

Using Artefacts in the Classroom: 5 ideas

1. Make a classroom display

You can make a museum in the classroom and get the children to write a descriptive label for the exhibits – to describe shape, colour, function and history. Some objects may be suitable for recreating an archaeological dig.

2. Mystery objects

Enjoy the uncertainty! Using objects can help stimulate children's curiosity and imagination. What is the object made of? Where does it come from? What is it used for?

Use all your senses. Get the children to close their eyes, or put the object in a feely bag. What does it feel like? How heavy is it? Does it smell?

3. Timeline activity

Get the children to arrange the artefacts in chronological order – think about changing materials, fashions and technologies.

4. Memory game

Put 15 objects on a tray – cover or remove and see how many the children can remember or get them all to examine an object and then try to draw from memory.

5. Role play

By using costume, objects and story props you can empathize with other characters – whether it is Red Riding Hood or a fireman in 1666.

