**Starting from Your Favorite Place**

Setting: Introductory environmental-studies course

Timing: Beginning of term

Creativity/insight dimension: By connecting students’ learning to a physical place to which they feel a personal affective connection, and by encouraging artistic creativity during the process, students are supported in making scientific connections and having important insights.

*Using a large blank sheet of paper, draw/illustrate at each step:*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity component** | **Scientific process component** | **Scientific skill component** | **Artistic/contemplative dimension** |
| 1. Your place* Visualize
 |  |  | Draw/photo/story/poem/song |
| 2. Move out from your place* As a bird/out of body exp/waterway
* What do you see/hear/perceive?
	+ 1 mile
	+ 10 miles
	+ 100 miles
* Both horizontally and vertically (use scale appropriate to place)
 | ObservationImagination | Measuring | Illustrate (draw, collage, etc.) |
| 3. What do you see in each circle?* Natural features, natural resources
* Classify as to renewable/nonrenewable
* What resources are used within each circle, and how used?
 |  | Mapping | *Ongoing* |
| 4. Gradually add information to the same piece of paper:* Soil
* Bedrock
* Air
* Watercourses
* Biology/biological resources
 | Data collection |  | *Ongoing* |
| 5. Develop a question about your map – not necessarily a formal hypothesis* About the natural system
* Must address all of: what/how/why/where
 |  | Asking good questions | *Ongoing* |
| 6. Share with teammates* Connect places with each other
 | CommunicationBuilding on others’ ideas | Communication | *Ongoing* |

*For the next modules:*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7. Followup research | Hypothesis testing/addressing question |  | *Ongoing* |
| 8. Evaluative* What *should* be happening here?
 | Ethical reflection |  | *Ongoing* |