LITTLE BIG HISTORY — CHOOSING YOUR FOCUS

Purpose

For this activity, students will make a final decision about the LBH object they'll study and research for their culminating project of the year. This is an important step in the process and will keep students focused on the task and working toward completing their Little Big Histories.

Practices

Interdisciplinarity

Students will again take on the roles of different scientists in this activity. They are encouraged to think about studying something that will be most interesting when examined from more than one disciplinary perspective. This is a great opportunity to point out how thinking across disciplines can often be more fruitful than just sticking with one at a time.

Process

Have your students get into their LBH groups and tell them that they're going to pick their final object or commodity by the end of class. Ask them if they remember the Historos Cave activity they did in Unit 6. If they don't remember, you might want to quickly revisit Lesson 6.1 to spark their memories. Then, assign (or have students choose) one scientific role. Consider having students, as a class, brainstorm other scientific roles to add to this list and use in this activity:

- anthropologist
- archaeologist
- geologist
- paleontologist

Each student will work on their own to write down one or two questions about each of the two objects or commodities that they chose in the LBH Kickoff activity earlier in this unit. The questions should be ones that a scientist in their chosen or assigned role would ask about the object.

After they've have had a chance to write questions, have students discuss them with the other members of their group. They may find that some objects elicited more interesting questions than others, or some objects were incredibly difficult to ask about. Based on the questions they were able to ask and the lines of inquiry they might follow, have them pick their focus for the Little Big History project. Be sure they're prepared to share with the class their final focus and the reasons for their choice.

LITTLE BIG HISTORY — CHOOSING YOUR FOCUS

Purpose

For this activity, you and your LBH group members will make a final decision about the object that you will study and research for your Big History project. This is an important step in the process and will keep your group focused on the task and working toward completing your Little Big Histories.

Practices

Interdisciplinarity

You are going to take on the roles of different scientists again in this activity, so that you can decide what's most interesting when looking at it from multiple perspectives. This is a great opportunity to think about how thinking across disciplines can often be more fruitful than just sticking with one at a time.

Process

Get into your LBH groups for this final activity to help you pick your LBH object or commodity. Do you remember the Historos Cave activity from Lesson 6.1? If not, you might want to take a quick look back at that lesson because this activity will be kind of like that one. Just as in the Historos Cave activity, your teacher will assign or have you pick one scientific role:

- anthropologist
- archaeologist
- geologist
- paleontologist

Each of you will work independently to write down one or two questions about each of the two objects or commodities that they chose in the LBH Kickoff activity earlier in this unit (and have maybe even been thinking about!). The questions should be ones that you, in your role as a particular kind of scientist, would ask about the object.

After you've had a chance to think about and write down your questions, discuss them with the other members of your group. You may find that some objects elicited more interesting questions than others, or some objects were incredibly difficult to ask about. Based on the questions all of you were able to ask and the lines of inquiry you might follow for the project, pick your focus for the Little Big History project. Be sure prepared to share your decision—what you picked and why—with the class.