



Collections Exercise – Description and Interpretation

Activity

Looking at the item, make a list of as many descriptive terms as you can. These terms can include questions of description (e.g. if there is a material present that you cannot identify, or information you cannot access without lifting the item, weighing it, smelling it, tasting it, etc.).

- Take care always to maintain accuracy over precision (e.g. if you are certain there is stone present, but are not certain what kind of stone it is, note “stone,” and raise type as a question).

When it begins to be difficult to keep describing, push through and find more, no matter how seemingly trivial. Make sure your list has at least 10 descriptive terms before you finish.

Return to the item and take it in as a whole.

Return to your list. Circle the three descriptions that encapsulate the item to you the most.

Looking again at the item, what would you like to know about it? Make a list of as many interpretive questions as you can. Again, when you find yourself running out of questions, keep asking and find more. Make sure to have at least 10.

Return to the item and take it in as a whole.

Return to your list. Circle the three questions that are the most important or interesting to you to pursue.

Share your observations and questions with your classmates.