

DIGITAL SURROGATES PROJECT

The Global Scoop

INTRODUCTION

How many times a day do you use a spoon? What different kinds of spoons do you use? Explore the global reach of the MSU Museum collections and learn more about the kinds of spoons people make and use around the world.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Analyze spoons using material culture, artistic, historical, and cultural methods
2. Write and discuss spoons with other students in response to close looking and analysis
3. Describe how the global economy affected/affects the relationship between makers, buyers, and sellers over time using the spoons as examples.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Michigan Social Studies Standards

P2 INQUIRY, RESEARCH, AND ANALYSIS

P2.1 Apply methods of inquiry, including asking and answering compelling and supporting questions, to investigate social science problems.

3.2 ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE – TRADE

3.2.4 The Global Economy and the Marketplace – analyze and describe how the global economy has changed the interaction of buyers and sellers.

Michigan Visual Arts, Music, Dance, and Theater Standards

ANALYZE

Standard 3: Analyze, describe, and evaluate works of art. (VPAA: C2, C3, C4, C5, P2, P3, R1, R2, R3, R4)

REFERENCES

Michigan Department of Education. (2019). *Michigan K-12 Standards - Social Studies*.

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/Academic-Standards/Social_Studies_Standards.pdf

Michigan Department of Education. (2011). *Michigan Merit Curriculum: Standards, Benchmarks, and Grade Level Content Expectations - Visual Arts, Music, Dance, and Theater*. https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/Year/2014/06/06/Complete_VPAAExpectations_June_2011_356110_7.pdf

Time: 15-20 minutes

Materials:

- Access to MSU Museum Sketchfab website or printed object images:
<https://sketchfab.com/dblair/collections/spoons-ae72b5c108c04ba4b4749e84286a93a8>
- “Close Looking Questions” sheet (printed or digital)
- “Spoons Reveal” sheet



1. Conversation Starter:
 - a. Ask students: How many times a day do you use a spoon?
 - b. What different kinds of spoons do you use?
 - c. What are they made of?
 - d. Do you know where they came from?Make a list on the board or in a collaborative document.
2. Deeper Dive:
 - a. Show the student the spoons on the MSU Museum's Sketchfab page
 - b. Give students the links to the online 3D models or make printed images of the spoons.
3. Collaborative Learning:
 - a. Tell students that we can learn a lot about an object by looking closely and making observations. Using a digital or printed copy of the “Close Looking Questions” sheet, do a “close-looking” session with the students. Have students record:
 - i. What do you first notice about the spoon?
 - ii. What color is it?
 - iii. What size is it?
 - iv. What is it made of?
 - v. What textures do you see?
 - vi. Any other observations?
 - i. What do you think this spoon was used for? What makes you say that?
4. Debrief:
 - a. As a class, ask students what they are able to learn just by looking closely at their spoon. Make a list of their responses on the board or a digital document.
 - i. How do you think the spoon was used? What was it used for?
 - ii. What does the material tell you about the place where the spoon was made?
 - iii. What does the design or materials of the spoon tell you about the people who made it?
 - b. Give the students the “reveal” sheet, which provides information about each spoon.
5. Assessment
 - a. Participation in class discussions
 - b. Participation in object investigation activities



ACTIVITY 1:

SPOONS “CLOSE LOOKING” QUESTIONS

1. What do you first notice about the spoon?
2. What color is it?
3. What size is it?
4. What is it made of? How do you think it was made?
5. What textures do you see?
6. Any other observations?
7. What do you think this spoon was used for? What makes you say that?

Calabash Spoon [4583.2A]

Guinea, West Africa. Spoon made from the dried, hardened shell of a calabash gourd with wood burned design on both sides by the Fulani tribe. Used for serving food. Length: 18cm, Width: 6.5cm.

<https://sketchfab.com/orgs/museum/3d-models/spoon-guinea-9d6454b7ac584454a1aeac6f0ab52a44>

Carved Spoon [6351CW]

Virginia, United States of America. Carved by prisoner in Libby prison and originally donated by Mary Barmore. A note in the Museum file says, “Spoon carved by young man in Libby Prison and given to donor’s father, Francis Conroy.” Libby Prison was a Confederate prison for Union soldiers in Richmond, Virginia from 1862-1865, during the American Civil War. Length: 9.5cm, Width: 3.7cm.

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/spoon-richmond-virginia-13130223cd0a4252abfe61abf3f98659>

Gold Dust Spoon [3982.87]

Ghana. Gold dust spoon, used to put gold dust onto the balance scales. Made of hammered sheet brass. This spoon was made by the Ashanti of Ghana. The Ashanti language word for this spoon is n’sawa. Length: 5.7cm, Width: 2.6cm.

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/spoon-ghana-1e56fba04da0461bab0242670307fb91>

Rice Spoon [5264.18]

Liberia. Hand carved rice spoon. Probably from the Bassa people. Length: 28.5cm, Width: 6.8cm.

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/spoon-liberia-3726f3a2c7724920ac39c854905aebde>

Saints’ Rest Spoon [2007.2]

United States of America. Copper spoon with green tarnish. : an archaeological excavation at Michigan State University. Was burned in a building fire and buried underground for over 125 years. Length: 12cm, Width: 4.7cm.

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/saints-rest-spoon-d887577cfe1e427e88cf1da956cbea27>

Salad Spoon [8836CW]

Sweden. Made from cow horn. There is a hole in the end of the handle with a string pulled through and tied in a knot. Length: 31cm, Width: 9.3cm.

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/spoon-colombia-70eeb3e72fd54105ae7086f2b3172a94>

Spoon with String [5830.6]

Columbia. Made from cow horn. There is a hole in the end of the handle with a string pulled through and tied in a knot. Length: 31cm, Width: 9.3cm.

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/spoon-colombia-70eeb3e72fd54105ae7086f2b3172a94>

Wooden Carved Spoon [2011:117.706]

Karakoram, Mongolia. A spoon with square patterns down the handle. There are more squares with Xs through them on the ladle of the spoon. The ladle is square in shape. The end of the handle has two koi fish kissing. Length: 38cm, Width: 5.8cm. <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/spoon-mongolia-92ec8b8ae4404862a19e407a203234fc>

Wooden Spoon [6394CW]

Russia. Decorated with painted designs. Length: 19cm, Width: 6.7cm.

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/spoon-russia-5263a0e9d18041febece817bd70676d7>

Wooden Spoon [6876.2.17]

Somalia. Diamond shape carved on the handle. Length: 39.5CM, Width 7.9cm.

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/spoon-somalia-4774b5270f854731b96b4301cda5853c>