

Your World, My World

Information about the photos and discussion points

Muluken from Ethiopia

1. Muluken, who lives in Gerba Sefer village in Ethiopia. The village is high in the mountains in the eastern Highlands. Almost three-quarters of Ethiopia's land area is higher than Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK.

Discussion: What links do pupils in the class have with Ethiopia? (family living there etc)

2. Muluken and her family. Muluken lives with her dad, her older sister Esketsenaf, and her younger sister Mekdes. Her grandmother also lives with them and takes care of the children while their mother is away. Muluken's mother works as a teacher in a school which is 20 kilometres away. It is difficult to travel so far every day, so she lives at home at weekends and during the school holidays.

Discussion: Extended family relationships; who lives at home/away from home etc.

3. Muluken shares breakfast with her sister. They share a bowl and it is polite to eat with the fingers of the right hand. For breakfast Muluken likes to drink tea and eat bread, and sometimes mekoreni (macaroni). Italian food in Ethiopia is a legacy of Italy's influence in the region and its occupation of Ethiopia from 1934-1941.

Discussion: Macaroni is eaten in Ethiopia - what food do children eat from around the world?

4. Muluken and her sister wash their faces and hands before breakfast. There is no running water in the house and so water has to be carried from the village pump. Luckily it is not too far. The pump is a good meeting place for the women of the village. One of Muluken's jobs is fetching water.

Discussion: Children's jobs around the home. You could relate this photo to number 17, which shows Sasha fetching water from the well. If Muluken's family carry water from the pump are they more likely to use it carefully? Do children in the UK use more water than they need to?

5. Muluken and her friends playing shop. They find things around the home to 'buy and sell'. Muluken's uncle and his family live next door so there is always somebody to play with. Zebawork, Muluken's cousin, is like another big sister.

Discussion: Games children play, who they play with, friends etc.

6. Muluken sleeps on her mother's lap. There is no electricity in Gerba Sefer village, and so the family use a paraffin lamp. At night it can get cold and it's sometimes frosty in November and December.

Discussion: Do we waste power (eg electricity) in the North? What can we do to save energy at home?

Cidinha from Brazil

7. Cidinha in her hammock. Cidinha's mum Joana wakes her up in the morning. If she has to go to school then she is woken up at 7 o'clock, but on other days she get up at about 9. Her mum gets up first to light the stove, get water from the well, feed the pigs and chickens and make the coffee. Cidinha helps in the mornings by fetching water from the well and putting cups on the table.

Discussion: What sort of 'morning routine' do children in the class have?

8. Cidinha helps out at home by hanging out the washing. She fetches water from the well to do the washing. She also helps with other jobs at home such as feeding the animals. The job Cidinha likes least is washing the dishes.

Discussion: What jobs do children do at home?

9. Cidinha helps her mother break babassu nuts. The oil in the nuts is used to make soap which the villagers sell. Babassu nuts are about the size of apples and Cidinha breaks about 100 a day. At the village shop she can exchange the nuts she for a new pencil case or exercise book.

Discussion: The sort of jobs that children do in the UK (paper rounds etc); paid and unpaid work.

10. Cidinha and her friends play a skipping game. It's called elástico. Ludovico village is very quiet and it is always safe to play in the street. Cidinha and her friends also enjoy splashing for hours in the lake by the village.

Discussion: What are children's favourite games? Are they similar/different? Where are the safe places where they can play?

11. Cidinha's family and neighbours watch TV while they have dinner. They are eating janta, which is made of rice and beans flavoured with spring onion and coriander which they grow themselves. Sometimes they eat meat which comes from their own chickens and pigs. Cidinha's father and brothers catch fish in the lake.

Discussion: Where do children in the UK get most of their food from (shops); the differences between buying and growing food.

12. Cidinha dances with her friends. When she grows up she wants to be a famous singer and dancer. There are many different types of dance in Brazil. Forró and maracatu are popular rhythms in the north-east where Cidinha lives.

Discussion: What music do the children like? What do they want to be when they grow up?

Sasha from Russia

13. Sasha is all dressed up for the winter. His hat is called an oushanka and it is made out of rabbit fur. The flaps cover his ears and keep them warm. Before he goes out into the snow, he also has to put on an extra sweater, padded jacket and trousers, felt boots, mittens and a scarf. Today the temperature is minus 43°C.

Discussion: What clothes do we need for different temperatures and types of weather?

14. Every morning Sasha helps to dress his younger sister, Yulya. His stepfather is often away working and Sasha likes to help his mother and babushka (Russian for grandmother) in every way he can. Christmas is a very important event in Russia. However, Russians celebrate it on 7th February, because the Russian Orthodox calendar is used.

Discussion: Brothers and sisters; who helps who at home; important festivals etc.

15. Sasha helps with the cooking. He is making batter for pancakes that will be eaten with jam. Sasha enjoys whipping eggs in the blender.

Discussion: What do children like to cook?

16. Sasha at school. He likes to be the first in the classroom to surprise the others when they arrive. There are fourteen children in his class but today five have stayed at home because it is so cold outside. Sasha likes reading best. His favourite games are 'chase' and 'blind man's buff'.

Discussion: Talk about the writing around the classroom, which is in the Cyrillic alphabet. This is closely based on the Greek alphabet, with about a dozen additional letters, and was first written in Russia in the early Middle Ages.

17. Every two days, Sasha and his brother Vanya collect water from the well. They borrow a sledge from a neighbour and help each other to pull the heavy churns. Sasha also helps clear snow from the path and bring in logs for the fire.

Discussion: Would children like to collect water on a sledge themselves? What would be the advantages and disadvantages? You could relate this photo to number 4.

18. Sasha has made this house out of snow. In the winter, making snow houses is Sasha's favourite game. He works all day to finish a house. He makes the walls smooth inside and out and if the snow is damp and sticky he makes little tables, beds and chairs.

Discussion: What dens and private places do the children in the class have?

Shakeel from India

19. Shakeel's mum helps him get ready for school. He likes wearing new clothes and looks forward to festival days when he gets clothes as presents.

Discussion: Favourite clothes; the symbolic meaning of some clothes; clothes for different weathers.

20. Shakeel and his family have breakfast. They eat parathas, bread fried in oil, and drink tea. Shakeel likes lots of sugar in his tea! At 7 o'clock his dad gives him a lift to school in his auto-rickshaw, a taxi with three wheels. On the way Shakeel sees lots of monkeys.

Discussion: What do the children eat for breakfast? Healthy eating and the importance of having breakfast.

21. Shakeel's favourite lesson is craft. He is printing with a vegetable called okra. He decorates his painting with dried lentils. School gets crowded and there are about 40 children in his class.

Discussion: Favourite subjects at school.

22. Shakeel plays football during break time. All the children wear a blue and white school uniform. Because it's hot and dusty, some children prefer not to wear shoes. Shakeel has four special friends whom he plays with.

Discussion: Why are no girls playing football? Would it be the same in the children's own school?

23. Shakeel's special job is feeding the goats. He milks them in the morning and the evening. It is his favourite job because he likes drinking the milk. Shakeel also helps at home by fetching water and cooking. He doesn't like dusting because it makes him cough.

Discussion: What relationships do the children have with animals? Do they have pets? Do they care for any animals?

24. By 9 o'clock Shakeel is in bed. He shares a room with his brother Shabeer. He sleeps with his favourite pillow, which he doesn't like anyone else using. A cool fan keeps them comfortable until morning.

Discussion: Bedtime routines; special toys/comforts that children sleep with.

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Captions for photos

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15. Sasha helps with the cooking.
16. Sasha at school.
17. Every two days, Sasha and his brother Vanya collect water from the well.
18. Sasha inside the house that he made out of snow.
19. Shakeel's mum helps him get ready for school.
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