

**Narrative  
Nonfiction**



# **CITY** **Communities**

by **Madhula Chopra**

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Graw  
Hill**

**PAIRED  
READ**

**Magic Anansi**

# STRATEGIES & SKILLS

## Comprehension

**Strategy:** Ask and Answer Questions

**Skill:** Author's Purpose

## Vocabulary

across, borrow,  
countryside, idea, insists,  
lonely, solution, villages

## Phonics

Long o: o, oa, ow, oe

## Content Standards

### Social Studies

Civics/Government

## Vocabulary Strategy

Synonyms

Word count: 938\*\*

**Photography Credit:** Cover James Lemass/Photolibrary/Getty Images

\*\*The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



## Education

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## Essential Question

How can people help out their community?



by Madhula Chopra

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## CHAPTER 1

# Moving to the City

It's moving day for the Sanchez family! They are moving from the country to the city. Last night, friends helped them pack their car. This morning, they have come to say goodbye.

The kids wave until they can no longer see their friends. They are sad to leave their house and friends, but they are excited about moving to the city. They met some new friends when they looked at apartments there.



The Sanchez family is packing to move to the city.

---

The Sanchez family drives through the countryside. They pass farms with fields. Then the houses become closer together and there are more stores. The Sanchez family stops for gas in a **suburb**, a town outside the city.

Back in the car, the kids look at the map. They are taking a **route** that their friends in the city marked for them. Soon they see the city **skyline**. Tall buildings and a bridge come into view in the distance. They are almost there!



The Sanchez family drives on the highway to get to their new home in the city.

## CHAPTER 2

# Getting Around the City



There are many people and lots of traffic in a city.

---

Every day, many people like the Sanchez family move to cities. Their lives there are very different from how they lived before. Most people live in apartment buildings, not houses. They have less space. Most people don't have a backyard or a car. People walk many places, and they may take subways, buses, or taxis.



Many high-rise  
apartments  
have a  
doorman.

When the Sanchez family arrives at their new apartment, the **superintendent**, or manager, of their building welcomes them. He will introduce the Sanchez family to other families who live in the building.

The Sanchezes' apartment on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor looks down on a large park. They can see many tall buildings from their windows.



**Some communities make sure to welcome all new people who move in.**

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In another part of the city, the Pavi family has also just moved in. A neighbor shows Mrs. Pavi where to buy groceries. She walks with her to the post office and library. Mrs. Pavi gets a library card. The librarian helps her find a book she wants to borrow.



In many cities, children live near their schools and walk every day. Sometimes, parents walk with their kids to school. Crossing guards also help the kids get to school safely.



**Crossing guards wear brightly colored vests so drivers can see them easily.**

---

Some adults cannot walk to work. They need to travel by subway. In the subway station, a worker in a booth gives them a map. He helps them find the best routes to their jobs.

## CHAPTER 3

# Having Fun in the City



Without backyards, children in the city play outside in city parks.

The Trent family moved to the city last week. Billy Trent likes his new school, but he doesn't know where to play outside after school. The next day, his new friend Jim takes him to a park. Jim's mom watches them as they have fun on the swings and slide. Billy didn't know that cities also had parks!

There are many activities for families in cities. Each weekend offers many choices.

One place to spend a sunny Saturday or Sunday is at the park. Families can get a **pamphlet** from a park worker that lists things to do there. The kids can go to the puppet show or they can ride the carousel.



Athletic events  
are a good way  
to meet people.

## Park Activities

<b>Puppet shows</b>	1 pm and 4 pm, Saturday-Sunday
<b>Carousel rides</b>	9 am - 5 pm, Daily
<b>Skating rink</b>	9 am - 5 pm, Daily
<b>Zoo</b>	9 am - 5 pm, Daily

Museums are another great place to visit in the city. A museum worker gave this family a map to find their way around and see interesting displays. The family looks forward to exploring different exhibits and stopping at the gift shop. Maybe they will even see an exciting 3-D movie about dinosaurs or pyramids.



People in cities can visit museums to learn about art, history, or even dinosaurs.



**This block party is raising money for a Neighborhood Watch program.**

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Some neighborhoods in cities like to host block parties. Neighbors grill food outside, and delicious smells fill the air. Music plays through outdoor speakers. Children dance and play games. People from other blocks nearby join the fun. People sell foods and other goods. They will use the money they raise to make their block safer.

# Giving Back to the City

The Lee family has lived in their new city for several months. They are thankful for all the help neighbors and community workers have given them. They decide it is time to give back to their city.

Mrs. Lee joins a running club. She runs races for different groups that help people. She asks people to pay her for the miles she runs. Then she **donates**, or gives, this money to the groups.



Some races are many miles long and last for hours.

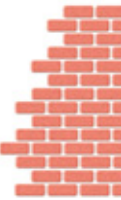


Community gardens may grow flowers, fruit, or vegetables.

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Mr. Lee decides to **volunteer** his time in a park. He plants flowers in its gardens. He enjoys gardening. He feels good about making the park a beautiful place to visit.

The kids, Mio and Chin, have a great idea. On Saturday mornings, they volunteer in a library. They read books and sing songs with younger children.



Let's meet one more family. The Smith family moved to a city today. They are eager to explore their new home and meet their new neighbors. Who do you think might help this family? What might these people do to help them?



Neighbors can help the Smith family carry boxes to their new apartment.

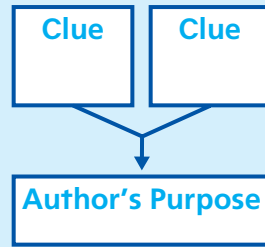
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# Respond to Reading

## Summarize

Use the Author's Purpose chart to help you summarize *City Communities*.



## Text Evidence

1. How do you know that *City Communities* is a nonfiction text? Identify the text features.

**GENRE**

2. Find three examples on pages 7–8 that show that the author's purpose is to inform.

**AUTHOR'S PURPOSE**

3. What word means the same as *superintendent* on page 5? **SYNONYMS**

4. Write about the author's purpose on pages 12–13. **WRITE ABOUT READING**

## Compare Texts

Read to find out how animals in this folktale get along in their community.

# Magic Anansi

retold Anansi  
folktale



Anansi Spider is friends with Leopard and Goat. Goat has little kids. They all live in the same neighborhood, in Leopard's house.

But one day, Leopard becomes angry. His friends have made his house messy. He growls, “Get out. I want this house to myself!” Leopard chases away his friends.

Anansi, Goat, and Goat’s kids run through villages. They come to a river they can’t cross, but Anansi comes up with a solution. He uses his magic powers to change Goat and her kids into stones, and he throws them across the river. He then spins a long thread and uses it to swing himself across the river. Now they are far away from Leopard.





# Glossary

**donates** (*DOH-nayts*) gives or contributes (**page 12**)

**pamphlet** (*PAM-flit*) a booklet that provides information (**page 9**)

**route** (*REWT*) path or direction to follow (**page 3**)

**skyline** (*SKI-line*) the place where sky and scenery meet (**page 3**)

**suburb** (*SUB-urb*) a town outside a city (**page 3**)

**superintendent** (*SUE-puh-rin-TEN-duht*) the manager of a building (**page 5**)

**volunteer** (*vol-uhn-TEER*) to help someone for free (**page 13**)

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# Focus on Social Studies

**Purpose** To find out how people help out their community

## What to Do

**Step 1**

Talk with your friends about how people help each other in their communities. Talk about people whose job it is to help. Talk about people who volunteer.

.....

**Step 2**

Put your information in a chart like this one.

People	How They Help

.....

**Step 3**

Write a few sentences about how people can help their communities. If you like, draw a picture too. Discuss what you have learned.

# Thinkmark

## The Topic

What is the main topic of *City Communities*?

## Vocabulary

What new words did you learn in *City Communities*?

What helped you understand their meanings?

## Conclusions

What conclusion can you draw about different ways people help each other in city communities?

## Make Connections

What parts of living in the city would you enjoy?

What parts would you not enjoy?