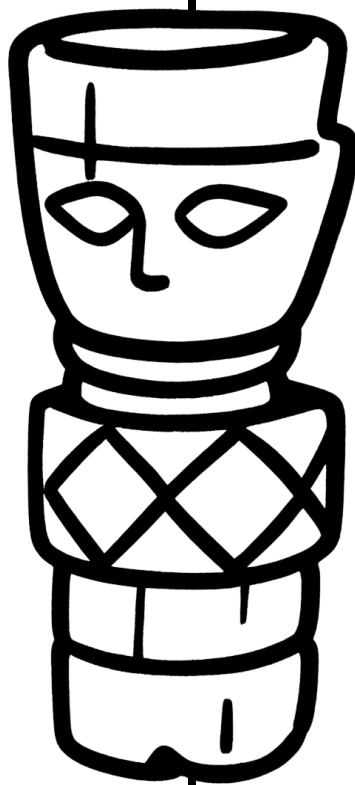


Lesson 2: How Do We Know About the Past?

Come up with reasons that this object could be seen as religious offering
and reason that it could be seen as a child's toy.

Religious Offering

Child's Toy



Lesson 2: Evidence vs. Inference

Read the paragraph below and think about what is evidence, inference, and unknown. Consider using two different colored highlighters.

While digging near the remains of an ancient settlement, archaeologists uncovered a small clay jar buried beneath two layers of stone flooring. The jar was sealed with hardened wax and contained several dried seeds, a bronze ring, and a folded piece of thin gold decorated with tiny symbols. Nearby, archaeologists also found animal bones, broken pottery, and the remains of a stone fire pit.

Because the jar was found beneath the flooring, archaeologists determined that it was likely placed there before the newer floor was built. Some researchers believe the objects may have been left as an offering or hidden for safekeeping, but no written records explaining the jar have been found. The symbols on the gold piece have not yet been translated, so archaeologists do not know exactly what they say or who placed the objects in the jar.

Lesson 2: Evidence vs. Inference

Sort the information from the previous page into the first two categories. Then, think about what is still unknown about the object.

Evidence

What do we directly know?

Inference

What are archaeologists guessing based on evidence?

Unknown

What can't we know yet?

Lesson 2: How Do We Know About the Past?

Draw an artifact (real or made up) and write what it tells us and what we can't know.

My Artifact

What it Tells Us

What We Can't Know