



Connecting Everyday Objects to Bigger Systems

(Adapted from *Out of Eden Learn's* (OOEL) Curriculum, *Core Learning Journey 2: The Past and the Global*)

What: An activity exploring what you can learn by looking closely at objects and thinking about how things that surround us connect to bigger systems

Where: In your home or local environment; indoors or outdoors

For whom: Preschool age through adult, working individually, in partners, or in groups

Timeframe: 30-90 minutes; This activity can be done multiple times with different objects

Facilitation: Self-facilitated, or lightly facilitated by a peer/teacher/caregiver

ACTIVITY

Listen to [this audio](#) of Shari from the Out of Eden Learn team looking closely at an object and describing all the features she sees.

SYSTEM: *A group of interacting parts that move or work together to make something happen.*

Choose an object in your home, classroom, or neighborhood. **Look closely** at the object for at least five minutes and note as many features as you can. **Write** a list of what you notice about the object.

Write any questions or 'wonders' that you have about your object. Here are some of Shari's questions:

- How are pencils made, and who makes them? How do you get the lead inside the pencil? (Is it really lead?) What is the history of the pencil? What kind of wood are pencils made of, and where does it come from? How does making pencils impact the environment?

Think about some different systems that your object might be part of. Here are some examples:

- Pencils are probably made in a **factory that has a system** for making them.
- Pencils are connected to a **bigger system of writing**, that includes other things like paper, people's hands (to write with), notepads, erasers.
- Pencils are connected to a **system of trade** because they are sold around the world.
- Pencils are connected to a **system of human communication** because we write letters.

Choose one of the systems connected to the object and try to imagine the system in action. **Draw** a diagram that shows the different parts of the system and how they might interact. If you want, you can do some research about the object, or the system it's a part of, before drawing your diagram. [Here is a slideshow](#) of sample diagrams to get you inspired.

SHARE ONLINE (optional)

- **Follow** OOEL on Twitter and Instagram: @OutofEdenLearn.
- **Share** on social media photos of the object you looked at, your diagram, and your reflections using #EdenLearn!



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