

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, March 3, 2017

Print Replica Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Article Title: **Tiny houses have a big impact**

Section: Main, A13

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Students will examine local issues involving homelessness and how local agencies are finding simple solutions.
- ✓ Students will think about what inspires them to action.

CCSS Standards

Social Studies EALR 1: Civics

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

Social Studies EALR 3: Geography

Understands the cultural universals of place, time, family life, economics, communication, arts, recreation, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, government, and education.

Social Studies EALR 4: History

- Analyzes the motives and interests behind an interpretation of a recent event.

Social Studies EALR 5: Social Studies

- Analyzes consequences of positions on an issue or event.
- Analyzes the short-term and long-term implications of decisions affecting the global community.

Vocabulary

Look up the definition of **resonate**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

TINY houses **resonate** with us in many ways.

Civic Minds Activity: *Take a moment to review today's print replica of The Seattle Times. Can you find a story that stands out to you regarding a global issue or someone that was inspired to help others?*

Pre-Reading Questions



- What do you know about tiny houses?
- How much do you think they cost?
- Do you have a personal connection to tiny houses, maybe as a child?
- What do tiny houses symbolize?
- How can tiny houses have a big impact?

Comprehension Questions:

1. How do tiny houses resonate with us?
2. What do they symbolize?
3. Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and the City Council have been struggling with two main issues with homelessness. What are they?
4. Begun as an experiment in 2014, the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), a member of the nationwide NeighborWorks network, worked in partnership with Nickelsville to upgrade what?
5. How many tiny houses are located in Ballard, the Central Area and the Othello neighborhood of Rainier Valley?
6. What other services do LIHI case managers provide to families living in the tiny houses?
7. Last year, NeighborWorks America awarded LIHI a \$75,000 grant to expand the Tiny Houses Homeless Communities Project. What is their long-term goal?
8. What is the size of these tiny homes? How many people can they fit?
9. How much do these house cost to build? Who builds them?

10. How is it possible for tiny houses to be built so quickly given Seattle's lengthy process for land-use and building-permit approvals?

Class Discussion Questions or Journal/Essay Prompts

What are factors for becoming homeless?

Being able to live in an insulated or heated tiny house instead of a tent is a huge improvement for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Why would this be such an upgrade for those living in tents?
- Why would "shutting a door" and having a safe, personal space be so important?

Tiny houses can protect people not only from bad weather and exposure but from violence and death. For 2016, the King County Medical Examiner documented 69 homeless men and women who died living on the streets. More people died from being homeless than from homicides last year. No one should have to die from being homeless.

We now have a year's experience with the three city-sanctioned sites. The sites accommodate 160 people, including children, at any one time. Hundreds of people have been helped short term as they passed through and stayed for a night or a week and successfully moved on. Last year was a watershed year with positive outcomes. Living in a tiny house allows a person to go to work or school while keeping their belongings safe and secure. In 2016, LIHI case managers moved 157 people into housing, helped 103 people obtain employment and helped 30 people reunite with relatives or friends.

Tiny houses are an innovative, quick, viable and low-cost solution that can help save a life.

- Do you think tiny house villages are a good option for homelessness?
- How can the city of Seattle do more to help?
- Is this a cause you'd want to volunteer or contribute to? Why or why not?
- What inspires you to action?
- Have you ever made a positive difference in something you cared deeply about?

Please watch a video on the Low Income Housing Institute's tiny house program: <https://vimeo.com/185758724>

- What stood out to you in the video? Be prepared to share your thoughts with the rest of your class.

Civic Minds in The Seattle Times is posted to the Web on Friday. Please share the NIE program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica version of the newspaper please call 206/652-6290 or toll-free at 1-888/775-2655.

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