

Clues from the Past: Objects, Photos & Records

Treat historical sources as evidence that can answer some questions but not every question.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Treat historical sources as evidence that can answer some questions but not every question.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 Sources can include objects, photographs, maps, letters and records.

2 A source gives evidence from a particular perspective and context.

3 Good historical questions match the evidence available.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Choose which source might help answer “What did this classroom look like?”

Look at a fictional old lunchbox description and write two evidence-based statements.

Label statements as evidence, inference or question.

Explain why an undated photo can be harder to interpret.

Compare what an object and a written record might each reveal.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

With an adult, inspect a safe household object from the past and ask what can be known from the object itself versus family memory.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Design a mini museum label for a fictional object, separating known facts from questions.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Is every inference a fact?

2. Why does source date/provenance matter?

3. Can one source answer every question about the past?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Clues from the Past: Objects, Photos & Records”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

No.

2. Suggested response

It helps place and evaluate the evidence.

3. Suggested response

No.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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