



Artifact ABCs

READ:

For years kids have played with alphabet blocks to learn their letters. In the early 1900s, a Chicago company called Halsam Products Company began making toys, including special alphabet blocks that also had animals and even building patterns on them. These blocks were so popular they could be seen in many American homes in the 1950s. Alphabet books were also very popular, even the Chicago History Museum published an alphabet book featuring artifacts. Each letter was a different object. Look around your house and create your own object alphabet book.

DO:

- **Write** the alphabet down in a notebook or on a piece of paper. Put each letter on a different line so you have room to write next to each letter.
- **Walk** around your home (inside and/or outside) your house and write down objects you see that start with each letter of the alphabet. Think creatively for Q, X, and Z!
- **Use** some drawing paper and your coloring supplies to create your own ABC book of things from your house! On one side of the paper, draw a picture of your mystery object and the letter it represents, on the back side write a description of what the object is and how it is used, and what makes it special to you.
- **Make** a front and back cover for your book out of construction paper.

Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Paper/Pencil
- ⇒ Coloring Supplies
- ⇒ Household Items
- ⇒ Construction paper
- ⇒ Stapler

SHARE:

- **Staple** your pages together and read your new book to your family!
- **Post** pictures of your favorite letters from your book on social media with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies.



Alphabet Blocks by Halsam, circa 1950. IChi-040656