



**International Day  
of the African child  
16th June 2014**



**Key Stage 1  
Lesson 3  
Comparing Education Across the World**

**NC Objectives:**

Geography

- 1a. ask geographical questions
- 2a. use geographical vocabulary such as town, village, farm
- 2d. use secondary sources
- 3a. identify and describe what places are like

**Lesson Question:**

How is learning different in Africa to how we learn?

**Starter:**

Ask students to remember what it was like to start school. Ask students to share with a partner, then with a group, something they were worried about. Ask each table to share one idea they were scared about.

**Introduction:**

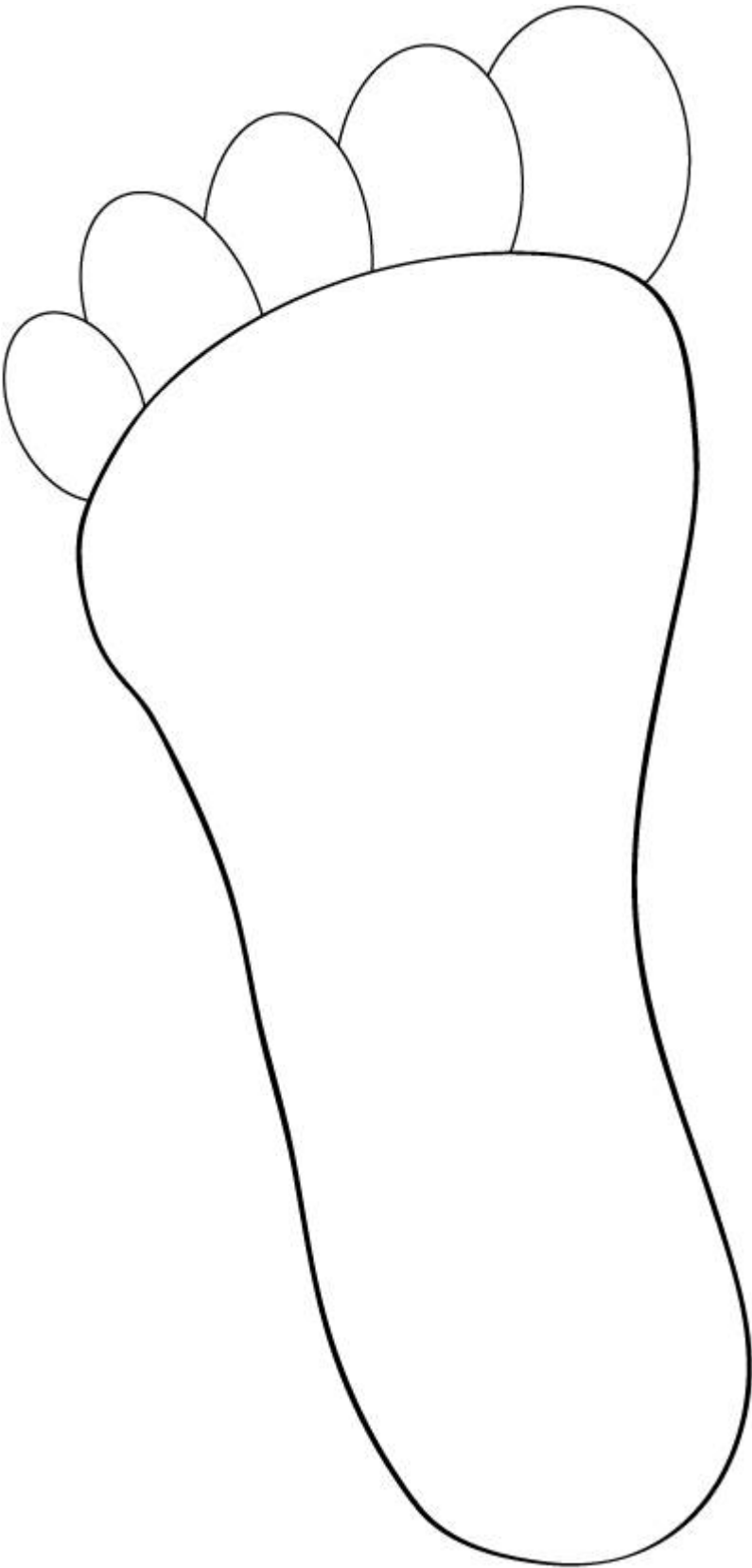
You will have to set a small homework task for students. Ask students to count the number of steps they take to walk to school. If students drive to school they should only count the steps to and from the car. Count up the number of steps students in the class have to take. For every 10,000 steps the class take cut out one shape of a foot (Resource 1). Give each students one step each (the others can be made of different colours). Ask students to draw a picture in one of the steps of something they see on their way to school.

**Main:**

Using the case study from Uganda (Resource 2), where there are 236 primary school students and where students such as Joseph and Sarah travel between 5km and 8km to get to school (number of km x average number of footsteps in a 100m x 10). For every 10,000 steps cut out a foot. Give students two feet each. Hand out images that they would see if they walked to school in Uganda (Resource 3). Ask them to draw a picture in each of the feet.

**Plenary:**

If possible, lay the feet out from the UK and from Uganda side by side across the playground / school field. Help students to imagine the difference in journeys to school.



## Case Study



My name is Sarah and I am 9 years old.

I love going to school because I want to be a nurse when I grow up so it will be very important for me to get a good education. But getting a good education is not always very easy. I feel very lucky to be able to go to school because some families cannot afford to send girls to school and only the boys are allowed to go. Even then a lot of families in my village are very poor and so they can't afford to buy the school uniform and books that you need!

I'm often tired by the time I get to school because I have been up early doing my chores as well as walking a long way to school. My job in the morning is to collect water.

I have to walk for 20 minutes with a large container which I fill up from a hole in the ground. It is very heavy as I carry it home. I also have to help my Mum to cook the breakfast over a fire for all the family; we eat porridge made out of a grain called millet. We all enjoy eating breakfast because we know we won't get any more food until the evening. Families around here are too poor to give children lunch for school and schools cannot afford to provide food. Sometimes children fall asleep in lessons because they are tired and hungry. Anyway, our school also doesn't have any water so cooking food would be very difficult. It's also not very hygienic because we can't wash our hands after the toilet. The toilets are my worst thing about school because we have to share them with the boys, there are no doors on the toilets and there are only 4 of them for the whole school! There are 236 boys and girls at my school.

When I get to school I meet my friends in our classroom. It has a grass thatched roof supported by wooden poles but there are no walls. This means that when it is raining or windy our lessons get disrupted. The floor gets muddy very quickly. I would like to be in a proper classroom because then the rain cannot enter and it is warm. We don't have any chairs or desks in our classroom because the school cannot afford to buy them. Instead we sit on the floor. I have very bad handwriting because I must rest my book on my knee all the time. We are very cramped together in our classroom because there are 80 children to squeeze in! It can be very hard to concentrate on lessons sometimes having so many people close together, feeling squashed and having the sun or rain beating down on us but I feel lucky to have the opportunity to learn and be at school.

## Case Study



My name is Joseph and I am 10 years old.

I am the eldest child in my family so my parents send me to school. My younger brothers and sisters are not so lucky because my family cannot afford to buy the uniforms and books for us all so they must stay at home. Sometimes though my family need me to stay at home too, especially during harvest time when we need to cut the grain quickly. A lot of children miss school at harvest time. Families in my village are farmers, we need to grow and harvest grain in order that we have the food to survive. If it is a good harvest we sell some grain at the market, my parents can then use this money to pay for me to go to school.

I get up very early each morning to do my chores before school. My jobs are to tie up and feed the goats and chickens, wash the dishes after breakfast and then I have to scrub and wash the family's dirty clothes and lay them out in the sun to dry during the day. We eat porridge made out of maize for breakfast; I make the most of every mouthful because I know I'll feel hungry at school later because we don't have any food at school.

I walk to school and go to meet my friends in our classroom. We walk between 5km and 8km to get to school. We have a classroom with mud walls and a tin roof. Unfortunately one of the walls has a big hole in it, none of us want to sit near it because if it rains we get wet or if it is windy the earth is blown up from the floor and covers our books. There is also a hole in the roof, I'm worried in case the wind blows it off and someone gets hurt. When I was in one of the younger classes we used to have our classroom outside under a tree because the school does not have enough classrooms for everyone, so at least this is better than that!

Although I enjoy coming to school I don't always think that I learn very much. My teacher is very kind but she doesn't always know how to explain things. She told us that she loves being a teacher but she hasn't been able to get any training in how to do her job. She only completed primary school herself as her family could not afford secondary school fees and there is no secondary school in the area (the nearest secondary school is about 18km away). I think this is a problem because if she can't get any training then how can she teach us properly? We don't even have textbooks to learn from because they are too expensive for the school to buy.



village



collecting water before school



walking to school



**classroom with thatch roof**





school playground



school toilets



**looking after the family goat**



washing dishes



classroom with mud walls



class under a tree