refuge Wear', you might design your object with a second feature - perhaps it doubles up as a bag to make it easy to transport. Label any particular design elements that you want to highlight to your friends/ group.

Take It Further : The Little Bag of Refuge

Think about the bag you might take with you if you had to leave suddenly, and choose up to four objects from your home to put in it. Remember that you have to travel light and have a long journey to make through cities, countryside, across the water and into strange new countries.

You find 3 new objects on your way. What are they? Do you choose to carry them with you? Do they help add to your refuge?

Take a piece of paper and divide it in half. On the first half of the paper, draw your escape bag and four objects from home. On the second half of the paper, design your very own refuge.

Get Creative! You can only use the objects you carry with you and objects you have found on your journey, but with a little imagination you will be surprised what you can create! If you are lucky enough to have a den making class with your group, make sure you remember to spend some time in your refuge afterwards.

How was it creating the refuge? Did you manage to make something strong enough to support and shelter you? If you worked in a group, what was your role in the group? Did you find it easy or difficult? Were there any other challenges? How might this be similar for people having to leave in a hurry?

Architecture & Design Activity: We all have basic needs & human rights

Who's it for?

Key Stage 3 & 4 (12yrs +)

What's it about?

Key words & themes in this activity include: basic needs/ human rights/ refuge/ safety/ support / social needs/ esteem needs/ self-actualisation*/ self-care/ respect

You will need:

Paper/ pen



In 1943 Abraham Maslow developed the concept of **the Hierarchy of Human Needs** (see diagram above). It begins with the physiological (basic) needs essential for survival, followed by safety, social needs, esteem and self-actualisation (awareness of who you are, what motivates you and what you are capable of achieving).

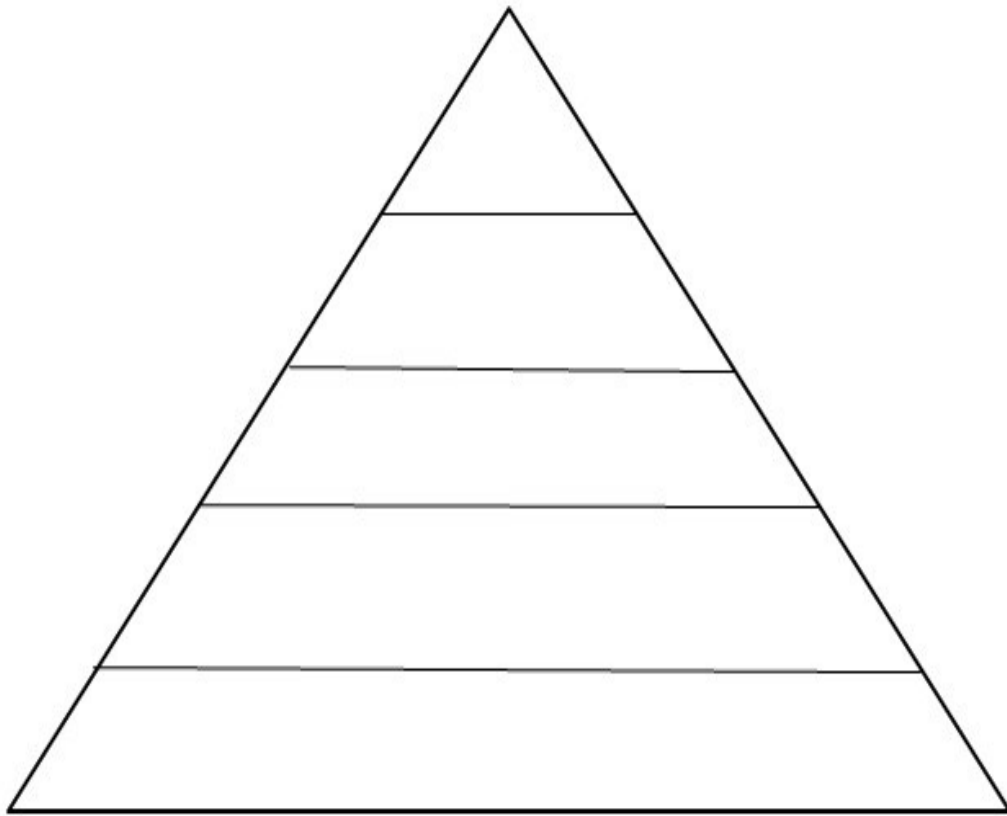
Maslow thought you could only move up a level once your needs on your current level had been met.

[The Human Rights Act 1998](#) made it a legal requirement for public bodies in the UK (e.g. courts of justice, police, schools, hospitals) to comply with the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) (p6).

The Act sets out the rights and freedoms that all individuals should have, for example:

- The right to life
- The right to education
- Freedom from being treated badly or being tortured
- Freedom from slavery and forced labour
- Protection from being discriminated against

Now that you have thought about our basic needs and been introduced to our human rights, what do you think? Do you agree that our basic needs must be met before we can focus on our social needs? What are the foundations we need to function and survive? Would it work if we only focused on one level of the triangle?



Fill in the triangle above, or design your own shape to represent the building blocks you think are crucial to your life! Think about what each need means to you, and your personal aspirations for being able to meet your basic physiological needs, your safety needs, your social needs, your esteem needs and your need for self-actualisation.

Architecture & Design Activity: Define the word 'refuge', Simple Act #18

Who's it for?

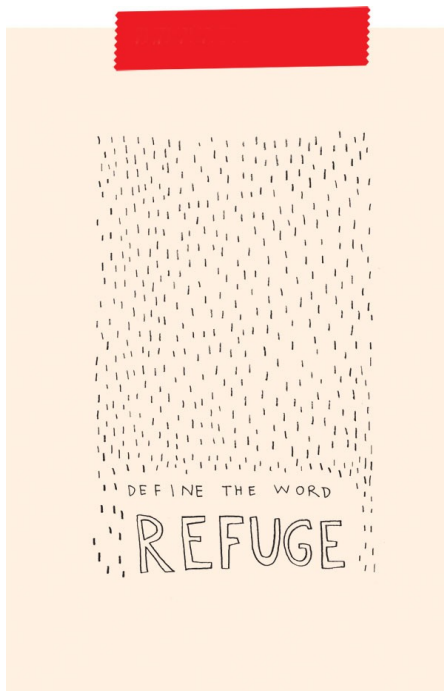
All ages

What's it about?

Key words & themes in this activity include: refuge/ personal spaces/ peace/ quiet/ protection/ safety/ self-care/ respect/ refugees/ displaced people

You will need:

Paper/ pencils/ pens (optional: camera/ video camera/ pinboard/ display)



There is often lots of talk about who can be called a 'refugee'.

Some think should be reserved for foreigners from war-torn countries. Some quote legal definitions. Others argue that by describing victims of a natural disaster as refugees, we become more understanding of people going through hardship.

Simple Acts decided to do to the very heart of this debate, by finding out what it is that we talk about when we talk about refuge.

The very simple idea is this: to get loads of people to say what the word 'refuge' means to them. The more definitions we find, the closer we all get to understanding the experiences of people we call 'refugees'.

To start with, a few people (including some you might recognise!) answered this question for Refugee Week 2010 in these [short films](#).

Now that you are inspired, design your own definition. You might like to draw it, write it or say it to camera. Just make sure you share your brilliant work afterwards! Can you create a pin board display to compare and celebrate your personal refuges?

Take It Further: A thought a day - What is Refuge?

Go to the Simple Acts website to be guided through a '[thought a day](#)' by the internationally known writer of 'The Other Hand', Chris Cleave. Chris wrote five pieces questioning our own understanding of refuge, one for each day of Refugee Week (which is 15th -21st June 2015). What a great idea!

Who is it for?

Key Stage 3 & 4 (12 yrs and over)

You have now completed a Simple Act! Let everyone know and join the Simple Activists movement to celebrate refugee contributions and support refugees and migrants in the UK! [Share your contributions & achievements here](#)

You can also tell us how you got via the [Traces Tumblr](#) blog and on social media (remember to use the hashtags #tracesproject #RefugeeWeek #SimpleActs)