

BAUHAUS BAG

Discover the Bauhaus sites
in Weimar



KLASSIK
STIFTUNG
WEIMAR

Dear Parents and Teachers,

We invite you and your children to accompany Felix Klee and Brigitte Marcks on a journey of discovery. As children of the well-known Bauhaus masters Paul Klee and Gerhard Marcks, Felix and Brigitte share their stories about the Bauhaus sites in Weimar and present interesting experiments at each station.

You can visit as many of these stations as you wish and in any order. Before you begin your tour, you can decide which stations you'd like to see first.

The Haus Hohe Pappeln is not part of the regular tour and can be visited without the rucksack (but with the booklet). Please note that adults and children over 16 are required to pay an entrance fee for the Haus Hohe Pappeln.

For children
ages 6 to 12

Up to five
children
can share
a rucksack

Entire tour takes
at least 2 ½ hours
(direct route:
ca. 2.5 km)

Lending desk:
Bauhaus Museum
Weimar

Some of the materials in the rucksack can be kept as souvenirs:

- visitor ID and megaphone (station 1)
- self-designed stairwell (station 4)
- mask (station 5)
- lamp (station 9)

Please make sure that all the other materials are inside the rucksack when you return it to the lending desk.

Hello!
I'm Felix



“I’m so happy we’re taking this tour of Weimar together! Brigitte and I are the children of artists who used to work in Weimar around 100 years ago – Paul Klee and Gerhard Marcks. They were teachers at a very special school called the “Bauhaus”. I was the youngest student ever to go there – I started classes when I was just 14. As you can imagine, I have lots of stories to tell you!”

And I'm
Brigitte



“I’m really looking forward to our tour! I’m not actually from Weimar – I’m from Dornburg. My father, the sculptor Gerhard Marcks, ran a ceramics workshop for the Bauhaus there. He told me a lot about Weimar. Now I can finally see everything for myself!”



To the left of the map, you can see the places we’re going to visit today. If you don’t have enough time, we can shorten the tour. At each station there’s a puzzle, game or experiment to do. You can find everything you need inside the rucksack. Are you ready? Then let’s go!

1

Theaterplatz

2 – 5

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

6

Tempelherrenhaus

7

The Park at the
Goethe Gartenhaus

8 + 9

Haus Am Horn

Extra

Haus Hohe Pappeln

(25-minute walk from
the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)



1 THEATERPLATZ

A stage for actors, politicians and you!

“Let me begin by showing you my favourite place in Weimar. I used to spend every free moment here. It wasn’t only a theatre for actors, it was a stage for politicians! But I’m getting ahead of myself! When the Bauhaus was founded on 1 April 1919 in Weimar, the First World War had just come to an end.”



“Everyone was fed up with emperors, kings and princes telling them what to do all the time. People wanted to have a say in the decision-making. That’s what we call a “democracy”. But setting up a democracy is no easy task! There were many different groups with radically different visions for the future. The situation was chaotic for several months – people demonstrated and clashed because everyone believed their own opinions were the best.”

“And that’s why the politicians assembled here in Weimar. It would have been much too dangerous to meet in a big city like Berlin. The politicians needed time and a calm atmosphere to negotiate with one another. In the end, they established Germany’s first democracy, the “Weimar Republic”.”



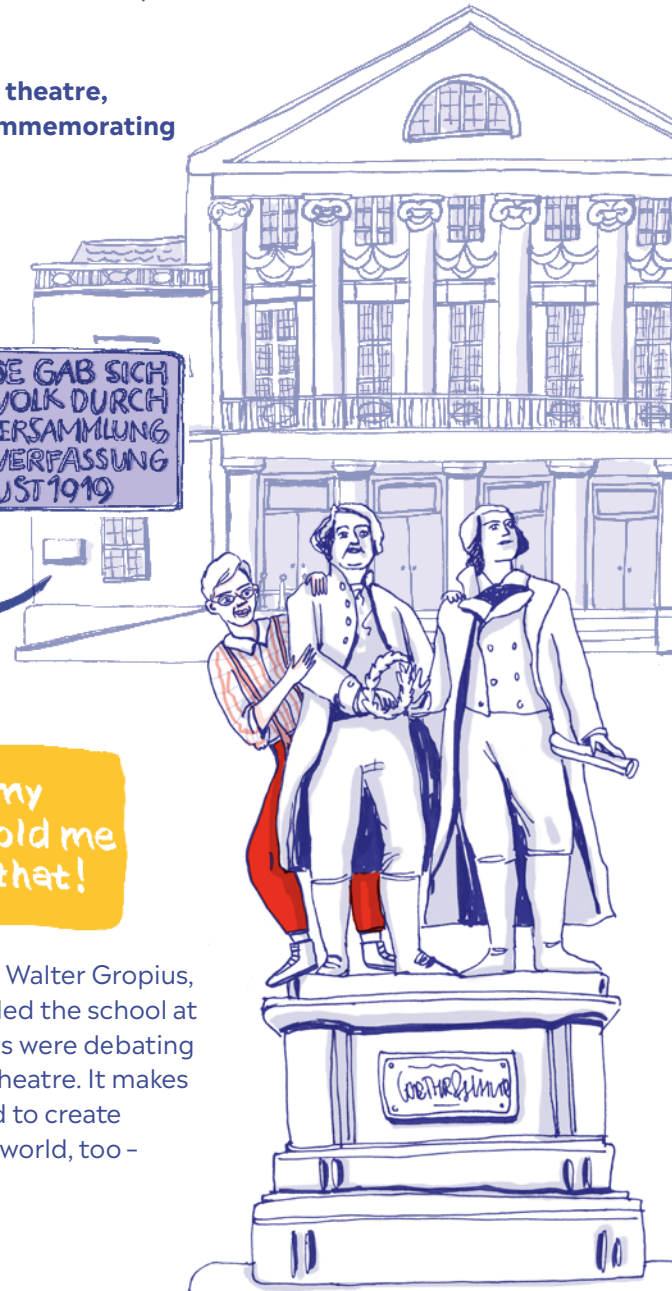
On the left side of the theatre, you’ll find a plaque commemorating this historic event.

IN DIESEM HAUSE GAB SICH
DAS DEUTSCHE VOLK DURCH
SEINE NATIONALVERSAMMLUNG
DIE WEIMARER VERFASSUNG
VOM 11. AUGUST 1919



Yeah, my father told me about that!

“The director of the Bauhaus, Walter Gropius, designed the plaque. He founded the school at the same time as the politicians were debating the future of Germany at the theatre. It makes sense, actually. Gropius wanted to create something new and shape the world, too – through art!”





I've also got lots of ideas for new and better things!



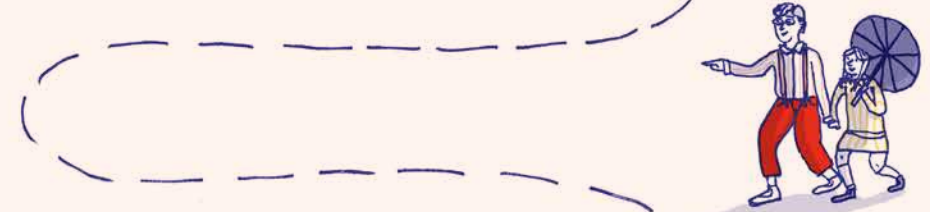
THE WAY TO THE BAUHAUS

Zeiten ändern sich

“At the Bauhaus we often had long discussions before we finally agreed on something. Come on, now I'll show you where we Bauhaus students learned and worked. Our building is still standing and is used as a university. Yet so much has changed over the past 100 years – it's incredible!”



Whew, it's not easy to agree on something, is it? But that's how democracy works.



Look inside your rucksack. You'll find pictures showing what the school used to look like. Once you put them in the right order, we'll arrive at the Bauhaus. Do you see how things have changed?

TIP! The map in this booklet and the reverse side of the pictures will help you find the way.



What about you?
What would you want to fight for? What would you name your group? Could you agree democratically?

Write your group's name and goals on the guest ID tag in the rucksack. Now take the megaphone and announce your plans in front of the theatre. Maybe you can convince other people of your ideas!

2 BAUHAUS-UNIVERSITÄT WEIMAR

A place for a school of the future

”Great, you found your way to the Bauhaus! I used to come here as a student every day, just like my father Paul Klee. He had his studio on the second floor. Now it’s a real university! I wonder if Gropius ever imagined this when he founded the school...”

”Actually, this used to be a school even before the Bauhaus was founded. Or rather, two schools – a school of arts and crafts and an art school. The artist Henry van de Velde came up with the idea – he built the building before the war and was responsible for running the school.”



”Putting these two schools together after the war was practical because Gropius didn’t have to start from scratch. Gropius and Van de Velde had a lot in common – for one, they believed that art and handicrafts belonged together. Art was not just about painting pictures – it was about creating and designing all sorts of things – rugs, chairs, teapots, even entire houses! The purpose of art was to make people’s life better and more beautiful. A great idea, right?”

”Looking at it from outside, you can see that Van de Velde had completely new ideas. Back then it wasn’t normal to build this way. Remember the theatre we just saw? It’s hard to believe that both buildings were built at around the same time. Now let’s find out what makes this building so modern!”



There are several pictures in your rucksack. Which ones can you find on the big, yellow building, and which ones don’t belong? Inspect the building carefully – even around the back. Why do you think Van de Velde used certain elements and decided against others?

3 THE SCHLEMMER STAIRCASE

The human factor

“Now let’s take a look at the corner building. That’s where I worked in the carpentry workshop. Every student at the Bauhaus had to learn a craft. There were also workshops for metalworking, glass, weaving and much more.”



“The only workshop not in Weimar was the ceramics workshop. It was located in Dornburg where my father worked as a ‘master of form’, which means he taught artistic design. There were always two masters for every Bauhaus workshop – a master of crafts and a master of form.”

Shh! You have to be quiet, so you don't disturb the students.



“Oskar Schlemmer was a Bauhaus master and became famous for his theatre work. He also painted a lot. Here you can see how he integrated the human factor into his work.”



“Did you notice that the figures on the wall have something to do with the staircase? There’s one standing at the bottom, and the others move up the stairs in different ways. They stroll, walk, dance and – whoops – one of them is tumbling down!”

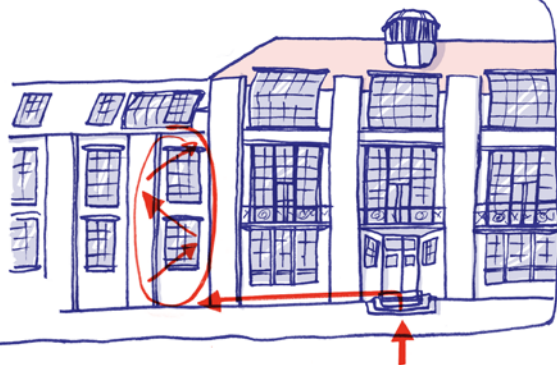
Look inside your rucksack. Place the figures on the pane and recreate the mural on the wall. Can you find a place where your design matches the mural when you look through the pane? Can you move your body like the figures do?



4 SIDE STAIRWELL

Colours and shapes – sounds and spaces

“Now let’s return to the main building. Inside we take a left and then we come to a side stairwell on the right.”



“We also studied colours and shapes. The painter Wassily Kandinsky asked us students how we would assign the basic colours, red, blue and yellow, to the basic forms, the triangle, circle and square. You can see the result here in this stairwell. Kandinsky also assigned different sounds to the colours and shapes. He connected the yellow triangle to a trumpet or the high notes of a flute, the blue circle was like a cello or deep bass tones. And the red circle sounded like something in between – like a tuba or drum. My classmate Herbert Beyer depicted this colour-shape concept here in this stairwell.”



“Yep, the blue circle rests quietly on the ground floor like a deep bass note. Let me guess – the red square is probably on the first floor. Come on, let’s check! The picture not only tells us we’re on the first floor. The writing and arrow point the way to the secretary’s office. And if we go all the way to the top, like the high notes of a flute, I bet we’ll find the yellow triangle. What do you think? Herbert Bayer made sure that you always know where you are. He combined beauty with something useful – a great idea!”

I wish I could design my own stairwell!



Design your own stairwell as a team. You’ll find everything you need in your rucksack – a picture of a stairwell and stickers. How do you want your stairwell to look? What will each floor sound like?

5 OUR OLD DINING HALL

The Bauhaus community – learning, eating and celebrating together!

“When you leave the side stairwell through the rear exit, you will be standing in a courtyard. This small building here used to be our dining hall. This is where we ate our meals together. After the war, food was sometimes scarce. Learning and working on an empty stomach is not very nice. That’s why food was very important to us. Some of the food they served in the cafeteria came from our own garden – different types of vegetables and fruit. It was normal for us to eat and hang out together – students and teachers alike. That made our work at school much more fun!”

Admit it, Felix,
you liked the
parties the best!

“My father told me you threw parties for every occasion. In the autumn, there was a kite festival, lantern festivals and every other kind of celebration.”

“Yes, you’re right, our parties were important and truly unforgettable. In fact, they were the best! We always found new reasons to have a party. We often paraded around town, playing music and wearing masks and costumes that we made ourselves. Unfortunately, the residents in Weimar didn’t share our enthusiasm. They thought we were a bunch of lunatics!”



Today we have a good reason to celebrate – because you’re here! Let’s get dressed up and parade through the park! You’ll find everything you need in the rucksack. Once you’ve finished your masks, we can be on our way...

6 TEMPELHERRENHAUS

Learning in nature

”It’s hard to believe you worked in the middle of a park! Having classes in nature – I would love that! During the Second World War, the bombs not only destroyed the city, but also this part of the park. Although the Tempelherrenhaus is now a ruin, it used to be a splendid building. The Bauhaus master Johannes Itten had his studio here. A special place for an extraordinary person!”

”Indeed many people thought he was a strange fellow! With his long robe, shaven head and golden spectacles, he looked like a monk. But that didn’t bother us because we learned so much from him! We were in his preliminary course three times a week. All the Bauhaus students had to take this basic course where they learned everything about colours, forms and materials. We drew people, did nature studies and examined old masterpieces. We also did really crazy exercises. To clear our heads and limber up, we did breathing and movement exercises. Sometimes we painted music and feelings, and even had to draw with both hands at the same time. It might sound funny, but it stimulated our imagination. Even the quietest, shyest students blossomed!”



In the rucksack you will find sticks and Velcro strips. Take a stick in each hand and draw a face (or other shapes) in the sand with both hands at the same time.

Do you want to construct a gigantic drawing machine? Then attach yourselves together with the Velcro strips and try drawing with the sticks together!

Can you draw spirals – or stars?



7 THE PARK AT THE GOETHE GARTENHAUS

Looking at the park and nature from a different angle

“Now we continue over the Ilm River to the other side of the park. This is the same path I took with my father to school every day. When we didn’t walk together, we left little pictures in the sand for each other, just like you did as drawing machines.”



“That’s right! Many masters at the Bauhaus were famous artists and each one had his own way of painting pictures. It was great for us students because we were introduced to a whole range of ideas.”



“I bet you discovered a lot of things in nature. Your father was a keen observer – he didn’t miss a beetle or tiny plant. Funny thing is that he never painted the park as it looks in real life. You can’t really identify any shapes – just colourful autumn colours. And his colleague, the artist Lyonel Feininger, painted nature in a totally different way.”

“My father was interested in colours, and Lyonel Feininger was all about forms. Feininger often took his bike on trips around the area and painted scenes that fascinated him. But don’t assume that you can recognise what he painted at first glance! Many of his paintings look as if he saw the world through the eyes of a fly.”



Using the “fly eye” in your rucksack, you can see what that looks like. When you look at the park through the lens, the image is quite similar to Feininger’s paintings. Do you have a camera with you? Place the fly eye in front of your camera lens and take your own pictures.



8 HAUS AM HORN

Our experimental house in the garden

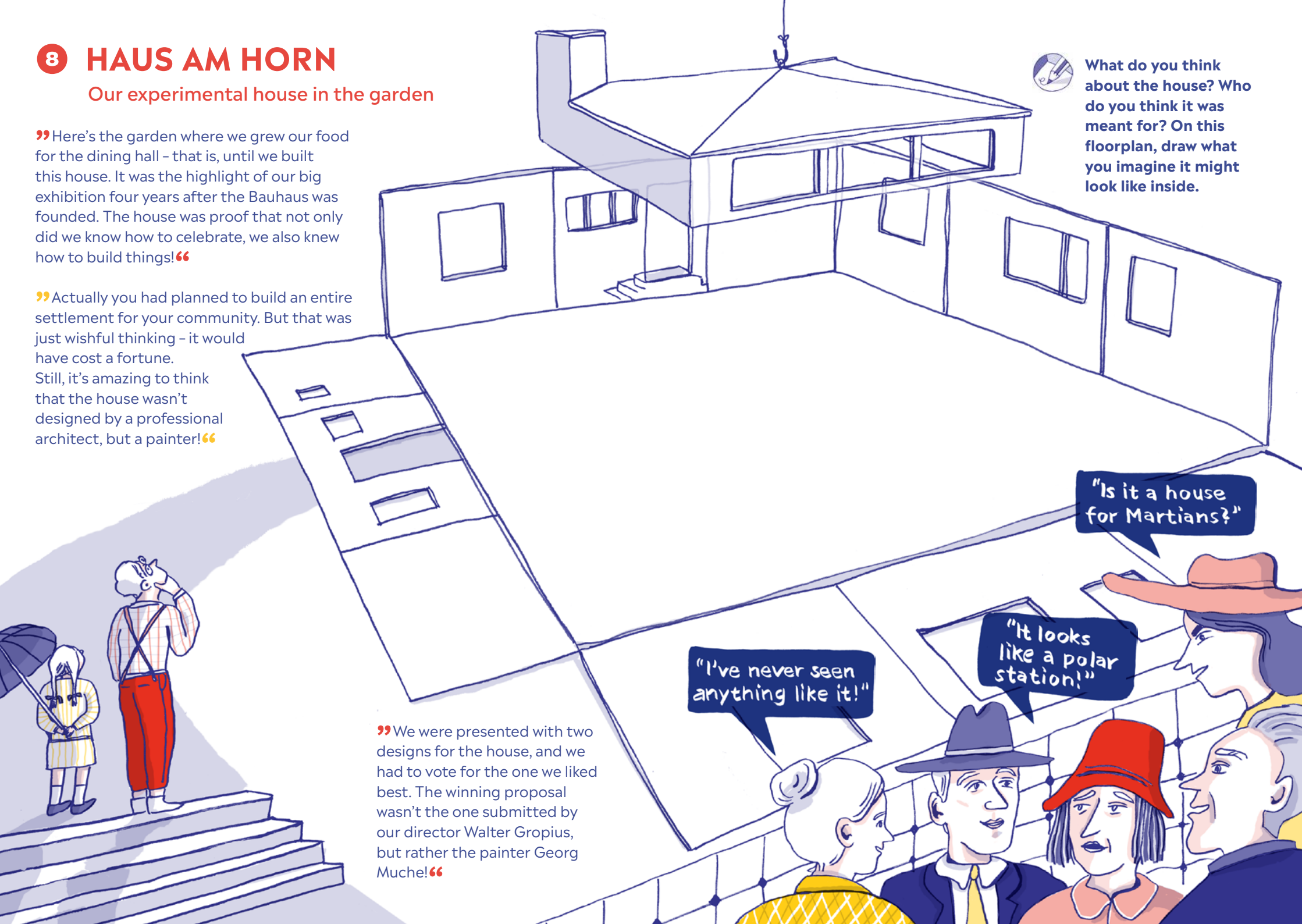
“Here’s the garden where we grew our food for the dining hall – that is, until we built this house. It was the highlight of our big exhibition four years after the Bauhaus was founded. The house was proof that not only did we know how to celebrate, we also knew how to build things!”

“Actually you had planned to build an entire settlement for your community. But that was just wishful thinking – it would have cost a fortune. Still, it’s amazing to think that the house wasn’t designed by a professional architect, but a painter!”

“We were presented with two designs for the house, and we had to vote for the one we liked best. The winning proposal wasn’t the one submitted by our director Walter Gropius, but rather the painter Georg Muche!”



What do you think about the house? Who do you think it was meant for? On this floorplan, draw what you imagine it might look like inside.



9 HAUS AM HORN

The ideal house

This home was built for a four-person family.

“We equipped the house with the most modern materials and appliances, such as a coffee machine, hairdryer and vacuum cleaner. Even radiators and electricity were still a luxury back then. Have you noticed the different lamps? We designed them all ourselves!”



Try designing your own lamp! You'll find instructions and the materials you need in the rucksack.

“Is this what you expected? This is how we imagined modern life. The living room was the centre of family life in the house. It was the nicest place – with lots of light and space where you can feel right at home. Everything was designed to make life easier and more beautiful, but without the unnecessary frills. This is most obvious in the kitchen. It seems very small, but everything is in reach. And when the meal is ready, you can serve it piping hot in the dining room next door. Quite practical!”

“And you designed everything yourselves! At your big exhibition, you presented the latest works from each workshop – woven rugs, furniture, and even a sugar bowl from my father's ceramics workshop – everything Bauhaus. One gigantic artwork!”

I have to go now and feed my cat.

Thanks for coming along, Felix!

“Will you walk with me to the Haus Hohe Pappeln? All you need is a pencil and paper. You can also return your rucksack. If you don't have enough time today, maybe we can meet again another day?”



EXTRA HAUS HOHE PAPPELN

An artist's dream house

”Do you remember Henry van de Velde? We met him at the Bauhaus-Universität. Now we're going to visit his home which he personally designed from top to bottom – even the furniture and garden.

When it was built, this house was just as modern as the Haus Am Horn was twenty years later. Both buildings have much in common despite how different they look. Have you noticed all the corners, edges and niches? It's because of the arrangement of the rooms. Van de Velde thought very carefully about which rooms the family needed and where they should be located in the house.

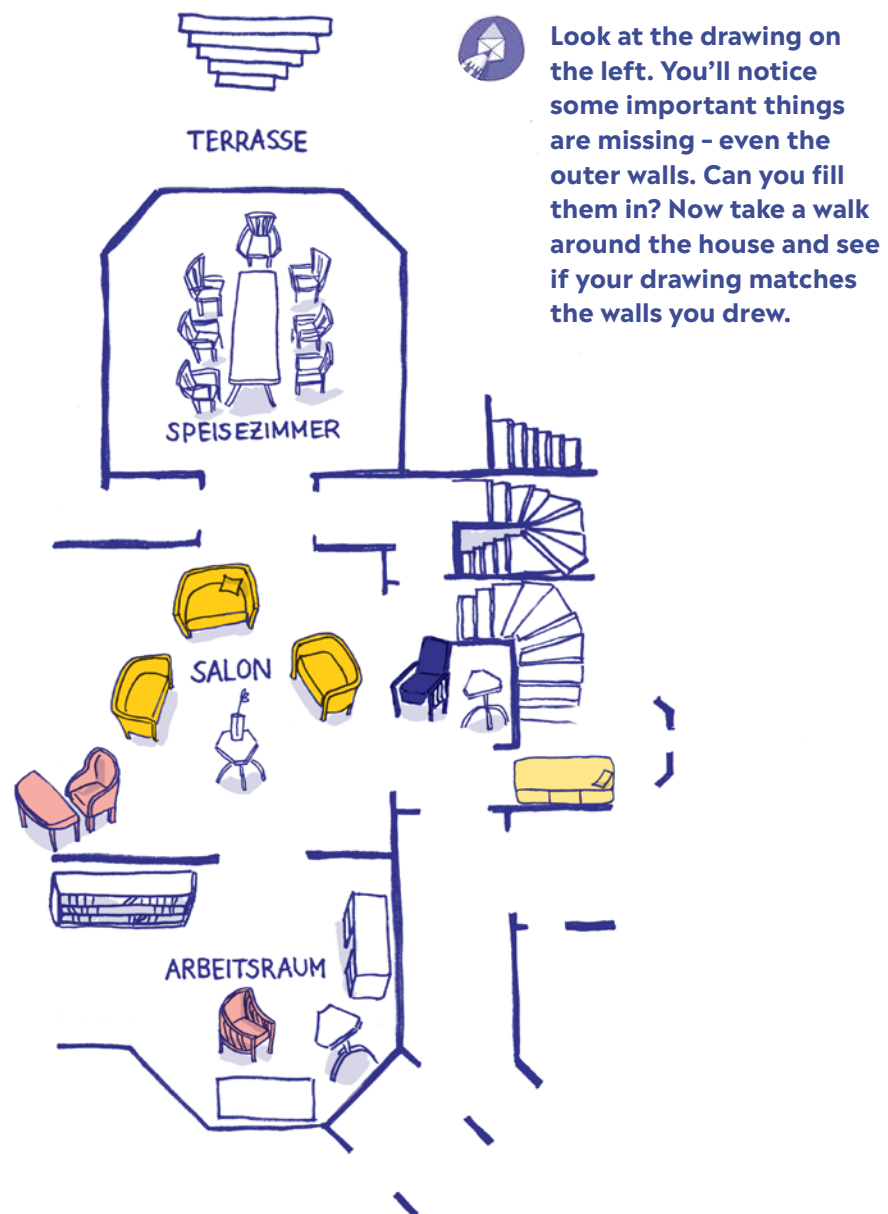
And then he wrapped the facade around it like a layer of skin. It was very important to him that everything was elegant and practical. And because he needed peace and quiet to work, he designed a playroom on the ground floor for his five children. There they could make noise and run out into the garden without disturbing anyone.



The bedrooms and bathroom are upstairs. But visitors are not allowed up there – those are private rooms.

Like the Haus Am Horn, the living room is also the centre of the house. When you open the big doors, you feel like you're standing in one bright, enormous room. And no matter which window you look through, you always have a nice view of nature.“





Look at the drawing on the left. You'll notice some important things are missing - even the outer walls. Can you fill them in? Now take a walk around the house and see if your drawing matches the walls you drew.



It was so nice meeting you!
Now you're a true expert
on the Bauhaus and
modernism in Weimar!

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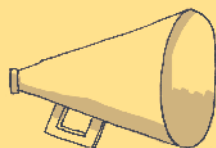
Staatskanzlei

100 years of
bauhaus

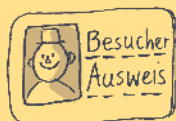
These materials are inside your rucksack:



Pencils and
coloured
pencils



Megaphone



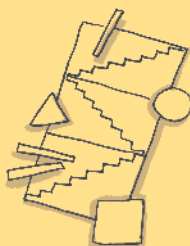
Visitor ID



Historical photos



Mask



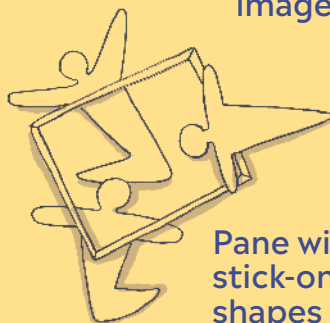
Stickers
and back-
grounds



Mystery
images



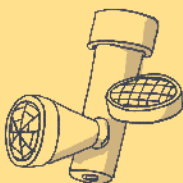
Washi tapes



Pane with
stick-on
shapes



Drawing stick
and Velcro
tape



Fly eye and
other lenses



Lamp-
making kit

