

Urban, Suburban, and Rural Communities

2nd-3rd grades

Overview

In this build series, students will reflect on their community as being urban, suburban, or rural. They will talk about where they live and draw from personal experience to discuss features of their community. They will also consider the different roles of people within their community and highlight what makes their community special.

Connect to Curriculum

This build series can be part of classroom activities that involve:

Geography:

- Identifying features of and differences between urban, suburban, and rural communities, including population size, transportation systems, industry, and wildlife.
- Developing an understanding of one's own community and its population, transportation systems, industry, and wildlife.

Before You Begin

Assess and encourage prior learning by:

- Introducing and defining key vocabulary: *city*, *industry*, *population*, *rural*, *suburban*, *transportation*, *urban*, and *wildlife*.
- Reading fiction and nonfiction texts or watching videos that feature urban, suburban, and rural communities.
- Having students speak to community members about their lives and roles in the community.

Build and Share

Have students build and share their models by following the steps outlined in the Challenge Cards provided with this activity.



Tip:

Consult the Quick Start Guide of this activity pack for ideas on classroom management and organization.



Vocabulary:

- city:** a center of population; a town of a large size
- industry:** the production and sale of goods
- population:** the total number of people living in an area
- rural:** living in the country
- suburban:** living in an area on the outskirts of a city
- transportation:** a way of carrying people and things from one place to another
- urban:** living in a city
- wildlife:** animals and plants living in a specific area

Reflect on the Experience

Encourage students to record and reflect on their models and ideas.

Extensions

After completing the build series, encourage further learning by:

- Creating a map of the community or one's route to school, including details that were highlighted in the build challenges and discussion. (Social Studies, Visual Arts)
- Creating a tourism/advertising poster about why this community is special and why people should move to or visit there. (Language Arts, Visual Arts)
- Creating a T-chart or Venn diagram that outlines and compares features of different types of communities. (Social Studies)
- Interviewing community members about the advantages of living in urban, suburban, or rural communities.

Facilitating Questions:

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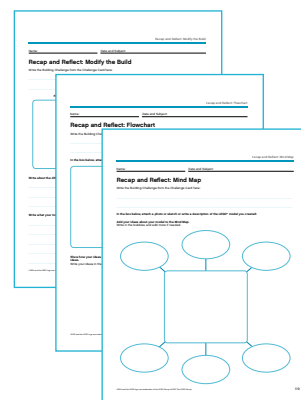
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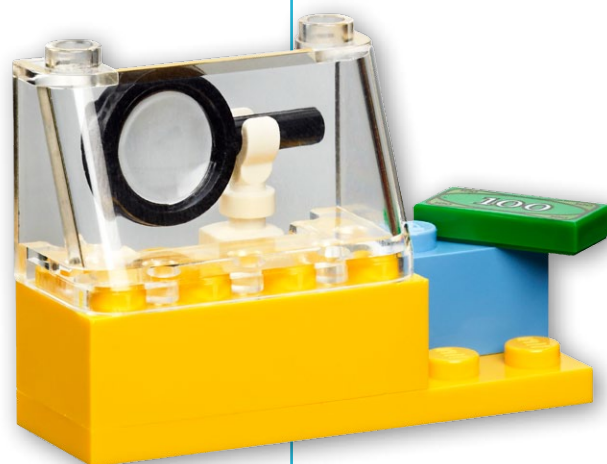
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Tip:

Use one of the Recap and Reflect Worksheets available in the Support Materials section of this activity pack to document the build experience.



Topic: Urban, Suburban, and Rural Communities

1 Think about



These four building tasks will help you express your thoughts and ideas about how the type of community that you live in affects your daily life.

Build: Build a model that shows your home in your community.

Building Time: 3-4 minutes

Share: When the building time is up, take turns telling each other about what you have built.

Keep your model on your own building plate.



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2 Remember



Now that you've thought about your own home, it is useful to think about other important places, people, and things in your community.

Build: Build a model that shows how you get to school and what you see, hear, smell, or experience along the way.

Building Time: 3-4 minutes

Share: When the building time is up, take turns telling each other about what you have built.

Keep your model on your own building plate.



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3 Imagine



Now you will use your imagination and creativity to think about different people in your community.

Build: Build a model that shows someone you know and what they do in your community.

Building Time: 3-4 minutes

Share: When the building time is up, take turns telling each other about what you have built.

Keep your model on your own building plate.



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4 Conclude



Now you will build a model that sums up what you have learned so far.

Build: Build a model that shows what makes your community special.

Building Time: 3-4 minutes

Share: When the building time is up, take turns telling each other about what you have built.

Keep your model on your own building plate.



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