Resources for the Economy of a Community


Center for Understanding the Built Environment. *Walk Around the Block.* Prairie Village, Kansas: Center for Understanding the Built Environment, 1994. ISBN 0-9632033-0-4. The award winning curriculum project assists in the teaching of local history through a variety of student activities. Students tour home and school neighborhoods to create a visual history of the city, its buildings, and streets.


Hornbeck, David *California Patterns: A Geographical and Historical Atlas*. Mountainview, California: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1983. ISBN 0-87484-583-1. This teacher resource depicts California’s contemporary landscape through an historical geography perspective. The book traces the changing patterns of California’s human and physical landscape from geologic formation to the present day. The author examines natural vegetation, weather and climate, early settlements, immigration, urban expansion, agricultural patterns, water systems, and economic patterns and trade.

*Imagination Express – Destination: Neighborhood*. Redmond, WA: Edmark. This CD-ROM program for Windows and Macintosh can be used to create interactive stories fueled by the power of the student’s imagination. The use of familiar settings and characters helps to encourage students to write about actual or imagined adventures in their neighborhood. Family and friends are joined by musicians, fire fighters, athletes and pets as student authors select scenes, choose and animate stickers, write, narrate, add music, and record dialogue.

Jungreis, Abigail. *Know Your Hometown History*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1992. ISBN 0-531-11124-5. This informative book includes research activities, mapping skills and projects to do for your local community. Information is included for creating a contour map and model of your town, making a “patchwork quilt” of local history, researching the history of a place name, and preparing a history time line. Tips for doing oral interviews are very helpful.


Library of Congress. *American Memory Collection of Panoramic Maps*. URL: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/pmhtml/panhome.html This website provides a preview of the Library of Congress’s panoramic map collection. The panoramic map was a popular cartographic form used to depict U.S. and Canadian cities and towns during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The maps show street patterns, individual buildings, and major landscape features in perspective.


Madgwick, Wendy. *CityMaze! A Collection of Amazing City Mazes*. Illustrated by Dan Courtney, Nick Gibbard, Dean Entwistle, and John Fox. Brookfield, Conn.: Millbrook Press, 1994. CityMaze takes readers on a tour of many of the world’s most famous cities and explains the unique qualities of each of these cities. The panoramic illustrations help students examine the physical and human characteristics of these amazing cities.


*Neighborhood Map Machine.* Tom Synder Productions. This computer program enables students to make maps of their community.


Reinke, Diane Wilcox, McGuire, Margit, and Reinke, Robert W. *The Community Publishing Company – Exploring the Community Marketplace*. New York: Joint Council on Economic Education, 1989. This teacher’s resource manual is filled with lessons and activities students can do when studying about their community. Most of the activities have an economics focus.

Rylant, Cynthia. *When I Was Young in the Mountains*. Dutton Children’s Books, 1982. ISBN 0-14-054875-0. This story tells about a child who lives in Appalachia, her love of place, and family. The way of life can be compared to other communities.

Sanders, Scott Russell. *Aurora Means Dawn*. New York: Bradbury Press, 1989. Illustrations by Jill Kastner. ISBN 0-02-778270-0. Harcover. After traveling from Connecticut to Ohio in 1800 to start a new life in the settlement of Aurora, the Sheldons find that they are the first family to arrive there and realize that they will be starting a new community by themselves.

Schug, Mark. C. and Berry, R., *Community Study: Applications and Opportunities*. Washington, DC: National Council for the Social Studies, 1984. ISBN 0-87986-048-0. This booklet is Bulletin No. 73 of NCSS’s series of professional books. Chapter V “Using the Visual Arts to Interpret the Community” by Terry Zeller provides a description of Public Art, whose aesthetic works one finds out of doors, such as buildings, statues, wall murals, and even gravestones. Many suggestions are provided for the study of the local community and its historic locations.


*Timeliner*. Watertown, MA: Tom Snyder Productions. A computer program for developing chronological time lines.

Standard 3.5 Economic Resources and Choices
Weitzman, David. *My Backyard History Book*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1975. This book is packed with ideas and activities to get students on the road to understanding what their place is in history. Change in a community is included. This is a useful resource for teachers with a number of ideas for getting family involvement.


Yolen, Jane. *Letting Swift River Go*. Little, Brown and Co., 1992. ISBN0-316-96899-4. This story tells about how a community had to change to adapt to growing populations around them. Students can adapt changes found in their community to this story.

**General Sources**
- Public Library Local History Room
- Historical societies such as the San Diego Historical Society
- Local telephone directory and/or directory for city hall - look for a list of the departments that serve the city such as the transportation department
- the city clerk or city historian
- long-time residents of the community

**Sources for Transportation:** Locate information on transportation in your community, including time schedules and maps from now and long ago
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Public Works
- Public transportation agencies
- Yellow pages of the telephone directory

Other types of transportation, such as shipping, have played an important role in the development of San Diego.

**Sources for Land Use:** Locate information on land use in your community, including recent and old maps and photographs
- US Geological Survey - Telephone 1-800-USA-MAPS and ask for ordering information for the Topological Map Index and Aerial Photographs and Satellite Images. Local map stores often stock these invaluable resources.
- AAA (American Automobile Association)
- City archives - maps and photographs of the city from now and long ago
- City Planning Department

**Sources for Business:** Locate information about the businesses in your community.
- City Directories (see Population section above)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Yellow pages of the telephone directory
- Newspapers