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What I will learn in this project

Who lives in my neighborhood Where my neighborhood begins and ends How to be a good neighbor, citizen, and leader How groups of people work together in a neighborhood What groups or clubs are in my neighborhood How clubs and groups work

What I will do in this project

Record my answers and ideas Explore my neighborhood Create a map Think and learn Discover my personal resources Share what I learn with others

A good citizen

A good citizen is also a good neighbor. Good neighbors do things that make them good citizens, such as

- Caring about his or her neighbors, community, and environment
- Thinking of others when making decisions
- Treating others as he or she would like to be treated
- Respecting other people, property, and animals
- Being fair to others



Exploring My Neighborhood

Where is your neighborhood? Is it the street where you live? Or at the school you attend? Maybe your neighborhood is a community in your town or city.

Who lives in your neighborhood? How well do you know them? Some people have never met the people who live next door, much less those down the block or across the street. Friendships can only happen when people meet each other.

List some of the people who live in your neighborhood.

Describe one person in your neighborhood how you know him or her; things you enjoy or respect about the person; contributions the person makes to your neighborhood or community, or how he or she helps others.

Families are made up of people who live together, but they may not be related to each other. Tell about one of the families that live in your neighborhood — describe each person in the family and his/her role in the family; what makes this family special or important to you.





Neighborhood Map

Make a map of your neighborhood. You can decide if you want to draw the map, use an existing map, or create one in a mapping software program. Include on your map the houses, apartments, businesses, places of worship, etc. in your neighborhood and label them with a number. If you live in a rural area, your neighbors may be farther away so your neighborhood may be larger. Use a map legend to identify the person, family, business, or organization who lives or works in each place.

Post your neighborhood map on page 17 of this book.

To create a map with mapping software, go to <u>maps.google.com</u> and spend some time discovering the program's features.

- Create a Google account if you do not already have one. Log in and go to "My Maps."
- Create your map. To guide you through the process, a video titled "How to Create 'My Map' in Google Maps" will pop up.
- Have fun designing your map. Be sure to give it a name in the Title section. You may also write a description. Be sure to save the map as "private" so you don't share personal information with anyone on the Internet.

Write a story about your neighborhood and its special qualities.		

Being a Good Neighbor

When you live in a neighborhood, other people are affected by you and what you do, just as you are affected by them. It is important that each person in the neighborhood acts in a way that does not take away the rights of the other people there. This is what being a good citizen in the neighborhood is all about.

Neighborhoods often have rules or even laws that protect the rights of those who live there. These may vary in different neighborhoods. What laws or rules govern your neighborhood? What action could you take to be a good neighbor? For each item below, list the rules or laws for your neighborhood or a way that you could be a good neighbor.

Property laws protect the things people own.

★ A property law in my neighborhood is

Pet laws say pets must be kept on the owner's property or on a leash.

 \star A pet law in my neighborhood is

Noise laws say you should not disturb others with loud noises.

 \star A noise law in my neighborhood is

Pollution laws prohibit burning, dumping trash, contaminating stream or rivers, or using dangerous chemicals.
★ A pollution law in my neighborhood is

Litter laws say property should be clean and free of trash.

★ A litter law in my neighborhood is

Look around your neighborhood or community to see if there are any signs of people's rights being abused. How many did you find? Draw or list examples of people's rights being abused.





Neighborhood Rights and Responsibilities

Each person in a neighborhood or community has a responsibility to obey the rules or laws. When you obey neighborhood rules or laws, it shows that you care about the rights of other people and that you are a good neighbor and citizen.

What are some rules or laws that you think would be helpful in your neighborhood? Explain why you feel they are needed.	Ask an adult about the rules or laws in your neighborhood that protect the rights of you and your neighbors. Record his or her answers in the space below. Are they the same rules or laws you listed? Place a check by those that are the same.

Being a good neighborhood citizen is more than just meeting your neighbors. It means showing your neighbors that you care about them. One way to be a good neighbor is by serving others. How can you serve others in your neighborhood? Following are some suggestions you can choose from or use your own ideas or talents to identify ways to serve others. For your personal safety, ask your parent or guardian for permission before doing any service project.

Suggestions for Serving Others in Your Neighborhood

- Keep music or other noise to a minimum after 9 pm.
- Clean up any waste your pet leaves in a neighbor's yard.
- Take a neighbor a gift of flowers that you picked or food you prepared.
- Help your neighbors with yard or house work.
- Buy or make a birthday or holiday card for a neighbor.
- Share something from your garden with a neighbor.
- Run an errand for a neighbor.
- Visit with a neighbor who lives alone.
- Smile and greet your neighbors when you see them, even the ones you don't know.
- Clean up around the outside of where you live to make your neighborhood look better.

These are all simple ways to show your neighbors that you care about them. Choose three or more service projects from the list or use your own ideas to be a good neighbor. Describe what you did and how it makes you feel to serve others in your neighborhood. Things I did to be a good neighbor.