



# USING GRANDMA'S OBJECTS



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# WHAT DO YOU TAKE WITH YOU AND WHAT DO YOU LEAVE BEHIND?

Objects can become precious. If you were forced to leave your home with only a few limited belongings. What would you take and what would you choose to leave behind? Would you only take practical things or those with sentimental value?

Ask your Grandmother what she chose to take with her and why.

Ask your grandmother what she left behind that she misses.

We all use objects as a way of understanding our world. That is why museums display their collections of artefacts. A motorcycle, a telephone, a carriage, a knife and fork, all conjure up images of the people who used them and the lives they led. Even the most mundane objects can reveal a range of information if we ask the right questions

This task is about Reading Artefacts or real objects.

Why can't we use pictures you may ask?

In most cases we can almost certainly learn something from reading pictures or photographs or watching a video.

However, the following aspects may be lost:

- Detail, Exact colouring, Smell, Taste
- Ambience, sense of location
- Size, scale, weight, mass
- Texture, shape, marks of manufacture, 3-dimensional design
- Sense of history or age
- Clues to the story behind the object

Your task is to collect pictures of or real artefacts from your grandmothers and to find out and document the story of the people who, owned, used or cherished it!

1. Make a mini museum of the objects and pictures. Each learner is to choose three personal objects from the grandmothers to tell the story about them and their lives. Only 3D objects or real photographs are allowed for this exercise. No digital photos, videos, or PPT to be used
2. Arrange the objects on your bench and give them labels
3. Prepare a 5-minute presentation of your objects for your visitors

4. Decide if they can touch, taste, smell etc the objects or not
5. Decide if you are going to tell a story, ask questions i.e. Is your presentation a monologue or a dialogue?

Be a guide of your display

1. Chose an object from the display.
2. Write a display text.
3. Use the list of questions in the document "reading Artefacts" and answer as many as you can about your object.

The questions are divided into sub categories:

A, Physical Features

B, Construction

C, Function

D, Design

E, Value

4. Use the internet to research more about your object.

Prepare a display about a person who used, owned or cherished the object.

# COLLECTING AND TELLING STORIES WITH GRANDMA'S SPECIAL OBJECTS

## USING ARTEFACTS OR CAN WE USE PICTURES?

In most cases we can almost certainly learn something from reading pictures or photographs or watching a video.



Shoe belonging to Hinda Cohen 1942 – 1944 © Yad Vashem Museum

However, the following aspects may be lost.

- Detail, Exact colouring
- Smell, taste
- Ambience, sense of location
- Size, scale, weight, mass
- Texture, shape, marks of manufacture, 3-dimensional design
- Sense of history or age
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# INVESTIGATING AN ARTEFACT

| What is the artefact? | What is it made of? | What is it used for? | What story can you tell about it? | Is this the murder weapon? Why do you think so? | Is it the oldest artefact? Why do you think so? | Is it the priceless artefact? Why do you think so? |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
|                       |                     |                      |                                   |   |   |  |
|                       |                     |                      |                                   |   |   |  |

**Physical Features:** What does it look like, feel like, smell like, sound like? What colour, shape, scale and size is it? What is it made of? Is it a natural material such as bone or stone? Is it made of artificial material such as plastic or glass? Is it one material or several? Is it complete or just a fragment? Has it been altered, repaired or adapted? Is it worn? Has it perished over time?

**Construction:** How has it been made or constructed? Was it made by machine or by hand? One piece in a mould or several pieces fixed together? Is it constructed by one person or several? How has it been fixed together: glue, solder, rivets, welding? Does it have a handle, gears, levers, wires, a sharp edge or fasteners?

**Function:** Why was it made, for what purpose? How has it been used? Has the function changed through time? Can you find evidence of use? Has it been used a lot or sparingly?

**Design:** Does the object do the job it was designed for well? Where the best or most relevant materials chosen? Is it aesthetically pleasing? Does it have patterns or decoration on it? What were the constraints of the designer at the time that it was made?

**Value:** What is/was the object worth? In terms of money? In symbolic terms? In sentimental terms? In social terms? In historical terms?

**The people behind the object:** What can you find out about the people behind the object? Who do you think made and used it? What does it tell us about their social standing, social customs, their taste, status, aspirations, sentiments or feelings, their economy or wealth, their skills, technologies and resources, their beliefs and religion? Who found or discovered it? Who conserved it?