



## The Functions of Objects: An American Collection

### Educator Guide One-Pager

STUDENTS INVESTIGATE THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST'S FREE DIGITAL RESOURCE **COLLECTING250**, FEATURING AMERICAN OBJECTS, THROUGH THE LENS OF **FUNCTION**

#### PREPARATION/Objectives

- Students will investigate how objects perform functions.
- Students will research how objects may work in ways beyond their original intended functions.
- Students will propose an object to add to the online collection that teaches about the people who use/used it and the place in which it is/was used.

#### INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

##### Investigate: Engage and Explore

Session/Day 1: Introduce the digital collection; teacher-led looking closely at two preselected objects to determine their functions

Session/Day 2: Student and peer-led looking closely at two preselected objects to determine their functions (worksheet one); discussion of inventing and inventors and additional ways to research the objects; students choose an object to investigate (worksheet two); play a game involving matching a variety of functions to objects in the collection

##### Investigate: Make Connections

Session/Day 3: Students consider an object to propose as an addition to the collection considering several possible themes as a path to choosing (worksheet three); Crafting a trading card demonstration, begin studio time

##### Reflect and Refine

Session/Day 4: Studio trading card production; placement of student selected objects in the tabletop gallery; discussion of galleries and placements

##### Reflect and Assess

Session/Day 5: Students plan and arrange a display of objects including their own cards and selections from the online gallery to share with the school at large; Students determine the information and signage to include with the display to explain what they have learned with others; Teacher assesses the extent to which student work meets objectives, considering discussions, worksheets, the production of trading cards and the preparation of the display

#### EXTENSIONS

Extend the topic of study by creating objects inspired by the collection, representing an aspect of American objects; for example, a ceramics, paper, or textile-based object.