

Objectives

1. To give pupils an awareness of children in a different society and culture.
2. To show how poverty and relying on their environment for food, can affect people's lives.
3. To develop reading for information skills.

New Words

Consume, maize, cassava, plantation, Ugandan Shillings

Resources

- *Teacher Information 2.0*
- *Handout 2.1- Berna's Story Part 1*
- *Handout 2.2 - Flow chart*
- *Powerpoint slides*
- *African music CD*
- *Everyday consumables (toothpaste, soap, fuel can, light bulb etc.)*

Starter

Time: 15 minutes

- Pupils to think about all of the things they consume (use up, not just eat) during one day.
- Give out everyday consumables - pupils imagine what their everyday lives would be like without this object.

Lesson

Group activity

Time: 15 minutes

- **Teacher Information 2.0** – basic needs explanation.
- Give **Berna's Story Part 1** to pairs of pupils.
- Discuss what Berna's needs are from the text.
- Pairs choose one of Berna's needs to focus on.
- The pair now come up with a basic action plan using **flow chart Handout 2.2** of how to help Berna's family. See **Teacher Information 2.0** for modelling.

Lesson

Class presentation

Time: 25 minutes

- Pairs briefly say what their action plan is and explain why they chose it.
- Discuss and list ideas, pros and cons.

Plenary

Time: 15 minutes

Points to make:

- many different charities and organisations try to help people like Berna.
- not all Ugandan children are as poor as her, but children face some of the challenges she has across Uganda.
- the similarities and differences between being in Berna's family and their own.

Berna lives in the town of Rakai in Southern Uganda. She lives there with her grandfather and seven of his grandchildren. Seven children is a lot to look after for a grandfather, and so Berna has become the head of the household at age 15. She does not go to school and is about the poorest out of all her friends in Rakai.

Berna has grown up fast and looks after the younger children – she acts like a mother to them. When they get back from school Berna makes them all dinner, if there is enough food. The town's people usually eat savoury bananas, but Berna's family often have to eat *maize* meal and end up just drinking tea when there is nothing else. They have planned ahead though by planting some *maize*, beans and *cassava* to eat once it is ready to harvest.

The younger children help with the jobs by fetching water and going to get things. Occasionally they go and work on coffee *plantations*, when possible, to earn some badly needed money. It doesn't go very far though; it costs 500 *Ugandan Shillings* (about 15p) to feed the family one meal and they earn about 2,000 *Ugandan Shillings* (about 60p) a day at the *plantation*. It doesn't help that they have to pay for secondary school as well. As food is the most important thing for them they can't afford to buy any other everyday expensive things like new clothes and soap - Berna has trouble sometimes getting the children to wash at all. The house has leaks and needs some attention to the walls and when the children are ill she can't buy medicines, so she uses herbs, which only help a little.

Things have been difficult for Berna since her parents died, her mother in 2001 and her father in 1996, but she does her best to look after everyone. Even in the district where she lives her family are seen as poor. Everyday is a challenge to keep the family healthy and alive.

Facts about Berna's Family:

Berna's grandfather is 90 years old

Her parents died of AIDS

Rakai is a poor area

The children are aged between 10 and 13

A charity called World Vision has provided medicine for the very ill

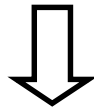
Berna sometimes cooks using paraffin, but there often isn't any

They all have poor diets and not enough food

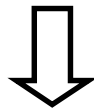
Names:

Handout 2.2

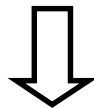
One of Berna's Needs is



Some ideas of what to do



Our chosen idea



How it will help Berna's family

Definitions

Consume - to use something up, as in materials or resources (fuel, toothpaste, food, electricity).

Maize - tall cereal crop – ‘corn on the cob’.

Cassava - tropical plant, having edible roots used for making bread or cakes and cassava cereal.

Plantation - an area where crops for selling are grown on a large scale.

Ugandan Shilling – unit of currency used by Ugandans. £1 is about UGX 3,000. A can of coke would cost about UGX 500 (17p). This sounds cheap but most working people earn around UGX 1,500 to 3000 (50p to £1) a day.

Basic needs

Basic human needs are: food, clothing, shelter and basic medical care.

Secondary needs would include education, employment and personal items *e.g. soap*.

For the purposes of this lesson all of the above could be classed as basic needs as pupils may offer some ‘wants’ as needs *e.g. a TV or car*.

Berna’s needs are: *food for the family, improved housing, better medical care, schooling for the children, regular employment, clothing, soap etc.*

Example of Modelling:

Basic need	<i>clothing</i>
Some ideas of what to do	<i>send out some clothes, make clothes cheaper in Uganda, provide a sewing machine.</i>
Our chosen idea	<i>provide a hand operated sewing machine that the family can make new clothes with.</i>
How it will help Berna’s family	<i>they can make clothes for themselves and then start to make them to sell to others. Providing money for the family for food and schooling.</i>