Imagine 2040 is setting the vision for Hillsborough County for the next generation, so it is important that we gather the input from that generation now. This easy-to-teach lesson plan aims to communicate to students in a single day what planning and Imagine 2040 means to them.

Your students will have a greater understanding of planning in their neighborhood and how community involvement is invaluable to assessing and meeting their wants and needs.

**Objectives**

Students will
- Learn about the importance of urban planning.
- Learn about planning in Hillsborough County.
- Learn the citizen’s role in effective urban planning and how they can get involved.
- Learn about the different factors that are considered during urban planning.
- Learn about different regional growth concepts.

**Sunshine State Standards met:**

| SS.912.G.1.4 | Analyze geographic information from a variety of sources including primary sources, atlases, computer, and digital sources, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and a broad variety of maps. |
| SS.912.G.4.1 | Interpret population growth and other demographic data for any given place. |
| SS.912.G.4.5 | Use geographic terms and tools to analyze case studies of the development, growth, and changing nature of cities and urban centers. |
| SS.912.G.5.5 | Use geographic terms and tools to analyze case studies of policies and programs for resource use and management. |
| SS.912.G.6.1 | Use appropriate maps and other graphic representations to analyze geographic problems and changes over time. |
| SS.912.G.6.5 | Develop criteria for assessing issues relating to human spatial organization and environmental stability to identify solutions. |
Lesson guide

**Time needed:** One to two class periods.

**Materials:**
- Student packet
- Internet access (for web activity)

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**Suggested procedures**

➤ **Prepare for Lesson 1:** Ask students what urban planning means to them and to cite specific examples.

**Distribute packet and discuss:** Discuss concepts as needed to complete Worksheet 1. Discuss answers.

➤ **Prepare for Lesson 2 and Web Activity:**

- Discuss introduction

**Options for Web Activity completion:**

- Organize students into in-school computer lab.
  OR
- Assign as take-home assignment completed via personal computer.

[Please note that web activity is not designed to be a group activity and must be completed individually.]

- Discuss answers to Worksheet 2. Discuss individual answers and reasoning.

➤ **Prepare for Lesson 3 and Web Activity**

- Worksheet 3 (Web Activity) may be completed as group activity. Otherwise, see options for Worksheet 2.

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**Schedule a presentation.**

Want us to talk about urban planning, Plan Hillsborough, and Imagine 2040 in your classroom? We'd be thrilled to make a personalized presentation for your students!

Contact us:

**By phone:**
813.272.59340

**By email:**
planhillsborough@plancom.org

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**Supplemental materials:**

www.planhillsborough.org

www.imagine2040.org

www.planhillsborough.org/plan2040
Lesson 1: Planning in your backyard

Introduction

What is planning?

According to the American Planning Association, planning is “a comprehensive approach to identifying a community’s goals, assessing its problems, and proposing solutions that help all members of the community.”

Working together with community stakeholders, planners guide how a neighborhood grows and develops. From ensuring residents have ample options to get around to keeping housing choices plentiful, planners are important to maintaining your community.

Vocabulary

Community Stakeholders: Residents and businesses that make up and hold stake in a community.

Growth Management: Planning to ensure services and facilities are sufficient for anticipated growth of people and jobs.

Land Use: The management and modification of land.

Long-range planning: Planning for the future, generally 25 years in advance.

Multi-modal transportation: Movement of goods or people with differing modes of transport (e.g. walking, biking, carpooling, rail).

Planning agencies in Hillsborough County

The Planning Commission: An independent and centralized land-use planning agency. It is led by 10 citizen volunteers, who are appointed by elected officials. They, along with a staff of professional planners, promote and coordinate long-range planning, growth management, and environmental protection to present their recommendations to the jurisdictions. (Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City, and unincorporated Hillsborough County)

The Metropolitan Planning Organization: A staff of transportation planners, traffic modelers, demographers, urban designers, and other planning professionals who plan for and prioritize multi-modal transportation needs in the county.

NAME _______________________

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Lesson 1: Planning in your backyard.

Continued

The benefits of planning.

**Neighborhood preservation**

Each neighborhood has its own character and culture, which is reflected in its design. Planners help preserve this character by protecting historic buildings and designing guidelines to maintain that unique look and feel.

**Reducing impacts to the environment and preserving open space**

Environmental considerations are essential to planning. Whether it is planning a community to provide ample green space to making sure storm water runoff does not pollute local waterways, preserving the environment can greatly enhance a neighborhood and property values.

**Protection from natural and man made disasters**

Proper planning allows neighborhoods to prepare for the unexpected. Hurricanes, sinkholes, industrial accidents, all can be avoided, or at the very least, their impacts minimized with proper planning.

**Determining efficient use of land for structures**

Efficient use of the land in a community is the difference between a good community and a great community. Inefficient use can lead to traffic jams or worse! Can you imagine having an elementary school next to a jail?
Define the following:
Planning:

Community Stakeholder:

Long-Range Planning:

Growth Management:

Multi-Modal Transportation:

Land-use:

Answer the following:
What are the two agencies that are responsible for planning in Hillsborough County?

What agency plans for Multi-Modal transportation needs?

What are some examples of Multi-Modal transportation?

Critical Thinking: Why is growth management important?
Lesson 2: Imagine 2040

By the numbers:

400,000 to 600,000 new residents in Hillsborough County by 2040

What is Imagine 2040?

Visioning for the future

Every 5 years, both the Planning Commission and the Hillsborough MPO update the Long Range Transportation Plan and various Comprehensive Plans throughout Hillsborough County. These plans lay out a vision for the county.

Public input shape these plans. However in years past, public input was gathered by more traditional methods: phone, paper surveys, and town-hall meetings.

But with modern tools made possible by the Internet, planners can gather your input quicker than ever before.

This year’s campaign, dubbed Imagine 2040, is imagining Hillsborough County to the year 2040, in order to plan our county in anticipation for the population growth expected. Imagine 2040 is designed to give you the opportunity to weigh in on how to meet our future needs.

Vocabulary

Long Range Transportation Plan: A Multi-Modal Transportation plan evaluating transportation choices 25 years into the future.

Comprehensive Plan: An official document in ordinance form adopted by a local government setting forth its goal, objectives, and policies regarding the long-term development of the area within its borders.
Lesson 2: Imagine 2040

How it works
Strategies for the future
Planners develop something called growth strategies. These strategies predict how several trends of population growth can occur in a specific area. Below are several growth strategies for Hillsborough County. Each strategy is explained in-depth on Imagine2040.org.

Using these strategies, you must select which best serves your different priorities. Priorities can include anything from efficient energy use to job creation. Each strategy affects each priority differently. For example, one strategy might mean more job creation, but less efficient use of energy. It’s up to you to decide which is more important.

You can then rate different options on how to implement each strategy.
Lesson 2: Imagine 2040

Worksheet 2 - Web Activity

**A final vision**

Using your input, planners can develop a final plan that reflects the wants of the county. The ideal vision will most likely be a combination of the three growth strategies, but planners need you to tell them what’s important to you in order to ensure the best future for Hillsborough County.

**NOW IT’S YOUR TURN!**

Visit imagine2040.org at home or school to fill in the following worksheet.

Using the interactive survey tool on Imagine2040.org, submit how you want Hillsborough County to grow. Remember, there are no wrong answers, and your input directly helps planners plan for our future. Record what you submit below.

What were your top five priorities?

Which growth strategy best improved your priorities?

**Critical Thinking:** Why would that growth strategy improve your highest priority?

Which growth strategy worsened your priorities?

NAME ____________________________
Lesson 3: Your role in planning

Introduction

It doesn’t stop with Imagine 2040

You’re entitled to know by law.

As you learned with Imagine 2040, planning is a very public profession. Planners after all, work for you. It is your county, you live and work here. Therefore, it is you who has all to benefit. However, as a citizen of this country, the state of Florida, and Hillsborough County, it is your tax dollars being spent. You are entitled to know how it is being used.

In fact, open access to this knowledge is state law! The Florida Sunshine Law states the public has a right to an open and transparent government. This includes the planning process! This ensures a give and take process that is both engaging to the public and planners being informed by public input. It’s a two-way exchange between planning agencies and you.

This means early and active participation by everybody means greater influence over how millions of public dollars get invested into our communities.

VOCABULARY

Florida Sunshine Law: State law requiring a government agency to open its official meetings and records to the general public.
Getting involved

Getting involved is easy. It can be as simple as liking them on Facebook or following them on Twitter. No matter which venue you use to stay involved, you can be sure you will be up to date on planning in your community.

Find them on social media. Both the Planning Commission and the Metropolitan Planning Organization have accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Receive statuses full of information straight to your news feed and interact back with Planning staff.

facebook.com/ThePlanningCommission
facebook.com/HillsboroughMPO
@HillsCoPlanCom
@HillsboroughMPO

Join their mailing list. By signing up for their mailing list, you can get emails outlining upcoming events, new projects, and receive informative newsletters that are published monthly, such as Rubber Meets the Road.

Sign up by visiting http://www.tinyurl.com/planhillsboroughsignup

Attend an event. Speaking of events, there’s no better way to get involved than to attend an event in person. Both the Planning Commission and the Hillsborough MPO host a variety of events each month, so there’s always one in your community.

Explore their website. The Planning Commission and the Hillsborough MPO have an extensive website with plenty of information regarding planning in Hillsborough County. Access everything from live streaming of commission meetings to the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

www.PlanHillsborough.org
Lesson 3: Your role in planning.

Worksheet 3 - Web Activity

NAME___________________________

Use a school or home computer to access the following websites to complete the steps below.

**Activity 1:**
Step 1: Go to http://www.planhillsborough.org/
Step 2: Explore the front page.
Step 3: Answer the following questions:

According to front page calendar, what event is scheduled next?

Where is it located?

What time?

Who should you contact if you have any questions regarding this event?

**Activity 2:**
Step 1: Return to http://www.planhillsborough.org/
Step 2: Explore the tool bar and the various drop down menus.
Step 3: Answer the following questions.

Under what menu items can you find your community’s plan? (Community-Based Planning)

Under what menu items can you find the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan?

What chapter of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan discusses planning for growth?
Lesson 1: Planning in your backyard.

Worksheet 1 (Answer Key)

Define the following:
Planning: A comprehensive approach to identifying a community’s goals, assessing its problems, and proposing solutions that help all members of the community.
Community Stakeholder: Residents and businesses that make up and hold stake in a community.

Long-Range Planning: Planning for the future, generally 25 years in advance.

Growth Management: Planning to ensure services and facilities are sufficient for anticipated growth of people and jobs.

Multi-Modal Transportation: Movement of goods or people with differing modes of transport.

Land-use: The management and modification of land.

Answer the following:
What are the two agencies that are responsible for planning in Hillsborough County? The Planning Commission and the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

What agency plans for Multi-Modal transportation needs? The Metropolitan Planning Commission.

What are some examples of Multi-Modal transportation? Walking, bicycle, carpool, rail, airplane, ships, spacecraft.

Critical Thinking: Why is growth management important?
Growth management is important because it allows cities and towns to adapt their services to the growing population. (ANSWERS MAY VARY)
Using the interactive survey tool on Imagine2040.org, submit how you want Hillsborough County to grow. Remember, there are no wrong answers, and your input directly helps planners plan for our future. Record what you submit below.

What were your top five priorities?

*Must list five priorities as outlined on Imagine 2040.*

Which growth strategy best improved your priorities?

*Must identify which growth strategy best improved his or her listed priorities.*

**Critical Thinking:** Why would that growth strategy improve your highest priority?

*Using sound reasoning and evidence, must explain what factors play into a growth strategy best improving his or her selected priorities.*

Which growth strategy worsened your priorities?

*Must identify which growth strategy worsened his or her listed priorities the most.*

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Lesson 3: Your role in planning.

Worksheet 3 - Web Activity (Answer Key)

Use a school or home computer to access the following websites to complete the steps below.

Activity 1:
Step 1: Go to http://www.planhillsborough.org/
Step 2: Explore the front page.
Step 3: Answer the following questions:

According to front page calendar, what event is scheduled next?

*Must list most recent Planning Commission event listed. Check PlanHillsborough.org to verify.*

Where is it located?

*Must list location.*

What time?

*Must list time.*

Who should you contact if you have any questions regarding this event?

*Must list name and contact information.*

Activity 2:
Step 1: Return to http://www.planhillsborough.org/
Step 2: Explore the tool bar and the various drop down menus.
Step 3: Answer the following questions.

Under what menu items can you find your community’s plan? (Community-Based Planning)

*Plans, Community Plans.*

Under what menu items can you find the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan?

*Plans, Transportation Plans and Studies.*

What chapter of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan discusses planning for growth?

*Chapter 3*