

Resources for Learning about Municipal Government

Build Your Ideal Community

Students create a poster or display of their vision of a community



Instructor Notes:

Physically conceptualizing and constructing understandings of their own community encourages students to articulate and negotiate important aspects of what a community is and what it should provide to the people who live there. This process provides a starting point for developing deeper understandings or correcting misconceptions students may have about the locations of services and facilities, their purpose, and importance. This type of constructivist activity can encourage students to expand their understanding of community beyond neighbourhood boundaries that many students associate with the concept of community.

Activity:

In small groups or individually, create a mural poster that represents a “bird’s-eye-view” of what the group/student would consider to be an ideal community.

Students may wish to use local media sources (e.g. newspapers, websites) for ideas about businesses, services (e.g. library, school), natural spaces, and other places that could be included in their community.

Draw, cut and paste pictures, create buildings, streets or roads and features. Develop a legend for symbols and icons used on the poster.

Materials:

Large poster paper, art supplies, construction paper, paints, felt, glue sticks, scissors.
If students are building in three dimensions: small boxes, milk cartons, paper tubes

Focus Questions:

- What does the community look like?
- What natural places exist within the community?
- What types of services and facilities do people build and use?
- How do people move around the community?
- How do you reflect different community needs?
- Why did you choose these features for your community?