



## Grade 3- Pre-site Activity “Nature’s Neighborhood”



- Objectives** Students will compare at least two different communities in their school yard.
- Vocabulary** plant community- an area with a predictable associated group of plants  
habitat- the place where an animal or plant lives in nature
- Materials** Graph paper  
Colored pencils  
Tape measure  
Big sheet of paper
- Time** 1 hour to 1 ½ hour
- Overview of Activity**
1. Before doing the activity with the students, pick 3-4 different areas in the school yard, mark them off so the students can see the different areas. Some examples would be the courtyard, school yard, in front of the school, etc.
  2. Divide the class into 3-4 groups, depending on how many different areas of the school yard you mark off. Give each student a piece of paper and a pencil. Have them free-style sketch what they see in their area.
  3. Allow enough time for students to draw in plants, ground, and other features.
  4. When they get back to the classroom, have them transfer their rough sketch onto a bigger map representing all of the different areas. This is where they could add color and other descriptions.
  5. As an ending discussion, talk about the different communities that they found in the school yard.

Teachers! - check out our web site: [www.nps.gov/lake](http://www.nps.gov/lake) and other educational opportunities for your grade level through our interagency partnership: [www.enviroedexchange.org](http://www.enviroedexchange.org).  
For volunteer opportunities: [www.getoutdoorsnevada.org](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org)