



Engaging history

with Dr Katherine Wilson and
Dr Thomas Pickles

Talking points

- How can you challenge traditional perceptions of history as a subject primarily focused on memorisation of facts and dates?
- Reflecting on your teaching experience, what are some alternative methods you have used to engage students with historical content beyond textbooks and lectures?
- How might incorporating material culture into your lessons enhance inclusivity and accessibility, considering the diverse backgrounds and experiences of your students?
- Consider the potential interdisciplinary connections between history and other subjects, such as art, science or anthropology. How can object-based teaching facilitate cross-disciplinary learning?
- How might engaging with material culture in the classroom contribute to developing students' empathy, cultural awareness and global citizenship, and what are the broader societal implications of historical understanding in this context?
- How can you approach teaching with sensitivity and respect for diverse cultural perspectives, considering the ethical considerations surrounding the acquisition and display of historical objects?
- How might you empower students to take ownership of their learning through object exploration, considering your role as a facilitator of historical inquiry?
- As you consider incorporating object exploration into your teaching, it is important to reflect on your questioning techniques. How open-ended are the questions you ask? To what extent do your questioning techniques encourage critical thinking and discussion? What questions would you ask to facilitate deeper engagement with the material culture once you implement this method?

Activity

'The Mobility of Objects Across Boundaries 1000-1700'

In history teaching, the integration of material culture can enhance the depth of historical comprehension and teaching methodologies. Visit Katherine and Thomas' project website (mob.chester.ac.uk) and explore the diverse range of resources and activities designed to enhance history education through the exploration of everyday medieval objects. The website contains sections on:

- **Object catalogue:** Explore a collection of everyday medieval artefacts, from keys and chests to shoes and pottery.
- **Handling objects:** In their exhibition, you will be able to study history in depth by handling replicas of these artefacts. Feel the texture of a medieval tile or the weight of a pilgrim badge and uncover how objects moved and circulated in the past.
- **Place objects in past surroundings using augmented reality:** Step back in time with reconstructions of medieval sites, see how objects fit into their historical surroundings and learn about their journeys through trade and pilgrimage.
- **Object films:** Take a closer look at artefacts through guided videos led by museum curators. Learn about the stories behind each object, from a 16th-century Goldsmith's chest to a pair of shoes.
- **Education object boxes and downloadable resources for schools:** Bring the past to life in your classroom with authentic medieval and early modern artefacts from the Grosvenor's Collection. Themed and non-themed boxes, along with educational resources, are available for loan to schools, catering to the needs of the primary and secondary curriculum at all levels.
- **Students' creative work:** Be inspired by the creativity of students who have engaged with these artefacts and see how handling sessions have sparked their imagination and led to thoughtful reflections on the past.