

## **Thailand: My House in Thailand**

### **My Beautiful House Series**

**Subject Areas:** Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies

**Synopsis:** Twelve-year-old Cell shows us his house on pilings in the middle of a palm grove. We discover the main rooms, a few aspects of daily Thai life and the games Cell likes playing with his friends. But today, he has to remove a coconut tree branch that has fallen on the roof of the house.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, family and activities with Cell's culture, family and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures on our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate Thailand on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to identify cultural traditions of Thailand.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to compare how Cell's basic needs are met with the way their own needs for food, clothing and shelter are met.

#### **Vocabulary:**

Define the following key terms:

palm grove, stilts, reservoir, source, rec room, precious, soccer jerseys, bearable, terrace, unfortunately, den, electric circuit, "souped-up," mechanics, separate, tiles, attract, pastries, refreshing, mission, heights

#### **Pre-Viewing Activities:**

- 1) Locate Thailand on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent Thailand is located. Point out Bangkok, China, the Sea of Japan and the Pacific Ocean on the map. Make sure viewers know where Thailand is in relation to the rest of the world, including the United States and North America.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of Thailand such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask students to draw a map of their homes. Have them include the number of rooms, number of bedrooms, who lives with them, etc. Compare and contrast the children's maps.

#### **Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:**

- 1) Describe Cell's family. How are they similar or different from your family? How many brothers and sisters does Cell have? How many brothers and sisters do you have? What does Cell's family eat? Why do they have fruit for dessert? What do you like to eat for dessert? Who

cooks Cell's meal? How does Cell help his mother prepare the meal? What do you like to eat? Who cooks your meals?

- 2) Describe Cell's house. How is it similar or different from your home? Why is it built on stilts? Where is Cell's shower? Where is your shower or bathtub? Would you enjoy showering outside? Why or why not? Where do Cell and his mother eat? Do they always eat there? Explain. Where do you eat your meals? Where does Cell play? What is the terrace used for at Cell's house? What did Cell's father put in all the rooms? Why did he do this? What do you use to keep cool when the weather gets warm?
- 3) Compare and contrast Cell's activities to your own. How are they similar or different? With whom does Cell play? What is Cell's favorite game? What kinds of games do you like to play? What kind of chores does Cell do? What kind of chores do you do? What does Cell collect? Where does he keep his collection? Do you have any collections? If so, what kind?

**Additional Activities:**

- 1) Have students draw a picture of their neighborhood or write a story about their family and home. Then, have the students read their stories or display and describe their drawings for the class.
- 2) Have students prepare a geographic profile of Thailand noting its size, location, climate, natural resources, and outstanding cultural traits. Have the students describe Thailand's history, people, language, principal industries and major tourist attractions.

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