

American Writers Museum
American Identities Field Trip
Student Materials

Student Name: _____

School or Group Name: _____

Small Group Subtheme: _____

Independent Student Reflection: Activating Prior-Knowledge:

Answer the following questions independently to activate your knowledge on identity.

What is Identity?

What influences a person's identity? Think about what could positively change a person's identity or what could challenge a person's identity.

Think about a time when your own identity has been challenged. Describe it below. Think about what was influencing you and how you reacted to the situation.

Small Group Reflection:

Working in your small groups, begin to answer the following questions specific to your subtheme assigned to you (race, religion, gender, or national origin).

What is this type of identity? (What is racial identity, religious identity, gender identity or national origin identity?)

What are some examples of how this identity has been seen in history or in present day?

How could this type of identity be influenced or challenged?

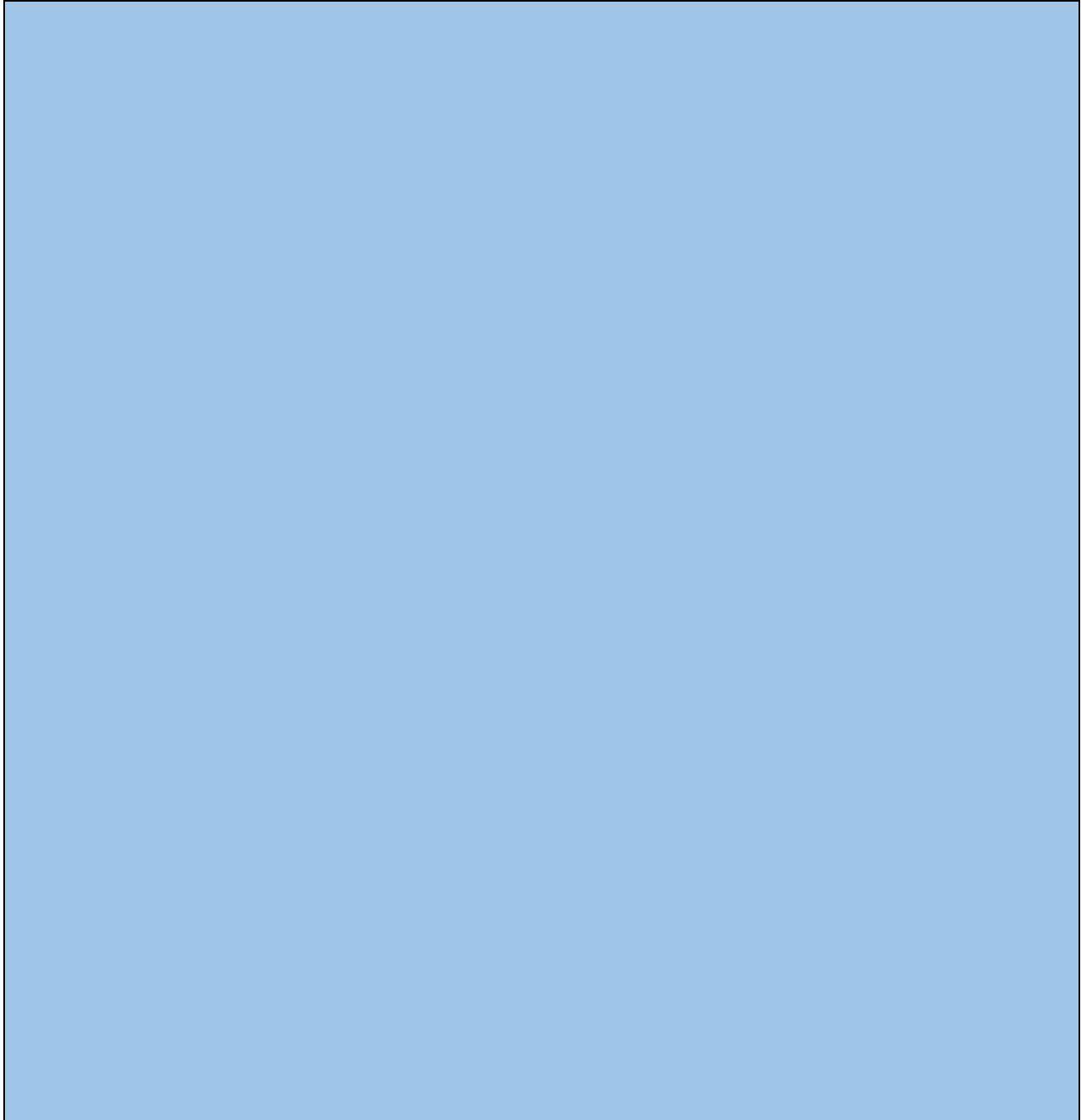
Guided Exploration of the Museum Instructions:

Today you will be guided through the museum. We encourage you to take your time and read through pieces that you find interesting: poems, biographies, etc. Feel free to engage in the kiosks or activities provided. Throughout all of this you will do two things:

1. **Personal Word Waterfall:** Great writers will brainstorm before writing and developing a list of words or phrases that have stood out to you can be one way of brainstorming. As you explore the museum, write down words or phrases that you like, find meaning or connection with, intrigue you, etc. By the end of your exploration, you will have a waterfall of words that you can use to write a story or poem.
2. **Identity Theme:** Take notes on your small group theme. Identify written pieces that show this theme (provide quotations if possible), authors who have written about this theme (explain why they chose to write about the theme), or think about a time period when the theme was influenced (explain why that specific time period was influential).

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Theme Exploration:

Small Group Subtheme and Definition:

Authors who write and highlight this theme in their writing pieces. Explain the author, why they choose to write about this theme, and what they say about the theme.

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Written pieces that focus on the theme. Provide quotations as evidence or explanations when possible.

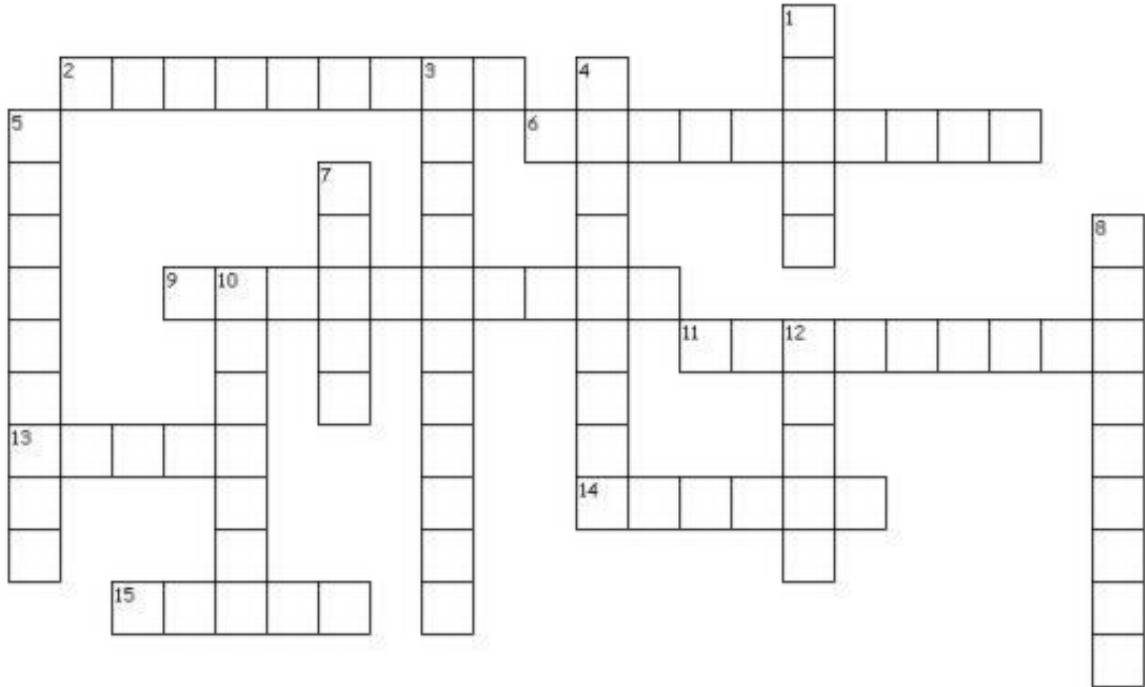
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Think about one of the time periods when this theme was influenced. Explain why and how this time period influenced the theme.

A large rectangular area containing 30 horizontal lines, intended for writing or drawing.

CHICAGO WRITERS: Visionaries and Troublemakers

Find the answers to the clues below on the panels and the interactive map in **CHICAGO GALLERY** to fill in the crossword puzzle. Writers are referred to by their last names only.



Hint: The names of the eras on the map are on the top in yellow.

Across

2. Who “gave voice to the American Indian diaspora in Chicago?”
6. The Organization of Black American Culture is still prevalent today. Which era saw its formation?
9. The NBC Studio was located in the Merchandise Mart during this era
- 11: First best-seller written by an African American
13. Journalist whose favorite haunt was the Billy Goat Tavern
14. Film critic Ebert partnered with
15. The Newberry Library revived the Chicago Bughouse Square tradition in this era

Down

1. Her work “galvanized the anti-lynching movement”
3. The Chicago Defender was in the ____ era
4. She founded the South Side Community Center and DuSable Museum of African American History
5. First African American woman to produce a Broadway play
7. Who is the “most dangerous woman in America?”
8. Native American tribe Benny Bearskin was a member of
10. Name the era the Hull-House Theater was in business
12. Number of National Book Awards Saul Bellow won