

Featured Artifact: Curling Stone

Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the Present)

<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=3031>



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)?

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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?

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Background Information

Developed in Scotland and played in the northern United States, curling debuted as a medal sport at the 1998 Winter Olympics. This curling stone belonged to 75-year-old curler Rudy Senich, of Duluth, Minn., who has been curling three nights a week for the past 35 years. According to Senich's curling club rulebook, "Curling is a game of skill and traditions . . . Curlers play to win, but never to humble their opponents. A true curler would prefer to lose, rather than to win unfairly!"

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

Analyze: Address the following object-specific questions:

- Have you ever seen a curling match before? How might you describe the game?
- How do you feel about Senich's assertion that "Curling is a game of skill and traditions . . . Curlers play to win, but never to humble their opponents. A true curler would prefer to lose, rather than to win unfairly!?" Is this attitude necessary in all athletic competition? Why or why not?

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?

Analyze: Address the following era-specific questions:

- How have economic, social and cultural developments in contemporary America shaped who we are as a country today?