



DETROIT
INSTITUTE
OF ARTS

PAST OBJECTS, PRESENT CULTURE

Educator Resource

GRADES 6 & 7



Male Figure, between 100 BCE and 400 CE, polychromed clay. Unknown artist, Nayarith, Precolumbian.
Detroit Institute of Arts

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LEARNING TARGET:

Using the five themes of geography to guide their inquiry, students will explore objects from ancient civilizations to understand how human culture has evolved and how those advances affect our lives today.

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Students will:

- develop a deeper understanding of the five themes of geography by using their skills of observation and discussion to identify examples of those themes presented by objects in the DIA's collection.
- become familiar with the visual culture of ancient civilizations and recognize the role that geography plays in the production and evolution of that visual culture.
- feel connected with ancient cultures by identifying common aspects of human civilization across time and regions.
- understand how humans interact with the world around them and how that interaction influences the development of new ideas and technologies, both in the past and the present.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5

Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7

Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

21ST CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS ALIGNMENT:

CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING

Use various types of reasoning as appropriate to the situation

GLOBAL AWARENESS

CIVIC LITERACY

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES:

Introduce students to the five themes of geography as presented in your curriculum. To get students looking and thinking, have students complete the *Five Themes of Geography Matching Game* (included below). There can be many “right answers” in this matching game and some photos may exemplify more than one theme.

GUIDED TOUR EXPLANATION & RATIONALE:

This lesson plan is designed to align with a *Shaping Identity with Art of the Ancient World* at the Detroit Institute of Arts. When completing the [DIA guided visit application](#), select *Shaping Identity with Art of the Ancient World* from the drop down menu. Let us know in the application’s special needs field that you’re using the *Past Objects, Present Culture* DIA resource and what you think of it.

By observation and discussion of the five themes of geography as presented through works of art from various ancient cultures, students will begin to understand the common systems by which ancient human culture evolved and adapted to the present time.

SELF-GUIDE:

While students are going through the museum, have them complete the *Understanding the Five Themes of Geography* graphic organizer (included below).

POST-VISIT ACTIVITY:

- Imagine that you’re a member of one of the ancient civilizations whose objects were included on your tour at the DIA. Design a Facebook page or Twitter account for your selected ancient culture and share issues, ideas, news, pictures and events that you think might be relevant to members of that culture.

Some questions to keep in mind while you work on your social media account:

- What would day to day life be like in your culture and how might the five themes of geography play a role?
- How did members of the culture secure food, shelter, clothing and exchange ideas?
- What values, symbols or ideas were important to members of your culture?
- How might your culture celebrate those values, symbols or ideas?
- What changes in your culture might be newsworthy or of concern to you?

Five Themes of Geography

Matching Game

DRAW A LINE BETWEEN A PICTURE AND THE THEME TO WHICH YOU THINK IT CORRESPONDS.

There can be many “right answers” in this matching game and some photos may exemplify more than one theme. Explain your thinking for each pairing on the line you draw between the picture and the theme



MOVEMENT

REGION

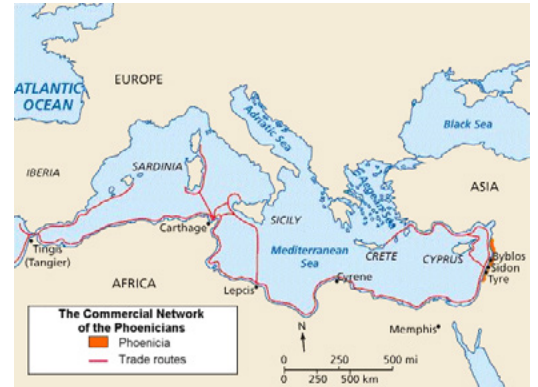
HUMAN/
ENVIRONMENT
RELATIONSHIPS

LOCATION

PLACE

San Francisco Bay Area

Coordinates:  37°45'N 122°17'W



Understanding the Five Themes of Geography

Compelling Question: How does looking at art help us gain a deeper understanding of culture?

Use your knowledge of the five themes of geography to focus your observations on several works of art of your choice. Complete the table below and answer the compelling question that follows.

Theme of Geography	Object: Include the title, a sketch, and/or a short description	How does this object connect with the theme of geography? What detail in the object did you see that helped you make the connection?
<p>MOVEMENT</p> <p>How does information travel?</p> <p>How do people or artifacts move?</p>		
<p>REGION</p> <p>What do locations and people have in common?</p>		
<p>HUMAN/ ENVIRONMENT RELATIONSHIPS</p> <p>How do people modify, depend on, or adapt to where they live?</p>		
<p>LOCATION</p> <p>Where did the object come from?</p> <p>Give the exact place or general vicinity of origin.</p>		
<p>PLACE</p> <p>What does that place look like?</p>		

