

# Highs and Lows

## Homes Up High

**La Rinconada** is the highest permanent town in the world, is in the Andes mountain range in Peru. Perched on Mount Ananea, it is 5,100 m (16,700 feet) above sea level! The living conditions are brutal with freezing temperatures for most of the year, but because it has a goldmine people choose to live there.

**La Paz** is the highest capital city in the world. The administrative capital of Bolivia, stands at an impressive **altitude** of 3,640m (11,943 feet) above sea level.

*Did you know? Extreme altitude, such as in La Rinconada or La Paz, has an affect on the body. The air is much thinner, so the body absorbs less oxygen which can lead to symptoms such as breathlessness, headaches and feeling sick.*



La Rinconada



La Paz



Jericho



Baku

## Lie Down Low

**Jericho**, in the West Bank, Palestine, is the lowest city in the world. It lies in the Jordan valley at 258m (856 feet) below sea level.

**Baku** is the lowest capital city in the world. In Azerbaijan, it lies 28m (92 feet) below sea level.

*Fun Fact: Jericho is believed to be one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world. Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of a settlement dating back 11,000 years (to 9000 BC)! It is also the city with the oldest known protective wall.*



# Hot and Cold

## Keeping it Cool

The coldest permanently lived in place is **Oymyakon** in Russia. Temperatures here are below freezing for 7 months of the year! There is a monument built around the town square commemorating a reading in January 1924 of  $-71.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-96.2^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

*Did you know? Only Antarctica has recorded lower official temperatures than Oymyakon (the lowest being  $-89.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-128.6^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in 1983)!*



Oymyakon



Dallol



El-Azizia



Death Valley

## Hottest Homes

**Dallol**, Ethiopia, has been named the hottest regularly **inhabited** place on Earth, with an **average** temperature recorded of  $34.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $93.9^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). The landscape around this salt mining town looks stunning, but would be very difficult to live in and it now lies abandoned.

**El-Azizia** in Libya held the record for hottest temperature on Earth, at  $58.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $136.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). While this record has now been disputed, this North African town still remains one of the hottest places to live on the planet.

**Death Valley** in California now holds the title of hottest place on Earth, recording temperatures of  $56.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $134.1^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) on 10 July 1913. Only very few people live there, to help run the small businesses catering to the many tourists who visit the area. People used to survive in the heat using a water-wheel powered fan to cool themselves. Today, electric air conditioners are used.

***Fun Fact:** The temperature in Death Valley can be so hot, the rubber on running shoes would*



# Soggy Settlers

## Wet Wet Wet

**Mawsynram**, in India, is the wettest place to live in the world! It receives almost 12000 mm (467 inches) of rain in an **average** year, and received 26,000 mm (1,000 inches) of rain in 1985.

**Lloró** and **López de Micay** in Columbia both dispute Meghalaya's claim to be the wettest, claiming to have more rainfall. One thing is for certain, they are all very wet!

*Fun Fact: The rains of Mawsynram are so powerful that the villagers use a thick layer of grass in order to sound-proof their homes.*



Mawsynram



López de Micay

## Floating Villages

Known as floating villages, there are many communities that live on the water, rather than next to it.

**Tonle Sap**, Cambodia, is a huge freshwater lake, the largest in Asia, and home to almost 170 floating villages. Houses here are built on stilts, to raise the living area above water.

**Lake Titicaca**, Peru, is home to the Uros people. They live on floating islands, made from a special kind of reed, totora, fixed to the river bed to stop them moving. The Uros community have been living in floating reed villages for hundreds of years and now inhabit 60 different floating villages on the lake.

*Did you know? Tonle Sap is regarded as the largest freshwater floodplain in the world. It expands to a giant 31,000 square kilometres area in the wet season!*

*Fun Fact: Once the Uros women are ready to settle down, they begin wearing colourful pom poms on their hats to announce that they're ready to marry.*



Tonle Sap



Lake Titicaca



# Sand and Stone

## Rocky Road

**Cappadocia**, Turkey, is home to some unique rock formations called “fairy chimneys”, the result of ancient volcanic eruptions. Humans have carved into the soft rock to create homes, and eventually whole towns, that offered them protection.

*Fun Fact: Cappadocia hosts a huge hot air balloon festival, making the view even more incredible.*



Cappadocia

## Desert Dwellings

People have been living in the desert for thousands of years and have adapted to its extreme conditions.

**The Sahara Desert**, Northern Africa, is home to thousands of **nomadic** Bedouin people. They live in tents, allowing them to travel the desert easily. Made from goat and sheep hair, their tents provide an ideal shelter in the desert. The loosely woven material lets air come in and smoke out, so the tent is pleasant in summer. When it rains, the fibers swell so the tent becomes waterproof.

**Taos Pueblo**, New Mexico, USA, has been home to a Native American community for over 1000 years. The Pueblo, are native to the deserts in South Western USA. Their unique traditional houses are made of bricks made from sun-dried adobe mud. The thick walls of their homes are perfect to protect against the heat.

*Did you know? Pueblo, pronounced “PWAY-bloh”, also means “town” or “village” in Spanish.*

*Fun Fact: The English word bedouin, pronounced “bed-win” comes from the Arabic badawī, which means “desert dweller”.*



The Sahara Desert



Taos Pueblo

# Unusual Materials

## Igloos

These famous Inuit snow and ice houses are typical of **Alaska**, and the Arctic. The snow/ice works as an insulator and the structure of an igloo means that the body heat created by the people inside is exacerbated and thus the people are kept warm.

*Fun Fact: The word igloo comes from iglu, the inuit word for home. The word does not need to describe a snowhouse, they could be made from other materials such as wood or stone.*



## Turf houses

The unique **Icelandic** turf houses can be found across the country. They provide excellent insulation against the harsh, cold climate.

*Did you know? Though primarily found in Iceland, turf houses can also be seen in Scotland, Norway, and Greenland.*

## Mobile Homes

In **Mongolia** and **Kyrgyzstan**, Central Asia, yurts, have existed for thousands of years. The felt that covers the yurt is traditionally made of sheep, goat or yak wool. These portable circular homes have been used by **nomads** as they are easily assembled and disassembled. Their roofs have a hole in the middle to allow smoke to escape when a fire is lit inside.

*Fun Fact: In Mongolia yurts are actually called gers.*





# Ancient Traditions

## Trulli Marvellous

**Alberobello**, Italy, is filled with many of these unusual white-washed limestone huts with stone roofs. They are also found throughout the Puglia region in Southern Italy.

*Did you know? The ancient constructions in Alberobello have been declared a UNESCO world heritage site. This is to show they are of 'outstanding international value' and need to be protected*



Alberello



Matmata



Matera



Vardzia

## Comfy Caves

**Matmata** in Tunisia, is home to ancient caves carved out of sandstone around a central pit. They are connected by a network of passageways and provide protection from the harsh North African sun and desert winds.

**Matera** in Puglia, Italy, has been home to cave houses for thousands of years, creating a breathtaking town. There have been Trulli built in Puglia for over 600 years!

**Vardzia**, Georgia is a cave monastery and city that is around 900 years old! Carved out of a cliff, the cave homes consisted of over 600 apartments in a 13 story complex. The only access to the complex was through some secret tunnels! Today Vardzia is looked after by a small group of monks.

*Did you know? Matera is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world*





# Paws For Thought



There are people around the world who do not have homes or have had to flee their homes suddenly.

## Refugees

Refugees are people who are seeking a safe haven after being forced to flee violence, **persecution** and war or due to **natural disasters**. They are literally running for their lives. The word refugee comes from the word refuge – "the state of being sheltered from pursuit, danger or difficulty". There are millions of new refugees and around half of all refugees are children.



## Homelessness

Homelessness means people who do not have a place to stay. The word "homelessness" also includes people who sleep in homeless shelters, or in abandoned buildings, parking garages, or other places not meant for humans to live in.

International human rights law includes the right to housing. This means that everyone should have the possibility to live somewhere, though this is often not the case. Homelessness can occur for many reasons and the number of homeless has grown in recent years.

Health care for the homeless is very difficult. Homeless people are more likely to suffer injuries and medical problems from their lifestyle on the street.

*Did you know? Many homeless people have dogs to keep them company, and very occasionally they have a cat companion! The amazing story of one, Bob the Cat, became famous, leading to books and even a film made about his life!*





# What if?

## Your home was in space?

Crews of astronauts and cosmonauts from different countries live on the International Space Station (ISS). The ISS is a large spacecraft in orbit around Earth and is also a unique science laboratory. There are between 3 and 5 crew members on board at all times, and they each spend about 6 months on the ISS at one time.

The ISS is **357ft** long from end to end - that's about the same as a football pitch.

It weighs about **420,000kg** - that's about the same as 320 cars.

Living in space means living with almost zero **gravity**, so you are weightless. This means you and everything unsecured will float around. If you need the toilet or to go to sleep you have to be strapped down. Food with crumbs is a no no or the crumbs could end up floating all over the place! You need to make sure you have enough food on the ISS to last a long time as you can't just pop to the shops to buy more.

***Fun Fact:** It takes the ISS 1.5 hours to orbit (go around) the earth. This means that you would see the sun rise and set 16 times in 24 hours, instead of once!*



## Look Out!



After the moon, the ISS is the second brightest object in our night sky - you don't even need a telescope to see it zoom over your house. Can you spot it when it flies overhead?





# Impawtant Words



**Altitude** - The height above the ground or sea level.

**Archaeologist** - Archaeologists investigate historic and prehistoric sites and physical remains to understand human links to the past and to preserve past cultures.

**Average** - An average reflects a typical value, somewhere in the middle. It is calculated by adding quantities together and dividing the total by the number of quantities.

**Gravity** - Gravity gives us weight on Earth, stopping us from floating away. It is a pulling force that attracts objects. There is less gravity on the moon, and even less on the ISS.

**Inhabited** - An inhabited place is somewhere lived in.

**Natural Disasters** - Natural disasters are violent events that are outside the control of humans. Examples include floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis.

**Nomads** - Nomads are people with no permanent home, who move from place to place usually in search of food or to graze animals.

**Persecution** - Persecution is the mistreatment (bad treatment) of an individual or group by another group. People can be persecuted for many reasons; it is usually because of their religion, ethnicity, politics, or gender.

## Tii-Hee-Hee

**Want to hear a construction joke?**

**Too bad, I'm still working on it**

**What did one wall say to the other wall?**

**I'll meet you at the corner**

**A man lives in a one storey house.**

**Everything in it is purple. The chairs are purple, the carpet is purple, the walls are purple, the bed is purple. Even the plates and bowls are purple. What colour are the stairs?**

**There are none, it's a one storey house!**





# Whisker-Tingling Words

## Home

**Meaning:** The place where one lives.

**Where does it come from?** The English word "home" is from the Old English word hām (not the pig) which actually refers to a village or estate where many "souls" are gathered.

## Home, sweet home

**Meaning:** An expression of delight on returning home after an absence.

**Where does it come from?** "Home, Sweet Home" is a song from the opera, Clari or The Maid of Milan, first performed in London in 1823. In the late 19th century it became an anthem for soldiers during the American Civil War.

## Until the cows come home

**Meaning:** For a very long period of time.

**Where does it come from?** There are two ideas about where this phrase has come from: From the fact that cattle let out to pasture may be only expected to return for milking the next morning. It may have a Scottish origin, derived from the fact that cattle in the Highlands are put out to graze on the common for months at a time.

## Hogwash

**Meaning:** Nonsense, something that is not true or does not make sense.

**Where does it come from?** Hogwash does not in fact come from giving a hog (pig) a good scrub. It dates from the Middle Ages (over 600 years ago). Pigs were known for not being picky about what they eat, so were fed leftovers. This mixture of food bits, including food that was rotten, was known as wash. This mixture would have been very smelly and disgusting. Eventually this term became used for something worthless, and then finally nonsense.

## Words Around the World

### "House" in 10 languages

Arabic - Manzil (منزل)

Chinese Mandarin - Wū (屋)

Finnish - Talo

French - Maison

German - Haus

Japanese - Ie (家)

Russian - Dom (дом)

Maori - Whare

Spanish - Casa

Swahili - Nyumba





# Carlota Camundongo



**Camundongo, Camundongo, where does that name belongo?**

Carlota's surname, Camundongo, means "mouse" in Brazilian Portuguese. A purrfect fit for a samba dancing, half-portuguese mouse like her!

## Where in the World?

Can you point out where Carlota is from on the map?

*Clue: Spain and Portugal are in Europe, while Brazil is in South America.*





# How to Dance the Samba

## The feet:

1. Step your right foot just a little behind your left. Put your weight on your back foot, lifting the front foot just off the floor.
2. Transfer the weight onto your front foot, lifting your back foot slightly.
3. Transfer the weight back on your back foot, lifting your front foot.
4. Repeat steps 1-3, this time putting your left foot behind your right.
5. Keep repeating to the rhythm 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3... Try not to move backwards much as you do this.

## Add in the hips:

Bend your knees and swing your hips from side to side, with the feet. Push them out towards each foot as you move your weight onto it.

## Add in the arms:

Make big wavy arm circles, as if you are inviting people to come and dance with you.

## The Samba Grand Finish:

Dancers finish the samba in a dramatic way. The proper way to finish the samba is to extend your hands out to the side and throw your head back.

