Artifact Analysis Worksheet

1. TYPE OF ARTIFACT
Describe the material from which it was made: bone, pottery, metal, wood, stone, leather, glass, paper, cardboard, cotton, plastic, other material.

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_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

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.

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_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
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3. USES OF THE ARTIFACT
A. What might it have been used for?

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_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

B. Who might have used it?

_____________________________________________________________________________________

C. Where might it have been used?

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_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

D. When might it have been used & why do you think so?

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_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

4. WHAT DOES THE ARTIFACT TELL US?
A. What does it tell us about technology of the time in which it was made and used?

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_____________________________________________________________________________________

B. What does it tell us about the life and times of the people who made it and used it?

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

C. Can you name a similar item today?

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

5. BRING A SKETCH, A PHOTOGRAPH, OR THE ARTIFACT LISTED IN 4C ABOVE TO CLASS.

Based on a worksheet prepared by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. © 2012-, The History Teaching Institute at The Ohio State University.