

REGINA PLAINS MUSEUM

Learning Kit

TEACHER'S GUIDE:

Building Community



Themes and Ideas

Building Community

Every community is built from the ground up. People work together to discover what they need in the community. As communities grow, needs change and different services arise to fulfill these needs. The Building Communities Learning Kit is intended for students to explore their community, from its past roots to changes taking place today. Objects are used to explore the community's identity in the past and present. Lesson plans and ideas are Regina-specific.

Vocabulary Words

Some words that may be useful when using this kit:

- Community
- Community services
- Essential services
- Identity
- Mayor
- City council

Activity Ideas

- create a "top 10" list of everything a community needs – consider essential services like fire protection, water and ambulances
- Create a "then and now" comparison chart of how Regina has changed from past to present
- Visit City Hall and learn about how our community works
- As a class, plan your own community – decide on a name, draw a large map displaying streets, business areas and other important locations
- Compare Regina with another city or town. If that community has a website, visit it to learn how it is similar and different to Regina. Create a comparison chart



Lesson Plan

Unit: Building Community – The Stuff of Regina

Theme/Skill(s):

- Exploring how objects can reflect a community's identity.
- Illustrating how communities change over time.
- Exploring Regina's identity

Equipment/Resources:

- Examples of Regina 'stuff' – see included suggestions list
- Focus questions for examining artifacts

Objectives:

- Students will illustrate how Regina has changed over time
- Students will make connections between past and present

Assessment:

- Students will summarize what they've discovered through writing or speaking

CELS:

Critical and Creative Thinking: Students will make comparisons between past and present.

Personal and Social Values and Skills: Students will explore how objects reflect a community's ideals and identity.

Curriculum Connections:

Social Studies: Students will explore the concept of community identity through collecting objects and discussing how they help form local identity. The theme of heritage is explored through the use of historical objects, which are then compared to contemporary items.

The Stuff of Regina – Suggestions

- local newspapers (Leader Post, the Sun, the Prairie Dog)
- Roughriders memorabilia
- Regina memorabilia (mugs, t-shirts, etc., especially “I love Regina” stuff)
- Tourism information
- City maps
- Recordings of local musicians
- Recordings of local theatre, television and movies
- Postcards
- Menus from local restaurants
- Books by local authors
- A Regina phone book
- Advertisements from local businesses
- Listings of important people in the community
- Listings of local festivals and events
- Images of city landmarks and buildings



Lesson Plan

Unit: Building Community – The Town Meeting

Theme/Skill(s):

- How is a community built?
- Working together to create community.
- Conducting group discussions and debates
- Constructing arguments and solutions

Equipment/Resources:

- local newspapers (to research current events in the community),
- chart paper/overhead projector,
- space and tables to arrange a town meeting space,
- roles (see 'Development' *Choosing roles*)

Objectives:

Students will explore what 'community' means, and examine their place within the community.

Assessment:

- Students are evaluated in terms of participation – everyone must contribute in some fashion, whether it be spoken written or other ways.
- If desired, students can be required to submit a written argument about the issue being examined.
- Include a rubric for group work: do students work well together? Does each group member contribute?

CELS:

Communication: Students will use various forms of communication (written, verbal) to express points of view.

Critical and Creative Thinking: Students will construct arguments and solutions to a problem.

Personal and Social Values and Skills: Students will examine their own values, and values of the community.

Group Work:	Students can work together in groups to present a particular solution or viewpoint to the issue. Arguments and solutions can be presented to the meeting, a debate conducted and a vote can be taken at the end, with the class coming to a consensus.
Review of Learning:	<p>On the board or overhead, put up the brainstorming sessions about community created by the class at the beginning of the lesson. Have ideas about community changed? Why or why not?</p> <p>Have students examine their role within the community. What are their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Regina?</p>
Extensions:	Choose a real issue from the community. How does the class/individual feel about this issue? Write a letter to the city council, expressing your viewpoints and possible solutions to the problem. Send or email your letter to the City of Regina. Be sure to go over proper grammar and letter-writing technique!
Adaptive Dimension:	<p>Student may work in groups to balance different skill sets and ability levels. For example, students who may be more comfortable speaking in front of a group can be elected as a spokesperson, and students stronger in writing skills can prepare notes for the speaker.</p> <p>If desired, teachers can prepare more details ahead of time – choose an issue, and outline several possible viewpoints for the students to choose from. The complexity of the issue can vary from group to group.</p>

This lesson can be adapted to a variety of age groups. Depending on class skills and previous experience, the town meeting can range from a simple two-sided debate, to an actual recreation of a City Council meeting. The meeting itself can take place over the course of a few classes, or the lesson can be expanded to cover an entire unit plan – have students research how issues are dealt with in the community, and research issues that actually affect citizens of Regina.

Additional Resources

Building Community

Print Materials

Bocking, D.H., ed. Saskatchewan: A Pictorial History. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1979.

Brennan, J. William. Regina: An Illustrated History. Toronto: James Lorimer & Canadian Museum of Civilization, 1989.

Brennan, J. William. Regina Before Yesterday: A Visual History 1892-1945. Regina: City of Regina, 1978.

Broadfoot, Barry. The Pioneer Years 1895-1914: Memories of Settler Who Opened the West. Toronto: Doubleday, 1976.

City of Regina. A Brief History of Regina: Over a Century of Prairie Progress. [booklet]

Drake, Earl G. Regina: The Queen City. Toronto: McClelland & Steward, 1955.

MacDonald, Christine. "Pioneer Church Life in Saskatchewan" in Pages from the Past: Essay on Saskatchewan History. D.H. Bocking, ed. (Saskatoon: Western Producer Books, 1979) pp. 120-138.

Riddell, William A. Regina from Pile O' Bones to Queen City of the Plains: An Illustrated History. Burlington: Windsor Publications, 1981.

Internet Sources

www.regina.ca – the City of Regina website