

Activity	Theme 1 Activity 2
Lesson Name	Telling Stories through Objects and Images
Summary	In this activity, students will learn how objects and images can be used to help us learn about the
	people, places, and events of both the past and present. Students will make observations of both
	objects and images and work to unravel the stories behind these items. Through this process, students
	will begin to understand why the collection and preservation of such items is vital to understanding the
	past and preserving the cultural heritage of the Eastern Shawnee.
	Students will:
Objectives	 Understand that objects and images can be used to help us learn about the past.
	 Understand the process of using observation to help us analyze objects and images.
	 Learn about their own family/community heritage by conduct their own object and image
	analyses.
	 Understand that objects and images can help us unravel and tell stories about ourselves and the
	past.
Essential Questions	 How can objects and images help us to understand the past and preserve our cultural heritage?
	 How can observations help us to make predictions?
Materials	Object Observation Worksheet
	Image Observation Worksheet
	Pens or Pencils
	• Access to Resilience through Adversity: A Companion Guide for Educators and Researchers
	website or access to the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma digital collection via Ohio Memory
	Sample object
	Sample image

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Vocabulary	Object (artifact)—an object, often called an artifact when discussed historically, is something that has been produced or shaped by human workmanship.
	 Image—a picture or representation of something. This can include a photograph, a work of art, a cartoon, etc.
	• Culture — a people's ways of being, knowing, and doing.
	 Heritage—something of value or importance passed down by or acquired from a predecessor; recognized cultural identity and roots.
D	 Select an object and image to serve as samples to model the activity with students. Become familiar with the Object Analysis Worksheet and the Image Analysis Worksheet.
Preparation	• Assign students to bring in an object that is special or important to them. Ensure students check with their parent or guardian before bringing the item to school.
	Introduction
	 Ask students to consider how historians and everyday people learn about the past.
	 Do we primarily use documents? If so, how do we learn about the lives of those people who could not read and write?
	• Explain to students that another way historians and everyday people learn about the past is by
	looking at the objects created and used by people in the past as well as images created by or
Procedure	depicting the people, places, and events we are interested in learning about.
	Activity Part 1
	• Instruct students to place their selected objects in a box or space as they enter the classroom.
	• Explain to students that they will be conducting an object analysis of an object brought in by one
	of their classmates using the "Observe, Reflect, Interpret" process.
	• Model the observation process using your sample object and the <i>Object Analysis Worksheet</i> .



 Distribute objects to students (not the object's owner) and instruct students to complete the
Object Analysis Worksheet.
Activity Part 1 Wrap Up
Once students have completed their worksheets, ask a few students to share their findings,
including their narrative.
 Ask students to reveal which object belongs to them.
Ask students to verbally share what they learned about their community history by conducting
the object analysis. How can conducting these sorts of analyses help us to preserve our cultural
heritage? Why is it important that we do this?
Activity Part 2
 Explain to students that they will be using the same "Observe, Reflect, Interpret" process to
analyze an image.
• Model the observation process using your sample image and the <i>Image Analysis Worksheet</i> .
Instruct students to locate an image they would like to analyze from either the "sources" section
of the A Search for Eastern Shawnee History: A Guide for Educators and Researchers website or
the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma archival collection via Ohio Memory.
Have students complete the Image Analysis Worksheet using their selected image.
Activity Part 2 Wrap Up
 Once students have completed their worksheets, ask a few students to share their findings,
including their interpretations.
 Ask students to verbally share what they learned about their community history by conducting
the image analysis. How can conducting these sorts of analyses help us to preserve our cultural
heritage? Why is it important that we do this?



Extension	 Have students work to create an exhibition of their selected objects and created narratives.
	Complete the exhibition with object labels. Invite family, friends, and community members to an
	opening of the exhibition and allow students to serve as guides.
Differentiation	 Students work in small groups to analyze instructor-selected objects and images.
	 All students work to analyze the same object and image.
	Historical Comprehension
	a) Utilize visual and/or mathematical data.
	Analysis, Interpretation & Decision Making
	b) Describe, analyze and evaluate evidence, reasoning, contexts, points of view and frames of
	reference in primary and secondary sources.
Historical Thinking	c) Extract useful information, make supportable inferences and draw appropriate conclusions
Skills Addressed	from historical evidence while also understanding such evidence in its context, recognizing its
	limitations and assessing the points of view that it reflects.
	Historical Research Capabilities
	d) Identify, describe, and evaluate evidence about the past from diverse sources (including
	written documents, works of art, archaeological artifacts, oral traditions, etc.).
	g) Support interpretations with historical evidence.
Attachments	Object Observation Worksheet
	Image Observation Worksheet