

Displacement 2

AIMS

Students empathise with people who have been forced to move because of the Olympics.
Students listen appropriately to others.
Students speak clearly and effectively in groups
Students express their thoughts and feelings in writing.
Students use letter writing conventions.

LINKS

S & E (Place and Space, Time, Continuity and Change, Active Citizenship), English (Reading, Speaking, Listening, Conventions)

MATERIALS

Family descriptions, paper, pens

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Recap earlier displacement lesson. Assign small groups of students a fictional description of one family and the circumstances in which they were displaced. Each group should read the description and come up with a list of advantages and disadvantages of moving in those circumstances.

Later, ask each group to share their circumstance along with their list with the whole group. Together, discuss that these are probable circumstances in which people have had to move in Beijing (They are based on reports about displacement due to Olympic construction but aren't factual descriptions of actual families.) Ask students: Whose situation would you rather be in and why? Do you think this would have happened in other countries that have hosted the Olympics? (It has – see website below) Ask students to imagine that they are part of one of the families and write a letter to a friend, describing their move and how they feel about it.

VARIATIONS/EXTENSIONS

- Students could research previous Olympics and displacement <http://www.tenant.net/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=6086>
- Students could write to the IOC to ask they ensure fair compensation for those displaced.

Family Descriptions

Cai De's family used to live in an apartment where the Olympic village now stands. When they had to move, the government gave them money for their apartment which helped them to buy an apartment in a different suburb. They now live quite a way from their jobs and school.

Huang Kai Yi and her family used to live where one of the Olympic stadiums has been built in Beijing. They weren't given much time to move and weren't given any money for their old home. The first they knew about having to move was when somebody wrote 'demolish' all over their house and knocked down the bike shed they shared with their neighbours. Shortly after that the water was cut off so the family moved. Thankfully they had enough money to buy a small home a few suburbs away.

Hezu Bing and his family used to live in a small shack they had built themselves but had to move when a new road was going to be built to get to the Olympic stadiums in Beijing. They didn't get any money for their old house and don't know where to go. They are sleeping wherever they can get out of the cold at the moment.

Bi Kang Yan and her family used to live in a small shack they had built themselves but had to move when a new road was going to be built to get to the Olympic stadiums in Beijing. They didn't get any money for their old house and have had to move to the other side of Beijing. They are trying to get the materials together to build another home.

Wei Guo and his family used to live where one of the Olympic stadiums has now been built in Beijing. His family had lived in that house for generations. When they were told they would have to move they tried to go to court to stop their house from being destroyed. Unfortunately, by the time it was their turn at court, their house had already been demolished. The government gave them money for their house and they used it to buy a house a long way away from where they used to live. They now live a long way away from their school and friends.