

TITLE

The Renaissance Art of Murder

PROJECT

TIME DIVE

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PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print all pages in A4 format, in color
2. **Gossips** - print **one-sided**, then cut along the lines
3. **Character Cards** - print **double-sided**, then fold each paper sheet into a booklet



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Co-funded by the European Union, Erasmus+ Program, project nr. 2022-3-PL01-KA210-YOU-000099710



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Notes:

Jan Chojeński

Bishop of Kraków



Jan Chojeński

Bishop of Kraków

Jan Chojeński is the Bishop of Kraków, the head of the Kraków Catholic Church. He believes that religion should have a leading role in the politics of the Kingdom of Poland. He received the prestigious position of bishop after years of faithful service to the King.

The bishop is frequently in the most distinguished company of wealthy and respected people. He does not shy away from alcohol and parties. He is eager to speak in public discussions, especially about painting and architecture – he boasts about having graduated from the respected Siena University and of having amassed an art collection that testifies to his good taste. Thanks to his position and connections, he has a powerful political and social influence.

Jan knew Berecci quite well. They met at the royal court, as they both worked at the castle. They became friends through their common interests: art and philosophy. However, they quarrelled after Jan repeatedly pointed out the unoriginality of Berecci's work, which did not please the architect, who was confident in his skills.

2

ACTIONS:

you may use each of the 6 actions once,
after a +1 Action, you draw another card



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY

+1



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY

+1



GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON

+1



GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON

+1



DESTROY



GIVE IT
TO THE KING

CHARACTER TRAITS:

which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?

arrogant

greedy

bigoted

3

Notes:

Seweryn Boner

Royal banker



Seweryn Boner

Royal banker

Seweryn Boner is a wealthy entrepreneur. He came from an aristocratic family – he inherited "only" 4,000 florins from his father. However, he became a royal banker and turned his business into a wealthy company, which allowed him to gain further prestigious roles. He is now increasing his wealth by investing the money he earns in further investments.

At court, he is a member of the pro-Habsburg faction – opposed to the rule of Queen Bona. He doesn't value Italian culture and politics, but he is putting on the pedestal the achievements of German culture.

In public opinion, he was always considered a good husband and father. He spared no expense with dowries for his daughters. He married them off well, thus linking his family to distinguished noble families.

Seweryn was a close associate of Berecci. As governor financing the construction he imposed his ideas – sometimes very far from the Italian architect's vision. There was often conflict between them.

2

ACTIONS:

you may use each of the 6 actions once,
after a +1 Action, you draw another card



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY +1



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY +1



GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON +1



GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON +1



DESTROY



GIVE IT
TO THE KING

CHARACTER TRAITS:

which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?

greedy

arrogant

fearful

3

Notes:

Jakub Percec

Book merchant



Jakub Perec

Book merchant

Jakub Perec is a Jewish merchant trading books between Kraków and Florence. His aim is to change the Polish book market by promoting Italian literature – more liberal and modern.

He lives in Kazimierz, an independent town south of Krakow where two cultures, Polish and Jewish, coexist. He has a son who is very interested in medicine, but cannot go to university because of his Jewish background.

He is regarded as an extremely intelligent man. He knows several foreign languages and, like every person brought up in Jewish culture, he can write and read. Thanks to these skills and his professionalism, he was able to win over people – he's often invited to court social gatherings, he actively participates in the social and political life of Kraków. He is, however, sometimes criticised by the Jewish community for his affinity with the Catholic high society.

Jakub secretly helped Berecci import architectural plans from Florence so that the architect could apply them to his designs.

2

ACTIONS:

**you may use each of the 6 actions once,
after a +1 Action, you draw another card**



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY

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ANNOUNCE
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GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON

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GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON

+1



DESTROY



GIVE IT
TO THE KING

CHARACTER TRAITS:

**which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?**

well-read

tricky

compliant

3

Notes:

Francesca San Savino

Painter, formerly a lady of the court of Queen



Francesca San Savino

**Painter,
formerly a lady of the court of Queen**

Francesca is the daughter of a little-known painter from Milan. Inspired by her father's craft, she learned the basics of painting from him. She also has extensive theoretical knowledge of art history, contemporary trends and dresses according to French fashion. She also speaks several languages and plays the piano masterfully. However, she could not finish her studies because of her gender. Thanks to her talent and family wealth, she became a lady of the court of Bona Sforza, the future queen of Poland, with whom she moved to Kraków.

There she married a Polish nobleman, Henryk Branicki, as a result of which she left the queen's court. However, she remained Bona's court painter, eagerly welcomed at the castle and invited to social gatherings.

Francesca travelled frequently to Italy, maintaining contact with her family and the Milanese artistic community. She brings many things back to Poland: delicacies, the latest news and the hottest gossip. She is considered fashionable, well-read and a trendsetter at court.

Thanks to her interests, social standing and education, she befriended Berecci.

2

ACTIONS:

**you may use each of the 6 actions once,
after a +1 Action, you draw another card**



**ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY +1**



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PUBLICLY +1**



**GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON +1**



**GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON +1**



DESTROY



**GIVE IT
TO THE KING**

CHARACTER TRAITS:

**which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?**

independent

intelligent

naive

3

Notes:

Doroŭa Czarnowoyska

Berecci's widow



Dorota Czarnowoyska

Berecci's widow

Dorota comes from the noble Czarnowoyski family. It is a well-known and respected family, but its wealth is shrinking at an alarming rate. Dorota therefore wanted to marry rich.

She was Berecci's second wife. Apparently it was a peaceful, consensual marriage. People who saw them together still praise their relationship to this day. Dorota was seen as an exemplary wife and mother of two daughters, busy primarily caring for her home and family. Although she was never involved in the financial sphere, she was interested in her husband's work, from which she learned a lot about architecture.

Despite the shock and grief of losing her spouse, she tries to remain calm. In an attempt to cope with her difficult situation, she has fallen into a religious spiral: she fasts and spends whole days in church, sometimes forgetting her duties. She widely boasts of her pious lifestyle, reproaching others for their sins – something that displeases many in her company.

2

ACTIONS:

you may use each of the 6 actions once,
after a +1 Action, you draw another card



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY +1



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY +1



GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON +1



GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON +1



DESTROY



GIVE IT
TO THE KING

CHARACTER TRAITS:

which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?

bigoted

caring

possessive

3

Notes:

Andrzej Glaber

Professor at the Kraków Academy



Andrzej Glaber

Professor at the Kraków Academy

Andrzej Glaber is a professor at the Kraków Academy, a priest, an astrologer, a translator, and an author of medical treatises. He actively advocates the dissemination of knowledge regardless of wealth or gender. He believes in freedom of scientific and social activity; he is a defender of the rights of the common people, both men and women.

In addition to teaching, he also organises meetings of a group of students interested in astrology. He is regarded as an open-minded professor, dedicated to science and ideas.

Glaber did not have a close relationship with Berecci, although they sometimes had disputes in the scientific field. As a Cracovian priest, he was interested in the sacred work of the architect, while as an academic professor he felt entitled to criticise the waste of royal property on the rich ornamentation of the castle.

2

ACTIONS:

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after a +1 Action, you draw another card**



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PUBLICLY

+1



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY

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GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON

+1



GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON

+1



DESTROY



GIVE IT
TO THE KING

CHARACTER TRAITS:

**which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?**

inquisitive

shy

perverse

3

Notes:

Mikołaj Castiglione

Construction entrepreneur



Mikołaj Castiglione

Construction entrepreneur

Mikołaj Castiglione was a Florentine stonemason, as well as a notorious loan shark and residential tenant known for his greed. He came to Kraków from Hungary, where he made himself many debtors. As a reward for his diligence while working on the Wawel Castle he was given land by the king, on which he set up his own brickworks. As he is well acquainted with the latest trends in architecture and has considerable experience in working with artists, he quickly became known as the most popular brick merchant in the area.

The man feels comfortable in Poland. He married a Polish woman named Zofia and also uses a polonised version of his Italian name.

Mikołaj Castiglione was a regular associate of Berecci's, but they never became friends. The entrepreneur's stinginess and his characteristic lack of manners repelled the Italian architect. Had it not been for his industriousness, Berecci would certainly have omitted him from his businesses.

2

ACTIONS:

**you may use each of the 6 actions once,
after a +1 Action, you draw another card**



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY

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GIVE IT TO
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+1



DESTROY



GIVE IT
TO THE KING

CHARACTER TRAITS:

**which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?**

ambitious

impulsive

stingy

3

Notes:

Jadwiga Birschenke

Innkeeper, widow



Jadwiga Birschenke

innkeeper, widow

Jadwiga is a middle-aged Cracovian townfolk. She comes from the royal city, but due to her German roots she was married to the merchant Johannes Birschenke, the owner of a popular tavern near Wawel Castle.

She was always happy to help her husband in his trade. As she was childless she had more time to work. Five years ago, her husband died, so she took over his estate, including the inn – legally, as a widow, she can manage the finances. She is also a member of the Kraków brewers' guild, an association of craftsmen specialising in this field. She is therefore financially independent and enjoys the relative respect of the townspeople.

Her tavern was favoured by wealthy merchants and courtiers, often arriving from southern Europe. She often hosted Italian artists in her tavern. Thanks to her knowledge of their language, she was able to have short conversations with them.

When she had financial problems following the death of her husband, she borrowed money from several of the tavern's wealthier regulars. Among them was Berecci.

2

ACTIONS:

**you may use each of the 6 actions once,
after a +1 Action, you draw another card**



**ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY**

+1



**ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY**

+1



**GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON**

+1



**GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON**

+1



DESTROY



**GIVE IT
TO THE KING**

CHARACTER TRAITS:

**which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?**

kind

resourceful

arrogant

3

Notes:

Regina Bogusław

Prioress of the sisterhood, doctor



Regina Bogusław

Prioress of the sisterhood, doctor

Sister Regina is a senior nun, the prioress of the Benedictine sisterhood at St. Adalbert's Abbey in nearby Zwierzyniec, where she is responsible for most decisions. She is known as a confident, somewhat reserved and conservative person. Because of her life experience, status and knowledge, she is widely respected in the circles of the Kraków Catholic Church. However, her sharp tongue and austerity also instill fear among the common people.

The Benedictines are known for their educational and charitable work, including running schools for girls and caring for the sick. Sister Regina has extensive medical knowledge and has saved more than one life. She has been learning from older nuns since her youth, read medical books and honed her knowledge in practice, keeping in touch with the latest medical developments. She has also been growing medicinal herbs for years, to which only a few people authorised by her have access.

Regina looked after one of Berecci's daughters when she fell ill as a child. This is how she met the famous architect.

2

ACTIONS:

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after a +1 Action, you draw another card**



**ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY**

+1



**ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY**

+1



**GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON**

+1



**GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON**

+1



DESTROY



**GIVE IT
TO THE KING**

CHARACTER TRAITS:

**which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?**

strict

god-fearing

intelligent

3

Notes:

Joanna Maciejewska

Nun, teacher



Joanna Maciejewska

Nun, teacher

Joanna Maciejewska is a young nun of the Benedictine congregation from Zwierzyniec near Kraków. She comes from a family of poorer nobility. Despite her education, beauty and desire to start a family, she was consigned to a sisterhood because her family did not have enough money for the dowry necessary for marriage. Only her older sister managed to marry.

The Benedictines are known for their educational and charitable work, including running schools for girls and caring for the sick. Joanna has completed many courses, making her exceptionally well educated – for a woman of her time. So she is involved in teaching girls, both poor townfolk women and noblewomen. She also helps to run the sisterhood library. She is an extremely busy person.

She is fluent in Italian, so she often runs errands outside the monastery. She recently commissioned a statue of the Virgin Mary from Berecci to be erected in the main hall of the monastery.

2

ACTIONS:

**you may use each of the 6 actions once,
after a +1 Action, you draw another card**



**ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY**

+1



**ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY**

+1



**GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON**

+1



**GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON**

+1



DESTROY



**GIVE IT
TO THE KING**

CHARACTER TRAITS:

**which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?**

two-faced

sensitive

light-hearted

3

**Łatwa w druku wersja
angielska**

Jan Chojeński is the Bishop of Kraków, the head of the Kraków Catholic Church. He believes that religion should have a leading role in the politics of the Kingdom of Poland. He received the prestigious position of bishop after years of faithful service to the King.

The bishop is frequently in the most distinguished company of wealthy and respected people. He does not shy away from alcohol and parties. He is eager to speak in public discussions, especially about painting and architecture – he boasts about having graduated from the respected Siena University and of having amassed an art collection that testifies to his good taste. Thanks to his position and connections, he has a powerful political and social influence.

Jan knew Berecci quite well. They met at the royal court, as they both worked at the castle. They became friends through their common interests: art and philosophy. However, they quarrelled after Jan repeatedly pointed out the unoriginality of Berecci's work, which did not please the architect, who was confident in his skills.

Jan Chojeński

bishop of Kraków

ACTION

**you may only use each of the 6 Actions once,
after a +1 Action, you draw another card**



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY +1



ANNOUNCE
PUBLICLY +1



GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON +1



GIVE IT TO
ANOTHER PERSON +1



DESTROY



GIVE IT
TO THE KING

CHARACTER TRAITS:

**which of the proposed characteristics
best reflect the nature of your character?**

arrogant

bigoted

greedy

Jan did not allow ordinary Cracovians to confession. Only a nobleman or a rich man had the chance to confess his sins to the bishop.

Rumour has it that Jan strongly criticised Berrecci's decision on how to finish the roof of the chapel commissioned by King Sigismund. According to him, gold alone does not emphasise the prestige of the monarch enough.

Other priests recalled that extra bottles of mass wine disappeared after masses celebrated by Jan.

During one of the balls, Berecci said that, according to his friend, Jan had been expelled from the university, which undermined the bishop's status and credibility. In addition, Jan never showed his diploma from the Italian university to anyone.

Soon after making a large donation to the church, Jan's art collection grew. Some say he had a habit of pocketing some of the donated money.

Those working at the castle saw Jan shouting at one of court lady when she recalled a recent conflict between Jan and Berecci the day after the murder.

Seweryn invited his Italian companions to his daughter's wedding. However, they did not turn up, reportedly not understanding his message, despite **Seweryn** often boasting of his excellent knowledge of other languages...

Seweryn prefers South German art and architecture to Florentine. He often criticised Berecci's style, asking the architect to change something in his design to emulate German art.

Someone overheard that a young nobleman had insulted **Seweryn** at a feast last month, exposing his ignorance of architecture.

Berecci uncovered the treasury fraud of **Seweryn**, who was illegally getting rich from the renovation of the royal castle.

Seweryn is notorious for trying to discredit the Queen. It is said at court that he may even be a Habsburg spy and wants to drag Poland into a war with the Turks.

Seweryn had two versions of account books documenting the costs of the castle renovation. The official figures probably show costs higher than those recorded by **Seweryn**.

Jakub does not like the fact that Jews cannot study at the Academy. He complains loudly about this state of affairs, explaining that his son is a genius and is wasting his potential.

Jakub doesn't like the fact that so much money that could be used to solve social problems is being spent on religious architecture—not to mention the golden roof of the castle chapel!

Some residents of Kazimierz say that the books **Jakub** sells are of poor quality. They look good from the outside, but when you open them, they crumble and the pages start falling out.

Rumour has it that **Jakub** not only sells books, but also smuggles suspicious documents on which he can make better money. Possibly also political material from Italy that could weaken the Kingdom of Poland.

Jakub claims to be politically impartial, but some people still recall that he helped the king organize kahals (Jewish communities) so that the people living there would pay fewer taxes.

A drunken Berecci insulted **Jakub** at one of the balls, calling him a traitor to the nation. The architect shouted that the merchant was selling state secrets abroad.

Francesca has an extensive knowledge of art history, literature, and politics. When her interlocutor shows ignorance, she can laugh at them—even when talking to a man.

People have noticed that when it rains, **Francesca** gets much taller. Some explain this by her unusual high-heeled Italian shoes (chopine). Others see the power of the devil at work here.

Despite three years of marriage, **Francesca** has not yet given birth to any children. Disapproving courtiers claim that she puts her social life and art above her family duties, which is deemed unbecoming for a woman.

According to some rumours, Berecci had documents that could harm the Queen, and the intrepid **Francesca** has said more than once in recent times that she would do anything to protect the Sforzas' good name.

It is said that **Francesca** loves to gossip. She always knows what's been going on in recent days both at court and in the world of politics. Some people avoid her company, fearing she might spread sensationalism.

During the last feast **Francesca** has an argument with Berecci and even ran out of the ballroom crying. The architect did not want to reveal to the other guests what was the subject of their private conversation. Three days later, he was dead.

People say that since **Dorota** married Berecci, she has refused to share her money with the poor.

Since **Dorota** married Berrecci she has started to speak out in discussions about architecture and art. Some see this as a lack of feminine modesty.

Dorota never raised her voice at her children or maids. However, on several occasions she has been heard shouting at her husband.

Dorota is heir to the Berecci estate, which is enough for her to live happily and prosperously for many years.

Apparently, in recent months **Dorota** has been spending more time embroidering, although this activity used to bore her terribly. What does she want to do with the finished embroideries? Sell them, give them to church organisations, to her daughters for dowries? Why the sudden change?

Dorota ordered an atonement mass for her sins two days after her husband's death.

Glaber supports the idea of universal education for people of all social standings. This project is widely controversial among the powerful but hopeful among the common folk.

Glaber accused Berecci of wasting royal treasury funds on gilding the cathedral roof. He proposed investing in a city sewerage system that would benefit everyone

Rumour has it that humiliating initiation ceremonies, banned for 15 years, still take place in one of the dormitories. Some students claim that **Glaber** took part in this practice.

Glaber organizes meetings of a group of students who preach that architects who only build for the rich—like Berecci—are a symbol of royal hegemony. These students were reportedly seen to be extremely argumentative and aggressive. What could they be drawing their ideas from?

During a recent dispute between a township couple, **Glaber** stood up for a woman beaten by her husband—he was not bothered by the fact that she had been accused of infidelity.

People are surprised that the inherently quiet academic, Andrzej **Glaber**, was last seen in a high-profile argument, possibly even a fight, with architecture students. He reportedly questioned the legitimacy of funding further renovations, including paying for the works of Berecci—who died shortly afterward.

Mikołaj plans to build a strong position for himself in Kraków. To this end, he maintains intimate social relations with both the court, the rich nobles and Kraków's underworld.

People say that **Mikołaj** sells inferior bricks to disliked architects to make their works look worse and last less long.

It is rumoured that to this day **Mikołaj** is still harassing the inhabitants of Buda with letters, who have not paid him back small loans. Where will such greed lead him?

Rumour has it that **Mikołaj** treats his Italian companions like unnecessary competition. When he overdoes it with alcohol, he tells them that he would do their job better and cheaper. More than once he has threatened to prove his words.

Mikołaj inherited not only his surname from his father, but also his profession as an entrepreneur and usurer. People who know him better say that he would rather design new buildings than just provide the bricks to build them.

One of the architects recounted that he had received a proposal from **Mikołaj** to set up a new sculpture company. However, the architect did not include his most important collaborator, Berecci, in his plans.

As a local innkeeper, **Jadwiga** belongs to a guild—a group of people practicing the same craft. However, most members are hostile toward her because of her gender and lack of formal training in the craft.

Although most of the tavern's guests are respectable people, sometimes a common vagabond also comes to the tavern, drinking mediocre liquor for free. He once boasted that he was a juggler, or itinerant artist, who took a special liking to Kraków. People say that he is **Jadwiga's** lover .

Jadwiga's inn is frequented by courtiers. Many of them come from Italy and are increasingly bold in their demands for Italian cuisine, which irritates the innkeeper incredibly.

When **Jadwiga's** husband died, the inn ran into financial difficulties. The innkeeper then borrowed from several wealthier people, including Berecci. The architect was allegedly falling into debt, so he pleaded for money. On more than one occasion, he was heard raising his voice in the company of a woman. Did **Jadwiga** repay her debts?

Apparently, most of the financial problems of **Jadwiga's** inn are due to the popularity of Piwnica Świdnicka in Krakow's Town Hall, which was re-authorised in 1501 to distribute beer from Świdnica and became the most popular place in town.

One witness reports that the inn was closed on the day of Berecci's death. After all, closure only generates losses! Where was **Jadwiga** then?

Regina used controversial methods of treatment. For example, in the case of wounds, she used herbal dressings instead of the previously popular boiling oil.

According to rumours, Sister **Regina** has reproached the Moravian bishop himself for his drunkenness and impiety!

According to reports by those unfavourable to the Bernardines, the nuns of Sister **Regina**'s congregation expect to be paid for helping the sick.

Sister **Regina** allegedly often criticised artists focusing more on their own glory than on God's. Berecci, whose daughter she treated, avoided her presence because she threatened him with divine justice and the inevitable punishment for his sins.

Sister **Regina** is able to effectively slow down the progression of a frightening new disease called the great pox, French disease or syphilis. She herself regards this disease as a punishment affecting adulterers.

Regina has extensive knowledge of herbs that can both cure and kill. The nun claims that death is better than a godless life—making her feared by the townspeople.

Sister **Joanna** reportedly works so much that she lacks the strength and time to pray!

People at court say that the sculpture Sister **Joanna** commissioned from Berecci was scandalous: it showed Mary in a flared dress showing the exposed calves of the Virgin. The sculpture was reportedly returned to its maker.

Joanna has mentioned several times that she envies her sister, who was able to marry and have children. Apparently, the woman is not happy leading a religious life.

It is rumoured that **Joanna** has been lending Berecci books whose content is not befitting a pious nun—if the rumours were confirmed, a real scandal could erupt!

Joanna teaches the daughters of the richest courtiers. It is said that by frequenting their homes, she uses her beauty to flirt with the most handsome men.

The day after Berecci's death, **Joanna** asked for time off from teaching at the monasterie girls' school. She is said to have spent the whole day in prayer and to have begun a fast, which could indicate the start of penitential activities.