Examining an Artifact

Answer these questions about your artifact. Try to think like an archeologist or historian studying an ancient society.

- 1. What is it?
- Initial Response: What does it look like? (Describe it as if you had never seen or heard of one before.)

Questions to consider:

- a. What catches your eye?
- b. What one-word descriptors come to mind as you look at the artifact?
- c. What size and shape is it?
- d. What materials is it made of?
- e. Does it have a picture or writing on it?
- f. Can you read the writing?
- g. Does it seem damaged or used? How?
- 3. Analysis: What does it tell you about the past?
 - a. How is this artifact different from the "usual" objects you have seen?
 - b. Who do you think would have used it? Why? How?
 - c. What does it tell you about the way they lived, acted, dressed, thought, or travelled (or anything else about them)?
 - d. Why do you think this object was made?
 - e. Do you think it was an important object to the owner? Why?
- 4. Interpretation
 - a. Have you seen other objects similar to this one?
 - b. Could you give a demonstration of how it might have been used?

