

**Grade Level:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**Topic:** Kansas Communities

**Essential Questions:**

1. How do relationships between people, places, and environments create unique communities?
2. How are communities similar/different with respect to location, size, economics, culture, and recreation?
3. What are citizens' roles in their respective communities?

**Resources:**

1. *Read Kansas! I Live in Kansas!* By the Kansas State Historical Society  
<http://www.kshs.org/p/read-kansas-primary-p-15-i-live-in-kansas/14917>
2. *Wamego* By Lori Stratton  
[http://www.kansaspoets.com/ks\\_poems/Kansas%20Poems%20-%20Page%201.htm#Wamego](http://www.kansaspoets.com/ks_poems/Kansas%20Poems%20-%20Page%201.htm#Wamego)
3. *More About City Planning?* American Planning Association  
<https://www.planning.org/kidsandcommunity/moreplanning/>
4. *What is City Planning?* Wonderopolis is brought to life by the National Center for Families Learning.  
<http://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-is-city-planning/>

Writing Types	Guiding Questions	Prompts	Reminders/Things to Consider (Student-Friendly Rubric Descriptors)
<p><b>Opinion</b></p> <p><b>Resources 1 &amp; 2</b></p>	<p>What makes a community special?</p> <p>Why would people want to live there?</p> <p>What determines if a community is a great place or a lousy place to live?</p>	<p>Use textual evidence from at least two of the <i>Read Kansas!</i> cards and the poem <i>Wamego</i> to create a full page newspaper advertisement convincing non-native Kansas citizens that your choice of a community would be a positive move for their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present a clear opinion that addresses the resources and prompt.</li><li>• Use relevant and accurate details/evidence from the sources.</li><li>• Use words to smoothly connect one idea to another.</li><li>• Use conventions correctly.</li></ul>
<p><b>Informative/Explanatory</b></p> <p><b>Resource 1</b></p>	<p>What evidence from the texts supports how communities are similar, yet different?</p> <p>How do physical features, natural resources, population, jobs, and recreational options impact communities?</p> <p>Why do many communities show their heritage and culture through the way the citizens celebrate holidays and other events?</p>	<p>On the first day back from winter break your technology teacher announces, in honor of Kansas' birthday, an informative essay contest is being held for all Kansas third graders. The winner will be awarded a three-day two-night trip to a Kansas community of his/her choice with all expenses paid. Using information from several of the <i>Read Kansas!</i> cards, explain the similarities and differences between Kansas communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clearly state an idea that addresses the resources and prompt.</li><li>• Include relevant and accurate facts, definitions, and details throughout the piece.</li><li>• Use words to make connections between and among ideas.</li><li>• Use conventions correctly.</li></ul>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Narrative</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Resources 3-4</b></p>	<p>What is civic duty?</p> <p>In what ways can a citizen exercise their rights and responsibilities?</p> <p>What citizenship skills are characteristic of a leader?</p> <p>What can eight and nine year old children do to show how they can be part of the solution to a problem within their city?</p> <p>What tasks does a city planner complete to make life better in a community?</p>	<p>As you walk to and from school each day, you begin to notice a sight that starts to nag at your thoughts. Remembering discussions from Social Studies earlier in the school year, you approach your teacher with your concerns. Together with your classmates, a plan begins to formulate to resolve the conflict that is occurring in your community. Write a realistic fiction story describing how a group of third graders make a difference in their community, alongside a city planner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish a setting with a narrator and/or characters.</li> <li>● Include dialogue and/or descriptions to develop characters and story events.</li> <li>● Use words and phrases to signal event order.</li> <li>● Use conventions correctly.</li> </ul>
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**Resources**

1. *Read Kansas! I Live in Kansas!* By the Kansas State Historical Society  
<http://www.kshs.org/p/read-kansas-primary-p-15-i-live-in-kansas/14917>

Atchison: 208 words	Atwood: 208 words
Chanute: 196 words	Dodge City: 205 words
Elkhart: 205 words	Junction City: 189 words
Overland Park: 171 words	Salina: 170 words

Sharon Springs: 172 words

Wichita: 194 words

2. *Wamego* By Lori Stratton 146 words

[http://www.kansaspoets.com/ks\\_poems/Kansas%20Poems%20-%20Page%201.htm#Wamego](http://www.kansaspoets.com/ks_poems/Kansas%20Poems%20-%20Page%201.htm#Wamego)

## ***Wamego***

by **Lori Stratton**

In my town, the people plant pansies and petunias  
and sit on porch swings during warm summer evenings,  
fanning themselves with church bulletins.

In my town, a neighbor's pain requires the bringing of gelatin salads,  
the green kind with pineapple and Cool-Whip.  
Soft mothers take browned children to the park  
and let them run barefoot through the sand by the merry-go-round.

In my town, people buy popcorn in paper sacks at high school football games  
and leave bowls of milk for stray cats  
and go to the parade on the Fourth of July. After hanging their flag by the door,  
they pause at the end of the block to wave at their neighbors.

In my town, the people plant pansies and petunias, and marigolds  
and order subscriptions of the weekly newspaper  
to give as gifts to their children who have moved away.

3. *More About City Planning?* American Planning Association 394 words

<https://www.planning.org/kidsandcommunity/moreplanning/>



More About City Planning?

## More about City Planning

A city planner's job is to help citizens build a great community. City planners (or just "planners" for short) work with neighborhood groups, the mayor, the police, engineers, businesspeople, and many others to make the community the best place to live.

Think about all the buildings in your city or town. As the population goes up, there will need to be more houses, apartments, and workplaces for the new residents.

But what would happen if all these new buildings were built just anywhere? Who would make sure there are still enough parks and playgrounds for adults and kids to enjoy? Would the roads and sidewalks be able to fit all the cars people will drive, the bikes people will ride, and the walking people will do? Where could trees and plants grow if there were just buildings and roads?

You might not notice it at first, but the location of all the buildings around you took *planning*. Planners make sure cities are built in a *smart* way, so that the roads can fit all of the traffic the buildings create, that neighborhoods still have parks and playgrounds, that there are places for trees and wildlife, that there are enough stores to find the things we need, that residents can find good jobs, and that everyone has a chance to live in a nice house or apartment.

This is called *shaping a community's growth*. Planners think ahead. They help residents decide how to improve their community today, 5 years from now, and 20 years from now.

There are many different kinds of planners:

**Community planners** build *consensus* in the community on how it should grow, and how each piece of land around a city should be used. Some land is used for markets and stores, some for houses, some for factories, some for office buildings or skyscrapers, some for roads and trails, and some for parks and playgrounds.

**Environmental planners** make sure that important natural features of a community are protected. This includes protecting lakes, rivers, and *wetlands* from pollution.

**Transportation planners** plan a city's transportation system: roads and highways, railroads, bike paths, and sidewalks. Other planners might focus on *affordable housing* (ensuring everyone in the community can buy or rent a place to live), *economic development* (promoting businesses and creating jobs), and *historic preservation* (protecting historic buildings from being destroyed).

4. *What is City Planning?* Wonderopolis is brought to life by the National Center for Families Learning. <http://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-is-city-planning/>

# What Is City Planning?

#74 WONDER OF THE DAY

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City planning, sometimes called "urban planning," focuses on the quality of life in cities, suburbs, towns and villages. Just like a doctor needs to know about the systems of the body in order to treat a patient, city planners need to know about the systems of the cities where they work.

When planning a city, planners must consider many factors, including the economy, the environment, and cultural and transportation needs. City planners also must understand current uses of existing buildings, roads and facilities in their city, as well as how these uses may affect the city in the future.

Anticipating future uses of space is critical. This includes thinking about problems that could arise and coming up with solutions to avoid them.

For example, it would be a very bad idea for a city planner to allow a toxic waste dump to be built next to a park. The dump could become a health threat to any residents or children who wanted to use the park. What good would the park serve if nobody could play there?

Another important job of city planners is creating “zones” in cities. Have you ever noticed that in many cities homes are clustered together in certain areas while businesses are clustered together in another? These different areas are called zones.

City planners work with engineers, architects and developers to create and plan buildings that follow the rules for each zone. Zones are important because they determine how different spaces can be used.

For example, if you live in a residential zone, it would be against the rules for a noisy factory to move next door. The factory would have to be built in an industrial zone instead.

In addition to planning zones, city planners also visualize the aesthetics of a city. This means they anticipate the way a city, neighborhood or zone will look as it develops.

For example, when city planners design an aesthetics plan for a retail zone, they may write a set of rules that must be followed. These rules might dictate what type of building materials can be used, such as brick or stucco.

An aesthetics plan can also include requirements for parking lot entrances, trees and green spaces, as well as the type of lettering and lighting used on signage.