



Artifact Life Story

READ:

Artifacts are objects made and used by people in the past. Each artifact has a story to tell. Some of these stories are about how or why the object was made, sometimes the story is about how an object was used. The story could even be about the object many, many years later. These stories could be about opportunities, challenges, or just about daily life. When authors are writing they think about who is telling the story, or the point of view. The point of view could be from the person who the story is about or it could be someone who is not part of the story. A few years ago, the Chicago History Museum made a special exhibition where the artifacts told their story. Sometimes the artifacts were happy, others were sad.

DO:

- **Think** about artifacts and objects around your home. What stories would they tell? These stories could be true or imaginary.
- **Choose** the object you want to write about.
- **Read** the examples for inspiration!
- **Use** the Story Starter questions to help you organize your story.
- **Write** your story from the point of view of the object. Write as many stories as you want!
- **Make** a video or audio recording, if able, of yourself telling the story.

Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Objects from around your house
- ⇒ Writing Supplies

SHARE:

- **Create** an exhibition in your house with your objects and their stories!
- **Post** pictures of objects, stories and exhibitions on social media with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies.



Life Story of An Artifact — Samples

Fire Relic --

We didn't always look like this. We used to be many different metal objects such as nails, screws, and bolts just hanging around a hardware store. Suddenly, we felt an intense heat, and we heard crackling and smelled smoke. The store filled with flames and the strongest wind we have ever felt. We blacked out. When we came to, we were melted together, and since 1871 we have existed as one. We heard later that there had been a great fire. Some people think we are a meteorite, but most just call us the "Fire Blob", though we prefer to be called the "Fire Relic".



Standing Lincoln

I've been standing tall in this lovely park since October 22, 1887. Even though it was rainy, Robert Lincoln and his son Abraham were here to celebrate that day. Summers bring many people to see me, I get to hear lots of different voices; young and old, and so many different languages! I will say, sometimes those planes drown out their voices though. During the school year, many students come by to look at me, many say I'm a good likeness, I like to think so too!

*Note: Both of these artifacts can be seen behind the Chicago History Museum in Lincoln Park.

Life Story of An Artifact — Story Starters

My artifact is:

My artifact's name is:

Who was the first owner? How was the artifact used?

When and where was your artifact born?

Imagine and describe a dramatic or surprising event in the life of the artifact.

How did the artifact end up at your home? Does the artifact like or dislike being there? Why?

Now use these notes to write your story!

