

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: WHAT ARE OUR LOCAL TREASURES?

Introductory Lesson #1: What are treasures? How might we define treasures?

Explore personal and collective views of treasures as people, places and values that a community has. Outcome: an initial “treasure map” of the community.

Formative Lesson Ideas:

What are treasures? How might we define treasures?

Explore students’ special places. Make a treasure map of students’ special places

What are the different treasures our community values?

Interview parents and neighbors about what is special to them in their community. Create initial definition of what a community treasure is. Discuss a research plan for searching out and documenting treasures.

Who are our treasures?

Meet a treasure: Invite a town elder to come and visit and share view of history and what is important to living well. Outcome: Portrait of a Treasure.

Where are our treasures?

Visit a treasure. Visit a local “special place” on a field trip and investigate it through a variety of lenses. Discover its historical, ecological, aesthetic and fun “stories. When you return to class ask students to represent why they think this place is a treasure.

What is happening in our community to help protect our treasures? What threatens our treasures?

Share community activist presentation of threatened green space as example.

What treasures are important to preserve? Are there treasures in our community that are threatened in some way?

Invite a guest speaker from a group that is working to preserve ethnic heritage/cultural heritage. Is this something that we want to and can do something about. Explore possible class service project.

What do I want to know about our community treasures?

Research Project: Students work in groups to define, document and preserve a community treasure. Students become experts on a particular kind of treasure i.e. “peaceful places expert,” “natural places expert,” “threatened places expert,” “safe places expert.”

CULMINATING ACTIVITY: Summative Assessment to Essential Question

PRODUCT will include:

- Individual Portfolio of Community Map of Treasures as defined by class and student
- Group Presentation of Research on Local Treasures,
- Service Component that educates audience about community treasures
- Personal Reflection on Essential Question: What are our local treasures? How are they important to me?