

Six Feet of Fun

Did you know that sneezes can travel 6 feet?!

That's why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests we practice something called social distancing. We keep a distance of 6 feet away from each other so our sneezes are less likely to land on another person. But what does 6 feet look like?

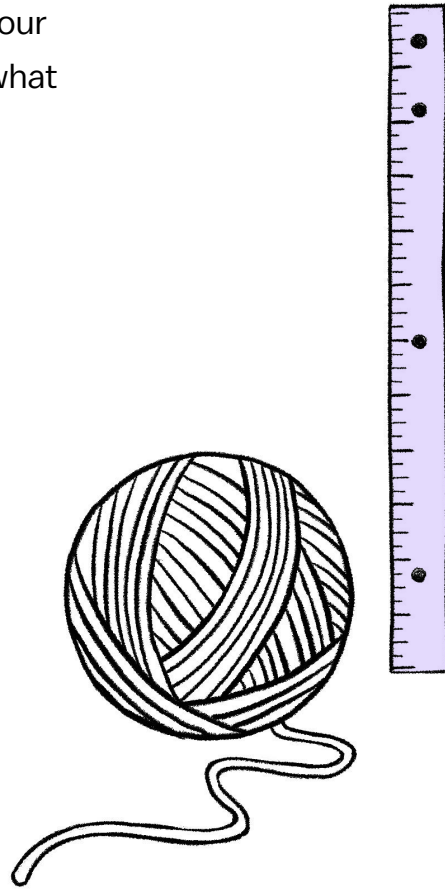
In this activity, you will see how big 6 feet really is by measuring things all around your home.

For the grown-ups:

This activity works on math, science, technology, and engineering. You can reinforce the lesson by noticing people on the street who are practicing social distancing.

Materials Needed:

- Measuring tape or ruler
- String
- Paper
- Something to write with
- Things to measure



Activity:

Using the measuring tape or ruler, measure and cut a string that is 6 feet long. Then start measuring things you find around your house! Lay the string flat on the floor. You can keep it from moving by holding the ends down with a book. Now that the string is straight and secure we can start measuring. Lay objects along the side of the string from end to end. Mark how many it took to get to 6 feet.

Extra Credit:

Now that we have a better understanding of what 6 feet looks like, invent something that you could wear that would place 6 feet between you and someone else.

Question Time!

- 1 How many toy blocks equal 6 feet?
- 2 How many of YOU equals 6 feet?
- 3 How many shoes?
- 4 How many of your favorite toy or pet?
- 5 Compare and contrast the different quantity needed of each item to equal 6 feet.

For second grade and up:

- 1 How many inches are in 6 feet?
- 2 How many centimeters?
- 3 Remeasuring each of the objects, how many inches and centimeters in each?

Make a Postcard!

On the Today, Explained podcast, we learned about how Corona (the coronavirus) has traveled from France and Brazil to Iran and Italy and so many places in between. Because Corona is so busy traveling right now, we're staying home. But we can go anywhere in our imagination!

In this activity, you will think about your favorite places, whether real or a place you invented or somewhere from your favorite books or TV shows, and share your adventures traveling there via a postcard!

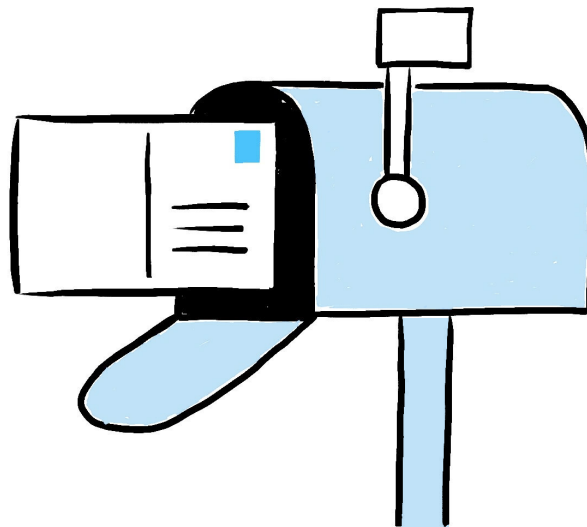
For the grown-ups:

These exercises help with literacy, fine-motor skills, math, and social-emotional well-being.

Materials Needed:

- Scissors
- Something to write with
- Crayons, pens, or pencils

Optional: envelope and stamp.



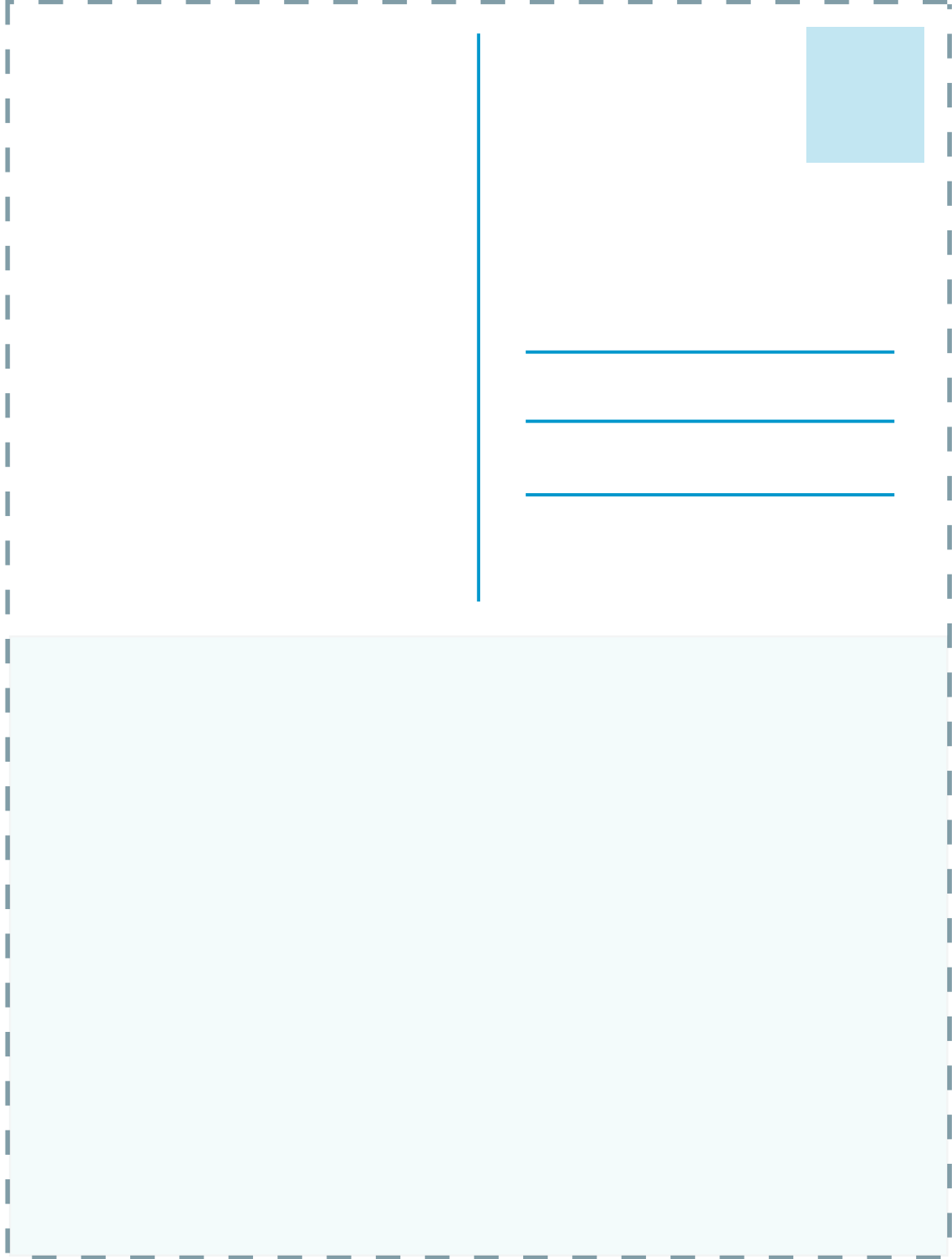
Before you get started, think of your favorite place.

- Is it near or far?
- Is it real or imaginary?
- What does it look like?
- What do you like to do there?
- What can you find there?
- Why do you like it?

Activity:

Let's make a postcard! A postcard is a thick piece of paper. The front has a picture or illustration of a location. The back has a place for you to tell a friend all about your trip. The back also has a spot you can put an address and a stamp so you can mail it.

Draw your favorite place in the rectangle below. When you are finished drawing, use scissors to cut out the rectangle.



On the back side of the paper, write a note to a friend, a family member, or to us here at Vox. Write about your favorite place and what you like to do there.

When you're all done get ready to mail it! If the paper is thin, place it in an envelope so that it is easier to mail. Remember, postcards are usually on thick paper. Now you will need the address to where it is going and a stamp. An adult can help you find the address so your letter makes it there. Or you can email a picture of both sides of your postcard to us at [todayexplained\(at\)vox\(dot\)com](mailto:todayexplained(at)vox(dot)com).

Materials Needed:

■ internet access or a detailed map

Extra Credit:

Let's learn more about your favorite place!

Using the internet or a detailed map, find out how many miles it is from you to your favorite place.

Is your place imaginary? No problem! Pick any place on Earth you'd really like to visit and measure that instead.

Question Time!

- 1 How long would it take for you to drive there?
- 2 How long would it take to fly there?
- 3 If you walk, could you do it in a day?

Snot Test

On Today, Explained, we learned that we wear masks to keep everyone safe from our germs. But what makes a good mask?

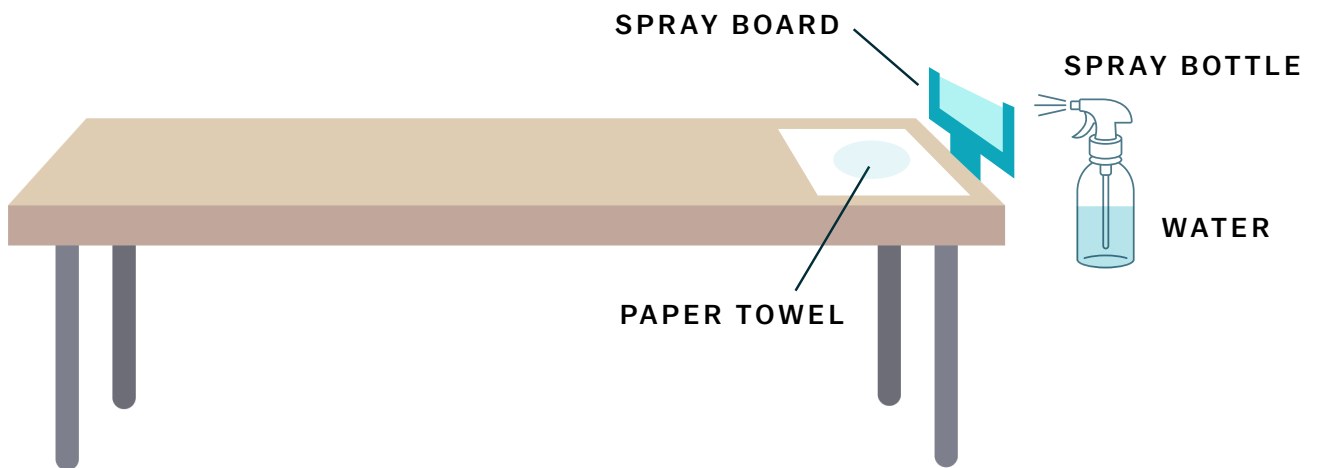
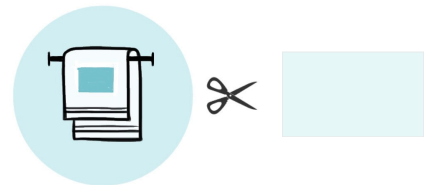
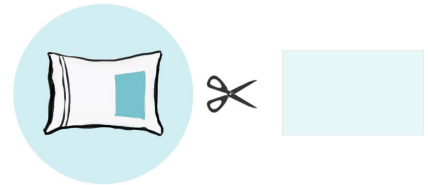
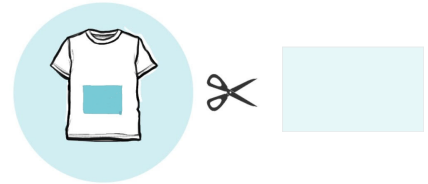
In this activity, we will conduct a “snot test” to see whether droplets can make it through different fabrics.

For the grown-ups:

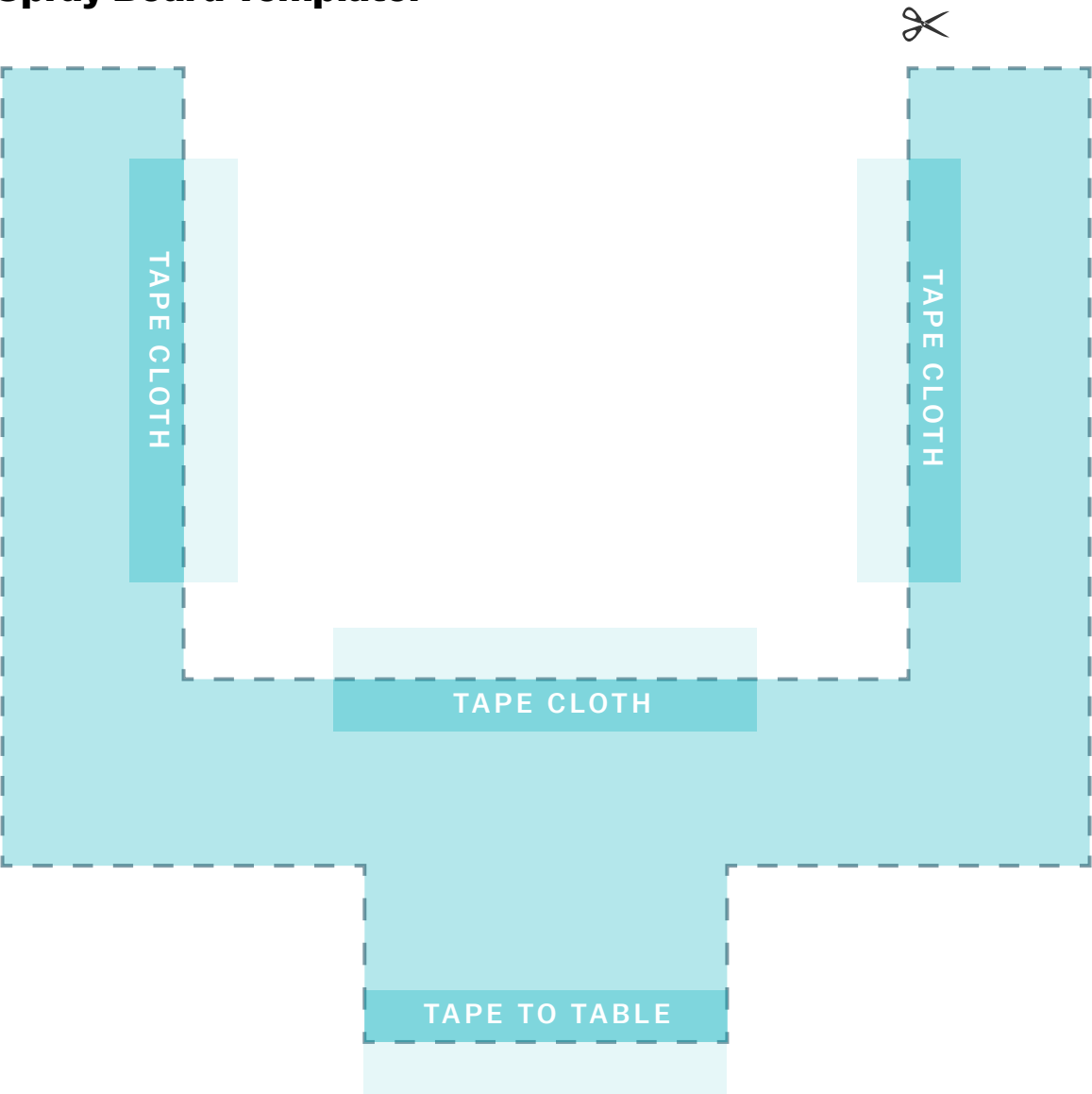
This activity covers math, science, and fine-motor skills.

Materials Needed:

- Spray bottle with water
- Cardboard
- Tape
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Old T-shirt
- Old pillowcase
- Old towel
- Tissues or paper towels



Spray Board Template:



Activity:

- Using the template above as a guide, trace an outline onto a piece of cardboard.
- Using scissors, cut out the template. (You may need to help younger children.)
- Measure a 3x5 rectangle on the shirt, the pillowcase, and the towel.
- Cut out the rectangles.
- Tape the piece of the shirt to the cardboard frame.
- Place a tissue or paper towel flat on the table on the other side of the frame.

Question Break!

1 What do you think will happen?

2 Why do you think that?

- With one piece of material secure, place the spray bottle about an inch away from the material and spray two times.
- Measure if any droplets made it through by touching the paper towel.
- Repeat the experiment for each material, changing the tissue or paper towel after each test.

Extra Credit:

- Circle the “spray zone” that landed on the tissue or paper towel.
- Measure and write down the diameter of the “spray zone.”
- Make sure that this piece of evidence includes the measured distance from the frame to the furthest droplet, as well as the type of material tested.

Answer the following after each experiment



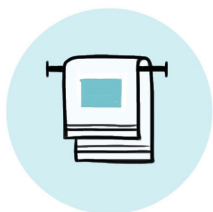
T-shirt

- What happened?
- Would this material make for a good mask?
- Would this material be easy to breathe through?



Pillowcase

- What happened?
- Would this material make for a good mask?
- Would this material be easy to breathe through?



Towel

- What happened?
- Would this material make for a good mask?
- Would this material be easy to breathe through?

Final Question!

Which material tested made for the best mask?

Maps!

On Today, Explained, we traveled to the Island of Explained, an island of knowledge. On the island, there are doors that open to all different kinds of places where we can find information, including a His-Tree and the cave of Batwai.

For the grown-ups:

This activity works on literacy, fine motor skills, and geography.

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers



Activity Part 1:

After listening to Today, Explained, discuss all the different landmarks and their purposes. Pull up the image of the map or print the map out and follow the path!

Question Time!

- 1 Where did Noam and Byrd go first?
- 2 Who did they meet?
- 3 What is a scroll?
- 4 What questions would you look for in the His-Tree?
- 5 Where did they go after the His-Tree?
- 6 Why is the cave called "Batwai"?
- 7 Who did they meet in the cave?
- 8 What happened at the end?

Activity Part 2: Discuss the purpose of a map.

- 1 Who uses maps?
- 2 What do maps tell us?
- 3 What are some different kinds of maps?
- 4 What do we find on a map?

Now that you know all about maps, let's make one!

Create a map of your home, room, or neighborhood. Make sure to include important landmarks and point out all the places you find out information. Do you have a His-Tree too?

Materials Needed:

- Shoebox or cardboard box
- Glue
- Scissors
- Various art materials

Extra Credit:

Let's create some 3D art! Do you know what a diorama is? A diorama is a fantastic way to illustrate a part of a story or environment. Think of it as a stage, one where you get to create the scene, add the props, and make the actors perform.

- First, create a setting. The bottom of the box is the backdrop and the opening is the front. Using art materials, make a drawing of what is happening in the background of the scene. Don't forget you can use the entire inside of the box to design your scenery.

Example: On the Island of Explained, you might see the water or trees in the background.

- Next, make the scene come to life with props. Props would be anything you would find in the setting.

Example: If you were creating the His-Tree, you may find scrolls on the ground.

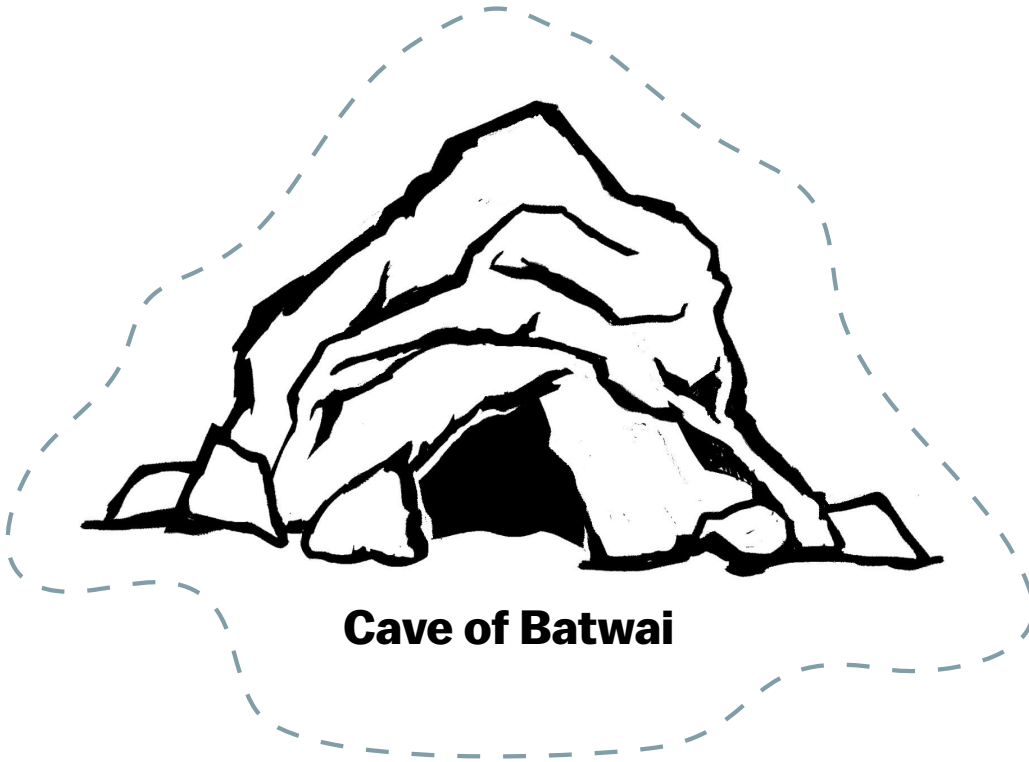
- Add the actors. Are you on the island? What other life might you find on an island? (palm trees? crabs?) Make the scene come alive with action.

Example: You could tape something to the "ceiling" of your box that would hang from a string and be part of the scene.

Today **Explained**
To Kids



The Histree Tree



Cave of Batwai



The Island of Explained

Today **Explained**
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