



Taking a Socio-ecological Histories of Places Walk

Please return on _____

Name: _____

Instructions:

As a family, pick a place outside in your neighborhood. Observe that place (what do you see, hear, and smell, for example). Think about different time scales to deepen your observations. For example, what are you noticing that might be related to geologic time? What are you noticing that might be related to plant, animal, and soil time? Then consider how human decision making has contributed to changes in the place.

Activity Overview:

Go for a walk in your neighborhood. Make observations, and ask questions about what you wonder about as you observe (there is no “right” answer). Think about your observations and questions from different time scales. What did you observe related to some or all of these time scales? What questions do you have? How has human-decision making impacted this place from each time scale? There are no “wrong” answers here!

What Can You Do To Support Learning?

- The goal of this activity is to practice making observations in specific places, and to use different time scales to deepen your observations.
- Ask questions throughout this activity to encourage family members to make and share their observations. For example, ask what they see, hear, and smell. If they have been to this place before, ask them to share what they notice that is the same and what they notice that is different (and why they think that is). What questions do they have about what they are noticing? Which time scales do they want to learn more about given what they are observing in the place?
- Consider how the places have changed over time and why. How have the decisions people made contributed to this change? Which people made choices? Why did they make those choices?



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Taking a walk, making observations, and asking questions

First, decide where you and your family want to take a walk.

Where did you go for a walk and why? _____

Make observations of what you see and notice in the place you picked. **Use this chart on the next page to think about the place you observed on your walk. Think about that place from the perspective of these different time scales.** Fill out as much of the chart as you want. There are no right or wrong answers!





Time Scales	What did we observe in our place related to each of these time scales?	What questions or wonderings do we have about our place related to these time scales?	What decisions have people made that shaped this time? Which people? Why did they make those decisions?
Geologic Time: Land and ocean processes, mountain formation, glaciation, etc.			
Plant, Animal, and Soil Time: Plants, animals, and soils of the area, species extinctions or adaptations			
Indigenous Peoples' Time: Recognizing First Peoples and their histories and current relationships to this place			
Nation State Time: How the development of nations over time has shaped and impacted this place			
Global Time: How this place is connected to, impacts, or is impacted by other places across the earth and interacts with other time scales			
Living Ethical Responsibilities and Possibilities Time: What's possible for this place?			

