CLASS VISIT--THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

OBJECTIVES
Students will observe and describe historical objects from the Museum's collection.
Students will analyze observations and descriptions to guess the identity and function of objects.
Students will share conclusions with the class.

MATERIALS
pencils
cotton gloves
measuring tape
plastic sticks
copies of "Artifact Analysis Worksheet"
objects (artifacts and archive materials) packaged in boxes
stereoviewer and cards

PROCEDURE
1. set-up: for you (each docent should wear one of our green aprons...or a FMOG collared shirt); on each table: one pencil per student (the students get to keep those), sets of gloves (one pair per student), measuring tape (one per group) wooden sticks, one copy of worksheet per group (flipped over so they can't read it).

2. welcome (5 minutes): introduce yourselves, "Hi my name is Amanda and I'm from the Falmouth Museums on the Green, many of you may have visited us when you were in third grade," and meet the students...even if that is as simple as going around the room with names.

3. introduce the activity and rules for handling objects (5 minutes): "You will be research assistants for the day. You will be handling actual artifacts and antiques (some over 100 years old) from the Museum’s collection. We have mystery objects here and your job will be to figure out what these objects are and how they were used by Falmouth residents in the past. We do ask, that since these objects are old and fragile, you follow some simple rules for handling them. These are the same rules that we use at the Museum."
RULES FOR HANDLING OBJECTS

1. Wear gloves.
2. Use pencil to write.
3. Treat the object as if it was a fragile newborn baby...be particularly careful when picking up an object (always pick up from the bottom).
4. Never force any moveable parts to move.
5. Use assistance (sticks/picks) to lift/move delicate items, you can be more precise than with your fingers.

4. **warm-up activity with stereoviewer (7 minutes):** model the process, use the questions on the worksheet as a guide. "Before we let you get started with your group, we will do this activity together as a class. The first step is observation. Observe this object and describe it. What is it made out of? How big is it? What else do you notice?" Pass or walk the object around the room so that each person can get a good look at it and make a quick observation. "Ok, now that we've described the object, we want to analyze what we observed and bring all those details together to make an educated guess about what the object is and what it was used for." Background info on stereoviewer: invented shortly after photography was invented in the 1840s. Was popular up until the early 1900s (1920s-30s). The way it works is that someone takes two photographs of an image, at slightly different angles. When you put them in front of your eyes and split your eyes up, your brain overlays the images together and creates a 3-D image. Was used for entertainment. Something people did in the evenings. Put one of the stereocards in the viewer and pass it around again, so students can see the 3-D image. "Can you think of a modern equivalent of this object?" 3-D movies, movies, YouTube, viewmaster, watching TV.

5. **Group work with objects (25 minutes):** "Ok, now that we've done this together as a class, you are ready to try it in your small groups. So, one person is the scribe to complete the worksheet together as a group. One person from each group should come up and pick an object. Just remember the rules we talked about and go slowly. At the end of class, we will gather together again and each group will share your object and what you discovered about it."

6. **wrap-up activity (5 minutes):** "go around the room and share what you wrote...What is your object? How do you think it was used by Falmouth residents in the past?"

7. **clean-up (3 minutes):** kids should repackage objects in tissue in the boxes and bring them back up to the front of the class. gloves and sticks should be rearranged on the desk. You will need to replenish pencils and worksheets.