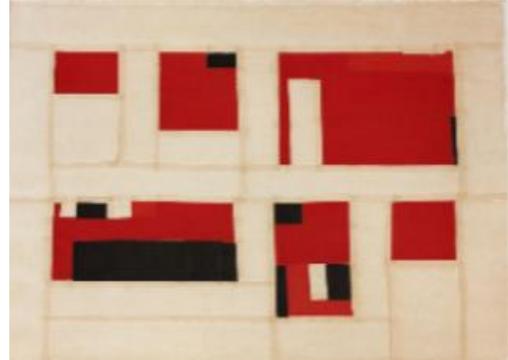




Thinking about Community

For Grades 6-8

In this resource, we will explore the importance of community. We will think about the communities we have in our neighborhood as well those farther away from where we live. We will explore the value of building community. We will close by inviting you to think about the actions we can take to create and nourish community.



What to do:

1. Use the thinking grid in [Handout A](#) to think through the communities most connected to you and your world today.
2. Sometimes people work in artistic communities. In 2019 The Huntington acquired 32 colorful etchings made by an African American women's collective from Gee's Bend, Alabama. The etchings capture the image of the kinds of quilts the women make. Look at the examples on [Handout B](#) and answer the questions.
3. Throughout time, people have commented on the communities they live in and have imagined better worlds. One written text is Thomas More's *Utopia* from 1516. Look at [Handout C](#) and make notes on what you discover. 'Utopia' is Greek for 'nowhere' or 'no place'—what was More's purpose in imagining this community? Write at least two sentences to explain your thoughts.

Show and Share:

1. Throughout time, people have made quilts to share and celebrate with their communities. Sometimes quilts are made in collaboration with other people. Design a quilt for a community to show what is important to you right now. Who will the quilt be for? What will you call it? Sketch your design as a series of at least eight squares, just like the squares of a quilt. The squares can have a pattern, or you could have a different image or symbol in each square. Need inspiration? Look at this [quilt](#) from The Huntington Art Museum. What do you think it tells us?
2. Schools are closed and students are learning from home right now. Maybe that has made you think a bit about the kind of learning environment you like and dislike. Use your imagination to draw, design, or build your ideal learning community.





Want to learn more?

Watch this [video](#) to find out about local artists who found inspiration in Thomas More's *Utopia* at The Huntington.

Watch this [video](#) to find out more about the Gee's Bend women's collective.

Want to make a difference?

Think about what you could do to support someone in your community right now. Talk with friends and family about what you can do and how you can do it.

Share and celebrate your work by emailing us at Teachers@huntington.org

This resource has some alignment with:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCWR.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

NCAS Anchor Standard 1-3 Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work, organize and develop artistic ideas and work, refine and complete artistic work.

NCAS Anchor Standard 8 Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.





Handout A

In your opinion, why are communities important? List some ideas here:

Who is important to you in your local community? (Friends/family, groups and organizations?) List some of them here:

Me and the Communities Around Me



Are there communities or people in other states who are important to you? List them here:

Are there communities across the world you would like to be connected with? List them here:

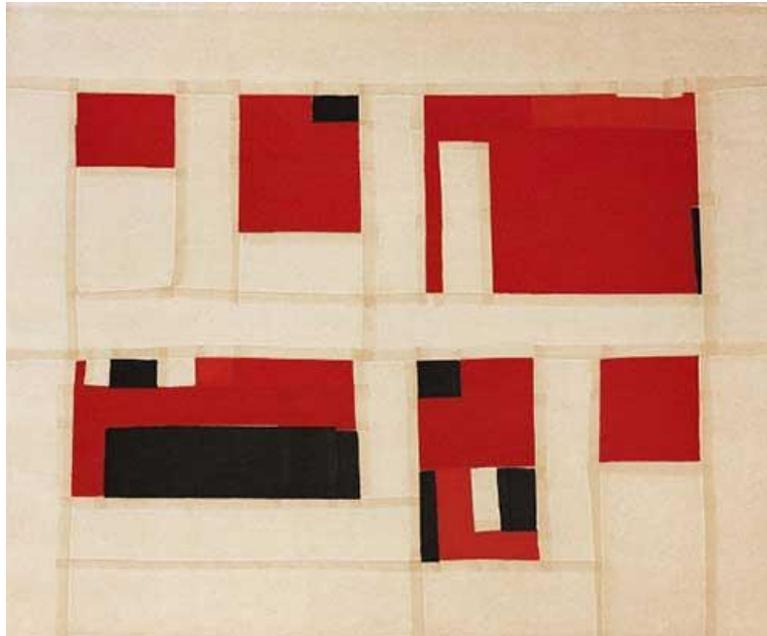
Summarize:

1. What do these communities tell you about what you value?
2. What do these communities tell you about the ways in which people connect and support one another?





Handout B



Example 1

Maker: Louisiana Bendolph

Date: 2007 **Acquired:** 2019

Dimensions: image: 19 × 22 5/8 in. (48.3 × 57.5 cm.)

1. What do you see? Write a list here:

2. Imagine you are the creator of this. What title would you give it?





Example 2

Maker: Mary Lee Bendolph

Date: 2014 **Acquired:** 2019

Dimensions: 22 3/4 × 22 1/2 in. (57.8 × 57.2 cm.)

1. What do you see? Write a list here:
2. How is Example 2 different or similar to Example 1?
3. Imagine you are the creator of this. What title would you give it?

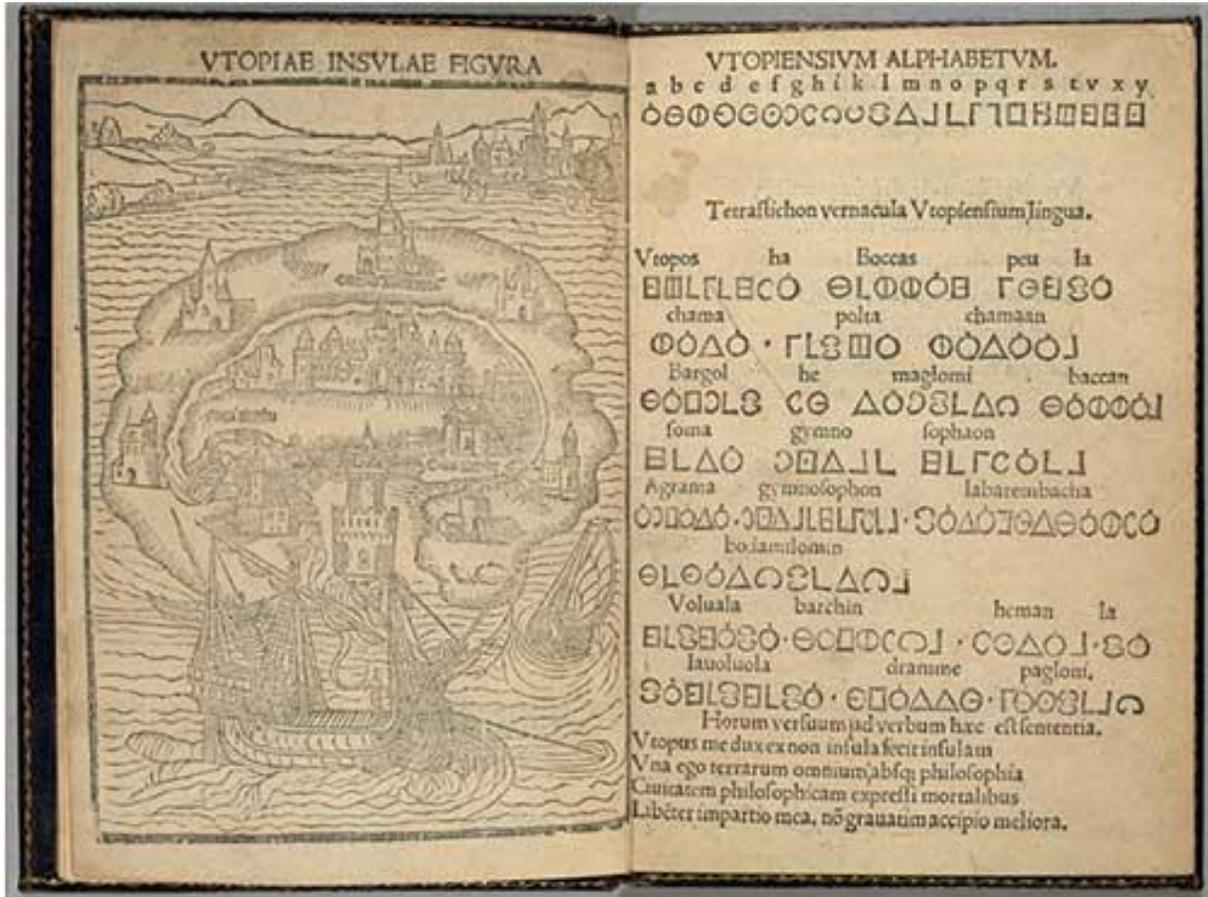
Find out what the real titles are in The Huntington Art Museum catalog: [Example 1](#), [Example 2](#)

Think and Write: Did you like the titles the artists gave to each?





Handout C



Sir Thomas More (1478-1535), *Utopia*, 1516. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.





Close up of the fictional "Isle of Utopia"

Ref: <https://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/large126618.html>

1. What hopes and dreams is the artist trying to communicate in this image?
2. What questions does it leave you with?

