Shelter Classroom Kit

Secondary lesson plan

Social Studies

What is homelessness?

Third and fourth level. People in society, economy and business, SOC 3-15a, SOC 3-16a, SOC 4-15a, SOC 4-16a, SOC 4-16b.

In England: Citizenship, KSIII 2.3 Critical thinking and enquiry.

Objective:

- to consider what qualifies someone as homeless, and why.

Preparation:

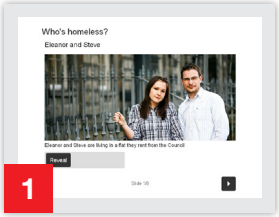
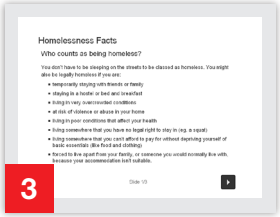
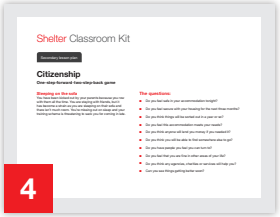
- print off the one-step-forward-two-steps-back game PDF and cut out the cards.

1. On the interactive whiteboard, do the **Who's homeless? activity**.

2. Have a class discussion – are they surprised by any of the results? Did they think homelessness was just rough sleeping? Do they agree that all these people should get help? Why do they think people become homeless?

3. On the interactive whiteboard, look at the **fact slides about homelessness**.

4. Then, using the cards you prepared earlier, play the **one-step-forward-two-steps-back game**. Clear a space in the room and ask for six volunteers. Give them a game card each and ask them to read it aloud.

5. Read the volunteers the list of questions (also on the PDF). If they think their character would answer 'yes', they should take one step forward, if 'no' they should take two steps back. If they don't know, they should stand still.

6. Once you've finished, ask the volunteers to remind everyone who they were. Ask them how they felt doing this exercise. Did they sympathise with their character? Would they have moved differently if they were one of the other characters?