

Guide Planner

Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Task 1: What is the problem?					
Discover	Explore the concept of community using your class as an example.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		20 minutes	7
Understand	Investigate five different parts of the classroom community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		55 minutes	9
Act	Connect parts of a classroom with your local community and imagine a perfect community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class board or poster paper 		25 minutes	12
Task 2: How is the problem of sustainable communities related to me?					
Discover	Develop a personal identity map showing the different parts of who you are. Compare with teammates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Objects that represent you (optional) 		25 minutes	15
Understand	Create a team identity map.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		15 minutes	17
Act	Gather your team's knowledge about parts of your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class board or poster paper • Sticky notes (optional) 		20 minutes	19
Task 3: What skills do we need to do our research?					
Discover	Interview teammates to find out about their ideas about a perfect community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pens or pencils • Paper (optional) 	<u>My Perfect Community</u> (Task 1) <u>My Identity Map</u> (Task 2)	20 minutes	21
Understand	Explore different perspectives on what makes a perfect community.			25 minutes	22



Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Act	Come to consensus on the most important goals for your local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Class board or poster paper 	<u>My Perfect Community</u> (Task 1)	25 minutes	24
Task 4: Where do we notice the problem?					
Discover	Consider connections between problems and knowledge in different places.			20 minutes	28
Understand	Investigate how the UN Sustainable Development Goals connect to the Thriving Community Goals you developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class board or poster paper • Sticky notes (optional) • Bag of small items (Option B: Activity) 	<u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Task 3) * StoryMap extension available	30 minutes	30
Act	Decide where your research area will be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pencils • Local map (optional) 		20 minutes	34
Task 5: How will we achieve our goals?					
Discover	Consider what you already know about your community and what you need to find out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Class board or poster paper 	<u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Task 3)	20 minutes	38
Understand	Decide which Parts of the guide you will use.			15 minutes	40
Act	Reflect on your thoughts and concerns about being an action researcher.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		20 minutes	42

* StoryMap extension found at <https://bit.ly/2YdHNqB>



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Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Task 1: Who is in our community?					
Discover	Consider the different identities in your community and why inclusion is important.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>My Identity Map</u> (Part 1, Task 2) <u>Team Identity Map</u> (Part 1, Task 2)	15 minutes	55
Understand	Use a survey or other investigation to find out more about the people in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Computer (optional) 		35 minutes + investigation time	56
Act	Create a community identity map.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		20 minutes	60
Task 2: How has our community changed over time?					
Discover	Reflect on and record changes you and your team have noticed in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class board or poster paper • Audio or video recording device 		45 minutes	62
Understand	Record oral histories from community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio or video recording device • Paper and Pen 		25 minutes + investigation time	64
Act	Create a representation of your community's history.	Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer, paper, pen 		25 minutes	68
Task 3: Who makes decisions in our community?					
Discover	Explore decision-making in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>My Identity Map</u> (Part 1, Task 2)	15 minutes	70
Understand	Collect information about how decisions are made in your community.			25 minutes + investigation time	72



Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Act	Record how decisions are made in your community and how that could be more inclusive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>My Perfect Community</u> (Part 1, Task 1)	20 minutes	73
Task 4: How can including our community help us make better decisions?					
Discover	Design a shared community space to fill your own needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Colored pencils 	<u>My Identity Map</u> (Part 1, Task 2)	15 minutes	76
Understand	Experiment to find out whether including different people changes decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class board or poster paper • Paper • Pens or pencils 		45 minutes	77
Act	Analyze experiment results and decide how you want to make decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pencils 		20 minutes	79
Task 5: How do we include the community in our actions?					
Discover	Consider what you now know, think, and wonder about your local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Community Identity Map</u> (Task 1)	10 minutes	82
Understand	Investigate the best way to share information with your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		20 minutes + investigation time	83
Act	Share and get feedback on your Thriving Community Goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3)	30 minutes	85

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Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Task 1: Why does my community need space?					
Discover	Consider your needs and how places in your community help you meet those needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Computer (optional) 	<u>My Identity Map</u> (Part 1, Task 2)	20 minutes	99
Understand	Use a survey, interviews, focus group, or other investigation to find out about the needs of people in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Computer (optional) 	<u>Survey Instructions</u> (Part 2, Task 1, optional) <u>Oral History Instructions</u> (Part 2, Task 2, optional)	20 minutes + investigation time	101
Act	Identify ways the needs of people in your community are not met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		15 minutes	104
Task 2: How does my community use our shared space?					
Discover	Find and analyze shared spaces in your research area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>My Research Area</u> (Part 1, Task 4) * StoryMap extension available	40 minutes	106
Understand	Investigate housing density and building use in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		45 minutes	110
Act	Analyze the use of space in your community and decide if changes are needed by using different perspectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>My Research Area</u> (Part 1, Task 4) <u>Part 3 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	25 minutes	111



Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Task 3: How do green spaces meet the needs of my community?					
Discover	Explore built spaces and green spaces in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small pieces of paper 	<u>My Research Area</u> (Part 1, Task 4)	20 minutes	115
Understand	Investigate the ecosystem services provided by green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Water, bowl, leaf, stone (optional, Observation 1) • Plastic bag, tie, plant (optional, Observation 2) • Water container (optional, Observation 4) • Water cup or bottle (optional, observation 5) 	* StoryMap extension available	30 minutes + observation time (instructions for five observations provided, time for each varies; all are optional)	117
Act	Redesign the location and distribution of green space in your research area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pencils 	<u>Part 3 Organizer</u> (Task 1) <u>My Research Area</u> (Part 1, Task 4)	25 minutes	124
Task 4: How can we design our space for a sustainable future?					
Discover	Identify the strengths and weaknesses of your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Computer (optional) 	<u>Community Identity Map</u> (Part 2, Task 1)	25 minutes	127
Understand	Explore future opportunities and threats for your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Topographical map of research area (optional) 	<u>My Research Area</u> (Part 1, Task 4) <u>SWOT Analysis</u> (Task 4)	35 minutes	131



Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Act	Continue redesigning your research area, adding shared spaces and considering the SWOT analysis results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pencils • Items to represent shared spaces (optional) 	<u>Part 3 Organizer</u> (Task 1) <u>My Research Area</u> (redesigned, Task 3) <u>SWOT Analysis</u> (Task 4)	20 minutes	134
Task 5: How can we make our community better?					
Discover	Consider what you now know, think, and wonder about the way space is used in your local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 3 Organizer</u> (Task 1) <u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3)	15 minutes	136
Understand	Decide on individual actions you will take to help your community.		<u>Part 3 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	15 minutes	137
Act	Put your idea for individual change into action and reflect on it.			10 minutes + action time	138

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Task 1: Why is housing important?					
Discover	Consider how housing helps you meet your needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		15 minutes	153
Understand	Observe how people use housing and analyze whether it is functional for everyone in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Community Identity Map</u> (Part 2, Task 1)	40 minutes + investigation time	155
Act	Examine and evaluate information about housing in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3)	15 minutes	159
Task 2: What are housing issues in my community?					
Discover	Explore housing issues and your own experiences with housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		20 minutes	162
Understand	Investigate housing affordability in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Survey Instructions</u> (Part 2, Task 1, optional)	20 minutes + investigation time	165
Act	Identify functional and affordable housing issues in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 4 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	25 minutes	170
Task 3: How can the design of housing meet our environmental needs?					
Discover	Explore how climate and local materials affect housing design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		20 minutes	172
Understand	Investigate housing design in your research area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	* StoryMap extension available	55 minutes	176



Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Act	Draw or build a model of how you think housing should be designed in your area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Model-building materials (optional) 	<u>Part 4 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	30 minutes	180
Task 4: How can we use our housing in a sustainable way?					
Discover	Consider different perspectives on saving resources at home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		25 minutes	183
Understand	Investigate the sustainability of your daily actions at home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Resource Use Checklist</u> (found at end of Part 4)	50 minutes	185
Act	Create a list of changes you could make so your daily actions are more sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 4 Organizer</u> (Task 1) <u>My Research Area</u> (redesigned, Task 3)	20 minutes	187
Task 5: How can we make housing in our community more sustainable?					
Discover	Consider what you now know, think, and wonder about how housing could be better in your local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 4 Organizer</u> (Task 1) <u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3)	15 minutes	191
Understand	Decide on individual actions you will take to help your community.		<u>Part 4 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	15 minutes	193
Act	Put your idea for individual change into action and reflect on it.			10 minutes + action time	193

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Task 1: Why is transportation important?					
Discover	Explore how you use transportation and how it helps you.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		15 minutes	210
Understand	Investigate how people in your community use the local transportation system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Survey Instructions</u> (Part 2, Task 1, optional) <u>Oral History Instructions</u> (Part 2, Task 2, optional) <u>Focus Group Instructions</u> (Part 3, Task 1, optional)	20 minutes + investigation time	211
Act	Consider how a transportation system can help your community thrive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3)	10 minutes	213
Task 2: What is the transportation system like in my community?					
Discover	Examine the transportation system within your research area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>My Research Area</u> (Part 1, Task 4)	25 minutes	215
Understand	Investigate to find out how different locations encourage different types of transportation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	* StoryMap extension available	20 minutes + investigation time	217
Act	Develop and record ideas about how to redesign the transportation system in your area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 5 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	20 minutes	219



Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Task 3: How do transportation systems affect the environment?					
Discover	Consider your transportation choices and calculate your travel-related carbon footprint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	* StoryMap extension available	35 minutes	222
Understand	Investigate the origin of items you use and consider how they might have traveled to you.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Items to investigate (for example, clothing, food) 	* StoryMap extension available	25 minutes	225
Act	Share what you have learned about transportation and carbon footprint with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 5 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	20 minutes + action time	228
Task 4: How do transportation choices affect my community?					
Discover	Explore different perspectives on how the transportation system affects your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class board or poster paper • Pens or pencils 		25 minutes	230
Understand	Conduct an impact assessment for a new part of your community's transportation infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	* StoryMap extension available	20 minutes + investigation time	232
Act	Propose changes to the new transportation infrastructure to make it more sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 5 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	20 minutes	234



Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Task 5: How can we improve transportation in our community?					
Discover	Consider what you now know, think, and wonder about how transportation can make your community more sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 5 Organizer</u> (Task 1) <u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3)	15 minutes	236
Understand	Decide on individual actions you will take to help your community.		<u>Part 5 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	15 minutes	237
Act	Put your idea for individual change into action and reflect on it.			10 minutes + action time	238

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Task 1: What resources do I use and how renewable are they?					
Discover	Observe and analyze the resources you use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		25 minutes + observation time	253
Understand	Investigate the source and sustainability of the electric energy used in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		25 minutes + investigation time	256
Act	Consider ways to make resource use in your community more sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3)	15 minutes	258
Task 2: What waste does my community produce?					
Discover	Explore the waste you produce and what happens to it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>List of Things Used</u> (Task 4)	35 minutes	262
Understand	Investigate the amount of plastic waste you produce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	* StoryMap extension available	20 minutes + investigation time	264
Act	Decide how you will reduce the waste you produce and put these ideas into action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 6 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	20 minutes + action time	266
Task 3: How can my community reuse instead of waste?					
Discover	Search for evidence of a circular economy system in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	* StoryMap extension available	40 minutes	268
Understand	Repurpose an item to create a new use for it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Items to repurpose 	* StoryMap extension available	25 minutes + creation time	270



Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Act	Share what you have learned about the circular economy with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 6 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	15 minutes + action time	272
Task 4: How can my community recycle waste?					
Discover	Explore recycling options and rules in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	* StoryMap extension available	45 minutes	274
Understand	Investigate composting opportunities in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	* StoryMap extension available	40 minutes	275
Act	Plan ways you could help your community do more recycling or composting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 6 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	30 minutes	280
Task 5: How can we improve transportation in our community?					
Discover	Consider the ecological footprint of your community and how it could be more sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils • Computer (optional) 	<u>Part 6 Organizer</u> (Task 1) <u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3) * StoryMap extension available	25 minutes	283
Understand	Decide on individual actions you will take to make your resource use and waste more sustainable.		<u>Part 6 Organizer</u> (Task 1)	15 minutes	287
Act	Put your idea for individual change into action and reflect on it.			10 minutes + action time	287

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Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Task 1: What is the problem we want to take action on in our community?					
Discover	Explore ways in which your community is doing well and ways in which it could be doing better.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Part 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Organizers</u> (from Task 1 in each Part)	30 minutes	298
Understand	Report on problems in your community and consider the connections between the root causes of these problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Connected Problems</u> (Task 1)	25 minutes	300
Act	Come to a team consensus about which community problem you want to take action on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3)	25 minutes	303
Task 2: How will we try to solve our problem?					
Discover	Imagine different actions you could take to help address your team problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		25 minutes	305
Understand	Explore ways your possible actions could be more sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Team Action Plan</u> (Task 2) <u>Community Identity Map</u> (Part 2, Task 1)	20 minutes + investigation time	306
Act	Come to a team consensus on which action you will take.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Thriving Community Goals</u> (Part 1, Task 3)	20 minutes	308
Task 3: How will our team take action in our community?					
Discover	List the steps needed for your action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<u>Community Communication</u> (Part 2, Task 5)	15 minutes	310
Understand	Organize the action steps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 		20 minutes	311



Activity	Description	Materials and Technology	Additional Materials	Approximate Timing	Page Number
Act	Create an inclusive team action plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<i>Team Action Plan</i> (Task 2)	25 minutes	312
Task 4: Putting our plan into action					
Task 4	Put your plan into action!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varies, depends on action plan 		Varies, depends on action plan	313
Task 5: What did I learn?					
Task 5	Reflect on your action and your feelings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper • Pens or pencils 	<i>My Feelings</i> (Part 1, Task 5) <i>Team Identity Map</i> (Part 1, Task 2)	15 minutes	314

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