

Finding Clues in Pictures

Directions: Even if you do not know the historical background of a picture, you can learn to read the clues it contains. When you analyze a picture, begin by considering the questions listed below:

1. How is the picture different from pictures you have? Is it older? On different paper? Black and white or color? Etc.
2. What are the main images in the picture?
3. Can you see words in or on the picture? What do they say?
4. Who are the people in the picture? Do you know any of them?
5. What are people wearing? (Hints: Are the clothes old? Are they for a special event? Do they tell you how hot or cold it is?)
6. What time of year is it? What is the weather like?
7. Are there buildings or landmarks you recognize?
8. What jobs might the people in the picture have?
9. Where do you think the picture was taken? (Hints: Was it taken in the desert or by an ocean? Are there clues about the building? Can you see a sign with the city or state name?)



Finding Clues on Artifacts

Directions: Artifacts tell the story of the specific period in history when they were created. Although you may know the historical context of an artifact, you can analyze it by asking these questions:

1. Does the object look like something you use or have seen before? How is it similar or different?
2. Are there words on the object? What do they say? (Hints: Are they in English? Can you translate them?)
3. How old is the object?
4. What is the object made of? Is it heavy or light?
5. What color is the object? Do the colors mean anything?
6. How do you think people used the object? (Hints: Was it a tool used for work? Did someone use it for fun? Is it clothing? Etc.)
7. Do you think the object has monetary value? Personal value?
8. Did someone take special care of the object? Why?
9. Where do you think the object came from?
10. What does the object tell you about the period it was created in?

