

STORIES OBJECTS TELL:

Personal and Shared Histories

DALLAS
MUSEUM
OF ART

Students will imagine the “lives” of objects and their significance to individuals and communities.

THIS WORKS WELL WITH

This works well with an artwork (painting, sculpture, or artifact) that has easily recognizable objects or items; avoid pieces with abstract or difficult-to-identify elements.

SUGGESTED WORKS OF ART

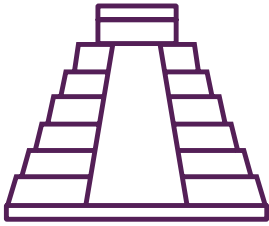
- *Family Matter*, 2020, David Clark, **Level 4**
- Standing Male Power Figure (Nkisi), 19th–20th century, Democratic Republic of the Congo, **Level 3**
- Mouth Mask Probably Depicting the Head of a Rooster, 19th century, Southeast Asia, Moluccas, Indonesia, **Level 3**

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What do you see? Describe the object’s shape, texture, color, and materials.
- How does this object make you feel? Does it remind you of anything in your own life?

Consider the object’s history.

- Who might have made or used this object?
- What do you think this object was used for? What do you think this object represents?
- How do you think this object’s story has changed over time? (For example, has it moved locations? Belonged to different people? Gained new meaning in a museum setting?).
- Why is it important to think about both the personal and shared histories of objects?



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MATERIALS

- Paper
- Pencils

SKETCHING ACTIVITY: CONNECTING PERSONAL AND SHARED HISTORIES (8 minutes)

1. Think about an object from your own life (a keepsake, toy, tool, etc.) that is important to you. What is its story? Why does it matter to you?
2. Sketch your object as an artwork to be included in a museum. How would it be displayed? How would you want it to share its story?
3. After sketching, discuss the following:
 - **How might this object look to someone in the future who doesn't know you? What might they think it represents?**
 - **Compare your chosen artwork/object with your personal object. How are the histories similar or different?**