

## Featured Artifact: Basketball Jersey

Era 9: Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)

<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=3102>



Look at the artifact presented to you. In a few sentences, respond to the following questions:

**Describe:** Objectively describe the artifact. What do you think it is made of? What does it look like? Does it look old or new? Is it intact, or is it damaged in some way?

**Analyze:** When, where or how do you think this item was used? What kind of person may have created or used this item? What significance do you think the object held, either for the creator or the user? Do you see words or images on the artifact that connect it to others (besides the creator and user)?

.....

**Share your conclusions with a partner, then discuss the following:**

**Evaluate :** Justify why you came to those conclusions about the artifact. What further questions do you have about the object? Of those questions, which could you solve by observing the object in person and which would you need to solve with research?

.....

### **Background Information**

During his thirteen seasons with the Boston Celtics, Bob Cousy (b. 1928) played in thirteen consecutive All-Star Games and earned two All-Star MVP awards, among many other accolades. This “Houdini of the Hardwood” introduced speed and flamboyant ball-handling skills previously unseen in professional basketball. His ambidexterity launched the playing style that made him one of basketball's first superstars. Making the game fun to watch, “The Cooz” built an avid audience for the struggling National Basketball Association.

**After reading and considering the background information, compose a response to the following:**

**Analyze:** Address the following object-specific questions:

- What makes a “superstar” in sports? Is athletic ability the only important factor? Why or why not?
- Have uniforms changed at all in the NBA since Bob Cousy’s career? Why?

**Synthesize:** What does this object tell us about the era in which it was created, or the American experience as a whole? How would you describe the social, economic, or political climate of America during this time? What connections can you make between this object and other things that you have seen, read, or experienced?

### **Era-Specific Essential Questions**

- How did the post-WWII era change politics, society, and economics in the United States?