

2016 Docent Training: Interactive Gallery Experience

Gallery Name: Ceramics of West Mexico

Docent Name: Pam Spindola

Activity Name: "ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS"

Audiences: Check all that apply

Adults Families School Children: Grades 6-12 Homeschooled Students

Essential Question: What types of questions and new ways of observing these objects can engage visitors in discovering deeper understanding and/or appreciation of the culture?

Common Core Standards:

Historical and Social Sciences Analysis Skills 6-12
Chronological and Spatial Thinking
Research, Evidence and Point of View
Historical Interpretation

List Touring Techniques

Introduction, interactive questions, inferences based on observation, group process.

List Gallery and/or Interactive Learning Station Artifacts/Objects

West Mexico ceramics

Introduction/Theme/Purpose

Known as the shaft tomb culture, the people of West Mexico lived in the states of Nayarit, Jalisco, and Colima around 500 BCE to 800 CE. In contrast to the pyramids of the Aztecs and Mayans, evidence of this culture resides in ceramic figures found in vertical shaft tombs.

Activity Description/Steps in Presenting the Activity

Introduction of West Mexico and the ceramics of shaft tombs.

Organize attendees in pairs, each couple selecting one of six ceramics to observe in depth. They will be given a card which lists possible categories as reference for their task. These categories are: Lifestyle, Arts & Adornment, Nature, Class & Society, and Areas of Expertise. They will have two tasks. First, based on observations, inferences are to be drawn about this culture. Then, they need to formulate essential questions they would like to investigate further.

Sample interactive questions (2-3) for the Audience

How do these objects provide glimpses of a long lost people and forgotten events?

Were these people talented artists? What is the evidence?

Did the people of West Mexico master the art of adornment?

What animals are depicted in their ceramics? Why do you think these animals were special?

Conclusion/Review/Reflection

It is hoped that people will look at these ceramics beyond the limited information available to us as docents

Date approved by the Education Committee: _____