

The background features several abstract elements: a blue shape with a black grid pattern in the top-left; a large blue circle with white speckles and a small orange circle above it, with a black triangle outline to the right; a large orange teardrop shape in the top-right; a yellow horizontal oval with white speckles below the main title; a large yellow circle with white speckles in the bottom-right, partially overlapping a blue and orange shape; and various black lines and shapes in the bottom-left and bottom-right corners.

Visual Analysis

Intro to
Material Culture



Curators

- Speaks for the artifacts
- Explores the What and How of objects
 - **What:** what is it, etc.
 - **How:** looks beyond the object into the broader context of its production and use

Meaning of Artifacts

Denotative Meaning

Factual dictionary
definitions



Connotative Meaning

The suggesting of a
meaning by a word
apart from the thing
it explicitly names
or describes.





Key Artifacts...



01

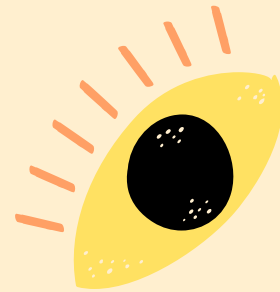
Have high visual impact

02

Come from various sources

03

Go together and
with the Big Idea





What is Material Culture?


Objects made or modified
by humans

History and Material Culture



History *From* Things




- Treating objects as primary sources
 - Objects are evidence of the past
 - Used to ask questions
- 

History *Of* Things



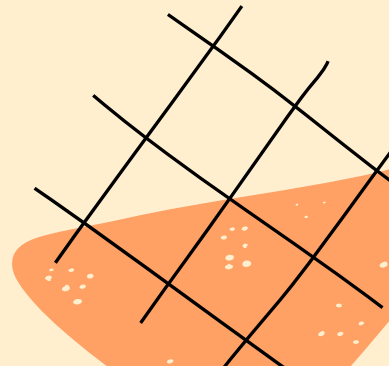
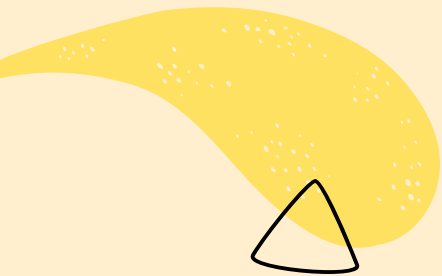
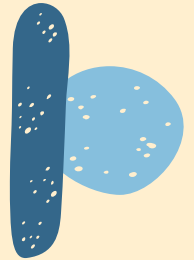
- Historical analysis of the relationship between objects, people, and their representations
- Finding deeper personal meanings in personal objects


History *And* Things




- Objects help you either redefine or strengthen the narrative
- Helps historians reveal new interpretations

Time to Describe






How else can we look at things?



How to transform
exhibits through content



An Object is Worth 1,000 Meanings

<Exercise 13>

The Many-Faceted Object

What does this mean from the perspectives of history, art, economics, etc.?

Who might have used this object?

How has the object been used through time?

How can this object communicate an idea or message?

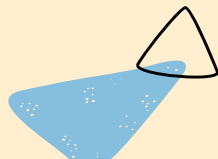


What material qualities might intersect with other perspectives?

How might this object surprise visitors?

What aspects of the object will draw the visitor closer?

How might the object reveal or expose a hidden secret?



Make it Personal

<Exercise 14>

If You Owned the Object

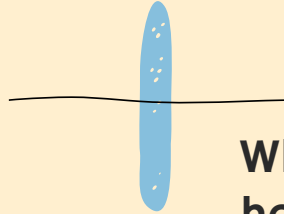
What does this object
remind you of?

Is this object similar to
something you've seen
before?

If you had an object like this,
what features would help you
know that it was yours?

Where would you put this in your
home?

Would it have a special place?

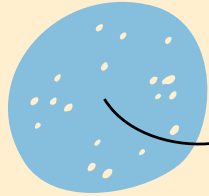


Leave Room for More

<Exercise 15>

Tweet Your Label

Tweet It

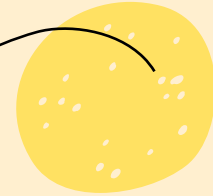


Only use 140
characters in your
label

5 syllables
7 syllables
5 syllables

Make a Haiku

Use an Image



Replace words with
pictures



It's All Connected

<Exercise 17>
Five Whys



Keep Asking WHY



—5 Times.





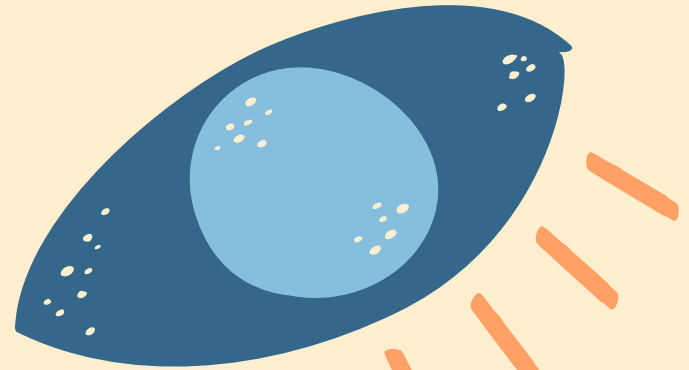
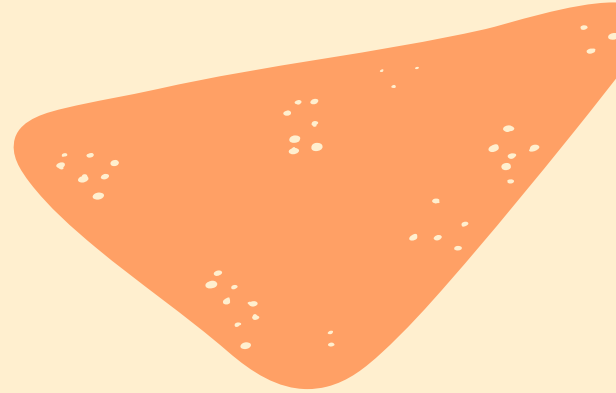
Paper

Instructions are posted on Moodle!

Find 1 object from your home. ANY object.

Write **3** pages

- **1st Half:** Using no information outside of your own observations, describe your object.
 - Look at size, shape, color, materials, etc.
- **2nd Half:** Use one of the exercises in the Wood chapter to describe your object in a connotative way.
 - Tell me *why* that object





**NOTE: Oct. 10 we'll be at Little White
School Museum**

**ALSO: Check your final schedules.
When do you want your opening
reception?**