

## **K-1 Lesson: Special Places (Part 1)**

**Knowledge: Self Awareness, Sense of Community, Good Citizenship**

**Skills: Empathy for Others, Drawing, Written Expression**

1. Do “Drawing Your Special Place Activity.” Help the children write a word to describe their special place.
2. Have children share their drawings and words. Talk about what makes these places special.
3. Introduce the concept of special places that are for everyone to share and enjoy.
4. Do “Places to Share” Matching activity. (Picture version for pre-readers; word version for beginning readers.)
5. Have children list as many shared places as they can think of.

Examples:

Ice rink

Classroom

Shopping mall

Gym

Restaurant

Museum

Church or temple

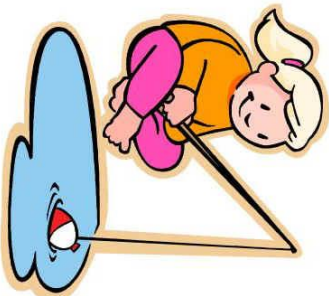
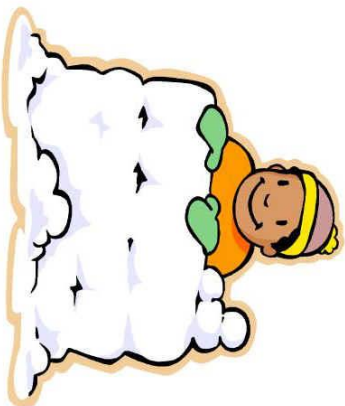
Camp ground

6. Talk about how to take care of shared places.  
Remove litter.  
Don't write your name where it shouldn't be.  
Leave plants or animals alone.  
Don't take anything.

“Take only photographs; leave only footprints.”  
Why?

7. Do “Keeping Shared Places Special” activity sheet.

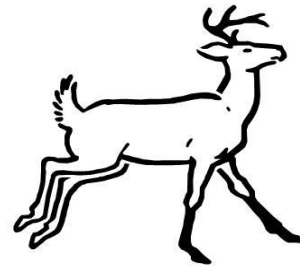
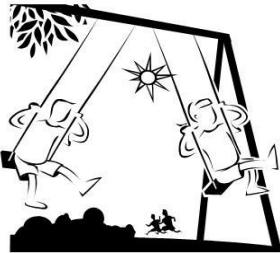
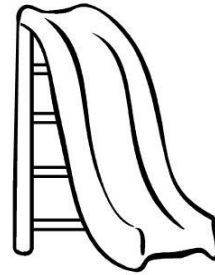
[This sheet will have a drawing of people at a state park or national forest. Some are hiking, taking photos, watching birds. Others are littering, carving their name at a rock art site, digging up a tree, etc. Students are asked to circle the activities that are OK and to make an X across activities that will damage the shared place.]



Do you have a special place? Draw a picture of you in your special place on the back of this paper. Is it cozy? Is it big? Is it a secret? Write a word to tell about your special place.



Here are some places that people share. Draw a line from each place to something you might find there.



Here are some places that people share. Draw a line from each place to the word that names it.



play ground



forest



bike path



sand box

## **K-1 Lesson: Special Places (Part 2)**

### 8. Exploring rock pictures

Read: *Native American Rock Art: Messages from the Past*, by Yvette LaPierre (Thomasson-Grant, Charlottesville, 1994).

People have always had special places. Sometimes people made pictures at places that were special to them. Sometimes they found old pictures on the rocks, but they did not know how the pictures got there! Some of the pictures on the rocks are many thousands of years old. The pictures can tell us how people lived long ago. They can tell us what people were thinking about.

Here are some rock pictures from long-ago times. They were made by American Indians who lived hundreds or thousands of years ago. American Indian people today think the places with rock pictures are special. The pictures are part of everyone's history, but they are especially part of American Indian history. (Hand out sheet with petroglyph designs on it.)

### 9. Creating a special place activity

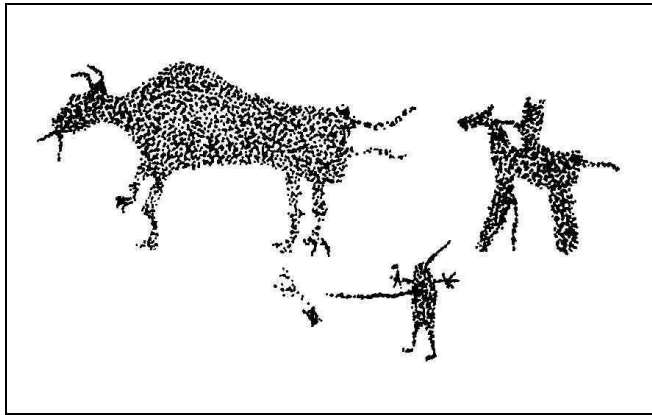
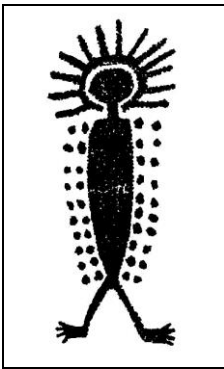
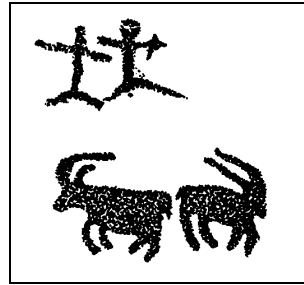
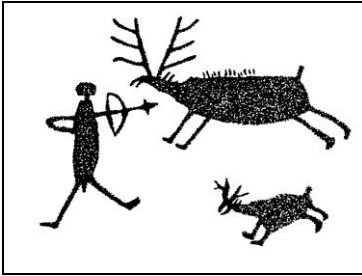
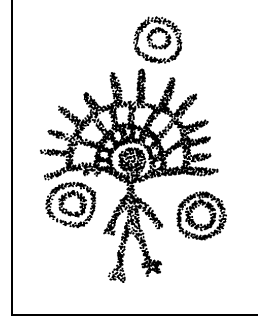
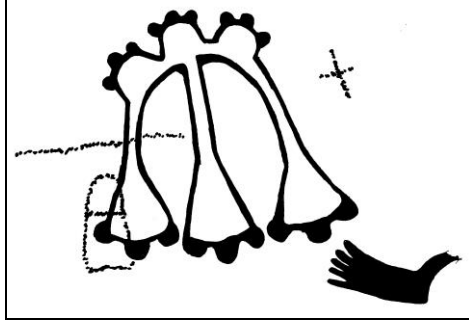
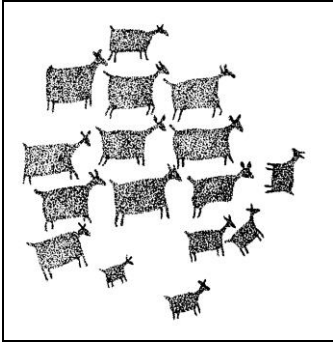
Imagine you are living long ago. You have no TV, no computers, not even any books! You play outdoors every day. You know all the plants and animals. You know what plants and animals are good for food. You can make baskets and clay dishes. You can find animals by following their tracks. You can tell when it will rain or snow by looking at the sky and feeling the wind. You help your mother and father and grandmothers and grandfathers and brothers and sisters every day.

Keep imagining. Make a rock picture of something from your long-ago world that is special to you. Maybe you will draw a beautiful tree or an animal that can run fast or an unusual cloud or a person that you love. We will put the pictures up and make our own special place.

(Have each child draw one design in chalk on a piece of brown paper that has been crumpled and then spread out again, for example, a paper grocery bag. Tape or pin the pictures close together to create "rock" wall. Use a divider or corner wall--an L-shaped space is best. The space around it becomes the special place. You could add some cut out plants, salamanders, etc., to give the "rock" a realistic look.)

Imagine how you would feel if someone wrote their name across your rock picture. How would you feel if someone tried to scratch your picture away or cover it with spray paint? What if someone took your picture away and when you came back it was gone?!

When you visit a place with rock pictures, be careful not to touch or make any marks on the rocks. Leave the rock pictures there for the next person to enjoy. Look at the pictures and see what you can learn about the long-ago people who made them.



rock pictures