

How to Look at Objects (Elementary)

Much of our history is recorded through objects our ancestors made and used. How might looking at these objects closely help us understand our ancestors (and ourselves) better? Follow these steps:

Describe: What do you see (colors, shapes, designs, patterns)?

Analyze: Why do you think the elements you see are there?

Interpret: Why do you think this object might be special or important?

How to Look at Objects (Middle School/Junior High or High School)

So much of what we know about our history is rooted in the artifacts from our ancestors. How might we use these artifacts to understand more about a culture's art and society? Use these steps to look more closely.

Describe what you see. What about the object is visible and what draws your attention?

Analyze what your observations might mean. What conclusions about the object can you draw from what you see?

Interpret the object as an artwork or artifact representing a society. What do you understand to be the object's purpose and significance? What else does the object tell us?
