

**Survey: *Improving Your Community***

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**Student A** Think about the community you live in now.  
 How is it the same or different from where you lived in your country?

Name	Answer

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**Student B** Think about the community you live in now.  
 What are some ideas to help make it a better place to live?

Name	Answer

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**Student C** Identify a problem in your community.  
 What can people do to help solve this problem?

Name	Answer

**Jigsaw Reading: *Getting Involved in Your Community***

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**Discuss:** In your native country, were there community groups in your neighborhood? What did they do?

**Group task:** Share your information. Think about where you live now. What kinds of groups and projects would be helpful in your community?

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**Student A**

Joining a neighborhood group is one way to get involved in your community. Here's an example of how it works. A group of people want to clean up their neighborhood. They announce a meeting with flyers and ads in the local newspaper. Everyone in the neighborhood is invited. At the meeting, neighbors talk about what they can do. The group decides to clean up litter around the neighborhood. Cleaning up the area will make the community more beautiful and is something everyone can help with. Neighbors decide on an area they want to clean up—a local park, a schoolyard, or a parking lot. After that, neighbors meet on a specific day. They work in teams to clean the area. At the end of the day, people feel satisfied because by working together they have made their community a cleaner and safer place to live.

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**Student B**

Many communities want to reduce crime in their neighborhoods. Research shows that a Neighborhood Watch group can help. Here's how it works. Community members meet to talk about fighting crime in their area. They plan a neighborhood meeting to talk about the problem. Everyone in the neighborhood is invited. Local police officers are invited to give information. People discuss ways to reduce neighborhood crime and improve the quality of life in the community. They discuss ways to protect themselves, their families, and their property. During the meeting, community members develop a plan for identifying neighborhood crime issues and solving them.

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**Student C**

A city council is a group of people who have been elected to govern at the city level. They make laws, discuss community problems, and vote on how to spend tax monies. Here's what you as a community member can do. Community members can speak at city council meetings and share their opinions. They can talk about community needs—for example, the need to clean up certain areas, add streetlights and stop signs, increase the number of buses, or stop a graffiti problem. When community members present their ideas at a city council meeting, they are informing their representatives about community problems as well as saying what they think needs to be done.

**Board Game: *Making a Better Community***

<b>START</b>	1	2	3	4
	Name one reason why it is important to know your neighbors.	Say where a school is in your neighborhood.	Say where a public library is in your neighborhood.	Say where a community center is in your neighborhood.
	→	→	→	↓
	9	8	7	6
Name one way your neighborhood may be “going green.”	Name one way people are improving buildings in your neighborhood.	Name one way people are making your neighborhood cleaner or safer.	Name a market where you can buy fresh food in your neighborhood.	5
↓	←	←	←	Say where a community garden or park is in your neighborhood.
10	11	12	13	14
Name a neighborhood problem that you think the police could help with.	Name one way a community policing program helps community members.	Name one way the fire department can help a community.	Name one reason why people should go to meetings about their city or neighborhood.	Name one issue that you would like your community or city council to work on.
→	→	→	→	↓
<b>FINISH</b>	18	17	16	15
	Name one “street smart” safety tip you should know.	Name the agency you would call to fix the street lights on your block.	Name one way the sanitation department can help a community.	Name one type of service your city provides to you.
	←	←	←	←