

Writing in Museums

Observation Guide

Definition: An **artifact** is a man-made object in the museum's collection that tells us about life long ago.

1 *Select an Artifact*

Choose an artifact, group of artifacts, portrait, or other museum object.

- Why did you select this artifact?
- Why do you think it is in a museum?
- What history does it tell?

Definition: A **label** gives information about the artifact, such as who made it, when it was made, and who used it.

2 *Fill in the Details*

Study the artifact, read the artifact label, and answer the following questions. Use descriptive language!

- What is the artifact made of?
- What color is it?
- Who made or used it?
- How old is it?

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Writing in Museums

Page two

3

Draw the Artifact

Keeping in mind the size, shape, and function of the artifact, draw a picture of it here.

Be sure to include
any special details!



4

Carefully Check Your Notes

The notes you've gathered will help you remember the artifact when you start writing your story.

- Be sure to check your spelling.
- Did you include important dates?
- Did you write down the names of people who made or used the artifact?

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