

Cowforce.com

ABOUT AFRICA – MEET ROSE

In this area we meet Rose – a ten-year-old orphan from Rwanda. She shows us around her garden, giving us an idea of what her life is like. The objects in her front garden each tell their own story and prompt discussion about differences between living in Rwanda and the UK.

PLANS

Visit her house . . . pupils look at their own lifestyles and compare them with Rose's.

Needs and wants . . . basic human needs are discussed through looking at Rose's life.

QCA CITIZ UNIT 7 – Children's rights

QCA CITIZ UNIT 5 – Living in a diverse world

RESOURCES

Meet Rose info. . . more information about the items featured outside Rose's house to use in group work and discussion.

Hear her story . . . Rose's story written as a case study.

Needs and wants sheet . . . to promote class discussion.

ROSE.ppt . . . a Powerpoint with notes showing more about Rose's life.

ROSETOUR.kmz . . . a 'fly through' file using Google Earth to show the location of Rose's house in Rwanda.

IDEAS

- Re-create the scene as a **wall display** with drawings of the different objects and annotations with facts.
- Focus on one object in the scene and **mind-map** what it tells us about similarities and differences with life in the UK.
- Create a **collage** using magazine pictures and catalogues showing how children live in the UK.





MEET ROSE: *and visit her house*

For this lesson you will need to use the MEET ROSE information sheet. The ROSE Powerpoint and the ROSE TOUR kmz file is also useful.

This lesson helps pupils to think about similarities and differences between life for a child in the UK and in Rwanda. It encourages pupils to empathise and imagine themselves in another child's place. You will need to look at the MEET ROSE area of the website as a class or ask pupils to look at it separately before carrying out this lesson.

- 1 Talk to the pupils about any background information on Rwanda and locate it on a world map or on Google Earth by clicking the ROSETOUR.kmz file.
- 2 Use the panorama picture to draw an outline and ask pupils place a picture of themselves to fit into the scene. Discuss as a class what it would be like to live in Rose's house in Rwanda.
- 3 Give table groups two information cards of the objects from the MEET ROSE page and ask them to imagine that they live in Rose's house. Looking at the issues on the cards ask pupils to discuss in their groups any similarities and how their lives would be different or difficult if what it said on the card was true in their lives?
- 4 Get each group to feedback to the rest of the class what they thought might be different or difficult and write this on the board in columns.
- 5 Ask pupils to write a short paragraph to describe what they think their lives would be like if they lived in Rose's house.
- 6 Pupils can now draw some of the objects onto the outline picture and colour the scene in, annotating them to show what they have learnt. It may be useful to show the pictures from the ROSE Powerpoint for this.





MEET ROSE: *needs and wants*

If children could visit someone's house in Rwanda they would be amazed by what they saw – very basic rooms, not much furniture, no electricity etc. This exercise highlights the differences between life in Rwanda and in the UK and looks at questions of **needs/wants** and human rights. Before you start, visit the MEET ROSE page on the website with your class.

- 1 Ask children to think of five things that they want (could be toys, clothes, food etc). Make a list of them all on the board.
- 2 In groups pupils now discuss which of the **wants** in the list are actually things that they '**need**'.
- 3 Use the cards on the NEEDS and WANTS sheet in a group sorting activity to promote more discussion about what we **need** i.e. *things it would be very difficult to live without*.
- 4 Go through the group lists on the board to highlight anything that is not a **need** and is actually a **want**, giving reasons as you do so. Ask for suggestions and add any other things that pupils think they **need** in life.
- 5 Ask pupils to decide in their groups which of the **needs** are shared by all children in the world. These needs could be described as human rights and put into that language e.g. *children have a right to a home*.
- 6 Pupils now identify which of the **needs** in the list are essential to live, e.g. *food, shelter*, and which might be essential to feel happy (well-being) e.g. *love, play, friendship*.
- 7 Now bring pupils back to the MEET ROSE page (ROSE'S DAY may also be useful). Ask pupils whether her needs are being met according to their lists.
- 8 Point out that Rose was helped by Send a Cow through being given a cow, before that she was without proper food, did not go to school and had to work. Her needs are now met through the benefits that the cow brings – discuss with the class whether they think she has some of her wants or not.

Many other children in Rose's area of Rwanda are not able to meet their basic needs and do not have the right food, have houses that are falling down and are not able to go to school.



ROSE AND FIDELE

Rose's parents died in a time of fighting in 1994 when hundreds of thousands of people died - called a genocide. She has been brought up by her older brother, Fidele ever since. He has taught Rose how to read and write, and helps her with her education and schoolwork. 400,000 children lost their parents in the genocide in Rwanda – this means that many of these children have been brought up by other children. This has been hard for Rose, but Fidele has looked after her like she was his own daughter and he helps bring money into the household by selling milk and vegetables.

COLLECTING WATER

Most people in Rwanda don't have running water from a tap in their house – they have to walk to a spring or a well for water. Rose and Fidele both go and collect water from the well using jerry cans. In Rwanda, this job is often left to children, usually girls. Having to walk for miles to get water means that you try to use it as carefully as possible. So, when Rose needs to wash, drink or wash-up she makes sure that she doesn't waste water and that any left over goes on the garden. All of their water is precious, that's why they also use rainwater, which flows off the roof onto their vegetable plot.

BAG GARDEN

These are sacks filled with manure, soil and a column of stones that you can grow plants in. Most people in Rwanda grow their own food as they can't afford to buy it all from a shop, so making sure that there is food growing in the garden is very important. Bag gardens are a great way for people to grow food as they make use of all the nutrients in the soil, they don't need much water and by using manure from the cow they get lots more crops. They grow onions, cabbages, peppers and spinach in their bags – now they can go out to the garden and pick vegetables when they need to eat.

TIP-TAP

Keeping clean to help prevent the spread of disease is really important in Rwanda. Because of the hot climate and lack of running water, diseases like typhoid and diarrhoea can easily be passed on, killing many people. Simple devices like the tip-tap can help to keep hands clean where there are no taps. By putting your foot on the lever a string is pulled, tipping the container spout down, giving you a trickle of water. Rose uses it after cleaning the cow shed, going to the toilet and before preparing food. It's also good because they don't waste water, which all needs to be collected from a well.



USING MANURE

The hot climate and lack of rain can mean that it's hard to grow anything in the soil. This is a big issue when you have to grow food to stay alive. Most Rwandans have to grow their own food and so anything that can help the soil produce more crops is extremely useful. Send a Cow trains people to use different ways of helping the soil to improve – one of them is how to use their cow's manure on the soil. Rose helps to collect and spread the manure, mixing it into the soil. They now get three times as many vegetables from their land so they have plenty of different types of food now.

FREE TIME

When Rose has done all her different jobs she gets some free time to play. She usually plays with her neighbours and her friend Nmane, who live in walking distance from her house, as they don't have any transport. The games that they play are simple and don't need lots of gadgets or batteries. They often involve chasing and group games, skipping or ball games - like dodgeball or football. Rose doesn't have a lot of free time and there isn't a local park to play in, so when she does get a chance to play it's usually in her back garden with children who live close by.

FLIP FLOPS

Not everyone in Rwanda owns some footwear – Rose is quite fortunate to have a pair of flip-flops. Many children walk around barefoot and get cuts and sores on their feet from walking over sharp stones and rough ground. Rose looks after her flip flops really well and only wears them to protect her feet when she has to walk quite far. Often simple items like this are treasured and can make a real difference to people's lives; owning a pencil and paper helps you learn more at school, having some soap helps to prevent disease and having fuel for the lamp means that they extra hours of light in the evening.

HOMEMADE TOYS

Toys are far too expensive for most families to buy, so children make their own toys and games. Recycled wire is used to make model cars and vehicles that children push around on the end of a stick. Leaves from banana plants are used to make dolls, skipping ropes and wound around plastic bags to make footballs. This means that children have to use their imaginations a lot when they play and if they need a new toy then they make one! Board games are sometimes owned, but a flat surface with a board scratched onto it with seeds as counters are often used.





MEET ROSE: *and hear her story*

Rose is an eleven-year-old girl who lives in the tiny country of Rwanda in central Africa. In 1994, when she was just a baby, her brother Fidele had to hide with her in swamps and fields of banana plants. They were hiding from armed gangs of people who wanted to kill everyone from their ethnic group – the Tutsis. Rwanda went through a horrible time of fighting (called genocide) that year, when thousands of children were made into orphans. Fidele, baby Rose and three other brothers and sisters were just some of the children left as orphans that year. Since then, Rose has looked up to Fidele as more of a father than an older brother and they have had to work hard to survive.

In 2003 Rose's household were given a cow by Send a Cow, giving them new hope. The first benefit was its manure, which they put on the soil; giving them three times as many vegetables on their plots of land. The cow's milk helped to improve their health and some was sold giving them money so that the children could go to school. The training that they got helped them to be part of a bigger group of orphans – all joining together to make things better. The cow really made a big difference and they work together to look after it, keeping it well fed, clean and healthy. They also work on the land together – which is where they get their food. Fidele has taught Rose how to make vegetable gardens and all of the other things that he learnt from Send a Cow about using manure, making compost and looking after plants. There is always work to do, but now that they have some money from selling milk and vegetables, Fidele can afford to pay for school fees, as education isn't free in Rwanda.

Rose's future looks much brighter, now that she is getting an education she is more likely to get a good job when she is older. Also, because they are part of a group of orphans they can all support and help each other – Fidele and Rose have already helped others by giving another group of orphans their first female calf. Fidele has recently got married and now has another baby to look after, thankfully she is growing up in a much more hopeful situation.



Needs		Wants	
clothes to wear	a stereo	a bed	somewhere to live
a car	healthy food	friends	medicine
a television	soap/shampoo	an education	new clothes
toothpaste	mobile phone	plates and cutlery	shoes

