Name: _____ Date: _____

Colored Patches on the Town Zoning Map

Circle group

Many towns keep a special map. It looks like a patchwork quilt. Each patch has a color. Each color shows how the land can be used. Green may be for parks. Yellow may be for homes. Gray may be for factories. This is called a zoning map. It helps a town plan where things can be built.

Why not build anything anywhere? Think of a loud factory next to quiet houses. The families would hear machines all day. Trucks would rumble down their street. Zoning keeps noisy places in one part of town. Homes go in another part. Stores usually go where many people can get to them. Schools and parks are often near homes.

The town government makes the zoning rules. But people can speak up. Say an owner wants to build something that does not match the map. The owner must ask for permission. The town usually holds a meeting first. Neighbors can come and listen. They can say what they think. Then the officials decide. Zoning does not make every choice easy. But it gives the town a plan.

Questions

1. What does each color on a zoning map show?

_____

_____

2. Who makes the zoning rules?

_____

_____

3. Why is a factory next to quiet houses a problem?

_____

_____

4. What must an owner do to build something that does not match the map?

_____

_____

5. What does the town usually do before the officials decide?

_____

_____

6. Why do stores usually go where many people can get to them?

_____

_____

Words to know

patchwork: made of many small pieces joined together
zoning: a town's plan for where homes, shops and factories may go
permission: a yes from someone in charge that says you may do something
factories: big buildings where machines make things
officials: people who hold jobs in the government

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Colored Patches on the Town Zoning Map

Triangle group

Many towns keep a special map that looks like a patchwork quilt. Each patch has a color, and each color stands for a way the land can be used. Maybe green is for parks, yellow is for homes, and gray is for factories. This is called a zoning map, and it helps a town plan where things can be built.

Why not let people build anything anywhere? Picture a loud factory right next to a quiet row of houses. The families would hear machines all day, and trucks would rumble down their street. Zoning keeps noisy places in one part of town and homes in another. Stores usually go where many people can reach them easily. Schools and parks are often placed close to neighborhoods.

The town government makes the zoning rules, but people can speak up. If an owner wants to build something that does not match the color on the map, the owner must ask for permission. The town usually holds a meeting first. Neighbors can attend, listen and share what they think. Then the officials decide. Zoning will not make every choice easy, but it gives a town a plan to follow.

Questions

1. What does each color on a zoning map stand for?

_____

_____

2. Who makes the zoning rules?

_____

_____

3. Why would a factory next to quiet houses be a problem?

_____

_____

4. What must an owner do to build something that does not match the map?

_____

_____

5. What usually happens before the town officials decide?

_____

_____

6. Why do stores usually go where many people can reach them easily?

_____

_____

Words to know

patchwork: made of many small pieces joined together
zoning: a town's plan for where homes, shops and factories may go
permission: a yes from someone in charge that says you may do something
factories: big buildings where machines make things
officials: people who hold jobs in the government

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Colored Patches on the Town Zoning Map

Square group

Many towns maintain a special map that resembles a patchwork quilt. Every patch is shaded a particular color, and each color represents an approved way of using the land. Green might designate parks, yellow might designate homes, and gray might designate factories. This document is called a zoning map, and it allows a town to plan carefully where different kinds of buildings may be constructed.

Why not simply allow people to build anything anywhere? Consider what would happen if a loud factory were built right beside a quiet row of houses. The families would hear machinery all day long, and heavy trucks would rumble down their street. Zoning keeps noisy businesses in one section of town and homes in another. Stores are usually located where large numbers of people can reach them easily, while schools and parks are often placed close to neighborhoods.

The town government writes the zoning rules, yet ordinary people are still able to speak up. If an owner wants to construct something that does not match the color on the map, the owner must request permission. The town usually holds a public meeting beforehand, where neighbors can attend, listen and share their opinions. Only then do the officials make their decision. Zoning will never make every choice easy, but it does provide a town with a plan to follow.

Questions

1. What does each color on a zoning map represent?

_____

_____

2. Who writes the zoning rules?

_____

_____

3. Why would a factory beside quiet houses cause trouble for the families?

_____

_____

4. What must an owner do before building something that does not match the map?

_____

_____

5. What usually happens before the officials make their decision?

_____

_____

6. Why are stores usually located where many people can reach them easily?

_____

_____

Words to know

patchwork: made of many small pieces joined together
zoning: a town's plan for where homes, shops and factories may go
permission: a yes from someone in charge that says you may do something
factories: big buildings where machines make things
officials: people who hold jobs in the government

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Colored Patches on the Town Zoning Map

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Colored Patches on the Town Zoning Map

Easier · 182 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. A way the land can be used, such as parks, homes or factories.
2. The town government.
3. The families would hear machines and trucks all day.
4. Ask for permission.
5. It holds a meeting where neighbors can listen and speak.
6. Stores need customers, so it helps if people can reach them easily.

Triangle: Colored Patches on the Town Zoning Map

This passage · 195 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. A way the land can be used, such as parks, homes or factories.
2. The town government.
3. The families would hear machines and trucks all day.
4. Ask for permission.
5. The town holds a meeting where neighbors can listen and share their thoughts.
6. Stores need customers, so being easy to reach helps people shop there.

Square: Colored Patches on the Town Zoning Map

Harder · 223 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.4

1. An approved way of using the land, such as parks, homes or factories.
2. The town government.
3. They would hear machinery and heavy trucks all day long.
4. Request permission.
5. The town holds a public meeting where neighbors can attend, listen and share opinions.
6. Stores depend on customers, so being easy to reach helps people shop there.