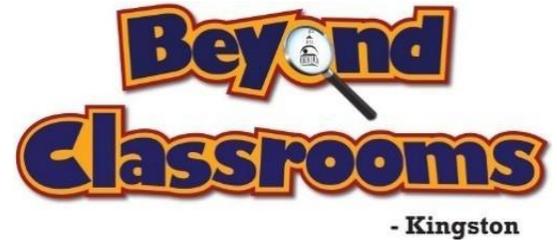


Beyond Classrooms Kingston Workshop

Learning to Sketch: Step into Sketching

Shoe Stories Workshop Handout: Learning from Objects

With Karla Tynski, BCK Program Coordinator



Introduction

Hi everyone, I'm Karla, Program Coordinator with Beyond Classrooms Kingston, and I'm really excited to talk to you today about learning from objects.

Our other video, *Step Into Sketching*, will show you techniques on how to get started with drawing. But in this video, I'm going to show you how to slow down, look closely, and write about objects. These are really important skills that anyone can learn with time and practice.

Beyond Classrooms Kingston—or BCK, as we call it—gives elementary students a chance to spend a full week in a museum. They spend a week meeting experts and have lots of opportunities to explore the museum or gallery.

Museums and galleries are great places to learn in our community. Did you know that Kingston has over 35 museums, galleries, and historic sites? Have you had a chance to visit them?

Why Do Museums Collect Objects?

If you've been to a museum, you may have noticed that they have collections of art objects or artifacts.

Why do you think museums collect objects and artifacts? Why are they important?

Well, objects are an important part of museums because they're like windows into the past. They can connect us to a moment in time or to the life of a person who lived long ago.

But objects cannot tell us who used them, how old they are, or why they are important. That's up to people to figure out.

Practicing Observation: Using a Shoe

We can use our skills to try to find out the stories behind the artifacts though, and that's what we're going to practice doing today.

We're going to use an example of a shoe and show you how you can get started at looking closely, finding evidence, and asking questions—so that you can start to understand the stories behind the objects.

After this video, you will have a chance to practice your skills. Use our activity guide and complete the activities to sketch and write about some mysterious shoes from local museums.

SEE, THINK, WONDER

Step 1: See

Can you use your sight to describe what you see?

Make as many observations as you can. Imagine you had to describe this shoe to someone who couldn't see it. What would you say?

You might want to pause and jot down your observations.

- What's the **color** of the shoe?
- What's the **size**?
- What's the **shape**?
- What **material** is it made from?
- What's the **design** or **pattern**?
- Are there **symbols** or **lines**?
- Are there signs of **damage** or **wear**?
- Any **maker's marks** or **writing**?

The longer you look, the more you'll notice.

"I see blue and gray and black on this shoe with some yellow designs. If I look at the label, I can see it is 26.5 centimetres long, or a size 10. It looks to be made of canvas with rubber, leather, and rope material for the lace."

Step 2: Think

Now, let's think about the shoe like a detective.

Ask yourself:

- Who made or used this shoe?

- What was it used for?
- Where is it from?
- When was it used?
- Why is it important?

“I think an adult might have used this shoe based on its size. The label says it’s made by Asics, and there’s dirt in the grooves, so maybe it was used outdoors—for running or work.”

You can also ask:

- Why did I choose this shoe?
- What does it remind me of?
- Do I have any personal connections?

Even if it’s not old or famous, the shoe still tells a story. Imagine someone studying it 100 years from now. What could they learn?

Step 3: Wonder

Now it’s your turn to **wonder**.

- What questions do you have about the shoe?
- If you could ask the owner or maker anything, what would you ask?
- Try to come up with at least two thoughtful questions.

“I might ask: How long did you wear this shoe for? Because it looks really well-worn—but maybe that’s just the design.”

You can do research to find more answers:

- Look up the brand online
 - Visit a shoe museum
 - Talk to an expert
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Why This Matters

Studying objects helps us:

- Slow down

- Look closely
- Use our curiosity
- Connect to history and people

Even everyday things like a shoe can reveal stories about:

- Culture
 - Technology
 - Weather and climate
 - Fashion
 - Work and play
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Did You Know?

There's an entire museum dedicated to shoes!

The **Bata Shoe Museum** in Toronto has over 14,000 artifacts from more than 4,500 years of history.

Your Challenge

Now it's your turn!

1. Use the **See, Think, Wonder** method.
 2. Sketch and observe a mystery shoe from the activity guide.
 3. Write your questions.
 4. Start exploring the story behind the object.
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Remember:

Everyone can get started with sketching and observing objects. Relax, have fun, and take your time.

To learn more, visit: beyondclassrooms.ca

Thanks so much for joining us!