

ACTIVITY

WHAT'S IN A NAME? CITY NAMING PROJECT

If you've ever wanted to live in Sarahville or Adamsburg, here's your chance to name your own city!

1 Imagine you are suddenly dropped in the middle of a land without any structures. Brainstorm as many features of that place as you can—these could influence the naming of a new city. Don't stop to think too much, just write everything down. Here are some starting points:

- * **Weather.** Is it windy? A blizzard? So hot you can see the air shimmer? Maybe it's always cloudy, or rains a lot.
- * **Landscape.** What kinds of plants are in this land—pine trees? Cactus? Is it very hilly, or completely flat? Maybe the river running through it is making a funny sound, or perhaps there's a saltwater bay.
- * **Inhabitants.** Do the local people speak another language? What do they call the area? What living creatures can you see around you?
- * **Businesses.** Maybe there's a cliff filled with precious stones towering nearby. Or maybe the land is the perfect place to start a hang-gliding school. What could you turn into commerce for your new city?
- * **Names.** Naming a city after yourself can be fun—but coming up with a twist on your name can be even more fun! Maybe you can name the city after your friend who's helping you establish the city, or even an old pet!

2 Go through your brainstorm list and write down at least 10 possible names on index cards. Look them over and decide which you like best. When you've named your city, write it on your poster board and draw a picture of what your new city would look like and why it's named what you selected.

SUPPLIES

- paper, cardstock, or index cards
- pen or pencil
- poster board
- colored markers

