

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

Great Chicago Fire Artifact Detective

READ:

The Great Chicago Fire began October 8th, 1871 and finally went out October 10th. The fire burned a stretch of the city four miles long and one mile wide. It destroyed 17,500 buildings and 73 miles of streets leaving many people homeless and businesses destroyed. People worked hard to rebuilt Chicago. In the years to come many people held on to items that had been melted by the fire. The fire was so hot, things made out of metal and glass melted creating unique artifacts* for people to save. Over the years, people gave these artifacts to the museum. We keep them safe, use them to help us understand the past, and share them with people like you!

* Artifact — An object made and used by people in the past.

DO:

- **Look** at the pictures of the mysterious melted artifacts on the next page.
- **Talk** about your answers to the questions.
- **Draw** a picture of your favorite melted artifact!
- **Create** your own melted artifact with play dough, air dry clay, salt dough, or something similar!

To create your own salt dough, our friend's at the Chicago Children's Museum have posted an easy recipe at <https://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org/recipes-for-play-at-home-posts/2020/3/16/perfect-play-dough>

Approx. Time: 30 –45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Paper
- ⇒ Drawing Materials
- ⇒ Optional: Play Dough, Air Dry Clay, Salt Dough etc.

SHARE:

- **Hang** your pictures in a window for all to see!
- **Post** your drawings and creations on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies to see what others have created.



Chicago Fire Diorama in *Imaging Chicago: An American City* at the Chicago History Museum



Chicago**History**Museum

Artifact Detective Questions:

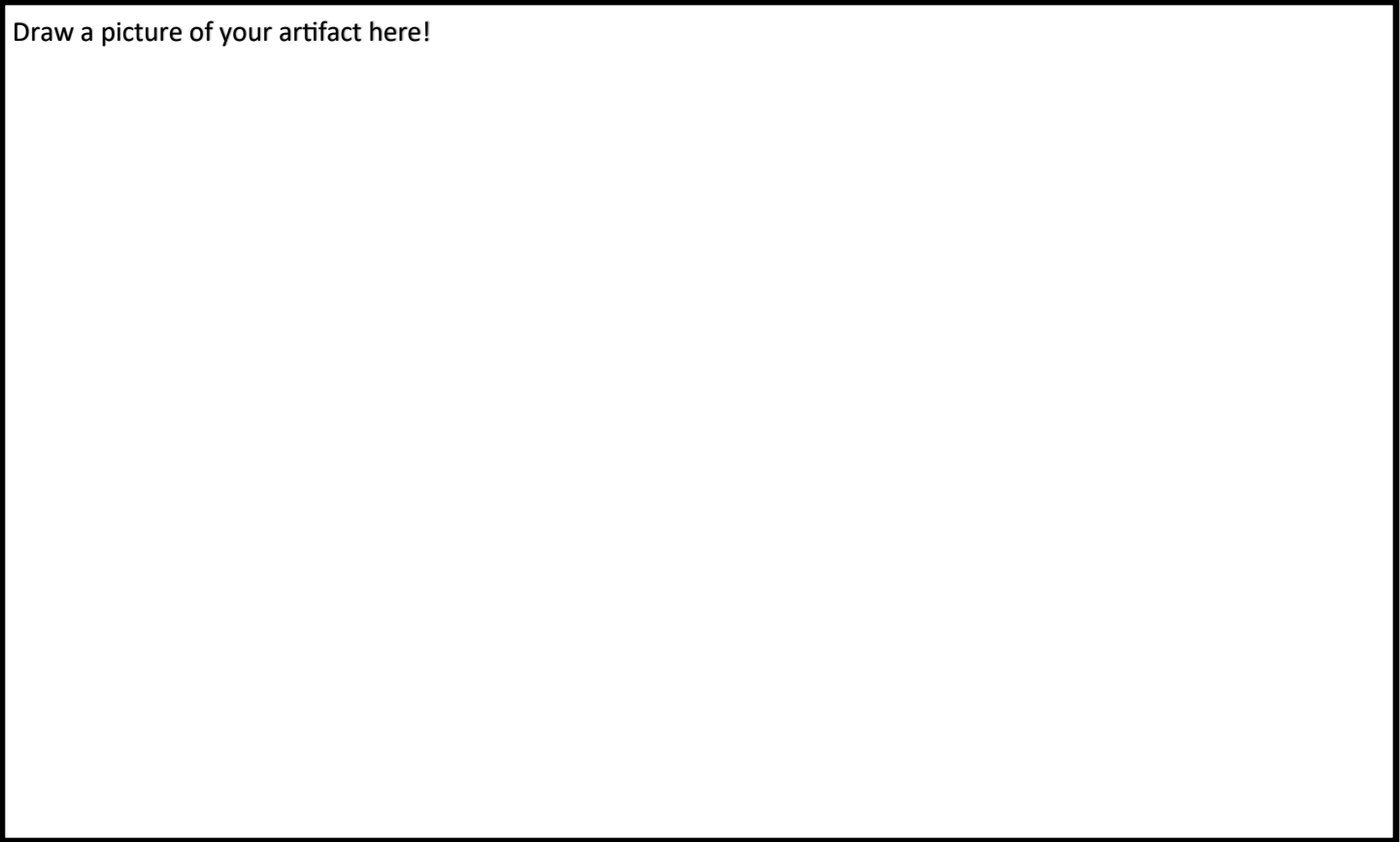
Pick your favorite melted artifact. Use the questions to help you uncover clues about what it is!

What do you think this artifact is made out of?

Who do you think used it?

Where might it have been found?

Draw a picture of your artifact here!



SPOILER Alert: Answers are on this page!

For more information on the Great Chicago Fire, visit the Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory website. <https://www.greatchicagofire.org/>

Melted Teacups ICHI-64480



Melted Metal Screws ICHI-64558



Melted Marbles ICHI-64557



Unknown Metal ICHI-64559

