



# Lesson Overview

## Title: The Causes of Homelessness

Grade Level

Gr. 2-3

Subject(s):

Visual Arts  
Language Arts  
Multi-media  
Literacy

Lesson Type

Class , individual

Skill(s) Developed

Critical Thinking  
Creative Thinking

Duration



Topic: What circumstances can lead to homelessness

### Learning Goals :

By the end of this lesson, learners will be able to describe what the general causes of homelessness are.

### Materials Needed:

- Illustrate the cause activity worksheet (included)
- The Ugly Duckling activity worksheet (included)

### Pre-Requisites

Introduction to Homelessness

Introduction to Homelessness 2



# The Foundations of Homelessness

## Gr.2-3

### OBJECTIVE

Understand general reasons for someone to experience homelessness

### PREPARATION

To prepare yourself and the learners for the lesson please see the **Teacher's Glossary** below for explanations related to: discrimination and the circumstances that could lead individuals to experience homelessness. Instructor should also review all discussion questions prior to beginning the lesson.

### ACTIVITIES

- Activity 1: The Ugly Duckling
- Activity 2: What's the cause?

### RESOURCES

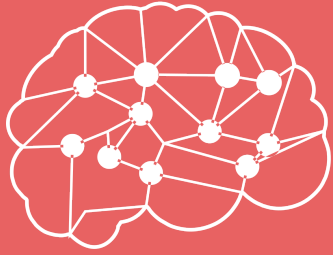
- [The Ugly Duckling – short movie](#)

### LESSON OUTLINE

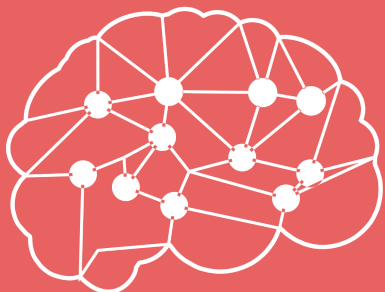
1 To begin this lesson, brainstorm reasons why a person/family may become homeless as a class. 2 Explain to the learners that homelessness is not an illness or something wrong that people have done, or something people want. It can be a result of a difficult time in a person's life. People who are homeless are not there by choice. 3 To develop a better understanding of the general causes of homelessness, learners will complete **Activity 1 : The ugly duckling** followed by **Activity 2: Illustrate the cause?**

### EVALUATION

**Evaluation Rubrics:** Critical thinking, Creative thinking



# Activity



## Title: The Ugly Duckling

Grade Level

Gr. 2-3

Lesson Type

Class activity

Duration



Subject

Skill(s) Category

**Multi-media  
literacy  
Language Arts**

**Topic:** Discrimination as a cause of homelessness

### Materials Needed:

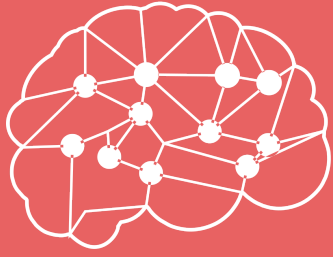
- Chart paper
- Markers
- The Ugly Duckling - Short Movie

### Instructions :

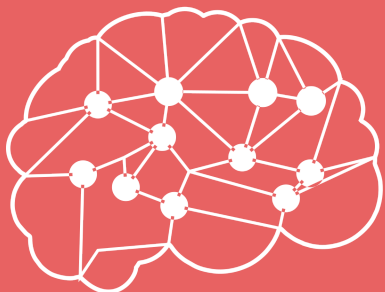
1. Begin this activity by reviewing/defining discrimination for the learners.
2. Ask the learners discussion question 1-3
3. As a class watch, The Ugly Duckling short movie followed by discussion questions 4 and 5

### Discussion Questions:

1. How was discrimination shown in the movie?
2. How can discrimination be a reason for someone to become homeless?
3. Do you think when someone becomes homeless that they still experiencing discrimination? Why or why not?
4. Did the duckling experience discrimination?
5. How did this discrimination lead to the duckling experiencing homelessness?



# Activity



## Title: What's the cause?

Grade Level

Gr. 2-3

Subject

Visual Arts

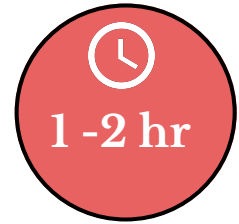
Language Arts

Lesson Type

individual activity

Skill(s) Category

Duration



**Topic:** General causes of homelessness

### Materials Needed:

- Scissors
- Illustrate the cause activity worksheet

### Instructions :

1. Begin this activity by explaining to the learners that there are many reasons why someone may become homeless. Explain each using the definitions below
2. Learners will identify these reasons and write a story or draw a picture based on a chosen cause
3. As a class discuss questions 1-5 before completing the activity instructions on the following page

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who can become homeless?
2. Do you think someone would want to be homeless?
3. Is homelessness a problem? Is it a small problem or large problem?
4. Who should be responsible for solving this problem?
5. Are there any ways that we could solve this problem? In small groups of 2-3 , discuss these solutions.

# Illustrate the Cause

**Instructions:** Cut out each cause of homelessness below based on the number of learners in the class (you may need to print multiple copies). Learners will choose one at random and **draw a picture** or **write a story** about someone becoming homeless because of the reason that they have chosen. The story/drawing should include the person's life before they did not have a home, why they became homeless and a description of their life with no home. Learners may share their story/drawing with the class once complete.

Hurricane

Expensive  
houses

Earthquake

Low  
income

War and  
Conflicts

Health  
issues

A  
pandemic

No job

A house  
fire

Discrimination

Violence at  
home

No  
support



# Glossary



## Grade Level

**Gr. 2-3**

## Subject

**Visual Arts  
Language Arts  
Multi-media Literacy**

## Lesson Title

**Foundations of  
Homelessness**

## Description

**The glossary section provides definitions and explanations for the lesson.**

## DEFINITIONS

### **Discrimination**

Discrimination occurs when an individual is treated differently than another solely on the basis of some characteristic. (the way you look, your age) Discrimination impacts the options and choices of individuals when it comes to all sorts of things in life such as employment, housing and access to services that all contribute to an increased risk of experiencing homelessness.

### **Natural Disaster**

A Natural disasters can hit at anytime and anywhere in the world and can include all types of severe weather, which have the potential to pose a significant threat to human health and safety, property. Natural disasters often result in homelessness for many people

### **War/Displacement**

The disruptive nature of war and internal conflict can cause people to become displaced. Also known as forced migration, a displaced individual becomes homeless because they've involuntarily been moved away from their homes/home region

### **Unemployment**

A lack of income can result in an individual becoming homeless. Becoming homelessness then makes it very difficult to obtain and maintain employment.

### **Mental/Physical Illness**

A mental or physical illness can lead to and be amplified by homelessness. People with mental illness experience homelessness for longer periods of time and have less contact with family and friends.

### **Violence**

The use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person.

### **Social supports**

Social support is exactly that: the belonging and care we receive from other people. Those people can include many different groups of people, including partners, friends, family members, co-workers, neighbours or even professionals like doctors, counsellors, or peer support workers.

## LESSON RESOURCES

1. **Teacher's Guide-** The teachers's guide provides an introduction to The Shoebox Project lessons. This includes information about The Shoebox Project, why it matters and the learning objectives for these lesson plans. Please [click here](#) for details.

2. **Evaluation rubrics-** [Click here](#) to download