

Activity Card #3
GEOGRAPHY/SOCIAL STUDIES
A Town by Any Other Name
Grades: 2 – 8

There are many things that make the place that we live unique. For instance, people visit Berkshire County from all over the world to view the beautiful colors of fall. Every time you visit us at Kidspace at MASS MoCA, you are going to the largest contemporary art museum in the country! Some of our towns are among the oldest in the nation; some are among the smallest. Although we have many things that make this area interesting, one thing that is NOT unique is the name of each of the towns in which we live and go to school.

Matt Bua's CRIBS installation focuses on architecture and community identity. Think about what makes your Clarksburg, Savoy, or Florida different from others around the nation. Complete this research project and establish a pen pal / email pal in a town with the same name.

Materials:

- Computers with Internet access
- Kidspace Journals
- Paper, Pen or Pencil
- Envelopes and Stamps
- A Camera

Directions:

1. Make some observations about the town in which you live in your **Kidspace Journal**. What does the landscape look like? What kind of buildings are there? What does the house you live in look like? Is the town the same year round? Are there special events that take place?
2. Using a computer with Internet access, do some research on the history of your town. How was it named? Are there any interesting facts about your town? Take notes in your **Kidspace Journals** or print out information and add it to your journal.
3. Working with partners in your class, come up with a mini-biography about your town, including information about the past and the present.
4. Take some photographs of your town to include in the biography. Try to include interesting landmarks, places you like to go, and photos of your school.
5. Using a search engine such as Google, try to locate other towns in the United States that have the same name as your town (i.e.; Florida, NY; Savoy, IL; Clarksburg, WV). Find the website or contact information for the local elementary school.
6. As a class, write a letter to the students in your grade level. Ask if they would be willing to send you a mini-biography of their town and some photographs of their favorite places. You can establish an email relationship or communicate the old-fashioned way through snail mail.

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