Identity

LESSON PLAN FOR SUPPORTING QUESTION

What artifacts help tell a person’s story?
Self Portrait

This is me!
These children are waiting in line for water from the faucet in Yauco, Puerto Rico, in 1942. Courtesy of Library of Congress, Delano, Jack, “Children getting water from the faucet in the slum area in Yauco, Puerto Rico,” January 1942
Bird's Eye View of Iowa City, Johnson Co., Iowa, 1868

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. 

## I See, I Think, I Wonder (Part 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I See</th>
<th>I Think</th>
<th>I Wonder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do you see in the image?</td>
<td>What are you thinking?</td>
<td>What questions do you have about the image?</td>
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Name _____________________________
This is me on the map of
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. Courtesy of Library of Congress, Vergara, Camilo J., “1148 Longwood Ave, Bronx, 1970,” 1970
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. Courtesy of Library of Congress, Mydans, Carl, “[Untitled photo, possibly related to: Baby girl of family living on Natchez Trace Project, near Lexington, Tennessee],” March 1936
This photograph shows the Hoey children in Rhode Island along Bonnet Shores. The children are shown enjoying fishing, boating and biking. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Horenstein, Henry, “Hoey family, yard, general views, Bonnet Shores, Rhode Island,” 20 August 1979*
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Think of some of the important objects in your life. Perhaps you treasure an autographed baseball or a “straight-A” report card. What kind of everyday stuff is important in your life? A copy of your local newspaper gives movie listings. A bus ticket tells where you’ve been. Gather some of these objects and put them in any kind of container to make a history box. Remember to collect things that record your life, your personality, and your achievements. Add to the history box each year to continue your life’s story.

Illustration by Mary Moye-Rowley Stories by Amy Ruth
Artifacts That Tell My Story

These are my artifacts that help tell my story.
Portrait Frame Worksheet

This is ______________.
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. 

**Birth Certificate of Bessie Bland in New York, ca. 1913**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Child</th>
<th>Bessie Bland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father's Name</td>
<td>Andrew Bland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother's Name</td>
<td>Rose Hannah Bland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother's Residence</td>
<td>446 West 28th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father's Residence</td>
<td>446 West 28th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother's Age</td>
<td>17 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of previous children</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many now living (in all)</td>
<td>one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>P. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>596 Lexington Ave.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New York, MAY 6, 1913**

A Transcript from the Records of the Births reported to the Department of Health of the City of New York.

The City of New York.

Department of Health.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF BIRTH

Name of Child: Bessie Bland

Sex: Female

Color: White

Date of Birth: January 7, 1899.

Place of Birth: 596 Lexington Avenue

Father's Name: Andrew Bland

Mother's Name: Rose Hannah Bland

Father's Residence: 446 West 28th Street

Mother's Residence: 446 West 28th Street

Father's Age: 22 years

Mother's Age: 17 years

Number of previous children: none

How many now living (in all): one

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I attended professionally at the above birth and I am personally cognizant thereof; and that all the facts stated in said certificate and report of birth are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Signature: P. Miller

Residence: 596 Lexington Avenue

Date of Report: January 12, 1899

EUGENE W. SCHEFFER, Secretary Board of Health, City of New York.

A True Copy

Assistant Registrar.

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Birth Certificate of Bessie Bland in New York, ca. 1913

New York, May 6, 1915.

A Transcript from the Records of the Births reported to the Department of Health of The City of New York.

The City of New York, Department of Health.

State Of New York.
Certificate and Record of Birth
Of
Name of Child BESSIE BLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Father’s Occupation</th>
<th>Iron finisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Mother’s Name</td>
<td>Rose Hannah Bland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of Birth</td>
<td>January 7, 1906</td>
<td>Mother’s Name before Marriage</td>
<td>Rose Hannah Rooney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of birth</td>
<td>596 Lexington Ave</td>
<td>Mother’s Residence</td>
<td>446 West 28th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father’s Name</td>
<td>Andrew Bland</td>
<td>Mother’s Birthplace</td>
<td>New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father’s Address</td>
<td>446 West 28th Street</td>
<td>Mother’s Age</td>
<td>17 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father’s Birthplace</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Number of other children</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father’s Age</td>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>How many now living (in all)</td>
<td>one</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I attended professionally at the above birth and I am personally cognizant thereof; and that all the facts stated in said certificate of birth are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.
Signature,
P. Miller

Residence,
596 Lexington Ave

Date of Report, January 12, 1906.

EUGENE W. SCHEFFER
Secretary,
Board of Health
City of New York

A True Copy,
S. W. Wynne M.D. [signature]
Assistant Registrar.
Climbing the family tree
Find the history in your family!

The Mather family (to the right) is having fun on a camping trip near the Cedar River in the mid-1890s. The man on the ground is William (Will) Mather. In 1851, when he was five years old, the Mather family moved to Springdale, Iowa from Ohio. Will liked to brag that he was the first to arrive at the family’s new farm. He ran ahead of the wagons, driving a small herd of cattle.

And who is the baby sitting on her father’s knee with an older sister? That’s Jeanne — a future genealogist (jean-ee-AH-low-jist). Genealogists try to identify all of their relatives, sometimes creating family trees that show family relationships. Some family trees go back for hundreds of years! During her lifetime, Jeanne Mather Lord recorded thousands of family stories.

It’s easy to be your family’s genealogist if you like detective work. Start by interviewing older relatives. Write down all the names mentioned, the towns in which their relatives lived, and the stories that make each person memorable. Keep all your information in one notebook.

Next, look for more information in written documents. Ask relatives if they have items like death and birth notices and birth and marriage certificates. Copy this information in your notebook.

Written documents can be tricky because of misspellings and mix-ups. Genealogists have to interpret the information they find because of this. Some relatives are extremely hard to find. It may also be hard to track family roots if you’re part of a nontraditional family unit. Remarried and adopted relatives are also challenging. As families blend together, some names disappear.

Try to keep your family’s history up to date by recording new information, such as births and deaths, in your notebook. As an official genealogist, your work is never done!
This makes me unique because ____________________.
It’s the year 2050. A movie producer decides to make a movie of your life. You probably could tell the producer about your childhood in Iowa, but could you show what it was like growing up in the 1990s? Yes, but only if you prepare now! Start by completing the following activities that document your personal history.

P.S. Fifty years from now when a movie producer or grandchild comes knocking on your door, you’ll be ready to show them pieces of history!

Time for a Timeline

Just like history, your life is made up of many stories. Make a personal timeline to get a better look at these stories. Here’s how. Tape pieces of paper together into a long sheet. In the middle of the page draw a long horizontal line. Divide the line into equal sections. Assign each section a year, starting with your birth year.

Write and draw a few important things that happened each year. You may want to include statewide events, too. For instance, you may have gotten a cool new bike and found a stray cat in 1994 — the year Governor Terry Branstad was elected governor of Iowa for the fourth time in a row!

When each year ends, add another piece of paper and update your stories!

Scrapbooks: History’s Savings Accounts

A scrapbook is like a savings account where you deposit things that are important to you. Iowans have used scrapbooks to save comic strips, poems, greeting cards, photographs, and dried flowers. Today, some Iowans’ scrapbooks are stored in the State Historical Society archives for safekeeping.

To make your scrapbook, pick themes that illustrate who you are and what you’re all about — school, sports, family, hobbies, best friends. Buy a scrapbook, or make one by stapling paper together in a booklet. Now start filling it with your stuff. Write the date and a brief explanation next to each item.
Lesson Summative Assessment

Draw and label three things people use that help tell a story about ourselves.

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