



LESSON PLAN 2

Capturing Memories

GRADE LEVEL: 3-6

SUBJECT: ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE

Class Time Required: 2-3

Credit: Adapted from MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE TEACHERS' GUIDE LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

LESSON OVERVIEW

What is Oral history?

Oral history is the systematic collection of living people's testimony about their own experiences. We all have stories to tell, stories we have lived from the inside out. Oral history listens to these stories. If we do not collect and preserve those memories, those stories, then one day they will disappear forever. ¹

Many students who struggle with reading need other ways to connect with the material in their textbooks. Oral histories can spur imagination and might be a powerful teaching tool for those who learn better through listening than reading. Lessons come to life by sharing personal experiences through oral history.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will learn how to collect information about family history, interview family members, and write all interviews in paragraph form with an accompanying picture. This activity is related to the Western Heritage Museum and Lea County Cowboy's Hall of Fame's Traveling Trunk program, which contains stories about and related objects of Lea County Pioneers
- Students will learn that objects can carry a meaning beyond their functional purpose.

¹ *Step-by-Step Guide to Oral History* http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html.



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PROCEDURES:

- Discuss with students the different ways in which to collect information about history (artifacts, reading history books, museums, oral histories, etc.).
- Discuss the different types of information that can be collected through oral histories.
- Give the students 2 – 3 days to collect the information. Check that students have completed Worksheets 1 and 2.
- Write the story in paragraph form on a clean piece of notebook paper. If there is extra time, draw an accompanying picture.

Materials Required:

- Worksheet 1 (page 3 in the lesson plan) – print the worksheets for your students. Go through the directions, this worksheet must be completed before moving on to the actual research, so assign this for homework.
- Worksheet 2 (pages 4-7 in the lesson plan) – print 3 copies. Review the instructions with your students in class.
- Write the Story - notebook paper and additional paper to illustrate the story.

ASSESSMENT:

- Students discuss ways to collect information about family history.
- Students interview family members about important events in their lives.
- Students write interviews in paragraph form – may draw a picture to illustrate the story.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

Common Core Standards for English Language Arts Grades K–5

- Speaking and Listening Skills
- Writing Skills



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Worksheet 1 - *Selecting a Family Member to Interview*

DIRECTIONS: For each interview, please write down the name of the family member whom you will talk to and his/her phone number (if interviewing over the phone). These two interviews are required as part of the project.

- Ask your parents/guardians to help you come up with a list of people you can call or speak to in person for an interview.
- Each interview must be done with a separate person, so you need to find at least 2 different people to interview.
- Pick someone who is much older than you, a grandparent, aunt or uncle, for example.

1. A family member that could tell me a great story about “when I was a child.”

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

2. A family member who could tell me about a special object or souvenir that holds a fond memory.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____



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Worksheet 2 – *The Interview*

You must complete at least 2 interviews, each with a separate family member. The final draft of your interview must be written in complete sentences.

Interview #1

Name of the person: _____

When were you born? _____

What was life like when you were a child?

- Think about asking if he/she went to school, where he/she lived, what he/she did for fun, and other things you are interested in learning about.). Have them talk about something specific, a particular event etc.

What is the story about?

Where did it happen:



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When did it happen?

Who did it happen to/with?

Other information you would like to share:



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Interview #2

Name of the person: _____

When were you born? _____

Tell me about an object, memento, or souvenir that has special meaning for you.

- Think about asking if where the object came from, why it is so special, and other things you that might be of interest. Ask to see the object if possible.

Describe the object/memento/souvenir:

Where did you get it?



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Why is this object special?

What would you do if you lost this object?

Other information you would like to share:
