

Teaching *with* **Objects** *and* **Photographs**

**Supporting and Enhancing
Your Curriculum**



A Guide for Teachers

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c. 2001
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Teaching with Objects & Photographs...

... who?

This guide is for all teachers who wish to enhance their curriculum by incorporating objects and photographs into their lesson plans. Kindergarten, elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms can all benefit from expanded use of these rich materials. The range of subject areas for which these techniques can be used is also broad: studies in history, community, culture, art, language, math, and science can all include objects and photographs.

... what?

Objects. Everyday or exotic; from our culture and time period or others; large or small.

Photographs. Formal or informal; historic or modern; commercial or personal.

... when?

You don't need to set aside special time for using objects and photographs in your classroom, or insert yet another curriculum unit into your schedule for the year. Incorporating these tools into existing units and lesson plans adds a new dimension to the curriculum you already use.

... where?

Everywhere—particularly in the classroom. Working with objects and photos doesn't need to be restricted to field trips, and in fact the more focused environment of the classroom allows students to explore these materials in rigorous and rewarding ways.

... why?

Teaching with objects and photographs enhances your curriculum in a variety of ways. These materials can **engage** students who don't always respond to written materials; they can be used to **reinforce** material covered in other media; they can **connect** students with their own environment and culture, as well as with other cultures. Teaching with objects and photographs creates a direct, sensory connection between learners and their subjects that results in new levels of interest and attention.

... how?

This guide is devoted to how you can incorporate objects and photographs into your teaching.

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Pressed for time?

✓ Teachers in a hurry to get started teaching with objects and photographs can make use of this guidebook by reading the “Steps to Take” sections then skipping right to the Teacher Resources materials.

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✓ “Learning from Objects” Illustration

✓ Object Collection

✓ Lesson Plans

✓ Object Information Sheet

✓ Photograph Information Sheet

*The redoubtable Samuel Johnson was citing a condition and not offering a choice when he wrote in the preface to his **Dictionary** (1755), “I am not yet so lost in lexicography as to forget that words are the daughters of earth, and that things are the sons of heaven.” Dr. Johnson did not elaborate about the two realms of words and things, but he may have been acknowledging that words are not capable of translating all of those attributes of an object that are available to, and integrated by, the human senses. The cliché about a picture being worth a thousand words should be enlarged to include things: **Any thing is worth a thousand words.***

- Craig Gilborn, 1968¹