

Exploring Our Town

1. What year was our town founded?
2. What was the population then and now?
 - A. Population at founding?
 - B. Population today?
3. What type of community when founded?
4. Who were the early settlers of our town?
5. What did our town look like – use map – identify natural attributes and why did they build the town where they did?
6. When did your family come to town?
7. Why did your family settle here?
8. Are you different from the early settlers?
9. What would an early settler say about our town today?
10. What should our town be like in the future? When you're older?

Suggestions for Educators

Thinking About Subjects and Organization:

- People (indigenous, colonial, immigration)
- Places (man-made and natural)
- Geography (rivers, valleys, fields)
- Architecture (buildings, churches, town greens, stone walls)
- Landmarks (what we think is historical and what kids think)
- Maps (then and now)
- Demographics (opportunity for math)

Time Frames and Thinking Historically:

Big Theme: Change Over Time

- ❖ Native
- ❖ Colonial
- ❖ Early Republic
- ❖ CW Period
- ❖ Industrial
- ❖ Modern Era
- ❖ Where are we today

Potential Class Projects:

- Work with your local historical society or museum.
- Photo project (students photograph town “landmarks” and write summary)
- Map project (students make their own maps with key “landmarks”)
- Interview our neighbors and business owners (why did they settle in town and how long has their family been there?)
- Group project (students are assigned different subjects related to town and then put it all together for a class project. Each does a piece of the puzzle)

- Create a group town diorama (each student does a different building or two at home and brings them in to recreate the town)
- Create PowerPoint focusing on any of the previous projects
- Invite local officials (mayor, members of town council; have students interview them about the town)
- Invite someone from town hall to bring old maps or census/town records for the kids to see. Do this after the students have done their worksheets so they have a greater appreciation for the information.
- Town Census Project (Think about what a census is and that each name on the census is a unique life and story. Have the students do their own neighborhood census)
- Consider working with other teachers at your school (art, computer, etc.) to make the town study into a broader learning experience.