

Schoolyard & Outdoor Classroom Planning Student Mapping Activity

an opportunity for students to actively participate in the renovation of their schoolyard (v. 9.14.09)

Guide for Teachers / K-8

integrating ELA, Science,
Math and Art



Goals

- gather information from students about their schoolyard, to be used in the design process
- expand students awareness of their schoolyard and improve their observational skills
- have fun - everything is a right answer!

Materials

- copies of school site plan, 8 1/2 x 11 (or larger)
- clipboards (or cardboard backing with binder clips)
- markers, pencils or pens

Instruction for Activity [a 10-15 minute activity, followed by 5 minutes of free time for students and the opportunity for the teacher to watch students in schoolyard and note any additional observations and comments]

- gather students outside in the schoolyard, distribute maps & clipboards and drawing tools
- orient students to map - find front door, play equipment, etc.
- locate where you are now standing on the map
- feel free to adapt to be age appropriate with the level of questions and expectations!
- **draw & write on the map** - to locate items from the list below (you may use both sides of map paper)...

- living things - trees, lawns, shrubs, flowers
- natural materials - rocks & boulders, soil, earth mounds
- people made structures and materials (concrete, lights posts, play equipment, etc.)
- sunny & shady places, windy places, hot & cold places
- where you play games, (draw the games, or write the names)
- places for being quiet, or for hanging out (with a group, or alone)
- areas where leaves or trash collect
- where there are puddles after the rain, and where ice & snow pile up in the winter
- draw pictures of any animals, birds or insects you have seen on the schoolyard
- your favorite place
- what are good things and bad things about your schoolyard?

Please return completed student maps and any teacher comments to the Schoolyard Organization and Planning Committee