

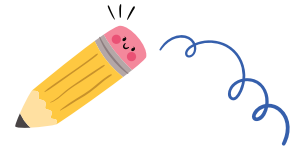
CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Lesson Guide

RESOURCE	CURRICULUM LINK	SUBJECT	STRAND	STRAND UNIT	NOTES
Junior Resources					
Junior SPHE activity	SPHE	SPHE	Myself and the wider world	Developing Citizenship	When students are engaging teachers should be aware of language leading to stereotypes or an us/them happy/sad narrative that might emerge in comparing the global north and south. Teachers should also be mindful of colours used and encourage diversity and accuracy in where poverty exists (shoeboxes go to countries in Africa and Europe)
Aistear Conversation Starters	Aistear SPHE	SPHE	Myself & the wider world	Developing Citizenship	When using conversation starters be aware of questions that may lead to a better than/less than narrative in terms of housing. Teachers should be prepared to explain the difference in housing types in other countries and to normalize different cultures.
Aistear Station	Aistear				
Acrostic Poem	Language	English	All	Writing & Oral	
Maze					
4W's	Language	English	Writing & oral		
'About Me'	Language	English	All	Writing	
Story Planner	Language	English	All	Writing	Teachers should actively navigate the conversation to support the celebration of other cultures and to avoid an us/them way of thinking around poverty.
Ukraine Fact File	Language SESE	English Geography	Developing Cog. Abilities Human environments	Reading	
Cloze Procedure	Language SPHE	English SPHE	Reading Myself & the wider world	Developing Citizenship	A discussion around how we all equally need the items in a shoebox is recommended with an explanation that in some parts of the world these are harder to access.
Junior Wordsearch	Language	English	All	Reading	
Country Wordsearch	Language	English	All	Reading	
Differentiated Reading Activity	Language	English	All	Reading	Use the end section to discuss poverty and be prepared to explain why poverty exists.
Crafts	Art	Visual Arts	Drawing Fabric & Fibre	All All	
Videos					
Senior resources					
Acrostic Poem	Language	English	All	Writing & Oral	
Cloze procedure	Language SPHE	English	Writing Myself and the Wider World	Developing Citizenship	
Differentiated reading activity	Language	English	All	Reading	Discuss poverty and be mindful of stereotypes and the assumptions that poverty covers whole countries or continents. Be prepared to explain poverty and how countries with poverty (like Ireland) can also have much innovation and success.
Senior story planner	Language	English	All	Writing	In writing stories encourage pupils to avoid stereotypes or a mindset of helper & helpee. Encourage the concepts of sharing and kindness.
Country fact file	SESE	Geography	Human Environments	People and other lands	
Country Wordsearch	Language	English		Reading	
Developing Country Fact File	SESE	Geography	Human environments	People and other lands	Teachers should be mindful not to create an us/them narrative when discussing other countries and to celebrate other cultures.
Distribution Charts (from Walk Tall 5 th class	SPHE	Senior lesson plan-Christmas Shoebox Appeal	Myself and the Wider World	Developing Citizenship	

Please refer to the department of Education Intercultural Education in Primary Schools Guidelines for further information or contact us at info@teamhope.ie

Junior Resources (Junior Infants - 2nd Class)



Activity	Subject	Strand/Unit
Aistear Conversation Starters	Aistear, SPHE	Myself and the wider world
Aistear Station	Aistear	
Acrostic Poem	English	Writing
Maze		
4W's	English	Writing & Oral
'About Me'	English	Writing
Story Planner	English	Writing
Ukraine Fact File	English, Geography	Reading, Human environments
Cloze Procedure	English, SPHE	Reading, Myself & the wider world
Junior Wordsearch	English	Reading
Country Wordsearch	English	Reading
Differentiated Reading Activity	English	Reading
Crafts	Art	Drawing, Fabric & Fibre
Videos		

Aims

- ★ To engage students in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.
- ★ For students to learn about the wider world through stories, videos, photos and activities.
- ★ For students to learn that they have the power to make a difference.



5 Steps



Order leaflets and posters for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal at

1. www.TeamHope.ie (call 01 2940222) -order one leaflet per pupil. When you have your leaflets, hand them out and set a date for pupils to bring in their shoeboxes. *Digital leaflets are also available for sending directly to parents.*

2. Watch the Christmas Shoebox Appeal video on www.TeamHope.ie (approx. 3 mins)

3. Use the PowerPoint presentation on www.TeamHope.ie to explain the Christmas Shoebox Appeal to students. Discuss what items can go into a Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Allow students to react to the wonderful stories of children receiving shoeboxes.

4. Use the resources included in your pack as 1 or more lessons around the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

5. Watch more videos from our youTube channel to learn about and discuss the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Guidance note for teachers:

The following resources deal with the area of poverty and so should be discussed sensitively in line with the Department of Education Intercultural Education in Primary Schools Guideline: Junior SPHE, Aistear Conversation starters, Junior story planner, Junior differentiated reading activity, senior differentiated reading activity, senior story planner, senior developing country fact file, senior distribution of population and wealth resource. Department of Education Intercultural Education in Primary Schools Guidelines promotes 'representing diversity as a normal part of Irish life and human existence ensuring that representations of minority groups do not focus on the spectacular or colourful events, as this may lead to stereotyping and may run counter to the aim of representing diversity as normal ensuring that all children irrespective of their colour, ethnic group, or ability can feel at home and represented within the school'. The full document can be found [here](#).

In line with this, our resources and lesson plans seek to increase students' awareness of global development but also emphasise the diverse and prevalent nature of poverty which can and does impact people of all ethnic groups or abilities. The stories which accompany the Christmas Shoebox Appeal highlight the positive impact of a shoebox on children of all backgrounds, show adults who received shoeboxes as children and are now resident in Ireland, and illustrate the brilliant example of our local partners who are changing the societies in which they live and work. Team Hope recognises poverty here in Ireland and does not want any child/family to be put under pressure to produce a Christmas Shoebox. If you have any further queries about how to sensitively address issues arising from this material please feel free to contact us (01) 2940222 info@teamhope.ie. We are so grateful for your support for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal and we hope your students love taking part.

THE 4W's

These are some ideas of things you might fill your Team Hope Christmas Shoebox with:

WRITE

Pens/Pencils
Crayons
Paper/Copy Books
Colouring Books
Markers
Sharpeners
Erasers



WASH

Soap (wrapped)
Hairbrush
Comb
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Facecloth



WEAR

Socks
Underwear
Flip Flops
Hat
Scarf
Gloves



WOW

Cuddly Toy
Skipping rope/Yo-yo
Sweets (in date until April next year)
Musical Instrument
Sunglasses
Toy Car
Doll
Ball



WHAT NOT TO INCLUDE:

Please do not send liquids (shampoo, bubbles), sharp objects, food/chocolate, books with lots of words, scary items (Halloween, war related, masks, toy snakes), breakables or medicines.

4W's

Roinnt smaointe do bhur mBoscaí Nollag

WRITE/ SCRÍOBH



Pinn luaidhe
Criáin
Páipéar/cóipleabhair



WASH/ NIGH



Gallúnach
Scuab gruaige
cíor
Scuab fiacla
Tuáille aghaidhe



WEAR/ CAITHEAMH



Stocaí
Fo-éadaí
Flip-flops
Hata
Scairf
Lámhainní



WOW!



Bréagán cúthail
Téad scipeála
Milseán
Yo-yo
Spéaclaí gréine
Carr
Bréagán
Bábóg
Liathróid



Ná cuir san áireamh:

Ná seol leachtanna (gallúnach, boilgeoga) le do thoil, ábhair géar, bia/seacláid, leabhair le go leor focail iontu, ábhair scanrúil (Oíche Shamhna, ábhair chogaidh, maisc, nathracha bréagán, ábhair inbhriste nó leighis.



TEAM HOPE™

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

THANK YOU
for bringing hope
to a child this
Christmas

HOW TO BUILD A GREAT CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX



WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR SHOEBOX - THE 4 W'S



WRITE

Pens, pencils, crayons, copybooks, colouring books, markers, sharpeners and erasers.



WASH

Bar of soap (wrapped), hairbrush, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste and facecloths.



WEAR

Socks, underwear, flip flops, hat, scarf and gloves.



WOW

Cuddly toy, skipping rope, sweets (dated 6 months +), small musical instrument, family photo, toy car, doll, ball and stickers.



YES PLEASE

These items are suitable and make wonderful additions to a shoebox gift!

- ✓ **New, good quality gifts**
That are safe, useful and age appropriate.
- ✓ **School supplies (WRITE!)**
Pens, pencils, copybooks, crayons, colouring books, markers, sharpeners, erasers, solar calculators, rulers.
- ✓ **Toiletries (WASH!)**
Bar of soap (wrapped), toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, facecloth, plasters, roll on deodorant, sanitary towels (10-14 year girl boxes only).
- ✓ **Clothing and accessories (WEAR!)**
Socks, underwear, hats, gloves, scarfs, flip flops.
- ✓ **Toys and fun items (WOW!)**
Cuddly toy, skipping rope, ball, toy cars, dolls, small musical instruments, stickers, sweets (in date 6 months+), dominos.

Thank You! Your gift will bring joy and hope.



PLEASE DON'T INCLUDE

For safety, customs and practical reasons we are unable to accept these items.

- ✗ **Food & Chocolate**
No food including chocolate products, biscuits, crisps.
- ✗ **Medicines & Healthcare**
Medicine, tablets, lotions, hand sanitiser.
- ✗ **War Related Items**
Toy soldiers/action toys, guns, knives, weapons, camouflage clothes.
- ✗ **Scary or Violent Items**
Skull and crossbones, snakes, spiders, Halloween masks.
- ✗ **Liquids & Aerosols**
Shampoo, conditioner, liquid soaps, bubbles, gels, water filled toys – nothing that can leak or spill!
- ✗ **Breakables**
Glass objects (including large mirrors).
- ✗ **Books**
Unless colouring books.
- ✗ **Sharp Items**
Scissors, penknives.
- ✗ **Religious or Inappropriate Items**
Tracts, jewellery.

Thank you for helping us deliver safe, fun boxes.

www.teamhope.ie

Team Hope, 5 Leopardstown Business Centre Dublin18 D18CF67 Phone: (01) 2940222
Team Hope is a company limited by guarantee (No. 359820), is a registered charity (No. 20047627)
and has been granted tax exemption status by the Revenue Commissioners (CHY No. 14524)

Share Hope
This Christmas 



What can you put in your Christmas Shoebox?



Draw some things that you can add into your Christmas Shoebox.



Things to **WRITE** with:



Things to **WASH** with:



Things to **WEAR**:



Things to **WOW!**



Acrostic Poem

Junior:
Junior infants- 2nd class

P _____

R _____

E _____

S _____

E _____

N _____

T _____

S _____

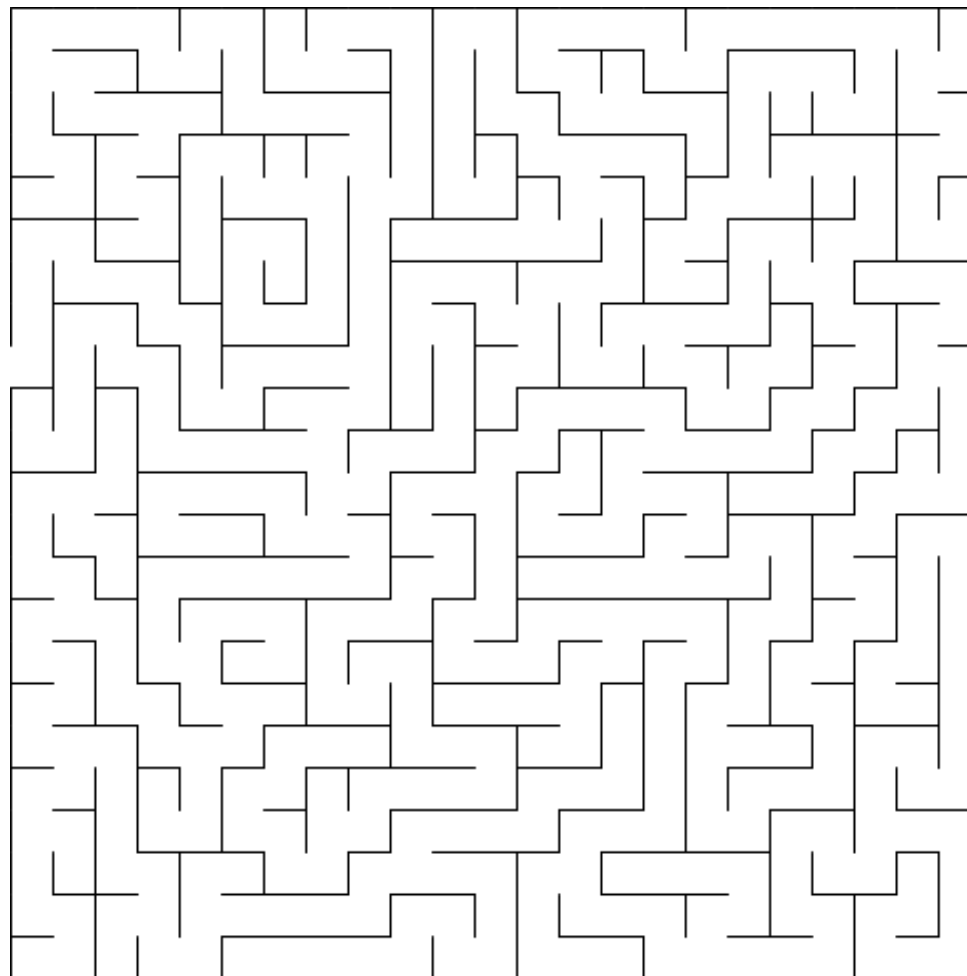
Christmas Shoebox Maze

Junior

Can you get your Christmas Shoebox to its new home!



Start here



Finish here

Cloze Procedure

Junior:
1st & 2nd class

All about the Christmas Shoebox Appeal



Did you know that more than 2 million Christmas shoeboxes have been sent from Ireland?
That's long enough to stretch all the way from Galway, across Ireland and all the way over to London!

Challenge

Find the missing words to fill the gaps in these sentences below.



Words:



Shoebox

write



breakable

warm

wash



sea

wear



wow

school

smile



Text:

The Christmas _____ Appeal is where people in Ireland build shoeboxes full of gifts that are sent to children in countries in Africa and Eastern Europe.

In our Christmas Shoebox we can add something to _____ with, _____ with, _____ and _____!

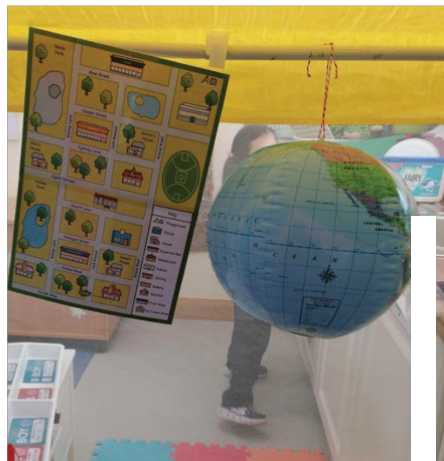
After we build our shoeboxes they are packed up and travel by land or _____ to their new homes.

Things to write with can help children to go to _____. Things to wash with can help children to have strong teeth and less illness. Things to wear can help children to be _____ and things to WOW can help children to _____.

We don't put things that could be scary or _____ in our Christmas Shoeboxes.

One teacher prepared a Christmas Shoebox Appeal Aistear station in the classroom, incorporating Literacy, Geography and the 4W's (included in your resources)!

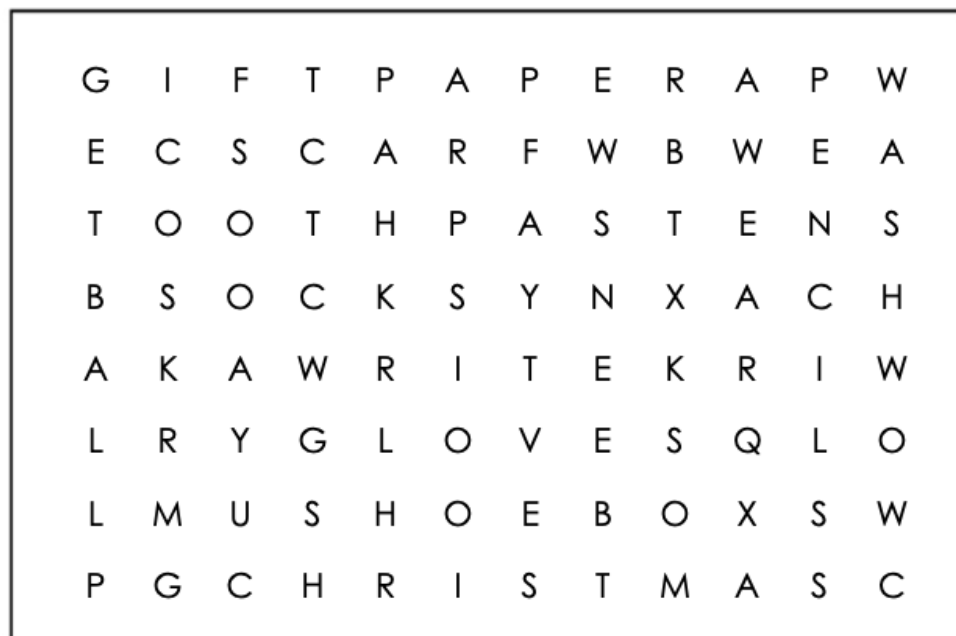
Thank you so much for the pictures and inspiration Caoimhe O'Dea!



*Click [here](#) to request your free copy of Bunny's Shoebox Journey Book, as shown.

Junior Wordsearch

Junior: Junior & Senior Infants



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → and ↓ .

TOOTHPASTE
CHRISTMAS
SHOEBOX
PENCILS
GLOVES
WRITE

SCARF
SOCKS
PAPER
WASH
WEAR
GIFT

BALL
WOW

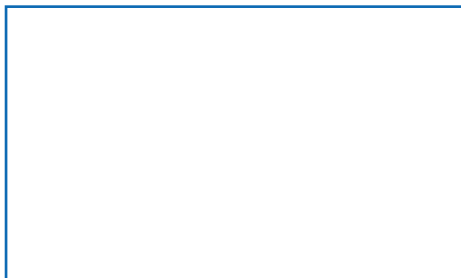
Country Fact File

Junior: 1st & 2nd class

Burundi

Use your skills to discover more about Burundi

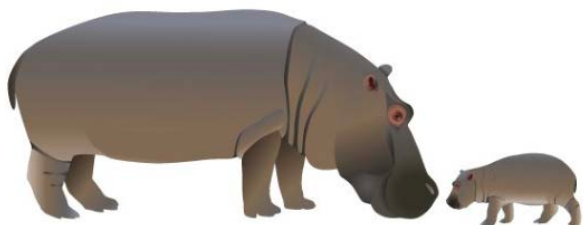
Draw the country Flag:



Capital City/Cities!:

Population:

Language(s) Spoken:



Location of Country on map:



Bordering Countries:

Popular Food:

Popular Activities or Sports:

Traditions:

National Anthem:

Other Interesting Facts:

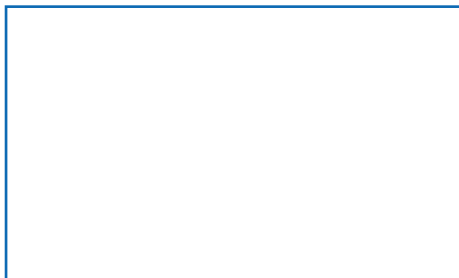
Country Fact File

Junior: 1st & 2nd class

Ukraine

Use your skills to discover more about Ukraine

Draw the country Flag:



Capital City:

Population:

Language Spoken:



Location of Country on map:



Bordering Countries:

Popular Food:

Popular Activities or Sports:

Traditions:

National Anthem:

Other Interesting Facts:

What is the Christmas Shoebox Appeal?

The Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal is where people all over Ireland give shoeboxes filled with gifts to children in parts of Africa or Eastern Europe who don't have as much as we do. It is our chance to share some joy and excitement with children who need it.

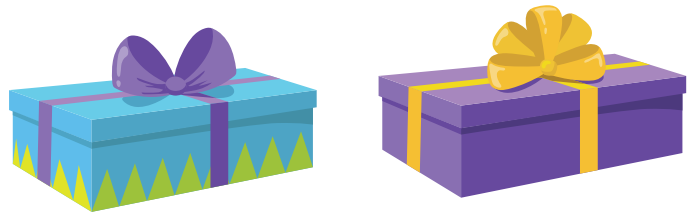
The Christmas Shoebox Appeal happens every year.

Last year, in 2024, we sent 171,675 Christmas Shoeboxes to Albania, Kosovo, Ukraine, Romania, Pridnestrovie, Moldova, Malawi, Kenya, Rwanda, Eswatini, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Lesotho and DR Congo.

Questions:

Where do shoebox **gifts** go to?

- ☐ Countries in Africa
- ☐ Countries in Europe
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ America



Who do **shoeboxes** go to?

- ☐ Animals
- ☐ Adults
- ☐ Children



Fill in the map of where the Christmas Shoeboxes went last year.



4 W's Poster

.....

What goes into a Christmas Shoebox?

What are the 4W's?

- ☐ Wash, write, wear, wow
- ☐ Wear, Walk, Wash, wobble
- ☐ Wellies, Wow, Water, Waves

What are some things to **write** with?



What are some things to **wear**?

What are some things to **wash** with?

What are some things to **wow**?

Why do we send Christmas Shoeboxes?

Team Hope works all year round and sends Christmas Shoeboxes to countries where there is poverty.

Poverty is where a person doesn't have and can't get enough money for their basic needs like food, shelter (a home) and education (school).

Poverty can be caused by wars, climate change, people not having enough rights and inequality.

Christmas Shoeboxes are gifts that help to bring joy to children and they also give things that they need like copybooks and pencils for school and warm clothes.

When Team Hope's partners in each country deliver Christmas Shoeboxes they meet people living in poverty and are able to help them in other ways.



Discussion questions

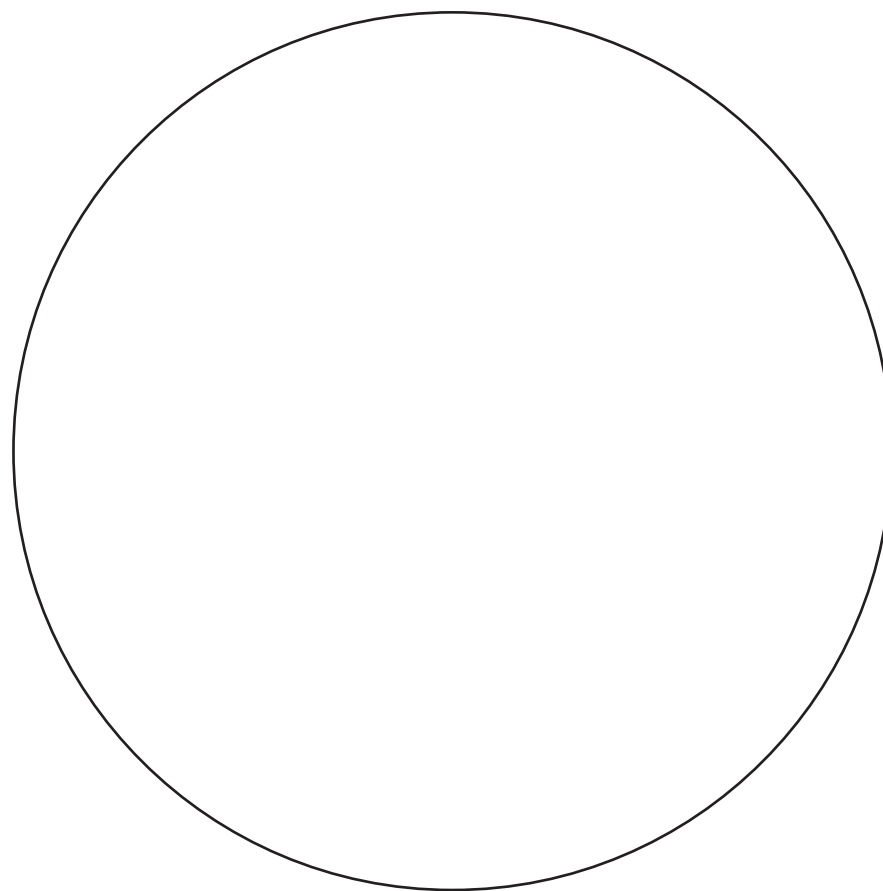
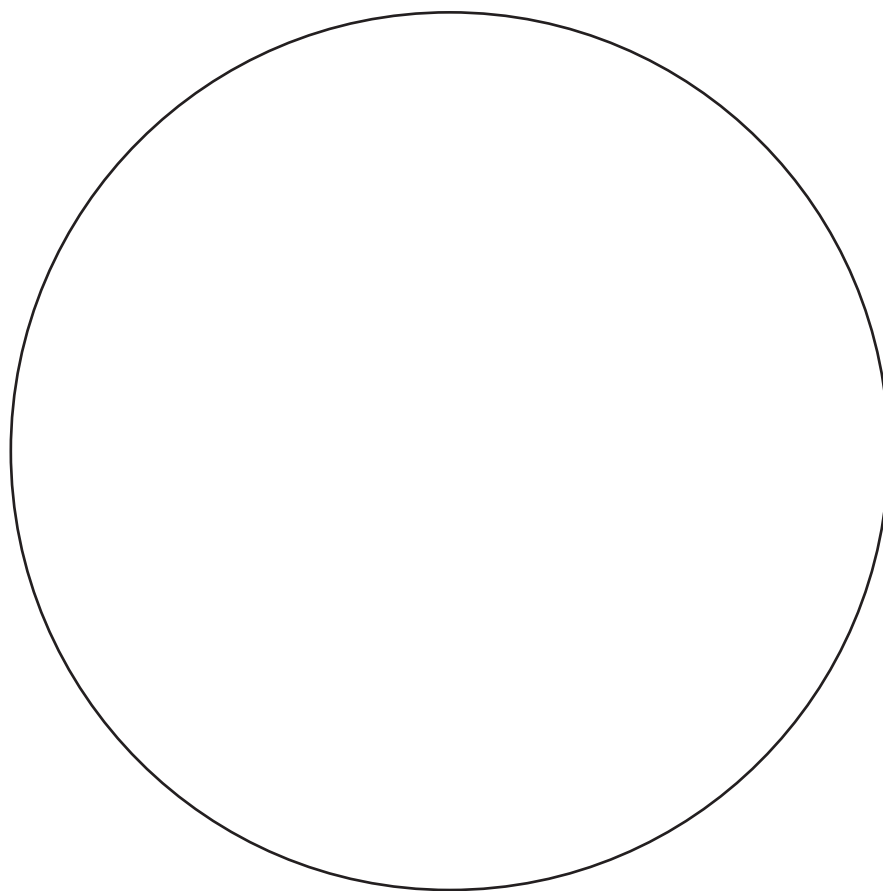
What is poverty?

(Discuss)

What causes poverty?

(Discuss)

Draw how you think a child might feel to receive a Christmas Shoebox. What feelings might they have? Can you draw their faces?



About Me

Junior: Junior infants- 2nd class

About me

Draw your family or stick on a photo

Add this to your shoebox!

My name is _____

I live in _____

I am _____ years old

I have _____ brothers

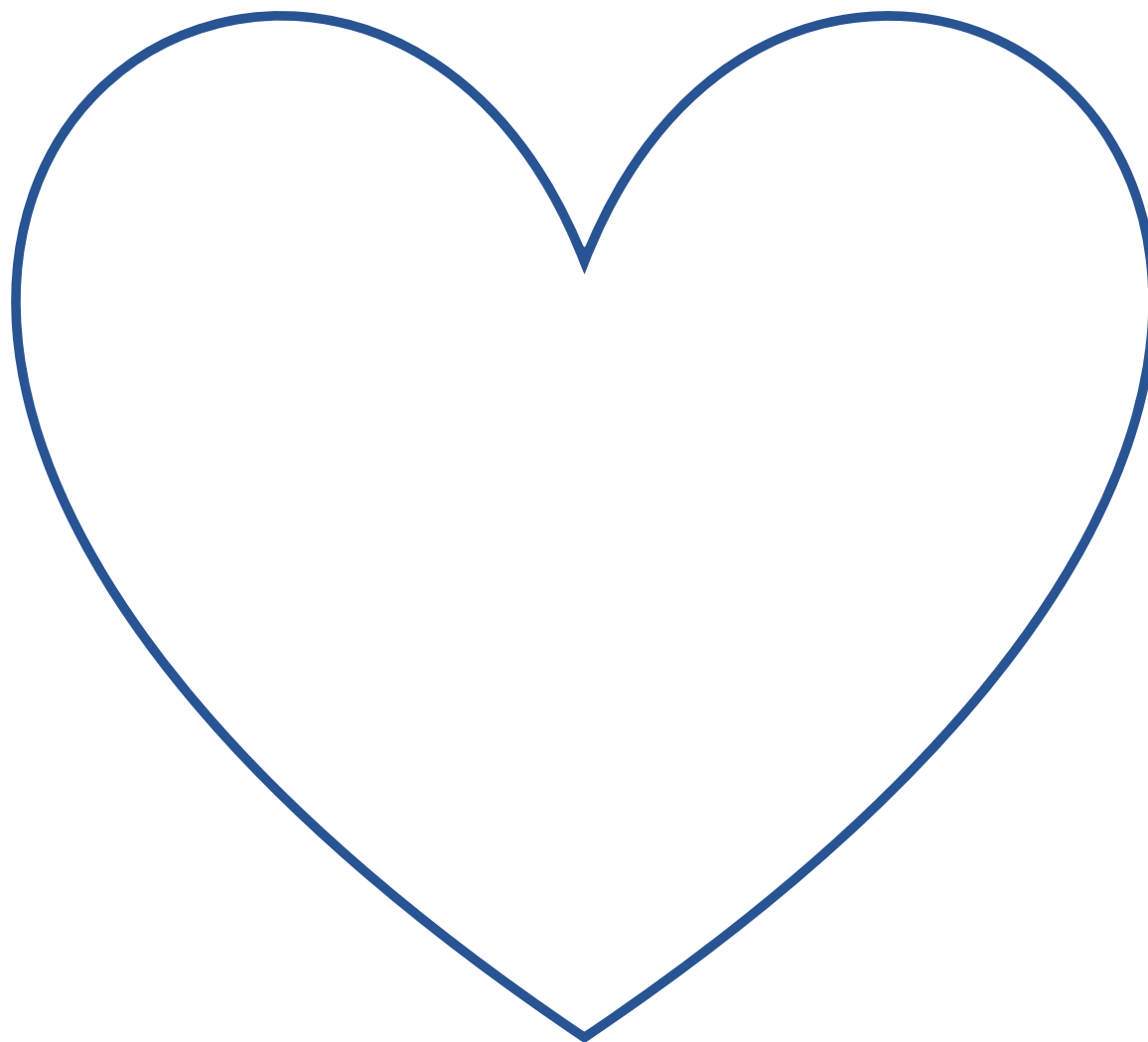
I have _____ sisters

I want to work as a _____

when I grow up.

My favourite food is

I have _____ pets



Country Wordsearch

Junior: 1st & 2nd Class

R V T V B V D U R P K I S T R Z B E
J O B R C U G I H J B M N E E U Z U
C C M U A L R M E E H M W V H R O T
R Q U A R N E K D E S W A T I N I H
W D K G N U S S I Q O E F L B Z F I
A R R O F I F N O N Z B M Z A U D O
N C A M S W A M I T A E X U L W B B
D O I K O S O V O S H F D R U Q I U
A N N F B T G R O S T O A V T A L P
J G E O U N G O S D L R N S X Q H X
J O C T H K E N Y A E U I N O H N L
L P H B U R U N D I X K Q A U Z U B

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

BURKINAFASO
BURUNDI
DRCONGO
ESWATINI
KENYA

KOSOVO
LESOTHO
MALAWI
ROMANIA
RWANDA

UKRAINE

BONUS POINTS

Can you find these countries on the map below?



Meet Bunny.



Imagine a fluffy Bunny toy sitting on a shelf in a shop.
He is headed for a very big adventure!

Use the photos to tell the story of how Bunny gets to Beatrice in Malawi
because of the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Introduction

- Introduce the main characters
- Introduce the story setting

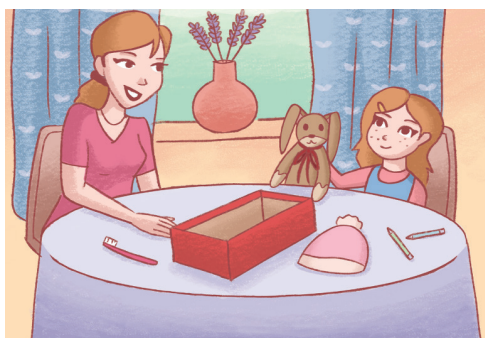


Story Planner

Junior:
Junior Infants - 2nd class

Build-Up

- Develop the characters and the setting
- The points that lead up to the climax (high point) in the story



Climax

- The climax in the story
- How do the characters react?



Story Planner

Junior:
Junior Infants - 2nd class

How does the story end

- The ending to the story



Conversation starters to engage our young learners

Links with 'Bunny's Shoebox Journey' book, available on request [here](#).

Where does Beatrice live?

What would be your favourite thing to put into a shoebox?

What were the 4W's?

What kinds of things can you wash with? Write with? Wear?

What present would make you say "wow!"?

How did the shoeboxes get to the boys and girls?

Have you ever been on a ship?

What is Beatrice's house made from?

What is your house made from?

Where do you live (reference attached map)?

How can we find out where the shoeboxes from your area went last year?

You can see the countries that the shoeboxes went to to from your area at www.teamhope.ie

Acrostic Poem

Senior:
3rd - 6th class

Acrostic Poem

G _____

I _____

V _____

I _____

N _____

G _____

G _____

I _____

F _____

T _____

S _____

STORIES



Marilena from Romania

"It's the first new toy I've ever had".

Marilena from Romania is 8 and her family struggles to even heat one room in the winter.

Marilena was so excited to get gel pens in her Christmas Shoebox, as she had seen them before, but when she saw the doll inside she whispered in awe "It's the first new toy I've ever had".



DR Congo

Almost 7,000 Christmas Shoeboxes from Mayo, Louth, and Wicklow went to children in DR Congo, and they brought so much joy!

Every single item, from cuddly toys to crayons, toothbrushes to treats, is loved and cherished by the child who received it.

For many children, it was the first gift they had ever received, and your kindness made them feel seen, special, and remembered.



STORIES

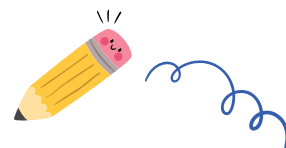
Where your Christmas Shoeboxes went last year

Ballina	Lesotho & DR Congo
Ballinrobe	DR Congo
Bandon	Romania
Carlow	Malawi & Ukraine
Castlebar	Albania
Castleblayney	Lesotho
Clonmel	Eswatini
Cootehill	Ukraine
Cork City	Eswatini
Drogheda	Kosovo
Dublin North	Eswatini & Burkina Faso
Dublin Nth West	Burkina Faso
Dublin South	Eswatini, Albania & Malawi
Dublin Sth West (D24)	Eswatini & Albania
Dundalk	DR Congo & Kosovo
Ennis	Romania
Enniscorthy	Eswatini
Fermoy	Ukraine
Galway City	Albania & Burundi
Greystones	DR Congo & Romania
Kells	Lesotho
Kilkenny	Malawi
Killarney	Ukraine
Leitrim	Eswatini & Losotho
Letterkenny	Eswatini, Albania & Burkina Faso
Limerick City	Romania
Listowel	Ukraine
Longford	Albania
Mallow	Eswatini & Ukraine
Monaghan Town	Lesotho
Mountcollins	Lesotho & Albania
Mullingar	Pridnestrovie
Navan	Eswatini & Burkina Faso
Nenagh	Albania
Newbridge	Eswatini & Burundi
Northern Ireland	Kosovo
Portlaoise	Kosovo
Roscommon	Romania
Skibbereen	Pridnestrovie
Sligo	Eswatini & Albania
Thurles	Albania
Trim	Pridnestrovie
Tuam	Ukraine
Tullamore	Ukraine
Waterford City	Eswatini & Ukraine

Senior Lesson Plan

Senior:
3rd - 6th class

Senior Resources (3rd – 6th class)



Activity	Subject	Strand/Unit
Developing Country Fact File: Burundi	SESE	Geography, Human Environments, People & Other lands
Acrostic Poem	English	Writing
Distribution Charts (from Walk Tall 5th class)	SPHE	Myself and the Wider World, Developing Citizenship
Story Planner	English	Writing
Country Fact File	English, Geography	Reading, Human environments
Cloze Procedure	English, SPHE	Reading, Myself & the wider world
Country Wordsearch	English	Reading
Differentiated Reading Activity	English	Reading
Crafts	Art	Drawing, Fabric & Fibre
Videos		
4W's Poster		

Aims

- ★ To engage students in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.
- ★ For students to learn about the wider world through stories, videos, photos and activities.
- ★ For students to learn that they have the power to make a difference.



Senior Lesson Plan

Senior:
3rd - 6th class

5 Steps



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2. Watch the Christmas Shoebox Appeal video on www.TeamHope.ie (approx. 3 mins)

3. Use the PowerPoint presentation on www.TeamHope.ie to explain the Christmas Shoebox Appeal to students. Discuss what items can go into a Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Allow students to react to the wonderful stories of children receiving shoeboxes.

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Cloze Procedure

Senior:
3rd & 4th class

All about the Christmas Shoebox Appeal



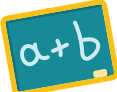
Did you know that more than 2 million Christmas shoeboxes have been sent from Ireland?
That's long enough to stretch all the way from Galway, across Ireland and all the way over to London!

Challenge

Find the missing words to fill the gaps in these sentences below.



Words:

Shoebox	write 	Climate change	education 
breakable	warm	poverty	wash
 sea	wear 	wow	shelter
 school	 smile	Ireland	gifts 

Text:

The Christmas _____ Appeal is where people in _____ build shoeboxes full of _____ that are sent to children in countries in Africa and Eastern Europe.

In our Christmas Shoebox we can add something to _____ with, _____ with, _____ and _____!

After we build our shoeboxes they are packed up and travel by land or _____ to their new homes.

Things to write with can help children to go to _____. Things to wash with can help children to have strong teeth and less illness. Things to wear can help children to be _____ and things to WOW can help children to _____.

We don't put things that could be scary or _____ in our Christmas Shoeboxes.

Christmas Shoeboxes are given to children in areas of _____. Poverty is where a person doesn't have and can't get enough money for their basic needs like food, _____ (a home) and _____ (school). Poverty can be caused by wars, _____, people not having enough rights and inequality.

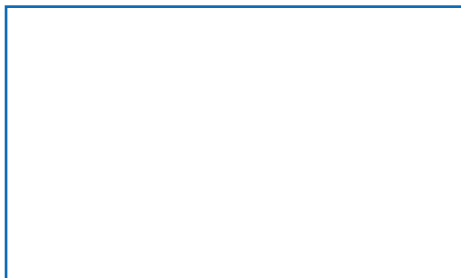
Country Fact File

Senior: 3rd & 4th class

Ukraine

Use your skills to discover more about Ukraine

Draw the country Flag:



Capital City:

Population:

Language Spoken:



Location of Country on map:



Bordering Countries:

Popular Food:

Popular Activities or Sports:

Traditions:

National Anthem:

Other Interesting Facts:

Burundi

Problems experienced:

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world and less than 50% of children in Burundi get to finish primary school.

Burundi gained its independence from Belgium in 1962, but colonisation has lasting impacts.

Fighting between the 21 main groups in Burundi, the Tutsi and the Hutu people is a big problem that has caused many deaths and many people to have to leave their homes.

The people in Burundi rely on food that they can grow to feed themselves and their families. Because of this, more than half of the children under five in Burundi are malnourished.

Burundi hosts 85,000 food-insecure refugees and asylum seekers, many fleeing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Team Hope's work in Burundi:

Team Hope works all year round in Burundi and sends Christmas Shoeboxes to countries like Burundi where there is poverty.

Poverty is where a person doesn't have and can't get enough money for their basic needs like food, shelter (a home) and education (school). Poverty can be caused by wars, climate change, people not having enough rights and inequality.

Christmas Shoeboxes are gifts that help to bring joy to children and they also give things that they need like copybooks and pencils for school and warm clothes. When Team Hope's partners in each country deliver Christmas Shoeboxes they meet people living in poverty and are able to help them in other ways.

Bujumbura, Burundi



Christmas Shoeboxes in Burundi

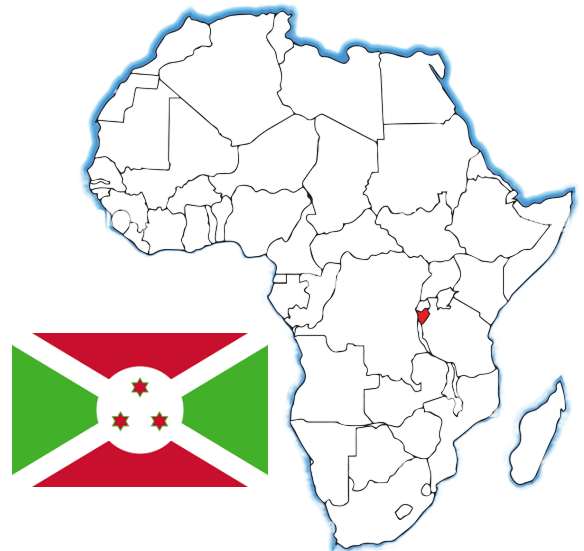


Developing Countries Fact File

Senior:
5th & 6th Class

Burundi

- Burundi is a country in the south-east of Africa.
- The population of Burundi is around 13.5 million people.
- But Burundi is about one third of the size of Ireland.
- Burundi borders with the countries of Tanzania, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Burundi has 2 capital cities! Bujumbura and Gitega.
- Burundi also has 2 national animals! The spotted hyena and the Transvaal lion.
- The currency is called the Burundi franc.
- Burundi was colonised by both Germany and then Belgium. In 1962 they became an independent nation.



Official Language:

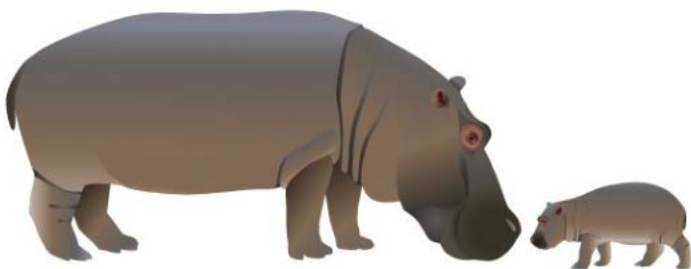
The national languages of Burundi are Rundi and French.

Facts about Burundi, the land:

- Temperatures average at 21° as Burundi is quite high up.
- Burundi is home to the world's longest freshwater lake. Lake Tanganyika is the second-deepest and second-largest in volume in the world. The lake spreads across four countries, with most of it sitting in Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (40%). The water flows into the Congo River System and out into the Atlantic Ocean.
- There are three national parks, four national reserves and two nature monuments dotted around Burundi.
- Ruvubu National Park is the country's largest national park. It is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including hippopotamus, buffalo, waterbucks and baboons.

Facts about Burundi, the people:

- A large majority of the population are farmers and coffee is the country's main export.
- The average life expectancy for people in Burundi is 62 years old.
- Football (soccer) is the most popular sport in Burundi.



Country Wordsearch

Senior: 3rd & 4th Class

R V T V B V D U R P K I S T R Z B E
J O B R C U G I H J B M N E E U Z U
C C M U A L R M E E H M W V H R O T
R Q U A R N E K D E S W A T I N I H
W D K G N U S S I Q O E F L B Z F I
A R R O F I F N O N Z B M Z A U D O
N C A M S W A M I T A E X U L W B B
D O I K O S O V O S H F D R U Q I U
A N N F B T G R O S T O A V T A L P
J G E O U N G O S D L R N S X Q H X
J O C T H K E N Y A E U I N O H N L
L P H B U R U N D I X K Q A U Z U B

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

BURKINAFASO
BURUNDI
DRCONGO
ESWATINI
KENYA

KOSOVO
LESOTHO
MALAWI
ROMANIA
RWANDA

UKRAINE

BONUS POINTS

Can you find these countries on the map below?



Differentiated Reading Activity

Senior:
3rd - 6th class

What is the Christmas Shoebox Appeal?

The Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal is where people all over Ireland give shoeboxes filled with gifts to children in parts of Africa or Eastern Europe who don't have as much as we do. It is our chance to share some joy and excitement with children who need it.

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal happens every year.

Last year, in 2024, we sent 171,675 Christmas Shoeboxes to Albania, Ukraine, Kosovo, Romania, Pridnestrovie, Moldova, Malawi, Kenya, Rwanda, Eswatini, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Lesotho and DR Congo.

Christmas Shoeboxes started off in Ireland, being made in homes or schools. Shoeboxes are then brought to checking centres where they are sealed by volunteers so make sure they get to children safely.

They then travel by truck and/or ship. Trucks take the shoeboxes to countries in Europe and shipping containers are needed if the boxes are going to countries in Africa. Christmas Shoeboxes travel a very long way!

Some shoeboxes will travel **over 15,000km** to get to their new homes.

Questions:

Where do shoebox gifts go to?

- ☐ Countries in Africa
- ☐ Countries in Europe
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ America

Who do shoeboxes go to?

- ☐ Animals
- ☐ Adults
- ☐ Children



Fill in the map of where the Christmas Shoeboxes went last year.



4 W's Poster

What goes into a Christmas Shoebox?

What are the 4W's?

- ☐ Wash, write, wear, wow
- ☐ Wear, Walk, Wash, wobble
- ☐ Wellies, Wow, Water, Waves

What are some things to **write** with?

What are some things to **wear**?

What are some things to **wash** with?

What are some things to **wow**?



Why do we send Christmas Shoeboxes?

Team Hope works all year round and sends Christmas Shoeboxes to countries where there is poverty. Poverty is where a person can't get enough money for their basic needs like food, shelter (a home) and education (school).

Poverty can be caused by wars, climate change, people not having enough rights and inequality.

Christmas Shoeboxes are gifts that help to bring joy to children and they also give things that they need like copybooks and pencils for school and warm clothes.

When Team Hope's partners in each country deliver Christmas Shoeboxes they meet people living in poverty and are able to help them in other ways.

When shoeboxes arrive in their new country they are separated for the different towns they will go to and can travel there by truck, van, car, bike or trailer. Our volunteers in each country know who needs a Christmas Shoebox most and they make sure it gets to them.



Discussion questions

What is poverty?

(Discuss)

What causes poverty?

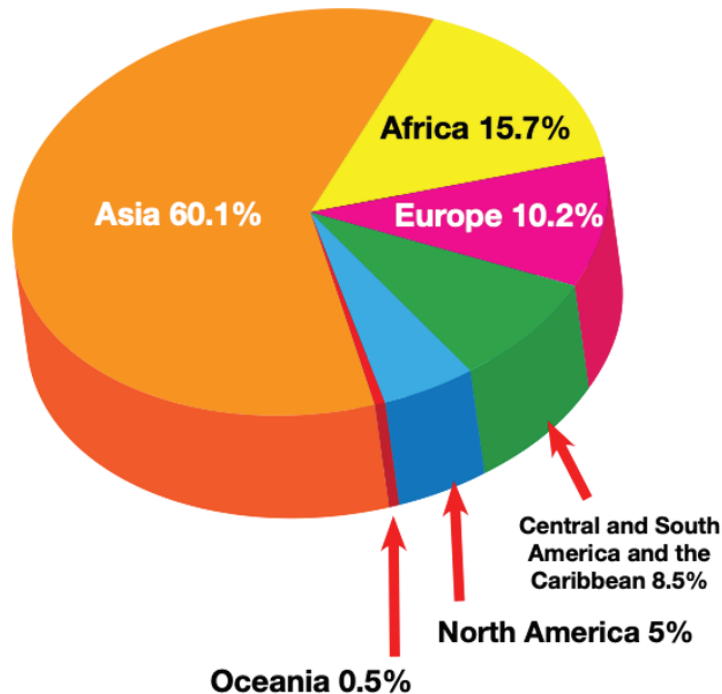
(Discuss)

Distribution of population and wealth

Senior: 5th & 6th Class

Distribution of population and wealth, taken from PDST Walk Tall 5th class, pg 315 & 316

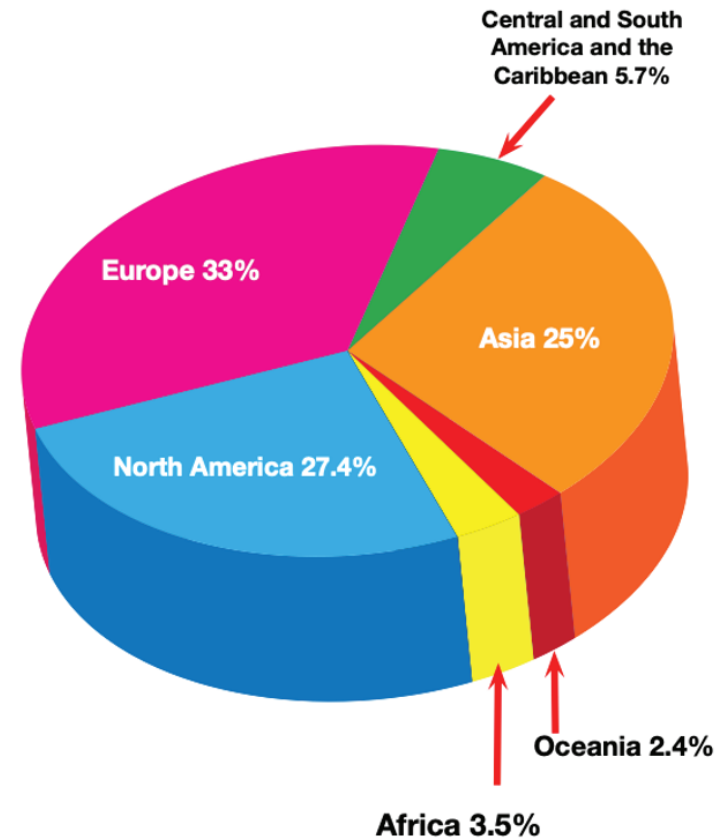
Distribution of the World's Population



Statistics from <http://www.statista.com/statistics/237584/distribution-of-the-world-population-by-continent/>

Distribution of The World's Wealth

Based on statistics from the International Monetary Fund 2013



What is the Christmas Shoebox Appeal?

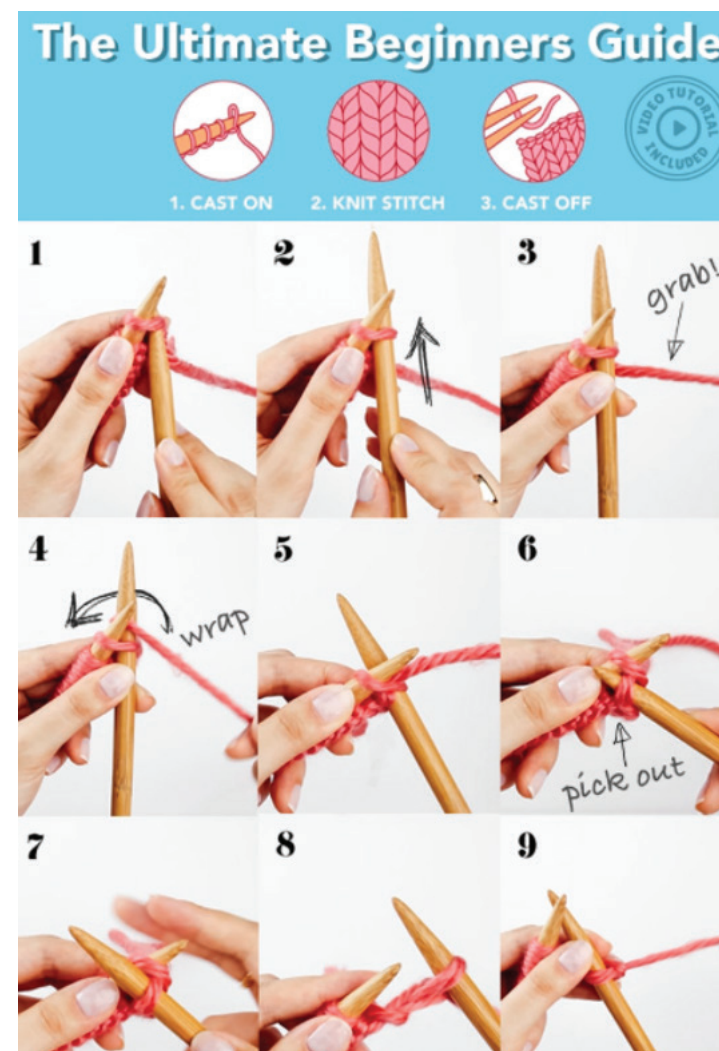
Resources needed: Wool, knitting needles, internet/tutorial access

Knitted items are perfect for Christmas Shoeboxes and a perfect way for you to practice your skills too!

These ideas and more are all on our **Pinterest page**: www.pinterest.ie/hope4344/

Shoebox Knitting ideas:	Easy hats:	https://pin.it/7mv1p6B https://pin.it/32x0bZc
	Baby mittens:	https://pin.it/1ChT4DY
	Beginner Scarf:	https://pin.it/5sQpxlc
	Finger puppets:	https://pin.it/55aQZYc
	Easy bear:	https://pin.it/54WqCmN
	Arm knitting tutorial:	https://pin.it/3bD9l4C

Knitting tutorial: <https://pin.it/1pMPobB>
<https://sheepandstitch.com/how-to-knit/>



Story Planner - Bunny

Senior: 3rd & 4th Class



STORY PLANNER

Write the story of a fluffy Bunny toy and his journey to a shoebox and on to a new home far away!

Useful words

Shop
Family
Soft
Fluffy
Shoebox
Scarf
Gloves
Pyjamas
Paper
Colouring pencils
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Photograph
Card
Wrapping paper
Excited
School
Ship
Truck
Shipping container
Bumpy
Waves
Journey
Happy
Present
Cuddles
Christmas

Template ideas:

Where does Bunny start off? *Imagine a fluffy bunny on a shop shelf...*

Who buys Bunny?

How does Bunny get into a Christmas Shoebox?

Where is Bunny going?

What might he see on the way?

Who might Bunny meet on his adventure?

What does Bunny see when the Shoebox opens?

How does Bunny feel?



Complete the form below and return to: info@teamhope.ie or post to:
Team Hope, 5 Leopardstown Business Centre, Ballyogan Avenue,
Dublin 18. D18 CF67

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART!

ORDER BY POST:

[illegible]

ORDER BY POST: 	QUANTITY
SHOEBOX LEAFLETS (You'll need 1 per child)	100
A4 POSTER	2 (max 4)
A3 POSTER	2 (max 4)

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Dear Primary Schools,

We hope your new term has started well! We are so excited to be launching this year's **Christmas Shoebox Appeal!**

Every Christmas Shoebox brings so much **joy, love** and **hope**. This year, more than ever, every shoebox counts!

What is the Christmas Shoebox Appeal?

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign sending gift filled shoeboxes from Ireland to children affected by poverty in countries across Africa and Eastern Europe. It is a great opportunity to teach our youngest learners about giving, in a tangible way.



To take part:

Complete the attached order form or order/download our leaflets online at www.teamhope.ie

FREE resources for Primary Schools:

Our website, www.teamhope.ie has loads more curriculum based resources for you to download!

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Lesson plan
- Cloze procedure activities
- Aistear activities
- Fun activity sheets
- SPHE resources
- Country fact files
- Story planner
- Acrostic poems
- And lots more!

Over 1,800
schools took part
in 2025!

We would love for you to encourage your families to take part and to see how many shoeboxes your school can make this year!

Many thanks

From All at Team Hope