

Know Your Community

4-H Project:
Citizenship

Life Skill:
Developing responsible
citizenship

National Education Standard:
NSS-USH.K-4.1 Living and
Working Together in Families
and Communities, Now and
Long Ago

Success Indicator:
Make and read a map to locate
community places.

Time Involved:
25–30 minutes

Suggested Group Size:
2–20 children

Every community has businesses such as the pharmacy, grocery store, video store and public places such as a hospital, police station or library. These public places provide a service to the people who live in the community. It is important for children to know where these places are located. In this activity, children will make a map of the important places in their community.

Getting started

Read through this activity, gather the supplies needed and make a map of your community. If you need more information about the topic, refer to the “Background Information.”

Before the children arrive, draw a simple map of your **community** (if you live in a large city, your community may be your **neighborhood**). Locate on your map the important places in your community such as firehouse, hospital, police station, and school. Draw the same map on a large (22" x 28") piece of poster board; do not include building locations.

Do the Activity

1. Start by asking the following questions:
 - Do you know where the firehouse, library, police station or grocery store is in your community or neighborhood?
 - Is the police station next to or across from the grocery store?
2. Continue by reading or discussing the following:
 - Every community has businesses such as the pharmacy, grocery store, video store and public places such as a hospital, police station or library. These public places provide a service to the people who live in the community.
 - For example the police protect your community and the library is a place you can go to borrow books, participate in special programs or use the computers.
3. As a group, have children identify all the places they need to know about in their community. List them on the back of the poster board map. The list will almost always include the firehouse, police station, hospital, post office, school, and grocery store—even a “fast food” restaurant. Include anything they think is important. Be sure to include the 4-H Office!
4. As a group, locate the places on the map. Draw a small picture of the buildings on the map.
5. Have children locate their houses on the map. Let each child draw a picture of their house on the map.
6. Make a list of people who work in each of the places they located on the map.
7. Ask the children if they can tell you how to get to their school. Can they name the streets?
8. Discuss the many different types of places that are needed to make up a town and why it is important for people to know how to get to them.
9. Discuss the different types of maps and where you can get them.



Materials Needed

- Two-three pieces of poster board or newsprint paper (22" x 28")
- Markers or crayons (assorted colors)
- Tape (to attach map to the wall or other surface, or an easel to hold the map)
- Paper
- Pencils
- Rulers

This online “bonus” activity is part of the *Exploring the Treasures of 4-H* curriculum. © 2005, National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System.

See www.n4hccs.org/exploring4h for more information.



Jobs in the Community

A community is made up of a social group of people who reside in the same place. These people take on a variety of jobs that allow the community to function as a whole society. Knowing what these different jobs are and where you can find these people is very important, especially in an emergency. For example, if someone were sick you would need to call a doctor or take that person to the hospital. What would we do without firemen or policemen? Community service agencies work together as a team to keep your town safe and secure.



More Challenges

Children can learn more about important places in their community by visiting important places in the community, inviting a guest speaker to your group or by doing things at home. Below is a list of suggested activities:

Things to do at home or in your community

- Have children make a list of all the places they have been to in their community.
- Have members collect the signatures (autographs) of the people who work at the various places in your community. See who can get the most. (Children should not travel unsupervised.)

Places to go

- Police Station
- Firehouse
- Post Office
- Town Hall

People to see or to invite to your club meeting or classroom

- Police Officer
- Fire Fighter
- Postmaster
- Mayor or Town Council Member

Talking it Over

Share What You Did:

- What did you do in this activity?
- What did you learn about your community in this activity?
- What were the most difficult places to find?

Process What's Important:

- What did you think about while making a map of your community?
- Why is it important to know where places are in your community?

Generalize to Your Life:

- What would you use a map for?
- Why is it important for people to know how to get to places in your community?

Apply What You Learned:

- Why do we need maps? How can maps be useful?
- What did you learn about in this activity that will help you?

Activity Summary

Every community has businesses that provide services. You should know what services are in your community. Maps are an important resource to help people get from one location to another. They provide a variety of useful information.



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