



Special Considerations for Inventory Methods

<p>MAPS</p>	<p>By studying various types of maps, you can get an overview of your community. In particular, you can identify some of the community’s natural environmental strengths, such as streams, parks, and wetlands, as well as potential problem areas.</p>	<p>Looking at maps can be a good starting point for the community environmental inventory, but by itself this method is unlikely to provide enough information.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Tips Card #8 will be helpful in finding maps.</p>
<p>GUIDED WALKING TOURS</p>	<p>Sometimes called a “Walkabout,” a walking tour lets you get firsthand information. The tour can be through the whole community or just through some part of it. Small groups can walk through different areas. Information can be recorded on a map or in a notebook.</p>	<p>A student should not conduct a walking tour alone. Consult your school policy guidelines concerning the amount of adult supervision students need while on a walking tour.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Emphasize the importance of being respectful of other people in their school community.</p> <p>---</p> <p>It is especially important in this method to give students guidance on what to look for, and to practice the observational techniques beforehand.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Tips Card #9 will be helpful in preparing students.</p>
<p>NEWS MEDIA SEARCH</p>	<p>One possibility is to look through a couple weeks’ worth of newspapers – print or online. You can make a list of all environmental issues you see mentioned and summarize what the issues are and what the community is doing about them.</p>	<p>Tips Card #10 will be helpful in identifying particular strategies.</p>



Special Considerations for Inventory Methods (continued)

<p>SURVEYS AND OPINION POLLS</p>	<p>You can develop a survey to identify a “laundry list” of issues and strengths, or it can relate to one or two issues that you have already identified. The survey audience can be the general public, parents, other students, people in one neighborhood, or environmental experts.</p>	<p>You may be able to find an existing survey instrument. --- Regardless of the target audience, be sure that the surveys attempt to discover the diverse views within the community. --- Tips Card #12 will be helpful in developing your own survey.</p>
<p>INTERVIEWS</p>	<p>To get more in-depth knowledge about issues and strengths, you can conduct interviews. Interviews generally are conducted with experts or with persons directly involved with an issue or its solution.</p>	<p>Students should practice interviewing before conducting their first real interview. Asking good questions and taking good notes are important interview skills that students need to prepare for. --- See Tips Card #14.</p>
<p>ONLINE DATABASES</p>	<p>The internet has made it possible to easily access many traditional library resources from your computer, including encyclopedias, biographies, and academic articles. Databases are often grouped by topic or age group. Some to try may include Kids Search, National Science Digital Library, and Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center. Check your school or public library’s website for free access and more options!</p>	<p>Many school and public libraries offer free remote access to online databases with your library card. --- Students may need some guidance on search strategies, including keywords, searching for full text, and choosing the most relevant databases.</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY</p>	<p>An audit allows you to see how much of something you are using and what your usage patterns are. This could include air and water quality testing, or auditing waste, energy use, etc.</p>	