BOX—CITY

Urban Ecosystem / Community

Spring 2020 | Hilliard Art Museum - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Grades 3 - 5

Your Name: _____

The Name of your Box-City: _____

Urban Ecosystem

Ecosystem: the flows and relationships between various actors in a defined environment

Urban: any place where people live; a city or town

Urban Designer: someone who plans and creates cities and other spaces where people live

How is an urban ecosystem similar to other ecosystems?

Community Wants and Needs

Shelter	Economic	Social-Cultural	Green Space
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Circle the community needs.

Models and Scale

| 1 ft = 1 ft | 6 in = 1 ft | 1/2 in = 1 ft |

Scale Model: a copy or representation of an object that is larger or smaller than the object

What different information can you learn from each type of model?

_____

_____

_____

Describe what it would be like to live in the 8' x 8' living unit. How many people do you think can live in that space?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Building BOX-CITY

City Building Code:

- Each box has to have an exterior doorway.
- Everyone in the city's population must have a living space.
- No more than two people can live in a unit.
- Before moving a box, make sure the path is clear.
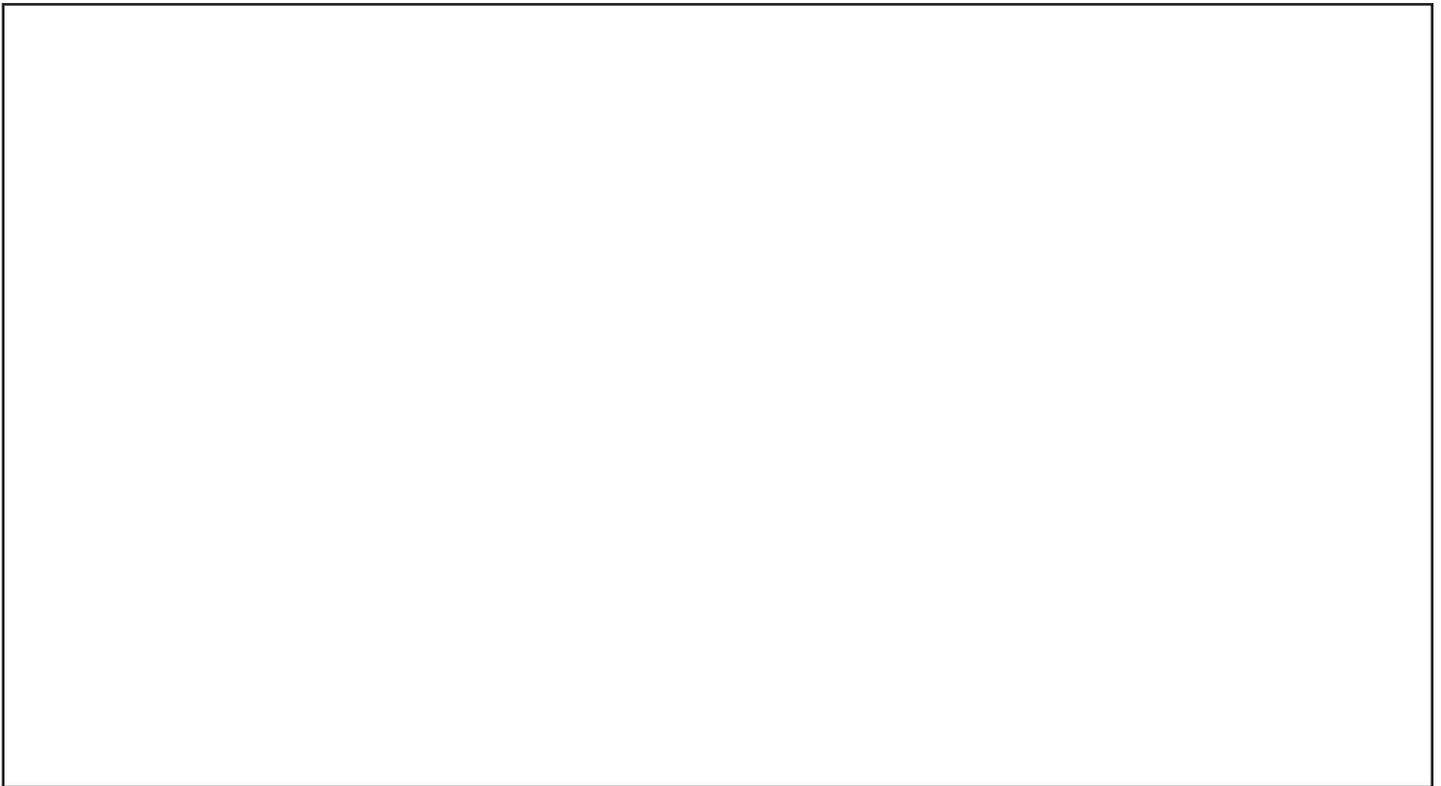- Limit construction projects to one level.

BOX-CITY 1.0 Use the space below to plan or draw a map of your BOX-CITY.
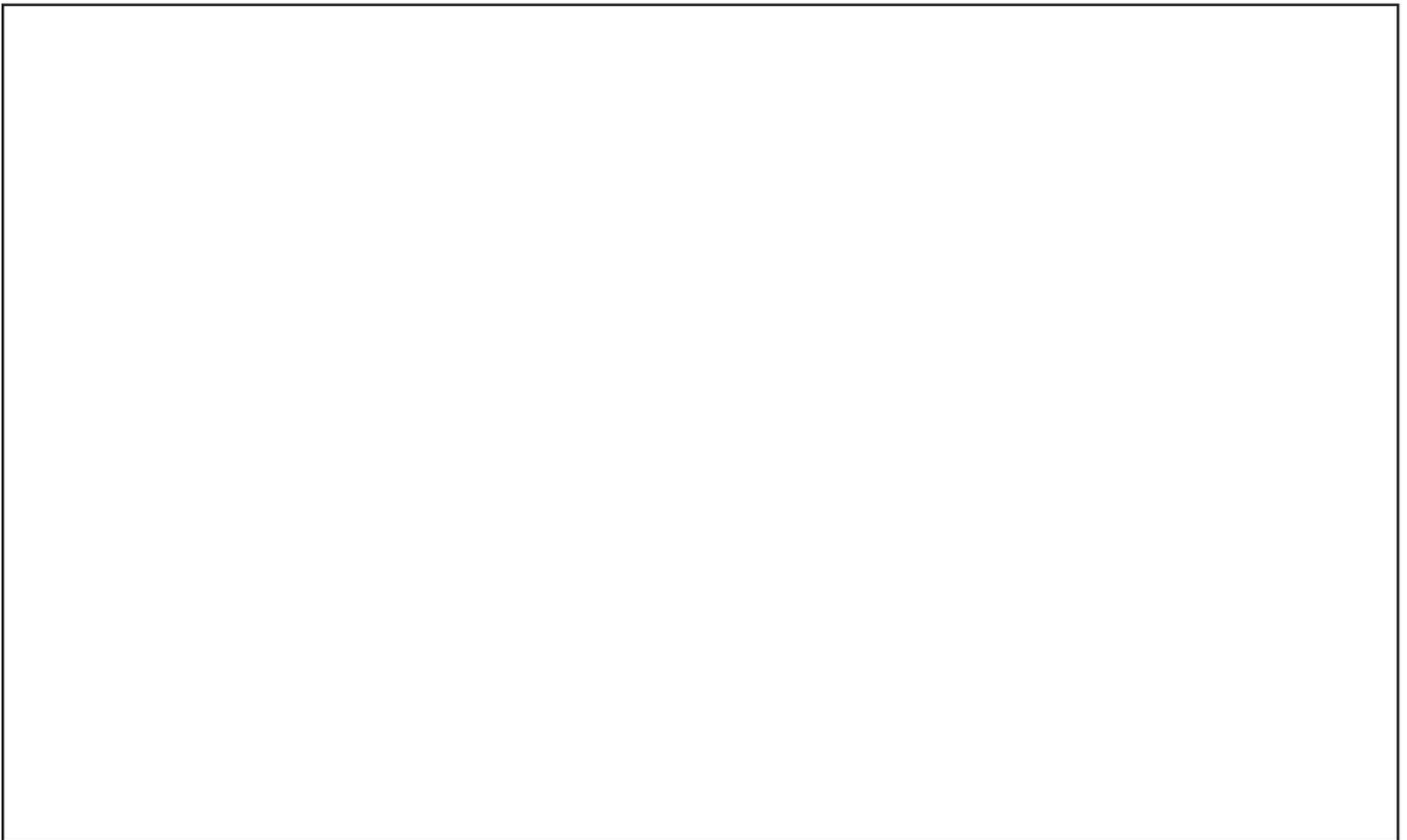
Explain how your BOX-CITY meets the needs of the community:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Adaptable: able to adjust to changes or new conditions

BOX-CITY 2.0 Use the space below to plan or draw a map of your adapted BOX-CITY.

1. How well did your city adapt to the ecosystem disturbance?

2. How have the flows and patches in your city changed?

3. Which BOX-CITY design do you think is more resilient?
Explain why.

Patch Dynamics

Patch Dynamics: an approach ecologists use to study and map patterns in the landscape of an ecosystem
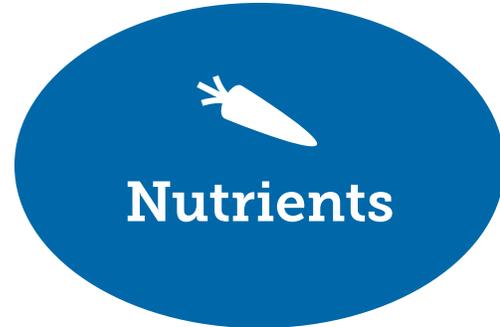
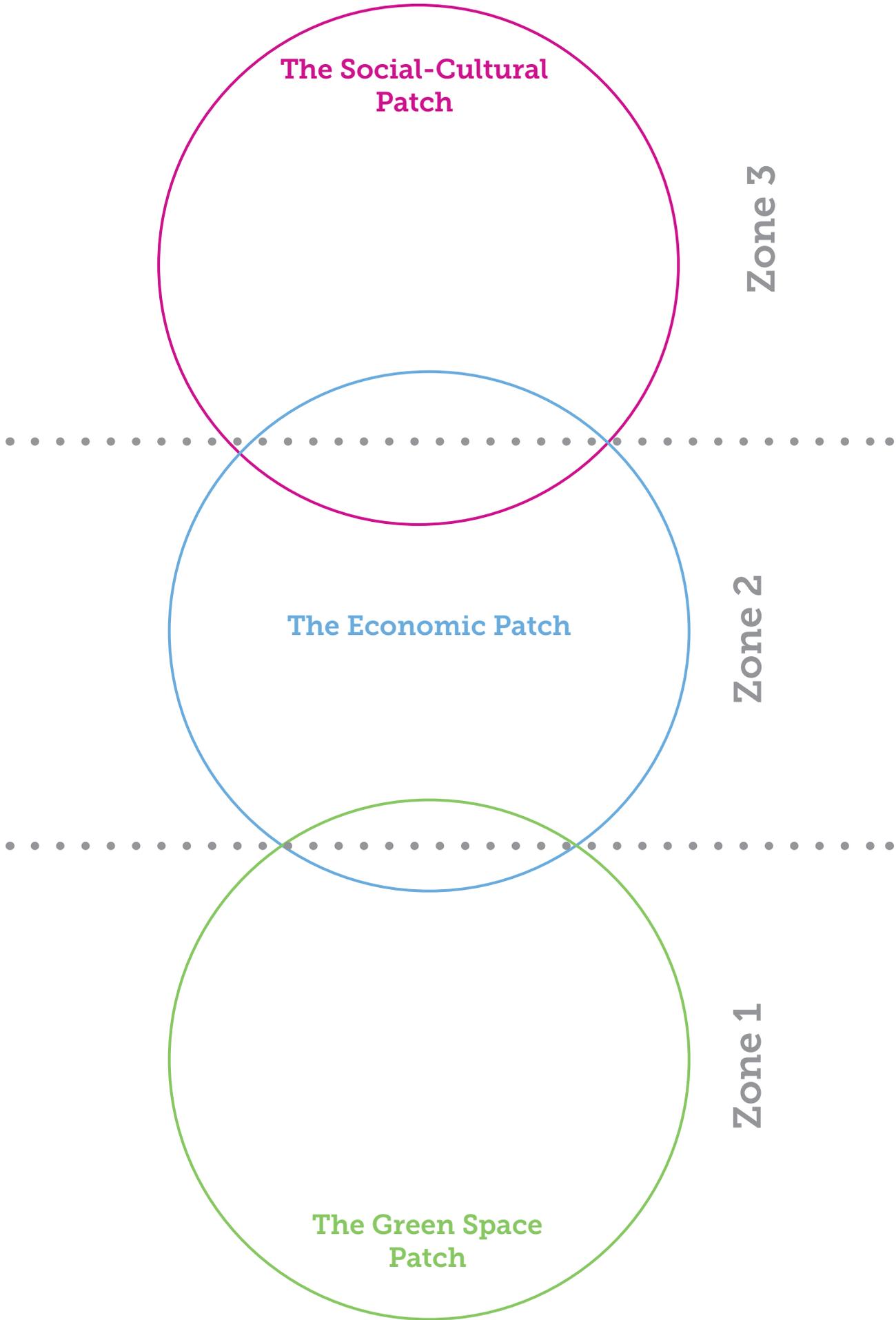**Patch:** a spatial area that is different from its neighboring areas

Flow: movement of people or items through a community

Zone: a section of a city that is created for a particular use. Examples: commercial zones or residential zones

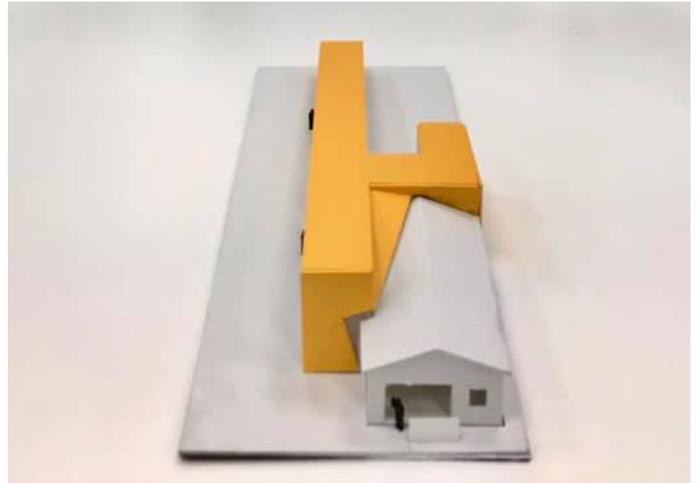Chose one flow example and diagram how it moves across different zones and patches.

Flows

Materials

Nutrients

Capital (Money)

Individuals

Information

The Social-Cultural
Patch

Zone 3

The Economic Patch

Zone 2

The Green Space
Patch

Zone 1

Case Study:
West End District, New Iberia, LA

1/ 16 in = 1 ft

1/ 16 in = 1 ft

Building Challenge: Create a design for a city lot that will improve the quality of life in the neighborhood and attract new residents.

For what needs or uses is your lot zoned?

_____

_____

_____

_____

How does your design help the neighborhood become more resilient?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Resilient: able to withstand or recover from difficult conditions

Draw and Label Your Lot:

How does your design meet the needs and wants of the neighborhood? How will the flow of items and people in the neighborhood change with your new design?

Feedback: What's Your Opinion?

Which model or idea do you think would improve the community the most?
Write your notes on a sticky note and leave it next to the model.

|	
Shelter	**Economic**
Social-Cultural	**Green Space**

Post-Visit Activity:
Designing Solutions For Your Community

Think of your school as a human ecosystem. What is one design problem at your school (crowded hallways, dark classrooms, not enough green space, slow moving car line, etc.)

The problem is: _____

_____

Draw a diagram of the problem. You may want to draw how the problem affects the flow of people and things through the school community. Or, you may want to map out different zones of patches (such as pavement or bare space on the playground) to clearly show the problem. Label important information.
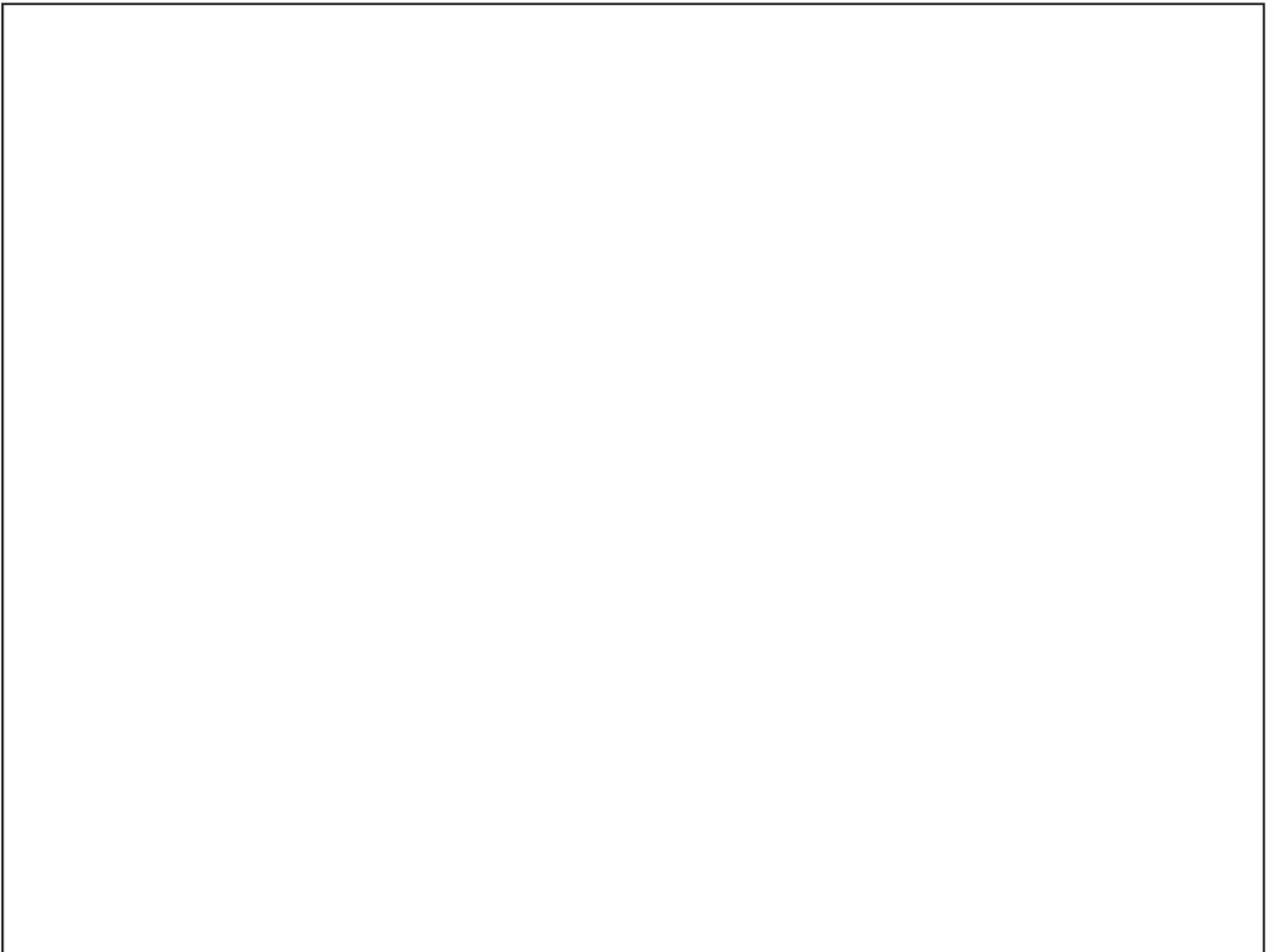
Post-Visit Activity Continued

Create a solution to the school problem you identified.

The solution is: _____

_____

Draw a diagram of the solution. You may want to draw how the solution will affect the flow chart or patch dynamic map you created. Use labels.

How does your solution meet the needs of the community and improve your school? Describe at least two design choices you made.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Check out the conversation on daberry.org or search Envision da Berry on Facebook

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