

Grade 2

My Community and Other Communities

Is organized into five units of study—Individual Development and Cultural Identity; Civic Ideals and Practices; Geography, Humans, and the Environment; Time, Continuity, and Change and Economic Systems. These units represent five of the unifying themes of social studies and may be presented in any order.

Students study their community and learn about characteristics that define urban, suburban and rural communities. Democratic principles and participation in government are introduced.

Interaction with the environment and the changes to the environment and their impact are examined. The concept of change over time and examining cause and effect are introduced. Students will examine the availability of resources and the interdependence within and across communities.

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 primarily occupied by buildings and structures 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 a large expanse 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.
 - CI 2.1A parish is a community within the Church. Parishes have different activities to build build community in the Church.
- 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.

- CI 2.2 Parishes have traditions and celebrations that reflect their 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.

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.
 - CI 2.3a Equality, fairness and respect are values we learn from Jesus.
 - CI 2.3b A good Christian is a good citizen.
 - CI 2.3c The Church also has laws.
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- 2.3c The process of holding elections and voting is an example of democracy in action in schools, communities, Pennsylvania, 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.
 - CI 2.4 The Church and parishes have leaders who are responsible for laws that provide for the common good
 - CI 2.4a Parishioners provide service to parish in a variety of ways.
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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 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.

Time, Continuity, and Change

- 2.6 Identifying changes over time and continuities 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 understand the changes in communities.
 - CI 2.7 Cause-and-effect relationships help us to understand the events which lead to change in parishes and schools.

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, 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.
 - CI2.8 Churches and schools need financial assistance in order to provide services.
 - CI2.8a Parishioners donate to the church; tuition is collected for school.