

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Topic 2 of *Open Day 3 Home Connection*. We hope you enjoyed working with your child on Topic 1.

Topic 2 is called **Places**. In this topic, your child will learn to talk about different places in a town and to give simple directions, and will also learn about places and people from the past. Knowing where different places are and how to get there is important now that your child is becoming more independent. The **Topic Preview Activity** is a great opportunity for you to show that you are interested in what your child is learning about this topic in the English class. We continue the theme of places in the **Animal Activities** by exploring different kinds of links between pandas and the places they live. Did you know that giant pandas are very important to the high bamboo forests in Central China because they spread the seeds that help the bamboo to grow?

The **Mindfulness** section of this topic focuses on mindful remembering. This section encourages your child to practise and develop their memory skills. In the **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)** section we work with the subject of history, where your child will learn about famous discoveries. The **Citizenship** section continues the same theme by looking at the importance of respecting ancient sites.

The topic recognises the importance of buildings and ancient sites in developing a sense of physical community. In the **Closing Activity**, you have got the opportunity to bring these important goals together by making a model of a historical place in your area.

You don't have to do the activities all at once. We recommend that you try each one after your child has completed the corresponding sections in the Student's Book or Practice Book. The corresponding Student's Book pages are indicated in each section. We hope you enjoy Topic 2 of this level of *Open Day!*



Topic Preview Activity Student's Book pages 42–43

Places

Everyone has got a place that they love going to. It might be a place where they feel happy and have fun, a place where they can relax, a place that brings back good memories or somewhere that is very beautiful.

• Get Ready

Part 1

Get your child to think of a place in your town. Then ask questions to guess the place. Your child can only answer *yes* or *no*. Here are some possible questions: *Do you go to that place every day? Do your friends go there too? Can you eat there? Is it near the park? Is it on ... street?* When you guess the place, change roles. You think of the place and your child asks the questions.

Part 2

Talk about the history of your town with your child. Ask some simple questions: *Has our town got an old part? What's special about it? How old is it? Who lived there before?* Then go on to talk about your family history in the town. Have you always lived there? For how many generations? If not, where did you live before? Why did you move to the town?

Visit a Museum

Is there a museum in your town? If so, choose a day to visit it with your child. When you're there, make sure to ask if they have got any special activities for children. If your town hasn't got a museum, you can visit one online. Some have got virtual tours. There are number of options here:

<https://www.top10.com/virtual-museum-tours>



Animal Activity Unit 3 Student's Book pages 46–47

• Get Ready

Explain to your child about panda territories, then get them to name the places that are part of their “territory,” for example, their school, their house and the local park. If you want, you and your child can draw a map of the different places. Ask your child to say when they go to the different places and how they get there.

• Take a Trip of Your Territory

If possible, choose a day for your child to take you on a trip around their territory. Encourage them to say what they do in the places and how they feel when they are there.

Did you know that giant pandas move around in territories that are about five kilometres square? The pandas mark their territories with scent that indicates their age, sex and social status. They make their dens from hollowed out logs or in the stumps of conifer trees.

Mindfulness Student's Book page 50

- **Get Ready**

The Mindfulness focus for this topic is mindful remembering. Encouraging your child to remember positive moments from the past can help them feel more optimistic about the present moment. Ask your child about any pleasant memories he or she has got.

- **Play The Jigsaw Game**

Here's a fun way to practise mindful remembering. First, collect some family photos. Get your child to look at the photos for one minute. Then turn the photos over and ask your child to say what they remember. You can also turn this into a jigsaw game. Watch the video to see how it's done:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJ-0m_PuIPc

Animal Activity Unit 4 Student's Book pages 60–61

- **Get Ready**

Watch this video to see why pandas are considered a symbol of peace:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyikgV67LsY>

Did you know that giant pandas have been thought of as “sacred creatures of the forest” for thousands of years in China? They are considered a symbol of peace.

- **A Peace and Friendship Flag**

Did you see the peace and friendship flag? Why not use this as inspiration to design and make one with your child? For this activity, you will need paper (or an old pillow case), scissors and markers (cloth markers if you are using the old pillow case). Design your peace and friendship flag on some paper. Draw the design on your cloth and cut it out in the shape you have chosen. Finally, decorate your flag. Hang the flag in one of the rooms of your house and have your child describe it and its meaning to other family members and friends.



Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) Student's Book pages 66–67

• Get Ready

Family history is very important in defining who we are. Ask your child how they think their life is different to your life when you were a child. Did you have the same toys? Did you wear the same things and do the same activities in your free time?

Citizenship Student's Book page 68

• Get Ready

The first step in teaching children to respect ancient sites is getting them interested in the people who lived at the sites. First, find an ancient site to visit with your child. If you haven't got an ancient site near you, you can research one online. Look up information about the place that will be interesting for your child. Did people live in houses? What did they eat? What different jobs did they do? Did they build walls or castles to protect themselves? etc.

• Take a House Tour

Take a tour around your house. Show your child old objects which you have inherited or are part of your house. Where do they come from? What is their history? You can finish by choosing some of the objects and having a family history quiz.

• Visit an Ancient Site

If possible, visit the site with your child. When you are there, make it come alive for your child rather than just walking around looking at stones. Explain that it's important not to damage the site in any way. Remember the popular saying "Take only photos and leave only footprints." When you get home, you can make a scrapbook or a pinboard about the place. Include photos you took as well as tickets, leaflets and drawings your child makes. (If you didn't visit the site, you can still do this stage of the activity.)



Closing Activity Student's Book page 71

A Model Exhibit of a Place

This is an opportunity to learn a little more about local history.

- **Get Ready**

Choose an interesting old building in your area. Tell your child they are going to make a model of the building. If possible, go and visit it. Explore the building with your child and find out how people lived and some important things that happened. Make sure you take lots of photos. When you get home, choose the best photos to use. You will also need some paper and card, as well as glue and paints.

- **Make Your Model Exhibit**

Take the card and draw the shapes you need to make the building. This video shows you how: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InIQGcKa8gU>

Then cut out the shapes and glue them together. When you finish, get your child to decorate the building. Use your photos to remember what the building looks like. Encourage your child to pay attention to small details and remember facts about the place. After that, ask him or her to write up small labels with the most interesting facts about the building. Display the exhibit somewhere obvious at home and encourage your child to tell other members of the family and visitors about the building.

