

My Place Your Place Our Place

Connecting Communities for students in Years 1 - 8



Name: _____

Room: _____

Welcome to Your Neighbourhood!

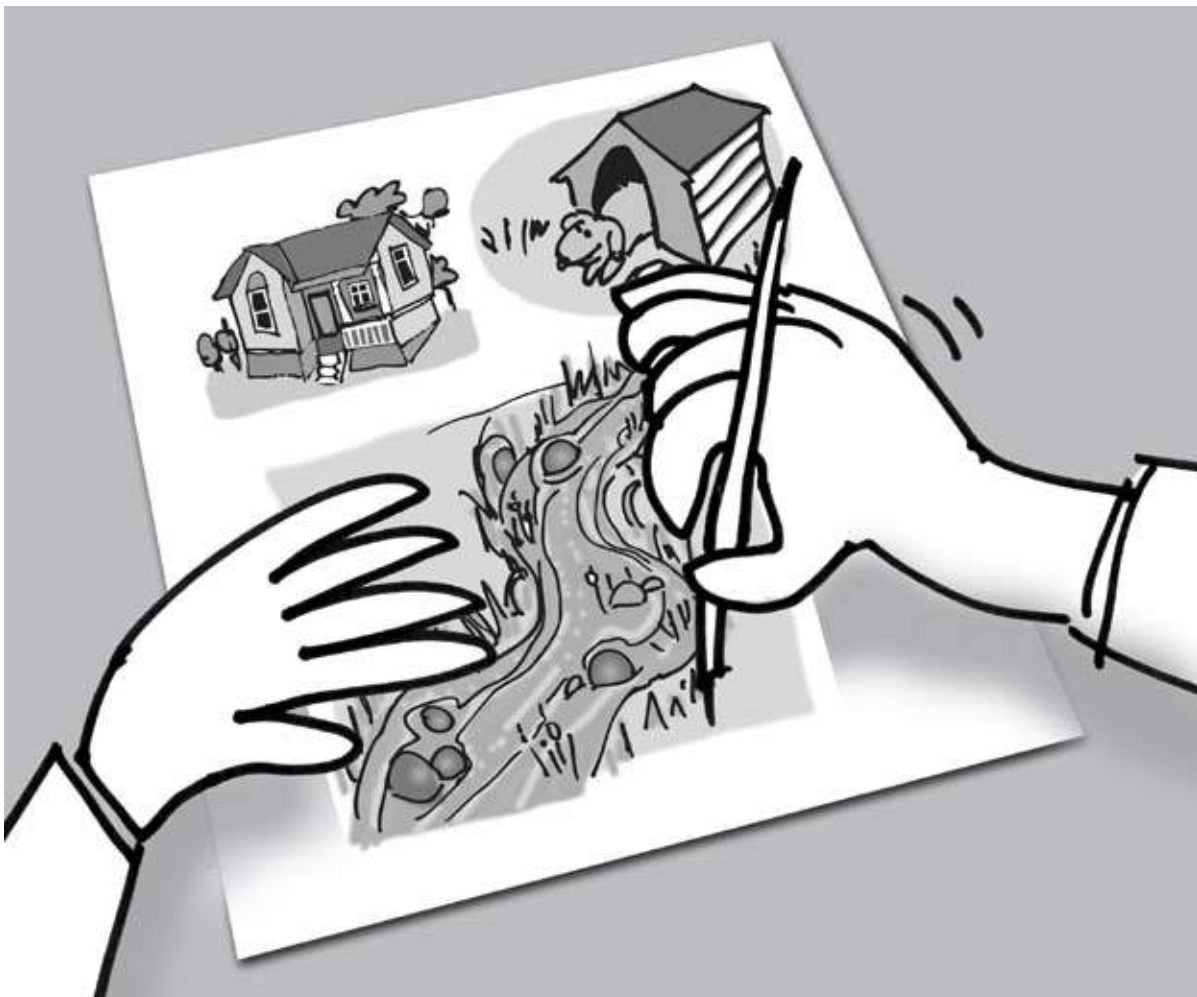
The idea behind this activity is to get YOU to collect and record YOUR ideas about the things that are part of your street and neighbourhood.

Here's what you do:

Use words, very short sentences and pictures to record what you know about where you live.

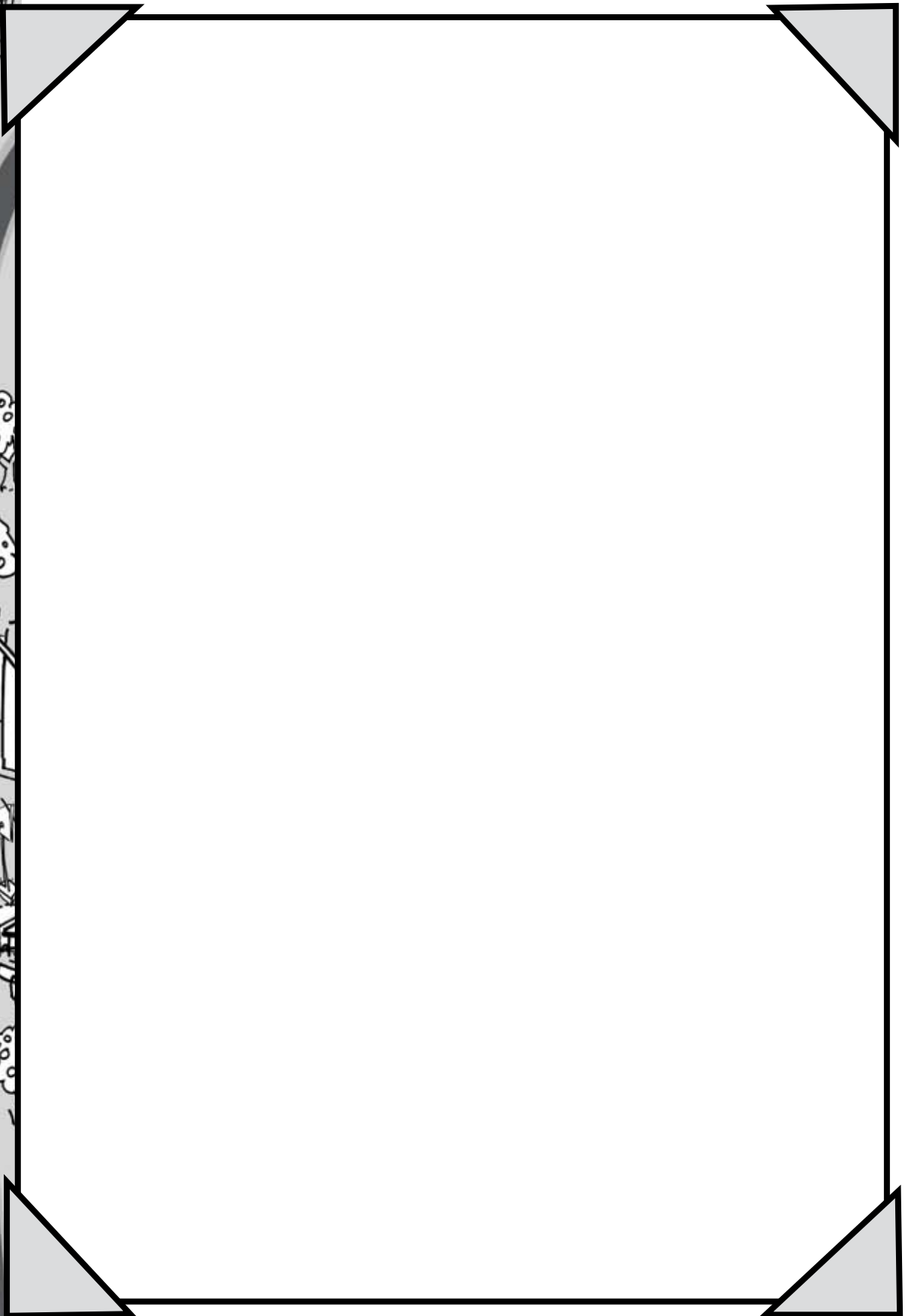
You could use any graphic organisers that might work well, or complete a mind map.

Use heaps of colour!



Mind Map

My Neighbourhood



Whakatauki/Proverbs Page

E kore te totara e tu noa i te parae, engari me tu i roto i te wao nui o Tane
The totara does not stand alone on the plain, but stands inside the forest.

A community without elders does not prosper.

Mozambican proverb

We must become the change we want to see.

Mahatma Gandhi

Communities begin by building their kitchen.

French proverb

Earth is not a gift from our parents; it is a loan from our children.

Kenyan proverb

Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace; a soul generated by love.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

You do not need to know anything about a plant to know that it is beautiful.

Montagu Don

It takes a village to raise a child.

Attributed to an old African proverb

The frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives.

Unknown

Hūtia i te rito o te harakeke

When the heart is torn from the flaxbush

Kei hea te tauranga o te komako e kō?

Where will the bellbird rest?

E kī mai koe ki au

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

You ask me, what is the greatest thing of this world?

Māku e kī atu

He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata

I reply, it is people, it is people, it is people

Possible Tasks

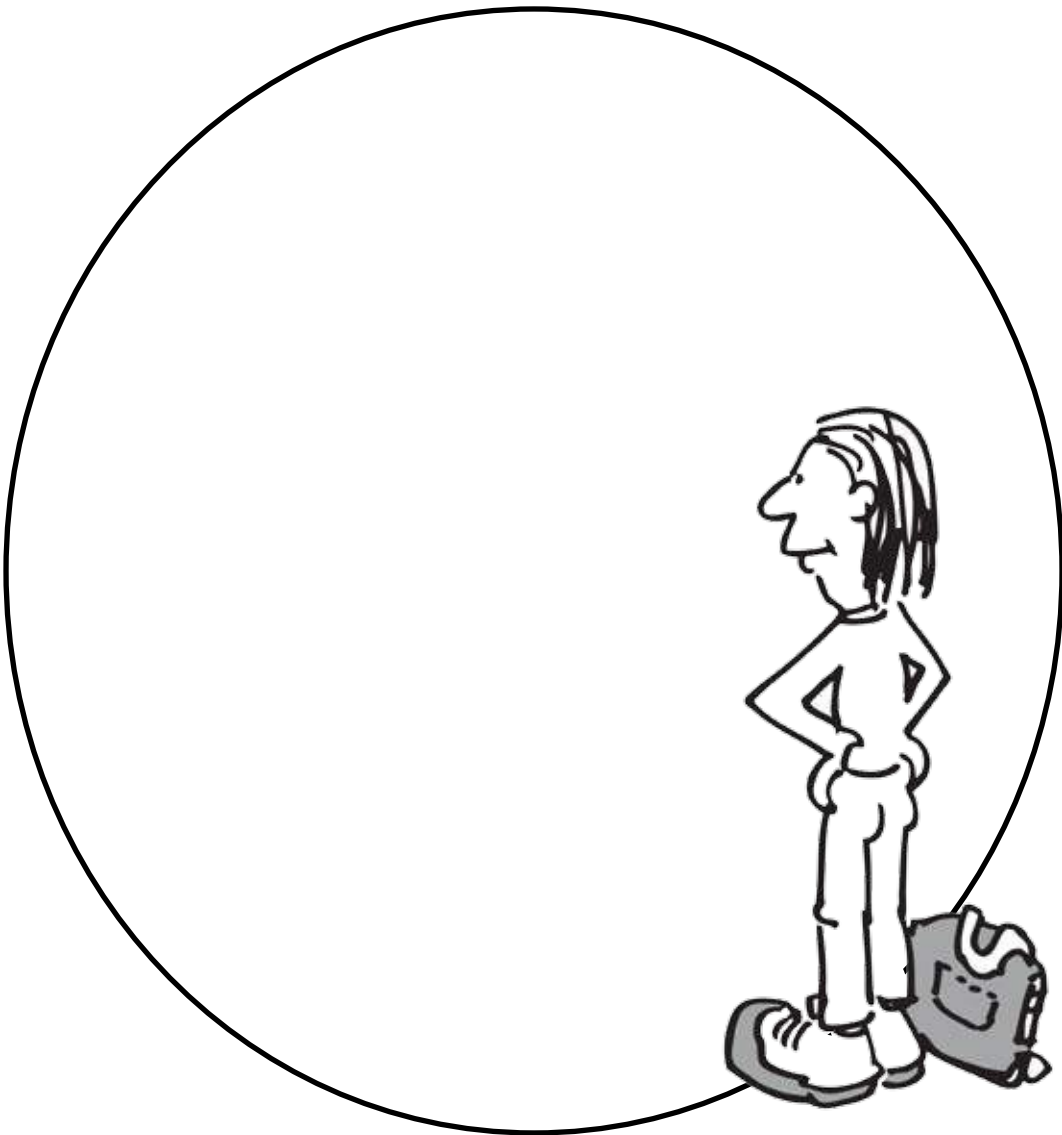
- 1) What is a whakatauki or a proverb? Find a definition for either one and write it down.
- 2) Which proverb or whakatauki do you like best? Explain why.
- 3) Construct your own whakatauki or proverb about our community or environment.



Welcome to

(Insert the name of your neighbourhood in this box.)

You are about to launch into an awesome learning experience about your neighbourhood so hold onto your hat, keep your feet firmly on the floor, take a slurp from your water bottle and . . . READ ON!



Here is a picture of what I see that lets me know I am nearly home if I have been away.

Our Neighbourhood

It's all about what is
important to us

You will
need

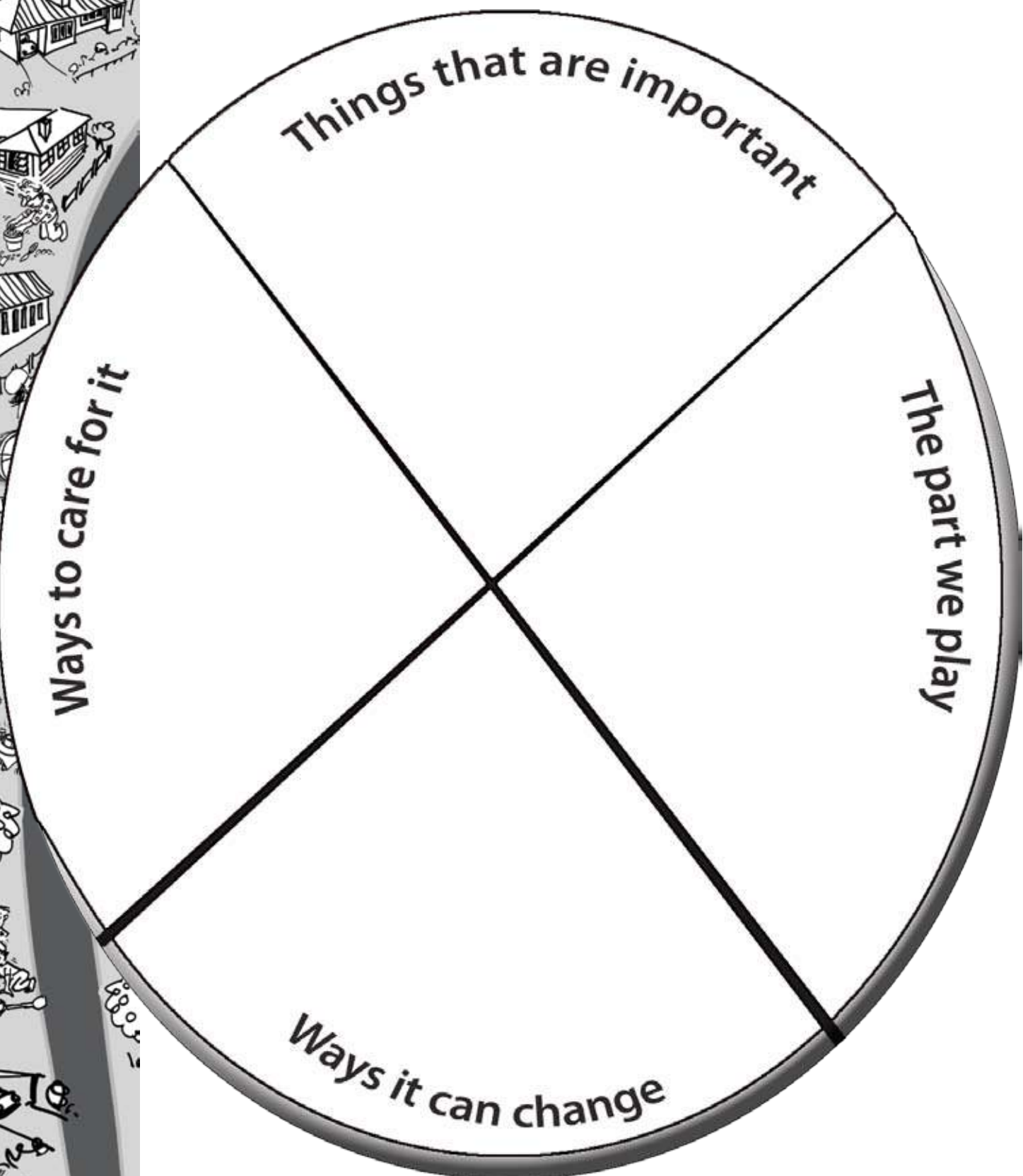
- ✓ The 'Our Neighbourhood' wheel in A3
- ✓ Pens, pencils, felts



Use words
and pictures to fill in
the four sections of the
'Our Neighbourhood' Wheel

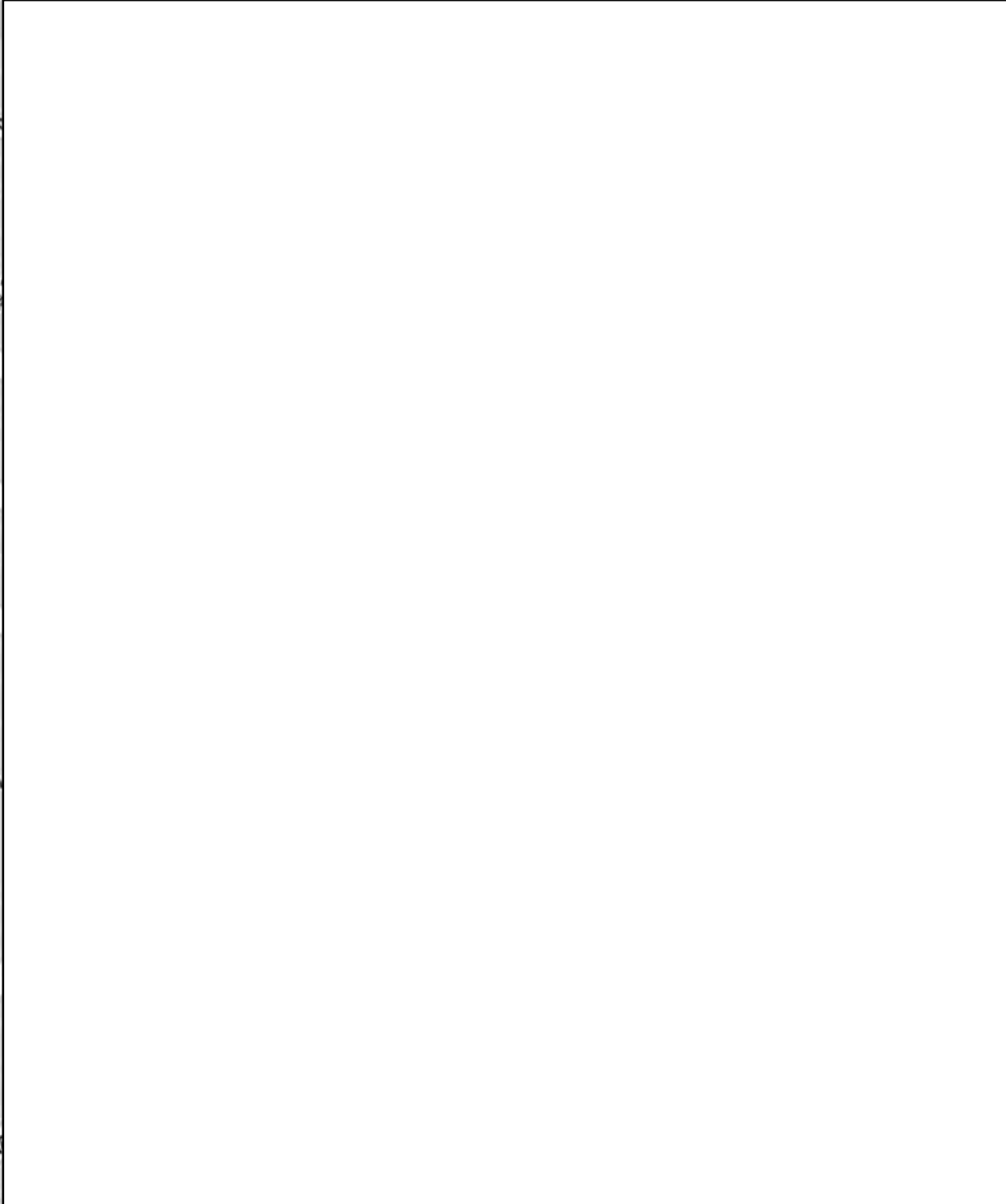


Our Neighbourhood



Map it out!

Print out or photocopy a map of your neighbourhood. Mark 6 places that are important to you and your community.



Open Spaces

What is an open space?



Where are our local open spaces?

Who decides what is going to happen to open spaces in our area?



What is the open space nearest to your house?

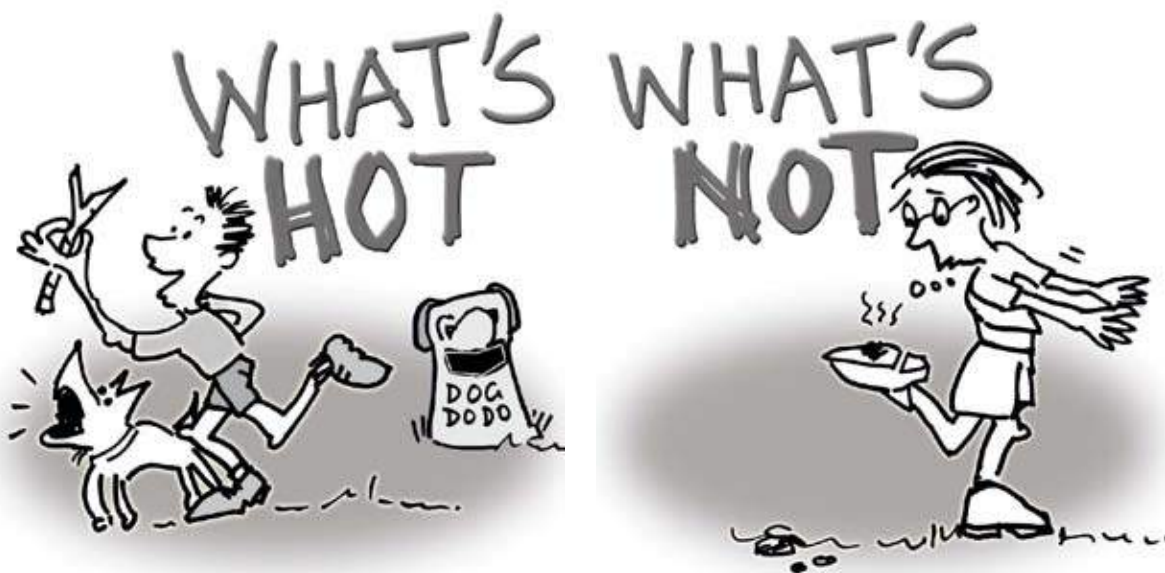
What can you do to help look after these spaces?

How can we best use them?



What's Hot and What's Not!

List or draw five things you would want to find in an open space and five things you would never want to find there.



My Favourite Open Space



What do YOU think?

Choose one of these statements to agree or disagree with. Give reasons for your opinion.

We've got enough open spaces.

People should be able to fence off part of a beach or stream if their house backs onto it.

Care of open spaces is the council's responsibility.

Care of open spaces is everybody's responsibility.

People should be able to do what they want in public open spaces.

Dogs have rights to open spaces.

Regional Parks should be closed to people.

Older people don't need open spaces - they should be left to younger people.

People need open spaces for mental and physical well being.

Some of our public and private open spaces are being filled in or built out.

It's too expensive to maintain open spaces.

Some of our open spaces need urgent make-overs.

I don't feel safe in some of our open spaces.

We don't need parks because we have got open spaces in our backyards.

Rubbish bins should be provided in all parks and open spaces.



What's Hot and What's Not!

List or draw five things that show the actions
of a caring neighbour.

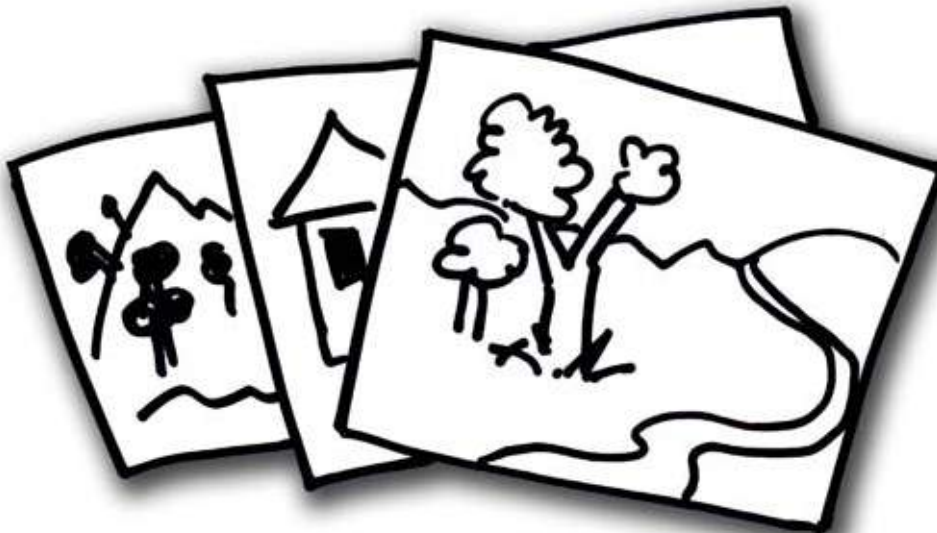
Now list or draw five things that a caring
neighbour would NOT do.



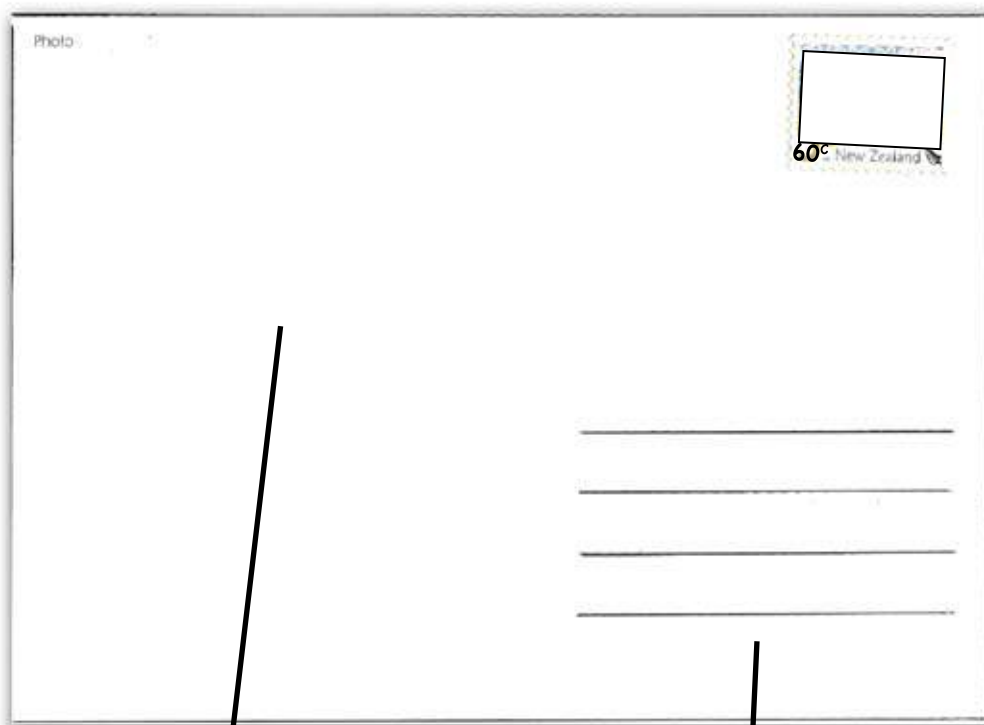
Send me a postcard!

- Look at a collection of postcards. Examine the photo and read the information on the back. Where are they from?
- Think about your local area. Which places are special? Important people? Which parts are important to you? What would you like to tell 'new comers' about your neighbourhood? Now make a list of them in your head!
- Here's the exciting part. You - yes you, have to design a set of postcards about these local people and places. If you have a camera you could use this, but if not, you could draw each site.
- Once you have got the pictures, research and then write the information that will go on the back of the postcard. Include facts and figures, opinions and statements - anything you think will be of interest to the person who receives your card.
- Publish your work . . . beautifully, neatly, creatively.
- Post your cards or add them to a classroom display.

Put your feet up for half an hour. Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done!



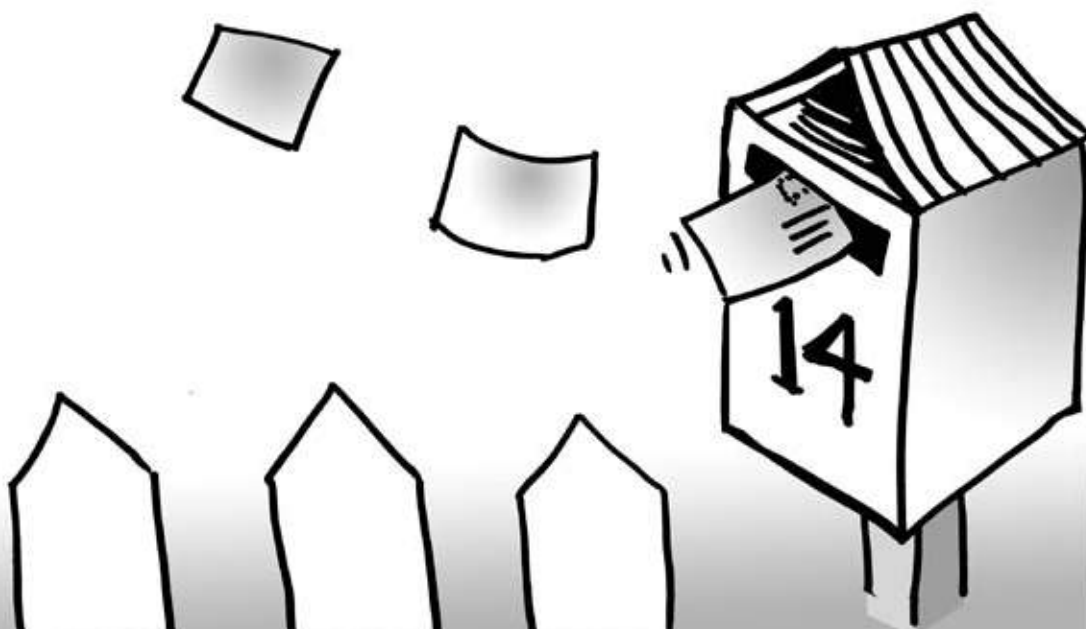
Postcards



Write all the information you have found out about this place in this space.

Address of the person you are sending this card to goes here.

The picture you have drawn or photo you have taken goes on the other side. Remember to use card and not just paper or else your postcard will be too floppy!



Excuse me . . .

Each one of us has a story to tell about who we are, where we came from and what is important to us. It's so important not to lose people's stories and therefore YOUR task is to spend time listening to and recording another person's story.

WHO? A family member, or a neighbour you know. Perhaps a teacher who has been at your school a long time.

WHAT?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHY?

HOW?

WHAT THEN? Share this story with the rest of the class.



What's happening in the News?

Start collecting issues of your local free paper. About two weeks worth should be enough.

Cut out anything to do with your neighbourhood such as pictures, headlines, articles, letters to the editor etc.

Now see if you can sort them into the following groups as you read them:

Positive (suggestions for change/solutions)

Negative (issues/reactions)

Controversial (something people are debating, disputing, arguing, having a disagreement about)

Make a display of your collection.

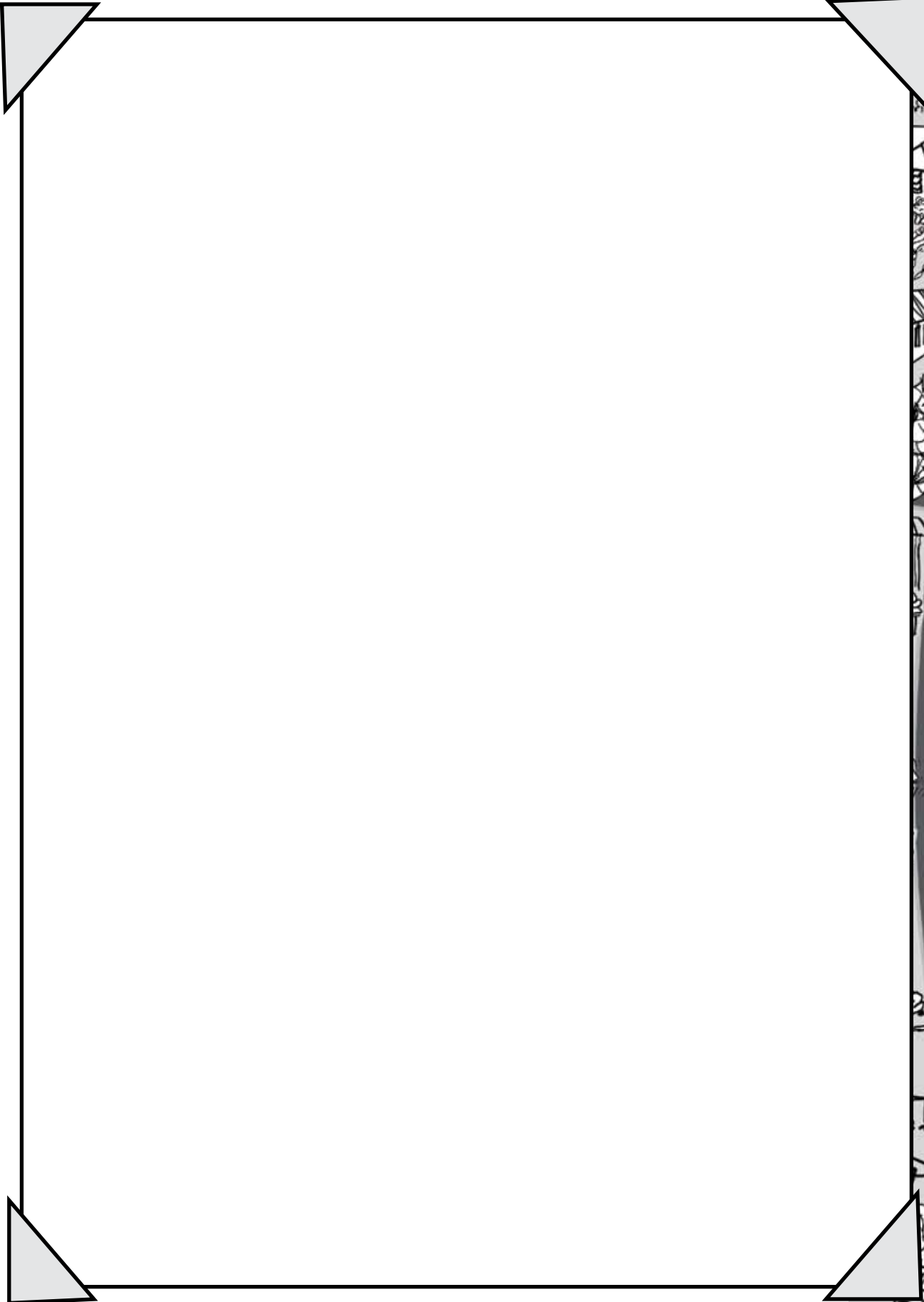
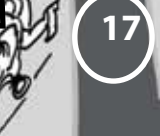
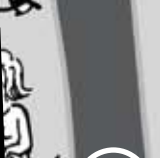
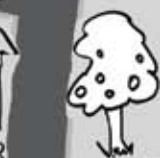
Write captions, labels, or statements for each category.

Highlight the things that you and your family could do to help.



Design a poster!

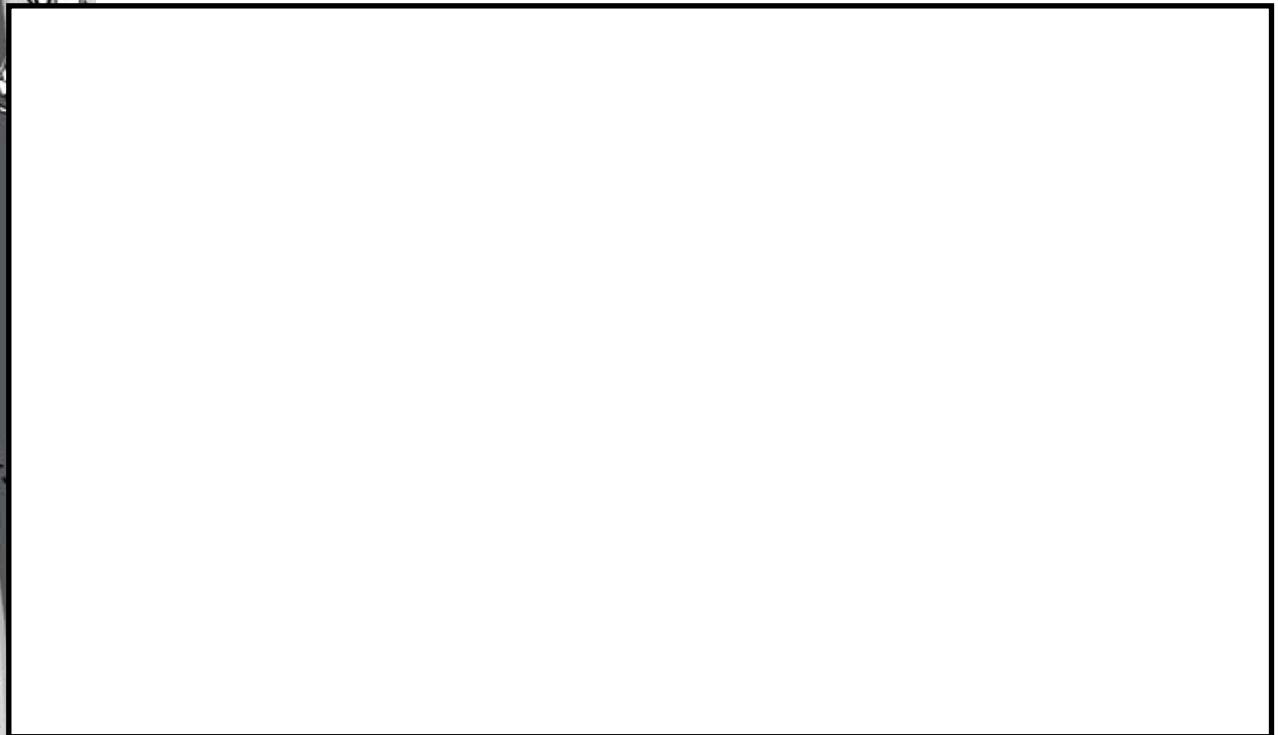
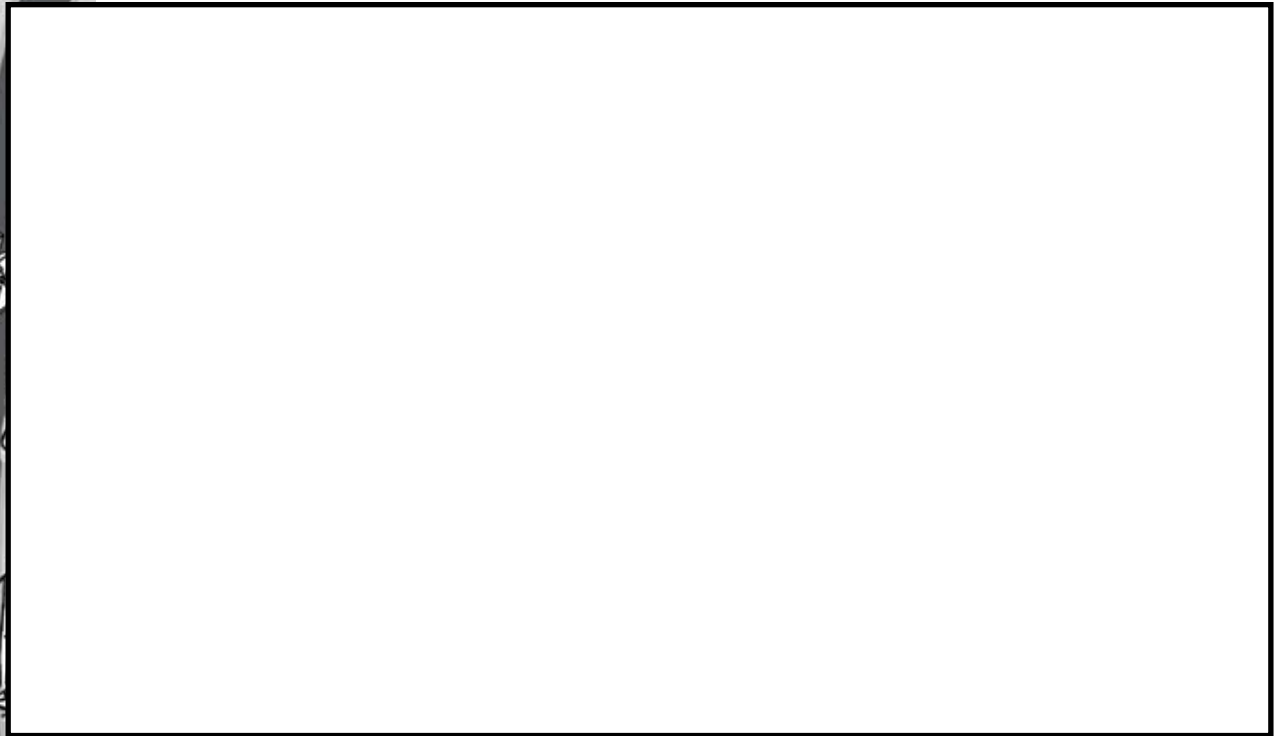
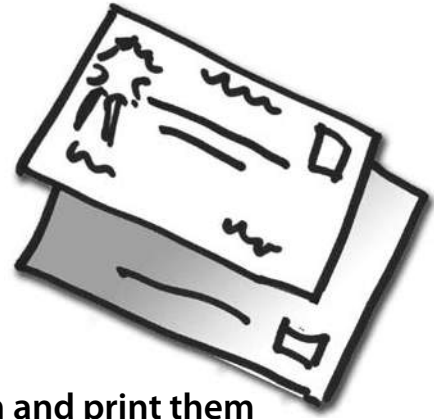
Use this page to design a poster that has a strong message about caring for people and/or places in your neighbourhood.



Certificates

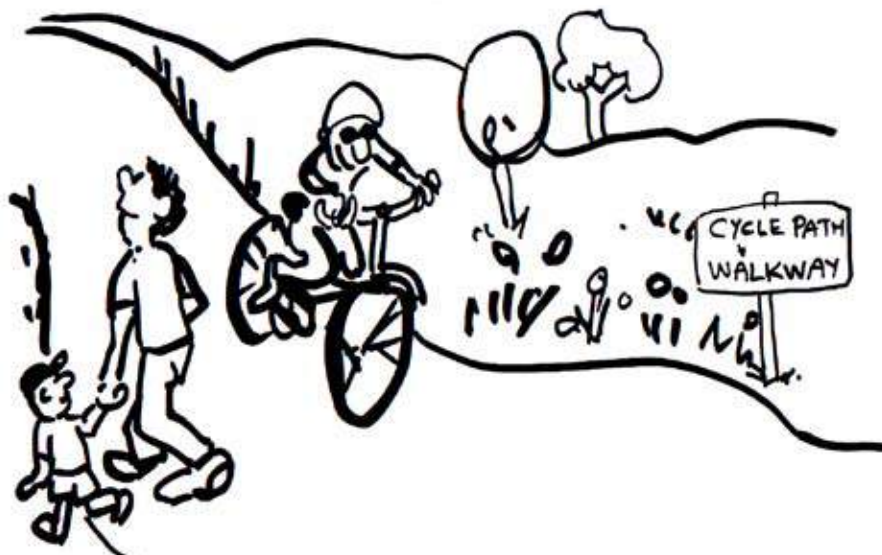
Use this page to design certificates to give to students who are doing positive things by caring for their environment and for those who are connecting with their neighbours or community.

You could use a computer to create them and print them out, or you could use your free hand artistic skills to produce original ones. Present them at assemblies. **GO FOR IT!**



What have we got?

Think about four special places you know that exist in your neighbourhood. Complete the grid on the next page.





	1	2	3	4
Location				
Who uses it?				
Special Features				
Plant and animal life				
Concerns				
Possible improvements that could be made				

What can you do?

Read the following list and decide what actions you wish to become involved in. Place a tick in the box. There is space to include any extra ideas you have.

Action	I want to do this	Maybe another time	Done already!
Research, write and present a report on Neighbours Day in NZ and around the world			
Adopt a tree in your school/street/area			
Organise a working bee for your street			
Create a school garden			
Set up and maintain a local community notice board			
Publish/contribute to a community newsletter			
Organise a neighbourhood /community bike ride			
Record the oral stories of older residents in your area			
Take part in planting of your area			
Invite residents to your school for events e.g. a meal, performance, movie			
Work with a local artist on a neighbourhood project e.g. mural, transformers, mosaic tiles			
Create a community collage			
Design a treasure hunt			
Create a poetry walk			
Track down graffiti and paint it out			
Advertise or "sell" local facilities to encourage people to use them			
Make a photo display of special people/places/features that make your neighbourhood unique			
Design a grand tour of your neighbourhood. You will need to be the chief tour guide!			
Design a set of postcards that feature local people, places and structures. Distribute them			
Invite people from your neighbourhood to discuss their involvement in the community			
Get to know your neighbours by regularly greeting them			
Organise a combined garage sale among several families in your street			
Make a card to say "thanks" to someone that has been a good neighbour to you and your family			





Invite kids in your street to a hopscotch match, 4 square games or skipping rope competition. How about a marbles championship or knucklebone knockout? Prizes for the participants. Dress up?			
Find out the first names of most of your closest neighbours. Then introduce yourself to them when you spot them			
Acknowledge the local heroes in your community in a special way			
Ask at your local Library if there are any community programmes that you could be involved in. You are basically volunteering your services for free!			
Adopt an elderly person to help or smile at			
Plant some parsley or other herbs in pots to give to a neighbour			
Do something for nothing e.g. Offer to stack your neighbour's firewood for free. Or weed their garden, walk their dog			
Make some yummy fudge or bake your favourite treats to give to someone else			
Collect any fallen fruit from your trees to give away			
Donate clothing you no longer need to charity, friends or neighbours			
Organise a pancake breakfast either for your class or your neighbours. You provide the flour eggs and milk and they bring the toppings and help with the cooking and washing up!			
Write a resident fact sheet for new neighbours that make them feel welcome and informed			
Develop a civil defence plan for your street in case of disaster			
Be REALLY nice to your teachers			
Arrange for a Random Acts of Kindness Day at your school			
Make a play list of songs that have a positive message that others might like to enjoy			

Take Action!

Look at your map of your neighbourhood.

1. Are there enough open spaces here?
2. How could they be improved?
3. Do these places meet the needs of the different groups of people who live nearby? What about the elderly, young families, disabled people?
4. What changes would you like to see?



Make it Happen NOW!

1. Choose ONE place or feature in your community that you would like to see improved or created.
2. Gather any information from the council about this area.
3. Find other people who would support you, even those who just say "yes, that's a good idea."
4. Find out who are the decision makers - who do you need to contact? What do they need from you?
5. Put together a proposal or report of what you would like to see happen.
6. Decide who is going to present the proposal, where and how.
7. Present the proposal.

WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN?

HOW?



RAK?

Q What does RAK stand for?

A Well, it means Random Act of Kindness.

So . . .

Q What's that mean?

A



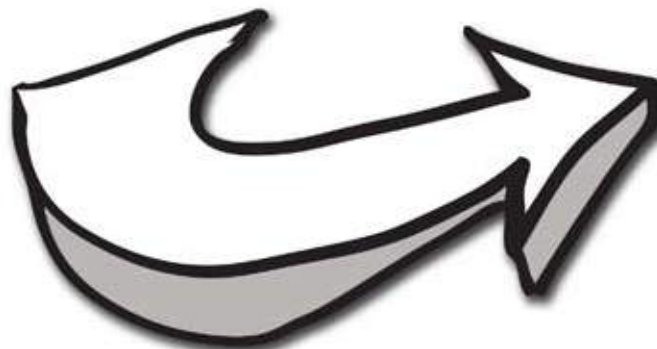
So . . .

(ok, you don't need to write this, just think about it and share with a partner)

Q Describe a time when you last received a RAK

Q Describe a time when you have done a RAK to someone else.

BUT WAIT - there's more over the page!





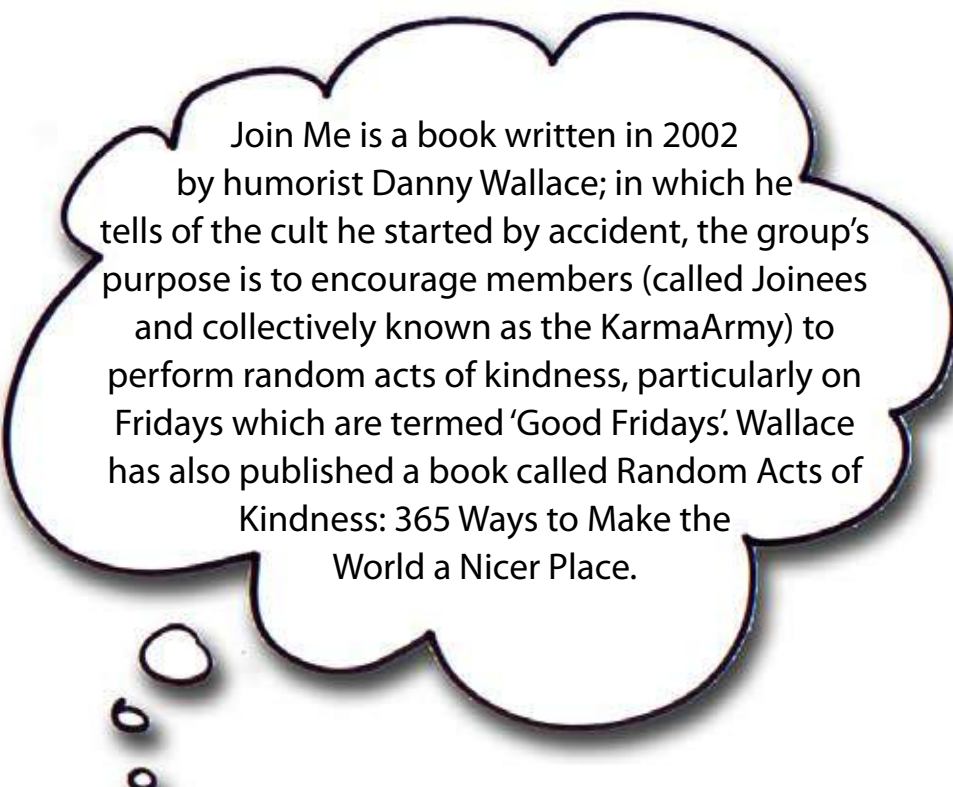
RAK - Part 2

Here is where the fun begins!

Your task is to organise a RAK day - This is a day where you do some random act of kindness to someone else.

It could be a friend, family member, neighbour or a perfect stranger you pass on the street! The ideas are endless, pass it on! Choose a day to spread the word! Make a list, or write on cards. Begin with friends and family and then branch out to neighbours.

Need ideas?



Join Me is a book written in 2002 by humorist Danny Wallace; in which he tells of the cult he started by accident, the group's purpose is to encourage members (called Joinees and collectively known as the KarmaArmy) to perform random acts of kindness, particularly on Fridays which are termed 'Good Fridays'. Wallace has also published a book called Random Acts of Kindness: 365 Ways to Make the World a Nicer Place.

Try some websites too! There are heaps!

Random Ideas

You can use this page to get some ideas for your Random Acts of Kindness. Better still, add your own and share them with others.

- Donate some pet food or supplies for animal shelters or for the SPCA
- Bake goodies and take them to someone special
- Make up a bunch of flowers and give them to someone you think needs cheering up
- Offer to wash cars for your neighbours for free
- Go through your toys and donate everything you no longer play with to a family who would appreciate them
- Organise and plan a 'Just Because Party' for the local children. Play games and have fun
- Have a race to see who can pick up the most rubbish
- Smile at a stranger
- Read to someone
- Smile! Laugh! Share your happiness!
- Take a DVD that you no longer want and give it to someone who might be interested in seeing it. Then ask that they do the same and so on
- Open the door for someone and let them go first
- Join a volunteer group
- Save your magazines to give to a friend after you've read them
- Give up your seat on the bus or train for someone who needs it





TV casting (role play/drama)

Now is your chance to be a STAR!

Work in 3s. One person is the head of auditions for a well known movie director. He/she has to hire 2 actors for a minor scene in the next blockbuster movie. The actors play a neighbour and a young person. This could be the start of your stardom! The acting situations vary according to the scenes that have been selected or randomly handed out.

Scene 1: Background

The young person notices a group of youths throwing eggs at the letterbox of a newly arrived immigrant neighbour. They shout racist remarks to the neighbour. When the neighbour comes out of the house they run away. NOTE: These parts are NOT acted out. They are just background information for the scene that follows.

Your audition begins at the moment you interact with your neighbour.

Scene 2: You will need to read this actual newspaper article first.

Sydney woman dead for 'several years' in home

By Greg Wood | AFP – Wed, Jul 6, 2011

Australian police Wednesday said they had discovered the skeletal remains of a woman in a Sydney house who had been dead for up to eight years.

She was found in a home long assumed by neighbours to be deserted, after a call from a sister-in-law -- her only living family -- from whom she had been estranged since a 2003 feud, according to reports.

"Upon entering an upstairs bedroom at the residence, police located skeletal remains on the floor," police said.

"The remains have not been formally identified. However, police believe they belong to a woman who would have been 87 next month."

Acting superintendent Zoran Dzevlan said the woman, named as Natalie Wood, appeared to have died "several years ago without anyone noticing".

"This serves as a reminder for people to keep a neighbourly eye on those who live in their area, especially the elderly," said Dzevlan.

The dead woman's electricity was cut off years ago and mail failed to stack up on the doorstep because her post was redirected to another address prior to 2003.

Even government agencies neglected the woman, said Police Minister Mike Gallacher, with the state welfare office continuing to send her pension cheques despite the fact they were never cashed.

The local council also failed to notice she had stopped paying rates.

Neighbours said they last saw Wood many years ago, but assumed she had moved away.

The audition begins with the reporter interviewing one of the neighbours.

Scene 3: Background

Place: Christchurch, NZ

Time: After the Earthquake of Feb 22, 2011 and during the aftershocks that followed.

Action/dialogue: Neighbours caring for each other during and after the event. Note - it would be a good idea for your crew to gather real examples from media or personal accounts to create a sense of reality. Actors do this all the time!

The audition begins now!

Scene 4: Create your own neighbours helping neighbours scenario.

Script for:




Local Heroes

- a shared activity

My working partner is:

Our definition of a hero is:
.....
.....
.....

Below is a list of people in our neighbourhood who we think are local heroes. We have given valid reasons for their inclusion.



The person we have chosen to investigate further is:

Yay , we are on our way!

HINT : You'll have to conduct interviews to gain information not only from the hero but from people that have been helped by this person's actions . You'll need to talk with their friends and family members too to get a really clear picture about what this person is really like.

The questions we will be asking are:



Local Heroes - Now it's all about YOU!

Consider what role you would like to have (now or in the future) that would require **YOU** to be a local hero.

What traits will you need to have to become a local hero?



Here is a cartoon of me being a local hero:



Local Heroes

- a shared activity

On your marks, get set, GO!

Action	Completion date
Choose local hero	
Write interview questions	
Make contact with hero and friends	
Arrange time and place	
Rehearse questions	
Write equipment list - what to take	
Conduct the interviews	
Record findings	
Report and share findings	

Now consider ways to thank your local hero.

We could ...



Choose one of these ideas and GET TO IT!

How to be a Caring Person

Treat people with k..... and g.....

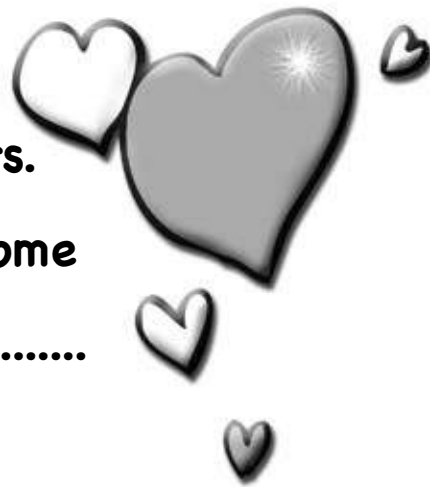
Help people in.....

Be s..... to people's feelings.

Never be or

Think about how your
..... will affect others.

Always remember - we become
caring people by d.....
caring things!



HOW TO BE A CARING NEIGHBOUR

Insert 6 of your own rules/ideas/hints

-
-
-
-
-
-



What does it mean to be a caring neighbour?

Brainstorm a list of dos and don'ts for being a caring neighbour. Use specific examples of each behaviour you identify.

Do	Don't

Take some of the behavioural examples from above, and turn them into role-play situations. You can act them out yourselves or use puppets. First role-play the uncaring behaviour, and then the caring behaviour. Have the group analyse each of the role-plays.

Bring in articles from newspapers and magazines describing situations that show caring and uncaring actions on the part of individuals, groups, or governments. Discuss these situations. In what ways do they demonstrate either caring or uncaring? Write a group letter to the editor or people involved.

Design a New Residents Fact Sheet or Brochure

You could start it something like this:

Hi!

It's great to have you living in

People like living here!

This Fact Sheet provides a guide to what is useful when you first move into

.....

But first

Brainstorm useful information that will help new residents.

Do a Google search of fact sheets/information available for new residents in your area for ideas.



Your First Publication!

Class/group/individual activity

Here is your chance to use your creativity to write and produce your very own School Journal. Are you up to the challenge?

Q: The theme?

A: Neighbourhood.

Q: The title?

A: Now that's up to you!

Q: What goes in it?

A: Well, lots actually.

- An eye-catching cover that has something to do with your neighbourhood theme
- A fiction story
- An article
- An interview
- A poem/rap/song
- A quiz
- An index
- Illustrations
- Catchy titles
- Pictures/photographs
- Lots of colour
- Maps



Careers Page

Community Development is
(add a definition)

There are many rewarding careers associated with community development and people who choose this field know that their work has a positive impact on people's lives. Over the last 20 years there has been a steady increase in careers linked with community development. Examples include:

- Sustainable Neighbourhood Broker
- Kaitaataki aa Rohe (Community Liaison Officer)
- Community Health Worker
- Community Development Advisor
- Social Worker
- Youth Worker
- Refugee Support Worker
- Police Youth Aid Officer
- Ecologist
- Urban Planner
- Social Policy Analyst



Possible Tasks

- 1) Choose a career that interests you from the list above. Find a brief description for that career. Write it down. Some career descriptions will be chosen to be read aloud to class. Be prepared to read yours.
- 2) Go to www.seek.co.nz and type in Community Development. Read through the jobs currently on offer. Choose one that interests you and share it with a classmate.
- 3) Work together as a class to construct a Community Development Careers Notice Board.



Get Real.

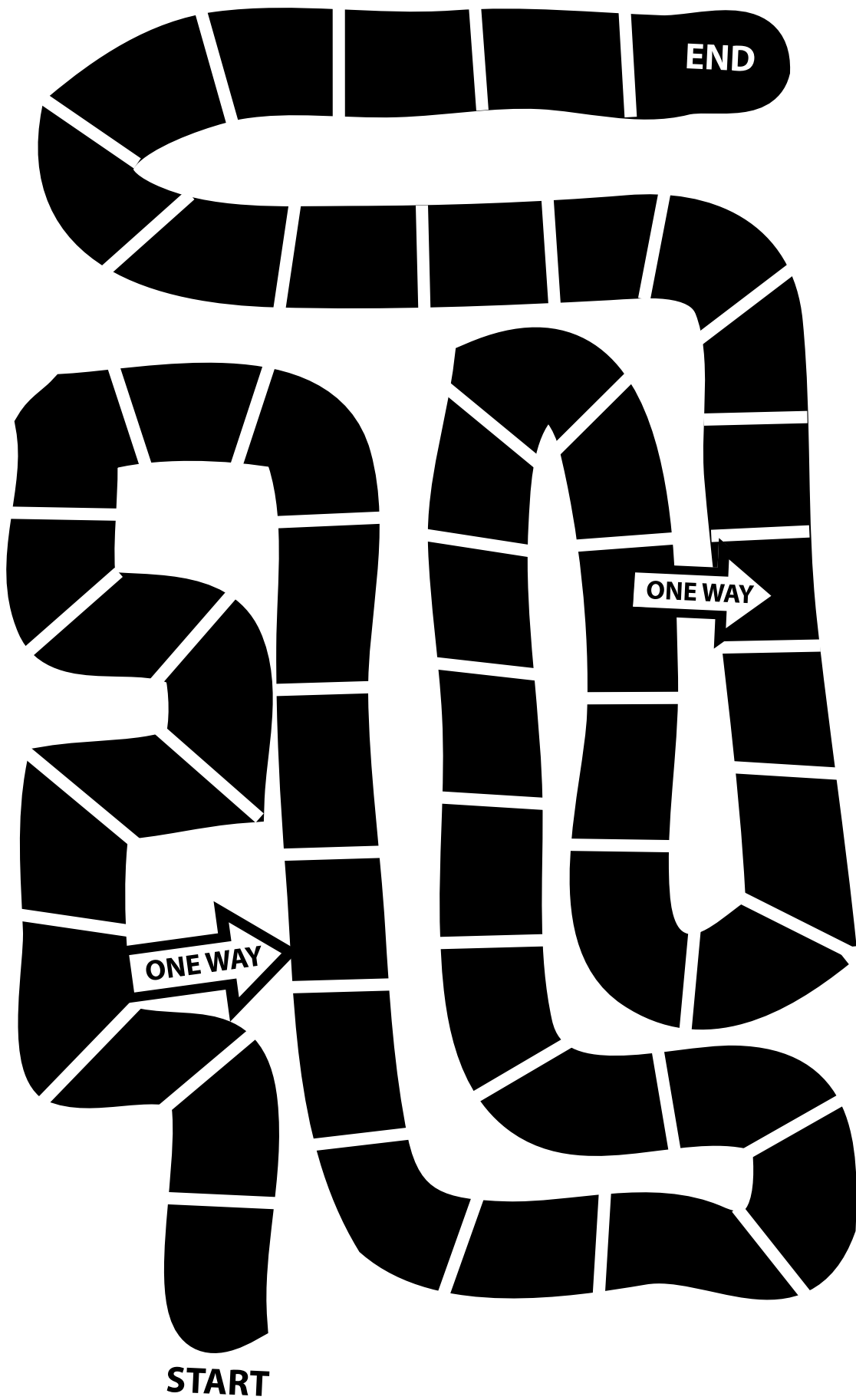
Spread the word NOW!

So you have been reading, thinking, talking and learning about your neighbourhood. Many of you have interviewed people, made plans and taken action in some way, and have received feedback on your amazing efforts. Well done!

BUT - have you thought about these great **ATTENTION SEEKING** ways to promote you and your neighbours to the wider community? After all you are the expert now.

- Have you contacted Learning Media to get your work published? Tell them about the amazing things you have done as an individual, as a class, school or neighbourhood. Include photos and examples.
- Does your local paper know about the exciting new changes you have initiated?
- What about the Neighbours Day website? Have you submitted your ideas?
- For the younger kids have you considered ways to inspire them such as designing a big book or board game based around the things you have discovered?





Neighbours Day Aotearoa

By now you might already know about this fun day or even been involved in the cool things that can happen in your neighbourhood. But if you have never heard about it then you will need to start surfing the net or visit your local library for information.

- 1) Explain using your own words what Neighbours Day Aotearoa is all about.

- 2) What is the long term vision for this idea? Use pictures, words and sentences.

- 3) What are some ideas that neighbours (don't forget that you are a neighbour too!) have done in the past to celebrate Neighbours Day?

- 4) Now think about the next Neighbours Day? When is it? And how can YOU become involved?

- 5) What are some ways that Neighbours Day could be promoted?

- 6) Explain the meaning of the phrase “make every day a Neighbours Day” .

- 7) Look very closely at the current Neighbours Day logo and slogan . What do you like about it’s design? Now create a new logo and slogan for the next Neighbours Day! Submit it to the Neighbours Day team and ask them for feedback on it. You just never know – they might even use it!

If it takes a village to raise a child, it would look like...



What's your story?

We would love to share a story of your neighbourhood on the Neighbours Day Aotearoa website. We'd also love to show the media some great examples of great neighbourhoods to inspire others around the country!

Tell us about your neighbourhood - where is it, what is it like?
(Is it a cul-de-sac or long street, apartment blocks? What does it look like - is it colourful, neat, steep or flat, spacious or compact, busy or quiet. . .?)

How long have you lived there?

What do you like most about your neighbours/neighbourhood?

What is it about your neighbours that help make it a great place to live?

What is your favourite/funniest/most interesting/most special memory or story about your neighbours?

How are you planning to celebrate Neighbours Day Aotearoa? (Or what did you do?)

Can we please share your comments on the www.neighboursday.org.nz website and other Neighbours Day-related newsletters?

YES / NO

Would you be willing to be interviewed by a journalist for a newspaper/magazine story about your neighbourhood?

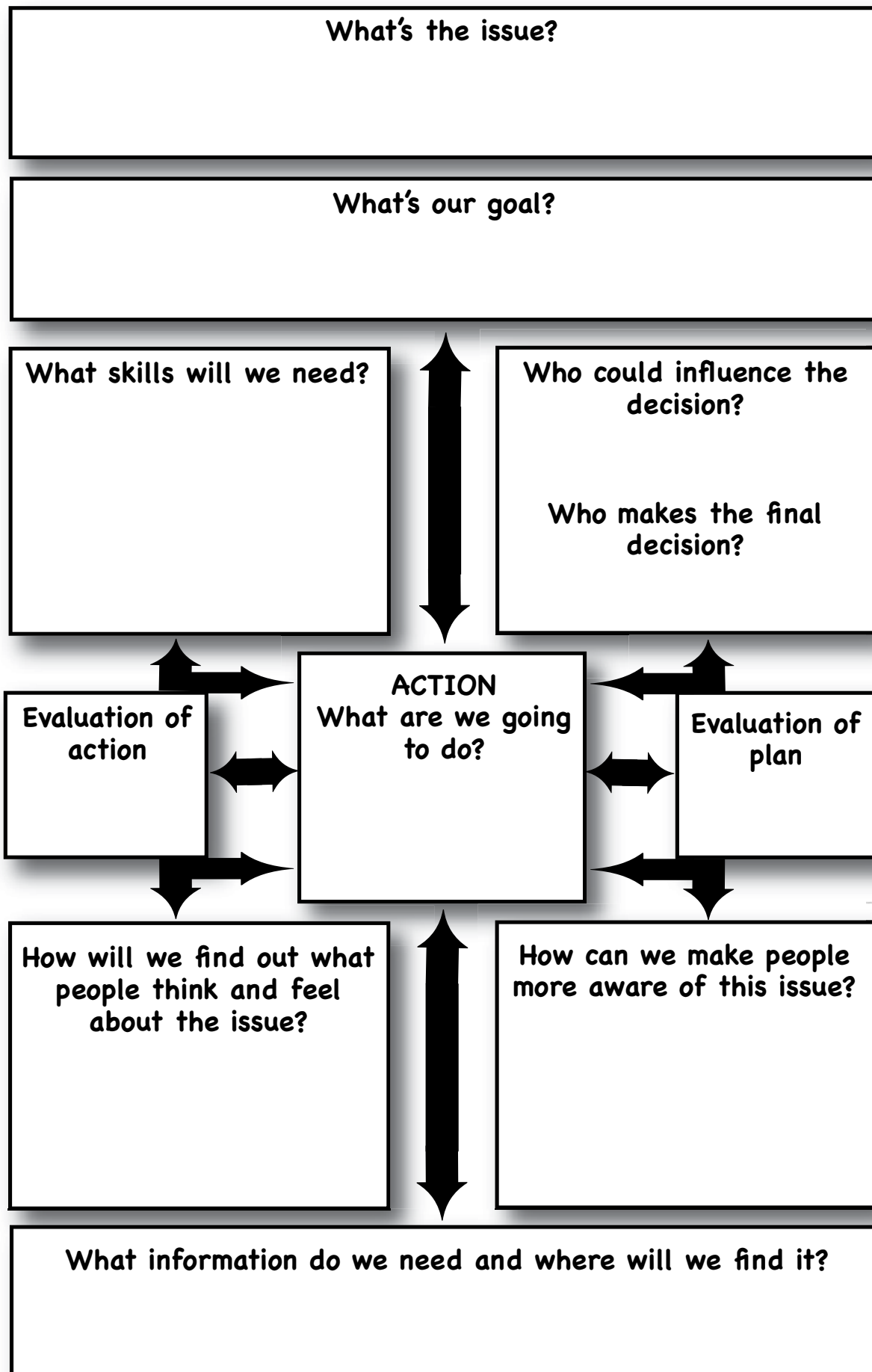
YES / NO

If yes, please provide your name and a contact phone number:

Please email answers to: kiaora@neighboursday.org.nz

Or post to: Neighbours Day Development Team,
PO Box 33 1013,
Takapuna 0740, Auckland

My Action Planner



From Auckland City Issues, Auckland Regional Council 2001

My School Journal Reading Log

Journal #	Title	Comments
3:1:2010	Saving Poormans Stream	
2:2:2004	Dead Car Clean Up	
4:3:2008	Estuary Health Check	
2:3:1996	Testing the North River	
3:2:2010	Brooklyn School Writers Walk	
2:2:1995	Fixing the Playground	
3:3:1998	Nga Putawai Whanau says "Yes!"	.
Connected 2:2001	Getting the Green Light	

During the reading of material for this study
Remember to:

SEE what has happened in your head

THINK about what might happen next

ASK a question about the story

RELATE the story to your own life



Walk the Talk!

My journal entries. . .



My Notes



A large, rounded rectangular area with a vertical line on the left side, creating a margin. The main area is filled with horizontal lines for writing. There are three circular punch holes on the left side of the margin.



Word Search



Create your own neighbourhood word search! Use some clever words that fit the topic. If you decide to swap word searches with your friends to find out who the fastest “word search champion” is, then you need to negotiate some rules. How many words should there be? Who will be the timekeeper? The judge?