

BkM Art Hangouts
Process

● Part 1: Look!

Invite students to look at Wendy Red Star's portrait of [Déaxitchish / Pretty Eagle](#) and compare it to [Charles Milton Bell's photograph](#). Teachers may zoom in to view the photos close up.

→ What is similar about these photographs? What is different?

This photograph depicts Pretty Eagle, an Apsáalooke (Crow) leader. Red Star, who is also Crow, highlights parts of the leader's garments and accessories and draws attention to the markers of Pretty Eagle's identity and status. The highly symbolic clothing and dress tell a story of his importance and his accomplishments.

→ What can we learn from Wendy Red Star's artwork that we can't from Charles Milton Bell's photograph? How do Wendy Red Star's annotations change your understanding of the image?

Wendy Red Star noticed that Charles Milton Bell's photographs were being used by all sorts of people, sometimes for commercial purposes. For instance, she recognized a Crow leader's image on a label for a popular brand of tea. She wanted to contextualize the image by adding culturally specific details, such as the sitter's name, accomplishments, and contributions to his community.

→ Why do you think Wendy Red Star might have wanted to add these details?

→ How do you think Wendy Red Star might have felt when she saw images of her ancestors on a package of tea? How might you feel?

● Part 2: Explore!

Wendy Red Star added annotations to existing photographs of Crow leaders. Her text, drawn in red pen, contextualizes the images by sharing information about the subject and his highly symbolic clothing.

→ How will you annotate your photograph so you can share what people might not know by just looking?

Step 1: Choose an existing photograph. The subject can be you or a significant person in your life. It does not have to be someone you know personally, but you should have a connection to the person or share some aspects of your identity.

→ How can your personal knowledge expand the meaning of the photograph?

→ Example: I chose a photograph of myself as a child. Through annotations, I explain the setting, my clothing, and tell the story behind the photo.

Step 2: Consider the information you want to share.

→ What are some important things you want to share about the person in the photograph?

→ What can you say about clothing, pose, accessories, or other markers of identity?

→ Do you need to add context or information to what is happening in the photo?

→ What questions do you have about that person?

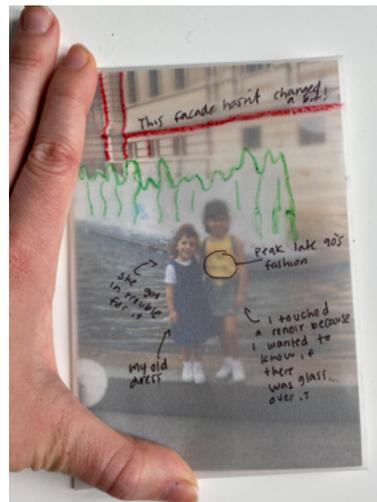
→ Do you need to do research to learn more information?

Step 3: Annotate your photograph. Add text and images to your photograph.

→ How will you draw attention to certain aspects of your photo?

→ Tip: If you're using an original or very old photograph, you might consider making a photocopy of it, or using a layer of vellum or tracing paper to make your annotations.

Project in Progress ↓

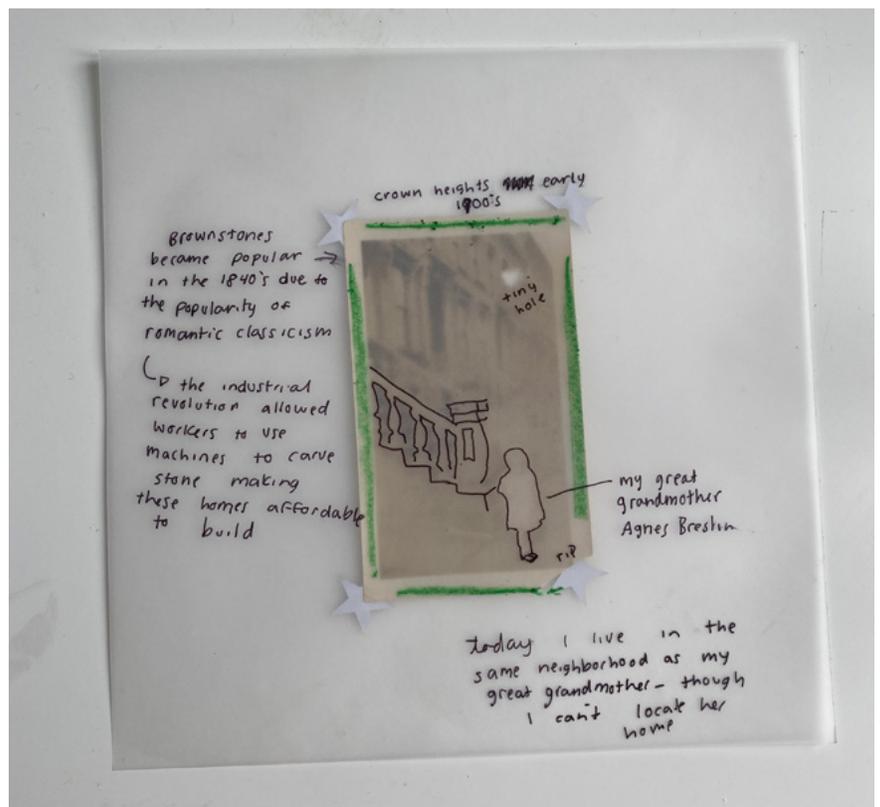


● Part 3: Reflect!

What new things did you discover about the subject of your photograph through this process? Did you learn anything new about yourself?

Do you think the context you've added through annotations will change the way someone will understand the photograph? Why or why not?

A Finished Project! ↓



This resource was written by Sarah Dinkelacker, Curriculum Consultant and Teaching Artist, with assistance from Stacey Kahn, School Partnerships Coordinator and coordinator of the Art Hangouts initiative. Additional assistance provided by Michael Reback, School Programs Manager.