

Worksheet for Analysis of an Artifact

Prepare a written report on your assigned artifact by answering these questions about it.

A. PHYSICAL QUALITIES OF THE ARTIFACT

- Describe the material from which it was made: bone, pottery, metal, wood, stone, leather, glass, paper, cardboard, cotton, wood, plastic, other material.
- Was it made by hand or by machine? How do you know?
- Describe its size, shape, color, and texture.
- How heavy is it? Would it have been used by one person or by a group?
- Does it have any movable parts?
- Are any words or images stamped or inscribed on its surface?
- Include in your report a sketch or photograph of the item.

B. USES OF THE ARTIFACT

Study the artifact carefully and answer as many of the following questions as you can.

- What do you believe this item was used for? Could it have had more than one purpose or use?
- During what period of history might this have been used?
- Who would have used it? Is it specific to a particular trade or profession?
- Is it likely to have been used more often by men or by women?
- Would using it properly require another part or machine to make it work?
- Where would it have been used?
- Is it similar in appearance or use to anything in use today? Explain.

C. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARTIFACT

- What can you learn or deduce from this artifact about the lives and activities of the people who might have used it?
- What can you learn or deduce from this artifact about the culture and technology of the period in which it was used?
- Would its use have required special skills or training?
- Would its use have required special or protective clothing?
- Is it similar to artifacts that people might use today? Include, if possible, a photograph or sketch of a similar item we might see or use today.
- How does it differ from modern artifacts with similar uses? Consider size, shape, attractiveness, safety, efficiency, complexity of use, and any other differences you can find.