# Do Objects 12.2

Artifacts can tell us stories about our past. The story behind the artifact can tell us about the people who used it and the society in which they lived. Who owned this item? Who used this item? Who made this item? Questions like these can help us understand the past.

#### **Objectives**

In this lesson students learn to analyze an artifact. They will identify an object from their own lives which tells a story about their own past. They will take on the role of the exhibit professional in putting together an exhibit. First, the student will arrange a loan agreement with their family members to bring the object to school. They will coordinate the safe handling of the artifact in transit to their classroom. They will determine how the artifact will be displayed in a class museum. They will create an exhibit label to explain their artifact and its story. Finally, they will publicize their exhibit, open it to visitors and assist in interpreting their display.

#### **Procedure**

- 1. Using the Artifact Analysis Worksheet (page 5), have students examine an artifact from their classroom or one of the artifacts found in the Mr. Lincoln's Attic Flash Cards (page 4). Using their imagination, have students write a creative essay on a possible story behind their selected artifact. Note: You can find out the real story at the ALPLM exhibit *Mr*: *Lincoln's Attic*.
- 2. Using the Exhibit Artifact Brainstorming Worksheet (page 6), have students consider objects from home that tell a special, unusual or interesting story about themselves or their family. Students will choose one item from this worksheet to bring to class in order to create an exhibit.
- 3. Have students take home the Loan Agreement Form (page 7) and fill it out with the person who is loaning them the item for the class exhibit. Students are responsible for arranging and documenting the transport of their item to school.
- 4. At school, have students create an exhibit label that tells the story behind their object. Remember, a good label should be to the point and no longer than
- 50 words.
  5. Arrange all the students'

artifacts in a class exhibit.

- 6. Create brochures, posters or ads for your class exhibit.
- 7. Invite parents and school mates to view the exhibit. Students should be on hand to act as interpreters for the exhibit.

"These people may be gone, but they have left their words and possessions. In a mysterious way, these original objects connect us to the people and events of history and make them real."

—Thomas, *Ghosts of the Library* 

### Vocabulary

#### Loan

Something given for only a short time and meant to be returned

#### Exhibitor

Person or people creating and putting on a display for others to see

#### **Exhibit**

A display put on for others to see

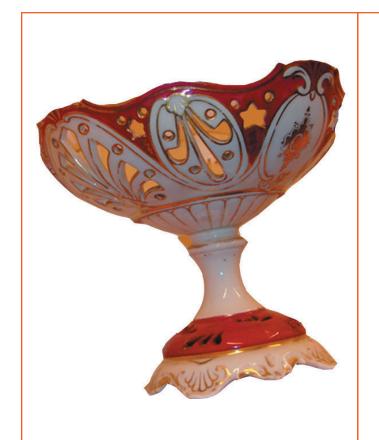
#### Lender

Person or people giving something for short term use

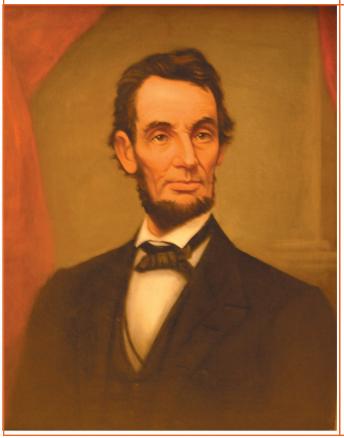
Recognition or approval for something someone did **Insurance** 

An agreement to protect property against loss.

## Mr. Lincoln's Attic Flash Cards









## Artifact Analysis Worksheet

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## Exhibit Artifact Brainstorming Worksheet

Name					
Artifact	Story it tells	Why I want to share it			

I plan on bringing	to school for our class exhibit
horalise.	

# Loan Agreement

Name of Exhibitor:			
Exhibit Name:			
Loan Period: From	То		
Lending Institution/Indi	vidual:		
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Telephone:			
Credit If the lender chooses, a litelling all visitors where to Do you wish to have a composition of the com	he object came from. credit line? Yes	No OR	ear on the exhibit label,
Credit Line:(cred	dit line as it will appear	in the exhibit)	
May the exhibitors represchibit? Yes No		rochures, posters, ε	etc. to publicize the
	rance to be provided rance to be provided rance waived (no insu	by lender	
Please provide special	instructions for pack	ing, transporting, ar	nd installing the object: _
Description of object: _			
Condition of object (to	be completed by lende	r):	
I have read and agree to am the owner and/or ca Signature of Lender(s)	n enter into this agre	ement.	eement. I certify that I
Signature of Exhibitor		Date	