



1st Grade

Unit 2: Explore My Neighborhood

Essential Question #1: How are things both similar and different in my neighborhood?

Lesson Title: Exploring Changes in My Neighborhood

SS Standard I, Objective 2

Implementation Time: 30 minutes

Media Resources Needed: *Nystrom Block Buddy Atlas*

Resources Needed: Computer and LCD projector; white board; pictures of your school/school neighborhood as it has changed over time (if applicable and available)

Materials Needed:

White board markers (several colors)

Procedure:

1. Explain that everything changes. Just as the students have changed since Kindergarten and since the beginning of first grade, places change, too.
2. If applicable and available, use your document camera to show students pictures of how their school has changed over time. Tell students what may have once been on the land that the school building now occupies and what once may have been where businesses and homes now stand. Ask them to share examples of how their neighborhoods have changed (new people, new houses, businesses, roads, etc.).
3. Project the How do neighborhoods change? pages from the Nystrom Block Buddy Atlas onto your white board. Point out that the maps of a neighborhood are labeled A, B, C, D and they show the same place as it has changed over time.
4. Point out the pond in the middle of map A. Ask students what they notice about the neighborhood surrounding the pond. Compare with the pond in map B, C, and D. Discuss how the neighborhood on the map has changed over time.
5. Divide students into groups and assign them a section on the neighborhood map (you may want to make laminated colored copies for groups). Tell them to work together to explore how their section of the neighborhood changes over time. Look for buildings, grass, trees, businesses, homes, etc.



6. Give each group a different colored white board marker and have the group circle their section of the neighborhood in the same color on each of the four maps to show how the section changes over time.

Extension:

Have students go home and talk to their parents about what is “new” and “old” in their neighborhood. How has the neighborhood changed in their parent’s lifetime?

Invite a local historian (contact City Hall for information) or official to talk about the ways the community/neighborhood has changed over time and some of the challenges it faces. Remind guest speakers of their audience.

Visit <http://pbskids.org/rogers/buildANeighborhood.html> for interactive “build a neighborhood” games and resources.