

# Tasseography

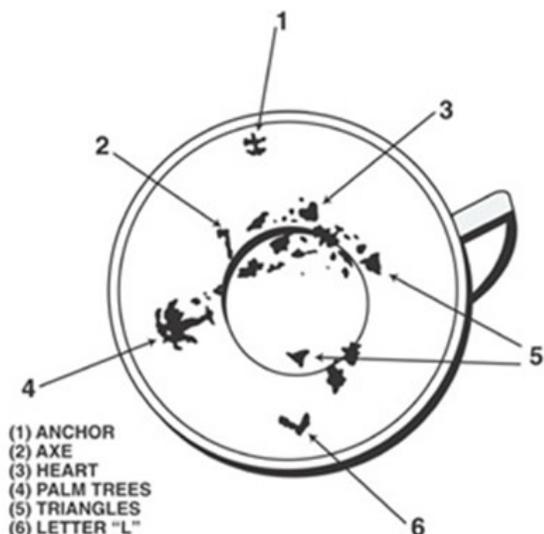
*Beginners Guide to Reading Tea Leaves*  
*by the Brockville Museum*



In the 1800s people believed the Witch of Plum Hollow, Mother Barnes, was able to tell someone's fortune by reading tea leaves. People would come from all over Canada and the United States to ask Mother Barnes where lost items were, what their future was, or if they would get married. Once she even helped solve a murder mystery!

## Just for fun, try it yourself!

1. Put a pinch of loose tea in the teacup and add hot water, let it steep
2. Drink your tea until only a little liquid remains in the teacup
3. Swirl your teacup 3 times counter-clockwise with your left hand and then place it upside down on the saucer
4. Ask your question out loud and turn the cup over
5. Turn the teacup back up and switch your teacup with a friend (or read the tea leaves yourself)
6. Place the teacup in front of you so that the handle is close to your right hand
7. Use the provided symbol chart to figure out what symbols might be in the teacup.
8. It may be difficult to see the shapes the tea leaves make, rotate the cup to look at the leaves from different angles
9. Mother Barnes admitted to her grandchildren that sometimes she read people's faces instead of the tea leaves, so if you don't see anything make it up!
10. Have Fun!

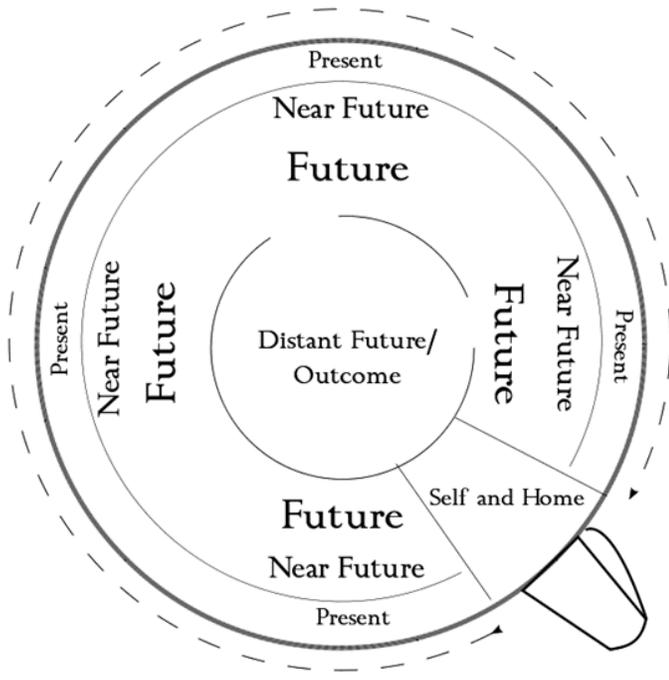


### Example:

The symbols in your cup might be hard to see like these ones. Use your imagination to make shapes out of the tea leaves. Rotating the cup around may help you.

## MEANINGS OF SYMBOLS

-  **ACORN**—Continued health—Improved health.
-  **ANCHOR**—Lucky symbol. Success in business or in love. If blurred or indistinct just the reverse.
-  **ANGEL**—Bearer of good news, especially in love. Sure happiness.
-  **ANTS**—Evil omen—Impending difficulties.
-  **APPLE**—Gain in business. Long life.
-  **ARCH**—Trip abroad. If blurred, unsuccessful journey or disastrous trip.
-  **ARROW**—A letter from the direction to which the arrow points. If cloudy bad news.
-  **BASKET**—Addition to the family—either by birth, marriage or adoption.
-  **BAT**—Undertakings will be fruitless.
-  **BEASTS**—Wild beasts fortell misfortunes.
-  **BIRDS**—Good luck. If flying, good news from the direction it comes. If at rest a fortunate journey.
-  **BOAT**—A friend will come to visit.
-  **BOUQUET**—Most lucky. Loyal friends—happy marriage—success.
-  **BRANCH OF TREE**—Good health or health recovered.
-  **BRIDGE**—A pleasant journey. If indistinct, a journey with an unfortunate ending.
-  **BROOM**—Changes in life.
-  **BULL**—Slander by enemies. Take warning.
-  **BUTTERFLY**—Success and happiness.

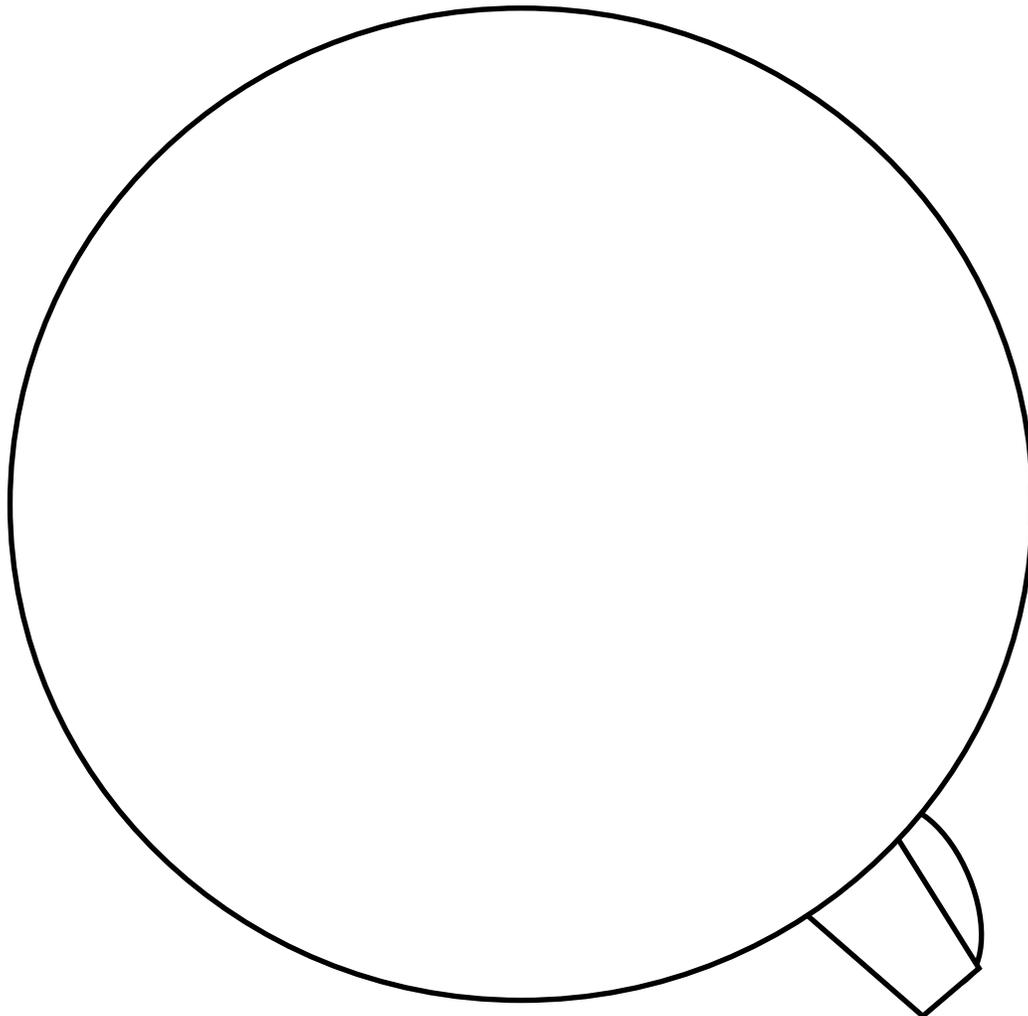


Past, Present, Future

The image on the left shows when events will happen based on where symbols are in the teacup.

There may not be a symbol in every area of your teacup.

Try drawing out the symbols you see in your teacup.



# Dowsing

*A Beginners Guide to finding hidden things*

*by the Brockville Museum*



# What is Dowsing?

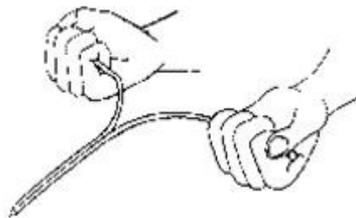
Dowsing is a practice from the middle ages that for centuries has been used to detect hidden things such as water, precious minerals, treasure, lost/hidden objects, and sometimes even unmarked graves!

A dowser would hold a Y shaped branch cut from a hazel, rowan, or willow tree and hold it by the open ends straight out in front of them. When the branch vibrated or dipped by itself something had been detected. Today people usually use two metal rods instead of a tree branch.

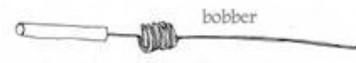
Dowsing has been studied many times. Scientists now believe that there is no scientific evidence that dowsing works. It is believed that random chance and involuntary movements cause the rods to move. However some still use dowsing to determine where to dig wells.



L-rods



Y-rod



Bobber

Different types of Dowsing Rods

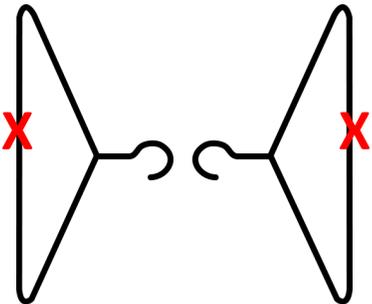
# How to Use Dowsing Rods

1. Hold your rods or coat hangers loosely in each hand
2. Keep the rods shoulder width apart at chest height, pointing straight in front of you
3. Walk slowly keeping the rods up and held loosely
4. When you walk over what you are looking if the rods may cross
5. Have fun!

## HINT

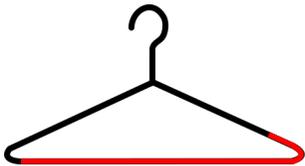
If you are having trouble try using the rods in the kitchen or bathroom. As you walk closer to water pipes and faucets the rods may cross. If that does not work try turning the taps on.

**You can make your own set of dowsing rods with 2 metal coat hangers.**

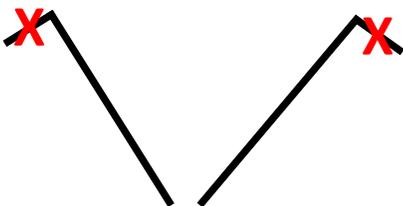


Hold a metal coat hanger in each hand loosely where the red X indicates.

**OR**



Using metal cutters or pliers cut apart 2 metal coat hangers. Cut out the area indicated in red.



Bend the cut out pieces into L shapes. Hold on to the rods where the red x is loosely in each hand.