

Lesson aims

- Learn about traditional and modern homes in other cultures and use what I learn to make connections with my own culture.
- Discuss traditional and modern homes in a country of my choice and understand my own cultural identity.
- Make comparisons between cultures and use my own beliefs and values to improve my cultural knowledge.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

communal [adj]: owned or used by everyone in a group, especially a group of people who live in the same building

convenient [adj]: easy to travel to

cosy [adj]: warm and comfortable, and making you feel relaxed

exterior [n]: the outside part of something, especially a building

flood [n]: when water covers something

harsh [adj]: difficult to live in

house [v]: to provide accommodation for

insulation [n]: material used for preventing heat, cold or noise passing through something

outskirts [n]: the areas of a town or city that are furthest away from the centre

porch [n]: an open area covered by a roof at the entrance to a house or other building

resident [n]: someone who lives in a place

rural [adj]: in the countryside

stilts [n]: posts that a house is built on to raise it above the ground or above the level of water

up-to-date [adj]: modern and using the latest ideas or knowledge

urban [adj]: relating to towns and cities

Lead-in

Ask students to brainstorm as many different types of homes as they can in one minute (for example, house, bungalow, flat, cottage, cabin, igloo, etc.). Write their ideas on the board.

- 1** Students look at the photos and decide which countries they think these homes are found in. Allow time for ideas to be shared with the rest of the class.

Answers

A a chalet in Switzerland (or other Alpine country)
B Chinese houses in Singapore with modern block of flats in background **C** whitewashed houses in Spain **D** terraced houses in the UK

- 2** Ask students to look at the photos of the homes and identify the traditional and the modern ones. They then read the article to find out if they guessed the countries correctly.

Answer

The houses are in Iceland and Vietnam. Traditionally, houses were built according to their surroundings and environment. *Traditional Iceland:* grass on roofs and walls to provide more insulation in a very cold climate; *modern Iceland:* colourful urban house. *Traditional Vietnam:* houses built on stilts to keep them above the water level to avoid floods during the monsoon season; *modern Vietnam:* block of flats in a city.

- 3** Students read the article again and write the words in the correct places in the table. When students have finished, elicit the answers as a class.

Answers	traditional	modern
Iceland	cosy detached grass roof	attic colourful garage
Vietnam	porch pretty stilts	convenient garden block of flats

- 4** Students read the statements and decide if they are an advantage or a disadvantage. Check the answers as a class.

Answers

1 A 2 D 3 A 4 A 5 D 6 A

OPTIMISE YOUR CULTURE

- 5** In pairs, students discuss the questions. Elicit their ideas as a class.

PROJECT

- 6** Explain to students that they are going to make a poster for a country of their choice. They will need internet access to do their research. Put students into groups of three or four for this activity. For Step 1, students choose a country they are interested in, and research information for each of the bullet points for a traditional and a modern home. In Step 2, students prepare their poster with illustrations and descriptions.
- 7** Students prepare their posters in class and then display them on the classroom walls and discuss their findings. Encourage them to notice any similarities and differences between the different countries.