

# Arcadia

## A Guide To Our 'Play By Mail' Activities



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# Introduction

Thanks for your interest in Arcadia and our unique 'Play By Mail' activities. This pamphlet will introduce you to the concept of mail and email based activities, how participants can benefit from them and how to arrange a tailor-made project for your organisation.

Arcadia has many years of experience in project management, specialising in the fields of music, simulation and role play aimed at all ages and capabilities from babies to barristers! As well as these activities, the proprietor is a published author and a recognised and well regarded exponent of educational materials within the gaming industry both in this country, the US and through Europe.

As an organisation, Arcadia has been favourably reviewed by the Times Educational Supplement, is an award-winning member of UK Youth (part of the NgFL) and has had the Sheriff of Nottingham as patron along with the star of the roleplaying industry Mr. Gary Gygax (inventor of 'Dungeons and Dragons'). One of our systems is used as an example of an effective educational storytelling structure by Hong Kong University and we regularly receive favourable reviews. Arcadia is ranked as one of the top projects of our genre on search engines like Google and Yahoo.

We are proud to be able to offer one of the most ecologically and ethically sound services possible, through conviction and forward planning we can promise maximum inclusivity and minimum impact on the environment. Funds required are constantly reviewed, leading to a very cost-effective activity.

Active users of Arcadia educational activities from all over the world are gaining real personal and social benefits from our programmes while taking part in an absorbing pastime; why not see what we can do for you?



# What's A 'Play By Mail' Activity?

First, don't let the word 'play' distract you from the fact that these projects are important and powerful learning and training tools! Using the constant reinforcement and interaction commonly found in game systems, our 'Play By Mail' and 'Play By Email' activities seamlessly combine an absorbing activity with supported skills and personal development.

PBM (Play By Mail) activities take place through the traditional postal services. Each participant, or group of participants, will be in charge of a 'CHARACTER' in a story or setting. A START UP pack will enclose all the necessary information to personalise him or her (or it!) to add depth to the plot. Also in the start up pack will be a file to compile the story as it happens, leading to a personalised piece of fiction with a purpose, a 'fable' of sorts, for the player to keep. The last item in the start up pack is the 'TURN SHEET', which is the basis of the activity.

Each 'TURN SHEET' has the information about the PLOT rather than the character. On this sheet the players will find out how many game turns they have taken, where they are, who they are with, what they can see, smell etc.; space is included on the sheet to react against the challenges surrounding them, move to new areas and / or look after themselves and their allies.

These turn sheets are filled in and returned weekly to Arcadia, along with the character sheets containing this turn's instructions for each character in the story. Arcadia then processes each action by hand, using their in-house rules system which simulates skill and luck in real-life situations. Once the character's actions, successes and failures have been determined, the information is mailed back to the players and the cycle continues.

Through the course of the story or challenge, the objective of the activity (whether it's learning to cross the road, be safe with strangers, advancement in customer service skills or just fun!) is presented and reinforced to each participant by pitting them against relevant individual and communal challenges.

This deceptively effective way of reinforcing information can be used in an almost infinite variety of ways and difficulties, including PBEM (play by email), which has a daily (rather than weekly) turnaround.

# What Benefits Are There In Arranging A PLAY BY MAIL Activity For My Group?

There are many benefits linked both directly and indirectly with participation in activities such as this and the other activities provided by Arcadia...

BUILDS SOCIAL SKILLS  
ENCOURAGES CO-OPERATION  
IMPROVES PLANNING CAPABILITIES  
IMPROVES ATTENTION SPAN  
IMPROVES OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS  
ENCOURAGES FAIR PLAY THROUGH INTERACTION  
TEACHES THROUGH PLAY AT ANY AGE  
ENCOURAGES READING SKILLS  
INSPIRES INDIVIDUAL LEARNING OF MANY CURRICULUM SUBJECTS  
DEVELOPS MATH SKILLS  
INSPIRES THE IMAGINATION  
GAMES LAST AS LONG AS YOU WISH  
OPT IN /OUT AT ANY TIME  
STRUCTURE OF A GAME COUPLED WITH BOUNDLESS LIMITS OF THE IMAGINATION  
IMPROVES PROBLEM SOLVING ABILITIES  
FROM TWO TO HUNDREDS OF PLAYERS!  
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS, OLD AND YOUNG – NO BOUNDARIES  
TOTALLY CUSTOMISABLE TO INCORPORATE ANY TOPIC OR SUBJECT

*Arcadia*

# I Like The Idea... Does Arcadia Provide Any Other Activities?

YES! Please ask for a copy of any of our brochures, listed below.

**ARCADIA - OUR SERVICES**

**INTRODUCING STORYSMITH**

**A GUIDE TO OUR 'PLAY BY MAIL' ACTIVITIES**

**A GUIDE TO MUSIC MAKER 101**

**INTRODUCING STORYSMITH LIVE!**



## How Do I Arrange An Activity With Arcadia?

Arranging any of our activities couldn't be more simple!  
Just drop us a line -

Email [pete@arcadiacasting.co.uk](mailto:pete@arcadiacasting.co.uk)

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Sneinton Dale,  
Nottingham  
NG3 7DP

Please give us an idea of the type of organisation you are involved with and some contact details; we will contact you shortly with a few basic questions regarding requirements and funding. The activity can be personalised and ready to go within ten working days.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN *Arcadia*

