

# Adult Info Blurb

Explaining the reality and harshness that is child migration is uncommon, if not taboo, in school systems, but it is important and archaeology can help.

Some children, don't even learn about child migration but others are living it, especially along the US/Mexico border where child migration has only increased in recent years. As of March 18, 2021 there were over 9,200 children in the custody of HHS. The majority of these children were teenagers while hundreds more were under the age of 12. Most cross at the Texas border in the Rio Grande Valley and if these children are not caught and sent back, then they must withstand the inhumane conditions that HHS has set up as a temporary solution. Some may make it out of holding to enter into the American school system where their life journey isn't being talked about at all. They are the living proof that US immigration policy needs to change, and that awareness needs to be raised in schools because this is not an 'adult problem' it is a child's reality.

Archaeology is one way to teach other children about this crisis and the experiences some of their peers go or have gone through. By studying a belonging and learning about where it came from, who owned it, how it ended up in this place now, you can uncover the narrative of the owner. I have created an activity that is an easy bridge into having these conversations because it is centered around your own family's migration history rather than somebody else's. It is designed to make children curious about migration as a topic through the means of a belonging, which seems less daunting than delving right into some of the harsh realities if they have never been exposed before to them before. The activity takes you through the same fundamental steps that professional archaeologists use to learn about belongings they find.

They find a belonging and interact with it: touch it, feel its weight, understand its fragility. They practice their observational and writing skills when they describe and/or draw it. They can then learn oral history by asking where it came from and whose it was. Lastly, they can engage with that higher-level analysis through questioning how their story is different or similar from another peer's.

Another teaching tool I want to point out is Jason De Leon's traveling Undocumented Migration Project exhibit. De Leon is a famous archaeologist who uses ethnography, archaeology, visual anthropology, and forensic science to understand the social process of migration and the violence of US immigration policy today. His contributions to the UMP exhibit seek to raise awareness about clandestine movement between Latin America and the United States. The exhibit is scheduled to come to Portland State winter 2022 [more details will come out soon].

I sincerely urge you to visit the UMP website or the traveling exhibit next year and begin to have those conversations with your children about the reality of their peers' lives [there are links below for more information]. **No change can be made when what is going on isn't even talked about.** We must start young, as children are the next generation with an incredible capacity to be compassionate and empathetic--they lack the normalized biases and restrictions that we as adults carry with us and emit--and create a space and energy of inclusiveness and hope, which is something that this world needs and all children alike can foster.

# Adult Info Resources

## Jason De León Resources

- UMP: [anthro.ucla.edu/person/jason-de-leon/](http://anthro.ucla.edu/person/jason-de-leon/)
- [Using Anthropology To Follow The Migrant Trail De Leon](#)
- [youtube The Undocumented Migration Project](#)
- [UCLA Jason De Leon Publications](#)
- [Archaeology Magazine: The Journey to El Norte, De Leon](#)

## How to talk to your Kids about Immigration:

- [How To Talk To Your Child About Immigration, Recommendation s For Parents](#)
- [How To Talk To Kids About Immigration PJ Library](#)

## Books for Kids About the Immigrant Experience in America:

- [Books About Immigration for Kids](#)

## Updates on the Mexican/American Border Crisis/ News Articles

- [nytimes Smithsonian, Migrant Children Drawings](#)
- [USDetention of Child Migrants](#)
- [apnews US Mexico Border Crisis Explained](#)
- [nytimes On Mexico's Border with US Desperation As Migrant Traffic](#)

## Journal Articles on Archaeology and Migration

- [sagepub Children's Migration To The United States Evidence From The Mexican And Latin American Migration Projects](#)

## Resources in Portland

- [Dreamer Resources At PSU](#)
- [SUN Schools](#)
- [irco.org](http://irco.org)

## Video's on Archaeology and Migration

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qK63oPB2Eio>

