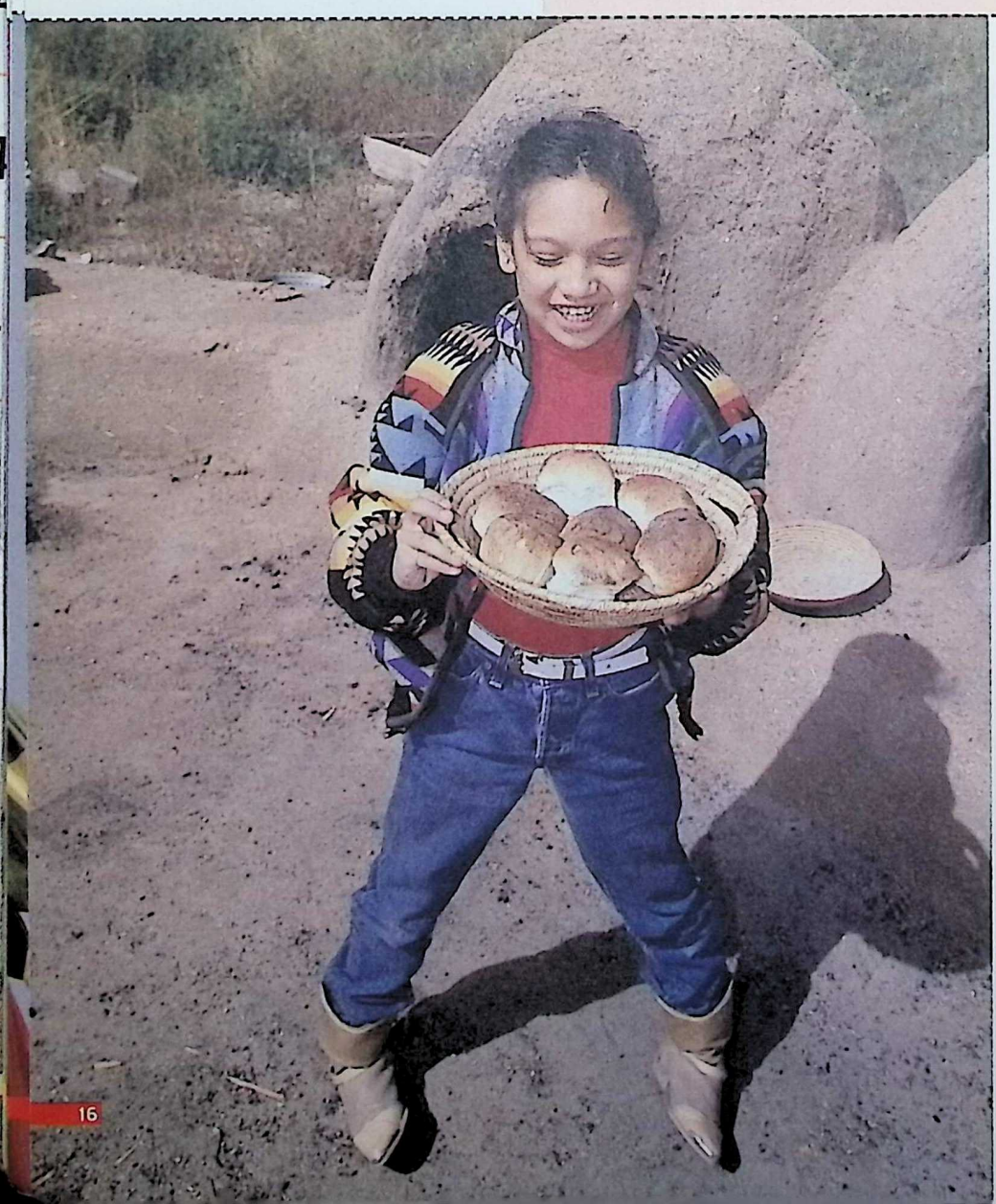
Humans and Habitats



How people live depends a lot on the place where they live. Learn more about your world by doing the activities in this badge.



1. Have Home, Will Travel

In some countries, nomadic people (who move from place to place rather than live in one permanent spot) have invented homes that are very portable. Learn out about the types of homes that nomadic people use today and used in the past.

2. It's Symbolic

What are some of the symbols used to represent international organizations such as UNICEF, the Red Cross, the World Health Organization, and Girl Scouts? Invent a symbol or flag that could represent your community—its climate, geography, and way of life.

3. Farmers Around the World

People almost everywhere grow food. Find out how people farm in two or three different countries. How does farming affect their environments? How are farming tools and other methods different from one country to the next?

4. Your Life Would Be Different If . . .

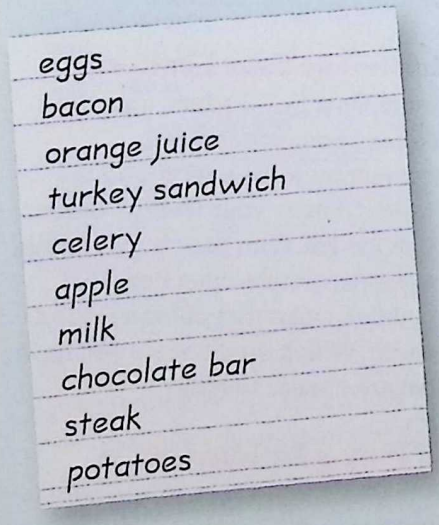
Pick a place with a lifestyle that is different from your own—perhaps a rain forest, a desert, or Antarctica. Look around your home. What items would you have to live without? What items would you need instead?

5. Peace of Cake

Since the 1960s, Peace Corps volunteers have lived in countries around the world working with communities on health, education, and other projects. Contact the local Peace Corps recruiting office or go to its Web site and find out more about what Peace Corps workers do. Invite a returned Peace Corps volunteer to visit a troop or group meeting and share her experiences.

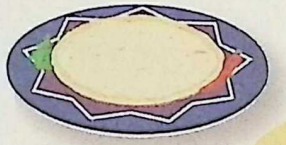
6. Make a Food Map

Make a list of foods that you typically eat in one day. Research where these products are grown. Then make a products map that shows where the foods are grown. To make a product map, download a world map from the National Geographic Web site www.nationalgeographic.com/education. Draw or make symbols for each food, and make a key or legend for the map.



7. Break Bread

People all around the world make and eat bread. Prepare one type and taste two others from the list below.



Flat Bread
like tortilla, papadum, matzo



Filled Bread
like alu paratha, pastelillo, gyoza



Puffed Bread
like puri, beignet, donuts, sopapilla



Fried Bread
like pakora, fritters, pancakes, johnny cakes

8. The World Close to Home

Do you have many different kinds of restaurants in your town? Pick a certain type of food and find out how it is cooked in two cultures other than your own. Find out how the foods and the recipes reflect the climate and the geography of that country. For example, people in many hot climates cook very spicy dishes. Why? Spicy food makes you sweat, which makes your body cool off in the hot weather. Spicy food also hides the taste of unrefrigerated meat, which can spoil a little in hot weather.

9. Take a Look Around You

Become a geography observer in your community. Do this alone or with others. Try to look at the following:

- The kinds of crops and trees you see
- How much land is empty and how much is used
- What is on the land that is used, such as crops for farming, parks for recreation, open space to protect the environment, or buildings used for housing, business, government, shopping, and other uses

Would you keep the land the way it is, or would you make changes? Write a letter or send an e-mail with your ideas to the zoning or planning board in your community, or attend a zoning board meeting.

10. What's Best?

How do different living environments compare? Look at living in an apartment building, single-family home, farmhouse, mobile home, or modular home. How are things different in cities, suburbs, villages, and rural areas? In your troop or with others, find a way to show your "dream environments"—your favorite types of homes in your favorite types of communities.