

Activity Purpose

Use this activity to help you focus your walk in places, lands, and waters. Looking closely at the lands and waters around us is important for field-based science learning. Noticing the details of places allows for a deeper understanding about socio-ecological systems, as are wondering about how places come to be and how humans influence places. In this walk, you might notice the shape of the land and how it affects the flow of water. Or, you might notice how particular species choose to live in specific places– like high up in a tree or near water–and wonder why that is You might also notice how humans have changed the land and what effect that has on the kinds of species you see in your neighborhood.

Activity Overview

- Use the activity sheet to guide your thinking while you walk. You can copy the sheet on a piece of paper or try using a journal to collect your observations over time.
- Look for something interesting you notice about places, lands and waters and draw or write what you see.
- If any new questions come up, write them down and come back to them later.



• **Extension ideas:** Look at a map of your local watershed before you head out. While you walk, look for the water and notice where it's coming from and where it's going.

What can you do to support learning?

- » Use water to guide your observations. For example, ask your family to imagine how they might move across the landscape if they were a raindrop. Where do you see water? Why do you think it's in this place? What plants and animals are gathering in what places? Why do you think so?
- » Try finding the highest point in your neighborhood, and look out on the horizon. Look closely at the ground you are walking on, and look for different textures in the earth. Look out at the horizon. What do you notice? What is the shape of the land? Look closely at the ground. What do you see?
- » Think about scales of time, and ask your family: How did this place come to be this way? Has it always been this way? Will it always be this way? Who lived here before, and who might live here after us?







Connecting with other families

» Look on a map at where your friends live. Email them and tell them how you are connected by the water. Take pictures of what you observed and share with other families. What can you learn from each other about the places, lands and waters?

Science Practices Emphasized

- Asking Questions
- · Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Obtaining, Evaluating, and
 Communicating Information

CONNECT TO OTHER ACTIVITIES

Learning Engagement 3: Taking a focused walk together

- · 3.A: Species, Kinds, and Behaviors
- · 3.B: Relationships
- 3.D: Human Decision Making
- 3.E: Thinking Across Scales

LEARNING IN PLACES FRAMEWORKS TO CONSIDER

- Complex Socio-ecological Systems Reasoning
- Places, Lands & Waters
- Observation and Data Collection

Key Ideas & Practices

Places, Lands & Waters This includes looking at the landscape and noticing where the water is, where the land dips and rises, where the people, animals and plants tend to gather.

Complex Socioecological Systems Socio-ecological systems refer to the

interactions between human systems and ecological systems. Humans are part of the natural world, and all of our systems (e.g. social, political, institutional) are always in relationship with ecological systems. Complex socio-ecological systems involve several space, time, and organizational scales.

Place & Place Designing

Noticing how observed phenomena are connected to place is important for fieldbased science learning. Science education is often decontextualized, meaning that we teach about important scientific concepts but in ways that are abstract or not connected to our local environment. Field based learning considers place as important for both socioecological decision making, and also to family and community knowledge and practices.

Disciplinary Core Ideas & Important Phenomena

ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems

ETS1.A : Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems

ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interaction





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LE 3.C Taking A Focused Walk Together: Places Lands and Waters

Looking closely at the lands and waters around us is important for fieldbased science learning. Noticing the details of place allows for a deeper understanding about complex systems. Some questions to consider while you walk with your family:

- What is the shape of the land? Where do you see water? Who is gathering in what places?
- Look closely at the ground, what do you see? Look out at the horizon, what do you notice?
- How did this place come to be this way? Has it always been this way? Will it always be this way?





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Draw or write down anything you notice about the places, lands and waters. What do they make you wonder?	We noticed:





We wonder:
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