



Task Shell Example 2—Artifact Analysis

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

Your Tasks	Your investigation: Your team has been given an unfamiliar artifact to examine and investigate its origin and use. Your tasks are listed below. You may use any resources available to you and your team to complete your investigation.
1	TYPE OF ARTIFACT Describe the material from which it was made: bone, pottery, metal, wood, stone, leather, glass, paper, cardboard, cotton, plastic, or other materials.
2	SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE ARTIFACT Describe how it looks and feels: shape, color, texture, size, weight, movable parts; anything printed, stamped, or written on it? What makes it unique or unusual?
3	YOUR HYPOTHESES ABOUT THE ARTIFACT When might it have been used? What might it have been used for? Why do you think so? (Provide at least one source to support your thinking.)
4	PLAN AND CONDUCT RESEARCH How will you investigate to confirm your hypothesis about the object? What resources might help? Are there mentors or experts you can ask? (Remember to document your sources!)
5	PRESENT YOUR FINDINGS What have you learned about the artifact? What have you learned about the technology or culture of the time period and place it comes from?

Source: Adapted from educational materials developed by the Education Staff at the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.



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