

Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 9- Discovery Trunk Activity

Note to teachers: Here is an example of a completed worksheet. Answers will vary by group according to the object they have chosen for their station topic.

Directions: You will make a traveling trunk with an item representing the aspect of the Lazaretto experience about which your group was learning. As a group decide on one material object to present. Divide into roles:

An archaeologist: You will “dig up” the object from the past. [Can draw, find image, or create the material artifact]

A historian: You will explain the relevance of the artifact in the context of time.

A sociologist: You tell us about what the object reveals about the society and the people that owned it.

A curator: You will write an exhibit caption for the item. [What is important for the public (and your classmates) to know about this item?]

Archaeologist: (Name) _____

Historian: _____

Sociologist: _____

Curator: _____

What is the artifact your group has chosen? Object: Quarantine Flag

Why did you select this object to represent your station?

We chose this object because it is unique to a quarantine station and represents the rules of procedures ships had to follow when entering a quarantine station.

Archaeologist:

Show artifact. (Draw an image of the object, find a picture of it, or create the object.)

Describe what it is.

This is a yellow quarantine flag.

What material/s make up the artifact?

It is made from material (cotton).

What does it look like? (shape, color, size)

It is a yellow, square, cotton flag. It has faded from being out in the sun and the wind over the years.

Historian:

For what was your object used?

This flag was used in foreign vessels to signal to the quarantine officers that it was subject to quarantine inspection.

When was it used?

It was used as the ship was coming in to port near the quarantine station. According to Quarantine Policy of 1803, all ships from May 1st to November 1st were subject to quarantine inspection. If the ship came from a sick port, they were required to stay in quarantine for at least 20 days.

Where was it used?

It was used on board a foreign ship or vessel. If it was placed in the side-rigging that meant a call for a tug boat. Then the ship was pulled to the dock for inspection.

Is it still used for the same purpose today?

Yes, quarantine flags are still used today. However, most immigrants use airplanes to travel to new countries today.

Sociologist:

Who used the object?

This object was used by the ship commander and crew, as well as by the lazaretto doctor and quarantine master who were using these flags as a form of communication.

What does the object say about the person who used it?

The quarantine flag says that there might be sickness on board the vessel. It also indicates that they are from a foreign port. (American ships used a flag with an American ensign.)

What does the object say about the society in which it was used?

The society used symbols to communicate over long distances. The flag was part of a society with rules and regulations. It was used as part as procedure for coming into the quarantine port. The flag also represents a society that was concerned about its health and trying to prevent the spread of disease.

Curator:

Using the information from your fellow professionals, please create an exhibit narrative/caption:

This square, faded yellow quarantine flag once flew aboard the ship *Home* which sailed from the West Indies and arrived at the Lazaretto Quarantine carrying yellow fever on board. Over the years of maritime history, commanders and their crews used this flag to communicate with others at a distance that their ship harbored/or was in danger of carrying contagious diseases. At the Lazaretto quarantine harbor in Philadelphia the ship crew would hoist the flag in the side rigging to indicate to quarantine masters and physicians that they were ready for a tug to the quarantine dock for inspection.

The quarantine flag reveals a lot about the values of the societies which used it. It shows how they value their health, as it is a tool they used to keep spreadable diseases away from populations. It shows how the society can communicate over distances through barriers of language differences using the universal language of symbols. The yellow flag, the topic of a resolution passed in 1797 by the Philadelphia Board of Health, also represents a society that used and valued rules and regulations to help operate efficiently. As the Lazaretto Physician and Quarantine Master looked out over the Delaware River, they could see this flag and identify which ships they needed to visit and inspect.