



Below you will find the mystery artifacts that will be presented and discussed with your students. The objects we use in our class will be from our teaching collection and, therefore, may appear slightly different to your students when we connect with you. We want to make sure you know exactly what you will be learning about so, please take a minute to familiarize yourself with each artifact. Enjoy!

Civil War Medicine



Object Name: Pill Roller

Object Use: During the 19th century, doctors would painstakingly make each pill by hand. Each ingredient was measured and weighed, then ground using a mortar and pestle. A binding agent was needed so the pharmacist would add soap, milk powder or glucose syrup to produce a paste. Then, it was rolled in to a “pipe” shape and placed onto the pill roller (a.k.a. “pill tile”) where it would be cut into round, equal pieces. The finished product would be set aside to dry before being packed for transport to the patient.

Object Year: 1800s-1900s

Object Name: Conical Trephine

Object Use: This surgeon's tool was used to drill holes into the skull of their patient. This object was employed when needing to relieve swelling in the brain, or to remove a bullet from the brain.

Object Year: 1800s



Object Name: Wooden Stethoscope

Object Use: The idea for this object first came about in 1816 when a French doctor needed a way to examine a patient more thoroughly. Made from wood, this is one of the earliest versions of a stethoscope! They were, in fact, designed to be used with one ear to better listen to the heart, lungs and blood flow in the human body. It was surprisingly effective at the time. It wasn't until 1851 that this device was improved upon when it became binaural, or able to be used with both ears.

Object Year: early 1800s



Object Name: Bone File

Object Use: The name of this object gives away its use. After an amputation was completed on a patient, this bone file was used to smooth the surface of the bone that was cut through. It was also used to lift fragments of bone, that couldn't be salvaged, from the wound. This assisted in the healing process for the patient, therefore lessening the likelihood of infection. This tool was usually used in conjunction with a conical trephine.

Object Year: 1800s



Mystery Artifact Questionnaire

This sheet will act as a space to keep your thoughts organized as you study the artifacts in front of you. As you view the objects, go through the questions and answer as many questions as you can. Have fun!

1. Is the object complete? Answer **yes** or **no** for each object.

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:

If not, what may be missing for each one?

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2. Of what material(s) are the objects made? There can be more than one material!

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:

How can you tell?

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3. Are the materials natural or manufactured?

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:

4. Were these objects assembled by hand or machine?

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:

Why do you think that?

5. Who do you think would have used these objects?

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:

6. When do you think the objects were made? What decade or century?

Years:

Why do you think that?

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7. How much value do you think was placed on these objects by the people who used them?

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:

8. Can you use the object(s) for anything today? If yes, what?

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:

9. What information do you wish you had about these objects?

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We think the object is -

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4: