Portable Antiquities Scheme Database Scavenger Hunt

Suitable for Ages 10+

Time: 45-60 minutes

Overview: This activity aims to get people used to searching for objects on the PAS database, using the search methods discussed in the session. This activity works during an in-person or online session.

Learning objectives/skills: This activity uses computer skills and critical thinking skills.

Materials: A laptop, computer or tablet with internet access (the database is online). A list of items to search for – you can use the items below or pick your own criteria.

Find out more about the role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and how to use the database in our bumper resource pack here!

Instructions

- Hand out the worksheets for people to complete. You can run this as a proper scavenger hunt where people have to race to complete the activity.
- Depending on the criteria used, a good follow-on activity would be for people to present some of the objects they have found to the rest of the group.
- For an extra challenge you, give participants a mystery object and let them use their database detective skills to try and find parallels on the database. Be warned, some of these are very tricky! As a follow on, they might want to research what some of these strange objects are following the answers on page 3.
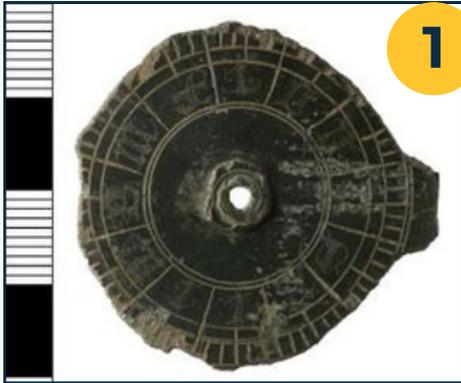
- *Find an object that relates to you in some way.*
- *Find the oldest/youngest object you can*
- *Find something that there is only one of on the database*
- *Find something from near where you live*
- *Find something that relates to yourself*
- *Find something made of [pick a material e.g. flint]*
- *Find something used for [pick a function e.g. eating and drinking]*
- *Find something that has been re-used*
- *Find something with an animal on it*
- *Find something from your favourite period in history*
- *Find something you might wear*
- *Find something recorded on a specific date (e.g. your birthday)*
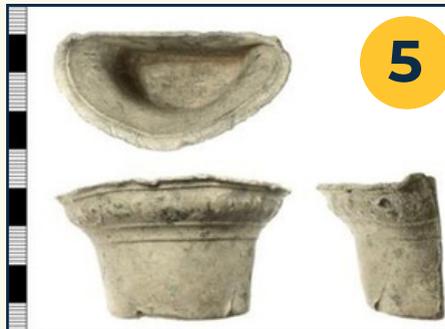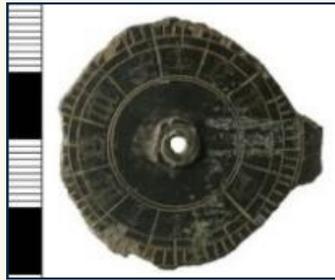
Database Scavenger Hunt - mystery objects

Nocturnal (an astronomical instrument for telling the time at night)

NMS-C00005
Medieval, circa
AD1430-1510

Nutcracker

SWYOR-16E689
Post-medieval,
circa AD1650-
1750

Jetton (counting token)

LIN-B6E794
Post-medieval, circa
AD1500-1550

Toy rifle

WREX-558BB3
Post-medieval,
circa AD1600-
1640

Bird feeder

IOW-FEB074
Medieval, circa
AD1400-1600

Ampulla (container for holy water)

YORYM-973896
Medieval, circa
AD1350-1550

Parchment pricker

LON-FA01A5 Medieval, circa
AD1200-1600

Seal box

LANCUM-422083 Roman, circa AD75-250

Spur

DEV-1386CA
Post-medieval,
circa AD1600-
1700

Wig curler

SUSS-658A25
Post-medieval,
circa AD1650-1800

Padlock

SUR-D02FD3
Medieval, circa
AD1200-1400