

SUMMER SHELTER-IN-PLACE ACTION PACK

WEEK 3: LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

INTRODUCTION

Out of all the stars in the universe, our sun anchors our solar system neighborhood. And, in that neighborhood, we can narrow our neighborhoods down further and further until we think of just that little village under the immense stars. So many neighborhoods, so many people to love.

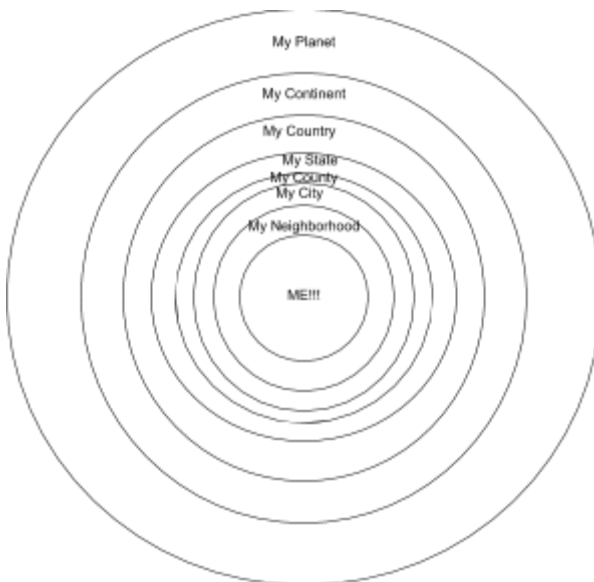
This week we are going to explore neighborhoods and our connections to them. How do people communicate in neighborhoods? How are we responsible for each other?



Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh

QUESTION: *Who are your neighbors? What communities do you belong to? How do you connect and belong with them?*

SELF AWARENESS - Center in Community



Draw a bunch of circles that all have the same center - a picture of you! In the circle around you, write your neighborhood, North Berkeley? Piedmont? The next circle should represent your city - Berkeley? El Cerrito? And now, in the next circle, write your county (probably Alameda). Then write your state (probably California). Next think about your country? Your continent? Your planet! Think about yourself in relation to all these communities. How do you show yourself a part of these neighborhoods?

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS - A Neighborhood of Trees

Did you know that even trees love their neighbors? Scientists have found that trees can send signals to neighboring trees by releasing chemicals into the soil. All the little bacteria and organisms (the bugs) help to transport the message to the other trees. In fact a tree can warn others about pests (things that may harm the trees) and they can send helpful nutrients to others.

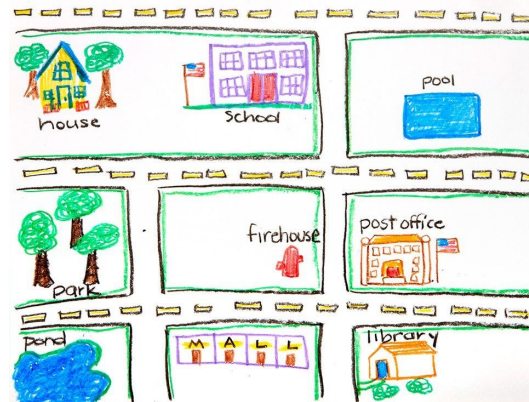
Dig into the dirt somewhere. Can you find roots? How many different roots do you think you can find? Can you find the little thin grass roots? The thicker tree roots? Can you see how they are all entwined with each other? Can you find the bugs that help move things between them? What do you think they might be saying to each other?



Source: Monique Stokman

LEARNING BY DOING - Neighborhood Map

Imagine a new kid is moving to your neighborhood. Draw a map of your neighborhood to share with this newcomer. Is there a cool park? Is there a library? Any secret nature spots? On your map, draw your neighborhood and your favorite spots in it.



ENGINEERING - Ramps for Equal Access



Have you seen ramps to the sidewalk in your neighborhood? Why do you think they do that? Even if you don't know someone who uses a walker or wheelchair, it's important to keep our neighborhoods accessible to everyone, so we can have everyone visit and everyone be neighbors!

Try experimenting with making your own ramp. Either with scraps of woods and nails, or just with books. How steep can you make the ramp? How gentle? What do you think would be best for someone in a wheelchair? Do you think your house might need a ramp to welcome mobility challenged persons? How might you do it?

SERVICE PROJECT - Postcard



https://www.almanac.com/sites/default/files/image_nodes/may-day-basket-doorknob-shutterstock_269164124.jpg

Because we cannot be close to our neighbors, it is often hard to let them know that we are still thinking of them. Create a note and maybe a little gift of flowers or cookies to leave on your neighbors' doors. Show your community love. Maybe if you know a particular neighbor who is having a hard time, you can write them a special note of support.

MEDIA

Books:

Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed by Emily Pearson and Fumi Kosaka, Enemy Pie by Derek Munson, Say Hello! by Rachel Isadora (3-5 year olds), Everybody Cooks Rice by Norah Dooley (4-6 year olds); One Winter's Day by Christina Butler (age 4 on); Any Room for Me? by Loek Koopmans (age 2 on) Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Music: Blue Boat Home by Peter Mayer, Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjeilo

REFLECTION: Which of our Seven Principles do you see in respecting ourselves and each other? In being nice to one another?

Seven Principles for Kids

- *Respect the importance and value of each person.*
- *Offer fair and kind treatment to everyone.*
- *Yes to spiritual growth and learning together.*
- *Grow by exploring ideas and finding your own truth.*
- *Believe in your ideals and voice your vote.*
- *Insist on justice, freedom and peace for all.*
- *Value our responsibility in the web of life.*