

## ***My neighbourhood, my world***

- **OBJECTIVE:** To help the students get to know the place where they live. First, the region where their town, city or village is placed; then, their neighbourhood, from the area in that municipality to eventually, the building where they live, the places where they spend most of their time, and to show and explain about it to others.
- **RATIONALE:** How much do our students know about the place where they spend their life? And its surroundings? The people who live around them? The main aim of this pack of activities is to get our students to look around and reflect about the places and the people they see every day and are already part of their life. They will develop an awareness of environmental, cultural and economic factors that influence the kind of places where people live.
- **PROCEDURE:**

➤ **Activity 1: How well do you know your region?**

We will start by locating our neighbourhood in the place where it belongs in our region, Comunidad de Madrid. We will simply look at some places where we could find different kinds of things so that students become aware that their surroundings are not only the ones they see every day, but not far away there are sites where life can be very different.

➤ **Activity 2: Vocabulary brainstorming**

This activity is to be presented to students in the IWB or projector to the whole class. There are words related to personality, directions, description of places, different groupings, etc. These are words that the students are not likely to know and they will probably need in the forthcoming activities. The teacher will check the students' understanding using this link of the online word cloud art creator: <https://wordart.com/8ga07vvrpy0/my-neighbourhood>.

Some practice can be carried out on the vocabulary, just to check that the students know it and can use it appropriately in the right context. The teacher can select one of the words highlighting it and then get students to write a sentence in groups in which they show they understand its meaning and then score it. The group with more correct sentences will be the winner.

➤ **Activity 3: Introducing my neighbourhood**

We are getting closer to the place where they live. By answering some questions they will reflect on the place where they live: their street, their building and inside it; who lives next to them, what the place looks like and how they feel about it. Students will prepare a presentation to introduce the place where they live to their classmates. They will include pictures and go more deeply into the aspects they think are more relevant and interesting. Students like to talk about themselves and know a little bit further about others. Besides, this is a topic where everyone has something to tell, so even the more shy or reserved will have something to share. Most of them (if not all) live in the very same area so they should be familiar with the street and the buildings, they will recognize them and learn a little bit more about their classmates. This will help to build a stronger sense of community.

## ***Do you know who your neighbours are?***

Whether you live in a suburb, downtown, in the country, in the mountains, in a small town, a block of flats, an apartment building complex, a mansion, a detached house or even in a mobile-home park, you still live in a neighbourhood. A neighbourhood is composed of the people living near each other and it has distinguishing characteristics which make them unique and which have developed over the time.

In this activity you will describe your neighbourhood and your place in it.

### ➤ **Activity 4: Picturing my Neighbourhood**

*There is always something new to see around the corner.*

We would like to make our students aware of the fact that the area where they live could be a subject for inspiration as valid as trying to capture some far-off, unexplored land. We usually take photos when we travel, places with remarkable landmarks, breathtaking landscapes or colourful sites. Why not focus on what we have around as well? Let's invite them to scope out new-to-them areas! Even if it seems like our neighbourhood is the least likely place for photography opportunities, we will find many examples of corners, buildings, businesses, etc. worth the gaze.

The aim of this activity is that students create a video poster to present some parts of their neighbourhood that are particularly outstanding because of some reason. They will follow different stages to get to the final product. They will work in groups of three where they will assign the jobs to be done by each member.

This activity could take the whole of a school term dividing it into different sections and presenting it at the beginning of the term so that they can start gathering ideas and materials.

**Stage 1:** Show students a map of the area and invite them to think of places which could be of some interest for promoting the neighbourhood.

**Stage 2:** Encourage them to make a list of 8 good things about the area and anything related to it: views, landscapes, businesses, buildings, people, services, etc.



**Stage 3:** Write a paragraph (around 150 words). They should be able to express good points of interest in their neighbourhood from a list and point them on a Google map. The title will be:

***WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD?***

Create a collaborative board in Pinterest, Padlet, School blog / Virtual site where the groups can post their writings and share them with the rest of the class.

This document will be the basis for the final outcome.

**Stage 4: Taking pictures.**

Invite students to get out there and start exploring. They may even find time to wander around aimlessly and give themselves the chance of spotting a place they had overlooked in the past. Sometimes when you are out and about, it may seem like you are seeing things with fresh eyes and you will find new places to take photos around every corner.

Some suggestions and ideas are provided for them.

You can also organize a short neighbourhood walk with them so that they can get ideas on the go. They could be provided with a Recording Chart.

| Neighbourhood Walk Recording Chart |      |                     |            |       |
|------------------------------------|------|---------------------|------------|-------|
| Location                           | Kind | Why is it different | Adjectives | Other |
|                                    |      |                     |            |       |
|                                    |      |                     |            |       |
|                                    |      |                     |            |       |

The webpage ShotHotspot could be very useful at this stage. It is a search engine for finding great places to take pictures. It is free to use with no registration needed. You just have to enter your location in the tool bar and you'll get a map of popular photo spots in the area. You can filter locations by type such as architecture, abandoned buildings, wildlife, etc. [www.shothotspot.com](http://www.shothotspot.com)

Google Earth could also be a useful tool here.

**Stage 5: Final Product: MY NEIGHBOURHOOD ON A FLYER**

The final flyer can be designed using the website Poster My Wall. <https://es.postermywall.co> This will be a video poster which must include: a short video with voice explanations, a slogan or motto, one or two pictures they choose from the previous stage.

It should be creative, original and attractive, so encourage them to make the best out of their neighbourhood. When they are ready they should paste their flyer and write a final paragraph in which they explain the reasons for their choice and summarize the whole of the project by writing: 3 good things of their neighbourhood from their point of view, 2 interesting things they can do in their neighbourhood and nice places to go or meet your friends and 1 important reason why you like living in their neighbourhood.

The video poster flyer and the explanatory final paragraph will be posted to the collaborative board that was created. All these works should be displayed at school and online in all possible ways as it can be of interest for the whole of the school and the community.

Here is an example of a video poster created with Poster My Wall.

<https://n9.cl/i80o>

