Hidden History: Artifact Collection

Introduction:

Every day we use common items that at first glance seem unremarkable, but every object that surrounds us has a specific purpose and is connected to a specific culture or time. For example, the people living in your community in 1800 would have no idea what a cell phone was, their primary mode of communication were letters. Historians often examine everyday objects like clothing and tools people used in the past to better understand their lives and how they lived.

Task:

In this project you will locate and bring an artifact to school (with permission) that relates to your local history. You will then have the task of creating a catalog entry for your artifact, essentially creating a data sheet for it. These Projects once completed, will be published on the Madison Historical Encyclopedia & Archive website.

Things to Consider: Artifact Hunting

- This object should be…
  - Age appropriate & school appropriate
  - Relatable to local history and/or the community
  - Something you can easily physically carry into school
- It can be…
  - A document
  - A photograph
  - An object
- It Needs…
  - Permission from the owner to be displayed
  - As much historical / personal information you can get
    - Have answers for questions such as: Who owns it? Where did it originally come from? Why is it important outside of your personal connection to it?