



A day to discover...

# VILLAGE LIFE!

## What is a village?

Many children around the world live in villages. Every village is different. Some are very small – with just a few houses and families. Others may be larger, with more people living in them, and with a school, a shop, a place to worship and more. Some villages are close to larger towns and cities, others are very isolated.

## A TYPICAL VILLAGE



## SCAVENGER HUNT

Time to explore your local area! See how many of these things you can find. Don't forget to take a grown up with you.

- sign
- White flower
- Crack in the pavement
- The number '17'
- Green front door
- A sign in someone's window
- Piece of litter
- A person smiling (Bonus point if they say 'hello')

Did you find all eight? What was the most interesting thing you saw?

# Villages around the world

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There are many types of villages around the globe, in all kinds of locations. Some are surrounded by fields while others are high in the mountains. Some are in the jungle and some by the sea. Children growing up in these villages have lots of different life experiences.

## Watery Cambodia



Cambodia is a country in Asia where flooding is a common problem, especially during the rainy season between May and October. Villages in areas that flood are often built on stilts, like Kampong Phluk ("kam-pong fluck") in the picture above. What do you think life would be like in a village on stilts?

## Sandy Nigeria



Photo: ActionAid



Photo: Mordecai Sule/ActionAid

People living in villages in Nigeria have the opposite problem - the desert is very dry and water is hard to come by. People living in some Nigerian villages have to walk long distances every day to gather water from a well.

## WATER OBSTACLE COURSE

A lot of people living in villages have to walk long distances to fetch water. How good are you at carrying water?

See if you can create an obstacle course of things to climb over, wiggle around, and crawl through. Then, fill a cup all the way to the very top with water, and see if you can complete your obstacle course without spilling a drop. Keep a steady hand, and remember, practice makes perfect!

How many spills?

- 0 Amazing!
- 1 Very good
- 2 Not bad
- 3+ Try again

## DID YOU KNOW?

One of the most isolated villages in the world is on the island of Tristan de Cunha in the South Atlantic.

# Your village

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**No matter where you live, you have your own 'village'.**

You might not think of where you live as a village, but whether you live in a city, a town or the countryside, your 'village' is the collection of people and places that are important to you.



Photos: Lorenzo Tigholi/ActionAid



## Welcome to my village

Zakia lives in a village in the mountains of Afghanistan, with her four sisters and one brother. "When I wake up I help my mum with the fire and then I take the sheep to the mountain. I like to help my mum. I like to help my mum." Zakia loved going to school, and her dream is to be a maths teacher when she grows up. Her least favourite part about where she lives is the cold. "I don't like the snow," she says.

## MAP YOUR VILLAGE

What does your 'village' look like? For this activity, you will be drawing a map of the places and people that matter to you.

- 1 Begin by drawing the area where you live. You can do this from memory, or perhaps ask an adult to go on a walk with you, if you need reminding.
- 2 Be sure to mark any important places on your map - a friend's house, a favourite shop, the spot where something funny happened.
- 3 Include any people you know in your neighbourhood - the lady next door, the new baby across the street, the shopkeeper who makes you laugh.
- 4 Around the edges, you could add important people who might be further away. After all, they are part of your 'village' too!



## DID YOU KNOW?

In India, more than two-thirds of the population live in villages - that's over 800 million people!

# A village is made of people

The buildings and spaces that form the village are important, but it's really the people who live there who bring the place to life.

In a village, the community support each other, in good times and bad, making sure that everyone is looked after and has what they need. Every member of the village has an important role to play...

## THE CHURCH LEADER

Abraham lives in a village in Kenya, where he has been a church leader for 20 years. He has two young daughters, and also does a lot of work making sure girls are healthy and happy in his community.



## THE FARMER

Felice is a farmer in her village called Digirikani, which is in Kenya too. She grows aubergines and other vegetables which she sells to people in the village.



## THE SHOP OWNER

Amina owns a small shop in her village in Somaliland. She sells food and drinks, as well as household items like shampoo and torches. The income from her shop helps her feed her family.



## THE TEACHER

Elijah is a head teacher at his school in Tanzania. He created the school in his village so that the children who lived there didn't have to walk a long way to get to their classes.



**We hope you've discovered lots of new things today.**

**Thank you so much for all your hard work on Discovery Days.**

**Which subject was your favourite?**

**Remember, there's always more to discover!**

