

## Glass Scavenger Hunt

Glass is all around us, but how long has it been there?

It is generally believed that glassmaking was discovered 4,000 years ago, or more, in Mesopotamia. There are several stories that may explain how glass making developed. One recounts Phoenician sailors who landed on the shores near Ptolemais (in modern-day Israel) and made a fire on which to cook a meal. The fire melted the beach sand into a liquid stream that later cooled and hardened into glass.

Another more likely scenario is that glass developed over a long period of time from experiments with a mixture of silica-sand or ground quartz pebbles - and an alkali. It is even possible that early glassmaking was influenced by other high heat industries such as ceramics and metalworking.

These stories give us some insight into the history of glass, however, the exact origin of glassmaking largely remains a mystery and no one knows for sure...

You can learn more about the origins of glassmaking by checking out more information from our friends at Corning Museum of Glass.

Such mystery is an even better reason for us to explore the glass that is all around us every day!

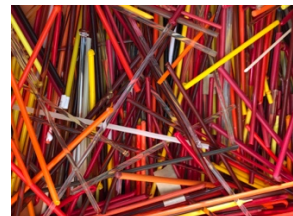
We took ourselves on a scavenger hunt at our PGC home and here are some of our favorite findings:



Crushed colored glass called Frit that used for glassblowing and fusing.



This is a hidden engraved glass brick left behind by a visiting glass artist.



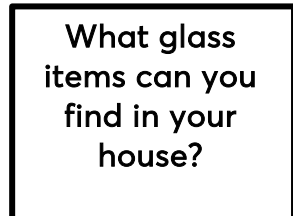
Glass rods called Moretti are melted in the Flame Shop to make colorful beads.



Blown glass sculptures made during a recent Hot Jam glassblowing demonstration at PGC.



Penn + Fairmount glasses, pitchers and bowls that are made at PGC.



**Activity:**

Home is a perfect place to discover glass in our everyday lives! Take a moment to take yourself on a scavenger hunt in your home.

Here is what you will need for this scavenger hunt:

- Paper
- Pencil or writing utensil
- Close looking eyes
- A sense of scavenger hunt adventure

**What to do:**

- 1) Make a list of all the things you find in your home made out of glass. What sort of things are you finding? What do these glass objects look like?
- 2) Sketch the items you are finding. Drawing is a great way to get a closer look!
- 3) Try categorizing them into groups with similarities and differences? Do these objects have anything in common?

**Additional scavenger hunt:** What more can you discover at home? What are the objects you use every day made out of?

**Share Your Scavenger Hunt**

Let us know what you have found! Post a photo of your scavenger hunt and some of your glass discoveries! Tag us on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter @pghglasscenter and we might share your creation.