



Creating Neighborhood Maps

(Adapted from *Out of Eden Learn's* (OOEL) Curriculum, *Core Learning Journey 1: The Present and the Local*)

What: An activity for exploring your relationship to a place and mapping your local area

Where: In your home or local environment; Indoors or outdoors

For whom: Preschool age through adult, working individually, in partners, or in groups

Timeframe: Mapmaking: 30-60 minutes; Map-sharing: 10-30 minutes

Facilitation: Self-facilitated, or lightly facilitated by a peer/teacher/caregiver

ACTIVITY

Sketch or build a map of your neighborhood or local area, as you see it through your eyes. This map does not have to be “accurate” or similar to other maps that exist. You can draw the map on paper or create a 3D map (try using recycled materials!). For inspiration, view this [slideshow of student-produced maps](#).

Write a true story to go with your map. Your story could involve:

- The whole map or one special place that is featured on your map.
- A memory or something that happened to you when you were younger in one of the places on your map.
- A typical day in your life that features places marked on your map.
- A story about your neighborhood that you have heard from someone else – it could be a story that happened before you were born.
- How your neighborhood has changed over time.

Reflect: How, if at all, has your view of your neighborhood or local area changed now that you have created a map of the place? Are you seeing things differently?

Share your map, story, and reflections with a family member, peer, teacher, or neighbor through video chatting, sending pictures, or by describing your map over the phone.

SHARE ONLINE (optional)

- **Follow** OOEL on Twitter and Instagram: @OutofEdenLearn.
- **Share** photos of your map and story on social media using #EdenLearn!



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