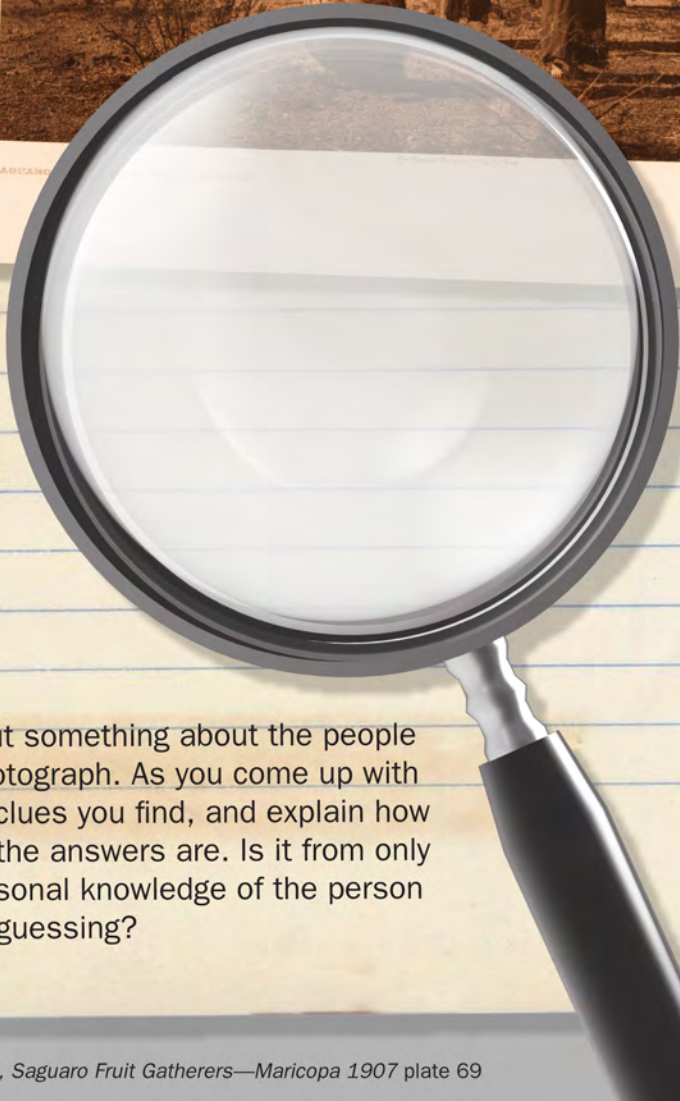


Be a Detective!

Look at the Photographs for Clues!



YOUR CASE:

You are trying to figure out something about the people or place shown in the photograph. As you come up with answers, write down the clues you find, and explain how you know what you think the answers are. Is it from only what you see or from personal knowledge of the person or place? Are you simply guessing?

Portrait:
photograph of a person

Environmental Portrait:
photograph of a person in a place
that tells something about them

Subject:
main person or object



Step 1: LOOKING FOR CLUES

Who is in the photograph?

What is the subject's body language or facial expression?

Where was this photograph taken? How do you know?

What is the relationship of the people to each other and to the environment?

What do you notice?

When do you think this photograph was taken? (time of year, time of day, in the past or the present) How can you tell?

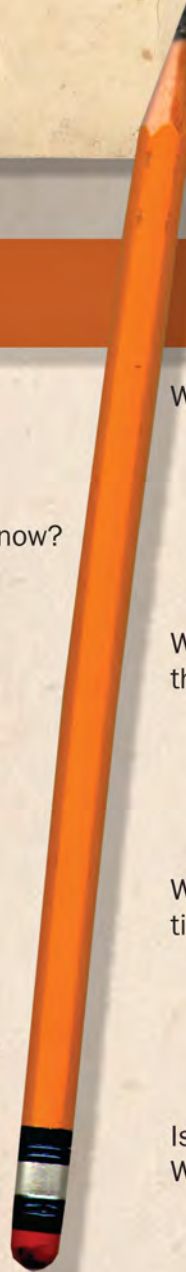
What are the people doing?

Is the photograph posed or spontaneous?
What makes you think this?

What is the subject wearing?

Are there any objects in the photograph?
What are they and why do you think they are there?
How are they connected to the people?

Do you know what culture group the people are part of?
Be as specific as you can. How do you know?





Next Steps in Solving Your Case:
FURTHER QUESTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Think about what the photograph makes you imagine. If you had been there when the picture was taken, what sounds would you have heard, what odors would you have smelled, what would the air have felt like (hot, cold, humid, dry), what emotions might you have felt?

How does the image make you feel? (sad, happy, thoughtful, fun, serious, anger, etc.) Why?

What is missing from this image?
If it were there, what more would it tell you?

What do you think this photograph tells you about the person or people in it and their culture?

What kind of relationship do you think the photographer had with the people he photographed?

Why do you think the photographer took this picture?
Why did the subject allow the photograph to be taken?
Whose idea do you think it was to make this photograph? (the photographer, the subject, or someone else?)

What other questions does this photograph raise for you?

YOUR INVESTIGATION IS NOT OVER.
As a photo detective, think about where you could get more information about the people, places, and events depicted in the photograph, as well as about the photographer.

FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Want to know more about Edward S. Curtis and his photographs?
Check out these online resources.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian

from Northwestern University
www.curtis.library.northwestern.edu/
Edward Sheriff Curtis published *The North American Indian* between 1907 and 1930 with the intent to record traditional Indian cultures. The work comprises twenty volumes of narrative text and photogravure images. The entire work is presented here digitally as part of the Digital Library Collections of Northwestern University.

Edward S. Curtis's The North American Indians-Photographs

www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/ienhtml/curthome.html
Searchable database of Curtis's photographs by subject, tribe, geographical location, and volume.

Edward S. Curtis in Context

from the Library of Congress
www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/ienhtml/special.html
Three essays by preeminent scholars of Curtis's work, a biographical timeline, and map of North American Indians as witnessed by Curtis.

Edward S. Curtis Resources

from World Wisdom
www.worldwisdom.com/public/resources/default.aspx?Category=Edward%20Curtis
Includes an image gallery, digital versions of books containing his photographs, archives of articles in PDF format, short biography, and timeline.

Edward S. Curtis: Timeline

www.soulcatcherstudio.com/artists/curtis_cron.html
Detailed timeline of Curtis's life by Eric J. Keller, based on Anne Meakpeace's book, *Edward S. Curtis: Coming to Light* (Washington: National Geographic Society, 2001).

Edward S. Curtis: Frontier Photographer

from the Smithsonian Institution
www.si.edu/Exhibitions/Curtis/curtis-navigation.htm
This on-line exhibit presents background on Curtis, his work and his techniques, includes a timeline and suggested readings.

Native Americans: Portraits from a Century Ago

from The Atlantic
www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2013/04/native-americans-portraits-from-a-century-ago/100489/
A selection of 34 photographs by Edward S. Curtis. For a reflection inspired by this exhibit, read: <http://eamonka.com/2013/04/11/>.

Performing Archive: Curtis + "the vanishing race"

by Amy Borsuk, Beatrice Schuster, David J. Kim, Heather Blackmore, Jacqueline Wernimont, and Ulia Gosart (Popova)
www.scalar.usc.edu/works/performingarchive/index
Includes nearly 2,500 items related to Curtis and his ethnographic and photographic work, as well as new scholarly works.

FILMS AND YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Coming To Light: The Edward S. Curtis Story

(2001) Directed by Anne Meakpeace, 84 minutes
www.hulu.com/watch/443198 or on Netflix
Coming to Light tells the dramatic story of Curtis' life, the creation of his monumental work, and his changing views of the people he set out to document. Hopi, Navajo, Eskimo, Blackfeet, Crow, Blood, Piegan, Suquamish, and Kwakiutl people who are descended from Curtis subjects or who are using his photographs for cultural preservation respond to the pictures, tell stories about the people in the photographs, and discuss the meaning of the images. (from Bullfrog Films www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/ctl.html).

Edward S. Curtis: Photographing the North American Indian

by the Smithsonian Magazine, 4 minutes
www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3zuiC1NdFA
A close look reveals how the famed photographer altered his glass negatives, creating the popular image of Native Americans that still exists today.

Edward Curtis's Life and Photography

Narrated by Timothy Egan, 10 minutes
www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjvrxSoSaU
Timothy Egan is author of: *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis* (NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012).

Tracing the Steps of Edward Curtis

with author Timothy Egan, 5 minutes
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAJjV90TQ6Y
A short presentation about Curtis's start on the project in Seattle.

TEACHER AND STUDENT MATERIALS

Edward S. Curtis's The North American Indians-Photographic Images-Teacher Classroom Materials

www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/edward-curtis/
Suggested activities focusing on Edward Curtis and his work as related to history, critical thinking, arts, and humanities.

Native Americans—Themed Resources for Students from the Library of Congress

www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/native-americans/students.html
Online activities, photographs, and background information from the Library of Congress to help students learn more about Native Americans.

Using Primary Sources from the Library of Congress

www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/
Written for teachers who want to incorporate the use of primary sources into their lessons.

Art and Social Justice: What is a Portrait?

www.tolerance.org/lesson/art-and-social-justice-what-portrait
Lesson plan for grades K-5.

Art and Racial Justice: What is in a Self-Portrait?

www.tolerance.org/lesson/art-and-racial-justice-what-self-portrait
Lesson plan for grades K-5.



Arizona State Museum
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.