

## Practice Activity: Photographing Historic Places

### FACILITATOR GUIDE

- 1. Introduce the activity:** When photographing historic places, it is important to take high-quality photographs that clearly show the details of the historic place. Ana has taken a number of photographs of the meetinghouse and now needs to select which of her photos to include with the Historic Place Documentation Worksheet.
- 2. Explain the objective:** There are three questions in this activity. Answer the questions to help Ana select the highest-quality photographs that clearly show all the necessary details of the meetinghouse.
- 3. Carry out the activity:**
  - a.** Pass out to each participant a copy of the three questions found below. Do not distribute the answers that follow.
  - b.** Ask the participants to read the description of each question and then answer the questions.
  - c.** After they have answered, discuss the correct answers.

**4. After the activity is complete, summarize the activity:**

Here are the key points to remember from this activity:

- Knowing how to use your camera's settings will increase your ability to take quality photos of historic places.
- Using some basic photography techniques will make your photographs more effective at clearly showing the details of the historic place.
- Taking a complete set of photographs that provide sufficient views of the historic place and its surroundings is a crucial part of fully documenting the historic place.

## Practice Activity: Photographing Historic Places

### 1. Identify examples of good photographs

In this activity you will identify photographs that are examples of using good photography techniques. As Ana is completing the Historic Place Documentation Worksheet for the meetinghouse, she wants to include high-quality photographs that clearly show all the necessary details of the building and its surroundings. This means she needs to do the following.

**1. Know how to use her camera.** Becoming familiar with her camera settings is important so she can adjust to different lighting conditions. She also needs to know how to set her camera for the highest resolution possible.

**2. Understand basic photography techniques.** Ana needs to keep her camera straight and avoid including objects in her photos that obstruct the view of the meetinghouse. She also needs to take photos at the right time of day, when there is good light and the meetinghouse is not in deep shadows.

Mark only the photographs that are good examples of following the guidelines discussed above.



## Practice Activity: Photographing Historic Places

### 2. Identify what's wrong with these photos

Now that you have helped Ana identify which of her photographs have the good quality that is needed when documenting a historic place, see if you can identify what is wrong with the following photos.



What is wrong with this photograph?

- a. Lighting conditions are bad.
- b. An object is obstructing the view of the meetinghouse.
- c. The camera is not level.
- d. The resolution of the photo is low.



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### 3. What is missing?

When documenting a historic place, it is important to give a complete view of the historic place and its surroundings. Photographs are a very useful way to provide that complete view. Ana used the list at the bottom of the page as her “shot list” when she took her photos. Ana might need to go back and take some of the photos she missed.



Mark the shots that are missing:

- Wide-angle photo that shows the building, landscaping, and surroundings.
- Photos of all four sides of the building.
- Photos taken from corners to show two sides.
- Photos that focus on the meetinghouse.
- Photos that show landscaping.
- Close-ups of important exterior features.
- Close-ups of important interior features.

## Practice Activity: Photographing Historic Places

### ANSWER KEY

#### 1. Identify examples of good photographs



This is not a good example because the view of the meetinghouse is obstructed.



This photo was taken in good light. It is level. It was taken from the corner, so it shows two sides of the building.



This photo was taken in good light. It is level. It shows the front of the building and the landscaping.



This is not a good example because the lighting is low.



This photo was taken in good light. It is level, and it shows a side of the building not seen in other photos.



This is not a good example because the camera is not set on the highest resolution.



This is not a good example because the view of the meetinghouse is obstructed.



This is a good wide-angle shot that shows the building and much of its surroundings.



This is not a good example because the camera was not level.

## Practice Activity: Photographing Historic Places

### ANSWER KEY

#### 2. Identify what's wrong with these photos



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Ana was only able to photograph three sides of the building. She was not able to take photos that show the rear of the building because it is attached to the building behind it.

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS