



STATE OF CERAMICS *.edu edition*

Everyday Archaeology

an exercise by Kari Marboe

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OBJECTIVE

For this exercise you will become a Ceramics P.I. and investigate a ceramic object from your everyday life. This could be a brick, a toilet, a piece of tile you found at a demolition site, a doorknob, a frying pan, a mug that came from your grandmother, a sculpture that you've had but haven't gotten to know. Select an object in under ten minutes. The goal of this action is to flatten all data points about the history of a ceramic object in order to create a new narrative about its true history, or what you perceive to be its true history to be.

SHENANIGANS SHEET

Print and fill out (or digitally complete) the Shenanigans Sheet on page 3 to help you become a true Ceramics P.I. and determine the history of your object. See 'tips for investigation' on page 2 to assist with this process.

Consider posting your completed Shenanigans Sheet to Instagram with [@everydayarchaeology](https://www.instagram.com/everydayarchaeology) [@a_bprojects](https://www.instagram.com/a_bprojects).

TIPS FOR INVESTIGATION

Please dive into some research-based shenanigans to get to know your object. Allow as many angles in as possible and weigh them all equally. Consider letting one piece of information guide you to the next rather than making a conclusion about the piece first. Take your time and bring delicious snacks on your journey. Think through the object in a way that you haven't yet, and use these suggested variables (and any others) from the Shenanigans Sheet to guide you:

STRATEGIES / ANGLES:

- Finding out where your object's materials come from (clay body, glaze)
- Cultural and historic connotations
- Techniques used in its creation and the histories behind those techniques
- Understanding how much energy it took to create the object
- Finding related works through archives, image searches, cultural institutions
- Cold calling factories, historians, and/or fellow artists
- Thinking about the value (or undervalue) of the object
- Interviewing the object's former owner
- Interviewing people who own similar things

NOTES:

- Duration
- Location
- Emotions
- Dangers
- Smells
- Weather patterns
- Websites
- Phone numbers
- Humorous moments
- Measurements
- Alternative functions

FINDINGS:

- A recorded interview
- Photographs
- Screenshots of similar items from Home Depot
- Glaze recipes
- Recommendations from strangers (footwear, restaurants)
- Related music or literature
- Collections
- Similar works by the same, or a different, person
- Short Story
- Poem

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

IMAGE:

INVESTIGATIONS	STRATEGY / ANGLE	NOTES	FINDINGS
Investigation 1			
Investigation 2			
Investigation 3			
Investigation 4			
Investigation 5			