

# Nature Memory Mapping

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Create your very own nature memory map with these easy instructions:

1) **Think about a nature place you visited recently.**

It can be your schoolyard, your backyard, a local park, the beach, the mountains, or even a vacant lot.

2) **Close your eyes and go back to that place.**

Remember the place by asking yourself (or having a teacher ask) a series of questions while your eyes are closed. Pause and give yourself time to think between each question. What did you see, feel, smell, hear? What living things were there (plants, animals, mushrooms, etc)? What non-living things were there (rocks, streams, tree stumps, etc)? Who was there with you? What things did you do?

3) **Start drawing your nature memory map.**

You don't need to be a perfectionist, using stick figures and line drawings is fine.

\*\*looking at examples of other nature memory maps can be helpful (see links below).

4) **Write notes on what you saw/heard/smelled/touched/did.**

Point out the nest you saw in the tree, or the spider web you found on the building. Short sentences with descriptive words help to bring the nature memory map to life!

5) **Share your map.**

Have others read your map and learn from your story about nature in L.A.

## RESOURCES

Check out some nature and other memory maps here:

<https://www.facebook.com/playmemorymaps/>

Listen/read this story about our nature memory maps in the Nature Lab exhibit:

<https://curious.kcrw.com/2013/08/memory-maps-help-reveal-las-hidden-nature>

And a short blog about the memory maps on display in the Nature Lab:

<https://nhm.org/nature/taxonomy/term/61>

If you would like to share a picture of your nature map on social media: @natureinLA #natureinla (FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter) or e-mail to [nature@nhm.org](mailto:nature@nhm.org).