

# Looking Closely at Objects



Key Stage 2 Gallery Session  
Support Notes for Teachers

## Looking Closely at Objects Gallery Session

These gallery sessions look at the range of sources of information available to help us find out about how people lived in the past. The session will focus, in particular, on using objects.

Through the posing of key enquiry questions, the pupils will explore the museum galleries identifying objects which help them answer these questions. The sessions will also provide an opportunity to think about how objects arrive at the museum and what has survived from the past.

## Preparing for your gallery session

A key theme of these gallery sessions is how objects help us find out about the past. Before your visit you may like to discuss with the pupils the different sources of information used by historians and archaeologists. It would be useful for the pupils to think about the difference between primary sources, such as objects, and secondary sources in the form of history books, information on the internet or filmed reconstruction which use primary sources to create a view of the past. The pupils may also like to think about how primary sources are made available to us today through processes such as archaeological excavation, preservation in an archive or display in a museum.

During the session pupils will be asked to observe closely and discuss objects on display in the Museum. Before the day of the visit you may like to work with the pupils on observation skills, such as looking for fine detail, and vocabulary that you can use to describe the visual aspects of an object such as shape, texture, colour etc.

## COMPASS

Before or after your visit you may like to look at the British Museum's internet database of over 5,000 British Museum objects known as COMPASS which can be accessed at [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass)

There is also a children's COMPASS at [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass)

## Curriculum Links

### National Curriculum for History at Key Stage 2

These sessions support work on how the past is represented, how to find out about events, people and changes from appropriate sources of information and how to select information relevant to the focus of an enquiry. During the session pupils will have an opportunity to communicate their knowledge and understanding of history. These sessions support the study units A European History Study (*Ancient Greece*), Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain (*Roman Britain* and *Anglo-Saxons*) and A World History Study (*Benin*).

## Contact Details

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Please quote the reference *Looking Closely at Objects: Key Stage 2 Gallery Sessions* in all enquiries and indicate at the time of booking whether you wish to book the *Ancient Greece*, *Roman Britain*, *Anglo-Saxons* or *Benin* Looking Closely at Objects Gallery Session.