Family Connection Activity

Before I Lived Here

by Stacy S. Jensen



Journey backward in time through all the layers of history that led up to your neighborhood's existence.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Every place has a past. Long before our homes, schools, and neighborhoods existed, there were different people, environments, and stories connected to the same land.

This story reminds us that history is all around us.

ACTIVITY MATERIALS

Paper
Crayons, markers, or pencils

1 DRAW YOUR HOME TODAY

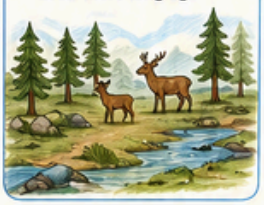
Have your child draw what their home or neighborhood looks like now.



2 IMAGINE THE PAST

Under or beside the drawing, have your child draw what might have been there before.

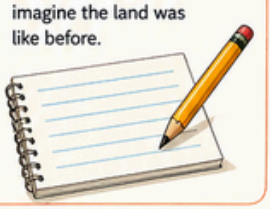
- Trees or forests
- Animals
- Different homes or buildings
- People who may have lived there long ago



3 WRITING CONNECTION "BEFORE I LIVED HERE..."

Have your child complete one of the following:

- "Before I lived here, there was _____."
- "I think this place used to be _____ because _____."
- Write 2 to 4 sentences describing what they imagine the land was like before.



4 CONNECT TO THE BOOK

Talk about how the boy in the story explored the past.

Ask:

- What did the boy discover about his home?
- Why is it important to learn what came before us?
- How does knowing history change how we see where we live?



ACTIVITY EXTENSION: OUR COMMUNITY STORY

Talk with a family member about the past!

Ask questions like:

- What was this neighborhood like before?
- What has changed over time?
- What stories do you remember about this place?



FAMILY TALK

- How has our community changed over time?
- Why is it important to respect the history of a place?
- What can we learn from people who lived here before us?



WHAT YOUR CHILD IS LEARNING

- Understanding of history and time
- Awareness of community and place
- Writing and imaginatioo
- Respect for different perspectives and experiences



FAMILY TIP

Help your child notice that history is not just in books. It is right where we live, learn, and grow every day!

Every place has a story. Every story matters.

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