

15. Exploring historical objects and places



Background

In history an object assumes importance when we understand its value in the past. Careful observation of historical objects can help us unfold many secrets of the past. It could be a ceramic pot, painting, and a piece of jewellery, sculpture or textile. Children too can discover some hidden or unknown information about a historical artefact.

Methodology

1. With the help of elders and teachers identify historical objects in your neighbourhood. These may also include buildings, paintings, places of worship, furniture, coins, fabrics, wood carving and tools.
2. Select one or two of the historical objects identified by you.

Objectives

- (i) To focus on different aspects of a historical object or place to know the past.
- (ii) To appreciate the value of heritage.

3. Collect the following information about the selected historical objects.
 - (a) Find out how the object was used in the past. Are similar objects in use today?
 - (b) What material and tools were used to make the object? Was it made by hand or with tools?
 - (c) Is the object damaged or worn out? If so, what could be the possible reasons?
 - (d) If possible try to find out who owned or used it.
4. Draw a picture of the object or take photographs.

Conclusion

Prepare a brief historical account of the object.

Follow-up

1. While collecting the above information you may try to look for similar kinds of objects used in your day-to-day life and make connections, so that you can understand how things developed over time or stayed the same.
2. Form a group and go for a nature walk/a heritage walk. Make a map of the area.
3. What is the oldest object with your family such as a vessel, a piece of furniture, jewellery, clothes, photograph? Who did it belong to? Find out the history of the object.

