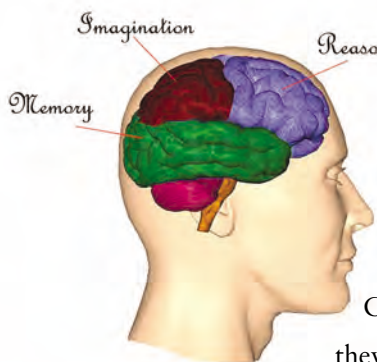


## JEFFERSONS THREE FACULTIES OF THE MIND

One of the finest of its time, Jefferson's personal library was diverse in subject matter and format. Structuring the organization of his collection after Francis Bacon's three faculties of the mind: Memory (History); Reason (Philosophy) and Imagination (Fine Arts), Jefferson, believed that this system facilitated the utilization of practical knowledge for "the use and benefit of men".

As museum educators we seek to accomplish the same goals as Jefferson — to provide rich resources to the public within a context that nurtures full comprehension and application of information. The Library of Congress uses the organizing principle from Jefferson's collection to piece together the vast collection of historical American artifacts displayed in its *American Treasures* exhibit.

After you have completed our gallery lesson, we



hope you will be able to better assess the effectiveness of Jefferson's plan at the Library of Congress. Do you think they should have used a different method?

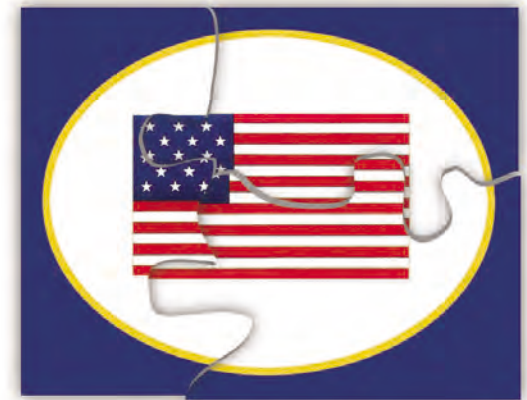
### FOR MORE INFORMATION

*American Treasures of the Library of Congress, Memory/Reason/Imagination* with an introduction by Garry Wills. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1997.

Cole, John Y. *Jefferson's Legacy: A Brief History of the Library of Congress*, Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1995.

*All artifact images were borrowed from [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov). Special thanks to Susan Mordan, education specialist, interpretive programs office, Library of Congress*

# PIECING TOGETHER THE HISTORY OF AMERICA



*The Organization of Knowledge at the Library of Congress*

MEP CLASS OF 2004  
ANH-THU CUNNION · KATE MURRAY ·  
KATHARINE PASTIDES · KRISTEN SHELDON

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
AMERICAN TREASURES GALLERY  
JULY 17, 2003

# FROM THE MIND TO THE MUSEUM...

## To the West



*"It is the duty of every good citizen to use all opportunities which occur to him for preserving documents relating to the history of our county."*

– Thomas Jefferson

The onset of the 19th century heralded an age of exploration and discovery for the United States of America. Driven by dreams of wealth, self-sufficiency and freedom, adventures like Newton Chittenden set off to conquer the untamed West. Souvenirs — like this Haida knife — document his encounters with the indigenous people he met during his journey along the Pacific Coast.

*Why are Chittenden's belongings important in the telling of the history of the United States?*

MEMORY

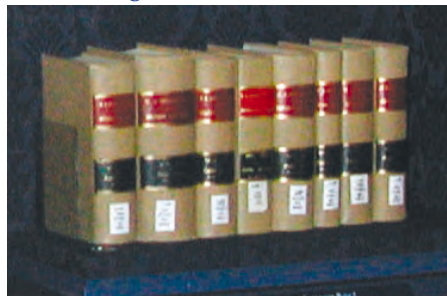
*"Reason enables mankind to understand and explore the physical world, to un-cover the laws of nature and, at times, even to master them in order to create a better life"*

– Thomas Jefferson

Jefferson's concept of reason speaks to human nature and empowerment. The Library of Congress included the collection of judicial briefs pertaining to *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, as evidence of the struggles Americans faced in an effort to resolve its Civil Rights conflicts.

*What does placing importance on "reason" say about the American people?*

## Civil Rights



REASON

## Literary Arts



*"Isn't imagination a precious thing? It peoples the earth with all manner of wonders, strange beasts and birds, angels, cherubim and seraphim... It makes things wonderful and beautiful."*

-Mark Twain

"Imagination" embraces all of the creative pursuits of Americans through time. From L. Frank Baum's homegrown fairytale, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* to the jazz of Duke Ellington, creativity is part of the fabric of American history.

*What other examples of entertainment or popular culture could be represented in this section of the American Treasures Gallery?*

IMAGINATION

# MEP CLASS OF 2004



(YOUR NAME)

MEMORY

REASON

IMAGINATION

*Create an exhibit that best represents you as a member of our class.* In the appropriate spaces, draw three objects that best represent the three faculties of your mind. What do you think audiences viewing your exhibit would think about your life based on these objects?