

Subtopic 1: What is a community? What communities do I belong to?

Practicing the skills you have learned will help you use your leisure time wisely. We have spent time talking about how you will be continuing to make more and more decisions about how you use your time, especially leisure time. This also means getting to know more about your community so you can make better decisions because you'll know more about using the resources you have available to you. Therefore, in this lesson we will be talking about places to go and people you know in your community that can help you develop your interests and make better plans and decision for you leisure time. There may be many resources available in the community which you might not even know about.

Ask and discuss:

- What does “community” mean?
- Are there different types of communities? Brainstorm different types communities and record on the board or screen. [schools, churches, neighborhoods, on-line, recreation centers, etc.]

Community members likely share a common location (even on-line), experiences, resources, beliefs, supports, issues, challenges, and so on.

Today we are focusing on the community we live in (name) and the resources that the community offers.

A **community** is a social unit (a group of people) with a shared socially-significant characteristic, such as place, set of norms, culture, religion, values, customs, or identity. Communities may share a sense of place situated in a given geographical area (e.g. a country, village, town, or neighborhood) or in virtual space through communication platforms. (Wikipedia)

Maps

Maps give us a spatial understanding of a location or community. They help us find things and understand what is available to us. That means we get a sense of where

things are in relation to other things. For example, how close is our school to your home, or how close is your home to a grocery store or a recreation center?

Maps also help us understand how we exist in relation to other people in other areas. Show a map of Vermont on the board or screen.

How does the state we live in affect what we do in our leisure or free time? [weather, close to Canada, natural resources, etc.]

