

THE MORE YOU KNOW

An Indigenuity: Land exercise - A Sense of Place Exercise. Can You Map Your Home?

How well do you know your place – where you live from memory, from experience?

Draw a circle on a large piece of paper (ideally something larger than a 11 x 8.5 inch sheet) place a dot right in the middle of the circle. Imagine that dot is where you live. Consider the circle radius 1 or 2 miles.

Now strictly from memory – no cheating with smart phones or devices – make your own map of the area surrounding your residence up to a mile or two mile distance in all directions. Trust me you will find this interesting and enlightening. Give yourself 15 minutes. Start by identifying landmarks or landforms in each of the four cardinal directions on the radius of the circle you drew. Now fill-in the map strictly by your recollection.

Once done in daylight hours ground truth the map you drew from memory as best you can – ideally, by walking, biking or driving that area. No criminal trespassing please. Based on where you live, ground truthing itself may be difficult, so use of technology or a map of your local area, if one is available, to see how you did is certainly okay.

The point of the exercise is to give you an awareness of how you think spatially about where you live – how well you know the landscape.

Once done reflect on what you learned about your sense of place. This is not a pass or fail exercise. It is a spatial awareness exercise.

Good luck and have fun!

Dr. Wildcat