



Mapping Memories

INSTRUCTIONS

Have you ever heard the word *compassion*? Having *compassion* means that we care about others, think about what the world from their point of view, and do what we can to help them. One of the ways that we can be compassionate is to listen to the stories of others.

- 1. Think About It.** Think about your favorite story. Where did that story take place? Do you have a picture in your mind of that that place looks like? Does it influence the way that you understand the story?
- 2. Pick Your Stories.** Think about your life. If you had to pick three stories to tell someone so that they could understand who you are, which three stories would you pick?
- 3. Set the Scene.** Think about the three stories that you just picked. Where did they happen? What did that place look like?
- 4. Draw it Out.** Using a piece of paper and coloring supplies, draw one picture for each of those three scenes. What did the world look like from your point of view, or *perspective* when those things happened? Draw a snapshot from your memory.

Time: 30 minutes - 1 hour +

Materials: Paper, colored pencils, and maps of the world, country, state and/or city

- 5. Mark the Spot.** Create a map to show where your three stories took place. If you're having trouble finding your locations, ask an adult to help you. You can mark the spot with any symbol - an X, a star, or anything else to indicate where the story from your memory happened.
- 6. Share it Out.** Help someone else get to know you better by sharing your map and stories with them. Explain why these places are important to you.
- 7. Listen Carefully.** After sharing your story, take the time to listen to someone else's stories. When we get to know others and listen carefully, we are taking the first step towards acting with *compassion*.

* LEARN MORE

The job of a park ranger is to tell stories from our shared history. By telling these stories, park rangers hope to help people become more *compassionate* by learning about the world from many *perspectives*. You can learn more about some of these stories by exploring your National Park sites online or in person!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What does **compassion** mean to you?
- What does it look like when someone acts with **compassion**?
- How can some act with more **compassion**? What could you do?
- How can **compassion** make you a stronger leader?
- Is it important to listen to stories about people who are different from you? Why or why not?
- Is there a story you have heard that helped you see something from a new **perspective**? What was that story?

