

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Curatorial Acquisition

You are a curator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and your area of expertise is Japanese art. Your primary responsibility is the care, presentation, interpretation, and acquisition of works of art in the collection. This means that a work of art under the curator's care, and works under consideration for acquisition, must be thoroughly researched in order to ensure their authenticity, quality, and historical importance. Acquisitions—whether through purchase, gift, or bequest—should be guided by the mission of the museum as well as by the curator's expertise. Therefore, curators, having specialized knowledge, should be involved in the decision to acquire a work and then in presenting the object to their museum's acquisition committee.

Recently, an artwork has come up for sale that come from an impressive private collection. The museum's board would like you to purchase one of these objects, if indeed one of them falls into your curatorial area of Japanese art. They have asked you to choose the one that is most likely (a) Japanese and (b) from the Edo period.

The provenance data for the objects has gone missing or was lost long ago, which makes the desired acquisition harder to support. Still, you are an expert in the field, so you feel confident that you can decide whether or not the objects up for auction can fulfil your mission as a curator.

Using your expertise, you will need to make a pitch to the museum board about why *you should* purchase one of the three following objects based on the above criteria:

Make your case for one of the following objects up for auction. Next, create a forum post under “Japanese Curatorial Activity” forum topic. Then enter a descriptive title for your new post, and then type a post of at least 150 words that does the following:

1. First, write your curatorial notes for your chosen object in the following manner:
 - a. What is the object?
 - b. What is its subject matter most likely?
 - c. What is its style/representational manner?
 - d. How does it meet or not meet the criteria above?
2. Second, after you've completed your basic notes, you will need to explain to the acquisitions committee why they should acquire the object based on your curatorial needs. You are asked to do it in this fashion:
 - a. Acquire? Yes or no, with justification as to why you've made this decision.

Step 5. Please also comment on at least 2 other students' entries.

(Objects are below)

Object 1.



Object 2.



Object 3.

