

HERITAGE INQUIRY AND STORYTELLING DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Groups of 4 or 5 -- each person chooses a prompt -- think and share -- ask what is it, and what's the story behind it -- for classes over 20, duplicate Groups -- can involve a share-out of highlights -- can lead to discussion of significance, evidence, patterns, causality, perspectives, judgement -- can be used to inform discussion on heritage or could launch a broader heritage inquiry or project -- can be done more than once by switching Groups/prompts -- works well as a take-home activity (prepare for the discussion by digging around at home and asking questions)

Group A:

- ▶ the oldest object in your house (e.g. heirloom)
- ▶ three objects from your home that represent your culture or heritage
- ▶ how your family (any branch) came to live where they do (e.g. city, province, country)
- ▶ besides Canadian, another nation or culture with which you identify and what this looks like
- ▶ a historical event (any level of significance) to which your family is connected

Group B:

- ▶ something in your home with no monetary value but has sentimental value
- ▶ an old photo from your home with a story behind it
- ▶ one or two values or beliefs that characterize your family
- ▶ a family story that, if told to strangers, would hold their attention
- ▶ the oldest connection (e.g. to an ancestor) you can make in your family for which you know some details

Group C:

- ▶ something interesting in your home from the past that you have displayed or put up somewhere
- ▶ two objects in your room that could be used to explain Canadian (or your) culture to a foreigner
- ▶ an experience from the past that seems to be shared again and again in your family (e.g. over multiple generations)
- ▶ a tradition that has some roots in your family (e.g. goes way back)
- ▶ what you ask if you could interview a deceased member of your family

Group D:

- ▶ an object in your house that was once an everyday object but is no longer used (e.g. tool, implement)
- ▶ an object or heirloom that you would pass on to a grandchild (assuming you have one)
- ▶ a way of knowing, acting, or doing something that might be unique (or at least important) to your family
- ▶ something about your heritage or culture for which you are proud
- ▶ something sad or funny that happened in your family's past that you can share