



# museum WITHOUT WALLS

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

## Interrogate an Object

### Education

#### Teacher Ideas

The objects found in museums provide endless possibilities for use in a classroom. Objects provide a three dimensional object to touch, study and relate to.

The museum has some objects available for educational purposes. If you think the museum may have an object to suit your theme, contact the Education Officer.

There are some objects that aren't available for loan because of their value to the community. However, a visit to the museum would enable your class to see some of the important objects related to the development of Mandurah.

Objects could be used to:

## 1. **Generate curiosity and deeper thinking**

An object/s could become a tool to help students think about a topic. For example, a washing board, tub and tongs could introduce a topic about the improvements in domestic life, as a result of technology.



### **Illustration**

*Some inventions come about as a way making it easier to do something or possible to do something that wasn't possible before. In the early 1900s washing was done by hand using a tub and washing board. The tongs were used to pick up clothes out of hot water.*

Look at the design of the washing board; what do you think the corrugations help to do?

---

---

---

---

If the washing board was invented to make washing easier and more effective, how do you think people washed before the washing board was created?

---

---

---

---

What do you think the tongs are for? Why would they be important?

---

---

---

---

How did they wring out the clothes without a spin dryer?

---

---

---

---

What might have been some of the difficulties washing by hand?

---

---

---

---

If you were an inventor at this time, what is the first thing *you* would improve to make washing easier?

---

---

---

---

Use the internet or the library to find pictures of early washing machines. What improvements have been made over time?

---

---

---

---

---

---

The current washing machines available are very good. Some boast energy and water efficiency. Why didn't people go from washing boards to the current machines?

---

---

---

---

What could you find more about to understand more about the evolution of the washing machine?

---

---

---

---

---

## 2. **Writing Activity**

Spark some interest in describing by using historic objects that may have some familiarity, such as old tools, as the basis for writing a description. The Object Analysis Sheet provides a format for recording key words and information to make it easier for students.