



Talk About

- Encourage the child to spend some time looking at the book. What all does she think is going on here? Ask questions about the story and the two characters Neela and Peela.
- What does the child like best of all in the Bhil carnival? Her favourite activity/incident?
- The picture book has stories around the things that Neela and Peela do. What other stories can you tell, looking at the map?
- Introduce the child to the background story of the Bhil carnival.
- Carnivals: what are fairs like in your area? How are they similar to the Bhil carnival? How are they different? Do you need a lot of money to have a good time?
- Read up and talk about the Bhils. On a map of India, find Madhya Pradesh.
- What is a tribe? Are there indigenous people in your country?
- Talk about the art of the Bhils. What are its features? Draw attention to the colours, the dots, the rendering of the people and animals, the way all that happens is accommodated into one image, the perspective from high up above...
- Discuss the form of the book: what is the orange line doing? Talk about maps and picture books

Activities

- Try guessing how many people are visiting this carnival... (This could expand into a marathon counting session!)
- List the activities going on, particularly those not mentioned in the story book.
- Play a game of spotting particular people/animals/things/activities, taking turns at naming/spotting.
- Draw like the Bhils: make spotty drawings of people, animals and things.
- Draw your own map of a carnival.
- Write a story about a visit to a carnival.

About the Bhils

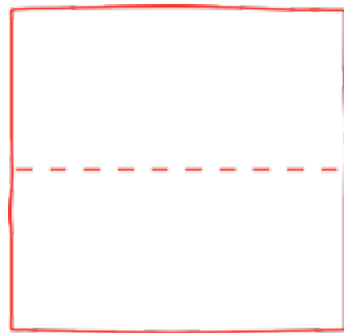
People of the Bhil tribe from Madhya Pradesh in central India live on the edge of the forest, and work hard at farming, fishing, and gathering firewood. But they also love to have a good time. Each year, in July, they celebrate a wonderful carnival called Bhagoria, which takes place in a village of the same name. The word 'Bhagoria' in the Bhil dialect literally means 'Run!'

We asked Subhash Amaliyar, an artist from the Bhil community, to paint this busy carnival in his traditional colourful style. We then developed his painting into a one-of-a-kind activity book, which combines the features of a map, a fold-out and a story book. Children interact with it in different ways: some in a more linear fashion, and others who make - and then follow - the connections among the elements in a more tangential manner. Here are some ways of extending and exploring the book – we leave it to the adult to match the activity to suit the age group.

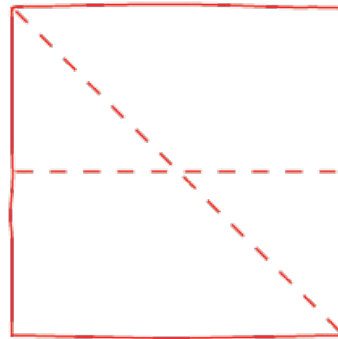
Map Fold-out

Make a fold-out, based on the ferris wheel in the book. Older children can try their hands at making the fold-out, while younger ones might need to get a readymade fold-out to create a narrative around it. With the fold-out in hand, create your own pop-up narratives.

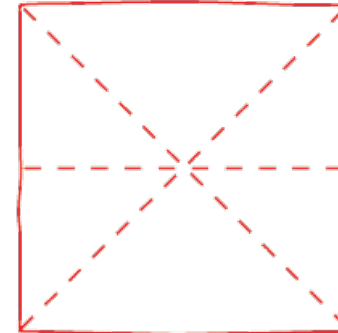
Once the card is ready, think of the stories it can tell. The form of the fold-out, the surprise it creates, can suggest a lot of possibilities. Try a variation on the theme of the ferris wheel. Or encourage children to come up with other stories, keeping in mind the form of the fold-out.



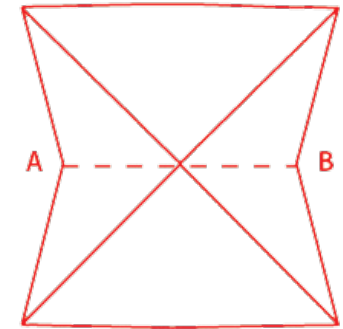
1 Fold a square sheet of paper in half.



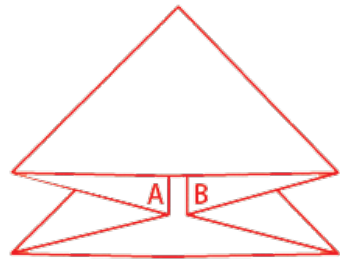
2 Open it and then fold the sheet diagonally.



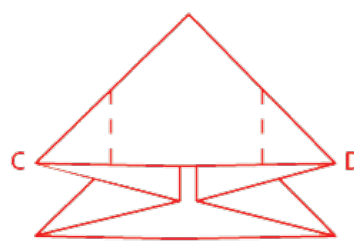
3 Open in and fold the sheet along the other diagonal.



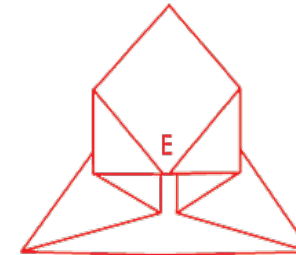
4 Open the sheet and push points A and B inward, so that they meet.



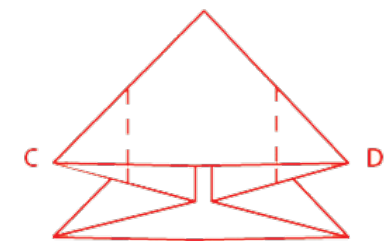
5 The sheet should look like this, with points A and B in the middle.



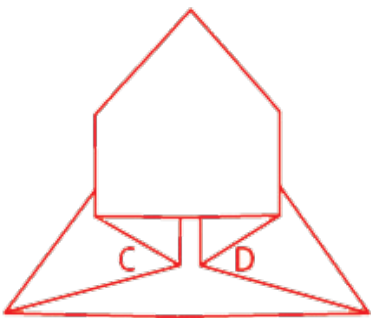
6 Fold the bottom edges of the triangle (points C and D) inwards.



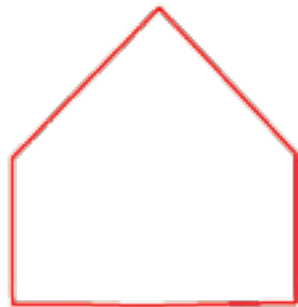
7 They should meet at point E and resemble two wings. Unfold them.



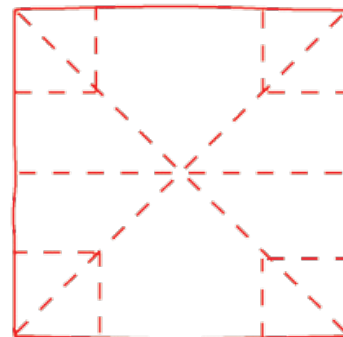
8 Push points C and D inwards so they meet at the triangle centre.



9 Your sheet now looks like this. Turn it over and repeat the last 2 steps.



10 The folded sheet done.



11 The folded sheet when open.



12 Fold-out glued inside a card.



13 The fold-out opened. Create your own surprise!