

Second Grade Social Studies



Unit 1: What is a Community?

Student Name:

Big Picture Graphic

Overarching Question:

What is a community and why do families live in communities?

Previous Unit:

**First Grade
Families and Schools**

This Unit:

What is a Community?

Next Unit:

**Where is My Community
and What is it Like
There?**



**What is a
Community?**

**A community
has
characteristics.**

**Families live
in
communities.**

**Our local
community**

Questions To Focus Assessment and Instruction:

1. What is a community?
2. Why do families live in communities?
3. How are communities alike and different?

Types of Thinking

Compare/Contrast
Descriptive
Categorizing

Questions for Students

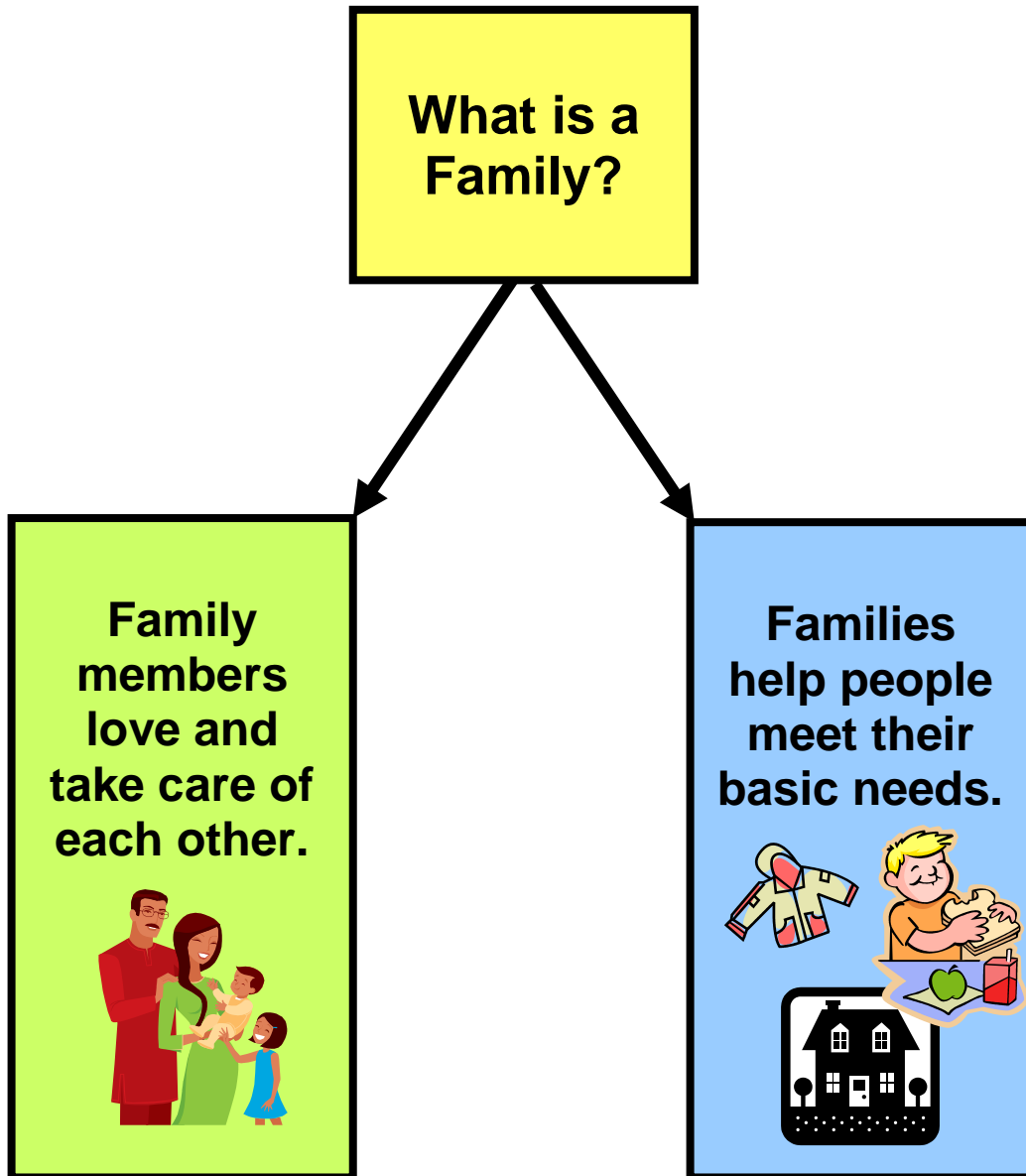
In this unit, we are going to be learning what a community is. Think about the focus questions:

1. What is a community?
2. Why do families live in communities?
3. How are communities alike and different?

Use the chart below to write or draw about these questions.

Things I Know	Questions I Have

Lesson 1 Graphic Organizer



Big Ideas of Lesson 1, Unit 1

- A family is made up of people who love and take care of each other.
- Families help people meet their basic needs.
- Basic needs are things all people need to live.
- Basic needs include food, clothing and shelter.
- Families go to places in their community to get things to meet their basic needs.

Word Cards

1 family

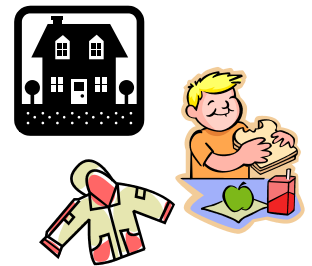
A group of people who love and take care of each other



Examples: Families help people meet their basic needs.

2 basic needs

Things people need to have to live.



Example: Food, clothing, and shelter are basic needs.

3 shelter

Another word for house or home



Examples: Shelter is a basic need of people.




4 community

A place where people live, work and play together.

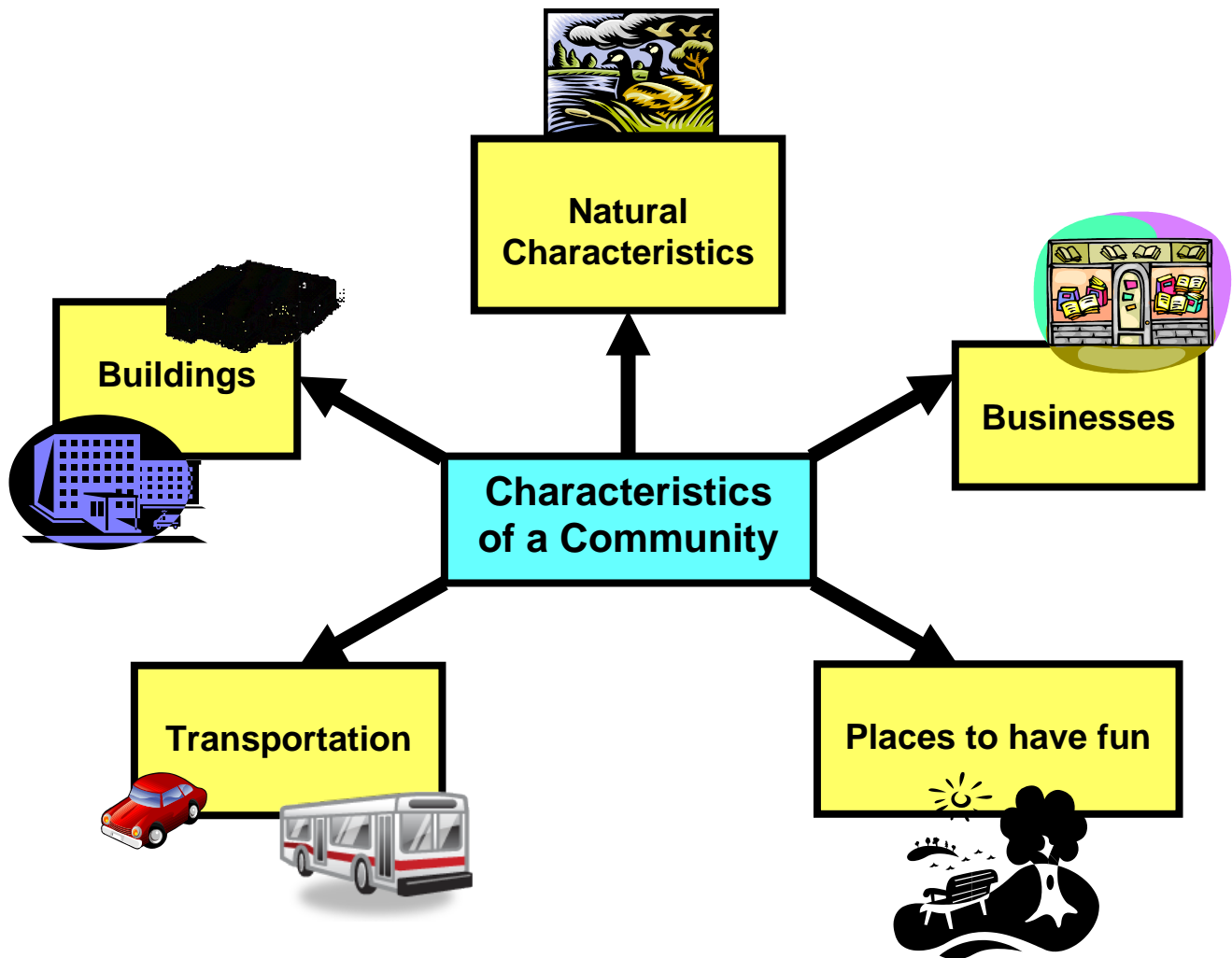


Example: Communities help families meet their basic needs.

PLACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Food 	Clothing 	Shelter 

Lesson 2 Graphic Organizer



Big Ideas of Lesson 2, Unit 1

- A community is a place where people live, work, and play together.
- Communities have many common characteristics.
- Some common characteristics include buildings, businesses, and transportation.
- Communities also have natural characteristics like trees, rivers, and animals.
- Communities have a location. This means you can find a community on a map.

Word Cards

Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

- Community – Word Card #4 from Lesson 1

**5
characteristic**

a way to describe something

Example: Communities have characteristics such as buildings and people.

**6
setting**

when and where a story takes place

Example: The setting of the story was a farm long ago.



**7
location**

Where a place is found



Example: A community has a location. You can find its location on a map.

**8
natural characteristics**

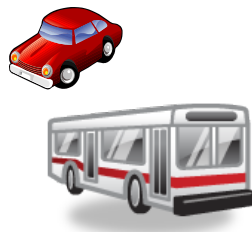
Things that were not made by humans.



Examples: Tree and lakes are natural characteristics.

**9
transportation**

different ways to move people and goods from one place to another



Example: Cars, trains and buses are part of transportation.

**10
businesses**

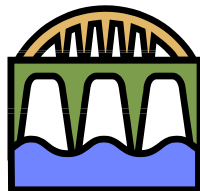
places where people sell goods and services



Example: Restaurants and grocery stores are businesses.

**11
human characteristics**

things that were made by humans

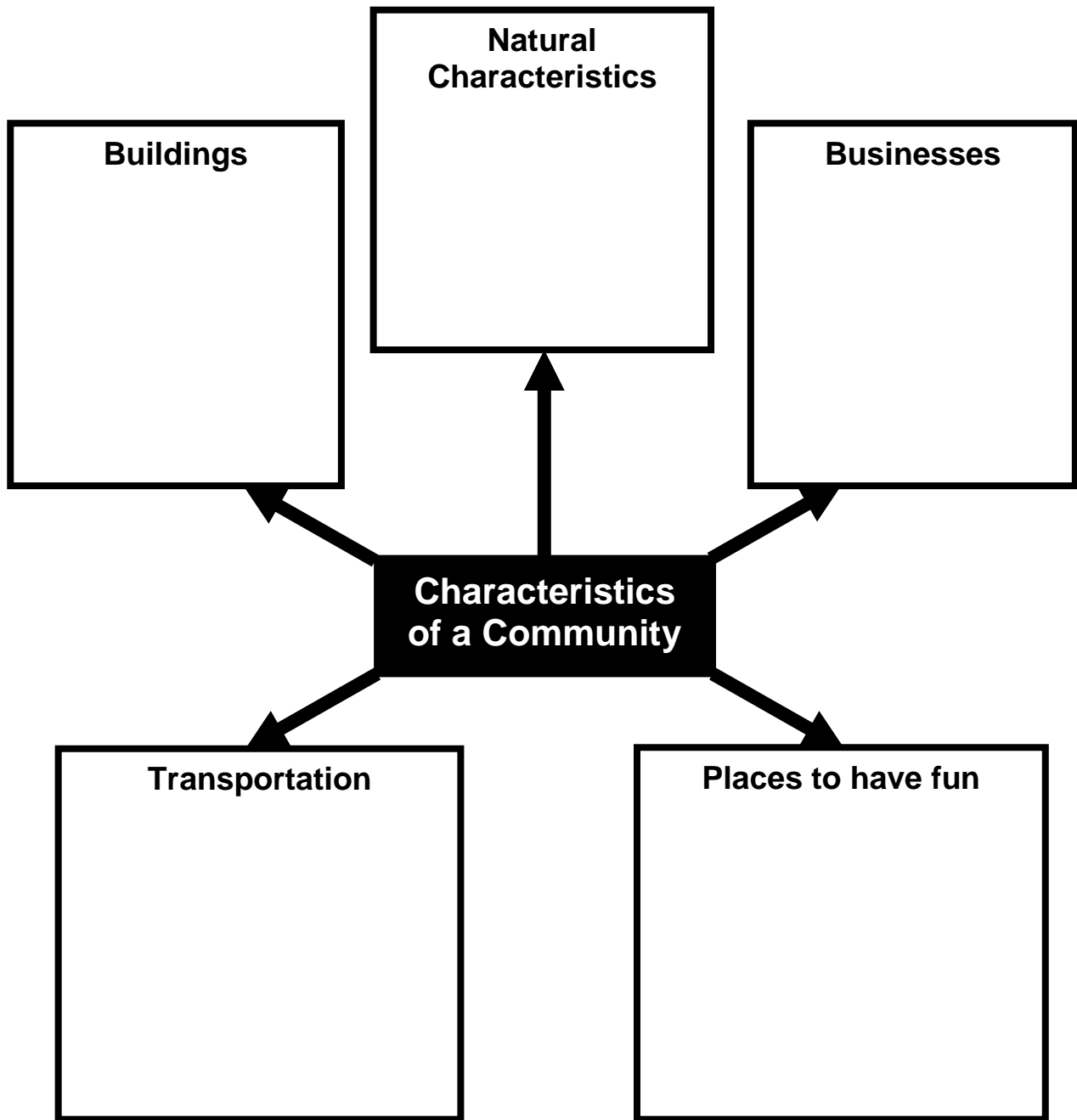


Example: Bridges, roads, and buildings are human characteristics.

Learning About Communities from a Book

Sample Chart

From Pictures	From Words
Example: Trains Example: Cars	Example: River Example: Buses



Lesson 3 Graphic Organizer



Big Ideas of Lesson 3, Unit 1

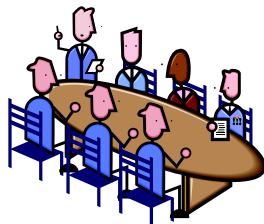
- People live in communities because communities have places where people can live, work, and play.
- People live in communities because communities help people meet their basic needs.
- People live in communities because communities help keep them safe.
- Communities have a government. A government is made up of people who are chosen to make and carry out the rules for a community.
- One big job of a community government is to keep people safe.

Word Cards**Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:**

- Basic Needs – Word Card #2 From Lesson 1
- Community – Word Card #4 from Lesson 1

**12
government**

A group of citizens chosen to make and carry out the rules for a community.



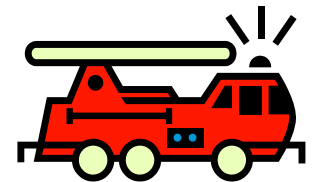
Example: A community government helps keep people safe.

A Walk in Michelle's Community

Michelle went for a walk in her community. As she went down her street she saw Officer Clark giving a speeding ticket to a driver. The driver had been going too fast in the neighborhood. She smiled at Officer Clark and went on.



At the corner she saw a man high above the street fixing the traffic light. He waved down at her and she waved back.

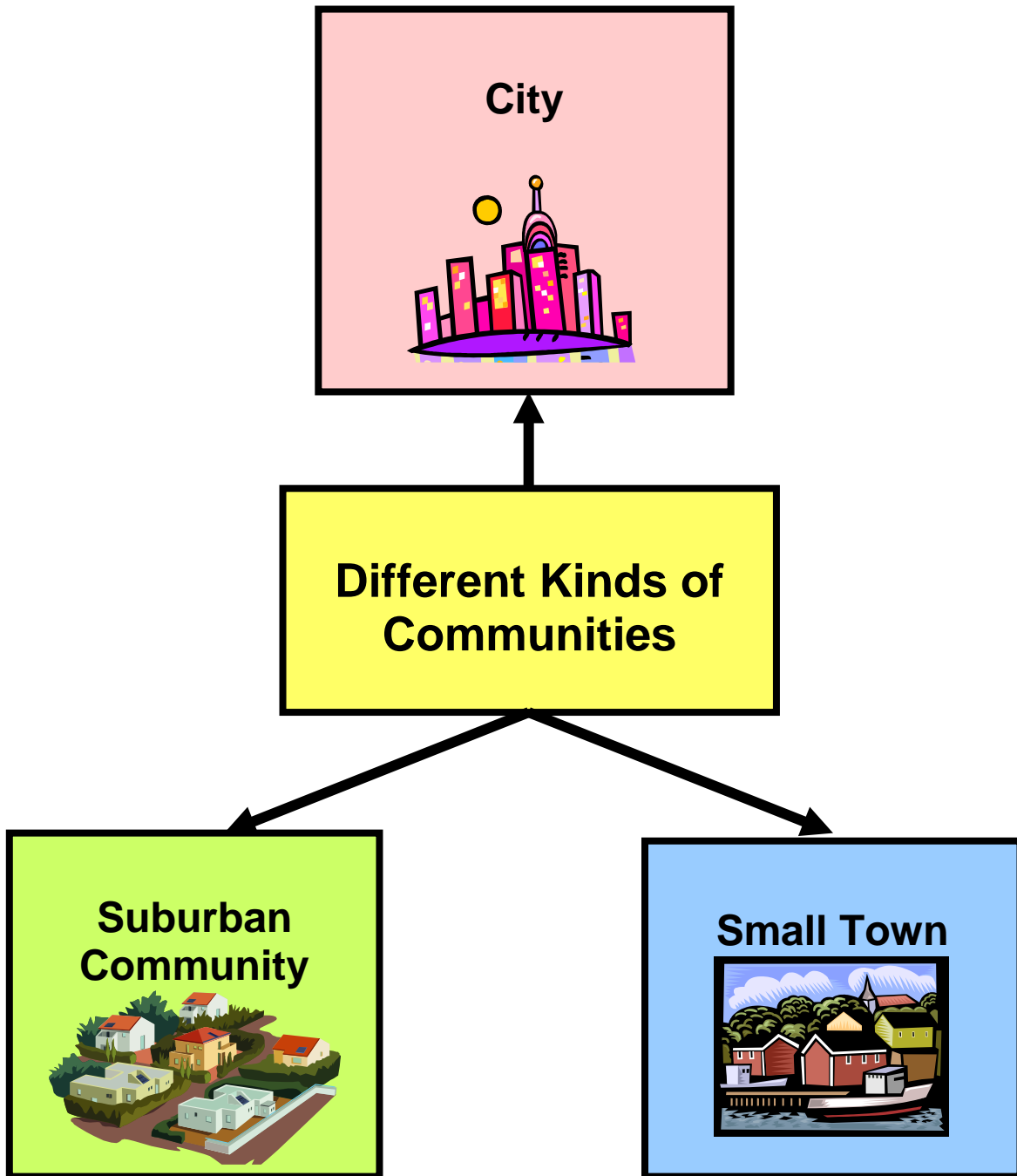


Suddenly two fire trucks zoomed by Michelle on their way to a fire. She watched as the cars moved out of their way.

She came to the park and decided to take a rest there. She sat down on a bench. Two community workers were busy near her. One was sweeping up the glass from a broken bottle. The other was busy with a tool box fixing a broken swing. She watched them for awhile and then left for home. She stopped just once to buy an ice cream.



Lesson 4 Graphic Organizer



Big Ideas of Lesson 4, Unit 1

- Communities are alike in many ways.
- Communities are also different in many ways.
- Communities can be different sizes.
- Communities can be located in different places.
- A city, a suburban community, and a small town are different kinds of communities.

Word Cards

Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

- Community – Word Card #4 from Lesson 1
- Natural Characteristics – Word Card #8 from Lesson 2
- Human Characteristics – Word Card #11 from Lesson 2

13 city

A community with lots of people and lots of buildings



Example: Big cities often have tall buildings called skyscrapers.

14 small town

A community with fewer people and buildings than a city



Example: Small towns are often in the countryside near farms.

15 suburban community

A community near a big city



Example: Suburban communities often have shopping malls.

Comparing Communities

1



2



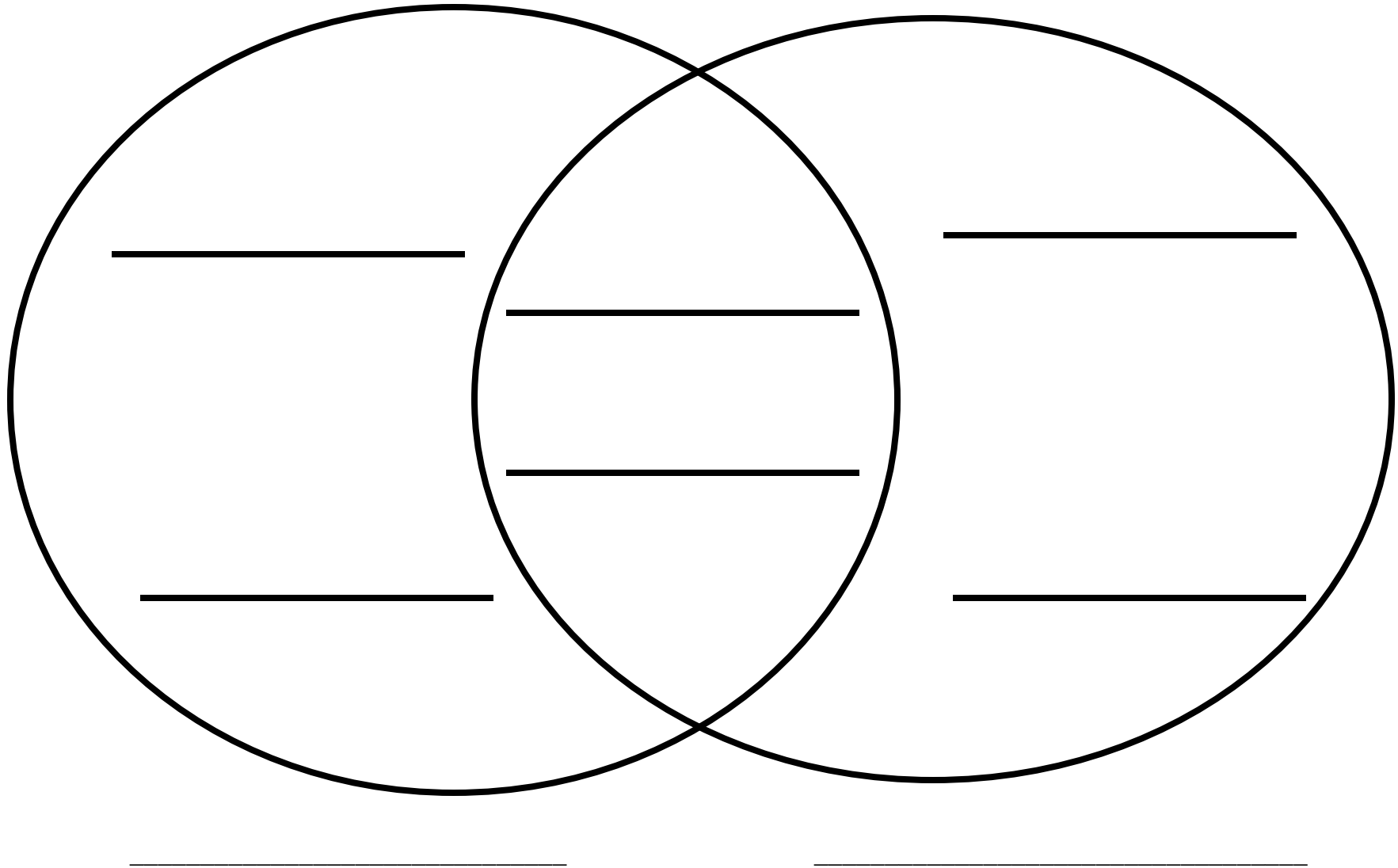
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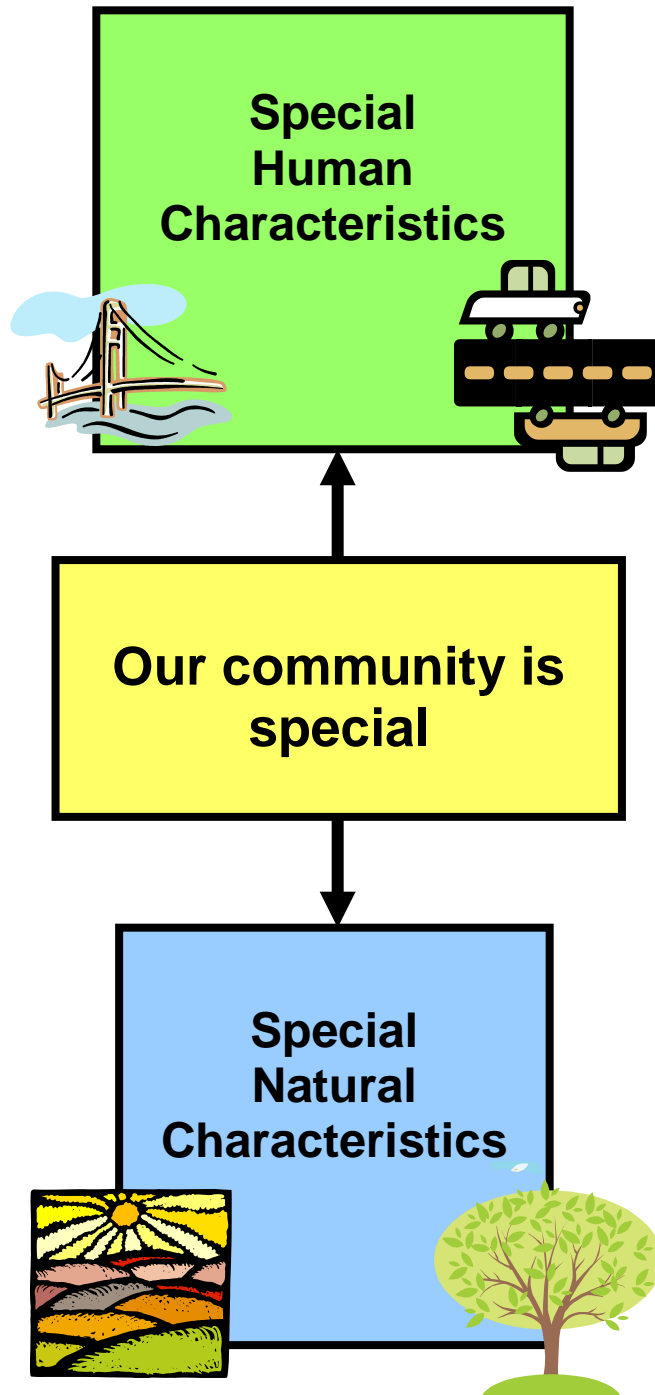
Community Characteristics – Sample Chart for “Prairie Town”

Natural Characteristics	Human Characteristics
Example: fields	Example: bridge

A Venn Diagram



Lesson 5 Graphic Organizer



Big Ideas of Lesson 5, Unit 1

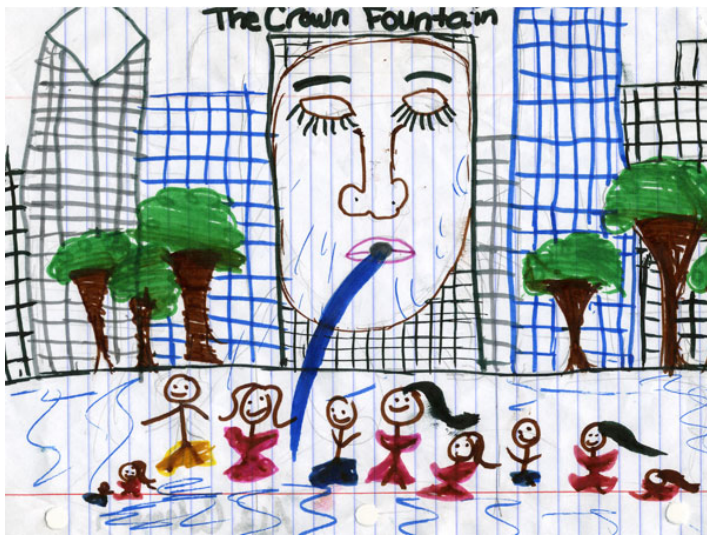
- Our local community is special.
- Our local community has special human characteristics.
- Our local community has special natural characteristics.

Word Cards

Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

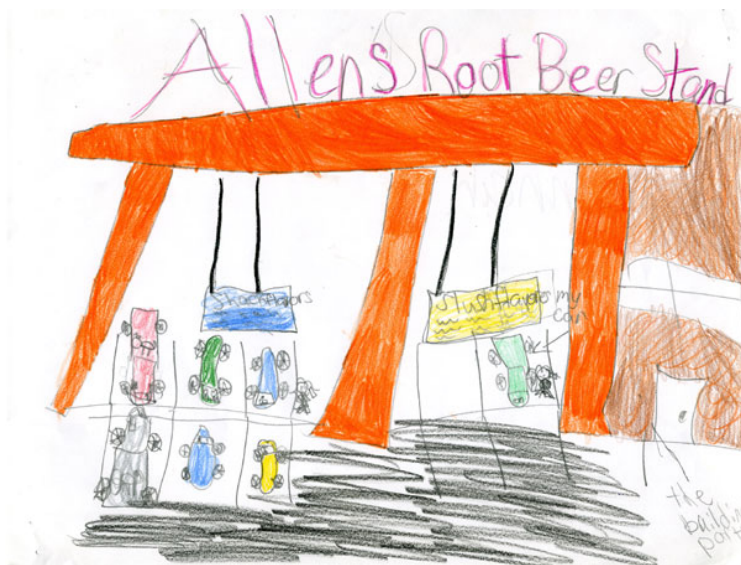
- Community – Word Card #4 from Lesson 1
- Natural Characteristics – Word Card #8 from Lesson 2
- Human Characteristics – Word Card #11 from Lesson 2

Favorite Places



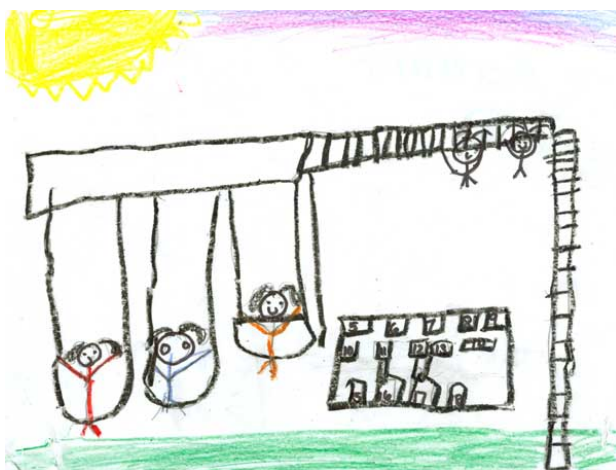
Aja
Chicago, Illinois

My favorite place is the Crown Fountain in Millennium Park. It is located in downtown Chicago. This is where I go on hot summer days to keep cool. I love to play in the water and meet other kids.



Hannah
Coldwater, Michigan

My favorite place is Allen's Root Beer Stand. The building is as orange as a pumpkin. What I like most is that the waitresses come to your car. They have the best root beer in the world.



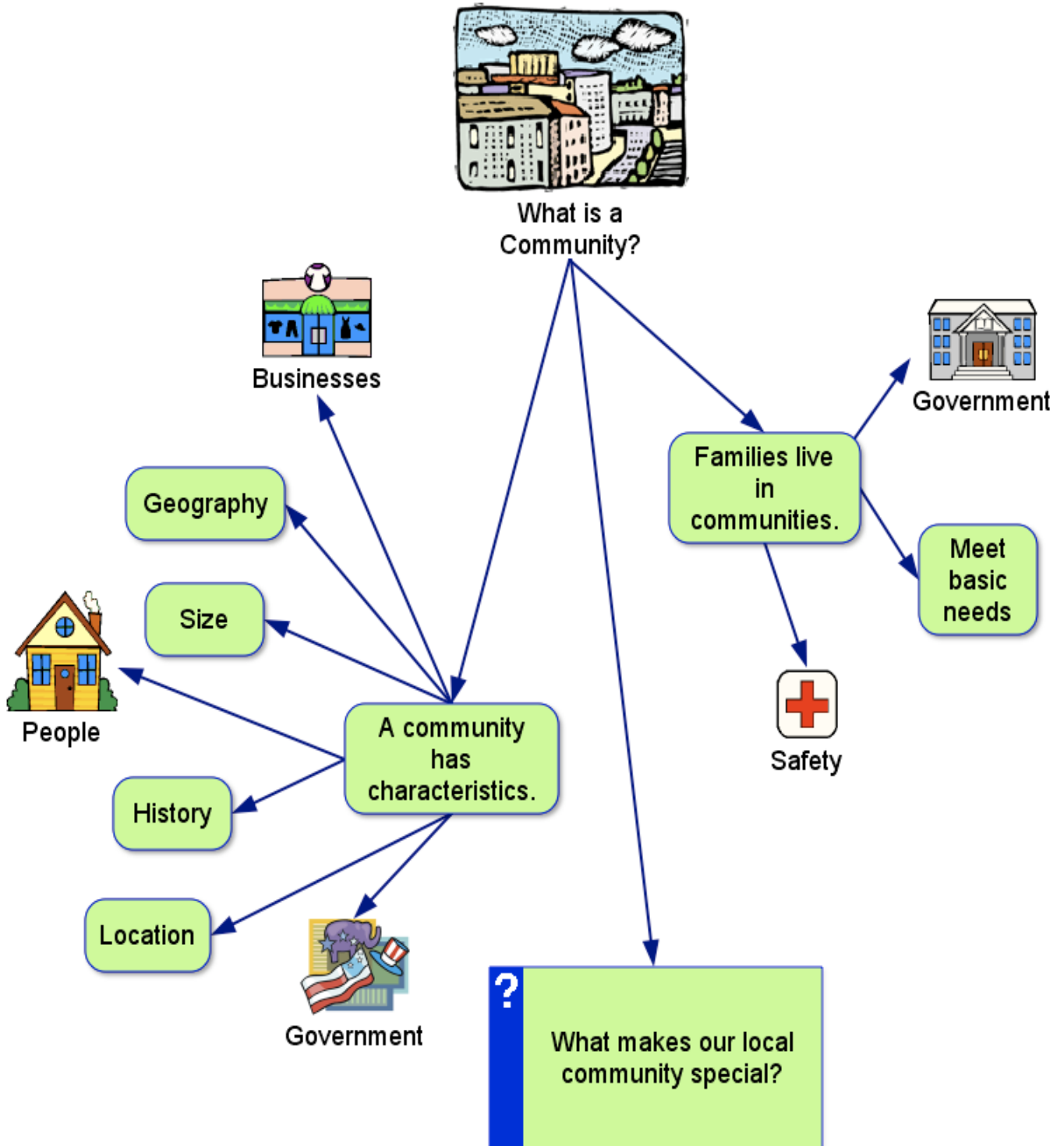
By Katrina, Grade 2
Saginaw, Michigan

My favorite place is the park. It has swings and monkey bars. I get to see my cousins and friends. I like to check the mailbox.

Think of your community. What is your favorite place?



Unit 1 Graphic Organizer



Unit 1 Vocabulary Words

basic needs	4
businesses	8
characteristics	7
city	15
community	4
family	4
government	12
human characteristics	8
location	8
natural characteristics	8
setting	7
shelter	4
small town	15
suburban community	15
transportation	8

Unit 1 Key Concepts

basic needs

community

family

government

human characteristics of place

location

physical characteristics of place

transportation