

Prompt: Exploring our Neighborhood

Objective(s)

- Students will be able to identify and describe at least five important locations in their community (e.g., schools, parks, grocery stores, hospitals, and community centers) and explain the role each plays in their daily lives.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to create a visual representation of their neighborhood by accurately mapping the identified locations, using appropriate symbols, labels, and illustrations to effectively communicate the significance of each place.

Activity that involves problem-solving and strategic thinking:

- Students will engage in a hands-on problem-solving challenge to create a community map that addresses a specific issue in their neighborhood.

Standards/Objectives addressed:

- **NCSS D1.2.K-2:** Identify and describe the relationships between people and the environment in their community.
- **NCSS D2.Geo.2.K-2:** Use maps and other geographic representations to describe the location and characteristics of places.
- **NCSS D1.2.K-2:** Explain how people contribute to their community and the roles they play.
- **NCSS D2.Geo.3.K-2:** Identify the location of the community using maps and globes.

Background knowledge needed:

- Understanding of what a community is.
- Knowledge of community roles (e.g., teachers, doctors).
- Basic map reading skills (symbols, legends).
- Ability to create simple maps.
- Skills in identifying and discussing community issues.
- Basic observation and research skills.
- Effective communication skills for presenting ideas.
- Collaboration skills for group work.

Materials:

- Large paper or poster boards, materials to make 3D shapes, markers, colored pencils, rules, scissors, glue, tape, maps, digital tools

Prompts – questions or statements to elicit engagement:

- What features do you think are essential to include on our community map?
- How can we represent the different types of places (like parks, schools, and shops) visually?
- What colors will we use to make our map bright and inviting?
- How can we show the relationships between different places on our map?
- How can we use symbols to represent community helpers on our map?
- What questions can we ask our classmates to gather ideas for our map?
- How can we organize our map to make it easy for others to follow?
- What creative elements can we add to our map to make it unique?

Vocabulary:

- Community, Map Key, Symbol, Dimensions, Elevation, Contour, Topography, Scale, Perspective, Model

Reflection prompts:

- What did you enjoy most about creating the map?
- What challenges did you face during the project, and how did you overcome them?
- How did collaborating with your classmates change your ideas?
- What new things did you learn about your community?
- How can you apply what you learned from this project in the future?

Extensions:

- Create a digital version of the community map using mapping software or apps.
- Build a 3D model of a community space (like a park or town center).