

MOHAI Online Collection Galleries and Suggested K-12 Activities

MOHAI's expansive collection of artifacts, images, archival materials, and oral histories includes millions of 2D and 3D objects. The collection is a vital resource for both the community and researchers, and have made the museum the preeminent institution in the region for engaging people in the exploration and understanding of Puget Sound. Although only a portion are on view at the museum, many more have been digitized and are available for viewing online as part of the University of Washington digital collections portal.

The online collection materials are a great resource to use in the classroom! Find materials from Washington State and Seattle history that bring historical subjects to life and tie in local history to your units and lesson plans. You can also use the online collection to practice primary source analysis, inquiry, and research skills with students by studying items from the time period they are studying.

Search the MOHAI collections online

<http://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/cdm/search/collection/imlsmohai>

Suggested Online Collection Activities

Support student learning with activities that ask students to communicate what they think, see, and wonder about historic items. Many of the images in the online collection are high enough resolution that they can be viewed at full screen to see smaller details or printed at 8x10" size and included in a physical activity/handout.

- Have students answer basic questions about a photo/object (who what when where how) and circle their evidence (what do they see that makes them say that?) on a printed copy of the image or list them on a piece of paper.
- Draw a comic by illustrating a "before" and an "after" for a historic photo. Or for an artifact, have students draw the artifact in use based on how they think it works, who would have used it, etc.
- Select pairs of photos that show changes across time periods (ex: models of cars or street scenes from different decades) and have students complete a venn diagram that shows what similarities and differences they see between the two photos.
- Use our primary source analysis worksheets and supplements for questions and tips about how to look at different kinds of primary source materials.

Thematic online collection galleries

It can be hard to sift through all of the amazing materials in the online collection, so we've put together three galleries on themes related to Washington State history curriculum standards to help you get started. You can use individual items, or have students look through the gallery in its entirety. Below each gallery link are writing prompts to assess student comprehension about the selection as a whole plus activity prompts particular to specific items.

Transportation

<https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/digital/saved/transportation/a9e9ff8c-c4d4-4868-8f2d-8634e8ed9194>

- How has transportation in Seattle changed over time? What might the future of transportation be?
- Use google maps street view to find some of these approximate locations today. What is different/similar?



Buoyancy challenge! Try to create a boat using two 1' pieces of tin foil that is as buoyant as possible. Watch a [video on buoyancy](#) to get inspiration for the construction of your boat. **Consider your design** – how will your materials fit together? Is there a way to arrange them that can make them stronger? **Test your boat** in a tub or bucket of water. Slowly load your boat with weights that are uniform in size (coins, washers, or marbles). What is the maximum number of weights your boat can hold before it floods? **Try again!** What changes can you make to improve how buoyant it is?

Fishing

<https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/digital/saved/fishing/79319065-081c-443c-8b4c-e535bfcaacac>

- What are different reasons why people fish or why fishing is important to them?
- How have fishing technologies and practices changed over time?



Plan a feast! What foods do you eat at celebrations? Choose or imagine a celebration of some kind – what's the reason? Who would attend? Plan what foods you would like to eat/make for this celebration (and why). Design and draw a menu that shows what you would eat at this feast.

Years of Growth and Change (1870-1910)

<https://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/digital/saved/growthandchange/624e7036-03a1-416b-99d8-07f1d328cec0>

- What were some of Washington's early industries? How were they influenced by the geography of the region? How did they contribute to or benefit from state/city growth?
- In what ways did Seattle change or grow during this time period? What might some positive and negative impacts of these changes have been (on the environment, for business, quality of life, etc.)?



Make a map! Maps are visual representations of a place and can share lots of different kinds of information. Have students design and draw a map of their home or neighborhood, and choose what they would like their map to *show* – flowers in bloom, places to eat/buy food, their favorite walking route, etc. Most maps include a scale, legend/key, compass rose, and have a title that tells you what it is a map of.