



Neighborhood Story



INSTRUCTOR NOTE

Ask students to locate the three white stripes on their Chicago flag. Remind students that these stripes represent the neighborhoods of the North, South, and West Sides of the city. Which stripe represents the area that students' neighborhoods are located in? Set the mood for students by explaining that they are going to hear a short story about one day in a Chicago neighborhood. While they listen, they can close their eyes and try to picture what the neighborhood in the story looks like, and they can think about their own neighborhoods. After listening to the narrative, students will have the chance to create a storyboard about their own neighborhoods. Review the following vocabulary words with students prior to reading the narrative.

Vocabulary

ethnic group—a group of people who share a common ancestry

taverns—bars

residential—a type of building or area where people live

agreeable—pleasant

Narrative

Sometimes I wake up before my alarm goes off. I hear a few early morning birds chirping. **1 What are the first sounds you hear in your neighborhood when you wake up?** After I get dressed, I take the dogs for a walk. As I stand on the front porch, I see the new buildings that are being built across the street. “The walls are at least three feet higher than they were yesterday morning,” Mrs. Ramirez



Narrative

says as she passes me with her dog. **2 What is the first thing you see when you leave the house in the morning?**

On my way to work I pass our neighbor, Stanley. Stanley is old and has lived in the neighborhood for about eighty years. His parents were from Poland. **3 What ethnic groups are represented in your neighborhood?** Stanley always puts some little pieces of apple on the curb for the birds. Even though he has told me a hundred times, Stanley always says, “Have I ever told you what the street looked like before you were born?” Stanley says that it had more stores and a few taverns on it when he was young. There is only one store now. After I pass Stanley I come to the only store on the block. It is a little store, but it is full of the kinds of food that people in my neighborhood like to eat. There are vegetables, meat, and fresh tortillas for sale. The owner, Victor, came from Mexico twenty-five years ago and opened the store. He stands out in front in the morning and always greets me in Spanish, “Buenos dias, señorita.” **4 What kinds of people do you see on your block?**

To get to work, I walk east to Ashland Avenue. Most of the buildings on the way are residential and built out of bricks. There is one three-story apartment building at the end of my block. **5 What are the buildings in your neighborhood like?** Once I get to Ashland, I have to wait for the light. Ashland is a very busy four-lane street. There are trucks, cars, CTA buses, and a lot of noise. This street has been this busy since as long as I can remember. **6 What is the busiest intersection in your neighborhood?** On the corner is

Hank’s Delicatessen. Hank is outside every morning sweeping the sidewalk. “How about a sub today for lunch?” he says as he smiles at me. When I cross the street, there are more restaurants—the Burrito House, the Chinese Wok, and Roma’s Pizzeria. I wonder where I should pick up lunch later. **7 What are the restaurants in your neighborhood? Which would you like to go to?**

After work I rush home to get the dogs and take them for a walk. I walk along Chicago Avenue because I love to look in the shop windows and see what is for sale. There are clothes stores, shoes stores, a place that only sells cowboy boots, a butcher, and a Walgreen’s. **8 What are the stores in your neighborhood?**

After I get home, if the weather is agreeable, I stand in front of my house with the dogs and talk to my neighbors. The sounds are different than in the morning. I hear lots of kids playing and shouting after school as they run up and down the block. “You’re it!” I hear over and over. **8 What are the sounds you hear after school in your neighborhood?** They run into and out of Victor’s store to buy candy. “I want some Hot Rocks!” I want Lemonheads!” Then my street gets a little quieter as the sun begins to set.



Activity

After you read the neighborhood narrative, explain to students that they are going to explore the sights and sounds of their own neighborhoods and then make a cartoon about it.

- 1 Ask students to think about the narrative. What were some of the sights and sounds?
- 2 Divide the students into groups of no more than five.
- 3 Distribute one set of Neighborhood Cards to each group and have students cut them out. Each student will take a card as they pass them around the group until there are no cards remaining.
- 4 One student holds up a card and the other students take turns saying what comes to mind about their own neighborhoods. For example, the “Intersection” card might elicit the response “Fullerton, Halsted, and Lincoln.” Students should take notes of their responses on a piece of notebook paper. This preparatory activity will help students think about their neighborhoods in detail and learn about their friends’ neighborhoods.
- 5 After the groups have gone through the cards, explain that students will illustrate a series of scenes with captions about their neighborhood. Students should turn to the *Neighborhood Story* page in their scrapbooks. To generate ideas, instruct them to recall the narrative, look back at the *Neighborhood Cards*, and refer to their notes.
- 6 Ask for student volunteers to share their completed *Neighborhood Story* with the group.

MATERIALS

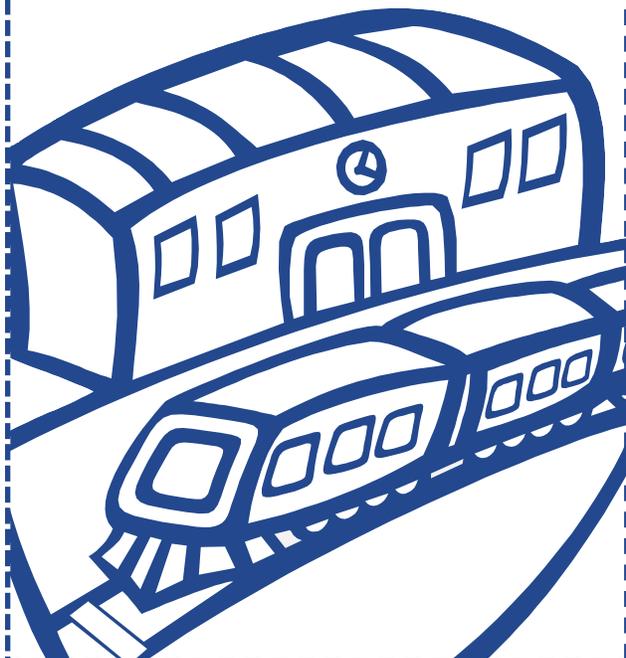
- *Neighborhood Cards* (one set for each group)
- notebook paper (one sheet for each student)
- *Neighborhood Story* storyboard
- scissors
- crayons, markers, or colored pencils



Photocopy and cut out



Transportation



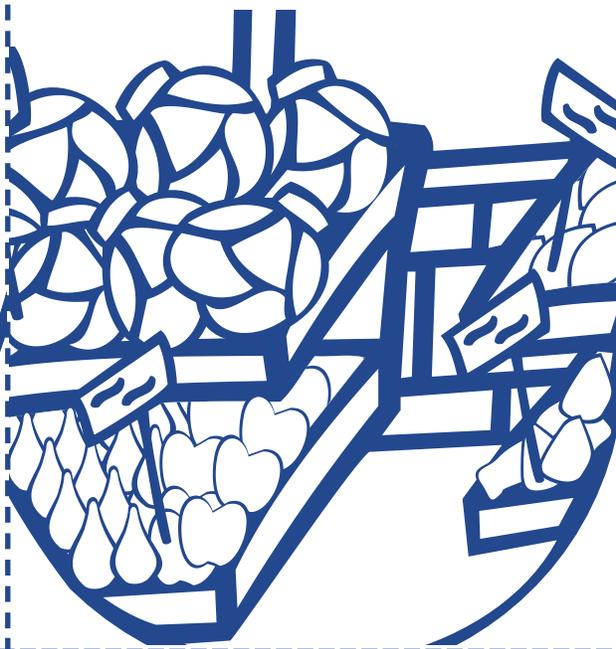
Community Center



Place of Worship

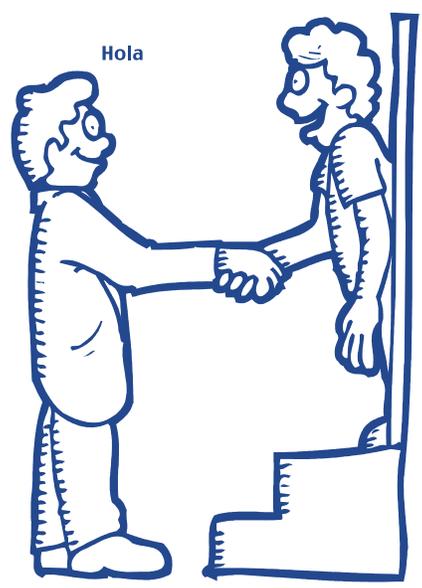


Grocery Store



Photocopy and cut out



<p>School</p> 	<p>Business</p> 
<p>Language(s) Spoken</p> <p>Hola</p> <p>Hello</p> 	<p>Neighborhood Sounds</p> 

Photocopy and cut out



Intersection



Hospital or Health Clinic

HOSPITAL



Housing



Jobs



Photocopy and cut out



Neighborhood Storyboard

Create your own cartoon. Tell a story about your neighborhood with pictures and words.

Bind your scrapbook here.

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