

OVERVIEW: This multi-session project will require some fun, hands-on research for students to learn more about their community. It will encourage them to familiarize themselves with people, places, and services in their town/city.

OBJECTIVES

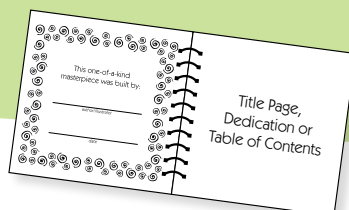
- Develop an awareness of the student's community.
- Gain an understanding of interdependence — how a community satisfies human needs and wants.
- Create a learning and teaching tool.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- Klutz Build-a-Book Big Kit and child-safe scissors for each student
- Markers, crayons or colored pencils for sharing
- Recycled materials: scrap fabric, paper, yarn, string, etc.
- Student research and collected artifacts

GETTING STARTED

1. Knowledge Inventory — Using easel paper, brainstorm a list of all the places students have visited in their town/city. Make a second list of all the services offered in these places.
2. Ask students to research the five places (five spreads) they want to highlight in their book. Encourage visits and Internet research.
3. Collect or make artifacts (menu, library card [copy], newspaper ad, grocery store receipt, photo, map, etc.) that can be included in the book.
4. Wrap up with a second knowledge inventory, comparing it to the first one.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Arrange for students to read their books with a younger class.
- Define roles of community helpers.
- Identify common signs found on the street and make a class collection.
- Invite the mayor, councilman, or sheriff to meet the young authors and illustrators.
- Use the inside back cover for a fact sheet on the city or town.
- Ask students to "dream up" a community feature they would like to have. Add this to future plans for the city or town.