


David - Homeless In Denver



 Invisible People

Watch the interview with David, a homeless man in Denver. Take notes, answer the questions

1. Why is David homeless? _____

2. How does David get money? _____

3. Why doesn't David have a job? _____

4. Why does David think there is homelessness? _____

5. What does David usually do? _____

6. What are David's 3 wishes? 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

The Homeless - A Discussion

Student A

Why do you think some people become homeless?

Do you avoid homeless people?

Have you ever been scared of being homeless?

Do you give money to the homeless? Why or why not?

Do you think some people want to be homeless? Why?

Is being homeless a crime?

Do you know or have you known any homeless person?

Have you ever been to a temporary shelter for the homeless?

How do you think the homeless get their food each day?

Is it dangerous for homeless people? What might happen?

After this discussion - has your thinking changed about the homeless?



Student B

Why do you think there are so many homeless people in the USA?

Where do you usually see homeless people?

Why do many homeless people use drugs or alcohol?

Do you give money to the homeless?

How can we help homeless people the most?

Do you agree with forcing the homeless to relocate or go to a shelter?

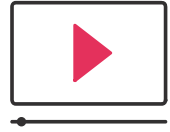
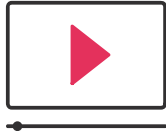
What goes through your head when someone asks you for money?

Do you think there are some homeless people who have jobs?

Have you ever run out of money and needed help?

What would you say to a child who asks why people are sleeping on the street?





Socks By Bob



IT'S ABOUT:

Who? _____

Where? _____

Doing? _____

How? _____

Why It Began? _____

The Numbers

Socks by Bob began in _____

They have knitted _____ pairs of socks.

The knitting machines go at _____ turns a second.

_____ miles of socks!

The Key To Life

Bob thinks the key to life is

Discuss It



1. What for you is the "key to life"?
2. What things do the homeless need in order to survive on the streets?
3. If you could, how would you help the homeless?
4. What do you think you'll be doing as a senior citizen?

Video Transcript

In Saskatoon, Saskatchewan you'll find four senior citizens making socks. Lots and lots of socks.

[Bob] Socks by Bob have knitted 11,662 as of today.

[Commentator] That's pairs of socks, which means Socks by Bob has knitted 23,324 individual socks, 8.8 miles of socks, and they're all for charity.

The man responsible for all these socks is none other than Bob Rutherford.

Enter Bob's knitting machines. These super-powered knitting machines go at 90 turns per second. That's pretty fast. But, what makes these machines special are that they're self-made.

[Bob] I'm an experimenter. I just build things. And it took a long time to figure out how to do it. But when you're retired and nothing to do, it just sorta grew.

[Commentator] Socks by Bob began in 2010 after the passing of Bob's wife Edith.

[Bob] I was a caregiver to my wife before she died and my son came home and said, "Dad you need something to do." I said, "Well I've made these socks "on this first knitting machine."

[Commentator] And that sparked an idea, making socks for those in need. But Bob doesn't work alone. He has plenty of help.

[Bob] George cuts the tube length.
Glynn and Barney, they rub-knit tube socks by the roll.

[Commentator] Each week Bob and his team knit hundreds of socks that they then deliver to countless homeless shelters all throughout Canada.

[Bob] The socks are delivered in Alberta, Saskatchewan, BC, in Red Deer, Calgary. Some have gone to the northern part of the province. In short, they go to where they're needed.

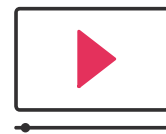
People gotta keep involved. You just can't give up because of bereavement or whatever the case may be. I think that knitting socks for needy people is important.

People have to reach out and touch each other, I think, as they grow older, and this has helped me do that. And I think that's the key to life.

You don't give up. And find a purpose.
Find something that needs to be done and do it.



GREAT BIG STORY



Socks By Bob



IT'S ABOUT:

Who? Senior Citizens

Where? Saskatoon, Canada

Doing? Knitting socks for the homeless

How? Using a knitting machine. Plus packing, sending.

Why It Began? Bob's wife died. His son said he needed to do something.

The Numbers

Socks by Bob began in 2010

They have knitted 11.662 pairs of socks.

The knitting machines go at 90 turns a second.

8.8 miles of socks!

The Key To Life

Bob thinks the key to life is

Getting and keeping involved.

Reach out and touch people.

Don't give up

Have a purpose and do it.

Discuss It



1. What for you is the "key to life"?
2. What things do the homeless need in order to survive on the streets?
3. If you could, how would you help the homeless?
4. What do you think you'll be doing as a senior citizen?

There is much false information about the homeless.

Ask a partner these questions.
Do they get the answer right?
Discuss the myth/stereotype.



Myth Busting Answer Sheet

1. All people who are homeless live on the street.

False - Visible homelessness (the people we see on the street) is just part of the problem. Researchers estimate that three out of four people who are homeless don't sleep on the street, but use shelters, sleep in their cars, or on someone's couch.

2. People who are homeless are lazy and don't want to get a job.

False - People who are homeless face many challenges in getting and keeping a job. Without an address or phone it is impossible to apply for work and many employers require certain equipment or clothing (e.g. work boots, hard hat etc.) In addition, without money it is really hard for a person who is homeless to get to work.

3. People who are homeless sometimes have pets for companionship.

True - Pets provide people with friendship, comfort and loyalty.

4. It would be cool to be homeless because you could go anywhere you want.

False - People who are homeless are often not welcome in stores and restaurants. People who are homeless are often not able to access washrooms or use phones. Without income, they cannot pay for bus fare and often have to walk long distances to get from place to place.

5. All people who are homeless are addicted to drugs or alcohol.

False - While some people who are homeless do have addiction problems, studies show that less than half suffer from addictions.

6. Mental illness is the main reason people are homeless.

False - While some people who are homeless do suffer from mental illness, a recent study of homelessness in Canada has found the main reason for homelessness is poverty (lack of money).

7. There are no homeless children.

False - The 2008 count of homeless people in the Metro Vancouver area found there were 84 children among families who were homeless.

8. All panhandlers (people who ask for money) are homeless.

False - Some panhandlers are homeless but some have housing and panhandle to supplement their income.

9. Homeless people are in all communities not just big cities.

True - Homelessness is not just a big city issue. For many years now, homelessness has been an increasingly visible part of life in suburban areas and in smaller communities.

10. Homelessness is just a fact of life; there is nothing we can do about it.

False - It takes three things to end homelessness: adequate income, affordable housing and support services for those who need them. We can solve homelessness.

Suggested Questions for Class Discussion



What are the causes of homelessness?

What does it mean to be homeless?

Why do you think someone might become homeless?

What are some of the health problems people who are homeless might have? Have you ever met a person who is homeless?

What are the solutions for homelessness?

What are some of the solutions to homelessness?

What could government do to help solve homelessness?

What can businesses do to help solve homelessness?

What can average people do to help solve homelessness?

Lesson Activities

*Before lesson activities have students write a response to the question: "When I think of people who are homeless I think of _____."

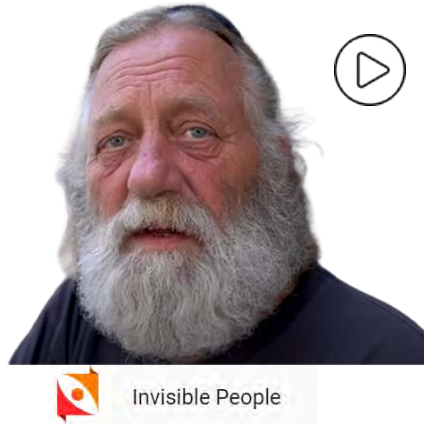
*After lesson activities ask students: "After participating in these activities when I think of people who are homeless I think of _____. Students can finish the sentence or write a paragraph.

*Interview a homeless person on the street. Take a video (with their permission)

*Survey the school about an issue facing the homeless. Report back.



David - Homeless In Denver



Watch the interview with David, a homeless man in Denver. Take notes, answer the questions

1. Why is David homeless? Not enough money for rent. Also mental health issues. Can't work due to health.

2. How does David get money? Social security check.

3. Why doesn't David have a job? Injury. Too old.

4. Why does David think there is homelessness? bad decisions, bad health, mental health issues, drugs, alcohol. Not enough money to address the issue.

5. What does David do at night? He walks the streets at night. Doesn't like rescue missions
Sleeps during the day, feels safer.

6. What are David's 3 wishes? 1. have a home

2. return to Tennessee to visit grand-daughters 3. peace and stability

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