

DAVAATSEREN

AND THE BIG CITY

GROWN-UP'S GUIDE



WONDERBOOKS


Save the
Children

Some helpful things to know



What is a nomad?

A nomad is a person who moves their home from place to place. Nomadic herders in Mongolia move about three or four times a year in search of good grazing lands for their sheep, goats, horses, and cows. These animals are their livelihood so it is important that they can eat good food and stay healthy!

What is difficult about being a nomadic herder in Mongolia?

Mongolia has scorching hot summers which dry out all the wheat crops - this is called a drought. There can also be freezing cold winters when the land is covered in really thick ice and snow which stops the grazing animals reaching the grass beneath.

Going from drought to snow all the time makes it very difficult for families to live. Many animals die during the winter, which means families have less food, milk, clothes and money to live on.

How is Save the Children helping children of nomadic herders?

During the winter, Save the Children gives families food for their animals, as well as money so they can buy nutritious food and other basics.

Herding families are also faced with a hard decision when it comes to sending their children to school – having to choose whether to split up the family or delay education. To help, Save the Children is supporting a specially designed education programme. Children take home one kit of books and toys from the library at a time. There are 10 kits for kids to work through. Parents are trained to assist their child with learning, effectively becoming teachers at home. This enables children to keep learning while ensuring the family can stay together!



Purevdulam and her dad, Dashnayam, looking after their sheep

Design your own ger

The nomadic herders don't stay in one place for very long. That's why they live in 'gers', homes that are fast and easy to assemble. The whole family helps to put up the ger – so in this activity try and get everyone helping!

You will need

For the roof:

Lots of fabric! You could try bedsheets, towels, old curtains, blankets, or anything else you have at home.

For the structure:

Sturdy things to hold up the fabric. You could try chairs, a brush handle, a table, cardboard.

For inside the ger:

More cushions and cardboard boxes.

Instructions

1. A ger is built by putting up the circular structure first. Arrange your sturdy items in a circle. Top tip: Don't forget the door!
2. Find something tall to put in the middle so your ger's roof becomes a dome shape.
3. Drape your fabric over the top and around the sides.
4. Decorate the inside of your ger. Gers normally have a kitchen, a fire in the middle, beds and living area. What will yours have?
5. Share a picture of your beautiful ger with us on social media, or at wonderbooks@savethechildren.org.uk

Notes:

Make sure you have a grown-up with you!

DO NOT create a real fire in the middle of your ger. A drawing will do the job and is much safer.



To find out more about children who inspire stories like Wonderbooks, visit [savethechildren.org.uk](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

Photo credit: Save the Children/Khulan Munkh-Erdene, Illustrations courtesy of: Jia Liu

Tips for reading this book with your child

Before you read

Have a look at the cover together and ask,
'What do you think this book might be about?'

While you read

Start each page with *What can you see?* to give the reader space to respond freely.

After reading

Reflect on the book together. Here are some questions to help start a conversation:

What do you think of Davaatseren's ger (house)?

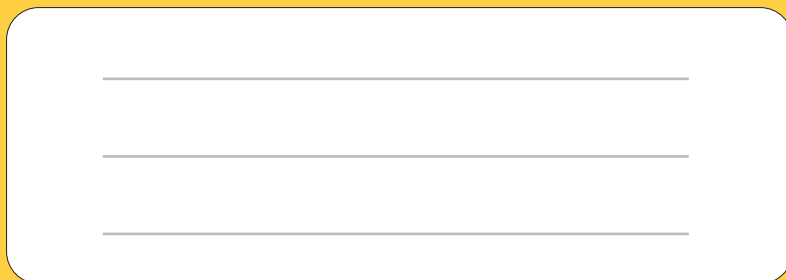
Would you like to live in a city or in the countryside or somewhere in between?

What do you think Davaatseren's dad likes about being a herder?

What would you miss if you were away from home like Davaatseren?

Gratitude journal

Share three things you love about where you live.



If you have any questions about Wonderbooks,
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