

JUNIOR HISTORIANS

That Belongs in a Museum

We All Have (And Create) Artifacts!

Artifacts are objects made by human beings. We place artifacts in museums because they represent a culture or an important historical event. Whether you know it or not, artifacts are all around you! It's weird to think about, but common household items that we use every day will be the artifacts people of the future examine to learn more about our how we lived.

As Junior Historians, we think it's important that you know how to identify, analyze, interpret, preserve (keep safe), and display your artifacts. Use this sheet of special tips and tricks to learn how to examine historical artifacts and grow your own personal museum collection.

Get to Know Your Artifact

Examine your artifact and answer the following questions:

- What is the artifact?
- How old is the artifact?
- What materials were used to make the artifact?
- Where did the artifact come from?
- How long has the artifact been in your house or with your family?
- What makes the artifact so special?
- What kind of museum do you think might want to collect the artifact some day?
- What will you do with the artifact to keep it safe and protected so people can look at it 200 years from now?

Resources

Check out these websites to dig deeper into how to analyze artifacts.

- The National Archives created great worksheets to help you analyze artifacts. Do you think you need the [beginner](#) (novice) or [experienced](#) (intermediate) worksheet?
- If your special item is a photograph, document, poster, map, piece of art, or something else, the National Archives also has [other worksheets](#) you can use.
- Create a display box to showcase your artifact by following the directions from [Luci Creative](#).

