

# HA LONG BAY, VIETNAM



## THINK

**SEE** What do you see in this photograph?  
What colours and shapes do you spot?  
What materials are used to keep the house afloat?

**THINK** What do you think these villagers do for a living?  
Why do these villages need to keep their fish farms mobile?

**WONDER** I wonder what sounds I might hear in this landscape.



## SHARE

How is this mobile fish farm similar to your home?  
How is Ha Long Bay different from the place you live in?

**"If the waste stays here all the time, we will die.  
It will be impossible to live here."**

Que, a resident of Ha Long Bay  
Source: Brown, M & Tran, LT (2012)



## ACT

Four million tourists visit Ha Long Bay every year. Many tourists leave behind litter. Tourist boats often release untreated water and sewerage waste into the bay. The waters are getting more polluted as more tourists arrive.

What do you think people and the government in Ha Long Bay should do to reduce litter and water pollution?

There are many plants and animals that can only be found in Ha Long Bay.

Fishermen anchor their floating farms in between limestone formations so that they can be protected from strong winds and storms.



A floating house and fish farm are supported by a network of wooden planks and plastic containers.

Water and sewerage waste from hundreds of tourist boats as well as run-off from coal mines pollute the waters.

Villagers used to live on these floating houses, now they use these structures as fish farms or spaces for tourist experiences.



# INLE LAKE, MYANMAR



## THINK

**SEE** List ten things you can spot in this photograph. What are some things that you find familiar? What is new to you?

## THINK

Why do you think people in Inle Lake build their houses on stilts? How do you think they make a living?

## WONDER

I wonder how children at Inle Lake play.



## SHARE

“Believe it or not, not too long ago you could drink the water in the middle of the lake when you got thirsty. You could swim. Fish was abundant and drought in the summer was unheard of. The situation now is different.”

62 year-old Daw Than Tin , villagers, Inle Lake

Source: [UNDP \(2015\)](#)

How do you think Mr Daw is feeling?



## ACT

How can we keep Inle Lake clean and green?  
How can we make sure there are lots of fish for the local community?  
Do you notice the same difficulties at a lake, a river or the sea near you?

Some villagers build their houses with wood. The sturdier material allows them to add a second storey.

The walls of traditional houses are made by weaving together strips of bamboo; they provide shade but allow air and light to pass through.



Living in a stilted house protects the villagers from floods.

Bamboo or wooden stilts are replaced every 15 years.

Almost all residents on Inle Lake rely on water transport.



# KAMPONG AYER, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



## THINK

**SEE** How many boats can you spot?  
Describe the different roofs you can spot.  
How are the buildings in the background different from the houses built over water in the foreground?

## THINK

What do you think just happened before this photograph was taken?  
What do you think happened after this photograph was taken?

## WONDER

I wonder how the stilts hold up the houses?  
Are there markets in the community?



## SHARE

**"I love the sound of the water. Everything is simple in the water village. You have no rush to go anywhere."**

Dk Kemariah Pg Hj Duraman, owner of Kunyit 7 Lodge, a homestay at Kampong Ayer

Source: [Wong M.H. and Tham, D. \(2018\)](#)



## ACT

Kampong Ayer has an organized trash collection service but is still filled with rubbish that has floated downstream from other places. Discuss what you think can make Kampong Ayer cleaner.

Is there a place in your community that you feel should be free from litter? What would be a creative solution you and your friends can come up with?

Every village has a mosque. This is Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque; it is named after the 28th sultan or ruler. The domes of this mosque are covered in gold leaf.

Sometimes, monkeys from nearby forests look for food in houses or in schools.



The houses in Kampong Ayer are linked by wooden boardwalks.

Mangroves still grow near the river banks at Kampong Ayer.

River taxis are available at every pier. Many households have their own boats as they were fishermen. Now, many work in the nearby city.



# THE MOKEN, MERGUI ARCHIPELAGO, KO SURIN, THAILAND



## THINK

**SEE** How many people can you spot?  
How are the boats different from each other?  
What materials do the Moken use to make their boats?

## THINK

Where do you think they are heading to?  
What if I told you these boats are also their houses,  
what questions would you ask the owner?  
Why do you think they made the boat their home?

## WONDER

If you had to make this boat your home, how would you  
organize it? I wonder where I would sleep or cook.



## SHARE

In 2004, a tsunami in the Indian Ocean took away 175,000  
lives. **Imagine if** a tsunami were to occur in your community,  
what would happen?

The Moken call the tsunami laboon – “the wave that eats  
people. Discuss with a partner and describe the tsunami by  
completing the sentence:

“The tsunami is like a ....”



## ACT

For the Moken, the ocean is their entire universe. In small  
groups, debate what is the most valuable thing in your com-  
munity? What can you do to protect these precious things?

The Moken boat, or  
kabang, can be as long  
as 7 to 11 metres and  
as deep as 1.30 to  
1.50 metres

The kabang is carved  
from a single tree  
trunk. It is both  
home and transport  
for the Moken.

They spend nine  
months at sea and live  
in temporary shelters  
on islands during the  
rainy season.



The Moken are  
collectors of sea and  
forest products. They  
also dive to fish with  
their spears.

The square sail was  
traditionally made by sewing  
pandanus leaves together.  
Nowadays, the Moken also  
use man-made materials they  
find at sea or on the beach.



# TONLE SAP, CAMBODIA



## THINK

**SEE** What is the first thing that catches your attention? List the items that are blue, green and brown. How is the bigger boat different from the smaller boat?

## THINK

Why do you think people in Tonle Sap build their houses on stilts?

What might the smaller boats be used for?

## WONDER

I wonder what the temporary floating houses look like?



## SHARE

“We look for the big trees with many branches as big as the wrist, then we cut 4 to 5. We don’t cut the big ones, only the small ones. The [flooded] forest is where fish spawn. When there is a storm from the lake, the forest protects our houses.”

Heouring Hak, Resident, Tonle Sap

Source: [Asian Development Bank \(2015\)](#)

Discuss why the forest is so important to people who live around Tonle Sap.



## ACT

Where is the nearest forest or green space near you?  
What kinds of animals and plants can you find there?  
How would you protect your forest?

The water level in Tonle Sap can increase from two to ten metres during the rainy season, covering the tops of trees.

During the wet season, villagers live in their stilted homes. You can find houses built on stilts as high as six or even ten metres.



When the dry season arrives, villagers build temporary floating homes on the water. Their stilted homes have become too far from their boats and the lake.

More frequent tropical storms, warmer temperatures and overfishing have reduced the number of fish in the Tonle Sap.

Most villagers are fishermen; some have become boatmen for tourists.

