

Building an Equitable City: The Teacher's Script

1. Define what “equitable” means using your prior knowledge. Share your definition with a partner at your table.
2. Grab all necessary materials: white paper & markers/crayons/colored pencils.
3. Within your group, discuss the standard infrastructure you’d find in a typical city, like Philadelphia. How do you think that infrastructure grew? What was the original infrastructure of the town before the city? Talk with your table and list a few buildings and necessities that you think a town would need (i.e., a well, houses, farm, etc.)
4. With your group, map out locations for the infrastructure you discussed and draw them on your sheet of paper. Draw a main road for people to visit your town. Be sure to include: a reservoir, 5 houses, a grocery store, post office, and garbage dump.
5. Now your town is getting larger, so you’d want to add a few more buildings and businesses to sustain your growing population. What else would you add? Discuss with your group and draw what you discussed into your original infrastructure. Be sure to add: more houses, an elementary school, a park and a town hall. YOU CANNOT MOVE ANY OF YOUR PREVIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE!
 - a. The switch-up:
 - i. Many people are also beginning to demand more locally-grown produce from the grocery store, but the grocery store cannot compete with the higher prices. Do you have room to add a community garden? If so, where would you put it?
6. Congratulations, you’ve built a small town! Your population is still increasing because people want to move to the suburbs from the city.
 - a. The switch-up: Now your small town wants to increase its profits by adding a car manufacturer. Where will you put this enormous factory? Your population is also going to increase with the jobs created by the new factory opening up, so you need to add a few more houses and 2 new apartment buildings. Where can you put them?
 - b. Be sure to add: a sewage plant, high school, and a road that connects the car manufacturing building to your original main road.
7. There are so many people that your two roads are always heavily trafficked, making people late to work and thus reducing the amount of revenue your city can generate.

Build a train and/or bus line that connects one part of the city to another. Be sure not to exceed your city's limits (i.e. your piece of paper)!

8. What challenges did your group face when developing your city? Do you think you marginalized anyone based upon where they were previously living? Why or why not? How is the placement of urban infrastructure related to environmental racism?