

Community Mapping Activity

Communities are groups of people who have something in common. You belong to many communities - your school is a community, for example. So is your math class or your debate team. Even kids who ride the same bus every day are a community. Other communities include your neighborhood, your place of worship, your town, and so on. You could even think globally. Think about what communities you belong to.

Ways to explore your community:

- Observing
 - Watching the news
 - Reading the newspaper
 - Researching the internet
 - Speaking with others
 - Community mapping (described below)
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- The purpose of a community map is to identify the needs in your community and discover possible resources that you can use for your Take Action project. A community map is a drawing that shows these community's needs and resources.
 - Pass out markers and one sheet of easel paper per table group, or two sheets per table if it's a large group.
 - In reality, the girls would go out and observe their community before making a map, but today, ask them to imagine that they have already went out and observed their community.
 - Using the markers and easel paper, ask them to draw their community. It might include streets, buildings, people, etc. (15 minutes)
 - As girls begin to complete the drawings, ask them to look at the community they drew and make a note next to some of the locations describing what needs or problems may exist there. For example, if they drew a school, a problem might be that there is a lot of bullying going on. (5 minutes)
 - The next step is to have the girls think about the resources in their community that could help address the issues they listed on their map. For example, the local community center may have information on how to handle the bullying that is happening in the school and help make connections between the resources and the issues. (5 minutes)
 - Finally, ask a couple groups to share their communities. They can present at the front of the room or from their table. (5 minutes)

Animal Shelter

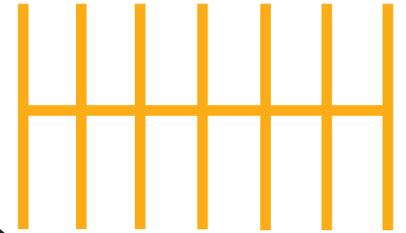
Issues:
not enough volunteers to walk the animals, running low on supplies



Issue:
cars are not watching for pedestrians

School

Issues:
no recycling program, bullies



Park

Issues:
polluted pond, unsafe playground, trails not maintained

