

# LEARNING WITH...

## Artefacts

Artefacts provide a fascinating insight into the past and allows us to develop a deeper historical understanding.

Use mystery boxes or suitcases and create mini museums in the classroom. Talk about how historical items can tell us about the past. Teach children how to handle the artefacts and learn how they can deteriorate over time and why replicas are a good alternative.



Here are ten activities to try using the artefacts. Have fun.

### 1. Lucky Dip

Pull out one item from box, bag, case. Child describes this historical artefact to another child, who has their back to them/is blind folded, without saying name of artefact. Describe what they see, feel, smell, hear.

### 2. Story boxes, boards, maps

Children devise stories, descriptions or explanations about the people who made, used, owned the objects.

### 3. Create own artefacts boxes

Make drawings and models to replicate the artefacts and create own information sheets.

### 4. Let the object talk!

Image and describe the stages in the artefact's life. Describe the making, using, losing, and finding of the object. Question the objects journey- the owner, its purpose, experiences.

### 5. Be an expert

Provide information about the role of experts. Adopt role of archaeologist, museum manager, documentary maker, teacher, journalist, conservator, Antique dealer. Take on a specific job and write a piece about the object for the class museum.

### 6. Role-play

Using the object create a short drama piece or frozen picture. Use mime, movement, gesture, and perhaps speech. Learn about people and events in the past by hot seating someone and asking them questions about an artefact of their choice.

# LEARNING WITH...

## Artefacts

Piece together the story of the artefact through close observations, questioning and linking facts.



### 7. Interview

Handle and discuss objects and interview their former owner about the objects. Asking questions.

### 8. Classroom Museum

Take photos of your item and create small laminated cards with information on that can be put into your classroom museum.

### 9. Ask Questions

What is the object?  
How does it feel?  
How might the object have been used?  
What does it look like?  
What is the age of the object?

### 10. Getting Close up!

Make close observations and draw and describe the objects.  
Ask the children for initial ideas about what it could be used for, what questions they have about the object.

Where did the object come from?  
What is the value of the object?  
Write questions you want to find out about the object.

Use our 'Exploring Artefacts Sheet' to look closely at the artefacts and share findings together.