

What do signs and symbols mean?

Signs and symbols can stand for a number of things, giving instructions or representing abstract concepts. During your visit to the museum today, your group will be looking at many signs and symbols used throughout Washington's history. From the face on an identification badge to the pattern on a basket, these signs will help you and your students tell a story together about what you have seen at the museum.

This worksheet provides a scavenger hunt to do with your student. We have provided a number of ideas for learning more about the exhibits together, examining symbols throughout the museum and asking questions about their meaning. We encourage you to use the prompts provided to help students think about what they see.

As you look at the artifacts--or objects--in the gallery, ask students:

- *What is the object you are looking at? What do you think it was used for?*
- *Does it remind you of something you have seen before? What?*
- *If you were going to tell a story about this item, what would the story be about?*

Help students look for captions or signs that will help them discover the stories in the galleries. You may wish to read text panels aloud and then ask them to answer the questions above.

**Native Americans used signs. Go to the Petroglyph Theater.
Can you find these signs?**



Human



Insects



Sun



Deer or Elk



Mountain Sheep

Sign:

A mark that can be used in place of words.

Symbol:

Something that stands for something else. Especially something real that stands for something that can't be pictured or shown. For example, the lion is a symbol of bravery.

Definitions adapted from: Miriam-Webster Student Dictionary <<http://wordcentral.com>>



What signs do you think there are in a basket?

Go to Native Heritage. What signs do you see?

There are other signs and stories in the museum. Try to find them with a friend.



Apple label
Railroads



Schools at War poster
Homefront

BONUS!



Beaded gauntlets
Look in a drawer!



Mah jongg tiles
Homefront
Look by the telephones!



Teapot and cups
Wageworker's Frontier



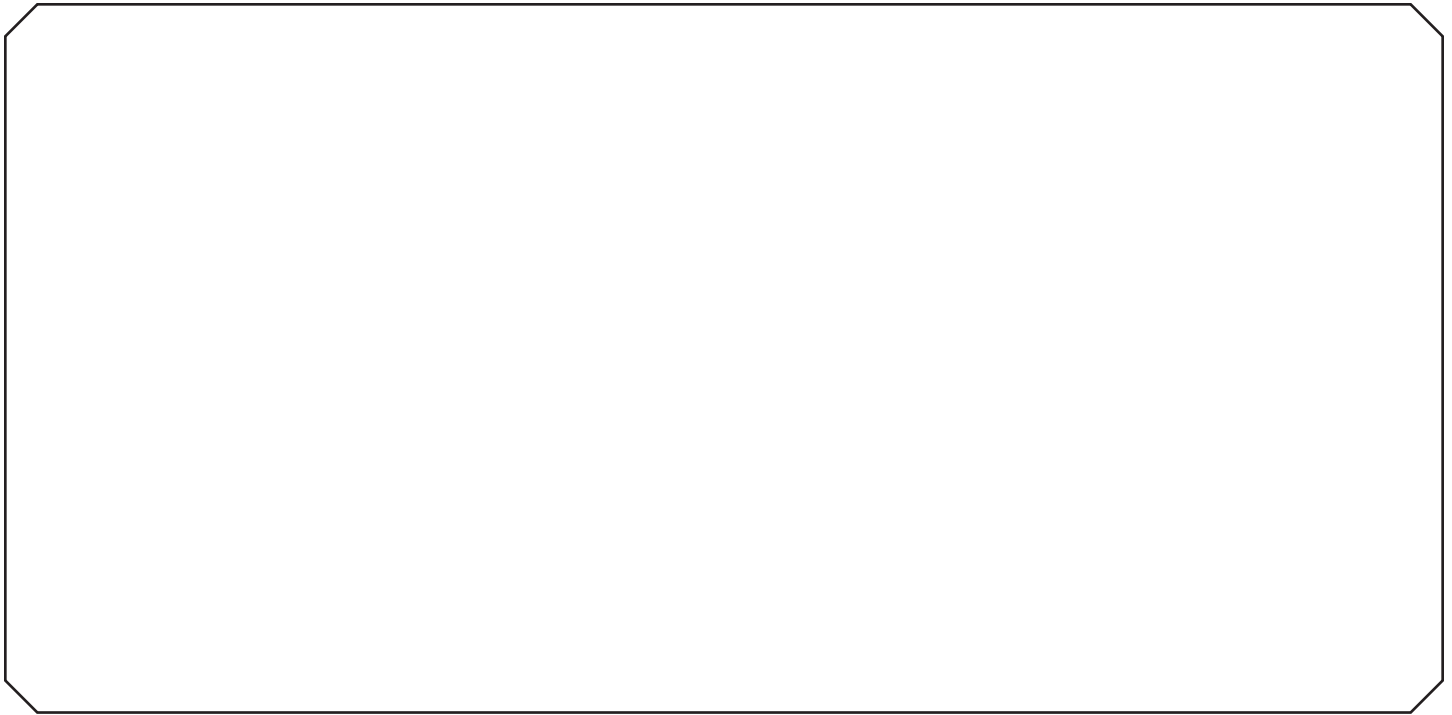
ID badge
Homefront

BONUS!



IWW button
The smallest object in the museum!

Draw some signs that you see. Write the story that you think these signs are telling, or share it with a friend who is with you.



Four sets of primary writing lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

Note to parents and educators:

This worksheet was created by the Washington State History Museum's Education department in accordance with the Essential Academic Learning Requirements for Washington State.

The Preschool EALRs covered are: Reading 2.2, 3.2, 3.4. Writing 1.2, 2.1, 3.5.

The K-3 EALRs covered are: Reading, Writing and Social Studies