

# Teacher Manual

## Overview of the Community

### What is a Community?

*Have the students brainstorm and share words or phrases that come to mind when they think of community.*

Possible descriptors or phrases to initiate discussion:

*People*

*Common Interests*

*Living Together*

*Same Geographically Area*

*Shared Ideas*

*Unified Body*

*People Depending on other People*

### Definitions of the community

Webster defines community “as a body of people living in the same place under the same laws; also: a natural population of plants and animals that interact ecologically and live in one place” (Webster, 1997, p. 163).

Others define community simply as a group of people living together in the same locality.

Communities are people that live in the same area that may or may not have the same interests.

A community can also be thought of as society as a whole (Webster, 1997).

A community is a:

1. A group of people
2. Who interact with each other
3. Who have the same things in common with others in that same community
4. And who share an area for at least some of the time.

### Types of community capital:

*There are three general types of community capital. They are human, natural, and social capital:*

**Human Capital-** *knowledge, skills, and abilities are possessed by people. “Human capital is the attributes of a person that are productive in some economic context” (Moffatt, 2004). Essentially human capital is the ability of humans to use their skills and knowledge to be productive in society. Knowledge might be a high schools diploma, a college degree, knowledge passed down from earlier generations. Knowledge can be gained by reading a book, listening to the radio, or watching TV. Skills might be the ability to operate machinery or the skills involved in growing a crop. Abilities might include the ability to persuade others to a different way of thinking or being able to implement new ideas. Human capital is the reason that communities are able to solve problems.*

**Natural Capital-** *The earth’s resources that humans use. Natural capital can be non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels and minerals that are harvested from the earth. Natural capital can also be in the form of renewable resources. Renewable resources include animals, plants, soil and water that are produced and maintained by the environment. Natural capital is basically earth’s resources that humans use.*

**Social Capital-** *includes all community organizations. Social capital allows members of a community to communicate with each other, manage conflict, and solve problems together.*

*Social capital refers to relationships among a community. Social capital is the glue that holds a community together (Social Capital, 2004).*

*Have students brainstorm specific examples of each of the three types of rural capital that are present in the community.*

***Possible answers to initiate discussion:***

*Knowledge of geographical area  
Knowledge of weather patterns  
Farming knowledge  
Farming equipment operation skills  
Manufacturing skills unique to the community*

***Possible answers to initiate discussion:***

*Fertile farm land  
Grasslands  
Fossil fuels*

*Water  
Trees  
Mineral ores  
Rivers*

***Possible answers to initiate discussion:***

*Extension Clubs  
Cowbell's Club  
Lion's Club  
Rotary Clubs  
Cotton Growers Association  
Beef Cattle Association  
Farm Credit Bureau  
Local government system*