

The images at www.cowfiles.com/gallery and www.sendacowimages.org.uk are useful in many school contexts. Photographs are great for introducing new topics and areas that the children are not familiar with. As with any medium, the children will need to learn how to 'read' photographs for information.

Here are some ways in which pupils can get the most out of the many images supplied:

- Put photos in some sort of context – 'Where is this? What is it?' (Some information is provided in the image folders).
- Ask questions about what they can see in the image. Make a list of all the information that the picture gives. e.g. *the soils are red, the sky is blue, children are happy, clothing is old, houses are made of mud*. You could use call out boxes as a class (see next page).
- Pupils can compare their own lives with that of the children in the pictures, asking, 'what is the same/different?', 'what makes it different?' This can be classified under various headings, 'People, Buildings, Environment.'
- Pupils could be given a camera so that they can take their own photos of things in the UK in a similar situation as the pictures from Africa. e.g. *pictures of boys playing football, transport, housing*. They could even try to reconstruct a picture in a fun way within a UK context. Comparisons could be made and discussed.
- Use the images as a descriptive writing task – give as much background information as you can and ask pupils to write about a person in the picture.
- Pupils can be asked to discuss possible fictional accounts of what is in the picture, offering different interpretations from their own deductions. Facts and opinions can be discussed here.

There is an example of what to look out for on an image and how questions can be asked, on the following page.

Many plants are growing in the garden

Roof is thatched and not tiled

What is this? Is it something to do with the toilet?

Toilet is away from the house

Shadows are strong – is it sunny there?

Soil is red and looks dry

