

### Time required

About 1 hour

### About the lesson

An introduction to the UN convention of the Rights of the Child, and the work of SOS Children's Villages in South Africa.

### Resources

- True or False statements (supplied)
- SOS map (supplied)
- Map of South Africa (supplied)
- Photos of SOS Children's Village Rustenburg (supplied)
- Rights of the Child flashcards (supplied)
- Case studies (supplied)
- DVD Lee John in Capetown (optional)

### Learning objectives

- To learn some basic facts about South Africa
- To learn some basic information about the UN convention of the rights of the child

### Links to National Curriculum subjects

- Geography
- Citizenship

### Sources:

[www.soschildrensvillages.org/](http://www.soschildrensvillages.org/)  
[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)  
[www.unicef.org/](http://www.unicef.org/)

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## Lesson plan - Key Stage 3

This lesson plan aims to give students (Ss) an introduction to SOS Children's Villages in general, and to our work in South Africa in particular. It provides Ss with basic information about South Africa, and also introduces Ss to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and how this is promoted by SOS Children's Village in Rustenburg, South Africa.

### Introduction: orphaned and abandoned children

Start the session by telling the Ss that they will now be asked some questions, and that they must raise their hand before they call out the answer. Ask Ss the following questions, and receive answers from 3-4 Ss after each question:

20 mins

- Who woke you up this morning?
- Who made sure you had breakfast?
- Who made sure you got to school on time?
- Who will make sure you have dinner when you get home from school today?

The Ss will probably answer mum, dad, step parents, foster carers, sister, brother, grandparents, nanny etc. Some will say that they managed all the above all by themselves – in that case, ask them who would help them if they suddenly weren't able to do these things themselves. The point is to elicit how dependent they all are on their parents and/or other people around them who help, support and look after them.

Point out that they are all very lucky to have all these people around them to look after them, and then say that it is not the case for all children across the world. There are many millions of children across the world who have nobody at all to look after them. Their parents may be dead or for other reasons unable to look after them. Ask the Ss why this might be. Note their answers on the wb. Answers should include:

- poverty
- disease (hiv, aids, malaria, tb,)
- civil or international war
- parents unable because of drug/alcohol misuse
- parents unable because of poor mental health.
- natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis etc)

Looking at the answers on the wb, ask the Ss if they can guess if some of the answers are more common in some parts of the world than others. The purpose of this is to make the point that child abandonment and orphans is not a specifically 'African' problem, as many people think, but something that is very common in western Europe and North America as well. The reasons in this part of the world seem to more often be drug/alcohol misuse and poor mental health, and in Africa and Asia it tends to be diseases and poverty. Tell Ss that you are today going to learn a bit more about South Africa, so could they take a guess at which of these reasons apply to South Africa (all, but especially hiv/aids and other diseases, together with poverty. Alcohol is also a big problem).

### Introduce South Africa

Say that the Ss is now going to learn a bit more about South Africa. Explain that you are going to read out a few **true or false statements** about South Africa, and that the Ss should stand up if they think the statement is true, and remain seated if they think the statement is false. Proceed to reading out the statements one by one. After each one, ask one or a few Ss to comment on why they have chosen to stand up/sit down, before giving the right answer.

10 mins



## SOS Children's Village Rustenburg

### Introduce SOS Children

Show the **SOS map**. Say that SOS Children's Villages is a charity that looks after orphaned and abandoned children across the world. At the moment, SOS Children works in all the countries marked in yellow on the map. In some countries, like Britain, Australia and Sweden, there are offices only, but in the other countries there are Children's Villages. A Children's Village is a group of houses, in which local women called SOS Mothers live to raise orphaned and abandoned children. This means that children with nobody else to look after them can grow up in a home environment looked after by an SOS Mother. They are also provided with an education and medical care, just like any other children.

10 mins

Explain that you are now going to look at life in one Children's Village in particular, and that is the one in Rustenburg, South Africa. Show the **map of South Africa**, and the slides with **photos from Rustenburg**. Say that it has 10 family houses, which are homes for up to 100 children. They also offer support to families and children who live in the surrounding area, by offering material and medical support, education and counselling.

Answer any questions the Ss might have about life in the Children's Village. Does it seem a nice place to live?

### Group activity: Securing the Rights of the Child in Rustenburg

Divide the Ss in to groups of 4, and make sure they are seated in a way so that they can easily discuss within their groups. Ask the Ss if they have ever heard of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, and find out what they know already. See separate fact sheet for more details.

20 mins

Hand out the **Rights of the Child flashcards**, and ask the Ss to read them through in their groups together, and to ask in case they have any questions or if they don't understand any of them.

Tell the Ss that they are now going to learn a bit more about some of the children who live in the Rustenburg Children's Village, and about what their lives were like before they came to the village. After hearing these stories, the groups of Ss should decide which one of the Children's Rights was being violated.

Read out and display the first **case study**, then give the Ss a few minutes in their group to decide which right(s) was being violated. Then tell the Ss what happened after the child's arrival to the Children's Village.

End the lesson by pointing out that just because a child has a difficult start in life, that doesn't mean that he or she will have a difficult time later in life. With the right help and support, from organisations like SOS Children for example, any child can be successful. Point out that SOS Children couldn't do its work without the help of supporters and friends across the world, who donate generously. Encourage a discussion about charitable giving: see if the Ss would be willing to give to charities to help people they don't know and will probably never meet. Why? Why not? Would they consider it as adults? Discuss if we have a responsibility to help those less fortunate.

### Extension

Show the DVD 'Leee John in Capetown' to give Ss an idea of what a Children's Village is like.

10 mins