

Museum Curator a.k.a. Artifact Detective

Museums & Archives preserve **ARTIFACTS** so that people today and, in the future, can learn about people, places, and events through time.

ARTIFACTS are things – books, furniture, tools, clothing, letters – that we use as evidence to help understand those people, places, and events.

CURATORS work in Museums & Archives and care for **ARTIFACTS**.

Part of their job is to research and write about **ARTIFACTS**. They do this by asking questions like:

What does it look like?

What is it made of/from?

When is it from?

What is it used for?

Who made this?

Why did they make it?

Sometimes those questions lead to even more questions, and that's O.K. it's part of research.

Using this worksheet you'll become a **CURATOR** in training. Use it to make observations and ask question about your **ARTIFACT**.

DESCRIBING ARTIFACTS

Artifact Name: _____

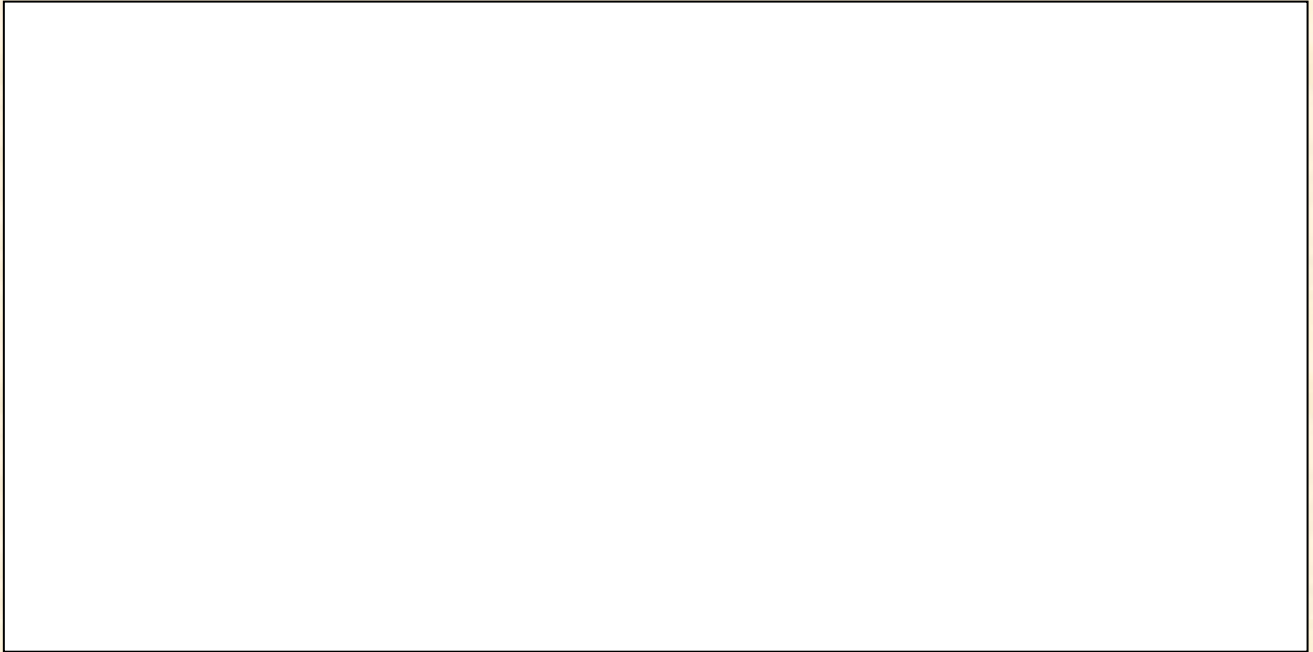
Scarf, hammer, nail, doorstop – naming an artifact helps tell others what it is.

Describe your artifact: *Look at your artifact and then close your eyes and think about what it looks like – shape, color, size. Use your mental image to create a description.*

What is it made of (*plastic, glass, metal, wood*)? _____

DRAW YOUR ARTIFACT

Making a drawing of your artifact can help you find details and clues about it. Curators also use drawings to show where an ARTIFACT might be damaged or broken.



Where was it made? _____

Are any parts missing? _____

Do you know which ones? _____

Who made this and why? _____

Is this machine made? _____

When was it made?

Before 1820 More than 200 years ago	1820-1870 More than 150 years ago	1870-1920 More than 100 years ago	1920-1970 More than 50 years ago	1970 – today Less than 50 years ago
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How was this artifact used? Who used it? What makes you think so?
