

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIPTION OF A COMMUNITY

The community is located in a valley surrounded by rolling green hills. The hills are covered with evergreen trees mixed with birch and aspen that turn many shades of yellow and gold in the fall before they lose their leaves. More hills appear on the horizon. From a distance, the hills look gray and lavender, like camels' humps lined up under a blue sky.

In the valley sits a town with homes and businesses. There are quite a few family-owned businesses, such as restaurants, a gift shop, a drugstore, and a gas station.

A river enters at one end of the valley and slowly winds its way to the other end, cutting right through the middle of town. At the center of town, the main street leads to a bridge that crosses the river. Near the bridge is a park that was established years ago by the founders of the community. This river serves as a source of water for the town, the surrounding countryside, and other nearby towns. The river is also used for recreation; boating and fishing are popular in the community.

Most people like this community. It is friendly and has many features that make it a good place to live.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARACTER BIOGRAPHY**

1. Character's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Physical features: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Personality traits: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_7. Leisure activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_8. Interesting anecdote: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_9. Roles your character fills in the community: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

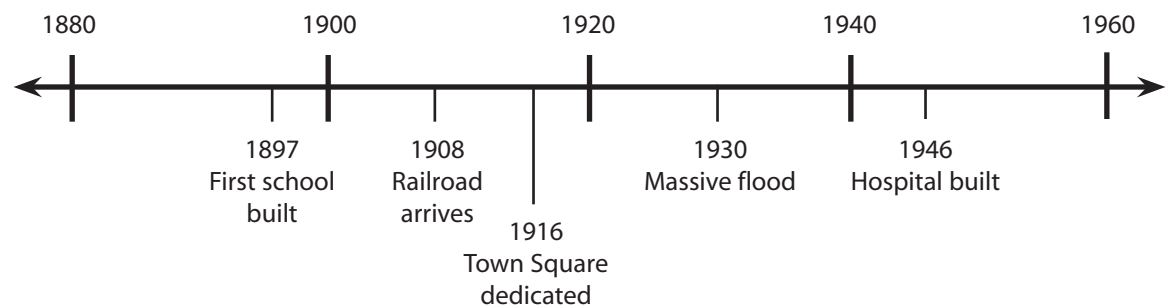
**Assessment:** The biography is appropriate to the family and community created. It includes an anecdote that is imaginative and believable. The figure of the character matches the biography. At least two logical community roles are identified.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY TIMELINE

A timeline shows when important events happened in history. Follow the steps below to develop a timeline for the community.

1. Discuss in your group events that might have happened in the community. Focus on the first people to live there (and why they came), the first business and home, when important buildings were built, natural disasters, local heroes, and so on. Check with the "Special Community Feature" groups to get ideas. Write each idea on a separate index card.
2. Put the cards in order from the earliest to most recent event. Determine a date for each event.
3. Illustrate some of the historical events. Each group member should make at least one illustration.
4. Draw a straight line along the top of a long strip of paper. Mark the time segments and label them with the dates and events. A sample timeline might look like this:



5. Add the illustrations to the timeline.

**Assessment:** The project shows evidence of thoughtful planning with group members. It presents ideas logically. It is carefully constructed and demonstrates an understanding of the community and its values. It shows attention to grammar and spelling, and makes sense in the context of the unit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATION BANNER

Communities often celebrate events or features that make their community special. Follow the steps below to develop a celebration banner for the community.

1. Brainstorm ideas for celebrations that could be held in the community. List as many ideas as you can.

---

---

2. Decide which celebration you think the community should have. Name the celebration. Make a list of special events that will happen during the celebration.

---

---

3. Make a list of the important information that needs to be included on the celebration banner (such as the celebration's name, pictures and announcements of special events).

---

---

4. Make a rough sketch of the banner. List which member of the group will do each part of the banner.

---

---

5. Use your rough sketch and job list to make the banner.

**Assessment:** The project shows evidence of thoughtful planning with group members. It presents ideas logically. It is carefully constructed and demonstrates an understanding of the community and its values. It shows attention to grammar and spelling, and makes sense in the context of the unit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY FEATURE

Communities often have special features such as a town square, welcome sign, veteran memorial, statue, or park. Use the steps below to create a special feature for the community.

1. Brainstorm ideas for special features that your community might have. List as many ideas as you can.

---



---



---

2. Choose an idea from your list to use as a special feature. Decide where it will be located.

3. On a separate sheet of paper, describe this special feature and answer these questions:

- ☐ What is the significance of this special feature?
- ☐ What occasion caused this feature to be created?
- ☐ When was this feature created?
- ☐ How do the people in the community feel about this feature?

4. Decide who will do the following tasks:

- ☐ Make the special feature for display.
- ☐ Make a smaller version of the special feature for the frieze.
- ☐ Write a paragraph describing the feature and how it came to be.

5. Using your ideas from discussion, make the special feature.

**Assessment:** The project shows evidence of thoughtful planning with group members. It presents ideas logically. It is carefully constructed and demonstrates an understanding of the community and its values. It shows attention to grammar and spelling, and makes sense in the context of the unit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMUNITY IDENTITY PROJECTS

### Community Timeline

- ❶ Why did people first settle in this area?
- ❷ What were the main events that happened in the past?
- ❸ How did the community feel when \_\_\_\_\_ happened?
- ❹ What does this community value?

### Community Celebration Banner

- ❶ Why is this an important celebration for the community?
- ❷ How did this celebration begin?
- ❸ How does this celebration reflect the values of the community?

### Special Community Feature

- ❶ How did this feature come to be in the community?
- ❷ How did people feel about its construction?
- ❸ Why is this feature important to the community?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTCARD OF THE COMMUNITY**

A postcard can be used to briefly tell about a place. One side shows a photo or drawing of the place. The writer has space on the other side to write a message.

Cut along the dotted lines shown below to create a postcard. Write a postcard to your family that describes something about the Storypath community. Be sure to include the following:

- accurate information and details about the community
- words from the word bank
- appropriate punctuation and grammar
- a date and your signature

Sketch a picture of a place of interest in your community

Date

Dear (list your family's first names)

Message (make sure your message relates to your picture)

Sign your name



[illegible]

**TEACHING MASTER**  
**Democracy in Action**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESS RELEASE****Newspaper Article****New Development for**\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of community)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of community) : A submission for a zoning permit to develop three vacant blocks on the edge of town has been received by the Planning Commission. A new shopping mall is planned for this space. A spokesperson for the proposed shopping mall said that the company saw the development as a potentially valuable addition to the town, as it would provide new jobs, draw customers from a wide area, and help the town's economy.

The downtown business community is less enthusiastic about the plan, seeing the potential for closures and layoffs as the shopping mall takes customers away from the long-established stores. The very fabric of the community could be affected by this change.

"The long tradition of family-owned businesses and community friendliness will be threatened by this disastrous event," said a prominent business owner in downtown

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of community)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**LETTER TO A NEWSPAPER**

Newspapers often print readers' letters about important issues. Letters that present persuasive arguments to support their opinion are most likely to be printed. Use the questions below to plan your letter.

1. What is the issue you will address in the letter?

---

2. What is your position on the issue?

---



---

3. Give three arguments to support your position.

---



---



---

4. What solution would you suggest to resolve the issue?

---

Using the information above, write the letter in the format shown. Use your best handwriting (or use a computer) and check your letter for any spelling mistakes.

Remember to:

- state your position in the beginning;
- give specific arguments for your position.

*(your name and address)*

*(today's date)*

*(address of newspaper)*

Dear Editor:

*(body of letter)*

Sincerely,

*(your name)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SELF-ASSESSMENT: SOCIAL SKILLS**

Social skills are an important part of belonging to a community. Use the chart below to keep track of how well you work with others during this unit.

**EPISODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the group situation or event: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Skills	I need to work on this.	I did this some of the time.	I did this most of the time.
I was positive and respectful.			
I was a good listener.			
I encouraged others to participate.			
I did my fair share of the work.			
I worked to solve conflicts in the group.			

One thing our group did well together:

\_\_\_\_\_

One thing our group needs work on:

\_\_\_\_\_

One thing I really did well:

\_\_\_\_\_

One thing I could do better:

\_\_\_\_\_