



WHAT'S FOR KIDS?

(20 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students investigate the services provided directly to children by their government, and create maps of their community with symbols representing these services.

MATERIALS

Telephone books; drawing paper; markers, crayons.

GET READY

- ✓ Consult the telephone book's government pages to write down the names of programs in your town which provide services directly for children: Parks and Recreation, Pools, Museums, Libraries, Bicycle Registration, etc. Post these on your board.
- ✓ Gather sheets of paper, crayons, and markers. Use maps.google.com to get a map of your local community. Duplicate enough copies for your class.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Say, _____ (your city or town), our government plans and organizes activities and services for the children in our community.
- ✓ Point out to your students that they take advantage of city services in many ways. Ask, *Who has a library card? Who lays in the park? Who is part of a soccer league?, etc.*
- ✓ Ask each student to choose a city service he/she likes to use and draw a symbol representing that service. (Example: soccer ball, library book, etc.)
- ✓ Have students locate where the service is located on the community map and draw their symbol on the map.
Have students share the symbols they created. Students can add the symbols created by other students to their community map.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Did any two or three people choose the same city service?*
- ★ *How does the town pay for the swimming pool, library, soccer field, etc.?*
- ★ *How does voting affect city services for kids?*

MORE!

Invite the director of parks and recreation or the museum or library director to speak to your class about programs for children.

Get a large community map from your local city government, ask students to create a key for the map using the symbols they created representing services for children.

SUGGESTED ASSESSMENT:

- ★ *Students can create a map title and a key for the symbols on the map representing city services for children.*