



YOUR STORY, OUR STORY

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PROJECT OVERVIEW

Explore the *Your Story Our Story* Exhibit

- a. Select a story from the site, or write your own, to introduce the project.
- b. Invite students to explore the stories independently, in small groups, or as a class.
- c. Use our ***Exploring the Exhibit*** worksheet to structure student work.
 - i. Consider these possible story pairs to guide student exploration:
 - Family Menorah: <http://yourstory.tenement.org/artifacts/family-menorah>
Mayan Flask (Bottle): <http://yourstory.tenement.org/artifacts/mayan-flask-bottle>
 - Tajine: <http://yourstory.tenement.org/artifacts/tajine>
Tortillera: <http://yourstory.tenement.org/artifacts/tortillera>
 - Chop (Stamp): <http://yourstory.tenement.org/artifacts/chop-stamp>
Goat Cart: <http://yourstory.tenement.org/artifacts/goat-cart>

Story Brainstorm

- a. Assign students to brainstorm an object in class or as a take-home.
- b. Use our ***Object Brainstorm*** worksheet to help students select a meaningful object.
- c. Review students' selections to ensure the objects fit the project guidelines.
- d. You may choose to use the ***Sample Object Story*** to discuss or teach a story arc.

Story Writing

- a. Distribute the ***Preparing Your Story*** worksheet to guide students' prewriting.
- b. Students compose their object story using the preparation worksheets.
- c. Ask students to photograph or draw their object. *We require a photo of the object, but students can choose to include a photo of themselves, and a photo of a family member.*
- d. Students should create tags for their story, and choose a category for their object.
- e. Review the ***Writing Your Story*** checklist with students to ensure their story includes all the necessary components for inclusion in the exhibit.

Story Uploading

- a. Visit yourstory.tenement.org and click on 'Add Your Story'
- b. Create a class tag for all of your students' stories. *This tag will allow you to access an online gallery of all your students' work. Tag format: TeacherName_Year*
- c. For each student's story, follow instructions on the screen, including photographs and tags. *Students can upload their own stories if internet access is available.*
- d. Refer to our ***Instructions for Uploading*** guide for a step-by-step process.
- e. Please note that accepting our Terms of Use will be part of the uploading process, after which the Museum will retain the rights to the images and story in the exhibit.

Story Presentation (Optional Closure Activity)

1. Students present their work. *Presentations can take the form of a class exhibition and/or presentations for family members or other classes. You'll be able to print stories directly from the site should you choose to make an exhibit.*
2. Students find connections between their stories and their classmates' stories, and consider how each of their family's experience is part of American history.