

Core Skills Analysis

Social Studies

- Gained understanding of property and land boundaries by finding and recognizing the property line, introducing concepts of ownership and land management.
- Observed human impact on the environment through discovering old buildings, providing a connection to historical land use and settlement patterns.
- Explored natural features along the river bank, such as the beaver den, fostering awareness of local ecosystems and how human and animal habitats intersect.
- Learned to identify different flowers, connecting to the broader concept of how geography and environment influence the types of plants found in a region.

Tips

To deepen understanding of social studies concepts from this activity, consider engaging the child in creating a detailed map of the family land that includes the property line, natural landmarks, and historical sites like the old buildings. This promotes spatial awareness and geographical skills. Additionally, explore the history of the land by researching when and why the buildings were constructed and who lived there, anchoring personal experiences in broader historical contexts. Encourage discussions about property rights and the importance of natural habitats to develop environmental stewardship and civic responsibility. Finally, involve the child in a local nature journal to document flora and fauna, connecting ecology with the community and its history.

Book Recommendations

- [My Map Book](#) by Sara Fanelli: An engaging introduction to maps and geography that helps children understand how to represent and explore their surroundings.
- [A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History](#) by Lynn Cherry: A story of the changes to a river over time, connecting environmental history with human activity and community impact.
- [Old Barns](#) by Anne Rockwell: Explores old buildings on farms, helping children appreciate historical structures and their stories in rural settings.

Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.3 - Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas, or steps in technical procedures in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.7 - Participate in shared research and writing projects.
- SS.IS.2.2.3 - Explain how people depend on and adapt to the environment.
- SS.G.2.4.3 - Use maps and globes to locate places and describe their features.

Try This Next

- Create a hand-drawn map labeling the property line, beaver den, river bank, and old buildings, explaining each feature's significance.
- Write a short story imagining who lived in the old buildings and what life was like there, connecting history with creative thinking.