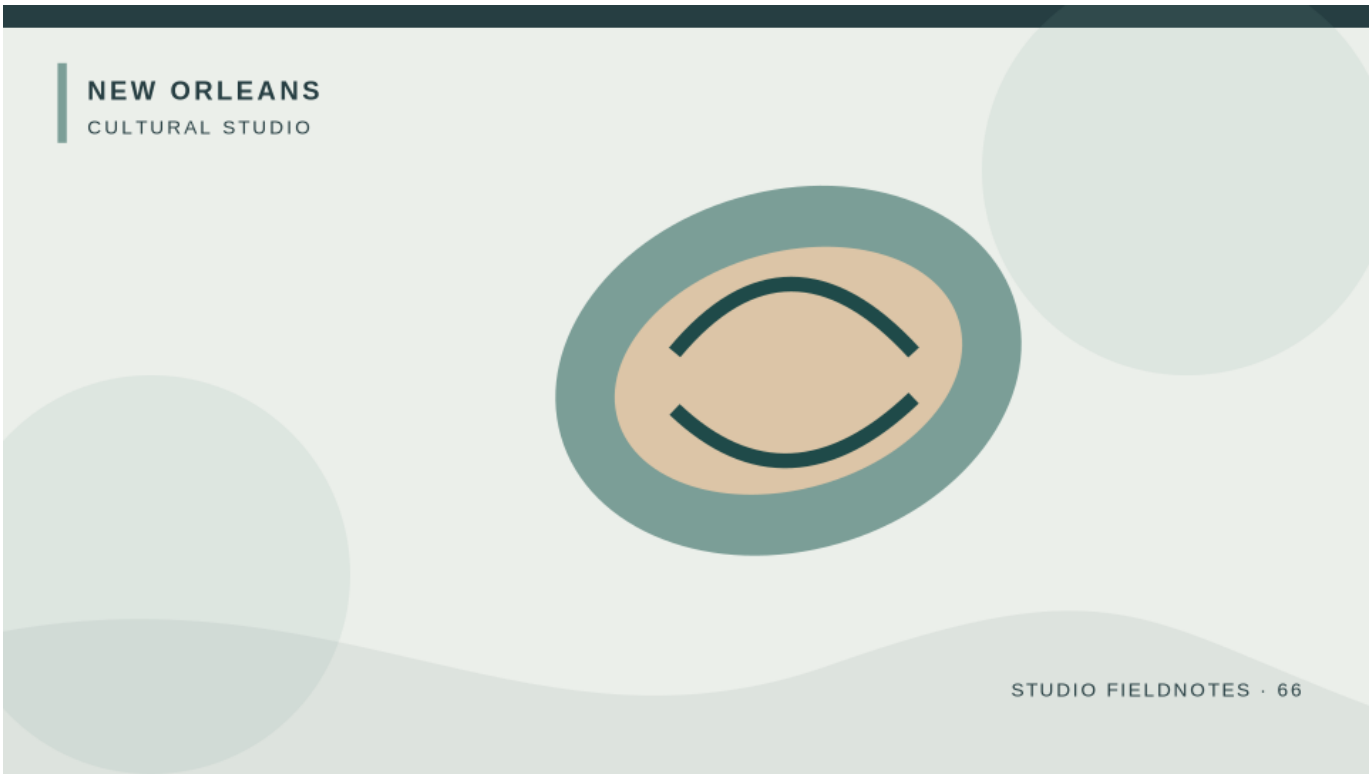
Zulu Coconut: An Object Biography

NEW ORLEANS CULTURAL STUDIO | LESSON 66 | GRADES 6–8 | STUDENT STUDIO BRIEF



Your challenge

Use institutional sources to analyze a decorated Zulu coconut as an artifact; design a museum label and an original alternative commemorative object.

Three questions before you begin

1. Who created the local art, object, or practice we are studying?
2. What will you make that is distinctly your own?
3. How will your audience know the meaning of your choices?

Investigate, sketch, choose

Collect two references with their creators or sources. Draw three small alternatives. Circle the one that best meets your idea and explain why.

Make and improve

Make an artifact label with evidence and an original object design. During critique, identify a visual strength, ask one authentic question, and revise at least one part of the work.

Cultural care

Discuss racist performance histories with age-appropriate care; never reproduce blackface or caricatures.

Studio planning space

Reference 1 (name, creator/organization, source): _____

Reference 2 (name, creator/organization, source): _____

Thumbnail 1: what will the viewer notice?

Thumbnail 2: what will the viewer notice?

Thumbnail 3: what will the viewer notice?

Reflect

I changed _____ because _____. The source that helped me understand this work is _____. Next time I will improve _____ by _____.

Caption your final work with your title, media, main idea, and attributions.