STILL LIFE: HOW WOULD YOU BE REMEMBERED?

MATERIALS

• Virtual Tour of Chaos
• Photos of Artifacts
• Gallery of Honor Tour

BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW

Photos, stuffed animals and other memorabilia can help define who a person is and how he/she is remembered. While sifting through the rubble of the aftermath of the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, an image of the individual lives lost began to emerge. Watches, purses, coffee mugs, daily planners, and other personal objects discovered in the rubble provided clues to one’s work and personal life. These artifacts give us a glimpse not only into the 168 lives lost, but a snapshot of what life was like in 1995.

As you tour the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum, you will see unclaimed personal possessions as well as items whose owners have been identified. As you enter the Gallery of Honor, you can develop a connection to those who were killed by viewing their shadow boxes and learning what made each person unique. Each of the 168 shadow boxes contains one or more objects chosen by family members to represent the life of that person. Some boxes remain empty by family choice.

OBJECTIVES

• Students will understand that each life lost was someone who had a family, hobbies and likes and dislikes, just like they do.

• Students will observe the similarities and differences in the types of objects that were popular in and representative of 1995, as well as the types of objects that would be chosen today.
**Procedure**

- Discuss what might be placed in one of the Gallery of Honor shadow boxes.
- View Chaos Virtual Tour.
- Share photos of artifacts and discuss how technology, entertainment and other aspects of life have changed since 1995.

**Suggested Activities**

- What items make up your daily life? What is on your desk, in your backpack/purse, in your car, or in your room? Reflect on what those things say about you and how you are living your life.
- How would you like to be remembered? How would others remember you? Would there be a difference? Would you be proud of the way you were remembered? Create a still life – video, piece of art, or other type of artistic expression to represent your life.
- Many of the items found or are in the shadow boxes are representative of life in 1995. Make a time capsule and fill it with objects that define our current culture – the kinds of objects that would be placed in a shadow box for remembrance. Note similar themes, items, and the characteristics they would symbolize. Include a description of the process, your thoughts, feelings and conclusions. Be creative!