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**RESTORATION.** If the artefact is in a poor condition it needs to be conserved. This includes cleaning it in different ways, treating it with different products and, if necessary, sticking missing pieces back together.

*With the “falcatá,” the surface dirt was removed and a layer of resin was applied to prevent any further deterioration. As the sword was found complete it wasn’t necessary to repair it.*

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**EXHIBITION OR STORAGE.** Once the object has been conserved, it is either stored in the archive or it is put on public display in the galleries. In either case, the object needs to be kept in suitable environmental conditions to preserve it and prevent any future deterioration. These conditions need to be controlled and monitored regularly to ensure the object’s survival (preventative conservation).

*Our “falcatá” is now in the Iberian weapons display case in the Iberian Gallery.*



Conservation and Restoration are processes carried out to prevent archaeological objects from deteriorating and to preserve them. But there is a difference between the two processes – can you identify the two different definitions:

A - Conservation-Restoration ...

...is the direct intervention on the environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, light, microorganisms) that affect the artefact.

B - Preventive Conservation ...

... is the direct intervention on the object itself (cleaning, desalination, repairing, etc.)