

LESSON 75: NEIGHBORHOOD STUDIES — TOWN & COUNTRYSIDE**GRADE 2 • PART II****Neighborhood Studies • Physical Geography**

Every community is framed by civic boundaries (city, county, state), landforms (hills and mountains), waterways (creeks and rivers), and nature (native trees, crops, and animals).
Remember: Capitalize the special names of towns, counties, states, rivers, and mountains!

1 CIVIC LOCATION, WATERWAYS & PHYSICAL LANDFORMS

Answer the textbook inquiries in complete, punctuated sentences. State geographical differences with clear reasoning.

- 1. My Location:** I live in the City of _____, in _____ County, in the State of _____.
- 2. Creek vs. River:** A **creek** is a _____, while a **river** is a much _____ stream of water.
- 3. Hill vs. Mountain:** A **hill** has a _____ slope, but a **mountain** is far _____ and rocky.

2 LOCAL TREES, AGRICULTURAL GRAINS & GARDEN CROPS

Catalog the trees and cultivated crops of your region. Write full sentences using descriptive series with commas.

- 4. Forest & Fruit Trees:** Near my home grow forest trees like _____ and fruit trees like _____.
- 5. Grains & Vegetables:** Farmers raise grains like _____ and garden vegetables such as _____.

3 REGIONAL FAUNA & CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Synthesize what you have observed. Write 2 connected sentences describing the wild and domestic animals of your countryside and why you love your neighborhood.

Sentence 1 (Animals): _____

Sentence 2 (Hometown): _____

Pedagogical Overview • Civic Geography & Physical Environment

Lesson 75 bridges descriptive composition with primary geography. Students identify their civic coordinates (city, county, state), contrast physical landforms (creeks vs. rivers; hills vs. mountains), and catalog local botanical and zoological life. Ensure proper nouns (cities, states, counties, named rivers) are properly capitalized.

Section 1 Model Answers • Civic Location & Landform Contrasts

1. Civic Location: "I live in the City of *Springfield* [or student's town], in *Sangamon County*, in the State of *Illinois*." (Verify capital letters for all three proper nouns).

2. Creek vs. River: "A **creek** is a *small, narrow, shallow* stream, while a **river** is a much *larger, wider, and deeper* stream of water that carries heavy currents toward the sea."

3. Hill vs. Mountain: "A **hill** has a *gentle, rounded, lower* slope, but a **mountain** is far *taller, steeper, and capped with rocky peaks*."

Section 2 Model Answers • Trees, Grains & Vegetables

4. Forest & Fruit Trees: "Near my home grow forest trees like *sturdy oaks, tall pines, and shady maples*, and fruit trees like *sweet apples, ripe peaches, and cherries*."

5. Grains & Vegetables: "Farmers raise grains like *golden wheat, corn, and oats*, and garden vegetables such as *crisp carrots, green beans, and potatoes*."

Section 3 Model Answers • Neighborhood Profile & Fauna**Exemplar Student Profile:**

In the fields and woods around our town, we often discover wild creatures such as *nimble squirrels, cottontail rabbits, and graceful white-tailed deer* alongside pasture cattle. I love our neighborhood because the *rolling green hills and sparkling river* make our countryside a peaceful home.

R FOUR-DOMAIN EVALUATION RUBRIC (TOTAL: 100 POINTS)

Domain	Exemplary (25)	Proficient (20)	Developing (15)	Beginning (10)	Teacher Feedback
1. Geographical Accuracy	Accurately contrasts creek/river and hill/mountain with precise terms.	Identifies distinctions clearly with good descriptive detail.	Contrasts landforms with vague or partial distinctions.	Confuses creek/river or hill/mountain concepts.	
2. Proper Noun Conventions	Flawlessly capitalizes city, county, state, and proper geographic names.	1 minor capitalization omission in place names.	Multiple lowercase errors in city or state names.	Fails to capitalize proper nouns systematically.	
3. Ecological Cataloging	Rich, accurate inventory of forest trees, fruit trees, grains, and fauna.	Lists trees, crops, and animals accurately in full sentences.	Incomplete lists; single-word answers instead of sentences.	Missing multiple categories of flora/fauna.	
4. Sentence Flow & Mechanics	Elegant sentence structures with commas in series and zero spelling slips.	Good sentence mechanics with 1–2 minor punctuation slips.	Errors in series commas or end punctuation.	Rambling run-ons or severe grammatical fragments.	