

## Building Uses

### *Buildings on your street*

#### Concepts

1. Nearly all city streets, other than expressways, highways, and streets through parks, have buildings on them.
2. Building functions affect a street.
3. Zoning codes govern the location of different types of buildings and physical features such as maximum height.
4. Zoning codes usually separate residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. Usually, one type of building predominates on a street. However, a street can combine several types of buildings and a building can house more than one use.
5. Residential buildings are where people live. Single-family houses, row houses, and apartment buildings are types of residential buildings.
6. People relaxing, children playing, curtains in windows, bicycles and baby carriages in front of buildings indicate a residential street.
7. Commercial buildings are used for buying and selling goods and services.
8. Shops, stores, signs, transportation facilities nearby, daytime activity, and nighttime calm characterize a commercial street.
9. Industrial buildings are used for manufacturing and storing goods.
10. Industrial and residential building uses are generally not compatible and, therefore, are usually zoned separately.
11. Public buildings are publicly owned. Some community services buildings are publicly owned and some are not.
12. Public and community services buildings or facilities include those for government functions (such as postal service, fire safety, and political organization), education, recreation, entertainment, religious observance, health care, and transportation.
13. Most public and community services buildings are located in residential or commercial areas.

### *Suggested Follow-up Activities*

#### Objectives

1. To differentiate among building uses: residential, commercial, industrial, public, and community services.
2. To show how building uses on a street influence the size, shape, and life of that street. For example, commercial buildings generate heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Therefore, commercial streets need to be wide to accommodate shoppers and provide access for vehicles.

## Ideas For the Class

- Get a copy of zoning codes from the city hall. Look up the restrictions for the central square area and *core district*. Take the students on a walk to see if the area conforms to the zoning codes. Discuss possible reasons for and objectives of the codes.
- Have students make lists of the types of buildings they pass on their way to and from school. Begin a picture file by having the students cut out pictures from newspapers and magazines that represent these different types of buildings.

**Social Studies, Visual Arts**  
**Adaptable for Grades 7-12**