

Explore Your Community Worksheet: Neighbourhood



a program of the Jane Goodall Institute

The following questions will help you learn about your neighbourhood and help you to identify the issues and challenges you face there.

Animals

1. Name three resident bird species (bird does not make seasonal migrations) and three migratory bird species (bird makes regular seasonal migrations) in your town or city.

Resident Birds	Migratory Birds
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

1. What are the common animals found in your neighbourhood? No matter where you live, there are hundreds of animals living in your neighbourhood. Look for the following types of animals and fill in the table.

Insects	Amphibians	Reptiles	Mammals	Birds

2. Are there stray domestic animals, such as cats and dogs, in your town or city? If so, what types of animals are they? Who cares for them?

2. Look for signs of other wildlife (e.g. tracks, scat, hair or feathers, scratch marks on trees, nests, dens, etc.). Based on your findings, what wildlife is in your area that you don't regularly see? (Use a field guide if you need assistance.)

People

1. Do you know the names of the people who live on either side of your home?

2. Do you talk to your neighbors when you see them outside your home?

3. Do you ever help your neighbors? Do they ever help you?

4. Do you know other people on your street/floor?

5. Do you have any regular neighbourhood functions? (e.g. picnics, Fourth of July or Canada Day celebrations, sledding or winter parties)

6. Do you read the local newspaper on a regular basis?

7. Are there any people in your neighbourhood whose lives appear difficult? What are some of the reasons for these difficulties?

8. Are there any elderly people in your neighbourhood who need assistance? If so, do they get the help they need? (e.g. yard work, carrying groceries, etc.)

9. Are there young children in your neighbourhood? If so, is there a safe place for them to play and run outdoors?

10. Do people in your neighbourhood make an effort to welcome newcomers to the area?

11. Are there any natural spaces in your neighbourhood where people can go for a walk or sit on a bench? If so, describe. If no, how far do you have to go to find a natural space?

Environment

1. What are five of the common plants growing in your neighbourhood? Find a plant guide for your area to look up unfamiliar species.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | |

2. List five tree species that grow in your neighbourhood. Use a tree identification guide if you need help.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | |

3. What are the predominant landforms in the area? (mountains, hills, plains, beach, valley, etc.)

4. When was the last time a fire burned the vegetation in the area?

5. Find out what your neighbourhood would have looked like 50 years ago, 300 years ago.

6. Name the waterways (streams, rivers, lakes or ocean) that pass through or have a connection to your community. If you do not have one right in your neighbourhood, name the closest body of water to you.

7. Where is the water going? Trace the path of the water from your community all the way to an ocean. If the closest water is the ocean, skip to the next question.

8. Where is the water coming from? Trace the path of the water from your community all the way back to its source.

9. Are there any sources of human pollution along your waterways? What type?

10. Where do the storm drains in your neighbourhood empty?

11. Is there a litter problem in your neighbourhood? (Do you see garbage in the streets, on roadsides or in parks?)

12. Where is the nearest landfill for your waste?

13. Does the air in your area ever appear hazy or do you have trouble breathing? Are there smog advisories in your area? If so, how many advisories were there last year? (Check your municipal website.)
