



Object Observer

Adapted from the Smithsonian Institution Office of Education and Museum Studies

Choose an object or specimen and try to answer these questions about it:

Focusing

- What do I already know about it?
- How do I feel about it?
- What would I like to know about it?

Exploring

- What do I observe? (For example, color, texture, materials, patterns, structure, shape, form, size, etc.)

Analyzing

- Is it the same or different from things around it?
- Based on what I have observed, why do I think it has these characteristics?

Connecting

- Why should I care about it?
- Why do I think it is in a museum?
- What sources outside of the museum could I use to answer my questions about it?