

A New Town Plan for Peopletown

Peopletown is a team game. You play it in three parts.

PART 1 Making decisions

Your team should start by looking at the map and reading about the town of Peopletown. How do you think the town could be improved? Read the boxes below. Decide as a group which choice you would make in each case.

1 ROLAND POINT FLATS

The flats now look old and shabby. Windows need replacing. The lifts are often not working. You could demolish them, and build family houses and bungalows for the elderly. If you do this you will need to build some of the houses on farmland. Your other choice is to repair and modernise the flats. You could persuade the old people to move out to bungalows. The flats could then be given to young couples and single people.

What will you do? These are your choices:
1 Demolish and build new homes on farmland?
2 Improve the flats and bring in new people?

3 BUILDING SITE

The building site is quite small but there are two possible uses:
The first is to build houses. This will save farmland.
The second is to build small factories and offices. This will provide more local jobs.

What will you do? These are your choices:
1 Build new houses?
2 Build industry and offices?

2 PEOPLETOWN JUNIOR SCHOOL

The council can close the school. Children will then have to go to the Meadows School, which is over a mile away. They will then have to walk each day and cross the busy town road. Otherwise parents will have to take and fetch them by car. The alternative is to spend money on improving the school and keep it open with small classes.

What will you do? These are your choices:
1 Close the school?
2 Keep the school open?

4 GREEN FIELD

There are two ways to use this land:
It can be used for an out-of-town shopping centre. The wildlife pond will have to be filled in to make way for a car park. The shopping centre will attract shoppers from a large area. It will provide many jobs. Or you can keep the field as it is.

What will you do? These are your choices:
1 Built a shopping centre?
2 Keep the field as it is?

PART 2 Peopletown computer game

Choose the Junior Version of the Peopletown Game. In the first part of the game, put in the choices your group has decided. The computer will create your new town plan. Move the mouse pointer around the new plan and read what it says. Then go to the election and see whether the citizens of Peopletown like what you have done. Ask your teacher whether you should print the results.

PART 3 How well did you do?

After you have played the game talk in your team about how well you have done. Are you happy that you did the right things for the town? What would you do that was different and why? Explain what you did to the class and say what you think about the choices you made.

Decision sheet

Teachers' notes

Peopletown Town Planning Game

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A New Town Plan for Peopletown

Theme A team game about town planning

The children are elected as the town council. They work in groups to make decisions about housing, the future of a school, the use of a building site and whether to have an out-of-town shopping centre. By trying to meet the needs of different groups of people in the town they learn about the problems of managing a local community.

Curriculum Context The game can be used across a wide age range, 9 to 13+. While not designed with a particular subject in mind, the game supports the teaching of Citizenship, PSHE and Geography.

Classroom Ideas

Using the Peopletown Game

The Peopletown Game can be played directly from the computer. However, children will gain more from the activity if they follow the three-stage process outlined in the decision sheet.

- Stage 1 is a classroom-based activity in which choices are made in small groups of three or four. Teachers may wish to introduce the game and clarify the goals and procedures before Stage 1 begins.
- Stage 2 involves using the Peopletown Game (Junior version) on the Census in School CD-ROM. This can be used by groups, playing in turn, on a single computer. Alternatively, the software can be installed onto a network.
- Stage 3 asks children to reflect upon and articulate how well they think they have done.

Educational outcomes

The game provides opportunities for children to:

- communicate and negotiate in groups;
- consider the advantages and disadvantages of different choices;
- consider the effects of changes on different sections of the community.

Extension activity

A suitable follow-up activity would be to carry out an investigation of a local planning issue. Local newspapers are often a good source of information. A member of the local council might be willing to talk to the children. Try to identify the purpose of the proposal being considered, how the proposal might affect different groups in the community and discuss possible alternatives.

A New Plan for Peopletown



NEW TOWN COUNCIL

You have been elected to the town council of Peopletown.

The town is growing. Each year there are more elderly people to look after. The shoe factory, which provided many jobs, has recently closed down. So some people are still out of work. The town has some other problems. By making a good plan you can make the town better.

Your plan must look after everybody.

You must think about the needs of:

- Pensioners
- Families
- The unemployed
- Farmers and the countryside



The GREEN BELT

This is farmland.

You can build here if you want to, but countryside will disappear.

ROLAND POINT FLATS

These blocks of flats were built in the 1960s.

They were perfect homes for newly weds.

But many young couples had children, and the flats became too small.

They were a dangerous place for toddlers.

But now the children have grown up and left home.

Some families have moved out of the flats, and new people have moved in.

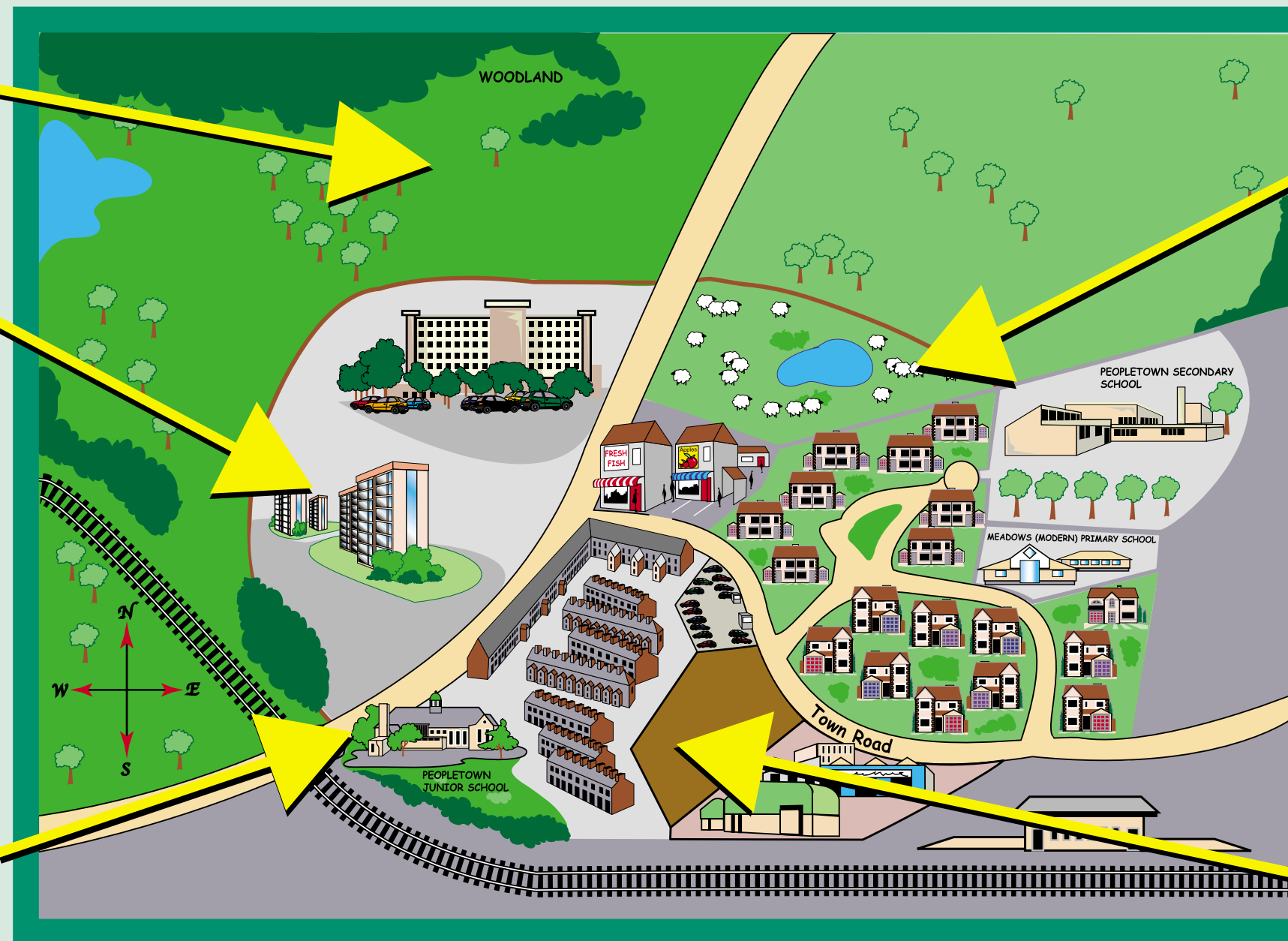
But many of the people living there are now elderly.

PEOPLETOWN JUNIOR SCHOOL

Children from Peopletown Old Town have gone to this school for generations. But today there are fewer children in the area.

The school has lower SAT's scores than the new Meadows Primary School on the other side of town.

But the school is still popular with parents and local children.



GREEN FIELD

This is a large field on the edge of the town.

A local farmer keeps sheep and cattle on it.

It has a wildlife pond which is used for fishing and by water birds.

It is popular with bird watchers.

BUILDING SITE

This is where the shoe factory used to be. At present the site is covered in rubble. It is a blot on the landscape.

What will you do?