

B1 - LESSON 1 (OUR HOME, OUR WORLD)

Level: B1

Time: 30-40 minutes

Lesson focus: This is the first out of a six-hour long group lesson course on housing. Look at unusual accommodations and think about the possible features each one of them may have. Read an introduction and look at the pictures of cave homes. Discuss if students are surprised by people living in caves now. Read the other part of the article looking at the pros and cons of living in such spaces. Analyse the T/F sentences and the use of comparatives. Compare living in a block of flats with living in a cave. Finish by discussing if you would like to live in a cave, and things you would miss if you lived in one.

Materials:

- Our Home, Our World - presentation
- *Cave Homes* [article](#) - Earth Homes Now

Learning objectives:

- to describe your current housing
- to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in different spaces
- to review comparative forms

Structure:

1. Warm-up (6 mins)

Look at the pictures of housing and label them.

A - a houseboat

B - a block of flats

C - a chalet

D - a motorhome (a recreational vehicle - RV)

Discuss where you'd typically see these houses and what features you'd expect to find inside. Finish by talking about the best location for a short and long-term stay.

2. Pre-reading discussion (6 mins)

Read the introduction of the article and discuss if students find it surprising that some people still live in cave homes.

Divide students into pairs or small groups and think of potential advantages and disadvantages of living in such spaces.

3. Reading for gist (5 mins)

Quickly read the rest of the article and check if any of the ideas from the pre-reading discussion appeared.

Write down four advantages and two disadvantages.

- *Advantages: maintain a constant temperature (cool in the summer, warm in the winter); good and natural sound insulation (quiet); cheap to build; a natural barrier to intruders*

- *Disadvantages: dark (no natural light); risk of rocks collapsing during a natural disaster (e.g. Earthquake)*

4. Reading for detail (6 mins)

Look at six sentences and read the text one more time. Students decide if the sentences are true (T), false (F), or if the information is not given in the text (NG). Correct any false sentences.

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1. *Information not given (we can assume it is true, but it is not said directly in the text)*
2. *True (cool in the summer)*
3. *True (Rocks and stones composing the caves are natural materials and also provide a good, natural layer of sound insulation).*
4. *False (They are also much cheaper to build than traditional above-ground houses)*
5. *True (...natural light comes into the cave home all year long).*
6. *Information not given (it may be more dangerous due to earthquakes and rocks collapsing, but it may be minimized with a wide range of construction techniques).*

5. Grammar revision (5 mins)

Look at and analyse the sentences from the previous task. All of them contain comparatives and to be as...as forms. Answer the questions about the comparatives.

1. *It is a comparative (adj + er / more + adj)*
2. *We use it to compare two things, animals, people, places, etc.*
3. *Long adjectives (more than two syllables): more + adjective / Short adjectives (one or two syllables): adjective + er*
(You can elicit the different spelling of adjectives: hot - hotter (double the consonant), funny - funnier (change y to i), etc.)
4. *Is/are + as + adjective + as, isn't/aren't + as + adjective + as*

6. Controlled practice (5 mins)

Students write three sentences about their houses and cave homes, using comparative forms. Correct any spelling and grammar errors.

7. Group discussion (7 mins)

Work in pairs or do it as a whole-group activity. Ask and answer questions about living in cave homes. Provide speaking feedback.

8. (OPTIONAL) Pair work (10 mins)

If you've got more time, you can put students into pairs and ask them to practise the comparative form, by looking at the differences between living on a houseboat and living in a chalet.