

# On your Doorstep

Exploring creativity in your community



This #CelebrateArtsmark resource is designed to support pupils to explore and connect with their wider community.

## The community on your doorstep

Community can be about the people and places where we live, and how they affect or influence our lives. Artsmark celebrates diversity within our communities, and invites children and young people to share their own individual experience of where they feel they belong and how their communities shape them.

Tapping into the cultural wealth of our neighbourhoods can really enrich your Artsmark journey. From local arts organisations, libraries, artists and makers, to local choirs or drama groups - creativity is a great way to express who and what your community is all about!

## How it works

1

### Discuss

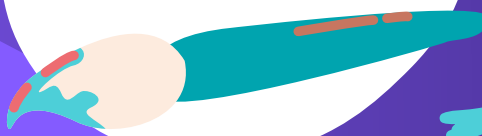
Encourage pupils to discuss what community means to them.



2

### Create

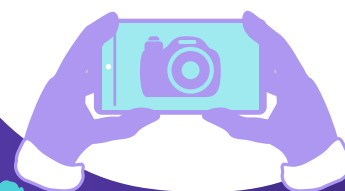
Explore discussion ideas through creativity and celebrate who and what makes up our community.



3

### Showcase

Display pupils' artwork and share photos or videos on social media: tag us using #CelebrateArtsmark



# 1 Discuss

Get talking about the brilliant people and places that make up your community. Where do you go? Who do you see? This could be your local shop, park or meeting place, neighbours, shop keepers or people we see every day.

How do these people or places make you feel? Where, and with whom, do you feel you belong? How would you describe your community to someone in a different part of the world? What is special about where you live? What could be better?

Write down your answers in small groups, or as a class.



## 2 Create

### Our Community Gallery

Draw, paint or photograph someone in your community – it might be a local shop keeper, your football coach or dance teacher, a neighbour or just a member of your family. Use the frame template if you wish!

Write a description of who they are and what they do in your community. Maybe you can get a quote from them telling us a little bit more about their lives.

Make a display of all your portraits. How diverse and interesting are all these people who make up your community? Discuss who they are and the contribution they make.

## 3 Showcase

Organise a special opening event for your exhibition and invite everyone who appeared in the portraits.

Can you ask them to write their recollections or experiences in a community book? Maybe these stories could be starting points for your pupils' own stories, poems or creative writing.

Don't forget to share your work on social media tagging @ArtsmarkAward using the hashtag #CelebrateArtsmark

### Extension

Invite other schools to make and share their own Community Gallery. Is there somewhere special in your community which can display your exhibition? Why not ask your local library, community hall, shop or café?

# Other ideas



## Art all around us

Take a walk through your neighbourhood. Try and spot as many 'creative' things on your journey. Maybe you can hear music from a café, spot a mural on a wall or an advert on a billboard. Make a list of all the creative jobs or careers there are connected to these things. Make contact with any of the artists, creative businesses or makers in your community, and find out more about their career journey.

## Word on the Street/Local Rag

Unleash creative writing skills by inviting pupils to make their own local newspaper – this can be digital, or a simple hand-made zine. Include character profiles, interviews, local adverts, any special events coming up as well as photographs or cartoons. Even the crossword could include local clues!



## Sense of Place

Draw or paint outdoors – explore local streets, the park or places of interest within walking distance of school. Use all your senses. Sketch what you see, take rubbings of textures, make notes of what you feel or hear. Can you record the sounds? Back in school create a landscape and soundscape of all you've collected.

## Don't forget to share your work:

Share your work on social media and tag us using the hashtag #CelebrateArtsmark



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