

Defining My Values

Below are some terms you may encounter in this lesson or find useful.

Culture The beliefs, customs, values, arts, language systems, and other uniting features of a particular society, group, place, or time.

Heritage Customs and items handed down from one's ancestors; or a characteristic, culture, or tradition from the past.

Hebrew The traditional language of the Jewish people originating in the ancient Near East. Its letters, called the *aleph-bet*, are written from right to left. Hebrew is one of the earliest *phonetic* languages, meaning you can look at a written word and know how to pronounce it, or you can hear a word and know how to spell it.

Judaism A religion and a culture that follows rules and traditions based on the Hebrew Bible, called the Torah. Like other cultures, Jewish people have special foods, traditions, holidays, and languages. There are also values that many Jewish people (and many other cultures) try to live by, such as welcoming others, taking care of the earth, and teaching and learning.

Values Basic beliefs that guide our actions in everyday life. They help us determine what is important and how we engage with others and the world around us.

Name:

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Take a close look at the photo below. What are three things that you notice about these objects?



This coffee grinder and set of silver coffee cups belonged to Sarota Benveniste. Sarota was a Sephardic Jew. Sephardic Jews—who hail from Spain, Greece, and North Africa—have a tradition of serving tea or coffee to welcome guests and neighbors into their homes. Coffee grinders were also used to make sweet rice pudding, a common snack for children. When Sarota came to Los Angeles from the Greek island of Rhodes in 1916, she brought these items with her as a reminder of the smells, tastes, and traditions of home.

1. What did you learn about Sarota Benveniste through these objects?
2. Based on the objects she brought with her to Los Angeles, what values might Sarota and her family had?
3. How could Sarota use the coffee grinder and cups to **build community**?
4. What smells, tastes, objects, and traditions remind you of your loved ones?

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Values are basic beliefs that guide our actions in everyday life. They help us determine what is important and how we engage with others and the world around us.

At the Skirball, we share the following six community values: **welcome the stranger, honor memory, seek learning, pursue justice, build community**, and **show kindness**. These values were identified by Skirball community members through conversation and reflection.

Reflect on what is important to you, identify your own personal values, and discover the values you share with others in your class.

Respond to the three prompts provided by your teacher.

1.

2.

3.

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Circle two words or phrases from each of your responses during the previous activity and use them to help you define your personal values.

My six essential values are:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Name:

Classroom Community Values

As a class, we uphold the following community values:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Signature:

Name:

Self-Reflection

Reflect on your experience with the activity you completed and share what you learned about yourself, your values, your traditions, or your community.

Three things I learned about myself:

Two things I learned from hearing someone else's story:

One thing I am curious to learn more about:

My greatest challenge with this activity was:

After completing the activity, I am most proud of:

A lasting impact I hope to have on my community is: