

Your School Neighborhood: Then and Now

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Overview:

The purpose of this activity is to have students document how the neighborhood in which their school is located has changed over time.

Standards:

- History Standard 1: Students understand the chronological organization of history and know how to organize events and people into major eras to identify and explain historical relationships.
- Geography Standard 2: Students know the physical and human characteristics of places, and use this knowledge to define and study regions and their patterns of change.
- Reading and Writing Standard 5: Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.

Objectives:

After completing this activity, students will be able to:

- Conduct an interview of a long-time resident of the neighborhood.
- Describe how the neighborhood has changed over time.
- Identify and photograph the most historic sites in the neighborhood.
- Preserve photographs of the oldest buildings and houses in the neighborhood.

Inquiry Questions:

- How has your school neighborhood changed over time?
- Which are the oldest buildings or houses in the neighborhood?
- How can you preserve an historical record of these sites?

Procedure:

1. Take students on a walking tour of the neighborhood around your school. Have them observe and make notes about landmarks (big trees, lakes, etc.). Make photographs of the oldest buildings and houses.
2. Invite a long-time resident of the neighborhood to class to talk about changes over time.
3. Have students create a map on which they use their photographs and notes to draw the landmarks and oldest buildings and houses.
4. Save the photos by making a classroom archive on your computer. If you did not use a digital camera to take the photographs, you may scan them into the computer.