Individual work 3

Presentation of Cultural artefacts

'Cultural artefacts' refer to anything that has been created by a human that can give us information about the culture of its creator and users.

A cultural artefact can be just about anything. Some of the most obvious examples would be what you can find in an ethnological museum, which will hold collections of objects, works of art and culture. It could be technological objects, such as cooking implements or tools, ritual objects, or ornamental objects. Cultural artefacts will be linked to cultural practices and cultural knowledge, though a key difference with cultural artefacts is their materiality— that is, there will generally be 'stuff' you can touch and feel. That being said, music or stories can be said to be cultural artefacts, and these may or may not be translated into material form so it is important to be conscious of the potential immaterial form that cultural artefacts may take.

The separation between cultural practice, knowledge and artefact is somewhat artificial in that these three aspects of human experience—what we do, what we know, what we make and use—are interconnected and it is difficult to explain one without the other.

Your task

Find a cultural artefact related to you, your context or your community. Present this artefact (PPP) and explain its role for this culture.