



Eye Opener Worksheet 2A

Studying Streetscapes

Artists paint pictures called landscapes, which include elements such as trees, grass, barns, farm animals, farm machinery, farmers, brooks and rocks. Seascapes include the ocean, big and little boats, the sky, clouds, and the sea birds.

What elements might a Streetscape contain?

Select a street to study. Write the name of the street on the line below.

Write the names of the two streets that cross it where you are conducting your study.

On the list of the elements of the Streetscape above, check all of those you see on the street you are studying.

Check all the words that describe the kind of place your section of the street is.

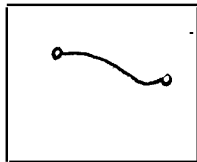
_____ residential _____ commercial _____ main artery _____ industrial

Check all the following services contained on your street section.

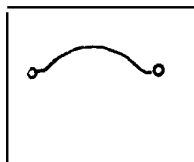
_____ gas station _____ drug store _____ food store _____ church or synagogue
_____ post office _____ fire station _____ hospital _____ school _____ library

How does the street slope?

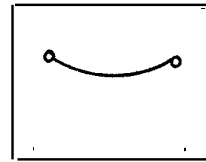
_____ a.



_____ b.



_____ c.



Why and how many storm drains are at the corner?

After a heavy rain, where are there puddles at the street corners?

Where are there electric poles along the street? _____

What kinds of covers for underground services are there on the streets or sidewalks along your street?

Draw them in the box below.

On recycled paper make rubbings of different street covers.

What is the condition of the street's surfaces?

_____ excellent _____ good _____ fair _____ many potholes _____ currently being resurfaced

Check the words below you would use to describe the appearance of your street.

_____ attractive _____ inviting _____ lively _____ interesting _____ clean

_____ unattractive _____ orderly _____ chaotic _____ boring _____ dingy

_____ ugly _____ busy _____ too congested _____ dirty

Is it pleasant to walk along this street?

Why or why not? _____
Stand still for a few minutes with your eyes closed. What sounds do you hear?

Were you aware of these sounds before you stopped to listen?

Where do you see patterns along your street? Describe them.

Location of Pattern	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

On the backs of recycled paper, draw some of your favorite patterns.

Look closely at the surfaces of the buildings, street sidewalk, fire hydrants, cars, manhole covers, etc. What kinds of textures do you see? Select six that you find especially interesting. Describe them. If possible, feel the texture after describing how it works.

Object	Description of Texture
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What object in your streetscape has the most interesting shape?

Describe it fully so someone else could recognize it.

If your streetscape has stores on it, can you find out if the business signs conform to the city's sign ordinance?

If there are trees along the street, write their names. Where can you find out their names if you do not know their names? What else do you know about the trees? Are they old? Recently planted?



Eye Opener Activities 2



A Detail Game

Scientists and artists train themselves to be meticulously observant of details. Play a game in which one person uses 1-10 adjectives to describe the shape/texture/patterns of an object visible to others. Class members try to guess the object.

Three Types of Environments

List five nouns that come to mind when thinking about the environment. Share the lists and group the words in a chart like the one below.

Natural	Built	Human
trees	fire hydrant	multi ethnic population
park	park	park
etc.	etc.	etc.

Which of the words belong in more than one category? Why?
How do your lists show a broad understanding of the all aspects of environment?

Infrastructure

Set up a chart listing in one column all the utilities and services we use in our home and other buildings. In another column, show how they get to buildings. Take a neighborhood walk to verify which of these services are conducted underground, which are along the street, and which are above the street.

Utility or Service	Location of Conduit		
	Underground	Along the Street	Above the Street

What does the word infrastructure mean? What does it include?

What determines whether utilities will be transmitted underground or above the street?

What is the general condition of the infrastructure in Albuquerque?

What explanation(s) can be given for infrastructure problems faced by the city in recent years?



Sketch Book Time

Take a walk to a busy street near your school. Note all the elements of the streetscape: street furniture (street lights, fire hydrants, bus benches, street signs); types of buildings; business signs; vehicles; plants and animals; street vendors; pedestrians, etc. Draw a map of the streetscape you saw and include the various elements.

Include what colors you see and where they are found.

Describe the different windows/doors/roofs you see.

What different kinds of human activity do you see?

Which of these elements do you like? Which do you dislike? Why?

Architect Work

Design a community center for your neighborhood. Include some of the following elements:

Materials for the structure

Function(s) the building fulfill

Aesthetic design - lines, shapes, forms, colors, textures, patterns, scale

Practical, social and psychological needs of the people in the neighborhood

If there is a community center in your neighborhood, visit it. How does it compare to the ideal center that you are designing?

Timeline of Architectural Styles

Construct a timeline of the major architectural styles found in Albuquerque and the periods in which they flourished. Use the computer program Timeliner for this project.

Include these areas:

Predominant styles

Circumstances under which each was introduced

Trends in architecture in the last 20 years



Research Paper

Write a report on one of the major architectural styles found in Albuquerque. Where, when and how was this architectural style developed? What are its characteristics?

How popular is this style at the present time in Albuquerque? In other parts of the country? What do you like about this style? Dislike?

Camera Hunt

Borrow a camera and hunt for outstanding examples of each of the five or six predominant architectural styles in Albuquerque. Take a series of photographs of each, highlighting their most distinctive features. Write captions. Display in an exhibit in the classroom or school corridors.



Rewrite The Three Little Pigs

What kind of wolves might be considered in building a house in Albuquerque Bernalillo County? Flooding, heating, and cooling costs, weathering, etc.? What building materials and design might each of the little pigs use? What environmental message might be included in the story?



Check Out Downtown's Architectural Styles

How many different major types of architecture features can you see?
Which styles have special appeal to you?
Which kind(s) of architecture best express Albuquerque's identity?
Which of the old buildings should be saved and restored?
Why is the KiMo being preserved? What is Art Deco? Use this art form in a design to show that you understand the form.
Which of the newly constructed buildings add to the Downtown's attractiveness? Which do not? Discuss different opinions.

Climate Criteria

Draw up a set of criteria to evaluate whether a building is designed to interact favorably with Albuquerque's climate.

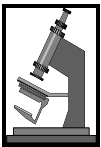
Take a walk and evaluate the houses, stores, office buildings and public buildings for how well they achieve climate controlling capabilities.

How appropriate are the size, shape and orientation of the structure?

What kind of landscaping is used?

Does the building have covered walkways or portals? Are there other features that provide shelter from heat, cold and wind?

What materials are used for construction? How well do they provide insulation from heat and cold?



Pedestrian Watchers

Walk along an active street downtown. Consider the pedestrians on this street as travelers.

What activities do you see them engaged in?

How do you think this transportation system is working? Can you list ways to improve it?

What other parts of the city lend themselves well to pedestrian travel. To walking for exercise?
To walking for aesthetic pleasure?



The Central Trek from First to Eighth Street

Walk up and down Central Avenue from First to Eighth Street. Keep a list of things, places and people you see. Organize your list into categories such as: exciting, interesting, not interesting.

What qualities about the sights you see make them fit into the above categories?

If you could change this section of Central Avenue, what aspects would you keep? What would you add? Explain.

Does this section of Central give the impression of diversity or homogeneity? Of affluence or of economic struggle? Of a rising or declining area?

Graffiti Tour

Walk down several alleys of downtown. Record the graffiti you see.

What do people talk about when they write on walls?

Can the writing be grouped into categories of similar topics?

Why do people write on public property?

How might the urge to ruin public property be channeled in a constructive way?

Revitalization of Downtown

Discuss downtown and its history, its current use and appearance and its future. Read books about Albuquerque's history or talk with someone at the Museum of Albuquerque or at the Historical Society about downtown's past. Set up a three column chart. In the first column, list the ways downtown was used in the past. Include names of some businesses formerly located there. In the second column, list the ways the area is presently used. In the third column, suggest ways you think downtown should be used.

What plans are currently under consideration for downtown revitalization?

What do you think of these plans?

How could your suggestions be included in future plans for the area?

What kinds of new retail businesses might succeed?



Political Action

Write a letter to the Mayor telling what you like about Albuquerque's physical environment, both natural and built. You can email him at mayor@cabq.gov. Mention any public or private buildings or amenities you consider attractive and any parts of the open space system you enjoy. Include the improvements you would like to see which could make Albuquerque a better place to live.

Apple II e Software

If you have an Apple II e computer at your school, see if you can purchase a piece of software called, StickyBear Town Builder. It will really help you understand how a town or city is built.

****INSERT GRAPHICS FILE HERE****



Eye Opener Worksheet 2B

Be an Urban Design Evaluator

What does term *human design* mean?

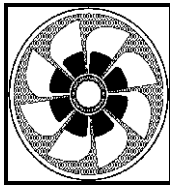
Select some area of the city (your own neighborhood, downtown, Old Town, Uptown, Nob Hill, Ridgcrest, the Northeast Heights, etc.) to evaluate for urban design. Check the **Yes** column if the urban design elements in the chart below contribute to the enhancement of the functional., social or aesthetic values of the environment. Check the **No** column if they do not.

Name of neighborhood or area

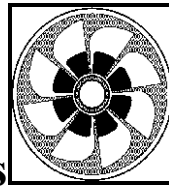
Urban Design	Values					
	Functional		Social		Aesthetic	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Natural Features						
Mountains						
Rivers and Bogs						
Volcanic Escarpment						
Site Topography						
Vegetation						
Climatic Factors (sun, wind, rain)						
Elements	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Buildings						
Style						
Motifs						
Materials						
Scale						
Massing						
Building Setback						
Height						

Element	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Open Space						
Plazas						
Pedestrian						
Acequias						
Playground						
Parks						
Equestrian & Bike Trails						
Element	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Streets						
Width						
Use (auto, bus, bike, pedestrian, truck)						
Median						
Curb Cut						
Landscape						
Intersection Crossing						
Traffic Light						
Element	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Street Furniture						
Benches						
Signs (business, parking, street)						
Trees						
Tree Planters						
Bus Shelters						
Trash Receptacles						
Traffic Signals						
Sidewalk (width, design, materials)						
Art						

In general, what do you think of the urban design of the area you selected?
 What specific recommendations would you make for improving it?



Additional Activities



History of Central Avenue

Compile a list of Albuquerque's major arterials, streets and avenues, not Interstates. Discuss your experiences, associations, and mental images connected with each of these thoroughfares. Focus on Central Avenue. Take a bus ride for a firsthand look.

Which of the arterials is the oldest?

Which is the longest?

Which services the most people? What kinds of services?

Which have the most individuality or color?

Which is part of famous Route 66?

Central Avenue is sometimes referred to as an *Alpha Street*. This term has been defined as, "the single street which unfolds for visitors the most knowledge about a city." Is this a valid term to use for Central Avenue?

What can you find out about the history of Central Avenue?

In what ways do different parts of Central Avenue supply a cross section view of Albuquerque's past, present, and future?

How would you describe the part of Central Avenue nearest your home and school?

What are some of the impressive Albuquerque landmarks which are still standing on Central Avenue?



Write a "This is Your Life, Central Avenue" scenario. Present it other classes or to parents at a PTA meeting.

In what ways would you like to see Central Avenue improved? How could your class go about making these ideas known?

Little House Project

Read to the first 31 pages of Virginia Burton's *The Little House*.



Write your own ending to the story. Read Burton's ending and compare.

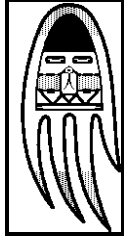
Which historic houses in Albuquerque might form the basis for a story?

How have some of Albuquerque's old houses been imaginatively used for new purposes?

Review some of the important components of design: like form, function, structure, line, color and scale. Design and build a 3-D model of the kind of room in which you would like to live. Use scrap materials creatively in making your model.

Which geometrical forms supply the best support, arches, circular columns, rectangular columns, triangles, or flat panes? Experiment to find out.

Which colors best express your personality and moods? How can textures be combined to give the most pleasing effect? Which of your needs and wants will your room supply?



Activities for the Senses and Sensitivities

Characteristics of Places

Suggest ten places, buildings, rooms, parks, malls, you like or don't like. Complete the following statements:

One of my favorite places is _____. When I am there, I feel _____.

Through discussion, help each other understand what the characteristics of these different places are which make people strongly like or dislike being in them.

Is there a relationship between the physical characteristics of a place and the way it makes many people feel?

Are there certain qualities about places which most people like or dislike?

Why might some people react differently from others?

If there are some places most people don't like, explain why such types of places are built.

Privacy Spots

Walk to a neighborhood park. Select your own privacy spots in which you can sit and reflect for 15 minutes.

What kinds of spots did you select?

How did you spend the 15 minutes? What did you think about?

How did you feel? Did you enjoy the sense of privacy the situation provided?

Return to the classroom and discuss whether it might be possible to rearrange the furniture to provide some (or more) privacy areas you can use when you complete your work. Talk about people's varying need for companionship and for being alone. Describe to each other where and how you find privacy and solitude in your out-of-school lives.

City Scrapbook

Collect pictures of cities of all sizes from various parts of the world. Describe each picture. Such a list might include: congested, beautiful, dirty, busy, overwhelming, inviting, etc. Analyze your reactions to the pictures.

How do you respond to the skyscrapers and dense urban areas?

How do you respond to pictures of malls, sidewalk restaurants, and people sitting on a park bench talking?

What do you think *human scale* means? Do you prefer places which are built to human scale or doesn't that affect you?

What parts of Albuquerque's built environment have human scale? Which parts do not?

Contest of Mystery Places

Play "Can You Name It?" Bring to class photographs, sketches, or written descriptions of generally known examples of the built environment in the neighborhood. Conduct a contest to see who can name and locate the greatest number of these mystery places.

NOTES