

Grade level: Third Grade

Summary

Third grade students learn about the three different kinds of communities: rural, suburban, and urban. In this lesson, students visit a community, write about what they learn and share their observations.

Technology tools:

Dana by AlphaSmart (or Dana Wireless), AlphaWord software, PiCo Map software.

Internet sites

Audiovisual Institute of DuPage County (AVID)

www.avidmediacenter.org

Illinois State Board of Education: Kid-friendly narrative writing rubric

<http://www.isbe.net/assessment/LERubricN.htm>

City of Chicago

<http://egov.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/home.do>

Additional resources:

Video: *Big City: Chicago*, produced by Chicago Public Schools and available from the Audiovisual Institute of DuPage County (AVID).

Step-by-step tasks:

1. Students will watch the video *Big City: Chicago*, produced by Chicago Public Schools. It is available from the Audiovisual Institute of DuPage County (AVID) (www.avidmediacenter.org).
2. After watching the video, students brainstorm ideas about their trips to Chicago: the places they have visited, the things they have done, people and places they have seen, etc.
3. As a prewriting activity, students prepare a web of ideas, using Pico Map software and their Danas. Students should include at least three places they have visited, and things they have seen in each of those places. They will also include words to describe the places they have visited. For example, if a student visited the Sears Tower, they may use tall or skyscraper to describe the building.
4. Students use the ideas generated when preparing their Pico Map diagram to write a narrative essay about their visit to Chicago. Students then use AlphaWord software and their Danas to type a first draft of their essays.
5. Once students have completed a first draft of their essay, they will find a partner in the classroom. Both students will peer-edit their essays, and will make corrections to their writing as needed.

6. Students will meet with the teacher, and the teacher will read their essays, and will make additional corrections.
7. Students will revise their essays, and will make the necessary changes and corrections to the AlphaWord file they have prepared.
8. Once they have finished revising their essays, students will HotSync their Danas to the classroom computer. The synchronization will create a Microsoft Word file in their student folder.



AlphaSmart Tip: Students may HotSync or send text to a word processing document on their computer.

9. Students will visit the school computer lab, and will visit the City of Chicago web site. Students will select a picture of one place they have visited, and will save it to their student folder.



AlphaSmart Tip: Once a student's document is on the classroom computer, he or she may upload it to the shared campus server.

10. Students will then add the picture to their essays, and then will print them.
11. The teacher will collect the essays and will grade them using the kid-friendly narrative rubric published by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Home-to-school connection:

Each student will interview a member of his or her family. Students will ask questions about the community where they were born. Is it a rural, suburban, or urban community? Students will write a short narrative of their findings, and will transcribe their interview using the Danas. Students will then share their interviews with the rest of the class.