



A HISTORY OF ME IN 3 OBJECTS

Teacher Resource

We've told *A History of the World in 100 Objects* – now can your students tell their history in only three?

The Challenge: As part of the *A History of the World in 100 Objects* travelling exhibition, teachers are invited to help their students to tell their own history in three objects.

The Task: Students select three human-made objects that are personal to them and that help to tell a story about their life. Students will photograph the objects on a timeline template and develop curatorial captions that describe them and convey their story.

The Outcome: With support from their teachers, students can share their histories online via the Western Australian Museum's website.

Audience: Students from Years 4-12.

Curriculum Links: Historical Skills:

- Chronology, terms and concepts
- Analysis and use of sources
- Explanation and communication
- Historical questions and research
- Perspectives and interpretations

The 'How-To' Guide

To complete **The Task:**

Teachers need to do the following:

1. Print out the timeline in A3 and copy and distribute to every student.
2. Guide students through the tasks below:

Students need to do the following (with Teacher's help):

1. Read the enclosed sheets.
2. Choose their objects.
3. Write their captions.
4. Arrange their objects and captions on the timeline.
5. Photograph their objects and captions on the timeline (see examples on our website).

To complete **The Outcome:**

Teachers need to do the following:

Visit: museum.wa.gov.au/historyin3 and follow the links to:

1. Register.
2. Upload your students' photographed timelines.
Please ensure there are no names, images or other details which identify students.
3. Download certificates of participation.

Challenge completed!





A HISTORY OF ME IN 3 OBJECTS

Museums and Their Objects

Why are objects important in telling stories?

Objects are important in telling stories because they can help us to imagine things in ways that words alone cannot. By looking at objects, we can see things from different points of view as we think about how things were used and who used them.

How do Museums choose which objects to display?

The Western Australian Museum has millions of objects in our collection, but only a small fraction of these are ever on display. So how do we choose which objects get featured?

Curators (the people who look after museum collections) consider many things before deciding what items to include in museum displays.

For instance, an object may be chosen because it:

- helps to tell a story with the objects around it
- offers a different perspective of a story
- has an interesting story about how it was found
- reveals something about the daily life of people in the past
- belonged to, or has been used by somebody important or significant
- reveals something about a significant event in history
- is quirky, interesting or funny
- encourages an emotional response or reaction from people
- has significant beauty or is 'the best' example of its kind
- shows changes in the way that people think and their general beliefs.

Museums want to inspire curiosity and wonder, so they choose objects that help visitors to explore, understand, question and appreciate the world around us.





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How to Select Your Objects

Share your stories with the world:

The Western Australian Museum invites you to tell us your history using three of your most treasured objects. What will YOU choose?

There are just three simple rules for your objects:

1. They need to be made or crafted by a person. This could include things that are made or written by YOU such as craftwork, pictures or diaries.
2. They must BELONG to you, or you have permission to use and photograph them.
3. They should tell a STORY about you.

Still stuck? Try choosing from three of these categories:

- Something that was special to you when you were a baby or toddler, such as a favourite toy or your first pair of shoes.
- A memento that is linked to a big change in your life, such as moving to a new country, a new house or a new school.
- An object connected to a memorable event in your life, like a birthday, loss of someone you love or the first time you did something new.
- An item that reveals your talents, skills or achievements such as an award that you won or something you use in your favourite hobby or activity.
- A souvenir from a memorable holiday.
- A treasured gift given to you by an important person on a special occasion.
- Something that reveals how you made a change in your world.

Remember these things:

- Your objects do not need to be 'beautiful'. They can be quite ordinary, even broken (the broken parts help to tell the story of how they were used).
- It is their STORY which is important.

Visit our website to see the objects and stories chosen by other people:
museum.wa.gov.au/historyin3





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How to Present Your Objects

Compose your caption

- Keep your entire caption for each object to a maximum of 25-30 words.
- Name the object with a short, descriptive title.
- Explain WHY or HOW this object reveals something about YOUR History.
- You may include a description of the materials it is made from (optional).
- You might also include where it came from, who gave it to you or when you first used it (optional).

Check your text

- Compose a draft before your final product.
- Make sure your sentences are short but try to avoid writing lists or dot-points.
- Carefully check your spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- If you are writing your caption, use a dark lead pencil or a blue or black pen and print.
- If you type your caption, use a simple font such as Arial or Calibri. You may wish to title your object in bold font but avoid italics or underline in your caption.
- Test your caption out on a few classmates. Can they read it? Does it make sense to them?

How to create your timeline

- Use the template provided to map out your timeline from birth to today. Mark the years of your life along the timeline, making sure your objects and captions will fit.
- If your objects are too large to fit along the timeline, you may wish to photograph them and place the photo along the timeline.
- Use arrows or connecting lines to show your age when the objects featured in your life.
- Avoid attaching the label directly to the object. It makes the object harder to see and you may also damage your precious treasure.

How to photograph your timeline

- Place your timeline on a flat, light coloured surface.
- Use natural daylight or a light directly above the timeline.
- Take a clear, bird's-eye photo of the timeline in a landscape orientation.
- Make sure the captions are in focus and can be read when the photo is enlarged.



**You are now ready to share your
A History of Me in 3 Objects with the world!
Ask your teacher how.**



A HISTORY OF ME IN 3 OBJECTS - TIMELINE



BORN

NOW

School: _____

Year Level: _____

Class: _____