

SHARING YOUR STORY WITH OTHERS



After you connect the information you've interpreted, find a way to share your story with others. People use art and crafts, stories and plays, music, museum exhibits, and archive collections to preserve and share the past with others. Use this handout to answer the worksheet "Sharing Your Story with Others."

Art and Crafts

People have used art and crafts to describe events, people, and places of the past. While these works may depict a single event, sometimes they represent a series of events or timeline. Artists use different media to depict narrative stories with art. Ancient Egyptians depicted their histories in linear drawings on the walls of the pyramids. In Greece, artists painted scenes on their pottery to illustrate mythical stories. In Japan, artists used scrolls to show long histories over time. These scrolls would contain hundreds of different scenes and pictures, each representing a different event in time. Readers would unroll part of the scroll at a time, winding it into another spool as the story progressed.

Literature and Drama

Writing about the past is one of the most common ways that people express their feelings about history. This writing can take a number of fictional or non-fictional forms, like poetry, short stories, plays or essays about certain people or conditions of the Fruit Belt.

Music

People often write songs to commemorate special events or express their personal feelings about the past. In 1928, Val Hamilton and Marian Resch wrote a song called "Blossom Time in Michigan" to commemorate this important season in Michigan Agriculture.

Museum Exhibits

Historians use museum exhibits to display history to the public. These exhibits are unique displays of artifacts, documents, photographs, and other sources that tell the story to the public. In creating exhibits, historians first think about the questions they want to answer. How was the fruit industry important to Southwest Michigan? Second, the historians collect sources that offer facts about the topic and answer their questions. They analyze and interpret the sources. Thirdly, the historians choose which sources can help them best tell the story. They write phrases that explain the different artifacts, documents, and other sources. Lastly, they arrange the sources and text to make an interesting display for the public that teaches about the past.

Preserving Materials in an Archive

The word archive refers to both the records left from the past, and the building where these records are preserved. These facilities usually employ an archivist, who preserves and maintains the collection—which may contain documents, photographs, newspaper clippings, personal papers and diaries, maps, charts, and other useful information about the past. Materials such as these may be organized according to previous ownership ("John Smith papers"), theme/topic (i.e. American Revolution), or source (US Census). Historians use archived materials to help find clues and evidence about the past. Archivists take many steps to preserve records and other materials. This includes removing damaging items from the records (such as paperclips or rubber bands). To protect the documents, archivists store records in special protective sleeves made of Mylar. The archivist then organizes the records and archived materials in protective boxes. They store the materials in an environment that is not subject to changes in temperature or humidity. If possible, archivists make a digital copy of the record/item by scanning or photographing it. This ensures that, if all other protective measures fail, a digital copy of the record remains preserved in electronic form.



**WORKSHEET:
SHARING YOUR STORY WITH
OTHERS**

Name: _____

Use the handout “Sharing Your Story with Others” to answer the questions on this worksheet.

1. Before you share your story, what should you do with the information you’ve gathered?

2. How did the Ancient Egyptians depict their histories?

3. Name three forms of literature and drama that people write to share their story about the past.

4. Name the song that Val Hamilton and Marian Resch wrote in 1928.

5. What is a museum exhibit?

6. What are the four steps historians take to create a museum exhibit?

7. What types of materials are stored in an archive?

8. How do archivists preserve materials from the past?
