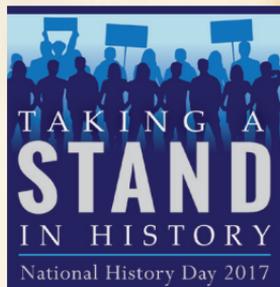


Cherokee Syllabary

Introduction

National History Day is a yearlong program engaging more than half a million students in the research, writing, interpretation, and presentation of historical projects at a regional, state, and national level. Each year thousands of Oklahoma students become young historians through participation in this program. Here is one activity that can help you be a young historian, too!



Activity: Artifact Analysis

Suggested Grades

2-12

Overview

Objects from the past, often referred to as artifacts, can help us learn about both the items and the individuals who used them. Sometimes items help us to identify what kind of job someone had, how much money they might have earned, or what culture was dominant in an area.



Objectives

Artifacts are the objects of history. Through artifacts, historians can learn more about the past. This activity will help students analyze material culture from the past and determine its use and importance.

Time Needed

One to two class periods for examination and research

Materials Needed

Object/photo to be used for analysis
Access to library/internet resources for research

Instructions

1. Have students look at the photos of the Cherokee Syllabary type from the Cherokee Phoenix.
2. Have students determine from what the object is made. Is it metal, wood, stone, glass, paper, cardboard, cloth, bone, potter, or is it a combination of materials?
3. Have students describe the qualities of the artifact. What is its size, shape, color, and weight? Is it written on or marked? Does it have movable pieces? Are parts missing?
4. Have students sketch the artifact.
5. Have students describe how the artifact may be used. What is it used for? Who may have used it and why? Where the item would be used? Help students to identify when the item may have been used.
6. Have students answer the following questions: What does the item tell us? Can you name similar items from different time periods? What does the item tell us about the person who used it?

Additional Information

If you would like to find out more about National History Day in Oklahoma, you can contact us at 405-522-0785 or visit www.okhistory.org/historycenter/historyday.