



QUESTIONS TO ASK AN OBJECT

Description

1. What are the object's physical properties? (how big, heavy, how many parts)
2. What material(s) is the object made from? Animal, vegetable, mineral?
3. Where were the object's materials sourced (if known)?

Production

1. How was the object produced? What techniques were used to produce the object? What tools and skills did the maker(s) of this object use in making it?
2. Who made the object, and under what circumstances?
3. Was it made by one person or multiple people?
4. Was the maker also the designer?
5. What social structures supported the making of this object?
6. When was it made? How do you think a researcher might answer this question?



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Sociocultural Purpose

1. Does it have any inscriptions or decorations on it? Is it printed, stamped, engraved? What did these mean and to whom?
2. What is the object's purpose? Does the object prompt some kind of action or performance? For example, a vessel with a spout prompts its user to pour liquid.
3. Did the object have meaning to groups of people? If so, to which groups and why?
4. Who owned it? Who used it? Were the owner(s) and the user(s) the same persons?
5. When did each owner possess the object? How did it pass from hand to hand?
6. Where did the object originate? (Where) did it travel? Who allowed it to travel?
7. How does, or did, possession of the object relate to individual and/or group identity? Consider class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, nation, religion, etc.
8. Does the object relate to a set (or sets) of beliefs (e.g., spiritual, ideological)? If so, how?
9. Is the object part of a system (or systems) of exchange (e.g., commodity, gift)? If so, how?
10. What is its value (e.g., economic, cultural) and how might you locate it within systems of value?
11. Does the object reflect and/or structure human agency? If so, how?

Personal Response

1. What is your own emotional response to the object?
2. Why did the object cause this response? Are you responding to the object itself, or to things the object makes you think about?
3. What is special or distinctive about the object?
4. What is the object's context and relevance today?



PRAISE POEM TO AN OBJECT

Write a poem to celebrate the object's meaning, its memory and its value, both past and present. Include any personal connections you make with the object

A large, empty rectangular area with rounded corners, outlined in a light orange color, intended for writing a poem.