

Exploring Personal Identity

PART 1 - What is identity? Identity is the set of *qualities* and *beliefs* that make one person or group different from others. Identity isn't just one thing. It is the mixture of things that makes a person or group unique.

One way to learn about a person's identity is by looking closely at objects that belong to that person or are connected to that person in some way. Objects can teach you about what a person does, likes, or dislikes. Objects can also teach you about what is important to a person and who a person is.

Learn about who Mabel McKay is by watching *The Story of Mabel McKay* video and looking at the objects in the video at theautry.org/education/educational-videos.

PART 2 - After looking at the objects and learning about who Mabel McKay is from *The Story of Mabel McKay* video, think about your own identity and what makes you unique. Answer the questions in the chart below about your identity and the objects that *represent* your identity. Write your answers in the space below or on a separate piece of paper.

IDENTITY QUESTIONS	MY IDENTITY ANSWERS	WHAT IS AN OBJECT THAT REPRESENTS THIS PART OF YOUR IDENTITY?
Who are you? Think about some words that describe who you are.		
What do you do? Think about the types of activities you do.		
What do you like?		
What do you dislike?		
What is important to you?		

Glossary

Beliefs: feelings of being sure that a person or thing exists or is true, something believed

Qualities: characteristics that someone has; something that can be noticed as a part of a person

Represent: serve as a sign or symbol

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PART 3 - Share what you've learned about your identity by taking a photograph or making a drawing, painting, or video that shows parts of or all of your identity. Include yourself and some of the objects that represent your identity from PART 2 in your drawing, painting, photograph, or video. Plan your drawing, painting, photograph, or video before creating it by writing answers to the questions below in the space provided or on a separate piece of paper.

MY PLAN

QUESTIONS	ANSWER EXAMPLES	MY ANSWERS
What will you create?	Drawing Painting Photograph Video	
What materials will you need to create it?	Camera Colored Pencils Crayons Markers Music Paint Paintbrush Paper Pens Pencils Video Camera Other Materials	
What object(s) will you include that represent(s) your identity?	Choose one or more objects from PART 2 to include in your creation.	

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PART 4 - Take a photograph or make a drawing, painting, or video that shows parts of or all of your identity using the information from **MY PLAN** in PART 3. Make sure to include yourself in the drawing, painting, photograph, or video.

PART 5 - After taking a photograph or making a drawing, painting, or video, describe how it shows parts of or all of your identity in the space below or on a separate piece of paper. Include the title of your drawing, painting, photograph, or video in the description.

Title: _____

PART 6 - Share your drawing, painting, photograph, or video and description with someone else.

Resources

“Belief.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/belief>. Accessed 5 Nov. 2020.

“Identity.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/identity>. Accessed 5 Nov. 2020.

“Quality.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/quality>. Accessed 5 Nov. 2020.

“Represent.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/represent>. Accessed 5 Nov. 2020.

The Story of Mabel McKay | Video: courtesy of the Autry Museum of the American West

Do you want to see the drawing, painting, photograph, or video that you created on our Instagram or Twitter?

Ask an adult to send the photograph, video, or a photograph of the drawing or painting you created along with your name, your age, and the title to Outreach@TheAutry.org for a chance to be featured on our social media! Accepting work from artists of all ages. Must be 18-years or older to submit.