



Wild Card!

Stir things up a bit by introducing a controversial building into the students' city design.

Grade Level

Grades 1-4

Subjects

Social Studies

Materials

Cardboard box

Time

Considerations

Activity: 30-40 minutes

Group Size

One to two classrooms who have worked together on the city design

Related Pages in Box City

Building Restrictions
pg 45-46

Who Makes the Rules?
pg 82

Standards

Social Studies Grade 4

Identify major changes in the local communities that have been caused by human beings; and explain their probable effects on the community and the environment.

Explain how various forms of civic action such as running for political office, voting, signing an initiative, and speaking at hearings, can contribute to the well-being of the community.

Getting Ready

This activity should be scheduled when the class' city design is nearly complete and the tarp has been mapped out.

Use a box from your kit to represent a controversial building- perhaps one that is grossly out of scale, or has a purpose that will be objectionable to people that live nearby.

Some ideas:

Jail

Big box discount store

Neighborhood art center

Power plant

Skateboard park

Sky rise office building

Cell phone tower

Embellish the box as you wish, or combine with another box to get the size you want.

Doing the Activity

To start the activity, suggest that you are representing an organization or company that would like to build your building in the students' city. You have come before the citizens of the community to state your case.

Tell the students the benefits your building will bring to the community. Ask if they have any concerns... For instance, what are the disadvantages?

Propose different places where it could be placed to see how students respond.

Take a vote among the students to include it or not to include it.