



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!

Tennessee at the Turn of the Century



Object Name: Phonograph Cylinder

Object Use: This was invented by Thomas Edison in 1877. His first version of this “recording device” had a wax-like surface that used a needle to make indentations on its surface as the vibrations from a person’s voice triggered its movement. Once you had recorded your message, a second needle would pass over the holes and repeat the message out loud.

Object Year: Late 1800s-Early 1900s



Object Name: Wooden Textile Spool

Object Use: This object emerged with the industrial revolution. Before this wooden spool was created, it was very difficult for textile mills to control the large heaps of thread lying on the factory floor waiting to be woven into fabric. It allowed factory floors to be better organized and allowed more material to be used in factories for mass production cloth.

Object Year: 1900s



Object Name: Ice Hook

Object Use: In the 19th and 20th centuries, ice was considered a luxury item that could only be afforded by the upper class and very wealthy. One method of gathering ice involved sawing squares of ice out of frozen ponds and extracting them with the help of these tongs. Ice delivery became an extremely lucrative business after people saw the advantages of having ice at home; they were able to keep meat and dairy products fresh for longer and began to eliminate the need for canning and heavy salting of meat. In the 1920s, "ice boxes" became popular and involved small, zinc or lead lined decorative boxes that would store one block of ice at a time.

Object Year: Late 1800-Early 1900s



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:

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:

How can you tell?

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3. Are the materials natural or manufactured?

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:

4. Were these objects assembled by hand or machine?

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:

Why do you think that?

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

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:

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:

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

Object 1:
Object 2:
Object 3:

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: