



*Media Literacy  
in Action:  
The Community  
Planning  
Project*

**Episode 2  
Homes**

# What is a community?

People living in the same geographic place.



# What makes a livable community?

People have many needs and wants in the community in which they live. They want to feel safe and enjoy the place where they live.

People want to live in neighborhoods where they know their neighbors. They want to shop where they can buy the things they need and want.

People also want public services that meet their everyday needs, like providing water and electricity, and police and fire departments that can send responders when there is an emergency.

Transportation is important in communities, whether it means sidewalks or forms of transportation that make it easy to get from place to place.



Schools and other learning centers are important too. Libraries, museums, and historical sites also provide places for learning.

Parks and recreation areas encourage people to enjoy the outdoors and exercise.

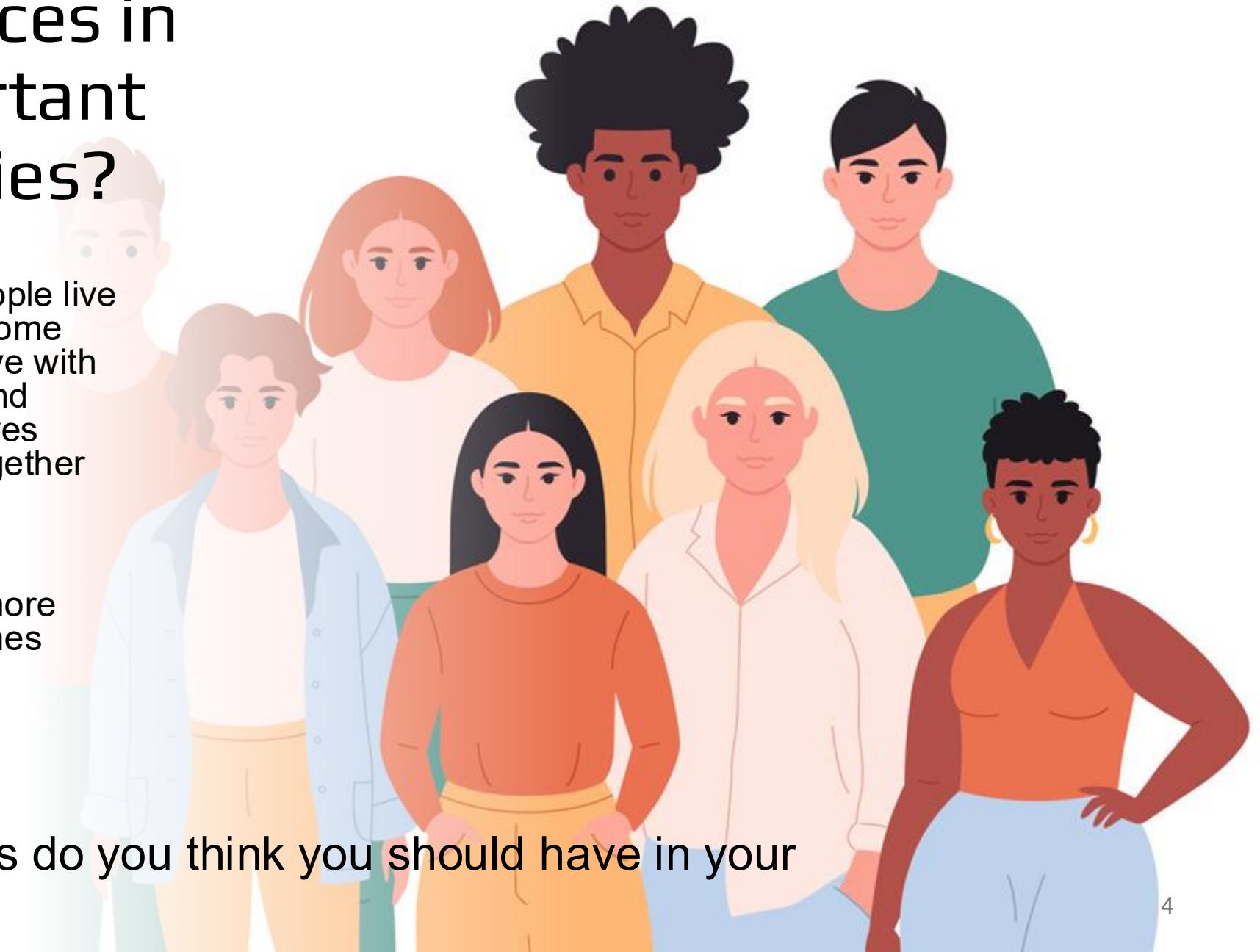
Art is important too, as are public spaces where people can gather for special events, which creates a sense of belonging and pride in the community.

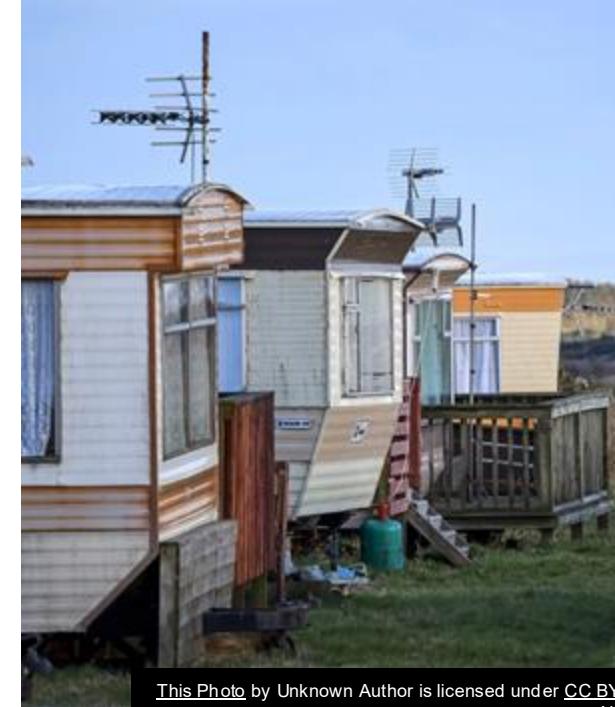
# Why are choices in homes important in communities?

In a livable community, people live in many kinds of homes. Some people live alone, others live with their immediate families, and some live with many relatives altogether. Friends live together too.

When communities have more choices in the kinds of homes people live in, it makes the community more livable.

What kinds of homes do you think you should have in your community?





In communities, there are many different kinds of homes.

Why would people live in different kinds of homes?



# Family Homes

Families need homes for children and sometimes pets. They need more space, but sometimes families agree that everyone shares the space. Children share playrooms and sometimes bedrooms. Families like to have places for their children to play outside, so some families have yards where children can play. Other families use parks for playing and games. Families like to have choices.



## Working from Home

Sometimes people work from home, so they need a space where they can work. We call this a “home office.”



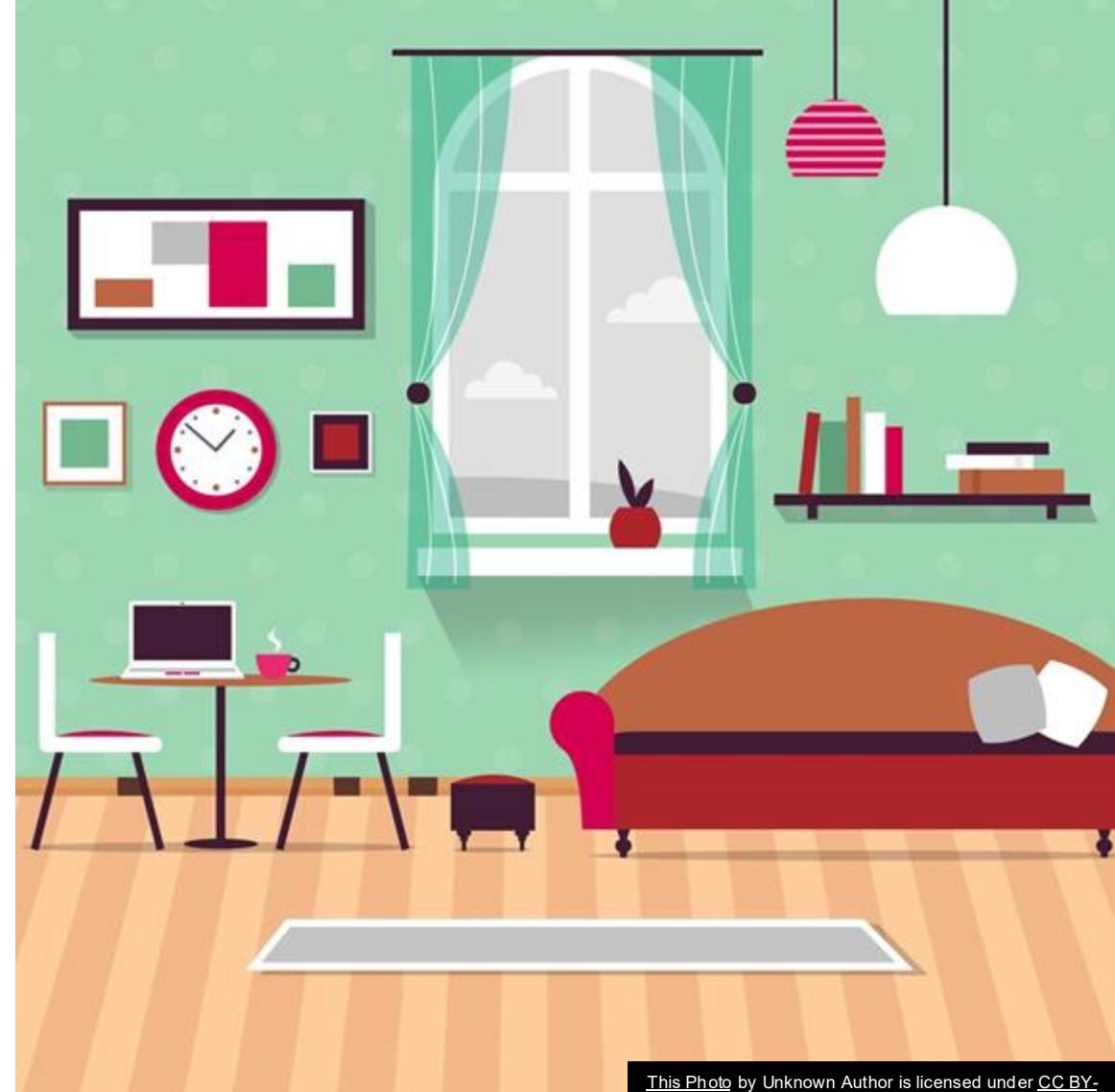
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# Apartments and Condominiums

Some people live alone and they do not need a lot of space, so they live in a small apartment or a condominium.

People who live in apartments pay rent. Rent is money you pay to use something that you do not own.

People who live in condominiums own their homes rather than rent them.



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# Multigenerational Homes

Some families live in multigenerational homes, which are homes where grandparents, parents, and children all live together.



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# Assisted Living Homes

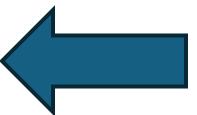
Some people need to live in places where they have assistance. We call these homes assisted living because there are helpers who can “assist” or help people. For example, older people may need help cooking their meals. In an assisted living home, there are people who cook the meals and help in other ways.

Communities that have many different kinds of homes are more livable because there are more choices for people.



# Assisted Living

People who live in assisted living homes, enjoy having other people around. They do such things as sharing stories, playing games, and watching television.



What do you think is happening in this picture?

Sometimes lots of people live together in one big home. They share space in rooms like the kitchen and living room. They are friends and want to live with other people.



# Choices for People

The geographic setting can influence homes that people live in. Apartment buildings can provide homes for many people. Duplexes are two homes that share a common wall. Some people live on houseboats on a lake or sound.

There are all kinds of ways that the geography of where you live influences the homes you can live in. For example, in climates where there is lots of snow, houses have steep roofs for the snow to slide down. In cities where there is limited space, people live in apartment buildings.





Different types of homes often are grouped together in a community. For example, apartment buildings are together and near businesses and other services for easy access. Sometimes, people living in apartment buildings do not own a car and they use public transportation or ride a bike.

# What are tiny houses?

In some communities, tiny houses have become very popular. People choose tiny houses for many different reasons.

Some people decide they do not need a lot of space. Some like tiny houses because they can afford to buy one because it is so small. Some like the idea that they are “eco-friendly,” which means that they use fewer resources and take up less space.

Would you like to live in a tiny house?



# Houses come in all shapes and sizes.

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Did you know that if you have a front porch, you are more likely to get to know your neighbors?

Why do you think that makes a difference?





## Sidewalks in Communities

Sidewalks are important to communities. When communities have sidewalks, people are more likely to get to know their neighbors.

Why do you think that happens?

# Choices & Decisions

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What kinds of homes will you have in your community?

