

Lesson Two: What are the Key Types of Infrastructure in Our Community and the United States Today?

Overview: This lesson both builds awareness of different types of infrastructure and challenges students to think about how infrastructure impacts their personal lives.

Objectives: Students should be able to do the following at the end of the lesson:

1. Identify eight types of infrastructure and list two examples for each of these types.
2. Describe at least one way how their personal lives are impacted by each of the eight types of infrastructure introduced.

Activities:

1. In pairs or small groups, students brainstorm different examples of infrastructure in their communities on Infrastructure Worksheet #1 that begins with a definition of infrastructure and provides space for brainstorm notes.
2. Next, students will complete Bingo Worksheet #2 by filling empty boxes with the names of general types of infrastructure from their Worksheet #1.
3. Teacher passes out and discusses Completed Types of Infrastructure Handout.
4. Teacher facilitates a discussion about the impact of infrastructure on the personal lives of students.

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- 1. Brainstorm Activity:** The goal here is to open students' eyes to the many kinds of infrastructure that impact their lives every day. Begin the segment by dividing the class into either pairs or small groups. Then pass out Infrastructure Worksheet #1. After going over the definition of infrastructure, ask the student groups to write down a list of 5 to 10 different examples of infrastructure that are important in their community. If students seem baffled at first with the assignment, give them two or three examples such as garbage collection, telephone networks, and roads, to prime their pumps. After a few minutes for brainstorming, ask for ideas from all the groups to see if you can create a quick list of ten or more examples.
- 2. Organize Brainstorm Ideas:** Pass out Types of Infrastructure Worksheet #2 which lists one important type of infrastructure, Water Management, with specific examples, and five blank spaces for listing other types of infrastructure. After going over the examples for Water Management ask the groups to try to identify and list five other major types of infrastructure and list two or three examples for each one they list. In a few minutes, ask the groups to share the five types that they identified and as well as examples that they listed. Do not be too concerned about what students come up with or lack because you will be filling in information later.
- 3. Bingo Break:** Pass out the Bingo Activity and give students a couple minutes to fill out their Bingo cards. Then read the names of the eight types of infrastructure from the completed Completed Types of Infrastructure Handout, one at a time, until someone calls BINGO.
- 4. Completed Infrastructure Handout:** Distribute the handout and go over the different types and examples one at a time. You might encourage students to place an X on their Types of Infrastructure Worksheet #2 for any types or examples that match what is on the Completed Types of Infrastructure Handout.
- 5. Lesson Conclusion:** Conclude the lesson by facilitating a discussion on how different types of infrastructure impact student lives. The goal here is to flush out more of the personal impact of infrastructure.

Questions to consider using include:

- Which of these infrastructures could you more easily get along without?
- Which of these infrastructures are most important for our community?
- What is the current condition of our local infrastructure?

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Infrastructure Worksheet #1

Definition of Infrastructure: “The organized network needed to provide particular goods and/or services to a large group of people.”

Task: In pairs or small groups list five to ten different examples of infrastructure in our community.

Brainstorm List

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Types of Infrastructure Worksheet #2

Definition of Infrastructure: “The organized network needed to provide particular goods and/or services to a large group of people.”

Tasks:

- Brainstorm different types of infrastructure and list at least five in the spaces provided.
- Beneath each type, list two or three specific examples using the following model of one of the important infrastructures.

1. Water Management - Drinking water system, flood control, dams, and irrigation system

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

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Bingo Activity

Instructions:

1. Fill in the empty boxes with the name of an important type of infrastructure.
2. If your teacher reads the name of a type of infrastructure that is in one of your boxes, place an X on that box.
3. When you get 3 X's in a row, either horizontally or diagonally, raise your hand and say BINGO.

	X	

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Completed Types of Infrastructure Handout

1. Water Management:

Drinking water system, irrigation systems, flood control, dams, and waterways

2. Transportation:

Roads, bridges, mass transit, railways, canals, airports, ferries, and ports

3. Energy:

Dams, power plants, power distribution and transmission facilities, and pipelines

4. Communication:

Post office, telephone networks, internet services, and undersea cables

5. Solid Waste Management:

Sewage, garbage collection, and landfills

6. Security:

Prisons, fire protection, military, office buildings, and court houses

7. Social Services:

Hospitals, schools, and Child Protective Services

8. Cultural and Recreational:

Museums, parks, and athletic stadiums

Note: The above list of examples is illustrative rather than complete.