Identity

How is everyone unique?

The uniqueness of the individual reflects the questions that one asks. The social sciences — psychology, sociology, economics, political science — are based on the assumption that human beings share common behaviors that can be studied and sometimes even predicted. Psychologists can classify common patterns of behavior as people respond in similar ways to certain situations. Abraham Maslow, for example, posits the existence of a common “hierarchy of needs,” ranging from food and security at the most basic to self-actualization at the top. Most or all people will risk everything for the basics of life, but as those are met, they are motivated by goals that bring greater psychological satisfaction. In a similar way, sociologists analyze how different societies act when given certain pressures or opportunities. They observe behaviors and then analyze them to determine underlying patterns that would predict similar behaviors in future situations. Their disciplines are predicated on the assumption that people behave in similar ways under similar situations.

Stories of Individuals

The humanities — religion, history, literature — tell the stories of individuals. Each person or group has experienced the world in a unique way and retains those memories to form a unique perspective. While histories of different people may be similar, the humanities focus on the distinctions of a particular story. The history of the United States may have similarities to that of other nations, but our array of leaders, challenges, opportunities and resources has not exact parallel. It is the challenge of the historian to place the facts of historical development into an account that explains why the nation, state, group or individual developed as it, he or she did. The characters in literature may exhibit characteristics common to all but their stories are the unique creation of the author.

Depending on the goal that one seeks, one can focus on similarities or uniqueness. Educators observe how children at each level of development behave to provide the appropriate challenges and rewards and to develop curricula that those students can master. If there were no common characteristics, it would be very difficult to train teachers. On the other hand, each child comes from a unique background and family and has a unique story. Teachers must be aware of general tendencies based on age and intellectual ability but must also take into account a student's motivation and expectations.

Everyone has a unique story, but we all share common characteristics that define us as human. We are individuals, but at the same time, as members of the human race, react in similar ways to many situations.

How This Source Set is Unique

The first question is based upon an introduction to primary sources (images, documents, artifacts, maps, etc.) that can tell a person’s story. The second question is dependent on the students, who will be asked to bring in items of their own that tell their story. Students will share their artifacts with the class in a “Gallery Walk,” where they can place their items on the whiteboard ledge with a 0 to 5 years timeline written on the board so that students tell their history from infancy to kindergarten. Each student in the class draws a picture and writes a sentence about their favorite artifact, which can be used to create a class book to be given to each student. For students unable to bring sources, there are two supplementary case studies under the question that can be used instead: Ellen Douglas and William Aossey. The third question is based on what it means to be unique (individual sameness and difference). Students will have the opportunity to compare themselves to other stories through the lens of: family, activities, borrowing and spending choices, scarcity (a lack of something) and transportation/maps.
Supporting Questions

What artifacts help tell a person's story?

- Birth Certificate of Bessie Bland in New York, ca. 1913 (Document)
- Family Living on Natchez Trace Project near Lexington, Tennessee, March 1936 (Image)
- Geography Lesson at Lakeview Project School in Arkansas, December 1938 (Image)
- Children Playing with Barbie Dolls in the Bronx Borough of New York City, 1970 (Image)
- Children Fishing in Rhode Island along Bonnet Shores, August 20, 1979 (Image)

How is my story unique?

*Students can bring in their own artifacts or teachers can use one of the two case studies.

- If students will bring in their own artifacts, below is some helpful communication to send home.
  - Example Letters to send to parents to explain the artifact activity.
  - Family Interview Questions

**Case Study 1: The Story of William Aossey**
- Map of Syria, Date Unknown (Map)
- Dedication of Mother Mosque in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Date Unknown (Image)
- Aossey Family Horse and Wagon, Date Unknown (Image)
- Aossey Family Delivery Truck, Date Unknown (Image)

**Case Study 2: The Story of Ellen Douglas**
- Ellen and Barbara Douglas in Front of Brucemore Mansion, 1910 (Image)
- Ellen, Barbara and their Nanny Ella McDannel Sitting Outside Brucemore Mansion, 1909 (Image)
- Ellen Douglas and her Sister Barbara Playing at Brucemore in Cedar Rapids, 1911 (Image)
- Ellen and Barbara Douglas on a Sled with their Nanny “Danny,” 1910 (Image)

How are rules and laws different in Iowa from other places?

Family
- A Chinese Family, between 1898 and 1905 (Image)
- Sioux Family from Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, 1910 (Image)
- Russian Family of Refugees Arriving in New York, September 16, 1921 (Image)
- Mexican Baby and her Sister in San Antonio, Texas, March 1939 (Image)

Activities
- Children Jumping Rope, between 1919 and 1921 (Image)
- Nursery School Children on the Playground at Robstown Camp in Texas, January 1942 (Image)
- German Refugee Child Reading a Comic Book, October 1942 (Image)
- Family Builds Snowman While Waiting for Lunch, March 1946 (Image)
- Children Running in Narragansett, Rhode Island, August 28, 1979 (Image)

Borrowing/Spending
- Little Girl Looking at Book in R.H. Macy and Company Department Store in New York, December 1942 (Image)
- Third-Grade Students Checking Out Books at School Library in New York, June 1943 (Image)
- Child at a Toy Store, Date Unknown (Image)

Scarcity
- Vegetable Garden At “Beacon Hill House” in Newport, Rhode Island, July 1917 (Image)
- Lumbering in the Cascade Mountains near Seattle, Washington, 1921 (Image)
- Water Faucet by the Packing Sheds in Edison, California, April 1938 (Image)
- Corn Field in Drought near Hillsboro, North Carolina, September 1939 (Image)
- Children Waiting in Line for Water in Yauco, Puerto Rico, January 1942 (Image)
**Supporting Questions continued**

**Borrowing/Spending continued**
- Rogue River National Forest in Jackson County, Oregon, July 1942 (Image)
- Field of Sweet Corn near Marengo, Iowa, August 8, 2016 (Image)
- Failing Tomato Plant, Date Unknown (Image)

**Transportation/Maps**
- Family Traveling with Donkey and Horse near Sea of Galilee in Palestine, 1895 (Image)
- Russian Children in Front of the Ussuri River in Russia, October 12, 1895 (Image)
- Nanai Family on a Dog Sled, November 1895 (Image)
- Boys Sitting on a Truck in Robstown, Texas, January 1942 (Image)

*Printable Image and Document Guide*

**Additional Resources**
- Click here for a list of additional resources.
Birth Certificate of Bessie Bland in New York, ca. 1913

Description
This is a birth certificate for a baby girl named Bessie Bland who was born in New York City. This is the original document with important information about the baby’s birth and parents.

Transcript of New York Birth Certificate

Source-Dependent Questions
• What is a birth certificate?
• How does a birth certificate help to tell someone’s story?

Citation Information
Family Living on Natchez Trace Project near Lexington, Tennessee, March 1936

![Family Living on Natchez Trace Project](image-url)

Description
This photograph shows a family living in Lexington, Tennessee, on the Natchez Trace Project near Natchez Trace State Park. The name originally applied to a series of trails and paths that originated with animal migration routes and American Indian trade and travel routes.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What do you notice about this family?
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?

Citation Information
Mydans, Carl, “[Untitled photo, possibly related to: Baby girl of family living on Natchez Trace Project, near Lexington, Tennessee],” March 1936. Courtesy of Library of Congress
Geography Lesson at Lakeview Project School in Arkansas, December 1938

Description
This photograph shows African-American children looking at a globe to find where they live in Arkansas. They are doing this during a geography lesson at Lakeview Project School in 1938.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What are the students looking at?
• The students live in Arkansas. What could they learn about their state from looking at the globe?
• How does where they live help to tell their story?

Citation Information
Children Playing with Barbie Dolls in the Bronx Borough of New York City, 1970

Description
In this photograph, these children are playing with Barbie dolls. The children live in the Bronx, which is the northernmost of the five boroughs of New York City.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What toy are the children playing with?
• How do their toys help to tell their story?

Citation Information
Children Fishing in Rhode Island along Bonnet Shores, August 20, 1979


Description
This photograph shows the Hoey children in Rhode Island along Bonnet Shores. The children are shown enjoying fishing, boating and biking.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What activities are the children enjoying in the picture?
- How do their activities help to tell their story?

Citation Information
Map of Syria, Date Unknown

Courtesy of The History Center, Linn County Historical Society, “Turkey in Asia,” Date Unknown

**Description**

William Aossey’s father, Sam, and his uncles, William, Abdoo and Mike, immigrated from Syria-Lebanon, which was then still part of the Ottoman Empire, in 1907 coming through Ellis Island. Settling in the Midwest, his Uncle William led the way for working as peddlers and opening stores. Though his family moved often, he lived for a while in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he attended Taylor School.

**Source-Dependent Questions**

- When you look at the map, where is Syria?
- What do you notice about Syria?
- Talk about the reasons why a family would leave their home country to move to the United States.

**Citation Information**

“Turkey in Asia,” Date Unknown. Courtesy of The History Center, Linn County Historical Society
Dedication of Mother Mosque in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Date Unknown

Description
William's family is Muslim. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is home of the oldest building in the United States built as a mosque, which is a Muslim place of worship. Since 1895, Muslims have immigrated to Cedar Rapids in search of the American dream. William's family and other Muslim families in the city met for worship in each other's homes. William’s father and uncles and other Muslims built the Mother Mosque of America in Cedar Rapids in 1934. His Uncle William also donated 10 acres of land in Cedar Rapids to build the first Muslim National Cemetery in 1948.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is a Dedication Day?
- What is the Mother Mosque?
- Why is the Mother Mosque so important to William's story?

Citation Information
Courtesy of The History Center, Linn County Historical Society
Aossey Family Horse and Wagon, Date Unknown

Description
This photograph is of the Aossey family's horse and wagon. William's uncle, William, used this to travel across Iowa as a peddler of goods.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What sorts of items do you think were sold from this wagon?
- Compare this to the other photo of the Aossey family. What is the same? What is different?

Citation Information
Courtesy of The History Center, Linn County Historical Society
Aossey Family Delivery Truck, Date Unknown

![Aossey Family Delivery Truck, Date Unknown](image)

Description
This photograph shows the Aossey family's delivery truck. This truck was important to the family's business of transporting goods.

Source-Dependent Questions
- Why would a truck be important for a delivery business?
- Compare this to the other [photo of the Aossey family](#). In what ways did the transportation change between the two photos?

Citation Information
Courtesy of The History Center, Linn County Historical Society
Ellen and Barbara Douglas in Front of Brucemore Mansion, 1910

Description
Ellen (left) and Barbara Douglas (right) are pictured in front of their family's mansion, Brucemore, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. George and Irene Douglas had three daughters. Margaret, the eldest, was born in 1896. Nine years later, her sister Ellen was born. Barbara, the youngest, followed in 1908.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What does this image tell us about Ellen's story?
• How is her family similar or different than your family?

Citation Information
1910. Courtesy of Brucemore Mansion
Ellen, Barbara and their Nanny Ella McDannel Sitting Outside Brucemore Mansion, 1909

**Description**
Ellen (standing), Barbara and their nanny, Ella McDannel (also known as “Danny”) are shown sitting together near the north side of the mansion. As they grew older, they enjoyed such treats as roller-skating in the hall and playing ping-pong on the dining room table. A playhouse was built on the estate, and Margaret and her friends took to calling it the “Puppy Cat Clubhouse.”

**Source-Dependent Questions**
- What does this image tell us about Ellen's story?
- What is something that Ellen enjoys that you like or don't like to do?

**Citation Information**
1909. Courtesy of Brucemore Mansion
Ellen Douglas and her Sister Barbara Playing at Brucemore in Cedar Rapids, 1911

Description
Ellen (front) and her younger sister, Barbara, are playing on their family’s estate in their swimsuits. The family lives in Brucemore, an expansive estate, which made for a generous playground for these young girls. Warm afternoons could be spent splashing in the pool, playing tennis (there was a tennis court on the grounds) or canoeing around the pond.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What does this image tell us about Ellen’s story?
• Is there anything that she does that you like to do?

Citation Information
1911. Courtesy of Brucemore Mansion
Ellen and Barbara Douglas on a Sled with their Nanny “Danny,” 1910

Description
Barbara, Ellen (back of sled) and their nanny, “Danny,” are shown on a sled together. In the winter, the children went sledding and skated on the pond. The Douglas family had a large group of people who worked to maintain their house and large estate. Among them, was Ella McDannel, who was affectionately called “Danny” and she watched over the children.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is a nanny?
- What does this image tell us about Ellen’s story?

Citation Information
1910. Courtesy of Brucemore Mansion
A Chinese Family, between 1898 and 1905

Description
This photograph shows a Chinese family sometime between 1898 and 1905. Four children can be seen on the steps with their mother to the right of them standing.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
• How is my story the same as this family?
• How is my story different than this family?

Citation Information
Sioux Family from Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, 1910

Description
This photograph from 1910 features a Sioux family from Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- How is my story the same as this family?
- How is my story different than this family?

Citation Information
Russian Family of Refugees Arriving in New York, September 16, 1921

Description
A well-dressed family of 27 Russian (Ostrovski) refugees were photographed on the boat deck upon arrival in New York on Sept. 16, 1921.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
• How is my story the same as this family?
• How is my story different than this family?

Citation Information
“Russian family on ORBITA,” 16 September 1921. Courtesy of Library of Congress
Mexican Baby and her Sister in San Antonio, Texas, March 1939

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Lee, Russell, “[Untitled photo, possibly related to: Mexican baby with sister, San Antonio, Texas],” March 1939

Description
This is a photograph from March 1939 of a Mexican baby being held by her sister in San Antonio, Texas.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
• How is my story the same as this family?
• How is my story different than this family?

Citation Information
Children Jumping Rope, between 1919 and 1921

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Harris & Ewing, “[Children playing],” between 1919 and 1921

Description
These children are shown jumping rope at the park. This photo was taken sometime between 1919 and 1921.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
• How does this story compare to your life?
• Are there any activities in the image you enjoy?

Citation Information
Harris & Ewing, “[Children playing],” between 1919 and 1921. Courtesy of Library of Congress
Nursery School Children on the Playground at Robstown Camp in Texas, January 1942


Description
This photo shows nursery school children posing on a slide at their school in Robstown Camp. They lived in the migrant labor camp with their families in Texas.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- How does this story compare to your life?
- Are there any activities in the image you enjoy?

Citation Information
German Refugee Child Reading a Comic Book, October 1942

Description
This boy, a German refugee, is reading the comic book, “Superman,” in this photograph. The photo was taken in October 1942 during World War II.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- How does this story compare to your life?
- Are there any activities in the image you enjoy?

Citation Information
Family Builds Snowman While Waiting for Lunch, March 1946

Description
This photo captures a white, American family building a snowman while waiting for lunch in March 1946.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
• How does this story compare to your life?
• Are there any activities in the image you enjoy?

Citation Information
Children Running in Narragansett, Rhode Island, August 28, 1979

Description
These children are shown running a race in Narragansett, Rhode Island, on Aug. 28, 1979.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- How does this story compare to your life?
- Are there any activities in the image you enjoy?

Citation Information
Little Girl Looking at Book in R.H. Macy and Company Department Store in New York, December 1942

Description
This photo shows a little girl looking at a book at R. H. Macy and Company Department Store during the week before Christmas in 1942.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- How does this story compare to my family?
- In this image, is there evidence of borrowing or appropriate spending?

Citation Information
Third-Grade Students Checking Out Books at School Library in New York, June 1943

Description
These third-grade students from Elmer Avenue Elementary School in Schenectady, New York, are signing out books from the school library.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- How does this story compare to my family?
- In this image, is there evidence of borrowing or appropriate spending?

Citation Information

Description
This photo features a “birdhouse library,” which is a miniature source for books. Citizens are encouraged to leave books they have finished and help themselves to those that interest them.

Source-Dependent Questions
- Who might use this outside library?
- In this image, is there evidence of borrowing, spending or saving?

Citation Information
Child at a Toy Store, January 17, 2017

This photo shows a child at a toy store as he looks around at all the toys.

Source-Dependent Questions

- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- How does this story compare to my family?
- In this image, is there evidence of borrowing or appropriate spending?

Citation Information

17 January 2017. Courtesy of Pixabay
Vegetable Garden At “Beacon Hill House” in Newport, Rhode Island, July 1917

Description
The photograph shows a plentiful vegetable garden at the “Beacon Hill House,” also known as Arthur Curtiss James’ home, in Newport, Rhode Island.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What is the story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
• What signs of scarcity do you notice?
• Compare this photo with this photo. What is the same? What is different?

Citation Information
Lumbering in the Cascade Mountains near Seattle, Washington, 1921

![Lumbering in the Cascade Mountains near Seattle, Washington, 1921](image)

Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Lumbering in the cascade Mountains, near Seattle, Wash,” 1921

**Description**
Loggin is the cutting of trees and removing of branches so the logs can be made into products. This photograph shows lumbering in the Cascade Mountains near Seattle, Washington.

**Source-Dependent Questions**
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- What signs of scarcity do you notice?
- Compare this photo with [this photo](#). What is the same? What is different?

**Citation Information**
Water Faucet by the Packing Sheds in Edison, California, April 1938

Description

A woman is retrieving water from a faucet by the packing sheds in Edison, California. This faucet is the only source of water for 150 to 200 families camped in the brush waiting for the potato harvest to open in town.

Source-Dependent Questions

- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- What signs of scarcity do you notice?
- Compare this photo with this photo. What is the same? What is different?

Citation Information

Lange, Dorothea, “One faucet by the packing sheds is the only source of water for 150-200 families camped in the brush waiting for the potato harvest to open. Edison, California,” April 1938. Courtesy of Library of Congress
Corn Field in Drought near Hillsboro, North Carolina, September 1939

![Corn Field in Drought near Hillsboro, North Carolina, September 1939](image)

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Wolcott, Marion P., “Corn field showing topped and untopped cornstalks. About six miles north of Hillsboro on Highway 14, Orange County, North Carolina. See general notes on subregion,” September 1939

**Description**
This photo shows a corn crop that is dying because of a drought - lack of rain - in Hillsboro, North Carolina.

**Source-Dependent Questions**
- What is the story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- What signs of scarcity do you notice?
- Compare this photo with [this photo](#). What is the same? What is different?

**Citation Information**
Children Waiting in Line for Water in Yauco, Puerto Rico, January 1942

![Image of children waiting in line for water](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Delano, Jack, “Children getting water from the faucet in the slum area in Yauco, Puerto Rico,” January 1942

**Description**

These children are waiting in line for water from the faucet in Yauco, Puerto Rico. The photograph was taken in January 1942.

**Source-Dependent Questions**

- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- What signs of scarcity do you notice?
- Compare this photo with [this photo](#). What is the same? What is different?

**Citation Information**

Rogue River National Forest in Jackson County, Oregon, July 1942

Description
This photograph was taken in July 1942 and shows the Rogue River National Forest in Jackson County, Oregon. The U.S Forest Service has built camps with outdoor ovens, drinking water, sanitary facilities, tables, benches and shelter houses throughout the national forests. Fire hazards are decreased because of this.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- What signs of scarcity do you notice?
- Compare this photo with this photo. What is the same? What is different?

Citation Information
Lee, Russell, “Rogue River National Forest, Jackson County, Oregon. Picnickers. The U.S Forest Service has built camps with outdoor ovens, drinking water, sanitary facilities and tables and benches and shelter houses throughout the national forests. Fire hazards are decreased in this way,” July 1942. Courtesy of Library of Congress.
Field of Sweet Corn near Marengo, Iowa, August 8, 2016

This is a field of sweet corn near Marengo, Iowa, from August 8, 2016.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is the story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- What signs of scarcity do you notice?
- Compare this photo with this photo. What is the same? What is different?

Citation Information
Failing Tomato Plant, August 18, 2018

Description
This photo shows a failing tomato plant at a farm on Aug. 18, 2018.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is their story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- What signs of scarcity do you notice?
- Compare this photo with this photo. What is the same? What is different?

Citation Information
18 August 2018. Courtesy of Pixabay
Family Traveling with Donkey and Horse near Sea of Galilee in Palestine, 1895

Description
This photograph show a man, woman and two children with a donkey and horse traveling near the Sea of Galilee in Palestine. The photo was taken in 1895.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is the story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- How does this story compare to my family?
- In this image, where on the map/globe might you be?

Citation Information
Russian Children in Front of the Ussuri River in Russia, October 12, 1895

Description
These Russian children and their family are standing in front of steamer boat in the Ussuri River.

Source-Dependent Questions
- What is the story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- How does this story compare to my family?
- In this image, where on the map/globe might you be?

Citation Information
Nanai Family on a Dog Sled, November 1895

![Image of Nanai Family on a Dog Sled]

Courtesy of Library of Congress, Jackson, William H., “Man standing beside 5 Goldi women and children on dog sledge,” November 1895

**Description**

This photo features a Nanai family traveling by a dog sled. They were native to Siberia or northeast Asia. There were many different methods of travel depending on the season. In the winter, the Nanai traveled by either by foot or dog sled.

**Source-Dependent Questions**

- What is the story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
- In this image, where on the map/globe might you be?

**Citation Information**

Boys Sitting on a Truck in Robstown, Texas, January 1942

Description
These boys are shown sitting on a truck in Robstown, a migrant labor camp, in Texas. The state was home to several Farm Security Administration camps, where families had access to free medical and dental care, community gardens and nursery schools for young children.

Source-Dependent Questions
• What is the story? What evidence from the picture are you using to imagine what their story might be?
• In this image, where on the map/globe might you be?

Citation Information
Rothstein, Arthur, “Boys sitting on truck parked at the FSA ... labor camp, Robstown, Tex.,” January 1942. Courtesy of Library of Congress