

Comparing their own homes with Haja's house is a great way to develop children's understanding of how different communities live.

## What you will need:

The photographs on the following pages – you can either print out copies to show the children or display them on an interactive whiteboard.

## Early Years Foundation Stage Links

### Mathematics

- Numbers – count with numbers from 1 to 20, place them in order.
- Shape, space and measures – use everyday language to talk about size.

### Understanding the world

- People and communities – know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.
- The world – know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials; talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.

### Expressive arts and design

- Being imaginative – represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through role-play.



## Activity 1

### Talking about our own homes

Explain to the children that homes in the UK come in a wide range of shapes and sizes. Show them images of different housing on the interactive whiteboard, for example a detached house, a semi-detached house, a terraced house, a bungalow and a block of flats. In each case, ask them:

- Do you know what this type of home is called?
- Does it have stairs?
- What words would you use to describe it?  
(e.g. old, new, modern, small, big, pretty, cosy, red, white)

Encourage them to tell you more about where they live:

- Where are meals cooked?
- Where do you sleep?
- Where do you wash?
- Where do you play?

Ask the children to count how many people live in their home. Write the numbers on the board. Can the children put the numbers in order, from highest to lowest?



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## Activity 2

### Talking about Haja's home

Show the children the photographs of Haja's home on the following pages. You could either print out the photographs or display them on the interactive whiteboard.

Encourage the children to role-play living in one room in groups of five, taking on the roles of different family members. Where would they cook? Wash? Sleep? What would be difficult about living in such a small space? Would they like to live in a house as small as Haja's?





**Explain that Haja used to live on a dump in Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone. It was dirty, smelly and dangerous.**



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**Now, thanks to Red Nose Day money, Haja's family has moved to a house where they are much safer.**



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**Haja's house has concrete walls and a tin roof. There's just one room, which Haja shares with her mum, sister Mary and brothers David and Sheka. Haja shares a mattress with her mum.**



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**There is no kitchen or bathroom. The family cooks and washes outside, in the street outside their house. All the families in the street share an outside toilet.**



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