TIPS FOR ASSEMBLING YOUR ARTIFACT KIT

Creating your own custom artifact kit is as easy as 1, 2, 3! Here are a few places to get started. This list includes affordable sources for both authentic artifacts and replicas.

AUTHENTIC ARTIFACTS

eBay
www.ebay.com
Mass-produced popular culture objects like souvenirs, toys, and household goods can often be found on eBay for reasonable prices.

Broadway Antique Market
6130 N. Broadway Avenue, Chicago
www.bamchicago.com
This 20,000-square-foot Art Deco building boasts two floors with more than 75 dealers specializing in 20th century art, objects, and furniture.

Brown Elephant
3651 N. Halsted Street and 5404 N. Clark Street, Chicago
www.howardbrown.org/hb_brownelephant.asp
These resale shops are associated with the Howard Brown Health Center, and their revenue helps uninsured clients. Stock changes frequently, so it is worth visiting more than once.

Kouks Vintage Café
5653 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago
Phone: 773.594.8888
Stop by this combination coffee house/antique store for a snack or a hot drink while you browse vintage clothes, jewelry, furniture, and more.
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REPLICAS

Smoke & Fire
www.smoke-fire.com
Specializes in reproduction of colonial, Scottish, and Medieval goods, including kitchen gadgets, toys, and games

Jas. Townsend & Son, Inc.
www.jas-townsend.com
Features 18th- and 19th-century reproduction items, including military camp gear, household items, and period music

Amazon Dry Goods
www.amazondrygoods.com
Offers reproduction clothing, accessories, and toiletries, primarily from the Victorian era

Williamsburg Marketplace
www.williamsburgmarketplace.com
Colonial Williamsburg’s online store features reproduction kits on different topics. Click on “Educational Resources” and then “Hands on History.”

C. & C. Sutlery
www.ccsutlery.com
This site focuses on Civil War reproductions.

Dover Publications
http://store.doverpublications.com
Offers many period reprints, including propaganda posters and mail-order catalogs.

Chicago History Museum
www.chicagohistory.org
History Connections & Artifact Collections

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STORAGE

Archival Methods
www.archivalmethods.com
Archival-quality boxes, binders, and plastic sleeves to keep your artifacts, documents, and photographs in good condition for the next group of students.

DON'T FORGET TO . . .

Browse flea markets, antique stores, and garage sales.

Search your own house. Look for “outdated” household goods and products.

Consider having students look at contemporary “mystery” objects to develop visual literacy skills. Specialty kitchen items are particularly good for this.

Use simple tools to enhance the investigative experience for students, including magnifying glasses, rulers, scales, and white gloves.