

## Vulcan bowling Pin Online Object Lesson

**Enduring Understanding** – Careful study of objects of the past help us understand the story of Wisconsin.

### Essential Questions

- Why do we save things?
- What makes the things we save important?
- What questions do we ask of objects?
- How do objects tell a story of the past?

**Read together:** Vulcan Bowling Pin (<https://wi101.wisc.edu/vulcan-bowling-pin/>)

Key Vocabulary:

- object
- artifact
- produced
- patented
- complies
- initially
- manufactured
- plentiful
- waned
- branched
- various
- exclusively
- specified
- radius
- boasting Performance

tasks:

Have students read the article (solo, in pairs, or as a class) and try to define the words in context. When stuck, use a dictionary (online or standard) for assistance. Have students rewrite the definitions in their own words.

Ask:

- What does a bowling pin tell you about Wisconsin culture in the 1950s?
- Why is the fact that it is made of local sugar maples important?
- Why do you think the company stopped making shoes?
- What's the most interesting part of this story (choice)?
- Do you bowl? What other hobbies do you enjoy?
- Where are the pieces you need to do it made? Even video games come from somewhere!

## Optional for students

Pick an ordinary object from home to write about. Bring the object (if possible) to class with you for discussion. Together we'll see if we can find out where your object came from, what year it might have been made, and you can tell us why it's important to you.

That's one of many ways historians think about the past-they try and discover the answer to questions about objects. Here's a longer list of questions you might want to ask about your object:

- What is this object made of?
- How was this object made?
- Who made this object? Why?
- Who used this object?
- How was this object used?
- Does the design of the object suit the purpose and/or use?
- Are there any marks, stains, changes, damages, alterations of this object?
- What size is the object? Is the object decorated? How? Why?
- Is this an item a person might have one or several? Why?
- Are other items made out of the same materials? How?
- Is this object used with other items? How?
- Is this object made by using other items as part of the process? How?
- Is this object used to make other items? How?
- Are any items today similar to this object?
- What are the similarities or differences? Why?
- Source: [Clark County Historical Museum](#)