

 **Activity 15.1 WHO'S IN OUR VILLAGE?**

The picture book *If the World Were a Village: A Book about the World's People* (Smith, 2011) provides an excellent opportunity to compare class data or school data with data from the wider population in the world. The book explores global wealth, culture, language, and other influences, providing statistics in the adapted case of the world being a village of 100 people. Read the book to the class (or at least several of the comparisons). Ask students if they think the data in the book for particular topics represents their class (or school). Gather data and compare. Then ask students what else they think might be interesting data about our world that could be added to the pages of this book. (See Riskowski, Olbricht, and Wilson, 2010, for details on a project exploring concepts of statistics with 100 students.)

Newspapers suggest all sorts of data-related questions. For example, how many full-page ads occur on different days of the week? What types of stories are on the front page? Which comics are really for kids, and which are not?

From Van de Walle et. al. (2014). *Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics: Developmentally Appropriate Instruction for Grades 6 – 8* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc. (p. 329).