

The Astrolabe

Qatar National Library

Engagement 1 Worksheet

The Mystery Object – Discovering the Astrolabe





ENGAGEMENT 1: Name
Engagement Activity 1 Worksheet: Mystery Object at the Qatar National Library
This worksheet accompanies the Hook Activity: Mystery Object from the lesson on the astrolabe at the Qatar National Library heritage section. Observe, discuss, and reflect or the object before its identity is revealed by the librarian and the teacher.
•• Step 1: Observing the Object. Carefully examine the object displayed by you teacher. Write down your observations below. Look for details such as shape, markings and moving parts.
• What do you see?
Step 2: Making Predictions. Now that you've observed the object, take a guess What do you think this object was used for?
• My guess:
• Why do you think this? What clues from the object support your idea?



Step 3: Group Discussion: Now, share your observations and guesses with your group. Discuss your ideas and write down at least one idea from your group discussion below.
• My group's idea:
Step 4: The Big Reveal : The object is an astrolabe!
This was an important tool in science and history. It was used for: Astronomy – Measuring the positions of stars. Navigation – Helping travelers find their location. Timekeeping – Determining the time of day.
Modern devices like GPS, telescopes, and smartphone star maps are based on some of the same ideas!
Step 5: Reflection: Think about what you learned from this activity and answer the following question:
How is the astrolabe similar to modern technology we use today?