

Bringing Objects and Artifacts to Life

Welcome!

The webinar will begin at 2:00 p.m. CT



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION



REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES



THC Museum Services

- **The Museum Services Program provides support, resources, and training to museums in Texas.**
 - *Consultations*
 - *Webinars and workshops*
 - *Resources*



THC Museum Services

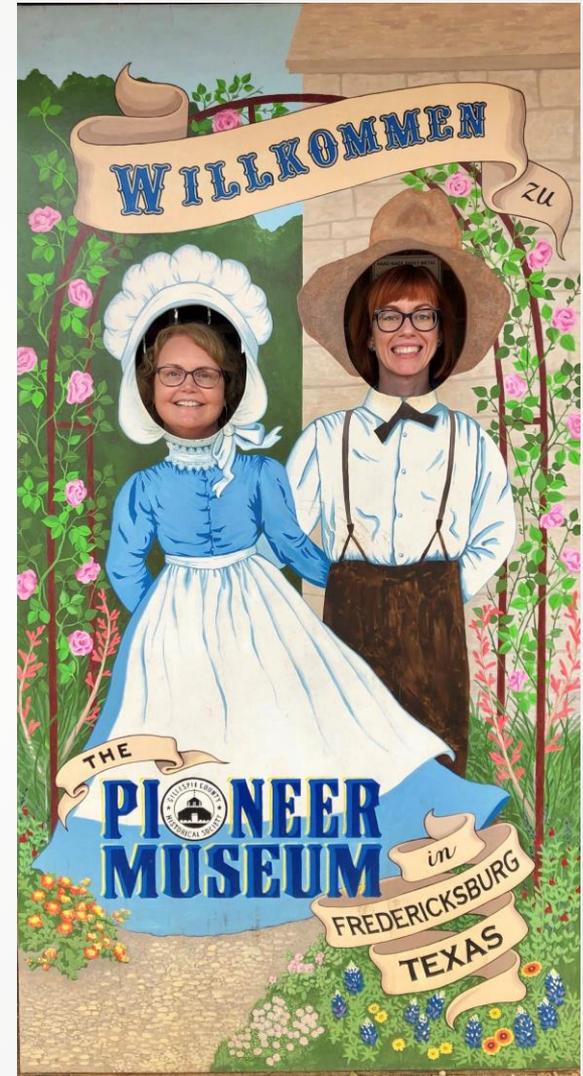
www.thc.texas.gov/museum-services

- On our webpage:
 - *Webinars*
 - *Workshops*
 - *Grants and Fundraising*
 - *Helpful Resources*
 - *Connect and Learn*



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Upcoming Free Webinars

- **Appraising and Insuring Historical Treasures**
 - *Tuesday, March 3, 2:00 p.m. CT*
- **Social Media and Your Cultural Organization: Where to Start**
 - *Tuesday, March 24, 10:00 a.m. CT*
- **Organizational Practices: A Digital Repository's Perspective**
 - *Wednesday, April 22, 10:00 a.m. CT*



Hannah Kellogg and Jodi Larson







**Hannah Kellogg
&
Jodi Larson**

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museumsunbound@gmail.com

**Changing the way
we change the world!**



**Bringing
Objects &
Artifacts to Life**



← not me



TEN of our favorite tools for bringing objects and artifacts (and historic rooms, and scenic vistas, pieces of art, photographs, etc) alive:

In 3 sections!

“Get Cozy”

“On the Move”

“Different Every Time”

“Get Cozy”

Tool #1

Close Reading



What does the object look like?

What is the shape of the object?

What is the size of the object?

What colors are visible?

Does it have a visible texture (shiny? rough? etc)

Do you know what the object is made of?

Is there more than one material used?

Describe the form of the materials (thickness, structure, etc)

Does this object have a smell?

Does this object have a sound?

Does this object have a taste?

What is the texture of the object?

What is its weight?

Does it have moving parts?

Is this object created by natural process or human process or both?

What observable evidence is there of its creation?

Are there marks, tags, or signatures that identify a maker?

Is an individual or company responsible for making this object?

Are there marks, motions, or other evidence of use or wear?

Is there evidence of breakage or repair?

Does the breakage, repair, or wear reveal anything about the object?

Do you know if this is a unique item?

Was this item mass-produced or do similar versions exist?

Are there any symbols or writing on this object?

Tool #2

Ask The Object/

Ask Each Other

(the collaborative close reading)

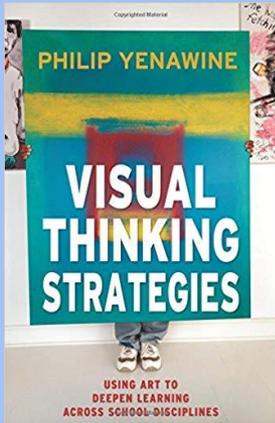


Tool #3

Get Downright Nosy

**(getting creative and even somewhat silly
with your close reading)**

Tool #4
Visual Thinking
Strategies
(for Objects!)



Visual Thinking Strategies

How-To "Read" an Image

1



What is going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say that?



What more can we find?

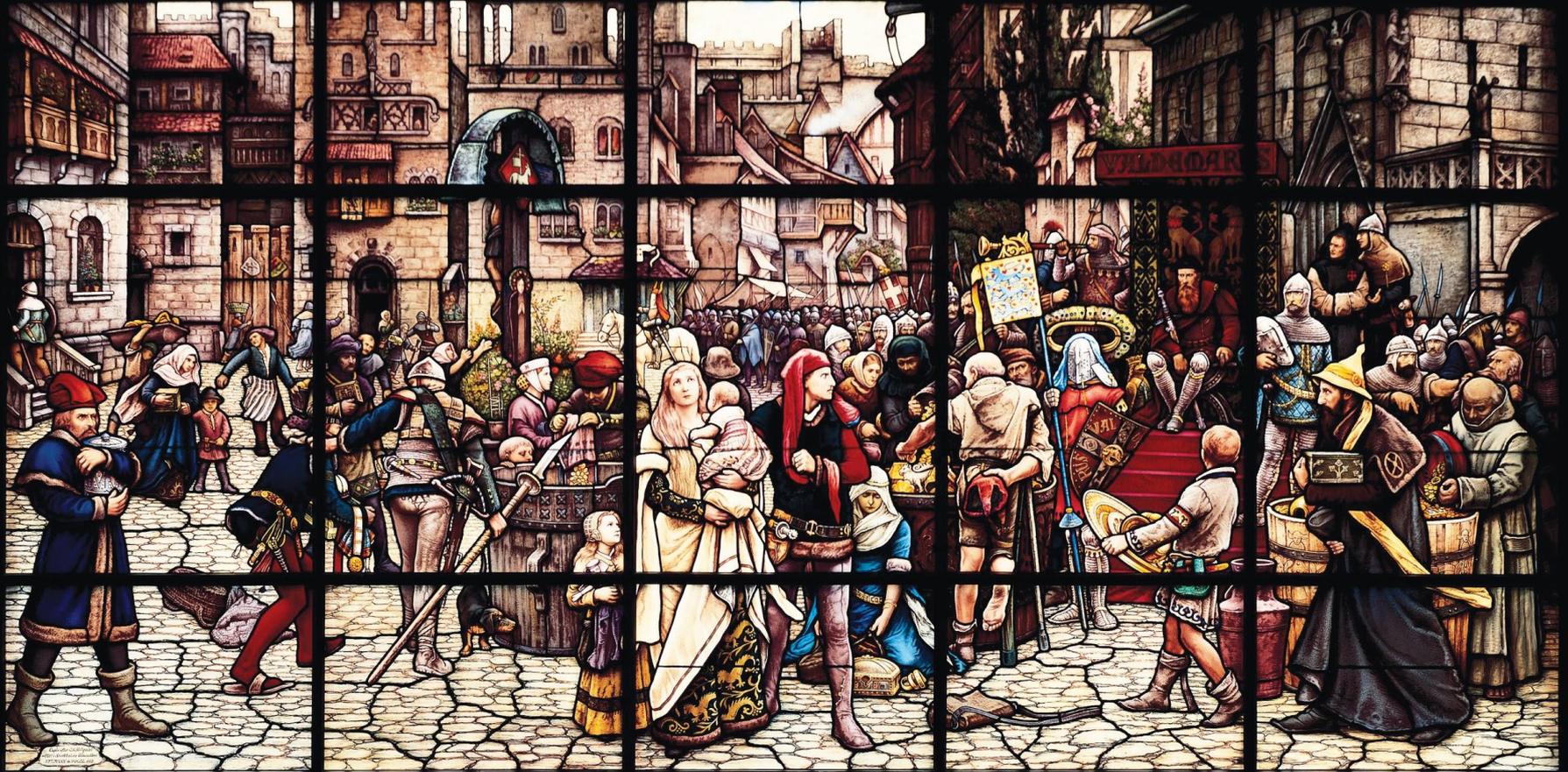
Facilitator Tips

- paraphrase neutrally
- point at area being discussed
- link & frame student comments

More About VTS

- students discuss observations
- students back up ideas with evidence
- students discuss multiple interpretations
- www.vtshome.org





What's Going On in This Picture?

Intriguing Times images stripped of their captions -- and an invitation to students to discuss them live.

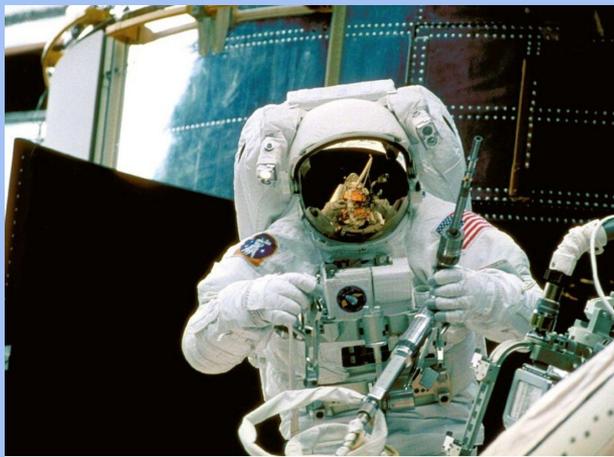
What's Going On in This Picture? | Feb. 24, 2020

Look closely at this image, stripped of its caption, and join the moderated conversation about what you and other students see.

Image by THE LEARNING NETWORK



IMAGE OF CHINA WOODEN BRIDGE PRESSURE — GETTY IMAGES



“Get cozy” with your object by:

Really looking at it with a close reading

Collaborating with others to get a better understanding of the object and adding a bit of creative problem solving to the activity

Getting creative and making connections by asking the object how it would respond

Ask the three VTS questions so everyone can use observation and critical thinking to understand artifacts, objects, and sites

“On the Move”

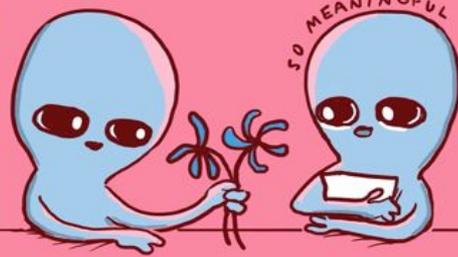
Tool #5

The Friendly Alien

I DREW A VITAL ORGAN
BEING WOUNDED



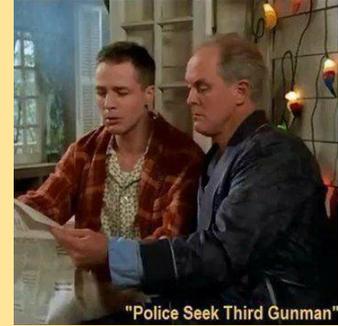
ALSO
THESE ARE DYING



NATHANWPYLE



Ooh, here's a job I can do!



"Police Seek Third Gunman"

Observation Piece, 2018

First, grab some people. Everyone take 10 minutes to wander alone, without talking, around a small, pre-defined area. Observe and notice your surroundings: surfaces, negative and positive spaces, lines, patterns, detritus. Follow your curiosity. Search for everyday beauty and the overlooked, go forth with a sense of affection for the place.

Second, regroup and tour the same area for 15 minutes, sharing things that you noticed during your observation and why they stood out to you. Beware the urge to be critical and prescribe fixes. Stay in the present and focus on the everyday beauty you observed.

SPRINGBOARD
for the arts
springboardforthearts.org

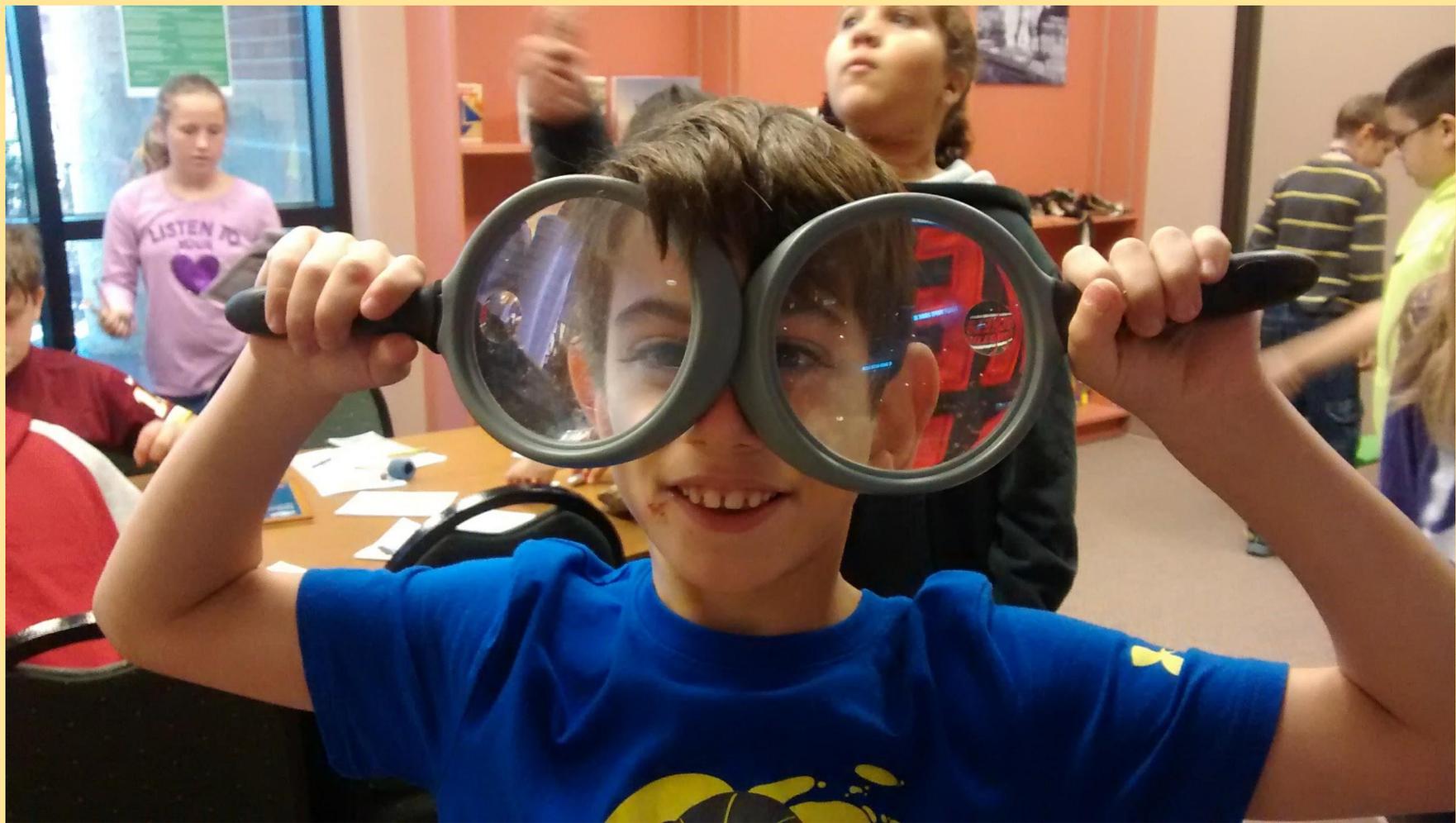
Tool #6

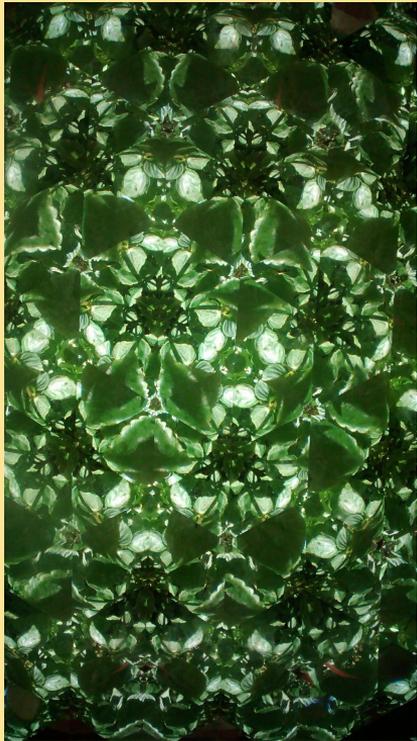
Explore Like a Child



Tool #7

Fresh Eyes





ROBERT C. ANDERSON'S
Gardens of
KALEIDOSCOPIES

TOTEM

Kaleidoscopes are for sale. See Gift Store for more information. Proceeds benefit Park, Art, and Abolition.

Materials: Steel with green light powder coated top finish
Plant Materials: Multicolored Annuals vary by month
Dimensions: 62" H x 50" W x 30" D

Spin the planter and turn the telioscope to view colors and intricate prism designs. Enjoy 15 installations in all! Steel contour sculptures by artist uniquely enhanced with gardener's mix of spring blooms and summer annuals (changes monthly).

PLEASE DO NOT CLIMB ON KALEIDOSCOPIES

SPONSORED BY:

 Park Dental  WELLS FARGO  C.H. ROBINSON  EMERSON  WAGNERS
Creating color since 1851

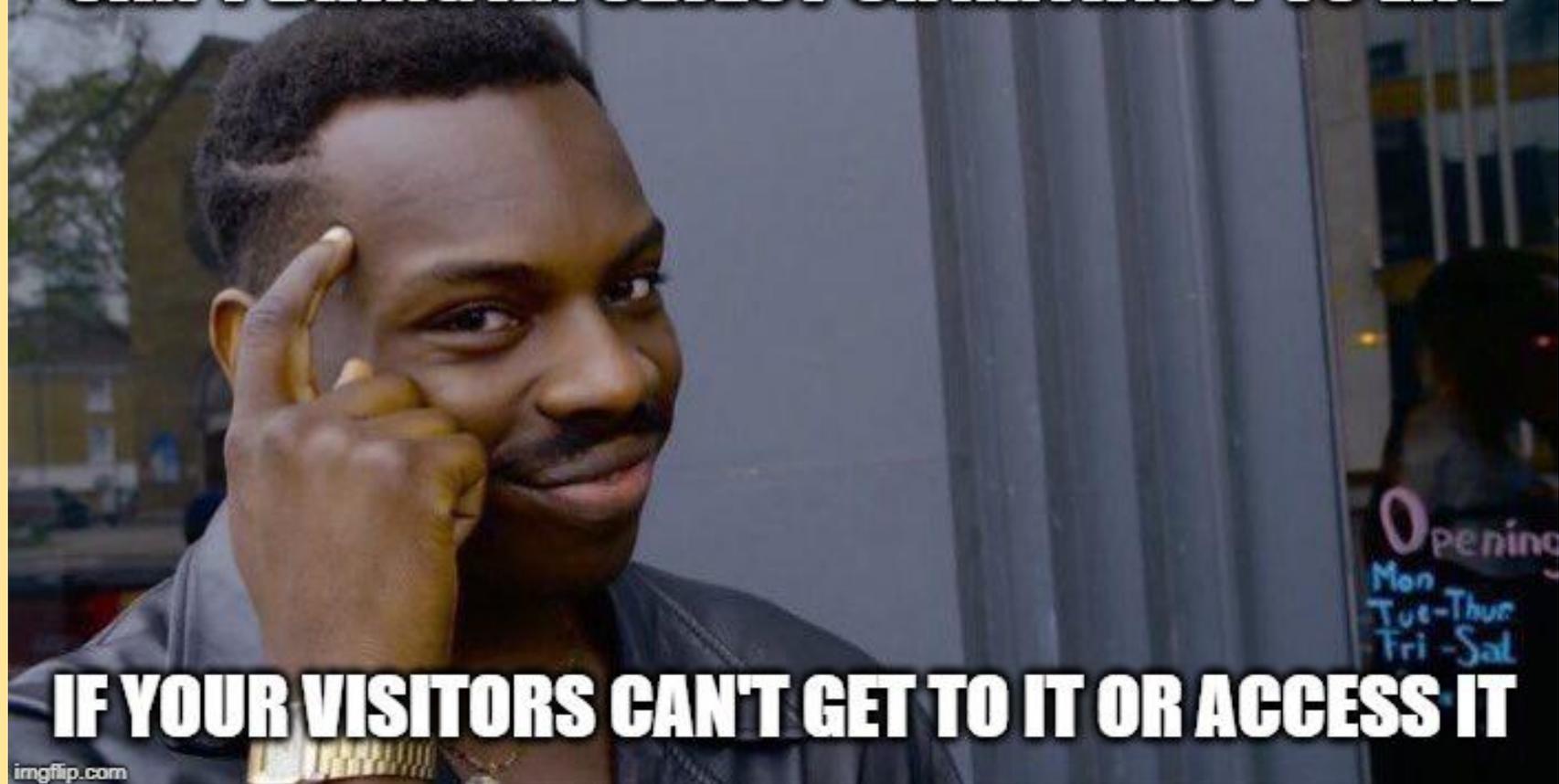




Tool #8

Accessibility Check

CAN'T BRING AN OBJECT OR ARTIFACT TO LIFE



IF YOUR VISITORS CAN'T GET TO IT OR ACCESS IT



ARCHER'S CHALLENGE

<http://archerschallenge.org/>

How being “on the move” helps bring objects to life:

Looking through someone else’s eyes (an alien’s, a child’s, a person with different needs) can make for new discoveries for yourself (and new discoveries about other people!)

A new lens will always reveal a new layer of understanding, or help form new questions, or lead someone in a new direction.

Making sure your objects can be seen and experienced by all visitors will increase their availability and make visitor engagement much more likely.

**“Different
Every Time”**

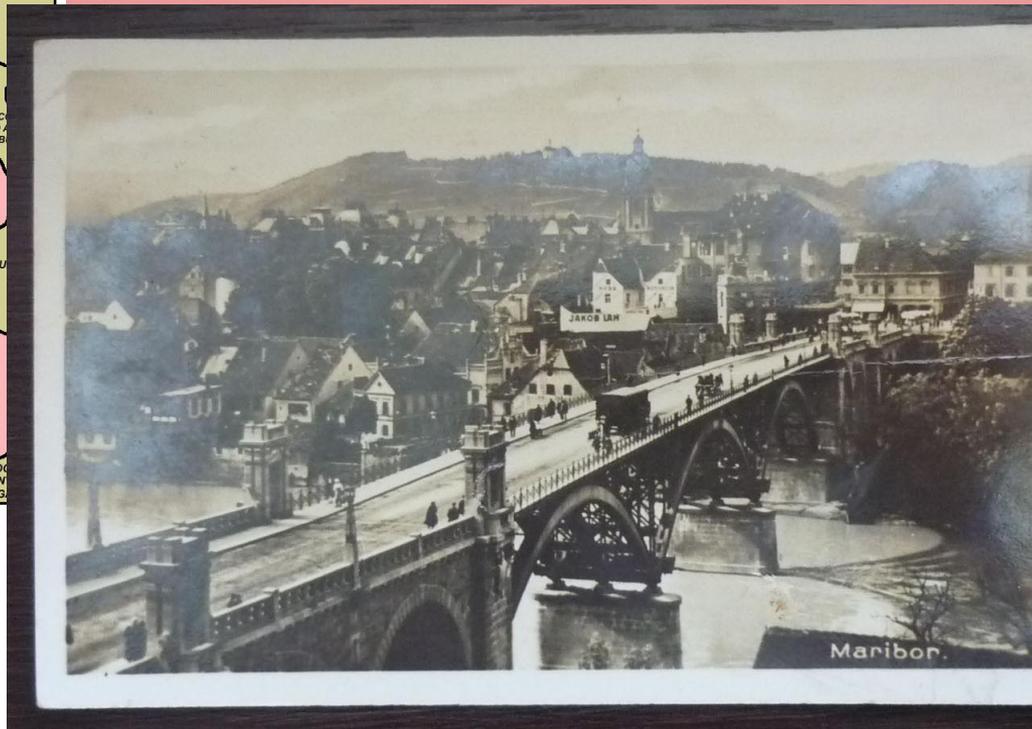




Axis / fascist occupation and partition of Yugoslavia in World War II (as of 1941)

- Internationally recognized borders
- Illegal Axis / fascist borders in occupied Yugoslavia
- Independent State of Croatia (German and Italian occupation)
- Serbia (German occupation)
- Banat, region with special status within Serbia (German occupation and local German administration)
- Montenegro (Italian occupation)
- Occupied and annexed by Bulgaria
- Occupied and annexed by Nazi Germany
- Occupied and annexed by Italy
- Occupied and annexed by Italy (As a part of Italian protectorate of Albania)
- Occupied and annexed by Hungary

Note: Some scholars are suggesting that term "fascist" is not a proper description for all countries that participated in occupation of Yugoslavia. Other scholars (including those from former Yugoslavia) are using this term as a description for all these countries.



Tool #9

Tag!

METADATAGAMES

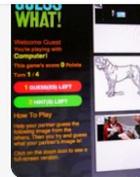
About Games Get Involved For Institutions Research & Press



A zen-like one player tagging activity — be as specific and accurate as you can to earn high scores. Ohm!



In the "next evolution" of Zen Tag, you can tag audio and video clips, too. Plug in your headphones and get ready!



Work together with a stranger to identify images in this fast-paced guessing game. Give great hints and you'll both score big!

STUPID ROBOT

Meet Stupid Robot. Stupid Robot looks at everything but understands nothing. Can you help?

Using words at least 4 letters long, tell the robot what is in each image. Stupid Robot wants to learn one word about the image of every length. It wants to learn a 4 letter word, a 5 letter word, a 6 letter word, etc.

One Up



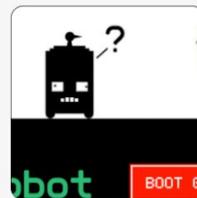
Challenge a friend and see if you're smarter than they are! The best descriptions win, but be careful not to be One Upped in this competitive game for Apple and Android devices!

Pyramid Tag



A competitive one player game — We asked random people to describe the image you are about to see in a single word each. How many of these words can you match in 2 minutes?!

Stupid Robot



Stupid robot looks at everything but understands nothing. Can you help? Teach it as much as you can about the image. As it learns, it'll want to know longer and longer words!

British Library Collaboration

Ships Tag



Book Tag



Portrait Tag





Tool #10

**Motel of the
Mysteries**

MOTEL OF THE MYSTERIES



DAVID MACAULAY

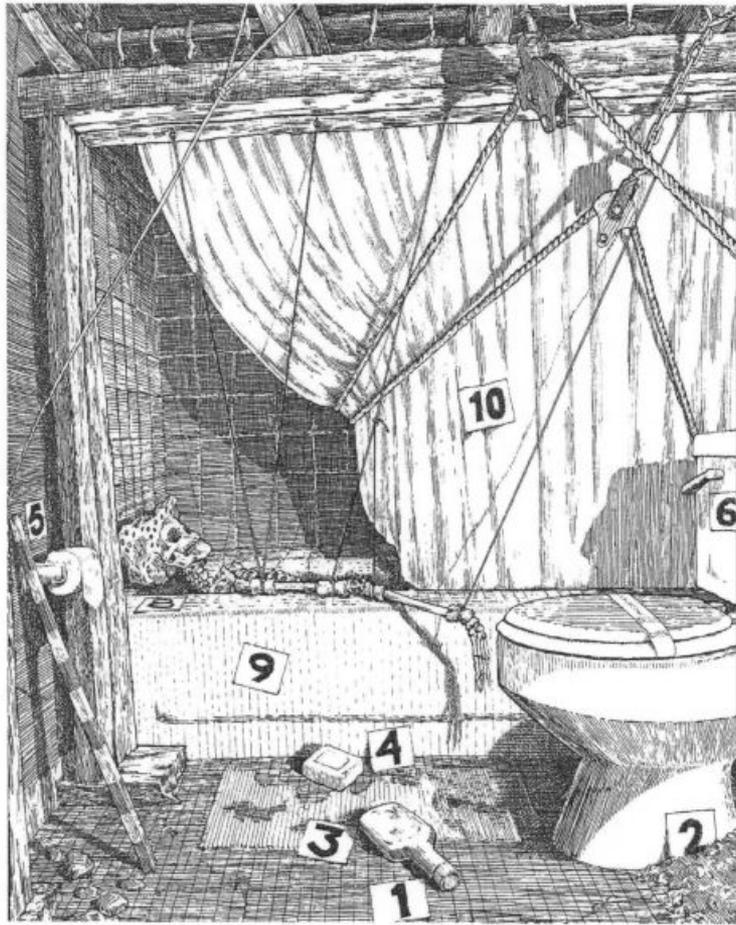
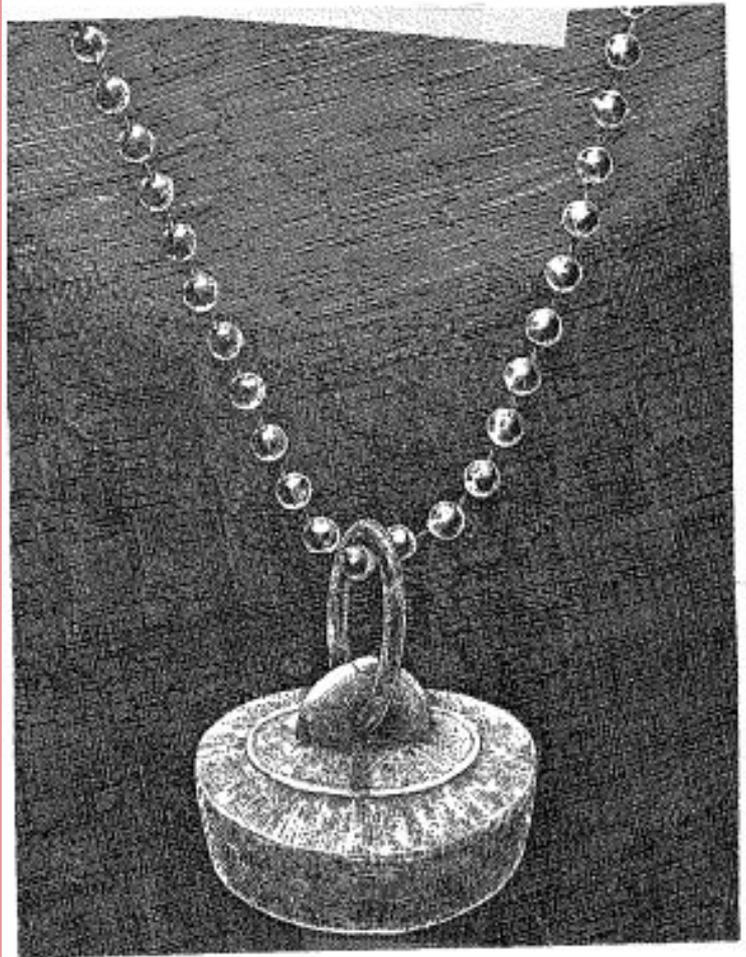


FIGURE 2 Detailed drawing of the fabulous discovery made in the inner burial chamber.
(David Macaulay)



The Sacred Pendant

This exquisite piece of jewelry was found lodged in the silver-rimmed hole in the floor of the sarcophagus, where it had apparently been dropped. The beautiful pendant was carved out of rubber (now petrified) and has been inscribed with the marking *1 and 1/2*. It is connected most delicately by a silver ring to a beautifully formed silver chain. The symbolic derivative of the pendant's form has yet to be determined.



Interpreting an object is “different every time” because:

Everyone will have a different perspective, a different experience, and a different background and understanding to bring to the process.

You can USE these differences in your interpretation instead of fighting against it. Everyone has something to say and that CAN be a benefit and a challenge!

What we can guess and what we can know about an object may be broad or limited but the journey to those understandings can reveal just as much about ourselves as the object



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