Secondary Learning from Objects



Key Stage 3 - 5

National Curriculum area: Cross-curricular Length of session: 30 minutes Maximum group size: 32



Session Outline

The Pitt Rivers holds objects from almost every country in the world. What can the objects it stewards teach us about the lived-experience of the people who owned and used them? How does the Museum connect ethically with people who have that lived experience today?

This session interrogates how objects can act as a resource for research of different kinds, both the research of academics and the research of communities to uncover parts of their own histories.

Students will handle a number of objects from a variety of different places to research their meaning, uses and significance in a range of contexts.

Learning Outcomes

- To use historic and scientific enquiry skills to find out about an object
- To understand how objects can tell us information we cannot find elsewhere
- To understand how and why the objects were acquired and how the Pitt Rivers foregrounds many voices to interpret objects
- To handle objects from the Pitt Rivers collections

Pre visit activities

Talk about different types of historical evidence and the kinds of questions we ask about evidence.

Look at the Pitt Rivers website https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk to find out which parts of the collection you would most like to find out about.

Post visit activities

Look at https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/ public-engagement-research to find out how the museum connects its public engagement programme with research projects.

Look at https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/ maasai-living-cultures and learn more about a key project connected to self-representation.

Find out more about ethics and the removal of human remains from display https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/ human-remains-pitt-rivers-museum



For further details and how to book visit: www.prm.ox.ac.uk/learn