**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:**
WHAT ARE OUR LOCAL TREASURES?

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<th>Introductory Lesson #1:</th>
<th>What are treasures? How might we define treasures?</th>
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<td>Explore personal and collective views of treasures as people, places and values that a community has. Outcome: an initial “treasure map” of the community.</td>
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**Formative Lesson Ideas:**

- **What are treasures? How might we define treasures?**
  Explore students’ special places. Make a treasure map of students’ special places.

- **What are the different treasures our community values?**
  Interview parents and neighbors about what is special to them in their community. Create initial definition of what a community treasure is. Discuss a research plan for searching out and documenting treasures.

- **Who are our treasures?**
  Meet a treasure: Invite a town elder to come and visit and share view of history and what is important to living well. Outcome: Portrait of a Treasure.

- **Where are our treasures?**
  Visit a treasure. Visit a local “special place” on a field trip and investigate it through a variety of lenses. Discover its historical, ecological, aesthetic and fun “stories. When you return to class ask students to represent why they think this place is a treasure.

- **What is happening in our community to help protect our treasures? What threatens our treasures?**
  Share community activist presentation of threatened green space as example.

- **What treasures are important to preserve? Are there treasures in our community that are threatened in some way?**
  Invite a guest speaker from a group that is working to preserve ethnic heritage/cultural heritage. Is this something that we want to and can do something about. Explore possible class service project.

- **What do I want to know about our community treasures?**
  Research Project: Students work in groups to define, document and preserve a community treasure. Students become experts on a particular kind of treasure i.e. “peaceful places expert,” “natural places expert,” “threatened places expert,” “safe places expert.”

**CULMINATING ACTIVITY:**
Summative Assessment to Essential Question

PRODUCT will include:
- Individual Portfolio of Community Map of Treasures as defined by class and student
- Group Presentation of Research on Local Treasures,
- Service Component that educates audience about community treasures
- Personal Reflection on Essential Question: What are our local treasures? How are they important to me?