

Create A Community

Grade Level: 3-6

Time: Three 1-hour sessions

Objective:

- Define the concept of community.
- Identify how communities maintain themselves.
- Create a vision of what students want to change as a result of their action.

Curricular Connections: Civics, Visual Arts, Social Studies

Materials: Poster-board/flipchart paper, markers, other art supplies as needed, research materials

Procedure:

- 1) Write the word “community” on the board and ask students to explain what the word means to them. Write their responses around “community”.
- 2) Then ask students to think of how a community functions, what it takes to keep it working as a community. Develop a list of essential community elements (e.g.- infrastructure, businesses, politicians, police, sewage, electricity, food, etc.).
- 3) Students design their ideal community together, based on the facts of their present community. The final version should include the sustainable changes that can result from their project efforts. Allow students to be creative when deciding how to represent their community, teams could make models, dioramas, maps, power point, sculptures, pictures, floor plans, or make a book. Students should divide up the work, create the plan, and visualize the end result before embarking on the project.
- 4) Students journal about their vision of a perfect community, including other changes they would like to make, describing their anticipated successes, and how this community maintains its vision of perfection.

Reflection:

- If the students have been divided into small groups and chosen their own methods of presenting their vision of the community, have them report out on their projects.
- Students create a news story (that may or may not be recorded) describing the positive direction that the community is moving towards as kids in the community get involved.

Assessment:

1. Brief written report or news story presentation.