



Grade 2: My Community and Other United States Communities

As outlined by the New York State Social Studies Framework, “My Community and Other Communities” is organized around five social studies themes —Individual Development and Cultural Identity; Civic Ideals and Practices; Geography, Humans, and the Environment; Time, Continuity, and Change; and Economic Systems.

Students study their local community and learn about characteristics that define urban, suburban, and rural communities. Democratic principles and participation in government are introduced. Interaction with the environment and changes to the environment and their effects are examined. The concept of change over time and examining cause and effect are introduced. Students will examine the availability of resources and the interdependence within and across communities.

Unit 1: Active Citizenship:

What kinds of things do "good" citizens do?

- * Responsible citizens show support for their country and community by being patriotic and helping others.
- * Citizens of a country have responsibilities. These include obeying laws, voting, and paying taxes.

Unit 2: Economics:

How do economic decisions and challenges affect people, businesses, and communities?

- * The availability of resources to meet needs and wants can vary across individuals, groups, businesses, and communities.

- * People make decisions to buy, sell, and use money based on their needs, wants, and the availability of resources.
- * Scarcity, the price of goods and services, and choice all influence economic decisions made by individuals, businesses, and communities.
- * Taxes are collected to provide communities with goods and services individuals could not afford to pay for by themselves.
- * A community requires the interdependence of many people performing a variety of jobs and services to provide for needs and wants.

Unit 3: Rural, Urban, Suburban:

Are rural, urban and suburban communities more different than similar?

- * Rural, urban, and suburban communities have distinct characteristics but they also share many similarities.

Unit 4: Geography of Communities:

Can geographic tools help us understand the similarities and differences of communities?

- * Geography influences the lifestyles of different communities.
- * Maps help people understand the geography of their surroundings.
- * Map skills help individuals read maps.