***DEFINE PARK, PLAYGROUND and GREENSPACE***

This lesson looks at parks, playgrounds and greenspaces in the city. As part of this lesson, can you describe and define these three words? The word ***greenspace*** might be unfamiliar. You can probably guess what it means by looking at the two parts of the word, green+space. The word park is probably a word you are familiar with but might be hard to define. As a hint, as you think of a definition for the word “park,” think of different types of outdoor activities as “active” recreation, such as playing sports, climbing, running and skateboarding, and “passive” recreation such as sitting, drawing and taking photos.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| GREENSPACE | | PARK |  | | PLAYGROUND |
| List 5 or more things you could find in a greenspace: | | List 10 or more things you could find in a park. You can combine items from these two lists plus other things that you might find in a park. | List 5 or more things you could find in a playground | | |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5. |  |  |  | 1.  2.  3.  4.  5. | |
| Define ***Greenspace:*** | | Define ***Park:*** | Define ***Playground:*** | | |
|  | |  |  | | |

Compare your definitions with classmates, or look up definitions for these words and compare your definitions to the definitions you found. There is no one perfect definition for these words. But our understanding of these words comes from being able to describe WHAT you find in a park, playground or greenspace; WHO uses this land; and WHY it important to set aside space for parks, playgrounds and greenspaces.

**Teacher Notes / Definitions**

**Greenspace** is land set aside or reclaimed within a city to provide space for nature, including plants, trees, ponds and rivers, rocks and other natural elements, for the benefit of residents and for long-term environmental health of the city and surrounding area. Greenspace is important not only for the way people can enjoy it, but also for a variety of environmental benefits, such as nesting for birds, space for water run-off, and the benefits of trees and plants in cooling the city during hot weather.

A **playground** is land set aside for active recreation, specifically children’s play areas.

**Parks** blend elements of greenspace plus active recreational spaces including playgrounds and sports fields, bike and walking trails, open space, stages or bandstands for arts and community events, picnic areas, camping, and sometimes additional elements such as zoos, as in Franklin Park.