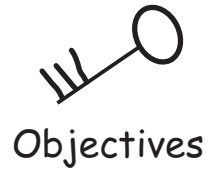


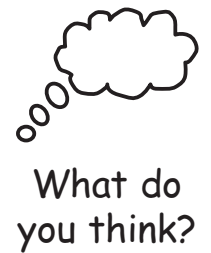
IDENTIFYING YOUR COMMUNITY

This section will help you to:

- identify your links and involvement within your community
- be more aware of just how much these links influence you



What does the word **COMMUNITY** mean to you? Brainstorm some ideas here:



Most people live or work in some form of community and each individual influences that community simply by their presence.

Have you ever thrown a pebble into water?

What happened when you did?

Can you visualise the ripples of water ebbing out in circles from the centre and disappearing?

Your life, like the pebble, makes an impact and touches those around you.



Activity 1

Think about the place where you live.

What kind of neighbourhood is it?

Urban

Suburban

Rural

Is it

old

or

new?

Does it have a history?

Who or what is immediately surrounding you?

Who are the neighbours to either side of you, in front and behind you?

Are they homes or workplaces or both? Write about your area here:

Activity 2



On an Ordnance Survey map of your area locate your home and draw a circle $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometre from your home; 1 kilometre if your area is less populated.

Does the circle take you outside of natural boundaries (such as across a main road or river) where you would not normally go?

If it does, draw your natural boundary on the map.

Identify everything you know on it. Think of the people connected with each place.

Do you have contact or involvement with any of these people or places – directly or indirectly?

Choose one or two places within the circle that are important to you and focus on them.

What is your involvement with these places? Why are they important to you?



Activity continued

Activity 2 continued

What do these places contribute to your life? What do you contribute to them?



Discussion

Discussion

Use the following questions to shape a discussion on what you have discovered about your community.

- Was it interesting to look at your own neighbourhood?
- Do people live and work in your community?
- What do they contribute to your life?
- What do you contribute to any of them?
- Where is the most important meeting place in your community?
- Is there anything not in your community that you would like to have?
- Is there anything you would like to change?

Activity 3

When you think about your community, do you think about the geographical area you live in or do you think about the people that you associate with the most?



Activity



What do you think?

Is your community mixed in terms of:

- age
- ethnicity
- income
- religion

How would you describe your community?



Activity
continued

Activity 3 continued

Are some people, or groups of people excluded from the day to day activities of your community? If so, why do you think this is?

Evaluation Questions

How involved do you feel in your community?



What have you learned?

Are there ways that you would like to become more involved? Write about them here:

