



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## From Fossils to Fables

*An activity of "How fictional stories help us connect with early humans".*

Read the article, "How fictional stories help us connect with early humans" (pages 20-21, *What's Up* January 2026). From the article, we see how archaeologists use imagination, along with facts, to understand how people lived long ago. It shows why stories can sometimes bring history to life in ways that factual data alone cannot.

Imagine you are part of an archaeological team working at a digging site at Fort Canning (the oldest archaeological site in Singapore). Your team has found artefacts! Some seem to date back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

1. Form eight groups. Draw lots to assign one artefact per group from this list.

- 3 copper coins
- 1 Javanese gold ornament, possibly part of an arm band
- 11 Indian glass beads
- 1 Chinese porcelain plate
- 1 broken earthenware pot
- 1 sandstone slab inscribed with ancient script
- 1 broken compass
- 1 fragment from a green porcelain bowl

Your task is to use facts, informed guesses, and careful imagination to bring your artefact's stories to life.

2. Write one fact you know about your group's artefact. It must be based on evidence, not imagination. The fact can be as simple as what material the artifact is made of.

One fact about our group's artefact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For more starting points and ideas about real artefacts discovered in Singapore, you may check out online sources such as:

### **Bukit Larangan: Early Singapore in Maps, Texts, and Artifacts**

➤ <https://curiocity.nlb.gov.sg/digital-stories/fort-canning-hill/bukit-larangan/>  
National Library Board

3. Make three smart guesses about how the artefact was used or who might have used it. These guesses must be reasonable and fit the era. (e.g. the pot may have been used to cook food, its owner might have been wealthy.)

Informed guess 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

