

MAPPING YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT



TIME: Five - 50 min classes

GRADES: 9 - 12

OBJECTIVE:

Create a map of your local environment, using natural materials as data

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Paper, Colored Pencils, Markers, Natural Materials/objects, Pencil, Eraser

VOCABULARY:

Cartography - The art or process of drawing or making maps

Artistic Research - Using artistic means to gather data or do research, such as taking photographs or sketching

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- Why do we make maps?
- What is the reason for exploration?
- How can we use natural materials for data?

OVERVIEW:

Map your local environment by doing scientific research 'in the field' and applying it as artistic research back in the studio/lab classroom. Students will collect natural materials from their school or neighborhood and use them as data to inform the creation of their map.



LESSON OUTLINE:

1. Have students collect natural materials from the field and make observations about their neighborhoods or school yard. What do the natural objects tell them about their environment?
2. Back in the studio/lab classroom, have students make detailed observations about the natural objects through scientific illustration + labeling.
- 3.- 5. Have students follow the video to create the map. Students lay out the natural materials on paper in an intentional arrangement and trace them. Observe how the spaces work together - use color, texture and line to create the details of the map. Finally create a key to be able to share the map with others. How can this 'map' serve as a model and tell a story about your local environment?