

# Investigating Objects

For **historians** (people who study the past), objects can provide lots of information for investigating the past.

Today, you're going to be a historian! Look closely at the object below and fill in the report sheet on the next page.



# Report Sheet

*Draw the object in the box.  
Look closely at all the details!*

When do you think the object was made?

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Where do you think the object was made?

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Who do you think made the object?

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What did you notice when you looked closely at the object?

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What do you think the object is?

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What do you think the object is made from?

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Who do you think used the object?

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What do you think the object was used for?

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**Wait for your teacher to reveal more information about the object before you fill in the page below.**

What is the object?

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When was it made?

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What are three facts about the object?

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What do we use instead of this object today?

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Why do you think the object should be preserved?

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# Object Information Sheet for Educators

This is a celestial globe. Celestial globes are maps of the sky, representing the position of stars.

This globe was made in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, likely between 1830 and 1880.

It was made in London by a company called Newton, which was among the top manufacturers of globes in 19<sup>th</sup> century England. The company was operated by the Newton family of cartographers.

This globe belonged to John Tebbutt, an astronomer from Windsor NSW. Tebbutt was Australia's most famous astronomer in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He studied many things in the night sky, including double stars, variable stars, Jupiter's moons, and minor planets. However, he was most famous for studying comets. He even discovered two Great Comets, one in 1861 and one in 1881.

This globe could be used to estimate the time that the Sun, the Moon, or a star would rise or set at the horizon in a particular location, for any night of the year. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, globes like this were also fashionable accessories in wealthy households. In a room where you would entertain guests, it was common to have a celestial globe at one end and a terrestrial globe at the other end.

Tebbutt wrote in his memoirs and in newspaper articles that studying globes like this one at school, first inspired his interest in astronomy. He felt that all schools should teach their students how to use terrestrial and celestial globes.

It is made from wood, brass, plaster, and paper. The map of the stars is hand-drawn and put onto the globe using sheets of paper that are shield shaped. These sheets are pasted onto the sphere, ensuring the points of each sheet all line-up at the top and bottom of the globe.

Today, instead of celestial globes like this one, we use computers to calculate more accurately the rising and setting times of stars, the Sun, and the Moon. There are even some phone apps which can provide this information.

Historians know all this information about the celestial globe from different primary and secondary sources. For instance, we studied this object closely, examined Tebbutt's records, and read books and articles about Tebbutt and celestial globes.

