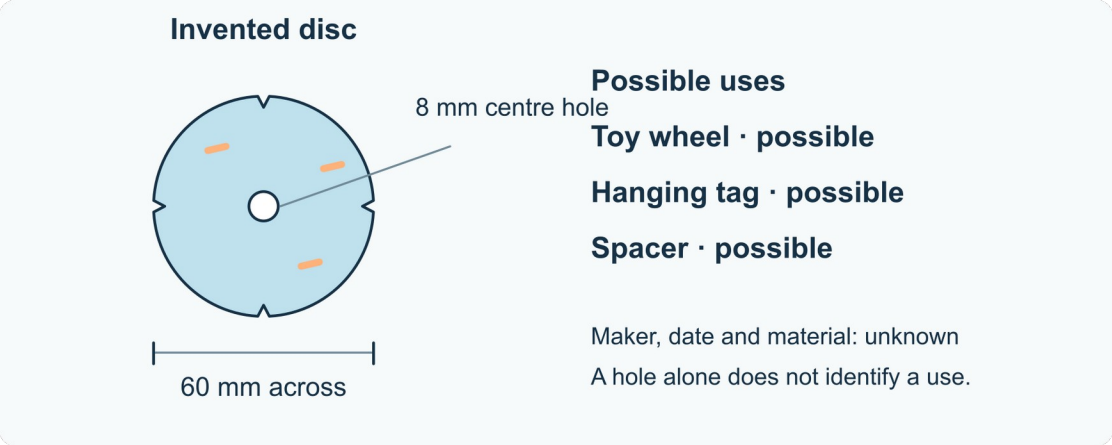
An object and three possible explanations

Which details support an explanation of an invented historical object?

Compare possible uses of a completely invented object while keeping observation separate from a guess.

Investigate | 10–20 minutes, or one small comparison | Scrap paper and a pencil or pen, The supplied original model; no account, purchase or online search needed

Start here Use the supplied drawing of a 60 mm disc with an 8 mm centre hole, four edge notches and worn paint.



One object, several possible uses

1 Describe first

List the round outline, hole, notches and paint wear without naming a function or date. These details are supplied fictional observations.

2 Offer explanations

Try toy wheel, hanging tag and spacer. More than one explanation can fit a centre hole; you may add or reject a possibility.

3 Match clues cautiously

A centre hole and edge wear could fit a toy wheel, but neither proves one. A hanging tag or spacer can also have a hole.

4 Choose a next check

Suggest a useful record or test, such as a matching axle drawing with dimensions. Do not invent that evidence or claim the object's age.

Original example an unidentified disc

This is an invented object drawing, not an artefact or a discovery from a real place.

• Observed: 60 mm across, 8 mm centre hole, four edge notches and worn paint.

• Tentative idea: a toy wheel, supported weakly by the hole and wear.

• Alternative: a tag or spacer could share those details. A matching dimensioned parts record would be useful.

What this example can show No supplied detail identifies the maker, date, material or actual use. A plausible explanation remains a hypothesis.

A different way

Point to details, dictate a description, or compare the three written hypotheses. No real object or collection visit is needed.

If you want to go further

Add one explicitly fictional new record: an axle drawing with an 8 mm shaft. Explain what it supports and why a match still needs context.

Something to notice

Where did I move from describing a clue to interpreting it?

Read or explore more

Horizon topic Archaeology Objects

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/archaeology-objects/

Horizon topic Evidence Archives

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/evidence-archives/

Horizon topic History

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National Museum of Australia What is this?

https://www.nma.gov.au/learn/classroom-resources/what-is-this

National Archives of Australia Research skills

https://www.naa.gov.au/learn/learning-resources/research-skills