

Document a Family Treasure

Historic New England's collections include over 100,000 objects. Most of these were saved over generations as family treasures before coming to Historic New England. A family treasure is any object that holds meaning for a particular family. Objects can remind people of proud, happy, or meaningful experiences. They can tell stories of important family events, or remind us of people who came before us. For a child, a family treasure can be a toy that was a gift from someone special. The toy reminds them of the giver.

Brainstorm with students to make a list of their family treasures. For some students this will be difficult, but almost all will think of some object that is either important to their family as a whole or significant to them individually. Be creative in your definition of family treasure. For some students a family recipe, family story, or old photograph might be most meaningful.

At Historic New England, the objects in our collections are documented - what do they look like, what are they made of, when were they made, when did we acquire them? Sometime it is not possible to answer all of these questions. Have students fill out the following worksheet in order to document their family treasures as best they can.



Document a Family Treasure

Answer the following questions and draw a picture or attach a photograph of your family treasure.

What type of object is it? _____

What is it made out of? _____

How big is it? _____

When was it made? _____

Where was it made? _____

How did you get it? _____

