



## **RICH TASK ACTIVITY Pittsburgh: Yinz Play!**

This engaging rich task was developed by the Education Department of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. Rich tasks are open-ended classroom investigations designed for students working alone or in a group and may be conducted before or after your visit to the Children's Museum to enhance your experience in the Pittsburgh: Yinz Play! exhibit.

This Rich Task complements the *Pittsburgh Postcards* exhibit component of Pittsburgh: Yinz Play!

### **The Adventures of Flat Chicken**

#### **What type of fun adventure can you take with Flat Chicken?**

What's a Flat Chicken you ask? Well, it is part of the latest adventure at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh as we host Pittsburgh: Yinz Play! Inspired by the children's book Flat Stanley<sup>®</sup> by Jeff Brown in which a young boy, Stanley Lambchop, is flattened by a big bulletin board. Flattened but not hurt, Stanley goes on an adventure to visit friends in California. Stanley's method of travel includes an envelope and the mail nonetheless! Then after a nice visit, his friends send him off to another family. And so the adventure begins. But not all Flat Adventures begin with a Stanley, here at the Museum the famous dancing chicken from our website has started his own travels and is providing lots of laughs for all. What type of fun adventure can you take with Flat Chicken?

#### **Suggested Materials**

- Flat Chicken ([www.pittsburghkids.org/SmoothCMS/ContentObject/F05F23D2-9F13-4B65-8993-9408B747558A.pdf](http://www.pittsburghkids.org/SmoothCMS/ContentObject/F05F23D2-9F13-4B65-8993-9408B747558A.pdf))
- Embellishments: such as colored pencils, markers, crayons, feathers, googly eyes and more
- Map (optional)
- Envelope (optional)
- Postage stamp (optional)

#### **Task Tools**

- The Adventures of Flat Chicken (see Rich Task Tool Sheet)
- An inquiring mind!

#### **Investigation**

- Print, cut out and personalize your Flat Chicken using colored pencils, markers, crayons, feathers, googly eyes and more.
- Take a photo of Flat Chicken at an awesome location or event in your neighborhood or in Nepal. Then send us a picture of your Flat Chicken and the story of his/her adventure.
- Write an adventure story about Flat Chicken either individually or in a group.
- Or bring your Flat Chicken and adventure story to the Museum and read it in the Pittsburgh: Yinz Play! exhibit.

#### **Teacher Hints**

- Lead a discussion about exploration and travel. Using a map or a globe have students locate the places they have traveled to? Where would they like to travel to in the future? What are some of the limitations that prevent them or delay them from traveling everywhere they want

to go? Is the same true for Flat Chicken? How can they use Flat Chicken to visit some places they are not able to visit right now?

### Questions to Think About

- Where in Pittsburgh would you like to take Flat Chicken to? What would you see? What would you do?
- What is a new experience you would like to share with Flat Chicken? What fears could you conquer together?
- Does Flat Chicken get along with the other animals you have at home? Why or why not?
- Where are your favorite places to visit? Do you think Flat Chicken would like it there? Why or why not?
- Where could Flat Chicken travel to that you might not be able to go to?

### Ways to Extend your Investigation

- Write a comic book using Flat Chicken as the main character. Who are his/her friends? Enemies? What kind of adventures does Flat Chicken get into?
- Mail Flat Chicken to a friend or relative. Be sure to include a journal with questions about Flat Chicken's travels for the host to complete and ask them to take pictures as well. Then when Flat Chicken returns look at the map to find the location he went to visit. If you went to visit the same place how long would it take you to get there? What type of transportation would you use?

### Standards

This rich task addresses the following Pennsylvania State Academic Standards:

- 1.5 Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening. Quality of Writing
- 9.1 Arts and Humanities. Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts

With some variation, this rich task can also address the following Pennsylvania State Academic Standards:

- 1.4 Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening. Types of Writing
- 7.1 Geography. Basic Geography Literacy

### Explore More- Other Resources

Books:

- Flat Stanley: His Original Adventure!* by Jeff Brown – HarperCollins Publishers c1964 renewed c1992.
- Flat Stanley: Stanley in Space* by Jeff Brown - HarperCollins Publishers, c2010
- Flat Stanley and the Magic Lamp* by Jeff Brown, HarperCollins Publishers, c2010
- Invisible Stanley* by Jeff Brown - HarperCollins Publishers, 2009
- Stanley, Flat Again!* by Jeff Brown - HarperCollins Publishers, 2009

Websites:

- [www.flatstanley.com/how.html](http://www.flatstanley.com/how.html)
- [www.flatstanleyproject.com](http://www.flatstanleyproject.com)
- [www.flickr.com/photos/pittsburghchildren](http://www.flickr.com/photos/pittsburghchildren) (The Children's Museum flickr site that contains Flat Chicken adventures submitted by Museum visitors.)

### Tell us what you think!

Email or mail the photo to the Children's Museum with a description of where Flat Chicken visited, to:

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh  
10 Children's Way  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Email: [stuffee@pittsburghkids.org](mailto:stuffee@pittsburghkids.org)