



If the World Were a Village - David J Smith

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There's nearly 7 billion people on Earth! Who are they? What languages do they speak? Where do they live? How can we find out about them?

The author undertook a mammoth task to research statistics about the world's people. In presenting the information, he takes a 'world-in-miniature' approach and asks readers to imagine a global village of 100 people.

In this village: 21 people speak a Chinese dialect, 10 earn less than two dollars a day, 14 cannot read or write, 45 have a television in their homes, and 47 do not always have enough to eat. In one part of the village, someone buys a new car. In another part, a man repairs the family's bicycle, their most valued possession.

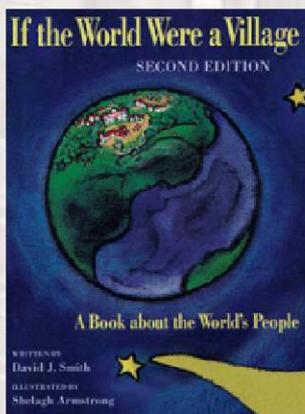
The unfolding story of the villagers is more than just a list of numbers. It's an introduction to the cultures of the world. Readers can learn greetings in various languages, food preferences, people's health, their ages, education and employment.

Smith suggests that by learning about the villagers, we can find out more about our neighbours in the real world and the problems our planet may face in the future.

Colourful illustrations by Shelagh Armstrong reflect the diverse cultures. Within the village, busy groups dressed in ethnic clothes go about their daily lives. Each page invites close inspection to discover the interesting detail and activities.

If the world were a village is a fascinating overview of our planet. Previous occupants of the village are compared with the present residents to give a glimpse of our changing world. What will the global village look like in the future?

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.