

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS



TAMPA BAY
**HISTORY
CENTER**

ONLINE EXHIBIT
Florida Front and Center: Objects That Define Florida
Sponsored by Nancy and Bob Bolt

Initial Observations

What do you think this artifact is?

Write the name, type of artifact, or a detailed description based on your first impression:

Sketch the artifact in the space below.

Try to capture its shape, structure, and any notable features.

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Investigate the Details

Examine the artifact carefully.

Observe its physical features as a historian or archaeologist would.

What materials appear to make up this artifact? (Check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bone | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal | <input type="checkbox"/> Stone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pottery | <input type="checkbox"/> Leather | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric | <input type="checkbox"/> Shell | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

How might it feel to the touch? (Check all that apply)

- Heavy Light Smooth Rough Hard Soft

What colors are visible?

Describe the shape of the artifact:

Estimate the size of the artifact:

- Small** (fits in your hand, like a coin) **Medium** (about the size of a basketball) **Large** (comparable to a piece of furniture or a vehicle part)

Choose three adjectives that describe this artifact:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Interpret Its Purpose

Use your observations to make an educated guess about the artifact's function and importance.

What do you think this artifact was used for?

Who might have created or used this artifact in Florida's past?

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Is there a modern version of this artifact in use today? YES NO

If yes, how is it similar or different from what we use now? If not, why is this no longer used?

Analyze the Historical Significance

Think beyond the artifact itself. Consider the people, time period, culture, and historical context connected to it.

What does this artifact reveal about the people who made or used it?

(Consider their daily lives, values, technologies, or needs.)

What might we still not know about the people who used this artifact after analyzing it? (What new questions do you have that the object doesn't answer?)

Extend Your Learning

Where could you learn more about this artifact or its historical context?

(Check all that apply)

- A museum website or online collection
- A nonfiction book or library
- A teacher, historian, archaeologist, or family member
- Another digital exhibit or virtual museum
- Another source: _____