



Thinking like an Archaeologist: A K-12 Looking Guide Created in Collaboration with the Oregon Archaeological Society

Archaeology is the scientific study of the ancient and recent human past through material remains. The archaeological record consists of artifacts, structures and monuments, cultural landscapes, and other evidence of human activity.

You are an archaeologist looking at many splendid artifacts from Queen Nefertari's tomb and the surrounding area. You are presented with the opportunity to analyze one object.

What is this object?

Observation and Research

1. Spend 30 seconds looking closely at the object. Then, write a list of 10 or more words describing what you see. Consider the object's shape, texture, size, color, signs of wear or damage, anything that you observe about the object.
2. Draw a picture of the object. Think about the perspective you choose and the information you gain or miss based on that perspective. Consider creating more than one drawing, if you can see the object from multiple angles.
3. Add more words to your list with any additional details you observed while drawing.
4. Read the exhibition text. Every object has a label placed nearby which includes the name of the object, the artist's name (when known), the date it was created, the materials from which it was made, and its number within the museum's collection (like the number on a library book).
For example:

Stela of Kel

Deir el-Medina

New Kingdom, 19th dynasty, reign of Ramesses II (about 1279–1213 BCE)

Painted limestone

Cat. 1636

You'll find additional information on the wall panels in each gallery.

Consider the Following Questions

1. Where was the object found? (Think about specific locations such as in front of a house, in a tomb, in a temple, near a water source, near a basket, near a fire pit, next to a sandal.)
2. Why was it there?
3. How was it used?
4. Who used this object? What education or skills did they have?
5. What is it made of?
6. What does this item tell you about how people lived? What were their beliefs? What tools did they use? What climate did they live in?
7. What else do you want to know about this object?

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