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Words that are printed in bold, **like this**, are explained in the Glossary on page 32.

What Is a Community?

A community is a group of people with something in common. In the past, communities were made up of people close by, like your neighbours and the people at your school.

Today, the communities we live in are bigger. They still include your neighbours and school, but because of modern technology, we can easily stay in touch with friends and family interstate and overseas. Many of us belong to an online community too.



This book will show you how people cared for their community in the past and how people care for our community today. Caring for the community includes caring for places such as the neighbourhood, parks and gardens. It also includes caring for your school, the beach and other special places in communities, such as museums and war memorials.

Why Should We Care for the Community?

In the past, communities were smaller and many people knew each other.

People cared for the community by being nice to their friends and acquaintances and being **considerate** of people they didn't know. Caring for the community was part of people's **values**.



We all share community spaces – even if we don't know everybody that shares them – so we should all do our bit to care for them. This can be something as simple as putting your rubbish in a bin instead of throwing it on the ground.



The Environment



In the past, people didn't think often about the environment and our natural **resources**.

People were busy with progress, such as inventing new things like cars and time-saving appliances. They didn't think carefully about the effects of pollution on the environment or what would happen when the resources ran out.



Today, we are more aware of the damage that we have done to the environment. We know that our **impact** has **endangered** many plant and animal **species** and affected our **climate**. These days, many people think more about the environment and try to reduce their own impact upon it.



Saving Energy

In your grandparents' day, things were more expensive to make, so they cost more to buy. This included energy – such as electricity, gas and petrol.

Because energy was more expensive, people were careful not to waste it. Sometimes, there were shortages when people couldn't get power or fuel at all.



Today, we don't waste energy either, but we now think about the environment as well as the cost of energy bills. We put on more clothes instead of turning up the heating and we don't leave lights on when we leave a room.

