



Community Walk & Reflection

Creating change starts with a deep understanding of the community you want to make change in. **How does it feel? Who is a part of it? What are its characteristics?**

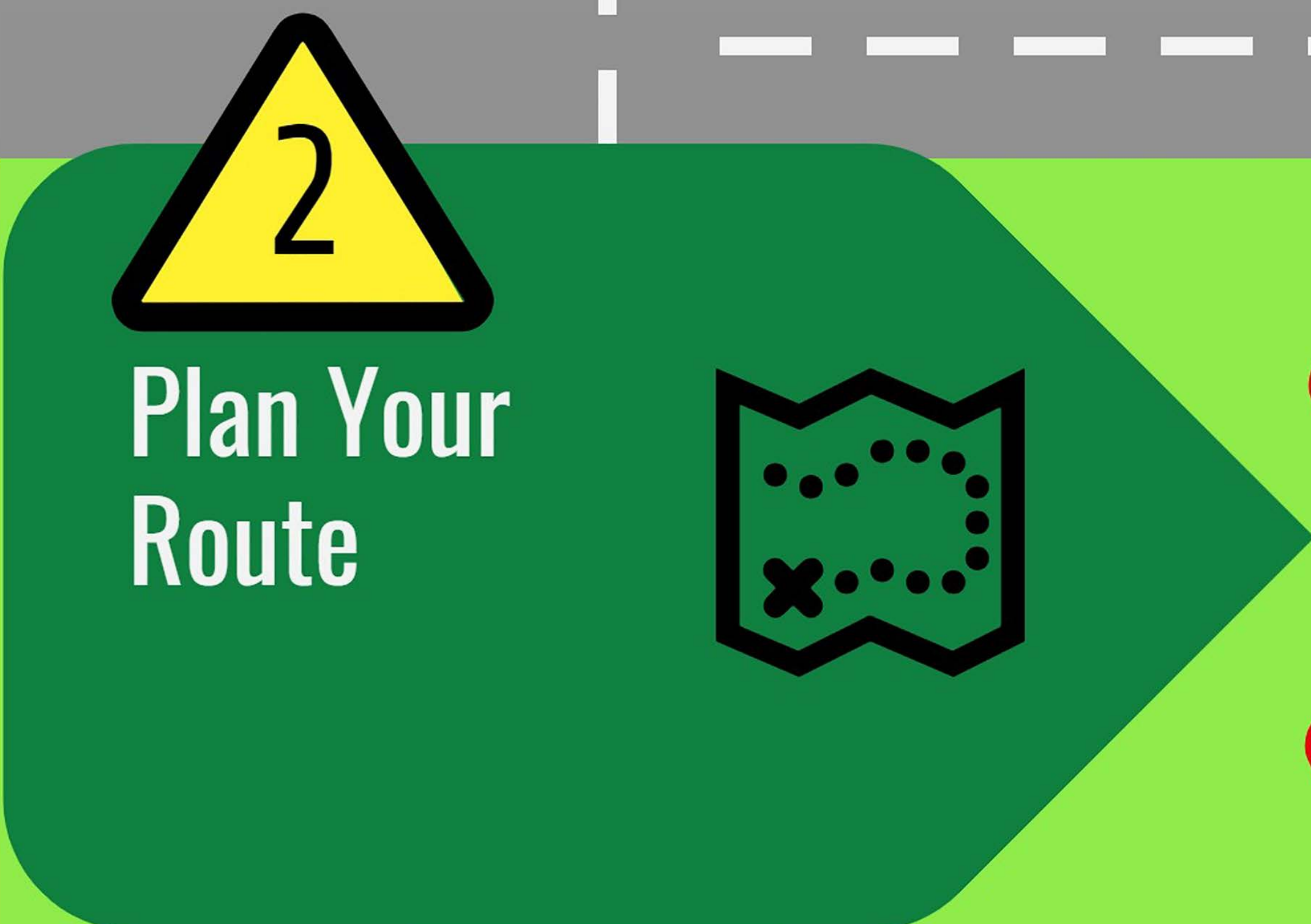
This activity asks you to get this information by talking a walk - literally. Then, take time to reflect on what you notice.



Community can be defined multiple ways. Decide how you will define it by answering these questions:

-  **Where do you want to influence change?** At your school? In your neighborhood? In your city/county?
**Your answer to this is the "community" for the purpose of this activity.*
-  **What does this community look like?** Draw it. Include its location, how people get around, places people go, and anything else you think is important.
-  **Is the community's diversity represented on your map? How might it be?** (i.e. faith, ethnicity, military, gender, sexual orientation, ability)

Keep these ideas handy - we will use them again!



Use the map you drew to decide *where* you will walk. Once you have a route, your task is to:

-  **View the community with a fresh perspective.** Try to be curious, observant, and present-minded. If the route is familiar, pretend this is the first time you've been here and see what you notice.
-  **Repeat if needed or split into teams** if you cannot get to everything you want to see at one time.
-  **Have FUN!** This activity is meant to be!

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Create a Tour Group



Invite others to participate. The more the merrier! And the more you will learn from each others' reflections.



Is there someone who knows a lot about the community (or specific parts of it)? This could be a fellow student, a decision maker, etc. Consider asking them to give you a tour of the place(s) they are connected to.

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Reflection



After your walk, write your answers to the following and then discuss as a group:



What did you see? Who did you meet?



What surprised you? What about it stood out?



What do you think the community cares about? What makes you think this?



What else did you notice?

Ready, set, go!

