



## Objects and Traditions: History Revealed

### Educator Guide One-Pager

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

#### PREPARATION/Objectives

- Students will understand how objects reflect cultural beliefs, values, and historical narratives.
- Students will investigate how objects are created within family, community, historical, and/or artistic traditions.
- Students will engage in an investigative activity of their choosing to demonstrate understanding of how objects, seen through the lens of tradition, provide insights into social, cultural, and historical contexts.

#### INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

##### Investigate: Engage and Explore

Session/Day 1: Students explore traditions, quilts, and quilt traditions (discussion guide worksheet and "thinking about quilts" handout)

Session/Day 2: Students explore how quilts might continue or break with tradition

Session/Day 3: Students choose two or three objects from the collection and investigate their history

and traditions (objects and traditions handout)

##### Investigate: Make Connections

Sessions/Days 4 and 5: Students choose from among several activities to demonstrate their understanding of how objects, seen through the lens of tradition, provide insights into social, cultural, and historical contexts

##### Reflect, Refine, and Assess

Session/Day 6: Students reflect on their work, discuss the process, create an artist statement, and consider ways to present and display their work; Assessment based on conversations with students, observation of their work, and examining worksheets and projects

#### EXTENSIONS

The Decorative Arts Trust has a wealth of online exhibits in addition to Collecting250. Each exhibit could provide inspiration for a lesson. Go to the Trust's website (<http://www.decorativeartstrust.org>), click Online Learning, and then Exhibits from the dropdown menu.