



# EMILY lives in a log cabin

**HELLO!** MY NAME'S **EMILY**, AND I COME FROM CANADA, WHERE MY PARENTS WORK AS MANAGERS OF A NATIONAL PARK. WE LIVE IN A LOG CABIN IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOREST, WITH A VIEW OF A MOUNTAIN RANGE AND A LARGE LAKE. WE RARELY ENCOUNTER OTHER PEOPLE, AS IT TAKES SEVERAL HOURS TO TRAVEL TO THE NEAREST TOWN.

## 10 Axes and saws

Although it's sometimes necessary to cut down a tree, it's important to maintain nature's balance in the forest by not felling too many trees.

## 9 All made of wood

Log cabins are built from machined tree trunks – as this is the material most readily available. The individual logs are clearly visible inside as well, and this makes the home cosy. The furniture, too, is made of wood.

## 8 Pails of water

We draw our drinking water from a deep well near the cabin, and we carry it inside in wooden pails. It's pretty thirsty work!

## 1 Electricity

In the past, people in the middle of the wilderness had only their own strength to rely on. Today we're able to use electrical appliances. In our cellar we have a generator, which allows us to produce our own electricity.



## 2 Thatched roof

The roof of our log cabin is covered with grass and moss. Thanks to this, it's warm inside even in winter. The thatch provides better protection from rain and snow than the wood itself.

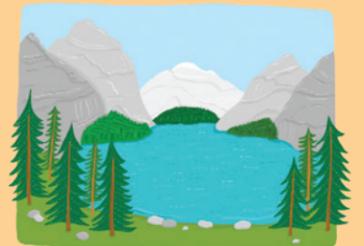


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## 7 Spectacular view

Our log cabin is in the middle of a forest, so me and my parents really enjoy nature walks. We often go to the lake, enjoy the peace and quiet and above all, the spectacular view!



## 6 Snowed under

Winter snowfall is sometimes so heavy that we have to use a large shovel to dig a way out of our cabin!

## 5 Warmth first

Canadian winters are very cold, and the summers are cooler, too – the temperature can fall to freezing point. For this reason there's a fireplace in my family's cabin, and we always have enough logs to heat with.

## 3 Just one room

These days luxury log cabins are built for tourists, but ours is the traditional type, with just one room, where we sleep, cook, talk together and work. Only the bathroom and toilet are in a separate space.

## 4 Home schooling

As we live a long way away from school, instead of commuting daily, I do home schooling with my parents. They are as strict with me as teachers at school would be: they even give me extra homework.

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# MZAMO lives in a colourful house

**EE YEBO!** MY NAME'S **HZANO**, AND I'M A MEMBER OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NDEBELE PEOPLE. I LIVE WITH MY FAMILY IN A LITTLE HOUSE, PLUS TWO SMALL HUTS THAT CONTAIN THE KITCHEN AND THE GRANARY. OUR HOMESTEAD IS CONTAINED ON OUR COURTYARD, WHICH IS SURROUNDED BY A LOW WALL. LOOK HOW LOVELY AND COLOURFUL ALL OUR BUILDINGS ARE!

**1 Wall around a house**  
Our homestead comprises the main house, the kitchen and the granary. These are surrounded by a decorated wall, which prevents livestock from coming into our courtyard.

**2 Feminine beauty**  
The Ndebele are famous for jewellery made from coloured glass beads and for the copper rings the women wear around their necks. Our women are adorned with many rings, necklaces and headdresses, worn all at the same time.



**3 House-building**  
Although men and women work together to build a house, the final plastering – with a mix of clay and cow dung – is a job for women only. As soon as the plaster has been dried by the sun, the women set to decorating it.

**10 Sleeping mats**  
At home we sleep on the ground. We all have our own mat, which protects us from the cold and keeps us comfortable.

**9 Coloured symbols**  
Following tradition, we decorate our homes with colourful geometric patterns. These have a number of different meanings – some even look like televisions or razors!

**8 Initiation ceremony**  
In puberty, boys and girls undergo a procedure of initiation. The girl's ceremony takes place at home and lasts a week, but for theirs, boys have to attend an initiation school for two whole months.



**7 Cross**  
Although today many of us are Christians who go to church regularly, we keep a lot of very old traditions.




**4 Traditional division of labour**  
Men's and women's work is traditionally divided. Women look after the home and make jewellery, baskets and mats. Men take care of the livestock and fields, and they build whatever is needed.

**5 Livestock everywhere**  
We keep a small herd of goats and sheep. The hens that run around provide us with eggs.

**6 School every day**  
My friends and I walk a long way to school, where we learn to read, write and count, and about history and how to speak foreign languages. We wear a uniform at school.

# MIYUKI lives in a machiya

**KONNICHI WA!** MY NAME'S **MIYUKI**, AND I LIVE WITH MY PARENTS IN A MACHIYA, A TRADITIONAL WOODEN HOUSE WITH A SMALL SHOP ON THE GROUND FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS DIVIDED INTO SEVERAL PARTS, FOR LIVING IN AND FOR DOING BUSINESS IN. THERE ARE SEVERAL SUCH HOUSES IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, AND WE GET ON VERY WELL WITH OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOURS. WHEN MY HOMEWORK ALLOWS, AFTER SCHOOL I HELP MY PARENTS IN THE COFFEE SHOP.

## 11 Genkan

Before we enter the house, we must take off our shoes. Our house has a special area for this, called a genkan.

## 10 Futon

My futon bed is easy to fold and store away, as it comprises only mattresses and quilts. So it doesn't take up space in my room unnecessarily!

## 9 Tatami

In the past tatami mats served instead of carpets. These days we prefer wooden flooring and have tatami only in the traditional Japanese room.

## 8 Garden

There is a secret place inside our house – the garden, which is decorated with rockeries and bonsai. This is where we go to relax and enjoy a bit of nature.

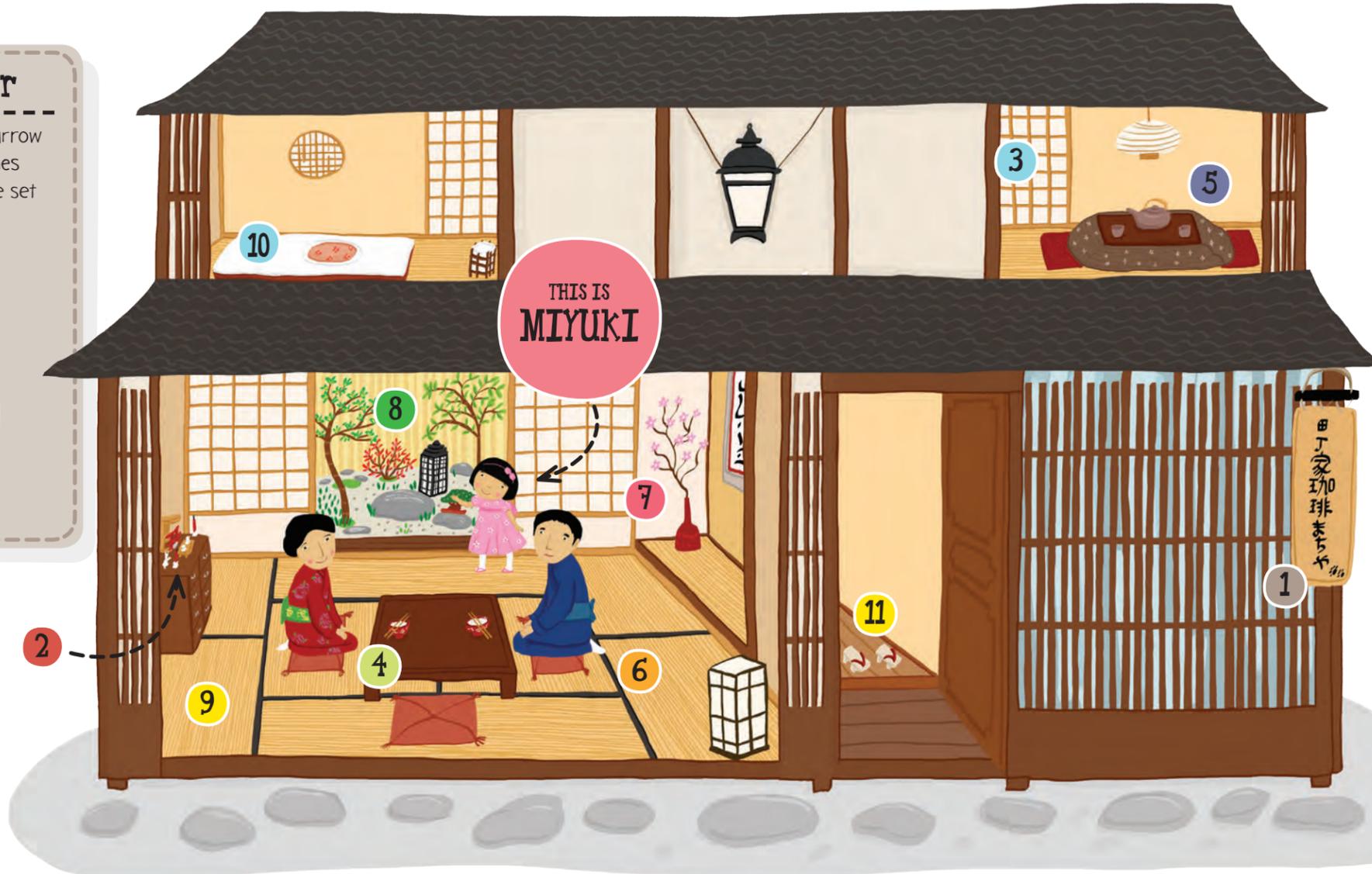
## 1 Shop on the ground floor

Machiya face the street. Often they have a narrow shop at the front and living space that stretches a long way back. In our house my parents have set up a coffee shop.



## 2 Kamidana

As Shintoists, we worship kami spirits, and this is what the kamidana altar is for. It must contain a 'house' and various objects for the kami.



## 7 Tokonoma

In the living room there is an alcove called a tokonoma, which contains decorative objects. We like to give our guests a pleasant view of this alcove, which no one should enter without good reason – there is something a little sacred about it.



## 3 Shoji

Rooms are divided by sliding doors and windows, called shoji. These are made of rice paper over frames of bamboo.

## 4 Rice

In the past the front part of a house served as a shop selling silk or rice. Rice forms the basis of our cuisine to this day.

## 5 Kotatsu

As we don't have central heating, in winter we use a low wooden table called a kotatsu, which has a built-in electric heater. This is covered with a blanket, which holds in the warmth. We sit around this to talk, have dinner or play games together.

## 6 Washitsu

In the past, the washitsu, a traditional room in Japanese style, was used as a bedroom. These days it tends to be a decorative room, always containing tatami mats, shoji doors and windows, and Japanese ornaments and furniture.



# How Children Live Around The World

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Ever wondered how children live in other countries? This book gives you a great opportunity to look inside homes on all continents and discover how different children's lives can be. People build their homes to suit local conditions and be comfortable to live in. Do you know how children live in Mongolia? Or what life's like in an icy igloo? How about in a rainforest? Come with us to take a look at homes in all parts of the world, and to make new friends who'll tell you all about their culture. Well then – are you ready?



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