

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Building A Sense Of Community through Questions, Grids And Surveys

The development of communication skills demands that students use English for meaningful purposes and in interaction with others. Grids and surveys are an excellent way to engage students in language use, since they encourage students to ask questions as well as answer them.

Simple surveys focused on personal communication allow students to provide information about themselves and find out more about others. They provide the basis for social interactions, such as conversations with English speaking neighbors or co-workers and can be used as a foundation for filling out job application or offering information in an employment interview. Group surveys allow members to get to know each other while asking and answering questions and offer a group profile that serves as a starting point for “who we are.” Such a profile offers various jumping off points for discussion of work experience, family issues, and cross-cultural comparisons.

Simple surveys focused on data collection outside of the instructional setting allow students to identify topics of interest and then ask questions of English speakers with whom they may not be in daily contact (although classmates and friends can provide initial practice). Survey results can be summarized and analyzed, offering opportunities to do math.

Questions about places of interest help link students to both the immediate neighborhoods where they live or work or go to school, to the ethnic communities of which they are part and to the wider region.

Discovering and discussing landmarks in the town or city in which students live helps build connections to the community and a sense of pride and belonging.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE?

Quick English Warm Up

Talk with others in the class and find out more about people's favorites. What is your favorite:

- Color _____
- Food _____
- Type of Car _____
- Type of weather _____
- Month of the Year _____
- Movie or TV show _____
- Song _____
- Thing to do on a Sunday

- Place to dream about _____
- Game to play with your grandchildren

- _____
- Place at home _____
- Place in your neighborhood _____
- Place in your town _____
- Place in the United States (a place where you would like to go)

- Place in the world (place you like to dream about)

ASK SOMEBODY ELSE

Favorites

Name	Place in your neighborhood	Place to dream about	Place in your country	Place in town
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

Name	Place in your neighborhood	Place to dream about	Place in your country	Place in town
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS: IDEAS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS?

ASK SOMEBODY ELSE

When you were little, what was your favorite:

Name of Interviewee	Place to visit	Day of the Year	Class in School	Game to Play
1. <i>Example</i> Heide	Grandmother's house	Christmas Eve	Didn't like school	Hop Scotch
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

Name of Interviewee	Place to visit	Day of the Year	Class in School	Game to Play
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				

IDEAS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS?

ASK SOMEBODY OUTSIDE OF CLASS

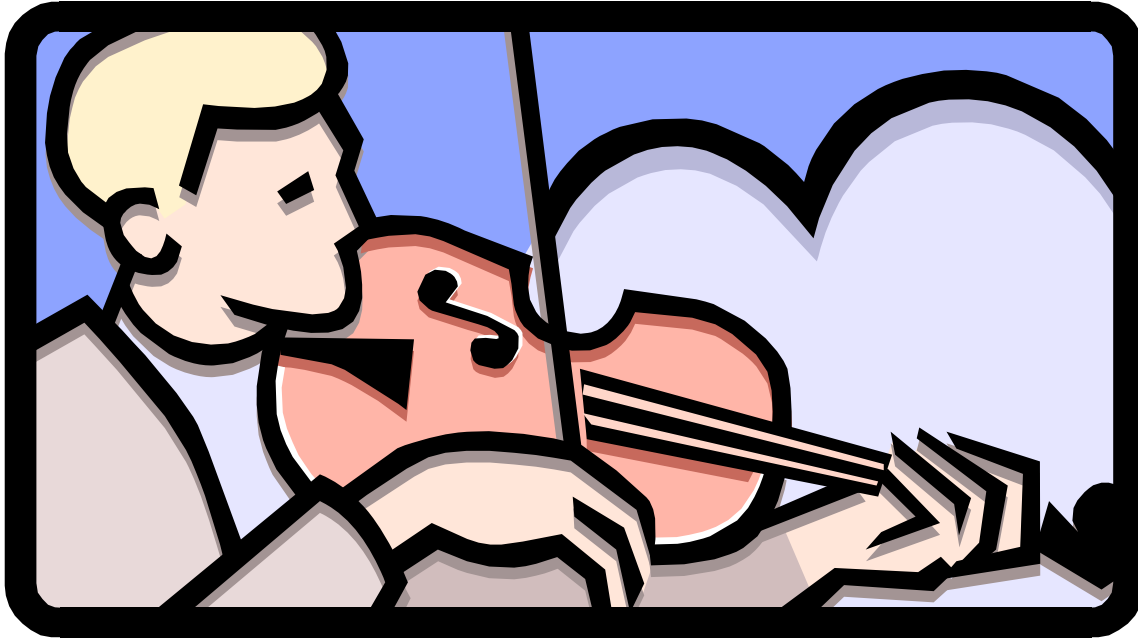
What is Your Favorite:

Name	Color	Drink	Movie or TV show?	Type of Weather
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

Name	Color	Drink	Movie or TV show?	Type of Weather
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				

IDEAS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS?

WHERE'S A GOOD PLACE



In this area, where is a good place....	A good place	What language(s) do they speak there?
To buy vegetables?		
To buy canned goods?		
To buy medicines?		
To buy clothes?		
To have a good time?		
To meet other people?		
To celebrate a birthday or an event?		
To meet others and discuss ideas?		

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HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN OUR TOWN



Where can you get information about	Source of information	Language(s)
What's happening in your town?		
What's happening in the world?		
What's happening back home?		
Health care?		
Immigration problems?		
Legal problems ?		
Family problems?		
Consumer problems? (Who have been cheated)		
Eye Problems and glasses?		

IDEAS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS?

LANDMARKS

Every country has famous places, such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Great Wall of China, the pyramids in Mexico, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, or the Sphinx in Egypt.

What are some of the famous buildings and landmarks you know about?

What famous landmarks or buildings are there in your part of the country?

Building or Landmark	Where is it?	What do you know about it?

THERE'S A PLACE FOR US ...

Think about where you live. What are some of the important places (fire station, court house, police station, schools, parks, library, church, restaurants, clinic, stores)? Write down the three places you think are the most important for people in your community. Explain why.

Important places	Why they are important
1.	
2.	
3.	

IMPORTANT PLACES FOR OUR GROUP

Work in your group.

What are places in your community that are especially important for people like us? Talk with the others and write down five important places.

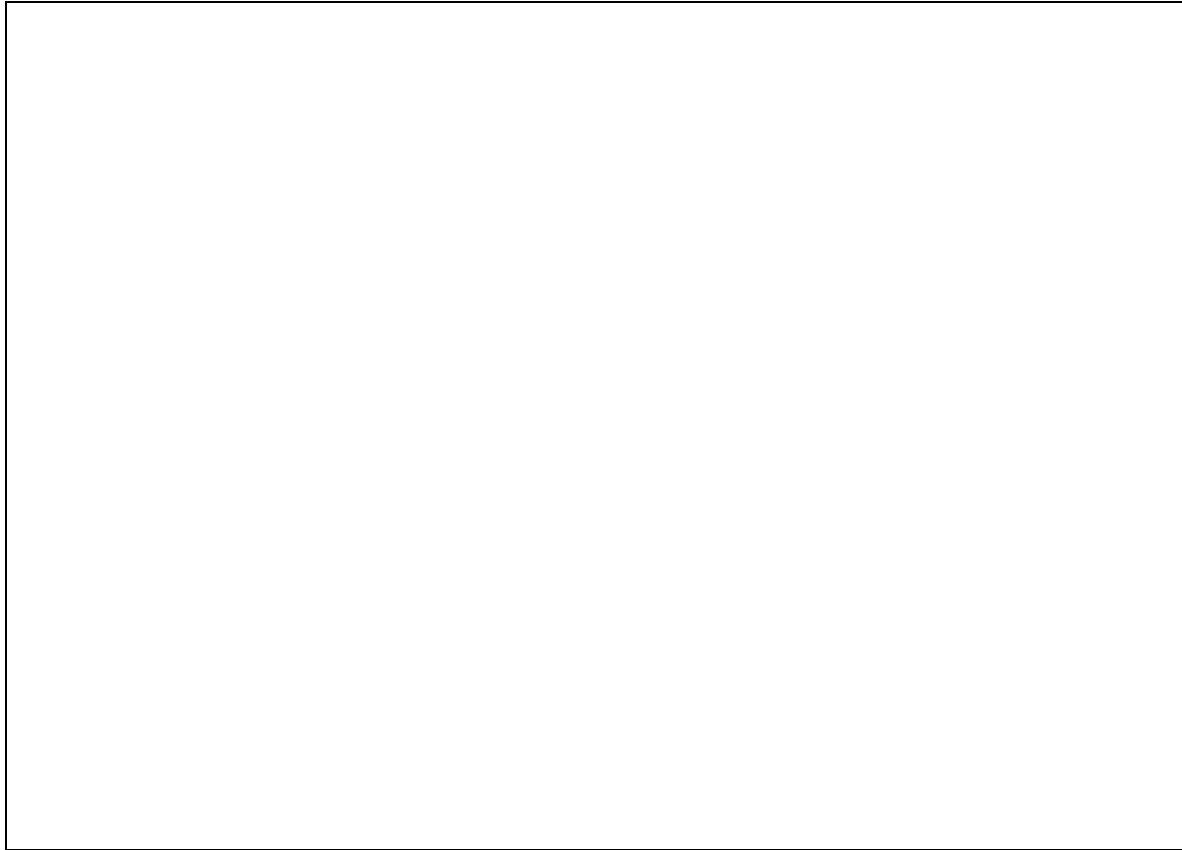
Discuss why these places are important. Present your ideas to the class in English.

Important places for _____	Why they are important
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

IDEAS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS?

DRAW A PICTURE

Draw a picture of one of the important places. Tell us why it is important.



GOOD PLACES AND NOT SO GOOD PLACES

Think of the different places in your community. Are there places where you feel:

Scared or tense? _____

Safe and protected? _____

Sad or lonely? _____

Happy and joyful? _____

Stupid? _____

Smart? _____

Powerless? _____

Powerful? _____

Talk with others and explain why.

The place	How it makes me feel	Why

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STUDENT PROJECT: COMMUNITY MAPPING

What are five or six places in your neighborhood that newcomers should know? Walk to these places and take pictures. Visit the places and write about them.

ASK SOMEBODY OUTSIDE OF CLASS

One Question Survey

Where is a good place in your town for people to go visit ?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

PLACES I LOVE, PLACES I DON'T LIKE

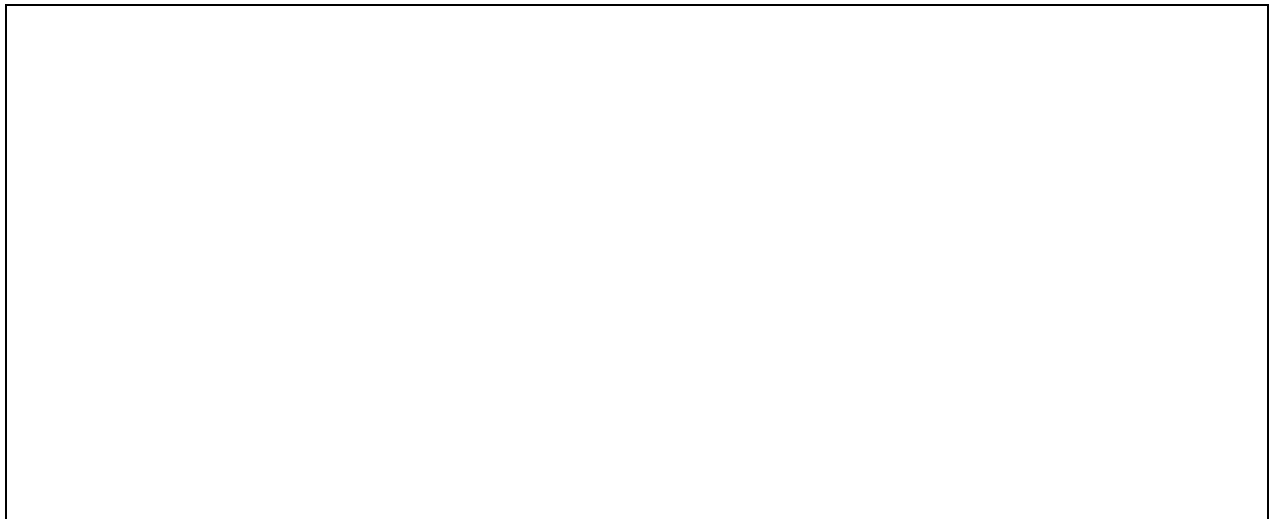
Write about a favorite place or a place that you don't like. It can be a place here or a place that you remember. Describe the place. How do you feel when you are there? What do you remember most about it?

Write 3 to 5 sentences and draw a picture if you like.

Example:

My favorite place is the beach. I like the way the waves come in and the sound they make. The sound makes me feel calm and happy.

I hate the immigration office. People are rude and they talk too fast. It makes me feel stupid and powerless. I get anxious and frustrated every time I go there. I detest that place.



TALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

What are places that your children like? Why?

What are places that they don't like? Why?

Are there places that make them feel scared or upset? Why?

Tell your children about your favorite place when you were little.
Ask them to tell you about their favorite place.
What did your children say?

ASK SOMEBODY ELSE

Ask somebody else. When you were little, what was your favorite place? Where was it? What did you like about it?

Name	Favorite place	Where was it?	What did you like?
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

STUDENT PROJECTS: SPECIAL PLACES IN OUR TOWN

1. List 5 interesting places in your town.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

2. Choose three places to investigate and study. Work in groups. Each group studies one place and then makes a report.

3. What questions do you have about this place? Write them down

4. Where can you get information about your place? Write it down

5. When can you visit this place? Who will you talk with?

6. Take pictures of the place and of your group and make a report about the place. Your teacher will help you to put the report on the internet.

7. We will look at the web page at the next party.

Name of our place _____

People in our group: _____

Questions we have	Where can we find the answer?	Who can help us find the answers?

Questions	Answers

CLASS SUMMARY

What are some of the favorite places for your group? Create a poster with writings, drawings and photographs. You can also use pictures from magazines, tourist brochures, or other sources. Bring the poster to the next party.

