

Mission: Mystery Artifact

Students will share an artifact from home with the class in an oral presentation. After all students have made their presentations, we will view *Motel of the Mysteries* by David Macaulay to help us think about how future archaeologists may try to make sense of common everyday objects from our own time.

<http://fle4thgradeipac.weebly.com/historian-tools.html>

Learn—Students will select an object from home that fits in a small paper bag for ease of transport and think about what they want to share with their classmates. How does this object show what is valuable or important to our family or culture? **[10 Points]**

Communicate—Students will speak audibly and briefly about one to three small objects from home. If the presenter chooses, s/he may answer up to two questions from his/her classmates, then choose the next presenter from volunteers. **[10 points]**

Collaborate—Students will participate as an audience through body language that indicates interest in the speaker's presentation, conversations focused on the object at hand (no side conversations), and ask questions in support of the presenter and learning (pay attention to previous questions, act as an interested person, not a comedian). **[10 points]**

Create—Students will write a brief paragraph about their artifact from the point of view of a future archaeologist. They may choose to model the paragraph on the humor in David Macaulay's book *Motel of the Mysteries*, or they may write a more serious paragraph sharing in detail what the artifact means for them as a family connection or important memory. Afterwards, some students whose work shows promise may make a flipcam video or photo collage to present their work to a wider audience. **[10 points]**

There are 40 possible points earned during this assignment, added to 60 for a final grade. Missing work earns a 60%.

A = 100-93 B = 92-85 C = 84-77 D = 76-70 F = 69 or less

The biggest problem students have had in the past is **collaborating as an actively listening, supportive audience member**. A less common problem by 4th grade is incomplete or poorly written creative paragraphs.

Presentations will be shared over 2-3 days (4-6 presenters in a set, a set at beginning and end of each class). The **creative writing** should take **half a class period** for your best work. Early finishers are welcome to read quietly for Reading Counts. Good Luck!