Adventures in the Soviet Imaginary

Do-it-yourself worksheet:
http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/webexhibits/sovietchildrensbooks/diy.html

1. Look at the pictures of pages from Soviet do-it-yourself books for kids. What kinds of objects do these books teach children to make?

2. Look at the Soviet History Timeline. How do the activities in these books reflect what was happening in the Soviet Union in the 1930’s, when the books were made?

3. What kinds of things do American children make at school? Do you think they reflect what is happening now in American history? If so, how?

4. Why do you think so many children’s do-it-yourself books were made on topics that mostly had to do with adults?

5. Look at the slideshow of the toy film projector book. Do you think film is important in a time of social change like the 1930’s in Russia? If so, why? Do you think this film would affect the way people thought about their government and society?

Optional Activity: Make the model grain elevator shown in image 4 on this page. Cut out the pieces shown on the page, fold them on the dotted lines, and cut along lines Б and Б. Then roll the four white rectangles into cylinders so they fit the holes in the two black pieces with holes. Put the two solid black squares, marked Б and Б, into the corresponding slots, and set up the grain elevator according to the picture.