Session 2: Connecting to Place and Asking Questions

Focusing Question: What do we see? What do we hear?

Overview: Students visit the place under study, gather evidence, and ask questions.

Materials:
- Clipboards and pencils
- Evidence worksheet (Handout A, Handout B or C)

There are 3 types of evidence worksheets: a generic worksheet, one for cemeteries, and one for architecture. You could adapt these for a science topic.

Length of time to complete: One 30 - 40 minute period

Procedures:

A. Establish the boundaries of the place under study

- As a group, walk the boundaries of the place under study. How would you describe/define these boundaries? What landmarks do you see. List them as a class.

B: Gather evidence and ask questions

- Assign students or let them decide on a portion of the place where they will record their own observations and ask questions. This could be a gravestone, house, square yard of soil, boundary around a tree, etc.

- If students are examining a square of soil (rather than a cultural artifact such as a gravestone or a house), provide each student with a meter of survey tape, a magnifying glass, toothpick flags, and Handout A on a clipboard with pencil.
Have students look for a space they want to observe and define their square with a survey ribbon. As they study their squares closely, they can mark five things they find most interesting with toothpick flags and then record what they see.

- Students go in pairs and sit silently for 1 minute with their eyes closed and then record what they hear. Then sit silently for 1 minute and record what they see. After individual work, pairs continue to note all evidence from their spot, filling out the worksheet and asking questions.

**C. Share evidence and questions**

- Take a class tour of the site with each student pair presenting their observations and questions.
HANDOUT A: CONNECTING TO PLACE

Sit silently for 1 minute with your eyes closed. Then record everything you heard:

I heard……

Sit silently for 1 minute and record everything you see:

I see……

Share your list with a partner and then gather 3 more pieces of evidence.

1)
2)
3)

With your partner, list as many questions as you can think of about your place:
Handout B: Cemetery Information Organizer

Name of Cemetery: __________________________ Location of Cemetery: __________________________

**Complete the following information for each gravestone you investigate.**

Full name of the deceased: ___________________________________________________________

Birth Date: ___________________________ Death Date: ___________________________

Age at death: ____________________________

Husband/Wife of: ____________________________

Son/Daughter of: ____________________________

Other facts: ________________________________________________________

**On the back of this sheet:**

Sketch the gravestone's shape and any motifs or decorative carvings.

Copy the inscription and epitaph exactly as you see it.
Handout C: House Investigation Organizer

The building that I am investigating: ______________________________

How many stories? _____

The windows are like (circle one).

Are they arranged symmetrically? ___

Sketch their arrangement:

The doors look most like (circle).
Sketch if different:

Look carefully at the walls of the building. What are they made of? (circle)

What shape is your house?

What style do you think your house is?
Cape (1800 – 1860)  Federal (1790-1835)  Greek Revival (1835-1875)

When do you think your house was built? ________________________________