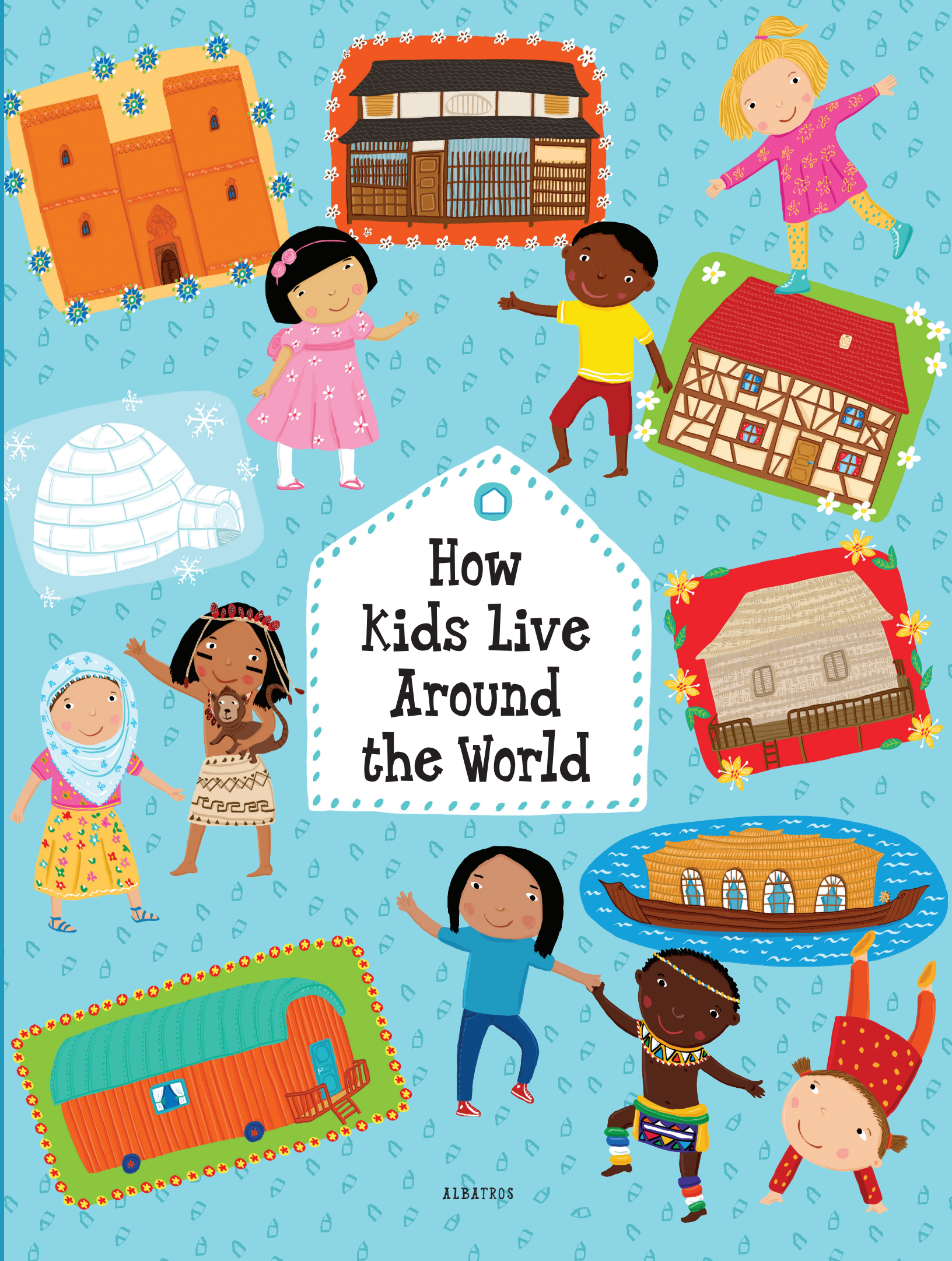
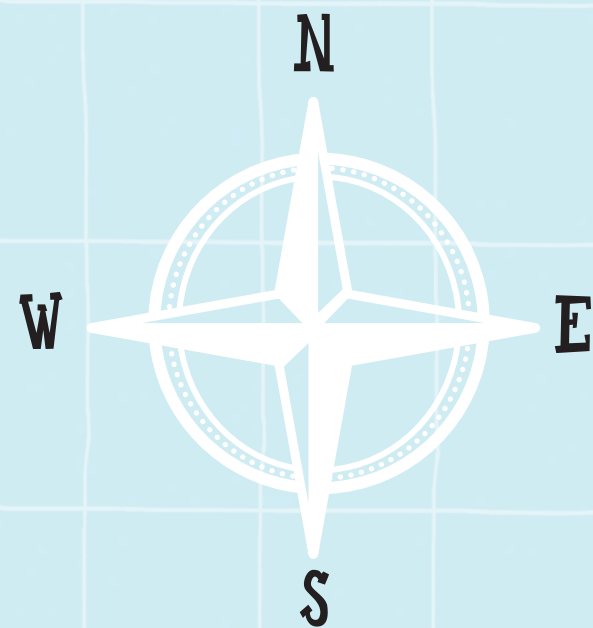


# How Kids Live Around the World









# MZAMO lives in a colorful house

**EE YEBO!** MY NAME'S **HZAMO**, 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 CONTAINS A COURTYARD, WHICH IS SURROUNDED BY A LOW WALL. LOOK HOW LOVELY AND COLORFUL 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**

We Ndebele are famous for jewelry made from colored glass beads and for the copper rings the women wear around their necks. Women here 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.

**4 Traditional division of labor**

The work of men and women is traditionally divided. Men take care of the livestock and fields, and they build whatever is needed. Women look after the home and make jewelry, baskets, and mats.

**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 Colored symbols**

Following tradition, we decorate our homes with colorful 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 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.



**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 we learn about history and how to speak foreign languages. We also wear uniforms at school.





# MIYUKI lives in a machiya

**KONNICHI WA!** MY NAME'S **MIYUKI**, AND I LIVE WITH MY PARENTS IN A MACHIYA, A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE 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 NEIGHBORHOOD, AND WE GET ALONG VERY WELL WITH OUR NEAREST NEIGHBORS. 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 entryway 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 were used instead of carpets. These days we prefer wooden flooring and have tatami only in the traditional 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.

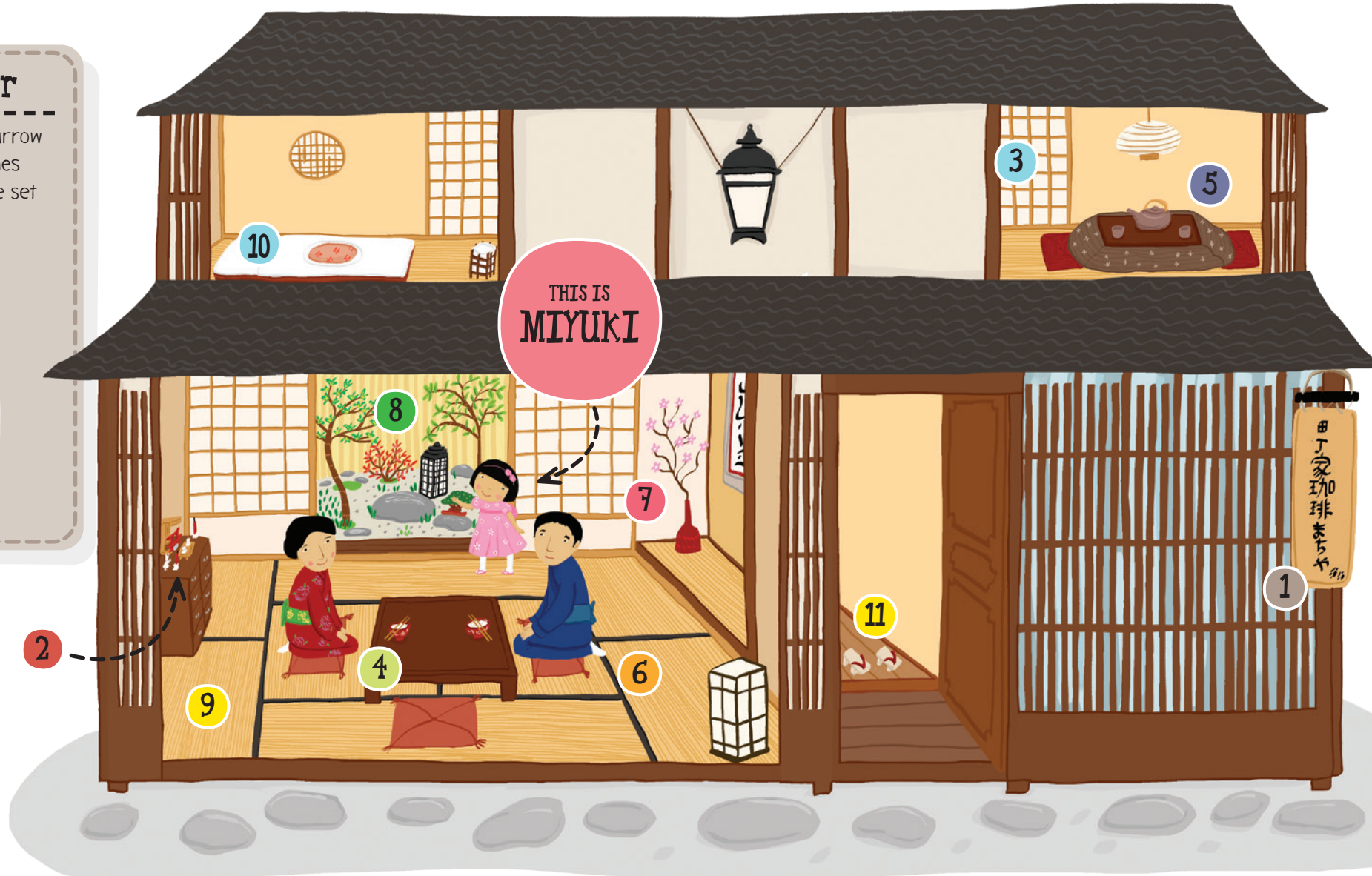
## 1 Shop on the ground floor

Machiyas 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 spirits called *kami*, 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.



## 6 Washitsu

In the past, the *washitsu*, a traditional Japanese room, 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.

## 3 Shoji

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

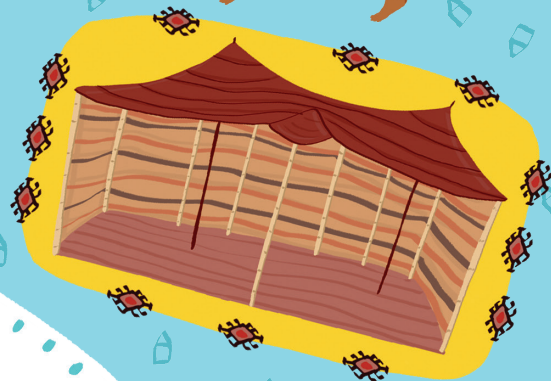
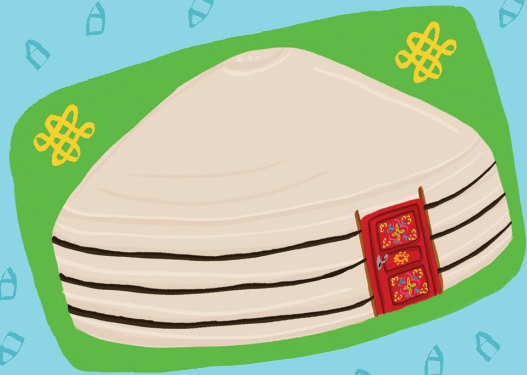
## 4 Rice

In the past the front part of a house served as a shop selling silk or rice. Rice forms the basis of Japanese 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.

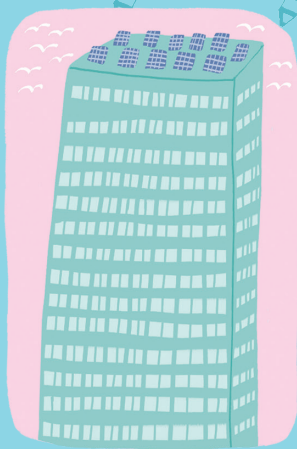




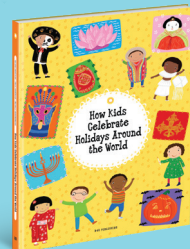
# How Kids Live Around the World

WRITTEN BY **HELENA HARAŠTOVÁ & PAVLA HANÁČKOVÁ**  
ILLUSTRATED BY **MICHAELA BERGHANNOVÁ**

Ever wonder how kids 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 to be comfortable to live in. Do you know how kids live in Mongolia? Or what life's like in an icy igloo? How about in a rainforest? Come with us as we take a look at homes in all parts of the world—and make new friends who'll tell you all about their cultures. Well then, are you ready?



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