

How do families really live in other countries?

Type of activity: exploring an internet site

Who is it for? Juniors up to 110 years!

What do I need?

- Internet access - Dollar Street <https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street/matrix>
- Curiosity to learn about families around the world ; simple computer skills.

Introduction

In the news, we seldom see people living their ordinary lives. **Dollar Street** is a photo data base of over 260 families living in 50 different countries. It was set up by Anna Rosling Ronnland, a Swedish global data researcher. *"People in other cultures are often portrayed as scary or exotic."* Anna explains: *"This has to change. We want to show how people really live. It seemed natural to use photos ... so people can see for themselves what life looks like on different income levels. Dollar Street lets you visit many, many homes all over the world. Without travelling."* In each home the photographer spends a day taking photos of up to 135 objects, like the family's toothbrushes or favourite pair of shoes. All photos are then tagged and you can search the data in several ways.



Here's how to...

1. Open Dollar Street website and take the 'Quick Tour' which explains how it works. By clicking on a family, you will find out more about them, their hopes and dreams, and see lots of pictures round their homes.
2. You can also do some interesting searches, for example:
 - Categories - try toothbrushes, stoves, favourite toys, toilets!
 - Countries - select all or click a selection to compare. Remember there will be a range of incomes in each country.
 - Income level - choose a narrow range and compare objects in the houses - how similar are they across cultures with similar incomes?
3. Make a guess - Where do we live (UK) on Dollar Street? Left (poorest), middle or right (richest)? To decide, try looking at beds for different income levels and see what looks similar to your bedroom. Was your guess about right or not? What does it tell you about your understanding of the world?
4. Kitchen sink with taps - how wealthy do people need to be to have this as standard? (use narrow income range and search up the Street). Does your answer surprise you?
5. What cannot be shown by photos about how a family lives in another country or culture?

