



Story Collector

Pre-K through Grade 5, written to Grade 2 standards

Everyone is a storyteller. At the Skirball, we use storytelling to make connections across cultures, build strong communities, and carry on traditions from one generation to the next. In this lesson, students will connect with loved ones and role models, learn from the experiences of others, and become recorders of their own family and community histories.

Objective

Students will build listening and writing skills by interviewing family or community members and reflecting on the stories shared.

Materials (Worksheets available on Google Slides)

- “Story Collector” worksheets

Class Activity

1. Facilitate a class discussion about the value of passing down stories from generation to generation.
2. Ask students to think of someone in their family or community they would like to learn from.

Student Instructions

Use the “Story Collector” worksheets to prepare for, conduct, and record your own interviews.

Share Out

Ask students to present their findings in a storytelling circle.

- What common themes did students find?
- What were they surprised to discover?
- What was their favorite part of this process?

Visual Arts Activity

Invite students to visually represent what they have learned in their interviews through a drawing, collage, or found object (e.g., a family photo or other artifact).

Curriculum Connections

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY: W.2.8, SL.2.2

Resources

StoryCorps: An organization that preserves and shares humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world. Check out their remote interview platform **StoryCorps Connect**.

Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes: A project-based initiative that encourages students to discover, develop, and communicate the stories of Unsung Heroes who have made a profound and positive impact on the course of history.

Teaching Tolerance—Exploring Identity through Storytelling/Personal Narratives: A collection of stories and discussion questions focused on fostering identity and community.

Connect with Us

Our educators are here to help! If you would like to talk with us about how best to facilitate this activity with your students, please email teacherprograms@skirball.org.