

LESSON PLAN VIII

Grade Level 4-6

Time Needed 45 minutes

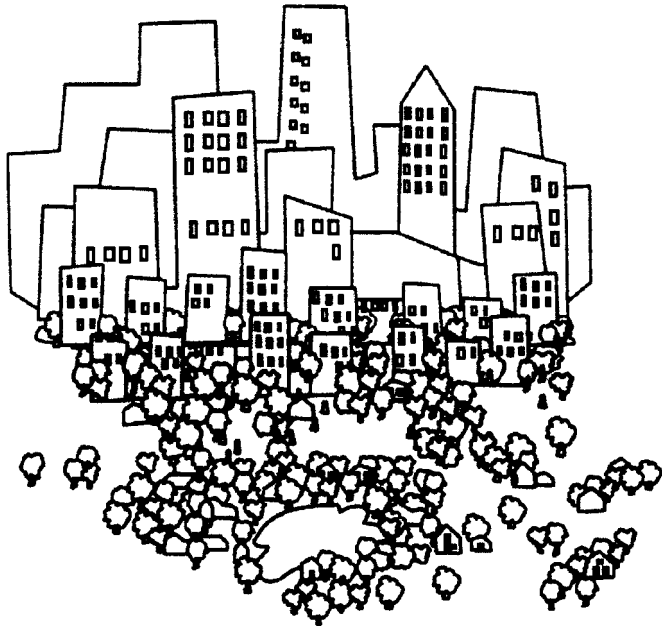
Skill Areas Critical thinking, research skills

Objective Students will be able to identify community resources that can be used to meet our three basic daily needs (food, clothing, shelter).

Materials Phone books, community services guides (contact a local advocacy group for such resources), newspapers, access to the internet, statewide directory

Teacher Preparation The teacher should become familiar with local community resources such as shelters, food shelves etc. and be able to guide the discussion of wants versus needs and help the groups to discover resources.

- Activities
1. Teacher led discussion of basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) versus wants.
 2. Students will break into three groups and be assigned a basic need.
 3. Each group will brainstorm ways to meet that basic need and search resources to discover ways of doing so.
 4. Class discussion of what was discovered in small groups.
 5. Discussion on resources to meet other basic needs such as medical services, employment, household goods, etc.



How is homelessness harmful to children?

- Children who are homeless get sick more often than children who have homes. They have more health problems like asthma and stomach problems.
- Homeless children have to change schools more often than children who have homes.
- Losing a home and being homeless can be very hard on a child; this stress can make it easier for a child to become sick.
- Many people living close together in a shelter can make it easy for germs to pass from person to person and children get sick more often.
- Half of all children in shelters show signs of depression.
- Compared to children with homes, children who are homeless are three times as likely to experience emotional and behavioral problems.