

# Using Objects as Primary Sources



Historians and ancient Historians often need to use objects as evidence. This guide will give you an overview of why we do this and where to start!

## What is an object?

When looking at an object in terms of history, they are usually made and/or used by humans and have a specific purpose or use. This can include things such as large sculptures or everyday items such as coins.

## Why are objects useful sources?

Objects give us a useful insight into history which isn't always in written records. This may be older societies who didn't use writing or perhaps the objects can give us an understanding of the lives of 'ordinary' people who's lives may not have been written about.

## What are the limitations?

Objects can be hard to interpret on their own, we often need written resources to back them up and historians often need good historical knowledge to interpret them.

## Here are some questions to keep in mind when analysing an object.

This is not an extensive list because every object is different but it's a good place to start.

