

MAP OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD

MATERIALS |

paper and writing utensils

OPTIONAL: large paper or poster-board, markers, magazines, & other craft materials

OBJECTIVES | The objectives of this activity are for participants to learn more about each other's life experiences and backgrounds and to practice working together as a team.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Divide students into groups of 3 or 4. Option 1: Group students who live near each other (ask the students who else in the class lives nearby or who rides the same bus as them). Option 2: Group students randomly and consider the community around your school your shared neighborhood.

Each team should create a map of their neighborhood or community being as creative as possible. The maps do not have to be geographically accurate. They can be somewhat abstract and can have words or not, pictures, not words, etc. Participants should identify and represent the following on their maps to the extent that they feel comfortable:

- Where do you each live and what is the place where you live like?
- What places are important or special to you and why? What do you do there? What is the best thing about these places? The worst thing?
- Are there places that you avoid or feel unsafe going to? Why?
- Are there places in your neighborhood that some groups of people (or people in your group) go to and others don't? Who goes where and why?
- How do you get around your neighborhood? Do you walk? Drive? Bike? Ride the bus? Stay home?
- Who are the most important people in your neighborhood and why? Where can you find them?
- What is the best thing about living in your neighborhood?

Each group should present their map to the rest of the class.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity?
- What would you like us to know about where you live?
- What is similar about your maps? What is different?
- What allowed you to work more/less successfully together as a team?



SUPPORTING MEDIA |

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/sharing-who-we-are/>

NOTES |

Keep in mind that participants may live in very different housing conditions including apartments, mobile home communities, shelters, or foster homes.

ALTERNATIVE: Each participant can complete this activity individually and then share.

EXTENSION: incorporate use of an online mapping tool or paper map.