

Explore Your Community Worksheet: Town or City



a program of the Jane Goodall Institute

The following questions will help you learn about your town or city and help you to identify the issues and challenges faced by people there.

Animals

1. Name three resident bird species (bird does not make seasonal migrations) and three migratory bird species (bird makes regular seasonal migrations) in your town or city.

Resident Birds	Migratory Birds
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

2. No matter where you live, there are hundreds of animals living in your town or city. What are the common animals found in your town or city?

Insects	Amphibians	Reptiles	Mammals	Birds

3. Are there stray domestic animals, such as cats and dogs, in your town or city? If so, what types of animals are they? Who cares for them?

4. Look for signs of other wildlife (e.g. tracks, scat, hair, feathers, scratch marks on trees, nests, dens, etc.). Based on your findings, what wildlife is in your area that you don't regularly see? (Use a field guide if you need assistance.)

5. Are there any rare, threatened or endangered animal species living in your town or city? If so, what are they? (Check <http://www.iucnredlist.org>, go to the local library or ask a biology professor at a nearby university.)

People

1. Do you read the local newspaper or listen to the local news on a regular basis?

2. What is the name of your mayor?

3. Who is the Congressional Representative (USA) or Member of Parliament (Canada) in your area?

4. Who is the Congressional Representative (USA) or Member of Parliament (Canada) in your area?

5. Are there any people in your town or city whose lives appear difficult? What are some of the reasons for these difficulties?

6. Do people walk on the streets of your town or city at night? If no, why not?

7. Is your town or city wheelchair/walker/stroller-accessible (e.g. curb cuts, automatic doors, ramps, etc.)?

8. Are there homeless people in your town or city? If so, where do you see them?

9. Are there food banks in your town or city? If so, what is the average number of people they serve on a daily basis? (You will need to contact them to find out.)

10. Is there a range of nationalities represented in your town or city? Which have you observed?

Environment

1. What are five of the common plants that grow in your town or city? Find a plant guide for your area, look up unfamiliar species.

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	

2. Are there any rare, threatened or endangered plant species living in your area? (Check <http://www.iucnredlist.org>, go to the local library or ask a biology professor at a nearby university.)

3. List five tree species that grow in your neighborhood. Use a tree identification guide if you need help.

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	

4. What are the predominant landforms in the area (e.g. mountains, hills, plains, beach, valley, etc.)?

5. Find out what your town or city would have looked like 50 years ago, 300 years ago.

6. Name the waterways (streams, rivers, lakes or ocean) that pass through or have a connection to your town or city. If you do not have one right in your town or city, name the closest body of water to you.

7. Where is the water going? Trace the path of the water from your town or city all the way to an ocean. If the closest water is the ocean, skip to the next question.

8. Where is the water coming from? Trace the path of the water from your town or city all the way back to its source.

9. Are there any sources of human pollution along your waterways? What type?

10. Where does the drinking water in your town or city come from? (If you need help, ask your town or city's Public Works department.)

11. Are you aware of any water issues in your community, like summer water shortages or water quality concerns? If so, what is being done about those issues?

13. Are there natural spaces within your town or city? If so, describe them. If not, how far do you have to travel to get to a natural space?

14. Are there any nature trails in your town or city that link parks or other natural spaces?

15. Where is the nearest landfill for your waste?

16. Is there a litter problem in your town or city (do you see garbage in streets, on roadsides or in parks)?

17. Have you noticed air pollution in your area? Does the air ever appear hazy or do you have trouble breathing? Are there smog advisories in your area? If so, how many advisories were there last year? (Check your municipal website.)

18. Where is the nearest recycling depot?

19. List the items that can be recycled in your town or city.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

20. Does your town or city have a composting program?

21. Are there bike lanes in your town or city?

22. Is there sufficient and convenient bike parking in public areas in your town or city?
