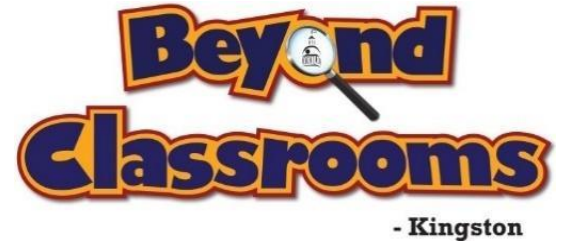


Beyond Classrooms Kingston Workshop
Workshop Handout: Artifact or Fiction Challenge
With Karla Tynski, BCK Program Coordinator



Introduction

Hi, I'm Karla, and I'm the Program Coordinator for Beyond Classrooms Kingston. As part of March of the Museums, you may have received a piece of paper that says "Artifact or Art of Fiction." This video is about that activity. I'm going to show you a picture of a mystery artifact and tell you three stories. Two are fiction and one is fact. It's up to you and your family to guess which story is true!

If you need help turning your paper into an eight-page book, check the comments for a link to the instructions. This handout will help guide you in solving the mystery!

What is an Artifact?

Artifacts are primary sources that historians use to learn about people, events, and daily life in the past. Museums take great care of these objects because they are clues to the past. Like detectives, historians look at clues, examine evidence, ask questions, and make conclusions. By studying artifacts, we can learn about the people who made or used them.

Some artifacts can be mysterious, like the object in this activity. But with the right clues and observations, you can help solve the mystery.

See, Think, Wonder Framework for the Mystery Artifact

See

- Carefully look at the photo of the mystery object.
- What shapes, materials, or parts do you notice?
- What size or features stand out?

Think

- Based on what you see, what do you think this object might be?
- What might it have been used for?

- Where do you think it came from?

Wonder

- What questions do you have about this object?
 - What do you want to know about its history or use?
 - How do you think people felt using this object long ago?
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Clues About the Artifact

1. It's found at the Frontenac County Schools Museum.
 2. You've likely seen a modern version of this object, possibly in your school.
 3. It's heavy and can be powered electrically or with gas.
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The Stories

Story 1: The Beehive

This instrument was used to teach students about honey. Bees flew in through the side, and students looked in the viewfinder to see what was happening inside the hive.

Story 2: The Lantern

Before electric lights, lanterns were used at desks to help students see better. Each student had one on their desk.

Story 3: The Early Projector

This was one of the earliest projectors used in classrooms. It showed glass slides with lessons in science and social studies.

Reveal: Which Story Is True?

- **Story 1: Beehive** – Fiction. The material and purpose don't fit what bees need.
 - **Story 2: Lantern** – Fiction. It is a lantern, but not the kind used at desks. Those were mounted for safety.
 - **Story 3: Early Projector** – **Fact!** This object is a magic lantern or stereo-opticon used in classrooms over 100 years ago. It could project glass slides and was used for subjects like geography and science.
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Try It Yourself

Use your eight-page book to make your own artifact or fiction story. Create a mystery object and three possible stories—two fiction and one fact. Share your creation by tagging @BCKYGK on Twitter or emailing info@beyondclassrooms.ca.

Thank You! Special thanks to the Frontenac County Schools Museum for providing the image of the magic lantern. Visit their museum in Kingston to see more fascinating artifacts!

Learn more about Beyond Classrooms Kingston at www.beyondclassrooms.ca. We empower children to be culturally aware, lifelong learners and active citizens.

Happy investigating!