

Neighborhood Sensory Walk

Subjects: Language Arts, Science



OBJECTIVES:

Students will relate to their neighborhoods through the use of their senses.



MATERIALS:

- Scissors
- Crayons
- Worksheet-
Neighborhood Sensory
Homework handout



SETTING:

Homework activity: outdoors
Classroom activity: indoors



ESTIMATED TIME:

30-40 minutes



VOCABULARY:

- Neighborhood, walking, bicycling, senses



ACTIVITY SOURCE:

*Alameda County Safe Routes to
Schools Program*



OVERVIEW:

During this lesson students will be asked to take a walk around their own neighborhoods and observe what they see through their senses. They will then make a class book of their observations.

BACKGROUND:

What do we like about the neighborhoods that we live in? What could we change? In our busy lives, we often do not stop to think about our immediate surroundings, and especially do not use all of our senses to do so.

You can learn so much about your community by walking or bicycling around the neighborhood with your family. There are many ways to explore the neighborhood and get to know the people that live in your community by using all of your five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell)

Getting to know your neighbors is a great way to stay informed about the activities and events that are happening around your area. It also gives you a great opportunity to meet new and interesting people and learn about different things. Plus, it helps to create a happier and friendlier community when people take the time to get to know one another and do fun activities together.

LESSON SET-UP:

1. Photocopy the homework page and Neighborhood Sensory Book for each student.
2. Have crayons or colored pencils ready for students to use for the Neighborhood Sensory Book activity.

STATE STANDARDS

Language Arts

2.2: Write a brief expository description of a real object, person, place or event, using sensory details.

Science

Investigation and Experimentation:

Record observations and data with pictures, numbers or written statements.

Neighborhood Sensory Walk



HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:

1. Ask the students to take a walk around their neighborhood with an adult (1/2 hour is an ideal length of time).
2. Ask them to record items that they see, hear and smell in their neighborhoods.

NOTE: Consider giving students up to a week to complete this assignment. Some of them will want to complete it over the weekend.

BUILDING BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

1. Review homework out loud.
2. Have the student circle the thing they like best from their lists, choosing one for each sense.
3. Discuss how many people they saw walking or bicycling in their neighborhoods. What changes a neighborhood when lots of people are walking or bicycling?
4. Discuss what makes their neighborhood safe or unsafe.

ACTIVITY:

Neighborhood Sensory Book

1. Give out Neighborhood Sensory Book handout.
2. Show students how to cut and fold the sensory book.
3. Ask the students to draw each page with the things that they saw, heard and smelled.
4. Ask them to draw themselves walking or biking in their neighborhood.
5. Have students write one sentence about each of the senses that they experienced.



ASSESSMENT:

Ask the students to come up with a list of description words about their own neighborhoods.



EXTENSION IDEAS

1. Have a discussion with students about what they liked about their neighborhoods, and what they didn't like, recording their answers on chart paper. Ask them to complete the sentence, "If I could change my neighborhood I would..."
2. Show students pictures of various neighborhoods, with pictures cut out from magazines. Ask them to come up with words that describe these neighborhoods.
3. Ask students to draw the perfect neighborhood that they would like to live in. Have them write one sentence describing this neighborhood.

"NEIGHBORHOOD WALK"

Homework Page



INTERESTING THINGS THAT I SAW:
(example: I saw a squirrel and kids playing)



INTERESTING THINGS THAT I SMELLED:
(example: I smelled bread from the bakery shop)



INTERESTING THINGS THAT I HEARD:
(example: I heard dogs barking in the park)



INTERESTING THINGS THAT I FELT
(example: I touched the bark on a tree)

Fold here!



<p>Welcome to my Neighborhood!</p> <p>This is me walking in my neighborhood!</p>	<p>I SEE _____ in my neighborhood! (color)</p> <p>This is a _____ . (color) (thing)</p>
<p>I SMELL _____ in my neighborhood! Draw something that you smell.</p>	<p>I HEAR _____ in my neighborhood! Draw something that you HEAR!</p>