

Activity 1: 'What can you tell from this object?'

Object No.1



Questions to discuss in your group:

1. What material do you think was used to make this object?
2. What do you think it represents? [Clue: Look carefully at the markings on the surface. What do they suggest?]
3. The sphere is divided into twelve segments like an orange. What do you think the twelve sections represent?
4. The object was made in the 14th century in Persia. What sort of person do you think would have made this object?
5. Where would you see the modern-day equivalent to this model?

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Object No.2



Questions to discuss in your group:

1. What do you think this object is?
2. What do you think this object depicts?
[Clue: Look at what is at the bottom of the diagram?]
3. What do you think the apparatus shown might have been used for?
[Clue: Have you used similar apparatus in the laboratory?]
4. What material do you think might have been used to make this object?
5. Where do you think this object might have been made? [e.g. Which continent?]

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Object No.3



Questions to discuss in your group:

1. What materials do you think might have been used to make this object?
2. Look at the decorative work on the instrument. From what part of the world do you think this object might have originated?
3. Some of the decorative work includes calligraphic inscriptions (writing). What sort of inscriptions do you think they might be?
4. This instrument is a type of direction finder. Why do you think it might have been important to its owner? [Clue: The owner was probably quite religious]
5. What sort of person do you think might have owned this object?

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Object No.4



Questions to discuss in your group:

1. What do you think this object might be?
2. What materials do you think the object is made out of?
3. In which century do you think this object was made?
[Clue: When was this type of object invented? Does this look like an early or later example of this type of object?]
4. Where do you think it might have been made? [e.g. Asia, Africa, Europe, North America?] What are your reasons?
5. What sort of advances or discoveries might have been made with this instrument?

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Object No.5



Questions to discuss in your group:

1. What material do you think might have been used to make this object?
2. This is an astronomical device made up of a dial with pointers that rotates above a plate with a grid on it. For what sort of purpose do you think it might have been used? [Clue: What do you think the "pointers" might be indicating?]
3. This object originates from Moorish Spain (Islamic) during the 13th century. Amongst other things, it might have been used for telling the time. Why do you think accurate time-telling was important in Islamic societies?
4. What sort of person do you think might have owned this object?

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Object No.6



Questions to discuss in your group:

1. What is this object and what do you think it shows?
2. Which part of the world do you think this object might have come from?
3. What materials would have been needed to make this object?
4. For what purposes would this object have been important? [Clue: What do you think the star shape near the middle shows?]
5. Who do you think might have owned this object?

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Object No.7



Questions to discuss in your group:

1. This object represents an idea about the universe which originated in ancient Greece. What do you think the sphere at the centre represents?
2. What do you think the thick diagonal band on the left hand side might represent?
3. What sort of material was used to make this object?
4. What might this object have been used for?
5. Where do you think it might have been used?