



## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### The Tenement Museum's *Your Story, Our Story* project turns students into historians.

Museums have always asked visitors to imagine the lives of objects in their historic collections. Now, the Tenement Museum invites students to share their stories in a new online digital storytelling exhibit: *Your Story, Our Story*.

*Your Story, Our Story* highlights immigration and migration stories of the past and the present. Each story reveals one student's family experience. Collectively, the stories tell America's story and highlight the patterns that bind us together, no matter where we came from or how long we've been there.

This interdisciplinary project connects to English Language Arts, Social Studies, American and Global History, and technology curricula. Use the site to explore immigration and migration stories, have students publish their own stories, and or to create a classroom exhibit.

*"Going to the Tenement Museum has helped students understand their background. They are recipients of their own stories, and now they are holding history in their hands."*

--Chandrika Menon, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher at PS130 in Brooklyn

*Your Story, Our Story* gives students the opportunity to:

- Select an object that tells a family story and photograph it.
- Interview family to better understand their family's cultural identity.
- Write a personal essay.
- Learn about other cultures in their classroom community.
- See their work preserved in a digital museum exhibit.
- Explore the ways their personal history connects to larger historical trends.

*In this curriculum, you will find:*

- [Project Overview for Teachers](#)
- [Exploring the Exhibit](#) worksheet
- [Brainstorming Your Story](#) organizer
- [Sample Object Story](#) with story arc
- [Preparing your Story](#) worksheet
- [Writing Your Story](#) checklist
- [Instructions for Uploading](#) guide

A visit to the Tenement Museum is a great complement to this project.

Visit <http://www.tenement.org/groups.php> for more details.

### Create a Group Gallery

- Go to: <http://yourstory.tenement.org/for-educators/resources>
- Click "Start a Group Page"
- Complete all required fields, using ***Tips for Starting a Group***
- Give students link to group gallery to submit their stories

### Explore the *Your Story Our Story* Exhibit

- Select a story from the site, or write your own, to introduce the project.
- Invite students to explore the stories independently, in small groups, or as a class.
- Use our ***Exploring the Exhibit*** worksheet to structure student work.

### Story Brainstorm

- Assign students to brainstorm an object in class or as a take-home.
- Use our ***Object Brainstorm*** worksheet to help students select a meaningful object.
- Review students' selections to ensure the objects fit the project guidelines.
- You may choose to use the ***Sample Object Story*** to discuss or teach a story arc.

### Story Writing

- Distribute the ***Preparing Your Story*** worksheet to guide students' prewriting.
- Students compose their object story using the preparation worksheets.
- Ask students to photograph or draw their object. *We require a photo of the object, but students can choose to include a photo of themselves, and a photo of a family member.*
- Review the ***Writing Your Story*** checklist with students to ensure their story includes all the necessary components for inclusion in the exhibit.

### Story Uploading

- Visit [yourstory.tenement.org](http://yourstory.tenement.org) and click on 'Add Your Story'
- Create a class tag for all of your students' stories. *This tag will allow you to access an online gallery of all your students' work. Tag format: TeacherName\_Year*
- For each student's story, follow instructions on the screen, including photographs and tags. *Students can upload their own stories if internet access is available.*
- Refer to our ***Instructions for Uploading*** guide for a step-by-step process.
- Please note that accepting our Terms of Use will be part of the uploading process, after which the Museum will retain the rights to the images and story in the exhibit.

### Story Presentation (Optional Closure Activity)

- Students present their work. *Presentations can take the form of a class exhibition and/or presentations for family members or other classes. You'll be able to print stories directly from the site should you choose to make an exhibit.*
- Students find connections between their stories and their classmates' stories, and consider how each of their family's experience is part of American history.



## STARTING A GROUP GALLERY

A group gallery on Your Story, Our Story allows teachers and group leaders to create a Your Story, Our Story webpage for their participants to exhibit their stories and share with others. Group leaders edit and approve their group stories, and decide whether to publish them on the Your Story, Our Story website.

To start a group page, go to: [yourstory.tenement.org/groups/new](http://yourstory.tenement.org/groups/new)

**Multiple classes from one school should create separate group galleries.**

Before starting a group, you will need:

1. A group name (your school or organization)
2. A group tag (we recommend SchoolName\_TeacherYear)
3. A group image (logo or other representative image)

After completing group form, it will be helpful to:

1. **Bookmark** the “secret” gallery link to access editing and approval (only you or a trusted colleague should access this link)
2. **Read** incoming stories for content and editing
3. **Decide** whether to approve your stories for publishing on the website (published stories are visible and searchable for all website visitors)
4. **Share** your group gallery with students, parents, and others to spread the word!

Tips for Editing Stories:

1. **Use** the “secret” link to access story editing functions.
2. **Review** all stories for spelling and grammar.
3. **Encourage** students to review a peer’s story or their own for editing.
4. **Require** students to meet story guidelines, and encourage students to rewrite until their story can be approved.



## EXPLORING THE EXHIBIT: MIDDLE SCHOOL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Select a story from the *Your Story, Our Story* website and answer the following questions about the object:

1. What is the name of the story you selected?
2. Where in the world is the object from?
3. How is the object used?
4. How does the object connect to the author's identity or culture?
5. Why is this item important to the author?
6. In what ways can you connect the object to your own life?



## BRAINSTORMING YOUR STORY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Once you've had a chance to explore the exhibit, complete the statements below to begin brainstorming your own object story:**

1. List any physical objects you can think of that:

A. Are important to your identity/culture:

B. Were passed down or given to you by relatives:

C. Are important on holidays or special occasions:

2. Use the space in the frame to brainstorm words or draw pictures that describe the object(s).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Review this *Your Story, Our Story* submission from a middle school student, which uses a story arc (beginning, background, middle, main idea, ending) to complete the object story:**

## My Parvati and Shiva Statue



### **Beginning:**

Introduce the characters.

### **Middle:**

Why is the object at the center of the story?

### **Ending:**

How does the object represent you?

My object is a statue of 3 of my gods Shiva, Ganesha, and Parvati. It was made in Guyana (where my mom comes from). The history behind it is that my mom's grandma gave the statue to her for her 10th birthday. It's very important to my culture that we pray to these gods. My culture is Hinduism. Over here the statue is about 100\$ but in India it's about 500\$. It's over 20 years old. The statue is made to show life, love and devotion, strength, power, and success. That's why my mom's grandma gave it to her because she knew that the statue represented her. The reason why the god in the middle (Ganesha) has an elephant's head is because Parvati (his mom) asked Ganesha to make sure no one came into the house. Soon Shiva (his dad) came home and after telling Ganesha that Parvati was his wife he still did not let Shiva in. Shiva told his army to kill him. All he did was cut off his head, so Shiva had to give him an elephant's head. That's why the statue is so important to my family and my culture because it reminds us about home and everything we have been through.

### **Background:**

What happened to the characters?

### **Main Idea:**

What does this story mean to you and your family?

— Amiya Nair

**Tags:** Guyana, Hindu, statue, MackBernstein, grandmother, religion, PS130\_2016, mother, gift



## PREPARING YOUR STORY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Once you have selected an object, begin the story writing process by answering these questions:**

1. What is your object called?

2. Which category does the object fit into (circle one)

Attire

Foodways

Fun

Miscellaneous

Religion

Work/Education

3. Describe the object. What is it made from? How is it used?

4. Where in the world did this object come from?

5. Who in your life gave you or told you about this object?

6. What special occasions, celebrations or holidays do you connect to this object?

7. Why is this object important to you?

8. How does this object connect you to your identity/culture?

9. Write a list of the tags (topics) that are related to this object story:

[illegible]





## WRITING YOUR STORY CHECKLIST

When you're ready to add YOUR STORY to the Tenement Museum's digital exhibit of American immigrant and migrant stories, please review this checklist to ensure that your submission meets the criteria for participation.

- ☐ You have the link provided by your teacher to submit your story.
- ☐ Your story is based on a physical object.
- ☐ Your story has a title that relates to the object.
- ☐ Your story fits into one of these categories: Attire, Foodways, Fun, Miscellaneous, Religion, Work/Education.
- ☐ You know the year your story takes place—guessing is okay.
- ☐ You have a photo of your object, or you have drawn a picture of your object.
- ☐ OPTIONAL: you have a photo of the family member(s) the object reminds you of, and/or a photo of yourself.
- ☐ Your story is based on immigration to the United States, migration within the United States and/or American identity.
- ☐ Your story is no more than 240 words.
- ☐ You have chosen tags (topics) related to your story.
- ☐ You have included the class tag assigned to you by your teacher.

Once you have met all of these requirements, you are ready to submit your object story.

*Thank you for your contribution to this important project!*



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR UPLOADING

To begin uploading, go to the link provided by your teacher.

Select this link to begin

The screenshot shows the Tenement Museum website. At the top, there is a dark banner with the text "YOUR STORY, OUR STORY" in red, followed by "features objects that tell personal stories of American immigration and migration" in white. Below this is a red button that says "READ MORE +". To the right of the banner are logos for the Tenement Museum, Humanities, and the Museum Library. Below the banner, the main content area has a white background. On the left is the Tenement Museum logo. To its right, the text "HI THERE NYC SCHOOL!" is in red, followed by "10002" in black. Below this, a paragraph reads: "Manhattan, NYC. As part of our school's social studies curriculum, students submit stories to Your Story, Our Story." At the bottom of the page, there is a light gray section. On the left, the text "YOUR STORY" is in red. To its right, a paragraph says: "Help us tell a more complete story of American immigration and migration by contributing a family object story to the collection." On the far right of this section is a red button that says "ADD YOUR STORY +". A black line with an arrow points from the callout bubble "Select this link to begin" to the "ADD YOUR STORY +" button.

**YOUR STORY, OUR STORY**  
features objects that tell personal stories of American immigration and migration

[READ MORE +](#)

TENEMENT MUSEUM humanities MUSEUM LIBRARY

**TENEMENT**

**HI THERE NYC SCHOOL!**  
10002

Manhattan, NYC. As part of our school's social studies curriculum, students submit stories to Your Story, Our Story.

**YOUR STORY**

Help us tell a more complete story of American immigration and migration by contributing a family object story to the collection.

[ADD YOUR STORY +](#)

# ADD YOUR STORY TO NYC SCHOOL

1 Object name (required, max 30 characters)

2 Category (required)

What is your object called?

Select the closest match from six categories: Attire, Education/Work, Foodways, Fun, Religion, Miscellaneous

**TIP:** Your object doesn't need to be something in your possession, or something that's valuable! You can draw the object or think creatively to represent your story through an object.

3 Image of your object (max. 4). Author must have rights to all photos.

Select a photo of object (required)

DRAG + DROP YOUR IMAGE TO THIS AREA

or

BROWSE

Describe photo, max 40 characters

Select a photo of author (optional)

DRAG + DROP YOUR IMAGE TO THIS AREA

or

BROWSE

Describe photo, max 40 characters

Please include the following images, in this order:

- Photo or illustration of your object (required, this will be the main image for your story)
- Photo of someone central to your story (optional)
- Photo of you (optional)

5 Your Story (required)

**B** *I* ☰

Include people, places, and events to bring your story to life.

**Your story must be less than 1500 characters, including spaces (about 240 words).**

**Your story should include details related to the following questions (but is not limited to!):**

How does your object represent your family's cultural identity?

Where did your family members immigrate or migrate from, and where did they land?

Why is your family's story unique?

How does your family's story connect to other family stories you're familiar with?

**If you don't know details about your family's history, that's important too!**

**We want stories with questions, as well as answers.**

6 Tags (e.g. holiday, cooking, Italy)

7 Places important to story (e.g. China, New York)

8 Year of immigration/migration

9 Relationship to im/migrant (required)

Use your best guess if you don't know for sure.

**Search tag words and select the closest match.**

**Popular tags include:**

Subjects/themes ("homesick", "language")

Objects ("hijab")

Places ("China")

People ("grandfather")

Eras ("1920s")

Culture ("Catholic"), etc.

\*also check that your story includes the tag assigned by your teacher.

10

11

12

13 ☒ Accept Terms of Use

After you submit, your entry will be sent through our moderation process; once it's approved, you'll receive a confirmation email. **After that, it's officially part of our digital exhibit!**

Thank you for sharing your story!

Please write to [yourstory@tenement.org](mailto:yourstory@tenement.org) with any questions.

