# Learn About Your Community

## Lesson Overview

**Part 1: Collect Oral Histories – 15 minutes**

Give your students a week to interview an older person about their relationship to one or several natural, cultural, or historic landmarks in their community and to later share their findings with the class. Interviews may be transcribed, videotaped, tape recorded, or condensed into a narrative. This assignment can either be high-tech or low-tech, it's up to you.

**Part 2: Share Your Interview Findings – 2-4 class periods**

After allowing preparation time, let students talk to the rest of the class about what they learned in their interviews. Give them 3-5 minutes each for presentations.

## Materials

A computer with an internet connection and a means of display to the class

For technology integration, use digital photo or video cameras, or allow students to use their cell phones (optional)

For resources on video production download:
http://media.knowitall.org/sites/default/files/GenerationsofHeroes_TeacherGuide.pdf

A computer lab with Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Movie Maker, or Apple iMovie on all computers (optional)

Storage medium(s) for presentation of work in class on a computer that is fully compatible with all mediums of student presentation (optional)

A computer or television, depending on the format of student work, with means of display to the class (optional)

There are many resources available On-line for help with interviewing and fieldwork.  One very thorough resource is Folklife and Fieldwork: a Layman's Introduction to Field Techniques by Peter Bartis found at the Library of Congress website.

Another straightforward site for help with asking questions is the Step-by-Step Guide to Oral History.

On **A Natural State** teacher resources, find additional forms that include:

- **Pre-interview** worksheet to help students plan their projects

- **Interview Reminders** help sheet

- **Guide for Oral History Interviews**

# Part 1: Collect Oral Histories – 15 minutes

## Procedure

Use the Pee Dee Explorer website to learn about the Pee Dee, showcasing one or several video interviews conducted with Pee Dee residents. A good example is the video called "Clio" where one woman talks about her experiences in working the cotton fields. Give your students a week to interview an older person about their relationship to one or several natural, cultural, or historic landmarks in their community.  http://media.knowitall.org/content/clio-pee-dee-explorer

You might have students choose landmarks and guide interviews to coincide with one or several topics **with Pee Dee Explorer** "Chapters," i.e., The Natural Landscape, The Indigenous Landscape, The Historic Landscape, or The Agricultural Landscape. Have them look to http://media.knowitall.org/series/pee-dee-explorer  for ideas and inspiration.

Teachers might want to allow students to use technology in completing this assignment where time and resources are available, either by in incorporating Movie Maker, iMovie, or PowerPoint presentations (with about 7 or 10 slides apiece) or by allowing students to integrate digital photography or video of their interviews and of their places of interest.  Interviews may be transcribed, videotaped, tape recorded, or condensed into a narrative. This assignment can either be high-tech or low-tech, it's up to you.

# Part 2: Share Your Interview Findings - 2-4 class periods

## Procedure

If you have found enough time and resources in order to allow students to incorporate technology into their interview presentations, then spend two class periods in a lab setting allowing them to prepare Movie Maker, iMovie, or PowerPoint presentations (with about 7 or 12 slides apiece), and to incorporate any digital photography or video of their interviews and of their community resource. Spend 2 class periods going around the class allowing students about 3-5 minutes each to present and to talk to the rest of the class about what they have learned from their interviews. Allow for question and answer time and discussion at the end of each class.