

COMMON WEAL COMMUNITY ARTS

Artful Isolation Activities

Week Four: NeighbourScapes



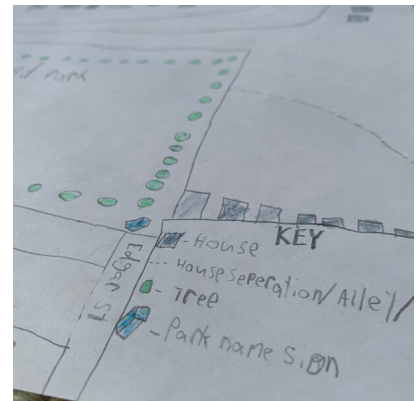
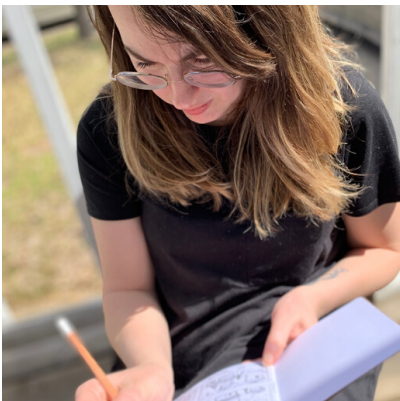
Explore your community and create a visual representation of your neighbourhood.

What is a NeighbourScape? NeighbourScapes are a way to explore your neighbourhood in a new and insightful way. Our busy lifestyles often cause us to overlook the unique and exciting aspects of our surroundings, but the way we view our neighbourhoods can significantly impact the quality of our lives. By creating a reflective map, we have the opportunity to consider all of the elements that make up our neighbourhoods, and the connections and bonds that we share with our neighbours.

Why NeighbourScapes? Before joining our team, Communication and Development Coordinator, Nena Hawkes, had the privilege of homeschooling her children. Having just moved, Nena came up with the idea for NeighbourScapes after watching an [episode of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood](#). In her own words, "I wanted to create an activity that would help my children become familiar with the streets, parks, and people who were part of our new neighbourhood. I think back to the places where I grew up. Some of my memories remain so vivid that I can recall specific sounds, smells, and the way it felt to move through those streets. I wanted to find a way to capture these same feelings for my children, and reflect on them in a meaningful way."

Suitable For: All Ages (note that wee ones may need hands-on support and some supervision).

What You'll Need: Cardstock, glue, pencils, pencil crayons, paints, or other drawing implements. You might also choose to use other craft supplies, natural materials, or recyclables throughout the activity.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY NENA HAWKES

ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY COMMON WEAL COMMUNITY ARTS IN SASKATCHEWAN
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Getting Ready:

- Take a look at the NeighbourScapes Nena and her family created (featured on this page), and other reflective neighbourhood projects like those found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
- Decide whether you would like to create a NeighbourScape of your current neighbourhood, the neighbourhood you grew up in, or another neighbourhood you've been a part of. Think about what you'd like to focus on: A full city block? Parks and greenspaces? Neighbourhood landmarks or businesses? Your neighbours? Consider what makes a neighbourhood feel like a community for you.
- You may choose to complete your NeighbourScape from memory or explore your neighborhood on foot, taking photographs and/or notes to use as source materials to help create your map.



Activity:

- Take inventory of your neighbourhood. Make decisions about what you want to include in your NeighbourScape. Consider what you might add or take away from your neighbourhood if you had the chance. How would these changes affect you and your neighbours? Do you want your NeighbourScape to be an accurate reflection of your neighbourhood or would you rather imagine it with innovations and additions?
- Create your 2-D NeighbourScape map. You can approach this process as simply or as creatively as you would like, using techniques like paper piecing, photo collage, pencil sketches, or painting. The possibilities are endless!
- It is important to remember that perspective and scale is not important in this activity. Some of the aspects of your neighbourhood that mean the most to you may take up more room on your map. It will be interesting to reflect on this later on.

Reflection:

- Whether on your own or with a family member or neighbour, consider some of these questions: What parts of your neighbourhood were the first things you wanted to include? Why are these aspects of where you live so important to you? Are there parts of your neighbourhood you would like to explore further?
- If sharing your map with a neighbour, ask them what their favourite parts of the neighbourhood are and why? How do these differ from yours?
- If sharing with someone who reflected on a different neighbourhood, you might want to ask them how your neighbourhoods are different? How are they the same? What gives a neighbourhood the feeling of community?
- Optional: If you would like to further explore this activity, you can gather craft supplies, natural materials, and recyclable items to create a 3-D NeighbourScape representation of your map (as featured on this page).
- Share photographs of your creative process or finished map with us on Facebook or Instagram, tagging [@skcommonweal](#) and using the hashtags [#cwneighbourscapes](#) and [#cwneighbours](#).

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