

## Grade 2: My Community and Other Communities

### Unifying Theme: Individual Development and Cultural Identity

**2.1 A community is a population of various individuals in a common location. It can be characterized as urban, suburban, or rural. Population density and use of the land are some characteristics that define and distinguish types of communities.**

2.1a An urban community, or city, is characterized by dense population and land occupied primarily by buildings and structures that are used for residential and business purposes.

2.1b Suburban communities are on the outskirts of cities, where human population is less dense, and buildings and homes are spaced farther apart.

2.1c Rural communities are characterized by large expanses of open land and significantly lower populations than urban or suburban areas.

2.1d Activities available for people living in urban, suburban, and rural communities are different. The type of community a person grows up in will affect a person's development and identity.

**2.2 People share similarities and differences with others in their own community and with other communities.**

2.2a People living in urban, suburban, and rural communities embrace traditions and celebrate holidays that reflect both diverse cultures and a common community identity.

2.2b A community is strengthened by the diversity of its members, with ideas, talents, perspectives, and cultures that can be shared across the community.

### Unifying Theme: Civic Ideals and Practices

**2.3 The United States is founded on the principles of democracy, and these principles are reflected in all types of communities.**

2.3a The United States is founded on the democratic principles of equality, fairness, and respect for authority and rules.

2.3b Government is established to maintain order and keep people safe. Citizens demonstrate respect for authority by obeying rules and laws.

2.3c The process of holding elections and voting is an example of democracy in action in schools, communities, New York State, and the nation.

2.3d Symbols of American democracy serve to unite community members.

**2.4 Communities have rules and laws that affect how they function. Citizens contribute to a community's government through leadership and service.**

2.4a Communities have the responsibility to make and enforce fair laws and rules that provide for the common good.

2.4b Communities have leaders who are responsible for making laws and enforcing laws.

2.4c Citizens provide service to their community in a variety of ways.

## Unifying Theme: Geography, Humans, and the Environment

### 2.5 Geography and natural resources shape where and how urban, suburban, and rural communities develop and how they sustain themselves.

2.5a Urban, suburban, and rural communities can be located on maps, and the geographic characteristics of these communities can be described by using symbols, map legends, and geographic vocabulary.

2.5b The location of physical features and natural resources often affects where people settle and may affect how those people sustain themselves.

2.5c Humans modify the environment of their communities through housing, transportation systems, schools, marketplaces, and recreation areas.

2.5d The location and place of physical features and man-made structures can be described using symbols and specific geography vocabulary.

## Unifying Theme: Time Continuity and Change

### 2.6 Identifying continuities and changes over time can help understand historical developments.

2.6a Continuities and changes over time in communities can be described using historical thinking, vocabulary, and tools such as time lines.

2.6b Continuities and changes over time in communities can be examined by interpreting evidence such as maps, population charts, photographs, newspapers, biographies, artifacts, and other historical materials.

### 2.7 Cause-and-effect relationships help us recount events and understand historical development.

2.7a Cause-and-effect relationships help us to understand the changes in communities.

## Unifying Theme: Economic Systems

### 2.8 Communities face different challenges in meeting their needs and wants.

2.8a The availability of resources to meet basic needs varies across urban, suburban, and rural communities.

2.8b People make decisions to buy, sell, and use money based on their needs, wants, and the availability of resources.

2.8c Scarcity, the price of goods and services, and choice all influence economic decisions made by individuals and communities.

2.8d Taxes are collected to provide communities with goods and services.

### 2.9 A community requires the interdependence of many people performing a variety of jobs and services to provide basic needs and wants.

2.9a Goods are the products a person or group of people makes. Services are actions performed by a person or group of people with a certain skill.

2.9b Members of a community specialize in different types of jobs that provide goods and/or services to the community. Community workers such as teachers, firefighters, sanitation workers, and police officers provide services.

2.9c At times, neighboring communities share resources and workers to support multiple communities.