**Neighborhood Project - Regions**

***Rural/Suburban***

Student Sample One:

My neighborhood lies in the Town of Hartford. According to the 2010 Census Tract 4401.05, 126 people own houses in the neighborhood and the bulk of the homeowners are ages 35 to 54. In terms of sex of the people who live in my neighborhood, 193 of them are male and there are 184 females. Using the same age range of the homeowners in my neighborhood, 98.2% of the people have at least their high school diploma, and 27.3% of homeowners have a bachelor’s degree or higher in my neighborhood. As far as their occupations go, 75.1% of the people who are 16 years or older are employed. As for the town of Hartford, there are a total of 3,636 homeowners with the highest amount of people between the ages of 40 and 49. The amount of males and females in the Town of Hartford is almost split 50/50, too. 96.2% of the residents in the town have attained at least their high school diploma, while only 23.6% have earned their bachelor’s degree or further. Finally, 72.3% of the 3,636 residents in the town who are over the age of 16 are currently employed.

To begin with, I consider my subdivision to be what I call my own neighborhood. My neighborhood is located about a five minute drive northwest of Slinger High School and is also just west of the Rubicon River, which is one of the only landmarks of any significance near my neighborhood. I consider it to be a pretty basic, quiet, and normal neighborhood with a few dozen houses and generally full of nice and quiet people. The backyard of my house points at a forest, one of the only other points of interest in my neighborhood in my opinion, which provides a nice view and something that some of my other neighbors cannot experience because they live across the street. Even though the forest is a nice symbol of my neighborhood, looking the opposite direction out my front window is the picture that I chose that was the most symbolic picture of my neighborhood. I chose that picture because that is what I see all the time from where I spend most of my time. When I look out that window, that is what I see and that is the main reason why I chose it. Finally, to touch base on the interview that I conducted with my mother, she also had an appreciation for the forest behind our house because of her love for nature with things such as flowers and birds. In all, it was interesting to see the different perspectives of how what other people considered to be their neighborhoods and just the general idea of this project was a good experience.

Student Sample Two:

My neighborhood falls into Block 1037, Block Group 1, Census Tract 4401.05, Washington County, Wisconsin.  This is north east, of Pike Lake State Forest, and HWY 60.   Some of Washington County’s demographics are its population.  Its population is 132,661 people.  31,308 of those people are under the age of 18.  101,353 of those people are over the age of 18.  This shows how many people in live in Washington County, and how many of those people are under 18, and over 18 years old.  In my neighborhood, which is Block 1037, Block Group 1, Census Tract 4401.05, Washington County, Wisconsin.  There are 377 people living in this Census Tract.  118 of these people are under the age of 18, and 259, are over the age of 18.  Another demographic fact, would be the average household size by age.  In Washington County, 12% of households have people living there under the age of 18, and 88% are over the age of 18.  In my neighborhood, only 9% of the people living in the houses are under the age of 18.  This census information is relevant, as of 2012.

My neighborhood is a place that I call home.  It is a big subdivision with over 4 different roads, and over 100 houses, and over 377 people living in those houses.  My subdivision consists of Elaine’s Way, Royal Ave, Kings way, and Queens way.   Some special landmarks would include the BP gas station, close to my house, and what used to be called Ubersville.  Ubersville is a little corner, by the railroad tracks, just south of my house.  It is a house that raises goats, ducks, and chickens.  The lady that I interviewed was Rose Nelson.  She agreed with me when she heard what I considered my neighborhood (Queens Way, Elaine’s Way).  She also stated that she considered the BP gas station, and Ubersville, to be a part of our subdivision. One other thing that she considered significant would be the Rubicon River, which is located right next to my house.  The Rubicon River also runs through a farm field, and the County properties, that are right next to my house.  When I asked her, what her perspective of the neighborhood was, she stated that it was more of a country neighborhood, or a rural neighborhood.  I would say that I have to agree with her on that.

***Lake Culture***

Student Sample One:

My neighborhood is named Cedar Lake Hills and is located off of 144. My neighborhood has a lot to it but isn’t extremely big. I feel my neighborhood is special because Big Cedar Lake is a big part of it. There's a boat launch and marina here also. If you live in my neighborhood you are guaranteed a pier to keep your boat there. I would say the lake is the most symbolic part of my neighborhood. Second I would consider the park/beach area a huge part and also a huge hangout place for everyone who lives here. It’s great for little kids because they love to play in the sand and also great for teens and young adults because there’s a huge amount of space to do different activities. You will see people playin­­­­­­g frisbee to soccer to any kind of yard games in the summer. In the winter you will see tons of ice fishers to snowmobilers to cross country skiers on the lake. There are endless activities to participate in that all involve the lake/park. The other symbolic item I thought of would be the flag located at the park. I feel like it brings our neighborhood together in hard times because of the fact that when someone passes away it does go to half mass. It shows how much all of our neighbors care about each other and how much we really support each other. I also think there are certain houses that are of importance. My best friend’s house is located just up the hill from my house and there are several of my classmates who live in this subdivision. Regarding the map I drew to outline my neighborhood I included the lake and park/beach area and just the street I live on and also labeled the important houses. The person I interviewed basically drew every street and also included the lake and park/beach area. His map was more vague and not detailed or labeled. It was just a general view of the area. The one thing the interviewee and I agreed on is the lake is the most significant part of this neighborhood and is basically what it’s known for and what it has always been known for.

Student Sample Two:

The place that I consider to be my neighborhood is about ten minutes away from Slinger High School and five minutes away from Little Switzerland Ski Hill, the place where I am employed. My neighborhood’s name is Cedar Lake Hills. The name is taken from the hilly landscape within its boundaries, as well as from Big Cedar Lake, the lake that the edge of the neighborhood rests on. The main feature that the neighborhood offers is the beach, park, and marina. It is about four acres, and offers a fun spot for the neighborhood to come together as a community. The community feel is completed by the potlucks, football parties, movie nights, volleyball tournaments, and round robins that are quite frequent. There are many homes in the neighborhood, and since it is a relatively old neighborhood, there are many trees. There is also a lot of wildlife that is attracted to the lake.

My neighborhood falls into block 2017, block group 2, census tract 4501.05, Washington County, Wisconsin Country Subdivision. It is located just a few minutes north of Slinger and on the very south end of Big Cedar Lake. My neighborhood is made up of a total of 56 people, 17 of whom are under the age of 18. The median age is 44 years old. There are 19 households in my subdivision. 14 of them are family households with a husband and a wife. In 2 of the homes, the homeowner lives alone and the other three are non-family households, but the homeowner does not live alone in the house. My neighborhood is in Polk town, Washington County, Wisconsin. There are is a total of 3,920 people living here, in a total of 1,457 households. 880 of the people living in Polk town are under 18 years old and the median age is 45.8 years old. 1,174 of the households are family homes. The other 283 households are non-family, and 227 of these homeowners live alone.

Student Sample Three:

I live in a somewhat medium neighborhood. There are roughly 136 homes in my neighborhood. Living in Slinger Wisconsin there isn’t much diversity. The Caucasian race is dominant at 98.3%. The average family income is $55,607 which is around $3,000 above the average for Wisconsin so that is a pretty good thing. The crime rates are also very low in the area. Significantly lower than the state average. This is probably due that the abundance of families living in the area. My neighborhood is either filled with old retired couples or young couples with a family. This helps with the crime. Not much happens it is a little quiet. There are roughly 30% families in the slinger area but a little over 50% of the people in the area are married. That why this is such a great place for families and just a great place to live. People are close and everyone knows everyone.

It is cool to live in the neighborhood that I live in. Everyone knows each other and we all get along well. We are a very close neighborhood. The place that people cherish the most in our neighborhood is definitely the park and beach located on Big Cedar Lake. I am lucky enough to live in a neighborhood that has access to the lake and a nice beach. The beach is enjoyed by all so everyone in the neighborhood chips in to help maintain the park. That is what makes everyone get close with one another because we do these things together. At least once a month there is a “work bee” that many people participate in. This helps maintain the park. In the spring months they work hard to make it ready for the summer. There are a bunch of wooden picnic tables spread out allowing people to have lunch on the beach by the lake. There also is a volleyball court that gets used a lot and forms friendships among neighbors. This is all located next to the marina where everyone parks there boat. This is also a place that I used to always fish as a kid. Now I see kids fishing there all the time just as I did. There is this one tree that many people know about. The reason is it is very big and easy to climb. Kids are always in the tree climbing and playing. I’ve even seen some family take family photos in this tree. Also located in the park is a bonfire pit. It has benches around it and open to the neighborhood. This is the reason why our neighborhood is so close together. Every weekend this park is packed with the same people and we love each other’s company all the time. There are also some features that have nothing to do with the park. There is a big hill going up to the upper level of the subdivision. This hill is very steep and it is known by all the kids as they bike, longboard, and scooter down this hill because you can go very fast. Our subdivision is split up into three levels, the lower, middle and upper. I live on the lower level and had friends that lived in the upper and as a kid it wouldn’t be good for me to walk up the big hill on the street to get there. There is a path that is located on the lower level. I used to always take this trail that cuts through the woods that are behind some houses. There are a lot of memories that I hold but when I talked to my neighbor he also had a lot of memories. The thing that he remembered is that the park that I enjoy today wasn’t as nice and clean as It was when he lived there as a kid. It is not till recently when we started to take care of the park. But he also remembers that the neighborhood has always been close. The park is obviously the most prized portion of the neighborhood. It allows the family’s to get together and enjoy beach activities together. I think that’s why we are so close. There are many activities available such as boating, fishing, volleyball, bonfires, or just relaxing on the beach. We enjoy it together and I am lucky to live in a neighborhood like I do.

***Urban***

Student Sample One:

According to the 2010 census, at the block level, 82.8% of the people rent a house, rather than owning. Of the people that rent, 79.2% of them are living by themselves. The statistics show that the fewer people there are, the more likely they are to be renting, where as if it was a larger family (4+ people) they are most likely to own a house. Also of the 46 people that live nearby me, about 1/3 of the people are under the age of 18. Compared to one level up, the village level, the statistics tell something a little different. It says that more that only about 25% of the people in the village rent, and the other 75% either own a house or are mortgaging/loaning their house. Of those people, the correlation is still pretty similar as at the block level. With 30% of the rented population living with one person, and another 30% for a family of two. Whereas the people who own a house show high stats for 1 person and 2 person(23.4% and 37.7% respectively). At the village level, 30% of the population is under the age of 18.

Student Sample Two:

My neighborhood falls into Census Tract 4501.6 in the village of Slinger, Wisconsin. Block 1024 block group 1, Washington County, Wisconsin (Census 2010). I live off of County Highway Aa on Speedway Ct, Slinger Wisconsin. In this block there is a total population of 69 people all of whom are white. This is surprising because the U.S. has so many people of different races and ethnicities.

My neighborhood consists of about 13 houses all in a line. They road we live on is Speedway Ct. right off of County Highway Aa. We live right next to the Slinger Super Speedway, and also across the street from Little Switzerland. Our neighborhood is very busy when it comes to traffic almost all year round; we have the races during the summer and the ski hill during the winter. The restaurant that is in the lodge is also a busy place, that is, it would be more so if the owner of the speedway who previously owned it didn’t ruin its reputation. As you come off of our street and head down the hill, you come into the heart of slinger. You come into town and see the popular sub shops, Heroes, as well as the newly redesigned Slinger House. Slinger is a humble and peaceful town and I am glad to be a part of its community.