

Looking for a way to engage with your learner more deeply through our videos? Use these guiding questions to dig a little deeper as you explore Field Museum collections and research at home!

ASK AN ARTIFACT



Run time: 5:08

Suggested age level: elementary grades, tweens and teens

Essential question: How do objects tell us about people and civilizations of the past?

Key vocabulary:

Artifact – an object made by a human being

Archaeology – the study of past human life and activities

Anthropology – the study of human societies and cultures

Guiding questions:

1. What tools and strategies do archeologists and anthropologists use to learn about people who lived in the past?
2. What challenges do you think scientists face in collaborating with each other to learn about the past? What are the benefits of working together?
3. What would an archeologist in the future learn about you by examining the objects in your room?

Take action:

Learn from your own artifacts.

1. Gather Artifacts: Find three objects from different areas of your home.
2. Make observations: Use your senses to explore the objects. What do you see, feel, hear, and smell? (We don't recommend taste!)
3. Compare and contrast: How are the objects similar or different from one another?
4. Make a claim: What do your observations tell you about these objects? For example, what is their purpose? Where and how were they made? What do they tell you about the person or people who use them?