

2006-2007 WHRO Classroom Preview

Series Title: Community Helpers
Curriculum Area: Social Studies
Grades: K - 3
of Programs/Length: 11/10:00 minute programs

Using re-enactments, live-action footage, colorful maps and engaging graphics, each of these programs takes youngsters on a delightful journey that helps them feel a part of their own community and understand the communities of others. This eleven-part series shows children six of the helpers on whom we depend, while the other five programs describe the characteristics and different aspects of all communities. Each program begins with a lively, rhymed introduction to communities.

Community Studies & Helpers are topics found in all primary level states' curriculum standards. Several past releases of video series on these topics attest to their demand by educators, but all such series are now unavailable or over 10 years old, making this series a timely release.

Appealing hosts use language children can understand and creative visual learning reinforcements to motivate them to understand and remember these topics. Cross-curricular lessons in geography, economics, health, guidance and safety topics give these programs added relevance for teachers and students. Age-appropriate scripts and narrations suit these programs perfectly to their intended K-3 audience.

1. Environmental Scientist

An environmental scientist explains how clean water is provided for our homes, parks, swimming pools, and institutions. He shows children that water from rain and runoff is dirty, and in a visit to the Water Works, describes the mechanics of water purification and transportation. He also shows the history of water plants, and why all of us need to care for the health of our waters. 08:00

2. Teacher

Mrs. Levine explains why she loves teaching and observing the changes in her second grade students. Her students return the compliment, describing how she helps them learn and stay excited about many subjects. We learn about the history of public education in America and about some famous teachers such as Laura Bush and Christa McAuliffe. 08:20

3. Firefighter

Kevin, a fire fighter, explains that he often assists in medical emergencies, as well as fires. At the station he puts on his fire gear explaining the purpose of each piece of clothing, as well as of the fire engine and its tools, and the drills that help

save lives. He tells how fire fighting has changed since the days of horse-drawn fire wagons and Dalmatian dogs, and how to prevent fires at home and what to do in case of a fire. 09:54

4. Family Doctor

A friendly family doctor says he loved science and math at school and always wanted to help people stay healthy. A young girl has an examination of her vision, ears, nose, throat, and heart, and advice about healthy habits such as washing her hands and brushing her teeth. He cautions that overweight children are unhealthy and that the best way to stay healthy is to eat well and have fun running and playing with friends. 10:00

5. Recycling Coordinator

An enthusiastic recycling coordinator takes children through the recycling process for cans, plastics and newspapers, emphasizing the useful products and hundreds of jobs that are created by the process. He shows the clothing, benches, chairs, cardboard, and paper products that have been made from what is brought to his facility. He also demonstrates composting for home and community gardens. 10:00

6. What Is A Community? (PREVIEW PROGRAM)

How is a rural community different from a suburban community? What characteristics do cities and suburban areas share? This program explores the similarities and differences that make communities unique. Youngsters visit a variety of homes in a neighborhood and learn what types of buildings and activities make up a community. 10:00

7. How Geography Affects Communities

Explains to children that communities can be classified by their geography; that there are forest, river, mountain, ocean and valley communities. Provides examples of these communities including forestry in Northern California, Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, Mississippi River communities, and New York. Illustrates that the history of the area and the jobs that people do there are related to the environment. 09:00

8. Communities Of The Past

Takes children on a journey to early Native American communities, Colonial towns and early American cities. They'll learn how schools of the past are different from their own. They'll discover how inventions impacted transportation, which in turn changed the face of communities. Traces our holiday traditions such as Thanksgiving and piñatas to the changes made by the movement of people throughout America. 09:00

9. Why People In A Community Work

From firemen and postal workers to mechanics and bankers, this program helps kids understand why people in a community work and how that work provides

products and services that community members need and want. Basic economic concepts are illustrated and explained through daily activities in the home and the community. Shows workers doing different jobs in their neighborhood - both indoor and outdoors. 09:00

10. Community Rules & Laws

Helps children understand how and why communities make and enforce rules and laws! Students learn how rules are linked to safety, that they are designed to support fairness and that there are consequences for breaking them. This program helps students see that the rules of their classroom community are just as important as the rules in their town. 07:00