

Housing



Think about it!

How would you manage without a proper home and hardly any money? You would not have a bedroom for sleeping, a kitchen for cooking food, a bathroom for washing or a safe place to keep your belongings. Even finding a toilet is difficult when you live on the street.

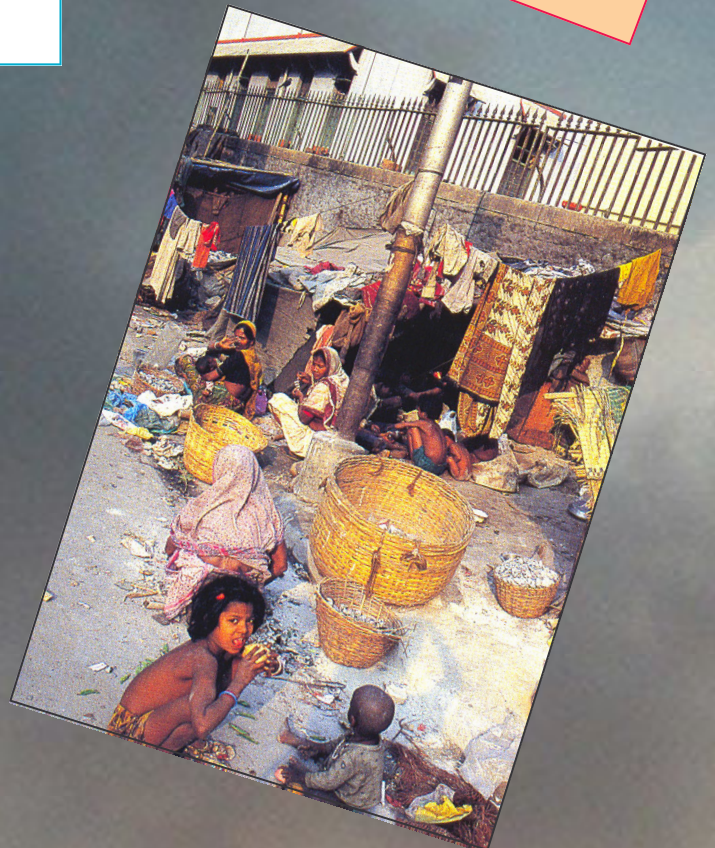
This is a Fact:

It is estimated that there are 100 million homeless people worldwide. This is , approximately, times the population of Catalonia.

*And
it's dirty, cold
and damp
out there.*

This family in Calcutta, India, lives and sleeps on the streets. They may stay here for years.

Picture from the book: *Why do people live on the streets?* By Kaye Stearman, Hodder Wayland, London 2000





Guatemala

Think about it!

Can you think about some of the reasons why people become homeless?

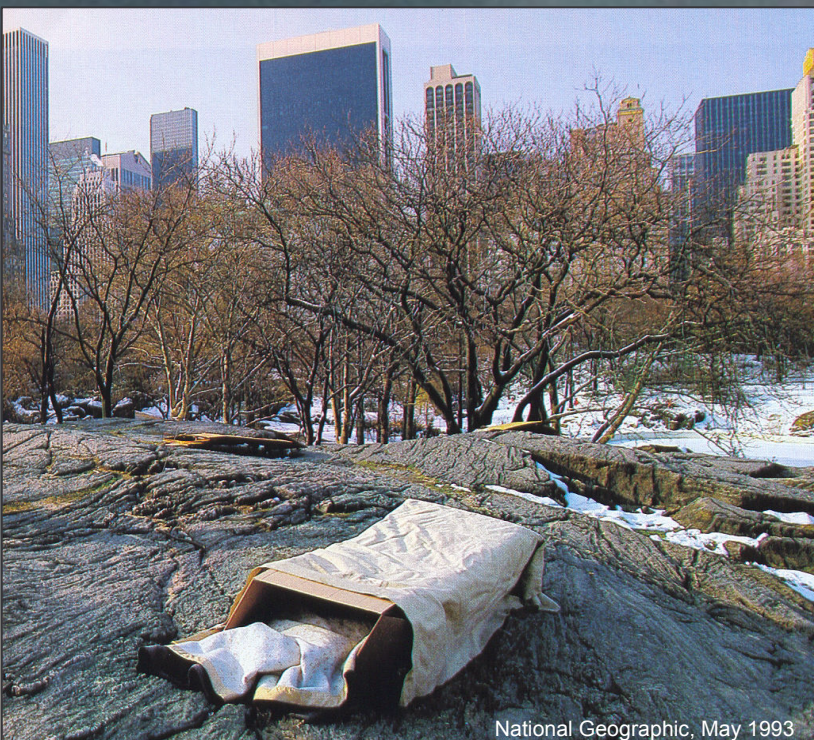
This would be a Fact:

80% of the students in our school would live in standard housing. Can you say how many people would it be?

Think about it!

- 13 children would possess 59% of the school's wealth.
- 50% would live on €1.5 a day
- 25% would live on €0.75 a day.

Work out how many children these numbers would represent.



National Geographic, May 1993

This is a Fact:

In all countries, even in the richest ones, there are homeless people, but it is in poor developing countries where there are the largest number of homeless families and individuals.

Homeless person sleeping in Central Park, New York, USA

This is a Fact:

In 1998 about 25 million people left their homes because of the effects of natural disasters, environmental problems and climate change.



Slums in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Picture from the book: *Why do people live on the streets?* By Kaye Stearman, Hodder Wayland, London 2000

Think about it!

In many countries war has left a lot of people without a place to live. Most of them are children.



Moyasta, Ireland

Find out more...

about natural disasters and the amount of people they left homeless.

This is a Fact!

During a hurricane 3 million people can lose their homes in just a few days.



On the 3rd of June 1998, a huge earthquake struck Afghanistan measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale.

The quake killed 5,000 people, wiping out entire villages. The aftershocks continued for the next week. The first international relief workers reached the site



Barcelona

Think about it!

Millions of people worldwide are too poor to buy or rent a proper house or an apartment. Some of these people are unemployed, but some work for wages and cannot afford a house because they are far too expensive.



Houston, Texas

What do you think we need for a reasonable standard of life?

For a good standard of life we need:

- Food to stay healthy.
- Clean running water for drinking and washing.
- Goods such as clothes, shoes and some other basic things.
- Good, safe housing with room for everyone.
- Facilities such as electricity, running water, clean streets and regular rubbish collection.

Poverty is the main reason for homelessness!!

This is a Fact!

You can find homeless people in the richest countries and here, in Barcelona, you see them all the time in many places. Can you think about the reasons why a person in our society can end up homeless?

A survey of homeless people in thirty American cities (USA) found that one in five had a job, but could not afford a room.

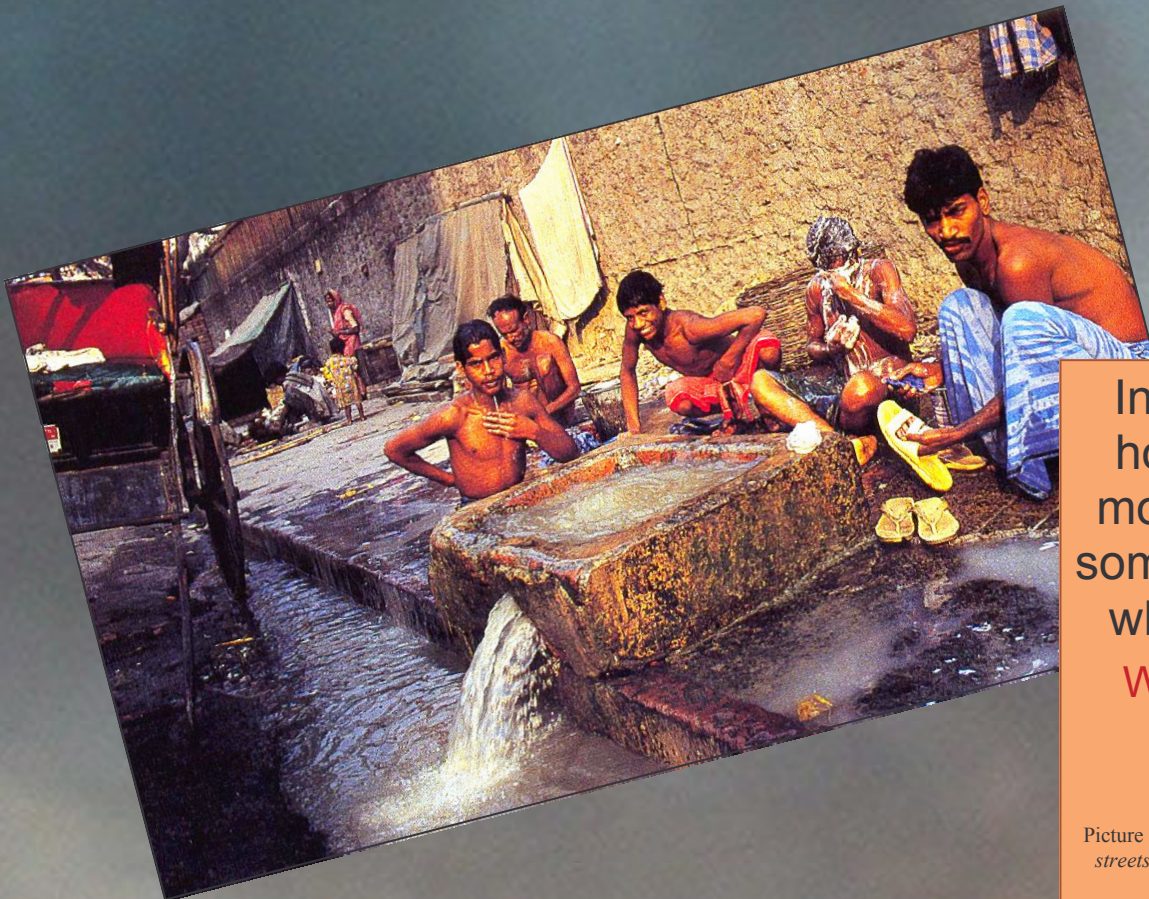


Which percentage is one in five?

Think about it!

Research about homelessness in rich countries, such as Europe, the USA and Australia, reveals that:

- Most homeless people come from poor families.
- Many homeless people have dropped out of school or lack job skills.
- Many young homeless people have been in children's homes or in foster care or have run away from home.
- Many homeless people have been in juvenile detention or in prison.
- Many homeless women and children lose their homes after families split up.
- Some people become homeless because they are mentally ill or have addictions.
- Many homeless people get some government support but others miss out.
- Many homeless people could find a home if cheaper housing was available.



In poor countries homelessness is more frequent and some of the reasons why are different.

Washing up in the street.

Calcutta, India.

Picture from the book: *Why do people live on the streets?* By Kaye Stearman, Hodder Wayland, London 2000