Analyzing Objects

1. Think about the objects all around you and pick just one. What object is it? If it were someday placed in a museum, what do you think this object shows about your life?

2. Now look at the primary source object. What do you think the object is? Write three words with your first impressions.

3. Describe the object as if you were telling about it to someone who couldn’t see it.
Now that you’ve become familiar with the object, it’s time to take a closer look at it.

4. First, look for a label. Is there any information that will help you understand the object better? If so, summarize it.

5. What clues are there about who might have made or used the object or when it was created?

6. How would an object like this have been used? Who would have used it? How do you know?

7. Is this an object with important historical significance, or is it an everyday object? How do you know?

8. What else do you notice in this object? Is there anything that surprises you?
Once you've learned everything you can from the object, it's time to build on your knowledge.

9. Now that you know more about the object, how have your first impressions changed regarding what it is or how it was used?

10. Is this kind of object still used today? How is it different from what we use today? How is it the same?

11. How does this object add to your understanding of a historical event or people's lives in the past?

How can you add to the story?

- How could this object be redesigned to work better?
- Will this object still be used in the future? How might it be changed for future use?
- Can you write a story or dialogue that features the object?