

Make Your Own Exhibition: **Telling Stories Through Objects**

Students will learn...

- To gather and analyze primary sources
- Use primary sources as evidence to develop a claim
- Successfully convey their claim to an audience

You will need...

- Pictures of items in the *Lives Bound Together* Exhibition- online or physical
 - Paper for them to write interpretive labels
 - Website showcasing [Lives Bound Together](#) for pictures and the intro video
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Opener: Storytelling Through Exhibitions

- Start by asking your students how they would tell the history of slavery. What are all the options they can think of?
 - Elicit or highlight museums exhibitions as a method of storytelling. Explain that every exhibition starts with a message the curator(s) want to get across.
 - Go to the website and show them some of the pictures of the exhibit or the introduction video. Ask them what they think the curator was trying to convey.
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Task: Make Your Own Exhibition

- Tell your students that know they will create their own exhibition using objects from *Lives Bound Together*.

- Give your students a packet of pictures from the exhibition. Have them look at the objects, and pick three that they will use to convey a message.
 - Depending on their level and your goals for your class, you can provide more or less information about these objects.
 - They should analyze the objects and write their own interpretive text that will accompany the object.
 - Make sure they understand that the interpretive text should not merely be an object description but put that item in context.
 - Remind them to write them with their message in mind. What message do they want people to come away with after they view their exhibit?
 - *Optional:* Have your students do this in groups where they come up with a central message and each person picks two or three items to tell one aspect of that greater message.
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Closer: Presentation

- Have students read each other's exhibits and share how they interpret their partner's objects based on their grouping and labeling.

Optional: You can create and display their exhibits. This can be a big end of the year project where students curate an exhibition and invite other classes or their parents to view it.

