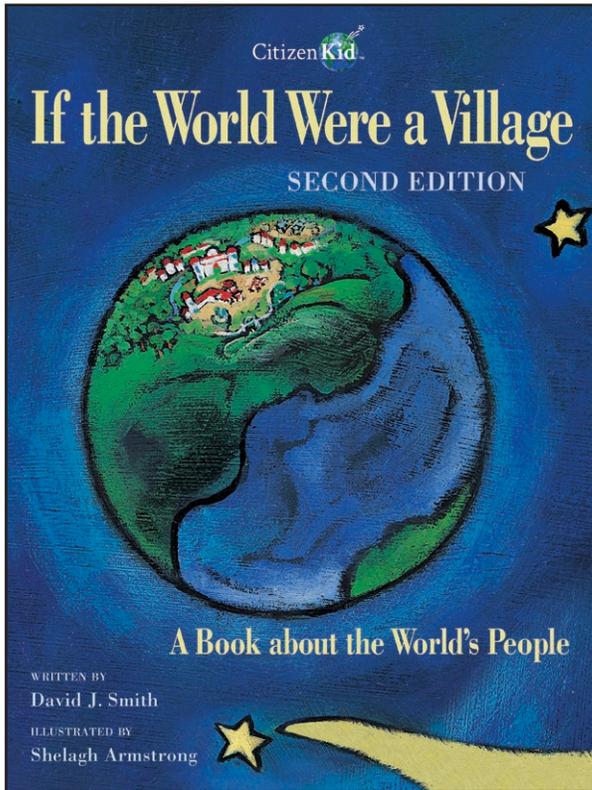


## How to Use This Book in Your Classroom or Library for ages 8–12



### If the World Were a Village: A Book about the World's People, Second Edition

Written by David J. Smith

Illustrated by Shelagh Armstrong

David J. Smith takes the world's population of 6.9 billion and shrinks it down to a village of 100. In doing so, the startling realities of the global village become instantly visible. By exploring the lives of the 100 villagers, children will discover that life in other parts of the world is often very different from their own. The shrunk-down statistics, now more comprehensible for children, and David Smith's tips on building "world-mindedness" help readers to establish their own place in the global village.

**David J. Smith**, a teacher with more than 25 years of experience in the classroom, is the creator of the award-winning curriculum "Mapping the World by Heart" and the author of two other Kids Can Press books — *If America Were a Village: A Book about the People of the United States* and *This Child, Every Child: A Book about the World's Children*. He is now a full-time educational consultant.

**Shelagh Armstrong** has been illustrating since 1987. Her work can be found on product packaging around the world, on coins and stamps in Canada and in many books and magazines. She has also illustrated *If America Were a Village* and *This Child, Every Child*.

ISBN 978-1-55453-595-8 Hardcover with Jacket

ISBN 978-1-55337-732-0 Paperback with Flaps

## Activities and Discussions

### 1. Make It Real

Reducing the global population of 6.9 billion to a village of 100 gives children a view of the world in miniature. You can make their understanding more concrete by using sticky notes to represent the hundred people in the global village.

You'll need:

- tape
- large sheets of paper
- sticky notes

Tape one large sheet of paper up on a wall and ask students to use one sticky note for each person in the village and duplicate the divisions for Nationalities (page 8).

To find out how your class population compares, tape up another sheet of paper and ask them to use sticky notes to represent the nationalities of their parents. Although there will be fewer sticky notes in all, the contrast between the village as a whole and their classroom family village will be revealing.

Try the same comparison exercise for Religions (page 14).

## 2. Become World-minded

Author David J. Smith is a champion of “world-mindedness.” “It is the sense,” he says, “that our planet is actually a village, and we share this small, precious village with our neighbors.”

To help your students become more world-minded, ask them to do Internet and book-based research on one country.

(To choose their country, they can consult the United Nations website at [www.un.org/en/members](http://www.un.org/en/members).)

Websites containing statistics on countries are included on page 32 of *If the World Were a Village*. When they are finished their research, have them present their country to the class. They should be able to:

- show where the country is on a map
- give its population and capital city — older children should be able to say how the population is distributed geographically and by age
- answer the question: Are most of the children in school?
- give two important facts about the country
- explain in what ways it is different from their own country

At the end of the presentations, raise the discussion question: “What is a country?”



## 3. Make a Math Connection

The statistics in *If the World Were a Village* can be used to enhance math skills.

- Fractions. The numbers of villagers can be expressed as a percent. For example, 32 of the 100 villagers = 32 percent of the villagers, or 32 percent of the world’s population. The numbers of villagers can also be expressed as fractions. For example, 25 of the villagers =  $25/100$  of the village. Students can reduce these  $x/100$  fractions to their lowest common denominator — so  $25/100$  becomes  $1/4$ .
- Graphing. Have students use graph-making software to create a circle or bar graph of a topic from the book. For example, they can graph the Language statistics from page 10. If your classroom computers do not have graph-making software installed, the free Create a Graph tool is easy to use.

