

A hand-drawn map of LAVE (Lagos de Atravesados) with various landmarks and notes. The map is drawn on a piece of paper with a wavy blue line representing a river or path. At the top left, a blue box labeled "LAVE" contains the text "The beautiful surroundings". Below this, a red box labeled "PUM" is shown. To the right of the PUM, there are several orange triangles representing trees. Further right, a green tree with red crosses is labeled "Dinner's & Supper". Below this, a blue box labeled "Waterfall" is shown. To the right of the waterfall, a small boat is labeled "The oldest one!". Further right, a larger waterfall is labeled "Waterfall" and "class 3 mostly better swimming events". Below this, a small boat is labeled "Dinner's & Supper". To the right of the boat, a small boat is labeled "What are we doing?". Further right, a small boat is labeled "Are they ready?". At the bottom right, a small boat is labeled "Dinner's & Supper". To the right of the boat, a small boat is labeled "Shopping for events". At the bottom right, a small boat is labeled "Emeraldidad" and "PUM".

[illegible]

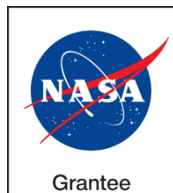
Introduce the activity by explaining that its purpose is to provide a way for team members to reflect on key elements of their project or partnership, using the metaphor of a journey down a river. Invite participants to create a drawing that represents their collaboration journey so far and anticipates the next stages of their partnership. Let participants know that they can look at

Be sure to allow adequate time (around 30 minutes) for participants to reflect on their work, discuss how to represent it, and create a drawing that they feel reflects their shared experience. If you have more than one group, allow additional time at the end for the groups to present and discuss their drawings. The group conversation will extend and reinforce participants' understanding of their project and partnership.



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The River of Life tool has been used in community organizing, education, health, and participatory research. You can find many resources online. This version of the activity was adapted in part from: Carmody, S. (2023). River of life storytelling. In D. Ayton, T. Tsindos, & D. Berkovic (Eds.), *Qualitative research: A practical guide for health and social care researchers and practitioners*, pp. 166–173, Monash University.
<https://oercollective.caul.edu.au/qualitative-research/>



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REFLECT

Think about your partnership as a journey:

- Where did you start?
- Where are you now?
- Where are you headed next?
- Who went on the journey together?
- What challenges and opportunities did you encounter along the way?
- What were your most important activities and decisions?

Create a drawing of your journey to communicate some of the important aspects of your journey.



DRAW THE COURSE OF THE RIVER AND ITS PARTS

Course of your journey	Questions to inspire your river drawing
Where did your journey begin?	Where did the river start? What does the start of the river look like? Who is at the start of the river?
What happened along the way?	When are there changes in the river? Does the river have any sudden bends or turns? Is your river long and winding? Does it branch? Does the river have a waterfall?
What carried you along or created challenges?	Does the river flow fast or slow? Is the river muddy or clear? Are there rocks or boulders along the river?
How did you navigate the journey?	Do you have a boat? Are you swimming or wading? Are there dams, channels, or bridges? What tools or equipment do you use?
What did you learn or observe along the way?	What do you encounter on your journey? Where do you pass through on your journey?
Where are you today?	What does your river look like now? Who is still part of the crew?
Where are you headed next?	Where is the river heading? Who is continuing with you or joining you on the journey?

ADD THE FEATURES OF THE RIVER AND ADD PLACE NAMES

Possible features	This feature may represent
Bends in the river	A-ha moments and breakthroughs or changes in context
Deep, calm water	Places that were easier to navigate
Pebbles, rocks, boulders	Obstacles along the way
Rapids, eddies, or whirlpools	Times that were especially challenging or places where you struggled
Clear or murky water	Places where you had good insight or were confused
River branches	Changes in direction or additional directions
Tributaries	New influences and resources coming in
Waterfall or dam	Major events or surprises
Beaches, marshes, swamps	Places where you rested, got stuck, or needed to find a new strategy
Resources along the way	Supports, infrastructure, assets, people, and organizations
Activities and events along the way	Things that happened that supported or influenced your work