

Location, location ... (upper key stage 3)



What the photo says

This idyllic, olde worlde cottage in the Cotswolds is a potent symbol of city dwellers' yearning for a rural retreat, country ways, and a return to a slower, less materialistic, lifestyle. Ironically, of course, this yearning contributes to the demise of the very ideal they pursue: property prices in attractive villages are now so high that no agricultural worker could possibly aspire to living in a house like this!

This lesson idea explores the theme of *thinking geographically*, particularly *relational thinking*, in that our experiences shape how we perceive the world. Depending on their experiences, therefore, a place means different things to different groups of people.

Lesson idea

Context: The increasing connectedness of urban and rural living and how they impact upon each other, with both negative and positive outcomes for the people involved.

Other resources

- Show of Hands *Country Life* lyrics handout (http://www.geography.org.uk/download/GA_ADVLocationHandout.pdf)
- CD player to listen to the song
- if possible, Real Player to watch the video that accompanies one of the tracks
- A3 or sugar paper to record ideas in starter activity or word mat
- internet access to the Louis Eliot website for the lyrics to his version of *Country Life* (<http://www.louiseliot.com/archive/lyrics/country.htm>)

Suggested activities

This would be the first lesson in a series exploring the connections between urban and rural lifestyles. It aims to raise some contentious issues for discussion, but move beyond them.

1 Looking for clues

Label the photograph with evidence to suggest who might live in the house and what their lifestyle might be. Complete a table:

Evidence suggests	Questions I'd like to ask
Label 1: The people who live there are well off	What work do they do, and where?

a different view

a manifesto from the Geographical Association



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2 Which lyric?

This is a possible focus for a 'think, pair, share' activity. Read and/or listen to the song lyrics:

- Which version of *Country Life* fits your image of the picture, if any?
- What different images do the two songs present?
- Do all rural areas share the same issues of country living?
- Does location matter?

3 Yeah, but ...

The aim here is to encourage students to see two sides of a question. Take the Show of Hands version: this house might be 'the empty shell' of a holiday home ('Yeah, but at least it's well-kept and maintained'); People have the right to live where they choose ('Yeah, but this puts house prices up for local people').

Curriculum opportunities

Sustainable development: does second home ownership make for sustainable communities?

Citizenship: belonging to, and contributing to, a community.

Personal, learning and thinking skills: fosters critical thinking, independent enquirers.

See also: <http://www.geography.org.uk/gtip/thinkpieces/culturalgeography/>

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