

Image Set for Exploring Identity Through Photography

This image set has a photograph that serves as an inspiration image for each of the topic areas for the Identity Photo Journal.

Students may decide to show themselves and/or other people in the photographs they create for their Identity Photo Journals. They may choose to show a place or specific objects to convey their ideas without the presence of people.

Topic 1: Self Portrait

Topic 2: Relationships

Topic 3: Home/Neighborhood

Topic 4: Groups/Organizations

Topic 5: Larger World

Photo Journal Topic 1: Self-Portrait

Carol Antezana turns the camera lens toward herself, exploring her own identity as someone who is both Bolivian and a first-generation American. The term “las gringas” can be used by Spanish speakers to refer to women from the United States. It can also be translated to mean foreign women. Antezana says, “European colonization has left deep wounds on my family. I am just on my path of discovering my ancestral roots.” This portrait shows connections the artist is making to her identity as a Bolivian. She is wearing her hair in braids tied at the end with pom poms made of wool that comes from the alpaca. The dresses are similar to traditional dresses worn by Indigenous women in Bolivia. In this lesson, students consider how self-portraits can reveal or conceal parts of their identity.

Carol Antezana, *Las Gringas*, 2021, Digital photographic print, 20 x 16 in, The Phillips Collection, The Dreier Fund for Acquisitions, 2021



Photo Journal Topic 2: Relationships

Bruce Davidson is an American photographer known for his powerful documentary work. One of his most notable projects is “East 100th Street,” which documented life in a New York City neighborhood during the 1960s and focused on themes of community, social justice, and human resilience. In this photograph, Bruce Davidson captures the humanity of a father and his children, showcasing the power of their relationships in the context of their shared home. In this lesson, students consider how to portray significant relationships in their lives through photographs.

Bruce Davidson, *Man with Two Girls on Shoulders* (*East 100th Street Series*), between 1966 and 1968, Gelatin silver print, 11 x 14 in., The Phillips Collection, Gift of Saul E. Levi, 2013



Photo Journal Topic 3: Home/Neighborhood

Joel Meyerowitz is an American street, portrait, and landscape photographer who pioneered the use of color photography as an artform. He uses color and composition to capture the energy and beauty that can be found in everyday life. In this photograph, he shows a woman in her backyard garden harvesting tomatoes. In this lesson, students consider what elements and places in their daily lives to reveal through photography.

Joel Meyerowitz, *Vivian and Tomatoes*, 1983, Chromogenic print, 11 x 14 in., The Phillips Collection, Gift of Jordan and Devinah Finn, 2014.



Photo Journal Topic 4: Groups/Organizations

William Christenberry is known for his photography of the United States South. He came from Hale County, Alabama, where generations of his family had lived, so he frequently visited and photographed the natural landscapes and architecture there. The churches of Hale County, Alabama played a prominent role in the social structure of the community. In this lesson, students consider what groups and organizations have shaped their identities.

William Christenberry, *Church Across Early Cotton (Vertical View)*, Pickinsville, Alabama, 1964/printed 2000, The Phillips Collection, Gift of Lee and Maria Friedlander, 2002



Photo Journal Topic 5: Larger World

Marco Paoli creates a striking visual narrative of the beauty of Ethiopia and its people, documenting their customs and cultural traditions against the backdrop of Ethiopia's majestic geography. The Delanta Highlands are a mountainous region located in northern Ethiopia known for their rugged terrain, high elevation, and historical significance. The Delanta Highlands are part of the region of Ethiopia where the Amhara people live. Through his photography, Marco Paoli places his human subjects within the context of the larger world around them. In this lesson, students consider how to visually represent their place in the world.

Marco Paoli, *Delanta Highlands (from Ethiopia)*, 2015, Pigment print on paper, 16 1/2 x 23 3/8 in, The Phillips Collection, Gift of the artist, 2016

