

## Central NC JA - Elementary Program

### Our Community

What lies beyond your front door? Let's explore it! JA volunteers display a poster of a typical community, and the students meet some of the people who live and work there. Through hands-on activities, the students learn about workers, the work they perform, why workers are paid, what taxes are and how they are used, and where to save money.



#### Our Community

#### Skills

Comparing · Critical thinking · Decision making · Identifying choices · Listening responsibly · Making observations · Matching · Problem solving · Role playing · Teamwork

#### Concepts

Banking · Business · Choices · Circular flow · Community · Division of labor · Economic institutions · Goods · Government · Incentives · Interdependence · Jobs · Money · Productivity · Taxes

#### **Our Community Lesson Plan**

The Lesson Plan for *Our Community* is designed to provide practical information about businesses and the many occupations found in those businesses in a typical community. The learning objectives listed beside each activity state the skills and knowledge the students will gain.

#### **Activity One: How Does a Community Work?**

The students study a poster illustrating a community to identify typical jobs. They develop an awareness of how people live and work together in a community.

#### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will:

- identify a variety of jobs in the community
- recognize how people live and work together in a community
- become aware of a wide range of job opportunities

#### **Activity Two: Sweet "O" Donuts**

The students, individually and in teams, use different production strategies to simulate producing donuts.

#### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will:

define *production*

- compare unit and assembly line production methods
- explain that different strategies are used to produce different types of products

**Activity Three: The Role of Government**

The students learn about the economic role of government in a community by identifying services that government provides to its citizens. The students also recognize that government must collect taxes from everyone to pay for these services.

**Activity Four: A New Business**

The students determine the best use for the empty store on the How Does a Community Work poster. The step-by-step decision-making process helps students understand how group decisions are made.

**Activity Five: Money and Banking**

The students learn about money and why it is important to the community.

**Key Learning Objectives**

The students will:

- recognize government jobs in the community
- understand why government collects taxes to provide services for everyone

**Key Learning Objectives**

The students will:

- define *choices*
- practice using a decision-making model
- recognize the need to make decisions carefully

**Key Learning Objectives**

The students will:

- identify circumstances of money being exchanged for goods or services
- recognize how money is used in a typical community