

COMMON CORE  
Lessons & Activities

# COMMUNITIES

Reading for Information

Higher-Order Thinking

Writing Prompts

Primary Source Analysis

Vocabulary

Graphic Organizers

Map Activities

& More!

**REPRODUCIBLE**

*One teacher is allowed to make copies for use in her/his classroom!*



# Common Core Lessons & Activities: Communities

By Carole Marsh

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**G:** Includes Graphic Organizer

**GO:** Graphic Organizer is also available 8½" x 11" online  
download at [www.gallopade.com/client/go](http://www.gallopade.com/client/go)

(numbers above correspond to the graphic organizer numbers online)

# Rules and Laws

Read the text and answer the questions.

## Rules

When you live and work with other people, there are rules to follow. Rules help people understand what they should do and should not do. You have rules at home and rules at school. At home and in school, your parents and teachers make the rules to follow. These rules are meant to help everyone live and learn together peacefully.

## Laws

Communities have rules too. In a community, people choose leaders to run the local, state, and national government. The government leaders make rules, called laws, to help the community. Laws are the written rules that everyone in the community, whether local, state, or national, must follow.

There are many different kinds of laws—like traffic laws, education laws, and land laws. These laws help us share resources, get along with each other, and stay safe.

## Good Citizenship

You can help your community by being a good citizen. As a good citizen, you should obey rules and laws. You can pay taxes to support the community government. You can vote for good leaders, or you can run for political office yourself! You can volunteer to clean up the environment and make the community beautiful. You can help your community by showing respect, kindness, and loyalty to other people in your community.

- Use the text to define rules and laws.
  - What purpose do rules and laws serve in a community?
- Give three examples of rules that you follow in school.
- How are rules and laws similar? How are they different?
- Who makes laws? Why are laws made?
- Use the text to give three examples of ways to be a good citizen.

## GRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

# Personal & Civic Responsibility

Read the text and answer the questions.

You should take care of yourself and you should take care of your community. Caring for yourself is called personal responsibility. Caring and supporting your community is called civic responsibility. For example, using your money wisely is a personal responsibility, and paying taxes to your local government is a civic responsibility. Civic responsibility is important for creating a successful community.

1. How are personal responsibility and civic responsibility similar? How are they different?
2. Complete the chart by deciding whether each action is a personal or a civic responsibility. Explain your answers.

Action	Personal or Civic?	Explanation
Taking care of your own health		
Paying taxes		
Caring for your family		
Voting		
Following your beliefs		
Obedying laws		
Protecting the environment		
Controlling your behavior		
Learning about local leaders and politicians		

## PROBLEM-SOLUTION-RESULTS

# Helping in Your Community

Look at the different community problems. Individually or in small groups, use the graphic organizer to analyze one or more of the community problems and propose a positive solution.

### *In your local environment*

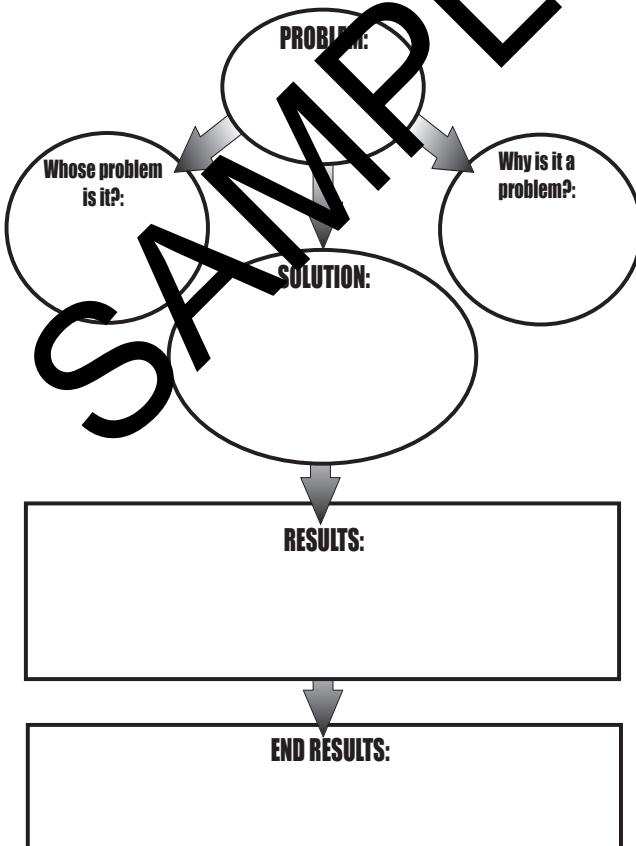
1. Many trees have been cut down.
2. There is trash and litter in the local river.

### *In your school*

1. Bullying
2. Cheating on tests

### *In your local community*

1. Some people are homeless.
2. Children do not have safe place to play



## COMPARISON OF PRIMARY SOURCES

# The Changing Community

New Orleans, Louisiana, is a port city located where the Mississippi River flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The shipping industry has had a major impact on its economy.

Analyze the pictures and answer the questions.



J.L. Bouqueto de Woiser's painting of New Orleans in 1803



Lewis Henry's photograph of New Orleans in the 1840s



Photograph of New Orleans in 2007

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



**PART A:** Use the 1803 picture to answer the questions.

1. What do you notice first in this picture? Why? Describe at least three other observations.
2. How did the New Orleans community use land in 1803? Cite details from the picture to support your answer.
3. List three common jobs in New Orleans in 1803.
4. What types of transportation were used in New Orleans in 1803?

**PART B:** Use the 1840s picture to answer the questions.

5. What do you notice first about this picture? Why? Describe at least three other observations.
6. How did the New Orleans community use land in the 1840s? Cite details from the picture to support your answer.
7. List three common jobs in New Orleans in the 1840s.
8. What can you infer about the role of transportation in the New Orleans economy in the 1840s? Cite evidence from the picture.

**PART C:** Use the 2007 picture to answer the questions.

9. What do you notice first about this picture? Why? Describe at least three other observations.
10. How did the New Orleans community use land in 2007? Cite details from the picture to support your answer.
11. List three common jobs you might find in New Orleans in 2007.

**PART D:** Use all three pictures to answer the questions.

12. Each of these pictures was created using a different method. Identify each method and explain the most likely reason for this difference.
13. Which picture best represents a rural community? Which picture best represents an urban community?
14. Use the pictures to describe the impact of the shipping industry on New Orleans.
  - A. List at least three effects you can see and three effects you can infer.
  - B. Are all changes positive? Negative? Explain.
15. Draw or describe what New Orleans might look like in the year 3000, and explain the effects of location, the shipping industry, and any other factors that are likely to impact New Orleans.