



Arts, Crafts, Tools, and Symbols: Learn with The Museum of Russian Art

Audience	Grade levels 6-8 ▾	Subject The Arts ▾	Topic Art, Culture, History Through Artifacts Russian Culture
Guiding Questions	1. What can objects teach us about the past?	2. What do the everyday objects we use reveal about our lives?	3. How was the production of cloth driven by the culture and geography of the region?
Background Knowledge	<p>Places: Russia Terms: peasant, symbol, artifact, textile</p> <p>This resource kit can be used with a number of different visual arts units: folk art, symbolism, fiber arts, patterns, art in world cultures, etc. This is a great opportunity to connect cross-curricularly with Social Studies, Geography, and World History. You may wish to coordinate with other teachers to find out when they may be focusing on 19th and 20th century world cultures, European history, peasant cultures, and/or the Russian Empire.</p>		
Content Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Life, culture, and traditions in 19th and early 20th century Russia<ol style="list-style-type: none">Slides traveling through <i>Peasant Women</i> exhibition (Activity 1)Hotspots about work tools (Activity 2 and Activity 3)Artistic processes and design<ol style="list-style-type: none">Slides about symbols (Activity 4)		
Student Engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Students create an artwork connected to the TMORA exhibition<ol style="list-style-type: none">Students design a personal symbol (Activity 5)Students create prints inspired by printed textiles and stamping tools displayed in the exhibition (Activity 6)Students design a museum exhibition<ol style="list-style-type: none">Students consider what artifacts they would choose to represent their own time and place (Activity 7)		



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Other Notes

Notes on Printmaking:

- You may opt to facilitate the printmaking activity as a full-class engagement. The supplies are adaptable– if you have rollers, brayers, or other specific printmaking supplies, you can opt to use those; however, the instructions offer an adaptation for classrooms without access to those items. You can also choose to skip this activity. The rest of the resource kit will still be usable without this activity.
- Supply list for activity as written:
 - scrap paper for sketching
 - pencil
 - foam or rubber printing block
 - paintbrush
 - washable nontoxic paint
 - cardstock (of a different color than the paint)
 - colored pencils, markers, or crayons
 - newspaper or towels to cover your desk

Notes on Exhibition Design: The museum exhibition design activity can easily be adapted into a more in-depth process. You might choose to include a written element by having students compose a curator's statement and a verbal element by inviting students to share their exhibitions in a group setting. You could also adapt this activity to be done in groups rather than individually.

If desired, students can use the personal symbol created in Activity 5 as part of their print design in Activity 6.

The Museum of Russian Art has additional virtual resources available at <https://tmora.org/online-exhibitions/>