

Why do people become homeless? (3 minutes)

People become homeless for all kinds of reasons. Can you think of any?

Here are a few:

- an argument with their family
- run out of money and can't pay rent
- addicted to alcohol or drugs (leads to running out of money or arguments)
- family can't or won't look after them any more

Do you think your feelings towards a homeless person would change if you knew more about them, how they became homeless and how they felt?

Build a shelter (8 minutes)

This activity can replace the freeze-frame activity if time is limited. All of you are now going to think more about what it is like to be homeless. I'm going to split you into two groups. Each group will be given a number of items to create their own living space. Give out a selection of items to each group, or allow them to find things which are spread out along your street scene.

You have three minutes to use the items you have to create the warmest, safest, most comfortable place which you will use to live and sleep in. You need to try out your living space and get into role as a homeless person. *At the end of three minutes ask each group the following questions:*

- Is your living space comfortable?
- How will you keep warm at night?
- What have you used to keep the rain out?
- How will you clean yourself each day?
- Where will you get your next meal?
- What will you do if you get sick?
- Who do you have to talk to?
- What else would you like to make your life better?

How does The Salvation Army help homeless people? (5 minutes)

In this box I have some objects to help us understand the different ways The Salvation Army tries to help people living on the streets. *Take items out of the box one at a time and ask pupils what they think each one shows or represents. Add the following explanations:*

- Cup – in some cities there are soup runs which go out late at night giving out hot drinks and food.

- Plate – breakfast or lunch is served to homeless people in community centres. Sometimes restaurants and supermarkets donate their left-over packaged food to be given out by The Salvation Army.
- Sleeping bag, toiletries, torch – there are lots of drop-in centres which give out things which are useful to people who live on the streets.
- Shower gel, clean clothes/socks etc – some drop-in centres have showers where people can get clean, and they give out fresh clothes and shoes.
- Ear – homeless people need someone to listen to them, be friends with them and show they care. This is just as important as all the practical things like food and clothes.
- Picture of a home – the most important service The Salvation Army provides is to help people to get off the streets and eventually into a proper home. They have more than 50 hostels for homeless people in the UK and Ireland. The Salvation Army wants to put an end to homelessness.

Summing up (2 minutes)

To see how much you have remembered in this zone I'm going to count down to the end of the session, but I need you to help me. *Hold up each number card as you count down.*

- Tell me 5 items that The Salvation Army might give to a homeless person who lives on the street
- Tell me 4 things a homeless person might use to make a living space
- Tell me 3 different ways people treat homeless people
- Tell me 2 different ways someone could become homeless
- Tell me 1 way The Salvation Army helps homeless people to get off the street.

extra activities

DVD clip: Tour of a hostel (2 minutes)

Show DVD tour of a hostel (1.35) in the 'How does The Salvation Army help homeless people?' section.

Pupil book (5+ minutes)

There are activities relating to this zone on pages 11 and 12 of the pupil book.

