

Historical Significance: Artifact Assignment

Events/Objects are significant if they:	Questions to ask about your artifact
RESULT IN CHANGE	What changes does the artifact reflect? Changes that an individual went through? Changes in society? A change in values or beliefs?
HAVE DEEP CONSEQUENCES OVER TIME	How is the artifact linked to consequences that individuals or groups faced at that time? How were they impacted (affected) by it? Are there still consequences or impacts from this artifact/event evident today?
ARE REVEALING They shed light on enduring/emerging issues in history or in our current society/world.	Does the artifact shed light on any major issues in history or in our current society (e.g. discrimination, racism, poverty, environment, etc.)
Historical Significance is also:	
CONSTRUCTED & VARIED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We make it, and it changes. • Something might only be important to certain people at certain times. 	Would various people at the time view the artifact differently? Is the artifact still significant today? Does it hold the same meaning today as it would have at the time? Why/why not?

Artifact: Reserve Pass

On the back of this handout is a practice activity for determining the historical significance of an artifact. As a class, we will examine a "Reserve pass," using our guideposts and questions above.

***"In 1885, the Department of Indian Affairs instituted a pass system. No outsider could come onto a reserve to do business with an Aboriginal resident without permission from the Indian agent. In many places, the directives were interpreted to mean that no Aboriginal person could leave the reserve without permission from the Indian agent. Reserves were beginning to resemble prisons."*[2]**

This was to maintain separation between Aboriginals and European farmers, even though they wanted to "assimilate" them. This was also in effect for parents who wanted to visit their children who were attending residential schools. The reserve pass policy was only repealed (no longer in effect) as of 1951.