

Activity 2: Who Is Homeless?

In this activity, pupils take part in a quiz on homelessness. This is a great way for pupils to learn about homelessness and counter the myths and misconceptions about this issue.

Preparation

Display **Resource 2.1: Who is Homeless?**

Learning Intentions

Pupils will:

- explore and develop their understanding of homelessness;
- be aware of homelessness as a societal issue;
- begin to develop empathy for people experiencing homelessness;
- understand that people have negative attitudes;
- explore issues of prejudice and stereotypes; and
- know some factors that can cause people to become homeless.

Resource

Resource 2.1: Who is Homeless?

Vocabulary

Overcrowded, hostel, unsuitable, safe

Open **Resource 2.1: Who is Homeless?** Tell your class they are going to complete a class quiz. Show the first slide from the presentation. Ask your pupils to raise their hand if they think the person or people on the slide are homeless.



Ask different pupils for reasons for their decision. Display the next slide, revealing the correct answer.

Continue this activity until you have shown all the slides. Then, encourage your pupils to share their thoughts and feelings about homelessness. Ask them whether any of the answers surprised them and why.

As a class or in groups, discuss how homelessness for people is different to homelessness for animals. For example, humans may have:

- family who can help;
- alternative housing options; or
- help and support from organisations.

Realities of Homelessness

Class Definition of Homelessness

Encourage the class to define homelessness. Record pupils' words and ideas. They may refer to:

- shelter;
- temporary accommodation;
- overcrowded or unsuitable accommodation; or
- reasons why someone may flee their home.

The [European Commission](#) defines homelessness as:

'Beyond sleeping rough, homelessness may include situations of living in temporary, insecure or poor-quality housing'.

Reflection

Many people and families are without a home in Northern Ireland and around the world. Anyone can be homeless for many different reasons. It is important to remember that no one chooses to be homeless. Help and support is available to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Extension

Use books and ICT resources to find out about homeless organisations in your area. Invite a representative from a homeless organisation to talk about homelessness.

