

Field Road

Exploring Nature with Creativity!

Key words:

LEGO, country road, construction, creativity, nature

Target group:

primary school pupils
(ages 6-11)

Objectives:

This LEGO-based activity sparks children's curiosity about nature and environmental preservation while they explore the concept of country roads and their connection to the landscape. Through creative construction, participants will develop design skills and critical thinking as they build roads incorporating natural and architectural elements. The activity promotes teamwork and problem-solving while encouraging outdoor play and a deeper appreciation for nature through hands-on learning.



General Guideline on Time Allocation:

The duration needed to carry out this activity may vary depending on the specific group of children. Teachers are encouraged to adapt the implementation according to the needs, interests, and dynamics of the group.

In the preparatory phase, teachers may use a variety of activities to introduce and contextualize the chosen topic. These can include discussions, videos, drawings, storytelling, or even a field trip, depending on the age and background knowledge of the children.

The main construction phase, during which children plan and build their urban element using LEGO bricks, should typically not exceed 45 to 60 minutes. However, this phase often stimulates further curiosity and questions among the children, potentially leading to extended engagement or follow-up activities. For more detailed instructions and pedagogical support on how to implement activities of INNO-kids project, please download the Teacher's Methodological Guide.



Materials/resources required:

- Various LEGO pieces in different colors and shapes, including green pieces to represent vegetation.
- LEGO bases (optional).
- LEGO miniatures representing animals, insects, people (explorers, farmers, etc.).
- LEGO vehicles such as cars, tractors, bicycles, etc.
- LEGO objects representing elements of nature (trees, flowers, rocks, rivers, etc.).
- Real or artificial plants and flowers to decorate the environment.
- LEGO signs with symbols indicating the way or representing information about nature (traffic signs, animal identification signs, etc.).
- Paper and pencils for drawing (optional).
- Natural elements (such as small stones, branches) for decoration (optional).

Note: In the absence of elements in Lego pieces, invite children to draw, color, and cut out on paper, or build using other materials.

Introduction:

A country road is a path that crosses rural and natural areas, often surrounded by fields, trees, and natural landscapes. These roads are important for connecting communities and providing access to remote areas. In this activity, we will explore the theme of country roads by building our own road with LEGO. Let's imagine how we can incorporate natural and architectural elements into our construction.

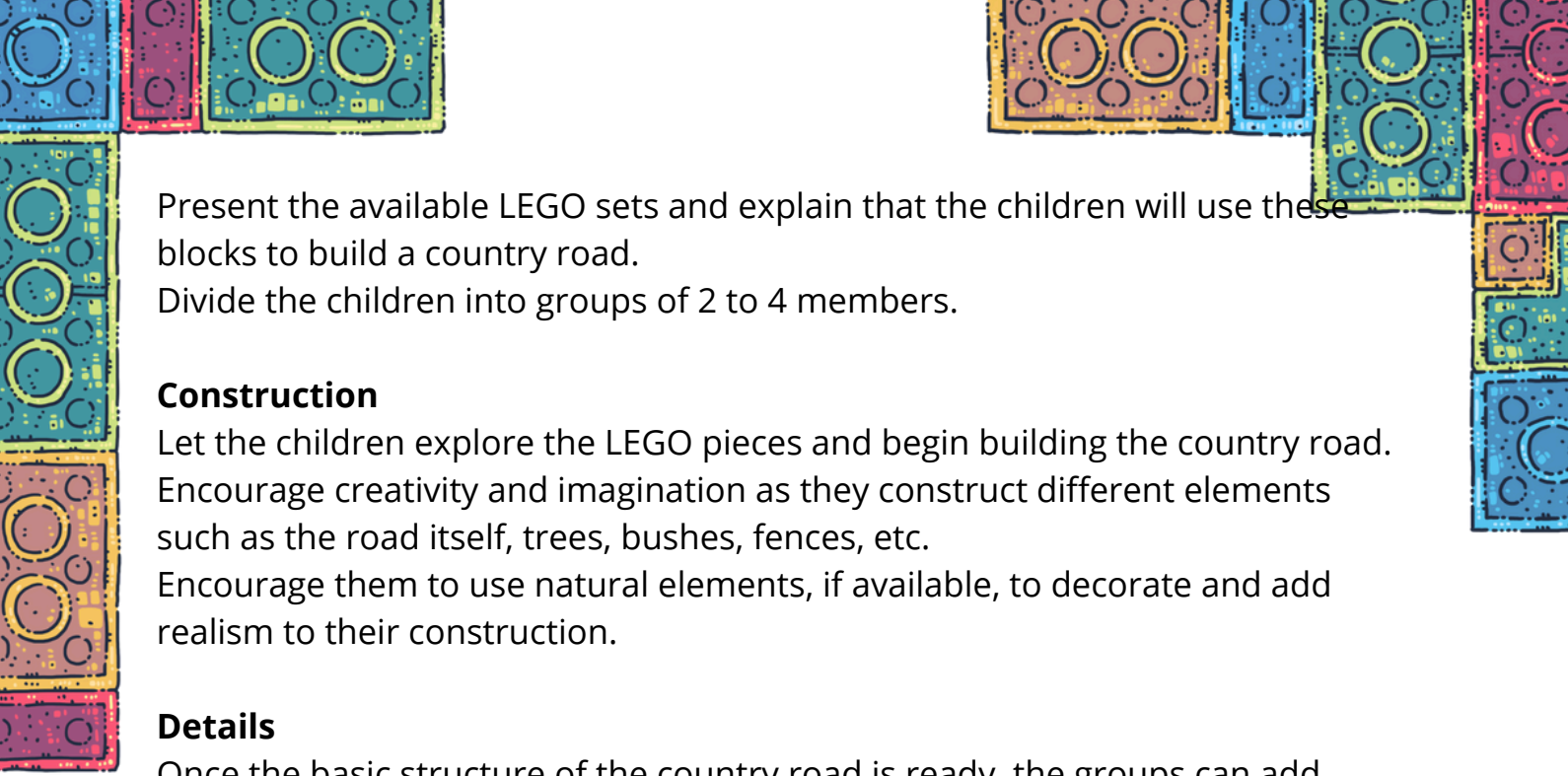
Start by discussing with the children the different types of roads that exist and how they are used. Explain what a country road is and how it differs from city roads. Take a walk with the children through the countryside so they can experience walking on a country road. You can document this with photographs and collect natural elements that will support the building activity.



Procedure:

Preparation

Introduce the theme of country roads and briefly discuss their importance in connecting communities and providing access to natural areas.



Present the available LEGO sets and explain that the children will use these blocks to build a country road.

Divide the children into groups of 2 to 4 members.

Construction

Let the children explore the LEGO pieces and begin building the country road. Encourage creativity and imagination as they construct different elements such as the road itself, trees, bushes, fences, etc.

Encourage them to use natural elements, if available, to decorate and add realism to their construction.

Details

Once the basic structure of the country road is ready, the groups can add details such as:

LEGO miniatures representing wild and domestic animals, insects, explorers, farmers, cyclists, etc.

LEGO vehicles like cars, tractors, bicycles, motorcycles, etc., moving along the road.

LEGO objects representing elements of nature such as trees, flowers, rocks, rivers, fences, rural houses, etc.

Real or artificial plants, flowers, stones, and branches to decorate the environment and make it more realistic.

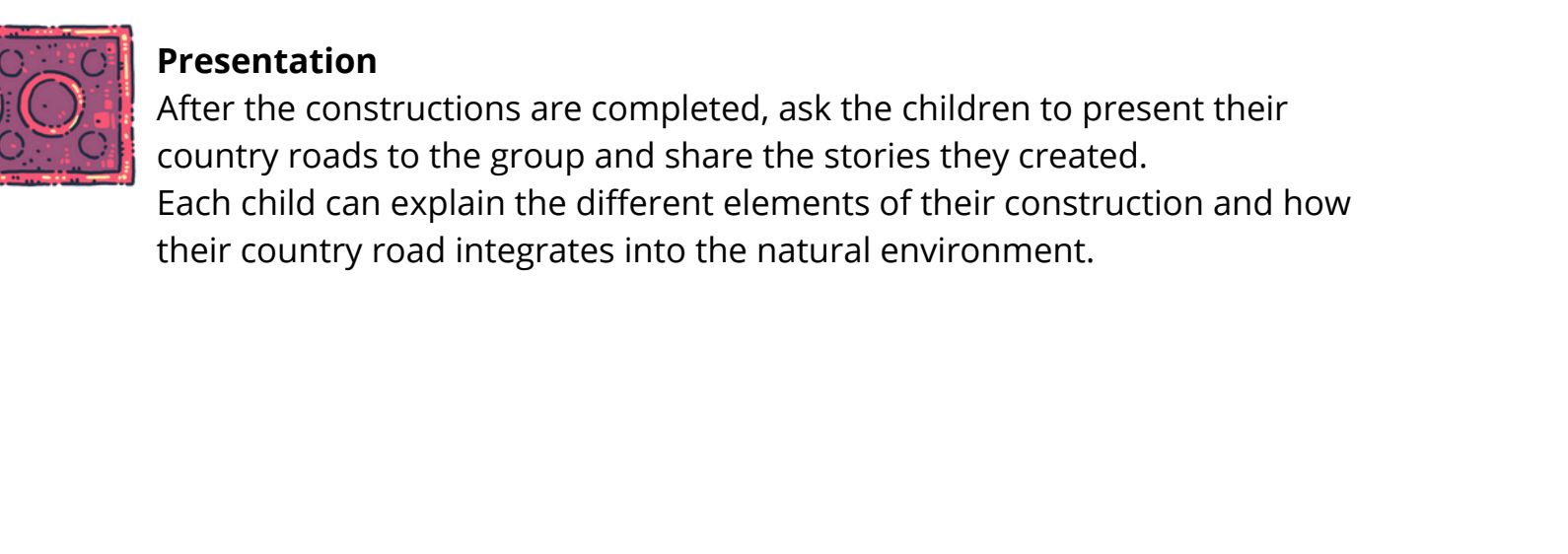
Signs with symbols indicating the way, speed limits, presence of wild animals, etc.

Stories

Once the country road is complete, the children can create stories about the activities that take place there.

Encourage role-playing and interaction between the groups. Children can imagine different scenarios such as a bike ride along the road, observing wild animals, harvesting fruits, etc.

Presentation



After the constructions are completed, ask the children to present their country roads to the group and share the stories they created.

Each child can explain the different elements of their construction and how their country road integrates into the natural environment.



Tips:

- Children can create different types of landscapes along the country road, such as forests, fields, mountains, rivers, etc.
- Use LEGO miniatures to represent the animals living in the region. Children can research different animals and their habitats.
- Children can create their own LEGO vehicles or use ready-made vehicles to travel along the road.

Additional Considerations:

- **Differentiation:**
- Provide additional support or simplified instructions for pupils who may require extra assistance. For advanced pupils, offer extension tasks such as researching further sustainable practices or designing more complex models.
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- **Assessment:**
- Assess pupils based on their participation and engagement during discussions and hands-on activities. Evaluate the creativity, effort, collaboration, depth of understanding demonstrated in their models, critical thinking, ability to provide constructive feedback and presentation skills

Curriculum Connections:

This activity integrates:

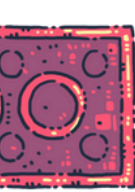
Environmental Studies (rural landscapes, biodiversity, habitats, agriculture and livestock)

Art (creativity and construction using LEGO)

Mathematics (geometric concepts applied to road construction)

Citizenship Education (environmental awareness and social responsibility)

Language (oral and written communication through storytelling and project description)





SDG Connections:

- **SDG 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities – Exploring the construction of a country road can educate children about the importance of connectivity and accessibility in rural and natural areas, contributing to the goal of creating sustainable cities and communities.
- **SDG 13:** Climate Action – Incorporating natural elements into their construction encourages children to value and conserve the environment, supporting efforts to combat climate change and its impacts.
- **SDG 15:** Life on Land – By learning about and constructing a country road, children engage with the importance of protecting, restoring, and sustainably using terrestrial ecosystems, promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

