

## Summary: What Is a Community?

### People Together

Communities are the same in some ways. People in a community need the same things. They need places to live. They need light for their homes, along with food and water. People in a community want the same things too. They want good schools and good jobs.

Communities are different in some ways, too. Some are small and others are big. Some people in a community live in families with children. Others live alone. Some are young and others are old. People in a community may come from different countries.

### Laws and Communities

Laws help people in communities treat each other fairly. Laws also keep them safe. A law that says you must wear a seatbelt helps keep you safe. Some laws help keep a community clean. Obeying rules and laws is part of being a citizen of a community.

Citizens help their communities in many ways. Citizens choose their leaders and help leaders make laws. One law says that people who are born in the United States are citizens. Another law says that other people can become citizens.

Your community is different from other communities. What makes it special?



#### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**community** *noun*, a place where people live, work, and play together

**law** *noun*, a rule that tells people how to behave in their communities

**citizen** *noun*, an official member of a community, state, or country



#### After You Read

**REVIEW** In what ways are communities alike? Draw a box around a paragraph that tells the answer.

**REVIEW** Why do communities have laws? Highlight three ways laws help people.