CELEBRATING COMMUNITY WITH ART (ELEMENTARY)

Est. Time: 35-60 minutes
Subjects: Art, Culture, Social Emotional Learning
Age Range: Upper Elementary
See the full lesson here!
What different types of communities exist, and how do the people in our communities impact us?

In this lesson you will:

• Learn how communities differ in organization, and how communities impact people as individuals

• Listen to the work of artists and creatives hailing from Chicago, Illinois such as Chance the Rapper, Jamila Woods, and Nico Segal

• Define what community means to you
Consider or ask a friend:

- Think about the word “community.” What comes to mind when you hear the word?

- Now look up the definition of “community” in the dictionary (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/community). Using what comes to mind when you hear “community” and its definitions, how might you define community for yourself?

- What are some communities you are a part of? List places, people, feelings, things that are important, etc.
Watch the short film for the song “Sunday Candy” by Nico Segal and the Social Experiment. Pay attention to the actions of the performers and whatever grabs your attention.
Consider or ask a friend:

• What is a part of the video you thought was cool or interesting?

• How do the dancers, singers, and other performers interact?

• How does the video show examples or representations of community?

• Is this a positive example of a community? Use the song and/or scene from the video to support your answer.
“I like my hugs with a scent
You smell like light, gas, water, electricity, rent
You sound like why the gospel choir got so tired
Singin’ his praises daily basis so I gotta try it
You’re my dreamcatcher, dream team, team captain
Matter fact, I ain’t seen you in a minute let me take my butt to church...”
Consider or ask a friend:

- Chance is rapping about his grandmother. How does he describe his grandmother? What do you think she means to him?

- What place or community does Chance the Rapper associate with his grandmother? How does this place/person/community make Chance feel based on the lyrics?
Examine the above image which traces the connections between the artists featured in “Sunday Candy”
Consider or ask a friend:

- Would you say the artists on this image are part of a community? What type of community?
Create a three column chart. Title the columns as follows:

- Chance The Rapper’s *Coloring Book* (2016)
- Jamila Wood’s *Heavn* (2016)

Using the chart, list the artist’s name and their contribution to the other artist’s project based on what you see in the picture.
“Knowledge and Wonder” is an art piece by famous painter Kerry James Marshall. He painted the piece in 1995, which was then on display at a local library in Chicago for community members to see.
Consider or ask a friend:

- What do you see in the painting/mural? What do you think it’s about?

- Knowledge and Wonder was commissioned (made for) the people to see it without having to go to a museum or gallery to see art. What message do you think Kerry James Marshall was trying to send with his work for the community where the piece resides?
SUMMARY

- Many kinds of communities exist beyond family and our neighborhood.
- Communities shape who we are as individuals and can produce meaningful things when individuals come together.
BE CREATIVE

- Research a community you belong to and create an art piece inspired by the things that define and form your community.
- Write a song inspired by those around you and your community.
- Interview a parent, guardian, or caregiver or phone a friend or mentor and ask them about the communities they were a part of or from growing up.
Share your work with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your work with TeachRock on Instagram or Facebook, email to info@teachrock.org, or Tweet it to @TeachRock
Visit us at teachrock.org for hundreds of other free arts-rich resources for every age range and classroom.

Please check back to teachrock.org/distancelearning frequently as we will update the material daily!