

Lesson Title: What the Heck is this thing?
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Grade 5-8, Social Studies
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Teaching American History Program
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Mike Lair, Project Director
<http://www.chillihistoryproject.com/>

Lesson Overview:

This lesson is designed to help students make a connection to the Santa Fe Trail era using pictures of artifacts used by people of several different cultures living in 19th Century America.

This lesson can be used to test student knowledge prior to beginning a unit on the Santa Fe Trail or as assessment following the unit.

Essential Questions:

How was life different in 19th Century America from the life we live today?
What conveniences do we have today settlers and traders did not have in 1840-1876?

Why would the tools of living in the 19th century be different from the tools of today? What tools might be the same?

Objectives:

- Students will be able to evaluate the importance of discovery, exploration and the early settlement of America. (GLEES 3A C, MO SS Standard 3.6)
- Students will be able to analyze how cultural traditions, human actions and institutions affect people's behavior. (GLEES 6F, MO SS Standard 6 1.6)

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/GLE/SSGLE10.20.04.pdf> (Mo DESE Grade level expectations link)

Assessment:

Students will successfully identify 8 out 10 artifacts and explain how each was used.

Materials:
 Teachers Guide
 Attached rubric

Rubric:

Historical Artifacts				
	Poor 1 pts	Fair 2 pts	Good 3 pts	Excellent 4 pts
Explanation	Poor Missing Key Points	Fair Explanation is unclear	Good Good solid response with clear explanation	Excellent A complete response with a detailed explanation
Demonstrated Knowledge	Poor Response shows a complete lack of understanding for the content area	Fair Response shows some understanding of the content area	Good Shows substantial understanding of the content area	Excellent Shows complete understanding of the content area
Requirements	Poor Does not meet the requirements of the Project	Fair Hardly meets the requirements of the project	Good Meets the requirements of the project	Excellent Exceeds the requirements of the project

Comments:

Class time:
1-3 Class periods

Teacher Input:

Direct students to photo gallery

<http://www.photoshopshowcase.com/ViewAlbum.aspx?AID=132800&AT=3>

Lead student discussion of possible uses of each artifact and reveal actual usage.

Activities:

Students should be directed to photo gallery to view each artifact. Each student should describe the purpose each artifact fulfilled and how it was used.

Questions for review

How were the tools of the 19th century different than today's tools?

What resources do people of the 21st century have that were not available during the time of the Santa Fe Trail?

How did each of these artifacts help make life easier for the people who used them?

Closure:

Discuss with students the difficulty of everyday life for early Americans.

References:

<http://www.photoshopshowcase.com/ViewAlbum.aspx?AID=132800&AT=3>

<http://www.antiquecoffeegrinders.net/>

<http://butterchurnhistory.com/>

<http://www.oldandinteresting.com/antique-irons-smoothers-mangles.aspx>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washboard>

http://home.att.net/~saddle_tool_dude/tool_pages/stitching_horse.htm

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/grindstone>

http://www.thefurtrapper.com/fur_trappers.htm

<http://www.allaboutglass.org/modules.php?name=News&file=print&sid=42>

<http://www.cmnh.org/site/ResearchandCollections/Archaeology/Research/GeneralAudienceNontechnical/HistoryNEOhio.aspx>

<http://www.telosnet.com/wind/early.html>

<http://www.42explore2.com/horsdrawn.htm>

<http://www.waterencyclopedia.com/Po-Re/Pumps-Traditional.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plough>

Teachers Guide:

Picture #

1. The item in the front left of this picture is a coffee grinder. Coffee beans were put into the top of the grinder, the handle was turned and ground coffee fell into the drawer at the bottom.

The glass jar in the middle of the picture is a butter churn. Cream was poured into the jar and the handle was turned until the cream became a solid. The mixture was then put into molds.

2. This is a sewing organizer. It held all the necessary supplies for hand sewing including a pincushion in the top for needles, a drawer for storage, the spindles for holding spools of thread and the wooden pegs for holding thimbles.
3. A table top iron heater used to heat clothing irons. It burned oil. The iron sat on top and was heated by the burning oil. The hot iron was then used to press clothing.
4. A buffalo hide press. Multiple buffalo skins were placed in the press so they could be pressed together so would take up less room for shipping.
5. Hide scraping post. The buffalo hide was draped over this log flesh side up so it could be more easily be scraped free of meat.
6. Wash board and wooden tub. Used to wash clothes. Clothing was put into the tub to get it wet, rubbed with soap and then pushed up and down the board to remove dirt and stains.
7. Stitching horse. You sit on the bench, place leather in between the two pieces of wood in front of you and step on the peddle to hold the pieces tightly while you sewed hides or pieces of leather.
8. Grindstone. Used to sharpen tools and knives.

9. Leg hold traps. Used by trappers to capture animals alive.
10. Hatchet and various knives.
11. Oil lamp. Glass bowl is filled with oil (whale oil was common) and a piece wick was place in the bowl and then lit.
12. Hide scraper. Used to scrape the flesh off of animal hides.
13. (20th Century)Windmill. Powered by wind, the windmill pumped water from wells.
14. Wagon. Pulled by horses, mules or oxen these wagons were used to haul heavy loads.
15. Hand water pump and wooden barrel. The pump was used to pump water from the well or cistern. The wooden barrel was used to store a variety of goods including water, pickles, flour and sugar.
16. (20th Century)Plow. Pulled by oxen, mules or horses, used to break the sod and turn over the dirt in preparation for planting.