



# 1. WHAT'S GOING ON? A NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY

**What's this about?** By taking photographs around your block, your family will build observational skills with prompts designed to notice your neighborhood more intimately. When you are finished taking pictures, go back home and get ready for an art activity!

Not able to go for a walk?  
Try this activity while looking outside your windows.

---

WHAT  
WILL YOU  
NEED?



PHONE OR CAMERA  
for digital photos



PENCIL AND PAPER  
(for use inside)



YOUR WALKING  
SHOES

---

Before we travel outside, close your eyes and imagine what your block looks like. Create a mental image of it. What buildings do you see? Are there trees and where are they? Can you imagine what your neighbors look like? Create a full picture in your mind.

Now let's go outside and see if your block looks the same as your memory of it.

☆ *Use the prompts below to help guide you in your picture taking.*

---

# PART I: USING SOME OF OUR SENSES

---



## **WHAT DO YOU SEE?**

**Look** all around you and find something very tiny:

Do you see an insect crawling on the sidewalk? Take a picture!

Do you see metal designs on a door? Take a picture!

Can you find any signs directing traffic? What signs do you see in windows or on doors? Do these signs look new, or have they been up for a long time? How can you tell?



## **TAKE A DEEP BREATH IN AND RELEASE. WHAT DOES YOUR BLOCK SMELL LIKE?**

Maybe it's from food being made from inside a restaurant preparing for takeout. Can you smell anyone doing their laundry? Do you smell any garbage waiting to be collected? Take pictures of all the smells in the air around you.



## **WHAT KINDS OF THINGS CAN WE TASTE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?**

*Now, don't actually taste it unless an adult says it's okay,* but try to find things that you would like to taste. Are people waiting on line for takeout? Is your favorite restaurant or bodega still serving food? How about animals, are there any pigeons or squirrels eating right now? Take pictures of all of the things you would like to taste.



## **WHAT DO YOU HEAR?**

Maybe it's birds chirping in a tree, or an airplane above.

Can you hear any music? Try to find where the music is coming from. Are there cars on the road, can you hear them moving?

Maybe there is a train rumbling above or below you.

Try to take pictures of things you hear.

## PART II: A CHANGING NEIGHBORHOOD

---



Sometimes our neighborhoods look different than when we first moved there. Take photos of what has changed, and what has stayed the same.



### **WHAT IS THE SAME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?**

Have any stores been around for a long time? Take pictures of everything that has remained the same.



### **WHAT HAS CHANGED?**

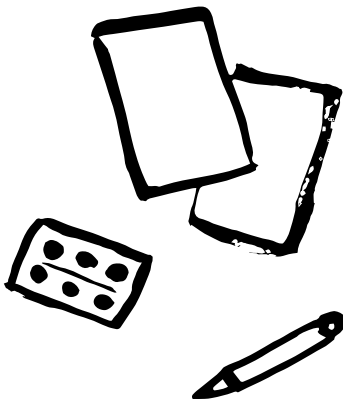
Maybe it's a building, a tree, a sign, a person.

*Remember, if you take a picture of a person, please ask them if it's okay first!*

Take as many photos as you like while outside.

## PART III: BUILDING A BLOCK

---



When you're back home, take a look at all of your photos. Find a few that you love.

Look at all of the small details in the photos and find one to draw. Is there a bird in a tree? A funny looking cloud? Check all around your photos to find small details.

Find a photo you love and draw the entire thing! This can be a really fast sketch, or a very slow detailed drawing. Take as much time as you want to recreate the photo on paper.

---

# BONUS

Draw every photo you took, and lay them out to re-create your block from the paper drawings you made! You can either re-create your block to how it looks in real life or re-imagine your block to what you would like it to look like.

## SHARE YOUR ART WITH US

Let us know how you shared your memories, and your hopes for the future by posting it on Instagram or Facebook and using the tag #WallachKids for a chance to be featured on our Social Media channels!



**Wallach Art Gallery**  
**Lenfest Center for the Arts**  
Columbia University  
in the City of New York  
615 West 129th Street  
New York, NY 10027

FIND MORE  
ACTIVITY GUIDES HERE:  
[wallach.columbia.edu/wallach-kids](http://wallach.columbia.edu/wallach-kids)

