

Walk Through Time: Water in the Four Corners Region History Walk

Activity Guide



A product of the Science-Technology Activities and Resources for Libraries (*STAR Net*) program.
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Developed by the Lunar and Planetary Institute/Universities Space Research Association
February 2021



This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant Numbers DRL-1906951 and DRL-1907024. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.



Credit: Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

Activity Time

Long duration (days to months)

Intended Audience

Families or other mixed-age groups, including children as young as 6 years old

Type of Program

- Facilitated hands-on experience
- Station, presented in combination with related activities
- Passive program (if instructions are provided at the start of the course)
- Demonstration by facilitator

Overview

Libraries display historical photos of the community that relate to water and compare them with contemporary photos of the same areas. While viewing the displays, patrons engage with probing questions, dialogues, and activities to consider how water has changed the community over time. The activity may be broadened to include a virtual display on the library's social media accounts to further capture local stories of water and change by including weather reports, letters, photos, illustrations, and recorded personal reflections (both audio and video) from patrons of all ages in the community. This community engagement program can be offered before, during or after hosting the *We Are Water* exhibit and may span two or more months.

What's The Point?

- The presence or scarcity of water impacts the landscape of a community – environmentally, socially, and economically.
- The community's historical artifacts, such as news articles, photos, and illustrations, can be used to record local changes through time.
- If the materials are archived, they serve as a legacy of the community's contributions and explorations.

Materials

Facility needs:

- An outdoor site that is free and open to the public with ~half mile for the History Walk to be posted. Consider reaching out to a community partner, such as city parks, if this is not available on the library's grounds.

Program Materials:

- Historical and contemporary photos relating to water from the local area.
- A location, perhaps at the reference desk or curbside, where patrons submit materials to the library.
- A digital location, such as a website, social media page, or email address, where patrons can submit their own digital photos.
- Access to a high-resolution scanner. The app, [CamScanner](#), may be downloaded onto a mobile device if your library does not have access to a scanner.
- High-resolution color printer.
- Materials for History Walk activities:
 - Display materials:
 - Card stock
 - Corrugated plastic signboards
 - (Optional) H stakes
 - (Optional) Building materials (see step 3 below)
 - Note cards
 - Weatherproof comment boxes (with lock and slit at the top)
 - Pencils or pens

Set-Up

Step 1: Gather Photographs and Artifacts

Search your library's archived photographs of areas within your community; reach out to local historical societies, or explore online open source resources on historypin.org, [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/), or [NASA's Images of Change](https://www.nasa.gov/images/) to search for photographs from your area in the four corners region.

Invite the community to email or submit photographs (and artifacts such as letters or newspaper clippings, if desired) to the library's email address or drop-off location. Include a disclaimer about how these photographs will be shared with the public and that by submitting, the owner gives permission to share according to the disclaimer.

Facilitator's Note: Provide the invitation in both Spanish and English, and in other local languages if possible, such as Navajo/Diné.

Step 2: Organize and Prepare Submissions

Scan photographs and other artifacts onto a computer to create a high-resolution sign file.

Each sign should include one or two photographs to compare historical images with contemporary photos. Be sure to include the date, location, and credit for each photo, and consider featuring an activity or discussion prompt (see below for examples).

Print the files on cardstock and laminate each page. Attach pages to with packing tape or Velcro dots

Step 3: Mount Displays

Options for mounting displays (listed from least to most expensive):

Mount and display your signs on [H Stakes](#).

- Use 4-foot hardwood stakes and attach pages with a staple gun.
- Use [Barking Dog Exhibits](#) or [terrabit](#) to order a modular display structure.

COVID-19 Safety Consideration: Place displays 6-8 feet apart so patrons can view them at recommended social distances.

Activity Extensions

Facilitator's Note: Consider providing free notebooks/journals for participants to use to write and draw in as they explore the History Walk.

Writing/Discussion Prompts:

- What does water mean to you and your community?
- Have you visited this place before? Share a memory!
- How important are dams/mines to our community? What are some positive and negative effects they have?
- What happens up stream of the dam? What happens downstream?
- What impacts does this structure have on the environment?
- In what ways do people use rivers?
- How might building a dam or water treatment plant affect a river?
- A uranium mining "boom" occurred in the four corners region during the 1950s. Over 1,000 abandoned mines are now located on Navajo land. How might these impact the local water supply?

Drawing Prompts:

- Now that you have compared what this area looks like in the past and the present, draw what you think it will look like 100 years from now.
- Draw three animals that use the water in this photo to survive.
- Draw your favorite activity to do in a lake or river.
- Draw what this area would look like if the dam did not exist.

Activity Prompts:

- Scavenger Hunt Prompts:
 - Do you recognize this location? Snap a photo of what it looks like today and submit it to *[library staff person] at [email address or website]*
 - Does this building still exist? Find the location and submit a photo to xxx

Optional: Create a scavenger hunt and award a point for each location. If patrons score at least 10 points and submit photos, they may collect a prize! Consider offering hints in the prompts.