



National Museum of American Diplomacy

Activity

Saigon, 1975: Object Gallery Walk

Recommended Grade Levels:

- 7th–12th

Course/Content Area:

- U.S. History
- World History

Time required:

- Approximately 20–30 minutes.

Skills of Diplomacy:

- **Analysis** – Study and think critically about situations.
- **Communication** – Articulate your position and listen openly to others' viewpoints. Determine where interests overlap.
- **Innovation** – Formulate alternatives and be flexible in responses to unanticipated circumstances.
- **Collaboration** – The ability to incorporate the ideas of others and find common ground. Collaborating involves taking cues from others when formulating responses and making proposals.

Objective

- Students will be able to:
 - Analyze how an object represents one or more tools or skills of diplomacy.
 - Draw connections between historical or contemporary diplomatic events and the objects examined.

Materials

- [Google Slides](#)
- [Object Graphic Organizer](#)

Prior to Activity

This activity functions as a gallery walk. Before students enter the room:

- Images of the objects should be displayed “gallery style” in a way that allows students to disperse themselves around the room, with several students clustering around each particular object. Images can be hung on walls or placed on tables. The



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most important factor is that the images are spread far enough apart to reduce significant crowding.

- Images of the objects with their story are on slides 7–15.
- If doing it digitally, make sure slides 7–15 are accessible to students.
- There is a graphic organizer that goes along with the gallery walk.

Procedure

1. Explain to students that a diplomat's ultimate objective is to advance their nation's foreign policy goals. To do this, diplomats use an essential tool kit and set of skills to advance their nation's interests.
 - a. The tactics we use in daily life are similar to the ways diplomats work with people of other countries and governments to advance American interests.
2. Show slide 5. Walk students through the graphic, explaining that these are the ways in which they can build relationships and negotiate with other nations.
 - i. Diplomats are constantly thinking outside the box to secure their nation's interests.
 1. Tools are used to bridge gaps and create more opportunities for solutions. For example, why might student exchange programs be good for U.S. foreign relations? Possible Answers: promotes mutual understanding, shows real culture (not just what people consume in media), builds cultural understanding, possibly adds to economic growth through tourism, etc.
3. Show slide 6. Walk students through the graphic on the skills of diplomacy.
 - a. Diplomacy is the art and practice of building and maintaining relationships and conducting negotiations with people using tact and mutual respect. American diplomats use the Skills of Diplomacy to protect and promote U.S. security, prosperity, and democratic values and shape an international environment in which all Americans can thrive.
4. After walking through the tools and skills of diplomacy infographic, distribute the graphic organizer.
5. Explain that students will be walking around the classroom to view different objects and their stories. As they view the objects, they will identify what tool or skill of diplomacy each object represents.
6. Once students complete the graphic organizer, have students share their findings with the class, finding similarities and differences in their interpretation, or lead a discussion about how objects add to the study of history.
 - a. What can objects add to the study of history? What perspectives are added when we study artifacts in conjunction with history?



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- b. What is something new you learned by viewing the objects?
- c. Think about what you already know about the relationship between Vietnam and the U.S.. How do these objects support, contradict, or add to your current understanding? Explain