



Living History Student Activity

Photograph and Artifact Analysis



The Bernhard Museum Complex consists of three historic buildings. The main building, the home, was constructed in 1851 during the California Gold Rush. George Bishop and John Long operated the two-story building as an inn, “The Traveler’s Rest.” The property then transitioned to a private home in 1858. Eliza Caruthers bought the home and land in 1864 and lived there until it was purchased by Bernhard Bernhard in 1868.

Bernhard emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania and later moved to St. Louis, Missouri. After hearing of the gold discovery he traveled to Placer County in 1852. Like many other gold seekers he turned to a profession other than gold mining. He acquired a teaming business, transporting goods. His wife Rosa joined him in Auburn a few years later.

The Bernhard Museum Complex officially opened in 1982, 131 years after the Traveler’s Rest was constructed.

How do people, like historians, create a museum? How do you learn about past events and people when you were not there? Sources! What is a source? A place, person, or thing from which something comes from or can be obtained. In history, a source can be where information comes from. There are two types of sources: primary and secondary.

Primary Sources are original records that were produced by the people who participated in and witnessed the past. *Examples:* Artifacts, letters, diaries, photographs, government documents, maps, etc.

Secondary Sources are created by someone who did not experience first-hand or participate in the event being studied. *Examples:* Books, articles, websites, etc.

In these activities you will learn about the 1800s by looking at the following primary sources: photographs and artifacts.

Photograph and Artifact Analysis

Example for blacksmithing

In the 19th century, a blacksmith was an essential member of the community. To smith is to treat metal by heating, hammering, and forging it. Therefore, to be a blacksmith is to take metal and make or fix tools and/or objects. This would mean a blacksmith in Auburn could make tools for miners and farmers.

Look at the picture and artifact below. Answer the questions based on your observations.



What do you think is happening in this photo?

I think a blacksmith is making something for someone. Maybe a farmer needs a tool repaired that broke.

Do you have questions about this photo? What could you use to research what you don't know?

I wonder how you bend all the metal? I could probably use google to look up more information on blacksmiths!



What material do you think it is made out of?

It looks like metal.

Describe how it looks:

It has a flat top with a rounded point. And feet that are all connected. Its kind of brown/black.

How do you think it was used?

I see it in the picture, and the man has a hammer. So I wonder if the blacksmith used it like a table for hammering metal on?

How do you think it feels? How do you think it sounds?

I think it feels smooth and cool to the touch. Unless you're hammering on it, then maybe it gets hot? And it's probably really loud!

What tool do you think does the same job in 2020?

We probably have machines that do this work now.

Photograph and Artifact Analysis

Woodworking

The ability to work with wood was essential to families in the 1800s. Homes, barns, wagons, tools, furniture, and other items were all made from wood, and firewood was essential to operating stoves. Family members learned how to use tools to make these items.

Look at the picture and artifact below. Answer the questions based on your observations.



What do you think is happening in this photo?

Do you have questions about this photo? What could you use to research what you don't know?

What material do you think it is made out of?

Describe how it looks:

How do you think it was used?

How do you think it feels? How do you think it sounds?

What tool do you think does the same job in 2020?

Photograph and Artifact Analysis

Cooking

The kitchen's wood burning stove was central to many household chores. Children often helped prepare daily meals, preserve food for future use, wash dishes, and tend to the stove. The kitchen stove could also provide heat during the winter, but during the summer most cooking would be done outside.

Look at the picture and artifact below. Answer the questions based on your observations.



What do you think is happening in this photo?

Do you have questions about this photo? What could you use to research what you don't know?



What material do you think it is made out of?

Describe how it looks:

How do you think it was used?

How do you think it feels? How do you think it sounds?

What tool do you think does the same job in 2020?

Photograph and Artifact Analysis

Laundry

All clothes were washed by hand and the chore took an entire day. Water was pumped from the well and heated on the stove. The clothing was soaked and boiled and then scrubbed one at a time on a washboard. It was then rinsed, blued, starched, and wrung out before being hung to dry. Clothes were then ironed.

Look at the picture and artifact below. Answer the questions based on your observations.



What do you think is happening in this photo?

Do you have questions about this photo? What could you use to research what you don't know?

What material do you think it is made out of?

Describe how it looks:



How do you think it was used?

How do you think it feels? How do you think it sounds?

What tool do you think does the same job in 2020?

Photograph and Artifact Analysis

Leathercare

Leather has been important to humans for thousands of years. On the 19th century farm, leather was used to make saddles, shoes, and equipment for animals and wagons to complete work. These items were expensive and the owner was responsible for cleaning and conditioning them, or taking them in for repair.

Look at the picture and artifact below. Answer the questions based on your observations.



What do you think is happening in this photo?

Do you have questions about this photo? What could you use to research what you don't know?



What material do you think it is made out of?

Describe how it looks:

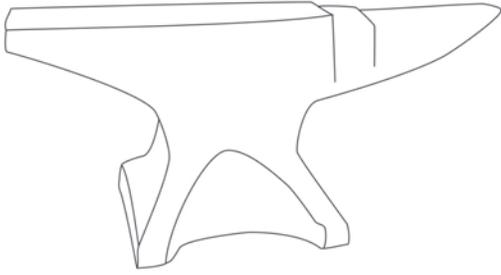
How do you think it was used?

How do you think it feels? How do you think it sounds?

What tool do you think does the same job in 2020?

Artifact Analysis

Do you want to know if your observations about the artifacts were correct? Look below to learn about the different objects you analyzed.

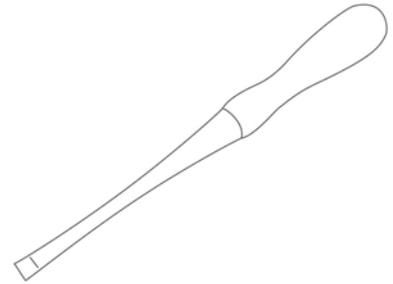


Anvil

Anvils are a heavy steel or iron block with a flat top, with concave sides, that typically have a pointed end. They are used to hammer and shape metal.

Chisel

A chisel is a long-bladed hand tool that has a long metal cutting edge and a plain wooden handle that is struck with a hammer or mallet. People commonly use chisels to cut or shape wood, but they can be used to shape other hard materials.

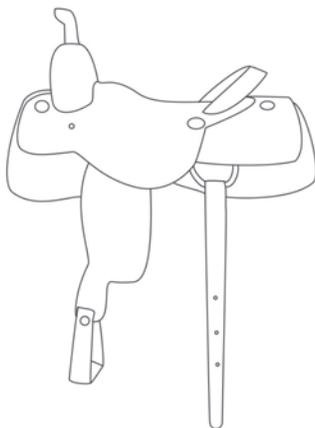
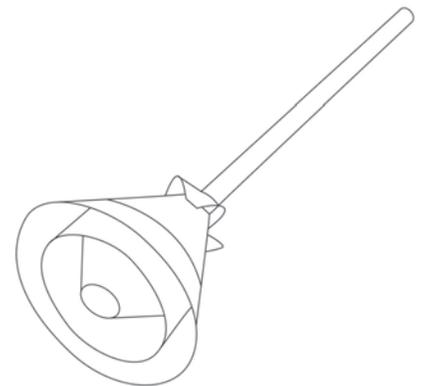


Water Pump

Old water pumps were on top of a well, and were made from metal with a leather cup inside. When you pushed the handle up and down, air pressure would bring water up the pipe and out the spout.

Dasher, plunger, agitator, etc.

This device has a wooden handle with layered metal cones on the bottom. After scrubbing your clothes on a washboard, this tool is used to plunge the clothes repeatedly in clean water to remove soap and dirt.



Horse Saddle

Saddles are essential for horseback riding. Made out of leather with metal accessories, the saddle keeps a rider steady, but can also hold a rider's tools and goods. They come in a variety of sizes and shapes depending on the rider's age, work, and riding style.