Explore daily life

Draw conclusions about the lifestyle, practices and conditions of a person or group.

Purpose

* Insight into life and times: To help students use images as sources of considerable information about people’s quality of life, routines and values.

Image selection

* Select one or more images that are sources of diverse information about life and customs in a designated historical or contemporary setting.

**Example**

**Portrait of daily life**

- shelter/housing
- diet/health
- clothing
- transportation
- government
- art/entertainment
- religion/spirituality
- freedoms
- economic activity
- globalization
- community life
- freedoms
- economic activity
- globalization
- community life
- freedoms

**Observations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observations</th>
<th>Inferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The clothes are being hung out in the public area. This suggests that families do not have a private courtyard but must share a common space.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The girls seem friendly and affectionate to one another. Materials and equipment are left outside the buildings. This suggests that the community may be quite safe and not experience much theft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There appear to be four girls playing and a woman in a doorway. I suspect there are many other people nearby. I imagine that it is noisy, at least during the daytime.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The building appears to be made of brick, plaster and stone. The houses are sturdy and may be relatively cool in hot weather.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The buildings are one story high, very close together and don’t seem large. There are materials and equipment outside the buildings. I suspect that living conditions may be a bit crowded and the rooms may be few and small.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It looks as though there is an air conditioner on one of the walls. This suggests they have electricity, can cool their houses in hot weather and probably have other electrical appliances—perhaps radios and some televisions. I doubt they have many large electrical appliances.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The open space has some clutter but it does not appear dirty or filled with waste garbage. The girls seem healthy. There appears to be a carpet under the drying clothes. The housing conditions are probably quite sanitary and clean.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CREDITS:** Featured photo: © CIDA photo: Nancy Durrell McKenna. top: Library and Archives Canada C-150183 middle: Glenbow Museum NC-43-12; bottom) © Susan Duncan. Design: Poissy Design Inc., Vancouver

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*Chairs in a lane in the Kima area of Aswan, Egypt - Image available at http://www.tc2.ca/achievers/teachtquantity/108b8a

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**Instructions**

- **Distribute the images:** Use the image featured on the previous page or another image to demonstrate the activity before students investigate other images independently. Provide pairs of students with the sample image, or display the image on a screen. Allow two or three minutes for each pair to discuss with it.
# Portrait of daily life

**Name:** ________________________________  
**Image:** ________________________________

- ☐ shelter/housing  
- ☐ art/entertainment  
- ☐ community life  
- ☐ diet/health  
- ☐ religion/spirituality  
- ☐ freedoms  
- ☐ clothing  
- ☐ globalization  
- ☐ economic activity  
- ☐ transportation  
- ☐ government  
- ☐ ____________

## Observations

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## Criteria for an informative profile

- **Accurate and relevant observations:** offers many observations that accurately describe the details in the image that are relevant to the specified theme(s);
- **Plausible and imaginative inferences:** offers varied inferences that go beyond the very obvious conclusions, and are supported by details from the image or based on other known facts about the topic.
# Assessing the portrait of daily life

**Name: ________________________________**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Very good</th>
<th>Competent</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>In progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accurate and relevant details</strong></td>
<td>Accurately identifies a large number of the relevant details that can be observed in the image, including several less obvious details.</td>
<td>Accurately identifies a large number of the relevant observations that can be observed from the image, including some less obvious details.</td>
<td>Identifies a number of relevant and accurate, but generally obvious details from the image.</td>
<td>Identifies only a handful of the most obvious details from the image, not all of the observations are relevant or accurate.</td>
<td>Struggles to identify even the most obvious details from the image.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plausible and imaginative inferences</strong></td>
<td>Provides many varied and imaginative inferences that are highly plausible.</td>
<td>Provides many plausible and sometimes imaginative inferences.</td>
<td>Provides a number of inferences that are generally plausible but often rather obvious.</td>
<td>Provides a few plausible, but obvious inferences.</td>
<td>Struggles to provide any plausible inferences that build upon the observations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments:**

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Use with *Explore daily life*