

Harmony

This term we will be exploring the population of Australia and how different cultures, languages and traditions make us a more harmonious Australia.

In Term 2, we will also be promoting Vinnies Winter Appeal and Essential Packs. We will be exploring homelessness and the concept of privilege through topics such as 'Wants vs Needs'.

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Our House

Lower Primary

Run Time: 30-45 minutes

This activity will provide insight into how people in varying circumstances prioritize essentials in daily life.

Resources:

- Home Template printed in A3 (see Appendix)
- Essentials 1 printed in A4 (see Appendix)
- Essentials 2 printed in A4 (see Appendix)
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions

Provide each student with a Home Template

Provide half of the students with “Essentials 1 ” and the other half with “Essentials 2” worksheets.

Ask the students to select 4 items from their Essentials worksheet that they would need in their daily lives.

Once chosen, students may cut out their items and glue them inside their homes.

Students to pair with another student and share.

Needs vs Wants

Primary and Secondary

Run Time: 30-45 minutes

This activity will help students distinguish between their needs for survival and their wants for a comfortable life.

Resources:

- Needs verses Wants worksheet, printed (see Appendix)
- Pen or Pencils

Instructions

Students to complete the worksheet individually or in small groups. When the worksheet is complete, students to share how they categorised their needs and wants and compare any similarities and differences.

Optional Reflection Questions

Looking at your needs list, if you had to remove one thing, which one would it be and why?

Looking at your wants list, which thing do you want most?

What are some things we think we need, that we may be able to survive without?

What is the difference between what we need to survive and what we need to thrive?

Our Population Facts

Migration

In 2022-23 the top five countries of birth for migrant arrivals were India, China, the Philippines, Australia and the United Kingdom. The number of migrant arrivals increased for all these countries except for Australia. Arrivals from India, China and the Philippines were higher than pre-pandemic levels.

ABS, 2023

Population Growth

The top countries of birth contributing to changes in population vary for different states and territories. In 2022-23, the top country of birth contributing the largest net gain to each population was:

- ACT: China
- QLD: India
- NSW: India
- NT: Philippines
- SA: India
- TAS: India
- VIC: India
- WA: Bhutan

ABS, 2023

Languages

Excluding English, Australia's top 5 languages spoken at home are:

- Mandarin (2.7%)
- Arabic (1.4%)
- Vietnamese (1.3%)
- Cantonese (1.2%)
- Punjabi (0.9%)

ABS, 2023

Learning Language

Primary

Learn how to say: “hello”, “thank you”, “please”, “goodbye” and “sorry” in one or more of the following languages:

- Mandarin
- Arabic
- Vietnamese
- Cantonese
- Punjabi

Bonus: Learning Language

From your research in Term 1 activities, choose one of the non-English speaking countries that relates to your school community. Learn how to say: “hello”, “thank you”, “how are you” and “good” in their predominate spoken language.

Learning Culture

Primary and Secondary

Learn about one or more of the following countries cultures:

- Bhutan
- China
- India
- Philippines

Video Resources: Bhutan

Learn about one of Bhutan's unique priorities.

[What is “Gross National Happiness” ? Explained by Morten Sondergaard](#)

Secondary

Buddhism is the main religion of Bhutan. Watch a Buddhist Priest answer some difficult questions.

[I'm a Buddhist Priest. Ask Me Anything.](#)

Secondary

Learn about Bhutan in this 10 minute video.

[Amazing Bhutan: Free Healthcare, No Homeless People, No Traffic Lights](#)

Primary

Video Resources: China

Learn about the Year of the Dragon!

[Lunar New Year 2024: What does the year of the dragon mean?](#) Primary and Secondary

Learn about the Chinese Zodiac.

[The myth behind the Chinese zodiac – Megan Campisi and Pep-Pen Chen](#) Primary and Secondary

Develop your understanding of Confucianism.

[Confucius](#) Secondary

Video Resources: India

An overview of India and it's culture.

[India for kids – an amazing and quick guide to India](#) Primary and Secondary

Learn about Diwali!

[What is Diwali?](#) Secondary

Watch an animated short on the story of Diwali.

[Ramayana: Story of Diwali | Mythological Stories from Mocomi Kids](#) Primary

Video Resources: Philippines

Learn about the Filipino concept of Bayanihan.

[Bayanihan: The Spirit of Community](#) Secondary

Learn about Filipino culture with this animation.

[What Does It Mean to Be Filipino | The Filipino Story Animated Series Episode 1](#) Primary and Secondary

Discover more about Filipino culture through this first hand account. Secondary

[Core of Filipino Culture](#)

Optional reflection questions

What can we learn from this culture?

How would you describe Australian culture?

What similarities and differences did you notice between that culture and Australian culture?

Did this video change your understanding or opinions of this culture? If so, how?

How can learning about other cultures promote harmony?

Case Study

Homelessness

Secondary

“I work five days, so I’m managing work at the same time as all this.” The past few years have been tough for so many people. From natural disasters and a global pandemic to cost-of-living pressures and overseas conflicts. As housing across the country becomes less secure, it’s people like Luke who are becoming the new face of disadvantage and homelessness in Australia. Luke works five days a week at a bakery and supports his elderly father, Colin, who suffers from a variety of health issues, including acute chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) that causes difficulty breathing and walking.

“I’ve been on the streets for two years without finding any place while I’m holding down a full-time job.” Luke is part of a group known as the working homeless. These are people who have employment yet find themselves unable to secure a place to live and spend their nights – in the best of cases – in cars, tents or relying on the goodwill of others. Luke’s experience of homelessness began when the owner of the home he lived in opted to sell, leaving him and his father to stay with a family member in a shed.

What was meant to be a temporary stay while he looked for a new home became a dispiriting cycle of rejection made worse by a living situation that became untenable. “I found that I struggled [with the private rental market]... I would be on Facebook and Gumtree messaging ad after ad but they don’t meet our requirements or we’re not eligible for it.”

“Some of the landlords were strict on having no pets, so this is where we possibly could have gotten a place, but I just didn’t want to give up my dog at that time.” After being kicked out of where they were living, Luke and his father had no other choice but to brave the conditions in a tent.

These types of situations are becoming increasingly common. While Luke and his father continue their search for permanent and secure housing, there has been a change for the better thanks to support provided by Vinnies. Our members have helped by providing food and assistance to get Colin admitted to hospital for treatment and providing Luke with accommodation. Luke is currently staying in crisis accommodation provided by Vinnies.

Colin is also doing well with the support of the Society who are working to secure priority housing due to his health status. The Society is continuing to support Luke, including paying for a service to look after his dog, as he continues to look for a secure place to call home. “I’m doing a bit better at the moment, I’ve got the right people around us.” “What I’m hoping for is long-term housing after this.”

Optional reflection questions

How might Luke's experiences of different types of homelessness have changed his needs?

How did Luke and Colin’s needs differ?

What challenges did Luke experience when trying to find accommodation?

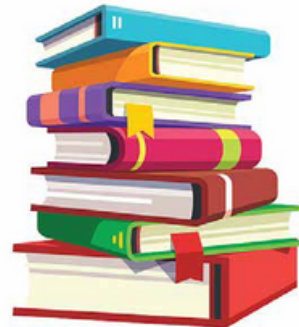
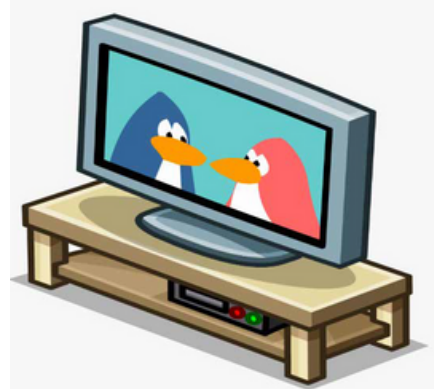
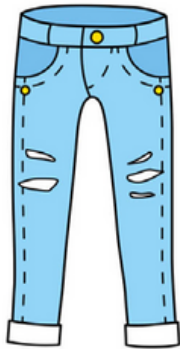
How was Luke supported?

Appendix

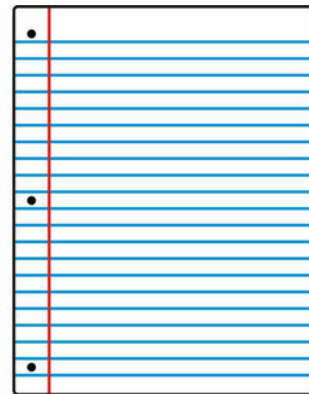


Vinnies
good works

Essentials 1



Essentials 2



Needs vs Wants

Needs	Wants
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food	education	school uniforms	water
streaming services	safety	TV	holiday
money	connection (family & friends)	smart phone	bike
wifi	healthcare	toothpaste	shelter