Flat Fox and Fell
Lessons for First Days at Home

Speaking with a Friend about programs for children and how to stay connected in this time, she described her hope that meeting families would find new ways to work on projects and be thinking about ideas together — even when we’re apart. This is an activity both for home and to gather us in a shared project together with friends in our meeting. Friends of any age can participate individually and also be invited into co-creation.

Materials

• “Flat Fox and Fell: Adventures with George Fox and Margaret Fell” — a story in pictures by Faith & Play Stories, Inc. Visit the website to find movie, powerpoint, and PDF versions. (Flat Stanley is an American children’s book series written by Jeff Brown and first published in 1964.)
• Children will need access to or help using a camera to take photos.
• Faith & Play stories On YouTube: “George Fox’s Big Discovery” and “Margaret Fell of Swarthmoor Hall”
• Optional sharing: “Color Me Quaker” coloring pages from Friends United Meeting

Note: The story shared in “Flat Fox and Fell” is not meant to be a comprehensive history of early Quakerism for children. Adults may need to provide additional background information, as seemed needed or relevant. Resources from the PYM curriculum library:
- George Fox: Four Lessons (based on Sophia Fahs’ “George Fox: the man who wouldn’t”)   
- Quakers Answer the Call (chapter 3 on Margaret Fell)

Story and Project

1. Share and watch the video of “Flat Fox and Fell” or use the powerpoint to explore the images and story. This can be done by a family at home, or together in a meeting children’s program on Zoom. You might watch the Faith & Play stories on YouTube beforehand.

2. Share page 2 and those directions with families. Be mindful of families who might not have a printer at home, to whom you can mail a copy of the Flat Fox and Fell photo.

3. At your next time together, after the fun of sharing all the places Flat Fox and Fell have been (see page 2), settle into a time to listen and wonder together:

I wonder what it feels like to walk cheerfully over the world and answer that of God in others.
I wonder how early Friends felt when they gathered in their communities.
I wonder what is the same today for Friends, and what is different.
For Home:

1. Print the Fox and Fell image and cut out with scissors.

2. It’s helpful to adhere the image to a thicker material like cardboard or card stock.

3. Take photos of George and Margaret wherever you like! You can take them on family walks, they can join for meals and chores, and can listen in on bedtime stories. Get creative and use your imagination and sense of humor!

4. Save or print photos to share with others in your children’s program or meeting community. Photos can be shared in advance of a time together to an adult who might make a slideshow or photo gallery, or children can hold them up on screen for each other to see.