

Homes in the community

In this resource, we want pupils to look beyond their front door to explore the concept of community and neighbourhood in defining where they live and the benefits of belonging.

Activity 1: Local Walk

You will need:

- To plan and risk assess an appropriate route for your pupils
- Use sketch books, pencils, and/or digital cameras to record key features of your local area

Take pupils on a walk of your local community (if this is not possible, then take pupils outside to see what type of homes they can see from the playground). Explore, record and discuss the different types of housing in your local area using sketch books or digital cameras.

Highlight other key features such as open spaces, transport links, amenities and shops. Discuss the neighbourhood characteristics that make your locality a community.

Consider:

- Which type of housing do we have in our locality? ■ Does the style of housing make any difference to the conditions e.g. damp, derelict, state of repair? ■ Which is more important: What your home looks like? Where your home is? Both?

Activity 2: Art and design mapping activity

You will need:

- Cube template photocopied on to A4 thin card, plain paper, glue, art materials (e.g. felt tip pens, pastels paint or collage materials).

1. Using a cube template, pupils design and build the different styles of housing that make up your community, to create a 3D map of your local area.
2. Using the completed cubes as building blocks, pupils glue them together to emulate the different styles of housing, as a vertical stack for blocks of high rise flats, or grouped as terraced or semi-detached houses. Depending on the size of your display and the variation in styles, single cubes could be used either as individual houses or as representing storeys within each house e.g. a single cube denotes a bungalow, 2 cubes stacked for a two-storey detached house.
3. Pupils use the available art materials to add detail to their houses. **Top tip:** due to the fragile nature of the boxes pupils may find it easier to cut a piece of plain paper to size on which to add their details (doors, windows, satellite dishes etc.) these can then be glued on. Roofs flat, pitched or thatched can also be added.
4. Use the houses created to make a 3D map of your local community, with the school as a central point. Remember to leave space for roads, shops, and open spaces.
5. Consider adding more details of the area using collage, artwork, digital images and captions to give context to your map.
6. Using your display as a stimulus, encourage pupils to write about their local neighbourhood.