



A Sense of Place

Grades: Upper Elementary-High School

Time: Two 40-minute class periods

Day 1:

Watch *If Our Water Could Talk* at <https://www.wned.org/television/wned-productions/wned-documentaries/>

Pause throughout the video to ask clarifying questions, including:

- What did the Buffalo River look like when the land was used by the Neutral and Seneca Native American nations?
- How did the Buffalo River change to support industry and as a result of industrialization?
- What are some ways people are cleaning up the river?

Day 2 or Take Home:

Have students create a drawing, collage, or descriptive writing piece showing how the Buffalo River looked to and was used by:

1. Native Americans prior to the 1700s
2. Industry owners in the early 1900s
3. Current Buffalo residents

Finally, students add how they would like to see and use the river or its tributaries in the future.

Extension: Have students research and present the vision of stakeholder groups including local government, restoration groups, industry owners, environmental justice leaders, native nations, and community members. Invite stakeholders to share their goals with students.