

Lesson Plan: *Montrose Avenue*

(An animated documentary by Marek Colek and Pat Shewchuk, Canada, 2006, 5 min)

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Plan at a glance

Synopsis

Montrose Avenue is a 5-and-a-half-minute animated documentary that portrays an average day in the life of an inner-city neighbourhood in Toronto, Canada. Narrated from the perspective of a 6-year-old girl, we travel up and down the street on a typical summer day. We follow the actions of residents, pedestrians and local merchants, as their daily routines take them to the local park, to shops or simply to chat in anticipation of the annual Portuguese Senhor Da Pedra festival and parade.



Levels of Education

Preschool, Elementary (Cycle 1)

Objectives

- Have students reflect on their neighbourhood (people, workers, institutions, natural setting, etc.).
- Help them see their neighbourhood through different angles (activities, celebrations, multiculturalism, etc.).
- Foster a reflection on the usefulness of variety in their neighbourhood.
- Have them think about what they like and dislike about their neighbourhood.
- Encourage them to consider their role in their neighbourhood.
- Have them think about neighbourhoods elsewhere or in other times.

Subjects

- Social sciences
- English
- Arts

Proposed Activities

Twelve activities are proposed. Choose only one or any combination of.

Activity	Theme	Educational approaches
1	My neighbourhood	Discussion
2	Activities	Mime, collage, drawing
3	Workers	Discussion (or writing for older students) by picking key words
4	Institutions	Discussion (or writing for older students) by picking key words
5	Multiculturalism	Discussion by asking a classmate
6	Festivals and celebrations	Discussion
7	Nature	Discussion, drawing
8	Pets	Throw the ball and ask a friend
9	In the old days	Interview with a parent or grand-parent
10	I like... I don't like...	Discussion
11	A special person in my neighbourhood	Discussion, drawing, writing
12	A special place in my neighbourhood	Discussion aided by throwing a ball

Activity 1: My neighbourhood

Educational approach: Discussion

Ask students these questions:

- Close your eyes and describe your neighbourhood.
- Complete this sentence: "My neighbourhood is..."
- What is a typical day for you in your neighbourhood during the week? On the weekend?
- What goes on in your neighbourhood during the day? In the evening?
- Which other neighbourhoods have you visited? How were they different from yours?
- Have you ever visited neighbourhoods in other countries? How were they different? How were they similar?
- What are your rights and responsibilities in your neighbourhood? (Being treated with respect and treating other people with respect; having a clean environment and keeping it clean yourself, etc.)



Activity 2: Activities

Educational approach: Mime, collage, drawing

First, ask student to name the activities they saw in the movie (jogging, walking the dog, playing in the park, playing cards, practising Tai Chi, etc.).

Then, ask students to mime, do a collage or draw their favourite activities in their neighbourhood (playing a sport, going to the park, reading on their porch, etc.).

You may also do this activity by season.

Activity 3: Workers

Educational approach: Discussion (or writing for older students) by picking key words

Ask the class:

- Which types of workers do we see in the animated movie? (Tramway driver, construction worker, shop clerk, cashier, butcher, florist, mailman/letter carrier, etc.)

Then, one by one, students pick a word from Appendix 1 (type of workers seen in the film) and answer these questions (orally or in written form for older students):

- What do you think is a typical day for a _____?
- Do these people work during the day, evening or at night?
- How is their work useful?



Activity 4: Institutions

Educational approach: Discussion (or writing for older students) by picking words

In the movie, we saw different kinds of institutions and buildings. Close your eyes and try to think of some in your neighbourhood (houses, schools, stores, markets, restaurants, churches, temples, mosques, etc.).

Using the words in Appendix 2, each student picks a word and tells you something about it (activities that take place there, how they think it is useful, etc.).



Activity 5: Multiculturalism

Educational approach: Discussion by asking a classmate

Students ask a classmate:

- Do you know people from different cultures in your neighbourhood? From which countries?
- Are there ethnic shops, restaurants or ethnic foods in your neighbourhood? Which ones?
- Are there cultural celebrations in your neighbourhood, such as the Portuguese Senhor Da Pedra parade you saw in the film?



Activity 6: Festivals and celebrations

Educational approach: Discussion

Ask these questions:

- What are the celebrations, festivals or parades in your neighbourhood?
- What are they in honour of?
- What activities do they involve?
- When do they occur?

Activity 7: Nature

Educational approach: Discussion, drawing

If you opt for a discussion, ask your students:

- Where can nature be found in your neighbourhood?
- What are trees useful for?
- Do animals live in these natural areas? Which ones?
- What can you do to take care of nature in your neighbourhood?

If you opt for a drawing, ask students to:

- Draw their neighbourhood, identifying the natural areas.
- Draw themselves doing something positive for their environment.

Activity 8: Pets

Educational approach: Throw the ball and ask a friend

Bring a small soft ball and ask a student to throw it to a friend to ask him/her a question about their pet(s). Once a student answers, he/she throws it to another student and asks him/her a question. Here are some sample questions:

- Do you have a pet?
- What kind of animal is it?
- What's his or her name?
- What's something funny your pet does?
- Do you take your pet for a walk in your neighbourhood? Where?



Activity 9: In the old days

Educational approach: Interview with a parent or grand-parent

Students interview a parent or grand-parent about the following:

- What did the neighbourhood look like about 20 (or 40) years ago?
- What has changed for the better in your opinion?
- What has changed for the worse in your opinion?

Activity 10: I like... I don't like...

Educational approach: Discussion

Ask your students:

- What did you like in the movie?
- Is there something you didn't like?
- How about your neighbourhood, what do you like the most?
- What do you dislike the most?

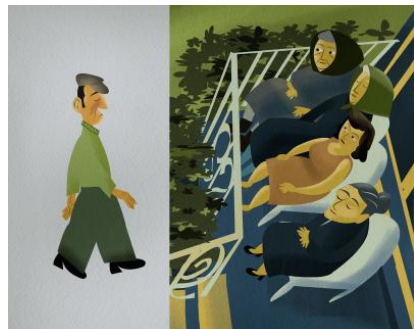
Activity 11: A special person in my neighbourhood

Educational approach: Discussion, drawing, writing (for older students)

Ask students:

- Aside from your family, can you think of someone special in your neighbourhood? (A neighbour, friend, coach, worker, etc.)
- What is special about that person?

Draw or write a short text (for the older students) about what is special about that person. If you wish, show your work to the person.



Activity 12: A special place in my neighbourhood

Educational approach: Discussion by throwing a ball

Throw a soft ball to a classmate. He or she must then say this sentence out loud, filling in the blank (repeat until each student has answered):

- My favourite place in my neighbourhood is _____ because _____ .
(park, schoolyard, pool, house porch, etc.).

Appendix 1: Words to cut out for Activity 3

tramway driver

shop clerk

butcher

mailman / letter carrier

construction worker

cashier

florist

Appendix 2: Words to cut out for Activity 4

houses

schools

stores

markets

restaurants

churches, temples, mosques