



VIRAL

Reading Artefacts

Process

Elderberry



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Each learner will find a primary source of a person who is at least 20 years older than the learner and ask for an artefact from that person's youth. If a primary source is not available, the learner may use an artefact from a Museum.

The objective of the task is for every learner to discover an artefact from an earlier generation and find out the following information as part of historical research. Learners may either give a 3-5 minute presentation showing the artefact and answering the following questions, or write a 2-4 page research paper answering the same questions. Learner must cite all sources.

1. What is the artefact's name?
2. When was it used?
3. How was it used? Demonstrate
4. Who used it?
5. How many years was this object in use? Is it still used?
6. What was it made of then? If it is still used, what is it made of now?
7. Specifically, describe the object. Size? Design?
8. Does the artefact have a present day use? Is there something similar today that has replaced it?
9. Where would this artefact have been found? Why? Does the artefact have relevance to a specific area or region?
10. Who was the inventor of the object? (this one is extra credit due to its difficulty in finding the answer)
11. Any added information will improve the student's grade so feel free to be creative in your information gathering.

Some tips to help with the task:

Investigating an artefact

Physical Features: What does it look like, feel like, smell like, and sound like? What colour, shape, scale and size is it? What is it made of? Is it a natural material such as bone or stone? Is it made of artificial material such as plastic or glass? Is it one material or several? Is it complete or just a fragment? Has it been altered, repaired or adapted? Is it worn? Has it perished over time?

Construction: How has it been made or constructed? Was it made by machine or by hand? One piece in a mould or several pieces fixed together? Is it constructed by one person or several? How has it been fixed together: glue, solder, rivets, welding? Does it have a handle, gears, levers, wires, a sharp edge or fasteners?

Function: Why was it made, for what purpose? How has it been used? Has the function changed through time? Can you find evidence of use? Has it been used a lot or sparingly?



Design: Does the object do the job it was designed for well? Where the best or most relevant materials chosen? Is it aesthetically pleasing? Does it have patterns or decoration on it? What were the constraints of the designer at the time that it was made?

Value: What is/was the object worth? In terms of money? In symbolic terms? In sentimental terms? In social terms? In historical terms?

The people behind the object: What can you find out about the people behind the object? Who do you think made and used it? What does it tell us about their social standing, social customs, their taste, status, aspirations, sentiments or feelings, their economy or wealth, their skills, technologies and resources, their beliefs and religion? Who found or discovered it? Who conserved it?





