

Cultural Intrigue

Social Studies Content

Interpreting artifacts

NCSS Standards Theme

Culture and Cultural Diversity

C3 Framework

D2.Geo.10.6–8 Analyze the ways in which cultural and environmental characteristics vary among various regions of the world.

Common Core Standards

SL.6.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

WHST.6–8.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes. (Extending the learning)

Materials Needed

Artifact (pottery, jewelry, clothing, etc.) or photo of artifact

Sticky notes

Vocabulary

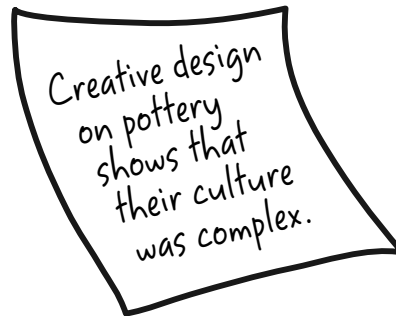
Artifact
Culture
Yield

How to do it:

- 1 Display a message like the one below:

Dear Thoughtful Observers,

Artifacts can yield clues about how people in a particular culture lived and what they thought was important. What do you notice about the artifact below that might tell you something about the people who made or used it? Write your ideas on a sticky note and post it below.



- 2 Ask for a volunteer to read the message aloud.
- 3 Invite a few volunteers to read their own sticky note and briefly share their ideas about what the artifact can help them learn about the culture.
- 4 Extend students' reflection with open-ended questions: "Did anyone have an idea similar to one that was shared? Did anyone have a very different or opposite idea?"

EXTENDING THE SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING BEYOND MORNING MEETING

- Have students use their ideas to write an essay about the artifact or create a visual display highlighting its significance.