

# Welcome | أهلا وسهلا

*Twinning ideas to get started*



WELCOME | أهلا وسهلا

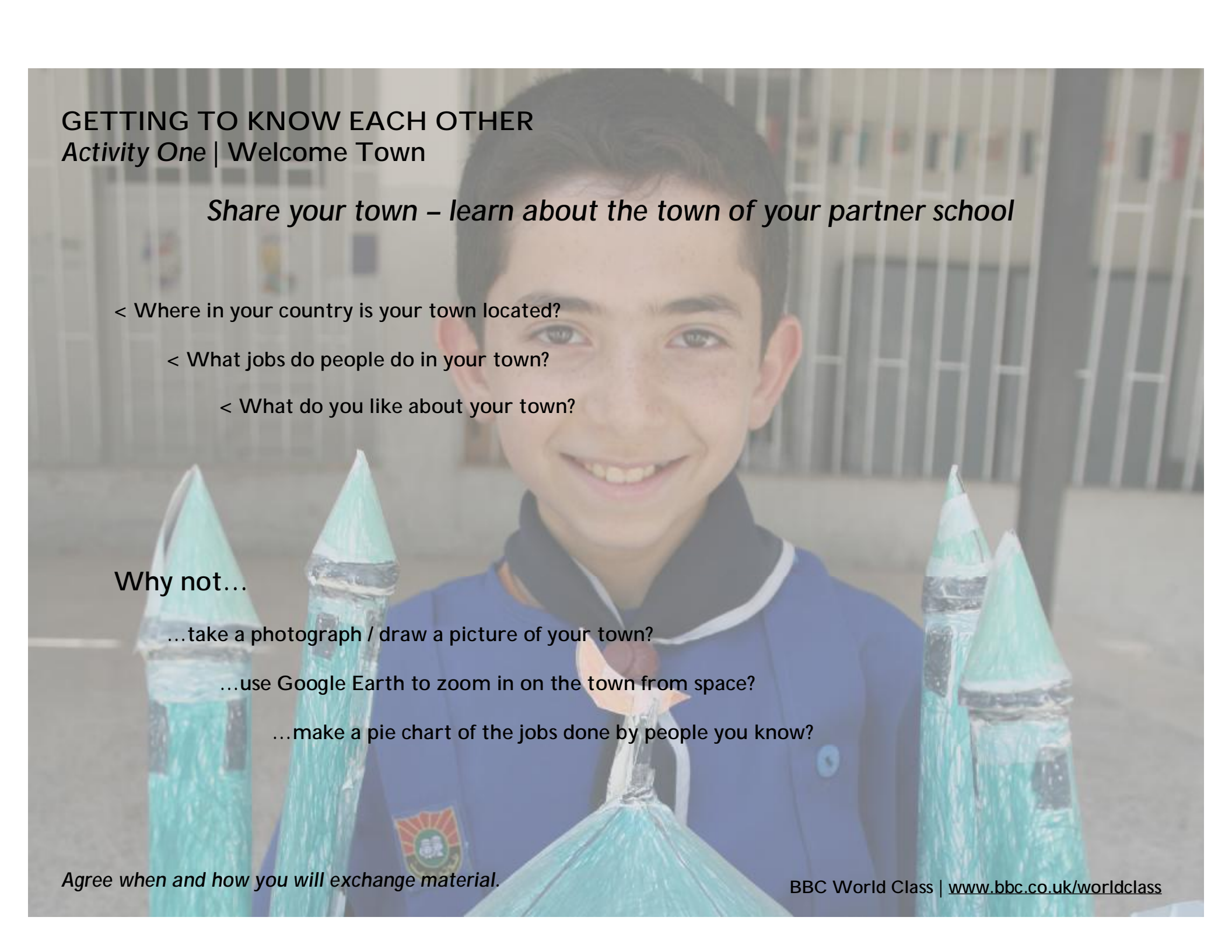
*The World Class Welcome pack is inspired by Syrian School on BBC Four. It has been written with UK teacher Sylvie Beuzit whose school is twinned with a school in Yemen.*

*Sylvie suggests...*

- < Find out what you have in common before you tackle cultural differences
- < Language barrier: take account of the different levels of English and Arabic in your school partnership
- < Choose activities which can be translated and illustrated
- < Agree when and how you'll share your work – ICT can be very helpful

## Learning Outcomes

- < Partnership display in both schools
- < Increased understanding of the Middle East and the UK
- < Awareness of cultural differences and understanding of life in the partner country
- < Increase pupils' motivation and use of English / Arabic
- < Professional development opportunities for staff involved.



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER  
*Activity One | Welcome Town*

*Share your town – learn about the town of your partner school*

- < Where in your country is your town located?
- < What jobs do people do in your town?
- < What do you like about your town?

**Why not...**

- ...take a photograph / draw a picture of your town?
- ...use Google Earth to zoom in on the town from space?
- ...make a pie chart of the jobs done by people you know?

*Agree when and how you will exchange material.*



# GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

## Activity Two | Welcome School

### *Share your school – learn about your partner school*

- < Who goes to your school? How many staff? How many pupils?
- < What happens during your school day?
- < How do you travel to/from school?

### Why not...

- ...make a PowerPoint display or film about the school?
- ...interview the headteacher?
- ...take a photo / draw a picture of your school building?

*Agree when and how you will exchange material.*

## GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

### Activity Three | Welcome Family

*Pupils share details of their family – learn about family life in your partner school's country*

- < Who lives in your home with you?
- < What does your family do together?
- < Who cooks and cleans up in your home?

#### Why not...

- ...make a graph showing the numbers of brothers / sisters for the class?
- ...describe your favourite family outing?
- ...draw a family tree?

*Agree when and how you will exchange material.*



## GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Sylvie's pupils said...

< "We had fun and it made us feel good to tell other people about our families... we met the teachers from the Yemen and we have learnt about the differences between our schools."

< "I would like to continue this project because it gives me freedom in lessons and I enjoy them."

< "I learnt about a country I didn't even know existed."

*Thanks to*

The British Council; BBC Four; BBC Arabic; and Sylvie Beuzit, Assistant Head of Upton-by-Chester High School, Chester, UK.  
Photos courtesy of 'Syrian School', a co-production between The Open University and the BBC, made by Lion Television.

Watch Syrian School on BBC Four from Wednesday 10 February 2010 at 2100 and on BBC World in August 2010.

