

Comparing Communities: City, Suburb, and Country

Grade: 3 **Subject:** Social Studies **Time:** ~45 min + ~15 min extra **Work mode:** By yourself · pencil only Social Studies

Start Here

This is a **paper reading activity**. You will read three short stories about places where people live. Then you will look at a picture chart and answer with a **pencil**. You do **not** need a computer or a book. **Everything you need is in this packet**. Work by yourself. If a question is hard, skip it and come back. You may read the parts quietly to yourself.

Start Look & Notice 5 min

Warm up before you read. A **community** is a place where people live, work, and play together.

1 Think about the place where **you** live. Write **one thing** you see near your home.

2 How do you get to school? Circle one. Then finish the sentence.

 walk  bus  car  bike

I get to school by _____.

Build Read the Community Stories 10 min



A City (urban) — written for this packet

A **city** is a big, busy place. Many people live close together in tall buildings. The streets are full of cars, buses, and people walking. There are many shops, jobs, and things to do. People in a city often work in stores, offices, hospitals, and restaurants. Many people ride a bus or train, or they walk, because places are close together.

Type: original community story · Place: city (urban)



A Suburb (suburban) — written for this packet

A **suburb** is near a city, but not as busy. Most homes have a yard, and the streets are quieter. People often drive a car to get to work, school, or the store. Some people who live in a suburb drive into the city for their jobs. There are schools, parks, and small shops close to home.

Type: original community story · Place: suburb (suburban)



The Country (rural) — written for this packet

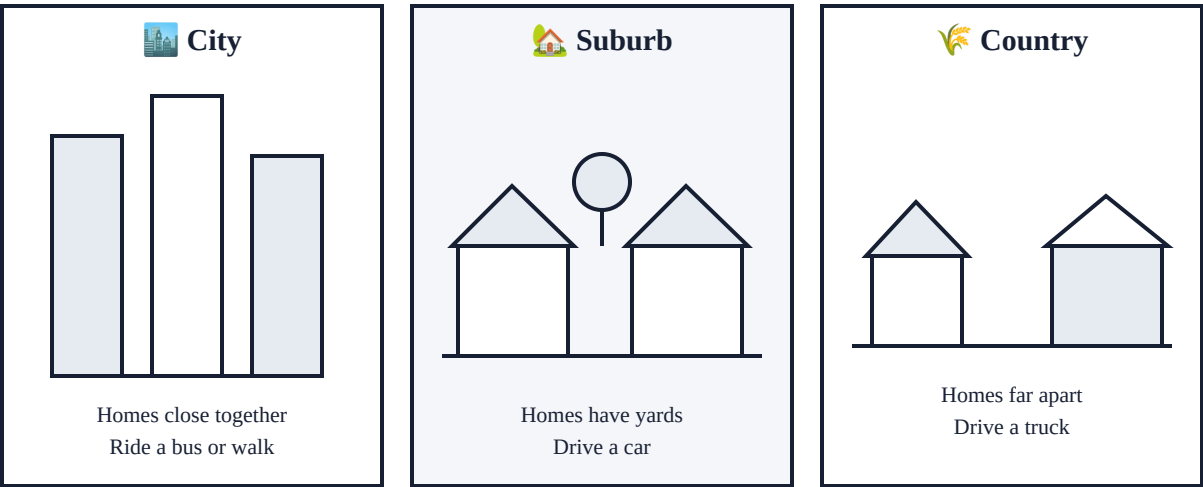
The **country** is a place with lots of open land. Homes are spread far apart, so you can see fields, farms, and trees. Many people work on farms or ranches, growing food or caring for animals. Because places are far away, people

usually drive a car or truck to get where they need to go.

Type: original community story · Place: country (rural)

Word Bank

- community
 - a place where people live, work, and play together.
- city
 - a big, busy place with many people and buildings.
- suburb
 - a quieter place near a city, often with yards.
- country
 - a place with open land, farms, and homes far apart.
- job
 - the work a person does.
- travel
 - to go from one place to another.
- fact
 - something you can check to see it is true.
- opinion
 - what a person feels or likes; not proven true.



A simple drawing — not a real map. Black on white so it reads clearly.

Figure 1. A picture chart comparing three communities. On the left, a city has tall buildings close together. In the middle, a suburb has houses with yards. On the right, the country has homes far apart with a farm. It is drawn in black and white so it reads clearly in grayscale.

Table 1 — Comparing the communities (written for this packet)

Community	What it looks like	Common jobs	How people travel
City (urban)	Tall buildings; homes close together	Shops, offices, hospitals, restaurants	Bus, train, or walk
Suburb (suburban)	Houses with yards; quieter streets	Schools, shops; some drive to the city	Drive a car
Country (rural)	Open land; homes far apart	Farms and ranches	Drive a car or truck

Type: original comparison table · Use it with the picture chart to answer the questions.

Apply Use the Chart & Table 20 min

3Read the chart. Look at Figure 1. Which community has **tall buildings** close together?

Answer: _____

4Read the table. Use Table 1 to fill in each blank.

- a) People in the _____ do jobs on farms and ranches.
- b) In the _____, homes have yards and people drive a car.
- c) In a _____, many people ride a bus or train.

5Compare. Use the stories and Table 1.

One way all three communities are alike:

Two ways the communities are different:

6Cause and effect. Why do **jobs** differ from place to place? Pick **one** community and tell how the **land or buildings** there help make the jobs. Write 1–2 sentences.

Sentence starter: "In the _____, there is _____, so people _____."

7Fact or opinion? Write **F** for a fact you can check in the packet, or **O** for an opinion (what someone feels or likes).

- _____ a) In the country, homes are spread far apart.
- _____ b) The city is the best place to live.
- _____ c) Many people in a city ride a bus or train.
- _____ d) Farms are more fun than tall buildings.

8Check the claim. A student says: "*People travel the same way in every community.*" Does the packet agree?

- Yes — the packet says everyone travels the same way.
- No — the packet shows city people often ride a bus, suburb people drive a car, and country people drive a car or truck.
- The packet does not talk about how people travel.

Tell why you picked your answer. Use one detail from a story or Table 1:

Explain Claim–Evidence–Reasoning 10 min

Question 9. Pick two communities. How is life different in those two places? Write a **claim** that names your two communities and tells one way life is different. Give **two clues (evidence)** from the stories, the picture chart, or Table 1. Then tell your **reasoning** — why the difference makes sense.

Sentence stems you may use: "In the _____ people _____, but in the _____ people _____." · "One clue is... (from a story / the chart / Table 1)." · "A second clue is..." · "This makes sense because the place has _____."

Claim

Evidence (two clues)

Reasoning

Close ACE Wrap-Up 5 min

Articulate

In your own words, tell a friend what a **community** is.

Connect

Name one part of this packet (the chart, a story, or Table 1) that shows how a place changes people's jobs.

Extend

Is where **you** live most like a city, a suburb, or the country? Tell one reason.

Continue Early Finisher optional • ~15 min

If you finish early (no new materials needed):

Which community fits the job or hobby? On the back of this page, match each one to the community that fits best, and tell **why** using the packet: (1) a person whose job is to **grow food on a farm**, (2) a person who wants to **walk to many shops and offices**, (3) a family who wants a **yard to play in** but likes being near a city. For each one, name the community and give one reason from a story, the chart, or Table 1.

Turn in: Hand in this whole packet with your name, class, and date filled in. Make sure questions 1–9 and the ACE box are answered. The early-finisher matching is optional, but turn it in too if you did it.

G03_SOC_CommunitiesCompare_01 — Comparing Communities: City, Suburb, and Country Student Packet