

GRADE 2

My Community and Other United States Communities

The grade 2 social studies core curriculum:

- explores rural, urban, and suburban communities in the United States by using the local community as an example to further understand the concept of community.
 - examines community from a multicultural perspective that includes geographic, socioeconomic, and ethnic influences.
 - emphasizes geography skills such as reading maps and globes, and analyzing the impact of the environment on the community.
 - stresses the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the community.
 - investigates communities from the perspectives of the New York State social studies learning standards (History of the United States and New York State History; World History; Geography; Economics; and Civics, Citizenship, and Government).
 - includes interdisciplinary learning to emphasize the content, concepts, and skills of the New York State prekindergarten through grade 12 social studies program.
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FOCUS QUESTIONS

- What is a community?
- How are communities alike and different?
- How do people and communities help each other?
- What are the resources in a community?
- How are needs and wants used to shape community life?
- What is citizenship?
- Why do we need laws?

Content Understandings

My community and region today

My rural, urban, or suburban community can be located on a map.
Rural, urban, and suburban communities differ from place to place.
Events, people, traditions, practices, and ideas make up my rural, urban, or suburban community.
Communities in the future may be different in many ways.
My rural, urban, or suburban community has changed over time.
Roles and responsibilities of families in rural, urban, and suburban communities change over time.

People depending on and modifying the physical environment

Rural, urban, and suburban communities are influenced by geographic and environmental factors.
Lifestyles in rural, urban, and suburban communities are influenced by environmental and geographic factors.

Challenge of meeting needs and wants

Rural, urban, and suburban communities provide facilities and services to help meet the needs and wants of the people who live there.
People in rural, urban, and suburban communities are producers and consumers of goods and services.
People in rural, urban, and suburban communities must make choices due to unlimited needs and wants and limited resources.

People using human, capital, and natural resources

Scarcity of resources requires people to make choices in rural, urban, and suburban communities.

Economic decision making

Rural, urban, and suburban communities collect taxes to provide services for the public benefit.
Rural, urban, and suburban communities make decisions about how to spend the taxes they collect.

Symbols of citizenship

Citizenship includes an understanding of the significance of the flag of the United States of America, including an understanding about its display and use.
People living in rural, urban, and suburban communities celebrate various holidays.

Rights, responsibilities, and roles of citizenship

People living in rural, urban, and suburban communities may have conflicts over rules, rights, and responsibilities.
Citizens can participate in decision making, problem solving, and conflict resolution.

Making and changing rules and laws

People in rural, urban, and suburban communities develop rules and laws to govern and protect community members.
Our local communities have elected and appointed leaders who make, enforce, and interpret rules and laws.