



## Session 1: Introduction

**Focusing Question:** *What stories do places tell?*

**Overview:** Students read two picture books and make a map

**Topical Understandings:**

- Places have stories
- The people, flora, and fauna of a place are deeply connected.

**Materials:**

Thomas Locker, *Where the River Begins*  
Lynne Cherry, *A River Ran Wild*

**Length of time to complete:** One or two 30 - 40 minute lessons

**Procedures:**

**A. Mapping a Story**

- Read *Where the River Begins* to the class.
- As a class, go back through the book and make a list of locations within the story.
- Have each student draw one of those locations on a piece of white paper inside a 5" square. Photocopy the drawings so there is a complete set for each student or pair of students.
- Tell students they are going to make a story map. They must use the locations within the story (you decide the number of locations based on your students' skills). Have them include a title, compass rose, and illustrations for each location.

**B. Places have Environmental and Human Stories**

- Books to read include: Lynne Cherry, *A River Ran Wild* and Bruce Hiscock, *The Big Tree*