Family chain

by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes

Level 2 • Beginner–Elementary

Age: Primary (6–11)
Language aims: To understand instructions in English; to create an extended family chain; to practise using names of an extended family
Time: 20–30 minutes
Student grouping: Individuals, whole class
Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student (optional); multiple pairs of scissors; large sheets of paper; a picture or photo of an extended family; colouring pens or pencils; an extended family chain you have already made from the worksheet and one ready to make
Language focus: *Mother, father, sister, brother, family, aunt, uncle, grandmother, grandfather, cousins; cut, put, colour, write; This is my …* (Specific language for 'step-' or 'half' families may be needed, e.g. *step-mother, half brother*. Introduce *step-or half* to the whole class.)

Procedure

Step 1

Show the picture of the extended family you've prepared. Point to the woman and elicit *mother*. Do the same for *father*, *sister*, *brother*, *cousin*, *grandfather*, *grandmother*, *aunt* and *uncle*.
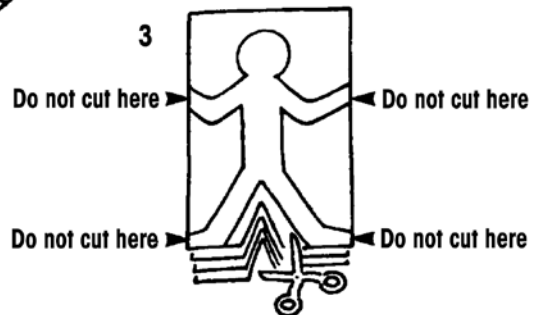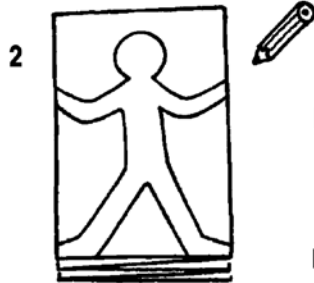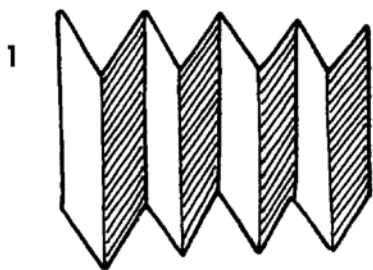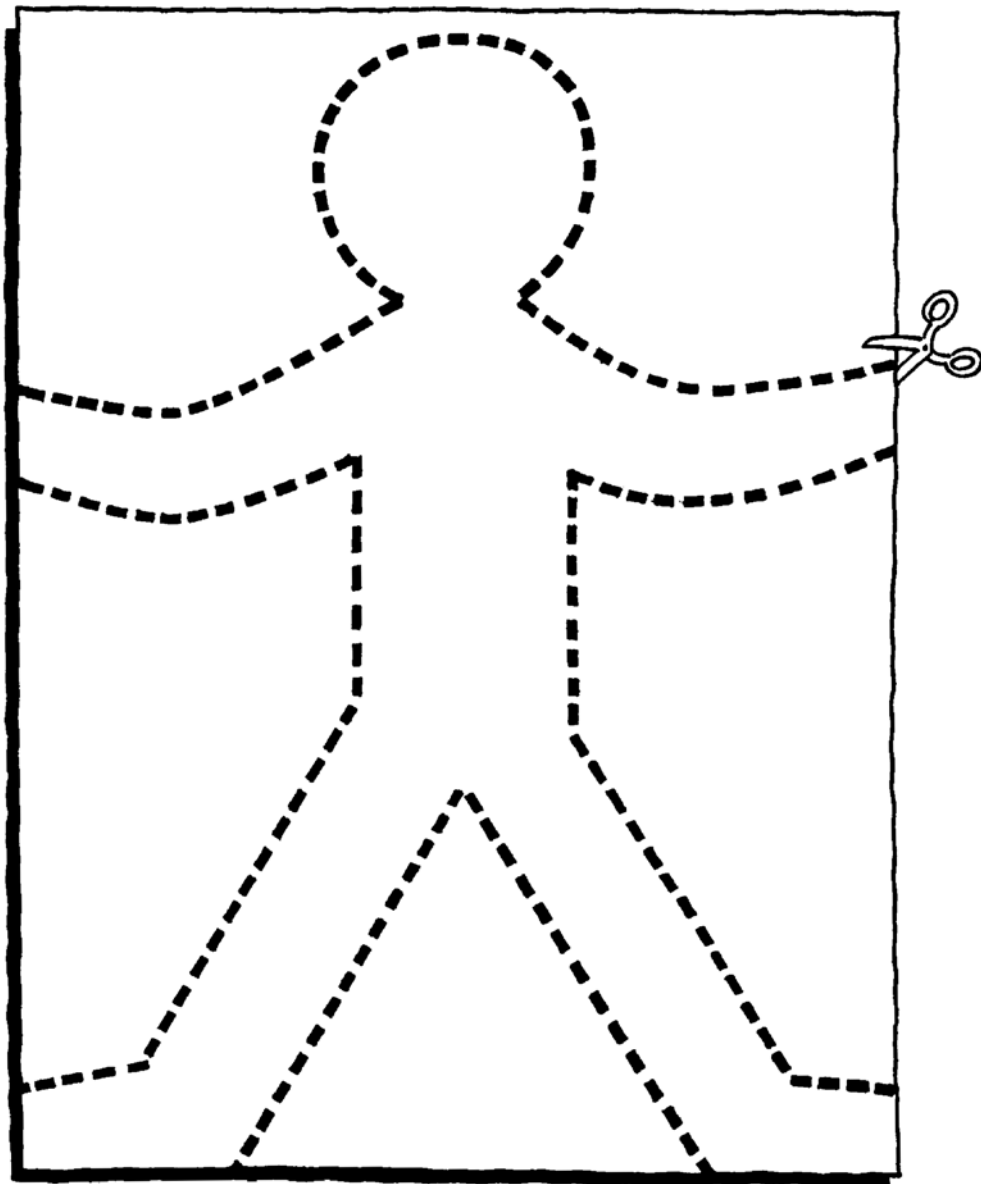
Step 2

Show the class the family chain you prepared earlier. Then show them how to make a family chain by folding a piece of paper to the width of the model, drawing around the template and cutting out carefully to avoid breaking the chain. You can hand out the worksheet so the children can see the instructions.

Step 3

Ask the children to make their chains with each person representing a person from their own family. As they're working on their chains, go around the class and ask 'Who's this?' for each person on the chain. Elicit 'My mother, uncle, sister', etc.

Step 4

When everyone has finished, ask individuals to hold up their chains and tell the class who each person is, for example 'This is my mother. This is my father', etc.

Follow-up activity

Make a class chart to show how many uncles, aunts and cousins each child has.

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1

2

3   Do not cut here ▶   ◀ Do not cut here

Do not cut here ▶   ◀ Do not cut here

4