*Motel of the Mysteries* Artifact Assignment

For this project, imagine that you are working for Dr. Howard Carson, the main character in David Macaulay’s book *Motel of the Mysteries*. You will ‘uncover’ an unusual artifact from your home or school and create an informational display card that could be used 2,000 years in the future to describe the artifact.

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|  | **Advanced** | **Proficient** | **Basic** |
| **Location** | A brief informative history (one paragraph) of an everyday object that gives detailed facts about where and how the artifact was ‘uncovered.’ | History of where the artifact was “uncovered” gives some facts about where and how the artifact was ‘uncovered.’ | History of where the artifact was ‘uncovered’ has very few facts about where and how the artifact was ‘uncovered.’ |
| **History** | A brief informative history (one paragraph) of an everyday object that gives facts about who used it, when, where, and how. | History of an everyday object is brief and gives some facts about who used it, when, where, and how. | History has very few facts about who used the object, and/or when, where, and how it was used. |
| **Display** | Display card is attractively and creatively and neatly written in ink or typed. | Display card is written neatly in ink or typed. | Display card is not written in ink or typed and/or is sloppy. |

ELA Standards:

1. Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

2. Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

3. Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text

4. Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent. Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

5. Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

6. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/common-core-tools/unpacking/ela/5.pdf>

**Location, History, and Tag Example**

**Masticus Lockus (#34)**

**Location of Find**

Archaeologists were excited to unearth this high quality and almost perfectly preserved Masticus Lockus in 4010 AD. This Masticus Lockus was unearthed in the newly found ruins at Vicenamidle Scol in the modern country of Italiaustrika. The artifact was located in a small antechamber filled with metallic cabinets, each containing a single hook with fragments of fabric and paper at the bottom. It is believed that this small antechamber may have contained pungent perfumes as it still retains a faint stench even 2000 years after its construction. This small room was situated close to the Great Room with Wooden Floors whose function is unknown at this time. The purpose of the two large hoops located at each end of the Great Room with Wooden Floors has puzzled archaeologists for years.

**History of Artifact**

It is widely believed that the Masticus Lockus was an extremely popular hand-held puzzle for children. Children and even adults 2,000 years ago were fascinated by puzzles and would try for hours to solve them in their spare time. This specimen was a highly portable toy that was carried on the owner by looping a strap around it and tying it to a belt. This Masticus Lockus is preserved in a highly functional state and has provided hours of pleasure and enjoyment for the archaeologists who unearthed it. As of yet, no modern human has solved the puzzle to uncover the secrets inside! It is the dream of every modern archaeologist to solve the puzzle and open the container.

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| **#34** |

<http://ms6hw.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/69154882/motel>