



LEGOLAND DISCOVERY CENTRE

Mini Cities Teacher Resource Guide



Introduction

LEGO is a fantastic tool that inspires creativity and makes learning fun! This teachers guide provides you with a range of activities for students to explore the concepts of what is a city, what makes a city unique and how we determine what represents a city culture the people who live there!

This resource includes:

- Teacher Guide
- Worksheets
- Videos

We encourage teachers by adding an excursion to LEGOLAND DISCOVERY CENTRE Melbourne to highlight and experience our mini city land to determine how we have represented the city of Melbourne through LEGO. Mini city land is a feature that is throughout all of our LEGOLAND's across the world- so we know a thing or two about city identity and representing your town!

The City

Teacher notes

The City

Many of us live in cities, but do we ever stop to think what they are, how they can be described, how they begin, and why they prosper and grow or fade away?

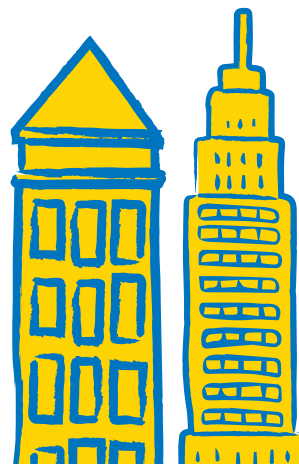
In this initial activity, students will investigate the idea of the city by describing a city they know well. It can be a medium sized or large city.

Resources

- Access this information <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-the-difference-between-a-city-and-a-town.html>
- Use Google Earth to find your city or town and others for comparison.
- Use Wikipedia for information about buildings.

Web links

Google Earth: <https://earth.google.com/>



The City

Activity 1: What is a city?

As a whole group discussion ask students the following questions about a recent trip they can remember to their local city.

- What images come to mind when you think about this city?
- Think about the city in spring, summer, autumn and winter. What does it look like?
- Think about a very big city you have visited or seen on TV. What is special about it?
- Do you live in the city or in the suburbs? What's different about these places?
- What is good or would be good about living in the inner city? In the suburbs? Which do you prefer and why?

Once students have finished sharing their ideas with the group get them to complete the Activity 1 Worksheet!

Activity 2: Cities versus towns

Get two students to come up to the front of the classroom and get them to read the definition from the dictionary of the word town and then get the other student to read the definition of what a city is.

As a whole class discuss the difference in the meaning and ask students which one they think they live in?

Once discussion has finished What's the difference between a city and a town?

- Use Google Earth to investigate your home place.
 - What key features of the buildings, homes, and roads can you find?
 - What are the main landmarks?
- Now use Google Earth to investigate a bigger city or interesting town near to where you live.
 - What key features of the buildings, homes and roads can you find?
 - What are the main landmarks?

Once class has finished their main discussion of ideas student's complete activity 2 worksheet!



The City

Activity 3: Big, Huge or Giant?

Bring out a world globe or map of Australia. As a whole class ask students if they have ever visited and pick random cities and town you might find on the map. Ask students to identify if they think it is a city or a town.

Once students are familiar with using and looking at the map ask them to find a buddy and complete the activity 3 worksheet!

Once students have finished researching ask 3 students to share one town or city they explored that they found the facts to be interesting. For example the population was smaller or bigger than they thought.

Activity 4- Creating a Mini City

Either take students on an excursion to LEGOLAND Discovery Centre Melbourne or if your school is another state show students the Mini City LEGOLAND Discovery Centre videos which are a part of this resource kit!

All LEGOLANDS and LEGOLAND Discovery Centre have a Mini City representation made out of LEGO bricks.

The Mini City is a replica of the city skyline at a point in time showcasing that cities key landmarks and features.

Watch and learn about all the planning and design that goes into building one of these mini city models!

Either after your excursion or after watching the videos get students to complete activity 4 worksheet!

