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# Write About or Discuss

## Lesson Overview

### Write About or Discuss – 20-45 minutes

Allow your students engage in a writing exercise or an open discussion of some ideas that are introduced through the [Pee Dee Explorer](#) website. As a prompt, use some of the suggested topics below, or create some of your own.

## Background

[Pee Dee Explorer](#) is a website that provides a look at the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the region in South Carolina that is called the Pee Dee. Named for its rivers, the Pee Dee region remains largely undeveloped. Rural, industrial, and agricultural lands are what mainly lie outside of a few small town centers. While struggling to maintain a vital economy, residents in some parts of the Pee Dee are finding value in the region's natural areas and historic sites. This lesson aims to help students to think critically about conservation and preservation, while cultivating appreciation for the natural, cultural, and historic resources that remain hidden in plain sight all around us.

## Materials

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

### Procedure:

### Write About or Discuss – 20-45 minutes

Allow your students engage in a writing exercise or an open discussion of some topics or concepts that are introduced through the videos in the [Pee Dee Explorer](#) website.

If a writing exercise is assigned, then encourage documentation of sources, or the creation of a works cited list to back up ideas. As a prompt, use some of the suggested topics below, or create some of your own.

## Suggested Topics For Discussion:

- What is a "natural resource?" Should natural resources always be protected?
- What is "cultural?" Prompt a discussion about what defines a culture. What is a culture's relationship to its history? To its environment?
- What is "historic?"

Visit the [South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office website](#):

<http://shpo.sc.gov/properties/register/piform.htm>. Look the [brochure](#) that outlines criteria for designation of a site for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Sites: <http://shpo.sc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/9C8CD8EA-7BAA-4363-BE62-A61D6F96BE0B/0/nrbro08.pdf>.

- What is the significance of the National Register of Historic sites?
- What is a Land Trust? a Heritage Preserve? What is their significance?
- Discuss "sense of place," which can be defined as those things adding up to a feeling that a community is a special place, distinct from anywhere else. How does one identify himself or herself through an understanding of his or her own "sense of place?" How do our local histories, cultures, and environments contribute to our "sense of place?"
- Discuss the differences between conservation and preservation and the importance of both.
- Discuss the economic, environmental, aesthetic, and educational values of natural resources, including how they are used for artistic, industrial, and everyday purposes. Identify some nearby examples.
- Discuss the economic, environmental, aesthetic, and educational values of cultural or historic sites. Identify some nearby examples.

- Discuss the influence of natural resources on patterns of settlement. How do the material qualities and characteristics of resources influence cultures?
- Discuss the impact of development on the natural and cultural landscape. How does sprawl and mass media influence or change our “sense of place?” Draw connections to western expansion and globalization.
- Archaeologists reconstruct past lives by collecting and examining evidence such as tools, art objects and other material signs of culture. Speculate about how archaeologists might interpret our culture 1000 years from now *with no historical record to follow*. Draw connections between petroglyphs and modern-day graffiti.

### **Use the following resources from Knowitall.org:**

The Pee Dee Explorer

<http://media.knowitall.org/series/kolb-site>

A Natural State

<http://media.knowitall.org/series/petroglyphs>