PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY – Maker and Marketplace

DIRECTIONS: Use the words below to complete the story. Each sentence will give you clues to the correct word. Each word should only be used once.

apprentice(s)  archeology  artifacts  consume  customer(s)
economics  exotic  global economy  local economy  manufacturer
materials  merchandise  ship captains  trade sign

People make things, sell things, and buy things. A manufacturer uses skill, tools, and materials to create objects. This was also true long ago, when factories, malls and online shopping weren’t available. The word economics means a system of producing, distributing and consuming the things we need or want.

In a local economy people from a town or village would grow, make, trade and consume the goods they needed. A store owner offered these objects as merchandise, to customers who come looking for them. To advertise their goods, a seller (who might also be the maker) could display a trade sign or print personalized trade cards to hand out. Many local teenagers became apprentices and trained for years in a particular trade such as woodworking or tailoring.

In a global economy the goods and objects would be made far away, transported to the town or village and traded for local products (and sometimes money). The only way to bring these exotic items was by sea, with daring ship captains in charge of long and dangerous “shopping trips.”

Today, researchers study objects and the people who used them, to learn about life in the past. Archeology is the study of the past through objects uncovered in specific sites; the man-made objects are called artifacts and offer valuable clues about economies – local and global – long ago.