

## 1.3 Your place on the planet

We all have a place on the planet. What makes our places different? That's what you will explore in this unit.

### Everyone has a place

Everyone has a place on the planet – you, me, the King of Tonga. So let's have a look at some of our places.



This is Hassan's place. He is a Marsh Arab. He and his family live on an island of reeds in the marshes in southern Iraq. They go everywhere by boat.



This is Alona's winter place. Her family are reindeer herders, in Siberia in Russia. They move around the tundra with their reindeer, to the best grazing places.



This is Rana's place – a small village in Senegal. Her dad is a farmer. She helps to look after the little ones. And walks everywhere. No other way to go!



Vitor's place – on the street in Recife, in Brazil. That's him front left. His mum died and he has no home to go to. He's made friends with the other street children.



Emi's place. She is Japanese, and lives in an apartment on the 31st floor, in Tokyo – the world's largest city. At night she looks down on the bright lights of Tokyo.



Sela's place. She lives in Tonga, a country of 169 islands, in the Pacific Ocean. It has 117 000 people. And like the UK, it has a Royal Family.

### So what's your place like?

Your place is a tiny dot on the planet. Billions of people may never even have heard of it.

But to you it's special. You have memories of it, and images of it, and feelings about it. And it's home – at least for now.

### Your turn

- Look at the six photos of places.
  - Which place would you most like to spend time in? Why?
  - Which would you least like to spend time in? Why?
  - Which one looks least changed by humans?
- Now choose one of the six places. (It need not be your favourite.) Imagine you are there, looking around you. Take your time. Relax. Now:
  - What can you see?
  - What can you hear?
  - What can you smell?
  - How do you feel about this place?
- In geography, we always like to know *where* places are, on the planet. So turn to the map of the planet on pages 140 – 141. It shows the countries we've divided the planet into. Find the country where each photo was taken. Then work out what continent it is in. Write your answer like this:  
*Place A is in Iraq in Asia.*
- Now, what about *your* place? Imagine you are standing outside where you live.
  - Which country are you in?
  - Which continent are you in?
  - What can you see around you?
  - What can you hear?
  - What can you smell? Anything?
  - How do you feel about this place?
- When we are away from our place, we still 'see' it in our minds. We can 'see' our friends, family, pets, things we own, things we like to do. Close your eyes and think about your place for a few minutes.
  - What kinds of images came to your mind?
  - Describe one of them.
- Can you name a place you think is better than your place? If yes, in what way is it better?
- Do you think someone else from your place would give the same answers as you, to questions 4 – 6? Explain.