

### Lydia's story

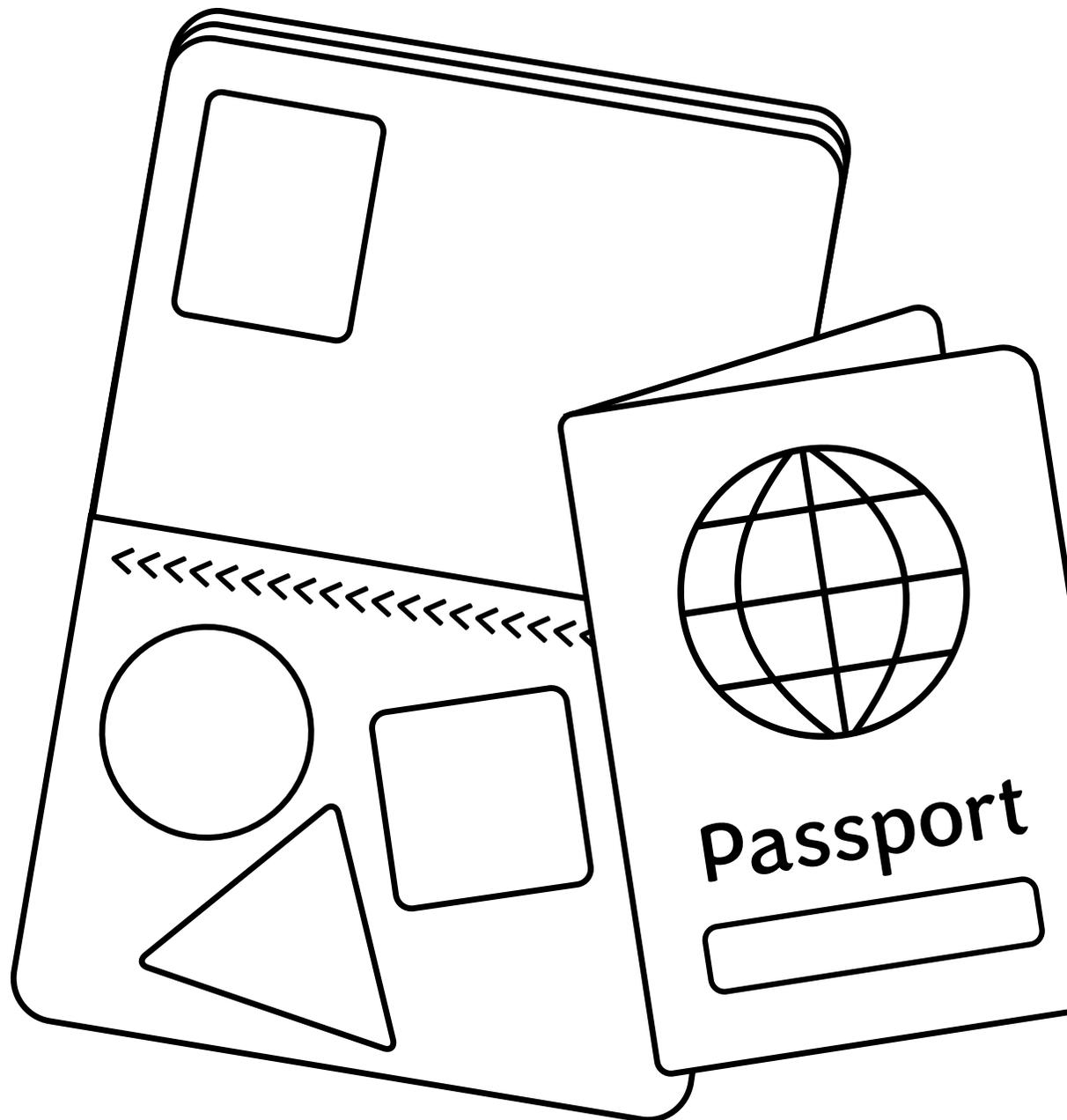
Read the text and complete the tasks

'My life has always been tough, but one day it fell apart. I grew up in a village in Uganda. My dad died when I was little so I didn't get to go to school much. Instead, my mum, sisters and I sold beans in the market. It was hard making enough money to live on, but it got worse when my mum got ill. "How will I support my family?" I asked myself. I was just 16.

'A stranger at the market offered me a job in Dubai. He told me I would earn plenty of money looking after two children. It was an exciting opportunity to help those I loved. But from the start, my experience was a never-ending nightmare! My passport was taken. And to my surprise there were five children to look after, not just two.

'Life became very frightening. I was forced to work long days, eat leftovers and sleep on a concrete floor. The family threatened me with violence and didn't pay me. I was alone and had no way to tell my family.'

- 1 Where on earth is Uganda? Look in an atlas or search online.
- 2 What does a passport do and why was Lydia's passport taken? Do some research and then draw some details on the passport picture on this sheet.
- 3 Lydia said, 'I was forced to work long days, eat leftovers and sleep on a concrete floor.' What basic needs are you most grateful for? Talk to a partner.



### Connect

Try standing in Lydia's shoes

- 1 Complete the sentence below.

When I feel frightened I ...

- 2 Lydia cared for her family in her village. Which groups or clubs are you a part of? As a class, how many can you think of?
- 3 Think of a time when you didn't give up. What kept you going? Share with a partner.

### Fresh start

Read the end of the story and get thinking

'I was terrified and felt trapped. I felt as if it was my fault that things had got bad. That's how victims of human trafficking like me are made to feel. I was desperate for help. So I decided to trust a friend I'd made when taking the children out. "You have to escape to a safe place where The Salvation Army will take care of you," she said.

'That night, while everyone else was asleep, I crept out of the house and ran away, as fast as I ever have. The Salvation Army looked after me in a

special safe house, until I could travel home. I was there for nine months, and they taught me craft making and how to run a small business. I knew that when I got back home I'd be able to make bags and jewellery and sell them at the market. I knew I'd be able to support my family.'

- 1 A Salvation Army safe house is where slavery survivors are offered support including counselling, medical help, legal advice, education, employment and housing opportunities. Has a friend ever helped you? Using your extra sheet, write down who it was and how they helped.
- 2 Who are the people in your life that you trust? Add to a whole class list.
- 3 What would you do if you were going to set up your own business? Explain this to a partner.

### Take action

Share your creativity

- 1 How could you tell the rest of your school about Lydia? Share ideas as a whole class.
- 2 Discuss with your teacher how you could take your learning further. Perhaps create a dance or PE lesson based upon Lydia's story and film it, or base your next Art lesson upon Lydia's jewellery-making?
- 3 Lydia ran 'as fast as I ever have'. Write a monologue as if you are running from human trafficking. Use your extra writing paper or a device.