



WORLD FOR KIDS

FOCUS: Mongolia

➔ WELCOME TO MONGOLIA!

Mongolia is one of the larger countries in Asia, with a long and very interesting history. It lies between Russia and China.

About 2.7 million people live in Mongolia. But 25 million head of livestock live there, too. That means, there are ten times more cows, sheep, and goats, than people.

A lot of Mongolian customs relate to livestock. Like this: a common greeting in Mongolia is, "*Mal sureg targan tavtaiyuu?*" or, "How's your livestock?"



Mongolia has wide open spaces, with only three people living per square mile. It's about the size of the state of Alaska.

Visitors find lots of interesting things in Mongolia, like dinosaur bones in the Gobi Desert, statues from the days of Genghis Khan (a fierce, ancient Mongolian leader who used rule over most of Asia and Europe), and beautiful cashmere wool.



➔ WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR MONGOLIAN CHILDREN?

In some ways, life for city children, like those who live in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbataar, is not so very different from that of Western children. They wear clothes very much like the ones American

children wear. They ride roller skates, play basketball and soccer. Girls like to play with a long elastic band, which they jump over like jump rope. In the Winter, sledding down hills is a favorite activity even though it can get

very cold, down to 50°F! If it is too cold to play outside, children might watch television, but there are no programs during the daytime.



Life with Jesus is the best life ... EVER!

➔ GET THE FACTS

- In 1989, there were NO churches in Mongolia
- In 2004, there are over 27,000 Christians
- Only one out of 100 people in Mongolia believe in Jesus



➔ WHAT CAN KIDS DO?

- P – PRAY for kids to know Jesus
- S – SHOW GOD'S LOVE -- by encouraging teachers who work with kids
- S – SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE -- to help kids get the things they need to learn about Jesus
- T – TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

➔ A “SHAGAI” GAME

Did You Know? Mongolian children have favorite games they like to play, just like we do! Because many Mongolians live in the countryside far away from cities, they sometimes play games using “shagai,” which are the cleaned anklebones of sheep. This is one of their very favorites. It is somewhat like our game of marbles!

Materials: Divide a number of small dog bone treats into four equal groups. The bones will be the “shagais.” Use paint or ink markers to make each group a different color. The colored bones will represent “sheep”, “goat”, “camel”, or “horse.” *(Some dog biscuits come in different colors already. Check it out at your local grocery or pet store.)*

Instructions:

Four children (or teams) each select one bone (dog biscuit) of a different kind of animal to be used as the team’s “shooter.” Scatter the remaining shagais on the ground - these will be the “targets.” Each of the four teams takes turns shooting (flicking) a shagai with his finger, trying to hit a shagai of the same animal. If you hit the shagai you were aiming for, the shagai is removed and counted as a point for your team. Whichever team ends up with the most shagais wins the game.

Look up this Bible verse to fill in the blanks:

Matthew 18:14 NIV

Your _____ in _____ is
not _____ that
any one of these _____
_____ should be _____.