

Where Do You Live?

Grade Level: 3-5

Time: 2-3 hours

Objectives:

- Increase awareness of the local community.
- Understand the different interests within the community.

Curricular Connections: Civics, Social Studies, Visual Arts

Materials/Resources: Provide a collection of cereal boxes of various shapes and sizes, paint, construction paper, markers, scissors, art/butcher paper.

Procedure:

- 1) Discuss with students the community around the school. Lead the discussion to draw on students' awareness of buildings, streets, parks, or people unique to the school's community.
- 2) Plan and conduct a class field trip to observe the actual make-up of the community. Ask the students to take detailed notes to help in constructing a model of the community. You can also take photographs to assist in recall. (If a field trip is not possible, you can use local newspapers, brochures, websites, and/or maps).
- 3) Return to the classroom to construct the model community. Ask the students to assist in drawing in outline form the streets or roads that comprise the community as they have viewed it. The plan may be first drawn on the chalkboard and then transferred to the butcher paper placed on the floor.
- 4) Direct the students to work individually in pairs, or in small groups to make buildings from the cereal boxes and art supplies.
- 5) Place the cereal boxes in appropriate spots on the streets and roads drawn on the paper. Make traffic lights, street signs, trees, flowers, grass, etc. from various art supplies to add realistic interest.

Reflection:

- Discuss the differences and diversity found in the community.
- Discuss ways to improve the community

Assessment:

1. Participation and quality of ideas and observations.

Source: Adapted from Patricia L. Martinez, Gardner School, Gardner Colorado