Land History

Companion Text: <u>If You See the Moon</u>, by Zia Wells
Subject Area & Grade Level: Social Studies, 4th Grade
Materials: Internet or library access

Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Locate information about a specific geographical region
- Use a timeline to organize historical data
- Make an oral presentation to and field a subsequent question-&-answer session

Introduction

Read the story once through without stopping. Ask students where they think the story is set—which part of the country. Explain that the community of which Cirra and Nimbu are a part has been living in that same area, on that same land generation after generation. Have students reflect with a partner for a minute about the place their families live—is it the same place their parents or grandparents lived when they were little? If not, do they know who lived in that place before them?

Procedure

Organize students into groups, and give each group one of the following locations: the specific plot of land occupied by their school; the land of their village, town, or city and its surrounding area; or, the land of their state or region of the country. Using resources found in the library or on the internet, have students research the history of the land they were given. Who used the land when, and for what purposes? What structures—buildings, roads, homes, etc—have been added to or changed on the land over time? How is the land governed now, and how was it governed in the past? When, over time, were any major shifts in ownership or population of the land?

Have each group construct a timeline showing the land use of the region they were assigned. The timeline should include pictures, which can be printed off the internet, photocopied from books, or hand-drawn. Have students use 8 ½ X 11 paper, turned horizontal, for the backdrop of their timelines so that the timelines are large enough to be visible when presented.

Discussion

Have each group present its timeline, and answer questions about it posed by classmates.