

In control, or lost? (key stages 3 and 4)



What the photo says

The central figure in this image is surrounded by people – and yet she looks quite alone. You can use this evocative image of Grand Central Station, New York, as part of a starter activity looking at our quality of life and experience in the urban areas of the modern world.

Lesson idea

Context: Settlement

Other resources

- PowerPoint, or handouts of the image, to annotate with speech bubbles
- lyrics to Nova 77's song *Lonely Crowd* (http://www.allthelyrics.com/lyrics/nova77/lonely_crowd-lyrics-1245669.html)

Suggested activity

Show the image to students. Ask them to talk about the central figure in the image.

- Where is she?
- Why is she there?
- Where is she heading?
- What is she thinking?

These points could be annotated on a handout of the photograph or within PowerPoint, as a whole class or individually.

Some commentators have suggested that life in the city, despite the dense crowds, is lonely. Ask students whether they feel this is true. The lyrics to Nova 77's song *Lonely Crowd* could be a source of inspiration. Follow this by asking students what other characteristics they associate with urban life: they can then discuss the positive aspects of city living.

Curriculum opportunities

Citizenship: An opportunity to discuss how some of the negative aspects of urban life can be tackled through effective community participation.

Community cohesion: An opportunity to discuss the nature of community and community participation in the local area.

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