

History Detective



Imagine you are a detective looking for clues to solve a mystery. Your specialty is HISTORICAL MYSTERIES. Today, you have been hired by Ms. Remi Niscence, who recently moved into a very old house, built in 1881. (Can you do the math to figure out how old her house really is?) Over the years, many families have lived in the home, and they sometimes left things behind in the attic. Ms. Niscence found a trunk up there, full of mysterious artifacts. There were also some tags with information about the objects, but they had fallen to the bottom of the trunk. Everything is so mixed up that she needs your help to identify the objects and find out how they were used. She hopes you can help her better understand the lives of the past residents of her house. Your mission is to identify the items and figure out if you still use similar items in our time and place.

Approximate Time: 30 - 45 minutes

Materials:

- Detective Notebook
- Mystery Artifact Tags
- Magnifying Glass (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue or Tape
- Writing or Drawing Supplies

- Use your Detective Notebook sheets to take a close look at pictures of the mysterious artifacts Remi Niscence found in her attic. Notice as many details as possible. (If you have a magnifying glass it may help!)
- Make one or more observations about each object and record them on the Notebook sheets.
- Cut out the tags and match them to the right artifact. Use glue or tape to attach them in the right spot.
- Write your final ideas in the "CASE CLOSED" section of your Detective Notebook.
- Talk about your findings with a family member. What object of your own would you save for people to discover and learn from many years from now?

SHARE:

- Take pictures of your Detective Notebook sheets. Make a short video of yourself revealing your findings!
- Post your pictures on social media with the hashtag **#MCMuseumFromHome**



_____ 's Detective Notebook

(Your Name)

Case: *Remi Niscence's Mystery Trunk*



I see:

Stick Tag Here

I see:

Stick Tag Here



_____ 's Detective Notebook

(Your Name)

Case: *Remi Niscence's Mystery Trunk*



I see:

Stick Tag Here

I see:

Stick Tag Here



_____ 's Detective Notebook

(Your Name)

Case: *Remi Niscence's Mystery Trunk*



I see:

Stick Tag Here

I see:

Stick Tag Here



Case: *Remi Niscence's Mystery Trunk*

Artifact Tags

Ten years after the Great Chicago Fire, our grandmother brought these from Chicago for us to see. She had found them buried in the rubble of her burned-out kitchen. She and her family used to eat off of these before the extreme heat got to them.

It is hard to believe that my ancestors lived in their Conestoga wagon before they were able to cut down enough trees to build something like this. Everything they needed had to come from their surroundings. They didn't have many tools to work with because a wagon headed west filled up pretty fast.

Our family was so excited when we got one of these! Even though we had very little privacy in our conversations, it was still better than having to walk downtown to the drugstore! Our operator was usually Thelma Lou, and she loved to pass along all the gossip over the line.

Whenever I smell fresh coffee, I think about all the time I spent pouring beans into this little contraption and turning that crank! It was a relief when the Chase and Sanborn Company came up with vacuum packed beans already ground up and ready to brew!

What fun we had playing games on our little 12-inch portable TV! All of my friends were jealous of our console. I was the most popular kid on the block. I got pretty good at Pacman and Pong, but my older sister could always beat me.

Even when this was invented, many high schools still banned the sport because of head injuries. Teenaged boys can be pretty rough with each other. It wasn't until 1924 that the local high school started fielding a team again.

Case: *Remi Niscence's Mystery Trunk*

My favorite artifact is:

Because:

Draw a picture of your favorite artifact:

CASE CLOSED

Case: *Remi Niscence's Mystery Trunk*

~ Spoilers ~



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