



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!

Frontier Life



Object Name: Candle Mold

Object Use: This tool allowed you to make twelve candles at the same time. By hand dipping each candle, it could take hours and this object cut that time by great lengths. Candle molds finally went out of use in the late 19th century when gas, kerosene and electric lighting began to make life easier.

Object Year: 1700-late 1800s



Object Name: Cotton/Wool Card

Object Use: “Carding” refers to the process of preparing raw cotton (or wool) for spinning into yarn. After the cleaned cotton is placed on your card, you slowly pull the material down towards the ground across the metal teeth, combing the raw material into soft fibers. Once you remove the material from the card, it would be rolled into a long, snake-like shape. Now, the cotton is ready to spin into yarn.

Object Year: Late 1700s-late 1800s



Object Name: Mortar and Pestle

Object Use: This object is made from porcelain and would have been used to crush herbs for medicines or ointments. It could also be used to crush herbs, nuts, oats and corn for cooking.

Object Year: 1700s-1800s



Object Name: Chamber Pot

Object Use: Chamber pots have been around for thousands of years and can be found all over the world. In fact, in certain countries, these pots were still being used all the way to the middle of the 20th century. This pot would usually be kept under one's bed with a lid or thin cloth covering its opening.

Object Year: 1700s-1800s



Object Name: Butter Mold

Object Use: This is called a "butter mold" because it allows you to mold soft butter into interesting shapes. You simply place the butter inside its "shell," letting it form to the rounded shape. When you were ready to serve the butter, you would push the wooden rod slowly down until the butter popped completely out of the shell. This action would simultaneously transfer the carved pattern onto the butter.

Object Year: 18th-19th Century



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:
Object 5:

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:
Object 5:

How can you tell?

3. Are the materials natural or manufactured?

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:
Object 5:

4. Were these objects assembled by hand or machine?

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:
Object 5:

Why do you think that?

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

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:
Object 5:

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

Years:

Why do you think that?

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:
Object 5:

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

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:
Object 4:
Object 5:

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:
Object 5: