

History Box Using and Teaching Virtually

Tips for Using the History Box in a Virtual Setting

More classes are being taught online and in a virtual setting. While the History Box is designed for hands-on use in the classroom, students can still enjoy the experience virtually. We have included adaptation suggestions in our lesson plans and provided some tips for online learning below.

- 1. Take advantage of the History Box package on the Teachers' Zone.**
The History Box package on the Canadian Museum of History's Teachers' Zone features all the objects in the History Box, plus key contextual materials. This package is a natural digital accompaniment. Students can explore the objects found in the kit digitally, and complete inquiry-based activity suggestions. Visit www.historymuseum.ca/teachers-zone/history-box.
- 2. Get familiar with what's in the kit before presenting online.**
When the History Box arrives, take time to familiarize yourself with what is in the box. We suggest reviewing the lesson plans and backgrounders. This will help you feel confident using the box with your students.
- 3. Describe the objects to the students as completely as possible.**
Touching and demonstrating the objects adds value to the History Box experience. Be sure to hold the object for all to see, turn it around to examine all sides. Remember to describe how the object feels. Is it heavy, scratchy, rough or smooth? Help students to imagine they are holding the object themselves.
- 4. Send students digital copies of backgrounders and object labels.**
The History Box comes with a USB key that houses background information on every object in the box. You are welcome to download and send PDF documents and images to students. Please return the USB to the History Box when you're done. Background information can also be found in the History Box package on the Teachers' Zone.

5. Make it interactive!

Even though students cannot physically handle these objects, ask questions to engage them. What do they think the object is made of? What do they think the purpose is? Refer to the guiding questions in the General Overview for more ideas. If your video platform allows, send students into breakout rooms to discuss their ideas further.

6. Do what works for you and your students.

There are a lot of different approaches to online learning. You have no doubt worked out what tools do and do not work for you and your students. The History Box can fit into your existing frameworks.