

Dear Students,

This is a very important time in your life. You are almost finished with school. It is time to learn about adult responsibilities, for soon, you will be an adult in your community.

In this unit, you will learn how to become involved in the community. You will learn to vote in an election and how to pay taxes. You will also learn about the law and your legal responsibilities.

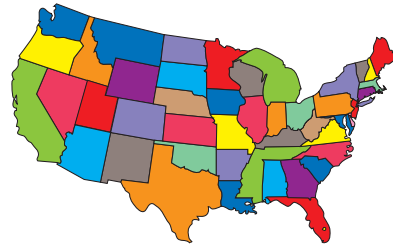
The last part of this unit will teach you about obtaining help and support. There are many organizations in the community that can help you. These organizations assist with things such as, education, health, social security, and transportation.

This is a good time for you to learn about your responsibilities as an adult. It is a good time for you to know what your community can offer you.

Good luck getting ready for your future!

# Our Community

Answer these questions with a partner



1. What does this map represent?
2. When you look at this map of your community, what makes you feel proud?
3. Is this a nice community?
4. Are there fun and interesting things to do in this community?
5. What responsibilities do you have towards your community?
6. Who pays for property that is damaged in your community such as vandalism from graffiti?
7. Who pays for roads, schools and police?
8. Who makes decisions about how tax dollars are spent?
9. Who decides what is important for our community, such as community centers?
10. Why is it important to vote for people who will make good decisions about our community?

# I Belong

A community is made up of a large group of people who live in the same area. Each of us are members of a community. Within the community there are smaller groups. These could be clubs, organizations, families and neighborhoods.

When individuals join together in a group they can get more done and also have more influence than when they work alone. For example, one person can clean a small neighborhood or yard, but if a group of people worked together, several neighborhoods could be cleaned in the same amount of time.



Milton Olson found that we can get 71% more done when we work in a group. He wrote, "People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another." Group membership is important in our lives. Group participation can help people feel they belong when they join together to take care of something.

In Japan, students clean the school and help prepare and clean up lunch. Every three or four months, families of students come to school on a Saturday to do major cleaning, such as washing walls and desks, painting, and other heavy cleaning. This is because they don't have custodians to clean up the schools.

## Answer the following questions:

1. What groups do you belong to?
2. When you belong to a group, how do you feel?
3. Is it important to feel like you belong? Why?
4. Do you think Japanese students would throw candy wrappers on the ground? Stick gum on the desk? Write on the walls? Why?
5. If students in this school had to keep the school clean, would they behave differently than they do now?
6. Does taking care of something make us less likely to damage it? Why?