


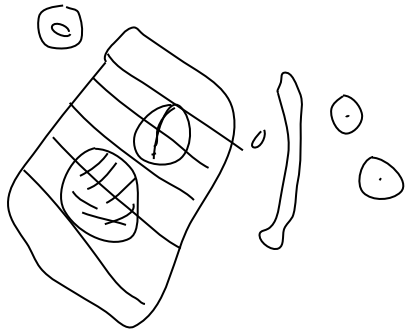
## Teacher Guide

### Worksheet One: Researching the Functions of Two American Objects

Now that you have learned about the lantern and the sad iron, your job is to work with your partners and research two more objects from the **Collecting250** site. First examine the 1802 Tea Set in the Ceramics gallery, and then the 18th-century Nkisi (pronounced n-KEE-see) in the Textiles gallery. Fill in the information as you find it. Draw a small sketch of the object.

| Tea Set, Ceramics Gallery   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>When was it made?</b><br>1802  | <b>Sketch the object:</b><br>   |
| <b>Who made it, and where?</b><br>Designed by Mary Hollingsworth, in Pennsylvania<br>Produced in Jigdezhen, China   |  |
| <b>Where is it now? (Include the city.)</b><br>It is in the Rockwood Park & Museum in New Castle County, Delaware.  |  |
| <b>What is it made of?</b><br>Porcelain   | <b>Other interesting facts:</b><br>This 1802 Tea Set connects many people and places: The Pennsylvania designer Mary Hollingsworth, her Quaker community, her merchant brother Henry, the factory in Jigdezhen, China, the customers that purchased the tea sets (Elizabeth Jefferis) the current owner Margy Hargreaves, and the Rockwood Museum that has it on loan. |
| <b>What job does this object do?</b><br>A tea set is made for serving tea. It has a teapot, cups, and a sugar and creamer server.   |  |
| <b>How else might this object function?</b><br>A decorative tea set like this was expensive, and meant to be used at social gatherings. It might have been something to show one's economic status. It depicts a romantic farm scene and could be a sort of self-portrait of the maker, and of those who purchased the tea set. The tea sets were sold, so probably provided income for the makers. Now, it is a piece in a museum that can be viewed and learned from. |  |

**Teacher led discussion:** Encourage student inquiry here. What else would they like to know about the tea set and the people who made or owned it? How would they attempt to find out?

| Nkisi, Textiles Gallery  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>When was it made?</b><br/>18<sup>th</sup> century</p>  | <p><b>Sketch the object:</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Who made it, and where?</b><br/>Unknown; possibly made by Briston, Jenny, Casen, or Cardardo (last names unknown) who were enslaved workers in the Newport Rhode Island house where it was found.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Where is it now? (Include the city.)</b><br/>Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>What is it made of?</b><br/>Several bundles containing various objects. Wrapped in pieces of fabric, these included colored glass shards, iron pins, beads, wooden buttons, pieces of Chinese ceramics, a worked cowrie shell and other items.</p>   | <p><b>Other interesting facts:</b><br/>This object connects Newport, Rhode Island, with the Kongo Basin in Central Africa, and with China, where some of the pieces of pottery are from. There is a lot of information online about nkisi, and the more elaborate nkisi sculptures, from the Kongo Basin. They have many interesting and complex functions. Also, someone probably had to know something about nkisi for this example, found in an old attic, to be saved and researched rather than discarded.</p> |
| <p><b>What job does this object do?</b><br/>This nkisi was found in the attic floorboards of the house where the makers lived as enslaved people. It is a spiritual object and was likely meant to provide protection for them. It also could have served as a connection to their ancestors and ancestral homeland.</p> |   |
| <p><b>How else might this object function?</b><br/>Today the nkisi provides a small picture of the lives of enslaved people living in Rhode Island.</p>  |   |

**Teacher led discussion, again:** Encourage student inquiry here. What else would they like to know about nkisi, or the people who made and/or owned it? How would they attempt to find out?