

Wallace Women Discovery Kit

Exploring Material Culture

Best for Grades 4-8

Goal: to familiarize students with objects in the kit and how to learn from them

Needed supplies: objects (either from the kit* or objects you gather), 37 minutes

- 1) Teacher reviews proper ways to handle objects with students. Teacher then introduces the activity by telling students that they are going to examine objects they don't usually see, and that they need to try to answer three questions: what is it made of, how was it used, and who would have used it? (5 minutes)
- 2) Teacher divides the class into pairs and passes out one object to each pair of students. (2 minutes)
- 3) Students examine objects thoroughly to answer the three questions. (5 minutes)
- 4) Teacher calls on pairs of students to present their findings. If students were not able to ascertain the information, the class can work together to figure it out. (20 minutes)

Variations

- Students present the answers to the three questions in the form of a fictional story. They create a character that fits the description of who would have used the object, demonstrate its use (if possible), and talk about its manufacture.
- Teacher specifies a characteristic (shape, texture, purpose, etc.) and students must find another pair with a similar object.
- Teacher wraps up discussion by asking students to make general conclusions about people who would have used these objects and writing them on the board.

English/Language Arts Standards:

- **7. Listening and Speaking Skills, Strategies, and Applications**

Social Studies Standards

- **1. History:** Historical knowledge; Chronological thinking, comprehension, analysis, and interpretation; Research capabilities.
- **2. Civics and Government:** Roles of citizens.
- **5. Individuals, Society, and Culture:** Identify individuals and groups that have contributed to the development of the US.

*The following list of objects are included in the Wallace Women Discovery Kit available for check-out at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum. These are all items that relate to the lives of women in the 1800s. If you are local to Crawfordsville or the surrounding area, contact the museum to borrow the trunk. If you are not local, try to find similar items to use, but you can also use any items you have on hand.

- Bonnets, aprons, shawls, ladies' hand fan, handkerchiefs, iron, wooden pen with metal nib, ceramic ink well, wooden pencils, housewife sewing kit, sugar bowl, creamer pitcher, wash board, skillet, forks, spoons, chemise, petticoat, skirt, blouse, collar