**At Home Artifact Activity**

Essential Question: ***How can artifacts and objects help us understand how people live in the past and in the present?***

**Grade:** 3rd grade

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Purpose:**

Everyday objects found in Fort Point and the Presidio have shown archaeologists and historians how the people of the past lived. Anything from a hammer to an iron can tell us about the materials that people throughout history used. At Fort Point, Park Rangers have learned a lot about the soldiers, cooks, and laundresses who once called this place their home by looking at the objects they would have used every day. Find an interesting object in your house that you’d like to know more about. You will use your investigative skills to expand your knowledge!

**Materials:**

* + Curious objects around your home
  + Notebook and pencil

**Standards:** CA HSS Content Standards: 3.3.3. Trace why their community was established, how individuals and families contributed to its founding and development, and how the community has changed over time, drawing on maps, photographs, oral histories, letters, newspapers, and other primary sources.

***Step 1*** Find an object in their house that they cannot immediately identify.

**Step 2** Observe the object found. Inyour notebook share the following:

* + 3 **observations** of their object.
  + 2 **questions** they have about their object.
  + 1 **way** you might use the object.

***Step 3*** Spend time sharing with other students (in small groups) your observations and the questions you have about your object.