



Top: <b>Woman's bustle</b>	Bottom: <b>Hat Band Perforator</b>
1870	No date
Iron and cotton	Iron and wood
PI-16959	C-43137

What Is It? Looking At Objects  
Teacher' Program Guide

**TeacherResources**  
**AtGlenbow**

# TeacherResources AtGlenbow

## Teacher's Program Guide for School Visits

***What Is It? Looking at Objects*** program is suitable for any level from grade 3 through grade 9. Though not grade specific, the skills used in this program are used from grade to grade and across subject areas. Using inquiry and critical thinking, students will use skills of observation and interpretation to learn about an object. The students will realize that objects are more than simply objects, but rather are valuable clues to tell us stories about the cultures or people that made or owned them.

The program begins with an overview of the museum's function and the role of artifacts in telling a story. An object will then be revealed and students will be led through a series of guided questions to help them describe the object, how it was made, its function, and its value. This process helps students to slow down and look carefully at an object before coming to a conclusion. Students are then put in smaller groups and given another artifact to examine. When students have reached a conclusion, they will present their findings to the class.

This guide will assist you in preparing for your visit to Glenbow Museum. It contains pre-visit lessons as well as follow-up activities. Engaging in the suggested activities before and after your visit will reinforce the ideas in the program and link classroom learning to the Museum experience. Most activities require few materials and can be adjusted to meet the age and needs of your students.

## **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS**

This program links to Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies curriculums for grades 3-9.

### **Language Arts**

- 1.1 Discover and Explore
- 1.2 Clarify and Extend
- 3.1 Plan and Focus
- 3.3 Organize, Record and Evaluate
- 4.3 Present and Share
- 5.2 Work within a Group

### **Social Studies**

Students will use the skills of various dimensions of thinking, primarily critical thinking, as well as participating within a group and using skills of research, observation, and communication to work together to reach a conclusion.

### **Science**

Students will use an inquiry process to investigate an object's purpose and function. Students will need to focus, explore and investigate, reflect on and interpret an object based on observations and evidence.

# LESSON PLANS

**Materials:** 4-6 everyday objects such as a CD case, pencil, stapler, coffee mug, etc.  
Paper or sketchbooks, pencils

## PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

Through sketching and questioning, students will explore beyond simply what an object is and begin to reflect on its purpose, design, function, and significance.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Explain to the class that they are going to be visiting the Glenbow Museum soon and they will be seeing many different objects.
2. Break the class up into 4-5 groups (one for each object you have gathered), and hand out paper/sketchbooks and pencils. Explain that each group will receive one of the objects and sketch it. Sketching helps a viewer to slow down and really see the details of an object.
3. Before starting, discuss what makes a good sketch, keeping in mind though that a sketch does not have to be perfect. Some tips for a good sketch include using up the whole page, adding details like shading, labelling parts of the object, colours, or what it is made of.
4. When students have finished sketching have each student pick an observation about their object to share with the class. Bring the class back together and share the group discussions.
5. After sharing, ask students if any of them heard any observations that they had never thought of or noticed before. Even though the objects they were looking at are everyday things, when we slow down, look carefully and think about them, we can learn much more and generate new ideas. When they visit the museum, they will be looking closely at other artifacts to determine what they can tell us.

## POST-VISIT ACTIVITY

1. Review some of the questions the students considered at the museum while looking at the artifacts, such as physical features, construction, function, design, and value. Pull out the same objects that were used in the pre-activity and ask students to consider the last point about value.

- *What makes something valuable?*
- *Are these objects valuable? Why or why not?*
- *Are most of the objects around us valuable?*
- *What do they say about us as individuals?*
- *What does the object say about them as an individual?*
- *Does the object have the same value to other people?*

Have students think of an object that is valuable to them. In journals, students can draw a picture of it or write about why it is valuable to them.

2. Discuss these questions:

- *“What will museums be like in the future?”*
- *Will they look the same as they are today?*
- *What kinds of items or artifacts will a museum have?*

Students could write a paragraph, draw a picture, create a diorama, a tableau, etc.

3. For older grades:

Read the book ***Motel of the Mysteries*** by David Macaulay. It explores the idea of people 3000 years in the future stumbling upon artifacts from our North American society. Not knowing anything about the culture aside from the artifacts left behind, scientists come to some rather interesting conclusions. *Motel of the Mysteries* can help students to think about what our material culture says about our society.

## **RESOURCES**

### ***Glenbow Museum***

<http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/collectionsSearch.aspx>

Use this part of the site to find and view some of Glenbow Museum's varied and interesting artifacts

### ***Historical Artifact-Based Learning***, Glenbow Museum

[http://www.glenbow.org/mavericks/teacher/english/pdfs/PS1Artifact\\_Process.pdf](http://www.glenbow.org/mavericks/teacher/english/pdfs/PS1Artifact_Process.pdf)

### ***Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta***, Glenbow Museum

<http://www.glenbow.org/mavericks/english/menu.html>

With more information about the people featured in the Mavericks exhibit at the Glenbow Museum, the website also features photos of artifacts students can examine.

## **OUR COLLECTION**

<http://www.glenbow.org/collections/>