

RESOURCE LIBRARY
ACTIVITY : 40 MINS

Introduction to Place

Students learn what defines a place and identify what defines their town as a place.

GRADES

1, 2

SUBJECTS

Geography, Human Geography, Physical Geography

OVERVIEW

Students learn what defines a place and identify what defines their town as a place.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/introduction-to-place/>

DIRECTIONS

1. Brainstorm what defines a place.

Ask students to brainstorm what defines a place. Provide examples to get them started, such as:

- people
- weather
- landscape
- plant life
- animal life

Have students work in small groups to write their own lists. Then, invite groups to share their ideas and write a class list on the board.

2. Have students identify what defines your town as a place.

Ask students to think about what defines your town as a place. Have them use the discussion to add ideas to the original list. If needed, prompt them with questions, such as:

- *Who lives here? What languages do they speak?*
- *Is the neighborhood in a city, suburb, or the country?*
- *What is the weather like? How cold or warm does it get? Does it rain much?*
- *What does the land look like? Are there mountains, lakes, or beaches nearby?*
- *What plants and animals live here?*

3. Generate a class list of questions about place.

Have students share any questions they have about what defines a place or why it is important. Ask: *What are you curious about? What would you like to know more about?*

OBJECTIVES

Subjects & Disciplines

Geography

- Human Geography
- Physical Geography

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- explain what defines a place
- identify what defines their town as a place

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Brainstorming

- Discussions

Skills Summary

This activity targets the following skills:

- Critical Thinking Skills
 - Remembering
- Geographic Skills
 - Acquiring Geographic Information

National Standards, Principles, and Practices

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM STANDARDS

- Theme 3:

People, Places, and Environments

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

- Standard 4:

The physical and human characteristics of places

Preparation

What You'll Need

MATERIALS YOU PROVIDE

- Paper
- Pencils
- Pens

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Classroom

GROUPING

- Large-group instruction

BACKGROUND & VOCABULARY

Background Information

A place is defined by its natural and human features. You can learn a lot about what defines a place by looking at your own community.

Prior Knowledge

☐ Recommended Prior Activities

- [Characteristics of Place](#)
- [Exploring the Characteristics of Places](#)

Vocabulary

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
human features	<i>noun</i>	characteristics of the environment created by human beings.
natural feature	<i>noun</i>	characteristic of a geographic region that was not created by humans.
place	<i>noun</i>	area having unique physical and human characteristics.

