

Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

Traveling Trunk Course on Colonial Items



Introduction

- This power point presentation shows a picture of an item used in colonial times with questions on what it is , what it is used for, etc. The following slide provides the answer with additional information.
- This can be used in the classroom, distributed over the internet, or as a follow up on a live presentation.
- Cities were different than in the country
- Flexible for teachers-question slides can be separated and distributed. Answers sent individually.

Categories

- Food
- Household goods
- Writing materials
- Games
- Personal hygiene
- Clothing
- Money
- Firearms

FOOD

- Many items of food were available in colonial times. Some existed in nature such as berries, fruit, plants, fish, animals.

Food

- What is this item ?
- (hint-it adds flavor to food)



Answer-

- It is sugar in the shape of a cone.
- It was very expensive, often kept locked up.
- Tongs (called little nippers) were used to break off bits.
- The seal shows a tax was paid.
- It was wrapped in paper known as blue indigo that would repel insects.

What is this item and how used?



- Hint- small pieces were used in hot water.

Answer

- It is tea in brick form to save space.
- A knife was used to shave off small bits into a diffuser bag, shown later.
- Tea was also expensive.
- Actually there were several tea parties in addition to the Boson Tea party, one was in Charleston SC.

What is this item and how used ?



Answer-

- It is chocolate.
- It was not used as candy like today, but as a hot drink mixed in milk.

What food item is this and how used ?



Answer

- It is corn or maize.
- It started in South America.
- Provided by Indians to colonists.
- Easy grown, needed little water.
- Ate from cob, shelled or ground into corn flour.

How were herbs used ?



Answer

- They are used for seasoning food such as we use salt for. The herbs are also used for medical purposes. Each has specific qualities.
- Much information was shared by Indians

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Many items were made from what colonists had available to them.
- People in cities could buy some items.

How was this cup used?



Answer

- It is a grease cup. Candles were expensive. Grease from animal fat could be placed in the cup and burned to produce light by setting the wick on fire.

How is this device used?

Side View



Top View



Answer

- This is a mold for making candles.
- Since many people lived in rural areas instead of towns, they needed to make their own candles for light after the sun went down.
- The best candles were made using bees wax, but animal fat could be used (however, it made faster burning candles).

What is this spoon made from ?



Answer

- It is made from animal bone.

Spoons were also made from wood



How was this fork made ?



Answer

- It is made using the forge method by blacksmiths.

Forks were also made by twisting wire
and sharpened



How would this basket be used
and what is its name ?



Answer

- It is a diffuser basket and used for straining tea.

What could be used for light at night ?

Answer-A tin candle holder and candle
provided light



Candles were expensive and
were made from beeswax.

Answer – A lantern with a candle



- The lantern was made of metal
- It held a candle for light
- This lantern had 4 glass sides for better light.
- Because glass was taxed and expensive, many lanterns may have had only one glass side.
- The other 3 sides were often metal with holes in it to allow for some light show through.

How were Scissors made ?



Answer-Scissors were made by twisting wire, sharpened, and riveted together.



What could be used for drinking ?

Answer- A tin cup could be used for many years and was easy to carry.



Other items include hollowed gourds and wooden bowls.

What are the plates made of ?



Answer

- The plates are made of wood from trees and from metal such as tin or pewter.
- Glass plates might be found in cities, but were too fragile in the country.

CLOTHING

What is this item of clothing ?



Answer

- It is a set of pockets.
- Women's dresses often did not have pockets
- These were separate.

Where would this bonnet be worn ?



Answer

- The bonnet was used inside to protect hair from catching fire from fireplace.
- Women wore their hair long and could get in the fire.
- Women also wore their bonnets to help keep their hair clean and could serve to keep the inside of their bonnets cleaner

Why were socks made so long to go with short pants ?



Answer-

- Easier to wash socks than pants.
- Also socks used less material and cost less than pants.

What were buttons made from ?

Answer- buttons could be made from tree limbs, horns from animals, metal or pewter, and bones.



What is this and how used ?



Answer- An animal horn could be sliced into small disks and holes drilled to make buttons.

How were fans used?



Answer

- Fans were used by the women for creating a cool breeze.
- But also for sending signals to communicate.
- Fans placed in certain positions could mean, yes, no, not now, later, or get lost !!!
- Fans were also used by both men and women to hide their bad teeth and bad breath because of poor dental hygiene.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

What would this be used for and made from what ?



Answer- To brush ones teeth.

The bristles were made from boars hair.

The handle was made from bone.

Combs made from what ?



Answer- combs could be made from bone or a polished buffalo horn.

What about this soap, how was it made ?



Answer- it was made from lye and animal fat, and ash.

It was cooked in an iron kettle over a fire outside.

Toothpicks were made from what ?



Answer-Toothpicks were made from
sassafras roots with ends sharpened.

Sassafras also tasted good and left a
good taste in the mouth.

WRITING EQUIPMENT

What are these items ?



Answer

- A goose feather is sharpened as a quill and ink stored in an ink well.

What are these items ?



Answer

- A slate made of stone and the pen is made of _____
- They were often used by school children in the classroom or at home.

MONEY AND BARTERING

Money was used to pay for things.

Bartering was used for trading
one thing for another.

There were three kinds of money used in colonial times. What are they?

Answer

- Coins
 - Includes state issues coins.
 - Includes foreign coins from England, Spain, Germany, Dutch, France.
- Paper money issued by the Continental Congress.
- Wampum used by Indians which were sea shells, also known as Cowdry which dates back thousands of years.

Coins



Spanish Dollar, Reale



1/8 Reale, or
Pieces of eight



English Crown



French ECU



German Thaler

Bartering is what ?

- Bartering included trading various items for other items and could include most anything such as furs, food, and animals.
- Services could also be included in options for trade. A blacksmith might trade his craft for food or other materials etc.

GAMES AND TOYS

What are these ?



Answer

- These are playing cards that do not have any writing.
- Many people in rural areas could not read.
- Playing cards changed over time for a variety of reasons.
- Colonial literacy was very high in many areas and not the determining factor for playing card images

What are these ?



Answer

- They are marbles and made of clay.

What is this ?



Answer

- It is a game called “close the box”. Dice are rolled with the resulting numbers used to cover the cloth numbers. The object is to get the lowest score. Played until no numbers will work.
- The game also used little boxes.
- This cloth was easy to travel with.

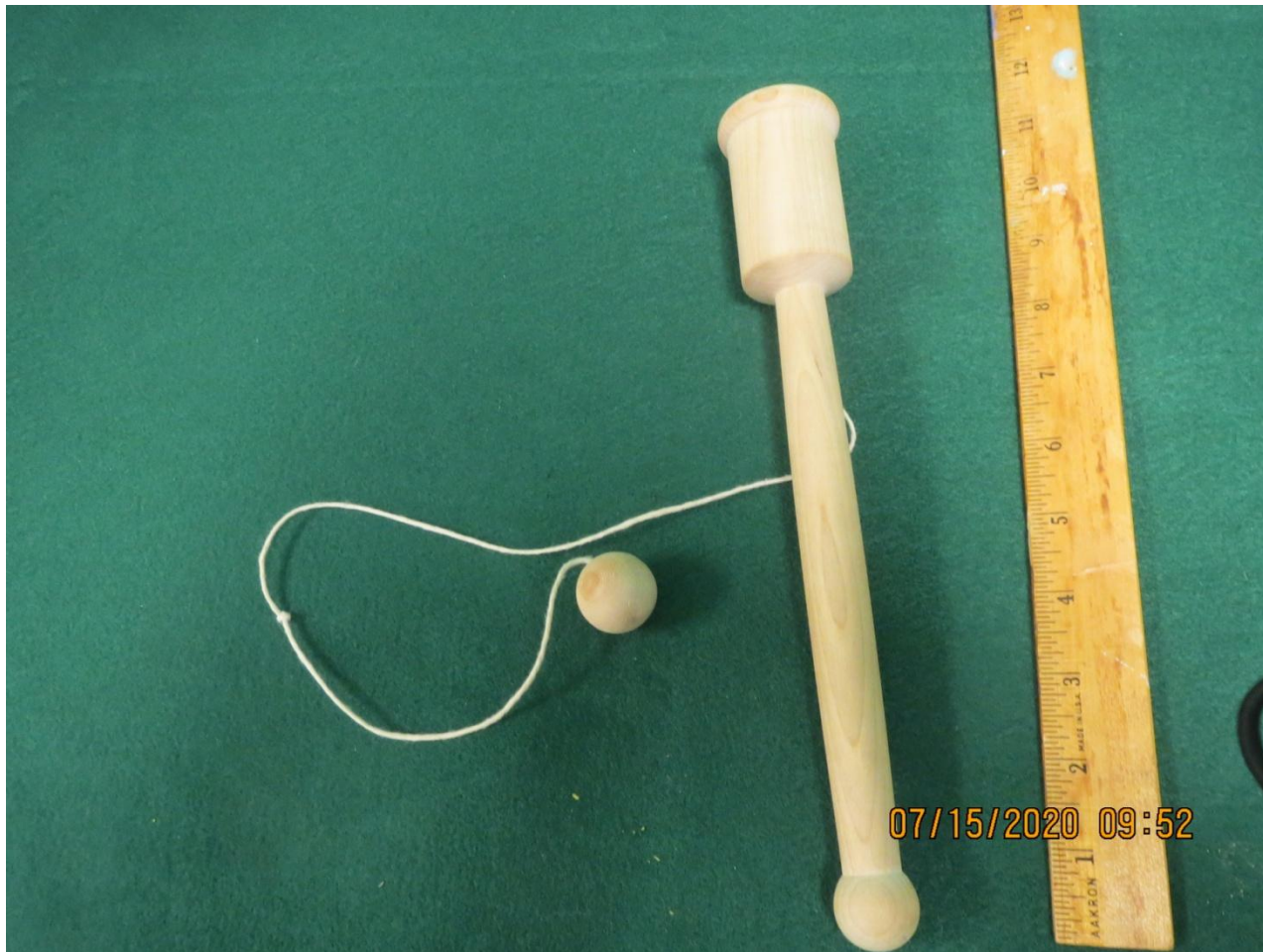
What is this ?



Answer

- It is a cloth checker board that can be easily carried.
- The checker game was also called draught.

What is this item ?



Answer

- It is called a cup and ball with the object being to get the ball into the cup by swinging the ball on the string.

What are these ?



Answer

- They are dolls made of corn husks.

FLINTLOCK FIREARMS

What are the parts of a flintlock gun ?



Answer

- There are three major parts.
- The trigger mechanism is called the lock.
- Another part is called the stock.
- And the third part is the barrel.