

**Enhancement Activities/Strategies for Gifted/High Ability Learners:
Sample Social Studies Learning Plan**

Big Idea/ Topic

Connecting Theme/Enduring Understanding: Students will see how the roles of community workers fit within the theme of scarcity, because an element of choice is involved in this idea.

Essential Question: What jobs are important in our community?

Standard Alignment

SSKE1 - Describe the work that people do such as: police officer, fire fighter, soldier, mail carrier, farmer, doctor, teacher, etc.

Connection to Literacy Standards for Social Studies and Social Studies Matrices

ELAGSEKR11: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

ELAGSEKR12: With prompting and support, identify the main topic (main idea) and retell key details of a text (supporting details).

ELAGSEKR17: With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text (how the illustrations support the text).

ELAGSEKW2: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic

Advanced Research

Have students research community helpers they want to explore and share what they learn by making books, creating videos, building models of tools or props used by community helpers, creating games to teach classmates, or doing live presentations as community helpers. Since most kindergarteners are not strong independent readers, all of these resources include video links that can be shared with students.

- Research uniforms and tools used by community helpers with read-alouds or recorded read-alouds:
- Learn more about specific community helper jobs with a videos.

Communication

- Invite community helpers to visit your classroom. Have advanced students help make a list of questions before the interview to ask your visitors. Have students complete comparison charts to see what community helpers have in common with other roles or what students feel as though they have in common with your guests.
- Have students create songs about the jobs community helpers do.
- Have students create a “HELPER” acrostic poem about a community helper career. Have them share their poems with their favorite community helpers.
- Have students write thank you letters to their favorite community helpers to let them know why they appreciate them.

Critical Thinking and Critical Problem-Solving Skills

- Have students create a graphic organizer about different community helpers on large butcher paper (or a digital tool if your students are virtual learners). Have students think about how one community helper might connect to another community helper. Encourage students to make as many connections as they can. You may glue some graphics to posters to help students get started.
- How do community helpers work together? Challenge your students to make an illustrated book of examples. You might want to give students a few example situations to help them get started, such as how different community helpers work together at the scene of a car accident, at a community parade or event, or at a back-to-school kickoff.
- Challenge students to create community helper riddles or puzzles and have their classmates try to solve them.

Creative Thinking and Creative Problem-Solving Skills

- Challenge students with the following questions: “How can I help community helpers? How can I be a community helper?” Students develop creative fluency by developing lists with as many examples as they can generate. (For young students who cannot write well, using a recording tool is a great alternative.) Students can be further challenged to group the items on their list into categories that contain similar ideas. An adult may need to help with this. To build creative flexibility, help students think of more categories for which they can generate ideas to answer the target questions.
- Have students work together to build a 3-D community out of recycled materials. Challenge students to think about places where they might find community helpers and be sure to include those buildings in their community model.

- Inspire your students to think about jobs that are important in our community. Challenge them to work in teams to write their own career raps.

Awareness of Self—Student’s Well-being

- Many gifted students feel a great sense of justice and feel strongly about doing things to make the world a better place. While you are studying this unit, be aware of students who are deeply interested and involved who may want to do a special project for your local community helpers. It is important to start teaching gifted children, even from a very young age, to be aware of needs in their surroundings and work to be an agent of change.
- Many gifted students show an aptitude for leadership at a young age and naturally want to solve problems. Community helpers are great mentors to help young students understand the roles and values of leaders.