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Nika Dubrovsky

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This book is a game. We are going to invent together a new nation and, at the same time, we will think why in different countries and different times people think so differently about what is the "nation"?

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Introduction

I was born in the USSR, a country that no longer exists – today it is Russia, in the city of Leningrad, which is also was renamed – now it is called St. Petersburg. In my apartment building where I lived with my parents, there were a thousand apartments. In each of them was living about three or even five people.

Several thousand inhabitants in the same building!

Our courtyard, that was more like a square, two kindergartens were built. We all went to the school assigned to our house. We knew each other from childhood: we met in the library on the first floor of our building, played on the same playground and went to the same ice cream cafe. Our apartment building was a city in the city. Could it be a nation-state?

Almost all the children sought to leave this "city in the city". For the weekend we tried to go to the center in which where were beautiful houses, museums, large shops. On vacation, we went out to the river, to the field, to the forest or to the sea. We did not have any in our ""sleeping district" with hundreds of thousands of inhabitants. Adults worked far from home and, spending two hours going from and to work, returned home very tired. We dreamed of growth and entered the university, we wanted to see the "real world".

I realized, that if a dozen apartment building of the sleeping district of Leningrad – my childhood city had been united in one country, by size, it would be comparable with Iceland. We would have invented our language, flag, history, we may elect a parliament, written books, founded our own universities, museums, and opened embassies in different countries. Friends from my childhood would become diplomats, deputies, and members of the government, translators or athletes from the Olympic team of our district (nation-state). Probably, we would have to create our own army and police.

What is making people feel as a nation? Common memories, common heroes? Being related by blood? These are questions that usually answered by adults, but we decided to ask children what do they think about it.

The answers were not only amazingly smart but also very beautifully expressed.

NºO1 THINK OF A NAME FOR YOUR NATIONALI-TY NºO2 DESIGN NATIONAL FLAG FOR YOUR NATION-ALITY

DESIGN A CURRENCY FOR YOUR NATION

INVENT A

FOR YOUR

NATION

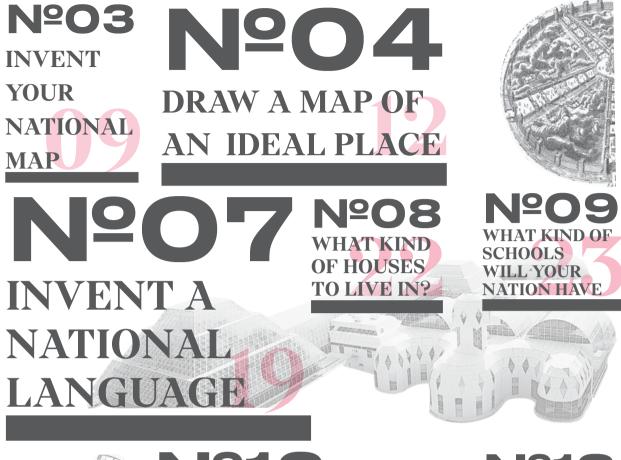
MONUMENT



Nº06 DRAW WHAT THE PEOPLE OF YOUR NATIONALITY WOULD LOOK LIKE

Nº11 CREATE A MONUMENT OF YOUR NATION'S HISTORY

Nº15 YOUR COUNTRY'S NA-TIONALS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY?





Nº12_{CREATE} A MUSEUM OF YOUR NATION'S HISTORY

WHAT IF

ENEMIES

ATTACK AND

YOUR NATION?

SURROUND

Nº13 IMAGINE THAT YOUR HISTORICAL MUSEUM CONSISTS OF PORTRAITS OF REGULAR FOLKS

WHAT IF

CRIMINALS

ARE KIDS?

IMAGINE THAT THE ONLY PERSON IN YOUR NATION IS YOU

NºO1 THINK OF A NAME FOR YOUR NATIONALITY

Will it be long? resonant? Fun?

Describe what your country's nationals will be like. What about people of your nation? How would they look like? How would they dance, speak, eat and sleep? Would they sleep at all? Maybe they will not need to? You can invent the most fantastic and extraordinary qualities for your nationality! Could they fly, or could they change their size — like become tiny and huge, if they want to? Be able not to eat for weeks. Read each other's mind. Dance till they drop <u>and sing so beau-</u><u>tifully</u>*, that everyone around the world come to a standstill and listen.

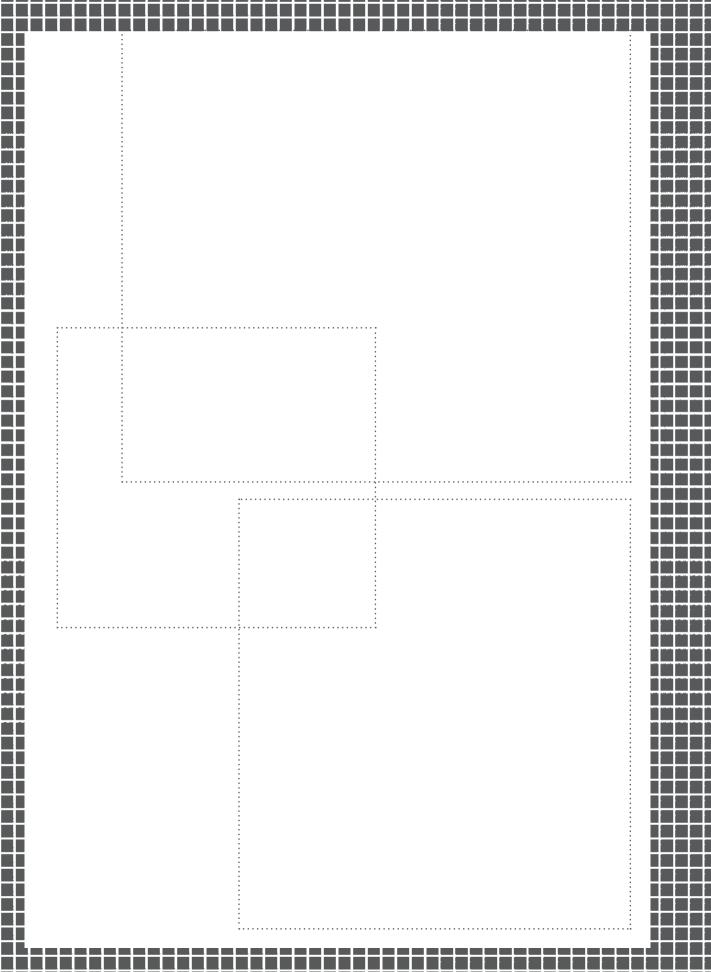
* Will your army be an army of singers?

--> Some nationalities have very long names, for example, The Soviet People, or Balagan Buryats living in Siberia



need to be whispered: Kho (the main people populating the district of Chitral in northern Pakistan)

Bororo — (are an Indian indigenous people living in Bolivia (2 thousand people) and Brazil)



Nº02 DESIGN NATIONAL FLAG FOR YOUR NATIONALITY

<— draw your flag, but first think why you need it/ what you need it for?

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☑ to scare everyone☑ to surprise everyone☑ to upset everyone

 \boxtimes to remain unnoticed \boxtimes to hide and run away



In almost every country the law prohibits the burning of flags. It is a crime and an insult to the state. Denmark however, has a special tradition allowing citizens to burn their national flag (not other nations' flags), but it must not touch the ground, and should be burnt before sunset. In the United States it became legal to burn flags in 1983. Some countries have changed their flags several times throughout history, the United States flag has changed more than 25 times over 200 years. A new star was added for every new state.



ancient flags often depicted scary animals or weapons. Nationalities and states were means of defense and attack.

Maybe some nations were scared of others, and so wanted to frighten them off?



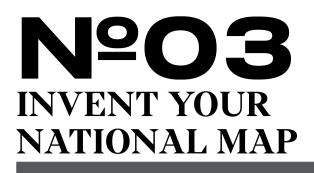
The Nepal Flag is curious for its unusual shape. One can even invent a round flag

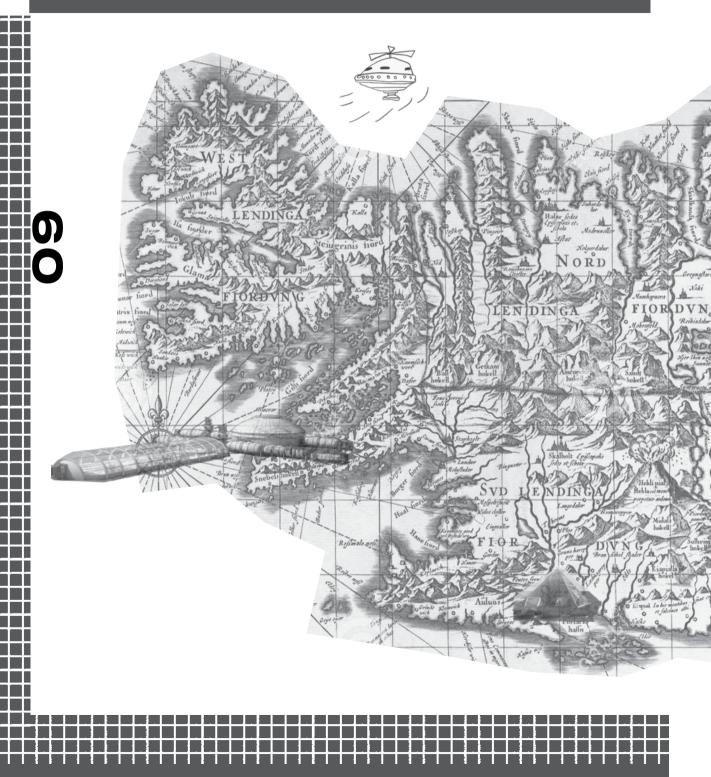
or a flag with holes... You can create any shape of flag you want, it could be circular or heart-shaped or shaped like a cat 😂 if you wish...



The ancient Sicilian flag depicts a three-legged creature symbolizing the unity of the island.

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Draw a map of your national state. It can be on an island, in the clouds, underground or even on another planet.

My nation will always be traveling, never stopping anywhere; it will not be tied down to any place or territory. Just like in the TV series Star Trek TV.

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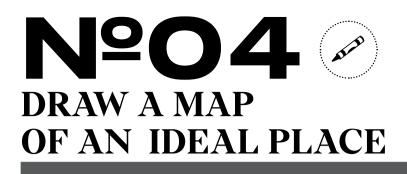
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This is a map of Iceland Iceland — is an island almost entirely unpopulated, it consists of mountains and glaciers. But what if something like a space station was built there?



how about drawing a map of an imaginary country, but one in which you would like to live.

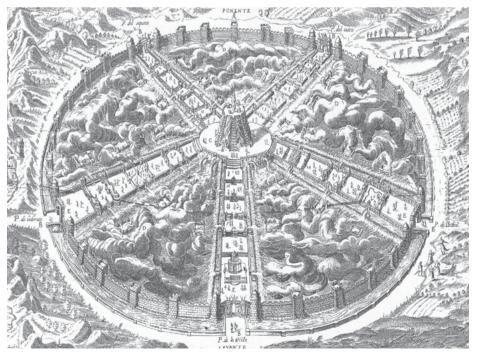
Solaria (residents of The City of the Sun) are at once both rich and poor «They are rich because they want nothing, poor because they possess nothing; and consequently they are not slaves to circumstances, but circumstances serve them.» Tommaso Campanella «The City of the Sun»



Maybe the one that does not exist?

In the 16th century, Abraham Ortelius drew a map of the city of Utopia, invented by Thomas More. The map consists of names of rivers in different languages, forming a pattern. All the names contain an inner contradiction: "a river without water," "a city without people" and so on, as if to say that this is "a place that does not exist".

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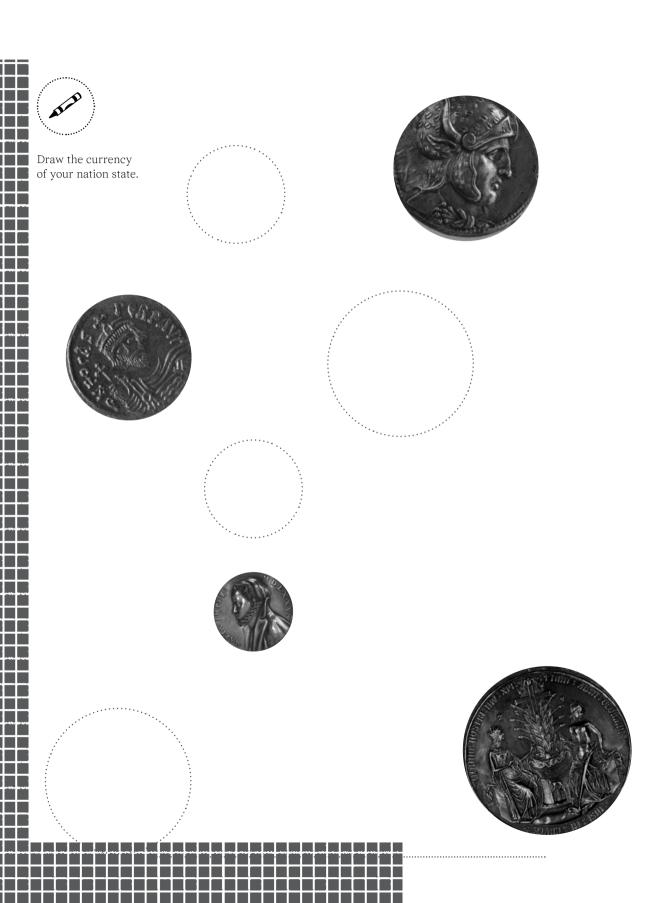
The city is built geometrically, and divided by the central streets into four parts - North, East, South and West. Arcades and galleries [for promenades], as well as the outer walls of the fortifications and buildings are decorated with magnificent paintings. All crowned by a temple erected at the very top of the hill. On the temple's altar are placed the Earth and celestial globes, and the dome depicts all the stars down to sixth magnitude. On the outside it is topped with a weathervane.

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Imagine that your country's capital city is underground? or in the sky? What will it look like? Draw it!

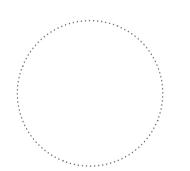
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Nº5 DESIGN A CURRENCY FOR YOUR NATION

Most nations' money shows either kings, national heroes or important religious symbols.

But what if you make money look pathetic and unattractive?

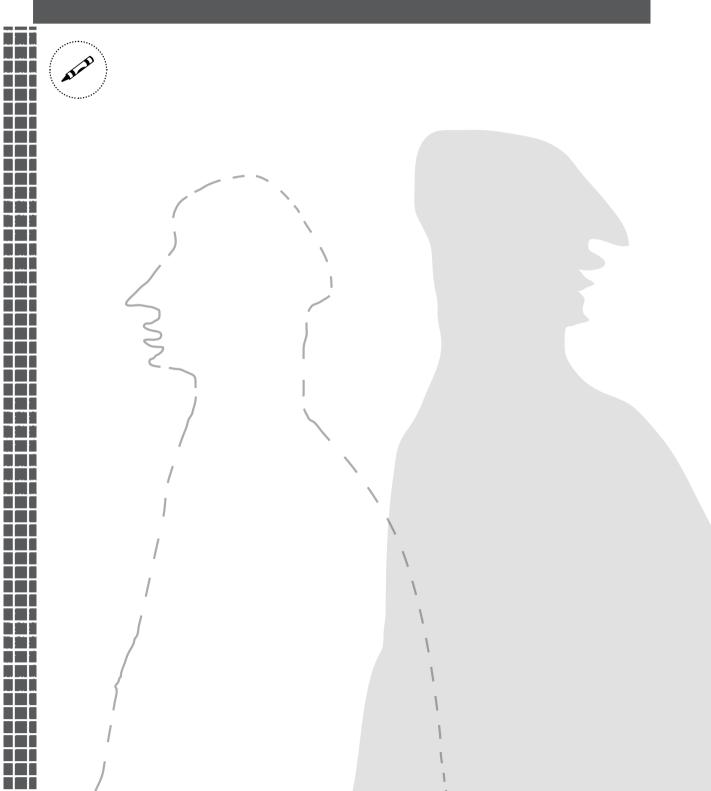






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Nº06 DRAW WHAT THE OF YOUR NATIONALITY WOULD LOOK LIKE



Surprise yourself! Maybe they will have pink (or blue?) skin? Just one eye, but a multicolored one? Scales? Wings?



«A language is a dialect that has an army and a navy» Max Weinreich

How is your language different from the rest?

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What if a language sounded very scary for strangers?

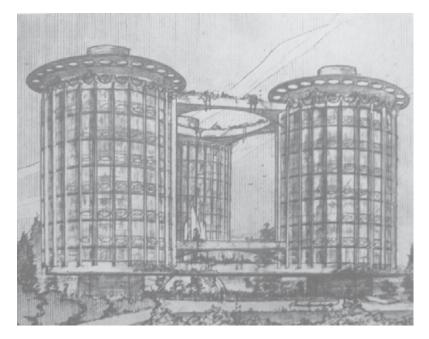


What if your language sounds so beautiful that everyone who hears it immediately falls in love with it and wants to move to your country?



hate?» — the doctor thought.

In 1931, the father of Soviet physics Abram Ioffe proposed building house-cities in the Soviet Union. Where a million people would live in one such house. According to Ioffe's idea, these cylindrical building without windows could be heated by human body warmth. Enterprises and institutions would be distributed throughout the house-city so that everyone's workplace was no farther than five hundred meters from their apartment - just a 7–8 minute walk. On the one hand, loffe's ideas are similar to the projects of Soleri — he also planned human life with the precision of an architectural model. Energy consumption, work, entertainment, sleep everything should be in harmony with the general rhythm of the city. On the other hand, Arkosanti — is a relatively small town of only 5,000 people. It is more like a family city, where everyone knows each other. But what w it be like to live in a ho of a million people?



I think that with climate change we are all going to live in these homes.

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ouse	





This house can protect you from rain and storms, cold and heat.

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If a lot of people live in one house, everyone would be better off. How many of these houses would fit in Iceland? What do you think about inviting people from other countries to move to your invented nation/ state/country? Would you agree to that or not? Draw a map of a populous/crowded city with several huge million-resident houses. What if a whole city one million people lived in one house? Then everyone would have accommodation, and work, and food.

In this city-house, you can build gardens, and huge windows will illuminate spacious apartments. Expenses for heating, food production, and transport would be minimal.

N99 WHAT KIND OF SCHOOLS WILL YOUR NATION HAVE

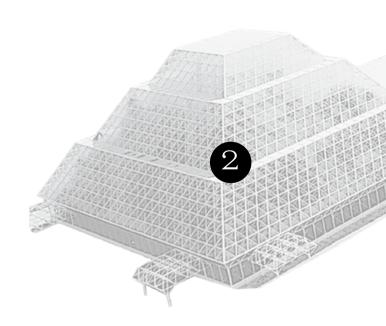
Imagine that all schools have unexpectedly closed. Parents can't go to work, life in the country will come to a halt.

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- 1. Science labs.
- 2. Rainforest.
- 3. Savannah.
- 4. Air production factory.
- 5. Living quarters.
- 6. Farms.
- 7. Desert.
- 8. Ocean.

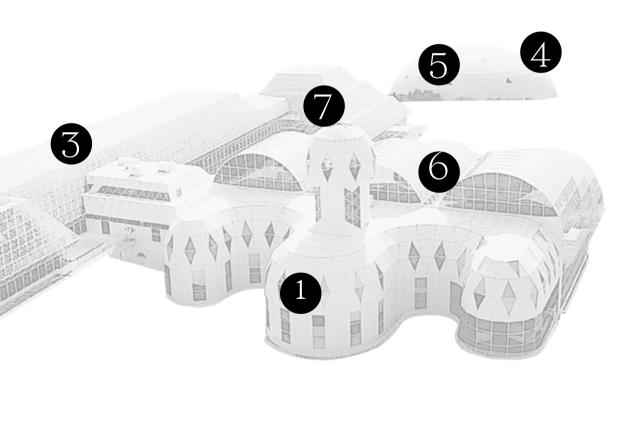
Think about whether your schools will be made up of individual buildings or whole cities where children live, or maybe schools will become part of the adult world: laboratories, libraries, museums, factories, theaters?

This huge house called Biosphere 2, has a coral reef inhabited by fish; monkeys and birds [also live here], small fields for growing grain and vegetables, complex machines for producing air and heat. The idea was that people would learn to live inside the house like we now live on Earth.





What will your ideal school look like? Draw over this building, and annotate it with descriptions.



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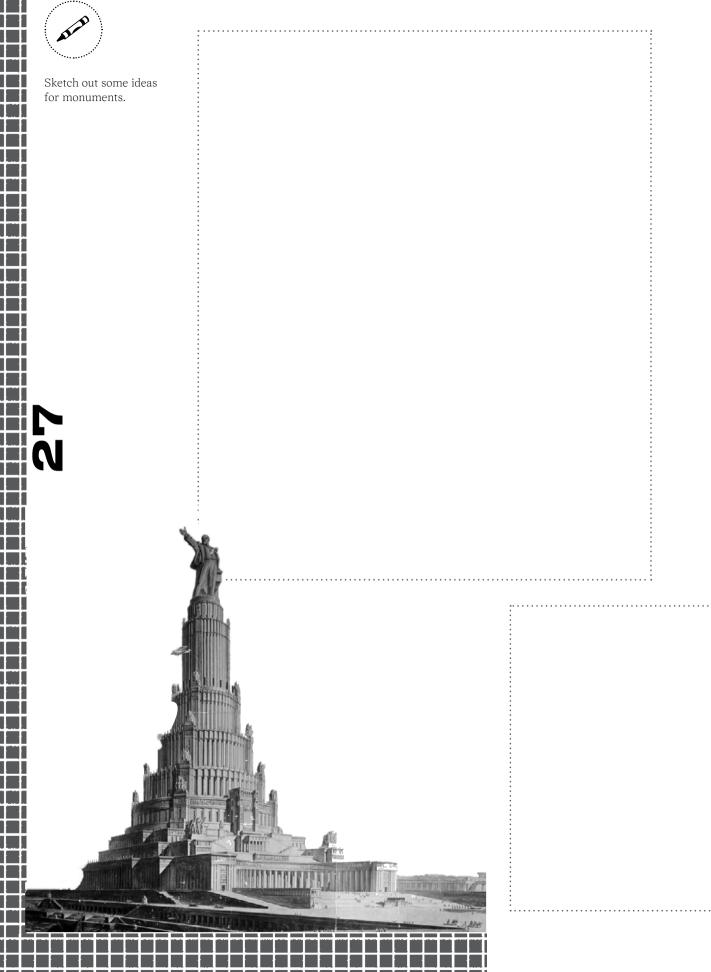


Write you country's schools rules: will you let children go to school as they please or will they be forced? [will it be compulsory]? Will your school have grades, punishments and exams? What subjects will there be?

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Nº10 INVENT A MONUMENT FOR YOUR NATION

Monuments are museums of a collective memory — only they're out on the streets

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Will your country have a statue of its «Leader / Hero» or will you build a monument reminding residents of their common dreams? Which artist will you invite to make the monument — will it be a foreigner or someone from your country, or maybe all the residents of one street can make it together? Or what if the monument will be a 3D projection that can change every day or week? Just borrow it from other countries' museums. In England and in France, sculptures stolen from Egypt or other colonies often serve as monuments. This is a monument to communism, which one Soviet sculptor proposed to build. A tower reaching upwards — to freedom and justice for all mankind.

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What will be the main monument in your country:

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ناز ا أثل ا .

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Nº1 CREATE A MONUMENT OF YOUR NATION'S HISTORY

In some countries monuments retell the history of victories, while in others — of historical guilt.

Would it be heaven or hell?



The Berlin Museum is tragic. The history of the Second World War is a story of crimes committed by members of the SS and Wehrmacht — the German army. Not only were six million Jews killed, but also Gypsies, communists, gays and many other.

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Someone may have seemed unremarkable, but was a good parent or a loyal friend, or maybe a dreamer or adventurer, an unsuccessful explorer or pioneer. Why unsuccessful? Because a successful pioneer, pirate or explorer would not find themselves a citizen of a country such as ours.

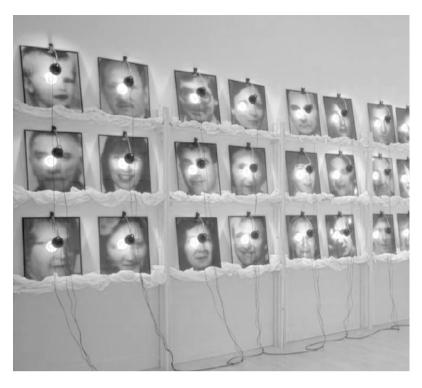
A true traveler is always on the road.

Some of my fellow citizens turned out to be selfish scoundrels: they abandoned small children, didn't help their sick parents, they were scheming and mean. Someone else turned out to be an outstanding scientist. Isn't it curious walking along endless corridors looking at [old] family albums?

And thinking to yourself: is it right to live like this? Or maybe it would have been better to live life differently?

What if there was a museum in which every visitor would want to rethink and reinvent their life.

A museum, where everyone who visits will want to start their life from scratch/the beginning?



The History Museum of my country, «my neighborhood» would consist of portraits of my neighbors and their family histories.

> And of course, in our museum all the people could put on exhibitions of their own archives, not just those who are considered heroes or villains, or famous and important.

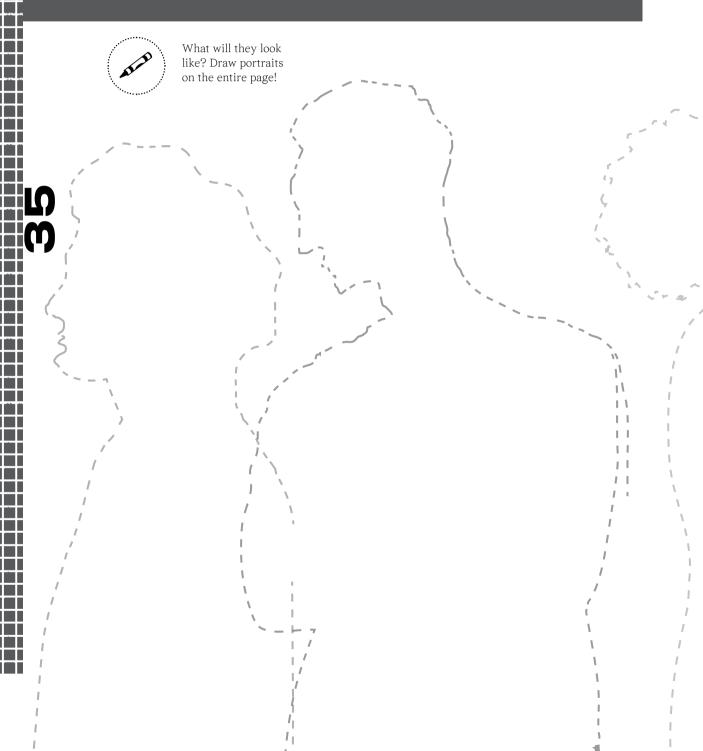
Nº12 CREATE A MUSEUM OF YOUR NATION'S HISTORY

The history you invent for your nationality will determine how you will continue to live together.

Would it be heaven or hell?

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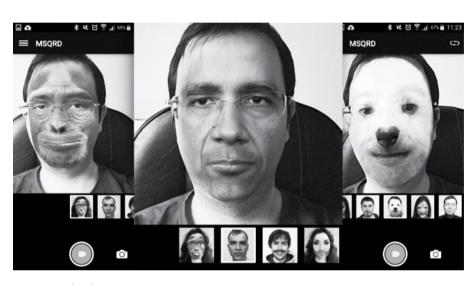
Nº13 IMAGINE THAT YOUR HISTORICAL MUSEUM CONSISTS OF PORTRAITS OF REGULAR FOLKS



Sign their names and surnames. Will they have middle names?

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You can make them blue or yellow ...

And what are they wearing?

Finish drawing all these people's hairstyles, beards, jewelry, hats or anything else, so that they turn into the people of your nationality. (ALA)

Draw your main book.

It is said that compared with any other country, Iceland prints the most amount of books per person in the world. Any educated person in the world has probably read the Icelandic saga.

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Nº14 MAIN BOOK

Most nations have their own great book.

Some books are so important that they are the main text for many nations. The Bible was the main book for the Jewish people, but later became important for Christians and Muslims too.





Describe your main book.

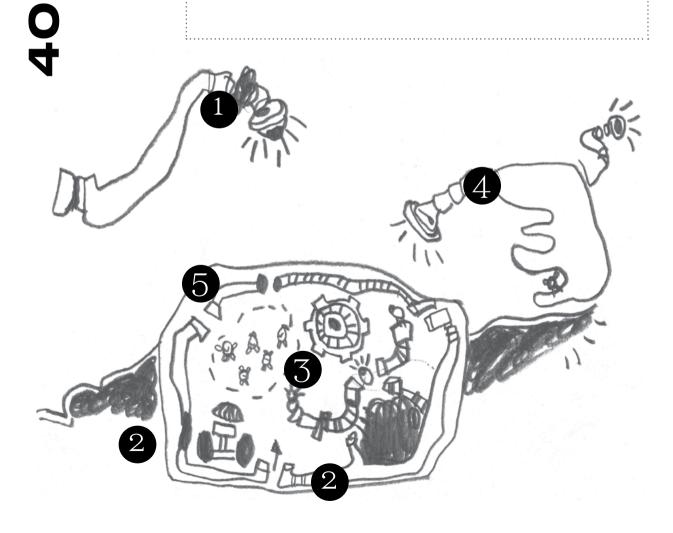
Nº15 WILL YOUR COUNTRY'S NATIONALS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY?

Every who lives in your country is assigned a flying camera-eye that follows him everywhere. The footage is immediately projected on a central screen that everyone can see.

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In this country, nobody is ever alone!

- Main camera recording everything going on in the city, saving it to a permanent archive.
- 2. Areas where citizens work.
- 3. Residential areas.
- 4. Additional cameras.
- The central square where everyone is obliged to take a daily promenade.



Nº16 IMAGINE THE ONLY PERSON IN YOUR NATION IS YOU

May be it's not so bad?

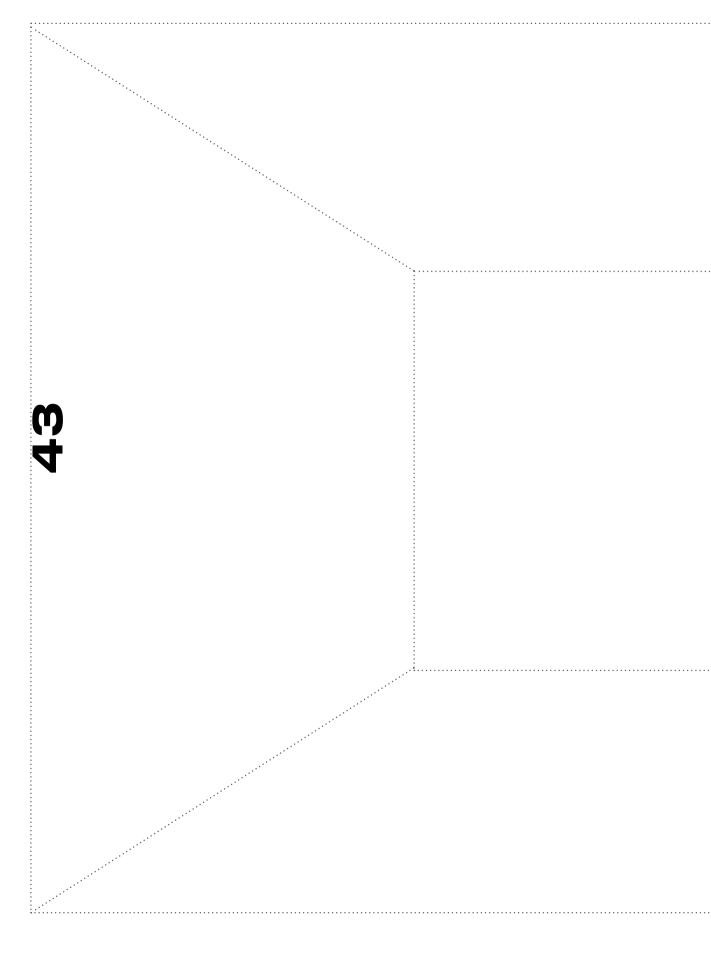


Draw a map of the country where you live all by yourself.



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You have been invited to an international fair and you have to present a national pavilion that will clearly show what makes your country different, and what you're most proud of draw or write what you would display there.

Nº17 WHAT IF ENEMIES ATTACK AND SURROUND YOUR NATION?

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-> caption comes here Food, water, heat, and energy — all these bare necessities are worth their weight in gold in a city under siege. Residents need to unite and help each other survive through this hardship.



- 1. Water source.
- 2. Urban farms.
- з. Defenses.
- 4. Bomb shelters.
- 5. Schools and museums.
- 6. Hospitals.
- 7. Theaters
- and cinemas.



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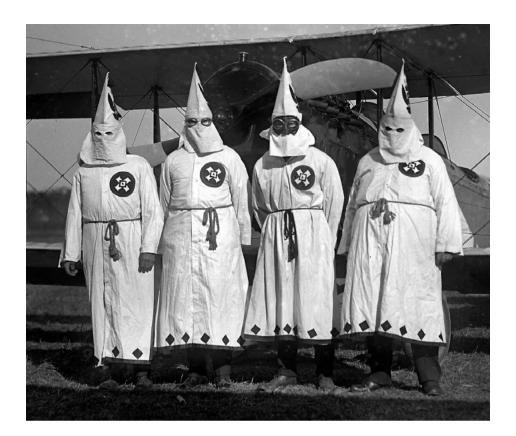
Can you grow food inside a besieged city? Can you produce energy, water and produce things? Can you go to school, the theater or museum, when surrounded by enemies?



Nº18 WHAT IF CRIMINALS ARE KIDS?

Not all nations are states, and not all states are nations, but for simplicity's sake of we're inventing a state and nationality at the same time, which means that we need courts, prisons and police. Like any other state. But ...

--> Whoever disobeys is to be punished! At the beginning of the 20th century a sect called the Ku Klux Klan was active in America, they willfully carried out killings and beatings of «unruly blacks», but the authorities condoned the sect and did not arrest its members.





Describe how punishments are organized in your national state. Prisons and corporal punishment? Or reproach and shame? [Or tell them off.] Or maybe try to persuade and change criminals? or exile them?

MANY TYPES OF NATIONS INVENT YOUR OWN!

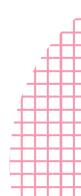


After you have read and commented on how differently people arrange of what they called "nation", you can invent your own!

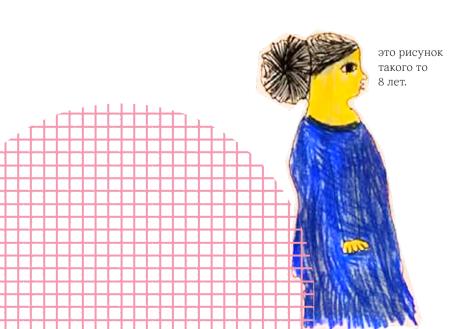


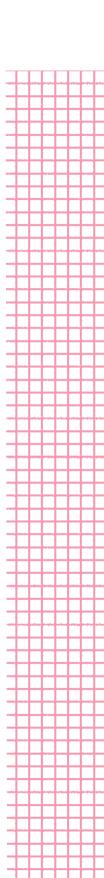
- Who will belong to your nation: everyone who wants or someone special? Draw them here!

Will the people of your nation be different from the others?



CJ 10







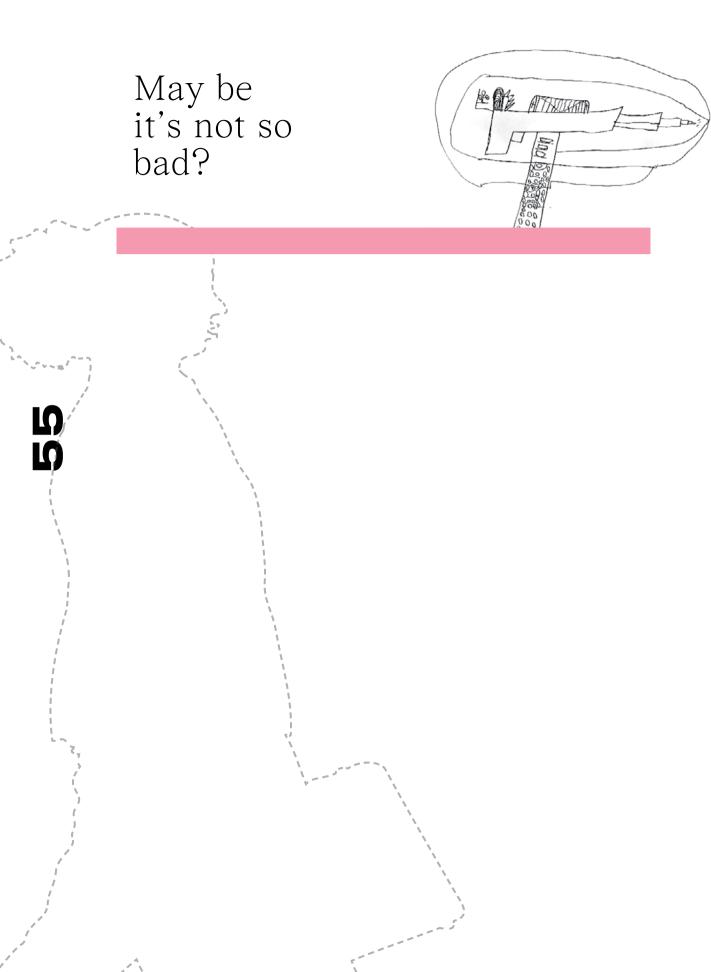
- What are the most important laws of your nation?

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Is it an inequal society?

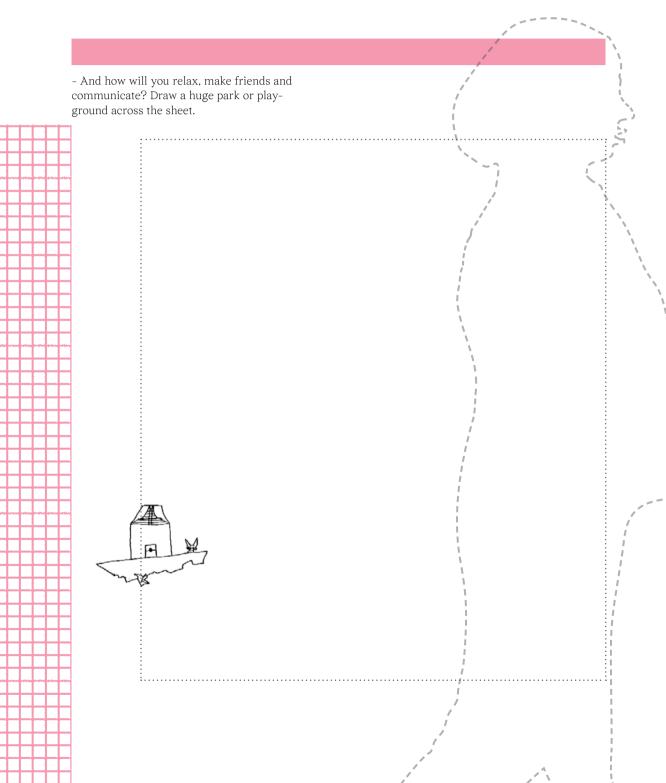


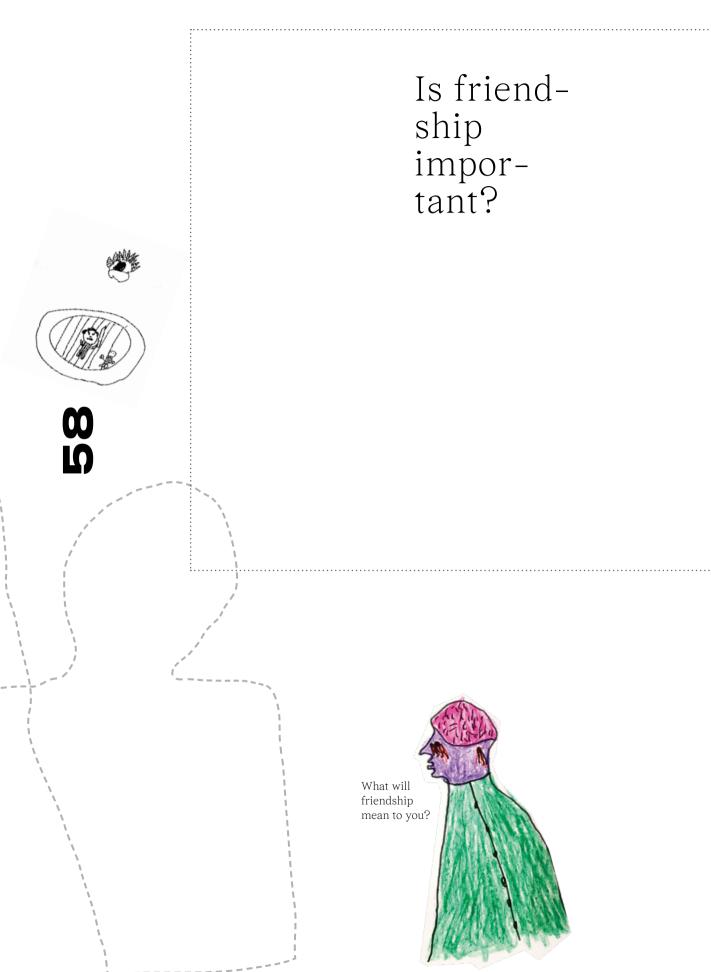
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- Draw how your nation will communicate with the Others: will you fight? build a wall? be friends?

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- What will be the main monuments in your nation?



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Who is important?

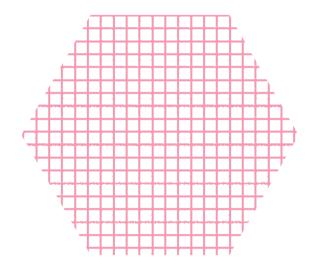


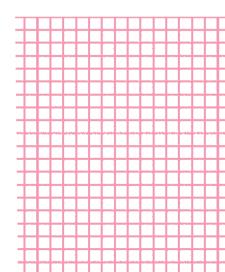
Heroes, commoners, philosophers...

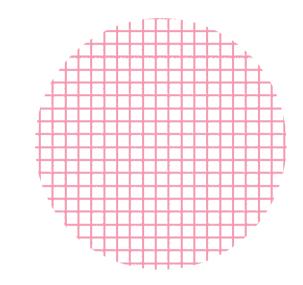


- Think up and draw something incredible: talking fish or cars that can do anything.













There is something to be proud of!







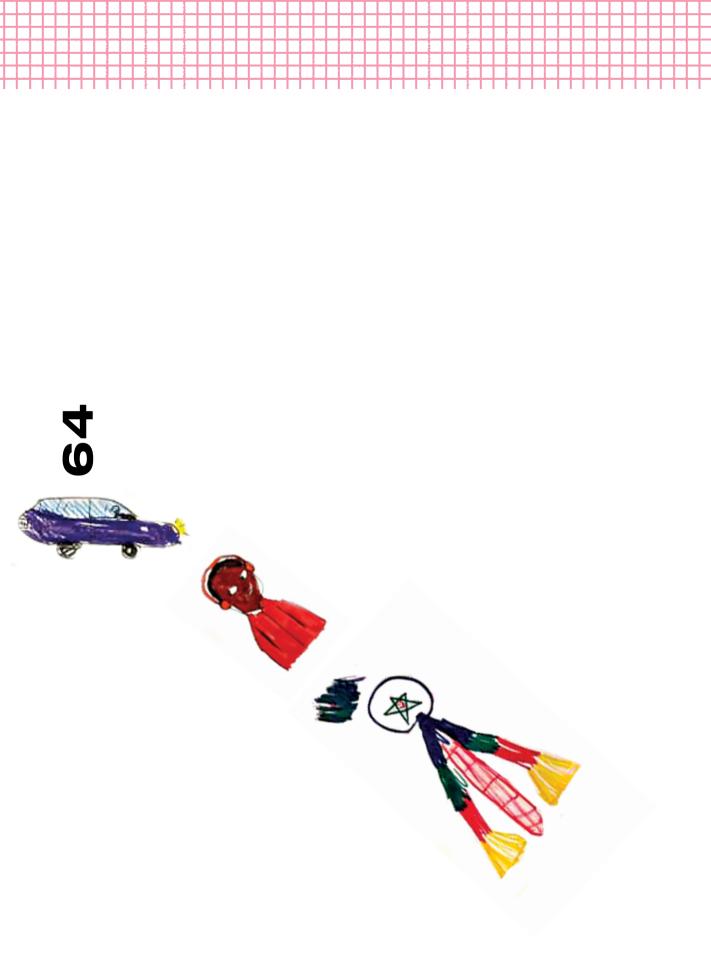
- And how will you surprise humanity?

Scientific inventions, talented people, great actors

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- What is the relationships between men and women? Are they equal or not?



Is equality important?

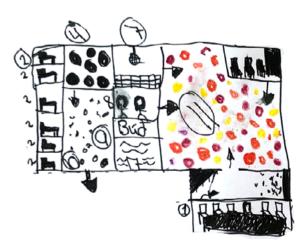


How to be sure that the laws are enforced?



Homes where everyone lives together or each family separately. Or each person separately?





Draw the map of the area and the plan of the house from inside.

Who would your houses looks like?

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what if you feel lonely among your own?



Draw a beautiful world where everyone is happy.

