



RICH TASK ACTIVITY
Pittsburgh: Yinz Play!

This engaging rich task was developed by the Education Department of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. Rich tasks are open-ended classroom investigations designed for students working alone or in a group and may be conducted before or after your visit to the Children's Museum to enhance your experience in the Pittsburgh: Yinz Play! Exhibit

This Rich Task complements the *Out of the Box and Onto the Wall* and *Observations of Pittsburgh* exhibit components of Pittsburgh: Yinz Play!

Who Are The People In Your Neighborhood?

Neighborhoods are made up of many different kinds of people who all make it unique.
How many different types of people do you see in your own neighborhood or in the neighborhood near your school?

Suggested Materials

- Paper
- Pencil and/or crayons

Task Tools

- Who Are The People In Your Neighborhood? (see Rich Task Tool Sheet)
- An inquiring mind!

Investigation

- List or draw the different types of people you see in your neighborhood.
- Think hard! There are probably more types of people than you think. Ask yourself:
 - What jobs do you see the people in your neighborhood doing?
 - What cultures are represented in your neighborhood?
 - What different ages or generations of people live in your neighborhood?
 - Who visits your neighborhood and why?
 - Who delivers your mail, packages, flowers or pizza?
 - Who picks up your trash, fixes pot holes in the street or plows the snow?

Teacher Hints

- Lead a discussion about what a neighborhood is. Including the types of people who live, work and/or shop there. Where does one neighborhood end and the next begin? How do you know? Use online images or magazine clippings to aide your conversation. Be sure to include diverse examples of a postal carrier, grocer, carpenter, etc.

Questions to Think About

- Have you known neighbors who moved away or moved into your neighborhood? Have *you* ever moved into a new neighborhood? What was that like? How could you make it easier for a new neighbor to join your neighborhood?
- Do you know the names of any of the people on your list? Try to meet one person (in a safe way) this week. Neighborhoods are safer, happier and function best when people recognize and look out for one another.

Ways to Extend Your Investigation

- Write a story about what would happen if an essential person in your neighborhood was no longer there.
- Conduct interviews of real life people in the school or neighborhood. Work to prepare thoughtful questions beforehand and then write about the experience. Share interviews with the class show-and-tell style.
- Sponsor a “Career Day” at your school and have members of the community talk to students about their jobs.
- Organize a community volunteer day. Clean up vacant lots, parks or run errands for elderly residents to make your neighborhood a better place for everyone who shares it.
- Organize a block party or picnic to meet neighbors around your school.
- Research the role that community organizations and neighborhood watch groups play in strengthening the social fabric of healthy neighborhoods.
- Ask students to act out a type of character from their neighborhood to see if the class can guess who it is.
- Arrange for students to interview other teachers to find out what neighborhoods they live in and what jobs they may have had before.

Standards

This rich task addresses the following Pennsylvania State Academic Standards:

- 1.5 Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening. Quality of Writing
- 7.3 Geography. The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions

Suggested extensions for this Rich Task could address the following additional Standards:

- 5.2 Civics and Government. Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship
- 13.1 Career Education and Work. Career Awareness and Planning

Explore More – Other Resources

Websites:

- www.carnegielibrary.org/research/pittsburgh/neighborhoods.cfm Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh site with links to known neighborhood organization websites, tours and info
- www.kidsplan.com Kids Neighborhood Workshop
- www.pittsburghneighborhoodtours.com Pittsburgh Neighborhood Tours
- www.preschoolrainbow.org/helper-rhymes.htm Preschool Rhymes about Community Helpers

Books:

- My Neighborhood: Places and Faces*. Lisa Bullard. Picture Window Books (2002)
- On the Town: A Community Adventure*. Judith Caseley. Greenwillow Books (2002)
- Exploring Our World: Neighborhoods and Communities*. Kathleen M. Hollenback. Scholastic (1999)
- 20 Manipulative Mini-Books: Neighborhood and Community: Easy-to-Make, Interactive Mini-Books That Engage Kids in Reading and Writing-and Teach Key Social Studies Concepts and Vocabulary*. Kathleen M. Hollenback. Scholastic. (2004)
- What is a Community from A to Z?* Bobbie Kalman. Crabtree Publishing Company (2000)
- Communities*. Gail Saunders-Smith. Capstone Press (2000)

Tell us what you think!

Please share your results and feedback with us and other educators by sending to: education@pittsburghkids.org