

## Teaching News Is Elementary

### December 11, 2015

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.*

**Materials you will need for this lesson:** The Seattle Times e-Edition. The library or internet for research.

**Article: “Building a replica of Native history”**

**Page: B1**

**Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2015**

#### **Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:**

Look at the title and the photograph. What is a replica? What do you think the people in the photograph are building?

#### **Vocabulary:**

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it's used in the sentence:

“Especially when it's holding parts of a 16 million-item collection. Sven Haakanson Jr., curator of North American Anthropology at the Burke Museum, found a model of an Angyaaq, a traditional Native boat made by Alaska's Sugpiat people, **misidentified** in its vast collection.”

(incorrectly labelled)

“He had an ‘oh wow, **ecstatic** moment.’ ‘Do you know what you have? I was so excited.’”

(very happy or excited : feeling or showing ecstasy)

“The **replica** he's building is of red cedar and Douglas fir. Zip-ties are holding the frame together until he replaces them with twine.”

(an exact or very close copy of something)

**“It’s important to raise an awareness publicly and socially of traditional knowledge. It’s not a simple boat. It’s a complicated boat. History is embodied in it.”**

(represented. Serving as a symbol of something.)

### **Journal Writing Prompts:**

**“You never know what you’ll find looking through a closet. Especially when it’s holding parts of a 16 million-item collection. Sven Haakanson Jr., curator of North American Anthropology at the Burke Museum, found a model of an Angyaaq, a traditional Native boat made by Alaska’s Sugpiat people, misidentified in its vast collection.”**

Write a story in your journal which begins with the sentence: “You never know what you’ll find looking through a closet.” First think about what your character finds in the closet. How is it similar to or different from the discovery of this boat? What will your character do after he or she makes the discovery? Tell your story in detail appealing to the five senses of sight, sound, touch, taste and smell.

### **Discussion Questions:**

**Review the excerpt and discuss the following questions:**

**“It’s important to raise an awareness publicly and socially of traditional knowledge. It’s not a simple boat. It’s a complicated boat. History is embodied in it.”**

Why is this a “complicated boat?” Why is it important to raise awareness publically and socially of traditional knowledge? How is history embodied in the boat? What other artifacts which raise cultural awareness and promote knowledge have you seen or read about? How do they compare to this boat? What cultures can you learn about from these artifacts?

### **Small group discussion and activity:**

**“He has been working with elders on Kodiak Island ‘to make sure knowledge is preserved.’”**

What is an elder? How can you work with your elders and family members to “make sure knowledge is preserved?” Think of an artifact which is important to your family’s story and history. Ask your family members about the artifact and why it’s important. Write an essay which describes its significance.