

CREATIVE SPARK WORKSHEET

POSTCARD FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

We all form impressions and images of our physical surroundings. Our pictures of the world are not static and can change with each new observation. Even the most overlooked details may brighten up a well-worn path or lead to a new discovery.

Activity 1: View from Here

- **Imagine** taking a walk in your neighborhood.
 - **Take a close look.** What is the single thing that stands out? Then, focus only on the tiniest details near your feet. Look up and explore the buildings, their size and shape. If you were to touch them, what would the textures feel like?
 - **Consider** the colors and lines you see. What are the sounds and smells of your neighborhood?
 - **Notice** parts of your neighborhood that have changed since you have lived there and the parts that have remained unchanged. How does this place makes you feel?
 - Put a pen to paper and **write** down what you see.
- 

CREATIVE SPARK WORKSHEET

POSTCARD FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Activity 2: Make a Postcard

Imagine sending a postcard to a friend who has never been in your neighborhood. What can you include that would help your friend form an impression of where you live?

Using **text, illustration, and/or collage**, fill in both sides of the postcard.

Try This

- Think about the feelings and emotions you described in your writing. What colors would you use to represent them?
 - What about lines? Would soft lines or sharp lines better represent the place you see?
 - To highlight different textures, try using different types of paper: wrapping or tissue paper, patterned paper, greeting cards, or raffia.
 - Clippings and cut-outs from magazines and printed materials can help communicate emotions and important details.
- 

CREATIVE SPARK WORKSHEET: **POSTCARD FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

Reflection

Sometimes the longer you look, the more you notice. Take your time to reflect on your experience:

- What surprised you during this activity? Why did it surprise you?
- We often mark events in the timeline of our lives according to places, thereby making those places a part of our identity. Can you recall an event or story that connects you to this place?
- If this place had a personality, what would it be?

Explore and Share

In this activity, we used free-writing, drawing, collage, and imagination to engage with our senses and create a visual interpretation of our thoughts.

We encourage you to expand on these themes and keep creating.

Share with a Partner or a Group

- Whether in person, over the phone, or snail mail, share your writing with a partner. Ask them to illustrate your story and mail it to you.
- Send your visual postcard to your neighbor or someone special in your life.
- With a partner, choose a place you both share (it can be your city or a dramatic landscape photo you find in a magazine). Create your individual stories about this place using prompts about emotions, textures, sounds, etc. Share your stories with each other by reading them aloud. How are the two stories different? What details in your partner's story did you enjoy?
- Draw your local place and write a short story that connects you to it. Hold a group storytelling session.