

Lesson: My Community Then and Now

Opening Statement:

Communities are unique. Some communities are large and become cities, some communities are smaller and become towns and villages, some communities have just a crossroad. The land and water determine the shape of a community. It may be hilly or flat, or have a river or a lake, or highways or railroads passing through it.

Within each community there are many different kinds of people. Some are the same as your family, some are of other cultures but they all blend together to make up a community of people working and playing together.

Standards Achieved:

English Language Arts
Social Studies Skills.

Grade: 3rd, adaptable to all grades

Knowledge Objectives:

Students will learn:

In a city there can be many different communities/neighborhoods or cultures.

These communities or cultures sometimes have distinct characteristics.

Maps of these areas are small representations of much larger areas.

Communities change or evolve through the years.

A downtown or community center changes through the years.

Skill Objectives:

Students will learn:

To identify the characteristics of their community.

To identify various sections of a city.

To identify changes in a downtown or community center.

To read a map

To identify the symbols on a map which represent real things.

To make a three-dimensional map.

To use symbols to interpret the map.

Vocabulary:

Community. The people and the place where people live and work including the buildings and roads.

Legend. Symbols on a map which explain the map.

Map. A representation of an area.

Procedure:

1. Go over the vocabulary. Discuss the meaning of the words, community, map, and legend.

2. What are the physical and natural features of your community (rivers, lakes, hills, plains, parks, railroads, highways, etc.)?
3. Discuss what role local government plays in the community (police, fire, water, sewer).
4. Discuss the characteristics of your community today (schools, tall buildings, stores, factories, businesses, population).
5. Tell the children that all kinds of people with all kinds of customs live in a community and sometimes they live in unique neighborhoods that reflect their culture. Are their street names or buildings unique?
6. Tell students that sometime famous people lived in or significant events happened in the community. Discuss the famous people and significant events.
7. Provide students with a copies of maps of your community was it was in the past and as it is now.
8. Explain that communities change over time.
9. Ask students to compare characteristics of their community as it was at the turn-of-the-19th-and-20th -centuries to today.
10. Make a flat and/or relief map of the community (see worksheet).

WORKSHEET: My Community Then and Now

Give each child a copy of the local map.

Go over the vocabulary, map, and legends, then discuss the symbols on the map and what they mean.

Have each child find his community (neighborhood) on the map.

Make a Flat Map:

1. Using paper, ruler, pencil, and markers, draw a map of your town. If the town is too large, pick a community or neighborhood to draw.
2. Include physical features such as rivers or parks on the map.
3. Write in street names and significant buildings.
4. Use legend symbols to explain features of the map.

Make a Relief Map:

1. Give each student (or team) a piece of heavy cardboard, pencil, paper, crayons, markers, or paint to make a relief map.
2. Ask each student (or team) to draw an outline of the area that they are going to map.
3. Use salt mixture to create a three-dimensional map of the area. Form areas for hills, rivers, parks, etc.
4. Allow the relief map to dry for 1 to 2 days.
5. Paint the map in colors that reflect what is represented.

Salt Mixture for Relief Map

- 1 part salt
- 1 part self-rising wheat flour
- 2/3 part water
- food coloring to tint if map will not be painted

Mix salt and flour until complete blended. Add enough (tinted) water to make a mixture the consistency of thick icing. (More water will mean a longer drying time.) Stir thoroughly and frequently. Use fingers to mold relief map.