

Why Explore Unfamiliar Artefacts ?

Have you seen these artefacts before ?

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LOOK BEYOND WHAT YOU KNOW

We often understand familiar artefacts using our past experiences. But for an unfamiliar artefact, we need to observe it carefully and build an idea about its possible use.

TAKE A NOTE OF



FORM

What is its shape and structure?



MATERIAL

What is it made of?



PARTS

What components can you identify?



CONNECTIONS

How are the parts joined or arranged?



FEATURES

Are there holes, handles, grooves, edges, openings or moving parts?



POSSIBLE ACTIONS

What could you do with the artefact?

MOVING FROM OBSERVATION TO UNDERSTANDING



OBSERVE

Notice and pay attention to the details.



FIND CLUES

Look at the form, materials and parts.



MAKE A HYPOTHESIS

Suggest what the artefact might be used for.



LOOK FOR EVIDENCE

Check if the artefact's features support your idea.



RE-THINK

Change your idea if the evidence suggests another possibility.



WHY DOES THIS MATTER ?

Designers often encounter new problems, unfamiliar users, materials, and technologies. Exploring unfamiliar artefacts provides an opportunity to practice navigating unfamiliar contexts, a skill crucial to developing a designer's mindset.

