

Cards You'll Need

from the Curious Terrain
Explorer's Deck

Discover Cards

All of them

Record Cards

*Drawing, Photography, Writing and
Collage*

Wild Cards

None

Other Materials

- 1) **Sketchbook**
- 2) **Drawing and writing tools**
- 3) **Camera** (optional)
- 4) **Timer** (optional)
- 5) **A piece of cardboard**
- 6) **Scissors and glue**

Choose a Place

Find a place that intrigues you. Depending on your time and ambition, this activity works well at a range of scales, from a small garden or plaza to a street or shopping center, to an entire neighborhood or small town.

Ideally, choose a place that is *alive with people*, so that you can observe not only your own reactions and behaviors, but also those of others.

Intentions

Create a memento that helps you vividly recall and share your experience of a place later on.

First, you'll examine the place through a series of prisms, recording your discoveries using your choice of media. Next, you will experiment with ways of layering and merging your discoveries into a single instrument for envisioning this place.

Methodology

1. Go to your chosen place.
2. Shuffle your 28 *Discover* cards. (You can put away the rest of the deck.)
3. Randomly draw a card, and write the title of the card in your sketchbook. (Even if you are not drawing, it is useful to remember the cards you used for future reference.)
4. (Optional) Set your timer for 30 minutes, or whatever period you prefer.
5. Spend some time observing and thinking about the place in the context of your chosen card. **Don't stay still.** Move around and examine the place from different angles.
6. **Record!** Capture the essence of whatever your card is prompting you to observe about the place. Draw, photograph and/or write your discoveries. (Review the relevant Record cards for inspiration.) Experiment! Don't worry about producing a polished piece of art.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 as many times as you wish, with additional cards.
8. Return to your work space and review your field records.
9. **Merge your discoveries.** Imagine your field records as the colorful jewels inside a kaleidoscope. Now, rotate the kaleidoscope and see what images result. Using the cardboard as a base, scissors and glue, make a collage that merges all of the themes you explored in the field. (Review the *Collage* card for inspiration.) You may incorporate the actual records, copies, tracings, rubbings, new drawings or writing... Anything goes!

Your goal is to be able to look at your collage later, and instantly recall your experience of this place in vivid detail.