

Lesson Plan 1

- Objective:** Students will better understand homelessness and the words usually associated with homeless persons
- Skill Area:** Language Arts, Media Research, Teambuilding
- Materials Needed:** Vocabulary List
- Student Preparation:** None
- Teacher Preparation:**
- Read overview of homelessness issues
 - Copy vocabulary
- Activities:**
- Small discussion on homelessness
 - Students pair off and work on vocabulary words provided in this section
 - a) Go to the library. Use resources to define vocabulary words.
 - b) Allow enough time to complete exercises
 - c) First pair done gets small prize

Homeless Search Worksheet

Instructions: You and your partners are to search throughout the media center, looking through any resources you can, to locate and define the following terms associated with homelessness. Good hunting!

Affordable housing:

Homelessness:

Community service:

Plunge:

Working poor:

Poverty:

Housing:

Welfare:

Social Service agency:

Soup kitchen:

Clothes closet:

Gentrification:

Slum:

HUD:

Eviction:

Safety net:

McKinney Act:

Urban:

Emergency shelter:

Congratulations! You've finished! YOU have just learned a great deal about homelessness through this vocabulary search. Great job!

Homeless Search Worksheet Answer Key

Instruction: The following definitions are really generalizations. Please allow your students some latitude in their definitions. Some of their definitions will not be specifically homeless in their direction. That will allow you to discuss the specific definition with your class.

Affordable housing: Housing that costs a family/individual less than 30% of their usable income.

Homeless: Any person without private space, however temporary (Jencks, 1994).

Community service: Volunteer work done to benefit your community.

Plunge: When a non-homeless person tries to experience the life of the homeless. i.e. sleeping out in boxes, eating shelter food, experiencing street life first hand.

Working poor: The employed who cannot afford basic life necessities i.e. housing, food, insurance, etc.

Poverty: A situation where a family of four survives on less than \$17,280 per year.

Housing: Any permanent shelter.

Welfare: Sometimes called Public Assistance. A program that helps provide basic necessities for individuals/families often in the form of food, shelter, health, and services.

Social Service agency: An organization whose mission is helping people in need. An example is *Loaves and Fishes*.

Soup kitchen: A place usually run by volunteers where people who cannot afford to feed themselves can receive a hot meal.

Clothes closet: A place run by volunteers where people who cannot afford necessary clothing can receive it free of charge.

Gentrification: The process of removing older housing and replacing it with modern homes, often unaffordable to low-income persons.

Slum: An area where housing has not been kept to code and is often dangerous to live in.

Subsidy: Any financial assistance that helps offset the cost of something, i.e. housing, food costs.

HUD: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Its job is to oversee and disburse funds for public housing programs.

Eviction: Tenants are officially removed from their housing for various reasons – especially for non-payment.

Safety net: Any service organization that provides services to persons who cannot help themselves. Soup kitchens, clothes closet, neighborhood medical clinics.

McKinney Act: The McKinney Act guarantees the same rights to homeless people that their sheltered counterparts receive, i.e. education, health benefits, job training, shelter, etc.

Urban: Located within the inner city, or city proper.

Emergency Shelter: A place where homeless people can live temporarily and where a bed and meals are usually provided.

Facts & Figures Middle School

What is homelessness?

- Somebody who is homeless has no fixed, regular, adequate place to live. People who do not have homes usually stay in shelters, temporary housing, hotels or sometimes cars. Some people without homes live in abandoned buildings, on the street or places not safe for people to live in.
- Families who have to live with extended family or friends are also considered homeless when the place they are living at is not their permanent residence.
- Everyone has the right to a safe, decent affordable place to call home.
- Families can be homeless for a day or some can be homeless for years.