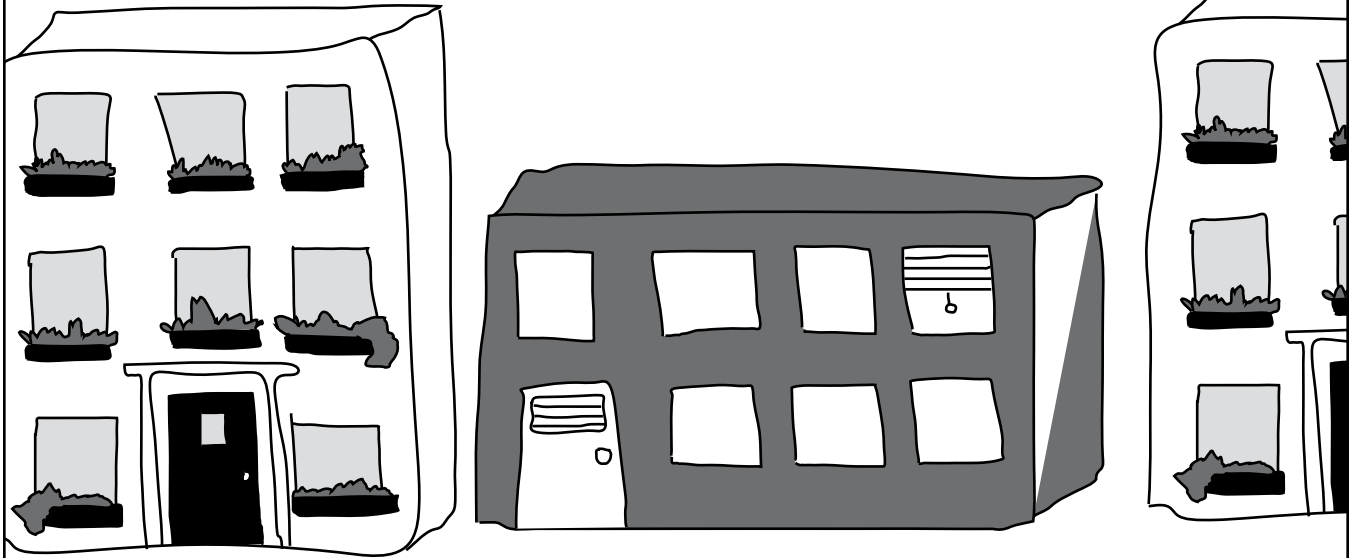


Mini Towns



You'll need:

- a selection of small, empty cardboard boxes (the variety cereal pack containers are the perfect size, or try stamp boxes or large-sized matchboxes)
- some white paint to use as undercoat
- a selection of coloured paints or drawing materials and/or a selection of assorted paper stocks (old wallpapers, wrapping paper, collage kits)
- paintbrushes and glue

Small, empty cardboard containers make the perfect shapes to create a whole series of miniature buildings, houses and shops. Once decorated, these can be added together to create villages, townships, or even cities. Kids can add to their collections on rainy/indoor days. First thing you need to do is eliminate all the advertising material probably covering your box. If your box is particularly glossy and shiny, you may need to give it a light sand with some sandpaper in order to make the paint stick. Using a thick, white paint (even old housepaint) completely cover all sides of your box, apart from the underside or base, which you can leave as is. Allow this paint to dry fully. If the advertising material is still visible once the paint has dried, give it another coat. (Do this as many times as necessary to give yourself a perfect white base to work upon). Now, using a range of painting and drawing material, children can decorate their boxes any way they wish. Get them to think about the proportions of the box and the type of house it could be most suited to. If you wanted to, you could do some research into period houses (e.g. Georgian, Regency, Tudor, Art Deco, Californian bungalow...) and decorate your box accordingly. There are some interesting paper stocks available in brick-type patterns which could be glued to your boxes, or even old wallpapers and wrapping paper can be glued on for things like curtains or decoration. If making more than one building, it is important to keep the proportions of things like windows and doors the same. Once you get several buildings created, they make great windowsill decorations which can also be played with and rearranged. Happy town planning!