

Homework Assignment for Activity 1

Activity overview: The goal of this activity is to identify local environments and phenomena that can be used to support science learning. The format that you use for recording and reporting your observations in parts 1 and 2 is up to you (written notes, photographs, videos). You will be using these notes for various activities throughout the quarter, so they should be useful to you for refreshing your memory. For part 3, you need to have a photo that can be shared with the class.

Part 1. Take a walk around your school site (or a school near the place you are living). (a)

Identify some natural spaces that children from your school could walk to where they can explore. These could include parks, the beach, a patch of grass, an interesting tree on your school grounds, a place where weeds grow through cracks in a sidewalk, part of the playground, a trail, etc. (b) Identify natural and human-created environmental features (e.g., an orchard planted by a person) that are observable from your school/home. This includes things you can see in the distance such as the mountains and vegetation. (c) What do your observations (what you see, hear, smell, or feel) make you wonder about on your walk?

Part 2. Do some internet (or other) research. Do some internet research on your area. Find out about geologic and human processes that shaped (and continue to shape) the region around your school (or a school near your home). List some interesting things you learned about your area. Include screenshots or weblinks if appropriate.

Part 3. Find a plant or animal with interesting features. Find one plant or animal that you think has interesting features. You might find this on your walk (part 1) or by searching the internet. Take a photo (or find a photo on the internet) and paste it below. Make some notes about what you know about the plant or animal. Where did you find it? Or, if you found a photo on the web, where does it live? What do you find interesting about it?