

Activity 8

Children's rights picture quilt

You'll need

- **Resource Sheet 1** Enlarge and display
- **Resource Sheet 2** Statements (cut up and put in box or hat)
- **Resource Sheet 3** Picture quilt template (one per group)
- Piece of paper or fabric (one per child, as per template)
- A large rectangle of fabric or paper for backing quilt

For extension activity only:

- My Rights Passport (one per child, free, to order see below).

Aim

To encourage children to learn and think about rights contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by making a children's quilt illustrating key articles.

Age 7+

2-3 hours

What to do

Enlarge and display Resource Sheet 1. Briefly introduce the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Tell the class that they are going to find out about these rights and show them in a big display.

Rights of the child

Explain that after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was agreed, a number of international laws were created to protect the rights of particular groups of people. One of these laws protects the human rights of children.

It is called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and was drawn up by the world's leaders more than 20 years ago. It spells out the rights of the world's two billion children and young people under the age of 18, and their need for special care and help. It says what governments should do to help fulfil these rights. It became part of international law in 1989. Nearly all of the countries in the world have promised to make the rights in the UNCRC real for children.

The Convention provides young people with over 40 rights, and says every child has the right to live and to grow up; to be protected from harm, danger and bad treatment; to enjoy family life, health care and education; to be treated fairly; to have their own ideas listened to.

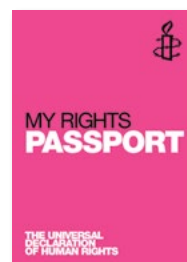
Miming

Divide the class into pairs. Pass round a hat or box containing the 16 UNCRC statements (Resource Sheet 2). Explain that these are just a selection of the rights that children have.

Each pair should pick out a statement without looking (as in a lucky dip), read it and discuss its meaning (seeking help if necessary). Can they think of one or two words that would sum up what their statement is about? Pairs should now work out a simple mime to represent their statement.

Extension activity

If you have ordered the free My Rights Passports, hand out copies to the class. Ask each student to match their children's right statement to the article in the My Rights Passport. Discuss how this emphasises that children and adults have rights.



Amnesty's My Rights Passport, order a free class pack: 01788 545553, product code ED112

Activity 8

Children's rights picture quilt continued

Quilt making

Next, ask them to make a sketch on scrap paper to show what their statement is about (examples below). Then ask them to copy their sketch so that it fills the whole square on their sheet of paper or cloth, and colour it in beautifully.

They should write the words on their statement onto the rectangle at the top of their sheet.

When ready, all the children should form a circle. In turn ask pairs to perform their mime. Challenge the rest of the class to guess what right is being portrayed. Then ask the pair performing to read out their statement and show their picture.

The teacher should write 'UN Convention on the Rights of the Child' as a big title to glue across the top of the quilt – get the children to help. See Resource Sheet 3 *Picture quilt template* for guidance. The children's pictures, their UNCRC statements and the UNCRC heading should be glued or sewn onto a large backing sheet of paper or cloth.

This can be presented in a school assembly about the UNCRC, with pictures projected on PowerPoint while the artists are performing their mimes and reading out their rights. Their children's rights picture quilt can also be put on public display in the school, perhaps on 20 November (UN International Children's Rights Day).

OTHER DISPLAY IDEAS

Instead of a quilt, children could illustrate their UNCRC statements by:

- painting on tiles;
- sculpting little clay or plaster figures for each right;
- making a collage of fabrics or embroidered squares;
- painting on silk with gutta or outliner and fabric inks;
- making linocut prints.

Every child has the right to speak their own language and practise their own religion.



Every child has the right to meet their friends and join groups.



Source: Adapted from *Our World Our Rights*, Activity 6.

Children's rights

Some rights from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Every child has the right to life.

Every child has the right to a name and a nationality.

Every child has the right to be with their family or with those who will care for them best.

Every child has the right to enough food and clean water.

Every child has the right to an adequate standard of living.

Every child has the right to health care.

Every child with a disability has the right to special care and support.

Every child has the right to relax and play.

Every child has the right to privacy.

Every child has the right to education.

Every child has the right to be kept safe and not to be hurt or neglected.

No child should be used as cheap labour or as a soldier.

Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly.

Every child has the right to speak their own language and practise their own religion.

Every child has the right to say what they think and to be heard.

Every child has the right to meet their friends and join groups.

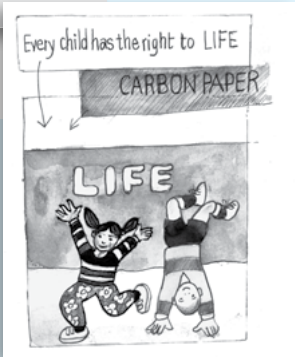
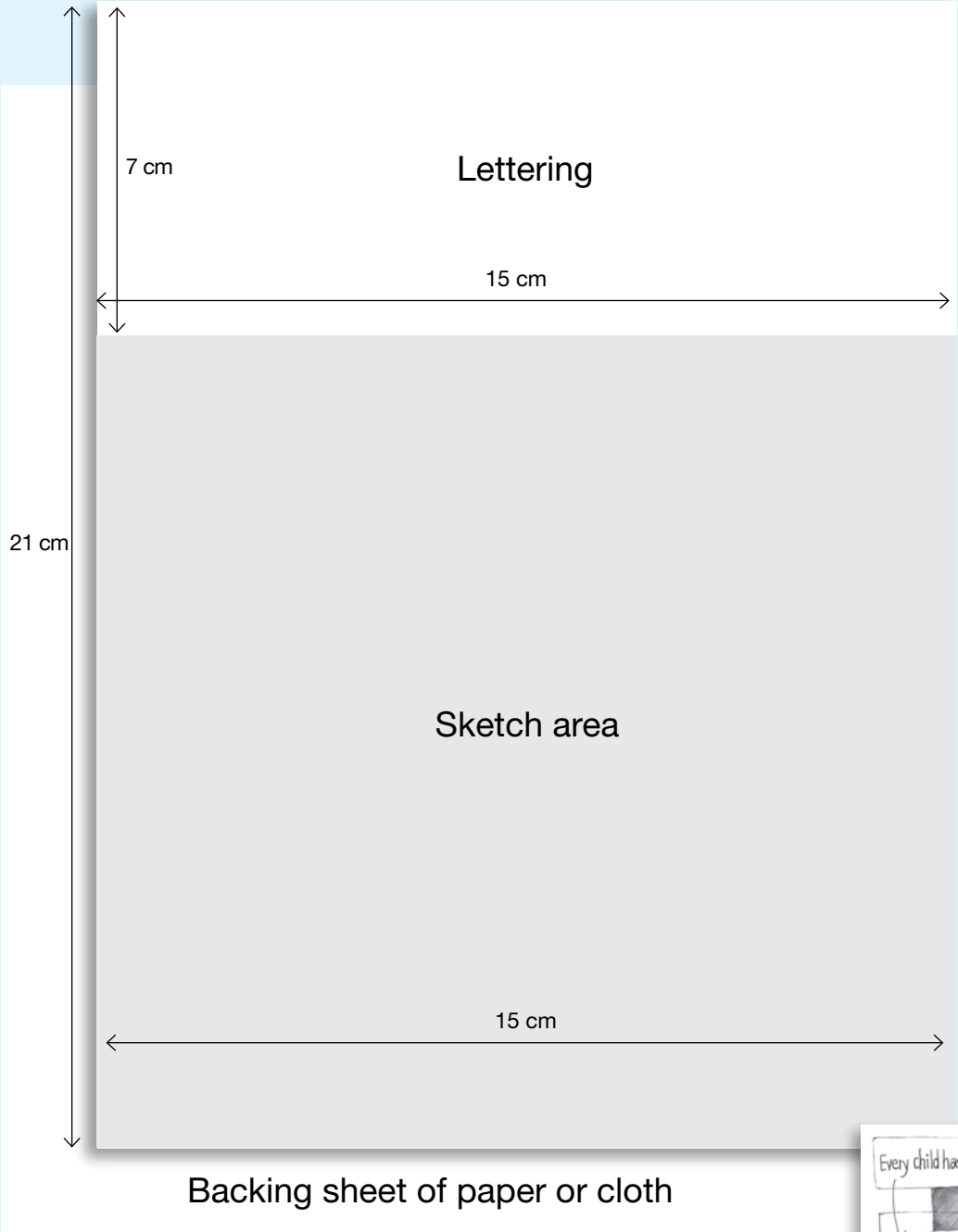
This is a selection of rights from the UNCRC. For the full version see www.unicef.org/crc

Children's rights statements

Cut up the UNCRC statements and place into a box for a lucky-dip type activity.

Every child has the right to life.	Every child has the right to privacy.
Every child has the right to a name and a nationality.	Every child has the right to education.
Every child has the right to be with their family or with those who will care for them best.	Every child has the right to be kept safe and not to be hurt or neglected.
Every child has the right to enough food and clean water.	No child should be used as cheap labour or as a soldier.
Every child has the right to an adequate standard of living.	Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly.
Every child has the right to health care.	Every child has the right to speak their own language and practise their own religion.
Every child with a disability has the right to special care and support.	Every child has the right to say what they think and to be heard.
Every child has the right to relax and play.	Every child has the right to meet their friends and join groups.

Picture quilt template

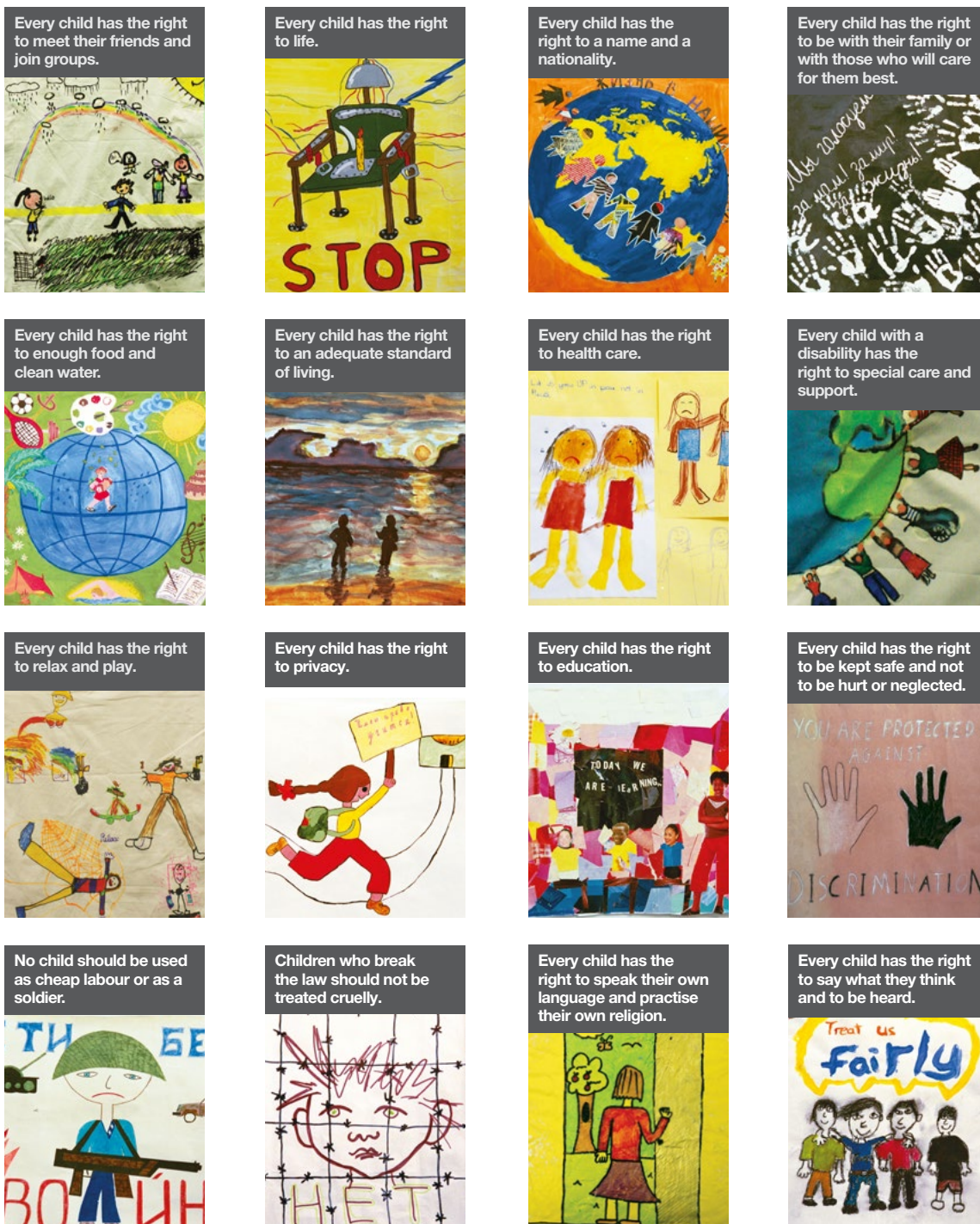


Activity 8 RESOURCE SHEET 3

Picture quilt template continued

This is an example of how your children's rights picture quilt could look.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



Pictures of children's rights by primary school children from the UK and the Russian Federation.