

How to Analyze an Artifact

What is an artifact?

Artifacts are objects that are of historical or cultural interest. The artifacts tell us something about the time, place or society from which they emerged or are connected.

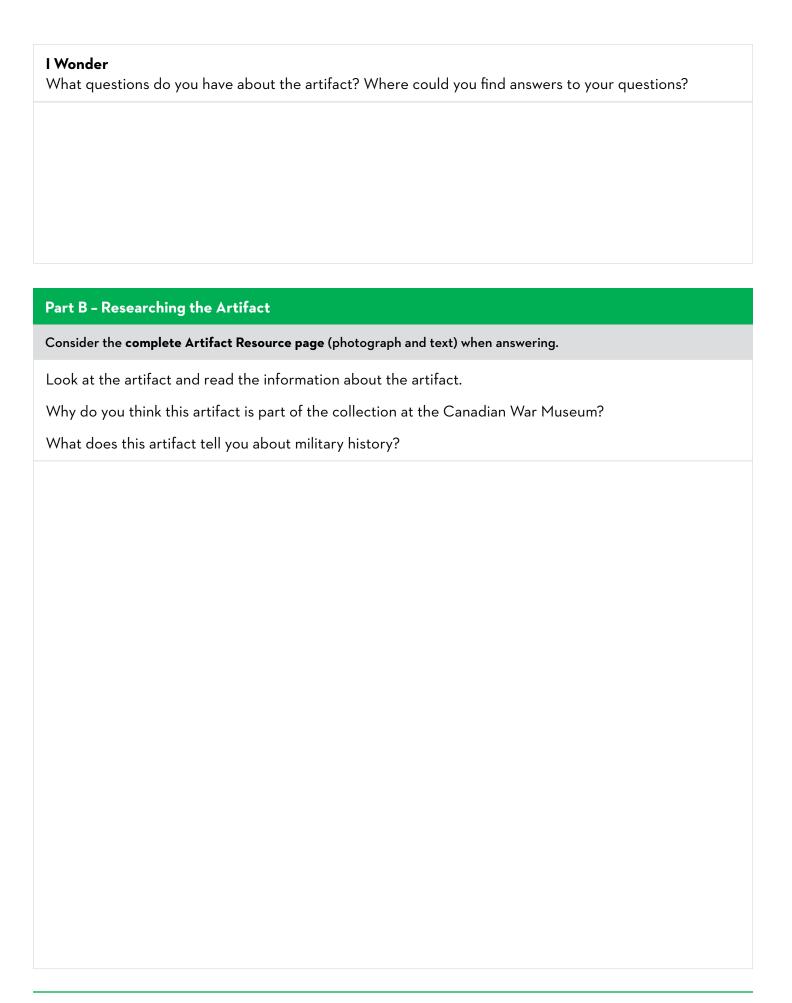
Some artifacts are important because they are **rare or unique**, like a painting or sculpture. Others are important because they are **common** and speak to the daily lives of ordinary people. And sometimes a seemingly common object takes on **special meaning** because of who used it, like the Prime Minister's desk or a famous general's uniform.

Museums collect different kinds of artifacts as evidence of past deeds, actions, and history.

The Canadian War Museum collects artifacts that help people understand Canada's military history.

Part A - Understanding the Artifact
Consider only the image of the artifact when answering.
I See Look at the artifact. What do you see? What stands out?
I Think What is the artifact? Who used it? What makes you think that?

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Part B - Researching the Artifact Consider the relevant Historical Overview and the complete Artifact Resource page when answering. Look at the artifact and read the historical overview. Sometimes artifacts support our understanding of history by providing evidence that aligns with what we expect to see. Sometimes artifacts cause of to reexamine our understanding of history by providing evidence that goes against our expectations or opens our eyes to new perspectives. Does the artifact support the backgrounder, or does it raise new questions not covered in the historical overview? How does the artifact help you understand the act of commemoration and remembrance in Canada?

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