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?

2. 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?