

## WithOnePlanet

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# Culture book 3

Teacher notes

My school day

Life in a Timorese village

Years  
F to 4



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# My school day (Life in a Timorese village)

## Book 3: Teacher notes

This document provides the teacher with the details of the lesson.

### Background information

This story is about a primary-school aged Timorese boy and his friends. The story consists of the boy introducing his friends, and the activities that they do on a normal school day. A normal day for a Timorese child is quite different to that of most children in Australia. This book introduces Australian children to some of the realities of life for kids in Timor, such as needing to carry water, walking long distances to school, potential safety issues for girls, types of food that kids eat every day, access to education in Timor-Leste (many villages don't have a kindergarten), games kids love to play in Timor-Leste, what houses are made of, and access to electricity.

### Suggested topics for discussion

- > What a normal school day is in Australia, and comparisons with Timor-Leste.
- > How we get our water (most kids in Timor-Leste carry water as part of their daily routine. Most people in the country don't have water pipes or taps in their houses, and have to carry water from a communal pump or river. Some people have to walk long distances to get their water.
- > How we get to school (many kids in Timor-Leste have to walk long distances to get to school. 5km would not be an unusual distance to need to walk to school. There are no school buses, and family cars are rare, especially in the districts. If children are taken to school in Timor-Leste, it would most likely be on a motorbike).
- > The food that we eat. (In Timor-Leste families will have rice for at least two of their daily meals. Breakfast may consist of fried bananas, corn, bread, or rice. Lunch and dinner will usually consist of rice and vegetables, or corn which has been dried and then boiled.
- > Where we go to school. (In Timor-Leste, many villages don't have kindergartens, and the first time kids go to school is primary school. While there are primary schools over most of Timor-Leste, High schools are much rarer. 70% of kids in Timor-Leste do not continue school past primary school).
- > What our houses are made of (Most houses in Timor-Leste are made out of local materials such as branches, leaves and grasses. When houses are made in Timor-Leste, a whole community helps to build the house).

### Activities

#### Year: Foundation

- > Cloze activity with five sentences from the story. The last word of each sentence is missing. Students cut out missing words from the bottom of the sheet and match it with the right sentence.
- > Word finder with six simple words from the story. All of the words to find are written horizontally and run from left to right.
- > Color by number activity. Students color in the house / school following the number guide.
- > Suggested art activity – Make hackey sacks out of grasses and leaves, or material tied together.



## Year: 1 to 2

- > Cloze activity with seven sentences from the story. Each sentence has one or two words missing. Students cut out the words from the bottom of the worksheet and attach to the correct sentence.
- > Matching activity. Students cut out the parts of the sentences, and match the sentence beginnings with the correct sentence ends.
- > Word finder. Students find ten words from the story. Words run horizontally (left to right) and vertically (up to down).
- > Suggested art activity – Make a mini Timorese house out of sticks, leaves, grasses and other materials.

## Year: 3 to 4

- > Cloze activity. Students write in the correct words in the gaps in seven sentences.
- > Complete the sentences activity. Students complete 14 sentences about the book.
- > Crossword - Students fill in 11 words in a crossword, with clues and answers based on the My school day book.
- > Suggested art activity – Students look up Timorese traditional houses online (google 'Timorese traditional house'). Students create a mini replica of a Timorese traditional house using sticks, grasses, leaves, paddle pop sticks, etc.